



The Economy of Ireland A | ECU22021

Year	Senior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	20-22 hours of lectures and 4 hours of tutorials
Pre-Requisite	None. However, students are expected to read the appropriate introductory level material, e.g. see CORE reference above, if they haven't already completed Introduction to Economics (e.g. ECU11011 & ECU11012 or equivalent) in first year.
Semester	1
Module Leader and Lecturer	Professor Francis O'Toole
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Module Outline:

This module aims to:

- provide those with a fundamental level of economics (e.g. ECU11011 & ECU11012 or equivalent) with an understanding of the Irish economy and public policy-making
- show how various pressures and policies have shaped the development of the Irish economy;
- economically interpret and evaluate public policy making in Ireland and elsewhere; and,
- facilitate the use of clear and concise English that is required for understanding economics and policy-making.

The issue of market provision and/or state provision provides a central and recurring theme in this module (and in ECU22022). Within each policy area covered, the module investigates market failure and government failure, via for example consideration of externalities, informational problems and an examination of the public choice



perspective with respect to possible government failure. Specific topics to be covered include but are not limited to a subset of the following: resource allocation (regulated markets and/or state); taxation; distribution, inequality and poverty; economic growth, employment and unemployment; regulation (e.g. ‘nudging’); care (formal/paid and informal/unpaid); competition; education; health; housing; aging; agriculture; and, energy.

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module you will be able to:

- identify the key outcomes of interest for economic policymakers in Ireland and the primary tools used to achieve those outcomes;
- interpret and analyse public/social policy phenomena in Ireland and elsewhere; and,
- evaluate public policy making in Ireland and elsewhere.

Assessment:

- It is envisaged that the allocation of assessment marks will be as follows:
- 40 per cent for a mid-term assignment to be submitted (via Blackboard) by the end of Reading Week (i.e. Teaching Week 7), exact date and details to be confirmed); and,
- 60 per cent for a final examination (probably a F2F 90 minutes examination, again details to be confirmed).

Recommended Reading List:

John O’Hagan, Francis O’Toole and Ciara Whelan (eds), *The Economy of Ireland: Policy Making in a Global Context* (14th edition; Bloomsbury, Dublin, August 2021) is the primary textbook.



CORE ECON, Economy, Society and Public Policy (ESPP), see <https://www.core-econ.org/espp/book/text/0-3-contents.html>, and various associated materials provides very useful basic/core economics (for free – riddle me that).

The following books provide useful background reading:

- Michael Sandel, What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets, Penguin Books, 2012; and,
- Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, Nudge, Penguin Books, 2009.

Much other suggested reading materials will be highlighted during the module.