

06.06 Population Density (Edition 2005)

Overview

The term population density is a measure of how many people live in a given area. Population density as used here is the number of inhabitants per hectare (1 hectare is an area about 86 yards on a side. 1 hectare = 2.47 acres, or 1 acre = 0.4047 hectare. 640 acres = 1 sq. mile). The population density of Berlin's entire urban area is 37 people/hectare (p/ha). This figure is in the middle range for German and European cities. Hamburg has an average of 38 % fewer people per hectare. Paris has a population density almost six times greater (cf. Fig. 1).

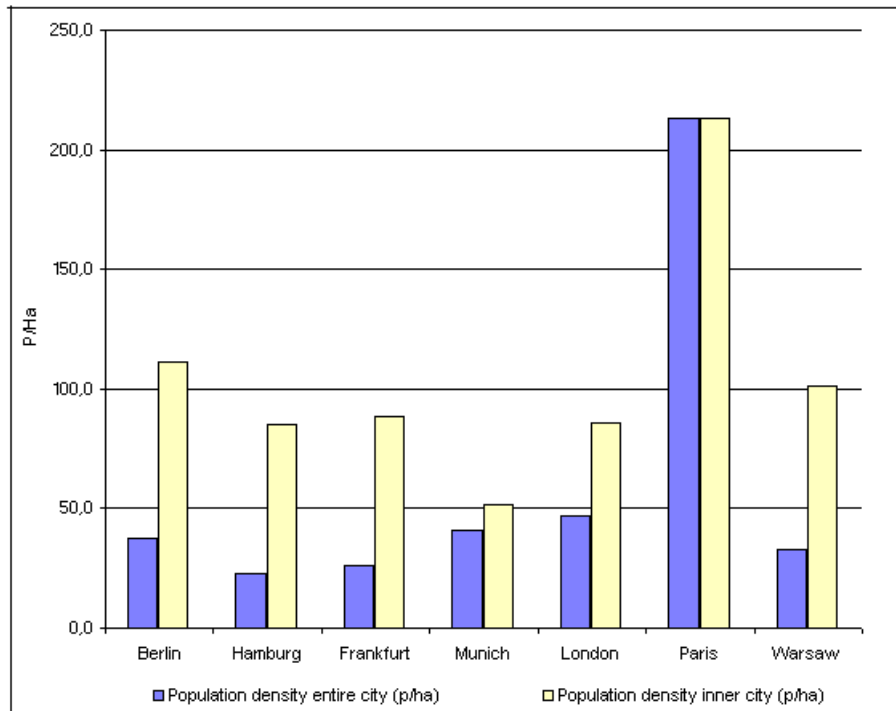


Fig. 1: Population Density of Berlin Compared to other Cities, in People per Hectare (Data from 2000-2005)

In Paris the inner city and the municipal border of the city area are overlaying; the nearest major administration unit is the Ile-de-France with 12,000 km² and about 11,000,000 inhabitants (9.1 p/ha).

The 111.5 p/ha population density of the Berlin inner city is above average and even overtops the according value for London.

The Map of Population Density depicts population density in terms of statistical blocks or segment of blocks (cf. Methodology). Therefore this presentation is partly more detailed in comparison to the earlier edition 1996. High population density causes great environmental stresses, such as noise from traffic and air pollution from heating facilities. Residents are dependent on a small number of public green areas for relaxation. These areas are mostly small, heavily visited, often overused, and loud. Private green areas exist only to a limited extent. Some densely populated areas of Berlin are attractive residential areas in spite of this. Some late 19th-century block-style constructions are especially attractive when they have living quarters of generous size, and are complemented by a good infrastructure of small businesses, restaurants, cultural facilities, services, and an extensive public transportation system. Rich urban life flourishes here. This urbanity is missed by many living in the purely residential areas at the edge of the city. These areas have a relatively low population density, a high ratio of open space, and less air and noise pollution.

The inner city boroughs of Mitte, Tiergarten, Wedding, Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg reached their greatest population density in 1910 with 311 p/ha. Today, the population density of these boroughs has dropped to 100 p/ha, one-third of the peak value (cf. Fig. 2).

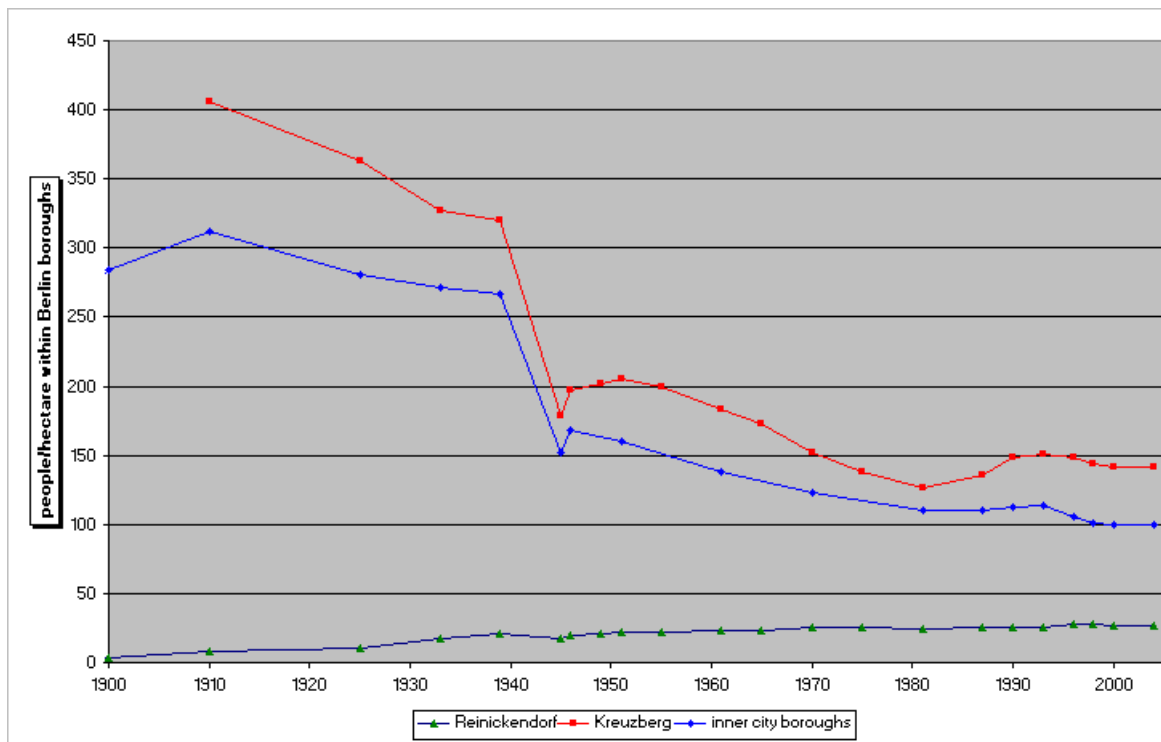


Fig. 2: Development of Population Density for Selected Berlin Boroughs (people/hectare within Berlin boroughs)

Population figures for inner city boroughs existed only as a total sum for the years 1871 and 1900. No population data for the eastern city boroughs was available between 1949 and 1975. This prevented a calculation of population density for inner city boroughs for these years.

In contrast, the population in the outer boroughs rose continuously, except for a drop in 1945 caused by general war-time conditions. In 1933, the Tempelhof borough had an even higher average population density than the Kreuzberg borough.

As 1996 a growth in population of up to 300,000 people was expected by 2010, nowadays a stagnation is expected for Berlin by 2010 and even a lightly reduction by 2020; for the whole "Engerer Verflechtungsraum Berlin-Brandenburg" (narrower area of integration) an amount of about 4,4 Million inhabitants is expected by 2020, with 3,36 Million inhabitants for the city of Berlin (cf. SenStadt o.J.).

Lower population density results not only from high proportions of green and open spaces and lesser degrees of development. Lower density can also be due to a large amount of small business, trade and service use, as well as public facilities, etc.. These property areas are included in calculations of population density, as long as they are not separated in an own segment of a block.

Detailed and current data bases of population density in specific urban areas are useful for the planning of various public departments. The Department of Urban Planning, for example, uses these figures as a basis for planning such infrastructure facilities as schools, businesses and playgrounds. Landscape Planning uses these figures for analyzing the number and accessibility of green spaces near to residential areas (cf. Map 06.05, SenStadtUmTech 1996a). Knowledge of population density also allows conclusions to be drawn regarding environmental stresses, such as calculating emissions from the use of solvents and cleaning chemicals in private residences, and determining carbon dioxide loads (cf. Map 03.08, SenStadtUm 1994).

Statistical Base

The Map of Population Density is based on the file of mandatorily registered residents who have stated Berlin to be their main place of residence. This file was current as of 31 December 2004 and is managed by the Berlin State Statistical Agency (Statistisches Landesamt Berlin) (Berlin is both a city and a German state). This file contains, among other things, the total of inhabitants registered with the Resident Registration Agencies for all statistical blocks in Berlin which have at least one inhabitant. The file is updated every six months on the basis of registrations, cancellations, and transfers.

For the here available map a special operation was arranged: all 376,000 address data of Berlin were attributed to the blocks or block segments of the use data base of the Information System Urban and Development (ISU). By these means it was possible to aggregate the inhabitants data not only to the level of the blocks but also to the segment blocks of the ISU and to reach a much more detailed presentation of the population density than in the edition 1996.

For data protection reasons it is not allowed to publish the true data for all areas with less than 3 inhabitants. Thus an automatical procedure is used to make anonymous those blocks (normally 3 or more inhabitants are displayed in those cases).

The area types and size of individual blocks and block segments was taken from the land use data base of the Information System Urban and Development (ISU). Criteria used for differentiating various areas were construction and open space structure type, age and use (cf. Map 06.07, SenStadt 2005).

Methodology

The spatial reference system was provided by the digital working map 1:5,000 (DIGK5) of the Information System Urban and Development (ISU), edition 2003/31/12. This working map contains individual statistical blocks with block numbers. Blocks with more than one use are divided into block segments. The numbering and street limit lines of blocks corresponds to those used by the Berlin State Statistical Agency.

Population density was determined for each statistical block and accordingly for block segments. The size of each statistical block, needed for the calculation of population density, was taken from the ISU Land Use Data Base. Figures for the number of inhabitants were assigned to statistical blocks and block segments according to the ISU spatial reference system.

Map Description

Berlin is characterised by a grown multi central structure with two main centers beside the specific district centers: the areas "Zoologischer Garten" and "Mitte". As a rule, population density increases from the city edge to the city center, however there are some focal points in the borough centers like Spandau, Tegel and Köpenick. Particularly the region of the central area Mitte, that means the area around the eastern Greater Tiergarten and in the north and south of the boulevard Unter den Linden is predominantly formed by its functions as the governmental area and as a supra regional and significant center for services and commerce. Only in some blocks more than 70 p/ha are found.

Leipziger Strasse (street) and the new residence units on Wilhelmstrasse are densely populated and are conspicuous exceptions to general conditions in the city center.

In contrast the second berlin wide meaningful center around the Zoologischer Garten and along the boulevard Kurfürstendamm is more or less well preserved as a residential area, whereby this is a relevant contribution to the vitality of city life.

The Wilhelminische Ring stands out with a "predominately high population density of 351 and more p/ha". The area has a block structure from the late 19th-century and is located within and on the edge of the City Rail Circle line. Maximum values with more than 700 p/ha occur only in about 20 of the overall 14,500 blocks and block segments in Berlin. These areas are located in the boroughs of Neukölln, Kreuzberg and Lichtenberg.

Outside the City Rail Circle line, the relatively high population density continues south into the Schöneberg, Friedenau, and Steglitz boroughs. Population distribution similar to that within the inner City Rail Circle line is found in older development areas of Spandau, and is similar to other areas such as Tegel, Schöneeweide, Adlershof, and Tempelhof. When these areas were developed around the turn of the century, they were on the edge of Berlin. They were later incorporated into Berlin.

The high-rise and industrially-prefabricated settlements at the edge of the city are relatively densely populated with 151 to more than 350 p/ha in large block areas. These are Märkisches Viertel, Hohenschönhausen, Marzahn, Hellersdorf, and Gropiusstadt.

Small settlements with post-war high-rise development fall predominately in the 151 to 250 p/ha range. These areas at the edge of the city in Spandau, Lichterfelde, Marienfelde, Waidmannslust, Bohnsdorf, and Köpenick are relatively less densely populated. Some locations in this population density class are settlements with block-edge and row development. Examples are Haselhorst, Siemensstadt, Zehlendorf, and Plänterwald.

Typical for the city edge, and the most numerous, are relatively thinly populated settlements with 5 - 150 p/ha. These blocks are block-edge or row development, 71 - 150 p/ha; low developments with yards, 5 - 70 p/ha; and villa developments with park-like gardens and some semi-private re-greening, 31 - 70 p/ha.

An interesting development can be observed at the eastern city border in comparison to the map of the population density in 1994. Because of divisions of real estates and in the consequence constructional compressions the predominant number of blocks are nowadays in the density category of 31-70 p/ha, whereas for the data from 1994/31/12 blocks with less than 30 p/ha are in the majority. Therefore as a result of this development in the field of population density the eastern border of Berlin bears resemblance to the western border.

The distribution of population density correlates quite clearly with Environmental Atlas Map 06.07, "Urban Structure". It is apparent that area types can be assigned a certain range of population density. Table 1 gives average population densities for residential area types (proportion of more than 75% of the use within the area) and respectively Mixed Areas I (more than 25% proportion of trade and services). These calculations are based only on areas (blocks or block segments) of uniform use.

Tab. 1: Average Population Density per Area Type and Use		
Area type	Average population density (p/ha) per use	
	Residential area	Mixed area I
Closed courtyard	475	354
Courtyard	365	229
Preservation-oriented reconstruction	369	256
Decorative and garden court	225	163
Shed court	115	125
Post-war block-edge	289	209
Reconstruction by de-coring	358	214
Large court and Twenties and thirties row	194	157
Fifties and later row	154	126
Unplanned reconstruction	257	239
High-rise	248	213
Eighties and nineties pre-fab block-edge	215	209
Row yard	52	35
Yard	45	36
Open settlement development	30	35
Park-like garden	48	40
Yards and semi-private re-greening	76	72
Village	33	45

Tab. 1: Average Population Density per Area Type and Use

For blocks with non-uniform use the population density can now be displayed much more detailed in block segments with uniform use - and this is an important progress in comparison to the first edition of this map.

Instancing the block north of the Innsbrucker Platz along the Hauptstrasse in the Schöneberg borough at the corner of Belziger Strasse and Dominicusstrasse has several block segments, amongst others a park of 5,4 ha. Therefore the population density - broken down into the other block segments - producing a doubling of the density value from 1994 with 88 p/ha for the whole block.

Nevertheless there are also not divided blocks with different uses, for all cases where these differing uses do not reach a size of one ha. In those cases the different uses within a block may not have been taken into consideration. For example besides "residential" use, the block with "167 p/ha" at the corner Gothaer Str. / Belziger Str. also has an utilities area. Other blocks with values of about 250 p/ha have Mixed Area 1 use.

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