

The Business Pulse stood at 79.9 in August 2019, down 3.3 on last month and its weakest print to date. While the Industry Pulse was little changed, the Retail and Construction Pulses took quite a tumble this month and the Services Pulse eased back as firms downgraded their near-term expectations for business activity and hiring. Fears of a no deal Brexit come October have risen tempering the general mood, with the lack of clarity around domestic policy measures like 'Help to Buy' also weighing on building sentiment. More positively, the August survey points to some easing in non-labour input cost pressures over the past three months for firms in the industry, services and construction sectors as the weak pound feeds through to lower import prices.

## KEY POINTS

- Business Pulse softer in August
- New low for the series
- Brexit weighing on sentiment

## BUSINESS PULSE

AUGUST 2019

79.9

-3.3 on previous index reading

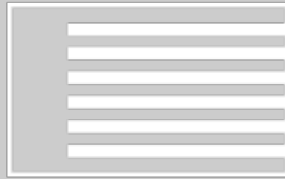
“With Brexit-related uncertainty at an elevated level, the Business Pulse lost further ground this month.”

**Dr Loretta O’Sullivan**

*Group Chief Economist*

*Bank of Ireland*

## SECTOR SNAPSHOT



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