

Exporters' from Ireland to UK: Reliance Higher Since Brexit Vote



Irish Exporters Association CEO Simon McKeever with Glenn Carr, general manager freight rail/road & Rosslare Europort, Iarnród Éireann; Eddie Cullen, managing director, commercial banking division, Ulster Bank; Jarlath Sweeney, group editor/director, Fleet Transport; and Declan Sinnott, managing director, Rhenus Logistics Ireland, at a recent Brexit event.

Around the time of UK's EU referendum in June 2016, just under a third of exporters said they sold a quarter of their produce into the UK market.

That's now risen to 44pc of exporters. And 41pc say they plan to increase UK sales further in the next six months, according to the latest assessment from the Irish Exporters Association (IEA).

In the wake of the UK referendum in June 2016, the IEA surveyed its members views on Brexit's impact.

In January, it repeated the study and has now compared the results.

"What our analysis shows is the resilience of the Irish export industry," Simon McKeever, Irish Exporters Association chief executive, said.

About 93pc of IEA members do business with the UK; for most that accounts for less than a quarter of their sales, although the UK is becoming increasingly important since the initial survey.

Four out of 10 exporter say they plan to increase UK sales over the next six months, just 3pc say they'll reduce them, and 57pc say they'll maintain current levels.