



Christmas Trading Projected to be Up, But Only Just

Retail Excellence, Ireland's largest retail representative body, today launched its Christmas Trading Review (Part 1) and projected Christmas trading across the retail industry to be up marginally on the same period in 2016 against the background of a volatile trading climate.

CEO of Retail Excellence David Fitzsimons commented "We have spoken with our Members across all of retail's various sectors and although they are cautiously optimistic about Christmas trading thus far which is on average marginally up, our research has highlighted a large surge online with sales tracking up over 30% on a like for like basis and logistics companies reporting a circa 40% increase in online packages."

"The week ahead is of critical importance for the Christmas trading period overall, with a large volume of shopping activity due to take place in the coming days, retailers will be hopeful that consumers shop locally and support their local stores in the run-up to December 25th to ensure a Merry Christmas for all 37,400 retail enterprises operating in Ireland."

Current Trading In Summary:

- Irish Retail Industry – Trading Marginally Up
- Furniture & Flooring – Trading Significantly Up
- Consumer Electronics – Trading Up
- Telecommunications – Trading Marginally Down
- Beauty & Pharmacy – Trading Marginally Up
- Grocery & Alcohol – Trading Up
- Ladieswear – Trading Up
- Footwear – Trading Parity
- Stationary | Toys | Music – Trading Down
- Café | Food to Go – Trading Marginally Up
- Gift & Homeware – Trading Up
- Menswear – Trading Up
- Jewellery – Trading Down

- Garden – Trading Marginally Up
- Health Stores – Trading Up
- Online – Trading Significantly Up

Ends/

Contact Retail Excellence CEO David Fitzsimons – 087 253 5482

About Retail Excellence

Established in 1995, Retail Excellence is owned by the members, for the members. We are an organisation which invests in innovative and exciting learning, market intelligence, human resources services, Government representation and member networking initiatives. Retail Excellence has over 1,800 leading retail companies in Ireland. Our members are the most progressive and innovative retailers. Retail Excellence is by far the largest retail industry body in Ireland.