



IHK

Bremen Chamber of Commerce
CCI for Bremen and Bremerhaven

Shaping Business

**BREMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:
WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE VALUE, AND WHAT WE DO**





Dear Entrepreneurs,

When people think of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce, they think of you. You are the Chamber of Commerce. All of the 52,000 registered entrepreneurs in Bremen and Bremerhaven determine where their regional business organization is headed. You share a common bond in that you are creators and innovators of ideas that benefit the State of Bremen, the Northwest Metropolitan Region, and everybody who lives and works here. Entrepreneurship is what drives you, and it drives us, too. As Germany's oldest business organization, the Bremen Chamber of Commerce has always had the interests of regional business at heart. Hence, our goal is to join you on the road ahead and keep an eye on the challenges facing Bremen and Bremerhaven.

**Your Bremen Chamber of Commerce –
CCI for Bremen and Bremerhaven**



Matthias Biehler,
flix GmbH, Bremen



What we do for you

OUR ORGANIZATION

Our achievements in numbers:

4,300 volunteers
on boards, committees,
in working groups and
at roundtables – including
3,700 individuals in an
auditing role

52,000
member companies

16,000
companies on the
commercial register

2,000
operational sites

52 elected members
in the Assembly –
including 10 members
on the Steering
Committee

106
employees in
8 business sectors

OUR ORGANIZATION

Stakeholders

Who speaks for my interests?

Bremen's entrepreneurs know best what economic issues are important to them. You want your concerns to be heard in Bremen, in the Northwest Metropolitan Region, in Berlin, and in Brussels. A well-connected and authoritative voice, the Bremen Chamber of Commerce is the organization that truly represents your interests. As members of the Chamber of Commerce, companies regularly select their industry representatives to join the Chamber's Steering Committee, the highest decision-making body along with the Chamber's Assembly. Every company has exactly one vote, regardless of its size. Both voluntary bodies are staffed with individual entrepreneurs, owners of medium-sized companies, and executives from large corporations. Members of the Assembly and the Steering Committee share a broad vision that focuses squarely on the Greater Bremen economy.

Ariane Aschemann,
DOHR florales,
Bremen



Lutz Natusch,
Natusch Fischereihafen-
Restaurant GmbH,
Bremerhaven

OUR ORGANIZATION

Sovereign Order

What are the Chamber's statutory duties?

The Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHK) in Germany understand the challenges facing businesses and entrepreneurs. For this reason, lawmakers have authorized the Chambers to carry out certain sovereign functions on behalf of the state. The Bremen Chamber of Commerce fulfills its public obligations in a non-bureaucratic, efficient, and customer-friendly manner. We ensure that young people trained by businesses are examined using consistent performance standards. We produce customs documents for matters of international trade and offer advice on land use plans from a business perspective. Many professional sectors use our technical examinations to certify the standards of their trade, whilst numerous companies rely on qualified experts, appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, for economic and technical advice.

Consulting Services

What types of services does the Chamber offer?

Let's say that a startup is looking for help with financing. What type of funding is right for them? Or perhaps a company wants to become active in Asia. What do they need to consider? If a high-tech company is looking for a partner in science, where can they find suitable networks? If a small company wants to offer apprenticeships for the first time, what are the requirements?

The Bremen Chamber of Commerce of Bremen can help with these and many other scenarios. As a service partner for companies, we offer consulting, information, training, and services for your everyday business needs in all sectors. Whether your business is a startup or an established company, we will provide the support that fits your business needs.

Björn and Birgit Becker,
Becker + Brügesch
Entsorgungs GmbH,
Bremen

Our duties:

From business to business:

**We look out for
your interests**

Reducing government involvement:

**We assume
statutory obligations**

Helping you to succeed:

**Our services focus
on clients' needs**

Services for businesses

Who can answer my questions?

The quickest way to access our broad range of services is through the Chamber's Business Services sections in Bremen and Bremerhaven. Our consultants are on hand with advice and assistance – with or without an appointment. The Chamber of Commerce and our partners work closely together. This allows us to offer short communication channels and swift response times so you can quickly get the information you need or want – all of which is in line with our organization's approach: to provide comprehensive business services and information from a single source.

Tobias Brand,
bodenständig,
Bremen



Our Partners in Bremen:

Bremen Chamber of Commerce, Bremen Chamber of Crafts, Chamber of Trade Bremen, WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen GmbH, RKW Bremen GmbH / B.E.G.IN-Gründungsleitstelle (startup support center), BAB – Development Bank of Bremen and Bremerhaven, State of Bremen Integrated Information Center

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Our Partners in Bremerhaven:

Bremen Chamber of Commerce, BIS Bremerhavener Gesellschaft für Investitionsförderung und Stadtentwicklung mbH, Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences, RKW Bremen GmbH / B.E.G.IN-Gründungsleitstelle (startup support center)

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Marko Schlurhoff
and Alexander Meyer,
SALT AND PEPPER
Holding GmbH & Co.
KG, Bremen



How we work for you

OUR VALUES

OUR VALUES

Taking charge of your business

Self-governance – why is it important?

On January 10, 1451, Bremen merchants took their destinies into their own hands. With the so-called "Ordinantie", they set down binding rules for their community in the shape of eight articles. And things didn't stop there. A body to represent the "kopmann tho Bremen" (businessmen/merchants of Bremen) before the powers that be in the Town Council was also established. Self-determination, accountability, and independence: these three principles of self-governance have remained hallmarks of the Bremen business community up to the present day. A powerful vehicle for the interests of companies located in Bremen and Bremerhaven, the Chamber of Commerce upholds the traditions of one of the oldest structures of economic self-governance in Germany. We have been shaping business for more than 560 years!

Piet Rothe,
Hotel Amaris GmbH,
Bremerhaven

Our history:

JANUARY 10, 1451
The "Ordinantie" enacts rules for merchants and represents commercial interests before the Town Council, creating the unique tradition of economic self-governance, unprecedented in Europe at the time.

1537/38
"The Schütting" is rebuilt on the city's market square, to a design by the architect Johann den Buschener from Antwerp.

JUNE 1, 1646
During the Thirty Years War, the "Linzer Diploma" grants the City of Bremen Imperial immediacy status, which meant that Bremen merchants are subject only to the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation (*Reichsunmittelbarkeit*).

APRIL 2, 1849
The Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Convention, as "State Institutions for the Promotion of Trade and Shipping" take on the role of "Collegium Seniorum" ("Elterleute", or spokesmen of the merchant community).

1867
As seaports gain in importance, a Chamber of Commerce is founded in Geestemünde near Bremerhaven. At the end of the 19th century, there were very few organizations of this kind, which covered a broader territory than this one.

AFTER 1945
As the country's states are reorganized, the Bremerhaven Chamber of Industry and Commerce comes into being.

1882
Bremerhaven merchants fight tariffs imposed by Reich Chancellor Bismarck. Following the censorship of its minutes, the members of the Chamber's General Assembly resign *en bloc* from all positions.

JANUARY 2016
The two Chambers of Commerce merge to one. The reformed and newly named Chamber of Commerce Bremen – CCI for Bremen and Bremerhaven now serves all businesses in the state of Bremen.



Committed to your success

How significant are voluntary efforts?

Without the contributions of private citizens, Bremen and Bremerhaven would have fewer attractions for visitors to enjoy: Bremen's Kunsthalle and Überseemuseum, the Bürgerpark in Bremen and Bremerhaven, the Bremerhaven City Theater, and the ever-growing number of foundations, to name just a few examples. Merchants, as passionate about their cities as they are about their businesses, have always been known for their strong local involvement.

Of course, these days nothing gets done in the Chamber of Commerce without dedicated volunteers from Bremen and Bremerhaven. More than 4,300 individuals work on panels, committees, working groups, or as consultants on their own time. Some 3,700 women and men are involved in examinations in education and training alone. A number of auditors have been doing this for more than 25 years!



Hans-Christoph and
Berend Jürgen Erling,
Roland Mills United
GmbH & Co. KG,
Bremen

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in a greenhouse filled with various plants. The woman, on the left, is wearing an orange blazer over a white top. The man, on the right, is wearing a light-colored blazer over a white shirt and glasses. They are both smiling. The greenhouse has a glass roof and metal frames, with many potted plants and seedlings visible in the background and foreground.

Svenja and
Nils-Tobias Wassenaar,
Gartencenter
Wassenaar GmbH,
Bremerhaven

OUR VALUES

Looking ahead

What does the future have in store for the Chamber?

Digitization, economy 4.0, globalization, the search for skilled employees ... The world won't stand still and neither will our economy. Companies want to know where Bremen is headed as a place to do business. What trends and developments are important to us? What are we doing in response to these changes?

The Chamber of Commerce has partnered with scientists and economists to develop the "Outlook Bremen 2030 Report" and provide some guidance. In our various initiatives, we take position on topics such as education, innovation, and urban development. Staying in the loop will enable you to develop your own strategy for tomorrow!

OUR VALUES

Focused on performance

How much importance do you attach to quality?

Whether you are a medium-sized or large company, you value quality because that's what you want to be able to offer to your customers. The Chamber of Commerce can support you in this. We have a wide range of advisory functions and services, too.

* All figures for the year 2016 in Bremen and Bremerhaven

Nicole Schütz,
Nicole Schütz Home
Staging, Bremen

gave **650**
introductory talks
and consultations for
entrepreneurs

had **3,677**
examinees in our
professional certification
examination

provided legal advice
708 times

In the course of 2016 we:

issued approx.
18,370*
customs
documents

provided **110**
expert opinions on
economic issues

ran **9,703**
registered training
programs

organized and
conducted
972
continued training
examinations

Chen Sun, ES Chimney
System GmbH, Bremen



What we
can do for you

OUR SERVICES

OUR SERVICES

Business startup consulting
and company succession planning

How do I start a business?

If you want to run your own business, you need to know how to set up a business plan, calculate costs and income accurately, and what your obligations are when it comes to getting your company off the ground. The Chamber of Commerce organizes seminars and workshops on topics associated with starting your own business. We can set you on the path to business success by providing personalized advice on all questions surrounding startup, self-employment, succession planning, and management.

Sohrab Mohammad
and Torben Buttjer,
Reishunger GmbH,
Bremen



Financing and funding consulting

Shedding light on funding opportunities

Where can I find sources of funding? Whether you want to start a business, take over a business, invest or finance your operating expenses, thoughtful planning of your financial resources is the way to go. Almost all convincing and commercially viable projects are eligible for funding. The Chamber of Commerce offers you assistance by cutting through the maze of business funding opportunities. We will also support you by keeping an eye on the fine print of liquidity planning.

Country Networks

How do I find business partners in other corners of the world?

When you plan a trip, you seek out a travel agency or do your own online research. But where do companies turn to when they want to increase exports or open up new markets? The Chamber of Commerce has you covered, whether you're interested in Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America, North Africa, or other regions. Through our country networks and delegation visits, we assist entrepreneurs who are entering foreign markets. Companies can also benefit from access to our global network of foreign trade chambers with 130 locations worldwide.



Certificate Service

How do I get my goods safely from A to B?

Every year, goods worth more than € 17 billion are shipped all over the world from Bremen. Anyone conducting business in international trade must present documents certified by the IHK in Germany. As a facilitator of the international trade of goods, the Chamber of Commerce provides advice on and produces export certificates or certificates of origin, the "passport" for your goods!

Natalie Prüße,
Kaffeerösterei August
Münchhausen e.K.,
Bremen

Where can I get help in training employees?

Germany's dual vocational training concept has an excellent reputation worldwide. Anybody who participates in such a training program will put their career on a solid foundation. That's the way companies find employees with the right skills for the future. To ensure quality for companies and apprentices alike, training consultants provided by the Bremen Chamber of Commerce are available in person, on the telephone, or on-site. They have details on the profiles of different professions and testing requirements and help companies become training companies while also acting as advisors during ongoing training.

* All figures for the year 2016 in Bremen and Bremerhaven

Marc Eggers and
Dorian Alberts,
J.H. Jaeger & Eggers
Handelsgesellschaft mbH,
Bremen

In 2016 we facilitated:

972
continued training
examinations

7,475
examinations in
Germany's dual system
of vocational and
commercial training

including
3,462
intermediate
exams

including
4,014
final
exams

the creation of
more than 25
continuing education jobs

the creation of
approx. 120
vocational training places

entering
approx. 1,070
participants for trainer
qualification tests

9,703*
registered
training program

including
3,705
recently completed
training programs

OUR SERVICES

Our SME policy

Less bureaucracy, more funding – can it be done?

If small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) do well, all of Bremen benefits. However, too many rules and regulations can create obstacles to your economic success. The Chamber of Commerce is strongly committed to providing a business environment that appeals to small and medium-sized businesses: good infrastructure, tailor-made support programs, attractive commercial spaces, elimination of red tape, and much more. We also support networking between SMEs, for example at our regular "SME Club" meetings.

99.6 percent
of companies located in Bremen are SMEs.

73.9 percent
of all jobs that are subject to social insurance contributions are generated by SMEs.

80.0 percent
of all apprenticeships are offered by SMEs.



Law and taxation

Take a walk on the safe side!

Legal or tax issues play a central role in almost every entrepreneurial decision. That's why they must be addressed swiftly and reliably. We'll give you an initial assessment on topics ranging from labor law to foreclosure, putting you in a position to make educated decisions.

Aram Aritim,
Bremer Industrie Buch-
binderei GmbH, Bremen

Retail and services

How can we make Bremen and Bremerhaven even more attractive?

The residents of Bremen and Bremerhaven enjoy a large range of attractive retail stores and services both downtown and in the suburbs. To spur the growth of trade and services, the Chamber of Commerce is committed to sensible urban land use and development planning. Moreover, we maintain strong professional ties with the advertising community in all neighborhoods.

Stefan Loske,
Schuh-Lange,
Inh. Stefan Loske e.K.,
Bremerhaven



Innovation consulting

What is the best technology transfer approach?

Innovation equals growth. When our companies can compete on the technology front and research-heavy enterprises are drawn to this area, the whole region benefits. We build bridges for technology transfer between medium-sized companies, universities, and research facilities as part of the "Business meets Science" program, to name but one example. We also support companies in innovation management, consultations on industrial property rights, and CE marking, as well as by arranging events such as conferences on standards.

Marco R. Fuchs,
OHB SE, Bremen



Energy and environment

Are economic growth and sustainability mutually exclusive?

Numerous laws apply to occupational safety, energy, and environmental issues. In fact, it's easy for companies to lose track of all the requirements. The Chamber of Commerce will help you find a way to cut through the fog. Among other compliance issues, we will keep you in the loop about the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, Occupational Safety 4.0, and the EU Chemicals Ordinance (REACH), and help you set up a declaration of completeness. We advocate for industry as part of the political and legislative process to show that economy and ecology can work in harmony.

Transportation

Running a business using buses, trucks, or taxis: What do I need to know?

Anyone who transports people or goods for a living operates a complex business. In Germany, these companies require a special license. In addition to documenting personal and financial reliability, it is important that they demonstrate professional competence. We inform you about legal requirements and conduct state examinations as part of our sovereign functions. Other tasks we handle include educating, qualifying, and examining drivers of hazardous materials, hazardous materials officers, and EU professional drivers.

Sigward Glomb,
G C D Glomb Container
Dienst GmbH,
Bremerhaven





Any questions? Feel free to contact us!

Chamber of Commerce Bremen – CCI for Bremen and Bremerhaven

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