

The Business Pulse posted a reading of 88.1 in December 2018, down 1.8 on last month. The picture was mixed across the sectors this month but relatively muted on the whole; with the Industry and Retail Pulses easing back, the Services Pulse more or less flat and the Construction Pulse up a touch (this was also the only sectoral Pulse to finish the year above where it started it). Brexit developments have been buffeting business sentiment since the summer and, with things still up in the air and the November survey finding that half of firms impacted by the UK's decision to leave the EU have put their investment plans for next year on hold, it looks like they will continue to do so into the New Year.

KEY POINTS

- Business Pulse softer in December
- Brexit uncertainty weighing on sentiment
- And firms' investment decisions

BUSINESS PULSE

DECEMBER 2018

88.1

-1.8 on previous index reading

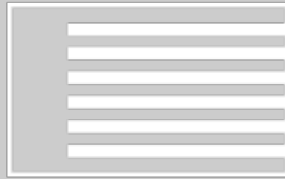
“Having advanced at a good clip in the first half of 2018, the Business Pulse backtracked in the second half of the year.”

Dr Loretta O’Sullivan

Group Chief Economist

Bank of Ireland

SECTOR SNAPSHOT



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