

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

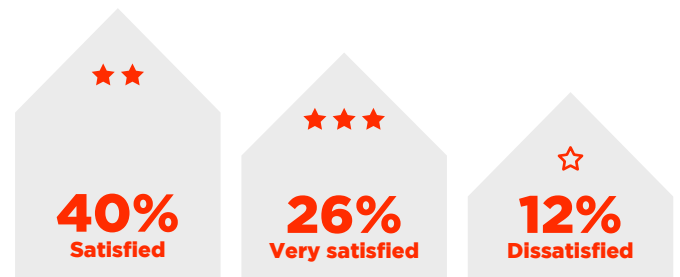


What is the optimism translating to?



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.



Sectors continuing to face severe challenges:



Travel



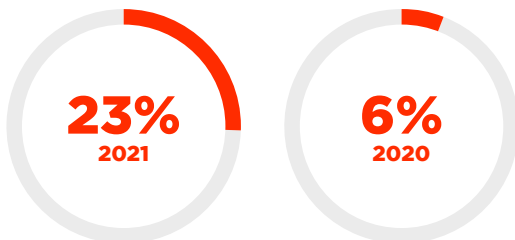
Hospitality



Live events

Prices and profits - signs of price inflation

Companies expecting to charge higher prices in the future:



Inflationary pressures notable in:



Current Linked Finance trends

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



Strongest performing sectors as Covid restrictions eased:



Construction



Transport and logistics



Retail