

Strong Clusters in Innovative Regions

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This report presents the strongest cluster agglomerations in the most innovative regions in the European Union. Among 3-star clusters (see below), 100 were selected based on the regional innovativeness according to the Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS) 2006. Some regions are not covered by RIS and are therefore not included in the analysis: Bulgaria, Romania, Trentino/Alto Adige (IT), Ionia Nisia (GR) and several regions in Poland.

Methodology

Among other things, the European Cluster Observatory measures the degree of agglomeration, which is one driver behind the knowledge spillovers, labour pooling, inter- and intra-industry trade that characterise dynamic and competitive clusters. Each regional cluster – a combination of a sector and a region – is assigned 0, 1, 2 or 3 stars depending on how many of the criteria below are met.

- Size Star: if employment reaches a sufficient share of total European employment, it is more likely that meaningful economic effects of clusters will be present. The size measure shows whether a cluster is in the top 10% of all clusters in Europe within the same cluster category in terms of the number of employees.
- Specialisation Star: if a region is more specialised in a specific cluster category than the overall economy across all regions, this is likely to be an indication that the economic effects of the regional cluster have been strong enough to attract related economic activity from other regions to this location, and that spill-overs and linkages will be stronger. The specialisation measure compares the proportion of employment in a cluster category in a region over the total employment in the same region, to the proportion of total European employment in that cluster category over total European employment. The measure needs to be at least 2 to receive a star.
- Focus Star: if a cluster accounts for a larger share of a region's overall employment, it is more likely that spill-over effects and linkages will actually occur instead of being drowned in the economic interaction of other parts of the regional economy. The focus measure shows the extent to which the regional economy is focused upon the industries comprising the cluster category and relates employment in the cluster to total employment in the region. The top 10% of clusters which account for the largest proportion of their region's total employment receive a star.

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STRONG CLUSTERS IN INNOVATIVE REGIONS

The table lists the 100 3-star clusters that are located in the regions that rank highest innovation rank in RIS.

Austria

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Tirol	Tourism and hospitality	7,75	31 965
Wien	Financial services	2,54	57 873
Wien	Telecom	2,64	21 505
Wien	Transportation and logistics	3,08	63 808

Belgium

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Brabant Wallon	Pharmaceuticals	21,96	9 013
Brussels	Financial services	4,16	77 200
West-Vlaanderen	Textiles	7,26	15 767

Czech Republic

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Jihozapad	Building fixtures, equipment and services	2,68	18 127
Severovychod	Automotive	3,36	30 191
Severovychod	Building fixtures, equipment and services	2,30	18 884
Severovychod	Textiles	5,44	21 847
Stredni Cechy	Automotive	4,07	28 842

Finland

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Etelä-Suomi/Åland	Telecom	2,96	27 921
Länsi-Suomi	Paper products	6,10	17 063

France

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Bretagne	Processed food	3,01	64 183
Franche-Comté	Automotive	5,41	21 483
Île de France	Financial services	2,37	341 065
Lorraine	Automotive	2,40	17 878
Midi-Pyrénées	Aerospace	17,55	26 818
Pays de la Loire	Processed food	2,24	57 929

Germany

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Arnsberg	Metal manufacturing	4,89	114 532
Arnsberg	Production technology	3,31	35 101
Berlin	Education and knowledge creation	2,37	40 459
Darmstadt	Financial services	2,69	122 165
Detmold	Building fixtures, equipment and services	2,33	18 651
Detmold	Metal manufacturing	2,35	32 947
Detmold	Production technology	3,75	23 767
Düsseldorf	Metal manufacturing	2,47	88 940
Freiburg	Metal manufacturing	3,07	44 880
Freiburg	Production technology	4,56	30 170

Hamburg	Distribution	2,27	21 718
Karlsruhe	Automotive	3,15	39 293
Karlsruhe	IT	3,29	28 836
Karlsruhe	Production technology	4,31	39 011
Kassel	Automotive	3,82	18 420
Mittelfranken	IT	6,03	33 814
Mittelfranken	Production technology	3,70	21 403
Münster	Production technology	3,04	20 878
Niederbayern	Automotive	3,85	16 986
Niedersachsen	Automotive	4,02	124 680
Oberbayern	Automotive	3,95	84 360
Oberbayern	IT	3,35	50 338
Oberfranken	Plastics	5,74	9 659
Schwaben	Production technology	5,17	27 550
Stuttgart	Automotive	5,97	115 385
Stuttgart	Metal manufacturing	2,05	63 664
Stuttgart	Production technology	5,59	78 500
Tübingen	Production technology	7,32	40 789
Unterfranken	Automotive	3,39	17 949
Unterfranken	Production technology	6,13	23 615

Ireland

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Ireland	IT	3,43	28 498
Ireland	Tourism and hospitality	2,86	44 427

Italy

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Emilia-Romagna	Production technology	3,75	59 026
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Furniture	7,56	17 210
Lazio	Transportation and logistics	2,02	94 540
Lombardia	Metal manufacturing	2,55	196 188
Marche	Footwear	27,48	31 741
Marche	Metal manufacturing	2,46	27 764
Piemonte	Automotive	3,21	61 098
Piemonte	Metal manufacturing	2,43	74 199
Veneto	Metal manufacturing	2,26	84 596

Lithuania

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Lietuva	Building fixtures, equipment and services	2,40	23 035
Lietuva	Construction	2,36	78 304
Lietuva	Processed food	2,00	40 603

Poland

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Lodzkie	Apparel	7,69	32 453
Lodzkie	Textiles	6,71	19 606
Mazowieckie	Education and knowledge creation	2,64	48 799
Mazowieckie	Telecom	2,38	31 787

Portugal

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Centro	Building fixtures, equipment and services	2,74	23 987
Centro	Construction	2,44	73 592
Lisboa	Business services	2,92	143 322

Slovenia

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Slovenija	Metal manufacturing	3,34	45 191

Spain

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Castilla y León	Farming and animal husbandry	3,53	30 044
Galicia	Farming and animal husbandry	3,60	33 791
Galicia	Maritime	13,13	40 100
País Vasco	Metal manufacturing	3,15	60 301
Valencia	Distribution	2,29	54 166

Sweden

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Norra Mellansverige	Paper products	7,71	11 665
Stockholm	Business services	2,91	67 485
Stockholm	IT	4,23	25 206
Stockholm	Telecom	3,17	24 002
Västsverige	Automotive	6,35	41 397

United Kingdom

Region	Sector	Specialisation	Employees
Beds and Herts	Business services	2,31	60 947
Berks, Bucks and Oxon	Business services	2,44	95 295
Berks, Bucks and Oxon	Education and knowledge creation	3,32	58 363
Berks, Bucks and Oxon	IT	3,01	30 184
E Anglia	Education and knowledge creation	2,36	36 276
E Scotland	Education and knowledge creation	2,39	34 416
E Scotland	Financial services	2,05	59 747
Hants and Isle of Wight	Business services	2,10	62 199
Inner London	Business services	2,59	219 044
Inner London	Education and knowledge creation	2,35	89 444
Inner London	Financial services	3,04	233 734
Inner London	Media and publishing	2,80	76 111
NE Scotland	Oil and gas	25,22	11 792
Outer London	Business services	2,07	122 757
Outer London	Transportation and logistics	2,04	100 707
Surrey, E and W Sussex	Business services	2,02	81 724
W Midlands	Automotive	2,30	35 419
W Yorks	Education and knowledge creation	2,01	31 638

About the European Cluster Observatory

The European Cluster Observatory, launched in June 2007, is the most comprehensive database on clusters, cluster organisations, and cluster reports in Europe. It is managed by the Center for Strategy and Competitiveness (CSC) at the Stockholm School of Economics and funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry.

The European Cluster Observatory website provides a wide variety of data on clusters in Europe, and is focused on the following issues:

- Cluster Mapping providing information more than 40 cluster categories in over 250 NUTS-2 regions
- Regional competitiveness data, describing cluster framework conditions in regions
- Information, maps and lists of cluster organisations, science parks and other types of organisations
- Providing a Library as an open European depository for various cluster-related documents
- Providing reports on cluster policies and special sectors

Please visit the European Cluster Observatory at www.clusterobservatory.eu.

