

Secondary Activities in the Greater Dublin Area | sample answer

Q: 'Examine the factors that influence the development of secondary economic activity in an Irish region that you have studied' (2013 Q4 B.)

The Greater Dublin Area (GDA) is an economic region. Dublin is an economic core region and a primate city, with over 1300 manufacturing plants.

In the 1960's well over 50% of Irish manufacturing was located/ concentrated in the Dublin region. Since then that has fallen due to government policies to disperse manufacturing industries to other urban centres and the continued rise in the service sector.

Dublin region still has 28% of Irish manufacturing output, employing 100,000 people. Two manufacturing activities associated with the GDA are the computer industry and the food processing industry

The GDA has many human factors influencing the industrial development; GDA has a young population, 45% of people are under 25 years old. This provides a potential and long lasting work force.

The population of the GDA is also wealthier than average, as wages are 10% higher than EU average and 40% higher than the national average. This provides a market for processed goods

The GDA has a well developed transport system. There is an extensive rail and road network that connects the GDA to all parts. Seeing as 70% of goods in Ireland are transported by roads, this is a good incentive.

Ireland's main seaport and airport are both in Dublin and these provide a gateway to Europe- they provide quick and cheap transport

This is especially good for manufacturers who need to import and export new materials and finished products, eg Silicon Discs that are used by Intel in Leixlip are flown to Dublin for processing

Unlike the BMW region, GDA is widely dispersed when it comes to locations of urban centers. For example Intel Leixlip in Co. Kildare, and also Wavin Pipes in Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. No single company has a major influence in the economy of a small community or on the economy of the city

The GDA is a nationally important education centre, it has internationally recognised colleges and universities of technology (TCD, DIT), these provide an educated work force for software development and the computer industry

The GDA is also a financial services center, located in the IFSC in the Docklands, this has encouraged manufacturing services and business development and business advice and support.

Physical factors such as fertile soils and frost free climate have encouraged large commercial farming and led to the development of the food processing

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The GDA contains large, flat, machined areas of fertile farmland eg North Co. Dublin. The farms provide produce for food processing plants, eg North Kildare and East Meath, this is used for food processing and the brewing industry. (Jacobs and Guinness).

Computer chip manufacturing and other manufacturing industries are spread around the GDA because of roads like the M50. The m50 has encouraged industries to move from inner city to the suburbs and industrial estates have developed eg Sandford industrial estate