

Norway: Trøndelag Region (Mid-Norwegian region)

Regional Co-ordinator

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1. A Brief description of Regional Characteristics

The Trøndelag Region is located 500 km north of the Capital. The region stretches from the coast to the border of Sweden, and comprises the counties of Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag, with Trondheim as its main city. The region covers about 40 000 km² and has 401 000 inhabitants, growing by 1400 inhabitants a year. Trondheim is the 3rd largest city in Norway and has 155 000 inhabitants, not counting students registered in their home local authorities. In the county of Sør-Trøndelag there are about 14 inhabitants per km² land, and 76% (one percent below the national average) of the population lives in urban centres. In the county of Nord-Trøndelag there are about 7 inhabitants per km² land, and around 55% of the population lives in urban centres. 8.7% of the Norwegian population live in Trøndelag. The population growth and age structure has the same development in Sør-Trøndelag as the national average. The population growth in Nord-Trøndelag (1.4% a year) is significantly below the national average. There is also a higher increase in the population shares in the oldest age groups in Nord-Trøndelag. Trøndelag has the same share (8.7 %) of the total number of employed in Norway as of the population.

The average disposable income is lower in Trøndelag than the national level. However, poverty is much higher in the capital city (Oslo) than in Trøndelag, and Nord-Trøndelag is the county with lowest poverty, in spite of the low disposable income on average.

22.7% of the population have participated in higher education in Trøndelag, compared to a national level of 23.5% in Norway.

Trøndelag has a lower share of employment than the national average in knowledge intensive market and financial services. If we look on all knowledge intensive services, we find that the share of employment in these sectors is higher in Trøndelag than the national average. The main reason for this is the high share of employment in education, health and social work, recreational, cultural and sporting activities.

The unemployment in Trøndelag is marginal above the national average. The work force is lower in Trøndelag than in other parts of Norway, as share of the population. The work force in Nord-Trøndelag is remarkable low both compared to Sør-Trøndelag and to the national average.

2. Characteristics of the HEIs in the Region

There are 3 public HEIs in the region:

The second largest university in Norway, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) is situated in Trondheim and the Sør-Trøndelag University College (HiST) as well, on a large number of campuses. The North Trøndelag University College is situated in Steinkjer and 3 other urban centres in the County. (Namsos, Levanger and Stjørdal)

Higher Education Institutions	Students	Employees	Yearly turnover In mill. NOK
NTNU	20 000	4 700	3 500
HiST	8 000	650	540
HiNT	4 500	250	336

Major contributors to the research and teaching in the region include The SINTEF group and St. Olaf University Hospital. The SINTEF Group is the largest independent research organisation in Scandinavia. Every year, SINTEF supports the development of 2000 or so Norwegian and overseas companies via their research and development activity. SINTEF has 1758 employees, and a yearly turnover of 1 700 mill NOK. The University Hospital has 7 570 employees and a turnover of 4 000 mill NOK.

The student welfare organisation (Studentsamskipnaden i Trondheim) has approx 400 employees, and a turnover of 600 mill. NOK.

80% of all graduates in Master's of Engineering in Norway are graduates from the NTNU, and these fields of study account for 40% of the students at the University. NTNU is a research university covering science and technology, medicine, social sciences, humanities, economics, psychology, architecture, fine arts and music, including a conservatory.

The University College of South Trøndelag covers most professional bachelor programmes geared towards the health professions, teacher training, engineering, informatics, food science, business studies, and public administration. They offer 9 master courses.

The University College of North Trøndelag offers bachelor degrees and shorter courses in Health care, nursing, engineering, teacher training, drivers school teacher training, Civics, legal subjects, agriculture, management etc.

3. A Brief History of HEIs engagement in the Regional development

Contact between enterprises and HEI have traditionally been based on *individual connections* and interests, and often the *students and candidates* are the most important provision for the transfer of technology and innovation to SME in the region.

NTNU, with a national mission, expected to contribute to the regional development in all regions of Norway, had until recently no institutional policies giving Trøndelag any preferential treatment. However, proximity to NTNU and its predecessors has led to a number of connections and contributions to regional development. The most important contribution came through SINTEF, originally established to handle the university's contract research for industry. The establishment of Leif Eriksson Nyskaping AS and later establishment of the TTO have contributed actively added to the regional development of Trøndelag. Leif Eriksson Nyskaping AS used in fact to act as the TTO for NTNU, SINTEF, HiST and HiNT.

The University Colleges were originally established since 1976 as a number (at the most 127) of regional and vocational colleges, in order to provide local two year professional education, and R&D for their region. During the 1990s these were merged into (mostly) larger institutions by county, but still multi campus institutions. More importantly, from 1993 onwards, common qualification criteria for appointment and promotions for all academic staff in higher education were introduced. However, the colleges have for years been considered important the regional development. The Nord-Trøndelag Research Institute (Nord-Trøndelag forskning) was established in 1983 in order to develop and disseminate research based knowledge in cooperation with HiNT and other regional, national and international institutions.

In the Joint County Plan for 2005-2008, which is the result of cooperation between the two Regional Councils, the City of Trondheim, HEI and industry, the following most promising areas in terms of innovation and economic development have been identified as:

- *blue and green food resources*
- *renewable energy – wind, bio-energy, gas*
- *forestry and wood industry*
- *tourism and culture*
- *knowledge – education, research, consultancy, innovation and new enterprise*

4. The Scope and Level of Involvement of Regional Stakeholders in the Project

The three major higher education institutions in the middle of Norway: The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, The University Colleges of Sør Trøndelag and Nord Trøndelag, and the public authorities of the Counties of Sør Trøndelag and of Nord-Trøndelag, the City of Trondheim, participate in the project. The Regional Director Trøndelag, Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry, chairs the Regional steering group, and the President of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities in Nord-Trøndelag is a member of this committee. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Research Council and the Ministry of Education and Research support the project.

5. Resources for further information on the Region.

About Trondheim: <http://www.trondheim.com/engelsk/>

About the County of Sør Trøndelag . See “Info in English” : <http://www.stfk.no/>

About he County of Nord Trøndelag: <http://www.ntfk.no/Publisering.asp?Id=1094>

About NTNU: <http://www.ntnu.no/indexe.php>

About the NTNU TTO: <http://www.tto.ntnu.no/>

About HiNT: <http://www.hint.no/hint/international>

About HiST: <http://www.hist.no/english/>

About SINTEF: http://www.sintef.no/default_490.aspx