



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

Politics

If Bundestag elections would be held on August 31, the CDU/CSU would receive 36% of the vote, the SPD 24%, the Green Party 11%, the FDP 12%, the Left Party 13%, and all other parties combined 4%. (Emnid. 08/27/08)

Only 10% of Germans consider their politicians to be trustworthy. (GfK. Major papers, 08/11/08)

Economy

In August, the unemployment rate decreased to 7.6% (July: 7.7%). (Federal Statistics Office. 08/28/08)

Average gross hourly earnings of women were € 14.05 in Germany in 2006, 24% below the average gross hourly earnings of men (€ 18.38). The highest pay differential between women and men in 2006 was recorded for enterprise-related services (30%), the credit and insurance industry (29%), and for manufacturing (28%). Low pay differentials between the genders were observed for mining (5%), transport and communication (9%), and hotels and restaurants (13%). However, only 7% of all women worked in those three industries. There was no industry in which women earned more than men on average. (Federal Statistical Office. 08/26/08)

The German economy shrank for the first time in nearly four years in the second quarter of this year as consumer spending and capital investments declined. The economy shrank by 0.5% in the second quarter over the previous quarter. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 08/15/08)

Wholesale prices rose dramatically by 9.9% in July over the same period last year. This was the greatest increase in 27 years. The increase was primarily based on a rise of solid fuels and petroleum products, whose prices rose by 30.8%. Ores, iron, steel and non-ferrous products also rose by 15.7% compared to the same period last year. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 08/11/08)

Industrial orders for German firms dropped 2.9% in June, following a 1.4% drop in May. Orders from inside Germany decreased by 0.6%, orders from abroad by 5.1%. Orders from other euro zone countries declined by 7.7%. (Major papers, 08/07/08)

Society

According to the new life table 2005/2007, average expectation of life at birth is 76.9 years for newborn boys and 82.3 years for newborn girls. According to the previous life table 2004/2006, the figures were 76.6 and 82.1 years, respectively. (Federal Statistical Office. 08/22/08)

50% of Germans are concerned that a Cold War could break out again. 37% are not worried and 11% had no opinion. (ARD-TV's Morgenmagazin, 08/22/08)

Over 680,000 children were born in Germany in 2007. This is the first time the birth rate increased since 1997. The average number of children born per woman rose to 1.37 after the government introduced greater parental benefits. (Major papers, 08/20/08)

50% of Germans think Germany should stay completely keep out of the conflict in the Caucasus. While 56% reject German participation in a peace mission, 37% would support such an engagement. 44% of Germans support German participation in civilian reconstruction efforts. 53% said they are not afraid of Russia's policy, while 44% are concerned. Women (51%), East Germans (51%) and CDU supporters (58%) are particularly worried about Russia. 60% of Germans think that, in view of the current conflict in the Caucasus, Georgia should not be accepted in NATO. 21% say Georgia should be accepted. (Opinion polls for Spiegel, Welt am Sonntag. 08/18/08)

In view of the protests in Tibet and measures to impede reporting from the Olympic Games, 56% of Germans consider it a mistake to allow China to host the Olympic Games. 38% do not consider it a mistake. 53% of Germans share the hope that the human rights situation in China will improve in the medium-term, while 28% believe nothing will change. (DeutschlandTrend. Major papers, 08/08/08)

8.6 million families with children under the age of 18 live in Germany. In every fourth family, one parent is either a foreigner or a naturalized German. (Federal Statistical Office. Major paper, 08/06/08)

81% of Germans support a uniform smoking ban throughout Germany. (Emnid. Bild am Sonntag, 08/04/08)