

The Business Pulse came in at 93.3 in April 2019, up 2.1 on last month but down 0.9 on a year ago. While the Services Pulse was broadly unchanged on the month, the Retail, Construction and Industry Pulses all gained ground. With Brexit pushed out, the threat of a no deal outcome has been staved off for now, contributing to the bounce in sentiment this month. Looking further ahead, three in five businesses indicated that they have ambitions to expand over the next 1 to 3 years. This is down a touch on the January figure (63%) and well off the pre UK-EU referendum readings (70% plus) which suggests that the tide hasn't yet turned when it comes to firms' assessment of Brexit uncertainty.

KEY POINTS

- Business Pulse up in April
- Helped by Brexit delay
- Three in five firms on a growth trajectory

BUSINESS PULSE

APRIL 2019

93.3

+2.1 on previous index reading

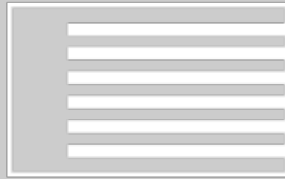
“The April survey finds that 38% of firms are planning on increasing basic pay in the next 12 months.”

Dr Loretta O’Sullivan

Group Chief Economist

Bank of Ireland

SECTOR SNAPSHOT



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economic pulse