

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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Politics

- At a special meeting of all Fine Gael election candidates, senior strategists said the election will be won on the issues of jobs, the economy and the pledge to provide better services. The meeting in Dublin was addressed by Taoiseach Enda Kenny, senior strategist Mark Mortell and MEP Brian Hayes, who has been appointed the party's director of elections.
- President Michael D Higgins began a four-day State visit to Portugal on Wednesday, his first State visit to the country since assuming office in 2011.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has described remarks by US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump about Muslims as "unacceptable". US Republican presidential candidate has called for a ban on Muslims entering the US
- Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams has opened the door to doing business with the Labour Party - one week after repeatedly refusing to rule out a future coalition with Fianna Fáil.
- There was a strong Garda presence outside Leinster House on Thursday as protestors demonstrated against austerity. The action was in opposition to the water charges, the property taxes and to austerity imposed by the Government.
- Renua leader Lucinda Creighton has insisted the party will perform better than its 2 per cent poll rating. The latest *Irish Times*/Ipsos MRBI poll indicated Renua's support was on a par with the Social Democrats, the Green Party and the People Before Profit/ Anti-Austerity Alliance (PBP/AAA). Ms Creighton said the party would do "a lot better than that" in the general election.

- The Cabinet met on Tuesday to discuss providing emergency funding to homes and businesses damaged by Storm Desmond.
- Long-awaited climate change legislation has completed its passage through the Oireachtas, creating statutory obligations to meet emissions targets.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said he hoped the banking inquiry will publish its report in the time given to it of the end of January 2016.
- A majority of people believe that Fine Gael should lead the next government with help from the Labour Party and independents.

Some 26pc said this is their preferred choice followed by 19pc who want a Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil coalition.

Just 17pc want the current Fine Gael/Labour coalition returned, while support for a Fianna Fáil/Sinn Féin cabinet is 15pc.

Economy

- The Irish economy is set for spectacular growth of more than 7 per cent this year, according to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin.
- The Taoiseach is planning to make a pledge to young parents that they will earn at least €11.75 per hour, no matter where they are working, if Fine Gael is returned to power.
- Moody's said it expects Irish GDP to grow by 6.2 per cent in this year and four per cent next year as it raised its outlook on the banking sector to "positive" from "stable".
- More than half of the wealth in Ireland is held by just 10% of households, according to a new study by think-tank TASC. 53.8% of Ireland's wealth is held by 10% of the households.
- A new report launched this week by the Oireachtas Jobs Committee recommends raising the minimum wage as part of a range of measures towards ensuring a living wage for all workers.
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- Irish economic growth remains on track to outperform all other EU member states in 2015 although economic performance remains uneven across the country, a new report says.

- An expert report going to Cabinet this week starkly warns the Government that increased rents and rising house prices are among a number of issues which threaten Ireland's economic competitiveness.

Society

- Nurses are to press ahead with two-hour strikes at seven of the country's busiest hospitals next Tuesday after talks to avert the stoppages broke down.
- More than one in five children has gone to school or to bed hungry as there is no food at home, according to a new Department of Health-commissioned survey.
- The Taoiseach Enda Kenny has confirmed an emergency fund for small businesses that have suffered flood damage and were unable to get insurance.
- One in five workers in Ireland are in low paid jobs - in other words they earn about two-thirds of the median wage of €24,000.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny is planning a major overhaul of the social welfare system which will put him on a direct collision course with Labour leader and Tanaiste Joan Burton ahead of the General Election.
- Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin, has said that baptising children simply so they can attend a particular school is an "abuse" of the sacrament.

Headlines

- (10.12.2015) [Fine Gael tells Dáil hopefuls to ask voters for their trust](#) (Irish Independent)
- (10.12.2015) [Howlin forecasts 'spectacular' growth of 7% for 2015](#) (Irish Times)
- (10.12.2015) [Nurses to strike next week after talks break down](#) (Irish Examiner)
- (10.12.2015) [More than one-in-five children has gone to school or bed hungry – report](#) (Irish Independent)
- (09.12.2015) [President Higgins begins four-day State visit to Portugal](#) (Irish Times)
- (09.12.2015) [Now Adams opens the door to doing business with Labour Party](#) (Irish Times)
- (09.12.2015) [Enda Kenny says Donald Trump remarks 'unacceptable'](#) (Irish Times)
- (09.12.2015) [Anti-austerity protesters march in Dublin city centre](#) (Irish Times)
- (09.12.2015) [More than half of Ireland's wealth is held by 10% of households](#) (Irish Examiner)
- (09.12.2015) [Oireachtas report recommends raising minimum wage](#) (Irish Examiner)
- (08.12.2015) [Moody's raises outlook on Irish banking sector to "positive" from "stable"](#) (Sunday Business Post)
- (08.12.2015) [Creighton says Renua will do 'a lot better' than 2% in election](#) (Irish Times)
- (08.12.2015) [Taoiseach confirms €5m for small businesses with no flood insurance](#) (Irish Examiner)
- (08.12.2015) [Baptising your child to gain school place just an 'abuse' – Archbishop](#) (Irish Independent)
- (07.12.2015) [Kenny hopes banking report will be published by deadline](#) (Irish Times)
- (07.12.2015) [Cabinet to discuss emergency funding for flood-hit areas](#) (Irish Times)
- (07.12.2015) [Irish economic growth remains uneven across the country, EY says](#) (Sunday Business Post)
- (07.12.2015) [Spiraling rents threaten recovery, Coalition warned](#) (Irish Independent)
- (06.12.2015) [Kenny to buy off Labour vote with €100-a-week rise](#) (Irish Independent)
- (04.12.2015) [Fine Gael-Sinn Féin is not totally 'unthinkable' - if we go by recent history](#) (Irish Independent)
- (04.12.2015) [Combined FF and SF vote now surpasses that of the Coalition](#) (Irish Independent)
- (04.12.2015) [Climate Bill passes Oireachtas 10 years after first published](#) (Irish Times)