



Heart of Europe –

Your access to the Bavarian economy

The Bavarian Association of Chambers of
Commerce and Industry (CCIs)



IHK

Industrie- und Handelskammern
in Bayern

Salut Hoy こんにちは Tungjatjeta
 Buenos días Merhaba
Servus
Hello Добрый день Bună ziua
 नमस्ते Dobrý den
 Sæll Szervusz سلام و عليكم
Buon giorno Goeie dag
 สวัสดี Hej Teanastellen
Grüß Gott مرحبًا
 Bom dia Selamat siang
 !سلام 您好 **Halo**
 Terve! Dzień dobry

Servus and Grüß Gott

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Bavaria, a region renowned not only for its rich cultural heritage but also for its pivotal role in the global economy. As you explore this dynamic region, you will discover why Bavaria is considered a leading force in industry, innovation, and international collaboration.

Bavaria is a land of contrasts, where centuries-old traditions coexist with cutting-edge technology. Our hospitality is legendary, offering you a taste of our world-famous cuisine, traditional beverages, and stunning landscapes that attract millions of visitors each year. This unique blend of heritage and modernity is what makes Bavaria truly exceptional.

The Free State of Bavaria stands as an industrial powerhouse within Germany and Europe. It is home to some of the world's most prestigious brands and industries, ranging from automotive giants to high-tech innovators. Here, forward-thinking tech entrepreneurs work alongside long-established family businesses, creating a vibrant economic landscape that is both innovative and deeply rooted in tradition. This synergy has positioned Bavaria as a premier location for business in the 21st century, with Bavarian companies consistently setting new export records and playing crucial roles in global supply chains.

The Bavarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BIHK) represents the collective strength of this region. Comprising the nine Bavarian Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs), the BIHK has been at the forefront of economic development since its founding in 1909. Today, it stands as the largest industrial association in Bavaria, representing approximately 990,000 member companies across a diverse range of sectors and sizes.

As you engage with the BIHK and explore the vast opportunities that Bavaria has to offer, we are here to support you every step of the way. We invite you to experience the diversity and dynamism of Bavaria firsthand.

Let us embark on this journey together – welcome to Bavaria!

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meets innovation

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Bavaria: Tradition meets innovation

Economy

Within Germany, Bavaria has

- the second highest gross domestic product with a share of 19% (2023).
- the lowest unemployment rate (4,2 % in March 2025).
- recorded the highest number of settlements of foreign technology companies in recent years.
- with Nuremberg and Munich, internationally important exhibition centres with leading international trade fairs.
- Germany's second largest airport in Munich.
- Nine of the DAX40 enterprises are located in Bavaria.

Bavaria is Germany's economic powerhouse.

High-Tech Hub

Bavaria is recognized as a leading hub for innovation and technology, particularly in sectors such as automotive, aerospace, and biotechnology. The region is home to major global players like BMW, Siemens, and Airbus, fostering a robust ecosystem of high-tech industries.

Bavaria is a magnet for global tech giants like IBM, Microsoft, and Google, all of which have established significant operations in the region. These companies are involved in AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and big data, contributing to Bavaria's digital transformation.

Munich has a vibrant ecosystem of tech startups, venture capital firms, and innovation hubs. The city's strong entrepreneurial culture, coupled with support from government initiatives, universities and Chambers of Commerce and Industry has made it a breeding ground for tech innovation.

Education & Research

- Bavaria is a center for science. It has 33 public universities and colleges, including two of Germany's eleven Universities of Excellence. There are also numerous private universities.
- Bavaria is a research location. 13 institutes of the Max Planck Society and its headquarters, the German Aerospace Centre, the headquarters of the Fraunhofer Society, 33 Fraunhofer Institutes, 7 Leibniz Institutes and two Helmholtz Research Centers are located in the Free State of Bavaria.

Culture & Tourism

Bavaria is a top tourist destination in Germany. The state is home to 10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Old Town of Regensburg and the Würzburg Residence.

The region is famous for iconic festivals like Oktoberfest in Munich and hosts one of the oldest and most famous Christmas markets in the world, the Nuremberg Christkindlmarkt.

Bavaria is also known for its historic architecture and medieval cities such as Neuschwanstein Castle and cities like Rothenburg ob der Tauber and Bamberg.

Famous for its breathtaking landscapes: The Bavarian Alps offer a year-round outdoor activities and the around 290 lakes are popular for boating, swimming, and relaxation.

On top of that: Bavaria's excellent transport infrastructure, including Munich's international airport and a well-connected rail and road network, makes it easy for tourists and locals to explore the region and beyond.

What Bavaria is known for:



Car manufacturers and suppliers

With BMW and Audi, two of the five German car brands have their headquarters in Bavaria. Additionally, major suppliers like Schaeffler, Brose, Dräxlmaier, Leoni, Webasto, Knorr-Bremse among others have their headquarters here.



Consumer goods

Everyone uses it: the hexagonal pencil. Did you know that it was developed in Bavaria? Since 1726, this sector has developed into an industry around Nuremberg, which still lives on in well-known family businesses. In addition, there is a large number of renowned consumer goods manufacturers in Bavaria, from stationery for the Oscar Awards ceremony to down-filled pillows for royal heads.



Medical care – medical technology

The word that the medical care in Bavaria is regarded as one of the best in the world has spread. Therefore, many public and private hospitals perform treatments for patients from abroad. Medical technology "Made in Bavaria" stands for internationally sought-after products.



Sportswear – sport

Sport is a part of culture and an economic factor in Bavaria. Many Bundesliga clubs can be found in Bavaria – including FC Bayern Munich, as a national and international record champion. Also, Germany's most famous sports brands, Adidas and Puma, come from Bavaria.



Mechanical engineering

Mechanical engineering is of outstanding importance to Bavaria. Many, in particular medium-sized companies in this sector are active in the Free State. The industry is an important driver for innovation and research.



Security and defense industry

Bavaria is a major hub for the security and defense industry in Germany, home to key players like Airbus Defence and Space, Rohde & Schwarz, MBDA Germany, and KNDS. These companies are involved in cutting-edge technologies across aerospace, cybersecurity, military communications, missile systems and AI. Bavaria's strong infrastructure, skilled workforce, and strategic importance in Europe make it a vital center for defense innovation and production.



Electrical engineering

The electrical industry is one of the most important sectors in Bavaria when it comes to jobs, exports or innovations. Through high investments in research and development, Bavaria is leading in many areas of this industry.



Startup Scene

Bavaria has a dynamic startup ecosystem, particularly in Munich, which ranks among Europe's top cities for startups. The region offers numerous incubators, accelerators, and co-working spaces that nurture new ventures in tech and innovation.



Aerospace Industry

Bavaria is a key hub for Germany's aerospace industry, home to major companies like Airbus, MTU Aero Engines and Diehl Aviation. With strong research institutions like the German Aerospace Center in Oberpfaffenhofen, it drives innovation in aircraft manufacturing, aerospace technologies and sustainable aviation, contributing to both civil and military aviation sectors.

Who we are

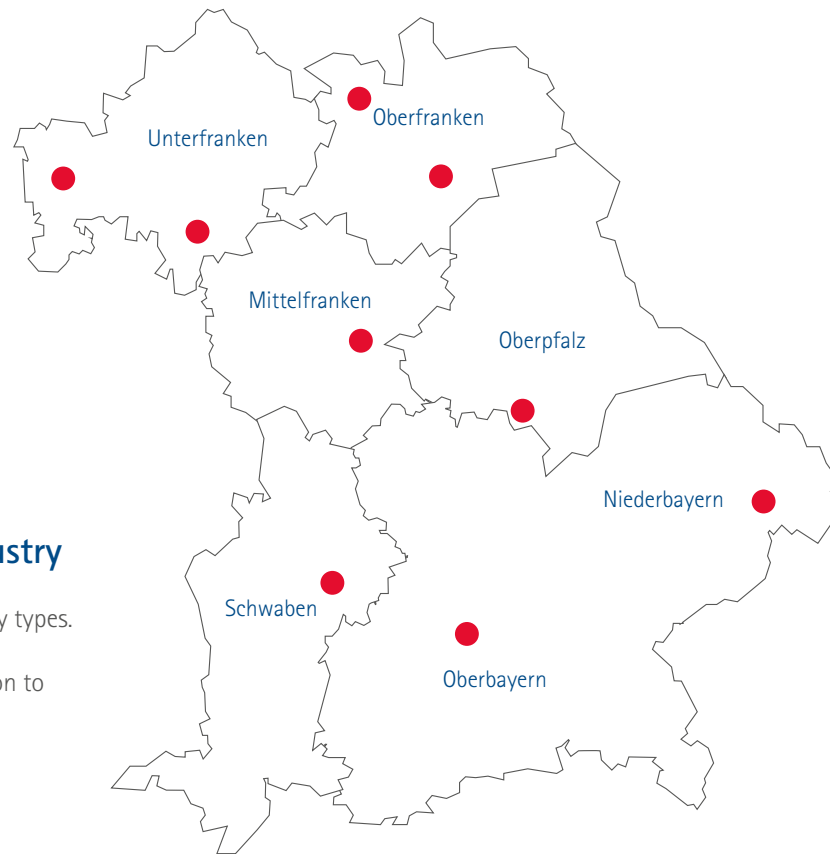
As Chambers of Commerce and Industry

- we are service providers for all sectors and company types.
- we take on sovereign tasks for the economy.
- we represent the interests of the economy in relation to politics.
- we facilitate international business relations.

What makes us different

The Chambers of Commerce and Industry...

- are the largest business organisation in Germany.
- are characterised by voluntary commitment of entrepreneurs.
- follow democratic principles: one company, one vote.
- represent the interest of the economy at large to promote growth and stability at regional level.
- is formed by legal members. All companies are required to be part of their regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



The Bavarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

- The umbrella organisation of the Bavarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (BIHK) is the largest entrepreneur organisation in Bavaria.
- There are nine independent Chambers of Commerce and Industry distributed throughout Bavaria.
- Founded in 1909.
- The nine Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Bavaria represent around one million companies, almost one third of all companies associated with Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Germany.

The Bavarian Chambers of Industry and Commerce are your access to Bavaria's economy!

What we can do for you

Want to know more? We offer the following information and services



Business partner search to support internationalization

The CCI's Bavarian company database with more than 200,000 registered companies. A quick and easy search will help you find the contacts you need for your business.

➔ firmen-in-bayern.de

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) in Bavaria provides access to corporate collaboration through its databases and networks. The participating Bavarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry are happy to assist you with your search.

➔ een-bayern.de



Location information

Quickly find the location in Bavaria that suits you. Our experts will advise you...

- where you can find available commercial space.
- where commercial real estate is offered.
- what the economic structure looks like on the ground.

➔ standortportal.bayern



Customs information for import

All goods that reach Bavaria from a non-EU state must pass through customs. The experts from the CCIs will tell you which aspects need to be clarified, e.g.

- What are the import duties?
- Which import documents are needed?
- Do you need special permits?

➔ zoll.de/EN



Support with founding a company

- Do you need a permit or information about requirements?
- Which legal form suits your project?
- Where do you have to register your company? What support can you get?

Our experts will be glad to help you!

➔ bihk.de



Vocational training

Bavaria is known for its highly-qualified specialists. The "dual vocational training" is controlled and coordinated by the CCIs. We can provide you with expert support:

- Do you have any questions about dual education?
- Would you like to have a foreign vocational qualification recognized in Bavaria/Germany?

➔ ihk-fosa.de

- Would you like to attend one of our training programmes?

No problem, just contact us! We will explain everything you need to know about education and training.

Contact

We look forward to receiving your enquiry!

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Discover Bavaria

● Chamber of Commerce and Industry location

Important branches in Bavaria:

- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Chemical
- Construction industry
- Electrical engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Glass / Ceramics
- Insurance
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medical Technology
- Software / IT
- Startups / Innovations
- Toy Industry

Bavaria in Numbers

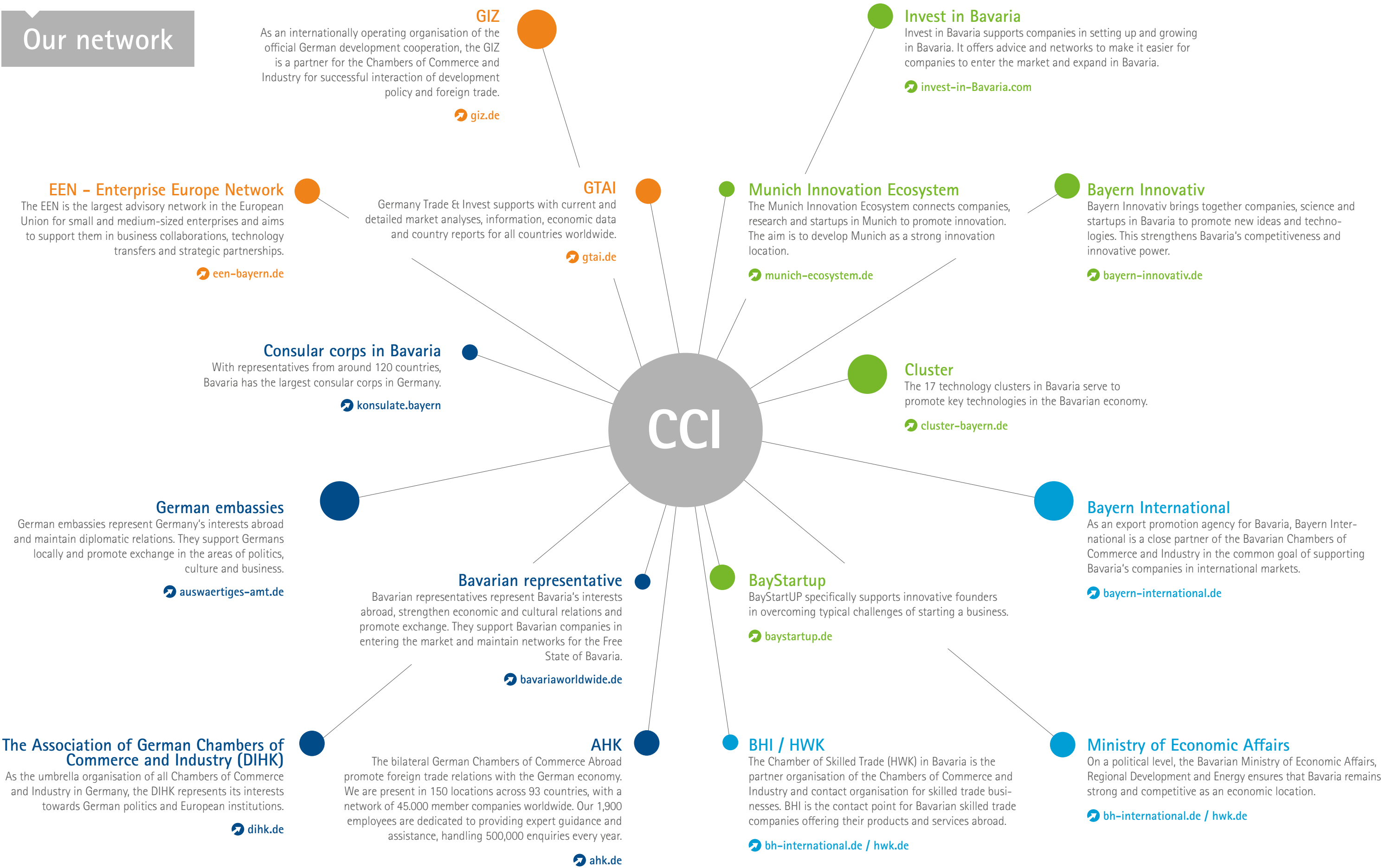
- Area of Bavaria: 70,5 Tsd. km² (Germany: 357.596 km²)
- Population size: 13,43 million (Germany: 82 million)
- GDP per capita: 57.343€
- Purchasing power per capita: 30.130€ (EU27: 17.688€ Status: 2024) *

Transport:

- Airport
- Motorway
- Railway line
- Border crossing



Our network



Milestones of Bavaria

Foundation of the Kingdom of Bavaria (1806)

Bavaria became an independent kingdom and modernised its administration and economy, laying the foundations for innovation and industrialisation.

Bavaria's Boom (19th century)

The 19th century was a period of remarkable technological progress and economic growth in Bavaria. The expansion of roads, railways – including the opening of Bavaria's first railway line – and canals significantly boosted trade and industry. In 1843, the first Bavarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce was established. The founding of the Technical University of Munich in 1854 fostered scientific innovation, leading to groundbreaking discoveries such as X-rays. Following the unification of Germany in 1871, Bavaria experienced an economic boom, marked by key industrial achievements, including the invention of the diesel engine and the development of the first electric locomotive. Other milestones included the founding of today's Max Planck Society in Munich, cementing Bavaria's role as a hub of scientific and technological advancement.

First and Second World War (1914–1945)

In 1918, Bavaria transitioned from an independent kingdom to the Free State of Bavaria. A significant economic milestone followed in 1922 with the renaming of Bayerische Flugzeugwerke to Bayerische Motorenwerke (BMW), marking its shift toward automobile and motorcycle production. During the National Socialist era (1933–1945), large-scale investments flowed into the armaments industry and infrastructure projects, including motorway construction. Munich and Augsburg emerged as key hubs of aviation technology. However, despite these technological advancements, the devastation of World War II led to widespread destruction and economic collapse.

Post-war period (1945–1990)

After World War II, Bavaria became part of the American occupation zone and embarked on a new political and economic chapter. The 1950s saw the onset of the "economic miracle," marked by a decline in agriculture and forestry and a rapid rise in industry and trade. Key milestones of this era included the founding of Adidas AG in 1949 and the return of the Oktoberfest in 1950. In 1957, Germany's first nuclear reactor began operation in Garching near Munich. By the early 1960s, labor shortages led to a shift from domestic to foreign workers, and by 1970, Bavaria's unemployment rate had dropped to just 1 %. The 1972 Olympic Games in Munich showcased the region on the global stage. In 1981, Apple opened a small office in Munich with just 10 employees, growing to over 1,500 across seven branches. The invention of the MP3 format in Erlangen in 1987 further cemented Bavaria's role in technological innovation. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Bavaria became a key destination for East Germans and immigrants, shaping its demographic and economic landscape.

Bavaria's Renaissance (1990–2020)

In the 1990s, Bavaria focused on economic modernization and technological advancement. The opening of Munich Airport "Franz Josef Strauß" in 1992 marked a major step in infrastructure development. During this period, Bavaria established itself as a hub for biotechnology and the IT industry, supported by the "High-Tech-Offensive Bayern" funding program, which promoted forward-looking innovations. The 2000s saw Bavaria strengthen its position as a leading economic powerhouse. The opening of the Allianz Arena in 2001 became a symbol of modern sports, and in 2006, Munich played a key role as a host city for the FIFA World Cup. In the 2010s, cultural and social issues gained prominence, with the 2015 refugee crisis making Bavaria a focal point of the national integration debate. The 2020s were shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic, with Bavaria's state government implementing decisive measures to combat the crisis.

The Path to the Future (2020–2050)

Bavarian industry is being transformed by technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and the Internet of Things (IoT), with Munich emerging as a leading center for digital innovation in Europe. As the region shifts to a knowledge-based economy, demand for skilled labor will rise, while automation increases. Retraining the workforce will be essential. Bavaria is committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2040, with a focus on expanding renewable energy and adapting agriculture to climate change. Sustainable tourism will also play a key role. The aging population will pose challenges for the labor market, healthcare, and pension systems, but the influx of young workers from Germany and abroad could help address these issues. By 2050, with a population of 13.89 million, major infrastructure projects like the second main railway line and Munich's new fourth-largest railway station will be completed to support growth.

Bavaria as a market of the future

What Bavaria is known for:



Biotechnology and chemical industry

Boasting over 500 biotech companies in Bavaria, the Free State is an important hub for this industry in Europe. Thanks to the excellent networking of research and industry as part of the Bavarian Cluster Initiative, the potential has not yet been exhausted. At the same time, the chemical industry can also be described as a pillar of Bavarian industry: the sector covers nearly the entire value creation chain. The so-called 'Chemical Triangle' in Upper Bavaria has a particularly high concentration of chemical companies.



Green technology and energy transition

Bavaria is making significant strides in green technology and sustainability, with a strong focus on renewable energy and the energy transition, aiming for a complete shift to renewable sources by 2040. The region is particularly investing in hydrogen as a key component of its energy strategy, with growing efforts to develop and integrate green hydrogen solutions. The Bavarian government supports this transition through funding programs and the Energy Technology Cluster, which encourages cooperation between science and industry, driving innovation and enhancing competitiveness. At the same time, the energy technology sector offers considerable growth potential, with ongoing advancements in power engineering, smart grids, and energy storage.



Mechanical and production engineering

With a turnover of roughly a quarter of Germany's total industry revenue, this sector is a key industry in Bavaria. Bavarian companies operate in almost all sub-sectors such as drive technology, additive manufacturing and power systems. Thanks to renowned research and development facilities focusing on various aspects of this field, the sector is future oriented. Many well-known companies are particularly around the city of Augsburg.



Artificial intelligence

Bavaria is indeed a prominent player in the European AI landscape, with strong research institutions like the Munich Center for Machine Learning (MCML) and the Technical University of Munich (TUM), which is among the continent's top-ranked universities for AI and technology. The state is known for integrating AI into traditional industries such as automotive, manufacturing, and healthcare, driving advancements in smart production and autonomous systems. Government initiatives like KI.FABRIK Bavaria and the Hightech Agenda Bavaria provide substantial funding to support AI innovation in robotics, logistics, and sustainability. Bavaria also boasts a vibrant startup ecosystem, with AI-focused companies collaborating with global tech leaders and thriving in a robust funding environment.



Automotive sector and Mobility

Bavaria is a hub for automotive innovation, with major companies like BMW, Audi, and numerous suppliers leading advancements in electromobility, connected cars, autonomous driving and smart mobility solutions. In fact, four of the ten companies and institutions with the most patent applications in 2021 are from the Bavarian automotive industry, highlighting its global leadership in technological innovation. The state's strategic initiatives, such as the Bavarian Mobility Hub, are fostering collaboration between manufacturers, startups, and research institutions to accelerate the adoption of green and smart mobility solutions.



Semiconductor and microelectronics industry

Bavaria is a leading hub for the semiconductor and microelectronics industry in Europe, supporting sectors like automotive, mechanical engineering, and medical technology. The Bavarian Semiconductor Initiative strengthens this ecosystem by fostering innovation, promoting collaboration, and attracting investments. A key component is the Bavarian Chip Design Center, which helps companies develop advanced semiconductors for technologies like AI and IoT. For example, Munich is home to the headquarters of Infineon Technologies AG, Germany's largest semiconductor manufacturer, which also plays a leading role at international level.



Healthcare, medical technology and pharmaceuticals

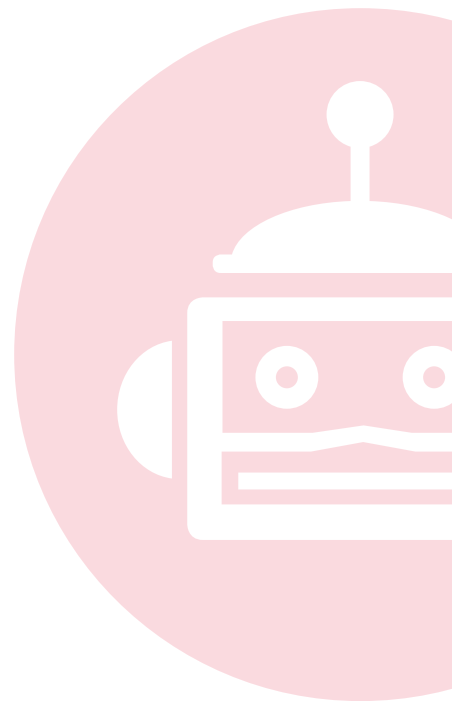
The healthcare industry is one of the most important economic sectors in Bavaria: around 1000 companies in the fields of medical technology and pharmaceuticals generate a third of Germany's production. The 'Medical Valley' in the greater Nuremberg area is outstanding in this respect. Bavaria is home to world-renowned institutions like the University of Munich (LMU) and the German Research Center

for Health Sciences (DZG), as well as a thriving medical technology industry known for its expertise in diagnostics, imaging, and minimally invasive procedures. In pharmaceuticals, the region hosts global giants like Bayer and numerous biotech startups, making it a vital player in drug development and personalized medicine.



Security and defence industry

Bavaria plays a significant role in the security and defense industry, housing some of Germany's leading defense companies and research institutions. The region is home to major players like, Airbus Defence and Space and MTU Aero Engines, which specialize in military technology, aerospace, and advanced engineering solutions. Bavaria is also a key hub for research and development in areas such as cybersecurity, defense electronics, and unmanned systems, with institutions like the Bundeswehr University Munich contributing to cutting-edge defense technologies. The Bavarian government supports the sector through initiatives that foster collaboration between industry, science and military organizations.



Fun facts about Bavaria

Servus

Servus, can be used as an informal greeting as well as a farewell and is very common in Bavaria.

>6 million visitors at the Oktoberfest every year

The Oktoberfest in Munich, also known as the 'Wiesn', is the largest folk festival in the world and takes place every year from mid-September to the beginning of October. The festival is particularly famous for its beer: only Munich breweries are allowed to supply the specially brewed festival beer.

7 million litres of BEER Around seven million litres of beer are served every year. Many visitors wear dirndls or lederhosen, which adds to the special flair of the Oktoberfest.



Weißwurst

The Weißwurst breakfast is a traditional Bavarian meal that is especially popular in the morning. It typically consists of veal sausages, sweet mustard, a fresh pretzel, and a wheat beer. It is traditionally consumed between 9 and 11 in the morning, as Weißwurst is not very durable and should be eaten fresh. This tradition dates back to times when there were no refrigerators, and the sausages had to be consumed quickly to ensure freshness.

& Beer culture

Bavaria's beer culture is legendary. The Bavarian Beer Purity Law (Reinheitsgebot) of 1516, originally decreed in Ingolstadt, is the oldest food regulation still in use today. This law mandates that beer can only be brewed using water, barley, and hops, ensuring the high quality and purity of Bavarian beer.

Beer gardens, or **Biergärten**, are another integral part of Bavarian beer culture. These communal outdoor spaces, often attached to breweries or restaurants, are where locals and visitors alike gather to enjoy beer and traditional Bavarian dishes.

Famous People from Bavaria:



- 1 **Sissi** was the Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary in the 19th century, known for her beauty and unconventional lifestyle.
- 2 **Dirk Nowitzki** is a German basketball player who is considered one of the best European players of all time.
- 3 **Thomas Mann** was a German writer and Nobel Prize winner. His works often thematise the decline of bourgeois values and the social upheavals of his time.
- 4 **Wilhelm Röntgen** was a German physicist who discovered X-rays in 1895 and was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery.



Neuschwanstein Castle is one of the most visited tourist destinations in Germany and, because of its fairytale character, served as the model for the famous Disney castle in the company logo.

Neuschwanstein Castle



Munich Favourite Spots

♥ Marienplatz

This square at the heart of the city is where Munich celebrates and fans of FC Bayern Munich acclaim the team's latest trophy!

♥ Viktualienmarkt

A sensual stroll: at more than 140 stalls you can discover, taste and eat food for everyday meals and delicacies from all over the world!

♥ Englischer Garten

In this green oasis the locals go for a walk, to row on the lake, to meet after work for some beer, for a picnic or simply to relax.

♥ Nymphenburg Palace

This baroque palace with its extensive park shows how luxuriously the prince electors lived in their summer residence! There is even a Gallery of Beauties.

♥ BMW Welt

Visitors to BMW Welt experience futuristic architecture and every aspect of the automotive group, from BMW cars to the MINI and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

♥ Deutsches Museum

Natural science and technology – as much as you can take in. Watch in amazement, but join in too for a hands-on experience.

♥ Frauenkirche

Munich's most iconic landmark – the largest church in the city is home to numerous historical artifacts and works of art, including the famous "Devil's Footprint" legend.

♥ Alte Pinakothek

One of the most important art galleries in Europe, housing works of European painting from the 14th to the 18th century, including masterpieces by Dürer and Rubens.

♥ Olympic Park Munich

It is a vibrant hub for sports, culture, and recreation, attracting both tourists and locals with the Olympiaturm offering a 291-meter-high panoramic view of Munich and a stunning glimpse of the Alps.

♥ Allianz Arena

One of the most iconic football stadiums in Europe, famous for its unique, color-changing illuminated facade and as the home of FC Bayern Munich football team.

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Auf Wiedersehen

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до побачення

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Goodbye

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Au revoir

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Legal disclaimer

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