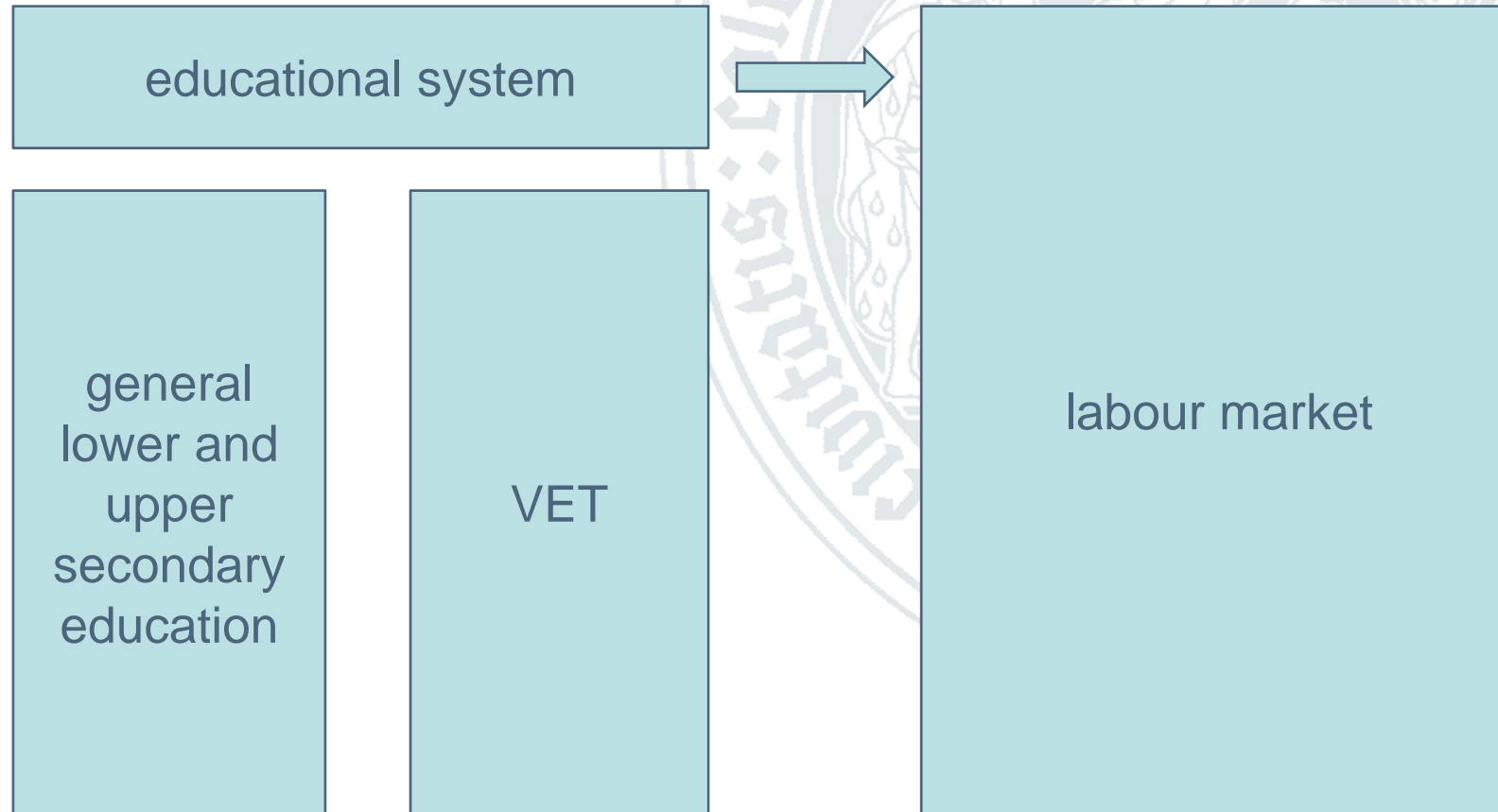


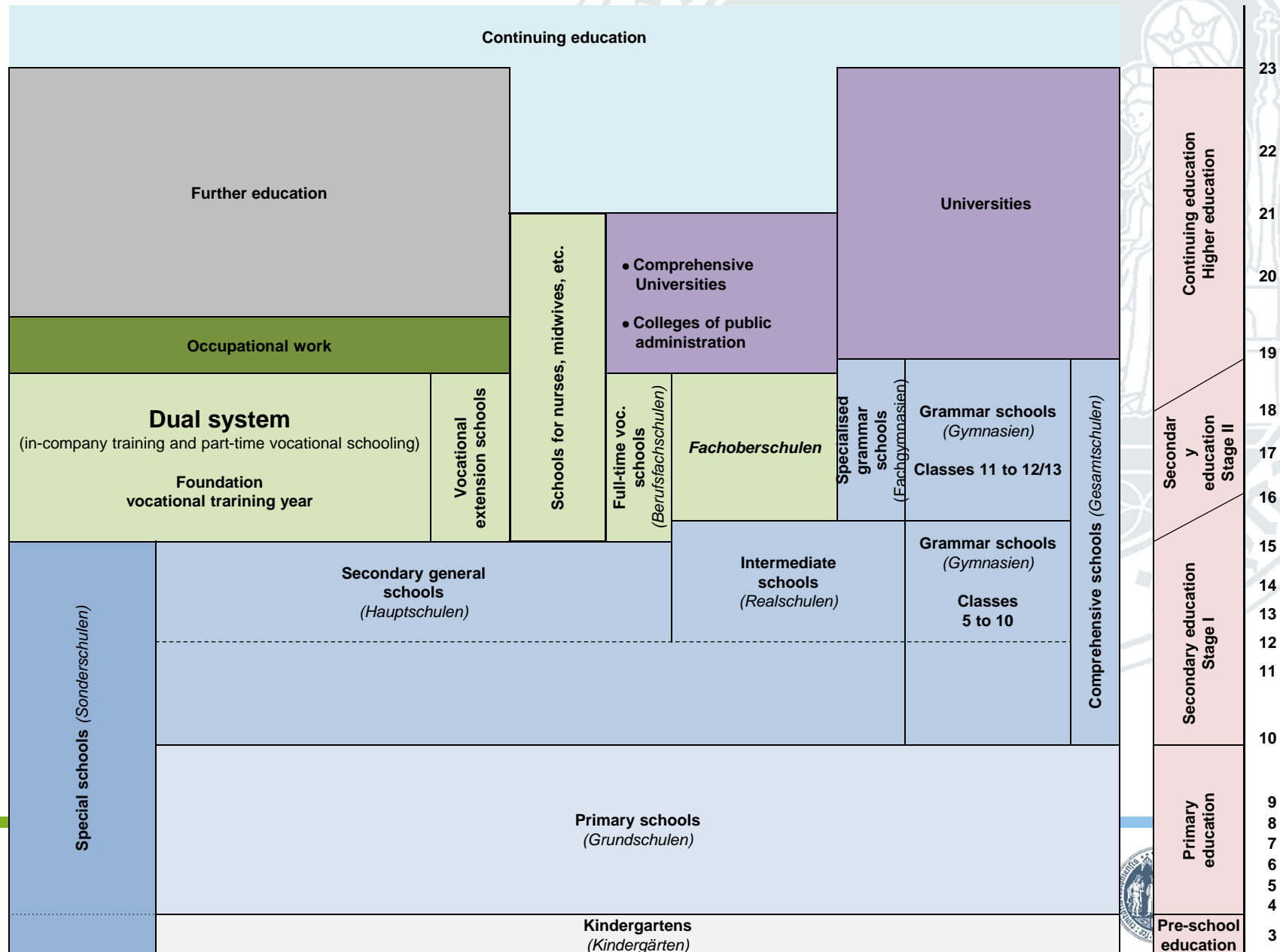
# Overview: The German Education system with special focus on Lower Saxony



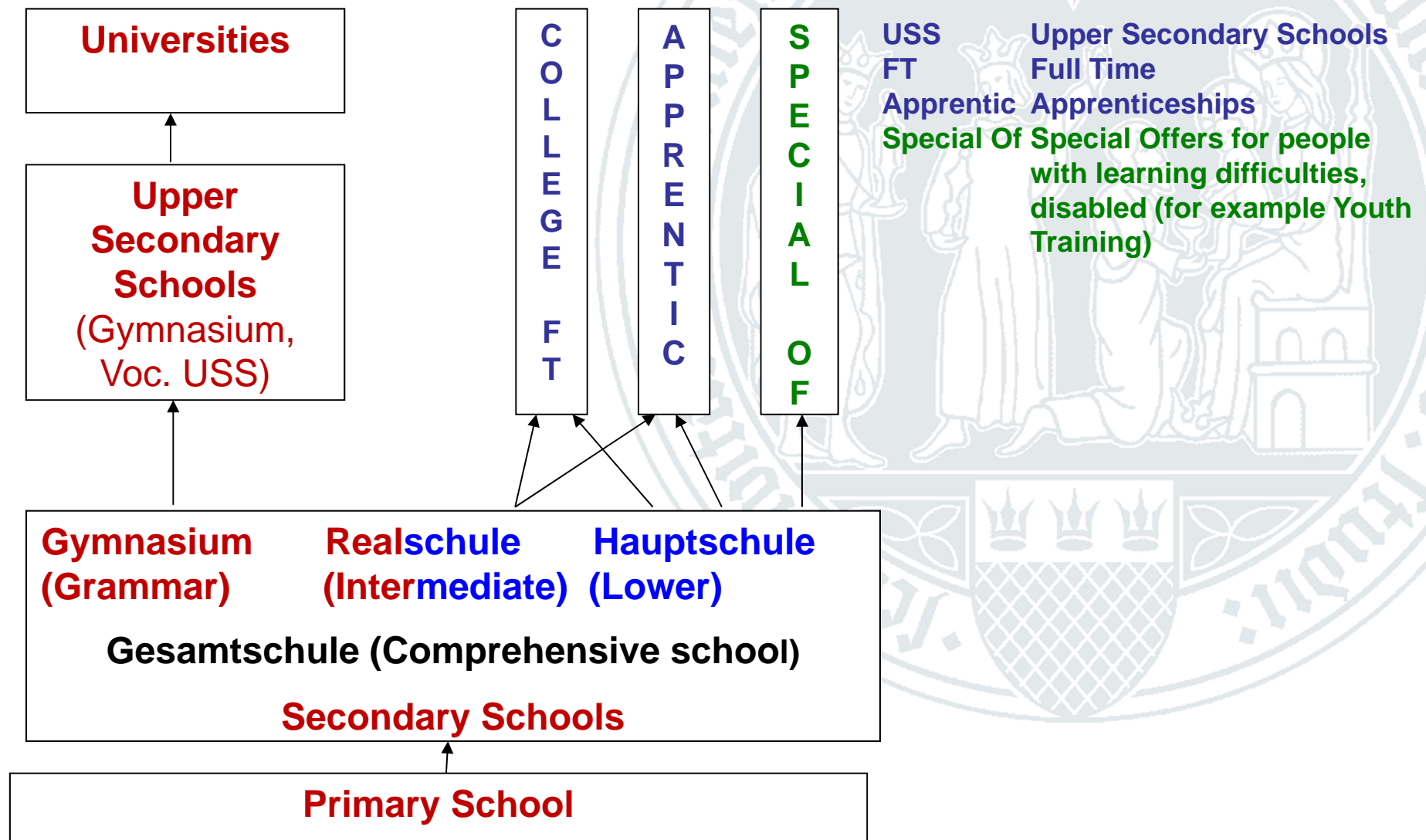
# German educational system and transition to the labour market



# Basic structure of the Educational System in the Federal Republic of Germany



# Simplified Structure of the Educational System





## What is a Realschule?

The Realschule is suitable for students with theoretical and practical skills. It runs from grades 5 to 10 and imparts an **advanced general education** that is based on realistic facts of life and leads to a **deeper and better understanding** of those facts.

The education focuses on the following:

- acquisition of a secure basic knowledge,
- development of problem-solving and coherent thinking
- development and furthering of independent learning,
- to allow for individual specialisation according to individual performance and aptitude

The Realschule enables its students to continue with either a vocational or an academic education by offering different graduation diplomas.

## How are students taught?

The classes at the Realschule consist of obligatory and optional obligatory classes as well as optional choices (study groups).

### Focus:

- from grade 6, second foreign language acquisition is offered (usually French), or obligatory optional classes,
- study groups,
- general preparation for the professional world in the subject "Work/Economy-Technology" and industrial placement,
- methodical learning.

In a Realschule with at least two classes per age group, it is possible to offer specialised courses (A and B) in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the subjects mathematics and the first foreign language, or in one of the two.

[http://www.hildesheim.de/pics/download/1\\_1323248976/Schulbroschuere\\_Engli.pdf](http://www.hildesheim.de/pics/download/1_1323248976/Schulbroschuere_Engli.pdf)

## What is a Gymnasium?

The Gymnasium spans the grades 5 to 12; it can also be run without the grades 11 and 12. The focus of classes at the Gymnasium is as follows:

- to impart a broad and deep general education
- to offer the possibility to acquire the general ability to attend university
- to enhance the ability to learn independently
- to provide an introduction to academic study methods
- to allow for individual specialisation according to individual performance and aptitude
- to open up the way for admittance to higher education and vocational training through appropriate graduation

## How are students taught at a Gymnasium?

The classes between 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grades consist of obligatory and optional lessons or of obligatory lessons, optional lessons and obligatory optional lessons. Beginning with 6<sup>th</sup> grade, a second foreign language has to be learned.

**Special subject related focus subjects** can be made available to students between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades in the following fields:

- Music
- Foreign Languages
- Mathematics / Natural Sciences / Computer Sciences
- Obligatory optional classes: e.g. Foreign Languages / History / Politics / Geography / Art / Music / Religion / Natural Sciences / Computer Sciences.

# What does VET „dual system“ mean?

## Dual Training

- Training is mainly provided in the company – supported by teaching in part-time vocational school (Berufsschule)
- Learning at both venues is governed by different but coordinated regulations.



Source: Federal Ministry of Education and Research  
[http://www.helsinki.diplo.de/Vertretung/helsinki/fi/downloads/pdf\\_\\_duale-bildung,property=Daten.pdf](http://www.helsinki.diplo.de/Vertretung/helsinki/fi/downloads/pdf__duale-bildung,property=Daten.pdf)



# Tradition and internal logic of vocational education and training

**Vocationalism („Berufskonzept“) means...**

**In General:**

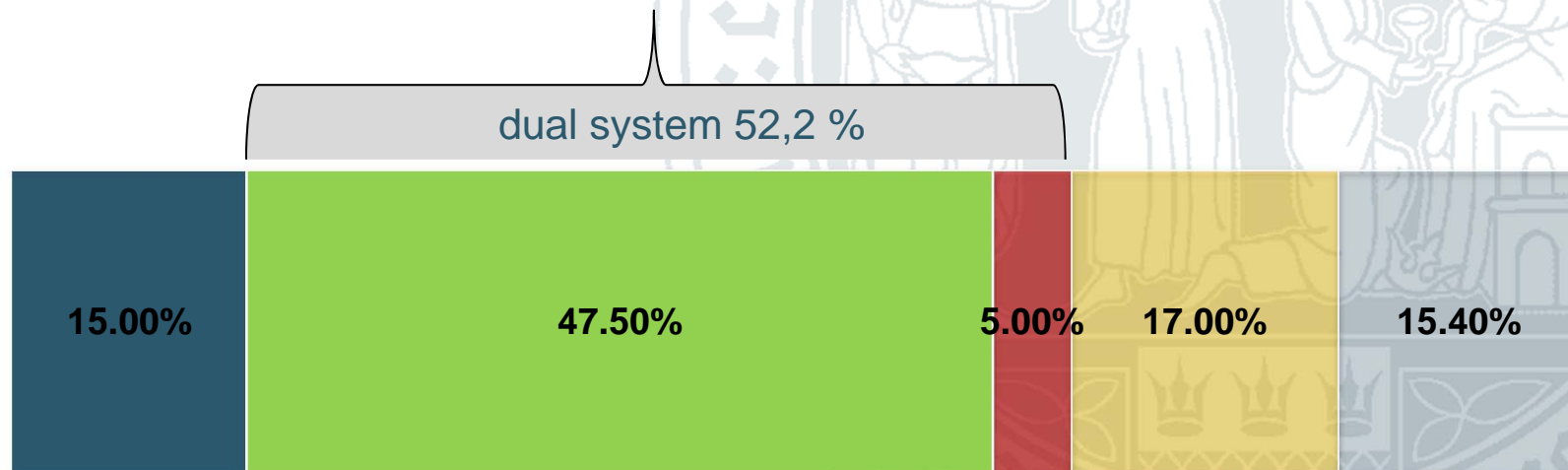
- **broad occupational profiles**
- **long-term perspective on work**
- **related to occupational markets**
- **enables to various employments**
- **enables change of job between companies/branches**



# Crucial data about the German apprenticeship system

- About 60% of an age cohort is doing an apprenticeship

## Cohort structure by type of qualification, 2005



■ no vocational training ■ only dual system ■ dual system + studies ■ only studies ■ full-time vocational schools/ occupations as assistants/ health service schools/ government employee training

Source: Schaubilder zur Berufsbildung, BIBB 2007  
[http://www.bibb.de/dokumente/pdf/a22\\_ausweitstat\\_schaubilder\\_heft-2007.pdf](http://www.bibb.de/dokumente/pdf/a22_ausweitstat_schaubilder_heft-2007.pdf)



# Crucial data about the German apprenticeship system

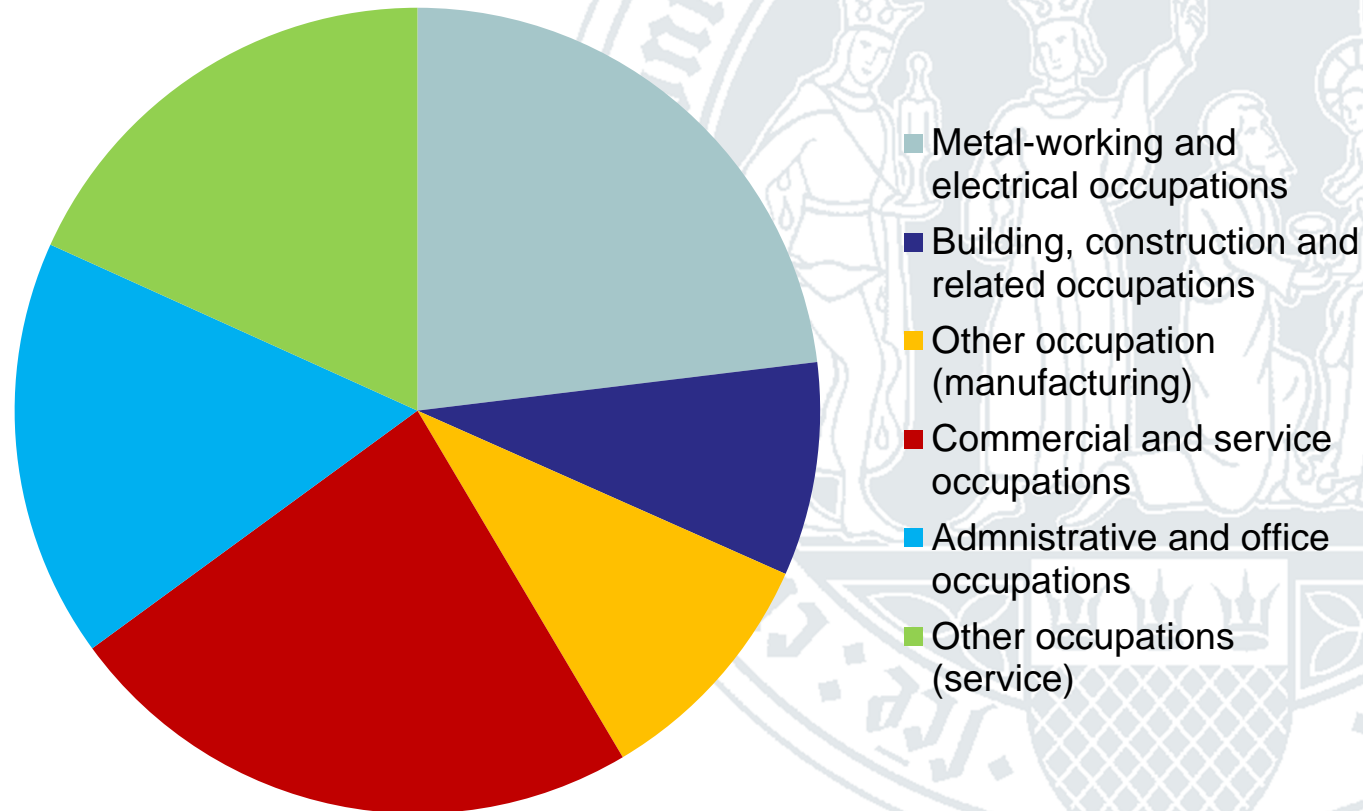
- 1,7 Million apprenticeships
- 626 Thousand new training contracts per year
- About 350 different curricula (*Ausbildungsordnungen*) for apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Contracts			
	School leavers	New Apprenticeship Contracts	Relation
2002	918.997	572.323	62,28%
2003	929.806	557.634	59,97%
2004	945.381	572.980	60,61%
2005	939.279	550.180	58,57%
2006	946.766	576.153	60,85%
2007	942.129	625.885	66,43%
2008	909.783	616.259	67,74%

Source: Federal Ministry of Education and Research  
[http://www.bmbf.de/pub/bbb\\_09.pdf](http://www.bmbf.de/pub/bbb_09.pdf)



# Trainees according to fields of training



Source: Federal Statistical Office  
<https://www-ec.destatis.de/csp/shop/sfg/bpm.html.cms.cBroker.cls?cmspath=struktur,vollanzeige.csp&ID=1023284>

# Arguments in favour of dual system

Advantages for the individual	Advantages for industry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The transition from school to work is facilitated by the 2- to 3- year period of training</li><li>• Working and learning are combined</li><li>• Investigation of opportunities and own abilities</li><li>• Attainment of social standing and income</li><li>• Good prospects on the labour market</li><li>• Recognized certificate</li><li>• Practical orientation</li><li>• Payment of allowance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secures the skilled labour needed</li><li>• Reduces cost of settling-in</li><li>• Increases motivation and loyalty to company</li><li>• Job-specific qualification</li><li>• Productive performance of trainees</li><li>• Low personnel recruitment costs</li><li>• Low Labour costs</li></ul>







**Thank you  
very much for your  
attention!**

