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- Investment Index fell from 94 to 88 in August
 - Investment Attitude Sub Index rose from 96 to 99
 - Investment Environment Sub Index fell from 91 to 76

Investment Index

- Investment sentiment dropped sharply over the summer months with the Investment Index dropping to 88 in August compared to 94 in June. The Investment Attitudes sub index rose from 96 to 99. However optimism around the outlook for investment markets crumbled as the Investment Environment sub index collapsed from 91 to 76, by far the worst reading since launch in October 2017.
- The Investment attitudes sub index rose from 96 to 99 in August. The percentage of people regularly investing was unchanged at 35% while the percentage of people that felt they were investing the right amount rose from 43% to 46%.
- Optimism in the outlook for investment markets fell heavily in August as the Investment Environment subindex collapsed from 91 to 76, by far the lowest reading on record. 39% of people felt that now was a bad time to invest, again the highest response for this question since launch. The gloominess was visible across the board but seemed most acute for baby boomers (nearly one in two of over 60s felt that now was a bad time to invest) and for lower income groups.
- Investors were slightly less downbeat looking out six months although 36% of people still felt it would be a bad time to invest then, again another record high response rate for this question.
- The August results for Irish investor sentiment were surprising in a way given how strongly investment markets had performed so far this year – up to the end of August world stock markets were up 18% for Irish investors.
- However, the fact that sentiment dropped so sharply during a period which coincided with Boris Johnson's election as UK Prime Minister strongly suggests that Irish concerns about the UK crashing out of the EU lie at the heart of this pessimism. This finding was confirmed by a special topic question asked this quarter where 50% of people answered that they were likely to invest less as a result of Brexit concerns.

For media queries or interview opportunities, please contact:

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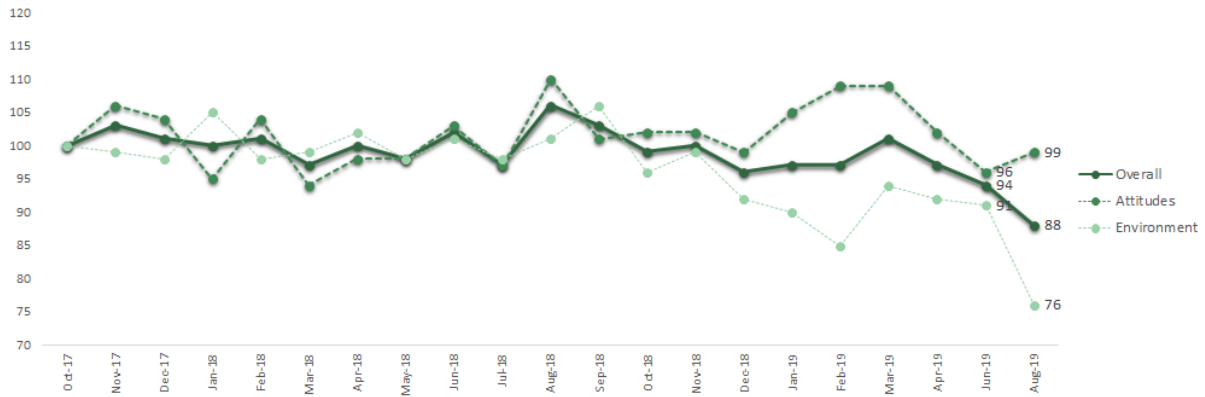
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Appendix:

Figure 1 - Investment Index

Investment Index



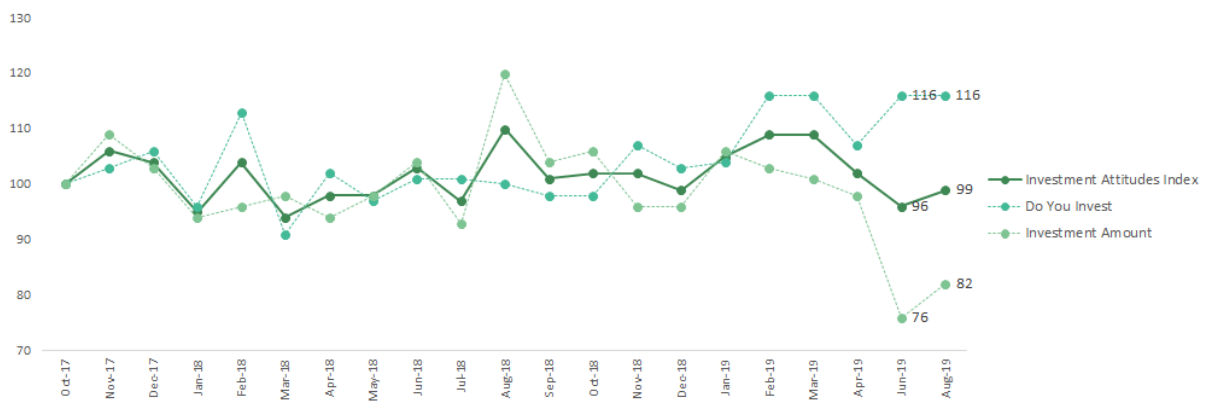
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- The Investment Index is an overall measure of consumer sentiment towards investing. It is composed of two sub-indices: Investment Attitudes and Investment Environment. In August 2019 the overall Investment Index dropped from 94 to 88.

Figure 2 - Investment Attitudes Sub-Index

Investment Attitudes Index



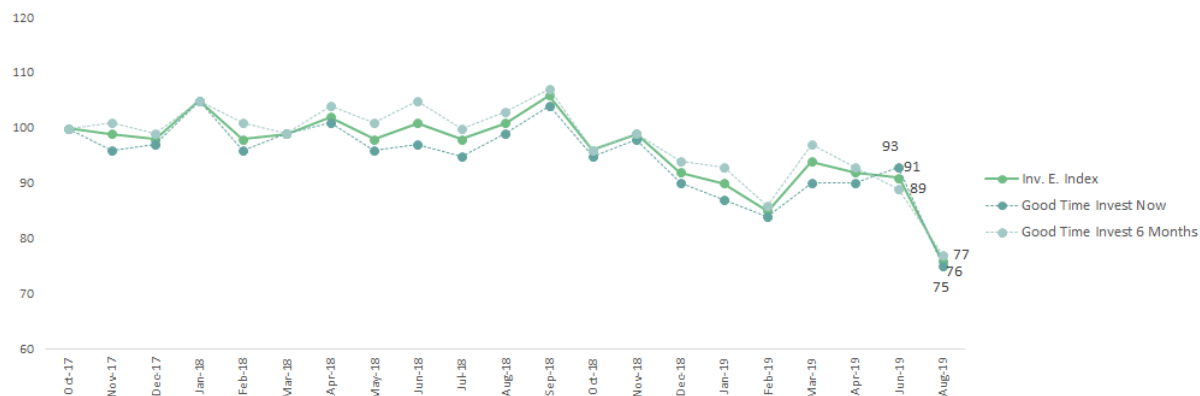
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- The Investment Attitudes sub-index is built on two questions which ask respondents about their investment behaviour and how they feel about the amount they invest. In August 2019, the sub-index rose from 96 to 99.

Figure 3 - Investment Environment Sub- Index

Investment Environment Index



- The Investment Environment Index is built on two questions which ask whether or not respondents believe that the current period is a good time to invest and whether or not they believe that in 6 months' time it will be a good time to invest. This sub-index slumped from 91 to 76 in August.

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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