

Mission of the Connecticut–Ireland Trade Commission & Purpose of the Business Survey

CT-Ireland Trade Commission Mission Statement

The Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission was established in 2024 after CT Senator Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader, met with Irish Senator Mark Daly. With the approval of Governor Ned Lamont and Speaker of the House Matt Ritter, the 23-person CT-Ireland Trade Committee was selected, marking a key development in Connecticut-Ireland relations. The commission wishes to expand mutually beneficial ties with Ireland for business, cultural, and educational purposes. Connecticut and Ireland share a profound and enduring connection. This shared heritage enhances the cultural links between Connecticut and Ireland, providing a welcoming environment for Irish immigrants and businesses. The Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission advances the mutual interests of both regions, including bilateral trade and investment opportunities, joint policy action, business and academic exchanges, and economic support.

The Purpose of the Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

1. Advance bilateral trade and investment between Connecticut and Ireland.
2. Initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Connecticut and Ireland.
3. Promote business and academic exchanges between Connecticut and Ireland.
4. Encourage mutual economic support between Connecticut and Ireland.
6. Promote Irish heritage, tourism and culture in Connecticut.

Purpose of the Connecticut–Ireland Business Survey

To effectively fulfill its mission, the Commission is launching a survey to identify and understand the landscape of Irish-connected businesses across Connecticut. This information is crucial for several reasons:

1. Mapping the Irish Economic Footprint in Connecticut

There is currently no centralized directory or database of Irish-owned or Irish-affiliated companies in the state. The survey will allow the Commission to create the first comprehensive map of the Irish economic presence, helping Connecticut and Irish

partners better understand where collaboration is already thriving and where new opportunities exist.

2. Identifying Business Needs and Opportunities

Each business—whether a start-up, a small family enterprise, or a multinational branch—faces unique challenges. Collecting data directly from companies allows the Commission to tailor its support, whether in the form of networking, mentorship, grant guidance, market access, workforce needs, or strategic introductions.

3. Building a Public-Facing Connecticut–Ireland Business Directory

The survey will supply the verified information needed to create an online directory hosted on the Commission’s forthcoming website. This directory will help businesses discover each other, strengthen supply chains, and encourage cross-sector collaboration within the Irish-American business community.

4. Strengthening Trade and Investment Partnerships

Clear, accurate data will enable the Commission to work more effectively with Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, the Consulate General of Ireland in New York, and Connecticut state agencies. Survey results will guide joint initiatives, business missions, education exchanges, tourism promotions, and annual programming.

5. Supporting the Irish Diaspora and Cultural Sector

Since culture and commerce often intersect, survey findings will highlight areas where Irish businesses contribute to Connecticut’s cultural life—and where partnerships with arts, heritage, tourism, and educational organizations can be expanded.

6. Ensuring Transparency and Responsiveness

The Commission’s work must reflect the real needs and voices of the community it serves. Survey data provides an evidence-based foundation for planning, allowing the Commission to make informed decisions and measure the impact of its initiatives over time.

Summary

This survey is an essential first step in building a thriving, interconnected Connecticut–Ireland ecosystem. By gathering accurate and inclusive data, the Connecticut–Ireland Trade Commission will be able to:

- strengthen the visibility of Irish businesses in Connecticut,
- foster meaningful bilateral partnerships,

- promote economic growth, and
- deepen cultural and strategic connections between Connecticut and Ireland.

The participation of businesses across the state will shape the Commission's work for years to come, ensuring that the Connecticut-Ireland relationship continues to grow in ways that are collaborative, innovative, and beneficial for all.