

Business

Need to know *Your 5-minute digest*

Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index: Britain has been one of the big winners from a global flight to safety by foreign investors, rising to fourth place, according to the widely watched survey. The findings suggest a flight to the more mature economies of Europe and North America amid turbulence in a number of emerging economies. **Page 45**

Irish Republic: Little more than six months since exiting its €675 billion (£54.8 billion) bailout, the country's stricken economy is on track for a stellar recovery, according to forecasters. The Centre for Economics and Business Research is predicting growth of 3.4 per cent next year. **Page 40**

Eurozone: Intervention by the European Central Bank to haul the single currency bloc back from the brink of deflation looked inevitable yesterday after manufacturing activity in the region slumped and German inflation collapsed. **Page 40**

BANKING & FINANCE

0.40%

Currency trading: George Osborne is to take action to protect Britain's reputation as a global hub of currency trading by stepping up supervision of the foreign exchange markets. The Treasury is understood to be applying the finishing touches to a set of new rules that it has designed alongside the Financial Stability Board, the international banking regulator. These measures are expected to be unveiled at the chancellor's Mansion House speech next week. **Page 42**

Aviva Investors: The former head of compliance at the Westpac banking group in Australia has joined Aviva's fund management arm as the chief operating officer. Hiring Susan Ebenston is one of the first big appointments by Eran

expected in April amid tougher lending criteria, but the amount borrowed increased as house prices continued to rise. The Bank of England said that mortgage approvals numbered 62,918 in April, down from 66,563 in March, falling to their lowest level in nine months and marking the third monthly slowdown in a row. **Page 40**

Liberty Living: A £1.1 billion property fund in the student accommodation sector is to test the uncertain appetite for new issues by floating on the London stock exchange. Liberty Living, which is being floated by Brandeaux, the property fund manager, as a newly established real estate investment trust, has 42 residences and nearly 12,000 rooms in 17 towns and cities, from Cardiff to Leeds. **Page 39**

CONSUMER GOODS

0.67%

Diageo: Johnnie Walker, the spirits group's flagship Scotch whisky, has been named the world's leading alcoholic drinks brand for the second year running, ahead of its sister brand Smirnoff vodka, in the annual *Power 100* ranking by *Intangible Business*.

ENGINEERING

0.10%

Halma: The engineering conglomerate, which makes control devices for safety and medical equipment, had a quiet year for acquisitions, a key part of its strategy, last year. It has returned to the deal trail with the \$16 million purchase of Rohback Cosasco Systems, of California, the maker of products that monitor pipeline corrosion, the third purchase in recent weeks. **Tempos**, **page 48**

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars: The luxury car manufacturer is

to Lord Oakeshott's Olin Property vehicle for £28.3 million through Colfer Corporate Leisure.

JD Wetherspoon: The discount pub operator looks set to accelerate its Irish expansion plans by acquiring four pubs in Dublin from the failed Capital Bars Group for an estimated €12 million (£9.7 million). It is scheduled to open its first pub south of the border, in Blackrock, with a second site set to follow in Cork.

Marriott International: The operator of luxury hotels has joined an increasing number of American businesses embracing the power of the pink dollar by targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender customers. **Page 39**

MEDIA

0.34%

Entertainment One: The company behind Peppa Pig has snapped up the Canadian rival Phase 4 films, which will add the Kaboom! children's network to its stable. Entertainment One, a Canadian company listed in Britain, will also boost its movie distribution division through the acquisition, adding to its catalogue films including *Patrick: Evil Awakens*, a remake of the 1970s Australian horror classic. *Phase 4* was founded in 2009 by Betty Meyerowitz, who will become the president of Entertainment One's US business.

PROFESSIONAL & SUPPORT SERVICES

0.45%

Parker Fitzgerald: Andrew Moss has landed his first job in the City since he was ousted two years ago as the chief executive of Aviva, Britain's second-largest insurer, joining the board of the London-based management consultancy that