

# Mayors Dialogue on Growth and Solidarity

## City profile: Hamburg, Germany



**Population:** 1,847,253 (2019)

**GDP per capita:** \$53,139 (2018)

**Major industries:** services, industry (maritime, aviation, automotive, biotech)

**Percentage of migrants:** 17.4% (2019)

**Mayor's name:** Peter Tschentscher | **Next election date:** 2025

### Socioeconomic profile

Hamburg is both a municipality and a city-state within the Federal Republic of Germany, one of three city-states in the country. Located on the Elbe river in northern Germany, 68 miles from the river's mouth in the North Sea, it is Germany's most important port and the third largest port in Europe (World Atlas, n.d.). It is the second largest city in Germany and the most densely populated German state – 2,425 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> (European Commission, 2020). In 2019, the population of the city was 1,847,253 (Statistisches Amt für Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein, 2020a), and in the metropolitan region is expected to grow by up to 20% by 2045 (Hamburg.de, 2020a). GDP per capita in the city was \$53,139 in 2018.<sup>1</sup>

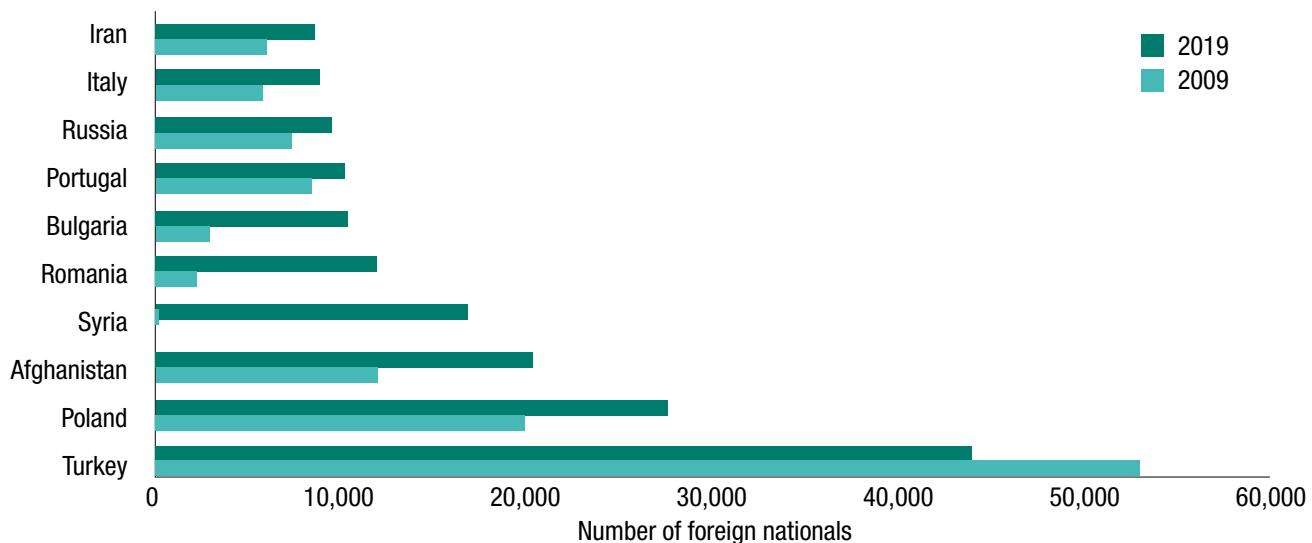
In 2018, about one million of Hamburg's working age population (aged 15–74 years) were economically active. The unemployment rate is 4.1% – higher than the

German average of 3.4% (European Commission, 2020). In 2017, over 83% of Hamburg's employed population worked in the services sector – mainly in the maritime, aviation, automotive, media and biotechnology industries (*ibid.*). Hamburg is an exceptionally green city, the result of a futuristic urban planning scheme that was devised nearly 100 years ago – GrünesNetzHamburg (Green Network Hamburg). This is an extensive design concept that connects Hamburg's urban fabric with easily accessible, public-owned and maintained green spaces (Hamburg.de, 2020b).

### Migration profile

In 2019, there were 330,165 foreigners in the city of Hamburg, an increase of 40% compared with 2009 (Statistisches Amt für Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein, 2020b). This means 17.4% of city residents were foreigners in 2019. Significantly, the proportion of foreigners in the total population grew from 13.6%

### Migrant profile in Hamburg



Source: Statistisches Amt für Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein (2020b)

<sup>1</sup> This figure is provided in nominal US\$ and is not comparable with other cities profiled. See OECD Stats (2018) Information is extracted in US\$, constant prices, constant PPP, converted into local currency using OECD PPP – local currency conversion rate, then converted into nominal US\$ using OECD's local currency to US\$ conversion rate.

in 2009 to 17.4% in 2019 (*ibid.*) (see chart). The three most strongly represented countries are Turkey, Poland and Afghanistan; in the past decade it is notable that the number of Syrians, Romanians and Bulgarians has also grown significantly (*ibid.*).

Hamburg has the reputation of being a city that has historically welcomed refugees fleeing crisis and persecution. Since 2015, 71,000 refugees have arrived in the city, most of them moving on to other destinations (Sprandel, 2018). As of the latest statistics, 33,265 refugees lived in Hamburg at the end of March 2018 (*ibid.*). At the end of 2019, almost 9,700 people in Hamburg were receiving standard benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act to cover their current living expenses, 14% less than the year before (Statistisches Amt für Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein, 2019).

## Governance structure

Hamburg's governance functions are separated into legislative, executive and judicial powers. The President of the state parliament is Carola Veit (Hamburg.de, 2020c). Law creation, amendment and ratification, as well as the election of the First Mayor of Hamburg are within the remit of the state parliament. Elections to the state parliament take place every five years and are open to Hamburg residents of German citizenship aged 16 and older (*ibid.*). The seven districts of Hamburg each have their own local parliament with representatives who preside over questions of local importance. The Hamburg

Senate is vested with executive powers and is headed by the First Mayor. The senate is responsible for Hamburg's law enforcement, the city's day-to-day management and representation in the Federal Government and to other countries (*ibid.*).

The growing population of Hamburg has a high demand for affordable housing. The city has set itself the goal of approving and building 10,000 apartments each year. Of these, 3,000 are set aside as state-subsidised rental apartments accessible to lower-income households (Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Ministry of Environment and Energy, 2016). Hamburg Senate has played a commendable role in coping with the task of housing and integrating about 35,000 refugees since mid-2015 – by setting up the Central Coordination Unit for Refugees (ZKF) to reduce bureaucracy and enable quick decisions and implementation (Hamburg.de, 2016). Hamburg also has a dedicated office for labour and integration that oversees operational programmes that support refugees and migrants (Hamburg.de, 2020c). The city is at the forefront of sustainable and low-carbon living, being the first in Germany to launch a Green Roof Strategy, with a goal to green at least 70% of new buildings and suitable existing roofs (flat or gently pitched) that are being renovated (Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Ministry of Environment and Energy, 2020). The Ministry of Environment and Energy is financing this initiative and it is expected that over the next decade a total area of about 100 hectares of green roofs will be completed in the city.

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