

Hameln at a Glance

Geographic Location and Importance of Hameln

Hameln lies in the North of Germany. With its 58.000 inhabitants it is situated in the South of the federal state Lower Saxony, 50 km away from the state capital Hanover.

Hameln is centre and seat of the administrative district Hameln-Pyrmont (156,000 inhabitants). The nearest big cities are Hanover and Hildesheim to the northeast and east (50 km away), to the southwest Bielefeld and Paderborn (70 km away) in the federal state North Rhine-Westphalia.

Hameln is centre of the Weser hill country, which extends from the origin of the river Weser in Hannoversch Münden along the Weser into the area of Minden (Porta Westfalica). The Weser hill country is attractive to tourists and part of the change between the flat northern part of Germany and the hilly parts southwards.

Hameln as an administrative and regional centre is home of authorities and services such as: County Court, Employment Office, Industrial Tribunal, Inland Revenue Office, Public Health Department, Youth Institution, Land Registry, District Hospital, District Council Offices, branch of the Chamber of Handicraft Hanover, and branch of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Hanover.

In the private sector Hameln is seat of BHW, which is in the first place a building society and by far the biggest employer in the area with more than 2,000 employees just in Hameln. According to its high economic meaning for the region Hameln shows a clearly positive balance of commuters of approx. 6,000 employees.

Population

Its highest population Hameln reached at the beginning of the 1970's with some 63.000 inhabitants. Afterwards the number sank continuously to 57,642 inhabitants in 1988. Starting from 1989 the number of inhabitants rose to a renewed maximum of 59.294 in 1992. Since then periods of an increase and periods of loss of inhabitants alternate, so that in total the number of inhabitants is relatively stable. On 31/12/2008 Hameln had 58,267 inhabitants.

An increase of population depends on migration gains because each year more people die in Hameln than are being born.

Approximately two thirds of the 58,000 inhabitants of Hameln live in the town centre. The other third lives in 13 incorporated villages: Afferde, Groß Hilligsfeld, Klein Hilligsfeld, Halvestorf, Haverbeck, Hastenbeck, Holtensen, Unsen, Welliehausen, Klein Berkel, Rohrsen, Tündern, and Wehrbergen.

An area of 102.3 km² results in a population density of 569 inhabitants per km².

Still of importance are the members of the British forces stationed in Hameln and their family members plus children (altogether approximately 1,500 persons).

Regarding the age structure in comparison to Lower Saxony in Hameln there were relatively few children and young people and relatively more seniors. Due to the process of demographic changes with an ageing society this difference in the age structure has almost vanished over the years.

The share of foreigners amounts to 8.8 %. 5,121 foreigners lived in Hameln on 31/12/2008.

Economy and Employment Market

Hameln is characterized by a fairly balanced economic structure. Apart from small to middle sized enterprises there are about ten employers with more than 300 employees. Apart from BHW (belongs to Postbank) the three biggest employers are public enterprises: district hospital, city council and district council. Electrical industry and mechanical engineering (e. g. ABG Ingersoll Rand, Reintjes GmbH) are structure-determining elements. Also the textile and carpet industry (Vorwerk) and the food industry (Kampffmeyer Wesermühlen Hameln, Vogeley GmbH, VITAM GmbH) as well as the chemical industry (Hameln pharmaceuticals) are of importance.

Tourism also offers employment, due to the world-wide well-known Pied Piper legend, the historic old part of town and the scenically delightful Weser hill country.

Hameln each year has some 3.8 million visitors for a day and about 215,000 overnight stays.

The number of employees subject to social insurance in the workplace Hameln is 23,686 (30/06/2008). The number of industrial employees is by tendency decreasing since 1993 and leads to a reduction in the total amount of jobs. The percentage of employees in the service sector is above average compared to Lower Saxony, mainly due to BHW (mentioned above). 12,737 employees commute into Hameln, 6,787 employees commute out of Hameln, which means they live in Hameln but do not work there.

The unemployment rate in the head employment office Hameln amounted to 9.1 % in 2008 on average, the number of unemployed persons in the city Hameln adds up to 3,189 persons in December 2008.

Transport Connection

Hameln is located at the intersection of the Federal roads B 1, B 83 and B 217. The distances to the next motorway entrances are about 20 km (A 2 = east to west: Ruhr Basin - Hanover - Berlin) and about 45 km (A 7 = north to south: Hamburg - Hanover - Kassel).

There are interregional railway connections to the railway lines

- Hanover - Hameln – Paderborn
- Braunschweig - Hildesheim - Hameln - Löhne - (Bielefeld).

Hanover´s international airport is about 65 km away from Hameln. Hameln is connected to the suburban railway of Hanover. This railway connection offers the possibility to reach Hanover Airport directly from Hameln via Hanover.