Germany

The following sources are used for Germany after the unification:
European Commission 2005
Luxembourg Income Study (for more information about the surveys, please look at http://www.lisproject.org/techdoc/ge/geindex.htm)

Surveys:
European Community Household Panel Survey 1995-2001
The survey is an input-harmonized longitudinal panel survey conducted by Eurostat together with institutions in the member states. The questionnaires are standardized and weighting and imputation was done by Eurostat. The surveys have national coverage and a common set of definitions are used in all the countries. The income concept is net income with an extensive coverage of income items.

The European Commission (2005) also reports estimates for 2002 and 2003. Since ECHP was discontinued after 2001 these are based upon some other source. The source is not mentioned but is probably a national one since the European Union Survey for Income and Living Conditions that was introduced after ECHP had not started yet at this time.

The following sources are used for West Germany:
UN-ECE 1967, Table 6.10 p. 15
Paukert 1973, Table 6 p.104-105
Sawyer 1976, Table 4 and 6
Cromwell 1977, Table 1
UN 1981
van Ginneken 1982
UN 1985
Smeeding and Gottschalk 1995 (based on LIS-data)
Atkinson, Rainwater and Smeeding 1995b (based on LIS-data)
Statistical Yearbook 1998, Table 3.18 p.65
Brandolini 1998, Table A10
Einkommens- und Verbrauchsstichproben, Germany CSO
Luxembourg Income Study (for more information about the surveys, please look at http://www.lisproject.org/techdoc/ge/geindex.htm)

DIW synthetic series 1950, 1955, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1970, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1985
For several years, the main source of income distribution statistics was the "synthetic" series estimated by Deutsches Insitität für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW). The DIW series was a result of a complex process of imputation and matching different statistical sources. The sources used included tax returns, social security records and survey results from data based on the Einkommens- und Verbrauchsstichproben among others. Sawyer (1976) uses monetary net income from this source whereas van Ginneken (1982) uses disposable incomes including imputed rents.

Einkommens- und Verbrauchsstichprobe 1962, 1969, 1073, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993
The survey is carried out by the Statistisches Bundesamt. The sampling is based on voluntary participation of households; by means of advertising households are recruited. The campaign is based on a quota plan specified for each land. On the basis of the latest microcensus results a stratification is made by the following variables: household size, monthly net income of the household and social status of the reference person. The survey excludes households with foreign heads (until 1988) and households with a net monthly income of over a certain amount. In 1973 it was reported to be DM 15000, in 1978 DM 20000, in 1988 DM 25000 and in 1993 DM 35000. In 1993, the EVS included 56000 households.

The data collection and notation period extends over a calendar year. The survey begins and ends with an interview. Information on receipts and expenditures is obtained from the household's notes in their diaries. All individual receipts are taken down during the year.

UN 1981 and UN 1985 reports estimates based on disposable and gross income. According to these sources the gross income includes income from employment, self-employment, property (including rent and imputed rent for owner-occupied dwellings), social security benefits, pensions, recurrent transfers (alimonies, income from accident…), occasional transfers and other income. Disposable income was obtained by subtracting social insurance costs and income and wealth taxes. The reference period is the calendar year. Ten income classes were available to the UN 1981.

The WIDER estimation based on the EVS are calculated on the basis of 19-20 income classes in 1988 and 1993, 16-17 in 1978 and 1983 and 9 in 1973 and 1969. The income concept used was monthly disposable incomes of households. The estimations were done using Povcal Beta.

German Socio-Economic Panel Study 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993
This is a longitudinal panel survey conducted by the Deutsches Insititüt für Wirtschaftsforschung with a much smaller sample size than the EVS. The survey started in 1984 (the incomes refer to 1983). It excludes households with foreign heads until 1990 but in later years foreign groups have been over-sampled. In year 2000, there were 6 different samples, all multi-stage random samples, which were regionally clustered (around federal states, administrative districts and type of community). The incomes are asked in a detailed questionnaire and recorded gross of taxes and contributions. Taxes and contributions are imputed separately.

Microcensus 1997
The survey covers private households in Germany. The sample size is 1% of the German population. WIDER uses Povcal Beta for the estimations, 8 income classes were available.

The following sources are used for East Germany:
Jain 1975
Cromwell 1977, Table 1
Statistical Yearbook 1998, Table 3.18 p.65
Brandolini 1998, Table A10
Einkommens- und Verbrauchsstichproben, Germany CSO

German Socio-Economic Panel Study 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993
See above.

Einkommens- und Verbrauchsstichprobe 1993
See above.