

TOWN PRESENTATION – SÁSD

Sásd is located in the northern part of Baranya County, at the gate of the valley separating the eastern and western mountain ranges of the Mecsek. Due to its geographical location and transport links, it is **simultaneously connected to the counties of Baranya, Somogy and Tolna**. Its economy has traditionally been dominated by **food industry sectors**, but the share of other fields, mainly light industries, is gradually increasing. Investors will find **available industrial areas** and a **business-friendly decision-making environment**.

Transport and logistics

The **transport and logistics conditions** of Sásd are determined by its topographic features. The **important routes** pass through the valleys between the ridges of the Mecsek, so they converge in Sásd from several directions. **Main road 66** connecting Pécs with Kaposvár through Komló passes through the town, and **road 611** branches off from it, making a connection to Dombóvár.

The distance to the **county seat** and with it the nearest primary main road, no. 6., is 28 km. The nearest on-ramp of the expressway network is the **Pécs-East junction of M60 motorway**, which is 32 km away. **Road 67** connecting Kaposvár with Lake Balaton, which was recently developed into an expressway, is not much farther either: the Kaposfüred junction is only a 36 km drive away.

Sásd is in an **extremely advantageous position concerning the railway**, as it is touched by **main line** no 40., which connects Pécs with Budapest. Dozens of trains run on the electrified pair of rails every day. Although only a few of the InterCity lines stop in Sásd, between Dombóvár and Pécs the trains run frequently and on a **regular schedule**. These lines use typically very **comfortable, low-floor** FLIRT multiple unit trains. The frequency of the service allows **commuting on a daily basis** both from and to Sásd.

The trains of branch line **no. 47 between Komló and Godisa** run to Sásd. However, there are only one train per day and direction on this pair of rails, and at unfavourable times too, so its function in passenger transport is negligible.

The town's railway station is suitable for loading **large quantities of goods** into wagons and transporting them on rail. In addition to the main line, the Komló branch line can also be used for freight transport purposes.

In terms of **regional bus traffic**, Sásd can be considered a micro-regional centre. Flights to the surrounding villages leave from here. Most long-distance buses connecting the larger towns of the area stop in Sásd – the most important directions are from Komló and Dombóvár. There are direct **lines** to both Pécs and Kapsóvár **not requiring a transfer**. The frequency and schedule of flights **suit the requirements of working hours**.

Population and employment

The current **population of Sásd is 2935**. As district seat, its population significantly exceeds that of Mágocs, the second largest settlement, by almost 50%. The Hegyhát District, like other parts of Baranya, **typically has a small-village nature**. There are a total of 2 towns and 23 villages in the district, of which three has more than 1000 inhabitants, and a further two has a population more than 500. Another **defining feature** of the region is that in its immediate vicinity there are two larger centres that attract the majority of urban functions – Dombóvár and Komló.

The total **working age population** in the district is 7697. 657 of them are out of work, which corresponds to an **unemployment rate of 8.54%**. 11.26% of the unemployed do not have any education. 50.08% have only completed the eight primary grades, 37.45% have some sort of secondary education, and 1.21% have a university or college degree.

The **town's employment figures are more favourable**. In Sásd only 2.26% of the 1906 working-age inhabitants are unemployed.

Infrastructure and public services

Sásd is a **neat, small-town-type settlement** with a liveable environment and modern infrastructure. The town image is characterized by **well-kept green areas**, and main and secondary roads in good condition. The municipality is making significant efforts to maintain public spaces, which is confirmed by the recent construction of roads, sidewalks and sports parks.

DRV Zrt., which is active in most Transdanubian counties, takes care of the **drinking water supply** and the operation of the **sewage network** and the sewage treatment plant. Central headquarters are located in Dombóvár, the maintenance of the Sásd system is the responsibility of the **local plant management** office.

Sásd is the **centre of the Hegyhát District**, which has 11,500 inhabitants, therefore, the **seat of the district office** is located here. The office offers

a relatively limited range of administrative services: the authority and guardianship office and the office of government issued documents are available locally. Matters beyond their competence can be managed in Szigetvár, Komló, or Pécs.

The National Chamber of Agriculture operates a **village consultant office** in the town.

All elements of **primary health care** are provided locally. Three general practices, two paediatrician practices and two dental practices operate in the town. Nurse service, two pharmacies, ophthalmology and periodontology are also available locally. The **central medical service** and the ambulance station servicing the area are located here. Outpatient specialist care, various diagnostic tests and the possibility of hospital care are available at the **Dombóvár Hospital** for patients living in Sásd and the surrounding areas.

The municipality of Sásd maintains its own **nursery and kindergarten**. In addition to the “traditional” curriculum, the **Sásd Primary School** offers **ethnic German** education as well, which enables students to start learning the language right at the first grade. Music training takes place at the Sásd Primary School of Art.

The **secondary school** of the town is the **Sásd Vocational School**, which is a branch of the Pécs Vocational Training Centre. Applicants can graduate as confectioners, waiters or cooks after a three-year training period.

OTP Bank operates a branch office in Sásd. Other financial services are available for in-person administration in the nearby larger towns.

Two **lawyers** with valid chamber memberships practice law in Sásd. In the event of any legal disputes, the first instance judicial forum is the **Komló District Court**, from where an appeal can be made to the **Court of Pécs**.

Sásd is a member of the **Mecsek-Völgység-Hegyhát Association**, which currently comprises of 158 municipalities, non-governmental organizations and enterprises, and operates as a Leader-action group. This rural development community encompasses the settlements and economic actors around Komló and Sásd. It aims to develop a local rural development strategy and coordinate efforts to achieve the set goals.

Major economic operators

Sásd has a **diverse range of companies** in terms of economy. The most of them are domestic **small and medium sized enterprises**. A total of

595 active businesses are registered in the district, nearly half of which, about 250, are located at the district seat. The average **number of employees does not exceed 50 people**. Concerning sectors, **agriculture has the greatest emphasis**, along with industrial – typically light – plants and service companies. The role of **tourism** is not significant yet, but due to the proximity of the Mecsek and the opportunities for active recreation, it has remarkable **untapped potential**.

Without being exhaustive, the following are some examples of the most important local enterprises:

- **Y Takarmányipari Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned company mainly engaged in the production of livestock feed. Number of employees in 2019: 60; sales revenue: HUF 7.05 billion, which came exclusively from domestic sales.
- **Bozsánovics Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned company mainly engaged in poultry farming. Number of employees in 2019: 65; sales revenue: HUF 3.86 billion, which came exclusively from domestic sales.
- **Sásdi Agro Zrt.** – A Hungarian-owned private limited company mainly engaged in poultry farming. Number of employees in 2019: 105; sales revenue: HUF 1.26 billion, of which HUF 0.06 billion came from exports.
- **Mind-Ép Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned enterprise mainly engaged in general construction activities. Number of employees in 2019: 24; sales revenue: HUF 504 million, which came exclusively from domestic sales.
- **Ma-Gár Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned enterprise engaged in the manufacture of clothing and textiles. Number of employees in 2019: 45; sales revenue in 2019: HUF 366 million
- **Támás Fémipari Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned company mainly engaged in steel structure production, lock-fitting, sheet metal processing and metal industry activities. Number of employees in 2019: 32; sales revenue: HUF 427 million, which came exclusively from domestic sales.
- **Novaflex Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned company mainly engaged in the production and distribution of brake pads, clutches and other car parts. Number of employees in 2019: 15; sales revenue: HUF 70 million, which came exclusively from domestic sales.
- **SÁSDFA Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned company mainly engaged in wood industry and forestry activities. Number of employees in 2019: 7; sales revenue: HUF 55 million, which came exclusively from domestic sales.

- **Dömse Kft.** – A Hungarian-owned company mainly engaged in wood industry activities. Number of employees in 2019: 6; sales revenue: HUF 54 million, which came exclusively from domestic sales.

Economic areas

The **industrial area of Sásd is located south of the town**, next to road 66, at the brick factory. **It does not have the industrial park title yet**, and the plots are privately owned too. Currently, about half of the industrial zone is available for development, these lands are the property of Sásdi Agro Zrt. The company owns a total of **6.45 hectares of greenfield land**.

There is a municipally owned property in **Rákóczi Street**, which is suitable for smaller-scale **brownfield investments**.

There are several **properties that can be used as offices** in the town. Among them, the municipally-owned building at 1 Kossuth Lajos Street is in need of technical and energetics renovation. Among the privately owned properties, the office building of Y Pulyka Kft. in Törökmalom Street is modern, satisfying all needs, while the house owned by Kapos-Coop, at 16 Rákóczi Street, is also in need of renovation.

A **covered market hall** is not yet present in the town, but its construction is **underway**. The **state-of-the-art facility** being built at the bend of route 66 with the help of EU funds, offers new sales opportunities primarily to nearby primary producers.

Economic support and tax policy

The local government in Sásd pursues a particularly **business-friendly tax policy**. Thus, the **local business tax rate is lower than the statutory limit**, at 1.8% of the tax base. The **amount of the building tax is only HUF 100** per year and per square meter. Land tax and tourist tax are **not levied**.

The town offers **discounted rental and purchase options** to investors for available, municipally owned properties. The exact conditions are set out in the **individual agreements** between the parties. In exchange for claiming the discounts, a company settling in Sásd or planning to expand its site locally is obliged to **invest a certain amount of money or hire Sásd residents**.

Municipal investments

One of the most important ongoing developments is the **Green City Program**, which includes the construction of the aforementioned market hall. It is a complex **urban rehabilitation project** focusing on the area around Heroes' Square. The aim is, on the one hand, to renew the commercial units located there, and on the other, to create a **modern town centre** by rehabilitating public spaces and parks. Over the course of planning sustainability and energy efficiency aspects were also taken into account.

Other **projects focusing on the utilization of energy** have also been carried out recently. These include the construction of a **solar power plant** in the area next to the sewage plant, the **energy modernization** of several municipal institutions, and the installation of solar panels.

Contact

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