

Gladbeck

The city of Gladbeck is located in the central Ruhr area in the northwest of North Rhine-Westphalia, a large district town of Recklinghausen in the administrative region of Munster.

Basic Data

State:	North Rhine-Westphalia
Region:	Munster
District:	Recklinghausen
Altitude:	52 m absolute altitude
Area:	35,9 km ²
Inhabitants:	75.520 (31. Dec. 2009) ^[1]
Population density:	2104 Inhabitants per km ²
Postcode:	45964–45968
Code:	0 20 43
License Plate:	RE
City arrangement:	9 Districts
City Council address:	Willy-Brandt-Platz 2 45964 Gladbeck
Website:	www.gladbeck.de
Mayor:	Ulrich Roland (SPD)

Geography

Gladbeck is located in the Ruhr area. Gladbeck belongs to the so-called Emscher zone, which mine industry was detected relatively late. The city is part of the metropolis Ruhr.

The city is surrounded in the north by Weiler Breiker courtyards and the neighbouring cities Bottrop, Dorsten und Gelsenkirchen. In the South the city borders Essen.

Gladbeck has following Districts:

- Mitte, Ellinghorst: Postcode 45964
- Rentfort, Schultendorf, Zweckel: Postcode 45966
- Brauck, Rosenhügel, Butendorf: Post code 45968

Municipal reorganization and recent history since 1975 -

With the municipal reorganization in North Rhine-Westphalia (1975), the independent city of Gladbeck and the village of Kirchhellen (district Recklinghausen) become neighbours to the city of Bottrop.

Opponents to the reorganization, complained about the small town closeness to the border of Bottrop and Gladbeck and argued that that Bottrop was only slightly larger than Gladbeck. Their slogan: "GlaBotKi is nothing".

The Supreme Administrative Court, which had been seized by the former town clerk Rump found in the "Nikolaus" verdict of 6 December 1975, that proximity and greater administrative efficiency- the justification for the reorganization-were not given.

The union was annulled and the 1975 local elections for ("big") Bottrop council declared invalid.

Since 1 July 1976 Gladbeck belongs to the district of Recklinghausen, taking the border with Dorsen, and with the rest of the county, the border is therefore less than 500 meters long. Who wants to drive by car from Gladbeck to the rest of the district, has to leave him behind, what makes this city a kind of enclave of the district.

In August 1988, Gladbeck came into the headlines in all Germany, when a bank branch in the suburb Rentfort was attacked, and there was a hostage situation. In this so called "Gladbeck hostage drama", three people have died.

Politics

Gladbeck forms together with Bottrop, a parliamentary constituency (126: Bottrop - Recklinghausen III), the directly elected MP, is Michael Gerdes (SPD)

Gladbeck forms together with the largest part of Dorsen, the parliamentary constituency Gladbeck Recklinghausen III. Until 2010, the directly elected MP was Wolfgang Röker; now it is Michael Ralf Hübner (both SPD). The Left MP Ralf Michalowsky lives in Gladbeck.

Council

The City Council consists of 44 women and men councillors

- SPD 21 Seats
- CDU 12 Seats
- Green Party 3 Seats
- BIG + GBL 1 3 Seats
- Social List; (DKP/Hartz-IV-Initiative) 2 Seats
- FDP 2 Seats
- The Left 3 Seats

(As of municipal election on 30 August 2009):

The following list consists only of parties and voters communities that have received at least 1.95 percent of the vote in each election. The results for Gladbeck were:

Year	SPD	CDU	DKP	FDP	Green ¹	BIG	Left
1976	56,9	32,9	5,6	4,7			
1979	52,9	33,8	8,7	4,6			
1984	55,2	29,6	6,7	1,6	6,8		
1989	54,2	27,7	8,0	3,1	7,1		
1994	44,3	34,8	4,7	1,7	9,4	5,1	
1999	39,7	46,4	2,9	1,6	4,3	5,1	
2004	40,6	37,1	4,5	3,6	5,9	6,2	
2009	46,1	27,0	1,8	4,3	5,8	4,7	6,5

¹ Green: 1984 and 1989: Green, until 1994: B'90/Green

Mayor

On 21 July 1919 Gladbeck was granted town rights and since then, there is a Mayor. Until 1974/76 Gladbeck was without district, thus the title "Lord Mayor" was used. After this date is only "Mayor". Since 1994, this is a full-time function. The mayor is chairman of the Council and head of the administration.

After decades of domination of the Social Democrats, mostly by an absolute majority, in 1994 the Christian Democrat Eckhard Schwerhoff was elected Mayor (full-time) by the Council, this newly designed official post was made possible through a NRW electoral reform.

In that election, the ruling Social Democrats had missed very close, the absolute majority with Mayor Wolfgang Röker. Since the full-time mayor has, by virtue of his position, a voice in the Council, a socialist democrat mayor would have a stalemate situation in the Council.

Therefore the Greens and the then new voters' association "Citizens in Gladbeck", decided together with the CDU, to elect Schwerhoff. Schwerhoff was indeed CDU member but at the time, had not appeared very active in urban politics.

In the local elections in 1999, when in NRW the direct elections of mayor were introduced nationwide, Schwerhoff managed the re-election. In the run-off election for local elections of 10 October 2004, when more of the heavy Hoff was not take up, Ulrich Roland (SPD) was elected mayor.

City Twinning

- Alanya (Turkey), since 1993
- Enfield (United Kingdom), since 1970
- Fushun (China), since 1988
- Marcq-en-Barœul (France), since 1964
- Schwechat (Austria), since 1966
- Wandlitz, since 1990 (a Partnership from Recklinghausen and Niederbarmin)
- Wodzisław Śląski (former Loslau; Poland), since 1990
- There is also a partnership since 1971 to a landing craft squadron of the Navy

Religious Communities

According data from the city Gladbeck, until the end of 2006, from a total population of 77 436 inhabitants, 53 027 (about 68 percent) were Christian: 30 906 Catholic (about forty percent), and 22 121 Protestant (about 28 percent). 24 409 belong to other religions or are non-believers.

The largest group among the other religious communities are committed to Islam. Exactly how many residents are attributed to Islam is unknown. Likewise, a numerical identity of the different religious groups (such as Shia, Sunni and Alevi) is not possible because of missing data.

Catholic churches

As a result of the restructuring in the Diocese of Essen in Gladbeck, since 1 September 2007, there is only one large parish, St. Lamberti. This parish consists of the six "communities"

Evangelic churches

- Christuskirche, Mitte
- Petruskirche, Brauck
- Martin-Luther-Kirche, Rentfort
- Sankt Stephani-Kirche, Zweckel

Evangelic Free Church worship:

- Evangelic Free Church (Baptists) *Friedenskirche*, Mitte

Apostolic churches:

- Community Gladbeck-Mitte
- Community Gladbeck-Zweckel

Next to the mosque in the district Butendorf in Gladbeck, there is a number of other Islamic prayer rooms (concrete figures are missing), which enter as such but not necessarily in the outside appearance.

Media

The local daily newspaper is the West German Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ); until late March 2006, existed also the Ruhr News (RN). The "City Mirror" Gladbeck is a free advertising paper.

The local radio station Radio Emscher Lips reports on all the news from neighbouring towns Bottrop, Gelsenkirchen and Gladbeck.

Education

In Gladbeck there is in between others a Municipal Music School and a Community College. The Gelsenkirchen College in Gelsenkirchen-Buer is in close proximity.

Further there are also:

- 15 Primary Schools
- 4 Secondary Schools (Elsa-Braendström-School, Butendorf Scholl, Erich-Fried-School, Willy-Brandt-School)

The district government of Münster, as the top school board, approved the decision of the dissolution of the Secondary School and Secondary School Butendorf Willy Brandt in the school year 2009/10, made by the council of the city of Gladbeck on 17 December 2009.

The classes of the current Year 7 of secondary school Butendorf and grades 7 to 9 of the Willy-Brandt-school in year 2010/11 will be taken place at Elsa Brändström secondary school.

The current grades 8 and 9 of Butendorf secondary school, are going to be taken in year 2010/11, by the Erich-Fried-secondary school. The main school Butendorf and the Willy-Brandt-school will terminate by the end of 31 July 2010.

- 1 Comprehensive school (Comprehensive school Ingeborg-Drewitz former comprehensive school Rentfort North)
- 3 secondary schools (Werner-von-Siemens-Realschule, Anne-Frank-Realschule, Erich Kästner-Realschule)
- 3 high schools (Heisenberg-Gymnasium, Councilgymnasium, Riesener-Gymnasium)
- 2 professional colleges (including one in private sponsorship from a charity related to the Association Caritas), each with high school vocations
- 2 special schools for children with learning difficulties
- 1 special school for mentally disabled

The School Centre Brauck has two full-time secondary schools.

The primary schools in Gladbeck will be transformed without exception, to all-day open primary schools

Gladbeck operates 4 Children and Youth facilities as after-school education places

- Leisure meet up Karo
- Children's House Kotten Nie
- Leisure meet up Brauck
- Leisure meet up Rentfort

Others

The city of Gladbeck is part of the RUHR 2010 – Cultural city of Europe. The Local Hero's week in Gladbeck takes place from 26. September to 2. October 2010. Throughout the year active cultural contributions to RUHR 2010 are taken place, plus all the big events like Shaft Signs, Sing and still-life Ruhrschnellweg.

Children and Youth Universities

Gladbeck received in autumn of 2006, a Children's University. It offers different courses, like computers, math, languages, and many other topics. The project started on 8 September 2006. The university is supported by municipal Youth Care Support.

Statistics

In recent years, the population in Gladbeck has fallen more and more, of former than 80,000 to its current 75 969 inhabitants.

Compared with the beginning of the year, the population decreased by 212 persons: a decrease of 0.3%. -

This has following consequences:

The natural population balance is negative: there more people dying than the same period are born.

Senior citizens in Gladbeck

The limits for entry to the senior citizenship are flexible. Due to the extension of working lives, our entry into the so called old age is becoming later and later.

When do we belong to the senior citizens?

Some may be offended, if with already 50 or 55 are counted among the elderly. Others are ready to "volunteer" to the seniors, as soon as they finish their work, or set the first grandson.

In Gladbeck after completion of 60th of age, someone interested can apply to work for the Senior Citizens Advisory Board of Gladbeck (this is the group of very active seniors in Gladbeck, which works on a volunteer basis for the concerns of the elderly).

With 60 years you can get discounts on public transport and to some events.

Home

Seniors in Gladbeck live in their own homes, either alone or together with relatives, or in special forms of housing (sheltered housing, "housing with services) or in institutions that care for the elderly.

Research shows that older people spend more time at their home than younger people. In an aging society, it will be necessary to create adequate comfortable living situations for the people that can take care of themselves at home and special care, for the ones that don't.

Newly built housing should be built according to the criteria of the barrier-free living, and the situation in older flats / houses is often catastrophic and unacceptable for older citizens

The City strives to build barrier-free housing. This is also a focus of the work of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board.

Advice

Seniors can get all-embracing advice in Gladbeck

The city of Gladbeck provides with "GDP" (Advice and Information Care Centre) well-structured and all-encompassing consulting services. This service was developed over 10 years in the district of Recklinghausen.

Some other free associations complement the advisory boards in Gladbeck.

Leisure Time

In Gladbeck, there are now about 40 senior social clubs, which are operated by the City of Gladbeck between other churches, clubs and associations.

The senior citizen advice of Gladbeck has a list is full of activities and information service for the elderly. Also some Gladbecker charities and special associations have special offers for seniors.

Furthermore, at this point is also worthy to mention the cultural offers from the city of Gladbeck, which are of course also suitable for the elderly

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Tasks and Objectives:

- The Senior Citizens Advisory Board represents the interests of older people in the city and ensure observance of the rights of older people
- The Seniors Advisory Council opposes all forms of exclusion and devaluation of the older
- It promotes initiatives and activities for older people and promotes dialogue and solidarity between the generations with the aim of an active social life.
- The Senior Affairs Advisory Board advises the elderly and takes their side
- The proposals and recommendations developed by the Senior Advisory Board are sent by special resolution to the committees of Gladbeck.

To improve provision of the offers several working groups were established:

- Working Group on Education (talks by the fireplace)
- Partnership Working Group (exchange with other participating cities)
- Media Working Group (senior newspaper "Seni-Ohr ", cinema)
- Walking Working Group
- Working group living in old age (surveys and residential projects)
- Working Group on Internet ("internetto" - Internet Cafe)

Care

Provide care to seniors in their homes alone or through family members, neighbours, friends and care services (here, there is a variety of association and private providers of home nursing care)

Offers such as "Personal alarm", "Mobile lunch," "Household services" and individual "Care aid" should help domestic life.

There are also offers of "day care" and "short-term care, and supportive family caregivers.

If home life is no longer possible, there are in Gladbeck eight old and nursing homes, which currently have approximately 800 seats to offer. More and more the outpatient and inpatient care must be based on the care and treatment of dementia set ill people.

This led to the creation of the "Round Table dementia", in 2009, also concerned in informing about dementia with their publication "Signs of dementia", which has also organized the 1st Gladbecker Dementia Forum.

In addition, there are special offers in Gladbeck for the disabled, a working group to integrate people with disabilities and a variety of support groups.

Economic Supply

Seniors in Gladbeck (this applies to the entire Fed. Republic of Germany), which are not capable of working, can – when not financially secure, through income (pensions) and / or assets - receive benefits under the Basic Security Act.

With this capability, the basic needs for livelihood are guaranteed. -

Moreover, economically poor people found in Gladbeck (including seniors), can apply for the Gladbeck Card (discounts in participation in public life) and get cheaper shopping in the "Gladbeck.

Projects

Currently in Gladbeck two projects for and with seniors, are being carried out. The Partners in both projects are Welfare clubs and associations and the Senior Citizens Advisory board from Gladbeck.

The project SEELERNETZ (teaching seniors in networks) It is focused on ensuring that seniors that learn at distance, can also be brought up to the city out of their isolation.

This project compares the lives of senior citizens from different countries. Beside Gladbeck cities of the countries Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Austria.

In the Project "PIA" (participation in old age) Gladbecker were asked how they feel in their living environment and what should happen, so they can live well independently.

Both projects are funded by the EU and scientifically monitored by the Research Institute Geragogik in Witten.

Demographic Development

The population in German is becoming older –the same in Gladbeck. There are more elderly and fewer young people. The proportion of 65 year olds is expected from the current 16 /120 Gladbecker citizens to rise to 19 /480 in 2030. The proportion of very old (80 years and older) will increase and that from the current 4160 to 6380 in 2030.

At the same time the number of young people in Gladbeck will decrease, and so the total population in Gladbeck as well (estimated in 2030 will be less than 68.00 persons living in Gladbeck).

This trend must be supported by the municipalities, and the city of Gladbeck. The demand for nursing and supervising services will increase.

The city of Gladbeck has recognized this need and will accept the challenge. Together with everybody working with seniors will be ensuring that every generation will be happy to live in Gladbeck.

Translator notes:

SPD: Social Democratic Party

CDU: Coalition for Democratic Unity

FDP: Free Democratic Party