

- Investment Index was unchanged at 97 in February
- Investment Attitude Sub Index rose from 105 to 109
- Investment Environment Sub Index fell from 90 to 85

Investment Index

- The Investment Index was unchanged at 97 in February but this masked a big divergence between investment activity and peoples' views on the outlook for investment markets.
- The Investment Attitude subindex rose to 109 in February, its highest level since August. The percentage of regular investors surprisingly hit a one year high of 36%, driven mainly by improved investment patterns amongst younger people (under 50s) and amongst people in Dublin where the percentage of regular investors jumped from 36% to 49%, the highest since September 2017.
- However the stronger investment patterns in February were tempered somewhat by a slight increase in the number of people that felt they weren't investing enough. The overall percentage of people that felt they weren't investing enough rose from 33% to 36% in February.
- While investment attitudes improved in February, confidence in the investment outlook went in exactly the opposite direction. The Investment Environment subindex registered the third all-time low in a row in February, falling back to 85. Again this month, on a net basis people thought it was a bad time to invest. Only 25% said it was a good time to invest now in February versus 31% that felt it was a bad time to invest.
- When asked about investing in six months' time people were a little more optimistic with 24% saying it would be a good time versus 25% that thought it would be a bad time. This would suggest that near term factors are depressing investment sentiment. The looming risk of a disruptive Brexit stands out as the most likely factor shaping this weaker sentiment.

For media queries or interview opportunities, please contact:

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ENDS

Appendix:

Table 1 Investment Index and sub-indexes, monthly (Base=October 2017)

Month	Investment Index		
	Overall	Inv. Attitudes Index	Inv. Environment Index
Oct-17	100	100	100
Nov-17	103	106	99
Dec-17	101	104	98
Jan-18	100	95	105
Feb-18	101	104	98
Mar-18	97	94	99
Apr-18	100	98	102
May-18	98	98	98
Jun-18	102	103	101
Jul-18	97	97	98
Aug-18	106	110	101
Sep-18	103	101	106
Oct-18	99	102	96
Nov-18	100	102	99
Dec-18	96	99	92
Jan-19	97	105	90
Feb-19	97	109	85

About the Investment Index: The Bank of Ireland/ESRI Investment Index tracks household views on attitudes towards investment as well as understanding their perspectives on the current and future investing environment. Monitoring household investment patterns gives an understanding of how people are putting their money to work, their financial diversification, and their appetite for risk.

The Bank of Ireland Investment Index is produced monthly from a minimum sample of 800 consumers aged 15 years and above. The ESRI carries out the Savings and Investment Index research to ensure the indices represent a national sample.

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