

## Population Redistribution (1871 and 1910)

### Abstract

---

Up to 1871, Germany had been primarily agricultural. By the 1890s, however, the rise of cities and industrial production had begun to reshape German ways of life. The population grew by more than a third between 1871 and 1911, and more Germans lived in urban areas, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the population. Berlin, by far the country's largest city and a major industrial center, experienced a 150.7% growth in population between 1871 and 1910, indicative of changing population patterns. Hamburg's annual growth rate for this period exceeded that of all other German cities. Many smaller cities – especially in industrial areas such as the Ruhr region (Westphalia), the upper Rhine Valley, the Neckar Valley, and Saxony – tripled or quadrupled in size during this time.

### Source

---

#### Population of States and Provinces in 1871 and 1910 (shown in thousands)

States/Provinces	1871	1910	Growth in %	Average Annual Rate of Growth in %
East Prussia	1,823	2,064	13.2	3.2
West Prussia	1,315	1,703	29.5	6.7
City of Berlin	826	2,071	150.7	23.8
Brandenburg	2,037	4,093	100.9	18.1
Pomerania	1,432	1,717	19.9	4.7
Posen	1,584	2,100	32.6	7.2
Silesia	3,707	5,226	41.0	8.8
Saxony	2,103	3,089	46.9	9.9
Schleswig-Holstein	1,045	1,621	55.1	11.3
Hanover	1,961	2,942	50.0	10.5
Westphalia	1,775	4,125	132.4	21.9
Hesse-Nassau	1,400	2,221	58.6	11.9
Rhine Province	3,579	7,121	99.0	17.8
Hohenzollern	66	71	7.6	2.0
Prussia	24,689	40,165	62.7	12.6
Bayern r. d. Rheins	4,237	5,950	40.4	8.7
Pfalz	615	937	52.4	10.9
Coburg (1920)	52	75	44.2	9.4
Bavaria	4,915	6,962	41.6	9.0
Saxony	2,556	4,807	88.1	15.2
Württemberg	1,819	2,438	34.0	7.6
Baden	1,462	2,143	46.6	9.9
Thuringian Lands (without Coburg)	1,016	1,511	48.7	10.2

---

Hesse	853	1,282	50.3	10.5
Hamburg	339	1,015	199.4	28.4
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	558	640	14.7	3.5
Oldenburg	317	483	52.4	10.9
Braunschweig [Brunswick]	312	494	58.3	11.9
Anhalt	203	331	63.1	12.6
Bremen	122	300	145.9	23.2
Lippe-Detmold	111	151	36.0	7.9
Lübeck	52	117	125.0	20.8
Mecklenburg-Strelitz	97	106	9.3	2.3
Waldeck	56	62	10.7	2.4
Schaumburg-Lippe	32	46	43.8	9.3
Alsace-Lorraine	1,550	1,874	20.9	4.9
German Reich	41,059	64,926	58.1	11.8

Source: Hermann Aubin and Wolfgang Zorn, eds., *Handbuch der deutschen Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte*. Stuttgart, 1971–76, vol. 2, p. 18.

Recommended Citation: Population Redistribution (1871 and 1910), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/wilhelmine-germany-and-the-first-world-war-1890-1918/ghdi:document-632>> [March 06, 2026].