



Volume 5. Wilhelmine Germany and the First World War, 1890-1918  
 Gender and Occupation in Selected Industries (1895 and 1907)

Occupations were often gender-specific. Male laborers dominated the technical and engineering fields, whereas women were more prominent in the textile and clothing industries. Note how the number of self-employed artisans and professionals decreased as large-scale enterprises pushed independent producers toward the margins.

**Gender and Occupation in Selected Industries (1895 and 1907)**

Sector/ occupational status	Percentage of men and women in various occupational status categories				Women as % of all gainfully employed individuals in the occupational category	
	Men		Women			
	1895	1907	1895	1907	1895	1907
<b>Machine building/Electronics</b>						
Self-employed	21.4	8.8	12.3	3.3	1.7	1.8
Homeworkers	0.5	0.4	1.9	2.0	10.2	19.8
Supervisory personnel	2.2	3.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4
Technical employees	3.2	4.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Commercial clerks	3.2	5.5	3.4	16.7	3.0	13.1
Skilled workers	46.8	49.6	12.6	11.7	0.8	1.1
Unskilled workers	22.7	27.5	69.7	65.8	8.3	10.6
<b>Leather industry</b>						
Self-employed	26.8	22.2	9.1	5.2	2.2	2.4
Homeworkers	1.2	1.2	1.8	2.7	8.9	18.9
Supervisory personnel	1.0	2.2	0.2	0.5	1.5	2.2
Technical employees	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Commercial clerks	1.7	3.4	1.3	6.0	4.7	15.5
Skilled workers	50.5	45.5	20.3	11.7	2.5	2.6
Unskilled workers	18.6	25.3	67.2	74.0	19.0	23.4
<b>Metal extraction and processing</b>						
Self-employed	16.8	11.6	9.8	4.4	2.4	2.3
Homeworkers	0.9	0.7	1.3	2.2	5.9	17.7
Supervisory personnel	0.9	2.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7
Technical employees	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Commercial clerks	0.9	2.0	1.1	5.3	5.0	14.9
Skilled workers	69.8	67.6	25.3	25.2	1.5	2.3
Unskilled workers	10.6	15.9	62.4	62.6	19.8	20.2

<b>Textile industry</b>						
Self-employed	9.8	5.3	3.9	2.0	24.2	27.5
Homeworkers	14.9	7.2	13.3	8.4	41.9	53.4
Supervisory personnel	2.4	5.6	0.2	0.5	5.6	7.5
Technical employees	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.0	5.3
Commercial clerks	4.2	7.8	0.2	1.0	3.4	11.6
Skilled workers	40.0	37.2	41.5	36.6	45.7	49.2
Unskilled workers	28.4	36.5	40.9	51.5	53.9	58.1
<b>Clothing industry</b>						
Self-employed	49.5	46.6	49.1	35.3	48.3	44.3
Homeworkers	6.0	5.0	9.2	8.4	59.0	64.0
Supervisory personnel	0.5	1.6	0.4	0.9	40.9	36.4
Technical employees	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.5	34.6
Commercial clerks	1.0	2.4	0.2	1.9	14.3	45.7
Skilled workers	40.8	38.9	34.9	40.0	44.7	52.0
Unskilled workers	2.2	5.5	6.3	13.6	73.3	72.2

A note on reading the table: of the 1,000 male workers in the Machine building / Electronics sector (1895), 214 are self-employed, 5 are homeworkers, 22 supervisory personnel, etc.; of 1,000 self-employed in this sector (1895), 17 are women, of 1,000 homeworkers, 102 are women, etc.

Source: Compiled from the tables in Angelika Willms, "Segregation auf Dauer? Zur Entwicklung des Verhältnisses von Frauenarbeit und Männerarbeit in Deutschland," [*Ongoing Segregation? The Developing Relationship between Women's and Men's Work in Germany*], in Walter Müller, Angelika Willms, and Johann Handel, eds., *Strukturwandel der Frauenarbeit 1880-1890* [*Structural Changes in Women's Work 1880-1890*]. Frankfurt am Main: Campus Verlag, 1983, pp. 63-67.

Reprinted in Gerhard A. Ritter und Klaus Tenfelde, *Arbeiter im Deutschen Kaiserreich 1871 bis 1914* [*Workers in the German Kaiserreich 1871 to 1914*]. Bonn, 1992, p. 215.