

Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Others: Confessional Population (December 1, 1871)

Abstract

Table I shows the absolute number of Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and others living in the German Reich, its federal territories, and in Prussian provinces, according to the census of December 1, 1871. Table II shows the same data expressed as percentages. From Table II we see that in 1871, only 1.25 percent of Germans, on average, were Jewish; but this average figure masked great disparities according to region. Table II shows that Jews constituted 4.36 percent (N=36,020) of Berlin's total population. By contrast, in the Kingdom of Saxony, where a strong antisemitic movement would break out within a decade, Jews constituted only 0.13 percent (N=3,357) of the population. The total number of Jews living in Germany increased between 1871 and 1910 from about 512,000 to 615,000; but the proportion of Jews declined, from 1.25 percent in 1871 to less than one percent in 1910.

Source

Table I. Population, by Prussian District and Federal State 1871 and 1910

Local Population on December 1, 1871

States and parts of the country	Christians: Protestant	Christians: Roman Catholic	Christians: other	Israelites	Other and no specified religion
1	2	3	4	5	6
Prov. East Prussia	1,569,365	233,007	6,125	14,425	12
Prov. West Prussia	633,548	641,572	12,827	26,632	32
City of Berlin	735,783	51,729	2,573	36,020	236
Prov. Brandenburg	1,987,891	34,530	2,971	11,469	27
Prov. Pomerania	1,397,467	16,858	4,266	13,036	6
Prov. Posen	511,292	1,009,491	1,065	61,982	13
Prov. Silesia	1,760,441	1,896,136	3,860	46,629	101
Prov. Saxony	1,966,696	126,735	3,813	5,917	13
Prov. Schl.-Holst.	1,034,363	6,276	1,024	3,743	13
Prov. Hanover	1,711,728	233,631	3,273	12,790	15
Prov. Westphalia	806,464	949,118	2,334	17,245	14
Prov. Hesse-Nassau	988,041	371,736	3,892	36,390	311
Prov. Rhineland	906,867	2,628,173	5,834	38,423	50
Hohenzollern	1,766	63,051	30	711	--
***Kingdom Prussia[1]	16,040,750	8,268,206	53,894	325,559	843
Kingdom Bavaria	1,342,592	3,464,364	5,453	50,662	379
Kingdom Saxony	2,493,556	53,642	4,893	3,357	796
Württemberg	1,248,860	553,542	3,857	12,245	35

Baden	491,008	942,560	2,265	25,703	26
Hesse	584,391	239,088	3,873	25,373	169
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	553,492	1,336	98	2,945	26
Hamburg	306,553	7,748	3,166	13,796	7 711
Alsace-Lorraine	270,251	1,235,706	2,132	40,918	731
***German Reich	25,581,685	14,869,292	82,158	512,153	13 504

Local Population on December 1, 1910

German Reich	39,991,421	23,821,453	283,046	615,021	214,152
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Table II. Percentage of Population, by Prussian District and Federal State

For Every 10,000 Local Residents on December 1, 1871

States and parts of the country	Christians: Protestant	Christians: Roman Catholic	Christians: other	Israelites	Other and no specified religion
1	7	8	9	10	11
Prov. East Prussia	8,609	1,278	34	79	0,1
Prov. West Prussia	4,819	4,880	98	203	0,3
City of Berlin	8,904	626	31	436	3
Prov. Brandenburg	9,760	170	14	56	0,1
Prov. Pomerania	9,761	118	30	91	0,0
Prov. Posen	3,228	6,374	7	391	0,1
Prov. Silesia	4,749	5,115	10	126	0,3
Prov. Saxony	9,351	603	18	28	0,1
Prov. Schl.-Holst.	9,894	60	10	36	0,1
Prov. Hanover	8,727	1,191	17	65	0,1
Prov. Westphalia	4,543	5,347	13	97	0,1
Prov. Hesse-Nassau	7,056	2,655	28	259	2
Prov. Rhineland	2,534	7,343	16	107	0,1
Hohenzollern	269	9,618	5	108	--
***Kingdom Prussia[2]	6,497	3,349	22	132	0,3
Kingdom Bavaria	2,761	7,123	11	104	1
Kingdom Saxony	9,755	209	19	13	3
Württemberg	6,867	3,044	21	67	0,2
Baden	3,359	6,449	16	176	0,2
Hesse	6,852	2,803	46	297	2,0
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	9,921	24	2	53	0,4
Hamburg	9,044	229	93	407	227
Alsace-Lorraine	1,744	7,973	14	264	5

***German Reich	6,231	3,621	20	125	5
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NOTES

[1] The totals for Prussia (including Lauenburg) and Bavaria include the troops belonging to these states in France, without them being counted among the territorial units.

[2] The totals for Prussia (including Lauenburg) and Bavaria include the troops belonging to these states in France, without them being counted among the territorial units.

Source: *Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich* (1880), p. 13 and (1913), p. 11; reprinted in Gerd Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard A. Ritter, eds., *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch II. Materialien zur Statistik des Kaiserreichs 1870-1914*. Second edition. Munich: C. H. Beck, 1978, pp. 53–54.

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