

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

The final seat count of the General Election 2016 is as follows: Fine Gael 50, Fianna Fáil 44, Sinn Féin 23, Independents 17, Labour 7, AAA/PBP 6, Independent Alliance 6, Social Democrats 3, Green Party 2.

Politics

- Senior Fine Gael ministers have begun actively discussing the future of Taoiseach Enda Kenny's leadership ahead of today's crunch meeting of the parliamentary party.
- The future of Irish Water has emerged as a potential stumbling block to any deal between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil on how a new government can be put in place.
- Employers' group IBEC has raised concerns about continued talk of scrapping Irish Water.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has performed a dramatic U-turn on his pre-election promise of ruling out Fianna Fáil as a potential coalition partner.
- In his first move to try to break the impasse created by the election outcome, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has committed Fine Gael to engage in discussions with other parties about a way forward.
- The abolition of Irish Water by a new government would cost the State up to €7 billion over the next five years, according to internal estimates by the State-owned utility.

- The first moves in the manoeuvring to form the next government will began on Monday as Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil sought to win the support of Independents and smaller parties in the vote for Taoiseach when the new Dáil sits on March 10th. [29]
- Fine Gael TDs believe outgoing Taoiseach Enda Kenny will survive as leader if the party returns to government.
- There were many winners and losers in Election 2016 - but who are the biggest?
- Forget cutting taxes is the EU's warning to any incoming government, heavily criticising the last "seven years of sharply reduced government investment" which had taken a toll on the quality and adequacy of infrastructure.
- President Michael D Higgins' daughter Alice-Mary is to run as an Independent candidate in the Seanad elections.
- Polling has officially started across the country in the 2016 General Election. More than 3.2 million people are eligible to vote in 40 constituencies being contested by 552 candidates.

Economy

- AIB made a pre-tax profit of €1.9 billion in 2015, according to accounts just published. This represented an increase of 72 per cent on the previous year and was driven by "high quality new lending", the bank said.
- PayPal has today announced the creation of 100 new jobs at its EMEA global operations centre in Ballycoolin, Dublin.
- The unemployment rate edged down to 8.8 per cent in February, its lowest level since December 2008, from 8.9 per cent in January and 10 per cent in February last year.
- Growth in the manufacturing sector expanded at its slowest pace in two years, hit by a slowdown in the export sector against the backdrop of an uncertain international environment.
- Pharmaceutical company GSK has opened two facilities at its manufacturing site in Currabinny, Cork.
- Financial market reaction to Ireland's inconclusive general election results was muted in morning trading on Monday with the ISEQ index of Irish shares and the yield on 10-year government bonds relatively unchanged.

- A debate has been sparked about the scale of the slump in Irish bank shares amid the wider stock market rout of recent weeks.

Society

- Relatives bereaved in the Omagh bomb attack have questioned whether they will ever get justice after the prosecution of a man accused of the murders collapsed.
- Irish mathematics students are falling well behind their counterparts in high-performing countries, according to a review carried out by the Department of Education.
- Comedian Ardal O'Hanlon has paid tribute to his Father Ted co-star Frank Kelly, who passed away on Sunday.
- Landlords can no longer veto applicants on ground of their being in receipt of rent allowance. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has told landlords and accommodation advertisers of their legal responsibility to ensure that the practice is immediately stopped.

Headlines

- [03.03.2016] [Final result of GE16 announced](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [03.03.2016] [Fine Gael ministers to hold late-night talks about Kenny's leadership](#) [Irish Independent]
- [03.03.2016] [Irish Water threat to Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil deal](#) [Irish Times]
- [03.03.2016] [AIB pre-tax profits up 72% on 'higher quality new lending'](#) [Irish Times]
- [03.03.2016] [IBEC warns of fines from Europe if Irish Water is scrapped](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [03.03.2016] [PayPal creates 100 new jobs in Ballycoolin](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [02.03.2016] [Kenny moves to start talks on government formation](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.03.2016] [Kenny performs massive U-turn as he opens door to Fianna Fáil](#) [Irish Independent]
- [02.03.2016] [Irish Water abolition 'would cost State up to €7bn'](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.03.2016] [Irish students well behind world's best in maths results](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.03.2016] [Omagh families: Our last chance for justice is gone](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.03.2016] [Unemployment rate slips to 8.8% in February, CSO says](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [01.03.2016] [Manufacturing sector grows at the slowest pace in two years](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [29.02.2016] [What now for the party leaders?](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.02.2016] [Election 2016: Muted reaction in financial markets to inconclusive election result](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [29.02.2016] [Labour Party waking up to a nightmare](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.02.2016] [Healy-Raes, 'AK47'. Enda, Lucinda: The biggest winners and losers from a seismic election](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.02.2016] [Ardal O'Hanlon pays tribute to the late Frank Kelly – 'A gentleman and friend'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.02.2016] [EU warns against cutting taxes as infrastructure suffers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.02.2016] [GSK opens €12m of facilities in Cork](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.02.2016] [President's daughter to run for seat in the Seanad](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.02.2016] [Election 2016: Polling begins across the country](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.02.2016] [Debate sparked about rout in Irish bank shares](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.02.2016] [Landlords can no longer refuse rent supplement tenants](#) [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