



The city on the river

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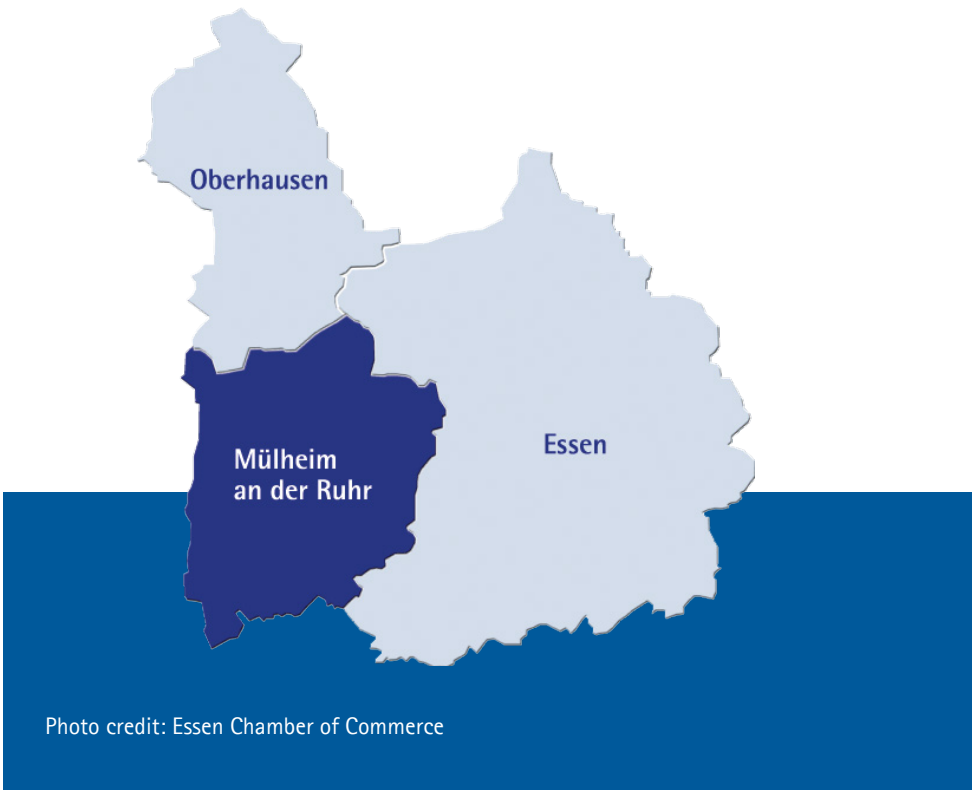
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Area and population

Mülheim an der Ruhr has an area of approximately 91 km² and 171,000 inhabitants. Its population density is 1,872 inhabitants per km².

It is one and a half times as densely populated as the Ruhr Area (1,150 per km²). Migration losses due to a restructuring in industry and a high death toll - in 1971,

Mülheim an der Ruhr had reached a maximum population of around 194,000 citizens - which since then has led to a loss of 25,000 inhabitants. For the past several years, however, the population is growing once again.



Mix of trades and industry

In the "City on the River", the tertiary sector, trade and other services, has continued to gain importance, especially in recent years. The share of employees subject to social security contributions in this sector increased from 45% in 1982 to 72% in 2020.

Also when measuring the economic power, the service sector was able to further expand its position. Its gross value added share increased almost continuously from 56 to 73 % in the period from 1980 to 2019 – more recent figures are not yet available.

At the same time, the decline of traditional industrial sectors also offered a unique opportunity. The decommissioned coal mines represented and continue to represent areas for newly settled companies and those still to be resettled. However, the abandoned areas had to be "reclaimed" at considerable financial expense. The grounds of the former collieries Rosenblumendelle and Humboldt are examples of a successful settlement policy.

In addition, companies, especially sup-

pliers to the steel and mining industries, were forced to change their production programs. The companies in Mülheim an der Ruhr have demonstrated a high level of flexibility and efficiency particularly in this area and have increasingly opened up foreign markets. Today 59 % of its turnover is achieved through exports.

Whereas the development of trade, due to the history of the district, was initially concentrated on the needs of the area, today it can be said that it has acquired supraregional and in part international importance. Every sixth employee is now employed in wholesale and retail in Mülheim an der Ruhr, which is by far the largest employer in the tertiary sector, together with the health and social care sector.

Tertiarisation receives further substantial boosts through the transition in the industry from the actual production to the administration and thus to the construction and disposition.

According to an analysis of the daily newspaper "Die Welt", three of the 500 largest companies in trade and industry, are based in Mülheim an der Ruhr. These are the companies Aldi, Brenntag and the

Mix of trades and industry

Tengelmann Group.



"Mülheim an der Ruhr city centre"

Photo credit: iStock/justhavealook

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" will play an increasingly decisive role in location competition, as numerous national and international studies and entrepreneur surveys in recent years have shown.

The traffic-friendly situation in the city of Mülheim an der Ruhr has received an additional enhancement with the opening of the markets in Eastern Europe and with 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.

Research

The city of Mülheim an der Ruhr can look back on a long tradition of research. As early as 1911, the city became the seat of today's Max Planck Institute for Coal Research, formerly the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Coal Research, and in 1958 a second facility, the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion, was added.

Environmental protection has found its firm foundation in the "Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wasserchemie und Wassertechnologie" (IWW), founded in 1985, by the Rheinisch-Westfälische

Wasserwerksgesellschaft mbH. In addition, the Ruhr-West University of Applied Sciences was founded in 2009, with a focus on engineering.

The idea of "Public Private Partnership" is reflected in the Innovation and Technology Centre for Medium-Sized Enterprises (ZENIT). This institution is based on the idea of privatising economic development and provides boosts for the structural reorientation of this region.



"Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung"

Photo credit: Rendering

Cultural and leisure activities

The high recreational, leisure and residential functions of the city of Mülheim an der Ruhr will have further positive effects on the expansion of the tertiary sector.

The city centre, which has one of the most beautiful pedestrian zones in the region and the Forum City Mülheim and the RheinRuhrZentrum, as one of the largest covered shopping centres in the Federal Republic, offer a very differentiated shopping structure. The inclusion of the city centre in the state garden show MüGa, 92, Mülheim Garten an der Ruhr, has helped to further increase the attractiveness of Mülheim as a shopping city.

The cultural institutions of Mülheim offer a wide range of leisure activities. The new theatre "Theater an der Ruhr" has broken new ground in the form of "free theatre work". Awarded several national and international prizes, the "Aquarius" Aquatic Museum (an RWW facility) integrates visitors with museum using interactive data terminals and screen systems. Haus Ruhrnatur as an ecological base and museum is considered an attractive destination for those who want to learn more about the regional environment.

The numerous green, wooded and landscaped areas as well as the partially restored historical sights such as the castle Broich allow for active leisure activities.

Imprint

Cover photo:
iStock/teka77

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Edition:
December 2021