

Bessarabian German Population Statistics 1827-1938

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[Translator's Notes: Lists birth and death rates in various government jurisdictions, regions, and some specific cities, among different occupations, between Lutherans and Catholics, and includes a document on student distribution in elementary, secondary and teacher training schools.]

[Begin Translation/Transcription]

Bessarabia

The last government public census (*Volkszählung*) on 29 December, 1930, shows a total of 2,864,000 souls residing in the District (*Gebiet*) of Bessarabia. The portion of the population that is German is 2.8%, or 80,192 souls. According to ecclesiastical computation, there are 87,641 Germans for 1938. In the German Farmers' Calendar for Bessarabia 1939 (*Deutscher Bauernkalender für Bessarabien 1939*), it notes a total of 85,189 German souls in Bessarabia in August, 1938.

It is evident that the population count of Germans in Bessarabia is continually growing. The numbers amount to:

1827	-	-	-	-	-	9,355	Souls
1857	-	-	-	-	-	22,330	
1858	-	-	-	-	-	24,159	
1861	-	-	-	-	-	33,501	
1891	-	-	-	-	-	42,681	
1897	-	-	-	-	-	59,998	
1919	-	-	-	-	-	79,000	
1930	-	-	-	-	-	80,192	
1938	-	-	-	-	-	87,641	

The German portion of the total Bessarabian population stands as follows in 1931:

Jurisdiction (<i>Komitat</i>)	Surface Area in km ²	Total # of Inhabitants	# of Germans	% being Germans	Population Density
Balti	5,260	386,476	1,001	0.25	73.5
Cahul	4,482	194,631	7,831	4.02	43.4
Cetatea Alba	7,595	340,459	54,347	15.96	44.8
Hotin	3,782	395,345	---	---	104.5
Ismail	4,212	224,229	425	0.19	53.2
Lapusna	4,181	421,857	1,695	0.40	100.9
Orheiu	4,246	277,009	---	---	65.2
Soroca	4,331	315,774	106	0.03	72.9
Tighina	6,333	307,629	8,672	2.81	48.6

Bessarabia Totals	44,422	2,863,409	74,077	2.58	64.5
Cetatea Alba, Tighina & Cahul	18,410	842,719	70,850	8.40	

There are 157 regions (*Orte*) in Bessarabia in which are living a total of 85,189 German souls.

Of the 157 regions, there are

42 pure German with	10,985 inhabitants	
90 with Germans in the majority	70,900 Germans	and 6,095 Other
=====		
132 with Germans in the majority	81,885 Germans	and 6,095 Other

Of the 157 regions, 4 are cities:

Akkerman	104	Germans	28,000	Other
Kischinev	252	Germans	120,000	Other
Tighina	90	Germans	35,000	Other
Leova	80	Germans	6,495	Other
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Total	526	Germans	189,895	Other

Of the other 153 Bessarabian villages with German inhabitants, there are 84,663 German residents.

The predominant reason for this is due to the fertility of married couples. In Tarutino, in 1936, there were 724 couples and 2,897 children, which comes to 4 children per couple. However, the research focused only on the various fertility rates of specific occupation groups in different periods. Results are as follows:

Occupation	# of Couples		# of Children		# of Children per Couple	
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Laborer	180	(105)	842	(350)	4.68	(3.33)
Craftsman	101	(62)	369	(175)	3.65	(2.82)
Farmer of up to 5 hectares	72	(53)	215	(119)	2.99	(2.25)
Farmer of 5-15 ha	114	(63)	429	(158)	3.76	(2.51)
Farmer of 15-30 ha	91	(35)	390	(103)	4.29	(2.94)
Farmer of 30-60 ha	46	(08)	238	(25)	5.17	(3.13)
Farmer of over 60 ha	13	(01)	86	(04)	6.62	(4.00)
Academic	25	(21)	50	(33)	2.00	(1.67)
Teacher of High School	27	(07)	105	(22)	5.25	(3.14)
Merchants	18	(15)	41	(22)	2.28	(1.47)
Civil Servants	16	(14)	59	(37)	3.69	(2.64)
Employees	18	(14)	38	(22)	2.11	(1.57)
Manufacturers	10	(04)	35	(08)	3.50	(2.00)
=====						
Totals	724	(402)	2,897	(1,078)	4.01	(2.68)

The above figures within brackets are those of married couples from 1915-1934. They indicate the sharp decline of married couple fertility since after the war.

There were 49 marriages that took place in Gnadefeld. Of these, 29 were consummated as legitimate marriages (*vollendet*) and 20 were not. The legitimate marriages averaged 7.8 children and those who bore children outside of a legitimate marriage (*unvollendete*) averaged 3.8 children. A sharper decline of married couple fertility was also indicated here, like from the proceeding expanded performance. The difference shows that Gnadefeld, in relationship to Tarutino, was a younger community and made up mostly of farmers. A rough estimate in Bessarabia:

Childless	-	-	-	04% of marriages
With 1 child	-	-	-	07% of marriages

With 2-3 children	-	-	20% of marriages
With 4-6 children	-	-	60% of marriages
With 7 or more children	-	-	09% of marriages

One has to figure as an average that the German people in Bessarabia had about 4.5 children per married couple, thus once again showing that married couple fertility is declining sharply.

When it comes to the German Evangelical Lutheran confession of faith, representing the vast majority of German Bessarabians, birth surplus can be assessed on the basis of the birth and death figures in the annual statistical reports of the Evangelical Established Church A.B. (*Evang. Landeskirche A.B.*) in Romania. The 1929-1938 population movement in the Evangelical Lutheran Tarutino Parish is illustrated as follows:

Year	# of Souls	Births	Deaths	Birth Surplus	Births per 1000	Deaths per 1000	Excess per 1000
1929	71,059	2,368	1,241	1,127	33.32	17.46	15.86
1930	72,086	2,333	1,034	1,299	32.36	14.34	18.02
1931	73,885	2,492	1,234	1,258	33.73	16.70	17.03
1932	75,359	2,496	1,324	1,172	33.12	17.57	15.55
1933	76,657	2,440	1,174	1,266	31.83	15.32	16.51
1934	77,893	2,496	1,238	1,178	32/04	15.89	16.15
1935	77,743	2,397	1,521	876	30.83	19.56	11.27
1936	79,075	2,222	1,103	1,119	28.10	13.95	14/15
1937	80,070	2,332	1,252	1,080	29.12	15.64	13.48
1938	81,403	2,471	1,233	1,238	30.36	15.15	15.21

Overall, it can be established that the birth rate is slowly shrinking. What the decline in the soul count of 1935 can be traced back to is that in this year there was a terrible crop failure and this then can be connected to the exodus of people to Siebenbürgen and into the Banat. The reason for the elevated death rate in this same year can be attributed to the insufficient, not appropriate provision of food. The later improved only slowly, whereby being influenced by the real high constant birth surplus through the declining deaths (primarily in diminishing infant mortality). The above outlined illustration of the population movement in Bessarabia is extremely favorable. So it turns out, on average, as the conditions come together, that communities with very high birth rates make up for the decline in other communities. The following example will show how sharply the birth rates have declined over the last century:

In the German community (*Gemeinde*) of Württemberg {sic}, the birth rate from 1838-1847 came to 57.8 per thousand. In 1921-1930, it came to 31.4 per thousand.

Especially sharp is the birth decline in the small market towns of Tarutino, Sarata and Arzis.

Birth and death rates in the small market towns of Tarutino and Sarata:

Year	Tarutino			Sarata		
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Difference	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Difference
1926	24.42	12.96	11.46	--	--	--
1927	31.66	13.87	17.79	--	--	--
1928	25.98	12.84	13.14	17.30	16.78	0.52
1929	24.46	14.85	9.61	14.85	23.33	-8.48
1930	20.11	10.76	9.35	15.55	9.53	6.02
1931	21.97	9.74	12.23	10.58	10.58	0.00
1932	20.41	15.17	5.24	19.33	15.26	4.07
1933	17.84	12.90	4.94	14.60	10.10	4.50
1934	23.60	10.19	13.41	13.50	11.55	2.00
1935	20.92	15.29	5.63	15.20	16.70	-1.50

The community of Sarata also has a higher death rate, basically because it is influenced by the hospital in the locality. There are also the assumptions in the small market towns of a growing population of older folks and the ever shifting population of outsiders. For that reason, it must be emphatically emphasized that the already mentioned decline in marriage fertility is not the result of infertility due to something biological or to sexual maladies (one child only sterilization/*Einkindersterilität*), but that it has to do with a conscious, established progressive decline in having children. In the Catholic German communities in Bessarabia, with reference to the decline in births and deaths, there are only two years of statements on hand. The number of inhabitants in these villages is not known exactly. It may be 4,720 inhabitants in the four catholic communities in Bessarabia as follows:

Krasna	about 3,500
Emmental	about 760
Balmas	about 360
Larga	about 100

The birth and death rates for 1938 are drawn from these population numbers:

Place	# of Births	# of Deaths	Births per 1000	Deaths per 1000	Birth Excess per 1000
Krasna	115	46	32.86	13.15	19.71
Emmental	43	24	56.58	31.58	25.00
Larga	03	01	30.00	10.00	20.00
Balmas	(information missing for this place)				
3 Community Average			37.79	16.28	21.51

The Krasna community has a birth rate of 32.86, just the same as the average of the Lutheran communities, so very exceptional concerning the Lutheran communities of similar size classification. Informative is the comparison of the corresponding numbers for the average birth and death rates of the Catholic and Lutheran communities for 1938:

	(Births per 1000)	(Deaths per 1000)	(Birth Excess per 1000)
Lutheran Communities	30.36	15.15	15.21
Catholic Communities	37.79	16.28	21.51

Denominational membership of the Germans in Bessarabia in 1938:

Confession	Absolute #	% of total
Evangelical Lutheran	81,403	92.88
Roman Catholic	4,700	5.36
Baptist	1,188	1.36
Reformed (Calvinist)	350	0.40
Totals	87,641	100%

The enclosed map with the identified districts (*Gebiete*), inhabited by Germans only, occupy the following area:

District 1	-	-	-	-	-	ca. 3,466 km ²
District 2	-	-	-	-	-	ca. 288 km ²
District 3	-	-	-	-	-	ca. 212 km ²
District 4	-	-	-	-	-	ca. 178 km ²
District 5	-	-	-	-	-	ca. 65 km ²
District 6	-	-	-	-	-	ca. 45 km ²
Districts 1-6	-	-	-	-	-	ca. 4,265 km ²

The numbers from the *German Farmers Almanac for Bessarabia – 1939* were used to calculate the population majority, supplemented with the numbers from the *Indicatorul statistie al stelor si unitatilor administrative din Bucharest, Romania – 1932*. The areas of the districts, listed in square kilometers [km²], were confirmed through map measurements, since other sources were unavailable, and are here only approximate values.

School conditions during the 1938-1939 School Year:

[Translator's Note: In the original, this chart is made up so that Ethnic German Supported and State Supported are all in one line across the page. However, due to space constraints, the two have been separated below.]

<u>Type of School</u>	<u>Languages Used</u>	Ethnic German Supported			<u>German</u>	<u>Other</u>
		<u># Schools</u>	<u># Teachers</u>	<u># Students</u>		
Elementary	German	05	09	313	313	--
	Foreign	--	--	--	--	--
	Mixed	05	09	313	313	--
Secondary	German	02	25	252	252	--
	Foreign	--	02	03	--	03
Teacher Training College	German	01	11	195	195	--
	Foreign	--	02	--	--	--

<u>Type of School</u>	<u>Languages Used</u>	State Supported			<u>German</u>	<u>Other</u>
		<u># Schools</u>	<u># Teachers</u>	<u># Students</u>		
Elementary	German	--	125	14,633	14,633	--
	Foreign	121	213	1,171	--	1,171
	Mixed	121	338	15,804	14,633	1,171
Secondary	German	--	--	--	--	--
	Foreign	--	--	--	--	--
Teacher Training College	German	--	--	--	--	--
	Foreign	--	--	--	--	--

The above statistics include the whole Administrative Region (*Gau*), plus three small Catholic communities.

[End Translation/Transcription]