



Germany: Facts & Figures November 2008

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

Politics

If Bundestag elections had been held on October 30th, the CDU/CSU would have received 38% of the vote, the SPD 23%, the Green Party 11%, the FDP 11%, the Left Party 12%, and all other parties combined 5%. (Forsa. 11/26/08)

The Green Party elected Claudia Roth and Cem Özdemir as their new leadership duo. Özdemir is the first leader of a German political party with a Turkish background. He received 79.2% of the votes, while Roth got 82.7%. (Major papers, 11/17/08)

Economy

The unemployment rate dropped to 7.1% in November (October: 7.2%). The number of gainfully employed people reached a record high with 41 million. A total of 2.988 million people were registered as unemployed, 8,000 fewer than in October. However, the Federal Labor Agency expects an increase in the coming months since the financial crisis has not yet hit the labor market. (Federal Labor Agency. 11/28/08)

Due to the drop in the price of oil, inflation dropped to 2.4% in October (September: 2.9%). (Major papers, 11/17/08)

In 2006 German institutions of higher education succeeded in increasing their third-party funds received from private and public institutions by 5.3% compared with the previous year, reaching EUR 3.86 billion. Thus the average third-party funds received by a professor amounted to EUR 107,600. That was a 7.6% increase on 2005. The amount of third-party funds received differs considerably between types of institution of higher education, subject groups as well as teaching/research areas. As in the previous year, university professors in 2006 received average third-party funds of EUR 175,200 (+5.9% on the previous year). Per-capita third-party funds received at specialized colleges of higher education amounted to EUR 16,500 (+15.5% on the previous year) and those received at colleges of art were EUR 9,600 (+32.1% on the previous year). (Federal Statistical Office. 11/13/08)

According to the IMF forecast, Germany can expect a decline of its economic development by 0.8%, the euro-zone area by 0.5%, and the United States by 0.7%. (Major papers, 11/07/08)

Irrespective of the financial crisis, the tax income for the federal Länder and municipal governments will be 8.4 billion euros higher at the end of 2009 than previously anticipated. Tax income in 2008 will increase by 7.4 billion to 561.8 billion euros and in 2009 to 572.0 billion euros. (Tax Estimate Working Group. Major papers, 11/06/08)

Society

Germany and Spain accepted the majority of immigrants to the EU in 2006. 803,000 people immigrated to Spain, while 558,000 came to Germany. In Germany, 57% of the immigrants came from other EU states, while 43% came from other nations. (Eurostat. Major papers, 11/19/08)

65% of Germans think that Germany is only at the beginning of the financial crisis and that worst is still to come. In the East, 77% are of this opinion, while 63% share this view in the West. (Handelsblatt, 11/14/08)

Only 50% of the interviewed consider Germany to be a society of affluence, down from 73% in 2000. Fifty percent believe that the social market economy has turned out to be effective. Eight years ago, 70% were of this opinion. (Tagesspiegel, 11/13/08)

Seventy-five percent of Germans support the mission in Afghanistan, and 50% are in favor of the Operation Enduring Freedom. These results contradict a similar poll also done by Emnid at the beginning of this year that said that 66% of Germans believe that it is not in Germany's interest to deploy soldiers in Afghanistan. (Emnid. FAZ, 11/13/08)

The financial crisis is not worrying Germans as much as feared. Seventy-two percent think that they will be "well off" or "even better" in the next year. With respect to their forecast for the next ten years, 62% hold this opinion, a 10% increase compared to the figures from July. But 66% also think that the worst is still to come. Seventy-five percent trust the crisis management of the government which they consider quick and determined. (Deutschland Trend. ARD. 11/07/08)

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