

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

05.02.16 – 11.02.16

Welcome to **KASPress Ireland**, our weekly summary of relevant and interesting news from the Irish press.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

London Office

Email: kas-uk@kas.de

Politics

- Ireland's ambassador to the UK has said he is confident a deal will be done between Britain and the EU over Europe.
- Tánaiste Joan Burton faces losing her seat as constituents believe Varadkar has been better performer.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Sinn Féin leader, Gerry Adams, have met and shaken hands on the campaign trail in Sligo.
- In a Red C poll carried out for Paddy Power, Fine Gael has fallen one per cent to 30 per cent and Labour have dropped two points to eight per cent. Fianna Fáil has increased support to 18 per cent while Sinn Féin is unchanged at 17 per cent. The Independents and others are at 25 per cent, an increase of two per cent since the latest poll.
- Fianna Fáil leader Míchéal Martin has failed to definitively rule out his party supporting a minority government led by Fine Gael.
- White-Collar criminals would no longer be able to rely on "previous good character" to get a lighter sentence, according to law changes tabled by Renua Ireland.
- A recent Sunday Independent/Millward Brown opinion poll finds support for the four main political parties either down or unchanged while support for Independents/others has risen. In a series of significant findings, however, the poll shows that voters are demanding more spending on social services ahead of tax cuts.
- Fianna Fail leader Míchéal Martin has accused the Government of "doctoring" the health service plan to make waiting lists appear shorter.

- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said he does not want independents propping up the next Government like a wobbly leg on a three-legged stool. The Taoiseach has said the only proposition he is interested in is a re-election of the coalition.
- Renua Ireland could hold the balance of power in the next government, leader Lucinda Creighton has said. Ms Creighton was speaking as the party outlined its “red-line” issues that will not be sacrificed during any coalition negotiations. She said Renua would not do any deal with Sinn Féin or Independent TD Michael Lowry.
- Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin has urged a “strong note of caution” about opinion polls after his party recorded an increase in support in the latest survey. The latest Irish Times/Ipsos MRBI poll, published on last week, had Fine Gael on 28 per cent, down two points from the last comparable poll in November; Fianna Fáil on 21 per cent, up two; Sinn Féin on 19 per cent, down two; Labour static on 7 per cent; and Independents and others on 25 per cent, up two.

Economy

- The Communications Workers’ Union (CWU) has said 999 workers plan to hold a 12-hour strike on Thursday, February 25, the day before the general election. In the dispute over pay and trade union recognition, the workers are seeking pay of €11.50 per hour, a fair on-call policy and collective bargaining, the CWU said.
- Local independent family-owned shops are the best supporters of the Irish economy, investing €3.62bn annually and supporting 90,000 jobs.
- Prime office and retail rents in Dublin are expected to rise by about 12 per cent in 2016 while residential development land values in the capital are expected to rise by a similar amount, according to a new property survey.
- Rents rose by nine per cent across the country last year, slightly below the 10.7 per cent increase seen in 2014, to an average of €979 while supply has fallen to its lowest level in 10 years ago, a new report shows.
- The KBC Bank Ireland/ESRI Consumer Sentiment Index climbed to 108.6 in January from 103.9 in December, its highest level since February 2001.
- Tax on work is too high in Ireland but many people do not pay any tax at all, business lobby group Ibec has said, as it called for the marginal tax rate to be cut to 45 per cent, in line with competitor economies.
- Growth in the Irish construction sector strengthened at the start of 2016, with activity rising at the fastest pace in seven months on the back of a pick-up in new business, a new survey shows.

- The Government parties are “creating an illusion” of economic recovery which is not being experienced by indigenous small enterprise, according to a group of business owners in the west and midlands.
- Ireland will never create a Silicon Valley-style network of angel investors unless it reforms its capital gains tax laws, according to serial technology entrepreneur, Pat Phelan.

Society

- Members of the Garda’s Emergency Response Unit (ERU) deployed to the Border after the killing last year of Garda Tony Golden in Co Louth have been transferred to Dublin following the recent gangland murders.
- More than 4,000 overseas doctors and nurses are seeking to work in Ireland but are unable to do so because of delays in processing their applications.
- Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald described as “deplorable and ruthless” the escalating gun violence that claimed the life of Dublin man Eddie Hutch snr on Monday night.
- Underfunding of higher education is in danger of “stressing the system to the point of breaking”, according to the outgoing chairman of the Higher Education Authority.
- HSE director general Tony O’Brien privately warned the Government last November that the health service is facing its most difficult year in a decade due to a chronic lack of money and the “public perception” that austerity is over. However, internal correspondence obtained by the Irish Examiner shows senior backroom Government officials forced the most overt warnings to be removed.
- One man was shot dead and two others were injured when a gang of armed men opened fire at a boxing weigh-in at the Regency Hotel on the Swords Road in north Dublin yesterday.

Headlines

- [11.02.2016] [Armed unit pulled back from Border duty after gang killings](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.02.2016] [Family-owned shops 'best supporters of local economy'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [11.02.2016] [999 call service workers plan to hold 12-hour strike the day before the election](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [11.02.2016] [Ambassador warns Brexit would affect trade and jobs](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.02.2016] [Joan Burton staring at end of political career](#) [Irish Independent]
- [10.02.2016] [Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Gerry Adams shake hands on the campaign trail](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [10.02.2016] [Support for Fine Gael and Labour falls in opinion poll](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.02.2016] [Office and retail rents in Dublin rise by 12% this year, survey says](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [10.02.2016] [Fianna Fáil refuses to rule out giving support to minority FG-led government](#) [Irish Independent]
- [09.02.2016] [Car sales up over one third as consumers spend more freely](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [09.02.2016] [Rents rose by 9% last year as supply falls to lowest level in 10 years](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [09.02.2016] [Overseas doctors hit by delays in Irish job applications](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.02.2016] [Taoiseach: 'No place in Irish society for groups like continuity IRA'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [08.02.2016] [Eddie Hutch snr shot dead in Dublin gangland killing](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.02.2016] [Ibec calls for marginal tax rate to be cut to 45%](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [08.02.2016] [Renua: Tougher sentences key to crackdown on white-collar crime](#) [Irish Independent]
- [08.02.2016] [Third-level system in danger of being 'stressed to the point of breaking'](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.02.2016] [Construction sector expands at fastest pace in seven months](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [08.02.2016] ['Struggling' small businesses not seeing recovery](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.02.2016] [Parties are told: 'fix our country before tax cuts](#) [Irish Independent]
- [07.02.2016] [Government is 'smothering' health system red flags – FF](#) [Irish Independent]
- [07.02.2016] [CGT 'barrier to Silicon Valley-style growth'](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [06.02.2016] [Renua could hold balance of power, says Creighton](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.02.2016] [Officials conceal HSE's funding alert](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [06.02.2016] [Taoiseach compares independents to 'wobbly leg on a three-legged stool'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [05.02.2016] [One dead in gangland shooting at Dublin hotel](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.02.2016] [Treat opinion polls with caution, Micheál Martin advises](#) [Irish Times]

Newspaper (average daily net circulation/political stance - February 2015)

Irish Independent (circulation: 112,383) politically populist; Conservative

Irish Times (circulation: 76,194) politically Liberal/Progressive; centre-right on economic issues

Irish Examiner (circulation: 33, 198) politically Centrist

Sunday Business Post (circulation: 32, 498) politically Liberal