

The Irish Language Attitudes Survey 2025:

Ability, Use and Attitudes on the Island of Ireland

The longest running major survey on attitudes regarding the Irish language on the island of Ireland.

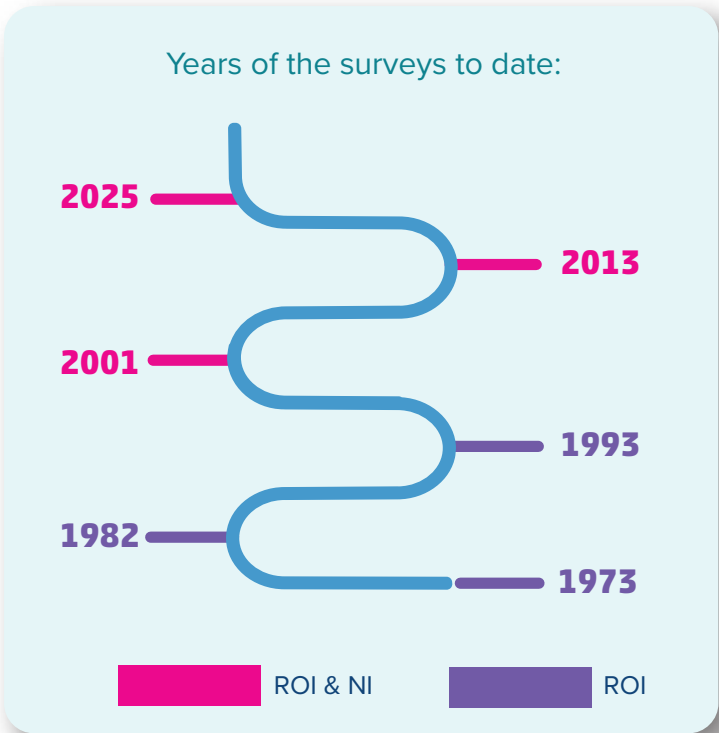
A unique and detailed face-to-face survey giving an insight into current attitudes and information about language ability on the island of Ireland.

Conducted by Ipsos B&A and Trinity College Dublin for Foras na Gaeilge with funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht during summer 2025.

1,498 adults surveyed in total.
1,000 in ROI, 498 in NI

Foras na Gaeilge

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
Trinity College Dublin
Ollscoil Átha Cliath | The University of Dublin



KEY FINDINGS*

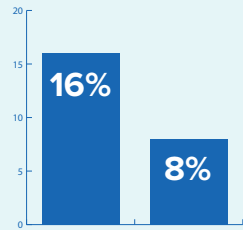
View full survey here



USAGE STATS

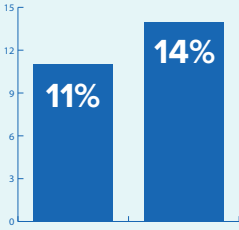
More people speak Irish on a regular basis – daily or weekly.

ROI: 16% (+3%)
NI: 8% (+6%)



18-24 year-olds the largest age cohort among daily speakers in both jurisdictions.

ROI: 11%
NI: 14%



EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCES AND PREFERENCES

Majority in both jurisdictions support the teaching of the Irish language at primary and post-primary level.

ROI: 87% (+7%)
NI: 57% (+12%)

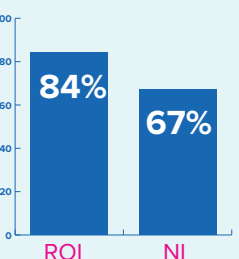


Increased support for Irish-medium education.

ROI:
45% primary (+22%)
40% post-primary (+28%)
NI:
26% primary (+8%)
26% post-primary (+15%)

Majority in both jurisdictions believe Governments should provide all-Irish education wherever there is demand.

ROI: 84% (+14%)
NI: 67% (+22%)



USAGE AND ATTITUDES

Support for the Irish language has grown across the island.

ROI: 78% (+11%)
NI: 55% (+10%)



Opposition to the language has fallen across the island.

ROI: 2% (-10%)
NI: 7% (-7%)



Positive attitudes to the language correlate with older generations in ROI and with younger generations in NI.

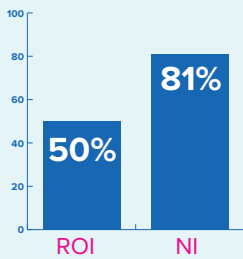
Zero opposition to Irish among 18-24 year olds in NI.

ABILITY IN DECLINE

SELF-REPORTED ABILITY IN ROI IS IN DECLINE, BASIC ABILITY IN NI IS GROWING

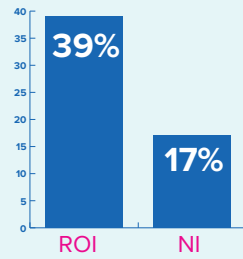
No fluency:

ROI: 50% (+7%)
NI: 81% (-2%)



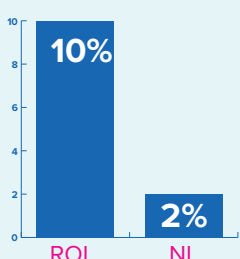
Basic fluency:

ROI: 39% (-4%)
NI: 17% (+3%)



Advanced fluency:

ROI: 10% (-4%)
NI: 2% (-1%)



CULTURAL IDENTITY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

Support for bilingualism (English as principal language) has increased.

ROI: 55% (+12%)
NI: 44% (+10%)



Almost half of respondents in both jurisdictions believe their government is doing too little in relation to the language.

ROI: 48% (+11%)
NI: 47% (+18%)



CONCLUSION

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opposition towards Irish in the Protestant, Unionist and Loyalist (PUL) community in Northern Ireland is reported at 23%. The majority (60%) of the PUL community are indifferent towards Irish. [Comparable figures from 2013 survey: 28% opposition, 55% indifference]
- Potential for growth in social media as usage is low.
- The preferred future for Irish is bilingual.

CHALLENGES

- Spoken fluency and reading ability have declined.
- Irish is infrequently used at home or at work.
- Widespread support for more robust Government Irish-language policy and increased provision of Irish-language education.

*Comparable figures from the 2013 survey are shared for illustrative purposes as both surveys followed different methodologies regarding corrective weighting. Please see section 5.5 of the report for further information