

FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

GERMANY

THE REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TODAY

Location	The Federal Republic of Germany, which was formally established in October 1990 upon the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG, West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR, East Germany), lies in the heart of Europe. Their neighbours to the west are The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France, to the east Czech Republic and Poland, to the north Denmark and to south and south east Switzerland and Austria.
Size	357,021Sq. K.M. (137,847 Sq. miles). Land: 349,223 sq. km. and Water: 7,798 sq. km.
Population	84,316,622 in 2022*.
Population Density	236.16 per sq. km. in 2022 *.
Population growth rate	-0.11% in 2022*.
Birth rate	9.08 births/1000 of total population in 2022*.
Death rate	11.98 deaths/1000 of total population in 2022*.
Life expectancy	81.51 years. 79.15 years (men) and 84.00 years (women).2022*
Literacy	99% *.
Capital City	Berlin
Other Large Cities	Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, Essen, Dortmund, Stuttgart, Dusseldorf, Bremen, Duisburg, Hannover, Nurnberg, Dresden, Leipzig, Bochum, Wuppertal, Bielefeld, Mannheim, Bonn, Gelsenkirchen, Karlsruhe, Augsburg, Kiel, Kassel etc.
Religion	About 38% of the population is Protestants and an estimated 34% are Roman Catholics.
Language	The language is German. There is a small Serbian-speaking minority.
Climate	The climate is temperate, with an annual average temperature of 9°C (48°F), although there are considerable variations between the North German lowlands and the Bavarian Alps.
International Relations	Germany is a member of the UN, OECD, EU, WEU, NATO and the Council of Europe, and is a signatory to the Schengen Accord which abolished border controls between Germany and other European countries.
Internet domain	.de
International dialing code	+49
Currency	The unit of currency is the euro (EUR).

***estimated figure**

NATIONAL ECONOMY

Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, economic activity in Germany was firming up.

Auto production and services activity were picking up by late 2021 and early 2022 on easing semiconductor shortages and relaxation of pandemic restrictions. The war in Ukraine has created new headwinds, including a curtailment of gas flows from Russia, higher energy prices, scarcity of key intermediate inputs, weaker external demand and confidence, and tighter financial conditions. Growth is expected at 1.2 percent in 2022 and 0.8 percent in 2023, down from 2.9 percent in 2021. Surging energy costs are reducing the current account surplus and feeding into broad-based price pressures, with inflation expected to average 7.7 percent in 2022 and 4.8 percent in 2023.

Uncertainty is very high, with risks to the baseline growth forecast skewed downward and risks to the inflation forecast skewed upward. The greatest threat is a persistent shut-off of the remaining Russian gas exports to Europe, which could cause sizable reductions in German economic activity and increases in inflation. A prolonged war and resurging COVID-19 infections could also intensify supply chain disruptions. Persistently-high inflation and fears of a de-anchoring of inflation expectations can prompt major central banks to tighten policies faster than currently expected, potentially triggering a sharp tightening in financial conditions and corrections in asset prices. Over the medium term, a fragmentation of global economic supply chains related to the war could compound longstanding challenges related to decarbonization, population aging, infrastructure gaps, and digitalization.

In response to surging energy prices, the government is expanding income support for vulnerable households, cutting fuel taxes, and providing liquidity support to firms.

However, the fiscal stance in 2022 is expected to be broadly neutral as COVID-19 relief measures are phased out. The debt brake rule is set to resume in 2023. To finance increased climate- and defense-related spending, the government has created extra budgetary funds that are not bound by the debt brake rule. To secure energy supplies, the government is diversifying away from Russian oil, coal, and gas, establishing facilities to re-gasify liquefied natural gas, and requiring operators to fill gas storage tanks before the winter.

The war has so far had limited effects on the financial sector. Overall, banks remain largely resilient to solvency and liquidity shocks. Since the last FSAP, the authorities have strengthened micro prudential frameworks for banking and insurance, resolution planning, and crisis preparedness. However, low bank profitability remains a source of vulnerability, and stress tests identify shortfalls of capital and US dollar liquidity at some individual banks under adverse scenarios. Macro prudential institutions are well developed, and the authorities have tightened macro prudential policy this year. Nevertheless, house price valuations remain stretched and lending standards appear loose in certain segments.

Executive Board Assessment

In the course of Article IV consultation between IMF and Germany, Executive Directors of the IMF agreed with the thrust of the staff appraisal. They commended the authorities for their timely and well-designed response to mitigate the spillovers from Russia's war against Ukraine, including proactively looking at contingency plans in the event of gas supply disruptions. Directors noted that growth is likely to be muted in the coming quarters, and that risks associated with a potential further disruption of natural gas supplies, a gloomy global outlook, and supply bottlenecks loom large. Inflation is also likely to remain elevated in the next two years, mostly reflecting the pass-through of recent increases in natural gas prices.

Directors agreed that the fiscal stance is appropriate for 2022, and the authorities' plan to return to the debt brake rule in 2023 by ending COVID-19 and energy-related relief measures should be manageable. Given the high uncertainty, Directors called for maintaining flexibility and recalibrating near-term fiscal plans as needed if downside risks materialize.

Directors encouraged the authorities to continue to cushion the impact of any further sizable increases in energy prices via targeted and time-bound measures for vulnerable households, and generally recommended allowing the higher international gas prices to pass through to end-users to incentivize energy savings and facilitate the build-up of gas inventories. A few Directors saw merit in the authorities' temporary subsidies for firm's energy bills. Directors recommended allowing automatic stabilizers to operate fully and if needed consider activating the escape clause of the debt break rule for another year if downside risks materialize. Directors supported the authorities' efforts to ensure energy security, including their plan to introduce financial incentives to encourage further voluntary gas conservation, and close cooperation with other EU countries in planning for potential gas shortages.

Directors welcomed the authorities' ambitious decarbonization plans and their digitalization and transportation infrastructure push. They encouraged the authorities to continue investing in Germany's growth potential and resilience, through further enhancing energy security, digitalization, innovation, labor supply and training, and social protection. Improving economic opportunities for women and migrants will also be important. Boosting green public investment is vital to tackle network externalities and crowd-in private investments in clean technologies, which can also help lower Germany's large external imbalances. Directors urged the authorities to overcome the longstanding obstacles to ramping up public investment rapidly and decisively. To maintain the credibility of Germany's fiscal framework, Directors generally stressed that structural increases in spending for strategic priorities should be integrated into the core budget over time.

Directors welcomed that the financial sector has weathered the challenging circumstances well. They noted the generally positive assessment of the resilience of the German banking system in the FSAP and broadly supported the report's recommendations. Given pockets of vulnerability and structurally low bank profitability, Directors recommended continued close monitoring of the sensitivity of banks' balance sheets to evolving risks and strengthening banks' capital buffers as needed. Directors appreciated the progress in enhancing the micro prudential frameworks for banks and the insurance sector and underscored the need to further strengthen BaFin's operational independence and certain aspects of the overall supervisory framework. Some Directors suggested reviewing the design of the fragmented deposit insurance system. Directors welcomed Germany's recent macro prudential policy tightening and underscored the need to add income-based measures to the macro prudential toolkit and expedite the closure of data gaps. Some Directors also encouraged activation of borrower-based instruments if appropriate. Continued strengthening of the AML/CFT framework will also be important.

Germany: Selected Economic Indicators, 2020–23				
			<i>Projections</i>	
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Output	(unadjusted)			
Real GDP growth (%)	-4.6	2.9	1.2	0.8
Total domestic demand growth (%)	-4.0	2.3	2.2	0.7
Output gap (% of potential GDP)	-3.6	-1.6	-1.2	-1.2
Employment				
Unemployment rate (% ILO)	3.8	3.6	3.1	3.4
Employment growth (%)	-1.0	-0.7	1.6	-0.2
Prices				
Inflation (% headline, period avg.)	0.4	3.2	7.7	4.8
Inflation (% core, period avg.)	0.8	2.3	4.0	3.9
General Government Finances				
Fiscal balance (% of GDP)	-4.3	-3.7	-3.2	-1.8
Revenue (% of GDP)	46.5	47.9	47.1	46.9
Expenditure (% of GDP)	50.8	51.6	50.2	48.7
Public debt (% of GDP)	68.7	70.2	70.9	68.9

Money and Credit					
Broad money (M3) (end of year, % change) 1/	8.2	5.6			
Credit to private sector (% change)	4.9	5.4			
10-year government bond yield (%)	-0.5	-0.3			
Balance of Payments					
Current account balance (% of GDP)	7.1	7.4	5.7	6.2	
Trade balance (% of GDP)	5.7	5.4	3.9	4.4	
Exports of goods (% of GDP)	35.2	38.3	37.5	37.6	
Volume (% change)	-9.0	10.0	1.9	4.2	
Imports of goods (% of GDP)	29.6	32.9	33.7	33.0	
Volume (% change)	-5.3	8.0	1.5	3.4	
FDI balance (% of GDP)	-0.1	2.9	1.6	1.5	
Reserves minus gold (billions of US\$)	64.0	99.2			
External Debt (% of GDP)	165.1	171.8			
Exchange Rate					
REER (% change)	1.3	0.9			
NEER (% change)	2.4	0.8			
Real effective rate (2005=100) 2/	96.7	97.6			
Nominal effective rate (2005=100) 3/	103.8	104.7			
Sources: Deutsche Bundesbank, Eurostat, Federal Statistical Office, Haver Analytics, and IMF staff calculations.					
1/ Reflects Germany's contribution to M3 of the euro area.					
2/ Real effective exchange rate, CPI based, all countries.					
3/ Nominal effective exchange rate, all countries.					

"NATIONAL ECONOMY" is based on IMF Executive Board Concludes 2022 Article IV Consultation with Germany July 20, 2022.

FOREIGN TRADE

Germany's total exports in 2015 were of the order of US\$ 1,326,206 million. It increased to US\$ 1,489,190 million in 2019. Exports during the period from 2015 to 2019, in terms of percentage, grew highest (8.53%) in 2017 and fell maximum (-4.57%) in 2019 in comparison with 2016 and 2018 respectively. The annual average compound growth rate of export worked out at 2.94.

Imports, on the other hand, were of the order of US\$ 1,231,163 million in 2019 while in 2015 it was US\$ 1,051,131 million. Imports during the period from 2015 to 2019, in terms of percentage, grew highest (10.44%) in 2018 and fell maximum (-4.14%) in 2019 as compared to 2017 and 2018 respectively. The annual average compound rate of growth worked out at 4.03%.

Volume of trade registered an annual average (compound) growth rate of 3.43% from US\$ 2,377,377 million in 2015 to US\$ 2,720,353 million in 2020.

Germany enjoyed a surplus balance of trade payment during the said period.

Germany's export and import, volume and balance of trade between 2015 and 2019 along with their growth rates are given in **Table-I**.

Main commodities exported from Germany are food and live animals, chemicals and related products, basic manufactures, machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactured articles.

Major items imported by Germany are vegetable and fruit, crude materials (inedible) except fuels, petroleum, petroleum products etc., gas (natural and manufactured), organic chemicals, textile yarn, fabrics etc., iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, other metal manufactured articles etc.

Principal trading partners are Austria, Belgium/Luxembourg, China PR, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands Norway, USSR, UK, USA etc.

The major international airports are at Bremen, Cologne-Bonn, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanover, Leipzig, Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart and three at Berlin (Tegel, Tempelhof and Schönefeld). Airports at Dortmund, Dresden, Frankfurt (Hahn), Lubeck, Paderborn, Rostock and Saarbrücken are used for only a few scheduled international flights in addition to domestic flights.

Lufthansa, the largest carrier, was set up in 1953 and is 36% state-owned. Other airlines include Condor, Deutsche-British Airways, Eurowings and LTU International Airways.

The principal seaports for freight are Bremen, Hamburg, Rostock-Uberseehafen and Wilhelmshaven.

There are 7,467 km of navigable inland waterways, including the Main-Danube Canal, linking the North Sea and the Black Sea, which was opened in September 1992. Inland shipping accounts for about 20% of total freight traffic.

BILATERAL TRADE WITH INDIA

Indo-Germany bilateral trade in 2017-18 was of the order of Rs.1,41,703.14 crores. It increased to Rs.1,85,274.10 crores in 2021-22. The annual compound growth rate of volume of trade during the period from 2017-18 to 2021-22 was 6.93. India faced a deficit balance of trade during the said period (**see table II**). The average annual compound growth rates of exports and imports worked out at 7.12% and 6.81% respectively.

India's top ten exports to, and imports from Germany of Merchandise Goods between 2017-18 and 2021-22 along with their growth rates are presented in **Table II**.

India's top ten merchandise goods exported to and imported from Germany, during 2017-18 to 2021-22, along with their growth rates are depicted in **Table III & IV** respectively.

SOME IMPORTANT LINKS

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Names and addresses of the organizations engaged in foreign trade in Germany are:-

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<i>Email</i>	: info@wfbi.de
<i>Url</i>	: http://www.blc.berlin.de/online/en/U/seite0.jsp

Bundesagentur für Aussenwirtschaft

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<i>Fax</i>	: +49-221-2057212
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<i>Url</i>	: http://www.bfai.de

Bundesverband des Deutschen Exporthandels eV

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Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit

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<i>Url</i>	: http://www.dihk.de

Sources

The Statesman Year Book, the Europa World Year Book, Monthly Bulletin on Statistics UN Publication, IMF, World Bank.org, BBC News, the World Fact Book, World Development, Visa HQ Etc.

"NOTICE"

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TABLE I

GERMANY'S TOTAL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, VOLUME AND BALANCE OF TRADE

BETWEEN 2015 TO 2019.

(Figures in US MILLION DOLLARS)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Exports</i>	<i>Percentage Growth in Exports</i>	<i>Import</i>	<i>Percentage Growth in Imports</i>	<i>Volume of Trade</i>	<i>Percentage Growth in Vol. of Trade</i>	<i>Balance of Trade</i>
2015	1326206		1051131		23,77,337		275075
2016	1334355	0.61	1055326	0.40	23,89,681	0.52	279029
2017	1448171	8.53	1162892	10.19	26,11,063	9.26	285279
2018	1560531	7.76	1284348	10.44	28,44,879	8.95	276183
2019	1489190	-4.57	1231163	-4.14	27,20,353	-4.38	258027

**Annual
Compound
Growth
Rate**

2.94

4.03

3.43

NOTE : Figures relate to calendar year, January to December.

SOURCE : *UN COMTRADE PUBLICATION*

TABLE - II

INDIA'S EXPORT TO AND IMPORT FROM GERMANY MERCHANDISE GOODS DURING 2017-2018 TO 2021-2022

(Value in Rs. CRORES)

Year	Exports	Percentage Growth in Exports	Import	Percentage Growth in Imports	Volume of Trade	Percentage Growth in Vol. of Trade	Balance of Trade
2017-18	56002.91		85700.23		141703.14		-29697.32
2018-19	62214.24	11.09	106170.11	23.89	168384.35	18.83	-43955.87
2019-20	58724.90	-5.61	94462.06	-11.03	153186.96	-9.03	-35737.16
2020-21	60121.93	2.38	96892.39	2.57	157014.32	2.50	-36770.46
2021-22	73726.58	22.63	111547.52	15.13	185274.10	18.00	-37820.94

**Annual
Compound
Growth
Rate**

7.12

6.81

6.93

NOTE : Figures relate to Financial Year April to March.
SOURCE : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics,
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata 700 107.

TABLE -III
INDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE EXPORT TO GERMANY
2017-2018 TO 2021-2022 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES

(Value in Rs. CRORES)

Sl. No.	Name of the Merchandise Commodities	Value of Exports					Annual Growth Rates			
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	18-19 over 2017-18	19-20 over 2018-19	20-21 over 2019-20	21-22 over 2020-21
1	Electric Machinery And Equipments	6100.79	6146.29	6243.52	4708.14	4949.30	0.75	1.58	-24.59	5.12
	Share in total export	10.89	9.88	10.63	7.83	6.71				
2	RMG Cotton Including Accessories	4266.57	4337.08	3858.14	3410.49	4260.03	1.65	-11.04	-11.60	24.91
	Share in total export	7.62	6.97	6.57	5.67	5.78				
3	Products Of Iron & Steel	2511.94	2963.98	2662.93	2342.93	3420.35	18.00	-10.16	-12.02	45.99
	Share in total export	4.49	4.76	4.53	3.90	4.64				
4	Indl. Machinery For Dairy Etc.	1424.81	1760.58	1651.01	2029.15	3115.65	23.57	-6.22	22.90	53.54
	Share in total export	2.54	2.83	2.81	3.38	4.23				
5	Organic Chemicals	1345.72	1715.34	1722.14	1938.17	2691.05	27.47	0.40	12.54	38.84
	Share in total export	2.40	2.76	2.93	3.22	3.65				
6	Auto Components/Parts	1463.27	1909.75	1828.28	2050.22	2658.88	30.51	-4.27	12.14	29.69
	Share in total export	2.61	3.07	3.11	3.41	3.61				
7	Telecom Instruments	57.88	242.54	758.66	2921.24	2369.87	319.04	212.80	285.05	-18.87
	Share in total export	0.10	0.39	1.29	4.86	3.21				
8	Residual Chemicals And Products	1440.45	1912.50	1872.72	2264.61	2344.43	32.77	-2.08	20.93	3.52
	Share in total export	2.57	3.07	3.19	3.77	3.18				
9	Drug Formulations, Biologicals	1152.59	1459.63	1933.92	2273.60	2141.60	26.64	32.49	17.56	-5.81
	Share in total export	2.06	2.35	3.29	3.78	2.90				
10	Iron And Steel	837.82	1129.16	959.51	913.88	1979.91	34.77	-15.02	-4.76	116.65
	Share in total export	1.50	1.81	1.63	1.52	2.69				
	Total export to GERMANY	56002.91	62214.24	58724.90	60121.93	73726.58	11.09	-5.61	2.38	22.63

NOTE : Figures relate to Financial Year, April to March.

SOURCE : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata : 700 107.

TABLE -IV
INDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE IMPORT FROM

GERMANY

2017-2018 TO 2021-2022 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES

(Value in Rs. CRORES)

Sl. No.	Name of the Merchandise Commodities	Value of Imports					Annual Growth Rates			
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	18-19 over 2017-18	19-20 over 2018-19	20-21 over 2019-20	21-22 over 2020-21
1	Indl. Machinery For Dairy Etc.	10960.05	10246.78	11112.70	9384.34	14049.18	-6.51	8.45	-15.55	49.71
	Share in total imports	12.79	9.65	11.76	9.69	12.59				
2	Aircraft, Spacecraft And Parts	2021.61	10384.64	12173.73	22465.61	13276.76	413.68	17.23	84.54	-40.90
	Share in total imports	2.36	9.78	12.89	23.19	11.90				
3	Electric Machinery & Equipments	4620.35	3870.88	8282.92	5270.18	6629.28	-16.22	113.98	-36.37	25.79
	Share in total imports.	5.39	3.65	8.77	5.44	5.94				
4	Medical Scientific Instruments	4407.18	3959.21	4813.17	4231.47	5704.68	-10.16	21.57	-12.09	34.82
	Share in total import	5.14	3.73	5.10	4.37	5.11				
5	Electronic Instruments	4387.71	4177.22	4906.86	3952.69	5039.86	-4.80	17.47	-19.45	27.50
	Share in total import	5.12	3.93	5.19	4.08	4.52				
6	Auto Components/Parts	5263.52	6590.54	3990.22	2784.91	4930.99	25.21	-39.46	-30.21	77.06
	Share in total import	6.14	6.21	4.22	2.87	4.42				
7	Residul Chemical And Allied Prod.	2841.81	2446.62	2884.04	3490.99	4612.03	-13.91	17.88	21.05	32.11
	Share in total import	3.32	2.30	3.05	3.60	4.13				
8	Electronic Components	3257.61	2765.42	3583.97	3419.25	4121.13	-15.11	29.60	-4.60	20.53
	Share in total import	3.80	2.60	3.79	3.53	3.69				
9	Mics. Engineering Items	2875.69	3124.04	2795.61	2563.45	3296.41	8.64	-10.51	-8.30	28.59
	Share in total import	3.36	2.94	2.96	2.65	2.96				
10	Copper And Products Of Copper	3257.61	2765.42	3583.97	1135.59	2861.74	-15.11	29.60	-68.31	152.00
	Share in total import	3.80	2.60	3.79	1.17	2.57				
	Total import from GERMANY	85700.23	106170.06	94462.06	96892.39	111547.52	23.89	-11.03	2.57	15.13

NOTE : Figures relate to Financial Year, April to March.

SOURCE : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata : 700 107.