

Facts about the Fehmarnbelt region

Fehmarnbelt regional geography

There are many claims on Fehmarnbelt's regional geography. It has become increasingly clear over the last two years that ever more areas are identifying themselves as a part; including southern Sweden, eastern Denmark and northern Germany. Thus, the region contains the Danish Capital Region, Region Zealand, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, North-western Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (including the districts of Rostock, Wismar, Bad Doberan, Güstrow and Northwest Mecklenburg) and well as Scania in Sweden.

Area

The Fehmarnbelt region comprises a total of 60,895 square kilometres (including all of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania). Of this, 65% of the region is German, 16% Danish and 19% Swedish.

Population

About 10 million people live in the region, including all of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; thus 6.3 million (63%) live in the German part, 2.5 million (25%) in the Danish and 1.2 million (12%) live in the Swedish part of the region.

Age distribution and projections

The German part of the region has a slightly higher percentage of its population aged 65 and over (21%), compared with the Danish (16%) and Swedish (18%) parts. This proportion is expected to grow in the years to come. According to population projections, by 2040 the proportion of residents age 65 and over is expected to average 32% in the German part of the region, 25% in the Danish and 20% of the Swedish part.

GRP

The Gross Regional Product (GRP) in 2006 was EUR 331,697 million (including all of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania). The Danish part of the region had a total GRP of EUR 107,610 million. The German part had a total GRP of EUR 187,628 million. The Swedish part had a total GRP of EUR 36,459 million.

Femern A/S is tasked with designing and planning of a fixed link between Denmark and Germany across the Fehmarnbelt. Femern A/S is a subsidiary of the Danish, state-owned Sund & Bælt Holding A/S, which has experience from the construction of the fixed links across the Great Belt and the Øresund.

The inhabitants in the region are considerably wealthier than the EU average. The mean GRP per inhabitant for the entire region was EUR 34,100 in 2006. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was the area with the lowest GRP (EUR 19,200) per inhabitant. Copenhagen and Hamburg were the areas with the highest GRP per inhabitant with approximately EUR 50,000 in 2006. For comparison, the mean GRP per inhabitant for the EU was 24,800 in 2007.

Labour market

In 2008, the total workforce in the region comprised 5.3 million persons, of which about 400,000 were unemployed when all of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is included. This gives a mean unemployment rate of 7.4% for the entire region. The lowest unemployment is in the Danish part, in comparison with the Swedish and German. The Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania area had the highest unemployment (14.6% in 2008), in comparison with the other areas in the region. Region Zealand had the lowest unemployment with 3.2%.

Occupational patterns

A large majority of the inhabitants, 3.9%, were employed in the service sector in 2007, and of this a large share were employed in public and private services (1.7 million). A very small percentage worked with primary production such as agriculture. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (3.9%), Schleswig-Holstein (3.2%) and Region Zealand (3.7%) had the highest employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Hamburg had the largest financial sector in the region and, in 2007, 27% of the workforce in this autonomous city was employed in financing or business services. The Danish capital region followed closely, with 22.3% of the workforce employed in financing or business services.