Describe and explain the development of manufacturing industry in an Irish region that you have studied

(30 marks)

Answer

In this answer I will discuss the development of manufacturing industry in the Greater Dublin area. The Dublin region is a core region and as a result has a very strong manufacturing sector, containing a variety of infrastructural factors which compliment the region. Manufacturing industries are wide spread and range from traditional industries such as food processing and brewing to modern industries such as I.T. and health care.

The Greater Dublin region has many human factors that have encouraged the development of the manufacturing sector. Dublin is the capital of Ireland and is the most important urban area in the country. With greater emphasis placed on the GDA, investment is common from MNCs. It has an educated young workforce with over 45% under the age of 25 providing a workforce and market for manufacturers. . Third level colleges such as Trinity College, UCD and DCU provide graduates in fields such as marketing, business, engineering and electronics. The transport network for the GDA is well developed, and connects it to all parts of Ireland with motorways such as the M50, M1, M4, M7 and M11. This gives manufacturers in the Dublin region access to a countrywide market. As cargo is imported into Dublin Port, this can be connected to all areas of the country via the radial road network which extends out from the M50. Dublin is also the country's most important port. The region is also a financial services centre, e.g. I.F.S.C. and this has encouraged manufacturers to locate in the region as important financial services are available. Raw material for the manufacturing sector are also provided by the productive farming economy, particularly in the North County Dublin area, leading to the development of food processing industries, such as Bachelors. Largo food processing is also an excellent example (Case study) of this.

The region has become particularly attractive to the IT sector, with five of the world's top ten software companies locating their headquarters in Ireland. Companies such as Intel, Hewlett Packard, IBM and Microsoft now employ almost 12,000 people in the region. Dublin airport, as the largest airport in Ireland, allows company employees from , for example America, to fly in the Dublin city for business meetings or training days in the offices. Combined with this is the extensive network of Bus links (Quality Bus Corridors), the DART and LUAS which encourage business through the region.

In recent years the development of manufacturing in the Greater Dublin area has been influenced by transport. Many industries have moved away from their traditional locations in the docklands where the importation of heavy goods was of paramount importance in the location of the manufacturing industries, to industrial estates and business parks that run along the M50 motorway and are connected to Dublin Airport. These industrial parks are the location of Ireland's pharmaceutical and chemical sector, which are the most rapidly expanding manufacturing sectors in the Greater Dublin area. Ireland will also look to gain from the withdrawal of industry form the United Kingdom as a result of Brexit.