



IrelandCountry Insights andCommodity ReportQ1 2023 Im</t



The latest updates from IMF show that Ireland's GDP is expected to grow by 5.6% in real terms, which is higher than the previous forecast made in autumn 2022. There was a strong 26% increase in investment growth in 2022, partially driven by multinationals. Although inflation pressures are easing, with a predicted inflation rate of 5% for 2023, compared to the average of 8.1% in the previous year, there is still a disparity between supply and demand that is expected to keep inflation elevated in 2023 and 2024.

The Irish construction industry is expected to contract by 4% in 2023, but to grow by 2% in real terms by 2024. Despite ongoing challenges such as a skilled labour shortages, elevated construction costs, and supply chain issues, the construction industry in Ireland is expected to grow in medium to long term as the economy grows, particularly in Dublin, Cork, and Galway. With government's emphasis on affordable housing development, the residential sector is expected to grow at a 4% annual rate in 2024. Mission-critical industries such as data centres and life sciences are expected to continue to expand.



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Lumber

Lumber prices have fallen from the highs of mid-2022 when supply disruptions caused prices to spike, and there are signs of stabilisation and possibly upwards price movements. A recent report from the Irish Farmer's Association highlighted ongoing concerns relating to forestry licensing issues.



Cement and aggregates

Although still high compared to early 2022, cement prices are expected to fall in the coming quarters assuming energy costs decline. However, a 5% levy on concrete products is still due to come into effect in September this year to fund the defective blocks scheme for redress for homeowners affected by mica.



Concrete blocks and bricks

High interest rates will contribute to the slowdown in the construction industry in the short term, which will contain any further upward pressure on brick prices. Energy costs are also expected to fall. Given the energy intensive nature of brick production, high energy costs in recent quarters has been a key factor driving up brick prices.



Steel (rebar and structural)

Steel prices will be on a general downward trend in the coming quarters given a combination of weaker demand in the construction industry and an expected easing in production costs pressures as energy prices fall from recent highs.



Copper

Reflecting trends on the London Metal Exchange (LME), copper prices continued on an upward trend in early 2023. However, a decline in March is indicative of a degree of volatility that can be expected in the coming quarters.





Ireland – Commodity Report

	Q2 2023 (f)	Q2 2022	– Q2 2023 (f)	Q4 2022 - Q1 2023 (e)
Materials	ε	€	2022-23 % change	% change
Copper (€/MT)	8,988	9,044	-0.6 % ↓	12.6% 个 •
Steel rebar (€/MT)	795	919	-13.5% ↓	-3.4% 🗸 •
Steel flat (€/MT)	1,271	1,030	23.4% 个	8.7% 个 •
Stainless steel (€/MT)	3,044	NA	NA	-2.9% 🕹 🏼
Lumber (€/M ³)	88.4	106.3	-16.8 % ↓	-2.8% 🕹 •
Asphalt (€/MT)	960	876	9.6 % 个	0.7% 个 •
Limestone (€/MT)	94.0	91.4	2.9% 个	0.2% ↑ ■
Cement (€/MT)	273	235	16.1 % 个	2.5% 个 •
Concrete (€/M ³)	91.0	78.2	16.4 % 个	0.7% ↑ ■
Welded mesh (€/unit)	53.8	62.2	-13.5% ↓	-8.8 % ↓ ●
Bricks (€/'000 unit)	878	802	9.5 % ↑	0.9% ↑ ■
Plasterboard (€/unit)	14.7	11.7	25.6% 个	0.0% ↔ ■
Diesel (€/litre)	1.68	1.96	-14.5% ↓	-23.5% ↓ •

(f) Forecast (e) Estimated

• Q4 2022 to Q1 2023 % change greater than estimation in our Q4 2022 report

Q4 2022 to Q1 2023 % change less than estimation in our Q4 2022 report

Welded mesh: 240 x 480cm, dia.-6mm Plasterboard: 240 x 120 x 1.25cm (L x W x T)

Material	% change Q1 – Q2 2023 (f)	Level of ir	np
Copper	-0.7% ↓	00∎00 Moderate	
Steel prices - Steel rebar - Flat steel	-1.0% ↓ -1.0% ↓	00 ∎Û Moderate	
Stainless st	eel -1.0% ↓		
Lumber	+0.5% ↑	00∎00 Moderate	
	Copper Steel prices - Steel rebar - Flat steel Stainless st	Material $Q1 - Q2 2023 (f)$ Copper $-0.7\% \downarrow$ Steel prices- Steel rebar $-1.0\% \downarrow$ - Flat steel $-1.0\% \downarrow$ Stainless steel $-1.0\% \downarrow$	MaterialQ1 - Q2 2023 (f)Level of IICopper-0.7% \checkmark 00000 Steel prices-1.0% \checkmark 00000 - Steel rebar-1.0% \checkmark 00000 - Flat steel-1.0% \checkmark 00000 Stainless steel-1.0% \checkmark 00000 Lumber $+0.5\% \uparrow$ 00000

Asphalt



Limestone

+1.0% 个 •0000

0000

Moderate

+0.5% 个

pact of pricing on construction procurement and supply chain *

Copper prices picked up again in the first few months of 2023, posting an increase of 4% in Q1 2023 compared to Q4 last year. Global copper demand will be strengthened by China's reopening. There will be an improvement in global supply, which should keep prices relatively stable on a quarterly average basis, but there will still be volatility around these levels.

Steel rebar prices have continued to trend downward in recent months, as domestic demand in the construction industry has weakened. February's price was 14% lower than the May 2022 high. However, compared to early 2022 levels, prices are still slightly higher, a reflection of the higher input costs faced by the producers. Flat steel prices jumped in January, but edged down in February, and are expected to continue to ease back from recent highs given sluggish demand growth.

While pressure on demand has eased, ongoing high prices for raw materials such as nickel will prevent a marked decline in stainless steel.

Weak demand has contributed to the steady decline in lumber prices, which were down by 21% in February 2023 compared to the mid-2022 highs. A recent survey of timber prices conducted by the Irish Farmers' Association suggested a recovery in prices, but this will be from a low base.

Asphalt prices have continued to rise in recent months, with prices in February 17% higher than in the same month last year. Although civil engineering construction has been fairly flat over the past year, significant road infrastructure spending was outlined in the current National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-30.

Although prices have edged up steadily on a quarterly average basis, there has been some volatility in monthly pricing levels for aggregates in general.





Ireland – Commodity Report



Linesight tender price index 2011-2023(f)

7.8

24			2023(f)
23			2022
215			2021
196			2020
192	-		2019
0	18		2018
	168		2017
	156		2016
	6	1·	2015
	5	13	2014
		132	2013
		128	2012
		124	2011

Note: The above infers a full-year increase of +9.8% for 2022. Our 2022 estimate is broken down @ +7.5% for H1 2022 and +2.3% for H2 2022. Our forecast for full year 2023 is c. +5%. This is driven by stabilisation in commodity prices but pressures on wage levels associated with sectoral employment orders and skilled labour shortages. We will review this on an on-going basis.

	Material	% change Q1 – Q2 2023 (f)	Level of in	npact of pricing on construction procurement and supply chain *
	Cement	-0.5% ↓	o O O O High	Cement prices have steadied at a high level, with prices in Q1 2023 being around 2.5% higher than the average for Q4 2022 and 24% higher than in Q1 2022. Although construction activity has weakened, high production costs have been a factor in keeping cement prices high. However, prices are expected to ease as energy prices fall back in the coming quarters.
	Concrete	-0.5% ↓	o000 High	As with cement, prices for concrete are still high on a year-on-year basis, having levelled off in recent months. Weaker demand and easing energy costs will likely see prices fall back in the coming quarters.
\$	Welded mes	i h -1.0% ↓	o0∎00 Moderate	In line with price trends for steel rebar, prices for welded mesh are expected to decline in the coming quarters owing to weak demand from the construction sector.
	Bricks	-1.0% ↓	00000 Moderate	Brick prices have been stable in recent months, but after the upward trend over the past year, prices are up by 16% year-on-year in Q1 2023. Given signs of easing upward pressure on the supply side, as energy prices fall back from recent highs, brick prices are expected to decline.
	Plasterboar	d -2.0% ↓	•0000 Low	Plasterboard prices have stayed relatively high in recent months, up by around 30% compared to levels in early 2022. High production costs have been a key factor in keeping prices high, but with energy prices easing back, further upward pressure will be contained.
Į.	Diesel	+0.2% 个	o0000 High	Diesel prices have fallen in recent months, falling to €1.66 per litre in March having been as high as €2 per litre in mid-2022. The government will gradually restore excise rates from June 2023, which will keep prices close to current levels in the coming quarters.

 Level of impact rating reflects a combination of factors: the price movement and also price level (compared to recent past beyond the last quarter), the importance of the material, and general state of the supply chain in terms of stability.
Please note that commodity prices are based on representative materials available in the respective countries, and as these materials may not be standard across all markets, cross-country comparisons on prices can be ineffective. For example, asphalt types can vary between hot, cold or a bitumen price, and standard unit sizes for materials can vary across countries.



Ireland – Construction Materials Pricing (2022-2023)



materials, and not to finished, delivered and erected on-site prices.

Ireland Country Report Q1 2023 - Commodities

Please note that commodity prices are based on representative materials available in the respective countries, and as these materials may not be standard across all markets, cross-country comparisons on prices can be ineffective. For example, asphalt types can vary between hot, cold or a bitumen price, and standard unit sizes for materials can vary across countries.



Ireland – Macroeconomic overview





Ireland – Construction overview



Output 2022 and 2023 (in € millions)*					
Sector	Total 2022	Total 2023 (f)	Total 2024 (f)		
Commercial	3,938	3,781	5,051		
Energy and utilities	1,181	1,153	1,576		
Industrial	1,408	1,356	1,831		
Infrastructure	3,053	2,984	4,071		
Institutional	2,001	1,924	2,723		
Residential	8,262	8,051	11,427		

Long lead equipment (LLE) - Supply Chain Overview

2022 was a turbulent year for the global supply chain with the fallout from the global pandemic combined with the emergence of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, leading to supply chain disruptions across the globe. However, 2023 is showing signs of relief in the market for long lead equipment (LLE). The following are the specifics of the LLE supply chain dynamic:

- 1. Demand: Demand for LLE has remained exceptionally high across all regions and industry sectors. Organizations have moved to expand their supply chain portfolios and include secondary and tertiary suppliers, whilst most are continuing to invest in inventory management systems to prevent any supply chain disruptions. There is no sign of reduced demand, so the constraints to the supply chain will continue for the remainder of 2023.
- 2. Supply: The stock levels of raw materials have finally started to stabilise, alleviating some recent pressures on manufacturers and suppliers. However, it is worth noting that most LLE suppliers have reported being at operational capacity, with order books full up to Q3 2024, which may cause some concern for those relying on their products. Nevertheless, there is some hope as Tier 2 and Tier 3 supply chains have started to increase their capacity and support the larger demand within the market, which may help to mitigate any negative impact of capacity restrictions.
- 3. Freight durations and costs: Freight durations have begun to shorten in early 2023 as the global infrastructure and operations have developed to meet the rising demand and freight companies are shipping much faster than they did during the pandemic. Average freight costs have also reduced to align with pre-pandemic levels suggesting a return to normality within the industry. The benefits have been experienced in early 2023 and further reductions are expected throughout the rest of 2023.

Construction Health and Safety practices and culture

*The output is in real terms at constant prices with 2017 as base year

In a change in methodology from previous reports, the time series mainly reflects trends in the CSO's Production in Building and Construction Index rather than the CSO's Construction Value in the national accounts data. In recent quarters the trends in this data have widely diverged. For example, the production index showed growth of 2.0% in 2022, and the construction industry in the national accounts data showed growth of 14.4%.



people lost their lives in work-related incidents in 2022 compared to 38 in 2021.

Lowest figure recorded since the Authority was established over thirty years ago. Construction and Farming sectors account for almost three quarters of all work-related fatalities. Dublin, Galway and Wexford recorded the highest level of fatalities with three in each county.



Ireland – Average construction costs

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Building type	Cost ran	ge		M&E (inc. @)
Commercial offices				
Suburban, naturally ventilated				
Shell and core	€1,850	€2,700	per sq.m.	10-15%
Developer standard	€2,050	€2,600	per sq.m.	15-20%
Extra for air-conditioning	€325	€600	per sq.m.	-
City centre, air conditioned				
Shell and core	€2,400	€3,700	per sq.m.	15-20%
Developer standard (CAT A)	€2,900	€5,000	per sq.m.	25-30%
Office fit-out				
95% open-plan, no catering	€725	€1,150	per sq.m.	20-30%
75% open-plan, limited catering	€935	€1,450	per sq.m.	20-30%
60% open-plan, full catering	€1,350	€2,050	per sq.m.	25-35%
Corporate HQ	€2,050	€2,800	per sq.m.	25-35%
High-tech industrial				
Shell and core	€1,550	€2,250	per sq.m.	20-25%
Fit-out	€1,150	€2,150	per sq.m.	25-45%

Building type	Cost ra	nge		M&E (inc. @)		
Residential						
Estate house (approx. 100sq.m.)	€1,450	€2,100	per sq.m.	10-20%		
Purpose-built student accommodation (incl. FF&E)	€3,000	€3,700	per sq.m.	10-20%		
Apartments - suburban/city edge (s	uperstructure)					
BTR - 4-8 storey (incl. FF&E)	€2,400	€2,850	per sq.m.	15-20%		
BTS - 4-8 storey	€2,300	€2,700	per sq.m.	15-20%		
Apartments - Urban (superstructure)					
BTR - 5-8 storey (incl. FF&E)	€2,500	€3,200	per sq.m.	20-25%		
BTR - 12-15 storey (incl. FF&E)	€2,700	€3,650	per sq.m.	20-25%		
BTS - 5-8 storey	€2,400	€3,100	per sq.m.	15-20%		
BTS - 12-15 storey	€2,600	€3,400	per sq.m.	20-25%		
Co-living	€2,900	€3,800	per sq.m.	20-25%		
Shopping centres						
Anchor unit	€1,050	€1,500	per sq.m.	10-15%		
Unit shops	€1,400	€2,200	per sq.m.	10-15%		
Mall	€2,500	€4,500	per sq.m.	20-25%		
Retail fit-out	€1,900	€2,800	per sq.m.	25-30%		
Site development business parks						
Roads and primary services	€245,000	€825,000	per hectare			
Warehouses						
Without offices	€850	€1,250	per sq.m.	8-12%		
With 10% offices	€1,050	€1,800	per sq.m.	10-15%		



Ireland – Average construction costs

Building type	Cost ran	ge		M&E (inc. @)
Healthcare				
Tertiary care	€5,400	€6,900	per sq.m.	35-40%
Acute teaching hospital	€4,700	€5,950	per sq.m.	35-40%
General hospital	€4,250	€5,400	per sq.m.	30-35%
Nursing home	€2,600	€3,850	per sq.m.	20-25%
Car park				
Surface	€1,700	€2,300	per space	
Multistorey	€14,500	€30,000	per space	
Undercroft	€18,000	€27,000	per space	
Single-level basement	€24,000	€51,000	per space	
Double-level basement	€31,000	€68,000	per space	-
Basement (no car parking)				
Bicycle storage general	€1,450	€2,750	per sq.m.	
Shower and changing facilities	€1,900	€3,500	per sq.m.	
Plant space (excl. plant)	€1,300	€2,600	per sq.m.	
Education				
Primary-level (DoES)	-	€1,990*	per sq.m.	10-15%
Second-level (DoES)	-	€1,990*	per sq.m.	15-20%
Third-level	€2,600	€4,150	per sq.m.	20-25%



Building type	Cost range			M&E (inc. @)
Leisure				
Hotel building 3-4* (incl. FF&E)	€2,600	€3,850	per sq.m.	25-35%
Hotel building 5* (incl. FF&E)	€3,300	€6,000	per sq.m.	30-40%
Aparthotels	€3,000	€4,500	per sq.m.	25-35%
Restaurant	€2,500	€4,050	per sq.m.	25-30%
Cinema	€2,050	€3,550	per sq.m.	20-30%
Sports hall	€1,450	€2,500	per sq.m.	10-15%
Swimming pool	€3,200	€2,700	per sq.m.	30-40%
Municipal				
Fire station	€3,000	€3,800	per sq.m.	15-25%
Prison	€3,100	€4,200	per sq.m.	20-30%
Courthouse	€4,000	€5,400	per sq.m.	20-30%

Notes:

- 1. Costs are based on March 2023 prices and based on gross floor area. Average costs as indicated should not be used for insurance valuation purposes. The costs are representative of typical valuations for each type of project. Unique designs or challenging sites may not be within the cost range shown. The rates shown are average construction build only and do not include VAT, professional fees, any other soft costs, or allow for future inflation.
- 2. The building costs noted above for the various building types are exclusive of site development costs and external works, which can vary significantly based on the specific site.
- 3. The costs associated with brownfield sites can vary significantly and the building costs above exclude abnormal contamination.
- 4. The basic building costs above exclude basement construction costs. Should a basement be required, this should be costed separately.
- 5. Costs per car parking space assume a large, efficient car park layout, providing a gross 28-34sq.m. per car parking space. Note that this relates to pure car parking areas, and additional basement spaces such as bicycle parking, plant rooms, shower and changing facilities are not accounted for, and should be costed separately.
 - * Current basic building cost (BBC) limit based on May 2021 circular and includes VAT, but excludes external works, fitted furniture and abnormal cost provisions.
- 6. Costs exclude further market-driven forces.



Ireland – Main contractors' turnover (>= €100m)



	N	\$	N
Contractor	Est. global (€m) <i>–</i> 2022	Est. Irish (€m) <i>–</i> 2022	Actual global (€m) – 2021
John Sisk & Son Limited	€1,737.10	€990.14	€1,485.70
Winthrop Engineering Limited	€1,033.00	€427.00	€685.00
BAM Contractors Limited *	€689.00	€689.00	€626.00
John Paul Construction Limited	€605.00	€507.00	€544.00
PJ Hegarty & Sons Limited	€501.00	€436.00	€366.00
Walls Construction Limited	€475.00	€475.00	€303.00
Collen Construction Limited	€450.00	€450.00	€494.00
Bennett Construction Limited	€345.00	€265.00	€320.00
JJ Rhatigan & Co Limited	€320.00	€228.00	€260.00
Murphy Ireland	€211.50	€145.10	€158.30
StructureTone Limited **	€202.00	€202.00	€127.00
Wills Bros Limited	€200.77	€126.48	€197.73
Ardmac Limited	€174.81	€106.63	€135.40
Mac Group	€163.50	€98.00	€144.00
Conack Construction Ltd	€152.64	€152.64	€121.87

	N	<i>*</i>	*
Contractor	Est. global (€m) – 2022	Est. Irish (€m) – 2022	Actual global (€m) – 2021
Elliott Group	€145.00	€120.00	€75.00
Flynn Management & Contractors Limited	€132.00	€99.00	€105.00
Monami Construction Ltd	€126.39	€126.39	€106.57
Townmore Construction	€102.00	€80.00	€84.00

Notes: Global turnover refers to that serviced out of Ireland. * Royal BAM Group Turnover is €6.6bn ** Structure Tone Limited Global Turnover is \$10bn



Ireland – Mechanical and Electrical Subcontractors' turnover



Subcontractor	Est. global (€m) – 2022) Est. Irish (€m) – 2022	Actual global (€m) – 2021
Mercury Engineering Group	€1,700.10	€580.60	€1,481.40
Jones Engineering Group	€1,074.00	€659.00	€916.00
Dornan Engineering Limited	€467.00	€150.00	€370.00
Kirby Group Engineering Limited	€454.10	€269.28	€402.69
Suir Engineering Limited	€314.00	€244.92	€240.00
Specialist Technical Engineering Services (STS Group)	€220.00	€73.00	€239.78
Designer Group Engineering Contractors Limited	€202.00	€111.10	€196.00
King & Moffat Building Services	€155.15	€46.35	€128.57
B.M.D & Company Limited	€64.60	€64.60	€62.60
CJK Electrical Limited	€62.10	€62.10	€43.85
DMG Engineering Limited	€53.00	€53.00	€47.42
L. Lynch & Co. Limited	€48.00	€48.00	€44.27
Alucraft Ltd	€43.32	€36.20	€84.79
Tritech Engineering	€39.21	€39.21	€36.25
Weltec	€30.00	€30.00	€26.00
Rockwell Engineering	€25.00	€25.00	€20.00
T Bourke & Co. Limited	€24.95	€24.95	€14.42



Ireland – Report methodology

Linesight has commissioned independent global research to track construction materials and commodity prices. The approach and methodology for the collection of construction material pricing and other indicators is based on primary and secondary research.

Primary and secondary research

Primary research is conducted on a quarterly basis with stakeholders in the value chain, including manufacturers and suppliers/distributors of the target materials, to ascertain market information on prices in recent quarters, and also on projections for changes in the coming quarter and remainder of the year. The market analysis also involves a thorough assessment of secondary sources of data on materials and labour prices, in addition to underlying demand and supply trends that will impact market prices.

Sources include GlobalData's Construction Intelligence Center (CIC), the World Bank, IMF, OECD, as well as country specific national statistics offices, such as the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and also industry specific associations and publications.

Definitions

- · Commodity prices are net of taxes for all the countries
- Prices are not customer delivered
- All commodities are raw materials
- Nominal and real data

Nominal data series do not exclude changes in prices and are also referred to as current prices series.

Annual changes in nominal data for construction output will include changes in construction activity, as well as changes in costs for materials and equipment.

Real data series are calculated by keeping prices constant (so, are also referred to as constant price series), and therefore, they reflect changes in activity only. Growth rates in nominal terms can overstate the pace of growth in construction activity if there is high inflation stemming from rising prices for key inputs.

Sample sources – Ireland

For Ireland, sources for this report include, but are not limited to:

- IMF
- Central Bank
- CSO
- SCSI
- GlobalData's Construction Intelligence Center (CIC)
- · Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- Public Holidays





