

economic goals. On the contrary, every new foreign company is clearly informed of the difficulty of finding employees before it sets up shop in Liechtenstein. The labour market has dried up. That is why the state of Liechtenstein has renounced any measures to promote the economy which would lead to the foundation of new companies.

This situation is based on the fact that wage and salary earners with the Liechtenstein nationality amount to only one third of the total number of employed persons. In other words, two thirds of the labour force are foreigners. About half lives in Liechtenstein, and the other half - that is a third of total labour - lives in the neighbouring countries of Switzerland or Austria and commutes to his or her workplace in Liechtenstein every day.

We must not forget that Liechtenstein has only 32 000 inhabitants. 23 000 jobs are, however, available. That still is, of course, a very small figure. And here we come across another special characteristic of Liechtenstein's national economy, its comprehensive diversification. This is clearly seen when looking at its sectors of economic activity. To an outsider, Liechtenstein might well appear to be a rural area with mountains, forests and meadows, where cows graze. Actually, agriculture and forestry, the primary sector of the economy, only account for 2 % of the total workforce. In comparison to other industrial countries in Europe, that is a very small percentage.

On the other hand, industry and the producing sector, the secondary sector of the economy, account for almost half of total jobs. That's a very high percentage for a developed economy. In general, there is a trend towards a service economy which has increased the tertiary sector's share of jobs to 60 % in Germany and Switzerland and to 70 % in the USA. In Liechtenstein, the service economy's share is just 50 %.

How large is the public sector share in Liechtenstein?

The public sector share in gross national product is, by the way, relatively small. No exact statistics are available - for that would increase the public sector share considerably - but we can assume that it amounts to approximately 25 %. The state of Liechtenstein does not live off the sale of stamps or earnings perhaps from the tourist industry. It mainly lives off tax receipts from financial services.

It might interest you to know that interest earnings from public assets account for 8 % of total receipts. Interest paid actually is, however, not registered. In other words, the state of Liechtenstein acquires a surplus which it invests to produce income. The