

Summary of Usage of the Manufacturing Sales & Exports survey

The annual Northern Ireland Manufacturing Sales & Exports Survey (MSES) provides estimates of the sales and exports generated by all businesses within the manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland. The survey is a standalone Northern Ireland Survey and does not have a direct counterpart among GB statistical outputs. For UK trade statistics, HM Revenue and Customs publish the Regional Trade Statistics.

<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/statistics/rts/Pages/default.aspx>

The MSES is used by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment as a means of monitoring the performance of the Northern Ireland Manufacturing sector and to develop and progress policy. In doing so the MSES provides information which is used to answer assembly questions, enhance ministerial briefs, provide background and context for policy development and give comprehensive responses to ad hoc queries. Data from the MSES is also used to develop the DETI Economic Commentary:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/january_2012_economic_commentary-2.pdf

Throughout the wider government the MSES is used to observe and develop policy related to specific manufacturing sub-sectors. For example, MSES data feeds into the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) report: Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector.

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/dard-statistics/food-statistics/northern-ireland-food-and-drinks-processing-sector.htm>

Invest NI use MSES data to inform their work with the manufacturing sector and as a source of data for research and reports. Please see below for a link to the report: Invest Northern Ireland Performance Information Report.:

http://www.investni.com/performance_information_report_invest_ni_2002-2003_to_2007-2008_ci_march-2009.pdf

MSES data is also used to assist in monitoring the outcomes of government policy. The current Northern Ireland Executive Economic Strategy identifies exploiting 'new opportunities in the global economy' as one of the priorities for growing the Northern Ireland private sector. The report stipulates that to compete globally one of the 'Key Rebalancing Measures' is to 'increase the value of manufacturing exports by 20% and the value of exports to the emerging economies by 60% by 2014/15'.

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/ni-economic-strategy-revised-130312.pdf>

Outside government the data is used by a wide range of private sector analysts and academics to inform economic commentary and private research. The MSES is monitored by the media and used to enhance the media's economic coverage. In doing so the data is transmitted to the public and helps to inform the wider population on developments in the Northern Ireland economy. Please see the following links to coverage by the BBC, Belfast Telegraph and the Newsletter:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16071122>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/business-month/trading-with-the-world-16058927.html>

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/business/local-businesses/local-exporters-hit-by-irish-economic-crisis-1-3318050>