

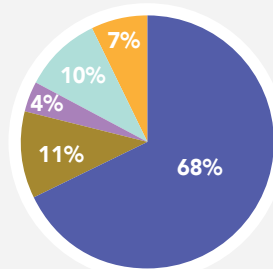
Economic Trends

The Q3 2025 Economic Trends survey of Cork Chamber members gathered insights into their experiences of doing business across July, August and September 2025. Sponsored by PTSB, this edition of the Economic Trends survey also asked members about the night-time economy and events in Cork.

NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY AND EVENTS

MAIN REASON FOR SPENDING TIME IN CORK CITY CENTRE IN THE EVENING OR AT THE WEEKEND

- Dining out
- Attending arts or cultural events
- Going to pubs or nightclubs
- Attending live music performances
- Other



Dining out emerged as the most popular reason for spending time in Cork city centre in the evening or at the weekend, cited by nearly 70% of respondents. Attending events including live music performances and arts or cultural events also accounted for about 20% of responses.

DO YOU THINK FESTIVALS AND EVENTS HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CORK'S ECONOMY?

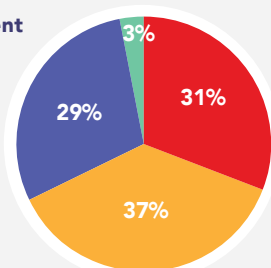
YES 100%

NO 0%

Cork's annual events and festivals have a clear positive impact on the region's economy. The provision of more dedicated spaces and venues to facilitate events would result in a number of benefits for the region's economy, supporting local businesses, boosting tourism and contributing to Cork's overall competitive offering as an attractive location for talent and investment.

HOW WOULD THE PROVISION OF MORE DEDICATED EVENTS SPACES BENEFIT CORK'S ECONOMY?

- Supporting local businesses by allowing for more frequent events/greater attendance at events
- Attracting more visitors to Cork, supporting the wider tourism sector
- Contributing to Cork's overall competitiveness and supporting investment and talent attraction
- Other



WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE HOW SAFE YOU FEEL IN CORK CITY AT NIGHT?

1. Visibility of Gardaí
2. Design of public realm space, including street lighting
3. Availability of transport at night

The visibility of Gardaí in Cork city emerged as the key factor impacting how safe respondents feel in the city at night, cited by almost 80%. Other important factors were the design of public realm spaces, particularly with regard to features like lighting, as well as the availability of public transport at night.

CONFIDENCE IN THE IRISH ECONOMY

CONFIDENT 73%

NOT CONFIDENT 27%

73% of respondents expressed confidence in the Irish economy in Q3 2025. Of the 27% who cited a lack of confidence in the Irish economy, rising business costs emerged as the top concern for the first time in recent surveys. This was followed by housing supply, which remains a key concern for many.

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

CONFIDENT 94%

NOT CONFIDENT 6%

Business confidence from an overall financial perspective remains high, with 94% of respondents expressing confidence about the future of their business.

TOP THREATS TO BUSINESS GROWTH

1. Geopolitical concerns
2. Changing consumer spending
3. Availability of housing for employees

EMPLOYMENT

CHANGE IN EMPLOYEE NUMBERS OVER Q3 2025

INCREASED 26%

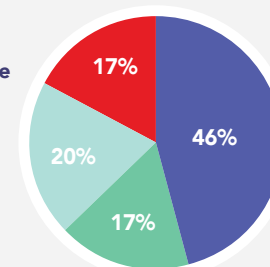
STAYED THE SAME 63%

DECREASED 11%

41% of respondents predict an increase in employee numbers over the next 12 months, consistent with recent surveys. The majority of respondents reported that employee numbers remained the same over Q3 2025.

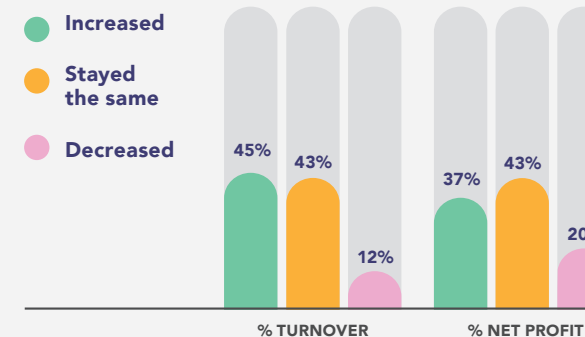
TOP BARRIERS TO FILLING VACANCIES

- Specialist skills shortage
- Housing
- Wage demands
- Other



Of the 42% of respondents with vacancies advertised at present, 33% reported difficulties with filling these roles, with specialist skills shortages emerging as the top barrier to filling vacancies.

TURNOVER AND NET PROFIT Q3 2025



EXPECTED TURNOVER CHANGE Q4 2025

INCREASE 49%

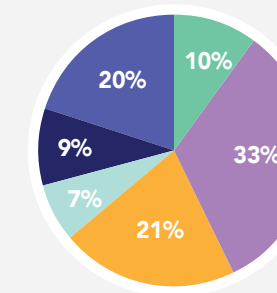
STAY THE SAME 36%

DECREASE 15%

Turnover and net profit reported across Q3 2025 remained consistent with recent survey results. Looking ahead to Q4 2025, nearly 50% of respondents predict an increase in turnover and 41% expect an increase in net profit.

RESPONDING BUSINESSES

- Sole Trader
- Micro Enterprise (2-10)
- 11-50
- 51-100
- 101-200
- 201 +



Responding businesses are drawn from a broad range of sectors, including Services (including Financial) (32%); Tourism, Hospitality, Retail & Leisure (12%); Life Sciences & Manufacturing (12%); Built Environment (9%); Transport, Energy & Maritime (9%); Agriculture, Food & Drink (5%); Education & Training (5%); ICT & Digital Economy (7%); Culture, Arts, Community & Media (4%) and Not-for-Profit (5%).

We thank members for your valued insights and engagement with this survey. Your participation is vital. All previous quarterly economic surveys can be found on www.corkchamber.ie.

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