



## German History in Documents and Images

Volume 5. Wilhelmine Germany and the First World War, 1890-1918  
Industrial Employment (1914-19)

Mobilization for the war meant that men were drafted into military service and women stepped onto the factory floor. These figures on industrial employment during the war show that female workers increasingly outnumbered their male counterparts in rates of employment.

### Evolution of the Employment of Adult Workers, 1914-1919

#### a) Overview

	In the first two weeks of the months of:										
Branch of Trade and Industry	March 1914	Sept. 1914	March 1915	Sept. 1915	March 1916	Sept. 1916	March 1917	Sept. 1917	March 1918	Sept. 1918	March 1919
a) Totals from all firms of all the branches of trade and industry (number of workers times the number of shifts worked)											
Total number of days worked by adult workers altogether	2,228,143	1,634,715	1,912,720	1,945,957	2,043,859	2,153,894	2,475,726	2,627,660	2,681,238	2,721,770	1,979,485
of these:											
a) male	1,915,138	1,386,400	1,604,763	1,571,000	1,582,948	1,612,061	1,798,057	1,916,770	1,949,042	2,006,300	1,670,657
b) female	313,005	248,315	307,957	374,957	460,911	541,833	677,669	710,890	732,196	715,470	308,828
Index Number (March 1914 = 100)											
adult workers	100	73.4	85.8	87.3	91.7	96.7	111.1	117.9	120.8	122.2	88.8
of these:											
a) male	100	72.4	83.8	82.0	82.7	84.2	93.9	100.1	101.8	104.8	87.2
b) female	100	79.3	98.4	119.8	147.3	173.1	216.5	227.1	233.9	228.6	98.7
For every 100 days of work, the following number of days were worked by female workers:											
	14.0	15.2	16.1	19.3	22.6	25.2	27.4	27.1	27.3	26.3	15.6

## b) Evolution of the Employment of Adult Workers in Individual Branches of Trade and Industry

[If one sets a standard of March 1914 = 100 (on the basis of the number of days worked), then the following proportional numbers result:]

	In the last two full weeks of the month										
	March 1914	Sept. 1914	March 1915	Sept. 1915	March 1916	Sept. 1916	March 1917	Sept. 1917	March 1918	Sept. 1918	March 1919
a) for male workers											
Group 4. Natural Stone, Gravel, Sand and Concrete Industry	100	57.2	51.0	40.8	39.8	40.2	34.1	31.9	33.8	33.7	59.6
„ 5. Metal Industry	100	88.3	112.4	117.6	121.6	122.4	136.2	143.3	145.7	145.4	87.7
„ 6. Machine Industry	100	67.1	85.3	83.3	85.6	91.7	110.4	114.2	118.2	127.0	115.0
„ 6.E. Electrical Industry	100	60.7	58.4	53.0	47.5	69.4	72.5	75.6	71.3	69.2	81.9
„ 8. Chemicals	100	61.4	62.8	63.9	64.2	66.4	77.0	95.5	96.1	102.8	94.6
„ 9. Woven Materials	100	75.4	84.1	51.9	39.9	32.0	31.8	32.6	30.5	27.5	43.1
„ 10. Paper	100	53.8	51.6	46.1	47.1	44.5	46.6	46.2	47.2	50.2	62.1
„ 11. Leather and Rubber	100	59.6	42.5	36.2	29.6	25.3	25.8	25.2	24.9	25.6	54.1
„ 12. Wood and Woodcarving	100	74.9	69.8	60.6	54.9	50.6	48.3	48.6	50.5	50.7	74.4
„ 13. Gastronomy/Groceries	100	79.0	82.7	76.8	72.1	68.4	58.8	57.1	56.8	59.8	81.7
„ 14. Textiles	100	61.8	63.6	53.8	56.7	47.8	31.8	28.6	31.8	31.9	50.6
„ 17. Printing	100	66.0	71.8	63.4	61.2	65.3	57.9	56.5	50.7	52.5	78.7
b) for female workers											
Group 4. Natural Stone, Gravel, Sand and Concrete Industry	100	67.2	67.4	67.0	74.6	83.6	82.8	89.7	87.0	77.3	68.2
„ 5. Metal Industry	100	58.3	117.4	289.5	492.4	596.7	745.5	783.5	846.7	777.0	168.3
„ 6. Machine Industry	100	83.2	309.8	572.7	1414.8	2316.8	3381.7	3308.7	3520.4	3637.9	916.3
„ 6.E. Electrical Industry	100	57.1	102.3	245.4	299.7	665.5	856.4	972.2	813.8	691.4	326.6
„ 8. Chemicals	100	84.9	92.7	112.3	171.8	209.6	314.0	392.2	436.2	467.7	158.5
„ 9. Woven Materials	100	89.0	108.1	85.1	66.9	55.8	66.9	68.5	62.6	59.9	63.3
„ 10. Paper	100	53.8	78.9	90.6	101.3	132.5	136.7	131.1	149.8	159.4	120.1
„ 11. Leather and Rubber	100	67.7	57.3	61.8	57.8	55.8	89.1	112.3	96.8	96.6	60.1
„ 12. Wood and Woodcarving	100	24.6	89.9	110.8	148.5	123.9	109.5	112.2	115.7	124.9	96.3
„ 13. Gastronomy/Groceries	100	139.7	133.2	166.9	155.7	162.5	159.0	153.5	146.5	161.0	104.7
„ 14. Textiles	100	66.3	74.7	95.2	83.4	72.5	58.1	51.6	55.5	54.3	53.8
„ 17. Printing	100	62.7	82.5	83.2	84.9	86.1	82.1	87.1	90.1	96.5	85.4

Source: *Reichsarbeitsblatt* 18 (1920), p. 62ff.

Reprinted in Ute Daniel, *Arbeiterfrauen in der Kriegsgesellschaft: Beruf, Familie und Politik im Ersten Weltkrieg* [*Women Workers in the War Society: Employment, Family, and Politics in the First World War*]. Göttingen, 1989, pp. 46-47.

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