

# Former Occupation of Registered Prostitutes in Berlin (1873)

## Abstract

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Nearly half of the Berlin prostitutes under police supervision in 1872–73 had been home-workers or shop assistants before they turned to prostitution. Only 16% had been factory workers.

## Source

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Which occupation the prostitute practiced before getting into prostitution is certainly an interesting question; unfortunately, the information is so unspecific that classification remains very difficult. To start with, the authors have drawn up the following categories:

-	-	In percent
Farm hands and servants	794	35.7
Factory workers	355	16.0
Cottage industry and shops	936	42.0
Waitress-service in catering trade	139	6.3
-	2224	100.0

Source: Hermann Schwabe, “Einblicke in das innere und äußere Leben der Berliner Prostituirten,” *Berliner Städtisches Jahrbuch für Volkswirtschaft und Statistik* 1 (1874): pp. 60–74, here pp. 62–66; original German data reprinted in Gerhard A. Ritter and Jürgen Kocka, eds., *Deutsche Sozialgeschichte 1870–1914. Dokumente und Skizzen*, 3rd ed. Munich: C. H. Beck, 1982, p. 253.

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