



Germany

Progress Map Germany

Germany is one of those countries in this year's Progress Barometer where there is a clear distinction between issues on which there is a desire to turn the dial back and issues where there is considerable desire for progress. Contrary to most other countries, where e-mobility is the top issue for progress, Germans want to see things to move fastest on the expansion of public childcare. The desire for greater more gender equality and gay rights also point to the desire for a (more) liberal society.

The transition from energy production based on nuclear and coal-fired power to more sustainable energy sources is of high priority to the German population. While around 40% of electricity in Germany is already generated from renewable energy (wind, sun, water or biomass), Germans want to see further progress in this direction.¹ German voters are aware that infrastructure must be built to allow the production of more renewable energy and would like to see the provision of sufficient land for this purpose. Germany as a whole also appears to be ready to spend more taxpayers' money on research aimed at strengthening the country in terms of innovation and as a location for investment.

Germans look for a job situation that gives them a sense of purpose in their work and - to a slightly lesser extent - look for individualization and self-fulfilment not only in their private life but also professionally. Within this context, they also embrace the idea of lifelong learning as something in which they would like to see more progress. The fact that people are living longer (and therefore have to deal with increased deductions for old-age pensions) is not something they shy away from when it comes to moving the dial forward.



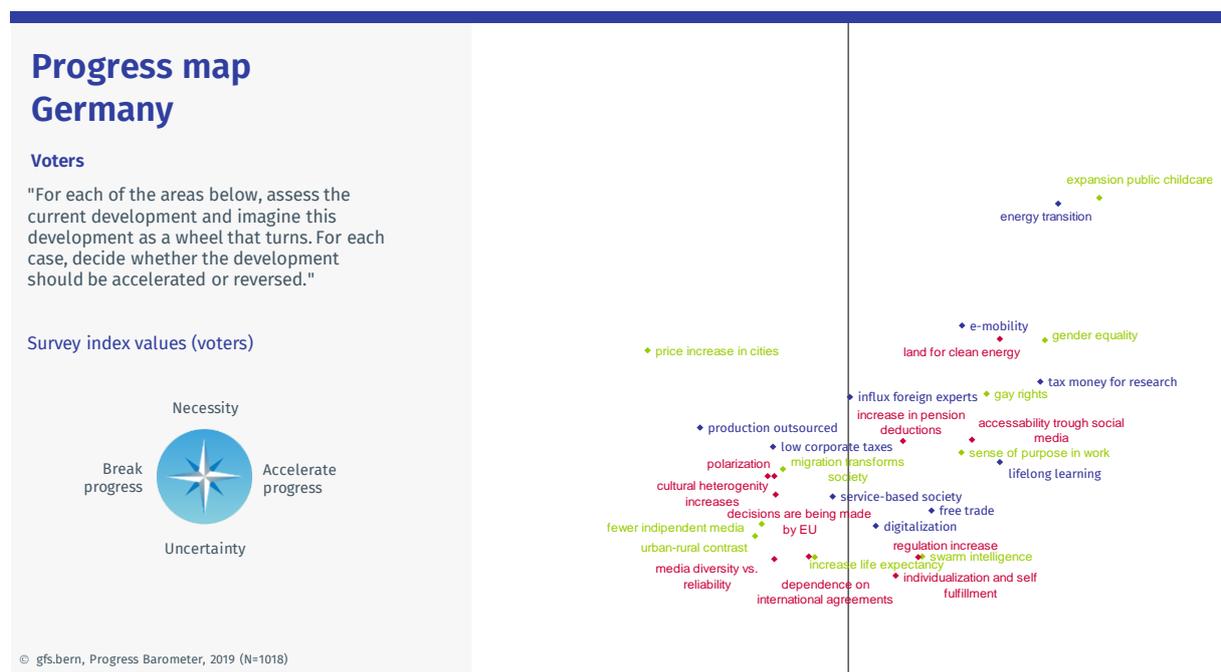
According to the German Federal Institute for Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Research (BBRS), rents for apartments rose by 4.4% in the first half of 2019 alone. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in large cities. This year's Progress Barometer shines a light on this problem, as it is the issue on which the desire to turn the dial back is greatest. In a similar

¹ <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Dossier/energiewende.html>

context, the increasing urban-rural divide is also something where there is no desire for further progress.

While free trade is something that Germans embrace and where further progress is desired, they show a clear aversion to the relocation of production abroad. Consequently, people vote to uphold the status quo when it comes to the transition away from the manufacturing to a services-based society. Furthermore, the issue of reducing corporate taxes in order to make Germany more attractive for the relocation of companies is not something where there is any desire for further progress.

The current development of Germany's political culture towards greater polarization is viewed critically. There is a desire for this process to be reversed – as there is also the continuing fragmentation of the media.



Desire for Progress in Germany

The greatest willingness for progress is found in the economic sphere in Germany (index value of 10.2). Second comes the desire for progress on societal issues (index value of 5.5). When it comes to the political arena, Germans are comfortable with sticking to the status quo on this point (index value of 2.1). In terms of its overall readiness for progress, Germany ranks tenth among the other 16 countries.

Germany's self- assessment of progress

When asked how Germans themselves would rate progress in their country, 56% are of the opinion that their country is currently very progressive or somewhat progressive when it comes to economic issues, 41% think the same of progress in society, whereas only 29% think political progress has been made – this is one of the lowest values of all 16 countries with only the UK, Chile and Japan showing a lower proportion.

Further information



Assessment of past 10 years: Germans have quite a negative view of developments in their country over the past 10 years. They see a negative development in social security (61%) and national unity (57%), feel that the population has less say on political matters (53%) and perceive a deterioration in national security (51%). Economic relations are not as stable as they once were (44%) and rural infrastructure has been neglected (49%). A deterioration is also noted when it comes to the protection of privacy (63%). On the other hand – and in accordance with most other countries – Germans feel that improvement has been made in the area of sustainable technologies (55%).



Battle against climate change: Environmental issues are a hot topic in Germany: 80% of German voters very much or rather agree with the statement that people should live more in harmony with nature. A more environmentally friendly economy that focuses more on sustainability enjoys a high level of support in Germany (76%).



Social change: Germany has been shocked by an increase in ideologically motivated violence and hate crime in the last years and months. A clear majority of 81% of Germans, however, make it perfectly clear that they feel conflicts have to be resolved without weapons, and 70% agree that good social change means greater tolerance of minorities. There is, however, a section of the population that thinks weapons are a feasible option (12%) and does not feel that tolerance of minorities is to be desirable (21%).



Future prospects: Although – or maybe precisely because – Germans are amongst the people most satisfied with their current life (65% completely satisfied), the proportion of respondents who are pessimistic for the future is above average (22%). A majority (65%) are convinced that their children will not be as well off as they are now.