



Technology Ireland
Ibec

As Ireland and the rest of the world continues to adapt to the constraints and changes forced upon us by COVID-19, the importance of the technology sector to Ireland has never been clearer. The tech sector continues to go from strength to strength and we were delighted to welcome several new members to the association this year. The success of the sector brings with it its own growth challenges which Technology Ireland have worked with members to address:

- Lobbying Government on the constraints of the visa and work permit system which is presenting as a significant obstacle to Technology Ireland members to expand their operations in Ireland.
- Technology Ireland Industry Awards 2021 which showcased the best digital technology innovations within the sector in Ireland in the past year.
- Delivering industry-led training with the Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet such as the Future in Tech Programme and the Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet where TRANSFORM and Women REBOOT programmes are flagship industry programmes.
- Lobbying Irish and European policymakers on multiple regulatory issues such as the Digital Services Act, Digital Markets Act, the Online Safety and Media Regulations Bill and the National Digital Strategy.

[Read more](#)



TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY IRELAND
Ibec

During 2021, Ireland's telecommunications sector enabled the country to work and study from home. Throughout the year, Telecommunications Industry Ireland assisted its member companies as follows:

- Provided sector specific guidance on the evolving Covid-19 restrictions.
- Engaged with ComReg and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications regarding the transposition of the European Electronic Communications Code.
- Briefed stakeholders on regulatory and planning impediments to rollout of telecommunications infrastructure and sought reestablishment of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce to address this problem.
- Represented industry on the scam calls issue to Government and in the media.
- Published revised Parent's Guide on Secure and Responsible Use of Mobile Phones by Children.
- In 2022, it will represent your company's interests to ministers, local authorities government departments, ComReg and political parties.

[Read more](#)



Audiovisual Ireland
Ibec

During 2021 Audiovisual Ireland was to the fore in helping the sector to cope with the ongoing challenges posed by the Covid-19 crisis while also responding to other relevant developments. Over the last year it provided the following assistance to member companies:

- Provided sector specific up-to-date information and guidance on the evolving Covid-19 restrictions.
- Helped secure significant additional funding for Screen Ireland.
- Advocated successfully for important technical amendments to the Section 481 film tax incentive in this year's Finance Bill.
- Represented the industry viewpoint to Government on the transposition of the Copyright Directive and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive into Irish law.
- In 2022 it will represent your company's interests to ministers, government departments, regulators, and political parties.

[Read more](#)



Cloud Infrastructure Ireland
Ibec

Formed in July 2021, Cloud Infrastructure Ireland (CII) has focused on the infrastructure policy issues that affect cloud providers. Ireland's cloud infrastructure underpins much of the Irish and global digital economy and is responsible for tens of thousands of jobs. A thriving cloud infrastructure is vital to Ireland's economic success. As a growing number of businesses locate in regions with well-developed cloud infrastructure. Key activities in 2021 include:

- Two major submissions made to the Eirgrid 'Shaping our Electricity Future' and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities proposed 'Direction to the System Operators related to Data Centre grid connection' consultation.
- Advocacy on behalf of CII members and engaging with stakeholders.
- Targeted media engagement to represent the views of CII members.
- Engaging with colleagues in DIGITALEUROPE's Data Centre project to represent the views of CII members.

[Read more](#)



FD Food Drink Ireland
Ibec

Looking back on 2021, the FDI is proud to reflect on some of the many important interventions and contributions made on behalf of its members:

- Supporting our members following the implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement on SPS and customs controls on imports, rules of origin, Northern Ireland Protocol, Brexit Adjustment Reserve funding and preparations for the introduction of GB border controls.
- Continuing to support members during the Covid-19 pandemic on a wide range of issues including serial testing, antigen testing in the meat sector and on site vaccination pilots.
- Highlighting and quantifying the impact of cost input inflation on cost competitiveness and the need for cost recovery in the food supply chain.
- Working on a range of circular economy issues including the design and operation of a Deposit & Return Scheme for beverage containers, food waste and sustainable packaging solutions.
- In 2022, we will continue to provide training and upskilling to the sector through the FDI Skillnet and provide comprehensive and up-to-date business and economic information to members.

[Read more](#)



Drinks Ireland
Ibec

With ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, Drinks Ireland continued to run innovative campaigns in support of the sustainable reopening of the hospitality sector, while highlighting that the drinks industry is and has been a responsible player throughout the pandemic.

- We welcomed 7 new members, Bru Brewery, Church of Oak Distillery, Croily Distillery, Kinsale Spirits Co, Limavaddy Irish Whiskey, Lost Irish Whiskey and Micil Distillery.
- Key policy issues include the Public Health (Alcohol) Act, Excise, E-Commerce Alcohol Code, Deposit Return Scheme and International trade/Brexit issues.
- Through our category associations [Drinks Ireland | Beer](#), [Drinks Ireland | Cider](#), [Drinks Ireland | Spirits](#), [Drinks Ireland | Wine](#) and the [Irish Whiskey Association](#), members gain access to knowledge, networking, latest industry insights and webinars with leading experts.

For more information on Drinks Ireland activity, you can read our Annual Review 2020/2021 [here](#).



Dairy Industry Ireland
Ibec

DII worked with EY during in 2021 to independently map our economic and sustainability metrics. All Ireland dairy now has a value of €16 billion, delivering 80,000 jobs around the island and has a strong sustainability plan over the coming decade. Irish dairy and specialised nutrition continues to grow strongly with 70% growth over the last decade and over 93% of our product exported internationally.

DII assists the commercial development of our 19 members through a network of 14 specialist committees and strong representation at national, EU & international level.

- Irish dairy has global leading sustainability credentials, we are working with members to continue to improve these in line with government policy and international obligations to retain our world leading position.
- Deliver cutting edge regulatory support to our processing sector and assist the reputation and development of our value add functional food, formula & specialised nutrition propositions.
- Continuing to assist members in macro issues, such as mitigating the commercial and operational impacts of Brexit, Covid & Cost Inflation.

[Read more](#)



Foods for Special Medical Purposes
Ibec

In our first year, we have made great strides in building strong foundations from which to launch the next phase of development. In 2021, we have:

- Established the DII FSMPS industry association as a central point for FSMPS communications in Ireland.
- Focused on external stakeholder relationship development.
- Successful engagements with Healthcare Professional bodies and Key opinion Leaders on relevant work streams.
- Integrated a strong Irish Industry voice in relevant EU & International industry discussions.
- Co-ordinated company regulatory functions in developing united industry positions on relevant technical, regulatory, or other issues relevant to the Irish market.

[Read more](#)



MI Meat Industry Ireland
Ibec

Throughout the year, MII has been to the fore in helping the sector to respond to the challenges of the new trade complexities of Brexit, maintaining production while keeping staff safe during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, securing labour force and as the year progressed dealing with the massive sustainability agenda and climate change legislation. Looking back at 2021, MII is proud to reflect on some of the many important contributions made on behalf of its members:

- Creating the business case with Government and securing an allocation of 2,000 additional employment permits for meat processing.
- Delivering on a new capital investment programme for our sector which saw significant grant aid decisions announced in November.
- Building innovation, with the approval of phase 2 of Meat Technology Ireland.

[Read more](#)



Prepared Consumer Foods
Ibec

In 2021, PCF addressed key competitive issues that matter to Prepared Consumer Foods businesses. Areas of focus included:

- Working on a range of food and nutrition policy issues both at EU and national level to influence policy on diet and nutrition and engaging with the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan.
- Continuing to support members on labour market and HR strategy IR/HR issues through our FDI HR Forum and aiding members during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Bringing members together through our PCF Council, Public Affairs Group, Sustainability Group and food category associations to share knowledge and best practices and address issues such as Brexit, sustainability, regulatory changes, responsible marketing, energy costs and labour market challenges.
- Launched a 'Sustainability' paper under PCF sector priorities for future success series. The paper outlines food and drink businesses commitment, to contribute to the creation of a circular economy and to support sustainable consumption patterns.

In 2022, PCF will continue to provide to industry needs to create a competitive environment for Irish food and drink companies.

[Read more](#)



biopharmchem
Ireland
Ibec

Throughout the year, BPCI continued their hard work by focussing on the following areas:

- Provided support to the sector through weekly meetings of its EHS Working Group to enable companies to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic and to stay fully operational throughout; these meetings were often attended by over 100 colleagues.
- BPCI worked with member companies and IDA Ireland on a Lighthouse Project on Factory 5.0 which will enable the sector to digitise and also to meet its sustainability challenges. A roadmap plotting the way to a sustainable and digitised future has been generated.
- Worked with NIBRT and the industry to ensure that Ireland is able to meet the new challenge of developing advanced therapeutic companies in the country, investments are now taking place.
- BPCI held its annual strategy meeting face to face and will now work to produce an industry strategy report for launch in 2022 which set a clear course for the sector for the following 5 years.

[Read more](#)



Irish Medtech Association
Ibec

The Irish Medtech Association supports members across five key areas, innovation, business excellence, skills, commercial, and entrepreneurship. 2021 highlights include:

- Developing our new four-year Strategy for the Irish Medtech Industry from 2021 – 2025.
- Bringing the latest industry foresight with our two flagship events: 'Manufacturing the Future Conference', and 'Medtech Rising: The Business Leaders' Conference and Awards'.
- Delivering industry-led training with the Irish Medtech Skillnet and Connected Health Skillnet.
- Creating a new Sustainability Working Group so that we can collectively respond to the issues and challenges attached to the quest for a more carbon neutral society.
- Lobbying policymakers with our 'Unlocking a new formula for advantage, built upon collaboration, innovation and capability' and our Position paper on the implementation of Ireland's Industry 4.0 Strategy 2020 – 2025'.

[Read more](#)



Polymer Technology Ireland
Ibec

Polymer Technology Ireland supported members on a wide range of issues during Covid-19 including:

- Essential worker status.
- Wage subsidy schemes.
- Workplace health and safety management.

We have just relaunched our First Polymer Training Skillnet in Athlone with a major investment in new technology in an expanded centre. This is a world class training facility. We also continue with the success of our Polymer Apprenticeship in cooperation with TUS and IT Sligo.

In 2022, we will be focusing more on environmental sustainability across the industry with briefings and collaboration in this pivotal area.

[Read more](#)



Federation of Aerospace Enterprises in Ireland
Ibec

FAEI has been closely involved in industry discussions and policy formulation around Brexit and responses to the Covid-19 pandemic this year. These are unprecedented times for the aviation industry and we will be working hard to:

- Drive the policy agenda and ensure the voice of the Irish aviation industry is heard.
- Ibec coordinates the industry team for meetings with government and trade unions in the Aviation meetings of the Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF). These discussions focussed on industry and wage supports in 2021 and were a useful communication channel to government Ministers and the unions.
- Ibec will continue to represent the aviation industry in the key challenges that lie ahead including the industry's environmental agenda and supporting a return to growth in the sector.

[Read more](#)



Engineering Industries Ireland
Ibec

We are proud to have launched "Engineering Industries Ireland", a new Trade Association to unify the voice of engineering businesses. In 2021, we secured a global engineering centre of excellence. Our vision for Ireland to be a global engineering centre of excellence.

- In 2021, we supported and informed members on a wide range of issues including business continuity planning, Brexit contingency planning, Climate action planning and upcoming regulation.
- We had an excellent year developing talent for the engineering sector through our pilot "Engineering Skillnet" business network.
- We supported members with benchmarking in a range of reports including our Engineering Pay survey with detailed analysis of pay rates for over 250 positions, as well as a series of reports on emerging business trends for the sector.
- In 2022, as a new Trade Association, we can now represent your interests to ministers, government departments, regulators and political parties.

[Read more](#)



Financial Services Ireland
Ibec

In 2021, the financial services sector continued to show remarkable resilience and capability in ensuring financial services supports to customers and clients remained operational. The sector has also seen growth in key areas such as fintech, digitally enabled financial services and sustainable finance. FSI will continue to play its central role in bolstering the sector's competitiveness.

- In 2021, FSI was actively involved in securing the CBI-Industry Stakeholder Forum, coupled with our deep engagement with the CBI and EU institutions on cross-sectoral matters of importance to members.
- We secured key policy initiatives through the Ireland Finance Strategy, with FSI now acting as secretariat for the strategy's Industry Advisory Committee. Important actions in the areas of fintech and sustainable finance featured in the strategy's 2022 Action Plan.
- We continue to deliver on FSI's strategic goals to make Ireland a financial services powerhouse. In 2021 we secured funding and commitment to deliver new educational programmes for the sector and an overall review of the sector's skills needs, to future proof and advance growth.
- Given the constant change witnessed in 2021, much against the backdrop of Covid, our surveys, forums and committees - such as the FSI HR Forum and our Regulatory and EU Affairs Committee - have proved invaluable in providing support and guidance to members.

[Read more](#)

Aircraft Leasing Ireland
Ibec

Aircraft Leasing Ireland (ALI)'s core objective is to retain and develop Ireland's position as the leading global centre for aircraft leasing. In 2021, ALI drove key initiatives that underpin our global leadership role:

- Sustainability: ALI continues to raise awareness of the issues faced by the aviation industry in the context of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and promoting the role that leasing plays in the aviation ESG journey.
- Digitalisation: Through the Ireland Finance Strategy, ALI continues to push for global standards to be adopted and ultimately, a digital maintenance registry.
- Education: ALI continues to co-ordinate and centralise all relevant education opportunities that exist in Ireland to support our industry, and communicate with educational institutions on future skills needs of our sector.
- Double Tax Treaty Network: ALI made significant progress in 2021 to progress new and improve existing Double Taxation Treaties between Ireland and a number of key jurisdictions.
- COVID-19: ALI supported our members in fulfilling their HR and OHS obligations in implementing the Return to Work Safely Protocol.

[Read more](#)

Property Industry Ireland
Ibec

The sector has responded strongly following the long lockdown at the start of the year. In addition to the pandemic many of the challenges facing the housing sector and the planning system remain the same.

- Property Industry Ireland prepared a discussion paper highlighting the role that increased use of off-site construction play in increasing housing supply.
- PII has made a number of submissions on a range of key issues for the sector, including the proposed Large-Scale Residential development process, the rental sector and Housing for All.
- Member engagement highlighted the planning system and it's reform As a key priority in our work programme.
- The Property and Construction Sector engaged with Government on the National Development Plan and Housing for All as a member of the Construction Sector Group.

[Read more](#)

Retail Ireland
Ibec

Retail has been at the coalface of Covid-19 and Brexit disruption, but the sector has demonstrated its resilience and is looking to the future. In 2021 Retail Ireland:

- Ensured government Covid-19 supports safeguarded businesses and jobs.
- Provided up-to-date guidance on managing Covid-19 restrictions and public health guidelines.
- Supported retail businesses as they managed the disruption of Brexit.
- Delivered new training offerings through the Retail Ireland Skillnet and Apprenticeship Programme.
- Developed practical schemes to support the circular economy and environment goals.
- Championed the vital role of that retail plays in our communities across the country.
- Provided expert insight into how businesses can take advantage of digital opportunities.
- Provided regular briefings on economic and labour market developments.

[Read more](#)

SFA
Small Firms Association

Looking back on 2021, the SFA is proud to reflect on some of the many important interventions and contributions made on behalf of its members:

- Throughout Covid-19, we advised members directly on all aspects of business continuity including HR advice, health and safety, financial support schemes, remote working and restructuring.
- Our policy and recommendations have been reflected in the extensive Government supports provided for business, including Budget 2022.
- The biggest challenge of the next decade and beyond will be the effective response to climate change. The SFA has worked extensively on the topic of sustainability throughout the year and will continue to do so in 2022.
- We have lobbied extensively on the fallout from Brexit, specifically on the challenges around Ireland-Northern Ireland Protocol.
- Together with our strategic partner Skillnet Ireland we have delivered, and continue to deliver, our [Mentors@Work](#) initiative that has so far supported more than 1,000 small businesses in these challenging times.
- The SFA, as the voice of small business, through our membership of the Government's SME Taskforce, is working on the implementation of the so-called National SME Growth Plan which was published earlier in the year.

[Read more](#)

Forest Industries Ireland
Ibec

Forest Industries Ireland works across the forestry value chain to deliver growth and support to the industry. There are many challenges to face and FII brings companies together to work collectively. The key issues in 2021 were:

- The continuing licensing problems.
- Promotion of forestry and timber products across government and the media.
- Delivering regulatory change.
- Driving the agenda for Ireland's next forest policy.

2022 will be a hugely important year for the industry with a focus on carbon budgets and agri emissions; the development of a new national forest policy and a new Forestry Programme, and major regulatory change to repair the failing licensing system.

[Read more](#)

Ibec Public Sector

2021 was a year in which the agility, resilience and extraordinary importance of Ireland's public sector organisations was again plain to see.

Over the past year, over 130 public sector organisations actively engaged via an expanded programme of Ibec roundtable meetings and events. Ibec supported our public sector members on a wide range of topics including: Mental Health & Wellbeing; Cybersecurity & Fraud; Diversity & Inclusion; Corporate Governance & Crisis Communications.

We are proud too to have supported 2nd level teachers and 16,000 transition year students across Ireland with our inaugural TY Talks 2021 Conference, as well as supporting career guidance professionals & students in further and higher education via our 'Future of Work' series which provides insights into careers in Biopharma, Medtech and Technology sectors.

[Read more](#)