

Podravje Region

319.547 inhabitants populate Podravje, 51,6% of them are women. According to the number of inhabitants and according to the density of population, Podravje is the second biggest Slovene region. It is considered as a medium developed region with a problematic economic structure but with positive development potentials.

Maribor has developed as a centre for manufacturing activity (especially in heavy industry) during the 30-year period prior to the 1990's. Within manufacturing the dominant sectors were metalworking, mechanical engineering and textiles. Together with construction, food and agriculture these sectors accounted for 56% of all employment in the region at the end of the 80's. From 1992 to 1995, the number of small companies in Maribor increased by over 70%. Although the growth of employment in these small companies (which rose in four years to over 90%) exceeded the growth rate of their number, this sector replaced only approximately one third of the jobs lost by downsizing in large and medium-sized companies. By the end of 1995 2.626 small companies (1-50 employees) employed 17,4% of total employment and 101 medium sized companies employed 24,8% of total employment in Maribor area. As a rule, almost all private companies are very small, employing on the average 2-3 employees. Large companies represent 2,8% of all registered companies in Maribor and employ 57,8% of all workers.

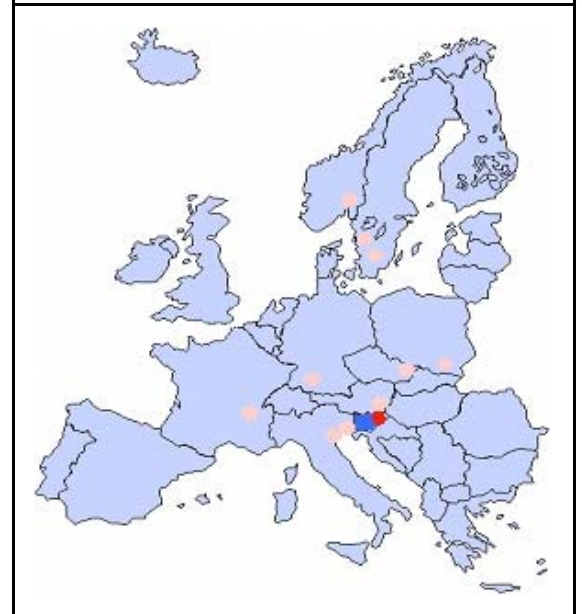
The solution to Maribor's problems lies in the creation of new employment opportunities and in the safeguarding of existing jobs. Following investment advantages have been identified in the regional strategy :

- its unparalleled knowledge of and access to the emerging markets of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Yugoslavia,
- its key role in the rapidly growing Austrian/Hungarian/Slovenian automotive cluster,
- the abundance of its agricultural raw materials for supplying the emerging food processing industry,
- its position on an international transport cross-roads.

The objectives of the region is also to develop close relationships between companies and potential knowledge resources such as universities, research institutes and regional technology centres. Very high importance is given to internationalisation of businesses and especially to cluster-building activities.

MARIBOR is the second biggest city in Slovenia and a centre of north-east part of Slovenia. It is a university city and because of its geo-strategic position (it is located 20 km from the Austrian border) it used to be the most important centre for manufacturing activity (especially in heavy industry) during the 30 year period prior to the 1990's. Within manufacturing the dominant sectors were metalworking, mechanical engineering and textiles. After the independence of Slovenia fields of activities have changed and there has been a numerous increase in the number of SME. From 1992 to 1995, the number of small companies in Maribor increased by over 70%. Currently, the majority of companies in the region of Podravje operate in

	Podravje Region	Slovenia
area	2,160 km ²	20,273 km ²
population	319,694	1,990,272
Unemployment rate	~ 19.2 %	~ 12.4 %



the service sector: in trade (almost 45%) and in financial and other business services (22%). Only 16% of the total number of companies still operate in manufacturing sector.

PTUJ is a city of historical significance. Numerous archaeological remains prove that the city experienced its first period of prosperity as the Roman town of Petovio. Next to rich cultural heritage, wine cellars, farm produce, thermal waters, Ptuj is also famous for its century long tradition of poultry farming and handicrafts.

The main companies:

Main companies from automotive, metal manufacturing and food-processing industry, logistic sector :

- AGIS ZAVORE d.o.o., Ptuj (pneumatic brakes etc.),
- M.P.P LIVARNA d.o.o., Maribor (castings, alloys, cylinders, valves, motor casing),
- M.P.P. GONILA d.o.o., Maribor (vehicles, gears, metal parts),
- M.P.P. VOZILA d.o.o., Maribor (buses, trucks, vinicultural tractors, spare parts, assembly)
- MIRAL d.o.o., Maribor (rubber shock absorbers, cuffs, washers, pipes, production of metal parts)
- SAVA GUMARNA PTUJ, Ptuj (products of rubber for the automotive industry),
- TAHOGRAFI d.o.o., Ptuj (tachometers),
- VESNA d.d., Maribor (accumulators)
- ADK d.o.o., Maribor (lifting & handling equipment),
- IMPOL d.d., Slovenska Bistrica (forg., pres., stamp. & roll form of metal),
- MLM d.d., Maribor, (forg., pres., stamp & roll form of metal),
- PALFINGER d.o.o., Maribor (lifting & handling equipment),
- PRIMAT d.d., Maribor (safes, fire protected and office cabinets, deposit boxes, vault doors),
- TALUM d.d., Kidričevo (aluminium production),
- TDR Metalurgija d.d., Ruše (basic iron and steel),
- GEA d.d., Slovenska Bistrica (refined oils & fats),
- STTC d.d., Maribor (transport, forwarding agency, warehousing, economic zone),
- TVT NOVA, d.o.o., Maribor (railway locomotives & stock)

Research Institutions:

- Institute of Electronic,
- Institute of Automation,
- Institute of Computer Science,
- Institute of Informatics,
- Institute of Information Science,
- Institute of Robotics,
- RTI - Research & Technology Institute,
- Innovation Relay Centre of Slovenia,
- The Centre for the Interdisciplinary Research,
- Technology Park ŠTP ,
- Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj

Education (universities and colleges):

- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science,
- Faculty of mechanical Engineering,
- Faculty of Agriculture,
- Faculty of Business and Economics,
- Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering,
- Faculty of Civil Engineering,
- Faculty of Education,
- Faculty of Law,
- College of Nursing Studies