



## Template 1: Key Facts for Investors

Bjelovar-Bilogora County is located in northwestern Croatia, more precisely in the eastern area where there is a group of counties which makes the central part of Croatian.



Picture 1: Position of Bjelovar-Bilogora County in Croatia

Spatial size of the County is 2.636.67 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 4.66% of the Republic of Croatia.

Population (in 2010.): 124.646

Administrative structure: the County is divided into 5 cities and 18 municipalities and 323 settlements. The County is surrounded by Koprivnica-Križevci County to the north, Virovitica-Podravina County in the northeast, Sisak-Moslavina County in the south and Zagreb County in the west. It covers an area of four specific geographic units: Bilogora (on the north and north-east), marginal massifs of Papuk and Ravna gora (on the east), Moslavačka gora (on the south-west) and the river valley of Česma and Ilova (west, central and south).

County is characterized by a favorable geographical and traffic location near major regional centers.



Picture 2. Bjelovar-Bilogora County

Bjelovar is cultural, economic and administrative centre of Bjelovar-Bilogora County. Town is situated at an important traffic position as it passes over the road and rail road connecting the major regional centers. Although is one of the youngest cities in Croatia, Bjelovar is now ranked among the most developed Croatian cities, and is important cultural and economic centre of the region.

Other cities in the county are Daruvar, Čazma, Garešnica and Grubišno Polje, and according to their specific characteristics of the economic and social life, they contribute a lot to the Bjelovar-Bilogora County.

Daruvar has good traffic location on highway Novska-Daruvar-Virovitica and the railroad Banova jaruga-Virovitica provides a good foundation for further economic and cultural development of the city which is famous for its rich cultural and historical heritage, health resort and as the center of the Czech minority in Croatia.

Čazma is located at the intersection of important regional roads near Zagreb and Bjelovar. Today, the city's economy is mainly based on agriculture due to rural surroundings with good conditions for further economic development.

Garešnica is located near the Posavina corridor, one of the most important trade routes in Croatia, giving this area developmental advantages towards other parts of the county. Area of the city Grubisno Polje is an area of special national care (second group) and because of its benefits it is interesting and attractive to investors.

### **Gross domestic product of the County (year 2008):**

Mil. kuna - 7493

Mil. Eura - 1037

Gross domestic product per capita is 8255€, 59631kn.

The realised investments in the 2009 in new fixed assets amounted 335.2 mil HRK, which is less for 32.8% on the annual basis.

Medium-sized enterprises have invested in new fixed assets in a value of 148.5 million HRK, which is less for 22%, while large enterprises invested in a value of 18.6 million or 97.5% more.

The data of the first half of the year 2010 show a decline in value of its total revenue for the County by 4.8 %, while expenses decreased by 3.4 %, and the value of realized investment in fixed assets decreased by 14 % over the same period in the year 2009.

974 business entities were doing business with profit, while the 381 business entities operated with a loss.

### **Transport connections**

Area of the Bjelovar-Bilogora County offers with its position between the Pannonia region and Zagreb County an important connection.

The main state routes are going parallel in the county area. Generally it can be stated that the County's road network is dispersed with unparalleled density compared to the average of the Republic. Important state roads in the county are:

Zagreb-Bjelovar-Daruvar-Pakrac

Kutina-Garešnica-Grubišno Polje-Virovitica

Vrbovec-Čazma-Garešnica-Pakrac

Ivanić Grad-Čazma-Bjelovar-Đurđevac

With construction of future highway Vrbovec- Bjelovar-Virovitica, Bjelovar-Bilogora County will get quality traffic connection with Zagreb and further.

### **Connection with large domestic and international centers:**

<b>Distance</b>	<b>Kilometres</b>
Bjelovar-Zagreb	89
Bjelovar-Split	512
Bjelovar-Rijeka	318
Bjelovar-Osijek	180
Bjelovar-Vienna	537
Bjelovar-Budapest	341
Bjelovar-Munchen	671

Source:

### **Road transportation of local character:**

Čazmatrans Nova

Milana Novačića 8

43 240 Čazma

Tel: 043/ 277 100

Fax: 043/ 277 372

[www.cazmatrans.htnet.hr](http://www.cazmatrans.htnet.hr)

[cazmatrans@bj.htnet.hr](mailto:cazmatrans@bj.htnet.hr)

Director: Dragan Marinović

Currently the most important railway line is Zagreb-Bjelovar, total length of 89.2 km. Planned construction of new railway Gradec-Sveti Ivan Žabno will mean the completion of rail connectivity with the center of Croatian republic-Zagreb and Bjelovar region will become a suburban area of Zagreb.

### **Prices for transportation of goods and passengers by train:**

<b>Distance</b>	<b>Price</b>
Bjelovar-Zagreb	55,40 HRK
Bjelovar-Split	201,50 HRK
Bjelovar-Varaždin	62,20 HRK
Bjelovar-Vinkovci	106,00 HRK

*Exchange value 1 EUR = 7,4 KN*

On official website of the Croatian Railways it is possible to see and calculate how much is the fare of a certain area to the desired destination.

The nearest airport for cargo and passengers is the airport in Zagreb - Pleso, which is about 80 km from the center of the County. In the County there are two airfields for sports and light commercial planes up to 6.5 tons, located near Bjelovar and near Daruvar.

### **Education and training**

Adopted standards of quality and representation of foreign languages

Quality standards: Croatian National Educational Standard.

Representation of foreign languages: English, German, Italian, Czech, Latin

## **Colleges - Universities**

1. Faculty of Economics Rijeka, dislocated study in Bjelovar

Major: Business Economics – Entrepreneurship

2. Technical school in Bjelovar

Major: Professional study Mechatronics, Professional Nursing Studies

It is planned in the future to establish a new expert study - Process-energy studies - which is needed primarily for manufacturing economy, but also for other sectors, and this will ensure Technical school (besides the already existing Mechatronics and Nursing Studies) the status of the Polytechnic and fulfillment of other prescribed criteria.

It is important to adapt to the needs of the economy in the domain of higher education which opens perspective for better and more stable economic development and other progress in Bjelovar and for Bjelovar-Bilogora County in general.

## **Real estate**

Prices of real estate with the infrastructure (license required, preferably one owner) for industrial or commercial use:

- a) size of 5ha (in urban and rural area)
- b) size of 15ha (in urban and rural area)

a) 5ha urban- business zones in cities

The price is around HRK 300.000.00 ha ... average price of land of the communal equipped business zones in the county is about 30 EUR / m<sup>2</sup> (300 000.00 HRK / ha).

Since the County is more or less a rural area, there is no substantial difference in prices, ranging from the announced price of 50 € / m<sup>2</sup> for the future business zone Korenovo, up to 20 € / m<sup>2</sup> in Severin, and 50 € / m<sup>2</sup> in the business zone Istok, Bjelovar. So according to some estimates, the expected average price is about \$ 30 / m<sup>2</sup> in the county.

b) 15ha, similar as a).

Possible differences in cost that may arise are possible after negotiations between the government and investors. So in the case of important investors, local governments have always left the option of giving preferential prices and discounts desirable to investors who are in the manufacturing business.

**Construction costs for industrial and administrative complex (15% office and 85% non-equipped facility / warehouse) with following dimensions:**

- a) 2.000 m<sup>2</sup>,
- b) 10.000 m<sup>2</sup>

a) 2.000 m<sup>2</sup> - the average cost of construction is around 500 Eur/m<sup>2</sup> cca 1.000.000 €

b) 10.000 m<sup>2</sup> - the average cost of construction is around 500 Eur/m<sup>2</sup> cca 5.000.000 €

Size of the object does not change significantly with construction cost (except for the payment of municipal contributions that has to be paid according to the volume of the building construction).

**Costs and duration of obtaining permits:**

- a) Building permits
- b) Location permits
- c) Tax Payment

a) Building permit

b) Location permit : first the location permit has to be obtained and then the building permit. Time for obtaining permits takes from 1-6 months.

c) Some cities and municipalities exempt investors from paying utility contributions (tax is charged according to size and use of the facility and it differs from town and municipality). For example: The City of Bjelovar exempts around 50% of the investors from paying utility contributions. There is also a payment for land conversion from agricultural to building land (in most areas local governments prepare the paperwork and pay for it, not the investor).

In the Bjelovar-Bilogora County, in the period from January to September 2010, there were 1343 entrepreneurs who employed 15 241 workers, which is 10.3 percent less than the same period the year before.

The most numerous are the small entrepreneurs who makes 97.3% of the total number of entrepreneurs in the Bjelovar-Bilogora County, followed by medium-sized enterprises with 2.2 % and large enterprises with 0.5%.

According to the County import, the largest share of import cover manufacturing and wholesale and retail trades, which is over 90% of import in the Bjelovar-Bilogora County.

Countries	Export		Import	
	amounts in HRK	share in %	amounts in HRK	share in %
<b>Total</b>	715.244	-	823.739	-
<b>Countries EU</b>	418.470	58,5	582.084	70,7
<b>Countries CEFTA</b>	259.874	36,3	114.152	13,9
<b>Other european countries</b>	7.253	1,00	20.293	2,5
<b>Other asian countries</b>	25.863	3,6	63.997	7,7
<b>Other</b>	3.782	0,6	43.211	5,2

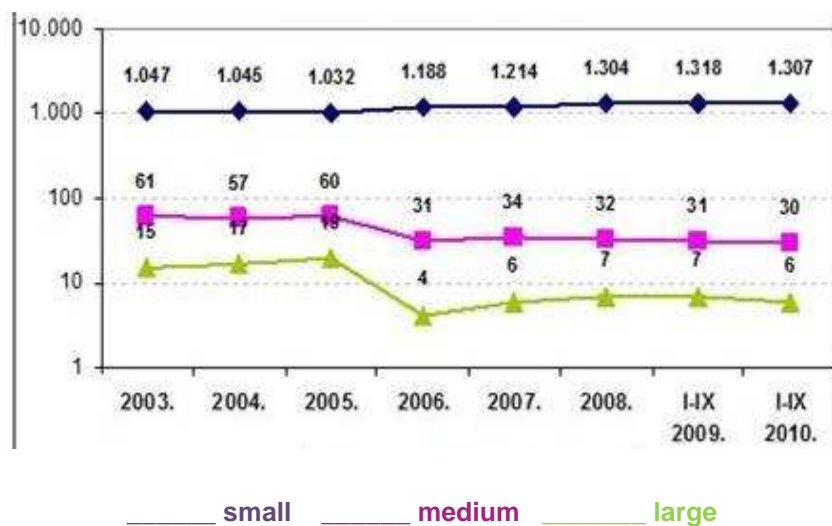
Exchange value 1 EUR = 7,4 KN

Source: DZS; Interpretation: ŽK Bjelovar

The largest foreign trade is realized with EU countries, followed by the CEFTE countries and other Asian countries. Most goods were imported from EU countries (70.7 %), CEFTE countries (7,7%) and other Asian countries (7,7%).

The largest share of EU countries are Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Austria, which makes 67.5 % of total EU imports and 47.7 percent of total imports in the Bjelovar- Bilogora County.

Representation of entrepreneurs by size(2003.I-IX 2010.)



Source: FINA Interpretation: ŽK Bjelovar

**BASIC FINANCIAL INDICATORS OF ENTREPRENEURS IN THE BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY FORM JANUARY – DECEMBER 2010**

AMOUNTS IN HRK

INDICATORS	LARGE ENTERPRISES		MEDIUM ENTERPRISES		SMALL ENTERPRISES		TOTAL ENTERPRISES IN BBC	
	I-IX 2010	Ind.	I-IX 2010	Ind.	I-IX 2010	Ind.	I-IX 2010	Ind.
<b>NR .OF ENTREPRENEURS</b>	6	-	30	-	1.307	-	1.343	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	901.453	39,1	1.246.349	92,2	2.509.354	98,6	4.657.157	75,0
- from the sale of land	727.750	35,2	914.871	88,4	2.112.925	95,9	3.755.547	70,8
- from foreign sales	88.044	81,7	211.410	90,0	245.602	120,0	545.057	99,6
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	1.004.388	42,9	1.204.191	91,7	2.420.338	100,1	4.628.919	76,3
- material costs	269.235	79,3	460.359	90,0	415.125	98,3	1.144.721	89,9
- charged sales value of goods trade	247.407	18,7	260.153	95,2	1.099.397	99,5	1.606.958	59,5
- staff cost	156.815	71,3	194.397	86,9	393.954	96,7	745.167	87,6
- salaries and net wages	98.028	70,9	120.177	86,9	251.147	97,6	469.353	87,9
- amortization	28.181	27,3	70.296	100,1	115.585	103,2	214.062	75,0
Advance income tax	2.190	54,4	7.319	125,1	16.243	92,5	25.753	93,8
stocks – from 1.1.	343.709	106,3	218.009	96,6	639.235	106,0	1.200.954	104,2
funds	38.482	196,6	84.082	123,1	121.179	109,6	243.744	122,8
Trade receivables	366.268	125,7	488.548	111,2	742.616	105,2	1.597.433	111,2
Trade payables	1.130.375	128,1	495.343	143,6	755.658	105,4	2.381.376	122,5
Realized value Invest.	21.149	50,0	62.118	65,0	144.437	103,0	227.706	81,9
PR. Nr. of employed	3.027	69,5	3.307	84,7	8.907	101,9	15.241	89,7
PR. NET WAGES	3.598	101,9	4.038	102,6	3.133	95,8	3.422	98,1
<b>INCOME-EXPENSES</b>	-102.935	-	42.158	-	89.015	-	28.238	-

Izvor: FINA INTERPRETATION: ŽK Bjelovar Exchange value 1 EUR = 7,44 KN



Bjelovar-Bilogora County has developed network of institutions that participate in the development:

- Regional development agency of Bjelovar – bilogora County L.t.d..  
Director: Jasmina Miletić, B. Sc. oec.  
Address: Ante Starčevića 8, Bjelovar  
Telephone: +38543 225 999  
Fax: +38543 225 998
  
- Business Park Bjelovar L.t.d.
- Director: Adela Zobundžija, B.Sc. inf.  
Address: Eugena Kvaternika 6, Bjelovar  
Telephone: +38543 221 590  
Fax: +38543 221 588
  
- INOVA-G L.t.d.  
Director: Đuro Gavran, B.Sc.  
Address: Jakova Gotovca 50, Bjelovar  
Telephone: +38543 220 530  
Fax: +38543 220 530
  
- Technology park Velika Pisanica  
Director: Mladen Savić  
Address: Logorska ulica 4, Velika Pisanica  
Telephone: +38543 883 925  
Fax: +38543 883 926