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Transition to higher education - development of basic figures

Key figure	Unit	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015	2016
18 to 19 year old population ¹	Number	1,889,488	1,928,257	1,740,706	1,607,400	1,641,491	1,745,413	1,751,175
Development of the 18 to 19 age group (2000=100%)	in %	100.0	102.1	92.1	85.1	86.9	92.4	92.7
Development of the 18 to 19 age group (2005=100%)	in %	98.0	100.0	90.3	83.4	85.1	90.5	90.8
Average for one year of the 18 to 19 age group	Number	944,744	964,129	870,353	803,700	820,746	872,707	875,588
People qualified to enter higher education ^{2 3}	Number	347,539	399,372	458,362	476,475	434,809	444,859	452,588
Percentage of people qualified to enter higher education ^{3 4 5}	in %	37.2	42.5	48.5	51.7	52.8	53.0	52.1
Development of people qualified to enter higher education (2000=100%)	in %	100.0	114.9	131.9	137.1	125.1	128.0	130.2
Development of people qualified to enter higher education (2005=100%)	in %	87.0	100.0	114.8	119.3	108.9	111.4	113.3
First-year students ^{2 6}	Number	314,539	355,961	444,608	508,621	504,882	506,580	509,760
Percentage of first-year students ^{4 7}	in %	33.3	37.1	45.7	53.1	58.3	58.2	56.7
Development of first-year students (2000=100%)	in %	100.0	113.2	141.4	161.7	160.5	161.1	162.1
Development of first-year students (2005=100%)	in %	88.4	100.0	124.9	142.9	141.8	142.3	143.2
Percentage of people who pursue higher education ^{8 9}	in %	-	69.0	72.0	-	-	74.0	-
Percentage of people who pursue vocational training ¹⁰	in %	-	25.0	23.0	-	-	21.0	-

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Transition to higher education - development of basic figures

Key figure	Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
18 to 19 year old population ¹	Number	1,714,180	1,696,864	1,652,600	1,590,630	1,570,656	1,609,350	1,630,469
Development of the 18 to 19 age group (2000=100%)	in %	90.7	89.8	87.5	84.2	83.1	85.2	86.3
Development of the 18 to 19 age group (2005=100%)	in %	88.9	88.0	85.7	82.5	81.5	83.5	84.6
Average for one year of the 18 to 19 age group	Number	857,090	848,432	826,300	795,315	785,328	804,675	815,235
People qualified to enter higher education ^{2 3}	Number	440,803	432,414	422,784	381,582	393,267	382,724	379,851
Percentage of people qualified to enter higher education ^{3 4 5}	in %	51.0	50.6	50.6	46.8	48.4	48.4	47.1
Development of people qualified to enter higher education (2000=100%)	in %	126.8	124.4	121.7	109.8	113.2	110.1	109.3
Development of people qualified to enter higher education (2005=100%)	in %	110.4	108.3	105.9	95.5	98.5	95.8	95.1
First-year students ^{2 6}	Number	512,419	511,997	508,689	490,204	471,964	473,665	481,962
Percentage of first-year students ^{4 7}	in %	57.0	57.3	57.6	56.6	55.5	56.4	58.0
Development of first-year students (2000=100%)	in %	162.9	162.8	161.7	155.8	150.0	150.6	153.2
Development of first-year students (2005=100%)	in %	144.0	143.8	142.9	137.7	132.6	133.1	135.4
Percentage of people who pursue higher education ^{8 9}	in %	-	70.0	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of people who pursue vocational training ¹⁰	in %	-	24.0	-	-	-	-	-

1 As of 2013, findings based on 2011 Census.

2 Figures are not adjusted considering the double Abitur graduation classes.

3 For 2022, in Saarland, only people qualified to enter higher education from general schools.

4 From 2010 to 2013, the figures are adjusted considering the double Abitur graduation classes.

5 This refers to the share of school-leavers qualified to enter higher education in the age-specific population. Until 2005, the percentage of people qualified to enter higher education is related to the average 18 to under 21 age group. As of 2010, the percentage of people qualified to enter higher education is related to the population of the specific years of birth. Until 2013, population data are based on past censuses. As of 2014, population data are based on 2011 Census.

6 Summer semester and following winter semester (e.g. 2000 = SS 2000 and WS 2000/2001).

7 Share of students in their first semester (first enrolment) in the age-specific population. Quotas are calculated for single years of birth, and afterwards they are added up. Until 2013, population data are based on past censuses. 2014 to 2022, population data are based on 2011 Census. As of 2023, population data are based on 2022 Census.

8 Excluding colleges of public administration, colleges of the armed forces and vocational academies. As of 2010, including Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University. As of 2015, including vocational academies with a degree equivalent to higher education institutions.

9 The percentage of people who pursue higher education refers to the percentage of school-leavers qualified to enter higher education in any given year group who have already started a degree course or have the firm intention of starting one.

10 The percentage of people who pursue vocational training is the sum of the percentage of people qualified to enter higher education that, at the time the survey was conducted, had already started vocational training or had the firm intention of starting one. This includes in-company vocational training, training for civil servants (normally at colleges of public administration), attending vocational academies, attending full-time vocational schools, attending trade and technical schools, attending schools for nurses, midwives etc. and attending specialised academy. As of 2010, excluding Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University. As of 2015, excluding vocational academies with a degree equivalent to higher education institutions.

Last update: January 9, 2025

Source: Federal Statistical Office (special evaluation, Fachserie 11 Reihe 4.3.1, GENESIS-Online database - 12411 Current updating of population figures); German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW Panel Study of School Leavers with a Higher Education Entrance Qualification - special evaluation, calculations)

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<https://www.govdata.de/dl-de/by-2-0>