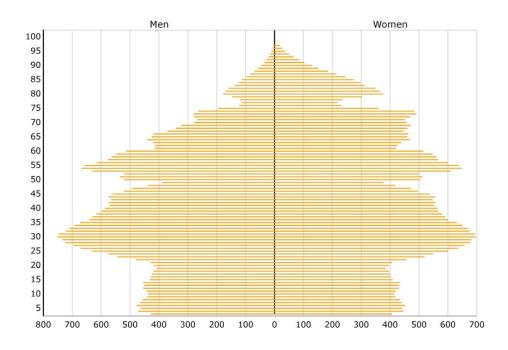# LESSON 2: THE POPULATION PYRAMID

Activity 2 – Interpreting a Population Pyramid

Look at the population pyramid for Germany in 1991 (in thousands) and **figure out what this says about the past population.**

Source: Destatis

What type of population can you recognise in the pyramid (high, low or negative population growth)? What does the shape of the pyramid tell you (for example, about the age structure of the population)?

What do you think the current state of the birth rate is in Germany?

In your opinion: Why do you think there are more women than men at the top of the pyramid, especially in the age groups over 65?

What could Germany's population pyramid look like at the beginning of the 21ˢᵗ century?

If you have internet access:
You can find the population pyramids of Germany beginning in 1950 (based on collected data and forecasts) on the website of the German Federal Statistical Agency: https://service.destatis.de/bevoelkerungspyramide/

Take note that these pyramids show the absolute population numbers and is not in per cent. This allows one to track the development of the pyramid over time and the proportions of the population based on age group, for example those under 20, between 20 and 64 years, and those 65 years and older. You can change the values by dragging the bar of the pyramid, and you can view the median age and the dependency ratio.

Similar information and other population pyramids from around the world at different points in time can be found on the "All About Population" page on the French National Institute for Demography (Institut National d'Études Dèmographiques) website (https://www.ined.fr/en/everything_about_population). In addition to population pyramids, the site also contains demographic measures such as population growth rates, birth and death rates, infant mortality, life expectancy and other data.