



# Foreign Companies

in the Rhineland



Initiative  
Rheinland

# Objectives and methodology of the study

This survey is designed to show that the Rhineland is truly international due to the large number of foreign companies that are members of seven Chambers of Industry and Commerce. These collaborate in the „Rheinland Initiative“, in this case the Chambers of Aachen, Bonn/Rhein-Sieg, Düsseldorf, Cologne (Köln), Mittlerer Niederrhein, Niederrhein and the Bergische Chamber.

The Chambers of the „Rheinland Initiative“ are promote the enhancement of the infrastructure, regional concepts to create skilled jobs and a future-orientated policy on industry and real estate. They support the optimizing of networks with R&D institutions and the development of manufacturing industries, trade, logistics, tourism, hotel and catering industry, trade fair and event business. All this contributes to the promotion of the Metropolregion Rhineland as a national and international business location.

The foreign member companies of the Chambers of Industry and Commerce are made up of the foreign companies registered in the Commercial Register and small businesses owned by with foreign nationals.

In this study, the term “foreign member companies”, refers to enterprises that meet one of the following criteria:

- Enterprises registered in the Commercial Register: At least 50 per cent owned by one or more foreign resident companies or natural persons.
- Companies not registered in the Commercial Register: The owner is a foreign national.

Entered in the commercial register are those companies that have a commercially established business. The main criteria for this are annual turnover, number of employees, capital resources, legal form and the number of branches. Enterprises for which only a business registration is required are referred to as small businesses. Therefore enterprises registered in the Commercial Register and small businesses are usually different in size and number of employees.

The classification of the main activity of the enterprises is on the basis of the Economic Areas defined in 2008 in the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE).

Reporting date was 1 October 2022.

## Sources



MARKUS database of Creditreform AG, Neuss, 2022

Database of members of the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in the Rhineland, 2022

„Foreign Population in North Rhine-Westphalia“ on 31 December 2021, State Office for Information and Technology North Rhine-Westphalia (IT.NRW), Düsseldorf, 2023

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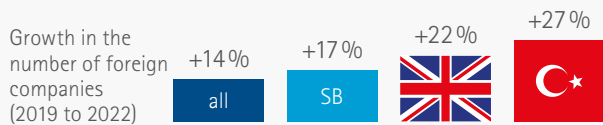
# Foreign companies in the Rhineland: Key facts



The seven Chambers of Industry and Commerce in the Rhineland have **582,208 member companies**. Of these, **68,992 have foreign majority capital or a foreign owner**.

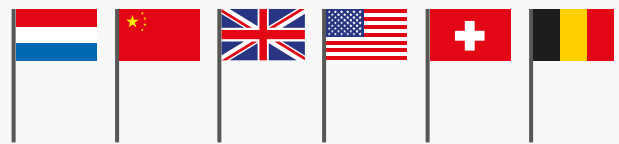


Of these foreign companies, **15,931** are entered in the **Commercial Register**, the other **53,061** are **small businesses**.



Compared to the last study from 2019, the total number of foreign companies in the Rhineland has risen by more than 14 per cent, and that of small businesses (SB) by more than 17 per cent.

Particularly strong compared to 2019 was the increase in companies registered from the United Kingdom (+250, +22 per cent) and from Turkey (+144, +27 per cent).



**The Netherlands** tops the list of foreign companies registered, followed by **Greater China, the USA, UK and Switzerland**.

\* Greater China includes China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.



Capital and entrepreneurs come from over **170 countries worldwide**, from A for Afghanistan to Z for Zimbabwe.



With respect to small businesses, **Polish entrepreneurs** are just ahead of the **Turkish**, but well ahead of **Italian, Romanian, Greek and Syrian** entrepreneurs. For the latter, the number has more than tripled since 2019.



Preferred sectors for those companies registered are **trade** (4,920), followed by **freelance, scientific and technical services** including legal advice, tax consultancy, market research etc. (2,446) and **manufacturing** (1,613).



**Trade** is also the **top sector** among small businesses (12,922) followed by **construction** (8,611) and the **hotel and catering industry** (6,026).

# The Rhineland: A strong economic region in the heart of Europe

In the context of this study, the Rhineland is defined as the area of the seven Chamber districts Aachen, Bergische IHK, Bonn/Rhein-Sieg, Düsseldorf, Köln, Mittlerer Niederrhein and Niederrhein IHK. The largest cities in this strong economic region are Cologne (Köln), Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Wuppertal, Bonn, Mönchengladbach, Aachen, Krefeld, Leverkusen and Solingen.

The Rhineland is a conurbation of global developments, a robust business location, and a laboratory and driver of processes of change. With approx. 9 million inhabitants the Rhineland metropolitan region is the most populous region in Germany. The Rhineland is made up of the Administrative Districts of Cologne and Düsseldorf and is a European metropolitan region thanks to its geographic location and interdependence. No other metropolitan region in Germany is closer to its European neighbours. Due to its immediate border with Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as the wide range of transport modes such as airports, rail networks, inland ports and motorways, the people of the Rhineland come frequently into mutual exchange with their fellow European citizens on several levels.

The cities and districts of the Rhineland are connected with municipalities from all over the world, maintain international partnerships and make an important contribution to international understanding.

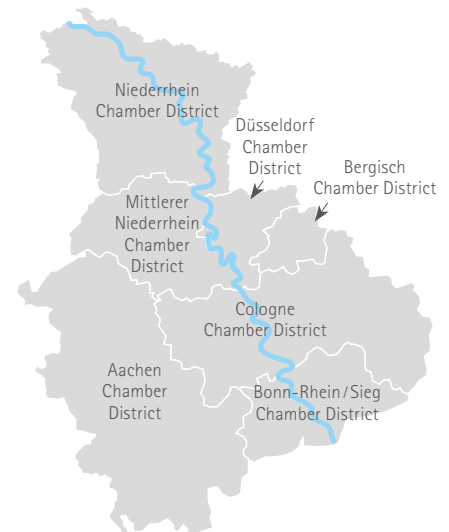
The economic strength of the Rhineland is characterised by a unique diversity of sectors. As an attractive location with first-class transport links, the Rhineland benefits from a balanced mixture of traditional and innovative sectors of the economy. The corporate structure is predominantly medium-sized.

Thus, in addition to renowned large companies, several hundred thousand small and medium-sized enterprises are the driving force and form the economic backbone of the Rhineland.

The main pillars of the economy of international importance are companies in the automotive and chemical industries. Other important parts of the regional diversity are logistics, tourism, gastronomy and leisure, as well as the food industry. The leading industries in the Rhineland Metropolitan Region represent an important part of the diverse overall economy. The Rhineland accounts for approx. 11 percent of the German GDP.

The chemical industry is a particularly important sector of the economy, employing several tens of thousands of people, in the Rhineland. The Rhineland metropolitan region is not only home to the companies with the highest turnover in the German chemical industry, it is also one of the leading chemical locations in the whole of Europe.

Along the Rhine, several hundred companies have favourable production conditions for chemicals for the chemical industry and benefit from the close proximity to numerous renowned research institutions in the Rhineland. The close cooperation between industry and application-oriented research institutions makes the metropolitan region a dynamic, fast-growing market and an engine of innovation, that can meet the economic challenges of the future.



**Jürgen Semmler**  
Managing Director,  
Shimadzu  
Europa GmbH,  
Duisburg

“ Shimadzu is one of the leading manufacturers of instrumental analytics and medical technology. We develop innovative systems for laboratories in industry and science. Everything revolves around imaging diagnostics in medical technologies. Shimadzu employs over 13,000 people in 74 countries worldwide. The European headquarters have been located in Duisburg since 1987. What we like about Duisburg is its good infrastructure and its central location. As a link between Rotterdam and Hamburg, the port is connected to all relevant flows of goods. Düsseldorf Airport and the dense motorway and rail network connect us with the whole world.

## Remarkable diversity: Companies come from over 170 countries

Fig. 1 Top 10 countries of origin of foreign companies registered in the Commercial Register in the Rhineland

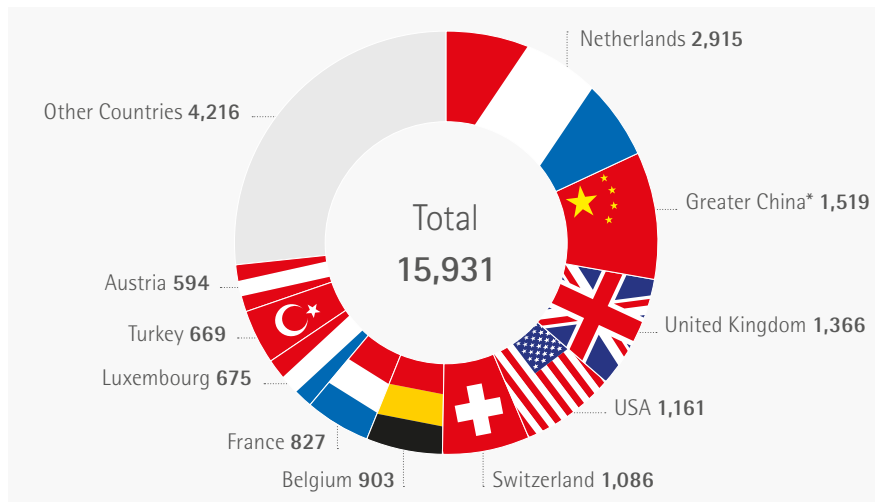


Fig. 2 Top 10 countries of origin of foreign small businesses in the Rhineland

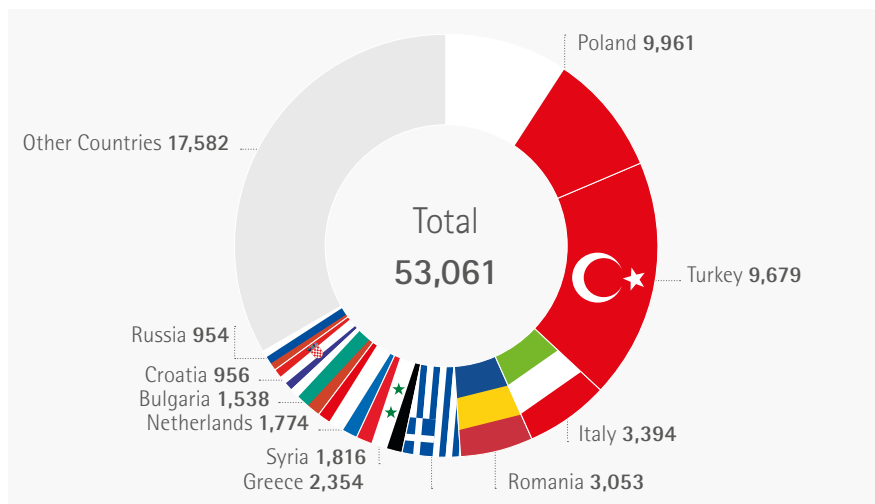


Table 1 Foreign Companies in the Rhineland

	NUMBER		TREND	RATIO OF FOREIGN COMPANIES TO ALL COMPANIES IN THE RHINELAND	
	2022	2019	in %	in %	
Small businesses (SB)	53,061	45,149	+17.5	14.2	
Companies registered in the commercial register (CR)	15,931	15,226	+4.6	7.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,992</b>	<b>60,375</b>	<b>+14.3</b>	<b>11.8</b>	

Sources: Creditreform, IHKS and own calculation

\* Greater China includes China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

With 2,915 the Netherlands is the undisputed frontrunner among the countries of origin of foreign companies entered in the commercial register. Since 2016, Chinese companies have run up to second place with 1,519. This is followed by the United Kingdom (1,366), the USA (1,161), Switzerland (1,086) and Belgium (903).

Poland is the most strongly represented nation among small businesses with 9,961, which accounts for 19 per cent. Turkey is just behind as the runner-up with 9,679. In the ranking of nationalities, the Italians follow in third place (3,394) then the Romanians (3,053), the Greeks (2,354) and the Syrians (1,816). Coming from 511, the number of Syrian small businesses has more than tripled since 2019 the last survey in 2019.

Despite limited economic activity opportunities and travel restrictions due to the Corona pandemic, both the number of foreign registered companies, as well as the number of small businesses has increased significantly.

## Trade comes first in the sector mix

The seven Chambers of Industry and Commerce in the Rhineland have 582,208 member companies. Of these almost 36 percent, are noted in the Commercial Register. The remaining 373,725 enterprises (more than 64 per cent) are small businesses. 53,061 of these are run by foreign nationals, so one in seven. With 15,931, the number of registered companies from abroad accounts for about 23 percent of all 68,992 foreign businesses.

The No. 1 business activity is trade (wholesale and retail trade, commercial agencies) with 4,920 companies. This is followed by providers of company-related services, e.g. engineering services, management activities or PR consulting, with 2,446 companies and then manufacturing industry with 1,613 companies.

Among the small businesses trade is also in the lead with (12,922), followed by the construction sector (8,611) and the catering industry (6,026).

Fig. 3 Top 10 industry sectors of foreign companies registered in the Commercial Register in the Rhineland

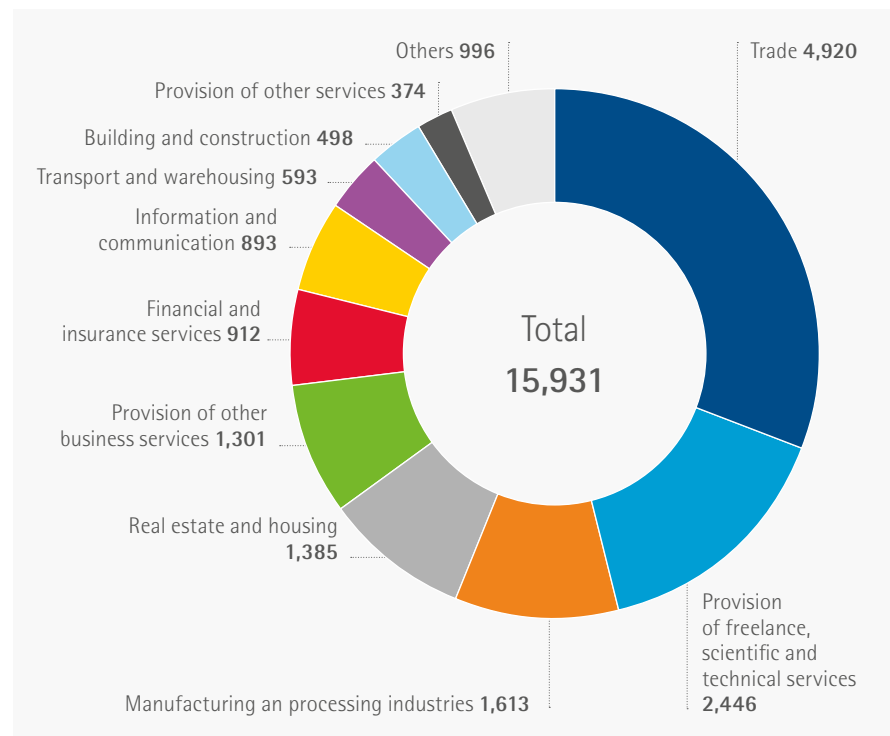


Fig. 4 Top 10 industrial sectors of foreign small businesses in the Rhineland

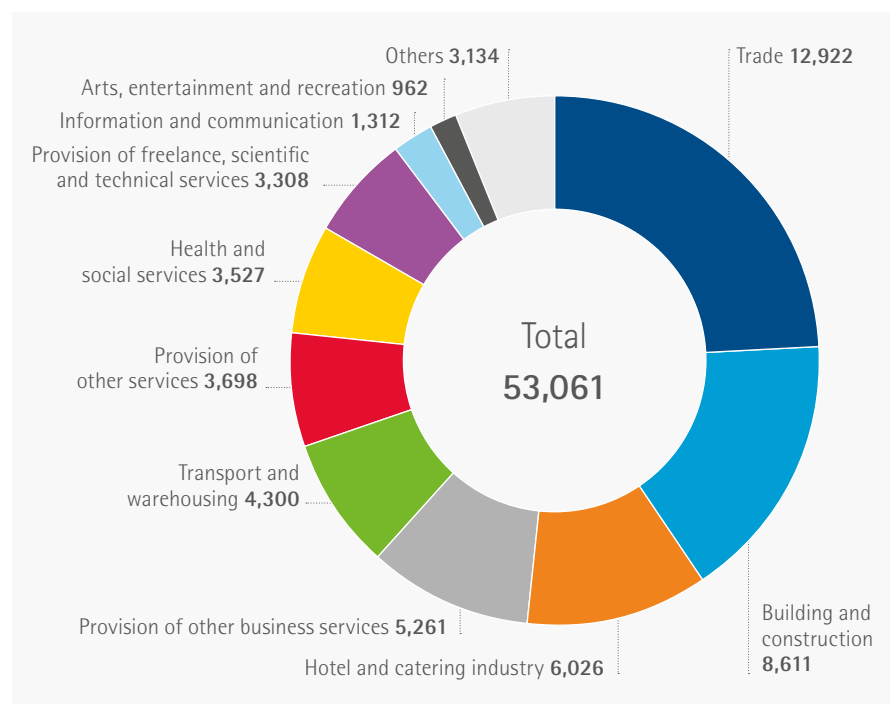


Table 2 Foreign Companies in the Rhineland by Chamber District

CHAMBER DISTRICT	CR	SB
IHK Aachen	1,849	5,571
Bergische IHK	516	3,095
IHK Bonn / Rhein-Sieg	795	5,061
IHK Düsseldorf	5,589	9,861
IHK Köln	3,285	16,299
IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein	1,922	6,950
Niederrheinische IHK	1,975	6,224
<b>Rhineland Total</b>	<b>15,931</b>	<b>53,061</b>

Sources: Creditreform, Chambers in the Rhineland

# Important „business communities“ in the Rhineland



## Netherlands

The Dutch are fortunate to have a massive market right on their doorstep and use the Rhineland as a springboard to North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany on the one hand, and as a location for business activities in various sectors on the other hand.

Examples among the 2,915 Dutch companies are the dairy group **FrieslandCampina** with its marketing headquarters in Düsseldorf, the parcel service provider **TNT** in Troisdorf, Bonn and at Cologne/Bonn Airport, the mail service provider **Postcon** in Ratingen and **LeasePlan** in Neuss. The chemical group **AkzoNobel** has plants in Düren, Hilden, Cologne and Leverkusen. The **Wunderland Kalkar** amusement park on the Lower Rhine is operated by a Dutch group of investors. The online supermarket **Picnic**, based in Düsseldorf, has been serving customers in NRW cities since 2018. Other examples are the beverage producer **Refresco** and the bicycle manufacturer **Gazelle** in Mönchengladbach as well as the fittings manufacturer **Quooker**. From Düsseldorf the electronics retailer **Coolblue** is expanding on the German market. **Laarakkers** operates dismantling and waste disposal from Rheinberg and Düsseldorf.

Since the last survey in 2019, the number of Dutch companies has decreased slightly from 2,999 to 2,915.

A third of the Dutch companies in the Rhineland are based in the district of the Niederrhein Chamber, which accounts for more than half of the foreign companies there.



## Greater China\*

The Rhineland continues to be in high demand as a location for companies from Greater China. Despite Corona-related difficulties, their number has increased from 1,431 to 1,519. In the last 15 years, Düsseldorf has succeeded in becoming the most important location for Chinese companies in Germany.

The Chinese IT and electronics giants **Huawei**, **ZTE**, **Mi** and **Oppo** manage their European business from Düsseldorf. The automotive supplier **Kiekert** in Heiligenhaus was taken over by a Chinese group a few years ago, as was **Brähler ICS Konferenztechnik** in Königswinter. From Duisburg, **Baosteel Tailore Blanks** supplies sheet metal to the automotive industry and **NGC** supplies its drive technology throughout Europe. Other examples are construction machinery manufacturer **XCMG**, with its European headquarters and a development centre in Krefeld and **Sany** with a plant in Bedburg. **Lead** produces and distributes PC components in Cologne. The European headquarters of the conglomerate **Genertec** has its European headquarters there. The pharmaceutical company **Wuxi Biologics** produces active ingredients for COVID-19 vaccines as well as other biotech products in Leverkusen and Wuppertal.

Examples of investments from Taiwan are the distribution centre of the computer manufacturer **Asus** in Ratingen and of the bicycle manufacturer **Giant** in Erkrath.

**Luo Jun**  
Vice President  
Program Management  
at Yanfeng in Europe  
& South Africa,  
Neuss



“Yanfeng is a leading automotive supplier with headquarters in Shanghai. Our portfolio includes automotive interiors, exteriors, cockpit electronics and passive safety systems. Since 2015, we manage 14 plants across Europe and South Africa from our European headquarters and the research and development in Neuss. In addition to the excellent research landscape in the surrounding area, the good transport connections with Düsseldorf International Airport, the rail network and the highway network played an important role in our choice of the location.”

\* Greater China includes China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.





## United Kingdom

As with the previous study in 2019, the number of British companies in the Rhineland has once again increased by 22 percent to 1,366. Compared to 2016, the year of the British referendum on leaving the European Union, the figure has increased by almost 50 percent. To strengthen their presence on the European continent, very many British companies have chosen a location along the Rhine.

Examples are the digital group **Vodafone** in Düsseldorf, the bank **HSBC** and the cosmetics manufacturer **Lush** in Düsseldorf, the IT service provider **Computa-center** in Kerpen and the household appliance manufacturer **Dyson** in Cologne. **Wilkinson Sword**, well-known for cosmetics and shaving products, has its German site in Solingen. With **Ineos** in Cologne and Moers and **Venator** in Duisburg two major British chemical companies are located in the Rhineland. Bonn is the home to operations of the industrial group **GKN**, active with powder metallurgy and hydrogen.



Till Keller  
Managing Director DACH,  
Ebury, Düsseldorf

” With a network of now 32 locations in 24 countries, Ebury offers innovative financial solutions for global transactions to medium-sized companies. In 2018, the choice fell on Düsseldorf as our business location. For us, it was a deliberate step towards expansion and presence in one of the most important markets. The concentration of globally active companies from various industries in the region around Düsseldorf was decisive in this regard. From here, we also manage our further activities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.



## USA

There are many well-known names among the 1,161 US companies in the Rhineland. **Amazon** operates two logistics centres in Rheinberg and Mönchengladbach, a R&D centre in Aachen and seven other distribution and sorting centres in the Rhineland. For almost 90 years, the **Ford Motor Company** has been building cars in Cologne, also location to the European headquarters and to the Electrification Center under construction. Moreover Ford has a research and innovation centre in Aachen. The German branch of **3M** in Neuss is one of the largest outside of the USA and also has sites in Hilden and Jüchen. Other well-known names are the confectionery manufacturer **Mars** in Viersen, **Cargill** with its German headquarter in Düsseldorf and a cereal starch production plant in Krefeld, the consumer goods manufacturer **Procter & Gamble** in Euskirchen and **Johnson & Johnson** with its German headquarters in Neuss and a production site in Wuppertal. **United Parcel Service (UPS)** has important administrative units located in Neuss and uses the Cologne / Bonn airport as its hub for Europe, as does the **FedEx Corporation**, another logistics company with its headquarters in Troisdorf. From Duisburg, **Havi Logistics** supplies a large number of fast-food restaurants and sales outlets. **Stryker**, a manufacturer of medical technology products, and the fuel cell manufacturer **Plug Power** are also based there.

The paint specialist **Axalta** has a plant in Wuppertal. As a provider of energy management solutions, **Eaton** has locations in Bonn, Lohmar, Meckenheim, Nettersheim and Neuss. **Cook Medical**, a manufacturer of minimally invasive medical technology, distributes its products from Baesweiler. **Kautex Textron** produces plastic parts for the automotive industry in Bonn. The teleshopping and e-commerce company **QVC** broadcasts from Düsseldorf and supplies its customers from Hückelhoven.

# Important „business communities“ in the Rhineland



## Switzerland

Several world-famous Swiss companies are represented in the Rhineland, such as the chocolate manufacturer **Lindt & Sprüngli** in Aachen and the **Nestlé Group**, which produces petfood in Euskirchen (Purina brand), fine foods in Neuss (Thomy) and distributes coffee specialities (Nespresso) and dermatology products (Galderma) from Düsseldorf. For typical Swiss business activities Cologne is the location for the watchmaker **Rolux** and the chocolate manufacturer **Barry Callebaut** in Germany. With **Zurich** in Cologne, Switzerland lives up to its reputation as a location for banks and insurance companies. The personnel recruitment services company **Adecco** maintains its German head office in Düsseldorf, while the textile company **Christian Fischbacher** is based in Wuppertal. Duisburg as a logistics hub is home to the rail freight company **SBB Cargo** in Germany.



## Belgium

More than half of the 903 Belgian companies in the Rhineland are located not far from the border in the district of the Aachen Chamber. Examples of Belgian companies are **UCB Pharma** in Monheim, **Solvay Chemicals** in Rheinberg, the German headquarters of the automotive glass service provider **Carglass** in Cologne and **Lhoist Germany Rheinkalk**, quarrying and processing limestone in Wülfrath.



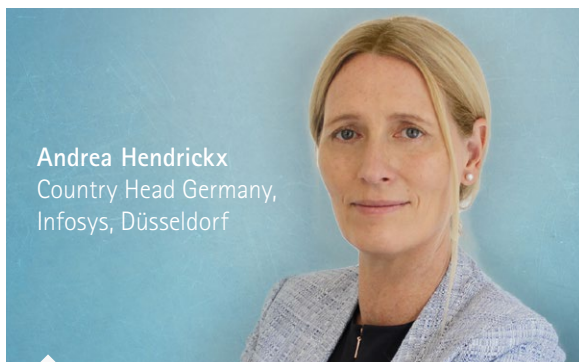
## France

Many heavyweights of the French economy have opted for a foothold in the Rhineland. These include the German headquarters of the car manufacturers **Renault** in Brühl, **Peugeot** and **Citroën** in Cologne, the cosmetics manufacturer **L'Oréal** in Düsseldorf and Mönchengladbach and the electrical goods wholesaler **Sonepar** in Düsseldorf. Examples of large French companies from the financial sector are the insurance company **Axa** in Cologne and **Targobank** in Düsseldorf and Duisburg. The **Saint-Gobain Group** operates production sites for flat glass in Herzogenrath, Cologne-Porz and Stolberg and has its German headquarters in Aachen, just as the medical technology company **Vygon**. From Uedem, **Oxexon** operates its activities for energy infrastructure in Germany. **Gerflor Miporam** produces flooring in Troisdorf and Verseidag Indutex technical textiles in Krefeld and Straelen. The Rhineland has 827 French companies in 2022. In 2016 there were 759.



## Luxembourg

675 companies in the Rhineland are attributed to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the basis of their capital origin. Among them are subsidiaries of Luxembourg-based finance and investment companies or international groups with headquarters in Luxembourg. Examples include the steel manufacturer **ArcelorMittal** with its plant in Duisburg, the suitcase manufacturer **Samsonite** in Cologne, the leasing company for rail vehicles **Alpha Trains** in Cologne and the automotive supplier **Stabilus** in Langenfeld.



Andrea Hendrickx  
Country Head Germany,  
Infosys, Düsseldorf

„It was easy for Infosys to decide on Düsseldorf: A very well developed infrastructure, many universities are in the immediate vicinity, there are many well-trained IT specialists and a lot of our customers are located here. On top we have an excellent and highly constructive relationship with the city of Düsseldorf and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Together we are working on projects that will make our future better. Infosys is a globally active IT-company with headquarters in Bengaluru, India.“



## Turkey

The number of companies registered in the commercial register with majority capital from Turkey had once again a strong boost and amounts to 669, 27 per cent more than in 2019 and almost twice as many as in 2016. **Monrol** had recently established its centre of excellence for radiopharmaceutical and nuclear medicine in Cologne. Other examples of investments from Turkey are the fashion and clothing companies **Santex** in Würselen, **Kässbohrer Fahrzeugwerke** in Goch and the freight forwarder **Gökbora** in Duisburg.

In view of the large Turkish ethnic group in the Rhineland, the business community includes in addition to the companies in the commercial register 9,679 small businesses run by Turkish nationals. They make up the second largest group in this category after the Polish.



Aydın Küçük  
General Manager,  
Monrol, Cologne

” *Monrol has chosen Cologne because of the excellent infrastructure and the broad network in the life sciences sector. The large number of renowned research institutes and universities offers an ideal environment for innovation and cooperation. In addition, the proximity to the international airport and the central location in Europe are advantageous for the worldwide sale of short-lived products. The high quality of life and the cultural offerings make Cologne an ideal location.*



## Austria

The presence of Austrian companies in the Rhineland has also shown a positive trend and the number has increased from 500 to 594 since 2016. Examples are the German headquarters of the construction company **Strabag** in Cologne, the mechanical engineering group **Andritz** with locations in Cologne, Düren, Düsseldorf and Krefeld, the technology group **Voestalpine** with a production, sales and development location in Düsseldorf and the special steel manufacturer **Eschmann** in Reichshof, as well as **Steinzeug Keramo**, a supplier of water pipe systems in Frechen.



## Japan


70 per cent of all Japanese companies in North Rhine-Westphalia are located in the State capital or the neighbouring districts of Mettmann and Neuss. Düsseldorf stands out as a location because Japanese companies have been based there for over 60 years and has now the largest Japanese community on the European mainland. The Japanese companies are active in numerous sectors, e.g.: IT/Electronics (**NEC**, **Docomo**, Düsseldorf, **Epson**, **Kyocera**, Meerbusch, **Mitsubishi Electric**, Ratingen, **Shimadzu**, Duisburg), photography (**Canon**, Krefeld, **Fujifilm**, Düsseldorf), mechanical engineering and steel (**Komatsu**, **Mitsubishi**, **Hitachi**, Düsseldorf), and banks (**Sumitomo**, **MUFG Bank**, Düsseldorf). The car manufacturers **Toyota** and **Nissan** operate their businesses in Germany from Cologne and Wesseling respectively.

The number of of Japanese companies in the Rhineland has remained almost unchanged since 2019 at 465.


# Important „business communities“ in the Rhineland


## Examples from other countries:

Numerous other important companies from almost all European countries and other parts of the world have chosen to locate in the Rhineland.


Companies from the Nordic countries have a massive presence in the Rhineland. Examples from Norway  include aluminium processor **Speira**, with plants in Neuss and Grevenbroich, the energy producer **Statkraft Markets**, which operates its German business from Düsseldorf and operates a power plant in Hürth, and **Tomra Systems**, manufacturer of reverse vending machines in Langenfeld.

 **Ericsson**, the Swedish manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, has its German headquarters in Düsseldorf and research facilities in Aachen and Herzogenrath. The security services company **Securitas** and tool manufacturer **Sandvik** are also based in Düsseldorf. In 2017, **Ikea** opened the chain's most sustainable store worldwide in Kaarst.


 After the takeover of Thyssen Krupp Nirosta by **Outokumpu**, there is a major company from Finland located in Krefeld with a stainless steel mill. **Metsä Tissue** manufactures paper products in Düren and Kreuzau. **Neste** distributes renewable fuels from Düsseldorf.


 Well-known examples of Danish companies in the Rhineland are the dairy company **Arla**, facility service provider **ISS**, both in Düsseldorf, and the pump manufacturer **Grundfos** in Erkrath.

 Examples of Italian companies are the food group **Barilla** in Cologne, **Bonfiglioli**, manufacturing of gearboxes with locations in Neuss and Krefeld and the fashion companies **Replay** and **Calzedonia** in Düsseldorf. **Marelli** has recently opened a production facility for electric drives in Cologne.

 The **Santander Group** from Spain has an important location for its German business in Mönchengladbach. The automotive supplier **Edscha** in Remscheid manufactures hinge systems.

 Examples of Korean companies in the Rhineland are the industrial group **Doosan** with operations in Dormagen and Ratingen, and **Clark**, a supplier of forklifts and warehouse technology in Duisburg.

 The Canadian IT service provider and cyber security specialist **CGI** has expanded its locations in locations in Düsseldorf and Cologne.

 With 9,961, Poland is the most strongly represented nation among the foreign small traders in the Rhineland. In addition, there are now 224 Polish companies entered in the commercial register. Examples are the automotive supplier **Draftex** in Greifarth and the sales company of the rail manufacturer **TrackTec** in Düsseldorf.

 Well-known companies from Ireland are the medical technology group **Medtronic** in Meerbusch and **Ornua** in Neukirchen-Vluyn as manufacturers of dairy products under the **Kerrygold** brand.

Examples of investments from Arab countries include the sales company of **Sabic** from Saudi-Arabia  in Düsseldorf, **OQ Chemicals** from from Oman  in Monheim and the facility services company **Ecolog** from the United Arab Emirates  in Düsseldorf.



**Frank Jørgensen**  
President UPS  
Germany, Austria  
and Switzerland,  
Cologne

“ The central location in Europe, good infrastructure, local labour market, climatic conditions and the proximity to many customers - these are optimal conditions for the UPS Air Hub at Cologne Bonn Airport, our largest branch outside the USA. From here we connect markets worldwide, but above all we are a gateway for companies in the Greater Cologne area to the world by supporting their export activities. So the UPS Air Hub itself contributes to the attractiveness of Cologne as a business location.

# Foreign population in the Rhineland



Tab. 3 Foreign Population in the Rhineland as at 01.01.2022











CHAMBER DISTRICT	NON-GERMANS	TOTAL	%
<b>IHK Aachen</b>	<b>182,700</b>	<b>1,276,500</b>	<b>14.3</b>
Städteregion Aachen	97,900	556,700	17.6
Düren District	34,500	266,800	12.9
Euskirchen District	16,100	194,700	8.3
Heinsberg District	34,200	258,300	13.2
<b>Bergische IHK</b>	<b>133,700</b>	<b>625,400</b>	<b>21.4</b>
Wuppertal	83,600	354,600	23.6
Solingen	28,500	159,000	17.9
Remscheid	21,600	111,800	19.3
<b>IHK Bonn/Rhein-Sieg</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>932,600</b>	<b>14.4</b>
Bonn	63,800	331,900	19.2
Rhein-Sieg-District	70,200	600,700	11.7
<b>IHK Düsseldorf</b>	<b>241,500</b>	<b>1,103,900</b>	<b>21.9</b>
Düsseldorf	170,800	619,500	27.6
Mettmann District	70,700	484,400	14.6
<b>IHK Köln</b>	<b>390,400</b>	<b>2,263,900</b>	<b>17.2</b>
Cologne	225,800	1,073,100	21.0
Leverkusen	29,500	163,900	18.0
Rhein-Erft-District	75,300	471,900	16.0
Rheinisch-Berg District	30,400	283,400	10.7
Oberberg District	29,400	271,600	10.8
<b>IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein</b>	<b>196,400</b>	<b>1,239,400</b>	<b>15.8</b>
Krefeld	44,900	227,100	19.8
Mönchengladbach	52,500	261,000	20.1
Rhine County of Neuss	66,400	452,500	14.7
Viersen District	32,600	298,800	10.9
<b>Niederrheinische IHK Duisburg</b>	<b>224,200</b>	<b>1,270,300</b>	<b>17.6</b>
Duisburg	119,400	495,200	24.1
Cleves District	57,300	314,700	18.2
Wesel District	47,500	460,400	10.3
<b>Rhineland total</b>	<b>1,502,900</b>	<b>8,712,000</b>	<b>17.3</b>
North Rhine-Westphalia	2,815,800	17,924,600	15.7









Source: IT.NRW











More than 1.5 million, or 17.3 percent of the Rhineland population, have a foreign citizenship, compared to 15.7 percent in North Rhine-Westphalia. With 278,200, the Turkish nationals are by far the biggest ethnic group, followed by Syrian (126,100), Polish (126,000), Italian (95,000), Romanian (79,600), Greek (61,400), Iraqi (52,300) and Dutch (49,900) fellow citizens.

# The districts covered by the seven Chambers in the Rhineland

Tab. 4 Top 10 Countries of origin of foreign companies registered in the Commercial Register represented in the Rhineland

AACHEN CHAMBER DISTRICT*		
COUNTRY		NUMBER
1	 Belgium	514
2	 Netherlands	509
3	 USA	99
4	 China (Greater)	92
5	 United Kingdom	75
6	 Switzerland	69
7	 France	64
8	 Luxembourg	50
9	 Italy	41
10	 Austria	35
	Other countries	301
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,849</b>

BERGISCH CHAMBER DISTRICT WUPPERTAL-SOLINGEN-REMSCHIED		
COUNTRY		NUMBER
1	 China (Greater)	78
2	 Switzerland	44
3	 USA	41
4	 Netherlands	37
5	 Austria	30
6	 United Kingdom	29
7	 Turkey	25
8	 France	24
9	 Italy	20
10	 Luxembourg	19
	Other countries	169
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>516</b>

BONN / RHEIN-SIEG CHAMBER DISTRICT		
COUNTRY		NUMBER
1	 United Kingdom	81
2	 USA	79
3	 Switzerland	75
4	 China (Greater)	67
5	 Austria	52
6	 Netherlands	49
7	 Luxembourg	46
8	 France	40
9	 Italy	34
10	 Turkey	22
	Other countries	250
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>795</b>



## AACHEN

It is perhaps not surprising that Aachen is a particularly international and cosmopolitan city as it is situated right where the borders of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands come together. Major companies and research facilities around the world are highly appreciative of one of Europe's most research-intensive regions. The industrial scene is dominated by mechanical engineering and chemicals as well as the production of rubber, plastic goods, paper and food. The region is also home to innovative firms working in such future-oriented sectors as energy, engineering services, IT, life sciences, automotive and environmental engineering. The Chamber covers the region of the Städtereion Aachen as well as the districts of Düren, Heinsberg and Euskirchen.

## BERGISCH CITY-TRIANGLE

The Bergisch city-triangle is a traditionally well-known industrial location with a share of the manufacturing industry in the gross value added of about 35 percent. Typical industrial sectors are the manufacturing of metal goods (with a focus on cutlery in Solingen and tools in Remscheid), mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemical industries, automotive supply, rubber and plastics processing, as well as the food industry. In the course of time, many foreign companies have settled in order to make use of local know-how. With an export share of over 50 percent, the Bergisch economy has excellent international connections. Another key area is the service economy, which is oriented towards trade and business-related services.

## BONN / RHEIN-SIEG

With Telekom and Post/DHL, two Dax 40 companies are based in the region. The economic structure is determined by the service sector. Manufacturing industry nevertheless has a strong presence in the Rhein-Sieg district, especially the plastics industry, mechanical engineering and the automotive supply industry. The IT economy, the logistics sector and other production-related services are also present in the region. The city of Bonn is home to 25 UN institutions and about 150 international organisations and NGOs, some of which promote international networking and cooperation regarding sustainability of resources, renewable energies and development cooperation. The city offers excellent opportunities for organising conferences and congresses and is an outstanding centre for science and research. Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg district have also become known as a tourism and health region.

\* As at: 2019

## DÜSSELDORF

The Chamber District consists of Düsseldorf as the State capital of North Rhine-Westphalia and 10 cities in the Mettmann district. It is one of the most international locations in Germany. The region profits from its proximity to national and European markets, Düsseldorf Airport and the the Messe Düsseldorf trade fair. Düsseldorf as a business location is characterised by a strong mix of industries and its internationality: Manufacturing companies, wholesale and retail trade, telecommunications, digital and creative economy, legal and management consulting, fashion and leading banking and insurance players. A special feature of Düsseldorf is the strong Asian character due to the presence of Japanese and Chinese companies. Germany's largest Japanese community lives in the state capital. The economic structure in the district of Mettmann is dominated by manufacturing, as the lock and fittings industry, automotive suppliers and mechanical engineering.

## DUISBURG AND THE NIEDERRHEIN AREA

The District of the Niederrhein Chamber of Industry and Commerce extends from the city of Duisburg via the districts of Wesel and Cleves to the Dutch border. The region is a first-class transport hub and logistics is a significant field of competence. Numerous logistics companies have settled in the Port of Duisburg – the largest inland port in Europe – and in other cities of the region. As terminus of the New Silk Road, the region is becoming even more attractive. Important are also materials technologies, due in particular to Duisburg's traditionally strong position as the biggest iron and steel industry location in Europe. Regarding the decarbonisation of the steel industry and the creation of a hydrogen innovation centre Duisburg is on the way to becoming the "hydrogen centre" in Germany. Other main sectors are the chemical industry, IT technologies, energy and environment, food processing and tourism.

## COLOGNE

With its high entrepreneurial potential, qualified workforce and the purchasing power of its 2.2 million inhabitants, the economic region of Cologne radiates far beyond its own borders. A dense transport network consisting of trunk roads, railways, pipelines, waterways with inland ports and an international airport with night flight permit makes Cologne one of the most important transport hubs in Europe. The diversity of sectors ranges from vehicle construction and mechanical engineering to chemicals and biotechnology, insurance and trade, as well as ICT companies and the media. Manufacturing has the clearest international orientation with an export share of 52.2 percent (2021). As an innovative, research-intensive science location, the IHK District of Cologne is home to a number of higher education institutions. The Chamber district includes the cities of Cologne and Leverkusen as well as the Districts of Oberberg, Rhein-Berg and Rhein-Erft.

## MITTLERER NIEDERRHEIN

The region, which includes the cities of Krefeld and Mönchengladbach, the Rhine County of Neuss and the Viersen District, extends from the Rhine in the east to the Dutch border in the west. A dense network of motorways and railways as well as easily accessible airports and inland ports provide the best and fastest connections to the markets. So it is not surprising that many international companies have established themselves here. The export share of industry in the region is over 50 percent. The most important industries in the region are the chemical industry, mechanical engineering, metal processing, electrical engineering, the energy industry, logistics and textile and food industries.

DÜSSELDORF CHAMBER DISTRICT		
COUNTRY		NUMBER
1	United Kingdom	704
2	China (Greater)	654
3	Netherlands	586
4	USA	412
5	Switzerland	360
6	Luxembourg	322
7	France	284
8	Japan	267
9	Turkey	246
10	Austria	172
	Other countries	1,582
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,589</b>

NIEDERRHEIN CHAMBER DISTRICT		
COUNTRY		NUMBER
1	Netherlands	1,043
2	China (Greater)	133
3	USA	102
4	United Kingdom	89
5	Switzerland	73
6	France	70
7	Turkey	59
8	Denmark	57
9	Belgium	47
10	Austria	32
	Other countries	270
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,975</b>

COLOGNE CHAMBER DISTRICT		
COUNTRY		NUMBER
1	Switzerland	362
2	USA	300
3	Netherlands	283
4	France	266
5	United Kingdom	252
6	China (Greater)	223
7	Turkey	201
8	Austria	199
9	Luxembourg	191
10	Belgium	119
	Other countries	889
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,285</b>

MITTLERER NIEDERRHEIN CHAMBER DISTRICT		
COUNTRY		NUMBER
1	Netherlands	408
2	China (Greater)	272
3	United Kingdom	136
4	USA	128
5	Switzerland	103
6	Turkey	88
7	France	79
8	Japan	77
9	Austria	74
10	Belgium	69
	Other countries	270
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,922</b>

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