



**Galway  
Chamber**  
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# Restarting Galway: Business Challenges

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**GALWAY CITY COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY & CULTURE SPC  
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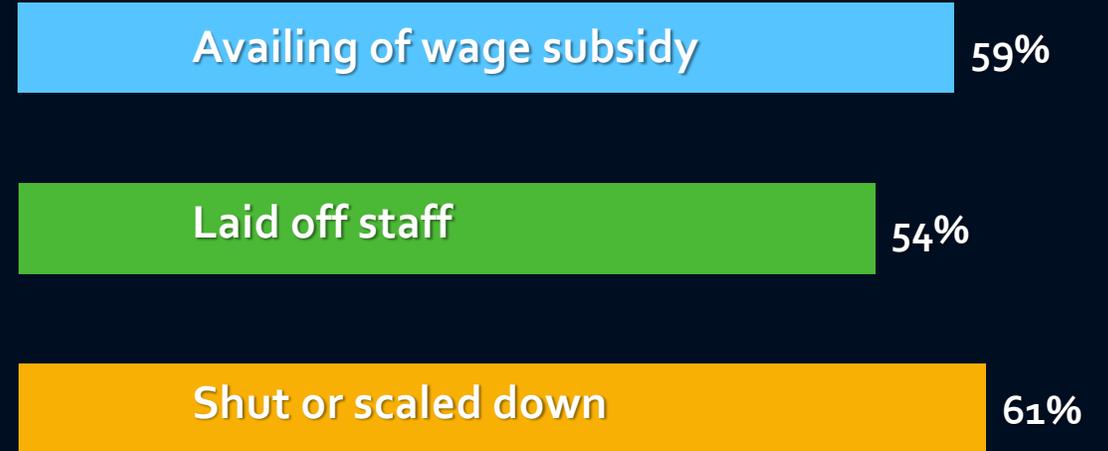
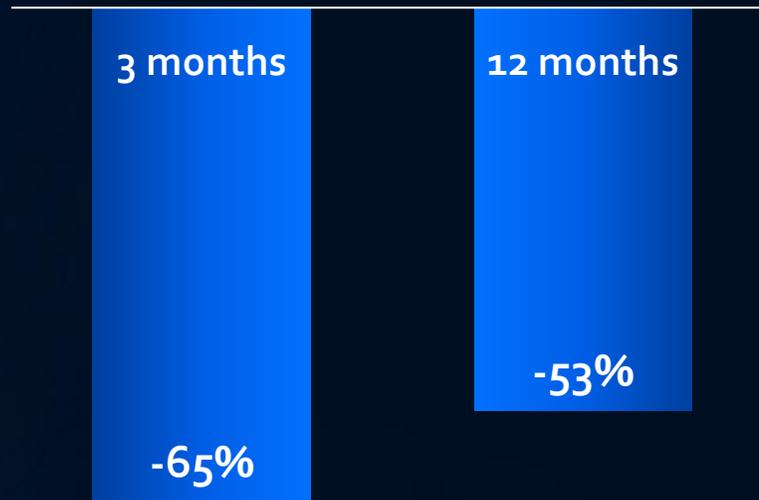
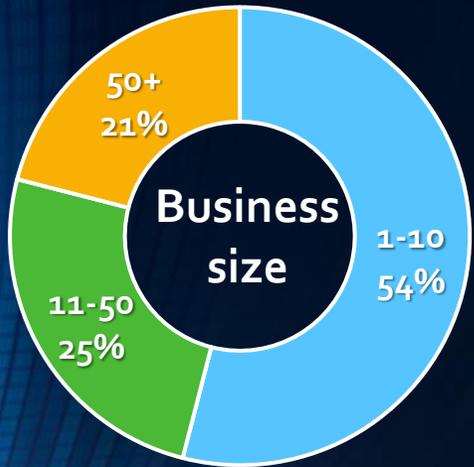


# We asked Galway business about the challenges they face now, and in re-opening in the 'next normal'

- Chambers Ireland survey
  - 128 Galway businesses responded
- In-depth sectoral interviews
  - *Retail, Hospitality, Hotels, Tourism*
  - *ICT, Start-ups, Med-Tech, Transport & Storage*
  - *Advisory firms, Real estate & Construction, Educational*

# Some survey findings...

## How Much will Revenue decline...



Most part-time staff benefit more being on Pandemic payment

High degree of concern for staff's physical, mental and financial well-being

# Restarting Galway: Sectoral highlights

## Multiple sectors

- Restart Grant too small & too restricted
- Rates waiver to be extended
  - Include businesses not completely shut
  - Support from central government to Local Authority
- Pandemic relief to be phased out
- COVID salary supports for longer
- Direct support in the form of grants – not loans
- Marketing programme to attract domestic visitors & locals
- VAT reductions

# Restarting Galway: Sectoral highlights

## Retail/City Centre

- Queueing safely – from COVID and the Weather – on the streets
  - Temporary covered awnings; Planning; Public Liability
- Public Transport capacity
  - Social Distancing (SD) restrictions
  - Fewer public parking spaces but private car use to increase in short term
- ‘Public’ dining spaces
  - SD requirements make many restaurants non-viable
- Rates revaluation process to be revisited

# Restarting Galway: Sectoral highlights

## Other sectors

- Fears of global recession impact on *FDI*
  - Lack of 'normal' health spending is impacting *Med-Tech*
- Restart grant should be based on employment not rates – *Advisory*
- SD impact on *transport* & visitor numbers for *tourism & hospitality*
- 80% drop in international students – *Education*
  - Impact on accommodation providers – Property
- *Tourism* estimating 90% drop in activity
  - Uncertainty continues into 2021
  - Rural & Urban issue
  - Many may not open until 2021, if at all

# Restarting Galway: Members' priorities for GCC

## Rapid Action

- Clarity on Restart Grant eligibility
- Mobility plan for city centre, Salthill & other busy suburban areas
- Address parking capacity and cost
- Facilitate external queueing
- 'Public' dining spaces
- Cycling capacity
  - Safe cycle lanes, parking, suburban and cross-city
  - Accelerate this aspect of GTS
- Marketing plan to attract visitors
- ***Be Bold, Be Brave***



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**Questions & comments are welcome**

DAVE HICKEY  
PRESIDENT