



Volume 4. Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany, 1866-1890  
Total Production of German Industry and Crafts (1873-1894)

Between 1850 and 1873, the expansion of Germany's railways fuelled sensational growth in the country's productive capacity. The years 1873 to 1896, on the other hand, were marked by abrupt economic fluctuations and the contemporary *perception* of an economic downturn. Today, however, it is no longer common to describe this period as a "Great Depression." This index of German production (calibrated so that 100 represents production in 1913) shows an overall increase during this so-called depression. The index rises a total of 19.2 units (or 73%) between 1873 and 1894. The most difficult period (1873-1880) can be distinguished from a period of renewed growth during the second half of the 1880s.

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**Total Production of Industry and Crafts 1873-1894 (1913=100)**

1873	26.2
1879	27.2
1880	26.1
1882	27.1
1886	30.8
1890	39.9
1894	45.4

Source: Hans-Ulrich Wehler, *Deutsche Gesellschaftsgeschichte* [German Social History], vol. 3, *Von der „Deutsche Doppelrevolution“ bis zum Beginn des Ersten Weltkrieges 1849-1914* [From the "German Double Revolution" to the Beginning of the First World War 1849-1914], Table 77. Munich: Beck, 1995, p. 585.