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# Bank of Ireland economic pulse

February 2018

 Regional  
Pulse

# Regional Pulse

## February 2018

"75% of firms in Connacht/Ulster, 70% in Munster, 64% in the Rest of Leinster and 62% in Dublin expect Brexit to have a negative impact on their region over the next 12 months."

Dr Loretta O'Sullivan,  
Group Chief Economist, Bank of Ireland

The Bank of Ireland Regional Pulses combine the views of households and firms around the country. The 3 month moving averages show that sentiment was up on the month in all regions in February 2018.

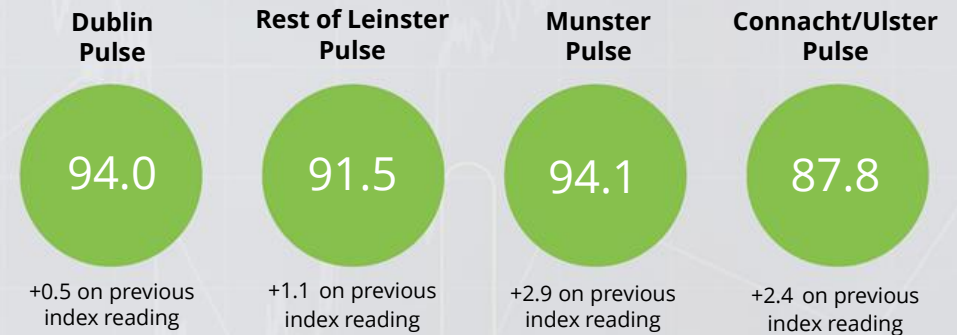
Households were less positive about the outlook for the economy this month but were generally more upbeat about their own finances; while firms in all regions upgraded their near-term expectations for business activity and hiring. The February survey also finds that many firms consider the housing, transport and telecommunications infrastructure in their region to be inadequate, while Brexit is expected to have a negative impact on local economies.

### KEY POINTS

- Regional Pulses up in February
- Brighter business outlook
- Infrastructure and Brexit headwinds

### REGIONAL PULSES

Three Month Moving Averages



Rest of Leinster refers to Leinster excluding Dublin. Ulster only refers to Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.

# Regional Pulse

## February 2018

### GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

Past 12 Months

	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connacht/Ulster
⬆️	13%	10%	14%	9%
⬆️	51%	54%	51%	52%
No Change	18%	17%	20%	23%
⬆️	10%	11%	8%	7%
⬇️	5%	4%	4%	8%
Balance	+29%	+28%	+31%	+23%
Change on previous reading	+3	-4	+1	+4

### HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Past 12 Months

	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connacht/Ulster
⬆️	8%	5%	4%	7%
⬆️	29%	29%	22%	20%
No Change	48%	51%	60%	58%
⬆️	12%	10%	10%	12%
⬇️	3%	6%	4%	3%
Balance	+13%	+9%	+6%	+8%
Change on previous reading	+6	+2	-4	+9

### GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

Next 12 Months

	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connacht/Ulster
⬆️	10%	8%	7%	7%
⬆️	45%	51%	42%	45%
No Change	29%	27%	34%	31%
⬆️	10%	8%	11%	9%
⬇️	3%	3%	3%	6%
Balance	+24%	+26%	+19%	+20%
Change on previous reading	-1	-6	-9	-7

### HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Next 12 Months

	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connacht/Ulster
⬆️	8%	4%	5%	4%
⬆️	41%	33%	32%	31%
No Change	43%	50%	51%	53%
⬆️	5%	8%	9%	9%
⬇️	1%	1%	2%	1%
Balance	+25%	+15%	+14%	+14%
Change on previous reading	+7	-2	+1	-1

# Regional Pulse

## February 2018

### House Price and Rents Expectations

#### DUBLIN

Next 12 Months

Change		House Prices	Rents
> 5%	↑ Increase	52%	42%
1% - 5%		34%	39%
Stay more or less the same		10%	15%
1% - 5%	↓ Decrease	1%	1%
> 5%		0%	1%
Balance		+68%	+61%
Change on previous reading		+1	0

#### REST OF LEINSTER

Next 12 Months

Change		House Prices	Rents
> 5%	↑ Increase	37%	28%
1% - 5%		37%	39%
Stay more or less the same		22%	29%
1% - 5%	↓ Decrease	1%	1%
> 5%		0%	0%
Balance		+55%	+47%
Change on previous reading		-6	-2

#### MUNSTER

Next 12 Months

Change		House Prices	Rents
> 5%	↑ Increase	35%	24%
1% - 5%		43%	44%
Stay more or less the same		19%	25%
1% - 5%	↓ Decrease	1%	0%
> 5%		1%	1%
Balance		+55%	+45%
Change on previous reading		0	-4

#### CONNACHT/ULSTER

Next 12 Months

Change		House Prices	Rents
> 5%	↑ Increase	28%	24%
1% - 5%		36%	37%
Stay more or less the same		28%	29%
1% - 5%	↓ Decrease	1%	1%
> 5%		1%	1%
Balance		+45%	+41%
Change on previous reading		-1	0

# Regional Pulse

## February 2018

### BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Past 3 Months	Change on previous reading	
	Balance	
Dublin	+29%	-4
Rest of Leinster	+23%	-4
Munster	+24%	-7
Connacht/Ulster	+5%	-17

### BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Next 3 Months	Change on previous reading	
	Balance	
Dublin	+49%	+4
Rest of Leinster	+49%	+4
Munster	+53%	+17
Connacht/Ulster	+42%	+5

### JOBS

Past 3 Months	Change on previous reading	
	Balance	
Dublin	+5%	-2
Rest of Leinster	+7%	+3
Munster	+7%	0
Connacht/Ulster	+2%	-7

### JOBS

Next 3 Months	Change on previous reading	
	Balance	
Dublin	+16%	+1
Rest of Leinster	+19%	+3
Munster	+20%	+7
Connacht/Ulster	+13%	+6

# Background

## THE ECONOMIC PULSE

Bank of Ireland's new economic indicator for Ireland – the Economic Pulse – is based on a series of surveys. Each month households and firms are asked for their views on a wide range of topics including the economy, their financial situation, spending plans, house price expectations, business activity and hiring intentions. Key business sectors such as industry, services, retail and construction are covered, as well as regions. The information gathered is combined into high level indices, with responses to individual questions also provided along with analysis and insights.

## GATHERING THE DATA

Ipsos MRBI are undertaking the fieldwork for the surveys on behalf of Bank of Ireland. A best practice approach to data collection and methodology has been adopted within a harmonised EU framework.

1000 households, 500 firms in industry, 800 services firms, 500 retailers and 250 construction firms participate in the surveys each month.

## USING THE INFORMATION

Business and consumer surveys provide essential information for economic surveillance, short-term forecasting and research.

They are also useful for policymakers, as well as helping firms with business planning.

Survey data are a key complement to official statistics, with high frequency and timeliness among their main qualities.

## THE EU DIMENSION

Bank of Ireland is partnering with the European Commission on the surveys. The data collected will feed into the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys. This is a Europe-wide sentiment study which has been running since the 1960s. The data generated within this framework are particularly useful for monitoring economic developments at EU and Euro area level and also allow the situation in Ireland to be compared with that of other Member States.

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**Note:** Balances are calculated as the difference between positive and negative responses (using weighted averages for questions with multiple options).

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