

Confessional Breakdown of the German Population (1871 and 1910)

Abstract

The confessional division of Germany between Protestant and Catholic is one of the defining features of modern German history. In the wake of the Reformation, political and confessional divisions often went hand in hand. Political unification in 1871 did little to change the religious map of Germany. Confession remained a central political issue, especially in the wake of the *Kulturkampf* of the 1870s, a policy of persecution directed against the large German Catholic minority by Otto von Bismarck, who remained Prussian minister president after unification.

Source

I. Confessional Breakdown of the German Population (December 1, 1871)

State and region	On December 1, 1871, for every 10,000 residents, there were:				
	Christian			Jewish	Other or no religion given
	Evangelical (Protestant)	Roman Catholic	Other		
Prov. East Prussia	8,609	1,278	34	79	0,1
Prov. West Prussia	4,819	4,880	98	203	0,3
City of Berlin	8,904	626	31	436	3
Prov. Brandenburg	9,760	170	14	56	0,1
Prov. Pomerania	9,761	118	30	91	0,0
Prov. Posen	3,228	6,374	7	391	0,1
Prov. Silesia	4,749	5,115	10	126	0,3
Prov. Saxony	9,351	603	18	28	0,1
Prov. Schleswig-Holstein	9,894	60	10	36	0,1
Prov. Hanover	8,727	1,191	17	65	0,1
Prov. Westphalia	4,543	5,347	13	97	0,1
Prov. Hesse-Nassau	7,056	2,655	28	259	2
Prov. Rhineland	2,534	7,343	16	107	0,1
Hohenzollern	269	9,618	5	108	-
Kingdom of Prussia	6,497	3,349	22	132	0,3
Kingdom of Bavaria	2,761	7,123	11	104	1
Kingdom of Saxony	9,755	209	19	13	3
Württemberg	6,867	3,044	21	67	0,2
Baden	3,359	6,449	16	176	0,2

Hesse	6,852	2,803	46	297	2
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	9,921	24	2	53	0,4
Hamburg	9,044	229	93	407	227
Alsace-Lorraine	1,744	7,973	14	264	5
German Reich	6,231	3,621	20	125	5

II. Confessional Breakdown of the German Population (December 1, 1910)

State and region	On December 1, 1910, for every 10,000 residents, there were:	Christian			Jewish
		Evangelical (Protestant)	Roman Catholic	Other	
Prov. East Prussia	8,434	1,409		84	3
Prov. West Prussia	4,632	5,182		99	82
City of Berlin	8,155	1,173		53	434
Prov. Brandenburg	8,984	734		50	150
Prov. Pomerania	9,536	328		70	52
Prov. Posen	3,079	6,773		20	126
Prov. Silesia	4,208	5,669		25	86
Prov. Saxony	9,161	753		23	25
Prov. Schleswig-Holstein	9,556	330		61	21
Prov. Hanover	8,513	1,372		43	63
Prov. Westphalia	4,722	5,143		58	51
Prov. Hesse-Nassau	6,839	2,824		56	233
Prov. Rhineland	2,946	6,903		41	80
Hohenzollern	503	9,437		2	57
Kingdom of Prussia	6,182	3,631		47	104
Kingdom of Bavaria	2,821	7,061		20	80
Kingdom of Saxony	9,405	491		53	37
Württemberg	6,856	3,036		53	49
Baden	3,856	5,932		62	121
Hesse	6,615	3,101		52	188
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	9,618	320		20	22
Hamburg	9,163	503		42	199
Alsace-Lorraine	2,178	7,629		21	165
German Reich	6,159	3,669		46	95

Source: *Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich*, 1880, p. 13 and 1913, p. 11; reprinted in Gerd

Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard A. Ritter, *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch: Materialien zur Statistik des Kaiserreichs 1870–1914*. 2 vols., Munich, 1975, 2: pp. 54–55.

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