



Germany

Federal Republic of Germany

Europe

Geography

Area 357,042 sq km. Strategically placed in the centre of Europe and of the expanding EU.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	82,056,775	-0.09%
2020	80,422,308	-0.23%
2030	77,854,102	-0.36%

Large influx of ethnic German and other immigrants from Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 1989/1991 and thereafter no longer offsets general population decline.

Capital Berlin 3,449,540. **Other major cities** Rhein-Ruhr 6.7 million; Stuttgart 2.7mill; Hamburg 1.8m; München (Munich) 1.3m; Bielefeld 1.3m; Hannover 1.3m; Nurnberg 1.2m; Aachen 1.0m; Koln 1.0m. **Urbanites** 73.8%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 14%. **Life expectancy** 79.8 yrs.

Peoples

Germanic 88.3%. There are a number of regional dialects of German (complete with different regional identities), but these do not constitute fundamental or distinct ethnicities.

Other European 5.9%. Slavic(12) 2.6%; Italian 1.0%; Greek 0.7%; many European minorities.

All Other 5.8%. Turk 3.0%; Gypsy/Romani(5) 0.6%; more than 30 others.

Recent studies indicate that up to 19% of those residing in Germany have a "migration background" – whether from German communities elsewhere or from other ethnicities altogether. 33% of children under age five are from this migration background.

Literacy almost 100%. **Official language** German. There are over 95 million German-speakers worldwide. **All languages** 69. **Indigenous languages** 27. **Languages with Scriptures** 8Bi 4NT 13por 1w.i.p.

Economy

Dramatic post-WWII recovery to become one of the world's strongest economies. One of the world's largest industrial producers, with a massive trade surplus built on the back of a solid export base. In the 1990s, incorporating the crippled East German structure led to high social security costs, while rigid labour laws hampered progress as did low-cost production in neighbouring and competing Central European economies. Economic and social reforms introduced post-2004 have the efficient economic machine running once again. Unemployment remains a concern (3 million), especially in the east, but Germany remains Europe's strongest economy.

HDI Rank 22nd/182. **Public debt** 66% of GDP. **Income/person** \$44,729 (94% of USA).

Politics

The collapse of Hitler's Reich in 1945 was followed by 40 years of partition between the democratic and market-economy Federal Republic (FRG) and the Socialist "Democratic" Republic (GDR). The collapse of Communism at the end of the 1980s led to a rapid reunification of the two states in 1990, in reality a takeover by the FRG, which proved socially and economically painful to all. Germany is a very stable and strong democracy, is a core member of the EU and plays a central role in European affairs. Only now, as the post-war generation takes over leadership, is Germany asserting itself once again in an active international role.

Religion

Religious freedom guaranteed in the constitution. The Catholic and Lutheran Churches are established churches but not formally state churches as such. They collaborate with the government in religious education, media and such and benefit from state-levied taxation on their behalf. The high Christian numbers below are often those only nominally affiliated and who have not opted out of this taxation system. There is increased awareness of other religious options but also increasing suspicion of much of organized religion. Post-9/11, there is a great public interest in the Christian way as an alternative and counterbalance to Islam. Evangelicals are much more prominent than ever before in media and politics.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	64.25	52,721,478	-0.9%
Non-religious	30.51	25,035,522	1.4%
Muslim	4.40	3,610,498	1.8%
Buddhist	0.27	221,553	4.1%
Jewish	0.25	205,142	-0.1%
Other	0.18	147,702	2.3%

Hindu	0.09	73,851	5.1%
Sikh	0.03	24,617	-0.1%
Baha'i	0.02	16,411	-0.1%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	153	31.55	25,891,000	-0.3%
Independent	70	0.80	654,000	0.3%
Anglican	1	0.04	29,000	0.0%
Catholic	1	30.63	25,130,000	-0.9%
Orthodox	19	1.87	1,537,000	2.1%
Marginal	42	0.50	407,000	-0.5%
Unaffiliated		0.03	25,000	-53.5%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-1.17	-960,000	0.0%

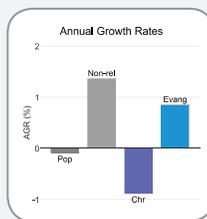
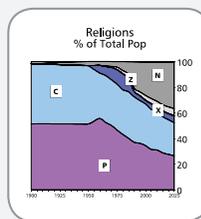
Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	15,450	19,632,813	25,130,000
Prot Ch in G	P	16,250	19,312,500	24,720,000
Greek Orthodox Ch	O	62	341,259	488,000
New Apostolic Church	I	2,449	244,898	360,000
Romanian Orthodox	O	120	80,000	320,000
Free Baptist Chs (FSU)	P	310	155,000	310,000
Serbian Orthodox Ch	O	65	142,500	285,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	2,225	160,588	273,000
Russ Orth, D Moscow	O	43	122,378	175,000
Fell, Ev Free (Bapt/Bre)	P	855	107,000	128,000
Bulgarian Church	O	15	44,118	75,000
Assoc of Free Pente Chs	P	750	45,000	70,500
Syrian Orthodox Ch	O	12	24,800	62,000
Methodist Church	P	585	34,731	58,000
Evangelical Free Ch	P	400	35,000	56,000
Christian Brethren	P	272	31,928	53,000

Gypsy Evang Movement	I	188	23,500	47,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	585	36,000	40,000
Latter-day Saints(Mormon)	M	180	17,568	39,000
Armenian Apos Ch	O	6	17,500	35,000
Indep Lutheran Ch	I	280	24,476	35,000
Other denominations[259]		4,180	512,284	888,719
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				-960,000
Total Christians[286]		45,282	41,145,841	52,688,219

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	2.1	1,740,880	0.9%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	1.1	864,848	2.0%
Pentecostals	0.3	244,279	3.0%

Missionaries from Germany

P,I,A 3,719 (3,144 long-term) from over 165 agencies: in Germany 463, Brazil 248, Kenya 153, Russia 114, Tanzania 110.



Answers to Prayer

- 1 Expressions of grassroots spirituality are springing up** around the country. House churches, youth movements, multicultural congregations, increasing Christian publications and Bible versions in German, new streams of worship and the like demonstrate there is vibrant spiritual life beyond declining organized religion. This in itself is appealing to unbelievers put off by traditional religious structures but with spiritual questions.
- 2 The decline of Christianity has drawn believers together.** Prayer movements are forming and spreading as are city- and region-wide unity initiatives among churches, a revitalized spirituality and an openness to a new way of “doing faith”.
- 3 Evangelism, outreach and mission are being rediscovered** in Germany. From the dynamic, media-driven outreach of *ProChrist/JesusHouse* all the way to increasing missional values in the mainline churches, there is a growing confidence in the gospel in many circles that is being expressed in outward demonstrations of faith.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 Germany's wealth, influence and strategic location** in the EU and Europe could be of inestimable value for the Kingdom of God. For this, a strong, courageous leadership based on Christian values is needed – a fact recognized by many in the nation. Sadly, the past decade witnessed significant erosion of the ethical platform on which such leaders need to stand. Pray for God to raise up leaders who will hold fast to righteousness and strong moral values despite opposition and temptation to compromise.

2 **The 1989 unification of the country remains a burden**, although now more spiritually and psychologically than economically. The eastern part of the country remains a poor sibling, characterized by high unemployment, economic malaise, continued emigration, social and spiritual emptiness and growing racism directed toward immigrant minorities moving in. This is due to the historic lack of knowledge of the good news and despite the government's very costly regeneration efforts. Pray for new life – economic, social and spiritual – to come to this depressed region.

3 **The nation's spiritual health is failing.** Humanism and destructive criticism of the Bible in the 19th Century enfeebled churches and opened the way to compromise and to pagan Nazi tyranny in the 20th. Post-war dynamics accelerated the secularization and de-Christianization of society. Symptoms of this sickness are:

- a) **The marginalization of Christianity.** The Church is widely perceived as irrelevant, and open hostility to anything Christian is increasing.
- b) **The rise of false religious teachings.** New Age, the occult, Satanism and other religions, including new expressions of pre-Christian paganism, are increasing.
- c) **Mental illnesses** are occurring in record numbers, including clinical depression. Suicide is the second-largest killer of 15–29 year olds. Gruesome crimes and killings are also on the rise as many lack a moral foundation to their worldview.

4 **The exodus from organized Christianity** continues into the 21st Century, yet at a slower rate than in the 1990s. West Germany was 97% Christian in 1960, but Germany is now 63% Christian, a percentage that declines with each passing year. In northeastern Germany, possibly only 0.5% are evangelicals. Church attendance is down across the board, falling to near 11% for Catholics, 4% for Lutherans. Thousands are formally disaffiliating in order to avoid the church tax of 8–9% of their income tax, and many churches are closing. Churches seem paralyzed, having lost much of their identity, purpose and income. Germany needs another reformation as deep and lasting as the one sparked by Luther nearly 500 years ago. Some would argue that a more radical revolution, fuelled by altogether new structures, such as house churches, is needed.

5 **The EKD is a federation** of 23 Lutheran, Reformed and United Protestant regional/national churches, but it suffers deep divisions on many levels. The more evangelical/conservative groups and congregations are concentrated in Württemberg, Siegerland and south Saxony. Steadily declining attendance – and therefore income – translates into not only low morale for congregations, but also increasingly empty and crumbling physical structures. Many of the Lutheran clergy do not even believe in life after death; it is often difficult for born-again ministers in the EKD to openly minister in their own churches! Since 2001, the need for evangelization is recognized, and new church-development concepts enjoy popularity; without a return to genuine faith in the Bible, however, new concepts and programmes will never replace the need for renewal.

6 **The Free Churches have a higher proportion of evangelicals**, but they constitute only 1% of Germany's population. Many denominations are stagnant or in decline, but others are growing, including charismatic fellowships. Many of these churches are effectively marginalized in the wider society and have minimal genuine impact outside of their traditional constituencies. Pray for vision that will enable these more conservative groups to break forth into dynamic new expressions of faith that both rejuvenate the faithful and draw in those open to Jesus.

7 **German evangelicals** are holding their own as the broader decline in the mainline churches is offset by the growth of some evangelical groups. Over 1,000 churches have been planted in the last 15 years, but this is clearly not enough. Notable trends include:

- a) **The EKD continues to decline**, with an overall loss of numbers, although evangelicals are beginning to return. Despite this, the Pietist movement continues to be an influential force within the EKD (especially in Württemberg in the south and in rural areas), numbering hundreds of thousands.
- b) **The Evangelical Alliance is a vital network** for over 1.2 million evangelicals in all denominations and hundreds of missions. It exists as a focal point for prayer, theological reflection, cooperative projects, social action, evangelism and mission.
- c) **The influx of ethnic Germans** from Central Asia and Eastern Europe over the last 30 years has led to a large increase of Mennonite and Baptist congregations catering for their spiritual

health. There are over 4,000 such congregations with more than 350,000 associated with them. Though increasingly missions-minded, they are often culturally isolated from the mainstream of evangelicals.

d) **The increasing number of immigrant churches** is also a point of encouragement. While many German churches decline, congregations are springing up among African, Asian and Latino populations. Pray that their dynamism and spiritual fervour might have an impact beyond their own languages and ethnic groups.

8 Unity is a great challenge facing believers. Besides the Protestant-Catholic and liberal-conservative divides, there is also long-standing suspicion between conservative evangelical and Pentecostal/charismatic groups. The increasing marginalization of Christians has helped weaken denominational boundaries. But both sides cooperating on the international level – such as in the Lausanne Movement and the **WEA** – has influenced Germany, and nationwide evangelistic campaigns such as ProChrist/JesusHouse have brought them together in action. Pray for genuine unity within diversity rather than insistence on uniformity, and pray that recent progress in cooperation may continue and expand.

9 Theological education was a major cause of decline in the national Protestant Church, because the unchallenged monopoly of state-endorsed academic training and the continued influence of higher criticism undermined confidence in God's Word. For decades, liberal, neo-orthodox and other non-biblical theologians monopolized the degree-granting universities for the EKD, and evangelicals were marginalized. This is now changing as several strong evangelicals hold positions at prominent state faculties. Pray for more professors who openly proclaim the Truth in these institutions, and pray for greater numbers of evangelical students in what used to be spiritual morgues. Pray also for the many other Bible colleges, seminaries and training institutions that retain a closer adherence to biblical truth; pray that effective and practical ministry training might occur. Changes in European education policies now mean that evangelical institutions can get academic accreditation from the government; several have already done so.

10 Missionary vision has never been outstanding, although German evangelicals have proportionately been solid missionary senders. The total number of Protestant missionaries has grown considerably in the last 30 years; this is due to the growth of evangelical missions – which today makes up more than 90% of the total Protestant mission force – while ecumenical missions reduced their sending of personnel. Pray for a further increase in mission-sending vision. Pray also for the Association of Evangelical Missions (AEM), with more than 90 members, representing 3,700 missionaries – a catalytic and vital stimulant for training, promoting and sending missionaries. In 1998, the Association of Pentecostal and Charismatic Missions was formed; today it has 43 agencies and 400 missionaries. Both of these groups have grown significantly in recent years. Several unique missions are the **DMG** (German Missionary Fellowship) with 338 missionaries serving with 102 international missions and the *Vereinigte Deutsche Missionshilfe* (**VDM**) with 210 missionaries, but with no foreign fields of their own. Other significant German missions include *Liebenzeller Mission*, *Christoffel-Blindenmission*, **OM**, *Wiedenest*, *Allianz-Mission*, *Christliche Fachkräfte Int*, **WBT**, *Diguna*, **WEC**, *Logos*, *Kontaktmission*.

11 Ministry to young people is vital for a fading Church. The large majority of active Christians are over age 50, and only about 2% of the nation's youth call upon Jesus as their Saviour. There is a new openness to Jesus as the spiritual immunization of quasi-Christianity fades. Pray for the following ministries:

a) **Large-scale outreach events and programmes** – such as *Christival*, *JesusHouse*, *TeenStreet* and others – give a sense of excitement and belonging to many young people, while imparting good teaching and exhortation. Hundreds of thousands in Germany and beyond are impacted.

b) **Campus ministries.** **SMD(IFES)** has about 70 groups in universities and 800 groups in secondary schools. **CCCI/Agape** with 120 staff is involved in a host of ministry activities. Navigators also ministers through university witness. These ministries reaching students are more crucial than ever.

c) **Wort und Wissen** is a significant ministry that prepares students for university life by giving them a good Christian foundation.

d) **CEF(KEB)** has 45 staff workers committed to children's ministry. They have about 200 Good News Clubs, and they run an effective telephone ministry for children in many cities. They also offer a well-accepted correspondence course and a unique website for children. Scripture Union (BLB) also reaches out to children.

12 Much of the German population is effectively unreached. Five centuries after the Reformation finds the land of Luther a spiritual wasteland in many parts. German churches as well as increasing numbers of mission agencies attempt to spread the light and plant new churches in the areas of greatest need:

a) **Those in the east** must first overcome three generations of imposed atheism before the Church can flourish. About 80% are effectively unevangelized, and 65% are agnostic or atheist. Eastern Germany remains, for the most part, both economically and spiritually unregenerated. But there is a solid, core group of believers standing firm for Christ.

b) **Whole areas of western Germany**, while superficially Christianized over a thousand years ago, have never really been evangelized. Despite the influence of the Reformation and the Pietist revival movement, many are almost devoid of a live evangelical witness – the northern plains, Bavaria and the Eifel area are examples.

c) **Many cities have become extremely secular** and spiritually needy. Pray especially for Berlin, where 65% have no link with a church and only 3% regularly attend. Together for Berlin is a network promoting unity and cooperation among churches.

d) **The churchless towns of Germany.** A significant proportion of Germany's towns (of more than 5,000 population) do not have an evangelical church. Many new congregations have been planted by independent groups and the Free Church denominations; pray for these small congregations to have a growing impact.

13 Foreigners. The rising tide of immigrants, guest workers, international students and refugees since 1989 has been a challenge to German government and society. In many inner cities, migrants are the majority population. Many are illegally in the country and connected to sophisticated criminal networks. While some are vibrant Christians, most have never heard the gospel. A violent and bitter reaction against this inflow, especially in the east, causes many foreigners to resent their mishandling. Pray also for:

a) **The exciting increase of diaspora churches.** Among many foreign peoples – Asian, African, Latin American and European – there is great openness and rapid church growth. Pray for this window of opportunity to be seized, and for immigrant churches to, in turn, reach out cross-culturally to their hosts and neighbours.

b) **The AMIN (Arbeitskreis für Migration und Integration)** is a fellowship of mission groups seeking to evangelize through a wide variety of ethnic ministries. A number of local congregations also seek to reach these groups.

c) **Greater involvement in outreach to immigrants** by German Christians. Some congregations are notable exceptions to this, but in the main, most mission outreach is by foreign missionaries in Germany. The Church's response to this opportunity and challenge could determine the future health and size of Christianity in Germany.

d) **International students in Germany**, numbering nearly 250,000, comprise the world's fourth-largest total, after the USA and UK. SMD, YMCA, campus ministry groups and increasing numbers of local congregations are focusing on this strategic ministry. "Der Weg" is an easy-language, German Christian broadsheet that is effective among students learning German and among the millions of German-language students in Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

e) **Muslim** numbers have grown – mostly through immigration and latterly through high birth rates – to 3.6 million from over 40 nations. Many of them live in ethnic ghettos with only minimal integration into German society. An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 Muslims come to faith in Christ annually, but 1,000 or more ethnic Germans convert to Islam every year. There are over 2,200 mosques or prayer houses, and Islamic organizations are intensifying their activities.

f) **Least-reached peoples for prayer:**

i) **Turks**, together with Kurds, number 2.5 million. More than a dozen agencies seek to reach them (including *Orientdienst*, **WEC**, **OM**, **WV**). The number of Turkish believers is rising, but so is the level of dedication to Islam among Turks in Germany. Lack of integration,

joblessness, resentment and honour killings are sadly common themes, even among third-generation German Turks. There are many resources, especially on the Internet, in Turkish for believers and seekers.

- ii *Kurds* – as many as 1 million. A group of agencies is seeking to reach them, with increasing response. Scripture, radio programmes and Christian literature in Kurdish are all being developed.
- iii *Iranians* – 100,000, with several Christian groups and localized outreach attempts.
- iv *North African Arabs and Berbers* – 300,000 and with little outreach.
- v *Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims)* – numbering 285,000 with little outreach.
- vi *Jews* suffered severely in the Holocaust – 564,000 in 1925 became 27,000 in 1945. With immigration, their numbers have rapidly increased since the 1990s. They now number up to 200,000, mostly from the FSU, and perhaps 2,000 have come to faith in Messiah Jesus. Jews for Jesus and others minister to them.

14 Christian media for prayer:

- a) **Christian literature and publishing** has grown enormously over the past decades. Many have been blessed, and literature plays a major part in evangelical growth and consolidation. The German language enjoys more theological publications than any language after English. Pray for the impact of more than 150 evangelical magazines.
- b) **Christian radio and TV.** Pray for:
 - i *The German partner of TWR, Evangelium-rundfunk (ERF Medien)*, makes an impressive impact on the German-speaking world, with a daily listenership of 200,000 (and 4 million who listen less frequently) on satellite, cable and medium wave. They also produce programmes in 20 other languages for broadcast in Germany and beyond.
 - ii *The many broadcast hours in German across all radio bands*, catering to different tastes and generations.
 - iii *The increased programming available in other languages.* Pray for many listeners and a good response.
- c) **Christian TV is increasing.** The two key stations are *Bibel-TV* and *ERF Medien*; both run Christian programming 24 hours/day. Additionally MediaVision e.V. and a Coptic Christian channel are just two examples of recent developments, in addition to the annual ProChrist event broadcast over satellite.
- d) **Internet evangelism** has developed greatly in the last few years, with many excellent sites with resources for both believers and seekers (Jesus.de, Gottkenne.com, others). ERF-online also has a website for children.
- e) **ProChrist and its youth version, JesusHouse**, are Christian transdenominational outreaches linked by satellite transmission, held in alternating years, connecting hundreds of sites in Europe. It is based on a main event in one city transmitted live via satellite to 1,000 local broadcast sites in Germany and around Europe, which allows for local mobilization and participation. Pray for great fruitfulness for this high-profile, professional outreach.