Monday, 24th August 2026

This is a Marketing Communication

Saturday 22nd August 2026

Irish Independent

Keoghs Crisps plans 50pc production boost with new state-of-the-art factory in north Co Dublin
High-flying Keogh's Crisps is looking to meet growing demand overseas with a major expansion of its production facilities at its north Co Dublin farm site.

Ikea Ireland profits more than double despise flat revenues amid subdued consumer confidence
Pre-tax profits at the Irish arm of Swedish furnishing giant Ikea last year more than doubled to €15.75m despite revenues remaining flat due to consumer confidence here remaining subdued. Online sales rose by 10.4pc year-on-year and now represent almost 40pc of total sales.

Laya Healthcare to increase premiums on dozens of its plans within weeks
Health insurance provider Laya is to hike the premiums on 65 of its plans from the start of October. Families face paying extra €140 a year from latest hike.

Irish Times

Bond investors dismiss Trump administration's 'band-aid on a bullet hole' intervention
Donald Trump's appetite for risk might endear him to his Maga base. Bond investors are a more dispassionate breed, however. Concerns over his handling of the economy, in particular his tax and spending plans, which have lifted US debt above $40 trillion for the first time, sent the yield on 30-year United States bonds to their highest level since 2007 this week. Elevated inflation, a function of the US president's on-off war with Iran, is also souring sentiment.

Apple's Irish operation accounted for two-fifths of $43bn global tax payments last year
Apple's Irish operation accounted for almost two-fifths of the company's total global tax payments last year, a new filing by the tech giant under new European Union disclosure rules has shown. The company paid $17.1 billion (€14.6 billion) tax last year in Ireland, which represented the 39 per cent of its $43.2 billion of tax payments in the year that ended September 2025. The Irish total included a one-off payment made by Apple during the year in relation to a $14 billion (€13 billion) state aid case. In total, Apple paid EU member states $17.5 billion in taxes last year. A spokesman for the company confirmed to The Irish Times it has paid EU member states $34 billion of taxes in the past five years.

United States to unveil 'toughest sanctions in history' on Iran
US treasury secretary Scott Bessent, who is due to hold a press conference on Monday, has threatened to impose "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran. Iran's economy is already under huge pressure from international sanctions, its infrastructure has been hit repeatedly and thousands of people have been killed in air strikes on the Islamic Republic since the US and Israel launched attacks on February 28th. But Tehran remains defiant after nearly six months of war and has brought shipping to a virtual standstill in the Strait of Hormuz, refusing to allow unauthorised oil tankers to transit a waterway that is vital for global oil shipments. The effective blockade of the strait has pushed up global oil prices.

Sunday 23rd August 2026

Sunday Times

Kingspan goes for bust on data centre boom.
The insulation panel maker's €900m acquisition signals a bold bet on AI's infrastructure demands.

Fuel crisis plan: driving bans, work from home and speed limits
Energy contingency measures could include limiting car use to alternate days. The Dail will be recalled early on Friday for an emergency one-day sitting.

SpaceX Is Racking Up Wins in Washington
Elon Musk-led rocket and AI company is landing lucrative contracts and benefiting from Trump administration's deregulatory push.

Why Irish consumers feel poor despite great national wealth
The economy is booming and Simon Harris is looking to unlock millions in household savings, yet cost of living pressures are creating unease among consumers.

SuperAwesome's Dylan Collins invests in property management firm Marc
Tech visionary and Sue Spence, who sold her software firm SoftCo for more than €100m, are among the investors in Aaron Devitt's Dublin start-up.

We've never been as well-off, so why does everything feel broken?
Ireland is the third most prosperous nation in the world, yet a growing share of the workforce can't afford to live within commuting distance of their job.

Ireland weekly business: five things you need to know
Barry English backs data centre prefab firm; investors to check out of Dublin hotels; cost of government borrowing hits high.

WPP poised for £1bn boost from Kantar sale as it eyes FTSE return
The data business co-owned with private equity is being prepared for sale as London-listed advertising giant looks to dispose of 'non-core assets'.

Sunday Times (continued)

US bond sell-off deepens despite Treasury intervention
Ten-year bond yields rose to 4.72% amid widespread concern over inflation and America's $40 trillion debt pile

Uber faces €825m fine for breaching European data rules
The Dutch regulator said the company, which plans to appeal, infringed its drivers' rights by using automated systems to suspend their accounts

U.S. Stocks and Bonds Slide, Brushing Off Treasury's Buyback Plans
Mixed results from Walmart and other retailers offered more gloom on the health of the American consumer

Moderna shares jump 175% on skin cancer trial success
Late-stage trial results show melanoma treatment increased the time before the disease returned or spread when paired with Merck's Keytruda

Business Post

Markets brace for US 'economic D-Day' sanctions on Iran
US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, set to hold a press conference at 6.00pm (Irish time) on Monday, has threatened to impose "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran.

Revolut is plotting a move into its own ETFs. How will that play out?
A filing with the Central Bank of Ireland revealed the neobank has registered an ICAV – a legal structure for Irish investment funds – that would allow it design and offer its own ETFs to its 70 million customers.

What Ray Dalio says investors should buy as debt crisis looms
Yields have risen on concerns over the US deficit, mounting government debt, inflation and a wave of borrowing by tech companies funding the AI boom. US Treasury Secretary Bessent's surprise plan to expand debt buybacks sent long-dated yields tumbling on Wednesday, only for them to rebound the following day. Amid the uncertainty on what might happen, veteran investor Ray Dalio said investors should reduce their bond holdings and put as much as 15 per cent of their money in gold to hedge against the risk of a US debt crisis that he warns could be just three years away.

Stripe built the world's biggest payments router. Now it wants one for AI
In acquiring OpenRouter, Stripe is looking to do for AI what it has already done for payments. That is to make it easy for businesses to choose between different providers quickly and without any friction. Sean Mullaney, who previously led the buildout of Stripe's local payments tools in Europe, told the Business Post that the company's prior success was due to its ability to strip out complexity for businesses. Having built what he called "one of the world's great routers" for global payments, it's now looking to do something similar in AI.

Ian Guider: If ICG, DCC and PTSB are so cheap, where are the other bidders?
This summer has been the season of the bargain basement sale of Irish companies. The deals of a lifetime for a lucky few who are swooping in to snap up discounted assets. At least that is the view of a number of investors, whose latest concerns are about the proposed €1.2 billion management buyout of Irish Continental Group. Clearly nobody wants to leave money on the table. There is, however, a difference between making an argument about valuations and assuming that a company is automatically worth more simply because somebody believes it to be.

Comment: The €157bn opportunity Ireland's new personal investment account could unlock
At the start of the summer, Irish household savings totalled €175 billion according to the Central Bank. Of this, some €157 billion of household funds were held in low interest overnight deposit accounts with inflation chomping away at their true value. The policy challenge is to help households distinguish between the money they need to keep accessible and the savings that could be put to more productive long-term use. Understanding that distinction depends on trust, guidance and confidence.

Big Tech isn't short of cash for AI... So why is it borrowing so much?
If tech companies are so convinced AI spending will pay off, you'd imagine they'd want to fund it themselves. Instead, as spending surges, it is increasingly being paid for with other people's money. Over the last 18 months, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft and Oracle have all moved from almost fully self-funded capex to raising external capital at scale. Debt now covers close to a third of what Big Tech spends on AI, up from less than a tenth two years ago.

Sunday Independent

Ireland emerging as a hub in building boom for data centres
Demand for AI-related hardware is booming, with Ireland emerging as a significant trading hub.

As the world of work changes, the challenge is not to build more offices, it's about creating better ones
The office is no longer just a place where people work. It's a place for collaboration, social connection and creativity.

University of Limerick's surplus decreases to €10.9m as staff costs rise
The University of Limerick's (UL) surplus decreased to €10.9m last year as rising student fee income was tempered by an almost 10pc hike in staff costs.

Could it be you? The search is on for Ireland's next generation of exporters
For ambitious Irish SMEs keen to develop more revenue streams and strengthen their business, exporting is a must. But knowing how and where to start, which markets to target and what pitfalls to avoid is a common challenge.

Richard Curran: Donald Trump presides over a record $40tn debt – and that makes our finances look stellar
Donald Trump is now presiding over a $40tn debt ticking time bomb.

'A risk to our economic stability' – Businesses plead for public sector 'culture' shift to tackle energy, water and legal costs
Report brands planning system 'slow, fragmented, and unpredictable' while high network tariffs and rising Uisce Éireann prices blamed as main contributor to higher costs.

Irish cyber-security expert says AI is behind surge in online attacks and disinformation campaigns
Given the speed that AI can attack, you need AI to defend you, he warns.

'Writing is on the wall' for vulnerable airlines as fuel costs soar and leases end with no takers in sight
The experimental Boeing 777X uses 20pc less fuel than other Boeings.

'Forgotten, but not gone': Just what is Seán Quinn up to now?
Former mogul is attempting to rewrite his story, one conspiracy theory at a time.

Any other business: Ever wonder how they fake Irish wine? And ever wonder why they bother?
Irish wine is having a moment, with media coverage of the ripening industry featuring in The Observer, the BBC, and The Times of India.

Financial Times

Investors try to catch 'falling knife' with bets on risky funds during chip rout
Investors poured billions of dollars into risky leveraged funds tracking semiconductor companies during July and August, even as those products suffered heavy losses, as they tried to position for a possible rebound in the sector. The biggest leveraged exchange traded fund tracking chip stocks called Direxion Daily Semiconductor Bull 3X Shares attracted almost $7bn of net inflows during July.

Shein seeks $27bn valuation from Hong Kong IPO
The China-founded company plans to raise as much as HK$14bn ($1.8bn) in a September 1 listing. It is selling 280mn shares for between HK$47.60 and HK$49.50, giving it a market capitalisation of HK$202bn to HK$210bn ($26bn to $27bn), according to a listing notice published by Hong Kong's stock exchange on Monday. About 90 per cent of the shares will be available to international investors.

UBS concern over private markets push by manager of $1bn sustainable finance fund
UBS has discussed overhauling the management of a $1bn sustainable finance fund that works with development agencies such as the World Bank amid concerns about UK investment partner Record's push into private markets. The Swiss bank has in recent months held discussions about whether it needs to find an alternative manager for the fund, according to people familiar with the matter, despite obstacles to moving a fund with illiquid investments that could affect development projects in emerging economies.

Qatar cuts state spending at home and abroad as war shrinks economy
Qatar has slashed government department budgets by up to 30 per cent and cut funding for overseas aid by about 85 per cent, underlining the financial impact on one of the world's richest nations of the US-Israel war against Iran. It has been forced to halt its liquefied natural gas production its main source of revenue and export earnings because of war damage inflicted by Iran and the difficulty of shipping gas through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's president calls to end war with US from 'position of strength'
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for Tehran to end the war with the US from a "position of strength", as economic pressure fuels debate within the regime about how much further to pursue the conflict. US President Donald Trump this week said Washington would mount a new campaign of "economic warfare" against Iran in a strategy to force it to cave to his demands and reopen the Strait of Hormuz after weeks of torturous diplomatic efforts.