

Unemployment and the East-West Divide (2017)

Abstract

The high unemployment figures illustrate the structural problems of the German economy and the effects of globalization in the years following unification. Job losses were particularly severe in the East, as they coincided with the restructuring of unprofitable industries. The remarkable recovery of the German economy since 2005 is reflected in lower unemployment figures, but the differences between East and West remain.

Source

Labor market

Registered unemployed, unemployment rate by state of residence

Year	Germany		Former federal territory ²	New federal states including Berlin		
	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate ¹ %		Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate ¹ %	
2017	2 532 837	6,3	1 894 294	5,8	638 543	8,4
2016	2 690 975	6,8	1 978 672	6,2	712 303	9,4
2015	2 794 664	7,1	2 020 503	6,4	774 162	10,3
2014	2 898 388	7,5	2 074 553	6,7	823 835	11,0
2013	2 950 338	7,7	2 080 342	6,7	869 995	11,6
2012	2 897 126	7,6	1 999 918	6,6	897 209	11,9
2011	2 976 488	7,9	2 026 545	6,7	949 943	12,6
2010	3 238 965	8,6	2 227 473	7,4	1 011 492	13,4
2009	3 414 992	9,1	2 314 215	7,8	1 100 777	14,5
2008	3 258 954	8,7	2 138 778	7,2	1 120 175	14,6
2007	3 760 586	10,1	2 475 528	8,3	1 285 058	16,7
2006	4 487 305	12,0	3 007 158	10,2	1 480 146	19,2
2005	4 860 909	13,0	3 246 755	11,0	1 614 154	20,6
2004	4 381 281	11,7	2 782 759	9,4	1 598 522	20,1
2003	4 376 795	11,6	2 753 181	9,3	1 623 614	20,1
2002	4 061 345	10,8	2 498 392	8,5	1 562 953	19,2
2001	3 852 564	10,3	2 320 500	8,0	1 532 064	18,8
2000	3 889 695	10,7	2 380 987	8,4	1 508 707	18,5
1999	4 100 499	11,7	2 604 720	9,6	1 495 779	18,7
1998	4 280 630	12,3	2 751 535	10,3	1 529 095	19,2
1997	4 384 456	12,7	2 870 021	10,8	1 514 435	19,1

1996	3 965 064	11,5	2 646 442	9,9	1 318 622	16,6
1995	3 611 921	10,4	2 427 083	9,1	1 184 838	14,8
1994	3 698 057	10,6	2 426 276	9,0	1 271 781	15,7
1993	3 419 141	9,8	2 149 465	8,0	1 269 676	15,4
1992	2 978 570	8,5	1 699 273	6,4	1 279 297	14,4
1991	2 602 203	7,3	1 596 457	6,2	1 005 745	10,2
1990	--	--	1 883 147	7,2	--	--

¹ Unemployment rate of all dependent civilian labor force.

² Until 1990 former federal territory and West Berlin, from 1991 former federal territory excluding Berlin. 1950 to 1958 without Saarland.

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt. Registrierte Arbeitslose, Arbeitslosenquote nach Gebietsstand, <https://www.destatis.de/DE/ZahlenFakten/Indikatoren/LangeReihen/Arbeitsmarkt/lrarb003.html>

Translation: GHI staff

Recommended Citation: Unemployment and the East-West Divide (2017), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/a-new-germany-1990-2023/ghdi:document-5277>> [July 03, 2024].