

At 89.8 in November 2018, the Business Pulse was down 3.2 on last month. With the Brexit negotiations entering the endgame, the Industry and Services Pulses posted softer readings this month while the Construction Pulse was little changed. The Retail Pulse rose however, buoyed by broadly positive expectations for the festive trading period – three in ten retailers expect their turnover to be higher than last year, while 54% think it will be much the same. The weak pound is a headwind for the sector though as some consumers will likely travel to the North to do their shopping. Retailers in the border area are particularly exposed in this respect and, unsurprisingly, were less upbeat about Christmas trading prospects than firms in other parts of the country.

KEY POINTS

- Business Pulse down in November
- Brexit uncertainty at play
- Retail Pulse bucks the trend

BUSINESS PULSE

NOVEMBER 2018

89.8

-3.2 on previous index reading

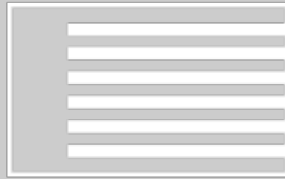
“The weak pound is likely to prompt some cross border shopping over the Christmas period and is also a concern for exporters to the UK.”

Dr Loretta O’Sullivan

Group Chief Economist

Bank of Ireland

SECTOR SNAPSHOT



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economic pulse