

## 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 published their historic agreement on how the State will be governed for the next three years, with each party making significant concessions. To read more on this historic deal, [click here](#).**

#### Politics

A Dáil vote for taoiseach will take place at noon on Friday, Government Chief Whip Paul Kehoe has confirmed. To read more, [click here](#).

People refusing to pay their water bills are set to escape any legal punishment after Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil said they will not introduce new laws to prosecute people for debts under €500. To read more on Irish Water, [click here](#).

A Dáil vote on permanently abolishing water charges could be held as early as next April, according to the government-support deal agreed between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. To read more, [click here](#).

Low and middle-income workers are set to see a reduction in the Universal Social Charge (USC) in the minority government deal reached between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil. To read more, [click here](#).

Independent TDs have warned Fine Gael "there is no deadline" to conclude a deal on government formation this week. To read more on the on-going government formation talks, [click here](#).

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams qualified his apology for tweeting the N-word to his 111,000 followers, but defended the “context” in which he used the term. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald is favourite to be appointed tánaiste by Enda Kenny if a Fine Gael-led minority government is put in place. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Health Minister Leo Varadkar's Fine Gael leadership ambitions have been damaged by his latest outburst on water charges. Both Fianna Fáil and Independents have identified Mr Varadkar as a problem within the government talks. To read more, [click here](#).

Fine Gael is pushing for a one percentage point reduction to the Universal Social Charge in next October's budget in talks with Independents as part of government formation talks. To read more, [click here](#).

Fine Gael this weekend attempted to lock down the support of an additional six to 10 Independent TDs in order to secure Enda Kenny's re-election as taoiseach. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The agreement reached between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael to facilitate the election of Enda Kenny as Taoiseach next week should act as a blueprint for future minority governments, one of the negotiators of the deal has said. To read more, [click here](#).

## Economy

Ireland urgently needs to form a stable government to see off the threat of a Brexit, Ibec's Director of International and European Affairs director warned today. To read more, [click here](#).

The unemployment rate fell to 8.4 per cent last month, down from 8.6 per cent in March and from 9.7 per cent for April 2015, new figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) reveal. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Industrial production fell by nearly 13 per cent in March compared to February and was 12.4 per cent lower than a year earlier, the Central Statistics Office said. To read more, [click here](#).

Ireland is predicted to be the fastest-growing economy in Europe this year according to new figures from the European Commission, with the EU's executive arm expecting the economy to grow by 4.9 per cent this year. To read more on Ireland's well-performing economy, [click here](#).

Growth in the Irish manufacturing sector slowed to its lowest rate in two and a half years in April with new orders weakening as the slowdown in global markets began to have an effect, a new survey shows. To read more on the Irish manufacturing sector, [click here](#).

Intel is preparing to announce this week that it will let go about 420 of the 5,500 people employed in its Irish operations. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A new investigation has been launched into the closure and controversial sale of Clerys department store in Dublin last year which led to 460 staff being sacked overnight. To read more, [click here](#).

The former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has warned Irish businesses of the economic dangers Europe faces if his country leaves the European Union. To read more on this, [click here](#).

## Society

The new government faces intense pressure from unions to return public servants' pay to Celtic Tiger levels and grant new recruits the same wages as their colleagues. To read more, [click here](#).

An immediate increase of 28 per cent in rent supplement is required in order to prevent more families from becoming homeless, campaigner Fr Peter McVerry has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Staff at Cork Institute of Technology yesterday continued their opposition to management's plan to hire a student counsellor by protesting at the job interviews for the post. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Campaigners are alarmed at a surge in HIV cases in Ireland after they jumped by more than third over the last five years. Almost 500 people were diagnosed as living with the infection last year — up from 372 on the previous year. To read more, [click here](#).

Two feared criminals from the capital have put themselves forward as 'guns for hire' for the Hutch gang who are currently embroiled in a violent feud with the Kinahan Cartel. To read more on the on-going Dublin gang feud, [click here](#).

The head of the Irish Prison Service has hit back at his own staff over claims that the state is providing a garden for a dangerous criminal. To read more, [click here](#).

Ireland will accept dozens more refugees in the coming weeks ahead of an expected increase in migrants attempting dangerous crossings into Europe. To read more, [click here](#).

## Headlines

- [05.05.2016] [Government talks: Vote on taoiseach to take place Friday](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.05.2016] [No punishment for Irish Water non-bill payers under new government deal](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [05.05.2016] [Ibec: Brexit is one of most significant threats to Ireland in decades](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [05.05.2016] [Intense pressure to restore public sector pay](#) [Irish Independent]
- [04.05.2016] [Major concessions on both sides clear way for FG to form minority government](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.05.2016] [Taxation: USC to be cut 'on fair basis' for lower earners](#) [Irish Independent]
- [04.05.2016] [Unemployment rate drops to 8.4% as more youth find work](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.05.2016] [Industrial production fell by nearly 13 per cent in March](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [03.05.2016] [Independents warn Fine Gael they will not rush deal](#) [Irish Independent]
- [03.05.2016] [Gerry Adams stands over 'context of N-word tweet](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [03.05.2016] [Ireland to be EU's fastest-growing economy in 2016](#) [Irish Times]
- [03.05.2016] [Irish manufacturing growth slows to two-and-a-half year low](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [02.05.2016] [Frances Fitzgerald tipped to become next tánaiste](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.05.2016] [Leo's FG leadership hopes damaged by water outburst](#) [Irish Independent]
- [02.05.2016] [Fine Gael: We can afford to cut USC](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [01.05.2016] [State launches major investigation into Clerys sale which led to 460 staff being sacked](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.05.2016] [Intel to let go 420 Irish staff](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [01.05.2016] [Call for increase in rent supplement to address homelessness](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.04.2016] [Fine Gael moves to secure Independent support](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.04.2016] [Ten people a week in Ireland being diagnosed with HIV](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.04.2016] [Feared criminals offering 'guns for hire' services to hutch gang](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.04.2016] [CIT staff to stage protest at job interviews](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [29.04.2016] [The days of 'majority rule' are over, says FF negotiator](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.04.2016] [Former British PM tells Irish business of economic dangers of Brexit](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [29.04.2016] [\[...\] Irish Prison chief defends decision to build garden for convicted killer Warren Dumbrell](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.04.2016] [Dozens more refugees to be given refuge in Ireland in coming weeks](#) [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