

Latest figures for Germany – Edition 2005



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Germany and Europe

As of 1st May 2004, the European Union (EU) now consists of 25 states. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus have joined the EU as new members.

The enlarged European Union covers an area of nearly 4 million km² – that is about ten times the territory of Germany. In geographical terms, Germany is now located at the centre of the EU and has the largest share (82.5 million) of the total EU population (453 million), followed by France (59.9 million) and the United Kingdom (59.5 million people). These three countries together account for almost 45% of the total population of the EU; about one sixth of the EU population lives in Germany.

With a total area of about 316 km² and just under 400 000 inhabitants, the island state of Malta is the smallest country within the EU-25. With 1 266 inhabitants per square kilometre, Malta has the highest population density within the EU. The Netherlands has a population density of 477, Belgium of 339, the United Kingdom of 243 and Germany – which ranks fifth in this respect – of 231 inhabitants per km².

Germany has the largest national economy within the EU. According to Eurostat estimates, the German gross domestic product at current prices in 2004 accounted for more than a fifth of the total gross domestic product

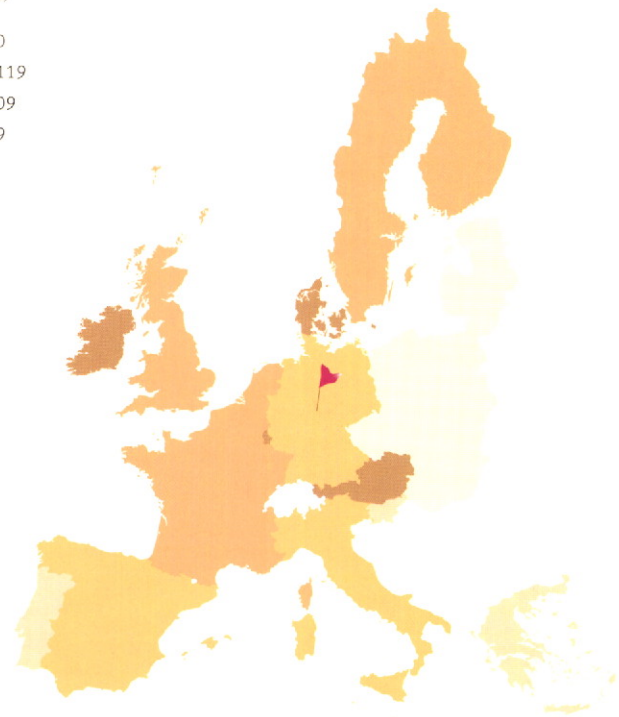
of the European Union. When comparing the gross domestic product per capita between the EU states taking into account the purchasing power (EU-25=100), Germany achieves a value of 107.6 according to Eurostat estimates, which is above the EU average, but below the average of the former EU-15. Luxembourg ranks first (216), followed by Ireland (134), Denmark (122) and Austria (121).

Life expectancy in the EU-25

In Germany, boys born in 2002 will attain an average age of 75.4 years and girls an age of 81.2 years. With the accession of the ten new countries, the average life expectancy – in purely mathematical terms – of newborn girls and boys in the EU has decreased. According to a Eurostat forecast, it is 74.8 years for boys born in 2002 and 81.1 years for girls. In the EU-15, it was 75.8 years for boys and 81.6 years for girls. The lower life expectancy is due to the ten new Member States. Within the EU, boys and girls born in 2002 have the lowest life expectancy in Latvia (64.8 and 76.0 years respectively). Currently, the Member State with the highest life expectancy for newborn girls is Spain (83.1 years). For newborn boys it is Sweden (77.7 years).

Gross domestic product per inhabitant in the EU, 2004

(EU-25=100)



Source: Eurostat forecast



Economic recovery in 2004

In 2004, the German gross domestic product increased by 1.7% in real terms on the previous year. This means the German economy is showing signs of recovery after almost three years of stagnation.

The growth impulses mainly came from foreign trade: In the wake of expanding world trade, exports increased – and markedly stronger than imports – despite the rise in the Euro's exchange rate by some 10%. Domestic demand, in contrast, remained weak: Private consumption expenditure fell slightly, and gross fixed capital formation also continued to decline; however, investments in machinery and equipment and other products rose compared to 2003.

Germany in an international context

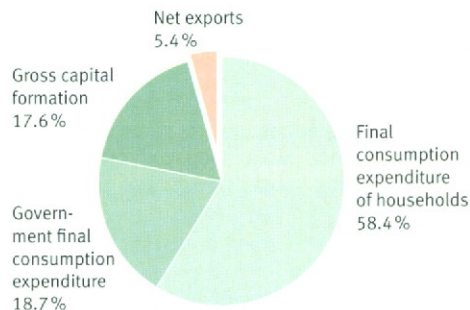
Germany experienced only sluggish growth in 2004 when compared with other industrialised countries. Within the European Union, the EU Commission only expects a similarly low growth rate (of between 1% and 2%) for Malta, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands and Austria. However, the Commission expects an increase of real GDP by 2.3% for the EU-15, by 2.4% for the EU-25, by 4.2% for Japan and by 4.4% for the USA. In particular the Baltic States with growth rates between 5.9% and 7.5% account for the somewhat higher figure for the EU-25.

Labour productivity per person in employment in Germany rose by 1.3% in 2004 – a below average increase in relation to the EU-15 according to estimates of the European Commission. However, unit labour cost in Germany rose significantly less than the EU average between 1996 and 2002, indicating an improvement in Germany's competitiveness – at least on the European market. In 2003, German unit labour cost was only slightly higher (+0.7%) than the year before, in 2004 it even declined noticeably (-1.3%).

According to provisional calculations, net borrowing of the government sector in Germany amounted to EUR 84.5 bn in 2004 or 3.9% of the gross domestic product at current prices. According to estimates of the European Commission, Germany would thus be one of the countries – alongside Greece (5.5%) and France (3.7%) – to again exceed the reference value of the Maastricht Treaty set at 3% of the gross domestic product.

Expenditure of gross domestic product

(At current prices; 2004: EUR 2 178.2 bn)



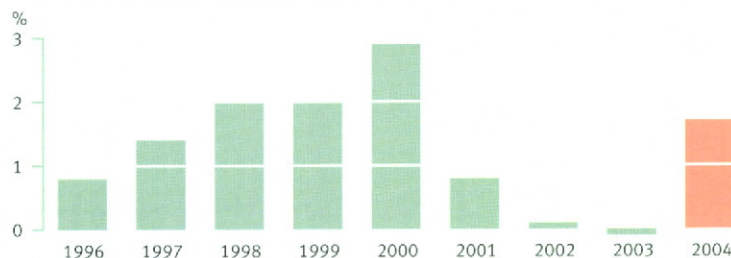
Labour productivity per person employed

(EU-15 = 100; GDP in PPS)

	1996	2004
Germany	97.9	94.2
EU-25	90.9	93.4
Eurozone	102.3	99.5
United States	121.8	131.2
Japan	89.0	90.5

Source: European Commission: „EC Economic data pocket book“, No. 3/2004.

Gross domestic product at 1995 prices (Change on the previous year)





Strong increase in exports in 2004

According to an estimate based on the figures for January to November 2004, Germany exported goods to the value of approximately EUR 731 bn and imported goods worth some EUR 575 bn in 2004. That represents a record export surplus of approximately EUR 156 bn. Compared to the preceding year, exports are estimated to increase by some 10% and imports by just under 8%.

Due to the accession of ten countries to the European Union on 1st May 2004 (Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Cyprus), the share of Germany's exports to the EU Member States rose from 55% in 2003 to about 64% in 2004. The share of imports from EU Member States increased from 50% to approximately 61%.

Major trading partners among the new EU Member States were the Czech Republic and Poland with imports and exports amounting to some EUR 32 bn from January to November 2004, and to approximately EUR 24 bn for Hungary within the same period. German foreign trade shows an export surplus with the Czech Republic and Poland, and an import surplus with Hungary.

For many years, Germany's most important trading partner (as regards imports and exports) has been France. From January to November 2004, Germany and France exchanged goods to the value of about EUR 117 bn. Ranking second in the list of important trading partners

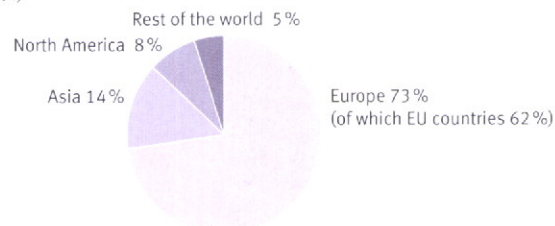
are the United States with imports and exports of about EUR 96 bn, followed by the United Kingdom with imports and exports amounting to some EUR 88 bn in the first eleven months of 2004.

Germany – world champion in exports

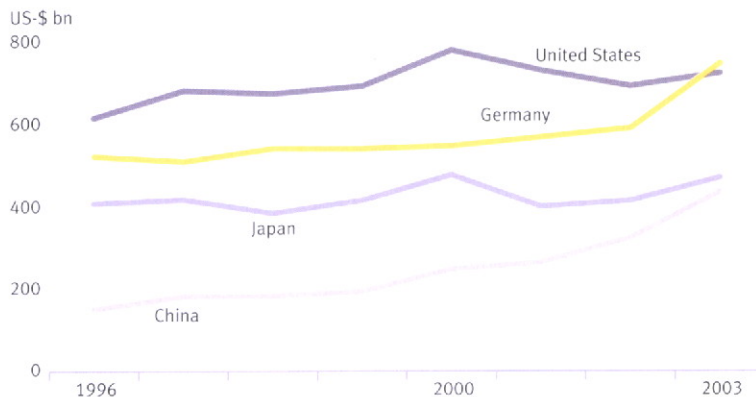
As in 2003, Germany was again the leading exporting country in the world in 2004 as regards the exchange of goods, followed by the United States and Japan. From January to November 2004, Germany exported goods to the value of about US-\$ 830 bn to the rest of the world. During the same period, the United States exported goods worth some US-\$ 740 bn, Japan as the third-ranking exporting country accounted for goods to the value of about US-\$ 510 bn.

Share of foreign trade (imports and exports)

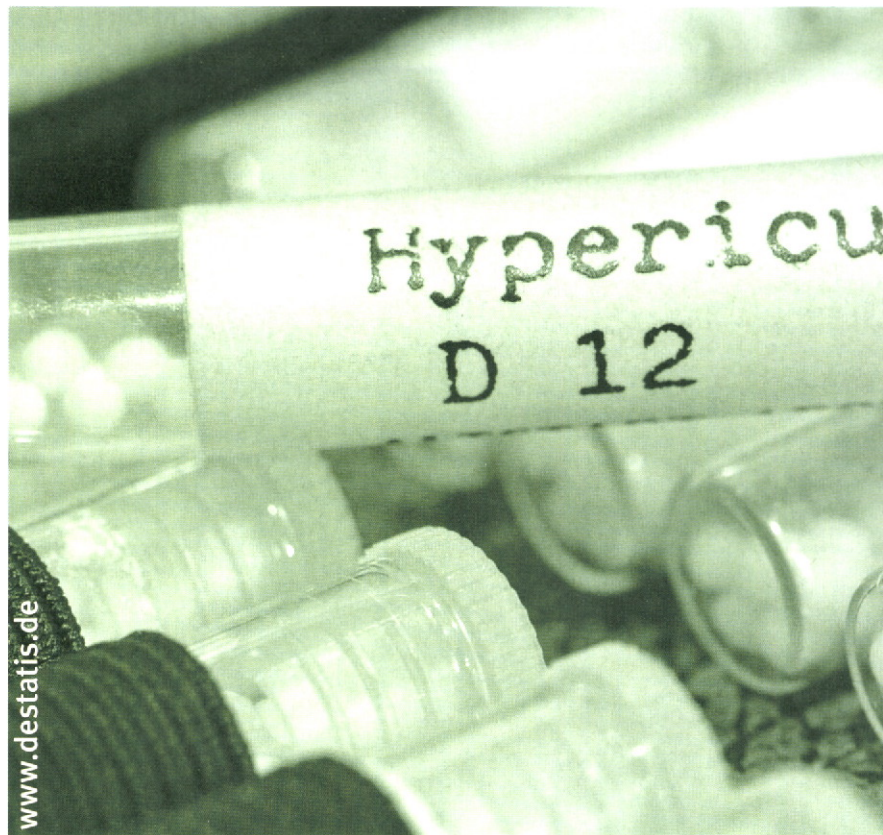
(January – November 2004)



Exports of selected countries



Source: United Nations, international statistics.



Increase in consumer prices slightly higher

On annual average, consumer prices in Germany rose by 1.6% in 2004. The rate of price increase was slightly higher than in the previous two years (1.1% in 2003 and 1.4% in 2002). The main reasons for the higher rate of price increase were not only higher mineral oil prices but also the health reform of 1st January 2004 and further tobacco tax increases in March and December 2004. Higher co-payments for medicaments and the quarterly consultation charge led to an above-average price increase for pharmaceutical products and health services. Not considering the health reform, the rate of price increase in 2004 would have been only approximately 0.9%.

The tobacco tax increases in March and December 2004 resulted in a price increase for tobacco products of 11.3% on the previous year. For energy, too, households had to spend more last year: electricity (+4.0%) and domestic fuel (+11.4%) were considerably more expensive. For cars, a tankful cost an average 4.4% more than a year earlier; diesel fuel prices increased most strongly (+6.1%).

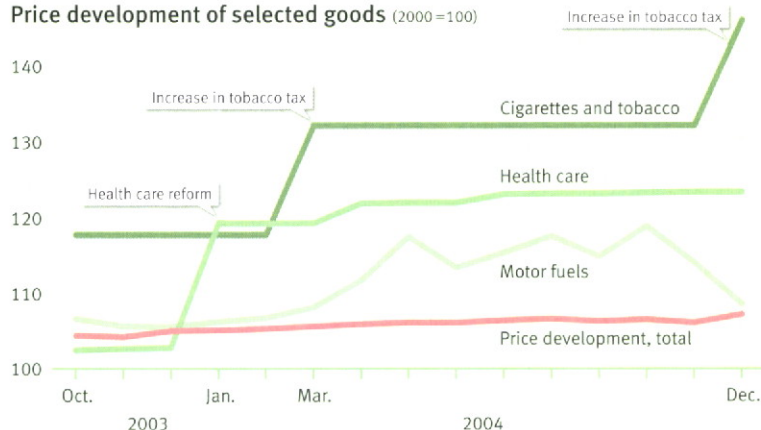
However, food prices, for example, were slightly down (-0.3%). As in previous years, prices of technical goods such as information processing equipment (-13.8%) and household appliances (-1.4%) decreased even more significantly.

Rate of price increase in Europe

In 2004, the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) in Germany increased by 1.8%. In a Europe-wide comparison (EU-25), Germany was among the 10 countries with the lowest rates of inflation. It lost its leading position that it held in 2003 with a harmonised price increase rate of 1.0% to Finland and the new EU Member State of Lithuania. According to Eurostat estimates, these two countries had the lowest rates of inflation in Europe in 2004 (0.2% and 0.8% respectively).

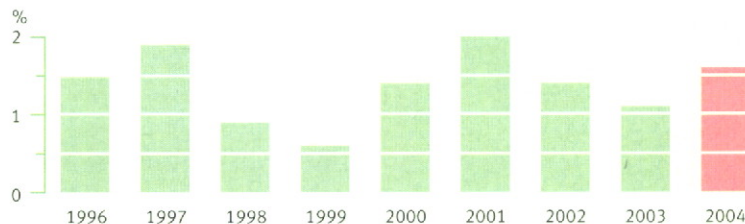
In 2004, the year-on-year rates of price increase in the EU-25 and in the Eurozone are expected to be 2.0% and 2.1%, respectively, according to Eurostat estimates, thus remaining unchanged compared to 2003.

Price development of selected goods (2000=100)



Inflation rate in Germany

(Consumer price index for Germany; average change compared with the preceding year)





Approximately 9% foreign nationals

At the beginning of 2004, some 82.5 million people lived in Germany. According to current population statistics, just under 9% of them (7.3 million) were foreign nationals. About one quarter of the foreign nationals living in Germany had a Turkish passport. Another quarter came from one of the other EU-15 Member States, the largest proportions coming from Italy (600 000) and Greece (355 000).

For years, the number of persons moving to Germany per year has been larger than the number of people leaving Germany. In 2003, a total of about 770 000 people came to Germany, while some 630 000 persons moved abroad. Among those moving to Germany, over 600 000 were foreign nationals; among the persons leaving Germany, those with foreign citizenship amounted to just under 500 000. Some 70% of foreign immigrants (420 000) came from a European country, 17% (100 000) had the citizenship of an EU-15 country.

Every year since 1972, the number of births in Germany has been smaller than the number of deaths: In 2003, the deficit of births in Germany was 147 000 because about 707 000 children were born and some 854 000 persons died.

Ever fewer marriages

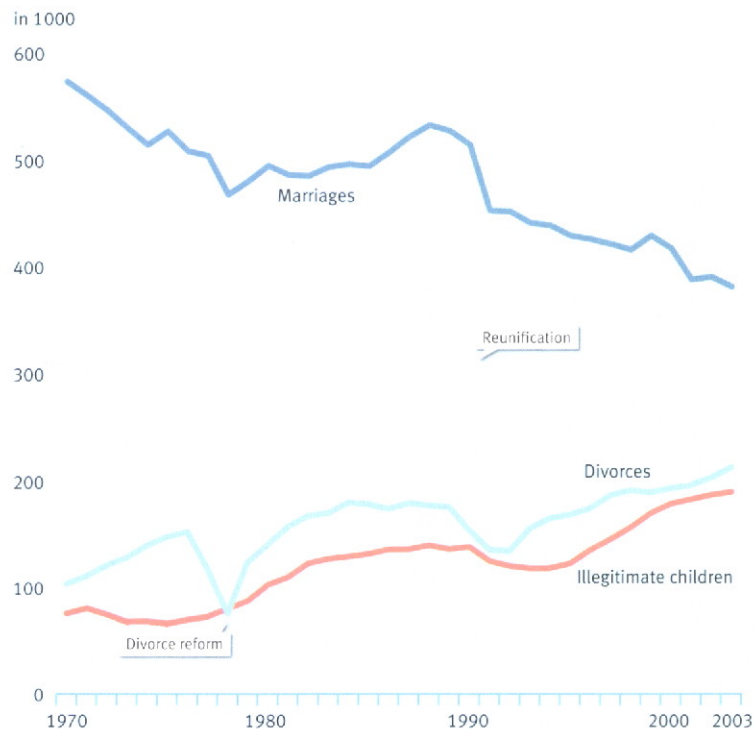
In 2003, there were 383 000 marriages in Germany – less than ever before. At the end of the 1980s, over 500 000 marriages were registered per year; since then, this number has almost continuously decreased.

Among those marrying in 2003 were 11 000 couples where both partners were of foreign nationality. 25 000 German women married a man of foreign nationality; the largest share of them (5 600) chose a Turkish partner. 5 800 women married an EU-15 citizen, 1 300 women married a man from one of the 10 accession countries.

Among the German men who married, 35 000 chose to marry a woman of foreign nationality: The largest share of them (5 400) married a Polish woman, 4 400 men married a woman from another EU-15 country, 2 400 from one of the remaining 9 accession countries.

Men and women in Germany marry at an ever older age. 30 years ago, men were on average 25.0 years old and women 22.6 years old at the time of marriage. In 2003, the average age of men at the time of marriage was 32.0, whilst the average age of women was 29.0 years.

Marriages, divorces and births of illegitimate children





Children start school at an earlier age

In Germany, school education is compulsory for children who have turned six by the 30th June. At the beginning of the school year 2004/2005, about 838 000 children started school in Germany – 12 % less than only ten years ago.

As children of pre-school age have a relatively high capacity to learn, an increased number of younger children can now start school if their parents so wish. Accordingly the proportion of six-year-olds attending primary school has risen since 1994 from approximately 44 % to about 53 % in 2003.

Slight decline in the number of students

According to preliminary results, about 1.97 million students were enrolled at German institutions of higher education in the winter semester 2004/2005, i.e. 54 000 (-3%) students less than in the preceding year. In 2003/2004, the number of students had for the first time exceeded 2 million. Close to 48 % of the students of the winter semester 2004/2005 were female.

Compared to the preceding year, the number of students in their first semester in Germany fell by 6 % to 356 000 in the academic year 2004.

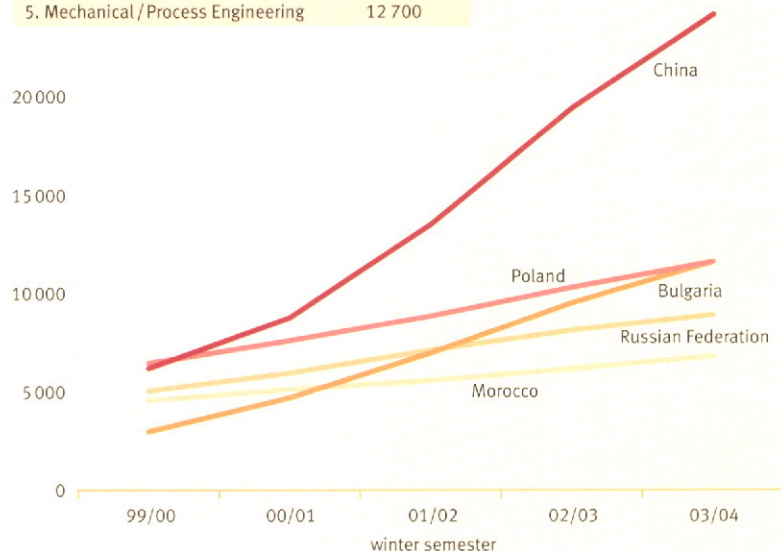
Growing interest in Germany as an university location

The number of students from abroad deciding in favour of studies at German institutions of higher education has risen by 66% in the past five years to about 180 000 students. This means that in the winter semester 2003/2004 every eleventh student in Germany was of foreign nationality.

The main countries of origin of foreign national students, who are often classed as “high potentials”, were China (24 100), Poland and Bulgaria with about 11 600 students each, followed by the Russian Federation with 8 900 and Morocco with 6 800 students. Most of the foreign students (65 100) had come from European countries which were non-EU states at the beginning of 2004 (especially Eastern Europe), followed by Asia (55 400) and the EU-15 countries (28 800). All in all, compared to the situation five years ago more than twice as many people from European non-EU Member States studied in Germany, while the number of students from EU countries remained almost constant.

Foreign students by main countries of origin and subjects

	winter semester 2003/2004
1. Economics	27 800
2. German Studies	16 600
3. Computer Science	14 900
4. Electrical Engineering	13 300
5. Mechanical / Process Engineering	12 700





More persons in employment

In 2004, the number of persons in employment in Germany rose slightly – for the first time since 2001 – by 0.3% to an average 38.4 million. While employment decreased in the traditional sectors, such as industry including energy (-1.6%), construction (-2.6%), agriculture and forestry (-1.0%), increased employment in the service sectors (+1.2%) offset the jobs lost in other sectors. The new instruments of labour market policy (so-called “Ich-AGs”, mini jobs) were particularly effective in the service sectors.

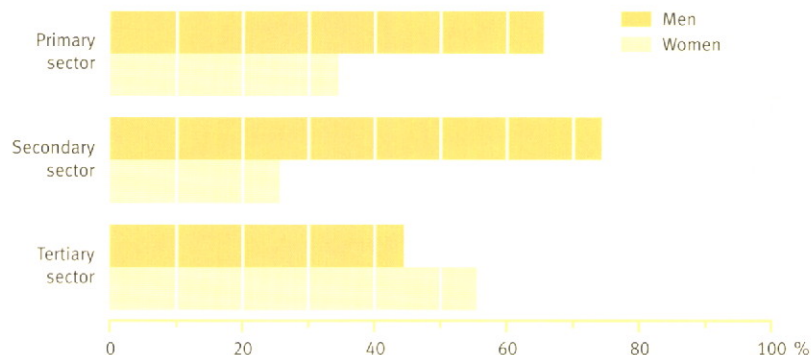
Women profited more than men from the increased employment in the service sectors. Accordingly women's share of all persons in employment rose to 47.1% (+ 0.4 percentage points compared to the previous year). Of 100 women employed in Germany in 2004, 84 worked in service occupations, 14 in industry and 2 in agriculture and forestry.

Slight increase in gross earnings

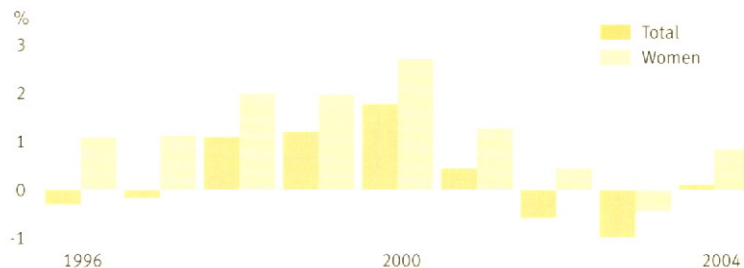
In industry, distributive trade and financial intermediation, full-time salaried employees earned an average of EUR 3 385 per month in Germany in July 2004, i.e. 2.2% more than in the year before.

Female salaried employees earned EUR 2 674 on average, i.e. EUR 1 098 less than their male counterparts, whose average gross monthly earnings amounted to EUR 3 772. This means that the earnings differential between men and women in these economic sectors amounted to about 29% in 2004, while in 1996, on average, women had still earned one third less (32%) than men. The differences between the earnings of men and women in Germany are often due to structural factors such as size of the enterprise, line of business, length of service, qualification, hours worked and the recruitment to managerial functions.

Male and female employment, 2004



Growth rates of employment





More self-employed

The number of self-employed including family workers in Germany rose by 3.3% in 2004 on the preceding year. This means an average of 4.3 million persons were self-employed. This increase was promoted by measures of labour market policy such as transitional allowances and assistance provided by the state for establishing so-called "Ich-AGs": Since January 2003, recipients of unemployment benefit and assistance as well as persons participating in job creation and structural adjustment measures have received grants from the employment agencies to set up new businesses on a self-employed basis.

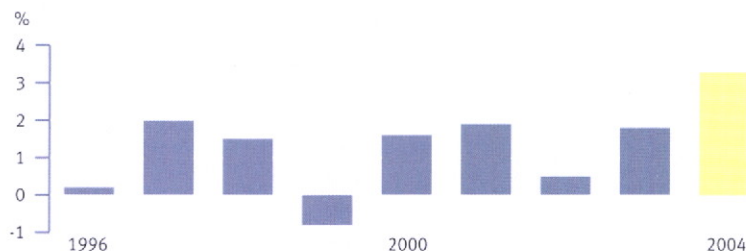
The number of women venturing into self-employment is on the rise. Compared with the previous year, the number of female self-employed including family workers increased by 3.0% in 2004. However, only just under one third of the 4.3 million self-employed were women; the rate of female self-employed persons among women in employment (7.9%) was also significantly lower than that of men (14.1%) in 2004.

Low self-employment rate compared with other European countries

Compared with Europe, the proportion of self-employed persons in relation to total employment – the self-employment rate – was below the EU-15 average in Germany. In 2003, it amounted to 10.9% of all persons in employment, while the share of self-employed in the EU-15 countries was an average 14.9%. A particularly high number of self-employed persons worked in Greece (42.3%), Portugal (26.9%) and Italy (25.0%). The lowest rates in the EU-15 were recorded by Sweden (4.7%), Luxembourg (6.8%) and Denmark (7.1%).

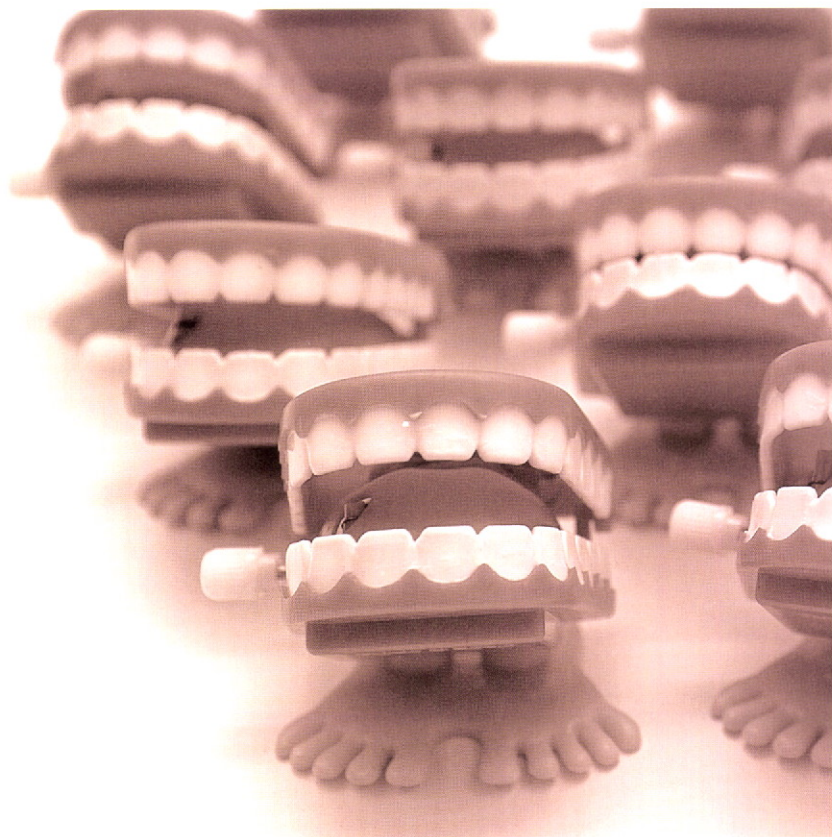
The self-employment rate was higher for men than for women in all EU-25 countries except Luxembourg in 2003. The gender difference was largest in Ireland (male self-employment rate 24.6%, female self-employment rate 7.5%). In Luxembourg, the self-employment rate among men (6.5%) was somewhat below that of women (7.2%).

Rate of change in the number of self-employed persons (including family workers)



Proportion of women by economic sector, 2004

	Proportion of women in employment	Proportion of self-employed women
Other service activities	40.2 %	34.2 %
Trade and transport	26.9 %	30.7 %
Financial, real-estate, renting and business activities	16.6 %	16.4 %
Industry, including energy	12.7 %	5.3 %
Construction	1.9 %	2.8 %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1.7 %	10.6 %
Total	100 %	100 %



Almost half the adult population is overweight

In Germany, nearly half (49%) of all adult citizens were overweight in 2003, with the share of overweight persons being larger among men (58%) than among women (41%). According to the definition of the World Health Organisation, adults are overweight if their body mass index (weight in kg divided by height in m²) is 25 or more; if it is over 30, they are heavily overweight. In 2003, 14% of German men and 12% of German women were heavily overweight.

Overweight is widespread even among young adults and with age reaches virtually epidemic dimensions. Among those aged 20 to under 25, every fourth man (25%) and every sixth woman (16%) were overweight. Among men aged 65 to under 70 and among women aged 70 to under 75, three quarters of all men (74%) and just under two thirds of women (62%) were overweight.

Overweight is one of the causes of circulatory diseases. Since 1994, the most frequent diagnosis for hospital patients in Germany has been circulatory disease. During this time period an average of more than 2.6 million patients per year had to undergo in-patient treatment due to circulatory diseases.

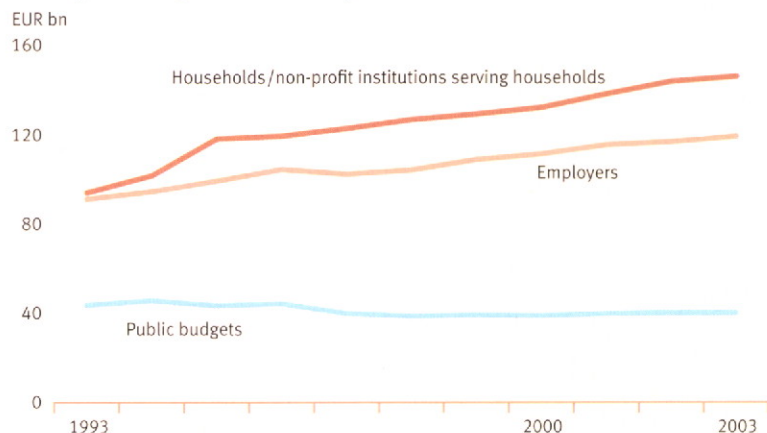
Health sector expanding

In the past few years, more and more people have obtained a job in the health sector: At the beginning of 2004, approximately every ninth person in employment worked in the health sector. At that time, the number of persons working in the health sector was about 25 000 higher than a year earlier. Since 1998, the number of persons employed in the health sector has increased by 2.6% to 4.2 million persons in 2003.

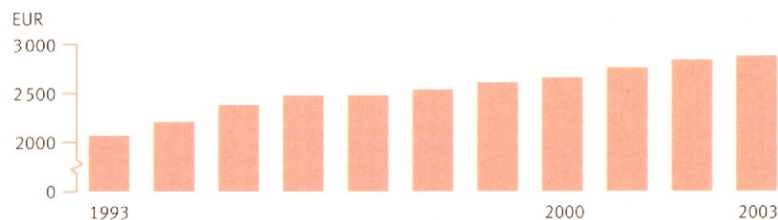
Households financing largest part of the health system

Over the last few years, funding of the health system in Germany has shifted to the benefit of public budgets and to the disadvantage of households and non-profit institutions serving households: In 1992, public budgets spent some EUR 45 bn per year on funding the health system, whereas in 2002 the amount was down to just above EUR 40 bn. Over the same period, relevant expenditure made by employers was up from EUR 89 bn to EUR 117 bn, while households and non-profit institutions spent EUR 144 bn on financing the health system in 2002, which was nearly EUR 56 bn more than ten years earlier.

Primary financing of the health system



Health expenditure per inhabitant



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