

The Business Pulse stood at 88.7 in April 2022, down 2.5 on last month and 0.1 on a year ago. While the Industry and Services Pulses were little changed this month, the Retail and Construction Pulses saw big drops. Firms in all four sectors pared back near-term expectations for business activity and hiring however. This month's research also shows some slippage in growth ambitions, with 55% of firms indicating that they plan to expand in the next 1 to 3 years, down from almost three in five in January. Notably though the share intending to scale down hasn't picked up – instead, more businesses are opting to stay the same size amid ongoing sourcing and staffing challenges and new uncertainties.

## KEY POINTS

- Business Pulse down in April
- Firms more circumspect about the outlook
- 36% struggling with labour shortages

## BUSINESS PULSE

APRIL 2022

88.7

-2.5 on previous index reading

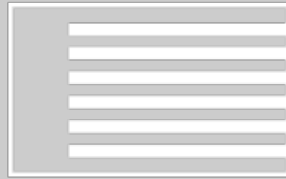
“The Business Pulse lost ground in April but is proving fairly resilient all things considered.”

**Dr Loretta O’Sullivan**

*Group Chief Economist*

*Bank of Ireland*

## SECTOR SNAPSHOT



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