Weekend Press Roundup

Derradda FINANCIAL SERVICES

A summary of the weekend papers

Monday, 17th August 2026 — This is a Marketing Communication

Saturday 15th August 2026

Irish Independent

‘They’ve killed the whole point of the EU’ – Small exporters pause sales to bloc over new packaging rules
Small business owners including artists, designers and craft makers across Ireland have suspended sales to other EU countries on foot of new packaging rules they say are destroying the single market. A rule change that kicked in this week requires firms, no matter how small, to register in every EU country into which they sell.

Institutional Shareholder Services backs Irish Continental Group management buyout as ‘attractive premium’ for investors
A leading advisory firm has come out in favour of the management buyout (MBO) bid for Irish Continental Group, even as one minority shareholder said it undervalues the company that operates Irish Ferries.

Aviva’s operating profits jump 24pc in first half of the year
Aviva’s operating profit increased by 24pc to £1.3bn (€1.5bn) in the first half of the year as the insurer reported higher premiums and cash generation. Operating profit rose from £1.07bn in the same period last year, while operating earnings per share increased 10pc to 31.8p from 29p.

Irish Times

ICG management buyout undervalues ferry operator by 39%, shareholder claims
Another senior shareholder has come out against the proposed sale to management of Irish Continental Group(ICG), claiming the bid undervalues the ferry business by as much as 39 per cent. Shares in the ferry operator have surged after it emerged the company’s board had agreed to a management-led buyout (MBO) of the group for €1.2 billion.

Mannok aims to cut emissions with €16m investment in Cavan solar plant
Building materials group Mannok will invest up to €16 million on a solar power plant as it bids to cut both energy costs and green-house gas emissions. The Cavan-based manufacturer has been working on various initiatives to tackle energy use and carbon dioxide output in recent years.

US borrowing costs jump as investors fret about inflation and debt
The US economy under Donald Trump is difficult to read. On one hand, the stock market is surging. Business investment is also on the up. But growth has slowed and the jobs market remains weak. Persistently high prices are also weighing heavily on consumers, a trend that is expected to rebound badly on Trump in the forthcoming midterm elections. On Thursday night the interest rate attached to 30-year US government bonds jumped to the highest level in 25 years.

Sunday 16th August 2026

Sunday Times

Eamonn Rothwell’s ICG buyout may not be plain sailing. A €1.2 billion bid to take the Irish Ferries owner private faces resistance.

Which companies will be next to leave the Irish stock exchange?
With Irish Continental Group, PTSB and Malin all poised to delist, we assess which of the remaining Euronext Dublin constituents may be plotting an exodus.

Seán Quinn launches podcast in latest bid to reframe his downfall
The ex-billionaire has enlisted a digital marketing agency to shift the narrative around his legacy with a slickly designed website and upcoming audio series.

Central Bank of Ireland warns new cash centre may cost a mint
Concerns raised over construction costs and securing contractors.

Case for a national care service is economic, not purely socialist
Taoiseach could learn from Andy Burnham’s plans to close the arbitrary divide between health care and social care.

How Flutter lost its edge as Peter Jackson heads for the exit
Strategic ‘missteps’ in sports betting and a 70% drop in US earnings sealed fate of man who led owner of Paddy Power and FanDuel.

How ASML became Europe’s most valuable company.
A breakthrough by the Dutch firm put it ahead in the race for better machines to produce more powerful chips on an ever-smaller scale.

Laois hotshot Niamh O’Connor packs in Australian rugby role
Irish-born chief executive’s surprise exit from the struggling outfit Western Force coincides with its planned conversion to a not-for-profit model.

Is the Cuban regime about to be toppled? Inside Marco Rubio’s plan.
The US secretary of state has long dreamt of overthrowing the island’s government. Trump’s desire for a quick win overseas makes that goal a real possibility.

Ireland’s brain drain myth: Nine return for every 10 who leave
Contrary to popular belief, our migration flows are fairly balanced with roughly the same number of citizens returning as leaving.

Mel Sutcliffe plots Irish bid for stricken Raleigh bikes
The founder of Quanta Capital is gathering investors and seeking bank backing for a potential takeover of the Dutch bicycle group.

Sunday Times (continued)

Ireland weekly business: five things you need to know
Funding top-up for U2-backed Nuritas; DAA's rival bidder claim thrown out; a 'transformational' deal for SimoTech.

JCB scion backs 'brilliant' Burnham
Jo Bamford wants to create 2,500 jobs at a new factory in northern England — but says Sir Sadiq Khan must follow the PM's promise to buy British buses.

JP Morgan debanked Polymarket over regulatory fears
US investment bank cut some of its ties with the prediction market operator last year but the two firms maintain a 'close, active relationship'.

Cisco Systems forecasts revenue above Wall Street expectations
The Californian tech company received AI infrastructure orders worth $4 billion for the fourth quarter, bringing the total to $9.3 billion.

Business Post

Goldman Sachs reveals $1tn debt risk lurking behind the AI boom – and investors should care
US technology stocks continue to drive markets to record highs as investors embrace AI spending, but concerns are growing over high interest rates, rising debt and huge future spending commitments. Big Tech is expected to spend around $740bn on AI infrastructure in 2026, while Goldman warns that around $1tn of future spending commitments are not yet reflected on company balance sheets.

Anthropic's IPO has investors looking unusually far ahead
As AI giant Anthropic prepares for what could be one of the biggest IPOs ever, investors on Wall Street are looking further into the future than usual to value the company.

'I don't regret it': Former VitHit CEO on missing out on bumper pay day following 2021 dispute
VitHit co-founder and former CEO Ian O'Rourke says he does not regret selling his 15% stake in the company in 2021, despite it being worth around €11.25 million following this week's €75 million sale to UK drinks company Nichols. O'Rourke left VitHit after a dispute with co-founder Gary Lavin.

The full value of former FanDuel chief Amy Howe's multimillion dollar departure
Former FanDuel CEO Amy Howe received an exit package worth more than $14.8 million after leaving the company in May. This included $3.37 million in severance, about $11.47 million from a long-term incentive scheme, and $1 million towards legal fees. She also kept some unvested share awards worth around $2.66 million at the time of her departure, although some of these are dependent on future company performance. Howe was replaced as FanDuel CEO by Christian Genetski.

'A premium on suppressed share price is not value': ICG investor Pageant opposes deal
A minority shareholder in Irish Continental Group (ICG) has criticised the proposed €1.2bn takeover, arguing that the €8-per-share offer undervalues the company despite advisory firm ISS recommending shareholders accept it. Nick Furlong of Pageant Investments believes ICG is worth more than the offer suggests. The takeover is being led by ICG management, including CEO Eamonn Rothwell.

PayPal takeover talks resume as Stripe weighs higher offer
Stripe and private equity firm Advent are back in talks with PayPal over a potential takeover, after PayPal rejected their initial $53 billion offer as too low. The latest negotiations could result in a higher offer, with a deal potentially being agreed in the coming weeks. Stripe and Advent originally offered $60.50 per PayPal share, with around $50 billion in financing from banks. PayPal's board believes the company could be worth more if its strategy succeeds, while also considering financing and regulatory challenges. PayPal shares rose 1.8% on Friday to $61.66 amid the renewed talks.

Indeed to sublet large chunk of Dublin HQ as tech firms scale back office needs
Indeed is looking to sublet around one-third of its Dublin headquarters, putting 72,470 sq ft of office space on the market as the company adjusts to changing working patterns. The space could generate around €4.3 million in annual rent if fully leased at the quoted €59.50 per sq ft. The move reflects a wider trend among tech companies reducing their office requirements, with Workday and Meta also subletting Dublin space. Indeed said it remains committed to Dublin but has consolidated its workforce into one office to better match its current needs. Dublin office demand remains relatively strong, with city-centre vacancy at just over 14%, while prime Grade A rents have risen to around €65–€70 per sq ft.

Sunday Independent

Regeneron gets OK for 1,000-person event centre at Raheen, despite objections of ex-Limerick hurling boss Tom Ryan
American biotechnology company Regeneron has got the go-ahead to build an event centre big enough to host a thousand people on its Limerick site.

How the restaurant business is changing beyond recognition
You can blame technology, inflation and customers' shifting habits. During the pandemic, people started ordering in, rather than eating out – and the habit has stuck.

'The banks are still ridiculously generous' – which employers offer the best pension and equity plans?
Financial experts and recruiters crunch the numbers.

Icon CEO awarded $3.7m in shares as company emerges from turmoil
Irish clinical trials firm said this year that it had overstated revenue.

Summer gigs by Wolfe Tones and The Script fail to stem losses at Thomond Park
Naming rights have never been sold for the home of Munster Rugby. Can that last?

Richard Curran: Timing is everything as Irish companies continue to strike it rich in the AI data-centre gold rush
The data centre at Eemshaven, in the Netherlands, is largely powered by renewables.

Ken Fisher: It's never been easier to build wealth on the stock market's magic money machine
What's stopping you from opening an online account and trading cheaply?

High energy and material costs unlikely to dent home building this year, analysts predict
Measures to increase supply of zoned land, update planning laws and offer builders subsidies all good news for 2026 at least.

Any Other Business: Why just shutter a market leader when you could sell it instead?
Plus, how much would you pay for a selfie with billionaire Oprah Winfrey?

'They've killed the whole point of the EU' – Small exporters pause sales to bloc over new packaging rules
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Financial Times

Japan's 10-year bond yield hits three-decade high
Japan's 10-year government bond yield climbed to 2.93%, its highest level since 1996 and close to the key 3% threshold, as investors grew concerned that a weakening yen and rising oil prices could push inflation higher.

JPMorgan debanked Polymarket over regulatory concerns
JPMorgan Chase terminated its banking relationship with Polymarket last year over regulatory concerns, underscoring escalating worries in the industry over fast-growing prediction platforms.

Big Tech's data centre boom poised to drive up carbon emissions
Big Tech's data centre building boom could create a huge new source of carbon emissions as the surging demand for electricity sparks a wave of fossil-fuel power plants, despite companies' climate commitments.

War and climate change drive surge in global shipping costs
The cost of shipping goods through many of the world's maritime chokepoints has soared in the past month due to war and climate change, fuelling fears of higher consumer costs and underlining concerns about the fragility of global supply chains.

US regulator grants banking licence to Trump family crypto venture
A cryptocurrency venture backed by Donald Trump has received conditional approval for a banking licence from a US regulator, boosting the company's credentials as it seeks to expand its stablecoin operations.