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# AKMENĖ REGION

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YOUR NEXT  
INVESTMENT  
LOCATION

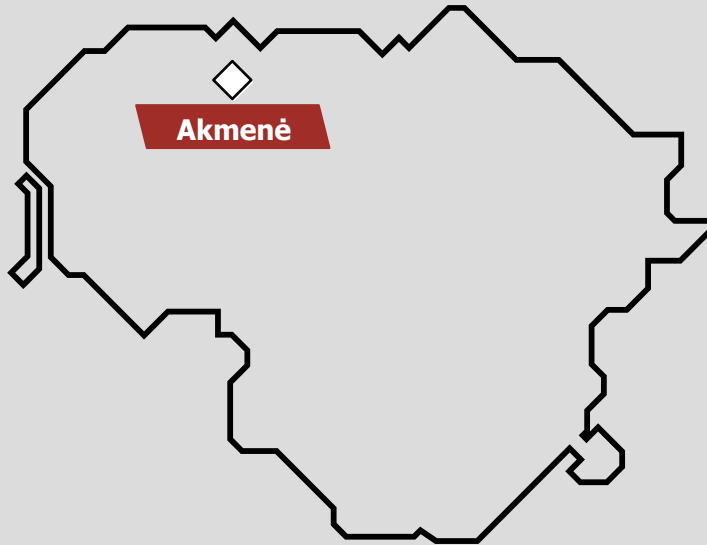


## Lithuania

- ◆ GDP growth – **2.9%** <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◆ Inflation – **0.2%** <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◆ **4<sup>th</sup>** lowest profit taxes in the EU <sup>[2]</sup>
- ◆ **#1** for industry-university collaboration in the CEE region <sup>[3]</sup>
- ◆ **#2** most favourable country for investment in Europe and **#16** in the World <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◆ **1<sup>st</sup>** in the CEE for quality of roads <sup>[5]</sup>



## Akmenė region



- ◆ Akmenė Municipality is situated in the Northern–Western part of Lithuania, close to the Lithuanian–Latvian border
- ◆ Population – **21,600**
- ◆ Labour pool – **12,800**



## Effective system of transport chain

Maximally utilizing rail, sea, land and air advantages



Rail



Seaports



Roads



International Airports

## Rail

The Šiauliai-Mažeikiai railway line links Akmenė region with Šiauliai. From Šiauliai two international railway corridors can be accessed:

- ◆ I North-South corridor –  
**Tallinn-Riga-Kaunas-Warsaw**  
and its branch –  
**IA Šiauliai-Kaliningrad-Gdansk**
- ◆ IX East-West corridor and its branch –  
**IXB Kiev-Minsk-Vilnius-Kaunas-Klaipėda**



## Seaports

### Cargo carried in 2014:

- ◆ Ice-free port of Klaipėda – **~36.4 m tons**
- ◆ Freeport of Ventspils – **~26.2 m tons**
- ◆ Freeport of Riga – **~41 m tons**
- ◆ Port of Liepaja – **~5.5 m tons**



## Roads

The **155** road links Akmenė region to the „**Via Baltica**“ a highway which connects Western Europe, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe



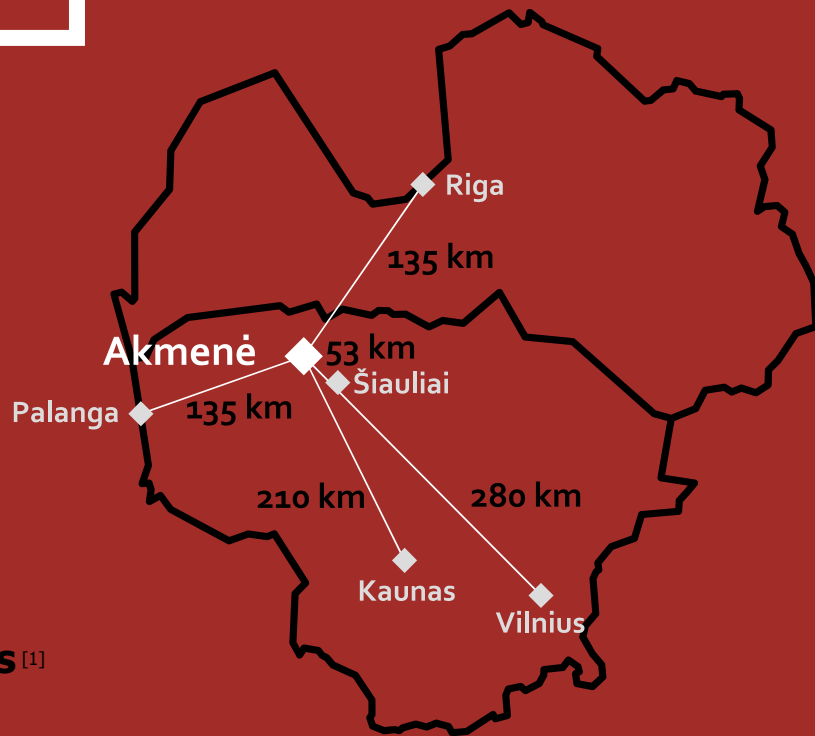
## International Airports

### Passengers carried in 2014:

- ◆ Vilnius Intl. Airport – **2,942,670**<sup>[1]</sup>
- ◆ Kaunas International Airport – **724,314**<sup>[1]</sup>
- ◆ Palanga International Airport – **132,931**<sup>[1]</sup>
- ◆ Riga International Airport – **4,813,959**<sup>[2]</sup>

### Cargo carried in 2014:

- ◆ Šiauliai International Cargo Airport – **3,127 tons**<sup>[1]</sup>







## An established hub for construction materials and mineral resources



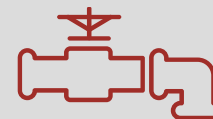
The region is rich with natural resources: **limestone deposits, dolomite, clay, gravel and sand**



**A strong building materials industry** was created in Akmenė region after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War



**Leading construction materials producers** „Eternit Baltic” and „Akmenes Cementas” operates in the city



**The Biržai – Mažeikiai oil pipeline** supplies the region with natural gas



## Largest employers

The biggest **8** companies employ **14%** of all working age people

### **JSC Bigso**

Manufacture  
of recycled  
fibreboards

**EMP: 600+**

### **JSC Akmenės Cement**

Concrete products  
and building  
materials

**EMP: 507**

### **Papilė**

Livestock, poultry  
farming and breeding,  
agriculture, services

**EMP: 140**

### **JSC Naujasis kalcitas**

Building materials: lime,  
mineral powder, calcium  
carbonate production

**EMP: 100**

### **JSC Eternit Baltic**

Manufacture of fibber  
cement

**EMP: 146**

### **JSC Vaidva**

Building /  
construction services

**EMP: 118**

### **JSC Medis ir betonas**

Concrete products and  
construction

**EMP: 81**

### **JSC Viking Industrier**

Wooden, garden  
products, construction

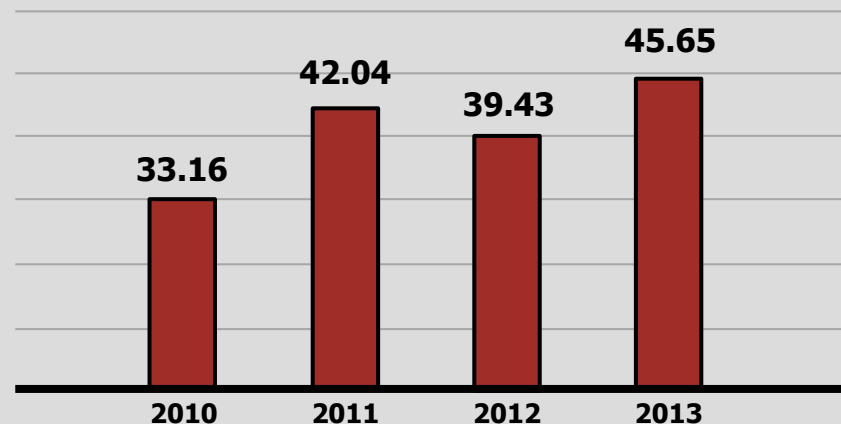
**EMP: 54**



## Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- ◆ **45.65 m EUR** of FDI
- ◆ **13.6%** growth of FDI in one year

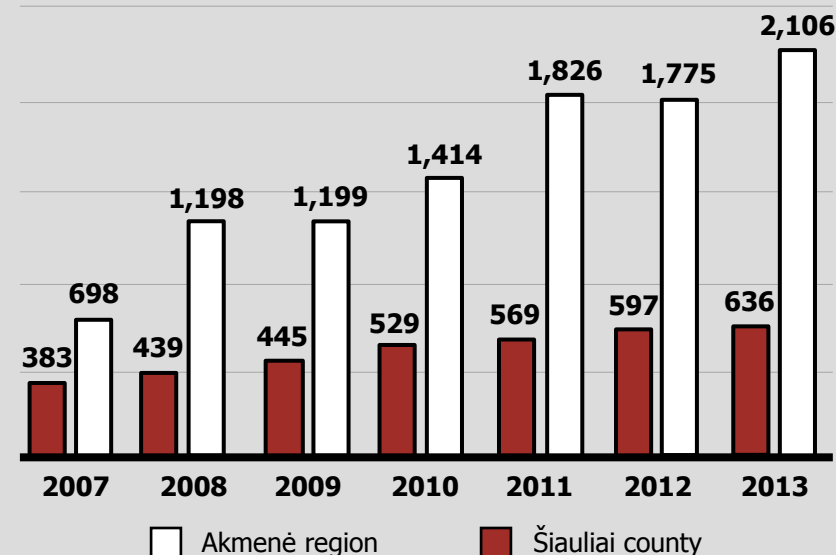
FDI in Akmenė region  
(million EUR)





## Region with the highest FDI per capita in the county

FDI per capita – Akmenė region in comparison to Šiauliai county as a whole (EUR)



- ◆ **25%** of all FDI in Šiauliai county is in Akmenė Region
- ◆ FDI per capita **636 EUR**



## Top investing countries



**Denmark**



**Germany**



**Norway**



**Sweden**

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### They already trust us:

**JSC Eternit Baltic**

Manufacture of fiber  
cement

**EMP: 146**

**JSC Bigso**

Building /  
construction services

**EMP: 118**

**JSC Akmenės cementas**

Concrete products  
and construction

**EMP: 81**

**JSC Viking Industrier**

Wooden, garden  
products, construction

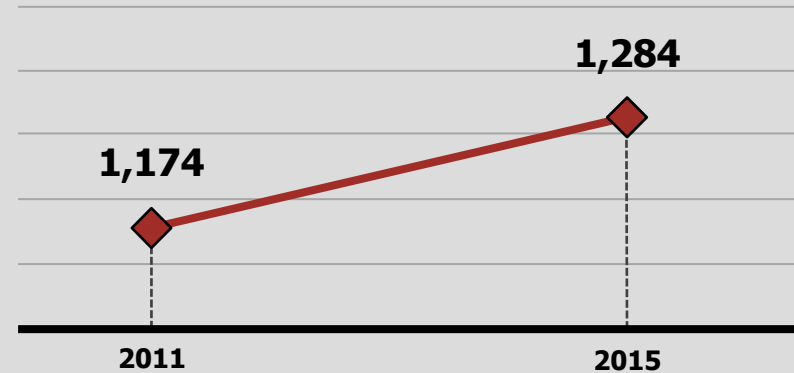
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## Growth of FDI skilled employees

Over **1,200** people  
employed by FDI  
manufacturing companies <sup>[1]</sup>

Growth of people employed by FDI  
companies <sup>[1,2]</sup>





## Skilled workforce and attractive labour cost



**12,800**

Working-age people



**15.1%**

Seeking employment



**34%**

Seeking employment  
in engineering and  
construction sectors

**75%**

— speak at least one  
**foreign language**

**82%**

— speak **Russian**

**33%**

— speak **English**

**11%**

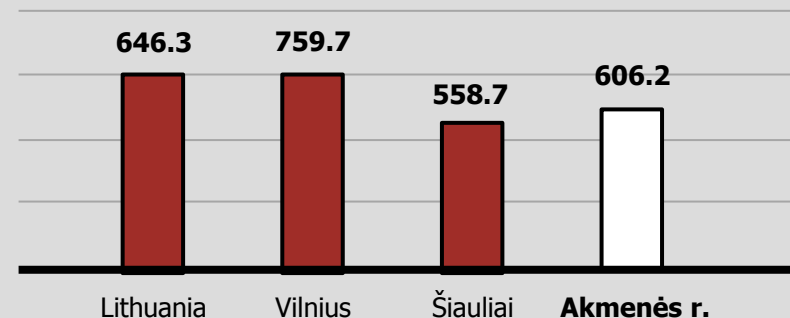
— speak **German**



## Attractive labour cost

Akmenė's pool of skilled employees is already attracting investment and creating significant development opportunities

Monthly average gross salary (EUR)







## Qualification and competences

Possibility to train your employees

### **Akmenė district youth and adult education centre:**



- ◆ Over **300** students
- ◆ Gives both young people and adults the opportunity to gain new skills and knowledge
- ◆ Provides training and retraining, and opens up new professions
- ◆ Helps improve professional skills
- ◆ Develops motivation and self-confidence



## Qualification and competences close to Akmenė Region

### In 1 hour you can reach:

#### Šiauliai city

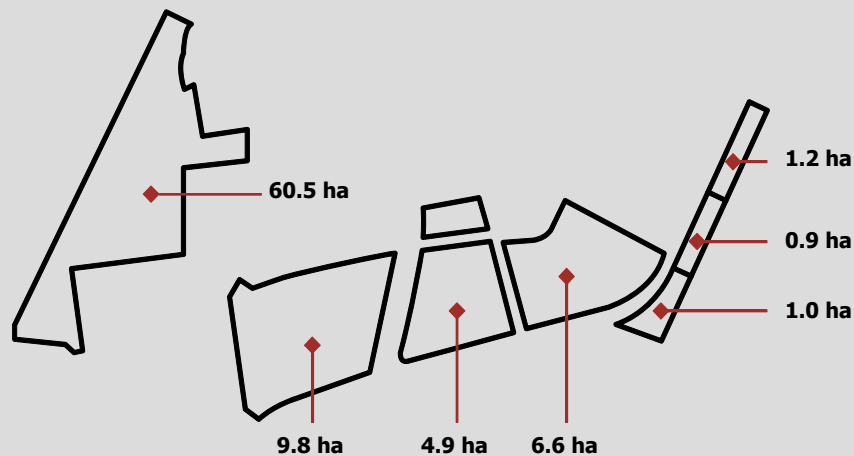
- ◆ **1** university, **3** colleges and **1** vocational school
- ◆ Over **2,500** students studying engineering and construction programs
- ◆ Close collaboration with business to create modules and courses focused on industry needs

#### Mažeikiai town

- ◆ **1** college and **1** vocational school
- ◆ Over **250** students studying engineering and construction programs



## Free Economic Zone (FEZ)



**Area:** **98.6 ha**, divided into eight land plots

**Access:** paved road

**Recommended purpose:** storage/industry

**Utilities available:** electricity, water–supply networks, gas pipelines. By necessity: telecommunications

**Income tax**

**0%**

(first 6 years)

**7.5%**

(subsequently 10 years)

**Property  
tax**

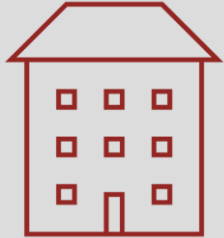
**0%**

**Tax on  
dividends**

**0%**



## Support from local authorities



### **Akmenė Region Municipality offer a range of guidance and services:**

- ◆ Construction permit in up to **45** working days
- ◆ Detailed planning procedures from **3-5** months
- ◆ Business consultants and lawyers, and support from their notary, banking, insurance, telecommunication and labour exchange department



## Business friendly environment

- ◆ Ease of starting Business / World ranking – **11<sup>th</sup>** <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◆ Ease of doing business / World ranking – **24<sup>th</sup>** <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◆ Time for establishing a business – **3 days** <sup>[2]</sup>
- ◆ VAT – **21%** <sup>[2]</sup>
- ◆ Personal income tax – **15%** <sup>[2]</sup>
- ◆ Social security tax paid by employer – **30.98%** <sup>[3]</sup>
- ◆ **15%** corporate tax rate – **4<sup>th</sup>** lowest corporate tax in EU <sup>[2,4]</sup>
- ◆ Real Estate tax – **0-1%** <sup>[5]</sup>
- ◆ Land lease tax for commercial areas – **0-1.5%** <sup>[5]</sup>

Source 1: Forbes, 2014

Source 2: State Tax Inspectorate Under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, 2014

Source 3: State Social Insurance Fund Board of the Republic of Lithuania under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Source 4: KPMG, 2014

Source 5: Akmenė Region Municipality, 2014



A place to visit, enjoy, discover  
and invest in



The region is renowned for its natural beauty, and its **historical and cultural heritage**



Venta regional park offers **natural resources and landscapes**



The region is proud of the purity of its **air and its promotion of a healthy life-style**



Its impressive botanical gardens contain **358 species of rare and exotics plants** from all over the world



Well developed **cycle path network**



## Testimonials

As a region rich in the natural resources essential for our business, Akmenė was always going to be the perfect fit for us. But it is the loyalty, diligence and working knowledge of the local workforce that has really solidified our belief that this town is the perfect place for us to grow our business.

### **Eternit Baltic**

### **Giedrius Zeniauskas**

Headcount:

113

Est.:

1997





AKMENĖ REGION

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