



IHK Schwerin



**BUSINESS IN
WEST MECKLENBURG
SETTING SAIL TOGETHER**



WEST MECKLENBURG ECONOMIC REGION

SETTING SAIL TOGETHER

The west of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, which is at the same time the eastern part of the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg, directly on the Baltic Sea and close to the Metropolitan Region of Berlin: West Mecklenburg is located in the middle of North Germany. It simultaneously connects the economic regions of Western and Eastern Europe and as well as Central and Southern Europe with Scandinavia as the intersection of three European traffic corridors. This location, combined with a modern infrastructure, high-capacity traffic routes and well-developed and cost-effective commercial and industrial sites, make West Mecklenburg an ideal location for your investment.

Our region has developed into an attractive place to live and work. Traditionally strong in sectors such as shipbuilding, the food industry or mechanical engineering, a modern industrial policy based on the expansion of renewable energy and the promotion of future-oriented fields such as the health economy or information and communication technology has contributed to West Mecklenburg's resurgence in recent years. The human factor and the sustainability of development with a view to maintaining our pleasant-to-live-in region, which is more than averagely well endowed with unspoiled nature and culture, have always played an important role.



The slogan "a region to live and work in" expresses this claim to fame well. Convincing arguments also for the well-educated and motivated workers of the region.

This publication is intended to make you curious, invites you to get to know the region and its economic structure and compactly summarises further arguments in favour of your investment in West Mecklenburg. We would be pleased to answer your questions. We are your main contact, connected to all sources of information.

If you are looking for a location to invest in, we would be very pleased if you decide to drop anchor in West Mecklenburg so that we can set sail together into an economically successful future.



Matthias Belke
President



Siegbert Eisenach
Chief Executive





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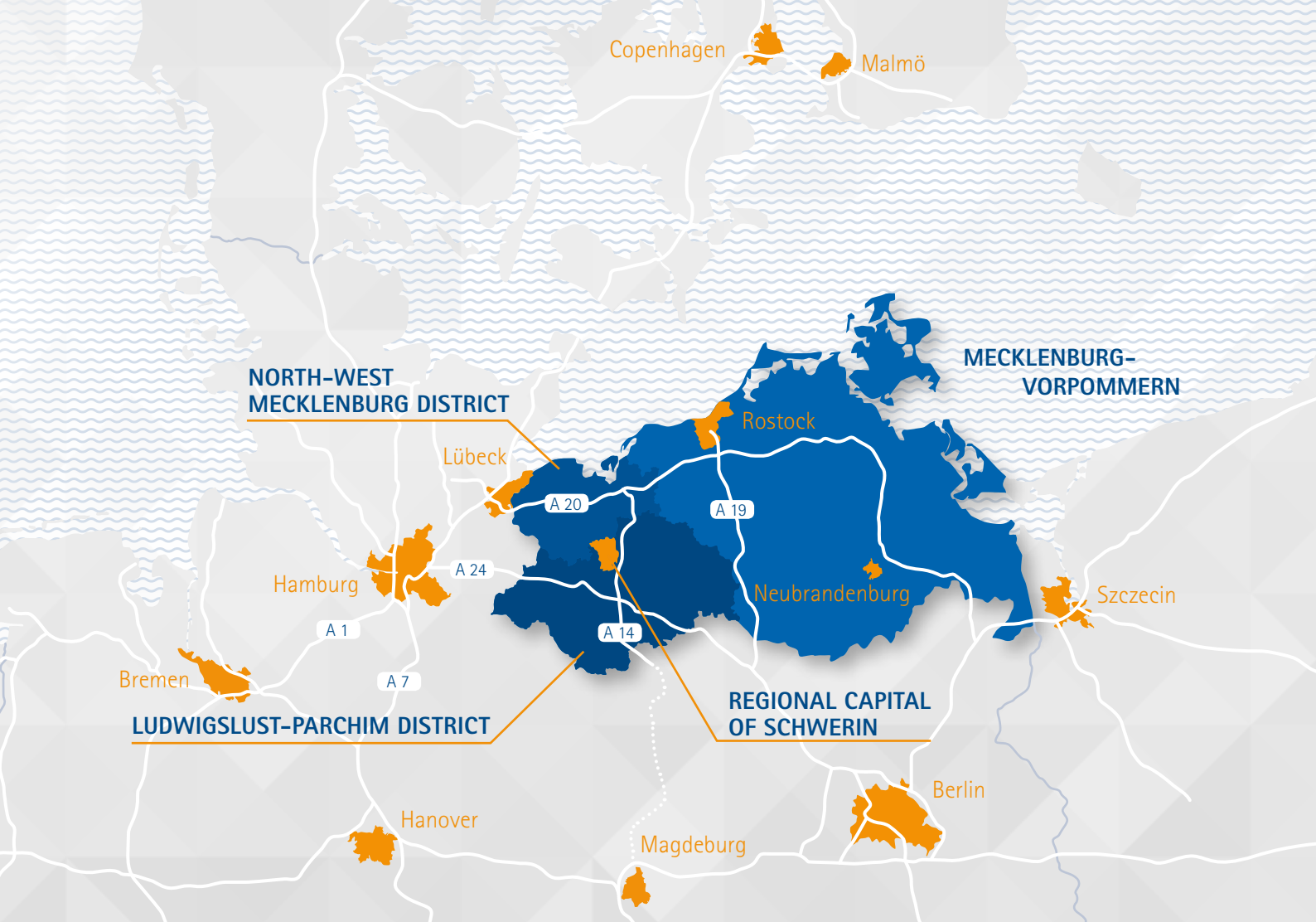
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THE REGION OF WEST MECKLENBURG

TOP LOCATION ON THE BALTIC

The region of West Mecklenburg lies in the middle of a triangle which is formed by the cities of Copenhagen, Hamburg and Berlin. This area of approximately 7,000 square kilometres is the western part of the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg and is formed by the two districts of Ludwigslust-Parchim and North-West Mecklenburg together with the regional capital of Schwerin.

The North-West Mecklenburg District lies directly on the Baltic coast and is influenced geographically and economically by its proximity to the Hanseatic city of Lübeck, the regional capital of Schwerin and the Hanseatic city of Rostock. The direct transport connection to the Baltic region is guaranteed via the sea port of Wismar. Economically, the district is one of the top European locations for the timber and food industries and is also visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. A special attraction is the Hanseatic, university and UNESCO world cultural heritage city of Wismar.



Copenhagen

Malmö

**NORTH-WEST
MECKLENBURG DISTRICT**

**MECKLENBURG-
VORPOMMERN**

Rostock

Lübeck

A 20

A 19

Hamburg

A 24

Neubrandenburg

Szczecin

Bremen

A 1

A 14

LUDWIGSLUST-PARCHIM DISTRICT

**REGIONAL CAPITAL
OF SCHWERIN**

A 7

Hanover

Magdeburg

Berlin

Central locational benefits at a glance – your reasons for choosing West Mecklenburg



Big industry and commercial location potential

Approx. 900 cheaply and conveniently situated hectares available



Well-developed infrastructure

Congestion-free motorways, efficient seaports, intersection point in the trans-European traffic network



Businesspeople are welcome

Quick decisions from the administration and attractive funding possibilities



Strong workforce potential

Well-educated and highly motivated – support with recruiting and initial and further training



Proximity to international markets

The Baltic economic region and the Port of Hamburg are right on the doorstep



Active business promotion and network partners

Strong sectors, clusters and networks



Science and economics

Prestigious higher education institutions, universities and research facilities




Lived family-friendliness

Quality child care available at all age levels and attractive living conditions



Outstanding quality of life

Unadulterated nature and culture



With a surface area of 4,751 square kilometres, the Ludwigslust-Parochim district is the second largest district in Germany and forms the southern part of West Mecklenburg. As regards geography and traffic, it is characterised by its location on the Hamburg-Berlin axis. A large catchment area can be reached in just a short time via the A24 and A14 motorways and also on the ICE route between the two cities which stops at Ludwigslust. Companies from the foods and logistics sectors are particularly strongly represented. The district is also an outstanding location as a tourist region with attractive landscapes, the two UNESCO biosphere reserves at Schaalsee lake, the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Elbe river landscape along the former inner-German border and the region around Lake Plauen being particularly attractive examples.

With a population of around 100,000 the regional capital of Schwerin is the main political, touristic, cultural and economic centre in the West Mecklenburg region and the seat of the federal government of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The 131 square kilometres of urban area are bedded into a unique lake landscape. At 61.5 square kilometres, Lake Schwerin is the fourth largest lake in Germany. With the residential palace ensemble around Schwerin Castle, the city is applying for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage. With another 200 hectares of free surface area still remaining, Schwerin Industrial Park offers the largest potential for industrial sites in the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg – just 100 kilometres from the Port of Hamburg.





View of Schwerin's Burgsee lake with the Ludwig Bölkow House and Schwerin Castle

WEST MECKLENBURG

AT A GLANCE

Contrary to a number of prognoses, a certain stability has been discernable in the demographic development of the region for some time. The population of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has been at around 1.6 million since 2012. In West Mecklenburg, there has been constant population growth since 2013. In addition to an influx from third countries, there is a particular increase amongst young families who are often returnees.

CONTINUOUS POPULATION GROWTH

A further indication of positive economic development in West Mecklenburg is the continuous growth in regular employment. There has been an increase here since 2013 of 4.5 percent to 162,556 jobs as of 31.12.2017. The proportion of foreigners in regular employment increased in the same period from 1.7 to 3.3 percent, which can be seen as a sign of the advancing internationalisation of West Mecklenburg's economy.

West Mecklenburg in figures

465,312 inhabitants (31.12.2017)
+1.4 percent since 2013

€ 19.999 per head spending power
+10.44 percent from 2014 to 2018

Companies which are members of
Chambers of Commerce and Industry:
25,000

More than 28,790 regularly employed
workers in the manufacturing sector
+8.3 percent within 5 years

More than 112,000 regularly employed
workers in the service sector
+4.8 percent within 5 years

6.9 percent unemployment (on average in 2017)

Reduced by half in the last ten years with a continuing tendency to fall (6.6 percent in August 2018)

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in figures

**+4.2 percent gross added value in the
manufacturing sector in 2017**

Germany: 3.0 percent, new federal German states: 1.6 percent

**+4.4 percent gross added value in the areas of trade,
transport, storage, hospitality and ICT in 2017**

Germany: 3.1 percent

**+22 percent real gross added value per hour
worked from 2010 to 2017**

Germany: +10.9 percent,
new federal German states: +14.7 percent

96 government-funded investment projects in 2017

Investment realised to the value of around € 463 million
rund 463 Millionen Euro

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPTIMUM ACCESS TO MARKETS

With its outstanding economic and traffic-related location as part of the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg and with excellent connections to the metropolitan regions of Greater Copenhagen and Berlin-Brandenburg, West Mecklenburg offers optimum market access to millions of people. With a modern infrastructure across all traffic carriers, the region is a point of intersection for three European North-South and East-West corridors of the Trans-European Network (TEN) and thus outstandingly well connected internationally.

FAST CONNECTIONS GUARANTEED

West Mecklenburg has an extremely well-developed federal highway network which guarantees fast connections. The A 14 motorway runs from Wismar via Schwerin to Ludwigslust and Wittenberge. The gap as far as Magdeburg will be completed at the beginning of the 2020s, so that the route will be the shortest connection from Central and South Germany to the Baltic ferry ports. The A 20 coastal motorway ensures direct access to the ports from Lübeck to Stettin. The A24 motorway crosses West Mecklenburg from west to east, connecting Hamburg and Berlin.

**WEST MECKLENBURG
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY DISTRICT**

Lübeck 5 km

Hamburg 50 km

**LUDWIGSLUST-PARCHIM
DISTRICT**



Rostock 40 km

**NORTH-WEST
MECKLENBURG DISTRICT**

**REGIONAL CAPITAL
OF SCHWERIN**

Airport

Parchim

Berlin 130 km

Magdeburg 150 km

**Development potential:
Schwerin-Parchim Airport**

- » Three kilometre long runway
- » Licensed to operate 24 hours a day
- » Modern, 36 metre high tower
- » Terminal for simultaneous handling of 300 passengers

The Baltic ports of Wismar, Rostock and Lübeck are important interfaces in inter-continental and European transport chains and bridgeheads to Scandinavia, Russia and into the Baltic. The Port of Hamburg, Germany's largest international port as the logistical interface for international trade, is close by. The Port of Hamburg is some 60 kilometres away from the regional border between Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Schleswig-Holstein on the A 24 and some 100 kilometres from Schwerin Industrial Park.

Air traffic: Hamburg and Berlin international airports and the Rostock-Laage and Schwerin-Parchim regional airports permit rapid and economical access to air travel for passengers and freight.

Expansion of broadband infrastructure: Every fifth euro from the federal funding programme for broadband expansion goes to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. A total of € 832 million, distributed across 93 project areas, was approved in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Together with the accompanying regional funds, this means an investment in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's broadband infrastructure of some € 1.3 billion. At least 50 Mbit/sec. will then be available right across the entire federal state.



A20 motorway junction near Upahl



View of the harbour and the Hanseatic City of Wismar



THE BALTIC AREA AND THE METROPOLITAN REGION OF HAMBURG

In many respects, the Baltic connection is an outstanding locational factor for West Mecklenburg. More than 100 million people live in the Baltic region and make it economically interesting as a trading area with a long history. The Baltic ports represent an important international economic factor as logistical hubs.

The quality of life which is associated with the sea attracts around 7,000 young students to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern every year. Attractive jobs ensure that a large number of them can be persuaded to stay here in the region along with more than 12,000 school leavers annually. Outbound commuters who presently have to leave the region every day to reach their place of work and the returnees who are attracted back to their old home region together form a further large source of potential skilled workers.

In addition, the white Baltic beaches have a magnetic effect on thousands of visitors every year. More than 100 kilometres of beach in the North-West Mecklenburg region alone especially attract Baltic lovers to the 37 square kilometre large island of Poel and the venerable Baltic sea resort of Boltenhagen.

The Metropolitan Region of Hamburg in figures

- » 17 rural and urban administrative districts, three urban municipalities and the Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- » Surface area: 28,500 square kilometres (almost as big as Belgium)
- » Population: 5.3 million (more inhabitants than Norway)
- » Gross domestic product: € 205,000 million in 2015 (similar to Portugal)

Many synergies can be harnessed through the collaboration of metropolitan regions. The Metropolitan Region of Hamburg belongs to one of the most competitive regions in Germany and Europe. 5.3 million people live and work at the intersection of the most important European transport axes between Scandinavia and western, eastern and southern Europe. West Mecklenburg profits especially from the strengths of the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg. Obviously, Hamburg's function here is as an international logistics hub. But also the proximity to globally leading universities and research institutions and not least the cultural diversity of the city on the Elbe with its international awareness is of benefit to West Mecklenburg. As part of the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg, the commercial and industrial centre of West Mecklenburg can embrace all these strengths in international competition. Due to the extension to the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chamber of Crafts, the Northern Trade Association and the Confederation of German Trade Unions which was completed in 2017, economic topics also receive an even higher priority for collaboration in the metropolitan region.



metropolregion hamburg



Dittmarschen District

Neumünster

Ostholstein District

Steinburg District

Segeberg District

Lübeck

North-West Mecklenburg District

Cuxhaven District

Pinneberg District

Stormarn District

Herzogtum Lauenburg District

Schwerin

Hamburg

Stade District

Ludwigslust-Parchim District

Rotenburg District

Harburg District

Lüneburg District

Heidekreis District

Uelzen District

Lüchow-Dannenberg District

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS IN WEST MECKLENBURG

The availability of industrial and commercial land counts as one of the most important locational factors of a region. In West Mecklenburg, numerous attractive industrial and commercial areas are available for investors and startups. Regardless of the demands you make – cheap land prices, high land requirements, port or motorway connections or special emissions requirements – a suitable plot for almost all needs can be found in West Mecklenburg. Plots of less than one hectare to 100 hectares of continuous land and locations next to the quay wall or directly on the motorway axes are possible. Low business and real estate taxes, considerable investment subsidies and short decision-making processes are further advantages. The location in the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg again plays an important role. Whilst available industrial and commercial real estate in the core of the city and its direct surroundings is scarce, West Mecklenburg still has enough locations available with perfect connections to Hamburg and its seaport as the gateway to the world. They amount to around 900 hectares in total.

Benefits of our commercial areas at a glance



All layouts possible

The largest continuous surface area is 100 hectares



Around 900 hectares

net building space available



Low business tax rates (2017)

From 200 percent, average 335 percent



Cheap land prices

From €7/m²



Low property tax B (2017)

From 300 percent



Low-restriction

emission regulations



Investment subsidies

Up to 30 percent of the investment total offered by the scheme for improving regional economic structures



Business-friendly

Co-operative authorities – quick approval processes

SCHWERIN

INDUSTRIAL PARK

With a surface area of 350 hectares. Schwerin Industrial Park offers the largest industrial site potential in the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg. 200 hectares are still available and are ready for a wide variety of sectors to move in. The industrial park is located at the southern edge of Schwerin, eight kilometres from the A 14 motorway to Wismar and Magdeburg and 15 kilometres from the A 24 motorway towards Hamburg and Berlin. The ground is fully developed and is owned by the regional capital of Schwerin. The entire area is designated as an industrial area; the nearest residential buildings are 800 metres away.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 jobs have been created in the industrial park. The opening of a coffee capsule works by the global Nestle corporation in 2014 additionally attracted a great deal more companies. In addition to companies from the foodstuffs, metal construction, aerospace and packaging industries which are already manufacturing, the latest arrivals especially indicate Schwerin's qualities as a company location. With ZIM FLUGSITZ GmbH, an aspirational supplier for the aerospace industry has found space for its investment in a perfect strategic location at the aerospace location of Hamburg. The Swiss Ypsomed concern, a global player from the medical technology sector, was also convinced by the conditions Schwerin has to offer.

Motorways

- » A 14 (Wismar-Karstädt): 8 km
(at the planning stage up to Magdeburg)
- » A 24 (Berlin-Hamburg): 15 km
- » A 20 (Stettin-Lübeck): 30 km

Regional and federal roads

- » L 72: 1 km
- » B 321: 2 km
- » B 104: 8 km

Airports

- » Hamburg: 100 km
- » Schwerin-Parchim: 40 km
- » Rostock-Laage: 90 km
- » Berlin: 200 km

Seaports

- » Wismar: 30 km
- » Rostock: 100 km
- » Hamburg: 100km



Sehwerin Industrial Park



Businesspark A24 Ludwigslust-Parchim

BUSINESSPARK A24

LUDWIGSLUST-PARCHIM

The largest commercial site in the Ludwigslust-Parchim district is the A24 Business Park in Valluhn/Gallin. It has a net surface area of 200 hectares, of which some 38 hectares are still available. The area lies directly next to the A24, the most important arterial route between the cities of Hamburg and Berlin, and thus offers the very best logistical pre-conditions. Markets in North Germany, Poland and the Scandinavian Countries are very easily accessible due to the excellent location. Short journey times to the German North Sea and Baltic ports and the proximity to Hamburg International Airport make the commercial park a convincing investment site. In addition to its central location, the commercial park offers favourable settlement costs and wide-ranging investment support. The commercial park has its own motorway connection. In past years, many hundreds of millions of euros have been invested and more than 4,000 jobs created. There is still room there: commercial plots of 500 to 200,000 square metres are currently still available.

Motorways

- » A 24: own motorway connection
- » A 1: 45 km
- » A 14: 50 km
- » A 20: 50 km

Regional and federal roads

- » B 195: 0,5 km
- » B 5: 17 km
- » B 207: 20 km

Airports

- » Hamburg: 65 km
- » Schwerin-Parchim: 75 km
- » Rostock-Laage: 150 km
- » Berlin: 220 km

Seaports

- » Hamburg: 60 km
- » Wismar: 80 km
- » Rostock: 150 km

KRITZOWBURG IN WISMAR

The 165 hectares of Kritzowburg Commercial Area to the east of Wismar and close to the seaport offer ideal conditions for further settlement. The commercial area is designated as a location for large port-associated companies in the regional rural development programme. A land use plan is currently being compiled. Wismar Kritzowburg Large Business Commercial Area is located very close to the Wismar-Ost junction of the A20 motorway, which makes cities such as Rostock and Stettin in the east and Lübeck and Hamburg in the west quick and easy to reach. The A14 motorway to the south leads to the A24 motorway and Schwerin. Trade with the entire Baltic region is possible via the port in Wismar, which is only a few kilometres away.

Motorways

- » A 14 (Wismar-Karstädt): 0 km
(at the planning stage up to Magdeburg)
- » A 20 (Stettin-Lübeck): 1 km
- » A 19: 50 km
- » A 24 (Berlin-Hamburg): 60 km

Regional and federal roads

- » B 105: 0,5 km
- » B 106: 8 km
- » B 192: 8 km
- » B 208: 9 km

Airports

- » Hamburg: 130 km
- » Berlin: 230 km
- » Rostock-Laage: 65 km
- » Schwerin-Parchim: 70 km

Seaports

- » Wismar: 10 km
- » Rostock: 58 km
- » Hamburg: 135 km



Commercial Area Wismar Ritzowburg





LOGISTICS INDUSTRY

COMPETENCE SECTOR

Due to the ever greater complexity of value creation chains, the logistics industry is the backbone for accessing global markets and is judged by the turnover of one of the largest economic sectors in Germany. Almost all production, distribution and trading companies are directly dependent on high-performance logistics. The expansion of the logistics location of West Mecklenburg has therefore formed the basis for the stable economic development of recent years.

The region of West Mecklenburg is an outstanding platform for logistics companies with a wide variety of focus areas. Logistics providers use the region as a starting point for transport to Northern and Eastern Europe.

IN 2017, **MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN**
WAS THE FEDERAL STATE WITH THE
SHORTEST TRAFFIC JAMS IN BOTH
LENGTH AND DURATION PER KILOMETRE
OF AVAILABLE MOTORWAY!





Modern infrastructure for modern logistics in West Mecklenburg



Logistics services in Wismar Seaport

Above all the geographical infrastructure advantages open up a great deal of value creation potential. Compared to other economic centres in North Germany, there are also a large range of commercial sites available which are being constantly extended and expanded. The overall economic significance of the sector is underlined by the large number of jobs and a large share of the regional economic performance.

The logistics sector in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern provides more than 40,300 regular jobs in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. This corresponds to approximately 7.4 percent of employment in the federal state. The development of full employment is thus rising especially fast. At eleven percent, the share of the logistics sector in overall employment is particularly high in the Ludwigslust-Parchim district.

Digital logistics atlas: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's logistics atlas gives information the structure and significance of the sector in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. It gives an overview of logistical strengths and gives information on the geographical qualities of the state and also the districts and municipalities. It lists both logistics companies and also selected initial and further training institutions for the sector. Ports and traffic routes are also shown on a dynamic map.
www.logistik-in-mv.de

The logistics sector in figures

- » More than 40,300 regular jobs in MV
- » 7.4 percent share of total employment in MV
- » 11 percent in Ludwigslust and Parchim and 9 percent in North-West Mecklenburg

MARITIME INDUSTRY

COMPETENCE SECTOR

The maritime industry in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern combines tradition and the future. The structure of this branch of industry is well-balanced, including a mix of large concerns with system capability, high-performance and export-oriented medium-sized companies and small, highly specialised companies.

In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the maritime industry comprises some 300 companies and a total of around 10,000 employees in the areas of ship- and boatbuilding, maritime supplies and ocean and off-shore technology. These generate turnover of around €1.5 billion. There are some 160 ship- and boatbuilding companies in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern with around 5,000 staff.

Shipbuilding is supplemented by maritime suppliers and service providers which concentrate on the development and production of innovative system solutions. These not only relate to ships as the final product but also maritime equipment and systems for port services and logistics, maritime environmental and safety technology and also offshore technology and further areas of ocean technology. Overall, maritime suppliers and service providers include some 140 companies with around 5,000 jobs.





Shipbuilding in the Wismar shipyard hangar

The maritime industry in figures

- » 300 companies in MV
- » 10,000 staff
- » €1.5 billion turnover

MV shipyards in figures

- » Genting Hong Kong (GHK) bought the three shipyards in MV in 2016 for €230 million
- » Contracts for 10 ships worth a total of €3.5 billion were signed
- » The number of staff is to be doubled to 3,000 in the coming years
- » Construction of Global Class ships started in 2018

The maritime industry with its shipyards provides industrial value creation in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and has the potential to strengthen its innovativeness and create further knowledge-based jobs. This positive development is being accelerated by the selection of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern by the Genting Group in 2016 – an outstanding opportunity for new and existing suppliers.

Hanseatic City of Wismar site: Shipbuilding in Wismar has a unique tradition: Hundreds of fishing, container, expedition and research ships, the world's largest twin-deck ferries, tankers and cruise ships have already been launched or left the docks here in this Hanseatic city.

Founded in 1946, the shipyard was comprehensively modernised in the 1990s to become a "compact shipyard 2000". Its 395 metre long, 155 metre wide and 72 metre high dock hall is one of the largest in Europe in which ships can be built regardless of the weather in the divisible 340 metre long, 67 metre wide and 13 metre deep building dock. The early integration of shipbuilding and equipment in panel production, a high degree of preliminary finishing in the volume (up to 320 tonnes) and block (up to 750 tonnes) sections and the equipping of the deckhouses in the dock hall are distinctive technological features of the shipyard.

As the head office, Wismar is also the headquarters for management and the majority of MV Werften Group staff, above all in the areas of project management, purchasing and finance. Many new construction projects are finally assembled and fitted out in Wismar, for example Global Class series cruiser ships or Rhine Class river cruise ships. Furthermore, the company's own cabin production facility has been set up in Wismar, situated conveniently close to the shipyard.



560,000 m²
shipyard area



170,000 m²
of the surface area roofed over



1,000 t
max. crane capacity



Compact shipyard with optimised processes
One of Europe's largest shipyards



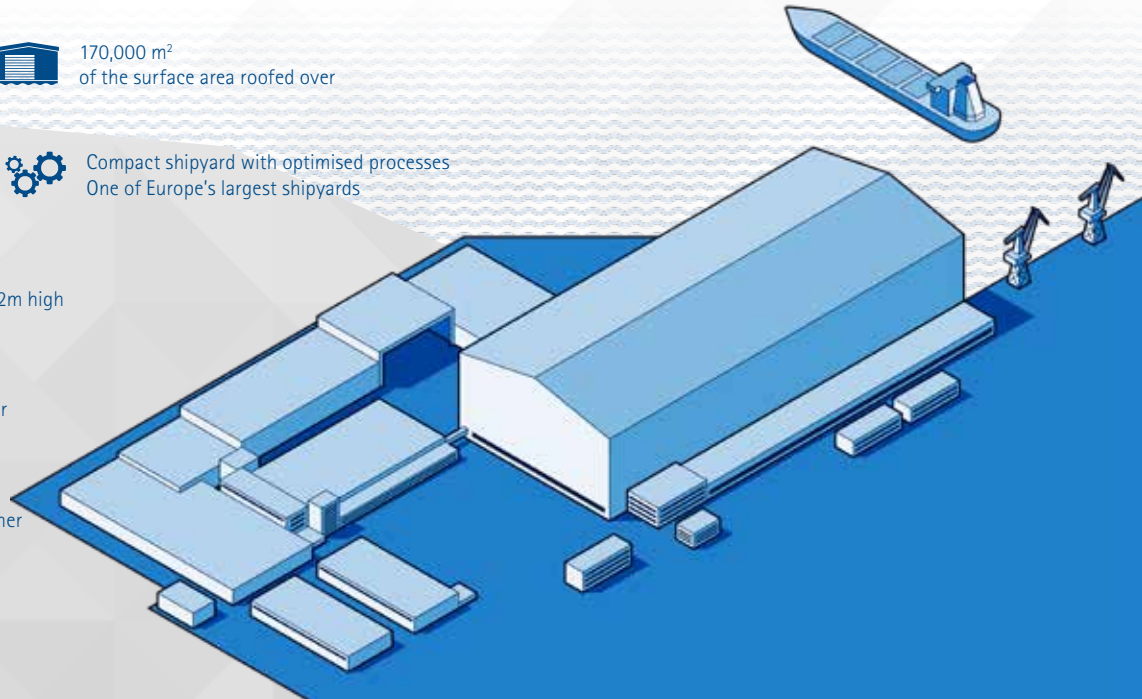
Dry dock
340m long, 67m wide, 72m high



60,000 t
steel throughput per year



Production
independent of the weather





Food industry products in West Mecklenburg

FOOD INDUSTRY

COMPETENCE SECTOR

Traditionally, the region of West Mecklenburg is characterised by agriculture. For this reason, food industry companies in particular have settled along the well-developed infrastructure axes and have become a significant economic factor. The natural basics to be found in West Mecklenburg can thus increasingly be exploited profitably. Agriculture supplies valuable raw materials for modern food products. The industrial processing of these raw materials into finished products increases production depth.

Overall, some 16,000 people are employed in the food industry in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The companies in this sector generate a turnover volume of €4.7 billion. Some 85 percent of all companies in this sector are small or very small companies and only 12.4 percent work in a medium-sized company. 2.8 percent of food industry companies in the region are large concerns. At the same time, the sector produces more than a third of the total turnover in the manufacturing sector. Some 15 percent of all food and drink from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is exported. More than 50 percent of sector turnover in the region is generated in West Mecklenburg.



The food industry in figures

- » 16,000 employees in MV
- » €4.7 billion turnover
- » More than one third of total turnover in the manufacturing sector
- » More than 50 percent of sector turnover is generated in MV

The bilingual Chamber of Commerce and Industry publication entitled "Agrar- und Ernährungswirtschaft in Westmecklenburg " (German/English) gives an impressive description of the sector and is available online at www.ihkzuschwerin.de



Due to the long tradition of this sector in West Mecklenburg there is also a large pool of skilled personnel with specialised knowledge, skills and capabilities with close connections to the industry and the region. On top of this, the favourable logistical conditions, the well-developed research and training infrastructure and sector-specific networks and not least broad political support offer a decisive advantage.

The growing market for organic food in particular has opened up numerous future-oriented fields and points of contact with the health economy. It is therefore an important component in the development of the region into Germany's number one health region.

From 1990 to April 2017, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's Ministry of Economics has supported more than 463 proposals from the industrial economy in the field of nutrition with €481 million as part of the Joint Agreement for the Improvement of Regional Economic Structures and the European Fund for Regional Development. Total investments of €2.7 billion have been triggered as a result.



Manufacturer of fruit gums at Troll GmbH



HEALTH INDUSTRY

COMPETENCE SECTOR

The health economy is regarded as one of the most significant growth and employment motors of the future. The main drivers of this development are demographic change and medical and technical progress. As a federal state with unspoilt nature, attractive touristic offerings and a health sector which has been growing steadily for years, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has set itself ambitious goals which are being pursued with great commitment. Strong networks and good infrastructure offer ideal conditions for these plans. The Health Economy 2020 Master Plan describes the route to becoming one of the leading health regions in Germany. The natural pre-conditions such as landscape, sea, chalk, marshland, salt water and lakes are outstanding for a health region.

The health economy is a pre-eminent part of the German economy. According to figures released by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in April 2017, the sector was responsible for a 12 percent share of gross value creation for the national economy in 2016 with gross value creation of almost 340 billion.

In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, gross value creation by the health economy comes to more than €5 billion. At 15.3 percent, the share of overall economic performance is higher than the national average and has increased by some 3 percent since 2000. Meanwhile, every seventh euro in the region comes from the health economy. In addition, around 148,000 people or around 20 percent of all employees in the region work in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's health economy.

SUB-AREAS OF THE HEALTH ECONOMY WITH PARTICULAR DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Medical technology: With an average increase in gross added value of some 2.7 percent per annum since 2000, medical technology exhibits a growth dynamic which is far above average. This is almost four times as high as the entire sector.

Health tourism: With a gross added value share of 4.0 percent of the entire sector, health tourism's contribution in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is more than twice than the national average.

Health-promoting foods: This area exhibits particularly strong momentum. The manufacture of health-promoting foods additionally produces approximately €352 million of direct added value from other areas of the economy in addition to around €137 million of direct added value.

The health economy in figures

- » Some 148,000 workers in MV
- » Corresponds to around 20 percent of all workers
- » More than €5 billion gross added value creation in MV
- » 15.3 percent of total gross added value in the region and some 3 percent more than in 2000
- » Every 7th euro is earned in the health economy

WOODWORKING AND PLASTICS INDUSTRY COMPETENCE SECTOR

The manufacture of wooden, wicker and cork products (not including furniture) is the third largest industrial sector in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern with a share of some 9 percent of total industrial turnover. In 2015, around 2,700 people were employed by the 18 companies with more than 50 staff and an annual turnover of around €1.2 billion was realised.

The woodworking industry in figures

- » Some 3,000 employees in West Mecklenburg
- » Approximately 2,000 of them in the Wismar woodworking cluster
- » A 9 percent share of all industrial turnover and thus the third largest industrial sector in MV
- » 2,700 employees and €1.2 billion turnover in 18 companies in MV with more than 50 employees

A local cluster has formed around the woodworking industry in the Hanseatic city of Wismar. This woodworking cluster has developed into the largest and most modern woodworking centre in Europe. The direct vicinity of the settlement area to the sea port permits the worldwide export of wooden products to international ports. The proximity to the Baltic Rim offers competitive advantages through low costs for the import and export of wood and wooden pre- and end products. In West Mecklenburg, this industrial sector employs more than 3,000 people.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's plastics sector in figures

- » Around 200 companies
- » Some 3,00 employees
- » Approximately 1.6 billion euros annual turnover

The plastics industry is also developing dynamically in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Double-figure growth and rising employment figures vouch for the enormous potential of this future-oriented sector. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is characterised by small and medium-sized plastics companies. These cover the entire valued added chain from mechanical engineering to an active research and development landscape and the production of finished plastic products.



Egger Holzwerkstoffe Wismar GmbH & Co. KG woodworking industry

The Institute for Polymer Technologies in Wismar combines the elements of plastic and wood in a wood-plastic compound called WPC (wood plastics composite). This and other developments show a positive trend in the sector in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and at the same time represent the collaboration of science and the economy and the resulting outstanding innovative power of our region.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

COMPETENCE SECTOR

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has become one of the leading federal states in the area of renewable energy and offers outstanding growth opportunities in this area. The locational advantages of the area are completely natural: fresh wind from the Baltic, the greatest number of hours of sunshine in Germany and space for ideas and investments. More than 67 percent of power from wind, biological, water or sun energy sources is produced here. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is therefore in top position compared to other federal states.

In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, this sector employs around 14,000 people in total and generates annual turnover of around €3.7 billion.

There is special potential for Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in its further establishment as an attractive energy location. With existing regional resources and wind energy as the key to the energy revolution, the long-term locational benefits for energy-intensive companies can be clearly stated, in keeping with the old adage of "Come to where the Power is" – an important factor for the future further establishment of industry in West Mecklenburg.

Renewable energy in figures

- » 67% of power produced in MV comes from renewable energy sources
- » In terms of figures, 100% of power consumed was covered by renewable energy
- » 14,000 employees in MV
- » 7,500 in the wind energy sector
- » €3.7 billion annual turnover



Wind pump in the North-West Mecklenburg district

The installed wind energy output from 1,889 wind turbines rose to 3,253 megawatts by the end of 2017. More than 7,500 people work in the wind energy sector.

ECOLOGY IS A GENUINE ECONOMIC FACTOR IN MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN

Wind energy in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in figures (end of 2017)

- » 1,889 wind turbines in MV
- » 3,253 megawatts installed power
- » More than 7,500 jobs

Bioenergy in figures

- » 36 percent of energy from regenerative sources comes from biogas
- » 263 biogas and biomass plants in operation

Bioenergy is the second most frequent energy source in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern after wind energy. Some 36 percent of energy gained from regenerative sources comes from biogas. With approximately 1,100,000 hectares of agricultural land, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern offers high biomass potential. Some 263 biogas and biomass plants are currently in operation in the region.

The aim of the Federal Government of covering 80 percent of gross power consumption with renewable energy by 2050 has already been achieved today in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. In 2013, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern was the first federal state that showed that a 100 percent power supply from renewable energy is possible: in terms of figures, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern was able to cover its own power requirements with power from ecological power plants.

WEMAG battery storage: in 2014, the largest commercial battery storage facility in Europe was built in Schwerin. It was intended to balance out network fluctuations which can occur with wind and solar energy. The extension of the battery storage facility was also completed in June 2017. This doubled output from 5 megawatts to 10 megawatts and tripled capacity from 5 megawatt hours to 14.5 megawatt hours.



WEMAG AG's largest commercial battery storage facility

AUTOMOTIVE AND AEROSPACE COMPETENCE SECTOR

Automotive in figures

- » 100 companies in MV
- » 5,000 employees
- » Annual turnover of €1.5 billion

The aerospace industry in figures

- » 30 companies in MV
- » 800 employees

A dynamic and successful automotive supply industry has established itself in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. High-quality vehicle air conditioning and heating systems, components for reliable passenger safety and modern vehicle information systems are produced here. In addition, companies in the region produce hydraulic precision components, equip commercial vehicles with four-wheel drive and are active in the field of light alloy reshaping. Around 5,000 people meanwhile work in this (partly cross-sector) segment in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and generate an annual turnover of around €1.5 billion in some 100 companies.

The German aviation pioneer Otto Lilienthal and the aeroplane engineer and businessman Ludwig Bölkow were both natives of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Building on this tradition, the region developed into an attractive location for the aerospace industry again after German reunification. As part of the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg, one of the leading European centres for civil aviation, a modern supplier industry is developing with high-performance companies in the aviation sector. Engineering service providers, manufacturers, product developers and collaborative research companies developing products specifically for the aerospace industry find ideal conditions for reacting to aerospace industry customers.



Manufacture of aeroplane seats at ZIM FLUGSITZ GmbH

There are currently some 30 companies in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern with around 800 staff producing supplier parts and providing engineering services, mainly for the European aeroplane manufacturer Airbus. The sector also profits from co-operations with the technical and engineering areas of the University of Rostock and the Universities of Applied Sciences in Wismar and Stralsund.



Precision cog wheels made by Fertigungstechnik Nord

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING & METALWORKING COMPETENCE SECTOR

The metalworking and mechanical engineering sector is the manufacturing sector with the second biggest turnover and the second largest number of employees in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern after the food industry. There are around 6,000 employees working for 31 mechanical engineering companies with more than 50 members of staff which generate turnover of around €3.2 billion annually. In the area of metal manufacturing and metalworking there are around 4,600 employees working for 35 companies with more than 50 members of staff which generate an annual turnover of around €1.1 billion.

The greater part of the employees and the turnover fall on small and medium-sized companies. The global trend in the sector tends towards sophisticated specialised machines so that the region's mechanical engineering companies also exhibit long-term positive development due to their technological expertise. The main focus of production in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is on specialised mechanical engineering. Companies are also focussing more and more on the sectors of the future such as renewable energy, bio- and medical technology and microsystems technology. There is still a great deal of potential in the construction of machines and plant for the food industry and in the environmental and energy sectors. The sector in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern collaborates closely with universities, universities of applied sciences and other research institutions in the region. Innovations and the latest scientific knowledge thus enter directly into production.

Mechanical engineering and metalworking in figures

- » More than 10,000 employees
- » 22 percent of employees in manufacturing industry
- » More than €4.3 billion annual turnover
- » 20 percent share of manufacturing industry turnover





The Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Architecture and Design,
Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences, Technology, Business and Design

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has a total of seven state universities of applied science and universities in Wismar, Rostock, Greifswald, Neubrandenburg, Stralsund and Güstrow which offer a wide variety of possibilities for research co-operation. In addition, there are private universities in Schwerin. University-affiliated research centres develop innovative solutions for manufacturing companies. 39,137 people were studying at the region's seven state institutions in the winter semester of 2017/2018. Future-oriented degree courses, a long academic tradition and the good supervision of students and not least the location of the universities in one of Germany's most beautiful regions all speak for the attractiveness of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern as a place to study.

With Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences, Technology, Business and Design, West Mecklenburg has an institution with a long academic tradition. Founded in 1908 as the Wismar Engineers' Academy, today the university offers more than 70 degree courses spread across three faculties: the Faculty of Engineering, Wismar Business School and the Faculty of Architecture and Design. Wismar University sees itself as an innovative and entrepreneurial university which defines its profile from the balance between linked tasks in education, science and innovation. The university is adapting to global developments with this orientation: education, research and innovation are no longer isolated fields

University landscape in figures

- » 7 state-run universities of applied science and universities
- » 39,137 students
- » 11 top-ranking non-university research institutes



The Faculty of Engineering's laboratory for Process and Environmental Technology at Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences, Technology, Business and Design

Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences, Technology, Business and Design in figures (2017/2018 academic year)

- » 8,406 enrolled students
- » 863 foreign students
- » 3 faculties: Faculty of Engineering, Wismar Business School and the Faculty of Architecture and Design
- » 5 Diploma degree courses
- » 34 Bachelor degree courses
- » 37 Master's degree courses

of activity and the main focus is increasingly moving from individual scientists to groups and networks between universities and companies.

A series of private universities have set themselves up especially in West Mecklenburg. There is a subsidiary of the University of Applied Labour Studies in Schwerin and a private university of applied sciences. As a state-approved private university of applied sciences, the Fachhochschule des Mittelstands offers strong professional orientation, small study groups and individual supervision. The University of Applied Labour Studies has been offering training courses since 2006.

A whole series of private universities have set themselves up especially in West Mecklenburg. There is a subsidiary of the University of the Federal Institute for Employment, the state-approved private university of applied sciences for medium-sized enterprises, the Fachhochschule des Mittelstands (FHM) and the international study and vocational academy (ISBA). The FHM offers high professional orientation, close business contacts, small study groups and individual tuition. 250 new students were enrolled for the 2018 winter semester and are taking three-year Bachelor degree courses for international hotel and tourism management, medical sport and health management and psychology and also the four-and-a-half-year degree course in tradecraft management and the two-year Master's degree in innovation and leadership or international management. The University of the Federal Institute for Employment has been training people in Schwerin since 2006 and greeted 220 students for the 2018 winter semester. 26 students started Bachelor degree courses in physiotherapy and logopaedics with an integrated training component at the ISBA.

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

INITIAL AND FURTHER TRAINING

Companies looking for skilled workers with different levels of training will find a good and stable stock of workers in various industrial sectors. Growing and newly arrived companies bring on their own young talent at five professional training centres and one state-run and several private universities in Schwerin, Wismar and Parchim and their subsidiaries in Zierow, Ludwigslust and Hagenow. Furthermore, there is also the option of qualification via training partners in the region in connection with Job Centres.

An extensive network of publicly or privately run general education schools form the basis for an education-oriented environment for employees and their children. Whole-day facilities contribute to child supervision and day care facilities have an above average ratio of carers to children. Following a large decline, the number of school leavers has continually increased again since 2011. The number of new training agreements is developing at a stable rate.

As special support in the initial phase of settlement or company expansion, the Job Centre offers

- » Intensive consulting by a personal advisor for every company or even a team of advisors depending on the scope of the project
- » Help with staff recruitment and application management
- » Advice and financial assistance with possible applicant constraints
- » If needed, organisation and involvement with group events with potential employees

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGICAL AND INNOVATIVE

The region of West Mecklenburg has an effective, technology-oriented infrastructure and a series of interdisciplinary technology and competence centres. Research and development in companies of all sizes and equally the setting up of networks between science and industry are purposefully supported by Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chambers of Crafts, and the regional administration of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Innovative ideas for modern technologies come about through co-operations between knowledge-intensive companies, research institutions closely linked to economic interests and universities. This collaborative research helps companies with product or process innovations. Innovative products for the world market are produced by the degree of networking between science and industry in the region.

According to the European Commission's Regional Innovation Scoreboard, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern now belongs to the group of so-called midfield technology fields and is therefore in the upper range in the innovation ranking of European regions. 168 million euros from the European Fund for Regional Development are available in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern for the EU funding period from 2014 to 2020 for research, development and innovation.





A PERFECT LOCATION FOR COMPANY FOUNDERS, ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS

Information on all research institutions in the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg is available in the brochure entitled Best of Science published by the Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the MRH website: metropolregion.hamburg.de/forschungseinrichtungen



Schwerin/Wismar Centre for Technology and Commerce (TGZ e.V.): This organisation offers favourable market conditions for technology-oriented companies and is also a point of contact in connection with company foundation, growth and settlement and technology promotion. Schwerin/Wismar Centre for Technology and Commerce is the perfect location for startups, business founders, entrepreneurs and investors. With 12,700 square metres of space directly on the coast and right in the centre of town, Schwerin/Wismar Centre for Technology and Commerce in Wismar offers perfect conditions for young startups and innovative companies.

Office, laboratory, storage and production space is available in six buildings with a view of the Baltic or close to the university. Some 9,000 square metres are available in five buildings in Schwerin, right in the centre of the regional capital. Special conditions for company founders also create the best possible conditions for startups here. The affiliated technology parks in Wismar and Schwerin additionally offer the possibility of setting up an own company head office. 42 future-oriented technology companies employing more than 600 staff have already set themselves up in the 16-hectare technology park in Schwerin. Seven more hectares were developed in a further construction phase and are ready to be moved into. A further 3.5 hectares of building land with a maritime atmosphere are available in Wismar.

www.tgz-mv.de



Technology and commercial centre in the Hanseatic City of Wismar



ipt e.V. – Institute for Polymer Technologies: The Institute for Polymer Technologies is a research and development partner for industry. It supervises and supports product and process development projects from concept development to preproduction. ipt was founded as a legally and economically independent research institution at Wismar University of Applied Sciences. Structural integration into an efficient network of partners makes ipt highly flexible, which benefits both clients and research partners.
www.ipt-wismar.de

CIM Technology Centre, Wismar e.V. was founded in 1993 and has since provided support in the field of information integration and also production technology and contributes to the transfer of technology between research institutions and companies. The network is traditionally present at the Hanover Trade Fair with its own shared booth.
www.cim-wismar.de

HIAT – Hydrogen and Informatics Institute of Applied Technologies gGmbH: HIAT has been based in the hydrogen competence centre of the Technology and Commercial Centre in Schwerin since 2004. Young companies, mainly from the field of hydrogen and fuel cell technology, are offered an ideal basis for research development and marketing on 5,000 square metres of space.
www.hiat.de

**NORTHWEST
MECKLENBURG DISTRICT**

Zierow



Wismar



**REGIONAL CAPITAL
OF SCHWERIN**



University/College/
University of Applied Sciences



Vocational Training Centre



Technology Centre



Schwerin



Hagenow



Parchim



Ludwigslust

**LUDWIGSLUST-PARCHIM
DISTRICT**

WEST MECKLENBURG



Microfluidic systems
generate controlled geometries
for lab-on-a-chip applications



Technology and innovation advisors (TIB): It is TIB's task to initiate the knowledge and research transfer between companies in the region and research institutions. TIB acts as a technology partner at all university locations in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN COMPANIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND UNIVERSITIES

Scientific expertise can be conveyed by both the region's universities and independent research institutions. In order for TIB to work successfully it is not only closely integrated into universities but equally into the Chambers of Trade and Industry and the Chambers of Craft.
www.tib-mv.de





View of St. Mary's Church from the River Elde in Parchim



A REGION WORTH LIVING IN NATURALLY AND TOURISTICALLY

The region of West Mecklenburg is known for its unique natural potential for relaxation, holidays and leisure. Green meadows and fields, dense forests, numerous lakes and rivers with clean, clear water, old avenues, long white Baltic beaches and large, unspoilt conservation areas fascinate thousands of natives and visitors every year. There are many more different protected landscapes here than in any other region of Germany. A good quarter of the surface area is protected due to its unique landscape and nature. More than 100 kilometres of white sandy beaches attract Baltic fans to the West Mecklenburg coast. The 37 kilometre large island of Poel and the traditional Baltic resort of Boltenhagen are particular attractions. A large variety of leisure activities ensures that the experience of this very special landscape can be combined with a recreational function. Modern cycle and hiking trails offer perfect preconditions for sporting activities in mainly untouched countryside. All kinds of water sports are available on the Baltic and the many lakes in West Mecklenburg. Modern golf courses offer ideal conditions.



West Mecklenburg's nature in figures

- » More than a quarter of the region is a conservation and landscape protection-relevant area
- » More than 100 kilometres of Baltic beach
- » Two accredited UNESCO biosphere reserves
- » 4th largest German lake – Lake Schwerin
- » Germany's largest coherent meadow landscape – Lewitz

Tourism as an economic factor in MV in 2015

- » €7.8 billion turnover
- » €4.1 billion touristic added value, 12 percent of the added value overall
- » 131,000 people employed in tourism, 18 percent of those in employment

MV key data for 2016

- » 30.3 million overnight stays, 19 overnight stays per inhabitant – way ahead of other federal states
- » Most popular intra-German destination for trips lasting several days – 5.6 percent share
- » Third place internationally behind Spain and Italy

Schaalsee UNESCO biosphere reservation: Today, this former border area along the inner-German frontier is a conservation area. This former no-man's-land with clear seas and unspoilt forests has become a 30,000 hectare large retreat for orchids, otters, bearded tits and fire-bellied toads – and a popular area for nature tourism.

Elbe River UNESCO biosphere reservation: The cross-regional Elbe River UNESCO biosphere reservation lies on the border with Lower Saxony. The river meadows have remained untouched and rare plants and animals are now to be found here in this unspoiled habitat because this intra-German area was isolated for so many years.

Lewitz European Bird Protection Area: Evolved around ten thousand years ago during the Ice Age, this 16,800 hectare large, watery area to the south-west of the regional capital of Schwerin is the largest coherent meadow area in Germany. There are four conservation areas within Lewitz. Large parts of it have been designated as a European Bird Protection Area since 1992.

MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN

IS THE REGION WITH THE
MOST SUNSHINE
AT 1648 HOURS



View of Kaarz castle and garden

A REGION WORTH LIVING IN CULTURALLY

A large number of castles, manor houses and mansions, museums and theatres, gardens and parks and innumerable examples of redbrick Gothic architecture in churches and historical town centres characterise the cultural landscape of the West Mecklenburg region. Vast churches and grand town halls and private houses still bear witness today of the flourishing Hanseatic period in the north of Germany. With its original charm, the entire region of West Mecklenburg is a grand stage for dazzling cultural events of all kinds. Castles and manor houses are transformed into magical concert halls and palace gardens serve as breathtaking backdrops. There is only sufficient space here to briefly mention the seemingly endless range of places of cultural interest and special events.





Residential palace ensemble in the regional capital of Schwerin



The redbrick Gothic church of St. Nicholas in the Hanseatic City of Wismar



The magnificent redbrick Gothic buildings are an expression of the wealth of the Hanseatic period. The bright red brick is the countenance of the artistic and cultural region of West Mecklenburg. Churches, town halls, convents, city gates and numerous manor houses and mansions were built at that time and still dominate the appearance and the silhouettes of many towns and cities in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to this day with their richly structured gables and mighty towers.

The UNESCO World Cultural Heritage city of Wismar was the most important trading centre during the Hanseatic period and has been able to conserve its largely Medieval layout almost unchanged to the present day. It was accepted on to the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list in 2002. The authenticity of the Medieval harbour basin has been preserved to the present day. Within the historical city centre, three monumental brick churches are a unique testimony to the famous sacred architecture in the southern Baltic region.

Schwerin Castle – nestled in the wonderful landscape around Lake Schwerin, it is like a true fairy-tale castle. Once the seat of the Dukes of Mecklenburg, today it houses Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's regional parliament and the impressive Castle Museum. The castle gardens contain masterful horticulture and wonderful paths, and the castle café or the orangery await after a stroll through the garden.



Small Festival in the Big Park in Ludwigslust Castle Gardens

Ludwigslust's former residential palace for the Dukes of Mecklenburg is the centre-point of a completely preserved Baroque municipal structure. The Golden Hall in the central section of the castle stretches over two storeys and its large windows, mirrors and crystal chandeliers project courtly magnificence. The Ludwigslust Castle Park with its fountains and garden architecture is one of the most beautiful in North Germany.

Schwerin State Museum comprises the Old and Modern Masters Gallery and the former residential palaces of the Mecklenburg dynasty in Schwerin, Güstrow and Ludwigslust. The Old and Modern Masters Gallery contains one of the highest-ranking European collections of 17th and 18th century Dutch painting, including works by Rubens and Rembrandt. The Old and Modern Masters Gallery's new building was opened in July 2016. It now offers a permanent home to art since 1945.

The Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival is Germany's third largest classical music festival. Around 120 concerts in the entire region and the Small Festival in the Big Park in Ludwigslust attract visitors to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern from June to September. Every year, more than 80,000 classical music fans experience young, aspiring artists and the large stars of the classical music scene in old manor houses, barns, factories, castles and churches or outdoors. Apart from the music, the incomparable lake, sea and coastal landscape and more than 80 venues make MV Festival concerts such special occasions.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Film Festival was initiated in the spring of 1990 by filmmakers in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern as the first new festival in the New Federal States and combines film and the visual arts. It takes place annually in Schwerin in the first week of May from Tuesday to the following Sunday. The main venue for the largest public festival in the New Federal States, which attracts around 18,000 visitors, is the Capitol Cinema in Schwerin.

Schwerin Castle Festival stages operas and plays in stylish surroundings and creates unique cultural experiences. The fairy-tale backdrop of Schwerin Castle draws thousands of visitors from all over Germany and abroad every year. Tens of thousands of visitors every year are held in suspense by the summer productions of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's State Theatre in the Old Garden, one of the most beautiful historical locations in North Germany.

The Pirate Open Air in Grevesmühlen has taken place every year in Grevesmühlen from the end of June to the beginning of September since 2005. It is one of the most successful open-air theatres in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. It has a seating capacity of 1,500 and the stage has a playing area of more than 8,000 square metres. Daring swordfights, special effects, breathtaking stunts, genuine muzzle-loading firearms and cannon, more than 60 performers and an annually changing stage set make Captain Flint's adventures one of the most elaborate action theatre productions ever to be staged.





TRADITION
UND FORTSCHRITT
FÜR MODERNES WOHNEN

NY-HH

Schwerin Castle Festival

A REGION WORTH LIVING IN

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Childcare in MV in 2017

- » 108,529 children under 14 are care for in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in daycare centres (3/2017)
- » 56% childcare quota for those under three years (national: 32%)
- » 96% childcare quota for 3 to 6-year-olds (national: 94%)
- » 15,435 persons employed in childcare establishments
- » 12,006 of them with educational training degrees
- » 24-hour and off-peak childcare facilities guarantee childcare around the clock – 365 days a year

Companies which support the compatibility of working and private life in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern can apply for the Family-Friendly Company badge and thus position themselves clearly in the competition for skilled workers.

Great emphasis is placed on family-friendliness as one of West Mecklenburg's locational qualities. With its comprehensive network of childcare facilities and extensive opening times, the region has excellent conditions for reconciling family life with work. State funding of childcare facilities and also places in daycare play an important role in this. The wide range of off-peak and 24-hour daycare centres ensure child care around the clock, 365 days a year and is especially valuable for those working shifts. Around 96 percent of girls and boys between the age of three and school entry age in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are cared for in daycare centres which have developed more and more into early childhood education centres in recent years. In contrast to West German federal states, most places are connected to whole-day care. At around 34 hours, the average weekly working time for women in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is some four hours more than the national average and is a further indication that work and family are compatible in West Mecklenburg and childcare and work in parallel is a normal fact of life.

A further important factor for the family-friendliness of a region is the availability of affordable high-quality accommodation. Families which dream of their own plot of land with a house on it will find good conditions and cheap building land in West Mecklenburg. The average rent in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is €5.73 per square metre and is therefore significantly below the national average of €6.89 per square metre. At €5.37 and €4.85 per square metre, values for the attractive locations of Schwerin and Wismar are actually below the average for Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Closeness to nature and culture with ideal infrastructure included! Living right on the water's edge is also not uncommon.

**Rent levels in 2016 –
rental prices per square metre:**

- » Germany: €6.89
- » Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: €5.73
- » Schwerin: €5.37
- » Wismar: €4.85

**Buying family-friendly plots of land –
municipal building subsidies for young families**

To make it easier for young families to settle in Ludwigslust, there are subsidies for a plot of up to 700 square metres. With one child, the subsidy is 10 percent, as from the second child it rises to 15 percent of the price of the plot.



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