

departure deadline⁵⁴ was extended⁵⁵ a number of times.

12th December 2019 – After four years of inertia⁵⁶, Boris Johnson won a majority in the UK General Election and states his commitment⁵⁷ to “get Brexit done” by 31st January 2020.

At 23.00 on 31st January 2020, the UK left the EU and entered a transition period⁵⁸.

At 23.00 on 31st December 2020, the transition period ended, and the UK left the European single market⁵⁹ and the customs union⁶⁰.

Even for those who wished to remain, there was something of a sigh of relief⁶¹. At last, all the debate and political wrangling⁶² was over, and the country could get back to normal – but what does the post-Brexit new normal look like?

The Numbers

Every politician worth their salt⁶³ will tell you that everything has to be contextualised⁶⁴. During the past few years, the world has experienced massive social and economic shockwaves caused by the pandemic and subsequent⁶⁵ lockdowns, the war in Ukraine and soaring⁶⁶ energy costs. Naturally, these factors have had an impact on both the overall economic environment and the resulting metrics⁶⁷. Taking that into account⁶⁸, here are some of the key statistics:

According to⁶⁹ the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), between 2019 Q4 – 2022 Q3, gross domestic product (GDP)⁷⁰ growth was for the United States – 4.3 percent, Italy 1.8 percent, France 1.1 percent, Japan – 0.9 percent, Germany 0.3 percent, and the UK – -0.4 percent. As can be seen, European countries are far from dynamic, nonetheless⁷¹, the independent UK government watchdog⁷², the Office for Budgetary Responsibility⁷³, estimates that the UK economy could be worse off⁷⁴ by up to 4 percent as a result of Brexit. UK – -0.4 percent. Other figures suggest that there are around 330,000 fewer⁷⁵ workers in the UK post-Brexit with those

who have departed⁷⁶ coming mostly from transport, hospitality⁷⁷ and retail⁷⁸. It may have contributed to⁷⁹ the current wave of strikes in areas as wide-ranging⁸⁰ as nurses and railway workers. Inflation is around 9 percent while average⁸¹ energy costs have risen 36 percent in a year.

As might be expected, trade⁸² with the EU has fallen since Brexit. For imports, that ranges from 14 – 25 percent over the past few years, while exports to the EU are down around 6 percent. While that benefits the balance of trade⁸³ it points to supply chain⁸⁴ issues, which can have a knock-on effect⁸⁵ on manufacturing and consumers. Some supermarkets have even limited the number of items that customers can buy. Another related⁸⁶ issue is customs⁸⁷ bureaucracy as trucks can no longer enjoy the quick and easy movement of goods that intra-EU⁸⁸ traders can. This issue has proved⁸⁹ to be an ongoing⁹⁰ thorny issue⁹¹ in relation to Northern Ireland and its ability or otherwise⁹² to move goods freely between Northern Ireland and the UK mainland⁹³, and the province and the Republic of Ireland, still part of the European Union. If the latest so-called⁹⁴

⁵⁴ departure deadline *dr'pɔ:tʃə(r) 'dediəm tu:* ostateczny termin opuszczenia Unii Europejskiej

⁵⁵ to extend sth *tə ɪk'stend 'sʌmθɪŋ* wydłużyć coś

⁵⁶ inertia *ɪ'nɜːʃə* bezwład, inercja

⁵⁷ commitment *kə'mɪtmənt* zobowiązanie

⁵⁸ transition period *træn'zɪʃn 'pɪəriəd* okres przejściowy

⁵⁹ European single market *ˌjɔːrə'piən 'sɪŋɡl 'mɑːkɪt* jednolity rynek europejski

⁶⁰ customs union *'kʌstəmz 'juːniən* unia celna

⁶¹ sigh of relief *sai əv rɪ'liːf* westchnienie ulgi

⁶² to wrangle *tə 'ræŋɡl* kłócić się

⁶³ worth one's salt *wɜːθ wʌnz sɔːlt* warty pieniędzy, które dostaje

⁶⁴ to contextualise sth *tə kən'tekstʃʊəlaɪz 'sʌmθɪŋ* rozpatrywać coś w szerszym kontekście

⁶⁵ subsequent *'sʌbsɪkwənt* kolejny

⁶⁶ soaring *'sɔː(r)ɪŋ* rosnący

⁶⁷ metrics *'metrɪks* dane statystyczne

⁶⁸ to take sth into account *tə teɪk 'sʌmθɪŋ 'ɪntə ə'kaʊnt* brać coś pod uwagę

⁶⁹ according to sth *ə'kɔːdɪŋ tə 'sʌmθɪŋ* według czegoś

⁷⁰ gross domestic product (GDP) *grɒs də'mestɪk*

⁷¹ nonetheless *nənðə'les* niemniej jednak

⁷² watchdog *'wɒtʃdɒɡ* organizacja pozarządowa monitorująca działania władz

⁷³ the Office for Budgetary Responsibility *ðə 'ɒfɪs fə(r) 'bʌdʒɪtəri rɪ'spɒnsə'bɪləti* Biuro Odpowiedzialności Budżetowej

⁷⁴ worse off *wɜːs əf* uboższy

⁷⁵ fewer *fjuː* mniej

⁷⁶ to depart *tə dɪ'pɔ:t* odejść

⁷⁷ hospitality *ˌhɒspɪ'tæləti* tu: branża turystyczno-hotelarska

⁷⁸ retail *'riːtəl* handel detaliczny

⁷⁹ to contribute to sth *tə kən'trɪbjʊt tə 'sʌmθɪŋ*

przyczyniać się do czegoś, wносить wkład w coś

⁸⁰ wide-ranging *'waɪd reɪndʒɪŋ* o szerokim zasięgu

⁸¹ average *'ævərɪdʒ* przeciętny

⁸² trade *treɪd* handel

⁸³ balance of trade *'bæləns əv treɪd* bilans handlowy

⁸⁴ supply chain *sə'plaɪ tʃeɪn* łańcuch dostaw

⁸⁵ knock-on effect *'nɒk 'ɒn ɪ'fekt* efekt domina

⁸⁶ related *rɪ'leɪtəd* powiązany

⁸⁷ customs *'kʌstəmz* tu: odprawa celna, urząd celny

⁸⁸ intra-EU *ɪn'trə ˌiː 'juː* wewnątrzunijny

⁸⁹ to prove *tə pruːv* tu: okazać się

⁹⁰ ongoing *'ɒŋɡəʊɪŋ* trwający

⁹¹ thorny issue *'θɔːni 'ɪʃuː* drażliwa kwestia

⁹² or otherwise *ɔː(r) 'lðəwaɪz* czy wręcz przeciwnie

⁹³ mainland *'mɛɪnlənd* ląd stały

⁹⁴ so-called *səʊ 'kɔɪd* tak zwany

