

# Irish Economy Watch

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Thursday 28 November 2024

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	The manu. PMI rose to 51.5 in Oct, consistent with an improvement in conditions in the sector. Output returned to growth and new orders rose for the first time since February	
MANUFACTURING										
AIB Manufacturing PMI	49.6	47.6	49.8	47.4	50.1	50.4	49.4	51.5		
AIB Manufacturing PMI - Future Output	59.4	64.4	64.0	66.3	67.9	63.0	64.3	68.8		
Industrial Production (Ex-Modern)	137.4	137.0	134.6	136.6	133.0	131.0	137.3	#N/A	Traditional industrial production fell by 1.7% in Q3 compared to Q2, but it was up 5.3% YoY	
Production (Ex-Modern) : 3mma YoY%	10.7	12.7	11.8	10.9	8.0	7.0	5.3	#N/A		
3mth / 3mth % seas. adj.	3.5	2.5	2.9	1.7	-0.3	-2.1	-1.7	#N/A		
SERVICES / RETAIL									The serv. PMI fell to 53.8 in Oct, indicating a solid, albeit slower pace of expansion. New business, especially new export orders, rose sharply. However, inflationary pressures accelerated in the month	
AIB Services PMI	56.6	53.3	55.0	54.2	53.6	53.8	55.7	53.8		
CSO Services Index (Value)	175.1	181.1	178.6	179.6	180.0	182.7	180.7	#N/A		
- YoY %	7.9	11.8	9.6	11.3	10.3	11.3	8.3	#N/A		
- 3mth / 3mth % seas. adj.	3.2	4.7	3.8	3.6	1.7	1.4	0.8	#N/A	The CSO services index was up by 8.3% YoY in September	
SIMI Car Registrations	14,644	8,562	6,394	1,488	25,665	7,532	5,121	2,418		
- 12 mth cum total	126,727	126,376	125,225	123,723	122,052	121,323	120,717	120,927		
- 3 mma YoY %	7.4	-0.2	-13.3	-15.4	-11.4	-10.1	-7.3	-6.9	After a solid start to 2024, new car sales have been trending lower. 12mth running total below 121k in Oct	
Retail Sales Index	114.0	111.9	112.3	112.0	112.7	111.3	111.8	#N/A		
- YoY %	1.6	-0.5	-1.1	-1.1	1.4	-1.9	0.2	#N/A		
- 3mth / 3mth % seas. adj.	1.2	-0.2	-0.4	-1.2	-0.5	-0.7	-0.1	#N/A	Retail sales fell by 0.1% in Q3 and were 0.1% lower YoY also. Likewise, core sales fell by 0.2% in Q3, and were down 0.3% YoY	
Ex Autos Index	111.8	111.9	112.0	111.3	111.5	111.1	111.9	#N/A		
- YoY %	0.4	1.5	-0.3	-1.2	0.3	-1.5	0.4	#N/A		
- 3mth / 3mth % seas. adj.	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2	#N/A		
RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY									The construction PMI was below 50 in Oct, albeit the pace of contraction eased slightly. Housing activity grew strongly but commercial activity deteriorated further	
BNP Paribas Construction PMI	51.6	53.2	49.8	47.5	49.9	50.0	49.0	49.4		
- Housing Activity	54.3	53.4	52.0	52.4	53.2	49.8	51.0	56.4		
- Commercial Activity	53.2	54.6	51.4	43.3	49.9	51.1	47.9	47.0		
- New Orders	51.5	53.9	52.9	51.8	54.9	51.8	52.4	48.4	Commencements still distorted. They surged again in Sept ahead of the waiver/rebate deadline and were elevated in Oct also. 12 mth total running at 59.5k	
- Business Expectations	63.8	59.5	61.2	61.7	61.6	64.7	62.9	63.6		
Commencements: 12mth Total	37,408	53,011	51,935	51,024	49,613	49,107	57,885	59,510		
- 3 Month Avg YoY %	62.7	242.5	182.2	165.8	-39.4	-34.0	82.0	123.7		
HOUSING MARKET ACTIVITY									Mortgage approvals rose by 5.6% YoY in Q3. 12 mth running total rises to 42.3k	
BPFI Mortgage Approvals : Month	3,237	3,796	3,894	3,806	4,603	3,933	3,731	#N/A		
- 3 Month Avg YoY %	-5.3	0.0	-5.1	-2.8	-2.3	0.6	5.6	#N/A		
- 12 Mth Total	41,976	42,399	42,011	41,642	42,109	42,090	42,294	#N/A		
RPPR Transactions : Month	4,441	4,413	5,223	4,839	5,696	4,880	5,038	5,489	Transactions 3mma down by 8.2% YoY in the 3mths to Oct. 12 mth moving total near 60k	
- 3 Month Avg YoY %	-8.4	-5.3	-3.8	-2.8	-1.7	-6.6	-5.7	-8.2		
- 12 Mth Total	61,885	62,083	62,099	61,475	61,805	61,001	60,538	60,422		
HOUSING MARKET PRICES									House prices continue to trend sharply higher, increasing by 0.9% m/m in Sep. They were up 10.0% YoY	
CSO Price Index - MoM	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9	#N/A		
- YoY %	7.4	7.9	8.5	8.9	9.6	10.1	10.0	#N/A		
Daft Asking Prices: MoM %	-0.1	2.0	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.8	0.6	#N/A		
- YoY %	5.8	6.4	6.1	7.7	7.3	8.8	8.4	#N/A	Asking prices on Daft.ie stayed on an upward trajectory in Q3, rising by 8.2% YoY	
RENTS: CSO Private Rents - MoM%	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.4		
- YoY %	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.0	4.4	4.8		
AFFORDABILITY: Couple on Avg Industrial Wage, 90% LTV, 30 Years, AIB Mortgage Rate, Prices: CSO/Perm' TSB										Affordability deteriorated somewhat in Q2, as house price growth outpaced wage growth
- Mortgage as % of Disposable Income	21.3	22.4	22.8	23.3	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A		

	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	
<b>CONSUMER PRICES - YoY %</b>									Consumer prices rose by 0.3% in Oct, but CPI inflation remained at 0.7%. However, excluding food & energy, CPI inflation was up 2.3%. Prices as measured by HICP rose by 0.3% in Oct, with the annual rate rising to 0.1%
- MoM %	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.2	1.7	0.7	0.7	
HICP - YoY %	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	-0.9	0.3	
- MoM %	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.1	0.0	0.1	
- MoM %	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	-1.0	0.3	
<b>PERSONAL / FINANCIAL</b>									Sentiment improved to 74.1 in Oct, but remained well below its long-run average of 84.4
ILCU Consumer Sentiment Index	69.5	67.8	65.7	70.5	74.9	72.0	71.9	74.1	
Credit Growth YoY %									Private sector credit growth rate expanded in Sept, amid an acceleration in the household credit growth rate
- Private Sector	2.5	-1.3	-0.3	0.6	1.4	1.3	2.4	#N/A	
- of which : Household	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.6	#N/A	
- of which : Mortgage Lending	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.3	#N/A	
<b>LABOUR MARKET</b>									The unemployment rate has been quite steady throughout this year. It drifted slightly higher in H1, averaging 4.3% in Q1 and 4.4% in Q2, but, it averaged just 4.2% in Q3
Live Register	173,800	173,200	172,800	171,900	171,900	171,000	168,300	169,000	
- Change In Month	-300	-600	-400	-900	+0	-900	-2,700	+700	
Unemployment Rate %	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.2	
PMI Employment Indices									The employment sub-indices of the services and construction PMIs remained above the key 50 level in Oct. The manu. PMI stayed in contraction territory
- AIB Manufacturing	51.7	50.0	52.7	50.2	52.1	53.5	49.6	49.6	
- AIB Services	53.2	52.9	53.3	50.8	52.0	54.0	52.5	51.0	
- BNP Paribas Construction	53.9	52.7	51.8	51.7	50.9	47.7	51.7	51.8	
<b>MERCHANDISE TRADE</b>									Goods trade surplus widened to €67.5bn in Sep, up 46.3% YTD. Exports rose by 11.6% YTD to €165.9bn, led by a strong increase in pharma and medical products (up 24.0% YTD). Imports stood at €98.4bn YTD, down 4.1% YoY
Export Values - 3M / 3M %	10.3	11.8	6.0	-0.7	-5.8	-3.6	7.6	#N/A	
- 3MMA YoY %	6.0	8.0	12.4	8.4	4.1	3.7	20.8	#N/A	
Import Values - 3M / 3M %	-11.9	-6.1	2.1	3.5	4.3	9.6	7.7	#N/A	
- 3MMA YoY %	-8.1	-3.7	-4.6	-6.8	-4.6	2.3	3.2	#N/A	
<b>PUBLIC FINANCES</b>									Total tax take up 14.9% YTD in Oct. Voted expenditure rose by 12.7% YTD, owing to increases in current and capital spending. Overall, the 12mth rolling Exchequer surplus fell to €3.3bn
Total Tax Receipts: Cum YTD %	1.8	2.6	6.2	9.3	9.5	12.6	11.0	14.9	
Voted Spending : Cum YTD %	15.4	12.8	15.3	13.2	14.1	13.7	12.8	12.7	
Exchequer Bal: 12 Mth Total €m	3,512	3,637	2,586	4,005	3,825	5,286	5,070	3,326	
<b>QUARTERLY DATA</b>									The flash estimate of GDP indicates it rose by 2.0% in Q3. However, in YoY terms, GDP was 1.2% lower
	Q4-22	Q1-23	Q2-23	Q3-23	Q4-23	Q1-24	Q2-24	Q3-24	
GDP - YoY %	8.8	-0.2	-3.9	-8.4	-9.1	-4.7	-4.0	-1.2	
*Domestic Demand - YoY%	3.7	6.0	0.9	-0.2	4.2	2.3	1.5	#N/A	
Consumer Spending - YoY %	8.2	7.4	6.5	1.7	4.0	2.5	1.3	#N/A	MDD fell by 0.5% in Q2. It was up 1.9% YoY in H1 though, led by a rise in consumer spending
Services Exports - YoY % (3Q Avg)	2.7	-0.2	-1.6	0.6	3.7	9.2	17.8	#N/A	
* Excludes Some Investment Related to the Multinational Sector									
<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; EARNINGS</b>									Employment increased by 3.7% YoY in Q3'24, putting it 17.5% above pre-COVID levels. The employment rate rose to 75.3% in Q3. The labour force grew by 3.5% YoY in the quarter
Employment YoY %	2.6	3.7	3.1	3.6	3.4	1.9	2.7	3.7	
Labour Force YoY %	1.8	2.8	3.0	3.8	3.5	2.0	2.9	3.5	
Average Earnings YoY %									
- Hourly	6.1	3.9	5.3	6.1	1.9	4.9	5.4	#N/A	Weekly average earnings rose by 5.6% YoY in Q2'24. Public sector pay was up by 4.9% YoY. Private sector earnings rose by 5.6% YoY
- Weekly	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.4	2.6	5.0	5.6	#N/A	
Weekly Earnings YoY %									
- Private Sector	2.4	3.5	3.9	3.8	4.1	5.3	5.6	#N/A	
- Public Sector	10.4	7.7	5.9	5.8	-1.2	4.0	4.9	#N/A	
<b>CSO DWELLING COMPLETIONS</b>									Despite rising in YoY terms in Q3, completions are 3.1% lower YTD compared to 2023. 12mth total just below 32k
- YoY %	9089	6642	7272	8411	10223	5844	6851	8939	
- Cum 12 Mth Total	31.3	18.6	-4.2	14.0	12.5	-12.0	-5.8	6.3	
	29662	30702	30380	31414	32548	31750	31329	31857	



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