

Secondary Economic Activities in Ireland |

A1 Sample Answer

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

An Irish region I have studied secondary economic activities in is the Greater Dublin Area. It is a core region and has many secondary economic activities. The manufacturing sector is large with approximately 1,300 manufacturing plants in the area. Manufacturing in this area encompasses many industries such as food processing, brewing and IT.

Dublin is the capital of Ireland and is therefore an important area of the country with a high GDP and 25% of the population. Its workforce is young and educated with over 45% under the age of 25 which is vital for manufacturing firms. Many colleges and universities such as Trinity College and UCD offer degrees in marketing, business, engineering and electronics which provides a workforce that is knowledgeable in this area. These youths also provide a market for the goods these firms manufacture. The region is also a vital financial services centre and the availability of these services has encouraged manufacturers to locate there.

The Greater Dublin region has an excellent transport network which is the best in Ireland and provides vital access to Dublin from not only the country but also internationally. This means manufacturers in this area have access to a multitude of markets. Dublin also has the busiest port in Ireland which processes 50% of Ireland's exports. This is a vital means of receiving raw materials and exporting finished goods that a manufacturer needs. Industries all over Ireland have moved away from their original locations in the docklands to industrial estates and business parks which are primly located with access to the airport or the M50 motorway. These industrial parks are where you will find Ireland's extremely profitable and rapidly growing pharmaceutical and chemical sectors. Physical factors have also impacted the development of industries such as food processing with Dublin having fertile soils and a frost-free climate.

There is a plethora of modern and traditional manufacturing industries in this area. The region has attracted hundreds of multinational industries over the past two decades. The region is attracting more companies

from the IT sector and five of the world's top ten software companies have located their headquarters here because of it.