

### **More information: The economic profile of the province of Rovigo**

The province of Rovigo is completely flat and borders with the river Adige to the north and the River Po to the south.

It covers about 1,800 km<sup>2</sup> and counts for 240,000 inhabitants.

It is administratively divided into 50 Municipalities and it is characterized by the diverse and unevenly way the population is distributed on the territory. Out of the 50 Municipalities, in fact, the Capital City counts for 51,000 inhabitants, and only other 5 Municipalities exceed 10,000 inhabitants.

The Polesine is geographically located within a strategic area; bordering with economically relevant Regions (Lombardia and Emilia Romagna), it stands in the centre of the pulsating heart of work, innovation and economy of northern-central Italy.

Its strategic location is enriched and strengthened by an efficient infrastructure system that connects it to the main national and international economic centres.

The territory of the province of Rovigo is also crossed by the river system that connects Mantua, Cremona and Milan. The Rovigo Interporto (freight terminal), the only one of this kind in Italy, is an infrastructure that integrates the road, water and rail transport, representing an opportunity for the business system interested both in local and foreign markets.

The company "Centro Servizi Spa – Censer Spa", located in the former sugar factory, makes available to companies 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> of indoor exhibition area, 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> of external exhibition area, a Conference Room with 480 seats, as well as the headquarters of the "Consorzio Universitario di Rovigo", together with classrooms for the academic activities organized by the University of Padua.

According to the data elaborated by the Istituto G. Tagliacarne of Rome (year 2014) concerning the province of Venice, the added value makes up about 4.0% of the regional a.v., and it has originates for 66.6% from the services (with a contribution of 21.5% from trade, transport and hospitality and catering services), 27.7% from industry and construction and 5.7% from agriculture and fishing.

In 2016, the workforce in the province of Rovigo amounted to about 107,000 units. The **employment rate** (relation between employed people and the total population between 15-64 years) of the province of Rovigo is 63.2% (in the Veneto it is 64.7%), while the **unemployment rate** (relation between jobseekers and workforce) is 8.7% (6.8% in Veneto).

The entrepreneurial system, by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, counted for 30,010 active businesses (5.7% of regional enterprises) decreasing by 1.9% compared with 2015. Most of enterprises are active in services and in agriculture.

During 2016, the enterprises of the province of Rovigo exported goods for a total amount of 1.4 billion euros, contributing to 2.3% of regional export. Compared to 2015, provincial exports decreased by 5.3% (+ 1.3% in Veneto).

The imports of the province of Rovigo (1.5 billion euros) represent 3.6% of the import of the Veneto Region.

In the period observed, the dynamics of the provincial trade interchange (imports that are still higher than exports) results in a deficit of 134 million euros.

## ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The economy of the province of Rovigo is linked to the peculiarities of the territory and is marked by a significant presence of **agriculture** and a widespread **manufacturing sector**, focused on small and very small enterprises.

- **Agriculture** is a fundamental component of the provincial economy, representing 5.7% of the provincial GDP (the regional average is of 2.1%), and it is characterized by mixed arable land (maize, wheat, soy, sugar beet), by a good **presence of fruit farming**, of **intensive horticulture** and of areas devoted to **rice cultivation**.
- In the Delta territory, the primary sector is enriched by the activities of the **professional fishing** (Pila, Scardovari, Porto Viro fish markets), the "**vallicultura**" and the "**Lagunicoltura**".
- The fishery sector, composed by the activities of professional fishing and companies operating in the processing and marketing of fish products, represents a peculiarity of the Polesine economy, so much so that the Veneto region recognized the "**Distretto del Settore Ittico della provincia di Rovigo**" in the L.R. 8/2003.

- As to the secondary sector, important is the weight of **handicraft** (21.7% on total active enterprises), which groups about 6,500 companies out of approximately 30,000 active businesses registered at the Chamber of Commerce, where the prevailing manufacturing sectors are: apparel and clothing, manufacture of metal and wood products and furniture.
- A **sector of excellence** is represented by the **construction of carousels**, travelling shows, equipment for Fun-Fairs, fireworks, diffused in the western area of the province of Rovigo, above all in the Municipalities of Melara and Bergantino, making up the " Distretto Veneto della Giostra".
- Among the services, the **tourism sector** is relevant, developed in the areas of Rosolina Mare and Isola di Albarella where the **natural and landscape resources** of the Po Delta may allow a new model of tourism strictly connected to the territory and the environment, improving the quality of life.

The "Delta del Po", is characterized by large plantations of maize, wheat, beetroot and soya, and is mainly based on the breeding of some fine fishes, such as eels, bass and bream and on mussel rearing (clams, oysters, mussels).

Tourists who want to taste these products and the typical recipes of the Polesine is spoilt for choice among the numerous restaurants, trattorias and agriturismo.

Many itineraries are offered by **bike, horse, motor vessel or canoe** to visit these countless green spaces and to admire the evocative colors and atmospheres that only the great river can give.