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Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien

Data Reports on Elite Studies of the Chair of Public Management at the University of Kassel

Volume 24

# The Political Elite of the GDR from 1949 to 1990

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The data collection was carried out within the framework of the research project "New Elites – Established Personnel? (Dis-)Continuities of German Ministries in System Transformations". The research project was funded by the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

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# List of Abbreviations/Translations

	Christian Democratic Union
CDU-DDR	Christian Democratic Union of the German Democratic Republic
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CSU	Christian Social Union
CV	Curriculum Vitae
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
GDR	German Democratic Republic
KPD	Communist Party of Germany
	Legislative Period
MA	Main Area
MC	Mixed Career
NSDAP	National Socialist German Workers' Party
OSC	One Sector Career
SDP/SPD-DDR	Social Democratic Party in the German Democratic Republic
SED	Socialist Union Party of Germany
SPD	Social Democratic Party of Germany
USPD	Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany

## 1 Introduction

This data report is part of the research project "New Elites – Established Personnel? (Dis-) Continuities of German Ministries in System Transformations" at the Chair of Public Management at the University of Kassel. An introduction provides background information on the research project, the data set and the survey period of this data report.

#### 1.1 Information on the Research Project

The research project "New Elites - Established Personnel? (Dis-)Continuities of German Ministries in System Transformations" was funded by the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media from 2017 to 2021 as part of the "Research Program for Investigating the National Socialist Past of Central German Authorities" and was carried out at the Chair of Public Management at the University of Kassel under the direction of Sylvia Veit.

The project uses the prosopographical approach to analyzing specified groups of individuals. With this method, a specific group of people – here the leading politicians and civil servants in ministries at the central government level in Germany in the  $20^{th}$  century – is systematically recorded on the basis of various sources.<sup>1</sup> The project focuses on questions of representativeness, on the educational and career paths of the elite members, on their political activity and on their relation to the respective political system.

The data presented here was collected in archives and on the basis of other publicly available sources. The project contributes to research on the role of public administration in system transformations by analyzing developments in the characteristics of key individuals in ministries over time and in cross-section. Furthermore, the project sees itself as a contribution to historical science scholarship on investigating the National Socialist past of German federal ministries and the federal chancellery.

#### 1.2 Data and Methodology

The project is based on the positional approach to define the study population. According to this approach, members of the political-administrative elite are defined as those persons who held a formal leadership position within the hierarchical structure of the ministries at certain points in time.

In order to provide as accurate a picture as possible of the characteristics of the politicaladministrative elite prior to the founding of the two German states in 1949, six survey dates were defined for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, marking different phases in the development of the political systems in question: Accordingly, the survey population includes all persons who occupied a ministerial leadership position on September 1, 1913 (German Empire), 1920 or 1927 (Weimar Republic), 1934, 1939 or 1944 (National Socialist Regime).

For the time period from 1949 to 2017, a full survey was conducted for the FRG. This means that all holders of political and administrative leadership positions at the top three hierarchical levels

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We thank Anika Manschwetus and Nora Schierenbeck for their support in the archival work, research and coding. We thank Rima Schmauch for her support in the final editing.

in federal ministries in the FRG were included in the data set. For the GDR, it was not possible to collect data on the heads of department (level 3 civil servants) as part of the research project, due to significantly more difficult access to the data. The composition of the study population can be seen in the following table.

		German Empire	Weimar Republic	Nazi Germany	FRG	GDR
	Level 1	Emperor	President of the Reich	"Führer"	Federal President	President of the GDR or State Council Chairman
Politicians	Level 2	Chancellor of the Reich	Chancellor of the Reich, Minister	Chancellor of the Reich, Minister	Federal Chancellor, Minister	Deputy State Council Chairman, Prime Minister or Chairman of the Ministerial Council, Minister, Independent State Secretary
	Level 3			Head of Special Authorities	State Secretary, Parliamentary State Secretary	State Secretary, Deputy Minister, Deputy of the Independent State Secretary
	Level 1	State Secretary	State Secretary	State Secretary	State Secretary	State Secretary
<b>Civil Servants</b>	Level 2	Under State Secretary	Under State Secretary	Under State Secretary	Deputy State Secretary, Inspector General of the German Armed Forces, Deputy Government Spokesperson	Deputy State Secretary
	Level 3	Head of Department	Head of Department	Head of Department	Head of Department	

Notes: In the GDR, different types of state secretary positions existed: Independent state secretaries who headed an independent state secretariat were a functional equivalent to ministers. Accordingly, their deputies were equivalent to the deputy ministers and state secretaries of the ministries. As of November 1989, the positions of state secretaries in ministries were included in the administrative area. Deputy state secretaries in ministries have consistently held an administrative position.

For each individual belonging to the study population, the complete curriculum vitae (CV), consisting of sociodemographic characteristics, education-related variables, career steps, system-related references and political activities, was analyzed. The career steps were subdivided into pre-positions, elite positions and post-positions. Pre-positions are all professional positions held by an individual before the first elite entry (i.e. the first entry into a Level 1-3 position as civil servant or politician, see table above). Elite positions are defined as all professional positions held by a person between elite entry and elite exit (i.e. the last Level 1-3 position as a civil servant or politician in the career path). Post-elite positions are all professional positions held by an individual after elite exit.

The information from the individuals' CVs was numerically translated into the data set. In the case of differences due to time and political system, for example, in the designation of a position or an educational qualification, functional equivalents were identified. This allowed for uniform coding and comparability of the CVs.

Sources included personnel and cadre files in the German Federal Archives, as well as files of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (*NSDAP*), the Socialist Union Party of Germany (*SED*) and their respective affiliated associations, publicly available CVs (for example *Lebendiges Museum* online, *Munzinger* online, private websites, "Wer war wer in der DDR?" ("Who was who in the GDR?", etc.), newspaper archives (for example *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Neues Deutschland, Spiegel, Süddeutsche Zeitung* etc.), and the handbooks of the German government, the handbooks for the German Reich and the Directories of East German Officials published by the CIA. The information on a person was validated by comparing the different sources. In cases where the information from the various sources did not coincide, a hierarchy of sources was established. In cases of doubt, priority was given to the information from the files of the Federal Archives. Nevertheless, it cannot be entirely ruled out that some sources contained incomplete or incorrect information on individual cases.

The tables and figures presented in the different data reports summarize the results of the descriptive analyses of the collected data and illustrate the frequency distributions of selected variables. In all data reports (for an overview, see paragraph 8), the presentation of the results is divided into the sections social structure, education, career, political activity and, if applicable, references to political systems.

#### 1.3 Information on this Data Report

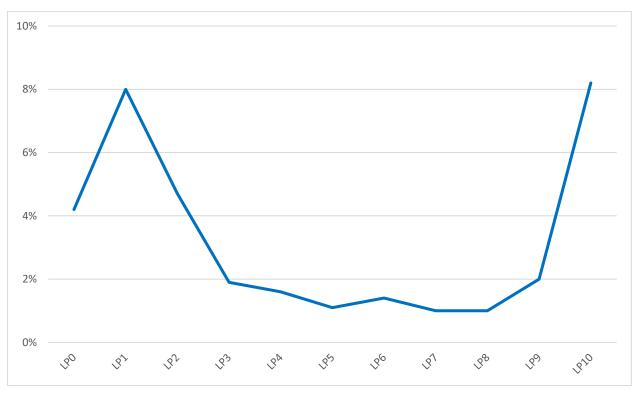
The present time series contains frequency analyses of selected variables described for the survey period from October 7, 1949, to October 2, 1990. To illustrate the development over time, the time series is divided into eleven sections based on the legislative periods (*LP*) of the GDR People's Chamber (*Volkskammer*).<sup>2</sup> The following table illustrates how many individuals belonged to the GDR's political elite within a given LP. For the administrative elite of the GDR, only incomplete data was available. For this reason, the data on the administrative elite in the GDR is not presented in this time series.

	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
Politicians	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The time period from October 7, 1949 to October 15, 1950 is referred to as "LPO" in this document, since only the Provisional People's Chamber ("Provisorische Volkskammer") convened during this period. "LP1" thus refers to the first legislative period of the People's Chamber, which emerged from the election on October 15, 1950.

## 2 Social Structure

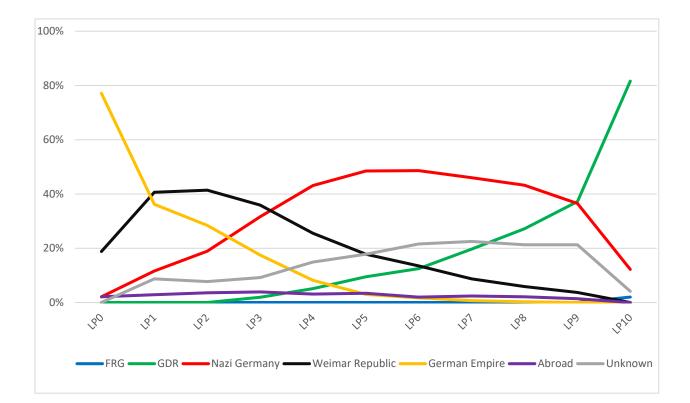
### 2.1 Percentage of Women



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Politicians	4,2	8,0	4,7	1,9	1,6	1,1	1,3	1,0	1,0	2,0	8,2
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 2.2 Socialization

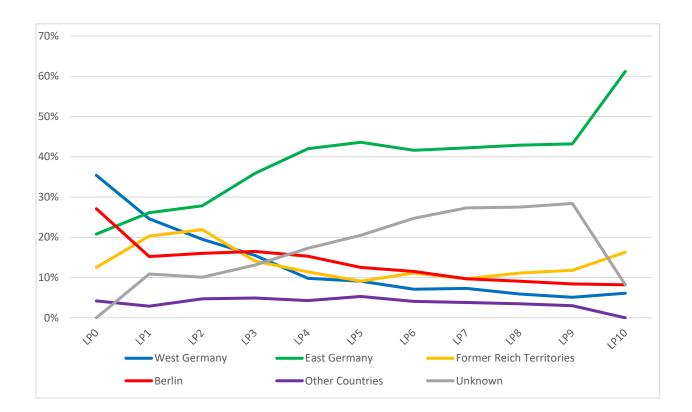
A person's socialization was tied to the political system in which the person lived for the majority of the time between the ages of 10 and 20. The data thus refers to the so-called primary socialization, which takes place in childhood and adolescence. The primary socialization has a determining influence on the formation of self-perception and the internalization of values.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
FRG	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0
GDR	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,9	5,1	9,5	12,5	19,7	27,2	37,2	81,6
Nazi Germany	2,1	11,6	18,9	31,6	43,1	48,5	48,6	46,0	43,2	36,5	12,2
Weimar Republic	18,8	40,6	41,4	35,9	25,5	17,8	13,5	8,7	5,9	3,7	0,0
German Empire	77,1	36,2	28,4	17,5	8,2	3,0	1,7	0,7	0,3	0,0	0,0
Abroad	2,1	2,9	3,6	3,9	3,1	3,4	2,0	2,4	2,1	1,4	0,0
Unknown	0,0	8,7	7,7	9,2	14,9	17,8	21,6	22,5	21,3	21,3	4,1
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 2.3 Region of Birth

The region of birth is defined through the current federal states (as of 2021). In addition, former Reich territories were included.



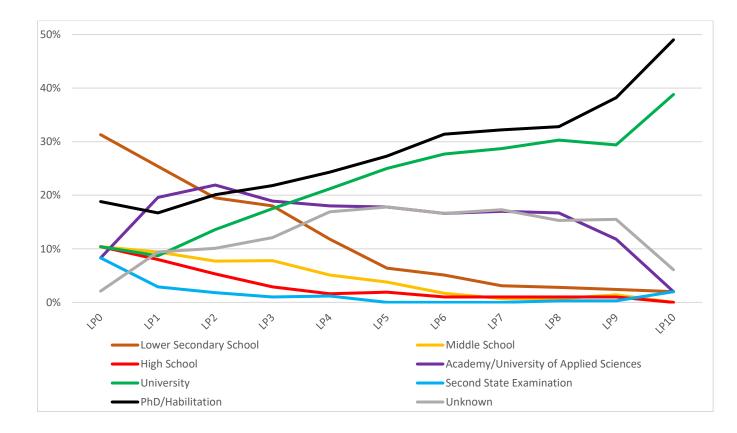
	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
West Germany	35,4	24,6	19,5	15,5	9,8	9,1	7,1	7,3	5,9	5,1	6,1
East Germany	20,8	26,1	27,8	35,9	42,0	43,6	41,6	42,2	42,9	43,2	61,2
Former Reich Territories	12,5	20,3	21,9	14,1	11,4	9,1	11,1	9,7	11,1	11,8	16,3
Berlin	27,1	15,2	16,0	16,5	15,3	12,5	11,5	9,7	9,1	8,4	8,2
<b>Other Countries</b>	4,2	2,9	4,7	4,9	4,3	5,3	4,1	3,8	3,5	3,0	0,0
Unknown	0,0	10,9	10,1	13,1	17,3	20,5	24,7	27,3	27,5	28,4	8,2
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

## 3 Education

#### 3.1 Highest Level of Education

The data set records the highest level of education for each person. In the German education system, the secondary education is divided into three different types of degrees: A degree at a lower secondary school is obtained after grade 8 or 9 and qualifies the students for an apprenticeship. A degree at a middle school is obtained after grade 10 and is comparable to the British GCSEs. A degree at a high school is obtained after 12 to 13 years of education. A high school diploma is equivalent to the British A-Levels and is required for being admitted into University.

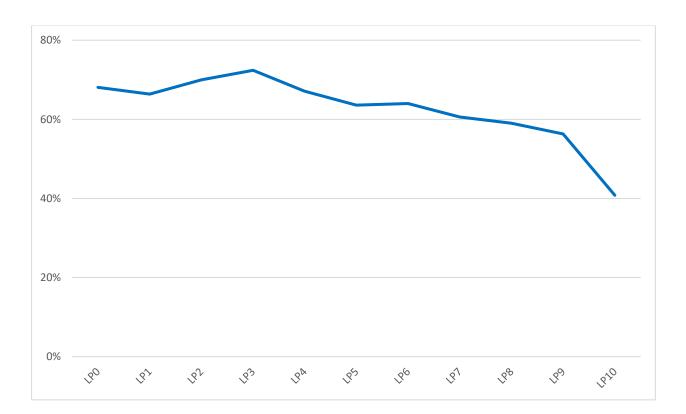
The stage of tertiary education is divided into four different types of degrees: The first encompasses degrees obtained at a University of Applied Sciences or a (Party) Academy. The second category encompasses all degrees equivalent to a master's degree at university. The second state examination is the final examination for jurists and teachers obtained after at least five years of university training and a one-year preparatory service. The fourth type of degree is a completed PhD. All educational qualifications include system-typical functional equivalents.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Lower Secondary School	31,3	25,4	19,5	18,0	11,8	6,4	5,1	3,1	2,8	2,4	2,0
Middle School	10,4	9,4	7,7	7,8	5,1	3,8	1,7	0,7	0,7	1,4	0,0
High School	10,4	8,0	5,3	2,9	1,6	1,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	0,0
Academy/ University of Applied Sciences	8,3	19,6	21,9	18,9	18,0	17,8	16,6	17,0	16,7	11,8	2,0
University	10,4	8,7	13,6	17,5	21,2	25,0	27,7	28,7	30,3	29,4	38,8
Second State Examination	8,3	2,9	1,8	1,0	1,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,3	2,0
PhD/Habilitation	18,8	16,7	20,1	21,8	24,3	27,3	31,4	32,2	32,8	38,2	49,0
Unknown	2,1	9,4	10,1	12,1	16,9	17,8	16,6	17,3	15,3	15,5	6,1
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 3.2 Vocational Training

The graph illustrates the proportion of elite members who completed vocational training.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Politicians	68,1	66,4	70,0	72,4	67,1	63,6	64,0	60,6	59,0	56,3	40,8
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

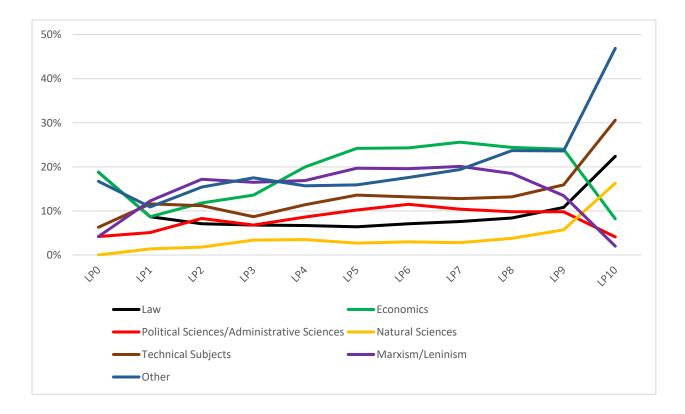
#### 3.3 University Major

If more than one major was named, up to three majors were included in the data set. If a person studied more than three subjects, the first three subjects named were recorded. The recording of the majors refers to the degrees attained prior to the start of a professional career and not to any additional study programs. The population for the calculations are those individuals who have obtained a university degree or a degree at a University of Applied Sciences. Therefore, the total number of individuals in the two tables differs from the reported number of individuals in the previous tables. Since several people have studied more than one subject, the columns add up to more than 100%.

In systematizing the majors, the following summaries were made:

- The category "Economics" includes economics, business administration and business informatics.
- The category "Natural Sciences" includes physics, chemistry and biology.
- The category "Technical Subjects" contains, for example, mechanical engineering, engineering, architecture and spatial planning.

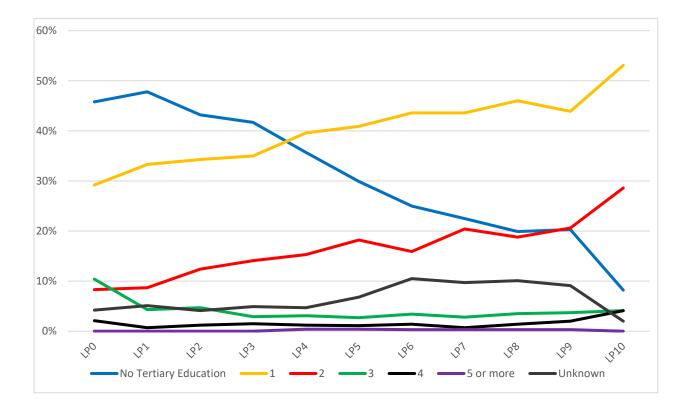
Shown are the five most common fields of study as well as the system-typical subject "Marxism/Leninism".



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Law	18,8	8,7	7,1	6,8	6,7	6,4	7,1	7,6	8,4	10,8	22,4
Economics	18,8	8,7	11,8	13,6	20,0	24,2	24,3	25,6	24,4	24,0	8,2
Political Sciences/ Admin. Sciences	4,2	5,1	8,3	6,8	8,6	10,2	11,5	10,4	9,8	9,8	4,1
Natural Sciences	0,0	1,4	1,8	3,4	3,5	2,7	3,0	2,8	3,8	5,7	16,3
<b>Technical Subjects</b>	6,3	11,6	11,2	8,7	11,4	13,6	13,2	12,8	13,2	15,9	30,6
Marxism/Leninism	4,2	12,3	17,2	16,5	16,9	19,7	19,6	20,1	18,5	13,5	2,0
Other	16,7	10,9	15,4	17,5	15,7	15,9	17,6	19,4	23,7	23,6	46,9
Ν	22	66	97	122	165	185	224	225	230	236	45

#### 3.4 Number of University Majors

The total number of majors studied includes all subjects mentioned in a person's educational biography, even if the corresponding courses were not completed.

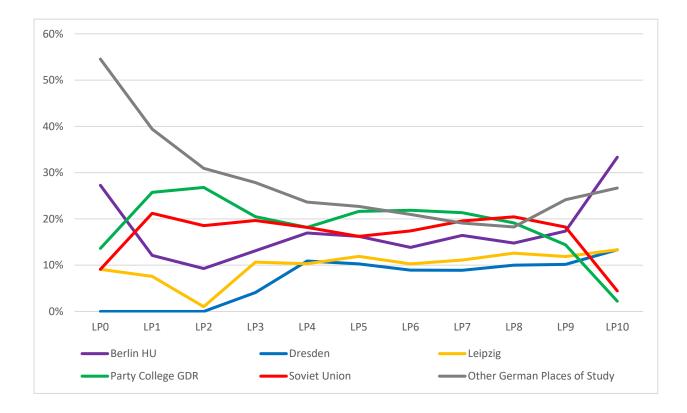


	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No Tertiary Education	45,8	47,8	43,2	41,7	35,7	29,9	25,0	22,5	19,9	20,3	8,2
1	29,2	33,3	34,3	35,0	39,6	40,9	43,6	43,6	46,0	43,9	53,1
2	8,3	8,7	12,4	14,1	15,3	18,2	15,9	20,4	18,8	20,6	28,6
3	10,4	4,3	4,7	2,9	3,1	2,7	3,4	2,8	3,5	3,7	4,1
4	2,1	0,7	1,2	1,5	1,2	1,1	1,4	0,7	1,4	2,0	4,1
5 or more	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,0
Unknown	4,2	5,1	4,1	4,9	4,7	6,8	10,5	9,7	10,1	9,1	2,0
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49
Mean	1,7	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,4	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,6
Median	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0

#### 3.5 Place of Study

If more than one place of study was named, up to three places were included in the data set. If a person studied at more than three places, the first three named places of study were noted, with prioritization on national places of study. The various party colleges in the GDR were combined into one study location ("Party College GDR"). Study locations outside of Germany were summarized into the categories "Soviet Union" and "Other Foreign Countries." The figure shows the five most common study locations overall and the combined total of other places of study.

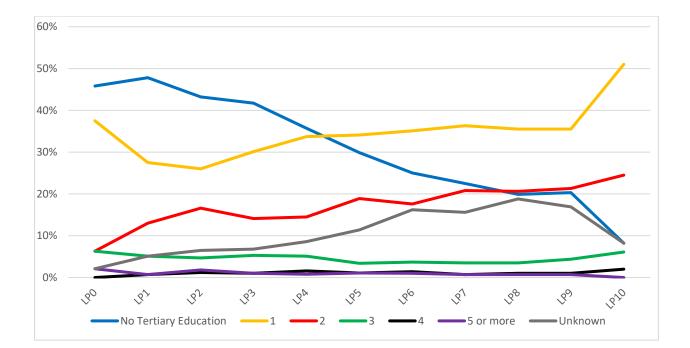
The percentages in each case refer to all elite members who completed their degree. The total values per LP therefore differ from the total values in other tables.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Berlin HU	27,3	12,1	9,3	13,1	17,0	16,2	13,8	16,4	14,8	17,4	33,3
Dresden	0,0	0,0	0,0	4,1	10,9	10,3	8,9	8,9	10,0	10,2	13,3
Leipzig	9,1	7,6	1,0	10,7	10,3	11,9	10,3	11,1	12,6	11,9	13,3
Party College GDR	13,6	25,8	26,8	20,5	18,2	21,6	21,9	21,3	19,1	14,4	2,2
Soviet Union	9,1	21,2	18,6	19,7	18,2	16,2	17,4	19,6	20,4	18,2	4,4
Other German Places of Study	54,5	39,4	30,9	27,9	23,6	22,7	21,0	19,1	18,3	24,2	26,7
Ν	22	66	97	122	165	185	224	225	230	236	45

#### 3.6 Number of Places of Study

The total number of places of study includes all places of study mentioned in an individual's educational biography, even if the corresponding courses were not completed.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No Tertiary Education	45,8	47,8	43,2	41,7	35,7	29,9	25,0	22,5	19,9	20,3	8,2
1	37,5	27,5	26,0	30,1	33,7	34,1	35,1	36,3	35,5	35,5	51,0
2	6,3	13,0	16,6	14,1	14,5	18,9	17,6	20,8	20,6	21,3	24,5
3	6,3	5,1	4,7	5,3	5,1	3,4	3,7	3,5	3,5	4,4	6,1
4	0,0	0,7	1,2	1,0	1,6	1,1	1,4	0,7	1,0	1,0	2,0
5 or more	2,1	0,7	1,8	1,0	0,8	1,1	1,0	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,0
Unknown	2,1	5,1	6,5	6,8	8,6	11,4	16,2	15,6	18,8	16,9	8,2
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49
Mean	1,6	1,6	1,7	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,5	1,6	1,6	1,5
Median	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0

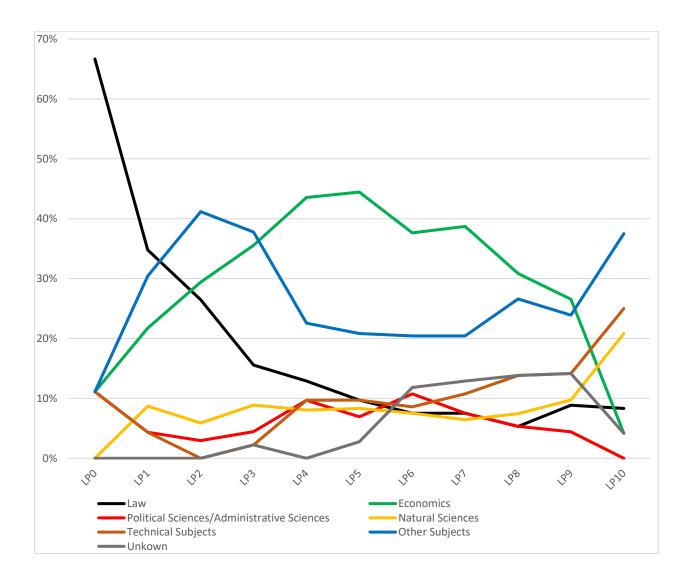
#### 3.7 Doctorate Subjects

If several doctorate subjects were named, up to two subjects were included in the data set. The population for the calculations are those individuals who have completed a doctorate. Since several individuals have completed a doctorate in more than one subject, the columns add up to more than 100%.

In systematizing the doctorate subjects, the following summaries were made:

- The category "Economics" includes economics, business administration and business informatics.
- The category "Natural Sciences" includes physics, chemistry and biology.
- The category "Technical Subjects" contains, for example, mechanical engineering, engineering, architecture and spatial planning.

Shown are the five most common doctorate subjects as well as the system-typical subject "Marxism/Leninism".

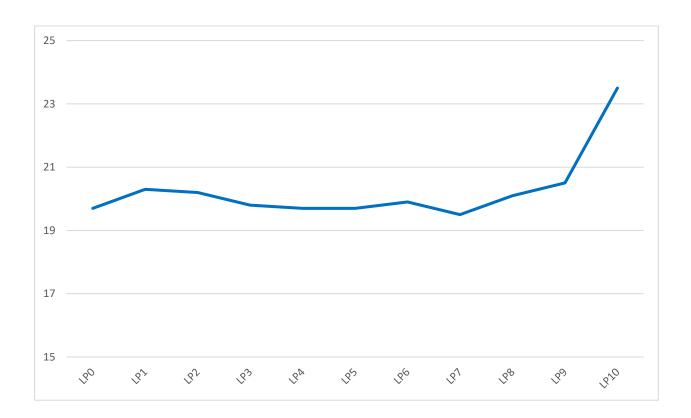


	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Law	66,7	34,8	26,5	15,6	12,9	9,7	7,5	7,5	5,3	8,8	8,3
Economics	11,1	21,7	29,4	35,6	43,5	44,4	37,6	38,7	30,9	26,5	4,2
Political Sciences/ Admin. Sciences	11,1	4,3	2,9	4,4	9,7	6,9	10,8	7,5	5,3	4,4	0,0
Natural Sciences	0,0	8,7	5,9	8,9	8,1	8,3	7,5	6,5	7,4	9,7	20,8
<b>Technical Subjects</b>	11,1	4,3	0,0	2,2	9,7	9,7	8,6	10,8	13,8	14,2	25,0
Other Subjects	11,1	30,4	41,2	37,8	22,6	20,8	20,4	20,4	26,6	23,9	37,5
Unknown	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,2	0,0	2,8	11,8	12,9	13,8	14,2	4,2
Ν	9	23	34	45	62	72	93	93	94	113	24

## 4 Career

#### 4.1 Age at Beginning of Career

The graph shows the average age at the start of a person's first job after their education or training.



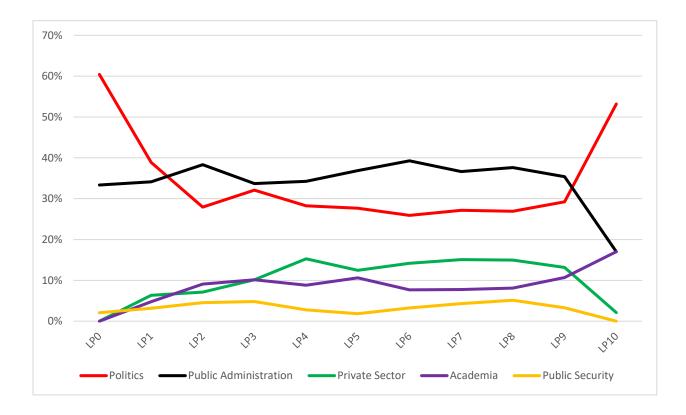
	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	19,7	20,3	20,2	19,8	19,7	19,7	19,9	19,5	20,1	20,5	23,5
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.2 Last Pre-Position

The last pre-position is the professional position held by the respective person immediately before entering their first elite position. The last pre-position is shown here only according to the associated sectors. The figure shows the five most common sectors.

- The sector "politics" includes members of parliament and government politicians.
- The sector "public administration" includes all administrative positions in state or federal ministries and agencies as well as all administrative positions at a municipal and district level and their functional equivalents in the respective political systems. It does not include positions in other civil service branches such as teachers or positions in judicial administration.
- The private sector includes all positions in private companies and enterprises as well as self-employed persons in private enterprises. Exceptions are self-employed lawyers (sector "judiciary"), self-employed physicians (sector "health") and self-employed artists (sector "culture").
- The sector "academia" includes all scientific staff at universities and research institutes or equivalent organizations.
- The sector "public security" includes all positions in the police or military.

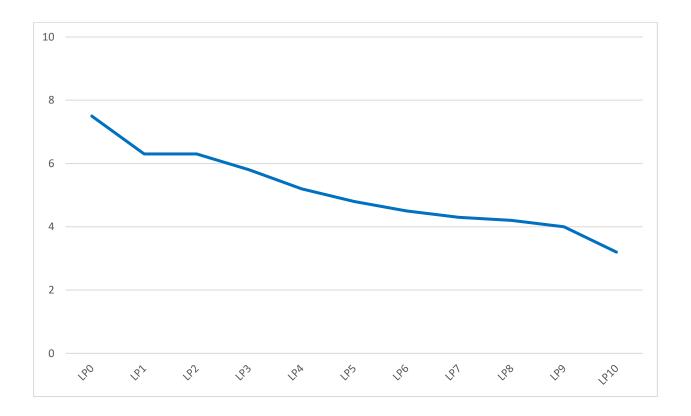
The population consists of all known last pre-positions. If the last pre-position is not known or if, for example, a person was in temporary retirement before taking up an elite position at federal level, this person was not included in the population. As a result, the total number of individuals in the two tables differs in part from the reported number of individuals in other tables.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Politics	60,4	38,9	27,9	32,1	28,2	27,6	25,9	27,2	26,9	29,2	53,2
Public Admin.	33,3	34,1	38,3	33,7	34,3	36,9	39,3	36,6	37,6	35,4	17,0
Private Sector	0,0	6,3	7,1	10,2	15,3	12,4	14,2	15,1	15,0	13,2	2,1
Academia	0,0	4,8	9,1	10,2	8,8	10,6	7,7	7,8	8,1	10,7	17,0
<b>Public Security</b>	2,1	3,2	4,5	4,8	2,8	1,8	3,2	4,3	5,1	3,3	0,0
Ν	48	126	154	187	216	217	247	232	234	243	47

#### 4.3 Number of Pre-Positions

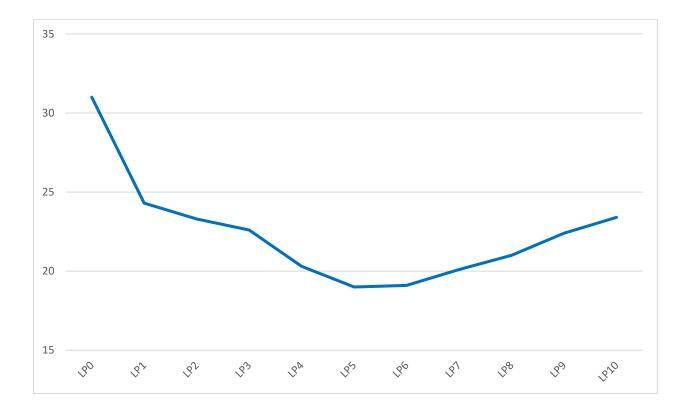
All professional positions held by an individual after education until the first entry into an elite position were counted. The graph shows the average number of pre-positions.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	7,5	6,3	6,3	5,8	5,2	4,8	4,5	4,3	4,2	4,0	3,2
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.4 Total Duration of Pre-Positions

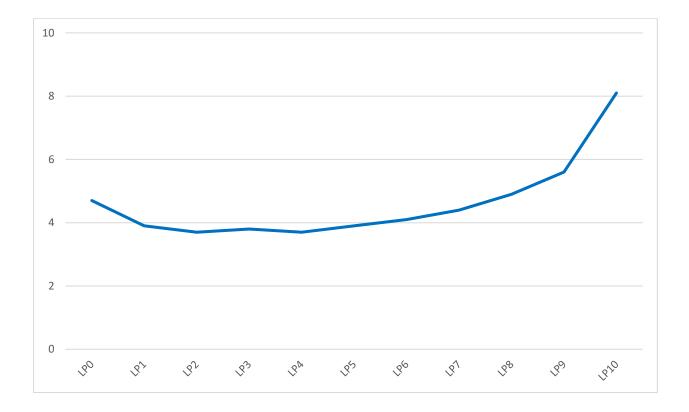
The following figure shows the average total duration of all pre-positions in years.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	31,0	24,3	23,3	22,6	20,3	19,0	19,1	20,1	21,0	22,4	23,4
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.5 Average Duration of Stay in a Pre-Position

The following figure shows the average length of stay in a single pre-position in years.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	4,7	3,9	3,7	3,8	3,7	3,9	4,1	4,4	4,9	5,6	8,1
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.6 Career Patterns

Generalized career patterns can be derived from an overall examination of a person's professional biography prior to their entry into an elite position. The patterns are created by the assignment of professional positions into sectors (politics, public administration, private sector, academia, church, associations, public security, judiciary, culture, education, health, media) as well as from the recorded duration for which a person worked in the various sectors. The sectors include the following positions:

- The sector "politics" was subdivided into "politics with mandate" (this includes members of parliament and government politicians) and "politics without mandate" (professional party employees, parliamentary employees, personal employees of members of parliament).
- The sector "public administration" includes all administrative positions in state or federal ministries and agencies as well as all administrative positions at a municipal and district level and their functional equivalents in the respective political systems. It does not

include positions in other civil service branches such as teachers or positions in judicial administration.

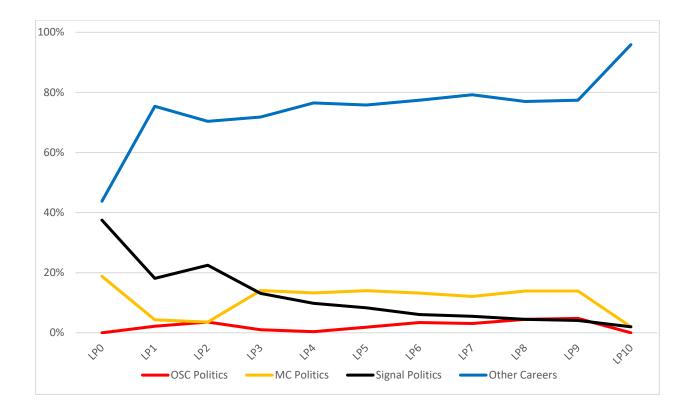
- The private sector includes all positions in private companies and enterprises as well as self-employed persons in private enterprises. Exceptions are self-employed lawyers (sector "judiciary"), self-employed physicians (sector "health") and self-employed artists (sector "culture").
- The sector "academia" includes all scientific staff at universities and research institutes or equivalent organizations.
- The sector "church" includes all positions affiliated to religious organizations such as parsons or chaplains.
- The sector "associations" includes all positions in unions, non-governmental organizations and other interest groups.
- The sector "public security" includes all positions in the police or military.
- The sector "judiciary" includes positions as judges, attorneys, lawyers and law clerks.
- The sector "culture" includes artists, actors and staff at museums and theaters.
- The sector "education" includes teachers and other staff in schools and adult education institutions.
- The sector "health" includes the medical profession as well as other staff in hospitals or medical insurance institutions.
- The sector "media" includes journalists and all other positions at newspapers or TV stations.

To calculate the duration of a sector affiliation, the duration of all positions attributed to that sector was added up. The number and sequence of position changes within and between sectors are not relevant here. Instead, the focus is on socialization within a sector and the acquisition of sector-specific knowledge and skills.

Career patterns can be defined along the number of sectors occurring within an individual's career and along the shares of sectors in the total duration of the career. A career is considered to be a "one-sector career" (OSC) if an individual has spent at least 95.0 percent of their career, up until the time of elite entry, in one sector. Consequently, time in another sector (or sectors) may not exceed 4.9 percent of the total duration and may also not have been held for more than two years. Through this definition, a phase of professional orientation is taken into account.

Careers in which at least two sectors each account for a share of at least 5.0 percent are referred to as "mixed careers" (MC). The orientation of mixed careers can be differentiated on the basis of the weight that individual sectors account for within the overall career. A main area (MA) within a mixed career is assumed whenever positions in that specific sector account for at least 50.0 percent and no more than 94.9 percent of the total career before elite entry. A signal within a career is assumed whenever positions in the relevant sector account for at least 5.0 percent and more than two years but not more than 49.9 percent of the total career before elite entry. When categorized as a "mixed career with main area" in a sector or as a "mixed career with signal" in a sector, the composition of the other sectors within the career is not relevant.

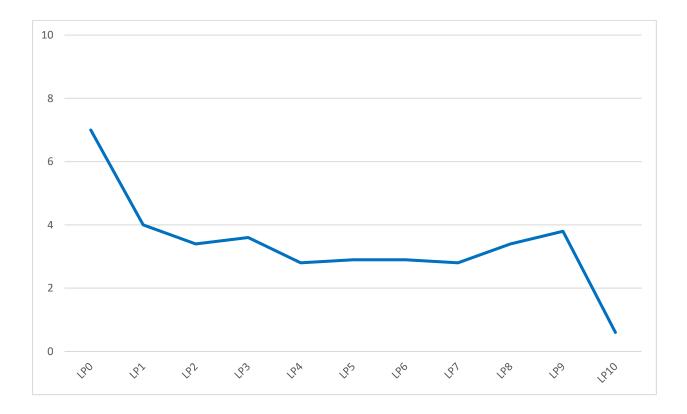
Since only the political elite of the GDR is considered here, the following figure shows the distribution of career patterns with a share of positions in politics.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
OSC Politics	0,0	2,2	3,6	1,0	0,4	1,9	3,4	3,1	4,5	4,8	0,0
MC Politics	18,8	4,3	3,6	14,1	13,3	14,0	13,2	12,1	13,9	13,9	2,0
Signal Politics	37,5	18,1	22,5	13,1	9,8	8,3	6,1	5,5	4,5	4,1	2,0
Other Careers	43,8	75,4	70,4	71,8	76,5	75,8	77,4	79,2	77,0	77,4	95,9
N	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.7 Duration of Professional Political Experience in Pre-Positions in Years

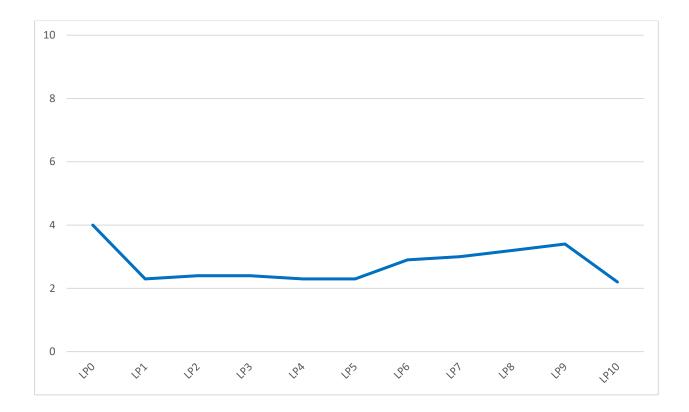
Professional political experience is measured by the total duration of full-time political mandates or full-time activities within a parliamentary group or party. Unsalaried part-time political experience, for example in local government, is not included.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	7,0	4,0	3,4	3,6	2,8	2,9	2,9	2,8	3,4	3,8	0,6
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.8 Duration of Professional Administrative Experience in Pre-Positions in Years

Professional administrative experience is acquired through positions in public administration. The sector "public administration" includes all administrative positions in state or federal ministries and agencies as well as all administrative positions at a municipal and district level and their functional equivalents in the respective political systems. It does not include positions in other civil service branches such as teachers or positions in judicial administration.

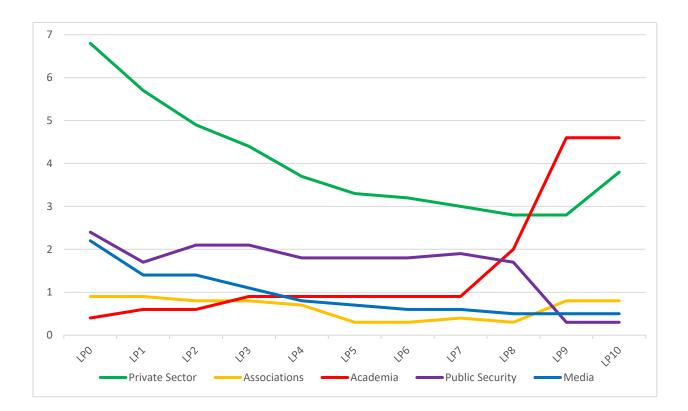


	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	4,0	2,3	2,4	2,4	2,3	2,3	2,9	3,0	3,2	3,4	2,2
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.9 Duration of Professional Experience in Other Sectors in Pre-Positions in Years

Professional experience outside of politics and public administration is acquired in all professional positions that cannot be assigned to politics (see 4.7) or public administration (see 4.8). The figure shows the five most frequently occurring sectors.

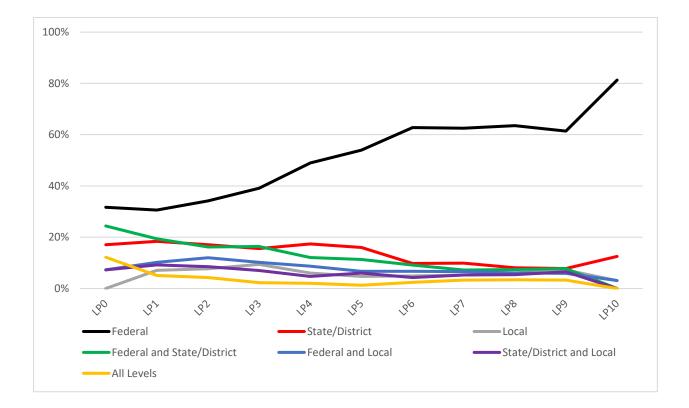
- The private sector includes all positions in private companies and enterprises as well as self-employed persons in private enterprises. Exceptions are self-employed lawyers (sector "judiciary"), self-employed physicians (sector "health") and self-employed artists (sector "culture").
- The sector "associations" includes all positions in unions, non-governmental organizations and other interest groups.
- The sector "academia" includes all scientific staff at universities and research institutes or equivalent organizations.
- The sector "public security" includes all positions in the police or military.
- The sector "media" includes journalists and all other positions at newspapers or TV stations.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Private Sector	6,8	5,7	4,9	4,4	3,7	3 <i>,</i> 3	3,2	3,0	2,8	2,8	3,8
Associations	0,9	0,9	0,8	0,8	0,7	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,8	0,8
Academia	0,4	0,6	0,6	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	2,0	4,6	4,6
Public Security	2,4	1,7	2,1	2,1	1,8	1,8	1,8	1,9	1,7	0,3	0,3
Media	2,2	1,4	1,4	1,1	0,8	0,7	0,6	0,6	0,5	0,5	0,5
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 4.10 Level Experience in Pre-Positions

The data set covers professional experience at local, state, district and federal level. Only positions in the political and administrative sectors can be assigned to one level; the population for the following data therefore consists of those individuals for whom it is known that they held at least one position in politics and/or administration before joining the elite.

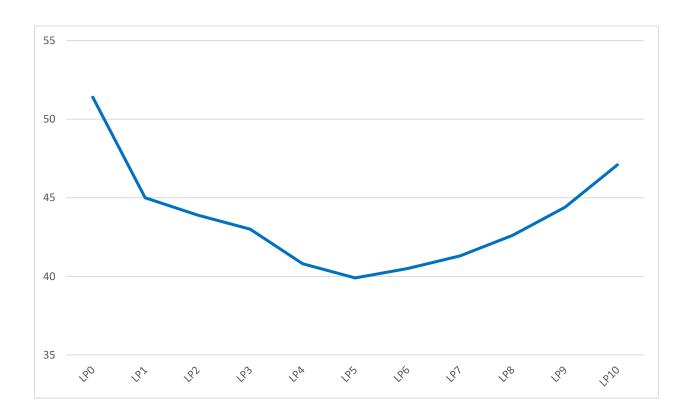


	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Federal	31,7	30,6	34,2	39,1	49,0	54,0	62,8	62,5	63,5	61,4	81,3
State/District	17,1	18,4	17,1	15,6	17,4	16,0	9,8	9,9	8,1	7,8	12,5
Local	0,0	7,1	7,7	9,4	6,0	4,7	4,9	5,3	6,1	7,2	3,1
Federal and State/District	24,4	19,4	16,2	16,4	12,1	11,3	9,1	7,2	7,4	7,8	0,0
Federal and Local	7,3	10,2	12,0	10,2	8,7	6,7	6,7	6,6	6,1	5,9	3,1
State/District and Local	7,3	9,2	8,5	7,0	4,7	6,0	4,3	5,3	5,4	6,5	0,0
All Levels	12,2	5,1	4,3	2,3	2,0	1,3	2,4	3,3	3,4	3,3	0,0
Ν	41	98	117	128	149	150	164	152	148	153	32

## 5 Elite Positions

#### 5.1 Age at Elite Entry

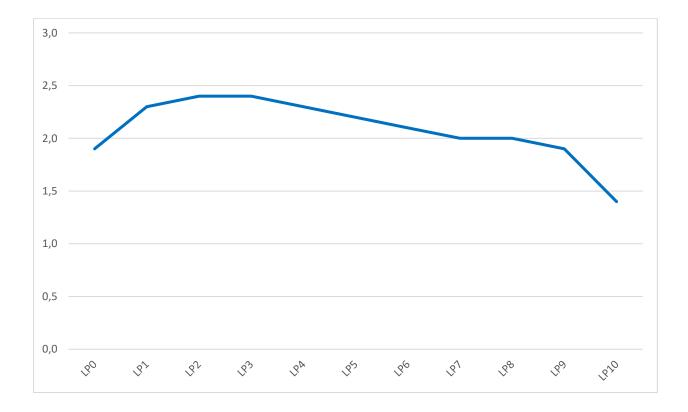
The age of the individual at the time of entry into a level 1-3 position as a politician (see 1.2) was recorded.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	51,4	45,0	43,9	43,0	40,8	39,9	40,5	41,3	42,6	44,4	47,1
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 5.2 Number of Elite Positions

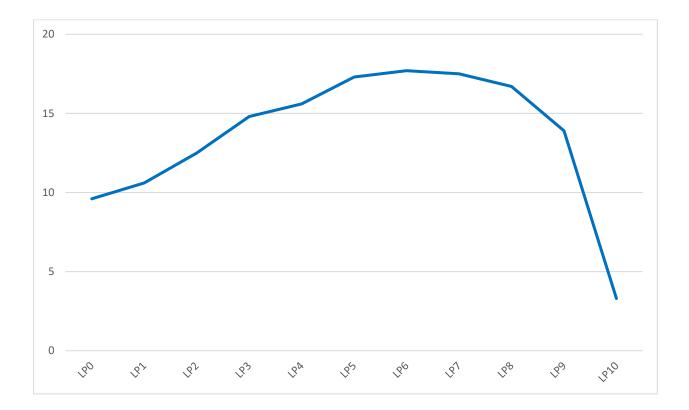
All full-time elite positions were counted. The graph shows the average number of elite positions.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	1,9	2,3	2,4	2,4	2,3	2,2	2,1	2,0	2,0	1,9	1,4
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 5.3 Duration of Total Elite Membership in Years

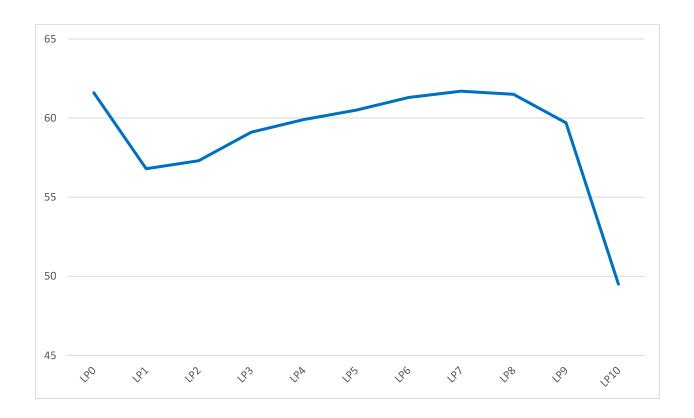
In the systematization used here, elite membership begins when the person first enters an elite position in politics or public administration (see 1.2) and ends when the person leaves their last elite position. Changes of position within this period are not relevant for calculating the total duration of elite membership. If a person has held a position outside the political-administrative elite between assuming various elite positions or has, for example, been in temporary retirement, the corresponding time is not included.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	9,6	10,6	12,5	14,8	15,6	17,3	17,7	17,5	16,7	13,9	3,3
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 5.4 Age at Elite Exit

The graph reports the average age of elite members in the different LPs at the time of leaving their last elite position in politics or public administration.



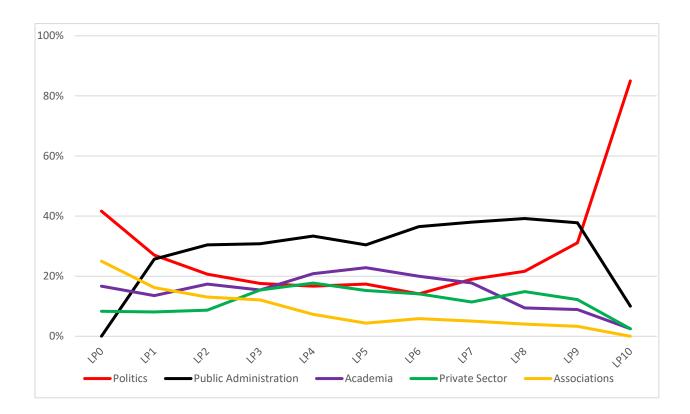
	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	61,6	56,8	57,3	59,1	59,9	60,5	61,3	61,7	61,5	59,7	49,5
N	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

## 6 Post-Elite Position

#### 6.1 First Post-Elite Position

Recorded was the first professional position after elite exit. This is shown here according to the corresponding sectors. The five most common sectors are included in the figure. If a person is no longer practicing an occupation after leaving the elite, but, for example, has retired, is unable to work or has passed away, they are not included in the figure. Accordingly, the percentages in the table refer to the number of people who were still engaged in an occupation after leaving the elite.

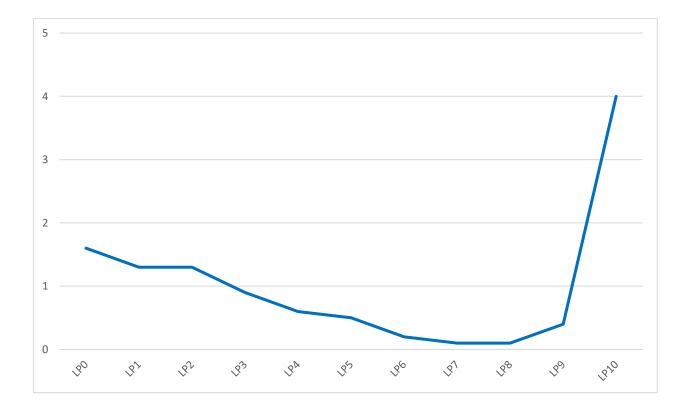
- The sector "politics" was subdivided into "politics with mandate" (this includes members of parliament and government politicians) and "politics without mandate" (professional party employees, parliamentary employees, personal employees of members of parliament).
- The sector "public administration" includes all administrative positions in state or federal ministries and agencies as well as all administrative positions at a municipal and district level and their functional equivalents in the different political systems. It does not include positions in other civil service branches such as teachers or positions in judicial administration.
- The sector "academia" includes all scientific staff at universities and research institutes or equivalent organizations.
- The private sector includes all positions in private companies and enterprises as well as self-employed persons in private enterprises. Exceptions are self-employed lawyers (sector "judiciary"), self-employed physicians (sector "health") and self-employed artists (sector "culture").
- The sector "associations" includes all positions in unions, non-governmental organizations and other interest groups.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Politics	41,7	27,0	20,7	17,6	16,7	17,4	14,1	19,0	21,6	31,1	85,0
Public Admin.	0,0	25,7	30,4	30,8	33,3	30,4	36,5	38,0	39,2	37,8	10,0
Academia	16,7	13,5	17,4	15,4	20,8	22,8	20,0	17,7	9,5	8,9	2,5
Private Sector	8,3	8,1	8,7	15,4	17,7	15,2	14,1	11,4	14,9	12,2	2,5
Associations	25,0	16,2	13,0	12,1	7,3	4,3	5,9	5,1	4,1	3,3	0,0
Ν	24	74	92	91	96	92	85	79	74	90	40

#### 6.2 Duration of Professional Political Experience in Post-Elite Positions in Years

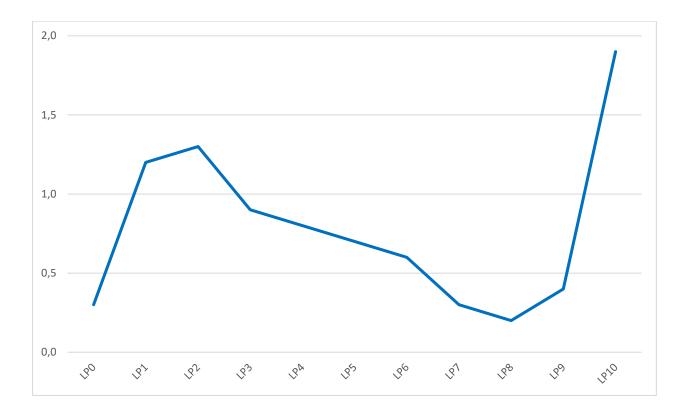
Professional political experience is measured through the total duration of full-time political mandates or full-time activities within a parliamentary group or party. Unsalaried part-time political experience, for example in local government, is not included.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	1,6	1,3	1,3	0,9	0,6	0,5	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,4	4,0
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

# 6.3 Duration of Professional Administrative Experience in Post-Elite Positions in Years

Professional administrative experience is acquired through positions in public administration. The sector "public administration" includes all administrative positions in state or federal ministries and agencies as well as all administrative positions at a municipal and district level and their functional equivalents in the respective political systems. It does not include positions in other civil service branches such as teachers or positions in judicial administration.

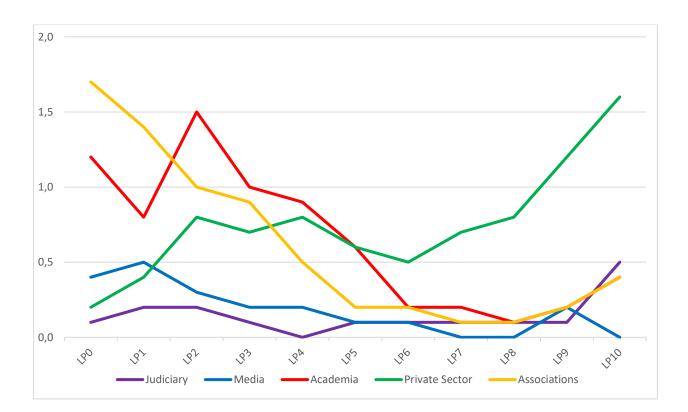


	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	0,3	1,2	1,3	0,9	0,8	0,7	0,6	0,3	0,2	0,4	1,9
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

# 6.4 Duration of Professional Experience in Other Sectors in Post-Elite Positions in Years

Professional experience outside of politics and administration is acquired in all professional positions that cannot be assigned to full-time political positions (see 4.7) or public administration positions (see 4.8). The figure shows the five most common sectors.

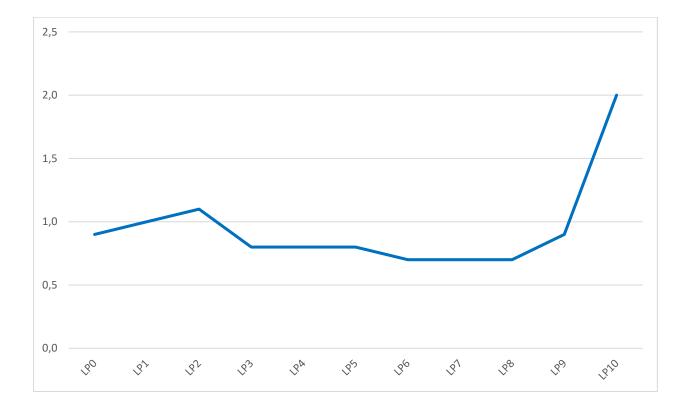
- The sector "judiciary" includes positions as judges, attorneys, lawyers and law clerks.
- The sector "media" includes journalists and all other positions at newspapers or TV stations.
- The sector "academia" includes all scientific staff at universities and research institutes or equivalent organizations.
- The private sector includes all positions in private companies and enterprises as well as self-employed persons in private enterprises. Exceptions are self-employed lawyers (sector "judiciary"), self-employed physicians (sector "health") and self-employed artists (sector "culture").
- The sector "associations" includes all positions in unions, non-governmental organizations and other interest groups.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Judiciary	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,5
Media	0,4	0,5	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,0
Academia	1,2	0,8	1,5	1,0	0,9	0,6	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,4
Private Sector	0,2	0,4	0,8	0,7	0,8	0,6	0,5	0,7	0,8	1,2	1,6
Associations	1,7	1,4	1,0	0,9	0,5	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,4
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 6.5 Average Number of Post-Elite Positions

All professional positions held by an individual after elite exit were counted.

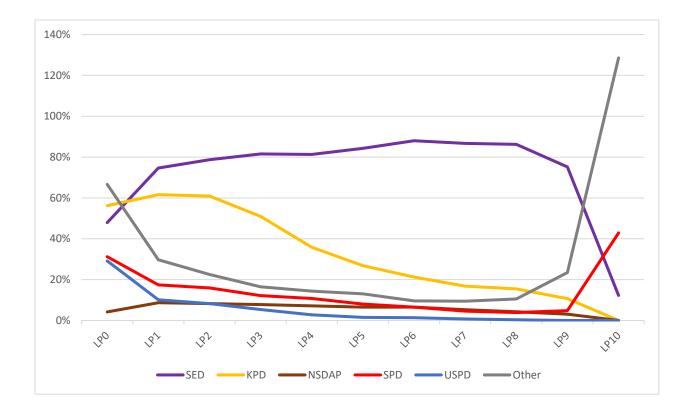


	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	0,9	1,0	1,1	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,9	2,0
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

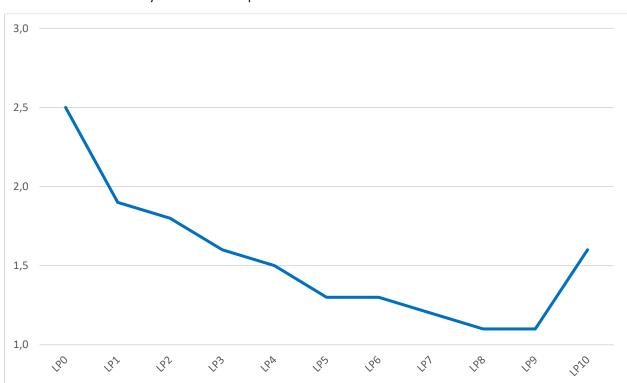
## 7 Political Activity

#### 7.1 Party Membership

In the case a person was a member of multiple political parties, up to three party affiliations were noted. The figure presents them in their total. If a person was a member of more than three parties, this information is recorded through the total number of party memberships (see 7.2). The figure shows the five most common parties. Since the year of party entry or change is not always known, the figure shows those parties, which the elite members of the corresponding legislative period were members of in the course of their entire lives. The population for the calculations is all elite members. Since several elite members held several party memberships, the columns add up to more than 100%.



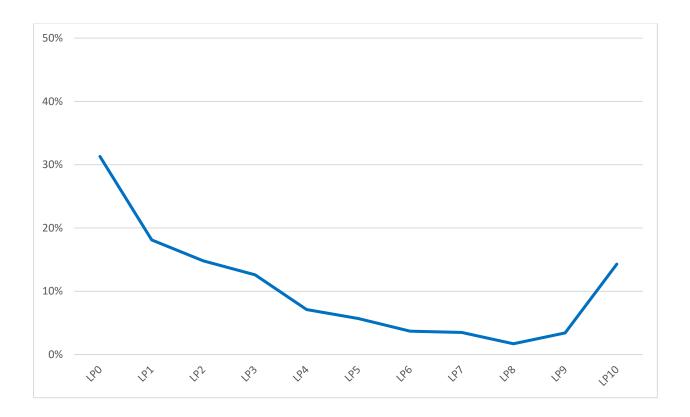
Politicians	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
SED	47,9	74,6	78,7	81,6	81,3	84,3	88,0	86,7	86,3	75,2	12,2
KPD	56,3	61,6	60,9	51,0	35,9	26,8	21,2	16,8	15,5	10,7	0,0
NSDAP	4,2	8,7	8,3	7,8	7,2	6,5	6,5	5,2	4,2	3,1	0,0
SPD	31,3	17,4	16,0	12,1	10,8	8,0	6,5	4,5	3,9	4,8	42,9
USPD	29,2	10,1	8,3	5,3	2,8	1,5	1,4	0,7	0,4	0,0	0,0
Other	66,7	29,7	22,5	16,5	14,3	13,0	9,6	9,4	10,6	23,4	128,6
N	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49





	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Politicians	2,5	1,9	1,8	1,6	1,5	1,3	1,3	1,2	1,1	1,1	1,6
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

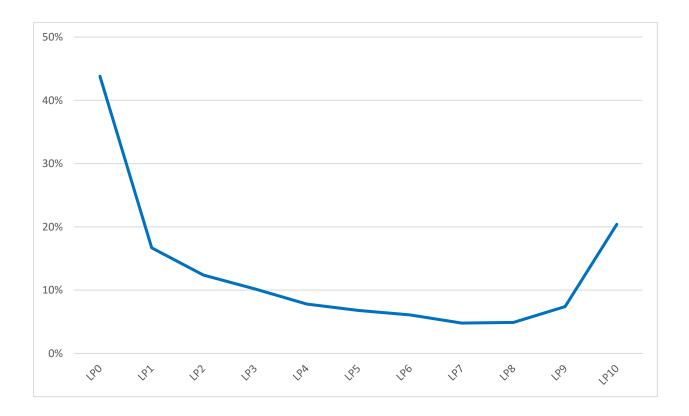
#### 7.3 Local Mandate Prior to Elite Entry



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Politicians	31,3	18,1	14,8	12,6	7,1	5,7	3,7	3,5	1,7	3,4	14,3
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 7.4 Mandate at the State/District or Local Level Prior to Elite Entry

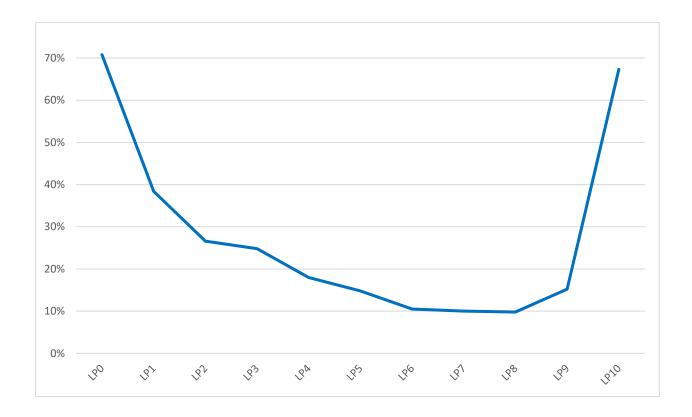
The graph includes mandates in one of the five states of the GDR in the period from 1946 to 1952 or the year 1990 and district assembly mandates in one of the 14 districts or East Berlin in the period from 1952 to 1990.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Politicians	43,8	16,7	12,4	10,2	7,8	6,8	6,1	4,8	4,9	7,4	20,4
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

#### 7.5 Mandate at Federal Level

Recorded are political mandates at the federal level that an elite member held before entering the elite position or assumed upon entering the elite position.



	LP0	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	LP10
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Politicians	70,8	38,4	26,6	24,8	18,0	14,8	10,5	10,0	9 <i>,</i> 8	15,2	65,3
Ν	48	138	169	206	251	261	292	286	284	290	49

### 8 Series Overview

Following the same systematic approach, there are further *Data Reports on Elite Studies by the Chair of Public Management at the University of Kassel* (in German language) on the key dates September 1, 1913, 1920, 1927, 1934, 1939 and 1944, as well as on the terms of office of the eight chancellors of the FRG until 2018 and the six terms of office of the prime minister or the chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the GDR. These data reports are supplemented by the present time series data report on the GDR and a similar time series data report on the FRG. An overview of all data reports can be found here:

Band 1 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite des Deutschen Kaiserreichs am 1. September 1913 Band 2 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der Weimarer Republik am 1. September 1920 Band 3 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der Weimarer Republik am 1. September 1927 Band 4 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite im Nationalsozialismus am 1. September 1934 Band 5 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite im Nationalsozialismus am 1. September 1939 Band 6 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite im Nationalsozialismus am 1. September 1944 Band 7 Die Politische Elite der DDR von 1949 bis 1990 Band 8 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der DDR unter Otto Grotewohl (1949-1964) Band 9 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der DDR unter Willi Stoph I (1964-1973) Band 10 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der DDR unter Horst Sindermann (1973-1976) Band 11 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der DDR unter Willi Stoph II (1976-1989) Band 12 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der DDR unter Hans Modrow (1989-1990) Band 13 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der DDR unter Lothar de Maizière (1990) Band 14 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD von 1949 bis 1990 Band 15 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD von 1949 bis 2017 Band 16 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963) Band 17 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Ludwig Erhard (1963-1966) Band 18 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Kurt Georg Kiesinger (1966-1969) Band 19 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Willi Brandt (1969-1974) Band 20 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Helmut Schmidt (1974-1982) Band 21 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Helmut Kohl (1982-1998) Band 22 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Gerhard Schröder (1998-2005) Band 23 Die Politisch-Administrative Elite der BRD unter Angela Merkel (2005-2018) Band 24 The Political Elite in the GDR from 1949 to 1990 **Band 25** The Political-Administrative Elite of the FRG from 1949 to 2017

Volumes 1 to 7 and 14 to 25 are available free of charge via the document server of the University of Kassel (KOBRA, see https://www.uni-kassel.de/fb07/ ibwl/pm/forschung/forschungsprojekte/dis-continuities-of-german-ministries-in-systemtransformations). Volumes 8 to 13 will be published via KOBRA at a later date, as further research on individuals and archival work is necessary to complete the data on the administrative elite. 9 Contact

If any questions about the research project and the publications should arise, please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Dr. Sylvia Veit using the following contact details:

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