

The Business Pulse stood at 87.0 in February 2020. While the headline reading was more or less flat on the month, the UK's orderly departure from the EU saw firms in each of the four sectors upgrade their near-term expectations for business activity. Brexit is still a headwind for the economy of course, so it is not surprising that seven in ten businesses expect their region to be negatively impacted over the coming year; though this is down from almost nine in ten last September when fears of a 'no deal' exit were to the fore. On the infrastructure front, the February scorecard was mixed with firms generally satisfied with the basics like water, waste and energy, underwhelmed by the telecommunications network and scoring transport and housing poorly.



Bank of Ireland

economic pulse