

The Business Pulse stood at 93.3 in February 2019, up 5.3 on last month but 0.9 lower than a year ago. The sectoral picture was mixed this month, with the Industry and Services Pulses gaining ground (this comes after soft readings around the turn of the year) but the Retail and Construction Pulses giving up some. While Brexit remains to the fore, this month's research also took a look at other aspects of the operating environment for businesses. The results point to a high level of satisfaction with basic infrastructure like water, waste and energy; lower approval ratings for telecommunications outside of the capital and for transport in Munster and Connacht/Ulster; and a broad level of dissatisfaction with housing infrastructure in all regions.

## KEY POINTS

- Business Pulse rises in February
- Sentiment mixed across the sectors
- Brexit and infrastructure headwinds

## BUSINESS PULSE

FEBRUARY 2019

93.3

+5.3 on previous index reading

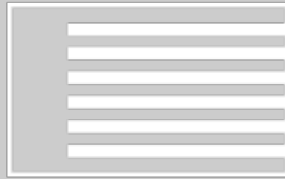
“Over eight in ten businesses expect Brexit to negatively impact the local economy in their region in the next 12 months.”

**Dr Loretta O’Sullivan**

*Group Chief Economist*

*Bank of Ireland*

## SECTOR SNAPSHOT



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