

Weekend Press Roundup

A summary of the weekend papers

MONDAY, 7th September 2026

This is a Marketing Communication

Saturday 5th September 2026

Irish Independent

EU prepares legal tool to help cities crack down on Airbnb-style short-term rentals

The EU executive is preparing to give cities a new legal tool to crack down on short-term rentals, but only if local administration can prove that holiday lets are worsening housing pressures.

Analysis of Google listings shows AI is making shopping 22pc dearer

AI is supposed to make everything quicker. But might it also be guiding us to pay higher prices online for the exact same goods?

McKillen's Atlas Autoservice adds four more depots to property portfolio

The McKillen family's Atlas Autoservice has completed the acquisition of four depot properties in Bray, Coolock, Dún Laoghaire and Donnybrook as part of a strategy to retake ownership of the sites from which it operates.

Irish Times

DCC wins €6.6bn support from major investor advisory firms

DCC Energy has secured the backing of the world's two most influential investor advisory firms for its planned sale to two US private equity firms in a deal worth up to £5.73 billion (€6.67 billion), in advance of a crucial shareholder vote in less than two weeks. Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) said that the offer from KKR and Energy Capital Partners "provides a reasonable premium and cash certainty" after the stock market failed to give DCC credit for having largely completed a strategic transformation.

Irish fintechs face a tougher funding market as global concerns weigh on investors

Irish and European financial technology companies have found it more difficult to raise money this year as political and economic instability continues to dent investor risk appetites, according to a new KPMG report. The Big Four accounting firm's latest fintech pulse report reveals that Irish companies raised \$158.13 million (€136.32 million) across seven deals in the first six months of the year. That's a more than 9 per cent decline compared to the same period last year.

Trump expected to use Qatar-donated Air Force One for visit to Ireland

US president Donald Trump is planning to use the new Air Force One jet donated to him by Qatar when he travels to Ireland next week. It is set to be the first time he will use the luxury aircraft on an overseas trip since questions were raised about its defence capabilities. Trump is expected to arrive in Ireland next Saturday. He is scheduled to meet President Catherine Connolly and Taoiseach Micheál Martin in separate engagements at the Phoenix Park before travelling to his Doonbeg golf course, where the Irish Open tournament will be taking place.

Sunday 6th September 2026

Sunday Times

Credit union league blew €70k on Sydney trip amid finance row

The Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) sent a large delegation on a costly junket to Australia in July amid an unresolved row over the use of money from its general fund, The Sunday Times has learnt.

Decade of tax-free returns for savers

Irish savers could enjoy a decade of tax-free returns under plans for new retail investment accounts being finalised for the 2027 budget.

Data centre builder's profits keep on rising

Winthrop Technologies, a data centre construction services company, has reported pre-tax profits of €131 million for 2025, up 27 per cent on 2024.

Drive into the markets

Simon Harris's new investment scheme aims to steer households to make better use of their savings, but deep-seated money habits may be hard to break, writes *Jon Ihle*

Eddie Rocket's supplier 'crippled by €1.8m fraud'

Niall Fortune, the founder of Eddie Rocket's, is winding up a company in the fast-food chain group to stave off the potentially "fatal" consequences of an alleged €1.8m fraud.

Drug-trial firm seeks fraud suit dismissal

Lawyers for Icon, a clinical trial company, have called a class action suit brought by shareholders a "hodgepodge of statements" that amounted to a "puzzle pleading".

Rothwell's ICG bid enters unknown waters

On first look, it's hard to credit. The independent board of ICG, the ferry and ports company, says that in 2023 it retained PJT Partners, the investment bank, to seek a buyer for the company. PJT and Basil Geoghegan, its experienced rainmaker, trudged forth, knocking on the door of every likely bidder, be they private equity, trade player or infrastructure fund. A three-year, fruitless odyssey with not a single proposal.

Why the bond market wobble signals a new world order

Already left indebted by the financial crisis, Covid and energy bill support, the UK is vulnerable to inflation and the attractions of data centres to investors

Thrill-seekers need not apply for low-risk bonds

Long-term government debt is proving its worth in volatile markets as a high-yielding alternative to low-interest deposits

No bailout for struggling Jaguar Land Rover, minister insists

The carmaker is expected to confirm details of its redundancy programme, with as many as 4,000 jobs thought to be at risk

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Warning: The value of investments can fall as well as rise and investors may get back less than they invest.

Airlines warn of 'blank cheque' for Heathrow cost overruns
Civil Aviation Authority report finds that the airport has run up extra construction costs of £600 million — and passengers will likely have to pick up the bill

Dutch private equity firm plans to gatecrash £1bn bid for Gamma
New twist in months-long takeover battle for the FTSE 250 company as offer from Waterland is expected to trump Epiris bid agreed last week

M&S cuts prices on organic food in battle with Waitrose
Marks & Spencer is slashing prices on more than 50 organic products, hoping to capture more of the weekly shop

2% inflation goal was invented in New Zealand in 1990. Why keep it?
The American economy has changed dramatically since the target was formally adopted in the US in 2012. It's a goal that may now be obsolete

Business Post

John Mullane: When your biggest investment is also your biggest risk
Holding investments for a long-time is a hallmark of significant returns, but for many investors, significant wealth has been created through substantial exposure to just one successful company. In Ireland, direct share ownership can emerge from employee shares schemes in companies like Apple, Eli Lilly and Alphabet or through long-standing membership of agricultural co-operatives in the case of Kerry Group and Glanbia. For employees of large US multinationals, particularly in the healthcare and technology sectors, concentration risk can be even greater than it first appears. Salary, bonuses, future equity awards and investment holdings may all depend on the same company, creating a level of exposure that familiarity and a sense of ownership can sometimes obscure.

Shorter and safer: Ireland's bond auction strikes a chord
It was a difficult week for governments looking to borrow money. Bond markets endured one of their most volatile weeks in years, with yields rising sharply across several major economies. Japan's 10-year yields hit a 10-year high, while US bond yields rose to a three-year high. That made it a less than ideal time for the government to enter the market. But Ireland had a scheduled bond auction and on Thursday morning the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) went ahead, selling €1.25 billion of Irish bonds. The auction showed that demand for Irish debt remains strong, even amid the wider market turmoil. It also highlighted another trend: investors currently have a particular appetite for shorter-dated bonds.

'Sense of urgency': Cairn and Glenveagh surge sparks Irish homebuilders' IPO scramble
The bumper performances of Ireland's two listed housebuilders has sparked a race among other significant developers to examine public listings, the Business Post understands. Several private housebuilders have started working with brokers to explore IPOs and are considering both the Irish Stock Exchange and London Stock Exchange. Industry sources said they are expected to have valuations between €450 million up to €1.2 billion. The two firms have had a sustained re-rating in the public market with a significant rise in their price to book ratios rising about 1.0x in mid-2023. They had price to book ratios of 1.25x in early 2026 as high as 1.75x today.

Construction can hit 50,000 homes a year – Kingspan Ireland boss
Ireland's construction sector can realistically scale up to build 50,000 homes a year if the state maintains momentum, according to Niall O'Connor, managing director of Kingspan Insulation. "The infrastructure piece appears to be unlocked now, which is really, really positive," he said. "For me, it's about certainty ... not just next year, or two years out, but that five- to ten-year certainty." The government and industry are broadly talking about 40,000 homes a year as an emerging benchmark for new supply, up from around 36,000 recently. Asked whether that ceiling could be pushed higher towards 50,000 units, O'Connor said the target was ambitious but achievable.

Matt Cooper: Ireland's €945bn property boom has created a new problem for the squeezed middle
Friday's ESRI report, which calculated house prices are 17 per cent overvalued, should be placed alongside the Central Bank report on wealth from the previous week. In that Central Bank report we learnt that the collective wealth of individuals in Ireland had reached an estimated €1.4 trillion in the first quarter of 2026 (about double the €719 billion value at the height of the Celtic Tiger in 2007). Property assets accounted for more than two thirds of household wealth, an extraordinarily high proportion.

Retreat from the green agenda and the end of 'woke' US politics... The Irish companies cutting ESG
A Business Post analysis of 22 comparable executive incentive schemes at Irish-listed and major Irish-headquartered companies found that since 2023 six have either reduced or removed entirely the individual, measurable weighted ESG goals. Ryanair, CRH, Smurfit Westrock, Glanbia, Grafton Group and C&C Group have all retreated from the role played by environmental or social targets in determining pay for their top brass.

Looking under the bonnet of Revolut's IPO playbook
Revolut founder Nik Storonsky has ambitions to take the bank public, but not until at least 2028. The firm's priority until then is to maximise growth. Heading towards an IPO, that playbook relies on presenting a fast-growing multi-jurisdictional firm that demonstrates proof of concept across two pillars – a substantial cross-border non-interest revenue business and a scaled deposit book backed by evidence of its ability to penetrate lending markets. Revolut has already developed a significant fee business – proving its prowess in payments, subscriptions, wealth, and foreign exchange. It reported net fee income of £2.7 billion (€3.17 billion) in 2025, up 53 per cent year-on-year. That's a substantial headline figure but it remains relatively light for a bank that had almost 70 million customers at year-end.

Colm Lauder: Cork's office market is tightening
Agent data in recent weeks show that Cork recorded approximately 144,000 sq ft of office take-up during the first half of 2026, across 11 transactions. This was below the unusually strong first half of 2025. The city-centre figures are tighter. At the end of the second quarter, approximately 137,000 sq ft was available in the city centre, equivalent to an availability rate of 4.3 per cent, compared with approximately 13 per cent in suburban locations.

Ian Guider: Simon Harris's savings plan has a €170bn reality problem
According to the Banking & Payments Federation of Ireland, the total addressable market is probably between €20 billion and €30 billion, with about €2 billion-€7 billion being the initial year-one flow of money into these new savings accounts. Even the lower number would be a good outcome.

Revolut clears key hurdle for US bank launch
The neobank with more than 80 million customers globally said on Thursday it has received conditional approval from the US Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) for its US national bank charter.

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September is usually painful for stocks – here's where Bank of America sees value

The bank favours oil and gas, distributors, metals and mining, banks, and insurance, which it sees as a potential buffer against lingering valuation and credit risks.

Donegal Investment Group delays Dublin delisting

Donegal Investment Group has pushed back its timeline for leaving the Irish stock exchange, confirming it now intends to remain listed until the end of the year, or February 5 "at the latest". The Irish produce and investment firm had previously announced in March that it would delist from Euronext Dublin by the end of August, with plans to return about €15 million to shareholders in June.

Sunday Independent

Richard Curran: Who are the big swingers taking financial hits – or benefits – from Trump's war on Iran?

Ryanair's Michael O'Leary is down \$300m since February

'Everyone accepts it's a problem': Simon Harris's failure to scrap 'deemed disposal' tax risks our credibility as funds hub, says insider

Under the rule, investors in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) pay a 38pc exit tax every eight years on gains on the investment, even if the gains have not been realised

Aer Lingus set to offer cabin crew five weeks' pay per year of service in redundancy deal

Aer Lingus is planning to cut 500 jobs

Engineers warn Housing Minister they are 'deeply troubled' by state agency demands

Professionals have been forced to engage in 'legal fictions', say consultants

Threat to pull advertising at Newstalk was posted on X account of AIG employee in antisemitism row

John Gillick denies he was behind offensive comments

Magniers' five-star Cashel Palace Hotel lodges plans for valet-parking facility amid expansion

Valet parking operation will try to avoid peak traffic periods

'It's a long game, and there won't be any knee-jerk reactions' – not even to Newstalkification, more podcasts and the Sunday Miscellany trumpets

Patricia Monahan, RTE's head of audio, defends targeting young listeners in schedule shake-up

From bankruptcies to stock market listing: REIT led by former jockey defies odds with €135m Euronext flotation

Carparks, swanky offices and social housing – Khalil de Burca's Real Estate Investment Trust GDL has amassed a huge swathe of property

Your money questions: Should I max out my pension contributions, or should I get into investing?

As a general rule of thumb, you should capitalise on an employer's pension offering

'Topping up is the new trading up' – Why releasing equity in your home for a revamp is 2026's flash car

Instead of buying the latest Lambo or purchasing a snazzier house, the housing crisis means a redo is a more sensible option – but there are pros and cons

Financial Times

Far-right AfD surges to victory in German state election

Alternative for Germany has surged to first place in regional elections in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, marking a breakthrough for the far-right party and a big setback for the country's established political parties. The AfD won almost 44 per cent of the vote amid record turnout in the former Communist state of 2.1mn inhabitants, according to preliminary results released by state authorities early on Monday. The far-right party had secured 20.8 per cent in regional elections in 2021. "We have made history," said Ulrich Siegmund, AfD's candidate for state premier.

Big US university endowments outperform S&P 500 index

A number of big US university endowments are on track to match or outpace the broad stock market, as large weightings in tech groups such as SpaceX and OpenAI help them snap several years of underperformance. A handful of endowments are expected to "significantly outperform" the S&P 500 index, which jumped more than 20 per cent in the 12 months to June 30, according to Cambridge Associates, which tracks performance in the sector.

US strikes three Iranian oil tankers in response to attacks on warships

The US military said it struck three Iranian crude oil tankers after Iran launched missiles against two US Navy warships, as the battle for control of the Strait of Hormuz between Washington and Tehran continued to escalate. US Central Command, which oversees American military operations in the Middle East, said on Saturday that a US aircraft carrier and a guided-missile destroyer had "evaded" an attack by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and that no US troops were harmed.

Anthropic close to awarding Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs top roles in \$2tn IPO

Anthropic is close to awarding Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs the most coveted roles in its blockbuster Wall Street debut, as the AI behemoth prepares to unveil its initial public offering paperwork as soon as next week. Morgan Stanley was in pole position to secure the prized "lead left" role, according to four people familiar with the matter. Goldman is expected to act as the IPO's stabilisation agent, a lucrative appointment overseeing the crucial first sessions of trading when Anthropic lists.

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