

Hameln at a Glance

Geographic Location and Importance of Hameln

Hameln with its 58.000 inhabitants lies in the north of Germany. 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 (155,000 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 employment office, district court, industrial tribunal, inland revenue office, university of applied science, juvenile prison, land registry, district hospital, district council, branch of the chamber of handicraft Hanover, and branch of the chamber of industry and commerce Hanover.

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 years of growth and years of shrinkage alternated; since 2003 losses prevail. On 31/12/2009 Hameln had 57,906 inhabitants. To keep its size in the future Hameln depends on migration gains because each year more people die in Hameln than are being born. Without a positive migration balance it is likely that in the middle and long term Hameln will have a (slightly) declining number of residents.

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 566 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).

Hameln´s age structure in comparison to Lower Saxony is still a little overaged as it has been for many years. But due to the well-known process of demographic change with a generally ageing society this difference is more and more vanishing.

The share of foreigners amounts to 8.7 %. 5,047 foreigners (defined as persons without German citizenship) lived in Hameln on 31/12/2009. Roughly the same amount of residents living in Hameln are German but have a migration background.

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.

The largest employer is BHW (belongs to Postbank), which is in the first place a building society and by far the biggest employer in the region with more than 2,000 employees just in Hameln.

Apart from BHW the three largest employers are public enterprises: district hospital, city council and district council. Mechanical engineering (e. g. Volvo Construction Equipment, REINTJES) is a structure-determining element. Also the textile and carpet industry (Vorwerk) and the food industry (Vogeley, Kampffmeyer Wesermühlen Hameln, VITAM) 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 225,000 overnight stays.

The number of employees subject to social insurance in the workplace Hameln is 23,498 (30/06/2009). 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). Hameln has a positive balance of commuters of 5,842: 12,589 employees commute into Hameln, 6,747 employees commute out of Hameln, which means they live in Hameln but do not work there.

The unemployment rate in the region of head employment office Hameln amounted to 8.9 % in 2009 on average, the number of unemployed persons in the city Hameln added up to 3,186 persons in December 2009.

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.