Crafts and Skilled Trades in North Rhine-Westphalia
## North Rhine-Westphalian crafts and skilled trades 2016 in figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies</td>
<td>188,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which businesses similar to crafts and skilled trades</td>
<td>36,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>119.1 billion EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which businesses similar to crafts and skilled trades</td>
<td>2.4 billion EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>1,126,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which businesses similar to crafts and skilled trades</td>
<td>64,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of gainfully employed in the whole economy</td>
<td>6,532,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>17,865,516</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Crafts and Skilled Trades in North Rhine-Westphalia 2017

Many products and services for many needs

- Service: Care, Monitor, Repair, Clean
- Produce: Build, Process, Install, Form, Assemble
- Serve: Advise, Trade, Sell

Private households
Companies
Local authorities and the state
Trade enterprises in 2016 in North Rhine-Westphalia
(Appendix A and B1, of Craft and Skilled Trades Code)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Trades</td>
<td>188,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed trades</td>
<td>105,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trades not requiring certification</td>
<td>46,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Appendix B1, Craft and Skilled Trades Code)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industries and occupations in the trade tradition</td>
<td>36,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Appendix B2, Craft and Skilled Trades Code)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The favourite vocational occupations 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle mechatronics technician</td>
<td>12.175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics technician</td>
<td>8.379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems mechanic in heating, plumbing, air conditioning (HPAC)</td>
<td>7.938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairdresser/Barber</td>
<td>5.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Finish) carpenter</td>
<td>4.386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheet metal worker</td>
<td>3.778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painter and Varnisher</td>
<td>3.650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salesperson in the food trade</td>
<td>3.489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofer</td>
<td>2.499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>1.933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision mechanics</td>
<td>1.361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanic for agricultural and construction machinery technology</td>
<td>1.355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Independent proprietor

Examination for certification as a master craftsman
theoretical and practical: practical skills, practical theory, business leadership, suitability for training

School for training master tradesmen and women or preparatory courses
Preparatory courses for the examination for certification as a master craftsman as evening, weekend or full-time courses

Journeyman exam

Vocational training (Apprenticeship), three or three-and-a-half years
training in a company and cross-company or cross-industry.

Vocational School

Secondary School
Comprehensive School

Secondary Modern School
High School (College Preparatory School)
Passing the master examinations for a craft or skilled trade entitles a person:

- to independently run their own craft or skilled trade firm
- to train apprentices in this craft or skilled trade
- to bear the title of master craftsman

Content of the master craftsman examination:

The master craftsman examination is divided into four parts:

- The practical skills test
- An examination of specialist theoretical knowledge
- An examination of economic and legal knowledge
- Examination of vocational and employment teaching knowledge

Authorisation to take the master craftsman examination:

Persons who have passed a journeyman exam in the trades are to be allowed to take the examination for certification as a master craftsman.
Focus of the work of the Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades

**Representation of interests**

- Participation in legislative initiatives for creating framework conditions suitable for crafts and skilled trades and small and medium-sized businesses.
- Hearings and opinions on draft laws
- Suggestions for urban and state development, regional planning, environmental policy, construction and contract award policies
- Contacts with all the important authorities
- Representing crafts and skilled trades’ interests at all political levels
- Economic observation, statistics and reporting on the economic situation
- PR work
Focus of the work of the Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades

Promoting crafts and skilled trades:

- Acquiring new recruits
- Training measures outside of firms
- Further training courses
- Preparation courses for master craftsmen examinations
- Promoting corporate management
- Specialist lectures
- Training and technology centres

Advisory services

- Financing and start up aid
- Promoting foreign trade
- Taking part in trade fairs and exhibitions
- Participation in establishments promoting economics and science
Focus of the work of the Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades

Self-administration:

Managing the Register of Craftsmen and the register of businesses similar to crafts and skilled trades

Commissioning and swearing in experts

Arranging and monitoring vocational training

Organisation and administration of examinations

Setting up mediation offices for settling disputes between craftsmen and skilled tradesmen and their customers

Issuing certificates serving trade

Supervision of guilds and Local Associations of Craftsmen
Representation for the Chambers of Trade at the federal state level

To represent their interests at the national level, the Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades in North Rhine-Westphalia have created a Federal State Association of Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades:

**West German Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades’ Council**

(Westdeutscher Handwerkskammertag)

The West German Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades’ Council (WHKT) with registered offices in Düsseldorf is the regional council representing and joining together the seven Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades in North Rhine-Westphalia. Notwithstanding the independence of the individual chambers, it has the following tasks:
Coordination of opinions about uniform implementation of the joint tasks of the Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades, representing the common concerns of the Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades vis-à-vis the state government and the senior state authorities, maintaining the relations of the Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades with the other craft and skilled trades organisations, industry, universities and scientific institutions, implementing joint measures at state level in the interest of the all crafts and skilled trades, carrying out special tasks.
Representation for the Chambers of Trade at the federal state level

The specialist topics prioritised by the WHKT include craft and trade and industry law, organisational matters and vocational training and schools’ policy.

In addition, the WHKT deals with economic observations and statistics, expert consultants, planning and environmental matters, Europe, multimedia, design and programming, and PR work. The individual Chambers of Crafts and Skilled Trades are entrusted with dealing with the individual specialist tasks, which are divided among them under the central responsibility and control of the WHKT.
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