

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

- Taoiseach Enda Kenny will travel to Brussels later as EU leaders try to cut a deal with Britain to prevent a so-called "Brexit".
- Ireland could be allowed to limit welfare benefits to migrant workers from other European Union member states under a proposal under consideration by the European Commission last night ahead of a key EU summit on Britain's membership of the bloc.
- There is growing anxiety in Fine Gael at the party's failure to generate the momentum it had counted on going into the second half of the general election campaign.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has finally ruled out going into government with Fianna Fáil after the general election, raising the spectre of a hung Dáil.
- Latest Red C poll reveals a decline in support for Fine Gael and Sinn Féin, while support for Independents has grown.
- Ireland has been selected to co-chair a major United Nations summit of world leaders on refugees and migration later this year.
- The prospect of a Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil government moved a step closer after Taoiseach Enda Kenny repeatedly refused to rule out doing business with Micheál Martin.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Fianna Fáil leader Micheal Martin will take the gloves off this week in an all-out battle to win the support of former Fianna Fáil voters who 'loaned' their vote to Fine Gael and Labour in the last election.

- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has claimed the risk to the economy from political instability is “real” and that “cool heads” and “steady hands” are needed to ensure continued growth.
- The Labour Party would like to hold the justice portfolio if the Coalition is re-elected, two prominent TDs have said.
- Support for Fine Gael and Labour has slumped in the latest opinion poll of the general election campaign. The Red C tracking poll published in the *Sunday Business Post* shows support for Taoiseach Enda Kenny’s party has fallen by three points to 28 per cent and Joan Burton saw her party’s backing drop two points to 8 per cent.
- Fianna Fáil leader Mícheál Martin put in a forceful performance in the first televised leader’s debate of the general election campaign, during testy exchanges with Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

Economy

- Taoiseach Enda Kenny yesterday warned of a flight of capital and jobs if Fine Gael and Labour are not returned to government.
- Ireland had a trade surplus of €44 billion last year, the largest ever recorded, the Central Statistics Office said. Preliminary figures showed that exports rose by 20 per cent last year to €111.04 billion while imports rose by 10 per cent to €67.02 billion.
- Swissport has announced the creation of 200 jobs at Dublin Airport as it grows its ground handling services.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny will today announce that Cork has won the bidding to host a global start-up summit later this year, the first time the event will have been held in Europe.
- Fine Gael will give full medical cards to 10,000 children with a severe disability if returned to government.
- Former Anglo Irish Bank chief executive David Drumm has abandoned his legal challenge against extradition from the United States.

Society

- Elite units from the Gardaí and the Defence Forces are set for a major training exercise on combating a terrorist attack.
- Almost 70 per cent of homeless families in Dublin are coming from two areas in the west of the city, with almost 40 per cent from the constituencies represented by Tánaiste Joan Burton and Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar.
- LUAS staff who are taking part in the strike action this week will be docked up to four day's pay in their next month's salary.
- An initiative is being launched to combat alarming drop-out rates across Ireland's third-level institutions, as figures reveal that more than half of students on at least 12 leading courses nationwide fail to complete their first year.
- Two people have been arrested after Gardaí seized cannabis and cocaine valued at more than €2 million in Dublin.
- The sentencing of prominent republican Thomas 'Slab' Murphy for tax evasion has been adjourned until general election day.
- More than 90,000 Dublin commuters were affected by a strike by Luas staff on Friday as the light rail system stopped service for a second day.
- Gardaí are closing in on the murderous gangs involved in the bloody feud that has claimed two lives in the last week.

Headlines

- [18.02.2016] [Taoiseach to meet leaders in Brussels to discuss deal to prevent 'Brexit'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [18.02.2016] [Elite units train for combating terrorist attack](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.02.2016] [State may be allowed set migrant welfare benefit limit](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.02.2016] [Taoiseach: Fianna Fáil cannot be trusted on jobs](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [17.02.2016] [Most homeless Dublin families are from two](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.02.2016] [LUAS staff to be docked up to four days pay this month due to strike action](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.02.2016] [Fine Gael anxious over lack of campaign breakthrough](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.02.2016] [Leaders' Debate: Enda Kenny finally ends speculation of doing deal with Fianna Fáil](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [16.02.2016] [Election 2016: Red C poll shows drop in support for Fine Gael](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [15.02.2016] [Kenny opens door to 'grand coalition' with Fianna Fáil](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.02.2016] [Ireland to co-chair major UN summit on refugees](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.02.2016] [Swissport to create 200 jobs at Dublin Airport](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [15.02.2016] [MSD to create 200 jobs in Carlow, Cork and Tipperary](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [15.02.2016] [Ireland reports record trade surplus for 2015](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [15.02.2016] [Alarming drop-out rates at third-level institutions](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [14.02.2016] [Cannabis and cocaine worth €2.1m seized in Dublin](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.02.2016] [Election 2016: Enda Kenny claims economy at risk from instability](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.02.2016] ['High time' Labour took justice ministry](#) [Irish Independent]
- [14.02.2016] [Now Kenny and Martin battle for FF vote 'loaned' to coalition](#) [Irish Independent]
- [13.02.2016] ['Slab' Murphy sentencing adjourned until polling day](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [13.02.2016] ['Realistic' Fine Gael to tone down health plans](#) [Irish Independent]
- [13.02.2016] [Support for Fine Gael and Labour slumps in latest poll](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.02.2016] [Cork to host global start-up summit](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [12.02.2016] [Leaders' debate: Mícheál Martin puts in forceful performance](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.02.2016] [Luas strike: 90,000 commuters hit by second day of action](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.02.2016] [Garda net is closing in on the gunmen responsible for bloody feud murders](#) [Irish Independent]
- [12.02.2016] [David Drumm facing extradition in coming weeks](#) [Sunday Business Post]

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