



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2008

## DKM Launches **Economy Watch**

Today, **DKM Economic Consultants** publishes the first issue of **Economy Watch - a Snapshot of Irish Economic Forecasts**.

This unique **Snapshot of Irish Economic Forecasts** gives a concise but comprehensive outlook for the Irish economy based on the latest predictions from 13 leading sources, both Irish and key international bodies such as the IMF, EU and OECD.

Speaking at the launch, **DKM Chairman Brendan Dowling** commented, "**Economy Watch** will be a valuable reference tool for business leaders and decision-makers at a time of international economic uncertainty. An increasing number of forecasts for the Irish economy is being produced at the moment. By distilling these to a single set of numbers, DKM's **Economy Watch** gives readers the benefit of all the leading economic commentators' forecasts at a glance."

The snapshot of forecasts indicates economic growth will slow to 2.6% in 2008, largely as a result of the slowdown in residential construction and international financial turmoil. Growth is then expected to recover to 3.5% in 2009. "However, while there is a consensus that growth will slow in 2008, historically when a recession arrives it has usually been forecast as a slowdown. There tends to be an optimistic bias in downturns (not always offset by a pessimistic bias in upturns). Consumption and export forecasts – the expected drivers of growth in 2008 – may turn out to be on the optimistic side, especially given the turmoil in the international economy. If this turns out to be the case, then 2008 growth could be significantly lower than expected."

**Economy Watch** will be produced on a quarterly basis and will focus on key issues affecting the Irish economy, such as competitiveness, wage negotiations, regulation, the environment, energy and export markets. The current issue includes a discussion of the main economic drivers and their forecast trends in 2008 and 2009.

**Economy Watch** can be downloaded from [www.dkm.ie](http://www.dkm.ie). For further information, please call 01-667 0372 or e-mail [info@dkm.ie](mailto:info@dkm.ie).

*DKM is one of the longest-established economic research firms in Ireland, and has been providing decision-makers with quality advice on economic issues since 1981. Visit [www.dkm.ie](http://www.dkm.ie) for further information about us.*