

# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Germany Country Profile

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This country profile on Germany is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

*Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015* presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

#### General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE	GERMANY		TRENDS 2005-2015		
<b>Key Facts</b>					
	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 01.09.2015	77.4	Low	Low	88.0	↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	117.1	Low	Low	132.1	↓↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	---	---	---	---	---
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	8.1	Medium	Medium	7.8	↑↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	8.3	Medium	Medium	8.1	↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	84.7	Low	Low	91.7	↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	33.7*	Low	Low	33.9**	↔→**
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	5.9	High	Medium	5.4	↑↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	31.3	High	High	27.7	↑↑
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	31.6	Medium	Medium	31.4	↔→
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	19.9	Medium	Medium	17.7	↔→
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	23.1	Medium	Medium	20.1	↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=60)	9.1	Medium	Medium	8.7	↓↓↓
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=NA) – Available since 2013</i>	---	---	---	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	1.8	Medium	Medium	2.0	↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	73.3*	High	High	73.8	↔→
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	3 023 411 535	NAP	NAP	2 868 115 872***	↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	129.4	High	High	110.9****	↑↑↑↑

\* Data refers to 2014

\*\* Average and percentage change calculated from 2005 to 2014

\*\*\* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

\*\*\*\* Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

### Germany in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-19%), rate of entries into penal institutions (-22%), prison density (-14%), percentage of suicides (-11%), ratio of inmates per staff (-19%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (+51%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+8%), percentage of female inmates (+22%), percentage of foreign inmates (+12%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (+14%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+8%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+37%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: median age of the population (-3%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+1%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (0%), and percentage of custodial staff (-3%).

### Germany in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Germany presents:
  - **Low**: Prison population rate, rate of entries into penal institutions, prison density, median age of the prison population.
  - **Medium**: Average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution, average length of detention based on stock and flow, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, ratio of inmates per staff.
  - **High**: Percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
- When the percentage of female inmates is calculated, the German percentage is high compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but medium compared to the member States of the European Union.

## General comments

Figure 1 (129)

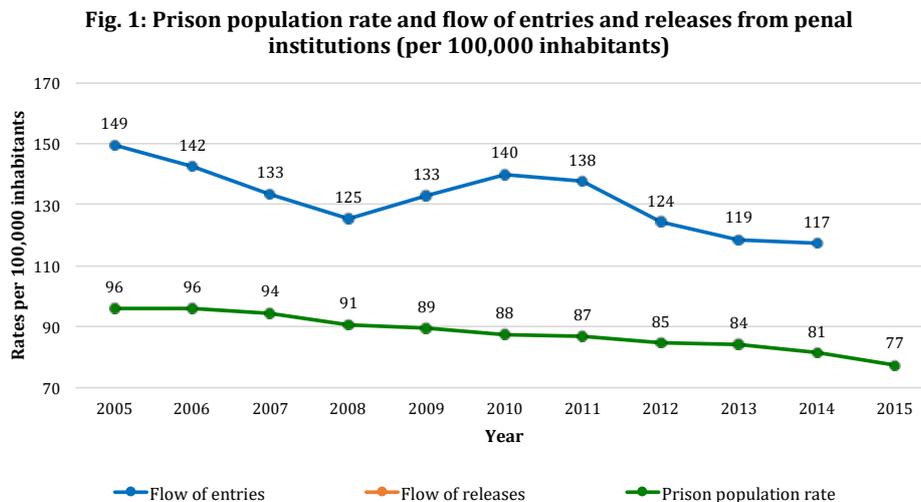


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Germany (stock) decreased by 19%. In 2005, the country had 96 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants while, in 2015, it had 77.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 22%. In 2005, there were 149 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 117.

For the rate of releases (flow of releases) data were not available.

Figure 2 (130)

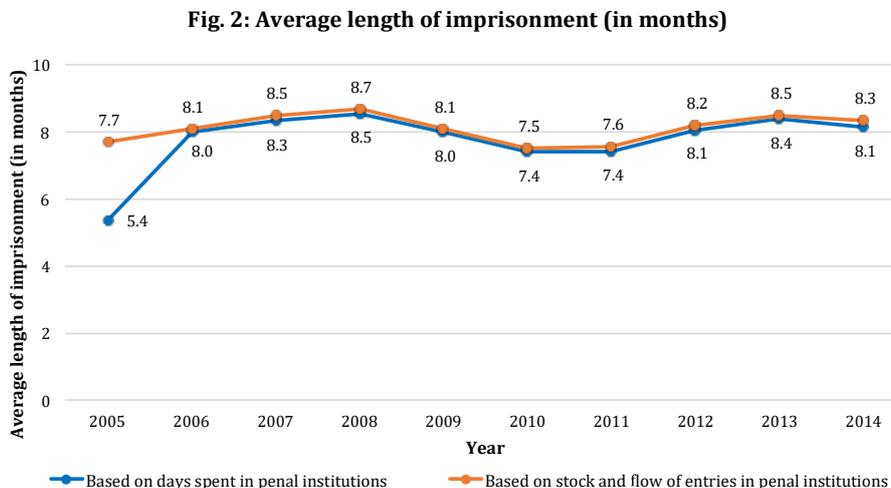


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 51%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 5.4 months, while in 2014 it was 8.1 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow increased by 8%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 7.7 months, while in 2014 it was 8.3 months.

Figure 3 (131)

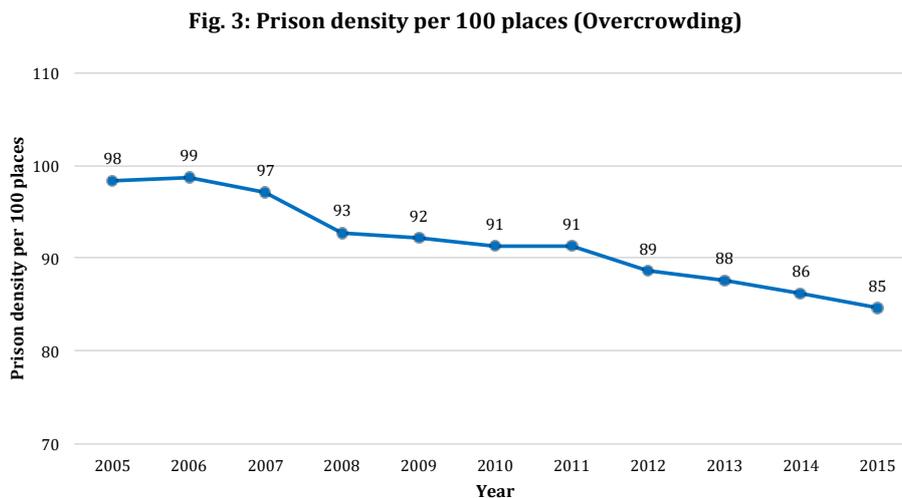


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Germany decreased by 14%. In 2005, the country had 98 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 85.

Figure 4 (132)

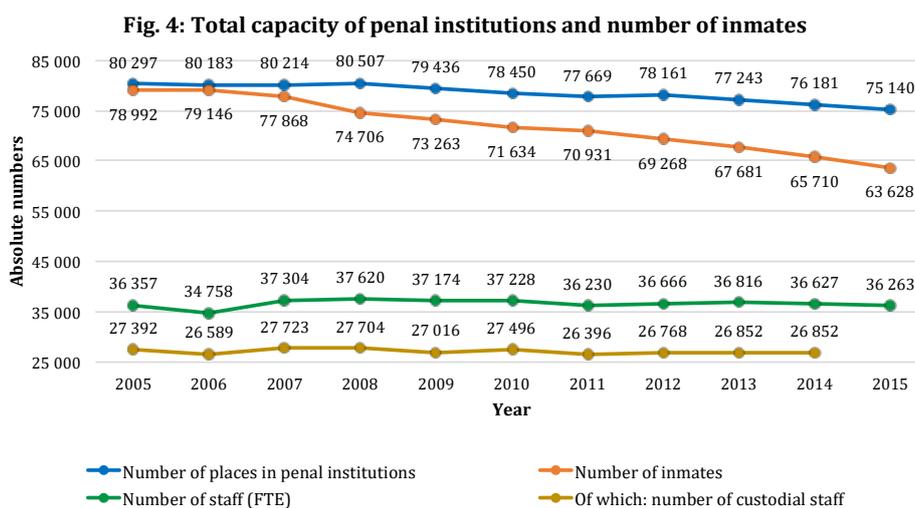


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Germany decreased by 6%. In 2005, the country had 80,297 places, while in 2015 it had 75,140.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 20%. In 2005, the country had 78,992 inmates, while in 2015 it had 63,628.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff remained relatively stable. In 2005, Germany had in total a staff of 36,357 persons, while in 2015 it had 36,263.

From 2005 to 2014, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 2%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 27,392 persons, while in 2014 it was 26,852.

Figure 5 (133)

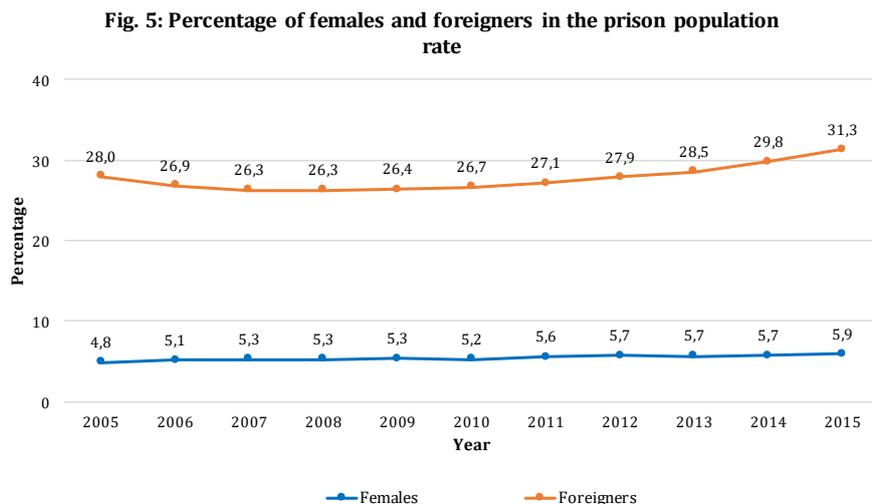


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 22%. In 2005, 4.8% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 5.9% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 12%. In 2005, 28% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 31% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (134)

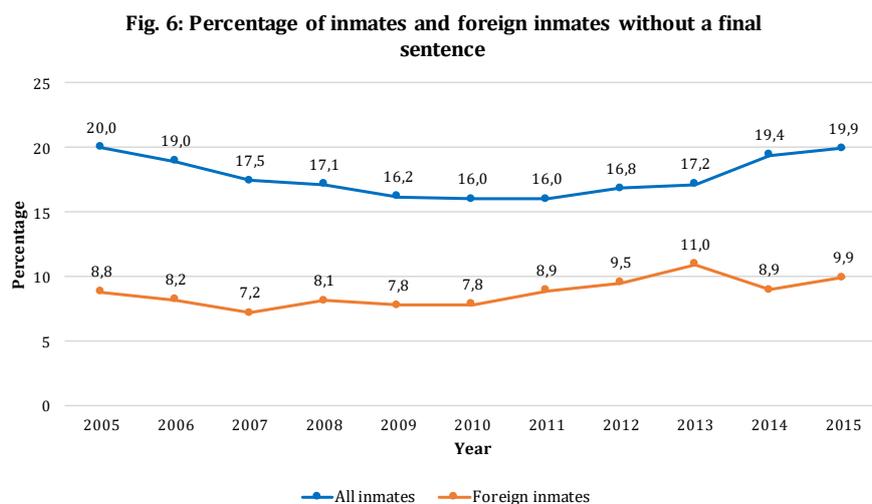


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence remained stable. In 2005 and 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 20% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 13%. In 2005, they represented 8.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 9.9% of them.

Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (135)

Fig. 7: Distribution (in percentage) of sentenced prisoners by offence

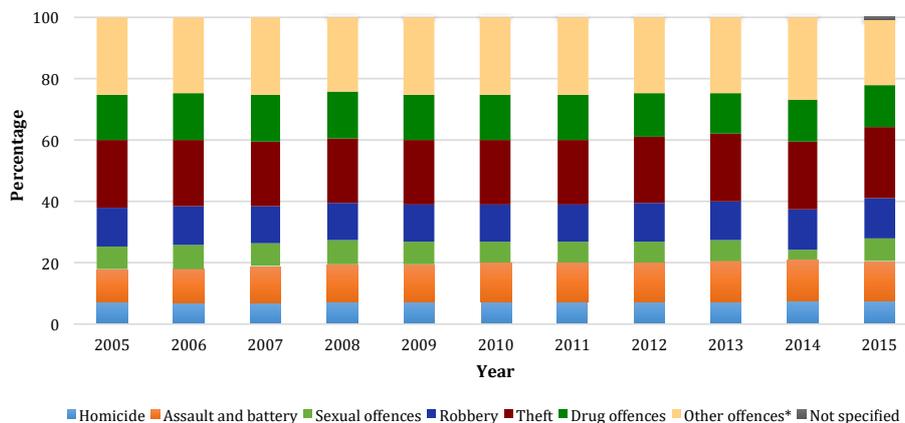


Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for homicide, assault and battery, robbery, and theft have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for sexual offences, drug offences, and other types of offences have decreased.

Figure 8 (136)

Fig. 8: Rate of deaths and suicides (per 10,000 inmates)

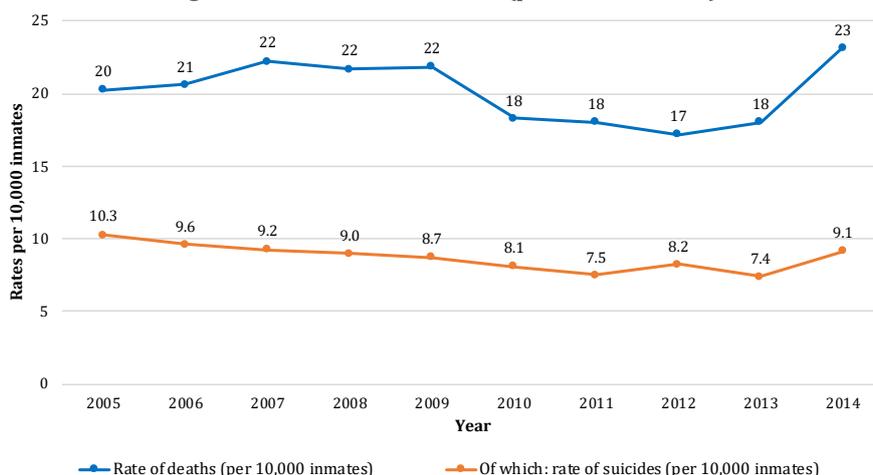


Figure 8 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the rate of deaths of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates increased by 14%. In 2005, there were 20 deaths per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 23.

During the same period, the rate of suicides of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates decreased by 11%. In 2005, there were 10 suicides per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 9.

<sup>1</sup> The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).