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9 november – 11 november 07

niedersachsen

Portrait Niedersachsen Ministry for Economics, Labour and Transport

Portrait:

Economic Policy in Niedersachsen

The policies of the Economics Ministry are consistently determined by four strategic themes: Flexibility, Mobility, Innovation, Internationalism

Only by improving its flexibility, mobility, openness to innovation and international outlook can Niedersachsen make sustained economic progress, and these qualities shape the guidelines and choices of action in Niedersachsen's economic, employment, technology and transport policies. Only a policy of sustained economic growth can guarantee more skilled jobs in our state. Thus economic and employment policies are two sides of the same coin; more skilled and qualified workers are the precondition for strong economic growth. A successful economic and employment policy is part of and subject to wider economic developments at federal and EU level, and in the globalised markets. We monitor and evaluate these developments and draw up practical recommendations for Niedersachsen's economic policy. What framework conditions does the job market require – how much control and how much freedom, if mass unemployment is to be reduced? Which instruments of employment policy have proven effective, which not? What will tomorrow's job market look like, and what demands will it make? How should the social security system be shaped if it is to meet its long-term responsibilities? These are some of the questions for which we are constantly seeking the best answers. To ensure that entrepreneurial creativity is no longer stifled by a pile of bureaucratic regulations, Niedersachsen has initiated a debureaucratisation and deregulation campaign. Authorisation and licensing procedures are being simplified and accelerated to decrease state regulation and encourage individual initiative. Our motto is: Cutting the red tape is the best SME policy. Only innovations will create new jobs; this is why, in promoting innovation, we focus on promising technologies that will directly benefit Niedersachsen's economic development and demonstrate a high potential for development both for the research infrastructure and the entrepreneurial aspects. Since the formation of a new state government after the 2003 elections the Economics Ministry has developed a new foreign trade initiative to strengthen the international position of the Niedersachsen economy. Trade missions have been established in China, Russia, India and Poland to help Niedersachsen's enterprises enter the national markets. Niedersachsen's economy must develop an international attitude if it is to assert itself in the world's markets.

Employees:

318; of which 38 in Regierungsvertretungen

Head:

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