

Haselhorst Associates Consulting: Smart City Ranking

Comparison of Over 400 German Cities.

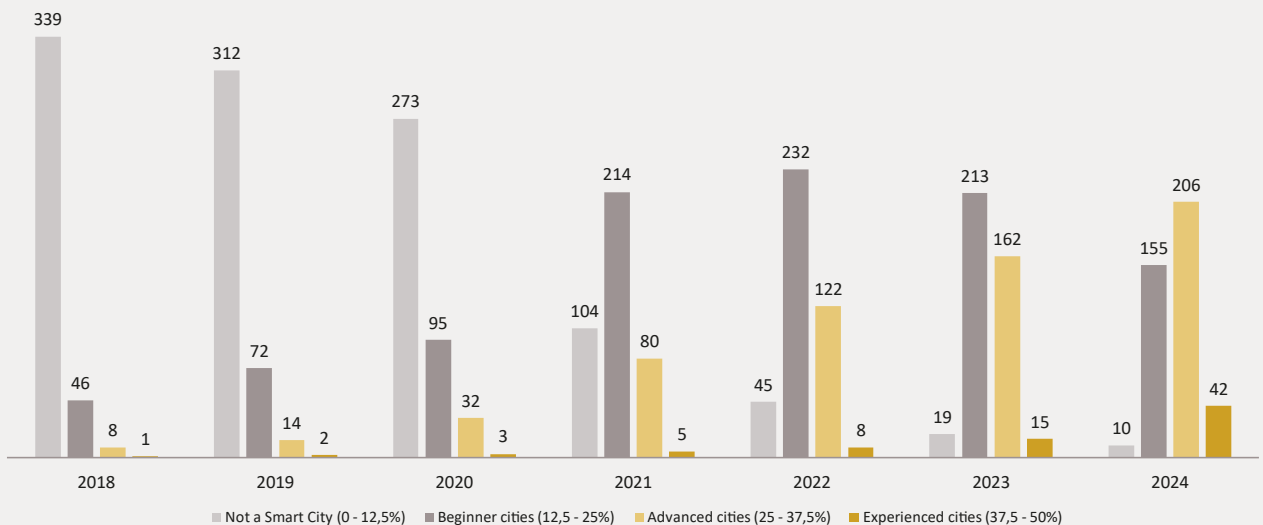
Germany's cities and regions are continuously evolving. The ongoing progress of climate change and demographic trends pose growing challenges for municipal stakeholders. In view of this, urban stakeholders in Germany have now understood the need to take urgent measures to improve the sustainability, and thus resilience, of their cities. Need-driven action has an essential role to play here. Every city has its own particular challenges and requirements. Urban stakeholders must identify targeted solutions for these. If they succeed in doing so, then they will also make progress in the process of urban transformation.

Since 2018, Haselhorst Associates Consulting has compiled Germany's most comprehensive smart city ranking. It covers every city in Germany with a population of more than 30,000. Even if a city's population falls below this level in subsequent years, it will continue to be featured in our ranking. Our annual ranking thus provides a comprehensive and robust set of data in order to actively assist cities, municipal utilities and businesses in their process of transformation – via a methodical and practical approach. It enables continuous monitoring of the status quo for Germany's smart cities as well as the identification of new trends and innovations. On this basis, Haselhorst Associates Consulting is able to assist both municipal stakeholders and businesses with the planning and implementation of their projects.

Our ranking draws exclusively upon publicly available data, so that the cities featured are unable to influence our ranking process. The results demonstrate, on the one hand, the potential which cities have in various areas of urban life and, on the other, the measures which they have already implemented and announced. They also indicate cities' potential and opportunities for sustainable and integrated urban development.

Our Smart City Ranking thus not only offers the municipalities themselves a clear overview of their level of progress, it also provides a valuable perspective on economic developments in this field for municipal stakeholders and interested citizens. Our extensive database moreover enables the identification of new trends, innovations and best practices as well as the implementation of individual analyses.

Development of Smart Cities in Germany Between 2018 and 2024



Source: Haselhorst Associates Consulting, 2024

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The survey period for our 2024 Smart City Ranking ran from April to August 2024. Overall, more than 33,000 data points were incorporated in our ranking. These data mainly derive from official statistics and publicly available information. After being allocated to ten defined urban fields of action (Smart City Strategy (basis), Infrastructure, Mobility, Energy & the Environment, Buildings & Neighborhoods, Healthcare, Education, Public Administration, Tourism and Business & Trade), these data are weighted according to their specific relevance and included in our evaluation process.

Data sets are collected and assessed on the basis of 60 predefined criteria in order to determine a city's potential. Various factors are included, including economic aspects such as a city's gross domestic product per inhabitant, its number of business registrations and the volume of trade tax collected, municipal utilities' revenue as well as the volume of investment per employee. Urban infrastructure is also considered (including inland ports, airports and seaports) as well as data on car sharing, e-scooter sharing, the number of motor vehicles, bicycle traffic and intelligent parking solutions. The rollout of fiber optic networks and renewable energy, renewable heating energy and photovoltaics and wind energy are likewise included in the assessment. Further data sets cover the completion of new housing and the predicted level of demand for new buildings. In the fields of education, healthcare and tourism, data are collected which cover issues such as intelligent schools, the number of hospitals and available tourist accommodation. This comprehensive assessment enables the identification and evaluation of a city's potential in all of these fields.

A qualitative analysis of cities' current activities in the ten above-mentioned fields is implemented in order to assess where each municipality presently stands. Its strategic and conceptual focus and the progress which it has made with specific projects and measures are reviewed. These data are likewise allocated to the above fields and weighted according to their significance. Each city's level of smart city development is calculated on the basis of the combined results for the individual smart city fields. A maximum score of 100% is the highest possible result.

About Haselhorst Associates Consulting

Haselhorst Associates Consulting assists municipalities, utilities and businesses with their strategic positioning as well as the process of operational implementation in various fields, including those related to urban transformation. A key aspect of this work is its annual Smart City Ranking, which provides a comprehensive set of solid data on the development of Germany's 400 largest cities. This ranking enables the identification and assessment of innovations and best practices in many different areas of a city's life.

Contact



Dr. Lucia Wright
Director
Urban Transformation

Haselhorst Associates GmbH (publisher)
Schiffbauerweg 1
82319 Starnberg
Germany

T +49 151 16303818
@ l.wright@haselhorst-associates.com
www.haselhorst-associates.com