



# Ireland

## *Irish spring for innovative tech*

Ireland has a history of offering a friendly environment to tech businesses including Amazon, Apple and Facebook. At the same time, Irish entrepreneurs benefit from a low corporate tax rate of 12.5 percent, and the country boasts a one of the highest business entry rates – 5.78 for every 1,000 people.

Startups are gaining a foothold around the country, in cities including Galway on Ireland’s west coast. The Galway City Innovation District is home to up-and-coming ventures and accelerator programs designed to get them off the ground. EssentialSkillz, a Galway company that offers online safety training videos, has landed a spot on the Deloitte Technology Fast 50, a list of Ireland’s fastest growing tech companies, for the past three years.

Despite an environment open to business and entrepreneurship, innovative technologies have met with some resistance in Ireland. Self-driving vehicles have yet to make their debut in the country, or gain much government support. The country’s transportation minister said in 2017 that he was not aware of any proposals to test self-driving vehicles on Irish roads.

The country’s National Transport Authority also banned rideshare company Uber from operating with private cars. Instead, Ireland’s residents use the app to order a traditional taxi or expensive limousine.

Sources: [\(Connecting Industry\)](#) [\(The Journal\)](#) [\(Irish Times\)](#)

## WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

The Irish have the lowest corporate tax rate – 12.5 percent – of any country and a strong new business entry rate of 5.78 for every 1,000 people. The Irish people also enjoy high levels of personal and political freedom.

## WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

Ireland can pass clear laws to support self-driving vehicle technology, loosen length-of-stay and other restrictions for short-term rental owners and allow rideshare services to operate with private cars.

Diversity	B
Freedom	A
Broadband	B+
Human Capital	B
Tax Friendliness	A-
R&D Investment	B
Entrepreneurial Activity	A-
Drones	B
Ridesharing	D-
Short-Term Rentals	C
Self-Driving Vehicles	F
Environment	A-



### Broadband

It's more affordable to have a data plan than a wired connection in Ireland. Among all European countries, it has the highest monthly cost for fixed broadband at \$46.05, while one gigabyte of mobile broadband costs \$13.29.



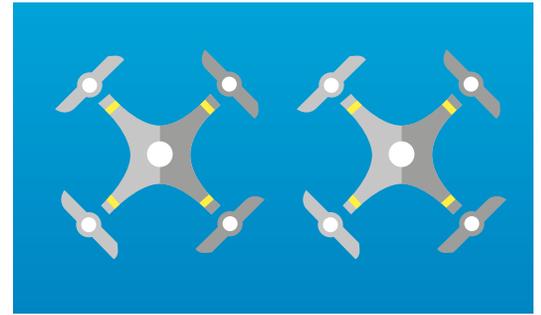
### R&D Investment

Spends 1.55 percent of its GDP on research and development.



### Entrepreneurial Activity

Ireland's new business entry rate of 5.78 percent is well above many other countries, earning the country an "A-" in Entrepreneurial Activity. Programs including the Galway City Innovation District aim to keep that trend going by supporting fledgling businesses.



### Drones

Drones heavier than one kilogram must be registered with the Irish Aviation Authority. Commercial drones can fly without permission, as long as they apply for a special IAA permit.

## GALWAY

Home to campuses of Apple, Facebook and Amazon, Ireland has cemented its role as a European hub for some of the biggest tech companies in the world. While the country's capital city plays host to most industry giants, on Ireland's west coast the city of Galway is making strides in attracting new talent and propelling a surge of innovation.

The Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology nurtures the next generation of tech leaders, providing mentoring and networking for budding businesses.

At the heart of the city, the Galway City Innovation District clusters entrepreneurs, accelerators and incubators near critical infrastructure like public transportation. PorterShed, an innovation hub built inside a former Guinness storehouse, is part of those efforts. Founded in 2016, the hub is now home to 30 startups and an accelerator run by the National Digital Research Centre.

Galway already boasts several entrepreneurial success stories. EssentialSkillz, which offers online safety training and risk assessment software, landed on the Deloitte Technology Fast 50, a list of Ireland's fastest growing technology companies.

Sources: (Irish Times) (Galway City) (Business Insider) (Irish Times) (GMIT)



On Ireland's west coast, the city of Galway created a dedicated Innovation District, housing entrepreneurs, accelerators and incubators in dedicated hubs close to one another. One of those hubs, PorterShed, was erected inside a former Guinness storehouse and is now home to 30 startups and an accelerator run by the National Digital Research Centre.