

Vortrag



Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf

## **Grandparents in Germany - Specificities of working, volunteering and retiring**

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Are grandparents ordinary senior citizens?

# Grandparents in Germany

## What can I tell you?

- Short information on BAGSO
- General overview on the older population in Germany
- Employment and retirement of older people in Germany
- Grandparents and grandchildren

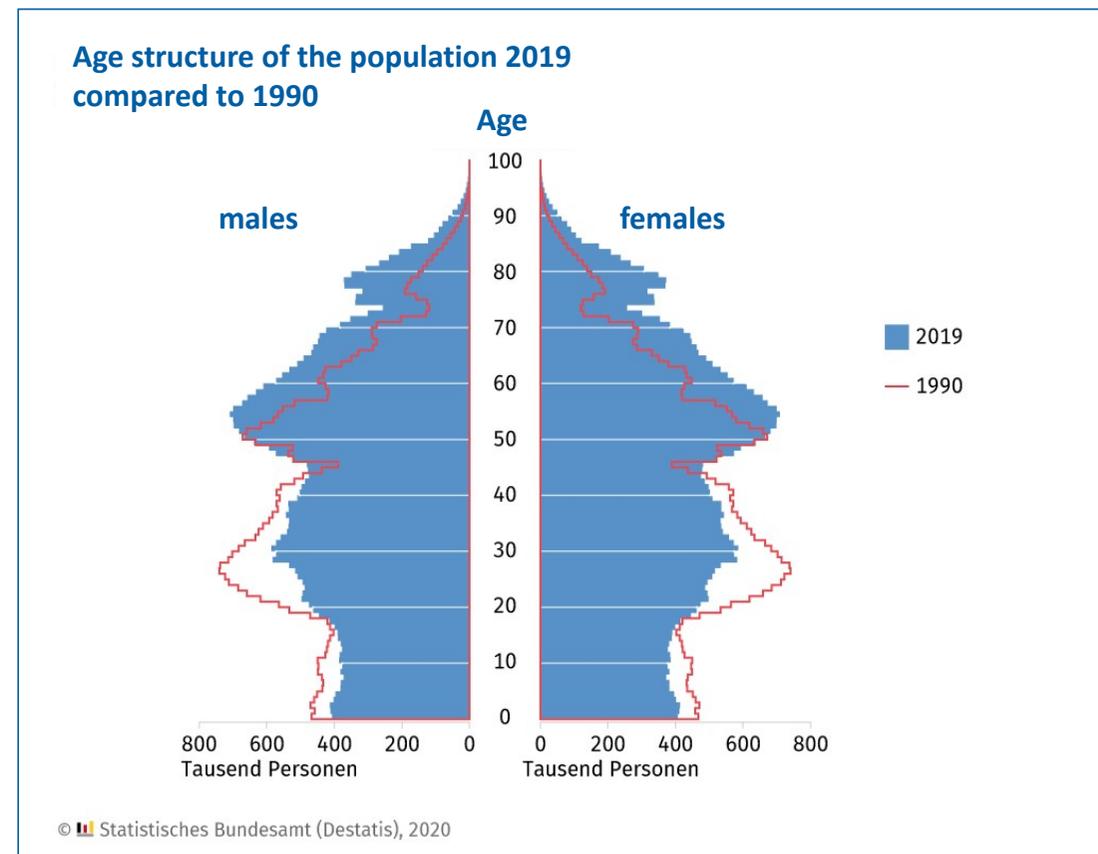
# Grandparents in Germany

## **BAGSO** is

- the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations
- an umbrella organisation of about 120 civil society organisations that are run by or work for older people.
- BAGSO represents the interests of older generations in Germany.  
It stands up for active, self-determined and healthy ageing in social security.
- BAGSO is member of international panels  
AGE Platform Europe / European Economic and Social Council (EESC) / Advisory status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) / Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGGA) of the UN Economic Council of Europe (UNECE) / regularly contributing to the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA).

## Grandparents in Germany – some background information

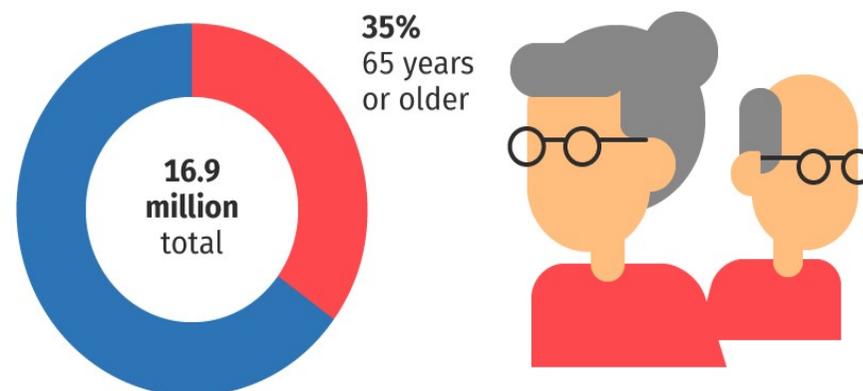
- At the end of 2020, 83.2 million people were living in Germany.
- Every second person is older than 45 and every fifth person is older than 66 years.
- 22 % were aged 60 - 80 years
- 7 % were aged 80 – 100 years
- Older people aged 65 and over live predominantly either in a partnership or without further persons in the household.
- Living alone applies in particular to those aged 85 and over.



## Grandparents in Germany – some background information

- Other forms of cohabitation, such as with their children or with other relatives or friends, are very rare: in 2019, this was the true of **only 4%** of older people.
- Roughly 17 million persons were **living alone** in 2018 – 35 % among them were 65 years or older (= roughly **6 million older persons**)

### People living alone in Germany, 2018



Microcensus results – population in families/living arrangements at their main residence  
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# Grandparents in Germany – Participation of older persons in the labour market

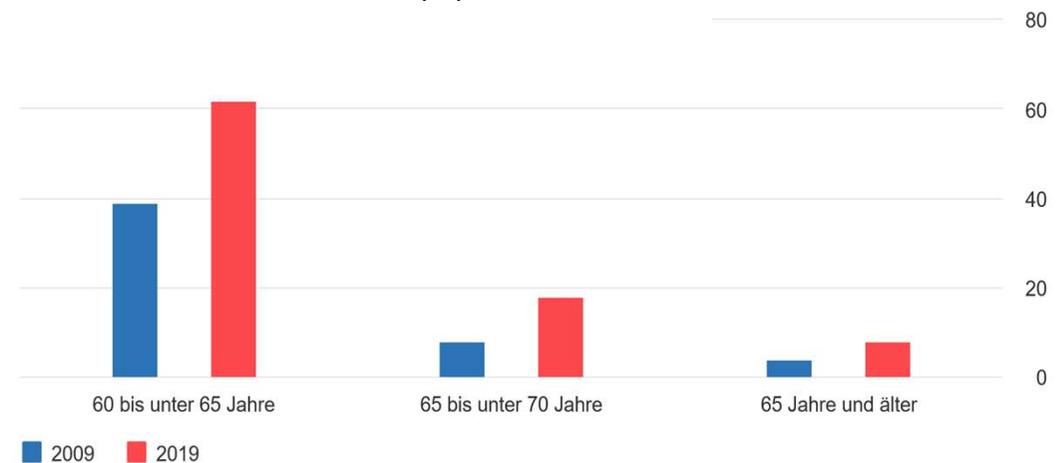
- Roughly 44.4 million people were in employment in April 2021  
(according to provisional calculations of the Federal Statistical Office Destatis)
- The retirement age of people in employment has been continuously raised.  
As of 2012, retirement age is gradually increasing from 65 to 67 years until 2031.
- Most recently, a subsequent rise to 68 has been under discussion.
- The situation of older people on the labour market has changed considerably in recent years.
- **Labour force participation of 60- to 64-year-olds has increased from 39% (2009) to 62% (2019) in the last ten years.**

# Grandparents in Germany – Participation of older persons in the labour market

- 62 % of the people aged 60 to < 65 years were in employment in 2019.
- Among persons aged 65 to 69 years, the share was 18 %
- **8 % older than 65 years** in Germany were in employment in 2019. In 2009, that proportion was only 4%.
- Employment at retirement age affects the **self-employed** to a large extent, especially at an advanced retirement age.

## Employment rate by age

Share of the labour force in the population in %

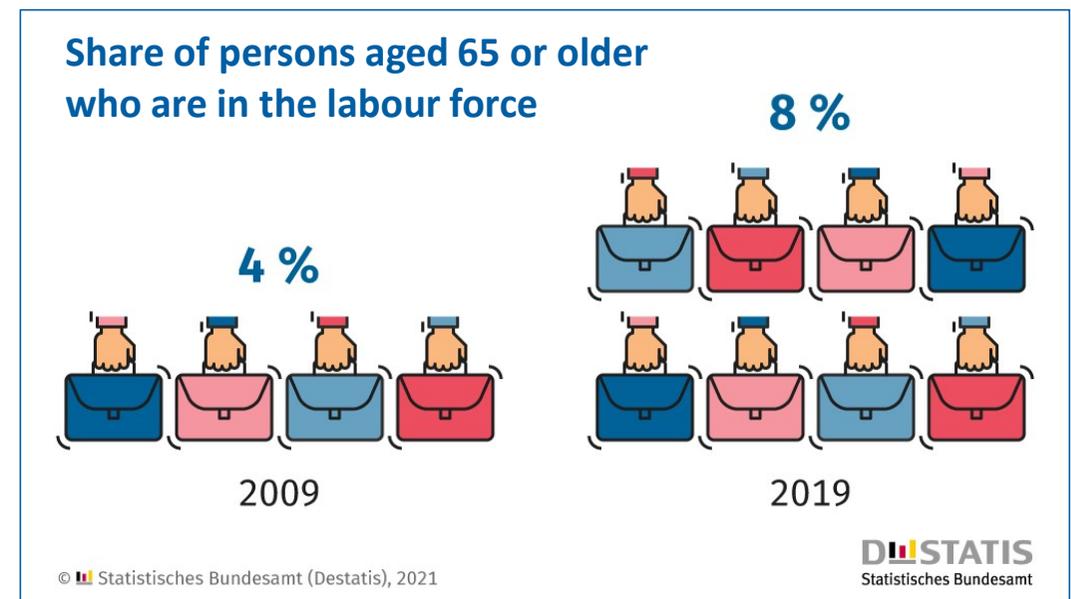


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# Grandparents in Germany – Participation of older persons in the labour market

Proportion of people of retirement age continuing to work doubled in ten years.

- For more than one third of the over 65-year-old persons paid work was essential to cover their living expenses in 2019.
- For the majority, motives such as enjoyment of work, contact with other people and continuing to have a task predominate.
- For 2030, it is expected that the labour force will comprise more people aged 65 to 74 than people under 20.



# Grandparents in Germany –

## Participation of older persons beyond the labour market

Proportion of people of retirement age continuing to work doubled in ten years.

At the same time, older people are active in many ways on a voluntary basis:

- About 41 % of older persons aged 50 to 64 years volunteered in 2019
- At the age of 65 or older, 31 % were still active on a voluntary basis
- A particularly large number of people are involved in sports and exercise, followed by social commitment and voluntary activities in the field of leisure and socializing
- About half of the volunteers use the Internet for their activities..



# Grandparents in Germany – What do we know about them and their grandchildren?

- **Average age, when the first grandchild is born: 52,5 years**
- About 30 % of grandparents state that they look after their grandchildren
- Almost a quarter (23.4 %) of grandparents up to 65 years of age combine gainful employment with care for grandchildren
- The vast majority of grandparents described their role as important (36 %) or even very important (56 %).
- Younger grandparents and grandmothers feel their role as more important than older grandparents and grandfathers

# Grandparents in Germany – What do we know about them and their grandchildren?

- Most grand parents look after their grandchildren on a private, informal basis
- However, it is also possible to conclude an employment contract with the parents.
- If grandparents are employed, they can also take parental leave like parents. However, this is only possible if the grandchildren live in the same household, if the parents agree, and if the grandparents actually educate the grandchildren instead of the parents.
- In special cases, grandparents can also receive parental allowance. The prerequisite is that both parents cannot look after the child themselves due to a serious illness, severe disability or death.

## Grandparents in Germany –

### Do grandparents have a right to contact their grandchildren?

- Grandparents have a right of access. This means that they are entitled to see their grandchildren regularly.
- If they are denied contact, they still have a right to contact the child (§ 1685 BGB), but only if the contact serves the best interests of the child.
- If it can be ensured that there is a loving relationship between grandparents and grandchild, the custodial parent may not prevent contact without good reason (the family court is responsible for this).

Source: [https://www.mdr.de/ratgeber/recht/umgangsrecht-grosseltern-enkel-kinder-rechte-pflichten-urteil-urlaub-100.html#:~:text=Eltern%20sind%20zum%20Umgang%20mit,Kindeswohl%20dient%20\(%C2%A7%201626%20Abs.&text=Mit%20dem%20Umgangsrecht%20der%20Gro%C3%9Feltern,wenn%20dieser%20dem%20Kindeswohl%20dient](https://www.mdr.de/ratgeber/recht/umgangsrecht-grosseltern-enkel-kinder-rechte-pflichten-urteil-urlaub-100.html#:~:text=Eltern%20sind%20zum%20Umgang%20mit,Kindeswohl%20dient%20(%C2%A7%201626%20Abs.&text=Mit%20dem%20Umgangsrecht%20der%20Gro%C3%9Feltern,wenn%20dieser%20dem%20Kindeswohl%20dient)

# Grandparents in Germany – What do we know about them and their grandchildren?

- 70 % of grandparents have close or very close relationships with adult grandchildren  
*(and even great-grandchildren)*
- With the aging of both generations, the frequency of contact decreases, but the emotional connection remains stable.
- That's why it was very hard for most grandparents not to be able to meet their grandchildren during the months of lockdown.
- Let us hope that this period of separation has now been overcome and remains over.
- I wish you - or rather all of us - that we can have a happy and satisfying time with our grandchildren for as long as possible.



**Kontakt**



**Thank you for your interest!**

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