

Development of secondary economic activities in the GDA - 2016 Q4C

I have studied the development of secondary economic activity in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA).

Transport

Manufacturing in the GDA is highly developed partly due to its well-developed transport links. The GDA is the transport hub of Ireland. All of Ireland's major road and rail links connect to the GDA, specifically Dublin city. Secondary economic activity has developed in the GDA partly due to this it makes it easy for goods to be produced in the GDA and then distributed to the rest of Ireland via road and rail. The GDA is linked to the other major cities of Ireland; such Cork, Galway, Ireland, by motorways such as the M50, M11 and M6. These motorways allow for goods to be transported and distributed quickly and efficiently. The GDA also contains Ireland's largest airport, Dublin Airport. Dublin Airport has flight connections to hundreds of destinations around the world which is a huge attraction for manufacturers in the light industry such as Intel, who have a very successful campus in Leixlip. Dublin Airport Terminal 2, which was opened in 2010, has allowed for a huge increase in the number of destinations available from Dublin Airport which has improved manufacturing in the area significantly. The GDA also hosts Ireland's largest port, Dublin Port. This is very attractive to manufacturers in the heavy industry as they can easily export their goods to the UK and to other EU countries from the GDA.

Labour

The GDA has access to a large, highly-educated, young workforce with a high skill level. This is partly due to the fact that Dublin is a university city, with colleges such as Trinity College, UCD, DCU, Maynooth University and Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) all located within the GDA. This means that there is an excess of young, skilled workers which makes the GDA especially attractive to knowledge-based manufacturing Industries such as IT (e.g. Intel in Leixlip). The GDA is the centre of education in Ireland. Over 80% of college graduates are based in the GDA. As I

mentioned, the workforce in the GDA is young which is also an attraction for companies. 45% of the GTA workforce is under the age of 25, and three out of four PhDs in the country are attained from a college inside the GDA.

As industry in the GTA has modernised, the manufacturing industry has moved from the inner city to the outskirts, which contains more housing estates and residential areas. If a company locates near to a residential area they will have access to a workforce from that residential area.