

Consulate General of Ireland, Atlanta

May 2016 Newsletter

Irish News

Ireland experienced its best ever March and [best ever first quarter for tourism](#), with a 16.6% increase in visitors over March 2015 and North American visits up by 24.5%.

The latest [unemployment statistics](#) reflected a drop from 8.8% in February to 8.6%, with unemployment among young people aged 15-24 falling by a full percentage point. 23,400 fewer people were unemployed in March 2016 than a year earlier. Our [deficit figures](#) also continued to improve.

[Dublin-based Shire](#) has announced plans to expand its global biotechnology manufacturing capacity over the next four years by investing \$400 million in Ireland, creating 400 new jobs. In addition Shire is in the process of acquiring global biopharmaceutical giant Baxalta, which has operations in the US Southeast, including significant investments in Covington and Social Circle, Georgia.

Other US investments in Ireland announced in April include Miami-based [OPKO Health Inc.](#), adding 200 jobs over five years in Waterford; Massachusetts-based [HubSpot](#), a marketing software firm, hiring 320 Dublin employees over three years; and, [Slack](#), a San Francisco software company which moved its European headquarters to Dublin with plans to add 80 jobs over two years.

With 63 days to polling day in the UK's Brexit referendum, Minister Flanagan made a [comprehensive statement](#) to the Dáil outlining his priorities and approach to the uncertainties and complexities around the status of the border in the event the UK departed from the European Union. He called for active [Irish community engagement](#) in the referendum debate.

Minister Flanagan hosted the British and American Ambassadors at an Iveagh House [business networks event](#) with 150 representatives the business community to explore strategic issues facing Ireland, the UK and the US, including "Brexit".

Speaking on [Migration](#) in the Dáil, Minister Flanagan also said the EU must intensify efforts to end conflicts in Syria, Sudan and Libya.

Ireland has been elected for the first time to the [United Nations Commission on the Status of Women](#) - the principal global intergovernmental policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women.

The Irish naval vessel LE Roisin has just left Ireland for [search and rescue operations](#) in the Mediterranean. The Irish Defence Forces personnel that crewed LE Eithne, LE Niamh and LE Samuel Beckett last year rescued 8,592 people during deployments to southern Europe. People smugglers using flimsy craft continue to get into difficulties mid-voyage. The Irish Defence Forces are currently [recruiting](#).

[A Remembrance Wall](#) listing the names of all those who died as a result of 1916 Rising has been unveiled at Glasnevin Cemetery.

The Consulate's screening of *1916-The Irish Rebellion* and the *Conference on Pre-Revolutionary Ireland* organized by the Southern Chapter of the American Conference for Irish Studies, and hosted by Georgia State University, were highlights of Atlanta's 1916 Centenary programme in April. Check Georgia State

Professor Marilyn Richtarik's [article](#) and WABE [radio interview](#) on Easter 1916, the Conference and Ireland's centenary program, as well as [Global Atlanta's coverage](#).

Important centenary events also took place at the College of Charleston, SC; in Columbia, SC with the Ancient Order of Hibernians; in Charlotte, NC at the annual general meeting of the Charlotte Irish Connection; and with concerts by We Banjo 3 or The Gloaming in Culture Ireland's *I am Ireland* programme in Savannah GA, Nashville and Knoxville TN, Wilkesboro and Durham, NC.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Celtic Woman celebrates Irish culture and their new album, *Destiny*, in an 85-city concert tour, including [performances](#) in Mobile, AL (May 3), Birmingham, AL (May 5) and Jackson, MS (May 6).

Aris Theatre presents "*Stones In His Pockets*" by Marie Jones in Atlanta from May 6-22. The story chronicles the clash of cultures when a Hollywood production crew comes to a small town on the coast of Ireland. Tickets available at: <https://www.artful.ly/aris> or by phone, 404-692-0053.

Older Than Ireland, a landmark [documentary](#) that tells the story of a hundred years of a life as seen through the eyes of thirty Irish centenarians, is now playing in cinemas across the US, including Atlanta on Friday, May 6, Midtown Art Cinema 7:05PM. Click here for [tickets](#).

[The 26th Peach State Feis](#), Georgia's famous Irish Dance Championship, will be held May 6-7 at Westin Atlanta Perimeter North.

Atlanta Clan Na nGael's annual golf tournament fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 14 at Heritage Links in Tucker. There will also be a raffle and auction. [Follow GAA Atlanta](#) on Facebook for more information. Direct registration and questions to info@atlantagaa.com.

A centrepiece of Ireland's 1916 Centenary events in the USA will be a three-week Irish arts festival from 17 May to 5 June 2016 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC. 'Ireland 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts and Culture' will showcase the best of traditional and contemporary Ireland across the full range of the arts, including theatre, literature, music and dance. <http://www.kennedy-center.org/festivals/ireland>.

If there are Irish events you would like us to highlight in future newsletters or if you know others who would like to receive these newsletters [please let us know](#).

<https://www.dfa.ie/atlanta>

May 2, 2016
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