



IRELAND
Europe Region

COUNTRY STATS

POPULATION (2023):

5 million (Urbanized 63.7%)

POPULATION (2050):

6 million

GDP (2023):

\$502 billion

AVG. ECONOMIC GROWTH (2023): 2%

PER CAPITA INCOME (2023):

\$101,509

MARKET SNAPSHOT: IRELAND

A small island country in the northwest of Europe, Ireland counts agriculture as an important part of its overall economy, particularly beef and dairy production. The European Union (EU) member country has very few direct imports of soybeans, other than soybean meal imports, predominantly from Argentina, for the pork and poultry sectors.

MARKET STATS

Imports of Soybean Meal (MT)

	U.S.	Brazil	Argentina	Other*	Total Volume
2020/2021	96,400 MT	448,700 MT	194,300 MT	739,400 MT	13%
2021/2022	78,000 MT	485,200 MT	131,100 MT	694,300 MT	11%
2022/2023	113,400 MT	334,200 MT	165,900 MT	613,500 MT	18%

**other includes UK, Canada and other European Union countries
MT=metric tons*

SOY USAGE

The Irish animal feed industry produces approximately 5.7 MMT of feed annually, employs thousands of people and is an essential part of the rural Irish economy. The bulk of the feed containing soy is for the pork and poultry sectors. Ireland imports soybean hulls for cattle feed.

STRENGTHS

- If U.S. soybean meal exports continue to grow, greater incorporation into animal diets is possible.

OPPORTUNITIES

- While Ireland traditionally imports soybean meal, the country also imported approximately \$5 million in whole soybeans in 2022. Demand is dependent on price conditions. Competitively priced U.S. soybean meal has good prospects in the Irish market.

CHALLENGES

- Little protein/soy is used for dairy, beef and lamb production.
- Like other advanced economies, overall animal protein consumption is flat, with limited growth in pork and poultry consumption.
- Like other EU countries, Ireland will have to address the requirements of the pending deforestation regulations for soy imports.

Sources:

- Oil World
- USDA

