CBRE, the commercial property specialists, have released their Outlook Report 2016. The report, focusing on all sectors of Irish commercial property and how they performed in 2015, is the 27th of its type. It also makes predictions for the upcoming year.

In the main, the report concludes that “annual average transaction volumes [were] exceeded well before year-end” in many of the sectors. They put this down to the positive economic growth and strong job creation. While some of the contributing factors may change in the upcoming year, in general, positive growth is expected in 2016.

The report looks at seven main sectors.

- In Investment, sales of €3.5bn were concluded and a further €7bn were made in loan sales.
- In Hotels, sales totalled €710m. In 2016, there will be a focus on development in Dublin city centre.
- In Dublin pubs, 2016 should see further improvement on the €49m totalled in 2015.
- In Offices, 249,000m² was taken up in 2015. It is expected that prime headline office rents in the capital will reach €700/m² by year-end 2016.
- In Industrial and Logistics, there was record take-up recorded in 2015. This may lead to an increase in industrial rents in 2016.
- In Retail, both footfall and retail sales increased; vacancy rates decreased. It is expected that this will continue in 2016.
- In Development land, sales totalled €770m. 2016 is “likely to be broadly comparable”.

Last week, SIPTU served notice of industrial action to Transdev—the company who run the LUAS system. Union members will engage in two 48-hour work stoppages in February. This is as a result of a failure to reach a solution in talks about workers’ terms and conditions of employment.

Over the last year and a half, talks have taken place between SIPTU and Transdev. As Transdev have failed to offer a pay increase to workers for the next five years, strikes will now take place.

Transdev’s conditions of employment state that it will only increase pay in line with the Consumer Price Index. This is in spite of the fact that passenger revenue has gone up by over 25% in the past five years. In the same time period, workers’ pay has only increased by 2.5%. They also no receive no additional recompense for working “unsocial hours or weekends”, according to Owen Reidy, SIPTU’s Utilities and Construction Division Organiser.

Over 99% of LUAS workers voted in favour of industrial action as a result.

The strikes are due to take place on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 February, and Thursday 18 and Friday 19 February.
New Aramark ambassador announced

Pentathlete Natalya Coyle has been appointed as Aramark’s Education and Workplace Wellness Ambassador. She joins athletes Katie Taylor and Alan Quinlan as spokespeople for the Right Track campaign.

Aramark are a “global provider of award-winning services in food, facilities management and property”. Their Right Track campaign is now in its fourth year, aims to promote healthy choices at home and in work, to help you get the most out of your work situation.

Natalya’s role will be “driving awareness” of the campaign, and of the positive choices people can make to “improve both physical and mental health and wellbeing in workplaces”. She will work closely in conjunction with Alan Quinlan, the current mental health ambassador.

At the announcement of her appointment, Natalya said, “A workplace environment has a direct impact on a person’s wellbeing; whether it’s lighting, heat, how you’re sitting or standing, all of these factors are directly related to your performance. This is where the Right Track campaign will come in to play. We will be there to help people understand not just the impacts of their workplace environment but how they can improve it to their benefit.”

Aramark is involved in the annual National Workplace Wellbeing Day on April 8. They will also play hosts to the NHF Workplace Wellbeing Seminar, which will be held in Croke Park this year.

NDA identifies HSE as “non-compliant”

In line with the Disability Act 2005, at least 3% of state body workforces must comprise of people with disabilities. In order to monitor compliance, the National Disability Authority (NDA) keeps track of bodies who comply or fail to comply.

In looking at figures from 2012 and 2013, the HSE has been identified as the first non-compliant state body. This is when non-compliance is determined based on failure in two successive years.

The procedure is as follows: if a body fails to reach targets two years consecutively, the NDA makes contact regarding possible reasons why targets were not met. The NDA decides whether or not practicable and real steps have been taken to comply with legislation. Then a decision is made regarding compliance.

According to the Irish Times, who published the findings, several large public bodies have let their numbers slip. These include “These include the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Beaumont Hospital, Sligo County Council, the Road Safety Authority, the Railway Procurement Agency, the Irish Blood Transfusion Service, and Carlow County Council.” It also identifies several bodies as being “materially late”, and several as having previously been non-compliant but have now reached target figures.
This week at Public Affairs Ireland

On the Blog

Another step on the road to the Electoral Commission
PAI Editor Shauna Nimmo
Read here

Does a Flat Tax have any future in Ireland?
Tom Ferris
Read here

Getting the most from the Government’s Capital Investment Plan
Tom Ferris
Read here

The Homelessness Emergency
Fr Peter McVerry
Read here

The International Protection Bill 2015: A Practitioner’s Perspective
Stephen Collins
Read here

Training

Legal Discovery
Wednesday 20 January
9am to 1pm
PAI Main Office

For more info, see here

Team and People Management
Thursday 21 January
9am to 4pm
PAI Main Office

For more info, see here
Tuesday 19 January

2.00 p.m.
Questions (Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform)

3.15 p.m.
Leaders Questions

3.36 p.m.
Questions (Taoiseach)

4.36 p.m.
Order of Business

Motion re Association Agreement between the EU and its Member States and Central America (Referral to Committee without Debate)
(Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

5.06 p.m.
Post European Council Statements (to conclude within 85 minutes)

6.31 p.m.
Topical Issues

Public Sector Standards Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

7.30 p.m.
Private Members Business - (Technical Group)

9.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Thursday 21 January

9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

10.45 a.m.
Horse Racing Ireland Bill 2015 - Report and Final Stages (Resumed if not previously concluded)
(Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

Public Sector Standards Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded)
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

National Tourism Development (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

12.00 noon
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.
Order of Business

12.41 p.m.
Statements re Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (to conclude within 2 hours 30 minutes)
(Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

Public Sector Standards Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed if not previously concluded)
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

National Tourism Development (Amendment) Bill 2016 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

4.42 p.m.
Topical Issues

5.30 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns

Wednesday 20 January

9.30 a.m.
Questions (Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

10.45 a.m.
Motion re Credit Guarantee (Amendment) Bill 2015 (to conclude within 1 hour)
Followed by:
Credit Guarantee (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages
(Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

Public Transport Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages
(Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

Public Sector Standards Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)

12.00 noon
Leaders Questions

12.21 p.m.
Order of Business

12.51 p.m.
SOS (1 hour)

1.51 p.m.
Topical Issues

2.39 p.m.
Morning Business Continued

4.30 p.m.
Motion re Horse Racing Ireland Bill 2015 (to conclude within 1 hour)
Followed by:
Horse Racing Ireland Bill 2015 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages
(Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

Morning Business Continued

7.30 p.m.
Private Members Business - (Technical Group)

9.00 p.m.
Dáil Adjourns
This week in Seanad Éireann

**Tuesday 19 January**

2.30 p.m.
Commencement Matters

3.30 p.m.
Order of Business

4.45 p.m.
Road Traffic Bill 2016 – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

Seanad Adjourns

**Wednesday 20 January**

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.
Statements on Flooding
(Minister of State at the OPW)

2.45 p.m.
Heritage Bill 2016 – Order for Second Stage and Second Stage
(Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

5.00 p.m.
Private Members Business - Competition (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Labour Party Senators)

Seanad Adjourns

**Thursday 21 January**

10.30 a.m.
Commencement Matters

11.30 a.m.
Order of Business

12.45 p.m.
Road Traffic Bill 2016 – Committee Stage
(Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)

14.30 p.m.
Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015 – Report and Final Stages
(Department of Justice and Equality)

Seanad Adjourns
Tuesday 19 January

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 1.30 p.m. (T)
AGENDA: A study on the prevalence of Zero Hours Contracts among Irish Employers and their impact on Employees [Minister for Business and Employment]

Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 2.15 p.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Wednesday 20 January

Transport and Communications (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Inter-urban and expressway services and the co-ordination of the rural transport services with the expressway network [Mr. Aidan Murphy, Chairman, Mr. Martin Nolan, CEO, Bus Eireann; and Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Tim Gaston, Director of Public Transport Services, National Transport Authority]

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 10 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting

Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)
CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: The outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in relation to climate change [Stop Climate Chaos]

Thursday 21 January

Health and Children (Joint)
CR2, LH 2000 9.30 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: Session A: 9.30 a.m. Engagement with Ms. Ann Horan, Chairperson Designate, Health Products Regulatory Authority of Ireland; and Session B: 11.00 a.m. Wellness, Wellbeing and Mental Health [Mr. Niall Breslin, Musician; and Dr. Paul D’Alton, Senior Clinical Psychologist and Head of the Psycho-oncology Department, St. Vincent’s University Hospital]

Public Accounts
CR3, LH 2000 10 a.m. (T)
AGENDA: (i) Business of the Committee - Public Session (iii) Private Session

Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)
CR4, LH 2000 10.15 a.m.
AGENDA: Private Meeting