



The Centre for
Cross Border Studies

MEDIA WATCH

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Half of all Northern Ireland exports now heading to Republic and US;

More than half of all goods exported from Northern Ireland go to either the Republic or United States, according to new data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

It revealed that between 2012 to 2016, businesses that only export to the Republic account for almost a third of all exporters here.

However, in that period, the share of exports from here to the Republic, as a proportion of total declared exports, fell by 3%, whereas exports to the US rose by 12%.

The statistics confirmed that the rest of the UK remains our single biggest external market.

Sales to Britain were worth one-and-a-half times the value of all local exports, and nearly four times the value of exports to the Republic in 2016.

The future of the border is one of the most vexed issues facing Brexit negotiations. The report said: "The sale of finished products to Great Britain relies upon cross-border trade in raw materials and components through integrated supply chains, meaning trade with both Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland are vital to Northern Ireland's economy."

The figures were determined using data from HMRC and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

It showed that machinery and transport equipment made up 36% of the goods exported from here during 2016.

Northern Ireland's biggest export to the Republic was food and live animals, representing 33% of exports over the border in 2016.

Chemicals and related products represented just over half - 51% - of all exports to the US.

The research also identified that two-thirds of exporting businesses here were small, employing less than 49 people.

Trading patterns also varied by industry in Northern Ireland, with businesses in the mining and quarrying, manufacturing, wholesale and retail sectors the most likely to declare trade transactions.

The smallest proportions of businesses that declared trade transactions were in agriculture, forestry and fishing, as well as in the public sector, accommodation and food services. The ONS also found that foreign-owned businesses operating in Northern Ireland were much more likely to declare trade in goods transactions than domestically-owned businesses, with 1.2% of all businesses being foreign-owned.

European Union chief negotiator Michel Barnier ▼ has signalled a willingness to be flexible in Brexit negotiations around the border.

Fears of a return to violence have been raised if the Good Friday Agreement is damaged by the imposition of a hard border on the island of Ireland after withdrawal.

The EU's suggested solution to the problem - a common regulatory area for goods and customs with the rest of the EU - has so far been rejected by the UK as "annexing" Northern Ireland.

What food and live animal exports to Republic represented in the total amount of exports from NI in 2016

Source: The Belfast Telegraph

17 August 2018

Doctors' union warns over no deal

A NO deal Brexit will have a serious impact on the delivery of health care in the north, a doctors' union has warned.

In a new briefing paper, the British Medical Association (BMA) outlined the potential risks.

These included the return to a hard border, a breakdown in all-island service delivery and the impact on the medical workforce if current mutual recognition of professional qualifications and freedom of movement were not maintained.

Dr John D Woods, BMA Northern Ireland council chair, said any developments "which risk destabilising the Good Friday Agreement" could make Northern Ireland a less attractive place to work. In addition, it would make retaining clinicians in the north even more difficult, he said.

"The return of a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland would deter cross-border workers, a key element of our health staffing, from making the daily commute and thereby putting an already pressurised service under even more strain," Dr Woods said.

“The current arrangements for cross-border delivery of health services, such as paediatric cardiac care and cancer services, bring great benefit to patients. On its own, Northern Ireland is not large enough to sustain such all-island specialised services.”

Source: The Irish News