

Hi There,

I read about the study that you are doing, and as a North Dublin resident who shops once a month in Newry, I can give you a few examples of goods that I buy where there is a huge price differential where it might be handy to look at how they are imported/distributed and how this would contribute to the price differential.

-Gia Garlic puree 90g

Local Super valu in Donabate at €1.79, exact same available Sainsbury's Newry **44p**

This is a huge price variance. It is an Italian manufacturer so in the EuroZone.

-Ecover Rinse Aid 500ml Sainsbury's £2.81, superquinn Swords (and online) €4.25

Dutch manufacturer so again Eurozone

-Crazy Jack's Organic Cashew nuts 100gm Superquinn €2.19, Sainsbury's £1.43

-Cadbury's Milkchocolate chunks 180gm (home baking section) Superquinn €3.25, Sainsbury's £1.49

-Ready Brek 500gm Superquinn €3.32, Sainsbury's £1.75

These are just a few examples. I could find mountains more!

Best regards

Blaithin O'Donnell

**Further to your recent advertisement for submissions in relation to the retail/import/export sector,
I Maurice Fitzgerald, Shanbally, Ringaskiddy, County Cork, make the following submission.**

It is painfully obvious that much of the retail market in the Irish Republic is based on acute anti-competitive practices, notwithstanding any currency differential. Any price differential or gain in value of the Euro against imports, is taken advantage of by special interests who are involved in cartels designed to strip any real competition from this country. This has the result of giving small business and consumers no choice is a monopoly state. There is to this day, despite the passage of almost a hundred years of Irish Independence no real competition within the Irish Republic.

A rapidly increasing number of people are travelling to Northern Ireland for cheaper products, because of a cartel based retail environment. This trend will continue and ultimately will become embedded. There are now huge price differentials between Northern Ireland and the Republic, proving the rip off nature of what is going on. Our trade distortion problems can only be solved by breaking up the myriad of tax cheating cartels that exist in this country, otherwise problems will persist.

You may publish this submission in full.

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