



Volume 4. Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany, 1866-1890
Former Occupation of Registered Prostitutes in Berlin (1873)

Nearly half of the Berlin prostitutes under police supervision in 1872-73 had been home-workers or shop assistants before they turned to prostitution. Only 16% had been factory workers.

Former Occupation of Registered Prostitutes in Berlin (1873)

Which occupation the prostitute practiced before getting into prostitution is certainly an interesting question; unfortunately, the information is so unspecific that classification remains very difficult. To start with, the authors have drawn up the following categories:

		In percent
Farm hands and servants	794	35.7
Factory workers	355	16.0
Cottage industry and shops	936	42.0
Waitress-service in catering trade	139	6.3
	2224	100.0

Source: Hermann Schwabe, "Einblicke in das innere und äußere Leben der Berliner Prostituirten" ["Insights into the Personal and Public Lives of Prostitutes in Berlin"] *Berliner Städtisches Jahrbuch für Volkswirtschaft und Statistik* [*Berlin City Almanac for Political Economy and Statistics*] 1 (1874): pp. 60-74, here pp. 62-66.

Original German data reprinted in Gerhard A. Ritter and Jürgen Kocka, eds., *Deutsche Sozialgeschichte 1870-1914. Dokumente und Skizzen* [*German Social History 1870-1914. Documents and Sketches*], 3rd ed. Munich: Beck, 1982, p. 253.

Translation: Erwin Fink