

## TOWN PRESENTATION – SIKLÓS

Siklós is located in the **southern part of Baranya County**, in the tourist region south of the Villány Mountains, in the immediate vicinity of the Croatian border. Due to its size, it plays a **central role** in an area dominated by small villages and towns. Its popularity is mainly due to its tourist attractions (castle, historic buildings, thermal spa). In addition to the strong role of tourism, the town's economy **has other pillars as well**, mainly in the form of various sectors of industry and agriculture.

### Transport and logistics

Siklós lies **south of the Villány Mountains**, roughly in the middle of the mountain range. The **Croatian border is barely 10 km away as the crow flies**, and there is no need to travel longer either to the border crossing points: the one at Drávaszabolcs is 13 km, the one at Beremend is 19 km away. Thanks to this location, **transit traffic avoids the town**, and the advantages of being close to the border are not accompanied by traffic disadvantages.

The **distance to the county seat is 29 km**: it can be reached the fastest on the bypass between the virtual town centre and Máriagyúd, and then on main road 58. The nearest **primary main road** is no. 6 passing through Pécs. The nearest connection point to the **expressway network** is the Pellérd-Pécs-West junction on motorway M60, 22 km away from the town.

The **most important transport corridors** of the town are the Harkány-Siklós-Villány route and the bypass north of the city. Both are scaled for medium traffic, able to serve current needs, and in good condition.

In the direction of both Harkány and Villány, a **dedicated bicycle path** runs along almost the entire road section. It connects to **EuroVelo 13** route of the European Bicycle Network via a bicycle path leading from Harkány to Drávaszabolcs, also on a separate track.

The nearest **train station** is in Villány, 14 km away, but the Pécs Railway Station is also within reach. The latter offers a wider range of options for **both passenger and freight transport**.

The **local bus service** is operated by the municipality. There is a minibus service between the town centre and Máriagyúd departing three times a day, which is free of charge for local residents.

The town is the regional centre for **intercity bus lines**, with many flights having their departure or destination points here. The service is of high quality, the frequency of flights is adequate, and the conditions for commuting to work on a daily basis from the surrounding settlements are given. The most important directions are towards Pécs, Mohács, and the villages of the Ormánság region towards Vajszló. From the point of view of tourism, it is significant that there are two direct daily **flights from the town to Budapest without transfer**.

### **Population and employment**

Siklós has a **population of 8913**, which makes it the largest settlement in the district. At the foot of the Villány Mountains there are about **half a dozen** small towns and villages with a population of more than a thousand people in each other's immediate vicinity (Beremend, Harkány, Nagyharsány, Siklós and Villány), looking further afield, however, the **small village structure** is typical on both the northern and southern sides of the mountain. These urban geographical features clearly determine Siklós' leading role.

The **working age population** in the entire **Siklós district is 22,556**, of which **2274 are unemployed**. This means that **the proportion** of registered unemployed is **10.08%**. Unemployment affects those with primary and secondary education the most. 5.5% of the unemployed have no education at all, 49.69% have only completed primary school and 43.01% have a trade. The proportion of graduates within jobseekers is only 1.8%.

The **town of Siklós itself** is in a much more favourable position **in terms of employment**. The working age population is 5632, of which only **0.76%** do not have a job, which is the second best figure in the whole county.

### **Infrastructure and public services**

Siklós is characterized by a **well-kept settlement image and a good quality local infrastructure**. The **roads of the interior** are all paved and in good condition, while the stormwater drainage system are carefully maintained. Several important sections have been renovated recently. The municipality's plans include paving the **roads leading to the vineyards** on the town's hill so that the wineries can enter the scope of regional wine-tourism.

Dunántúli Regionális Vízmű Zrt. takes care of the **drinking water supply and sewage disposal**, there are headquarters for both services in the

town. Siklós has its own wastewater treatment plant, which is also operated by DRV Zrt.

Siklós-Hő Kft., a subsidiary of the French Veolia Company group, provides **district heating**. The company operates the heating plant and the entire pipeline network with the associated heating centres and heat receiving stations. About a quarter of the homes, more than a thousand are heated by district heating.

Siklós is the seat of the district, which contains 53 settlements and has more than 34,000 inhabitants. The **district office** houses the food chain safety and animal health office, the local authority and guardianship office, the employment and public health departments, the land register office and the office of government issued documents.

The National Chamber of Agriculture maintains a **village consultant office** in the town, which is open for business every day of the week.

The full range of **primary health care** is available in the town. General and paediatric practices, dental practices, several pharmacies, an ambulance station and nurse service operate in Siklós. The central GP service also receives patients from the surrounding municipalities outside of appointment hours.

The **town hospital** has 18 different specialist clinics from cardiology through rheumatology to oncology. Minor surgeries are performed as one-day surgical procedures. Patient care is provided in 60 beds for chronic cases and 65 beds for musculoskeletal rehabilitation. Their utilization in 2019 exceeded 100%. Patients requiring more serious diagnostics examinations (e.g. CT, MR) and locally unachievable hospital care are redirected to Pécs.

There is a **nursery school**, two municipally-owned **kindergartens** and a church-run kindergarten in Siklós. Basic education is provided by two public **primary schools**, which provides both art and music training, and one church-run primary school. The town has two high schools. The **Táncsics Mihály High School** offers advanced language and IT education, and the **Garai Miklós Vocational School** mainly teaches hospitality management and commercial trades at the technical and vocational school levels.

**Three financial institutions**, FHB Bank, K&H Bank and OTP Bank maintain their own branches in the town. Other commercial banks are typically available in Pécs for in-person administration.

Nine **lawyers** with valid chamber memberships practice law in the town. In case of legal disputes, the first instance forum is the **Siklós District Court**, while the Court of Pécs serves as appellate court.

The most important **micro-regional cooperation** of the area is the Association of **South Baranya Border Settlements**, which is based in Siklós. It was created by the cooperation of local governments, non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs coming from 88 settlements in order to coordinate development ideas and to make more effective use of the region's strengths.

The municipality concluded a cooperation agreement with the county chamber for the implementation of the **Baranya County Industrial Development Program**, and established active collaboration with the University of Pécs.

Two organizations, the **Association of Entrepreneurs in Siklós** and the **Entrepreneurship Roundtable**, which was established on the initiative of the local government, support local economic operators in utilizing opportunities in line with their interests.

### **Major economic operators**

Siklós is a **settlement focused on tourism-related services** with a diverse economic structure. The town's largest taxpayers are banks and commercial enterprises, along with construction and food companies. However, the character of the economy is **strongly influenced by tourism service providers**. There are two hotels with at least three stars or with rooms providing equivalent services and seven restaurants, while the main attractions are the thermal spa and the castle.

Without being exhaustive, the following are **some examples** of the most important enterprises in Siklós:

- **Bata Kereskedelmi Kft.** – A company engaged in the wholesale, logistics and warehousing of various beverages with several locations throughout the county. Number of employees in 2019: 114; sales revenue in 2019: HUF 5.33 billion, of which HUF 417 million came from exports.
- **Bonus Kft.** – A company engaged in the production of plastic cleaning tools, sponges and wipes. Number of employees in 2019: 23; sales revenue in 2019: HUF 1.48 billion.
- **Vivapalazzo Zrt.** – A structural engineering company engaged in the design and construction of buildings including residential buildings, offices, production halls and parking garages. Number

of employees in 2019: 12; sales revenue in 2019: HUF 1.37 billion.

- **Siklósi Thermal Kft.** – A company operating the town spa. Number of employees in 2018: 64; sales revenue in 2018: HUF 785 million.
- **Bern Építő Zrt.** – An enterprise engaged in general construction for structural and underground engineering. Number of employees in 2018: 70; sales revenue in 2018: HUF 761 million.
- **DJ & K Sütőipari Bt.** – A company engaged in the manufacture and trade of bakery products. Number of employees in 2018: 54; sales revenue in 2018: HUF 597 million.

## Economic areas

The **industrial park** of Siklós is located on the north-eastern edge of the town, next to Vasút street. It has a total area of 29.5 hectares, of which 16 hectares are currently developed. At the present it houses 22 businesses, two of which are medium-sized (with more than 50 employees) and five small businesses (with 10 to 49 employees). The rest are micro-enterprises that employ fewer people.

The **vacant land is 13.5 hectares**, which can be both rented or purchased. The municipality's plans include the construction of the **missing infrastructure** in the development area of the park and the **establishment of an industrial hall**. The 1000 m<sup>2</sup> building, which can be divided into two parts, is intended for mechanical engineering or plastics companies after its completion.

The **brownfield development area** is a former **border guard barracks** north of the town, next to Gyúdi street. The six-hectare enclosed plot is in a very good location, right next to the bypass road. Utilities are available and the necessary environmental remediation has been carried out. The former barracks are deconstructed to a structurally complete condition. The plot is privately owned, but there is possibility of economic use through lease or purchase.

The former **youth camp** next to the road leading to Harkány is mainly suitable for **developments for tourism purposes**. Drinking water, electricity and sewage drain are established on the two-hectare area. The green environment and good accessibility make it ideal for accommodation development.

The 4.85 hectare area of the **former fairground offers another greenfield investment opportunity**. When planning future economic

activity, the weekly fairs held here must be taken into account. Among the utilization goals, the construction of a solar park enjoys priority.

### **Economic support and tax policy**

The rate of the **local business tax** is **2%**, i.e. the statutory limit. Companies with a tax base not exceeding HUF 2 million are entitled to a **50% discount**.

The amount of the **building tax** is HUF 100, 350 or 1000 per square meter annually, depending on the location and the purpose of the property. The **lowest tax rate applies to buildings in the industrial park** and the highest to those used for financial activities.

The basic **land tax** rate is HUF 150/m<sup>2</sup> per year. Exceptions to this are wholesale areas up to 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> (HUF 300 / m<sup>2</sup> / year) and plots used for financial activities (HUF 300 / m<sup>2</sup> / year up to 50,000 m<sup>2</sup>, above that HUF 50 / m<sup>2</sup> / year).

The amount of the **tourist tax** is HUF 450 per guest per night.

A system for **preferential land sale or lease** linked to investment and job creation is currently being developed.

### **Municipal investments**

Siklós' **system-based economic development program** is adapted to local characteristics and is based on local values. The two largest projects of recent times were related to the **development of the thermal spa and the castle**. These contributed in the strengthening of the town's reputation, thereby expanding the tourism portfolio, and also in the increase of employment. In close connection with the spa project, a new and **larger capacity wastewater treatment plant** was also built. And with the installation of **plumbing in the vineyard area**, an important step was taken towards creating the conditions for wine tourism.

### **Contact**

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