Linked Finance

SME CONFIDENCE INDEX

Optimism amongst Irish SMEs makes strong recovery

to 65.6 in Q2, surging from a level of 48.7 a year ago, and above pre-pandemic levels.







SURVEY PROFILES

% Region Outside Dublin



Employees

92%

8%

%

What is the optimism translating to?

2021

Reported profits

30% Reported profits

2020



Improved profitability

76% Expecting better trading activity

46% **Expected better** trading activity

2% **Expected to** increase headcount

Expected to decrease headcount

Government support and SME satisfaction

66% of Irish businesses said they were satisfied with the Government's efforts to help small businesses during Covid-19.

40% **Satisfied**

Very satisfied

Sectors continuing to face severe challenges:



Travel



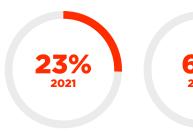
Hospitality



Live events

Prices and profits - signs of price inflation

Companies expecting to charge higher prices in the future:



Inflationary pressures notable in:



Retail and wholesale

Current Linked Finance trends

The overall positive indicators from the survey tally with Linked Finance's own loan trends.

€21.6m

loans issued year to date €19.9m loans issued in 2020

loans issued in July 2021

Strongest performing sectors as Covid restrictions eased:



Construction



Transport and logistics



Retail