



### Overall performance

Ireland's infrastructure planning processes and funding capacity are among the best in InfraCompass2020. Ireland's strong credit rating and high GDP per capita places it in an excellent position to fund infrastructure investment. In addition, the quality of Ireland's regulatory frameworks and governance systems promote competition among suppliers and encourage private investment. Despite an overall increase in the quality of procurement processes since InfraCompass 2017, Ireland could look to improve stock market liquidity, reduce its debt levels and reduce the duration of public procurement processes.

Drivers	Rank (/16)	Rank change (2017-20)	Score (/100)	Emerging	Aspiring	Contender	Top performer	Global leader
Governance	9	↑ 1	80	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Regulatory frameworks	11	↓ 6	75	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Permits	22	↓ 7	81	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Planning	5	—	98	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Procurement	25	↑ 5	83	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan
Activity	26	↑ 12	41	Teal	Teal	Teal	Light Blue	Light Blue
Funding capacity	4	↑ 8	84	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Financial markets	37	↓ 3	36	Yellow	Yellow	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue

### Ireland at a glance

**\$77,771**  
GDP per capita  
(USD, 2019)

**5 million**  
Population  
(2019)

**—**  
Infrastructure investment  
(2019 estimate)

**—**  
Infrastructure gap  
(2019 estimate)

**77**  
Infrastructure quality  
(0-100, 100 is best, 2019)

**\$926 million**  
Private infrastructure investment  
(5-year average, USD, 2019)

### Top performing metrics



**99.8/100**

Cost to start a business

According to the World Bank, the cost of starting a business in Ireland is 0.1% of income per capita, well below the High Income Countries' average of 4.7%, easing the entry of new firms.



**99.2/100**

GDP per capita

Over the last decade, Ireland's GDP per capita has increased by 49% to USD 77,771 in 2019. This means Ireland has the highest GDP per capita of countries in InfraCompass2020, although this is partly due to many multi-national companies realising profits in Ireland.



**88/100**

Preparation of PPPs

At 88, Ireland's score on the preparation of PPPs is much higher than the High Income Countries average of 67. Good practices at the preparation stage help ensure that a decision is justified and that the procuring authority is ready to initiate the process.

### Opportunities to grow



**7.6/100**

Stocks traded

The total value of stocks traded in Ireland amounts to 8.39% of GDP, significantly below the High Income Countries' average of 43%. As this indicator measures the liquidity of equities, it is important to infrastructure investors to know they can exit investments at appropriate points.



**49.6/100**

Long term GDP growth trend

Ireland's long-term GDP growth of 5.2% is above average for High Income Countries. The uncertain impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may still present a challenge to Ireland's strong growth.



**52.3/100**

Gross government debt

Ireland's gross government debt has fallen substantially since 2016 and is now 60.9% of GDP. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the government's fiscal position, servicing debt may hinder the Irish government's ability to fund infrastructure through public investment.

For guidance on how to improve these metrics, please see the [Ireland Country Page](#) on the InfraCompass website.



## ECONOMY OVERVIEW

GDP (\$US billion, 2019)	384.9	Population (million, 2019)	5	Unemployment rate (2019)	5.3%
GDP per capita (\$US, 2019)	77,771	Urbanisation ratio (2018)	63.0%	Inflation rate (2019)	1.2%
GDP growth rate (annual, 2019)	4.3%	Gross Government Debt (% of GDP, 2019)	61.0%	Digital Adoption Index (0-1 best, 2016)	0.66
GDP per capita growth rate (annual, 2019)	-0.7%	Sovereign risk rating (2019)	78	Gini coefficient (0-100 worst, 2015)	31.8

## METRIC SCORES

The below metrics are normalised so that they all range from 0 to 100. For original metrics and data sources, please see <https://infracompass.github.org/>

GOVERNANCE		REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS		PERMITS	
Post-completion reviews?	Yes -	Effect of taxation on incentives to invest	57.8 ↓	Cost to start a business	99.8 ↑
Infrastructure or PPP unit/agency?	Yes -	Prevalence of foreign ownership	80.1 ↓	Dealing with construction permits	48 -
Recovery rate	86.1 ↓	Product market regulation, network sectors	66 -	Quality of land administration	78.3 -
Rule of law	79.3 ↓	Regulatory (including competition) quality	81.9 ↓	Registering property	71.9 -
Shareholder governance	46.7 -	Strength of insolvency framework	65.6 -	Time required to start a business	75.7 -
Political stability and absence of violence	67.2 ↑	Investment promotion agency?	Yes -		

PLANNING		PROCUREMENT		ACTIVITY	
Published project pipeline?	Yes -	Average procurement duration – transaction RFP	52.3 <sup>^</sup> ↓	Infrastructure investment	40 <sup>^</sup> ↑
Published infrastructure plan?	Yes -	Degree of transparency in public procurement	75 ↑	Private infrastructure investment	39.4 ↑
Preparation of PPPs	88 ↑	Published procurement guidelines?	Yes -	Value of closed PPP infrastructure deals	11.6 ↓
Economic analysis assessment?	Yes -	Procurement of PPPs	78 -	Value of closed infrastructure deals with foreign equity sponsorship	73.8 ↑
Market sounding and/or assessment?	Yes -	PPP contract management	70 -		
Environmental impact analysis?	Yes -				

FUNDING CAPACITY		FINANCIAL MARKETS	
GDP per capita	99.2 ↑	Domestic credit to private sector	19.8 ↓
Gross government debt	52.3 ↑	Financing through local equity market	47.7 ↑
Long term GDP growth trend	49.6 ↑	Stocks traded	7.6 ↑
Summary credit rating	77 ↑	Financial depth	58.7 ↓
		Financial stability	80.8 ↑

**Drawing on data from:** International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, World Bank, World Economic Forum, IJ Global, CEPIL, Oxford Economics, Trading Economics, and Deloitte.

**Metric key:**

↑ Increase from InfraCompass 2017    ↓ Decrease from InfraCompass 2017    - No change from InfraCompass 2017

**Note:**

'Top performing metrics' are the metrics with the highest score out of 100.

'Opportunities to grow' are the metrics with the lowest weighted score out of 100. These metrics would have the greatest impact on the overall score.

<sup>^</sup>Denotes interpolated metric data. See Technical Appendix for further explanation on the interpolation techniques.