History

History at a glance

1920s

 1926: Dr Douglas Hyde, later President of Ireland, launches Ireland's first radio station, 2RN

1930s

- 1932: 2RN covers its first major outside broadcast, the World Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, using the new high-powered 60kw transmitter (later increased to 100kw) installed at Athlone
- 1937: The Constitution of Ireland comes into operation (Article 40.61.i refers to Press and Broadcasting)
- 1937: Radio Éireann replaces 2RN, 6CK and Radio Athlone as the name of the Irish national radio service
- 1939-45: Radio Éireann is subject to censorship under Emergency Powers Act, 1939.

1940s

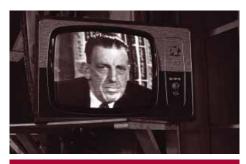
- 1945: Taoiseach Éamon de Valera responds on Radio Éireann to VE Day speech of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill broadcast on the BBC
- 1947: Michael O'Hehir presents a transatlantic live relay from the Polo Grounds in New York of the GAA All-Ireland Football Final between Cavan and Kerry
- 1947: The Mobile Recording Unit with disc recorder is introduced, primarily to record speech and music in Irish-speaking areas.

1950s

- 1954: Party political broadcasts first broadcast for a general election

1960s

- 1960: Broadcasting Authority Act is enacted. The Act establishes the new television service and removes broadcasting from the direct control of Government. There have been several further pieces of legislation relating to broadcasting including Acts of 1988, 1990, 1993 and 2001
- 1960: Radio Telefís Éireann Authority is established. Members are appointed by Government; Eamonn Andrews appointed as RTÉ's first Chairman
- 1960: First combined TV and radio licence fee costs £4; single radio licence increased to £1 $\,$
- 1961: First issue of RTV Guide, now RTÉ Guide is published
- 1961: Opening night of Telefís Éireann
- 1962: First broadcast of The Late Late Show (now the world's longest-running chat show) presented by Gay Byrne who continued as presenter until 1999
- 1963: US President John F Kennedy's visit to Ireland is broadcast
- 1966: Radio Éireann begins FM transmission and is renamed RTÉ Radio
- 1969: RTÉ opens Belfast office.







19709

- 1971: An Taoiseach issues first directive based on Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, 1960 which requires RTÉ to cease broadcasting representatives of illegal organisations
- 1972: First broadcast of RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta from purpose-built studios at Casla, Connemara
- 1972: RTÉ Authority is dismissed by government due to the breach of Section 31 when RTÉ Radio broadcast an interview with a member of the IRA. New Authority appointed
- 1976: Broadcasting Complaints Commission is established
- 1978: First broadcast of RTÉ's second television channel, now RTÉ Two
- 1979: First broadcast of RTÉ Radio Two, now RTÉ 2fm.

1990s

- 1993: RTÉ TV establishes the Independent Productions Unit (IPU)
- 1993: In the first year of a three-in-a-row, Ireland hosts the Eurovision Song Contest in Millstreet, County Cork
- 1994: At the 39th Eurovision held in the Point Depot, Dublin, Riverdance (the interval act) is performed for the first time
- 1994: Section 31 directive is ended by Michael D Higgins, Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht with responsibility for Broadcasting
- 1996: RTÉ.ie goes live
- 1999: First broadcast of classical music radio station, RTÉ lyric fm.

2000s

- 2003: Announcement of the establishment of RTÉ Audience Council
- 2006: Publication of a General Scheme for a consolidated Broadcasting Bill; subject of first ever e-consultation process in Irish legislation.

Did you know?

- RTÉ Television can be received by over 99% of those living in Ireland
- Montrose House, RTÉ's headquarters in Donnybrook, once belonged to the family of Marconi's mother, Annie Jameson
- On 29 August 1926, 2RN (Ireland's first radio station) broadcast the first ever coverage of a field game in Europe. It was the All-Ireland hurling semi-final between Kilkenny and Galway at Croke Park (Kilkenny won 6-2 to 5-1)
- RTÉ's Radio Centre moved from Henry Street in Dublin's city centre to Donnybrook in 1973
- RTÉ's first subtitled production was a 1991 episode of Glenroe
- The first live coverage of the Dáil was televised on Budget Day, 30 January 1991
- The first sponsored radio programme in Ireland (for Euthymol toothpaste) was broadcast on 31 December 1927
- The first weather forecast was broadcast on RTÉ One television on 1 January 1962 after the main evening news. It was presented by Met Éireann meteorologist George Callaghan who brought the maps with relevant data from Glasnevin to RTÉ on his bicycle.

