

Proportion of Foreign-Born Jews in Germany (1871–1910)

Abstract

Part I of this table shows the number of *foreign-born* Jews who settled in the German Reich, Prussia, and Saxony (the first and third largest federal states in the empire). The numbers for 1880 are estimates. Percentages show the respective proportion of foreign Jews among the total Jewish population in each locality. Part II shows the proportion of foreign-born Jews among local communities in 1910. The new immigrants settled mainly in large urban centers, where they found the best economic opportunities and, often, relatives to support them. Note the high proportions of foreign Jews among the total Jewish population in Dresden (52%) and Leipzig (65%), the two largest cities in the Kingdom of Saxony. Influential antisemitic associations in those cities targeted the immigration of East European Jews as a key component of the “Jewish Question.”

Source

Table I. In Germany, Prussia, and Saxony (1880–1910)

-	1880	%	1890	%	1900	%	1910	%
Reich	15,000	2.7	22,000	3.9	41,113	7.0	78,746	12.8
Prussia	10,000	2.7	11,390	3.1	21,800	5.6	48,166	11.6
Saxony	1,000	15.3	2,800	29.9	5,637	54.5	10,378	59.0

Table II. In the Ten Cities with the Highest Number of Foreign-Born Jews (1910)

City	Number of foreign-born Jews	Percentile Share of the Jewish community in that locality
Berlin	18,694	20.8%
Leipzig	6,406	64.8%
Munich	3,857	34.8%
Frankfurt a. M.	3,541	13.5%
Hamburg	3,111	16.4%
Dresden	1,948	52.2%
Cologne	1,672	13.5%
Breslau	1,455	7.2%
Nuremberg	1,226	15.7%
Königsberg	1,169	25.6%

Source: Table I: Shalom Adler-Rudel, *Ostjuden in Deutschland 1880–1940* (1959), p. 164; Table II: Jack Wertheimer, *Unwelcome Strangers: East European Jews in Imperial Germany* (1987), Appendix, Table 2b; both tables reprinted in Michael A. Meyer with Michael Brenner, eds., *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, vol. 3, Steven M. Lowenstein et al., *Integration in Dispute 1871–1918*. New York:

Columbia University Press, 1997, pp. 20–21.

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