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iPEHD: The ifo Prussian Economic History Database

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iPEHD –
The ifo Prussian Economic History Database

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- *from the RePEc website:* www.RePEc.org
- *from the CESifo website:* www.CESifo-group.org/wp

iPEHD – The ifo Prussian Economic History Database

Abstract

This paper provides a documentation of the ifo Prussian Economic History Database (iPEHD), a county-level database covering a rich collection of variables for 19th-century Prussia. The Royal Prussian Statistical Office collected these data in several censuses over the years 1816-1901, with much county-level information surviving in archives. These data provide a unique source for micro-regional empirical research in economic history, enabling analyses of the importance of such factors as education, religion, fertility, and many others for Prussian economic development in the 19th century. The service of iPEHD is to provide the data in a digitized and structured way.

JEL-Code: N130, N330.

Keywords: economic history, Prussia, 19th century, database, county.

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1. Introduction

Prussian economic history during the 19th century proves a fascinating setting to study many of the most fundamental questions in economic history. A country of such high diversity, but with a rather uniform institutional setting, allows answering many important research questions by analyzing the micro-regional variation existing within one country. For example, the Prussian setting allows analyzing the importance of such factors as education, religion, fertility, and many others for industrialization and historical economic development.

What is more, starting with the first full-scale population census in 1816, the Royal Prussian Statistical Office collected a huge amount of data in a number of censuses over the 19th century. Many interesting county-level data have survived in archives. Thanks to the Prussian proverbial orderliness and thoroughness, we have high-quality data for the Prussian counties (*Kreise*) covering nearly the whole range of the 19th century. These data provide a unique source for empirical research in economic history, with the particular potential to study historical micro-regional data with modern microeconomic methods.

The service of the ifo Prussian Economic History Database (iPEHD) is to provide many of these data in a digitized and structured way. Thus, iPEHD is a county-level database covering a rich collection of variables for all counties of Prussia over the period 1816-1901. iPEHD is freely available to any interested researcher at www.cesifo-group.de/ipehd. The iPEHD website does not only provide the raw data, but also background information, definitions, and sources of variables. It also makes suggestions on how to merge data from different census waves with varying administrative boundaries into panel datasets. Finally, it provides a collection of thematic maps visualizing the data, ready-made datasets and codes to replicate tables from published research, and additional material.

Throughout, iPEHD covers all Prussian counties, whose number increased over the 19th century from 308 in 1816 to 574 in 1901. Drawing from a total of 15 original sources – many of which contain several volumes – iPEHD comprises more than 1,500 variables. The available data cover a wide range of topics including a host of indicators of economic development, education, demographics, and more. iPEHD organizes these data into eight content areas: education, occupation, wages and income tax, industry, agriculture, population, religion, and miscellaneous. In total, iPEHD contains more than half a million data points at the county level. While nowhere near being a complete collection of all available data, we think that iPEHD provides a comprehensive micro-regional database on 19th-century economic history in Prussia.

This paper documents iPEHD and provides guidance on how to use the data contained in it. The next section starts with some brief background on how iPEHD emerged. Section 3 provides an overview of the data contained in iPEHD. Section 4 describes the data structure and suggests a procedure to combine data from different census years. Section 5 lists the original sources, published by the Royal Prussian Statistical Bureau or its employees, from which the iPEHD data stem. Section 6 gives a brief overview of research that has been conducted using iPEHD data so far. Section 7 presents a few additional features of the iPEHD website, and Section 8 concludes.

2. A Brief History of the Birth of iPEHD

In 2006, when looking for data to analyze the relationship of religion and literacy with economic outcomes in German history, we stumbled upon the rich county-level data available from the Prussian census of 1871. After thorough studies of the data, we were fascinated by the depth and breadth of the historical information that the Royal Prussian Statistical Office had collected and documented. Prussian thoroughness had produced high-quality data at the county level in the 19th century documenting everything from education over religion and demographics to economic development (see Figure 1 for an example).

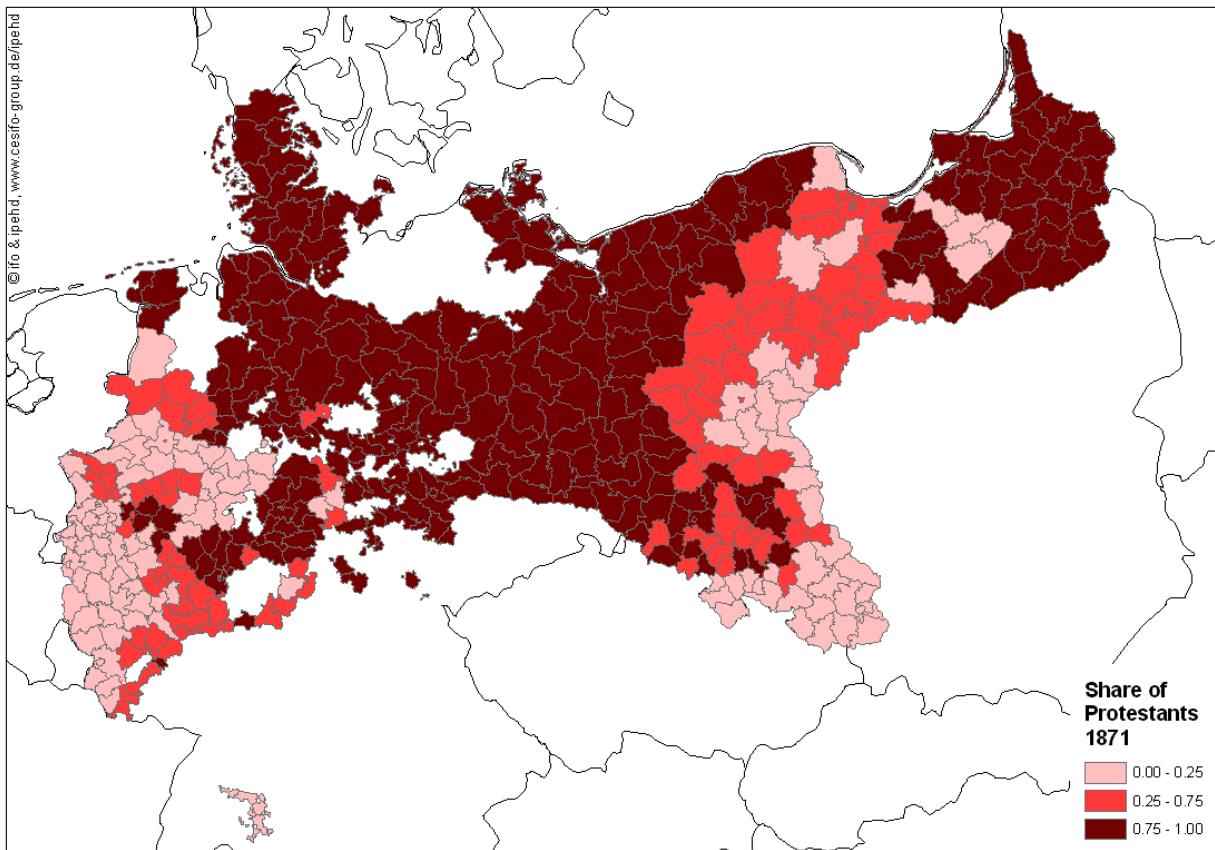
Soon, we recognized the sheer amount of data that were just sitting around in the statistical annals at German state libraries. The quality of this impressive collection of information, remarkable for the 19th century, has generally been regarded as excellent by historians and demographers (cf., e.g., Galloway, Hammel, and Lee (1994)).¹ And compared to the selective samples which a lot of historical research is restricted to, the full censuses covering the whole population provide a much more reliable picture of the historical setting.

After the original “Was Weber Wrong?” paper (eventually published as Becker and Woessmann (2009)) which relied mainly on the 1871 census and subsequent data, we explored annals covering rather unknown census data from 1816 to 1821.² Although lots of effort had to be undertaken to make these data ready for research and to ensure their comparability, we soon found it to be very promising and equally reliable. A third large data digitization project involved the census of 1849. The sheer amount of information provided in the sources was overwhelming.

¹ After we had digitized the data used in Becker and Woessmann (2009), data from that project became available online at www.patrickgalloway.com.

² We are grateful to Davide Cantoni for pointing us to these data sources at the time.

Figure 1: Protestantism in 19th-Century Prussia



Note: County-level depiction based on the 1871 Prussian Population Census. For details, see Becker and Woessmann (2009).

The censuses of 1816, 1849, and 1871 became the foundation of iPEHD. But, as time went by, we also digitized data from different other censuses to fill in the gaps. Although far from complete, we find the data to provide a rather comprehensive overview of 19th-century economic history in Prussia. Thus, we are happy to be able to make the digitized data available to the scientific community and the interested public. iPEHD went online in the summer of 2012 to be freely used by anyone interested at www.cesifo-group.de/ipehd.

The collection of these data and their provision to the scientific community is part of the project “Establishment of a leading international center for empirical research on the importance of education for long-term economic development,” generously funded by the Leibniz Association under the Pact for Research and Innovation. The project was carried out at the Human Capital and Innovation department at the Ifo Institute – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich.

3. An Overview of the Data contained in iPEHD

This section provides an overview of iPEHD, discussing its scope, the structure of its data files, the areas of content covered, and the information contained in the codebooks.

3.1 *The Scope and Data Files of iPEHD*

iPEHD starts with the population census in 1816, the first full-scale census released by the Royal Prussian Statistical Office, which had been founded in 1805. The 1816 census covers the 308 Prussian counties at the time. Further extensive census data are available in 1849, 1864, 1871, and 1882, but – as indicated in Table 1 – many more detailed data were collected in additional years. As the number of counties grew over time, by 1901 the data cover 574 Prussian counties. In total, iPEHD contains more than 1,500 variables and more than half a million data points, all at the county level.

Table 1: The Scope of iPEHD

Year	No. of variables	No. of county observations	No. of data points
1816	58	308	17,864
1819	5	344	1,720
1821	22	344	7,568
1816-1821	24	456	10,944
1829	6	59	354
1849	712	335	238,520
1858	6	342	2,052
1862	4	346	1,384
1864	53	347	18,391
1866a	1	342	342
1866b	11	334	3,674
1871a	25	453	11,325
1871b	14	458	6,412
1878	5	426	2,130
1882a	269	464	124,816
1882b	14	465	6,510
1886a	156	544	84,864
1886b	97	518	50,246
1892	8	550	4,400
1896	15	552	8,280
1901	8	574	4,592
Sum	1,513		606,388

Note: Some of the data points may contain missing information.

iPEHD consists of county-level information gathered from these different censuses. The data are currently presented in 76 separate data files, organized by content area, specific topic, and census year. Each data file in iPEHD contains a unique county (*Kreis*) identifier (discussed in Section 4.2 below), the county name, the abbreviated district (*Regierungsbezirk*) name (rb), and a set of variables of census data. iPEHD stores its data in comma-separated values (csv) format, which is easily accessible from any statistical software. For example, to open the csv data files in Stata, one just has to type:

```
insheet using "xxxxxx.csv"
```

To give an example of a data file, Table 2 shows a brief extract of a few variables for the first few counties (by alphabet) from the data file “ipehd_1819_indu_fac.csv”, which contains data on the number of factories in a county in 1819. E.g., the variable “fac1819_brick” documents the total number of brick manufactories in a county in 1819, and the variable “mill1819_water” the total number of water mills.

Table 2: Extract from an Example Data File

kreiskey1800	County	rb	fac1819_brick	fac1819_lime	fac1819_glass	mill1819_water
277	Achen	AAC	5	10	2	26
33	Adelnau	POS	11	6	0	26
254	Adenau	KOB	0	1	0	71
196	Ahaus	MUN	11	15	0	20
255	Ahrweiler	KOB	0	0	0	51
2	Allenstein	KON	5	0	1	31
219	Altena	ARN	3	13	0	41
257	Altenkirchen	KOB	1	0	0	41
10	Angerburg	GUM	4	26	0	5
53	Angermünde	POT	13	2	0	28
32	Anklam	STE	3	0	0	2
209	Arnsberg	ARN	12	4	0	26
67	Arnswalde	FRA	7	3	3	29
160	Aschersleben	MAG	8	5	0	57
55	(Nieder-)Barnim	POT	8	0	1	30
54	(Ober-)Barnim	POT	18	0	0	36
190	Beckum	MUN	8	3	0	22

Note: Extract from iPEHD data file “ipehd_1819_indu_fac.csv”.

3.2 Areas of Content covered by iPEHD

The iPEHD data are categorized into the following eight content areas:

Education: This area contains, among others, such data as the number of students, teachers, and schools by school type, literacy, and school finance.

Occupation: This area contains, among others, data on the labor force in agriculture, in factories, in manufacturing, in crafts, and in services.

Wages and Income Tax: This area contains data on daily wages of day laborers, on teacher income, and on income taxes.

Industry: This area contains data on a huge number of different factories, technologies, and transportation.

Agriculture: This area contains, among others, such data as livestock, crop yields, soil composition, and the distribution of land.

Population: This area contains data on population by age, by gender, and by marital status, on births and deaths, and on population with disabilities.

Religion: This area contains denomination-specific data on population, literacy, education, occupation, and number of churches.

Miscellaneous: This area contains such data as surface area, buildings, municipalities, and residential areas for each county.

Apart from the data gathered in these eight content areas, the **merger file** provides information on merger variables necessary to combine data from different census years (see Section 4.3 below).

3.3 Codebooks

A large number of codebooks provide additional information for each variable contained in iPEHD. There is one codebook for each year, so that explanations for each variable can be found in the codebook for the corresponding year. A summary codebook that combines all years is also provided; this summary codebook allows a content search of the whole iPEHD.

The codebooks list the variable name (“variable name”), the name of the data file where it can be found (“ipehd datasets”), an English label (“label”), and the original label in German language (“original label”). The German language label is similar to the table headings found in the original sources. The English label leads with the year and is a shortened (direct) translation

of the German label; in cases where a translation is not feasible, the original German term was adopted. In addition, the codebooks indicate the source of each set of variables (“source”).

4. Merging Data from Different Censuses

One of the biggest challenges when analyzing historical data is to ensure comparability over time. A key service of iPEHD is to facilitate the analysis of data from different census years at the county level, holding the administrative boundaries fixed. This section presents the structure in which the data are presented in iPEHD and the suggested procedure of combining different census years.

4.1 County-level Structure of the Data

Starting after the Congress of Vienna in 1815, Prussia reformed its administrative structure and introduced the county level. At the time, the dimension of a county was meant to follow borders of previously existing administrative units. The maximum distance to the administrative center was meant to be two to three Prussian Miles (roughly 15 to 23 km or 9 to 14 miles), such that every inhabitant could travel forth and back within a day. The population size was meant to range between 20,000 in sparsely populated areas and 36,000 in densely populated areas.

Throughout the 19th century, various administrative reforms reshaped the county structure of Prussia. As the population grew over time, it became necessary to divide existing administrative units in order to reduce administrative efforts. Most of these changes were partitions of one county into two or more counties.

Thus, it is usually possible to reconstruct earlier administrative units by aggregating data from later years to the former structure. A drawback of this procedure is that the researcher loses part of the variation provided by having more observations. Still, the procedure appears necessary in order to have intertemporal comparability of the units of observation. The alternative would be to assign the same early data to two or more subsequently parted units, introducing measurement error if observed data were not uniformly distributed in the original area.

A peculiarity of the Prussian county system is the city county. Starting with the introduction of the county level in 1815, the so-called *Immediatstädte* (immediate towns) became a county themselves. As urbanization advanced, an increasing number of cities were detached from their

original county and became a county of their own. Thus, the database often contains a *Landkreis* (rural county) and a *Stadtkreis* (city county) with similar names. For example, there are six pairs of *Landkreis/Stadtkreis* information among the 335 county observations in the 1849 classification and 20 pairs among the 458 county observations in the 1874 classification.

4.2 County Identifiers

All data in iPEHD reflect the administrative conditions in place at the date of publication of the census. Since censuses often ordered the counties in different ways, identifiers were assigned reflecting the order of each census. Thus, each county in each census has been assigned a continuous number which is *unique within a census but not across censuses*. The identifiers are named kreiskeyYYYY, where YYYY represents the four-digit year (see Section 4.5 below for additional peculiarities of the 1816-21 data).

The year in the identifier denotes the administrative structure of Prussia, which is not necessarily the same as the census year. In some cases, different identifiers (e.g., kreiskey1871 and kreiskey1874) even had to be assigned to data from the same census year (1871) because the Royal Prussian Statistical Office used different aggregations in different publications of data from the same census.

4.3 Intertemporal Comparisons

Researchers may be interested in intertemporal comparisons and in the construction of panel datasets using iPEHD. The iPEHD county identifiers, together with the merge-county file also provided on the iPEHD website, provide a service that facilitates such linkage of comparable units of observation over time. Our suggestion is that, *in order to obtain a comparable set of observations, researchers should collapse the data to the earliest set of counties in the data*. However, it is important to point out that at the end of the day, the best way to structure and use the data will be specific to every single research project.

To conduct intertemporal comparisons, our suggestion is to take the following nine-step procedure. To construct cross-sections, the procedure should be followed only until step 3.

1. Choose datasets from the same census year.
2. Merge all datasets from the same census year using the identifier (e.g., kreiskey1882).
3. Save the cross-section.

4. Use the merge-county file provided on the iPEHD website.
5. Drop all duplicate and missing observations from the merge-county file according to the identifier in the cross-section (e.g., kreiskey1882): see section 4.4 for an example.
6. Merge the merge-county file with the cross-section using the identifier (e.g., kreiskey1882).
7. Aggregate (sum/mean) all variables in the cross-section to the aggregation level of the earliest census in the analysis using the identifier of the earliest census in the analysis (crucial step!).
8. Repeat steps 1 to 7 for datasets from other census years.
9. Merge the resulting cross-sections using the identifier of the earliest census in the analysis.

4.4 Example from the Merger File

In the example shown in Table 3, the eight illustrative counties observed in 1901 were established from six counties in 1874 and five counties in 1849. Between 1849 and 1874, the ‘Elbing Landkreis’ had been divided into ‘Elbing Stadtkreis’ and ‘Elbing Landkreis’. Between 1874 and 1901, the ‘Danzig Landkreis’ had been divided into ‘Danzig Niederung’, ‘Danzig Höhe’, and ‘Dirschau’.

Table 3: Example from the Merge File

Kreiskey 1901	County1901	Kreiskey 1874	County1874	Kreiskey 1849	County1849
38	ELBING STADTKREIS	38	ELBING STADTKREIS	37	ELBING LANDKREIS
39	ELBING LANDKREIS	39	ELBING LANDKREIS	37	ELBING LANDKREIS
40	MARIENBURG IN PREUSSEN	40	MARIENBURG IN PREUSSEN	38	MARIENBURG IN PREUSSEN
41	DANZIG STADTKREIS	41	DANZIG STADTKREIS	39	DANZIG STADTKREIS
42	DANZIG NIEDERUNG	42	DANZIG LANDKREIS	40	DANZIG LANDKREIS
43	DANZIG HOHE	42	DANZIG LANDKREIS	40	DANZIG LANDKREIS
44	DIRSCHAU	42	DANZIG LANDKREIS	40	DANZIG LANDKREIS
45	PREUSSISCH STARGARD	43	PREUSSISCH STARGARD	41	PREUSSISCH STARGARD

Note: Extract from the iPEHD merge file “ipehd_merge_county.csv”.

In order to have a comparable set of observations when performing intertemporal comparisons between 1901 and 1849, one has to aggregate the observations of ‘Danzig Niederung’, ‘Danzig Höhe’, and ‘Dirschau’ to match ‘Danzig Landkreis’. Thus, one should always aggregate the data to the aggregation level of the earliest census year in the specific analysis (step 7).

However, to perform intertemporal comparisons between, e.g., 1874 and 1849, one needs to drop the duplicate entries of ‘Danzig Landkreis’ from the merger file first (step 5). In addition, one needs to drop entries from the merger file that have missing observations on the county identifier in the respective year. Such missing observations exist because some territories were annexed by Prussia only after the respective census year.

As one example of how to merge datasets from 1874 and 1849, the following Stata code exemplifies the nine steps of the suggested procedure:

```
insheet using "ipehd_1871_edu_literacy_part2.csv", clear /* Step 1 */
save "ipehd_1871_edu_literacy_part2.dta"

insheet using "ipehd_1871_pop_demo_part2.csv", clear
save "ipehd_1871_pop_demo_part2.dta"

merge 1:1 kreiskey1874 using "ipehd_1871_edu_literacy_part2.dta" /* Step 2 */
drop _merge

save "ipehd_1871_part2.dta" /* Step 3 */

insheet using "ipehd_merge_county.csv", clear /* Step 4 */

duplicates drop kreiskey1874, force /* Step 5 */
drop if kreiskey1874==.

merge 1:1 kreiskey1874 using "ipehd_1871_part2.dta" /* Step 6 */

collapse (sum) pop* lit* edu*, by (kreiskey1849) /* Step 7 */
drop if kreiskey1849==.
save "ipehd_1871_part2_2.dta"

insheet using "ipehd_1849_rel_deno.csv", clear /* Step 8 */
save "ipehd_1849_rel_deno.dta"

insheet using "ipehd_merge_county.csv", clear
duplicates drop kreiskey1849, force
drop if kreiskey1849==.
merge 1:1 kreiskey1849 using "ipehd_1849_rel_deno.dta"
collapse (sum) rel*, by (kreiskey1849)
save "ipehd_1849.dta"

merge 1:1 kreiskey1849 using "ipehd_1871_part2_2.dta" /* Step 9 */
drop _merge
save "ipehd_1849_1871.dta"
```

4.5 Peculiarity of the Data from 1816 to 1821

By 1816, Prussia had just started her administrative reform that established the county level. In some parts of the country, the reforms had not been finalized even in 1821. Thus, the data from the censuses in 1816 until after 1821 sometimes reflect old administrative units.

Unfortunately, due to the reform, these old units were subsequently aggregated and then newly divided in order to establish the new counties. This makes it impossible to accurately match the data of (some of) the administrative units from the early censuses to (some) counties in subsequent censuses. The *kreiskey1800* is thus coded so as to aggregate the data to a higher level. The *kreiskey1800* can be used to link the 1816-1821 data to later periods.

However, iPEHD also provides a unique identifier that allows merging data from the same census for these cross-sections. These identifiers are named 'id1816' and 'id1819'. In order to merge data from 1816 to other data from 1816, one should use id1816. In order to merge data from 1819 or 1821 to other data from 1819 or 1821, one should use id1819.

In order to merge data from 1816, 1819, or 1821 to data from subsequent censuses, one should take the following steps:

1. Choose datasets from 1816, 1819, or 1821.
2. Merge all datasets from the same census using the identifier (idYYYY).
3. Aggregate (sum/mean) all cross-sections using the identifier 'kreiskey1800'.
4. Merge the cross-section with aggregated data from subsequent censuses using the identifier 'kreiskey1800'.

5. Original Sources underlying the iPEHD Data

The iPEHD data have been digitized from different sources originally published by the Royal Prussian Statistical Bureau or its employees. These original historical volumes should be consulted for detailed information regarding the exact attributes of the data. Figure 2 shows two example pages from such source volumes.

The following list documents all the volumes used as sources for iPEHD. There are a total of 15 original sources, many of which consist of several volumes.

1816-21: Mützell, Alexander A. (1821-25). *Neues Topographisch-statistisch-geographisches Wörterbuch des Preussischen Staats*, Vol. 1-6. Halle: Karl August Kümmel.

Figure 2: Example Pages from Source Volumes

Zusammenstellung der Kreise und ihrer Bevölkerung.

Ortswahlbezirk Bevölkerung am 1. December 1871

Kreis	Landkreis	Landkreis	evangelische		katholische		israelitische		andere		Gesamt	Männlich		Weiblich	
			männl.	weibl.	männl.	weibl.	männl.	weibl.	männl.	weibl.		männl.	weibl.		
M. Landkreise.															
1.	Kreis Hildesheim	76	37	5733	402	7243	16740	17475	34215	33460	67675	34199	33476		
2.	Kreis Verden	128	6907	687	9487	21485	23216	44701	30973	64674	34173	30501			
3.	Kreis Lüneburg	79	123	9344	743	10087	19435	20465	39900	40395	20430	19965			
4.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	63	11	8272	451	10229	21798	23568	45366	46192	23178	23014			
5.	Kreis Göttingen	102	168	7269	443	9209	21192	22140	43332	45572	23160	22412			
6.	Kreis Eintracht	117	108	7237	406	9393	22544	23817	46361	47658	23680	23978			
7.	Kreis Zellerfeld	28	61	2136	357	3233	7163	7570	14733	15363	7170	8193			
N. Landkreise.															
1.	Kreis Hildesheim	6	6	6	45	88	278	242	520	512	1032	466			
2.	Kreis Verden	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14			
3.	Kreis Lüneburg	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11			
4.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21			
5.	Kreis Göttingen	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21			
6.	Kreis Eintracht	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21			
7.	Kreis Zellerfeld	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21			
8.	Kreis Commersb.	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7			
V. Name der Kreise.															
1.	Hildesheim	41	308	4473	1312	12486	30760	31029	61805	58562	120367	60183			
2.	Verden	128	1306	7603	800	10700	25342	27094	52436	54392	106828	52728			
3.	Lüneburg	79	146	4500	1493	11223	25744	26742	52486	52413	104899	51117			
4.	Osterode a. H.	74	131	18036	914	13353	29742	34892	64634	68281	132915	63486			
5.	Göttingen	102	190	9821	1870	13695	33617	34722	68339	73061	141400	68399			
6.	Eintracht	117	116	1487	784	13138	31662	32792	64454	67244	131698	63938			
7.	Zellerfeld	28	43	4862	802	8820	20818	22017	42835	45230	88065	41113			
8.	Commersb.	7	7	104	7	170	324	366	690	690	1380	690			
C. Landkreis Lüneburg.															
I. Schuldist. Städt.															
1.	Kreis Celle	2	1	1903	304	3207	9640	9311	19151	18772	37923	18979			
2.	Kreis Verden	7	1	307	63	369	1416	1365	2781	2420	5201	2361			
3.	Kreis Lüneburg	1	1	530	136	1067	2823	2592	5415	4227	9642	4399			
4.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	2	2	342	103	1049	2769	2419	4188	3588	7776	3667			
5.	Kreis Göttingen	2	2	1456	409	2023	5390	5267	10657	9564	20221	9621			
6.	Kreis Eintracht	2	2	1448	215	2747	10240	9615	19855	18296	38151	18296			
7.	Kreis Zellerfeld	2	2	1448	215	2747	10240	9615	19855	18296	38151	18296			
II. Schuldist. Stadtkreise.															
1.	Kreis Göttingen	1	4	1992	30	314	870	755	1527	1061	2588	1061			
2.	Kreis Verden	2	2	257	78	354	2111	2164	4275	2236	6511	2236			
3.	Kreis Lüneburg	1	1	174	53	248	746	857	1603	857	2460	857			
4.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	1	1	130	33	269	562	604	1166	604	1770	604			
III. Landkreise.															
1.	Kreis Celle	239	344	7000	600	9306	29633	29548	45901	47904	93805	47904			
2.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
3.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
4.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
5.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
6.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
7.	Kreis Zellerfeld	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
8.	Kreis Commersb.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
9.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
10.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
11.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
12.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
13.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
14.	Kreis Zellerfeld	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
15.	Kreis Commersb.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
16.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
17.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
18.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
19.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
20.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
21.	Kreis Zellerfeld	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
22.	Kreis Commersb.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
23.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
24.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
25.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
26.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
27.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
28.	Kreis Zellerfeld	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
29.	Kreis Commersb.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
30.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
31.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
32.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
33.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
34.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
35.	Kreis Zellerfeld	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
36.	Kreis Commersb.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
37.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
38.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
39.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
40.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
41.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
42.	Kreis Zellerfeld	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
43.	Kreis Commersb.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
44.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
45.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
46.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
47.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
48.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
49.	Kreis Zellerfeld	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
50.	Kreis Commersb.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
51.	Kreis Verden	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
52.	Kreis Lüneburg	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
53.	Kreis Osterode a. H.	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
54.	Kreis Göttingen	146	236	6961	480	9319	23027	23040	46077	46124	92201	46124			
55.	Kreis Eintracht	146	236	6961	480										

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6. Existing Research using the iPEHD Data

A lot of research in economic history has used data from the iPEHD by now. This research is briefly described in this section. For those papers already published in academic journals, the iPEHD website provides ready-made datasets and codes in Stata to replicate the tables published in the papers. In addition, many more projects are currently under way and will be added to the website as publications become available. There is also a non-technical survey that summarizes some of the research conducted using the iPEHD data: Becker and Woessmann (2011a), “The Effects of the Protestant Reformation on Human Capital.”

6.1 Protestant Economic History and Education

Becker and Woessmann (2009), “Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History” (started in 2006, first working-paper version released in 2007): This paper uses data from several censuses (Population 1871, Occupation 1882, Education 1886) and additional sources (including the Income Tax Statistics 1877) to show that the higher economic prosperity of Protestant relative to Catholic counties can be accounted for by

Protestants' higher literacy (presumably spurred by instruction in reading the Bible), suggesting that explanations based purely on differential work ethics may have limited explanatory power.

Becker and Woessmann (2008), "Luther and the Girls: Religious Denomination and the Female Education Gap in 19th Century Prussia": Using data from the first Prussian census in 1816, among others, this paper shows that a larger share of Protestants in a county's population decreased the gender gap in basic education.

Becker and Woessmann (2010), "The Effect of Protestantism on Education before the Industrialization: Evidence from 1816 Prussia" (first working-paper version released in 2009): This paper shows that Protestantism led to more schooling already in 1816, before the Industrial Revolution, ruling out that Protestant education just resulted from industrialization.

Becker and Woessmann (2011b), "Knocking on Heaven's Door? Protestantism and Suicide": Using data from 1816-21 and 1869-71, this paper finds a substantial positive effect of Protestantism on suicide.

6.2 Education and the Industrial Revolution

Becker, Hornung, and Woessmann (2011), "Education and Catch-up in the Industrial Revolution" (first working-paper version released in 2009): This paper combines school-enrollment and factory-employment data from 1816, 1849, and 1882 to show that – in contrast to the state-of-the-art view based on British evidence – basic education was significantly associated with non-textile industrialization in both phases of the Industrial Revolution.

Cinnirella and Hornung (2011), "Landownership Concentration and the Expansion of Education": Combining data from several censuses that effectively span the entire 19th century (1816, 1849, 1864, 1886, and 1896), as well as data from a 1866 classification of soil composition, this paper finds that landownership concentration, a proxy for the institution of serf labor, had a negative effect on school enrollment which diminished in the second half of the century.

6.3 Fertility and Education

Becker, Cinnirella, and Woessmann (2010), "The Trade-off between Fertility and Education: Evidence from before the Demographic Transition" (first working-paper version released in 2009): This paper uses data from the 1849 census and other sources to show that a

trade-off between child quantity and quality existed already in the 19th century and that causation between fertility and education runs both ways.

Becker, Cinnirella, and Woessmann (2012b), “The Effect of Investment in Children’s Education on Fertility in 1816 Prussia” (first working-paper version released in 2010): Using data from the 1816 census, this paper finds a significant negative causal effect of education on fertility – evidence for a child quantity-quality trade-off – already several decades before the demographic transition and shows that it is robust to accounting for spatial autocorrelation.

Becker, Cinnirella, and Woessmann (2012a), “Does Parental Education Affect Fertility? Evidence from Pre-Demographic Transition Prussia” (first working-paper version released in 2011): Combining data from three censuses – 1816, 1849, and 1867 – this paper finds a negative residual effect of women’s education on fertility, despite controlling for several demand and supply factors.

7. Additional Features of the iPEHD Website

The iPEHD website contains a number of additional features. For example, it provides a collection of thematic maps, produced using ArcGIS, that visualize the geographical distribution of several interesting variables across the Prussian territory. One such example is shown in Figure 1 above.

Furthermore, iPEHD is certainly not the only project dealing with historical Prussian data at the county level. Other projects provide such services as maps, information on territorial changes, additional data, and other material on Prussian counties. Links to websites of several of these projects, whose work is highly appreciated and can be viewed as complementary to iPEHD, are provided on the iPEHD website.

Finally, the iPEHD website contains a section on frequently asked questions, providing answers to standard problems encountered by iPEHD users.

8. Conclusions

The data contained in iPEHD, originally collected by the Royal Prussian Statistical Office, is an impressive collection of information whose quality, already in the 19th century, is generally regarded as excellent. Now digitized from censuses located in archives, these county-level data provide information on education, occupation, income and tax measures, industry, agriculture,

demographics, religion, and more. This database should facilitate future quantitative research on the economic history of 19th-century Prussia.

However, while iPEHD provides the service of supplying the historical data in a digitized and structured way and suggests ways on how to merge the data from different sources, researchers need to think carefully how to use the data in the context of their specific research projects. For instance, building panel datasets from the different census waves with varying administrative boundaries is a complex task that requires particular thought, meticulous care, and acquaintance with the structure of the original data. More generally, anybody planning to use the raw data contained in iPEHD should make sure to be well acquainted with the data structure and specifics as described in this documentation.

We hope that iPEHD provides a major service to researchers interested in Prussian economic history. Anybody who uses data from iPEHD is kindly requested to cite this paper as a source. Please also send one electronic copy of any work that uses data from iPEHD to iPEHD@ifo.de.

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