

Important Industrial Areas And Mineral Resource Locations

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Industrial Areas

Germany is an industrialized country. The important industrial areas are:

- The Ruhr region, including the areas around Dueseldorf and Cologne
- The area around Frankfurt
- The Mannheim/Ludwigshafen area
- Stuttgart and the Neckar Valley
- The Hanover/Braunschweig region
- The Dresden/Chemnitz region
- The region around Leipzig/Halle
- The territory around Cottbus

Following the reunification of East and West Germany, there have been significant changes in the importance of individual business sectors: Several industries such as coal, steel, and shipbuilding, have become less important than more modern industries, such as mechanical engineering [machine making] and electronics. As a matter of fact, Germany is the international market leader in the IT and biotech sectors as well as in technology for the use of renewable energies and environmental protection. For this reason, traditional industrial regions, especially the industrial centers in former East Germany, the Ruhr region and cities with shipyards had to restructure.

Mineral Resources

Germany has little mineral wealth. It has major reserves only of rock salt, potash salt, lignite and hard coal. Germany is strongly dependent on imports of raw materials and is highly vulnerable to disruptions of world trade.

Lignite

Germany is the world's largest producer of lignite. The "brown coal" as it is also called, is the principal domestic source of fossil fuels in Germany. The largest deposits are in the Rhineland (near Cologne and Aachen), in Brandenburg and in the Lausitz-area in Saxony. In 2003, a total of 180 million tons were mined and accounted for some 11.4% of primary energy consumption in Germany.

Coal

The largest hard coal deposits are in the Ruhr region and in the Saarland. As a result of a crisis in the German steel industry coal production decreased from 71 million metric tons in 1990 to 26.4 million metric tons in 2003.

Oil

Oil is extracted primarily in an area between the Weser and Ems rivers, as well as northeast of Hanover, south of Leipzig and in the Alpine foothills. Oil's contribution to energy supply fell from 55 percent in 1973 to 38.5 percent in 2001. However, judging by the proportion of primary energy consumption it makes up, oil is still Germany's most important fuel.

Natural Gas

Due to its own low resources, natural gas has to be imported from a number of countries, and supplies are secured well into the next decade. In 2002, natural gas accounted for around 22% (+0.5% p.a.) of primary energy consumption.

Salt

Germany is one of the world's most salt-rich countries. Each year, around 20 million tons of salt (15 million tons of salt and 5 million tons of potash) are produced. The largest salt reserves are located in the Hanover/Hildesheim area and near Bad Hersfeld.

Industries such as vehicle production, mechanical engineering and plant production, chemical industry, biotechnology and electrical engineering continue to form the mainstay of the German economy. Many of Germany's largest companies are known throughout the world and have branches or research facilities overseas. They include the carmakers Volkswagen, BMW, Porsche, and Daimler-Chrysler, chemical corporations such as Bayer and BASF, electrical manufacturer Siemens AG, and many others like SAP, the Bosch Group, Deutsche Bank, Nivea, Adidas, and T-Mobile.

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Going by revenue the following companies were the largest in 2003:

Company	Industry (\$mil)	Revenue	Home City
Daimler-Chrysler	Automobile	140,777	Stuttgart
Allianz Worldwide	Insurance	101,466	Munich
Volkswagen Group	Automobile	84,707	Wolfsburg
Siemens Group	Multi-Industry	77,013	Munich, Berlin
Deutsche Bank Group	Diversified Finance	52,731	Frankfurt/Main

In the list of most important companies in the world Daimler-Chrysler ranks third while Allianz Worldwide is 7th and the Volkswagen Group ranks 12th.