

Fun Facts: St. Patrick's Day–March 17

Irish-American Heritage Month



A History of St. Patrick's Day

- In 1991 Congress proclaimed March as Irish – American Heritage Month.
- Originally the holiday was to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the 5th Century later evolving into a celebration of all things Irish.
- The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City.

Everything Irish!

- **20,590** - Estimated number of U.S. residents who speak Irish Gaelic.
- **About 43 years old** - Median age of those who claim Irish ancestry.
- **136** - The number of synthetic dye and pigment manufacturing businesses in the U.S. As an annual tradition to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the Chicago River is dyed green.
- **Almost \$74 billion** - Value of goods imported from Ireland in 2021.

Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year; Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over; ACS 2009-2013; Trade in Goods with Ireland; 2020 Decennial Census; and 2019 County Business Patterns.

Golden States of Irish Ancestry

30 million, or nearly 1 out of 10 (9%) - The number of U.S. residents who claimed Irish ancestry in 2019. These states have among the highest percentage of Irish ancestry:

New Hampshire
20%

Massachusetts
19%

Lucky Charms

Educational Attainment of people of Irish ancestry, 25 years and older:

- **Almost 4 out of 10 (40%)** have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Over 9 out of 10 (95%)** are high school graduates. (Includes equivalency.)

Occupations held by Irish-Americans, 16 years old and older:

- **Almost 5 out of 10 (47%)** work in management, business, science, and arts occupations.
- **Approximately 2 out of 10 (21%)** work in sales and office occupations.

Irish-American Presidents

When it comes to U.S. presidents, exactly half trace some of their roots to Ireland, including:

- Theodore Roosevelt - New York City, New York (**Population - 8,804,190**)
- Barack Obama - Honolulu, Hawaii (**Population - 1,016,508**)
- George W. Bush - New Haven, Connecticut (**Population - 864,835**)
- Joe Biden - Scranton, Pennsylvania (**Population - 76,328**)
- Ronald Reagan - Tampico, Illinois (**Population - 689**)

Places With the Luckiest Names

- Dublin city, California (**Population - 72,589**)
- Clover town, South Carolina (**Population - 6,671**)
- Emerald Isle town, North Carolina (**Population - 3,847**)
- Shamrock city, Texas (**Population - 1,789**)