

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

Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny is prepared to offer Micheál Martin the opportunity of being Taoiseach for two-and-a-half years if Fianna Fáil signs up to a "full and equal partnership government", it has been reported in the Irish Independent.

Politics

Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin and Anti-Austerity Alliance Party nominee Ruth Coppinger all lost in Wednesday's Dáil vote for Taoiseach. As expected, the acting Taoiseach secured just 51 votes, including all members of the Fine Gael parliamentary party – with 80 votes against. The Labour party and Independent groups abstained.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan has urged Irish people living in Britain to join the campaign to keep the United Kingdom in the European Union.

Ruth Coppinger made history on Wednesday - by becoming the first woman to be nominated as Taoiseach - when she was put forward by People Before Profit and the Anti-Austerity Alliance.

Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny is hedging his bets by sticking with his plan to abolish the Universal Social Charge for all workers as a second election remains on the horizon.

Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny has presented Independent TDs with a policy paper outlining Fine Gael's top priorities in government, including appointing a Minister for Housing.

The future of Irish Water and water charges has emerged as the primary obstacle to a "modified coalition" between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil.

Labour Party chairman Willie Penrose has intervened in the row over the party leadership, insisting that Joan Burton's successor should be appointed without the need for an internal election.

Acting health minister Leo Varadkar remains the public's clear favourite to succeed Enda Kenny as leader of Fine Gael, according to a Sunday Independent/Millward Brown opinion poll.

Deep divisions are emerging in Renua over the future of Lucinda Creighton's leadership following the party's disastrous General Election campaign.

Fianna Fáil must support a Fine Gael-led government or trigger an election, according to Fiach Kelly, writing in the Irish Times.

Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny has called on Fianna Fáil to act responsibly but insisted he would not support a minority Government.

Economy

Irish-led technology firm Intercom, which was valued by its investors at more than \$500 million within five years of its founding, has raised another \$50 million. The firm is creating at least 100 new jobs at its Dublin office, in high-end engineering and design and product development roles on the core product. The jobs will come on stream over the next twelve months.

Ireland's unemployment rate fell to 8.6 per cent in March from 8.8 per cent in February and 9.8 per cent in March last year, the Central Statistics Office said. The youth unemployment rate, for those aged 15 to 25 years, fell to 19 per cent last month from 20 per cent in February.

US pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly, has announced plans to invest €35 million in developing a new high-tech manufacturing facility at its biopharmaceutical site in Kinsale, Co. Cork which will be used in the manufacturing of a new wave of pharmaceutical ingredients.

US firm Hubspot has said it will hire an additional 320 people in Dublin over the next three years as it officially opened new office space in Dublin's Docklands. The marketing and sales platform, which established its European, Middle East and Africa headquarters in Dublin three years ago, currently employs 150 people in Ireland.

Dublin house price increases are likely to lag those in the rest of the country in 2016 due to "affordability constraints", according to the latest report by MyHome.ie and stockbroking firm Davy.

Passenger numbers at Cork Airport are already soaring ahead of the launch of a new summer route to Madrid.

Young families hoping to get on the property ladder have been warned that restrictive mortgage lending rules are “permanent”.

Cosmetics manufacturer Yves Rocher looks set to cut its workforce in Cork by 50%, meaning at least 50 jobs could be lost.

The Central Bank of Ireland has released its economic bulletin for the second quarter of 2016. It found that economic growth has been strong over the past year, underpinned by a broad based recovery of labour market, export market and consumer sentiment.

Society

Three Irish universities have ranked in the top 150 best “young universities” league table. Maynooth University ranked the best of the Irish universities (68th place), followed by Dublin City University (79th place), and University of Limerick (between 101 and 150th).

Irish teenagers and young adults are the biggest users of illegal psychoactive drugs in the EU, according to a new study on the drugs trade.

Teachers at many of the State’s fee-paying schools are treated like “second-class citizens” and paid well below official rates, a teachers’ union conference has been told.

Family breakdown has emerged as the biggest single reason for people going into emergency homeless accommodation.

Turnaround times for the processing of Irish passports have lengthened, with some applications taking up to seven weeks following an increase in the number of applications from Northern Ireland and Britain triggered by fears of a Brexit

The concentration of media ownership in Ireland has been identified as “high risk” in a major EU study on media diversity. The EU-funded report identified a number of policy weaknesses which allowed billionaire businessman Denis O’Brien to have a dominant position in Irish media.

Ireland is set to become the most obese country in Europe, with the UK, within a decade, according to a study published in The Lancet.

Headlines

- [07.04.2016] [Role of rotating Taoiseach now on offer for Martin in 'equal partnership'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [07.04.2016] [Three Irish Institutions rank in top 150 best 'young universities'](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.04.2016] [Irish tech business Intercom to create 100 jobs over 12 months](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [06.04.2016] [Enda Kenny loses Dáil vote for Taoiseach – 80-51](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.04.2016] [Irish in Britain should oppose Brexit, minister says](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.04.2016] [Historical first female Taoiseach nomination to be made today](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [06.04.2016] [Kenny hedges bets on USC plan as backbenchers vent their anger](#) [Irish Independent]
- [06.04.2015] [Irish are biggest users of illegal psychoactive drugs in EU](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.04.2016] [Enda Kenny outlines Fine Gael's priorities in government](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.04.2016] [Irish Water a 'red-line issue' in talks between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [05.04.2016] [Irish unemployment rate falls to 8.6% in March from 8.8%](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [05.04.2016] [Eli Lilly to invest €35 million in Kinsale facility](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [04.04.2016] [Penrose: Labour should appoint new leader without a vote](#) [Irish Independent]
- [04.04.2016] [Hubspot to create 320 jobs in Dublin over the next three years](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [04.04.2016] [House prices up 2.1% nationally in first quarter](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.04.2016] [Private school teachers 'are treated like second-class citizens'](#) [Irish Times]
- [03.04.2016] [Varadkar is public's favourite to follow Kenny](#) [Irish Independent]
- [03.04.2016] [Renua split on Lucinda's future as party leader](#) [Irish Independent]
- [03.04.2016] [Family splits main cause of homelessness](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [02.04.2016] [Fianna Fáil is caught between a rock and a very hard place](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.04.2016] [Irish passport times lengthen as UK applications rise](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.04.2016] [Central Bank: Mortgage lending rules are here to stay](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [02.04.2016] [Cork Airport figures soar ahead of Madrid link](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [01.04.2016] [Enda Kenny rules out backing Fianna Fáil minority government](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.04.2016] [Ireland's obesity rate among world's worst](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.04.2016] [Yves Rocher to let staff go](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [01.04.2016] [Central bank release Q2 economic outlook](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [01.04.2016] [EU study's concern over media ownership in Ireland](#) [Irish Examiner]

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