

Weekend Press Roundup

A summary of the weekend papers



Saturday 26th September 2026

Irish Independent

Government has 'tougher choices than anticipated' in Budget 2027, economist says

"Budget 2027 was initially expected to be a relatively uneventful fiscal event compared with recent years. However, rising inflation and higher borrowing costs are likely to leave the Government with tougher choices than anticipated," he said.

Irish workers hit top tax rate far earlier than European peers

Irish workers are hit with the top rate of income tax sooner than almost everywhere else in Europe. In much of the EU only workers with six-figure incomes pay the top tax rate.

Ireland's biggest solar park likely to fetch more than €250m as 'Project Halo' sale process launched

Owners UK-based Octopus say Ballymacarney, Co Meath, complex will meet around 2.5pc of the Irish national solar target of 8GW by 2030.

Irish Times

Trump 'rejects' Iran proposal to reopen Strait of Hormuz within seven days

Iran on Saturday awaited an official US response to its proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and end fighting after the Wall Street Journal reported Donald Trump had rejected the deal.

Iran raised the diplomatic initiative at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, saying it had been transmitted to the Americans via Qatari mediators and could reopen the strategic waterway and put an end to hostilities in the region within seven days.

Aer Lingus to offer up to €180,000 redundancy to office staff

Aer Lingus will offer up to €180,000 to office workers to leave the airline as it bids to trim costs and boost margins, it has emerged. The Irish airline could cut up to 500 jobs across pilots, cabin crews and head-office staff in a recently announced plan to bring margins in line with targets set by parent International Airlines' Group (AIG).

McDonald's menu of chicken and AI fails to excite investors as US diners tighten belts

Having already seen its shares plunge by 27 per cent from an all-time high in late February, the world's biggest fast-food group put chicken at the heart of a new strategy unveiled on Wednesday. McDonald's is looking to capture more of the fastest-growing segment of the quick-service restaurants market at a time when consumers are watching their spending and GLP-1 drugs are reshaping eating habits. Investors, however, aren't nibbling, with McDonald's shares extending their losses in recent days. It brings the decline over the past seven months to 34 per cent.

Sunday 27th September 2026

Sunday Times

20 top earners join Revenue's tax preview pilot

More than 20 millionaires are set to join a Revenue tax preview scheme for high net worth taxpayers that promises to cut down on risk reviews and audits after they file returns.

Rathwood director involved in new firm

Thomas Keogh, formerly a director of bust furniture company Rathwood Home and Garden, is involved with a new business called Mimo Furniture, which is gearing up for Halloween sales.

Powerscourt eyes up rezoned land for new homes

The Slazenger family behind the Powerscourt estate in Co Wicklow are preparing to build up to 100 homes if the county council goes ahead with a proposal to rezone nearly 16 acres of the demesne for new residential development. The land, which lies beside Enniskerry, is currently unzoned.

Kestrel swoops on Dublin rival Kinsale

Kestrel Capital, a wealth manager, is poised to buy Kinsale Capital Management, a boutique advisory firm and hedge manager, for more than €10m.

French buyer eyeing up Frascati complex

A French property fund is the frontrunner to buy Frascati shopping centre and its adjoining apartments in Blackrock in south Dublin. Arkéa REIM, the real estate management arm of Crédit Mutuel Arkéa, is working with Atlanta IM, a French investment manager, to buy the mixed-use scheme.

McGowan's Phoenix Labs acquires drug distributor

Phoenix Labs, the owner of well-known over-the-counter medicines and supplements such as Uniflu and Rubex, has moved to buy Kent Pharma, a UK drug distributor.

San Leon Energy fights 'vexatious' winding-up move

Brightwaters Energy, a Nigerian oil company, has filed another petition seeking to have Oisín Fanning's San Leon Energy wound up - a move Fanning described as "vexatious".

Stripe brothers have their say

Stripe, the Irish-born but San Francisco-raised payments company, is another business leaning into AI these days. This month the fintech announced a new partnership with Bank of Ireland to integrate its AI functionality into the bank's core operating processes.

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Sunday Times (continued)

France should stop trying to eat Ireland's cake and bake its own

There is an old saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed. When France's finance minister suggests Ireland should share its corporation tax revenues with European neighbours, however, one is entitled to wonder whether this is friendship - or simply an attempt to solve France's financial problems with Irish money.

African billionaires turn to London in boost for City listings In years gone by, the exchange would expect dozens of floats in the autumn. But for now, the LSE will bank the good news from Dangote Cement and Airtel Money.

Nscale: what you need to know about the \$35bn IPO hopeful

As the data centre start-up joins the UK tech flight to the US its investors are in line for big paydays. Who are they? And who are the company's customers?

Michael O'Leary: Ground planes to fix air traffic control

The Ryanair chief says air traffic operator Nats needs to replace air traffic management software that dates back to the 1970s;

Blow to City as Monzo could fall to Brazilian bank in £10bn takeover

The challenger bank is in talks over deal with Nubank in move that would dash hopes of it boosting London stock market with a listing;

What the humbling of Volkswagen means for Germany

The carmaker once symbolised an economic miracle. Now it symbolises a decline that could shatter the political order .

Business Post

Revealed: Harris pushes 'workers' budget' as corporate tax surges to €37bn

Simon Harris will make the first move in a multi-year effort to raise the entry point for the higher rate of income tax to over €50,000, as the coalition prepares to announce a "workers' budget". It comes as budget documents will reveal corporate tax is set to smash official projections for 2026, coming in at over €37 billion.

'Across the board' inheritance tax changes in budget

The government is set to cut all categories of inheritance tax in the upcoming budget, according to reports. Simon Harris, the finance minister, has indicated his intention to cut all inheritance tax groups including for children, close relatives and wider relationships. "There's obviously three thresholds when it comes to inheritance tax; A [children], B [grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews] and C [anyone else]. Generally, as a government, when we've moved on one, we've moved on all three. I think that's a good template to follow."

Income tax bands and credits to be adjusted in Budget 2027

The government will adjust both income tax bands and income tax credits in the upcoming budget, finance minister Simon Harris has said. A €100 uplift on income tax credits has been modelled by the Tax Strategy Group (TSG) to cost €465 million in a full year. This combined with a €2,000 tax bands increase would bring the total cost of income tax measures to €1.1 billion in a full year.

Euronext couldn't fix the Irish Stock Exchange, so who can?

Euronext's chief executive, Stéphane Boujnah, is on his final few months leading Europe's listing venue and so his mind is on the legacy he will leave behind. Boujnah will step down in May next year having joined the firm in November 2015, not long after the company's initial public offering in 2014. While the exchange has proved its success at integrating new markets into a pan-European provider one has notably failed from an equity perspective – the Irish Stock Exchange.

Finance firm decides not to move forward with funding for GDL Management

Maslow Capital Ireland Limited was listed as being a potential lender to two projects which make up more than 46 per cent of the market value of the newly listed Reit's portfolio, and a property in Limerick. Maslow has now said that it will not "move forward" with the funding. "While Maslow Capital was mentioned in the August listing documents, we do not have an active lending relationship or funding commitment with GDL," it said in a statement to the Business Post.

Exclusive: BNY hiring for hundreds of new roles in Dublin

BNY, one of the world's largest financial services firms, is hiring for hundreds of new roles in Dublin as it seeks to grow its footprint in Ireland by 30 per cent, the Business Post understands. The group, which is led in Ireland by Paul Kilcullen, currently employs more than 1,000 people here. In a statement, Kilcullen said: "BNY continues to invest and hire in Dublin. In the last 12 months we have created hundreds of new roles here." Over the summer the group agreed a deal to buy the Shipping Office development on Sir John Rogerson's Quay, which comprises 177,000 square feet and is the group's Irish headquarters. It is understood the deal was completed at a value of between €140 million and €165 million.

Here's what to expect from UK's 'difficult' upcoming budget

In a sign of how tricky the situation is, UK government borrowing was £18.3 billion in August, more than £3.5 billion higher than expected and nearly a fifth higher than in 2025. Inflation is only expected to get worse and is likely to go over 4 per cent early next year.

Colm McCarthy: There's a gaping hole in the case for the €16bn MetroLink

The proposed line is roughly parallel to the Dublin Port Tunnel, built and paid for, host to frequent bus services to both Dublin Airport and Swords. Critics of MetroLink fear that airport traffic will be pointlessly diverted to a rail line costing €16 billion which offers no improvement on current 25 minute bus journey times, direct to the terminals. Where precisely are the benefits?

'We need to up our game': Senior pharma executive sounds alarm on mega pharma investments

Ireland is at risk of losing out on billions of euro of pharmaceutical investment over the coming years, a leading industry player has warned. Brendan McGrath, who led the Irish arm of Chinese pharma giant WuXi Biologics until recent weeks, said the major players in what is one of the country's most critical industries could look elsewhere if Ireland doesn't step up. WuXi turned a greenfield site in Dundalk into a working factory that generated €200 million in 2025 and employed nearly 800 people.

Monzo in talks with Nubank over sale at £10bn valuation

Monzo is in talks with Brazilian digital finance giant Nubank regarding a sale that could value the fintech at £10 billion (€11.6 billion), according to reports. According to reports, Monzo has apparently been in discussions with private equity firms about selling a significant stake of up to 15 per cent in the business.

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Sunday Independent

Irish electricity prices could soar by a third this winter, energy expert warns

Budget supports should be targeted at 'ordinary people with ordinary jobs'.

RTÉ subsidiary nets €3.7m from sale of stake in Dublin tech company to US multinational

Vizor Technology helps monitor electrical distribution networks.

Minister keeps his asks modest – as he rules out major tax cuts for business with focus instead shifting to 'non-cost' items

Peter Burke hopes for €100m pot for his department but is focused on cutting 'draconian' red tape.

Data errors which slashed Siptu staff pension service pot by five years could be widespread across organisation, workers fear

Now they are demanding a forensic investigation into fund which could now be substantially less than they thought it was, and could cost union millions.

Richard Curran: Playing hardball with Israel hasn't resulted in Ireland scoring any economic own goals

Tonight's Republic of Ireland soccer clash with Israel has a lot more noise around it than is usual for a football international.

South African drivers recruited by Dublin Bus are sweeping yards and emptying bins amid licence hold-ups

NBRU warns bus company that it will take 'appropriate action'.

Government has 'tougher choices than anticipated' in Budget 2027, economist says

The Government faces "tougher choices than anticipated" in Budget 2027 as inflation is expected to approach 4pc over the winter, a top economist has said.

Ireland's biggest solar park likely to fetch more than €250m as 'Project Halo' sale process launched

Owners UK-based Octopus say Ballymacarney, Co Meath, complex will meet around 2.5pc of the Irish national solar target of 8GW by 2030.

Pensioner who took on Booking.com and won is still waiting for court-awarded money

London hotel cancelled paid-in-advance reservation, but customer said he was not told before he left his home in Ireland.

Europe braces for LNG tug of war with Asia

A global tug of war for liquefied natural gas cargoes threatens to catapult prices even higher as Europe needs to secure more supplies than usual for the winter and buyers in Asia are willing to pay far more than in the past. The price of LNG has already reached multiyear highs, having more than doubled since the outbreak of the US-Iran war. Platts JKM, the Asian benchmark, reached almost \$30 per million British thermal units in mid-September, and traded at \$25.29 on Friday. Deliveries of the fuel to Europe were at \$24.62 per MMBtu, according to Spark Commodities.

US housing crunch puts private equity in midterm campaign crosshairs

Private equity has become an important target on the campaign trail for the US midterms as candidates blame large investors for soaring housing costs. An FT analysis of campaign language in competitive congressional races over the past decade found that negative comments about private equity and corporate landlords have risen sharply in 2026, with their investments frequently being linked to rising prices. In previous election cycles, Wall Street and the banking sector were singled out for driving up the cost of living.

Will US jobs data add to pressure on Fed policymakers?

Next week will be capped off by a flurry of US labour market data set to land just as simmering inflation and signs of economic overheating are combining to push Treasury yields to multi-decade highs. Thirty-year US Treasury yields, which are driven by rising inflation expectations, surged this week to their highest level since June 2004 after a report published on Wednesday showed business activity accelerated in September at the fastest pace in five years. The 10-year Treasury yield, which sets borrowing costs across the globe, rose to its highest since 2007 as remarks by Federal Reserve policymakers added to concerns that higher interest rates will be required to cool the US economy. The Fed last month raised rates for the first time since 2023 by a quarter point to a range of 3.75 per cent to 4 per cent with new chair Kevin Warsh using his press conference to flag the strength of the economy and the labour market.

Financial Times

Foreign capital flows into US stocks hit record as appetite for debt fades

Foreign investors made a record \$942bn in net purchases of US equities and investment fund shares in the 12 months to July, accelerating a shift in overseas investment towards American stocks and away from debt. The flows represented the highest rolling 12-month total in Treasury data going back to 1985.

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