

Table 2: Activities by manufacturing sub-sector, 2007

	firms	employment	employment per firm	net value added	annual wage per employee	value added per worker
	#	#	#	thousand euros	thousand euros	thousand euros
2007						
15 Food & Beverages	5 040	607 604	123	25 517 535	30.57	41.32
16 Tobacco	24	11 582	483	1 196 012	65.72	105.18
17 Textiles	766	83 467	106	3 613 428	36.41	44.35
18 Wearing apparel	340	39 484	116	2 144 851	36.80	54.32
19 Leather	164	16 256	99	667 137	32.74	41.04
20 Wood	989	83 020	84	3 890 241	37.36	46.85
21 Paper	816	137 730	169	8 069 339	45.71	58.59
22 Publishing & Printing	2 376	284 365	120	13 987 954	38.46	49.08
23 Coke & petroleum	47	20 220	430	3 552 444	88.10	175.68
24 Chemicals	1 401	440 846	312	42 777 215	65.08	97.03
25 Rubber	2 632	355 877	135	18 420 174	41.00	51.76
26 Non-metallic minerals	1 509	195 926	130	11 077 309	43.68	56.54
27 Basic Metals	902	252 828	280	21 501 929	54.49	85.05
28 Fabricated Metals	6 252	608 756	97	31 953 115	41.80	52.46
29 Machinery	6 042	997 246	165	67 875 434	53.51	68.06
30 Office Machinery	1 159	38 701	243	3 774 406	68.62	97.53
31 Electrical Machinery	1 945	446 217	229	28 584 256	55.99	64.06
32 Radio and Communication	545	145 746	267	10 624 203	66.90	72.90
33 Medical Instruments	2 047	234 159	114	16 088 584	50.47	68.71
34 Motor Vehicles	1 005	837 542	833	61 105 943	64.80	72.96
35 Other Transport Equipment	313	138 778	443	9 899 881	63.73	71.34
36 Miscellaneous	1 449	165 538	114	8 123 040	38.80	49.07
37 Recycling	172	13 607	79	807 903	37.29	59.37
Total	36 945	6 163 527		395 202 353		

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt

Table 2 also presents some valuable data on average yearly wages and labour productivity (measured as value added per worker) across manufacturing sub-sectors in 2007. While Germany is generally considered to be a high wage country, the statistics show that there is considerable heterogeneity in wages across manufacturing sectors. The average employee in the "Food & Beverages" sector earns, for example, around 30,000 euros per year, compared to 68,000 for an employee in "Office Machinery" or 88,000 in the "Coke & Petroleum" industry. The spread of average labour productivity is equally wide, ranging from 41,000 in "Food & Beverages" to 175,000 in "Coke & Petroleum". "Office Machinery" is also a highly productive industry by this benchmark.

Table 3 dispels the popular myths that all German firms export their goods or source their inputs abroad. The table presents the percentages of firms that export, import, do both or neither of these international trade activities. Actually, the data show that most German firms are not involved in any form of trading activity with foreign associates in 2005 (61 percent).² However, among German firms that are trading with foreign partners, most of them import and export simultaneously. Indeed, from 2001 to 2005 the proportion of firms doing so has even increased from 16 to 19 percent. Also, the share of firms that do not engage in any international trade activity has declined by 6 percentage points over the same period. This substantial increase in internationally active firms has also been highlighted by Vogel et al. (2009). It suggests that foreign markets, not only as a source for demand but also for supply of global value chains, have become more important for a wider range of German firms over the last years.

² This is not specific to Germany but is mirrored in other countries, see, for example, Bernard et al. (2007) for the US.