Princes and Townspeople: A Collection of Historical Statistics on German Territories and Cities

4: Markets

Davide Cantoni
Cathrin Mohr
Matthias Weigand

Version: 1.0
Date: 01 April 2020

1 Introduction

This dataset documents market activity for the 2,390 cities listed in the *Deutsches Städtebuch* (Keyser et al., eds, 1939-2003). We record dates at which settlements were granted the right to hold a market, and categorize the types of granted markets.

In the following, this document gives an overview of the various forms of markets encountered in the Holy Roman Empire (HRE). A description of the variables follows in Section 3. Section 4 then documents how we deal with specific issues that arise in the coding process.

2 General Approach

Market privileges were granted to a settlement by a superordinate ruler. They specified the type, location, and temporal frequency of the prospective market. The establishment of markets is linked to the establishment of cities, which is traced in the **towncharter** data.

Types of markets include annual fairs, fairs, *feria* (annual fairs of special importance), weekly markets and daily markets (Ennen, 1987). These differed in their length, the type of merchants and visitors who attended them, and consequently in their economic role for the area they were situated in. Fairs attracted local as well as foreign traders and visitors, were often linked to religious festivals, and took place at sacred sites. Weekly and daily markets had a local focus and catered to the daily needs of the surrounding population (Heil, 1906, p.12).

Fairs and markets did not develop spontaneously. Territorial rulers established them with previous permission of the king. Although initially the establishment of a market required a charter, a number of markets existed without any form of legal authorization. Still, the vast majority of regular markets were tied to a market privilege and thus close supervision by city and territory officials (Dijkman, 2011).

The concept of market privileges dates to the Carolingian era, when the kings monopolized the right to hold markets. As a consequence, subordinate territorial rulers were only allowed to establish a market once they received a market privilege from the king. Such a market privilege permitted its owner to establish a market at a specified location and to take possession of the resulting market revenues. The frequency and duration, and sometimes even the exact date at which the market was allowed to take place were specified in such a privilege (Spiess, 1916). Establishing an additional market at the same location required an additional privilege.

Still, in the beginning of the Middle Ages, subsistence agriculture was the dominant mode of production and urban centres were the exception rather than the rule, so regular markets were not of high importance to the daily life of ordinary citizens. The existing regular markets were mostly located along ancient Roman roads (Heil, 1906, p.11) or close to monasteries (Spiess, 1916, p.324) and they were mandatory at bishops' seats. Low-frequency markets, for example annual fairs, could be found close to imperial palaces and castles.

During later eras of the Middle Ages privileges that specified the type of good to be sold emerged. Street sale during market times was declared illegal, thus facilitating the supervision of trade. As a result quality and prices of goods could be regulated more easily, which benefitted customers, but also made it easier for rulers to profit financially from market activity (Wolf, 1988, p.19 ff.).

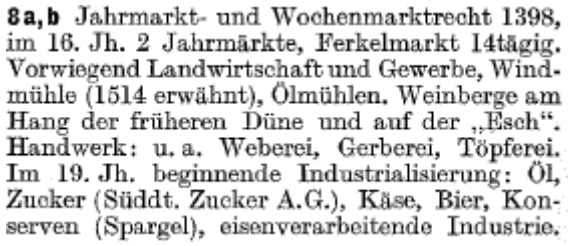
As the centralized power of the king declined in the HRE during the 12th and 13th century, local princes started to grant markets without market privileges. Still, lower territorial powers remained dependent on the previous issuance of a market privilege (Spiess, 1916, p.334).

For territorial rulers, market grants increased revenues but also increased governmental responsibilities. In addition to ensuring the supervision of measurements, weights and prices, rulers had to warrant the *peace of the market*. This guaranteed protection of merchants, market visitors and their property on their journey to and from the market and at the market. These protection guarantees applied only within a limited temporal and spatial scope.

Market privileges in the HRE were strongly related to coinage and customs privileges as they were most of the time awarded as a *trias*.

Customs were mainly imposed in the form of market and transit customs in return for the *peace of the market* and the infrastructure provided by the rulers through whose dominions the merchants traveled. The coinage privilege issued the right to mint coins and thus allowed the ruler to introduce his own currency.

The base of our dataset are the cities listed in the *Städtebuch*. For each city, Article 8 contains information on market rights granted to a settlement in chronological order. This is shown in Figure 1 and 2 for both the postwar and prewar editions, respectively.



8a,b Jahrmarkt- und Wochenmarktrecht 1398, im 16. Jh. 2 Jahrmärkte, Ferkelmarkt 14tägig. Vorwiegend Landwirtschaft und Gewerbe, Windmühle (1514 erwähnt), Ölmühlen. Weinberge am Hang der früheren Düne und auf der „Esch". Handwerk: u. a. Weberei, Gerberei, Töpferei. Im 19. Jh. beginnende Industrialisierung: Öl, Zucker (Süddt. Zucker A.G.), Käse, Bier, Konserven (Spargel), eisenverarbeitende Industrie.

Figure 1: Groß Gerau (Postwar Edition)

3 Description of the Variables

city_id Unique identifier of each city, clustered by *Städtebuch* volume.

comment Relevant information copied from the city's *Städtebuch* entry.

time_point The year corresponding to the documented event.

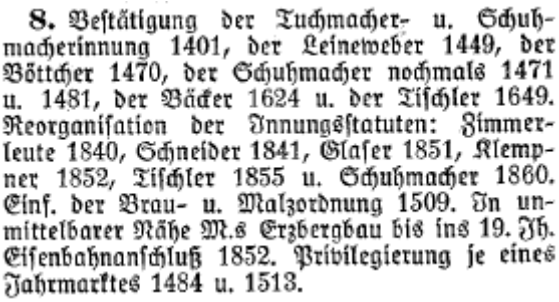

8. Bestätigung der Tuchmacher- u. Schuhmacherinnung 1401, der Leineweber 1449, der Böttcher 1470, der Schuhmacher nochmals 1471 u. 1481, der Bäcker 1624 u. der Tischler 1649. Reorganisation der Innungsstatuten: Zimmerleute 1840, Schneider 1841, Glaser 1851, Klempner 1852, Tischler 1855 u. Schuhmacher 1860. Einf. der Brau- u. Malzordnung 1509. In unmittelbarer Nähe M.s Erzbergbau bis ins 19. Jh. Eisenbahnanschluß 1852. Privilegierung je eines Jahrmarktes 1484 u. 1513.

Figure 2: Mittweida (Prewar Edition)

type_market This column contains the type of market that was recorded. A list of all types is included below.

1 Yearly fair (*Jahrmarkt*)

2 Weekly fair (*Wochenmarkt*)

3 Livestock market (*Viehmarkt*)

4 Merchants' market (*Krammarkt*)

5 Wine market (*Weinmarkt*)

6 Trade fair (*Messe*)

7 Other specific market

8 Unspecified market

9 Yearly fair in combination with livestock market

10 Merchants' market in combination with livestock market

11 Yearly fair disbanded / right to hold fair withdrawn

12 Weekly fair disbanded / right to hold fair withdrawn

13 Livestock market disbanded / right to hold market withdrawn

14 Merchants' market disbanded / right to hold market withdrawn

15 Wine market disbanded / right to hold market withdrawn

16 Trade fair disbanded / right to hold fair withdrawn

17 Other specific market disbanded / right to hold market withdrawn

18 Unspecified market disbanded / right to hold market withdrawn

19 Yearly fair in combination with livestock market disbanded / right to hold fair withdrawn

20 Merchants' market in combination with livestock market disbanded / right to hold market withdrawn

add_type Modification of an existing market. Allows for the same categories as type_market.

Example: A yearly fair is held in a city since the Middle Ages. From 1678 this fair was combined with a livestock market.

time_point	type_market	add_type
1455	1	
1678	1	3

plural Multiple markets of that type granted but exact amount unkown.

- 0 Single market.
- 1 More than one market. Exact amount unknown.

unused A privilege was granted but the respective market never took place.

- 0 The market took place according to the privilege
- 1 No market took place.

uncertainty Indicator if the date is described as "at the earliest" or "at the latest".

- 0 This date is accurate.
- 1 The date is referred to as "at the earliest".
- 2 The date is referred to as "at the latest".

range The degree of imprecision in time_point:

- 0 Date is accurate.
- 1 Date is accurate up to 5 years.
- 2 Date is accurate up to 25 years.
- 3 Date is accurate up to 50 years.
- 4 Date is accurate up to 100 years.
- 5 Date is not accurate.

source Indicates the (main) source for the information in the entry.

- 3, 3a, 3b Section 3, 3a, or 3b in the *Städtebuch*.
- 4, 4a, 4b, 4c Section 4, 4a, 4b, or 4c in the *Städtebuch*.
- 8, 8a, 8b, 8c Section 8, 8a, 8b, or 8c in the *Städtebuch*.
- neu/ 4 neu Information from updated editions of the *Städtebuch*.
- wiki Information from www.wikipedia.org.

4 Specific Issues

Inaccurate Dates In case multiple dates or textual ambiguity, we chose the earliest possible date. Recurring cases are:

- "Beginning of the century": Set time_point =XX00 and range = 3.

- "Mid-century": Set time_point =XX50 and range = 2.
- "End of the Century": Set time_point =XX75 and range = 2.
- "Middle Ages": Set time_point = 1500 and uncertainty = 2.

Identifiable Date Range **Example 1:** A fair is awarded in 1316. Later, 3 new fairs are added. In 1600, one more fair is added. We code "Later 3 new fairs are added" as taking place in 1316, with a range of 5 and uncertainty of 1.

Example 2: One fair is awarded in 1755. An 1800 census counts 2 fairs. We code the second fair as granted in 1755, with a date range of 3 and uncertainty of 1.

No Dates We do not include entries without any date identifier ("Two markets.").

Census data If the markets listed in the entry stem from a census count, the census date is included as "at the latest" in the absence of more precise date information in the entry.

Temporary disappearance or emergence of markets We do not document temporary disappearances of markets, unless a specific time period is stated in the entry.

Multiple markets Every market gets its own observation.

Example: Four fairs are awared in 1672. This event is coded in four separate observations, one for each market.

5 Contents of the Data Package

markets.csv Data on markets for *Städtebuch* cities.

6 Collaborators

Data collection Anna Caules, Carolin Maier, Ann-Christine Schwegmann, Matthias Weigand (all LMU)

Supervision Davide Cantoni, Cathrin Mohr, Matthias Weigand (all LMU)

References

Dijkman, Jessica, *Shaping Medieval Markets: The Organisation of Commodity Markets in Holland, c. 1200 - c. 1450*, Leiden: Brill, 2011.

Ennen, Edith, *Die europäische Stadt im Mittelalter*, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1987.

Heil, Bernhard, *Die deutschen Städte und Bürger im Mittelalter*, Leipzig: Teubner, 1906.

Keyser, Erich, Peter Johanek, Evamaria Engel, and Heinz Stoob, eds, *Deutsches Städtebuch: Handbuch städtischer Geschichte*, Stuttgart u.a.: Kohlhammer, 1939-2003.

Spiess, Werner, *Das Marktprivileg*, Heidelberg: Winter, 1916.

Wolf, Christian, *Grundstrukturen des Marktrechts*, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 1988.