

The Age Distribution of Refugees from the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR (1949–1962)

Abstract

The GDR leadership was particularly troubled by the number of young and working-age people who fled the republic, since their departure threatened the GDR economy and the future of the entire country.

Source

Refugees^[1] from the GDR to the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin, 1949–1962

Year	Refugees in thousands	Age distribution in percent					
		under 14	14–17	18–24	25–44	45–64	65 and older
1949	129	.	.	.	.	.	.
1950	198	.	.	.	.	.	.
1951	166	.	.	.	.	.	.
1952	182	17.8	11.1	23.7	29.3	16.7	1.4
1953	331	22.7	11.8	14.2	30.0	18.8	2.5
1954	184	21.0	12.9	15.2	29.4	17.2	4.3
1955	253	17.4	9.6	25.5	27.0	16.5	4.0
1956	279	17.5	9.4	22.1	27.4	18.9	4.7
1957	262	16.5	9.2	26.5	26.2	16.7	4.9
1958	204	17.3	8.1	22.7	25.2	20.5	6.2
1959	144	15.4	7.1	25.8	21.7	20.6	9.4
1960	199	17.4	5.7	25.7	23.4	20.7	7.1
1961	207	17.3	5.3	26.6	23.9	19.6	7.3
1962	21	8.7	4.6	25.4	21.9	13.6	25.8

NOTES

[1] Refugees who requested recognition or provisional accommodations six months – at the latest – after their arrival in West Germany or West Berlin.

Source: Ralf Rytlewski and Manfred Opp de Hipt, eds., *Die Deutsche Demokratische Republik in Zahlen. 1945/1949–1980*. Munich: Beck, 1987 (Social History Workbook, vol. 5.) p. 28; reprinted in Merith Niehuss and Ulrike Linder, eds., *Besatzungszeit, Bundesrepublik und DDR, 1945–1969*. Deutsche Geschichte in Quellen und Darstellung, edited by Rainer A. Müller, vol. 10. Stuttgart: P. Reclam, 1998, p. 403.

Translation: Thomas Dunlap

Recommended Citation: The Age Distribution of Refugees from the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR (1949–1962), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/occupation-and-the-emergence-of-two-states-1945-1961/ghdi:document-4080>> [May 16, 2024].