

Press release

Despite the ongoing pandemic, more there were start-ups in 2021

IfM Bonn: More women than men start-up in the liberal professions

Institut für
Mittelstandsforschung

IfM
BONN

www.ifm-bonn.org

Das IfM Bonn ist eine Stiftung
des privaten Rechts.

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Klimaschutz

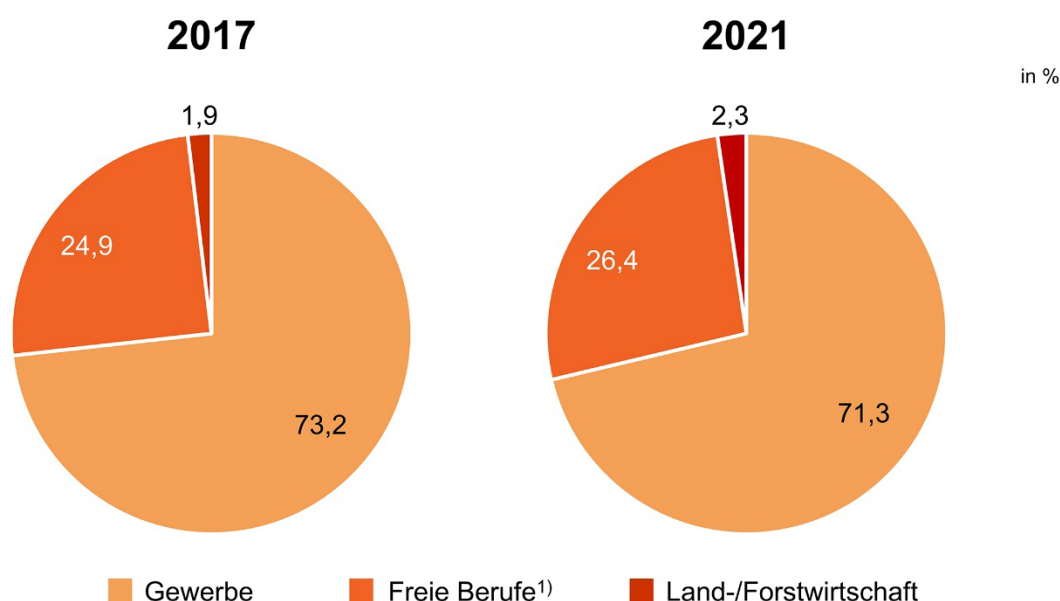
aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Innovation,
Digitalisierung und Energie
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Bonn, 4 April 2022. While the pandemic continued to pose significant challenges to some sectors of the economy in 2021, such as businesses with customer-facing and providers of personal services, the number of start-ups rose by 1.4% to 336,000 in 2021. Nevertheless, the numbers did not yet reach the pre-pandemic level. However, it is important to note that at the beginning of 2020, the master craftsman obligation was reintroduced in some trades, which, for example permanently dampens start-up activities in the construction industry.

Structure of business start-ups by field of activity (2017/2021)



* Eingeschränkte Vergleichbarkeit der Jahresangaben aufgrund von Über- oder Untererfassungen bei Freien Berufen sowie Land- und Forstwirten durch IT-Umstellung in den Bundesländern.

¹⁾ Inklusive sonst. selbstständige Tätigkeiten, z.B. Berufsbetreuer.

Quelle: Gewerbe: IfM Bonn auf Basis der Gewerbeanzeigenstatistik des Statistischen Bundesamtes, übrige Tätigkeitsbereiche: Finanzverwaltungen der Bundesländer; Berechnungen des IfM Bonn.

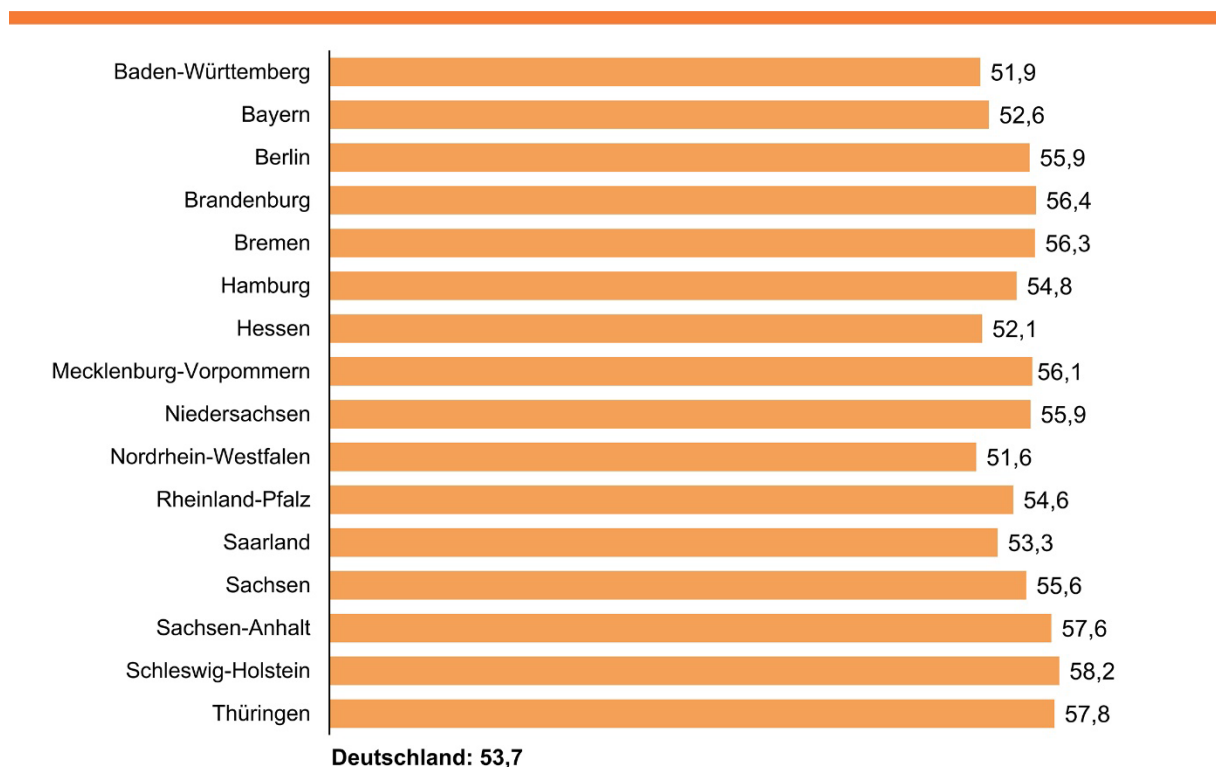
© IfM Bonn 2022 S51-2-21

Compared to the previous year, the growth in business start-ups was highest in agriculture and forestry (+ 2.5 %), and lowest in the liberal professions (+ 0.3 %). In a five-year comparison, 2021 to 2017, the structure of the areas of activity continues to shift in favour of non-commercial activities: while the share of free-lance start-ups was 24.9 % five years ago, this sector now accounts for 26.4 % of all start-ups.

Continuous increase in the proportion of women in the liberal professions

More and more women are founding businesses in the liberal professions. This is a nationwide trend in Germany (2020: 52.8 %; 2021: 53.7 %) as well as in individual federal states. In Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Bremen, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Berlin, Lower Saxony, and Saxony, gender parity has already been exceeded by more than five percentage points.

Share of women in business start-ups in the liberal professions (in %)



Quelle: Angaben der Finanzverwaltungen der Bundesländer (Auswertung im März 2021);
Berechnungen des IfM Bonn.

© IfM Bonn 2022 S53-3-21

In contrast, the share of women founding in the trades has stagnated at around 30 %, and founding a trade in addition to their employment at around 40 %.

Despite the uncertainties arising from the pandemic and the consequences of the war in Ukraine, IfM Bonn researchers expect a further slight increase in the number of start-ups in all three areas of activity this year. However, the uncertainty resulting from the changed market conditions could delay the implementation of start-up projects.

All data on business start-ups in the commercial and non-commercial sectors – including the liberal professions – are available on the website of the Institut für Mittelstandsforschung (www.ifm-bonn.org).