

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

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Welcome to **KASPress Ireland**, our weekly summary of relevant and interesting news from the Irish press.

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Top Story

Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil have agreed the outline of a deal on Irish Water that should allow a minority government to be put in place next week. To read more on this speculative deal between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, [click here](#).

Politics

Thousands of workers will see the value of their pensions reduced after outgoing Social Protection Minister Tánaiste Joan Burton signed an order. To read more on this, [click here](#).

Talks on the formation of a minority government continued on Wednesday, after Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil indicated on Tuesday that they were making progress in the discussions. To read more on the on-going government formation talks, [click here](#).

Tánaiste Joan Burton has warned Labour Party members to be ready for a second election as talks on the formation of government remain deadlocked over water charges. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Opinion in the Labour Party has hardened against another coalition with Fine Gael, with strong indications that party members will reject such a proposal. To read more, [click here](#).

Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny is likely to vacate his position “within months” even if he is successfully re-elected, it has emerged. To read more, [click here](#).

Talks between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil on a framework for the operation of a minority government will resume today as pressure grows for a resolution of the political impasse which has lasted for 53 days. [Click here](#) to read more.

The acting Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan, has confirmed that Fine Gael would like to see Labour join it back in government. Mr Noonan says it is "an open secret" that Fine Gael would prefer to see its former coalition partner back within the fold. [Click here](#) to read more.

Many of the mistakes of the past, including the "Irish Water fiasco" can be blamed on the arrogance of a majority government, Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin claimed on Sunday. To read more on Micheal Martin's comments, [click here](#).

Acting Minister for Finance Michael Noonan's future in cabinet is being openly discussed by Fine Gael backbenchers for the first time. Noonan, 72, is understood to have been in favour of a coalition deal with Fianna Fáil rather than a minority government arrangement. To read more, [click here](#).

Fine Gael are now narrowing their focus onto just eight Independent TDs to hammer out a minority government deal. For more on this, [click here](#).

Ireland needs a stable government as a matter of urgency to prepare for the doomsday scenario of Britain leaving Europe, MEP Brian Hayes has warned. For more on this story, [click here](#).

Another vote for taoiseach will not be called until Enda Kenny is assured of winning, it has emerged. Following Mr Kenny's third defeat in the Dáil yesterday, a Fine Gael minority government is the sole option left on the table after Fianna Fáil conceded that it cannot form an administration. To read more, [click here](#).

Economy

Increasing wages to make property more affordable would see Ireland forget one of the major lessons learned in the aftermath of the recession, Ibec chief executive Danny McCoy will say at a conference today. To read more on this, [click here](#).

Ireland's general government deficit fell by more than 30 per cent to €4.9 billion, or 2.3 per cent of GDP, last year, mainly due to an increase of more than seven per cent in government revenue, the Central Statistics Office said. To read more on the Irish economy, [click here](#).

Intel, the world's biggest semiconductor company, employing around 5,000 people in Ireland is eliminating 12,000 as it eases its dependence on the shrinking personal-computer market. The company said it was too early to say if its Irish workforce would be affected. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's tax treaties with poorer countries are some of the most restrictive in the world, limiting the taxing rights of those countries, international NGO, Action Aid, has claimed. To read more on this report, [click here](#).

Cerberus Capital Management and CarVal Investors are among the private equity funds circling two portfolios with a combined par value of €4.7 billion being sold by the National Asset Management Agency (Nama). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's pension regulator wants to cut the number of corporate retirement plans in the country from 150,000 to 100 in a move that would put pressure on pension providers and asset managers to reduce fees. To read more, [click here](#).

Exports fell by €616 million, or 7 per cent, to €8.75 billion from January to February, new figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) show. For more on this, [click here](#).

The first ever scheduled flights between Cork and the United States are set to take off this summer, after the US Department of Transport signalled it has tentatively agreed to provide the necessary permit for an Irish unit of airline Norwegian Air Shuttle. [Click here](#) to read more on this.

Society

Senior gardaí have said that an additional 200 to 300 garda recruits are needed every year on top of the commitment to take on 600 officers annually. To read more, [click here](#).

Hopes that the long-running Luas dispute may soon come to an end have been fuelled after drivers agreed to talks with their employer, Transdev, to discuss a new deal including a 10 per cent pay rise. For more on the on-going Luas dispute, [click here](#).

An Irish nun is among the more than 260 fatalities of the earthquake, which struck Ecuador on Saturday. More than 2,500 others were injured in the powerful quake, which measured 7.8 on the Richter scale – the strongest to hit the country since 1979. To read more this story, [click here](#).

Ireland, despite progress in areas including children's rights and marriage equality, is "a long way" from embracing the human rights of all, Professor Colin Harvey, a leading human rights activist, has said. [Click here](#) to read more on his comments.

Luas operator Transdev has warned its over 250-strong workforce that it will take them off the payroll from Monday week if they continue to engage in industrial action. For more on the Luas dispute, [click here](#).

The Garda force is losing its ability to tackle the rising threat posed by organised crime because of a chronic shortage of resources, senior security sources have warned. To read more, [click here](#).

About 1,000 long-serving staff at retailer Tesco have voted overwhelmingly for strike action in a row over plans by the company to reduce their terms and conditions. To read more, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [21.04.2016] [State to take over Irish Water in Fine Gael – Fianna Fáil deal](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.04.2016] [Move by Joan Burton will mean lower pensions for 400,000 workers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.04.2016] [Call for up to 900 new gardaí annually](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [21.04.2016] [Wage rises to meet property prices not the answer, Ibec warns](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.04.2016] [Irish government deficit falls to 2.3% of GDP in 2015](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.04.2016] [Minority government talks set to continue today amid second election speculation](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.04.2016] [Joan Burton tells Labour to prepare for second election](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.04.2016] [Intel cuts 12,000 jobs in push to ease PC dependence](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.04.2016] [Breakthrough in Luas row as drivers agree to pay talks](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.04.2016] [Labour members set to reject Fine Gael alliance](#) [Irish Times]
- [19.04.2016] [Enda Kenny to go 'within months' even if re-elected](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [19.04.2016] [Ireland's tax treaties costing poorer countries, claims NGO](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.04.2016] [Private equity funds circling Nama's Ruby and Emerald portfolios](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [18.04.2016] [FG-FF talks to resume as Labour considers position](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.04.2016] [Michael Noonan: It's an open secret that Fine Gael want another coalition with Labour](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [18.04.2016] [\[...\] \[Y\]oung Irish nun among hundred killed in Ecuador earthquake](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.04.2016] [Ireland to cut 150,000 pension funds to 100](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.04.2016] [Fine Gael TDs in talks about future of Noonan](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [17.04.2016] [Martin blames 'arrogance of majority government' for mistakes](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.04.2016] [Ireland a long way from human rights for all, conference hears](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.04.2016] [Fine Gael focus on eight Independent TDs in bid to hammer out deal](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [16.04.2016] [Exports down 7% to €8.75bn in February, as imports rise by 9%](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.04.2016] [We are losing out ability to combat gangs, warn gardaí](#) [Irish Independent]
- [16.04.2016] [Threat of all-out Luas strike looms as staff warned of payroll cut](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.04.2016] [Enda Kenny 'only option left for leader' after Fianna Fáil concedes defeat](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [15.04.2016] [Brian Hayes: 'We need to prepare for the worst on Brexit'](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [15.04.2016] [First scheduled flights between Cork and the US set to take off this summer](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.04.2016] [Long-service Tesco staff to back strike over proposed pay cuts](#) [Irish Times]

Newspaper (average daily net circulation/political stance - February 2015)

Irish Independent (circulation: 112,383) politically populist; Conservative

Irish Times (circulation: 76,194) politically Liberal/Progressive; centre-right on economic issues

Irish Examiner (circulation: 33, 198) politically Centrist

Sunday Business Post (circulation: 32, 498) politically Liberal