

## 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 1987 survey was 2.314 (1986: 2.185), and thus shows a slight increase.

The Institute for Museum Studies is not pretending to decree which institutions are museums and which are not. This decision 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 to the selection made by the Federal Countries themselves.

The quota of questionnaires for 1987 which were returned is 90,1%.

### Museum attendance in 1987:

The total number of visits in museums in the FRG was  
**66.336.869**

Of the 2.314 museums which were asked for their attendance data, 1.840 were able to report them. The number of visits given above also includes attendance in special exhibitions held in museums or organised by them.

In 1987 4.065 special exhibitions were reported by 944 museums (1986: 3.866 by 892 museums). Of course no complete survey of all visits in special exhibitions is possible, since only 245 museums counted their visits to special exhibitions as distinct from those to their permanent exhibitions. As we have already mentioned, the figure of 4.065 exhibitions does not include private galleries, exhibitions, arranged privately outside of museums, or similar occasions. Therefore, in order to avoid misinterpretations, no attendance figures are being given for special exhibitions.

As compared to the precedent year the amount of exhibitions shows that more museums were able to report special exhibitions for 1987, of which some also were more active in this field than in the year before.

As compared to 1986 the total attendance number for 1987 shows that visits in museums have increased by about 3.9 million.

Various reasons can be found for this increase.

The main ones are again (as in 1986):

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

The most frequent one given for a decrease in attendance is the closing down of parts of museum exhibition premises.

A listing of causes for significant increases or decreases in attendance for 1987 as to 1986 can be found in table 1 on page 7.

Since special exhibitions, public relations and pedagogical activities had been given as main reasons for the increase in visitor attendance in museums, the Institute for Museum Studies decided to ask for some additional data on these topics, with the result that:

Of 2.085 museums returning our questionnaires, 1.498 had organized guided tours and 296 museums practical demonstrations, f.e. of technical appliances or handicraft.

Our questions on that specific point brought the information that in the FRG 143 educational staff were in stable employment in various museums. In a number of big cities there exist, moreover, central educational services which develop their activities in several different local museums.

Additional information also in this spectrum of didactical initiatives and educational work in museums will be given in a separate publication scheduled for printing at a later time.

The survey on special exhibitions brought the result that of 4.065 special exhibitions of 944 museums a number of 3.582 were held in the relative museum itself, 483 exhibitions were arranged on separate outside premises.

Of 944 museums, 407 have charged the same amount of entrance fee for a special exhibition as they did for access to the permanent collection. 53 museums generally asked an entrance fee for their special exhibitions, and the considerable amount of 367 museums did not charge any entrance fee - neither for permanent nor for special exhibitions.

Also in 1987 visiting a museum has belonged to the less expensive cultural activities for the consumer; in more than half (846) of museums which have answered this question no entrance fee was asked at all (see table 18 on page 31).

Table 3 on page 10 shows that more than half the number of all museums listed reported less than 15.000 visits in 1987.

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
- (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 and exhibitions in private galleries.

This presentation of the results for 1987 is based on the new classifications, only in the case of the main graphs no. 4 and no. 6 the new and the old classification (4' and 6' on pages 14 and 18) are still juxtaposed.

Table 4 on page 13 shows the variations in attendance as correlated to the different types of museums. Item no. (1), the museums for local history and local ethnography (929 museums), has counted 13.5 million visits in 1987 (1986: 13.0 million), (2) art museums (in all 245) counted 14.0 million visits (1986: 12.7).

Table 5 on page 15 and table 6 on page 17 show the variance in attendance figures according to these different types of museums.

The tables following these are more or less of local interest.

Table 16 on page 29 shows the distribution of museum types and their visitor attendance for the single Federal Countries (Bundesländer).

Table 17 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.