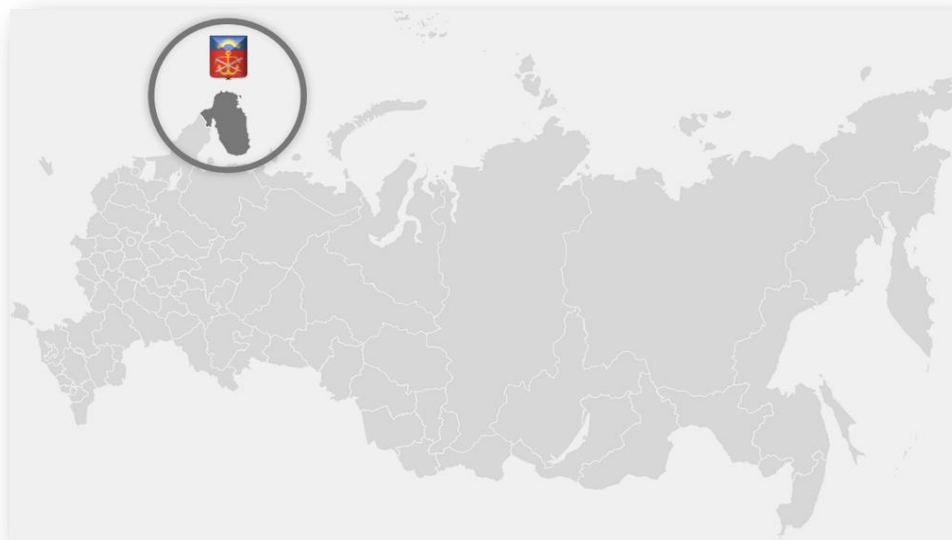


PASSPORT OF THE MURMANSK REGION



The Murmansk region is located in the north-west of the European part of Russia. Almost the entire territory is located beyond the Arctic Circle on the Kola Peninsula. It is washed by the waters of the Barents and White Seas (the length of the coastline is about 2 thousand kilometers).

The territory of the Murmansk region is completely assigned to the land territories of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation (Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated 02.05.2014 No. 296 "On the land territories of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation").

The Murmansk region is a border region of the Russian Federation bordering on the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Finland.

Among the subjects of the Russian Federation, the Murmansk region has a land border with the Republic of Karelia.

Date of formation – May 28, 1938.

Area – 144.9 thousand square kilometers (0.85% of the area of Russia).

Population – 657.95 thousand people (as of 01.01.2023), the population density is 4.5 people per square kilometer. The region is home to indigenous peoples of the North, among which the most numerous are the Sami.

Time zone – UTC + 3 hours (Moscow time).

Federal District – Murmansk region is part of the Northwestern Federal District of the Russian Federation.

Governor – the system of executive branch authorities of the Murmansk region is headed by the Governor of the Murmansk region Andrey Vladimirovich Chibis.

Regional center – Hero city of Murmansk is the largest city in the world beyond the Arctic Circle. It is located 1.967 kilometers from Moscow (2.5 hours by plane) and 1.448 kilometers from St. Petersburg (1.5 hours by plane).

Climate – Arctic-temperate, maritime with the influence of a branch of the warm Gulf Stream current. Polar night in the latitude of Murmansk lasts from December 2 to January 11, polar day – from May 22 to July 22.

Relief – mountains, terraces, plateaus, plains are occupied by swamps and lakes. Mountain ranges rise above sea level by 800 – 1200 meters.

Physical and geographical zones – tundra and forest tundra.

The network of specially protected natural areas (OOPT) in the amount of 75 units occupies a total area of 1914.52 thousand hectares on the territory of the Murmansk region, includes territories of federal, regional and local significance, including:

- 3 state nature reserves (Laplandskiy State Biosphere Reserve, Kandalakshskiy State Nature Reserve, Pasvik State Nature Reserve) with a total area of 313.62 thousand hectares;
- Khibiny National Park with an area of 84.80 thousand hectares;
- 12 state nature reserves (including 3 reserves of federal significance (Kanozerskiy, Murmanskiy Tundrovyy, Tulomskiy) with an area of 394.37 thousand hectares, 9 reserves of regional significance (Varzugskiy, Kolvitskiy, Kutsa, Ponoyskiy Zoological, Ponoyskiy Fishery, Simbozerskiy, Seidyavvr, Laplandskiy Les, Kaita) with an area of 1008.68 thousand hectares);
- 54 natural monuments with a total area of 17.84 thousand hectares (4 natural monuments of federal significance with a total area of 0.03 thousand hectares, 50 natural monuments of regional significance with a total area of 17.81 thousand hectares);
- The Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden-Institute named after N.A. Avrorin with an area of 1.36 thousand hectares;
- 3 natural parks with a total area of 93.82 thousand hectares: Rybachiy and Sredniy Peninsulas, Korablekk, Teriberka;
- 1 country park of local significance with an area of 0.03 thousand hectares.

Forest fund – the land area of the forest fund is 9,455.2 thousand hectares.

The culture of the Murmansk region is represented by a developed network of cultural institutions:

- 13 museums, including the Regional Museum of Local Lore and the youngest Regional Art Museum in Russia. In addition, departmental museums and museum and exhibition centers operate in the Murmansk Region, including the Arctic Exhibition Center Atomic icebreaker Lenin of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Atomflot and the museum and exhibition center of AO Apatit, as well as 79 different non-state museums and exhibitions;
- 3 professional theaters, philharmonic hall;
- 138 public libraries: 134 municipal-level public libraries, 3 regional libraries, including the largest ones beyond the Arctic Circle – Regional universal scientific library and Regional children's and youth library, 1 departmental library;
- 74 network units, 47 cultural and leisure institutions (the largest one is the Kirov regional palace of culture and folk art), including Municipal Budget Institution of Culture Murmansk Exhibition Hall;
- 50 children's art schools, music and art schools, theater school;
- 1 institution of secondary vocational education (Murmansk college of arts).

State protection of cultural heritage sites

As of 01.01.2023 there are 383 objects of cultural heritage (historical and cultural monuments) on the territory of the Murmansk region that are under state protection, including 22 objects of cultural heritage of federal significance, 173 objects of cultural heritage of regional significance.

On the territory of the region there are unique archaeological sites – the Kanozero petroglyphs of the II-IV thousand years BC, as well as stone labyrinths on the shores of the White and Barents Seas. The monuments of wooden architecture of the XVII century are of particular interest: St. Nicholas Church with a bell tower in the village of Kovda and the Assumption Church in the village of Varzuga. The oldest wooden monument of the Kola North – the Putniy Cross, installed in 1635 according to one of the legends, personally by St. Barlaam of Keret Lake – is of value.

Since 1994, the national cultural center in Lovozerskiy district (Municipal Budget Institution of Culture Lovozerskiy District National Cultural Center is among 75 cultural and leisure institutions) has been actively working, developing the national traditions of the indigenous peoples of the North – the Sami, Komi, Komi-Izhemtsy. The center has national folklore groups, associations of folk craftsmen,

courses on women's needlework, belt weaving, horn and bone processing, the study of Sami dances and ethnos, Sami and Komi languages; holds traditional holidays.

The culture of the region is also indicative of the activation of the non-governmental sector in the field of culture: the number of non-governmental organizations and cultural figures who have received grant support is growing annually. More than 20 million rubles are provided annually for holding competitions for grants from the regional budget.

Within the framework of the grant program, regional branches of professional creative unions are also supported on a competitive basis.

The participation of the region's residents in the development of the cultural sphere is growing: more than 2000 "cultural volunteers" have already been registered in the region. According to Roskultproject as of 31.01.2023 the number of active cultural volunteers amounted to 2303 people.

Every year considerable attention is paid to improving the quality of infrastructure and material and technical equipment of cultural institutions of the Murmansk region.

Science

Institutes and academic institutions are located in the region: Federal Research Center The Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, The Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden-Institute named after N.A. Avrorin, Murmansk Marine Biological Institute, Polar Geophysical Institute, Polar Branch of the Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, which provide a high level of fundamental and applied scientific research on the accumulation of knowledge and the creation of modern scientific and geoinformation bases for the management of Arctic territories

Education

The educational system of the Murmansk region includes:

- 236 educational organizations implementing the basic general education program of preschool education, including 224 preschool educational organizations, 2 educational institutions of preschool and primary school age, 12 educational institutions with preschool groups in the structure;
- 163 general education schools, including 160 state and municipal schools, 1 private school, 1 educational organization of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, 1 educational organization of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Murmansk region;
- 1 branch of Nakhimov Naval School in Murmansk;
- 108 institutions of additional education for children;
- 26 educational organizations implementing secondary vocational education programs, including 17 state regional professional educational organizations, 3 non-state professional educational organizations, 3 universities, 2 institutions subordinate to the Federal Penal Enforcement Service, 1 institution for children with deviant behavior;
- 6 educational organizations implementing educational programs of higher education including: 3 state (2 head universities, 1 branch of a nonresident university), 1 head non-state university and 2 branches of nonresident non-state universities.

Labor potential

The Murmansk region belongs to the highly urbanized regions of Russia (the share of the urban population is 93.3%).

Banking sector

As of 01.01.2022 the total number of banking institutions operating in the Murmansk region amounted to 124 units (including offices). There is one independent bank (AO Murmansk Social Commercial Bank) and 1 non-bank credit organization, 1 branch of foreign regional banks, 120 additional offices, 1 representative office of a credit organization.

Business infrastructure

The business infrastructure of the region is represented by the following organizations: State Regional Budgetary Institution Murmansk Regional Innovative Business Incubator, AO Murmansk Region Development Corporation, OOO FEDC Murmansk, Non-Profit Micro-Credit Company Fund for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, The Center for Entrepreneurship Support of the Murmansk Region, The Center for Cluster Development of the Murmansk Region, ANO Export Support Center of the Murmansk Region, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Murmansk Region/Northern, The Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of the Murmansk Region, The Union of Fishermen of the North, NKO Association of Coastal Fishermen and Farms of Murman, The Murmansk regional branch of the All-Russian Public Organization of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Support of Russia, NKO Association of Contractors Murmanshelf, and other organizations providing services in the field of economics, audit and management.

Transport infrastructure

The Murmansk region is a special region of Russia, which has always had a strategic status. The geographical location initially defined the Kola Peninsula as a key part in ensuring Russia's geopolitical interests in the north of Europe and in the Arctic. The ice-free, deep-water port has become the main base of the Northern Fleet, the center of industrial fishing in the Barents Sea and the North Atlantic and the starting point of Arctic exploration.

Nowadays Murmansk is the only port in the European part of Russia with year-round free access to ocean highways. Ships leave the port of Murmansk for the routes of the Northern Sea Route, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Arctic waters and provides access to the natural resources of the Far North, Siberia and the Far East.

The Murmansk region, located at the junction of transnational routes and reliably connected by sea, rail, road and air with industrially developed regions of Russia, can be confidently called the northern transport gateway of Russia to the Arctic.

The Northern Sea Route

The basis of Russia's Arctic transport system is the Northern Sea Route. It ensures the economic integration of the Arctic territories both with the developed regions of Russia and with other countries of the world, opens up the possibility of access to the largest hydrocarbon deposits and aquatic biological resources of the Arctic zone, other types of strategic raw materials.

The presence of a powerful nuclear icebreaker fleet determines the use of the Northern Sea Route for transnational transit traffic between the countries of Northwestern Europe and the Pacific region (Japan, China, USA, Canada), its integration into the world transport system as an independent Eurasian transport corridor with the possibility of year-round transportation of export cargo.

Based in Murmansk, Federal State Unitary Enterprise Atomflot, possessing an icebreaking and technological complex of the civil nuclear fleet of the Russian Federation, provides icebreaking support for the convoying of ships along the Northern Sea Route, providing expeditionary, scientific research work on the study of the Arctic seas, providing emergency rescue operations in the ice. Currently, within the framework of the federal targeted investment program, the construction of a new head nuclear icebreaker of project 22220 Arctica has been completed and the construction of a series of universal nuclear icebreakers of project 22220 is underway.

Federal State Unitary Enterprise Atomflot has a unique long-term experience of shipping in the northern latitudes.

Another major company, Murmansk transport division of PAO Mining and Metallurgical Company Norilsk Nickel, has successfully implemented a project to build a series of reinforced ice-class vessels designed to transport cargo along the Northern Sea Route without icebreaking escort. This makes it possible to efficiently process the cargo of Norilsk Nickel, which, with its own fleet, provides year-round regular communication between the seaports of Dudinka, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Rotterdam and Hamburg.

Ports

The main port of the region is the Murmansk seaport, located in the waters of the Kola Bay, which is also the base port of the Northern Basin for cargo transportation to the Far North regions and far abroad countries.

The Murmansk seaport has all the necessary infrastructure for receiving, servicing and repairing ships. Vessels of Russian shipping companies, the emergency rescue fleet and the unique nuclear icebreaker fleet are based here. Their vessels escort ships along the Northern Sea Route.

The Murmansk seaport is one Russia's ten largest ports in terms of cargo transshipment volumes and is the only port in the country capable of receiving vessels with a deadweight of up to 300 thousand tons in year-round navigation mode due to the ice-free deep-water area of the Kola Bay.

The nomenclature of cargo handled at the Murmansk seaport includes general, bulk, liquid cargo, as well as cargo in containers, fish and fish products. The total cargo turnover of the port in 2022 amounted to 56.28 million tons.

Bulk cargoes predominate in the total amount of cargo handled. The total amount of dry cargo is dominated by coal, which is processed at the terminals of the largest stevedoring company in the Murmansk region, AO Murmansk Commercial Seaport. The company also successfully processes iron ore concentrate, non-ferrous metals, manganese ore, cargo in containers and other cargo.

The port of Kandalaksha is located in the southern part of the Kola Peninsula in the waters of the Kandalaksha Bay. The port of Kandalaksha specializes in transshipment of bulk and general cargo. The cargo turnover of the port of Kandalaksha in 2022 amounted to 1621.32 thousand tons.

Development of the Murmansk transport hub

The leading project in the field of maritime transport infrastructure development is the Integrated Development of the Murmansk Transport Hub project.

The project is being implemented in accordance with the Transport Strategy of the Russian Federation until 2030 with a forecast for the period up to 2035, the Seaports of Russia federal project as part of a comprehensive plan for the modernization and expansion of the trunk infrastructure for the period up to 2024, in accordance with the Development of the Transport System state program of the Russian Federation and is aimed at improving competitiveness and further development of the port infrastructure of the region.

As a result of the implementation of this project, a year-round deep-sea hub will be created in the region – a center for processing container, oil and bulk cargo, integrated into the International North-South Transport Corridor.

The project provides for the development of the Kola Bay water area, the development of the infrastructure of sea, rail and road transport, as well as logistics and warehouse infrastructure.

As part of the project, work on the construction of a new railway line and cargo terminals on the western shore of the Kola Bay is underway. The project is implemented on the basis of public-private partnership, while the state provides the construction of auxiliary engineering infrastructure for the implementation of investment projects by private investors.

Transport and passenger infrastructure

Public railway transport is the leading link in the transport system of the region, occupying a significant share in the freight and passenger transportation market. The total length of railways in the region is 870.3 kilometers.

Road transport plays an important role in passenger traffic between the Murmansk region and the central regions of Russia, as well as border states. The length of public roads of federal, regional and local significance located on the territory of the Murmansk region is more than 3.66 thousand kilometers.

On the territory of the Murmansk region there are three automobile checkpoints across the state border of the Russian Federation: multilateral automobile checkpoints Borisoglebsk, Lotta and Salla.

Given the certain remoteness of the Murmansk region from the central part of Russia, air transport is of particular importance for passenger transportation. Air communication of the Murmansk region with other regions of the Russian Federation is provided by two airports that implement ground handling of aircraft and passengers, baggage, cargo and mail: in Murmansk and in Apatity (with passenger turnover in 2022 1299088 people and 148010 people respectively).

Airport terminal complexes are equipped with all the necessary services for a comfortable stay of passengers, as well as equipment for providing high-quality service to aircraft.

Currently, Murmansk International Airport serves international flights. The Murmansk air checkpoint across the state border of the Russian Federation functions.

In order to create the necessary transport and passenger infrastructure for the reception and maintenance of cruise ships, the organization of regular communication with Norway, increasing the calls of ships of foreign cruise companies, the reconstruction of the passenger pier of long-distance lines was completed in the Murmansk seaport in 2015 and the reconstructed building of the sea station was put into operation in 2016. In June 2018, the Interdepartmental Commission decided to open the Murmansk checkpoint across the state border at the Murmansk sea station.

Connection

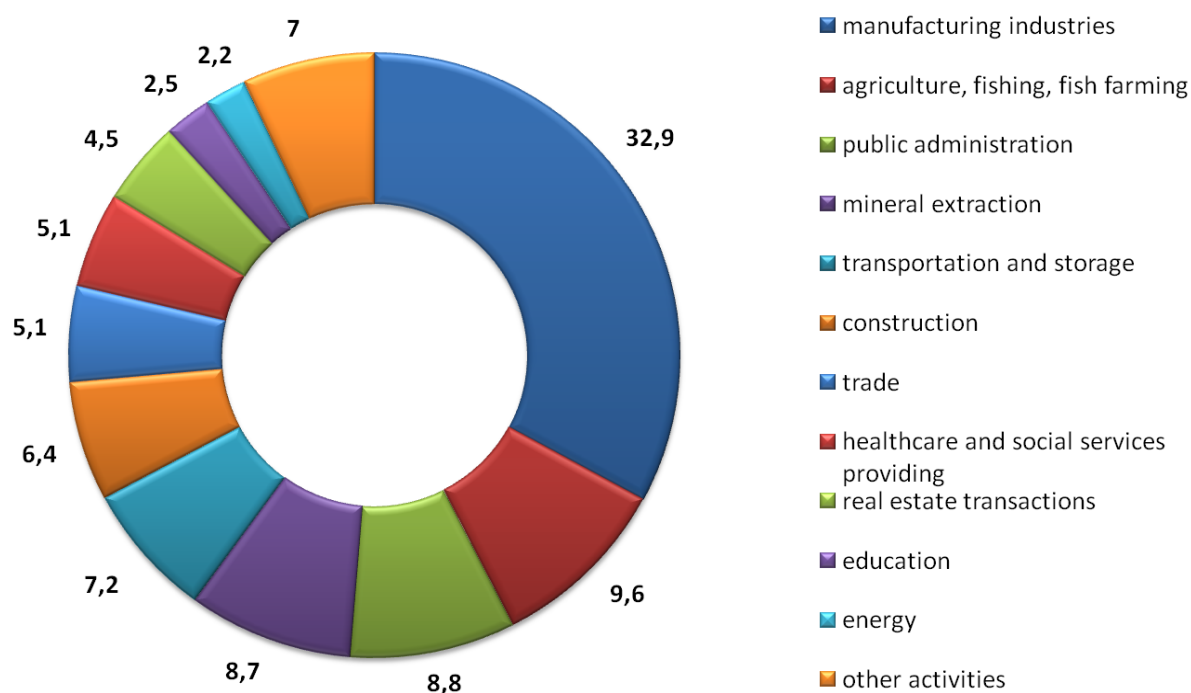
The Murmansk region has a communications system that meets international standards. According to the level of development of telecommunications infrastructure, the Murmansk region is ahead of all-Russian indicators and is among the leaders of the North-West of Russia. According to the territorial agency of the Federal State Statistics Service of the Murmansk region, at the end of 2021, 88.8% of households in the region had Internet access, of which 88.8% of households in the region had broadband Internet access; 78% of organizations used broadband Internet access in their work; 43.9% of organizations also had their own website on the Internet.

Gross regional product

In terms of gross regional product per capita, the Murmansk region ranks 9th in Russia and 2nd in the North-Western Federal District.

The GRP of the Murmansk region in 2020 amounted to 790.5 billion rubles at current prices.

GRP structure in 2020, % of total



Industrial complex

The basis of the region's economy is mining and processing of minerals. Of the 440 trace elements discovered in the twentieth century, 220 were found in the depths of the Kola Peninsula.

The economic specialization of the region includes the extraction and processing of ferrous and non-ferrous metal ores, industrial production of copper, nickel, cobalt, semi-finished precious metals, primary aluminum, apatite concentrate – raw materials for phosphate fertilizers.

The region is the only Russian producer of apatite, nepheline and baddeleyite concentrates, the largest producer of nickel, it also provides 10% of the all-Russian production of iron ore concentrate, 7% of refined copper.

Enterprises of the mining and metallurgical complex form the basis of the economy of the Murmansk region.

AO Kolskaya Mining and Metallurgical Company (date of foundation – 1998, PAO MMC Norilsk Nickel) is a leading production complex of the Murmansk region, created on the basis of the oldest enterprises – Severonikel and Pechenganikel combines, is an unified mining and metallurgical production for the extraction of sulfide copper-nickel ores and the production of non-ferrous metals.

The Kirovsk branch of AO Apatit (date of foundation – 1929, PAO PhosAgro) produces and processes apatite-nepheline ores from the Khibiny deposits, which are part of the largest and richest deposits in the world and are the base of phosphorus-containing raw materials in Russia. It is also engaged in the production of apatite and nepheline concentrates and other mineral concentrates.

AO Kovdorskiy Mining and Processing Plant (date of foundation – 1962, AO Mineral Chemical Company EuroChem) develops the Kovdorskoye deposit and produces iron ore, apatite and baddeleyite concentrates.

AO North-Western Phosphorus Company, (date of foundation – 2005, PAO Akron) is developing the deposit of apatite-nepheline ores Oleniy Ruchey as part of the project to create a new phosphate raw material base in the Murmansk region.

AO Olkon (date of foundation – 1949, PAO Severstal) mines ferruginous quartzites, produces and sells high-quality iron ore concentrate.

The branch of AO RUSAL Ural in Kandalaksha OK RUSAL KAZ (date of foundation – 1951, OK RUSAL) smelts aluminum from imported alumina.

The region's competitive advantages were evaluated by the one of the largest companies in Russia – PAO NOVATEK.

PAO NOVATEK-Murmansk (a subsidiary of PAO NOVATEK) is implementing The Center for the Construction of Large-Tonnage Offshore Structures investment project on the western shore of the Kola Bay in the village of Belokamenka, Murmansk region.

The Center for the construction of large-tonnage offshore structures is designed for the manufacture of offshore complexes for the production, storage and shipment of liquefied natural gas and stable gas condensate on gravity-type bases.

Fishing complex

The fishing industry is one of the traditional economic sectors of the Murmansk region and it plays an important role in the socio-economic specialization of the region. Fishermen of the Murmansk region produce about 12% of the all-Russian catch, 55% of the catch of the Northern Fishery basin enterprises. In fact, every eighth ton of fish food products in Russia is produced by Murmansk enterprises.

The basis of the fishing industry of the Murmansk region is its fleet, which has more than 200 marine fishing vessels, and the coastal complex, including port facilities, coastal fish processing enterprises, ship repair companies. About 150 organizations of the Murmansk region are engaged in fishing, fish farming, processing and canning of fish and seafood, the average number of employees is about 7 thousand people. More than 140 enterprises are engaged in industrial and coastal fishing.

Murmansk Sea Fish Port is the largest fishing port in the North of the Russian Federation. The fish terminal consists of three cargo areas, occupies an area of more than 160 hectares, the total length of the berthage exceeds 4 km, the length of the railway tracks is 30 km, crane tracks are 3 km. The ice-free Kola Bay makes it possible to provide port services year-round.

The total cargo turnover of the Murmansk Sea Fishing Port's fish terminal in 2022 amounted to 326.4 thousand tons, including 237.5 thousand tons of fish products.

The enterprises of the region annually extract about 550-700 thousand tons of aquatic biological resources. The annual output of fish products is 450-600 thousand tons. Most of the products are produced at sea, additionally processing of aquatic biological resources is carried out by coastal fish farms. The basis of the assortment of fish products produced by coastal fish farms is various frozen products, including fish fillets. In addition, culinary, lightly salted, smoked, sun-cured and dried fish products, canned fish and preserves are produced.

In the Strategy of socio-economic development of the Murmansk region until 2020 and for the period up to 2025, the priority directions for the development of the industry are the comprehensive modernization of fishing enterprises and the development of the aquaculture sector.

The Murmansk region has a significant natural resource potential for the development of fish farming. The length of the coastline of the Kola Peninsula allows to choose a sufficient number of wind-protected bays and gulfs for the organization of marine aquaculture. In the coastal waters of the Kola Peninsula, it is possible to artificially grow Atlantic salmon, trout, cod, halibut, flounder, as well as mussels, sea urchins, crustaceans and other types of aquatic organisms.

The fishery fund of inland waters includes more than 900 thousand hectares of freshwater lakes and 180 thousand hectares of reservoirs.

Historically, fish farming in the region has developed in the form of state fish farms, whose activities were aimed at maintaining and restoring salmon stocks in the rivers of the Kola Peninsula. Today, three such fish farms operate in the region, annually releasing young Atlantic salmon into the reservoirs of the region.

Commercial fish farming began to develop in the region relatively recently, in the early 90s of the last century.

The bulk of commercial fish farming in the Murmansk region is provided through the implementation of major investment projects and amounts to 85.1 thousand tons (Atlantic salmon and sea trout) according to data for 2022 which is 18.7% higher than the same period in 2021.

Agro-industrial complex

Agriculture in the Murmansk region is an industry designed to meet the regional needs of the population for fresh food. The climatic conditions of the Arctic region limit the possibilities for the development of crop production, the crop acreage is only 0.06% of the entire territory of the region, of which 93% is occupied by forage crops. The largest share in the production of agricultural products is occupied by animal husbandry (more than 60%). The main directions of animal husbandry are dairy cattle breeding and northern reindeer breeding. In addition, pig breeding and fur farming have been developed in the region.

The indigenous inhabitants of the Kola Peninsula are traditionally engaged in reindeer breeding. Reindeer farms contain more than 53 thousand domesticated reindeer, more than 90% of which are in the herds of two agricultural cooperatives Agricultural Production Cooperative Tundra, APC Reindeer Herding and Commercial Economy of the Small Peoples of the North Olenevod.

One of the largest enterprises in the region in the direction of dairy cattle breeding is State Regional Unitary Agricultural Enterprise Tuloma. The modern production facilities of the enterprise allow to produce various dairy products independently, and the existing own retail network allows it to be promptly delivered to the consumer.

Currently, much attention is paid to the development of small forms of farming in rural areas. Stimulating this direction is no less of a priority among the most important tasks of the development of the agro-industrial complex. Despite the small number, peasant farms are important in preserving rural settlements, self-employment of the population and providing residents of the region with fresh locally produced food.

Tourism on the Kola Peninsula

The Kola Peninsula is of great interest to tourists from all over the world. The Murmansk region is always waiting for guests with extraordinary, exotic and exclusive requests.

A wide variety of types of tourism are available here, ranging from the most active type of snowmobile expeditions, exclusive tours, snowkiting and diving to downshifting, which can look like night fishing in the middle of intact tundra under the non-setting July sun or like living in an authentic fishing hut far from civilization.

The special geographical position has rewarded the region with countless riches and wonders. Among them, the northern lights are one of the most exciting phenomena on Earth. Many people dream of seeing it with their own eyes.

The delicious richness of the region and a recognizable brand is the Arctic cuisine – a variety of healthy berries and mushrooms, fresh seafood and an abundance of fish, deer and elk meat. Souvenirs such as dried rockfish, smoked halibut, Atlantic salmon, chips from yagel or venison, jam from northern berries will become an original gastronomic reminder of the trip.

Polar night and polar day are special points of attraction to the region every year. In winter from December 2 to January 11, polar night begins in Murmansk. In this period the sun does not rise from the horizon. In summer, the light season lasts 62 days, when the sun shines around the clock.

On the territory of the Murmansk region there are 11 ski complexes of different levels of complexity. The total length of all trails is more than 65 km. The natural conditions of the region allow you to engage in winter sports from November to May (cross-country and downhill skiing, biathlon, ski jumping, freestyle skiing, snowkiting, etc.). Today, the main center of ski tourism is the city of Kirovsk, located in the very center of the Khibiny mountain range. Every year more than 70 thousand downhill skiers tourists visit the resort. Here is the highest mountain resort in the North-West of Russia, the Bolshoy Vudiyavr ski complex – the total height difference on the routes is 550 m. The installation of an artificial snowmaking system on Mount Aikuaivenchorr, including an artificial lighting system for ski slopes where snow cannons are planned to be located, will multiply the ski season in the Khibiny until May.

The Murmansk region is famous all over the world for its spawning rivers, the herd of wild Atlantic salmon and other valuable fish species preserved in them. The rivers Ponoj, Varzina, Rynda, Kharlovka, Yokanga, Varzuga, Umba, Kola invariably attract fans of fishing to make a trip to the Kola Peninsula to enjoy the biggest catch of their lives alone with intact nature. Tourists from foreign countries and different regions of Russia annually come to the Murmansk region to fly fish Atlantic salmon, according to the "Catch and release" principle.

Visiting wilderness area is very popular. A special place is occupied by the Rybachiy and Sredniy Peninsulas Nature Park and the Seidyavvr Reserve, the pearl of which is Lake Seydozero – a legendary, unique in beauty and number of artifacts place in the Lovozyorskiye Tundry.

The territory of the Murmansk region is inhabited by indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North – the Sami. The Sami try to preserve their original way of life and their own language. They are traditionally engaged in reindeer husbandry, fishing and hunting. The center of the cultural life of the Sami is the village of Lovozero. For admirers of ethnographic tourism there are routes that include acquaintance with traditional life, cooking national dishes, participation in the installation of reindeer skin tent, performing rituals and traveling through the tundra on snowmobiles or reindeer sleds.

Tersky and Kandalaksha districts are historically the territories of the Pomors, a small but distinctive ethnographic and ethno-religious group of the Russian population on the White Sea. Tourists can stay in old Pomors houses on the seashore and visit lively rural holidays. All this makes this direction original, exclusive, special and culturallu and historically valuable.

On the shore of the cold, but not freezing even in the severe frost Barents Sea, there is a unique place with a rich tourist resource – the ancient village of Teriberka, which became famous after the release of Andrei Zvyagintsev's film *Leviathan*. In close proximity to each other there are natural objects unique in their aesthetic value: the coast of the Arctic Ocean, the unique landscapes of the tundra, the Batareyskiy waterfall, the Dragon's beach, the sandy beach. In addition to outstanding natural landscapes, Teriberka also has a long history (the first mention of Teriberka is found as early as

1608 as a seasonal settlement of Pomors fishermen), as well as interesting anthropogenic objects, such as the cemetery of ships.

More detailed information about tourism on the Kola Peninsula can be found on the Tourism Portal of the Murmansk region – <https://murmansk.travel>.

Foreign economic activity

The Murmansk region is an export-oriented border region of the Arctic zone of Russia. According to the analytical portal of the Russian Export Center in 2020-2021 the Murmansk region was among the TOP 20 main exporting regions of Russia.

Among the regions that are part of the North-Western Federal District, the Murmansk region ranked third in terms of exports according to the results of foreign trade activity in 2022. In comparison with the previous year, the volume of foreign trade turnover in the region increased by 55.8% and exports by 60.7%.

The most significant commodity export groups of the Murmansk region are metals and products made from them, food items, mineral products and fuel and energy products, fish and crustaceans.

Under the conditions of external sanctions pressure and partial closure of traditional European markets for the region, business is being reoriented to the markets of Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the CIS countries. In 2022, the region established cooperation with Trade Missions of the Russian Federation in 20 friendly countries.

The most significant commodity groups of imports of the Murmansk region are machinery, equipment and vehicles, food items, metals and products made from them and chemical industry products, rubber.

International cooperation

The region occupies an important geopolitical position in relation to industrially developed regions, and is connected with them by land, water and air routes.

The border location, significant export opportunities and available transport communications create favorable conditions for the deep integration of the region into international and trans-regional interactions regulated by international agreements of the Russian Federation with foreign countries. The Murmansk region borders on the west with the Republic of Finland and consequently with the European Union, on the northwest – with the Kingdom of Norway.

The Murmansk region is developing diplomatic relations with the countries of Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the CIS. Cooperation with friendly countries is increasing in the trade, economic, scientific, technical and socio-cultural spheres. The establishment of twinning ties, the development of cross-tourism and the development of direct flights between the Murmansk region and the cities of friendly countries are being initiated.

Consulates of foreign countries

Consulate General of the Kingdom of Norway in Murmansk (temporarily closed).

Murmansk department of the Consulate General of Finland in St. Petersburg (temporarily closed).

Areas of the economy that are promising for attracting investment.

Transport, mining, manufacturing, fishing, energy, tourism, construction, trade.

Investment rating of the Murmansk region

The Murmansk region took the 16th place in the National Rating of the investment climate in the regions of the Russian Federation, which is annually prepared by the Agency for Strategic Initiatives together with business associations.

For a more correct ranking of regions in the National Ranking of 2022 all 85 regions were allocated by 34 places.

The rating consists of 67 indicators that affect the business and investment climate. In turn, the factors are combined into four key areas of assessment: the regulatory environment, institutions for business, infrastructure and resources, support for small and medium-sized businesses.

The purpose of the rating is to evaluate the work of regional authorities aimed at creating comfortable conditions for doing business.

Entrepreneurs note a reduction in the time needed to connect to the power grid, the effectiveness of procedures required to obtain permits for commissioning a residential facility or a non-residential building, a reduction in cases of corruption in government and the average number of procedures for obtaining land plots for rent.

Also, entrepreneurs are satisfied with the work of the investment portal of the Murmansk region – <https://invest.nashsever51.ru/> and the consulting services provided by small and medium-sized business support infrastructure organizations. They positively note the work of the investor's direct communication channels with the the regional administration and the existing support measures in the region.

