



**TOWARDS A
UNITED
IRELAND**

**UNITY
MAKES
ECONOMIC
SENSE**

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UNITY MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE

Research has repeatedly demonstrated that in terms of synergies, economies of scale and infrastructural development – a united Ireland makes economic sense.

There are simply no advantages for a small island nation of 6.4million inhabitants on the edge of Europe in having two separate tax regimes, two separate legal systems, and two separate and competing economic development programmes.

At different times, businesses on both sides of the Border have benefited or gone bust because of the fluctuating economic circumstances of two separated economies.

Business does not like such instability and it is not a sustainable long-term economic policy for this island.

A united Ireland would bring economic stability and create an environment in which business can thrive. Unity would deliver sustainable economic growth and employment throughout the island. It would particularly benefit areas along the Border which have suffered as a result of partition.

Unity would create a level playing field for trade which would not be dependent on the whim of currency exchanges or taxation differences on one small island.

Irish unity would clear the way to promote 'Brand Ireland', to replace competition with cooperation, to maximise inward investment and tourism, and to promote Irish products, produce and business.

Ireland is a byword for quality in agriculture and food. An integrated agricultural administration on the island would remove obstacles presented by country of origin labelling, two jurisdictional tagging systems, trade and diverging animal health regulations. This will benefit farmers, North and South, and overcome the power of retailers and processors who have used such differences to manipulate prices.

A single, all-island energy market would be able to take full advantage of renewable wind, wave and biomass combined heat and power (CHP) energy and retain the benefits of the Single Electricity Market.



UNITY WILL ACCELERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Irish reunification will be good for economic growth, jobs and living standards across the island of Ireland.

The recently-published and peer-reviewed Modeling Irish Unification study by Professor Kurt Huebner of Vancouver University (2015) projected the total combined Irish economy would in a short number of years be greater than the two separate economies, North and South, by approximately €35billion a year.

Modeling Irish Unification adds to the growing body of work pointing to the very substantial net economic benefits of Irish unification. No serious analysis or research exists that points to a contrary conclusion.

The different economic structures, North and South, undermine Irish economic growth. Companies and workers are impeded by currency fluctuations, different levels of vehicle registration tax, differing tax rates and varying costs.

Island-wide trade in manufacturing generates €3billion or £2.4billion for Ireland. Removing barriers to this trade would undoubtedly lead to significant growth in this figure. Full economic integration would allow for fair and progressive taxation, regulation and trade. It would provide the tools for growth, employment and a better business climate across the island.

UNITY IS BETTER FOR INWARD INVESTMENT

At present, differing bodies are competing to market Ireland for inward investment. This duplication incurs administration costs and the false competition drives down the benefits of investments as investors play the North off against the South and vice versa.

The combined leverage, networks and experience of inward investment agencies would deliver a significant synergy for increased investment.

A single, island-wide agency and policy would drive investment and integrate the current efforts of the IDA, InvestNI and InterTradelreland.

This would bring together the experience and expertise, North and South, to ensure a fully integrated approach to investment and innovation and facilitate a more strategic use of EU funds.

A new, unified Ireland would promote the island as a location for investment and access to the Single European Market.



UNITY IS BETTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD

As pointed out earlier, an integrated agricultural administration on the island would remove obstacles presented by country of origin labelling, two jurisdictional tagging systems, and diverging animal health regulations.

This will benefit farmers, North and South, and challenge the power of retailers and processors who have used such differences to manipulate prices.

Ireland's reputation for producing high-quality foods is second to none. An Bord Bia reports that the South of Ireland's food and drink exports reached €10.5billion in 2014. The North's exports account reached £3.4billion or €4.24billion (using average exchange rate of 1.24 for 2014) in 2014.

Currently, exchange rate fluctuations can inhibit where farmers can both source and sell stock. Producers of milk and livestock in the North feel they are unfairly exposed to additional bureaucracy compared to their Southern competitors when their product is transported across the Border, all of which undermines the combined export potential of both parts of Ireland.



UNITY IS BETTER FOR EXPORTS

Unity would allow for the coherent promotion of a single 'Brand Ireland' across the world, free from wasteful duplication brought on by different state bodies promoting Irish products.

This has the potential to create thousands of jobs and double exports over the next ten years.

Post-Brexit, a united Ireland is more important than ever for the agri-food industry. Unity would mean a single, cohesive voice better placed to ensure a fair price for produce from meat plants and processors, regulate the power of supermarkets, and deliver better deals from CAP reform discussions. Agri-business will also benefit from the free movement of animals across Ireland.

UNITY IS BETTER FOR TOURISM

Ireland is one of the world's favourite holiday destinations. However, tourism in the South has the tendency to stop at the Galway-Dublin axis while Border areas are underdeveloped and underfunded with respect to investment in tourism. For example, only 3% of the Irish Government's Tourism Capital Investment Programme from 2007-2015 was invested in Border areas.

A united Ireland would see all parts of Ireland reach their full potential. Ireland would be marketed as a single destination. Why should the Wild Atlantic way or Ancient East projects not embrace the entire coastline?

Development of all-island tourism would undoubtedly benefit areas on both sides of what is now the Border. Tourism in a united Ireland would result in increased employment and tax revenue.



POSITIVELY TRANSFORMING THE BORDER REGION

Partition has separated natural communities and economies in the Border counties. Derry was separated from Donegal, Fermanagh from Leitrim and Cavan, Tyrone from Monaghan, and Armagh from Monaghan and Louth.

Unity would bring together once again the local economies of these natural regions and remove all barriers to trade, including the impact of currency fluctuations.

It would also provide for investment to redress the imbalances caused by partition in communities by linking into transport and technology infrastructure such as the development of the A5 linking Dublin, Derry and Donegal.

The spatial planning process in both parts of the island would benefit from harmonised and integrated data sets on population, employment, transportation, housing, retailing and environmental indicators.

UNITY IS GOOD FOR THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

There are clear synergies with the growing medical supplies business in Ireland. This is primarily within the private sector but this could be integrated with publicly-directed health services and supplemented with public R&D and education investment to become a key sector in a unified economy.

The North's economy is home to a series of large firms operating in sectors which would be complementary to Southern enterprises, including food processing, aerospace, building machinery, pharma, telecoms and IT.

Another established sector to benefit from a unified economy is the aerospace sector, where the South has well-established financial engineering and services related to leasing and other areas, whereas the North has significant aerospace industrial capacity.

Public sector integration, North and South, across road, rail, postal, telecoms, water and energy could facilitate a significant increase in productivity and prosperity.

Expansion of the Irish home market by 25% or more would clearly increase Ireland's capacity to compete in the wider EU economy, raising the prosperity of the whole island.

It is clear that the prize of a much larger, more prosperous economy across the island of Ireland is available through reunification.

