

## 1. LINKS TO STATISTICS AND EMBASSIES

Link to the Federal Ministry of Statistics

<http://www.destatis.de/jetspeed/portal/cms/>

Database of Federal Statics

[www.regionalstatistik.de/genesis/online/logon](http://www.regionalstatistik.de/genesis/online/logon)

Link to Portuguese Embassy in Berlin

<http://www.botschaftportugal.de/>

There are two main problems in the statistical counting of Portuguese in Germany: Firstly, it is not the State, but each Federation (Bundesland, e.g. Lower Saxony, Bavaria, etc) that holds responsibility for counting foreigners in Germany. These numbers are yearly provided to the Ministry of Statistics, which again generalizes the numbers regarding ethnical majorities, giving a better overview of the population as a whole. As the Portuguese presence is quite reduced, they rarely appear as an integral group, but in more generalized subcategories. The schema below shows the most important facts.

Total of inhabitants	<b>82.217.837</b>
Total of foreign nationals	<b>7.255.395</b> <b>8,82% of total</b> population
Total of Portuguese nationals	<b>114.552</b> <b>1,57% of foreign</b> population
Areas of high Portuguese density (in numbers)	North Rhine – Westphalia: <b>35.923</b> Baden – Wurrtemberg: <b>25.450</b> Hesse: <b>13.379</b> Hamburg: <b>7.877</b> Bavaria: <b>7.832</b> Lower Saxony: <b>7.050</b> Rhineland – Palatinate: <b>6.996<sup>iii</sup></b>
Areas of high Portuguese density ( Portuguese population in per cent of total foreign population)	Hamburg: <b>3,11%</b> Bremen: <b>2,93</b> Rhineland – Palatinate: <b>2,24%</b> Hesse: 1,96 North Rhine – Westphalia: <b>1,88%</b> Schleswig – Holstein: <b>1,46%</b> Lower Saxony: <b>1,33%</b>
Cities of high Portuguese density	Hamburg, Bremen, Frankfurt, Osnabrück, Münster, the Rhur Area, Munich, Düsseldorf, Stuttgart

## 2. MIGRATION HISTORY

### Portuguese Emigration to Germany

Migration, both emigration and immigration, was always a part of the German society, statistically listed since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first greater wave of Immigration is named in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when so called *Ruhrpolen* ('Ruhrpolish') were recruited as season workers in for the industrial and agricultural sector. <sup>iii</sup>

In the late 50s and the early 60s Germany faced excess demand for unskilled blue collar workers, due to the prospering economical and industrial development after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. An active recruitment policy was established under the control of the German Labour Office, regarding the necessity of the German Labour Industry. German firms and enterprises provided offers for contracts in accordance with the Labour authorities. Those offers were forwarded to the recruitment authorities of each individual country. Workers were selected regarding their age, qualifications, state of health and employment offers. There was also a second possibility to immigrate to Germany: foreign employment seekers were allowed to apply directly for jobs via the German embassies in their home country.

The recruitment of foreign labour force for Germany started in 1955 in Italy. Later on, recruitment agreements were made with Spain (1960), Greece (1960), Turkey (1961), Morocco (1963), Portugal (1964), Tunisia (1965) and Yugoslavia. As the oil crises in 1973 signified a preliminary end of economic growth and therewith the German demand of foreign labour force, the active recruitment was stopped, but the German government allowed 'family reunions'.

The Portuguese emigration to Germany can be describes in four specific waves:

#### **1964 – 1974: The years of arrival**

On May, 17<sup>th</sup> 1964 Germany and Portugal signed a recruitment agreement for blue collar workers. Until 1974, ca. 120.000 Portuguese emigrated to Germany, which represented 3,4 % of the total foreign population in Germany <sup>iv</sup>. The majority of them were employed in unskilled position, e.g. in the automotive industrial sector like Carman in Osnabrück, the fishing industry in Hamburg, the heavy industry in the Ruhr Area (District of Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen, Bochum, etc.) or they were working as temporary employees in the health and service sector, e.g. hospitals and hotels. As the permanent residence regulations in Germany were (and still

are) strongly hindered without having a working permit, one concludes that the nature of Portuguese emigration to Germany was basically Labour Migration at that time.

#### **1973 – 1986: Years of the 1<sup>st</sup> return**

Due to the oil crises in 1973, a negative balance of Portuguese emigration inflow is registered from 1973 onwards. The active recruitment policy was stopped, which meant that emigration to Germany was only allowed for family reunions. Because of the increasing xenophobia and the unemployment rate amongst foreign guest- workers, the German government passed a law for financing return to all foreigners in October 1983 (namely “Gesetz zur Förderung der Rückkehrbereitschaft von Ausländern” - Law for Return Promotion of Foreigners). There it was said, that legally recruited foreigners would receive a fee refund of 10500 DM per worker – estimately the amount they had paid to the German annuity insurance. This return program was only allowed for foreigners when leaving Germany until 30.06.1984.<sup>v</sup> 20.000 Portuguese workers exercised this option, according to Zimmermann. In total, the Portuguese population in Germany decreased to 69.000 until 1987.

#### **1986 – 1996: Joining the EU and Germany’s reunification**

Since Portugal joined the EU, a positive net immigration was observed from 1993 onwards. Between 1992 – 1995, the inflow of Portuguese emigrants increased to 27 000 people, but only 5000 were employed by German companies. One explanation is the restriction of so-called ‘Werksarbeitverträge’ (temporary employment contracts). The employees were individuals working in Germany, but formally contracted by Portuguese enterprises, so that they were not registered neither in the German statistics nor did they have access to the German social insurance and health system. These new type of emigrants worked mainly in the construction sector. Only little is written about these emigrants, although it is said that they were paid much less than their Germans counterparts and that many of them worked under harsh conditions, living in containers and having no rights of work. Therefore, a German law was passed in 1996 to force those companies to pay German wages and providing them social and working security.

### **1996 – 2007: In times of globalization**

In 1996, the Portuguese population increased to 2,4% of the total foreign population due to the general economic recession in Germany. From 1986 until 2000 approximately 46 000 Portuguese immigrated to Germany for permanence residence. Amongst these new emigrants, a change in the employment - structure is noticeable: While the first Portuguese emigrants were blue collar workers, the new wave of Portuguese are employed in the service sector, such as gastronomy, hostelry, fairs, etc. It was also observed that many of them received temporary contracts for a few months. Another urging group of Portuguese consist of young Portuguese leaving the country for educational reasons (studying, doing traineeships, working in multi-national companies, etc). Nevertheless, since 2000 the inflow is below 5000 per year<sup>vi</sup>

In conclusion, it can be said that the structure of the Portuguese population is quite varied: On the one hand, despite representing a minority amongst the total foreign population, Portuguese are one of the oldest national minorities living in Germany. Approx. 37.500 Portuguese (41% of the total Portuguese population in Germany) are residing more than 30 years in Germany, a large part of this group is already retired, and trying to realize the long-lasting dream to spend a large part of their time in Portugal. On the other hand, approximately 30.000 Portuguese are living in Germany 10 – 20 years, reflecting the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave from 1986 – 1996.

### **Return**

The long – lasting myth of returning to Portugal is normally vanishing to uncertainty, the longer migrants actually live in Germany. Many of them bought houses and established a status quo in Germany, which they are not willing to give up for good. The most given reason to remain in Germany permanently is reliable medical care and security system, the benefits from the German state and the education of the luso-descendents, which is still considered to be better in Germany than in Portugal. Even though one notices, that a large number of Portuguese retiree try to realize their dream by spending “large holidays” (with an duration of several month) in Portugal, only a little percentage of nowadays Portuguese retirees is returning to Portugal. The family is named as one significant reason in interviews, why they do not move to Portugal for good.

### 3. SOCIOGRAPHY

#### The Lusophones

Although the large majority of luso – descendents name Portugal as their favorite holiday country, it is observed the very recent trend of spending the vacations in other countries. This a lot to do with the German travel industry, which offers low cost holidays, but also with the fact, that adult descendents want to spend holidays in a more touristic way and “without family stresses”. Commonly, their perception of Portugal is quite inconsistent and tends to vary between extremities: On the one hand, the Portuguese culture and way of living is glorified, on the other hand the country is quite criticized, and for many consider Portugal to be “less developed” and “not that far” in terms of social regulations and “modernity”.

Surprisingly, the myth of return continues in the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. The most common statement is to live at least for some time in Portugal, but the concrete action is taken only by a few, regarding their working or family situation. At the end, a small percentage of luso - descendents try to gain experience of living in Portugal apart from their annual holiday, mainly when studying or holding traineeships in Portuguese companies .The motivation most given is to improve the linguistic skills in Portuguese and getting to know the “real” Portugal, which they normally only know as country of holiday.

But for the majority of this group, the return to Portugal is temporarily, especially for those, who were born in Germany, as for them, Germany states to be homeland as well, no matter if they obtained the German nationality or not.

The language skills from the luso – descendents largely depends

- a) on the education given in Portuguese schools, but also
- b) on the geographical density of Portuguese, and
- c) the cohabitation with other Portuguese.

As the number of Portuguese schools is getting more and more reduced, many of the descendents in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> generation have only little linguistic knowledge in areas of low Portuguese density.

#### 4. SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION

Since the beginning of the millennium, a decrease of associations is observed. The reasons are various and go from bad management, over lack of members to lack of financial or personal resources. As Consul Manuel da Silva stated in an interview in August 2008: “I presume that Portuguese, who are nowadays in the age of 35 – 50, simply do not want to spend their spare time working voluntarily in the associations. The associations are losing more and more their initial significance of being a reference point for Portuguese emigrants. In the past, the association were a place where Portuguese met to cohabit, to talk about their questions they had with the German bureaucracy, playing cards or watching football. But the more they established their lives in Germany and adopted in the German society, the more these associations lost their reasons of existence.”

Nevertheless, there are in total 140 associations, 17 Catholic missions, and 39 folkloristic groups.

Nowadays, the still existing associations are functioning often as bars or restaurant for Non – Portuguese. These association as well as other Portuguese restaurants are meeting points for Portuguese emigrants to watch Portuguese football, both the national league and international championships. In areas with an also respectable Spanish presence, Spanish soccer is shown. The same happens with other nationalities, when there is a strong cohabitation and exchange with other groups like Germans, Turkish, Italian, etc.

Portuguese are quoted to be an invisible minority in Germany, due to the small percentage. For this reason, the presence of Portuguese newspaper is little, in counterpart of Portuguese TV, which is an important fact in all Portuguese associations and in the majority of Portuguese households. Here again noticeable, that the media consumption of Sport channels, in particular football, is far more dominant than other programs, e.g. the news, soaps, etc.

In general, Portuguese are perceived to be a well – integrated minority.<sup>viii</sup> In the late 90s, a Portuguese issue came to the public German sphere, when the emigrants protested against the closing of Portuguese schools.

## 5. FOOTBALL AND POPULAR CULTURE

As interim result of Diasbola's studies in the German context is that football is an important part of the Portuguese's emigrant lives, both active and consumption. As an example, a football tournament is fixed part of the program at Portuguese festivities (known as *bailes*), as well as Portuguese cuisine, while the folkloristic "ranchos" are only invited to bigger occasions. Due to the constant lack of players in amateur clubs, these football teams do not only consists of Portuguese members, also other nationalities are included in the teams, as well as there are many Portuguese playing in Greeks, Spanish, Turkish or German teams.

In the daily life in the associations, sport is an indispensable element, especially Portuguese football, but also German and international football. The big majority supports Portugal and Portuguese clubs in international championships, even if they are not fan of these clubs in general. The main reason therefore is that they simply want a Portuguese team to have success internationally. There is not a specific Portuguese team which is supported predominantly, but similar to Portugal and to other European countries with a considerable Portuguese community, Benfica, Porto and Sporting are the odds-on favourite. The exact constitution of this distribution varies from association to association and from region to region. Coming to the support of German teams, it is observed that most of the Portuguese support the team of their region, like St. Pauli or HSV in amongst the Portuguese in Hamburg or Hannover 96 in the greater area of Hannover.

When not being entertained with football, Portuguese emigrants do also try to maintain some traditions and rituals, celebrating Portuguese festivities whenever it is possible, e.g. St. Martin's Day or Camões' Days with Portuguese cuisine. But it was also noticed, that German elements are more and more included in the Portuguese rituals, e.g. German beer as well as German and international cuisine.

*Language revision by Miguel Moniz*

---

i

ii All numbers taken so far were provided by GENESIS, the online database of the German Ministry of Statistics ([www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis/online/logon](http://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis/online/logon)) as well as the online database "Regionaldatenbank Deutschland" of the Federal Statistics Ministries. For an exact and coherent overview, data from 31.12.2007 was used.

<sup>iii</sup> For a more detailed overlook on Germany's History on Immigration and Policies , see Herbert, Ulrich "Geschichte der Ausländerpolitik in Deutschland: Saisonarbeiter, Zwangsarbeiter, Gastarbeiter, Flüchtlinge" (München 2001)

<sup>iv</sup> Cf. Zimmermann, Klaus F. "Portuguese and the German Work Labour: Performance and Self-Selection" (Bonn 1998), p.7ff.

<sup>v</sup> Cf. German Ministry for Migration and Refugee "Rückkehr aus Deutschland", p.258 ff.

<sup>vi</sup> Cf. German Ministry for Migration and Refugee "Ausländerzahlen 2008" (Wiesbaden 2008), p. 12

<sup>vii</sup> Cf. Embaixada de Portugal na Alemanha "40 Anos – Análise de Dados Estatísticos" (Berlin 2004)

<sup>viii</sup> Cf. [www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/0,1518,382530,00.html](http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/0,1518,382530,00.html)