



## Germany: Facts & Figures August 2007

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

### Politics

If Bundestag elections would be held September 2, 2007, the CDU/CSU would receive 38% of the vote, the SPD 26%, the Green Party 10%, the FDP 9%, the Left Party 12%, and all other parties combined 5%. (Forsa. 08/29/07)

64% of Germans favor a ban of the NPD and advocate calling upon the Constitutional Court to examine a possible ban. 23% rejected new efforts in this regard. (Emnid. N24. 08/29/07)

11% of Germans (14% of women, 9% of men) can imagine casting their ballot for a far-right party in the next Bundestag elections. (Emid. Bild am Sonntag, 08/27/07)

76% of German advocate a second term for Chancellor Merkel. (Emnid. Bild am Sonntag, 08/20/07)

50% of Germans believe that the grand coalition has not made Germany safer against terrorism and did not get the budget right. 68% think that Chancellor Merkel's government has not made Germany a fairer place. However, 84% said their government represented Germany well in the world. 75% are satisfied with Chancellor Merkel's job, and 70% with Foreign Minister Steinmeier's work. (Infratest Dimap. ARD/Die Welt, 08/03/07)

### Economy

In August, the unemployment rate dropped to 8.8%, up from 8.9% in July. The number of unemployed dropped by 10,000 to 3,705,000. (Federal Employment Agency. 08/30/07)

In the first half of this year, Germany achieved a budget surplus amounting to 1.2 billion euros. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 08/24/07)

65% of Germans expect the economic boom to continue next year. 79% of those surveyed consider their jobs to be safe, an increase of 11% from last year's survey. (Wirtschaftsjunoren Deutschland. 08/21/07)

61% of respondents work more than the 40 hours/week specified in their work contract. (Federal Labor Agency. Die Welt, 08/16/07)

Economic growth cooled slightly in the second quarter of this year, with the GDP expanding by 0.3%. The performance was the weakest since the last quarter of 2005 when the economy also grew by 0.3%. The government is forecasting economic growth of 2.3% this year. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 08/15/07)

### Society

The average life expectancy of a boy born in Germany has reached 76.6 years, an increase of four months compared to the figures from last year. The life expectancy of girls increased by three month to 82.1 years. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 08/28/07)

In 2006, a total of 265,700 final exams were passed at German institutions of higher education, an increase of 5% compared to 2005. 43,100 candidates passed the final exam in natural science, an increase of 9% compared to the previous year. Marked increases were recorded for mathematics (+14%; 5,100 degrees) and computer science (+13%; 15,400 degrees). Bachelor and Master Degrees accounted for 10% of the degrees conferred. Compared with the previous year, the number of Bachelor degrees was up 53% to 15,100. The number of Master degrees reached 11,300, in increase of 23%. (Federal Statistical Office, 08/20/07)

The total number of asylum seekers rose by 6.7% compared with last year's figures. (Interior Ministry. Major papers, 08/15/07)

4,748 children under the age of 18 were adopted in Germany in 2006, nearly the same number as in 2005 (4,762). 29% of the adopted children did not have German citizenship at the time of adoption. (Federal Statistical Office. 08/09/07)

55% of respondents said that the government should not pay ransom money to kidnappers of German citizens. 37% said that it could be a means to free Germans who are taken hostage abroad. (Focus, 08/04/07)

64% of Germans are in favor of withdrawing the German troops from Afghanistan, up from 44% in June. (Deutschland-Trend. ARD/ Frankfurter Rundschau, 08/03/07)

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