# Statistics on East German Resettlers, Refugees, and Escapees (1961–1990)

## Abstract

The East German government downplayed the number of people killed at the Wall, whereas West German newspapers tended to exaggerate it. Different accounts place the number of deaths at the Wall at fewer than 200 and at the inner-German border at around 1,100, with the exact figure depending on who is included. By contrast, there are more accurate figures for the number of people who managed to resettle (legally) or escape (illegally). But these numbers, too, reflect the East Germans' constant desire to flee.

## Source

### Legal Resettlers and Refugees from the GDR (1961–1990)

| Year | Total | Legal resettlers | Refugees (via third countries, etc.) | Escapees (through border fortifications) | Ransomed political prisoners |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1961 | 52,324 | c. 700 | 43,117 | 8,507 | -- |
| 1962 | 21,356 | 4,615 | 10,980 | 5,761 | -- |
| 1963 | 42,632 | 29,665 | 9,275 | 3,692 | -- |
| 1964 | 41,876 | 30,012 | 8,709 | 3,155 | 884 |
| 1965 | 29,552 | 17,666 | 9,557 | 2,329 | 1,555 |
| 1966 | 24,131 | 15,675 | 6,720 | 1,736 | 407 |
| 1967 | 19,573 | 13,188 | 5,182 | 1,203 | 554 |
| 1968 | 16,036 | 11,134 | 3,767 | 1,135 | 693 |
| 1969 | 16,975 | 11,702 | 4,080 | 1,193 | 880 |
| 1970 | 17,519 | 12,472 | 4,146 | 901 | 888 |
| 1971 | 17,408 | 11,565 | 5,011 | 832 | 1,375 |
| 1972 | 17,164 | 11,627 | 4,292 | 1,245 | 731<br>(Amnesty) 2,087 |
| 1973 | 15,189 | 8,667 | 4,680 | 1,842 | 631 |
| 1974 | 13,252 | 7,928 | 4,355 | 969 | 1,053 |
| 1975 | 16,285 | 10,274 | 5,338 | 673 | 1,158 |
| 1976 | 15,168 | 10,058 | 4,500 | 610 | 1,439 |
| 1977 | 12,078 | 8,041 | 3,316 | 721 | 1,475 |
| 1978 | 12,117 | 8,271 | 3,385 | 461 | 1,452 |
| 1979 | 12,515 | 9,003 | 1,768 | 463 | 890 |
| 1980 | 12,763 | 8,775 | 2,552 | 424 | 1,036 |
| 1981 | 15,433 | 11,093 | 2,599 | 298 | 1,584 |
| 1982 | 13,208 | 9,113 | 2,282 | 283 | 1,491 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1983 | 11,343 | 7,729 | 2,259 | 228 | 1,105 |
| 1984 | 40,974 | 34,982 | 3,459 | 192 | 2,236 |
| 1985 | 24,912 | 18,752 | 3,324 | 160 | 2,669 |
| 1986 | 26,178 | 19,982 | 4,450 | 210 | 1,450 |
| 1987 | 18,958 | 11,459 | 5,964 | 288 | 1,209 |
| 1988 | 39,832 | 29,033 | 9,115 | 590 | 1,048 |
| 1989 | 343,854 | -- | -- | -- | 1,775 |
| 1990 | 238,384 | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Source: Hans Hermann Hertle, Konrad H. Jarausch, and Christoph Kleßmann, eds., *Mauerbau und Mauerfall. Ursachen—Verlauf—Auswirkungen*. Berlin, 2002, pp. 310–14.

Translation: GHI staff

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