

Weekend Press Roundup

A summary of the weekend papers



Saturday 17th October 2026

Irish Independent

Irish private healthcare provider Centric Health to be sold to US group

Centric Health, a private healthcare provider, has agreed to be sold to a company linked to US healthcare group Bon Secours Mercy Health.

AIB cuts four-year fixed mortgage rate by up to 0.35pc

AIB has cut its four-year fixed rate by up to 0.35pc for customers with mortgages over €250,000.

More than half of €13.6bn EU fund to boost small firms went to 'non-profits', audit shows

A new auditors' report on how EU innovation grants are spent shows money from the EU's Horizon

Irish Times

Retailers on Dublin's O'Connell Street hit with legal notices under revamp plan

More than a dozen retailers and restaurants on Dublin's O'Connell Street are facing legal action over unauthorised signs and shop fronts as part of a drive to revitalise the capital's main thoroughfare. The businesses facing enforcement cases include Circle K, Peter Mark and Allcare Pharmacy, Ned Kelly's Casino and several Asian diners.

Recent mergers may face investigation by regulators following Irish Government error

Businesses that agreed mergers or takeovers in recent weeks may face investigation by competition regulators as a result of a Government mistake, it has emerged.

Trump puts new Russia sanctions passed by Congress on hold amid deepening row with Ukraine

Donald Trump has put on hold a sweeping new sanctions package targeting the Russian economy, telling Congress the pause on the legislation passed by both chambers was in the national interest. In an executive order on Friday, the US president said he was waiving many sanctions, restrictions and duties on Russia, in a move that comes as he has been publicly criticising Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, including suggesting that Ukraine needs a new leader.

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Business Post

Government's four-year plan to borrow €35bn for investments and savings

The NTMA is planning to issue debt of more than €35 billion between 2027 and 2030 to finance deficits, growing the state's gross debt pile from €208 billion this year to a record €243.2 billion in 2030. New data published as part of Budget 2027 showed despite surging tax receipts, the state will run a growing exchequer deficit from next year, which will require the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) to plug the gap.

Ryanair boss O'Leary tells Taoiseach: 'You'll buckle and roll over to the unions'

Speaking exclusively to the Business Post, O'Leary said the ongoing public sector pay unrest was "an inevitable consequence" of the government's "mismanagement" of the fuel protests. "The public sector unions have seen that if you create enough trouble, this government rolls over," O'Leary told the Business Post.

Fate of CoreWeave underlines ongoing fears around AI costs

CoreWeave has become caught in a tug of war between investors who see rising bond yields as a potential rally killer for the AI trade, and those who think demand for computing power will make those concerns seem outdated before long. The cloud computing services provider's shares plunged by 20 per cent in the first three sessions of last week, including more than 15 per cent on Wednesday, as its debt tumbled to levels that typically indicate distress. On Thursday morning, the cost of protecting CoreWeave bonds against default rose to the highest intra-day level on record, while swaps priced in a more than 60 per cent chance of a default within the next five years. As a so-called neocloud provider, CoreWeave is at the heart of the infrastructure buildout needed to develop AI technology. The safety of its debt is a key issue for investors because its spending on building data centres is being funded by issuing bonds.

Air fares are about to soar and DAA 'works better without a CEO' – Michael O'Leary holds court

Ryanair may have fared better than most peers in the fallout from the war in Iran – but that's not to say that it's fully protected from the damaging effects of Donald Trump's attack in the Middle East. As airlines face a winter of discontent with rising oil prices and soaring airfares, its chief, Michael O'Leary, warned the low-cost carrier was facing a "doubling" of its fuel bill next year. To reduce its exposure to unhedged fuel the airline has cut its 2027 capacity from 216 million passengers to 214 million.

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Nvidia boss Jensen Huang addresses CoreWeave stock plunge

Jensen Huang, chief executive of Nvidia, pushed back on financial concerns about troubled CoreWeave, one of his key customers, and said he doesn't think the AI data centre operator will need a bailout from his company. "CoreWeave's strength is improving every day," Huang told Bloomberg at an event in Stockholm. "I'm optimistic. Their cost of capital is actually decreasing." Huang weighed in with reassurances as credit investors grow concerned about CoreWeave's risk of failure.

Starwood earmarking capital for Ireland from new funds

Starwood Capital, the US investment firm, has earmarked capital for Irish investment from its latest equity fund and an upcoming debt fund. The Business Post understands the firm, led by Barry Sternlicht, is planning to deploy money into Echelon, the data centre provider, from the \$10.2 billion (€9.1 billion) real estate fund. In February 2024, Starwood pledged \$850 million in Echelon to become a 50 per cent shareholder.

Kerry Group's North American pipeline doubles in two years

Kerry Group's North American business is gaining commercial momentum, with its pipeline of projects to reformulate food and drink products doubling over the past two years as the ingredients group expands its focus on biotechnology. Renovation involves reformulation of a product's ingredients, such as the removal of salt or sugar. At the event Kerry boss Edmond Scanlon said he expects the market for value-add speciality ingredients to grow to over €100 billion within the next 10 years.

NTMA sells €1.25 billion in oversubscribed bond auction

The National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) completed a bond auction on Thursday raising €1.25 billion in an oversubscribed auction. The bonds were 10-year Irish government securities, auctioned at 3.1 per cent, due to mature on June 18, 2036. The auction was oversubscribed, as it received bids of more than €2 billion.

Ian Guider: The public sector pay time bomb ticking beneath Ireland's booming economy

In his budget speech, Jack Chambers announced the creation of a new body to scrutinise overall expenditure and identify ways of delivering better value for money. It is an exercise that inevitably recalls An Bord Snip, the name given to a similar group in the 1980s and resurrected during the financial crisis to slash spending. The unions argue that their members are suffering from the cost-of-living crisis and want an increase to reflect that. The total cost of running the country has exploded in just a few years, rising from €66 billion in 2019 to €117 billion this year and is estimated to reach close to €126 billion in 2027.

Colm Lauder: Europe's largest property trade fair provides clues about where capital is moving.

After three days in Munich, the clearest conclusion from this year's Expo Real event was that European real estate investors have largely stopped waiting for the old market to return. Investors want to see cash yield, rental growth, and credible income protection. Buying well remains important, but there is far less appetite to rely upon market-wide capital appreciation to deliver the return. The ability to lease space, manage operating costs, improve energy performance, negotiate planning and regulatory systems, reposition buildings, and grow income has become much more valuable. German institutions remain particularly important to Ireland. Quantum Immobilien's recent €180 million purchase of Quayside Quarter from Greystar was its first Irish acquisition, following substantial recent activity from MEAG and the longer-established presence of DWS, Patrizia, Union Investment, Commerz Real, and others.

US dollar falls as Warsh boosts expectations of Fed rate hold

Kevin Warsh has signalled that hotter-than-anticipated inflation has not swayed his views on the US economy, sending the dollar lower and US stock futures up. "We made very clear that we would deliver price stability, and we removed a dose of accommodation about a month ago," Warsh said. "I don't prejudge meetings. I don't believe in saying now what I might do at the meetings that we have in the balance of this year."

Sunday Independent

Revenue collects more than €1bn in interest from taxpayers for late payments.

Average of €185m a year in interest collected between 2021 and 2025.

Ireland-based aviation firms owed \$18m by bankrupt AirBaltic.

Ireland-based aviation firms that are unsecured creditors of bankrupt Latvian carrier AirBaltic are owed more than \$18m (€16m) by the airline as it fights for survival.

Belated move to assess impact of new investment-account plan dubbed 'reckless'.

While Finance Minister Simon Harris announced the details of a new personal investment account in Budget 2027 earlier this month, the Department of Finance is only now doing an economic impact assessment of the scheme.

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Sunday Independent (Continued)

Echelon CSO details jobs, power and community plans for €4.2bn Wicklow projects.

Nine years and €112m into its two Arklow data centre projects, Echelon says the local pay-off is beginning to take shape, with 10 apprenticeships announced, more than 20 businesses registering an interest in working on the developments, and a commitment to continued long-term support for the community.

Has Ireland's risk aversion become a barrier to vital infrastructure delivery?

Ireland is entering what should be a transformational decade for infrastructure. With €275bn of public capital investment planned up to 2035, the opportunity is enormous. The challenge is whether the State can deliver projects that people can use at a cost the public can trust.

Irish exporters challenged to rethink the 'risks and opportunities' of Sub-Saharan Africa at Croker business summit.

Showcasing the breadth of business opportunities across Sub-Saharan Africa was the focus of a market discovery event held in Croke Park earlier this month.

EU takes tougher line on China that could impact Irish firms.

The EU is weighing curbs on Chinese imports that could impact supplies to Irish-based pharmaceutical firms.

Núa Money set to raise €800m for mortgage funding.

Non-bank lender Núa Money is on course to hike its lending capacity from a combination of around €800m of new funding, the Irish Independent has learned. That includes a €420m securitisation transaction expected to price next week.

Financial Times

US stocks set for rebound after AI sell-off:

US stocks were set to open higher on Monday after suffering their biggest weekly drop since President Donald Trump's "liberation day" tariff announcement in April last year. Futures for the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 index were up 1.3 per cent, while those for the broad-based S&P 500 rose 0.8 per cent during Asian trading. Analysts said investors were taking stock following an AI sell-off on Friday that took the Nasdaq 100 down 5.5 per cent for the week amid fears of wider credit spreads at AI data centre companies.

BoE's Bailey tells G30 they 'have got to address' AI agent concerns:

The fast-growing use of AI agents to handle financial transactions risks creating confusion over who is responsible when things go wrong, the Bank of England governor has warned as he called on policymakers to tackle the issue. Andrew Bailey said "people could get misled" about who has legal liability when they create an AI agent and authorise it to carry out payments and other financial transactions on their behalf. He added that regulators "have got to address" the concern.

Donald Trump exempts Russia from further sanctions mandated by new law:

Donald Trump will not impose new sanctions on Russia that were mandated by a sweeping law passed by Congress last month. In an executive order issued late on Friday night, Trump invoked a waiver in the law that gives him broad authority not to impose further economic penalties on Moscow over its war in Ukraine if he believes it to be in the national interest. "I am hereby waiving the application of such sanctions, restrictions, and duties provided for in the Graham Act," it stated. The executive order did not explain why Trump opted not to enact the legislation he signed.

UK dividend payments jump 14% in a year:

Bumper payouts from banks and miners pushed UK third-quarter dividends to a seven-year high, new data shows. Dividend payments increased by 14.1 per cent on a headline basis to £28.4bn, the highest third-quarter total since 2019, according to Computershare's UK Dividend Monitor. However, rising share prices have nudged the dividend yield down from 3.2 per cent a year ago to 3.1 per cent, meaning that it now trails the 10-year gilt yield of 5.4 per cent by the largest margin since 2007, before the global financial crisis.

Rise of crypto vaults channels billions of dollars into risky lending:

A new way of lending digital tokens is channelling billions of dollars' worth of coins into a risky corner of the crypto market and attracting the attention of US and European regulators, who believe it may require closer supervision. More than \$10bn has been deposited into so-called crypto vaults, up from \$4bn at the start of last year, according to data group Blockworks, as digital asset owners try to earn juicy returns on the stablecoins they hold by lending them out to traders.

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