



Ireland's Project Economy (IPE) 2026 outlook for the Irish economy Statistical appendices

The data below are early excerpts from the forthcoming Ireland's Project Economy Report 2026. This data has been published early because it relates to economic forecasts for 2026. The survey was conducted by Trinity Business School in co-operation with Contracting Plus, under the stewardship of Professors Andrew Burke and Na Fu, from Mid-November to the end of the first week of December 2025.

Year	TRUMP FACTOR	Negative	Neutral	Positive
2026	Trump Trade Policies	64 %	28%	8%

Freelancer confidence index scores

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Compared to 2025, the performance of the Irish Economy in 2026 will increase....	6	17	16	10	38	7

Confidence index scores range from -100 to +100 and the overall score is a sample average of scores from five categories of answers about the expected performance of the Irish economy in 2026 compared to 2025 as follows: increase a lot (+100), increase (+50), no change (0), decrease (-50) and decrease a lot (-100).

2026	Decrease	Same	Increase
Compared to 2025, the performance of the Irish Economy in 2026 will...	26% (17%)	37% (37%)	37% (46%)

**2025 in Brackets*

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
The contracting sector in the next 3 to 5 years will increase...	21	26	30	31	37	30

Confidence index scores range from -100 to +100 and the overall score is a sample average of scores from five categories of answers about the expected performance of the high skilled freelance sector over the next 3 to 5 years: increase a lot (+100), increase (+50), no change (0), decrease (-50) and decrease a lot (-100).

2026	Decrease	Same	Increase
The contracting sector in the next 3 to 5 years will...	17% (12%)	32% (33%)	51% (55%)

*2025 in Brackets

2026		The contracting sector in the next 3 to 5 years will increase...	Compared to 2025, the performance of the Irish Economy in 2026 will increase...
Industry grouped	IT and Telecommunications	20.4	0.4
	Finance and Insurance	16.7	7
	Pharma Life Sciences and Medical Devices	18.4	6.2
	Medical Locum	11.4	9.1
	Engineering and Technical Activities	17.7	5.2
	All others	25.9	7.1

2025		The contracting sector in the next 3 to 5 years will...	Compared to 2024, the performance of the Irish Economy in 2025 will...
Industry grouped	IT and Telecommunications	31.1	14.3
	Pharma Life Sciences and Medical Devices	25.6	18.9
	Finance and Insurance	22.2	16.5
	Medical Locum	3.9	7.7
	Engineering and Technical Activities	28.7	2.1
	All Others	28	18.8