According to the OEC (Observatory of Economic Complexity), its industrial<sup>59</sup> goods exports and imports during 2020 were estimated at USD 5.18 bln and USD 5.71 bln respectively<sup>60</sup>. On the other hand<sup>61</sup>, during the same year it exported an estimated USD 8.6 bln of services but imported just USD 5.24 bln of them. Its top five industrial goods exports in 2020 were aluminium (worth USD 1.74 bln), followed by fish fillets (USD 984 mln), non-filleted fresh fish (USD 336 mln), non-filleted frozen fish (USD 283 mln) and processed<sup>62</sup> fish (USD 264 mln).

WTEX says most of Iceland's industrial product exports for 2019 went to European customers<sup>63</sup> (84.1 percent), with 9.7 percent of its exports going to North America and six percent to Asia. Interestingly, the biggest importer of Icelandic goods during 2019 was the Netherlands (27.2 percent), followed by Spain (11.8 percent), the United Kingdom (9,6 percent), France (8 percent), the USA (7.8 percent) and Germany (6 percent). Norway and Denmark were only the seventh and eighth largest importers of Icelandic goods, accounting for 1 just 3.2 and 2.4 percent of the global total

respectively<sup>65</sup>, with China in ninth place on 2.2 percent and Poland in tenth place on 2 percent.

## ICT on the Rise

More recently, other industries have emerged<sup>56</sup> as Iceland's five fastest-growing industrial sectors, all of which are linked with the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) industry. According to Icelandic government figures, these are: health technologies (including<sup>57</sup> pharmaceuticals), biotechnology, genetics, biomedical engineering and IT-based equipment production for food processing.

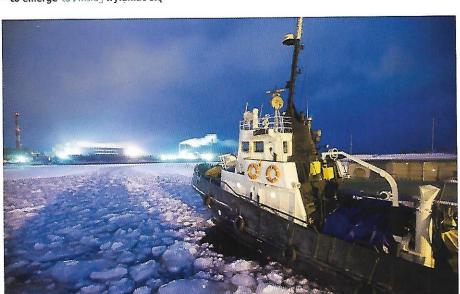
## The Future

Despite its heavy reliance on<sup>60</sup> three main sectors — tourism, fishing and aluminium smelting — there is potential for expanding<sup>60</sup> Iceland's economy, whose future may hinge on<sup>70</sup> the development of its emerging<sup>71</sup> industrial sectors. ■

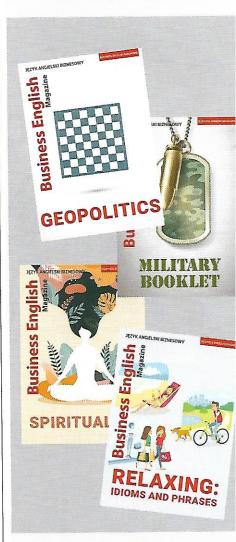
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