

Leinwig Community Portfolio



Welcome to Leinwig

Leinwig is a mid-sized German city with a population of 76,449 and one of the few cities in Germany in that category whose population is growing. The town is best known for its Hanseatic history as a major hub for the medieval salt mining industry. Today, most of its historic downtown area are well-preserved and tens of thousands of tourists visit the city annually for its typically northern German red-brick architecture, which is also frequently featured in a nationally televised telenovela. In recent decades, the local university along with arts and music festivals has also attracted younger visitors and residents, making the city and its surrounding municipalities an attractive place of residence.



Leinwig City and County
Hansa Alley 1
D612MN Leinwig

Geographical location

Leinwig is located in northern Germany in the State of Lower Saxony in the periphery of the Hamburg Metropolitan Region. The City of Hamburg is located 50 kilometers to the northwest of Leinwig. It is the second largest German city and a major European center for transportation, media and design, culture, and tourism. Four million people live and work there at an important junction of transeuropean transit corridors. Hannover, Lower Saxony's capital city and another important regional center, is located about 130 kilometers south of Leinwig. Leinwig County spreads over an area of 1,323.43 sq. km and is bordering the States of Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

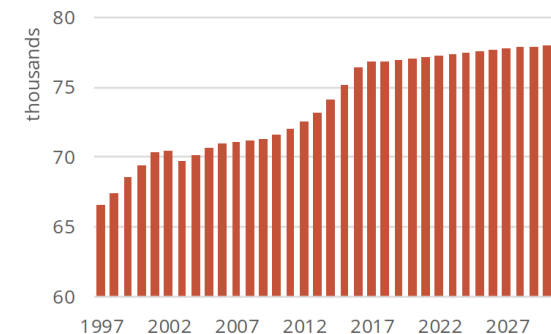


The city lies on the river Illau, about 30 kilometers before its confluence with the river Elbe. Large parts of the city area are located above a salt dome that lead to the medieval prosperity of Leinwig. A major geographic characteristic of both Leinwig City and Leinwig County is the absence of major elevations, typical of Northern Germany in general. Elevations within the city range between six and 88 meters above sea level. To the city's southwest lies the so-called Leinwig Heath, a large area of heath and woodland, of which large parts now form a protected nature reserve.

Population

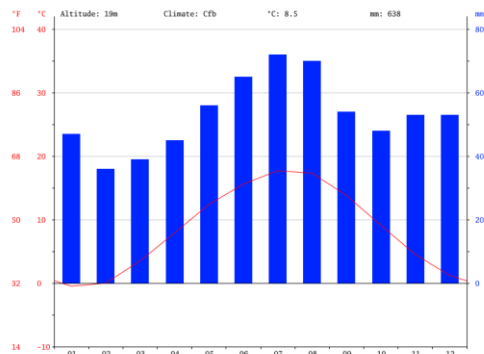
The total population of Leinwig County is 180,790, and its population density is 133.4 residents per sq. km. The City of Leinwig has a population of roughly 76 thousand, and a population density of 1,086 residents per sq. km. Thus, Leinwig County is less densely populated than Lower Saxony on average, and even less densely populated than Germany overall.

Leinwig City' population has grown in the 20th century and continues this development, although at a slow rate. For example, in the last two decades, the population has grown from 66,569 in 1996 to 76,449, an increase of roughly ten thousand. Urbanization and Leinwig's proximity to Hamburg are estimated to contribute to further growth: According to a recent study released by the Lower Saxony statistics office, the city's population is expected to grow by 5.3 percent by 2030, leading to an expected total population of about 78 thousand. Leinwig County is expected to grow by 4 percent and will have a population of about 188 thousand in 2030. This increase in population will have repercussions for Leinwig's traffic, housing, and energy demand, among other factors.



Climate

The climate in the Leinwig region is moderate. Leinwig has above average precipitation, even during the driest months of February and March (both with an average precipitation below 40 mm). The highest amounts of rainfall are usually expected in the summer months, peaking in July with about 72 mm of rainfall. The annual average temperature is 8.5 °C. The highest months are June, July, and August, with average temperatures between 21 and 23 °C. In the months of May until August, the average daily duration of sunshine peaks at or slightly below 7 hours, but drops below two hours a day in the winter months of November until January. The wind speed in this region is consistently higher than the national average, due to the absence of major elevations, mountains and other natural barriers, as well as the city's relative proximity to the Northern and Baltic Sea. Average wind speeds peak in the winter months between 15 and 20 km/h. On average, Leinwig experiences between 8 and 10 so-called 'storm days' during the months of December, January, February and March (classified as category 8 winds and higher on the Beaufort scale).



Traffic infrastructure

Leinwig is connected to the major German north-south train route connecting Hamburg with Hannover and other German cities further south. Regional as well as high-speed IC and ICE connections are available, mainly run by Deutsche Bahn and a private competitor. About 10,000 commuters use this train connection to commute between Leinwig and Hamburg, the vast majority of which are Leinwig residents with jobs in Hamburg. In addition, Leinwig is connected to the national highway A41, with a south extension planned in the next years.



13 bus routes are operated in Leinwig by the Hamburg Transport Authority, some connecting Leinwig to its neighboring communities. Busses run in 20 to 30-minute intervals during work days and at least hourly during the weekend. The municipal busses are powered by regular and diesel gas. A transition to hybrid technologies, or electronic or hydrogen engines has been discussed, but a decision or detailed plans are pending. In addition, Leinwig has an extensive system of bike routes and about one fourth of traffic within the city can be attributed to cycling. Bike- and car-sharing programs are available to commuters and residents, too.

Economy, industry, administration



A former center for salt mining and beer brewing, Leinwig's economy today is foremost characterized by small and medium-sized businesses. Three pillars can be identified in terms of commerce and industry: automobile industry, textile industry, and tourism together with small businesses and the service sector. For example, in terms of industry and trade, a men's fashion producer, textile manufacturers, and a well-known producer of vegetarian food products are notable, as well as a few subcontractors for the automobile industry. The town has recently become a major tourist destination in the region with an additional focus on spa treatments, attracting over 300,000 overnight stays annually. Other economic core areas in Leinwig include the food industry, and agriculture. Due to its proximity to Hamburg and its location on the major north-south transit route, Leinwig is becoming attractive to the manufacturing industry. The city welcomes such investments. Experts and city energy planners estimate that, should more factories make Leinwig their home, the city's energy consumption would increase significantly.

Notable institutions in Leinwig include Leinwig University, the Lower Saxony court of appeals, the regional chambers of commerce and trade.