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Ireland: Regional Presentation

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Regional Presentation: Ireland

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Structure of Presentation

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Ireland

Population: 4.1 million in Republic
1.5 million in Northern Ireland
5.6 million on Island of Ireland

Economic History:
- Gained independence from UK in 1922
- Mainly agricultural economy, dependent on UK
- Joined European Union 1973
- Irish GNP approx 60% of EU average in 1973.
- Emphasis on direct investment in high tech industries.
- Very strong economic growth 1990 – date

Current economic status
- One of highest GNP per head in world
- Virtually full employment
- Net migration into Ireland to fuel economic development.

Comparative Economic Growth Rates
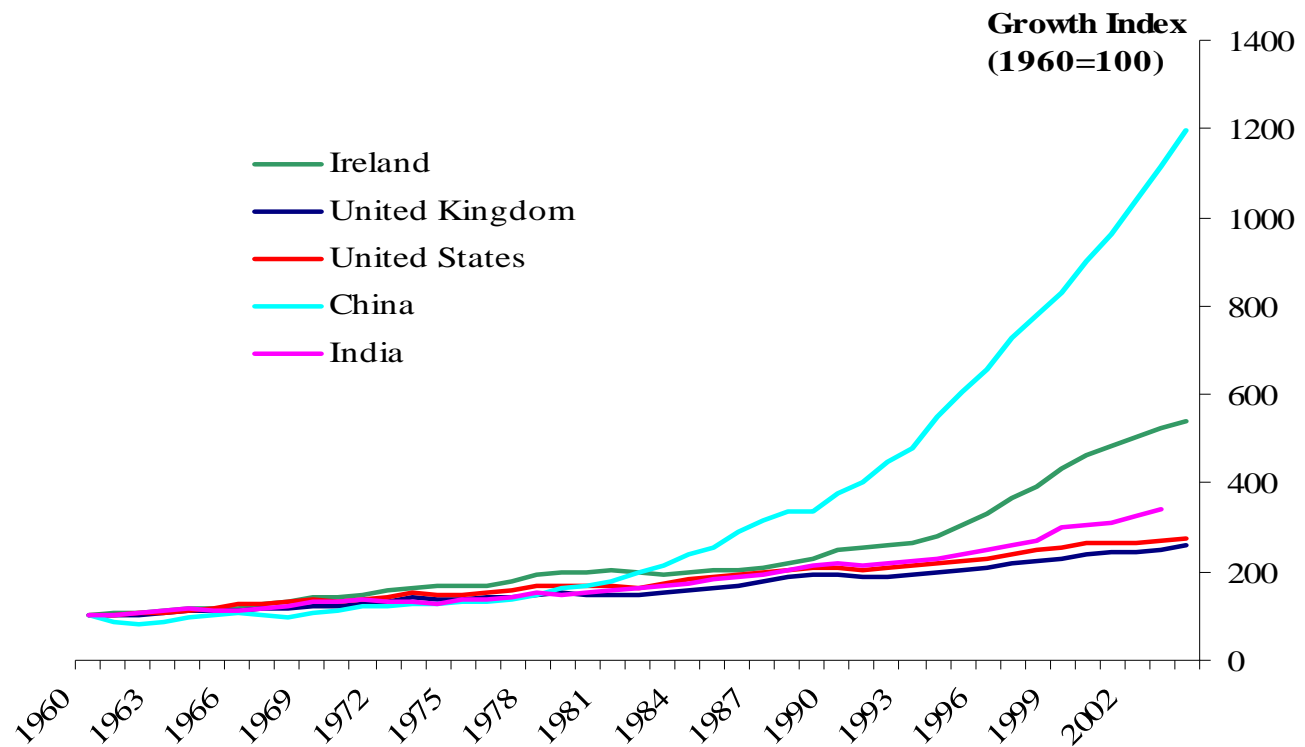
Growth Index (1960=100)

Legend:
- Ireland
- United Kingdom
- United States
- China
- India

Source: Alan Heston, Robert Summers and Bettina Aten, Penn World Trade Table Version 6.2, Center for International Comparisons of Production, Income and Prices at the University of Pennsylvania, Sept 2006

Growth in Purchasing Power
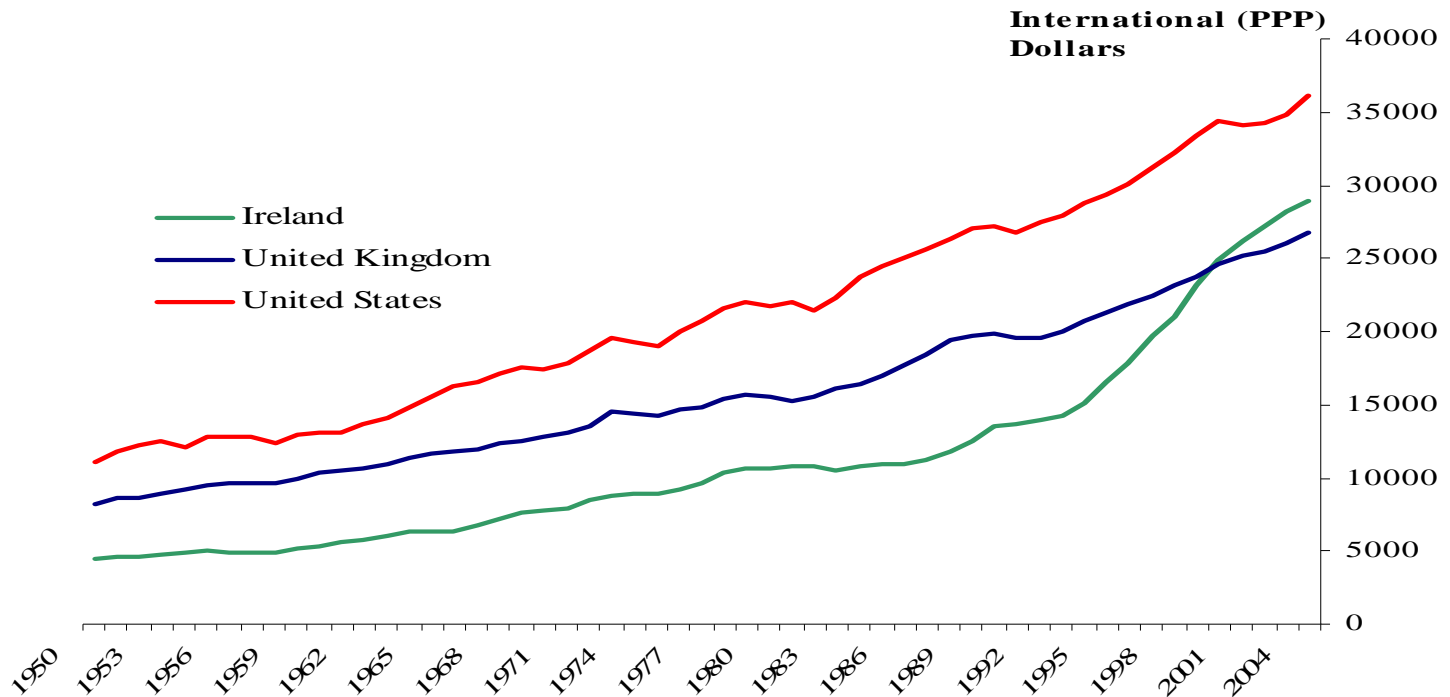
Source: Alan Heston, Robert Summers and Bettina Aten, Penn World Trade Table Version 6.2, Center for International Comparisons of Production, Income and Prices at the University of Pennsylvania, Sept 2006
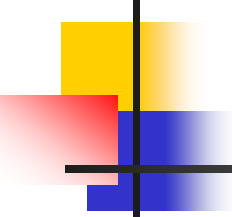
Education in Ireland

- Universal free primary education since 1922
- Late introduction of free secondary education (1969)
- Vocational Education Act, 1930 included provision for Vocational Education Committees in each county and main cities
- Technical or vocational secondary education long seen as inferior in status to academic secondary education
- Effects of late introduction of free secondary education still evident in statistics on educational attainments of Irish people aged 50 upwards
- Free university / technological education introduced 1995

Education Attainment 2005
At least Upper Secondary Education Attainment

Country/ Age	25-64	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Canada	85	91	88	84	75
Germany	83	84	85	84	79
Ireland	65	81	70	55	40
Italy	50	66	54	46	30
UK	67	73	67	65	60
USA	88	87	88	89	86
OECD	68	77	71	64	54

Source: OECD Education at a Glance, 2007

Tertiary Education 2005

Country/ Age	25-64	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Canada	46	54	50	43	36
Germany	25	22	26	26	23
Ireland	29	41	30	22	17
Italy	12	16	13	11	8
UK	30	35	30	28	24
USA	39	39	40	39	37
OECD	26	32	27	24	19
Source: OECD Education at a Glance, 2007					

Tertiary Education Completed

	Type B	Type A + Research	Total
Canada	23	23	46
Germany	10	15	25
Ireland	11	18	29
Italy	1	12	12
Japan	18	22	40
UK	9	21	30
USA	9	30	39
OECD	8	19	26
Source: OECD Education at a Glance, 2007			

Relationship between Education & Employment

- There were high levels of emigration from the foundation of the State (and before) until 1990, apart from the 1970s
- Since 1997 there have been high levels of net inward migration, mainly from new EU member states
- Ireland had persistently high levels of unemployment for decades and into 1990s
- Unemployment was much more prevalent among those with low levels of educational attainment than those with high educational attainments
- The economic return to completing tertiary education in Ireland has been high

Ireland: Labour Force by Education levels, 1997

Educational Level	Employed	Unemployed	Total
Primary	14.62%	28.33%	16.04%
Lower Secondary	24.29%	34.99%	25.39%
Upper Secondary	32.11%	25.44%	31.42%
Third Level	28.73%	10.86%	26.88%
Other	0.25%	0.38%	0.27%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
[Source: Green Paper on Adult Education, 1998]			

Net Internal private rates of return to tertiary education
In per cent

	Raw Returns (No Government transfer)	Education Subsidies	+ Taxes	+ Housing and unemployment benefit
Denmark	5.08	7.87	9.16	7.99
France	7.25	11.00	10.59	8.63
Germany	8.32	11.32	9.97	9.13
Ireland	10.98	15.82	12.40	11.03
Sweden	3.21	6.48	7.18	4.28
UK	9.94	13.07	13.16	12.25

Source: De La Fuente, A and J. F. Jimeno (2005) from Improving Incentives in Tertiary Education in Belgium, Economics Dept OECD Dec '07

Development of Technical & Technological Education in Ireland

- Dublin Institute of Technology Colleges, 1887 onwards
- Vocational Education Act, 1930
- Development of Post-Leaving Certificate Courses
- Establishment of National Institutes of Higher Education 1972, 1980
- Regional Technical Colleges, 1970 onwards
- European Social Fund support for education
- Growth of Apprenticeships (Skills) Training

Full-time Students 2005/06

	Undergrad	Postgrad	Total
Universities; Teacher Training	**66,834**	**15,688**	**82,522**
Technological Colleges	**51,517**	**1,325**	**52,842**
Post Leaving Cert Courses	**30,136**	**-**	**30,136**
Apprenticeships	**28,000**	**-**	**28,000**

	Male	Female
Universities	**41%**	**59%**
Technological Colleges	**52%**	**48%**

The National Framework of Qualifications – award-types and awarding bodies
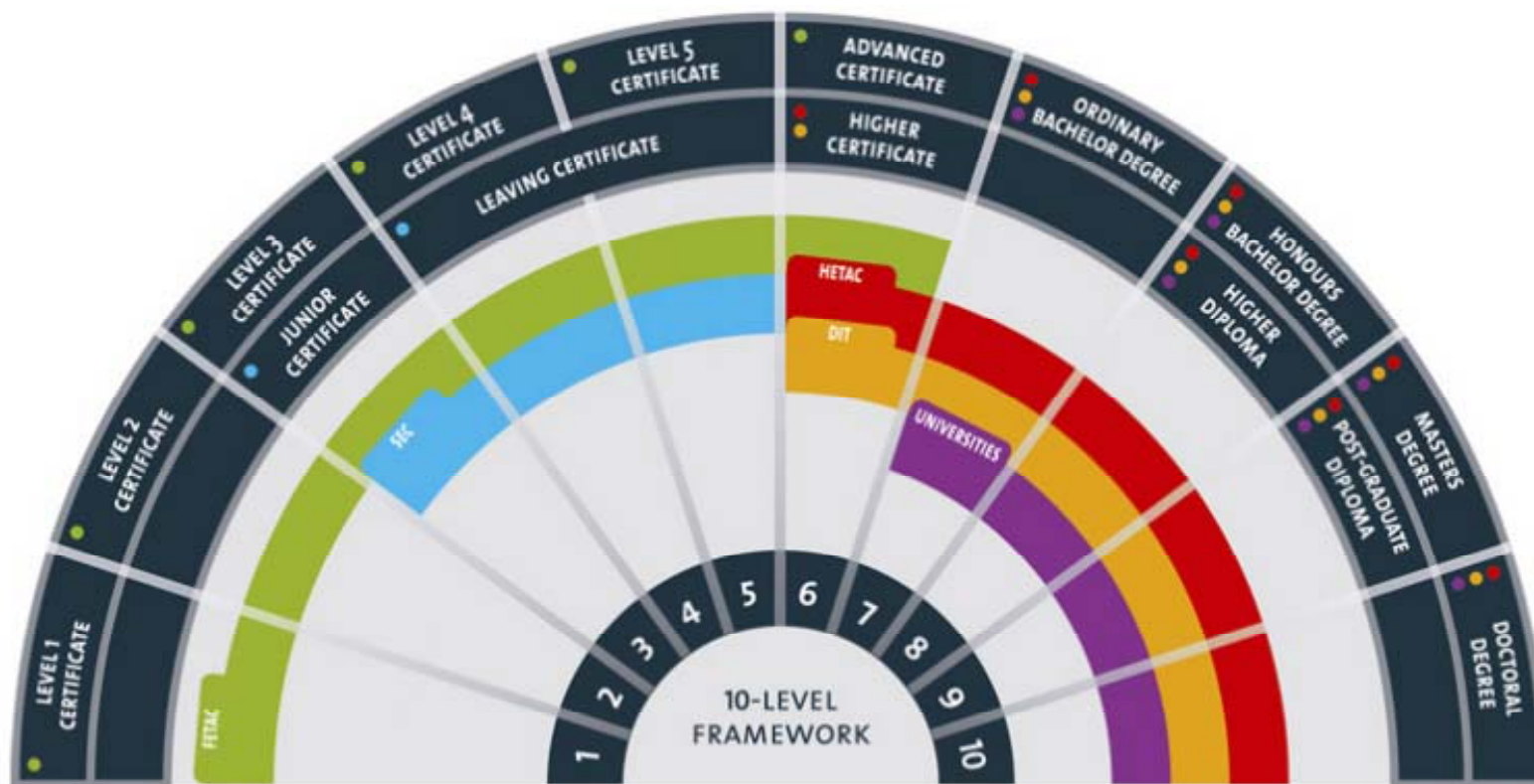
Titles of Awards

Level

- 10 – Doctoral Degree
- 9 – Masters Degree & Post-graduate Diploma
- 8 – Honours Bachelor Degree & Higher Diploma
- 7 – Ordinary Bachelor Degree
- 6 – Advanced Certificate & Higher Certificate
- 5 – Level 5 Certificate
- 4/5 – Leaving Certificate
- 4 – Level 4 Certificate
- 3 – Level 3 Certificate & Junior Certificate
- 2 – Level 2 Certificate
- 1 – Level 1 Certificate

Framework – a blueprint for change

- The Irish framework introduced a new concept of an "award" in which an award is a recognition of learning outcomes (rather than a recognition of participation in a programme or any particular learning process)
- Many new awards were introduced, with new titles and new terminology
- The framework was not just a compendium of existing awards
- The framework was not just a mapping of relationships between existing awards
- No distinction was made between "education" and "training"

European Dimensions

- Bologna Process – reforming higher education
- Copenhagen Process – reforming VET
- Student mobility within Europe
- Encouraging inter-institutional collaboration

Some current issues

- Free higher education or fees
- Position of Further Education Colleges
- Binary divide in higher education between universities and non-universities
- Developing progression opportunities between further education and higher education