



Germany: Facts & Figures July 2009

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

Politics

If Bundestag elections would be held August 2, the CDU/CSU would receive 38% of the vote, the SPD 23%, the Green Party 12%, the FDP 13%, the Left Party 9%, and all other parties combined 5%. (Forsa. 07/29/09)

Eighty percent of Germans assume that Chancellor Merkel will win the September 27 Bundestag election. Thirteen percent believe that SPD chancellor candidate Steinmeier will win. Only 16% of Germans consider the upcoming Bundestag election to be a decisive election, unlike four years ago, when 47% held this opinion. (Major papers, 07/20/09; 07/22/09)

Economy

The jobless rate increased in June to 8.2% (June: 8.1%), as the number of jobless increased by 52,000 to 3.462 million. (Federal Labor Agency, 05/28/09)

German breweries and beer storage facilities sold a total of 49.3 million hectoliters of beer in the first half of 2009. This was a decline of 2.3 million hectoliters or 4.5% over the same period a year earlier. These were the lowest beer sales recorded for the first six months of a year since 1991. (Destatis, 07/30/09)

The number of overnight stays of foreign tourists decreased between January and May 2009 by 6.5% compared with the corresponding period of 2008. The accommodation industries with 9 and more beds (incl. camping sites) in Germany registered only 18.6 million overnight stays of foreign tourists. In the first five months of the previous year it had been 19.9 million. The number of overnight stays of foreign tourists from all continents decreased, but the number of overnight stays of tourists from the United Kingdom (-240,000) and the United States (-166,000) suffered the highest absolute decrease. (Federal Statistical Office, 07/24/09)

German taxpayers, on average, must pay 53.3% of their gross income in taxes and contributions to the social security system. The last time Germans faced such a high burden was in 2003. (Taxpayer Association. Major papers, 07/14/09)

Germany will take until 2013 to comply with a European Union-mandated budget deficit limit as it runs up public debt totaling 510 billion euros in the aftermath of the economic crisis. Public debt will total 112.5 billion euros this year and peak at 132.5 billion euros next year, before slipping to 109 billion euros in 2011. (Finance Ministry. Major papers, 07/09/09)

German industrial orders increased by 4.4% in May over the previous month, following a 0.1% increase in April. Orders from within Germany were up 3.9%, while those from outside the euro zone were up 8.2%. However, orders from partners in the euro zone only increased 1.2%. (Major papers, 07/08/09)

Society

More people emigrate from Germany than people immigrate to Germany. 783,000 Germans left the country last year, an increase of 100,000 people compared to 2007. Only 682,000 people immigrated to Germany (unchanged compared to 2007) but among those are 108,000 Germans who returned from abroad. The majority of emigrants went to Austria, Switzerland and the United States. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 07/23/09)

Twenty years after the fall of the Wall, 67% of eastern Germans consider democracy to be important, but only 11% are satisfied with the political practice in Germany. Forty-two percent of eastern Germans also said they were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with democracy in Germany. Ten percent, especially the unemployed, want the return of the former GDR, and only 25% of eastern Germans consider themselves to be a "citizen of the Federal Republic." In contrast, 61% of western Germans said they were satisfied with the political system in Germany. (Stiftung Volkssolidarität. Sueddeutsche, 07/21/09)

According to a poll among 120,000 users of the Internet, only 3% of them read or write a Tweet once a week. Six percent read or write a Tweet once a month. Two-thirds of Internet users use Wikipedia or social networks such as Facebook and Myspace at least once a month. (Tagesspiegel, 07/14/09)

Almost 70% of Germans (46 million) are online, an increase of 4% compared to the figures from 2008. Twenty-five percent of Germans are not interested in the Internet because "they cannot see an enrichment of their lives when surfing the Internet". When looking at the various states, Bremen is in the lead with 74.2% followed by Berlin with 73.3% and Baden-Württemberg with 72.6%. (Major papers, 07/01/09)