

Foreign Companies in the Rhineland 2019



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 are collaborating in the „Rheinland Initiative“, in this case the Chambers of Aachen, Bonn/Rhein-Sieg, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Köln, Mittlerer Niederrhein and the Bergische Chamber.

The Chambers of the „Rheinland Initiative“ are promoting the enhancement of the traffic infrastructure, regional concepts to create qualified 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 with foreign nationality of the business owner.

There is no consistent definition of what a foreign enterprise is. In this study, the term 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.

Companies whose owner is a German citizen with a migrant background are not included.

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).

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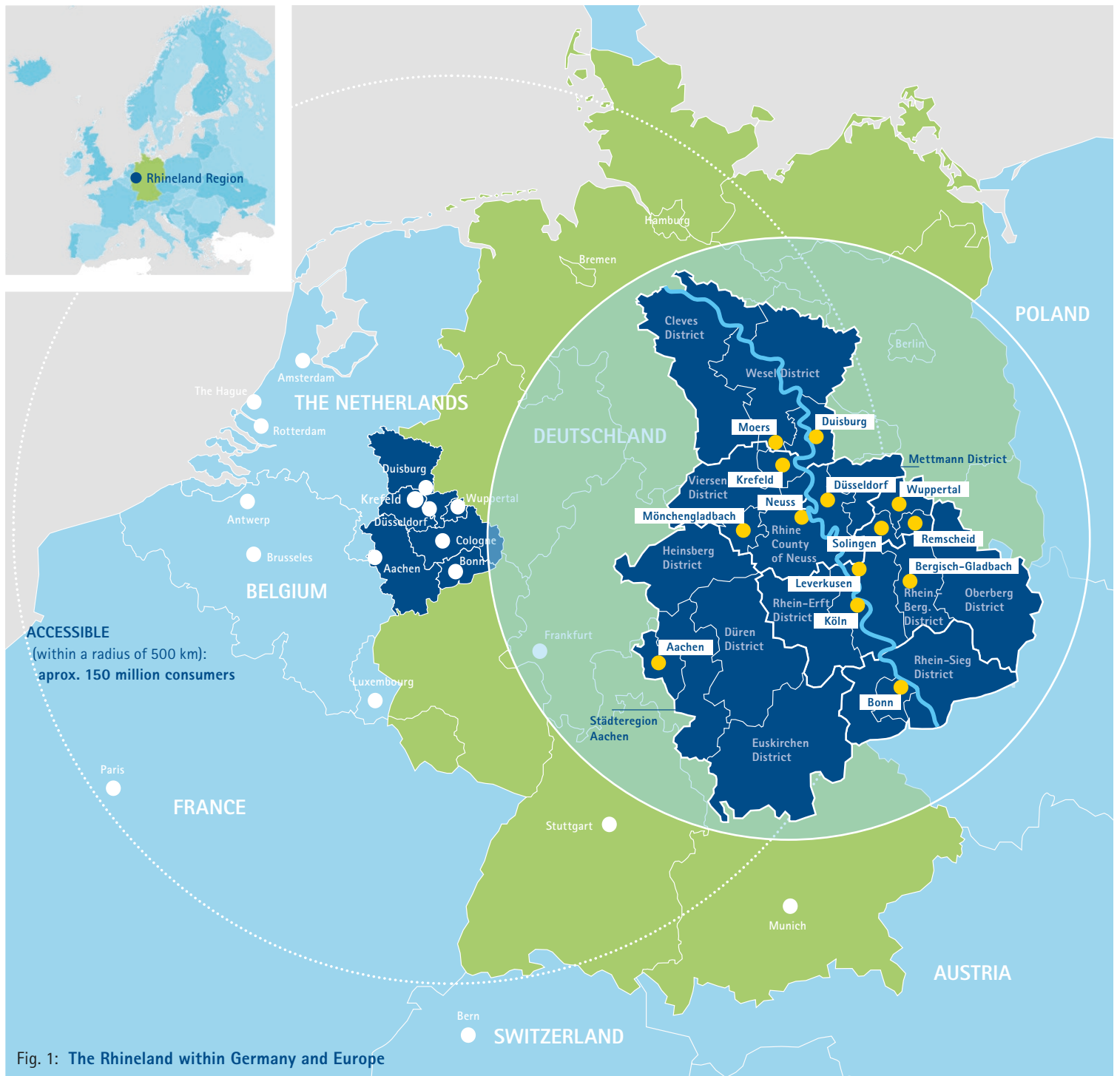


Fig. 1: The Rhineland within Germany and Europe

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FOREIGN COMPANIES IN THE RHINELAND: KEY FACTS

The seven Chambers of Industry and Commerce in the Rhineland have **543,010 member companies**. Of these, **60,375 have foreign majority capital or a foreign owner**. Or put another way, one in nine companies is foreign-owned.

Of these foreign companies, **15,226 are entered in the Commercial Register**, the other **45,149 are small businesses**.

Capital and entrepreneurs come from over **160 countries worldwide**, from A for Afghanistan to Z for Zimbabwe.

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

With respect to small businesses, **Polish** entrepreneurs are just ahead of the **Turkish**, but well ahead of **Italian, Romanian and Greek** entrepreneurs.

Preferred sectors for those companies registered are **trade** (4,993), followed by **freelance, scientific and technical services** including legal advice, tax consultancy, market research etc. (2,454) and **manufacturing** (1,529).

Trade is also the top sector among small businesses (10,570) followed by **construction** (7,820) and the **hotel and catering industry** (6,689).

Compared to the last study in 2016, **the total number of foreign companies** in the Rhineland has **increased by more than 8 per cent**, and that of **companies registered by more than 16 per cent**.

The increase in companies registered from **Greater China (+61 per cent)**, **Turkey (+50 per cent)** and from the **United Kingdom (+21 per cent)** was particularly strong since 2016.



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, Solingen, Neuss, Bergisch-Gladbach, Remscheid and Moers.

The economic strength of the Rhineland is impressively underpinned by official statistics. With a gross domestic product (GDP) of 354 billion euros (2018), the Rhineland generated more than 11 percent of Germany's total GDP (3,144 billion euros). In addition, the productivity of the 4.6 million people in employment is just under 77,000 euros per capita, almost seven percent above the German average.

With 17.9 million inhabitants, North Rhine-Westphalia is Germany's most populous state. 8.7 million people, almost half of the NRW population, live in the Rhineland, which is one of the most densely populated regions in Germany and part of one of the largest agglomerations in Europe.

1.4 million, or 16.4 percent of the inhabitants of the Rhineland, have foreign citizenship, compared to 14.8 percent in NRW. The 257,400 Turks are by far the largest foreign ethnic group, followed by the Poles (115,500), Italians (90,100), Romanians (63,600), Greeks (58,100) and the Dutch (48,400).

Table 1: Foreign population in the Rhineland

CHAMBER DISTRICT	POPULATION AS AT 01.01.2019		
	Non-Germans	Total	%
IHK Aachen	167,400	1,263,500	13.2
Städteregion Aachen	88,700	555,800	16.0
Düren District	31,600	262,100	12.1
Euskirchen District	15,200	192,100	7.9
Heinsberg District	31,900	253,500	12.3
Bergische IHK	126,800	623,800	20.3
Wuppertal	79,100	354,300	22.3
Solingen	27,400	159,200	17.2
Remscheid	20,300	110,300	18.4
IHK Bonn/Rhein-Sieg	128,200	929,500	13.8
Bonn	59,900	328,100	18.3
Rhein-Sieg District	68,300	601,400	11.4
IHK Düsseldorf	230,500	1,108,200	20.8
Düsseldorf	162,600	622,700	26.1
Mettmann District	67,900	485,500	14.0
IHK Köln	387,200	2,279,300	17.0
Cologne	232,300	1,090,800	21.3
Leverkusen	27,300	164,200	16.6
Rhein-Erft District	69,700	468,600	14.9
Rheinisch-Berg District	29,600	283,400	10.4
Oberberg District	28,300	272,300	10.4
IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein	182,300	1,238,800	14.7
Krefeld	40,400	226,800	17.8
Mönchengladbach	46,800	262,700	17.7
Rhine County of Neuss	65,200	450,900	14.5
Viersen District	29,900	298,400	10.0
Niederrheinische IHK	210,300	1,268,800	16.6
Duisburg	114,400	497,100	23.0
Cleves District	51,600	311,700	16.6
Wesel District	44,300	460,000	9.6
Rhineland total	1,432,700	8,711,900	16.4
North Rhine-Westphalia	2,648,600	17,938,700	14.8

Source: IT.NRW

THE RHINELAND: A STRONG ECONOMIC REGION IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Table 2: Foreign Companies in the Rhineland

Type of Company	Number		Trend in %	Ratio of Foreign Companies to All Companies in the Rhineland
	2019	2016		
Small Businesses	45,149	42,420	+6.4	12.8
Companies Registered in the commercial register	15,226	13,055	+16.6	8.0
Total	60,375	55,475	+8.8	11.1

Sources: Creditreform, IHKs and own calculation

There are a number of good reasons for the Rhineland as an international business location. Entrepreneurs can make use of a first-class infrastructure with a dense network of motorways and railway lines. There are also efficient inland ports and the three international airports operating out of Düsseldorf, Cologne/Bonn and Weeze.

The neighbouring countries of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France are not far away.



Fig. 2: Infrastructure in the Rhineland



Only a few regions in the world have such a concentration of universities and research centres like the Rhineland. More than 300,000 students are enrolled at 64 universities. In addition, there are numerous renowned research institutions, such as Forschungszentrum Jülich and the German Aerospace Centre DLR in Cologne.

The Düsseldorf and Cologne trade fairs are home to many leading international or global events for various business sectors, attracting many business people from all over the world.

Table 3: Top 20 countries of origin of foreign companies registered in the Commercial Register in the Rhineland

	Country	Number
1	Netherlands	2,999
2	Greater China*	1,431
3	USA	1,259
4	United Kingdom	1,116
5	Switzerland	1,083
6	Belgium	908
7	France	759
8	Turkey	525
9	Austria	500
10	Japan	464
11	Luxembourg	400
12	Italy	399
13	Russia	280
14	Spain	277
15	Sweden	211
16	Iran	210
17	Poland	191
18	Canada	146
19	Ireland	139
20	Denmark	121
	Other Countries	1,808
	TOTAL	15,226

Table 4: Top 20 of the countries of origin of foreign small businesses in the Rhineland

	Country	Number
1	Poland	8,498
2	Turkey	8,440
3	Italy	3,060
4	Romania	2,857
5	Greece	2,355
6	Netherlands	1,766
7	Bulgaria	1,254
8	Russia	877
9	Croatia	873
10	Iran	724
11	Serbia	677
12	Ukraine	634
13	Vietnam	594
14	Austria	591
15	Spain	577
16	Thailand	577
17	Greater China*	570
18	United Kingdom	554
19	Syria	511
20	Bosnia and Herzegovina	504
	Other Countries	8,656
	TOTAL	45,149

*China, Hongkong, Macao, Taiwan | Sources: Creditreform, IHKs and own calculation

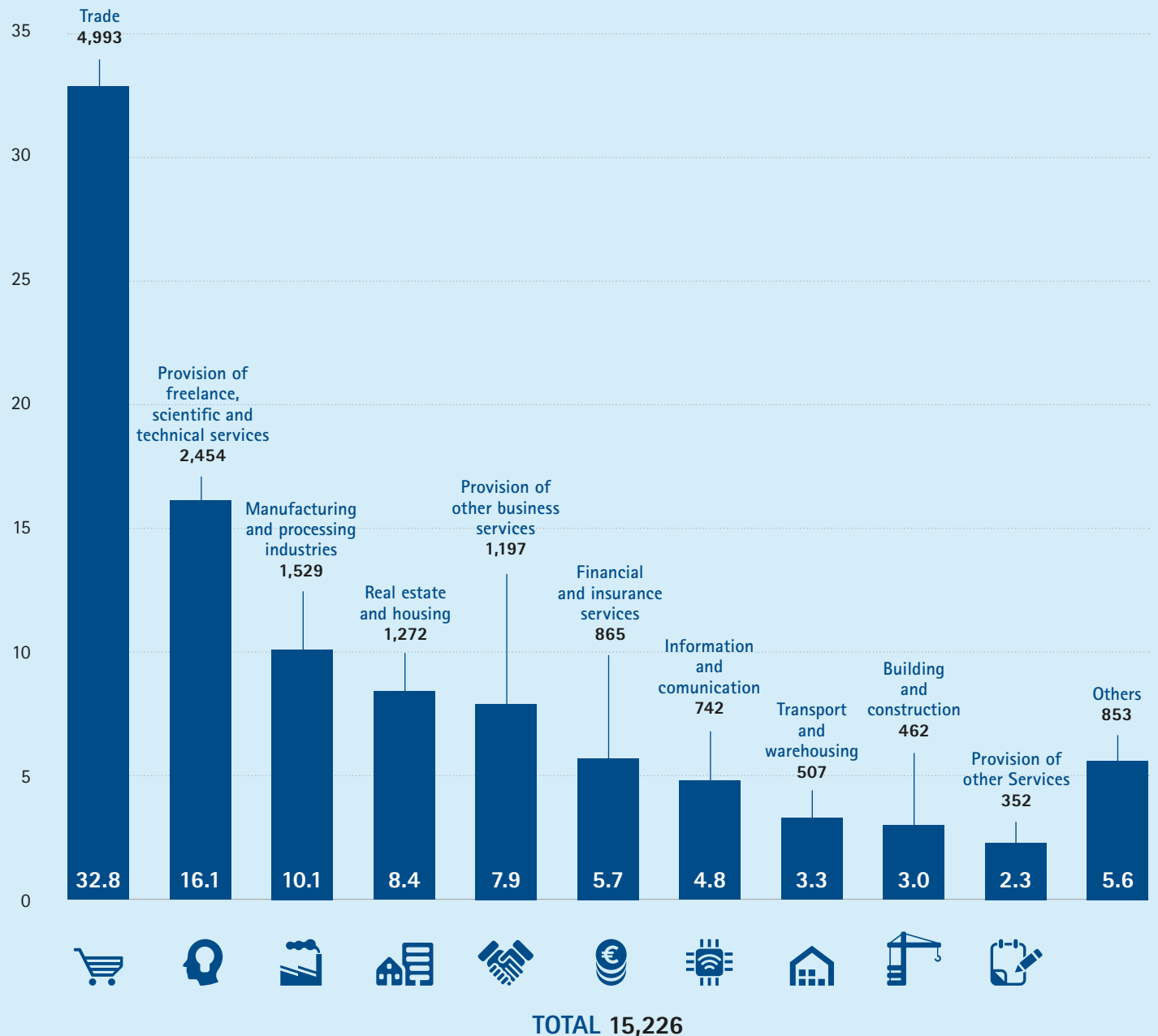
TRADE COMES FIRST IN THE SECTOR MIX

- both for registered companies and small businesses alike

The seven Chambers of Industry and Commerce in the Rhineland have 543,010 member companies. Of these, 189,694, or almost 35 percent, are noted in the Commercial Register. With 15,226, the number of registered companies from abroad accounts for more than a quarter of all 60,375 foreign businesses.

The No. 1 business activity is trade (wholesale and retail trade, commercial agencies) with 4,993 companies. This is followed by providers of company-related services, e.g. engineering services, management activities or PR consulting, with 2,454 companies and then manufacturing industry with 1,529 companies.

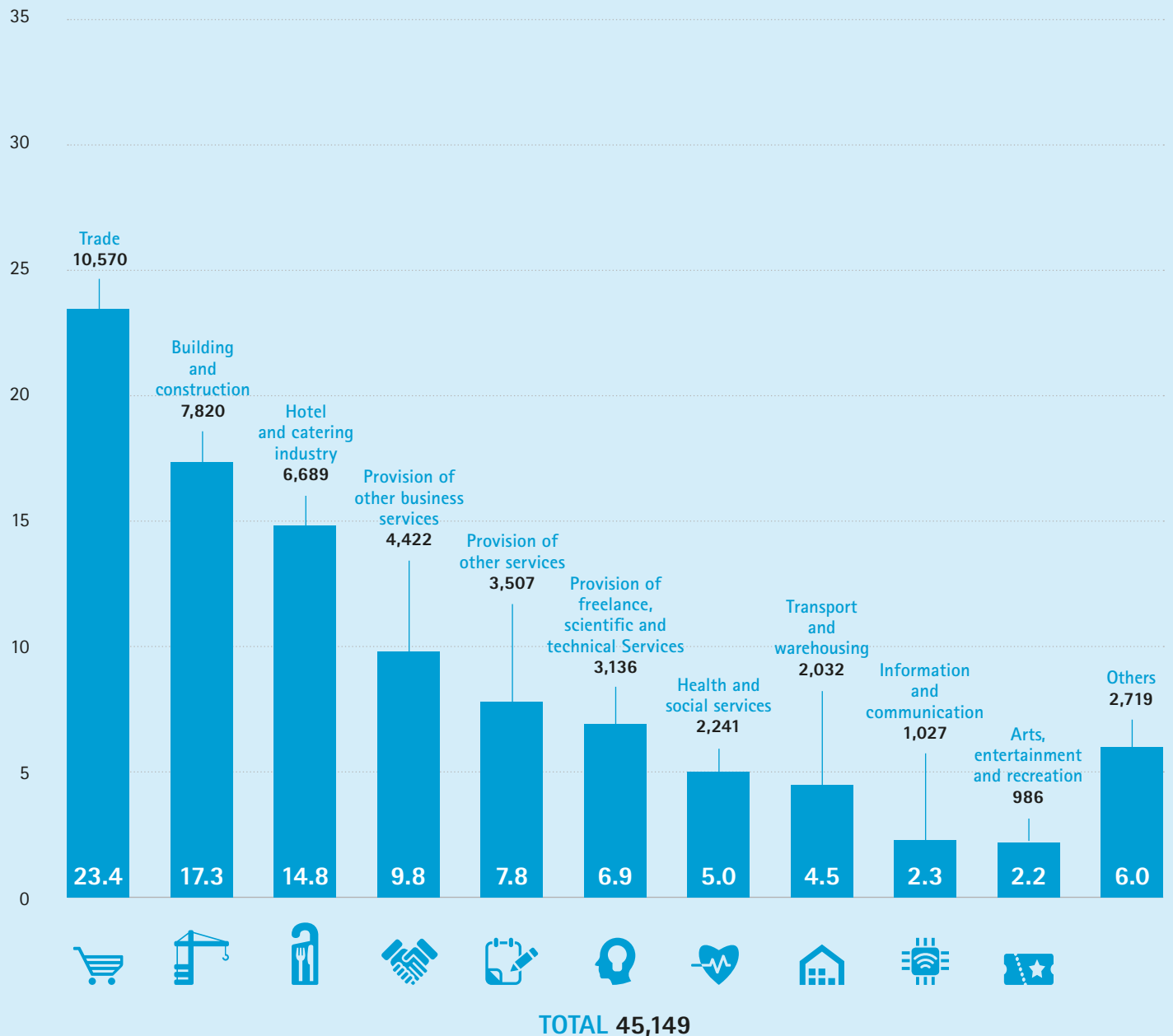
Fig. 3: Top 10 industry sectors of foreign registered companies in the Rhineland



Sources: Creditreform, IHKs and own calculation

The remaining 353,316 enterprises (65 per cent) are small businesses. Of these 45,149 are run by foreign nationals. They account for almost 75 per cent of all foreign businesses. So their share is disproportionately high. Among the sectors of the small business economy, trade also leads (10,570), followed by construction (7,820) and the hotel and catering industry (6,689).

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



Sources: Creditreform, IHKs and own calculation

REMARKABLE DIVERSITY: COMPANIES COME FROM OVER 160 COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
ALGERIA
ANDORRA
ANGOLA
ANTIGUA
ARGENTINA
ARMENIA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
AZERBAIJAN
BAHAMAS
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BENIN
BERMUDA
BOLIVIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOTSWANA
BRAZIL
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
BULGARIA
BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
CAMBODIA
CAMEROON
CANADA
CAYMAN ISLANDS
CHILI
CHINA PRC
COLUMBIA
COMOROS
CONGO, DEM. REP.
CONGO, REP.
COSTA RICA
COTE D'IVOIRE
CROATIA
CUBA
CURAÇAO
CYPRUS

With 2,999 and a share of 20 percent, the Netherlands is the undisputed frontrunner among the countries of origin of foreign companies entered in the commercial register. Since 2016, Chinese companies have moved up to second place with 1,431. This is followed by the USA (1,259), the United Kingdom (1,116), Switzerland (1,083) and Belgium (908).

Poland is the most strongly represented nation among small businesses with 8,498, which accounts for 19 per cent. Turkey is just behind as the runner-up with 8,440. In the ranking of nationalities, the Italians follow in third place (3,060) then the Romanians (2,857) and then the Greeks (2,355).

THE MOST IMPORTANT "BUSINESS COMMUNITIES" IN THE RHINELAND



NETHERLANDS

The Dutch are lucky 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 2,999 Dutch companies are the dairy group **FrieslandCampina** with its largest German site in Cologne and the newly opened marketing centre in Düsseldorf, the parcel service **TNT** in Troisdorf, Bonn and at Cologne/Bonn Airport, the mail service company **Postcon** in Ratingen and **LeasePlan** in Düsseldorf. The chemical group **AkzoNobel** is operating plants in Cologne, Düren, Hilden and Leverkusen. The **Wunderland Kalkar** amusement park on the Lower Rhine is operated by Dutch investors. The online supermarket **Picnic** based in Düsseldorf started serving customers in many NRW cities in 2018. Since the last survey in 2016, the number of Dutch companies has increased by 176 from 2,823.

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 run of Chinese companies choosing the Rhineland continues and their number has risen by no less than 61 percent since 2016 from 889 to 1,431. In recent years, Düsseldorf has succeeded in becoming the most important location for Chinese companies in Germany.

The Chinese IT and electronics giants **Huawei**, **ZTE** and **Hisense** manage their European business from Düsseldorf. The automotive supplier **Kiekert** in Heiligenhaus was taken over a few years ago by a Chinese group. **NGC** sells drive technology throughout Europe from Duisburg and **Dong Feng** agricultural equipment from Wuppertal. The construction machinery manufacturers **XCMG** and **Sany** are also represented in Krefeld and Bedburg. **Lead** produces and sells PC components in Cologne. This is also where the **Genertec** conglomerate has its European headquarters.

Examples of investors from Taiwan are the sales company of the computer manufacturer **Asus** in Ratingen and the bicycle manufacturer **Giant** in Erkrath.



USA

There are many well-known names among the 1,259 US companies in the Rhineland. After setting up in Rheinberg, **Amazon** opens another logistics centre in Mönchengladbach in 2019. The **Ford Motor Company** has been building cars in Cologne for almost 90 years and now has its European headquarters there. The German branch of the multinational technology group **3M** in Neuss is one of the largest outside the USA and also has locations in Hilden and Jüchen. Other well-known names include the food producer **Mars** in Viersen and the consumer goods manufacturers **Procter & Gamble** in Euskirchen as well as **Johnson & Johnson** with its German headquarters in Neuss and a production facility in Wuppertal. **United Parcel Service (UPS)** is based in Neuss with important administrative units and uses Cologne/Bonn Airport as a hub for Europe, as does **FedEx** Corporation as another logistics provider. From Duisburg, **Havi Logistics** supplies a large number of fast food restaurants and sales outlets. **Stryker**, a manufacturer of medical technology products, is also based there.

Ford and **Microsoft** meanwhile maintain research and innovation centers in Aachen. 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. The teleshopping and e-commerce company **QVC** broadcasts from Düsseldorf and supplies its customers from Hückelhoven. Since the last survey in 2016, the number of US companies has increased by 96.

UNITED KINGDOM

Since the last study in 2016, the number of British companies in the Rhineland has risen by 21 percent to 1,116. To strengthen their presence on the European continent, many of them have chosen a location along the Rhine around Düsseldorf and Cologne. Examples include the digital group **Vodafone** in Düsseldorf, the banking and financial service company **HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt** in Düsseldorf, the IT service provider **Computa-center** in Kerpen and from the household appliance sector **AO** in Bergheim and **Dyson** in Cologne. The cosmetics manufacturer **Lush** has greatly expanded its production in Düsseldorf in recent years. **Wilkinson Sword**, known for cosmetics and shaving products, has its German location in Solingen.

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), delicatessen 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 Bonn, Switzerland lives up to its reputation as a location for banks and insurance companies. The personnel recruitment services company **Adecco** maintain its German head office in Düsseldorf, while the textile company **Christian Fischbacher** is based in Wuppertal. Since the last study, the number of Swiss companies in the Rhineland has risen from 938 to 1,083.

CZECH REPUBLIC

DENMARK

DOMINICA

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ECUADOR

EGYPT

EL SALVADOR

ERITREA

ESTONIA

ETHIOPIA

FINLAND

FRANCE

GABON

GAMBIA

GEORGIA

GHANA

GIBRALTAR

GREECE

GRENADA

GUATEMALA

GUINEA

HAITI

HONDURAS

HONG KONG

HUNGARY

ICELAND

INDIA

INDONESIA

IRAN

IRAQ

IRELAND

ISRAEL

ITALY

JAMAICA

JAPAN

JORDAN

KAZAKHSTAN

KENYA

KOREA, NORTH

KOREA, SOUTH

KOSOVO

KUWAIT

REMARKABLE DIVERSITY: COMPANIES COME FROM OVER 160 COUNTRIES

KYRGYZSTAN
LAOS
LATVIA
LEBANON
LESOTHO
LIBERIA
LIBYA
LIECHTENSTEIN
LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
MADAGASCAR
MALAYSIA
MALI
MALTA
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MAURETANIA
MAURITIUS
MEXICO
MOLDOVA
MONACO
MONGOLIA
MONTENEGRO
MOROCCO
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
NEPAL
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NICARAGUA
NIGERIA
NORTH MACEDONIA
NORWAY
OMAN
PAKISTAN
PALESTINE TERRITORIES
PANAMA
PARAGUAY
PERU
PHILIPPINES
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA



BELGIUM

More than half of the 908 Belgian companies in the Rhineland are located not far from the border in the district of the Aachen Chamber, for example the cable plant **Rhenania** in Aachen. Further 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 **Rheinkalk**, quarrying and processing limestone in Wülfrath. Since 2016, the number of Belgian companies has risen by 109.



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. **Vallourec** produces iron and steel tubes in Düsseldorf and **Vygon** medical technology products in Aachen.

The Rhineland has 759 French companies in 2019. In 2016 there were 662.



TURKEY

In view of the large Turkish ethnic group in the Rhineland, the business community now focuses on the 8,440 small businesses with Turkish nationals as business owners, making up the second largest group after the Poles in this category. In the meantime, the number of companies registered in the Commercial Register with majority capital from Turkey amounts to 525, which is 50 percent more than in 2016.

Examples are the fashion companies **Santex** in Würselen and **Sarar** in Düsseldorf, the trailer manufacturer **Kässbohrer** in Goch and the logistics company **Gökbora** in Duisburg.



AUSTRIA

The presence of Austrian companies in the Rhineland has also shown a positive trend and the number has increased from 457 to 500 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 pipe systems in Frechen.



JAPAN

Japanese companies have been based in Düsseldorf for over 60 years, during which time the largest Japanese community on the European Mainland has been established. Today, 90 percent of all Japanese companies in North Rhine-Westphalia are located in the state capital or the neighbouring districts of Mettmann and Neuss. The Japanese companies are active in numerous industries, 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**, **Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi**, Düsseldorf). The car manufacturers **Toyota** and **Nissan** operate their businesses in Germany from Cologne and Brühl respectively. The flavour manufacturer **Takasago** in Zülpich expanded its presence in 2017. Since 2016, the number of Japanese companies in the Rhineland has risen from 432 to 464.

EXAMPLES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES:

Numerous other important companies from almost every European country and other parts of the world have opted for locations in the Rhineland.



Companies from the Nordic countries have a massive presence in the Rhineland. Examples from **Norway** are **Hydro Aluminium** with plants in Neuss and Grevenbroich and the energy producer **Statkraft Markets**, which operates its business in Germany from Düsseldorf and a power plant in Hürth. **Ericsson**, the **Swedish** manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, maintains its German headquarters in Düsseldorf and research facilities in Aachen and Herzogenrath. The security services company **Securitas** from Sweden and the tool manufacturer **Sandvik** are also based in Düsseldorf. In 2017, **Ikea** opened the most sustainable furniture store in the chain world-wide 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, Kreuzau and Euskirchen. 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, the chemical fibre manufacturer **Dralon** in Dormagen and the fashion companies **Diesel** and **Calzedonia** in Düsseldorf.



The **Santander Group** from **Spain** is operating its German banking activities out of Mönchengladbach. The automotive supplier **Edscha** in Remscheid is part of the Spanish **Gestamp Group** and manufactures hinge systems.



An example of a **Korean** investor in the Rhineland is the technology conglomerate **Doosan** with activities in Dormagen and Ratingen.



With 8,498 businesses, **Poland** is the most strongly represented nation among the foreign small businesses in the Rhineland. In addition, 191 Polish companies registered in the Commercial Register are now based in the Rhineland. Examples are the automotive supplier **Draftex** in Greifath and the sales company of the rail manufacturer **Track Tec** in Düsseldorf.



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

RUSSIA

RWANDA

SAINT VINCENT

SENEGAL

SERBIA

SEYCHELLES

SIERRA LEONE

SINGAPORE

SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA

SOMALIA

SOUTH AFRICA

SPAIN

SRI LANKA

SUDAN

SURINAME

SWEDEN

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

URUGUAY

UZBEKISTAN

VENEZUELA

VIETNAM

YEMEN

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

THE DISTRICTS COVERED BY THE SEVEN CHAMBERS IN THE RHINELAND



Table 5: Countries of origin of foreign enterprises represented in the Rhineland

Registered Companies		Small Businesses		
Country	Number	Country	Number	
AACHEN				
1	Belgium	514	Turkey	800
2	Netherlands	509	Poland	794
3	USA	99	Netherlands	476
4	Greater China*	92	Romania	289
5	United Kingdom	75	Greece	212
6	Switzerland	69	Italy	201
7	France	64	Belgium	152
8	Luxembourg	50	Bulgaria	134
9	Italy	41	Russia	98
10	Austria	35	Vietnam	98
	Other Countries	301	Other Countries	1,555
	TOTAL	1,849	TOTAL	4,809
BERGISCH CITY-TRIANGLE WUPPERTAL-SOLINGEN-REMSCHIED				
1	Greater China*	92	Turkey	416
2	Switzerland	57	Italy	200
3	USA	52	Greece	135
4	Netherlands	43	Poland	129
5	Turkey	34	Syria	75
6	United Kingdom	27	Romania	51
7	Italy	24	Bulgaria	38
8	France	21	Morocco	34
9	Austria	18	Russia	34
10	Russia	17	Serbia	30
	Other Countries	148	Other Countries	441
	TOTAL	533	TOTAL	1,583
BONN/RHEIN-SIEG				
1	USA	90	Poland	651
2	Switzerland	88	Turkey	632
3	United Kingdom	77	Italy	309
4	Netherlands	70	Romania	300
5	Greater China*	68	Greece	247
6	Luxembourg	57	Bulgaria	152
7	Austria	45	Iran	140
8	France	38	Russia	111
9	Italy	28	Austria	99
10	Belgium	26	Netherlands	88
	Other Countries	262	Other Countries	1,837
	TOTAL	849	TOTAL	4,566

* China, Hongkong, Macao, Taiwan | Sources: Creditreform, IHKs and own calculation

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 Städteregion Aachen as well as the districts of Düren, Heinsberg and Euskirchen.

BERGISCH CITY-TRIANGLE WUPPERTAL-SOLINGEN-REMSCHIED

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

The economic structure of the region is determined by the service sector. In particular the area accommodates the information and telecommunications branch, the logistics sector and other providers of production related services. The manufacturing sector also has a strong presence in the Rhein-Sieg District, especially the plastics industry, mechanical engineering and automotive component suppliers. Nineteen UN bodies and around 150 international organisations and NGOs are located in Bonn, helping it to enjoy considerable international networking in the fields of renewable energy, sustainable resources management and cooperation with development projects. The city also offers world-class facilities for organising international conferences, meetings and other events and ranks as an outstanding science and research hub.

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 and airways 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. Industry has the clearest international orientation with an export share of 53.1 percent (2018). 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.

DÜSSELDORF

The Chamber District consists of Düsseldorf as the State capital of North Rhine-Westphalia and 10 cities in Mettmann District. It is one of the most international locations in Germany with a strong Asian influence due to many resident Japanese and Chinese companies. The region profits from its proximity to national and European markets, Düsseldorf Airport and the Messe Düsseldorf. Düsseldorf is a business hub for internationally operating firms from industry, wholesale and retail, telecommunications, digital and creative industries, legal and management consultancy and fashion as well as a leading banking and insurance centre. The lock, fittings and security industry, automotive suppliers and mechanical engineering characterize the economic structure in the District of Mettmann.

DUISBURG AND THE NIEDERRHEIN AREA

The District of 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-rate traffic hub and logistics is a significant field of competence. Especially the port of Duisburg, Europe's biggest inland port, is home to national and international logistics companies. The region is becoming even more attractive as the terminal point of the New Silk Road. Likewise, material technologies are of big importance as you find in Duisburg the biggest production of iron and steel in Europe. Other main sectors are the chemical industry, IT technologies, energy and environment, food processing and tourism.

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 production, electrical engineering, the energy industry, logistics and the textile and food industries.

Table 5: Countries of origin of foreign enterprises represented in the Rhineland

Registered Companies		Small Businesses		
Country	Number	Country	Number	
COLOGNE				
1	Switzerland	332	Poland	3,030
2	USA	313	Turkey	2,501
3	Netherlands	312	Italy	973
4	France	249	Romania	812
5	United Kingdom	240	Greece	441
6	Greater China*	221	Bulgaria	428
7	Turkey	170	Iran	269
8	Austria	151	Russia	230
9	Italy	115	Croatia	222
10	Luxembourg	113	Ukraine	203
	Other Countries	1,007	Other Countries	3,697
	TOTAL	3,223	TOTAL	12,806

DÜSSELDORF

1	Greater China*	628	Poland	2,170
2	Netherlands	603	Turkey	1,264
3	United Kingdom	498	Greece	700
4	USA	477	Italy	656
5	Switzerland	340	Romania	457
6	France	276	Croatia	261
7	Japan	268	Russia	253
8	Turkey	162	Bulgaria	225
9	Austria	141	Netherlands	213
10	Belgium	135	Ukraine	204
	Other Countries	1,506	Other Countries	3,273
	TOTAL	5,034	TOTAL	9,676

DUISBURG AND THE NIEDERRHEIN AREA

1	Netherlands	1,010	Turkey	1,541
2	United Kingdom	96	Poland	564
3	Switzerland	86	Netherlands	515
4	USA	85	Romania	251
5	Greater China*	74	Italy	246
6	Turkey	56	Greece	131
7	France	54	Bulgaria	126
8	Belgium	42	Serbia	81
9	Austria	30	Bosnia and Herzegovina	71
10	Spain	25	Vietnam	70
	Other Countries	283	Other Countries	1,110
	TOTAL	1,841	TOTAL	4,706

MITTLERER NIEDERRHEIN

1	Netherlands	452	Turkey	1,286
2	Greater China*	256	Poland	1,160
3	USA	143	Romania	697
4	Switzerland	111	Greece	489
5	United Kingdom	103	Italy	475
6	Austria	80	Netherlands	289
7	Japan	79	Bulgaria	151
8	Italy	73	Serbia	148
9	Belgium	70	Croatia	136
10	Turkey	61	Spain	107
	Other Countries	469	Other Countries	2,065
	TOTAL	1,897	TOTAL	7,003

*China, Hongkong, Macao, Taiwan | Sources: Creditreform, IHKs and own calculation

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