

NOVEMBER 2011 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR IRELAND: ANSWERS FROM IBEC

MAIN FORECAST

Annual % change	2011	2012
Real GDP growth	1,4	2,4
Consumer price inflation	1,2	1,0
Unemployment rate	14,0	14,2
Employment growth	-1,5	0,8
government net lending (% of GDP)	-9,3	-8,0
gross public debt (% of GDP)	102,0	107,0
current account balance (% of GDP)	1,0	2,5

Components of aggregate demand - in real terms

Annual % change		
Private consumption	-2,0	-0,5
Public consumption	-3,5	-4,0
Investment (Gross Fixed Capital Formation)	-6,8	7,5
Private non-residential investment	-20,0	-5,0
Exports	5,0	4,5
Imports	2,1	2,8

ECONOMIC SENTIMENT

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Unchanged</i>			
<i>Trend in business climate over the next 6 months</i>		Industry Services				
<i>Trend in profitability over the next 6 months</i>		Industry Services				
<i>Investment intentions over the next 6 months</i>	<i>Increase (faster pace)</i> Industry	<i>Increase (slower pace)</i>	<i>Unchanged</i>	<i>Decrease (slower pace)</i> Services	<i>Decrease (faster pace)</i>	
<i>Influence on companies' investment decisions</i>	<i>Global demand</i> positive	<i>Domestic demand</i> negative	<i>Cost of finance</i> negative	<i>Availability of finance</i> negative	<i>Company Profitability</i> neutral	<i>Capacity Utilisation</i> positive
<i>Driving force behind investment decisions in the next 6 months</i>	<i>Replacement</i> positive	<i>Extension</i> positive	<i>Rationalisation</i> neutral	<i>Innovation</i> positive		
<i>Overall trend in employment</i>	Down	Same	Down	Down		

Industry: past 6 months Industry: next 6 months Services: past 6 months Services: next 6 months



ACCESS TO FINANCE AND IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON POTENTIAL GROWTH

Compared to 6 months ago, cost/access to finance has been...	sharply up / restrained	up / more difficult	same	down / easier
<i>for SMEs</i>	Cost Access			
<i>for larger companies (>250 employees)</i>		Cost Access		
Over the next 6 months, cost /access to finance will be...	sharply up / restrained	up / more difficult	same	down / easier
<i>for SMEs</i>		Cost Access		
<i>for larger companies (>250 employees)</i>		Cost Access		

	Consolidation of banking sector balance sheets	Access to capital markets	Encouraging equity financing through tax reforms	Better use of existing EU instruments (including EIB)	Greater potential for Public-Private-Partnerships
Measures to alleviate current financial difficulties for SMEs	Important effect	Important effect	Important effect	Important effect	Important effect
	Consolidation of banking sector balance sheets	Access to capital markets	Encouraging equity financing through tax reforms	Better use of existing EU instruments (including EIB)	Greater potential for Public-Private-Partnerships
Measures to alleviate current financial difficulties for midsize and large companies	Important effect	Important effect	Important effect	Important effect	Important effect

POLICY MIX

	<i>Tight, appropriate for the euro area</i>	<i>Tight yes</i>	<i>Appropriate</i>	<i>Loose</i>	<i>Loose, appropriate for the euro area</i>
<i>Monetary policy is...</i>					
<i>Consistency between fiscal and monetary policies</i>	<i>adequate</i>	<i>inadequate</i> yes			
<i>Regarding the sustainability of public</i>	excellent committment	satisfactory committment yes	neither satisfactory nor unsatisfactory	unsatisfactory committment	no clear committment creating an extremely
<i>Exit Strategies</i>	excessive focus	sufficient focus	satisfactory nor unsufficier	unsufficient focus	so far ignored
<i>Tight fiscal rules and more effective institutions</i>		yes			
<i>Greater efficiency of public</i>				yes	
<i>Credible cost-cutting measures</i>				yes	
<i>Increased scope of public-private</i>				yes	
<i>Reform of pension systems</i>				yes	
<i>Improved efficiency of healthcare sector</i>				yes	
<i>Entry Strategies</i>	excessive focus	sufficient focus	satisfactory nor unsufficier	unsufficient focus	so far ignored
<i>More and better-targeted education and training</i>		yes			
<i>More and better targeted R&D and</i>		yes			
<i>Prioritisation of infrastructure investments</i>		yes			
<i>Growth enhancing tax reforms</i>				yes	
<i>In 2015, the government deficit will...</i>	respect the 3% limit yes	be in balance no			