



Germany: Facts & Figures June 2009

A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany

Politics

Senior citizens will have a greater influence on the outcome of the September 27 Bundestag election than they had on the election four years ago. Forty-nine percent of the eligible voters will be 60 or older. In 2005, their share was only 31.8%. Only 4.2% of those eligible to vote will be between 18 and 20 years old. (Federal Statistical Office. Sueddeutsche, 06/19/09)

European Election: The CDU received 30.6% of the votes, down 5.9% compared to the results in 2004. The SPD received 20.8% (down 0.7%), the FDP 11% (up 5.9%), the Green Party 12.1% (up 0.2%), the Left Party 7.5% (up 0.6%) and the CSU 7.2% (down 0.8%). Voter turnout was 43.3% compared to 43% in 2004. (Major papers, 06/08/09)

Economy

The jobless rate dropped in June to 8.1% (May at 8.2%), with the number of jobless dropping by 48,000 to 3.410 million. On average, in June the number of unemployed dropped by 129,000 in the past three years. (Federal Labor Agency, 05/28/09)

Two economic research institutes predict that the recession for the German economy will be deeper than anticipated and economic growth will stagnate until the end of 2010. The ifo-Institute expects a 6.3% and the RWI a 6.4% decline this year. Both institutes emphasize that the decline has slowed down and the economy is about to stabilize. (Die Welt, 06/24/09)

The government will run up debt amounting to 310 billion euros until 2013. For 2010, the budget draft provides for new debt amounting to 86 billion euros – the highest in constant terms in post-war German history. For 2011, Finance Minister Steinbrück expects to run up 72 billion euros in new debt and for 2012, 59 billion euros. (Spiegel Online, 06/19/09)

State and regional governments received 7.1% less tax income in May than in the same month last year. In April, the losses amounted to 7.4%. In the first five months of this year, the tax income dropped 4% compared to the same period of last year. (Handelsblatt, 06/15/09)

One third of Germans thinks that the economy will improve only in the second half of 2010. Another third assumes that the economic trough will be reached in mid-2010. (GfK. Sueddeutsche, 06/15/09)

Inflation in Germany fell to its lowest in 22 years in May with 0.0% as manufacturers revenues dropped and business failures increased. The agency said that the consumer price index for May was unchanged from May a year ago, mainly due to a rise in energy and food prices last year. The inflation rate in April was 0.7%. Energy prices were about 8% lower in May this year compared with last year, while food prices fell 1.2%. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 06/11/09)

Society

A new study revealed that 3.8 to 4.3 million Muslims live in Germany, instead of 3 to 3.5 million as estimated by the government. According to the study, 50% of Muslim belong to a club or association, but only 4% belong to clubs with only Muslim members. About 45% of the four million Muslims are German nationals and 86% consider themselves "very religious" or "rather religious". (Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees. Major papers, 06/34/09)

Overall crime dropped in 2008 for the first time in nine years, despite a jump in violent street crime. The overall number of criminal acts dropped 2.7% from the previous year to just over six million, but the number of violent attacks in public rose 5%. Attacks on police officers also increased to 28,300, a new record high. However, overall, violent crime dropped by 4.7%, the first time since 1999. (Annual report on the number of crimes committed. Major papers, 06/16/09)

Sixty-nine percent of immigrants like living in Germany, 58% consider themselves to be part of German society and only 5% said that they feel excluded. Almost 80% were also satisfied with their living and job conditions. While only 58% of Germans have trust in the fairness of the legal system, 80% of immigrants do. (Allensbach. Major papers, 06/15/09)

An increasing number of migrants to Germany are attending so-called integration courses. According to the figures from April 170,000 migrants are taking part in such courses. This is an increase of 18% compared to the figures from April 2008. (Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees. Sueddeutsche Zeitung, 06/08/09)

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