

The South West of the Netherlands

a great place to do business



The South West of the Netherlands including the province of Zeeland and the western region of the province of Noord Brabant is an attractive place to do business. It is a region of real potential with approximately 100,000 companies and a potential customer base of 300 million people living within a 500 km radius.

There has been a long tradition of international trade in the area and this tradition continues as the South West of the Netherlands is strategically placed between the globally significant ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam and very close to the Flemish sea ports of Ghent and Zeebrugge.



The region has well developed transport links

Due to its well developed transport links and infrastructure (including the Westerschelde Tunnel and the Zeeland Bridge) the region is within easy reach of the major European economic hubs of London, Brussels, Paris and Amsterdam. Its excellent connectivity and location has lead to a significant number of large international companies choosing to base themselves here including Dow, Total, Eastman, Lamb Weston, McCain, Neckermann, Thermphos and Elo Pak.

The province of Zeeland is also known as the 'Delta of Northwest Europe'. The open seaports of Vlissingen and Terneuzen are collectively known as Zeeland Seaports and they are well connected to the rest of Europe and further afield by road, rail, pipelines and inland waterways. Zeeland Seaports is the third largest port in the

Netherlands and has dedicated terminals for a broad range of cargo. There are also numerous business parks located in the region such as Valuepark Terneuzen and Edisonpark in Vlissingen.

The region has always had a special relationship with the sea. Whilst sea and waterway levels can pose a threat to the population in the area, they also provide a wealth of economic opportunities. Striking the right balance has resulted in a great deal of respect for the region's natural environment, which in turn has meant well developed areas of natural conservation and a robust tourism and recreation sector.

Key industrial sectors

- Logistics
- Tourism
- Bio Based Economy
- Agri-food
- Commercial Fishing & Aquaculture

The surrounding sea provides a wealth of opportunities for the economy

Commercial Fishing has long been of great importance of the South West of the Netherlands and in recent years this sector has developed further to incorporate sustainable methods of Aquaculture.

There is also a drive to further develop the biobased economy in the area, which is an industry that has biotechnology at its core and which aims to find renewable, sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. A biobased economy provides new and exciting opportunities for business as well as for traditional agriculture and the chemical industry.

With a wealth of museums and cultural festivals, the historic towns of Breda and Middelburg provide the perfect backdrop for a vibrant cultural life that can be experienced in the region. This all contributes to an outstanding quality of life.

Business Support Services in the South West of the Netherlands

- **South West Netherlands Chamber of Commerce** – The Chamber of Commerce of the South West of the Netherlands provides a range of support services to businesses such as support for start-ups. In the South West of the Netherlands, more than 5.000 people start a company each year. The Chamber promotes economic development and advises local and regional governments.



The Chamber also has access to a large network of client contacts as Chamber membership is compulsory in the Netherlands. The organisation operates independently and employs experts on a range of issues including international trade (imports and exports) who can provide direct assistance to businesses.

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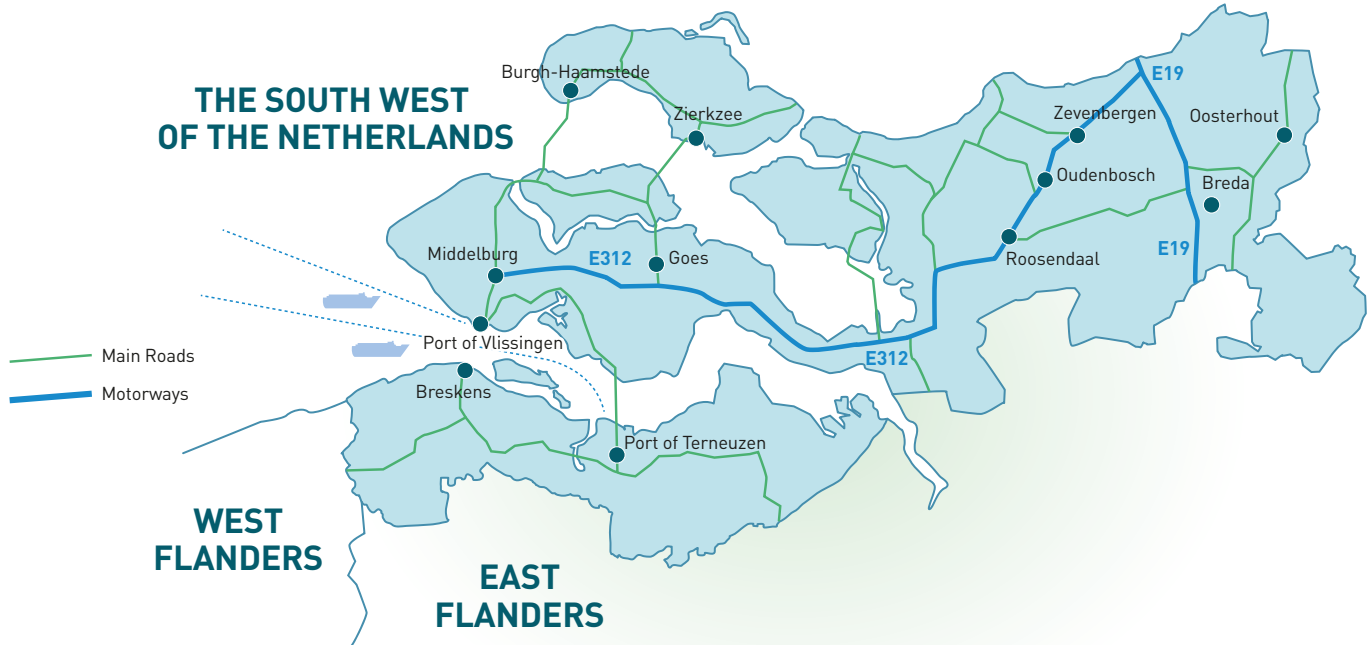
Website: www.kvk.nl



Travel times by rail from **Breda** to:

- Lille:** 2hrs 20mins
- Paris:** 3hrs 10mins
- Brussels:** 1hr 40mins
- London:** 4hrs 30mins

THE SOUTH WEST OF THE NETHERLANDS

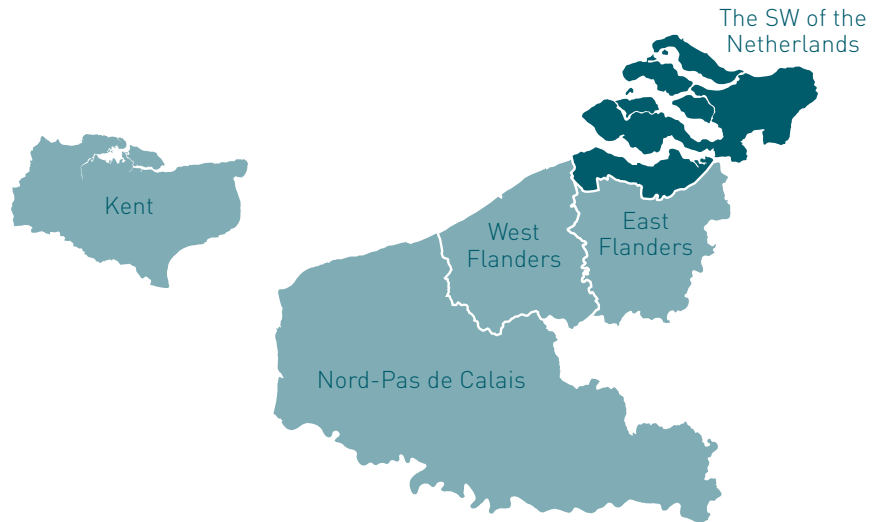


- Main Roads
- Motorways



About 2 Seas Trade

The 2 Seas Trade (2ST) project is part financed by the EU funded Interreg IVA 2 Seas Programme. 2ST aims to encourage and support SMEs in Kent, East and West Flanders (Belgium), the South West of the Netherlands and Nord-Pas de Calais (France) to trade within these partner regions. The project is being run by the organisations shown below who between them have many years experience in helping companies trade internationally.



www.2seastrade.eu

