



Germany, record enlistments: +28% recruits in 2025

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The German Army's recruitment campaign is bearing fruit. According to the newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, in the first six months of 2025, the number of people applying to join the Bundeswehr increased by 28% compared to the same period in 2024. We are talking about **13,739 new hires**, a result that could allow the German government to **reach the goal of 20,000 new recruits annually** without resorting to the reintroduction of compulsory military service.

The total number of military personnel — including professional soldiers, temporary soldiers, and voluntary conscripts — recorded an increase of **1%**, reaching **183,000 personnel**. In particular, it is **the voluntary component driving the growth: voluntary conscripts** increased by **15%**, reaching **11,400**, the best figure in the last ten years.

A result that represents a **significant political success for Defense Minister Boris Pistorius**, who from the beginning of his tenure aimed to **make military service more**

attractive to young people through reforms, targeted communication, and enhancing the role of the Armed Forces in society.

Ambitious goals for the future

The long-term plan foresees a significant increase in overall military strength:

- **260,000 active personnel** in the Bundeswehr
- **200,000 reservists** available and trained

This is a strategy consistent with Germany's new posture within NATO and the European context, aiming for **greater operational readiness**, also in light of increasing international tensions and the need to strengthen deterrence on the eastern front.

At a time when many European countries are experiencing recruitment difficulties, the German case demonstrates how **targeted policies, strategic vision, and investments in personnel** can make a difference.