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Republic of Croatia

Area: 56,542 sq. km (22,830 sq. mi)

Capital City: Zagreb (population: 800,000)

Currency: Croatian Kuna (HRK)

Population: 4.4m (July 2006 est.)

Official Language: Croatian

Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Membership of International Organisations: United Nations, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organisation, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Background

Croatia is a small economy with a population of approximately 4.4 million and a GDP at current prices of some EUR 51 billion in 2007.

The country's population is about 1.2% of that of the European Union, while its economy is about 0.93% in GDP terms. The GDP per capita has more than doubled in ten years and is now in the order of EUR 11 300 per capita measured by the average exchange rate 2007.

Since independence in 1992, Croatia has experienced a process of de-industrialisation albeit less severe than in other transition countries. The importance of industry including construction declined to some 30.3% of total gross value added in 2006, from 34.3% in 1997.

In the same period the services sector (notably tourism) has grown from about 56.2% to correspond to over 60%. The share of agriculture in GDP declined slowly in the second half of the 1990s and stands in 2006 slightly above 7%, thus reflecting the move to agricultural self-employment of persons who lost their jobs in the manufacturing sector. The high level of unemployment remains a problem.

Croatia's is an open economy whose main trading partners are traditionally in the EU. The EU accounts for more than half of both exports and imports, with Italy, Germany and Austria being the most prominent partners.

EU imports in 2007 were primarily composed of Industrial goods (62.8%) including principally machinery (17.2%), textiles products (8.2%), transport equipment (5.1%) and chemical products (8.6%).

EU exports in 2007 were mainly industrial goods (72.7%) including machinery (16.2%), transport equipment (13.6% - of which 10.2% cars and trucks), chemical products (12%) and textile products (5%).



Business Opportunities in Croatia

There are a number of specific opportunity sectors in Croatia at present. These include **Creative & Media, Education, Environment, Ports, Railways and Marine.**

Details of **Business Opportunities** and general **trade assistance** in Croatia can be found through the following channels:

UK Trade & Investment

Croatia Desk
Kingsgate House
66-74 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6SW
Tel: +44 (0)20 7215 4767
Fax: +44 (0)20 7215 8313
www.uktradeinvest.co.uk

British Croatian Chamber of Commerce

Mortlake Business Centre
20 Mortlake Street
London
SW14 8JN
www.britishcroatianchamber.co.uk

British Embassy

Ivana Lucica 4
10000 Zagreb
Tel: 00 385 1 6009 100
Fax: 00 385 1 6009 260
<http://ukincroatia.fco.gov.uk/en/>

Croatian Chamber of Economy

Rooseveltovo trg 2, 10000 Zagreb
Phone: +385 (0)1 / 45 61 555
Fax: +385 (0)1 / 48 28 380
www2.hgk.hr/en/

Croatian Privatisation Fund

IVANA LUČIĆA 6
10 000 ZAGREB
HRVATSKA/CROATIA
TEL +385 1 6346 111
FAX +385 1 6115 568
www.hfp.hr

British Croatian Business Network

Ivana Lučića 4
HR - 10000 Zagreb
www.bcbn.org

Public Procurement in Croatia

The **Croatian Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship** has recently launched a new website for the **Government of Croatia's Public Procurement Office** (www.javnabava.hr). The main goal of this Project is to assist in the development of a reliable and transparent public procurement system in the Republic of Croatia through the provision of information and guidance on the systems and procedures employed within the Croatian Public Procurement programme.

The **TED (Tenders Electronic Daily)** regularly contains procurement opportunities within Croatia (Public Procurement Country Code (ISO 3166) = **HR**). Any business can access and register onto the TED website, which can be located at www.ted.europa.eu

For more detailed information regarding **Croatia** or **ANY** other **European Country** please contact Enterprise Europe Network (West Midlands) on **0121 455 0268** or by email at een@birminghamchamber.org.uk