Population Growth in Major Cities (1875–1910)

Abstract

German cities experienced enormous growth during the Bismarckian and Wilhelmine periods. The population of Berlin, for example, more than doubled between 1875 and 1910. In addition to reflecting astounding growth rates, the population figures below document one significant consequence of German industrialization: migration from the country to the city, where people hoped to find new work. The table illustrates the extent of this shift. But a closer analysis of the statistics for the period 1875–1910 also reveals important disparities in the growth rates of particular cities. (Here, the year 1890 can be used as a "before and after" point for analyzing population growth.) For example, the population growth rate of Magdeburg, a city in central Germany, declined after 1890, as did the growth rate of Leipzig, a city in the Kingdom of Saxony, but Leipzig still continued to grow at twice the rate of Magdeburg. By contrast, cities like Duisburg and Essen, located in the Ruhr district of western Germany, grew more rapidly after 1890 than they had up to that point.

Source

I. The Growth of Major German Cities: Population

City	1875	1890	1910
Berlin	966,859	1,587,794	2,071,257
Bremen	102,532	125,684	217,437
Breslau	239,050	335,186	512,105
Charlottenburg	25,847	76,859	305,978
Chemnitz	78,209	138,954	287,807
Dortmund	57,742	89,663	214,226
Dresden	197,295	276,522	548,308
Düsseldorf	80,695	144,642	358,728
Duisburg	37,380	59,285	229,438
Essen/Ruhr	54,790	78,706	294,653
Frankfurt/M.	103,136	179,985	414,576
Hamburg	264,675	323,923	931,035
Hanover	106,677	163,593	302,375
Kiel	37,246	69,172	211,627
Cologne	135,371	281,681	516,527
Königsberg	122,636	161,666	245,994
Leipzig	127,387	295,025	589,850
Magdeburg	87,925	202,234	279,629
Munich	193,024	349,024	596,467
Nuremberg	91,018	142,590	333,142
Stettin	80,972	116,228	236,113

Stuttgart	107,273	139,817	286,218
Number of cities with more than 10,000 residents	271	394	576

II. The Growth of Major German Cities: Population Growth Rate in %

City	1875–1910	1875–1890	1890–1910
Berlin	114.2	64.2	30.4
Bremen	112.1	22.6	73.0
Breslau	114.2	40.2	52.8
Charlottenburg	1,083.8	197.4	298.1
Chemnitz	268.0	77.7	107.1
Dortmund	271.0	55.3	138.9
Dresden	177.9	40.2	98.3
Düsseldorf	344.5	79.2	148.0
Duisburg	513.8	58.6	287.0
Essen/Ruhr	437.8	43.7	274.4
Frankfurt/M.	302.0	74.5	130.3
Hamburg	251.8	22.4	187.4
Hanover	183.4	53.4	84.8
Kiel	468.2	85.7	205.9
Cologne	281.6	108.1	83.4
Königsberg	100.6	31.8	52.2
Leipzig	363.0	131.6	99.9
Magdeburg	218.0	130.0	38.3
Munich	209.0	80.8	70.9
Nuremberg	266.0	56.7	133.6
Stettin	191.6	43.5	103.1
Stuttgart	166.8	30.3	104.7
Number of cities with more than 10,000 residents	112.5	45.4	46.2