



## German History in Documents and Images

Volume 4. Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany, 1866-1890  
Population Growth in Large Cities (1875-1910)

German cities experienced enormous growth during the Bismarckian and Wilhelmine periods. The population of Berlin, for example, more than doubled between 1875 and 1910. In addition to reflecting astounding growth rates, the population figures below document one significant effect of German industrialization: migration from the country to the city, where people hoped to find new work. The table reflects the extent of this shift. But a closer analysis of the statistics for the period 1875-1910 also reveals important disparities in the growth rates of particular cities. (Here, the year 1890 can be used as a “before and after” point for analyzing population growth.) For example, the population growth rate of Magdeburg, a city in central Germany, declined after 1890, as did the growth rate of Leipzig, a city in the Kingdom of Saxony, but Leipzig still continued to grow at twice the rate of Magdeburg. By contrast, cities like Duisburg and Essen, located in the Ruhr district of western Germany, grew more rapidly after 1890 than they had up to that point.

### The Growth of Major German Cities\* (Cities with a Population Greater than 200,000 in 1910)

	Population in			1875-1910	1875-1890	1890-1910
	Population in			Population growth rate 1875-1910 in %		
	1875	1890	1910			
Berlin	966,859	1,587,794	2,071,257	114.2	64.2	30.4
Bremen	102,532	125,684	217,437	112.1	22.6	73.0
Breslau	239,050	335,186	512,105	114.2	40.2	52.8
Charlottenburg	25,847	76,859	305,978	1 083.8	197.4	298.1
Chemnitz	78,209	138,954	287,807	268.0	77.7	107.1

\* The selection criterion of more than 200,000 inhabitants does not accord with the definition of a large city at the time, which included all cities with a population exceeding 100,000.

Cologne	135,371	281,681	516,527	281.6	108.1	83.4
Dortmund	57,742	89,663	214,226	271.0	55.3	138.9
Dresden	197,295	276,522	548,308	177.9	40.2	98.3
Düsseldorf	80,695	144,642	358,728	344.5	79.2	148.0
Duisburg	37,380	59,285	229,438	513.8	58.6	287.0
Essen/Ruhr	54,790	78,706	294,653	437.8	43.7	274.4
Frankfurt/M.	103,136	179,985	414,576	302.0	74.5	130.3
Hamburg	264,675	323,923	931,035	251.8	22.4	187.4
Hannover	106,677	163,593	302,375	183.4	53.4	84.8
Kiel	37,246	69,172	211,627	468.2	85.7	205.9
Königsberg	122,636	161,666	245,994	100.6	31.8	52.2
Leipzig	127,387	295,025	589,850	363.0	131.6	99.9
Magdeburg	87,925	202,234	279,629	218.0	130.0	38.3
Munich	193,024	349,024	596,467	209.0	80.8	70.9
Nuremberg	91,018	142,590	333,142	266.0	56.7	133.6
Stettin	80,972	116,228	236,113	191.6	43.5	103.1
Stuttgart	107,273	139,817	286,218	166.8	30.3	104.7
Number of cities with more than 10,000 residents	271	394	576	112.5	45.4	46.2

Source: *Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich* [Statistical Almanac for the German Reich]; 1881, pp. 3ff (for 1875); 1893, pp. 9ff (for 1890); 1914, pp. 12ff (for 1910).

Original German table reprinted in Gerd Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard Ritter, eds., *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch: Materialien zur Statistik des Kaiserreichs 1870-1914* [Social History Workbook: Materials on Kaiserreich Statistics 1870-1914], vol. 2. Munich: C.H. Beck, 1975, pp. 45-46.

Translation: Thomas Dunlap