

2015 Top 250 Exporters in Ireland and Northern Ireland launched

By Christine Maguire
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The 2015 Top 250 Exporters in Ireland and Northern Ireland report was launched today. Published by the Irish Exporters Association (IEA) in association with Investec, the report reveals Microsoft Ireland is Ireland's largest exporting company, replacing Google at the number one spot.

The report shows significant growth in manufacturing and services with the top five exporters increasing in value by 23% from last year. Microsoft's export turnover increased from €15 billion in 2014 to €18.2 billion in 2015.

James O'Connor, Microsoft EMEA managing director said: "Over the past three decades we have grown our operations in Ireland and now have over 1,200 people working in a range of areas including R&D, engineering, finance, legal services, sales and marketing. The recognition by the Irish Exporters Association is welcomed during this important year of celebration for the company in Ireland."

Google's export turnover was €17 billion and third place Medtronic Ireland was €16.7 billion. Johnson & Johnson Ireland came in fourth place with export turnover of €10.5 billion.

The report was compiled by StubbsGazette using audited accounts and other sources. Nine of the 20 companies listed are in the ICT arena with seven in the Medical and Pharma sectors.

Simon McKeever, Irish Exporters Association chief executive, said: "Irish exporters continue to play a significant role in the recovery of the Irish economy. While there have been some favourable developments such as Quantitative Easing in our largest single trading partner, the UK, and a continued strong dollar, that have helped make Irish exports more competitive, the success has also been built on strong foundations of quality, innovation and an underlying cost competitive proposition."

The top five ICT companies are:

1. Google €17 billion
2. Microsoft €15 billion
3. Dell €8.6 billion

4. Oracle €7.2 billion

5. Intel €5 billion

The ICT sector is of strategic importance to Ireland, representing over €50 billion in exports in 2012, with €1 billion coming from indigenous software companies alone.

In the food and drink sector, the top five exporting companies are:

1. Kerry Group plc €5.2 billion

2. Total Produce €3 billion

3. ABP Food Group €2.4 billion

4. Ornuia (Irish Dairy Board) €2.3 billion

5. Glanbia plc €2 billion

The food and drink manufacturing sector employs 50,000 directly and generates €26 billion annually, €10.5bn of which is exported to over 120 countries.

The top five IFSC companies are:

1. Hannover Re (Ireland) €1.9 billion

2. AAReal Bank AG €1.65 billion

3. Citibank Europe plc €1.58 billion

4. Depfa Bank €1.25 billion

5. Canada Life International €1.2 billion

The Irish Financial Service sector employs 35,000 people directly and is increasing each year. Investec's John Cronin, author of the independent report on the IFSC, said: "It is Investec's view to expect continued rapid growth in this sector driven by a combination of factors including Ireland's location advantage, the competitive corporate tax rate, the well-educated English-speaking workforce, and the robust legal and regulatory framework."

The top five pharma and med-tech exporters are:

1. Medtronic Ireland €16.7 billion
2. Johnson & Johnson Ireland €10.5 billion
3. Activas (Warner Chilcott plc & Allergan plc) €9.5 billion
4. Pfizer Global €7 billion
5. Kerry Group plc €5.2 billion

Ireland has approximately 120 pharma company plants, including nine out of ten of the largest pharmaceutical companies.