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Microsoft overtakes Google as State's top exporter

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Microsoft has replaced Google as the top exporter in the State, after growing its export turnover by 21 per cent from €15 billion in 2014 to €18.2 billion this year.

The technology giant was named the State's largest exporting company in the 2015 edition of Top 250 Exporters in Ireland and Northern Ireland, compiled by the **Irish Exporters Association** and Investec.

It was followed by Google Ireland with export turnover of €17 billion, while Medtronic Ireland was in third place with export turnover of €16.7 billion. Johnson & Johnson Ireland came fourth with export turno-

ver of €10.5 billion while Ingersoll Rand was fifth at €9.8 billion.

The report shows strong growth in manufacturing and services, with the value of exports from the top five exporters rising by 23.5 per cent on the previous year.

'Year of celebration'

James O'Connor, managing director of Microsoft EMEA operations, said the recognition by the **Irish Exporters Association** was welcomed during "this important year of celebration for the company in Ireland".

"Microsoft is celebrating 30 years of investment in Ireland this year. Over the past three decades, we have continued to

Ireland's top exporters



invest in and grow our operations and now have over 1,200 people working in a range of areas including R&D, engineering, finance, legal services, sales and marketing," he said.

Tech firms accounted for nine of the top 20 exporters, with seven of the top 20 in the medical and pharma sectors.

In the food and drink sector, Kerry Food topped the table with exports of €5.2 billion, followed by Total Produce with €3 billion in exports.

Investec equity analyst Ian Hunter said food and drink-related exports now totalled €10.5 billion with growth in the dairy and beef categories driving a 10 per cent yearly increase over the past five years.