

- Investment Index rose from 97 to 101 in March
- Investment Attitude Sub Index was unchanged at 109
- Investment Environment Sub Index rose sharply from 85 to 94

### Investment Index

- The Investment Index enjoyed a solid improvement in March as the strong recovery in investment markets so far in 2019 finally resonated with Irish people. The index rose from 97 to 101 in March, its highest level since November.
- The Investment Attitudes subindex was unchanged at 109 in March. The percentage of people investing regularly rose again from 36% to 37% in March, marking the highest incidence of regular investment since the index/ inception in September 2017. Improved regular investment patterns were noticeable among older investors and investors outside Dublin. However regular investment patterns surprisingly dropped in Dublin from 49% to 34%.
- There was also little change in peoples' views around the amounts they were saving each month – 61% of people felt they were investing the correct amount in March, slightly up on the previous month.
- The big change on the investment side was in peoples' confidence levels around the outlook for markets. The percentage of people that felt it was a good time to invest in March rose from 25% to 30% while those who felt it was a bad time fell marginally from 31% to 29%. We saw this improved sentiment also reflected in the peoples' outlook for markets in six months' time. This helped drive the Investment Environment subindex up from 85 to 94 in the month.
- The improved confidence in the market outlook is likely to have been a response to the continued strength in investment markets. World stock markets for example have gained 14.2% since the turn of the year despite the ongoing Brexit uncertainty. So the improvement in the investment environment subindex could represent some realisation on the part of Irish investors that Brexit hasn't been a key driver of global economic or market trends in 2019.

**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
Mar-19	101	109	94

**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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