

Population by Religious Denomination (1910-1939)

Abstract

This table shows the German population's religious affiliation for the years 1910, 1925, 1933 and 1939. For the year 1939 the territory of the German Reich as of December 31, 1937 – i.e. before the “Anschluss” of Austria and the annexation of the Sudetenland – was taken as the basis. For the years 1925, 1933 and 1939, the development is also broken down by gender.

The majority of the population in the German Reich belonged to either the Protestant or Roman Catholic Church. In 1910, just under one percent of the population were Jews. The proportion of Jews in the total population initially fell only slightly in the following years, but between 1933 and 1939 it fell by more than half to 0.3 percent. In view of the antisemitic legislation and persecution by the Nazi regime, many German Jews felt compelled to emigrate from 1933 onwards and left Germany if they had the opportunity to do so.

Source

Year	Total Population	Thereof		Roman Catholic Church		Other		Thereof Jewish	
		Members of Protestant Church		In thousands	%	Total		In thousands	%
	In thousands	In thousands	%	In thousands	%	In thousands	%	In thousands	%
		<i>Total</i>							
1910	64,926	39,991	61.6	23,821	36.7	1,113	1.7	615	1.0
1925	62,411	40,015	64.1	20,193	32.4	2,203	3.5	564	0.9
1933	65,218	40,865	62.7	21,172	32.5	3,181	4.8	500	0.8
1939 ^{a)}	69,314	42,103	60.8	23,024	33.2	4,188	6.0	222	0.3
		<i>Male</i>							
1925	30,197	19,170	63.5	9,798	32.4	1,229	4.1	274	0.9
1933	31,686	19,545	61.7	10,287	32.5	1,853	5.8	209	0.8
1939 ^{a)}	33,911	20,143	59.4	11,258	33.2	2,511	7.4	94	0.3
		<i>Female</i>							
1925	32,214	20,845	64.7	10,395	32.3	973	3.0	290	0.9
1933	33,533	21,320	63.6	10,885	32.5	1,328	4.0	261	0.8
1939 ^{a)}	35,403	21,960	62.0	11,766	33.2	1,677	4.7	128	0.4

a) Based on the borders as of December 31, 1937.

Source: *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch*, Volume III, *Materialien zur Statistik des Deutschen Reiches 1914-1945*, edited by Dietmar Petzina, Werner Abelshauser, and Anselm Faust. Munich: Verlag C.H. Beck, 1978, p. 31.

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