

Hamburg – China’s trading hub in Europe



Dockland Hamburg (Copyright: Datenland Architektursimulation / Erik Recke)

Hamburg is China’s gateway to Europe and serves as the central hub for the New Silk Road – both on land and by sea. China has been Germany’s number one trading partner for the fourth time since 2016. In 2019 alone, the bilateral trade volume amounted to more than €200 billion. Today, more than 50 percent of German foreign trade with the People’s Republic of China is handled in the port of Hamburg, with more than 2.6 million container units (TEU) handled in 2019. Accounting for about one third of the volume of all containers handled in Hamburg, China is the number one foreign trade partner of Hamburg’s port. In addition, the number of direct freight train connections between Hamburg and China is increasing steadily. Every week, there are more than 200 container train connections between Hamburg and China. Trade ties between Hamburg and China go back to the era of the Hanseatic League. In 1986, Hamburg was the first European city to twin with Shanghai, and the two cities continue to foster their lively partnership.

Over 550 Chinese companies have offices in Hamburg, making it home to more Chinese businesses than any other European city. Moreover, about 900 Hamburg businesses are engaged in trade with China, coordinating their China-related imports and exports for the whole of Europe from here. Today, Hamburg has established itself as a leading centre for Chinese affairs. Hardly any other location in Europe offers such concentrated China-related expertise. Together, all of these factors ensure that the entire value chain is perfectly aligned with Hamburg’s economic links with China.

In 2020 the China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) opened a procurement center for Europe in Hamburg. Recently, Chinese companies are particularly active in the field of innovative technology providers. In spring 2018, XCharge, the Chinese specialist for fast charging stations, opened their European head offices in Hamburg. In June 2016, Beijing-based company Spearhead acquired the Hamburg-based IT developer Smaato for \$148 million, and Dutch chip manufacturer NXP sold its high-tech semiconductor plant in Hamburg to a consortium comprising Jianguang Asset Management and Wise Road Capital. Moreover, the Chinese company Youzu Interactive Co, Ltd. acquired the Hamburg-based game developer Bigpoint. The biennial economic conference “Hamburg Summit: China Meets Europe”, which is hosted by the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and was first held in 2004, is one of the leading Sino-European business meetings. In 2014 China’s Prime Minister Li Keqiang attended the conference. The next Hamburg Summit will take place in Autumn 2021.

Facts & Figures

The Basics

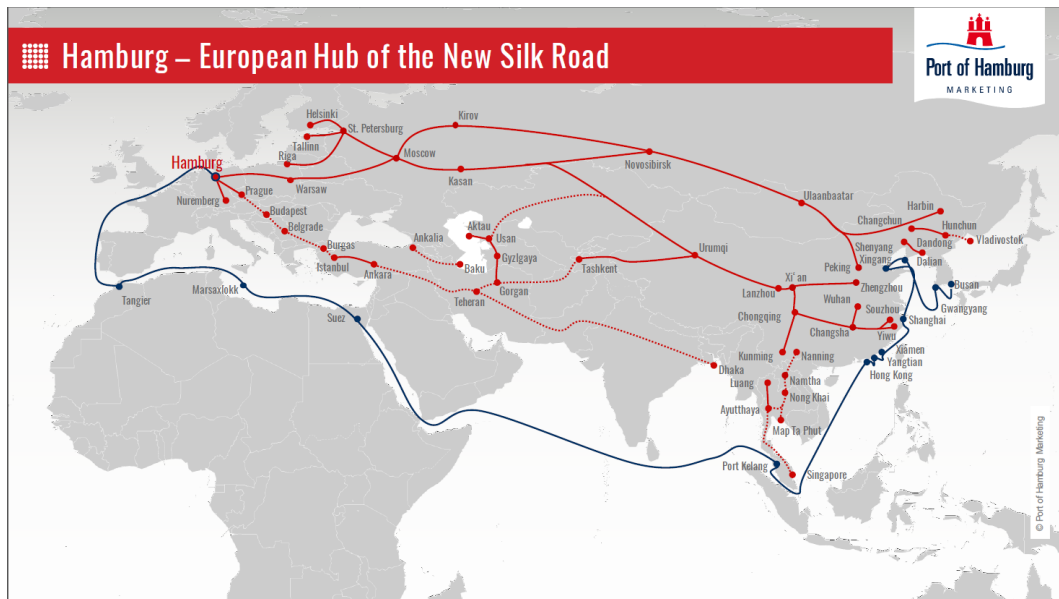
- The city state of Hamburg is at once both a state of the Federal Republic of Germany and a municipality.
- Hamburg is Germany's second-largest city after Berlin, with a population of 1.85 million (2019) and an area of 755 square kilometres.
- Apart from the city of Hamburg, the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg also comprises the independent cities of Lübeck, Schwerin and Neumünster plus 17 neighbouring administrative districts in the states of Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein, with a total population of 5.3 million spread over an area of around 28,500 square kilometres.
- With around 100 consulates, Hamburg has one of the largest concentrations of consulates in the world.
- Today Hamburg is host to three international organisations: ITLOS International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and The European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC Foundation), which became an international organisation in 2019.
- With strong businesses and around 40.000 millionaires, Hamburg has Germany's highest GDP per capita.



Hamburg Metropolitan Region Data: OpenStreetMap, Lizenz ODbL 1.0 1

Hamburg and China

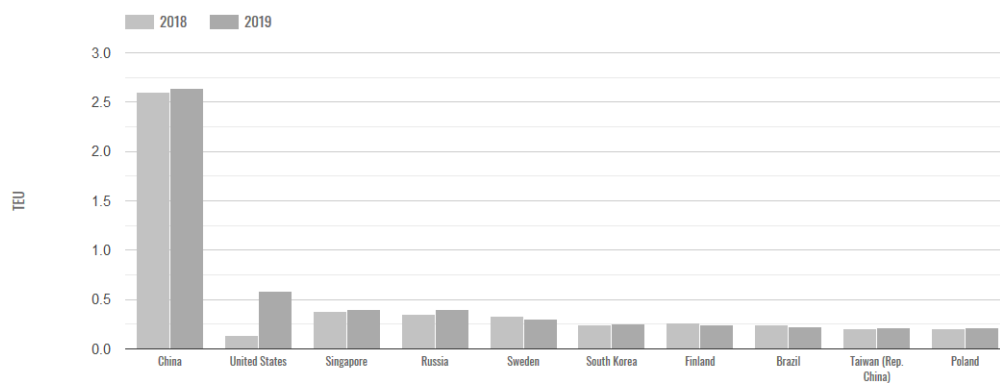
- More than half of Germany's foreign trade with the People's Republic of China is channelled through the Port of Hamburg these days. In 2019, China was able to maintain its position as the most important trading partner of the Port of Hamburg with around 2.6 million TEUs (container units). This represents almost 30 per cent of the total turnover in the Port of Hamburg.
- The People's Republic opened its first general consulate in Germany in Hamburg in 1984.
- Hamburg and Shanghai are sister cities since 1986, cooperating in many aspects ranging from trade, logistics, their position as port hub to urban planning, culture, tourism and architecture.



Source: Port of Hamburg Marketing

Commerce and Trade

- Hamburg has a strong economy – and has achieved growth rates well above the national average for some years now. The gross domestic product in 2019 was EUR 123 billion.
- The city's economic strength stems from several sources, principal among them are port management and logistics, foreign trade, finance and insurance, the aviation industry, media and publishing, IT and telecommunications, renewable energy, life sciences and health care. The Metropolitan Region augments this economic strength with a well-developed infrastructure plus a multitude of supply and logistics enterprises.
- In 2019 around 136.6 million tons of cargo, including 9.3 million standard containers (TEU) were handled in the port of Hamburg, making it the third largest port in Europe.



Port of Hamburg Top 10 Trading Partners in Seaborne Container Traffic (www.hafen-hamburg.de)

- The Metropolitan Region of Hamburg is one of the three biggest centres in the civil aviation industry worldwide. The competences range to all aspects of aviation construction, maintenance and operation. Apart from the three big players Airbus, Lufthansa Technik and the Airport Hamburg more than 300 small and medium-sized companies and other technological and scientific institutions contribute to the know-how of the region.
- As host of the Intelligent Transport Solutions ITS Worldcongress 2021, Hamburg will become the international showroom for innovative mobility.

- Hamburg is one of the centers for renewable energies in Europe. According to a study by the Hamburg Renewable Energy Agency (EEHH), approximately 25,000 people work in renewable energy-related industries in the Metropolitan region of Hamburg (2015). Leading companies like Nordex, Senvion or Siemens have their headquarters based in Hamburg. Since 2016 the Shanghai-based company Envision is also present in Hamburg.
- The IT and media sectors in the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg are built upon diversity. Hamburg is a publishing location with a strong tradition, a creative advertising capital, a game city, a film fortress and a centre of high-quality TV information and entertainment. Internet giants such as Facebook and Google have their German headquarters in Hamburg. In short, it is one of the most important media locations in Europe.
- **Chinese Enterprises in Hamburg (Selection)**
 - Bank of China (www.boc.cn/en/)
 - Sinosteel Europe GmbH (www.sinisteel.com)
 - China Tours (www.chinatours.de)
 - CAISSA Touristic AG (www.caissa.de)
 - China Cosco Shipping Co Ltd (en.coscocs.com)
 - Envision (<https://www.envision-group.com/en/>)
 - Sinotrans (Germany) GmbH (www.sinotrans-csc.com)
 - Smaato (Spearhead) (www.smaato.com)
 - Xcharge (www.xcharge.com/en/)
 - ZPMC (www.zpmc.com)
- **Hamburg Enterprises in China (Selection)**
 - Airbus (www.airbus.com)
 - Aurubis AG (www.aurubis.com/en)
 - Bauer Media Group KG (www.bauermedia.com/en/)
 - Beiersdorf AG (www.en.beiersdorf.cn/)
 - Lufthansa Technik AG (www.lufthansa-technik.com/en)
 - Otto Group GmbH & Co. KG (www.ottogroup.com/en/)

Cultural Highlights

- On 11 and 12 January 2017, Hamburg opened its newest landmark, the Elbphilharmonie one of the finest concert halls on the globe.
- In July 2015, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee included the historical warehouse zone Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Further information about Hamburg and China

- Information on Hamburg and China: www.marketing.hamburg.de/hamburg-china.html
- Hamburg Invest: www.hamburg-invest.com
- Hamburg Liaison Office: www.hamburgshanghai.org
- China Time Hamburg: www.chinatime.hamburg.de

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