Ireland

Trilemma Rank
17

Trilemma Score
77.2

Balance Grade
CAA

Ireland scores very highly in Energy Equity because of universal access to electricity and stable energy prices. It also scores well in Sustainability due to an ever-increasing penetration of low carbon energy. Security is somewhat lower because of high import dependence and little diversity of primary energy supply. Ireland's balance grade is CAA and its global ranking is 17.

Population
4.9 (millions)

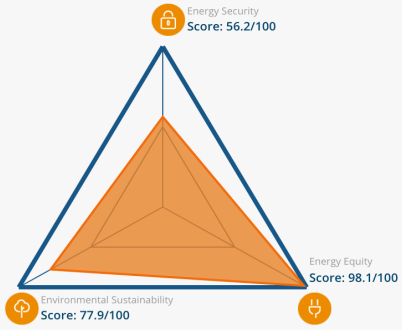
Land Area
68.9 (thousand sq. km)

GDP Per Capita
78,806 (PPP US$)

Industrial Sector
36.8 (% of GDP)

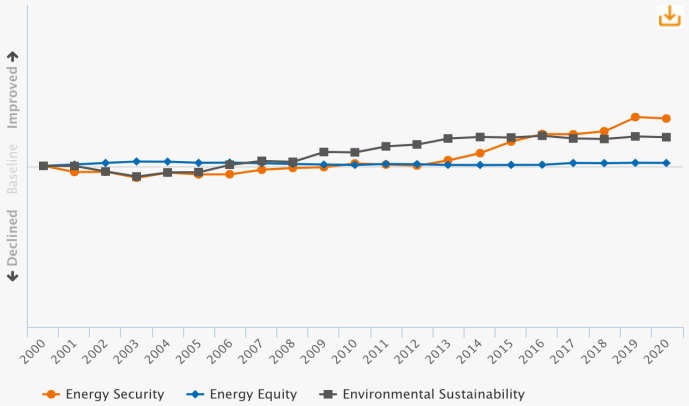
GDP Growth
8.2 (annual %)

Balance



Historical Trilemma Scores

Trend lines track the country's performance in each dimension, beginning with a baseline of 100 in the year of 2000



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Trends and Outlook

In 2018, Ireland imported 67% of its energy needs, slightly below previous years. This is attributed to the startup of the offshore Corrib gas field, which reduced the need for gas imports. In 2018, total primary energy use in Ireland increased by 1.6% while the economy grew by 1.7% (as measured by Modified Domestic Product). Fossil fuels accounted for 89% of all energy used in Ireland with oil remaining the dominant fuel source (49%), followed by gas (31%), renewable energy (10%), coal (5%) and peat (5%). In 2018, 33.2% of gross electricity consumption came from renewable sources.

Through its membership of the EU, Ireland has ambitious decarbonisation targets for 2030. It has translated this into a domestic setting through the Climate Action Plan which was published in 2019. The plan sets decarbonisation targets and specific actions for all the key emitting sectors. Progress is monitored rigorously every quarter by a high-level National Climate Action Delivery Board. Transport now represents the largest emitting energy sector, accounting for 20% of total emissions. The Climate Action Plan aims to see close to 1 million Electric Vehicles (EVs) on the roads in 2030 to reduce emissions from the transport sector. Biofuels will play a significant role in meeting the 2030 targets. In space heating, Ireland has started to break the link between increased dwelling numbers and carbon emissions due to building standards with the result that only 40% of new homes are installing fossil fuel boilers and the number is falling due to the planned ban of fossil fuel boilers in new builds in 2025. The Climate Action Plan contains ambitious plans for a national building retrofit program for existing buildings and there are plans to retrofit 500,000 homes and install 600,000 heat pumps by 2030.

Ireland has plans to produce 70% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. This will require the rollout of new onshore wind, offshore wind and solar generation. This low carbon electricity will displace fossil fuels across the economy through electrification. The Irish Government is currently considering the security and sustainability of the electricity system as it moves to a high renewable energy system with a transition away from coal, peat and indigenous gas. This review is likely to be completed in 2021.

Key metrics

Metrics are determined relative to other countries, with a full bar representing a score of 100.

	2020 Performance	Trend 2010-20
Energy security		
Import dependence		▲
Diversity of electricity generation		▲
Energy storage		▼
Energy equity		
Access to electricity		▶
Electricity prices		▲
Gasoline and diesel prices		▲
Environmental sustainability		
Final energy intensity		▲
Low carbon electricity generation		▲
CO2 emissions per capita		▲
Country context		
Macroeconomic stability		▲
Effectiveness of government		▼
Innovation capability		▲