New Opportunities in North Rhine-Westphalia
Your Investment Location No. 1 in Germany – Facts. Figures.

www.nrwinvest.com
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North Rhine-Westphalia – The Economic Center of Germany

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is located in the center of Europe and borders on the Netherlands and Belgium. It is the most populous and the most densely populated of the 16 federal states in Germany.

17.7 million people live on an area of 34,110 square kilometers. With 518 people per square kilometer, the state is more densely populated than Japan or the Netherlands. The largest cities are Cologne, Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Essen and Duisburg. The most important metropolitan areas are the Ruhr Metropolis with 5.1 million inhabitants and the Rhineland with more than 3.0 million inhabitants.

Around 160 million people live within a radius of 500 kilometers around the state capital Düsseldorf – this represents almost one third of all EU consumers. From no other location in Europe can so many people with such high purchasing power be reached within such a short distance as from NRW. 22 percent of Germany’s purchasing power is concentrated in the state. Every year, the inhabitants of NRW spend more than 350 billion euros on private consumption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOTAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>PERCENTAGE OF GERMAN TOTAL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SURFACE AREA</td>
<td>34.110 SQ KM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION</td>
<td>17.7 MILL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION DENSITY</td>
<td>518 INHABITANTS PER SQ KM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAINFULLY EMPLOYED</td>
<td>9.2 MILL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT</td>
<td>645.6 BN EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP PER CAPITA**</td>
<td>36.509 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIVATE CONSUMPTION**</td>
<td>350.3 BN EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPORTS</td>
<td>181.5 BN EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPORTS</td>
<td>207.3 BN EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT*</td>
<td>189.9 BN EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*END OF 2014; **2014; ALL OTHER DATA AS OF: 2015
Germany’s No. 1 Economic Region

The excellent infrastructure, the central location and the high qualifications of the people make North Rhine-Westphalia an economic power of international standing. In terms of numerous economic statistics, NRW is world class.

At approx. 646 billion euros, NRW generates 21.3 percent of the German gross domestic product (GDP), putting it clearly ahead of all the other federal states (2015). The GDP per inhabitant amounts to 36,509 euros and per employed person to an average of 70,314 euros. NRW generates 4.4 percent of the European GDP (EU-28) and is thus one of Europe’s most important economic regions. In the international ranking, NRW as a federal state is placed higher than Turkey and Switzerland.

GDP IN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON 2015 (IN EUR BN)

Source: World Bank, July 2016

Top Location for Manufacturers and Suppliers

18 of the 50 top-selling German companies (not counting banks and insurance companies) are based in NRW, e.g. **Bayer, Bertelsmann, Deutsche Post, Deutsche Telekom, E.ON, Henkel, Metro, Rewe, RWE and ThyssenKrupp**. NRW is home to large industrial corporations of world standing as well as dozens of smaller companies which are leaders in their respective business fields. In 2015, the industrial enterprises based in NRW generated sales of approx. 334 billion euros – which is 18.6 percent of industrial sales in Germany. 18.1 percent of the employed population of NRW work in the industrial sector.
### Sales 2015 (in EUR bn)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Sales (bn)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemicals</td>
<td>43.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, Beverages</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Production and Processing</td>
<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Products</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering, Electronics</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber, Plastic</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass, Ceramics, Non-Metallic Minerals</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IT.NRW; the figures refer to companies with 20 and more employees.
Strong Industry Offers Good Environment for Service Providers

Nowhere else in Germany do industry-related service providers (e.g. consultancies, engineering offices, EDP, R&D) – many of which are business partners to industrial companies – contribute so much to innovation and value added as in NRW. The strength of industry in NRW is due in no small measure to the strength of these industry-related service providers.

27 percent of the sales generated in the narrower sense by industry-related service providers in Germany comes from NRW – more than in any other state. The same is true of employment: 25.7 percent of all people employed in industry-related services in Germany work in NRW. 22.3 percent of the companies are also located here.

In 1970, 55.7 percent of the state’s gross value added was generated in industry and only 42.3 percent in the service sector. By 2015, this ratio had been more than reversed: the service sector dominated in NRW with 72.1 percent as compared to industry with 27.6 percent. The number of people employed in the service sector has grown by more than a million to 7 million since 1970.

SMEs Form the Mainstay of the Economy

NRW is a state of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): Around 747,000 SMEs form the economic backbone of the region. They account for 99.5 percent of all the companies in the state. Approx. 80 percent of the employed people subject to social security contributions work in small and medium-sized enterprises. SMEs provide more than 82 percent of all training positions in NRW. Skilled trades with 114,000 companies in NRW are the state’s biggest employer with over one million employees.
Europe’s Largest Sales and Sourcing Market

The total trading volume of NRW from imports and exports amounts to approx. 389 billion euros. 15.2 percent of German exports are produced here. 21.7 percent of all German imports go to NRW. In 2015, the value of exports totaled 181.5 billion euros (+1.0 percent) and the value of imports came to 207.3 billion euros (+0.5 percent).

Source: IT.NRW, March 2016

NRW is clearly an attractive location for trading companies: 12 of the 40 largest German trading companies are based here (Aldi, Deichmann, Metro, Rewe, Tengelmann).
A Survey of Important Industries

North Rhine-Westphalia’s economic structure is characterized by a well-balanced mix of “classic” and future-oriented sectors. The represented sectors range from advertising to yarn production, the range of products from abrasives to zoom lenses.

Automotive

NRW is one of the most important automotive locations in Germany. In total, i.e. including suppliers that do not produce exclusively for the automotive industry, the industry encompasses approx. 800 companies employing over 200,000 people. Key companies include Daimler AG in Düsseldorf and Ford-Werke GmbH in Cologne (manufacturers), as well as Bayer MaterialScience, HELLA, LANXESS and ThyssenKrupp Automotive Systems (suppliers). Besides the traditionally important subject areas in conventional automotive engineering, the state also offers great potential in the field of electric mobility: Centers of excellence in Aachen, Dortmund and Münster have been set up to advance the new technology.

www.elektromobilitaet.nrw.de

Biotechnology

Over the last few years, biotechnology has developed into an important innovation and business sector for Germany. With its first-class scientific landscape, numerous internationally successful SMEs and a strong, globally active chemical and pharmaceutical industry, NRW is a major contributor to this development. One example of the state’s leading international position in biotechnology is the fact that it occupies 9th place worldwide and first place – by a long way – in Europe in terms of the number of biotech patent applications. Some 400 life science firms, of which more than 100 specialize in biotechnology, mark the state as one of Europe’s leading innovation centers. Besides the global heavyweights such as Bayer, Evonik, Grünenthal and Henkel which are also active in biotechnology, it is above all the core biotech companies which distinguish NRW as a location. These include such major international players as Biotech and QIAGEN, as well as numerous dynamically growing companies such as AiCuris, Cevec Pharmaceuticals, DIREVO Industrial Biotechnology and evocatal. Together, these companies generate more than 44 percent of total German sales in this segment.

www.bio.nrw.de

Chemicals (Not Including Pharma)

NRW is Germany’s most important location for chemicals. It is distinguished by its first-class research, its special mixture of a broad mid-market and numerous internationally
successful large corporations in the heart of a strongly globally operating chemical and pharmaceutical industry in Europe. As a chemical location, NRW ranks 5th in the EU and 14th in the world in terms of sales with 43.9 billion euros. In 2015, the NRW share of annual German sales was 30.8 percent. The number of people employed in this industry was nearly 94,500 (28.4 percent share of the German total). Around 70 percent of all substances manufactured by the chemical industry go into industrial processing. As a central materials supplier the chemical industry is responsible for initiating a large proportion of the innovations in these value added chains. For this reason the chemical industry is also referred to as the innovation engine for industry as a whole. The major chemical companies include ALTANA, Bayer, Evonik Industries, Henkel and LANXESS.

Energy

The state between Rhine and Ruhr supplies around 30 percent of the electricity required throughout Germany. 100 percent of German black coal and 54 percent of German brown coal are mined here. Around 24 percent of German industrial electricity is consumed here. These figures show that more energy is converted and used in NRW than in any other federal state. From a long tradition of utilizing natural resources, a wide-ranging expertise in energy technology has grown in the state. There is a dense network of research institutes here, as well as numerous companies offering innovative energy products and services for increasing energy efficiency and the utilization of renewable energies. For many future-oriented companies, NRW is the ideal location. There were around 26,000 employees working in some 3,600 companies in the field of renewable energies in 2013. These companies generated sales of more than 6.6 billion euros. The companies E.ON and RWE number among the world’s largest energy suppliers. The state provides the many and varied energy companies with an outstanding research environment: Research and teaching in all the relevant areas of energy technology take place at 120 institutes at 30 university sites and at 20 non-university research institutions. This know-how represents a significant locational advantage for the industry. www.energieregion.nrw.de www.cen.nrw.de www.energieagentur.nrw.de

Environmental Technology

The environmental technology sector has grown into a global key industry over the last few years. NRW occupies a strong position nationally in this growth market. With sales of approx. 60 billion euros in the field of environmental technologies the state is the most successful federal state in this sector. The development and application of new environmental technologies not only has positive effects on the environment, but is also a growth driver and employment engine for NRW. Today the industry offers in more than 3,500 companies around 274,000 jobs. The strength of NRW is demonstrated in a national comparison of location factors. Companies benefit from a large demand for environmental technology services and products, extremely well-trained specialists thanks to an excellent university landscape, and an outstanding infrastructure. In terms of these three central location factors, NRW occupies a leading national position and presents itself as a highly attractive location for companies. The major players in the industry include e.g. Interseroh (ALBA Group) and Remondis. www.umweltcluster.nrw.de www.umwelt.nrw.de

Food

NRW occupies a significant position in Germany as a powerful and future-oriented location for the agriculture and food industry. The strengths of this industry are its proximity to millions of consumers in Germany and abroad, a high-quality and innovative product range and
a highly efficient supply industry that provides excellent raw materials. The agri-food industry provides around 400,000 jobs, making it one of the most important sectors of the economy and largest employers in NRW. It supplies about one-fifth of total German sales of food. The corporate structures range from large global companies and a very broad-based SME sector to small and micro enterprises in crafts and trades. The food-processing industry already occupies an excellent competitive position in NRW: High quality standards, a wide range of products, more than 1,000 companies with more than 100,000 employees and sales of around 38 billion euros (2015) make it the highest grossing food industry in Germany. Half of the 50 highest grossing – mostly medium-sized – companies in the German food industry are located in NRW. Well-known global players based in NRW include Dr. Oetker, HARIBO and Zentis.

www.nrw-isst-gut.de

Healthcare

The healthcare industry is a leading sector of the North Rhine-Westphalian economy. More than 1.2 million employees or 15 percent of all employees in NRW work in the healthcare industry. Between 2009 and 2014, over 155,000 new jobs were created in the more than 61,000 healthcare companies in NRW. The sector generates sales of 68 billion euros in the state. This makes NRW the largest market within the healthcare industry in Germany with a share of 22 percent. The health service in NRW is based essentially on 370 hospitals, nearly 26,000 registered doctors and 150 preventive and rehabilitation facilities. These are complemented by approx. 4,560 pharmacies, more than 2,300 mobile nursing services and over 2,450 nursing homes. The six university clinics in Aachen, Bonn, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Essen and Münster as well as the decentralized clinic model at Ruhr University Bochum provide not only outstanding university research, but also modern training for prospective physicians. This is rounded off by numerous non-university research facilities such as Max-Planck-Institutes, institutions of the Leibniz Association, Fraunhofer Institutes or the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases in Bonn and Witten which all conduct research into health-related topics and develop new products and services. Besides well-known companies such as 3M, Brasseler, Medtronic and Sarstedt, medical technology in NRW is characterized by small and medium-sized enterprises that include Medifa and Kabe Labortechnik. With Bayer HealthCare, UCB Pharma and Janssen-Cilag the North Rhine-Westphalian pharmaceutical industry has companies of international standing. However, the pharmaceutical industry in the state is also characterized by SMEs such as Dr. August Wolff Arzneimittel and MEDICE Arzneimittel Pütter. In addition, together with the European Union the state supports more than 100 innovative healthcare projects with funds totaling 80 million euros. With the current competition call for “Leitmarkt.Gesundheit.NRW” for the EU funding period 2013-2020, this successful project funding to develop innovative products and services in the healthcare industry will be further expanded.

www.lzg.nrw.de
www.gesundheitswirtschaft.nrw.de

Information and Communication Technology

The highly efficient information and communications technology (ICT) sector is an important pillar for the expansion of NRW as a technology and innovation location. Numerous global players, a strong SME sector and a large number of “hidden champions” drive the development of intelligent applications across industries. In a dynamic environment, the ICT industry in NRW is shaping the future with cyber physical systems – intelligent networked systems that will enable the smart products and services of tomorrow: Industry 4.0, smart grids and e-mobility, to name a few. The economic importance of the ICT industry is enormous: In 2013, the approx. 23,700 ICT companies in the state employed more than 205,000 people and generated sales of approx. 97 billion euros. This accounts for 16.2 percent of the gross domestic
product in NRW. With sales of approx. 41 billion euros the information technology (IT) sector alone numbers more than 166,000 employees subject to social security contributions in NRW (2013). The Rhine-Ruhr region distinguishes itself in many areas of IT and software development. The IT companies based in the state include such international market leaders as Atos, Fujitsu, HP, IBM, Itelligence, Materna and Toshiba. In addition, four of the big players in the TC industry – Deutsche Telekom, Ericsson, Huawei Technologies and Vodafone – have their headquarters along the “Rhine axis” and represent NRW as a top location for the TC industry in Germany. In 2013, the telecommunications sector in NRW generated sales of approx. 56 billion euros with approx. 39,000 employees. In the attractive growth market mobile communications, 83 percent of the German mobile telephone market is accounted for by companies from NRW.

www.cps-hub-nrw.de

Logistics

NRW with its dense network of transportation routes is one of the central transportation hubs in Europe. Without a highly-developed logistics system, the national and international flow of transportation would not be manageable. The logistics sector is one of the leading growth industries in NRW. With 27,800 companies employing 314,000 people, it is one of the largest industries in NRW. Including the employees who perform logistical tasks in industrial and commercial enterprises, there are more than 645,000 people working in the logistics industry. In addition, the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics (IML) in Dortmund is one of the world’s largest research facilities in the field of logistics. Well-known industry players based in NRW include Deutsche Post DHL, FedEx, Fiege, Imperial, Kühne+Nagel, Raben, Rhenus, Schenker, UPS and Yusen Logistics.

www.logistikcluster-nrw.de

Mechanical Engineering

Mechanical engineering is a core area of the economy in NRW and the biggest industrial employer with approx. 203,000 employees (19.8 percent of the German total in this industry). Its companies are enablers and technology leaders in many areas, incorporating the latest developments into plants and products. By doing so, they put themselves and their customers in a position to bring innovative technologies and products to market. With pioneering technologies covering the entire value added chain they make a key contribution to securing supply, conserving resources and using energy efficiently. The very large majority of the industry has a small and medium-sized company structure. A dense network of universities with institutes geared to production technology provides world-class potential, enabling industrial development to be strengthened by the necessary scientific support. In 2015, the share of industry sales accounted for by the around 1,500 NRW businesses was 19.6 percent. The largest companies in the industry include Claas, GEA, DMG Mori Seiki (formerly Gildemeister) and SMS.

www.produktion.nrw.de

Media

With more than 24,000 media and communications companies, 412,000 employees and sales of 122 billion euros, the state has developed into a leading media and creative location. An attractive cultural landscape
ensures a high quality of life as well as productive cross-links between media, art and culture. With Bertelsmann and Deutsche Telekom, two global players based in NRW lead the ranking of the most influential media corporations. Cologne, the number one television location, is home to WDR, Europe’s largest public-law broadcasting company, and RTL, Germany’s most successful private broadcasting station. One out of three minutes of TV airtime in Germany is produced in NRW. The games industry here also achieves high scores, with sales amongst the highest anywhere in Germany. Two of the world’s leading games publishers, Electronic Arts and Ubisoft, are based on the Rhine. And not least, top industry events and major trade shows such as dmexco, gamescom and Medienforum NRW underline the leading role played by the media state. The Film and Media Foundation NRW is a central point of contact for media in the state. In 2011 it took over the Media Cluster NRW, a single point of contact for the digital media scene in NRW, and opened itself up for the promotion of innovative media content.

www.filmtstiftung.de
www.medien.nrw.de

Microsystems Technology

In Germany, microsystems technology (MST) plays a central role in growth and employment. The global market share of German MST products is approx. 20 percent – and rising. There are 766,000 jobs directly linked to microsystems technology, and by 2020 it could be as many as 963,000. 28 percent of all German actors are to be found in NRW, placing the state in a leading position nationwide with regard to microsystems technology. The particularly close ties between industry and science facilitate a high innovation speed which in turn results in an above-average number of companies locating in NRW. Around 170 companies, including 130 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), nearly 100 university institutes and approx. 20 other research institutes are based here. Regional focuses are to be found in Aachen, Cologne/Bonn, Dortmund, Münster and the Ruhr Metropolis. The Dortmund-based MST Cluster is one of the largest clusters in Europe, with more than 1,700 employees working for approx. 24 companies. Well-known companies in this area include Bartels Mikrotechnik, Boehringer Ingelheim microParts, ELMOS, IX-Factory and microTEC.

www.nmwp.nrw.de

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology (NT) is cross-sectional technology. It combines different scientific disciplines and is regarded internationally as one of the key technologies of the 21st century. NRW also occupies a top position in nanotechnology throughout Germany and Europe. The main areas of nanotechnology include nanoanalytics, nanocoatings, nanobiotechnology, nanoelectronics and nanomaterials. Over 220 institutes at nearly 40 science locations, including nine Fraunhofer institutes and three Max-Planck-Institutes, conduct research and development here. In 2013, two new, promising centers of excellence were founded: the NanoBioanalyticalCenter Münster (NBZ) and the NanoEnergyTechnologyCenter (NETZ) of the University of Duisburg-Essen. Added to this there are more than 200 companies, including over 50 large corporations, highly innovative companies and spin-offs.

www.nanotech.de
that concern themselves with nanotechnology and are in some cases world market leaders. These include Aixtron, AMO, Bayer MaterialScience, BYK Chemie, FRT, NanoFocus and RAITH.  
www.nmwp.nrw.de

New Materials

Outstanding scientific research facilities combined with the high concentration of important materials for manufacturing sectors of industry, in some cases with a long tradition, make NRW a region with wide-ranging materials expertise. More than 1 million employees, 200 billion euros in sales and more than 10,000 companies and research facilities linked directly to new materials. Focal areas of research are to be found in the Aachen region, Bochum and Paderborn, while the main business emphasis lies in the Ruhr Metropolis (Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg, Essen) and the Rhineland. In addition, there are numerous networks on a technical and regional level. NRW is thus one of the most important locations in Germany for new materials. Companies based in NRW include 3M, Bayer, Evonik Industries, Henkel, Hydro Aluminium and ThyssenKrupp.  
www.nmwp.nrw.de

Plastics

With its distinctive cross-sectional character, the plastics industry is the carrier and driver of innovations in the fields of materials, production processes and products for practically all areas of life in NRW. A continuous value added chain of plastic manufacturers, plastic processors and manufacturers of plastic-processing machinery, an extensive scientific, research, and service landscape are all proof of the industry’s excellence, which in this concentration and composition is unique in Europe. Around 1,000 companies with more than 140,000 employees from the plastics industry, as well as scientific and educational associations and institutes, form the plastics cluster in NRW. The goal of the cluster is to strengthen competitiveness through the networking of all the actors, the reinforcement of international cooperations and the further sharpening of NRW’s profile as a plastics location. In NRW, investors will find established structures which they can utilize and contacts which are compiled by Verein kunststoffland NRW. Successful companies include Bayer MaterialScience, Evonik Industries, LANXESS (manufacturers), Bond-Laminates, Gerhardi Kunststofftechnik (processors) and ENGEL, Reifenhäuser (mechanical engineering).  
www.kunststoffland-nrw.de
Germany’s Most Important Investment Location

Locational advantages like an excellent transportation infrastructure and a dynamic research landscape ensure that more foreign investments flow into the North Rhine-Westphalian economy than into any other German state.

Center of Well-Known Foreign Companies

NRW has become increasingly attractive for foreign investors for several years. At 28.5 percent (189.8 billion euros) the state recorded the highest direct investment share of all 16 federal states in Germany (666 billion euros) at the end of 2014. Next are Hesse with 17.2 percent, Bavaria with 16.8 percent and Baden-Württemberg with 13.1 percent.

If we disregard Luxembourg on the grounds of its special role as a financial hub, the Netherlands is then the biggest investor in NRW, accounting for 18.1 percent of the direct investment volume in the state, followed by France with 8.0 percent and the UK with 6.2 percent.

The Biggest Trade Fair Location in the World

The trade fairs in Cologne, Dortmund, Düsseldorf and Essen mirror global market conditions and serve as an important marketing tool for exhibitors. The state’s outstanding infrastructure and central location in the heart of Europe ensure the excellent accessibility of all the trade fair cities and the transportation of the highlights from here to the world market. More than 100 internationally leading trade fairs such as anuga, boot, drupa, MEDICA or photokina attract more than 6 million visitors every year. The state is one of the world’s largest trade fair locations – ahead of Hanover, Frankfurt a. M., Milan, Guangzhou (China), Paris, Chicago, Barcelona and Valencia.
Excellent Transportation Infrastructure

The two major international airports – **Düsseldorf Airport** and **Cologne Bonn Airport** – as well as additional airports with European connections in Dortmund, Münster/Osnabrück, Paderborn/Lippstadt and Weeze/Lower Rhine connect the state to all major German domestic destinations as well as to cities and holiday regions all over the world. High-speed trains can be used to reach the European hub at Frankfurt airport in less than one hour. Also of interest to the Aachen Technology Region is the proximity of the Maastricht Aachen Airport in the Netherlands. With 22.5 million passengers Düsseldorf Airport is the third-largest passenger airport in Germany following Frankfurt/Main and Munich. With 10.3 million passengers Cologne Bonn Airport ranks number seven throughout Germany; it is also Germany’s number three air cargo center (following Frankfurt a. M. and Leipzig). NRW’s airports offer more than 400 direct flights to destinations all over the world.
A network of around 2,200 kilometers of expressways links every important town or city in NRW directly and quickly to the European expressway system. Every place of importance in the state has its own expressway entrance and exit. There are also around 4,500 kilometers of federal highways, 13,100 kilometers of country roads and 9,800 kilometers of local district roads.

NRW has the highest rail network density in Germany. Track length amounts up to more than 6,000 kilometers. The state is an important hub in the high-speed rail network. Prime examples are the Thalys connections to Brussels and Paris, as well as ICE high-speed line from Cologne via Frankfurt/Main to Basel. The central station in Cologne is one of Europe’s busiest railway junctions (280,000 travelers and 1,220 trains every day). Deutsche Bahn AG, as well as numerous regional rail, tram and suburban train systems, provide daily local public transport services.

NRW lies at the interface of major European waterways and, although the state has no coastline, connections to important European seaports are ensured. 226 kilometers of the Rhine, one of the world’s most busiest waterways, flow through NRW. The state is by far the largest location for inland ports in Germany. Around 120 ports (thereof 23 public) handle nearly 125 million tons of goods by ship. In addition, the world’s largest inland port, the Port of Duisburg, is located here. Including the private commercial ports, using all modal options, 129 million tons of goods are handled at Duisburg.
R&D Location of World Standing

NRW has 70 universities and technical colleges with approx. 745,000 students guaranteeing a dynamic research and development landscape. The state’s universities and technical colleges offer a choice of more than 4,000 study courses. 27 percent of all university graduates in Germany are educated in NRW. Six of Germany’s ten largest universities are located here. With 52,300 students, the University of Cologne, known among other things for its economic science faculty, is the second-largest university in the state following the University of Hagen (65,500 students). The RWTH Aachen University and the University of Cologne were declared elite universities as part of the Excellence Initiative of the German federation and the federal states. 86,500 students at universities in NRW come from abroad (11.6 percent of students).

Over 60 technology centers and more than 50 non-university research facilities form one of the densest research networks in Europe and provide ideal conditions for technology transfer. The research facilities include internationally renowned facilities such as the Research Center Jülich, the German Aerospace Center and the 13 Fraunhofer and twelve Max-Planck-Institutes financed jointly by the national and state governments.
High Quality of Life

North Rhine-Westphalia also offers a great deal of scope for diversion and stimulation outside the pulsating business world. The state features one of Europe’s richest leisure and culture landscapes, and with approx. 49 million overnight stays every year, it is one of the most popular destinations in Germany.

The no. 1 tourist attraction is Cologne Cathedral. Other popular destinations include Aachen Cathedral, the Abbey Church of Corvey in Ostwestfalen-Lippe and Augustusburg Castle in Brühl. All three cathedrals and the castle with its gardens have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. 54 cultural monuments of a completely different kind are to be found in the Ruhr Metropolitan Region along the “Route Industriekultur” designed in the nineties. These include industrial sites of national importance such as the “Zeche Zollverein” mining monument in Essen, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The colliery, which was closed in 1986, houses the red dot design Museum, which shows the world’s largest and probably most unusual exhibition of contemporary design.
Culture – Diverse, Ambitious and Unique

NRW is living culture. The theaters, ballet and opera houses with their enthusiastic performances enjoy a fine reputation beyond the borders of the state. The “Schauspielhaus Bochum” is one of Germany’s most renowned theaters. The programs offered by the concert halls, such as the “Philharmonie Köln” and the “Konzerthaus Dortmund”, range from organ recitals and classical music to jazz. There are also countless pop and rock concerts and major musicals. Ample provision is also made for ballet fans in the Rhine and Ruhr region. NRW is one of Germany’s dance culture centers. The “Tanztheater Wuppertal”, led by the world-famous director and choreographer Pina Bausch until her death in June 2009, enjoys international fame. Classical dancing of the highest standard is to be found, for example, at the “Deutsche Oper am Rhein” in Düsseldorf. The Aalto-Theater in Essen is not only a representative venue, but also an architectural sight of international standing.

Well-known pop and rock stars hailing from NRW such as Herbert Grönemeyer, Marius Müller-Westernhagen and Nena attract thousands of fans to the state’s numerous concert halls and open-air venues. But music is not only played in NRW, it is also composed. One of the state’s most celebrated composers is Ludwig van Beethoven, who was born in Bonn. New music trends such as those from the band Kraftwerk or the composer Stockhausen also have their origins in NRW. And as the host of the 2011 Eurovision Song Contest, Düsseldorf attracted an audience of some 36,000 into the specially converted football arena. Around the world, 120 million viewers watched the show live on television.

Many festivals in NRW are known beyond Germany’s borders. These include the international literature festival “lit.COLOGNE” and the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen. The “Ruhrtiennale” culture festival takes place in the former industrial buildings of the Ruhr Metropolitan Region, such as the “Jahrhunderthalle” (century hall) in Bochum. Contemporary music and theater productions by creative individuals from all over the world can be seen here.

The “Kunstsammlung NRW” in Düsseldorf, for example, shows works by the major artists of the twentieth century. The “Museum Ludwig” in Cologne houses one of Europe’s most important collections of contemporary art. “Schloss Moyland” displays many works by the NRW-born artist Joseph Beuys within its walls. However, art is not only to be found in museums: renowned artists such as Christo transform industrial buildings in the Ruhr Metropolitan Region, such as the “Gasometer” in Oberhausen, into venues for installations and performances. Both young, emerging artists and established stars, such as the Cologne-based painter Gerhard Richter, delight the public with their work in countless galleries and museums, creating a cultural offering that has yet to be matched. Together with the neighboring Benelux countries, the Rhineland boasts the highest density of art collectors and art enthusiasts in Europe. And the art fair with the longest tradition in the world, ART COLOGNE, takes place annually in the city of Cologne.
Recreation – Something for Everyone

The culinary specialties of a state are an integral part of its cultural heritage. In NRW, there is a wide variety – anyone wishing to dine out is spoilt for choice. Star chefs of worldwide acclaim do full justice to their name here: 43 star-awarded restaurants are to be found in NRW. Exotic cuisine from all continents is provided, as well as local dishes ranging from “Sauerbraten” (marinated pot roast) or asparagus to the fast-food classic “Currywurst” with French fries.

Naturally, NRW also offers many other possibilities for recreation: skiers, for example, can sweep down the longest covered indoor ski slope in the world in Bottrop. Walkers are provided with more than 50,000 kilometers of signposted paths, and cyclists with a network of around 15,000 kilometers of cycling paths. More than 100 lakes offer bathing and water sports on hot days. 12 nature parks with an area of approx. 13,000 square kilometers cover around 40 percent of the total area of the state. The Eifel region is also home to the first national park in NRW. If you just want to take it easy, the Rhine is ideal, offering boat trips that pass by vineyards and castle ruins. On sunny days, golfers swing their clubs on the cultivated greens of over 170 golf courses. From fishing to Zen exercises, NRW offers practically every kind of sporting activity. In addition, the state is a true shopping paradise: NRW has by far the highest density of highly frequented shopping streets. And Düsseldorf’s “Königsallee” is one of the most elegant shopping streets in Germany.
Sports – Moving Moments

The sport state NRW is home to numerous historical and ultra-modern sports venues. Nowhere is this more evident than in football. Throughout the world there is almost no density of football arenas, top clubs and fans comparable to that in NRW. Particularly for the Ruhr Metropolitan Region, football has always been of great importance; over a long period of time it has become a fixed, integral part of everyday life and event culture here. Attractive top events are held regularly in the high-tech arenas (e.g. Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen/Schalke or Cologne). The state has more than 5,100 football clubs with 1.5 million members playing in 38,000 teams.

Yet NRW has more to offer in addition to football. More than 38,000 sports venues ranging from large sports halls, indoor and outdoor swimming baths, and tennis courts to facilities for equestrian, dancing, shooting, water, and golf events leave practically nothing to be desired. Besides these sports venues, NRW is also ideally equipped to host large-scale sport events: There is room for more than 3,000 visitors in each of the state’s 24 large sports halls.

Since 1927, one of the world’s most important horse shows has taken place every year in NRW: the world festival of equestrian sport, CHIO Aachen, where the show-jumping and dressage elite compete for prizes and medals. And every two years, horse enthusiasts gather in Essen at EQUITANA, the world’s largest equestrian fair.

Winter sports are also firmly established in NRW – with 39 indoor ice rinks, a speed-skating track in Grefrath (one of the largest ice sports centers in Europe), the bob and toboggan run in Winterberg, the ski jumps in Sauerland, and the indoor ski slopes in Bottrop (the longest in the world) and Neuss. And the ice hockey teams of the German Ice Hockey League play in the three large sports arena in Cologne, Düsseldorf and Krefeld.

In addition to the countless national and regional sports centers, three Olympic bases – Cologne/Bonn/Leverkusen, Rhine/Ruhr and Westphalia – form the back-bone of competitive sports.
NRW.INVEST –
The One-Stop Agency for Investors

The state-owned economic development agency NRW.INVEST conducts international marketing for Germany’s No. 1 investment location, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). In doing so, it campaigns worldwide for foreign direct investments for NRW.

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