



GrantThornton

An instinct for growth™

Why invest in Ireland?

At a glance



Irish snapshot



50%

under the age of 34 -
youngest population
in Europe



10/10

world's top pharma
companies based here



25%

R&D tax credit



#1

in EU for inward
investment jobs
per capita



13/15

world's top medtech
companies



#1 in EU

for the ease in
which a business
can pay taxes



OECD and EU
compliant



Home to

1,200+

overseas companies



Open, stable,
transparent
tax regime



20/25

world's top
financial services
companies



16/20

global software
companies

A dynamic, knowledge-based economy



Ireland represents a strategic European base due to our pro-business, low corporate tax and skilled workforce. As a result, more than 1,200 multinational companies have chosen Ireland as their investment platform.

As a committed member of the Eurozone and the EU single market, Ireland's reputation as a destination of choice for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is unrivalled. Ireland is the fastest growing economy in the Eurozone and continues to be one of the best countries in the world to do business.

Grant Thornton has prepared this guide to set out the advantages of Ireland as an investment platform. With Irish desks on both the East and West coast of the US, together with offices across Ireland, we help companies grow on both sides of the Atlantic.



Cara Sloan

Manager – U.S. Irish Business Group, New York



Edel Carter

Director – U.S. Irish Business Group, San Francisco

Our services



Grant Thornton services to establish your business in Ireland and comprises a multinational workforce with a wide range of language capabilities.



Corporate tax regime



There are many tax benefits for companies investing in Ireland, either with fully fledged trading operations or with global holding company structures.

A low rate of corporation tax rate of 12.5%, 6.25% rate for profits on IP developed in Ireland, our 25% R&D tax credit, tax depreciation on acquired or capitalised IP and competitive holding company regime combine to offer an unrivalled location of choice for inward investment.

Corporation tax rate:

- 12.5% corporate tax rate applies to companies actively trading in Ireland including financing activities and the management of Intellectual Property (IP).

R&D:

- a 37.5% total subsidy for a trading entity (ie 12.5% corporate tax deduction and a 25% R&D tax credit) is available where a company incurs qualifying expenditures on R&D activities; and
- cash tax credit available - even where a company is not generating profits.

Knowledge Development Box (KDB):

- 6.25% tax rate available on profits directly attributable to development activities carried out by an Irish company; and
- first OECD compliant preferential tax regime.

Tax depreciation for IP:

- tax deduction limited to 80% of taxable profits, in line with amortisation for the capital cost of acquiring and internally developed specified intangible assets (including brand names, patents, trademarks, registered designs, copyrights, software, know-how, customer lists, etc).

A base for global expansion

Ireland offers a flexible and competitive regime to companies who are looking to structure global operations. Countless international groups use Irish holding companies to hold other subsidiaries and conduct M&A.

Some of the key tax features which attract this activity are:

- generally no tax on disposal of trading subsidiaries;
- an effective exemption from Irish tax on foreign dividends;
- extensive treaty network and generous withholding tax exemptions;
- availability of pooling provisions for foreign branch tax;
- no controlled foreign corporation rules;
- ability to leverage; and
- Irish transfer pricing rules apply to pure holding companies.

Recent investments in Ireland



Edward Lifesciences

announced plans to invest €80 million, with its first Irish plant in the the Mid-West of Ireland and creating 600 jobs by 2020.



Stripe

plans to expand its Dublin office, making it the European headquarters and its first international engineering hub.



Deutsche Börse Group

plans on further expanding activities in Cork with the addition of 200 jobs over the next two years.



Twilio

expands EMEA headquarters in Dublin with plans to employ 100 people over three years.



Microsoft

opens new €134 million data centre.



Pilz

opened a new €7.4 million software development centre in Cork.



Autodesk

announced opening of new site in Dublin with 200 jobs by the end of 2018.



SK biotek

first South Korean pharma company to invest in Ireland, employing 360 people.



Quidel Corporation

to establish new business service centre in Galway, with the creation of 75 jobs over five years.

Working and living in Ireland



Working in Ireland

Hiring and working in Ireland

- Ireland has one of the most educated workforces in the world with one million people in full time education;
- the youngest population in Europe with 50% of the population under the age of 34;
- extensive transport links between Ireland to the US and the rest of the world;
- US pre-clearance facilities at Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport, the only ones of their kind in Europe;
- third most productive workforce in the world; and
- over half a million Irish residents speak a foreign language fluently.

Visa and permits

For non-EEA nationals and depending on personal circumstances, entry visas and employment permits may be required.

These include:

- start-up Entrepreneur Programme;
- employment permits; and
- investor programme.

#1 in the world for



Attracting and retaining talent



Flexibility and adaptability



National culture



Attitudes towards globalisation



1 million

people in full time education, making Ireland one of the most education workforces in the world.



500,000+

Irish residents speak a foreign language fluently.

We are Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton is Ireland's fastest growing professional services firm. We deliver solutions to all business challenges. Clients choose us because the breadth of financial and business services they need is available, delivered innovatively and always to the highest standards. At Grant Thornton we are committed to long term relationships. We are different. We are Grant Thornton.

Key contacts for our dedicated team include:



Cara Sloan

Manager - U.S. Irish Business
Group, New York
T + 1 718 612 2789
E cara.sloan@us.gt.com



Edel Carter

Director - U.S. Irish Business
Group, San Francisco
T + 1 415 410-3556
E edel.carter@us.gt.com

Offices in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Galway, Kildare, Limerick and Longford.



www.grantthornton.ie



[@GrantThorntonIE](https://twitter.com/GrantThorntonIE)



Grant Thornton Ireland



Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

grantthornton.ie

© 2018 Grant Thornton Ireland. All rights reserved. Authorised by Chartered Accountants Ireland ("CAI") to carry on investment business.

'Grant Thornton' refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires. Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL) and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. This publication has been prepared only as a guide. No responsibility can be accepted by us for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of any material in this publication.