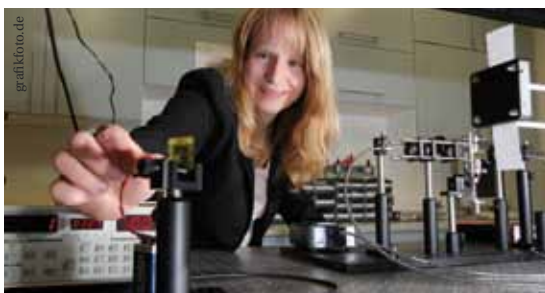


Fertile land for start-ups



For years Schleswig-Holstein has been one of Germany's leading states in terms of its start-ups and self-employed ratio.

Pioneering spirits find a fertile climate for start-ups in Germany's most northerly state, where an optimistic entrepreneurial spirit reigns. For years, Schleswig-Holstein has been **one of Germany's leading start-up states**.

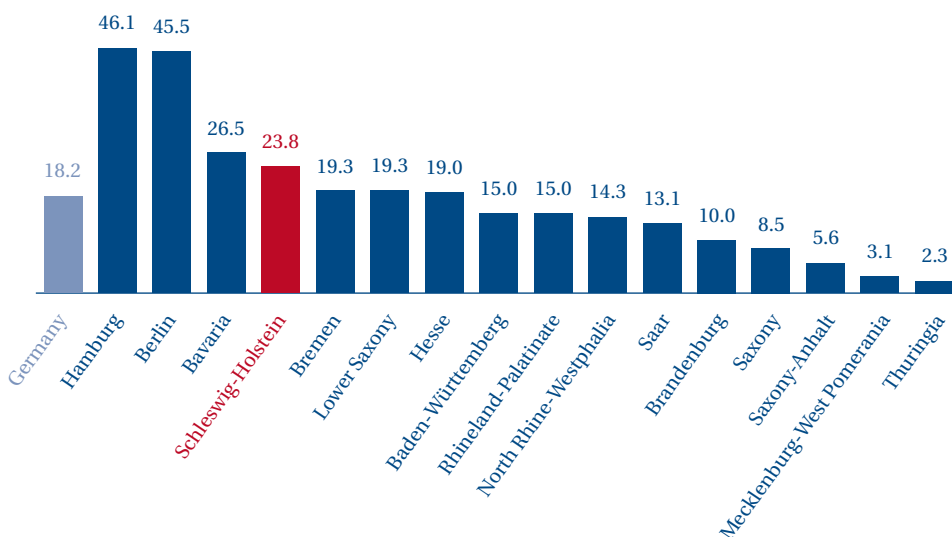
An average of 32,000 people per year set up their own business in Schleswig-Holstein – and these start-ups generally prove as robust as the North German climate. The fact that relatively few of these

firms fail puts Schleswig-Holstein in the **leading group of German states** in this respect. Since people who set up their own business are known to be a motor of growth, jobs and innovation, Schleswig-Holstein offers them every possible support, ranging from business advice and start-up subsidies to technology transfers and networks for company founders.

Entrepreneurs who set up a business in one of the state's **18 Founder and Technology Centres** enjoy better chances of success. Besides favourably priced rents, they also profit from a broad spectrum of services and can make use of laboratories, fully equipped conference rooms and reception facilities. Some 500 start-ups employ around 2,700 people in this state-wide network of Founder and Technology Centres, lending wings to the spirit of entrepreneurial optimism in Schleswig-Holstein.

Net new company registrations per 10,000 inhabitants (2010)

Year-on-year changes (%)



Source: Federal German Statistical Office, as per May 2011