

## S U M M A R Y

The Institute for Museum Studies (Staatliche Museen Preußischer Kulturbesitz) reports annually on visitor attendance in all museums in the Federal Republic of Germany including West-Berlin (FRG).

The German government, regional and local political bodies and cultural organizations in the FRG are regarding these statistics as their most reliable instrument in this field.

The total number of museums taken into account for the 1989 survey was 2.813 (1988: 2.624).

The Institute for Museum Studies is not pretending to decree which institutions are museums and which are not. This choice is being made by the regional organizations of museums in the Federal Countries (Bundesländer) of the FRG; such a procedure is a logical consequence of the political structure of the FRG, which is federal. Therefore the museums taken into account for the yearly statistics and registered in our data base are in general accordance with the selection made by the Federal Countries themselves.

The quota of questionnaires for 1989 which were returned to us is 90,6%.

Museum attendance in 1989:

The total number of visits in museums in the FRG was  
**70.035.262**

Of the 2.813 museums which were asked for their attendance data, 2.301 were able to report them. The number of visits given above also includes attendance in special exhibitions held in museums or organised by them.

Apart from this, museum related exhibitions are often being shown or organized by institutions which do not have their own collections. Therefore the Institute for Museum Studies within its statistics for 1989 has asked 323 more institutions, which organize changing exhibitions of a museum type, for their visitor attendance figures. In these institutions

**4.215.881** visits

in 1.533 exhibitions were counted.

Beside these exhibitions in special exhibition areas 4.701 special exhibitions were reported by 1.155 museums in 1989 (1988: 4.210 by 1.071 museums). Of course no complete survey of all visits to special exhibitions is possible, since only a few museums are able to count their visits to special exhibitions as distinct from those to their permanent exhibitions. As we have already mentioned, the figure of 4.701 exhibitions does not include "Verkaufsgalerien", and/or exhibitions not intended for a general public. Therefore, in order to avoid misinterpretations, no attendance figures are being given for special exhibitions.

As compared to the precedent year the number of exhibitions shows that more museums were able to report special exhibitions for 1989.

As compared to 1988 the total attendance number for 1989 shows that visits in museums have increased by about 3.7 mio. or approx. 5%.

In the year 1989 the number of museums with a marked rise in attendancy figures was about the same as those with a marked decline in these figures. When announcing an increase of visits, the following main reasons were being listed:

- great international or national exhibitions
- public relations or educational activities in museums
- special local activities
- new entries of museums

The main reason for a decline was given as less or less important special exhibitions.

A listing of causes for significant increases or decreases in attendance for 1989 as to 1988 can be found in table 1 on page 11.

The survey on special exhibitions brought the result that of 4.701 special exhibitions of 1.155 museums a number of 4.212 were held in the museum itself.

Also in 1989 visiting a museum has belonged to the less expensive cultural activities for the consumer; in almost half (1.153) of museums which have answered this question no entrance fee was asked at all (see table 12 on page 31).

Table 3 on page 14 shows that more than half the number of all museums listed reported less than 15.000 visits in 1989.

The Institute for Museum Studies in 1987 had modified its own classification system for museums and is now very near to the categories employed by UNESCO (cfr. UNESCO/STC/Q/853).

Altogether we have the following classification:

1. Local history and local ethnography and regional museums
2. Art museums
3. Castles with inventory
4. Natural history and natural science museums
5. Science and technology museums
6. Archaeology and history museums
7. Complex museums with different kinds of collections
8. Specialized museums
9. Museum complexes with different kinds of museums

Due to the particular museum structure in the FRG ethnography and anthropology museums (UNESCO 2.e) and regional museums (UNESCO 2.g) have to remain in the class no. 1.

Contrary to UNESCO and ICOM usance zoological and botanical gardens as well as sites with monuments are not included in our list.

Furthermore the classification does not cover: information exhibits of private and state industry, industry fairs, castles and monuments without any own collections, churches.

Table 4 on page 18 shows the variations in attendance as correlated to the different types of museums. Item no. (1), the museums for local history and local ethnography (1.128 museums), has counted 14.3 million visits in 1989 (1988: 13.7 million), (2) art museums (in all 271) counted 12,4 million visits (1988: 11.2).

Table 5 on page 19 and table 6 on page 21 show the variance in attendance figures according to these different types of museums.

Table 10 on page 29 shows the distribution of museum types and their visitor attendance for the single Federal Countries (Bundesländer).

Table 11 on page 30 shows the distribution of museums correlated to their form of administration. In the FRG museums are run by (1) countries, (2) district areas, (3) communes, (4) national or governmental institutions, (5) societies and other public bodies, (6) private institutions, (7) foreign governments, (8) several different institutions for one given museum and (9) several different institutions for one given complex of museums.

As a consequence of political changes in the former German Democratic Republic we can add - for the first time - some statistical material on museums in this area. These figures have been elaborated by the Institut für Museums w e s e n der DDR in the eastern part of Berlin; they show that in 1989 there existed 751 museums on that territory, and that in these museums there were counted

**32.169.610 visits.**

These 751 museums were all state funded. Statistics in the GDR up to now have never taken into account any privately funded museums.

Since the classification used up to now by the East German Institute can not be correlated with that used by UNESCO, we have abstained from elaborating a detailed documentation. We are working on compatibility and consequently on creating possibilities for more detailed and combined analyses.