BERLIN

The Governing Mayor of Berlin
Senate Chancellery
beBerlin
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Dear Berliners,
Dear guests of our city,

Berlin is experiencing a new period of prosperity today. Our city, which had to overcome a burdensome legacy of war and destruction, east/west separation and the years of upheaval after 1989, is now a modern, successful metropolis of international renown. Berlin is changing quickly, which is a challenge and a great opportunity in one. World famous for its openness, tolerance and cultural diversity, the city is now also defending its position as Germany’s leading region for start-ups year after year and as a science and research site with outstanding development potential.

Since the Fall of the Wall, unemployment in Berlin has never been lower than it is today. Around 340,000 new jobs subject to social insurance contribution have been created in 2008–2017 alone. We as the Senate want to utilise this strong economic activity and financial position for the city’s future. Combining economic success with social responsibility is an important goal in this context. We are investing in science, research and digitalisation, but also in schools, residences, healthcare, the transport infrastructure and the public service.

We want medium and low-income families to benefit from the positive basic conditions as well, to keep the cost of living affordable for all walks of life, and for Berlin to continue providing attractive offerings for young and old.

Berlin has developed extremely well and can be proud of its accomplishments. For me this is cause for joy, an incentive and also a duty to continue writing the city’s success story.

I hope you enjoy reading this brochure!

Michael Müller
Governing Mayor of Berlin
BERLIN – CAPITAL CITY IN THE HEART OF EUROPE
Berlin – capital city in the heart of Europe
With around 3.7 million inhabitants\(^1\), Berlin is not only Germany’s most populous city but also ranks second in the European Union.\(^2\) The city is growing by an average of some 45,000 people each year. In 2011–2016 alone the population increased by around 249,000. This is approximately equal to the size of Kiel, state capital of Schleswig-Holstein.

**Berlin is international**

Berlin attracts people from all over the world. Nearly every fifth female Berliner and every fifth male Berliner holds a foreign citizenship, nearly every third Berliner has a migration background. People from some 190 countries live in Berlin.

The city is attractive for visitors as well. Around 13 million guests came to the metropolis on the Spree in 2017 alone, with about 45 percent of them coming from abroad.\(^3\) Tourism is one of Berlin’s leading industries, with annual sales of EUR 11.5 billion and 235,000 full-time employees. A new tourism concept makes Berlin a pioneer for city-friendly tourism in Europe.

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\(^1\) As of 31 December 2017; number of people with registered principal residence in the capital, Statistical office for Berlin-Brandenburg

\(^2\) After London at this time

\(^3\) Source: visitberlin.de, visit Berlin, 2017 tourism statistics
Berlin is staying young

Berlin mainly attracts young people between 18 and 30. The city offers a broad range of educational and study possibilities as well as career opportunities. That is why Berlin is getting younger overall. The average age of Berlin’s population was 42.6 years in 2016, considerably below the national average of 44.3 years.
Berlin’s growth is an opportunity and a challenge in one

For the Senate, growth is a major design task. The city is growing bigger and denser. This is associated with numerous challenges. Residential units, child care spaces, schools and many other things are needed. Police, fire brigades, hospitals, the Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe, cultural organisations and sports facilities are adjusting to more Berliners. The Senate is expanding and redesigning the urban infrastructure.

The ongoing influx shows how attractive Berlin is – and it harbours opportunities. As the city keeps getting younger and more international, it profits tremendously from the new Berliners. They contribute a great deal: entrepreneurial spirit and plenty of new ideas. Berlin’s economy also benefits since it is seeking more skilled workers. Representing openness, diversity and freedom, the city is particularly attractive for creative minds as well. They drive innovation and progress with bold new business ideas. This makes the city attractive for new investments and results in gains and benefits for Berlin’s job market and urban society.

Source: Berlin-Brandenburg Statistical Office, population
2011 3,326,002

2012 3,375,222 (+49,220)

2013 3,421,829 (+46,607)

2014 3,469,849 (+48,020)

2015 3,520,031 (+50,182)

2016 3,574,830 (+54,799)

Berlin – capital city in the heart of Europe
Berlin has financial leeway and is investing again

The state of Berlin obtained an excellent result with positive figures in the 2017 annual financial statements. The budgetary outcome with a surplus of EUR 2.17 billion is the best so far in the city-state’s history. Berlin’s annual result has been positive since 2012. The political combination of investment and consolidation has paid off: Berlin has financial leeway again. This needs to be used wisely to boost investments and accelerate debt redemption.

Nearly EUR 1.17 billion is being contributed to the special infrastructure and sustainability fund “Special Fund for Infrastructure of the Growing City and Sustainability Fund” (SIWANA). Around EUR ten billion is going to debt redemption. Current focal points of the SIWANA fund are, in particular, buying land for schools

Special Fund for Infrastructure of the Growing City and Sustainability Fund (SIWANA) – investments in all areas of life

- EUR 113 million: Savings fund for commuter railway procurement
- EUR 216 million: Borough measures and projects
- EUR 93 million: Digitalisation projects
- EUR 77 million: Justice
- EUR 118 million: Youth, family, seniors and recreation (incl. culture and religion)
- EUR 178 million: Police and fire brigade (incl. internal security)
- EUR 132 million: Former Tempelhof airport
- EUR 150 million: Land purchase fund
- EUR 100 million: Equity contribution to municipal utility
- EUR 290 million: Schools and modular auxiliary buildings
- EUR 133 million: Daycare
- EUR 182 million: Residential development
- EUR 210 million: Refugee housing and accommodations
- EUR 130 million: Sports and baths
- EUR 160 million: Hospitals
- EUR 167 million: Science and Charité
- EUR 181 million: Transport, environment, climate protection and commercial trade

Source: Senate Department for Finance
and residential units, healthcare, and expanding the transport infrastructure. These funds are available in addition to the state’s regular investment funds for important infrastructure projects. The goal is to selectively reduce the rehabilitation backlog while simultaneously initiating sustainable investments. A total of around EUR three billion has already been contributed to the special fund.

**Better service in the public service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Positions in 2018/2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Borroughs (citizen centers and others)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Brigade</td>
<td>+360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police and protection of the constitution</td>
<td>+814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>+2,311</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreigners’ affairs (LAF + LABO)</td>
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<td>State Office for Health and Social Services</td>
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<td>Justice</td>
<td>+247*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue offices</td>
<td>+54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other administration</td>
<td>+1,236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Senate Department for Finance

*Source: Senate Department for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination

**Berlin continues to pay down debt**

The state’s regular investment funds increased by EUR 50 million compared to 2016, to about EUR 1.86 billion. This new leeway notwithstanding, consolidation continues to keep reducing the debt of EUR 59 billion. A total of around EUR 2.4 billion in financial market debt had already been repaid by 2017.
BERLIN’S ECONOMY IS BOOMING AND GOOD JOBS ARE BEING CREATED
Berlin's economy is booming and good jobs are being created.
Berlin’s economic growth is above average

Berlin as a business location sets itself apart with impressive vitality. Berlin’s economy is booming and continues to expand. With growth of 3.1 percent, development in 2017 was better than the national average for the fourth year in a row. This boom is now reaching Berliners:

The number of businesses has reached a new high, tens of thousands of Berliners are finding a new job each year. Around 340,000 new jobs subject to social insurance contribution were created in Berlin between 2008 and 2017. That corresponds to a 31 percent increase in employment – considerably more than the federal level. Nationally the increase was 16 percent.

The unemployment rate in Berlin was reduced by more than a third, from 13.8 percent to nine percent, in the same period. The number of unemployed people decreased by more than 64,000. Unemployment has therefore dropped to a historic low. Positive economic development is driving job creation in the city. With a strong economy, new jobs will keep being created going forward and unemployment figures will keep dropping.

Sources: Federal Employment Office; Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises; Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Services
Berlin’s economy is booming and good jobs are being created.
Economic growth in Berlin

GDP development in Berlin

Gross domestic product 2010–2017 in the respective prices in EUR billion (left scale); real economic growth year-on-year in % (right scale)

Source: Statistical office for Berlin-Brandenburg, “State Macroeconomic Accounting” working group, February 2018

* In 2012/2013, the real growth rates in Berlin compared to the prior year were 0.0 percent.
One out of seven new jobs is being created in the digital economy

The digital economy is the leading driver of the current boom. In the meantime, it contributes about one-fifth to total value creation in Berlin. One out of seven new jobs is created here.¹ The number of businesses increased by 67.9 percent from 2008 to 2017. With its experienced, established companies, numerous start-ups and innovative research community, the German capital offers an ideal environment for innovation projects.

Berlin as an innovative and creative metropolis is benefiting from the digital transformation. According to estimates by Investitionsbank Berlin at the end of 2017, up to 270,000 additional jobs could be created by the year 2025 alone due to the digitalisation of the economy, employment and society. With the initiative “Arbeit 4.0 – made in Berlin”, the Senate is striving to ensure good and fair working conditions in a working environment permeated by digitalisation. Here the focus is on qualification. After all, the lifelong development of digital competencies is a key requirement for developing and maintaining employability and good jobs.

¹ Source: IBB – Investitionsbank Berlin, Berlin Economy, October 2017

Unemployment and employment in Berlin, 2008–2017

Employees subject to social insurance contribution and the unemployed in Berlin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>1,050,000</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,350,000</td>
<td>225,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics of the Federal Employment Office
According to the German start-up monitor 2017 of the Bundesverband Deutsche Startups e.V., Berlin is Germany’s leading start-up hot spot. Young tech companies and start-ups find good founding conditions and growth opportunities in Berlin. The competitive capital market and well-trained employees in the digital field make the capital city attractive. Companies from across Germany are drawn to Berlin to collaborate with local start-ups.

Germany’s largest hubs for finance technology (FinTech) and the Internet of Things (IoT) are developing here. The effect of networking between start-ups, science, SMEs and large enterprises radiates far beyond Berlin, attracting talent and players from all over the world. New business areas are being created through digitalisation. They are of crucial importance for future production structures in particular – keyword Industry 4.0. Berlin’s industry,
which is proving itself as a stable and future-proof sector against the background of the ongoing digitalisation processes, acts as an important multiplier for the economy as a whole. That is why revising the industry master plan is an especially high priority. A key aspect here among others is the future availability of industrial real estate, an essential prerequisite for Berlin as a growing business location.

Berlin as a start-up leader counts on future industries: energy management, healthcare, mobility, and digitalisation. They harbour a great deal of potential for value creation – but also for a greening of Berlin’s economy.

“More than two out of three Euros (69 percent) in 2017 were invested in Berlin companies.”

Source: Start-up-barometer Germany January 2018, Ernst & Young GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft
Brain City Berlin – dedicated, excellent, international

A unique density and variety of universities and research institutions make Berlin the largest scientific location in Germany and an important partner in the global network of leading scientific metropolises. As shown by international rankings and the rising number of students over many years, Berlin has been among the world’s most popular cities for students for a long time.

In Berlin, over 20,000 jobs have been created by university start-ups.

A quarter of a million people from all over the world teach, conduct research, work and study at Berlin’s renowned universities and non-university research institutions. The large spectrum of academic institutions and disciplines offers a broad range of studies and outstanding research potential, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences, engineering sciences and life sciences. From mathematics for key technologies to exploring ancient worlds, from biomedicine breakthroughs to digitalisation research: Berlin is a world leader in science, and the successes in the Excellence Competition prove it.

Living and learning in Berlin

187,000 students.

One-fifth of the students come from abroad.
Berlin’s scientific institutions act as a driving force for the economy

A healthy balance of fundamental and applied research along with a highly defined culture of interdisciplinary cooperation between institutes are fertile soil for scientific progress and innovation. As a result, Berlin’s scientific institutions serve as an important driving force for the city’s economic growth and its famous cultural landscape. They also play a key role in meeting the needs of a modern and growing metropolis and its society, from the development of innovative smart city technologies to ensuring progressive medical care.

- eleven public higher education institutions, thereof four universities, four universities of applied sciences and three art academies
- two denominational higher education institutions
- around 30 private higher education institutions
- more than 70 non-university research institutions, thereof 14 Leibniz Institutes, two Helmholtz Centres, five Max-Planck Institutes and four Fraunhofer Institutes
Smart City Berlin

Berlin is striving to become a leading Smart City. The capital city intends to also apply its dynamic growth to qualitative progress. Digitalisation and technology innovations are not an end in themselves, but must improve the quality of life in our city.
This applies to mobility, living, infrastructure and safety as well as Berlin’s administration. Intelligent solutions and services will make the day-to-day lives of Berliners more pleasant, better and easier in all of these areas. Examples range from multi-modal, electrified transport offerings to more e-government solutions. For instance, Berlin is the first and only federal state with its own Permanent Secretary for Information and Communication Technology. This position is responsible for the digitalisation of administration and modernising services for citizens.

**A bigger push for the digital capital**

Many players contribute to the success of Smart City Berlin. Aside from the Senate and the Smart City Berlin Network, these are mainly the state’s large enterprises such as BVG, BSR and the water utilities, who make concrete, innovative projects possible with their investments. However, the interaction between established companies, science and start-ups also plays a key role. With the Einstein Centre Digital Future, Fraunhofer’s Berlin Centre for Digital Transformation and the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society (German Internet Institute), the state and federal government founded new institutions in 2017 that give the digital capital of Berlin an added push.

More and more large enterprises are also setting up incubators, innovation centres and campuses in Berlin, most recently for instance Bosch and Osram.

All of this contributes to smart solutions being devised and developed in the Brain City Berlin, and also being applied for the good of Berliners.

**Autonomous driving “made in Berlin”**

What was discussed and developed over many years in lecture halls and laboratories is in the trial phase or even transporting passengers at several locations in Berlin: a proving ground is being set up on the Straße des 17. Juni as part of the DIGINET-PS project. Self-driving electric buses are already being tested on the EUREF Campus in Schöneberg, and have even been transporting passengers on the Charité Campus in Mitte and Wedding since the beginning of 2018.

**A city laboratory for Berlin**

With the planned setup of CityLAB Berlin, the Senate wants to make new technologies and services comprehensible and tangible for citizens in a physical location. It will illustrate the practical relevance of Smart City Berlin for the everyday lives of all Berliners.
The best medical care

Berlin is at the top of the class in medical care and research. No other German metropolis has such a density of medical facilities like clinics and practices, such close networking of numerous scientific centres, institutions, research companies and innovative start-ups.

The Berlin-Brandenburg capital region is among the top locations for the healthcare sector in Germany and Europe. With 13,568 companies in Berlin, the sector generated sales of EUR 20.8 billion in 2015. It employs about 229,000 people in the city.¹

One of Germany’s densest healthcare consulting networks

116,000 people in need of care are looked after by 600 outpatient nursing services and in nearly 300 full care nursing homes and close to 700 residential communities in Berlin. 36 care support centres distributed throughout the metropolitan area provide healthcare advice. This is one of the densest healthcare consulting networks in all of Germany.²

Berlin provides care for 116,000 dependent people.

From basic services to high-end medicine

Berlin is a health capital with offerings from basic medical services to high-end medicine, from preventive measures to rehabilitation. There are 96 hospitals in Berlin with a total capacity of 22,526 beds as well as the Deutsches Herzzentrum with 200 beds, 71 of which are for intensive care patients. Around 9,200 doctors and psychotherapists provide outpatient services for Berliners. 2,900 family doctors and paediatricians, 4,500 medical specialists and 1,800 psychotherapists work in nearly 6,400 practices and 164 medical care centres.

Treatment of 160,000 patients daily!³

¹ Source: Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises
²³ Source: Senate Department for Health, Long-Term Care and Gender Equality
Charité – heart of the medical research community

The Berlin Charité has been writing medical history for 300 years along with many great names and Nobel laureates. With around 17,500 employees, the Charité is now Germany’s largest university medical centre and the heart of Berlin’s medical research community. More than 800,000 cases are treated here annually. Patients benefit from short communication channels and the transfer of knowledge between science and practice. Some 260 professors educate 7,000 students in 22 courses of study at the Charité.

Development of new therapeutic approaches

Transferring findings from research to the clinic and vice versa is also the focus of the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH). The institute, which is unique in Germany, is a joint scientific institution of the Charité and the Max Delbrück Centre for Molecular Medicine (MDC). New approaches for better prognoses and novel therapies to treat progressive illnesses and unsolved health issues are developed at the BIH.

The flagships also include the new “Universitäres Herzzentrum Berlin” (UHZB) that bundles the cardiovascular medicine competencies of the Charité and Deutsches Herzzentrum Berlin. Closely linking the areas of research, healthcare and teaching is Berlin’s strength.
LIVEABLE METROPOLIS
Climate protection pioneer – Berlin drives the energy and mobility transformation

Berlin has set ambitious climate protection goals: by the year 2050, Berlin wants to be climate-neutral. Around one hundred concrete measures have been defined in the Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Programme 2030 (BEK 2030) in order to meet this climate target. To accomplish this, transportation needs to make a much greater contribution than before.

Berlin needs to organise sustainable, healthy and safe mobility. Developments show: the number of passengers using public transit services is rising steadily and the bicycle traffic boom is ongoing. There is a trend towards networked mobility, with a combination of public transit services, bicycle traffic, the car and shared mobility such as car sharing, ride sharing or rented bicycles.

With the Berlin Mobility Act, which is also Germany’s first bicycle act, the Senate has set the direction for modern, networked mobility. Here the interests of all traffic participants have been taken into account.

Berlin as a growing city in the heart of the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region is counting on the continued expansion of public transit services, a good bicycle traffic infrastructure and promoting e-mobility. Therefore, the Senate is facilitating the switch to environmentally and climate-friendly mobility.
Showcase for the successful energy transition

Berlin can serve as the showcase for the successful metropolitan energy transition like no other city in Germany. The energy revolution is a major opportunity for the development of the local economy and affordable services for and participation by Berliners. Berliner Stadtwerke is an important milestone for the social and ecological modernisation of Berlin and for investing in the city of tomorrow.

Berlin is already a leading energy technology location today. More than 6,000 companies with around 56,000 employees are part of the energy technology cluster in the capital city region. With the development of new technologies for improved energy efficiency and an intelligent electricity, heat, gas and water network, Berlin is positioning itself as a pioneer for innovative energy and environmental technologies in the global market.
New residential units and intelligent urban development concepts

Berlin’s steadily growing population poses major political and administrative challenges. Providing affordable housing for Berliners is a particularly urgent task. The Senate is currently developing eleven new urban quarters in cooperation with the boroughs and in consultation with the general public. Clearly worded urban development guidelines guarantee the creation of alive, socially mixed and green quarters between the Blankenburger Süden, Wasserstadt Oberhavel and Adlershof. They offer space and scope for all social strata and every age group.

In addition to developing new quarters, the redensification of existing neighbourhoods also plays an important role in the creation of affordable living space. Intelligent concepts not only lead to the establishment of new residential units for the people living
Providing **affordable housing** is a particularly urgent task.

here and moving in – existing deficits in the public and social infrastructure are being eliminated at the same time.

By employing numerous tenant protection measures, such as designating social conservation areas, utilising the right of pre-emption and its own cooperation agreement concluded with the state-owned residential development companies, the Senate is also ensuring that the composition of tenants is maintained in all boroughs. Berlin’s social and urban development preservation bylaws also protect the urban structure that has developed over centuries and the city’s building culture heritage from destruction.
New housing construction:
The most important measure of all: the Senate is dedicated to the construction of more housing in Berlin. 6,000 residential units are to be built by the six urban residential development companies each year, half of them as social housing. Berlin is increasing its residential development subsidisation, with a total of 5,000 subsidised residential units annually over the medium term.

More social housing construction:
In residential development projects that require a development plan, social housing has to account for 30 percent of the living space.

These and numerous other measures ensure that Berlin will remain an affordable city.
By the way:

Berlin is Europe’s greenest capital city. In addition to extensive forests and lakes, nature conservation areas, parks, garden plots and urban gardening projects, there are a total of 2,500 green spaces. Berlin also holds a leading position among European cities with 438,000 trees along its streets. The green oases are good for recreation and also of great importance for maintaining the diversity of species and for climate protection.

There are about 1,850 public playgrounds for the children of Berlin.

Source: Senate Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection

1,850 public playgrounds in Berlin
GOOD EDUCATION, GOOD OPPORTUNITIES
Good education, good opportunities
Education, family, career: Berlin must be a city of opportunities. A city that offers good starting conditions. So that everyone has the chance to put their talents to use.

A city for living and learning

Good education is the key to a good life. That is why the Senate is increasing investments in the field of education. In the day-care segment for example, success can be measured by the number of children being looked after: 109,000 children were cared for in day-care facilities in 2006, increasing to around 165,000 in 2017. That equates to 51 percent growth. Increasing the number of spaces and improving the staff-to-child ratio has also increased the number of specialists in day-care facilities. 18,750 education specialists worked in Berlin day-care centres in 2006 (corresponding to around 12,500 full-time positions). This increased to 28,800 specialists in 2017 (24,000 full-time positions). Thousands of new day-care spaces will be created in the future and the quality of day-care will continue to be improved as well.

Berlin is also investing in schools. In addition to the borough investment funds and the state school and sports facility renovation programme, a large part of the funds from the Special Fund for Infrastructure of the Growing City and Sustainability Fund (SIWANA, see page 10) is also being spent on
expanding school buildings. The Senate has approved a school construction offensive totalling EUR 5.5 billion: More than 50 new schools will be built and the rehabilitation backlog is being eliminated. Thousands of new teachers are also being hired each year.

For Berlin’s higher education institutions, the Senate has considerably increased the basic financing of public universities and the Charité in the 2018–2022 contracts. The institutions are receiving a total of EUR 8.1 billion during this period, an increase of EUR 650 million. What’s more, Berlin is ringing in the decade of investments in its higher education institutions: about EUR two billion will be spent on construction and rehabilitation by the year 2026.
Annual hiring of teaching staff in Berlin, 2009–2017

Creation of new spaces and improvement of the staff-to-child ratio in Berlin day-care centres, 2009–2017

Source: Senate Department for Education, Youth and Families
Students in Berlin, 2009–2017

50% of students in Berlin are women, 20% hold a foreign citizenship.

Source: Statistical office for Berlin-Brandenburg
Good opportunities for all youths

The Senate’s investments in education are paying off. Between 2007 and 2017, the number of unemployed youths aged 15 to less than 25 years dropped by about 49 percent. To continue building on this positive trend, the Senate established the Youth Employment Agency back in 2015. The agency network has been further expanded since then. The Youth Employment Agency is now active in all twelve Berlin boroughs.

In the Youth Employment Agency, Career Counselling of the Employment Agency, U25 Teams of the Job Centres and newly appointed Youth Welfare Service and vocational school advisers work together under one roof. This is intended to provide even more youths and young adults with education and employment, allowing them to actively take part in working life and society.

Source: Statistical office for Berlin-Brandenburg, own calculation
Education means integration

Integration does not happen on its own, it requires commitment and dedication — on all sides. Here too, education is the key. Developments in Berlin show that integration can succeed. Fewer and fewer young people in Berlin whose original language is not German are leaving school without graduating. More and more of them are getting their university-entrance diploma: their proportion increased from 15.9 percent in the 2004/05 school year to 32.3 percent in the 2016/17 school year.

Source: Senate Department for Education, Youth and Families

More and more young people with a migration background are earning their university-entrance diploma.
Welcome classes in Berlin

To facilitate integration, Berlin’s schools have established welcome classes for children who do not speak German yet or only a little. The Senate regularly adapts the offering to current demand. For example, the number of welcome classes in Berlin increased considerably due to the great influx of refugees in 2015 and 2016, and has been falling again since 2017. Students are always placed in the welcome classes on a temporary basis only. Transition to the regular system is the goal.
Welcome classes in Berlin

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<th>01.01.2016</th>
<th>01.01.2017</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome classes</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>+60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schoolchildren</td>
<td>7,383</td>
<td>12,570</td>
<td>+70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Education statistics, Senate Department for Education, Youth and Families, own calculation
Berlin supports family/career balance

Children in Berlin are legally entitled to part-time day-care starting with their first birthday (up to seven hours of care). Extended care is available if the parents can provide evidence of a greater need. Berlin has gradually eliminated day-care fees over the last few years, setting a nationwide example. Meanwhile, the last five years before school enrolment are exempt from contribution. The goal was reached in the summer of 2018: day-care is free for all of Berlin’s children. The number of children attending day-care is rising steadily.
65 percent of children aged one to three years were placed in day-care centres in 2014. The proportion for this age group reached 72 percent in 2017. For children aged three to six years, the rate of care has been very high for many years. It stands at 94 percent.

Berlin’s schools offer all-day programmes, lunch and holiday care. Various offerings provided by family and neighbourhood centres, family education courses, school support centres and consulting institutions support families in day-to-day life. All of this makes the conditions for family/career balance particularly favourable in Berlin. No wonder so many people have decided to start a family in Berlin. 41,087 children were born here in 2016. Berlin has had a steadily rising surplus of births since 2007. Births exceeded deaths by 7,036 in 2016.
CULTURAL METROPOLIS OF WORLD RENOWN
Cultural metropolis of world renown
**Culture around the clock**

Residents of Berlin are surrounded by a wealth of culture, day and night throughout the year. Coming up with a total number of all the events is downright impossible. Carnival of Cultures, Fête de la Musique, Long Night of Museums, Long Night of Sciences, countless festivals, open airs and concerts are the milestones – without them, the enthusiastic participation of Berliners would not be nearly as great. Newcomers and visitors quickly become a welcome part of the city’s cultural DNA and diversity.

Berlin is more than the beacons of high culture, the entire city has plenty to offer. To ensure that its splendid mix is maintained, Berlin subsidises its cultural landscape with around EUR 600 million per year\(^1\). In the coming years, there will be an increased emphasis on child and youth theatre, the city’s independent scene, municipal galleries and cultural institutions.

Berlin’s cultural landscape is uniquely fascinating and always evolving – from the mainstream to the fringe. And never boring.

\(^1\) Source: Senate Department for Culture and Europe
Berlin subsidises its **cultural landscape** with around EUR 600 million per year.
Unique cultural landscape

Staatsoper Unter den Linden returned to its historic site at the end of 2017. After years of extensive renovation and modernisation, the old structure has been preserved while daring to try new things. “Dit is Berlin” – proud of its cultural heritage, grown over centuries on the Spree, always looking ahead and striving for cultural innovation, for a creative future.

Berlin succeeds in providing what makes it a popular centre of attraction for both culture enthusiasts and creative minds from all over the world: world-famous, celebrated theatres, museums and opera, and in the thick of it – “mitten-mang” as Berliners say – a colourful, far-out, intense and inspiring creative scene fed by a wide variety of influences and every part of the world. Everything is found here – at a world-class standard!

City of creative minds

Berlin is the city of creative minds, cultural leaders and talents. The creative industry players, from film and television to art, music, games, fashion and design, are creative directors, drivers and movers of Berlin’s economic development and image promotion. The ICT sector, media and the creative industry encompass nearly 40,000 companies in Berlin with around 190,000 employees and annual sales of around EUR 25 billion.¹

Culture and the creative industry make Berlin an attractive and liveable metropolis for Berliners and people from all over the world. Now more than ever, the city represents innovativeness, inventiveness, new forms of working, entrepreneurship and a commitment to civil society.
Leading film site

Berlin has become an international film centre as well. The Berlinale is among Europe’s most popular film festivals. Not only is film an important economic factor and innovation driver for Berlin, it also represents the capital’s defining characteristics: creativity, internationality, diversity, freedom and future. The Berlin-Brandenburg capital region is a leading film site and Berlin has great drawing power on producers around the world as a film location. Among the 300 annual productions, a number of international large-scale productions and series were created in the capital region, including blockbusters such as “Cloud Atlas”, “Inglourious Basterds”, “Grand Budapest Hotel” and “The Hunger Games” as well as successful series like “Babylon Berlin”. Berlin with around 5,200 companies employing some 34,400 people is the unrivalled leader of Germany’s film and television sites.²

Useful information

- Berlin has more than 175 museums – around 2.3 million people visit the famous Museumsinsel every year.³
- Berlin has not one but three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: aside from the Museumsinsel and the Prussian castles and gardens, they include the Berlin Modernism Housing Estates.
- No other city in Germany has as many cinemas: film lovers have a choice of around 100 cinemas and nearly 300 cinema halls. Streaming offerings on the Internet notwithstanding, the number of cinemas in Berlin is growing again.⁴
- Berlin presents productions in more than 140 theatres of all genres and three opera houses: the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Deutsche Oper and Komische Oper. The small, independent musical theatre “Neuköllner Oper”, which has been enriching the offering since the 1970s, considers itself “Berlin’s fourth opera”.
- Berlin is a leading centre of art. The city is alive with artists and gallery owners. Currently the number of galleries is estimated at well over 400.
- Berlin with more than 250 event venues and over 77 concert organisers is the city with the richest offering of concerts and events in Germany.⁵

¹ Source: “Projekt Zukunft”, Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises (page 3)
² Source: Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises
³ Source: Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation
⁴ Source: German Federal Film Board (FFA) report on the 2017 cinema year
⁵ Source: “Projekt Zukunft”. Initiative of the Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises
CITY OF SPORTS
City of sports
The majority of Berliners are active in sports

Berlin is one of Germany’s most sporty and active cities. 83 percent of all Berliners are active in sports or some form of exercise, around 63 percent regularly.¹ There are more than 2,400 sports clubs in the city. Cycling, running, jogging, swimming and football are among the most popular sports. The city has parks and green spaces with more than 2,000 sports facilities, 37 indoor pools and 24 outdoor and summer pools. What’s more, the sports city of Berlin is a large-scale laboratory for trend sports such as kite landboarding, CrossFit and parkour.

¹ Source: Sport and Exercise Study 2017, Senate Department for the Interior and Sport
Berlin is the elite sports capital

The Olympiapark with the Olympiastadion is one of Europe’s largest sports complexes. Germany’s largest Olympic training centre resides at Sportforum Berlin. Some 500 national team athletes are trained here in more than 20 Olympic and Paralympic sports. There are also 28 regional intensive training centres and 19 national training centres. Three elite sport schools in Berlin supply new blood. More than 140 teams are represented in the 1st and 2nd national divisions. Only Berlin has six professional clubs: Hertha BSC and 1. FC Union Berlin, the Alba Berlin basketball team, the EHC Eisbären ice hockey team, the Füchse Berlin handball team and the Berlin Recycling Volleys volleyball team. Berlin athletes in many different disciplines are among the best in the world, representing the diversity of the sports metropolis.
**Berlin is a frequent venue for sports events**

Thanks to the outstanding conditions for competitions, enthusiastic audiences and the city’s unique atmosphere, the capital is a frequent venue for sports highlights. More than 80,000 gymnasts came to the city for a week for the International German Gymnastics Festival 2017 alone. From the World Cup to the European and World Championships, the offering is outstanding year after year. Annual events such as the Berlin Marathon and Half-Marathon, Six Days of Berlin, International Stadium Festival, DFB cup finals being held at Berlin’s Olympiastadion since 1985 as well as the Velothon have attained cult status.
Selection of major sports events in Berlin

- European Athletics Championships 2018
- World Para Athletics European Championships 2018
- Global Jumping Berlin 2018
- Indoor Hockey World Cup 2018
- Archery World Cup 2018
- Track European Championships 2017
- IBSA Blind Football European Championships 2017
- International German Gymnastics Festival 2017
- ISU World Allround Speed Skating Championships 2016
- EURO Basket (preliminary round, men) 2015
- European Maccabi Games 2015
- World Modern Pentathlon Championships 2015
- European Aquatics Championships 2014
- International Latin American Dance Champions 2013
TEAM SPIRIT IN THE CITY OF SOLIDARITY
Team spirit in the city of solidarity
Berlin stands for cosmopolitanism and tolerance. Regardless of skin colour, nationality, religion or sexual orientation – Berlin wants to be home to everyone who respects the freedom of everyone and each individual.

**Berlin puts diversity into practice**

People from some 190 countries live in Berlin. They are members of many different religious communities with a wide range of ideologies. However, more than half of all Berliners consider themselves non-denominational.

Commitment and solidarity are practised in Berlin as part of everyday life. The people actively help shape their city with self-confidence. This makes Berlin a place of longing for people from all over the world. On Christopher Street Day, the Carnival of Cultures or Church Day – in Berlin, everyone is free to be who they are.
Team spirit in the city of solidarity
Dedicated urban society

In the city of solidarity, everyone takes responsibility for themselves and others. The citizens actively help shape their city, jointly seeking balance when it comes to important political matters. Political participation and active involvement are fundamental elements of a united urban society.

Equal participation opportunities

Promoting equal participation opportunities for all Berliners is a political task. The causes of social disadvantages can vary widely. Aside from skin colour, nationality, religious affiliation, gender and sexual orientation, factors such as age, the state of health such as a physical or mental disability, the educational background or also poverty can lead to social exclusion.
That is why the Senate is committed to various equal opportunity measures. These include for example the prevention of child and family poverty in the city, the equal treatment of women and men, and equal participation of people with disabilities.

**Against discrimination**

An important thrust relates to the housing market situation. Rising competition for affordable living space is worsening the problem of discrimination for people looking for housing in Berlin.

That is why the Senate established a specialist and coordination department against discrimination in the housing market on 1 July 2017. Citizens can contact the specialist department if they experience discrimination, for example due to their origins or religion, either in the process of applying for an apartment or also in the course of an existing tenancy. The Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination (LADS) also does important work to raise awareness.

It is the Senate’s objective for all Berliners to participate equally in working life, city life and naturally also recreational offerings, self-determined and with equal opportunities. Against this background, the Senate has taken on the task of advancing legal protection against discrimination.¹

¹ Source: Senate Department for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination
Practised solidarity with refugees

Tens of thousands of people who have sought and found refuge from war and persecution live in Berlin. The city took in about 80,000 people in 2015–2017. Most of them came from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Thanks to the great and lasting dedication of countless Berliners, they mostly received a friendly welcome and helpful support. Many of them will remain in the city for a long time. That is why the major task of integration now needs to be tackled. The Senate wants to give the immigrants the opportunity to establish their own lives here and become part of the neighbourhoods. They need access to employment and education, day-care and school to accomplish this. And they need better housing. Here
the state of Berlin is well on its way. Emergency accommodations will soon be eliminated. Berlin continues to build modular dwellings where refugees, and later other people with low incomes, can live for extended periods. Such state-owned modular buildings are being constructed at 60 sites.¹

Berlin is an attractive city that keeps on growing. Not only refugees but also many other people from all over the world come here seeking a new way of life. By successfully integrating these new Berliners and helping them establish their own livelihood, immigration will enrich the urban society.

¹ Source: Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Services
WHAT SETS BERLIN APART

**Germany’s hot spot for start-ups:** More than 500 start-ups are founded in Berlin each year – approximately one every 20 hours. (Berlin Business Location Centre – Start-Up Metropolis, businesslocationcenter.de)

**Germany’s number 1 city break destination:** In 2017, around 13 million visitors came to the city. They stayed for 31 million nights. (visitBerlin, 2017 tourism statistics)

**Strong economic growth:** At more than three percent growth per year, Berlin ranks at the top of the federal states. (“State Macroeconomic Accounting” working group)

**Europe’s greenest capital city:** Berlin features extensive forests and lakes, nature conservation areas, parks, garden plots and urban gardening projects. Berlin holds a leading position among European cities with 438,000 trees along its streets. (Senate Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection)

**Space for creative minds:** The creative industry is among the fastest-growing sectors. With nearly 140 companies and over 2,000 employees, the games industry is the leader across Germany. (Study of the computer and video game industry in Germany conducted by the Research and Competence Centre Audiovisual Production at the Hamburg Media School, 2018)

**Outstanding networking:** The public transit network covers a total route length of more than 2,600 kilometres – approximately equal to the distance from Berlin to Lisbon.

Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe counts more than a billion passenger trips per year. (Senate Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection, Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) 2018 figures)
What sets Berlin apart

**Economical**

**Liveable**

**Dynamic**

**City of culture**

**Growth**

**Important**

**Home**

**Smart**

**Start-ups**

**Investments**

**Digital**

**Sports**

**Popular**

**Development**

**Science**

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**Attractive study and research location:** Berlin is high up in the QS Best Student Cities 2018 top 100 ranking with 7th place. No other location in Germany attracts more international students and researchers. (DAAD overall subsidy ranking, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation subsidy ranking)

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**Intelligent urban development:** Berlin takes 13th place among the 100 smartest cities in the world, and 1st place among German cities ahead of Hamburg and Munich. (Smart Cities Index 2017, EasyPark Group)

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**Culinary diversity:** Berlin has the most star-rated restaurants in German-speaking regions – 28 stars awarded to 21 restaurants. It also has more donair shops than Istanbul, around 1,600 in total. (Guide Michelin 2018 Germany, visitBerlin, Berlin in numbers)

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**Future-oriented:** Berlin is among the five most future-proof metropolises in Germany. Its dynamics, internationality and accessibility are convincing. (HWWI/Berenberg City Ranking 2017)

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**Good quality of life:** Berlin is among the world’s most liveable cities, taking 13th place (out of 231) – ahead of Paris, London and New York. Political, social, economic, environmental, health and education-oriented aspects were evaluated among others. (Mercer Quality of Living Ranking 2018)
THE BERLIN SENATE

Michael Müller  
Governor Mayor of Berlin  
and Senator for Higher Education and Research  

“My goal is for Berlin to remain an aspiring city of solidarity that emphasises social responsibility. I want to utilise our favourable position to effectively strengthen Berlin through future-oriented investments. All Berliners shall profit from our good economic development. Berlin’s unique scientific community also plays a special role.”

Dr. Klaus Lederer  
Mayor and Senator for Culture and Europe

“Berlin’s popularity as a travel destination and place of longing is due to its open, colourful, creative and diverse cultural scene. That is what defines my city. Maintaining this diversity for everyone to experience as well as promoting and expanding it is my goal.”

Ramona Pop  
Mayor and Senator for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises  

“Berlin’s economy is booming. I am dedicated to sustainable economic growth, with all Berliners benefiting from our city’s economic success.”
“70,000 more students will enter schools in the coming years. That is why the Berlin Senate has approved a school construction offensive totalling EUR 5.5 billion: not only are we going to build more than 50 new schools, the rehabilitation backlog is being eliminated as well. For the youngest, we are creating 25,000 new day-care spaces and further improving the quality of day-care.”

“...”

“The state of Berlin presented a positive fiscal year-end closing for the fifth year in succession in 2017. Thanks to a rigorous consolidation policy, Berlin has worked its way up from running a deficit to today’s model student among the federal states. Since Berlin urgently needs extensive investments as well, the budgetary policy stipulation since 2015 has been ‘consolidate and invest’. The investment volume has been increased to more than EUR two billion annually within just a few years. This is complemented each year by extensive funds from the Sondervermögen Infrastruktur der Wachsenden Stadt to decrease the rehabilitation backlog. Yet we are not disregarding Berlin’s ongoing high debt level. Quite to the contrary: it is being paid down in large increments to continuously reduce the interest burden going forward.”
**Dilek Kolat**  
Senator for Health, Long-Term Care and Gender Equality

“Health, long-term care and gender equality are emphasised in the growing city of Berlin. We ensure good healthcare through considerably higher investments and more personnel in hospitals, and better pay in the health authorities. We are organising the care offensive with one of Germany’s densest consulting networks, by strengthening the nursing professions and providing good equipment for nursing homes. Berlin is also the city of women, with strong women in leading positions, good consulting services and offers for single parents as well as one of Germany’s best systems for helping women affected by violence.”

**Andreas Geisel**  
Senator for the Interior and Sport

“Berlin is well positioned and on its way to a safe metropolis of four million. We are investing large amounts in policing and fire brigades so that Berliners and our city’s guests can feel safe. Berlin offers as much safety as necessary, as much freedom as possible.”

**Elke Breitenbach**  
Senator for Integration, Labour and Social Services

“Young or old, women or men, long-term residents of Berlin or new arrivals: all people in Berlin should lead good and self-determined lives. Good jobs and battling poverty and social exclusion are top priorities for me. They form the basis for equal opportunities and the equal participation of all in urban society.”
Dr. Dirk Behrendt
Senator for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination

“The functioning and reliable rule of law is essential for a diverse city like Berlin. Only then is it possible to ensure that all people can live here in freedom and safety. Effective justice is therefore just as important as consistent protection against exclusion and discrimination.”

Katrin Lompscher
Senator for Urban Development and Housing

“The Berlin mix is legendary and a key reason why our city is so attractive. Maintaining it is very important to me personally. Berlin continues to be a city of tenants. Protecting tenants against excessive rent prices is therefore one of my most important tasks as Senator for Urban Development and Housing. At the same time we have to promote new construction, especially to build affordable housing, because more than 50% of Berlin’s households are entitled to a certificate of eligibility for public housing. Only if we strengthen and continuously expand these two pillars of the housing policy can we maintain and further shape Berlin as a social metropolis.”

Regine Günther
Senator for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection

“Berlin will become more mobile, healthier, safer and more climate-friendly – in one word, liveable. In order to accomplish this, we are strengthening public transit, expanding the bicycle traffic infrastructure and promoting electromobility. The more people switch from the car to the public transit network, the more space remains for those who have to depend on the car. Everyone benefits.”
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