

► The Port of Belfast continued...

According to the independent study the Port's activities, directly and indirectly, support 187,000 jobs (27% of Northern Ireland's entire workforce) and 31% of the region's total economic value (£19.5 billion). This study also calculated that the value of trade handled by the Port in 2007 was £21.4 billion.

Although the ongoing removal of barriers to international trade presents opportunities for Northern Ireland's economy, it is also crucial to ensure that Northern Ireland has the infrastructure in place: the terminals, the quays, the warehouses and the roads, to successfully manage the projected growth and to allow for the closing of the performance gap between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK and the Republic.

Roy Adair, CEO, Port of Belfast, said:

"The report shows how important the Port of Belfast is to the continued success of the Northern Ireland economy. Economic growth means that current Port land resources will become exhausted and it is for this reason that we plan to reclaim 120 acres from Belfast Lough. The new land will support an additional 6 km of quayside and will require a total investment of £630m. Since Belfast's earliest days, the Port has ensured that local products can reach markets across the world. From our original base at the bottom of High Street, we have grown, and will continue to grow, to meet the needs of the Northern Ireland economy."

Tel. 028 9055 4422

Web. www.belfast-harbour.co.uk

