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STATISTICS BOOK

Germany: statistics and facts

11 full reports · Edition October 2026

16.9M

EKD MEMBERS IN
2026 (ESTIMATE)

2-20bn

RANGE OF
ESTIMATES, RM

EUR 6.6B

CATHOLIC CHURCH
NET TAX REVENUE IN
2026 (ESTIMATE)

5.7M

COWS IN 1950

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Germany: statistics and facts

Looking for data on Germany? The 11 reports below cover Church (2 reports).

Some numbers that stand out in these reports: 16.9M (EKD Members in 2026 (Estimate)), 497.4M (Overnight Stays 2025), EUR 6.6B (Catholic Church Net Tax Revenue in 2026 (Estimate)) and 2-20bn (Range of Estimates, RM).

Recently updated reports include How Many Members Does Germany Evangelical Church Have? 2026 and Germany Accommodation Industry 2026: 497.4M Nights, Record. Each report links to its original source and offers its data as a free download. This page updates itself as reports are added or revised, most recently on Oct 18, 2026.

Each chapter is a complete Business Stats report with its text, charts, tables and primary sources. The online version of every report is updated continuously; this book shows them as of Oct 18, 2026.

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STATISTICS REPORT

Members of the Evangelical Church in Germany 2026

Updated Jun 2, 2026 · businessstats.com/evangelical-church-members-germany

16.9M EKD MEMBERS IN 2026 (ESTIMATE)	25.8M EKD MEMBERS IN 2004 - THE STARTING POINT	-9M MEMBERS LOST SINCE 2004 (ABOUT 35%)
~580k MEMBERS LOST IN 2024 ALONE	~20% OF GERMANY'S POPULATION IS EKD PROTESTANT	20 REGIONAL CHURCHES IN THE EKD FEDERATION

Overview

Number of members of the Evangelical Church in Germany from 2004 to 2026

The Evangelical Church in Germany, known by its German initials EKD and also called the Protestant Church in Germany, is one of the country's two great historic Christian churches, but it has been steadily losing members at an accelerating pace for decades. In 2026, the EKD had roughly 16.9 million members, down dramatically from about 25.8 million in 2004 - a loss of nearly 9 million members, or around 35%, in just over two decades. To put that in perspective, the church has lost the equivalent of the entire population of a large German city every few years throughout this period. The decline has been utterly relentless and is, if anything, speeding up, with the church losing around 580,000 members in 2024 alone. This represents one of the steepest and most sustained declines of any major religious institution in the developed world, transforming what was once a pillar of German society into a rapidly shrinking minority faith. The wider European religious picture is explored in our [religion in Europe analysis](#).

The EKD is not a single church but a federation of 20 regional Protestant churches, known as Landeskirchen, that together encompass the vast majority of Germany's Protestants. Each retains considerable autonomy while cooperating on national matters, an arrangement that reflects the historically decentralised nature of German Protestantism. Its membership decline mirrors that of the Roman Catholic Church, and the two together have lost over a million members in a single year on multiple recent

occasions. The fact that Germany's two historic state churches are both haemorrhaging members at such a pace underlines how profoundly the country's relationship with organised religion has changed over a single generation. The forces behind the EKD's shrinkage are the same ones reshaping German religion as a whole: record formal departures, an ageing membership where deaths far outnumber baptisms, the financial burden of the church tax, and the deep secularisation of society. The parallel Catholic decline is covered in our [share of Catholics in Germany analysis](#).

This article traces the EKD's membership from 2004 to 2026, charting the steady fall from well over 25 million to under 17 million and examining the reasons behind it. It looks at the record waves of departures, the demographic squeeze of an ageing membership, the comparison with the Catholic Church, the EKD's shrinking share of the population, and what the future may hold for German Protestantism. A contrasting case of a small but stable minority faith is covered in our [number of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany analysis](#), and the broader global context of faith is discussed in our [world religions analysis](#).

Germany EKD Evangelical Church members overview at a glance 2004 2026 snapshot decline summary bar EKD Members at a Glance - The 2004 to 2026 Drop (Millions) A quick snapshot of the decline: from 25.8M in 2004 to ~16.9M in 2026, the EKD has lost nearly 9 million members - over a third of its membership. Source: EKD, Statista 2026. -9M2004-2026

16.9M (2026)EKD Members Today - Down From 25.8M in 2004The Evangelical Church had roughly 16.9 million members in 2026, having lost nearly 9 million since 2004. Source: EKD, Statista 2026. -35% since 2004A Steep Long-Term DeclineEKD membership has fallen by around 35% in just over two decades, one of the steepest church declines in the developed world. Source: EKD, Statista 2026. ~580k (2024)Members Lost in a Single YearThe EKD lost around 580,000 members in 2024 alone, through departures and deaths far exceeding baptisms and admissions. Source: EKD 2026. 20 churchesA Federation, Not a Single ChurchThe EKD is a federation of 20 regional Protestant churches (Landeskirchen) covering the vast majority of German Protestants. Source: EKD 2026. Data Table

EKD Membership by Year, 2004-2026

Number of Members of the Evangelical Church in Germany, 2004-2026 (Millions) Click any column to sort

YEAR	MEMBERS	NOTE
2004	25.80M	Series start
2006	25.10M	

2008	24.50M	
2010	23.90M	
2012	23.40M	
2014	22.60M	
2016	21.90M	
2018	21.10M	
2020	20.20M	
2021	19.73M	
2022	19.15M	
2023	18.56M	
2024	17.98M	~580k left
2025	17.40M	
2026	16.90M	Latest (est.)

The table shows the EKD's steady year-by-year decline, from 25.8 million members in 2004 down to a projected 16.9 million in 2026. The fall is remarkably consistent, with the church shedding several hundred thousand members almost every year without interruption, and the losses growing larger in the most recent years rather than easing. Not a single year in the series shows a recovery or even a pause in the decline. By 2023 the figure had dropped to 18.56 million, by 2024 to 17.98 million, and by 2025 to 17.4 million, each year setting a new low. These figures count registered members of the EKD's 20 regional churches. The shrinking Catholic counterpart has followed an almost identical downward path over the same period.

The 2004-2026 Decline

Two Decades of Steady Decline

Germany EKD Evangelical Church members decline 2004 2026 falling 25 million 17 million line chart trend EKD Members in Germany - 2004 to 2026 (Millions) From 25.8M in 2004 in an almost straight downward line to ~16.9M by 2026 - a loss of nearly 9 million members, accelerating in recent years. Source: EKD, Statista 2026. 25.8M2004 16.9M2026 (est.)



The trend line is striking in its consistency: an almost unbroken downward slope from 2004 to 2026, with no period of recovery or even stabilisation. In the mid-2000s the EKD was still losing members at a relatively modest pace, but from around 2014 onward the decline steepened markedly, as formal departures surged to record levels year after year, echoing the marriage trends in our [Catholic weddings in Germany by partner religion analysis](#).

The recent years from 2021 to 2026 show the steepest part of the curve, with annual losses of half a million or more becoming the norm rather than the exception. What was once a gradual erosion has hardened into a steep and predictable annual decline that the church has been unable to arrest despite numerous reform efforts. This acceleration sets the EKD's decline apart from the more gradual erosion seen in some other European churches, where membership has fallen more slowly. The German case stands out for both the speed and the consistency of the loss. The population backdrop is in our [world population analysis](#).

Record Departures

The Record Waves of Departures

A major driver of the EKD's decline is the record number of members who formally leave the church each year through the official process known as Kirchenaustritt. In recent years, hundreds of thousands of Protestants have deregistered annually, with the figure reaching around 380,000 to 400,000 in the peak years and total annual losses, including deaths, exceeding half a million. The act of formally leaving has become increasingly common and socially accepted, no longer carrying the stigma it might once have had, which has made it easier for disengaged members to make their departure official. In many social circles, leaving the church is now seen as an unremarkable administrative step rather than a significant personal or spiritual decision.

Germany EKD Evangelical Church total annual losses members departures deaths 2021 2024 record bar chart EKD Total Annual Membership Losses (000s) Total yearly losses (departures + deaths minus additions): ~440k (2021), ~590k (2022), ~590k (2023), ~580k (2024). Consistently over half a million.

Source: EKD 2026. ~580k2024 loss

These losses combine two distinct flows: the people who actively choose to leave, and the members who die and are not replaced by enough baptisms or new admissions. The EKD's own research has found that for most people who leave, there is rarely a single dramatic reason, but rather a gradual process that often begins with a lack of religious socialisation in childhood and a growing sense that the church is personally irrelevant to their lives. By the time the formal decision to leave is made, the connection to the church has

usually already faded to almost nothing. A large majority also cite the savings on church tax as a factor, confirming the cost-benefit calculation many Germans increasingly make about whether church membership is worth its price, a pattern of decline also visible in our [religious change in Spain](#) analysis. The financial dimension is covered in our [Catholic Church tax revenue in Germany](#) analysis.

Why Members Leave

Why People Leave the Evangelical Church

Understanding why members leave the EKD requires looking at a combination of personal, financial, and social factors that have built up over decades. According to the EKD's own social science research, the most common path out of the church is not a sudden break but a slow drift, beginning with weak religious upbringing and culminating in a sense that church membership no longer holds any personal meaning. For the majority, religion has simply faded into the background of their lives until the formal act of leaving becomes a logical final step.

Financial considerations also weigh heavily in the decision. In Germany, registered church members pay a church tax of 8 to 9% of their income tax, and surveys have found that around 71% of those who leave cite the savings on this tax as a reason for their departure. While few leave for financial reasons alone, the tax often acts as the trigger that converts a long-standing disengagement into a formal exit. Added to this are more specific grievances some members hold, ranging from disagreements with the church's positions on social and political issues to a general disillusionment with institutional religion in an increasingly secular age.

Germany EKD reasons leaving church tax personal irrelevance secularisation factors survey breakdown bar
Reasons Members Give for Leaving the EKD (%) Church tax savings cited by ~71%; alongside personal irrelevance of religion, weak religious upbringing, and disagreement with church positions. Source: EKD Social Science Institute. 71%cite tax

The picture that emerges is one of a church losing its grip on a society that has fundamentally changed. Where Protestant identity was once a near-automatic inheritance passed down through families and reinforced by community life, it is now an active choice that fewer and fewer Germans make. The default has flipped: where staying in the church used to require no decision at all, today it is remaining a member, rather than leaving, that increasingly demands a conscious commitment. The church tax provides a concrete, recurring reminder of membership that prompts the disengaged to formalise their exit, but the deeper cause is the long retreat of religion from the centre of German life. This is the same broad



secularisation reshaping all of Germany's religious institutions across the board.

Deaths vs Baptisms

The Demographic Squeeze: Deaths vs Baptisms

Beyond the people who actively choose to leave, the EKD faces a relentless demographic squeeze that would shrink its membership even without any departures at all. The church's members are, on average, considerably older than the general population, which means that each year far more members die than are born into or baptised into the church. This imbalance between deaths and baptisms has become one of the most powerful forces driving the long-term decline, and it is structurally very difficult to reverse since it is rooted in the age profile of the membership itself, reflecting the wider demographic shifts in our [US population by sex and age analysis](#).

Germany EKD deaths baptisms gap demographic ageing membership decline natural loss comparison grouped bar EKD Deaths vs Baptisms in a Typical Recent Year (000s) Deaths far outnumber baptisms: roughly 340,000 deaths versus 140,000 baptisms in a recent year, a natural loss of ~200,000 before any departures. Source: EKD 2026. 340k v 140kdeaths/baptisms

In a typical recent year, the EKD has recorded on the order of 340,000 deaths against only around 140,000 baptisms, producing a natural loss of roughly 200,000 members before a single person formally resigns. Baptism numbers have themselves fallen well below pre-pandemic levels, as fewer families choose to baptise their children and pass on the faith, further weakening the pipeline of new members entering the church, much as recorded in our [Finland religious community data](#). This demographic reality means that even if formal departures stopped entirely tomorrow, the EKD would continue to shrink for years simply through the ageing and death of its existing membership, making a genuine turnaround extremely difficult to achieve.

EKD vs Catholic

EKD vs the Catholic Church

Germany's two great Christian churches, the Protestant EKD and the Roman Catholic Church, have followed strikingly similar paths of decline, and they are now very close in size. The Catholic Church remains slightly larger, with around 19 to 20 million members compared to the EKD's roughly 17 million, but both have been shrinking at a comparable pace. In 2024, in a notable convergence, both churches lost almost exactly the same number of members - around 580,000 each - even though the EKD had



historically been losing members faster than its Catholic counterpart. This marked the first time the Catholic Church matched the Protestant rate of loss, reflecting a surge in Catholic departures following the abuse scandals of the preceding years.

Germany EKD Protestant versus Catholic members comparison both declining 2024 similar size grouped bar chart EKD vs Catholic Church Members in Germany (Millions) Catholic ~19.8M vs EKD ~18.0M in 2024, both falling fast; in 2024 each lost ~580,000 members. The two are converging in size. Source: EKD, DBK 2026. Both fall in step

The parallel decline of the two churches reflects the fact that they face the same underlying pressures: secularisation, ageing memberships, the church tax, and the broad retreat of organised religion from German life. For decades the Protestant church had actually been declining faster, but the gap has narrowed as Catholic departures surged following abuse scandals. Together, the two churches once claimed the overwhelming majority of Germans as members, but today their combined membership has fallen below half the population, with the religiously unaffiliated now the largest single group in the country. This represents a historic inversion of Germany's religious make-up, with the once-dominant churches now collectively a minority. The Catholic side of this story shows the same relentless decline playing out in parallel.

Share of Population

The EKD's Shrinking Share of the Population

As the EKD's absolute membership has fallen, so too has its share of the German population, which is in some ways an even more telling measure of its decline. In 1950, around 59% of West Germans were Protestant, making it the largest religious group in the country by a clear margin. Protestantism was woven deeply into the fabric of West German society, shaping its culture, its institutions, and the rhythms of everyday life for the majority of the population.

By 2026, the EKD's share of the total German population has fallen to around 20%, meaning only one in five Germans is now a member of the Protestant church, compared with three in five just two generations earlier. This is a transformation of historic proportions for a country shaped so deeply by the Reformation. This collapse in relative terms reflects both the falling membership in absolute numbers and the simultaneous growth of the religiously unaffiliated population, which together have squeezed the Protestant share from both directions, a shift comparable to that in our [population of Finland by religious community analysis](#).

Germany EKD Protestant share population 1950 2026 decline 59 percent 20 percent falling proportion bar
EKD Share of Germany's Population Over Time (%) From around 59% of West Germans in 1950 to about 20% by 2026, the Protestant share has collapsed even faster than the Catholic share. Source: Pew, EKD 2026. ~20% in 2026

The EKD's fall from a majority faith to a minority of around 20% of the population is one of the most dramatic religious transformations in modern German history, all the more striking for having happened within living memory. Older Germans can remember a time when Protestant church membership was simply assumed for the majority of the population. For the first time, the religiously unaffiliated now outnumber Protestants, Catholics, and all other groups, having become the single largest segment of German society at around 47%.

The Protestant church, which once shaped German culture, education, and public life alongside the Catholic Church, now finds itself a shrinking minority institution in an overwhelmingly secular society, a position it would have been unthinkable to imagine just a few generations ago. This places German Protestantism within a wider landscape of religious change sweeping across the world, where historic churches are losing ground to secularisation. For a country that gave birth to the Protestant Reformation five centuries ago, the reduction of its Protestant church to a fifth of the population marks a profound closing of a long historical chapter.

Church Structure

How the EKD Is Organised

The Evangelical Church in Germany is not a single unified church but a federation of 20 regional churches, known as Landeskirchen, which retain considerable independence while cooperating under the EKD umbrella. These regional churches reflect Germany's historical patchwork of Protestant traditions, encompassing Lutheran, Reformed, and United churches, and their boundaries often follow historical regional lines rather than modern state borders. This decentralised structure is a legacy of the way Protestantism developed in the German lands after the Reformation, when individual territories adopted their own church arrangements. Together they cover the vast majority of Germany's Protestant Christians, making the EKD the institutional home of German Protestantism.

Germany EKD structure federation 20 regional churches Landeskirchen Lutheran Reformed United organisation donut EKD Member Churches by Tradition (Approximate) The EKD's 20 regional churches span Lutheran (the majority), United, and Reformed traditions, all under one federation. Source: EKD 2026.

20churches

Each Landeskirche has its own bishop or church president, synod, and administration, and the EKD as a whole is led by a council and its chair, currently Kirsten Fehrs. This federal structure gives the regional churches significant independence in matters of governance, worship, and finance, while the national body coordinates shared positions and represents German Protestantism as a whole. The federation runs an enormous range of social, educational, and charitable activities through its welfare arm, the Diakonie, which together with its Catholic counterpart Caritas forms one of the largest non-state employers in Germany. Despite its shrinking membership, the EKD therefore retains a substantial institutional footprint, operating hospitals, schools, kindergartens, and social services that touch the lives of millions of Germans well beyond its formal membership. This means the church's social influence extends far wider than its membership numbers alone would suggest, even as that membership continues to fall. This institutional weight gives the church a continuing significance even as its core membership declines.

The Future

The Future of the Evangelical Church in Germany

Looking ahead, the outlook for EKD membership is one of continued and likely accelerating decline. With an ageing membership ensuring that deaths will keep outpacing baptisms, and with formal departures showing no sign of slowing, the church is projected to keep losing members at a rate of several hundred thousand a year. The EKD's own internal projections have suggested that its membership could roughly halve again by 2060, potentially falling to around 9 to 10 million, with its share of the population continuing to slide well below current levels. Such a future would leave the Protestant church as a relatively small minority institution in a country it once helped define.

Germany EKD members future projection 2026 2040 decline forecast continuing shrinkage falling line chart
 Projected EKD Membership to 2040 (Millions) From ~16.9M in 2026, the EKD is projected to keep falling toward ~13M by 2040 and potentially ~9-10M by 2060 if current trends continue. Source: BusinessStats projection from EKD data. ~13Mby 2040

The church is acutely aware of this trajectory and has launched various reform and outreach efforts to try to slow the decline, ranging from new forms of worship to digital outreach and structural reorganisation, though none has yet succeeded in reversing the underlying trend. The scale of the demographic and social forces involved has so far overwhelmed every attempt at renewal, leaving church leaders to manage decline rather than reverse it. Many within the EKD have begun to focus less on halting the fall and more on



adapting the church to a future as a smaller, more committed community.

The fundamental challenge is that the EKD is losing members through deep structural forces - demographic ageing and societal secularisation - that no amount of institutional reform can easily counter. These forces operate largely independently of anything the church itself does, which is why reform initiatives have so far failed to bend the curve of decline. While the church will remain a significant presence in German society for the foreseeable future, given its size and institutional reach, the era in which Protestantism was a defining feature of German identity has clearly drawn to a close, replaced by an increasingly secular national culture in which religious affiliation is the exception rather than the rule. The EKD's long decline is, in this sense, a barometer of one of the most profound social transformations in modern German history. The economic backdrop is in our [global economy analysis](#).

Key Statistics

EKD Membership - Key Statistics

Germany EKD members milestones 2004 2014 2024 2026 decline comparison millions summary key bar chart EKD Members at Key Milestones (Millions) 2004: 25.8M. 2014: 22.6M. 2024: 17.98M. 2026: 16.9M (est.). A steady, accelerating two-decade decline. Source: EKD, Statista 2026. -9M2004-2026

16.9 millionEKD Members in 2026 - Down From 25.8MThe Evangelical Church's estimated 2026 membership, down nearly 9 million from 2004. Source: EKD, Statista 2026. ~580,000Members Lost in 2024 AloneThe EKD's membership loss in 2024, matching the Catholic Church's loss for the first time. Source: EKD 2026. ~20%Share of Population - Down From 59% in 1950The EKD now represents around 20% of Germans, down from a majority in 1950. Source: Pew, EKD 2026. 71%Of Leavers Cite Church Tax SavingsAround 71% of those who leave the EKD cite the savings on church tax as a reason. Source: EKD Social Science Institute. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions - EKD Membership

Roughly 16.9 million in 2026, down from about 17.4 million in 2025 and 25.8 million in 2004. That represents around 20% of the German population. Source: EKD, Statista 2026.

By nearly 9 million, or around 35%. Membership fell from about 25.8 million in 2004 to roughly 16.9 million in 2026, with the decline accelerating in the most recent years. Source: EKD, Statista 2026.



Departures, deaths, and secularisation. Around 580,000 left in 2024 through formal departures and deaths exceeding baptisms, driven by the church tax, weak religious upbringing, and the broad secularisation of society. Source: EKD 2026.

The Catholic Church is slightly larger. It has around 19-20 million members versus the EKD's roughly 17 million. Both have declined sharply, and in 2024 each lost around 580,000 members. Source: EKD, DBK 2026.

Around 580,000 members. This brought membership down to about 17.98 million by the end of 2024. It was one of four recent years in which the two big churches combined lost over a million members. Source: EKD 2026.

The Evangelical Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland), also called the Protestant Church in Germany. It is a federation of 20 regional Lutheran, Reformed, and United churches covering most German Protestants. Source: EKD 2026.

Around 20% in 2026, down from about 59% in 1950. The EKD has fallen from the majority faith to a minority of one in five Germans, while the religiously unaffiliated are now the largest group. Source: Pew, EKD 2026.

Yes, by a wide margin. In a recent year the EKD recorded roughly 340,000 deaths against only about 140,000 baptisms - a natural loss of around 200,000 even before counting formal departures. Source: EKD 2026.

It is a major factor. Around 71% of those who leave cite savings on the 8-9% church tax as a reason. While few leave for money alone, the tax often triggers a formal exit for those already disengaged. Source: EKD Social Science Institute.

Yes, almost certainly. With an ageing membership and continued departures, the EKD is projected to fall toward ~13 million by 2040 and possibly ~9-10 million by 2060 if current trends hold. Source: BusinessStats projection 2026.

Sources

[Wikipedia - Evangelical Church in Germany \(EKD\)](#) - Source for the 2025 membership figure (17.4 million, 20.8% of population), the federation of 20 regional churches, and the church's structure. Accessed 2026.

[Germanpedia - Why Church Membership in Germany Keeps Declining](#) - Source for the 2024 figure (~17.98 million EKD members), the demographic pressures, and the comparison with Catholic membership.



Published January 2026.

[Evangelical Focus - Nones Outnumber Catholics and Protestants \(2024\)](#) - Source for the 2024 losses (~580,000 each church), the 21% Protestant population share, and the rise of the unaffiliated to 47%.

Published April 2025.

[Evangelical Focus - EKD Continues to Lose Members](#) - Source for the reasons members leave (71% cite church tax, personal irrelevance), and the deaths-vs-baptisms figures. Published 2022.

Membership figures from the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) via Statista, covering 2004-2026. Key verified points: 25.8M (2004), 19.15M (2022), 18.56M (2023), 17.98M (2024), 17.4M (2025). The 2026 figure (~16.9M) is an estimate projected from the trend; the 2025 figure is the latest firm actual. "Members" counts registered members of the EKD's 20 regional churches. Not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Catholic Church net tax revenue in Germany 2026

 Updated Jun 1, 2026 · businessstats.com/catholic-church-net-tax-revenue-germany

EUR 6.6B CATHOLIC CHURCH NET TAX REVENUE IN 2026 (ESTIMATE)	EUR 6.85B THE ALL-TIME RECORD, REACHED IN 2022	EUR 4.0B THE STARTING POINT IN 1991
+65% NOMINAL RISE IN REVENUE SINCE 1991	8-9% CHURCH TAX RATE (OF INCOME TAX, NOT SALARY)	~321k CATHOLICS WHO LEFT THE CHURCH IN A RECENT YEAR

Overview

Net revenue from Catholic Church tax in Germany from 1991 to 2026

Germany's Catholic Church is one of the wealthiest churches in the world, and the single largest source of its income is the country's distinctive and unusual church tax, the Kirchensteuer, a state-collected levy that has no real equivalent in most other countries. In 2026, the Catholic Church collected an estimated EUR 6.6 billion in net church tax revenue, remaining close to its all-time record of EUR 6.85 billion set in 2022. This figure represents the money the Church actually receives after the German state, which collects the tax on its behalf, deducts a small administrative fee of typically 2 to 4 percent. The sheer size of this sum makes the German Catholic Church one of the best-funded religious institutions anywhere in the world, with resources that dwarf those of Catholic churches in most other countries, where funding relies on voluntary donations. The broader European religious landscape that shapes this system is explored in our [religion in Europe analysis](#).

What makes the German church tax system so notable is its sheer scale and resilience. Over the full period from 1991 to 2026, net Catholic Church tax revenue rose from around EUR 4.0 billion to roughly EUR 6.6 billion - a nominal increase of about 65% - even as the Church faced an unprecedented wave of members formally resigning to avoid paying the tax. The revenue has held up because Germany's strong economy, rising wages, and the higher average incomes of remaining members have offset the steady loss of membership. This combination of factors has created a striking disconnect between the Church's spiritual

fortunes, which have been in clear decline, and its financial fortunes, which have remained robust right up to the present day. The economic forces behind this are detailed in our [global economy analysis](#).

This article traces the full arc of Catholic Church tax revenue in Germany across more than three decades of data, from 1991 to 2026, examining the long climb to the 2022 record, the slight dip that followed, and the recent stabilisation around EUR 6.6 to 6.7 billion. It also explores the central paradox of the German church tax: how an institution losing hundreds of thousands of members every year continues to generate near-record income. A closely related case of religious decline and church finance is covered in our [share of non-Catholic believers in Spain](#) analysis.

EUR 6.6B (2026) Near-Record Revenue - Despite Membership Losses Germany's Catholic Church collected an estimated EUR 6.6 billion in net church tax in 2026, close to the 2022 record, even as members continue to leave in large numbers. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

EUR 6.85B (2022) The All-Time Record - A High-Water Mark The Catholic Church's church tax revenue peaked at EUR 6.85 billion in 2022, driven by a strong economy and rising incomes among members. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

+65% since 1991 Long-Term Nominal Growth - From EUR 4.0B Net revenue grew from around EUR 4.0 billion in 1991 to roughly EUR 6.6 billion in 2026, a 65% nominal rise, though inflation erodes much of that real-terms gain. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

8-9% The Tax Rate - A Share of Income Tax The church tax is 8% (Bavaria, Baden-Wurttemberg) or 9% (rest of Germany) of a member's income tax liability, collected by the state and passed to the Church. Source: DBK 2026.

Data Table

Catholic Church Net Tax Revenue in Germany by Year

Net Revenue from Catholic Church Tax in Germany, 1991-2026 (EUR Billion) Click any column to sort

YEAR	NET REVENUE	NOTE
1991	EUR 4.00B	Series start
1995	EUR 4.30B	
2000	EUR 4.50B	
2005	EUR 4.20B	
2010	EUR 4.80B	
2013	EUR 5.20B	
2015	EUR 5.50B	

2017	EUR 6.00B	
2019	EUR 6.76B	
2021	EUR 6.73B	
2022	EUR 6.85B	Record peak
2023	EUR 6.51B	
2024	EUR 6.60B	
2025	EUR 6.70B	
2026	EUR 6.60B	Latest (est.)

The table shows the long upward march of Catholic Church tax revenue, from around EUR 4.0 billion in 1991 to the EUR 6.85 billion record in 2022, followed by a dip to EUR 6.51 billion in 2023 and a recovery toward EUR 6.6 billion by 2026. The general direction has been one of steady nominal growth, punctuated by occasional dips during economic downturns such as the early 2000s and the 2023 slowdown. These figures are nominal and not adjusted for inflation, which means the real-terms growth is considerably more modest than the headline numbers suggest. The wider context of global faiths and their finances is covered in our [world religions analysis](#).

The 1991-2026 Trend

The Thirty-Five-Year Revenue Trend

Germany Catholic Church tax revenue trend 1991 2026 net Kirchensteuer billion euros rise record line Net Catholic Church Tax Revenue in Germany - 1991 to 2026 (EUR Billion) From EUR 4.0B in 1991, rising steadily to the EUR 6.85B record in 2022, dipping to EUR 6.51B in 2023, then recovering to ~EUR 6.6B by 2026. Source: DBK, Statista 2026. 6.6B2026 (est.) 6.85B2022 record

The thirty-five-year trend line reveals a story of remarkable financial strength. After a relatively flat period in the 1990s and a dip in the early 2000s during a German economic slowdown, revenue began a sustained climb from the mid-2000s onward, accelerating through the 2010s as the German economy boomed and wages rose. This period coincided with Germany's emergence as Europe's strongest economy, with low unemployment and steadily rising incomes that directly boosted the income-tax base on which the church tax is calculated. The peak of EUR 6.85 billion in 2022 capped this long ascent, and despite a small dip in 2023, the figure has remained historically high through the mid-2020s. This resilience would have seemed

almost impossible to predict given the scale of membership losses, yet it is precisely what the economic data shows. This resilience stands in sharp contrast to the steep decline in Church membership over the same period. The population dynamics underlying these numbers are in our [world population analysis](#).

The 2022 Record

The 2022 Record and the Recent Dip

Germany Catholic Church tax record 2022 peak dip 2023 recent years recovery billion euros bar Catholic Church Tax Revenue - Recent Years (EUR Billion) 2019: 6.76B. 2021: 6.73B. 2022: 6.85B (record). 2023: 6.51B (dip). 2024: 6.6B. 2025: 6.7B. 2026: 6.6B (est.). Source: DBK, Statista 2026. 6.85B2022 record

The record-breaking EUR 6.85 billion in 2022 was the high-water mark of the German Catholic Church's financial fortunes, surpassing all previous years. It was driven by Germany's robust post-pandemic economic recovery, rising nominal wages, and the additional revenue generated by church tax on capital gains, which has become an increasingly important component of the total. The strong stock market and investment returns of that period meant that church tax levied on capital gains added a meaningful boost on top of the regular income-based church tax, pushing the total to its historic high. The dip to EUR 6.51 billion in 2023 reflected a slowing German economy and continued membership losses, but the figure rebounded toward EUR 6.6-6.7 billion in the following years as the economy stabilised. These year-to-year swings track the broader health of the German economy quite closely. These year-to-year movements closely track the health of the German economy.

How the Tax Works

How Germany's Church Tax Actually Works

The German church tax, or Kirchensteuer, is one of the most distinctive systems of religious financing in the world, and understanding it is essential to making sense of these revenue figures. Unlike voluntary donations or tithes common in other countries, the Kirchensteuer is a formal tax collected by the German state on behalf of recognised religious communities. It is set at 8% of a member's income tax liability in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, and 9% in all other federal states across Germany. This regional variation is a small quirk of the system that reflects the federal structure of the country, where individual states retain some authority over how the tax is administered within their borders. Crucially, it is calculated as a percentage of income tax owed, not of gross salary, which means the actual amount is smaller than the headline percentage suggests.



The tax applies only to registered members of tax-levying religious communities - primarily Catholics, Protestants, and Jews - not to all German residents. When a person registers their address in Germany through the Anmeldung process, they are asked about their religious affiliation, and this information is forwarded to the tax office (Finanzamt), which then sets up their church tax liability. The state deducts the tax directly from payroll alongside income tax, then transfers it to the relevant church minus a collection fee of typically 2-4%. This makes the German state, in effect, the Church's tax collector, an arrangement rooted in agreements dating back over a century.

Germany church tax rate states Bavaria 8 percent 9 percent income tax Kirchensteuer how works breakdown German Church Tax Rate by Region (% of Income Tax) Bavaria and Baden-Wurtemberg: 8% of income tax. All other federal states: 9% of income tax. The state keeps 2-4% as a collection fee. Source: DBK 2026. 8-9% of income tax

This state-collected model is what gives the German church tax its extraordinary reliability and scale. Because the tax is deducted automatically at source, like income tax, the Church does not need to chase members for contributions, and revenue tracks the broader economy with great consistency. The system funds not just religious services but a vast network of hospitals, schools, kindergartens, social care facilities, and cultural institutions across Germany, making the churches among the country's largest employers and social service providers outside the state sector itself. The scale of this funding explains why the church tax remains so financially significant despite declining religious observance.

The Revenue Paradox

The Paradox: Falling Membership, Rising Revenue

The most striking feature of the German Catholic Church's finances is a genuine paradox: even as record numbers of members formally leave the Church every year, church tax revenue has remained near all-time highs. In a typical recent year, several hundred thousand Catholics formally deregister from the Church, a process driven partly by a desire to avoid the tax and partly by disillusionment following abuse scandals and disagreements with Church teaching. Yet the financial impact of these departures has been remarkably muted, with revenue staying close to its 2022 peak.

The explanation lies in the demographics and economics of who pays and who leaves. The members who remain in the Church tend to be older and higher-earning, meaning they contribute disproportionately to total revenue, while many of those who leave are younger and lower-earning, with a smaller per-capita tax contribution. This selection effect means that each departure removes, on average, less revenue than a

simple per-member calculation would suggest, cushioning the financial impact of even very large waves of resignations. At the same time, Germany's strong economy and rising nominal wages have steadily increased the income tax base on which the church tax is calculated, more than compensating for the loss of members in pure revenue terms. These broader economic trends are the single biggest driver of the revenue figures.

Germany Catholic Church revenue versus membership paradox declining members rising revenue divergence chart The Paradox - Revenue Holds as Membership Falls While Catholic membership has fallen sharply (from ~26M in 2010 to ~20M by 2026), net tax revenue rose from ~EUR 4.8B to ~EUR 6.6B over the same period. Source: DBK, Statista 2026. Paradoxup vs down

This divergence between falling membership and rising revenue cannot continue indefinitely, however. As the membership base shrinks and ages, and as the largest, most reliable tax-paying generations retire and pass away, the underlying foundation of the church tax is gradually eroding. Demographers and church financial planners widely expect that revenue will eventually begin a structural decline once the demographic and economic tailwinds fade, even if the exact timing remains uncertain. Internal church studies have projected that real-terms revenue could halve over the coming decades as the membership base shrinks and ages, prompting many dioceses to begin restructuring, merging parishes, and cutting costs in anticipation of leaner times ahead. For now, though, the paradox holds, and the Church remains exceptionally well funded.

Members Leaving

The Record Wave of Church Departures

Behind the strong revenue figures lies a dramatic story of decline in membership. In recent years, the German Catholic Church has experienced record waves of formal departures, with hundreds of thousands of members officially deregistering annually - including a peak of over 520,000 in 2022. These departures are driven by a combination of factors: the desire to avoid the church tax, widespread anger over clerical abuse scandals, frustration with the slow pace of reform, and the broader secularisation of German society. To formally leave, a member must complete an official process at a local registry office or court and pay a small administrative fee, after which they are no longer liable for the tax. This formal act of leaving, known as *Kirchenaustritt*, has become increasingly common and socially accepted, with many Germans viewing it as a straightforward financial and personal decision rather than a dramatic religious statement.

Germany Catholic Church members leaving departures resignations record numbers annual exits secularisation bar Catholic Church Formal Departures in Germany (Recent Years) Departures hit record highs: ~272k (2019), ~360k (2021), ~522k (2022 record), ~403k (2023), ~321k (2024), ~307k (2025).

Source: DBK 2026. 522k2022 peak

The scale of these departures is historically unprecedented for the German Catholic Church, which has seen its share of the population shrink steadily for decades. The abuse scandals that came to light in the 2010s and 2020s acted as a particular catalyst, accelerating departures that were already trending upward for years. Each major revelation or report tended to be followed by a fresh surge in formal exits, as Catholics who had been nominal members for years finally decided to sever their ties with an institution they no longer trusted or wished to fund. While departures have eased slightly from the 2022 peak, they remain at extremely high levels by historical standards, ensuring that the Church's membership base continues to contract year after year. This membership decline mirrors patterns of secularisation seen across much of Western Europe.

Catholic vs Protestant

Catholic vs Protestant Church Tax Revenue

Germany's church tax system funds two major Christian churches: the Catholic Church and the Protestant (Evangelical) Church. Their church tax revenues are broadly comparable, reflecting their similar sizes within German society. In 2023, the Catholic Church collected around EUR 6.51 billion while the Protestant Church collected around EUR 5.9 billion, and combined, the two churches generate well over EUR 12 billion annually through the Kirchensteuer, making it one of the most lucrative religious financing systems anywhere in the world. This combined figure has occasionally approached EUR 13 billion in peak years, underlining just how much money flows through the German church tax system each year.

Germany Catholic Protestant church tax revenue comparison combined 13 billion euros Evangelical 2023 2025 bar Catholic vs Protestant Church Tax Revenue (EUR Billion) Catholic ~EUR 6.6B vs Protestant ~EUR 6.0B in recent years; combined the two exceed EUR 12-13 billion annually. The two are broadly comparable in scale. Source: DBK, EKD, Statista 2026. EUR 12B+combined

Both churches face the same fundamental challenge of declining membership amid Germany's ongoing secularisation, and both have seen record numbers of departures in recent years. The Protestant Church, like its Catholic counterpart, has maintained relatively high revenue despite these losses, thanks to the same economic tailwinds. Together, the two churches form one of the largest non-state employers and



social service providers in Germany, running hospitals, schools, and welfare organisations that touch the lives of millions of Germans regardless of their faith. The shared trajectory of these institutions reflects the broader story of religion in modern Germany.

Where the Money Goes

Where the Church Tax Money Goes

The billions raised through the church tax fund far more than Sunday services and clergy salaries. A substantial portion supports the Catholic Church's enormous network of social and charitable institutions, including hospitals, nursing homes, kindergartens, schools, and welfare organisations operated under the umbrella of Caritas, one of Germany's largest social service providers and employers. Caritas alone employs hundreds of thousands of staff and runs thousands of facilities across the country, making the Church a major force in German healthcare, education, and social welfare far beyond its purely religious role. These institutions employ hundreds of thousands of people and serve millions of Germans, often with significant additional state funding alongside the church tax money. In fact, the Catholic and Protestant churches together form one of the largest employers in Germany after the state itself, and their Caritas and Diakonie welfare arms are pillars of the German social safety net, providing services that would otherwise fall to the government.

Germany Catholic Church spending breakdown pastoral care social charity administration buildings allocation donut How Catholic Church Tax Revenue Is Used (Approximate) Roughly: pastoral and parish work ~50%, social and charitable work ~20%, administration ~15%, buildings and upkeep ~15%.

Allocations vary by diocese. Source: DBK estimates 2026. 50%pastoral

Beyond social services, the church tax funds the maintenance of Germany's vast heritage of churches, cathedrals, and religious buildings, many of which are centuries old and of significant cultural and historical importance. It also supports the salaries of clergy and lay employees, theological education, missionary and development work abroad, and the general administration of the dioceses. The sheer breadth of these commitments means that even a modest decline in revenue could force difficult choices about which activities to cut, a prospect that looms over the Church's long-term financial planning as membership continues to fall.

The Future

The Future of Germany's Church Tax

Looking ahead, the long-term outlook for Catholic Church tax revenue in Germany is one of expected structural decline, even though the near-term figures remain strong. As the membership base continues to shrink and age, and as the large, reliably tax-paying older generations are gradually replaced by smaller, more secular younger cohorts, the demographic foundation of the church tax will steadily weaken. Church financial planners themselves anticipate that revenue will eventually fall in real and then nominal terms, even if the strong economy has delayed this reckoning so far.

Germany Catholic Church tax revenue future projection 2026 2035 decline forecast membership secularisation line Projected Catholic Church Tax Revenue to 2035 (EUR Billion) After holding near EUR 6.6B through the late 2020s, revenue is projected to begin a gradual decline toward EUR 5.5-6.0B by 2035 as membership shrinks. Source: BusinessStats projection from DBK data. 2035decline ahead

There is also an ongoing political debate about the future of the church tax system itself. Critics argue that the state should not act as a tax collector for religious institutions in an increasingly secular and religiously diverse society, and some have called for the system to be reformed or abolished entirely, while the churches and most major political parties continue to defend it as a stable and efficient arrangement. The debate periodically resurfaces in German politics, but no government has shown serious appetite for dismantling a system that funds so much of the country's social infrastructure. Any fundamental change would have enormous financial consequences for the churches, which is why the system has proven remarkably durable despite periodic challenges. For now, the Catholic Church tax remains a multi-billion-euro pillar of German religious life and one of the most powerful religious financing models in the world, even as the society around it grows steadily more secular and the Church's membership continues its long decline.

Key Statistics

Catholic Church Tax in Germany - Key Statistics

Germany Catholic Church tax revenue milestones 1991 2013 2022 2026 comparison growth billion euros summary bar Catholic Church Tax Revenue at Key Milestones (EUR Billion) 1991: 4.0B. 2013: 5.2B. 2022: 6.85B (record). 2026: 6.6B (est.). A long climb to the 2022 peak, then stabilisation. Source: DBK, Statista 2026. +65%1991-2026

EUR 6.6 billion 2026 Net Revenue - Near the All-Time Record The Catholic Church's estimated 2026 net church tax revenue, close to the EUR 6.85 billion record set in 2022, despite continued membership losses. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

EUR 6.85 billion 2022 Record - The All-Time High The peak year for Catholic Church tax revenue, driven by a strong economy, rising wages, and capital gains tax revenue. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

~522,000 2022 Departures - A Record Wave of Exits The record number of Catholics who formally left the Church in 2022, though revenue still hit its all-time high the same year. Source: DBK 2026.

EUR 12B+ Combined Catholic + Protestant Church Tax Revenue Together, Germany's two main churches raise over EUR 12 billion annually through the Kirchensteuer, one of the world's largest religious financing systems. Source: DBK, EKD 2026. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions - Catholic Church Tax in Germany

An estimated EUR 6.6 billion in net revenue in 2026, close to its all-time record of EUR 6.85 billion set in 2022. The figure has stayed high despite record numbers of members formally leaving the Church. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

EUR 6.85 billion in 2022, an all-time record driven by a strong German economy and rising incomes. Revenue dipped to EUR 6.51 billion in 2023 before recovering toward EUR 6.6-6.7 billion in 2024-2026. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

It is 8-9% of a member's income tax (not gross salary), collected by the state tax office and passed to the Church minus a small fee. It applies only to registered Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, not all residents. Source: DBK 2026.

Because remaining members are higher earners and the economy is strong. Those who stay tend to be older, higher-income members who contribute more, while rising wages have grown the income tax base that the church tax is calculated on. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

Several hundred thousand annually, peaking at over 522,000 in 2022. Departures have eased slightly to around 307,000-321,000 in 2024-2025 but remain at historically high levels, driven by tax avoidance, abuse scandals, and secularisation. Source: DBK 2026.

8% in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg, 9% elsewhere - calculated as a percentage of income tax owed, not gross salary. So if your income tax bill is EUR 5,000, your church tax is EUR 400-450. Source: DBK 2026.



Registered Catholics, Protestants, and Jews who pay income tax. It applies to foreign residents too, not just German citizens. Those who do not pay income tax (e.g. some retirees or unemployed) are not liable. Source: DBK 2026.

They are broadly comparable. In 2023 the Catholic Church collected ~EUR 6.51 billion and the Protestant Church ~EUR 5.9 billion. Combined, the two churches raise over EUR 12 billion annually through the Kirchensteuer. Source: DBK, EKD, Statista 2026.

It funds pastoral work, plus a huge network of hospitals, schools, kindergartens, and welfare services. Roughly half goes to pastoral and parish work, with the rest split between social and charitable work, administration, and maintaining buildings. Source: DBK 2026.

Yes, most analysts expect a structural decline eventually. As the older, tax-paying generations are replaced by smaller, more secular cohorts, revenue is projected to fall toward EUR 5.5-6.0 billion by 2035, though the strong economy has delayed this so far. Source: BusinessStats projection 2026.

Sources

[Statista / DBK - Net Revenue from Catholic Church Tax in Germany 1991-2023](#) - Primary source for the time series, based on German Bishops' Conference (DBK) figures. Survey period 1991 to 2023, released June 2024. +-0%.

[European Times - Germany's Church Tax \(2026\)](#) - Source for 2025 figures (~EUR 6.7B Catholic estimate, EUR 6.09B Protestant), 307,117 exits in 2025, and the combined EUR 12.7B total. Published May 2026.

[Omnes Magazine - German Church Tax](#) - Source for 2023 figures (EUR 6.51B Catholic, EUR 5.9B Protestant), the 8-9% rate structure, and state collection fee details. Published November 2024.

[Live in Germany - Church Tax \(Kirchensteuer\) 2026 Guide](#) - Source for the mechanics of the tax, EUR 13B+ combined 2024 figure, and 2026 membership context (~51M registered). Published March 2026.

Figures from the German Bishops' Conference (DBK) via Statista, covering net Catholic Church tax revenue 1991-2026. "Net" means after the state's collection fee. Key verified points: EUR 6.85B (2022 record), EUR 6.51B (2023). 2024-2026 figures are estimates pending final DBK publication; the 2025 Catholic total was provisional at publication (~EUR 6.7B working estimate). Figures are nominal, not inflation-adjusted. Not investment advice.



STATISTICS REPORT

Jewish net wealth in Nazi Germany in the 1930s

Updated Sep 24, 2026 · businessstats.com/jewish-net-wealth-nazi-germany

2-20bn RANGE OF ESTIMATES, RM	4.5bn REGISTERED IN 1938, RM	under 1% JEWISH SHARE OF POPULATION
20% FALSELY CLAIMED BY NAZIS	2.65bn SEIZED BY THE STATE, RM	1bn KRISTALLNACHT FINE, RM

Overview

A number twisted into a weapon

Throughout the years between the wars, Nazi leaders and their propaganda repeatedly claimed that Jews owned up to 20 percent of all the wealth in Germany. It was untrue. Jews made up fewer than one percent of the German population, and no serious estimate came close to the propaganda figure. But the claim served a purpose: it cast a small minority as economic parasites, made them a scapegoat for the countrys troubles after the First World War and the Great Depression, and prepared the ground for persecution and theft.

Working out what Jews actually owned is difficult, because no official figures for Jewish wealth in the 1930s were ever published. What exists is a range of estimates, some made at the time by the press, the Reichsbank and the German Statistical Office, and others reconstructed later by economic historians from archives and tax records. Those estimates run from about 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks, a wide spread that reflects how differently wealth can be defined. This report presents them, explains the range, and follows what the Nazi state did with the wealth once it had exaggerated its size. It sits alongside our wider coverage of [the Holocaust in statistics and facts](#).

The Estimates

What the sources say

The chart below gathers the main estimates of Jewish net wealth in Germany in the 1930s, each with a lower and an upper figure. The spread is striking.

Estimates of Jewish Net Wealth in Nazi Germany (billion Reichsmarks) Lower and upper estimates from different sources and years.

Data:

compiled estimates from contemporary sources and later economic historians, including Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl.

Note:

figures mix net and gross wealth and different territories, so they are not directly comparable. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A very wide range: estimates run from around 2 billion Reichsmarks at the low end to 20 billion at the high end, depending on the source.

Contemporary press reports offered the widest and highest range, from 10 to 20 billion Reichsmarks, figures closest to the inflated propaganda claims. The Reichsbank estimates ran from about 2.4 to 11.5 billion. The German Statistical Office produced several figures over the decade, including a vague estimate of around 8.5 billion in the early 1930s and narrower ones of 2 to 2.5 billion in 1933 and 4 to 4.5 billion in 1936. The economic historian Helen Junz later estimated Jewish wealth at 8 to 16 billion Reichsmarks for the earlier period and about 4.3 to 4.5 billion for German Jews by 1938, while Albrecht Ritschl arrived at roughly 5.5 to 6.5 billion for 1936. The most solid single number is the one the Nazis themselves compelled: in the census of April 1938, Jews were forced to register net assets worth about 4.5 billion Reichsmarks.

Propaganda vs Reality

The gap between claim and reality

Setting the propaganda claim next to the demographic reality shows how dishonest it was.

Jewish Share: Nazi Propaganda Claim vs Population (percent) What propaganda claimed against the demographic reality.

Data:

Nazi propaganda claim as reported by contemporary accounts; population share from demographic estimates (Jews were about 0.75 percent of the German population). Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A deliberate distortion: the Nazis claimed Jews held up to 20 percent of German wealth while Jews were under one percent of the population.

The Nazi claim that Jews controlled up to a fifth of German wealth was set against a community that made up less than one percent of the population. Even the highest scholarly estimates fall far short of 20 percent. Ritschl, for example, estimated that Jews held roughly 0.75 percent of Germanys capital stock, which on his figures implied wealth of around 6.4 billion Reichsmarks in 1936. Other calculations put the Jewish share of national wealth at something in the single digits, perhaps 7 to 8 percent, and only one disputed upper-bound guess approached the higher numbers. The propaganda figure was not an estimate at all but a slogan, designed to make theft look like justice.

Why They Vary

Why the estimates differ so much

A range from 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks can look like confusion, but most of the spread comes from definitions rather than disagreement about the facts. The largest source of difference is net against gross wealth. Gross wealth counts everything a person owns, while net wealth subtracts debts and liabilities, and the two can differ by a wide margin. A figure of 4.3 to 4.5 billion Reichsmarks for Jewish net wealth in Germany in early 1938 is consistent with a gross figure of around 8.5 billion for Germany and Austria together.

Territory and timing matter too. Some estimates cover only Germany, others add Austria after the annexation of March 1938. Some are from the early 1930s, before years of persecution and forced emigration had drained Jewish resources, and others from 1938, after much wealth had already been taxed away or left the country. And the underlying data is patchy, because no one set out to measure Jewish wealth honestly. Read with these differences in mind, the estimates are not contradictory so much as answers to slightly different questions.

Aryanization

Driven out of the economy

Long before the mass killing began, the Nazis set out to destroy Jews economically. The process they called Aryanization meant forcing Jewish owners to sell their businesses and property to non-Jews, almost always at a fraction of the real value. Its scale can be measured in the collapse of Jewish enterprise.

Jewish-Owned Businesses in Germany, 1933 and 1938 The collapse of Jewish enterprise under Aryanization.

Data:

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem.

Note:

all Jewish businesses fell from about 100,000 (January 1933) to 39,552 (April 1938); retail stores from about 50,000 to 9,000. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A community forced out: the number of Jewish-owned businesses in Germany fell from about 100,000 in 1933 to under 40,000 by 1938.

When the Nazis took power in January 1933, Jews owned about 100,000 businesses in Germany, from corner shops to factories, publishing houses and professional practices. Five years of boycotts, intimidation, dismissals and forced sales cut that number to 39,552 by April 1938. Retail was hit hardest: of some 50,000 Jewish-owned stores in 1933, only around 9,000 remained by the summer of 1938. The buyers were often the regimes favoured firms and individuals, and among the largest profiteers were the chemical giant IG Farben, the industrialist Flick family and the major banks. Because the proceeds were paid into blocked accounts that the sellers could barely touch, Aryanization amounted, as one account put it, to almost compensation-free confiscation.

The Plunder

How the wealth was taken

The real story of Jewish wealth in Nazi Germany is not how much there was but how systematically it was stripped away. The theft of Jewish property, as one historian put it, was not an incidental byproduct of the Holocaust but a central part of it. The chart shows the revenue from the main instruments of dispossession.

Jewish Wealth Seized by the Nazi State (billion Reichsmarks) Revenue from the main instruments of dispossession.

Data:

Reich Flight Tax total 1933 to 1945; Jewish Capital Levy of 1938; and total fiscal dispossession 1938 to 1944 (Ritschl, 2019).

Note:

the total includes the levy and post-1938 flight tax plus other confiscation, so the bars are not additive.

Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Legalised theft: of about 4.5 billion Reichsmarks registered in 1938, some 2.65 billion was funnelled into the state by 1944.

The stripping of Jewish wealth ran through several channels. The Reich Flight Tax, a levy on emigration turned into a tool of plunder, took about 941 million Reichsmarks between 1933 and 1945, most of it from Jews forced to flee. After the Kristallnacht pogrom of November 1938, the state imposed a collective fine on German Jews, the Jewish Capital Levy, which reached about 1.13 billion Reichsmarks, seized from every Jewish estate above 5,000 Reichsmarks. The levy ultimately raised about 1.127 billion Reichsmarks, collected in installments into 1939 and 1940. During the pogrom itself some 7,500 Jewish enterprises were damaged or looted, and the insurance money owed to their owners was confiscated by the state. Alongside these came Aryanization, the forced sale of Jewish businesses and property to non-Jewish buyers at a fraction of their worth, with large firms and banks among the profiteers. Of the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmarks registered in 1938, about 2.65 billion, some 58 percent, had been funnelled into the state coffers by 1944, and broader estimates of the total value stolen run higher still. The exaggerated wealth of Nazi propaganda became, in reality, a minority robbed of almost everything it had.

How We Know

How the figures are known

Because no honest official accounting of Jewish wealth was ever made, historians have reconstructed these figures from indirect evidence. The most important source is the compulsory registration of Jewish assets in April 1938, which produced the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmark total, and the tax and confiscation records that show how much was taken afterward. Economic historians such as Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl have combined these with census data, national capital estimates and the Reich's own budget records to produce the ranges shown here.

The result is a set of estimates rather than exact figures, and reputable scholars still differ at the margins. What is not in doubt is the overall picture: the Nazi propaganda claim was a gross exaggeration, the true share of wealth held by a tiny minority was modest, and that wealth was seized through a deliberate machinery of taxation and confiscation. The subject remains an active field of research, part of the wider effort to document every dimension of the persecution alongside the human toll set out in our report on [pre-war Jewish populations and deaths by country](#).



Key Facts

Jewish wealth in Nazi Germany in numbers

A few figures capture the estimates and the theft that followed.

2-20bn Range of estimates
Billion Reichsmarks, by source.
4.5bn Registered in 1938
Net Jewish assets, RM.
20% Falsely claimed by Nazis
Against under one percent of the population.
2.65bn Seized by the state
By 1944, some 58 percent.

Behind the figures is a minority that was slandered as wealthy and then robbed of what it owned.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

There is no official figure. Estimates range from about 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks depending on the source and how wealth is defined. The most cited figure is the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmarks of net assets that Jews were forced to register in the 1938 census.

No. The claim that Jews owned up to 20 percent of German wealth was false Nazi propaganda. Jews made up under one percent of the population, and scholarly estimates put their share of wealth far lower than the propaganda figure.

The Reichsmark was the currency of Germany from 1924 to 1948. In 1931 the exchange rate was about 4.2 Reichsmarks to one US dollar, so 4.5 billion Reichsmarks was worth roughly one billion dollars at the time.

They come from a mix of contemporary sources, including press reports, the Reichsbank and the German Statistical Office, and from later economic historians such as Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl, who reconstructed the figures from archives.

Because they measure different things. Some count net wealth and others gross wealth, some cover only Germany and others Germany and Austria together, and they use different years and methods. This is why the range runs from about 2 to 20 billion Reichsmarks.

The Reichsfluchtsteuer was a tax on emigration, originally created before 1933 but turned into a tool to strip fleeing Jews of their assets. It raised about 941 million Reichsmarks between 1933 and 1945, most of it from persecuted emigrants.



After the pogrom of November 1938, the Nazi state imposed a collective fine on German Jews, the Jewish Capital Levy, of about one billion Reichsmarks. It ultimately reached around 1.13 billion Reichsmarks, taken from every Jewish estate above 5,000 Reichsmarks.

Aryanization was the forced transfer of Jewish businesses, property and assets to non-Jewish owners, usually at a fraction of their real value. It was one of the main ways Jewish wealth was stripped away before the war.

Of the roughly 4.5 billion Reichsmarks of Jewish assets registered in 1938, about 2.65 billion, or 58 percent, was funnelled into the state coffers by 1944 through taxes and confiscation. Broader estimates of total Jewish property stolen run higher still.

Sources

Albrecht Ritschl (LSE / CEPR) - fiscal destruction and the confiscatory taxation of Jewish property in Nazi Germany.

Reich Flight Tax - the Reichsfluchtsteuer and its revenue, 1933 to 1945.

Aryanization - the forced transfer of Jewish property and businesses.

Estimates are compiled from contemporary sources and from the work of economic historians Helen Junz and Albrecht Ritschl. Figures mix net and gross wealth and different territories and years, so they are estimates and are not directly comparable. Compiled by BusinessStats.

STATISTICS REPORT

Dairy cow population in Germany, 1950 to 2026

Updated Sep 21, 2026 · businessstats.com/dairy-cow-population-germany

5.7M COWS IN 1950	3.6M COWS IN 2026	-16% COWS, LAST DECADE
8,500kg MILK PER COW 2023	47,200 DAIRY FARMS 2025	33.8Mt MILK OUTPUT 2024

Overview

Dairy cow population in Germany from 1950 to 2026

Few farm statistics tell the story of modern agriculture as clearly as the number of dairy cows in Germany. In 1950 the young West German republic counted about 5.7 million dairy cows spread across roughly 1.5 million small farms, each animal giving less milk in a year than a good cow now gives in a few months. In 2026 the reunified country keeps about 3.6 million cows on fewer than 50,000 highly specialised farms. The animals are far fewer, but each one is a far more productive machine for turning feed into milk.

Germany remains the largest producer of cow milk in the European Union, and its dairy sector sits at the centre of the continent supply, as shown in our reports on the [milk market in Europe](#) and the wider [global dairy industry](#). Yet the shrinking herd is one of the most striking long-run trends in German farming, and it explains a great deal about how the industry has changed, from farm size and breeding to where in the country the cows now live.

One point on the data matters before we begin. The 1950 figure covers West Germany only, because the country was divided until 1990. From 1990 onward the numbers include the former East Germany, which briefly lifted the combined herd before the long decline resumed. The most recent counts come from the twice-yearly livestock census run by the Federal Statistical Office, taken in May and November each year.

The Long Decline

A herd that keeps shrinking

The direction of travel has been remarkably consistent. The chart below traces the German dairy cow population across the decades, from the post-war years to the latest census.

Dairy Cow Population in Germany, 1950-2026 (million head) From about 5.7 million to 3.6 million.

Data:

Dairy cow population in Germany, selected years, in million head.

Note:

Sources Destatis and milchtrends.de. The 1950 value covers West Germany; from 1990 figures include the former East Germany, which temporarily raised the herd before the decline continued. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for the plotted figures.

A long slide: the herd first fell below 4 million in 2020 and reached about 3.6 million by the 2026 census.

West Germany counted about 5.7 million dairy cows in 1950. By 1999 the reunified country was down to roughly 4.8 million. The number held broadly steady for a while, even edging up between 2012 and 2014 as farmers expanded ahead of the end of the EU milk quota, reaching about 4.3 million. Then the decline sharpened. The herd slipped below 4 million for the first time in 2020, at about 3.97 million, and has since settled near 3.6 million, where it has roughly stabilised, with tiny year-on-year rises recorded in the 2025 and 2026 censuses. Over the past decade alone the herd has fallen by about 16 percent, a loss of some 688,000 cows.

It is worth pausing on that reunification effect. Because the 1950 figure is for West Germany only, it leaves out the millions of cattle then kept in the east. When the two Germanys joined in 1990, the combined herd jumped as the eastern animals were added, before the nationwide decline took over again. So the true long-run picture is not a single smooth line but a fall, a step up around 1990, and then a longer fall, all ending well below where West Germany started.

Fewer Cows, More Milk

The productivity paradox

The most surprising part of the story is that Germany now produces more milk than it ever did with far more cows. The reason sits in a single number: how much milk one cow gives in a year. That figure has climbed relentlessly, as the chart shows.

Average Milk Yield per Cow in Germany (kg per year) Nearly four times higher than in 1950.

Data:

Average annual milk yield per dairy cow in Germany, selected years, in kg.

Note:

National average from total output divided by cows. Milk-recorded herds average higher, near 9,400 kg. Figures before 1990 refer to West Germany. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for the plotted figures.

Each cow works harder: average yield rose from about 2,488 kg in 1950 to roughly 8,500 kg, near 30 litres a day.

In 1950 the average German dairy cow gave about 2,488 kg of milk a year. By 1970 that had reached 3,280 kg, by 1990 about 4,700 kg, and by 2000 roughly 6,100 kg. The climb continued to around 7,100 kg by 2010 and about 8,500 kg by 2023, close to 30 litres of milk a day. Milk-recorded herds, which are monitored more closely, average even higher, near 9,400 kg. The gain since 1950 is almost 400 percent, and it comes from decades of selective breeding, better feed and forage, animal health advances and modern herd management. With each cow doing the work of three or four of its post-war ancestors, the country simply needs far fewer animals.

Total Milk Output

More milk from fewer cows

Put rising yields together with a falling herd and the result is the paradox at the heart of German dairy: total milk output has grown even as cow numbers fell. The chart tracks national production across the decades.

German Cow Milk Production, 1950-2024 (million tonnes) Rising even as the herd fell.

Data:

Cow milk production in Germany, selected years, in million tonnes.

Note:

Figures before 1990 refer to West Germany. Sources include Destatis and published dairy statistics. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for the plotted figures.

Up, not down: output more than doubled since 1950 while the number of cows fell by more than a third.

German cow milk production rose from about 14.6 million tonnes in 1950 to 21.9 million by 1970, 23.7 million by 1990 and 28.3 million by 2000, reaching roughly 33.8 million tonnes in 2024, where it has broadly stabilised near 34 million. About half of all the milk and dairy products made in Germany are now exported, which makes the country central to European butter, cheese and milk-powder supply. In effect, the national dairy herd shrank by more than a third while the milk it produced more than doubled, a textbook case of an industry doing far more with far less.

Why the Herd Shrinks

What is driving the decline

Several forces have pushed the German dairy herd down at the same time. The first and most fundamental is that productivity gain. When one cow can produce what several once did, national demand for milk can be met with a smaller herd, so numbers fall even in a healthy and profitable industry. This is the single biggest reason the long-run line points down.

Policy played a major role too. The EU milk quota, in place from 1984 to 2015, capped how much milk each country and farm could sell. With output limited but yields rising, farmers needed fewer cows to fill their quota, which held the herd in check for three decades. When the quota ended in 2015 some expected the herd to grow, but instead low farmgate milk prices, rising feed and energy costs and squeezed margins pushed many farmers to cut back or leave the business altogether. The energy price shock from 2022 hit a sector that was already under strain.

Structural change has done the rest. Small family dairies have closed in huge numbers, unable to justify the investment that modern milking, hygiene and welfare standards demand, while the surviving farms have grown larger. Labour shortages, including a lack of veterinarians and skilled farm workers, and mounting environmental pressure around greenhouse-gas emissions, nitrogen and animal welfare have added to the squeeze. The result is a herd that keeps drifting lower even as the remaining farms modernise and expand.

Farms and Herd Size

Fewer, bigger dairy farms

If the fall in cow numbers is dramatic, the fall in the number of dairy farms is even steeper. Germany had roughly 1.5 million milk-producing farms in 1950 and about 762,660 as late as 1970. By 1999 that had dropped to around 152,500, by 2023 to about 51,700, and by 2025 only around 47,200 farms still kept dairy cows. Put another way, barely half of the dairy farms that existed in 2010 were still going in 2025, and more

than nine in ten of the 1999 total have closed.

The cows that remain live in far bigger groups. Average herd size has climbed steadily as small barns closed and larger operations absorbed the milk, reaching about 76 cows per farm in recent censuses, up from a handful per farm in the 1950s. The very largest operations, those with more than 500 cows, number only a few hundred, and about 70 percent of them sit in the five eastern states, a legacy of the large collective farms of the former East Germany. The smallest farms, those with fewer than 50 cows, are concentrated in the south: Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg together hold roughly two thirds of them.

This concentration is the classic pattern of agricultural modernisation: fewer, larger, more capital-intensive units producing more output with less labour. It is the same shift visible across dairy and crop farming in most wealthy countries, but in Germany it has run alongside a sharp east-west contrast in farm structure that still shapes the industry today.

Where the Cows Are

The regional map

German dairy cows are not spread evenly across the country. Two states dominate, as the chart below shows.

Dairy Cows by German Federal State (thousand head) Bavaria and Lower Saxony lead.

Data:

Dairy cows by federal state in thousand head, latest census.

Note:

Source Destatis via milchland.de. Baden-Wuerttemberg figure is from the 2024 count. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Two heartlands: Bavaria alone holds more than a quarter of German dairy cows, with Lower Saxony next at about a fifth.

Bavaria keeps by far the most dairy cows, about 1.03 million, more than a quarter of the national herd, thanks to its Alpine foothills, grassland and deep farming tradition. Lower Saxony is next with roughly 759,000, close to a fifth of the total, concentrated in the grassland belt along the North Sea. Together these two states hold nearly half of all German dairy cows. North Rhine-Westphalia follows at about 367,000, then Schleswig-Holstein at around 324,000 and Baden-Wuerttemberg near 304,000. The same two

leaders dominate milk output, with Bavaria producing about 25 percent of German milk and Lower Saxony about 22 percent, and roughly 81 percent of all milk coming from the western states.

The regional map also reveals a sharp contrast in farm structure. Herds are smallest in the south, where Bavarian dairy farms average only around 45 to 48 cows because of the hilly terrain and many small holdings, and largest in the east, where the average herd runs to nearly 200 cows on farms that trace their scale back to the collective era. This concentration matters for the wider food chain, because milk from these herds feeds a huge processing sector that makes Germany the biggest cheese producer and exporter in Europe, a link explored in our report on the [global cheese market](#).

Breeds and Yields

Breeds behind the numbers

The rise in yield is partly a story of breeding. The German Holstein, the black-and-white cow most people picture, is the leading dairy breed at about 31 percent of the herd, and it is prized for very high milk output. It dominates the high-yield regions, while the dual-purpose Simmental, or Fleckvieh, is common in the south, in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg, where it is kept for both milk and beef. Brown breeds and others fill out the rest, but the long-term trend has been toward specialised, high-yielding dairy genetics.

Yields vary widely by region. The eastern states record the highest averages, with milk-recorded herds in Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Saxony all above 9,500 kg per cow a year, reflecting their large, intensively managed herds. Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg sit lower, nearer 7,200 to 7,700 kg, because of their breed mix and smaller grassland-based farms. Nationally, average yields have kept rising by roughly 100 kg per cow every year over the past decade, and a modern German dairy cow now gives about 30 litres of milk a day at peak, with milk that is around 4.1 percent fat and 3.4 percent protein.

Germany in the EU

Germany in the European context

For all the decline at home, Germany remains the dairy giant of the European Union. It has the largest dairy herd of any member state and is the single biggest producer of cow milk in the bloc, ahead of France, the Netherlands and Poland. The German herd of about 3.6 million cows is close to a fifth of the roughly 19 million dairy cows kept across the EU, which itself has been shrinking as herds fall in almost every member country.



That wider European decline mirrors the German one, and for the same reasons: rising yields, tighter margins, environmental rules and the end of the milk quota. It means the trend traced in this report is not a peculiarly German story but the leading edge of a continent-wide shift, in which fewer and more productive cows supply a milk market that still underpins Europe cheese, butter and export industries. Germany, as the largest player, sets much of the pace.

Outlook

What comes next

The likeliest path is a continued slow decline, with the herd hovering around or a little below current levels rather than collapsing. The tiny increases recorded in the most recent censuses suggest the sharpest phase of contraction may be easing, but the long-run pressures have not gone away. Costs remain high, environmental rules are tightening, and the generational question of who takes over ageing family farms is unresolved, especially among the small southern holdings.

At the same time, yields are likely to keep creeping up, so Germany can probably hold milk output broadly steady even with a smaller herd. The bigger uncertainties are political and environmental: how climate policy treats livestock emissions, how consumer demand for dairy evolves against plant-based alternatives, and how volatile milk prices behave. Whatever happens, the dairy cow will remain central to German farming, just as it has been since long before 1950, even if there are fewer of them with each passing census.

Key Facts

German dairy cows in numbers

A few figures capture the whole trend. Cow numbers are down about a third since 1950, milk per cow is up almost fourfold, dairy farms have all but vanished in their old form, and total output has still risen. It is a story of concentration and productivity rather than simple decline.

5.7M to 3.6M Dairy cows, 1950 to 2026
1950 covers West Germany. 2,488 to 8,500 kg Milk per cow a year
Almost a fourfold rise. 1.03M Dairy cows in Bavaria
Most of any state. 762,660 to 47,200 Dairy farms,
1970 to 2025
Average herd near 76 cows.

These numbers explain why Germany can lead European dairy with a shrinking herd. The story is not decline for its own sake but a decades-long shift toward higher productivity, larger farms and fewer but

harder-working cows.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Germany had about 3.6 million dairy cows as of the 2026 census, according to the Federal Statistical Office. That is down from around 3.97 million in 2020 and 4.8 million in 1999.

West Germany had about 5.7 million dairy cows in 1950, each producing an average of only around 2,488 kg of milk a year. Today about 3.6 million cows each produce close to 8,500 kg.

Yes. The German dairy herd has fallen by about 16 percent over the past decade, a drop of roughly 688,000 cows, and the number first fell below 4 million in 2020. The decline has been long and steady.

Milk yield per cow has risen almost fourfold since 1950, so fewer cows are needed for the same milk. Structural change, the EU milk quota that ran from 1984 to 2015, high costs, labour shortages and environmental pressure have all cut cow and farm numbers.

No. German milk output has kept rising even as cow numbers fell, from about 14.6 million tonnes in 1950 to roughly 33.8 million tonnes in 2024, because each cow now yields far more milk. Germany is the largest cow milk producer in the EU.

Bavaria has by far the most, with about 1.03 million dairy cows, followed by Lower Saxony with roughly 759,000. Together these two states hold close to half of all German dairy cows.

The national average is around 8,500 kg of milk per cow a year, or about 30 litres a day. Milk-recorded herds average higher, near 9,400 kg, and eastern states such as Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt top 9,500 kg.

The German Holstein is the leading dairy breed at about 31 percent of cows, prized for high yields. Dual-purpose Simmental, known as Fleckvieh, is common in the south, in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg.

About 47,200 farms still kept dairy cows in 2025, down from roughly 762,660 in 1970 and around 1.5 million milk-producing farms in 1950. Average herd size has risen to about 76 cows per farm.

Figures for 1950 cover West Germany only. From 1990 the data include the former East Germany, which briefly lifted the combined herd before the long-run decline resumed.

Sources



[milchtrends.de - Milk production in Germany](#) - dairy cow numbers, yields and output over time, based on Destatis.

[Statista - Dairy cow population Germany 1950-2026](#) - long-run population series (Destatis code 41311).

[Milchland.de - November census, dairy cows by state](#) - state-level herd figures and national totals.

[Nutztierhaltung.de - Dairy cattle in Germany](#) - herd, farms, breeds, yields and regional structure.

[Trading Economics / Eurostat - Number of dairy cows, Germany](#) - recent annual figures.

The 1950 figure covers West Germany; from 1990 the data include the former East Germany. Recent counts use the May and November livestock censuses. Milk and yield figures before 1990 refer to West Germany, and several years are selected snapshots rather than every year. Milk-recorded herd yields run higher than the national statistical average. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Number of Jehovah's Witnesses Germany 2026, by state

 Updated Jun 2, 2026 · businessstats.com/jehovah-s-witnesses-number-germany

~170k TOTAL JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN GERMANY, 2026	35,453 IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA - THE LARGEST STATE	~1,600 IN BREMEN - THE SMALLEST FEDERAL STATE
16 FEDERAL STATES COVERED IN THE DATA	~2,000 JEHOVAH'S WITNESS CONGREGATIONS IN GERMANY	0.2% OF GERMANY'S POPULATION (ABOUT 1 IN 475)

Overview

Number of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany 2026, by federal state

Jehovah's Witnesses are one of the most recognisable and visible minority religious groups in Germany, known for their door-to-door evangelism, their public literature stands, and their Kingdom Halls. Despite their visibility in everyday life, they remain a small minority in numerical terms, which makes the question of exactly how many there are, and where they live, an interesting one to examine in detail. Their numbers are tracked carefully both by the organisation itself and by statistical compilers, giving us a reasonably clear picture of the community across the country.

In 2026, Germany has roughly 170,000 Jehovah's Witnesses, organised into around 2,000 congregations and spread across all 16 federal states. They are a long-established presence in the country, with a history stretching back over a hundred years, and are widely recognised by the public even though they make up only a small fraction of the population. The distribution is far from even, however: the most populous states host tens of thousands of members, while the small city-states have only a few thousand. North Rhine-Westphalia leads by a wide margin, with over 35,000 Witnesses as of early 2024, comfortably ahead of the next-largest state. This dominance is no accident, since the state is home to the densely populated Rhine-Ruhr region, Germany's largest metropolitan area, where a substantial share of the country's population is concentrated. The wider religious landscape of the country is explored in our [religion in Europe analysis](#).

The pattern of where Jehovah's Witnesses live in Germany closely follows the country's overall population distribution, which is the single biggest factor shaping the state-by-state numbers. The three most populous states - North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, and Baden-Wurttemberg - together account for well over a third of all German Witnesses, just as they account for a large share of the total population. This tight correlation between a state's overall population and its number of Witnesses runs through the entire dataset, making population the single most reliable predictor of where the largest communities are found. This makes the data as much a story about German geography and population as about religion itself. To interpret the state rankings sensibly, it is essential to keep this in mind: a state appearing high on the list does not mean Jehovah's Witnesses are especially concentrated there as a share of the local population, only that the state is large overall. The broader demographic backdrop is covered in our [world population analysis](#).

This article breaks down the number of Jehovah's Witnesses across all 16 German federal states, ranking them from the largest communities to the smallest, and examining the patterns behind the distribution. It looks at the dominant role of North Rhine-Westphalia, the contrast between large western states and smaller eastern ones, the per-capita picture, the role of congregations and Kingdom Halls, and how the German Witness community fits into the denomination's worldwide membership of around nine million. The place of this group among other faiths is discussed in our [Catholic weddings in Germany by partner religion analysis](#).

~170,000 Total in Germany - Across 16 States Germany has roughly 170,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in 2026, organised into around 2,000 congregations spread across all 16 federal states. Source: Statista 2026.

35,453 (NRW) The Largest State Community by Far North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, has over 35,000 Jehovah's Witnesses - more than any other state. Source: Statista, Jan 2024. Top 3

= ~47% Concentration in the Big Western States North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, and Baden-Wurttemberg together hold close to half of all German Jehovah's Witnesses. Source: Statista 2026. ~1,600 (Bremen) The

Smallest State Community The small city-state of Bremen has the fewest Jehovah's Witnesses of any federal state, reflecting its small population. Source: Statista 2026. Data Table

Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany by Federal State

Number of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany 2026, by Federal State Click any column to sort

FEDERAL STATE	WITNESSES	SHARE	NOTE
North Rhine-Westphalia	35,453	22.0%	Largest

Bavaria	23,800	14.8%	
Baden-Wuerttemberg	20,100	12.5%	
Lower Saxony	16,200	10.1%	
Hesse	12,400	7.7%	
Berlin	9,800	6.1%	
Rhineland-Palatinate	8,100	5.0%	
Saxony	7,300	4.5%	
Schleswig-Holstein	5,600	3.5%	
Brandenburg	4,500	2.8%	
Hamburg	4,400	2.7%	
Thuringia	3,500	2.2%	
Saxony-Anhalt	3,500	2.2%	
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	2,700	1.7%	
Saarland	2,200	1.4%	
Bremen	1,600	1.0%	Smallest

The table lists all 16 federal states ranked by their number of Jehovah's Witnesses, from North Rhine-Westphalia at the top with over 35,000 down to Bremen with around 1,600. The share column shows each state's percentage of the national total, making clear just how concentrated the community is in the largest states. The ordering closely tracks each state's overall population, confirming once again that the geographic spread of Jehovah's Witnesses largely follows where Germans live in general rather than any regional concentration of the faith. These figures count active publishers and align with the denomination's own national total. The broader faith context is in our [world religions analysis](#).

State Ranking

All 16 States Ranked by Number of Witnesses

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses federal state ranking all 16 states North Rhine Westphalia Bavaria horizontal bar Jehovah's Witnesses by Federal State, 2026 (Ranked) North Rhine-Westphalia leads with 35,453, then

Bavaria (~23,800) and Baden-Württemberg (~20,100). Bremen is smallest (~1,600). Source: Statista 2026.

16states

The ranking chart shows the full spread of Jehovah's Witnesses across Germany's federal states, and the dominance of the larger western states is immediately clear. North Rhine-Westphalia stands well ahead of all others, its over 35,000 Witnesses reflecting its status as Germany's most populous state. Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg follow as the second and third largest communities, after which the numbers tail off through the mid-sized states down to the small city-states of Hamburg and Bremen. This long tail of smaller states is typical of any per-state breakdown in Germany, where population is heavily concentrated in a few large western states. The same shape would appear in a chart of almost any membership organisation, business presence, or demographic group broken down by German state, underlining how much the ranking reflects geography rather than anything specific to the faith. The country's overall population picture is the key to reading this ranking correctly.

The Top States

The Leading States: A Western Concentration

The three states with the most Jehovah's Witnesses - North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, and Baden-Württemberg - are also Germany's three most populous states, and together they account for close to half of all German Witnesses. North Rhine-Westphalia alone, with its dense urban population in the Rhine-Ruhr region, hosts over a fifth of the national total of German Witnesses. The state's combination of a very large population and a long history of religious and cultural diversity makes it the natural centre of gravity for almost every faith community in Germany, including this one. This concentration in the west is a direct consequence of where Germany's population is concentrated, rather than any special appeal of the faith in these particular regions.

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses top three states NRW Bavaria Baden Württemberg share concentration donut chart Top 3 States vs Rest of Germany (% of Witnesses) North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, and Baden-Württemberg together hold close to half of all German Jehovah's Witnesses; the other 13 states share the rest. Source: Statista 2026. ~47%top 3

North Rhine-Westphalia's leading position is unsurprising given that it is home to around 18 million people, more than any other German state, in the heavily urbanised Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan region. Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, the large and prosperous southern states, follow as expected given their sizeable populations. Together these three southern and western powerhouses form the core of the German

Jehovah's Witness community, and their dominance in the data is a reminder that for a small minority faith spread thinly across the country, raw population size is the overwhelming determinant of where members are found. The faith's place among others is in our [share of Catholics in Germany](#) analysis.

The Smallest States

The Smallest Communities: City-States and the East

At the other end of the ranking are the states with the fewest Jehovah's Witnesses, dominated by the small city-states and some of the smaller eastern states. Bremen, Germany's smallest federal state by population, has the fewest Witnesses of all, with around 1,600 members. As a compact city-state with well under a million inhabitants, Bremen simply does not have the population base to support a large Witness community, so its position at the bottom of the ranking is entirely expected. Saarland, another small western state, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in the northeast also have relatively few members. These states sit at the bottom of the ranking alongside Bremen, and together the five smallest states account for only a small slice of the national total of Witnesses. These small numbers are again primarily a function of small populations rather than any particular weakness of the faith in these areas.

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses smallest states Bremen Saarland Mecklenburg fewest members city states
bar The Five Smallest State Communities (Number of Witnesses) Bremen (~1,600), Saarland (~2,200),
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (~2,700), Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia (~3,500 each). Source: Statista 2026.
Bremensmallest

The presence of several eastern states among the smallest communities reflects a combination of their smaller populations and the deep secularisation of the former East Germany, where decades of communist rule left religion much weaker than in the west. Both factors pull in the same direction, leaving the eastern states with notably small Witness communities relative to the western states. While Jehovah's Witnesses were actively persecuted under both the Nazi regime and the East German communist state, suffering imprisonment and worse for their beliefs, the community has steadily rebuilt across the country since reunification. Still, the eastern states generally have fewer Witnesses both in absolute terms and relative to their populations, echoing the broader east-west religious divide that runs through German society. This east-west divide runs through almost every measure of religious life in Germany.

Per Capita View

Witnesses Per Capita: A Different Picture

Looking at the raw numbers tells us mostly about population size, so a more revealing measure is the number of Jehovah's Witnesses relative to each state's total population. On a per-capita basis, the picture shifts somewhat: while the large western states still tend to have higher densities, the gap between states narrows considerably, and some smaller states punch above their weight relative to their population. This per-capita approach allows a fairer comparison between states of very different sizes, showing where the faith is genuinely denser rather than simply where more people happen to live, and it reveals a community that is more evenly spread than the raw totals suggest.

Looking at members per head of population is the fairest way to compare states of very different sizes, and it strips out the dominant effect of raw population that drives the headline numbers. Across Germany as a whole, the ratio is roughly one Witness per 475 people, which is one of the lower densities in Europe and far below the levels seen in parts of the Americas and Africa. This relatively low density reflects Germany's status as a largely secular, post-Christian society in which all religious groups, not just Jehovah's Witnesses, make up smaller shares of the population than in more religious parts of the world.

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses per capita density ratio population states west east comparison grouped bar
 Witnesses per 100,000 People - Selected States Per-capita density is more even than raw numbers;
 western states tend to be slightly higher. Germany overall: ~210 per 100,000 (about 1 in 475). Source:
 BusinessStats from Statista 2026. 1:475national

The per-capita view confirms that Jehovah's Witnesses are a genuinely national community, present in meaningful numbers in every part of Germany rather than concentrated in any single region as a share of the local population. The relatively even densities across states stand in contrast to the very uneven raw numbers, underlining that the headline state rankings are driven by population size more than by any regional religious pattern. When the data is adjusted for population, the apparent dominance of the big states largely disappears, revealing a community that is spread quite evenly across the nation.

At around one in every 475 people, the German Witness density is modest by global standards, well below the levels seen in parts of the Americas and Africa where the faith is far more prevalent. In some Caribbean and Central American territories, for instance, the ratio is closer to one in fifty, reflecting how much more deeply the movement has taken root in those societies than in secular Western Europe. This is far below the levels seen in regions where the faith has grown most rapidly.

East vs West

The East-West Divide in Witness Numbers

One of the clearest patterns in German religious data generally is the divide between the former West Germany and the former East Germany, and Jehovah's Witnesses are no exception. The western states, with their larger populations and stronger religious traditions, host the overwhelming majority of German Witnesses, while the eastern states have far fewer in both absolute and relative terms. This reflects the lasting legacy of decades of state-enforced atheism in communist East Germany, which left the region deeply secular even decades after reunification.

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses east west divide former DDR communist secular comparison share grouped bar West vs East Germany - Share of Witnesses The former West German states hold the large majority of Jehovah's Witnesses; the eastern states have far fewer, reflecting decades of enforced secularisation.

Source: Statista 2026. Westmajority

Jehovah's Witnesses have a particularly poignant history in eastern Germany, having been banned and persecuted under the communist German Democratic Republic, just as they had been under the Nazi regime before it. Thousands were imprisoned for their refusal to conform to the state, and the community operated underground for decades under both dictatorships. This long history of persecution gives the German Witness community a particular resilience and identity, having survived two of the most repressive regimes of the twentieth century before emerging to practise freely after reunification. Since reunification, Witnesses have been free to practise openly across the whole country, but the eastern states remain less fertile ground for all religions, including this one, as a result of the long secularising effect of communist rule on the region's culture. The deep secularism of the former East has proven remarkably durable, persisting well into the twenty-first century and shaping the religious map of the entire country.

National Picture

The National Total in Context

Stepping back from the state breakdown, the national total of around 170,000 Jehovah's Witnesses places the group as a small but stable minority faith in Germany. To put this firmly in perspective, the figure is far smaller than the tens of millions of Catholics and Protestants, but it is a committed and active membership, since the count reflects publishers who regularly report preaching activity rather than nominal adherents. A Jehovah's Witness counted in these statistics is, by definition, an actively participating member, which makes the 170,000 figure a measure of real engagement rather than the looser cultural affiliation captured in church membership rolls. The German Witness community has remained broadly stable in size in recent

years, in contrast to the sharp declines seen among the major churches whose membership is collapsing. This stability is a notable feature of the group, suggesting that its model of active membership and recruitment is more resistant to the secularising pressures that have hollowed out the traditional churches.

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses national total stable trend recent years 170000 members publishers line chart Total Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany - Recent Trend The national total has held broadly stable around 165,000-172,000 in recent years, unlike the steep decline of the major churches. Source: Statista, Watch Tower 2026. ~170kstable

This stability is genuinely striking when set against the backdrop of German religion as a whole, where the Catholic and Protestant churches have been losing members at record rates year after year. While the major churches shed hundreds of thousands of members every year, the Jehovah's Witness community has more or less held its ground, a pattern seen among several smaller, highly committed religious groups. The contrast highlights how the dynamics of a small, tightly knit faith with active recruitment differ from those of the large established churches whose membership is largely inherited. Where the big churches rely on infant baptism and cultural tradition to sustain their numbers, Jehovah's Witnesses actively seek converts and require ongoing participation, which produces a smaller but more committed and stable membership. The decline of the major churches is detailed in our [Catholic Church tax revenue in Germany analysis](#).

Congregations

Congregations and Kingdom Halls

Germany's roughly 170,000 Jehovah's Witnesses are organised into around 2,000 local congregations, with each typically meeting in a building they call a Kingdom Hall rather than a church. These congregations are the basic units of Witness community life, where members gather for meetings, Bible study, and the organisation of their characteristic public preaching work. Each congregation covers a defined local territory, and members are expected to participate actively in the life and ministry of their assigned congregation rather than simply attending when convenient. This territorial organisation is central to the Witnesses' systematic approach to preaching, with each congregation responsible for covering its allotted area through regular door-to-door visits. The number of congregations broadly tracks the distribution of members across the states, with the most populous western states hosting the most Kingdom Halls. This means the geographic spread of congregations mirrors the state ranking of members almost exactly, since congregations are formed wherever there are enough local Witnesses to sustain

them.

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses congregations Kingdom Halls members per congregation average organisation bar Members and Congregations - The German Picture ~170,000 members across ~2,000 congregations means an average of roughly 85 members per congregation. Source: Statista, Watch Tower 2026. ~2,000congregations

With around 170,000 members in roughly 2,000 congregations, the average German Kingdom Hall congregation has on the order of 85 members, though this varies considerably by location. Urban congregations in the big western cities tend to be larger, while rural and eastern congregations are often smaller, reflecting the same population patterns that shape the state-level totals. Jehovah's Witnesses are well known for their organisational discipline and their systematic, methodical approach to congregation life, with members assigned to specific congregations based on geography and expected to contribute to the local preaching work. The Kingdom Halls themselves are typically modest, functional buildings without the religious imagery found in traditional churches, reflecting the denomination's distinctive theology and practices that set it apart from mainstream Christianity in Germany and elsewhere. There are no crosses, statues, or elaborate decoration, in keeping with the group's particular interpretation of Christian worship and its emphasis on practical Bible study over ritual.

Wider Context

Germany in the Global Witness Picture

Germany's roughly 170,000 Jehovah's Witnesses form part of a worldwide community of around 8.7 to 9 million active publishers, meaning Germany hosts close to 2% of all Witnesses globally despite being a relatively secular country. This is a respectable share for a single European nation, reflecting both Germany's large population and the long, established presence of the movement there. The denomination has an active presence in over 240 lands worldwide, though it does not form a large share of the population in any single country. This global footprint, combined with a highly centralised organisational structure, means the German community is part of a tightly coordinated worldwide movement rather than an isolated national church. Germany's per-capita density of about one Witness per 475 people is fairly typical for a Western European country, higher than some neighbours but well below the densities found in parts of the Americas and Africa.

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses global worldwide context 9 million publishers Germany share percentage donut Germany's Share of Global Jehovah's Witnesses Germany's ~170,000 Witnesses are part of a global



total near 9 million active publishers - close to 2% of the worldwide community. Source: Watch Tower, Statista 2026. ~2% of world

As a global movement, Jehovah's Witnesses are notable for maintaining a steady or growing membership even in secularising Western societies where traditional churches are in steep decline. Their active recruitment through public preaching, strong internal community bonds, and clear doctrinal identity help them retain and attract members in places where mainstream Christianity is fading. This combination of evangelism and tight-knit community gives the movement a resilience that the larger, more loosely affiliated churches increasingly lack in secular societies like Germany. Germany, with its large population and stable Witness numbers, remains one of the more significant national communities within the worldwide organisation, even as it represents only a small fraction of the country's overall population. Its roughly 170,000 members make it a meaningful contributor to the global movement, reflecting both the country's size and the community's long, deeply rooted history on German soil. The wider economic and social context is in our [global economy analysis](#).

Key Statistics

Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany – Key Statistics

Germany Jehovahs Witnesses key statistics top five states summary NRW Bavaria comparison numbers bar Top 5 States by Number of Witnesses NRW (35,453), Bavaria (~23,800), Baden-Wurttemberg (~20,100), Lower Saxony (~16,200), Hesse (~12,400). Source: Statista 2026. Top 5states

~170,000Total in Germany 2026 - Broadly StableGermany's total number of Jehovah's Witnesses in 2026, stable in recent years unlike the declining major churches. Source: Statista 2026. 35,453North Rhine-Westphalia - The LargestThe number of Witnesses in NRW as of early 2024, more than any other state and over a fifth of the national total. Source: Statista 2024. ~2,000Congregations - Around 85 Members EachGermany's Witnesses are organised into roughly 2,000 local congregations meeting in Kingdom Halls. Source: Watch Tower 2026. ~2% of worldGermany's Share of Global WitnessesGermany's ~170,000 Witnesses are close to 2% of the worldwide total of around 9 million active publishers. Source: Watch Tower 2026. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions – Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany

Roughly 170,000 in 2026, spread across all 16 federal states and organised into around 2,000 congregations. The figure has been broadly stable in recent years. Source: Statista 2026.

North Rhine-Westphalia, with over 35,000 as of early 2024 - more than any other state. Bavaria and Baden-Wurttemberg follow as the second and third largest, largely reflecting these states' populations. Source: Statista 2026.

Bremen, with around 1,600. The small city-state has the fewest of any federal state, followed by Saarland and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, all reflecting their small populations. Source: Statista 2026.

About 0.2%, or roughly 1 in every 475 people. With around 170,000 members in a population of about 84 million, Witnesses are a small minority by national standards. Source: Statista, Watch Tower 2026.

Because population size is the main driver. The state numbers closely track each state's total population, so the most populous states - NRW, Bavaria, Baden-Wurttemberg - naturally host the largest Witness communities. Source: Statista 2026.

Around 2,000 congregations. With roughly 170,000 members, that gives an average of about 85 members per congregation, each meeting in a Kingdom Hall rather than a traditional church. Source: Watch Tower 2026.

Yes, both in absolute and relative terms. The eastern states have far fewer Witnesses, reflecting their smaller populations and the deep secularisation left by decades of communist rule that suppressed all religion. Source: Statista 2026.

Broadly stable. Unlike the Catholic and Protestant churches, which are losing members rapidly, the Jehovah's Witness community has held its size at around 170,000 in recent years, thanks to active recruitment and strong retention. Source: Statista 2026.

Germany holds close to 2% of the world's Witnesses. Its ~170,000 members are part of a global total near 9 million active publishers across more than 240 lands. Its per-capita density is typical for Western Europe. Source: Watch Tower 2026.

Active publishers - members who report monthly preaching. The figures count those who regularly engage in the characteristic public ministry, which makes them a measure of committed, active membership rather than nominal adherence. Source: Watch Tower 2026.

Sources

Statista - Number of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany by Federal State - Primary source for the state-by-state breakdown, with January 2024 actuals (North Rhine-Westphalia 35,453, the largest state). Released 2024.



[Wikipedia - Demographics of Jehovah's Witnesses](#) - Source for the global membership figures (~9 million active publishers, 2024-2025), the definition of active publishers, and worldwide context. Accessed 2026.

[The Hill / AP - Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany](#) - Source for the German national total (~170,000 ministers), the ~2,020 congregations figure, and background on the denomination. Published 2023.

[Jehovah's Witnesses by Country](#) - Source for the per-capita ratio in Germany (about 1 active publisher per 475 people) and comparative international densities. Accessed 2026.

State-level figures from Statista (Jehovas Zeugen in Deutschland), with January 2024 as the latest detailed actual (NRW 35,453). 2026 state values are estimates modelled from the Jan 2024 distribution, with the national total held broadly stable at ~170,000 in line with the denomination's own figures. "Jehovah's Witnesses" counts active publishers (members reporting monthly preaching). Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding. Not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Catholics in the population in Germany from 1950 to 2026

 Updated Jun 1, 2026 · businessstats.com/catholics-population-germany

22.5% CATHOLIC SHARE OF GERMANY'S POPULATION IN 2026 (EST.)	46% THE CATHOLIC SHARE IN 1950 - THE STARTING POINT	19.2M NUMBER OF CATHOLICS IN GERMANY BY 2025
-23.5pp DROP IN CATHOLIC SHARE SINCE 1950	6.6% OF CATHOLICS ATTENDING MASS REGULARLY IN 2024	2024 YEAR CATHOLICS FIRST FELL BELOW 20 MILLION

Overview

Share of Catholics in the population in Germany from 1950 to 2026

Germany has long been one of Europe's most important Christian countries, the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation and home to tens of millions of Catholics, but the Catholic share of its population has been in steady and accelerating decline for over seven decades, transforming the religious character of the nation. The share of Catholics in Germany's population fell from 46% in 1950 to about 22.5% by 2026, meaning the proportion of Germans who are Catholic has roughly halved over the period. This long decline accelerated in recent years, and in 2024 the total number of Catholics dropped below 20 million for the first time in more than a century. The pace of the recent fall has alarmed Church leaders, who have watched their once-dominant institution shrink to a minority faith within just a few generations, a transformation few would have predicted in the strongly Catholic West Germany of the mid-twentieth century. The broader continental picture of this shift is explored in our [religion in Europe analysis](#).

The decline has not been perfectly smooth, and one of the most dramatic moments came in 1990, when German reunification added the largely secular former East Germany to the country, sharply reducing the Catholic share almost overnight. Beyond that structural shift, the steady erosion reflects record waves of members formally resigning from the Church, falling baptism and marriage rates, the impact of clerical abuse scandals, and the broad secularisation of German society. The economic dimension of the Church's finances is covered in our [Catholic Church net tax revenue in Germany](#) analysis.

This article traces the full arc of the Catholic share of Germany's population across more than seven decades, from the high of 46% in 1950 to the projected 22.5% in 2026. It examines the reunification effect, the symbolic fall below 20 million members, the many reasons behind the decline, and how Catholics now compare to Protestants and the rapidly growing religiously unaffiliated population that has come to define modern Germany. The wider global context of faith is discussed in our [world religions analysis](#).

22.5% (2026) Catholic Share Today - Roughly Half the 1950 Level Around 22.5% of Germany's population is Catholic in 2026, down from 46% in 1950 - the proportion has roughly halved over seven decades. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

Below 20M (2024) A Symbolic Milestone - First Time in a Century In 2024, the number of Catholics fell below 20 million (to 19.77M) for the first time in over a century, reaching ~19.2M by 2025. Source: DBK 2026.

1990 drop Reunification Effect - Adding the Secular East The Catholic share fell sharply around 1990 as reunification added the largely secular former East Germany to the national population. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

6.6% attend Mass Attendance - Most Catholics Are Non-Practising Only about 6.6% of registered Catholics attended Mass regularly in 2024, showing most are nominal rather than active members. Source: DBK 2026. [Data Table](#)

Share of Catholics in Germany's Population by Year

Share of Catholics in the Population in Germany, 1950-2026 (%) Click any column to sort

YEAR	CATHOLIC SHARE	NOTE
1950	46.0%	Series start
1960	45.5%	
1970	44.6%	
1980	43.3%	
1990	35.4%	Reunification
2000	33.0%	
2010	30.2%	
2015	28.5%	
2020	26.0%	
2023	25.0%	

2024	23.7%	Below 20M
2025	23.0%	
2026	22.5%	Latest (est.)

The table shows the steady decline of the Catholic share from 46% in 1950, through the sharp reunification-driven drop around 1990, to the projected 22.5% in 2026. The decline was relatively gradual in the West German decades up to 1990, then took a structural step down with reunification, and has continued falling steadily since as departures and secularisation took hold. These figures represent registered Catholic Church members as a share of the total German population, and they capture one of the most significant religious transformations in modern European history, comparable in scale to the secularisation seen in countries like the Netherlands and Belgium. The broader population trends underlying these shifts are in our [world population analysis](#).

The 1950-2026 Decline

The Seventy-Five-Year Decline

Germany Catholic share population decline 1950 2026 percentage falling trend reunification line chart
 Share of Catholics in Germany's Population - 1950 to 2026 (%) From 46% in 1950, declining gradually to ~43% by 1980, then a sharp drop to 35% with 1990 reunification, continuing down to ~22.5% by 2026.
 Source: DBK, Statista 2026. 46%1950 22.5%2026 (est.)

The seventy-five-year trend line tells a clear story of long-term religious decline. Through the West German decades from 1950 to 1990, the Catholic share fell only modestly, from 46% to the low 40s, as Catholicism remained a central part of West German identity and society. In this era, the Catholic and Protestant churches were deeply embedded in public life, education, and politics, and church membership was the social norm for the overwhelming majority of West Germans, with relatively few choosing to formally leave. The reunification of 1990 then produced a sharp downward step, since the former East Germany was overwhelmingly secular after four decades of communist rule that suppressed religion. From the 1990s onward, the decline became steeper and more sustained, accelerating in the 2010s and 2020s as record numbers of Catholics formally left the Church each year. The combination of an ageing membership, falling baptisms, and rising departures created a downward spiral that has proven extremely difficult for the Church to arrest, despite various reform efforts and outreach initiatives. This pattern echoes the secularisation trends seen across much of the European continent.

The 1990 Drop

The 1990 Reunification Effect

One of the most striking features of the data is the sharp drop in the Catholic share around 1990, which fell from the low 40s to around 35% in just a few years. This was not the result of a sudden mass exodus from the Church, but rather a structural consequence of German reunification in 1990. When West Germany and East Germany reunited, the combined population suddenly included the citizens of the former East Germany, which had been one of the most secular societies in the world after four decades of communist rule that actively suppressed and marginalised religion.

Germany reunification 1990 Catholic share drop East West secular communist effect structural decline bar
The Reunification Effect - Catholic Share Before and After 1990 1980: 43.3%. 1990: 35.4% (post-reunification). The roughly 8-point drop reflects the addition of the largely secular former East Germany.
Source: DBK, Statista 2026. -8ppat reunification

The former East Germany remains markedly more secular than the West to this day, with much higher shares of religiously unaffiliated people and very low church membership. In some eastern states, the religiously unaffiliated make up the overwhelming majority of the population, a stark contrast to the more traditionally religious western and southern regions like Bavaria, where Catholicism retains a stronger cultural foothold even amid the broader decline. This regional divide, a lasting legacy of the communist era, continues to shape Germany's overall religious profile. The reunification effect illustrates how a single political event can reshape a country's religious statistics dramatically, independent of any change in individual belief among the existing population. It is a reminder that national religious figures reflect not just personal faith but also borders, politics, and history, and that the 1990 drop in the Catholic share was a matter of arithmetic, combining two populations with very different religious profiles, rather than a sudden loss of faith. These demographic shifts reflect the wider population changes reshaping modern Germany.

Below 20 Million

Falling Below 20 Million Catholics

Germany Catholic members number millions 2014 2024 2025 below 20 million decline four million lost bar
Number of Catholics in Germany (Millions) 2014: 23.9M. 2022: 20.9M. 2023: 20.3M. 2024: 19.77M (first below 20M). 2025: 19.2M. The Church lost ~4 million members in a decade. Source: DBK 2026. 19.2M2025

The year 2024 marked a symbolic milestone when the total number of Catholics in Germany fell below 20 million for the first time in over a century, reaching 19.77 million. By 2025, that figure had dropped further to around 19.2 million, representing about 23% of the population. In the decade from 2014 to 2024 alone, the German Catholic Church lost roughly 4 million members, falling from 23.94 million to 19.77 million - an average loss of around 400,000 members every single year over that ten-year span. This rapid loss reflects both formal departures and the fact that deaths among the older, more Catholic generations far outnumber baptisms of new members. With each passing year, the demographic structure of the Church becomes more unfavourable, as the large, devout post-war generations age and pass away while far smaller numbers of young people are baptised and raised in the faith to replace them. This decline is part of the wider global pattern of changing religious affiliation.

Why the Decline

Why Are Catholics Declining in Germany?

The decline of the Catholic share in Germany is the result of several overlapping forces working together over many decades. The single largest structural factor was the 1990 reunification, which added the secular East, but beyond that, the steady erosion reflects a combination of demographic, social, and institutional pressures. Record numbers of Catholics formally leave the Church each year - over 300,000 annually in recent years, peaking at more than 522,000 in 2022 - through the official *Kirchenaustritt* process, often to avoid the church tax or in response to disillusionment with the institution. This formal act of leaving, which requires a visit to a registry office and a small fee, has become socially normalised in Germany, no longer carrying the stigma it once might have, which has made it easier for wavering members to make their departure official.

Beyond formal departures, the decline is driven by deep demographic and cultural shifts. Baptism rates have fallen sharply, meaning fewer children are entering the Church, while deaths among the older, more religious generations steadily reduce the membership base. The clerical abuse scandals that came to light in the 2010s and 2020s acted as a powerful catalyst, accelerating departures and severely damaging the Church's moral authority and credibility in the eyes of many Germans who had previously remained loyal members. Beneath all of these specific factors lies the broad secularisation of German society, in which religion plays an ever-smaller role in daily life, particularly among younger generations who are far less likely to identify with any church. For many young Germans, religious affiliation has become an optional and often inactive part of their identity rather than the central organising feature of community life it once was, accelerating the long-term erosion of the Church's membership base.

Germany Catholic decline reasons departures deaths baptisms secularisation abuse scandals factors
breakdown bar Catholic Church Departures in Germany (Recent Years, 000s) Formal departures: 272k (2019), 360k (2021), 522k (2022 record), 403k (2023), 321k (2024), 307k (2025). Departures plus deaths drive the decline. Source: DBK 2026. 522k2022 peak

These various forces reinforce one another in a self-perpetuating cycle that is difficult to break. As fewer children are baptised and raised Catholic, the next generation has weaker ties to the Church, making them more likely to leave or never engage in the first place. The abuse scandals eroded trust precisely when the Church needed to retain members, and the visibility of the church tax gave the financially motivated an additional reason to formalise their departure. Together, these factors have produced one of the steepest religious declines in the developed world, mirroring patterns seen across much of Western Europe but proceeding at a notably rapid pace in Germany.

Mass Attendance

Most German Catholics Are Non-Practising

The headline membership figures, dramatic as they are, actually overstate the real religious vitality of German Catholicism, because the vast majority of registered Catholics are non-practising. In 2024, only about 6.6% of registered Catholics attended Mass regularly - just over 1.3 million people out of nearly 20 million members. This figure has become one of the most cited indicators of the Church's real-world decline, since it reveals how few Germans actively practise the faith despite the large nominal membership that the church tax system helps sustain. In practice this means that fewer than 2% of the total German population attends Catholic Mass, even though Catholics make up nearly a quarter of the population on paper. The contrast between the roughly 23% who are registered Catholics and the under-2% who actually attend Mass captures the hollowing-out of German Catholicism more vividly than any single membership figure could. The gap between nominal membership and active practice is enormous.

Germany Catholic Mass attendance practising non-practising 6.6 percent decline 2003 2024 gap nominal donut German Catholics - Practising vs Non-Practising (2024) Of registered Catholics, only ~6.6% attend Mass regularly; ~93.4% are non-practising. Mass attendance fell from 15.2% in 2003. Source: DBK 2026. 6.6%attend Mass

Mass attendance has itself declined dramatically over time, falling from 15.2% of Catholics in 2003 to just 6.6% in 2024 - less than half the level of two decades earlier. Attendance is notably higher in some eastern dioceses such as Goerlitz (14.4%), where the small remaining Catholic communities tend to be more

committed and tight-knit, and much lower in western regions like Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate, where large nominal Catholic populations rarely set foot in church. This collapse in active participation suggests that the Church's real influence on German society has declined even faster than the membership numbers alone would indicate, a trend that continues to shape its future and raises difficult questions about the long-term viability of its many parishes and institutions. Remarkably, the institution's finances have stayed strong even as active participation has collapsed.

Catholics vs Others

Catholics vs Protestants vs the Unaffiliated

Germany's religious landscape in 2026 is no longer dominated by the two major Christian churches. For the first time, the religiously unaffiliated - the so-called "nones" - now outnumber Catholics and Protestants combined. As of recent data, Catholics make up around 23-24% of the population, Protestants around 21%, Muslims around 3.9%, and other religious communities about 4.1%, leaving over 43-47% of Germans with no official religious affiliation at all. This represents a profound shift from 1950, when the overwhelming majority of Germans belonged to one of the two main churches and religious unaffiliation was rare. In the span of a single lifetime, Germany has moved from a society where church membership was nearly universal to one where the religiously unaffiliated are the largest single group, a remarkable reversal of the country's historic religious character.

Germany religious groups Catholic Protestant unaffiliated Muslim nones share 2026 comparison
breakdown donut Germany's Religious Composition, 2026 (% Share) Unaffiliated ~47%, Catholic ~23%, Protestant ~21%, Muslim ~3.9%, other ~4.1%. The "nones" now outnumber both churches combined.

Source: Fowid, DBK 2026. 47%unaffiliated

The rise of the religiously unaffiliated is the mirror image of the decline of the churches. In 1950, fewer than 4% of Germans were unaffiliated; today that figure is around 47%, making "no religion" the single largest category. Both the Catholic and Protestant churches have lost members at a similar pace in recent years, each shedding around half a million members annually, with the two churches combined losing more than one million members in a single year on multiple occasions. This parallel decline shows that the forces driving secularisation in Germany are not specific to one denomination but reflect a society-wide turning away from organised religion, affecting Catholics and Protestants alike. The shared trajectory of both major churches reflects the deep secularisation of German society as a whole.

Members in Millions

The Long-Term Decline in Absolute Numbers

While the share of Catholics tells one story, the absolute number of Catholics tells another, equally striking one. Although the population of Germany has grown over the decades through immigration, the number of Catholics has fallen in absolute terms, especially sharply in recent years. From a peak well above 24 million in the decades after reunification, the Catholic population has declined to around 19.2 million by 2025, dropping below the symbolic 20 million threshold in 2024 for the first time in over a century. This absolute decline is particularly striking given that Germany's total population has remained broadly stable or even grown slightly over the same period thanks to immigration, meaning the Catholic share has been squeezed from both directions at once.

Germany Catholic share versus number millions decline both falling absolute relative comparison line chart
Catholic Share (%) vs Number of Catholics (Millions) Both the share and the absolute number have fallen: share from ~30% (2010) to ~22.5% (2026); members from ~24.6M to ~19.2M. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.
2 trends both down

The fact that both the share and the absolute number are falling simultaneously underscores the depth of the decline. In countries where the religious share falls only because the overall population grows faster than the religious group, the absolute numbers can still rise even as the percentage drops. Germany shows the opposite and more severe pattern, in which the Church is losing members in raw numbers at the same time as its share of the population shrinks, a double decline that leaves no statistical comfort for Church leaders. In Germany, however, the Catholic population is shrinking in real terms even as the total population holds roughly steady or grows through immigration, meaning the Church is genuinely losing people, not just being diluted. This double decline poses serious long-term challenges for the institution's finances, staffing, and social role across the country. Fewer members ultimately means fewer church tax payers, fewer volunteers, fewer vocations to the priesthood, and a shrinking base of active participation, all of which compound over time and force the Church into difficult decisions about closing or merging parishes and scaling back its once-extensive presence in German communities.

The Future

The Future of Catholicism in Germany

Looking ahead, the trajectory points clearly toward continued decline in the Catholic share of Germany's population. With baptisms far below the level needed to replace the older generations who are passing away, and with formal departures still running at over 300,000 a year, the membership base is set to keep



shrinking for the foreseeable future. The mathematics of the situation leave little room for optimism: even if departures slowed considerably, the demographic imbalance between an ageing membership and a small inflow of young members would continue to drive the totals downward. Most projections suggest the Catholic share will fall below 20% within the next decade and could approach 15% or lower by mid-century if current trends persist, fundamentally reshaping Germany's religious identity. Such a decline would complete Germany's transformation from a country where the great majority belonged to one of the two main churches into a predominantly secular society in which active religious believers of any faith form a distinct minority.

Germany Catholic share future projection 2026 2040 decline forecast below 20 percent secularisation line
Projected Catholic Share of Germany to 2040 (%) From ~22.5% in 2026, the Catholic share is projected to fall below 20% within a decade and toward ~16% by 2040 if current trends continue. Source: BusinessStats projection from DBK data. ~16%by 2040

Despite this decline, the Catholic Church will remain a significant institution in German life for many years, given its vast network of hospitals, schools, and social services, and its still-substantial financial resources from the church tax. Even as a shrinking minority faith, the Church employs hundreds of thousands of people and provides services that millions of Germans of all faiths and none rely upon, ensuring it retains considerable social and economic weight well beyond its dwindling active congregation. The question is no longer whether the Church will disappear entirely, but rather how it will adapt to its new reality as a smaller minority institution in an increasingly secular and religiously diverse society where it no longer commands the cultural authority it once held. The contrast between the Church's shrinking membership and its enduring institutional weight is one of the defining features of religion in modern Germany, and it will shape the country's spiritual landscape for decades to come.

Key Statistics

Catholics in Germany – Key Statistics

Germany Catholic share milestones 1950 1990 2010 2026 comparison decline percentage points summary
bar Catholic Share at Key Milestones (%) 1950: 46%. 1990: 35.4% (reunification). 2010: 30.2%. 2026: 22.5% (est.). A steady, structural decline over 75 years. Source: DBK, Statista 2026. -23.5pp1950-2026
22.5% (2026)Catholic Share Today - Down From 46% in 1950The Catholic share of Germany's population is around 22.5% in 2026, roughly half the 46% level of 1950. Source: DBK, Statista 2026. 19.2
millionCatholics in 2025 - Below 20M Since 2024The number of Catholics fell to ~19.2 million by 2025,

having dropped below 20 million for the first time in 2024 (19.77M). Source: DBK 2026. ~4 million lostDecade Decline - Members Lost 2014 to 2024The German Catholic Church lost around 4 million members between 2014 (23.94M) and 2024 (19.77M). Source: DBK 2026. 6.6% attendMass Attendance - Down From 15.2% in 2003Only 6.6% of registered Catholics attended Mass regularly in 2024, less than half the 15.2% level of 2003. Source: DBK 2026. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions - Catholics in Germany

Around 22.5% in 2026, down from 46% in 1950. The total number of Catholics fell below 20 million for the first time in 2024, reaching about 19.2 million by 2025. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

It roughly halved, from 46% to about 22.5% - a drop of around 23.5 percentage points. A sharp fall occurred in 1990 when reunification added the largely secular former East Germany. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

In 2024, for the first time in over a century, reaching 19.77 million. By 2025 it had fallen further to around 19.2 million, after record waves of members formally leaving the Church. Source: DBK 2026.

Reunification, departures, scandals, and secularisation. The 1990 reunification added the secular East; since then over 300,000 leave annually, baptisms have fallen, abuse scandals damaged trust, and society has secularised broadly. Source: DBK 2026.

German reunification. When West and East Germany reunited in 1990, the combined population included the largely secular former East Germany, where communist rule had suppressed religion for decades, sharply lowering the national Catholic share. Source: DBK, Statista 2026.

Only about 6.6% of registered Catholics in 2024 - just over 1.3 million people. That means fewer than 2% of all Germans attend Catholic Mass. Attendance has fallen from 15.2% in 2003. Source: DBK 2026.

Yes - the "nones" now outnumber Catholics and Protestants combined. Around 47% of Germans are unaffiliated, versus ~23% Catholic and ~21% Protestant. This is a historic first for Germany. Source: Fowid 2026.

Both have declined sharply, Protestants even faster. Protestants fell from 59% in 1950 to ~21% today, while Catholics fell from 46% to ~23%. Both churches now lose around half a million members each per year. Source: Pew, DBK 2026.

Both are falling. The Catholic population dropped from ~24.6 million in 2010 to ~19.2 million in 2025 in absolute terms, while the share fell from ~30% to ~23%. The Church is genuinely losing people, not just

being diluted. Source: DBK 2026.

Projected to fall below 20% within a decade. If current trends continue, the Catholic share could approach 16% by 2040, as baptisms stay low, departures continue, and older generations pass away. Source: BusinessStats projection 2026.

Sources

[Statista / DBK - Share of Catholics in the Population in Germany 1950-2023](#) - Primary source for the time series, based on German Bishops' Conference (DBK) figures. Survey period 1950 to 2023, released June 2024. +-0%.

[Catholic News Agency - Catholic Population Drops Below 20 Million \(2024\)](#) - Source for the 2024 figures (19.77M, below 20M first time, 6.6% Mass attendance, 321k departures). Published March 2025.

[Pew Research - Protestants and Catholics in Germany](#) - Source for the 1950 baseline (Catholics 37-46%, Protestants 59%) and long-term comparison of the two churches. Published 2019/2024.

[Evangelical Focus - Nones Outnumber Catholics and Protestants \(2024\)](#) - Source for the 2024 composition (Catholic 24%, Protestant 21%, unaffiliated 47%, Muslim 3.9%). Published April 2025.

Figures from the German Bishops' Conference (DBK) via Statista, covering the Catholic share of Germany's population 1950-2026. The 1990 figures include the new federal states (former East Germany); the sharp drop that year reflects reunification, not a sudden exodus. Pre-1990 figures cover West Germany. 2024 (19.77M, 23.7%) was the first year below 20 million. 2026 share is an estimate projected from the trend. Not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Countries with the most men's World Cup titles 1930-2022

Updated May 28, 2026 · businessstats.com/number-of-world-cup-titles-won-by-country-since-1930

5 BRAZIL - MOST TITLES, 1958 TO 2002, ONLY 5-TIME CHAMPION	4 GERMANY AND ITALY - JOINT 2ND, 4 TITLES EACH	3 ARGENTINA - 3 TITLES AFTER QATAR 2022 WIN
8 NATIONS THAT HAVE WON THE WORLD CUP IN 92 YEARS	22 TOTAL WORLD CUP EDITIONS 1930-2022	0 AFRICAN, ASIAN, OR NORTH AMERICAN NATIONS TO WIN

Overview

Countries with the most FIFA World Cup titles from 1930 to 2022

The FIFA World Cup has been contested 22 times between 1930 and 2022. In those 22 editions, **only 8 different nations have won the title**. Brazil lead with 5 championships, followed by Germany and Italy with 4 each, and Argentina with 3. The remaining three titles are split between France and Uruguay (2 each) and England and Spain (1 each).

The most striking fact about the World Cup titles list is its exclusivity. Despite 80+ nations having competed at least once since 1930, fewer than 10% of them have ever won. All 8 champions are from either South America (CONMEBOL) or Europe (UEFA). No nation from Africa, Asia, North America, Oceania, or Central America has ever won the World Cup in 92 years of competition.

The 2022 Qatar World Cup altered the title count when Argentina beat France 3-3 (4-2 on penalties) in the final at Lusail Stadium. This was Argentina's third title and Lionel Messi's first. It moved Argentina ahead of France (2 titles) to joint 3rd with one title fewer than Germany and Italy (4 each). The historical context for these champion nations in the all-time table is in our [FIFA World Cup all-time table 1930-2022 analysis](#).

countries with most FIFA World Cup titles all time 1930 to 2022 all 8 champion nations World Cup Titles by Country - All 8 Champions at a Glance (1930-2022) Brazil: 5. Germany: 4. Italy: 4. Argentina: 3. France: 2. Uruguay: 2. England: 1. Spain: 1. Total: 22. Gold=CONMEBOL. Blue=UEFA. Source: FIFA official, Statista

December 2022. 5Brazil - record

Brazil 51958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002 - The Only Five-Time World Cup ChampionBrazil won 5 titles across 44 years (1958-2002). Their last title was 2002 in Japan/Korea. They are the only team to win the World Cup five times and the only team to qualify for every edition. Source: FIFA official records. Germany 41954, 1974, 1990, 2014 - Includes 3 West Germany TitlesGermany (including West Germany) won 4 titles. 1954 "Miracle of Bern" vs Hungary. 1974 home triumph. 1990 reunification-era final vs Argentina. 2014 iconic 1-0 vs Argentina in the Maracana. Source: FIFA official records. Italy 41934, 1938, 1982, 2006 - Four Titles Despite Missing 2018 and 2022Italy won 4 titles across 72 years (1934-2006). Their back-to-back 1934 and 1938 titles remain the only consecutive championships. Despite missing 2018 and 2022, their 4-title record stands. Source: FIFA official records. Argentina 31978, 1986, 2022 - Qatar 2022 Win Completed Messi's CareerArgentina won 3 titles with different heroes: Kempes (1978), Maradona (1986), and Messi (2022). The 2022 final vs France (3-3, 4-2 pens) is widely regarded as the greatest World Cup final ever played. Source: FIFA official records. Titles Chart

Brazil 5 to England and Spain 1 - World Cup Titles by Nation Visualised

FIFA World Cup titles won by country all time 1930 to 2022 all 8 champion nations FIFA World Cup Titles by Country - All 8 Champions (1930-2022) Brazil: 5. Germany: 4. Italy: 4. Argentina: 3. France: 2. Uruguay: 2. England: 1. Spain: 1. Total: 22 titles. Only CONMEBOL and UEFA nations have won. Source: FIFA official records. 5Brazil - most ever

CONMEBOL (South America) UEFA (Europe)

CONMEBOL nations have won 10 of the 22 World Cups (Brazil 5 + Argentina 3 + Uruguay 2). UEFA nations have won the other 12 (Germany 4 + Italy 4 + France 2 + England 1 + Spain 1). The tournament has never been won by a host nation from outside South America and Europe.

All Champions 1930-2022

Every FIFA World Cup Winner from Uruguay 1930 to Argentina 2022

All FIFA World Cup Champions 1930-2022 - Complete Official Results

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE	VENUE
1930	Uruguay	Argentina	4-2	Estadio Centenario, Montevideo



1934	Italy	Czechoslovakia	2-1 AET	PNF Stadium, Rome
1938	Italy	Hungary	4-2	Stade de Colombes, Paris
1950	Uruguay	Brazil	2-1*	Maracana, Rio de Janeiro
1954	Germany	Hungary	3-2	Wankdorf Stadium, Bern
1958	Brazil	Sweden	5-2	Rasunda Stadium, Stockholm
1962	Brazil	Czechoslovakia	3-1	Estadio Nacional, Santiago
1966	England	Germany	4-2 AET	Wembley Stadium, London
1970	Brazil	Italy	4-1	Estadio Azteca, Mexico City
1974	Germany	Netherlands	2-1	Olympiastadion, Munich
1978	Argentina	Netherlands	3-1 AET	Monumental, Buenos Aires
1982	Italy	Germany	3-1	Bernabeu, Madrid
1986	Argentina	Germany	3-2	Estadio Azteca, Mexico City
1990	Germany	Argentina	1-0	Olimpico, Rome
1994	Brazil	Italy	0-0 (3-2 pens)	Rose Bowl, Los Angeles
1998	France	Brazil	3-0	Stade de France, Paris
2002	Brazil	Germany	2-0	Int. Stadium Yokohama
2006	Italy	France	1-1 (5-3 pens)	Olympiastadion, Berlin
2010	Spain	Netherlands	1-0 AET	FNB Stadium, Johannesburg
2014	Germany	Argentina	1-0 AET	Maracana, Rio de Janeiro
2018	France	Croatia	4-2	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow
2022	Argentina	France	3-3 (4-2 pens)	Lusail Stadium, Qatar

*1950 used final group stage format - Uruguay beat Brazil 2-1 in the decisive final match. AET=After Extra Time. Pens=Penalty Shootout. 1942 and 1946 not held (WWII). West Germany results counted under Germany total. Source: FIFA official records, TheSoccerWorldCups.com.

Argentina and Germany have met in the most World Cup finals: they faced each other 3 times (1986, 1990, 2014). Germany won 1990, Argentina won 1986, Germany won 2014. France appeared in 3 finals (1998,

2006, 2022) – winning 2, losing 1. The Netherlands appeared in 3 finals (1974, 1978, 2010) without winning any – the most finals without a title.

Brazil – 5 Titles

Brazil's 5 World Cup Titles – 1958 to 2002 and the 24-Year Trophy Drought

Brazil FIFA World Cup titles by year 1958 1962 1970 1994 2002 host country and score Brazil's 5 World Cup Titles – Year, Host, and Final Score 1958 Sweden (5-2 vs Sweden). 1962 Chile (3-1 vs Czechoslovakia). 1970 Mexico (4-1 vs Italy). 1994 USA (0-0, 3-2 pens vs Italy). 2002 Japan/Korea (2-0 vs Germany). Last title: 2002. Current drought: 22+ years. Source: FIFA official. 5Total titles 2002Last title

Brazil's 5 titles span 44 years (1958-2002). Their greatest era was 1958-1970 when they won 3 of 4 tournaments, including the legendary 1970 squad (Pele, Jairzinho, Rivelino) widely considered the greatest World Cup team ever assembled. The 1994 title was defensively disciplined; the 2002 title featured Ronaldo's 8-goal Golden Boot campaign. Brazil have not won since 2002 – their 24-year (and counting) drought is the longest among the top 3 title-holders.

Brazil are unique in appearing at all 22 World Cups. Their 5 titles from 22 appearances gives them a 22.7% win rate at the tournament level – better than Germany (4 from 21 = 19%) and Italy (4 from 18 = 22.2%). Despite not winning since 2002, Brazil have reached the quarter-finals or beyond in every subsequent World Cup (2006 QF, 2010 QF, 2014 SF, 2018 QF, 2022 QF). The prize money earned through these deep runs is in our [World Cup 2022 prize money distribution analysis](#).

Germany – 4 Titles

Germany's 4 World Cup Titles – The Miracle of Bern to the Maracana Victory

Germany (including West Germany) won 4 World Cups across 60 years: 1954, 1974, 1990, and 2014. Their 1954 "Miracle of Bern" is one of sport's greatest upsets – a West Germany side (allowed back into FIFA only two years earlier after the WWII ban) beat heavily-favoured Hungary 3-2. The 2014 title at the Maracana in Brazil, featuring the 7-1 semi-final demolition of the hosts, is arguably the most dominant World Cup campaign of the modern era.

Germany World Cup titles and final appearances 1954 1966 1974 1982 1986 1990 2002 2014 wins and losses Germany World Cup Finals Record – All 8 Appearances (Wins and Losses) Won: 1954 (vs Hungary 3-2), 1974 (vs Netherlands 2-1), 1990 (vs Argentina 1-0), 2014 (vs Argentina 1-0 AET). Lost: 1966 (vs

England 4-2), 1982 (vs Italy 3-1), 1986 (vs Argentina 3-2), 2002 (vs Brazil 2-0). Source: FIFA official. 4W / 4L8 final appearances

Germany's 8 final appearances are the most of any nation - 4 wins and 4 losses in perfect symmetry. They have appeared in the final in 6 different decades (1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2010s). No other nation comes close to this consistency. Their loss in 2002 to Brazil (2-0) remains their most one-sided final defeat. Their 2014 win over Argentina (1-0 AET) was their first title in the 24 years since reunification. The all-time World Cup ranking of Germany vs other nations is in our [FIFA World Cup all-time table analysis](#).

Italy - 4 Titles

Italy's 4 World Cup Titles – Consecutive 1930s Championships to 2006 Triumph

Italy are the only nation to win consecutive World Cups (1934 and 1938). Their 1934 and 1938 back-to-back titles, both under coach Vittorio Pozzo, represent the longest period of World Cup dominance by any nation. Italy did not win another title for 44 years until 1982, and then again in 2006. Their failure to qualify for 2018 and 2022 means their last title was 2006 - now 18 years ago.

Italy World Cup titles 1934 1938 1982 2006 finals appearances wins losses host nations Italy World Cup Finals Record - 6 Appearances (4 Wins, 2 Losses) Won: 1934 (vs Czechoslovakia 2-1 AET), 1938 (vs Hungary 4-2), 1982 (vs Germany 3-1), 2006 (vs France 5-3 pens). Lost: 1970 (vs Brazil 4-1), 1994 (vs Brazil 0-0, 2-3 pens). Source: FIFA official records. 4W / 2L6 finals

Italy's 2006 title came in controversial fashion - defeating France on penalties after a 1-1 draw, a final remembered as much for Zinedine Zidane's infamous headbutt on Marco Materazzi as for the football. Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro won the Ballon d'Or that year - the last defender to do so. Italy's failure to qualify for 2018 and 2022 cost them all-time table positions and prize money. Had they reached the quarter-finals in both tournaments, they could have accumulated approximately 24-30 additional points. The FIFA world ranking of the Italian team is in our [FIFA world ranking analysis](#).

Argentina - 3 Titles

Argentina's 3 World Cup Titles – Kempes, Maradona, and Messi

Argentina's 3 World Cup titles each represent a different generation of Argentine football greatness. The 1978 title (Mario Kempes, home soil in Buenos Aires) came on a controversial tournament in military junta-

era Argentina. The 1986 title (Diego Maradona, Mexico City) delivered arguably the most iconic individual World Cup performance ever, including the "Hand of God" and the "Goal of the Century" against England. The 2022 title (Lionel Messi, Qatar) completed the career of football's greatest player.

Argentina World Cup titles and final appearances 1930 1978 1986 1990 2014 2022 wins losses Argentina World Cup Finals Record - All 6 Appearances Won: 1978 (3-1 AET vs Netherlands), 1986 (3-2 vs Germany), 2022 (4-2 pens vs France). Lost: 1930 (2-4 vs Uruguay), 1990 (0-1 vs Germany), 2014 (0-1 AET vs Germany). Source: FIFA official. 3W / 3L6 finals

Argentina's rivalry with Germany in World Cup finals is the most intense in tournament history. They met in 3 finals (1986, 1990, 2014) - Argentina won 1, Germany won 2. Their 2022 final against France was a different kind of epic: a 3-3 draw after extra time decided by penalties, Mbappe scoring a hat-trick in a losing effort, considered by many the greatest World Cup final ever. The prize money from their 2022 champion's prize is in our World Cup 2022 prize money distribution analysis.

France and Uruguay

France 2 Titles (1998, 2018), Uruguay 2 Titles (1930, 1950) – Two Different Eras

France and Uruguay FIFA World Cup titles years won home host runner up comparison France and Uruguay - World Cup Title Years and Finals Records France: Won 1998 (3-0 vs Brazil, Paris), 2018 (4-2 vs Croatia, Moscow). Runner-up: 2006, 2022. Uruguay: Won 1930 (4-2 vs Argentina, Montevideo), 1950* (2-1 vs Brazil, Rio). No finals since 1950. Source: FIFA official. 2+2titles combined

France's 2 titles (1998, 2018) make them the most successful nation of the past 30 years. Both victories were dominant - 3-0 vs Brazil in 1998 (Zidane 2 headers), and 4-2 vs Croatia in 2018. Their 4 final appearances (1998, 2006, 2018, 2022) across 24 years reflect extraordinary sustained quality. France have appeared in a World Cup final in 4 different decades, a feat only Germany (6 final appearances across 5 decades) can match.

Uruguay's 2 titles (1930, 1950) were both in the pre-television era, when South American football truly dominated. Their legendary 1950 "Maracanazo" - beating Brazil 2-1 in the final group match at a packed Maracana stadium expecting a Brazilian victory - is considered the greatest upset in World Cup history. Uruguay have not appeared in a World Cup final since 1950, a 70+ year drought that reflects both their small population (3.5 million) and the growing competitiveness of global football. The global economy context for smaller nations like Uruguay competing with wealthier football nations is in our [global economy](#)

[analysis.](#)

England and Spain

England 1966 and Spain 2010 – The One-Time Champions

England 1 Title - 1966 at Home, 4-2 vs West Germany at Wembley England's only World Cup title came on home soil on July 30, 1966 at Wembley Stadium. Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick (including the disputed "did it cross the line?" third goal) in a 4-2 AET win over West Germany. 58+ years have passed without another title. Source: FIFA official records. Spain 1 Title - 2010 in South Africa, 1-0 vs Netherlands AET Spain's only World Cup title came in South Africa on July 11, 2010. Andres Iniesta scored the winning goal in the 116th minute vs Netherlands (1-0 AET). Spain had never won before and have not won since. Their 2010 squad - built on the Barcelona tiki-taka system - is considered one of the greatest national teams ever assembled. Source: FIFA official. England 1966 and Spain 2010 one title each World Cup final appearances and results England and Spain - World Cup Final Record (1 Title Each) England: 1966 Wembley, 4-2 AET vs West Germany (Hurst hat-trick). One final, one win. Spain: 2010 Johannesburg, 1-0 AET vs Netherlands (Iniesta 116th minute). One final, one win. Source: FIFA official. 100% final win rate

England's failure to win since 1966 has become one of football's most enduring narratives. They have reached a World Cup semi-final only once in that period (1990) and a second semi-final in 2018. England are 6th in the all-time World Cup standings despite their single title. Spain, despite winning every major trophy between 2008 and 2012 (Euro 2008, World Cup 2010, Euro 2012), have struggled at subsequent World Cups. The 2026 World Cup represents both nations' best opportunities in years to add a second title. The winner odds for all nations in 2026 are in our [World Cup 2026 winner odds analysis](#).

Final Appearances

Germany 8 Finals, Brazil and Argentina 6 Each – Most World Cup Final Appearances

FIFA World Cup total final appearances by nation all time wins and losses 1930 to 2022 World Cup Final Appearances - Wins vs Losses by Nation (1930-2022) Germany: 8 finals (4W, 4L). Brazil: 7 finals (5W, 2L). Argentina: 6 finals (3W, 3L). Italy: 6 finals (4W, 2L). Netherlands: 3 finals (0W, 3L). France: 4 finals (2W, 2L). Source: FIFA official records. 8 Germany - most finals

Final wins Final losses World Cup Final Appearances by Nation - Complete Record 1930-2022

NATION	FINALS	WINS	LOSSES	WIN RATE	LAST FINAL
Germany	8	4	4	50%	2014
Brazil	7	5	2	71.4%	2002
Argentina	6	3	3	50%	2022
Italy	6	4	2	66.7%	2006
France	4	2	2	50%	2022
Netherlands	3	0	3	0%	2010
Uruguay	2	2	0	100%	1950
Czechoslovakia	2	0	2	0%	1962
Hungary	2	0	2	0%	1954
England	1	1	0	100%	1966
Spain	1	1	0	100%	2010
Croatia	1	0	1	0%	2018

Source: FIFA official records. Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary = 0 wins from multiple final appearances. Uruguay and England win rate 100% as they won their only final each. West Germany included in Germany total. 1950 final group match counted as final for Uruguay.

The Netherlands hold the unenviable record of most World Cup finals without winning (3 finals: 1974, 1978, 2010 - all defeats). They are joined by Czechoslovakia (2 finals, 0 wins) and Hungary (2 finals, 0 wins). Brazil's 71.4% final win rate (5 wins from 7 appearances) is the best of any nation with 3+ finals. Uruguay and England both have perfect 100% records - having won their only final appearance each. The all-time standings context for these finalist nations is in our [FIFA World Cup all-time table analysis](#).

By Confederation

CONMEBOL 10, UEFA 12 – World Cup Titles by Confederation

FIFA World Cup titles by confederation CONMEBOL UEFA all 22 editions 1930 to 2022 World Cup Titles by Confederation - All 22 Editions (1930-2022) UEFA (Europe): 12 titles - Germany 4 + Italy 4 + France 2 + England 1 + Spain 1. CONMEBOL (S.America): 10 titles - Brazil 5 + Argentina 3 + Uruguay 2.

CAF/AFC/CONCACAF/OFC: 0 titles. Source: FIFA official records. 12UEFA titles 10CONMEBOL titles

UEFA's 12 titles (55%) vs CONMEBOL's 10 titles (45%) over 22 editions is the closest split of any major continental rivalry in World Cup history. However, CONMEBOL's advantage is that it achieves this with just 10 member nations vs UEFA's 55 - meaning South American nations win the World Cup at a far higher per-nation rate.

No World Cup has ever been won by a nation from CAF (Africa), AFC (Asia), CONCACAF (North/Central America), or OFC (Oceania) despite these confederations collectively having 40+ nations at most modern World Cups. Morocco's 2022 semi-final was the closest any non-CONMEBOL/UEFA nation has come. The 2026 World Cup teams by confederation context is in our [World Cup 2026 teams by confederation analysis](#)

The 2026 World Cup will be hosted by USA, Mexico, and Canada - all CONCACAF nations. While no CONCACAF nation has won the World Cup, hosting for the first time (or third time in the case of Mexico) on their own soil gives them the best opportunity in their history. The tourism and economic impact of this historic hosting arrangement is in our [FIFA World Cup 2026 tourism impact analysis](#).

By Confederation

CONMEBOL 10, UEFA 12 – World Cup Titles Split Between Two Confederations

FIFA World Cup titles by confederation CONMEBOL UEFA 1930 to 2022 all 22 editions World Cup Titles by Confederation - CONMEBOL vs UEFA (1930-2022) UEFA: 12 titles (Germany 4 + Italy 4 + France 2 + England 1 + Spain 1). CONMEBOL: 10 titles (Brazil 5 + Argentina 3 + Uruguay 2). All other confederations: 0 titles. Source: FIFA official records. 12:10UEFA vs CONMEBOL

UEFA (Europe) - 12 titles CONMEBOL (S.America) - 10 titles

UEFA's 12 titles (55%) vs CONMEBOL's 10 (45%) is the closest competitive split of any continental rivalry in World Cup history. CONMEBOL achieves its 10 titles with just 10 member nations vs UEFA's 55 - meaning South American nations win at a far higher per-nation rate than European nations.

No World Cup has ever been won by a nation from CAF (Africa), AFC (Asia), CONCACAF (North/Central America), or OFC (Oceania) despite 40+ nations from these confederations competing at most modern World Cups. Morocco's 2022 semi-final was the closest any non-CONMEBOL/UEFA team has come. The 2026 confederation teams are in our [World Cup 2026 teams by confederation analysis](#).

The 2026 World Cup hosted by USA, Mexico, and Canada represents CONCACAF's best opportunity. While none has won the World Cup, the USA co-host in 2026 have previously reached the quarter-finals in 2002 on home soil (in Korea/Japan technically away). Mexico has twice reached the quarter-finals (1970, 1986) but never beyond. The hosting cost context is in our [total cost of hosting the World Cup analysis](#).

Historically, the World Cup was dominated by the first 3 editions (1930-1938) being shared between South America and Europe. Since 1966, no South American nation has won a World Cup held in Europe, and no European nation has won a World Cup held in South America. This "continental advantage" pattern means: if a South American nation hosts in 2030 (Morocco/Spain/Portugal + centenary matches in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay), South American teams may have a historical advantage in the Americas-hosted matches. The social media engagement context for how fans track these patterns is in our [social media statistics and facts analysis](#).

Key Statistics

World Cup Titles by Country – Key Statistics 1930-2022

home advantage World Cup titles won on home soil vs away 1930 to 2022 Home vs Away World Cup Titles
 - How Often Home Nations Win Won on home soil: Uruguay 1930, Italy 1934, England 1966, Germany 1974, Argentina 1978, France 1998 = 6 titles. Won away from home: 16 titles. Home win rate: 27.3% (6 of 22 editions had home champion). Source: FIFA official records. 6Home wins 27.3%Home win rate

5 titlesBrazil - Most World Cup Wins Ever, Only Nation to Win Five TimesBrazil: 5 titles (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002). 7 final appearances (71.4% win rate). Last title: 2002. Only nation at all 22 World Cups. 22+ year drought since last title. Source: FIFA official records. 8 nationsOnly 8 Nations Have Won in 22 Editions
 - European and South American OnlyBrazil (5), Germany (4), Italy (4), Argentina (3), France (2), Uruguay (2), England (1), Spain (1). No African, Asian, North American, Oceanian, or Central American nation has won in 92 years. Source: FIFA official records. Germany8 World Cup Final Appearances - More Than Any Other NationGermany have appeared in 8 World Cup finals: 1954, 1966, 1974, 1982, 1986, 1990, 2002, 2014 (4 wins, 4 losses). No other nation has appeared more than 7 times (Brazil). Source: FIFA official records. Netherlands3 Finals, 0 Titles - Most Runner-Up Finishes Without WinningThe Netherlands appeared in 3 World Cup finals (1974, 1978, 2010) without winning any - the most final appearances by a non-champion. They are the only nation with 3+ finals and 0 titles. Source: FIFA official records. FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions – World Cup Titles by Country

Brazil with 5 titles (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002). They are the only nation to win five times and the only nation at all 22 World Cups. Source: FIFA official records.

Only 8 nations across 22 editions (1930-2022): Brazil (5), Germany (4), Italy (4), Argentina (3), France (2), Uruguay (2), England (1), Spain (1). No African, Asian, or North American nation has ever won. Source: FIFA official records.

4 titles (1954, 1974, 1990, 2014), including 3 as West Germany. Germany share 2nd place with Italy. They have appeared in 8 finals (most ever) with 4 wins and 4 losses. Source: FIFA official records.

Qatar 2022 on December 18, 2022. Argentina beat France 3-3 (4-2 on penalties) in the Lusail Stadium final. Lionel Messi scored 7 goals across the tournament including one in the final. Source: FIFA official records.

The Netherlands with 3 finals and 0 wins (1974, 1978, 2010). They are the only nation with 3+ finals and no titles. Czechoslovakia and Hungary each appeared in 2 finals without winning. Source: FIFA official records.

2006 in Germany – Italy beat France 1-1 (5-3 on penalties) in Berlin. Italy failed to qualify for 2018 and 2022, ending their streak of consecutive World Cup appearances and preventing them from adding to their 4-title count. Source: FIFA official records.

2 titles (1998 at home, 3-0 vs Brazil; 2018 in Russia, 4-2 vs Croatia). They have appeared in 4 finals (1998, 2006, 2018, 2022) winning 2 and losing 2. Source: FIFA official records.

Yes – 6 times. Uruguay 1930 (home), Italy 1934 (home), England 1966 (home), Germany 1974 (home), Argentina 1978 (home), France 1998 (home). Host nations have won 6 of 22 World Cups – a 27% success rate for home teams. Source: FIFA official records.

Spain, France, and Brazil lead the 2026 betting markets. A Spain win would give them 2 titles, France 3, Brazil 6. Argentina (holders) are also among the favorites. See our World Cup 2026 winner odds analysis for full probability data. Source: industry sportsbooks, December 2025.

Only once – Italy in 1934 and 1938. No other nation has won back-to-back World Cups. Brazil came closest by winning in 1958 and 1962. Germany won in 1990 and 2014 but not consecutively. Argentina won 2022 and are defending champions at 2026. Source: FIFA official records.

Sources



[TheSoccerWorldCups.com - World Cup Champions List](#) - Primary source for all 22 World Cup champions, runners-up, scores, and venues 1930-2022. +-0%.

[Statista - Countries With the Most World Cup Titles](#) - Title counts by nation. Brazil 5, Germany 4, Italy 4, Argentina 3, France 2, Uruguay 2, England 1, Spain 1. Updated December 2022. +-0%.

[Britannica - FIFA World Cup Results](#) - Cross-reference source for all final results and scores 1930-2022. +-0%.

West Germany results (1954, 1966, 1974, 1982, 1986, 1990) counted under Germany total. 1950 used final group stage format - Uruguay vs Brazil decisive match counted as final. 1942 and 1946 not held (WWII). Men's FIFA World Cup only - not Women's World Cup. All 22 editions 1930-2022. Not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Processes in banking affairs in Germany 2026

Updated May 12, 2026 · businessstats.com/processes-in-banking-affairs-in-germany

38% ONLINE PC PRIMARY — 2024	36% MOBILE PRIMARY — 2024	84% DIGITAL COMBINED — 2024 CONFIRMED
~56% MOBILE Q4 2025 ESTIMATED	17% BRANCH PRIMARY — 2024	~62% MOBILE Q4 2026 FORECAST

Primary Methods Chart

Methods of processing banking affairs in Germany in 4th quarter 2026

Germany's banking channel landscape in 2024 shows clear digital dominance. The Association of German Banks 2024 representative survey, the latest confirmed annual data, shows online PC banking leads at 38 percent, mobile at 36 percent, branch visits at 17 percent, and self-service terminals at 7 percent. The 2-percentage-point gap between online and mobile reflects a market at a genuine transition point: BusinessStats Research estimates mobile overtook online PC as the most-used individual channel by Q4 2025. Combined digital banking at 84 percent in 2024 places Germany among the top tier of European economies for digital banking adoption. The broader context of digital banks reshaping European banking is in our [digital challenger banks statistics](#).

Primary Banking Method — Germany 2024 (Latest Confirmed) Primary method used to process banking affairs in Germany — 2024 (%) Association of German Banks (Bankenverband) · Representative survey · March 28, 2024 · Multi-pick question · Nationally representative adult sample 84%Use Digital Banking

Source: Bankenverband — "Online and Mobile Banking in Germany 2024," March 28, 2024 · Multi-pick question · Latest confirmed annual data · Q4 2025 estimates: Online ~62%, Mobile ~56%, Branch ~15%

Quarterly Trend 2019 to Q4 2025

Mobile Banking in Germany — 28% in H1 2019 to 52% Q2 2024 Confirmed, ~56% Q4 2025 Estimated

The Statista Consumer Insights quarterly series tracks Germany's banking channel shift. The confirmed data runs H1 2019 (mobile 28%) through Q2 2024 (mobile 52%), a 24 percentage point gain in five years. Online PC banking remained broadly stable at 52-62 percent. Q4 2024 and Q4 2025 are BusinessStats Research estimates. Growth accelerated sharply during COVID-19 in 2020 and gains were sustained after restrictions ended. The AI transformation of banking services is covered in our [AI in finance statistics](#).

Germany Banking — Quarterly Trend H1 2019 to Q4 2025 Share of bank account holders using each banking method in Germany — H1 2019 to Q4 2025 (%) Statista Consumer Insights (H1 2019 to Q2 2024 confirmed) · Q4 2024 and Q4 2025 BusinessStats Research estimates · Multi-pick question — totals exceed 100% 52% Mobile Q2 2024 Confirmed

Source: Statista Consumer Insights — mobile banking series H1 2019 to Q2 2024 confirmed ·

Bankenverband annual surveys confirm 2019, 2022, 2024 annual figures · Q4 2024 and Q4 2025 are BusinessStats Research estimates Germany Banking Method Usage — Full Data Table H1 2019 to Q4 2025

PERIOD	MOBILE	ONLINE PC	BRANCH	DIGITAL COMBINED	TYPE
H1 2019	28%	52%	~25%	52%	Statista Confirmed
H2 2019	31%	54%	~24%	~56%	Statista Confirmed
H1 2020	37%	56%	~22%	~63%	Statista Confirmed — COVID onset
H2 2020	41%	58%	~21%	~67%	Statista Confirmed
H1 2021	44%	58%	~20%	~70%	Statista Confirmed
H2 2021	46%	59%	~20%	~72%	Statista Confirmed
H1 2022	47%	60%	~19%	78%	Bankenverband 2022 Confirmed
H2 2022	50%	60%	~19%	~79%	Statista Confirmed
Q1-Q3 2023	51%	61%	~18%	~81%	Statista Confirmed
Q4 2023	52%	62%	~18%	~82%	Statista Confirmed
Q2 2024 (Latest)	52%	62%	17%	84%	Statista + Bankenverband Confirmed
Q4 2024 (Est.)	~55%	~62%	~16%	~86%	BusinessStats Research Estimate

Q4 2025 (Est.)	~56%	~62%	~15%	~87%	BusinessStats Research Estimate
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Age Group Breakdown

Mobile Peaks at 69% Among Age 35-44, Branch at 28% Among Over-60 — Germany 2024

Banking method preferences differ sharply by age group. Mobile peaks at 69 percent among those aged 35 to 44, reaches 56 percent among 18 to 29 year olds, and falls to 22 percent among those over 60. PC online banking dominates for older users at 41 percent among over-60s. Branch usage is highest among over-60s at 28 percent. Crucially, even the over-60 demographic now shows 72 percent using digital banking in some form, up from 65 percent in the prior Bankenverband survey, a cross-generational digital adoption that reflects Germany's near-complete banking transformation. The UK banking sector comparison is in our [UK bank total assets ranking](#).

Banking Method by Age Group — Germany 2024 Share using each banking method by age group in Germany — 2024 (%) Bankenverband 2024 · Gini GmbH / YouGov January 2023 · Age 45-54 is BusinessStats Research estimate based on confirmed adjacent data points 69% Mobile — Age 35-44

Source: Bankenverband representative survey March 2024 · Gini GmbH / YouGov January 2023 · Age group 45-54 is BusinessStats Research estimate

Online Banking Services Used

Account Balance 82%, Transfers 78%, Photo Payment 43% — Germany's Most Used Digital Services

The Bankenverband 2024 survey reveals which services Germans use most online. Account balance queries lead at 82 percent using this service frequently or very frequently. Bank transfers follow at 78 percent. These two routine services drive the core case for digital banking adoption across Germany. Standing order management is used by 72 percent of mobile users. Photo payment, Germany's most innovative mobile banking feature, allowing users to photograph a paper invoice to auto-fill payment details, is used by 43 percent of mobile banking users, with 32 percent doing so two to three times monthly. Securities transactions are carried out online very or quite frequently by 21 percent. The broader financial context is in our [investment banking revenue statistics](#).

Online and Mobile Banking Service Usage — Germany 2024 Frequency of use of online and mobile banking services in Germany — 2024 (% using frequently or very frequently) Association of German Banks (Bankenverband) · Representative survey · March 28, 2024 · % of online/mobile banking users using each service frequently or very frequently Germany Online and Mobile Banking — Service Usage Frequency 2024

BANKING SERVICE	FREQUENTLY / VERY FREQ.	OCCASIONALLY	PRIMARY CHANNEL	NOTES
Account balance queries	82%	~13%	Online PC and Mobile	Most common online banking activity in Germany
Bank transfers (SEPA, instant)	78%	~14%	Online PC and Mobile	Core routine banking function
Standing orders	72%	N/A	Mobile (of mobile users)	54% do so less than monthly
Photo payment	43%	~21%	Mobile only	Of mobile users · 32% use 2-3x/month · 40% nationally aware
Securities and share transactions	21%	27%	Online PC primarily	Growing retail investor segment post-pandemic
Loan and mortgage applications	~8%	~22%	Online PC	Branch still preferred for complex advice

Mobile Banking Growth

Germany's Mobile Banking Revolution — 24 Percentage Points Gained in 5 Years

Germany's mobile banking growth between 2019 and 2024 represents one of the most rapid consumer behavioral shifts in European banking history. The 24 percentage point increase from 28 percent in H1 2019 to 52 percent in Q2 2024 reflects three overlapping forces: the COVID-19 pandemic which forced trial and then habit formation, structural improvements in German banking apps including photo payment and biometric authentication, and the growing market share of digital-only banks. Germany's digital banking market was valued at approximately USD 1.3 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 3.1 billion by 2035. The investment dynamics shaping global banking are in our [global investment banks revenue](#)

analysis.

The Mobile Paradox — 72% of Interactions Are Mobile, But Sales Conversion Lags

Germany has one of the highest mobile banking interaction rates in Europe: 72 percent of all customer touchpoints occur via mobile, according to McKinsey Finalta 2025 benchmarking covering 300 financial institutions globally. Yet German banks have largely failed to convert these interactions into actual product sales. Digital sales penetration significantly lags behind peers in Spain, the UK, and the Netherlands. Most mobile interactions are transactional rather than advisory. McKinsey identifies that over 40 percent of frequent branch visitors would be willing to switch to remote advice, suggesting the conversion gap can be closed with better digital advisory tools.

Leading German Neobanks and Digital Banks

- **N26 — 7 million global customers:** Germany's largest neobank hit profitability in 2024 and continues expanding premium subscription tiers. No physical branches — fully mobile and online.
- **DKB (Deutsche Kreditbank):** Germany's largest direct bank with over 5 million customers. Pioneer in branchless banking since the 1990s, benefiting significantly from the mobile banking surge.
- **BBVA Germany (launched 2025):** Second fully digital bank launched by BBVA in Europe. Targets Germany's digitally savvy population with a mobile-first, transparent fee model.
- **ING DiBa Germany:** Over 9 million customers. Consistently ranked among the top digital banking experiences in Germany for clean mobile app design and transparent pricing.

Branch Banking Decline

Branch as Primary Method Falls to ~15% by Q4 2025 — Down from 25% in 2019

Branch banking in Germany is in long-term structural decline. Only 17 percent of Germans used branch visits as their primary banking method in 2024, estimated at approximately 15 percent by Q4 2025. Germany had 1,381 banks in 2023, down dramatically from a historic peak of over 13,000 in 1957. McKinsey's 2025 Retail Banking Survey shows 23 percent of customers account for 89 percent of all branch visits, with 74 percent of branch visitors doing so by personal preference, not necessity. Only 12 percent report needing to visit because the service is not digitally available. European banking context is in our UK banks total assets analysis.



- **13,000 banks in 1957 to 1,381 in 2023:** Dramatic consolidation driven by internet banking in the 1990s and mobile banking in the 2010s. Each closure reflects the reduced need for physical distribution of routine banking services.
- **23% of customers account for 89% of branch visits:** Branch visits are highly concentrated among a small subset of customers. The majority of Germany's customer base never visits a branch in a given month.
- **74% visit by choice, 12% by necessity:** Only 12 percent say they need to visit because the service is not available digitally. Branches are primarily a preference-driven behavior, not a service necessity — meaning mobile-led conversion is feasible.
- **Over-60s still at 28% branch usage:** The demographic most likely to visit a branch. However, even in this group, 72 percent now use digital banking in some form, with the gap narrowing year on year.

Trust and Security

81% of Germans Consider Online Banking Secure — Up 3 Points Since 2022

Trust in online banking security stands at 81 percent in the 2024 confirmed survey: 59 percent rate it "secure" and 22 percent "very secure." This is a 3-percentage-point increase from 2022, continuing a multi-year upward trend. The pattern is consistent: trust rises directly with usage experience. Even among those over 60, 73 percent consider online banking secure. Germany's financial regulator BaFin maintains active oversight of cybersecurity standards across all licensed banks. The digital banking security investment context is in our AI in finance analysis.

- **81% secure or very secure (2024):** Up from 78% in 2022. Reflects improving security technology (biometrics, two-factor authentication, real-time fraud alerts) and growing base of experienced users.
- **Trust correlates with experience:** Longer-term users are significantly more likely to rate online banking as secure. Adoption drives experience, experience builds trust, trust drives further adoption.
- **Over-60s at 73% secure rating:** Even the most skeptical demographic has a strong majority considering online banking secure. Gap with younger users has narrowed significantly since 2019.
- **BaFin regulation and NIS2 Directive:** Germany's Federal Financial Supervisory Authority actively monitors cybersecurity. The EU NIS2 Directive, being transposed into German law in 2025, expands cybersecurity obligations for banking institutions.

Germany vs Europe

Germany 84% Digital Banking Adoption — Above European Average, Below Scandinavia

Germany's 84 percent combined digital banking adoption in 2024 significantly exceeds the Western European average of approximately 70 percent. Germany has closed much of its gap with Scandinavian leaders since 2019. Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland all exceed 90 percent. Germany now outperforms France at approximately 72 percent, Spain at approximately 65 percent, Italy at approximately 58 percent, and Poland at approximately 55 percent. Germany's historically slower adoption reflected its strong Sparkassen (savings banks) and cooperative bank branch culture, but COVID-19 accelerated the shift dramatically. The global investment banking context is in our global investment banks by revenue.

Digital Banking Adoption — Germany vs European Countries 2024 Share of population using online or mobile banking — Selected European countries 2024 (%) Bankenverband 2024 (Germany) · Eurostat Digital Economy and Society Survey 2024 · BusinessStats Research · % of adult population using internet banking at least once in the past year

Key Statistics

Germany Banking Methods 2024–2025 — Key Statistics and Facts

84% Use Online or Mobile Banking — 2024 Confirmed Up from 52% in 2019 and 78% in 2022. Estimated ~87% by Q4 2025. Exceeds the Western European average of ~70%. Growth accelerated during COVID-19 and was maintained across all age groups. Source: Bankenverband 2024. 52% Mobile Banking — Q2 2024 Confirmed, ~56% Q4 2025 Est. Up from 28% in H1 2019. Nearly doubled in five years. Estimated at ~56% Q4 2025. Among 35-44 year olds reaches 69%. McKinsey confirms 72% of all banking interactions occur via mobile channels. Source: Statista Consumer Insights confirmed quarterly series. 38% Online PC — Primary Banking Method 2024 The single largest primary channel at 38% in the confirmed 2024 survey. Has been Germany's dominant method since the mid-2000s and remains stable. 82% of online users check balances frequently and 78% use it for transfers. Source: Bankenverband 2024. 72% All Banking Interactions via Mobile — 2024 72% of all banking customer interactions in Germany and Austria took place via mobile in 2024 per McKinsey Finalta benchmarking (300+ financial institutions). Despite this, German banks struggle to convert mobile touchpoints into product sales vs European peers. Source: McKinsey Retail Banking Snapshot 2025. 81% Consider Online Banking Secure — 2024 Confirmed 81% rate online banking as secure (59%) or very secure (22%), up 3 percentage points from 2022. Trust rises directly with usage experience. Among those over 60, 73% consider it secure. Germany's BaFin actively monitors

cybersecurity standards. Source: Bankenverband 2024. 43% Mobile Users Using Photo Payment — 2023 43% of German mobile banking users actively use photo payment (photographing a paper invoice to auto-fill payment details). 40% of all Germans are aware of this feature. 32% use it 2-3 times per month. Source: Gini GmbH / YouGov, January 2023.

Forecast 2026-2028

Mobile Banking Forecast — 62% by Q4 2026, 68% by 2028, Branch Below 10% by 2028

Mobile banking in Germany has followed a consistent and measurable quarterly growth trajectory since H1 2019, a single metric with a clear directional trend that supports responsible forecasting. The confirmed growth from 28 percent in H1 2019 to 52 percent in Q2 2024 follows a decelerating logistic growth curve: rapid acceleration during 2020-2022 (COVID-19 pandemic effect), followed by steadier growth as penetration approaches saturation in younger demographics and begins growing more significantly among older groups. BusinessStats Research projects approximately 56 percent for Q4 2025 (estimate), 60-64 percent for Q4 2026 (forecast), and 68 percent by 2028 (forecast). Branch banking as primary method is forecast to fall from approximately 15 percent in Q4 2025 to below 10 percent by 2028. The global investment context is in our [BlackRock AUM by asset class analysis](#).

Germany Mobile Banking — Confirmed 2019-2024, Estimated 2025, Forecast 2026-2028 Mobile banking penetration in Germany — confirmed data 2019-2024, Q4 2025 estimate, 2026-2028 forecast (%) Statista Consumer Insights (H1 2019 to Q2 2024 confirmed) · Q4 2025 = BusinessStats Research estimate · 2026-2028 = BusinessStats Research logistic model forecast · Dashed = estimated/forecast ~68% Mobile Forecast 2028

Source: Statista Consumer Insights confirmed H1 2019 to Q2 2024 · Q4 2025 estimate and 2026-2028 forecast are BusinessStats Research logistic growth model projections · Upper bound assumes AI app improvements and neobank competition · Lower bound assumes slower 55-plus adoption · Research estimates only, not official projections

- **Q4 2025 (Estimate ~56%):** Mobile banking estimated at approximately 56 percent, digital combined approximately 87 percent, branch as primary approximately 15 percent. Based on confirmed Statista quarterly trend extrapolation.

- **Q4 2026 (Forecast 60-64%, base 62%):** Mobile forecast to reach approximately 62 percent. Mobile expected to be firmly established as Germany's primary banking channel, significantly ahead of online PC. Branch as primary forecast to approximately 12 percent.
- **2028 (Forecast ~68%):** Digital combined banking forecast at approximately 91 percent. Branch as primary method forecast below 10 percent, concentrated among those over 70. AI-powered mobile banking assistants expected to close the digital sales conversion gap.
- **Key growth drivers:** AI-powered financial coaching in banking apps, Open Banking (PSD2) enabling third-party innovation, BBVA Germany and further neobank entrants increasing competitive pressure, continued habit formation among over-55 demographics.
- **Downside risk:** Major cybersecurity incident reducing trust, economic recession reducing smartphone investment, or regulatory friction slowing new feature rollouts could push adoption below the lower bound of 65 percent by 2028.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — Germany Banking Methods 2026

Based on 2024 confirmed data, **online banking via PC leads at 38 percent** as the primary method, followed by mobile at 36 percent, branch 17 percent, and self-service terminals 7 percent. BusinessStats Research estimates mobile overtook online PC as the most-used channel by Q4 2025. Combined digital banking: 84 percent confirmed 2024, estimated 87 percent by Q4 2025. Source: Bankenverband 2024.

The latest confirmed Statista data shows **52 percent of German bank account holders used mobile banking in Q2 2024**. BusinessStats Research estimates this reached approximately 56 percent by Q4 2025. Among 35-44 year olds, confirmed mobile usage is 69 percent. McKinsey confirms 72 percent of all banking interactions in Germany occurred via mobile in 2024.

BusinessStats Research forecasts mobile banking will reach approximately **60-64 percent by Q4 2026 (base: 62 percent)**, up from an estimated 56 percent in Q4 2025. Branch as primary method forecast to decline from approximately 15 percent in Q4 2025 to approximately 12 percent by Q4 2026. By 2028, mobile forecast at approximately 68 percent. Research estimates, not official projections.

84 percent of all German adults use online or mobile banking as of the latest confirmed 2024 data, up from 52 percent in 2019 and 78 percent in 2022. Estimated at approximately 87 percent by Q4 2025. Source: Bankenverband 2024.



17 percent used branch visits as their primary method in 2024 (confirmed), estimated approximately 15 percent by Q4 2025. Among those over 60, branch usage is 28 percent. BusinessStats Research forecasts branch as primary method will fall to approximately 12 percent by Q4 2026 and below 10 percent by 2028.

Mobile peaks at **69 percent among 35-44 year olds**, 56 percent among 18-29. Falls to 22 percent among over-60s. Over-60s prefer PC online banking (41 percent) and branch (28 percent). However, 72 percent of over-60s now use digital banking in some form, up from 65 percent in the prior survey. Source: Bankenverband 2024, Gini YouGov 2023.

Account balance queries (82 percent frequently) and bank transfers (78 percent) lead. Standing orders: 72 percent of mobile users manage these digitally. Photo payment: 43 percent of mobile users use it actively. Securities transactions: 21 percent very frequently, 27 percent occasionally. Source: Bankenverband 2024.

81 percent of German bank account holders consider online banking secure or very secure, 59 percent "secure," 22 percent "very secure." Up 3 percentage points from 2022. Trust rises with experience. Among over-60s, 73 percent consider it secure. Germany's BaFin actively monitors cybersecurity standards. Source: Bankenverband 2024.

Photo payment lets mobile users photograph a paper invoice to automatically fill in IBAN, reference number, and amount. 40 percent of Germans are aware of it. 43 percent of mobile banking users actively use it. 32 percent use it 2-3 times per month. Source: Gini GmbH and YouGov, January 2023.

Digital banking grew from **52 percent in 2019 to 84 percent in 2024** (both confirmed), a 32 percentage point gain in five years. Mobile grew from 28 percent (H1 2019) to 52 percent (Q2 2024). Growth accelerated during COVID-19 and gains were maintained. Estimated at 87 percent combined by Q4 2025, forecast at 91 percent by 2028.

Germany had **1,381 banks in 2023**, down from over 13,000 in 1957. McKinsey 2025 shows 74 percent of branch visitors do so by preference, not necessity. Industry expects a shift to fewer, advice-focused locations. Branch as primary method forecast to fall from approximately 15 percent (Q4 2025 est.) to below 10 percent by 2028.

Germany's **84 percent digital banking adoption in 2024** exceeds the Western European average of approximately 70 percent. Scandinavia leads at above 90 percent. Germany outperforms France (~72%), Spain (~65%), Italy (~58%), and Poland (~55%). Germany was historically slower due to its strong Sparkassen and cooperative bank branch culture, but has rapidly closed the gap since 2019.



Germany's digital banking market was valued at approximately **USD 1.3 billion in 2024**. Projected to reach USD 3.1 billion by 2035 at a CAGR of 8.2 percent. Key players: N26, DKB, ING DiBa, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank, BBVA Germany (launched 2025), and Revolut. Source: Market Research Future 2025.

Data Sources and References

[Bankenverband, "Online and Mobile Banking in Germany 2024," March 2024 · Online PC 38%, Mobile 36%, Branch 17%, Terminal 7%, combined 84%](#)

[Statista Consumer Insights, Mobile banking series Germany H1 2019 to Q2 2024 · 28% to 52% confirmed quarterly data](#)

[McKinsey, "German Retail Banking Snapshot 2025" · 72% of banking interactions via mobile in 2024 · 23% of customers = 89% of branch visits](#)

[Gini GmbH / YouGov survey January 2023 · Age group data · Photo payment: 40% awareness, 43% of mobile users](#)

[Market Research Future July 2025 · Germany digital banking market USD 1.3B \(2024\) to USD 3.1B \(2035\), CAGR 8.22%](#)

Data transparency: Latest confirmed annual data is Bankenverband March 2024. Latest confirmed quarterly data point is Statista Q2 2024 (mobile 52%). Figures marked "Est." are BusinessStats Research estimates. Figures marked "Forecast" are BusinessStats Research projections. Bankenverband survey is multi-pick — channel percentages do not sum to 100 percent. Not financial advice.



STATISTICS REPORT

GDP of Germany — Statistics & Facts 2026

Updated Mar 24, 2026 · businessstats.com/gdp-of-germany

\$5.01T NOMINAL GDP 2025	#3 GLOBAL ECONOMY RANK	+0.2% GDP GROWTH 2025
\$59,925 GDP PER CAPITA 2025	\$1.66T EXPORTS 2024	6.3% UNEMPLOYMENT FEB 2026

Overview

GDP of Germany 2026 — Europe's Largest Economy Fights Back from Recession

Germany is the **largest national economy in Europe** and the **third-largest in the world** after the United States and China, with a nominal GDP of approximately \$5.01 trillion in 2025. The country accounts for approximately 23.7% of the entire Eurozone economy and represents the largest consumer market in the European Union with a population of approximately 84 million people. Germany is a founding member of both the European Union and the Eurozone, and its economic performance has an outsized influence on European and global economic conditions. However, the German economy has undergone a turbulent period since 2022: the energy crisis triggered by Russia's withdrawal from Western markets, persistent structural challenges in its export-oriented manufacturing sector, and the impact of U.S. tariff policies have combined to produce two consecutive years of economic contraction in 2023 (-0.3%) and 2024 (-0.5%) — the worst sustained downturn since the global financial crisis. In 2025, the economy returned to modest positive growth of **+0.2%**, marking the beginning of what is expected to be a gradual recovery driven by fiscal stimulus, infrastructure investment, and easing inflation. For context on how Germany's performance fits within the global economic landscape see our [global economy statistics](#).

The structure of Germany's economy reflects its position as one of the world's most advanced industrial nations. The service sector generates approximately **70% of total GDP**, encompassing finance, telecommunications, tourism, hospitality, and professional services. Industry — including Germany's globally renowned manufacturing sector — contributes approximately **29.1% of GDP**, making it the largest industrial economy in Europe and one of the few advanced economies where manufacturing still

represents a significant share of output. Agriculture accounts for only 0.9% of GDP, though Germany remains highly productive in this sector, covering approximately 90% of its nutritional needs domestically. Exports are a defining feature of the German economic model: approximately **50.3% of national output** is exported, making Germany the world's third-largest exporter with \$1.66 trillion in exports in 2024 and a trade surplus of \$255 billion. This export dependence, while historically a source of strength, has become a vulnerability as global trade tensions, U.S. tariffs, and increased competition from Chinese manufacturers in key sectors including automotive and machinery have eroded Germany's competitive position. On January 1, 2026, Chancellor Friedrich Merz acknowledged that "certain sectors" of the economy are in "critical condition," signalling the urgency of structural reform. For broader European financial market context see our [financial markets in Germany statistics](#).

Germany's nominal GDP stands at \$5.01 trillion in 2025, making it the 3rd largest economy globally and #1 in Europe. The economy grew 0.2% in 2025 after two years of recession. Services contribute 70% of GDP, industry 29.1%. Germany is the world's 3rd largest exporter at \$1.66 trillion annually.

GDP Size and Growth

Germany GDP Growth 2018–2025 — Two-Year Recession Ends

Germany's GDP growth trajectory over the 2018–2025 period tells the story of an economy that has struggled to find its footing in a rapidly changing global environment. Pre-pandemic, the economy was already showing signs of deceleration: growth slowed from 1.1% in 2018 to just 1.1% in 2019 as the global manufacturing downturn and trade tensions began to impact Germany's export-dependent model. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a sharp 3.8% contraction in 2020 — the worst single-year decline since the global financial crisis — followed by a strong 3.2% rebound in 2021 as pent-up demand and fiscal support drove recovery. However, the recovery proved short-lived: Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent energy crisis hit Germany's energy-intensive industrial sector particularly hard, with energy prices soaring to 8.6% inflation by winter 2022. The economy managed modest 1.4% growth in 2022 but then contracted in both 2023 (-0.3%) and 2024 (-0.5%) — making Germany one of the weakest-performing major economies in the post-pandemic period. The return to positive growth of **0.2% in 2025** was driven primarily by increased household and government consumption expenditure, while exports and investment remained drags on growth. Q4 2025 showed the strongest quarterly performance at +0.3%, suggesting building momentum heading into 2026. For context on how GDP growth rates compare across the world's major economies see our [countries with the largest GDP statistics](#).



Germany GDP Growth 2018-2025
Germany Real GDP Growth Rate — Annual % Annual % change -
BusinessStats Research 2026
+0.2% 2025 Growth Positive Growth Contraction Recovery after 2-year
recession Sources: BusinessStats Research Desk - Germany GDP Analysis 2026

Germany Nominal GDP Trend 2018-2025

Germany's nominal GDP in current dollar terms has fluctuated significantly due to both real economic performance and currency movements. Measured in current U.S. dollars, Germany's GDP was approximately \$3.96 trillion in 2018, rising to \$3.89 trillion in 2019 before dropping to \$3.85 trillion in 2020 during the pandemic. The post-pandemic recovery pushed nominal GDP to \$4.26 trillion in 2021 and \$4.07 trillion in 2022, though the euro's weakness against the dollar that year depressed the dollar-denominated figure. In 2023, nominal GDP reached approximately \$4.46 trillion, rising further to \$4.52 trillion in current prices in 2024 (or \$4.69 billion by purchasing power methodology). By 2025, Germany's nominal GDP reached approximately **\$5.01 trillion** — reflecting both modest real growth and a strengthening euro against the dollar. GDP per capita stood at approximately **\$59,925 in 2025**, an increase of \$3,838 from \$56,087 in 2024. In purchasing power parity terms, Germany's GDP is significantly larger at approximately \$6.15 trillion, ranking 6th globally. Germany currently accounts for approximately 4.28% of the world's GDP, though this share has been declining steadily from a peak of approximately 8.71% in 1979 as other large economies — particularly China and India — have expanded more rapidly.

Germany Nominal GDP 2018-2025
Germany GDP — Trillions USD (Current Prices) USD Trillions -
BusinessStats Research 2026
\$5.01T GDP 2025 \$59.9K Per Capita

3rd largest economy globally Sources: BusinessStats Research Desk - Germany Nominal GDP Analysis 2026

GDP by Sector

Germany GDP by Sector — Services at 70%, Industry at 29%

Germany's economic structure is distinctive among major advanced economies for the relatively large share of GDP generated by its industrial sector. While services dominate at approximately **70% of GDP** — encompassing finance, real estate, professional services, tourism, telecommunications, and public administration — the industrial sector contributes approximately **29.1% of GDP**, significantly higher than comparable economies such as the United States (approximately 18%), the United Kingdom (approximately 17%), or France (approximately 17%). This industrial strength reflects Germany's globally competitive

manufacturing sector, which alone accounts for approximately 21% of national GDP and is the largest manufacturing economy in Europe, contributing approximately one-third of all EU manufacturing output. The Mittelstand — Germany's ecosystem of approximately 1,500 small- to medium-sized manufacturing firms that specialise in technologically advanced niche products — is a unique structural feature that underpins Germany's export competitiveness. In approximately two-thirds of all industrial sectors, German companies rank among the top three global competitors. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing account for only **0.9% of GDP**, though Germany is the fourth-largest agricultural producer in the EU and covers 90% of its domestic nutritional needs. Within the services sector, financial services and real estate represent approximately 30.5% of service-sector output, followed by trade, hotels, restaurants and transport at 18%, and other service activities at 21.7%.

Germany GDP by Sector 2025 GDP Distribution by Economic Sector % of total GDP - BusinessStats Research 2026

Manufacturing — Europe's Powerhouse Under Pressure

Germany's manufacturing sector is both its greatest economic asset and its most significant vulnerability in the current environment. The sector — which includes automotive, machinery, chemicals, electronics, and pharmaceuticals — has faced a sustained downturn since 2022, with industrial production declining for three consecutive years. The Federation of German Industries reported a 3% fall in industrial output in 2024, the third consecutive year of decline. Automotive manufacturing — historically the crown jewel of German industry — has been hit particularly hard: car manufacturing recorded a 6.9% annual drop in production in September 2024, while mechanical and electrical engineering were down 8.5% and 10.7% respectively. The structural challenges facing German manufacturing are multiple: high energy costs relative to U.S. and Asian competitors (despite moderation from 2022 peaks), increased competition from Chinese manufacturers in automotive and clean energy technology, U.S. tariff barriers, an aging workforce, and chronic underinvestment in digital infrastructure. However, Q4 2025 showed signs of a manufacturing turnaround: industrial orders increased for three consecutive months, and official reports noted that the business situation in manufacturing improved in January 2026, suggesting the worst of the industrial downturn may have passed. For context on how global financial markets are responding to these industrial shifts see our [global financial markets statistics](#).

Trade and Exports

Germany Trade 2026 — \$1.66 Trillion in Exports, \$255 Billion Surplus

Germany is one of the most trade-dependent major economies in the world, with exports accounting for approximately **50.3% of national output** — a ratio that is extraordinarily high for an economy of Germany's size and reflects the country's historical positioning as a manufacturing export powerhouse. In 2024, Germany exported approximately **\$1.66 trillion in goods and services**, making it the world's third-largest exporter after China and the United States. Germany recorded a trade surplus of approximately **\$255 billion in 2024**, ranking second worldwide. The main export categories reflect Germany's industrial strengths: vehicles and automotive components are the largest export category, followed by machinery, chemicals, electronics and electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, transport equipment, basic metals, and food products. Germany is also the world's largest exporter of chocolate confectionery, with approximately \$6.3 billion in chocolate exports annually, and is a significant exporter of machine tools, medical equipment, and renewable energy technology.

Germany Top Export Categories 2024 Germany Major Export Sectors by Share % of total exports - BusinessStats Research 2026

However, Germany's export model is under significant stress in 2025-2026. Exports declined for two consecutive years in 2023 and 2024, marking the first sustained export contraction since the global financial crisis. The primary headwinds include U.S. tariffs — which the German government estimates reduced GDP growth by 0.3 percentage points in 2025 and are projected to reduce it by 0.6 percentage points in 2026 — and increased competition from Chinese manufacturers in key export markets, particularly in electric vehicles and clean energy technology where China has built formidable cost advantages. Germany's export values to the United States specifically have declined amid higher tariff barriers, and the appreciation of the euro against the dollar has further eroded competitiveness. For 2026, the German government forecasts that exports will rise for the first time in three years, increasing by approximately 0.8%, as global trade conditions stabilise and the infrastructure spending programme boosts demand for capital goods. Germany's position within the EU trading bloc remains critically important: trade with other EU member states accounts for approximately 55% of total exports, providing some insulation from the U.S.-China trade disruption. For context on how emerging economy blocs are reshaping global trade patterns see our [BRICS countries statistics](#).

Germany's Corporate Landscape — 29 Fortune Global 500 Companies

Germany's corporate sector reflects its industrial strength and economic diversity. Of the world's 500 largest companies by revenue, **29 are headquartered in Germany**, including global leaders in automotive

(Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Continental), chemicals (BASF, Bayer), insurance (Allianz, Munich Re), industrial conglomerates (Siemens, ThyssenKrupp), logistics (Deutsche Post/DHL), retail (Aldi, Lidl's parent Schwarz Group), and technology (SAP, Infineon). The DAX stock index, Germany's most prominent benchmark, comprises 40 of the country's largest publicly traded companies and is one of the most closely watched equity indices in Europe. Germany's corporate structure is uniquely characterised by the *Mittelstand* — the ecosystem of approximately 1,500 small- to medium-sized enterprises that are often family-owned, highly specialised in niche industrial products, and globally competitive despite their relatively modest size. These *Mittelstand* companies are frequently world market leaders in their specific product categories — a phenomenon sometimes described as "hidden champions" — and collectively represent a significant share of Germany's export prowess and innovation output.

The German corporate sector is also distinguished by its strong commitment to research and development, with the country investing approximately **3.1% of GDP in R&D** — the third-highest ratio among major economies. This investment underpins Germany's position as the world's second-largest high-technology exporter and a global leader in patent registrations, particularly in automotive technology, industrial machinery, chemical processes, and renewable energy systems. Germany's social market economy model — the "*Soziale Marktwirtschaft*" — combines free-market capitalism with a comprehensive social safety net that includes universal healthcare, generous unemployment insurance, and a well-funded pension system. The social security system comprises approximately 25% of GDP, which is high among advanced economies but reflects a deliberate policy choice to maintain social cohesion and workforce stability. This model has historically provided Germany with exceptionally low rates of social unrest and labour disputes compared to other major economies, though the system faces mounting demographic pressures as the population ages and the ratio of working-age adults to retirees declines.

Labor Market

Germany Labor Market 2026 — 6.3% Unemployment, 2.98 Million Jobless

Germany's labor market has weakened significantly after three years of economic stagnation, though it remains in better shape than the headline numbers might suggest due to structural factors unique to the German economy. The national unemployment rate stood at **6.3% in February 2026**, unchanged from December 2025 and January 2026, with approximately **2.98 million people unemployed** in seasonally adjusted terms. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, unemployment reached 3.08 million in January 2026, the highest level in nearly 12 years. The EU-harmonized unemployment rate — which uses a standardized methodology allowing cross-country comparison — is significantly lower at approximately **3.8%**, reflecting

differences in how unemployment is measured. The harmonized rate has risen from a trough of 3.0% in early 2023, close to the pandemic peak of 3.9%, indicating material deterioration in labor market conditions. The head of the national employment agency has stated that the labor market "continues to lack economic momentum" with employment largely stagnating and hiring demand remaining subdued.

Germany Unemployment 2019-2026
 Germany Unemployment Rate (National) % rate - BusinessStats Research 2026
 6.3% Feb 2026 2.98M Unemployed

Highest in 12 years Sources: BusinessStats Research Desk - Germany Labor Market Analysis 2026

Despite the rising unemployment rate, Germany faces a paradoxical labor market challenge: simultaneously rising unemployment and a persistent skilled worker shortage. Approximately 1.06 million job vacancies remained unfilled in Q2 2025, down from a peak of approximately 2 million in 2022 but still representing significant unmet demand for qualified workers. The explanation lies in structural mismatch: workers being laid off from declining manufacturing and construction sectors do not have the skills demanded by growing sectors including IT, healthcare, renewable energy, and professional services. Demographic aging is compounding this challenge — Germany's working-age population is projected to shrink by 0.7% per year between 2025 and 2030, the most rapid decline among G7 economies. The retirement of the baby boomer generation is producing historically high retirement numbers, allowing firms to reduce headcount without formal layoffs. This is one reason why unemployment has risen only moderately despite considerable economic weakness. The share of part-time employment has risen from 27.5% in 2019 to 29.4% in 2025, and total hours worked remains approximately 1% below pre-pandemic levels. For context on how interest rate policy is affecting employment across European economies see our [interest rates statistics](#).

Energy Transition — Reshaping the Industrial Base

Germany's Energiewende (energy transition) continues to reshape the country's industrial landscape and economic competitiveness. The country has made substantial progress in expanding renewable energy capacity: wind, solar, biomass, and hydroelectric power now account for over 50% of Germany's electricity generation, up from approximately 25% a decade ago. However, the transition has also created significant economic challenges. The closure of Germany's remaining nuclear power plants in April 2023 removed approximately 6% of the country's electricity generation capacity, increasing reliance on natural gas and coal during periods of low renewable output and contributing to higher industrial electricity prices that have eroded manufacturing competitiveness relative to the United States and Asian rivals. German industrial electricity prices remain approximately 2-3 times higher than those in the United States, representing a structural disadvantage for energy-intensive industries including chemicals, steel, aluminium, glass, and

cement production. Several major industrial firms have shifted investment toward countries with lower energy costs, raising concerns about industrial deindustrialisation. The government has responded with measures including subsidised electricity for energy-intensive firms and plans to reduce electricity taxes and network charges as part of the broader stimulus package. The construction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminals along the North Sea coast — completed at remarkable speed after Russia's gas supply cutoff — has diversified Germany's energy supply but at higher cost than the pipeline gas from Russia that previously underpinned the country's industrial energy advantage.

Inflation and Fiscal

Germany Inflation and Fiscal Policy 2026 — Stimulus Arrives

Germany's inflation trajectory has been one of the more dramatic among major economies. After decades of price stability, inflation surged to **8.6% in late 2022** — the highest since reunification — driven almost entirely by the energy crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Since then, inflation has moderated substantially: the average annual inflation rate fell from 5.9% in 2023 to 2.5% in 2024 and 2.3% in 2025. By February 2026, headline inflation had eased to **1.9%**, bringing it below the ECB's 2% target for the first time in the current cycle. The decline has been driven primarily by falling energy prices — natural gas prices declined 4.4%, electricity 4.1%, and heating oil 4.7% in February 2026 compared to the prior year. Food price growth has also moderated sharply to 1.1%. However, core inflation — excluding food and energy — remains stickier at **2.5%**, driven primarily by services inflation of 3.2% which reflects continued nominal wage growth and structural cost pressures in labor-intensive sectors. Headline inflation is projected to average approximately 2.3% in 2026 before trending back toward 2% by year-end.

Fiscal Stimulus
EUR 500 Billion Infrastructure Fund — Germany's Biggest Spending Push Since Reunification

In March 2025, the German parliament adopted landmark fiscal reforms: defence spending above 1% of GDP is now exempt from national fiscal rules, and a new EUR 500 billion special fund for infrastructure and climate investment has been established — the largest fiscal expansion since reunification. Defence spending is targeted to increase from 2.1% of GDP in 2024 to 3.5% by 2029. The government deficit is projected to rise from 2.7% in 2024 to 3.1% in 2025 and 4.0% in 2026, while debt is expected to increase from 62.2% of GDP in 2024 to 65.2% in 2026 and 67.0% in 2027. This fiscal expansion represents a fundamental shift in Germany's historically conservative approach to government spending.

Germany's EUR 500 billion infrastructure fund represents the largest fiscal expansion since reunification. Defence spending will rise to 3.5% of GDP by 2029. The government deficit is projected at 4.0% of GDP in 2026 as the country invests in infrastructure, defence, and the green transition.

Global Comparison

Germany in Global Economy — 3rd Largest, Biggest in Europe

Germany's position as the world's third-largest economy places it behind the United States (approximately \$29.2 trillion GDP) and China (approximately \$19.4 trillion) but comfortably ahead of fourth-ranked Japan (approximately \$4.28 trillion) by approximately \$734 billion. Within Europe, Germany's economic dominance is even more pronounced: its GDP of \$5.01 trillion represents approximately 25% of the entire EU's economic output and approximately 16.9% of Europe's total nominal GDP. Germany's GDP per capita of \$59,925 in 2025 ranks it among the wealthiest major economies, though it falls behind smaller European nations including Luxembourg, Switzerland, Norway, and Ireland. On the DAX stock index, Germany's 40 largest publicly traded companies represent some of the world's most globally significant corporations, and 29 Germany-based companies are included in the Fortune Global 500. Germany also holds the world's second-largest gold reserve at over 3,000 tonnes, and invests approximately 3.1% of GDP in research and development — third among major economies. For context on how carbon emissions relate to industrial output across economies see our [global CO2 emissions statistics](#).

Germany Key Economic Indicators 2023-2025

INDICATOR	2023	2024	2025	TREND
GDP Growth %	-0.3%	-0.5%	+0.2%	Recovering
Nominal GDP \$T	\$4.46T	\$4.52T	\$5.01T	Rising
GDP Per Capita	\$53,300	\$56,087	\$59,925	Rising
Inflation %	5.9%	2.5%	2.3%	Falling
Unemployment %	5.7%	6.0%	6.3%	Rising
Trade Surplus \$B	~\$240B	\$255B	~\$250B	Stable
Govt Debt % GDP	63.7%	62.2%	63.5%	Rising
Govt Deficit % GDP	-2.5%	-2.7%	-3.1%	Widening



Forecast 2027

Germany GDP Forecast 2026–2027 — Fiscal Stimulus Drives Recovery

Germany's economic outlook for 2026–2027 is cautiously optimistic, with the massive fiscal expansion expected to provide the primary growth impulse. Official forecasts project GDP growth of **1.0% in 2026 and 1.5% in 2027**, while other major institutions forecast 1.2% growth in both years. The German government itself forecasts a more conservative 1.0% for 2026, with some forecasters even more cautious at 0.8%. Growth will be supported by several factors: the EUR 500 billion infrastructure fund will begin reaching the real economy in 2026, with fiscal stimulus projected to contribute approximately 0.6–0.7 percentage points to GDP growth. Private consumption is expected to strengthen as real wages rise and inflation remains contained. Interest rate cuts from the ECB are expected to support residential construction activity, which is projected to begin recovering from 2026 onwards. However, significant headwinds persist: U.S. tariffs are estimated to subtract 0.6 percentage points from growth in 2026, exports face continued weakness, and the structural challenges in manufacturing — including the automotive sector's difficult transition to electric vehicles — will take years to resolve. Medium-term potential growth is constrained by demographic aging and is expected to settle at approximately 0.7% — well below the pre-pandemic average. These structural challenges will take years to fully resolve, though the fiscal expansion represents a meaningful step toward addressing them. The combination of infrastructure modernisation, defence investment, and tax relief measures is designed to create a foundation for sustained growth beyond the immediate stimulus effect, even as the economy navigates the complex transition away from its traditional industrial model toward a more service-oriented and digitally-driven economic structure.

Germany GDP Forecast 2027
Germany Economy — Key Projections 2026–2027
1.0% GDP Growth 2026 (proj.)
1.5% GDP Growth 2027 (proj.)
2.1% Inflation 2026 (proj.)
3.3% Unemployment 2027 (Harmon.)
4.0% Govt Deficit 2026 % GDP
65.2% Govt Debt 2026 % GDP

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — GDP of Germany

Germany's nominal GDP is approximately **\$5.01 trillion in 2025**, making it the 3rd largest economy globally. GDP per capita is \$59,925. In PPP terms, GDP is approximately \$6.15 trillion.

Germany grew **+0.2% in 2025** after two years of recession (-0.3% in 2023, -0.5% in 2024). Growth of 1.0–1.2% is forecast for 2026 driven by fiscal stimulus.



Services account for **70% of GDP**, industry contributes 29.1%, and agriculture represents 0.9%. Germany has the largest manufacturing economy in Europe.

Germany exported **\$1.66 trillion in 2024**, 3rd largest globally. Exports account for 50.3% of national output. Trade surplus was \$255 billion.

Unemployment is **6.3% in February 2026** (national definition), with 2.98 million unemployed. The EU-harmonized rate is approximately 3.8%.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Federal Statistical Office \(Destatis\) - Quarterly GDP and Economic Reports 2025-2026](#)

Primary: [International Monetary Fund - World Economic Outlook Data 2025](#)

Supporting: [Deutsche Bundesbank - Monthly Reports 2026](#) · [OECD Economic Outlook Volume 2025 Issue 2](#) · [European Commission Economic Forecast 2025-2027](#) · [ifo Institute Economic Forecast December 2025](#) · [Federal Employment Agency Monthly Reports 2026](#)

All dollar figures are in nominal USD unless otherwise stated. GDP data from IMF and Destatis. Growth rates are real (price-adjusted) unless specified as nominal. Unemployment rates use the national definition (Federal Employment Agency) unless Eurostat harmonized rate is specified. Forecasts represent consensus from multiple institutions and are subject to revision. Currency fluctuations can significantly impact dollar-denominated GDP figures. Germany GDP 2026German EconomyGDP Growth RateGermany ExportsGerman ManufacturingEurope EconomyGermany UnemploymentGermany InflationGerman IndustryEconomic Forecast 2027

STATISTICS REPORT

Financial Markets in Germany — Statistics & Facts 2026

Updated Mar 16, 2026 · businessstats.com/financial-markets-in-germany

€2.1T FRANKFURT SE MARKET CAP	20,000+ DAX 40 ALL-TIME HIGH	€9T+ BANKING ASSETS
€2T+ BUNDS OUTSTANDING	3,353T GOLD RESERVES (TONNES)	€1.1T ALLIANZ AUM

Executive Summary

Germany Financial Markets 2026 — Europe's Financial Backbone and the Eurozone's Anchor

Germany's financial markets occupy a unique position in the global financial architecture. As Europe's largest economy (~€4T GDP), Germany serves as the Eurozone's fiscal and monetary anchor. The Bund yield is the risk-free benchmark for all 20 Eurozone sovereign bond markets. Frankfurt hosts the ECB — the institution that controls monetary conditions for 350 million people. Deutsche Börse Group — through Xetra, Eurex, and Clearstream — provides the critical infrastructure through which **European capital markets function**. Germany's three-pillar banking system is the most distinctive of any major economy, and its insurance giants — Allianz and Munich Re — are the world's largest insurer and reinsurer.

The post-Brexit era has tested but not broken London's dominance. Amsterdam briefly overtook London in EU equity trading volumes in early 2021, and Frankfurt gained ECB-supervised bank assets. But London retained its commanding leads in forex (38% global share), interest rate derivatives (40%+ of OTC global volume), cross-border banking (17% of global cross-border loans), and fund management for international clients. The UK government's Edinburgh Reforms (2022) and Mansion House Compact (2023) aim to deepen capital markets, channel pension fund capital into UK infrastructure, and sharpen London's competitive edge against Frankfurt, Paris, and increasingly, Dubai and Singapore. Understanding stock market terminology is essential for navigating UK capital markets.

Frankfurt's Bankenviertel — home to the ECB, Deutsche Bundesbank, Deutsche Börse, Deutsche Bank, and Commerzbank. Post-Brexit, Frankfurt has become the EU's de facto financial capital with 60+ relocated global financial firms.

DAX 40 Chart

DAX 40 Historical Performance — 1988 to 2026

The chart below tracks the DAX 40 from its launch at 1,000 in July 1988 to crossing **20,000 for the first time in December 2024** — a 20x increase in 36 years. Three major crashes stand out: the dot-com bust (2000–2003, -73%), the Global Financial Crisis (2008–2009, -55%), and COVID (2020, -38%). The 2022 performance was notably resilient (-12%) as DAX's energy and industrial heavyweights benefited from commodity price inflation.

DAX 40 Index Level by Year DAX 40 — Historical Index Levels 1988 to 2026* Index points · Deutsche Börse Group, FTSE Russell 20,0042024 · All-Time High ActualProjected

CAGR ~8.1% price · 1988–2024 Sources: Deutsche Börse Group · FTSE Russell · *2025–2026 projected

Stock Exchange & Indices

Frankfurt Stock Exchange & German Index Family — Complete Statistics 2025

The Frankfurt Stock Exchange (Frankfurter Wertpapierbörse), operated by Deutsche Börse AG, is the world's 12th-largest exchange at approximately **€2.1 trillion** in market cap. Trading runs primarily through **Xetra** — Deutsche Börse's fully electronic platform handling 90%+ of German equity volume. Deutsche Börse Group also owns Eurex (Europe's largest derivatives exchange), Clearstream (€20T+ in securities custody), and EEX (European energy exchange). Group revenue exceeds **€5 billion** annually.

German Stock Market Indices — Complete Statistics 2025

Click column to sort

INDEX	CONSTITUENTS	MARKET CAP	LAUNCH	DIV. YIELD	P/E
DAX 40	40	~€1.8T	1988	~3.0%	~13x
MDAX	50	~€350B	1996	~2.5%	~15x

SDAX	70	~€100B	1999	~2.0%	~14x
TecDAX	30	~€200B	2003	~1.5%	~16x
CDAX	400+	~€2.1T	1994	~2.8%	~13x

Top DAX 40 Companies by Market Cap

Bundesbank & ECB

Deutsche Bundesbank — Founded 1957, 3,353T Gold Reserves, and ECB Rate Cycle

The Deutsche Bundesbank, founded in 1957, is Germany's central bank and one of the most influential in financial history. Its legendary commitment to price stability — shaped by Germany's traumatic 1923 hyperinflation — directly shaped the design of the European Central Bank. Germany holds **3,353 tonnes of gold** — the world's second-largest reserve after the US — valued at approximately €220B+. The Bundesbank completed a landmark gold repatriation in 2017, bringing gold back from New York and Paris vaults to Frankfurt. The ECB, headquartered in Frankfurt since 1998, raised rates from **-0.5% to 4.0%** in 14 months (2022–2023) — before cutting back to ~2.25% by 2025–26.

10-YEAR BUND YIELD — HISTORY German 10-Year Bund Yield — Through the Cycles % per annum · Deutsche Bundesbank, ECB data Bund yield turned NEGATIVE in June 2016 — a first in German history. Historic low: -0.88% (March 2020). Surged to 3.0% in Oct 2023 — fastest move in Bund history. Source: Deutsche Bundesbank, ECB. 1957Bundesbank Founded 3,353TGold Reserves (tonnes) 4.0%ECB Peak Rate 2023 ~2.25%ECB Rate 2025–26 €700B+Bundesbank Balance Sheet 1999Euro Introduced

The Bundesbank participates in ECB monetary policy decisions and manages Germany's FX reserves and gold. BaFin (Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht) supervises German banks, insurers, and securities firms — overseeing 1,700+ institutions. Learn more about [central banks worldwide](#) and how the Bundesbank compares globally.

German Banking Sector

German Banking — €9T+ in Assets, Three-Pillar System, and the Unique Hausbank Model

Germany's banking sector has total assets of approximately **€9 trillion** — the Eurozone's largest. Its unique **three-pillar structure** sets it apart from every other major economy: (1) Private commercial banks — Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank; (2) Public savings banks — 380 Sparkassen + 6 Landesbanken (~€3.5T combined); (3) Cooperative banks — 750 Volksbanken/Raiffeisenbanken (~€1.4T). The Sparkassen alone serve over 50 million German customers and are deeply embedded in local communities.

Germany's three-pillar banking system — Deutsche Bank, the Sparkassen (380 public savings banks), and the Volksbanken (750 cooperative banks) — manages €9T+ in assets. KfW, with €545B in assets, is the world's largest development bank by equity capital. Germany's Largest Banks by Total Assets — 2025

Click to sort

INSTITUTION	TYPE	TOTAL ASSETS	HQ
Deutsche Bank	Private Commercial	~€1.5T	Frankfurt
KfW Group	State Dev. Bank	€545B	Frankfurt
DZ Bank	Cooperative Central	~€600B	Frankfurt
Commerzbank	Private Commercial	~€500B	Frankfurt
Landesbank BW	Public / Landesbank	~€320B	Stuttgart
BayernLB	Public / Landesbank	~€280B	Munich
Helaba	Public / Landesbank	~€220B	Frankfurt

Bund Market

German Bund Market — €2T+ Outstanding and the Eurozone's Risk-Free Benchmark

Bunds (Bundesanleihen — German federal government bonds) are the Eurozone's risk-free benchmark — the equivalent of US Treasuries for Europe. Total outstanding Bunds exceed **€2 trillion**, issued by the Deutsche Finanzagentur. The 10-year Bund yield (**~2.5% in 2025–26**) is the reference rate for all Eurozone bonds, directly determining borrowing costs for 20 Eurozone governments. The Bund market is notable for having had **negative yields from 2016 to 2022** — an unprecedented event in 500 years of German debt

history.

Key Event Negative Bund Yields 2016–2022: When Investors Paid Germany to Borrow

Between June 2016 and May 2022, the 10-year Bund yield was continuously negative — reaching a historic low of -0.88% in March 2020. Investors were effectively paying the German government to hold their money. This reflected ECB QE (buying €2.6T in bonds), deflation fears, and a global safe-haven premium. When the ECB began hiking rates in July 2022, Bund yields surged from -0.1% to 3.0% in 15 months — the fastest move in Bund market history — causing large losses at European banks and insurers holding gilt inventories.

ECB & Euro Financial Markets

ECB in Frankfurt — Setting Monetary Policy for the €14T Eurozone

The European Central Bank (ECB), headquartered in Frankfurt's striking Skyscraper since 2015, is the central bank for the 20-country Eurozone with a combined GDP of **~€14 trillion**. Its monetary policy directly affects Germany's financial markets more than any other institution. The ECB's balance sheet peaked at **€8.8 trillion in 2022** following pandemic QE programmes. The ECB raised rates from **-0.5% to 4.0%** in 14 months (2022–2023) — the fastest hiking cycle in its history — before cutting back to approximately 2.25% by 2025–26 as Eurozone inflation fell toward the 2% target. See our [central banks worldwide statistics](#) for full comparison.

GLOBAL FOREX CENTRES 2025 Deutsche Börse Group — €5B+ Revenue by Segment % of total group revenue · Deutsche Börse annual report 2025

Revenue segmentation approximate based on Deutsche Börse Group annual reports and segment disclosures. Source: Deutsche Börse Group.

Market Performance

DAX 40 vs European Peers — Total Return Comparison 2000–2025

The line chart below compares indexed total return performance of the DAX 40, S&P 500, FTSE 100, and CAC 40 from 2000 to 2025. The DAX 40 outperforms European peers on capital return due to Germany's export-driven industrial economy. However, 2022's energy crisis caused a temporary underperformance vs the commodity-heavy FTSE 100. Post-2022, the DAX's recovery to 20,000+ has been one of the strongest performances of any major global index.

Total Return Indexed · 2000–2025 DAX 40 vs S&P 500 vs FTSE 100 vs CAC 40 — Indexed Total Return 2000 = 100 · dividends reinvested · Bloomberg, Deutsche Börse 200DAX 40 · 2025

DAX 40 Total Return CAGR ~8.9% · 2000–2025 Sources: Bloomberg · Deutsche Börse · FTSE Russell · Euronext · dividends reinvested · 2025 estimated

Asset Management

German Asset Management — €4T+ AUM, Allianz, and the Insurance Giant Complex

Germany manages approximately **€4 trillion+ in investment fund AUM** (BVI data) — Europe's second largest. **Allianz SE** is the world's largest insurer with €1.1T in AUM through PIMCO and Allianz Global Investors. **Munich Re** is the world's largest reinsurer. DWS (Deutsche Bank's asset manager), Union Investment, and DekaBank are Germany's major domestic asset managers. The unique German **Pfandbrief market** (covered bonds dating to 1769) totals €400B+ in AAA-rated paper — one of Europe's safest bond instruments. For global context see our [global financial markets statistics](#).

German Fintech & Mittelstand

German Fintech & Mittelstand — Europe's Largest Hub with 1,600+ Firms and \$12B Annual Investment

KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) is Germany's state development bank and one of the world's largest development banks with **€545B+ in total assets**. It finances renewable energy, SME loans, housing, international development, and German exports — issuing €70–80B in bonds annually, making it one of Europe's most important bond issuers. Germany's fintech sector, while smaller than the UK's, is growing rapidly: N26 (€8B+ valuation), Trade Republic, and Scalable Capital are leading names. Germany has 700+ active fintech firms with €2B+ in annual investment.

1,600+German Fintech & Mittelstand Firms \$12B+Annual Investment 7M+Open Banking Users 900+FCA Sandbox Firms €8B+N26 Valuation 76KFintech Jobs UK

Germany's Mittelstand — approximately 3.5 million small and medium-sized enterprises — is the backbone of the German economy, generating 60%+ of employment and 35% of GDP. KfW provides critical financing to Mittelstand companies through subsidised loans for green energy, digitalisation, and exports. Germany's payment infrastructure includes Girocard (60M+ cards), SEPA credit transfers, and SEPA direct debits — all

governed by the Bundesbank. For digital asset context, see our [crypto market statistics](#).

Key Facts & Outlook

Germany Financial Markets 2026 — Key Facts & Forward Outlook

Germany's financial markets enter 2026 with a mixed picture. The DAX 40 record high above 20,000 in 2024 reflects strong earnings from SAP, Siemens, and Deutsche Telekom. However, Germany's economy faces structural challenges: high energy costs, automotive sector EV transition pressures, and geopolitical headwinds from US tariff threats. Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank profitability has improved significantly from the negative rate era — Unicredit's persistent interest in acquiring Commerzbank highlights ongoing consolidation pressure. Post-Brexit Frankfurt continues to gain as the EU's most important financial centre, attracting 60+ relocated financial firms and growing its derivatives and clearing market share.

Germany Financial Markets 2026 Key Statistics Germany Financial Markets — Key Facts & Numbers

€2.1T Frankfurt SE Market Cap 20,000+ DAX 40 All-Time High 3,353T Gold Reserves (tonnes) €2T+ Bunds Outstanding €20T+ Clearstream Custody 60+ Post-Brexit Firm Relocations

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — Germany Financial Markets

Frankfurt SE ~€2.1T market cap, banking assets €9T+, Bunds €2T+ outstanding, insurance sector €220B+ premiums/yr, Allianz AUM €1.1T, KfW assets €545B. Deutsche Börse Group (Xetra, Eurex, Clearstream) is one of the world's most important financial infrastructure providers.

DAX 40 launched at 1,000 in 1988, expanded from 30 to 40 in 2021, crossed **20,000 in December 2024**. Average annual total return ~8–9% including dividends (~3%). Key constituents: SAP, Siemens, Allianz, Deutsche Telekom, BASF, BMW, Mercedes-Benz.

Founded 1957, Germany's central bank and ECB system member. Holds **3,353 tonnes of gold** (world's 2nd largest). Its anti-inflation tradition shaped ECB policy design. ECB headquarters in Frankfurt — a legacy of Bundesbank influence.

Frankfurt hosts the ECB, Deutsche Bundesbank, Deutsche Börse (Xetra, Eurex, Clearstream), Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank, and KfW. Post-Brexit, **60+ financial firms relocated EU operations to Frankfurt**. Europe's top centre for derivatives clearing and bond market infrastructure.

Bunds are German federal government bonds — the Eurozone's risk-free benchmark. **€2T+ outstanding**. The 10-year Bund yield (~2.5% in 2025–26) is the reference rate for all Eurozone bonds. Bund yields were **negative from 2016–2022** — first time in German history.

€9T+ total assets in unique three-pillar system: private banks (Deutsche Bank €1.5T, Commerzbank €500B), public savings banks (380 Sparkassen + 6 Landesbanken ~€3.5T), cooperative banks (750 Volksbanken ~€1.4T). Most distinctive banking structure of any major economy.

KfW is Germany's state development bank with **€545B+ in assets**. It finances renewable energy, SME loans, housing, and international development. Issues €70–80B in bonds annually — one of Europe's most important bond issuers.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Deutsche Bundesbank — Statistical Data](#)

Primary: [Frankfurter Wertpapierbörse — Exchange Statistics](#)

Primary: [ECB — Statistics Portal](#)

Additional: BaFin · German Finance Agency (Finanzagentur) · GDV Insurance Association · BVI Fund Statistics · KfW Annual Report · Deutsche Börse Group Annual Report · Allianz Investor Relations

Market cap figures approximate and fluctuate daily. Banking assets from published annual reports. Bund data from Finanzagentur quarterly bulletins. Insurance premiums from GDV annual statistics. All figures in EUR unless stated otherwise. Germany Financial Markets 2026 DAX 40 Statistics Frankfurt Stock Exchange Deutsche Bundesbank Bund Market Germany ECB & Euro Financial Markets German Banking Sector German Fintech & Mittelstand Statistics Allianz Statistics KfW Development Bank



STATISTICS REPORT

Accommodation Industry in Germany: Statistics and Facts 2026

Updated Sep 29, 2026 · businessstats.com/accommodation-industry-in-germany-statistics-facts

497.4M OVERNIGHT STAYS 2025	192.0M GUEST ARRIVALS 2025	83.6M FOREIGN OVERNIGHT STAYS
282.1M NIGHTS JAN TO JUL 2026	102.9M BAVARIA OVERNIGHT STAYS	-2.0% REAL TURNOVER 2025

Overview

The German accommodation industry in numbers

Germany has one of the largest accommodation markets in Europe. According to the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), establishments with at least 10 beds and campsites with at least 10 pitches recorded 497.4 million overnight stays and 192.0 million guest arrivals in 2025. The average guest therefore stayed about 2.6 nights. Hotels, inns and guesthouses accounted for 298.6 million nights, holiday accommodation for 97.0 million, campsites for 44.7 million and other establishments, mainly rehabilitation clinics and training centres, for 57.2 million.

The industry is mainly domestic. German residents accounted for 413.8 million nights, or 83.2 percent, and foreign guests for 83.6 million, or 16.8 percent. That makes Germany very different from Spain or Italy, where international visitors dominate. The global context for these numbers is covered in our [global tourism](#) report, and the German economy in our [GDP of Germany](#) data.

497.4M Overnight stays in 2025 Record, up 0.3 percent. 2.6 Average nights per guest 497.4M nights over 192.0M arrivals. 83.2% Share of domestic guests 413.8 million nights. 68.3M Nights booked on online platforms Mostly small holiday lets, 2025. Overnight Stays 2019 to 2025

Overnight stays 2019 to 2025: from collapse to record

The pandemic hit German accommodation harder than almost any other sector. Overnight stays fell from 495.6 million in 2019 to 302.3 million in 2020, a drop of 39 percent, and stayed at 310.3 million in 2021 as lockdowns closed hotels to tourists for months. Recovery began in 2022 with 450.8 million, followed by 487.2 million in 2023 and a new record of 496.1 million in 2024. The 2025 total of 497.4 million is a second consecutive record.

Overnight Stays in German Accommodation Establishments, 2019 to 2025 (million) Annual overnight stays in establishments with 10 or more beds and campsites with 10 or more pitches.

Data:

Destatis tourism statistics; 2020 to 2023 via DTV Zahlen Daten Fakten; 2025 provisional, DTV 2026.

Note:

2025 figure is provisional and may be revised. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Back to record: overnight stays fell to 302.3 million in 2020 and have since climbed to a record 497.4 million in 2025.

The recovery has flattened. After jumps of 45 percent in 2022 and 8 percent in 2023, growth slowed to 1.8 percent in 2024 and 0.3 percent in 2025. The industry is now close to its capacity in peak months: August 2025 was the busiest month with 59.4 million nights, while December reached 32.0 million, up 3.6 percent. How Germany compares with other destinations is shown in our ranking of the [most visited countries in the world](#).

YEAR	OVERNIGHT STAYS	CHANGE	DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
2019	495.6 million	plus 3.7 percent	405.7 million	89.9 million
2020	302.3 million	minus 39.0 percent	270.3 million	32.0 million
2021	310.3 million	plus 2.6 percent	279.3 million	31.0 million
2022	450.8 million	plus 45.3 percent	382.7 million	68.1 million
2023	487.2 million	plus 8.1 percent	406.3 million	80.9 million
2024	496.1 million	plus 1.8 percent	410.7 million	85.3 million

2025	497.4 million	plus 0.3 percent	413.8 million	83.6 million
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2026 So Far

2026 so far: 282.1 million nights, a new high

The first seven months of 2026 set another record. Destatis reported 282.1 million overnight stays from January to July 2026, up 0.9 percent on the same period of 2025 and 0.4 percent above the previous high of 281.1 million in 2019. Domestic guests accounted for 235.0 million nights, up 0.8 percent, and foreign guests for 47.1 million, up 1.0 percent. After a fall in foreign demand in 2025, international guests are growing again.

Monthly results have been uneven. June 2026 recorded 48.8 million nights, down 3.1 percent on June 2025, partly because of the timing of public holidays. July recovered strongly with 58.4 million nights, up 3.2 percent, with both domestic guests, at 47.7 million, and foreign guests, at 10.8 million, rising by the same rate. January 2026, the quietest month, had 25.4 million nights.

282.1M Nights January to July 2026 Up 0.9 percent, record. 235.0M Domestic nights Jan to Jul 2026 Up 0.8 percent. 47.1M Foreign nights Jan to Jul 2026 Up 1.0 percent. 58.4M Nights in July 2026 Up 3.2 percent.

Seasonality is pronounced. In 2025, August was the busiest month with 59.4 million overnight stays, about 12 percent of the annual total, while December recorded 32.0 million. In 2026, January had 25.4 million nights, June 48.8 million and July 58.4 million, so the peak summer month brings more than twice the business of the quietest winter month. Coastal states and campsites are the most seasonal, while city hotels and clinics fill more evenly across the year.

MONTH	OVERNIGHT STAYS	CHANGE VS A YEAR EARLIER
August 2025	59.4 million	peak month of 2025
December 2025	32.0 million	plus 3.6 percent
January 2026	25.4 million	quietest month
June 2026	48.8 million	minus 3.1 percent
July 2026	58.4 million	plus 3.2 percent

Domestic and Foreign Guests

Domestic and foreign guests: 413.8 million vs 83.6 million nights

The split between German and foreign guests explains why recovery in Germany came earlier than in more international destinations. Domestic overnight stays fell only 33 percent in 2020, from 405.7 million to 270.3 million, and passed the 2019 level in 2023 with 406.3 million. Foreign overnight stays fell 64 percent, from 89.9 million to 32.0 million, and have still not returned to 2019: they reached 85.3 million in 2024 and slipped to 83.6 million in 2025, about 7 percent below the pre-pandemic level.

Overnight Stays by Domestic and Foreign Guests in Germany, 2019 to 2025 (million) Overnight stays of guests resident in Germany and abroad.

Data:

Destatis tourism statistics, compiled in DTV Zahlen Daten Fakten 2024 and 2026.

Note:

2025 figures are provisional. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Foreign guests still lag: foreign overnight stays of 83.6 million in 2025 remain 7 percent below 2019, while domestic stays are 2 percent above.

Guest arrivals show the same pattern. There were 192.0 million arrivals in 2025, up 1.2 percent, of which 154.8 million were domestic and 37.2 million foreign, against 152.3 million and 37.5 million in 2024. Foreign guests stay slightly shorter on average, about 2.2 nights per arrival compared with 2.7 nights for domestic guests, whose total includes long stays in rehabilitation clinics. Where German residents themselves travel abroad is covered in our [outbound tourism in European countries](#) report.

Federal States

Federal states: Bavaria 102.9 million nights, Bremen 3.0 million

Demand is highly concentrated in the south and on the coasts. Bavaria recorded 102.9 million overnight stays in 2025, more than one fifth of the national total and almost twice the next state. Baden-Wuerttemberg followed with 58.7 million, North Rhine-Westphalia with 55.5 million and Lower Saxony with 46.9 million. The coastal states of Schleswig-Holstein, with 38.6 million, and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, with 34.3 million, are among the largest despite small populations.

Overnight Stays by Federal State in Germany, 2025 (million) Overnight stays in accommodation establishments in each of the 16 federal states.

Data:

Destatis, compiled in DTV Zahlen Daten Fakten 2026.

Note:

provisional 2025 results. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Bavaria leads by far: 102.9 million nights in Bavaria, 20.7 percent of the national total, compared with 3.0 million in the smallest state, Bremen.

Growth in 2025 was strongest in smaller and northern states. Saarland rose 4.5 percent and Bremen 3.4 percent, followed by Hamburg at 2.1 percent, Lower Saxony at 1.8 percent and North Rhine-Westphalia at 1.7 percent. Several eastern states and Berlin declined: Berlin fell 3.8 percent, Saxony 1.5 percent, Saxony-Anhalt 1.4 percent and Brandenburg 0.7 percent. Hesse, home to the Frankfurt business travel market, fell 1.2 percent, reflecting weaker corporate travel covered in our [business travel in Europe](#) report.

Cities

Cities: Berlin 29.4 million nights, Munich 19.7 million

City tourism is a large and distinct segment. Berlin recorded 29.4 million overnight stays in 2025, more than any other German city, followed by Munich with 19.7 million and Hamburg with 16.5 million. Frankfurt am Main had 11.0 million, Cologne 7.2 million and Duesseldorf 5.7 million. Dresden, Stuttgart, Nuremberg and Leipzig each recorded between 3.7 and 4.6 million.

Overnight Stays in the Ten Largest German City Destinations, 2025 (million) Overnight stays in accommodation establishments by city.

Data:

Destatis, compiled in DTV Zahlen Daten Fakten 2026.

Note:

provisional 2025 results. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Berlin still on top, but shrinking: Berlin recorded 29.4 million nights in 2025, down 3.8 percent, while Hamburg grew 2.1 percent to 16.5 million.

The ten largest cities together account for about 106 million nights, a fifth of the national total. Their performance diverged in 2025: Hamburg, Cologne and Duesseldorf grew by around 2 percent, while Berlin,

Leipzig and Stuttgart fell by 3 to 4 percent. City hotels depend more on trade fairs, conferences and foreign visitors than rural and coastal accommodation, so they are more exposed to changes in business travel and international demand.

Source Markets

Foreign source markets: the Netherlands first with 11.7 million nights

The Netherlands is by far the largest foreign market for German accommodation, with 11.7 million overnight stays in 2025, reflecting short drives to the coast, the Eifel, the Sauerland and Bavaria and a strong camping culture. The United States was second with 6.9 million nights and Switzerland third with 6.7 million. The United Kingdom followed with 4.7 million, Austria with 4.4 million and Poland with 3.9 million.

Foreign Overnight Stays in Germany by Country of Residence, 2025 (million) Top ten foreign source markets by overnight stays in German accommodation.

Data:

Destatis, compiled in DTV Zahlen Daten Fakten 2026.

Note:

provisional 2025 results. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Neighbours dominate: 8 of the top 10 foreign markets are European neighbours, led by the Netherlands with 11.7 million nights, 14 percent of all foreign stays.

The top ten markets together account for about 51.6 million of the 83.6 million foreign nights, or 62 percent. Only one long-haul market, the United States, is in the top ten, which makes German accommodation less dependent on air travel than destinations such as France or Italy. Most foreign guests arrive by car or train from neighbouring countries.

Accommodation Types

Accommodation types: hotels 298.6 million nights, camping 44.7 million

Hotels and similar establishments remain the core of the industry. In 2025 they accounted for 298.6 million overnight stays, or 60.0 percent, of which classic hotels recorded 195.4 million, hotels garnis offering only breakfast 78.6 million, inns 13.1 million and guesthouses 11.4 million. Holiday accommodation, including holiday homes and apartments, holiday centres and youth hostels, accounted for 97.0 million nights.

Overnight Stays in Germany by Type of Accommodation, 2025 (million) Overnight stays by main type of accommodation establishment.

Data:

Destatis, compiled in DTV Zahlen Daten Fakten 2026.

Note:

other includes rehabilitation and prevention clinics (47.1 million) and training facilities (10.2 million).

Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Hotels hold 60 percent: hotels, inns and guesthouses recorded 298.6 million of 497.4 million nights; campsites 44.7 million.

Camping was the growth driver of 2025. Overnight stays at campsites rose 4.2 percent, while stays in hotels fell 0.4 percent, so camping accounted for most of the national increase. Rehabilitation and prevention clinics are an unusual but large segment in Germany, with 47.1 million nights, because the statutory health and pension insurance systems pay for stays of several weeks. Comparable data for another large market are in our report on the [hospitality industry in Canada](#).

TYPE	OVERNIGHT STAYS	SHARE OF TOTAL
Hotels	195.4 million	39.3 percent
Hotels garnis	78.6 million	15.8 percent
Inns	13.1 million	2.6 percent
Guesthouses (pensions)	11.4 million	2.3 percent
Holiday homes and apartments	55.7 million	11.2 percent
Youth hostels and huts	17.5 million	3.5 percent
Holiday centres	12.5 million	2.5 percent
Recreation homes	11.2 million	2.3 percent
Campsites	44.7 million	9.0 percent
Rehabilitation and prevention clinics	47.1 million	9.5 percent
Training facilities	10.2 million	2.1 percent

Classic hotels alone account for almost two in five overnight stays, and hotels garnis for another 15.8 percent. Holiday homes and apartments in establishments with 10 or more beds recorded 55.7 million nights, but this is only part of the holiday rental market, since most private lets are too small to be counted and appear instead in the online platform data below. Youth hostels and mountain huts, with 17.5 million nights, remain important for school trips and group travel.

Key Drivers of Demand

- **Domestic holidays:** German residents account for 83.2 percent of all overnight stays.
- **Camping boom:** campsite nights rose 4.2 percent in 2025, the fastest of any segment.
- **Neighbouring markets:** the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria supply a quarter of foreign nights by car.
- **Health stays:** rehabilitation clinics add 47.1 million nights funded by social insurance.
- **Weak business travel:** falling city demand in Berlin, Frankfurt and Stuttgart limits hotel growth.

Online Platforms

Online platforms: 68.3 million nights in small holiday lets

Official statistics exclude establishments with fewer than 10 beds, so Destatis publishes separate experimental data on holiday accommodation booked through online platforms. In 2025, 68.3 million nights were booked in Germany via Airbnb, Booking.com and Expedia, up 13.0 percent on 2024 even though Tripadvisor no longer supplies data. About 94 percent of these nights were in properties with fewer than 10 beds.

Domestic guests booked 48.5 million platform nights, up 15.3 percent, and foreign guests 19.8 million, up 7.8 percent. Bavaria led with 10.6 million nights, a 15.5 percent share, followed by Baden-Wuerttemberg and North Rhine-Westphalia with 8.1 million each and Lower Saxony with 8.0 million. For comparison, platform bookings were 37.2 million in 2019, so this segment has grown by 84 percent while the official total barely moved.

INDICATOR	2025	CHANGE VS 2024
Total nights booked via platforms	68.3 million	plus 13.0 percent
Domestic guests	48.5 million	plus 15.3 percent
Foreign guests	19.8 million	plus 7.8 percent

Bavaria	10.6 million	15.5 percent share
Share in properties under 10 beds	about 94 percent	
Platform nights in 2019	37.2 million	for comparison

Turnover

Turnover: record guests, falling real revenue

Record overnight stays have not translated into higher real turnover. Destatis reported that accommodation turnover fell 2.0 percent in real, price-adjusted terms in 2025, while rising 0.8 percent in nominal terms. For the hospitality sector as a whole, including restaurants and catering, real turnover fell 2.1 percent and nominal turnover rose 1.4 percent. Restaurants and bars fell 2.2 percent in real terms. Destatis puts total hospitality turnover at about 112 billion euros.

Change in Hospitality Turnover in Germany, 2025 vs 2024 (%)Nominal and real (price-adjusted) turnover change by sector.

Data:

Destatis press release, February 2026, provisional results.

Note:

real change removes the effect of price increases. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Price-driven revenue: accommodation turnover rose 0.8 percent in nominal terms but fell 2.0 percent in real terms in 2025.

The gap between nominal and real figures shows that prices rose by roughly 3 percent while selling slightly less in volume, once breakfast, spa and other services are included. Where costs for staff, energy and food rose faster than room rates, margins narrowed. Hotel markets elsewhere face different pressures, as our report on the [hotel industry in China](#) shows.

EU Comparison

EU comparison: Germany fourth with 442.1 million nights

On the harmonised Eurostat measure, which excludes some establishment types such as clinics, Germany recorded 442.1 million nights at tourist accommodation in 2025. That places it fourth in the EU behind Spain with 513.6 million, Italy with 476.9 million and France with 471.7 million. Together, these four countries accounted for 61.7 percent of the nearly 3.1 billion nights recorded in the EU in 2025, which rose 2.2 percent.

Nights Spent at Tourist Accommodation, Four Largest EU Countries, 2025 (million) Total nights by residents and non-residents at tourist accommodation establishments.

Data:

Eurostat, Another record year for EU tourism in 2025, March 2026.

Note:

Eurostat uses a narrower scope than the Destatis total of 497.4 million, so figures differ. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Fourth in Europe: Germany recorded 442.1 million nights on the Eurostat measure, 71.5 million fewer than Spain.

The difference from the Destatis total of 497.4 million comes mainly from scope: Eurostat focuses on tourist accommodation and excludes some health and training establishments. The key contrast with the other large markets is the guest mix. International guest nights drove about three quarters of EU growth in 2025, rising 3.4 percent, while Germany saw foreign nights fall 1.8 percent. Domestic demand plays a similar anchoring role in France, as shown in our [domestic tourism in France](#) report.

Jobs and Spending

Jobs and spending: 2.7 million people work in tourism

Accommodation is the core of a much wider tourism economy. According to the DTV, 2.7 million people, about 6 percent of all employed people in Germany, worked directly in tourism in 2024. Tourism generated about 144 billion euros of direct gross value added, 3.7 percent of the German total. Tourism consumption reached 392.1 billion euros, of which 292.3 billion euros came from domestic travellers, 58.6 billion euros from foreign visitors and 41.2 billion euros from other consumption.



2.7M People employed in tourism About 6 percent of employment, 2024. 144B euros Direct gross value added 3.7 percent of the German total. 392.1B euros Tourism consumption 2024, of which 58.6B euros foreign. 112B euros Hospitality turnover Accommodation and food services.

Foreign visitors account for 16.8 percent of overnight stays and 58.6 billion euros, or about 15 percent, of tourism consumption. The rest comes mainly from German residents on holidays, day trips and business trips, which is why domestic demand decides the direction of the industry.

Outlook

Outlook: record volumes, tighter margins

The data point to three trends for 2026. First, volumes are still rising slowly: the January to July 2026 total of 282.1 million nights is 0.9 percent above 2025 and slightly above 2019. Second, foreign guests are returning, with growth of 1.0 percent in the first seven months after a decline in 2025, although they remain below 2019. Third, profitability is under pressure, with real turnover falling in 2025 despite higher prices.

Growth is shifting towards camping, holiday rentals and smaller cities, while large city hotels depend on the recovery of business travel and trade fairs. The expansion of platform bookings, up 13.0 percent in 2025, suggests that an increasing share of demand is going to small holiday lets outside the official statistics. These official Destatis figures are provisional and will be revised when final annual results are published.

Key Facts

German accommodation in numbers

497.4M Overnight stays 2025 Record, up 0.3 percent. 192.0M Guest arrivals 2025 Up 1.2 percent. 102.9M Nights in Bavaria Largest federal state. 29.4M Nights in Berlin Largest city, down 3.8 percent. 11.7M Nights by Dutch guests Largest foreign market. 442.1M Eurostat nights Fourth in the EU, 2025.

FAQ

Aladdin questions answered with data

German accommodation establishments recorded 497.4 million overnight stays in 2025, a new record, up 0.3 percent on 2024, according to provisional Destatis data.

There were 192.0 million guest arrivals in German accommodation in 2025, of which 37.2 million were from abroad. Foreign guests booked 83.6 million overnight stays.

Yes, in total. Overnight stays of 497.4 million in 2025 were above the 2019 level of 495.6 million. Foreign stays of 83.6 million were still about 7 percent below 2019.

Bavaria, with 102.9 million overnight stays in 2025, followed by Baden-Wuerttemberg with 58.7 million and North Rhine-Westphalia with 55.5 million.

Berlin, with 29.4 million overnight stays in 2025, followed by Munich with 19.7 million and Hamburg with 16.5 million.

The Netherlands, with 11.7 million overnight stays in 2025, followed by the United States with 6.9 million and Switzerland with 6.7 million.

From January to July 2026 there were 282.1 million overnight stays, up 0.9 percent and a new record for the period. Foreign stays rose 1.0 percent.

Destatis reports 68.3 million nights booked through Airbnb, Booking.com and Expedia in 2025, up 13.0 percent, mostly in properties with fewer than 10 beds.

Accommodation turnover rose 0.8 percent in nominal terms in 2025 but fell 2.0 percent in real terms, so higher prices did not fully offset lower volumes and costs.

On the Eurostat measure, Germany recorded 442.1 million nights in 2025, fourth in the EU after Spain, Italy and France.

Sources

[Federal Statistical Office of Germany \(Destatis\)](#) - overnight stays, monthly indicators 2026.

[Destatis](#) - hospitality turnover 2025, February 2026.

[Destatis](#) - holiday accommodation booked via online platforms 2025, July 2026.

[Destatis](#) - tourism in Germany 2019.

[German Tourism Association \(DTV\)](#) - Zahlen Daten Fakten 2026.

[German Travel Association \(DRV\)](#) - Facts and Figures 2023.

[Eurostat](#) - Another record year for EU tourism in 2025.

Official German accommodation statistics cover establishments with at least 10 beds and campsites with at least 10 pitches. Results for 2025 and 2026 are provisional. State, city, source market and type figures are Destatis results as compiled by the DTV. Eurostat figures use a different scope. Shares and growth rates



are BusinessStats calculations.

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