AUDIT • TAX • ADVISORY

Ireland:

Your Gateway for Global Business Success

Now, for tomorrow

bakertilly

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Introduction - Why Expand into Ireland?

A Growing Construction Market

Ireland's construction and infrastructure sector and building services sectors continue to expand, driven by demand for housing, commercial space, and infrastructure. Ireland offers strategic advantages beyond its attractive 12.5% corporate tax rate. It provides access to a young, highly skilled workforce, a competitive cost base, and seamless entry to EU and global markets. Over 1,200 multinational companies have chosen Ireland as their investment platform due to its business-friendly environment and quality of life.

Business Environment & Competitive Edge

Ireland's pro-business policies, EU market access, and status as an English speaking hub in the Eurozone make it a preferred location for multinational headquarters. With world-class infrastructure, Ireland is a thriving economic center known for its innovation and talent pool. The government's focus on sustainability and innovation creates further opportunities for firms offering green, efficient, and future-ready building solutions.

The development of infrastructure works in Ireland are a once in a generation opportunity for the sector. With large scale spending planned under the Irish National Development Plan and long awaited works required in water, energy and rail together with the large scale Metrolink project in Dublin now is an ideal time to look at expansion into the Irish market.

Planning well ahead and using specialists to assist in structuring and registrations ensures the avoidance of costly mistakes and in turn saves time.

Aidan Scollard
Audit Partner

Opportunities for Construction / Infrastructure Businesses in Ireland

Unlock growth in one of Europe's most dynamic markets

Ireland is one of Europe's fastest-growing economies with major public and private investment in infrastructure, including water, energy and rail.

Ireland offers major opportunities for UK construction and infrastructure specialist firms seeking to grow and diversify from their home market.

With strong economic performance, a supportive government with spend available to deal with rising infrastructure demand, with a shared language and proximity, together with similar processes, Ireland is the perfect next step for expansion.

With a similar construction market and active developments out to tender, Banks and investors actively support UK entrants, ensuring financial stability and smoother market entry. Strategic investment now can secure your firm's long-term growth in a thriving market.

Why Ireland

Economic Overview

GDP Growth
Consistently above EU average. Strong UK–Ireland trade relationship

Infrastructure Investment
Robust economy and sustained infrastructure investment - €165bn under Project Ireland 2040

Population Growth
Driving demand for housing and public services

Government Focus
Renewable energy, public transport, and digital connectivity. Large-scale infrastructure pipeline through National Development Plan 2040

Regulations & Compliance
Familiar legal and business environment

Labour market
Competitive labour market and access to EU standards and funding mechanisms. Demand for world class infrastructure services and construction firms

Market opportunities within priority sectors include:

Transport & Infrastructure
(roads, rail, ports, airports)

Renewable Energy
(offshore wind, solar, hydrogen)

Digital Infrastructure
(data centres, broadband rollout)

Housing & Urban Development

Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

Ireland's commitment to **net-zero construction** and **sustainable growth** creates new demand for firms with green building expertise and advanced engineering capabilities.

Doing Business in Ireland for UK Companies

UK firms will find Ireland's regulatory environment familiar but distinct.

Key requirements

- **Building Control Regulations**: Mandatory compliance with EU-aligned safety, quality, and environmental standards
- **Planning Permission**: Must be approved before any construction begins
- **Public Procurement**: Opportunities listed via eTenders.ie
- **Insurance & Bonding**: Must meet Irish legal requirements
- **Tax Registration**: Companies must register for Irish VAT and corporate tax if operating locally contractor tax registration system and withholding taxes apply

Tip: Engage Irish legal and compliance consultants early to avoid delays and ensure smooth certification.

Labour & Skills

- Ireland has a **competitive labour market**, but s**kills shortages** in key trades (engineering, surveying, project management) persist. Unemployment <5% - full employment market
- Early recruitment and partnerships with local training bodies are essential.
- UK qualifications are generally recognised, but confirmation with Irish professional bodies is advised.
- Average construction labour costs are comparable to Western Europe.

Sustainability & Green Building

Ireland's construction market prioritises **sustainability and energy efficiency**.

- The **Irish Green Building Council (IGBC)** promotes green certification and low-carbon practices.
- Government targets include a **51% reduction in emissions by 2030**.
- Eco-friendly materials, renewable energy integration, and circular construction methods are increasingly standard in public tenders.

Finance & Banking

Strong financial planning is vital for cross-border operations.

- Open an **Irish business bank** account for project payments and local transactions.
- Understand **taxation differences** between the UK and Ireland.
- Use cash flow forecasting to manage exchange rate risks.
- Explore IDA, and InterTradeIreland supports for collaboration funding and market entry.(Outbound only)

Delivering Efficient Projects

Project success in Ireland depends on **strong management and communication**.

- Implement **Building Information Modelling (BIM)** for collaboration and accuracy.
- Apply **value engineering** to control costs and improve outcomes.
- Invest in **training** to align your team with Irish standards.

Building Relationships and partnerships in Ireland

Irish firms are known for their agility, innovation, and collaboration — making them ideal partners. Many lead in sectors like offshore wind, water infrastructure, and engineering services.

Useful Links

- eTenders – Irish Government Procurement Portal
- Enterprise Ireland
- InterTradeIreland
- Construction Industry Federation
- Irish Green Building Council

Partnering with Irish companies can provide

- Local insight into tendering and procurement
- Access to established networks, subcontractors and suppliers
- Shared expertise on complex infrastructure delivery
- Streamlined logistics and supply chain management
- Stronger compliance with local labour and sustainability requirements

Potential partners:

- Engineering consultancies
- Design & planning specialists
- Local contractors and developers

Government & Agency Support

Several agencies assist UK and Irish firms with trade and expansion:

- **Enterprise Ireland:** Business development and funding advice (this is outbound only – if establishing here for export)
- **InterTradeIreland**: Supports cross-border partnerships and innovation projects
- **IDA Ireland**: Assists foreign investors and international firms establishing Irish operations
- **Construction Industry Federation (CIF)**: Represents and supports Irish construction companies (membership organisaiton)

Attractive Corporate Tax Regime

1

Attractive Tax Regime for Businesses

- Ireland's tax regime is a significant draw for businesses.
- Committed to OECD BEPs and EU ATAD, Ireland has implemented many anti-avoidance initiatives, establishing a reputable and robust tax structure.
- The government defends the longstanding corporate tax rate within these frameworks

2

Corporate Tax Rate

- Standard corporate tax rate: 12.5%, one of the lowest in Europe.
- Companies must meet substance requirements, maintaining genuine business presence and activity in Ireland to benefit from this rate.
- Participation exemption applies to both qualifying share sales and qualifying dividend income.

3

Additional advantages of the Irish tax regime include

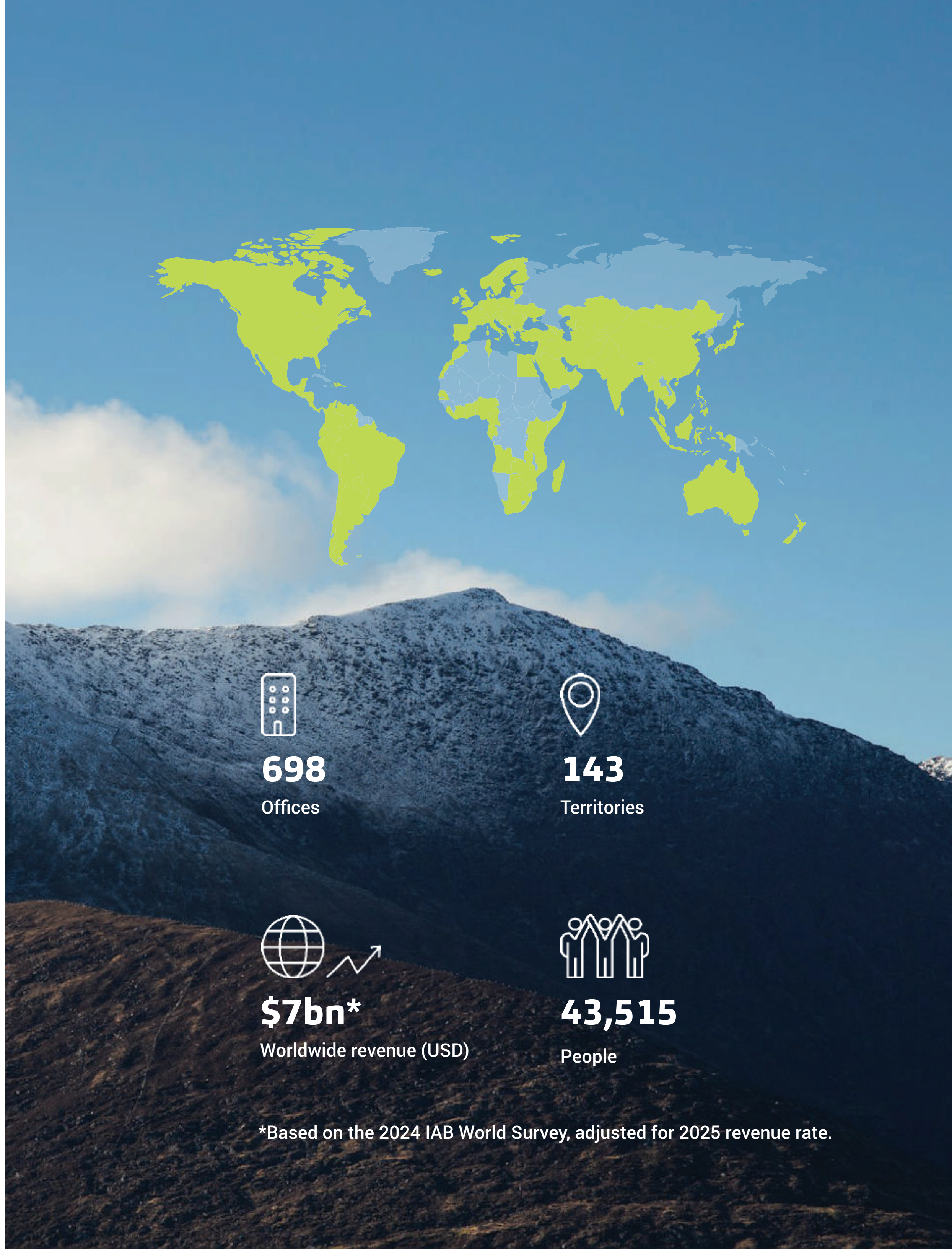
- R&D tax credits which provide significant advantages for research and development activities of up to 30% of the expenditure incurred on such activity.
- The Knowledge Development Box (KDB), which can offer a preferential tax rate on income from intellectual property developed in Ireland of 10%.
- Digital Games Tax credit is available at a rate of 32%.
- Capital allowances are available on capital purchases including intellectual property to help reduce taxable profits.
- New businesses can benefit from a corporation tax start up relief sheltering up to €40,000 of corporation tax a year for the initial five years.
- Extensive double tax treaty with 754 jurisdictions to ensure efficiency for multinational groups.

Thriving Hub for Foreign Investment

- Dublin ranked among fDi Magazine's Major European Cities of the Future 2024, outperforming most European cities, with only London and Amsterdam ranking higher.
- The strength of Ireland as a business destination is evident in its foreign direct investment (FDI) employment figures, which reached 302,566 in 2024—representing 10.8% of national employment.
- In 2024, Ireland secured 234 new investments, a 6% increase from 2023, with 59% of these located outside major urban centers. These investments are expected to generate 13,500 jobs in the coming years.
- Ireland also boasts one of Europe's most robust legal frameworks for protecting intellectual property (IP) rights.

Baker Tilly global offering

As a member of the world's 8th largest accounting and advisory network, our passion and curiosity separate us from the pack. We're agile and intelligent, and we embrace the unknown — motivated by challenges and obstacles. We are confident in our quest to provide exceptional service and unmatched regional expertise.



Our Services

We are here to help support the potential of your business. At Baker Tilly Ireland we do not just build strong professional relationships, we build life-long partnerships and we are committed to helping you 'Open Ireland' with a range of reliable, expert and professional services.

Taxation Services

- Getting the corporate tax structure right
- Considering both Irish & home country tax issues
- Dealing with personal tax issues
- Considering tax efficient remuneration such as share schemes/relocation costs
- Minimising any VAT leakage
- Optimising your overall tax strategy

Business Growth Support

- Expert, tailored support to help grow your business
- Market assessment & competitor analysis
- Market entry strategy
- Introductions to key business communities
- Experienced advice on debt and equity funding to grow your business
- Partner-led, in-depth business experience

All Ireland Service

- A full-service offering from key offices in Dublin and Cork
- A multinational workforce with a wide range of language capabilities

Global Mobility

From social security and pension planning, to equity compensation, tax equalisation advisory, international tax compliance, and immigration regulations advisory.

Transfer Pricing

Our international transfer pricing specialists support multinationals – from negotiating pricing agreements, to valuations of tangible and intangible assets, and adhering to arms-length principles. We can scale up, and we can scale down – wherever in the world you need us to.

Customs

- Customs Special Procedure
- Rules of Origin and Tariff Classification
- Plastic Packaging Tax
- Authorised Economic Operator Status
- Import and export procedures outside the UK and European Union

Outsourcing Accounting Services

- Management accounting
- Book-keeping & Cloud accounting
- Payroll solutions
- VAT Compliance

Global Tax Solutions

Multinational operations are crying out for a simple, senior point of contact to bring together the tax and advisory expertise you need. So that's exactly what we created.

Audit and Assurance

- Statutory and non-statutory audits
- FRS102; Accounts Preparation
- Financial reporting advisory

Company Set-up

- Determining the appropriate corporate structure
- Intellectual Property (IP) advice
- Company registration
- Branch registration

ESG and Sustainability advice

- Assurance Services
- Advisory Services
- Audit, Reporting and Compliance