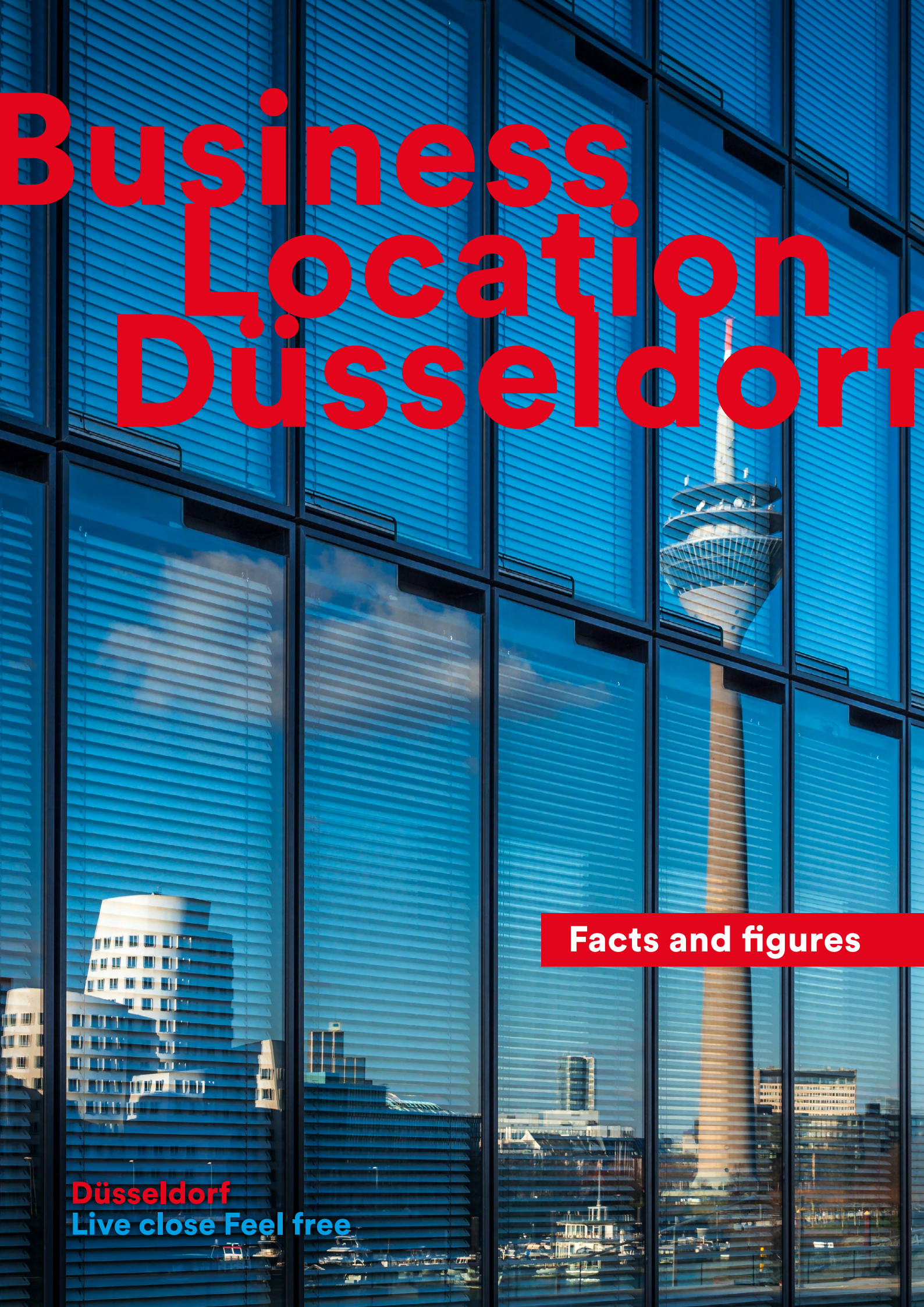
Business Location Düsseldorf



Facts and figures

Düsseldorf
Live close Feel free

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Bildnachweise
Seite 7: HHU/Ivo Mayr,
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Düsseldorf is one of the most successful business locations in Europe. The best location conditions and a very high quality of life, along with moderate settlement and operating costs, characterise this international business centre.

Düsseldorf is attractive for investors. Centrally located on the European continent, excellently connected by its international airport, Düsseldorf is a city of short distances.

Business-friendly policies, safe working and living conditions as well as the tolerance, cosmopolitanism and proverbial hospitality of the Rhinelanders make the Düsseldorf region the preferred FDI location in Europe after London and Paris.

The city itself invests heavily in infrastructure, schools, nurseries, art and culture - in short, in Düsseldorf's outstanding attractiveness as a place to live and work. Many qualified new citizens from Germany and abroad, as well as young people, make Düsseldorf their home.

When it comes to quality of life, the state capital has ranked among the top ten in international city rankings for many years. Düsseldorf has the right mix of business and lifestyle, with a popular, bustling old town and elegant Königsallee, with large global corporations and startups. All this adds to the charm of the city on the Rhine. Its cultural offerings and events can compete with any metropolis, yet you won't get lost in the urban jungle here. Düsseldorf offers metropolitan flair in a manageable and green, a lovable and family-friendly city.

What sets Düsseldorf apart

10-minute city

Population:
658,245

13.3 million inhabitants
and **585,807** companies within a radius (direct distance) of 50 kilometres–
Germany's largest economic region

576,600
employed persons

sixth largest city
in Germany

117
purchasing power index

1,343
job density
(employed persons **per 1,000 employable inhabitants**)

international
and **cosmopolitan location**

335,754
commuters

184 nations
represented. **45 percent** have an international origin.

103,369
gross domestic product
per employed person

Liveable: Düsseldorf is among the top ten cities with the **highest quality of life worldwide.**

11 universities with
55,331 students in Düsseldorf

More than **50** universities with around **600,000 students** in the Rhine-Ruhr region

Green metropolis on the Rhine:
42 percent
of Düsseldorf's **total area is green!**

Airport with over **160 destinations worldwide** – short distances to the most important cities in Europe

Fast connection from the airport to the city: on average only **13 minutes** by **car** and an average of **10 minutes** by **public transport**

Port with about **7 million tonnes of cargo** at **Europe's most important shipping link** to the ports of Zeebrugge, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp

Trade tax rate*

440 percent

* Factor that determines the amount of trade tax to be paid by a company. Generally, the higher the value, the higher the trade tax payments.

41,529 companies

from **139 nations** **Companies** **invest** in Düsseldorf.

6th More than every **company** has **international roots.**

500 startups with more than **6,000 employees**

Rising number of startups despite pandemic:

+58 percent **since 2019**

Driver of foreign direct investment:
Düsseldorf remains a stable top location for investments.

around 70 startups On average are founded per year

Accessibility

Optimal connection within Germany and worldwide

Fourth largest airport in Germany

with **155,000** flights per year (2024)

20 million passengers (2024)

162 destinations (Summer 2025) in **49** countries

62 Airlines (Summer 2025)

Fast connection from the airport to the city centre

13 minutes. ... by car on average only

And an average of **10** minutes by public transport.

In comparison:
Travel time between airport and city centre

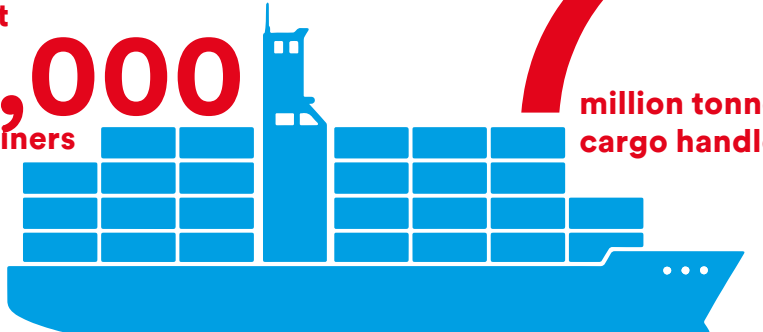
Motorways
... densest motorway network in Europe

Third largest inland port in Germany
Impressive and high-performance transhipment numbers in the container segment. The Düsseldorf port is accessible via the Rhine, the **most important shipping connection** in Europe, directly linked to the ports of **Zeebrugge, Amsterdam, Rotterdam** and **Antwerp.**

Short decision-making channels
... due to proximity to NRW ministries and the seat of about **40** **consulates** or other **consular representations**

In 2023 about 650,000 containers

about 7 million tonnes of cargo handled



10-minute city

City of short and efficient routes

EUREF-Campus

Airport

Trade fair

Mercedes-Benz factory

Düsseldorf University

Vodafone campus

Old Town

Königsallee

Industrial harbour

Main station

Media harbour

Heinrich Heine University

Henkel

Reisholz harbour

1 km

Population

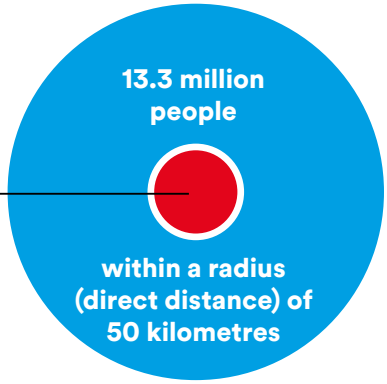
The total population of Düsseldorf is growing, and during a working day Düsseldorf turns into a city of almost a million people, with over 300,000 people who commute into the city every day.

sixth largest
city in **Germany**

Population trends since 2021:
+14,492 inhabitants

Average net migration since 2019:
+3,472 persons per year

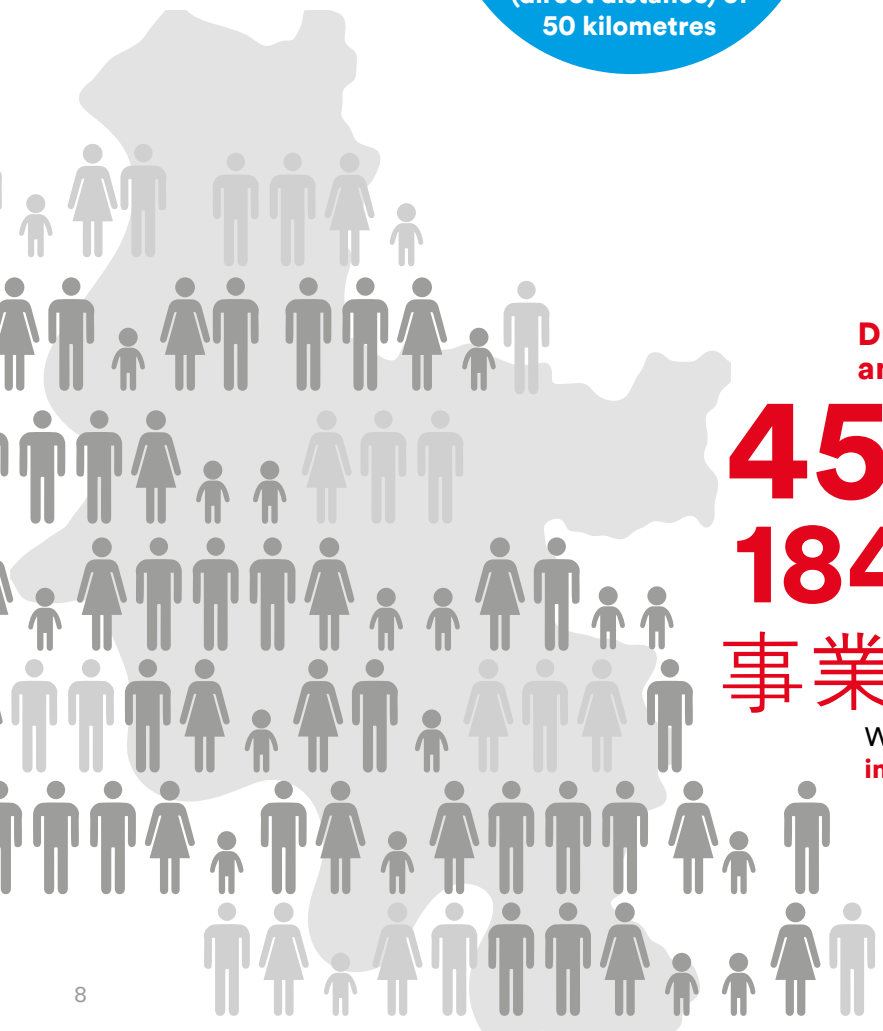
658,245
people in Düsseldorf



The Düsseldorf population has a high level of education:

53 percent **of the population** from 15 years of age have a **higher education entrance qualification.**

32 percent have a **university degree.**



Düsseldorf is international and cosmopolitan:

45 percent **have an international background**

184 **nations** are represented in Düsseldorf.

事業 Home of the **largest Japanese business community** in the European Union

Well-developed infrastructure of **international schools and nurseries**

Housing and living

Düsseldorf is a prospering metropolis with a very high quality of life, moderate cost of living, short distances and high recreational value.

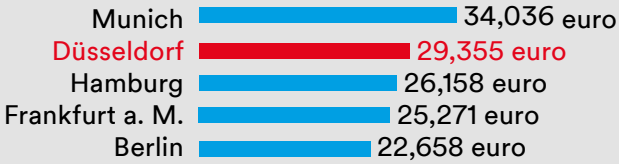
Quality of life
Düsseldorf ranks among the four most **dynamic cities** in Germany.
(According to the German Economic Institute, City Ranking, 2024)

Among the ten **happiest cities** in Germany.
(According to SKL Glücksatlas, City Ranking, 2024)

Purchasing power
Gross monthly wage
full-time employee (median):
4,095 euro

Disposable income of
private households per inhabitant:
29,355 euro

In comparison:
Disposable income per inhabitant



Second highest purchasing power index of the German economic centres:

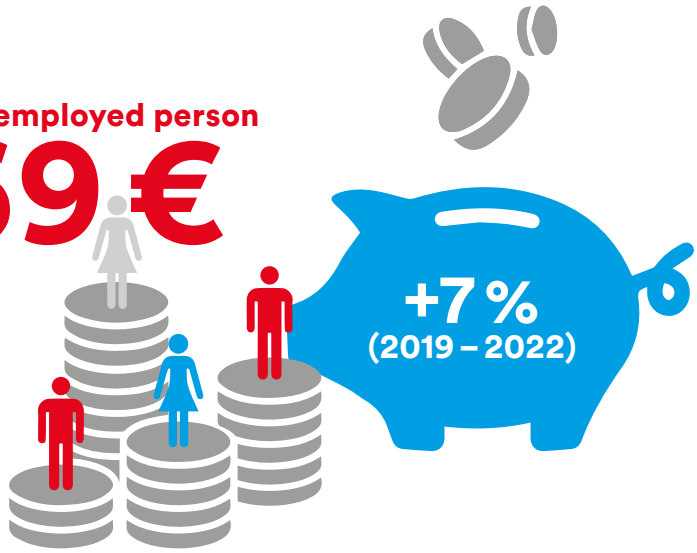
117.0

Economic power and productivity

The metropolis on the Rhine stands out for its dynamic economic development.

Gross domestic product per employed person

103,369 €



In comparison:
Rate of change of gross domestic product (GDP) per person in employment (2019 – 2022)

Hamburg	+15.8%
Berlin	+11.1%
Munich	+9.0%
Frankfurt a. M.	+8.3%
Düsseldorf	+7.2%

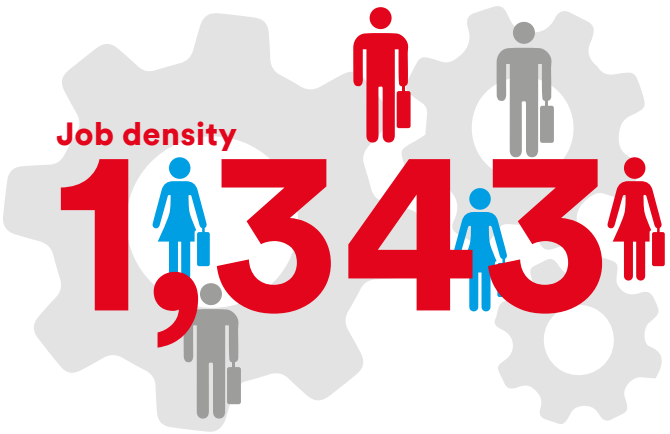
Gross domestic product in billions:

58.4 €

+12 %
GDP rate of change (2019–2022)

Labour market

Highly qualified and attractive hub of the labour market with the highest job density in the Rhine-Ruhr region.



Job density

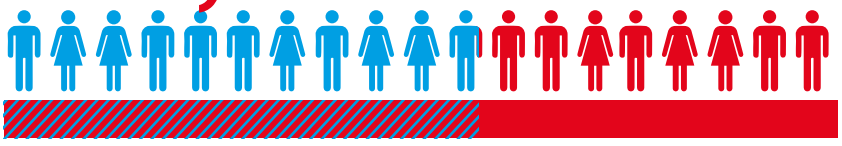
1,343

In comparison:
Job density (number of employed persons per 1,000 inhabitants aged 15 to 65 years)

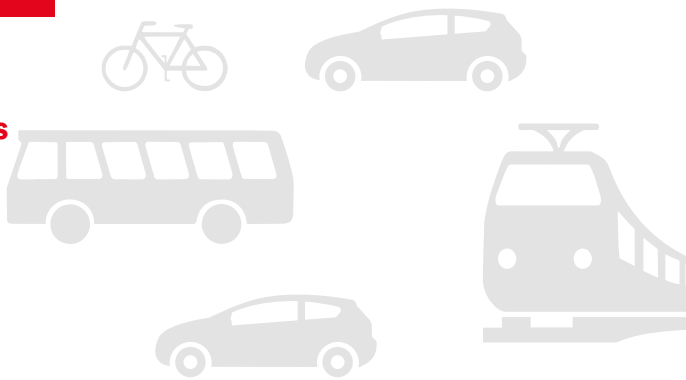
Frankfurt a. M.	1,384
Düsseldorf	1,343
Munich	1,128
Hamburg	1,035
Berlin	861

Employed persons

576,600

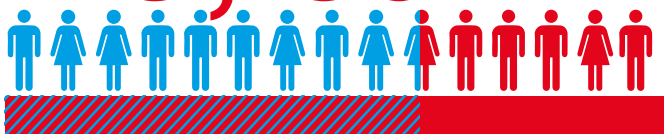


of which 335,754 commute (59 percent)



Employees subject to social security contributions

419,185



of which 264,087 commute (63 percent)

35%

of employees subject to social insurance contributions have a university degree.

Highly qualified employees: 35 percent of the employees subject to social insurance contributions have a university degree. 36 percent of employees work in knowledge-intensive services.

Companies

41,529
companies are located in Düsseldorf, many of them with their German and and European headquarters.

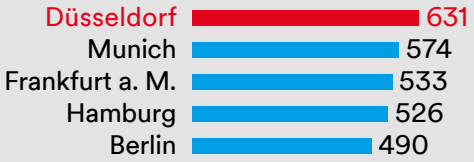
In addition to **three DAX companies** (GEA Group AG, Henkel, Rheinmetall AG) **one MDAX company** (LEG Immobilien AG) and **two SDAX companies** (Gerresheimer AG, Douglas) are also based in Düsseldorf (as of September 2025).

Business location with a **strong SME sector** - including a large number of **hidden champions** of international standing.

Business metropolis with a very high density of companies

631

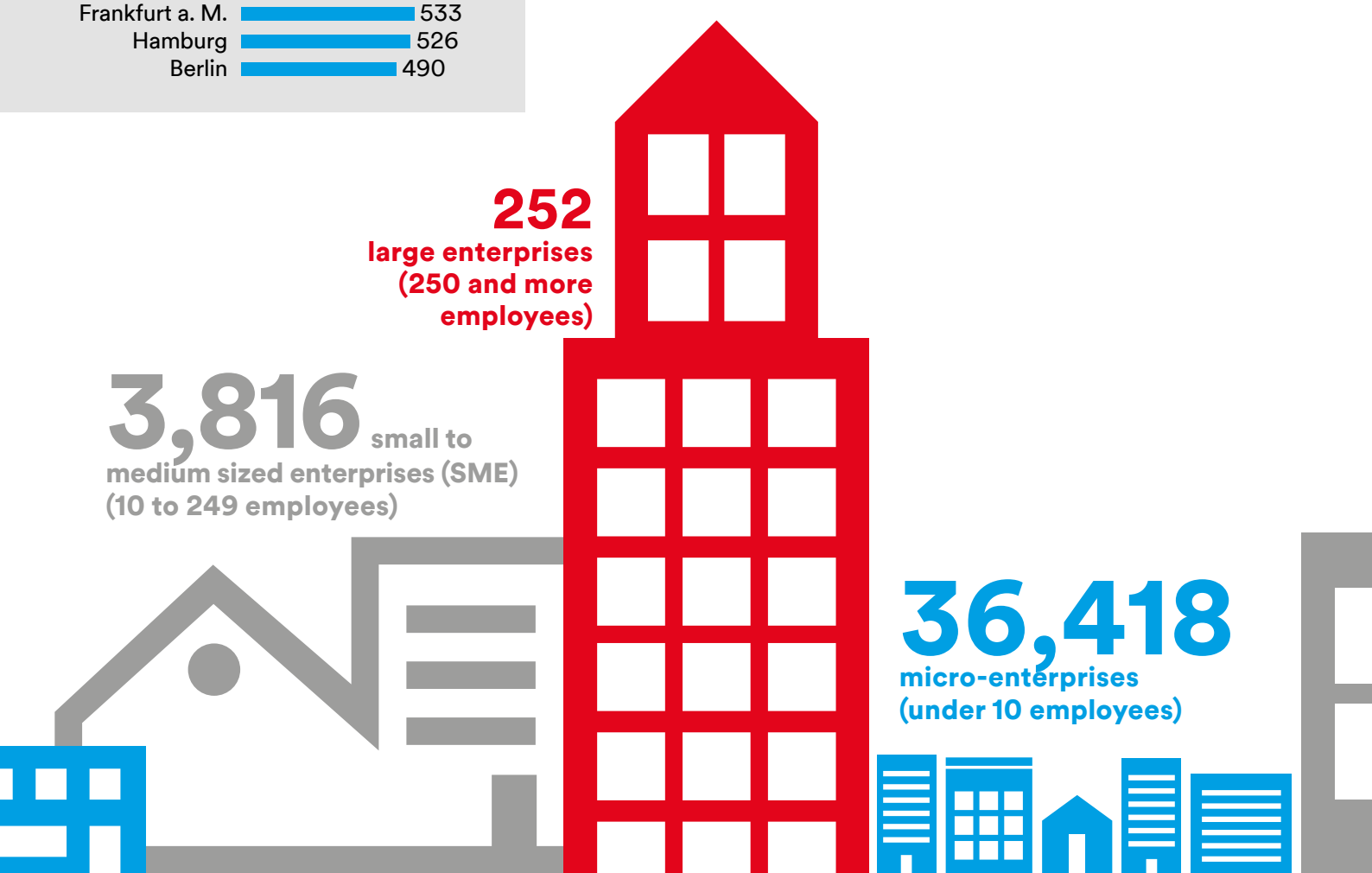
In comparison:
Business density
(companies per 10,000 inhabitants)



252
large enterprises (250 and more employees)

3,816 small to medium sized enterprises (SME) (10 to 249 employees)

36,418
micro-enterprises (under 10 employees)



More than every **6th company** has international roots. Between 2016 and 2022, the number of international companies increased by more than **27 percent,** or approximately

+1,000 companies.

Broad sector mix creates synergy effects and a resilience to crises.

Düsseldorf

is one of the frontrunners in foreign direct investment - A driving force in North Rhine-Westphalia, but also in Europe.

Startup ecosystem

Over the last 10 years, Düsseldorf's startup ecosystem has grown from around 100 startups to over 500.

Düsseldorf's diverse startup landscape

Trivago
Just Spices
Tonies
Auxmoney
Cognigy
...

Around 55 percent of startups operate in the fields of e-commerce, software, medicine, food, HR, and finance.

Dynamic startup location:
An average of **47 startups per year** between 2014 and 2024.

Stability:
65 percent of the **startups founded in Düsseldorf in 2014 are still active today** – more than twice the **national average of 30 percent.**

In comparison:
High-tech startups
(per 10,000 employable persons)

Düsseldorf startup ecosystem

2015 – Launch of the **Startup Initiative** Düsseldorf and opening of **Startplatz**

2016 – ... the first **Startup Week** takes place and **digihub** is launched

2017 – **1. digital demo day**

2021 – ... the **NEXT Award** is presented for the first time

... **Fusion Campus** opens

2022 – ...the **TechHub.K67** is founded

2024 – ... **Digital Demo Day** becomes the **Future Tech Fest**

... ERGO, TechHub.K67 and the City of Düsseldorf launch **"ERGO ScaleHub"**

2025 – **10 years** **Startup Unit** celebrates its **10th anniversary**

Region of science and research

Düsseldorf is part of an exceptionally strong region of science and research, as well as an incubator of innovations:

More than **50 universities** with around **600,000 students** in the Rhine-Ruhr region - of which **11 universities** with **61,767 students** in Düsseldorf - and thus the densest university landscape in Europe

Home to **renowned research institutions** in the region

Max Planck Institute based in Düsseldorf

First 5G medical campus at the university hospital Düsseldorf for innovations in research, teaching and patient care

Basic and applied research for hydrogen, renewable energies and energy efficiency, sector coupling

Research for the plants of the future at **CEPLAS Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences**

55,331

students in Düsseldorf

11 universities
Max-Planck-Institute
5G medical campus
Heinrich Heine University
CEPLAS Cluster

Commercial real estate

Düsseldorf is characterised by a dynamic, modern and sustainable real estate market. The attractiveness and economic power are also reflected in the steadily increasing demand for office space.

Office space in Düsseldorf 2024:

8,100,000 sqm

Office construction projects in Düsseldorf

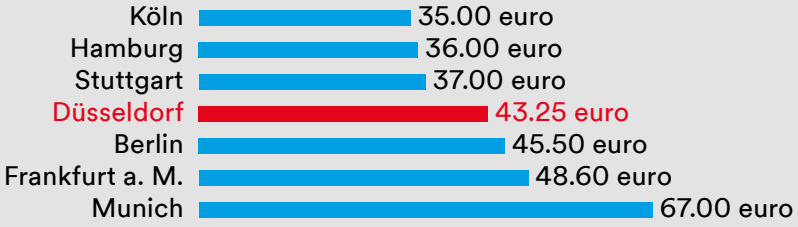
Marketing volume in 2024:
(Lettings including owner-occupier transactions):
227,400 square metres

Vacancy rate office properties: **10 percent**

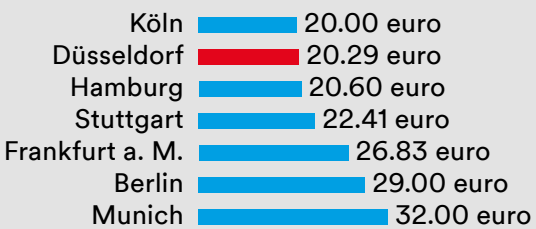
There are **45 Business Center** and **coworking spaces** with a total area of **70,807 square metres.**

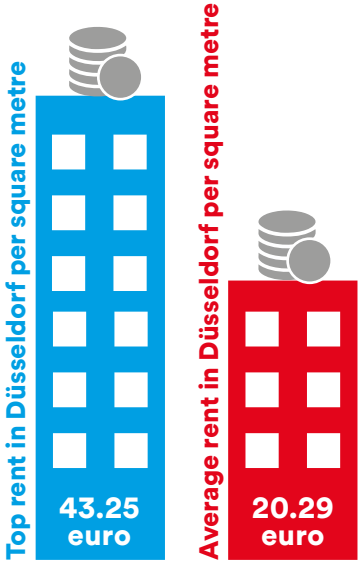
Moderate office rent levels in comparison with other prime locations in Germany

In comparison:
Top rent per square metre



In comparison:
Average rent per square metre





New office space created (2020–2024):

430,800 sqm

(Source: gif Office Market Survey 2024 – Office Markets Germany,
© gif Society of Property Researchers, Germany, May 2025.)

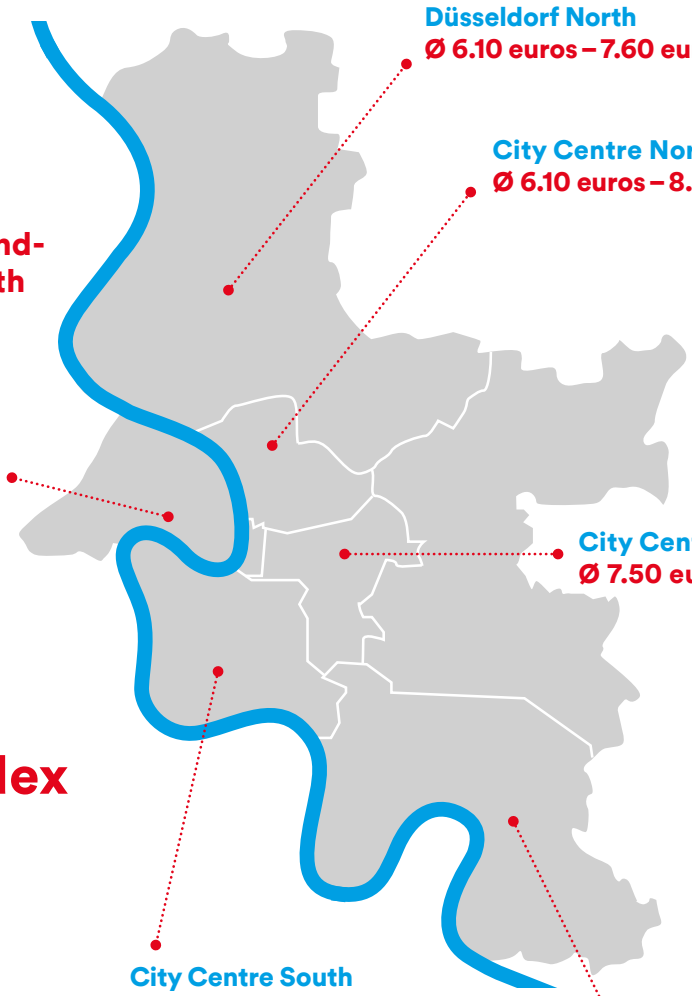
Industry and commerce

Düsseldorf is not only an important service centre, but also an important location for the manufacturing industry.

With around

45,000

jobs and around 1,200 business premises, Düsseldorf is the second-largest industrial location in North Rhine-Westphalia.



Düsseldorf's commercial rent index

The industry at the location is **research and knowledge-intensive.**

Securing commercial space for production and and craft industries through an area strategy of the commercial and industrial core zones.

Düsseldorf is home to **more than 40 industrial parks and industrial estates.** These specially designated areas offer national and international companies the best conditions for successful business.

The area-specific average rent ranges for the asset class "warehouse and production space" are shown here as net prices from the joint commercial rent index 2023 of the Düsseldorf Economic Development Department and the Düsseldorf Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

60,220 sqm

average turnover of warehouse space in the last 5 years

(Source: Jones Lang LaSalle, as of 31 March 2025.)

Event infrastructure

Düsseldorf is a world-class trade fair location. Up to 30 trade fairs per year make the city a top destination that attracts major exhibitors and business people from all over the world.

More than
75
years
of global trade fair experience

22 trade fairs and exhibitions
305,727 square metres of exhibition space
21,962 exhibitors
981,886 visitors
76.5 percent international exhibitors

Düsseldorf is one of the most important event and congress locations in Germany:
over 6,600 events per year
More than 350 conference and event rooms
An average of **around 800,000 participants** per year

212 hotels
with over **5.5 million** overnight stays per year –
of which around **38 percent** are international guests

Business-to-business fields of competence of the trade fair location:

Machinery, plants and equipment
Medicine and health
Lifestyle and beauty
Trade, crafts and services
Leisure
Mobility

Accolades

Düsseldorf's outstanding advantages as a business location are honoured in many places:

One of the most dynamic cities – 4th place in the Dynamics Ranking

German Economic Institute, City Ranking, 2024

Among the 10 happiest cities in Germany

SKL Glücksatlas, City Ranking, 2024

Most popular city in Germany for expats

InterNations, Expat Insider 2024: Cities in Europe

fDi Large European City Ranking Top 10 Gesamt, 4th place

fDi-Magazine, Cities of the Future, 2025

fDi Large European City Ranking Top 10 Ökonomisches Potenzial, 3rd place

fDi-Magazine, Cities of the Future, 2025

fDi Large European City Ranking Top 10 Wirtschaftsfreundlichkeit, 4th place

fDi-Magazine, Cities of the Future, 2025

fDi Large European City Ranking Top fDi-strategy, 5th place weltweit

fDi-Magazine, Large European Cities of the Future, 2025

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