

The Business Pulse came in at 68.2 in September 2020, up 7.3 on last month but 8.4 lower than a year ago. All four sectoral Pulses posted higher readings this month, with firms generally reporting an improvement in order books / sales and hiring. Escalating tensions between Downing Street and the EU are a concern for businesses though, with three in four expecting the fallout from the UK's decision to leave the EU to negatively impact the local economy in their region over the next 12 months. The September survey also finds that telecommunications infrastructure is coming under pressure as many employees are still working from home – almost a third of firms identified it as the priority area for investment in their region, up sharply from the pre-COVID (February) figure of 18%.



Bank of Ireland

economic pulse