



# BUSINESS IN SAXONY-ANHALT **INTERNATIONAL, DYNAMIC AND INNOVATIVE**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY, A REGIONAL ADVANTAGE**

**INDUSTRIES WITH A STRONG FUTURE**

**WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH**

# The place for big plans

The central German state of Saxony-Anhalt is a high-performing business location that boasts many advantages.

## A popular location for large-scale investment

The key advantages that Saxony-Anhalt has to offer are its excellent infrastructure, its central position in the heart of Europe and its highly efficient administration. It is a modern region that has become a popular location for large-scale investment. There are plenty of good examples of this: Intel, the world’s largest chip manufacturer, is planning to invest billions of euros in a mega-factory in Magdeburg which will transform Saxony-Anhalt into the digital hub of the future. Other major projects include the investments made by Daimler Truck AG in Halberstadt, Avnet, the US electronics group, in Bernburg and the Finnish biochemical company UPM in the Chemical Park Leuna.

The economy of Saxony-Anhalt has experienced correspondingly strong growth. In 2022, the price-adjusted gross domestic product increased by 2.6% over the previous year. This meant that the figure for Saxony-Anhalt was better than that for Germany as a whole (+1.8%) and for eastern Germany excluding Berlin (+2.3%). However, this year saw a drop in economic output, in particular against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the resulting massive increase in energy prices, together with the climate crisis. The price-adjusted gross domestic product of Saxony-Anhalt fell in the first half of 2023 by 3.2% compared with the first half of 2022. However, overall the gross domestic product of the region has risen consistently since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

There was also a considerable increase in both exports and imports in 2022. Saxony-Anhalt’s exports over the whole of 2022 amounted to 23.9 billion euros (+24.4% compared with 2021) and, during the same period, the region imported goods with a value of 25.1 billion euros (+31.7% compared with 2021). The figures for both imports and exports are the highest out of the last ten years. Almost half of Saxony-Anhalt’s imports in 2022 came from member states of the European Union.

Further information and resources to download on the subject

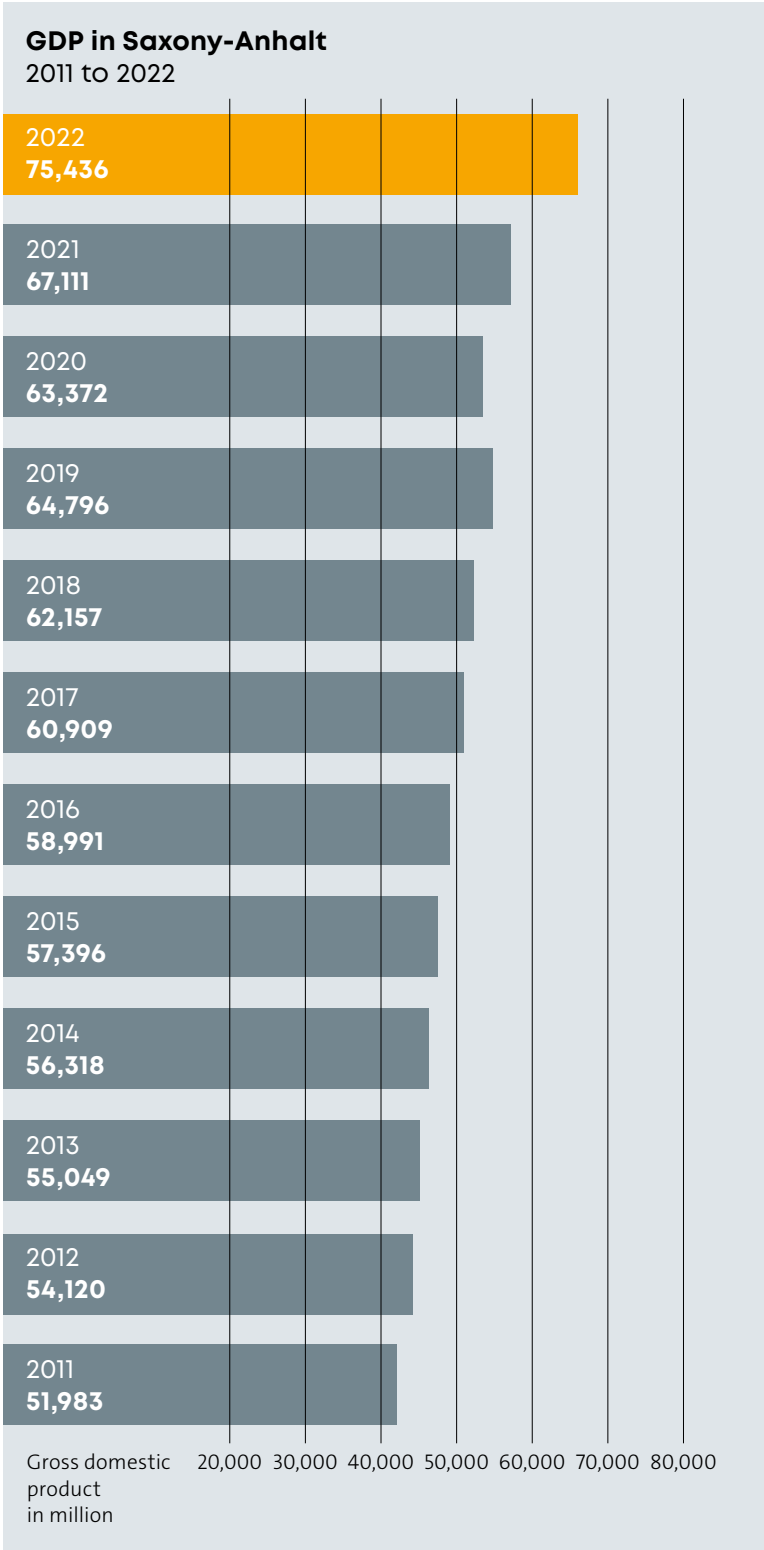
[GDP in Saxony-Anhalt 2022](#)

[GDP in Saxony-Anhalt, 1st half of 2023](#)

[GDP in Saxony-Anhalt from 1991 to 2022](#)

[Exports and imports in Saxony-Anhalt, 1st half of 2022](#)

You can find current quarterly economic data here:  
[www.mwl.sachsen-anhalt.de](http://www.mwl.sachsen-anhalt.de)



## Economic structure of Saxony-Anhalt



**This central German state has pulled off a continuous economic recovery since 1990, whilst also evolving to become a pioneer of economic transformation.**

Saxony-Anhalt is currently undergoing a fundamental structural transition that is transforming existing industries and even entire markets. In order to achieve the ambitious goal of becoming carbon-neutral, innovative solutions to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – through the use of green hydrogen, for example – are very much in demand, especially in energy-intensive industries. In the face of climate change and the looming shortage of raw materials, the energy and resource transition is taking on even more importance.

Digitalization is causing established industries to change and is giving rise to new areas of business. The Covid 19 pandemic clearly highlighted the vulnerability of business and society, and Saxony-Anhalt is affected by these disruptive developments in a very particular way: as well as the structural change brought about by the energy transition, demographic change is throwing major challenges in the region's path, especially in rural areas. On top of this, the state's economy is dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises, which often lack the necessary resources and skills to use the ongoing transformation as an opportunity.

The unique challenges facing Saxony-Anhalt make it a test chamber for transformative solutions with the potential to have an impact beyond the state's borders. Consequently, Saxony-Anhalt has the potential to establish itself as a centre for sustainable, resilient and social renewal at the heart of Europe. The state has set itself the target of improving its position on the European Union's Regional Innovation Scoreboard, which compares innovation in European regions, and to join the ranks of "Strong Innovators" by the year 2027.

As with its previous innovation strategy, the state will continue to focus on promoting the lead markets "Energy, Engineering and Plant Construction", "Resource Efficiency", "Health and Medicine", "Mobility and Logistics", "Chemistry and Bioeconomy" and "Food and Agriculture". These lead markets continue to represent the speciality areas of Saxony-Anhalt's economy. The cross-sectional fields of "Information and Communication Technology", "Key Technologies" and "Creative and Media Industry" will still feature large among the state's priorities.

In recent years, further topics have emerged that give even more momentum to the key technologies. The areas "Green Hydrogen", "Lightweight Construction" and "Algae Biotechnology" are especially important for Saxony-Anhalt.

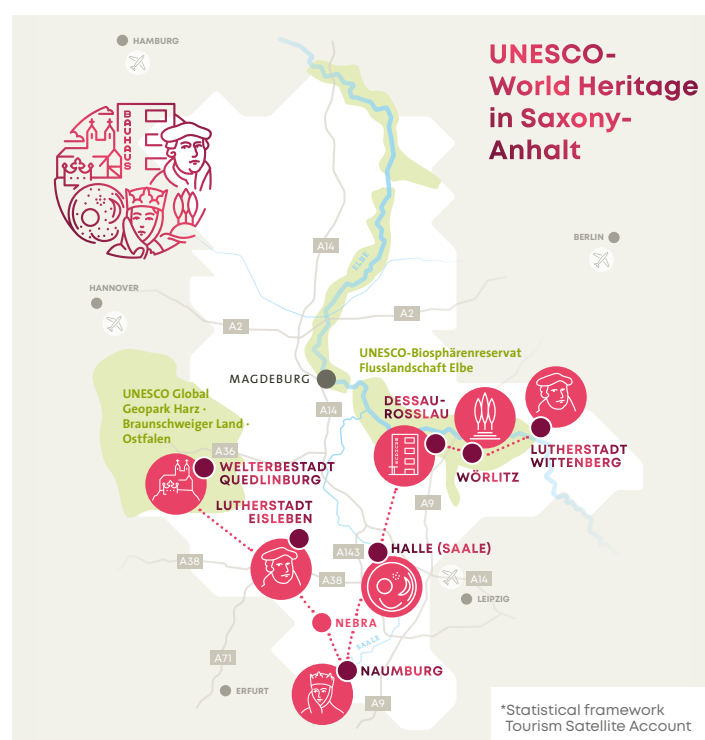
## Living and working in Saxony-Anhalt



**Room for personal development, outstanding career opportunities, inexpensive apartments and plots of land, Germany's best childcare facilities, and a uniquely rich offering of culture and leisure all combine to make Saxony-Anhalt a feel-good region where people can live their best lives.**

Of the 52 **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** in Germany, five are situated in Saxony-Anhalt alone. Moreover, numerous other significant cultural assets can be found here: with over 60,000 monuments reflecting architecture, art, history and archaeology, the state's cultural ranking in Germany is outstanding. **Saxony-Anhalt is known as the heartland of Germany history** – and with good reason. Tourism has therefore become an important contributor to the economy. In 2019, overall tourism consumption amounted to 4.6 billion euros.\* However, tourism is also indicative of many other factors that make a region worth living in. No other sector has such a subtle and lasting impact on local quality of life as tourism, and it brings dividends for many other fields of employment, with around 70,000 jobs in total. As a sought-after **travel destination**, Saxony-Anhalt has a lot to offer: delightful natural landscapes, superior and extensive musical entertainment, such as the Handel Festival in Halle (Saale) and the Kurt Weill Festival in Dessau-Roßlau, plus numerous sports and leisure opportunities. Combined with its exceptional infrastructure and transport links and its lively cultural scene, Saxony-Anhalt also scores highly when it comes to soft location factors.

[echtschoensachsenanhalt.de](https://echtschoensachsenanhalt.de), [saxony-anhalt-tourism.com](https://saxony-anhalt-tourism.com)  
[world-heritage-saxony-anhalt.com](https://world-heritage-saxony-anhalt.com)



## Renewable energy, a regional advantage

**Saxony-Anhalt is in pole position when it comes to the expansion of renewable energy. While the share of renewables in gross electricity production was 47.1 percent in Germany as a whole in 2020, this rose to over 61.5 percent in Saxony-Anhalt in the same year.**

Our state is therefore well on the way to achieving the national goal of 80 % by 2030. This development has significant advantages for the state as a home to business, because unlike fossil fuels, renewable energy makes us more independent from geopolitical events. For businesses, this means a reliable supply of low-cost energy. What's more, they can reduce their carbon footprint and therefore achieve their energy management and sustainability objectives. Energy costs have long been a critical factor in determining whether businesses are fit for the future.

### Green hydrogen

Saxony-Anhalt is a trailblazer in the creation of a green hydrogen economy. Green hydrogen is the ideal medium for storing renewable energy. In light of the phase-out of brown coal and the resulting structural transformation, the state is in the process of becoming a model region for hydrogen. In the Bitterfeld-Wolfen Chemical Park, for example, a 12,000 metre-square "hydrogen village" has been established, which is to simulate the distribution of hydrogen all the way to private households. Another pilot project is under construction at the Leuna Chemical Park, while the building of a gigantic underground hydrogen storage system is underway in the Bad Lauchstädt Energy Park.

### Wind power

Around two thirds of the state's green electricity is obtained from wind power. At full capacity, the wind turbines can generate approximately as much energy as five coal-fired power stations.

Saxony-Anhalt holds fifth place in Germany's ranking for wind energy output. Measured in terms of the surface area of each state, Saxony-Anhalt can even claim the second spot.

### Biogas

A good 20 percent of renewable energy comes from the state's stock of over 440 biogas plants. In the town of Zeitz in the Burgenlandkreis district, 360,000 cubic metres of bioethanol are produced yearly in one of Europe's largest biorefineries.



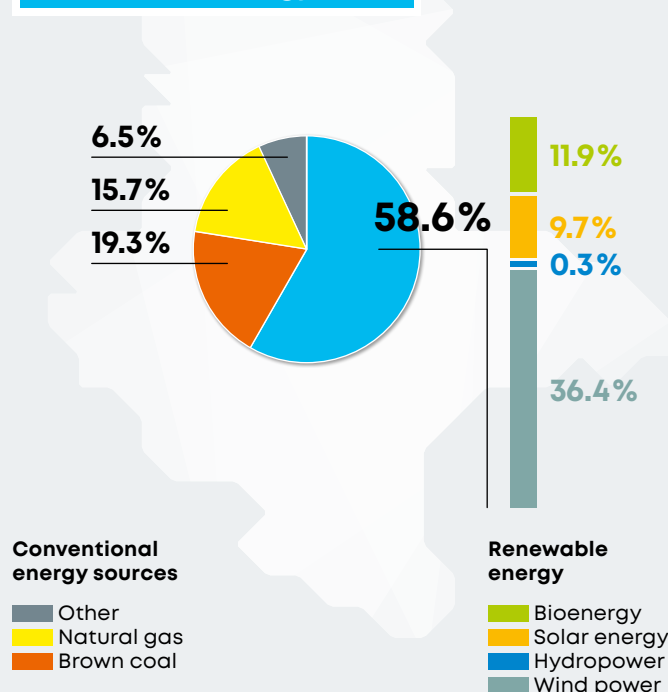
### Solar energy

In 2020, solar electricity accounted for more than 18 percent of renewable energy in Saxony-Anhalt. Roughly 11.3 percent of electricity consumed in Saxony-Anhalt came from solar energy in 2020. Solar comes third in the renewable energy rankings, after wind power and biomass, generating 2.8 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity. Following the decline in the solar industry more than a decade ago, Saxony-Anhalt is now putting every effort into bringing it back to life. The solar research center of the South Korean company Hanwha Qcells in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, major research facilities such as the Fraunhofer Center for Silicon Photovoltaics CSP in Halle (Saale) and the specialist storage company Tesvolt, which is based in Lutherstadt Wittenberg and is experiencing very strong growth, are all making a significant contribution in this area. "Solar Valley" is being given a second chance.

## Share of renewable energy in gross electricity production in Saxony-Anhalt

**Total 25,730 million kWh**

**Renewable energy**



## Where science and business work together

**Innovative potential in Saxony-Anhalt is one of the state's major strengths.**

The conditions for this are perfect, with one of the **densest research landscapes in the whole of Germany** and **close cooperation between businesses, universities and research institutes**. The state of Saxony-Anhalt actively supports this collaboration, so that innovative breakthroughs can be grasped and exploited without delay. In recent years, the links between science and business have been expanded and built to last. This has given significant momentum to the transfer of knowledge and technology. Carefully planned cluster management and ideal research structures provide the best possible conditions for both established companies and startups. To provide a future-proof environment for innovative, fast-growing start-ups, Saxony-Anhalt is continuing its successful funding of start-up centers at the region's universities. A total of 13.3 million euros is being made available as part of the ego-KONZEPT funding program.

## Skilled employees



**Saxony-Anhalt's training and research centres produce high-performing, skilled specialists who will stand the state in good stead for the future.**

The region's highly qualified and motivated people make a decisive contribution to the success of the businesses located here. In addition, the technical specialism of the **Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg** and a complementary offer by the **Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences**, who offer a wide range of ICT-based degree courses, ensure that skilled workers with first-class training are available for innovative and digital technical processes. Further skilled graduates are provided by the Martin Luther University Wittenberg-Halle and seven other universities of applied sciences.

Although Saxony-Anhalt does somewhat better overall in a nationwide comparison, the state is also reliant on immigration and wants to entice bright minds and keen hands for the work that will need to be done in future. Well-qualified graduates from universities in other German states and abroad, in particular, offer **huge potential**.

## Open to ideas: 13 Centers of Excellence

**Saxony-Anhalt is leading the way into the future: at 13 locations in the state, well-established clusters of businesses and research institutions are setting the pace.**

At the Centers of Excellence in Saxony-Anhalt, bold ideas become market-ready innovations in fields such as new mobility, medical technology, bioeconomy and chemistry.

They are marketed as the 13 Centers of Excellence and are regarded as the jewels in the state's crown. Cooperation is of primary importance at these Centers, so that ideas can be turned into reality more rapidly. They offer ample space for incoming businesses from various industries, for a collaborative approach to the future with the benefit of synergies for all.

[www.center-of-excellence-saxony-anhalt.com](http://www.center-of-excellence-saxony-anhalt.com)



## HERE technology is shaping the future

**Batteries and fuel cells, green hydrogen, innovative medical technology – step by step, Saxony-Anhalt is becoming a region of future technologies. Numerous medium-sized companies that value interdisciplinary teamwork ensure momentum and a creative approach.**

The arrival of the world's largest chip manufacturer, Intel, in Magdeburg is a real milestone for Saxony-Anhalt as a home to business. The American semiconductor manufacturer is investing 17 billion euros in its mega factories – the largest investment in the former East Germany for decades, and also one of the biggest in Europe. This will trigger the creation of over 10,000 jobs. Intel has named the new site **Silicon Junction**, as it will be a hub for technology. The Dutch company Sioux Technologies is tying in with this and planning a site in Barleben near Magdeburg. Sioux Technologies is working with ASML, another firm from the Netherlands, which in the future will supply Intel with machinery for manufacturing chips.



\_\_\_\_\_ Battery and fuel cell production – for electric cars, for example – is also gaining ever more importance in Saxony-Anhalt. In Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Dutch company Advanced Metallurgical Group (AMG) is building the European Union's first refinery for lithium hydroxide in battery quality. The decision by Daimler Truck AG to establish its largest logistics center in Halberstadt in the Harz region also clearly indicates that Saxony-Anhalt is an attractive location for new business developments. In the future, the logistics center will play a key role in the global distribution of spare parts for Mercedes-Benz trucks, supplying around 3000 truck dealers in more than 170 countries with components.



\_\_\_\_\_ The Japanese Horiba Group's new Centre of Excellence for Batteries and Fuel Cells in Barleben near Magdeburg also offers brilliant prospects for Saxony-Anhalt as a home to business. Here, the subsidiary Horiba Fuelcon will produce test rigs for batteries, fuel cells and electrolysis in a production area of around 7,000 square metres, plus offices. In Osterweddingen, the Canadian company Li-Cycle has opened one of the largest recycling facilities for lithium-ion batteries. From 2024 onward, the firm aims to recycle up to 30,000 metric tons of batteries each year. Li-Cycle will process lithium-ion batteries of all kinds used in everything from electronic devices through to electric cars.



\_\_\_\_\_ Biotechnology has unique potential in Saxony-Anhalt and has the best opportunity for extremely successful development in the years to come. "Red" biotechnology already numbers about a dozen businesses, including Wacker Biotech GmbH. The

central innovation hub is in the Weinberg Campus Technology Park in Halle (Saale). The heart of "green" biotechnology in Saxony-Anhalt is the Gatersleben Biotech Centre, which is home to the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Research (IPK).



\_\_\_\_\_ Saxony-Anhalt also heads the rankings when it comes to pharmaceuticals and medical technology – with the BioPharmaPark Dessau, for instance, which offers excellent conditions for business and science, plus ample space for investments and ideas. Nearly 120 companies are active in Saxony-Anhalt's substantial medical technology market, from small and medium-sized firms to global players. In collaboration with universities and research institutes such as the Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg and the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology (LIN) in Magdeburg, they are driving the development of new and improved methods of diagnosis and treatment, medical instruments and devices, and innovative prosthetics.

## Creative economy



**Saxony-Anhalt's cultural and creative economy is a young and multifaceted sector. It covers everything from design to games, from art and architecture to film and media.**

The creative sector that focuses on design and media has become a dynamic growth factor in the economic landscape of Saxony-Anhalt and also a key industry for the digital knowledge society. The profile of Saxony-Anhalt as a home to business is now largely shaped by this creative economy. Every two years, creative ideas from Saxony-Anhalt receive the **BESTFORM-AWARD**.

Further information:

**[www.invest-in-saxony-anhalt.com/creative-economy](http://www.invest-in-saxony-anhalt.com/creative-economy)**



## Location and transport links



**Saxony-Anhalt's central location in Europe guarantees optimum access to international economic areas, with the best transport links to boot.**

Leipzig/Halle Airport is Germany's second-largest air cargo hub and one of Europe's Top Ten freight airports. The parallel take-off and landing runways, each 3,600 metres long, mean that even the Airbus A 380 and Antonov 225, currently the world's largest aeroplanes, can land and take off here. The amount of freight passing through has risen to over 910,000 metric tons in recent years. Over 300 flights a week set off to over 50 destinations in more than 30 countries. Leipzig/Halle Airport has won the "Air Cargo Excellence Award" several times.

Numerous major roads traverse Saxony-Anhalt, such as the A2, A9 and A14 motorways, as do waterways such as the Elbe and Saale rivers and the Mittelland Canal, not to mention principal rail routes. Approximately 303 kilometres of the Elbe, the main inland shipping link to the overseas port of Hamburg, flow through Saxony-Anhalt.

at Europe's biggest waterway intersection, where the Elbe River connects Hamburg to Prague and the Mittelland Canal links the Ruhr area to the German capital of Berlin.



**airea**

## The Airport Region in Central Germany

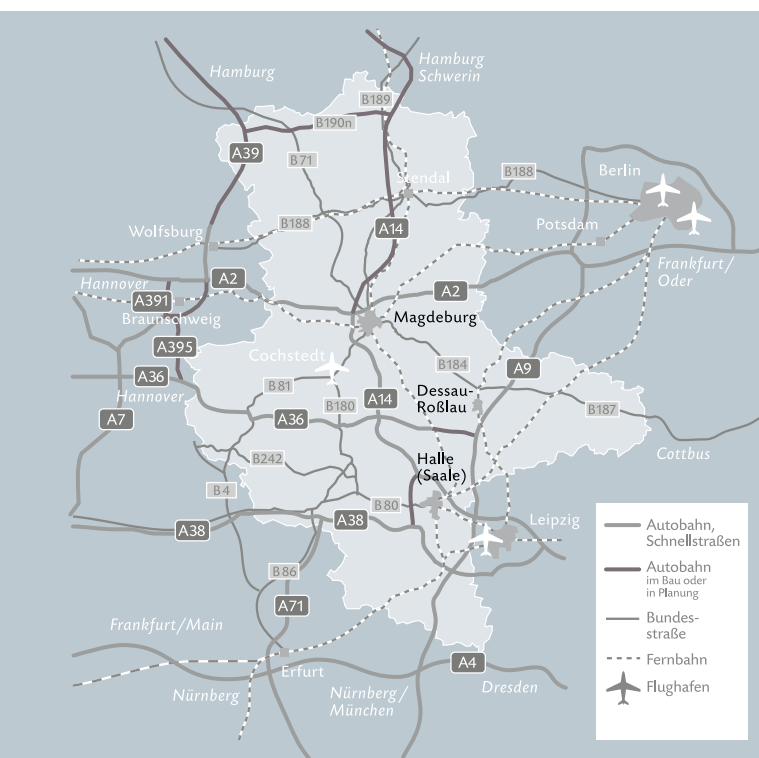
**Airea is an economic region with vast potential for businesses and people, which is jointly promoted by Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG (MFAG), Wirtschaftsförderung Sachsen GmbH (WFS) and Investment and Marketing Corporation Saxony-Anhalt mbH (IMG).**

It is the heart of a growing cluster in the centre of Germany. The airport is a highly efficient gateway for transporting goods and passengers to and from the growth markets of western and eastern Europe, Asia and North America. The greater area surrounding the airport offers highly sought-after space for various businesses, from e-commerce through production to warehousing.

### Connections with a promising future

As well as excellent links to the rail and motorway networks, the region also offers qualified skilled workers and impressive space and investment potential. On top of the core industries of automotive, logistics and chemicals, the region also boasts links to sectors with a promising future, such as e-mobility, hydrogen, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and renewable energy. Many well-known companies and multinational corporations have set up here, including DHL, Porsche, BMW, Linde, VNG, Zeiss, Amazon, Dell and Future Electronics.

Further information:  
**[airea-central-germany.com](http://airea-central-germany.com)**



Magdeburg's port, with its current transshipment volume of around 4 million metric tons a year, is central Germany's largest trimodal inland port and a vital, central transport intersection for the shipping industry. Its trimodal connections make Magdeburg an important logistical hub in the port's region. The city is situated

## IMG paves the way

Investment and Marketing Corporation Saxony-Anhalt (IMG) and its partners actively support businesses wishing to locate themselves in Saxony-Anhalt. Companies already established here also receive assistance with their investments if needed. **The service is confidential and free of charge.**

- Help with finding a property and location
- Help with questions on funding and finance
- Help in dealing with the authorities, permissions and approvals
- Help with recruitment and hiring

### Further information

[www.invest-in-saxony-anhalt.com](http://www.invest-in-saxony-anhalt.com)

Other  
important information:

[On foreign trade](#)

[About the hundred largest companies  
in Saxony-Anhalt](#)

[On investments in Saxony-Anhalt](#)

[On statistics](#)

[On the job market](#)

[On economic research](#)

### Press contacts:

[Ministry of Economic Affairs, Tourism,  
Agriculture and Forestry](#)

[IHK \(Chamber of Industry and Commerce\) Halle-Dessau](#)

[IHK \(Chamber of Industry and Commerce\) Magdeburg](#)

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Factsheet IMG (English)



The IMG **image database** provides a variety of high-quality digital photos and other information about Saxony-Anhalt free of charge. If you register, you will have access to all the images in 72 dpi or 300 dpi resolution, which are free of charge for you to use.

## IMG Info Centre



**News** takes you to **press releases** and dates for **press tours** that IMG organises and runs for journalists.



**Publications** such as flyers, brochures and presentations about Saxony-Anhalt as an **investment location** and **travel destination**, can be downloaded here in PDF format.



**Press kits** report on **economic development**, innovative companies, clever ideas, investments and people from Saxony-Anhalt



A **podcast series** provides inspiration for journeys through the beautiful state of Saxony-Anhalt following the themes of "Truly stunning. Saxony-Anhalt".



On **YouTube** and other **social media channels**, you can find more inspirational images, videos and stories about Saxony-Anhalt and IMG.