



IHK
Ruhr

Industrie- und Handelskammer
für Essen, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Oberhausen
zu Essen



Once the "City of Mining"

Today "City of Energy, Trade and Services"

City of Essen

Content

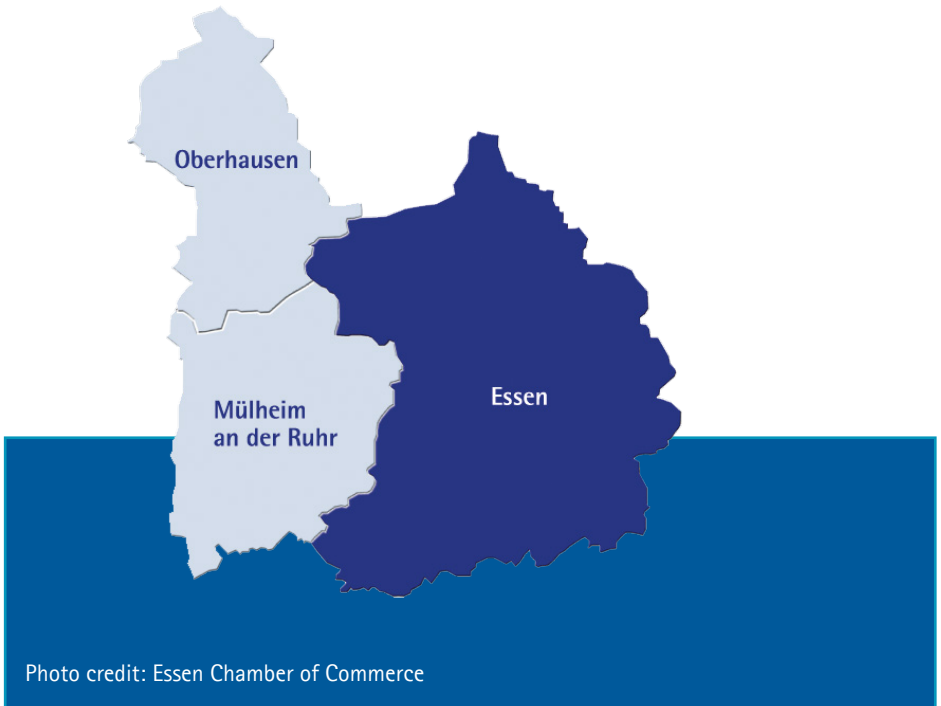
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Area and population

The city of Essen, which is located in the heart of the Ruhr Area, with its approximately 583,000 inhabitants, is next to Dortmund (588,000) one of the largest municipalities in the Ruhr Area, the fourth largest in North Rhine–Westphalia and the tenth largest in the Federal Republic.

11 % of the district's population live on just 5 % of the Ruhr Area. With an area of just 210 km², Essen has a population density that is more than twice (2,769 per km²) as that of the entire district (1,150 per km²). Only the

city of Herne (3,048 per km²), in the middle of the dense industrial zone, has a higher population density. The predominantly agriculturally structured district of Wesel, however, has only 441 inhabitants per km². The population reached its highest level in 1962 with approximately 750,000 inhabitants. Since then, Essen has lost around 167,000 inhabitants, mainly as a result of the general decline in birth rates.



Mix of trades and industry

Essen's current economic picture is composed of a diverse mix of trades and industries and an increasingly small-scale corporate structure.

In comparison to the other MEO cities, Essen still has the highest degree of tertiarisation. The share of employees subject to social in-surance increased from 58% (1982) to 82% (2020). It is striking that this share of services is significantly higher than in the Ruhr Area or in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Also when measuring the economic power, the service sector was able to further expand its position. Its gross value added share increased in the period from 1980 to 2019 (more recent figures are not available) from 52 to 80 %.

Today, the city of Essen has clearly assumed the role of a tertiary-structured city in the Ruhr Area Economic Region. It is not only a major hub of the German economy, but also the largest service and administrative centre in the region. Today, the former "City of Mining" has become the "City of Energy, Trade and Services".

According to an analysis by the daily newspaper "Die Welt", 15 of the 500 largest companies in the Federal Republic are based in

Essen, of which three are based in the energy, six in the commercial and three in the industrial sectors.

This concentration of large companies is also reflected in gross value added, which, according to figures published by the Essen Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK), was close to € 24 billion in 2019 and € 69,665 in terms of individual employment. This value exceeded that of the Ruhr Area by 11%, North Rhine-Westphalia by 4 % and that of the federal territory by 0,7 %.

Hard Location Factors – Soft Location Factors

In addition to the "hard location factors", so-called "soft location factors" such as traffic, education and research facilities as well as the environment and leisure facilities are becoming increasingly important. These "soft location factors" play an increasingly decisive role in location competition.

The city of Essen's central location in the core area of the Ruhr Area has gained additional value with the opening of the markets in Eastern Europe and the associated reactivation of the European West-East corridor. The Ruhr Area opens

up a market of 60 million people within a radius of 250 km, more than 15% of the EU population. In addition to numerous direct connections to the international road, rail, waterway and air traffic networks, the Ruhr Area has a well developed and efficient transport infrastructure compared to other metropolitan areas. This also includes the largest transport association for public local transport in the Federal Republic of Germany, the "Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Ruhr".



Photo credit: iStock/YuliaBuchatskaya

University city and Scientific centre

The scientific landscape of a location is a central location factor. It attracts scientists, young talents and companies looking for exchanges with science. The entire local economic structure benefits through the various forms of knowledge and technology transfer. This increases the competitiveness of companies in the region.

Many local companies are already taking advantage of the potential of Essen, the city of science, with its more than 30,000 students, its many research and educational institutions and significant foundations. For example, according to the number of students, there are two colleges in the German TOP 20, including the University of Duisburg-Essen and the FOM University of Economics & Management,. Then there is the Folkwang University of the Arts - one of the most distinguished art colleges in Germany.

The fourth and youngest college in Essen - also an art college - is the only one limited to the location Essen: the College of Fine Arts in Kupferdreh. In addition, there are study facilities of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (study centres for technology and health and care), the

Steinbeis Society (NRW Steinbeis Transfer Institute) and the VWA Group (Administrative and Business Academy Essen) all located in Essen.

Renowned research facilities include the Institute of Cultural Studies Essen (KWI), the RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, the Centre for Turkish Studies and Integration Research (ZFTI) and the Essen Gas and Heat Institute e.V. (GWI).

In addition, Essen has the largest university hospital in the Ruhr Area, which is centred on a single location, and which not only offers outstanding medical care, but also a number of high-performance research focuses. (*Source: EWG*)

Environment

Essen is one of the most important European locations in the field of environmental and water management. There is already a long tradition of environmental protection. The ecological consequences of industrialisation such as air pollution, water pollution, deterioration of the landscape, waste generation and noise pollution were already recognised as a central problem of an industrially dense region at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Even then, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Ruhr Area demanded regional and supra-regional solutions beyond the borders of individual cities.

State, municipalities and the industry regulated the water industry even before the First World War with the founding of water industry associations. These associations continue to fulfil their environmental responsibilities and are based in Essen.

The renaturation of former industrial wastelands as well as planned landscape management and nature conservation are implemented systematically. The "Internationale Bauausstellung Emscherpark" IBA, funded by the North Rhine-West-

phalian state government, aimed to restore old industrial structures for new uses and to restore the landscapes and ecological systems destroyed by industrialisation to their original state, including in Essen.

The technical and economic know-how required to solve complex steadily in the city for more than 100 years, is today marketed worldwide. Therefore, it is only logical that the EU has awarded the city of Essen the title "European Green Capital 2017".

It is not only the leading water industry associations Emscher-genossenschaft, Lippeverband and Ruhrverband that justify Essen's reputation as Germany's environmental and water metropolis. Many small and medium-sized enterprises, engineering firms, institutions and research institutes contribute significantly to the enormous range of services in the industry. In addition, Essen is also the most important location of the NRW State Office for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection (LANUV).

The Environment and Water Management located in Essen is embedded in a network of well-known societies and

Environment

institutions that stand for research, development and education and training in the relevant fields.

Competence and performance of institutions like the BEW Bildungszentrum für die Ver- und Entsorgungswirtschaft GmbH, DMT GmbH & Co. KG, HdT Haus der Technik e.V. as well as the University Duisburg-Essen, contribute to the quality and success of the Environment and Water Management in Essen.

Being based in Essen means being "in the middle of it"! The optimal location in the heart of the Ruhr metropolis with its

countless innovative companies, make it easier to access customers and suppliers and also provides access to networks and business relations as well as the resulting synergy effects. *(Partial source.: EWG)*



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Cultural and leisure activities

High-quality and varied cultural, sports or more general recreational facilities have become an important location factor for a modern service centre such as the city of Essen.

Aalto-Theater

The Aalto Theater is an architectural landmark of international renown. The Finn Alvar Aalto, one of the most important architects of the 20th century, consistently implemented his concept of "human architecture" here. The Aalto Theater, is of course, also one of the highlights of the cultural scene. The opera house, which attracts over 200,000 visitors each year from home and abroad, is a prestigious venue for the Aalto-Musiktheater, the Essen Aalto Ballett Theater and the Essen Philharmonic. For years, the Aalto Theater has been one of the top opera houses in Germany. In 2008, the renowned trade journal "Opernwelt" named the Aalto Theater "Opera House of the Year" and thus the best opera house in the German-speaking world. Its orchestra, the Essen Philharmonic, also received the accolade of: "Orchestra of the Year" in 2008 - for the second time since 2003. In addition, the Aalto Ballett

Theater has been honoured several times as the "Best Ballet in NRW".

Essen Cathedral

The history of another landmark of the city goes back even further, more than 1,150 years actually: The Essen Cathedral. One of its most important artistic treasures is the Golden Madonna, one of the oldest sculptures of the Middle Ages.

Museum Folkwang

Essen is home to Museum Folkwang, one of the most renowned German art museums. It houses outstanding collections of 19th-century paintings and sculptures, classical modernism, post-1945 art and photography. Works by famous artists such as Gauguin, van Gogh, Cézanne, Monet, Renoir, Kandinsky, Picasso, Pollock, Dali or Rodin speak for themselves. Admission to the permanent collection of the Museum Folkwang is free, made possible by the generous support of the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach Foundation. In addition, the Museum Folkwang impresses with extraordinary special exhibitions. The architecturally stunning new building of the north wing

Cultural and leisure activities

by architect David Chipperfield takes into account this unique art collection and complements the old listed building of the Museum Folkwang.

Philharmonie Essen

It is one of the most beautiful and acoustically outstanding concert halls in Germany: Philharmonie Essen in the building of the historic hall building. Opened in 1904 by Richard Strauss, the house was reopened in June 2004 after extensive renovation. Since then, world-famous conductors, orchestras and soloists have performed regularly in the Alfried Krupp Saal, with 1,906 seats the largest concert hall in the Ruhr Area.

Ruhr Museum

The Ruhr Museum in the former coal washing plant on the UNESCO World Heritage Zollverein site is a regional museum that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world each year. In its permanent exhibition, the Ruhr Museum presents a fascinating glimpse into one of the largest industrial regions in the world with its extensive collections on geology, archaeology,

history and photography. In addition to the permanent exhibition on the natural and cultural history of the Ruhr Area, the Ruhr Museum regularly exhibits special exhibitions.

Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage site

The 55m high double winding tower at Zollverein is the symbol of Essen and the whole Ruhr Area. Here in the north of Essen, the first shaft was sunk in 1847 and raised more coal than any other conveyor system in the world. In 1986, the last coal was mined here, in 1993 the coking plant was shut down and buildings and facilities were listed. In December 2001 the Zollverein colliery and coking plant became a world heritage site when UNESCO acknowledged its incomparable industrial architecture in the strict style of New Objectivity. Today, the site attracts around 1.5 million visitors a year with its diverse range of history, art and culture, events, gastronomy and leisure.

Villa Hugel

A symbol of the industrialisation of Germany: The Villa Hugel - with 269 rooms

and 8,100 m² of living and usable space, surrounded by a 28-acre park, the largest "single-family house" in Germany. Built between 1870 and 1873 by Alfred Krupp (1812–1887), Villa Hügel served as a residential and representative building for the Krupp industrialist family for around seven decades.

Emperors and kings, entrepreneurs from all over the world, politicians and heads of governments of many nations were received here. Since 1953, significant art exhibitions have regularly taken place here.

If you are looking for recreation in green

surroundings, you will find plenty of opportunity in Essen and the surrounding area with its numerous forests and agricultural areas as well as in the Ruhr Valley with its reservoirs. *(Partial source.: EWG)*



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