

Public Schools in Prussia (1864-1911/13)

Abstract

School attendance rose dramatically in Prussia at the end of the nineteenth century. Industrialization, urbanization, and rising literacy rates were directly tied to educational advances. The traditional agrarian character of Prussian society meant that the transformation was all the more rapid.

Source

I. Public Primary Schools

Year	Schools	Classe (grades)	Teachers	Pupils	Pupils per class (grade)	Pupils per teacher	Pupils per 100 inhabitants
1864	25,056	–	30,805 ¹	2,825,322	–	(92)	15
1871	33,120	–	48,211 ²	3,900,655	–	(81)	16
1878	32,299	–	59,493	4,272,199	–	72	16
1882	33,040	65,968	59,917	4,339,729	66	72	16
1886	34,016	75,097	64,750	4,838,247	64	75	17
1891	34,742	82,746	71,731	4,916,476	59	69	16
1896	36,138	92,001	79,431	5,236,826	57	66	16
1901	36,756	104,082	90,208	5,670,870	54	63	16
1906	37,761	115,902	102,764	6,164,398	53	60	16
1911	38,684	128,725	117,162	6,572,140	51	56	(16)

Source: *Jahrbuch für die Amtliche Statistik des Preußischen Staates* [Yearbook for the Official Statistics of the Prussian State] 1883, pp. 540, 550-559 (1864-1882); *Statistisches Jahrbuch für den Preußischen Staat* [Statistical Yearbook for the Prussian State], 1913, pp. 392, 393; 1915 p. 6 (Population). Table reprinted in Gerd Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard A. Ritter, eds., *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch: Materialien zur Statistik des Kaiserreichs 1870-1914* [Social History Workbook: Materials on Kaiserreich Statistics 1870-1914]. Munich, 1975, vol. 2, p. 157.

II. Public Secondary Schools

Year	Schools	Classe (grades)	Teachers	Pupils	Pupils per class (grade)	Pupils per teacher	Pupils per 100 inhabitants
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1864	508	–	2,233	90,899	–	40.7	0.47
1871	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1878	336	–	2,328	72,039	–	30.9	0.27
1882	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1886	576	–	4,015	134,937	–	33.6	0.47
1891	550	–	4,310	131,270	–	30.5	0.43
1896	604	4,482	4,904	143,097	31.9	29.2	0.44
1901	669	5,701	6,306	188,221	33.0	29.8	0.54
1906	729	6,760	7,699	216,786	32.1	28.2	0.57
1911 ¹	632	5,951	6,134	180,729	30.4	29.5	(0.45)

Source: Schwarz, O., *Der Staatshaushalt und die Finanzen Preußens* [*The State Budget and the Finances of Prussia*], vol. II: *Die Zuschussverwaltung* [*The Administration of Subventions*]. Berlin 1900, pp. 380–381 (1864–1896); *Statistisches Jahrbuch für den Preußischen Staat* [*Statistical Yearbook for the Prussian State*] 1904, p. 139 (number of classes in 1896); 1910, pp. 215–216 (1901 and 1906); 1913, p. 406 and 407. Reprinted in Gerd Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard A. Ritter, eds., *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch: Materialien zur Statistik des Kaiserreichs 1870–1914*. Munich, 1975, vol. 2, p. 158.

III. Public High Schools

Year ¹	Schools	Teachers ²	Pupils	Pupils per teacher	Pupils ³ per 100 inhabitants
1864	264	3,810	78,718	20.7	0.41
1871	414	5,941	119,641	20.1	0.49
1875	454	6,669	135,777	20.4	0.53
1880	493	7,502	145,575	19.4	0.53
1885	525	8,724	151,541	17.4	0.54
1890	549	–	156,796 ⁴	–	0.52
1896	576	8,365	156,472 ⁵	18.7	0.48
1900	627	8,852	176,268	19.9	0.51
1906	745	11,119	227,349	20.4	0.60
1910	824	12,549	260,019	20.7	0.65
1913	881	13,731	275,165	20.0	–

Source: *Jahrbuch für die Amtliche Statistik des Preußischen Staates* [*Yearbook for the Administrative Statistics of the Prussian State*] 1883, p. 397 (1864–1880); Schwarz, *Der Staatshaushalt und die Finanzen Preußens* [*The State Budget and the Finances of Prussia*] p. 228 (1885) and p. 226 (1890); *Statistisches Jahrbuch für den Preußischen Staat* [*Statistical Yearbook for the Prussian State*] 1913, p. 416.

Reprinted in Gerd Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard A. Ritter, eds., *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch: Materialien zur Statistik des Kaiserreichs 1870–1914*. Munich, 1975, vol. 2, pp. 159–60.

NOTES

¹ Only full-time male teachers; it is not possible to divide the female teachers (for 1864 there were 2815 and for 1871 there were 3848) into full-time and part-time assistant teachers; after 1878 the

data include both full-time male and female teachers.

² Including part-time assistant teachers, approximately 2,000 in number.

The population data refer to the data collected for the respective territories; only in 1864 and 1871 was a census taken; the data employed were derived by the Prussian Statistical Office by means of “arithmetic interpolation;” for the year 1911 there was no data available: the data from 1910 was used and the resultant number appears for this reason in parentheses.

¹ Furthermore 12,638 children receive instruction in the upper grades that have been accommodated in the public primary schools; for this year there is no data for the number of schools, classes, and teachers.

¹ The data given for each year refer to the statistics gathered during the first semester of that year and the following year.

² Until 1885 the data include both full-time and part-time teachers; after 1896 only full-time teachers are counted.

³ Regarding the population data, see the corresponding notes above for table 4a in this chapter; in this column the results of the census were utilized, except for the years 1895 and 1905.

⁴ Schwarz made a mistake in addition for this statistic which in his text reads: 166,796.

⁵ Schwarz (p. 226) lists here the number of pupils as 165,060, for which no sources can be found, while his data for the year 1893 coincide with our sources.

Translation: Richard Pettit

Recommended Citation: Public Schools in Prussia (1864-1911/13), published in: German History in Documents and Images,

<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/wilhelmine-germany-and-the-first-world-war-1890-1918/ghdi:document-740>> [September 26, 2025].