



Volume 4. Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany, 1866-1890  
 Students Attending Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Learning in Prussia  
 (1869-1912)

During the Bismarckian period the number of students attending Prussian universities and other institutes of higher learning shot upward, from about 18,000 in 1869 to over 40,000 in the mid-1890s – far exceeding the rate of growth among the adult male population (women were not permitted to attend university). More and more university students came from lower-middle-class backgrounds. The proportion of students from families of the educated middle classes [*Bildungsbürgertum*] declined correspondingly.

**Students Attending Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Learning in Prussia, Divided According to Type**

At the end of the year	Students (regular students, auditors) <sup>1</sup>						Students (regular students, auditors) <sup>1</sup>	
	22 Universities	11 Institutes of technology	5 and, respectively, 4 <sup>a</sup> forest academies	3 Mining academies	5 and, respectively, 4 <sup>b</sup> veterinary universities	4 Agricultural universities	together	per 10,000 of the male population
1869	13,997	2,928	261	144	267	357	17,954	8.83
1872	15,359	4,163	317	168	271	298	20,576	10.03
1875	16,357	5,449	269	264	284	269	22,892	11.08
1880	21,432	3,377	394	262	436	353	26,254	11.73
1885	26,928	2,549	394	344	735	468	31,418	13.85
1888	28,551	2,887	386	343	962	483	33,612	14.39
1891	27,398	4,209	255	389	1,047	694	33,992	13.87
1896	29,476	7,747	330	523	1,140	1,070	40,286	15.70
1899	32,834	10,412	278	763	1,343	890	46,520	16.78

<sup>1</sup> Male and female students; the student numbers were probably expressed as a percentage of the male population because the number of female students was basically negligible – for instance, during the winter semester of 1911/12 only 1,896 women were enrolled in Prussian universities as opposed to 26,550 men. (*Statistisches Jahrbuch für den Preußischen Staat* [*Statistical Yearbook for the Prussian State*] 1915, p. 265 and 267).

<sup>a</sup> From 1910 onward, this does not include the Forest Academy in Aschaffenburg.

<sup>b</sup> From 1912 onward, this does not include the Veterinary University in Stuttgart.

1902	35,857	13,151	251	879	1,415	985	52,538	18.50
1905	41,235	12,237	336	902	1,186	1,479	57,375	19.20
1908	47,253	11,315	342	830	1,306	1,553	62,599	20.08
1909	50,612	11,365	323	826	1,233	1,607	65,966	20.87
1910	52,766	11,502	291	806	1,220	1,617	68,202	21.29
1911	54,999	11,378	338	791	1,328	1,446	70,280	21.65
1912	56,483	11,349	327	805	1,269	1,477	71,710	21.77

Source: *Statistisches Jahrbuch für den Preußischen Staat* [*Statistical Yearbook for the Prussian State*] (1915): p. 261.

Original German data reprinted in Gerd Hohorst, Jürgen Kocka, and Gerhard A. Ritter, *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch II* [*Social History Workbook*], 2nd ed. Munich: Beck, 1978, pp. 161-62.