

Weekend Press Roundup

A summary of the weekend papers



Saturday 19th September 2026

Irish Independent

Euronext urges Simon Harris to scrap 1pc stamp duty on shares in bid to stem loss of Irish listings

No other country in Europe has lost as many of its big, listed companies as Ireland, the chief executive of the stock exchange operator Euronext has said.

Irish are among fastest in eurozone to switch from cash to digital payments

Irish people are reducing their use of cash at a faster pace than most euro-area counterparts, reflecting the country's relatively young population which is moving quickly to digital payments.

Microsoft exec called AI the 'largest theft of labour' in history, court records show

A Microsoft executive called the training of artificial intelligence models the "largest theft of labour in human history," according to a legal brief filed by the New York Times and unsealed Thursday. In another instance, according to the brief, that same executive called it "an astonishing theft of unprecedented proportions."

Irish Times

Corporate landlord credits profit surge to housing shortage

One of Ireland's largest corporate landlords with 3,500 rental properties on its books has partly credited housing shortages for a surge in profits last year. The institutional landlord, backed by international investors, flipped a €20 million loss to a €24 million gain last year attributing the one-year profit boom in part to the "significant undersupply of housing".

Ireland's corporate tax cake gets bigger

Department of Finance signals corporate tax receipts will exceed its current €35.3 billion projection by 'a wide margin'.

US and Denmark have reached a deal in dispute over Greenland, Trump claims

The United States, Denmark and Greenland have entered into an agreement that will see the US develop a significant military presence on the island, while prohibiting US adversaries from building their own bases there, Donald Trump said on Friday. In a Truth Social post, the US president wrote that no US enemies would be able to make sensitive investments on the island without the approval of the United States and that the agreement had no expiry date.

Sunday 20th September 2026

Sunday Times

Pension buyout deal to 'unlock floodgates'

Life insurance companies are sizing up opportunities in the €1 billion-plus pension buyout market after Irish Life completed Ireland's first bulk annuity deal last week, buying out a 1,000-member scheme from Greencore.

BlackBee investors given hope of state compensation

Up to 261 people who invested in a property bond marketed by BlackBee, a troubled Cork firm that collapsed in 2023, are to be compensated through the Investor Compensation Scheme.

Property tax holdouts may face huge charges

About 10,000 taxpayers are to be hit with a local property tax (LPT) surcharge and potential penalties totalling thousands of euros after failing to file returns and pay the tax in the last year.

Is care safe in private hands?

As HSE payments to commercial providers hit €526m, concerns have been raised over whether companies are profiteering from a failing public service.

Energy chief cashes out

Company founder Jim Flavin raged against the dying of the light, yet last Friday shareholders backed KKR and Energy Capital's £5.6bn takeover of DCC Energy.

MMA Inc hires company to look into trading patterns

Conor McGregor's mixed-martial arts (MMA) company has hired a company to investigate trading in its shares amid unusual patterns, it said in a stock market announcement.

Gore Street survives bid to wind up fund

Saba Capital, a New York-based activist investment firm, has failed in its bid to wind down Gore Street Energy Storage, an Irish-led battery storage fund.

Whiskey makers still totting up the costs despite Trump reprieve

A glut of cheap bourbon and turmoil in the US distribution network mean the market is tough even without tariffs.

Can we really just bury our pollution?

Sir Jim Ratcliffe is betting €27m on a plan to extract carbon dioxide from farms and putting it under the sea.

Meet the man who checked Burberrry's fashion free fall

Josfua Schulman, who took over the ailing British brand two years ago, is going back to basics and cutting prices.

Mortgage top-up can help you beat ballooning revamp bills

Releasing cash from your property can be a great way to fund home improvements but standard personal loans may prove cheaper over time.

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Sunday Times (continued)

Britain's top taxpayer cuts sports funding in gambling tax row

Betfred tycoon Fred Done says he will no longer financially support rugby league and threatens to pull horseracing sponsorship if Labour hikes levies.

Dirty secret of green fuel shortages to push up cost of flights

Airlines want a rethink of the sustainable aviation fuel mandate before new restrictions — which bosses say will lead to huge penalties — come in next year.

City on alert as activists target Rightmove and Informa

Stake building by activist investors Sachem Head and Parvus raises questions over futures of property portal and events giant on London Stock Exchange.

AI start-up Nscale seeks New York listing

The British data centre developer has filed for an IPO just two years after it was founded and six months after being valued at \$14.6 billion.

Volkswagen cuts profit forecast after €10bn hit

The German carmaker expects a profit margin of no more than 1 per cent in 2026 amid a Porsche writedown and deteriorating demand in China.

On poaches Kylian Mbappé from Nike in push into football

The departure of the French footballer is another blow for Nike, with shares in the American company down 50 per cent over the past year.

Business Post

Tax rate revealed for new savings and investing accounts

Ireland's new Savings and Investment Accounts are expected to have a 1% tax rate on investment funds above a yet-to-be-confirmed tax-free threshold. The accounts will be officially unveiled by Simon Harris in the October 6 Budget.

Harris issues stark warning on corporate tax receipts

Corporation tax receipts are currently very strong, rising 8.3% to €17.8bn so far this year, with the full-year total potentially exceeding €36bn. However, Harris warned that Ireland faces slower growth, higher costs and an ageing population over the coming decades, making it important to maintain competitiveness, invest in infrastructure and continue building financial reserves.

Bottles over bots: Is wine a good hedge against the AI bubble?

Michael Burry is buying fine wine as a defensive investment, arguing that prices are down 25–30% from their 2022 peak and that its limited supply makes it attractive amid concerns over inflation, US debt and the dollar. Jamie Dimon also warned that inflation may not be fully under control, while Bank of America expects investment banking fees to fall, suggesting some cooling in markets.

Now the deal is done, DCC will go from target to acquirer

The DCC Energy takeover was approved, but only narrowly. 78% of shares voted in favour, above the required 75% threshold, although 33% of shares did not vote. The deal still needs High Court approval, and it remained controversial right up to the vote.

Novo buys Danish biotech company's pill concept for billions

Novo Nordisk has signed a deal worth up to \$1.4bn with Danish biotech Orbis Medicines to access technology that could allow large-molecule drugs to be taken as pills. The technology could make medicines more convenient for patients and cheaper for Novo to produce, potentially improving how future treatments are delivered.

MetroLink could benefit from soft UK construction market - audit expert

Ireland could use the slowdown in the UK construction sector to attract major British contractors to work on the €17.5bn MetroLink project. Baker Tilly's Aidan Scollard said more UK firms are now bidding for Irish projects because construction activity and major projects in Britain have weakened.

'Winter is coming': How Irish firms must face new reality of soaring energy prices and inflation

Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary says the current energy shock is one of the biggest challenges for aviation since Covid, with oil prices up around 70% this year to \$102 a barrel. While Ryanair has survived previous oil spikes, prolonged high energy costs are now putting pressure on airlines and businesses across Ireland, with higher freight, logistics, insurance and inflation costs.

Sunday Independent

Irish agri-inventors take centre stage at Innovation Arena at the Ploughing Championships

From the milking parlour and the paddock to the wider supply chain, the cutting-edge technologies and sustainable solutions on show in Enterprise Ireland's Innovation Arena at the 2026 National Ploughing Championship are focused on delivering solutions for animal health, agri-engineering, food production, sustainability, compliance matters and farm safety.

Documents on recovered USB drive spark High Court clash over failed Dolphin Trust property scheme

Liquidator drags lawyers over the coals in case regarding alleged Ponzi scheme.

Maynooth-based car-charging firm EZO eyes potential IPO in 2028 after landmark funding deal

Company expanded into UK and won local authority-backed #contracts worth over €1bn.

Any Other Business: Two pints of Cristal and a packet of crisps – a match made in heaven

Last month Tayto released limited-edition packets of crisps featuring 12 popular Irish surnames.

'These firms are crying out for money' – Warning Harris state savings scheme could starve excluded Irish startups of funds

Personal Investment Account encourages savers to switch from low-interest deposits to higher-return investments, excluding unlisted small firms.

'Netflix-type subscription model is the future' – Only a third see car ownership as good value as repair bills bite

'Elsewhere in Europe it's quite common for people to lease and not to buy vehicles anymore,' says MD of leasing company Drivalia, Olivier Mantoulan.

Richard Curran: Government can't get off the runaway horse of high spending as budget looms large

Housing Minister James Browne wants €20k of tax refunds to be added to the existing €30k available to first-time buyers in the Help-to-Buy scheme.

Mystery of 'disappearance' of weight-loss drugs exports to US leaves statisticians baffled

Volumes of pharma being shipped remain the same – but value has dropped.

Sunday Independent (continued)

Sarah Collins: Is the EU back in fashion thanks to Mark Carney and Canada?

Switzerland has gained access to research and study abroad exchanges and even the UK is pushing for a 'reset' of relations.

Financial Times

Big Tech uses guarantees to keep \$300bn of AI exposure off balance sheets

Big Tech companies are rapidly expanding their use of guarantees to back debt for AI data centres and chips, issuing up to \$300bn in commitments in less than a year while recording little of that exposure on their balance sheets. First used by Meta on a huge data centre project last autumn, so-called residual value guarantees have been taken up by Broadcom as part of its chip financing deal for Anthropic and by Nvidia to offer support to OpenAI and other customers buying its chips. These arrangements, under which tech companies guarantee a minimum future value for chips or data centres, join a growing set of creative financing structures embraced by Big Tech to accelerate the AI infrastructure boom. According to an FT analysis, tech giants have offered up to \$300bn in these guarantees in the past 12 months alone.

German chancellor Merz vows to stay on despite 'disaster' in regional election

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Sunday vowed to stay in office to press ahead with reforms despite heavy losses for his Christian Democratic Union party and a surge in support for the far right and far left in regional elections. Merz's conservatives won just 4.9 per cent of the vote in the north-eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the party's worst result in any state election in Germany's postwar history. The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) doubled its share of the vote and became the largest party in the former East German state. The outcome means the CDU will fail to gain any seats in the regional parliament, according to preliminary results from state election authorities.

Fuel subsidies weigh on public finances as energy crisis deepens

Governments' finances are set to come under further strain from mounting fuel subsidy costs, as they attempt to shield households and businesses from the worsening energy crisis. Countries around the world face calls to introduce or extend support to consumers after Brent crude soared to nearly \$110 a barrel last week as the spreading Middle East conflict destabilises energy markets, while the price of fuels at the pump jumped to fresh records, including in the US and Germany. The number of countries introducing fuel subsidies to protect consumers from surging prices has more than doubled over the past four months, rising from 16 to 38 at the start of September, according to FT analysis of figures from the International Energy Agency.

Volkswagen ejected from European blue-chip index in blow to crisis-hit carmaker

Volkswagen has dropped out of the Eurozone's most important blue-chip stock index for the first time in 15 years, in a move that traders say is likely to add further downward pressure to the German carmaker's battered share price. The Wolfsburg-based company, whose shares have fallen more than three-quarters from the levels they reached during the 2021 stock market rally to about a 16-year low, has left the bloc-wide Euro Stoxx 50 as part of a review by index provider Stoxx. The index advertises itself as tracking the bloc's "supersector leaders".

Scott Bessent hails US-China AI dialogue ahead of Trump-Xi

meeting

The US and China have agreed to set up an AI dialogue ahead of a high-stakes summit on Thursday in Washington between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. US Treasury secretary Scott Bessent said the two sides had negotiated the creation of an AI dialogue mechanism, which was floated when Trump met Xi in Beijing in May, in talks with Chinese vice-premier He Lifeng in New York on Sunday. The agreement comes as AI industry leaders in America have warned that humans could lose control of the technology without a slowdown in research. It also comes as China increasingly catches up with the US, sparking calls for the two countries to step up engagement about safety around the technology.