

Infrastructure

World's Top-Ranked Infrastructure

The excellence of Germany's infrastructure is confirmed by a number of recent studies, including various UNCTAD investor surveys and the Swiss IMD's World Competitiveness Yearbook. In the former, Germany's reliable infrastructure is singled out as one of the TOP 5 key attractiveness indicators of the economy.

The 2015-16 Global Competitiveness Report's ranking includes high marks for the quality of German roads and airports, the rail and port infrastructure, and the country's outstanding communications and energy infrastructure.

Businesses profit from Germany's excellent logistics infrastructure: Germany's logistics network includes not only the port of Hamburg – Europe's third largest container port, but also Bremerhaven – one of the world's largest car port for vehicle traffic, and Duisburg – home of the continent's largest inland port. Measuring the logistics performance of 160 countries, the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2016 ranks Germany's logistics performance and infrastructure as the best in the world.

Logistics Performance and Quality of Infrastructure (2016)					
Country	LPI Rank	Infrastructure Rank	Country	LPI Rank	Infrastructure Rank
Germany	1	1	France	16	15
Luxembourg	2	4	Spain	23	25
Sweden	3	3	Czech Republic	26	35
Netherlands	4	2	China	27	23
Singapore	5	6	Hungary	31	32
Belgium	6	14	Poland	33	45
Austria	7	12	Slovak Republic	41	39
United Kingdom	8	5	Slovenia	50	43
Hong Kong	9	10	Ukraine	80	84
United States	10	8	Russian Federation	99	94

Source: World Bank 2016

Together with over 250 additional inland ports, Germany's port infrastructure facilitates the efficient delivery of goods in Europe's largest market. The Rhine and Elbe rivers serve as major arteries for barge traffic to the deep water ports in various river bights and along the north and northwest coastlines.

Germany has a dense network of airports, of which 22 offer international service. Frankfurt ranks Europe's largest and third largest airport in terms of cargo and passenger volume respectively.

The country's highway system has one of the greatest kilometer density levels in Europe and the 37,900 km of railway tracks are nearly enough to circle the globe while its high-speed railway network, with speeds of up to 300 km/h, is the sixth largest in the world.

Europe's Global Logistics Hub

The German logistics infrastructure is among the best in the world: once again, Germany has been ranked Number 1 in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2016. With its state-of-the-art transportation networks by air, rail, waterway, or autobahn, Germany provides quick access to domestic and international markets. It's hardly surprising that Germany is a global logistics hub.

With a turnover of EUR 230 billion in 2016, the German logistics market has no rival in Europe. According to research by the Fraunhofer IIS - Center for Applied Research on Supply Chain Services, Germany has a dominant share of the European logistics market which makes it the most significant player in driving Europe's economic growth. There are more goods passing through Germany than through any other European country.

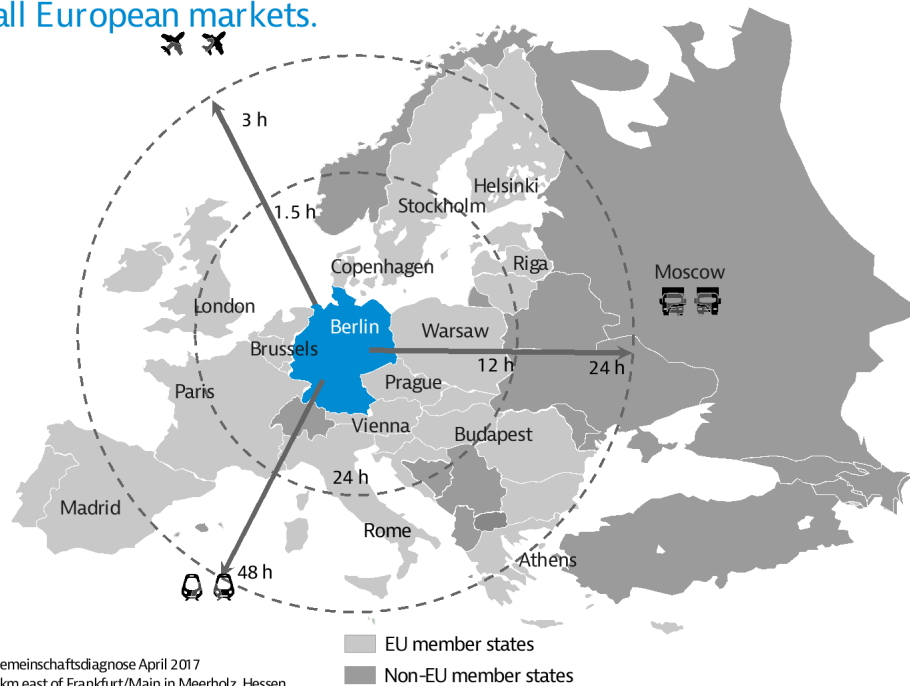
In the north, Germany's seaports are an important conduit for trade with the UK, Scandinavia, and the Baltic states. Moreover, road and rail links through the Jutland peninsula provide easy access to Denmark and the rest of Scandinavia. In the west, an extensive network of roads, rail links and inland waterways feeds into France and the Benelux countries.

To the south, Germany has strong commercial ties with Switzerland and Austria and direct road, rail and water links with the Balkan states. Turning eastwards, Germany's borders with Poland and the Czech Republic also bring Slovenia, the Slovak Republic and Hungary within easy reach.

Not only is Germany's logistics infrastructure world-class, its companies are also global logistics leaders. In fact, the world's largest logistics service provider is a German company – Deutsche Post (DHL). Deutsche Bahn operates Europe's largest rail network and Lufthansa Cargo is one of the world's leading global air freight companies.

First-Class Infrastructure

EU's new geographic center is in Germany: Providing rapid and easy access to all European markets.



Source: Eurostat 2016; Gemeinschaftsdiagnose April 2017
Note: EU-28's center: 42 km east of Frankfurt/Main in Meerholz, Hessen
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