



Tram-Train SaarMoselle

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ECONOMIC FABRIC

The shared past of the mining and steel industry has given way to a new generation of economic activities, principally the automotive sector and tertiary activities, but also the agri-food and timber industries. Nevertheless, each region has its specificities.

Handicraft activities are highly developed in Rhineland-Palatinate, which has a dense network of SMEs and is also seeing growth in the tertiary sector, with tourism and financial and management services. Wallonia has been greatly affected by the decline in the mining, metalworking and textile industries. The agri-food and chemical industry, along with business services are contributing to the region's economic regeneration. Lorraine is drawing on its industrial past to develop growth and jobs in key sectors such as transport, construction and healthcare. The metalworking industry and the timber/paper/cardboard/textile/composites industries occupy an important place in the local economy. Moreover, these industries are among the 12 strategic sectors identified by the Lorraine Region. Services constitute the most representative sector of Saarland's economy, while automobile construction and its suppliers still account for a quarter of jobs. Luxembourg, which is the economic heart of the Greater Region is, for its part, very much dominated by the services sector, above all financial services.²¹

German-owned firms, mainly SMEs with fewer than 50 employees, have a strong presence in Lorraine, with a greater concentration in the east of the Moselle Department. Regarding services, the companies Lidl and Aldi, the call centres of Bertelsmann/Arvato and the car dealerships of Volkswagen and Schaeffler are the main employers. As for the industrial sector, the manufacture of rubber and plastic products, transport equipment, machinery and electrical equipment provide the bulk of jobs. In total, 4.7% of employees in the non-farm market sectors in Lorraine and 11.2% of employees in the region's industrial sector are employed by German firms.²² With respect to the provision of services, the Luxembourg market is particularly attractive for firms in Lorraine, Wallonia and Saarland, especially those in the construction industry.

Although it occupies a central position to some degree, not all of the Greater Region's economic functions are concentrated in the Grand Duchy, which is also dependent on the regions beyond its borders. Luxembourg and the other regional hubs (Namur, Metz, Trier, Saarbrücken, etc.) are therefore in a complementary relationship economically speaking, which requires the strengthening of internal cohesion and better links between the cross-border area and its hinterland.

²¹ Source: Operational programme of the INTERREG IV A Greater Region programme (2007-2013).

²² Source: DIRECCTE Lorraine.