**History**

**History at a glance**

**1920s**
- 1920: 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 40.6.i refers to Press and Broadcasting)
- 1937: Radio Éireann replaces 2RN, 6CK and Radio Athlone as the name of the Irish national radio service

**1940s**
- 1940: Taoiseach Éamon de Valera responds on Radio Éireann to VE Day speech of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill broadcast on the BBC
- 1945: 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: 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.
1970s
- 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
Did you know?
- RTE 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.