



Volume 4. Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany, 1866-1890 Population Density by Federal State and Prussian Province (1871-1910)

The population of Germany increased from about 41 million in 1871 to almost 65 million in 1910. Together with rapid urbanization, this increase transformed Germany into a densely populated country by the eve of the First World War. The extent and impact of demographic change, however, varied markedly from region to region. Whereas the rise in population density was modest in northeastern Germany – in provinces such as East Prussia and Pomerania – it was much more dramatic in the industrial regions of the west (e.g., Westphalia and the Rhineland) and in the Kingdom of Saxony. Excluding Berlin and the city-states of Hamburg, Bremen, and Lübeck, by 1910, Saxony had the highest population density in Germany and one of the highest in all of Europe, with 321 inhabitants per square kilometer – a population density far greater than that of relatively rural Mecklenburg-Schwerin (49/sq km) and Bavaria (91/sq km), and more than 2.5 times the German national average (120/sq km).

Federal States and Prussian Provinces	Inhabitants per square kilometer		
	1871	1890	1910
Province of East Prussia	49.3	53.0	55.8
Province of West Prussia	51.9	56.2	66.7
City of Berlin	13,951.4	24,902.1	32,664.5
Province of Brandenburg	51.1	63.8	102.7
Province of Pomerania	47.5	50.5	57.0
Province of Poznań	54.7	60.5	72.4
Province of Silesia	92.0	104.8	129.6
Province of Saxony	83.3	102.2	122.3
Province of Schleswig-Holstein	55.0	64.5	85.2
Province of Hanover	50.9	59.2	76.4
Province of Westphalia	87.8	120.2	204.0
Province of Hesse-Nassau	89.2	106.1	141.4
Province of the Rhineland	132.6	174.5	263.7
Hohenzollern	57.4	57.9	62.2
Kingdom of Prussia	70.8	86.0	115.2
Kingdom of Bavaria	64.1	73.7	90.8
Kingdom of Saxony	170.5	233.6	320.6
Württemberg	93.2	104.4	125.0
Baden	96.9	109.9	142.2
Hesse	111.0	129.3	166.8
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	42.5	43.9	48.8
Hamburg	816.8	1,504.8	2,447.6
Alsace-Lorraine	106.8	110.5	129.0
German Reich	75.9	91.5	120.0

Source: *Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich 1893* [*Statistical Almanac for the German Reich 1893*], p. 1 (1890) and 1912, p. 1.

Original German table reprinted in Gerd Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard A. Ritter, *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch II* [*Social History Workbook II*], 2nd ed. Munich: Beck, 1978, p. 50.

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