

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 their most reliable instrument in this field.

The total number of museums taken into account for the 1986 survey was 2.185 (1985: 2.043), 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 1986 which were returned to us although already quite high, again went slightly up to 91,5 %.

Museum attendance in 1986:

The total number of visits in museums in the FRG was
62.431.644

Of the 2.185 museums which were asked for their attendance data, 1.763 were able to report them. The number of visits given above also includes attendance in special exhibitions in museums or organized by them.

In 1986 3.866 special exhibitions were reported by 892 museums (1985: 3.578 by 820 museums). Of course no complete survey of all visits in special exhibitions is possible, since only 350 museums counted their visitors to special exhibitions as distinct from those to their permanent exhibitions. As we have already mentioned, the figure of 3.866 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 1986, of which some also were more active in this field than in the year before.

As compared to 1985 the total attendancy number for 1986 shows that visits in museums have increased by over 1.7 million.

Various reasons can be found for this increase.

The main ones are:

- great international or national exhibitions
- special local activities
- new entries of museums

A listing of causes for significant increases or decreases in attendance for 1986 as to 1985 can be found in table 1 on page 7.

The principal reason given for increases are special exhibition activities. The most frequent one given for a decrease is the closing down of parts of museum exhibition premises.

Table 3 on page 10 shows that almost half the number of all museums listed reported less than 10.000 visits in 1986.

Table 4 on page 14 shows the variations in attendancy as correlated to different types of museums. Item no. (1), the museums for local history and local ethnography (908 museums), has counted 13.2 million visits in 1986 (1985: 12.8 million), (2) art museums (in all 231) counted 12.7 million visits (1985: 11.8).

Table 5 on page 16 and table 6 on page 19 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 7 on page 24 shows the distribution of museum types and their visitor attendance for the single Federal Countries (Bundesländer).

Table 8 on page 25 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 organizations for one given museum and (9) several different institutions for one given complex of museums.

The Berlin Institute for Museum Studies (IfM) has decided for its future museum statistics to reshuffle its own list of FRG museums in order to render it compatible to UNESCO categories (cfr. UNESCO/STC/Q/853). This will help to make the Institute's data internationally comparable.

Such an adaptation of course entails shifting certain classes of collections to other headings than before; the main changes therefore are:

subject of collections	former IfM class no.	new IfM class no.	UNESCO
Firefighting Brewery Winegrowing	<u>1</u> (local history) " "	<u>8a</u> specialized museums, cultural history	2.f) " "
Archaeology	<u>2</u> (art museums)	<u>6a</u> archaeology and history	2.b)
Cinema, photography	<u>8</u> (specialized museums)	<u>2a</u> art museums	2.a)
Science	<u>4</u> (science museums)	<u>4a</u> natural science natural history	2.c)
Technical museums	<u>5</u> (technology and traffic)	<u>5a</u> technology, traffic, science	2.d)
Prehistory	<u>8</u> (cultural history)	<u>6a</u> archaeology and history	2.b)
Military	<u>5</u> (technology and traffic)	<u>6a</u> " "	" "

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 new IfM class no. 1a.

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

Furthermore IfM 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.

Altogether we get the following classification:

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

Attendance figures of German museums according to this new classification can be found in tables 4a (page 15) and 6a (page 20).

In the future all our statistics will be based on this (UNESCO-adapted) classification.