

PORTRAIT OF THE REGIONS

VOLUME 6
CZECH REPUBLIC
POLAND



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Foreword

With the fourth volume of *Portrait of the Regions*, Eurostat completed the regional analysis of the 15 countries that today constitute the European Union. However, the prospect and implications of the possible enlargement to some central European countries very soon became evident, implying the need to know the regions of these countries much more deeply.

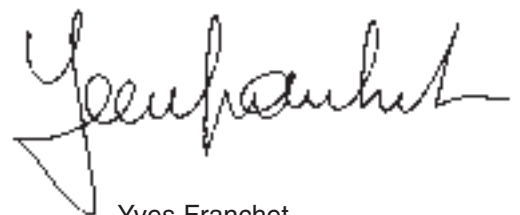
The fifth volume, published in 1997, covers the regions of Hungary. The series is now extended to Poland and the Czech Republic with the publication of the present volume.

To maintain a uniformity of presentation of the characteristics of the regions, the same structure as before has been used as far as possible and the regions are illustrated with maps, diagrams and statistical tables. The description includes comments on demography, economic conditions, the labour market, education, territory, resources, transport, environment and cooperation with border regions.

Which regions have young populations? What is the weight of agriculture in the economy? What is the level of unemployment? Which European regions have the same population density as the Polish region of Katowice? These are some of the questions that this new volume helps answer.

This volume of *Portrait of the Regions* dedicated to Poland and the Czech Republic is the result of cooperation between Eurostat and the statistical offices of these countries. Its development was coordinated by Ecos-Ouverture, a cooperation programme linking the regions and cities of eastern and western Europe.

I would like to give a word of appreciation to all those from the Polish and Czech statistical offices, and from Eurostat, who contributed to this valuable work and made possible its publication.



Yves Franchet
Director-General of Eurostat

This volume was produced with the collaboration of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the Czech Statistical Office and coordinated by ECOS-Ouverture. Its publication was made possible by the financial support of the Phare programme. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the institutions of the European Communities.



ECOS-Ouverture is the European Commission's programme for cooperation between the regions and cities of the European Union and their counterparts in central and eastern Europe.



This project is financed by the European Union's Phare programme, which provides grant finance to support its partner countries in central and eastern Europe to the stage where they are ready to assume the obligations of European Union membership.



Czech Republic

Text drafted in the Central Statistical Office of the Czech Republic, with the involvement of the CSO's Regional Statistics Database Administration Unit headed by Jitka Pacanová, under the supervision of Václav Ježdík, director, Regional Statistics Division.



Poland

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Structure of the publication

Czech Republic

Each region is presented in accordance with a uniform layout on six pages:

Page 1:

- overview of the region (1)
- strengths and weaknesses (2)

Page 2:

- list of similar regions in the EU (3)
- international cooperation (4)

Page 3:

- employment (5)

Page 4:

- population (6)
- natural resources (7)

Page 5:

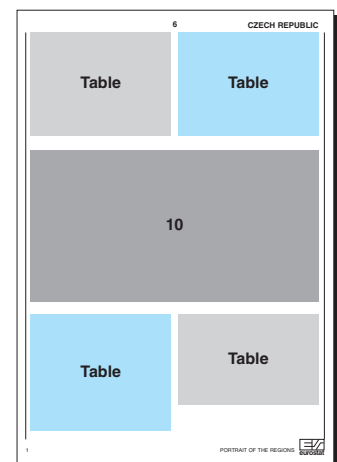
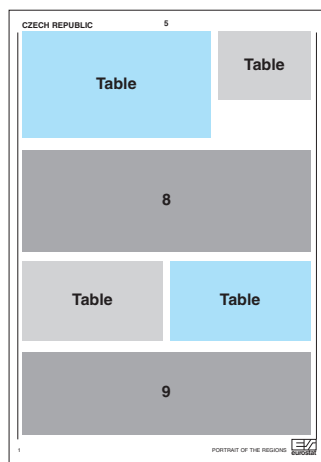
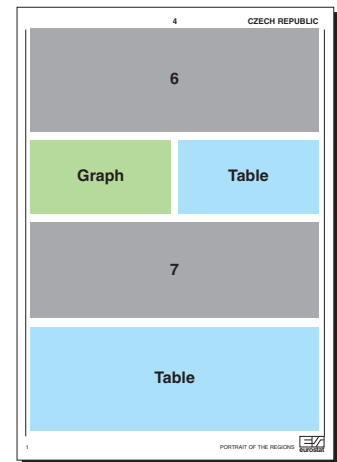
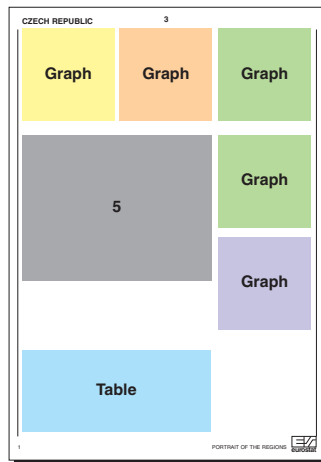
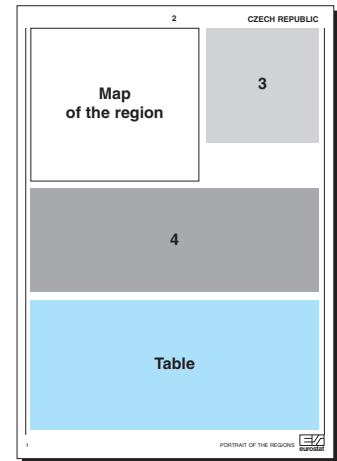
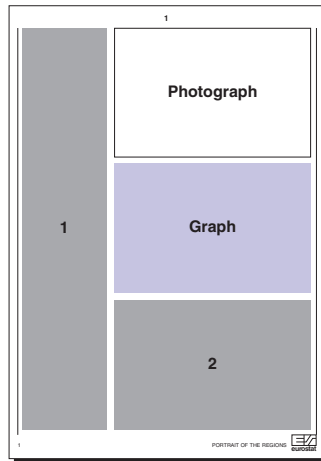
- economic structure (8)
- environment (9)

Page 6:

- transport (10)

The regional portraits are preceded by a national page and end with explanatory notes.

The legend for the regional maps is given on the last page of the publication.



Poland

A similar pattern is followed for Poland but the country's 49 voivodships are each covered in three pages. Accordingly, the distribution of information differs to some extent.

A diagram of the layout of this section may be found on page 52, immediately preceding the national page for Poland.

The PORTRAIT OF THE REGIONS consists of seven volumes:

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Denmark
- Volume 2 France
United Kingdom
Ireland
- Volume 3 Portugal
Spain
Italy
Greece
- Volume 4 Austria
Finland
Sweden
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway
Switzerland
- Volume 5 Hungary
- Volume 6 Czech Republic
Poland
- Volume 7 Slovakia
Romania

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CZECH REPUBLIC



The Czechoslovak Republic came into being following the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918. However, it was not in existence for very long. Following the Munich Agreement of 1939, Slovakia broke away and the Czech lands were occupied by Germany, which established the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. After liberation in 1945, the Czechoslovak Republic was restored — though without the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine, which became part of the then Soviet Union. Following the collapse of communism in 1989, the Czechoslovak Federal Republic was voted out of existence by an act of Parliament on 31 December 1992. The independent Czech Republic came into being on 1 January 1993.

The territory of the Czech Republic is divided into eight regions (kraje). These

comprise the capital city, Prague, and the regions of Central Bohemia, South Bohemia, West Bohemia, North Bohemia, East Bohemia, South Moravia and North Moravia.

The regions are subdivided into districts (okresy). The Czech Republic has 76 districts, with each region comprising between 8 and 14 districts as follows: Central Bohemia 12, South Bohemia 8, West Bohemia 10, North Bohemia 10, East Bohemia 11, South Moravia 14 and North Moravia 11.

The districts are further subdivided into local administrative units (obce) of which there are 6 232. The obce are the basic autonomous territorial units, ranging in size from small villages and sparsely populated rural areas to the city of Prague.

Fourteen cities have special administrative powers and exercise a higher degree of local government. These cities may be divided into sectors (městské části). Prague, as the capital city, has a special status; it is one of the 14h statutory cities as well as being a region in its own right. It is the seat of the president, the government and the parliament of the Czech Republic and is divided administratively into 57 sectors.

The Czech Republic shares borders with four countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Poland. It has a total population of over 10.3 million and covers an area of 78 866 square kilometres.

PRAHA

Prague (Praha) is situated in the centre of Europe, lying, as the crow flies, roughly the same distance from the Baltic Sea (365 km), the North Sea (495 km) and the Adriatic Sea (490 km). The region lies in the central part of the Czech highlands (Česká vysočina) and in the south, the River Berounka meets the Vltava. The Czech tableland extends into the south-east of the region. The highest point is on the plateau of Zličín (399 m) which lies in the south-west and the lowest is the River Vltava at the northern edge of the city (177 m), which makes a total height difference of over 200 m within a relatively small area. As a result of the effects of erosion, Prague lies on a plateau cut by the deep valleys of the River Vltava and its tributaries.

The city's origins date back to the second half of the ninth century when Prague castle was founded and individual settlements gradually developed under its protection. These eventually formed four independent cities, one of which, the 'Old Town', was even before 1280 called 'caput regni' — the capital city of the Czech Kingdom.

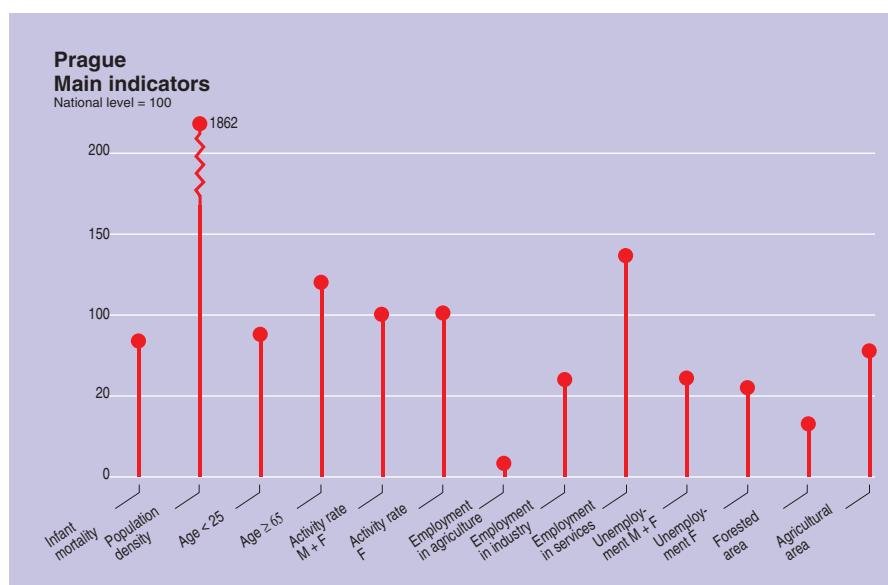
Another important date in the city's development was the year 1784 when these four cities merged to form the city of Prague. Between 1850 and 1901 four more obce were annexed. In 1920 Greater Prague was established joining another 39 surrounding obce to the existing eight Prague sectors. The growth gradually continued up until 1974 when another 30 obce of Central Bohemia joined Prague.

Today, Prague is divided into 57 municipal sectors (městské části). It is administered by the Council of Representatives of the City of Prague (Zastupitelstvo hl.m. Prahy), the City Council (Rada hl.m. Prahy) and the municipal authorities (Magistrát hl.m. Prahy).

Prague is surrounded by the region of Central Bohemia and covers an area of 496 km², representing only 0.6 % of the national total, although with over 1.2 million inhabitants it is the fourth largest region in population terms.



Prague castle, the St. Vitus cathedral and the tower of St. Nicholas's church.



A unique city

The exceptional situation of Prague results not only from its official status as the Czech capital and its economic importance, but also from its position as a unique memorial of Czech history, and a centre of cultural and scientific development and architectural treasures. This has been recognised by the city's classification as a cultural historical site by Unesco. Karlova University, founded in 1348 and one of the oldest universities of Europe, is based in Prague.

Prague is also a strong industrial centre and has a dynamically developing services sector. Unemployment is very low, there are even more vacancies than job applicants in some areas.

Not everything is rosy though; there is an excessive level of road traffic owing to increases particularly in the number of passenger vehicles (from 270 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 440 in 1996). This has contributed to the poor quality of air as compared to the national average. The region also experiences some unfavourable demographic trends, with a high average age of the population, low birth rate, high mortality rate, and a high divorce rate.

The crime rate is high too, with the number of reported crimes in 1995 (70.6 per 1 000 inhabitants) being twice the 35.7 national average.



Which regions are similar to Praha?

Population :
1.2 million inhabitants
Steiermark (A)
Seine-Maritime (F)

Age structure:
31 % under 25
Algarve (P)
Itä-Suomi (FIN)
Kärnten (A)

Employment structure:
76 % in services
Uusimaa (FIN)
Vlaams Brabant (B)

One and a half million foreign visitors in 1995

International cooperation takes place in banking, environmental issues, education, trade, and many other areas. Many international companies, organisations and firms have established in Prague and they now number over 11 000. Examples are Allianz, Eurest, Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, Delvita, Dresdner Bank, Fischer Reisen, Hewlett-Packard, Ikea, McDonald's, Mercedes-Benz, Nestlé Food, Philips, Raiffeisenbank, Siemens, etc.

The Czech Republic is a member of a number of international organisations and has concluded a number of contracts and agreements concerning different types of international cooperation. As well as some international institutions, the radio broadcasting station Free Europe is also based in Prague.

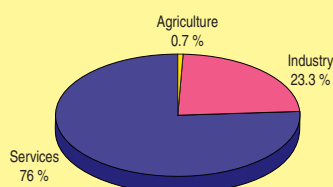
Another significant aspect of international cooperation and of the country's openness to the world is tourism. Of the total of about 1 500 000 foreigners who visited Prague in 1995, 26.5 % were German, 10.1 % Italian, 7.6 % Spanish, 5 % British, 5.7 % American, and 5.6 % French. These visitors have generated significant income for Prague's tourism industry.

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active (1)		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
Capital City of Prague	49 612	1 214 959	1 212 655	2 439	abs.	%	%
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5 421 102	11.6	37.3

1) 1991 Housing and Population Census.

CZECH REPUBLIC

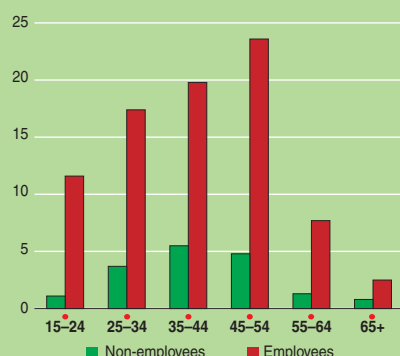
Prague
Structure of employment by sector (%)



Prague
Structure of employment by sex (%)



Prague
Structure of employment by age group (%)



The lowest unemployment rates in the country

Traditionally, Prague has the lowest unemployment rates of the Czech Republic. In 1996, the general unemployment rate (as measured by the labour force survey) in Prague stood at 1.3 %, significantly below the 3.2 % national average. The registered unemployment rate in the same year stood at just 0.32 %; again very favourable when compared with the 3.04 % national average.

The reason why unemployment is the lowest of all the regions in the country is the high supply of jobs, often exceeding demand in some areas of activities. The development of a market economy after 1989 gave an impetus to the creation of a number of new jobs in the distributive trade, repairs and other services, catering and crafts. All of these sectors developed dynamically, and particularly in Prague.

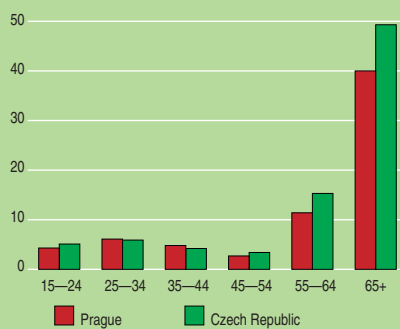
Industrial companies are mostly located outside of the centre and give employment to the population living on the outskirts of the capital, as well as those that commute from the central Bohemia region.

Because of its status as the capital city, Prague is where the central authorities and organisations, banks, top health establishments and institutions of higher education are concentrated. This results in employment opportunities in administration, health care, teaching, technology and management — providing many more jobs in these fields than the other regions of the country do.

Prague is also notable for the large number of self-employed businessmen — 103 100 in spring 1996 — and these represent a far higher proportion of the total work force in Prague than in other regions.

The high levels of employment in Prague are also evidenced by the fact that as a proportion of the employed, foreign workers are more than twice as numerous as the national average. Prague also has the largest proportion of people above the official retirement age in employment.

Prague
% of employees in part-time work by age group 1995



Prague Unemployed — (1 000)



Incomes (%) 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
Prague	49.78	12.33	20.21	14.43	2.95
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.52

An ageing population

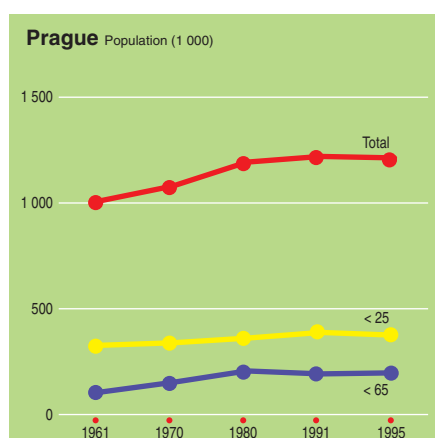
With a population of over 1.2 million, Prague is by far the largest Czech city, having more than three times the population of the second largest city, Brno. Compared with the other regions, it is the fourth largest in terms of population size, accounting for 11.8 % of the country's total population.

Understandably, the gradual incorporation of neighbouring areas into Prague, together with its own demographic development, was reflected in the growth of the number of inhabitants. This growing population necessitated the construction of many

blocks of flats to house the population moving out of the centre. This change in balance is clearly shown by the fact that in 1961 the four inner districts of Prague accounted for 34.2 % of Prague's population, by 1970 this figure had dropped to 29.8 %, in 1980 to 23.5 % and in 1991 to just 19.2 %.

The size and distribution of population varies considerably from one sector to another. Four sectors have populations exceeding 100 000, 23 have less than 2 000 and five have a population of less than 500.

Since the 1960s there have been clear trends in the demographic development of Prague. Except for the years 1973 to 1979, the number of live births has not exceeded the number of deaths, so that the long-term natural population growth has been negative. This implies that the overall population growth was the result of net inward migration only. Another consequence of the negative demographic development is the gradual ageing of the Prague population — the under-15 population is significantly lower than the post-working age population. Prague is also notable for its divorce rate which is relatively high compared with other regions of the Czech Republic.



	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
15	189	15.6	16.9	14.4
15-24	183	15.1	16.3	14.1
25-34	156	12.9	13.3	12.5
35-44	173	14.3	14.6	14.0
45-54	197	16.3	16.6	16.1
55-64	118	9.7	9.5	9.9
>=65	194	16.0	12.8	18.9
Total	1 210	100.0	100.0	100.0

Dependency on other regions for vital supplies

Drinking water, heat, electric power, and food supplies are vital for a city such as Prague with over a million inhabitants. Three waterworks supply Prague with drinking water, of which the Želivka waterworks is the most significant in terms of capacity. It draws and treats water from the River Želivka and accounts for 60 % of all the drinking water supplied. Another source which supplies 22 % of Prague's drinking water is the Kárané waterworks, 25 km from the city. It treats groundwater drawn out of the surrounding gravel and

sand strata and artesian wells as well as surface water from the River Jizera. The third is the Podolí waterworks which uses untreated water from the River Vltava.

Most heat consumed in Prague is produced by installations located within the region. A significant source for Prague 10 and some other areas is the heat-feeder run from the town of Mělník. This pipeline transports the hot water produced as a by-product of the electricity-generating power station over a distance of 30-40 km to heat buildings in the city. Prague, just as the rest of the country, is supplied with natural gas by pipeline from Russia and, since May 1997, from Norway. Electric power

generation capacities in Prague are small, and the capital city is therefore supplied with electric power from other regions.

Prague is far from being self-sufficient in the production of food and is therefore reliant on food from other regions, particularly vegetables grown in the River Labe (the Elbe) area near the capital.

	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	7.6	9.6	7.5	6.8	5.4
Divorces	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.5
Live births	8.5	11.8	12.9	10.6	7.8
Deaths	10.6	14.3	14.9	13.0	12.5
Total increase	2.0	1.9	-0.6	1.3	-3.9

	number	%
Immigrants, total	12 486	10.3
Emigrants, total	11 492	9.5
Internal migration		
— immigrants	9 615	7.9
— emigrants	11 414	9.4

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	70.78
— females	76.47

CZECH REPUBLIC

Main enterprises — Prague

Main employers:	Activity
• ČKD Tatra	manufacture of trams
• ČKD Lokomotivka	manufacture of engines (locomotives)
• ČKD Dukla	boilers and heater elements
• České energetické závody a.s.	generation and distribution of electricity
• Vodní stavby a.s.	construction and manufacturing
• Inženýrské a průmyslové stavby a.s.	construction and manufacturing
• Čokoládovny a.s.	chocolate products
• Metrostav a.s.	construction and manufacturing
• Stavby silnic a železnic a.s.	construction and manufacturing
• České dráhy s.p.	railway transport
• Dopravní podnik hl.m. Prahy	city transport
• České aerolinie a.s.	air transport
• Podnik výpočetní techniky a.s.	computer services
• Česká televize	television broadcasting and production

Composition of households — 1992

No of households	502 171
Average per household:	
members	2.40
economically active	1.13
children not provided for	0.59
pensioners not working	0.55
other members	0.13

Prominent industrial centre

Despite the process of transformation and structural change since 1989, Prague remains a prominent industrial centre, with 16.7 % of its working population in 1995 employed in industry, primarily in engineering, food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Construction continues to be a significant employer, with 9 % of the region's work force. The next largest group is transport and communications, making up a total of 8.4 % of 1995 employment in Prague.

The economic significance of Prague is primarily due to the intensive concentration of financial and other services and trade, as well as construction and industry on its territory. This economic strength is reflected in the registered unemployment rate, which in 1996 was only one tenth of the national average.

The importance of the services sector to Prague's economy can be seen from its contribution to employment; retailing and repair services employed 16.2 % of the

Prague work force in 1995. Tourism is also a major industry in Prague, with 284 accommodation establishments with almost 40 000 beds catering for domestic and international visitors. The number of overnight stays exceeded 3.3 million in 1995, 84.4 % of which were by foreigners.

Agriculture is not significant in the Prague area, except for poultry farming (for example at Xaverov and Libuš).

Environment — 1995

	Prague	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	2.69	10.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	58.72	38.07
Air protection	1.90	54.51
Waste management	39.38	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	Prague	Czech Republic
Industry	128	100
Construction	125	109
Agriculture and fishing	119	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	148	88
Hotels and restaurants	120	89
Transport	129	101

Pollution remains a problem

The poor state of the environment in Prague is only equalled by the most polluted areas of North Bohemia and North Moravia. In the past the countryside was deforested, drained and built on. After the city walls were dismantled, the space cleared was built upon — unlike in many other European cities and towns — so in consequence Prague has few public green areas.

The fall-out from airborne ash and gaseous pollutants effect the cleanness of the city and the health of its inhabitants. Smog, with all of its negative consequences, hangs over Prague in calm weather. An alarming 71 % of the inhabitants of Prague live in areas polluted with nitrogen oxides, and the concentration of sulphur in the air is also high. The main causes of this condition are due to the location of Prague in a valley basin and to the impacts of civilisation, notably the unprecedented growth of traffic. While the number of passenger cars grew by 6 000 every year in the 1980s, the

annual increase in the period of 1990–95 was as high as 40 000. In December 1995 there were 443 passenger cars per 1 000 inhabitants in Prague and the number has continued to increase.

On the other hand, the total emissions from non-traffic polluters has fallen. The largest decrease has been recorded for solid emissions, resulting principally from the gradual replacement of fossil fuel with gas, and the improvement of the efficiency of the main power plants.

Agriculture Prague	
Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994	
— Cereals	20.7
— Milk	3.0
— Cattle for slaughter, total	10.1
— Animal products, total	29.4
Livestock (1 March 1995)	
— Bovine animals	795
— Pigs	1 653
Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture	
— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	1 427
	123

Number of pupils 1995–96 Prague		
	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	32.5	
Primary	102.4	48.9
Secondary (general)	58.0	57.8
Secondary (vocational)	26.5	36.9
Tertiary study	54.2	41.8
Total	273.6	

The centre of the country's transport networks

The transport system of the capital city is based on 2 838 km of local roads, three metro lines, 30 tram lines and 203 city bus routes. The city is linked to the rest of the country by 234 bus routes (with 149 bus stops within the city limits), 10 Czech rail lines with 43 stations, the Prague airport and three ports on the River Vltava for goods transport. Recreational transport along the river is served by 11 landing places in Prague.

Traditionally, Prague is the country's main centre of international transport in the directions east–west and north–south. At the same time, it is also the largest transport junction interconnecting different regions of the Czech Republic.

Prague's transport network can be considered in two parts: a network directly involved in international transport and a network serving the local needs of the city. Before the split of Czechoslovakia, the first motorway (D1) was constructed from Prague to Brno and Bratislava. A new motorway, the D5 from Prague to Nürnberg is under construction, as is the motorway D8 from Prague to Dresden and Berlin. The construction of a motorway to link Prague and Linz is being planned.

Prague is also a significant railway junction. Stress is now being put on the development of European standard rail transport (e.g. Eurocity), and little-used railway lines are being put out of service. Reconstruction of the main lines for the operation of express trains is under preparation and this should provide high-comfort travelling on the primarily international long-distance routes.

The backbone of the city transport network is the metro, brought into service in 1974 and which is still being extended. Three lines operate currently, connecting the city centre with the largest satellite housing estates.

The largest airport in the Czech Republic is that in Praha-Ruzyně. It is used for domestic and international flights. At present, the airport is under extensive reconstruction which will finally make it possible for even the biggest aircraft to land and will increase the airport's current capacity three times to an annual six million passengers.

Transport and communications — 1995		
	Prague	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	76.9	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	442.9	301.7
Km of national road per 1 000 cars	0.8	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population		
Telephone density (lines per 1 000 population)	0.4	5.4

% of population connected to public water supply and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995	
Prague	Total
Water	100
Sewerage	94.3
Waste water	100

STŘEDOČESKÝ

The region of Central Bohemia (Středočeský) lies in the centre of the Czech Republic and completely surrounds the region of Prague. Central Bohemia covers 11 014 km representing 14 % of the Czech Republic's total area. Arable land alone makes up 51 % of the region, with all agricultural land together representing 61 % of land use. This high proportion of agricultural land exceeds that of the other Czech regions and a significant area is used for growing hops and for orchards. Forest land covers another 28 % of the region, with extensive forests being found in the areas of Dobříš, Rožmitál and Křivoklát.

The region's highest point is the peak of Tok (865 m) in the Brdské hřebený mountain range in the district of Příbram, with the lowest, at 153 m, being the river Labe (the Elbe) in the district of Mělník.

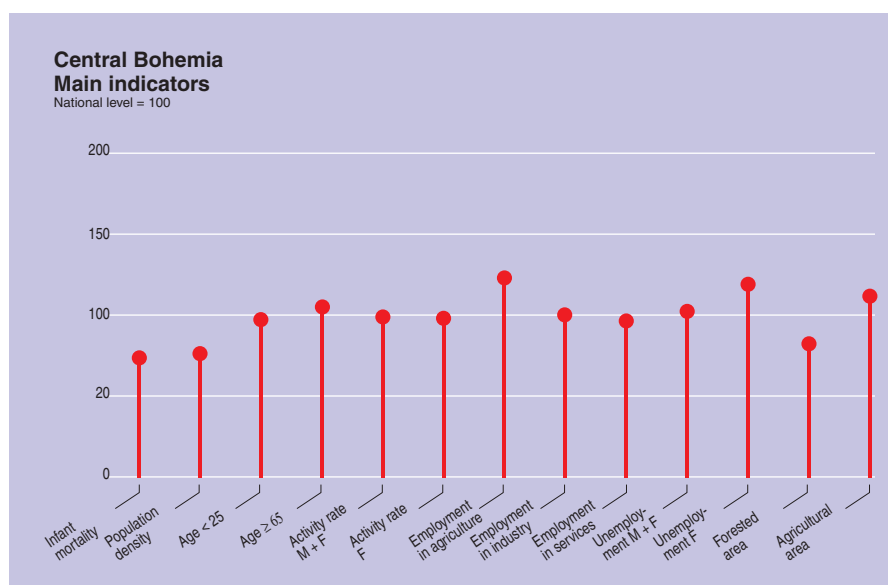
Central Bohemia is situated in the Labe river basin from where all water flows into the North Sea. The Labe is the largest river in this region and supplies the region with water for industrial use, and plays an important role in water transport. The Vltava, the second largest river of the Czech Republic, divides the region from north to south and serves transport, energy and recreational functions through a series of reservoirs. The Rivers Jizera and Želivka provide sources of drinking water. The largest reservoir is at Orlík in the district of Příbram, spreading over an area of 2732 ha and into the region of South Bohemia. The second largest is the Švihov reservoir on the River Želivka (1 670 ha) ahead of the Slapy reservoir which, with its 1 392 ha, ranks third.

The region is divided into 12 districts with a total of 1 148 local administrative units (obce).

Central Bohemia prides itself on the four protected landscape areas — Český Kras (the Bohemian Karst), the areas of Křivoklát and Kokořín and the Blaník mountain — located in the region. The town of Poděbrady is famous for its mineral water and spa facilities for the treatment of vascular and heart diseases. Other spa towns are Lázně Toušeň and Sadská.



The Sázava River in the district of Benešov



A region without a centre

The industrial strength of Central Bohemia is shown by its large share of the total Czech industrial output, amounting in 1995 to 14 % of the total national industrial production by value. The region is also a significant agricultural producer, notably for cereals, sugar beet and livestock.

Its location in the centre of the country and close links to Prague create good opportunities and conditions for employment, housing and capital construction, the transport services network, and the development of business activities.

The region's main negative characteristics are its unfavourable demographic structure (a high average age of the population,

low birth rate and a high mortality rate) and the necessity to bring in electric power from other regions as the power stations based in Central Bohemia generate only 3 % of the national total.

Furthermore, the industrial character of much of the region has resulted in significant environmental problems with polluted rivers, damaged forests and lead-contaminated land.

As the region's administrative institutions are all located in Prague, Central Bohemia has no main regional city that would act as its own administrative and economic centre. This is also the case for the two districts of Praha-východ and Praha-západ that surround Prague.



Which regions are similar to Středočeský

Population:

1.1 million inhabitants

La Coruna (E)
Val-d'Oise (F)
Tyne and Wear (UK)

Population density:

101 inhabitants per km²

Barnim (D)
Maine-et-Loire (F)
Csongrád (HU)

Land use:

28 % forest

Auvergne (F)
Buzau (RO)

Foreign investment in the region's industry

Central Bohemia has a unique position compared with the other regions of the country. It surrounds the national capital, Prague, and does not have its own regional capital city. It is thus effectively represented by Prague in the area of international relations, and international cooperation is focused mainly on industrial and commercial contacts and on tourism.

There are several enterprises with significant foreign involvement in the region. The

largest of these is the Czech car factory Škoda in Mladá Boleslav which is closely associated with Volkswagen, but other notable companies include Delphi Packard Electric, Linde Frigera, Phoenix Zeppelin, Lonza Biotec, TRW Carr and Thermo King.

In 1995, a total of 163 381 international tourists were recorded as having stayed at least one night in Central Bohemia. However, for many of them Central Bohemia was only a transit place on their

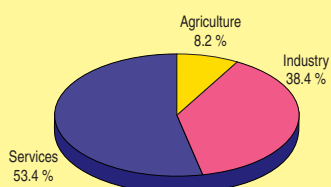
way to Prague and some used the region's accommodation establishments in the areas around Prague as accommodation there is cheaper than in the city. There are some places of interest for tourists in Central Bohemia, such as the Karlštejn castle. As is the case for Prague, the development of tourism after 1989 has resulted in an increased inflow of tourists, primarily from western Europe and further overseas.

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active ¹		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
	1995			1995	abs.	%	%
Benešov	144 351	88 232	87 169	60	45 780	23.0	31.8
Beroun	66 191	75 821	75 322	114	40 478	11.5	43.8
Kladno	69 148	149 346	149 821	217	78 875	7.4	45.0
Kolín	81 888	91 079	89 983	110	47 962	14.8	37.5
Kutná Hora	93 722	78 983	78 385	83	40 696	20.0	38.0
Mělník	71 238	94 429	94 541	133	51 012	13.0	41.8
Mladá Boleslav	105 778	111 775	112 352	106	58 659	13.9	45.7
Nymburk	90 316	89 140	87 975	97	46 333	16.9	31.4
Praha - východ	59 697	93 621	93 329	156	50 115	11.6	33.7
Praha - západ	63 282	76 192	76 471	121	40 882	13.0	28.0
Příbram	162 807	108 772	107 968	66	56 255	16.7	35.7
Rakovník	93 027	55 102	54 213	58	28 469	22.3	33.0
Central Bohemia	1 101 446	1 112 492	1 107 529	100	585 516	15.3	37.1
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5 421 102	11.6	37.3

¹ 1991 Housing and Population Census.

CZECH REPUBLIC

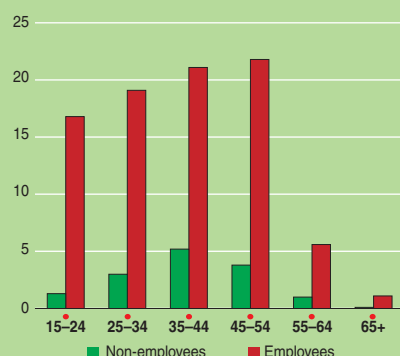
Central Bohemia
Structure of employment by sector(%)



Central Bohemia
Structure of employment by sex (%)



Central Bohemia
Structure of employment by age group (%)



Unemployment rates below the national average

Despite a distinct decrease in employment in heavy industry and the mining of minerals, which have long been major employers in Central Bohemia, the unemployment rate of the region's below the national average. Employment in the other sectors of the region's economy have increased, compensating for the losses in mining and heavy industry. Trends in employment in individual districts suggest that the districts of Příbram and Kolín account for more than a half of the new jobs in Central Bohemia.

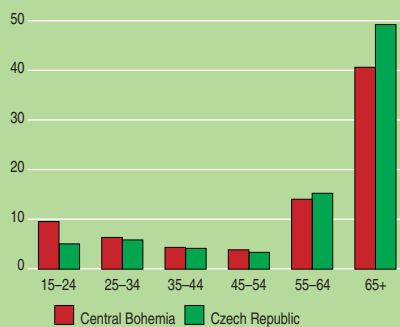
In the spring of 1996, general unemployment (as measured by the labour force survey) was 2.9 %, while registered unemployment in the region amounted to 2.6 % (December 1995). Unemployment figures for the districts of Praha-východ and Praha-západ were even lower (below 1 %). An explanation is the vicinity of Prague, the capital city, which offers a number of jobs to the population of these districts. These districts have relatively good transport connections with Prague which facilitates commuting. The highest rate of registered unemployment was measured in the districts of Kladno (4.4 %), Kolín and Příbram (3.9 %), and Nymburk (3.5 %). Kladno was also among the districts with the highest

number of people unemployed for more than one year. The reason for such high unemployment in these districts is the suppression of activities in heavy industry and mining of minerals which has particularly affected Kladno and Příbram.

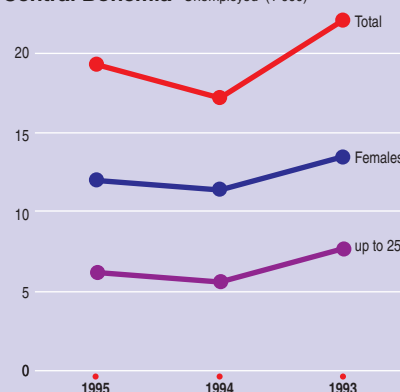
The structure of employment does not differ greatly from the Czech average, although with 1995 statistical returns from companies showing 42.5 % of jobs being in industry (excluding small businesses), Central Bohemia could be considered the third most industrial region in the country.

In terms of the average monthly wage in 1995, the region is placed second after Prague.

Central Bohemia
% of employees in part-time work by age group — 1995



Central Bohemia Unemployed (1 000)



Incomes (%) — 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
Central Bohemia	42.90	12.57	24.10	16.95	0.96
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.521

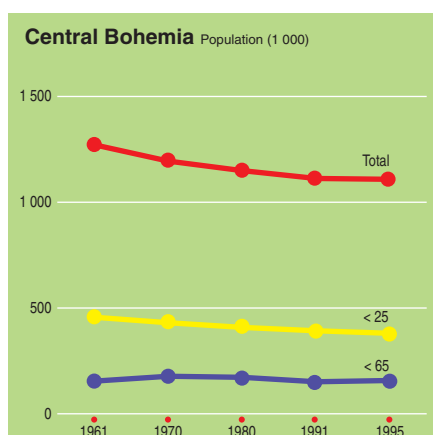
Low population density

With the exception of Prague, Central Bohemia has the oldest population of the Czech Republic, with an average age of 37.9 years. The region has the highest death rate (12.7 per 1 000 population) and the lowest birthrate (after Prague) with an annual 9.1 births per 1 000 population. These facts combine to give a constant natural decrease of the population which amounted to 3.6 people per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995. This was offset to some extent by migration into the region; Central Bohemia had the highest rate of net inward migration in the Czech Republic in 1995 at 2.5 people per 1 000 inhabitants well — above the 1.0 national average.

The region is also notable for its relatively low infant mortality rate of 5.8 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1995. This is much better than the Czech average (7.7), and only South Moravia has a lower rate.

The region's population at the end of 1995 of 1 106 738 amounted to 10.7 % of the national total and the average population density of 100 inhabitants per km, is below the average for the Czech Republic of 131 per km, by a considerable margin. The region is more densely populated in the areas surrounding Prague and in its northern part. The main towns of each of the 12 districts house 26 % of the population, and approximately 54 % live in all the region's 65 towns. Kladno, with a total of 72 000 inhabitants, is the largest obec (local

administrative unit) of the region. Other large towns include Mladá Boleslav (45 000), Přeboram (37 000), Kolín (32 000) and Kutná Hora (22 000). Ninety-four obce have less than 100 inhabitants, the smallest being Rabakov in the district of Mladá Boleslav, with a population of just 25.



Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
< 15	197	17.8	18.7	16.9
15–24	183	16.5	17.3	15.7
25–34	141	12.8	13.4	12.1
35–44	159	14.3	14.9	13.8
45–54	164	14.7	15.3	14.3
55–64	108	9.8	9.4	10.2
≥65	156	14.1	11.0	17.0
Total	1 107	100.0	100.0	100.0

Wealth of natural mineral resources

There are deposits of several minerals in the area, primarily coal which is mined in deep seams in the Kladno-Rakovník basin. The mining of low grade iron ore has ceased in Vlastějovice na Sázavě and the Beroun and Přeboram areas of Barrandien and the mining of gold at Jílové u Prahy and at Roudná u Vlašimi is no longer viable. The town of Kutná Hora, which was renowned for its silver, still has deposits of poly-metal ores (lead, zinc, copper and sil-

ver). Lead-zinc ores are still mined around the town of Přeboram. Antimony is found in the centre of Povltaví (the area surrounding the River Vltava) and large deposits of top-quality limestone are found near the River Berounka.

The district of Rakovník is rich in ceramic and other clays and shale, and significant reserves of brick-clay material can be found near the towns of Kolín and Kutná

Hora. Gravel sand is extracted in the area around the River Labe and wind-deposited sand suitable for foundries is found close to the town of Poděbrady. Decorative and construction granite is quarried in the Sázava river basin and the central Vltava river basin.

Demographics indicators

	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	6.9	8.7	7.2	7.0	5.3
Divorces	1.3	1.9	2.2	2.8	3.0
Live births	11.9	14.0	14.3	11.8	9.1
Deaths	12.3	15.1	15.4	13.5	12.7
Total increase	1.1	-2.5	-0.2	-2.6	-1.1

Migration per 1 000 — 1995

	number	%
Immigrants, total	10 994	9.9
Emigrants, total	8 275	7.5
Internal migration		
— immigrants	10 420	9.4
— emigrants	8 242	7.4

Life expectancy at birth 1995

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	68.78
— females	75.91

CZECH REPUBLIC

Main enterprises — Central Bohemia

Main employers:	Activity
• Sellier a Bellot a.s. Vlašim	weapons and ammunition
• Buzuluk a.s. Beroun	rubber-processing machines
• Českomoravské doly a.s. Kladno	coal mining, preparation and sales
• Poldi ocel s.r.o. Kladno	high-grade steel and metals
• Kablo Kladno a.s.	electrical cables
• Koramo Kolín a.s.	oil refining
• Tabák a.s. Kutná Hora	tobacco products
• Vitana a.s. Byšice	food concentrates
• Spolana a.s. Neratovice	basic chemicals
• Kaučuk a.s. Kralupy n. Vltavou	synthetic rubber and plastics
• Škoda a.s. Mladá Boleslav	passenger cars and engines
• Carborundum Electrite a.s. Benátky nad Jizerou	manufacture of abrasive materials
• ČOS Nymburk	manufacture of railway locomotives
• RKZ a.s. Rakovník	manufacture of tiles

Composition of households — 1992

No of households	423 604
Average per household:	
members	2.59
economically active	1.18
children not provided for	0.64
pensioners not working	0.64
other members	0.13

Highly developed industrial structure

Central Bohemia is a highly developed region industrially where engineering and heavy industry prevail. Almost all branches of industry are represented in the region's economy. The area of Mladá Boleslav has become a centre for transport engineering of nationwide significance, and mechanical engineering works are found throughout the region.

Coal from Kladno is the main energy source for Central Bohemia. However, some brown coal and much electric power

has to be brought in from other regions. The largest thermal power station lies at Dolní Beřkovice near Mělník. In peak hours the Orlík hydro-electric power plant is used.

Large cement factories and kilns are operated in the area of Beroun, and the districts of Beroun and Kladno are the core of the region's metallurgical industry. Two large chemical plants are located on the River Labe in the lowlands around Mělník. The food processing industry is also of impor-

tance. Central Bohemia is best known for the manufacture of cars, synthetic rubber, LPs and abrasive material.

Thanks largely to the growing of sugar beet, for which good conditions exist in the area of the River Labe, the agriculture of the region is advanced. Central Bohemia has attained a dominant position within the Czech Republic in the growing of sugar beet, and is also well known for its oil-seed rape and hop growing.

The main economic activities are mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction and agriculture.

Environment 1995

	Central Bohemia	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	7.49	100.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	45.20	38.07
Air protection	49.21	54.51
Waste management	5.63	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	Central Bohemia	Czech Republic
Industry	105	100
Construction	101	109
Agriculture and fishing	104	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	93	88
Hotels and restaurants	98	89
Transport	94	101

Industry takes its toll on the environment

Man's long history of the settlement and use of land in Central Bohemia has resulted in the deforestation of the region and the overall deterioration of its environment.

Industrial activities taking place on the territory of the region lead to significant ecological problems. The most polluted areas include the districts of Kladno, Mělník, Beroun, Příbram and Kolín. Some of the

biggest polluters in the country include the Central Bohemian coal-fuelled power stations at Mělník, the ironworks at Kladno, chemical plants at Neratovice and Kralupy and the cement and lime factories at Beroun.

The Rivers Labe, Vltava and Berounka are heavily polluted, and especially the Labe which carries industrial waste and untreat-

ed sewage water from Eastern Bohemia. Some 60% of the region's forests suffer from the effects of pollution and the region's environment also suffers from intensive mining, industrial and agricultural activities. Lead contamination is a major environmental problem, affecting 2.2% of the surface area of the region — the worst situation of any of the Czech regions. Local and transit road traffic crossing the region also has a negative effect on the environment, creating air and noise pollution.

Agriculture Central Bohemia	
Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994	
— Cereals	21.6
— Milk	15.0
— Cattle for slaughter, total	28.4
— Animal products, total	50.0
Livestock (1 March 1995)	
— Bovine animals	132 914
— Pigs	588 255
Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture	
— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	33 513
	3 915

Number of pupils – 1995-96 Central Bohemia		
	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	33.7	
Primary	104.0	49.0
Secondary (general)	34.5	64.3
Secondary (vocational)	22.2	36.0
Tertiary study	0	0
Total	194.4	

Region well served by rail network

The whole transport system of Central Bohemia is heavily influenced by the fact that the capital city, Prague, is situated right in the centre of the region. Transport routes that run across the territory have been constructed over the centuries so as to create a radial network converging on Prague as the centre of Bohemia. Three motorways cross the region and another eight significant first class roads link the other regions with the capital city. Virtually

all international east-west transport runs through the territory, especially goods transport. Also of importance is the tourist transit traffic across the region, especially in the summer months.

Central Bohemia has one of the highest proportions of passenger cars — 325 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995 — the third placed region after Prague and South Bohemia. With its 26 km of national-class road per 1 000 passenger cars and 8.5 km per 1 000 population, the region is second only to South Bohemia.

All the main towns of the region's districts are linked by the 13 express railway lines. Rail transport is important for commuters to Prague and for freight for the capital city. Because of this, the Praha-Kolín electrified line ranks among the busiest in the Czech Republic in both passenger and freight transport.

The largest Czech rivers, the Labe and the Vltava, are also important elements in the transport system. Industrial raw materials and supplies are transported by river, and in particular coal for the largest coal-burning power stations in the region at Mělník.

Transport and communications — 1995		
	Central Bohemia	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	57.5	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	325.3	301.7
Km of national road per 1 000 cars	26.1	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population	8.5	5.4
Telephone density (lines per 1 000 population)	169	232

% of population connected to public water supply and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995	
Central Bohemia	Total
Water	70.3
Sewerage	49.5
Waste water	88.1

JIHOČESKÝ

Geographically, South Bohemia (Jihočeský) is an extensive valley made up of the České Budějovice and the Třeboň basins. This valley is surrounded by the Šumava mountains, the Novohradské mountains, the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, and the Central Bohemian Highlands. The region covers an area of 11 345 km², (14.4 % of the country), it is divided into eight districts and includes 743 obce (local administrative units). In the south the region borders Austria and there is a shorter border with Germany in the south west.

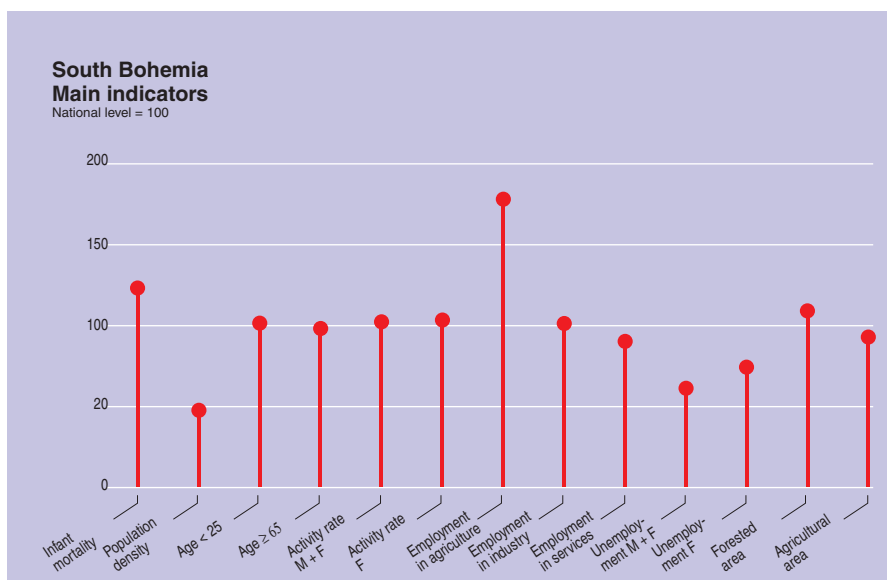
The characteristic features of the region are deep forests, fish ponds, lakes and moors. Although the effects of habitation have partially transformed the landscape, there still remain a number of unspoilt areas. More than a third of the region is covered by forests, and 4 % by water. Most of the region lies in the altitude range of 400 to 600 m, which explains its slightly harsher climatic conditions. The highest point of the region is the peak of Plechý at 1 378 m in the Šumava mountains, while the lowest point (330 m) is the surface of the Orlík reservoir in the district of Písek.

The region lies in the basin of the upper and middle sections of the River Vltava and its tributaries (the Otava, Lužnice, Malše, Blanice and so on). More than 7 000 lakes – for fish farming, recreation and water supply – have been built and their combined surface area totals 30 000 ha. The largest of the fish lakes are Rožmberk (490 ha), Bezdrev (450 ha) and Horusice (415 ha); these are also the largest fish lakes of the country.

In October 1991, the University of South Bohemia was founded with five faculties. It included the already existing teachers' college and faculty of agriculture to which the new theology, social health and biology faculties were added. The town of Jindřichův Hradec became the seat of the Faculty of Management in 1994.



The town of Rožmberk nad Vltavou



Unspoilt environment, but lacking in infrastructure

The comparatively little-damaged environment of South Bohemia is one of the region's assets, providing conditions in the countryside that are attractive to tourists. The second main asset is the region's geographical situation; the proximity of Austria and Germany has given a stimulus to the development of both economic cooperation and tourism, encouraging the development of businesses in the region, and making it possible to work abroad. Thanks to this relatively recent economic development, the region now has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

However, the region does suffer from insufficient technical infrastructure and a lack of facilities that would encourage further

tourism; this especially holds for the border areas which were closed to tourism before 1990 and have consequently only recently begun to be developed.

The region's settlement structure is very fragmented, with a large number of small communities. This causes problems for the provision of transport services and the availability of services to the rural population in general.

Finally there are poor conditions for agricultural production, with much of the region's agricultural land being of inferior quality, and climatic conditions, especially in the foothills, being less favourable.



Which regions are similar to Jihočeský?

Area:
11 300 km²

Murcia (E)
Dytiki Ellada (EL)
Älvsborgs län (S)

Age structure:
36 % under 25

Haute-Normandie (F)
Pohjois-Suomi (FIN)
Fejér (HU)

Employment structure:
38 % in industry

Niederbayern (D)

Cooperation with border regions of Austria and Germany

The cross-border cooperation of communities in the Czech Republic with those in neighbouring countries is implemented through common-interest associations known as Euroregions. Specific measures to solve regional issues of interest to all parties are based on cooperation on topics such as the environment, transport, tourism and cultural exchanges.

The Euroregion of Šumava–Bavorský les–Mühlviertel was established in 1993 and it includes the area of the Šumava

mountains on the Czech side (82 obce from the districts of Klatovy, Prácheň, Český Krumlov and the West Bohemian district of Domažlice), and communities from the German region of Niederbayern and the Austrian region of Oberösterreich.

The region has eight road border crossings (six with Austria and two with Germany) and two railway border crossings (both with Austria). The most frequented of the road border crossings into Austria is the Dolní Dvořiště–Wullowitz crossing with

approximately 3.3 million people a year crossing in each direction. This is an important crossing point for coaches, with 24 000 entering the Czech Republic and 25 000 leaving in 1995.

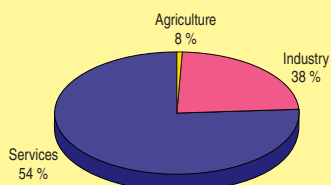
A similar number of people used the Strážný–Philippstreu border crossing with Germany (3.25 million), but only about 4 000 coaches crossed at this point. Commercial vehicles were, however, more numerous, with 75 000 crossing in each direction.

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active ¹		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
	1995	1991	1995	1995	abs.	%	%
České Budějovice	162 515	173 941	177 491	109	93 288	12.8	28.1
Český Krumlov	161 500	57 464	58 549	36	31 419	23.9	32.5
Jindřichův Hradec	194 381	93 092	93 926	48	48 240	25.1	34.1
Pelhřimov	128 975	74 564	73 961	57	39 403	23.3	36.2
Písek	113 803	71 999	70 930	62	37 495	19.7	33.8
Prácheň	137 483	51 077	51 481	37	26 859	23.4	29.2
Strakonice	103 170	71 960	70 987	106	58 659	13.9	45.7
Tábor	132 720	104 099	103 816	78	54 429	17.2	33.3
South Bohemia	1 134 547	698 196	701 141	62	368 283	20.8	33.2
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5 421 102	11.6	37.3

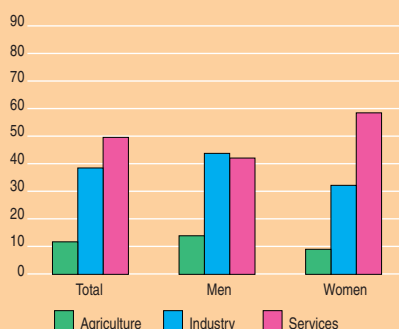
¹ 1991 Housing and Population Census.

CZECH REPUBLIC

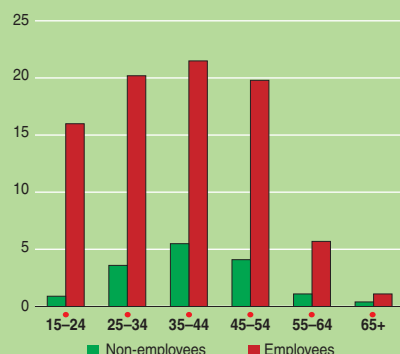
South Bohemia
Structure of employment by sector (%)



South Bohemia
Structure of employment by sex (%)



South Bohemia
Structure of employment by age group (%)



Considerable improvement in the rate of unemployment

South Bohemia experienced the highest rate of unemployment of all the regions of the Czech Republic in 1991. This situation has become considerably better — from 1992 onwards the rate began to fall gradually, to stabilise at just over 2 %.

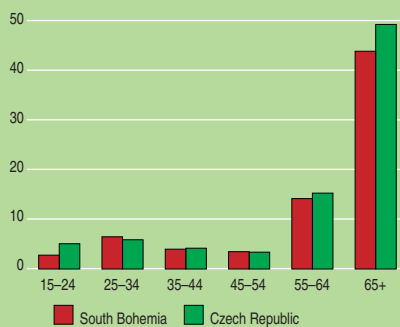
The development of tourism and the associated development of services and business and trade activities concentrated on public catering, accommodation, construction, the repair of motor vehicles, small trades, etc. led to the creation of many new jobs. This gave a favourable boost to the employment opportunities in the region to the extent that since 1993 South Bohemia's unemployment rate has been one of the lowest in the Czech Republic.

In the spring of 1996, the rates of general and registered unemployment stood at 2.3 % and 2.2 %, respectively. Registered unemployment was lowest in the districts of Jindřichův Hradec (1.3 %) and České Budějovice (1.4 %) and highest in the district of Český Krumlov (3.5 %).

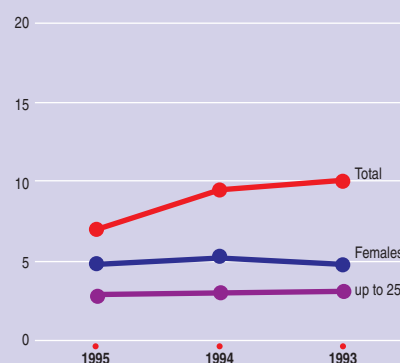
Industry accounted for a lower proportion of jobs in South Bohemia in 1995 than in the other regions, with 36.2 % of jobs according to statistical returns (which exclude small businesses and small

farms). Conversely, and as one would expect from such a rural region, the proportion of jobs in agriculture and fishing was the highest in the Czech Republic; 9.8 % according to statistical returns, or 11.8 % according to the autumn 1995 labour force survey. Average wages in agriculture and fishing in 1995 in South Bohemia were above the Czech average and were only bettered in Prague and Central Bohemia.

South Bohemia
% of employees in part-time work by age group — 1995



South Bohemia Unemployed (1 000)



Incomes (%) — 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
South Bohemia	45.03	12.48	23.13	15.51	1.28
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.52

Marked differences in population density within the region

South Bohemia is the least populated region of the Czech Republic. In 1995 it had a population of 700 831 and a density of population of only 62 per km². České Budějovice is the most densely populated obec in the region and houses approximately one quarter of the region's population, with 100 000 inhabitants concentrated in the town of České Budějovice itself. Approximately one third of the region's inhabitants live in just the five obce with populations of more than 20 000 inhabitants: České Budějovice, Tábor (37 000 inhabitants), Písek (30 000), Strakonice (25 000) and Jindřichův Hradec (23 000).

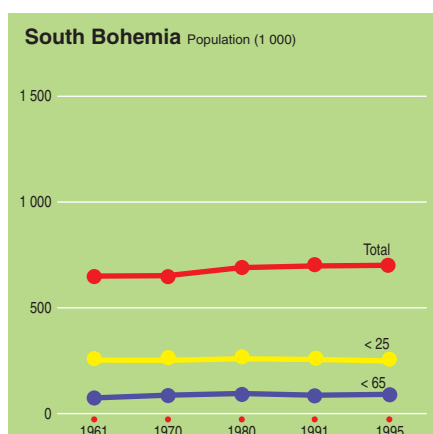
South Bohemia's rural character can be seen from the fact that only 3.3% of the

region's obce have over 5 000 inhabitants, even though more than half of the population live in these obce. On the other hand, small obce, with up to 200 inhabitants, account for 43% of the total number of obce, but are inhabited by only 15% of the region's population. There are as many as 142 obce with resident populations of less than 100, with the smallest being Závraty in the district of České Budějovice with a mere 23 people.

The average age of the region's population is relatively low when compared to the national total. Divorce and death rates are also lower, but the birth rate is higher than in other parts of the country. The 1995 figures for the region were a death rate of

11.3 per 1 000 population and a birth rate of 9.6 per 1 000.

Throughout recent times the region's population has grown steadily, both by natural increase and inward migration. The exception to this is the year 1994 which, for the first time in the region's history, witnessed a small net natural decrease — of 207 people — in the population. However, this negative phenomenon was offset by a positive migration balance with a net 799 people moving into the region.



Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
< 15	197	17.8	18.7	16.9
15–24	183	16.5	17.3	15.7
25–34	141	12.8	13.4	12.1
35–44	159	14.3	14.9	13.8
45–54	164	14.7	15.3	14.3
55–64	108	9.8	9.4	10.2
≥65	156	14.1	11.0	17.0
Total	1 107	100.0	100.0	100.0

A region of forests and peat

While South Bohemia is not particularly rich in mineral raw materials, it prides itself on large forests, mainly in the Šumava mountains and the Novohradské mountains. Wood is one of principal exported commodities of South Bohemia. The region also has wood-based industries; the furniture factory at Lišov, for example. The region's resources include many lakes and fish ponds used for fish farming and the rearing of geese and ducks.

The region has sufficient building materials, glass sands, clay and building stone. Supplies of refractory clay are found at several places, such as at Zliv, and claystone is extracted close to Bechyně. Crystalline limestone is extracted in the region too. Peat deposits in the district of Třeboň and in the valley of the River Vltava constitute most of the peat supplies of the country. Also significant are the deposits of graphite at Netolice. Diatomaceous earth, a material used in ceramics, is found close to Borovany, where there are also small deposits of anthracite.

Lake Lipno, the largest body of water in the Czech Republic, and Lake Orlík, which partially extends into Central Bohemia, provide recreational facilities and Lake Římov supplies drinking water to a substantial part of the region. Recently, the Hněvkovice reservoir was created to supply the Temelín nuclear power plant with water.

Demographic indicators

	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	7.3	8.8	7.3	6.7	5.4
Divorces	0.8	1.5	1.9	2.6	2.9
Live births	14.0	15.1	15.4	12.8	9.6
Deaths	11.1	13.3	13.2	11.9	11.3
Total increase	0.5	2.4	4.4	1.6	-0.4

Migration per 1 000 — 1995

	number	%
Immigrants, total	4 513	6.4
Emigrants, total	3 569	5.1
Internal migration		
— immigrants	3 793	7.9
— emigrants	3 504	9.4

Life expectancy at birth — 1995

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	69.56
— females	76.32

Main enterprises – South Bohemia

Main employers:	Activity
• Jitex a.s. Písek	textiles and clothing
• ZVVZ a.s. Milevsko	air-handling equipment
• Otavan a.s. Třeboň	clothing
• Vodní stavby Bohemia a.s. České Budějovice	construction
• Jihočeské mlékárny a.s. České Budějovice	dairy products
• ČZ a.s. Strakonice	manufacture of machinery
• Jitona a.s. Soběslav	furniture
• Jihočeská energetika a.s. České Budějovice	generation and distribution of electric power and heat
• SPT Telecom České Budějovice	telecommunications
• Motor Jikov a.s. České Budějovice	vehicle components and small agricultural machinery

Half of the country's fish production

Industrial production is concentrated mainly around and in the České Budějovice area, although the districts of Tábor and Strakonice also contribute significantly to the region's industrial output. Approximately one third of the region's working population is employed in these three areas. The region does not play a significant role in the industrial production of the country – its 1995 share of the total value of Czech industrial goods production amounted to only 5.2%. The only industries that have some significance in national terms are clothing, wood processing,

pulp and paper and textiles. Engineering production accounts for a quarter of industrial production in the region, a similar proportion to that of food processing.

In agriculture, the growing of cereals, oleaginous plants and fodder crops predominate, but the growing of potatoes is also of importance. The sandy and clay soils are not suitable for growing more demanding crops. The rearing of cattle and pigs dominates animal production in the region. The region generated 13% of the gross agricultural output of the country in 1995.

Composition of households — 1992

No of households:	255 271
Average per household:	
members	2.70
economically active	1.28
children not provided for	0.68
pensioners not working	0.61
other members	0.13

Fishing has a long tradition in South Bohemia. Fish lakes cover an area of 25 000 ha and more than 50% of the country's fish production comes from this region. It is also very important in national terms for the raising of ducks and geese.

The early 1980s saw the beginning of the construction of the Temelín nuclear power station which serves an area much wider than South Bohemia. Indeed, it provides for a major part of the nation's electrical energy needs.

Tourism is also an industry important to South Bohemia's economy both in summer and in winter.

Environment — 1995

	South Bohemia	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	3.33	100.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	90.02	38.07
Air protection	8.69	54.51
Waste management	1.29	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	South Bohemia	Czech Republic
Industry	93	100
Construction	98	109
Agriculture and fishing	102	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	87	88
Hotels and restaurants	93	89
Transport	95	101

The least damaged environment of all the regions

The environment in South Bohemia is among the least damaged of the regions of the Czech Republic. Despite the presence of many industrial and agricultural polluters, the region has never undergone large-scale industrial development and the environment has, as a consequence, been spared from some of the harmful effects experienced in other more industrial regions.

In 1991 the 690 km², National Park of the Šumava mountains was set up in order to protect and preserve the natural environment of the area. The existence of protected landscape areas demonstrate the importance placed on the protection of nature in the region. These protected areas include the 983 km², Šumava mountains, the 700 km², Třeboň (which is also a Unesco biosphere reserve), the forest of Blansko (212 km²), 239 small protected

natural areas and a number of protected natural features. Historic sites are also protected, notably the central parts of the towns of České Budějovice, Český Krumlov (the entire town is classified as a protected historic site by Unesco), Jindřichův Hradec, Pelhřimov, Prachovice, Slavonice, Tábor and Třeboň.

**Agriculture
South Bohemia**

Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994	
— Cereals	17.7
— Milk	20.9
— Cattle for slaughter, total	32.5
— Animal products, total	60.2
Livestock (1 March 1995)	
— Bovine animals	161 985
— Pigs	494 407
Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture	
— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	2 931

**Number of pupils — 1995–96
South Bohemian**

	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	24.1	
Primary	69.8	48.7
Secondary (general)	24.8	60.2
Secondary (vocational)	20.4	40.5
Tertiary study	4.2	59.8
Total	143.3	

Dense rail and road networks

South Bohemia is an area with an extensive road and rail transport network. The region's roads that lead towards the border crossings are some of the busiest in the Czech Republic.

The region has more national-class roads per 1 000 inhabitants (10.2 km in 1995) and per 1 000 passenger cars (30.9) than any of the other Czech regions. South Bohemia also takes the honours by a clear

margin for the number of tractors; there were 46.5 tractors in every 1 000 vehicles in the region in 1995 — well above the 29.7 national average.

Bus connections in the region serve 80 % of settlements and are relied on particularly where there are no railways or where the stations are difficult to get to for inhabitants in remote places. However, the number of both local and long-distance bus routes are being cut due to the low profitability of passenger transport.

The towns of České Budějovice, Tábor, Veselí nad Lužnicí and Číčenice are important railway junctions. Some 263 localities have railway stations or halts. The rail network is dense, which is evident from the fact that the inhabitants of 83 % of settlements are less than 11 km away from a railway station. Certain curiosities include the Kubova Hut railway station; the highest in central Europe, and the remnants of a railway line designed for horse-drawn carriages, constructed between 1825 and 1832 to connect the towns of České Budějovice and Linz in Austria.

Transport and communications — 1995

	South Bohemia	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	52.2	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	328.4	301.7
Km of national road per 1 000 cars	30.9	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population	10.2	5.4
Telephone density (lines per 1 000 population)	228	232

**% of population connected to public water supply
and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995**

South Bohemia	Total
Water	89.7
Sewerage	81.4
Waste water	85.5

ZÁPADOČESKÝ

West Bohemia (Západočeský) borders Germany and is the second smallest Czech region, covering an area of 10 875 km². A high proportion (40 %) of the region is covered by forest, giving West Bohemia second place in terms of the most forested regions and it is third in terms of the proportions of meadows and pastures. It has the smallest area of arable land after North Bohemia, with the exception of the special case of Prague, but in relative terms has the least proportion of arable land of all, with just 31.1 % of its land area in 1995 under crops.

The frontier with Germany runs along the western part of the Šumava mountains, the Český les mountains and the 'ore mountains'. Šumava is actually the second highest mountain range of the Czech Republic, after the Krkonoše (giant mountains), with Mount Šumná (1 368 m) and Mount Mokrá (1 369 m) the highest peaks of the region. The lowest point of the region (250 m) is the River Berounka in the vicinity of Čilá where the river leaves the district of Rokycany to enter the district of Rakovník in Central Bohemia.

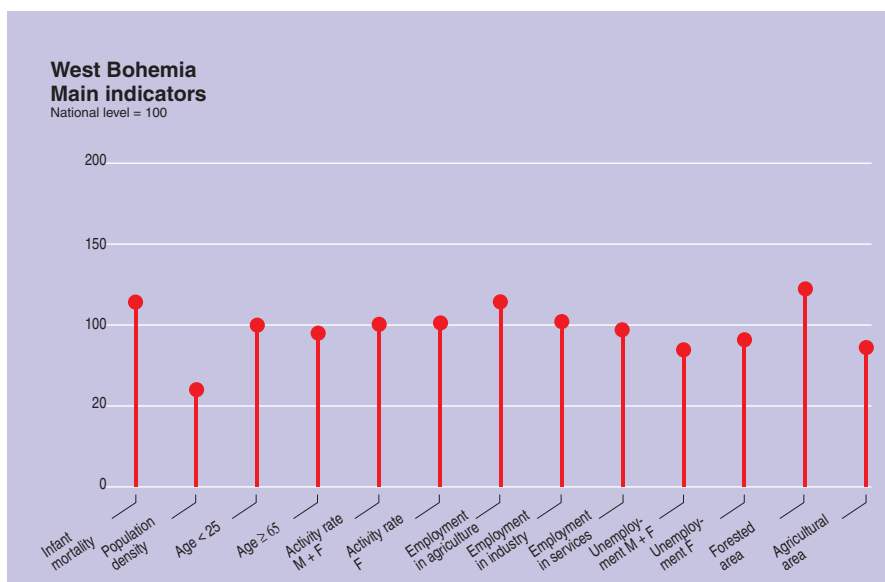
Most of the rivers of West Bohemia originate in the region and so only their upper stretches flow through it. In the centre of the region, the River Berounka, with its tributaries Mže, Radbuza, Úhlava and Úslava, feeds into the River Vltava. The River Otava in the south and the River Ohře in the north flow through the region. There are several lakes in the region, the largest of which are the Černé jezero (Black Lake) with a 17.6 ha surface area, and the Čertovo jezero (Devil's Lake) at 10 ha.

The region is divided into 10 districts with a total of 636 local administrative units (obce).

Karlova University, one of the country's foremost institutions of higher education, has one of its faculties of medicine in the region. In 1991 the University of West Bohemia came into being through a merger of the Engineering and Electrical Technology University and the Teacher's College in Plzeň. In 1995 a total of 7 672 students attended the universities of West Bohemia.



The town of Železná Ruda at the foot of the Bohemian Forest



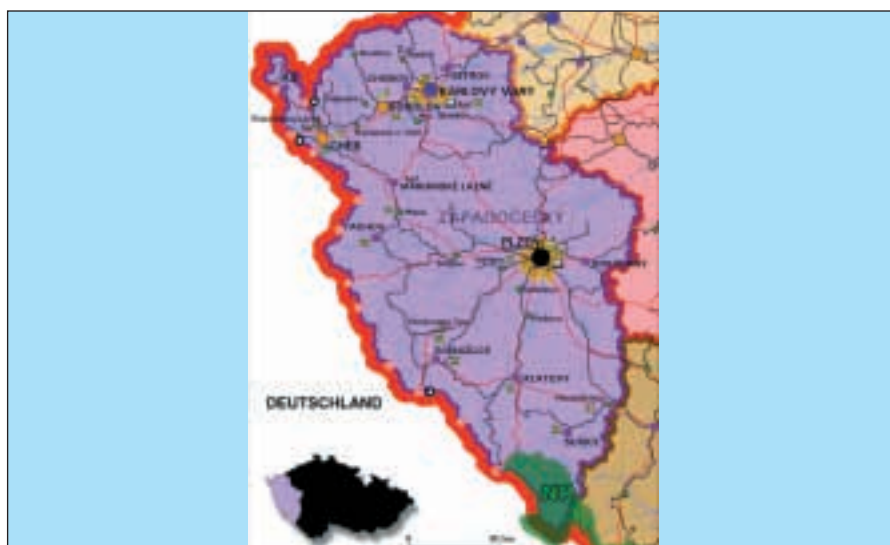
Advantages of the border location

The large mineral raw material deposits, particularly in the areas around Plzeň and Sokolov, are a source of wealth for the West Bohemia region, which also boasts mineral water and healing springs in the districts of Karlovy Vary, Cheb, Sokolov, and Tachov.

Some significant historic monuments, spas (Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, Františkovy Lázně, etc.) and the famous Pilsen beer attract increasing numbers of tourists to the region. The region has low unemployment - the third lowest rate after Prague and South Bohemia - partly thanks to the vicinity of the border with Germany, which promotes the development of economic cooperation and tourism, stimulates

the development of small and medium-sized businesses, and gives the opportunity to work abroad.

However, the sources of wealth are also often sources of pollution and the region's environment is deteriorating, especially in the areas of Plzeň and Sokolov, where there is extensive mining, and around the most frequented border crossings (namely Rozvadov and Česká Kubice). There is also a high crime rate, which has been linked to the opening of the borders. Crime is especially a problem in the densely populated areas.



Which regions are similar to Západočeský?

Population:

860 000 inhabitants
Norra Mellansverige (S)
Finistère (F)

Population density:

79 inhabitants per km²
Nordjyllands amt (DK)
Côtes-d'Armor (F)
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)

Land use:

47 % agriculture
Centre-Est (F)
Caras-Severin (RO)

Euroregions

In 1992, the Euroregion known as 'Egrensis' was registered as a voluntary association, embracing 27 obce in the district of Cheb in West Bohemia. On the German side it includes the districts of Greiz, Saarle-Orla, Goltschalkreis, Aue, Scharzenberg, Elsterkreis, the town of Plauen, the districts of Hof, Kulmbach, Wunsiedel, Tirschenreuth, Bayereuth, Neustadt a.d.w., Amberg-Sulzbach, the towns of Weisen, Hof, Bayereuth, Amberg and part of the district of Schwandorf.

The year 1993 saw the establishment of the Euroregion Šumava-Bavorský les-Mühlviertel. This Euroregion includes the area of the Šumava mountains in the south-west of Bohemia and the obce of the district of Domažlice from West Bohemia.

There are 16 road border crossings and five rail border crossings between West Bohemia and Germany. The most frequented of the road border crossings is that at Rozvadov-Waidhaus which recorded 6 957 792 people entering the Czech Republic in 1995 and 6 836 492 leaving.

There was also an imbalance in the number of cars entering and leaving at this point; 2 177 019 passenger cars entered and 2 133 217 left. The picture is reverse for commercial vehicles with 110 423 entering but 119 770 commercial vehicles leaving.

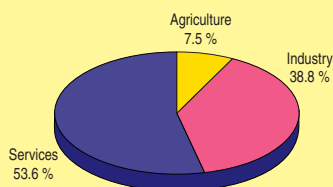
The busiest railway border crossing in terms of the number of passengers is that at Česká Kubice-Furth im Wald; 135 500 people entered the Czech Republic at this point by train in 1995 and 143 859 left.

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active (1)		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
	1995			1995	abs.	%	%
Domažlice	114 015	58 712	58 462	51	30 898	23.7	32.7
Cheb	93 270	87 098	87 746	94	47 210	10.7	28.3
Karlovy Vary	162 799	122 620	122 783	75	67 031	10.0	32.4
Klatovy	193 954	89 716	89 202	46	45 953	23.3	30.1
Plzeň - město	12 474	172 935	171 612	1 378	93 223	2.7	38.3
Plzeň - jih	107 987	68 080	67 312	62	35 293	22.1	33.8
Plzeň - sever	132 307	72 629	72 400	55	38 120	19.6	40.6
Rokycany	57 500	46 043	45 949	80	23 751	14.2	42.2
Sokolov	75 365	92 838	94 565	126	51 669	5.4	52.4
Tachov	137 866	50 134	51 135	37	27 117	24.0	25.4
West Bohemia	1 087 537	860 805	861 166	79	460 265	15.6	35.6
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5 421 102	11.6	37.3

(1) 1991 Housing and Population Census.

CZECH REPUBLIC

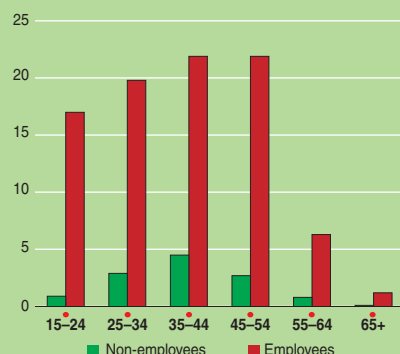
West Bohemia
Structure of employment by sector (%)



West Bohemia
Structure of employment by sex (%)



West Bohemia
Structure of employment by age group (%)



Employment boosted by increased tourism

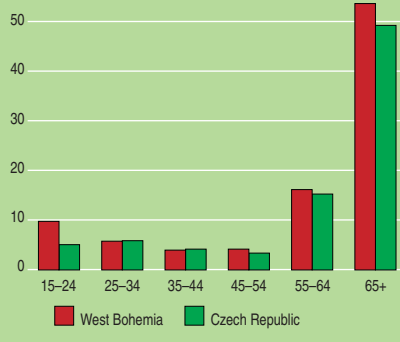
The rate of general unemployment stood at 2.4 % in the spring of 1996, which is 0.8 percentage points below the national average. Registered unemployment amounted to 2.3 % in December 1995. However, these figures mask the considerable differences that exist in different parts of the region.

Registered unemployment is lowest in the districts of Plzeň-jih (0.8 % in December 1995) and Domažlice (1.1 %). Many jobs in the areas of handicraft production and various services, including public catering and accommodation, have been created with the new possibilities for business activities after 1989. This was boosted by the dramatic expansion of tourism in these districts.

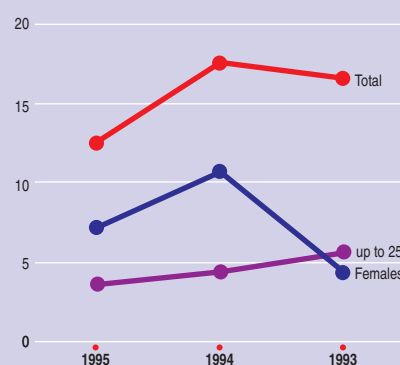
The highest rates of unemployment are recorded in the districts of Sokolov, as a result of a reduced level of activity in the mining industry located there, and Tachov where the effects of the restructuring of agriculture have translated into a relatively high jobless total. Seasonal effects exaggerate the problem of unemployment in the agricultural and tourist areas further.

Statistical returns from medium and large-sized companies in 1995 showed West Bohemia to have the lowest proportion of jobs in industry and construction of all the Czech regions but Prague. However, with 44.7 % of jobs being in industry and construction, this is still a very significant sector for employment in West Bohemia. The same source also showed the importance of tourism in West Bohemia; although accounting for only 0.8 % of the region's jobs by this measure (the inclusion of employment by small businesses would probably result in a higher proportion), this was a percentage well above the rate in other regions, again with the exception of Prague.

West Bohemia
% of employees in part-time work by age group — 1995



West Bohemia Unemployed (1 000)



Incomes (%) — 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
West Bohemia	52.69	6.61	22.66	15.19	1.25
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.52

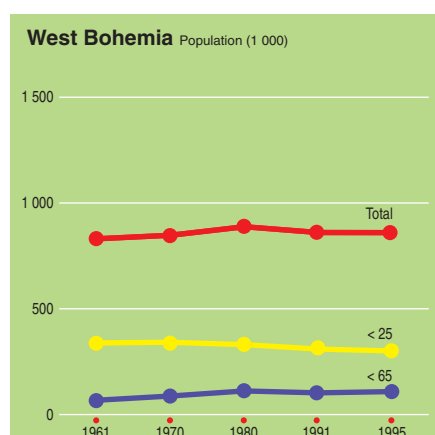
Low population density

The total population of West Bohemia at the end of 1995 was 860 496, just 8.3 % of the national total. The average population density of the region was 79 people per km², which makes it one of the lowest in the country. Tachov is the district with the lowest population density (37 inhabitants per km²) not only in the region but in the whole of the country.

The settlement structure of the region is considerably fragmented due to the sparse population in the border areas. The largest

proportion of the region's population is concentrated in just 13 obce, all having more than 10 000 inhabitants. The town of Plzeň alone, with its almost 172 000 inhabitants, accounts for 20 % of the region's population. The town of Karlovy Vary is the second largest, but with a population of 56 000 is much smaller than Plzeň. Cheb is the third largest (32 000) and the towns of Sokolov, with a population of 26 000, and Klatovy (23 000), also exceed the 20 000 mark. As many as 90 obce have less than 100 inhabitants, the smallest being Čilá in the district of Rokycany with a population of just 24.

The average age in West Bohemia in 1995 was 37.1 — only 0.2 % below the national average. The region experiences a steady natural population decrease and it is only due to the net increase by migration that the number of inhabitants remains roughly unchanged from one year to the next. The region's death rate is 11.3 per 1 000 inhabitants and the birth rate 9.4 per 1 000, both roughly the same as the national average.



Population by age – 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
< 15	157	18.2	19.1	17.4
15–24	144	16.7	17.4	16.0
25–34	115	13.3	14.0	12.7
35–44	126	14.6	15.1	14.1
45–54	125	14.5	14.8	14.3
55–64	86	9.9	9.6	10.2
≥65	109	12.7	10.0	15.2
Total	861	100.0	100.0	100.0

From mining to mineral waters

There are some significant mineral and natural resources on the region's territory, concentrated above all in the districts of Plzeň and Sokolov. Deposits of brick-clay and kaolin are found in the basin of Plzeň, and extensive reserves of brown coal and substantial deposits of kaolin and ceramic clay can be found in the basins of Sokolov and Cheb. Brick-clay, limestone, basalt and gravel sand as well as beds of various metal and uranium ores are scattered throughout the region.

Another valuable resource is the reserves of mineral waters in the districts of Karlovy Vary, Cheb, Sokolov and Tachov, some of which are claimed to have healing properties.

Spas have a long tradition in West Bohemia based on the numerous mineral springs. The most renowned of the spas are Karlovy Vary and Mariánské Lázně, at which digestive system diseases, diseases of the nervous system and disturbances of the metabolic system are treated. The

Františkovy Lázně spa treats diseases of the circulatory system, female illnesses, and diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue, and Jáchymov uses its thermal and radioactive baths and radiation to treat diseases of the joints, the metabolism, nerves and also vascular diseases. There are some other prominent spas in the area too, such as Lázně Kynžvart, Lázně Kyselka, Konstantinovy Lázně.

Demographic indicators					
	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	7.6	9.4	8.3	7.1	5.4
Divorces	1.5	2.4	3.2	3.5	3.4
Live births	14.9	15.6	14.8	12.4	9.4
Deaths	9.3	12.1	12.3	11.8	11.3
Total increase	6.8	1.4	0.1	0.3	-1.5

Migration per 1 000 — 1995

	number	%
Immigrants, total	4 366	5.1
Emigrants, total	3 994	4.6
Internal migration		
— immigrants	3 618	4.2
— emigrants	3 918	4.5

Life expectancy at birth – 1995

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	69.06
— females	75.47

CZECH REPUBLIC

Main enterprises – West Bohemia

Main employers:	Activity
• Sokolovská uhelná	lignite mining and manufacture of briquettes
• Karlovarský porcelán	china products
• ZPČ keramické závody Horní Bříza	wall and floor tiles
• Plzeňský Prazdroj	brewing
• Škoda s.r.o. Instav	construction
• Armabeton a.s.	building and civil engineering
• Zetes a.s. Plzeň	building and civil engineering
• Meclov zem a.s.	agricultural production
• Zemědělské družstvo Puclice	agricultural production
• Západočeské konzumní družstvo Plzeň	retailing

Composition of households — 1992

No of households:	328 411
Average per household:	
members	2.58
economically active	1.20
children not provided for	0.66
pensioners not working	0.57
other members	0.15

A region with a mixed economy

West Bohemia is a region of industry and agriculture. A large part of the working population is engaged in engineering and construction activities. Škoda Plzeň, the largest heavy engineering works of the country, is located in the region making electrical locomotives, trolley-buses, and components for nuclear power stations. Recently its products have been penetrating into western markets. Another important industrial area is that around Sokolov where mining and the processing of brown coal prevail and electric power is generated for the entire region. The area is also known for the mining and processing of

kaolin and for the manufacturing of tiles and industrial china. One of the region's internationally known products is the manufacture of first-rate crystal glass. In the district of Cheb, the production of wool yarn, lace and curtains is significant. West Bohemia also holds a leading position in beer brewing with the Plzeň breweries. Dairy products for the whole region are mainly supplied from the dairies in the towns of Klatovy and Stříbro.

The agriculture of the region concentrates mainly on livestock rearing. As far as crop production is concerned, potatoes are the main output and are grown primarily in the districts of Klatovy, Plzeň-jih and Plzeň-sever.

Tourism is an important industry to West Bohemia, and one that has experienced a boom in the 1990s. Accommodation services are provided by a large network of establishments in the region; in 1995 there were about 80 hotels, motels and hotels (floating hotels), 34 boarding houses, 38 tourist hostels and 22 camp sites in the region. The number of tourists staying overnight exceeded 526 000, of which more than a half were from abroad.

Environment — 1995

	West Bohemia	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	4.55	100.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	46.44	49.49
Air protection	49.49	54.51
Waste management	4.07	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	West Bohemia	Czech Republic
Industry	100	100
Construction	99	109
Agriculture and fishing	99	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	92	88
Hotels and restaurants	87	89
Transport	96	101

Environmental problems remain an issue

The region of West Bohemia is facing considerable problems with the quality of the environment, especially in the areas of Plzeň and Sokolov. In the district of Sokolov the main polluters, discharging both solid and gaseous substances, are the coal-burning power stations and the extensive opencast mining activities which involve moving huge amounts of overburden material. It was not until recently that

due attention was given to the reforestation and land reclamation in the areas devastated by the opencast mining of coal. The worst polluters also cause some degradation of the environment in neighbouring districts, thereby affecting renowned spas such as Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně and Františkovy Lázně. The protected landscape area of the Slavkov Forest also suffers some effects.

Heavy motor traffic adversely affects the environment, particularly in the Plzeň agglomeration and in the vicinity of the main road routes. Many hopes are pinned on the completion of the motorway bypass of Plzeň, the main city of the region, which should improve the local environment.

**Agriculture
West Bohemia**

Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994

— Cereals	18.0
— Milk	20.6
— Cattle for slaughter, total	31.9
— Animal products, total	60.2

Livestock (1 March 1995)

— Bovine animals	118 619
— Pigs	374 127

Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture

— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	24 904
	1 741

**Number of pupils — 1995–96
West Bohemia**

	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	26.9	
Primary	83.3	48.8
Secondary (general)	27.7	62.1
Secondary (vocational)	22.0	42.3
Tertiary study	6.7	40.0
Total	166.6	

Transport links to western Europe

The significance of the Class I roads in the transport network has grown considerably with the increasing trade and travel to and from Germany and other western European countries. The motorway connection between Plzeň and Prague is especially important. Another motorway is under construction from Plzeň to Rozvadov which will make a major contribution to improving the connections between western Europe and the other regions of the Czech Republic. When com-

pleted it will speed up traffic and reduce the environmental burden, as the traffic presently routed through the towns and villages will be diverted to it. Unfortunately, the construction of this project is hindered by problems with the motorway by-pass around the city of Plzeň.

An extensive railway network connects the towns and villages of the region. A number of express trains use the region's rail network on their way to and from the countries of western Europe. The main railway junction is at Plzeň through which all important domestic and international lines

pass, although international transport from the Czech Republic to the west is mainly routed via the railway junction at the town of Cheb. Since 1990, some railway connections to Germany have been re-established.

Freight rail transport, which carries brown coal from the Sokolov coal basin to the interior of the country, is also worthy of a mention. The lines are heavily used to supply coal-fired power stations, power and heat (co-generation) plants, chemical works, and also to satisfy Prague's needs for coal.

Transport and communications — 1995

	West Bohemia	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	56.4	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	319.8	301.7
Km of national road per 1 000 cars	25.7	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population	8.2	5.4
Telephone density (lines per 1 000 population)	230	232

% of population connected to public water supply and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995
West Bohemia

	Total
Water	86.3
Sewerage	78.2
Waste water	98.8

SEVEROČESKÝ

The region of North Bohemia (Severočeský) lies in the north-west of the Czech Republic, bordering Germany and Poland. Its expanse of 7 799 km², covering only 9.9% of the country, makes it the smallest region of the Czech Republic with the exception of Prague. Approximately 60% of the country's hop gardens are found in this region. A third of the area of North Bohemia is arable land, with another third covered by forest.

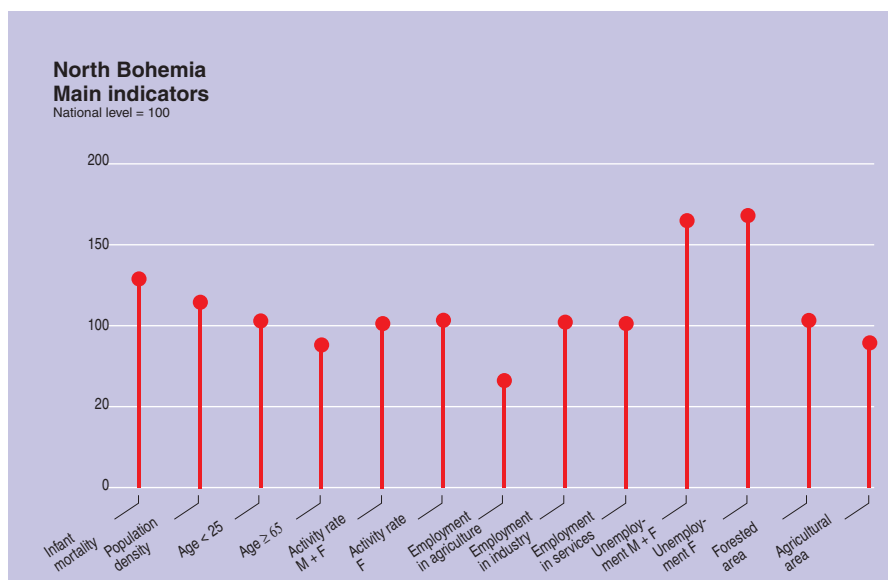
In the north and north-west, the region is enclosed by the Krušné hory (Ore Mountains), the Lužice and the Jizera mountains. The plains in the south-east are divided by the valley of the River Labe (the Elbe), from which the Central Bohemian mountains rise. The highest peak in the region is Mount Klínovec (1 244 m) in the Krušné hory; the lowest point (123 m) – and also the lowest point of the Czech Republic – is at Hřensko in the district of Děčín where the River Labe leaves the country to flow towards the North Sea. Most of North Bohemia lies in the Labe river basin but water from the northern part of the region is drained via the River Lužická Nisa into the Baltic Sea.

The River Labe is the most important water route of the Czech Republic and, together with the River Vltava, connects central, east and north Bohemian communities. It makes it possible to transport goods as far as Hamburg and thus to the North Sea. The Rivers Ohře and Bílina wind through the west of the region and the River Ploučnice runs through the towns of Česká Lípa and Děčín. The source of the River Jizera is a spring in the north-east of the region.

North Bohemia prides itself on the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně, with its College of Education, the Faculty of Social Economics and the Faculty of the Environment. The town of Liberec has the Engineering and Textile University. The Mining University has some departments operating in Most and the Czech University of Technology has departments in Děčín.



The town of Teplice



An industrial region with high unemployment and environmental problems

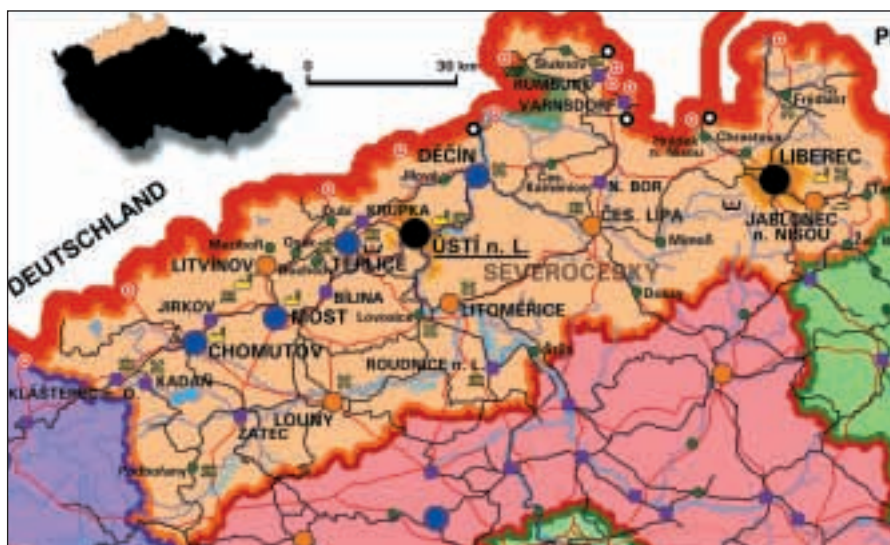
The region benefits economically from its large mineral deposits, with brown coal, ores, sands and building stone being particularly important. It has the densest railway network of the country and has a navigable waterway (the River Labe) connecting the Czech Republic to the North Sea at the port of Hamburg.

Despite its mainly industrial character, North Bohemia has some significant cultural and historic monuments and some tourist areas – primarily the ore mountains and the Labe sandstones.

However, the region also suffers the highest rate of unemployment in the country and there is particularly high unemployment of the Gypsy population in some districts.

Much of the landscape of the region has been devastated as a result of the open-cast mining with its accompanying waste dumps, working shafts and dust nuisance. Air quality is not good and pollution resulting from emissions is high.

The region's crime rate is also high in all categories of criminal activity, especially in the densely populated areas.



Which regions are similar to Severočeský?

Area:
7 800 km²
Friuli-Venezia Giulia (I)
Vaasan rannikkoseutu (FIN)

Age structure:
36–38 % under 25
Mures (RO)
Campania (I)

Employment structure:
4.4 % in agriculture
Limburg (NL)
Toscana (I)
Brandenburg (D)

Involvement in three Euroregions

The Euroregion of Nisa was established in 1992 as the regional association of communities of the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland. The members of the association are 124 obce of the districts of Liberec, Děčín, Jablonec nad Nisou, Česká Lípa and Semily on the Bohemian side, part of Saxony in Germany, and the Polish region of Jelenia Góra.

Also in 1992, the Labe–Elbe Euroregion was set up to include 184 obce of the districts of Litoměřice, Teplice, Ústí nad Labem and part of the district of Děčín in Bohemia, the German town and district of Dresden and five other German districts.

A third Euroregion involving communities from North Bohemia was also set up in 1992; that of the 'ore mountains', which links 72 obce of the four Bohemian districts of Chomutov, Most, Louny and Teplice) with four German districts of Saxony.

There are 10 road border crossings in North Bohemia; one with Poland and nine with Germany, and four rail connections (one with Poland and three with Germany).

The most frequented North Bohemian road border crossing is that between Cínovec in the Czech Republic and Zinnwald in

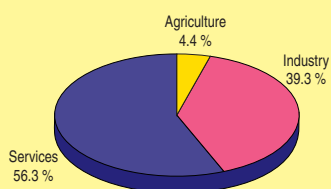
Germany which recorded over 3.64 million people and 1.14 million cars entering the country in 1995, with only 3.40 million people and 1.08 million cars leaving. The picture for commercial vehicles was rather different, with more leaving the country at this crossing (over 92 000) than entering (86 500).

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active (1)		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
	1995			1995	abs.	%	%
Česká Lípa	113 694	102 523	104 604	92	54 998	10.8	45.4
Děčín	90 921	133 591	133 972	147	71 851	7.0	44.0
Chomutov	93 526	124 114	125 129	134	67 079	8.4	44.5
Jablonec n. Nisou	40 222	88 200	88 836	221	49 037	7.0	53.0
Liberec	92 485	159 212	159 613	173	87 339	8.3	43.0
Litoměřice	103 213	113 820	114 036	110	59 919	15.8	33.0
Louny	111 790	86 678	86 189	77	45 390	20.9	25.8
Most	46 716	120 148	120 165	257	64 855	3.6	50.0
Teplice	46 917	127 855	127 632	272	69 128	4.6	43.0
Ústí nad Labem	40 443	118 390	118 505	293	64 864	3.5	33.3
North Bohemia	779 926	1 174 531	1 178 681	151	634 460	9.0	41.5
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5 421 102	11.6	37.3

(1) 1991 Housing and Population Census

CZECH REPUBLIC

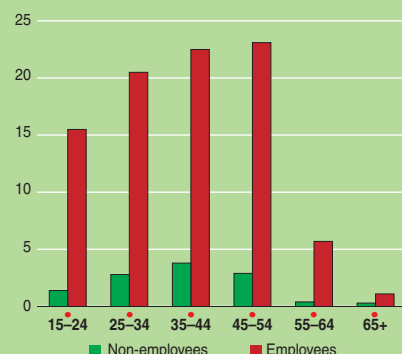
North Bohemia
Structure of employment by sector (%)



North Bohemia
Structure of employment by sex (%)



North Bohemia
Structure of employment by age group (%)



Unemployment rates remain high

The rate of general unemployment recorded by the labour force survey in the spring of 1996 was 7.0 %, which was the highest figure of all the regions, exceeding the national average by 3.8 percentage points. In the period from spring 1993 to spring 1996, the number of unemployed grew by 18 300 people — an increase of 75.9 %. The two regions of North Bohemia and North Moravia combined accounted for almost half of the country's unemployed in spring 1996. However, there are considerable variations between different areas in the region. Registered unemployment at the end of December 1995 was 5.1 %.

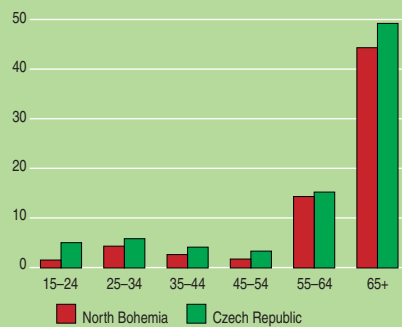
The structural transformation of industry and agriculture, together with the reduction of brown coal mining activities, has had a serious negative impact on employment in the coal basin districts of Chomutov, Most and Teplice, in the mostly agricultural district of Louny and in the district of Děčín. These districts have some of the highest unemployment rates in the Czech Republic. In the district of Liberec, the unemployment levels are aggravated particularly by the restructuring of agriculture which led to the shedding of labour,

coupled with the poor transport services which make the option of commuting to find a job in another area very difficult.

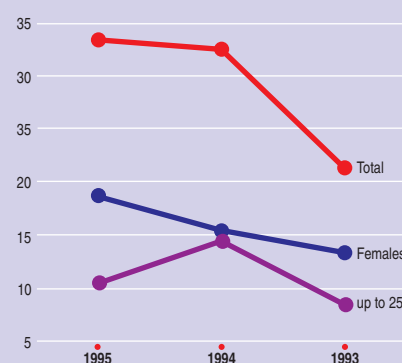
Gypsies, who make up a large proportion of the population in some districts, are particularly affected by unemployment. In the district of Žatec, for instance, Gypsies account for about 23 % of the registered unemployed.

The autumn 1995 labour force survey confirmed the predominance of industry in the region, with an above-average 39.3 % of the labour force employed in industry (including construction) and only 4.4 % — the lowest rate in the Czech Republic after Prague — in agriculture. Statistical returns from companies at the end of 1995 showed an even more extreme position with North Bohemia equalling North Moravia as the regions with the highest proportion of jobs in industry and construction (52.4 %), although it should be noted that these returns exclude small businesses.

North Bohemia
% of employees in part-time work by age group — 1995



North Bohemia Unemployed (1 000)



Incomes (%) — 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
North Bohemia	55.14	7.40	21.08	13.45	1.60
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.52

The region with the youngest population in the country

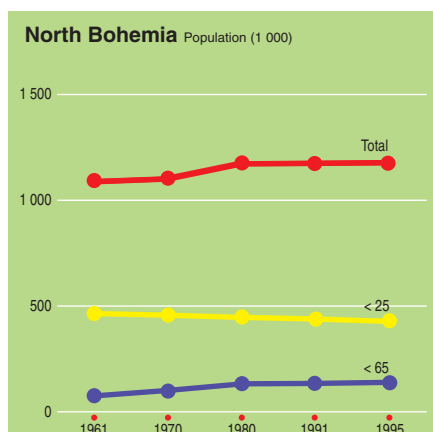
North Bohemia is divided into 10 districts with a total of 503 obce. The 1995 end of year population of 1 178 208 inhabitants was 11.4 % of the Czech Republic's total, and gave an average density of 151 inhabitants per km² for the region, a density only exceeded in Prague and North Moravia. Most of the population is concentrated in the industrial belt along the Krušné hory mountains stretching from the town of Děčín to that of Chomutov. The population density in this belt reaches 250 inhabitants per km².

A high proportion of the region's residents live in urban areas; 48 % of the population live in the main towns of each district, and a total of 81 % live in all the region's 67 towns and cities. The largest cities are Liberec (with 101 000 inhabitants) and Ústí nad Labem (97 000). Four other cities exceeded the 50 000 population level, with Most having 71 000 inhabitants, Děčín 54 000, Teplice 53 000 and Chomutov 52 000. Twenty-one towns have a population over 10 000 and, in contrast, 33 obce have less than 100. The smallest obec, with only 27 inhabitants, is Staňkovice in the district of Litoměřice.

North Bohemia has the second youngest population in the Czech Republic after

North Moravia with an average age at the end of 1995 of 36.3. This also helps explain the region's high birth rate the highest in the Czech Republic at 9.9 live births per 1 000 population — and one of the highest annual rates of marriages (5.4 in 1995 per 1 000 inhabitants). However, it has the highest infant and neonatal mortality rates (10.0 and 6.2 per 1 000 live births, respectively) and one of the highest divorce rates per 1 000 inhabitants.

North Bohemia has a higher number of Slovakian and German residents than any other region in the Czech Republic, with Slovaks making up 5 % of the population and Germans 1.6 %.



Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
< 15	223	18.9	19.9	18.0
15–24	205	17.4	18.2	16.7
25–34	157	13.3	13.9	12.8
35–44	169	14.4	14.8	14.0
45–54	177	15.0	15.4	14.7
55–64	107	9.1	8.8	9.3
≥65	140	11.9	9.1	14.6
Total	1 178	100.0	100.0	100.0

Extensive brown coal deposits

The economic significance of the region is determined by its abundant mineral deposits, and particularly by its extensive brown coal deposits in the districts of Chomutov, Most, Teplice and Ústí nad Labem, which are easily accessible from the surface. There are large deposits of uranium ore in the district of Česká Lípa, the mining of which is on the decline due to low demand. Deposits of tin-tungsten

and fluorite-barytes ores are also found in the region and quality glass and foundry sands and building stone play an important role too.

There are also many spas in North Bohemia, such as the one at Teplice where diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue are treated, at Bílina where diseases of the connective tissue and disorders of the digestive system are treated, at Dubí specialising in mental disorders and the diseases of the nervous

system, and at Libverda for the treatment of heart diseases and the diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue.

Demographic indicators					
	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	8.5	11.0	8.0	7.6	5.4
Divorces	2.1	3.2	3.8	3.8	3.4
Live births	14.1	16.9	15.6	13.0	9.9
Deaths	8.7	11.4	12.3	11.8	11.0
Total increase	4.3	1.8	2.9	0.4	0.3

Migration per 1 000 — 1995

	number	%
Immigrants, total	7 436	6.3
Emigrants, total	5 830	4.9
Internal migration		
— immigrants	5 905	5.0
— emigrants	5 772	4.9

Life expectancy at birth 1995

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	67.93
— females	74.80

CZECH REPUBLIC

Main enterprises — North Bohemia

Main employers:	Activity
• Severočeské doly a.s. Chomutov	coal mining
• Mostecká uhelná společnost a.s.	coal mining
• Chemapol Group Litvínov a.s.	oil refining
• Spolek pro chemickou a hutní výrobu a.s. Ústí nad Labem	chemicals and metals
• Liaz Jablonec	manufacture of vehicles
• SEPAP Štětí a.s.	paper and paper products
• Crystalex a.s. Nový Bor	glass products
• Precioza Jablonec	artificial jewellery
• Textilana Liberec a.s.	textiles
• Setuza a.s. Ústí nad Labem	vegetable fats, oils, and soap
• Československá plavba labská a.s.	river transport

Composition of households — 1992

No of households:	433 107
Average per household:	
members	2.68
economically active	1.31
children not provided for	0.73
pensioners not working	0.50
other members	0.14

Fuel and energy base of the Czech Republic

North Bohemia is a region whose economy is dominated by industry. The mining of brown coal and the generation of electric power, primarily in the districts of Chomutov, Most and Teplice, gives it an unrivalled position in the Czech Republic as a supplier of fuel and energy. The region is also important for its chemical industry (mainly in the districts of Ústí nad Labem, Most and Litoměřice), the processing of crude oil (in the district of Most), and the textile industry (in the northern part of the

region). Glass, artificial jewellery, engineering and pulp and paper industries are also prominent in the north.

Agriculture is concentrated primarily in the districts of Litoměřice and Louny, where the main crops are cereals, fodder crops, oleaginous plants, sugar beet, vegetables and fruits. Louny is the largest hop growing district. Indeed, hop production is the most prominent agricultural activity with 56.6% of the national total being produced in the region. There is a long tradition of growing vines and wine making around Litoměřice and, in the district of

Most, land on areas around the former mines has recently been reclaimed for this purpose. Animal production concentrates on cattle and pig breeding, and agriculture provides the base for the highly developed food processing and animal fat industries.

Environment — 1995

	North Bohemia	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	38.41	100.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	18.28	38.07
Air protection	71.36	54.51
Waste management	10.36	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	North Bohemia	Czech Republic
Industry	101	100
Construction	95	109
Agriculture and fishing	101	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	96	88
Hotels and restaurants	77	89
Transport	94	101

Devastation caused by opencast mining

The highly developed opencast mining of brown coal, the energy industry with its coal-fired power stations and the region's chemical and manufacturing industries all adversely affect the environment, particularly in the basin below the 'ore mountains'. Opencast mining in large areas of the districts of Most, Chomutov, Teplice and Ústí nad Labem has changed the original character of the region to such an extent that several dozens of communities were even forced to move. In fact, the district town of

Most had to be reconstructed on a new site a few kilometres away as a result of opencast mining. Even the Gothic church of Most, built between 1517 and 1549, was moved a distance of 841 m in 1975 because of the mining activities.

The air in North Bohemia is heavily polluted, especially with sulphur dioxide. Emissions of this in the region account for more than 45% of the national total. The polluted air directly affects the region's

forests, 80% of which have been damaged. The rivers in the region are heavily polluted, too, as more than 30% of waste water goes untreated.

Four protected landscape areas — the České Středohoří mountain range, the Jizera mountains, the sand formation of Labské Pískovce and the Lužice mountains, can be found in this region.

Agriculture	
North Bohemia	
Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994	
— Cereals	15.2
— Milk	12.9
— Cattle for slaughter, total	25.0
— Animal products, total	49.9
Livestock (1 March 1995)	
— Bovine animals	58 073
— Pigs	257 024
Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture	
— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	15 283
	2 061

Number of pupils – 1995-96		
North Bohemia		
	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	39.2	
Primary	116.5	49.0
Secondary (general)	38.8	61.4
Secondary (vocational)	32.4	41.0
Tertiary study	7.4	53.3
Total	234.3	

Freight transport by river

North Bohemia is covered by a dense network of roads and railways, corresponding well to the economic needs of the region, with its high population density and intensive contacts with the neighbouring countries. However, roads and railways in the coal basin and its surroundings are overburdened.

A significant motorway (the E55), which connects the south and north of Europe, passes through the districts of Teplice and Litoměřice. Another significant route is the road from West Bohemia along the 'ore

mountains' passing through the town of Děčín to the northern parts of the district of Liberec. The main road connecting Germany via the towns of Chomutov and Louny to Prague and the motorway connecting Prague with the town of Liberec are also of importance.

The railway network of North Bohemia is the densest in the country. Main railway lines include international lines from Germany through the towns of Děčín and Ústí nad Labem to Prague, lines from West Bohemia via the towns of Chomutov, Most, and Teplice to the town of Ústí nad Labem, and the Chomutov–Prague line.

The most important ports on the River Labe, which provides a navigable route to the North Sea, are found in the towns of Ústí nad Labem and Děčín. The significance of the River Labe as an artery for freight transport in Bohemia and, above all, for the transport of coal from the North Bohemian coal basin to coal-fired power stations in central and northern Bohemia, is all the more important because of the environmentally friendly nature of this means of transport.

Transport and communications –1995		
	North Bohemia	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	59.5	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	291.0	301.7
Km of national roads per 1 000 cars	17.5	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population	5.1	5.4
Telephone density (lines per 1000 population)	192	232

% of population connected to public water supply and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995	
North Bohemia	
	Total
Water	90.4
Sewerage	73.5
Waste water	74.6

VÝCHODOČESKÝ

East Bohemia (Východočeský) lies in the north-east of the Czech Republic, has a border with Poland and is the only Czech region to border five other regions. It covers an area of 11 240 km², — neither large nor small in relation to the other Czech regions — and has 14.3 % of the total area of the country.

East Bohemia is one of the most productive agricultural regions. Arable land covers 43 % and total agricultural land almost 60 % of the area of the region. The highest percentage of arable land can be found in the districts of Hradec Králové and Jičín. Some districts are heavily forested; Trutnov (47 % of area forested), Rychnov and Semily (more than 37 %).

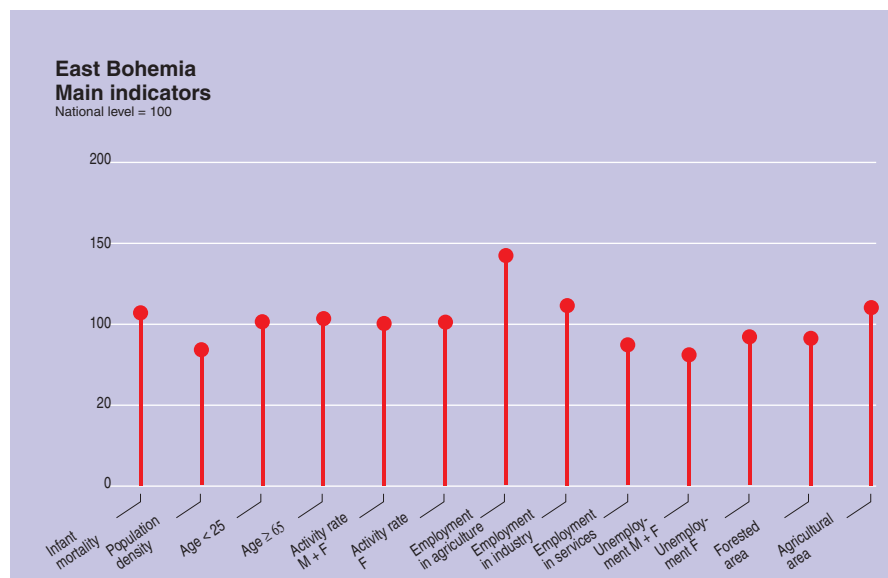
Most of the region lies on the plain of the River Labe (Elbe). In the north, the plain meets the Krkonoše (Giant Mountains), with Sněžka the highest peak in the Czech Republic at 1 603 m. In the north-east is found the Broumov mountain range, the sandstone formations of Adršpach and Teplice, the Orlice mountains with their highest peak Velká Deštná (1 114 m), and the mountain group with Mount Kralický Sněžník (1 422 m). The Železné Hory (Iron Mountains) line the south-east border and part of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands spread into the region. The sandstone formations known as Prachovské skály are found in the districts of Jičín and Semily.

More rivers flow through East Bohemia than through any other region. The River Labe carries the largest volume of water and has a fairly constant flow, which makes it possible to be used as a waterway for the transport of coal as far as Chvaletice. There are also many lakes and artificially created reservoirs such as that created by damming the river Chrudimka in the district of Chrudim, the Rozkoš reservoir in the district of Náchod and the Pastvina valley reservoir near Ústí nad Orlicí.

Institutions of higher education are present in East Bohemia in Hradec Králové, with the Teachers College, the Faculty of Information and Management and the Medical Faculty of the Karlova University, and in Pardubice where there is the University of Pardubice.



The ruins of a Gothic castle in East Bohemia



Parts of the region threatened by pollution

The region is in the happy position of having low unemployment, except for the district of Svitavy.

East Bohemia benefits from significant tourism in the mountain areas (the Krkonoše and the Orlice mountains and the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands) to the sandstone formations of Adršpach and Teplice and the unique sandstone rock towns in the area of the Český ráj (the Czech paradise) — a 125 km, protected landscape south of the town of Turnov.

Part of the region has a relatively unpolluted environment — the air in the centre of the Bohemian-Moravian Uplands is of such quality that it is used as a standard for measuring air pollution in other regions — and there are some noteworthy health

resort centres at Jánské Lázně, Velichovky and Bohdaneč.

However, much of the region suffers from heavily polluted air mainly resulting from power stations and including pollution carried from across the border in the north. The concentration of chemical production in the locality of Pardubice also has a negative impact on the environment. These high levels of pollution have caused real damage to the forests of the Krkonoše (Giant Mountains) in particular.

The amount of traffic crossing the borders is growing relentlessly, without the issue of access roads having been adequately addressed, and this is causing pressure on the road network. The region is not rich, having the lowest average earnings of the country.



Which regions are similar to Východočeský?

Population:

1.2 million inhabitants
 Palermo (I)
 Sydsverige (S)
 Magdeburg (D)

Population density:

about 110 inhabitants per km²
 Pirmasens (D)
 Cluj (RO)

Land use:

30 % forest
 Navarra (E)
 Nord Ovest (I)
 Walbrzyskie (PL)

A busy border with Poland

In 1996 the regional association 'Euroregion Glacensis' came into being. On the Czech side it is formed by obce from the East Bohemian districts of Trutnov, Náchod, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Ústí nad Orlicí and Hradec Králové and the North-Moravian districts of Šumperk and Jeseník. On the Polish side it includes districts of the region of Wałbrzych.

In East Bohemia, there are seven road border crossings and three railway crossings with Poland. The most frequented of the road border crossings is that at Náchod-Kudowa Slone which counted in 1995 over

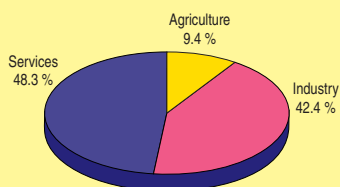
four million people crossing in each direction, with almost 1.1 million cars and 17 000 coaches. This border point sees significantly more traffic crossing into the Czech Republic than leaving; this is especially so for commercial vehicles as 37 700 vehicles entered the country at Náchod-Kudowa Slone, but only 33 400 left.

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active (1)		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
	1995	1991	1995	1995	abs.	%	%
Havlíčkův	126 487	96 216	95 996	76	50 491	21.6	37.1
Hradec Králové	87 556	162 165	162 346	185	86 736	12.2	32.9
Chrudim	102 966	105 994	105 827	103	54 671	15.7	43.8
Jičín	88 648	78 590	78 174	88	40 854	20.0	38.8
Náchod	85 157	111 958	112 499	132	59 033	11.9	47.4
Pardubice	88 899	163 299	163 176	183	88 027	8.7	39.5
Rychnov n. Kněžnou	99 801	78 828	79 124	79	41 140	18.6	37.4
Semily	69 897	75 663	75 867	109	40 562	13.5	46.7
Svitavy	133 467	102 523	102 743	77	53 098	21.6	37.8
Trutnov	114 652	121 446	122 020	106	65 488	10.0	46.8
Ústí nad Orlicí	126 516	137 193	138 931	110	71 734	15.8	40.2
East Bohemia	1 124 047	1 233 875	1 236 703	110	651 834	15.4	40.8
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5.421 102	11.6	37.3

(1) 1991 Housing and Population Census.

CZECH REPUBLIC

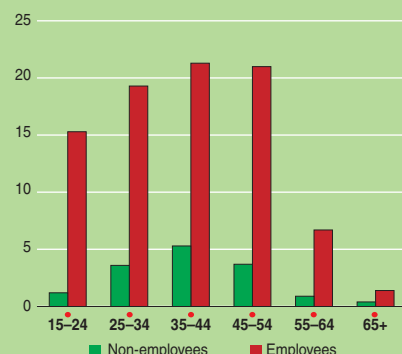
East Bohemia
Structure of employment by sector (%)



East Bohemia
Structure of employment by sex (%)



East Bohemia
Structure of employment by age group (%)



Consistently low unemployment

Unemployment in East Bohemia has long been below the national average, with the exception of the district of Svitavy. The rate of general unemployment in the region, as measured by the labour force survey, stood at 2.5 % in the spring of 1996 this was 0.7 percentage points below the national average.

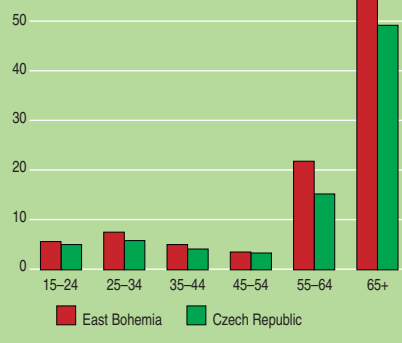
The highest and lowest rates of registered unemployment at the end of December 1995 were recorded in the districts of Svitavy (5.0 %) and Pardubice (1.5 %).

The low unemployment in the region is largely due to the increase in business activities experienced since 1989. It was East Bohemia that recorded the largest boom of all the Czech regions, as measured by the increase in the number of entrepreneurs.

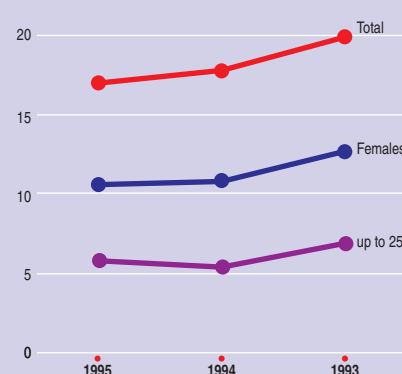
The expansion of tourism, accommodation capacity, services, repair activities, and small businesses created a number of new jobs in the region. As East Bohemia does not have heavy engineering nor mining companies on a large scale, the region escaped the worst effects of the suppression of activities in these fields that were experienced in other regions.

This relative absence of heavy industry does not mean that the proportion of the regions population working in industry is low. On the contrary, the autumn 1995 labour force survey showed that 42.4 % of the population were engaged in manufacturing and construction; a higher proportion than in any other Czech region.

East Bohemia
% of employees in part-time work by age group — 1995



East Bohemia Unemployed (1 000)



Incomes — 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
East Bohemia	43.91	10.30	25.39	16.77	1.31
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.52

Nearly 65 % of the population live in urban areas

East Bohemia is divided into 11 districts with 1 082 obce. The population on 31 December 1995 of 1 235 641 inhabitants represented 11.9 % of the national total. The average density of population at that date was 110 per km². The lowest densities are found in the districts of Havlíčkův Brod, Svitavy and Rychnov nad Kněžnou and the highest in the districts of Hradec Králové and Pardubice.

Of the total population of East Bohemia, almost 16 % live in the main conurbation of Hradec Králové (with a population of 100 000) and Pardubice (94 000). Other large towns include Trutnov (33 000), Havlíčkův Brod (25 000), Chrudim (24 000)

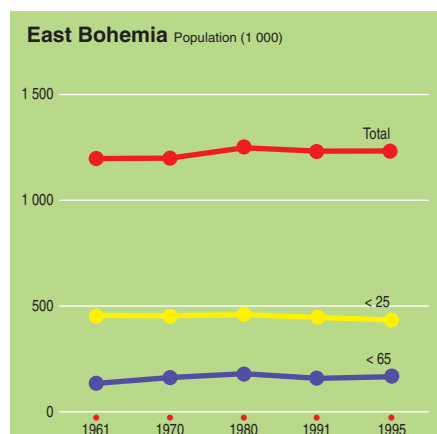
and Náchod (21 000). Nearly 65 % of the region's population live in urban areas.

Compared to the other regions of the Czech Republic, the percentage of the population living in small obce (those with less than 500 inhabitants) significantly exceeds the national average. East Bohemia lies third after Central Bohemia and South Bohemia in this respect. Some 91 obce have less than 100 inhabitants, the smallest being Petrovičky in the district of Jičín with a resident population of just 27.

A characteristic of the region's population development has been the significant fall

in natural growth between 1991 and 1995 with the birth rate falling much more rapidly than the death rate. The phenomenon was the highest in the districts of Semily, Jičín and Pardubice. Migration also made a contribution to the population decline in some districts, particularly in the Svitavy area. The process of ageing is beginning to make itself felt; the percentage of children is falling and that of the older population is on the increase. In 1991, there were 35.9 people aged over 65 for every 100 under 25. Just four years later in 1995, this ratio had increased to 38.6.

In the year 1995 the region had a death rate of 11.4 per 1 000 population and a birth rate of 9.6 per 1 000. The average age was 37.3 years.



	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
< 15	230	18.6	19.6	17.6
15–24	208	16.8	17.7	16.0
25–34	160	13.0	13.6	12.4
35–44	176	14.2	14.7	13.8
45–54	174	14.1	14.3	13.9
55–64	119	9.6	9.2	10.1
≥65	169	13.7	10.9	16.3
Total	1 236	100.0	100.0	100.0

Coal, precious stones and forests

Mineral deposits are an important resource and have influenced the economic development of the region. The most significant minerals for the region, and for the country, include the bituminous coal deposits in the Žacléř-Svatoňovice basin in the district of Trutnov, the first-rate glass sands in the Železné Hory (Iron Mountains) and close to the town of Vrchlabí, glass sands at the town of Jičín, and granite and gneiss deposits in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. Brick-clay can be found in the area along the River Labe and close to

Staré Ransko and copper ore deposits in the district of Havlíčkův Brod. There are large stone quarries in the area of Skuteč.

Mineral water springs are found in the districts of Jičín, Náchod, and Trutnov. The district of Turnov prides itself on its deposits of precious stones and, consequently, the local manufacture of jewellery.

The natural resources of East Bohemia also include extensive forest stands in the northern part of the region in the Krkonoše (giant mountains), where many trees have had to be cut due to the damage caused to them by industrial pollution. Forests are also found in the Bohemian-Moravian

Highlands in the southern part of the region where the environmental conditions are better.

	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	7.2	9.0	7.3	6.9	5.3
Divorces	0.9	1.7	2.1	2.6	3.0
Live births	13.6	15.3	15.0	12.8	9.6
Deaths	10.9	13.6	13.9	12.3	11.4
Total increase	- 0.1	0.1	1.0	1.0	- 0.9

	number	%
Immigrants, total	6 228	5.0
Emigrants, total	5 175	4.2
Internal migration		
— immigrants	5 580	4.5
— emigrants	5 143	4.2

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	70.34
— females	76.30

Main enterprises – East Bohemia

Main employers:	Activity
• Synthesia a.s. Pardubice	chemicals and chemical products
• Lesy České republiky s.p. Hradec Králové	forestry, logging
• ETA a.s. Hlinsko	household electrical appliances
• TIBA a.s. Dvůr Králové	textiles
• ZVÚ a.s. Hradec Králové	manufacture of machinery
• Hedva a.s. Moravská Třebová	silk fabrics
• ČSAD s.p. Hradec Králové	road haulage
• Perla, bavlnářské závody a.s. Ústí nad Orlicí	textiles
• Transporta a.s. Chrudim	hoisting and transport equipment
• Vertex a.s. Litomyšl	manufacture of glass fibres

Composition of households — 1992

No of households:	455 148
Average per household:	
members	2.68
economically active	1.22
children not provided for	0.72
pensioners not working	0.62
other members	0.12

Industrial structure – textiles play a major role

East Bohemia is a developed industrial and agricultural region, with its industry primarily focused on food processing and engineering. Textiles is a key industry in the districts of Náchod, Semily, Svitavy and Trutnov while in the district of Pardubice it is the chemical industry that is dominant. The textile and clothing industries provide a high proportion of the region's industrial exports.

Prominent in the region's glass industry is the Harrachov crystal glass works. The

manufacture of footwear and household electrical appliances has a long tradition in the area of Chrudim. The pulp and paper industry as well as the metal and metallic products industry also play an important role in the region. The districts of Trutnov and Hlinsko are renowned for their fur production.

Grain growing in the districts of Hradec Králové, Jičín and Svitavy, sugar beet in the district of Hradec Králové and potatoes in the district of Havlíčkův Brod contribute significantly to the agricultural output of East Bohemia. Animal production in the region is primarily focused on cattle.

Monthly average wages in East Bohemia are the lowest in the Czech Republic at just 90 % of the average in 1995, and the situation in industry is worse still, at 87 % of the national average industrial wage. Only in agriculture do East Bohemian workers earn above average wages (when compared to agricultural earnings in other regions).

Environment – 1995

	East Bohemia	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	8.46	100.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	57.38	38.07
Air protection	38.00	54.51
Waste management	4.62	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	East Bohemia	Czech Republic
Industry	87	100
Construction	93	109
Agriculture and fishing	101	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	91	88
Hotels and restaurants	85	89
Transport	91	101

Pollution threat to forests

The climatic conditions are influenced by the dense forests which cover roughly 32 % of the region. Most of them are found near the Krkonoše (Giant Mountains), the Orlice mountains and the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. As the result of pollution — particularly emissions from power stations, vehicles and industry — forest stands especially in the northern part of the region have been seriously damaged. The spruce forests in the mountain regions of the Krkonoše and the Orlice mountains

are declining in size as a result of logging and the effects of pollution. Even forests in the less exposed areas are affected by pollution.

The main urban area, the agglomeration of Hradec Králové-Pardubice, lies in an area with a high degree of air pollution. The area surrounding Trutnov also has high levels of pollution, but it is the district of Pardubice that experiences the highest air pollution levels in the East Bohemia region. Conversely, the environment in the southern part of the region around the

Bohemian-Moravian Highlands is ranked as the best in the whole country in terms of air quality.

East Bohemia has many protected areas and nature reserves, such as those around Ústí nad Orlicí, Náchod, Semily and Jičín. In the district of Trutnov the Krkonoše (giant mountains) National Park covers an area of 250 km². Around Rychnov another protected landscape area, that of the Orlice mountains, extends over 200 km².

**Agriculture
East Bohemia**

Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994

— Cereals	15.1
— Milk	21.7
— Cattle for slaughter, total	27.8
— Animal products, total	60.5

Livestock (1 March 1995)

— Bovine animals	193 680
— Pigs	650 455

Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture

— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	42 277 3 636
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**Number of pupils — 1995/96
East Bohemia**

	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	40.4	
Primary	120.8	48.7
Secondary (general)	45.3	61.0
Secondary (vocational)	32.0	38.6
Tertiary study	4.6	57.0
Total	243.1	

**Good international rail
links**

The most important roads in the region are the E67 passing through from the west to Poland in the north-east, and the E442 running from the north to the south-east. There are also over 1 000 km of class I roads — more than in any other region — and these form the transport skeleton of the region and integrate with the national transport network. The region is also interwoven with a dense network of district and local roads. The D1 motorway from Prague to Brno cuts through the south-western part of the region in the district of Havlíčkův Brod.

The region's 9 021 km of national-class roads in 1995 translate into 26 kilometres per 1 000 passenger cars and 8.5 km per 1 000 inhabitants; both figures well above the national average. East Bohemia has almost one tractor for every 100 inhabitants — a proportion far higher than in any other Czech region.

The comparatively dense network of railway lines results in several railway junctions of nationwide importance, for example at the towns of Hradec Králové, Pardubice, Česká Třebová and Choceň. The railway lines of East Bohemia are linked to the European railway network and the Vienna-Havlíčkův Brod-Pardubice-

Hradec Králové-Liberec line is one of the oldest in the Czech Republic. There are two significant routes passing through the region: one in the direction of Dresden/Nürnberg (with a link to Vienna to join the line to Budapest, Sofia and Istanbul) and the other running from Gdańsk in Poland to Žilina in Slovakia.

River freight transport is operated along the navigable section of the River Labe with Chvaletice being an important port.

Transport and communications — 1995

	East Bohemia	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	49.6	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	293.4	301.7
Km of national roads per 1 000 cars	24.9	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population	7.3	5.4
Telephone density (lines per 1 000 population)	209	232

**% of population connected to public water supply
and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995**

East Bohemia	Total
Water	85.3
Sewerage	64.0
Waste water	74.9

JIHOMORAVSKÝ

South Moravia (Jihomoravský) is situated in the south-east of the Czech Republic, bordering in the east, Slovakia and in the south, Austria. With its expanse of 15 028 km², South Moravia is the largest region of the Czech Republic, covering 19.1 % of its total area. The region also has the largest acreage of agricultural, arable land and forest land. The district of Znojmo has the region's largest areas of agricultural and arable land, while the district of Žďár boasts the largest forests.

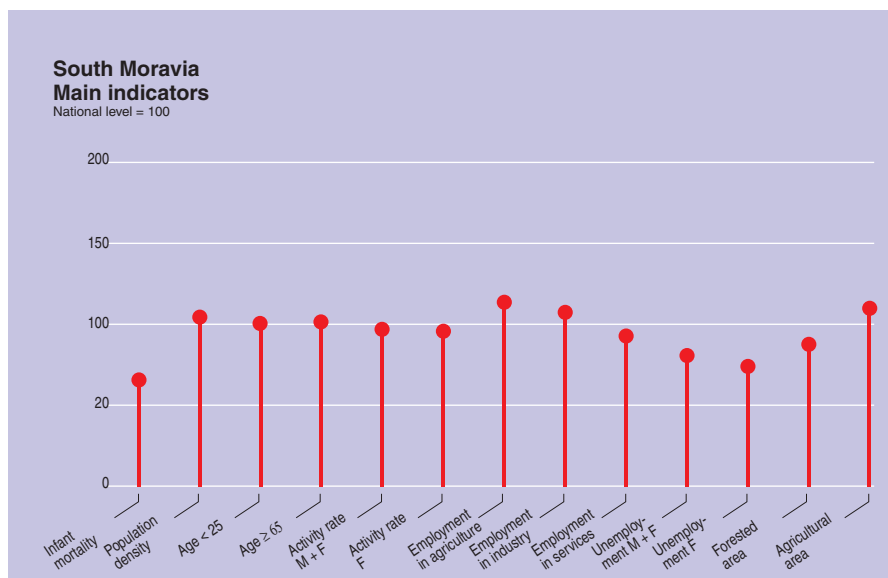
Geologically, the region falls into two basic mountain systems, the Czech Massif and the Carpathians. Both these ranges are separated by the valley of the rivers Dyje and Svatka, the Dolnomoravský úval (lower Moravian valley) and partly by the Hornomoravský úval (upper Moravian valley) and the Vyškov Gate. The region has no 1 000 metre peaks, the highest point being Mount Velká Javorina (970 m) in the White Carpathians in the district of Uherské Hradiště. The lowest point, at 151 m, is located at the confluence of the Rivers Dyje and Morava in the district of Břeclav.

South Moravia lies in the basin of the River Morava, the river that lends its name to the region, and essentially all of the region's water drains into the Morava and thence the Danube and into the Black Sea. Other major rivers in the region include the Svatka, Svitava, Dyje and the Jihlava. The larger rivers have been dammed to form reservoirs at Brno, Dalešice, Vířská, Vranov and Nové Mlýny, which serve both to supply drinking water and for recreation.

The most significant economic, cultural and administrative centre of the region is Brno, the seat of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic, the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic and the Office for the Protection of Competition — the Czech anti-trust body. It is an important centre of university education and a major centre for exhibitions and trade fairs. Zlín, with its high concentration of clothing, machinery and chemical and rubber industries, is also a prominent economic centre in the region.



The town of Telč



Fertile land but an overstretched infrastructure

South Moravia has some of the most fertile land of the Czech Republic which, with the favourable climate, is put to good use in the growing of fruit (ranging from apricots to vines) and vegetables.

The level of pollution of the environment is relatively low, except for the areas around large cities and towns and adjacent to the motorway and the main road routes.

The region has the lowest divorce and abortion rates in the country and a relatively low crime rate. Business is stimulated by the staging of international trade fairs and by tourism which, in some areas such as the Moravian Karst, is well developed. The region also has some important cultural and historical sites such as the

Pernštejn, Buchlov and Bítov castles. Of great significance to archaeologists is the small statue of Venus unearthed at Dolní Věstonice in the district of Břeclav.

However, the dramatic rise in motor traffic in the 1990s has had its negative impact on the environment, especially in the large towns and in the surroundings of the motorway, and the main road network has become overburdened. There are other strains on the infrastructure too, with the Brno airport at the limit of its capacity and an insufficient telephone network — in 1995 there were just 16.4 telephone lines per 100 inhabitants. The region also has a relatively high rate of unemployment in some districts.



Which regions are similar to Jihomoravský?

Area:
15 000—16 000 km²
Calabria (I)
Toledo (E)
Yorkshire and Humberside (UK)

Age structure:
36 % under 25
Olt (RO)
Picardie (F)
Pohjois-Suomi (FIN)

Employment structure:
51 % in services
Castilla-la Mancha (E)
Kriti (EL)

International trade fairs

Although there are no Euroregions involving the obce of the region of South Moravia, there are bilateral contacts, mainly between towns in South Moravia and Austria. The major opportunity to establish or develop international cooperation and business contacts is the International Trade Fair held in Brno every year. Because of its border location, South Moravia is a gateway to the neighbouring Austria and southern Slovakia.

As in the other regions of the country, tourism experienced a boom after 1989. In 1995, the statistical returns from accommodation establishments show that a total of 360 894 international visitors stayed overnight in the region.

In South Moravia, there are a total of 17 road border crossings (seven with Austria and 10 with Slovakia) and seven railway border crossings (two on the Austrian border and five on the Slovak border).

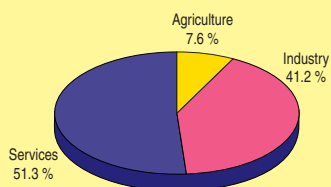
The most frequented of the road border crossings with Austria is at Hatě-Klein Haugsdorf with approximately 5.5 million people crossing in each direction in 1995. The busiest crossing place on the Slovak border (Břeclav-Kúty) was less frequented, but still recorded over 3.5 million people travelling in each direction and was used by twice as many commercial vehicles as at Hatě-Klein Haugsdorf.

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active ¹		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
	1995			1995	abs.	%	%
Blansko	94 184	107 753	107 985	115	55 577	13.1	53.3
Brno - město	23 019	388 536	389 559	1 689	203 763	2.8	31.8
Brno - venkov	109 170	155 189	155 569	143	80 569	12.8	44.2
Břeclav	118 973	124 695	125 827	106	64 378	22.1	31.5
Hodonín	108 737	161 219	162 207	149	81 799	16.3	43.5
Jihlava	117 941	108 550	109 246	93	57 297	16.1	37.7
Kroměříž	79 948	108 107	109 052	136	55 204	14.8	40.5
Prostějov	76 928	112 157	111 213	144	56 072	16.0	40.7
Třebíč	151 887	117 266	117 970	78	59 323	22.4	37.4
Uherské Hradiště	99 170	145 229	145 834	147	57 546	15.1	45.9
Vyškov	88 869	86 708	86 660	97	44 083	16.4	36.0
Zlín	103 065	197 104	197 783	192	105 676	15.1	45.9
Znojmo	163 691	113 556	114 081	70	57 237	27.0	28.7
Žďár nad Sázavou	167 172	124 933	126 028	75	62 853	22.1	41.4
South Moravia	1 502 754	2 051 002	2 059 014	137	1 059 377	16.6	39.6
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5 421 102	11.6	37.3

¹ 1991 Housing and Population Census

CZECH REPUBLIC

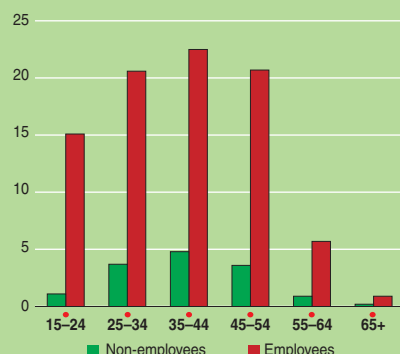
South Moravia
Structure of employment by sector (%)



South Moravia
Structure of employment by sex (%)



South Moravia
Structure of employment by age group (%)



The problem of rural unemployment

In the spring of 1996, the results of the labour force survey showed the rate of general unemployment to be 2.7 %, which is 0.5 percentage points below the national average. The rate of registered unemployment at the end of 1995 stood at 3.0 %, a rate kept down by the very low registered unemployment in the districts of Uherské Hradiště (1.4 %), Brno-město (1.7 %) and Zlín (1.9 %).

An important reason for the low unemployment was the dynamic development of business activity in the region after 1989, when the greatest rise in the number of entrepreneurs was seen in the regions of South Moravia and East Bohemia. This growth made a positive contribution to the creation of new jobs mainly in catering, accommodation and small handicraft production.

A higher unemployment rate is experienced in the districts of Znojmo (5.9 % in December 1995), Třebíč (5.0 %) and Břeclav (4.5 %). An important reason for this is the structural transformation of agriculture which has been accompanied by a decrease in the labour force required in the rural areas. The problem of rural unemployment is exacerbated by seasonal effects

and by the limited public transport which reduces the possibilities of commuting to work.

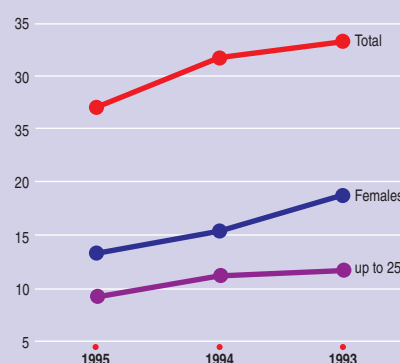
The autumn 1995 labour force survey ranked South Moravia as the region having the second highest proportion of its labour force (41.2 %) employed in manufacturing and construction. The statistical returns from companies (which exclude small businesses) showed a different picture, with South Moravia falling to fifth place. These figures seem to confirm the relative importance of individual entrepreneurs and small companies to the South Moravian economy.

Average wages in 1995 in the region were the second lowest in the Czech Republic; just 93 % of the average for the whole country. Average wages in agriculture in South Moravia were lower than in any other region.

South Moravia
% of employees in part-time work by age group — 1995



South Moravia Unemployed (1 000)



Incomes — 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
South Moravia	45.08	9.10	25.17	16.28	1.20
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.52

A fifth of the region's population in Brno

At the end of 1995, South Moravia had 2 057 239 inhabitants, which represented 19.9 % of the national total. The population density stood at 137 inhabitants per km², of which 60.6 % lived in towns.

Approximately one fifth of the population live in Brno, which ranks as the second largest city in the Czech Republic with its population of 390 000 and population density of 1696 inhabitants per km². Zlín is the second largest city of the region with a population of 83 000, followed by Jihlava (53000), Prostějov (50 000), Třebíč

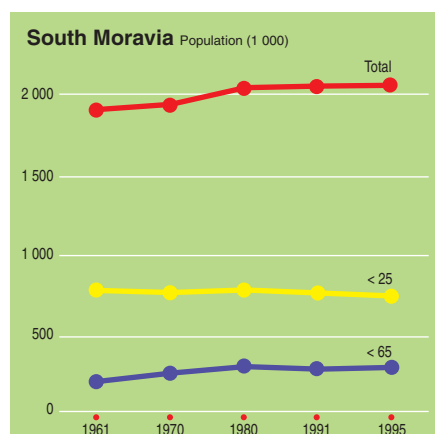
(40 000), Znojmo (37 000), Kroměříž (30 000) and Hodonín (29 000).

The region is divided into 14 districts with a total of 1 469 local administrative units (obce). There are 101 obce with populations of less than 100, the smallest, until it merged with the obec of Kuřimské Jestřábí on 1 January 1995, being Blahoňov in the district of Žďár nad Sázavou with just five inhabitants.

The average age in South Moravia in 1995 was 37.2, which was roughly the same as the average for the whole country. The death rate of 11.1 per 1 000 inhabitants also corresponds to the national average,

but the region has the lowest infant mortality in the Czech Republic at 5.1 per 1 000 live births. The birth rate fell sharply between 1991 and 1995 from 12.7 to 9.3 births per 1 000 inhabitants. Life expectancy at birth was calculated in 1995 as 69.9 years for males and 77.0 years for females.

Although the total population has grown steadily from 1961 to 1995, the gradual ageing of the population is evident when comparing the proportion of over 65s in the region in 1961 (10.0 %) with 1995 (13.6 %) and the under 25s in 1961 (40.1 %) to 1995 (35.4 %).



Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
< 15	386	18.8	19.8	17.8
15–24	343	16.7	17.5	15.8
25–34	275	13.4	14.1	12.7
35–44	294	14.3	14.9	13.7
45–54	284	13.8	14.0	13.6
55–64	197	9.6	9.1	10.0
≥65	279	13.6	10.6	16.4
Total	2 057	100.0	100.0	100.0

Fertile land and favourable climate for agriculture

Owing to its geological composition, the region is poor in ores. Some coal deposits are to be found in the south of Boskovická brázda, although these are not large. Deposits of lignite are larger, but these are low in heating value. Small reserves of oil and natural gas are exploited near the towns of Hodonín and Břeclav, and there are some ore deposits in the Bohemian-

Moravian Highlands. On the other hand, there are rich deposits of some non-ore raw materials in South Moravia. Of great significance is kaolin, found near the town of Znojmo, limestone north of the city of Brno, granite in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, sand and gravel and refractory clay near the town of Velké Opatovice, and foundry sand at the town of Rájec. There are uranium ore deposits in the surroundings of the town of Bystřice nad Perštejnem.

Mineral springs with claimed healing qualities are found at the towns of Luhačovice, Ostrožská Nová Ves and Hodonín. The natural riches of the region also include the fertile land in southern Moravia which, helped by favourable climate, makes it possible to grow in good conditions vegetables, fruit, maize and, particularly, vines.

Demographic indicators

	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	7.9	8.8	7.5	6.7	5.2
Divorces	1.0	1.6	2.1	2.1	2.5
Live births	14.8	15.1	15.5	12.7	9.3
Deaths	9.3	12.2	13.0	11.9	11.1
Total increase	4.0	1.4	2.9	1.1	- 0.9

Migration per 1 000 — 1995

	number	%
Immigrants, total	7 709	3.7
Emigrants, total	5 859	2.8
Internal migration		
— immigrants	5 860	2.8
— emigrants	5 738	2.8

Life expectancy at birth — 1995

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	69.56
— females	76.32

Main enterprises — South Moravia

Main employers:	Activity
• Zetor a.s. Brno	agricultural and forest tractors
• Žďas a.s. Žďár nad Sázavou	machinery for metallurgy
• Barum Continental s.r.o. Otrokovice	tyres
• Česká zbrojovka a.s. Uherský Brod	weapons and ammunition
• ABB První Brněnská strojírna Brno s.r.o.	steam boilers
• Oděvní podnik Prostějov	clothing
• Česká pošta, odštěpný závod Brno	postal services
• Euronova a.s. Brno	retailing
• Dopravní podnik města Brna	city transport
• Motorpal a.s. Jihlava	motor vehicle components

Composition of households — 1992

No of households:	725 707
Average per household:	
members	2.79
economically active	1.24
children not provided for	0.77
pensioners not working	0.63
other members	0.15

Nuclear power and agriculture

Traditionally, the region has always been known for its agriculture; the favourable climate and soils in the southern districts give ideal conditions for growing vines, vegetables and fruit. The central parts of the region are well-suited to growing corn crops and sugar beet and potatoes are an important crop whose production is concentrated in the north and north-west parts. The 1995 harvest of cereals was 1 782 000 tonnes (27 % of the national total) and potatoes 331 000 tonnes (29 %).

The importance of agriculture is underlined by the number of private farms in the region. With over 27 500 in 1995, South Moravia accounts for 30 % of the total number of private farms in the Czech Republic — well above the region with the next highest number of private farms which is North Moravia with 16 600 (18 % of the total).

Industry plays a vital role in the region, with food processing, mechanical engineering, and the chemical, wood processing, leather and textile and clothing industries being located primarily in the Brno and Zlín areas. In fact, in 1995 South Moravia's

industrial output by sales value was higher than all other Czech regions but North Moravia, and amounted to 14.5 % of the national total. Construction and transport industries are also of importance. The nuclear power station of Dukovany in the district of Třebíč provides the region with much of its energy requirements.

Environment — 1995

	South Moravia	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	15.3	100.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	46.09	38.07
Air protection	45.64	54.51
Waste management	8.27	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	South Moravia	Czech Republic
Industry	93	100
Construction	94	109
Agriculture and fishing	98	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	88	88
Hotels and restaurants	88	89
Transport	94	101

Generally low levels of air pollution, but most water courses polluted

South Moravia's environment suffers less from pollution than other Czech regions, except in some districts where the air quality is affected by the operation of power stations, power and heat plants, and some large industrial companies discharging pollutants into the air. Heavy motor traffic, particularly in large cities or towns and on the motorway, also contributes to air pollution, burdening the environment with nitrogen oxides and dust fall-out.

Because of its favourable climatic conditions, a large part of South Moravia is used intensively for agriculture, which, in addition to the benefits it brings to the region, also has an environmental impact on the groundwater and water courses in particular. Most of the water courses in the region are polluted with waste water from settlements and industrial companies. A problem currently under discussion is the effect of the Novomlýnské reservoirs on the climate, flora and fauna of the surrounding areas.

The region is especially proud of the national park that stretches along the River Dyje, and the four protected landscape areas (the White Carpathians, the Moravian Karst, and the Pálava and Žďár Hills), as well as 10 wildlife reserves and more than 430 smaller protected areas.

**Agriculture
South Moravia**

Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994

— Cereals	20.5
— Milk	16.3
— Cattle for slaughter, total	29.4
— Animal products, total	53.4

Livestock (1 March 1995)

— Bovine animals	198 880
— Pigs	1 031 439

Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture

— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	61 399 5 041
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**Number of pupils – 1995-96
South Moravia**

	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	69.7	
Primary	205.7	48.5
Secondary (general)	79.1	62.0
Secondary (vocational)	54.4	38.0
Tertiary study	26.3	38.8
Total	435.2	

**Railways in the region
since 1839**

The main motorway of the Czech Republic runs through the region, connecting Prague with the Slovak capital Bratislava. Another motorway is now under construction and will connect Brno with Ostrava - some sections are in use already. Three international highways also pass through the region: one from Austria through Znojmo and Jihlava where it meets the second which runs from Hungary through Bratislava, Brno, Jihlava and Prague to Germany. The third leads from Austria through Mikulov, Brno, Prostějov and

Český Těšín to Poland. The region had nearly 9 700 km of national-class roads at the end of 1995 - more than any other region - and just over 1 000 km of which were class I.

South Moravia has relatively few passenger vehicles; 265 per 1 000 population - the second lowest proportion in the Czech Republic.

Railways in the region date back to the first half of the 19th century when the first train arrived in Brno from Vienna in 1839. At present, there are 1 400 km of railway tracks in the South Moravia region, the most

important of which are the Břeclav-Brno-Havlíčkův Brod-Prague, the Brno-Česká Třebová and the Brno-Veselí nad Moravou-Vlárský průsmyk lines.

An airport was built in Brno in the 1920s and was modernised in 1952. Today, it provides connections with important European cities and ranks second only to Prague, carrying approximately 72 000 passengers a year, two thirds of whom are foreigners.

Transport and communications — 1995

	South Moravia	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	54.4	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	265.1	301.7
Km of national roads per 1 000 cars	17.8	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population	4.7	5.4
Telephone density (lines per 1 000 population)	201	232

**% of population connected to public water supply
and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995**
South Moravia

	Total
Water	80.2
Sewerage	72.7
Waste water	93.7

SEVEROMORAVSKÝ

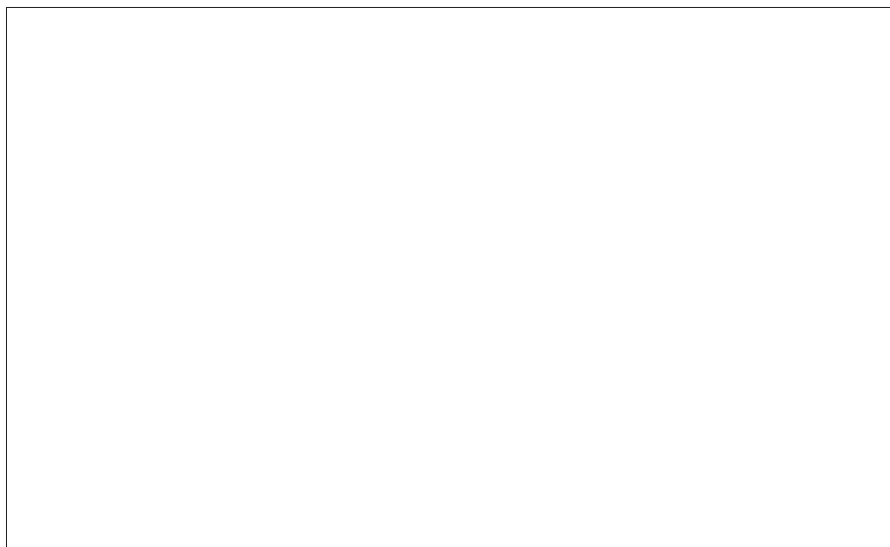
North Moravia (Severomoravský) covers an area of 11 068 km², representing 14 % of the national total, and is situated in the north-east corner of the Czech Republic. Historically, it belonged to the northern part of Moravia and to Silesia. In the north it borders Poland and, in the east, Slovakia.

The large diversity of the region's geographical features strongly influences the distribution of its population as well as its economic activities. In this region the Bohemian Highlands and the Carpathians meet, separated only by the valley known as the Moravská brána (Moravian gateway), which forms an important link in the transport route from the Danube region and southern Europe north to the Baltic Sea.

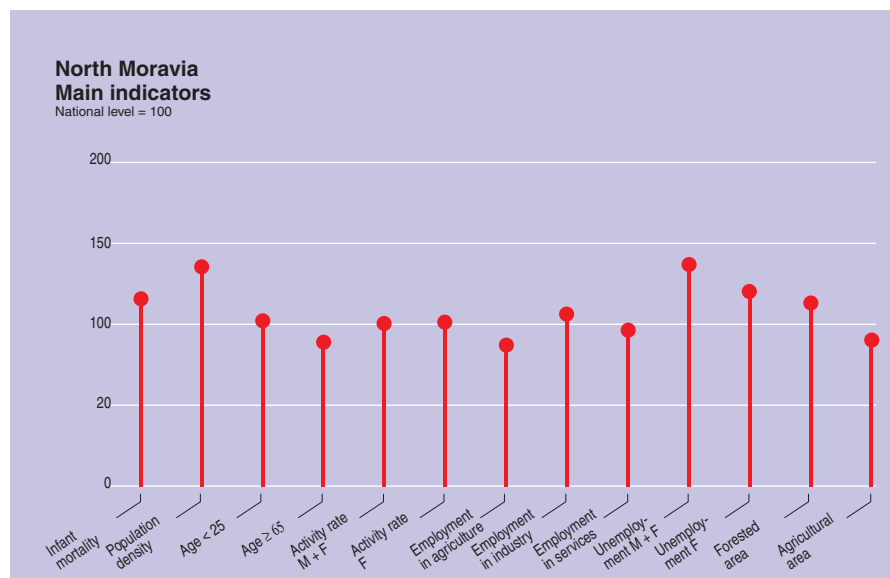
Mount Praděd in the Jeseníky (Ash Mountains) is the highest point of the region at 1 492 m and the lowest, at 190 m, is on the River Morava near Kojetín. The richest agricultural lands lie in the southern part of the Silesian Lowlands. The landscape is mountainous around Bruntál, Šumperk and Vsetín and predominantly flat around Olomouc and Přerov. The most favourable weather conditions exist in the upper Moravian valley; the Jeseníky and the Beskydy mountains are characterised by a harsher and more humid climate.

Surface water in North Moravia drains into the Baltic Sea except for that in the west and south of the region that flows into the River Morava basin and thence into the Black Sea. The reservoirs created by the Kružberk dam on the River Moravice, the Šance dam on the River Ostravice and that on the River Morávka are of crucial importance to the supply of the drinking water needs of the region.

There are four institutions of higher education in the region, with 18 faculties in total. The Mining University and the University of Ostrava are located in Ostrava, the Palacký University is based in Olomouc, and the University of Silesia is found in Opava. The health service network includes over 240 pharmacies and 33 hospitals with more than 13 000 hospital beds.



The town of Hradec nad Moravicí



The centre of the country's iron and steel industry

The main assets of North Moravia are undoubtedly its large deposits of minerals (coal and ores), particularly in the district of Ostrava. The region is the only one in the country where coal suitable for coking is mined and is the centre of the country's iron and steel industry.

But it is not just a region of mining and heavy industry, there are attractive mountainous areas in the Jeseníky, the Beskydy mountains and the Vsetín hills, many reservoirs for summer recreation and water sports, historical monuments and the mineral springs and health resorts of Jeseník, Karlova Studánka, Darkov and Velké Losiny.

The industrial character of the region also has its negative side with its roads being overburdened with traffic, especially in the Ostrava basin, which also has an environment badly affected as a result of the mining activities. Air pollution is a concern in the region and unemployment is relatively high. Finally, the crime rate is also higher than in some other regions.



Which regions are similar to Severomoravský?

Population:
1.9 million inhabitants
Derbyshire,
Nottinghamshire (UK)
Budapest (HU)

Population density:
178–180 inhabitants per km²
Milttenberg (D)
Noord-Drenthe (NL)

Land use:
50 % agriculture
Gelderland (NL)
Niederösterreich (A)
Lorraine (F)

The busiest border crossing in the Czech Republic

In 1996 the Glacensis Euroregion came into being, associating the communities of some East Bohemian districts and the North Moravian districts of Šumperk and Jeseník. On the Polish side it includes the districts of the county of Walbrzych.

There are 17 road border crossings in North Moravia (11 with Poland and six with Slovakia) and six railway border crossings (four with Poland and two with Slovakia).

The most frequented road border crossing in the region, which is also the busiest in the Czech Republic is that with Poland at Český Těšín–Cieszyn with approximately 10.5 million people and over 550 000 passenger cars crossing in each direction in 1995. As this border crossing is in a town, many people cross on foot or by bicycle. This crossing was not so important for coach transport though, with only about 900 crossing in each direction.

Another important crossing to Poland is at Chotěbuz–Cieszyn with 4.2 million people

entering the Czech Republic and four million leaving at this point. One in every 10 vehicles leaving the Czech Republic at this crossing was either a commercial vehicle or a coach.

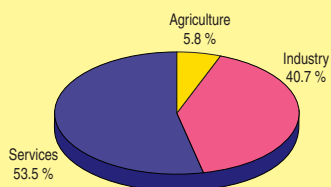
The crossings to Slovakia from North Moravia were not quite so busy, although the Mosty u Jablunkova–Svrčinovec border post counted over two million people crossing in each direction in 1995 with nearly 500 000 cars.

District	Area, total (ha)	Mid-year population		Density of pop. per km ²	Economically active ¹		
		1991	1995		Total	Agricult.	Industry
	1995	1991	1995	1995	abs.	%	%
Bruntál	174 511	109 225	110 718	63	57 059	16.5	36.7
Frýdek Místek	127 295	227 811	229 211	180	114 068	8.7	50.0
Karviná	34 730	284 693	285 870	823	143 025	3.0	49.5
Nový Jičín	91 807	158 960	161 191	176	82 775	11.7	50.3
Olomouc	145 132	223 764	226 554	156	116 579	11.8	35.7
Opava	114 359	180 926	182 082	159	92 544	14.0	36.8
Ostrava - město	21 401	327 605	325 508	1 518	172 268	1.8	43.7
Přerov	88 364	138 453	138 505	156	71 847	14.0	39.4
Šumperk	194 833	164 344	165 685	85	85 695	14.1	42.5
Vsetín	114 320	147 041	148 546	130	76 514	12.3	46.4
North Moravia	1 106 752	1 962 822	1 973 870	178	1 012 374	10.8	43.1
Czech Republic	7 886 621	10 308 682	10 330 759	131	5 421.102	11.6	37.3

¹ 1991 Housing and Population Census

CZECH REPUBLIC

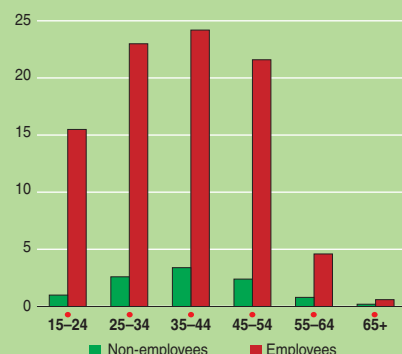
North Moravia
Structure of employment by sector (%)



North Moravia
Structure of employment by sex (%)



North Moravia
Structure of employment by age group (%)



Industry dominates in the structure of employment

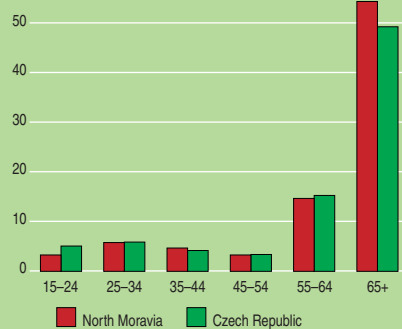
In the spring of 1996 the rate of general unemployment according to the labour force survey stood at 4.1 %, with the December 1995 registered unemployment rate at 4.9 %. This latter rate was highest in the districts of Jeseník (7.4 %), Karviná (6.8 %) Bruntál and Nový Jičín (5.9 %), and Přerov (5.2 %).

The reason for the high unemployment in the district of Karviná is the cessation in the 1990s of mining activities. In the districts of Bruntál and Jeseník, the level of unemployment reflects the modernisation and restructuring of agriculture. This is most dramatically seen in the employment figures for Bruntál: four times as many employees were engaged in agriculture in that district in 1989 before the transformation process started as were in 1995. Seasonal unemployment is also significant in these districts. The job losses in agriculture were followed by a shedding of labour in the textile industry, brought about by a down-turn in sales. The structural transformation of agriculture that led to this fall in employment in rural areas creates a difficult situation for the local population as transport services are often insufficient to make commuting to and from work in other areas feasible. This is a key factor in the level of unemployment in the districts of Opava and Šumperk.

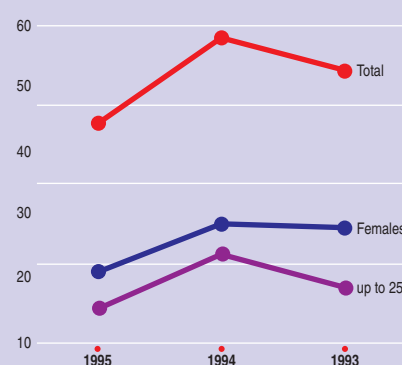
Statistical returns from medium and large-sized companies in 1995 showed North Moravia to have the highest proportion of employment in industry of all the Czech regions (equal to North Bohemia at 52.4 %) – a lead also confirmed by the 1991 population census. However, the autumn 1995 labour force survey showed a much lower proportion of industrial employment (40.7 % – third position). This is explained by the fact that much of the industrial employment in North Moravia is in heavy industry where big companies dominate.

Wages in industry in the region in 1995 were the highest of all the regions except Prague. In contrast, wages in the trade and repairs sector and in hotels and restaurants were far below the national averages for those sectors (76 % and 72 % of the national averages respectively) placing North Moravia firmly in bottom place.

North Moravia
% of employees in part-time work by age group — 1995



North Moravia Unemployed (1 000)



Incomes (%) — 1995

	Incomes from work		Other incomes		
	From employment	Other	Social incomes	Pensions	Incomes in kind
North Moravia	48.53	7.07	25.05	16.17	1.17
Czech Republic	47.95	9.84	23.23	15.55	1.52

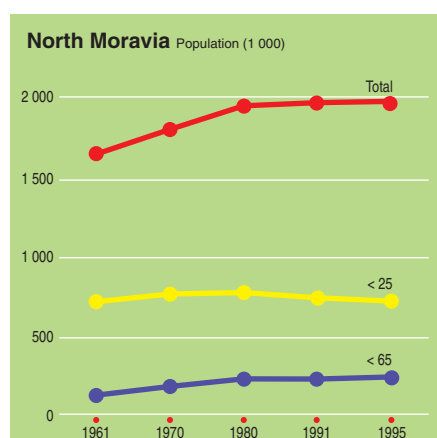
The second highest population density of the Czech regions

The region is divided into 11 districts with a total of 650 obce. On 1 January 1996, a new district of Jeseník was established comprising 22 obce previously belonging to the district of Šumperk and one obec from the district of Bruntál. North Moravia's population at the end of 1995 of 1 972 336 inhabitants (19.1 % of the national total) gives a high population density of 178 inhabitants per km² - ranking the region second only to Prague. Almost one third (31 %) of the region's population live in Ostrava and Karviná, which are the region's two most industrially developed

districts. Only two districts - Bruntál and Šumperk have population densities below the national average.

The largest city of North Moravia is Ostrava with a population of 326 000. Other large cities include Olomouc with a population of 106 000, Havířov (88 000), Karviná (67 000), Frýdek-Místek (63 000) and Opava (63 000). Ten obce have fewer than 100 inhabitants, of which the smallest is Šléglov in the district of Šumperk with a population of 30. Over 70 % of the region's population live in urban areas.

The average age in North Moravia in 1995 was 36.3 years, the birth rate 9.7 per 1 000 population and the death rate 10.7. The lower death rate and the higher birth rate than the national average resulted in a continual natural population growth for the region until 1995.



Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
< 15	380	19.3	20.2	18.4
15–24	333	16.9	17.7	16.1
25–34	276	14.0	14.8	13.3
35–44	287	14.6	15.1	14.1
45–54	276	14.0	14.1	13.9
55–64	186	9.4	9.1	9.7
≥65	235	11.9	9.1	14.5
Total	1 972	100.0	100.0	100.0

Coal, timber and mineral water

The rich mineral deposits of the region are of great economic importance, especially the black coal deposits in the Ostrava basin. Other black coal deposits are found in the Beskydy mountains around Frenštát pod Radhoštěm and metal ores have been discovered in the Zlaté hory mountains. Natural gas reserves are located near the town of Český Těšín and methane is also found. Pyrites, baryta, graphite and raw materials for construction are mined in the region, including rich deposits of limestone around Hranice, Štramberk and Pomezí u

Jeseníku. Granite and marble is found in Jeseník, slate around Vítkov, gypsum around Hlučín, and some small beds of kaolin are found around Vidnava. Other raw materials include gravel sand found near Bohumín, Dolní Benešov and Tovačov, sand near Písečná and brick-clay in the Těšín, Opava, and Hranice districts and in central Moravia.

North Moravia has the greatest number of mineral springs after West Bohemia, and some of these are used as spas. Various diseases are treated at the spas of Jeseník, Dolní Lipová, Karlova Studánka and Teplice nad Bečvou. The Darkov spa is well known for its iodine-bromide salt

brines. Mineral water is also extracted at Ondrášov and Horní Moštěnice.

There are significant timber supplies in the Jeseníky (Ash Mountains) and the Beskydy mountains but numerous forest areas suffer from industrial pollution blown over not only from Ostrava but also from polluters further afield such as those in East Bohemia and the western border region of Poland.

Demographic indicators					
	1961 %	1970 %	1980 %	1991 %	1995 %
Marriages	8.4	9.1	7.6	7.1	5.3
Divorces	1.5	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.9
Live births	16.6	16.8	15.6	13.4	9.7
Deaths	8.2	10.4	11.2	10.9	10.7
Total increase	12.0	7.5	3.9	2.1	- 0.8

Migration per 1 000 — 1995

	number	%
Immigrants, total	5 998	3.0
Emigrants, total	5 537	2.8
Internal migration		
— immigrants	4 399	2.2
— emigrants	5 459	2.8

Life expectancy at birth — 1995

Life expectancy at birth	
— males	68.70
— females	75.92

CZECH REPUBLIC

Main enterprises — North Moravia

Main employers:	Activity
• OKD a.s.	bituminous coal mining
• Důl ČSM, odštěpný závod	bituminous coal mining
• Vítkovice a.s.	iron and steel
• Nová hut' a.s.	iron, steel and ferroalloys
• Třinecké železářny a.s.	iron and steel
• Siemens elektromotory s.r.o. Mohelnice	electric motors
• OKD důl Lazy a Darkov, o.z.	bituminous coal mining
• Důl Paskov a.s.	bituminous coal mining
• Důl ČSA o.z.	bituminous coal mining
• Železářny a drátovny Bohumín a.s.	manufacture of wires

Composition of households — 1992

No of households:	712 620
Average per household:	
members	2.72
economically active	1.21
children not provided for	0.75
pensioners not working	0.59
other members	0.17

A region of heavy industry

Industry, mostly concentrated in the Ostrava-Karviná coal basin area, plays an important role in the region's economy; the industrial revolution and economic transformation in Ostrava — the beginnings of which date back to the first half of the 19th century — were founded on the use of coal. This industrial transformation reached its peak in the region at the beginning of the 20th century. Further structural changes in industry, and especially the dramatic growth of heavy engineering, were witnessed in the 1950s.

Roughly 90 % of all black coal in the Czech Republic is mined around Ostrava. It is the only cokeable coal found in the country. Blast furnaces in the district of Ostrava produce pig iron which is turned into steel which is then further processed into individual products. Other, non-ferrous, metals are also produced in the region. Thermal energy and the chemical, construction and food processing industries are also of a significance that extends far beyond the region.

Agriculture is not insignificant, and animal products made up 55.5 % of the region's gross agricultural output in 1994. In March

1995, the region counted 99 200 dairy cows and 469 200 pigs; approximately one pig for every four people.

Environment — 1995

	North Moravia	Czech Republic
Proportion of total national environment investment	20.04	100.00
Proportion of environment expenditure on:		
Water protection	45.91	38.07
Air protection	53.62	54.51
Waste management	0.47	7.41

Wages by sector — 1992

	North Moravia	Czech Republic
Industry	105	100
Construction	92	109
Agriculture and fishing	98	84
Trade and repair of consumer goods	80	88
Hotels and restaurants	72	89
Transport	94	101

Environmental problems affecting the health of the population

In the centre of region, and particularly in the district of Ostrava, the environment is affected by the intensive industrial and mining activities. Coal mining results in subsidence and the affected land later becomes flooded with water. Mining also gives rise to large dumps of unwanted soil and rock which, unless appropriate land reclamation measures are implemented, are a cause of dust nuisance.

The high concentration of heavy industry in North Moravia, especially in the Ostrava agglomeration, has an adverse impact on

the environment. The most severe problem is air pollution. The levels of pollutants measured in the air exceed the limits that have been set several times in every month of the year and are some of the highest in the whole country. Acid rain causes forests to die and contaminates the soil. The surface and groundwater is also polluted. The degrees of pollution of the Rivers Odra, Opava, and Ostravice are classed as categories IV and V; heavily polluted.

Road transport and agricultural activities also take their toll on the environment. The

low quality of the region's environment is one of the fundamental causes of the poor state of health of the population.

Agriculture North Moravia	
Percentage of agricultural products in gross agricultural output, 1994	
— Cereals	15.9
— Milk	18.7
— Cattle for slaughter, total	26.8
— Animal products, total	55.5
Livestock (1 March 1995)	
— Bovine animals	125 521
— Pigs	469 208
Number of permanently economically active actual persons in agriculture	
— self-employed farmers, entrepreneurs and their dependants	2 792

Number of pupils — 1995/96 North Moravia		
	M+F 1 000	F %
Pre-school	66.9	
Primary	201.9	49.0
Secondary (general)	69.6	61.7
Secondary (vocational)	53.3	38.7
Tertiary study	20.0	50.0
Total	411.7	

Road transport rises

The road network is dense and heavily used. In recent years, public transport has developed very rapidly with the expansion of bus and coach services (the region has had the largest increase in the number of these vehicles after South Moravia). Except in the more mountainous areas, bus transport has expanded too much for the existing road network and is at its heaviest around the town of Ostrava. Passenger car traffic also saw an unprecedented increase after 1989. North Moravia is the region with the third largest increase

in the number of passenger cars after Prague and South Moravia and by the end of 1995 the region had over 460 000 private cars (one for every 4.3 inhabitants). Particularly heavily-used roads are those in the district of Těšín that lead to and from the Český Těšín border crossing to Poland. This is the most frequented customs border crossing in the whole country.

The conveying of coal, coke, iron ore and other materials and metallurgical products to and from the district of Ostrava, the industrial centre of the region, lays big demands on the freight transport network.

The electrified railway line from Prague to the town of Ostrava is the main rail artery. The junctions at the towns of Přerov, Ostrava-Bohumín and Olomouc are among the largest on the main railway line. The junction at Ostrava has the heaviest traffic and is also important for the loading of coal, coke and metallurgical products and the unloading of iron ore. The electrified subsidiary line from the town of Hranice serves the industrial district of Vsetín.

The largest Moravian civil airport is found at the town of Mošnov.

Transport and communications — 1995		
	North Moravia	Czech Republic
Cars as % total vehicles	56.9	53.9
Number of cars per 1 000 population	234.1	301.7
Km of national roads per 1 000 cars	14.6	17.8
Km of national road per 1 000 population	3.4	5.4
Telephone density (lines per 1 000 population)	164	232

% of population connected to public water supply and sewerage and with waste water treatment — 1995	
North Moravia	
	Total
Water	87.4
Sewerage	74.4
Waste water	90.4

Explanatory notes - Czech Republic

Type of land

The totals for agricultural and non-agricultural land are derived by aggregating the 1 January figures on areas designated for crops; these are obtained from the real-estate cadastral records kept by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre. The end of year situation is that recorded for 1 January of the following year.

Population

Figures for population size and structure are derived from decennial population censuses, and from additional information on population balances and changes.

Tables relate to the population resident on the territory of the Czech Republic, irrespective of nationality. They also include events, such as marriages, births and deaths, of the resident population which took place abroad.

Employment

Source: the labour force sample survey (autumn 1995)

The employed are all persons who are 15+ and were in paid employment or self-employment in the reference week, irrespective of whether their work activity is permanent, temporary, seasonal or occasional, or whether their job is the only (main) or secondary (additional) source of income.

Unemployment

Source: the labour force sample survey (autumn 1993,1994,1995)

The unemployed are all persons 15 or more years of age who meet concurrently all three of the following conditions in the reference period:

- have no work - i.e. they are neither employed for pay nor self-employed;
- are actively seeking a job. 'Actively' implies registration with a labour office or a private employment agency or seeking a job by visiting companies, advertising, taking steps to establish one's own company, applying for a work permit and licence, etc.;
- are ready to take up to job - i.e. they are available to carry out paid employment or selfemployment immediately or within a fortnight.

Number of pupils - 1995/96

Source: Institute of Informatics in Education

Table: Main indicators (national level - 100)

Reference year 1995.

Table: Wages - 1995

All employees registered as working for businesses with 25 or more employees, or with 100 or more employees in industry, trade, hotels and restaurants, and in all public-sector organisations (excluding the armed forces).

Table: Agriculture - 1995

Source: Agrocensus

Actual figures as of 30 September 1995 are given (not full time equivalents)

A person permanently engaged in agriculture is taken to be an individual whose work on a farm is his/her only or main activity, who is expected to be fully occupied there all the year round and who has signed a contract of employment, has been granted a self-employed farmer's or Trade Certificate, or who possesses an entrepreneurial permit based on his/her population registry number.

Livestock

Livestock figures are based on the livestock census of 1 March 1995.

Table: Number of pupils - 1995/96

Source: Institute of Informatics in Education

- Kindergartens - Pre-primary children aged 3~ years.

Table: Transport and communications Road network

Source: the Road Databank Ostrava

- numbers of motor of vehicles - the Police Headquarters of the CR includes all road motor vehicles which had valid license plates on 31 December.

Communications

Source: Ministry of Economy of the Czech Republic

Table: Water supply and sewerage systems

Figures were derived from figures reported by water-course management organisations and major operators of water supply and sewerage systems. Indicators showing drinking water supplies and waste-water removal and treatment were estimated for the republic and its regions on the basis of constant data on the length of water supply and sewerage networks.

Table: Environment - 1995

Water pollution control projects:

- waste-water treatment plants, retention and accumulation reservoirs to control waste-water discharge, neutralisation stations, decontamination stations, groundwater pollution control.

Air pollution control projects:

construction of precipitators and gaseous emission separators, reconstruction of boiler plants designed to burn gas instead of solid or liquid fuel, reconstruction of boilers designed to use fluidised-bed combustion, etc.

Waste disposal and recycling projects:

- construction of municipal waste-recycling plants, incinerating plants, compost-producing plants, controlled waste dumps, etc.

Note on comparability

The definitions and methods used by the Central Statistical Office of the Czech Republic do not always coincide with those used by Member States of the European Union. Comparisons of Czech Republic regions with regions in other countries should therefore be made with caution.

Structure of the Publication

Poland

Each region (voivodship) is presented in accordance with a uniform layout on three pages:

Page 1:

- overview of the region (1)
- territory and transport (2)

Page 2:

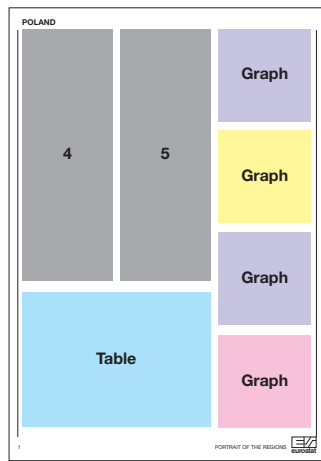
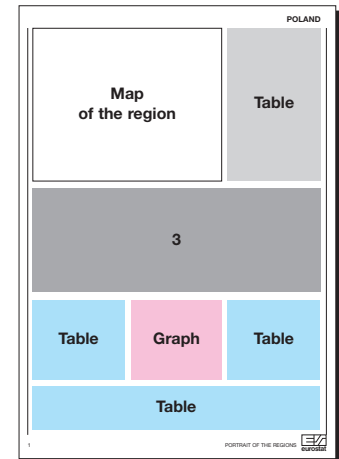
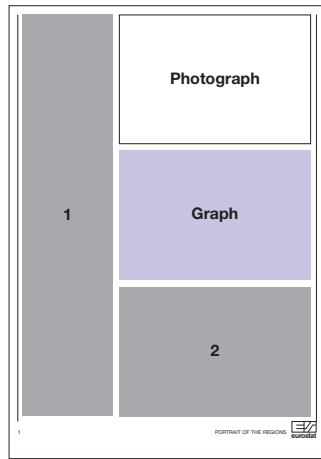
- strengths and weaknesses (3)

Page 3:

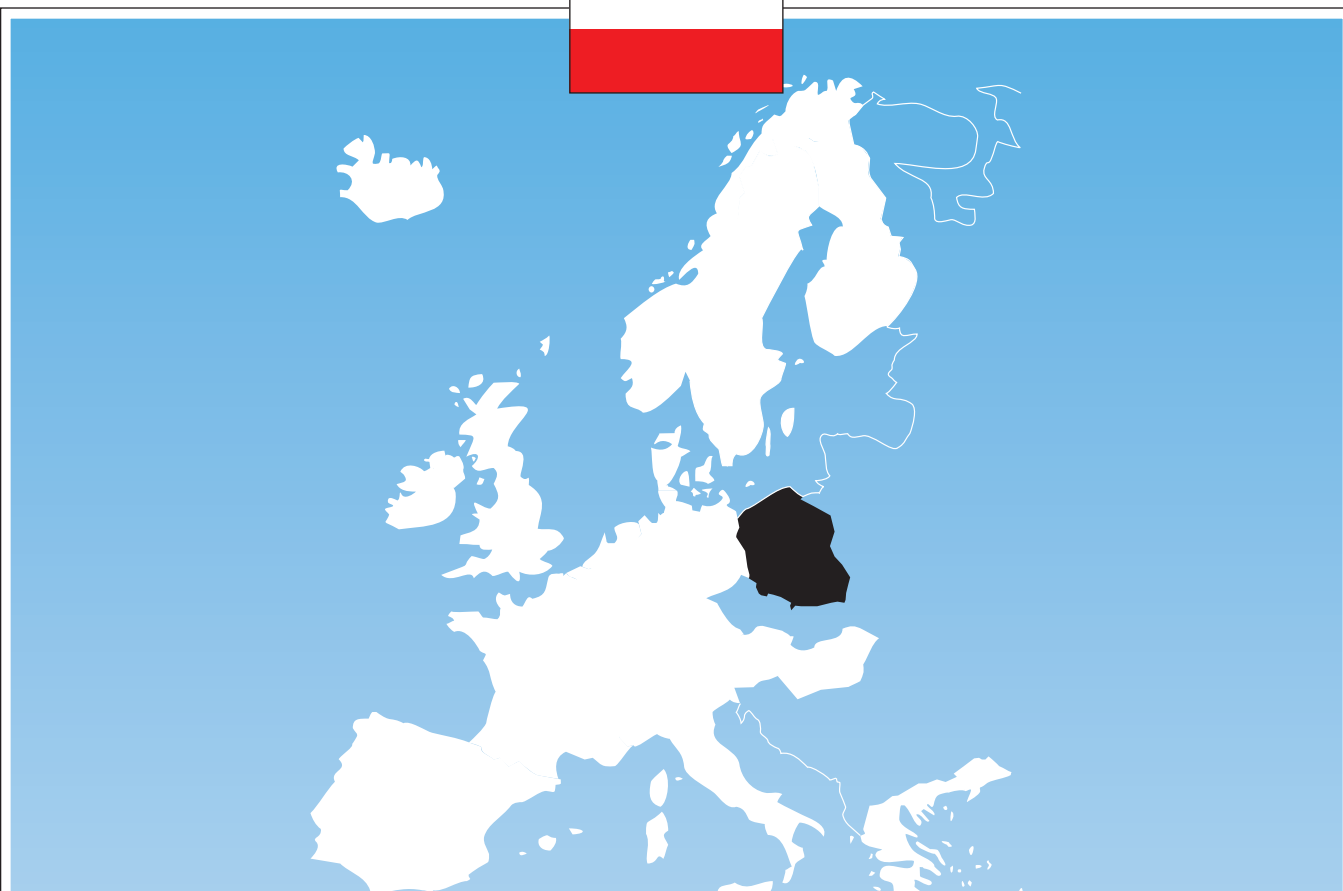
- economic structure (4)
- employment and education (5)

The regional portraits are preceded by a national page and end with explanatory notes

The legend for the regional maps is given on the last page of the publication.



POLAND



Poland, with a surface area of 312685 km², is the ninth largest country in Europe. The total population amounted to 38.6 million at the end of 1995, the eighth highest in Europe, resulting in an average population density of 123 inhabitants per km². Poland borders the Russian Federation (Kaliningrad District), Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Germany.

The origins of the Polish State date back to the 9th and 10th centuries, when the tribes living in the Odra and Wisla river basins united. In 966, Poland adopted Christianity. In its 1 000-year plus history, Poland has experienced the glory of being the most powerful country in central and eastern Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries but also the loss of its independence and the division of its territory between Austria, Prussia and Russia at the end of the 18th century.

After a period of 123 years, Poland regained independence in 1918 only to lose its sovereignty again in the Second World War when invaded by both Germany and the Soviet Union. Its current borders, not determined until the Jalta and Potsdam Conferences and later agreements with Germany and the USSR, enclose territory 78 000 km²

smaller than before the war and an ethnically virtually homogeneous population.

In the post-war period the independent Polish State remained within the Soviet Union's sphere of influence through, for example, the Warsaw Pact and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. In 1989 Poland became a sovereign democratic state. Its bicameral Parliament (Sejm and Senate) adopted a new Constitution in April 1997, ratified by a national referendum.

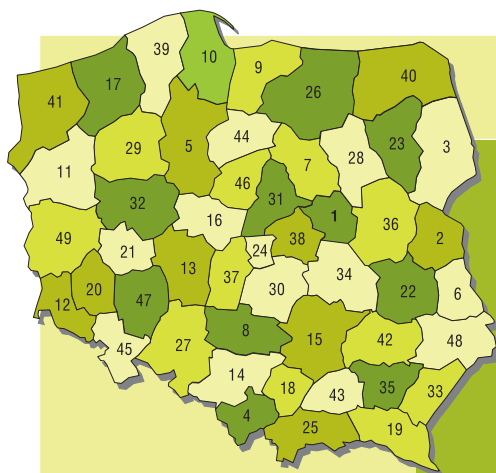
The administrative structure introduced in 1975 created 49 voivodships as a level of governmental administration and 2 483 gminas, the country's basic administrative units, with directly elected local authorities. With effect from 1 January 1999, a three-tier division of the country has been implemented, comprising 16 voivodships (level of governmental administration and self-government level), 308 powiats and 65 cities with the status of powiat as self-governing units, and gminas, the status of which has not changed.

Poland is a low-lying country (91 % of the country is less than 300 m above sea level) and its location between

the Baltic Sea and the Carpathian Mountains results in a moderate climate ranging from oceanic to continental. Soils in Poland vary greatly but light, low-fertility soils predominate. Poland's extensive natural resources include particularly abundant deposits of hard coal, exploited in the mines of Upper Silesia, and brown coal extracted mainly through the open-cast method. Deposits of copper, sulphur and zinc-lead ores, and other minerals such as rock salt are of major economic significance. Poland also has substantial quantities of geothermal water and mineral waters.

Aided by these resources, Poland became an industrial-agricultural economy after World War II. As much as 30 % of total employment was in industry and construction and 27 % in agriculture in December 1995.

Sixty two per cent of the country's population lives in Poland's 860 cities. Although most of these have fewer than 10 000 inhabitants, almost half of the urban population lives in the 42 cities with populations exceeding 100 000.



The administrative division as of December 31, 1998

Voivodships

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Warszawa | 26. Olsztyn |
| 2. Białą Podlaska | 27. Opole |
| 3. Białystok | 28. Ostrołęka |
| 4. Bielsko-Biała | 29. Piła |
| 5. Bydgoszcz | 30. Piotrków
Trybunalski |
| 6. Chełm | 31. Płock |
| 7. Ciechanów | 32. Poznań |
| 8. Częstochowa | 33. Przemyśl |
| 9. Elbląg | 34. Radom |
| 10. Gdańsk | 35. Rzeszów |
| 11. Gorzów Wielkopolski | 36. Siedlce |
| 12. Jelenia Góra | 37. Sieradz |
| 13. Kalisz | 38. Skierniewice |
| 14. Katowice | 39. Słupsk |
| 15. Kielce | 40. Suwałki |
| 16. Konin | 41. Szczecin |
| 17. Koszalin | 42. Tarnobrzeg |
| 18. Kraków | 43. Tarnów |
| 19. Krosno | 44. Toruń |
| 20. Legnica | 45. Wałbrzych |
| 21. Leszno | 46. Włocławek |
| 22. Lublin | 47. Wrocław |
| 23. Łomża | 48. Zamość |
| 24. Łódź | 49. Zielona Góra |
| 25. Nowy Sącz | |

The administrative division as of January 1, 1999



WARSZAWA

The Warsaw voivodship is situated in the lowlands of central Poland. Plains dominate the landscape, cut by the Wisła and Narew rivers. Since the Middle Ages the convenient location has encouraged the development of trade and services. This area also became the centre of political life of the Polish State when the capital was transferred from Kraków to Warsaw in 1596. The oldest industrial traditions reach back to the 18th century when the paper industry developed, followed later by the metal and textile industries. The opening of the Warsaw-Vienna railway in the first half of the 19th century contributed to the further development of the region.

The Warsaw voivodship covers 3 788 km², which accounts for 1.2 % of the country's total area. Administratively, the voivodship is composed of 58 gminas, including the 11 gminas which form the municipal agglomeration of the City of Warsaw, the Polish capital. At the end of 1995 the voivodship had a population of 2 417 000 people (6.3 % of the country's population) and it is one of the most densely populated and urbanised regions of Poland.

The 28 cities are home to 89 % of the voivodship's population, and the city of Warsaw has a population of more than 1 635 000 inhabitants (76 % of the voivodship's urban population). Other important cities in the voivodship are Pruszków (53 000 inhabitants), Legionowo (51 000) and Otwock (44 000). The region's average of 638 inhabitants per km² is five times higher than the national average.

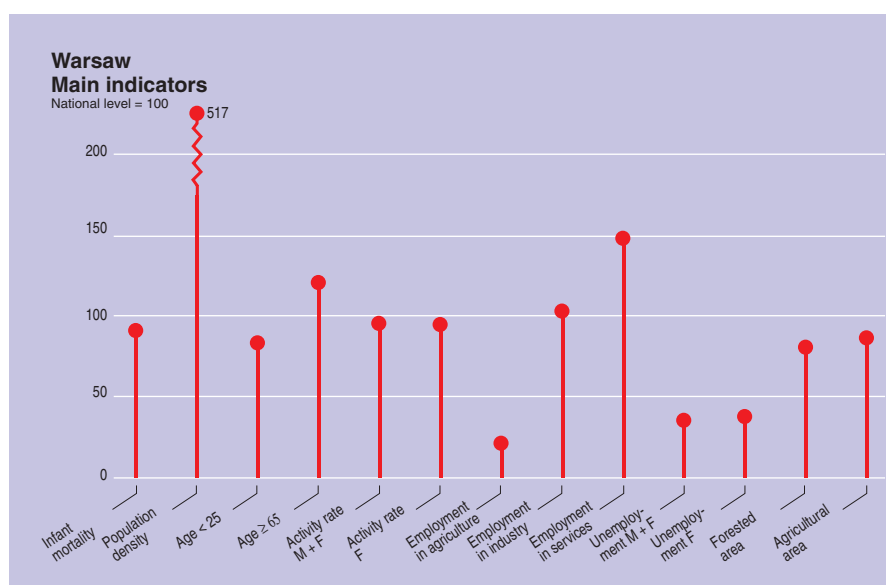
After Łódź, the Warsaw voivodship experienced the second highest natural population decrease between 1991 and 1995, with a fall of 3.1 people per 1 000 inhabitants. In the same period, it had the highest positive migration balance in Poland, which resulted in a net population gain. At the end of 1995 there were 113 females for every 100 males.

The Warsaw voivodship is home to 31 theatres, 45 cinemas and 56 museums. The majority of the cultural facilities are located in the capital, which also hosts many events of international significance: the Mozart Festival, the International Festival of Contemporary Music, the Warsaw Autumn and Summer Jazz Days, the International Jazz Jamboree as well as the Warsaw Theatre Festival. In addition, the International Chopin Competition is held every five years.

Among the voivodship's most valuable historic monuments are Warsaw's baroque palace complexes of Łazienki and Wilanów as well as the Old Town. Unique is the fortress complex in Modlin, constructed initially as a Napoleonic fort and later transformed into a Russian-type fortress with a ring system of several dozen forts and with large earth-works in the form of moats and embankments.



The Royal Castle in Warsaw with Sigismund's column, the city's oldest monument.
photo A. Zborski



An important transportation junction

Due to its central location, the Warsaw voivodship serves as an important transportation junction for the country as well as for Europe. Principal road, rail and air routes linking western with eastern Europe and Scandinavia with the Balkans intersect at Warsaw. Expansion in the numbers of vehicles has increased the need for the development of the road network and a programme of new roads and motorways is planned. The A2 east-west motorway, linking Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow, will pass through the voivodship.

There are seven electrified main railway lines in the voivodship. Recently initiated Eurocity and Intercity connections on four of these lines link Warsaw with 15

European capitals and all the larger Polish cities.

The Warszawa-Okęcie International Airport provides direct connections with more than 50 cities around the world. Modernised in 1992, the passenger terminal has a capacity of 3.5 million passengers annually.

The Warsaw voivodship is also the communications and telecommunications centre of the country and has the most developed domestic telephone system, with 314 subscribers per 1 000 inhabitants at the end of 1995 and direct connections possible for international calls and with the majority of cities and gminas in the country.



Which regions are similar to Warszawa voivodship?

Area:
3 800 km²
Suffolk (UK)
Hainaut (B)
Attiki (EL)

Age structure:
32 % under 25
Greater London (UK)
Övre Norrland (S)
Salzburg (A)

Employment structure:
63 % in services
Poitou-Charentes (F)
Friuli-Venezia Giulia (I)
Lüneburg (D)

Dynamic services sector, but environmental problems

The Warsaw voivodship has proved attractive for investors. Assets principally include its favourable location, the large and buoyant domestic market, the well-developed industrial base and well-educated labour force. The capital is the Polish centre of modern services (insurance, consulting,

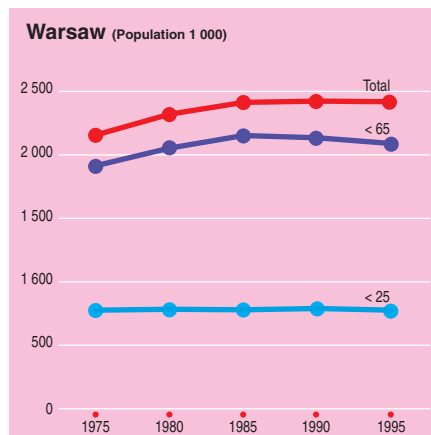
property services, employment agencies), as well as the financial sector and industry. Business services are developing rapidly.

The voivodship's greatest problem is the inadequately developed transport system in the city of Warsaw. The road network requires development and the first metro line, completed last year, is insufficient. Bypasses exist only on the drawing board. The technical infrastructure of the city is under-funded and requires huge investment.

The Warsaw voivodship also faces unresolved problems of environmental protection. There are many industrial plants in the voivodship that are harmful to the environment, particularly with regard to air pollution. Emissions of gas pollutants are considerably higher than the national average and only 50 % of waste water is processed in the industrial and municipal sewage treatment plants.

WARSAW Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	2 395.6
Births	279.5
Deaths	302.1
Net permanent migration	69.7
Net temporary migration	- 26.1
Population 31. 12. 1995	2 416.6



WARSAW Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	426	17.6	19.3	16.2
15-24	349	14.4	15.5	13.4
25-39	494	20.4	21.1	19.8
40-54	550	22.8	22.7	22.8
55-64	269	11.1	10.4	11.7
≥ 65	329	13.6	11.0	16.0
Total	2 417	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000	Inhab./km ²			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services	
	1 000 km ²	1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Warszawa voivodship	3.8	2,417	638	0,2	55.0	5.4	6	31	63
Poland	312.7	38,609	123	3,4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Economy dominated by industry and services

The Warsaw voivodship is highly industrialised, supplying 11 % of Polish industry's production by sales value. About 12 % of all the country's businesses are active within the voivodship. More than 8 000 companies with foreign capital participation are registered in Warsaw, i.e., one third of the Polish total, and foreign capital invested in the region accounts for 40 % of all foreign capital invested in Poland.

Industry in the voivodship encompasses a wide range of activities. In terms of sales values, the dominant industries are electricity, gas and water supply (25 %), food processing and beverages (19 %), publishing and printing (10 %), chemicals and chemical products (9 %) and the manufacture of motor vehicles (8 %).

Warsaw accounts for the entire domestic production of electron tubes, 90 % of basic agricultural tractors, 43 % of television sets, 30 % of cleaning and washing agents, 30 % of pharmaceuticals and 21 % of passenger vehicles.

Warsaw is also the financial centre of the country; 39 of the 87 banks established in Poland (including 10 foreign banks) have their registered head offices in the capital and the Warsaw Stock Exchange is also located in the city.

More than 85 000 people in 1995 were employed in the business services field, which accounts for approximately 20 % of the total national employment in this activity. The growth in employment in financial services has been the most dynamic in the country.

The voivodship is Poland's largest academic and scientific research centre, accounting for more than 30 % of the total number of scientific employees in Poland in 1995 and 34 % of the value of scientific research equipment. Within the voivodship there are 40 centres of higher education (representing 14 % of all tertiary students in Poland) and 50 scientific research facilities.

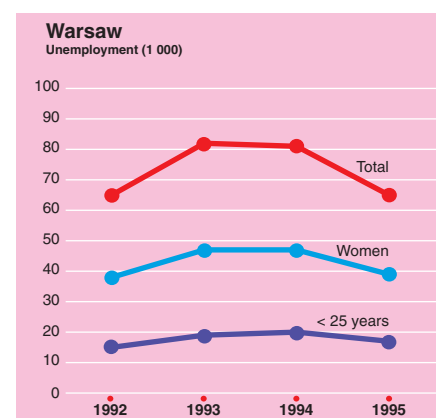
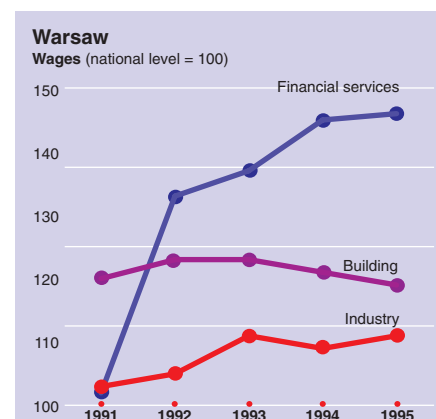
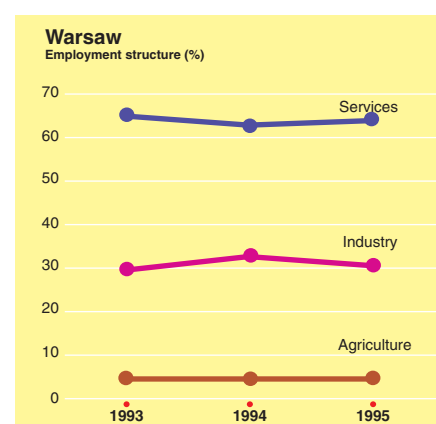
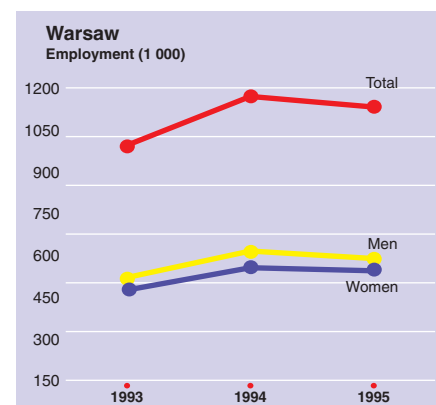
High wages, low unemployment

There were 1 132 000 people employed in the voivodship at the end of 1995, which means that almost 8 % of Polish employees work in the region. At that date, the private sector employed 59 % of Warsaw's workers. A much greater percentage of employees work in the services sector than the national average; 63 % in Warsaw (end of 1995) compared to 43 % in Poland as a whole. Trade and repairs was the largest element of the services sector with 18 % of employment in the voivodship followed by financial services and real estate activities with 14 %. The importance of the services sector is illustrated by the fact that Warsaw accounts for 20 % of total Polish employment in these branches. The industry and construction sector employed 31 % of the voivodship's workers at the end of 1995, which is in line with the national average. Employment in the agricultural sector, however, was just 6 % of the region's total; less than a quarter of the national average. A trend in the 1990s has been the increasing number of people starting their own businesses.

The average monthly gross wages and salaries in the voivodship exceeded the national average by approximately 27 % in 1995.

The Warsaw voivodship is characterised by the lowest level of registered unemployment in the country, with an end of December 1995 rate of 5 % equating to 65 000 unemployed. The groups most frequently affected by unemployment are those aged 35–45 (28 % of the unemployed at 31 December 1995) and people with only basic vocational and primary education (58 %). An unsettling phenomenon is the significant percentage of long-term unemployed (out of work for more than one year), making up 31 % of the total.

WARSAW Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	28 465	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	198 809	Vegetables	46.4 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	82	Potatoes	16.2 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	17	Fruit	10.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	41	Pork	5.1 %
Arable land (%)	70		



BIAŁA PODLASKA

The Białą Podlaska voivodship is situated in the east of Poland and has a border with Belarus in the north formed by the River Bug. The central and southern parts of the voivodship include the Polesie Lubelskie, and the Siedlce Upland stretches into the western and northern areas. The voivodship is characterised by a high degree of forestation (23 % of the land area), poor soils and little diversity in the terrain except for in the area of the Podlaski Gorge of the River Bug. Mineral resources worthy of note include aggregate (used in the production of construction materials) and peat.

The dimensions of the voivodship are 98 km from north to south and 90 km from east to west. The voivodship totals 5 348 km²; 1.7 % of the area of the country, and is divided into 40 gminas with a total population of 310 000 (31 December 1995). The voivodship's population density of 58 inhabitants per km² is one of the lowest in the country. The density in the rural areas, and particularly in the central and southern parts of the voivodship, is even lower — the average rural density at the end of 1995 was 37 inhabitants per km².

There are just 116 000 people living in the region's cities, which results in a very low degree of urbanisation (38 %), significantly lower than the national average. The largest city is Białą Podlaska, with a population of 56 000 and 49 % of the voivodship's urban population.

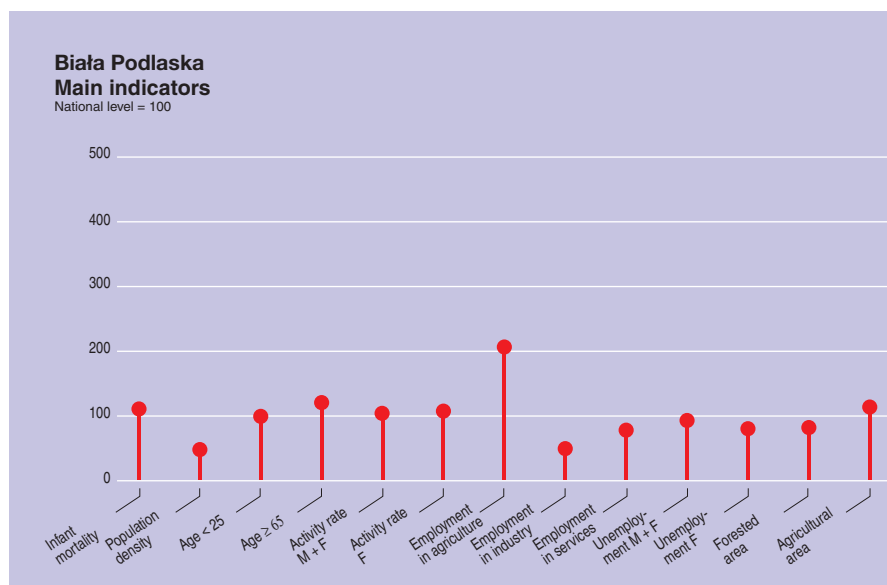
With the drop in recent years in the number of births, the natural increase of the population is clearly declining, but it still compensated for the voivodship's negative migration balance until 1995, when the outflow of the population exceeded the natural increase. As a result of these changes, there is a growth in the proportion of people in their post-productive years; for every 100 people of working age at the end of 1995, there were 86 who were not.

A rural region

About 370 000 ha, or 69 % of the voivodship's area is used for agriculture. Together with the 23 % of the territory covered by forest, this makes the Białą Podlaska voivodship a very rural region. In terms of the area of land under grass, the voivodship is one of the greenest in Poland, occupying ninth place. The 39 000 private farms occupy 90 % of the agricultural land. Most of the farms are small-scale, with an average of just over 8 ha per farm. However, as there is so little urban population, the agricultural area per inhabitant is



*Podlasie is famous for possessing the oldest stables in Poland. Arabian horses bred there are sold throughout the world.
photo W.Zieliński*



more than two and a half times the national average.

The voivodship is characterised by a relatively poorly-developed network of hard-surfaced public roads, with just 57 km of road per 100 km², which reflects a low level of public investment in the region. An important exception though is the main east-west European transportation route, with international road and rail lines passing through the voivodship linking Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.

The voivodship has four border crossings with Belarus; a rail crossing at Terespol and road crossings at Terespol, Sławatycze and Kukuryki. The rail 'port' at Małaszewicze, which has a trans-shipping capacity of 23 000 tonnes a day, is of the greatest significance in terms of freight transport.

Being such a rural region, the voivodship has a relatively unspoilt environment, with clean air and healthy forests.



Which regions are similar to Białą Podlaska voivodship?

Population:
310 000 inhabitants
Ostalbkreis (D)
Northumberland (UK)

Population density:
58 inhabitants per km²
Deux-Sèvres (F)
Chania (EL)

Age structure:
40,5–41 % under 25
Ceuta y Melilla (E)
Madeira (P)

Benefits of border location

One of the most important assets of the Białą Podlaska voivodship is its border location, creating good conditions and opportunities for cooperation and trade with the eastern markets. The rail transshipping port in Małaszewicze, which provides a wide-gauge rail connection with Belarus, Russia and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, has the advantage of a location in the immediate vicinity of a Special Economic Zone and near to an airport at which heavy

freight planes are able to land.

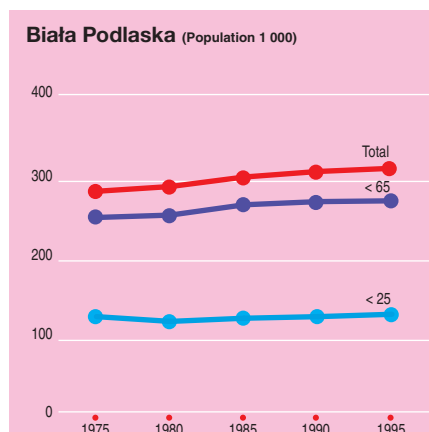
Secondly, the agricultural raw materials base puts the voivodship in a strong position for the development of the food-processing industry.

In terms of tourism, the Białą Podlaska voivodship has great potential, with its clean air, its unspoilt forests and soils and rural nature. The Bug valley and Polesie Lubelskie are particularly valuable natural areas.

The voivodship does, however, suffer from a poorly-developed technical and social infrastructure, and the low efficiency of the agricultural economy.

BIAŁA PODLASKA Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	295.6
Births	56.5
Deaths	38.7
Net permanent migration	– 8.0
Net temporary migration	4.0
Population 31. 12. 1995	309.5



BIAŁA PODLASKA Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	78	25.1	26.1	24.1
15–24	47	15.4	16.1	14.7
25–39	61	19.6	20.8	18.5
40–54	53	17.1	17.3	16.9
55–64	29	9.3	8.8	9.7
≥ 65	42	13.5	10.9	16.1
Total	310	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Białą Podlaska voivodship	5.3	310	58	3.9	61.9	13.6	55	12	33
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Agriculture, food processing and textiles

Developed on the basis of local raw materials, the agricultural foodstuff industry, accounting for 64 % of the voivodship's total production by sales value, dominates the structure of industrial production. The meat, milk, and fruit and vegetable processing industries also occupy important positions.

Agriculture is by far the biggest employer in the Białą Podlaska voivodship, with 55 % of employment in this sector in 1995. However, the region has poor soils and low-intensity farming and these factors are reflected in the relatively small harvests. Large meadow and pasture areas and the growing of feed grains and potatoes support the rearing of animals, and in particular pigs and sheep.

The production of textiles and clothing are important to the voivodship's economy, representing more than 10 % of the sales value of total production of goods and services. Combed and wool-like fabrics, underwear, other clothing and footwear are manufactured in the region. The furniture industry is also of significance, as is the engineering industry, which produces machinery for construction, road building and drainage work.

The region does not have a highly-developed services sector, and is not a centre of research and development, with only one institute of higher education; the Institute for Physical Education in Białą Podlaska.

Agriculture the biggest employer

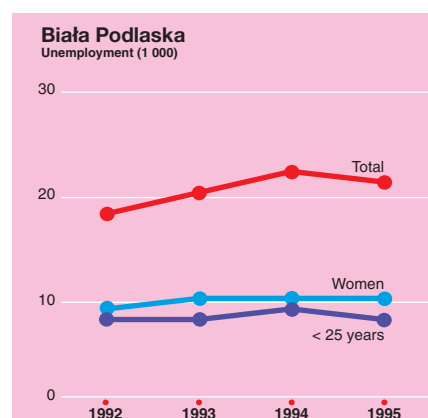
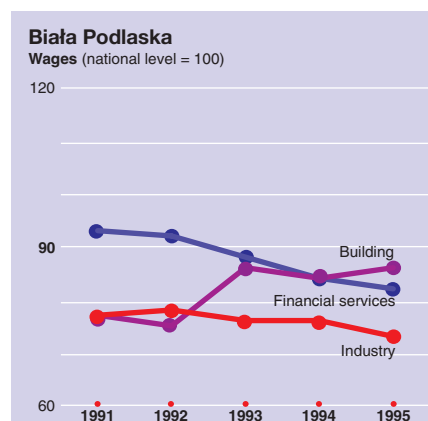
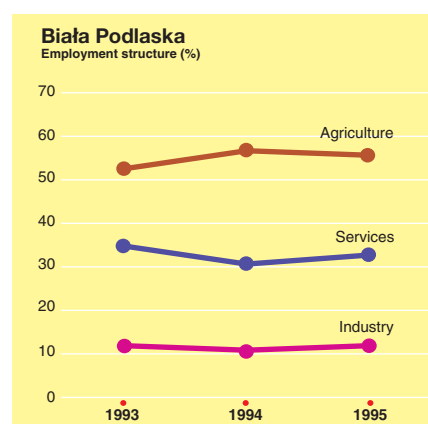
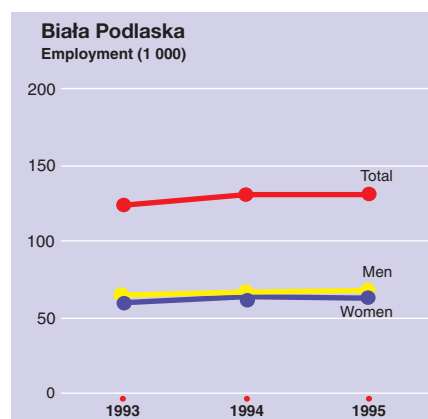
The Białą Podlaska voivodship economy counted 131 000 employees at the end of 1995. Thus, employed people represented 42 % of the voivodship's total population; 3.5 percentage points above the national average. Retired people and pensioners account for about 25 % of the total population.

By far the largest economic sector in terms of employment is agriculture, with 55% of the total number of employees in the voivodship (31 December 1995). This dwarfs the figure for the proportion working in industry — just 12 % — and exceeds employment in the services sector (33 %) by a large margin.

The rate of unemployment, which stood at 13.6 % at the end of 1995, is lower than the national average and is showing a downward trend. Average wages and salaries in 1995 in the voivodship were about 15 % lower than the national average.

**BIAŁA PODLASKA
Agriculture — 1995**

Number of private farms	38 709	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	368 918		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	90	Pork	35.3 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	37	Milk	13.3 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	119	Beef	12.7 %
Arable land (%)	70	Potatoes	8.9 %



BIAŁYSTOK

The Białystok voivodship is situated in the north-eastern part of Poland. In the east it has a 192 km-long border with Belarus. In terms of size it is the fourth largest voivodship in Poland, covering an area of 10 055 km² which represents 3.2 % of the country's land area.

The Białystok voivodship's population in December 1995 of 701 000 gives a population density which, at 70 inhabitants per km², is not much more than half the national average. Administratively, the voivodship is divided into 55 gminas. The 19 cities are home to 63 % of the voivodship's population with the largest city, Białystok, having a population of 279 000 and being the capital of the voivodship. The dominance of Białystok in the region is seen from the fact that the next biggest city has less than a 10th of its population (Bielsk Podlaski with a population of 27000). Other cities are Hajnówka (population 24 000) and Sokółka (20 000).

Almost 60% of the population at the end of 1995 was of working age. The rural population accounted for 37 % of the total, a proportion that is declining each year. This is connected with a decline in the natural population increase (which in the countryside has become a decrease), as well as with the outflow of people from the rural to urban areas. Infant mortality is on a par with the national average. Various minorities live in the voivodship, notably the Belarussians, Ukrainians, Tatars and Gypsies, the most numerous of which are the Belarussians.

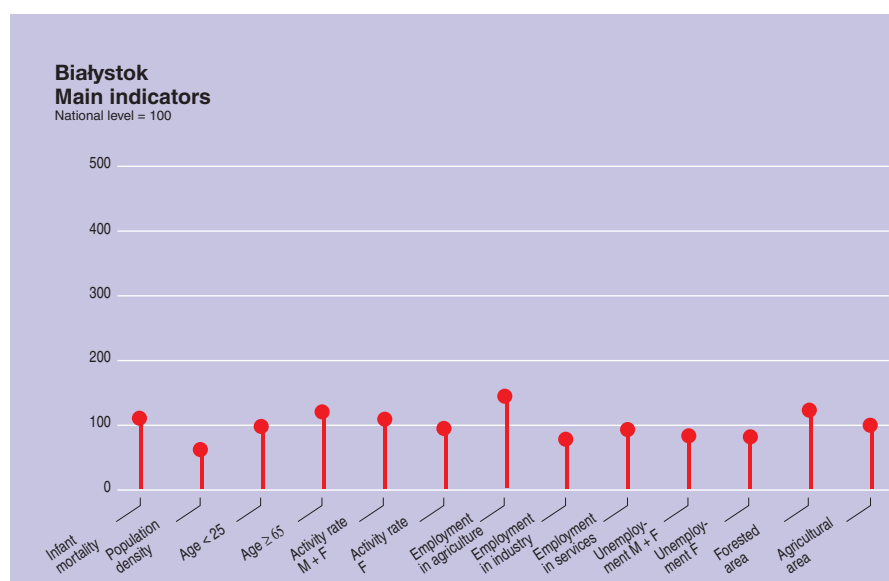
Cultural activities are mainly concentrated in the voivodship capital. The AI. Węgierki Dramatic Theatre organises the annual International Theatre Week and is one of the leading theatres in Poland.

30 % of the region covered by forest

The Białystok voivodship is situated in the Northern Podlaska Lowland, with the Białostocka Upland in the north of the region and the Bielska Upland in the south. The landscape has a relatively flat character, with ranges of hillocks and moraine hills — rising up to 214 m above sea level around Sokółka — in the area between the highlands. The voivodship is characterised by a high degree of forestation — more than 30 % — and a well-developed river network centred on the Bug, the Narew, the Supraśl and the Biebrza. The only mineral raw materials found in the voivodship



*The Branicki Palace, a residence in the late baroque style, currently houses the offices of the Medical Academy.
photo A. Zborski*



are deposits of sand, gravel, clay, ceramic clays and chalk.

Agricultural land accounts for 59 % of the voivodship's area. The proportion of this devoted to arable farming (64 %) is less than the national average, but the proportion of meadows (19 % of agricultural land) and pastures (16 %) is significantly higher.

The forested 'Wilderness Areas' of Białowieża and Knyszyńska, with their clean air and rivers (the Supraśl and the Narew) attract tourists. Indeed, the

Białowieża National Park is among the most valuable natural wilderness areas in Poland. Many species of animals and birds are found there, including bison, elk, deer, roe-deer, wild boar, lynx, wolves, badgers, wood grouse and cranes. There are also protected breeding areas for bison and tarpan. About 35 % of the voivodship's area is protected in some way, whether in national parks, reservations, scenic parks or protected landscape areas. Białystok is among the voivodships participating in the 'Green Lungs of Poland' programme and has adopted an eco-development strategy.



Which regions are similar to Białystok voivodship?

Population:
700 000 inhabitants
Cambridgeshire (UK)
Foggia (I)

Population density:
69–70 inhabitants per km²
Marne (F)
Algarve (P)
Ileia (EL)

Age structure:
13 % over 65
Veszprém (HU)
Tirol (A)
Andalucia (E)

Exceptional natural environment

Among the strong points of the Białystok voivodship are its geopolitical location which provides an opportunity for it to play a role in east-west contacts. Voivodship companies can benefit from these contacts. Opportunities for developing transit traffic, participating in constructing a European transport infrastructure and

developing tourism on a larger scale are evident.

The natural environment of the region is quite exceptional, with rich flora and fauna and many species of rare and protected plants and animals.

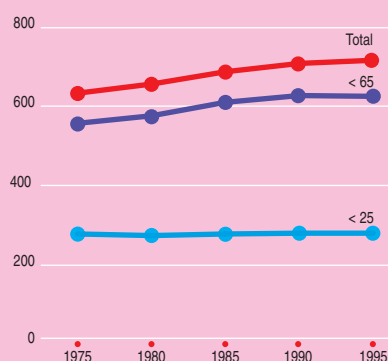
The well-developed educational institutions at Białystok have a significance beyond the borders of the voivodship and there is an educated population with intellectual potential.

Problems yet to be resolved in the voivodship include the much-needed modernisation of the production processes in order to be competitive on world markets. Coupled with this is the need to adapt the suitability of the labour force to the demands of a modern economy in terms of education and the structure of employment and to achieve a gradual restructuring of agriculture.

BIAŁYSTOK Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	666.1
Births	110.9
Deaths	80.5
Net permanent migration	0.3
Net temporary migration	3.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	700.7

Białystok (Population 1 000)



BIAŁYSTOK Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	157	22.5	23.6	21.3
15–24	107	15.3	16.0	14.6
25–39	149	21.3	22.3	20.3
40–54	127	18.1	18.1	18.0
55–64	70	9.9	9.4	10.4
≥ 65	91	13.0	10.5	15.3
Total	701	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services
		1995	1995	Change (%) 1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Białystok voivodship	10.1	701	70	4.3	58.9	13.8	38	22	40
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Food processing dominates industrial output

Industry is concentrated in the larger cities: Białystok and its agglomeration, Hajnówka, Łapy, Bielsk Podlaski, Czarna Białostocka, Sokółka and Siemiatycze. The food processing and beverages industry is by far the most significant, with 43 % of the region's output by sales value, followed by the manufacture of fabrics (11 %), and the manufacture of machinery and equipment (9 %). The wood industry, including the manufacture of wood and cork products as well as materials used in weaving and articles from straw, has a 7 % share.

On a national scale, the Białystok voivodship is a significant producer of wool and wool-like fabrics (with 15 % of total Polish production) as well as cotton and cotton-like fabrics (7 %), butter (6 %), processed meats (4 %) and meats and fats (3 %). Machinery, tools and equipment for agriculture and forestry represent 5% of Polish total production and machinery and equipment for construction, road and drainage work 4 %. The timber industry (the preparation of coniferous and hardwood timber, furniture and wood for construction) and the clothing industry are also nationally important.

Thanks to its border location, the Białystok voivodship has particularly well-developed economic links with Belarus, to which products of the food-processing, chemical and electrical engineering industries as well as wood and paper are exported. Russia is another trading partner.

There are almost 52 000 private farms, and these occupy more than 90 % of the agricultural land. The average farm size of 10 ha is large in Polish terms, being one and a half times the national average. The region's soils are not very fertile, with a low humus content and characterised by high acidity. In the sown areas rye (23 %) and potatoes (12 %) dominate.

The poor quality soils have a significant impact on the yields of basic cereals, which are the lowest in the country.

However, the Białystok voivodship is more suited to the rearing of cattle; in terms of the number of head of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land, in June 1995, it ranked eighth in the country. Animal production dominates the structure of agriculture.

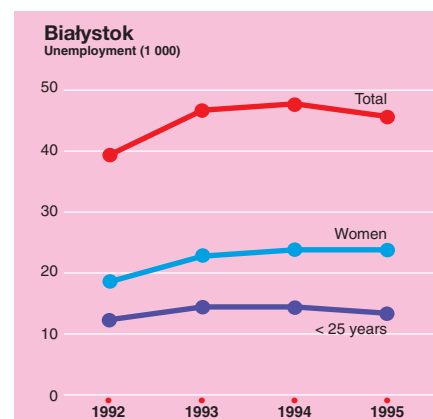
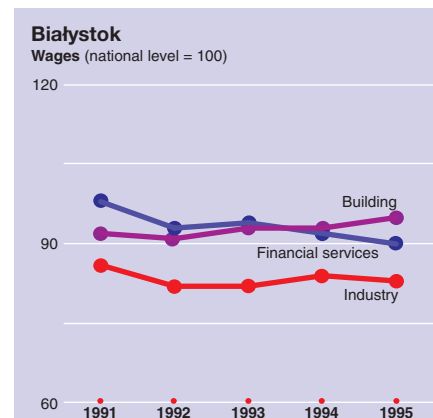
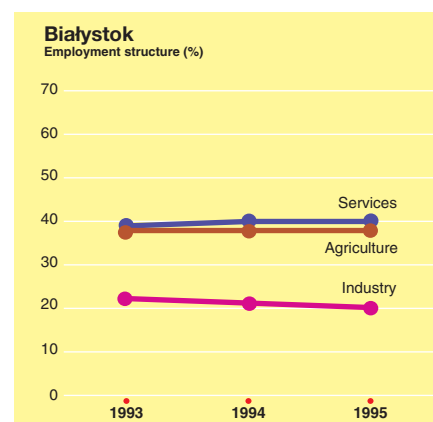
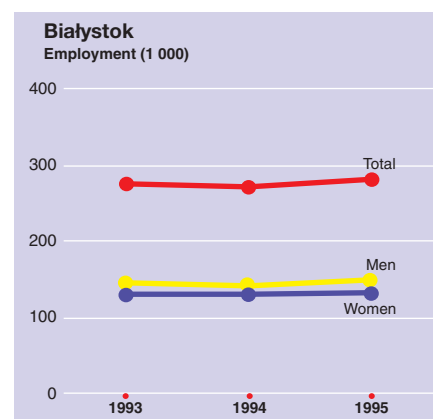
The main academic centre of north-east Poland

There were 281 000 people working in the Białystok voivodship at the end of 1995, of which 67 % were in the private sector. In terms of the structure of employment, the services sector was largest with 40 %, closely followed by the agriculture, hunting and forestry sector with 38%. Industry represented 22% of employment. The average monthly gross wages and salaries in 1995 were almost 10% below the national average.

There were 45 000 people registered as unemployed in the voivodship on 31st December, 1995. The unemployment rate, at 14 %, was below the national average, but over 33 % of the registered unemployed had been out of work for more than one year. Young people up to the age of 25 accounted for 31 % of the unemployed.

Białystok is the principal academic centre in north-eastern Poland and has three centres of higher education: the Medical Academy, Białystok Polytechnic and the College of Finance and Management. There is also a seminary and three branches of Warsaw-based institutes of higher education: Warsaw University, the Music Academy and the Theatre Academy (Puppet Department). The 36 general secondary schools had 15 000 students at the start of the 1995 school year, giving one of the highest proportions in the country (34 %) of secondary school pupils in general education.

BIAŁYSTOK Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	51 864	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	588 740		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	91	Milk	28.7 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	51	Pork	23.5 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	71	Beef	12.5 %
Arable land (%)	64	Vegetables	6.4 %



BIELSKO-BIAŁA

The Bielsko-Biała voivodship is situated in southern Poland and covers an area of 3 704 km² with 59 administrative units (gminas). In the south it borders the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The total population of the voivodship at the end of December 1995 was 919 000 — 2.4 % of the national population — occupying 1.2 % of the country's area, which results in a population density of double the national average. Almost half of the voivodship's population (48 %) lives in the 18 cities.

Of the total population 58 % is of working age. The 1995 ratio of 105 females for every 100 males is declining, and there is a higher proportion of women in the urban population than in rural areas. There was still a natural increase in the population in 1995 but, particularly in the cities, this has declined significantly. The balance of population migration is positive and the net migration into the region is increasing. The outflow of people emigrating abroad is declining. Consequently, the overall annual percentage increase in the voivodship's population is higher than the national average.

Industry and tourism play leading roles in the economy. The voivodship is one of the more important tourist regions for its hiking, winter sports, water sports and gliding. The Babiogórski National Park and Żywiecki Scenic Park are well-served by overnight accommodation, a network of ski lifts, cable cars, good transport links and open border crossings with the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Historic monuments include the old towns of Bielsko-Biała, Żywiec and Lanckorona, the monastery at Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. The State Museum of Martyrdom is located in Oświęcim, otherwise known as Auschwitz.

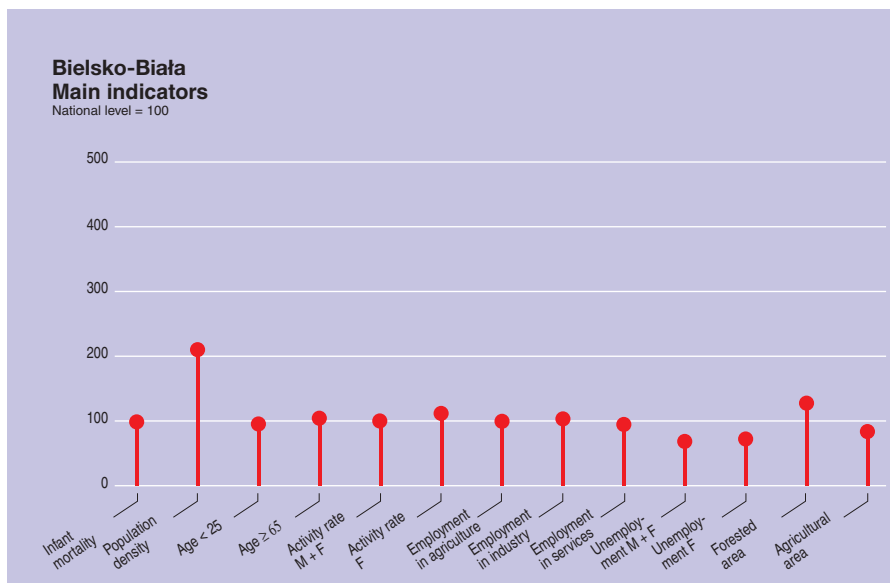
Nature threatened by industry

Situated in the upper basin of the River Wisła, the terrain of the Bielsko-Biała voivodship is mostly hilly and mountainous. The Beskid Zachodni mountain range, which includes Babia Góra, the region's highest peak at 1 725 m, stretches to the north through the Pogórze Karpackie and down into the Oświęcimská Valley at just 210 m above sea level.

The natural resources of the voivodship are rather poor, although there are some raw



*The Western Beskid mountains with Babia Góra, the highest peak.
photo S. Skwierawski*



materials for building as well as underground and mineral waters.

Industry has made an impact on the natural environment through the release of pollutants into the atmosphere and rivers as well as the large accumulation of industrial waste. Expenditure on environmental protection is increasing, particularly on the treatment of industrial waste and on water protection. There are 16 municipal waste treatment plants as well as numerous company and local treatment plants operating in the voivodship. All of the cities and almost all of the rural gminas are served by the public water supply, but the provision of public sewerage systems is much less extensive.

Roads through the region provide excellent connections leading to the Baltic coast as well as the Scandinavian countries to the north, and through the numerous border crossings, to the countries of southern Europe. A well-developed railway network facilitates both domestic and foreign travel. There are direct connections with larger Polish and foreign cities, notably Warsaw, Szczecin, Gdańsk, Bratislava and Vienna. Cross-border cooperation with the Czech Republic and Slovakia is being revived with the opening of new rail and road border crossings. Bielsko-Biała also has a small airport, adapted to the needs of small passenger and recreational aeroplanes.



Which regions are similar to Bielsko-Biała voivodship?

Area:
3 700 km²
Bologna (I)
Tarn-et-Garonne (F)
Covasna (RO)

Age structure:
38–39% under 25
Canarias (E)
Constanta (RO)

Employment structure:
34 % in industry
Brandenbourg (D)
Pest (HU)
Steiermark (A)

Infrastructure in need of improvement

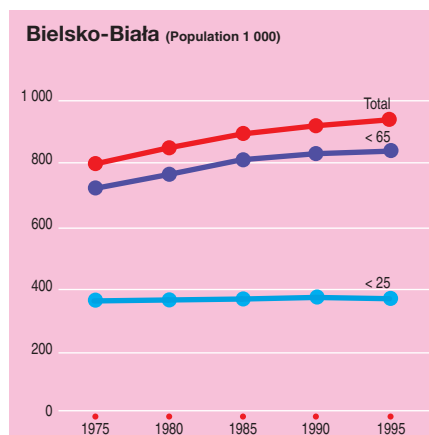
The region has an attractive climate and landscape, numerous historic monuments and wide-ranging cultural activities with a well-developed tourist infrastructure. It has a developed and diverse industrial sector, some of whose products are known nationally and even on international markets. Geographically, the region is located along historic trade and transport routes.

The most important problems facing the voivodship are the need for more residential housing construction and the development of sewage treatment plants and sewerage networks. Another aspect of the infrastructure that is in need of improvement is the road network, which is of generally low quality, the roads needing to be adapted to make them suitable for the large volume of traffic and for the transport of heavy loads. A programme of building new roads is also needed.

Agriculture in the voivodship is very small-scale with the average farm size the smallest in the country at just 2.5 ha. Agricultural efficiency is also affected by the generally poor soils.

BIELSKO-BIAŁA Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	865.3
Births	149.3
Deaths	95.5
Net permanent migration	3.1
Net temporary migration	- 3.6
Population 31. 12. 1995	918.6



BIELSKO-BIAŁA Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	211	23.0	24.1	21.9
15–24	144	15.6	16.3	15.0
25–39	199	21.6	22.5	20.8
40–54	177	19.3	19.5	19.0
55–64	89	9.7	9.2	10.1
≥ 65	99	10.8	8.3	13.2
Total	919	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Bielsko-Biała voivodship	3.7	919	248	5.1	62.9	10.9	25	34	41
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

High per capita industrial output

Industry in the voivodship is concentrated in the larger cities, including Bielsko-Biała, Żywiec, Oświęcim, Andrychów, Skoczów and Kęty. It is characterised by a large diversity of production as well as by a significant proportion of small and medium-size enterprises and small-scale craft workshops. The automobile industry has a very important position with 35 % of the voivodship's industrial output by sales value and the manufacture of plastic and rubber products, paints and lacquers, wool and wool-like textiles and food-processing are also important. Industrial production by value of sales amounts to 4 % of Polish total production, and in per capita terms this ranks Bielsko-Biała third among the 49 voivodships.

The private sector in the voivodship accounts for a larger share of employment (65 %) than the national average. The private sector produces 66 % of the region's industrial production by sales value, 85 % of construction-assembly production and accounts for 98 % of retail commodity sales. The development of the private sector has been stimulated by foreign investment, particularly in the automobile and food processing industries.

Agriculture in the voivodship is small-scale. The average farm size is the smallest in the country at just 2.5 ha. The 49 000 private farms occupy 91 % of the total agricultural land.

The soils of the voivodship are generally characterised by their low fertility. The climate varies according to the height above sea level. On the higher ground it is cool with significant rainfall (up to 1 200 mm a year), and the growing season lasts about 210 days (190 days in the mountains). The forests, in which coniferous trees predominate, cover 37 % of the land area and are mainly found in the southern, mountainous areas. Agricultural cultivation is concentrated in the better soils in the northern parts of the voivodship. Wheat (covering 20 % of agricultural land) and potatoes

(16 %) are grown in the voivodship as well as barley and oats. The Bielsko-Biała voivodship stands out with a high number of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land (sixth among the voivodships).

One of the lowest unemployment rates

In the period from 1990 the number of people employed in the voivodship fell by about 20 000 to the end of December 1995 figure of 366 000. Of these, 41 % work in the services sector, 34 % in industry and 25 % in the agricultural sector.

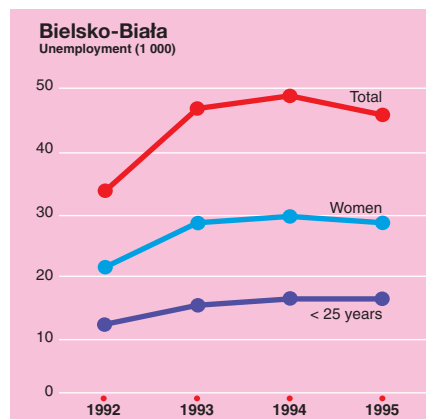
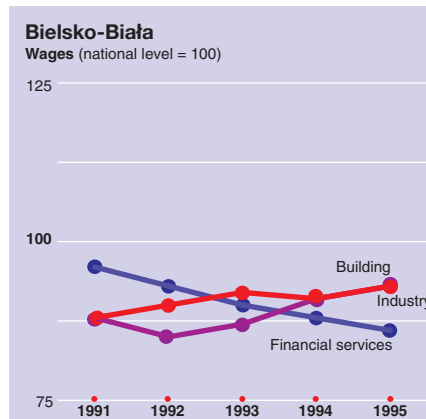
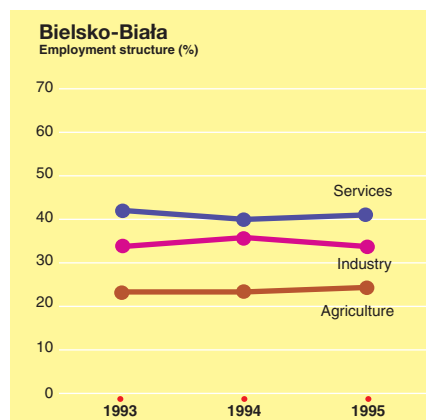
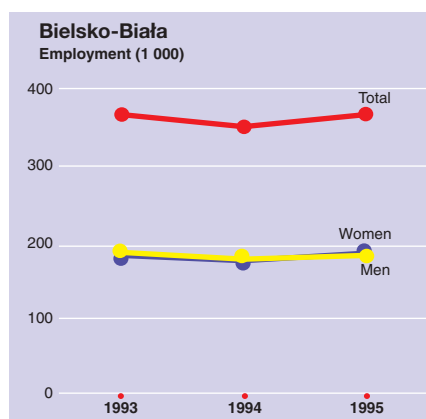
A negative consequence of the economic transformation was the problem of unemployment. Despite the fact that the rate of unemployment was one of the lowest in the country at the end of 1995 (11 %), the problem is not negligible as there were as many as 45 000 registered unemployed, one-third of whom had been unemployed for more than a year. Women made up 64 % of the unemployed, people with no more than a basic vocational education represented 41 % and 37 % were young people below the age of 25.

The average gross monthly wages and salaries in 1995 were equivalent to 93 % of the national average.

Young people study for academic and professional qualifications in the voivodship's 30 general secondary schools and 170 technical and vocational secondary schools. There are about 13 000 students in the higher and post-secondary schools. Since 1994 several private schools — five primary, five general secondary, 39 vocational and three higher schools — have been operating in the voivodship.

**BIELSKO-BIAŁA
Agriculture — 1995**

Number of private farms	49 199	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	182 553		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	91	Pork	24.8 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	52	Milk	17.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	73	Vegetables	11.1 %
Arable land (%)	74	Beef	7.4 %



BYDGOSZCZ

The Bydgoszcz voivodship is situated along the lower course of the River Wisła. It is among the largest voivodships in terms of area (10 349 km²) and also one of the most economically active in the country.

The Bydgoszcz voivodship, with its end of 1995 population of 1 132 000, accounts for 2.9 % of Poland's total population and is the eighth most populous voivodship in the country. The urban population accounts for more than 65 % of the total population. The voivodship's inhabitants are younger than the national average; a consequence of the higher natural increase in the population.

The voivodship is divided into 59 gminas. The capital is Bydgoszcz, the eighth largest city in Poland in terms of population (386 000 inhabitants), and a large industrial, trade, educational and cultural centre. Many institutions are located in Bydgoszcz, including four centres of higher education, the Pomorska Philharmonic Orchestra, the Opera Nowa, and the State Clinical Hospital. Other large cities in the voivodship are Inowrocław, Chojnice, Świecie and Nakło.

The Pomorska Philharmonic Orchestra has a concert hall featuring unique acoustics, and the Teatr Polski and the Opera Nowa also play important roles in the cultural activity of the area.

A well-developed transport infrastructure

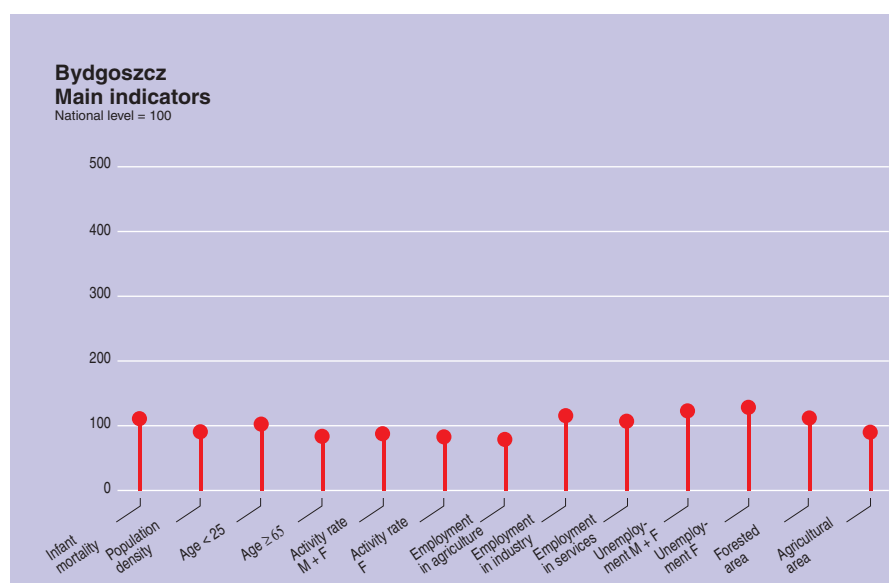
Important among Bydgoszcz's natural resources are the forests, which cover 30 % of the voivodship's area, deposits of rock salt exploited in the area of Inowrocław and Mogilno and deposits of limestone and brown coal. The main rivers are the Wisła, Noteć, Brda and Wda and there are numerous post-glacial lakes, the most important of which is Lake Gopło with a surface area of almost 22 km².

The well-developed rail and road network, both in the north-south and east-west directions, link the voivodship to all regions of the country. The total length of the railway lines (1 062 km) gives the Bydgoszcz voivodship the second longest network in the country and its 6 840 km of hard-surfaced roads earn it fifth place. There are also good possibilities for water transport; Bydgoszcz is a major waterway junction, providing connections with Warsaw, Gdańsk, and Szczecin as well as with river



The old granaries in Bydgoszcz on the Brda river, formerly an important centre of the grain trade.

photo Wydawnictwo 'Tekst'



ports in western Europe through the waters of the Wisła, Brda, Noteć and the Bydgoszcz Canal. Bydgoszcz also has an airport serving both passenger and freight traffic.

The Bydgoszcz voivodship possesses a fully automated international communications system and an automatic switching network for telephone connections to the major cities, but the population's access to

telephone services is still low. The public water supply reached 92 % of the urban population at the end of 1995, the sewerage system about 80 % and some 70 % received municipal central heating.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Bydgoszcz voivodship?

Area:

about 10 300 km²
Soria (E)
Niederbayern (D)

Age structure:

10 % over 65
Canarias (E)
Bacau (RO)

Employment structure:

42–44% in services
Dytiki Makedonia (EL)
Centro (P)
Thessalia (EL)

A strategy for development

The voivodship adopted in 1995 a strategy aimed at limiting unemployment and reducing its effects, restructuring the economy, creating institutions supporting social and economic development and the broad development of the rural areas. Further goals were to develop the production of inexpensive and healthy foodstuffs, developing the technical infrastructure, and investing in environmental protection and human resources.

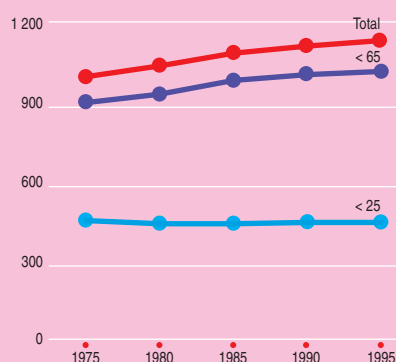
Assets of the region include the intellectual potential and human resources, well-developed institutions in the business environment, and experience and contacts with foreign markets. Agriculture is also important. Favourable natural conditions, long agricultural traditions and a well-developed agricultural food-processing industry result in the Bydgoszcz voivodship being one of the foremost agricultural regions in Poland.

Besides these assets, which should create good conditions for further economic development, there are other, unfavourable, phenomena that may limit the scale of the restructuring possible. These include limited capital funds, the inadequate use of the production potential and the lack of sufficient labour resources capable of meeting the requirements of competitive markets.

BYDGOSZCZ Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 074.1
Births	184.4
Deaths	123.1
Net permanent migration	- 6.4
Net temporary migration	2.8
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 131.8

Bydgoszcz (Population 1 000)



BYDGOSZCZ Population by age - 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	262	23.1	24.3	22.0
15–24	182	16.1	16.9	15.4
25–39	244	21.5	22.2	20.9
40–54	227	20.0	20.1	19.9
55–64	100	8.9	8.5	9.2
≥ 65	117	10.4	8.0	12.6
Total	1 132	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Bydgoszcz voivodship	10.3	1 132	109	4.4	55.0	18.0	22	34	44
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Developed industry and efficient agriculture

The voivodship is one of the most economically-developed in the country and, after Warsaw, has had the most success in attracting foreign capital.

Industry plays the dominant role in the economy, with a vast and varied structure, a long tradition and potential for further development exploiting existing raw materials and the transport network. The food-processing industry accounts for 27 % of the total industrial production of the voivodship by sales value. About 20 % of the total Polish production of edible fats and 8 % of sugar originate from the Bydgoszcz voivodship, in addition to a significant percentage of fruit and vegetable products, confectionery products, flour products and beer. Its chemical industry produces household chemicals, dyes, rubber products and photographic film while a strong wood and paper industry supplies 30 % of the total Polish production of paper and cardboard, as well as manufacturing cellulose and furniture. Other very important products of the voivodship include bicycles (86 % of Polish production), radios (46 %), metalworking machinery, machinery and food-processing equipment.

The vast majority of agricultural land (84%) is arable, with almost 15 % permanent grassland. Approximately 77 % of the agricultural land is in private hands and the average private farm is 12 hectares in area, 5 hectares larger than the national average. Bydgoszcz Voivodship is a major producer of cereals, sugar beet, rape, potatoes and fodder plants. Yields and productivity are high, generating about 6 % of the domestic harvest of sugar beet and about 5 % each of meat, cereals and rape. With over 1.1 million pigs in June 1995, the region has the second largest pig population in the country.

Among the rapidly developing institutions with the key role of enhancing the preconditions for economic growth, financial institutions play a particular role. There are 110 branches and sub-branches of 25 different

banks in the Bydgoszcz voivodship. Fall in employment reversed in 1995

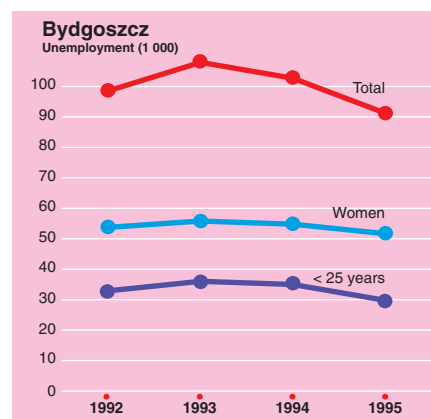
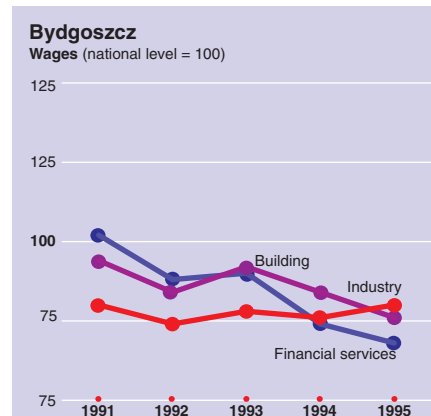
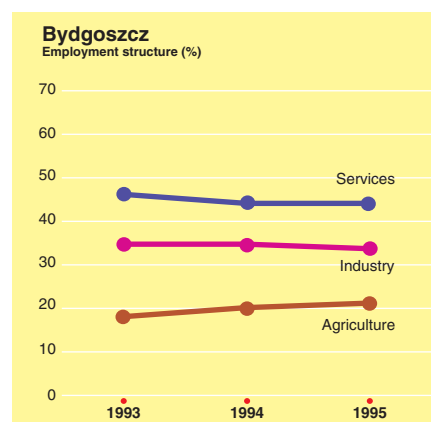
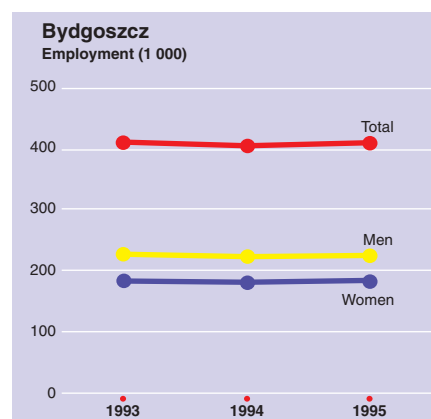
Between December 1990 and 1994, the number of people working in the voivodship fell by 40 000, the sectors of agriculture and industry being most affected. Employment then grew slightly in 1995. Jobs in the services sector accounted for 44 % of total employment in the voivodship at the end of 1995. This proportion is slightly higher than that in 1990. By 1995, as much as 62% of all employment was in the private sector.

Only 22 % of the population worked in agriculture and forestry at the end of 1995. The proportion working in industry and construction, at 34 %, was one of the highest in Poland.

Despite a small improvement since late 1993, Bydgoszcz has continued to be an area of high unemployment. There were 90 000 people registered as unemployed at 31st December 1995, giving an unemployment rate of 18 %. Particularly disturbing are the high number of long term unemployed - some 37 % - high youth unemployment and the many not entitled to benefits.

Average monthly gross wages and salaries in 1995 were about 10 % lower than the national average.

In addition to 48 general secondary schools and 195 vocational schools, Bydgoszcz houses a teaching college and Agro-Technical, Medical and Music Academies, as well as a department of the Poznań Business College.



BYDGOSZCZ Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	37 611	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	592 720	Pork	30.1 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	78	Industrial crops	14.6 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	36	Milk	13.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	193	Vegetables	7.3 %
Arable land (%)	84		

CHEŁM

The Chełm voivodship is located in eastern Poland. The northern part of the voivodship lies in the Polesie Podlaskie on the Łęczyńsko-Włodawska Plain — an area of peatbogs, marshes and lakes. The southern part of the region stretches into the Polesie Wołyńskie — made up of the Pagóry Chełmskie, which rise to 274 m above sea level, and the Dubienki and Dorohuckie depressions — and into the Lubelska Upland (Działy Grabowieckie).

The main rivers are the Bug, which forms the eastern border of the voivodship and simultaneously the country's border with Ukraine and Belarus, and the River Wieprz. The north-western part of the voivodship, where grasslands predominate, is drained by the Wieprz – Krzna canal.

The voivodship is 87 km long from north to south, and 67 km wide from east to west. The total area is 3 866 km² and the population 250 000, which makes it the smallest voivodship in population terms in the country. It is divided into 30 administrative units (gminas).

The population density of the voivodship, at 65 inhabitants per km², is only just over half the national average. The population density of the rural areas is, naturally, lower, but the rural areas in the mountainous south are more densely populated (on average 38 inhabitants per km²) than the lower altitude north.

A total of 110 000 people live in the four cities, some 44 % of the voivodship's population. The largest city is Chełm with a population of 69 000; home to 63 % of the urban population and 28 % of the voivodship's total population.

Parallel with the drop in the number of births, the natural increase in the population has been declining in recent years. There is an on-going ageing process, particularly in the countryside. For every 100 people of working age in the region at the end of 1995, there were 80 people of non-productive age — well above the national average of 70. In the rural areas of the voivodship this figure is as high as 91, compared to the national average for rural areas of 82.

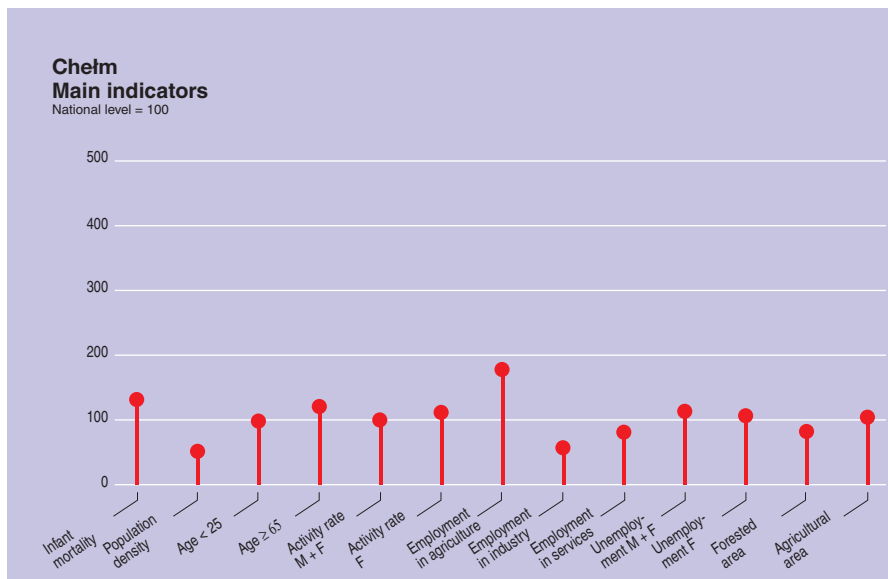
There are three hospitals in the voivodship, and the number of medical personnel per 1 000 inhabitants is among the lowest in the country.

Rail links to Ukraine

The voivodship has important natural resources; the deposits of chalk, marl, bedrock, sand and aggregates are all exploited and there are so far untouched



The Chełm voivodship produces 10 % of the country's total production of cement. photo Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza



deposits of hard coal in the eastern part of the Lubelska Coal Basin.

The comparative lack of industry means clean air and the extensive forests and numerous lakes are largely unspoilt, offering good potential for the development of tourism.

Also in keeping with its rural nature, the Chełm voivodship is characterised by a relative scarcity of hard surfaced roads — just 59 km/100 km² — and an even less-developed railway network with only 4 km of track per 100 km² land area. However, there are some important road and rail routes passing through the voivodship to

the border crossing at Dorohusk. The wide-gauge railway network facilitates rail transport and trade with Ukraine and in the course of the five-year period to 1995, the volume of traffic on the Chełm – Dorohusk highway increased four times.

The voivodship is characterised by low to medium fertility podzolic soils and marshy areas, and in the south, lime soils dominate. Agricultural land covers 63 % of the voivodship's total area, and forests cover another 25 %.

Arable land and orchards are concentrated mainly on the Lubelska Upland, while grasslands predominate the Polesie area.



Which regions are similar to Chełm voivodship?

Population:
250 000 inhabitants
Tolna (HU)
Marburg-Biedenkopf (D)

Population density:
65 inhabitants per km²
Bacs-Kiskun (HU)
Alba (RO)

Land use:
25 % forest
Murcia (E)
Vorarlberg (A)
Cluj (RO)

The strengths and weaknesses of a rural region

The voivodship's strengths are undoubtedly headed by its natural resources, its largely unspoilt landscape and healthy environment. The Poleski National Park, located in the voivodship, is an area of peatbogs and marshes often said to resemble a tundra.

The relatively unspoilt state of the natural environment favours agricultural produc-

tion and the development of tourist activity.

The Chełm voivodship also lies on international road and rail transport routes which link Poland and Ukraine, thus offering the region possibilities to profit from the good communications the routes offer.

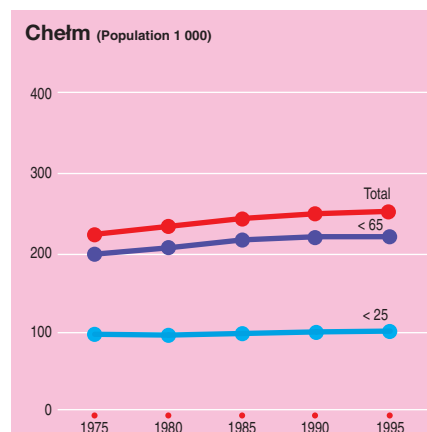
The rural nature of the voivodship also brings its disadvantages, especially in terms of the poorly-developed technical and social infrastructures. Crop yields and animal stocks are low, and farm sizes are

small. The voivodship has relatively high unemployment, and a high proportion of long-term unemployed.

The ageing of the population, evidenced by the growth in the population of post-productive age, is a phenomenon affecting particularly the rural areas.

CHEŁM Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	239.1
Births	42.0
Deaths	29.9
Net permanent migration	- 2.9
Net temporary migration	1.6
Population 31. 12. 1995	249.9



CHEŁM Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	60	23.8	25.0	22.7
15-24	39	15.8	16.7	14.9
25-39	50	20.0	20.9	19.2
40-54	47	18.6	18.9	18.3
55-64	22	8.9	8.4	9.4
≥ 65	32	12.9	10.0	15.6
Total	250	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Chełm voivodship	3.9	22 250	65	3.8	62.0	16.1	48	17	35
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

A typical agricultural voivodship

The proportion of people working in the private sector (68 %) at the end of 1995 was higher than the national average, although this is largely due to the high number of people working in agriculture in the voivodship, which mainly consists of privately-owned smallholdings. Thus, the significance of the private sector in industry, accounting for 39 % of sales by volume, is smaller than in the country as a whole, which also holds true for the construction industry, with 76 %.

The Chełm voivodship is not highly industrialised; only 17 % of total employment in 1995 was in the industrial sector. The most important products, in terms of the value of sold production, were non-metallic minerals (35 %) and foodstuffs (also 35 %), of which dairy, sugar and meat products were the most significant. The tanning, paper and wood industries are also present in the voivodship. Most important in national terms is the manufacture of porcelain products, with the voivodship accounting for more than 50 % of total Polish production. Cement is also important; 10 % of the total domestic production comes from the voivodship.

The Chełm voivodship is a typical agricultural voivodship in which 48 % of the total working population at the end of 1995 was engaged in agricultural activity. There were 26 000 private farms in mid-1995, half of which do not exceed 5 ha, resulting in a low average size of just 7 ha.

In the crop structure, cereals dominate, covering 66 % of the arable land. Wheat is the most important of the cereals, with half of the area sown. Substantial acreage is also given to potatoes (10 %) and sugar beet. However, the harvests are among the lowest in the country. In animal production, Chełm also ranks poorly in comparison with the other voivodships; for every 100 ha of agricultural land, there are 29 head of cattle and 59 pigs.

High unemployment and low wages

The number of people working in the economy of the Chełm voivodship declined by 11 % (more than 12 000 people) from 1990 to the December 1995 level of close to 100 000 – 40 % of the total population. The fall in employment affected every sector of the economy, but industry was the worst hit of all.

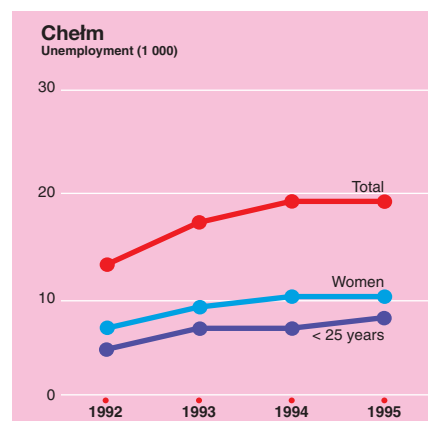
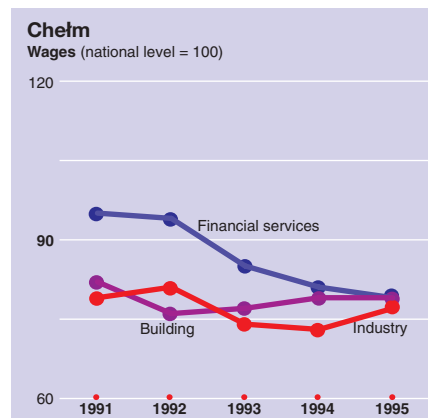
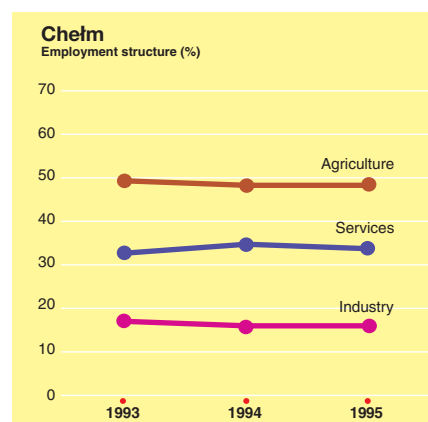
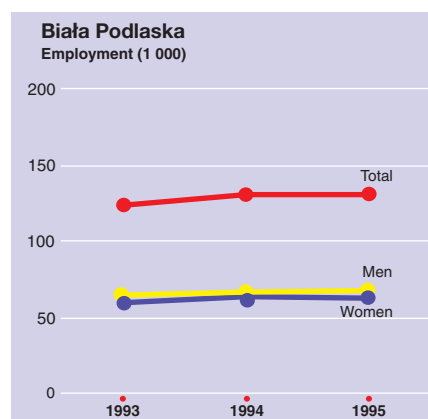
Agriculture dominates in the structure of employment in the voivodship, accounting for 48 % of all jobs in December 1995. The proportion of people working in the private sector, at 68%, is high, largely because of the large number of people working on the mainly privately-owned farms.

Coincidentally with the drop in employment, the numbers of people unemployed have risen. The unemployment rate in the Chełm voivodship is higher than the national average and in December 1995 more than 19 000 people were registered as unemployed, of whom 37 % had been unemployed for more than a year. People with only a basic vocational education and young people below the age of 25 have the greatest problem in finding work and each of these groups accounts for about two-fifths of total unemployment.

Average wages and salaries in the Chełm voivodship are very low, amounting to just 86 % of the national average in 1995.

**CHEŁM
Agriculture – 1995**

Number of private farms	25 821	Main products – proportion of agricultural	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	245 087	commodity output	
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	84	Pork	30.5 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	29	Cereals	15.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	59	Milk	10.1 %
Arable land (%)	70	Industrial crops	9.5 %



CIECHANÓW

The Ciechanów voivodship is situated in north-eastern Poland in the northern Mazowiecka Lowland. The geographical features of the region are the Ciechanowska Hill, the Mławska Upland, the Raciąska Plain and the Płońska Hill, and in the north, part of the Chełmińsko-Dobrzyński Lake District. Also in the north there are many moraine-formed hills; the highest, reaching 200 m above sea level, are to the north of Działdowo.

The voivodship covers an area of 6 362 km², and is divided into 51 administrative districts (gminas).

The population at the end of December, 1995 numbered 436 000, with an average population density of 69 inhabitants/km². The majority of the population — more than 60 % — still live in rural areas but, despite the typically agricultural character of the region, the share of the rural population is showing a downward trend. Between 1990 and 1995, this voivodship experienced the highest relative increase in urban population in Poland (more than 8 %). Population migration to the cities is resulting in an imbalance of the sexes in the rural areas, with more males than females. Another problem is the ageing of the rural population; 14 % at the end of 1995 were over the age of 65, compared to just 9 % in the cities.

The administrative centre of the voivodship is Ciechanów, with a population of 47 000, i.e. 27 % of the voivodship's urban population. Of the 10 other cities in the voivodship, Mława, Płońsk and Działdowo are the next largest, each with populations of over 20 000

The number of medical personnel is insufficient in relation to the need. There was one doctor for every 740 inhabitants in 1995 and one dentist for every 3 930 inhabitants, which places the voivodship in one of the poorest positions of all the voivodships.

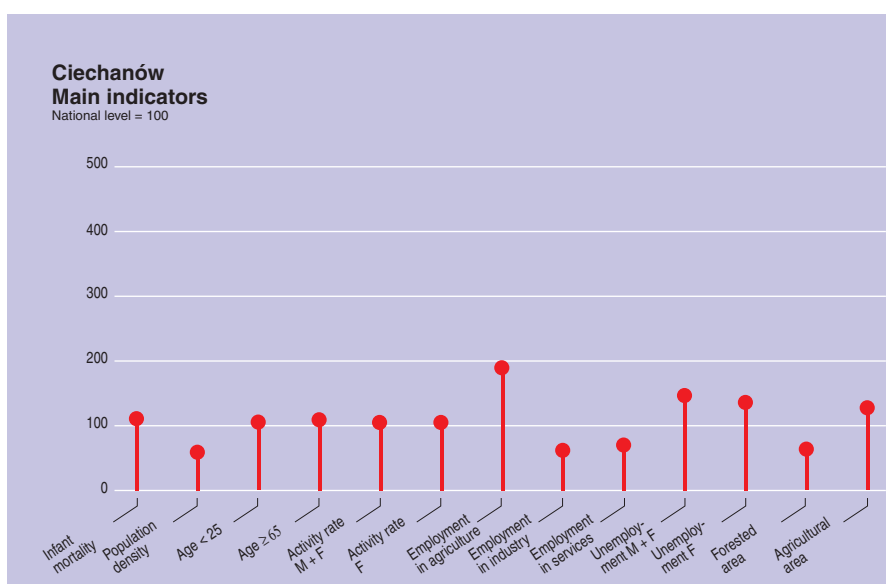
The voivodship has 346 libraries, seven museums and eight cinemas.

Nature reserves and scenic parks

The Ciechanów voivodship is one of the voivodships with the best natural environments in Poland; there are no ecologically threatened areas. Scenic parks, nature reserves and protected scenic areas make up about 40 % of the voivodship's total area. Possibilities for the development of



Fields of oil-seed rape.
photo B. Prus



agro-tourism exist throughout the voivodship and the lake near Lidzbark and the Narew and Wkra river valleys are particularly attractive.

The numerous deposits of quartz sand, natural aggregate and loams form the basis of the voivodship's building materials industry. Potential exists for further developing existing plants for the extraction and development of these materials, and for building new ones. In the northern part of the voivodship there are significant underground water reserves.

The voivodship is situated in a favourable position in relation to the domestic inter-regional transport network. The road network is centred around four national roads for east-west and north-south traffic, which will be linked with the planned motorways. The density of the hard-surfaced public road network per 100 km² is similar to the national average, but the density of the railway network is only half the average. The railway trunk-line linking Warsaw with the coast passes through the voivodship.



Which regions are similar to Ciechanów voivodship?

Area:
6 340–6 370 km²
Loir-et-Cher (F)
Dumfries and Galloway (UK)

Age structure:
about 40.5 % under 25
Ceuta y Melilla (E)
Madeira (P)

Employment structure:
19 % in industry
Languedoc-Roussillon (F)
Canarias (E)
Zuid-Holland (NL)

Opportunities for the development of tourism

The main strengths of the region include the potential for the development of ecological agriculture and rural tourism offered by the good state of the natural environment. Allied to this is also the potential for the further development of the food-processing industry based on locally-reared livestock products and locally-grown crops, particularly those farmed by natural, environmentally-friendly and organic methods.

Furthermore, the voivodship has substantial deposits of raw materials for the production of building materials, many of which have yet to be exploited.

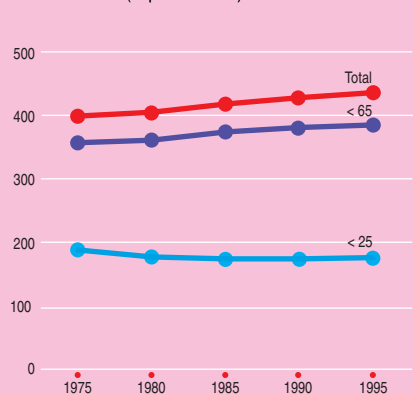
The less favourable factors with which the region is faced include the very difficult situation of the labour market, with high unemployment especially in the north. There has been inadequate investment in rural areas in the management of water resources and sewerage systems and the population has fairly poor access to health facilities, particularly doctors and dentists.

Finally, although the development of rural tourism in the voivodship is favoured by the proximity of the large population of the Warsaw conurbation, it is hampered by the lack of a network of tourist facilities.

CIECHANÓW Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	415.8
Births	78.9
Deaths	51.5
Net permanent migration	- 11.0
Net temporary migration	4.1
Population 31. 12. 1995	436.4

Ciechanów (Population 1 000)



CIECHANÓW Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	107	24.7	25.6	23.7
15-24	69	15.7	16.5	15.0
25-39	93	21.3	22.5	20.2
40-54	77	17.7	17.9	17.4
55-64	38	8.8	8.3	9.3
≥ 65	52	11.9	9.2	14.5
Total	436	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Ciechanów voivodship	6.4	436	69	4.4	59.7	21.8	52	18	30
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Food products represent 60 % of industrial output

In the structure of industrial production, the food processing industry plays a major role in the voivodship, accounting for about 60 % of the value of sales. Among the most important products are sugar, milk and meat products. The major industrial products are footwear, knitted products and television sets.

The voivodship's economy is dominated by agriculture and animal production has for many years been the predominant agricultural activity. Both cattle and pig numbers per 100 ha of agricultural land are relatively high, placing the voivodship in ninth and 12th positions respectively.

About 96 % of the agricultural land is owned by the 42 000 private farms. The number of private farms has declined in recent years, while their average size has increased, amounting to more than 10 ha in 1995.

Within the voivodship, poor and average quality soils predominate and the main crops grown are cereals (58 % of sown area, of which rye 29 %) and potatoes (12 %). The yields obtained are below the national average.

Consequently, almost two-thirds of the total final agricultural output in 1994 was represented by animal products, of which milk and pigs for slaughter were the main elements. However, the proportion of animal products in final agricultural production has declined from its 1992 high of nearly 75 % to 66 % in 1994.

High unemployment in the north of the region

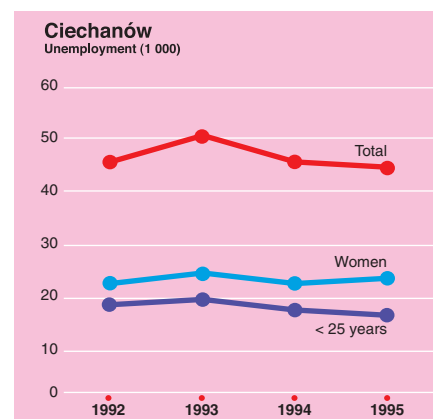
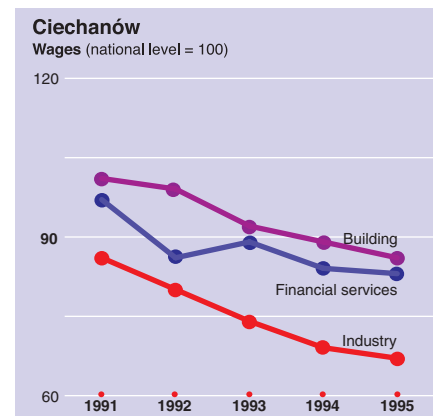
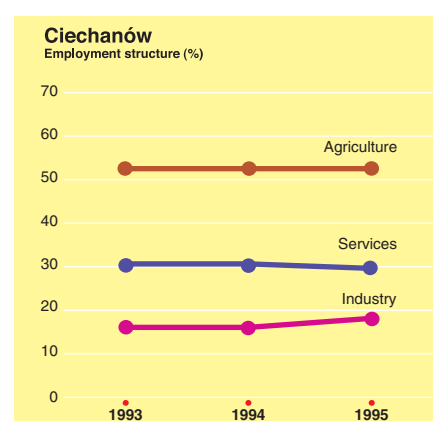
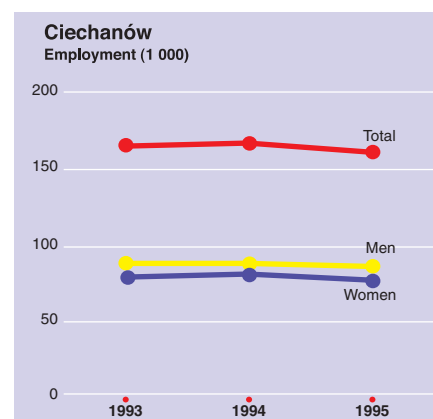
Of the 159 000 people working in the voivodship at the end of 1995, 52 % were in the agricultural sector, 30 % in services and just 18 % in the industrial sector. Ciechanów is a voivodship with a large private sector, representing 76 % of total employment, 81 % of industrial production by sales value, 85 % of construction and 98 % of retail goods sales.

The average wages and salaries in 1995 in the voivodship were equivalent to 82 % of the national average.

High unemployment is one of the basic social problems of the region. In December 1995 there were 28 people unemployed for every 100 people working. People below the age of 35 accounted for the majority of the unemployed (65 %). More than 40 % were long-term unemployed — without work for longer than one year. The highest rates of unemployment are experienced in the northern areas of the voivodship and these have been included in the areas designated as being particularly threatened by structural unemployment. Additional funds have been allocated to these areas for training and re-training the unemployed. The southern areas of the voivodship are less affected by unemployment, as part of the population commutes to work in Warsaw.

More than 24 000 students attended the 21 general secondary schools and the 86 basic technical and vocational schools in the voivodship in the 1995/96 academic year. About 1 000 students studied in the nine post-secondary schools and more than 4 000 were at the only school of higher education located in the voivodship — the College of Humanities in Pułtusk. However, the educational level of the population of the Ciechanów voivodship continues to be lower than the Polish average.

CIECHANÓW Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	41 974	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	472 393	Pork	31.3 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	96	Milk	16.1 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	50	Potatoes	11.8 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	123	Cereals	9.5 %
Arable land (%)	77		



CZĘSTOCHOWA

The Częstochowa voivodship is situated in south-central Poland, in the Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland and on the edge of the Silesian Upland. It covers an area of 6 182 km², extending 77 km from north to south and 127 km from east to west.

In terms of population, the voivodship ranks 14th in the country with 782 000 inhabitants at the end of 1995, giving 127 people per km². Administratively, the Częstochowa voivodship is divided into 58 gminas. More than half (53 %) of the voivodship's population lives in the 17 cities, the largest of which is the capital of the voivodship, Częstochowa. It is centrally located within the voivodship in the valley of the river Warta, and has a population of 259 000 inhabitants (63 % of the total urban population). The other main cities in the voivodship are Myszków (34 000 inhabitants), Lubliniec (27 000) and Kłobuck (14 000).

During recent years, the natural population increase has been small, and in 1995, a drop in the number of births led to a negative population increase being recorded. The structure of the population according to gender has stabilised and for several years the ratio has been constant at 104 females to every 100 males (108 for the urban population and 101 for the rural). A fairly constant 26 % of the total population are of pre-working age, 59 % of productive age and 15 % of post-productive age. The number of marriages in recent years has undergone a rapid decline. The ratio of infant deaths is systematically declining.

The first written record of Częstochowa is a reference to a village in 1356. During the same century, Częstochowa was given the status of a city. Situated on a hill, the 'Jasna Góra' Monastery dominates the western part of the city and is the largest centre of the Catholic faith in Poland, and one of the largest in the world — between five and six million pilgrims visit Częstochowa annually.

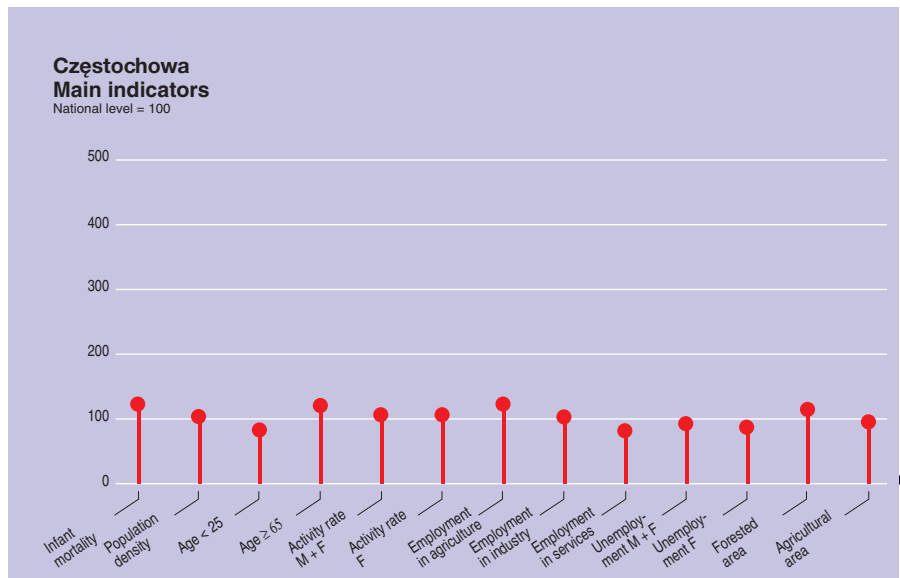
Average farm size 4 ha

The Ostańce Jurassic cliffs, which are several dozen metres high, as well as the ruins of castles along the so-called 'Trail of the Eagles Nests' are the characteristic features of the landscape. The mineral resources in the voivodship include limestone, marl, and chalk as well as iron ore, although this is no longer extracted.



Jurassic landscape in the area of Częstochowa, formed during the second period of the Mesozoic era.

photo W. Zieliński



The voivodship's main river is the Warta and the watershed between the Wisła and Odra river basins lies in the eastern part of the region. The voivodship suffers a shortage of water. The clay and limestone soils of the Częstochowa voivodship are of medium to low fertility. There are fens and bogs in the river valleys.

Agricultural land (358 000 ha) covers 58 % of the region's area and 85 % is privately owned. There are 64 000 private farms in the voivodship, the average size of which, at 4 ha, is about half the national average. The small scale of the farming is illustrated by the fact that as many as 30 % of private farms are less than 2 ha in size.

The Częstochowa voivodship has a compact elliptical shape. The density of both the rail and road networks exceeds the

national average, with 9 km and 86 km per 100 km² respectively and they provide good access to the centrally located voivodship capital. In 1996, a modern railway station was completed to meet the needs of pilgrims and tourists. The north-south DK1 road, is of importance for national communications as well as forming a link to the countries of southern Europe. The newly-established Częstochowskie Konsorcjum Autostradowe S.A. has been formed with the aim of constructing the new A1 motorway.

During the preparations for World Youth Day which took place in Częstochowa in 1991, there was a rapid development in the telephone network, made possible by contracts with Spanish and French partners. Between 1990 and 1995, the number of telephone subscribers more than doubled.



Which regions are similar to Częstochowa voivodship?

Population:
about 780 000 inhabitants
Limburg (B)
Norfolk (UK)

Area:
6 170–6 190 km²
Somme (F)
Nordjyllands amt (DK)

Land use:
32 % forest
Asturias (E)
Centro (I)
Mures (RO)

Tourism potential hampered by poor infrastructure

With the Jasna Góra monastery a focal point for millions of pilgrims, and the unique landscape with the Krakowsko-Częstochowska Jurassic formation attracting tourists, the voivodship is well placed to benefit from the income that these visitors can bring to the local economy. The development of a suitable infrastructure to serve these visitors would give a boost to the voivodship's economy.

The region has a strong and diversified industrial base in which there is significant foreign capital interest, and the unemployment situation is not as bad as in some other voivodships. The commitment to the modernisation of technological processes in industry will also be beneficial to the environment, reinforced by the voivodship's environmental protection programme which includes the development of gmina sewage treatment plants.

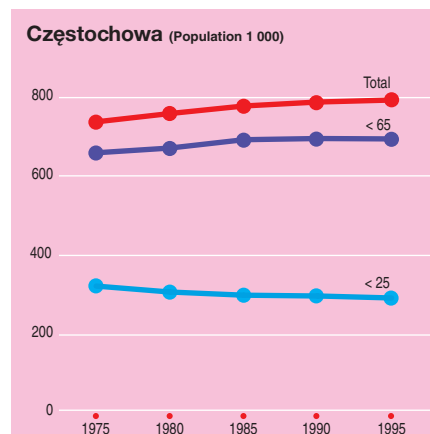
However, the lack of an appropriate tourist infrastructure currently constitutes an obstacle to development and the voivod-

ship suffers from the poor state of the roads — and in particular the lack of a ring road around Częstochowa.

Finally, agriculture is very small-scale with dispersed farms and traditional methods necessitating very high labour resources.

CZĘSTOCHOWA
Demographic account
1984–95
(1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	762.7
Births	117.2
Deaths	97.6
Net permanent migration	– 11.2
Net temporary migration	11.1
Population 31. 12. 1995	782.3



CZĘSTOCHOWA
Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	165	21.0	22.1	20.0
15–24	118	15.1	15.9	14.3
25–39	169	21.6	22.7	20.6
40–54	152	19.5	20.0	19.0
55–64	79	10.1	9.5	10.7
≥ 65	99	12.6	9.8	15.3
Total	782	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Częstochowa voivodship	6.2	782	127	1.9	60.1	13.5	33	31	36
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

An economy based primarily on industry

The economy of the Częstochowa voivodship is primarily industrial, with an important agricultural sector dominated by small-scale private farms.

Industries of national significance include the manufacture of consumer goods (for example, Częstochowa produces more than 40 % of Polish-built electric washing machines and spin dryers). Also nationally important is the casting of hot rolling plates (50 % of domestic production), the steel industry (7 % of the domestic production of raw steel) and the wood and paper industry (18 % of the domestic production of fibreboard and 4 % of paper production). Częstochowa voivodship is also a leading producer of coke from hard coal (6 % of domestic production).

In sales value, however, the voivodship's most important products are basic metals (29 % of the total), foods and beverages (14 %), fabrics (7 %), rubber and plastic products (6 %), finished metal products (6 %), non-metallic mineral products (5 %), mechanised vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (4 %), and pulp, paper and paper products (4 %).

Declining domestic demand and difficult foreign-trade conditions during the economic transformation forced production cuts. The financial situation of enterprises worsened and many went into liquidation. Some enterprises began restructuring, for example, the modernisation of the Huta Częstochowa steel works. The introduction of new technologies allowed the mill to launch a continuous steel casting line. Increasingly stronger private-sector plants are being established and the share of the private sector in the value of the voivodship's industrial sales increased from 9 % at the end of 1990 to 53 % at the end of 1995. Business services are also growing fast; a number of consulting and legal firms have been established, a network of banks is developing and new bonded warehouses have been established at Częstochowa and Lubliniec.

Due to the low quality of the soils, 57 % of crop land is sown in basic cereals, particularly rye (26 %), wheat (12 %) and barley (8 %). Yields are lower than the national average. Potatoes cover 45 000 hectares (18 % of the region's sown area) and yields are more than 10% above the national average.

70% of workers employed in the private sector

Structural changes in the economy after 1990 caused a reduction in the number of jobs as well as a rapid transition of employment from the public to the private sector, in which 70 % of all workers were employed by the end of 1995.

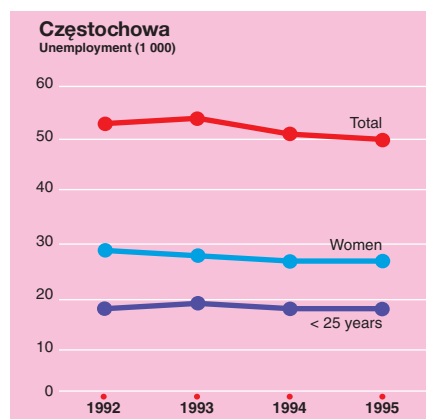
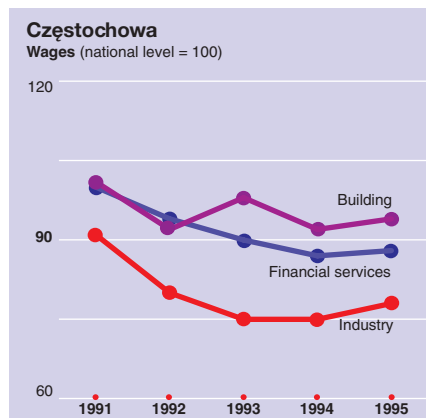
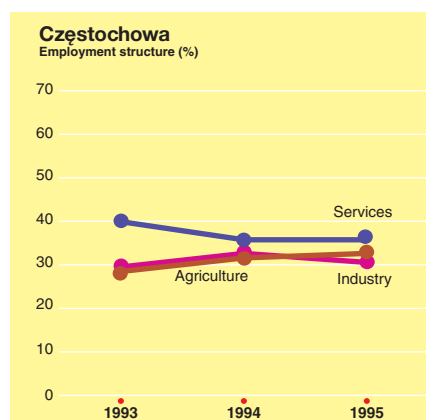
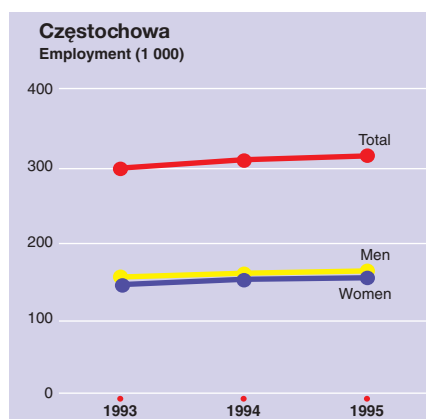
Some 49 000 people were registered as unemployed at the end of 1995 but the voivodship's 14 % unemployment rate was among the 10 lowest in the country. Women are more affected than men. The largest unemployed groups are those with only a basic vocational education (40% of the total) and people below the age of 25 (35 %).

The 1995 average gross monthly wage and salary in the voivodship was 15 % lower than the national average.

Częstochowa is the main educational centre of the voivodship. The voivodship has 3 schools of higher education (a polytechnic, a teachers' college and a foreign language college), 30 post-secondary schools (twice as many as in the 1990/91 school year) and 35 general secondary schools. 45 000 secondary and 15 000 tertiary students were enrolled in the 1995/96 academic year.

**CZĘSTOCHOWA
Agriculture – 1995**

Number of private farms	64 211	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	357 659		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	85	Pork	26.1 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	42	Milk	18.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	93	Vegetables	10.7 %
Arable land (%)	78	Potatoes	9.6 %



ELBLĄG

The northern border of the voivodship is formed by the Baltic Sea coast, while further to the east is the border with the Kaliningrad district of Russia. Today's voivodship includes the historic lands of Powiśle, Żuławy Wiślane, Warmia and the western part of Mazury. It is situated on traditional trade routes — such as the 'Amber Route' — joining Scandinavia with the Mediterranean countries and western with eastern Europe. The capital of the voivodship is the city of Elbląg which was one of the most important Baltic seaports in the Middle Ages and one of the richest Hanseatic cities. The voivodship contains 18 cities in which 63 % of the total population live.

The Elbląg voivodship is a demographically young region, with a favourable structure in terms of the age of the population and a relatively high annual rate of natural population increase. The average age in the voivodship at the end of 1995 was 32. With over 490 000 inhabitants, the voivodship is home to 1.3 % of Poland's total population.

The natural geographical features of the Wiśłany Peninsula, Wiśłany Lagoon and the Elbląg Uplands are outstanding and are of great tourist interest. A European Community Energy Centre has been established in Elbląg.

The health services is based on 10 hospitals, but access to doctors is more difficult than in other areas of the country, with as many as 660 inhabitants per doctor (42nd place of the 49 voivodships) and 3 190 inhabitants per dentist (44th place).

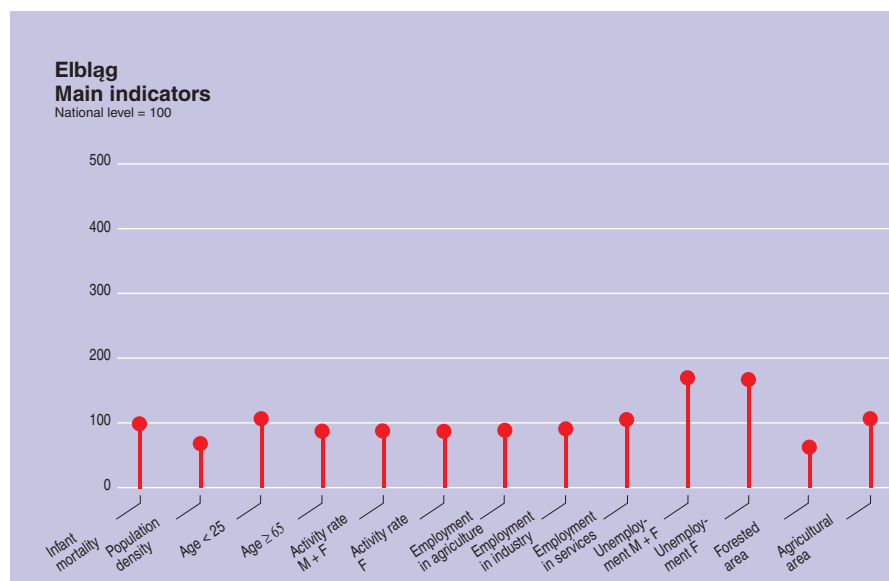
Water, air and rail transport

The Elbląg voivodship makes up about 2% of the area of Poland. The geographical relief of the area is varied, with a wide range of landscape features: lowlands, sand dunes, valleys and plains.

The voivodship has excellent transport connections. The system of waterways connects Elbląg with Kaliningrad via the River Pregoła, with Kłaipeida through the Kurskiy Lagoon, with the Baltic ports through the Baltijsk Straits and with Berlin through the Lower Wisła and the Bydgoszcz Canal. It has good railway connections as well and the density of the railway network is 8 km per 100 km². A well-developed road network provides easy access to all neighbouring voivodships



The castle of the Teutonic Knights in Malbork, during the XIV-XV centuries the seat of the Grand Master of the Order and capital of the Teutonic State, draws crowds of tourists daily.
photo W. Zieliński



and to the entire country. The proximity of the airport in Gdańsk-Rębiechowo as well as the voivodship's own airport in Malbork provide direct domestic and international air connections.

The voivodship has very good natural conditions for the development of agriculture, the most valuable agricultural area being Żuławy, characterised by very fertile soil and by a well-developed drainage system.

Despite the development of industry, the

natural environment has been fairly well preserved in the Elbląg voivodship. The voivodship participates in the 'Green Lungs of Poland'; an ecological programme encompassing the voivodships of north-eastern Poland.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Elbląg voivodship?

Area:

6 100 km²
Buzau (RO)
Orne (F)

Age structure:

42 % under 25
Vaslui (RO)
Rzeszów voivodship (PL)

Employment structure:

45–47 % in services
Centro (P)
Galicia (E)
Norte (P)

Strategic location, but very high unemployment

The Elbląg voivodship is a region with a higher than average level of development and is well advanced in the economic transformation process. The main advantages of the region are seen in its strategic location on the Baltic Sea, its proximity to the Kaliningrad district of Russia, easy access to the new markets in the East, a good industrial base and an agricultural base. The voivodship possesses unique natural features as well as internationally

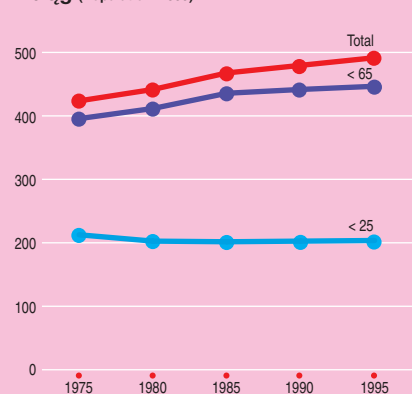
recognised cultural facilities. There are also successful private enterprises with large foreign capital participation. Reactivating the seaport of Elbląg as well as establishing sea links with neighbouring countries has had a significant influence on the development of transport services.

Unemployment, however, remains a problem with over 25 % of the labour force without work at the end of 1995. Average wages in the voivodship are low and have deteriorated against the national average since 1991.

ELBLĄG Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	462.5
Births	86.8
Deaths	45.4
Net permanent migration	– 15.1
Net temporary migration	2.6
Population 31. 12. 1995	491.4

Elbląg (Population 1 000)



ELBLĄG Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	122	24.9	25.9	24.0
15–24	81	16.5	17.1	15.8
25–39	109	22.1	22.9	21.4
40–54	93	19.0	19.5	18.5
55–64	41	8.3	7.6	9.0
≥ 65	45	9.2	7.0	11.2
Total	491	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemploy- ment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Elbląg voivodship	6.1	491	81	5.3	54.3	25.6	25	30	45
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Industry and agriculture

Industry, agriculture and tourism underpin the economic structure of the voivodship. Concentrated mainly in four cities (Elbląg, Kwidzyn, Malbork and Braniewo) long-standing key industries include pulp and paper (33 % of the voivodship's industrial sales), food processing (30 %), and machinery and equipment (16 %). Elbląg accounts for one quarter of Poland's production of paper and one sixth of its beer.

Ownership of agricultural holdings is being transferred into private hands so rapidly that private farms occupied 65 % of agricultural land at the end of 1995. The main crops are cereals, covering 57 % of the sown area, with wheat alone accounting for 33 %. Rape covers 15 % and sugar beet is another important crop grown in the fertile soil. Slaughter pigs and milk are the main animal products.

The agricultural character of the region led naturally to the development of the agro-foodstuff industry and particularly the beer, milk, fruit and vegetable, meat and grain milling industries. The Elbląg Exchange, which opened in 1994, co-operates with the Kaliningrad market in the export of foodstuff products and has facilitated the development of the wholesale agricultural market. The three Polish–Russian border crossings make this co-operation possible.

The voivodship is actively engaged in several development programmes, such as the Żuławy Development Project to modernise agriculture, undertaken jointly by Poland and the Netherlands, and the Model Study of the Region (a plan for the regional restructuring of the voivodship), developed in co-operation with Japan. Elbląg also participates in the Regional Economic Restructuring and Employment Programme and a research programme for the development of the Elbląg region's sea and river transport, recreation and fishing.

From labour shortages to unemployment

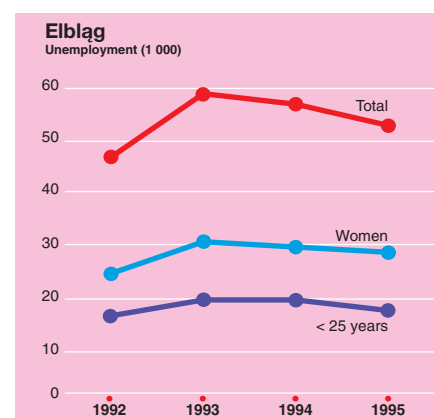
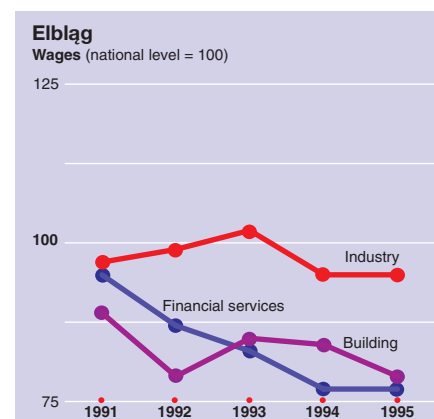
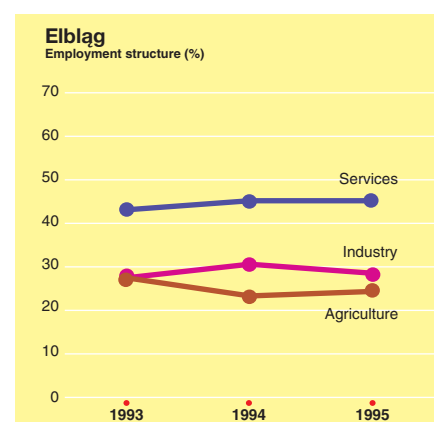
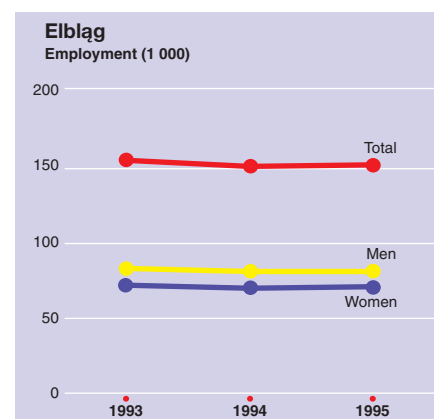
Economic transformation from 1990 onwards profoundly affected the labour market, moving from a shortage of labour to large-scale unemployment. Public sector jobs declined significantly, only partially compensated for by a gradual growth in the private sector which employed 63 % of all workers in the voivodship by the end of 1995. The changes are reflected in the structure of employment – a decline in the share of employment in agriculture and forestry from almost 30% at the end of 1990 to 25 % five years later. Industry and construction remained at about 30 %, while employment in services grew to 45 %.

Although unemployment declined marginally from over 27 % in December 1994 to 25.6 % in December 1995, still almost 52 000 people remained without a job, of which some 20 000 (38 %) were long-term unemployed. People with a vocational education are the most affected, making up 56% of total unemployment. Job training and retraining courses are on offer in the voivodship and it is one of seven in northern and north-eastern Poland included in the Regional Economic Restructuring and Employment Programme.

Average gross wages and salaries in the voivodship in 1995 stood at just 90 % of the Polish average, a deterioration from the position of equality in 1991.

The voivodship boasts 36 vocational, 89 technical and 17 post-secondary schools. Growing social aspirations, as well as skills shortages have led to a significant growth in the number of those pursuing higher education. The close proximity of university centres, such as those in Gdańsk, Toruń and Olsztyn as well as colleges operating in the voivodship, provide a steady source of qualified engineers and managers.

ELBLĄG Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	15 283	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	391 930	Industrial crops	23.4 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	65	Pork	20.0 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	33	Cereals	19.6 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	85	Milk	12.5 %
Arable land (%)	75		



GDAŃSK

The Gdańsk voivodship is situated in the northern part of Poland, with a 127-km Baltic coastline (excluding the Hel Peninsula). The voivodship covers an area of 7 394 km², which amounts to 2.4% of the country's total area.

The Gdańsk voivodship's central European location, as well as its situation on the Baltic coast placed it on the Roman merchants' Amber Route. The city of Gdańsk, capital of the region, was the largest port on the Baltic for 100 years, as well as one of the wealthiest Polish cities. Gdańsk was also an important centre of the Hanseatic League and has again made its mark on history more recently as the place where the workers' protests began that ultimately led to the changes in the political system in Poland.

The Gdańsk voivodship had a population of 1.4 million at the end of 1995, accounting for 3.8 % of Poland's total population and making it the third most populous voivodship in the country after Katowice and Warsaw. Administratively, the voivodship is divided into 63 gminas. The Gdańsk voivodship is one of the most highly urbanised, as 76 % of its population live in the 21 cities. More than half the population live in the port-city agglomeration alone, which is composed of Gdańsk (463 000 inhabitants), Gdynia (252 000) and Sopot (44 000). The other major cities include Tczew (61 000 inhabitants), Starogard Gdański (51 000) and Wejherowo (48 000).

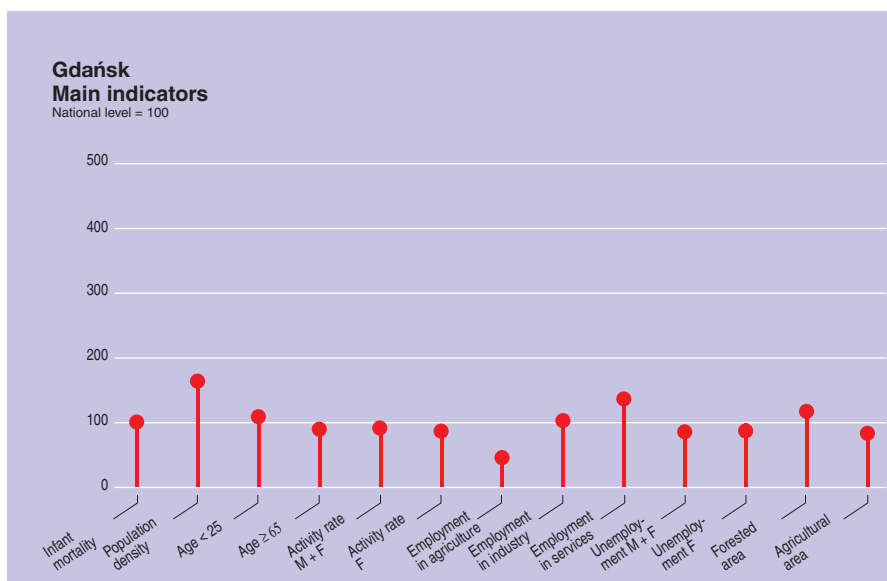
The Gdańsk voivodship is a densely populated area, with an average of 197 inhabitants per km² in December 1995 and a high natural population increase; almost double the national average in the 1991 to 1995 period. The standard of living is much higher than in other voivodships, and particularly in comparison with the neighbouring voivodships, and this attracts migrants to Gdańsk.

International airport and ferry links

The region is characterised by a varied relief formed during the last glacial period. In the coastal strip there are lowlands, broad, sandy beaches and moraine-formed higher ground with numerous coastal cliffs reaching up to 40 m in height. The so-called lake district, with some 500 trough lakes, is in a region of moraine-formed hills, the highest of which is Wieżyca at 329 m above sea level. The largest river in the Gdańsk voivodship is the Wisła, which also forms the eastern border with the Elbląg voivodship.



View of Gdańsk. A city almost completely rebuilt after the Second World War, it is an important centre of the ship building industry. (photo K. Kamiński)

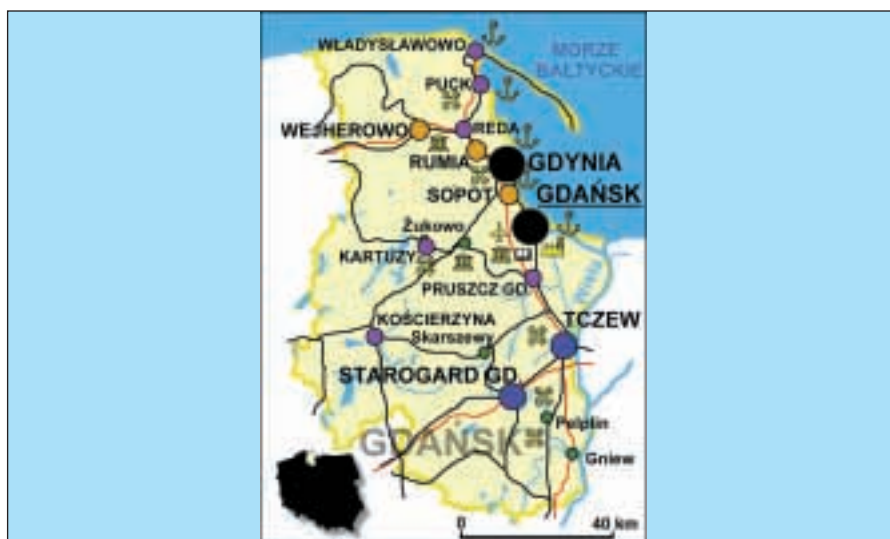


Forests, 81 % of which are coniferous, cover one third of the voivodship's land area, which is a significantly higher proportion than the national average. Large areas of the forests are protected. Four scenic parks have been established, along with 46 nature reserves and 1 047 features classed as 'natural monuments'.

The voivodship is characterised by average to low fertility podzolic and brown soils, and only in the Wisła delta area, known as the Żuławy Wiślane, are the fertile fen soils found. Only the western part of Żuławy Wiślane lies within the Gdańsk voivodship and this part is called the Żuławy Gdańskie.

The Gdańsk voivodship plays an important role in the domestic transport system and boasts good connections, both by rail and road, with many countries in Europe. The airport located in Gdańsk-Rębiechowo serves domestic and international traffic and is the second largest airport in Poland, after Warsaw's Okęcie. Seagoing ferries provide connections with the Scandinavian countries.

International transit traffic is expected to continue to grow, particularly after completion of the planned north-south A1 motorway.



Which regions are similar to Gdańsk voivodship?

Population density:
196 inhabitants per km²
Las Palmas (E)
Giessen (D)

Age:
9,7 % over 65
Galati (RO)
Východné Slovensko (SK)

Land use:
51 % agriculture
Oost-Nederland (NL)
South East (UK)
Oost-Vlaanderen (B)

Buoyant labour market but slow progress in economic restructuring

One of the strengths of the Gdańsk voivodship is its population structure, with a high proportion of the inhabitants being of working age. This, coupled with the educational opportunities provided by the large number of schools, scientific research facilities and centres of higher education, leads to a buoyant labour market, reflected in the relatively low rate of

unemployment. Private enterprise has developed dynamically, and the gminas have been innovative and active within the scope of the municipal economy.

The large forests and the attractive natural environment and numerous historic monuments in Gdańsk which attract tourists are further assets.

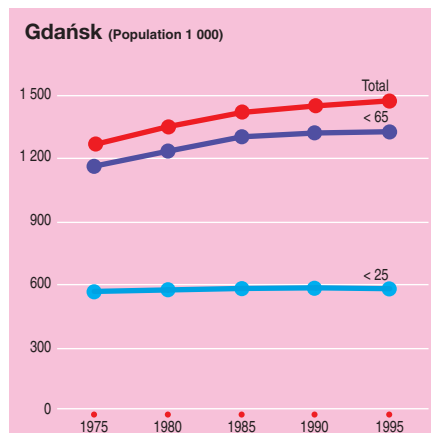
However, more negative aspects of the voivodship's economy include the slow progress of restructuring and privatisation in some sectors, particularly in the mar-

itime industries, and the lack of large investment projects to strengthen the economic structure of the region. Allied to this is the inadequate road network linking the ports with their infrastructure facilities.

There are also some environmental problems, with the already insufficient surface and underground waters not having a satisfactory level of purity.

GDAŃSK Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 387.4
Births	230.4
Deaths	142.5
Net permanent migration	- 1.8
Net temporary migration	- 17.6
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 455.9



GDAŃSK Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	329	22.6	23.8	21.4
15-24	239	16.4	17.2	15.7
25-39	309	21.2	21.7	20.7
40-54	299	20.5	20.6	20.4
55-64	135	9.3	9.0	9.6
≥ 65	146	10.0	7.8	12.1
Total	1 456	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Gdańsk voivodship	7.4	1 456	197	3.9	54.0	13.1	13	32	55
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

An economy shaped by maritime traditions

The Gdańsk voivodship has an industrial character, with agriculture important in the rural areas. It accounts for 4 % of the total Polish industrial production by sales value. The voivodship's location has naturally led to the development of maritime industries and the ship yards of Gdańsk build 39 % of the domestic production of completed ocean-going vessels. Sea transport is another dominant sector of the voivodship's economy; seagoing freight transport accounts for 17 % of the Polish total and passenger transport, despite showing a downward trend, is also significant, accounting for about 27 % of the Polish total. The commercial seaports in Gdańsk and Gdynia play an important role in the region's economy, handling 55 % of goods trans-shipped in Poland. Coal and coke as well as oil and petroleum products are the main goods transported.

Other industries are also important on a national scale. Almost 40 % of the Polish production of refined petroleum, 20 % of fibreboard, 11 % of television sets and 10 % of phosphate fertilisers are produced in the Gdańsk voivodship. The food-processing industry is also well-developed in the area, supplying 9 % of the domestic production of vegetable fats, 4 % of milled cereals and 2 % each of meat, fats, processed meats and beer.

Another important sector in Gdańsk's economy is tourism. The voivodship is one of the main tourist areas in Poland due to its wide and sandy coastal beaches, the Kaszubskie Lake District and the historic monuments of Gdańsk. The tourist infrastructure, which accounts for about 7 % of the total overnight stays in Poland, is developing continuously.

The voivodship also has an agricultural sector, concentrated mainly in the Żuławy Gdańskie and Powiśle areas. Agricultural land covers 52 % of the voivodship's total area, and arable farming accounts for 78 % of the agricultural land area. The 29 000 private farms occupy 79 % of the

agricultural land. The average farm size amounts to almost 10 ha; quite large in relation to the national average.

The most important crops are cereals, planted on 56 % of the sown area, with rye being the most widespread (23 % of the sown area) followed by wheat (17 %). Potatoes are also important (11 %). Pig breeding dominates animal production, the voivodship having 135 pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land, placing it ninth in the country.

More than half of employment in the services sector

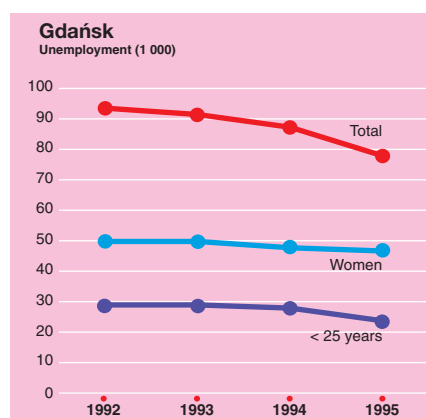
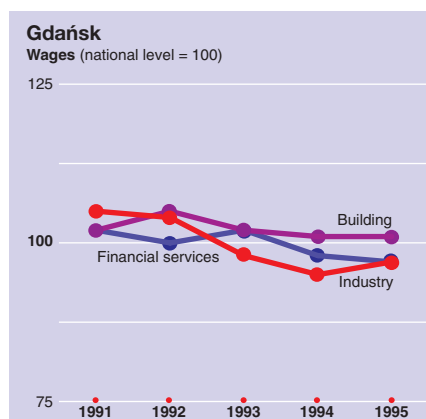
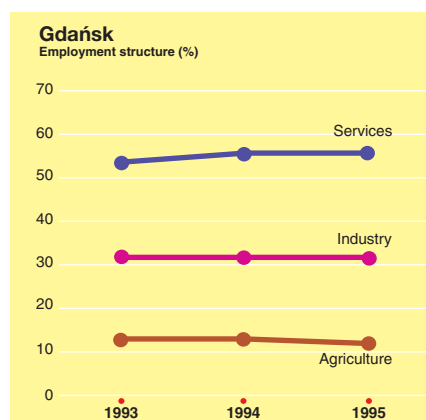
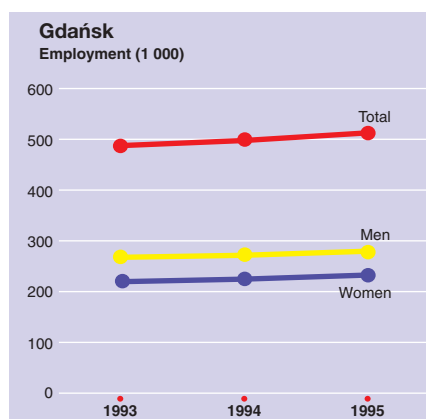
The number of people working in the voivodship at the end of 1995 was 513 000; 3.4 % of the total number in employment in Poland. Employment in the services sector dominates — accounting for 55 % of jobs, while 32 % are employed in industry and construction and just 13 % in agriculture. The private sector represents 59 % of total employment.

At the end of 1995, 77 000 people were seeking work through employment offices in the Gdańsk voivodship. The majority of the unemployed are female. People below the age of 25 and those with only a primary and basic education are particularly badly hit by unemployment. However, the unemployment rate (13 % at the end of 1995) is below the national average.

The region's authorities are undertaking a series of actions to counteract the negative effects of unemployment. These principally involve supporting economic development, adapting the educational structure to meet economic needs and the real demand for better work, and also measures aimed at increasing employment opportunities for the handicapped.

**GDAŃSK
Agriculture — 1995**

Number of private farms	29 421	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	380 641		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	79	Pork	33.4 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	35	Milk	12.0 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	135	Potatoes	9.5 %
Arable land (%)	78	Cereals	7.8 %



GORZÓW WIELKOPOLSKI

The Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship is situated in the western part of Poland and covers an area of 8 484 km², which amounts to 2.7 % of the total area of the country and makes Gorzów Wielkopolski the 10th largest voivodship. In the west, the voivodship has a 64 km border with Germany.

A characteristic feature of the voivodship is the high degree of forestation (45 % of the total land area), which is the third highest proportion in the country. The main wooded areas are mixed forests with a preponderance of pines and a significant number of oak and beech trees. A large part of the Drawieński National Park (which also stretches into the Piła voivodship) is located in the south-eastern part of Gorzów Wielkopolski.

The territory of the Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship is divided into 40 administrative districts (gminas) and houses a total population of 511 000 people with a population density, at just 60 inhabitants per km², of less than half the national average. More than 63 % of the total population lives in the 22 cities; a higher urban percentage than the national average. The capital of the voivodship is Gorzów Wielkopolski, which has a population of 125 000 and was founded in 1 257 at the site of a crossing of the river Warta. It was politically and economically very significant for many centuries. The next largest cities in the voivodship are Międzyrzecz, with a population of 20 000, the border cities of Kostrzyn and Słubice (each with 17 000) and Choszczno (16 000 inhabitants).

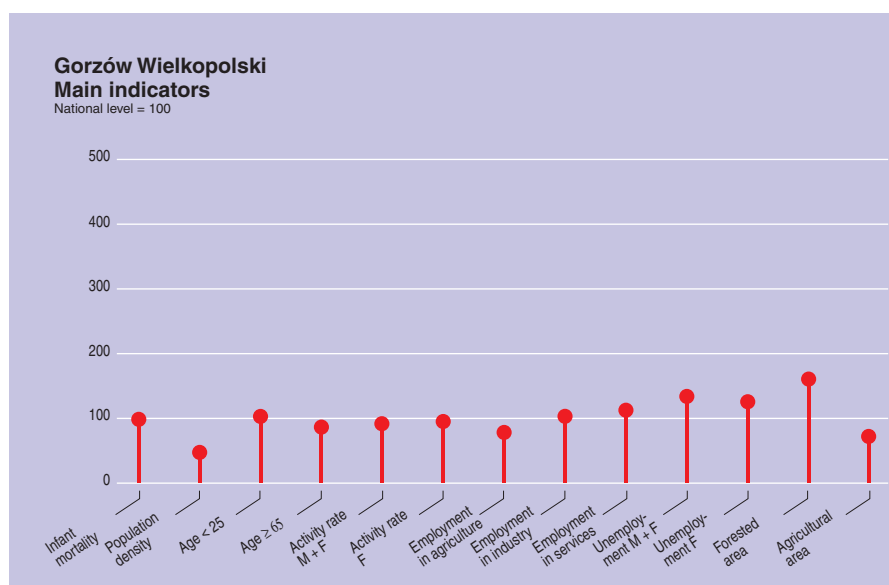
There are eight museums within the voivodship, administering more than a dozen sites. A major tourist attraction is the largest line of underground fortifications in Europe with an extensive network of passageways and also including a bat reserve. Gorzów Wielkopolski hosts several international events, and notably the International Festival of Gypsy Song and Dance Groups.

Only half of agricultural land in private hands

Agricultural land covers 42 % of the Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship's area. The 15 000 private farms occupy just 53 % of the agricultural land which is the lowest proportion in the country. As private farms are often smallholdings, this explains the high average farm size of 11 ha — twice the national average size. Meadows account for a large proportion (17 % of the



The landscape in the area of Gorzów. Poor soils result in less than half of the area of the voivodship being devoted to agriculture. (photo W. Zieliński)



agricultural land. Soils are of low to medium fertility, with fen and bog soils in the river valleys.

Water covers almost 3 % of the voivodship's total surface area. There are as many as 600 lakes larger than 1 ha in size, the largest being Lake Myśliborskie (618 ha) and Lake Osiek (541 ha).

Among the most important raw materials found in the Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship are sand, gravel, clay, and chalk. There are also underground resources of salt waters containing bromine, boron and iodine.

The road network, with 52.2 km per 100 km² land area, is less dense than the

national average, while the railway network of 8.6 km per km² exceeds the average of 7.2. Several important transport routes pass through the voivodship, with the north-south route linking Scandinavia with the countries of southern Europe and an east-west route linking countries of the former USSR with western Europe. Equally significant is the main railway line linking Berlin, through Kostrzyn and Gorzów Wielkopolski, with Gdańsk, Gdynia, Królewiec and the Baltic countries.

There are five border crossings with Germany, including the Świecko-Frankfurt road crossing which has the greatest volume of traffic on the western border and the large rail crossing at Kunowice.



Which regions are similar to Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship?

Population:
510 000 inhabitants
Côte d'Or (F)
Rhein-Neckar-Kreis (D)

Area:
8 400-8 500 km²
Kronobergs län (S)
Tulcea (RO)

Land use:
46 % forest
Trentino-Alto Adige (I)
Stockholm (S)
Maramures (RO)

Border location, tourism potential

The voivodship is in a strong position to benefit from its border location, which creates excellent conditions for foreign cooperation, the development of trade, trade exhibitions and business activity. Added to this is the potential for the further development of tourism based on the voivodship's wealth of forests, lakes, rivers and clean air. These developments should be enhanced by the realisation of investments in the road network infrastructure with the

planned east-west and north-south motorways that will pass through the region.

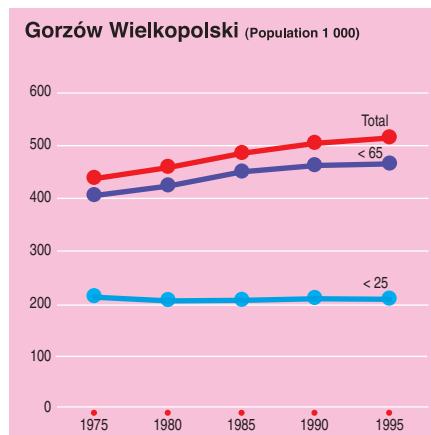
In agriculture the local production capabilities and the significant reserves of labour give potential possibilities for the development of agricultural food-processing industries. The voivodship has a favourable demographic structure with a relatively young population.

The weak points of the Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship must include the

under-developed telecommunications infrastructure and road network, the lack of a well-developed scientific research base as well as a significantly higher rate of unemployment than the national average.

GORZÓW WIELKOPOLSKI Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	479.2
Births	86.2
Deaths	48.0
Net permanent migration	- 7.1
Net temporary migration	0.4
Population 31. 12. 1995	510.8



GORZÓW WIELKOPOLSKI Population by age - 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	123	24.0	25.0	23.1
15-24	84	16.4	16.9	15.8
25-39	111	21.8	22.6	21.1
40-54	102	20.0	20.4	19.6
55-64	42	8.3	7.7	8.8
≥ 65	49	9.5	7.4	11.6
Total	511	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship	8.5	511	60	5.9	56.9	19.8	21	32	47
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Chemicals, textiles and timber

The Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship is an important industrial area, with the chemical industry being the most well-developed and accounting for 31 % of the total Polish production of synthetic fibres by sales value. Other industries achieving good results are the textile industry (22 % of the domestic production of silk and silk-like fabrics), the wood industry (8 % of the domestic production of hardwood timber and 3 % of furniture production) and the clothing industry (8% of the domestic production of clothing). In addition, 4 % of the domestic production of paper originates from the region.

The manufacture of foodstuffs and beverages based on domestic agricultural production also plays a large role, accounting for 17 % of the region's sold production.

Cereals dominate the crop structure, covering 66 % of the total arable area, followed by rape with 12 %. Intensive agricultural production is developing in the northern part of the voivodship, where significant acreage is devoted to the cultivation of wheat, rape and sugar beet. Cereal yields exceed the national average.

Pig, cattle and poultry rearing are important activities in the voivodship, as is horse breeding, including racehorses. The voivodship's many natural lakes provide good conditions for raising fresh-water fish.

The Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship's border location favours international trade contacts. Important economic events are held in Gorzów Wielkopolski, such as the Polish-German Border Trade Fairs, in which Polish and German enterprises are joined by companies from other European countries. Other events held here include the Gorzów Consumers Fair, the Gorzów Construction, Interior Design and Personal Property Protection Fair, The Gorzów Ecological, Agricultural Processing and Agricultural Machinery Fair and the Gorzów Automotive and Recreational Fairs.

Also located in Gorzów Wielkopolski is the head office of the Polish-German Association for Economic Assistance, which is active in the western voivodships of Poland and in Berlin, Mecklenburg, Brandenburg and Saxony on the German side.

One in five unemployed

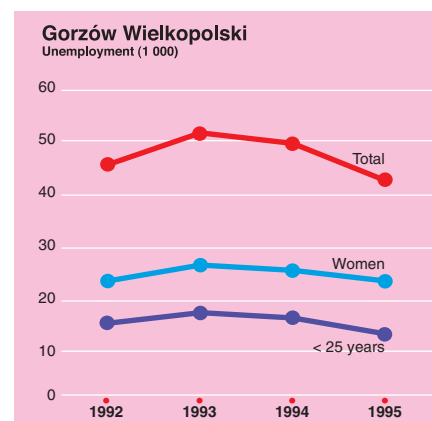
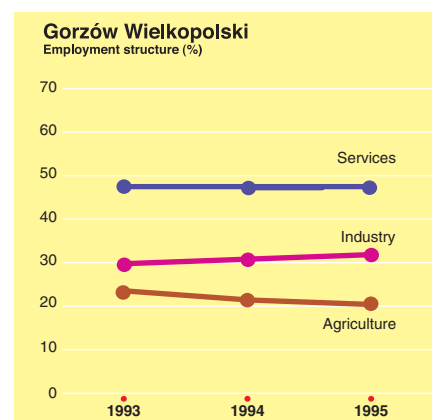
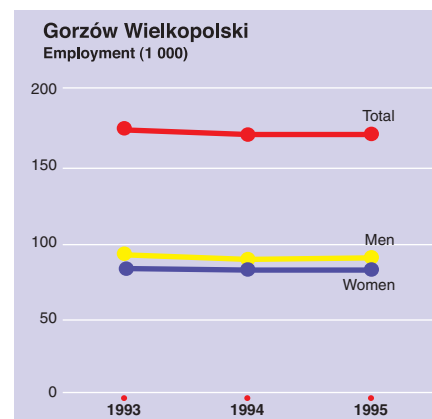
There were 170 000 people working in the Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship at the end of 1995, with the majority in the private sector (61 %). Employment in the services sector dominates with 47 % of all jobs (December 1995). The industry and construction sector employs 32 %, and 21% work in agricultural.

The average gross monthly wage and salary in 1995 was 12 % below the national average.

The year 1995 ended with 42 000 people registered as unemployed in the Gorzów Wielkopolski voivodship, and the rate of unemployment (20 %) was one of the highest in the country. Those seeking work are primarily people with only basic vocational education (37 % of the unemployed), and the young; one third are under the age of 25. Long-term unemployment is also a problem as at the end of 1995, 34 % of the unemployed had been without work for more than one year.

In terms of education, the voivodship is notable for the Collegium Polonicum in Słubice — an integral part of the Viadrina European University.

GORZÓW WIELKOPOLSKI Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	14 965	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	353 428	Pork	21.1 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	53	Industrial crops	20.3 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	21	Cereals	14.5 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	81	Milk	9.3 %
Arable land (%)	76		



JELENIA GÓRA

Located in south-western Poland, bordering the German region of Sachsen and also having a long border with the Czech Republic, the Jelenia Góra voivodship covers an area of 4 379 km², and has a varied terrain and climate. In its southern part are foothills and mountains, while the smaller northern section stretches into the Silesian Lowland. The territory of the voivodship is divided into 40 gminas, and has a total population of 524 000.

The population is increasing at a relatively low rate (1.3 % in the period 1991-95), a result of both the declining natural increase and the negative balance of migration. The population of the region is ageing; in 1991, 125 000 people (24 % of the population) were under 15, by December 1995 this had fallen to 113 700 (21.7%). In the same period the proportion of people over 65 grew from 9.8 % to 11.3 % of the population.

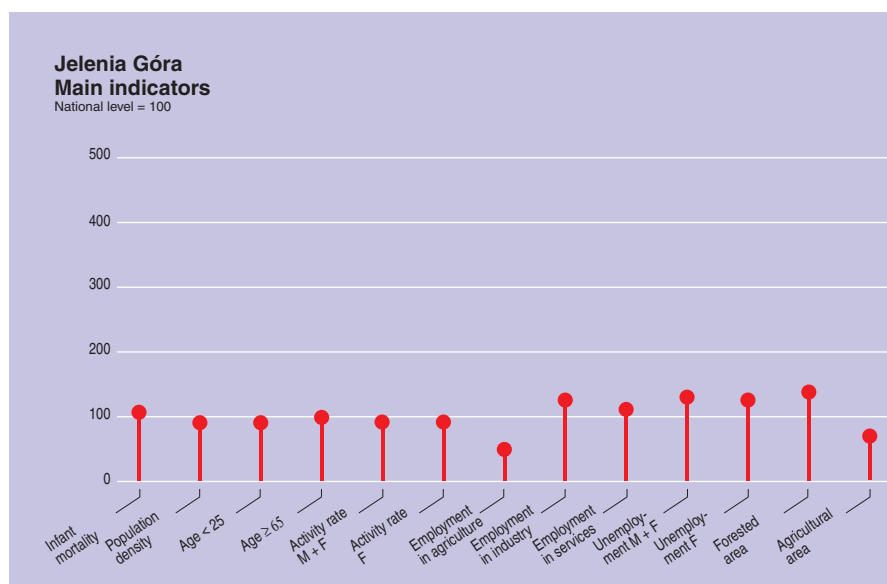
A high 67 % of the voivodship's population live in the 25 cities, which are where the economic and social activity is mainly concentrated. By far the largest city is Jelenia Góra (population of 94 000), followed by Bolesławiec, Zgorzelec, Lubań, Kamienna Góra and Bogatynia which all have more than 20 000 inhabitants. However, most of the cities are small, with populations under 10 000 inhabitants.

Tourism is an important element of the region's economy. Urban centres with highly-developed tourist, recreational and health resort facilities include Karpacz, Szklarska Poręba, Świeradów-Zdrój and Jelenia Góra. The substantial improvement in the natural environment in recent years encourages the development of tourism. This is the result of a consistent regional environmental policy, particularly in the area of air and water quality.

Moreover, Jelenia Góra is a centre of culture and art. Numerous regional events are organised here as is the International Festival of Street Theatre.



Śnieżka, the highest peak in the Sudetan mountains, with the High Altitude Meteorological Observatory. (photo A. Hawalej)



Dense rail and road networks

The appeal of the natural environment, the diverse landscape, high degree of forestation (39 %), and especially the thermal and therapeutic mineral waters encourage the development of all forms of tourism and recreation, much of it centred on the health resorts. Both domestic and international tourism is encouraged by the voivodship's accessibility, resulting not only from its location along the border and proximity of many German and Czech border crossings, but also from the substantial density of the network of road and rail connections with other regions of Poland. In regard to

the density of the rail network (14 km per 100 km²), the Jelenia Góra voivodship ranks second (after the Katowice voivodship), and the road network ranks 10th among other regions of the country. It is planned that the region of Jelenia Góra will be directly linked with the European system of motorways in the near future.

The voivodship's local technical infrastructure is quite well-developed in the area of water and sewerage systems, the electrical power network as well as the telecommunications network which is based on fibre optics. However, in rural areas, the infrastructure is underdeveloped.



Which regions are similar to Jelenia Góra voivodship?

Age structure:
37–38 % under 25
Campania (I)
Flevoland (NL)

Employment structure:
12–14 % in agriculture
Andalucia (E)
Ireland (IRL)
Sur (E)

Land use:
46 % agriculture
Vlaams Gewest (B)
Vorarlberg (A)
Toscana (I)

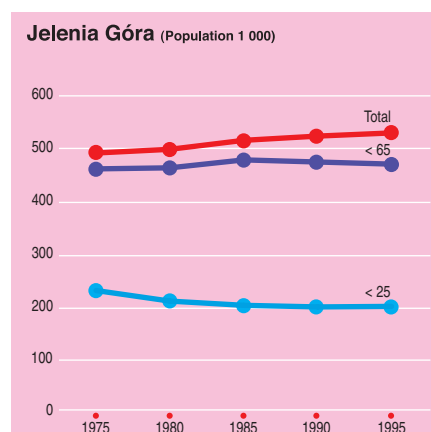
Cooperation through Euroregions

The long-term development strategy undertaken by the voivodship, the well-developed business environment, the transport and communications infrastructure, the border location with Germany and the Czech Republic as well as numerous natural resources create good potential for the broad-based development of the voivodship.

Many commonly perceived problems are shared with the neighbouring regions of Germany and the Czech Republic and the desire to seek common policies for the solving of these problems led to the creation, in December 1991, of the first trans-border cooperation region in central and eastern Europe, the Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion (which includes 34 of the 40 gminas in the Jelenia Góra voivodship). Multifaceted cooperation is carried out within the framework of the Euroregion in the areas of spatial planning, scientific research and environmental protection.

JELEŃIA GÓRA Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	507.0
Births	78.9
Deaths	54.5
Net permanent migration	- 12.7
Net temporary migration	5.7
Population 31. 12. 1995	524.5



JELEŃIA GÓRA Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	114	21.7	22.9	20.6
15–24	82	15.6	16.5	14.8
25–39	113	21.5	22.5	20.6
40–54	108	20.6	21.1	20.2
55–64	49	9.3	8.3	10.2
≥ 65	59	11.3	8.7	13.7
Total	525	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000 km ²	1 000			Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	% Agriculture
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Jelenia Góra voivodship	4.4	525	120	2.8	54.8	19.6	13	39	48
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

POLAND

An economy based on industry

Industry, representing some 39 % of total employment in December 1995, and tourism are the most significant elements in the economy of the voivodship.

The key industries in terms of sales are fuel-energy, minerals, textiles, chemicals and electrical engineering. Nationally important products include particularly linen and hemp fabrics (53 % of domestic production) and brown coal (19 %), but also electricity, cotton and cotton-like fabrics, silk and silk-like fabrics, mineral construction aggregates and pharmaceutical products.

There is an increasingly greater involvement of foreign capital in the economy of the Jelenia Góra voivodship. During 1991–1995, many companies with foreign capital participation were established, with most interest coming from neighbouring Germany and centring on industry and trade activities.

A natural basis for the development of the region's economy has also been the rich deposits of valuable minerals, including kaolin, ceramic clay, sand, gravel, aggregate, road and building stones, as well as brown coal (lignite). Many of these raw materials are unique to Jelenia Góra and are of major economic significance.

Agriculture is playing an increasingly smaller role, illustrated by the fact that it employs only 13% of the voivodship's workforce — half that of the national average. The share of final agricultural output represented by crop products has been increasing from 43 % in 1991 to almost equal the share of animal products by 1995. Arable land is mainly devoted to cereals (63 % by area) and the yields obtained are on a par with the national average. Pig and cattle numbers are among the lowest in the country.

Despite the growth in the significance of the private sector, the proportion of the voivodship's agricultural land in private

hands (67 %) is still significantly lower than the national average. On average, each private farm has 8 hectares of agricultural land.

Less than half of employees are in the private sector

In 1995, the total number of people working in the voivodship was 168 000 — a fall of 18 % from 1990. The biggest downturns were experienced in agriculture, with a fall of 44 % in the numbers employed, and in industry (22 %). Services were much less affected. As a result of these changes almost half (48 %) of jobs were concentrated in the service sector by the end of 1995, 39 % in industry and just 13% in agriculture. The relative increase in employment in services at the expense of agriculture is evident from comparing the figures in December 1995 to 1991 when agriculture represented 17 %, industry 40 % and services only 43 % of total employment. The expansion in tourism after 1990 undoubtedly contributed to the strength of employment in the services sector.

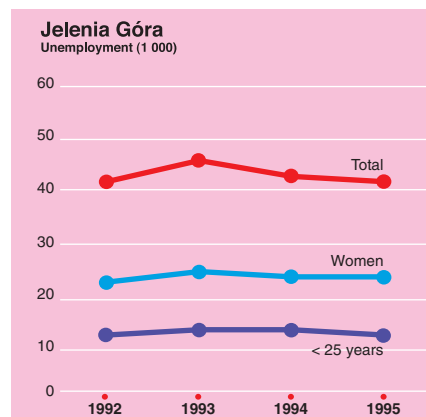
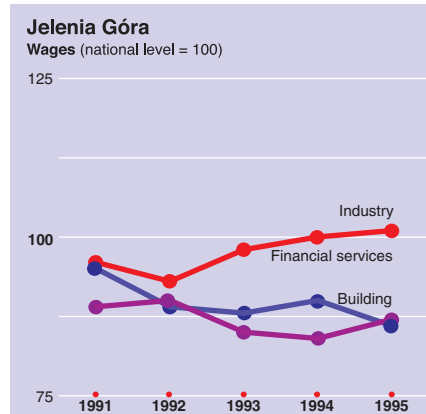
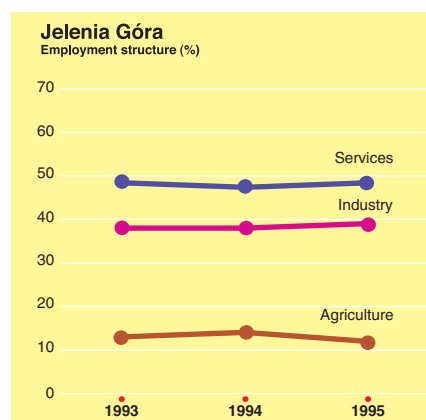
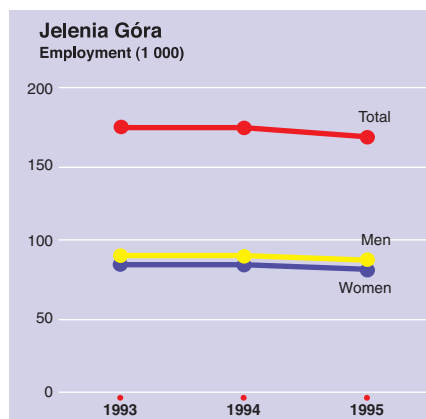
Jelenia Góra has one of the lowest proportions in Poland of employment in the private sector at 47 %. This reflects to some extent the relatively few private farms.

Although the actual number of unemployed people is declining, the unemployment rate in the region at the end of 1995 was still significantly higher than the national average. Women are affected by unemployment to a greater degree than men, and young people also have difficulty finding work.

There are 2 800 economics and engineering students enrolled in the well-established centres of higher education in Jelenia Góra. Other subjects offered, some of which are unique in the region as well as in the country, include municipal administration, political science and environmental studies, tourism and hotel management.

JELEŃIA GÓRA Agriculture — 1995

Number of private farms	13 378	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	199 281		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	68	Cereals	18.3 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	23	Pork	17.2 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	34	Milk	15.2 %
Arable land (%)	59	Industrial crops	9.9 %



KALISZ

The Kalisz voivodship is situated in the south-western part of the country and comprises, to a large degree, the historic lands of Kalisz. In ancient times, the Amber trade route passed through this area, and the first mention of the voivodship capital, Kalisz, originates from these times. In 1314, the Polish king, Władysław Łokietek, included the area of Kalisz in the Kingdom, thereby establishing the Kalisz voivodship.

On the basis of decisions taken at the Congress of Vienna, the lands of Kalisz were divided into two parts by a line running along the River Prosna: one part belonging to Prussia and the other allocated to Russia. Thus, the city of Kalisz found itself under Russian control. After regaining independence, the lands of Kalisz were originally incorporated into Łódź voivodship and later into Poznań voivodship. This remained the case until the reorganisation of 1975.

The voivodship covers of 6 512 km², representing 2.1 % of Poland's total area, and is divided into 58 administrative districts (gminas). The capital, Kalisz, is roughly equidistant from three of Poland's largest urban agglomerations; Poznań, Wrocław and Łódź.

The Kalisz voivodship has a population of 722 000, and an average population density of 111 inhabitants/km². The voivodship's 20 cities are home to 47 % of the total population. The largest city, with 107 000 inhabitants, is Kalisz, which concentrates almost one third of the voivodship's urban population. Other important cities in the voivodship include Ostrów Wielkopolski (population of 75 000), Krotoszyn (29 000), Jarocin (26 000), Kępno, Pleszew, Ostrzeszów, Wieruszów and Syców.

In order to protect the voivodship's most valuable natural resources, 20 nature reserves of different types have been established.

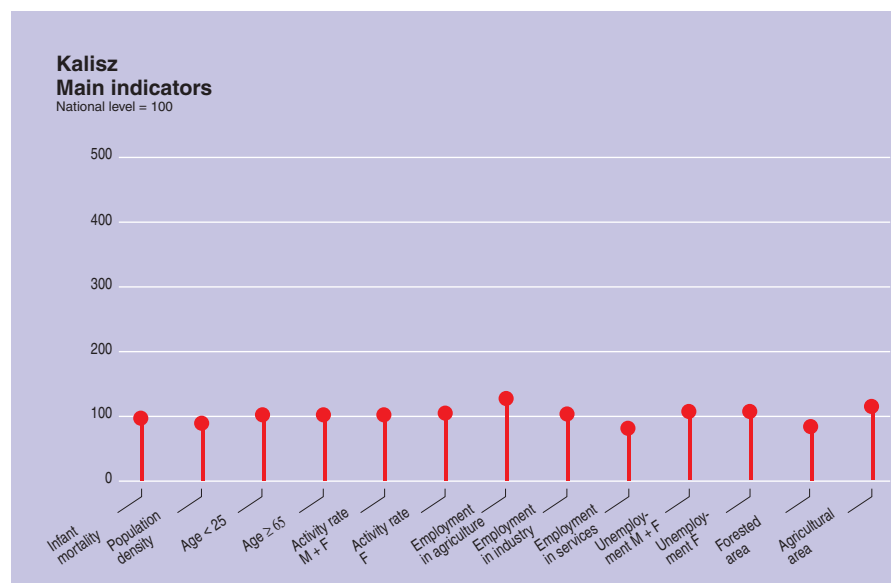
Alarming fall in water reserves

The Kalisz voivodship lies almost entirely within the geographic area known as the Greater Poland Lowland. Two-thirds of the territory lies at less than 150 m above sea level with the Trzebnicko-Ostrzeszowski hills in the south adding variety to the relief. Mount Kobyla is the highest point, at 284 m above sea level. The lowest lying land is the meadow area in the Warta valley.

The main rivers are the Prosna, flowing through the length of the voivodship from



*Kalisz, the oldest city in Poland, with its old town centre, churches and monasteries.
photo A. Szymański*



south to north, the Barycz and the Lutynia. In the north, the Warta forms the border with the Poznań voivodship over a short stretch. There are few large natural lakes, but there are the artificial reservoirs of Gołuchów, Szale and Mount Kobyla created as a result of damming the rivers.

Forests cover 23 % of the voivodship's total area. The largest forested areas spread between the Barycz Valley and the Ostrzeszowskie Hills and are found in the areas of Brzezina, Jarocina, Krotoszyna and Kępno.

The voivodship's most important raw material is natural gas, large deposits of which are found in the area of Odolanów. In

addition, there are natural aggregates and loam materials used in the construction industry and for ceramics.

All of the cities have municipal waterworks supplying water exclusively from underground wells. Expansion of the Kalisz and Ostrów Wielkopolski water treatment plants is currently being carried out. In the rural areas there has been an alarming decline in the level of the water reserves near to the surface, and the construction of rural water supply systems is proceeding rapidly. None of the cities in the voivodship have a fully-developed sewerage system although municipal sewerage treatment plants exist in 13 of the cities, and others are under development.



Which regions are similar to Kalisz voivodship?

Area:
6 500 km²
Detmold (D)
Drôme (F)
Potenza (I)

Age structure:
11 % over 65
Vorarlberg (A)
Uusimaa (FIN)

Employment structure:
33–35 % in agriculture
Ipeiros (EL)
North Region (RO)
Kriti (EL)

Strong textile industry, overburdened roads

The clothing and textile industry is well developed in the region and fabrics, curtains, laces, silk products and clothing manufactured in the voivodship are sold on the domestic and international markets, including exports to European Union countries.

The Kalisz voivodship hosts important cultural events such as the Kalisz Theatre

Meetings and the Festival of Jazz Pianists. The 'Chopin in the Colours of Autumn' festival organised in the Castle of the Radziwiłł Princes in Antonin as well as the Schola Cantorum Festival of Student Chamber Choirs of Ancient Music held in Kalisz popularise these forms of music. The Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra is an important musical institution in the voivodship. Among museum facilities, the largest is the Lands of Kalisz Museum.

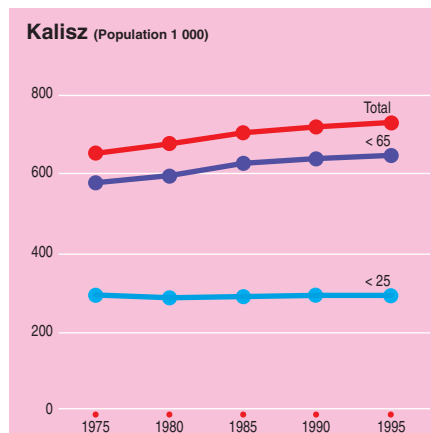
The voivodship's location results in a large volume of traffic and the growth in the

number of vehicles is overloading the existing road network. Ring roads around the main cities are needed along with the upgrading of the heavily used sections of road.

The poor quality of television reception is also a problem for the inhabitants. Broadcasting centres located in neighbouring voivodships are not sufficiently powerful, and the transformer station in Kalisz has only a short range. This situation will improve after the broadcasting centre in Mikstat is opened.

KALISZ Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	691.3
Births	123.8
Deaths	86.5
Net permanent migration	- 8.8
Net temporary migration	2.3
Population 31. 12. 1995	722.0



KALISZ Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	171	23.7	24.9	22.6
15–24	115	15.9	16.6	15.1
25–39	153	21.2	22.1	20.4
40–54	138	19.1	19.4	18.9
55–64	62	8.6	8.2	9.0
≥ 65	83	11.5	8.9	13.9
Total	722	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Kalisz voivodship	6.5	722	111	3.7	59.6	16.1	35	31	34
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Agriculture dominated by pig farming

The combination of geographic and natural conditions has led to the development of the Kalisz voivodship as a regional base for agriculture and industry.

Agricultural land covers 68 % of the voivodship's area. Soils are of varying quality, although the greater part of them are poor. Nearly 90 % of the agricultural land in 1995 belonged to the 49 000 private farms, of which 44 % are farms not exceeding 5 ha in size and just 8 % are farms larger than 15 ha.

The main field crops are cereals, covering 52 % of arable land (of which, rye 24 %), potatoes and fodder plants. Yields are often higher than the national average. One feature of the local agriculture is the high degree of covered horticultural cultivation, the Kalisz voivodship ranking fourth in the country in this respect. Pig breeding dominates animal production, and with 207 head per 100 ha of agricultural land, the voivodship has the fourth densest pig population in the country. Pigs for slaughter account for 47 % of agricultural production by value.

There are many industrial branches active in the voivodship, but the food-processing industry dominates, producing almost 40 % of the voivodship's industrial output by sales value. The textile industry as well as engineering — and in particular the manufacture of machinery and equipment for the food-processing industry — also occupy important positions. On the national level, the Kalisz voivodship excels in the manufacture of plush fabrics (62 % of domestic production), silk and silk-like fabrics (27 %) and knitted products as well as in the manufacture of pianos and particle board.

KALISZ Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	49 217	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	442 505	Pork	46.9 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	89	Vegetables	10.4 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	47	Milk	7.8 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	207	Beef	7.0 %
Arable land (%)	83		

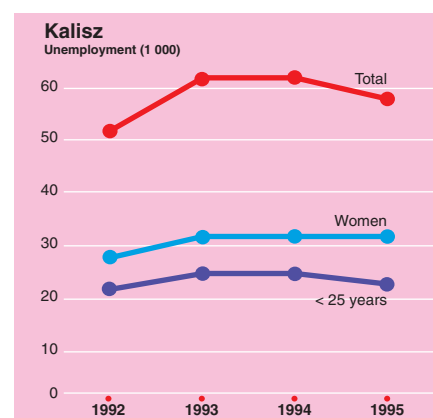
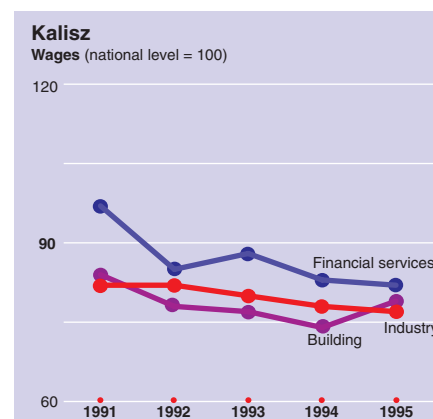
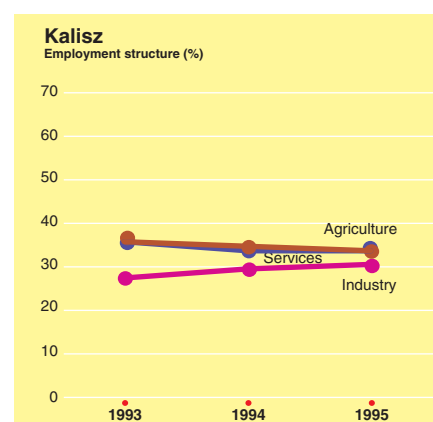
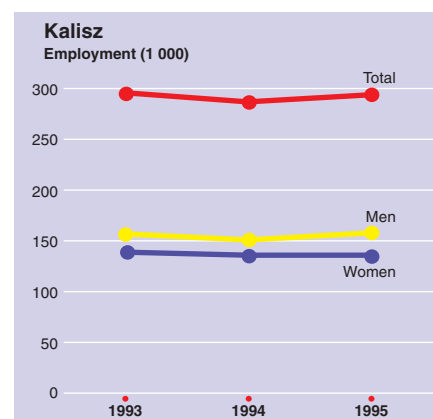
High level of employment in agriculture, low level in services

After a period of falling employment, the labour market has shown signs of strengthening, particularly in the services sector. The proportion of employment in each sector of the economy is evenly balanced, with 35 % of the December 1995 total employment of 294 000 being in agriculture, 34 % in services and 31 % in industry. The private sector employs 69 % of all workers in the voivodship. Medium-sized enterprises provide work for the largest group of the population.

The average gross wage in the Kalisz voivodship in 1995 amounted to 84 % of the national average.

Unemployment affected 56 000 people at the end of 1995, with the unemployment rate higher than the national average and approaching 16 %. From 1990 to 1994, the number of people unemployed grew from year to year, but an encouraging reversal of the trend was seen in 1995. Almost two-fifths of the unemployed are under 25.

The downward trend in unemployment is mainly attributable to the improvement in the voivodship's economic situation, and particularly the growth in the number of businesses and the creation of new jobs in small private-sector companies. Furthermore, local authorities are organising public works projects, including telephone systems and the construction of water supply networks and gas pipelines in the countryside, which provide work for people from rural areas and small towns.



KATOWICE

Situated in the southern part of Poland and bordering the Czech Republic, the Katowice voivodship covers an area of 6 650 km², which equates to 2 % of the country's area. The voivodship is in a region with a long tradition of coal mining known as Upper Silesia. The post-war period saw an intensive industrialisation and an associated population influx.

The December 1995 population of the voivodship was almost four million; 10 % of Poland's total population. The population density is among the highest in the country, at some 590 inhabitants per km², almost five times the national average. There are great differences, however, between the districts of the voivodship, with population densities ranging from just 42 to 4 585 inhabitants per km².

The Katowice voivodship is the most urbanised area of Poland; the cities in the area called the Upper Silesian Industrial District create the largest urban-industrial agglomeration in the country, with more than three million inhabitants. The voivodship's urban population, living in the 53 cities, represents 87 % of the total. As many as 11 cities have more than 100 000 inhabitants and five of these (Katowice, Sosnowiec, Bytom, Gliwice and Zabrze) have more than 200 000.

The Katowice voivodship is characterised by a declining population with a significant degree of migration. Those leaving the region for other countries far outweigh the number of immigrants. By contrast, more people move to the region from other voivodships than leave Katowice to live elsewhere in Poland. Emigration is a stronger phenomenon in the urban districts than in rural areas. As a result, while the voivodship's total population declined by 1.6 % between 1990 and 1995, the urban population fell by 2.7 %. This was the largest drop in urban population anywhere in the country.

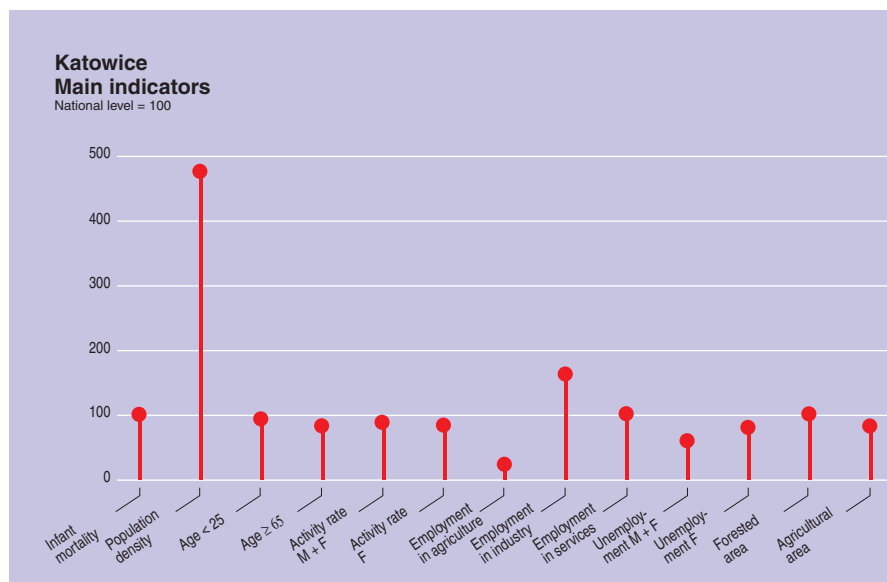
Access to medical services in the Katowice voivodship is better than in other regions of the country, with 95 general hospitals and two psychiatric facilities.

Extensive natural resources

Favourably situated on east-west transit routes of international importance and bordering the Czech Republic in the south, the voivodship is an important transport (road and rail) junction with a high level of transit traffic. The majority of the voivodship's area lies in the Silesian Upland and the central part is an extensive coal basin known as the Upper Silesian Industrial District.



The Katowice voivodship, the largest industrial agglomeration in Poland. Mills, mines and power plants produce almost 16 % of domestic industrial production. photo A. John



Agricultural land covers 49 % of the total area and forests another 29 %. Approximately three quarters of the agricultural resources are owned by private farms. Small farms predominate, with 80 % of the total being below 5 ha in size.

The primary natural resource is hard coal as the Upper Silesian coal basin is one of the largest in the world. In addition, Poland's only commercially-exploited deposits of zinc and lead as well as a two billion tonne deposit of salt are located in the voivodship. There are also abundant deposits of limestone and dolomite.

The voivodship's natural environment is perhaps the most devastated and degraded in the country. The emissions of dusts and gases in the voivodship are 9 and 12

times higher per km² respectively than the national average. For each square kilometre, 10 times more sewage requiring treatment is collected than the national average, and the amount of accumulated waste per km² is 20 times higher.

The water deficit of the voivodship has been eliminated as a result of developments in the public water supply system and of using modern water-treatment technologies. There has been a corresponding improvement in the treatment of municipal sewage. Municipal waste management continues to be a problem as it is primarily collected in refuse dumps. However, there is visible progress in the area of telephone communications; the number of telephone subscribers doubled between 1990 and 1995.



Which regions are similar to Katowice voivodship?

Population:
3.9 million inhabitants
Comunidad Valenciana (E)
Emilia-Romagna (I)

Population density:
580–600 inhabitants per km²
Mechelen (B)
Barcelona (E)

Age:
36–37 % under 25
Picardie (F)
Severomoravský (CZ)
Alba (RO)

Problems of restructuring industry

Assets of the region include the intellectual potential and the huge labour force as well as a wealth of machinery and equipment to be exploited. The natural resources are exceptional and the geographical location and good transport connections — with high density road and rail networks and an international airport — favour the voivodship's development.

There are, however, some fundamental problems to be resolved. Much of the

industrial base of the voivodship is outdated with inefficient heavy industries and mining in need of modernisation and restructuring. The restructuring that has occurred since 1990 has resulted in a large problem of unemployment — although in percentage terms this is not as bad as elsewhere in Poland — and further restructuring may exacerbate this problem.

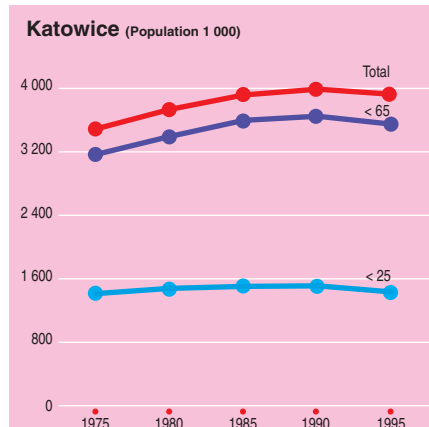
Also of concern is the devastation wreaked to the environment and the continuing high levels of pollution that will require significant expenditure to remedy.

Finally, although the road network is extensive it is becoming outdated in relation to modern needs.

In a bid to tackle these problems, an agreement was signed in 1995 between the government and social organisations called the Regional Contract for the Katowice Voivodship. The goal of this initiative is the modernisation of the economy through programmes for the restructuring of coal mining and the iron and steel industry, to diversify the economic structure, to establish three Special Economic Zones and to promote conditions favouring the creation of new jobs.

KATOWICE Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	3 895.5
Births	549.7
Deaths	429.2
Net permanent migration	50.4
Net temporary migration	- 141.7
Population 31. 12. 1995	3 924.8



KATOWICE Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	833	21.2	22.4	20.2
15–24	600	15.3	15.9	14.7
25–39	887	22.6	23.1	22.1
40–54	834	21.2	21.5	21.0
55–64	394	10.0	9.9	10.1
≥ 65	377	9.6	7.1	11.9
Total	3 925	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Katowice voivodship	6.7	3 925	590	0.2	52.1	9.1	6	50	44
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Coal, steel and energy

The Katowice voivodship is one of the most industrialised voivodships in Poland. It generates 16 % of the national industrial production by sales value. Extractive industries dominate. However, much of the industrial capacity is outdated, in poor condition and inefficient in terms of materials and energy consumption.

The most significant elements of the voivodship's economy are the mining of hard coal, the production of iron, zinc and lead, electrical power generation and electrical engineering as well as important food-processing and chemical industries. The voivodship's industrial performance is impressive; it extracts 97 % of the Polish total production of hard coal, it manufactures 55 % of the raw steel, 53 % of rolled metal products, 100 % of the zinc and lead, 40 % of coke from hard coal and generates 22 % of the electricity. Within the voivodship, there are 61 hard coal mines, 19 iron mills and seven power plants.

The fact that industry is dominated by the traditional branches has hindered the process of economic transformation, and this has developed more slowly than in other parts of the country. Nevertheless, between 1990 and 1995, more than 400 State-owned enterprises were either transformed into sole shareholder companies of the State Treasury or placed into liquidation.

Both the economic changes that are taking place and the economic character of the voivodship have encouraged foreign companies to invest in the area, primarily in trade and manufacturing. Italian, Swedish, Swiss, Dutch and German investors have the largest interests.

Agriculture in the voivodship is of secondary importance; soils are low in fertility and are mainly used for the cultivation of cereals and potatoes as well as for vegetables (accounting for about 5 % of domestic production). Cattle rearing and pig farming are important activities, as is large-scale intensive poultry farming.

KATOWICE Agriculture – 1995

Number of private farms	52 730	Main products – proportion of agricultural	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	324 182	commodity output	
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	74	Vegetables	24.1 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	30	Pork	13.5 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	63	Cereals	11.9 %
Arable land (%)	76	Milk	8.5 %

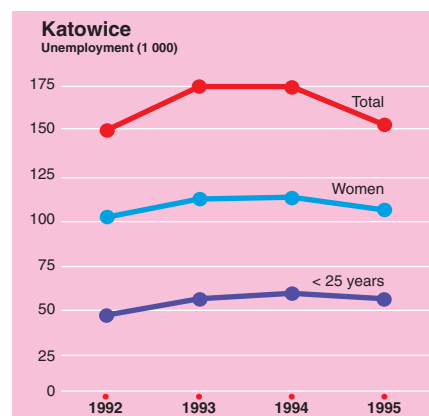
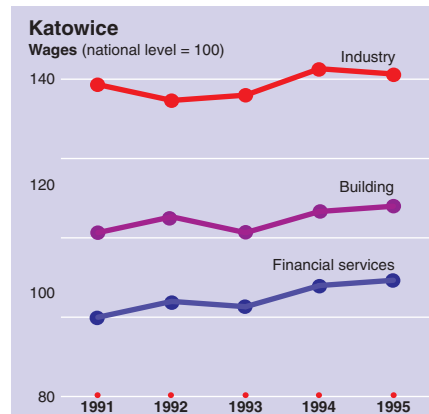
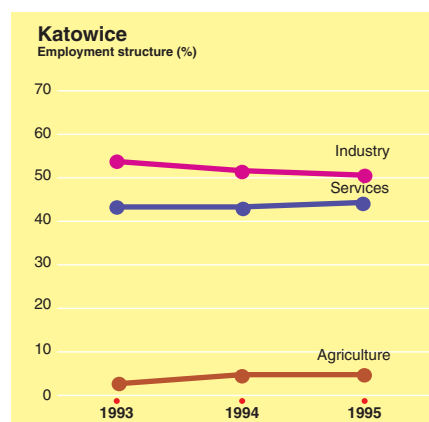
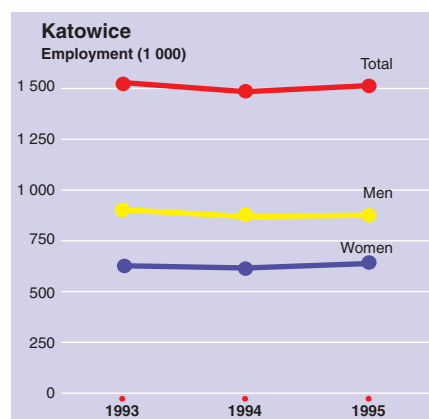
Low unemployment rate and high wages

The Katowice voivodship is the largest labour market in the country with over 1.5 million workers, over 10 % of the national total in 1995.

Between December 1991 and 1995, the number of workers employed in the industrial sector in the voivodship fell by some 168 000. This was offset to some degree by an increase in employment in the services sector and relative stability in agriculture. Despite significant cut-backs in the workforces of many companies and the liquidation of many others, the industrial sector still represented 50 % of employment in the voivodship at the end of 1995. The gradual expansion of the services sector means that it now represents some 44 % of employment and agriculture, at just over 6 % (less than 100 000 workers), has one of the lowest proportions in the country. The result of the economic transformation and changes in ownership is an increase of employment in the private sector, particularly in trade and construction, to some 45 %.

The Katowice voivodship has the largest number of registered unemployed – about 150 000 people – which represents 6 % of the national total. However, the rate of unemployment, at 9 % is among the lowest. A clear majority of the unemployed are female (69 %), some 80 % of whom previously worked in trade and manufacturing. Unsettling phenomena are the high numbers of people remaining without a job for more than one year (more than 30 % of the unemployed) and of young people up to the age of 25 (36 %).

Wages and salaries in the voivodship are more than 20 % higher than the national average.



KIELCE

The Kielce voivodship is situated in central Poland and covers an area of 9 211 km². The voivodship has a total population of 1 137 000 and an average population density of 123 inhabitants per km². It is the sixth largest voivodship in the country in land area and seventh in terms of population. Administratively, the Kielce voivodship is divided into 80 gminas.

There are 21 cities in the voivodship in which 48 % of the voivodship's total population live. The largest city is Kielce with a population of 214 000 — 39 % of the urban population and 19 % of the voivodship's total population. Among the next largest cities in the voivodship are Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski (79 000 inhabitants), Starachowice (57 000) and Skarżysko Kamienna (51 000).

There are three theatres and 17 museums in the Kielce voivodship. The sundial museum located in Jędrzejów is unique in Europe. There are four schools of higher education with a total of 25 000 students, which makes Kielce an educational centre of regional significance.

The Oncology Centre in Kielce will soon enrich the existing network of health-care facilities. About five million people, from the Kielce voivodship and neighbouring regions, fall within the scope of this facility's activity. Currently there are 16 general hospitals in the voivodship; a level of provision below the national average. There is an average of 470 inhabitants per doctor and 2 500 inhabitants per dentist.

Organisations such as the Centrum Targowe-Kielce and Centrum Biznesu Exbud, play an important role in promoting the achievements of the region and in establishing trade contacts with domestic and foreign companies. The inexpensive, yet well-qualified labour force helps attract interest from foreign investors.

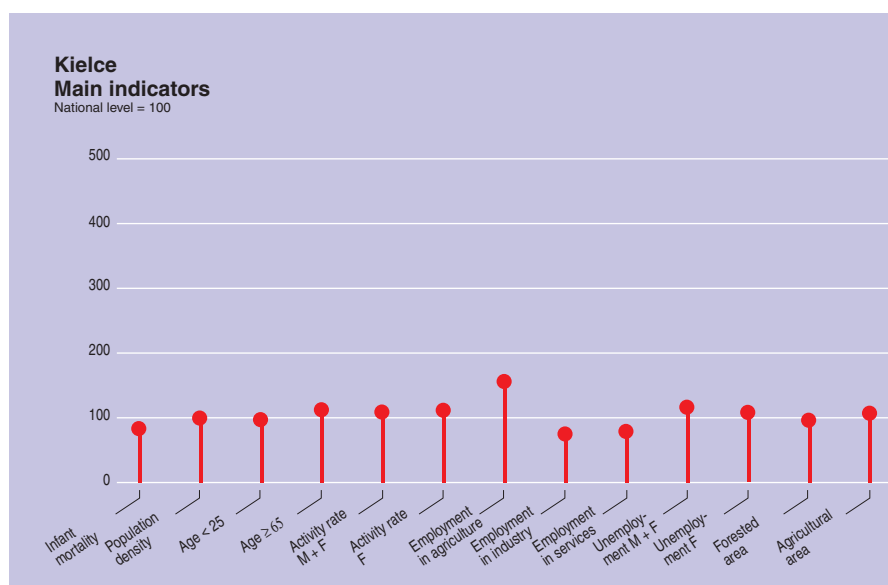
Well-developed road and rail network

The north-eastern part of the Kielce voivodship lies in the Kielecko-Sandomierska Highlands, while the southern part falls within the Nidziańska Syncline with its extensive deposits of gypsum and numerous sulphur springs. In the west, the Miechowska Highlands rise to 415 m above sea level at Biała Góra. The voivodship's landscape is thus very diverse, with features such as the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, formed by a



Landscape of the Kielecko-Sandomierska Highlands, with the ruins of the royal castle in Chęciny.

photo A. Borys



number of parallel ranges, the highest of which is the Łysogóry, with the voivodship's highest peak, Łysica, at 612 m. The Świętokrzyska Forest covers a large area in the northern part of the voivodship, and one part of this, the Jodłowa Forest, lies in the Świętokrzyski National Park.

The vast resources of salt waters and sulphide in Busko-Zdrój and Solec-Zdrój are considered the foremost in Europe. Natural treatment facilities have been established based on these and there is scope for further development.

The road density of the Kielce voivodship is one of the highest in the country. Rail

facilities are also well developed with two freight and trans-shipping stations — which are among the largest in Poland. One of these, the modern facility in Sędziszów, makes trans-shipping from normal-gauge to broad-gauge railway track possible, thus shortening the transit route from west to east. New express railway lines are planned, which will increase safety and capacity. The expanded airport in Masłów, about 10 km from the centre of Kielce, can now accommodate medium-sized aircraft.



Which regions are similar to Kielce voivodship?

Area:
9 200 km²
Ipeiros (EL)
Landes (F)

Age structure:
12–13 % over 65
Utrecht (NL)
Tirol (A)

Employment structure:
23 % in industry
Balears (E)
Aquitaine (F)
Sud (I)

Opportunities for tourism

Good opportunities exist in the voivodship for the further development of the building materials industry on the basis of the vast and diverse mineral raw materials. There is also a potential for tourism, particularly in the Świętokrzyski region with its natural features. Therapeutic waters, pure air and a favourable microclimate provide opportunities for the expansion of health resort services.

Furthermore, the well-qualified management personnel and the active population,

with labour costs lower than the national average, are also assets of the voivodship.

Tackling unemployment and retraining the labour force are important problems the voivodship needs to solve. There is a necessity to accelerate the rate of industrial restructuring as well as to change from 'supply production' to production for the market.

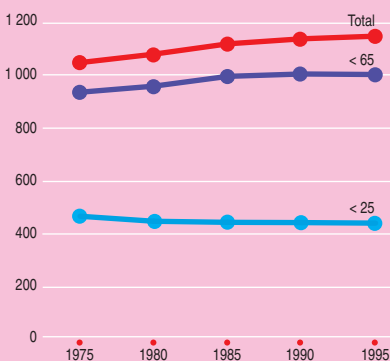
Agriculture and the rural economy are also in need of fundamental restructuring. The establishment of small and medium-sized food-processing plants as well as a ser-

vices base for agriculture is thought to offer the greatest potential for the development of agriculture and the labour market in the voivodship.

KIELCE Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 101.4
Births	181.3
Deaths	134.2
Net permanent migration	- 29.6
Net temporary migration	17.6
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 136.6

Kielce (Population 1 000)



KIELCE Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	253	22.3	23.3	21.3
15–24	177	15.6	16.4	14.8
25–39	232	20.4	21.6	19.3
40–54	219	19.3	19.6	18.9
55–64	111	9.7	9.1	10.3
≥ 65	145	12.8	10.1	15.3
Total	1 137	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment		Employment	
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²		Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Kielce voivodship	9.2	1 137	123	2.6	62.9	17.3	43	23	34
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

From mining and heavy industry to small-scale farming

The economy of the voivodship is based primarily on industry in the north and agriculture in the south. Vast deposits of mineral raw minerals (limestone, dolomite, gypsum, sulphur) are found in Kielce and these led to the development of mining and other heavy industry. The region accounts for 90 % of the domestic production of gypsum, 38 % of limestone and 15 % of cement. The manufacture of rolling bearings (60 % of the Polish total), machinery for treating metals, steel and rolled products, as well as the manufacture of lorries are also nationally important. The largest industrial centres are Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Starachowice, Skarżysko-Kamienna, Końskie and Sitkówka-Nowiny.

Agriculture is dominated by small-scale farming with a low degree of specialisation, and surplus labour. As much as 92 % of the agricultural land belongs to the 108 000 private farms, the average size of which is just 4 ha. Cereals account for 56 % of crops by area sown, the most important being wheat and rye. Potatoes, with 17 % of the sown area are another main crop. Vegetable growing is one of the region's strengths, with the voivodship accounting for 6 % of the total Polish production. However, both arable and livestock farming are characterised by low yields.

Good soil and climate conditions and the lack of polluting industries in the southern parts of the voivodship favour the further development of agriculture, and in particular offer prospects for more ecological farming, concentrating on the growing markets for natural, organic and health foods.

Tourism is playing an important role in the economic development of the voivodship. The Świętokrzyskie mountain region stands out with its clean air and a favourable microclimate.

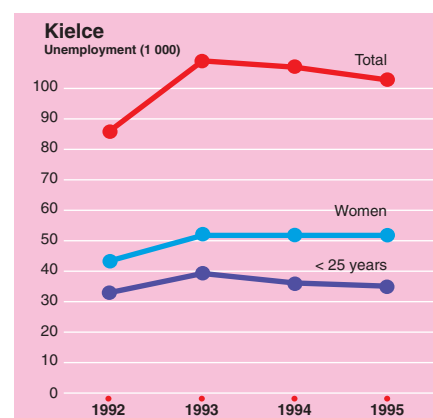
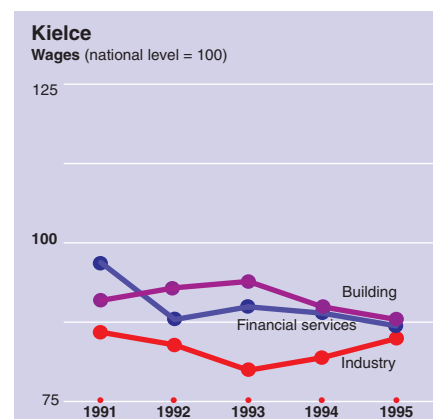
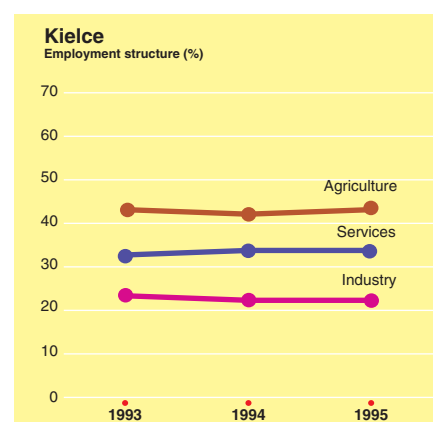
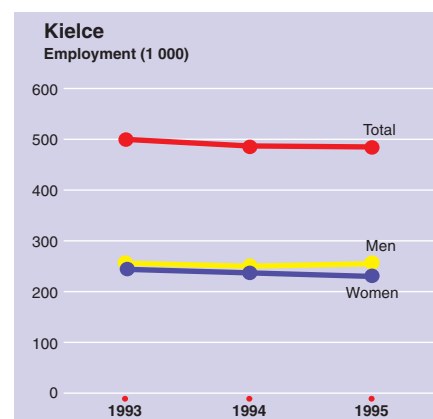
High unemployment

In the years following the start of the economic transformation, the number of people working in the economy of the Kielce voivodship fell by 35 000 to the December 1995 total of 485 000. Industry was the hardest hit, but agriculture also lost several thousand jobs. The numbers employed in the services sector has remained relatively constant but, because of the fall in employment in both agriculture and industry, the proportion employed in services had risen to 34 % at the end of 1995. Agriculture remains by far the biggest employer, accounting for 43 % of jobs, with the proportion employed in industry (which includes mining and construction) standing at 23 %. A result of the initial years of economic restructuring is that the private sector represented 69 % of the voivodship's total employment in 1995.

As employment fell, unemployment grew, to amount to more than 100 000 people by December 1995. This is the highest number of any voivodship except for Katowice, a voivodship with a population three and a half times that of Kielce. However, other, smaller voivodships have higher percentage unemployment rates than Kielce's 17.3 %.

One encouraging sign is that the numbers of registered unemployed have fallen slightly from the December 1993 high of 107 000 and that the proportion of long-term unemployed has fallen from 48 % at the end of 1993 to 34 % of the unemployed at the end of 1995. This is a more rapid decline than the national average. Young people below the age of 35 account for more than 60 % and people with only basic vocational education account for about 40 % of the unemployed. The high unemployment levels exert downward pressure on wage levels and the average wage in Kielce is just 88 % of the national average.

KIELCE Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	107 988	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	585 518	Pork	23.1 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	92	Vegetables	14.7 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	49	Potatoes	11.2 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	86	Fruit	8.0 %
Arable land (%)	80		



KONIN

The Konin voivodship is situated in the central part of Poland, on the eastern edge of the historic region of Greater Poland. The voivodship covers an area of 5 139 km², which accounts for 1.7 % of the country's area. Administratively, the voivodship is divided into 48 gminas.

The majority of the voivodship's area is situated in the Warta river basin. Numerous small tributary rivers cross the region. In the northern part of the voivodship, there are post-glacial lakes characterised by a high level of water purity, the largest of which — Lake Powidzkie — has a surface area of 1 175 ha. Protected areas as well as nature reserves play an important role in preserving and shaping the natural environment. Five protected areas, characterised by a wide variety of flora and fauna — notably water and marsh fowl — cover 39 % of the voivodship's area.

The Konin voivodship had a population of 480 000 at the end of 1995, of which 42 % lived in urban areas. The largest cities in terms of population are Konin, the capital of the voivodship with 83 000 inhabitants, Turek (31 000), Koło (24 000) and Słupca (15 000).

The population density, at 93 inhabitants per km², is significantly lower than the national average. The population of the Konin voivodship is relatively young, with a natural increase double the national average. This is offset to some degree by a negative balance of migration.

The health-care system continues to be underdeveloped. The provision of hospital beds is less than the national average, while Konin features near the bottom of the ranking of Polish voivodships for number of doctors and nurses per inhabitant.

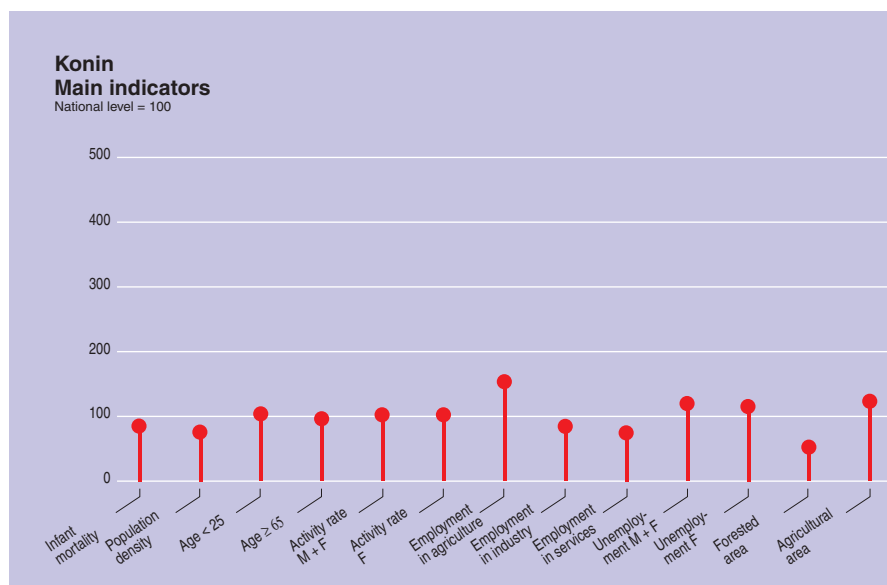
Brown coal, rock salt, clays and sands

The voivodship's natural resource with the most industrial significance is brown coal, with 22 out of the total of 82 documented deposits in Poland. These represent 12 % of the country's industrial brown-coal resources. Six of these deposits are currently being exploited in the voivodship.

Rich deposits of other minerals — rock salt, boulder clays used in the production of ceramics, quartz sands, sand and construction aggregate — are present in the voivodship and other natural resources include the mineral water springs which



The Konin brown-coal field represents almost 30 % of domestic production.
photo P. Ordan



are claimed to have preventive and therapeutic properties.

Running almost through the centre of the voivodship, from west to east, are two important transport routes with international significance: the Paris–Berlin–Warsaw–Moscow main railway line and the E30 international highway running from the German border through central Poland to the border of Belarus and including a section of the A2 motorway. North–south domestic roads as well as the main railway line from Silesia to the Baltic Sea ports contribute to a very comprehensive road and rail transport network. However, apart from these main lines the Konin voivodship is not well provided with rail infrastructure

and the length of lines per km² is less than half of the national average.

The River Warta is also used for transporting heavy cargoes through the voivodship and on to the seaports.

All of the 18 cities and about 80 % of the villages have public water supply, 10 cities have sewerage systems and three have natural gas supply. After the completion in 1994 of the Voivodship Telecommunications Centre, with a modern digital switching telephone exchange, the communications system improved significantly. Half of the gminas have direct-dialling capabilities, facilitating contact with 108 countries.



Which regions are similar to Konin voivodship?

Population:
 480 000 inhabitants
 Agrigento (I)
 Ciudad Real (E)
 Dresden (D)

Area:
 5 000 km²
 Bari (I)
 Göteborgs och Bohus län (S)
 Gelderland (NL)

Land use:
 73–76 % agriculture
 Pays de la Loire (F)
 Northern Ireland (UK)

A favourable location

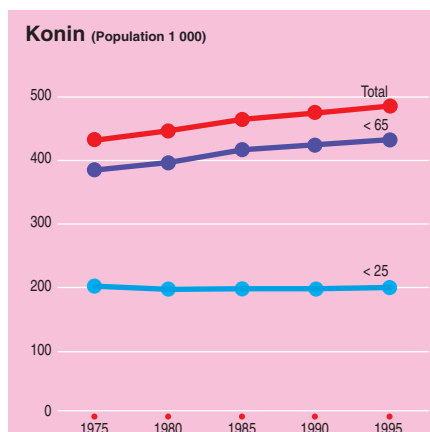
Despite the presence of industry harmful to the environment, the Konin voivodship possesses attractive landscapes, with relatively pure water and other natural assets. Numerous lakes are found in the northern part of the voivodship, of which 22 are larger than 50 ha in size. These offer great opportunities for the development of tourism and five recreational and tourist areas have been designated in the voivodship. There is also scope for developing transit tourism, given the voivodship's situation on international traffic routes.

The Konin voivodship is also attractive for investment and business. This results from the voivodship's central location, the proximity to large urban agglomerations, its location along international transport routes, the local agricultural and especially industrial raw materials, construction sites designated for investments and the voivodship's skilled labour force.

However, the voivodship suffers from the under-development of some elements of the technical and social infrastructure, a weak scientific research base, a high level of unemployment and low diversification in the industrial sector.

KONIN Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	455.4
Births	84.5
Deaths	54.8
Net permanent migration	- 11.3
Net temporary migration	5.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	479.7



KONIN Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	116	24.2	25.1	23.4
15–24	78	16.2	16.9	15.5
25–39	103	21.4	22.5	20.4
40–54	89	18.6	18.7	18.5
55–64	41	8.6	8.2	9.0
≥ 65	53	11.0	8.6	13.3
Total	480	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Konin voivodship	5.1	480	93	4.5	60.4	18.1	42	26	32
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Industry, mining and agriculture

The main products of the voivodship are aluminium and rolled aluminium products, rock salt, abrasive products, finished silk-like knitted articles, and in the area of food processing: processed meats, meat and fat, tinned meat, butter, powdered milk and potato starch.

Agricultural land covers almost 73 % of the voivodship's area and almost 96 % is in the possession of the 46 000 private farms. The average farm size slightly exceeds the national average and the voivodship has a high proportion of employment in agriculture — 42 % of all jobs were in agriculture at the end of 1995. The voivodship's agricultural production accounts for about 2 % of domestic production and is the basis for the development of the local food-processing industry.

Soils in the Konin voivodship are poorer than average. Low rainfall, with an annual average of 500–550 mm, also contributes to the difficulties of agricultural production. Because of these conditions, the main crops are rye (30 % of sown area) and potatoes (14 %). In some regions, wheat and sugar beet are also grown. However, it is livestock that is the most important branch of agriculture in Konin, with animal products representing 72 % of final agricultural output by sales value at the end of 1994. Animal production, and particularly pig farming, is more intensive than the national average.

The voivodship's industry plays an important role in the Polish economy with its production of brown coal (lignite) representing 29 % of domestic production and electricity generation (10 %). Deposits of brown coal are exploited in two open-cast mines which supply the fuel for three power plants.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the number of businesses active in the voivodship has grown dynamically to reach about 20 000 by 1995, including 138 joint venture companies with foreign capital participation.

Efforts to raise qualifications and retrain

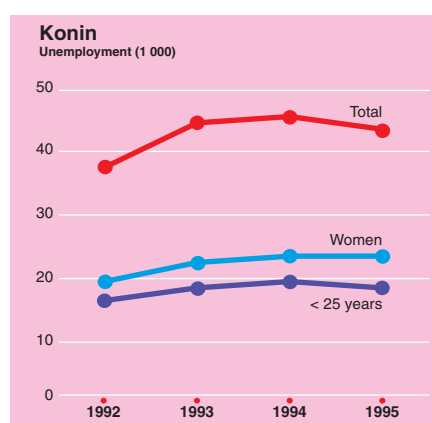
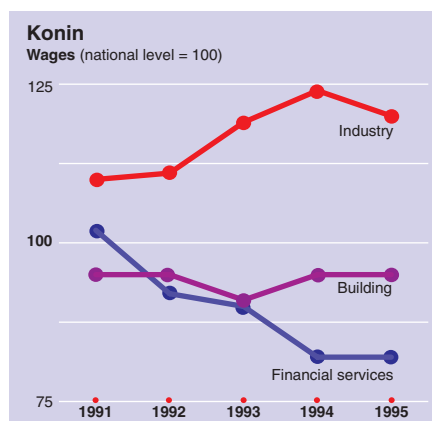
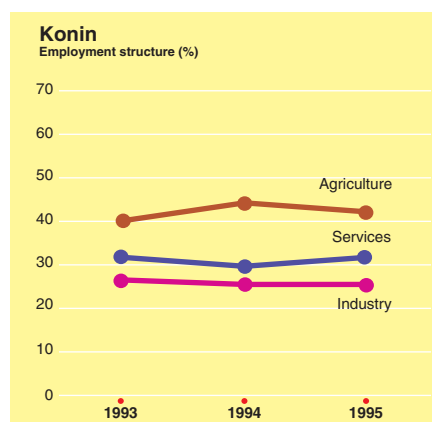
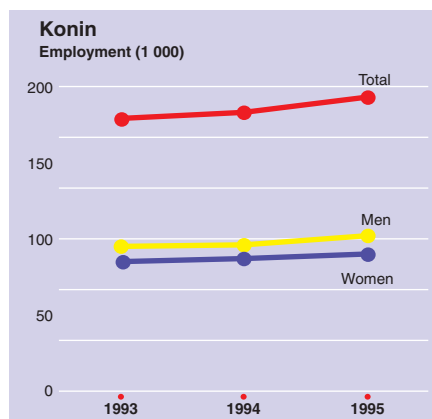
There were 193 000 people working in the economy of the Konin voivodship at the end of 1995, 67 % of the jobs being in the private sector. Agriculture dominates the voivodship's structure of employment with 42 % of all jobs, 32 % are in the services sector and about 26 % in industry and construction.

Average monthly wages and salaries in the voivodship in 1995 were 5 % higher than the national average.

The activity rate in May 1995 stood at 60.4 %, slightly higher than the national average. However, unemployment is high, with 43 000 registered unemployed in the Konin voivodship at the end of 1995. The rate of unemployment (18 %) significantly exceeds the national average. A much higher than average 40 % of the unemployed are below the age of 25 and a similar proportion of the jobless have only basic vocational education.

People with a higher education make up 3% of the voivodship's population, those with a secondary-level education 44%, and those which have basic vocational education, such as the skilled workers account for over 25 %. Branches of the Poznań Economics College, the Nicholas Copernicus University of Toruń and the Poznań Agricultural College have been established in the voivodship in recent years in order to raise qualifications. These institutions offer courses in economics, marketing, management and agro-tourism. In addition, there is a broad range of courses aimed at retraining the unemployed and raising the qualifications of people engaged in business as well as basic business management courses.

KONIN Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	45 927	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	376 418		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	96	Pork	31.6 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	43	Milk	15.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	143	Cereals	11.2 %
Arable land (%)	81	Industrial crops	10.1 %



KOSZALIN

The Koszalin voivodship is situated in the north of Poland, and an 85 km section of its northern border is formed by the Baltic Sea coast. The voivodship covers an area of 8 470 km², and includes the eastern part of the Szczecin coastal area and the western part of the Koszalin coastal area. The southern part of the voivodship extends into the western and southern Pomeranian Lake Districts.

Administratively, the Koszalin voivodship is divided into 41 gminas. Almost 522 000 people were living in the region at the end of 1995, the urban population being 64 % of the total. Koszalin, with 111 000 inhabitants, is the focal point of the voivodship. Other larger cities which play important roles are Kołobrzeg (47 000 inhabitants), Szczecinek (42 000) and Białogard (25 000). The population density of the voivodship is low; with an average of 62 inhabitants per km² Koszalin's density is only half of the national average.

In relation to the Polish average, the population of the voivodship is relatively young with an average age of under 33, and 40 % of the population below the age of 25. The voivodship's demography is characterised by a high natural increase — more than double the national average in the period from 1991 to 1995 — although the natural growth rate is declining each year. The migration balance, however, is negative, with more people moving out of the voivodship than moving in each year.

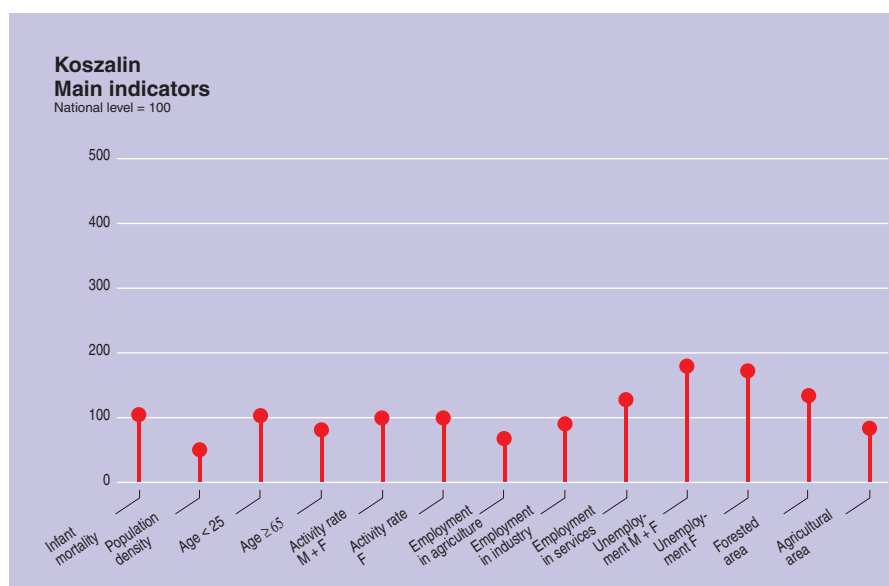
Almost two fifths of the voivodship covered by forest

The Koszalin voivodship is one of the least environmentally-threatened areas in the country and there is no large concentration of heavily polluting industries. The landscape is unusually varied. The lowland, eastern part of the coast is characterised by sandy beaches, sand dunes, coastal lakes and marshes. In the centre and west of the voivodship there are moraine-formed highlands and coastal cliffs in the area of Ustronie Morskie. In the voivodship's lake district there are numerous post-glacial lakes, of which the largest, Drawsko (surface area 1 956 ha) is the second deepest lake in Poland with a depth of 80 m.

Another feature of Koszalin is the high degree of forestation, with woods covering 38 % of the voivodship's area. The forests



*A tourist region, with many well-known seaside and health resorts.
photo K. Ratajczyk*



are home to various rare fauna and flora. There are 21 nature reserves in the voivodship, as well as the Drawski Scenic Park, 7 protected landscape areas and more than 400 features classed as natural monuments.

Natural deposits of peat occur in the voivodship as well as salt-water springs, around which two health resorts, Kołobrzeg and Polczyn-Zdrój, have been established, each receiving about 100 000 patients annually.

Agricultural land covers 399 000 ha, or 47 % of the total area of the voivodship.

Ownership changes in recent years have resulted in 58 % of the agricultural land now belonging to the private sector in a voivodship previously characterised by a very high proportion of land being owned by State farms. The average private farm size amounts to 15 ha of agricultural land, which is double the national average. The soils of the Koszalin voivodship are of low to medium fertility, primarily podzolic and brown soils, and in the river valleys there are bogs. Only in the area of Koszalin and Kołobrzeg are there the more fertile 'black' soils.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Koszalin voivodship?

Population:
510 000–521 000 inhabitants
Rhein-Neckar-Kreis (D)
León (E)

Population density:
61–62 inhabitants per km²
Dyfed (UK)
Virton (B)
Basilicata (I)

Age:
8,1–9,1 % over 65
Flevoland (NL)
Constanta (RO)

Recovery led by tourism and trade

Following the collapse in the economy at the beginning of the 1990s, clear signs of recovery can be observed in the voivodship. The tourist and recreational infrastructure, the landscape and health resorts continue to attract visitors and offer potential for further development. The traditional agricultural products can be at the base of a development of the food-processing industry, and the restructuring processes

in industry and agriculture, with increasing investment favouring the introduction of modern technologies, also offer hope. Trade has developed rapidly and there has been a significant growth in exports.

The main problems facing the voivodship include a lack of sufficient capital for enterprises to invest and this obviously limits the degree to which new jobs can be created. The high levels of structural unemployment, the poorly developed infrastructure and the below-average provision of health services are also of great concern.

KOSZALIN Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	483.8
Births	86.7
Deaths	45.8
Net permanent migration	- 3.0
Net temporary migration	0.3
Population 31. 12. 1995	522.0

Koszalin (Population 1 000)



KOSZALIN Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	124	23.8	24.6	23.0
15–24	85	16.3	17.0	15.6
25–39	115	22.0	22.7	21.2
40–54	106	20.3	20.7	19.9
55–64	44	8.5	7.8	9.2
≥ 65	48	9.2	7.1	11.1
Total	522	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Koszalin voivodship	8.5	522	62	6.6	57.9	26.8	19	27	54
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Food and wood products dominate industrial output

Among the leading branches of industry in the Koszalin voivodship are the food processing (primarily meat, milk, cereals and fish) accounting for 40 % of the voivodship's sold production as well as the wood industry (furniture, timber, panels and plywood) accounting for 30 % of sold production. Both these industries have long roots in the region and are based on the exploitation of local raw materials.

Other important industries include electrical engineering, the manufacture of metal-working machinery (representing 8 % of domestic production) and machinery and equipment for construction, road and drainage work (2 % of domestic production).

Agricultural yields are below the national average. Cereals are the most important crops, planted on 65% of the arable area, with barley and rye being widespread. Livestock numbers are not high, both cattle and pig numbers per 100 ha of agricultural land are significantly below the national averages (cattle less than half the average), but the Koszalin voivodship does achieve high yields from dairy cows.

The economy of the Koszalin voivodship is also influenced by its coastal location and the shipping and fishing industries are significant. There are two main ports, Kołobrzeg and Darłowo. The ports handle mainly timber and bulk cereals shipments.

The voivodship's exports are growing rapidly. The most important trading partners are countries of the European Union, accounting for 90 % of the voivodship's exports and almost three quarters of which go to Germany.

Tourism is concentrated mainly in the coastal area and has a seasonal character. The voivodship ranks second in the country (after Szczecin) in the number of beds in tourist accommodation with 52 000 in 1995. This is more than 7 % of the Polish total.

One of the highest unemployment rates

Besides the undeniable benefits, economic restructuring has brought with it some negative consequences. One of these, deeply felt in all Polish regions, is unemployment.

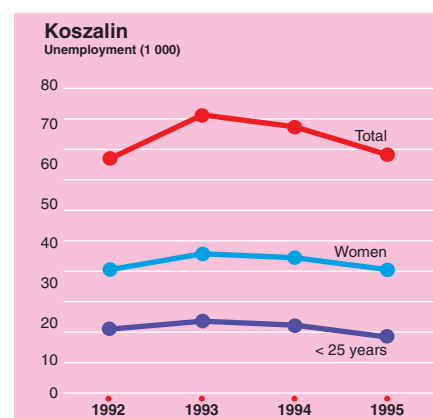
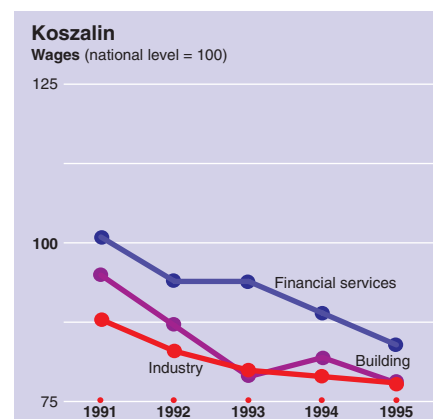
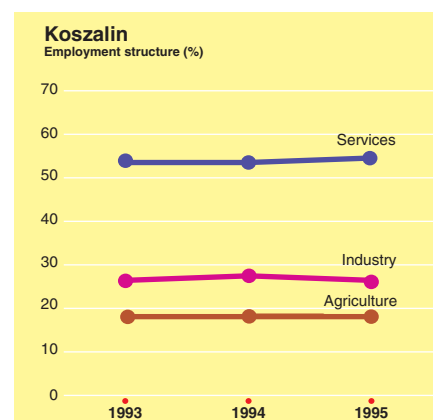
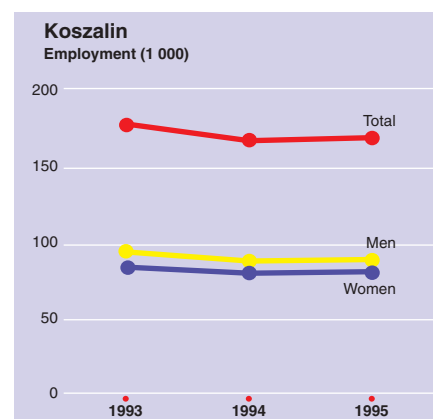
Of the 230 000 economically active people on the labour market in the voivodship, 168 000 were in work at the end of 1995 and 62 000 were unemployed. Despite the fact that the number of unemployed people has been gradually declining from the 72 000 recorded in December 1993, the rate of unemployment, at 27 %, continues to be one of the highest in the country, only exceeded by the Słupsk and Suwałki voivodships. The unemployment rate for people above the age of 35 is significantly greater here than the national average. People with vocational or technical educations are the hardest hit, making up 49 % of the December 1995 unemployed total.

In the structure of employment, the services sector dominates, accounting for 54 % of all jobs at the end of 1995, clearly above the national average of 42.5 %, while 27 % were employed in industry and construction and 19 % in the agricultural sector. The heaviest job losses in the period December 1991 to 1995 were in agriculture, where the level of employment at the end of the period (31 000 jobs) was only two thirds of that at the beginning.

The high rate of unemployment as well as the structure of the economy, in which low-paying jobs dominate, contribute to the average monthly gross wages and salaries in the voivodship being 13 % lower than the national average.

The two centres of higher education in the region (the Koszalin Polytechnic and the Baltic College of the Humanities) counted 8 500 students enrolled in the 1995/96 academic year.

KOSZALIN Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	12 860	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	399 380		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	58	Pork	36.5 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	19	Cereals	20.6 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	86	Milk	11.8 %
Arable land (%)	79	Beef	6.9 %



KRAKÓW

The land comprising the Kraków voivodship became part of the Polish State at the end of the 10th century and the city of Kraków was the capital of Poland up to the end of the 16th century. As a result of the partitions of Poland, this area was subsequently incorporated into Austria. During the Nazi occupation, Kraków served as capital of the German-occupied Poland. On 17 January 1945, the city was liberated, without destruction, by the Red Army.

Situated in the southern part of Poland, Kraków covers an area of 3 254 km², making it the second smallest voivodship in the country. Its area accounts for just 1.1 % of the Polish total area. The Kraków voivodship had a population of 1 241 000 at the end of 1995 (3.2 % of the country's population), and it is one of the most densely populated, with 381 inhabitants per km² — three times the national average.

Administratively, the voivodship is divided into 39 gminas. More than 68 % of the total population live in the 12 cities, and 88 % of the urban population lives in the city of Kraków (745 000 inhabitants). Other cities in the voivodship are much smaller, the largest being Skawina (24 000 inhabitants), Wieliczka and Myślenice (both with 18 000).

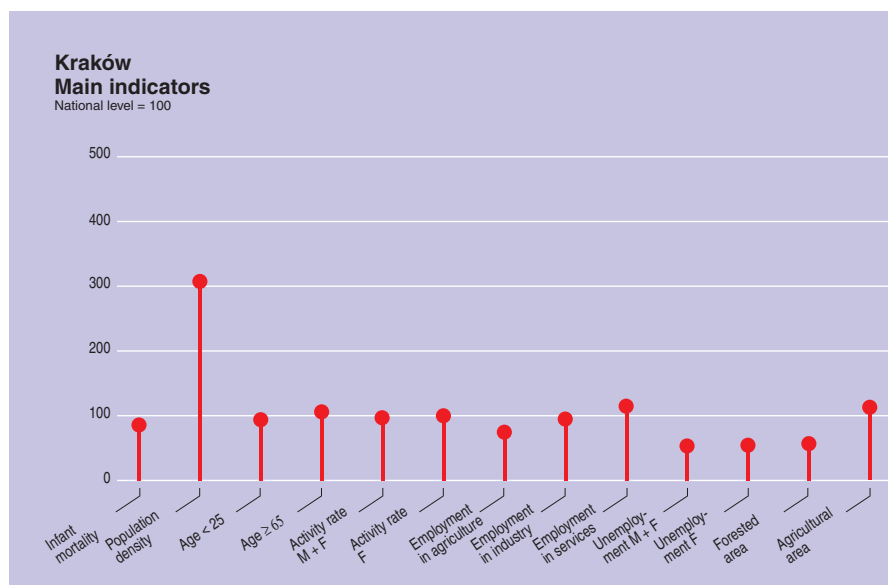
Kraków, the principle city in the voivodship, is a centre of culture and education of national significance. The city of Kraków has 14 theatres, 35 museums (and there are seven others in the voivodship), a branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Academy of Education and numerous scientific institutes. There are 15 institutes of higher education, with 150 fields of study, accounting for about 10 % of the total number of students in the country. Many of these institutions have branches elsewhere in Poland. The oldest Polish University — the Jagielloński University is also in Kraków. The cultural heritage of Kraków has been recognised by the European Union with the title of European City of Culture for the year 2000.

Pollution from industry

The Kraków voivodship encompasses part of the Krakowsko-Częstochowska Highland, the Wisła river valley and a small part of the Carpathian Mountains. Protected areas cover 30 % of the voivodship's territory, including the Ojcowski National Park, unique in terms of nature and landscape. The largest forest area is the Niepołomicka Wilderness Area.



Collegium Maius of Jagiellonian University, the oldest Polish University, founded in the 14th century. (photo A. Zborski)



The principle river in the voivodship is the Wisła. An artificial reservoir, supplying drinking water for Kraków, was built in Dobczyce on the River Raba, which is one of the tributaries of the Wisła.

Among the natural resources in the area, there are deposits of rock salt, limestone (so-called black marble), porphyry, melaphyre and petroleum as well as sulphide mineral waters rich in dissolved minerals.

The prevailing westerly winds carry harmful industrial dusts and gases from the area of Silesia. High humidity and the appearance of fog in the valleys exacerbates the accumulation of industrial pollution. The natural environment was, for a long period

of time, extensively damaged by Kraków's industry as well as by pollution from neighbouring voivodships. Since the end of the 1980s the unfavourable trends have been halted, and in some cases reversed.

The Kraków voivodship has a dense network of hard-surfaced roads, 175 km per 100 km², the second densest in the country. The A4 motorway passes through the voivodship along with three other international roads. Kraków is a major railway junction and lines from Przemyśl, Katowice, Warsaw and Zakopane pass through the city. The voivodship is also served by an international airport in Kraków-Balice.



Which regions are similar to Kraków voivodship?

Area:
3 240–3 260 km²
Rhône (F)
Östliche Obersteiermark (A)

Age structure:
37–38 % under 25
Campania (I)
Norte (P)

Employment structure:
29–30 % in industry
Väli - Suomi (FIN)
Sterea Ellada (EL)
Basse Normandie (F)

An important education centre

Among the most important of the assets of the voivodship is the well-developed educational centre, second only to Warsaw. A result of this infrastructure is the high educational level of the population — about 43 % of the population above the age of 15 has a secondary or higher education.

Tourists are attracted by the 14 000 historic monuments and buildings in Kraków,

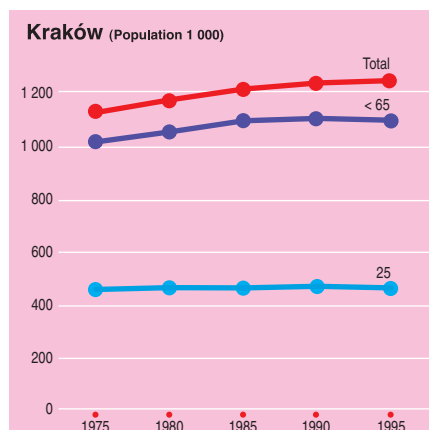
two of which have been entered on UNESCO's List of World Cultural Heritage; Kraków's old town centre and the salt mine in Wieliczka. Kraków's museums display about two million items, which account for a quarter of the country's entire collection.

However, problems hindering development include the dominance of the iron and steel industry in the economy, which is concentrated in one plant and difficult to restructure. This plant continues to have a strong negative impact on the natural environment.

The very small and dispersed nature of farms is an important barrier to structural change and the development of rural areas.

KRAKÓW Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 205.5
Births	176.6
Deaths	136.5
Net permanent migration	1.3
Net temporary migration	- 5.4
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 241.4



KRAKÓW Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	253	20.4	21.7	19.1
15–24	204	16.4	17.4	15.6
25–39	262	21.1	21.9	20.3
40–54	248	20.0	20.1	19.9
55–64	124	10.0	9.5	10.5
≥ 65	151	12.1	9.4	14.6
Total	1 241	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Kraków voivodship	3.3	1 241	381	2.7	57.4	8.0	21	30	49
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

POLAND

The average farm has less than 3 ha of land

The Kraków voivodship is one of the most economically well-developed regions in Poland, accounting for 4 % of Poland's industrial production by sales value. It is a leading producer of rolled metal products (28 % of domestic production), raw steel (26 %) and cast iron (19 %). About a third of the domestic production of cigarettes is manufactured in the voivodship, 15 % of coke from hard coal, 7 % of limestone and 4 % of cement, as well as soap, pharmaceutical products and salt. Food processing is also an important industry in the voivodship.

Growth in industrial performance has resulted from improvements in labour efficiency as well as from investment expenditure made in industrial activity. This has allowed the restructuring and modernisation of the production potential to a certain extent. Foreign capital is playing an increasingly greater role in the voivodship.

Construction also accounts for a large part of the economy, with almost 13 % of the total sales value of output in the voivodship, placing Kraków in second place in the country.

There are two trade centres which serve to promote the enterprises operating within the Kraków voivodship. There were 16 exhibitions and events held in 1995.

Agricultural land covers 220 000 ha — 68 % of the total area of the Kraków voivodship. Soils are mostly of high fertility; 'black' soils on a loess substrate and other fertile soils on a limestone substrate make up about half of the agricultural land. More than 90% of the land used for agricultural purposes is owned by the 53 000 private farms, the average area of which is very small, less than 3 ha.

Wheat and potatoes are the main crops, covering 28 % and 18 % of the total sown area respectively. Yields, however, are below the national average. In animal production, cattle breeding predominates. The

proportions of arable and animal products in final agricultural output are roughly equal, although the proportion represented by arable is declining steadily.

Increasing employment in the services sector

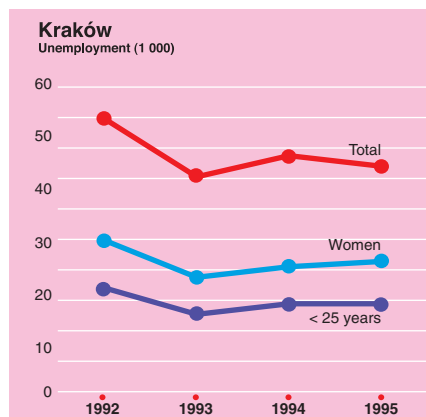
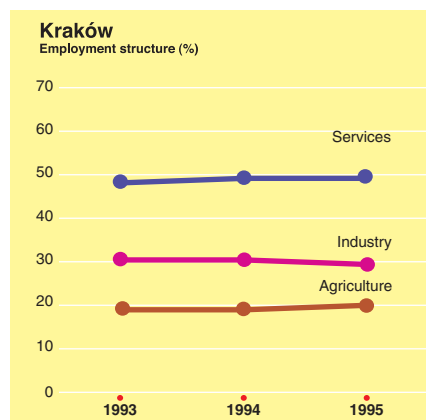
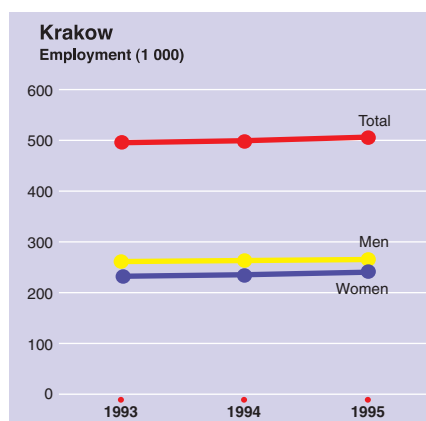
There were 507 000 people working in the Kraków voivodship at the end of 1995, which represented 3.4 % of the total number of people employed in Poland. In the structure of employment, employment in services dominates with 49 %. Industry and construction employ 30 % and the agricultural sector 21 %. The private sector employs 61 % of working people. The numbers employed in industry have fallen significantly since the start of the economic transition; from December 1991 to the end of 1995 23 000 industrial jobs were lost. Services, in contrast, saw an increase of 12 000 jobs over the same period. Agriculture remained relatively constant.

The Kraków voivodship has one of the lowest levels of unemployment in Poland. At the end of 1995, the unemployment rate was 8 % with almost 58 % of the unemployed female. The number of young people without a job is a cause for concern; they made up 42 % of the unemployed in Kraków at the end of 1995, well above the national average of 35 %. However, the problem of long-term unemployment is not as acute as in other voivodships as those unemployed for more than one year account for 26 % of Kraków's unemployed, compared to 37 % nationally.

Average monthly gross wages and salaries in the voivodship are on a level similar to the national average except in agriculture, where Kraków's figure is slightly lower than average.

KRAKÓW Agriculture — 1995

Number of private farms	52 923	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	220 189	Vegetables	26.3 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	91	Pork	17.0 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	42	Milk	11.9 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	98	Industrial crops	10.6 %
Arable land (%)	80		



KROSNO

Krosno voivodship is situated in the far south-eastern corner of the country and has a 135 km border with Ukraine and 133 km with Slovakia. To the north, gently rolling hills (the Strzyżowsko-Dynowskie Upland) are covered predominantly with cultivated fields, while the central area is a plain known as the Jasielsko-Sanockie Depression. In the south, the terrain rises to the hilly and mountainous Beskid Niski and Bieszczady ranges with the highest point, Tarnica, at 1 346 m above sea level.

The transport and trade routes that cross the basins of the Wisłoka, Wisłok and San rivers have greatly influenced the cultural and economic development of Krosno voivodship. The historic town centres in Krosno, Biecz, Lesko and Sanok testify to its rich multi-cultural past.

Covering 5 702 km², Krosno voivodship has a population of 507 000, giving an average population density of 89 inhabitants/km². In mountainous areas the population density falls below 20 inhabitants /km², while in the lower northern and central areas of the voivodship the density exceeds 200. There are 12 cities in the voivodship, with a total urban population of 177 000 people — 35% of the total. The largest cities are Krosno, with 49 000 inhabitants, Sanok (41 000) and Jasło (39 000).

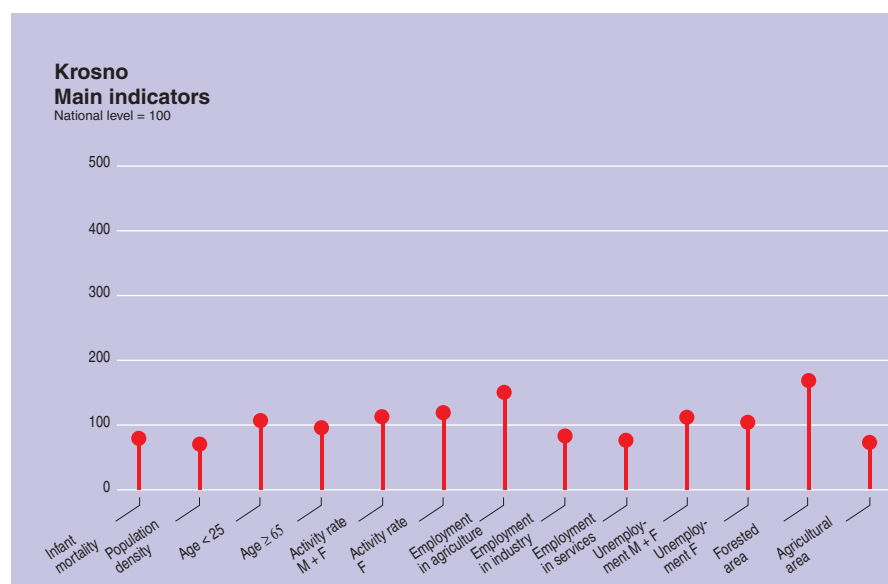
Natural increase is higher than the national average, although the 1995 increase of 3.2 per thousand population was significantly lower than the 7.6 per thousand recorded in 1990. Despite a negative migration balance, this natural increase resulted in a total population growth of 2.3% between 1991 and 1995 — more than double the national average of 1.1% — yielding a much younger population than average. Although the proportion of the population below the age of 20 is falling it is still significantly higher than the national average.

Mineral waters and national parks

The well-developed river network provides significant resources of relatively pure surface water — especially in the Bieszczady and Beskid Niski mountains, where the water of many sections of rivers and streams is of class I purity. Only downstream of the larger cities is a significant deterioration in water quality noted. In the south of the voivodship three reservoirs have been created on the river San (at Solina and Myczkowce) and the Wisłok (at Sieniawa), with a total storage capacity of 525 million cubic metres of water.



Lake Soliński in the Bieszczady mountains was created by the highest dam in Poland. (photo W. Zieliński)



Although without major mineral resources Krosno does possess building stone, bituminous shales, natural aggregate and mineral waters with therapeutic properties containing sulphur, arsenic, iodine and bromine as well as drinkable mineral water. Sources of mineral waters are exploited in Iwonicz-Zdrój, Rymanów and Polańczyk. Mineral water reserves have also been discovered in the areas around Czarna and Baligród. Some petroleum and natural gas deposits have been exploited since the second half of the 19th century.

Bieszczady National Park, with an area of about 28 000 hectares, has been created in the highest parts of the Bieszczady mountains. It is currently part of the World

Biosphere Reserve, encompassing the border areas of Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine. In January, 1995, the Magurski National Park was created on 20 000 hectares in the Beskid Niski mountains. There are also 5 scenic parks and 26 nature reserves.

The road network in the voivodship, with 65 km of hard-surfaced roads per 100 km² is less dense than the 76 km national average. The main railway line runs from west to east passing through Krościenko, from where passenger trains can cross to Hyrowa in Ukraine. Attempts have been made to use this border crossing also for freight traffic, as well as to reopen the Łupków—Miedzilaborce railway crossing to Slovakia.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Krosno voivodship?

Population:

500 000 inhabitants
Trier (D)
Mettmann (D)
Toledo (E)

Population density:

about 89 inhabitants per km²
Saale-Orla-Kreis (D)
Neumarkt i. d. Opf (D)

Age:

10,7 % over 65
Ceuta y Melilla (E)
Stredné Slovensko (SK)

Development of tourism hampered by lack of infrastructure

The forests, which cover 48 % of the voivodship's area, and the pastures of the Bieszczady mountains are areas rich in fauna and flora often not found anywhere else in the country. The relatively clean natural environment and the appeal of the landscape are important assets for the region and, conscious of this, the planning policy of the voivodship is directed

towards the development of environmentally friendly industry and tourism. Legally protected areas cover a total of 74 % of the voivodship's area.

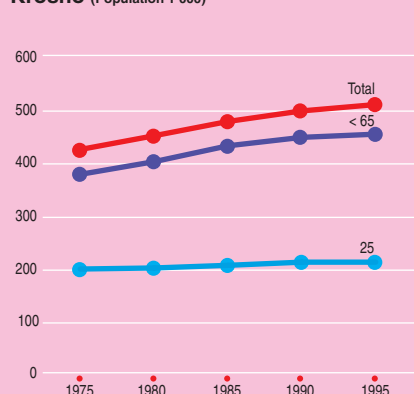
Due to its border location, the voivodship plays an important role in the domestic and international transport system. The opening of new border crossings should create additional impulses for the voivodship's tourism and economic development.

However, currently the supply of overnight accommodation is inadequate and there is an insufficiently-developed technical infrastructure. The lack of local capital and the low level of interest from foreign capital restricts the possibilities for rapid development in agriculture, tourism and health resort services. Tourist activity in the voivodship is not well-exploited and, therefore, significant economic benefits are not derived from it. The hotel sector is under developed, particularly in the larger and more attractive cities of Krosno, Jasło, Rymanów and Dukla.

KROSNO Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	470.1
Births	91.2
Deaths	51.9
Net permanent migration	- 3.8
Net temporary migration	0.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	506.6

Krosno (Population 1 000)



KROSNO Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	127	25.1	26.1	24.1
15-24	82	16.1	17.0	15.3
25-39	108	21.3	22.3	20.4
40-54	88	17.3	17.5	17.2
55-64	47	9.2	8.7	9.7
≥ 65	55	10.9	8.4	13.3
Total	507	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Krosno voivodship	5.7	507	89	6.6	65.9	17.0	41	26	33
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Diverse industrial structure but inefficient agriculture

The economy of the voivodship has traditionally been based on industry and agriculture, although in recent years, a growth in the share of income from tourism as well as from services has been observed. However, it is industry that drives the economy and it is concentrated mainly in the urban centres of Krosno, Jaslo and Sanok.

Industry in Krosno is diverse. An important role is played by petroleum processing, the manufacture of rubber and plastic products, glass and glass products and the manufacture of motor vehicles (mainly buses, trailers and semi-trailers) as well as parts and accessories for them. Agriculture has led to the development of a food-processing industry and nearby forests supply the timber industry. The voivodship is known as a glass-making centre, mainly due to the presence of Krosno Glassworks — one of the first five in the country to be privatised. In recent years, a number of new private glass works have been established and the voivodship's production of domestic glassware accounts for a quarter of domestic production. About 70 % of the domestic production of buses as well as the entire Polish production of shock absorbers for motor vehicles are manufactured in this voivodship.

Agriculture in the Krosno voivodship is characterised by an unfavourable agrarian structure, with predominantly small-scale farms and a relatively low efficiency of production. The average private farm has just 3 ha of agricultural land (7 ha nationally). In the central plains area of the voivodship, agriculture is based largely on cereals — with wheat being the most important — and on potatoes. Pigs and dairy cattle are also raised in this area. In the southern, more mountainous areas where grasslands predominate, the climate and soil conditions are more suited to cattle and sheep farming.

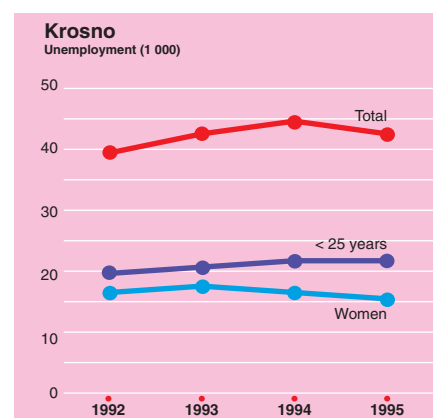
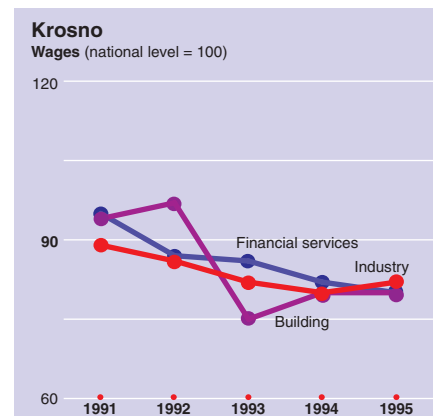
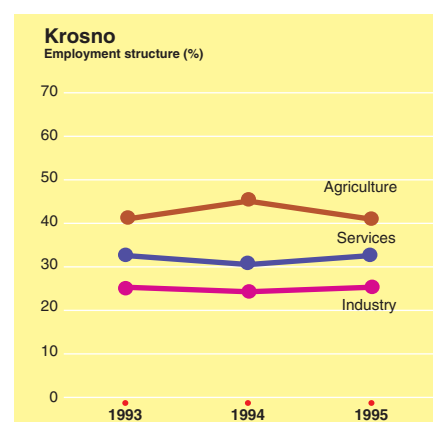
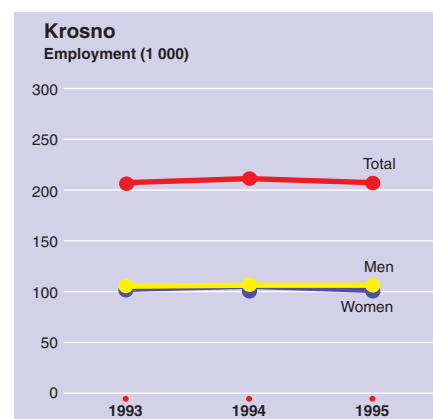
High economic activity rates

There were 207 000 people, i.e., 41 % of the total population, working in the voivodship economy at the end of 1995. The activity rate, at 66 % (62 % for women) recorded in the May 1995 micro-census was significantly higher than the national 58 % (52 % for women).

Between 1990 and 1995, about 17 000 jobs were lost in the voivodship, most of these in industry and agriculture. The services sector, in which one third of the region's labour force is employed, is growing. Most of the population (41 % at the end of 1995), are still employed in agriculture — a much higher proportion than the national average of 27 %. The proportion of employees working in the private sector has grown to 68 %.

Unemployment in the Krosno voivodship mainly affects the so-called 'peasant-labourers', and it grew relentlessly from 1990, peaking in 1994. At the end of 1995 there were more than 42 000 people registered in employment offices in the voivodship, and the unemployment rate is higher than the national average. Over 40 % of the unemployed have been without a job for more than one year and 37 % are under 25 — both rates worse than the national average.

The earnings level in the voivodship is much lower than the national level, with the average monthly wages and salaries in the voivodship in 1995 amounting to just 86 % of the national average.



KROSNO Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	49 060	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	240 043		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	79	Pork	15.2 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	50	Milk	13.8 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	30	Beef	13.1 %
Arable land (%)	65	Vegetables	13.1 %

LEGNICA

The Legnica voivodship is located in south-western Poland and covers 4 037 km², which is 1.3 % of the country's total area.

This land was within the borders of 'Piast Poland' in the 10th century and Polish princes ruled the area until the second half of the 17th century. Later, Poland lost this land and only since 1945 has it once again become an integral part of the Polish State.

The population of the Legnica voivodship at the end of 1995 was 524 000, of which 71 % lived in the 11 cities. This makes the voivodship one of the 10 most urbanised in Poland. The largest cities are Legnica, with 108 000 inhabitants, Lubin (83 000) and Głogów (74 000).

The population structure of the voivodship is characterised by a high proportion of young people and by the lowest proportion in the country of people above the age of 65 (8.5 % at the end of 1995 compared to the national average 11.2 %). Such an age structure is the result of the influx of young people during the period from 1965 to 1980 to work in the copper industry. More recently, however, the Legnica voivodship has become an area of net outflow. Between 1991 and 1995, a net 1 700 people permanently migrated and 2 700 left the region temporarily.

Important railway network

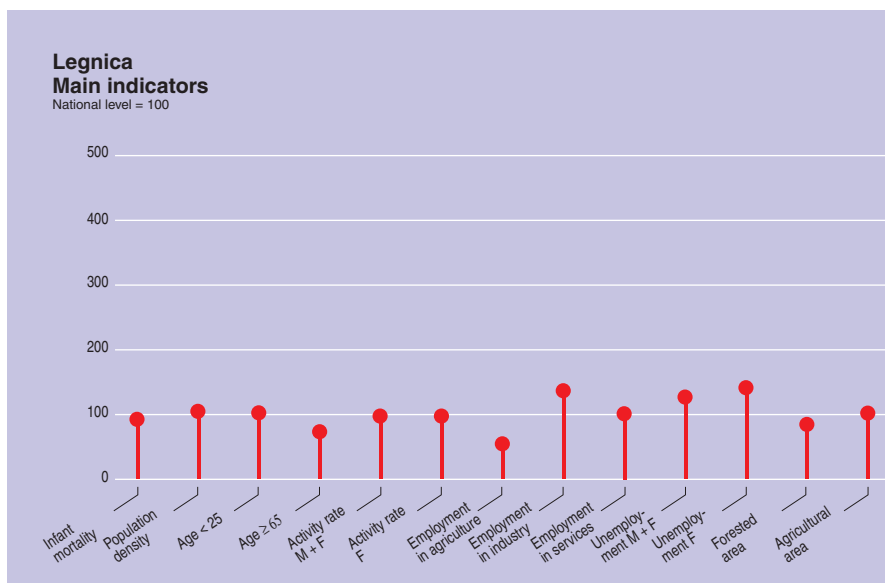
The territory of the Legnica voivodship is situated within three geographic regions, the Silesian Lowland, the Sudeten Highland and the Silesian-Łużycka Lowland. The landscape is dominated by plains transversed by small chains of hills.

More than 60 % of Legnica voivodship's land area is devoted to agricultural use, while 25 % of the area is covered in forests, including the large Bory Dolnośląskie Forest. The voivodship is characterised by quite moderate climatic conditions. The main deposits of natural resources are copper ore, brown coal (lignite), salt, barite and basalt as well as limestone and sand.

A convenient geographic location as well as the presence of the copper industry has led to important transport routes, of domestic and international significance, being routed through the Legnica voivodship. The main road routes are the A4 east-west motorway which connects Wrocław with Olszyna, and the E3



Poland's entire production of copper is mined in the Legnica-Głogów Basin.
photo F. Grzywacz



north-south highway that runs between Szczecin and Jakuszyce. The voivodship ranks fourth in the country in terms of the railway network density, with 13 km of track per 100 km² land area. The railway crossing Lower Silesia from east to west (the Wrocław-Legnica-Zgorzelec line) and

the Odra trunk line (Kraków-Wrocław-Szczecin) are also important transport links. There are two airports near Legnica with a total area of almost 800 ha. Although possessing the technical infrastructure, these are currently unused.



Which regions are similar to Legnica voivodship?

Population density:
130 inhabitants per km²
Verviers (B)
Deggendorf (D)

Age:
40–41 % under 25
Bacau (RO)
Ceuta y Melilla (E)

Land use:
61 % in agriculture
Champagne-Ardenne (F)
La Rioja (E)
Baranya (HU)

Dependence on the copper industry

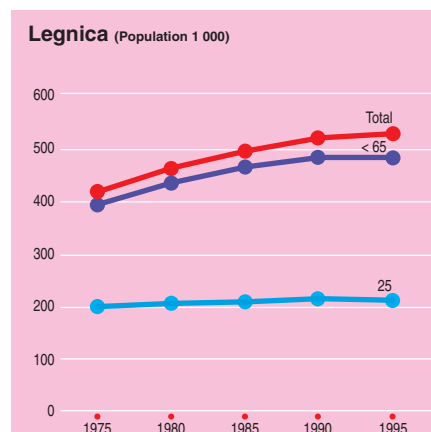
The main assets of the Legnica voivodship are the vast deposits of copper, its favourable geographic location and its well-developed transport network with the possibility of developing air transport. Average wage and salary levels are among the highest in the country. Another favourable feature of this area is its youthful demographic structure; 71% of the total population at the end of 1995 were below the age of 45.

However, the voivodship's economy is heavily dependent on the copper and the associated activities. Possibilities exist to diversify the industrial structure through a growth in foreign capital, the expansion of the private sector, and the changing nature of the education system. Unemployment is above the national level. The services sector is poorly developed.

The region is among the most industrially polluted areas of the country, although there has been an improvement in recent years. The disposal of industrial wastes remains a major problem.

LEGNICA Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	484.7
Births	81.3
Deaths	43.7
Net permanent migration	5.5
Net temporary migration	- 4.2
Population 31. 12. 1995	523.6



LEGNICA Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	120	23.0	23.9	22.1
15–24	88	16.9	17.6	16.2
25–39	115	21.9	22.3	21.4
40–54	113	21.5	21.9	21.2
55–64	43	8.3	7.7	8.8
≥ 65	44	8.5	6.5	10.3
Total	523	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Legnica voivodship	4.0	523	130	6.7	56.8	19.1	15	42	43
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

The world's seventh largest producer of copper and silver

Industries connected with the extraction and processing of copper ore dominate in the voivodship. The copper industry, grouped around the Polska Miedź copper mining and milling complex is the world's seventh largest producer of copper and silver and the only domestic producer of electrolytic copper. Copper is the voivodship's most important export commodity and it forms a significant share of Polish industrial exports.

The metallurgic and electrical engineering industries are also important to the economy of the voivodship, along with the clothing, knitting and leather industries.

The Legnica voivodship was for a long time among the most industrially polluted areas of the country, but there has been a significant improvement in the environment in recent years. A clear decline in the emissions of dusts and gases has been observed in the copper industry since the installation of the most modern technical equipment which removes 98 % of dust pollutants and 95 % of gaseous pollutants. There has also been an improvement in the voivodship's surface waters and 97 % of the sewage requiring treatment is now treated. Industrial wastes remain a problem on a large scale; more than 20 % of all collected waste in the country is from the Legnica voivodship.

Agriculture also occupies an important place in the economic structure of the voivodship. Good harvests are obtained from the arable land and cereals (65 % of the cultivated area), sugar beet and rape dominate. The voivodship's agricultural raw materials are increasingly being used in the developing the sugar, milk and meat industries.

Wages 20 % above the national average

At the end of 1995, there were 189 000 people working in the economy of the voivodship, of whom 49 % were employed by the private sector. The privatisation process got off to a slower start here than in some other voivodships, but the privatisation of more enterprises is foreseen. As one would expect, given the voivodship's economic structure, employment in industry occupies a far higher proportion of the total (41.9 % at the end of December 1995) than the national average (30.4 %). The services sector is about the same size, proportionately, as the national average, with agricultural employment being much lower.

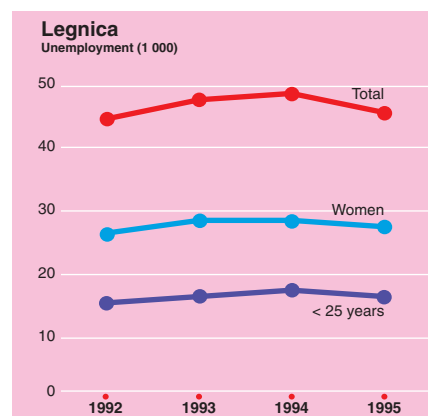
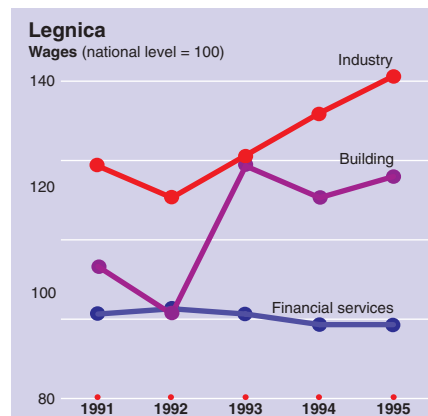
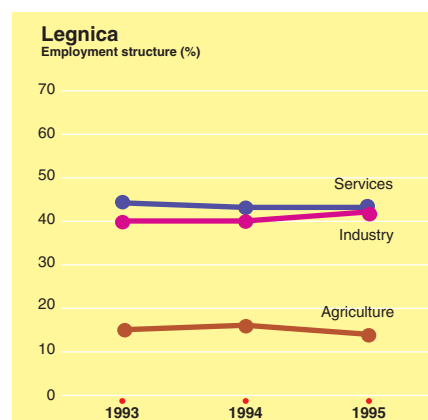
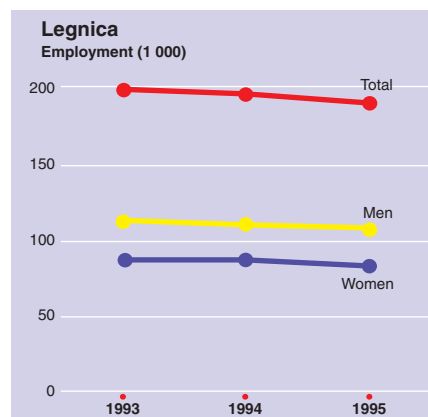
Legnica ranks third in the country in terms of average wages and salaries, with the voivodship average being some 20 % higher than the national average. Only the Warsaw and Katowice voivodships surpass it.

There were more than 44 000 people registered as unemployed in the voivodship at the end of 1995, 12 000 of whom were in the rural areas. Despite a decline in 1995, the end of year unemployment rate remained higher than the national average by a clear four percentage points. Female unemployment is a bigger problem here than nationally, with 60 % of the voivodship's unemployed being women.

The voivodship's educational system is still dominated by a preponderance of technical and vocational schools. Secondary level education is not well adapted for the changing economic and social conditions, although higher education is more relevant to the market needs. About 1 000 students are enrolled in centres of higher education in the voivodship.

**LEGNICA
Agriculture – 1995**

Number of private farms	15 655	Main products – proportion of agricultural	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	247 766	commodity output	
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	65	Pork	24.4 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	21	Industrial crops	20.2 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	105	Cereals	17.6 %
Arable land (%)	81	Beef	6.2 %



LESZNO

The Leszno voivodship is situated in the west of Poland, extending into the southern part of the Greater Polish Lowland. The voivodship, has a land area of 4 154 km², and was created out of the former Poznań voivodship. It is one of the smallest voivodships in Poland, with its area accounting for just 1.3 % of the country's total, placing Leszno 41st out of the 49 voivodships.

The voivodship lies wholly within the basin of the River Odra. The River Barycz, a tributary of the Odra, is the largest river in the voivodship. In the north there are numerous lakes, forming an attractive landscape.

Administratively, the voivodship is divided into 32 gminas. Among its 20 cities, the largest is Leszno with a population of 61 000, and the first mention of which originates from 1393. Among the other larger cities in the voivodship are Kościan (25 000 inhabitants), Rawicz (22 000) and Gostyń (21 000).

The Leszno voivodship had a total population of 397 000 inhabitants at the end of 1995, i.e., 1 % of the Polish total. The agricultural character of the voivodship is reflected in the low population density of just 96 inhabitants per km². More than half of the population (52 %) live in rural areas. There are 104 females for every 100 males — marginally less than the national average — and 41 % of the population are below the age of 25, which is significantly higher than the 38 % national average. The natural increase, almost three times higher than the national average, as well as the low level of migration, results in the demographic structure showing a steady, well-proportioned growth.

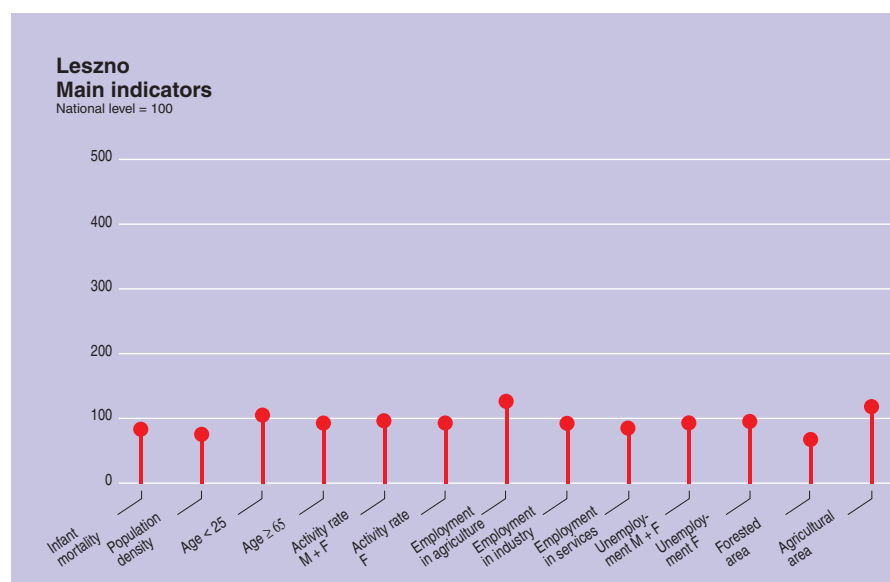
Medical services are provided by the eight general hospitals, 54 clinics and 31 health-care centres, however, the number of medical personnel and hospital beds in relation to the number of inhabitants falls below the national average.

The largest glider airport in Europe

Almost 48 % of the voivodship's area is under some form of legal protection ranging from the protected landscape areas, scenic parks and nature reserves to features classed as natural monuments and the former parks of manor houses. Forests cover approximately 20 % of the voivodship's area, which is significantly less than the national average.



*The voivodship with the largest grain harvests in the country.
photo A. Zborski*



As a result of modernisation and the construction of sewage treatment plants, the purity of surface waters has slowly improved in recent years.

The Leszno voivodship is an area with few natural mineral resources, although natural gas has some economic significance — 30 % of Polish production is from this voivodship. There are also extensive deposits of brown coal (lignite), but due to the high costs of exploitation and the devastation of the environment involved, they are not exploited. Clay and natural aggregates used for the production of building materials are of local significance.

Important transport routes intersect in the Leszno voivodship, linking Upper Silesia

with the coastal ports and the Lubin-Głogów basin with the central part of the country. The E261 highway passes through the voivodship, linking the Gdańsk region through to the border crossing in Jakuszyce. A significant role is also played by the Głogów-Jarocin highway, linking the Leszno and Kalisz voivodships with the western border crossings. The Poznań Ławice airport serves local passenger traffic. The airport at Leszno-Strzyżewice, which covers an area of 120 ha, is for recreational purposes only and is reputedly the largest glider airport in Europe. On several occasions, the world and European glider championships have taken place in the voivodship, as have international balloon races.



Which regions are similar to Leszno voivodship?

Area:
4 200 km²
Douro (P)
Pyrénées-Orientales (F)
Viborg amt (DK)

Age structure:
10 % over 65
Canarias (E)
Iasi (RO)

Employment structure:
28-29 % in industry
Noord-Brabant (NL)
Salzburg (A)
Östra Mellansverige (S)

Relatively efficient agriculture despite need for restructuring

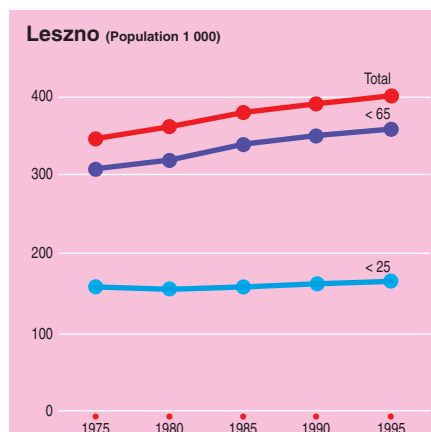
The most important asset of the Leszno voivodship is the relatively highly efficient agriculture. Despite the none too favourable soil conditions and a water deficit in some cultivated areas, farmers produce more meat, milk and cereals from each hectare than the national average. This agricultural base serves as a solid foundation for the voivodship's wide-ranging food-processing industries. Many

industries have attracted foreign investment.

The need for structural changes in agriculture, involving significant cuts in the number of workers in this sector, is a major problem facing the local economy. Other important problems include the relatively high level of unemployment in some regions and the need for further development of the technical infrastructure and elements of the social infrastructure. Average wages and salaries, particularly in industry and construction, are low.

LESZNO Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	372.5
Births	70.9
Deaths	44.5
Net permanent migration	- 3.5
Net temporary migration	1.8
Population 31. 12. 1995	397.2



LESZNO Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	99	24.9	26.1	23.8
15-24	64	16.1	16.8	15.5
25-39	85	21.4	22.1	20.6
40-54	74	18.6	19.0	18.3
55-64	33	8.4	7.9	8.9
≥ 65	42	10.6	8.2	12.9
Total	397	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Leszno voivodship	4.2	397	96	5.7	56.5	14.1	34	29	37
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

The highest agricultural yields in the country

The Leszno voivodship has an agricultural character, with agricultural land occupying 71 % of the total area. While arable land accounts for 82 % of the agricultural land, it is livestock farming that makes by far the highest contribution to the economy, with animal products representing over 70 % of final agricultural output in 1994. The 21 000 private farms dominate, farming more than 68% of the agricultural land. The average farm size in the voivodship is 9 ha.

The Leszno voivodship is characterised by brown and podzolic soils of average fertility, with bog soils in the river valleys. Among the most important crops are cereals, planted on 56 % of the total sown area, and sugar beet and rape which each cover 7%. The main cereals are rye (18 % of the sown area) and wheat (16 %). The yields obtained in the voivodship are the highest in the country, promoted by the numerous experimental plant breeding stations operating in the voivodship.

Animal production is dominated by pig farming and here the voivodship also holds a record with the June 1995 figure of 313 pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land being the highest in the country. Dairy cattle, with 56 head per 100 ha of agricultural land, earn Leszno fourth place in the voivodship rankings. Many specialised farms concentrate on breeding pedigree herds.

Given this strong agricultural sector, it is not surprising that the most-developed industrial branch is food processing, based largely on the local produce. Sugar mills, meat-processing plants, spirit distilleries, dairies, grain-milling plants, potato, fruit and vegetable-processing plants are all established in the voivodship. Leszno supplies 8 % of the sugar and 3 % of processed meats, fresh meat, animal fat and butter on the domestic market.

Other industrial branches are also present, notably the engineering, metalworking, wood and clothing industries as well as the manufacturing of packaging materials.

As many as half the companies with foreign capital interests have links with German investors, but in terms of the value of the investments, American capital is also of important significance.

Average wage level low

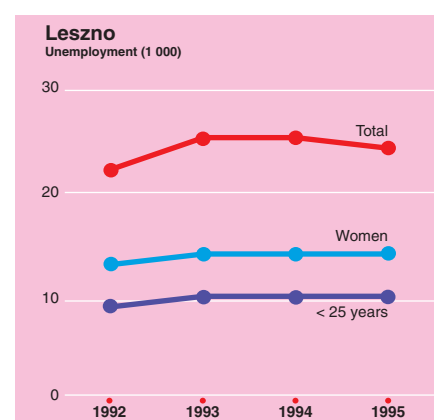
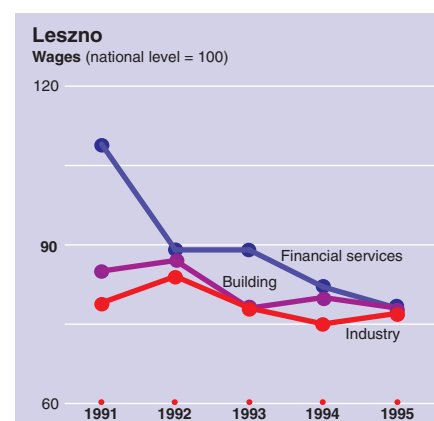
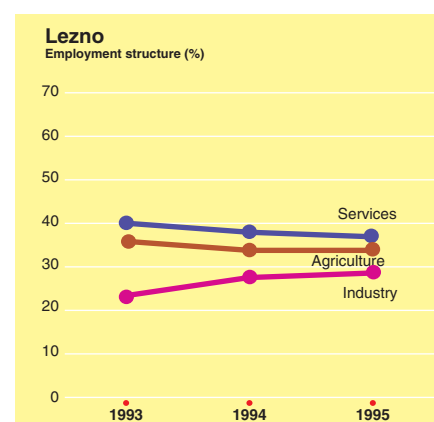
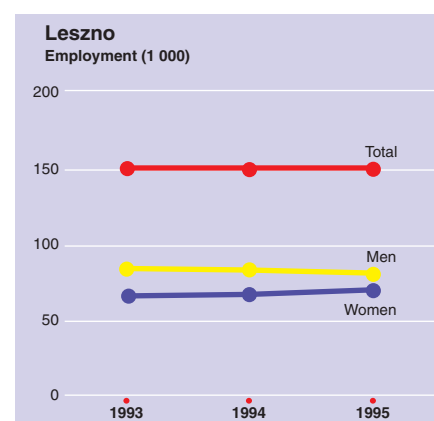
There were 149 000 people working in the Leszno voivodship at the end of 1995, with a high proportion of these (71 %) in the private sector. The structure of employment by sector shows Leszno to be an agricultural rather than services-orientated economy; 34 % of all jobs were in agriculture in December 1995 (Polish average 27 %) but just 37 % were employed in services. The figure of 29 % employed in industry and construction was much closer to the national average.

The activity rate for the voivodship in May 1995 was below the national level, especially for women.

At the end of December 1995, more than 24 000 people were registered as unemployed, which accounts for 14 % of the active population. A majority of the unemployed (56 %) were women — a slightly higher proportion than nationally. Long-term unemployment affected a smaller proportion of the unemployed here than in many other voivodships, but still almost one third had not worked for more than one year. The south-western part of the voivodship suffers the highest level of registered unemployment.

Higher wages in some neighbouring voivodships lead many inhabitants to seek work outside the region. Average monthly wages and salaries in the Leszno voivodship in 1995 were more than 17 % below the national average and among the lowest in the country.

Access to higher education for the voivodship's inhabitants is facilitated by the proximity of nationally significant academic centres in Poznań and Wrocław.



LESZNO Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	21 337	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	292 681	Pork	47.1 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	68	Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	56
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	56	Milk	12.5 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	313	Industrial crops	10.1 %
Arable land (%)	82	Vegetables	7.4 %

LUBLIN

The current borders of the Lublin voivodship were fixed in 1975, but the voivodship itself was created in the second half of the 15th century. It is located in the east-central area of the country. The voivodship is divided into 69 administrative units and covers an area of 6 792 km². The total population at the end of 1995 was 1 027 000, the largest city being Lublin with a population of 355 000 and which houses 58% of the total urban population of the voivodship. With a total urban population is 612 000, 60 % of the voivodship's inhabitants are city dwellers and the population density of the voivodship (151 inhabitants/km²) exceeds the national average considerably. The rural areas, with 66 inhabitants per km², are also more densely populated than the national average. Understandably, the rural areas with the densest populations are found in the southern uplands; the area of the voivodship with the highest quality soils.

In recent years, there has been a clear decline in the natural increase in the population due to a decline in the number of births. There has also been a reduction in the migration of the rural population to cities and a growth in the number of people of working age, particularly in rural areas. For every 100 people of working age at the end of 1995, there were 71 of non-working age.

The voivodship is a regional centre for health care. Within the area of the voivodship there are 18 hospitals, and two thirds of the beds are in the city of Lublin itself, which is also the site of the Medical Academy. The ratio of health service personnel per inhabitant is double that in neighbouring voivodships and exceeds the national average by a third.

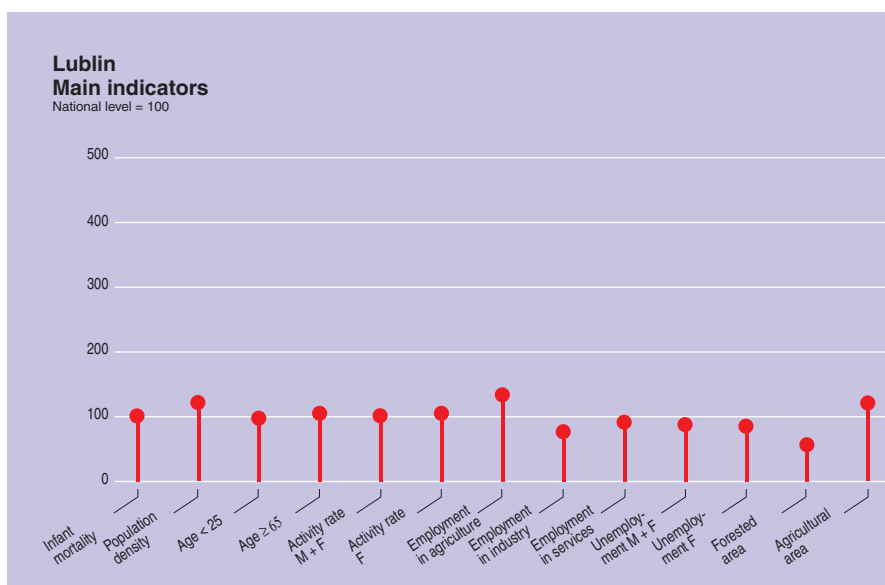
Three different geographical regions

The territory of the Lublin voivodship lies in three different geographical regions. The southern part of the voivodship extends into the Lubelska Upland, the Mazowiecka Plain is located in the north and a small area in the east falls into the Polesie Lubelskie. These regions have quite different soil qualities, forest types and geographical relief.

The dimensions of the voivodship are 105 km from north to south, and 102 km from east to west. Fertile soils cover about two thirds of the area of the voivodship. Forests cover only a relatively small area



Almost half of Poland's output of nitrogen fertilisers is produced in the voivodship. photo C. Krupa



(16 %). Cultivated land and orchards are concentrated mainly on the Lubelska Upland, while grasslands predominate on the Mazowieckie Lowland and the Polesie Lubelskie. The relief is fairly uniform, with the lowest point at 110 m above sea level and the highest just over 300 m. The Lublin voivodship is one of the least environmentally-damaged regions of Poland.

Within the voivodship deposits of hard coal are exploited, and in the area around Lublin and Świdnik small quantities of natural gas are obtained. Exploration for crude oil is underway.

The voivodship is dotted with a relatively good network of hard-surfaced public roads, with 82 km per 100 km² land area, and a small railway network with a density of 4 km/100 km². Important road and rail routes lead through the voivodship to the Polish-Ukrainian border.



Which regions are similar to Lublin voivodship?

Population:
1.02 million inhabitants
Liège (B)
Moselle (F)

Population density:
150 inhabitants per km²
Frosinone (I)
Cornwall, Devon (UK)
Greiz (D)

Age:
11–12 % over 65
Uusimaa (FIN)
Madeira (P)
Noord-Brabant (NL)

Rich agriculture, but low efficiency

Although very much dominated by agriculture, the Lublin voivodship has an important industrial base compared to the other voivodships in east-central Poland. Despite this, Lublin is one of the environmentally cleanest regions of Poland.

This enhances the area's appeal for tourists, especially in the triangle formed by Kazimierz Dolny nad Wisłą, Nałęczów

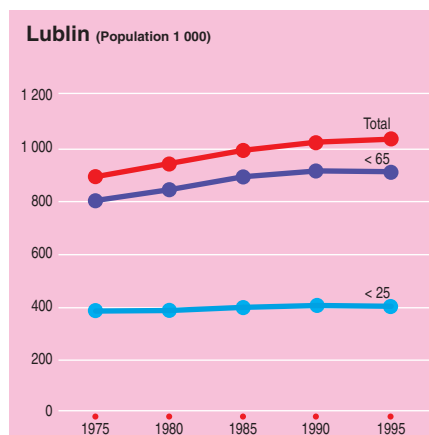
and Puławy as well as in the Łęczna and Włodawa lake district.

The rich agricultural resources are at the base of the development of food-processing industries and the location close to Poland's eastern border, creates possibilities for sales to the eastern markets, particularly of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. Cooperation with regions in neighbouring countries is encouraged by the formation of the Bug Euroregion, established in 1995.

However, the main element in Lublin's economy — agriculture — suffers from a high degree of fragmentation and insufficient investment and carries an excessive level of employment. These factors naturally impact on the efficiency of the sector. Furthermore the technical infrastructure is poorly developed, particularly in the north-eastern part of the voivodship.

LUBLIN Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	976.9
Births	158.3
Deaths	113.5
Net permanent migration	0.8
Net temporary migration	4.3
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 026.7



LUBLIN Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	226	22.0	23.3	20.8
15–24	169	16.5	17.2	15.8
25–39	210	20.4	21.3	19.6
40–54	203	19.8	19.8	19.8
55–64	96	9.4	9.0	9.7
≥ 65	122	11.9	9.4	14.3
Total	1 027	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services
		1995	1995	1986–95			Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Lublin voivodship	6.8	1 027	151	4.2	59.7	13.4	37	23	40
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

POLAND

Main producer of hops and raspberries

Fertile soils have made Lublin voivodship one of the most important agricultural regions in Poland. Almost 96 % of the agricultural land is in the hands of the 87 000 private farmers, with an average farm size of 5 hectares. Lublin is the largest producer of hops in the country, accounting for more than 60 % of Poland's total production. As well as being a major producer of sugar beet, fruit and vegetables, the voivodship accounts for almost 35 % of the country's raspberry harvest.

The majority of arable land area is given over to cereals — 52 % of the total area (of which, wheat 21 %), followed by potatoes and sugar beet. Thanks to the good soils, relatively high yields are achieved despite the fact that farms are small, little fertiliser is used and there is an extremely low level of technical investment.

Agriculture in the Lublin voivodship creates a good basis for the development of the food processing industry, which generates about 24 % of total industrial sales in the voivodship.

Chemical products represent more than a quarter of industrial production and another fifth is taken by the manufacture of motor vehicles, machinery and equipment. The most important products include: helicopters, motor vehicles, artificial fertilisers, household appliances, bearings, agricultural machinery, electronic scales, crystal, furs and hard coal. The voivodship accounts for 44 % of the domestic production of nitrate fertilisers and 17 % of the domestic production of trucks and tractor-trailers.

The retail sales sector is largely in private hands, with the private sector accounting for 89 % of retail commodity sales by value.

An important centre for science and education

Of the 428 000 people working in the voivodship at the end of 1995, most were

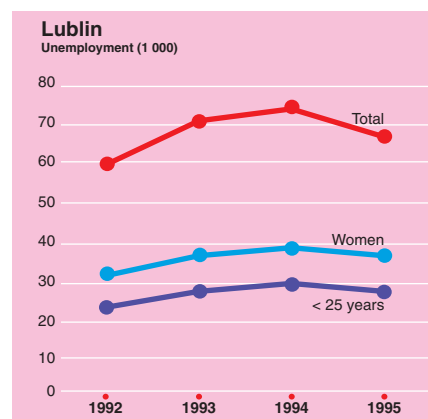
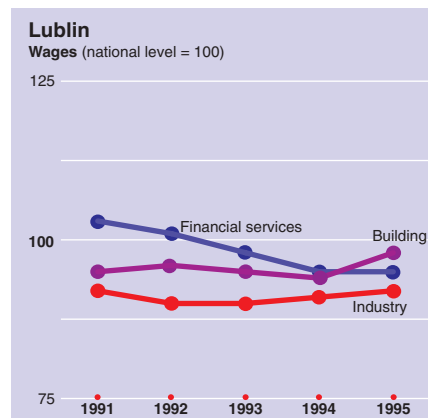
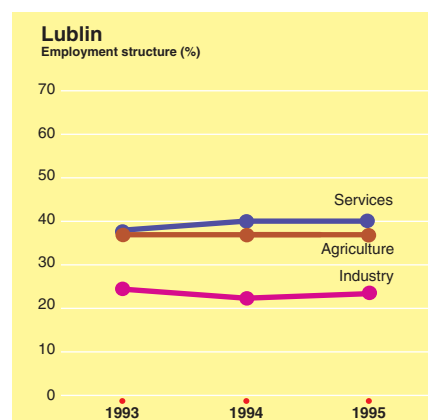
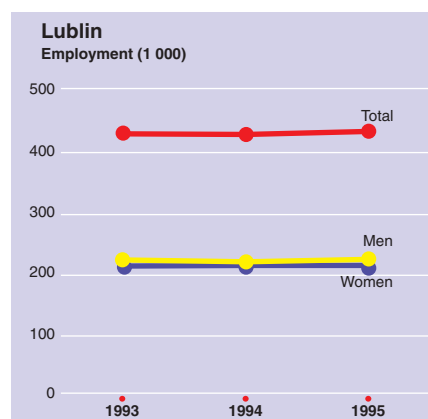
in the services sector (40 % of the total). The figure for agriculture (37 %) was far higher than the national average of 27 %, whereas that for industry (23 %) was much lower than the national 30 %. The private sector employs 64% of the voivodship's workers.

The structural changes in the economy in the 1990s have resulted in a steady decline in the size of the voivodship's total workforce, but this decline was arrested in 1995 and a small recovery observed. At the end of 1995, 42 % of the total population of the voivodship was in employment, with the retired and pensioners accounting for about 24 %.

Wages and salaries have systematically grown but were still more than 6% below the national average in 1995. The best-paid groups are those employed in mining and quarrying and in financial services, the lowest average wages being in the hotels and restaurants sector.

The years of changes in the economic system of the country have been accompanied by unemployment and in the Lublin voivodship, the end of 1995 unemployment rate was 13 %. People with only a basic vocational education represent more than one third of all the unemployed; those with a post-secondary or vocational-secondary education make up a quarter of the total. Over two-thirds of the unemployed are under the age of 35. Unemployment affects females to a greater degree than males — for every 100 registered unemployed males, there were 119 unemployed females, although this is a slightly lower proportion than the national average.

Lublin is sixth largest centre of higher education in Poland and the most important centre of science, education and culture in the eastern part of the country. Five schools of higher education, including two universities, are located in Lublin. Puławy is the second centre of learning, and academic institutions have existed there for over 100 years. There are several scientific institutes engaged in agricultural research and related fields located in the voivod-



LUBLIN Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	87 131	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	497 087		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	96	Pork	17.9 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	41	Fruit	16.2 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	100	Milk	12.4 %
Arable land (%)	83	Vegetables	12.4 %

ŁOMŻA

The Łomża voivodship, covering an area of 6 684 km² and with a population of 354 000 inhabitants, is situated in north-eastern Poland, lying mainly in the Northern Podlaska Lowland. The western area of the voivodship stretches into the Northern Mazowieckie Lowland, and in the north-east a small part of the Mazurski Lake District lies within the voivodship's borders. The River Narew flows through the centre of the voivodship, and the southern border is delineated by the central course of the River Bug.

The population density of the Łomża voivodship at the end of 1995 was 52.9 inhabitants per km² — well under half the national average and the lowest in the country after Suwałki.

The population is predominantly rural and just 42 % live in the 12 cities. The largest cities are Łomża (63 000 inhabitants), Zambrów (24 000) and Grajewo (23 000) and the majority of the industrial enterprises are concentrated in these cities.

The demographic structure of the population in the cities is younger than in the rural areas. In fact, the urban inhabitants of the Łomża voivodship are the youngest in the country, with more than 36 % being below the age of 20. The large outflow of population from the countryside as well as the declining natural increase, have led to problems of an ageing rural population.

Social services are poorly developed in the voivodship. Access to medical services is set to improve with completion of a modern voivodship hospital in Łomża.

The largest national park in Poland

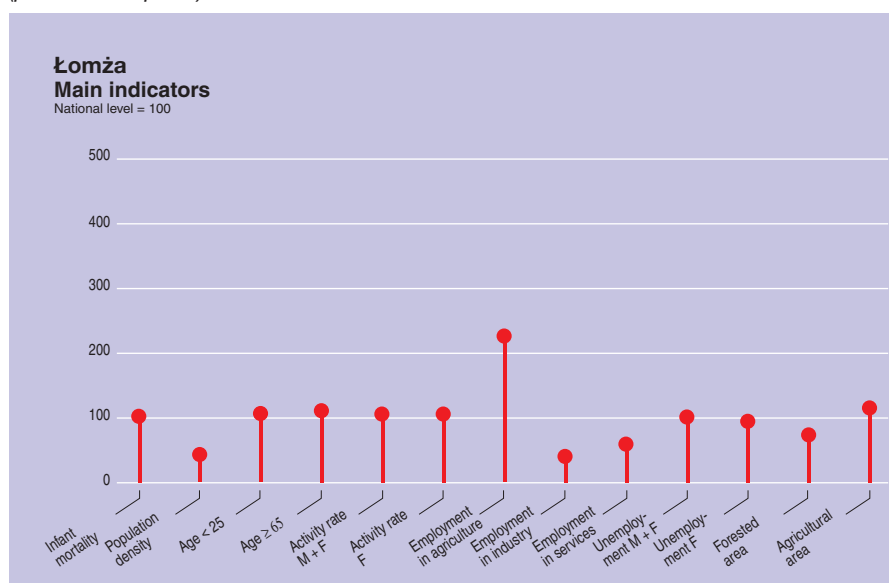
The Łomża voivodship is situated in a lowland area at an average height of 130 m above sea level. The contour of the land is varied, ranging from the Kolneńska Highland to the Narew Valley. There are several lakes in the north, the largest of them are Lake Rajgrodzkie and Lake Toczyłowo.

Relatively young, primarily coniferous forests cover 21 % of the voivodship's area. More than half are in private hands and are small and dispersed. Larger forests include a part of the Kurpiowska Forest and remnants of the Rajgrodzka primeval Forest.

The voivodship was included in the 'Green



The valley of the river Narew, near Łomża.
(photo B. Deptuła)

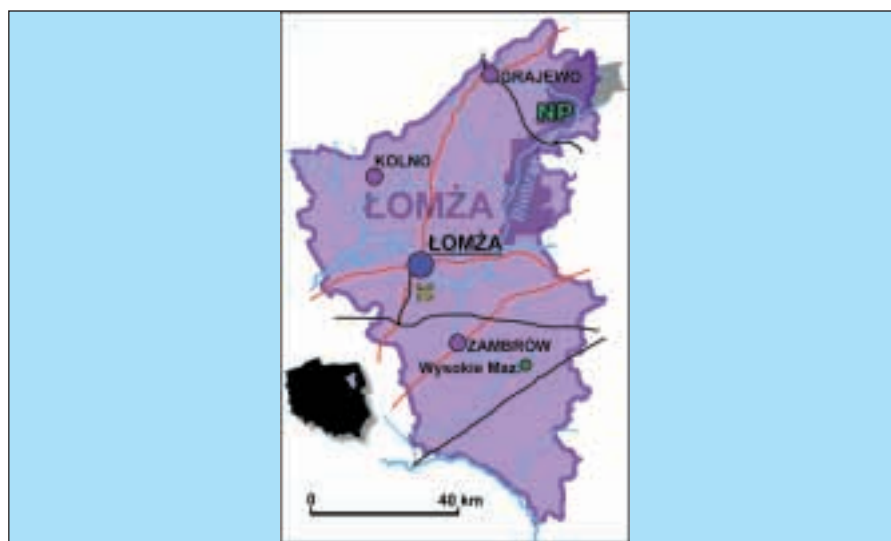


Lungs of Poland' programme due to the high purity of the natural environment as well as to the natural and scenic beauty. Within the voivodship, 18 % of the area is under some form of protection, as are more than 180 features classed as natural monuments and some species of birds and animals.

The marshland in the Biebrzańska Valley, perhaps the largest in central Europe, is a unique refuge for threatened species of fauna and flora. The Biebrzański National Park is the largest in Poland. Also within the voivodship is part of the Narwiański National Park and the Łomżyński Narew Valley Scenic Park. The Narew river is characterised by the volatility of the water level

and its numerous old river beds. The voivodship has a poorly developed railway system and road transport is of primary significance for freight and passengers alike. Two important routes for international traffic run through the voivodship to Belarus and Lithuania. The 'Via Baltica' motorway, linking the Baltic countries with western Europe is planned to pass through the region.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Łomża voivodship?

Population:

350 000 inhabitants
Dyfed (UK)
Lleida (E)

Area:

6 700 km²
Castellon De La Plana (E)
Cosenza (I)
Pas-de-Calais (F)

Land use:

67 % agricultural
West-Vlaanderen (B)
West Midlands (UK)

Clean environment, but high dependence on agriculture

The assets of the voivodship include the clean natural environment and agriculture based on private farming, with cattle breeding being the dominant activity. Furthermore, the food-processing industry, based on local agricultural produce is fairly well developed.

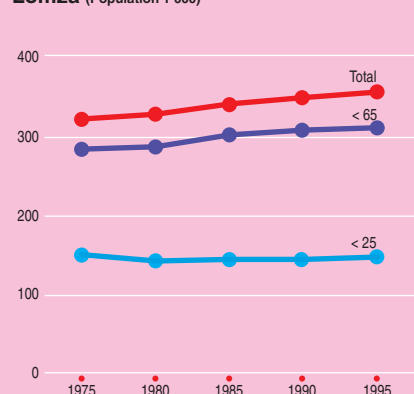
There are, however, several factors acting as barriers to the voivodship's develop-

ment, among which must be counted the inadequate technical infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, and the relatively large share of the population with a low educational level. There are only limited opportunities for employment outside agriculture and a low level of interest from foreign capital. The economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, which directly employs almost two thirds of the voivodship's workers. Wages are low. The unemployment rate in some urban areas exceeds 25 %.

ŁOMŻA Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	336.7
Births	67.0
Deaths	40.7
Net permanent migration	- 13.1
Net temporary migration	4.0
Population 31. 12. 1995	353.8

Łomża (Population 1 000)



ŁOMŻA Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	91	25.6	26.3	24.9
15-24	56	15.7	16.2	15.2
25-39	74	20.8	22.0	19.6
40-54	57	16.2	16.5	15.9
55-64	32	9.0	8.7	9.3
≥ 65	45	12.7	10.3	15.2
Total	355	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemploy- ment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Łomża voivodship	6.7	354	53	4.5	61.1	15.3	61	13	26
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

An important dairy region

The Łomża voivodship has a predominantly agricultural-based economy. Agricultural land covers 67 % of the voivodship's total area, with arable land covering 48 % and meadows and pastures 19 %. Private farms occupy 98 % of the agricultural land. Farms in the area are significantly larger than the national average, with the average farm size amounting to 11 ha.

Neither the quality of soils nor the climatic conditions are particularly favourable, but conditions are better in the south than in the north. Cereals cover 42 % of the arable land, with rye accounting for half of this. Potatoes (19 %) are also important, and is the only crop where the yields exceed the national average. Due to the high proportion of permanent grasslands, the main element of animal production is dairy cow farming. The voivodship ranks second in the country in terms of the number of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land, and second in terms of milk production.

Industry in the Łomża voivodship is not well-developed. In the 1990s some large plants have encountered difficulties, while at the same time small and medium-sized plants are being established and are developing. The dominant position of the food-processing industry has strengthened, based largely on local agricultural produce, and accounts for 60 % of the voivodship's industrial output by sales value. Particularly evident in recent years has been the development of the dairy and meat-processing industries, with increased volumes and a wider range of products. Łomża is also known for the production of beer, potato starch and glucose. Fruit and vegetable processing, on the other hand, is less well developed.

The second most important industrial branch is the manufacture of products from wood with 23 % of the sales volume. One fifth of the domestic production of particle board is manufactured in the voivodship.

The textile industry, accounting for about 9 % of the voivodship's industrial output

by sales value, is dominated by large enterprises, many of which are in the process of transforming themselves through privatisation.

Over 60 % of the work force employed in agriculture

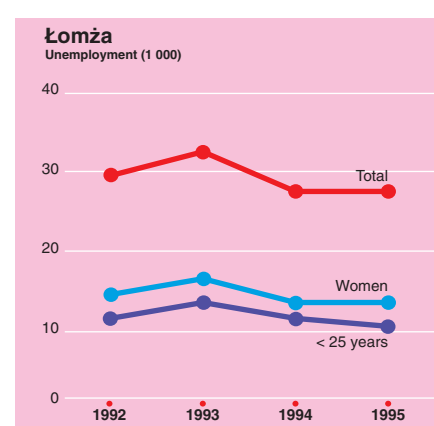
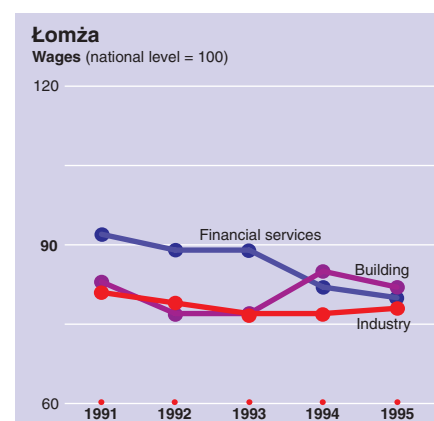
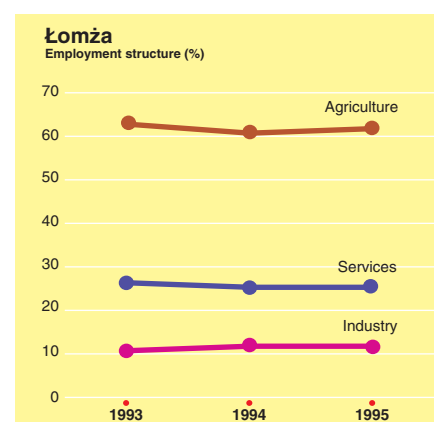
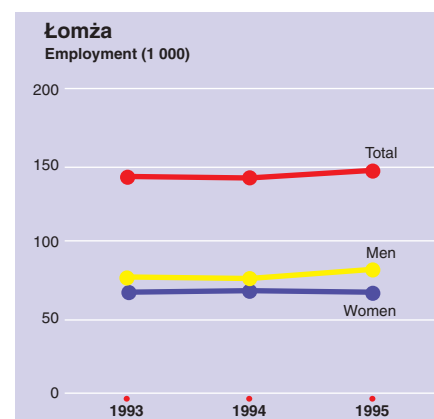
Employment in the agricultural sector accounted for 61 % of total employment at the end of 1995 — more than double the average in Poland of 27 %. Moreover, employment in agriculture has remained relatively steady, both in numbers and as a proportion of total employment, over the 1990 to 1995 period. The other economic sectors are, of course, much less important for employment in the voivodship; 13 % of employment was in industry and construction and 26 % in the services in December 1995. Unlike in many other voivodships, the total number of people in employment at the end of 1995 was as high as 99 % of the 1990 figure. The period of transformation did bring about a decline in employment, particularly in the industrial sector, but the total had recovered almost to its 1990 level by the end of 1995.

Wages in the voivodship in 1995 were about 15 % below the national average.

Despite an improvement in 1994 and 1995 about 15 % of the active population of the voivodship were without work at the end of 1995, a rate of unemployment similar to the national average. Long-term unemployed made up 34 % of the total and 49 % of all unemployed were women — both figures lower than the Polish averages. By contrast, the youth unemployment problem was worse than average, with the under 25s making up 37 % of total unemployment. In urban districts, at least one person in every fourth household is unemployed.

There are no centres of higher education in the voivodship.

ŁOMŻA Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	39 341	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	450 746		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	98	Pork	36.0 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	61	Milk	31.3 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	114	Potatoes	8.2 %
Arable land (%)	71	Beef	7.6 %



ŁÓDŹ

The Łódź voivodship, with its land area of 1 523 km², is the smallest and, simultaneously, the most urbanised voivodship in Poland. Of the total population of 1 116 000 inhabitants, 93 % live in the eight cities. The largest of them, with a population of more than 820 000 inhabitants (and therefore home to about 75 % of the voivodship's population), is Łódź. It is the second most populous city in Poland after Warsaw.

During the 19th century, Łódź grew from a small town into a powerful centre of the wool industry, and later the cotton industry. The elimination of customs duties with Russia in 1850, as well as the establishment of connections with the Vienna-Warsaw railway in 1866, attracted investors from around the world and accelerated the intensive development of the textile industry. Workers' housing developments, public institutions and the homes of the factory owners were established around the large, modern factories and the city expanded rapidly.

Since 1987, trade fairs and exhibitions have become a fixed element of the economic life of Łódź. The annual Interfashion fairs are complemented by events for industries as diverse as construction, medicine, telecommunications and horticulture. The Łódź voivodship is also one of the most important trade centres in Poland with several international trade organisations and, in the district of Rzgów, the largest wholesale and retail clothing trade centre in Europe.

Since the middle of the 1980s, the Łódź voivodship has experienced an increasingly higher natural population decrease (deaths exceeding births), particularly in the cities. This is reflected in the age structure of the population; Łódź stands out from the other voivodships with an extremely low percentage of the population of pre-productive age and the highest proportion of population of post-productive age.

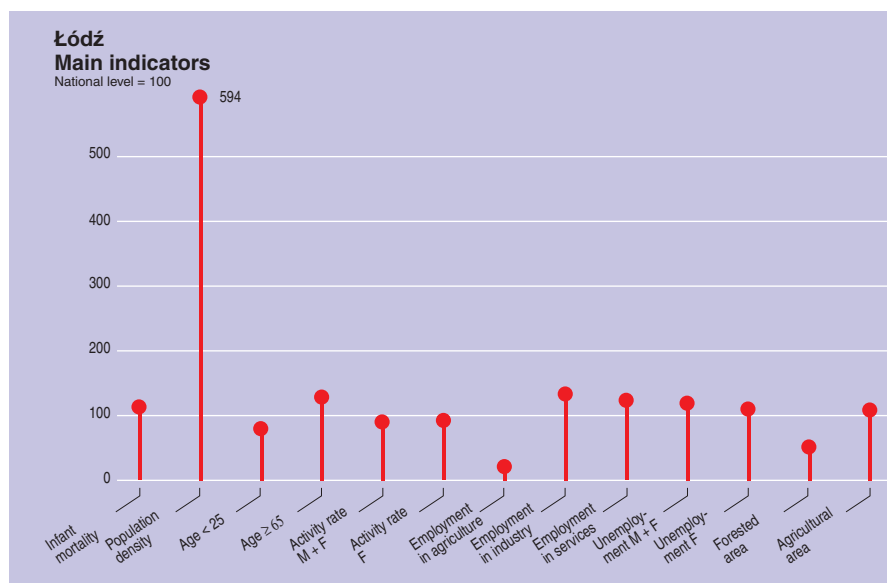
The geographical centre of the country

The voivodship occupies a special place on the map of Poland, as the geographic centre of the country is located 30 km north of the city of Łódź. This central location provides good transport links with other urban centres in the country as well as with the capitals of countries neighbouring Poland.

An international highway linking Scandinavia with southern Europe passes



Łódź, the largest centre of the textile industry in Poland, is also a city with old, historic buildings. (photo Ch. Zieliński, K. Jakobs)

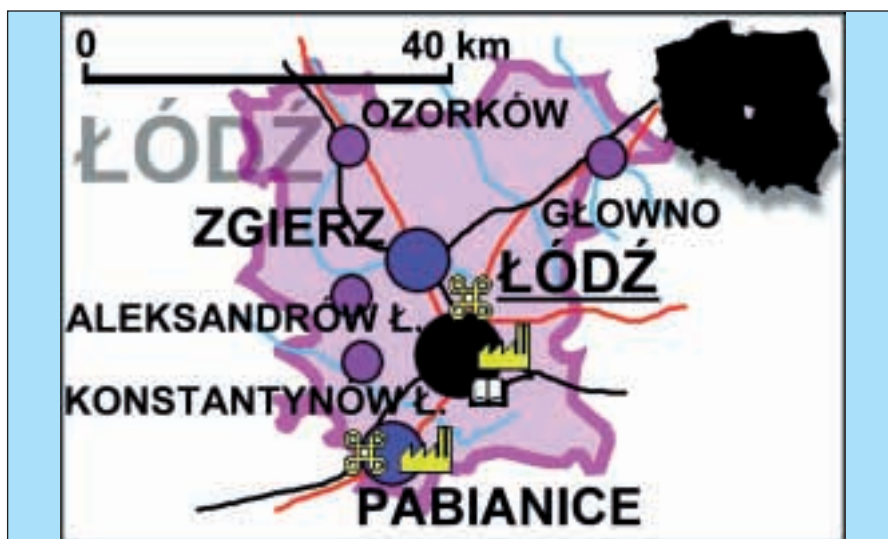


through the voivodship. The motorway development programme will lead to the construction of the north-south A1 and the east-west A2 which will intersect in the voivodship. A TGV-type east-west railway line is also planned.

While 64 % of the voivodship's area is used for agriculture — slightly more than the national average — only 15 % of Łódź is forested compared with 28 % for Poland

as a whole. Over 96 % of the agricultural area is in the hands of private farmers.

The main environmental problems in the Łódź voivodship are the emission of dusts into the atmosphere and the management of municipal and industrial waste. The construction of the sewage treatment complex in Łódź is the largest investment in the voivodship aimed at protecting the natural environment.



Which regions are similar to Łódź voivodship?

Population density:
730–740 inhabitants per km²
Passau, Kreisfreie Stadt (D)
Avon (UK)

Age structure:
14 % over 65
Lisboa e Vale do Tejo (P)
Stuttgard (D)
Noord-Nederland (NL)

Employment structure:
53–54 % in services
Navarra (E)
Voreio Aigaio (EL)
Oberfranken (D)

Strong scientific centre, but ageing population

Heavily dependent for many years on the textile industry, the voivodship has now taken action in the form of a restructuring programme to encourage diversification of the industrial base into areas such as chemicals, precision engineering, medical technology and services. The economic development of Łódź is supported by one of the strongest scientific centres in the country and the higher education sector is

large and expanding rapidly. The voivodship has been successful in attracting foreign investment and is well-placed at the intersection of the planned new motorways in the centre of the country.

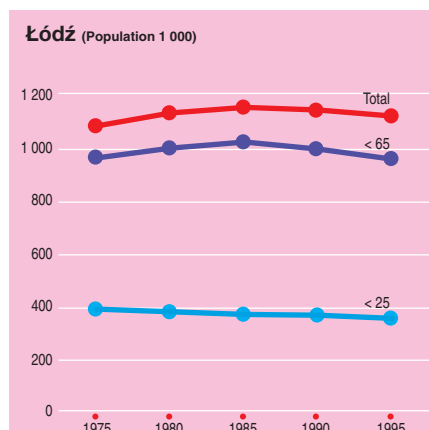
However, Łódź has a high proportion of its population in the post-productive age group and suffers from high levels of unemployment. Unfavourable housing conditions are a serious problem. A large share of the dwellings, particularly in the cities, are in very old residential buildings. The Łódź voivodship is characterised by a

lower standard of housing, in terms of facilities and average dwelling size, than other large agglomerations. This situation continues to worsen as a result of the collapse in housing construction observed in the 1990s.

The high degree of industrialisation has led to environmental problems, particularly in the control of dust emissions and industrial waste.

ŁÓDŹ Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 149.1
Births	127.7
Deaths	164.6
Net permanent migration	10.3
Net temporary migration	- 6.3
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 116.3



ŁÓDŹ Population by age - 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	188	16.9	18.6	15.4
15–24	162	14.5	15.6	13.6
25–39	225	20.1	21.1	19.3
40–54	262	23.4	23.8	23.1
55–64	116	10.4	9.7	11.1
≥ 65	163	14.6	11.2	17.5
Total	1 116	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population			Activity %	Unemployment		Employment		
		1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)		%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services
		1995	1995	1986–95		May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Łódź voivodship	1.5	1 116	733	- 2.9	53.7	18.1	6	41	53	
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43	

Textiles still the largest industrial branch

The leading branch of the economy, industry, has traditionally been dominated by the manufacture of clothing, fabrics, furs and leather products: these industries account for 36 % of the voivodship's industrial output by sales value. Companies manufacturing foods and beverages are gaining a growing share in the value of the voivodship's production (18 % of sales in 1995). Also important are chemicals and chemical products, electrical machinery and equipment and rubber and plastic products. Łódź voivodship is an important producer of fabrics, hosiery, machinery and equipment for the food processing industry, and pharmaceutical products.

Ongoing restructuring entails curbing the dominant role of the textile industry in favour of industries such as chemicals, precision engineering and medical technology as well as the creation of a more balanced and differentiated structure of production and service activity.

The voivodship's location, industrial tradition, scientific research base and availability of sites for construction have attracted foreign investors. Foreign capital is invested particularly in the production of food and beverages, clothing, fuel and energy, in the automotive industry and in the manufacture of household articles. The offices of 44 foreign companies are located in the voivodship; foreign capital is invested in 807 joint-venture companies and 26 foreign enterprises are engaged in small-scale manufacturing.

Economic development of the Łódź voivodship is supported by the education system. Łódź is one of the strongest scientific research centres in the country. There were 48 000 students enrolled in the eleven centres of higher education in 1995 – a steady rise from the 1990 total of 29 000. Most attend Łódź University and the Łódź Polytechnic. The academic teaching staff numbers 5 000. Scientific research for the textiles, clothing, food processing, precision instrument, automotive

and power industries is undertaken in about 30 institutes.

Two fifths of the unemployed jobless for over one year

The importance of industry and the very low proportion of population living in the countryside are clearly illustrated in the voivodship's employment structure. Of the 405 000 people working at the end of 1995, 53 % were employed in the services sector, 41 % in industry and construction and just 6 % in agriculture, less than a quarter of the national average.

The number of new private companies is steadily growing and this, together with the process of privatising state-owned enterprises, results in more and more people being employed in the private sector – 57 % on average in 1995, rising to almost 65 % in industry, and more than 80 % in construction.

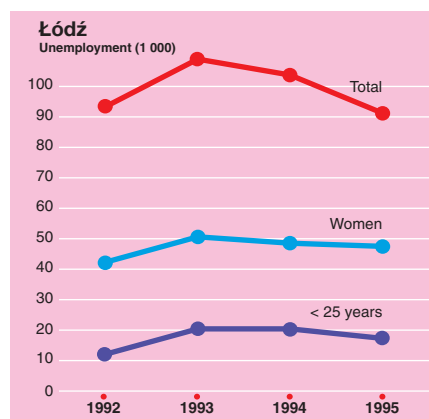
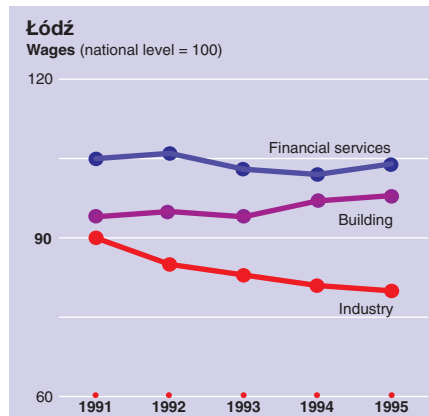
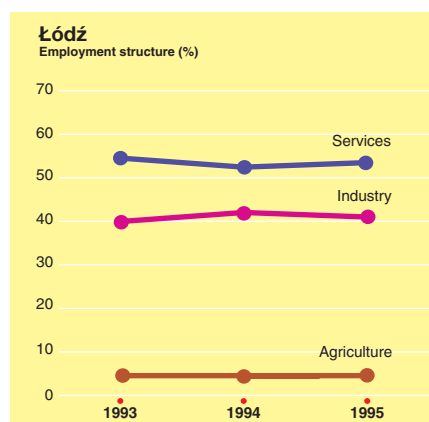
The problem of mass unemployment appeared in the Łódź voivodship in the 1990s with the closure of many factories. Despite the fact that some of them were absorbed into the rapidly developing private sector, about 90 000 people were without work at the end of 1995, and 80 % of these were in the city of Łódź. This level of unemployment corresponded to a rate of 18 % of the active population. Although the number of unemployed people declined in 1994 and 1995, the length of time people remain without work is increasing: over 41 % of those registered as unemployed in December 1995 had been jobless for more than one year.

Average incomes are relatively low (only about 90 % of the national average) and many of the jobs in industry are low-paid, resulting in an average in 1995 of only 80 % of the national average industrial wage. Many people subsist on non-wage income sources, particularly pensions and unemployment benefits.

ŁÓDŹ

Agriculture – 1995

Number of private farms	15 975	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	97 322		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	96	Pork	31.2 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	39	Vegetables	20.3 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	87	Milk	8.8 %
Arable land (%)	82	Beef	7.6 %



NOWY SĄCZ

The Nowy Sącz voivodship, situated in the southern part of Poland, covers an area of 5 576 km², which accounts for 1.8 % of the country's area. Administratively, it is divided into 58 districts (gminas). The voivodship borders Slovakia in the south and along the 272 km of border there are nine road border crossings and one rail border crossing.

The voivodship had a population of 733 000 at the end of 1995; 1.9 % of Poland's total. The population density, at 131 inhabitants per km², exceeds the national average. The area is characterised by a low level of urbanisation; the urban population accounts for just 36 % of the total. Of the voivodship's 14 cities, the largest are Nowy Sącz (82 000 inhabitants), Nowy Targ (34 000), Gorlice (30 000) and Zakopane (30 000).

The number of births significantly exceeds the number of deaths and the natural increase of the population of the Nowy Sącz voivodship is the highest in the country (6.6 % in 1995). The demographic structure is young and more than 50 % of the total population are below the age of 30. The growth in the number of inhabitants resulting from natural increase is offset to some degree by an annual negative balance of permanent migration. In recent years, a reduction in migration to the cities has been noted, which is linked to difficulties in finding employment and with the high costs of housing in the larger cities. The Nowy Sącz voivodship, and particularly the Podhale region, is an area with a long tradition of emigration, primarily to the USA. Almost 3 % of the current population has lived abroad for at least two months, and for many of these the stay abroad was for many years.

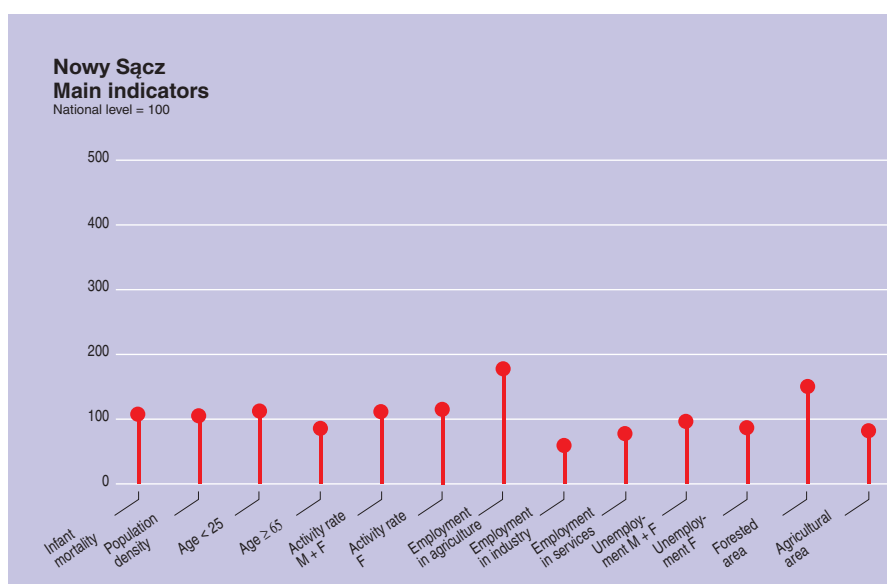
Access to medical services is more difficult in the voivodship than in other parts of Poland and Nowy Sącz has among the lowest rates of medical staff and hospital beds per 1 000 population in the country.

A mountainous region

The Nowy Sącz voivodship is located in the western Carpathian mountains. The majority of the region's area is within the western Beskid mountain group, which is comprised of a number of mountain ranges: Beskid Żywiecki, Beskid Wyspowy, Gorce and Beskid Sądecki. In the south, the voivodship extends into the Tatra Mountains, the highest in Poland, with Mount Rysy at 2 499 m above sea level. Almost 70 % of the voivodship's area is more than 500m above sea level and has



The Tatra mountains, with the characteristic Giewont peak. (photo W. Zieliński)



the mountain climate typical of this type of terrain; a relatively short growing season (declining from 200 to 180 days and less depending on the altitude) as well as a greater amount of snowfall than elsewhere in Poland (800–900 mm a year in the lower hills, up to 1700 mm in the Tatras). The quality of soils here is low, almost 75 % of the agricultural land has class IV and V soils.

There are several large, deep natural mountain lakes in the Tatras. The voivodship's three main rivers, the Dunajec, Poprad and Biała, together with a dense network of tributaries (a total of about 6 000 km), represent a vast resource of surface waters. Dams form artificial lakes, of which the oldest as well as largest is Lake Rożnowskie (16 km²). More than

97 % of the electricity produced in the voivodship originates from hydroelectric power plants.

The Nowy Sącz voivodship also has abundant resources of mineral, saline and sulphide waters, and coupled with the favourable climatic conditions this has led to the establishment of nine health resorts with potential for further development. There are 67 health resort establishments in the voivodship, with a combined capacity of 7 300 — about 20 % of Poland's total.

The mountain forests are another natural resource of the region; almost 43 % of the voivodship's area is forested, this ratio being one of the highest in the country.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Nowy Sącz voivodship?

Population:

720 000 inhabitants
Maine-et-Loire (F)
Balears (E)

Area:

5 500–5 600 km²
Creuse (F)
Kymenlaakso (FIN)

Land use:

49 % agriculture
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)
Limburg (NL)
Burgenland (A)

More investment needed in infrastructure

The natural assets of the voivodship are its mountain landscape, the good climate and the mineral water resources. These provide the basis for the creation of health resorts and the development of tourism and recreation, and particularly winter sports.

Human resources represent a large potential for the voivodship. The private sector has always had a relatively high share of

the economy, not only in agriculture, but in trade and crafts as well. Private housing construction has always been prevalent. The result of this is that the negative effects of the transformation period were felt less here than in the agricultural voivodships of northern Poland.

In recent years, there has been significant progress in the development of the telephone network, particularly evident in the countryside. However, it should be remembered that communications were previously one of the most neglected areas of the

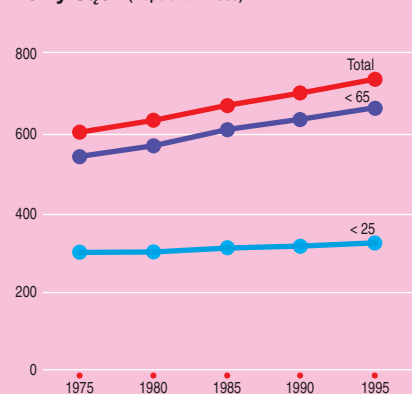
economy and the present situation is still far from satisfactory.

The Nowy Sącz voivodship is an area in which the level of investment has been particularly low, especially in environmental protection, the transport infrastructure and the recreational base. There is a problem of hidden unemployment in the countryside, with the very dispersed agriculture resulting in an under-utilised labour force.

NOWY SĄCZ Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	659.3
Births	146.5
Deaths	69.4
Net permanent migration	- 14.2
Net temporary migration	10.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	733.1

Nowy Sącz (Population 1 000)



NOWY SĄCZ Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	198	27.0	28.0	26.1
15–24	122	16.6	17.2	16.0
25–39	159	21.7	22.8	20.6
40–54	117	16.0	16.0	16.0
55–64	65	8.9	8.3	9.4
≥ 65	72	9.9	7.7	12.0
Total	733	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Nowy Sącz voivodship	5.6	733	131	9.8	64.9	14.6	48	19	33
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Tourism and agriculture shape the economy

The region's mountainous character has led naturally to the development of tourism and agriculture to play leading roles in the voivodship's economy.

Nowy Sącz includes some of the most attractive parts of the Carpathian Mountains, with the Tatras the most frequently visited – particularly Zakopane. Furthermore, there is significant tourist activity in the Pieniny Mountains, in the Poprad Valley, at Lake Rożnowskie and in the Gorce Mountains. The voivodship has a large tourist infrastructure with an overnight accommodation capacity of 47 000, which accounts for 7 % of the domestic total and places it fourth in Poland. Holiday camps account for 33 % of the capacity, guest rooms 19 %, and 15 % are places in hotels, motels and boarding houses.

In the Nowy Sącz voivodship, 49 % of the total area is agricultural land (275 000 ha), and 64 % of this is arable land. The vast majority – 94 % – of the agricultural land belongs to the 69 000 private farms, of which the average area of 3 ha is only half the national average. Natural meadows and pastures favour the development of livestock keeping. Nowy Sącz is the leading voivodship in the country in terms of both cattle stocks and in the production of milk per 100 ha of agricultural land. Sheep farming has a long tradition, with 1995 numbers exceeding 100 000 head. Fruit-farming is also an important agricultural activity, occupying 11 000 ha of the agricultural land.

Industrial production is largely based on the local natural resources of minerals, agricultural products, wood, leather and wool. The processing of meat, milk, fruit and vegetables has a significant share in the production of industry. Numerous enterprises are engaged in the production of building materials, construction joinery and wooden fancy goods. Other industries are also present; computers and cash registers, graphite electrodes and mining

machinery and equipment are produced in the voivodship and there is a petroleum refinery.

High economic activity rates

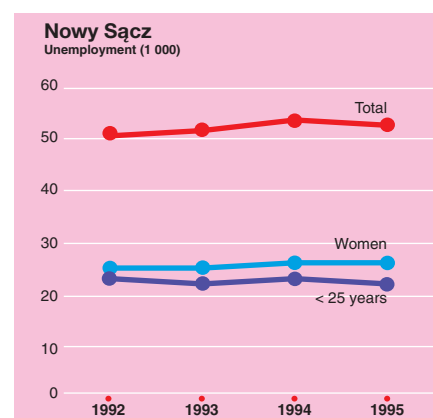
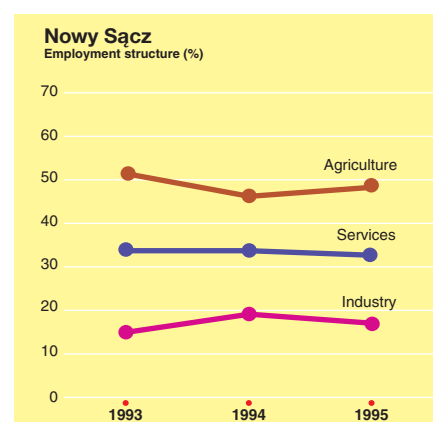
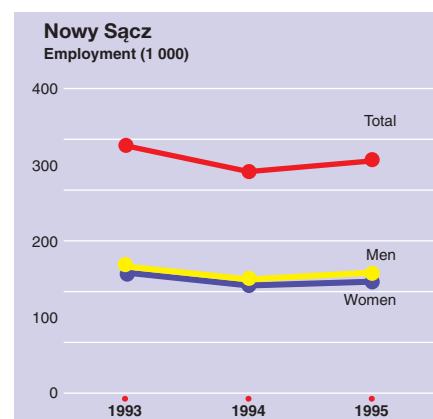
A total of more than 305 000 people were employed in the voivodship at the end of 1995. Nowy Sącz has one of the highest activity rates in the country with 64.9 % of the population of working age either in work or searching for work (Polish average 57.9 %). The rate for women was also clearly above average; 60.1 % in Nowy Sącz, 51.7 % nationally. As with other voivodships in south-eastern Poland, this is partly due to the very dispersed nature of private farming. The importance of agriculture in sustaining the voivodship's population is evident from the fact that 48 % of all jobs at the end of 1995 were in agriculture (national average 27 %), 19 % were in industry and construction and 33 % in the services sector.

The 15 % unemployment rate in December 1995 was similar to the national average, and those remaining without work for more than one year accounted for 38 % of those registered as unemployed.

Wages and salaries in the Nowy Sącz voivodship in 1995 were on average some 20 % below the national average and hence are among the lowest in the country.

Since 1990, there has been a significant expansion of education at the general secondary level. Changes have also been introduced in vocational education, with new subjects taught, and some schools that used to prepare students for professions for which there is no longer a need on the labour market have been closed down. At the end of 1990, a Business College was opened in Nowy Sącz to provide management training.

NOWY SĄCZ Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	69 148	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	275 330		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	94	Milk	23.5 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	76	Fruit	21.5 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	34	Beef	16.2 %
Arable land (%)	64	Pork	12.3 %



OLSZTYN

The Olsztyn voivodship covers a significant part of the historic lands of Warmia and Mazury, which after the Second World War, became an integral part of Poland. As a result of post-war migration processes, settlers from central Poland and from the eastern areas of pre-war Poland arrived in Olsztyn in large numbers, followed later by Ukrainians. Together with the original inhabitants of Warmia and Mazury, as well as a small group of people of German origin, they create the present multi-cultural society.

The voivodship is situated in the Lake District of Mazurskie and Iława and covers an area of 12 327 km² making it one of the largest voivodships in Poland. Administratively, it is divided into 58 gminas. The population at the end of 1995 was 772 000, resulting in one of the least densely populated areas of the country, with half the density of the national average. There are 22 cities in the voivodship and these house 60 % of the population. This region continues to have a favourable age structure, despite a declining birth rate and, as a result, a decline in the natural population increase. This adds to the negative balance of migration. From 1992 to the end of 1995, a net 4 400 people left the voivodship, most of those leaving being young people.

The Trade Centre of the Warmia and Mazury region hosts several regular trade fairs and exhibitions, including the Oltarbud International Construction Fair; the Elmix Electronics Fair; the Motosport Automotive and Sports Fair; the Wnętrze Interior Decorating Fair; the Agro-Food Food and Beverages Fair as well as the Wama Food Fair, organised by the College of Agricultural Engineering.

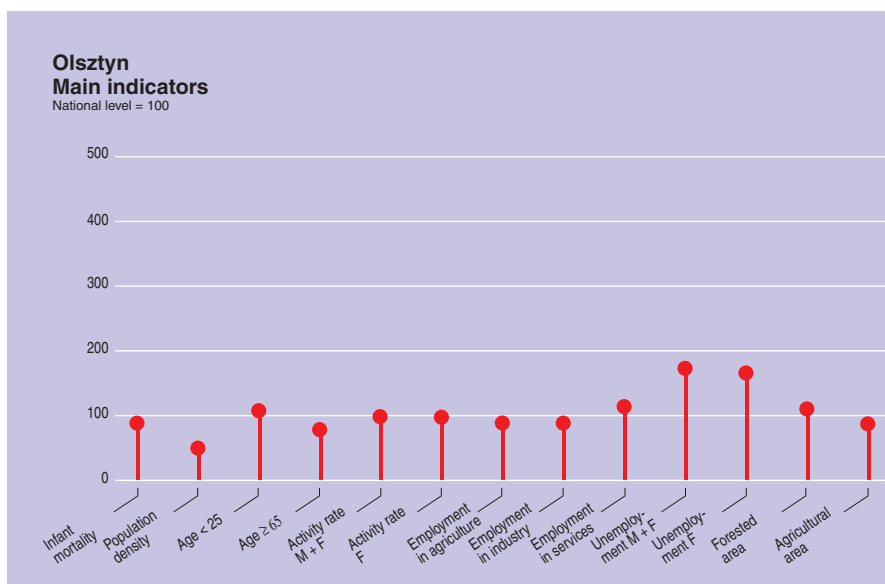
Unspoilt environment with more than 1 000 lakes

The Olsztyn voivodship has a natural environment that has remained practically unchanged for generations. Part of the area is included in the Green Lungs of Poland programme. The forests have rich and varied fauna with many rare species of birds. There are more than 1 000 lakes, which make up 4 % of the voivodship's total area. The largest of these are Jeziorak, Narie, Łańskie, Dadaj and Pluszne.

The natural conditions result in a shorter growing season for agriculture than in other parts of the country. Soils are better



Lake Jeziorak. Besides agriculture and industry, tourism presents an opportunity for the voivodship's development. (photo A. Stachurski)



than average though, and class III and class IV soils dominate. The best soils, which allow the cultivation of wheat, sugar beet and rape, are found in the northern areas of the voivodship. Lighter soils are found in the south, providing the basis for the growing of rye and potatoes. Cereals cover 58 % of the voivodship's sown area, with wheat and rye dominating.

The Olsztyn voivodship has good transport connections with the entire country as well

as with Russia. The road and rail networks ensure efficient connections between all the cities of the voivodship and Olsztyn. There are almost 900 domestic and international bus lines in the voivodship. Air travel is available on domestic and international lines at the Mazury airport in Szymany, near Szczytno, which opened in 1996.



Which regions are similar to Olsztyn voivodship?

Area:
12 300–12 400 km²
Haute Normandie (F)
Salamanca (E)

Age structure:
42 % under 25
Vaslui (RO)
Açores (P)
Przemyśl voivodship (PL)

Employment structure:
27–27,5 % in industry
Tirol (A)
Noroeste (E)
Drenthe (NL)

Border location with problems of rural unemployment

The voivodship benefits from good natural conditions for agricultural development, and a developed scientific and consulting base. Some sectors of industry are well developed too, and focus on the processing of local raw materials. There are numerous institutions and organisations supporting small and medium-size enterprises and the voivodship possesses good domestic and foreign transport links. The location on

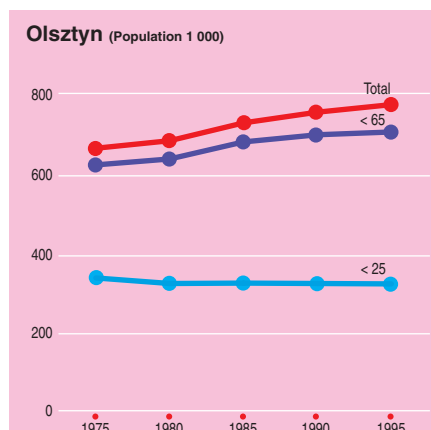
the border of the Kaliningrad District of Russia also brings advantages.

The landscape is relatively unspoilt with a clean natural environment and a well-developed tourist infrastructure and a developing ecological and agro-tourism industry.

However, Olsztyn suffers from high unemployment, particularly in rural areas. A major challenge is to increase the potential of the private sector in industry and agriculture.

OLSZTYN Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	717.0
Births	132.4
Deaths	65.9
Net permanent migration	- 12.4
Net temporary migration	0.7
Population 31. 12. 1995	771.7



OLSZTYN Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	189	24.5	25.5	23.5
15–24	131	17.0	17.5	16.4
25–39	173	22.4	23.1	21.7
40–54	146	18.9	19.1	18.7
55–64	65	8.4	7.9	8.9
≥ 65	68	8.9	6.9	10.8
Total	772	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Olsztyn voivodship	12.3	772	63	6.3	57.2	26.0	24	27	49
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Raising standards in agriculture

The industry of the voivodship is based on the processing of local raw materials from agriculture, forestry and mineral extraction. Most important for the region is the food-processing industry – particularly meat, poultry and dairy products – with 35 % of the sales value of industrial production. Rubber products are also important, including the manufacture of motor-vehicle tyres, and there is also furniture manufacturing.

Almost 53% of the voivodship's total area is agricultural land. Changes in ownership structure have played an important role in agriculture; the proportion of farms in private hands has grown from 51 % in 1990 to 64 % in 1995. The average farm size here is 15.5 ha; much higher than the national average, and 57 % of farms have more than 10 ha. The main crops are rye, rape, wheat and potatoes. Rape and oil-yielding rape cover a relatively large area and represent 5 % of the Polish total.

The Olsztyn voivodship is an important domestic producer of high-quality agricultural and food products and more and more processing companies and farms are meeting international quality standards. The establishment by the voivodship of a 'Healthy Foods from Warmia and Mazury' award encourages producers to raise quality standards and gives recognition to the best products.

Most job losses in agriculture

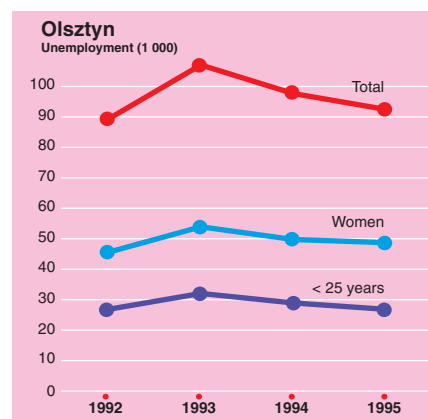
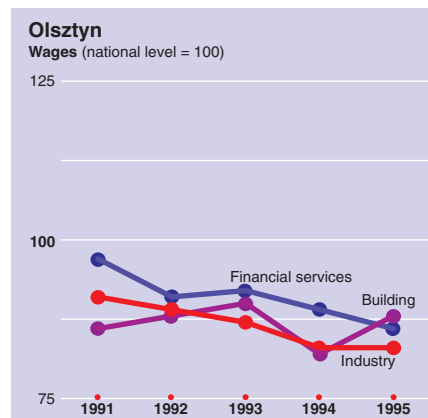
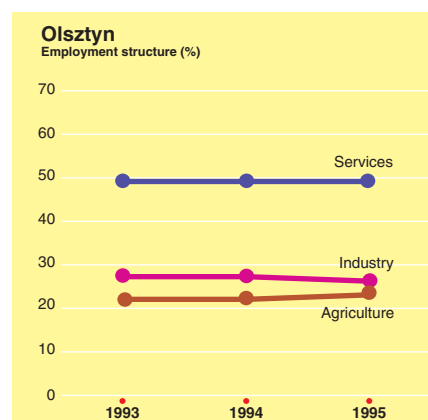
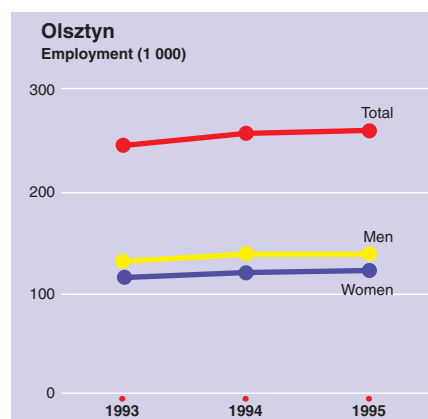
The employment structure of the voivodship's economy shows a higher than average proportion of employment in services; 48.6 % at the end of 1995 against the national 42.5 %. While the total number in employment fell from 273 200 in December 1991 to 258 600 in December 1995, employment in services and in industry actually increased slightly. Thus, agriculture was by far the hardest hit by the economic transformation of the 1990s, losing 20 % of its jobs between 1991 and 1995. Still, agriculture remains an important element of the economy, employing almost one quarter of all workers at the end of 1995.

The high rate of unemployment is a problem in the voivodship. The majority of the gminas have been identified as being threatened with structural unemployment. Unemployment particularly affects young people as well as those with only primary and basic vocational education. Of the total number of registered unemployed, almost 46 % live in rural areas.

There are four institutions of higher education in the voivodship: the College of Agricultural Engineering, College of Education, Police Academy and Business College. The University of Warmia and Mazury is in the course of being established, founded on the Colleges of Agricultural Engineering and Education.

**OLSZTYN
Agriculture – 1995**

Number of private farms	25 363	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	650 732	
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	64	Pork 23.7 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	33	Milk 15.4 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	65	Cereals 13.0 %
Arable land (%)	69	Beef 8.3 %



OPOLE

The voivodship is situated in the river basin of the upper Odra in the Silesian plain in the southern part of the country. It covers an area of 8 535 km² (2.7 % of the country's area), is divided into 65 administrative districts gminas and has a total population of 1 025 000 (2.7 % of the country's population).

Post-war migration processes had a determining influence on the social, demographic and ethnic structure of the population of the Opole voivodship. During the 1950s and 1960s, there was a high degree of emigration to Germany based on family and economic considerations. Since then people have emigrated to Germany mainly for economic reasons. As a result of immigration, the proportion of the indigenous population in the voivodship declined from 54 % in 1950 to 29 % in 1990. Since 1990, migration has continued but the size of net outflow has declined substantially. There is still a relatively large population of German origin, who have had links with Silesia for generations and who also have strong ties with families living in Germany.

The Opole voivodship is characterised by a low natural increase in the population and a negative balance of migration. In 1995 it was one of only 10 voivodships to record a fall in population.

The network of telephones is poorly developed. The voivodship ranks 33rd in the country in terms of the telephone network density. For every 1 000 inhabitants in 1995, there were just 117 telephone subscribers.

Good conditions for agriculture

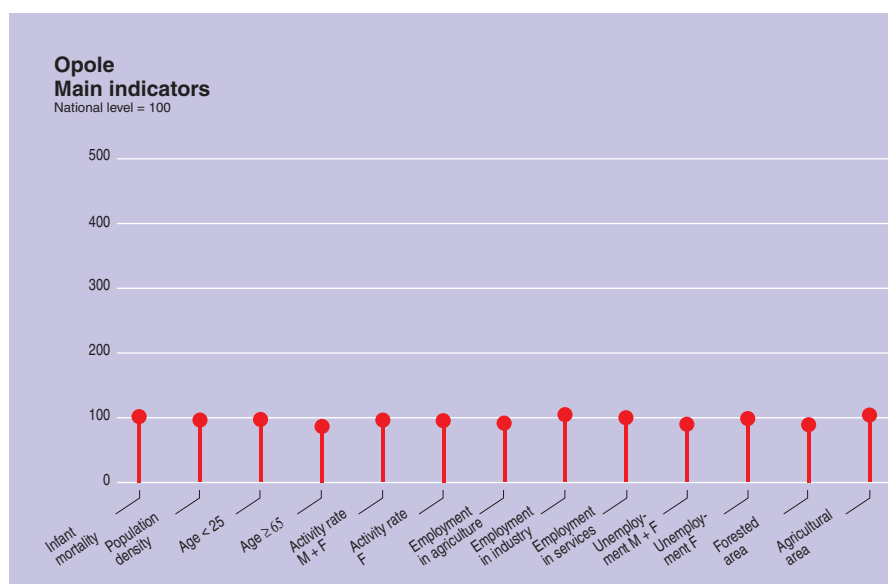
The Opole voivodship is located almost entirely in the Silesian Lowland. The area is a plain, with significant variations in altitude occurring only in the south in the Opawskie Mountains (with Biskupia Kopa at 889 m above sea level) and on the Silesian Upland which rises to 400 m with the Św. Anna Mountain.

The central and southern areas of the voivodship are among the warmest areas in the country and the growing season lasts more than 220 days. Good soils and a favourable climate create ideal conditions for the development of intensive agriculture. In the higher, south-western part of the voivodship, the climate is cooler with a growing season lasting approximately 190 days.

The primary river is the Odra with its Nysa Kłodzka and Mała Panew tributaries, on which large artificial lakes have been creat-



The River Odra and the Gliwice canal are important waterways connecting Silesia with the western voivodships and the port in Szczecin. (photo W. Zieliński)



ed (Otmuchowskie 23.5 km², Turawskie 22 km² and the Głębinowski Water Reservoir 22 km²). In the northern part of the voivodship, where low-fertility soils predominate, there are more wooded areas including the Stobrawskie and Niemodlińskie forests. Forests in the voivodship cover a total of 25 % of the area. The largest natural mineral resources are deposits of marl, limestone, gravel, sand and basalt.

A well-adapted transport system accounts for the Opole voivodship's role as a bridge between the large industrial agglomeration

of Upper Silesia with the western voivodships. Furthermore, its location at the mouth of the 'Morawska Gate' — a natural route through the highlands to the south — results in important trade routes passing through the voivodship. Both the densities of the public roads network and the railway network are significantly higher than the national average, amounting to 88 km and 12 km per 100 km² respectively.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Opole voivodship?

Population density:
120–121 inhabitants per km²
Shropshire (UK)
Schwäbisch Hall (D)

Age structure:
About 38 % under 25
Andalucia (E)
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (F)

Land use:
25 % forest
Burgenland (A)
Somogy (HU)
Región de Murcia (E)

Inefficient industry, but prospects for development

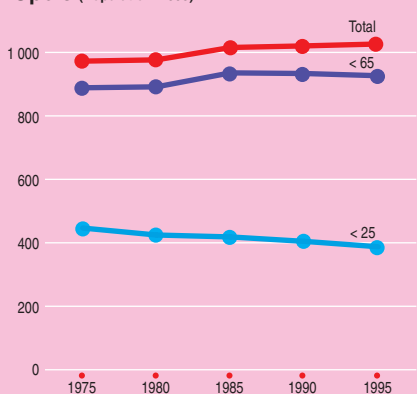
A convenient location, good demographic structure, fertile and productive agricultural land with possibilities for increased production, and the potential for the development of food processing and manufacturing based on local mineral raw materials all provide good prospects for the economic development of the voivodship.

Among the main barriers to economic development are the need for replacement and modernisation of infrastructure and fixed assets coupled with the lack of investment funds. The voivodship's industry has a low level of technology and is consequently relatively inefficient. The telephone network is poorly-developed and the sewerage system and sewage treatment infrastructure is inadequate.

OPOLE Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 006.0
Births	158.6
Deaths	103.3
Net permanent migration	- 28.1
Net temporary migration	- 8.0
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 025.2

Opole (Population 1 000)



OPOLE Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	228	22.2	23.3	21.2
15–24	159	15.5	16.0	14.9
25–39	237	23.1	24.2	22.0
40–54	194	18.9	19.3	18.6
55–64	107	10.5	10.0	10.9
≥ 65	100	9.8	7.1	12.4
Total	1 025	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Opole voivodship	8.5	1 025	120	1.1	56.0	13.6	25	32	43
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

'Green Silesia'

The efficient agricultural sector provides an important raw materials base for the food-processing industry. The Opole voivodship's location near two large industrial agglomerations ensures there is always a market for surplus agricultural products.

The voivodship possesses a well-developed and broadly structured industry in which the manufacture of some products is of national significance. In 1995, 35 % of the Polish production of lorries and tractor-trailers, 31 % of the manufacture of coke, 31 % of steel castings, 27 % of lime, 27 % of cement, 21 % of margarine and 14 % of nitrogen fertilisers originated from the Opole voivodship.

The voivodship's industry has a low technical level and outdated technology, resulting in high energy consumption and inefficient use of raw materials. Fixed assets are characterised by a high degree of depreciation, and some divisions of industry are very damaging to the natural environment. Consequently, although Opole's industry contributes greatly to the national economy, sweeping changes are necessary, including modernisation, an improvement in efficiency and competitiveness and the development of cooperation with companies from more highly-developed countries.

The Opole area, known also as 'Green Silesia' possesses a highly efficient agricultural sector. Agricultural land covers 63 % of the voivodship's area. More than 60 % of the agricultural land belongs to private farms, with an average farm size of 7 ha similar to the national average. Cereals dominate in the structure of crop production, with wheat (31 % of the total sown area) and barley (12 %) having important positions. Industrial crops, rape and oil yielding rape (17 % of sown areas) and sugar beet (7 %), also account for a significant proportion of domestic production. Fertile soils and a high level of agricultural know-how result in the yields obtained per hectare being among the highest in the country, with Opole taking

second place for sugar beet, third for potatoes and fourth for basic cereals. Good results are also obtained in animal production, particularly in pig farming and milk production.

Services sector growing

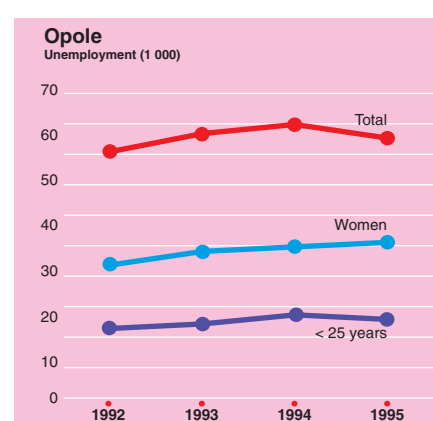
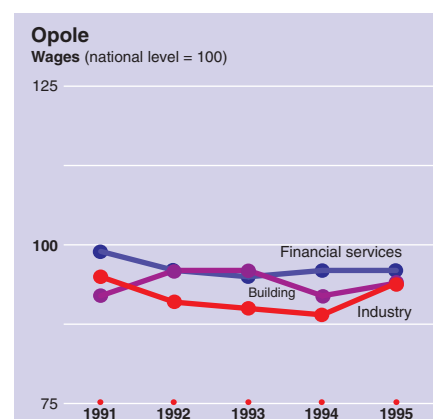
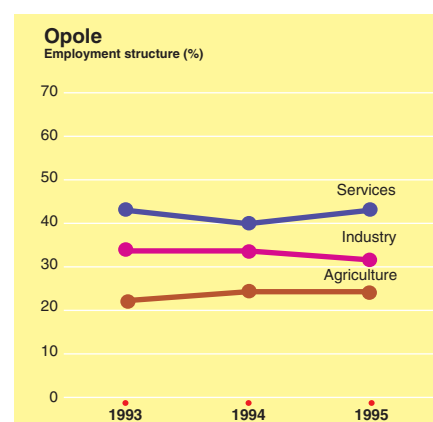
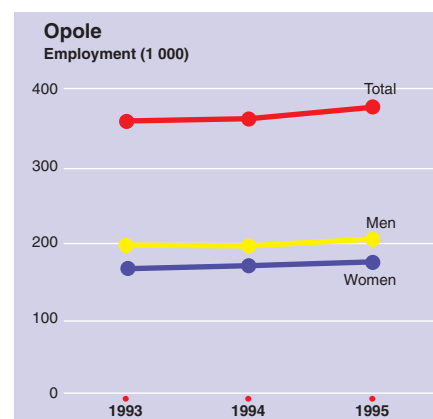
As elsewhere in Poland, the effects of the economic restructuring in Opole showed themselves in the laying-off of workers in industry and agriculture on a large scale. Industry lost 14000 jobs between December 1991 and 1995, and agriculture 11700. At the same time, the services sector actually grew by some 11500 jobs to rise from a position where it represented 38.5 % of total employment to reach 43 %. Thus the structure of employment by the end of 1995 was close to the Polish average.

In 1995, the activity rate was lower than the national average, and the voivodship had a rate of registered unemployment amounting to almost 14 %. For every 100 people working in the voivodship in December 1995, there were 16 registered as unemployed. The most numerous group among the unemployed were people with basic vocational education (about 40 %). Young people up to the age of 25 made up 32 % of the total. The average period of remaining without work is lengthening and at the end of 1995 about 34 % of the registered unemployed had been unable to find work for more than one year. The majority of the unemployed are women — 60 % in 1995 — a higher proportion than nationally.

Average wages and salaries in 1995 were 6 % lower than the Polish average, and the average occupational retirement pay and pension was also somewhat below the national average.

The Opole voivodship has a well-developed and relatively modern network of secondary and basic vocational schools. Educational facilities include local centres of higher education (Opole University, Opole Polytechnic and the Ecclesiastic Seminary in Nysa) as well as three scientific research institutes.

OPOLE Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	43 279	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	534 779	Industrial crops	26.0 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	61	Cereals	19.0 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	37	Pork	18.3 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	129	Milk	7.5 %
Arable land (%)	82		



OSTROŁĘKA

The Ostrołęka voivodship is situated in north-eastern Poland. It covers an area of 6 498 km², is divided into 44 administrative districts (gminas) and has a population of 408 000.

The voivodship is situated in the northern Mazowiecka Lowland. The Kurpiowska Plain lies within the voivodship, stretching to the eastern edge of the Ciechanowska Upland and Mławskie Hills. The broad Lower Narew valley cuts through the middle of the voivodship and the area between the Narew and Bug rivers is known as the Międzyrzecze Łomżyńskie. The southern edge of the voivodship stretches into the central Mazowiecka Lowland while in the north is the start of the Mazurskie Lake District.

The population densities of the gminas of the Ostrołęka voivodship vary greatly; from 12 to 112 inhabitants per km², giving a 1995 average for the voivodship of 63 inhabitants per km² — half the national average. Outside the urban areas, the most densely populated parts are the gminas located in the south of the voivodship, which are under the direct influence of the nearby Warsaw agglomeration. The areas characterised by large forests and poor soils in the northern area of the voivodship have the lowest population densities.

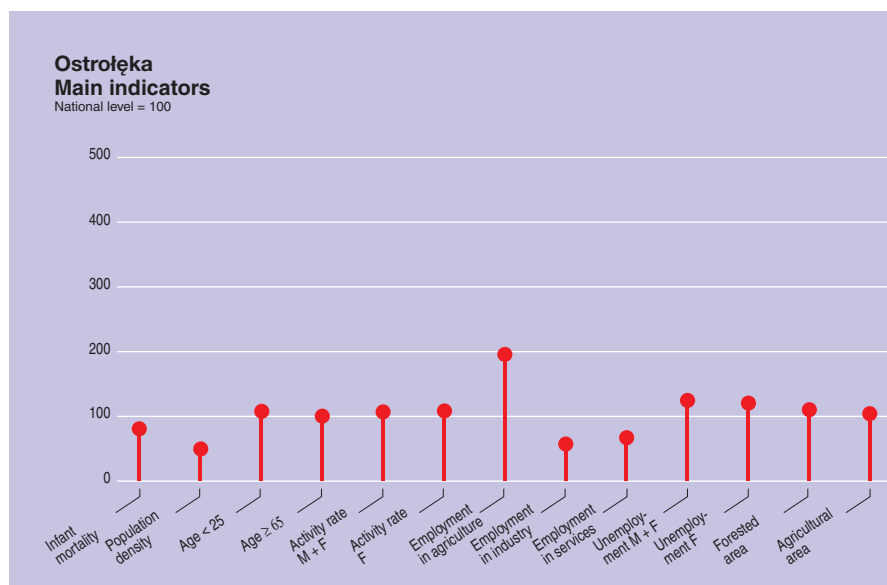
In comparison to other regions, the population of the Ostrołęka voivodship is characterised by a large proportion of young people — 34 % of the population were below the age of 20 at the end of 1995. However, a slow but continuous fall in the shares of the population in the youngest age groups and a growth in the share of the population aged 65 and above have been observed in recent years. This is mainly a result of trends in the rural areas, with high levels of migration to the cities exceeding the natural increase of the rural population. However, the voivodship's ratio of urbanisation is one of the lowest in Poland; only 36% of the total population at the end of 1995 were living in the 10 cities. The largest city, Ostrołęka, has a population of 54 000 and contains 37 % of the voivodship's total urban population. The next largest cities are Wyszaków (25 000) and Ostrów Mazowiecka (22 000).

Efforts made to protect the environment

The landscape of the Ostrołęka voivodship is not very varied, with its plains and broad river valleys and the highest point being just 235 m. Forests are abundant in the region, covering 31 % of the voivodship's area. The remains of the once vast



Ostrołęka, located on the River Narew, is the capital of the voivodship and an important transportation junction.



Kurpiowska Forest make up 70 % of the voivodship's forested area, with its nature reserves protecting rare species of plants and animals, particularly wildfowl. In addition there is a part of the Biała Forest.

The Ostrołęka voivodship possesses raw materials in the form of deposits of sand and gravel sand suitable for the needs of construction and the glass industry. However, the most abundant resource in this area are the forests, meadows and pastures. Within the voivodship there are nine nature reserves: seven forest reserves and two fauna reserves. In terms of recreation, the Bug valley (Rybieńko Leśne, Brok) has the greatest significance.

The natural environment is well-preserved, which is recognised by the voivodship's

participation in the 'Green Lungs of Poland' agreement, which requires that the environment is protected. In recent years new sewage treatment plants have been built and industrial plants have had equipment installed for reducing dust and gas pollutants.

Two transit routes run through Wyszaków and Ostrów Mazowiecka to the east. One of them links Warsaw with Białystok and, via the border crossing at Kuźnica Białostocka, with Mińsk in Belarus. The second connects Warsaw with Suwałki and, via the border crossing at Ogródniki, with Lithuania. Moreover, a section of the Warsaw–Białystok–Vilnius railway line passes through the voivodship, which continues on to Russia as well as Latvia and Estonia.



Which regions are similar to Ostrołęka voivodship?

Population:
407 000 inhabitants
Border (IRL)
Siracusa (I)
Alba (RO)

Population density:
63–64 inhabitants per km²
Dahme-Spreewald (D)
Haute-Vienne (F)

Age structure:
11 % over 65
Žle de France (F)
Gorj (RO)

A good location and development possibilities

Natural assets as well as the absence of industry harmful to the natural environment, predispose this region to the development of environmentally-friendly agriculture and the associated food processing as well as to an intensification of tourism in line with the general directions of the 'Green Lungs of Poland' programme, in which the Ostrołęka voivodship participates.

The food processing industry is strong, based on local raw materials in the way of potatoes, fruit, vegetables and especially meat and milk processing. Furthermore, there is an inexpensive labour force, and a location within reach of Warsaw, which creates opportunities for the development of small and medium-size private enterprises — although more support from external capital is perhaps necessary.

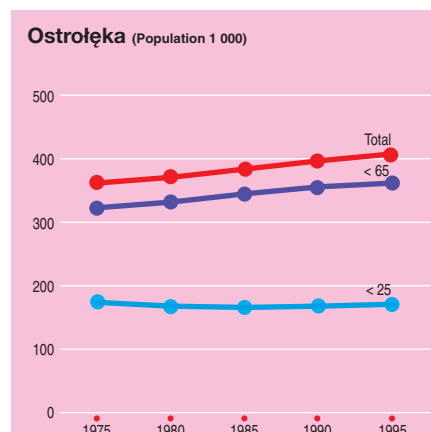
The voivodship is traversed by important transport routes leading from the central and southern areas of the country to the

Mazury and Suwałki Lake District and from Mazowsze to Podlasie. Important railway junctions are located at Tłuszcz, Małkinia and Ostrołęka.

The main problems facing the voivodship include an excessive reliance on agriculture for employment and the low efficiency of many farms. Processing facilities for agricultural products are sometimes insufficiently developed and the problem of high and long-term unemployment must be addressed.

OSTROŁĘKA Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	381.8
Births	77.3
Deaths	44.2
Net permanent migration	- 11.6
Net temporary migration	5.1
Population 31. 12. 1995	408.4



OSTROŁĘKA Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	105	25.7	26.3	25.2
15–24	66	16.0	16.6	15.5
25–39	88	21.5	22.9	20.1
40–54	68	16.7	17.1	16.2
55–64	36	8.7	8.2	9.2
≥ 65	46	11.3	8.9	13.8
Total	408	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000	Inhab./km ²			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services	
		1995	1995			1986–95	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Ostrołęka voivodship	6.5	408	63	6.3	62.4	19.0	53	18	29
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Industry based on local agriculture and forestry

Almost all of the agricultural land (99 %) belongs to the 45 000 private farm owners and the size of the average private farm is about 9 ha – which is 2 ha more than the national average. Agricultural land accounts for 61 % of the voivodship's area. Soils of the lowest quality classes predominate with only small areas of class III and class IV soils. The main crops cultivated in the region are cereals (60 % of the arable area), and rye is the single most important cereal, accounting for 42 % alone. Potatoes are another important crop with 18 % of the total sown area.

In the structure of final agricultural production by value, animal products dominate with 88 % due largely to the importance of cattle rearing. There are 60 head of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land (the third highest density in the country) and 88 pigs.

The clean environment, inexpensive labour force and the voivodship's proximity to the huge sales market of Warsaw are the basis for the development of the food-processing industry. The manufacture of foodstuff articles accounts for 29 % of industrial production in the voivodship in sales terms, and the meat and milk industries are of the greatest significance.

Also well-developed in the voivodship is the wood and paper industry (29 % of the voivodship's industrial production by sales) and the energy, furniture, building materials and chemical industries. The manufacture of paper (17 % of total Polish production) as well as of furniture and electricity occupy important positions nationally.

Industry is concentrated in the five largest cities of which Ostrołęka, with a cellulose and paper factory, an electric power plant and meat-processing plants, is a significant industrial centre on a national scale. The other four are Ostrów Mazowiecki, Przasnysz, Wyszaków and Maków Mazowiecki.

High and increasing employment in agriculture

Traditionally, the largest element of the working population has been engaged in agriculture. The voivodship is unusual in that both the absolute numbers and the proportion employed in agriculture were higher at the end of 1995 than the end of 1991. With the agricultural sector holding 53 % of all jobs in December 1995, the voivodship stands out as having almost double the Polish average. The other side of the coin is that the proportions working in services (29 %) and industry (18 %) are small.

The activity rate is above the Polish average by a significant margin and in May 1995 stood at 62.4 % for men and 56.5 % for women (national averages 57.9 and 51.7 % respectively).

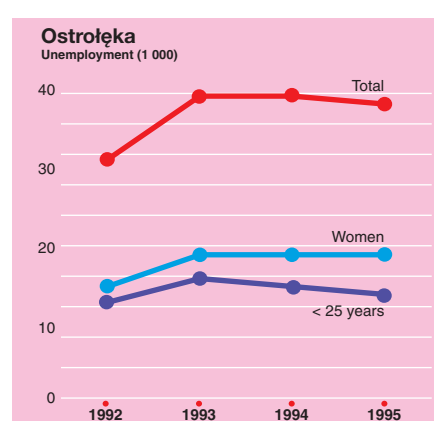
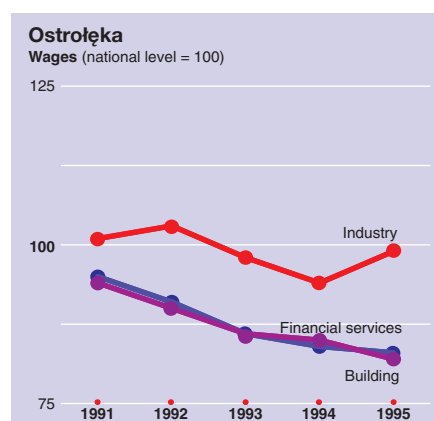
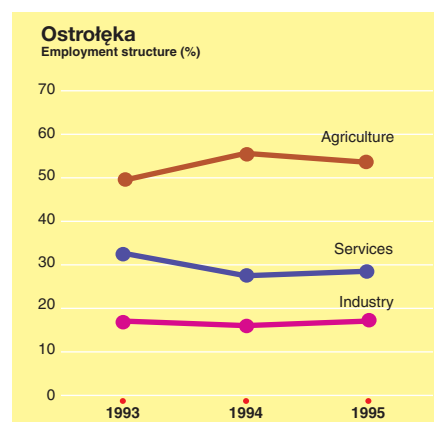
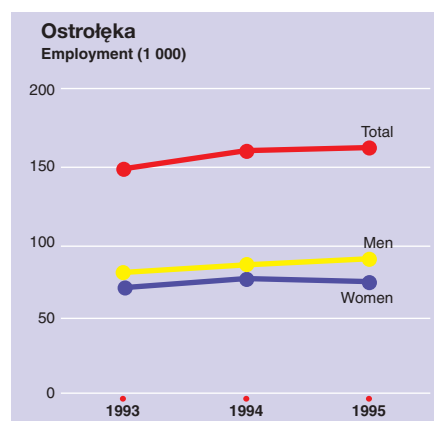
The number of people unemployed shot up after 1990, but has been relatively stable at about 38 000 since 1993. A very small drop in unemployment occurred at the end of 1995, but the registered unemployment rate is still high. Those having most difficulty finding a job include young people and those with only basic and secondary vocational educations. Long-term unemployment testifies to the difficult situation on the labour market. At the end of 1995, 45 % of all those registered as unemployed had been without a job for more than one year and this was much worse than the national average of 37 %.

Average monthly wages and salaries in 1995 were 93 % of the national average.

Positive changes are occurring in the educational achievement of the population and the number of people with secondary and higher educations is growing. However, in the population structure according to level of education, those possessing only primary education still comprise a large proportion. This picture is repeated in many other eastern voivodships dominated by rural populations.

A total of 27 000 students were attending the 11 general secondary and 85 technical and vocational secondary schools in the voivodship in 1995.

OSTROŁĘKA			
Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	45 451	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	395 314		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	99	Milk	31.8 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	58	Pork	31.5 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	88	Beef	7.5 %
Arable land (%)	65	Potatoes	6.7 %



PIŁA

The Piła voivodship lies in the north-western part of Poland and is situated between two geographic regions; the Pomeranian Lake District and the Greater Poland Lowland. It covers an area of 8 205 km².

The voivodship is one of the areas of Poland that benefits from an almost unspoilt natural environment. Almost 40% of the voivodship's area is legally protected, including lakes, rivers and valleys as well as woods and forests. This favours the preservation of the natural environment and creates protected zones for the unique natural features, as well as homes for rare species of flora and fauna. As well as the Drawieński National Park which extends across an area of 3 161 ha, there are 20 nature reserves and 670 features classed as natural monuments.

Intensive activity has been undertaken in recent years to prevent environmental degradation and numerous sewage treatment plants and waste storage facilities have been built. Many small local boiler houses have also been put out of service on environmental grounds.

The Piła voivodship has a population of 494 000 and the population density of 60 inhabitants per km² is less than half the national average. More than half of the population live in the 24 cities, the largest of which is Piła with a population of 76 000. Among the other larger cities are Wałcz (27 000 inhabitants), Wągrowiec (24 000) and Chodzież (20 000).

The population of the region is relatively young, although in recent years, due to the declining natural increase, a fall in the proportion of young people has been observed.

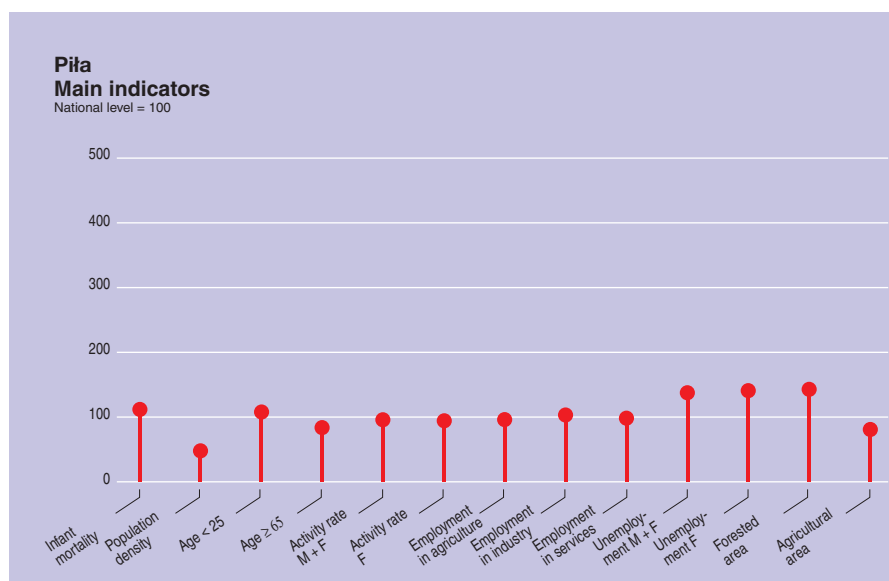
Two fifths of the territory covered in forests

With more than 40 % of the territory covered in forests (primarily coniferous), the voivodship is the fifth most forested in the country. The contour of the area was formed by glaciers and consequently the main features of the landscape are the numerous lakes, river networks and a belt of prominent moraines. The post-glacial landscape is characterised by the presence of various types of soils, with a preponderance of low-fertility podzolic, rusty and brown soils. An important resource of the region, not yet fully utilised, are the grasslands in the valley of the River Noteć, one of the most important rivers in the voivodship, flowing through the Toruńsko-Eberswaldzka Valley. The primary mineral



Piła, a green city and an important centre at the crossroads of transport and tourist routes.

photo R. Ereński



resources are deposits of rock salt, brown coal, ceramic clay, lake chalks and gypsum as well as vast reserves of geothermal waters located in the southern part of the voivodship.

There is no lack of water in the voivodship. Deep wells fully satisfy the needs of the inhabitants, agriculture and industry, although surface waters are also used.

The north-south and east-west transit routes running through the voivodship provide good connections with the rest of the country as well as with other European countries. In the future, the River Noteć will

play an important role in the economy by providing a transport route via the River Wisła to the Baltic Sea.

The Piła voivodship is characterised by an inadequately developed, and in many cases, an outdated municipal infrastructure network and there is a lack of sites for construction. The road network is well-developed but with the large growth in the number of motor vehicles, road conditions are systematically worsening. The lack of a bypass is particularly felt in the city of Piła, through which the main north-south transit route passes. Important rail transport junctions are located in Piła and Krzyż.



Which regions are similar to Piła voivodship?

- Area:**
8 150–8 250 km²
Valladolid (E)
Marne (F)
Alto Trás-os-Montes (P)
- Age structure:**
42 % under 25
Açores (P)
Východné Slovensko (SK)
- Employment structure:**
31 % in industry
Greater Manchester (UK)
Antwerpen (B)
Kassel (D)

Potential for development

Among the factors limiting the economic development in the voivodship is the lack of investment in the technical infrastructure. The high levels of unemployment also place burdens on the economy and represent an under-utilised resource.

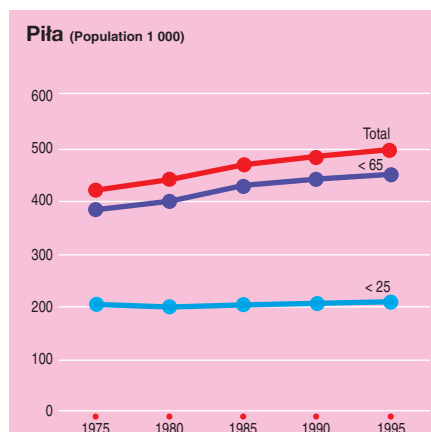
The voivodship's further development could be founded on more intensive agricultural methods as well as a modernisation of the processing industry based on local supplies of agricultural products and wood. In order to develop the voivodship's

economy, and particularly to modernise its structure, the development of modern branches of industry using environmentally friendly technological processes is necessary. Moreover, an economic opportunity exists in exploiting the Noteć Valley as a rich source of fodder.

Potential also exists for the development of tourist and recreational facilities based on the beauty of the natural environment as well as an attractive location. Tourism could become a basis for the development of a modern economic infrastructure.

PIŁA Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	460.5
Births	88.0
Deaths	50.1
Net permanent migration	- 5.7
Net temporary migration	1.2
Population 31. 12. 1995	494.0



PIŁA Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	124	25.1	25.9	24.3
15–24	82	16.6	17.4	15.9
25–39	107	21.7	22.4	20.9
40–54	95	19.2	19.6	18.8
55–64	39	7.9	7.4	8.4
≥ 65	47	9.6	7.3	11.7
Total	494	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Piła voivodship	8.2	494	60	6.1	56.0	20.6	26	32	42
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

An important region for pig farming

The Pi(a) voivodship has primarily an agricultural-based economy. The domination of agriculture results from the favourable lie of the land as well as from the soil and climatic conditions. Agricultural land (403 000 ha) accounts for 49 % of the region's total area, and 78 % of agricultural land is arable. The processes of privatisation and restructuring have resulted in almost 73 % of the agricultural land now belonging to private farmers and the average farm size, at 14 ha being double the national average.

Cereals dominate with 64 % of the total sown area, particularly rye, wheat and barley, and despite the low fertility of the soils, yields are higher than the national average.

Pig farming is the most important element of animal production, and the 1995 figure of 206 pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land is almost double the national average and places the voivodship fifth in the country.

The level of industrialisation in the Pi(a) voivodship is low. Only 1 % of domestic industrial production originates from this area. The region is nationally known for its wood products, particularly fibreboard (with 14 % of total Polish production), soft and hardwood timber (8 %), and furniture (3 %). Also present in the voivodship are the food-processing industry (primarily meat, flour and milk), and the manufacture of porcelain tableware, light bulbs and lighting equipment, gas and electric stoves, and machinery for the forestry industry.

In the structure of the voivodship's output, foodstuffs dominate with 30 % of the region's industrial production by sales value. In recent years, the manufacture of machinery and equipment (14 % of output) as well as the manufacture of electrical machinery and apparatus have grown dynamically.

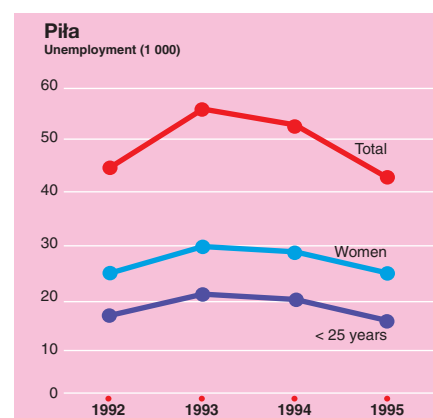
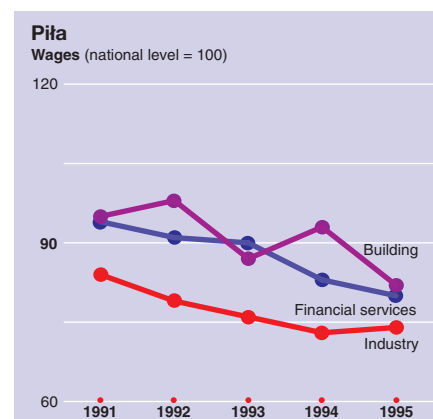
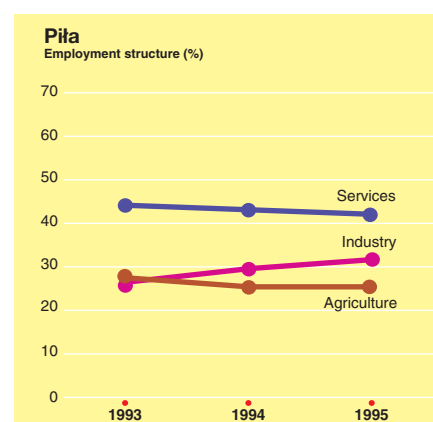
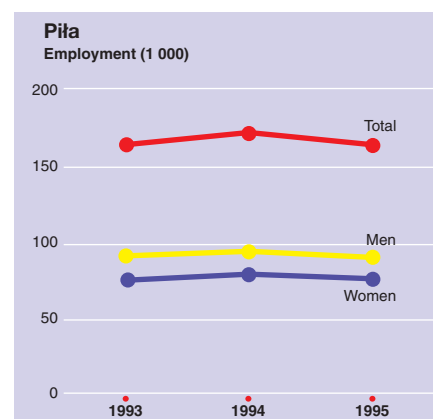
Businesses operating in the voivodship are mainly private, small and medium-sized,

trade, industrial and construction companies. Among the new companies, increasingly more businesses are established to provide services to individuals and enterprises. The number of companies with foreign capital participation (78 in 1995) remains small. The privatisation rate of non-agricultural State-owned enterprises is slower than in other regions of the country, which results from the lack of investors interested in financing the necessary technical and technological restructuring.

Structural unemployment and low industrial wages

Since 1993, when every fourth adult in the voivodship was unemployed, unemployment has been declining although the scale of the problem remains greater than in other regions of Poland — in 1995, the unemployment rate was 21 %, the ninth highest rate in the country. As well as the programmes carried out to retrain the unemployed, the dynamic development of businesses in the private sector had a strong influence in improving the situation. The private sector is the primary source of new jobs and accounted for 65 % of total employment at the end of 1995. In the structure of employment, there is a visible, steady growth in the number of people working in services (42 % of total employment in December 1995), while employment in agriculture has declined to 26 % of the total, losing 16 000 jobs between December 1991 and 1995.

The size of the structural unemployment problem results in the fact that the region has a large surplus labour force with low labour costs. The average wage and salary were more than 16 % below the national average in 1995.



PIŁA Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	19 350	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	402 867	Pork	53.6 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	73	Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	29
		Milk	8.1 %
		Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	206
		Cereals	8.0 %
		Arable land (%)	78
		Beef	6.2 %

PIOTRKÓW TRYBUNALSKI

The Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship is situated in central Poland. It covers an area of 6 266 km² and has a population of 644 000. While the origins of some settlements in this area date back to the end of the 12th century, the rise to prominence of Piotrków Trybunalski, the capital of the voivodship, occurred in the 15th and 16th centuries. The city was the principal centre of the country's political life, the place of rallies, conferences, regional councils and the seat of the Royal Tribunal (hence the name, Trybunalski).

As a result of the partitions of Poland, the portion of the voivodship located to the north-west of the River Pilica came under Prussian control, while the remaining part was incorporated into Austria. From 1919, in independent Poland, these areas were part of the Łódź voivodship. The Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship was established in 1975 and has 56 gminas. Of the 11 cities the largest, and also the administrative centre, is Piotrków Trybunalski with 81 000 inhabitants.

The population density of Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship, 103 inhabitants per km², is below the national average. After a period of significant population growth in the first decade of its existence, since 1988 a fall or only an insignificant growth (0.1 to 0.2 %) in the population has been observed each year. The natural increase underwent a significant decline — mainly due to a reducing birth rate — and actually became negative in 1995 with deaths exceeding births by 0.4 per 1 000 people compared to births exceeding deaths by 1.2 in Poland as a whole. Simultaneously, a negative balance of migration has been observed, with a net outflow double the national average.

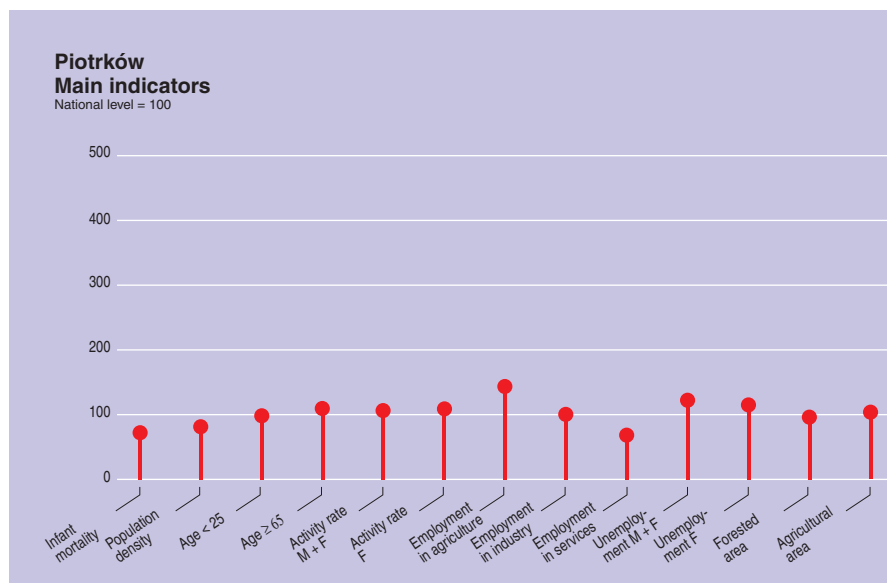
The urbanisation rate (50 %) is relatively low in comparison with the national average (62 %). More than 80 % of the urban population is concentrated in the four largest cities: Piotrków Trybunalski, Tomaszów Mazowiecki (70 000 inhabitants), Bełchatów (60 000) and Radomsko (51 000). The population of working age accounts for 57 % of the total population. The percentage of the population with no qualifications above primary level is relatively high.

Rich deposits of brown coal

The central part of the voivodship forms the Piotrkowska Highland, the north-west lies in the Sieradzka Basin and the south-eastern part stretches into the Opoczyńskie Hills, offering a variety of relief patterns. Within the voivodship there are three scenic parks, 31 nature reserves and 403 features classed as natural monu-



Piotrków Trybunalski, an old and historically significant city. (photo J. Dybkowski)



ments. Forests cover 28 % of the area, among which are some of the oldest mixed forests in central Poland, characterised by unique stands of fir trees.

The greatest significance for the economy of the voivodship are the mineral raw materials, particularly the deposits of brown coal near Bełchatów. The exploitable resources of brown coal in the Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship are the largest by far in Poland. The region of Sulejów is the most resource-rich in terms of limestone and marl deposits of industrial significance. Furthermore, the region has deposits of Cretaceous sandstone, chalcidones, boulder clays and glass-

making and moulding sands. The Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship is situated on important road and rail routes including the main railway line linking the capital with Silesia, the Warsaw-Katowice highway and a section of motorway from Tuszyn to Piotrków Trybunalski and the intersection at Bełchatów. An important railway junction is located in the voivodship at Kozłuszki.

About 75 % of the voivodship's area is covered by cellular telephone systems. Although there has been significant improvement in recent years, a less satisfactory situation exists for traditional telephones.



Which regions are similar to Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship?

Population density:
103 inhabitants per km²
Irakleio (EL)
Piacenza (I)
Lincolnshire (UK)

Age structure:
12 % over 65
Norte (P)
Utrecht (NL)

Land use:
63 % agriculture
Emilia-Romagna (I)
Chelm voivodship (PL)

Central location with tourism potential

One obvious advantage of the Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship is its central location, facilitating contacts between the area and the rest of the country, and benefiting from the well-developed road and rail networks, as well as the planned network of motorways.

There is potential for developing increased tourism based on the picturesque River

Pilica, the Sulejowski reservoir which provides opportunities to pursue water sports, and the two reservoirs in the area of Belchatów which have well-developed facilities for overnight accommodation. The area of the Belchatów mine also awaits development for tourism purposes; the slopes formed from the dumping of unwanted rock and materials have been designated for skiing.

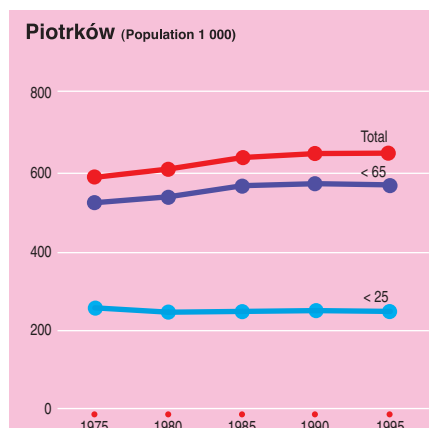
There is still much to be done in terms of business supporting activities; more trade fairs, exhibitions and economic and pro-

motional events need to be organised; and a greater number of consulting firms and financial and insurance institutions would benefit the economy.

Despite a significant improvement in recent years, the communications infrastructure (particularly in rural areas) continues to be a weak point of the voivodship.

PIOTRKÓW Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	628.4
Births	102.8
Deaths	80.4
Net permanent migration	- 7.2
Net temporary migration	0.5
Population 31. 12. 1995	644.2



PIOTRKÓW Population by age - 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	146	22.7	23.6	21.7
15-24	99	15.4	16.2	14.6
25-39	134	20.8	21.9	19.8
40-54	125	19.4	19.9	19.0
55-64	60	9.3	8.6	9.9
≥ 65	80	12.4	9.7	15.0
Total	644	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship	6.3	644	103	1.8	62.5	18.4	39	31	30
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Coal, chemicals and clothing

The Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship has both an industrial and an agricultural character. The most important economic centre is the coal basin which produces 52 % of the Polish total of brown coal and 20 % of the country's electricity. Other important outputs of the voivodship are from the chemical industry (82% of the domestic production of cellulose fibres), the textile industry (36 % of wool and wool-like fabrics) and the clothing industry (9 % of knitwear and 7 % of underwear). Added to these are the manufacture of steel castings (10 % of domestic production) and rubber products (4 %). Additionally, the manufacture of glass (sheet-glass, domestic glassware and containers) is one of the traditional branches of the voivodship's industry.

The existence of mineral raw materials for construction supports a large number of construction enterprises, most of these being private companies. The companies involved in the manufacture of household furnishings are well placed to benefit from any recovery in residential housing construction.

Among those companies with foreign capital participation, investors from Germany, Austria and the USA dominate. The greatest foreign investments have been made in companies engaged in the manufacture of computer paper, in the wholesale and retail sales of fuels, in the manufacture of sports clothing and in the manufacture of aluminium cans for drinks.

Agricultural land covers 63 % of the total area of the voivodship, and arable land accounts for 81 % of all farmland. In terms of ownership, 92 % of agricultural land is in the hands of private farms. Soils are low fertility, podzolic and brown soils. Rye and potatoes are the main crops, but only in the case of potatoes are the yields obtained higher than the national average. Pig farming predominates in animal production.

Food processing, and particularly the meat industry, has a significant share in the voivodship's industrial production, although there is an excess supply of pigs for slaughter and poultry.

Agricultural employment growing at the expense of services and industry

Of the 271 000 people employed in the Piotrków Trybunalski voivodship at the end of 1995, 39 % were employed in the agricultural sector — well above the national average 27 % and high considering the extent of industry in the region. Of those employed outside agriculture, 31 % were in the industrial sector (close to the national average) and a relatively low 30 % in services. The number and proportion of jobs in agriculture actually increased between December 1991 and 1995, while for services, and especially industry, the numbers fell.

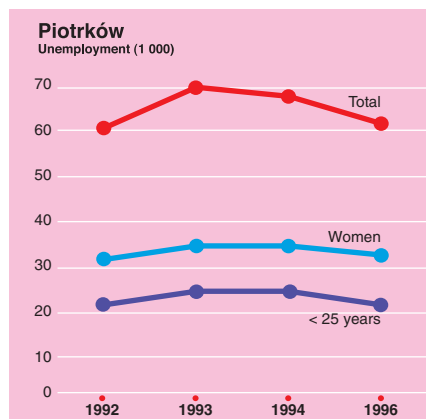
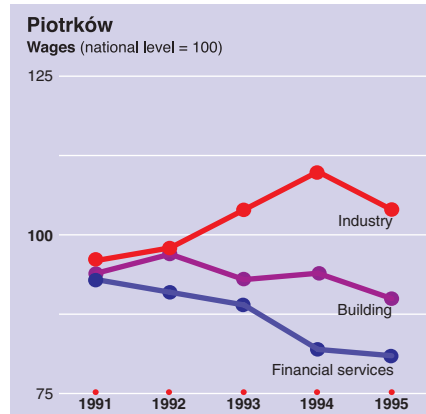
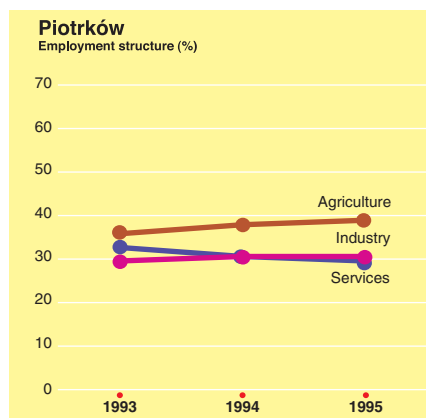
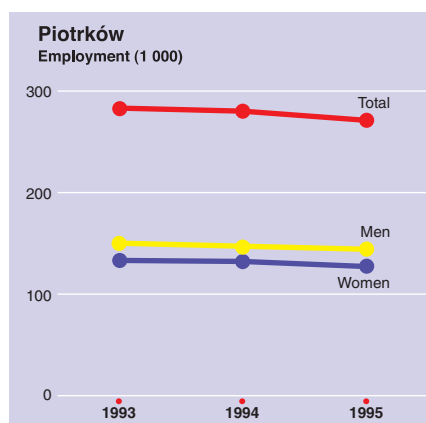
More than 61 000 people were registered in employment offices in the voivodship at the end of 1995, and as many as 42 % of these were not entitled to benefits. The most numerous group among the unemployed were people below the age of 35 (61 %). Almost 40 % of the unemployed had basic vocational education and 35 % had no more than primary education. The level of unemployment in the voivodship was quite high, amounting to 18 %, 3 % above the average rate in Poland.

The average monthly gross wage and salary in the voivodship in 1995 was similar to the national average.

There are two institutes of higher education operating in the voivodship, including a branch of Łódź University, where more than 3 000 students are enrolled.

**PIOTRKÓW
Agriculture — 1995**

Number of private farms	55 441	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	392 071		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	92	Pork	49.6 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	43	Milk	19.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	113	Beef	7.4 %
Arable land (%)	81	Vegetables	6.9 %



PŁOCK

The Płock voivodship is situated in central Poland and covers an area of 5 117 km². The voivodship had a population of 522 000 at the end of 1995, of which half were living in urban areas. The population density of 102 inhabitants per km² was lower than the national average. The voivodship is comprised of 48 administrative districts gminas. The primary administrative, cultural and economic centre is the city of Płock, the historic capital of Mazowsze. Płock contains 50 % of the voivodship's urban population (127 000 inhabitants). The other larger cities are Kutno (51 000 inhabitants), Gostynin (20 000) and Sierpc (20 000).

In terms of infrastructure facilities, cities are in the best situation, particularly Płock and Kutno. Recent years have brought significant tangible results due to the realisation of goals set out in the Programme for the Economic Development of the Płock Voivodship. The development and modernisation of thermal energy plants and the construction, development and modernisation of sewage treatment plants has occurred and significant progress has been made in the gas distribution and telephone systems. In the field of telecommunications, direct intercity and international connections have become a reality, and in rural areas, switching stations have been installed.

Important transport links

The Płock voivodship is the least forested voivodship in Poland. Forests cover just 12 % of the total area, with the largest located in the Gostynińskie lake district, stretching from Gąbin to the borders of the Włocławek voivodship. In the area around Gostynin, there is a group of 63 lakes with Lake Zdworskie, the largest, covering an area of 353 ha. The Wisła is the main river in the voivodship.

The Płock voivodship has modest deposits of mineral raw materials. There are deposits of rock salt, loam and aggregate used primarily in the local production of building materials.

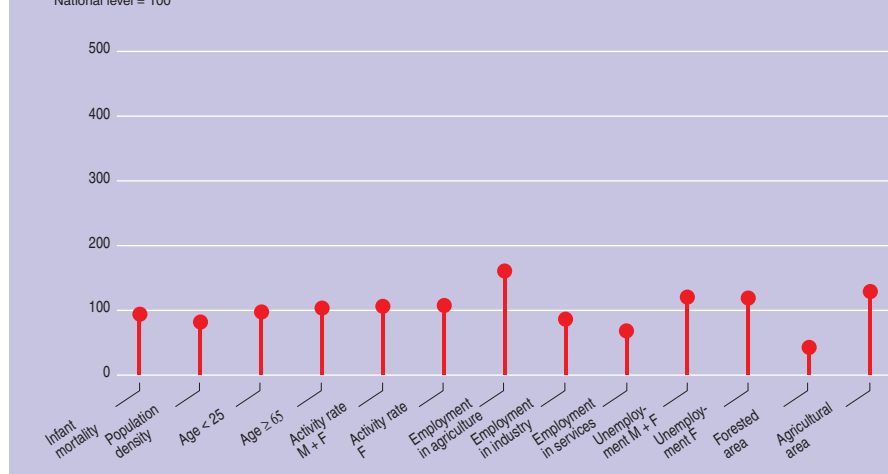
Two important international roads linking the eastern and western as well as the northern and southern areas of Poland run through the region. These are the E30 (Świecko–Warsaw–Terespol) and the E75 (Gdańsk–Łódź–Cieszyn). Moreover, the city of Kutno is a railway junction of national significance for traffic from Warsaw, Łódź, Poznań, Bydgoszcz and Płock. The



Płock, not only the centre of the petrochemical industry. (photo A. Zborski)

Płock Main indicators

National level = 100



Polish motorway construction programme calls for the building of motorways linking eastern and western Europe as well as Scandinavia and the Mediterranean countries. These motorways will also run through the voivodship.

A number of areas with significant natural beauty are located within the voivodship. The protected Gostynińsko-Włocławski Park and the Brudzeński Scenic Park represent a large part of the forested area.



Which regions are similar to Płock voivodship?

Population:
520 000 inhabitants
Girona (E)
Udine (I)
Sarthe (F)

Population density:
102 inhabitants per km²
Principado de Asturias (E)
Diepholz (D)

Employment structure:
26–27 % in industry
Lincolnshire (UK)
Schleswig-Holstein (D)
Auvergne (F)

Good conditions for agriculture but excess labour in the countryside

Among the strengths of the voivodship is its central location in the country within the sphere of influence of the Warsaw, Łódź and Bydgoszcz-Toruń agglomerations. The good soil and climatic conditions and the favourable agrarian structure provide a basis for the development of the agricultural foodstuff industry (with highly productive regions specialised in the production of fruit and vegetables) and there is a

growing interest in the development of ecological agriculture.

With areas of natural beauty (the Wisła Valley, the Gostynińskie Lake District, the Prawa Skrwa Valley, reserves and landscape parks), and historical and cultural assets, Płock is in a position to develop tourism.

However, the voivodship has an excess of labour in the countryside and a rate of unemployment above the national average. There is a lack of institutions supporting regional development financially, and an

inadequately developed food-processing industry, which causes a significant part of the raw materials of agricultural origin (mainly fruits and vegetables) to be processed elsewhere.

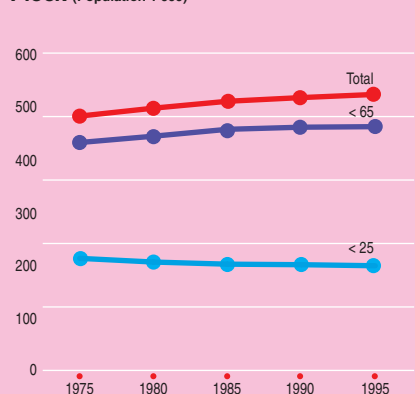
There are inadequate connections with the main domestic and international road systems and, in particular, a second bridge is needed in Płock.

The existing tourist infrastructure suffers from a lack of investment and low standards, and there are insufficient high-standard hotels in Płock.

PŁOCK Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	507.3
Births	84.0
Deaths	61.5
Net permanent migration	- 10.7
Net temporary migration	2.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	522.0

Płock (Population 1 000)



PŁOCK Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	116	22.3	23.3	21.3
15–24	82	15.7	16.5	15.0
25–39	111	21.1	22.1	20.3
40–54	103	19.8	20.0	19.6
55–64	49	9.3	9.0	9.6
≥ 65	61	11.7	9.1	14.3
Total	522	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Płock voivodship	5.1	522	102	2.5	62.5	18.2	44	26	30
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

A leading producer of vegetables and of petroleum products

Soils in the Płock voivodship are predominantly fertile, brown and podzolic soils and among the most valuable are the black and grey earth soils characteristic of the regions of Kutno and Łęczyca as well as some areas of fallow soils on the Płock uplands. Agricultural land covers 77 % of the voivodship's area, and most of the agricultural land (85 %) is put to use for arable purposes. The 43 000 private farms own 93 % of the agricultural land, resulting in an average farm size of 8 ha. The area of land under crops has not significantly changed in recent years. Arable farming is dominated by cereals (54 % of sown areas), and in particular rye (22 %) and wheat (18 %) as well as by potatoes (11 %). The Płock voivodship is a leading domestic producer of vegetables with the third largest area under cultivation (14 000 ha) after the Warsaw and Kielce voivodships. In relation to the size of the vegetable harvests (274 000 tonnes), it ranks fourth.

Highly productive regions, particularly Kutno and Łęczyca, produce harvests that far exceed the capacity of the local food-processing industry. Indeed, only 20 % of the production of fruit, vegetables and potatoes from the area of the voivodship is processed locally.

The voivodship has a long tradition and good results in pig farming. Chicken farming also has a large significance. However, downward trends have been observed in recent years in the numbers of cattle for slaughter and milk.

Industry also plays a substantial role in the voivodship's economy and accounts for almost 4 % of the total Polish industrial output by sales value. The greatest industrial potential is concentrated in the cities of Płock, Kutno, Sierpc, Żychlin and Łęczyca.

The refinery and petrochemical industries are by far the most important, and Płock

produces 74 % of the petroleum processed in Poland, 67 % of the production of fuel oils and 100 % of the ethylene and propylene. Other nationally important industrial products are combine harvesters, with the entire domestic production concentrated in Płock, and plastics, with Płock producing 30 % of the national total output.

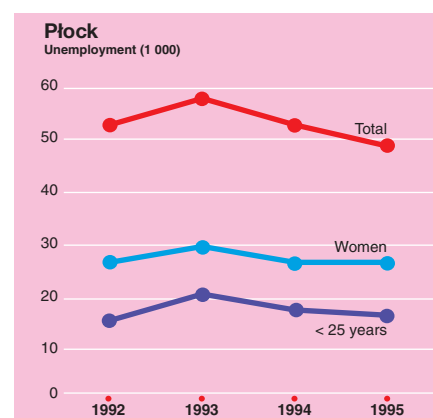
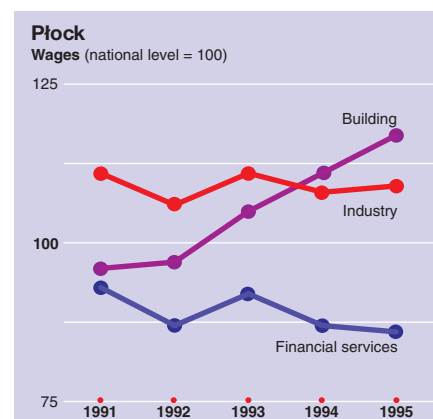
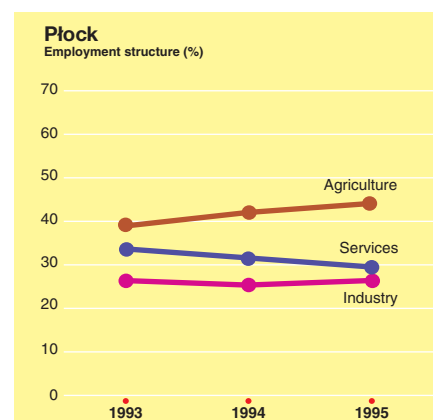
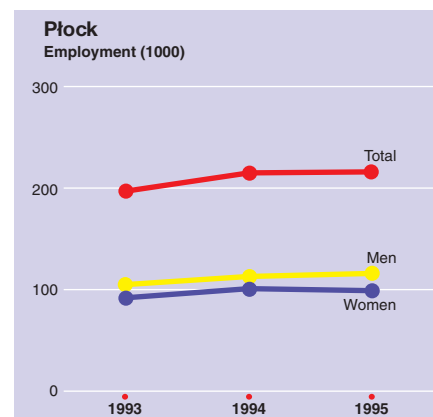
Within the voivodship, about 80 % of industrial output by sales value is accounted for by refined petroleum products and 9 % by foods and beverages.

Education adapting to the needs of the labour market

The number of people working in the Płock voivodship as 1995 came to a close amounted to 216 000, of which 6 % had higher education and 28 % had a secondary education. In the structure of employment, the agricultural sector accounted for 44 % of employees and 30 and 26 %, respectively, worked in services and the industrial sector. The majority of jobs (68 %) are in the private sector.

Growing during the initial years of the economic transformation, unemployment peaked in 1993 and since then has been declining to the December 1995 rate of 18 %. This, however was still clearly above the national average rate. Of the unemployed, 37 % had basic vocational education, and more than one third were below the age of 25. There is a large well-qualified element; 19 % of the unemployed have higher or post-secondary education.

Post-primary education is adapting to the needs of the market by ensuring a large diversity in secondary vocational schools and in higher education as well as by the development of environmental studies.



PŁOCK Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	42 911	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	394 687	Pork	27.6 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	93	Vegetables	14.3 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	45	Milk	13.1 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	123	Industrial crops	8.8 %
Arable land (%)	85		

POZNAŃ

Poznań voivodship is part of the historical region of Wielkopolska, where the process of creating the Polish state began in the early part of the 9th century. At the end of the 10th century, Poznań, now the capital of the voivodship and one of Poland's largest cities, was the earliest centre of authority in the region after Gniezno, originally part of a Principality and later of a Kingdom.

Situated in west-central Poland, the voivodship covers 2.6 % of the country's area (8 151 km²) and had a population of 1 354 000 at the end of 1995, i.e., 3.5 % of Poland's total. Its population density was 166 inhabitants per km², significantly more than the national average. Poznań is one of the most urbanised voivodships; more than 70% of the population live in its 34 cities.

Poznań, the fifth largest city in Poland with more than 500 000 inhabitants, serves as a regional centre of education and culture as well as an important industrial and trade centre. The second largest city in the voivodship is Gniezno, with a population of just over 70 000. The five next-largest cities, all with 20–30 000 people, are Śrem, Września, Swarzędz, Środa Wielkopolska and Luboń. Swarzędz and Luboń, directly neighbouring Poznań, are linked into the municipal bus system and create a single agglomeration with a total of 630 000 inhabitants.

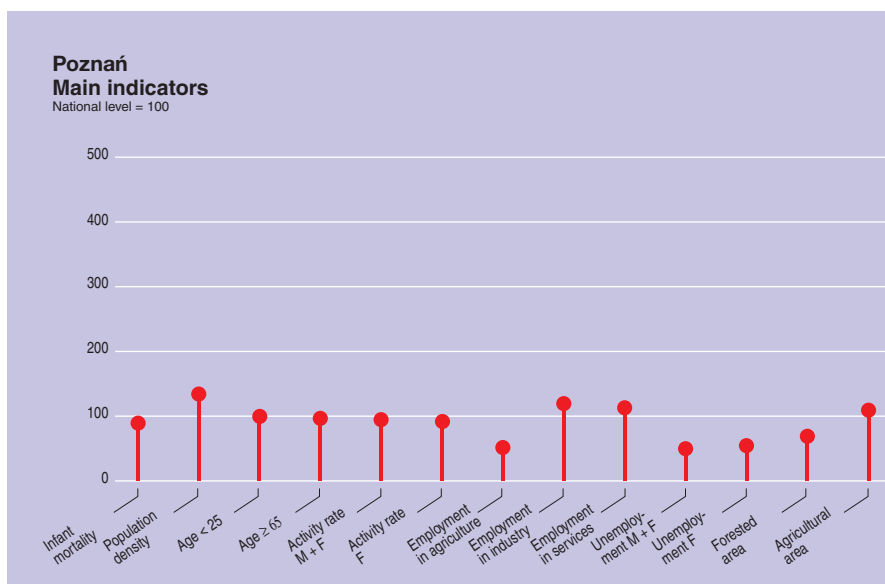
Between the end of 1990 and 1995, the population grew by some 20 000 (1.5 %), of which the larger part resulted from a net inward migration. Poznań voivodship has for some time been characterised by a positive migration balance and the areas receiving the influx are primarily the cities. However, since the end of the 1980s, the annual population increase has been shrinking, primarily due to the declining number of births. This is particularly noticeable in the cities where deaths exceeded births in 1994 and 1995. As a result, in line with many regions of the country, the population is ageing, with more people above the age of 65 and fewer children and young people.

Good connections to European capitals

The voivodship is located in the central Warta river basin in a lowland area, with many hills and lakes of post-glacial origin. It is among the areas of Poland with the lowest annual rainfall. Winter is shorter and summer lasts longer than in other regions of the country and therefore it has a long growing season lasting an average of 220



An important centre of education, industry and commerce. The Poznań International Fairs stage more than 20 events each year. (photo A. Florkowski)



days. During the period 1991–1995, the average annual temperature was 8.8° C.

Although soils in the area are not the best in the country, Poznań voivodship is a leading agricultural producer. Yields of cereals, sugar beet, rape and vegetables are higher here than the national average. It is also the most important pig farming

region in the country. In terms of pig numbers per 100 hectares of agricultural land, the Poznań voivodship exceeds the national average 2.5 times and is second only to the neighbouring Leszno voivodship. Some 67 % of the agricultural land belongs to private farmers and the average private farm is 12 hectares — well above the national average.



Which regions are similar to Poznań voivodship?

Area:
8 100–8 200 km²
Marne (F)
Alto Trás-os-Montes (P)

Age structure:
38,5–39,5 % under 25
Northern Ireland (UK)
Harghita (RO)

Employment structure:
49 % in services
Kriti (EL)
Norte (P)
Ipeiros (EL)

Poznań is located half way between Berlin and Warsaw, at the cross-roads of important international transport routes. The E-30 (Paris–Moscow) and E-261 (Prague to the Baltic Sea) roads both run through the city. In 1996, the decision was made to route the A2 European motorway through the voivodship. The railway network is also well-developed; the journey from Poznań to Berlin on a ‘Euro-City’ train takes just three hours. Ławica airport operates in the city, with regular connections to five cities in Western Europe and periodic charter flights. The airport’s technical infrastructure (the runway and control tower equipment) is now able to service the most modern planes.

Strong economy, but some problems

The primary strong points of the voivodship are its well-developed and wide industrial base, with an appropriate business infrastructure, and a strong agricultural sector. The agricultural products produced in the voivodship provide the raw materials for the modern food processing industry. The high qualifications and traditional thrift of the inhabitants as well as the proven ability to adapt to changing conditions are further assets.

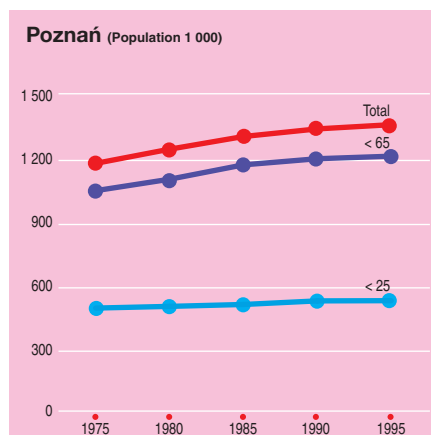
Poznań is conveniently located at the

crossroads of international transport routes, and is a cultural centre of national significance. There are nine artistic institutions in the city, including an opera and four drama theatres. The Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competitions are held in Poznań. The city boasts 33 museums.

The most important problems confronting the voivodship are a housing shortage, the poor quality of local roads combined with the growing number of vehicles, and the unsatisfactory level of public infrastructure related to protecting the natural environment.

POZNAŃ Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 289.1
Births	203.7
Deaths	156.7
Net permanent migration	25.1
Net temporary migration	– 7.4
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 353.7



POZNAŃ Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	298	22.0	23.5	20.6
15–24	224	16.5	17.4	15.7
25–39	286	21.1	21.8	20.6
40–54	277	20.5	20.6	20.4
55–64	120	8.8	8.3	9.3
≥ 65	149	11.0	8.5	13.3
Total	1 354	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000 km ²	1 000			Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Poznań voivodship	8.2	1 354	166	4.3	55.4	7.7	14	37	49
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

A locomotive of economic transformation

The economy of the Poznań voivodship is highly diversified. While industry and the efficient agricultural sector dominate, construction, trade and financial services also play leading roles. The more than 20 international trade fairs and exhibitions held each year bring many development initiatives to the voivodship's economy. Large markets for agricultural produce have also been functioning in the region for several years. Economic development is supported by a network of financial institutions with a scope that extends beyond the voivodship.

The transformation of the economic system after 1990 found a friendly climate in the Poznań voivodship. Five years on, the private sector was providing almost 65 % of the total industrial output by sales revenue and 86 % of the construction-assembly activity.

Poznań is one of a group of regions described as the 'locomotives of economic transformation' in the country. There is a high number (1 530) of companies with foreign capital participation. The production potential of industry is concentrated primarily in Poznań and in several other urban centres in the voivodship, namely Gniezno, Września, Śrem, Swarzędz, Środa Wlkp. and Nowy Tomysł.

Developed on the basis of the local agricultural base, the food-processing industry accounts for one third of the voivodship's industrial output by sales value and has been particularly attractive to foreign investors. On the domestic and international markets, Poznań-based producers are leaders in the manufacture of naval ship engines, cast iron, passenger vehicles and buses, car batteries, water meters, pharmaceutical products, glass containers, furniture, spirits, beer, chocolate products and food concentrates.

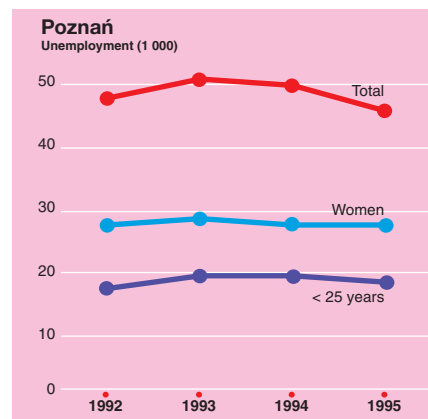
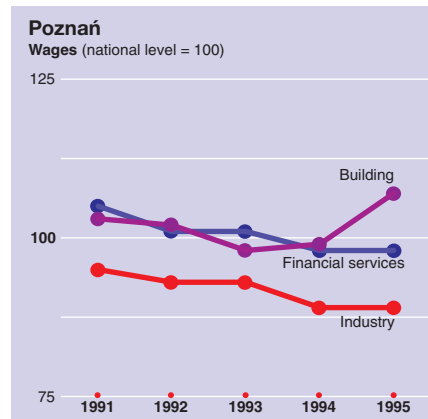
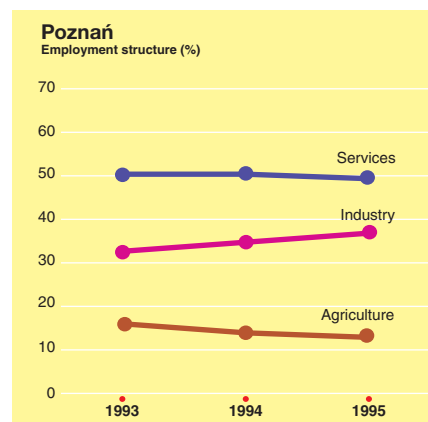
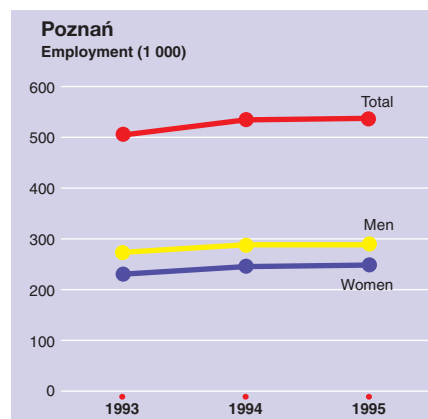
In Poznań, there are over a dozen centres of higher education, many institutions of the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as

numerous research centres and institutes working mainly in the field of agriculture and food technologies as well as chemicals and metal-working.

One of the lowest unemployment rates in Poland

The process of structural transformation, which began at the end of the 1980s, has had fewer negative consequences in the Poznań voivodship than in other regions of Poland due to its well-balanced economic structure. The unemployment rate at the end of 1995 stood at 8 % — among the lowest in the country. The incidence of unemployment is fairly equally distributed between the cities and the rural areas. However, in the rural areas, the rate of unemployment of members of private-farming households is many times lower than for the rest of the rural population. Unemployment in cities is lowest in Poznań, highest in Gniezno and Szamotuły. The private sector employs more than one third of all people working in the voivodship.

While the agricultural sector lost over a quarter of its jobs during the economic restructuring process — falling from a total of 104 000 in December 1991 to 78 000 at the end of 1995, this was offset to some degree by strong growth in employment in the services sector from 245 000 to 262 000 jobs in the same period. Consequently, as a proportion of total employment, the agricultural sector fell from 19 % to 14 %. The numbers employed in industry fell initially, but by the end of 1995 had regained their end of 1991 levels.



POZNAŃ Agriculture — 1995

Number of private farms	29 815	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	538 530		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	67	Pork	47.1 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	37	Industrial crops	11.2 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	268	Cereals	8.5 %
Arable land (%)	87	Milk	6.8 %

PRZEMYŚL

The Przemyśl voivodship is situated in south-eastern Poland, on the border with Ukraine. This area is characterised by a large diversity in its physical geography: the northern part of the voivodship is situated in the Sandomierska Valley, the north-eastern part is in the Roztocze, the southern area of the voivodship is situated in Pogórze Środkowobeskidzkie, and a small area in the south-east is within the eastern Podkarpacie.

The Przemyśl voivodship covers an area of 4 437 km² (1.4 % of the country's area), is divided into 41 administrative districts (gminas) and had a population at the end of 1995 of 415 000. The population density, at 93 inhabitants per km², is well below the national average.

The rate of population increase in the first half of the 1990s has been somewhat higher than the national average. However, the rate is systematically declining as a result of the decreasing birth rate (from 17.2 per 1 000 in 1990 to 13.0 per 1 000 in 1995), although this is still high in Polish terms. The decline in birth rate has been particularly evident in rural areas.

Most of the voivodship's population live in rural areas, just 39 % live in the 10 cities. More than two thirds of the urban population are concentrated in the two largest cities: Przemyśl (69 000 inhabitants) and Jarosław (42 000).

Every year in the voivodship, a music festival of oratorios and cantatas is organised at the Basilica of the Archdiocese and the Kazimierzowski Castle. The voivodship has 172 libraries, six museums and seven cinemas.

One in four farms has less than 2 ha

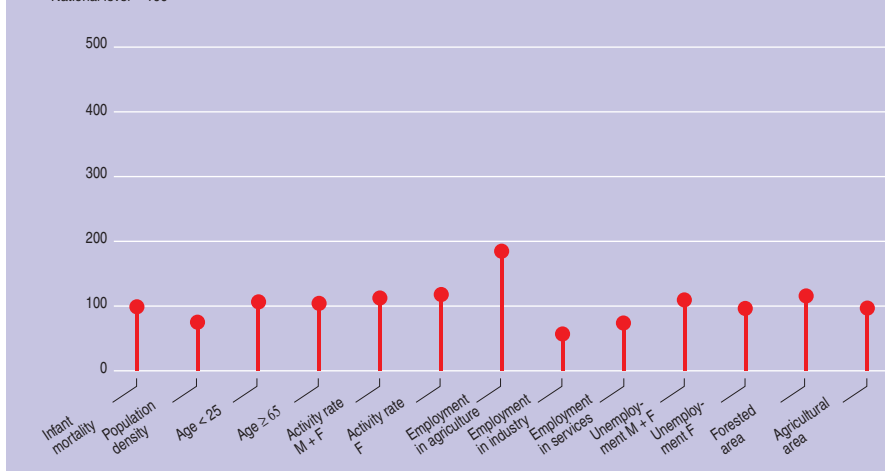
A large proportion — 33 % of the total area — of the Przemyśl voivodship is covered by mixed forests totalling 145 000 ha in area. The natural conditions for the development of agriculture are not generally favourable, but are quite varied in terms of the type of soil and contour of the land. In the north, low-fertility podzolic soils predominate, in the centre black-soil loesses are found and the south is characterised by poor mountain soils. The average growing period is relatively long at 210 to 220 days. As in the entire area of south-east Poland, small farms of less than 5 ha dominate, accounting for 77 % of the total. Many farms are very small indeed; 26 % have less than 2 ha of agricultural land.



Many historic buildings from the 15th to 17th centuries have been preserved in the voivodship, such as the Town Hall in Jarosław. (photo W. Zieliński)

Przemyśl Main indicators

National level = 100



As a result of geological, geophysical and drilling research, deposits of important mineral resources, and in particular natural gas, petroleum, peat, sulphur, diatomite, gravel, sand, limestone, marl and alabaster and mineral waters have been located and documented. These have yet to be fully exploited as in many cases, they are located in areas under legal protection. The voivodship boasts 10 nature reserves with a total area of 312 ha, three scenic parks with a total area of 86 000 ha, and 411 features classed as natural monuments.

Road transport can be difficult due to the heavy tourist traffic and foreign freight

transport on the E4 highway, which is not fully capable of bearing such a large volume of traffic. The surfaces of many of the roads in the voivodship are in need of improvement. The length of hard-surfaced public roads amounts to 67 km per 100 km², below the national average of 76 km but this is to be expected in a predominantly rural area. The planned construction of a motorway should significantly facilitate the movement of traffic. The 298 km railway network in the voivodship includes an important railway junction at Przeworsk as well as a large trans-shipping station at Żurawica-Medyka.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Przemysł voivodship?

Population density:
93–94 inhabitants per km²
Noord-Friesland (NL)
Morbihan (F)
Kentriki Makedonia (EL)

Age structure:
11.7 % over 65
Západné Slovensko (SK)
Noord-Brabant (NL)

Land use:
33 % forest
Méditerranée (F)
Centre-Est (F)
Ostösterreich (A)

Inefficient agriculture and rural unemployment

The region is in a good position to benefit from the development of tourism. The diversity of the landscape, the large stands of forest and the historic architectural monuments could, with appropriate promotion, guarantee the drawing of tourists.

The Przemysł voivodship, with its border location and its transport network, could also benefit from the creation of duty-free

zones. The existing and planned international transport routes make possible the development of related services such as warehouses, motels and other technical and social facilities.

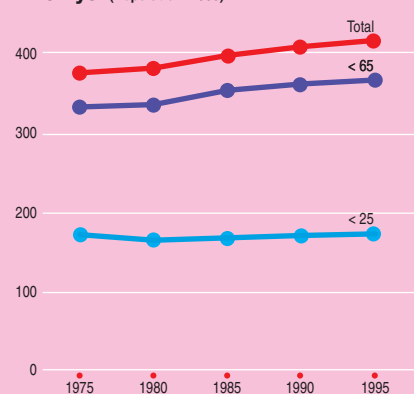
Problems in the Przemysł voivodship include the high dependence on small-scale farming, and as a result, the overly-large share of people working in agriculture. The natural conditions for agriculture are not especially favourable.

The road network needs significant investment to improve the often poor surfaces. The high level of unemployment among young people, particularly those with a vocational education, is also a major concern.

PRZEMYŚL Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	392.5
Births	77.3
Deaths	48.9
Net permanent migration	- 10.4
Net temporary migration	4.0
Population 31. 12. 1995	414.6

Przemysł (Population 1 000)



PRZEMYŚL Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	105	25.3	26.4	24.3
15–24	66	15.9	16.7	15.2
25–39	86	20.6	21.9	19.4
40–54	70	17.0	17.2	16.8
55–64	38	9.2	8.6	9.8
≥ 65	49	11.9	9.2	14.4
Total	414	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population			Activity %	Unemploy- ment %	Employment		
		1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services
		1995	1995	1986–95			Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Przemysł voivodship	4.4	414	93	4.7	66.1	16.4	50	18	32
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

One of the least industrialised areas of Poland

The Przemysł voivodship is one of the least-industrialised areas of Poland. However, the area's industry is quite varied. The local agricultural produce is at the base of the development of the food-processing industry which, in terms of the value of sales, represents 32 % of the voivodship's industrial production. Most important in this branch are the meat, cereals, milk and sugar-processing industries. Industrial plants in the Przemysł voivodship manufacture, among other things, glass products, fibreboard, timber, industrial automation products and machinery and equipment for the food processing industry. On a national scale, the voivodship supplies 25 % of the production of gas and 14 % of the domestic production of fibreboard.

The largest industrial plants have been transformed from State-owned enterprises into joint stock companies in recent years, a process often accompanied by the laying-off of workers on a large scale. Simultaneously, the number of small and medium-sized enterprises has increased, with mostly, medium-sized companies being established in the food-processing and timber industries. Due to the opportunities offered by the proximity of Ukraine, the number of small and medium-sized companies in the trade sector are increasing.

Agricultural land covers 58 % of the voivodship. The cultivation of cereals covers more than half of the arable area (55 %) and wheat is by far the most important cereal accounting for 32 % of the area alone. Large acreages are also devoted to potatoes (13 %) and to fodder plants and sugar beet. The harvests obtained are similar to the national averages as is the number of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land. The numbers of pigs in the voivodship are relatively low. While the numbers of sheep in Poland in 1995 were only 22 % of the 1991 total, the reduction in numbers in Przemysł has been even more severe falling from 36 500 to just 3 900.

PRZEMŚYL Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	42 249	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	256 916		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	81	Pork	29.9 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	41	Milk	15.5 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	69	Industrial crops	11.7 %
Arable land (%)	72	Beef	9.0 %

Strong growth in agricultural employment

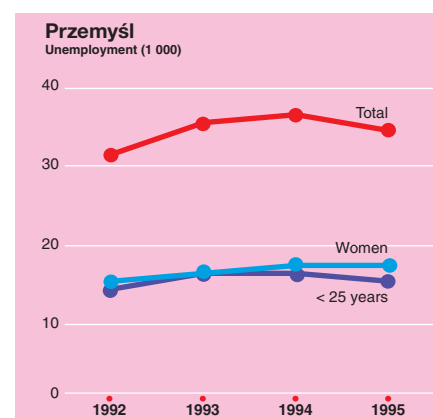
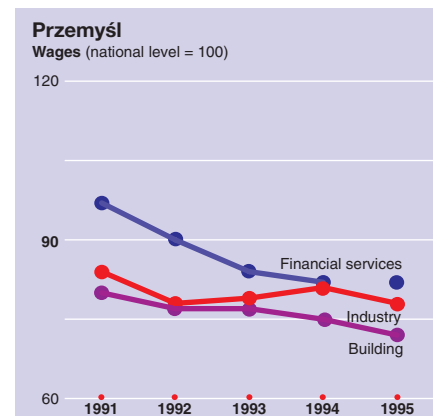
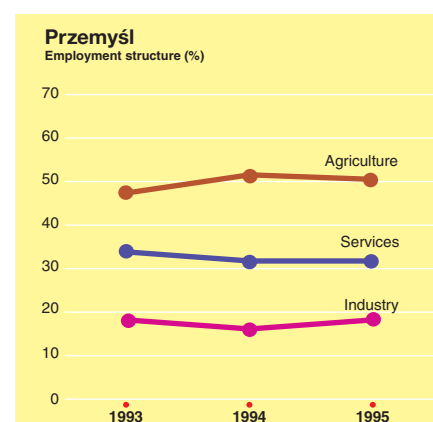
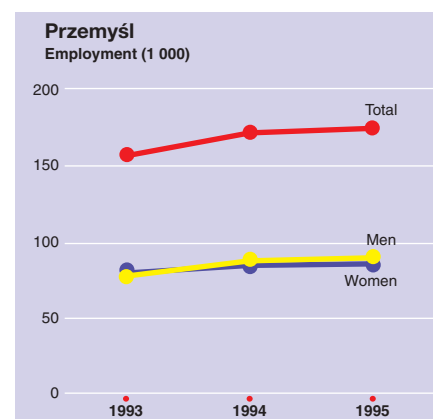
In the period of economic changes in the 1990s the number of people working in industry declined, although there was some recovery from 1994 onwards and at the end of 1995, 31 000 people were employed in the sector which represented 18 % of the total number of people working the voivodship's economy. When compared to the Polish average of over 30 %, this shows Przemysł to have a low level of industrialisation.

Half of the people working in the voivodship are engaged in agriculture, mostly in the private sector; more than 80 % of the agricultural land belongs to the 42 000 private farms. In stark contrast to the national picture, where there were 7% fewer jobs in agriculture at the end of 1995 than in 1991, the Przemysł voivodship saw a growth of employment in agriculture of over 9 % in the same period.

At the end of 1995, with 174 000 people employed (42 % of the total population), and 34 000 registered as unemployed, the economic activity rate of the voivodship's population was well above the Polish average; 66 % compared to the national 58 %. For women, the difference was even more extreme with Przemysł's rate of 62 % far exceeding the national 52 %.

The unemployment rate at the end of 1995 stood at 16 % – higher than the national average. People with the greatest problem finding work were those with only basic vocational education (46 % of total unemployed) and with secondary vocational education (22 %). Youth unemployment is a particular problem. The December 1995 proportion of 43 % of all the unemployed being below the age of 25 was much worse than the average Polish proportion of 34 %.

About 27 000 pupils were enrolled in the nine general secondary and 85 technical and vocational schools in 1995. In addition, almost 2 000 students attend the 17 post-secondary schools.



RADOM

The Radom voivodship is situated in central Poland, directly south of Warsaw and bordering a total of seven voivodships. The voivodship lies mostly in the southern Mazowiecka Highlands, including the Radomska Plain, the Rawska Uplands and the Białobrzaska Valley. The River Wisła forms the border in the north east with the Siedlce voivodship.

The voivodship of Radom covers an area of 7 294 km² (2.3 % of the country's area) and had a population of 764 000 in December 1995. The population density of 105 inhabitants per km² is lower than the national average.

The voivodship has 63 administrative districts (gminas). The urban network is comprised of 16 cities with the largest of them being the capital of the region, Radom (233 000 inhabitants), accounting for 64 % of the voivodship's total urban population. The next largest cities are Pionki (22 000), Kozenice (22 000), Grójec (15 000), Szydłowiec (13 000) and Warka (11 000).

The population continues to grow, with a natural increase that exceeds the level of net migration out of the region, although the rate of natural increase is declining as the birth rate falls more quickly than the mortality rate. The voivodship has a younger population than the Polish average with a higher proportion (40 % in 1995) of people under 25. The birth rate has fallen from 15.5 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1991 to 12.4 in 1995, but this continues to be above the national average (11.2 in 1995).

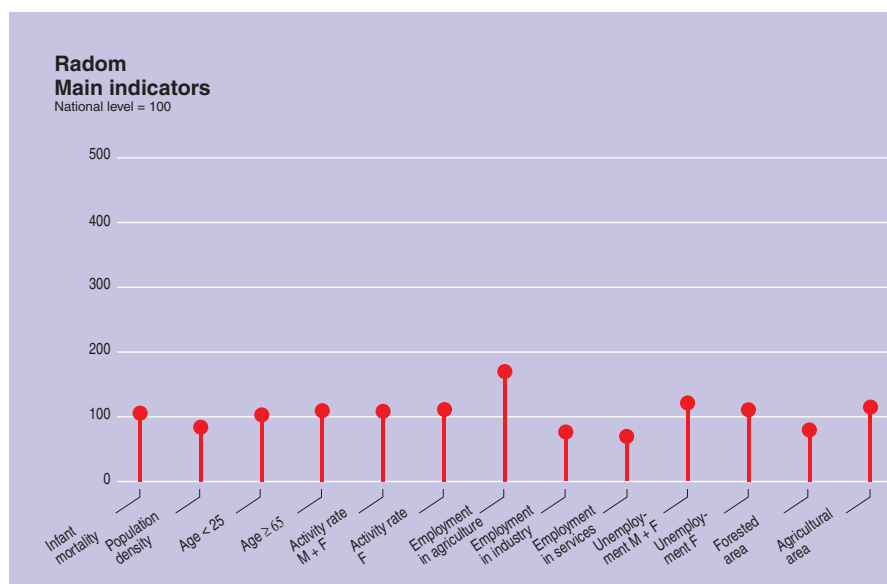
Within the voivodship, there are 11 museums, notably the K. Pułaski Museum in Warka, and the Centre of Polish Sculpture is located in Orońsko. There are nine hospitals and one psychiatric hospital.

Almost all agricultural land owned by private farms

The voivodship's landscape is characterised by vast rolling sandy-clay soiled areas, crossed by shallow river valleys and broken up by banks of dunes and forests. There are few natural lakes in the voivodship other than small ox-bow lakes and marsh forest ring lakes. There are numerous fish ponds in the broad river valleys of the Radomska Plain. There are 10 reservoirs which are also used for recreational purposes.



Orchards in the northern part of the voivodship provide almost 40 % of the country's production of apples. (photo T. Schmid)



Forests, which cover over 22 % of the total area, are the voivodship's primary natural resource. The Iłżecka and Świętokrzyska forests stretch out across the southern and south-western areas of the voivodship and there are the remains of the old Kozenicka forest and the primeval Radomska, Stroniecka and Rozwadowska forests.

Agricultural land accounts for 69 % of the total area of the Radom voivodship, with podzolic and brown soils dominating. Almost all the agricultural land (96 %) is owned by the 76 000 private farms. Most farms are small; 71 % have 7 ha or less.



Which regions are similar to Radom voivodship?

Population:
765 000 inhabitants
Vicenza (I)
Lothian (UK)

Population density:
105 inhabitants per km²
Abruzzo-Molise (I)
Sangerhausen (D)

Age structure:
12 % over 65
Komárom-Esztergom (HU)
Campania (I)
Norte (P)

Heavy dependence on agriculture

The voivodship has many assets, not least its central location, not far from Warsaw, Łódź and Lublin. The relatively inexpensive labour force, together with the rapid development of higher education, and coupled with the technical and communications infrastructure established through local government investments, is creating a climate attractive to investors. The high levels of production of fruits and vegetables are a

special advantage of this voivodship and offer potential to the food-processing industry.

In order to protect the natural assets of the lower Wisła and Pilica river valley areas and the Kozienska Forest, these have been defined as 'strategic areas of environmental protection'.

The main weak points of the voivodship include the very large share of employment in agriculture and hence the dependence of the local economy on agriculture. The

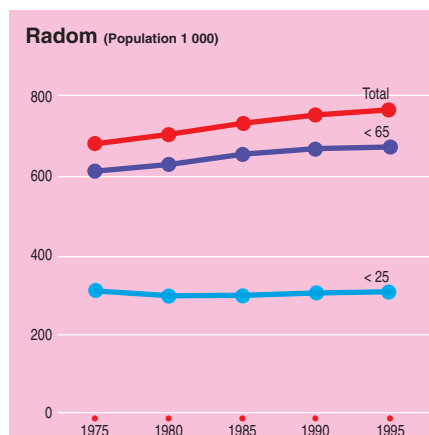
tackling of the high unemployment levels is hindered by the relatively slow influx of job-creating capital and the unfavourable financial situation of many enterprises.

A major producer of fruit and vegetables

Radom's economy is centred on agriculture. Orchards cover 44 000 hectares — the largest area of any voivodship — and make up 9 % of agricultural land, thus exceeding

RADOM Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	724.6
Births	131.2
Deaths	87.1
Net permanent migration	- 14.9
Net temporary migration	10.1
Population 31. 12. 1995	763.8



RADOM Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	183	24.0	25.0	22.9
15-24	122	16.0	16.8	15.3
25-39	157	20.5	21.5	19.5
40-54	140	18.3	18.6	17.9
55-64	68	8.9	8.3	9.6
≥ 65	94	12.3	9.8	14.8
Total	764	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Radom voivodship	7.3	764	105	4,7	63,4	18,2	46	24	30
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3,4	57,9	14,9	27	30	43

POLAND

the national average sixfold. Located on the most fertile soils in the area of Grójec and Warka in the northern part of the voivodship, these orchards are mostly in private hands. Radom provides 27 % of Polish production of fruit and as much as 40 % of the country's apples.

Radom voivodship is also one of the country's largest producers of vegetables, taking 8th place in terms of the area sown, and 9th place in terms of yields.

Elsewhere in the voivodship, agriculture is dominated by cereals (59 % of the area sown). Rye, the most important, is grown on 31 % of arable land. Although potatoes are also widely planted (16 % of crop area), poor soils mean significantly lower yields than the national average.

Dairy farming plays an important role but the numbers of pigs and the raising of animals for slaughter are less important in Radom voivodship than in the rest of the country.

There is considerable industrial production in the voivodship. In addition to having the only domestic producer of sewing machines, Radom voivodship manufactures 40 % of Polish-built telephones, 24 % of gas stoves with ovens, 13 % of cigarettes, 7 % of footwear, 6 % of soft leather and 6 % of cement. The Kozienice power plant generates 6 % of the domestic production of energy.

The single most important industry to the voivodship in output sales terms is the manufacture of tobacco products (19 % of product sales), closely followed by the manufacture of foods and beverages (18 %), the manufacture of metal, non-metallic and chemical products (6 % each), and the leather and footwear industry (5 %).

Lost eastern sales markets cause unemployment

There were 316 000 people working in the Radom voivodship at the end of 1995, the

vast majority (72 %) in the private sector. However, more than 60 % of the workers in the private sector are private farmers and family members assisting them.

Radom voivodship's employment structure reflects the agricultural and industrial character of this region. Employment is highest in the agricultural sector with 46 % of the total at the end of 1995, significantly exceeding the national average of 27%. Employment in the services and industrial sectors of the voivodship, amounting to 30 % and 24 % respectively, was below the national average. While the number of jobs in industry fell considerably between the end of 1991 and 1995, the picture in agriculture was rather different, with 9 000 more people employed at the end of the period.

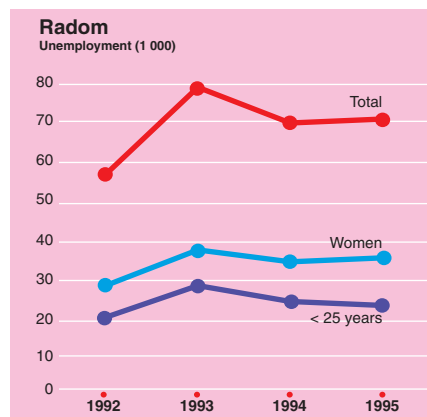
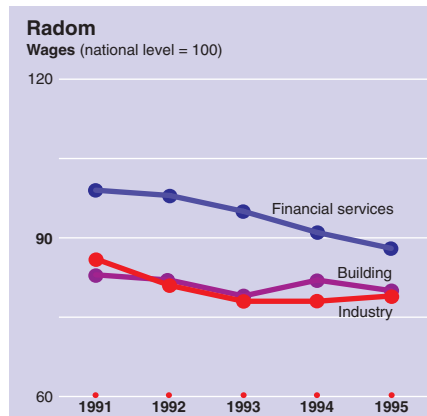
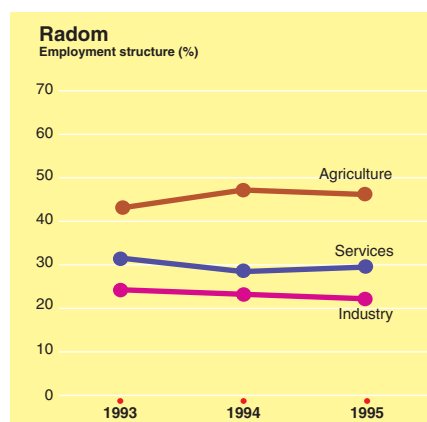
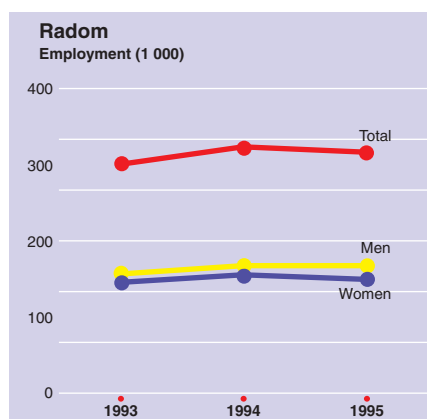
The average monthly gross wage and salary in the voivodship in 1995 was 15 % lower than the national average. Agricultural wages were over 95 % of the national average for the sector but in industry and construction the wage levels did not even reach 80 % of the Polish averages.

The Radom voivodship had 70 000 registered unemployed at the end of 1995, an unemployment rate 3 percentage points higher than the national average. More than 37 % of the unemployed had been without work for more than a year, and every third unemployed person was below the age of 25 — both figures similar to the national average. This bleak unemployment situation is the result of the collapse of several industrial plants which were important for the local labour market, but which lost their eastern sales markets. The greatest unemployment levels are experienced in Pionki and Szydłowiec. Since 1994, a fall in unemployment has been observed in the voivodship, albeit at a slower rate than nationally.

There are 3 schools of higher education in the voivodship with a total of 11 000 students: the Colleges of Engineering, Environmental Protection and Finance and Banking, respectively.

RADOM Agriculture — 1995

Number of private farms	75 708	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	503 941		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	96	Fruit	55.2 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	37	Vegetables	11.8 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	73	Pork	11.5 %
Arable land (%)	75	Milk	9.7 %



RZESZÓW

The Rzeszów voivodship is situated in south-eastern Poland. It covers an area of 4 397 km², is divided into 47 administrative districts (gminas) and had a total population of 746 000 in December 1995. The average population density is much higher than the national average and at 170 inhabitants per km² in 1995 was the ninth highest of the 49 voivodships. There are 13 cities in which 42 % of the total population live. The two largest cities, Rzeszów (160 000 inhabitants) and Mielec (64 000) together account for 72 % of the voivodship's urban population.

The higher natural increase in the population as well as the positive balance of migration have caused the population increase in the Rzeszów voivodship to be significantly higher in the period 1991 to 1995 than the national average of 1.1%. Indeed, with an increase of 3.1 %, Rzeszów ranked fourth among the voivodships. The population of the voivodship is relatively young, with one third of the total population below the age of 20. However, just as in the country at large, there is a gradual ageing of the population as the rate of natural increase of the population is declining. In 1990 there were 1.8 births for every death, but by 1995 this had fallen to 1.4.

One of the main cultural institutions in the voivodship is the A. Malawski State Philharmonic Orchestra in Rzeszów. There are also 18 cinemas and 253 libraries in the voivodship. Cultural events with an international character include the Chamber Music Festival in Łańcut in which Polish and foreign artists participate. Another important event is the World Festival of Polish-Emigrant Folk Dancing Groups, which takes place in Rzeszów every three years. Rzeszów also has a radio and television centre which serves the region.

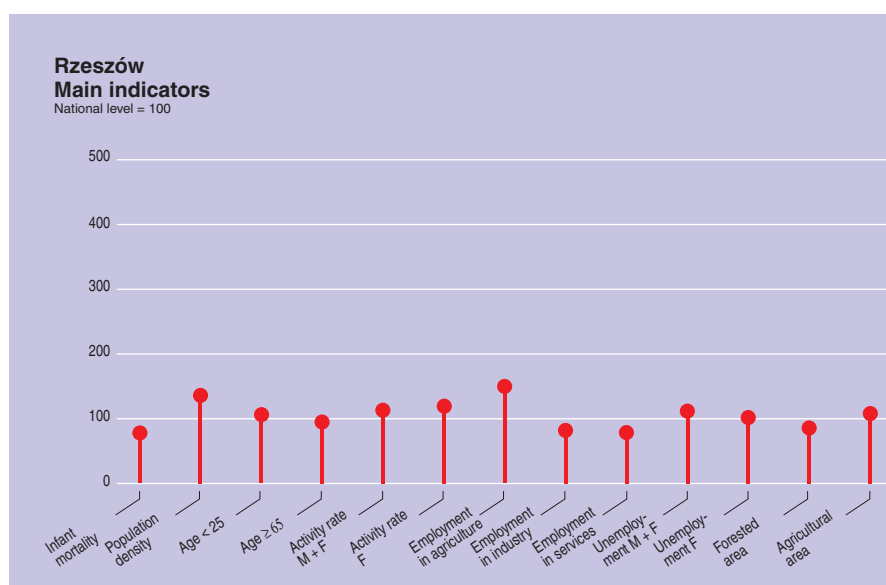
Industrial north, agricultural south

The northern part of the voivodship, which has a lowland character, includes part of the Sandomierska Valley with its well-developed agriculture. In contrast, the region around the cities of Mielec, Leżajsk and Nowa Sarzyna has a well-developed industrial base.

The centre of the voivodship lies in the Karpacki Depression and is crossed by the east-west trunk railway line. The city of Rzeszów is situated in this area and is the centre of administration, higher education, culture and health services, the influence



Food-processing plants play an important role within a broadly developed industrial base. (photo J. Ambrozowicz)



of which extends beyond the voivodship. The southern part is located on the Karpackie Plateau (Strzyżowsko-Dynowskie) which reaches up to about 500 m above sea level. Agriculture dominates in this part of the voivodship.

The voivodship possesses large deposits of natural gas as well as raw materials for the construction and road-building industries such as limestone, gypsum, diatomite, loams and natural aggregates.

Important road and rail routes pass through the voivodship linking the north of

the country with the south and the eastern part with the west. The density of hard-surfaced roads, at 96 km/100 km², significantly exceeds the 76km national average. The close proximity of the borders with Ukraine and Slovakia have an important influence on the transport and communication systems. There are two airports in the voivodship, one in Jesionka, 15 km from Rzeszów, which possesses the necessary technical facilities for passenger traffic, and a second in Mielec.



Which regions are similar to Rzeszów voivodship?

Population density:
169 inhabitants per km²
Piemont (I)
Bayern (D)

Age structure:
10,5 % over 65
Sibiu (RO)
Canarias (E)

Land use:
25 % forest
Vorarlberg (A)
Castilla y León (E)
Somogy (HU)

Employment hopes from Special Economic Zone

With a good transport network and the close proximity of the borders with Slovakia and Ukraine there is a strong impetus for the economic development of the region. Soil and climate conditions favour the development of agriculture, and particularly plant and horticultural production, and these are the basis for the developing food-processing industry, making it one of the most important in the region.

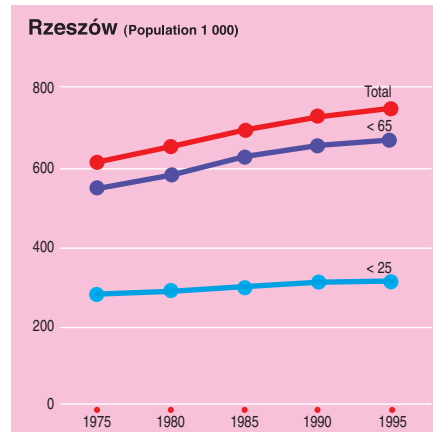
A Special Economic Zone in Mielec came into operation in 1995. It is hoped that this venture will have a large impact on bringing down unemployment by directly creating 7 000 new jobs and revitalising the economic activity of the region.

Negative aspects of the voivodship are the continuing high unemployment, the low mobility of the population and the structure of professional training which is not well-adapted to current needs. Furthermore, there is the unfavourable demographic structure of the rural popula-

tion, characterised by a high number of owners of small-scale farms who are of retirement age and a high proportion of part-time farmers.

Important problems remain to be solved in the area of environmental protection: improving the quality of water supplied to the population, proper waste management and the reduction of air pollution.

RZESZÓW Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)	
Population 31. 12. 1984	682.6
Births	132.5
Deaths	73.6
Net permanent migration	- 0.2
Net temporary migration	4.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	746.3



RZESZÓW Population by age – 1995				
	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	186	24.9	26.1	23.8
15-24	124	16.6	17.1	16.1
25-39	159	21.3	22.3	20.4
40-54	128	17.2	17.3	17.1
55-64	68	9.1	8.6	9.6
≥ 65	81	10.8	8.5	13.0
Total	746	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Main indicators								
	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Rzeszów voivodship	4.4	746	170	8.0	66.7	16.9	41	25	34
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Very small-scale farming

Industry, concentrated mainly in Rzeszów and Mielec, dominates the voivodship's economy. The urban centres of Leżajsk, Nowa Sarzyna, Łańcut, Sędziszów Małopolski, Ropczyce, Kolbuszowa and Strzyżów also have significant industrial capacity. Industry is quite varied, the main branches being food processing (28% of the voivodship's industrial output by sales value), the manufacture of machinery and equipment, transport equipment, chemicals and the electrical power industry. Rzeszów voivodship is responsible for the entire Polish production of household electric vacuum cleaners, 17 % of spin dryers, and 6 % of the domestic production of petroleum.

Natural conditions for agriculture are quite favourable with better than average soils. In the north, there are poor podzolic soils, but in the central area there are rich loess soils while in the hilly south the soils vary in fertility. With an annual growing period of 220 days and longer, the lowland part of the voivodship is one of the warmer areas of Poland.

Of the 65 % of the voivodship that is agricultural land, almost three quarters is arable. About 92 % of the agricultural land is owned by the 71 000 private farms. Small-scale farming predominates; 85 % of farms have less than 5 ha, and as many as a third do not have more than 2 ha. Farms in Rzeszów are small even by the standards of a country where the average farm size is only 7 ha — the average for the voivodship is a mere 3 ha.

Cereals, planted on 53 % of the arable land, predominate. The greatest acreage is given over to wheat (25 % of the total), with rye, potatoes and fodder plants also important. Crop yields, despite the quite favourable natural conditions, are below the national average. Despite only occupying less than a quarter of the agricultural land area, livestock rearing is the most important element of the voivodship's agricultural economy in terms of the value of sold final production, representing 70 % of final agricultural output in 1994.

RZESZÓW Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	70 947	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	285 183	Pork	19.5 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	92	Vegetables	15.0 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	48	Milk	14.0 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	62	Fruit	10.3 %
Arable land (%)	73		

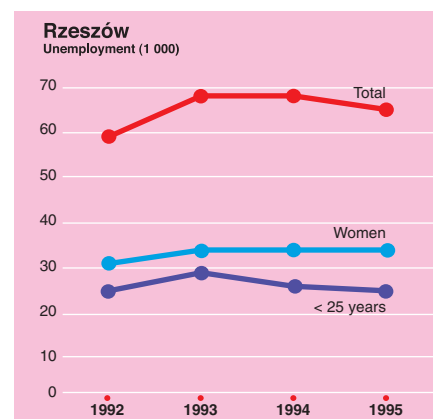
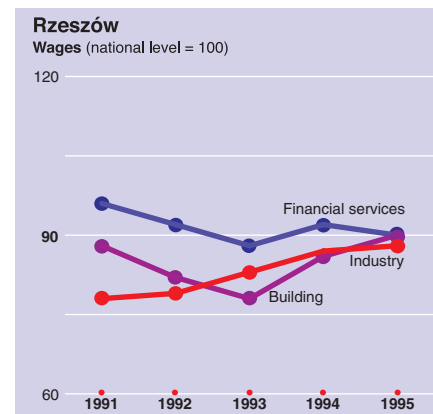
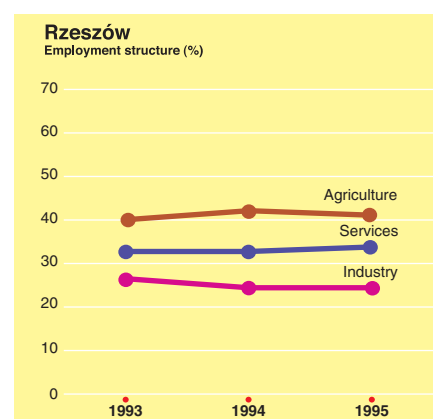
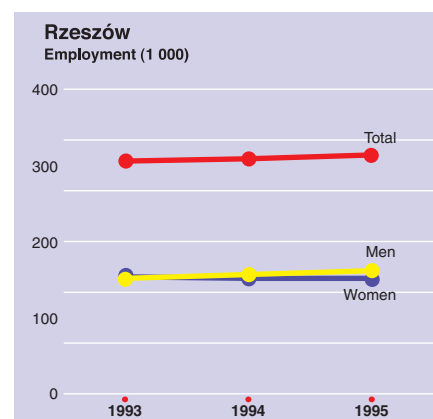
Two fifths of the unemployed without work for more than one year

Of the 314 000 employed in December 1995, most (41 %) were in the agricultural sector. Job losses in industry resulting from the restructuring of the economy after 1990 prompted many people to return to work in agriculture, mainly on family farms. The small-scale nature of farming as well as opportunities for part-time employment in industry has led to a growth in the phenomenon of 'dual-professions' among the agricultural population. In addition to greater employment in agriculture, the number of people employed in the services sector also grew, to reach 34 % of total employment in the voivodship at the end of 1995.

These structural changes in the voivodship's economy caused large-scale unemployment, with 64 000 people jobless in December 1995, 42 % of whom had been without work for more than 1 year. This figure is worse than the national average of 37 %. Just as in many regions of the country, the largest proportion of the unemployed are those that have had a vocational, as opposed to a general, education.

While overall gross monthly wages and salaries in the voivodship were only 89 % of the national average, agricultural wages were close to the national norm.

The city of Rzeszów also functions as a regional centre of higher education, housing the Rzeszów Polytechnic and the College of Education as well as branches of the Lublin Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the Kraków College of Agriculture. In the 1995/96 academic year, over 23 000 students attended schools of higher education in Rzeszów.



SIEDLCE

The Siedlce voivodship is situated in east-central Poland, lying between the Wisła and the Bug rivers where two historic lands meet; Eastern Mazowsze and Western Podlasie. This situation is reflected in the cultural diversity of this region.

In terms of surface area, the Siedlce voivodship is large (8 499 km²) and ranks ninth among the 49 voivodships of Poland. With its population at the end of 1995 of 662 000, it ranks only 25th. The population density (78 inhabitants per km²) is, therefore, much lower than the national average of 123.

The voivodship's population is characterised by a natural increase that is higher than the national average, but the rate of this increase is declining. In the course of the five years from 1991 to the end of 1995, a net figure of more than 6 000 people left the voivodship permanently, but the natural increase was double this, resulting in a total population growth of 1.6 %. The rate of increase in the urban areas was lower but the rural population experienced a significantly higher net growth of 3.3 %.

The total urban population in December 1995 numbered 214 000, i.e., 32 % of the voivodship's total population. This is the lowest proportion in the country, with the sole exception of the Zamość voivodship (31 %). Of the 13 cities located in the region, the most populous are Siedlce, with 75 000 inhabitants (35 % of the total urban population of the region), Mińsk Mazowiecki (35 000) and Łuków (32 000). The urban population of the Siedlce voivodship is relatively young in comparison both to the urban population of Poland as a whole, and to the rural population of the region.

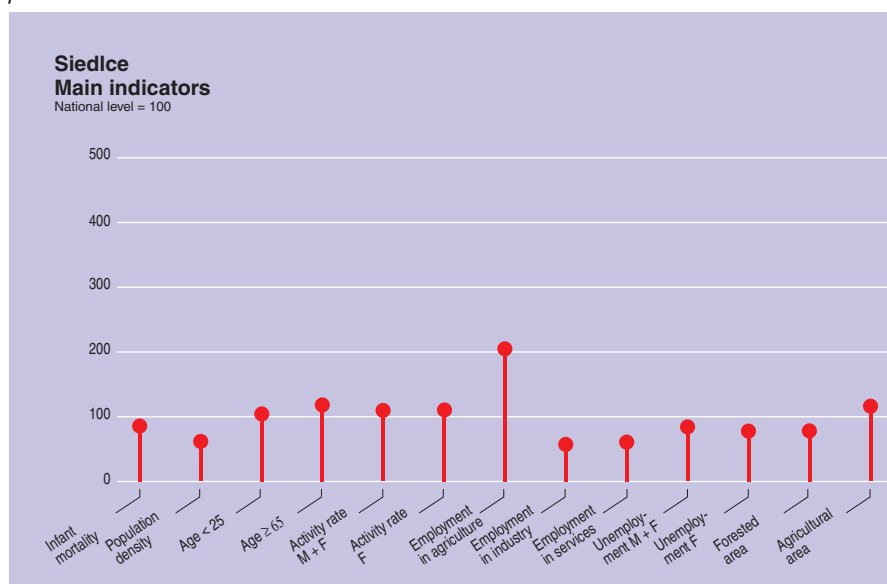
One of the cleanest areas in Poland

In geophysical terms, the area of the voivodship is part of the Central Mazowsze and Southern Podlasie Lowland. It is a plain divided by the hills of the Siedlecka, Kałuszyńska and Żelechowska uplands. The River Liwiec, the largest in the voivodship, is a tributary of the River Bug. The Siedlce voivodship is in the eastern part of Poland that is characterised by a somewhat harsher climate than the rest of the country. The voivodship has few deposits of mineral raw materials, although some building raw materials are found as well as clays and loams for the ceramics industry.

A transport route with international significance traverses the voivodship in an



Meadows and pastures favour the raising of cattle.
photo W. Zieliński



east-west direction. Siedlce, the capital and main city of the voivodship, is centrally located on the main railway and road routes. The city is about 100 km from Warsaw and a similar distance from the eastern border of the country.

Due to the low level of industry and the consequent low emissions of dusts, gases and industrial pollutants, the voivodship is one of the cleanest areas in Poland. There are areas in the voivodship with significant natural beauty occupying an important position in the National Ecological Network system, such as the Central Wisła region

and the Lower Bug region. About 30% of the voivodship's area is covered by some form of nature and landscape protection.

Despite the fact that it is a transit point and has a widely-dispersed settlement network with 13 cities and 2 042 villages, the density of the hard-surfaced road network in the voivodship at 62 km per 100 km² is lower than the national average. Communications infrastructure is also below average, with just 84 telephone subscribers per 1 000 inhabitants, the rate in the rural areas being far lower.



Which regions are similar to Siedlce voivodship?

- Population:**
660 000 inhabitants
Badajoz (E)
Peloponnisos (EL)
Recklinghausen (D)
- Population density:**
about 78 inhabitants per km²
Nordfriesland (D)
Charente-Maritime (F)
- Employment structure:**
about 18 % in industry
Ipeiros (EL)
Calabria (I)
Stockholm (S)

Good location, but pollution threat

The voivodship has good possibilities for economic development, resulting from its proximity to the Warsaw agglomeration as well as its location on the existing and planned transport routes on the east-west axis. Moreover, the largest cities of the voivodship: Siedlce, Mińsk Mazowiecki and Łuków, are situated on the transit route and could become centres for development.

The Siedlce voivodship has valuable resources in its inexpensive, yet quite well-educated labour force and extensive agricultural sector providing a basis for the food-processing industry. The proximity of the Warsaw agglomeration and the eastern markets creates good potential for increasing sales.

However, the network of facilities serving tourism is poorly developed, considering its potential. Limitations to economic development, including tourism, are the underdeveloped road and telecommunication infrastructures.

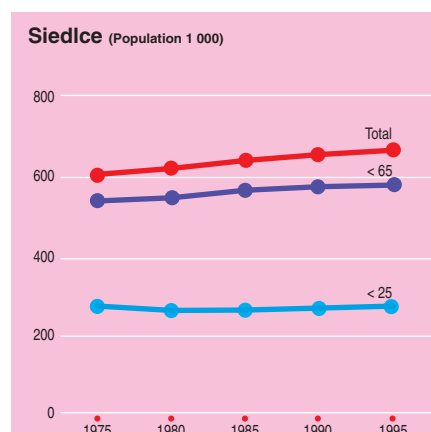
Municipal sewage and refuse represent a threat to the environment. The scale of the problem is heightened by the fact that the Siedlce voivodship is an area with a surface-water deficit, and the vast resources of underground water in many regions on which the voivodship depends could be threatened by pollution.

An economy dominated by agriculture

Agriculture dominates the economy, accounting for more than half of total

SIEDLCE Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	633.0
Births	118.6
Deaths	79.3
Net permanent migration	- 17.6
Net temporary migration	6.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	661.7



SIEDLCE Population by age - 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	163	24.6	25.4	23.9
15-24	106	16.0	16.5	15.4
25-39	132	19.9	21.3	18.5
40-54	115	17.4	17.8	17.0
55-64	58	8.8	8.3	9.3
≥ 65	88	13.3	10.7	15.9
Total	662	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Siedlce voivodship	8.5	662	78	4.0	64.1	12.9	56	18	26
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

POLAND

employment (56 % in 1995). Agricultural land represents 70 % of the area of the voivodship, the second highest proportion in Poland, almost 98 % of it in the possession of the 80 000 private farms. The average farm size is over 6 ha, with 47 % of farms having less than 5 ha.

Poor to average soils predominate, which is why cereals take up the majority (52 %) of the acreage. Rye is the most widespread, accounting for 30 % of sowings. Potatoes are the next most important crop in terms of acreage (22 % of sown areas). However, agricultural yields are among the lowest in the country.

In 1995, 73 % of final agricultural output by sales value was animal products. In terms of the numbers of cattle (including dairy cattle) and pigs per 100 hectares of agricultural land, Siedlce ranks 5th and 14th respectively. In some areas, and particularly around the city of Siedlce, poultry breeding is of major significance, while in the western part of the voivodship orchards are important. Siedlce voivodship supplies approximately 6 % of the domestic production of potatoes, 4 % of milk and more than 3 % of the country's animals for slaughter.

Food and beverage manufacture dominates industrial output by sales value with a massive 60 %. Meat and milk processing, based on local produce, are the leading sectors, but the voivodship lacks potato processing plants. Fruit and vegetable processing and storage facilities are also underdeveloped and many dairy industry plants require expensive modernisation. Other industrial branches include the manufacture of metal products, machinery and equipment; clothing, furs and leather products.

Outside of agriculture, which has traditionally been private-sector based, private sector involvement in other types of economic activity has grown rapidly to account for 68 % of industrial production in sales terms. This proportion is as high as 94 % in the construction industry and 96 % in the retail sales sector. There are 83

joint-venture companies with foreign capital participation and 15 foreign-owned small manufacturing enterprises, mainly operating in industry but also in trade and repairs. However, the share of foreign capital in the total equity capital of all enterprises remains small.

Low wages, especially in industry

Agriculture, of course, dominates the employment structure: the 56 % of the workforce engaged in agriculture at the end of 1995 is double the national average. The services sector has the next largest share with 26 %, of which almost half is in education, health care and public administration. Fewer than one in five workers are employed in industry. Private sector employees make up 78 % of the 267 000 people working in the Siedlce voivodship, reflecting the large numbers working on privately-owned farms.

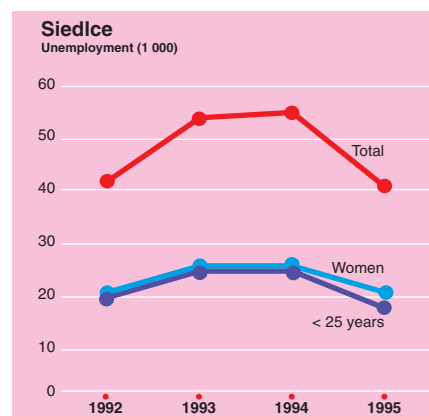
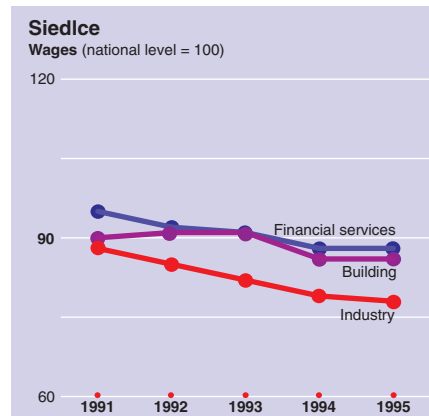
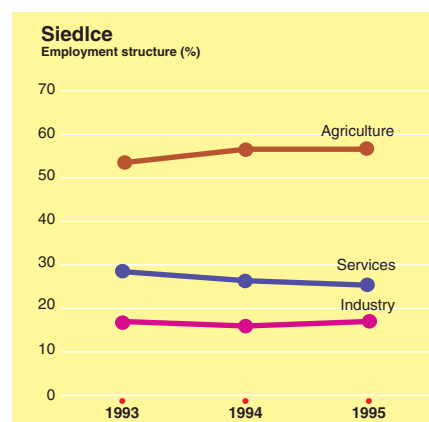
Average 1995 wages and salaries were about 86 % of the national average, with the position in industry being as low as 78 % of the average for Polish industry.

Unemployment is falling and at the end of 1995 stood at 13 %. The proportion of long-term unemployment has also declined, but still exceeds the national average. Just under 50 % of the unemployed are women, whereas nationally the figure is 55 %. Unemployment in the voivodship particularly affects rural inhabitants and those below the age of 35.

Siedlce voivodship has a quite well-developed post-primary educational system, concentrated mainly in 6 of the larger cities. The Agricultural and Teaching College trains students not only in agriculture and education but also in management, marketing and computer science. Education levels are rising although the proportion of the population with only a primary school education — especially in the countryside — is still higher than the national average.

SIIDLCE Agriculture — 1995

Number of private farms	79 782	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	594 019		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	98	Pork	30.0 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	52	Milk	19.2 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	119	Potatoes	14.5 %
Arable land (%)	77	Fruit	6.4 %



SIERADZ

The Sieradz voivodship boasts a rich historical past and it already existed as a separate duchy at the time when the Polish State was formed.

The voivodship is situated in central Poland in the valley of the River Warta, which opens out in the area of Sieradz into the Sieradzka Valley. Higher ground surrounds this valley; the Złoczewska Upland to the west and the Łaska Upland in the east. Silt terraces covered mainly by meadows and forested sand terraces are the main features of the natural landscape.

With its present borders, the Sieradz voivodship covers an area of 4 869 km² (1.6 % of the country's area) and is divided into 42 administrative districts (gminas). There are no large urban centres in the voivodship. The main cities are Sieradz, Zduńska Wola, Wieluń and Łask and these each have between 20 000 and 50 000 inhabitants. The total population of the voivodship at the end of 1995 was 413 000, and 40 % of the population was concentrated in the 10 cities.

The region is characterised by an evenly distributed network of settlements with a low average population density of 85 inhabitants per km². A relatively high proportion (13.1 %) of the voivodship's population are in the over-65 age group compared to the national average (11.2 %). While the birth rate has fallen quite rapidly in the 1990s from 15.4 births per 1000 population in 1991 to 11.9 in 1995, the death rate has fallen only slightly and at 11.7 deaths per 1 000 population in 1995 remains clearly above the average Polish rate of 10 ‰.

There are nine museums and seven cinemas in the voivodship, attracting 60 500 and 75 500 visitors in 1995 respectively.

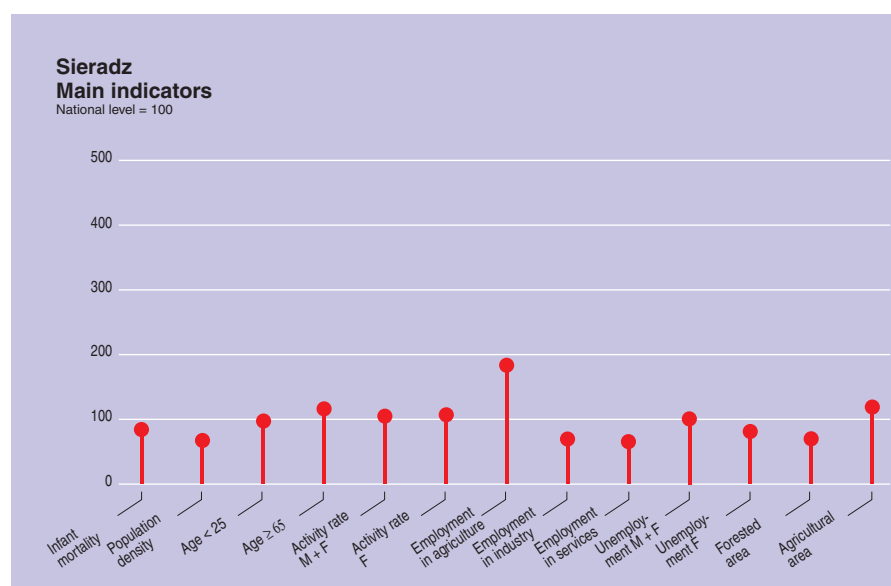
A third of the region protected by nature reserves and parks

More than 70 % of the voivodship's area is devoted to agriculture and forests cover another 20 %. Almost all (96 %) of the agricultural land belongs to the 46 000 private farms and the average farm size is 7 ha.

The Sieradz voivodship is not rich in mineral deposits, but some deposits of limestone in the southern part of the voivodship are exploited for the production of cement, and layers of boulder clays scattered in different regions of the voivodship are used in the production of ceramic materials. A 153 km section of the River



Extensive forests with unique flora and diverse fauna.
photo R. Sierociński



Warta, the third longest river in Poland, flows through the voivodship from south to north. The Warta has been dammed at the border with the Konin voivodship in order to create the large Jeziorsko reservoir (42.3 km²) with a small hydroelectric power plant located at the dam.

Nature, virtually free from pollution and the excess interference of man, is an important resource of the voivodship. Scenic parks, nature reserves and protected

scenic areas cover about 34 % of the voivodship's area. More than 400 km of tourist trails wind through the most attractive areas of the region. The Jeziorsko storage reservoir has an undeniable recreational value but the area surrounding it requires appropriate development.

Both the densities of hard-surfaced roads and of railway lines per km² are below the national average, unsurprisingly for a rural region.



Which regions are similar to Sieradz voivodship?

Population density:
85 inhabitants per km²
Zuidwest-Friesland (NL)
Imathia (EL)
Maramures (RO)

Age structure:
13 % over 65
Salzburg (A)
Brandenburg (D)
Picardie (F)

Land use:
71 % agriculture
Scotland (UK)
Bács-Kiskun (HU)

Promising signs of industrial recovery

The Sieradz voivodship's rural areas would benefit from structural changes leading to increased farm sizes, the planting of crops better adapted to poor-quality soils and by more specialisation in livestock farming. Expenditure is needed on infrastructure, including on land reclamation, water supply, transport networks and communications.

The natural environment is threatened by pollution carried by the rivers flowing from the more industrialised areas of the Łódź and Częstochowa voivodships. However, the solution to this problem is beyond the organisational and financial possibilities of the voivodship. Therefore, the initiative has been undertaken to create inter-gmina agreements uniting the different voivodships to properly manage the waste water and sewage disposal into the River Warta.

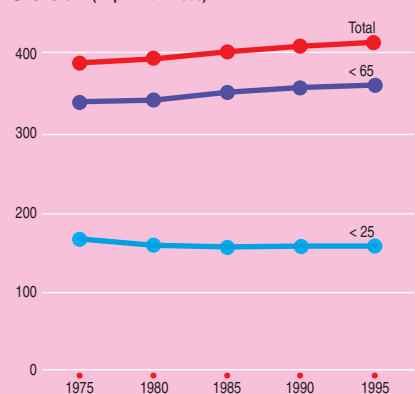
adapting to the new economic rules, improving management and modernising technology. The fruits of this are now being seen as the voivodship achieves a rate of growth in industrial production (by sales value) in excess of the national average. The voivodship's industry is entering new sales markets, with the main destinations of exports being Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden.

After the period of economic transformation and recession, industrial plants are

SIERADZ Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	399.1
Births	67.8
Deaths	53.2
Net permanent migration	- 6.3
Net temporary migration	5.5
Population 31. 12. 1995	412.9

Sieradz (Population 1 000)



SIERADZ Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	94	22.7	23.7	21.8
15-24	62	15.0	15.8	14.3
25-39	87	21.1	22.3	20.0
40-54	77	18.8	19.1	18.4
55-64	39	9.3	8.8	9.8
≥ 65	54	13.1	10.3	15.8
Total	413	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000	Inhab./km ²			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services	
	1995	1995	1986-95	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995		
Sieradz voivodship	4.9	413	85	2.9	62.1	15.2	50	21	29
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Private sector accounts for 63 % of industrial output

The high proportion of agricultural land (71 % of the total area), together with the statistic of 50 % of the working population employed in agriculture clearly demonstrate the dominance of agriculture in the voivodship's economy. Despite the none too favourable natural conditions, and in particular the low-quality soils, agriculture in the Sieradz voivodship is an important source of foodstuffs for the neighbouring urban agglomerations of Łódź and Upper Silesia, the principal sales markets for the region's agricultural products.

Most arable land (52 %) is devoted to the growing of cereals with the most widespread single crop being rye (sown on 29 % of arable land), followed by potatoes (23 %). The production of fruit and vegetables is also of importance. The yields obtained are lower than the national average, but the Sieradz voivodship has more cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land than the Polish average. In terms of the sales value of agricultural production, pigs for slaughter (29 %) and potatoes (22 %) have the greatest significance in the voivodship.

The food-processing industry, based on local agricultural raw materials, accounts for 42 % of the industrial production of the voivodship in terms of sales value, thereby dominating the industrial structure. The voivodship has a relatively good processing capability for grain-milling, fruit and vegetable processing and milk. Other notable aspects of industry in the voivodship include the production of building materials, with tar paper accounting for 43 % of the total Polish production and cement more than 8 %. The voivodship is also known for the manufacture of clothing and textile products, as well as for varnishing equipment and equipment for sewage treatment plants.

In recent years, many new private industrial plants and service companies have been established to the extent that in 1995, the private sector produced 63 % of industrial output by sales value and 86 % of construction work.

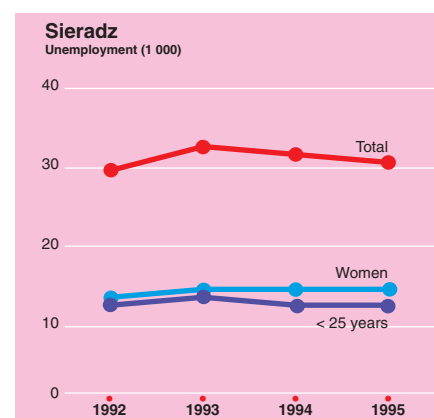
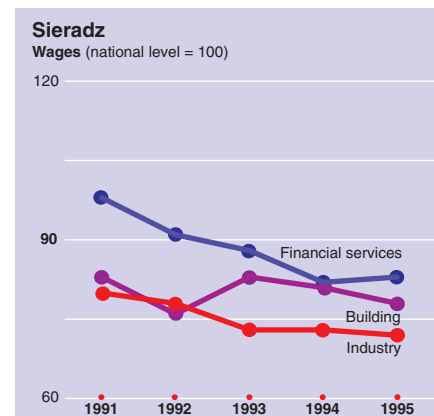
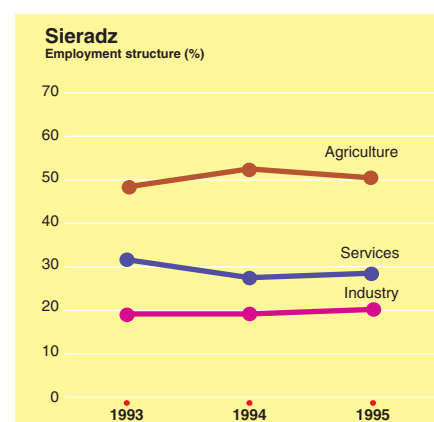
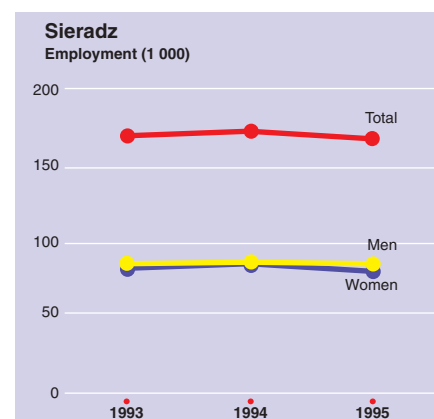
Industry hit hardest by job losses

Between 1990 and the end of 1995, the number of people working in the economy of the Sieradz voivodship declined by 21 000, and this change has been most strongly felt in the industrial sector. Employment has also declined in the services sector but agriculture has not been affected to the same extent. In 1995, 169 000 people were working in the voivodship and 50 % of these were in agriculture, 29 % in services and 21% in industry.

The private sector employs about 75 % of the people working in the voivodship compared to 62 % nationally, but the high proportion is mainly due to the large number of people working on private farms in this region.

For every 100 employed people, there were 18 unemployed in December 1995. Among the 30 000 unemployed, about 60 % were people with vocational educations (basic or secondary). Young people are particularly affected by unemployment and over 40 % of the unemployed were below the age of 25 compared to the Polish average of 34.6 %. Less than 45 % of the voivodship's unemployed were women — a much lower proportion than the 55 % nationally.

SIERADZ Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	45 552	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	347 498		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	96	Pork	29.1 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	48	Potatoes	21.7 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	97	Milk	11.6 %
Arable land (%)	80	Vegetables	8.5 %



SKIERNIEWICE

The Skierniewice voivodship is situated in central Poland, lying sandwiched between the two large urban agglomerations of Warsaw and Łódź. Its area, of some 3 960 km², stretches between the Central Mazowiecka Lowland in the north and the Southern Mazowieckie Hills in the south. The voivodship's terrain does not have extreme variations, with the northern area characterised by a plain with deep river valleys and the south by moraine-formed hills reaching 220 m above sea level. The climate is moderate, with relatively low levels of rainfall (500 to 550 mm annually) and quite high amounts of sunshine (more than 1 650 hours annually).

The Skierniewice voivodship is one of the smallest in the country — the sixth smallest in area and the eighth smallest in population. It had a total population of 424 000 inhabitants at the end of 1995, of which more than half lived in rural areas (52 %). The population density of 107 inhabitants per km² was below the national average. Administratively, it is divided into 44 gminas. The largest of the eight cities is Skierniewice itself, with 48 000 inhabitants. The other larger cities include Żyrardów (44 000 inhabitants), Sochaczew (40 000) and Łowicz (32 000).

There are nine museums in the voivodship, including the Nieborów branch of the National Museum and the birthplace of Frederick Chopin in Żelazowa Wola.

One of Poland's least forested regions

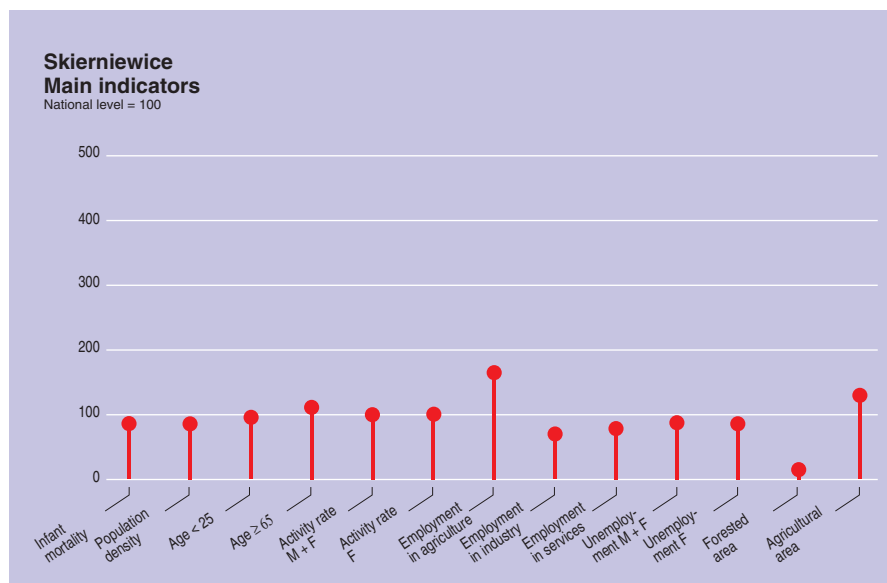
Among the natural resources of the Skierniewice voivodship are many common minerals such as sands, gravel sands, boulder clays and silts. Geothermal waters have also been discovered and activity has been undertaken for the purpose of utilising these waters in balneology, and also as a source of heat that will assist in maintaining an ecologically clean environment.

The voivodship is among the least forested in Poland — in fact with just 14 % of its area covered by trees Skierniewice is the second least forested voivodship in the country. The forests, however, are in good condition, with relatively little pollution damage, and as such constitute a valuable resource. Protected landscape areas cover 29 % of the voivodship's total area, including 16 reserves and the Bolimowski Scenic Park which includes the only large forest.



Żelazowa Wola, the birthplace of Frederick Chopin, places the voivodship on the cultural map.

photo A. Zborski



The Bzura is the principal river of the Skierniewice voivodship. There are two small lakes, Okręt (220 ha) and Rydwan (50 ha).

The Skierniewice voivodship possesses exceptionally favourable transport connections with road and rail networks both well developed. The A2 motorway linking Paris, Berlin and Moscow, and the A1 motorway linking Scandinavia with Italy will both pass through the voivodship. The proximity of

the Okęcie International Airport in Warsaw enables easy connections with the rest of the world.

The water supply and sewage treatment capacity in the cities is fairly well developed. There is, however, an immediate need for the building of rural sewage treatment plants and for solving the problem of the disposal of municipal waste.



Which regions are similar to Skierniewice voivodship?

Population:
 about 425 000 inhabitants
 Drôme (F)
 Charleroi (B)
 Regio nell'Emilia (I)

Population density:
 107 inhabitants per km²
 Magdeburg (D)
 Macerata (I)

Employment structure:
 22 % in industry
 Uusimaa (FIN)
 Campania (I)
 Vlaams Brabant (B)

Rural development and ecological awareness

The voivodship's central location, well-developed transport network, proximity of large markets for the local produce, unspoilt environment and the possibilities of benefiting from the achievements of the scientific research centres are the voivodship's unquestionable assets. Skierniewice is well placed to benefit from tourism with its accessibility, natural environment, historic monuments and the Mazowiecka landscape.

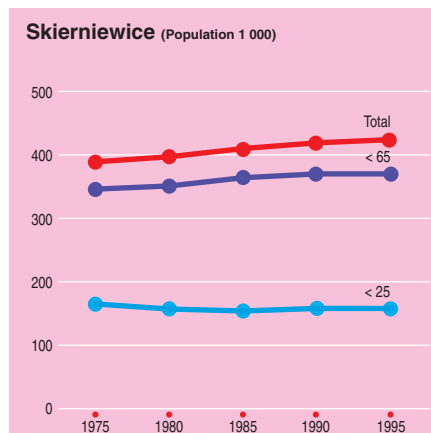
An eco-development programme has been established to contribute to the guiding principles in determining the directions of social and economic changes in the voivodship while respecting the need for environmental protection. The newly-established Regional Centre for Ecological Education in Skierniewice and the Centre for Environmental and Forestry Education in Rogów serve to increase ecological awareness in the voivodship.

Among the problems to be solved is the development of rural areas, and much attention is devoted to this through invest-

ments in the technical infrastructure, services and by supporting local initiatives. While the ratio of telephone subscribers per 1 000 population is significantly lower than the national average, the recently completed telecommunications centre in Skierniewice will provide for the rapid development of the telecommunications network in the second half of the 1990s.

SKIERNIEWICE Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	407.6
Births	66.3
Deaths	52.5
Net permanent migration	- 0.9
Net temporary migration	3.6
Population 31. 12. 1995	424.0



SKIERNIEWICE Population by age - 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	94	22.2	23.2	21.1
15-24	64	15.1	15.8	14.3
25-39	90	21.2	22.1	20.3
40-54	83	19.5	20.0	19.1
55-64	39	9.4	8.8	9.9
≥ 65	54	12.7	10.0	15.2
Total	424	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services
		1995	1995	1986-95			Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Skierniewice voivodship	4.0	424	107	3.5	59.3	13.3	45	22	33
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Fruit and vegetable cultivation

The backbone of the region's economy is agriculture, although there are important industries. Fruit and vegetable cultivation is particularly well-developed – amounting to 34 % of final agricultural output, double the national average.

Agricultural land covers 78 % of the voivodship and it is mostly (83 %) given over to arable and fruit farming. The 42 000 private farms own 92 % of the agricultural land and the average farm size is similar to the national average at 6 ha. Average quality brown and podzolic soils dominate.

Orchards occupy 5.1 % of the agricultural land, the 3rd highest proportion in the country. Together with neighbouring Radom, Skierniewice forms reputedly the largest orchard basin in Europe.

Cereals take up 55 % of the area sown. The most important crop is rye, sown on 27 % of arable land, followed by potatoes (17 %). Generally, yields are close to the national average but potato farming achieves the 5th highest yields in Poland.

Numerous scientific research facilities support agricultural activity, including experimental establishments for agriculture in Żelazna, animal husbandry in Rossosz, forestry in Rogów and plant varieties in Kawęczyn. Fruit and vegetable growers are aided by the Pomiculture and Floriculture Institute and the Market Gardening Institute in Skierniewice, the latter recognised as the centre of gardening science in Poland.

Industry is dominated by the agricultural-food processing industry, comprising 52 % of the voivodship's industrial output by sales value. Also important are the manufacture of artificial fibres (11 %) and of fabrics (9 %).

Specialities of Skierniewice are the manufacture of linen, representing 20 % of total Polish production and hosiery (15 %). Juices, frozen foods, processed meat

products, flour and dairy products are also of national importance. Well-developed clothing, pharmaceutical, chemical and engineering industries also exist.

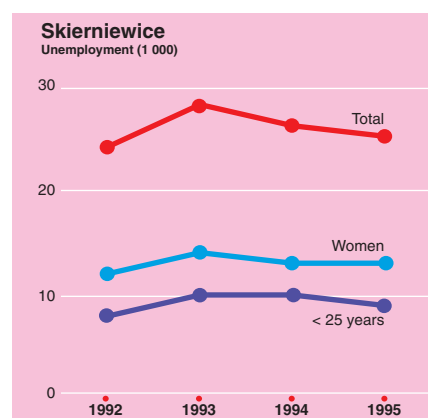
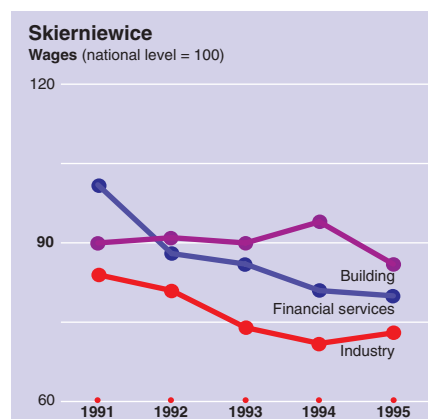
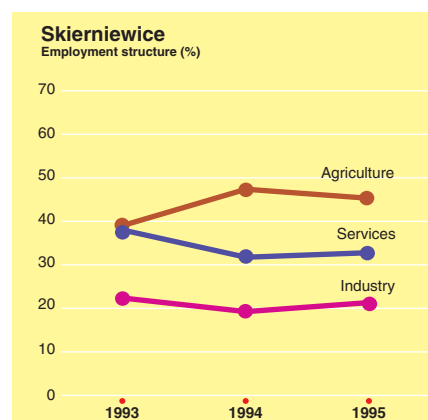
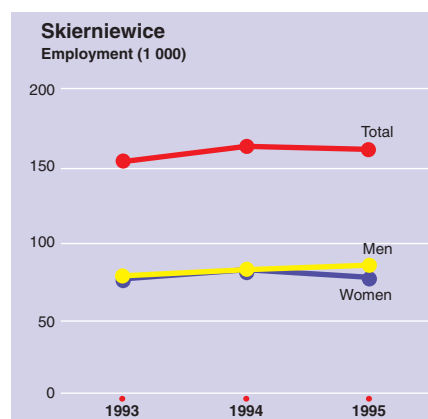
There has been a significant growth in exports in recent years. The largest markets in terms of turnover are Germany, France, Russia, the USA and Sweden.

Industry hit hard by unemployment

At the end of 1995 there were 160 000 people employed in Skierniewice voivodship, of whom 45 % worked in the agricultural sector, 33 % in services and 22 % in industry and construction. The private sector absorbed 73 % of total employment, reflecting the large number of jobs on private farms. While there were slightly more jobs in agriculture at the end of 1995 than at the end of 1991, industry lost a net 9 000 (some 20 %) of its jobs over the same period. Service-sector employment remained relatively stable.

Skierniewice voivodship ended 1995 with 25 000 people unemployed, of whom – in line with the national average – more than half were females. Although the unemployment rate was lower than the Polish average at 13 %, more than 40 % of the unemployed had been jobless for more than one year, a higher proportion than nationally. Some 65 % of the unemployed were aged 18–35. Most of the unemployed had either a basic or secondary vocational education.

Average monthly gross wages and salaries in 1995 were about 14 % below the national average with agricultural wages being much closer to the national level than industrial wages. Indeed, the average industrial wage in the voivodship was barely 73 % of the national average.



SKIERNIEWICE Agriculture – 1995

Number of private farms	42 035	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	308 959		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	92	Pork	19.9 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	37	Fruit	19.8 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	103	Vegetables	13.9 %
Arable land (%)	83	Milk	13.3 %

SŁUPSK

A document of Bogusław I Szczeciński, from about the year 1186, contains the first direct written reference to the Slavonic lands of Słupsk. In the 12th and 13th centuries the main settlement in this area was Słupsk, which in 1310 received the status of a city. By the 14th and 15th centuries, the growing population of Słupsk was supported by the production of handicrafts and trade. The 16th century renaissance castle of the Pomeranian Princes and the Gothic Marian church are testimonies to the history of Słupsk.

The total area of the voivodship covers 7 453 km² and is divided into 37 administrative districts (gminas). The voivodship lies in the north west of Poland and has a Baltic Sea coastline.

The total population of 426 000 at the end of 1995 resulted in a population density among the lowest in the country; 57 inhabitants per km². The majority (55 %) of the population reside in the 11 cities of the voivodship. The largest city is Słupsk with 103 000 inhabitants in 1995 (44 % of the total urban population) and the capital of the voivodship. The second largest city is Łębork with a population of 36 000. There are 103 females for every 100 males in the voivodship. While females are significantly more numerous than males in the cities (107 per 100 males), the picture is reversed in the countryside with just 97 females for every 100 males.

In the period 1991 to 1995, as a result of the declining birth rate, there was a fall in the proportion of the population of pre-productive age and a simultaneous growth in the post-productive age population. Nevertheless, in comparison to other regions of the country, the Słupsk voivodship is still characterised by a high demographic rate of growth in the population and was second only to Nowy Sącz in 1995.

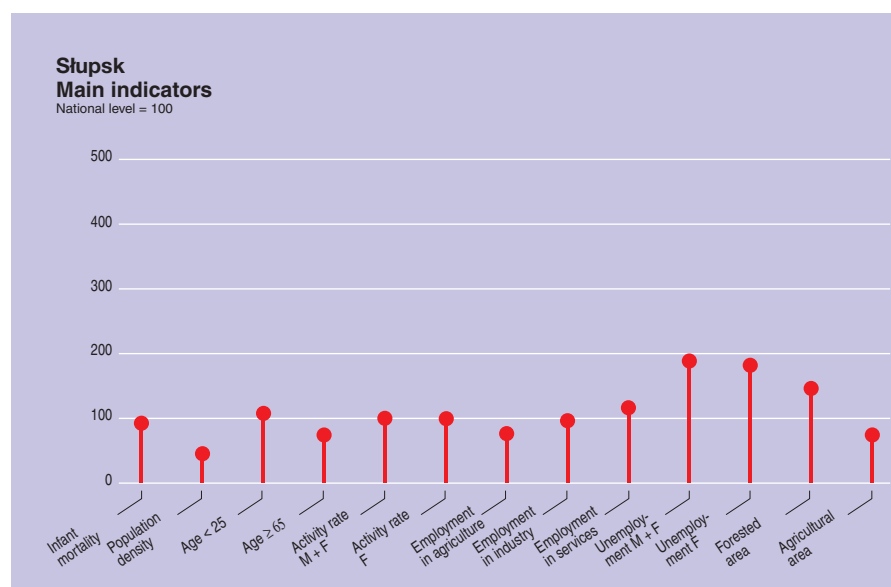
The provision of health-care services is less extensive generally than in the country. In 1995 there was a total of 46 hospital beds and less than 16 doctors for every 10 000 inhabitants. Only the network of private pharmacies has been expanding.

A region of forests, lakes and rivers

Located in the north-western area of the country, the Słupsk voivodship has a landscape dominated by flat and undulating moraine-formed areas with some hills,



Łącka dune in the Słowiński National Park is the highest moving sand dune with a height of about 40 m above sea level. (photo M. Zielonka)



ravines, valleys and lakes. Most of the voivodship lies between 200 and 250 m above sea level.

Forests are very extensive in the voivodship, covering as much as 42 % of the area. Also important are the lakes, 25 of which exceed 100 ha in surface area. Water is plentiful in the rivers of Słupsk, the total length of which exceeds 1800 km. A characteristic feature of this region are the shifting sand dunes along the coast. For their preservation and protection, the Słowiński National Park has been established covering 18 200 ha — 2.4 % of the voivodship's area. In order to help preserve the environment, 37 % of the voivodship's

total area is covered by various forms of protection.

Agricultural land accounts for just 44 % of the voivodship's total area, well below the national average 60 %. The Słupsk voivodship continues to have a relatively low number of private farms — less than 12 800 in 1995. However, the average farm size of 14 ha of agricultural land is double the national average, and every fourth farm is larger than 15 ha.

The more than 300 treatment plants in the voivodship are able to treat 95 % of all sewage waste, and 85 % of this is biologically treated.



Which regions are similar to Słupsk voivodship?

Population:
420 000–425 000 inhabitants
Unna (D)
Shropshire (UK)

Age structure:
8–9 % over 65
Constanta (RO)
Flevoland (NL)

Land use:
41–42 % forest
Sydsverige (S)
Arges (RO)

Challenge to create an economic turnaround

The low level of pollution of the natural environment, the extensive forests, the coastal location, landscape and well-developed summer recreational base are among the strengths of the voivodship that point the way for the direction of future development. These factors are coupled with an inexpensive labour force and the transport infrastructure, with the possibility of developing air travel.

Against this, the voivodship has very real problems related to agricultural restructuring, poorly developed industry, an inadequately developed network of roads and insufficient capital. With the high unemployment and low purchasing power of the population, the voivodship faces a real challenge to make the best use of its assets to create an economic turnaround.

Tourism becoming an important economic branch

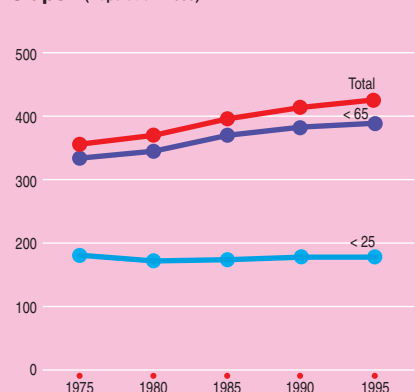
Growth in the 1990s in the private sector reflects ownership changes and economic restructuring, as well as new private production and service enterprises.

With tourism, trade and catering benefiting from Słupsk's coastal location, by 1995 some 50 % of the voivodship's total labour force was employed in the services sector. Most (70 %) tourist accommodation is

SŁUPSK Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	390.8
Births	77.0
Deaths	36.7
Net permanent migration	- 6.6
Net temporary migration	1.5
Population 31. 12. 1995	425.9

Słupsk (Population 1 000)



SŁUPSK Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	108	25.4	26.3	24.6
15–24	70	16.4	17.0	15.9
25–39	95	22.4	23.1	21.6
40–54	82	19.3	19.7	18.9
55–64	34	7.9	7.4	8.4
≥ 65	37	8.6	6.5	10.6
Total	426	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000 km ²	1 000			Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Słupsk voivodship	7.5	426	57	7.5	58.7	28.4	21	29	50
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

located along the coast and is mainly used during the summer season. Tourism is becoming a major economic asset.

Ślupsk's food processing industry has the greatest share (20 % by sales value) of its relatively small industrial base, followed by wood and wood products, leather processing and the manufacture of leather products. About 70% of Poland's output of hard and soft leather comes from Ślupsk, along with 12 % of its timber and 10 % of household refrigerators and freezers.

The steady growth in industrial output (measured in terms of sales values) since 1993 can be attributed to more efficient labour, automation of production lines, increasing export of manufactured products and the appearance of foreign capital, bringing with it new technologies and production methods. Although eight industrial enterprises in the voivodship have more than 500 employees, SMEs account for 96 % of the total number of industrial entities.

Cereals dominates arable farming (some 62 % of the sown area) and rye is the most widespread crop, followed by potatoes and rape. Yields, however, are below the national average. Cattle and pig numbers per 100 ha of agricultural land are also well below the national average.

Heavy job losses in agriculture and industry lead to the highest unemployment rates in Poland

Large-scale job losses accompanied the first 5 years of economic restructuring, particularly in the formerly State-controlled agricultural sector, where employment fell from 48 000 in 1990 to under 28 000 at the end of 1995. Industrial employment also fell, but the total number of jobs in services has grown slightly. Of the 134 000 people employed in the voivodship in December 1995, 50 % worked in the services sector, up from 42 % at the end of 1991 and well

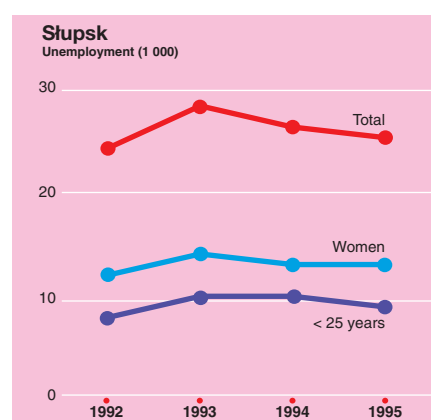
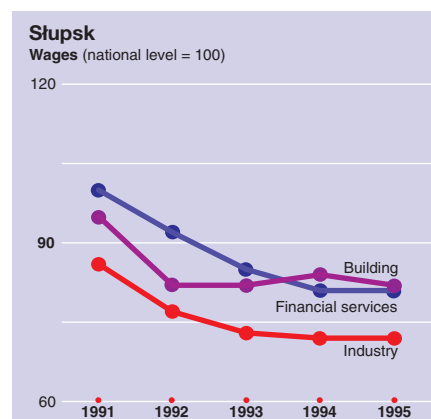
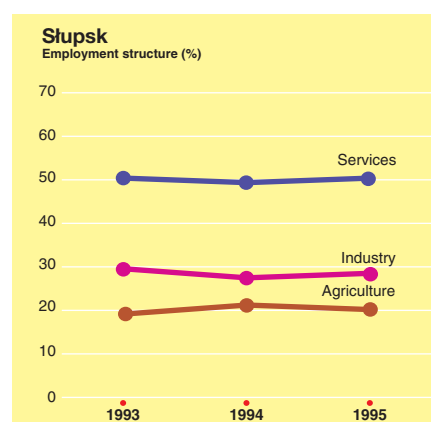
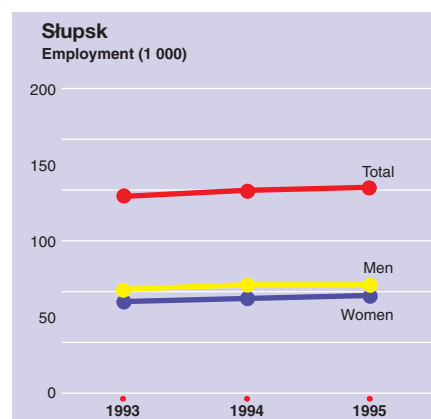
above the 1995 national average of 42.5 %. Industry and construction provided 29 % of jobs; agriculture, hunting and forestry a further 21 %. Approximately 60 % of the voivodship's total labour force is employed in the private sector.

At 28 %, Ślupsk has the dubious honour of having the highest unemployment rate in Poland. The unemployment problem is largely structural, one of the main causes being the liquidation of large State-owned farms and a lack of jobs in other areas of the economy. Other Polish regions relied much less on State farms for employment, traditionally having a much higher proportion of agricultural land in private hands. About 35 % of the unemployed are long-term unemployed (jobless for more than 1 year), slightly below the national average.

In 1995, the average monthly gross wage was the 46th lowest in the country, only 83 % of the national average wage. One bright spot was agriculture where wages exceeded the national average for that sector, but in industry average wages were just 72 % of the average Polish level.

The population's educational level is below the national average. Of the young people of secondary school age, 20 % attended general secondary schools, 34 % basic vocational schools and 21 % technical and vocational secondary schools in 1995.

There are two institutions of higher education in the voivodship, a College of Education and a Business College.



ŚLUPSK Agriculture — 1995		
Number of private farms	12 789	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	331 918	
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)		
	62	Pork 34.9 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	22	Cereals 13.7 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	79	Milk 9.8 %
Arable land (%)	78	Potatoes 9.0 %

SUWAŁKI

The Suwałki voivodship covers an area of 10 490 km² in the north-eastern part of the country, and with 3.4 % of the country's area it is second largest after Olsztyn. The voivodship is made up of parts of two historic lands: the eastern part of Mazury and the south-eastern part of the former Suwalszczyzna. The voivodship borders three different countries; Russia (Kaliningrad), Belarus and Lithuania. The climate in the Suwałki voivodship is the coolest in the country (excluding the high mountainous areas of Poland), with the lowest average annual temperature of 5.6 °C. The snow cover lasts about 80 days.

The voivodship had a population of 486 000 at the end of 1995. In comparison to other regions of Poland, the population is more ethnically varied with Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Russians, Belarussians and people of German origin all living in this area.

The annual natural population increase remains one of the highest in the country, amounting in 1995 to 4.5 per 1 000. However, the growth in the population is slowed by the negative balance of migration, Suwałki also having one of the highest net population outflows in the country. Mostly people leave for other parts of Poland, relatively few emigrate.

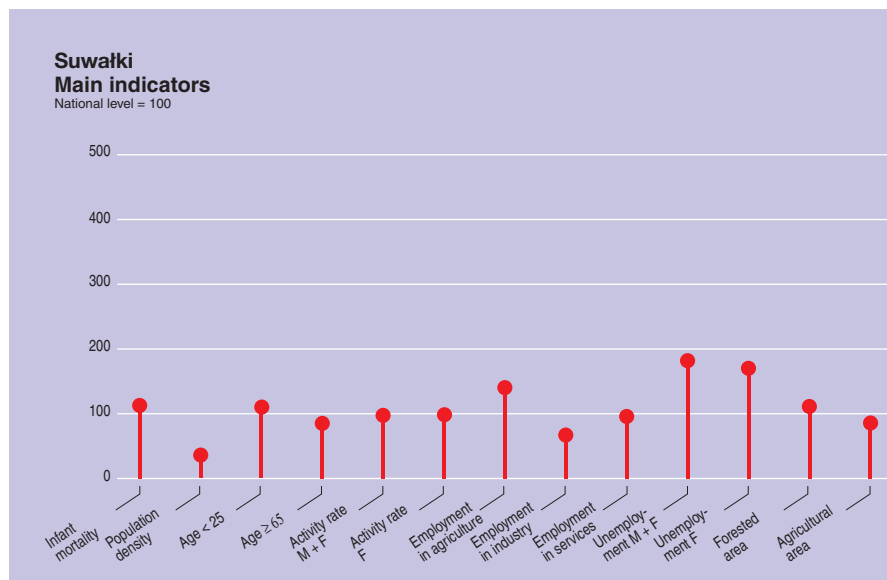
Suwalszczyzna and Mazury are known domestically and further afield as among the most attractive tourist and recreational areas in Poland, mainly due to the varied landscape, numerous lakes and forests and clean air and water. This area is known as the land of the thousand lakes; in fact there are closer to 1 500 lakes covering a total area of 76 000 ha within the borders of the voivodship. Suwałki has two of the largest lakes in Poland, Lake Śniardwy and Lake Mamry as well as the deepest, Lake Hańcza. One of the most notable is Lake Wigry and its waters cover about 8 % of the voivodship's area.

A classic post-glacial landscape

Geographically, the voivodship comprises the east-central part of the Mazurskie Lake District and the south-western area of the Litewski Lake District. In geomorphical terms, it is a classic example of a post-glacial landscape, with such formations as moraines, outwashes, eskers, kames, drumlins and between them tunnel-valley, barrier and ring lakes. Forests and wooded areas account for one third of the voivodship's area, with the forests representing more than 4 % of the timber resources in the country.



Lake Wigry in the region known as the 'Green Lungs of Poland'.
photo W. Mażul



The voivodship is not rich in mineral raw materials, but construction aggregate, peat and lake chalk are exploited locally. Suwalszczyzna does have the largest deposits in Poland of iron ore, and these contain valuable impurities of elements such as titanium and vanadium. Faced with the problem of choosing either to extract the ore or keep it deep in the earth and maintain the natural beauty of the environment, it was decided not to destroy the attractive landscape which is perhaps the greatest natural resource of Suwalszczyzna.

The main sources of air pollution in the voivodship are the urban heat-generating plants, community and factory boiler plants, industrial factories and motor vehicles — which are also the main source of

noise. Due to its location, all of the north-eastern transit traffic passes through the voivodship.

In rail transport, the network has remained unchanged for years and the length of track per km² is below the national average. Non-profitable sections of lines are being withdrawn from use.

The north-south European road transport route known as the Via Baltica runs through the voivodship linking Tallinn, Riga, Kaunas with Warsaw and entering Suwałki at the Budzisko border crossing. Its modernisation and upgrading to motorway standards is planned. The quality of the main roads that provide links with other parts of the country is unsatisfactory.



Which regions are similar to Suwałki voivodship?

Population:
484 700 inhabitants
Ludwigsburg (D)
Nordjyllands amt (DK)

Area:
10 400–10 500 km²
Comunidad Foral de Navarra (E)
Uusimaa (FIN)

Land use:
51 % agriculture
South East (UK)
Jihoceský (CZ)
Oost-Nederland (NL)

Environmental problems being tackled

Suwałki is unique in having borders with three different countries, and is the only voivodship to border Lithuania. The development of trade exchange and tourism has been helped by the opening of four border crossings — road crossings at Ogrodniki, Budzisko and Goldap and a railway crossing at Trakiszki and by the voivodship's location on the international 'Via Baltica' transit route.

Consequently, Suwałki is becoming one of the largest market cities in Poland, and features the annual Suwałski Border Fairs.

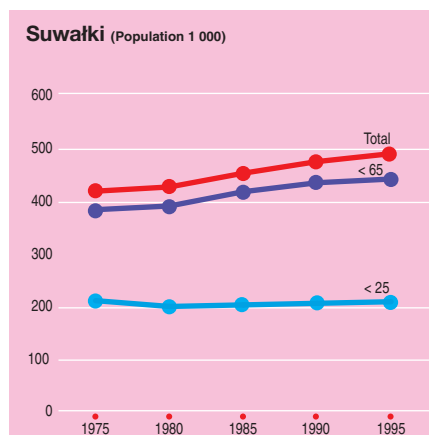
Tourism, traditionally one of the more important branches of the voivodship's economy, has suffered from under-investment for a long time but in recent years, due to private and local government investment, has gained many new high-standard facilities.

The problem of environmental protection is being tackled and the funds allocated are

being used for building new mechanical and biological sewage treatment plants for all of the cities as well as some of the gminas. Landfill sites for municipal waste have been established in all of the gminas. Equipment to reduce air pollution is being installed in the industrial plants with the greatest emissions levels.

SUWAŁKI Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	443.3
Births	92.6
Deaths	44.8
Net permanent migration	– 9.4
Net temporary migration	3.9
Population 31. 12. 1995	485.6



SUWAŁKI Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	128	26.4	27.2	25.6
15–24	78	16.1	16.7	15.6
25–39	107	21.9	22.9	21.0
40–54	83	17.1	17.4	16.9
55–64	42	8.7	8.1	9.3
≥ 65	47	9.7	7.7	11.7
Total	485	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000 km ²	1 000			Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Suwałki voivodship	10.5	485	46	8.1	56.6	27.3	38	21	41
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Poorly developed industry

The voivodship is under-industrialised and heavily dependent on one industry; the manufacture of tobacco products accounts for more than 40 % of the voivodship's industrial production (by sales value), followed by the manufacture of foods and beverages (26 %), and wood and wood products (12 %). The production of cigarettes amounts to 12 % of the Polish total.

To attempt to initiate a wider range of economic activity, a special economic zone was established in 1996 covering Suwałki, Elk and Goldap. This zone is intended to encourage the exploitation of the potential offered by the voivodship's location on the borders of several countries and to make the expansion into the markets of the Baltic countries and the Commonwealth of Independent States possible.

A state-controlled enterprise continues to provide the majority of public transport services, but private companies have now been established. The number of registered passenger vehicles and trucks is systematically growing and freight transport is mainly by private-sector companies.

Agricultural land makes up 51 % of the voivodship's area, and about four fifths of it is owned by the 29 000 private farms. The average farm in the voivodship is double the size of the national average, with 14 ha of agricultural land.

However, soil qualities are poor. There is very little of the best class I land, and the area with very good class II and III land is limited. About 60 % of the arable areas are composed of class IV land, and 77 % of grasslands are either class IV or V.

Cereals and fodder crops dominate plant production, but yields per hectare are among the lowest in the country. Cattle and pigs are the main elements of livestock farming and more than three quarters of the value of final agricultural output is derived from animal as opposed to crop products.

**SUWAŁKI
Agriculture — 1995**

Number of private farms	29 180	Main products — proportion of agricultural	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	537 602	commodity output	
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	81	Pork	33.7 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	47	Milk	26.4 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	79	Cereals	9.2 %
Arable land (%)	64	Beef	8.0 %

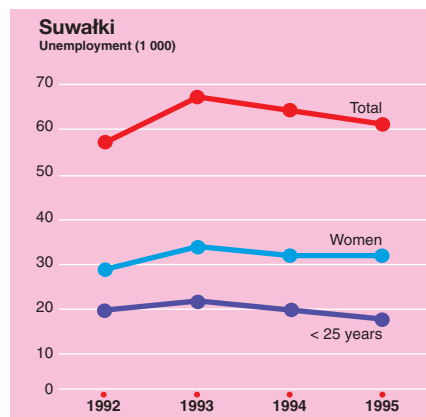
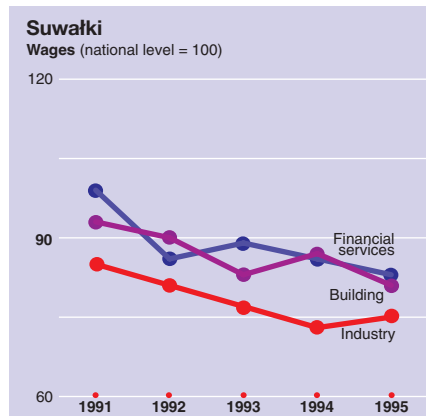
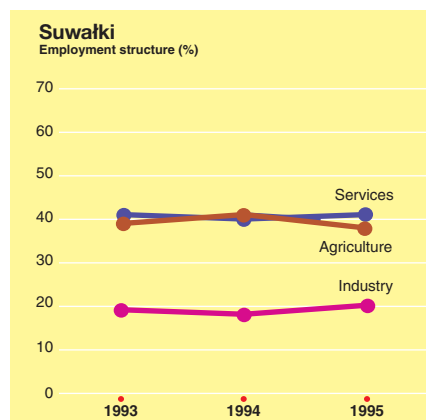
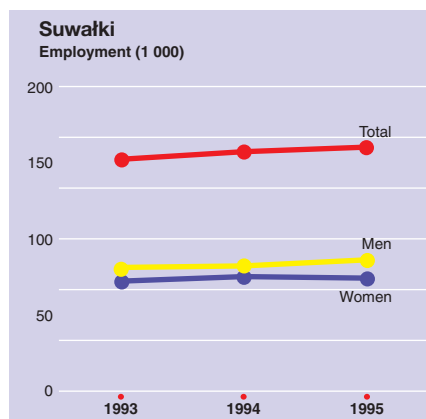
High unemployment and low wages

Following the fall in the number of people in work at the beginning of the 1990s — felt particularly in agriculture — a gradual growth in the number of jobs has been observed since 1993. In 1995, the largest number of people were working in the services sector, representing 41 % of all employment. 38 % worked in the agricultural sector and 21 % in industry and construction.

The voivodship has the third highest rate of unemployment in Poland. This resulted mainly from the laying off of employees of State farms as well as because of the liquidation of many manufacturing enterprises. Various forms of fighting unemployment have been undertaken with the aim of easing the situation. From December 1993, when the level of registered unemployment was at its highest, the total number of unemployed declined by more than 6 000, and the rate of unemployment from 30 % to 27 % in December 1995. The voivodship's population is characterised by a relatively low educational level, which makes the exceptionally unfavourable situation on the labour market even worse.

Women, and people under 25, make up slightly lower proportions of the unemployed than the national averages.

Average wages and salaries in the voivodship in 1995 were about 16 % below the national average, which is partly a result of the surplus in the labour force and its low qualifications. Average wages and salaries in industry in 1992 were 20 % lower, and in 1995, 25 % lower than the national average for that sector, and in construction in 1992, 10 % lower than the national average worsening to 19 % in 1995.



SZCZECIN

Situated at the mouth of the Odra, the Szczecin voivodship is the most north-westerly region of the country and shares a border with Germany. The Baltic Sea coast, the mouth of the Odra and the Bay of Szczecin together constitute an important area for tourism.

The voivodship covers an area of 9 982 km² — 3.2 % of Poland's total area. The voivodship is divided into 54 administrative districts (gminas). The administrative centre is Szczecin which, with a population of 418 000, is one of the largest cities in Poland. Second in the voivodship in terms of size is the city of Stargard Szczeciński with 73 000 inhabitants, and third, Świnoujście with 43 000. Together, the 31 cities contain 76 % of the voivodship's population, making Szczecin one of the more urbanised voivodships.

The long-time high rate of growth of the Szczecin voivodship's population has been steadily declining to the extent that in recent years it has been similar to the national average. By way of illustration, while in 1980 there were 2.6 births for each death, in 1995 there were just 1.2. The declining number of births and the recent occurrence of a negative balance of migration are causing a fall in the proportion of the population of working age and a growth in the post-productive age population. The average age of the Szczecin voivodship's population in 1995 was equal to the national average of 34.

Szczecin is the home of four theatres, a philharmonic orchestra and an opera. The number of cultural and educational centres with an international character are growing and include the Goethe Institute and the British Council. The nine museums and their branches are visited by 180 000 people annually, including many foreigners.

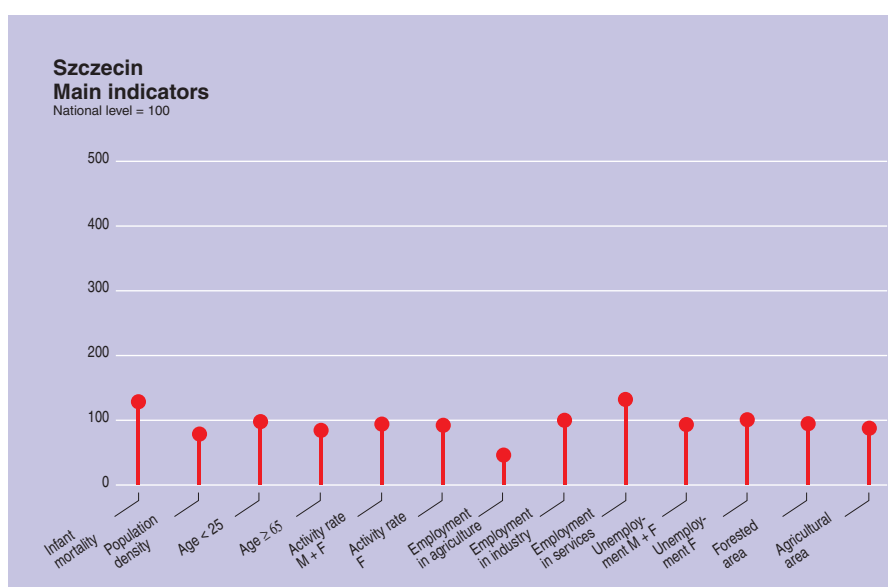
Thanks to the presence of the Pomorska Medical Academy, located in Szczecin, the level of medical care in the voivodship is quite good.

Border crossings reached 31 million in 1995

The Szczecińskie Littoral makes up the majority of the area of the voivodship, and includes the island of Wolin (265 km²) and the eastern part of the island of Uznam (50 km²). In addition there are the Gryficka, Goleniowska and Pyrzycko-Stargardzka plains, and the Bukowa and Wkrzańska forests. In the east and south the voivodship stretches into the western Pomeranian Lake District. Soils are of average fertility, sandy soils cover significant areas, while only in the southern part of the



The Szczecin shipyard, one of the largest in Europe. (photo M. Czasnojc)



voivodship are there very fertile brown and black soils. The climate is characterised by maritime features, with very moderate winters and quite long growing seasons (210 to 220 days).

The voivodship's location on the border with Germany also favours the development of tourism, attracted by the Baltic Sea coast, the Woliński National Park and the Lower Odra River Valley Scenic Park in Międzyodrzu. More than 31 million people and more nine million cars passed through the 19 border crossings in 1995. The proximity of Germany favours not only official trade exchange (exports to Germany account for 56 % of the voivodship's total exports, and imports almost 36 %), but encourages private border trade as well.

Agricultural land covers 53 % of the area of the voivodship, and forest cover 27 %. The 18 000 private farms owned 58 % of the agricultural land by 1995. This, however, represents a far lower proportion than in most other Polish voivodships. The average private farm size in the voivodship is the largest in Poland, amounting to 16 ha.

The voivodship is important in transport terms because of its large sea and river port complex connected with the system of western European motorways through Germany and an international airport in Goleniów as well as the rail network. For every 100 km² of land area there were 62 km of public roads and 8 km of railway lines in 1995.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Szczecin voivodship?

Area:

10 000 km²
 Jönköpings län (S)
 Basilicata (I)
 Schwaben (D)

Age structure:

38–39 % under 25
 Andalusia (E)
 Brasov (RO)

Employment structure:

13–14 % in agriculture
 Itä-Suomi (FIN)
 Castilla-la Mancha (E)
 Sud (I)

Benefits from the proximity of Germany

An important asset of the voivodship is its coastal location, which influences the development of the marine economy (ports, shipping, fishing), as well as associated industries such as shipbuilding. The immediate proximity of Germany as well as the opening to the world through the sea-ports, favours economic development and the influx of foreign capital to the extent that at the end of 1995, there were 1 295 registered joint-venture companies in the

voivodship — the sixth highest number in the country. The Pomerania Euroregion, established in December 1995, is one of eight in Poland, and the fourth to be set up on the western border. Tourism is becoming a profitable branch of the economy.

The region's moderate climate and good soils as well as the comparatively large size of farms favour the development of agriculture and the food-processing industry. The yields of some of the basic crops are among the highest in the country. However, there is serious structural unemployment in rural areas.

The voivodship is among those regions in which the beneficial changes connected with the modernisation of telephone systems are clearly felt. The telecommunications infrastructure is one of the best in the country. Between 1990 and 1995, the number of telephone subscribers per 1 000 inhabitants grew from 120 to almost 200.

SZCZECIN Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	933.1
Births	147.6
Deaths	92.3
Net permanent migration	3.1
Net temporary migration	- 1.0
Population 31. 12. 1995	990.5

Szczecin (Population 1 000)



SZCZECIN Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	215	21.7	22.7	20.7
15–24	163	16.5	17.2	15.9
25–39	215	21.7	22.4	21.1
40–54	211	21.3	21.8	20.9
55–64	90	9.1	8.5	9.8
≥ 65	96	9.7	7.6	11.7
Total	990	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Szczecin voivodship	10.0	990	99	5.1	55.2	14.2	13	31	56
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

A major Baltic port

As a consequence of the voivodship's coastal location, economic life has been dominated by the marine economy with its shipping, shipbuilding and deep sea fishing industries. The Szczecin-Swinoujście port complex is one of the largest ports on the Baltic, and its total trans-shipment capacity amounts to 26 million tons annually. The trans-shipment potential of all the ports in the voivodship represents about 40% of the domestic potential, and Szczecin ship owners account for about 80% of Polish sea transport. Shipyards have a leading position in the economy. The largest of them, Stocznia Szczecińska, builds ships, which are competitive on world markets. The repair docks in Szczecin and Swinoujście operate for domestic fleet needs, but also service foreign-owned ships.

Industry plays an important role in the region: Szczecin produces almost 3% of total Polish output by sales value. The manufacture of transport equipment (21% of the voivodship's total industrial output), foods and beverages (20%), as well as the generation and distribution of electricity and gas (13%) dominate the local economy. Some chemical products are also nationally important; phosphate fertilisers (73% of Polish production), sulphuric acid (57%), as well as nitrogen fertilisers and cellulose fibres. The industrial potential is located primarily in the cities of Szczecin, Swinoujście, Stargard Szczeciński and Police.

The voivodship also has an agricultural side. Cereals dominate field crops with 63% of sown area, wheat alone accounting for 25%. Rape and oil yielding rape are also widely planted (14%). Yields per hectare are among the highest in Poland. Livestock farming is less developed; Szczecin has fewer cattle and pigs than most voivodships.

Tourism is also important and the overnight accommodation capacity of the voivodship is almost 10% of the Polish total. Since 1990, a new form of tourism — agro-tourism — has developed. A well-

developed network of banking facilities serves the population and business alike. There are 113 facilities engaged in direct client services and the head offices of two banks are located in the voivodship.

Increasing employment in the private sector

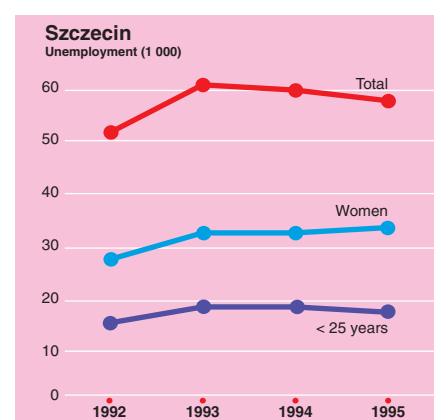
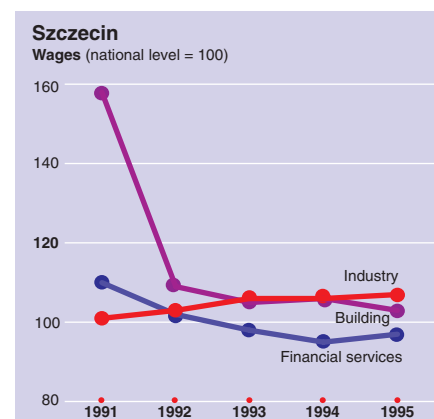
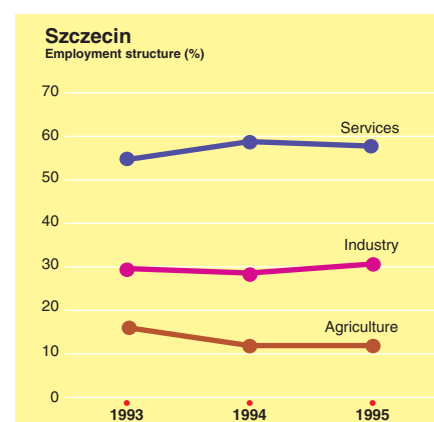
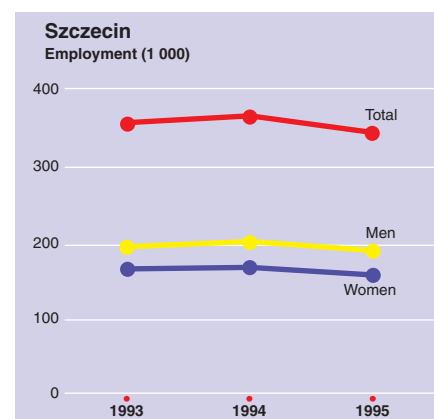
The economic transformation launched in 1989 has affected both the level and structure of employment. Employment is declining in the public sector, but growing in the private sector to the extent that in 1995 it employed the majority (55%) of the 342 000 people working in the voivodship. At the end of 1995, more than half (56%) of the people working were in the services sector, 31% in industry and just 13% in the agricultural sector. At the same time, 57 000 people were without a job, amounting to an unemployment rate slightly lower than the national average of 14%. The lack of job opportunities is particularly felt in agricultural areas, as large state farms have undergone restructuring.

From the end of 1993, unemployment began to fall slightly, mirroring the economic growth resulting from the rapid increase in the number of businesses and particularly in companies owned by private individuals and partnerships. Almost every other private company is engaged in the trade and repairs sector, and one in ten are in manufacturing or construction.

Average salaries, particularly in the business sector, are among the highest in Poland, pushed up by wages and salaries in the energy sector and the transport equipment manufacturing industry. Social benefits, however are relatively low and only amount to about 60% of average salaries.

The educational level of society is improving: every 13th inhabitant of the voivodship has a diploma from a centre of higher education. More than 38 000 students (of which 21 000 are full-time) attend the ten schools of higher education in the voivodship.

SZCZECIN Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	17 992	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	529 545		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	58	Pork	20.9 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	20	Cereals	16.8 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	70	Industrial crops	12.5 %
Arable land (%)	76	Vegetables	7.8 %



TARNOBRZEG

The Tarnobrzeg voivodship, situated in the south-eastern part of Poland, covers an area of 6 283 km² (2 % of the country's area). The total population of the voivodship at the end of 1995 amounted to 609 000, giving a well-below average population density of 97 inhabitants per km².

The voivodship is divided into 55 administrative districts (gminas). The largest of the 16 cities are Stalowa Wola, with a population of 72 000, Tarnobrzeg (51 000) and Sandomierz (27 000). Only 40 % of the total population live in the cities. The voivodship has a negative migration balance with a net outflow primarily involving the rural population. The birth rate has fallen relentlessly from 15.6 births per 1 000 population in 1991 to 12.1 in 1995, with the death rate falling much more slowly from 10.5 to 10.1 per 1 000 population in the same period. Despite these trends, the population grew by some 10 000 (1.7 %) between the beginning of 1991 and the end of 1995.

The cultural activity in the voivodship is supported by the 208 libraries, seven museums and 11 cinemas. The number of visits to the cinemas rocketed by some 56 % between 1994 and 1995, clearly outstripping the national increase of less than 25 %. Museum attendance rose by over 20 % in the voivodship over the same period, again well ahead of the national increase of under 3 %.

Health-care services in the voivodship are provided by nine hospitals, 64 clinics and 82 health-care centres. The state of the telephone system is worse than in other parts of the country, however, a multi-annual programme to develop telecommunication services includes plans to double the number of subscribers.

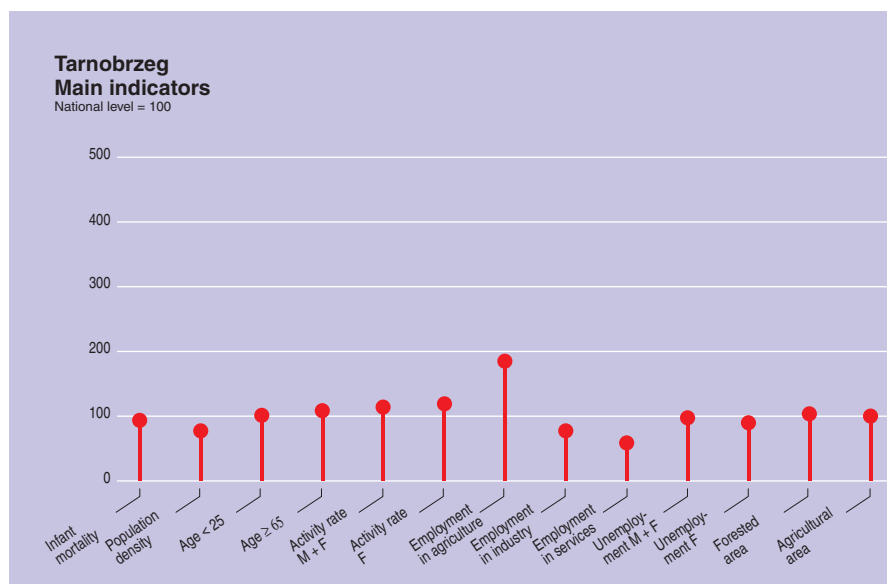
A source of sulphur and energy

The landscape of the voivodship is varied, with lowlands in the Sandomierska Valley and hilly areas on the Kielecko-Sandomierska and Lubelska uplands. Within the upland areas, the Sandomierska and Lubelska uplands are split by deep river valleys. The main rivers are the Wisła and San.

The largest forests are the Sandomierska Forest and the Janowskie Forest, the latter a National Memorial Park at the site of one of the main partisan battles during the Second World War.



*The unique architecture of Sandomierz.
photo W. Zieliński*



Valuable mineral raw materials are found in the Tarnobrzeg voivodship, providing the basis for the development of the extraction and processing industries. The voivodship is known primarily for its huge deposits of sulphur. Also found are deposits of natural gas, aggregates, sand and limestone. The voivodship possesses large energy supplies since the building of power plants at Polaniec and Stalowa Wola.

Private farms occupy 97 % of the agricultural land. Of a total of 74 000 farms, about 40 % are small farms of between 1 and 3 ha in size, and in many cases these fulfil

more of a social role than an economic one. Less than 1 % of the farms possess more than 15 ha and the average private farm size is just over 4 ha of agricultural land. The changes needed in the agrarian structure include the creation of larger, more specialised farms capable of exploiting the advantages of modern technologies.



Which regions are similar to Tarnobrzeg voivodship?

Population density:
97 inhabitants per km²
Vestsjaellands amt (DK)
Kelheim (D)
Foggia (I)

Age structure:
12 % over 65
Campania (I)
Norte (P)

Land use:
30 % forest
Nord Ovest (I)
Navarra (E)
Východočeský (SK)

Many assets, but shortage of capital

The Tarnobrzeg voivodship is remarkable for its natural mineral resources and well-developed industry. There are two landscape parks and 11 nature reserves and some unique buildings in Sandomierz, with castles in Baranów Sandomierski and in Dzików.

Another asset of the voivodship is its highly-skilled labour force and the specialised engineering and technical personnel concentrated in the largest industrial enter-

prises as well as in the two research and development centres.

Possibilities of cooperation within the framework of trans-border areas and Euroregions are provided by the voivodship's proximity to the southern and eastern borders as well as by the special freight railway line which runs through the voivodship transporting sulphur and metal ores.

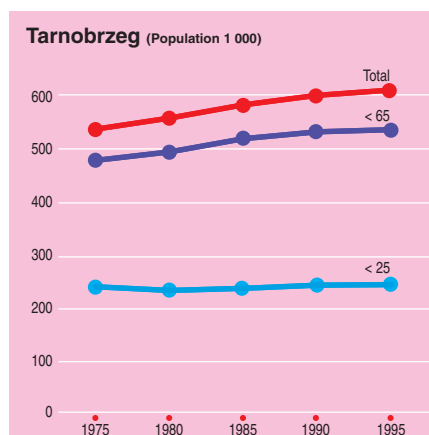
A weak point of the voivodship is the inadequate level of investment in the economy. The difficult financial situation of the largest enterprises, the capital weakness

of small and medium-sized companies as well as the inadequate influx of external capital all have an influence on this.

The development of the infrastructure has largely been neglected. This is particularly so in regard to the state of public roads, many of which require modernisation or renovation. The local railway network is actually quite well-developed, but there is a lack of good connections to the larger urban centres in Poland.

TARNOBRZEG Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	577.0
Births	103.4
Deaths	68.2
Net permanent migration	- 7.6
Net temporary migration	4.7
Population 31. 12. 1995	609.3



TARNOBRZEG Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	146	23.9	24.7	23.2
15-24	95	15.6	16.4	14.9
25-39	127	20.9	21.9	19.9
40-54	110	18.1	18.6	17.7
55-64	56	9.1	8.6	9.6
≥ 65	75	12.3	9.8	14.8
Total	609	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Tarnobrzeg voivodship	6.3	609	97	5.0	66.3	14.8	50	24	26
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

A newly industrialised region

The Tarnobrzeg voivodship is one of the newly industrialised regions of Poland, with industry taking off since the discovery of vast deposits of sulphur in 1953. More than 95 % of the total Polish production of sulphur is excavated in Tarnobrzeg. The electrical engineering, chemical and power industries have also developed in the voivodship. Almost 60 % of the domestic production of machinery and equipment for construction, road and drainage work are produced in the voivodship as are large quantities of building materials (glass, cement), electricity, sulphuric acid and phosphate fertilisers.

Many enterprises are going through the processes of restructuring and privatisation. About 30 % of the large industrial plants were involved in various measures of transformation at the end of 1995.

A wide range of activities are being undertaken to encourage the development of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as for increasing investment attractiveness. The Tarnobrzeg Agency for Regional Development, the Tarnobrzeg Chamber of Industry and Trade as well as the Business Support Centre in Stalowa Wola have all been established in order to develop and promote small and medium-sized companies.

The Tarnobrzeg voivodship possesses favourable natural conditions for agricultural production. An area of intensive development in agriculture is the northern part of the region, where the best soils for the cultivation of wheat, barley and industrial plants (sugar beet, rape, flax) are found. In the production of fruit and vegetables, the voivodship has been a domestic leader for years and accounts for 5 % of the Polish production of fruit and 4 % of vegetables. Fruit and vegetable production is concentrated primarily in the area of Sandomierz and neighbouring gminas, in the area with the most fertile loess soils. Dairy cattle and pig farming are the main elements of animal production in the voivodship.

Industrial restructuring resulting in unemployment

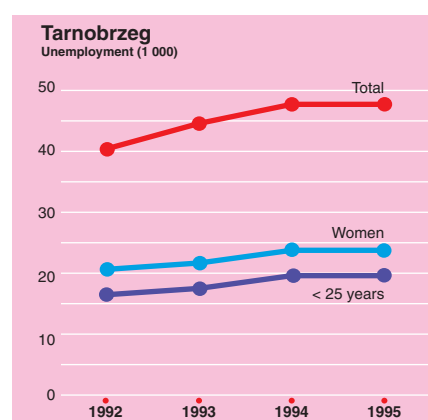
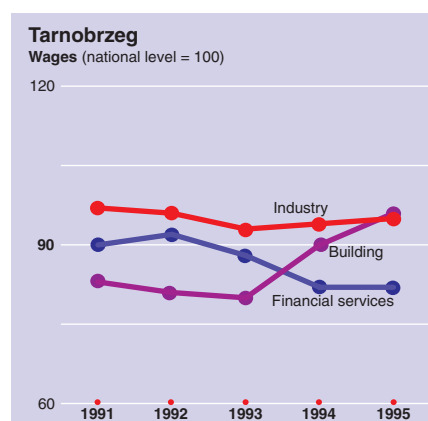
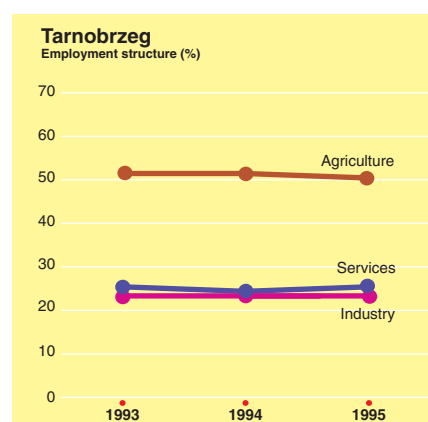
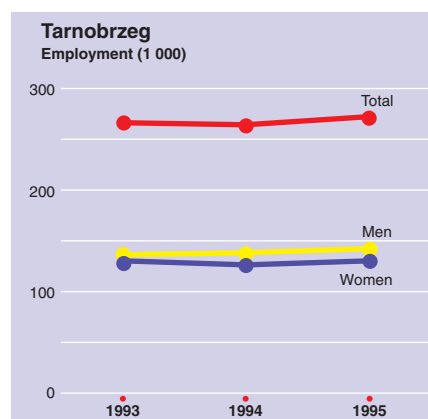
Of the total labour force at the end of 1995, half were employed in agriculture, hunting and forestry, slightly more than a quarter in services and just under a quarter in the industry, mining and construction sector. From 1990 to 1995, a fall of about 10 000 people has been noted in the number of people working in the industrial sector, while employment has remained virtually unchanged in the other two sectors.

The reduced employment levels in industry resulting from the economic restructuring have inevitably fed through into unemployment, which at the end of 1995 amounted to about 47 000 people, giving a rate of unemployment on a par with the national average. About 70 % of the people registered as unemployed are young people below the age of 35, most frequently with only basic vocational or primary education.

Almost 37 000 students attend the voivodship's general, technical and vocational secondary schools. In December 1995, the College of Humanities and Environmental Studies in Sandomierz opened; the first independent school of higher education in the voivodship. Also in Sandomierz is the four-year-old Theology Institute, subordinate to the Papal Theological Academy in Kraków. There are branches of centres of higher education in three other cities of the voivodship. Total tertiary enrolment exceeds 5 000.

**TARNOBRZEG
Agriculture – 1995**

Number of private farms	73 565	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	377 319		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	97	Vegetables	23.3 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	40	Fruit	18.4 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	70	Pork	16.8 %
Arable land (%)	78	Milk	12.4 %



TARNÓW

Tarnów in southern Poland is one of the smallest voivodships, its 4 151 km² being divided into just 48 administrative districts (gminas).

Settlement in the region dates back to the early middle ages. A number of localities founded in the 13th and 14th centuries have lost their former status as cities and are therefore now classed as rural despite their typically urban structures. Many historic architectural monuments have been preserved including castles, palaces, old residential buildings and entire parts of towns. Industrialisation began in the 1930s with the building of the 'Central Industrial District'.

In terms of population (693 500 at the end of 1995), the Tarnów voivodship ranks 22nd in the country, but it is relatively densely populated, taking 10th place with its 167 inhabitants/km², well above the national average of 123. Its high natural population increase is, however, now showing a downward trend. Net migration out of the voivodship as well as from the countryside to the cities has also declined. As far as the age structure is concerned, a shrinking proportion of children and young people accompanies a marginal increase in the older age groups. Compared to other parts of Poland, however, Tarnów voivodship continues to have an unusually young population; at the end of 1995, 42 % of Tarnów's population was below the age of 25 compared to 38% nationally. The voivodship also had a high population increase (3.5 %) between 1991 and 1995, the second highest rate in the country and clearly outstripping the national average of 1.1 %.

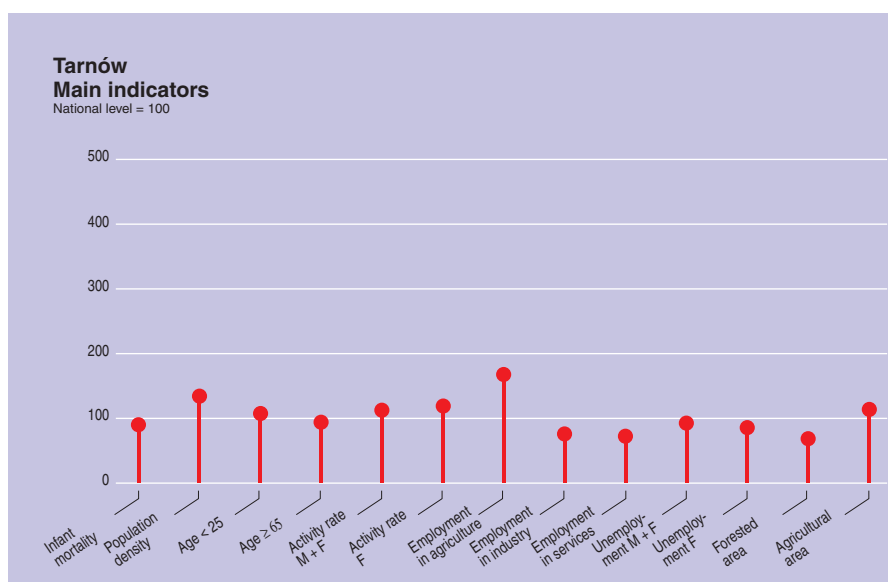
The rate of urbanisation is one of the lowest in the country; only 36 % of the voivodship's population live in its 10 cities. The largest city, Tarnów, has a population of 122 000, accounting for one half of the voivodship's urban population. The next largest cities are Dębica (49 000 inhabitants), Bochnia (30 000) and Brzesko (18 000).

Dense road network

Three sub-regions can be distinguished. The central area contains the majority of the voivodship's economic potential and has the highest degree of urbanisation and industrialisation. The southern part is mountainous, forested and unpolluted. A number of tourist attractions provide scope for the development of agrotourism. The third area, the northern lowlands, has an economy dominated by agriculture. For almost 100 km, the western



The chemicals industry in Tarnów. (photo R. Kamieniecki)



and north-western borders of the voivodship are formed by the Wisła and Raba rivers. The Dunajec river flows through the centre of the voivodship, with the Czchowski reservoir being important in economic and tourism terms.

While not possessing the richest natural resources in Poland, Tarnów does have significant quantities of natural gas, natural aggregates, rock-salt, petroleum and loams useful in the production of ceramics. Abundant resources of surface water are offset by a lack of underground water. The few natural lakes occur mainly in the old river beds of the larger rivers; small man-made reservoirs are numerous, but many of the surface reservoirs are disappearing. Czchowski, the largest artificial reservoir, is

of considerable water-management and recreational importance.

Environmental investment has been successful in reducing industrial emissions of dusts and gases. The area between Tarnów and Dębica has been classed as being environmentally-threatened.

Water supply, gas and sewerage networks in the countryside are steadily expanding. The developed network of roads is one of the densest in the country; for every 100 km² land area in the voivodship there are 138 km of public roads, while the average in Poland is just 76 km.



Which regions are similar to Tarnów voivodship?

- Area:**
 4 100–4 200 km²
 Viborg amt (DK)
 Douro (P)
 Pyrénées-Orientales (F)
- Age structure:**
 42 % under 25
 Açores (P)
 Východné Slovensko (SK)
- Land use:**
 68 % agriculture
 East Anglia (UK)
 Basilicata (I)

Natural resources, but hidden unemployment in the countryside

Among the strengths of the voivodship are its strategic transit location, with a well-developed network of roads. The demographic structure is favourable, with a high natural population increase, and the population is served by a well-developed gas supply network. Deposits of natural gas make the development of a more ecologically-friendly economy possible than if the main source of energy was based on solid fuels. The voivodship possesses sufficient

resources of water and significant deposits of aggregates, loams and clays favouring the development of building materials production.

The existence of ecologically clean areas provide a basis for the growth of ecological agriculture and agro-tourism, and in the food-processing industry there is a broad, well-balanced development.

The weak points of the voivodship include the low educational attainment level of the population, the overpopulated countryside, and poor agrarian structure, with many very small mixed farms. This results

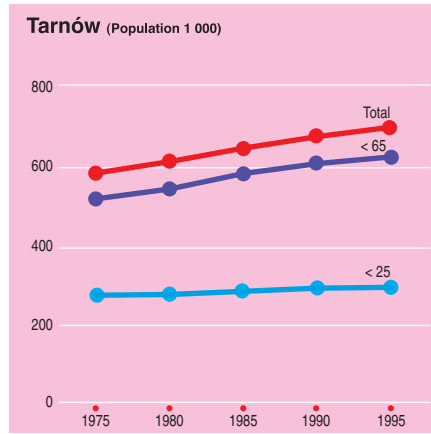
in a significant degree of hidden unemployment in the countryside.

The rate of transformations of ownership in the public sector has been slow, and there is a shrinking non-agricultural labour market influenced by a slowdown in construction work.

There is only a low level of infrastructure in the region, and the environment of the central part of the voivodship in particular is threatened by the poor state of water, sewerage and waste management facilities.

TARNÓW Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	634.0
Births	129.5
Deaths	71.2
Net permanent migration	- 10.9
Net temporary migration	12.2
Population 31. 12. 1995	693.5



TARNÓW Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	178	25.7	26.8	24.7
15–24	112	16.1	16.8	15.5
25–39	150	21.6	22.8	20.5
40–54	115	16.6	16.7	16.4
55–64	64	9.2	8.6	9.7
≥ 65	75	10.8	8.3	13.3
Total	694	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
	1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Tarnów voivodship	4.2	694	167	8.1	66.2	14.0	46	23	31
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Industry dominated by chemicals and rubber

The private sector dominates the economy in the Tarnów voivodship with 73% of total employment, largely due to the strength of the private sector in agriculture. The other specific feature of the voivodship's economy is the important position of large public sector companies which are undergoing ownership, organisational and technical changes amounting to economic restructuring. This is being forced by the market transformation processes with the market determining demand and the effects of competition. This restructuring is accompanied by a significant reduction in employment. Simultaneously, a dynamic development of private sector businesses has occurred, making the region a domestic leader in this regard. Most are small businesses, located mainly in urban centres. Almost half are primarily engaged in trading. The voivodship is attracting a substantial and growing commitment of foreign capital.

The leading industry in the voivodship is the chemicals industry - the manufacture of chemical products and plastics as well as rubber products accounting for almost half of the sold production of industry by value. Many of these products are exported. The food processing industry (23% of output) is well developed, focusing mainly on the production and processing of meat and meat products, the manufacture of beverages (beer) and fruit and vegetable processing.

Tarnów voivodship accounts for 26% of the domestic production of rubber products and 15% of plastics, as well as significant quantities of nitrogen fertilisers and electric spinning machines. Agriculture is also important. In terms of cattle numbers per hectare of agricultural land, Tarnów is among the leading voivodships, taking 7th place. Cereals, and especially wheat, dominate the area under cultivation, followed by potatoes. Most farms are small and family run with mixed production and specialisation is low. The average-sized farm, just as in the neighbouring

voivodships in the south-eastern part of the country, has only about 3 hectares of agricultural land.

High proportion of employment in agriculture

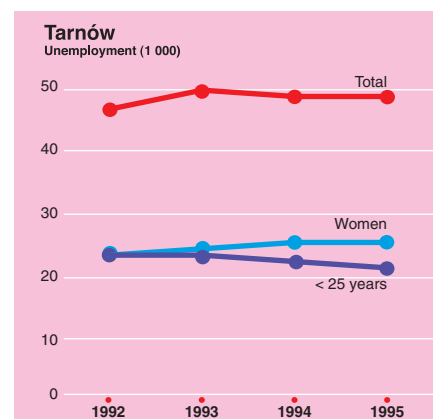
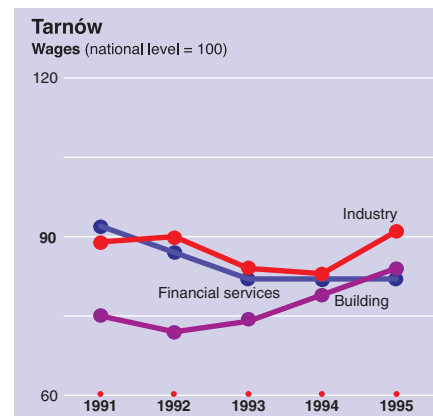
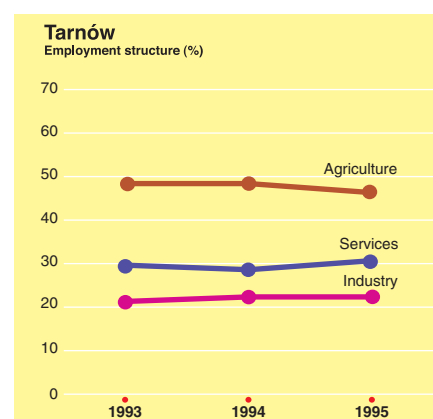
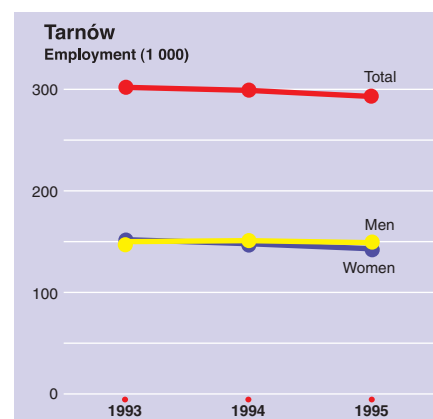
Over the first half of the 1990s, some 12 000 industrial jobs were lost. This pushed the total number of unemployed to over 49 000 by the end of 1993, and the next two years saw only a marginal reduction in this number. Employment in the agricultural sector has remained at a more constant level at about 46% of total employment, while the services sector had grown to 31% by the end of 1995 at the expense of industry which had fallen to 23%. These figures clearly demonstrate the importance of agriculture to the voivodship; the Polish average is just 27% of employment in agriculture at the end of 1995.

Average monthly wages and salaries in the Tarnów voivodship have been lower than the national average for many years, but have improved in the 1990s to almost 90% of the national average in 1995.

The unemployment rate in the first half of the 1990s has been somewhat lower than the national average. A problem, however, is the low level of demand in the labour market as well as the high level of unemployment among young people; 75% of the unemployed at the end of 1995 were under the age of 35. People with the lowest professional qualifications have particular difficulty finding work. Those with only basic vocational education accounted for 53% of total unemployment, and those with a primary school education 22%.

Previously poor educational attainment levels are gradually improving and two schools of higher education have been opened. More secondary schools mean that in 1995 there were 17 general secondary schools and 132 secondary technical and vocational schools with a total of about 45 000 students.

TARNÓW Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	72 923	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	284 508	Pork	29.6 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	94	Milk	12.5 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	51	Beef	10.8 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	88	Vegetables	9.3 %
Arable land (%)	78		



TORUŃ

The Toruń voivodship is situated in central Poland, on the edges of the historic provinces of Mazowsza, Greater Poland and Pomorza. It covers an area of 5 348 km² (1.7 % of the country's area), and at the end of 1995 counted a population of 671 000.

The voivodship is comprised of 49 administrative districts gminas. The urban network is made up of 13 cities which house almost two-thirds (63 %) of the total population. The largest cities are Toruń, an important industrial, cultural and educational centre with 205 000 inhabitants, and Grudziądz with 103 000. More than 40% of the population in December 1995 were young people below the age of 25. Almost 52 % of the total population is female. The birth rate has declined quite dramatically from 15.2 births per 1 000 population in 1991 to 12.1 in 1995, although this remains above the Polish average. While the death rate has also fallen, this has been less rapid with the result that the natural increase had declined to 2.6 per 1 000 population in 1995, compared to 4.8 in 1991. Still, at 2.6 ‰ the natural increase was more than double the national average (1.2 ‰) for 1995.

There are 13 general hospitals and one psychiatric hospital in the voivodship. While the number of general hospital beds per inhabitant is declining, Toruń is relatively well-supplied with medical equipment and the average number of inhabitants per doctor is also declining.

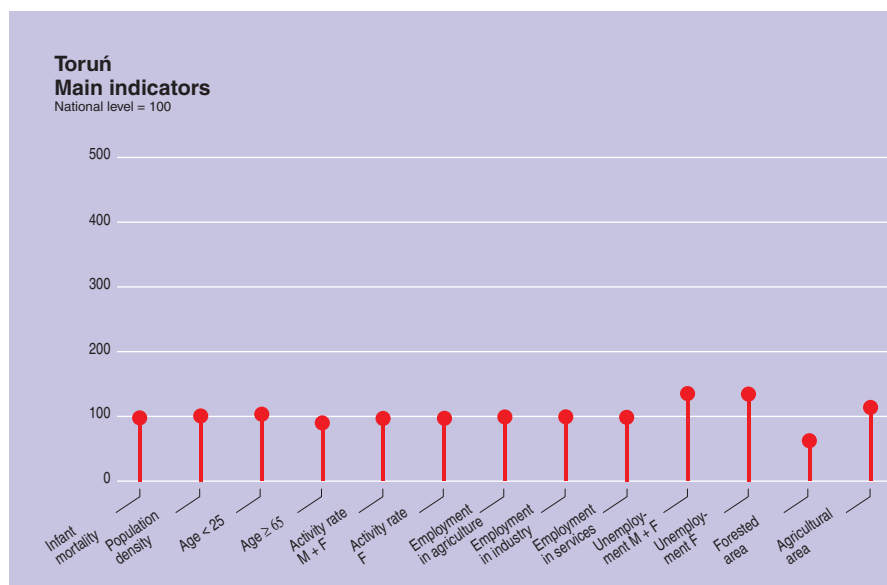
Some events of international importance are organised in the voivodship, such as the Camerimage International Festival of Cinematography, the Festival of Chamber Music and Art of the Baltic Countries, the International Kontakt Theatre Festival and the International Meeting of Folk Bands. The International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition is held in Szafarnia for children and young people.

Attention to environmental protection

The landscape of the voivodship was formed during the last glacial period and is dominated by river valleys and flat and rolling moraine highlands with a series of post-glacial troughs. In hydrographic terms, it lies in the Wisła river basin. There are numerous post-glacial lakes in the area, particularly in the Brodnicki Lake District and the voivodship counts 362 lakes larger than 1 ha. The largest are Partęczyny Wielkie (324 ha) and



Almost 90% of the voivodship's agricultural land is arable. (photo A. Zborski)



Skarlińskie (294 ha). Fallow and brown soils cover about 54 % of the voivodship's area and podzolic soils 34 % of the area. Silty soils are found in the Wisła valley. There are also deposits of natural aggregates (sand, gravel and sand-gravel mixes), loamy raw materials as well as lake chalks.

The transport infrastructure of the Toruń voivodship is quite well-developed. Important transport routes include the north-south motorway under construction, the planned E1 Gdańsk-Cieszyn, E10 Szczecin-Warsaw and E52 Poznań-Olsztyn motorways and the Poznań-Olsztyn, Łódź-Piła and Bydgoszcz-

Warsaw railway lines. The airport in Toruń has been adapted to serve passenger and freight traffic.

Much attention is paid to environmental protection. More than 32 % (172 000 ha) of the voivodship's total area is under legal protection. Three scenic parks have been established: Brodnicki, Górznieńsko-Lidzbarski and Welski. There are 24 nature reserves and 485 features classed as natural monuments in the voivodship. In 1993, the Toruń voivodship joined the 'Green Lungs of Poland programme'.



Which regions are similar to Toruń voivodship?

Area:
5 340–5 360 km²
Roma (I)
Bristita-Nasaud (RO)
Haute-Saône (F)

Age structure:
41–42 % under 25
Ceuta y Melilla (E)
Madeira (P)

Employment structure:
42 % in services
Dytiki Makedonia (EL)
Centro (P)
Dytiki Ellada (EL)

Strong agriculture and industry, but high unemployment

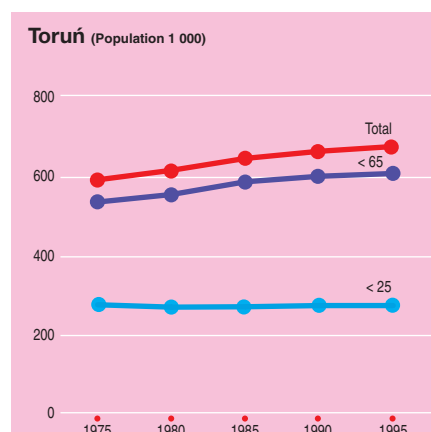
The voivodships strong points include its well-developed agriculture, with larger than average farm sizes and high arable yields. Also important is the well-differentiated industrial structure, with the region's chemical and rubber products being important on the national scale and with a strong food-processing sector.

Added to the economic strengths are the attractive geographic location, the young, educated labour force, and the scientific potential of the university.

Barriers to the voivodship's development do exist though and include a shortage of capital, and the high level of depreciation on the production assets (more than 40 %). Furthermore, the voivodship suffers one of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

TORUŃ Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	633.6
Births	112.0
Deaths	71.5
Net permanent migration	- 7.2
Net temporary migration	4.2
Population 31. 12. 1995	671.1



TORUŃ Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	158	23.5	24.9	22.3
15–24	112	16.6	17.3	16.0
25–39	144	21.5	22.2	20.9
40–54	131	19.4	19.6	19.3
55–64	58	8.7	8.3	9.1
≥ 65	68	10.2	7.8	12.5
Total	671	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000 km ²	1 000			Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Toruń voivodship	5.3	671	125	4.8	57.0	20.5	27	31	42
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Productive agricultural sector with concentration on pig farming

Toruń is both an agricultural and an industrial voivodship. Agricultural production per hectare of agricultural land exceeds the national average by 30 %, 72 % of the value of final output comprising animal products, especially pigs for slaughter (48 %). Toruń has more than twice the national average of pig stocks per 100 hectares of agricultural land, ranking 3rd in the country.

Cereals cover 54 % of arable land sown and yields are among the highest in Poland. Wheat is grown on 21 % of the area but industrial crops (12 %) are also significant.

Of the 364 000 hectares of agricultural land (68 % of the voivodship), 85 % is cultivated by the 29 000 private farms. Averaging 10 hectares, private farms are considerably larger than the national average. 'Ecological agriculture' has been progressing in the voivodship for many years: by 1995, 27 farms in the voivodship (out of 225 in Poland) had been awarded the Certificate of the 'Ekoland' Association of Foodstuff Producers Using Ecological Methods. The majority of these farms are located in the Brodnickie Lake District.

Industry in the voivodship focuses on the manufacture of foods and beverages (almost 40 % of the region's industrial production by sales value) and that of chemicals, chemical products and artificial fibres (15 %).

Toruń voivodship is responsible for a significant proportion of Poland's rubber footwear (67%), synthetic fibres (60 %), tar paper (11 %) and sulphuric acid (5 %) production. The voivodship is responsible for 5 % of the domestic production of meat and fat, 4 % of sugar and 3 % of milled cereals.

Foreign capital, primarily German, Dutch and American, is concentrated mainly in the food processing industry. More than

200 joint venture companies operate in the voivodship.

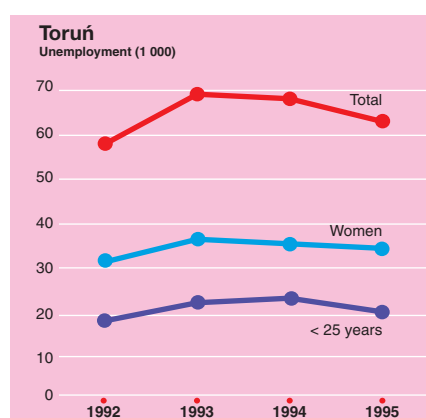
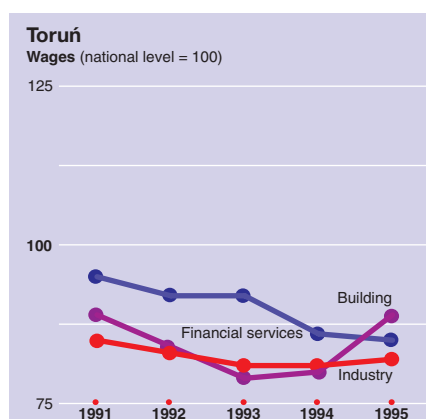
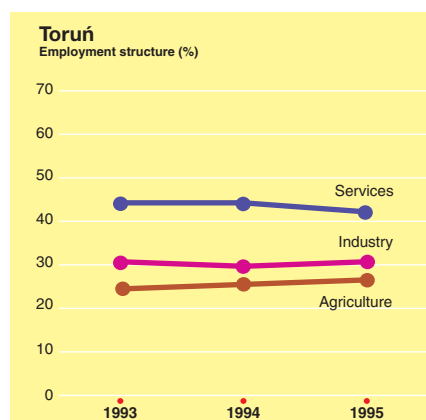
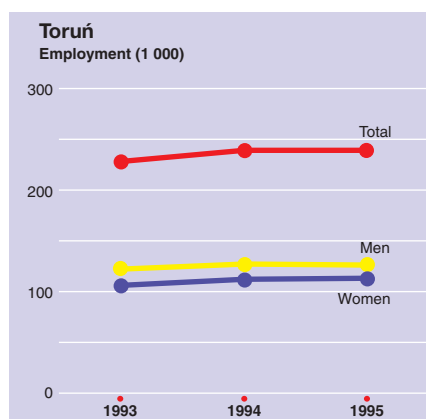
An advanced technology diffusion centre (Technopark) in Toruń is being developed alongside two existing independent research and development centres (The Control and Propulsion Equipment Centre and the Metalchem Chemical Machinery and Equipment Centre), as well as two agricultural experimental facilities in Me(no and in Kończewice. Research is also conducted at the Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń.

Balanced employment structure

After the job cuts at the beginning of the 1990s, a growth in employment has again been observed since 1994, reaching a total of 239 000 in 1995 — 42 % in services, 31 % in industry and 27 % in agriculture, a distribution that corresponds very closely to the national average. The private sector provides employment to 63 % of the work force. The average monthly gross wage and salary in the voivodship is only 87 % of the national average.

In Toruń voivodship, there were 62 000 registered unemployed in December 1995, one of the ten highest rates of unemployment in Poland with 21 % of the labour force out of work compared to 15 % nationally. In line with the national picture, one third of the unemployed are below the age of 25, 37 % have been without a job for more than one year and 55 % of the total are women.

Post-primary education is being targeted as a way of limiting the impact of unemployment. In 1995, there were 28 000 pupils attending schools at the secondary technical and basic vocational levels, and 12 000 at the general secondary level. There are three schools of higher education in Toruń: the Nicholas Copernicus University, a military officers' training school and an ecclesiastic seminary.



TORUŃ Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	29 450	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	363 732	Pork	47.8 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	85	Industrial crops	12.2 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	38	Milk	8.3 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	233	Cereals	6.8 %
Arable land (%)	87		

WAŁBRZYCH

The Wałbrzych voivodship is located in the south-western part of Poland. It covers an area of 4 168 km², which is 1.3 % of the country's total area. It borders the Czech Republic to the south.

There were 740 000 people living in the voivodship in December 1995. The population density amounted to 177 inhabitants per km² which was above the national average and Wałbrzych is one of the most urbanised voivodships with its 31 cities. The urban population represents as much as 74 % of the total. More than 37 % of the urban population were living in the cities of Wałbrzych (139 000 inhabitants) and Świdnica (65 000) at the end of 1995. Not all the cities are large; 17 % of the urban population live in the 17 cities that have less than 10 000 inhabitants.

The population has been decreasing for several years, which is the result of a declining natural increase and a high negative net outward migration. During the period 1991 to 1995, about 8 000 people permanently left the voivodship. The population is ageing; the number of people in their pre-productive years is declining, while the number of people of post-productive age is increasing. In fact there was an increase in the number of people over 65 in the voivodship by 11 800 between the end of 1991 and 1995 while at the same time the number of inhabitants below the age of 25 fell by almost 5 000.

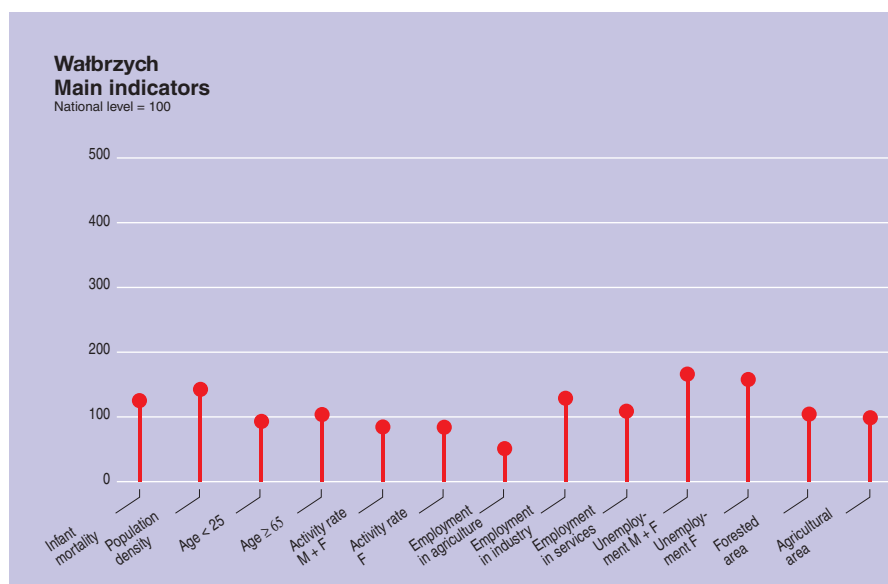
The mineral and therapeutic waters found in the voivodship have led to the development of a sanatorium and health resort industry. Within the voivodship, there are eight well-known health resorts having a national significance. They are also important to the cultural life of the region, as many events of domestic and international significance take place in them, including the Chopin Festival in Duszniki Zdrój, the Moniuszko Festival in Kudowa Zdrój and the Henryk Wieniawski Festival in Szczawno Zdrój.

Natural resources

The north-eastern part of the voivodship lies within the Sudeckie Highland, with rolling plains ranging from 200 to 350 m above sea level and characterised by good soils, a moderate climate and a low degree of forestation. The southern and western areas form part of the eastern and central Sudety Mountains and are mainly forested, with poor soils and a significantly harsher climate. The highest peak is Śnieżnik, at 1 425 m.



Kudowa Zdrój. Tourism and recreation as well as sanatoriums and health resorts offer an opportunity for development. (photo A. Hawalej)



The voivodship has significant and diverse mineral raw material resources. Some of them, such as magnesite, nickel ore, quartz schist and barite ore, are found only in this area of the country. Other raw materials include: granite, syenite, marble, limestone, natural aggregate and ceramic clay. Moreover, hard coal, kaolin and other raw materials for the production of fireproof materials are found in the voivodship.

Within the voivodship is also one of the largest domestic reserves of therapeutic and mineral waters (including waters with fluorides and sulphides, and sodium bicarbonate mineral waters), used for the balneological needs of health resorts as well as in bottling water. The production of mineral

waters accounts for more than one third of the Polish total.

National parks and other recreational areas cover a quarter of the total area of the voivodship — 1 060 km². Natural attractions are the Góry Stołowe National Park, the Śnieżnicki, Książański, Sowiogórski and Stołowogórski scenic parks and various protected landscape areas and nature reserves.

The geographic features and natural assets of the region have been at the basis of the development of various recreational facilities, particularly for hiking and winter sports, and the voivodship has about 18 000 overnight tourist bed places.



Which regions are similar to Wałbrzych voivodship?

Area:
4 100–4 200 km²
Evvoia (EL)
Hampshire, Isle of Wight (UK)

Population density:
177–178 inhabitants per km²
Miltenberg (D)
Nord Ovest (I)

Land use:
60 % agriculture
Drenthe (NL)
Navarra (E)
Jihomoravský (SK)

Conflict between industry and tourism

The Wałbrzych voivodship has an advantageous geographical location, with an attractive landscape and facilities for tourists including health resorts and winter sports. Mineral waters are just one of the region's diverse natural resources, many ores and minerals are also found. The voivodship has a high degree of urbanisation, and a broad-based and well-developed industry. Furthermore, there are good conditions for agricultural production in the

north-eastern area of the voivodship and crop yields are amongst the best in Poland.

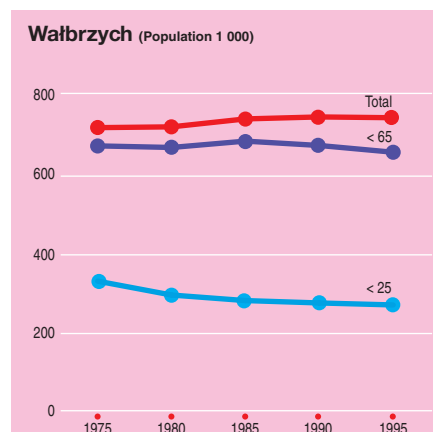
The main problems facing the Wałbrzych voivodship are linked to the underfunded and outdated technologies in industry, with the poorly developed enterprise infrastructure and serious degradation of the natural environment. This results in a conflict between the interests of industry and the tourism and health resort sector. The voivodship lacks hotels with western European standards and this limits the

development of tourism. There is a very high level of unemployment, although the special measures taken appear to be having some effect. The entire Wałbrzych voivodship was acknowledged in a Resolution of the Council of Ministers in 1992 as a region particularly threatened with high structural unemployment and which provided for the initiation of a series of economic and financial instruments.

Finally, parts of the voivodship suffer from a poorly developed telecommunications network.

WAŁBRZYCH
Demographic account
1984–95
(1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	731.9
Births	108.0
Deaths	81.5
Net permanent migration	- 23.4
Net temporary migration	4.4
Population 31. 12. 1995	739.5



WAŁBRZYCH
Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	155	21.0	22.2	19.9
15–24	112	15.1	16.1	14.2
25–39	158	21.5	22.5	20.5
40–54	152	20.5	21.0	20.1
55–64	75	10.1	9.2	11.0
≥ 65	87	11.8	9.0	14.3
Total	739	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			%	%	%
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Wałbrzych voivodship	4.2	739	177	0.5	49.4	25.1	13	40	47
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Phasing out coal-mining

Reflecting its history, the economic structure of the regions is one of intensively exploited natural resources and a dominant role for industry, although agricultural production and services (mainly tourism and recreation) are also of importance.

Extensive raw materials as well as a long record of industrial production have resulted in the development of a diverse, mainly urban industrial fabric centred on Wałbrzych, Świdnica, Dzierżonów, Bielawa and Świebodzice. Electrical engineering and electronics, textiles, foods and beverages, coal and construction materials dominate industrial output. The voivodship is an important producer of tape recorders and dictaphones (85 % of domestic production), freight carriages (46 %), cotton and cotton-like fabrics (31 %), as well as porcelain, domestic glassware and mineral construction aggregate.

A centuries-long tradition of coal-mining shaped the industrial character of the voivodship. Depletion of the coal deposits, outdated technical equipment and technology, growing threats to the environment, inefficient extraction processes and high exploitation costs led, however, to a decision to gradually phase out coal-mining in the region by the year 2001.

Some 60 % of the voivodship can be used for agriculture. Increasingly greater areas of arable land are becoming incorporated into private farms, although the private sector's share of the agricultural land is still low (64 %, compared to the average for Poland of 82 %). Private farms, averaging more than 8 hectares of agricultural land, are large by Polish standards. The largest crop is wheat (41 % of the sown area), followed by rape and oil-yielding rape (17 %). Yields in the region are among the highest in Poland.

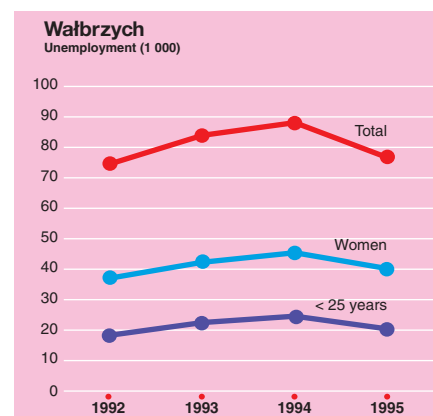
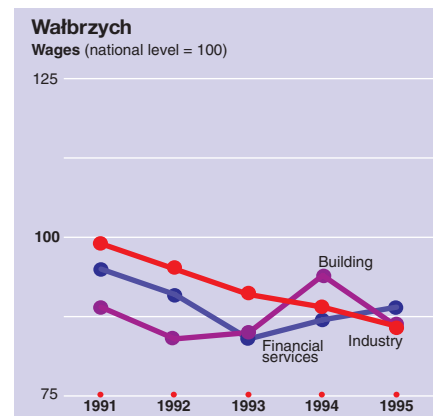
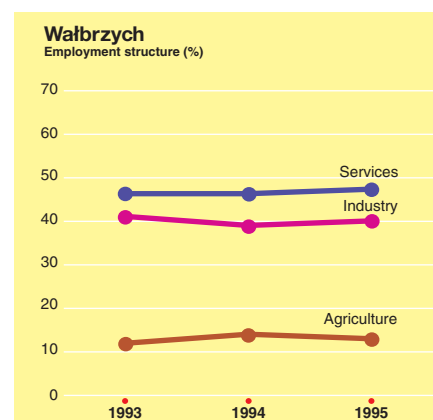
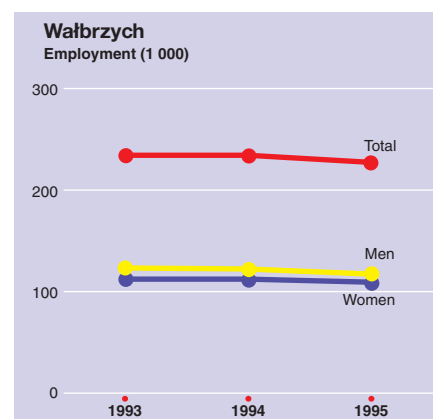
One fourth unemployed

About 31 % of the population were in employment at the end of 1995; a much lower proportion than Poland's 39 % average. Some 35 % of the employed have a basic vocational education and a similar proportion have either a secondary or post-secondary education. Those with higher-education qualifications represent 8 % of total employment. The urban and industrial nature of Wałbrzych is reflected in the employment structure; almost 40 % of the work force were employed in industry at the end of 1995 (national average 30 %) and less than 14 % in agriculture (national average 27 %).

Restructuring of industry has led to fundamental changes, particularly in the coal industry, resulting in significant job losses. In the first half of the 1990s, the number of people working in the region declined by more than 60 000, a fall of 21 %. Most losses (32 000) were in industry — a fall of 29 % from the 1990 level — but all sectors of the economy have shed jobs. Wałbrzych is one of the voivodships hardest hit by unemployment. High ever since the beginning of the economic changes, the unemployment rate stood at 25 % at the end of 1995; more than 10 percentage points above the national average. It is highest among those with only a basic or secondary vocational school education, groups accounting for 56 % of all unemployed.

These social and economic changes made a reform of the educational system in the voivodship necessary. Many new fields of study were created at the secondary and post-secondary levels to better meet the needs of the economy, such as banking, advertising, tourist services, telecommunications and ecology. In co-operation with the Education Foundation in Wałbrzych, the first private school of higher education, the Wałbrzych College of Management and Business, opened. Other centres of higher education operating in the voivodship are the Wrocław Polytechnic, the Academy of Economics and the College of Foreign Languages. A two-year post-graduate programme based on French Institutes of Technology has also been launched.

WAŁBRZYCH Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	16 847	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	248 002	Industrial crops	23.5 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	65	Cereals	19.2 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	24	Pork	11.7 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	55	Milk	7.7 %
Arable land (%)	69		



WŁOCŁAWEK

The Włocławek voivodship is situated in the central part of the country, straddling the lower Wisła Valley, and at the crossroads of important transportation routes. In terms of physical geography, it is located where the Wielkopolsko-Kujawska Lowland meets the Mazurskie Lake District. The voivodship's climatic conditions are typical for central Poland. Annual rainfall amounts to about 500 mm and is one of the lowest in the country. There is a constant water deficit in many areas of the voivodship.

The Włocławek voivodship is divided into 46 self-governing administrative districts (gminas), the smallest territorial unit in the country. The area of the voivodship, 4 402 km², represents 1.4 % of Poland's total area, but its population at the end of 1995 of 435 000 was only 1.1 % of the national total. Consequently, the population density (99 inhabitants per km²) is lower than the national average. The degree of urbanisation is significantly lower than the national average, with the 14 cities of the voivodship housing just 48% of the total population compared to the Polish average of 62 %. The main urban and industrial centre is Włocławek, with 60 % of the voivodship's urban population. The populations of four other cities — Rypin, Lipno, Aleksandrów Kujawski and Ciechocinek — range from 10 000 to 20 000. Rural settlement is characterised by a significant dispersion, particularly in the northern part of the voivodship.

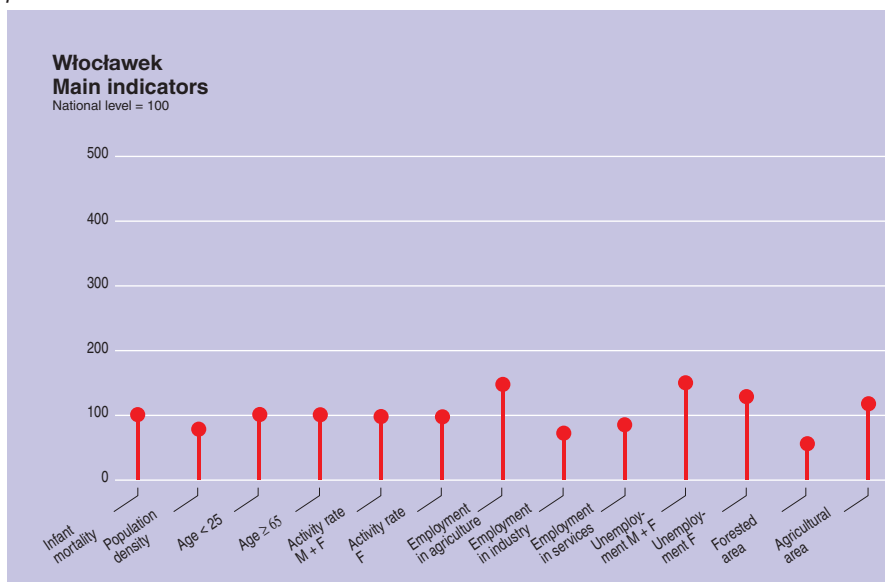
In terms of infrastructure, it is worth noting that there were 133 telephone subscribers for every 1 000 inhabitants in 1995, which makes the voivodship one of the better equipped in the country (16th place). The level of medical services, measured by the average number of inhabitants per doctor is not so good, standing at 654 in Włocławek and placing the voivodship in 40th place out of 49, and with 3 130 inhabitants per dentist it finds itself in 43rd place.

More than a 1 000 lakes

The Włocławek voivodship lies almost entirely within the Wisła River basin, which divides the voivodship into the Dobrzyńskie Lake District on the right bank and the Kujawska Highlands and Włocławska Valley on the left bank. The Wisła flows for a total of 72 km through the voivodship. There are more than 1 000 lakes and about 300 of these are larger than 1 hectare in size, and almost 70



The Wisła Valley.
photo W. Zieliński



exceed 10 ha with 14 lakes of approximately 100 ha. The largest natural water reservoir in the voivodship is Lake Głuszczyńskie. The Włocławski reservoir, stretching from Włocławek to Płock and with an area of more than 70 km², was created on the Wisła with the construction of a 162-MW hydroelectric power plant. The Gostynińsko-Włocławski Scenic Park with an area of 38 950 ha (of which 22 200 ha are within the borders of the Włocławek voivodship), has been established on the left bank of the reservoir between Włocławek, Płock and Gostynin.

Natural raw materials in the voivodship mainly include sand, gravel, loams, salt (the Lubień and Izbica salt diapirs) and brine. Large resources of sodium-chloride

waters are located in Ciechocinek, where there are 11 wells of which seven are currently exploited. In Otłoczyn (6 km from Ciechocinek) there are plans to exploit the brines to develop a new health resort. There are two existing health resorts in the voivodship; Ciechocinek with its therapeutic sodium-chloride-iodide springs and unique micro-climate and Wieniec-Zdrój based on the natural deposits of therapeutic muds and waters.

The Włocławek voivodship is characterised by a low proportion of forest areas, amounting to about 16 % of the total area. Forests, particularly in the area of Włocławek, have been damaged significantly by emissions of industrial gases and dusts.



Which regions are similar to Włocławek voivodship?

- Population:**
435 000 inhabitants
Alessandria (I)
Namur (B)
- Population density:**
99 inhabitants per km²
Centre-East (F)
Arges (RO)
- Age structure:**
about 11% over 65
Uusimaa (FIN)
Bratislavský (SK)
Vorarlberg (A)

Modern industry and recreational assets

The Włocławek voivodship benefits from a relatively modern industry with the advantage that it is concentrated in a developed industrial area in the capital of the region. Its plastics, fertilisers and steel wire products are important on a national scale.

But the voivodship has more than its industrial base. Away from the industrial concentration in the city of Włocławek are many recreational assets, not least the abundance of lakes and the therapeutic

waters in places like the Ciechocinek health resort.

However, the collapse of many local plants in the agricultural food-processing and construction industries as well as structural changes in agriculture have caused high unemployment in the voivodship. This, together with the low educational attainment level of the population, leads to a need to retrain the unemployed.

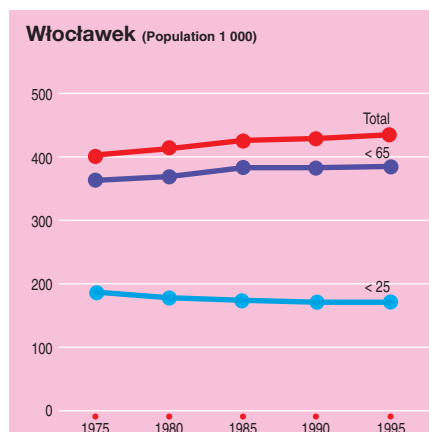
The continuing development of enterprise faces many barriers, among which are the relatively low rate of progress in economic

restructuring and the lack of research and development institutions.

The density of the railway network is less than average, amounting to just 4 km/100 km² — well below the national average of 7 km. The coal trunk-line running from Upper Silesia north to the Baltic ports passes through the western part of the voivodship and plays the most important role in rail transport. The main artery of water transport, the Wisła, is currently little utilised.

WŁOCLĄWEK Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	424.1
Births	74.5
Deaths	51.5
Net permanent migration	- 14.2
Net temporary migration	2.2
Population 31. 12. 1995	435.0



WŁOCLĄWEK Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1.000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	101	23.3	24.4	22.2
15–24	70	16.0	16.8	15.3
25–39	92	21.3	22.3	20.4
40–54	83	19.1	19.3	18.8
55–64	39	8.9	8.4	9.4
≥ 65	50	11.5	8.7	14.1
Total	435	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population		Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment			
		1 000	Inhab./km ²			% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services	
		1995	1995			1986–95 Change (%)	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Włocławek voivodship	4.4	435	99	2.1	57.7	22.6	40	23	37
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

POLAND

Almost all agricultural land in private hands

Agriculture has an important role in the economic structure of the Włocławek voivodship. Of the 159 000 people working in the voivodship's economy in December 1995, 40 % were engaged in agricultural activity. However, a decline has been observed in employment in the agricultural sector with over 10 000 jobs being lost since 1990. Agriculture in the voivodship is characterised by a very high proportion of agricultural land being owned by private farms (94 %). The average farm size of 9 ha is larger than the national average. There are some 32 000 farms; almost 30 % have less than 5 ha, and 13 % have over 15 ha of agricultural land.

Agricultural land accounts for 72 % of the voivodship's total area. More than half of the soils belong to good and average quality classes, particularly in the south of the voivodship. The majority of arable land (52 %) is planted with cereals — 22 % rye and 16 % wheat. Sugar beet, potatoes and vegetables also have an important place, with sugar beet representing 6 % of domestic production. Pig farming is important to the voivodship, with 146 head of pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land ranking seventh among the voivodships. Cattle stocks are also higher than average, amounting to 45 head per 100 ha of land (17th place). In terms of the value of final agricultural production, pigs for slaughter account for 26 %, followed by vegetables (17 %), industrial crops (16 %) and milk (12 %).

The chemical and food-processing industries dominate the voivodship's industrial production, supplying 42 % and 28 % respectively of the sales value of the output of industry. The manufacture of finished metal products as well as the clothing and furniture industries also have particular significance. In the chemical industry, nitrogen fertilisers and paints and lacquers are by far the most important products. The Włocławek voivodship is one of the largest producers in Europe of steel wires and lines and also of high-quality

manometers (with the only plant in Poland). The voivodship supplies 20 % of the domestic production of plastics and 12 % of nitrogen fertilisers.

Low wages and high unemployment

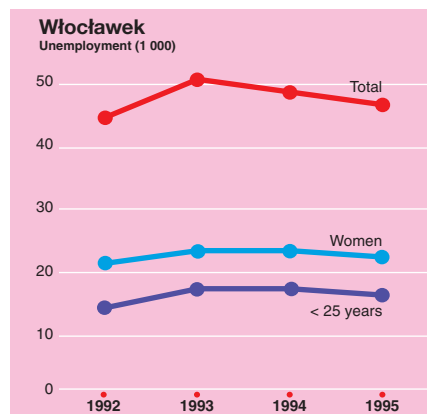
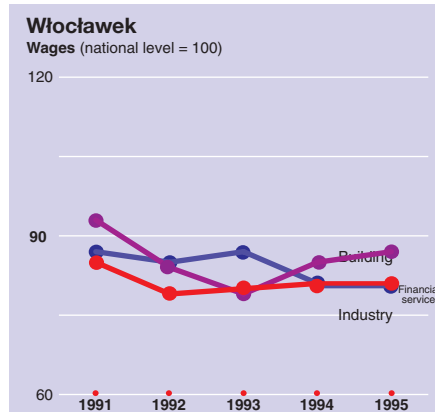
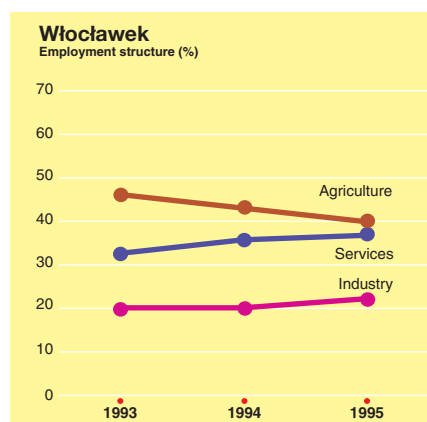
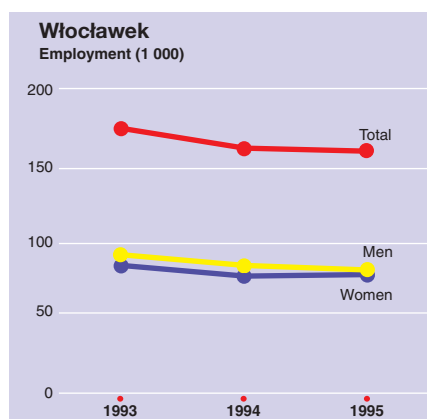
The voivodship counted 159 000 people in work at the end of 1995 — 20 000 fewer than in December 1991. Both the agricultural and industrial sectors have been affected to a similar degree by this reduction in employment, with the number of jobs in industry falling from 46 000 to under 36 000 and agriculture falling from 77 000 to 64 000 in the same period. Despite the importance of the region's industry, agriculture remains by far the biggest employer occupying 40 % of the work-force in December 1995, far outstripping the national average 27 %. Industry employs 23 % of the voivodship's workers, and services 37 %.

Inevitably, with the large-scale job losses in industry and agriculture there is a high level of unemployment. The number of registered unemployed was standing at 46 000 people, and the unemployment rate at 23 % in December 1995. This is a much worse situation than most other regions of Poland as the national unemployment rate was below 15 % at that time. Long-term unemployment, affecting 44 % of the jobless, is more of a problem in the voivodship than nationally, and the other major difference from the national picture is that in Włocławek only 48 % of the unemployed are female compared to 55 % nationally. More than half of Włocławek's unemployed have only basic or secondary vocational education.

Average gross wages and salaries in the voivodship in 1995 were just 85 % of the national average.

WŁOCŁAWEK Agriculture — 1995

Number of private farms	31 574	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	315 273		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	94	Pork	25.8 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	45	Vegetables	17.2 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	146	Industrial crops	16.1 %
Arable land (%)	87	Milk	12.0 %



WROCLAW

Situated in south-eastern Poland and covering an area of 6 287 km², the voivodship includes the central area of historic Silesia, one of the most important regions of the Polish state in the 9th and 10th centuries.

Its population of 1.14 million represented 2.9 % of Poland's total population at the end of 1995. Settlement is concentrated along the River Odra: there are 17 cities which house 841 000 people, resulting in an urbanisation rate of 74 %. The capital of the voivodship is the city of Wrocław (642 000 inhabitants) and its agglomeration dominate the region, accounting for more than 60 % of the voivodship's population. In the city of Wrocław the population density exceeds 2 000 inhabitants per km² and although the northern part of the voivodship is only thinly populated the average population density in the voivodship is still much higher than the Polish average — 181 inhabitants per km² in December 1995.

After the post-war 'baby boom', when the natural increase exceeded 30 ‰, population growth slowed and has, in recent years, been low with a declining number of births. While the demographic account for 1991 to 1995 shows a total natural increase of 6.7 per 1 000 population over the 5 year period, the annual increase of 2.7 ‰ in 1991 had become negative with an annual decline of 0.3 ‰ in 1995. This negative natural increase had been observed in the cities since 1992. Whereas in Poland as a whole, there were 11.2 births per 1 000 population in 1995, in the Wrocław voivodship there were just 9.4.

The average age of the population of the voivodship in 1995 was 36. Although the population of the voivodship is still relatively young, it is getting older: 11.6 % of the population in December 1995 were 65 or above (national average 11.2 %), while 36.4 % were 25 or under (national average 38.3 %). For every 100 males, there were 108 females, a disproportion found principally in the cities; there is a balance of the sexes in the countryside.

International road, rail, air and water links

Central and southern Wrocław form part of the Silesian plain, here between 120 and 180 m above sea level and cut by the valley of the River Odra. The north of the voivodship is a more diverse landscape of forested hills and valleys.

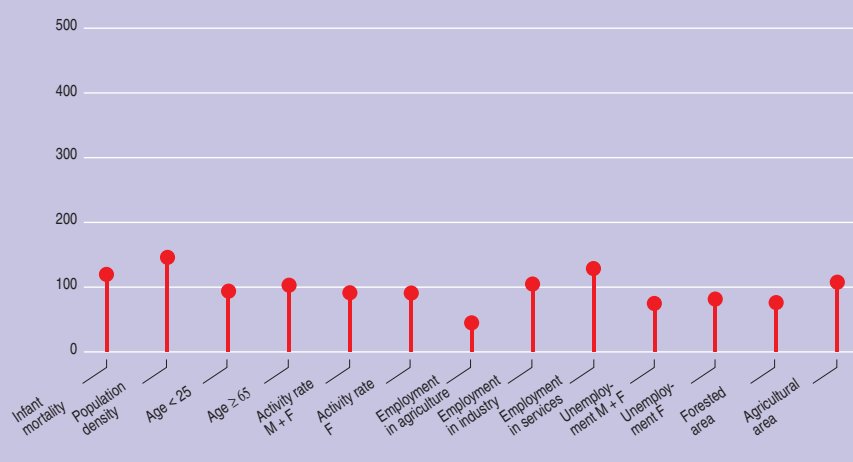
The Silesian Lowland's very fertile black soils, moderate climate and long growing



The market square and town hall in Wrocław. (photo W. Zieliński)

Wrocław Main indicators

National level = 100



period of up to 245 days permit the cultivation of some of the more demanding crops and yields are high. An above average 64 % of the voivodship's land is used for agriculture. Numerous lakes and ponds are situated in the Odra river basin and fish farming — mainly of carp — is an important activity. Forests, which are mostly coniferous, cover 22 % of the voivodship's area. The most notable natural resources of the voivodship are the deposits of stone suitable for building and road construction, including significant deposits of granite and also of kaolin.

The River Odra is navigable all the way to the Baltic Sea, providing the voivodship

with its water transport route. It is 370 km to Szczecin, 630 km to Hamburg and 1 100 km to Amsterdam from the port of Wrocław.

The city of Wrocław is centrally located in the voivodship at the junction of important international road transport arteries: the Warsaw—Prague and Warsaw—Munich routes as well as the route from the Baltic Sea ports to Vienna. The A4 motorway, leading from western Europe to the Ukraine, passes through the outskirts of the city.

Also a major railway junction, Wrocław has direct rail connections with Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Prague, Budapest, Lviv

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Wrocław voivodship?

Population:

1.1 million inhabitants
 Niederbayern (D)
 Essonne (F)
 Dorset, Somerset (UK)

Land use:

22 % forest
 Lazio (I)
 Bassin Parisien (F)

Employment structure:

55 % in services
 Piemonte (I)
 Oberpfalz (D)
 Nisia Aigaiou, Kriti (EL)

and Kiev. The density of the railway network is very high; there is an average 11 km of railway lines per 100 km² in the voivodship, compared to 7 km nationally. The airport in Wrocław has direct flights to Frankfurt am Main and Düsseldorf.

Diverse industry and good agricultural conditions

The Wrocław voivodship stands out from many other Polish regions in terms of its economic significance, its scientific and technical base and its population with a

high level of professional qualifications. Many of its institutions are of a significance that extends far beyond the voivodship.

Specific strengths of Wrocław include its location at the junction of international road and rail routes and the presence of an international airport. The economy boasts a well-developed trade and services sector and a diverse industrial base. Furthermore, there are favourable natural conditions in parts of the voivodship for the development of agriculture, the food-processing industry and tourism.

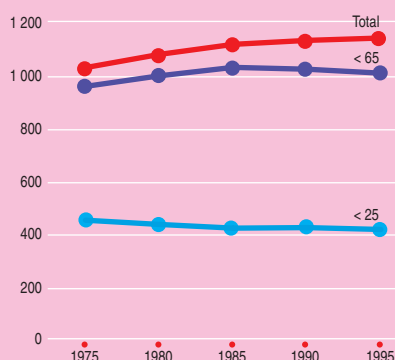
Wrocław is also a cultural centre with over a dozen dramatic, musical and puppet theatres as well as a philharmonic orchestra. Unique is the Raclawicka Panorama – a painting measuring 120 by 15 m. Festivals organised in Wrocław include the Wratistavia Cantans International Oratorio and Cantata Festival and the International Meeting of the Open Theatre.

In order to fully utilise these assets, the development and reconstruction of the public transport systems in the cities, the modernisation and development of the

WROCLAW Demographic account 1984–95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	1 109.2
Births	155.8
Deaths	113.5
Net permanent migration	- 8.9
Net temporary migration	- 5.0
Population 31. 12. 1995	1 137.7

Wrocław (Population 1 000)



WROCLAW Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	228	20.1	21.4	18.8
15–24	186	16.3	17.1	15.5
25–39	239	21.0	21.9	20.2
40–54	243	21.3	21.5	21.2
55–64	110	9.7	8.9	10.4
≥ 65	132	11.6	9.2	13.9
Total	1 138	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity %	Unemployment %	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²			Change (%)	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986–95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Wrocław voivodship	6.3	1 138	181	2.1	53.1	11.3	13	32	55
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

waterworks and telecommunication networks and the modernisation of industry through the introduction of new technologies and management practices are required. The development and marketing of tourist facilities is also necessary.

A major producer of household appliances

The economy of voivodship has its industrial and agricultural sides. Most of the production potential of industry is located in the Wrocław agglomeration. A wide range of industrial activity is undertaken and the voivodship is a significant producer of refrigerators and freezers (with 74 % of domestic production), automatic washing machines (60 %), spin dryers (38 %) and gas stoves, as well as products ranging from buses to cleaning and washing agents.

There has been a dynamic growth in the number of businesses in the private sector, which employed, in 1995, 57 % of the total workforce. The voivodship is attracting the attention of foreign investors to an increasingly greater degree. Of the 4 435 commercial companies, almost one in three has foreign capital involvement. German, Australian and British companies are among the largest investors. State-owned enterprises, still employing more than one third of the labour force in the voivodship in 1995, continue to have a large influence on the voivodship's economic potential.

Twenty-six banks operate in the voivodship, all located in Wrocław with the largest also having branches in the smaller towns which are mainly served by cooperative banks. Three foreign banks also have offices in Wrocław.

About 72 % of the voivodship's agricultural land belongs to the 30 000 private farms and the average farm size (8 ha of agricultural land) is higher than the national average. Cereals dominate, accounting for 57 % of total sown areas (of which 34 % is devoted to wheat) and a significant area is given over to the cultivation of rape and oil-yielding rape (12 %), as well as to sugar

beet and potatoes. Harvest yields, particularly for cereals, are high, but in terms of cattle and pig stocks per 100 ha of agricultural land, the voivodship is among the last in the country.

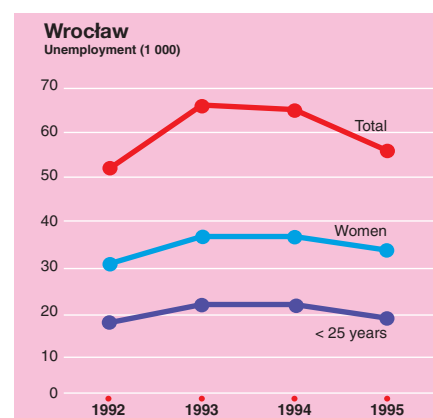
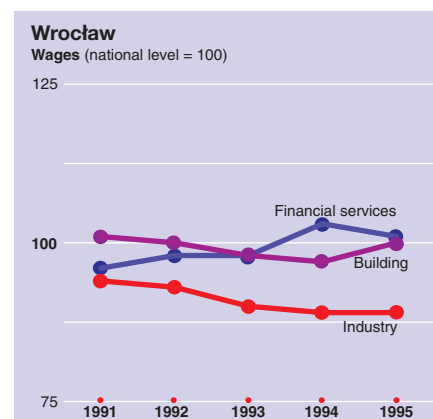
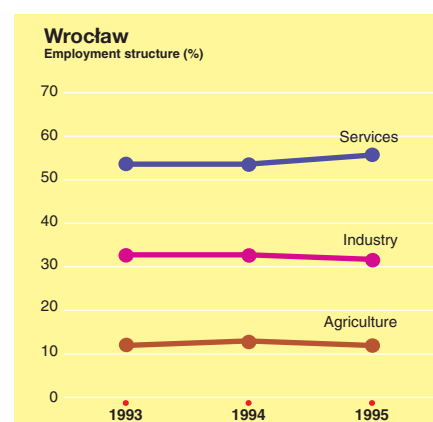
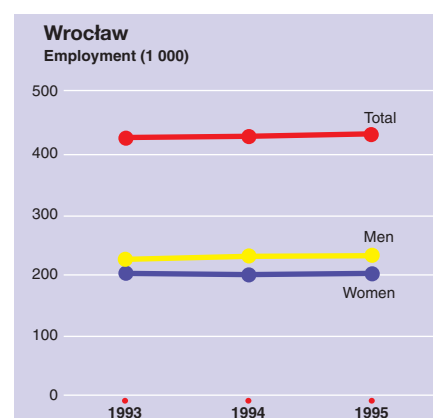
High level of employment in services

The main characteristic of the structure of employment in the voivodship is the high proportion — 55 % at the end of 1995 — employed in the services sector. This has grown rapidly from 48 % in December 1991 and it exceeds the national average by a considerable margin. The growth has almost entirely been in the market services branch. The proportion of the workforce employed in industry has fallen slightly, but at 32.4 % at the end of 1995 was still a little above the national average. Agriculture has seen a significant decline, both in absolute and proportional terms, to end 1995 at just 12.5 % of the workforce — less than half the national average proportion of 27 %. Between December 1991 and 1995, the numbers of jobs in agriculture in the voivodship fell from 75 000 to 53 700 — a fall of over 28 %.

After a large rise in unemployment during the first years of the economic transformation, the number of people out of work has been declining since the end of 1993, with a significant fall in 1995. The Wrocław voivodship is fortunate in having a lower rate of unemployment than the national average, although there were still 11.3 % of the labour force without jobs at the end of 1995. The under 25s made up 33 % of the unemployed at that date — a slightly lower proportion than nationally, but the figure of 60.5 % of the unemployed being women was much higher than the average for Poland of 55 %.

More than 60 000 students were enrolled at the 11 colleges, the military school and the theological seminary in 1995. The largest higher education institutions are the Wrocław University with 20 000 students, the Polytechnic of Wrocław (15 000) and the Academy of Economics (11 000).

WROCLAW Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	29 830	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	403 765	Industrial crops	25.1 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	72	Cereals	18.6 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	20	Pork	14.6 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	75	Vegetables	13.9 %
Arable land (%)	81		



ZAMOŚĆ

The Zamość voivodship is located in south-eastern Poland and has a long border with Ukraine. Geographically, the voivodship includes the Wołyn and Lubelska Uplands, Roztocze and the Sandomierz Valley, which are all quite different in terms of soil quality, forestation and density of the surface-water network.

The dimensions of the voivodship are 86 km from north to south and 122 km from east to west. The voivodship covers an area of 6 980 km², is divided into 57 gminas and had a population of 493 000 at the end of 1995. The urban population lives in the 10 cities and amounts to just 31 % of the total population, which gives the lowest ratio of urbanisation of all the voivodships. The largest city is Zamość, with a population of 66 000; 43 % of the urban population of the voivodship. The population density, at 71 inhabitants per km², is significantly lower than the national average. In the rural areas the population density of 51 inhabitants per km² is similar to the national level for the countryside. The central and northern areas of the Lubelska Uplands and Roztocze are characterised by a higher population density than the eastern and south-western areas.

In recent years, as a result of the systematic decline observed in the number of births, the natural increase of the population has been declining. Simultaneously, there has been a large outflow of the population. Between 1991 and 1995, more than 7 000 people permanently emigrated from the voivodship. The over-65 population is growing, particularly in the countryside, and only the voivodship of Łódź has more than Zamość's 14.1 % of the population over 65. Comparison with the national average of 11.2 % shows the extent of this phenomenon in Zamość. For every 100 people in their productive years, there were 85 people of non-productive age in the voivodship at the end of 1995.

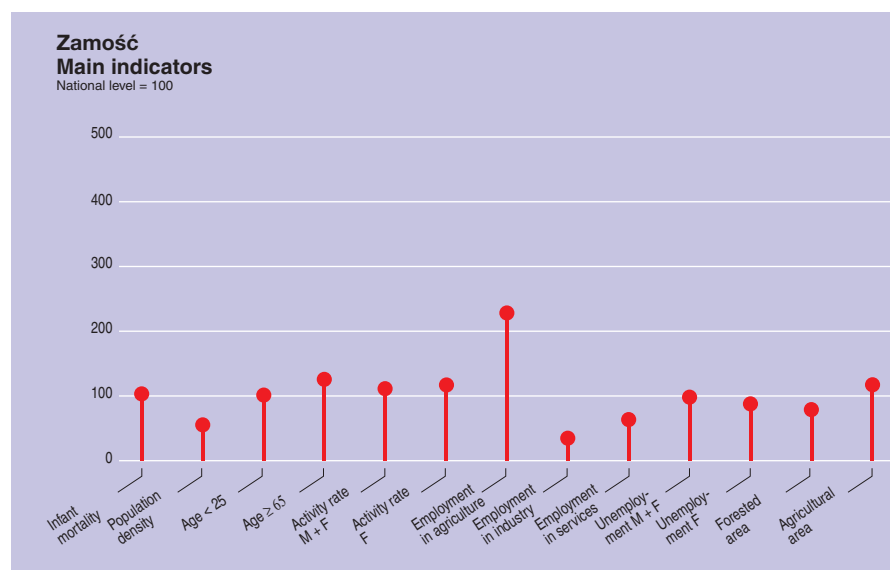
Access to the health services in the voivodship is more difficult than in neighbouring voivodships. The ratios of health-care personnel in relation to the size of the population are below the national averages.

A rural region

About 490 000 ha — some 70 % of the voivodship's area — is devoted to agricultural use, of which 83 % is ploughland, 1 % orchards and 16 % grasslands. Fertile soils cover more than 80 % of the voivodship's total agricultural area. On top of this, forests cover a further 23 % of the voivod-



Historic monuments in Zamość, a city founded in the 16th century.
photo W. Zieliński



ship's area, concentrated mainly in the Sandomierz Valley and Roztocze. Ploughlands and orchards dominate in the Wołyn and Lubelska Uplands. Because of its largely rural nature with a low presence of polluting industries, the Zamość voivodship has one of the cleanest environments in Poland.

The most notable natural resources of the voivodship are its deposits of hard coal. Deposits of natural gas are also exploited, but only to a small degree. Aggregates are extracted for use in the production of construction materials.

The voivodship is characterised by a relatively poorly developed network of hard-surface public roads with 69 km of road per 100 km² (national average 76 km) and by a small railway network of just 360 km. However, the presence of a major transport route connecting Poland with Ukraine is a big asset. There are two border crossings of interregional significance; at Hrebenne-Rawa Ruska and at Zosin-Uściług. Besides these, there are several other border crossings of local significance.



Which regions are similar to Zamość voivodship?

- Area:**
6 900 km²
Uppsala län (S)
Segovia (E)
- Population density:**
71 inhabitants per km²
Ribe amt (DK)
Soltau-Fallingb. (D)
- Age structure:**
about 14 % over 65
Brabant Wallon (B)
Rhône-Alpes (F)
Zuid-Holland (NL)

Fertile soils and good transport links, but high dependence on agriculture

The main assets of the voivodship include the fertile soils which provide a rich source of raw materials for the agricultural food-processing industry. Important road and rail transport routes pass through Zamość linking Poland with Ukraine and the voivodship therefore benefits from good connections with other parts of Poland.

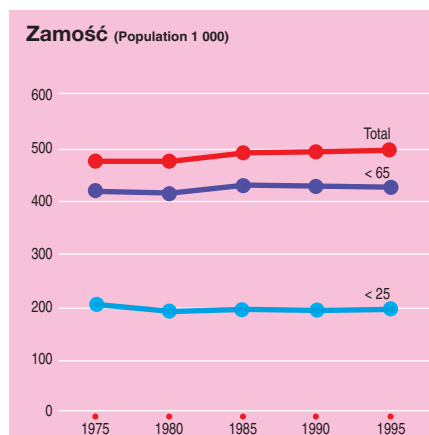
The attractiveness of the area for recreational tourism is enhanced by its clean environment, and there are the beautiful forests of Puszcza Solska and Roztocze.

Against this, the voivodship's agricultural potential is not well developed and the technical and social infrastructure is often lacking. The local economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector for raw materials for the voivodship's industry and for employment. Almost two thirds of the voivodship's workers are engaged directly in the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, the unfavourable age structure of the population, with an increasingly larger proportion of the population being of post-productive age is a concern, particularly in the rural areas.

ZAMOŚĆ Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	485.7
Births	86.5
Deaths	63.3
Net permanent migration	- 19.8
Net temporary migration	3.6
Population 31. 12. 1995	492.8



ZAMOŚĆ Population by age — 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	118	24.0	24.9	23.1
15-24	74	15.0	16.0	14.1
25-39	96	19.5	20.9	18.1
40-54	87	17.5	17.9	17.2
55-64	48	9.8	9.2	10.4
≥ 65	70	14.1	11.1	17.0
Total	493	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area 1 000 km ²	Population		Activity %	Unemployment		Employment		
		1 000	Inhab./km ²		%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry	% Services
		1995	1995		Change (%)	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Zamość voivodship	7.0	493	71	1.0	65.6	14.8	62	11	27
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Agriculture and the food industry

The Zamość voivodship is a typical agricultural region: some 89 % of the agricultural land is divided among 66 000 private farms and agriculture employs the majority of the working population. Large areas with some of the best soils in Poland favour agricultural production, and a significant area is used for the cultivation of wheat (37 % of the sown area), sugar beet and hops. Tobacco is grown in the poor soils in the south-west and this represents 21 % of the total area used for tobacco growing in Poland. Animal production in the region is of a similar intensity to the national average in terms of cattle stocks (37 head of cattle per 100 hectares of agricultural land in 1995), but lower in regard to pigs (72 head per 100 hectares compared to the national average of 110). Insufficient investment and a relatively poorly-developed agricultural base mean that the voivodship is not fully utilising its agricultural potential.

Zamość voivodship has good conditions for the development of the agricultural food processing industry. Within the voivodship, there are 4 sugar mills and 7 dairies, as well as oil processing plants, grain mills, fruit and vegetable processing plants and breweries. The food and beverages industry provides more than half of the value of the voivodship's sold industrial output and is therefore crucial to the local economy. Furthermore, another 15 % of the voivodship's industrial production comprises the manufacture of wood and furniture. The clothing industry accounts for about 7 %. However, of all the products of the region, it is sugar that is the most significant, Zamość accounting for 8 % of total Polish production.

Almost two thirds of employment in agriculture

In December 1995 there were 221 000 people working in the Zamość voivodship, with the agricultural sector employing 137 000. With 62 % of employment in agri-

culture — compared to a national average of 27 % — the importance of agriculture to the voivodship is clear. The next most important sector for employment in the voivodship is services (27 %) with just 11 % in industry.

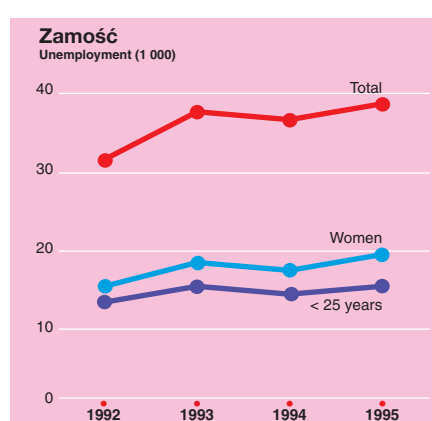
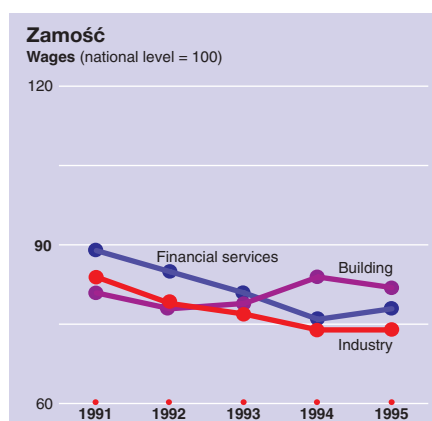
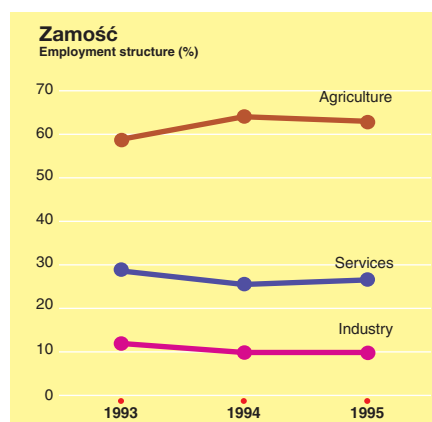
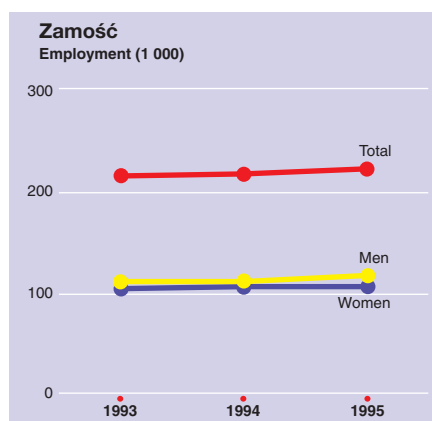
Structural changes to the economy in the 1990s have had an impact on the labour market and the unemployment rate stood at 14.8 % at the end of 1995 — very close to the national average. However, when looking at the groups that make up the unemployed the picture is quite different in Zamość to nationally. More of Zamość's unemployed (42.6 %) have been out of work for over one year than the Polish average, but fewer of Zamość's unemployed (49.1 %) are women.

The trend of falling employment levels has been reversed since 1994, with a modest growth in the number of jobs again being noted. In December 1995, 45 % of the voivodship's total population were working, a much higher rate than the Polish average of 39 %. The activity rates show a similar picture at May 1995; in the Zamość voivodship the overall activity rate was 65.6 % and for women 61.1 % compared to the figures for Poland of 57.9 % and 51.7 % respectively. However, the number of pensioners and retired people, who account for 28 % of the voivodship's total population, is growing.

Just as in all of the voivodships in eastern Poland, average wages and salaries in the Zamość voivodship are low at only 82 % of the national average in 1995. While agricultural wages were 93 % of the Polish average, the situation in industry was much worse at less than 75 %.

Nearly 500 students are enrolled in the Institute for Agricultural Science in Zamość, which carries on the traditions of the Zamość Academy, established over 400 years ago. The second academic centre is in Tomaszów Lubelski, where a branch of the Catholic University of Lublin has recently opened. Zamość, Tomaszów Lubelski, Hrubieszów and Biłgoraj are the largest centres for secondary education.

ZAMOŚĆ Agriculture — 1995			
Number of private farms	66 503	Main products — proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	490 289		
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	89	Industrial crops	23.2 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	37	Pork	22.7 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	72	Cereals	13.5 %
Arable land (%)	82	Milk	11.4 %



ZIELONA GÓRA

The voivodship is located on the River Odra in western Poland, bordering to the west the German Länder of Brandenburg and Saxony. Its 8 868 km², 2.8 % of the country, make it the 7th largest of the 49 voivodships.

Zielona Góra's 57 gminas had a total population of 674 000 at the end of 1995, of whom 62 % were urban dwellers. There are 28 urban centres, of which 17 have populations of less than 10 000 inhabitants. The largest city, Zielona Góra, has a population of 116 000.

A net 2 300 people permanently left the voivodship between 1991 and 1995, but this was more than compensated for by the natural increase of some 11 400. The total population has accordingly continued to increase each year, despite a steady fall in the annual natural increase throughout this period.

The voivodship has a younger than average age profile, with more than 40 % of its population in December 1995 being below the age of 25, compared to the figure for Poland as a whole of 38 %. Only 10 % of Zielona Góra's inhabitants were aged 65 and over (11.2 % in Poland). While the birth rate has fallen from 14.6 per 1 000 population in 1991 to 12.0 in 1995, this fall has been slower than elsewhere.

The region benefits from a relatively unspoiled natural environment in comparison with the rest of the country. The most valuable natural areas are protected by 23 nature reserves, 5 landscape protection areas and the Łagowski Scenic Park and some 1 100 features have been classed as 'natural monuments'. The voivodship's tourist industry has overnight accommodation for almost 14 000 visitors in peak season, and 3 500 of these are available all year round.

Cultural events include the East-West International Music Events, and the Mistrzowie Polskiej Wiolinistyki Strings Festival. Each year, film fans meet in Łagów for the Lubuski Summer Film Festival.

The most extensive forests

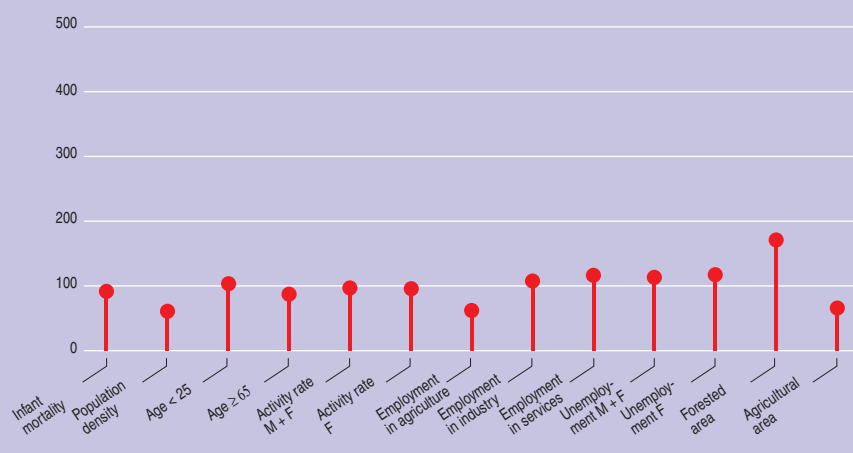
Zielona Góra is the most forested voivodship in the country: 431 000 hectares, very nearly half of the voivodship, are under trees. A further 40 %, or 353 000 hectares, is in use for agriculture. Deposits of mineral raw materials include petroleum, natural gas, brown coal, fireproof clay, lake chalk, natural aggregates and mineral water.



Zielona Góra: a regional centre of higher education, an important transportation junction and a commercial centre. (photo R. Janowski)

Zielona Góra Main indicators

National level = 100



The region's well-developed and functional network of road and rail connections carries a high volume of traffic because of the four border crossings with Germany at Olszyna, Gubin, Łęknica and Przewóz. Olszyna is the second busiest crossing on the Polish western border in terms of traffic volume. An extremely important factor in stimulating the voivodship's economy will be the realisation of Poland's motorway construction programme. Three important regional roads will become sections of the three international routes from Paris to Moscow, Brussels to Kiev, and Szczecin to Prague.

Railway lines provide good links with Upper and Lower Silesia, with the Baltic

ports of Szczecin and Świnoujście, and connect Lower Silesia and Wielkopolska with Germany. Zielona Góra is also integrated into the system of river transport. Ports located along the River Odra are used to transport goods to and from the sea ports in Szczecin and Świnoujście, the navigable rivers of Wielkopolska and Silesia and, through the canal systems, to western Europe. Babimost Airport's location 34 kilometres from central Zielona Góra near an important railway junction in Zbąszynek and near the planned intersection of two of the motorways, as well as the existing storage facilities near the airport, favours its development for freight traffic.

POLAND



Which regions are similar to Zielona Góra voivodship?

Population density:
76 inhabitants per km²
Havelland (D)
Magnisia (EL)
Valcea (RO)

Age structure:
10 % over 65
Východné Slovensko (SK)
Galati (RO)

Land use:
40 % agriculture
Comunidad Valenciana (E)
Friuli-Venezia Giulia (I)
West-Nederland (NL)

Favourable location

The voivodship has many points in its favour, and foremost is its geo-political location. Cooperation with its western neighbours is covered by agreements on border crossings, trade, and transport and by the terms of the Sprewa-Nysa-Bóbr Euroregion as well as by bilateral cooperation in the social and service spheres. This favourable location means that Zielona Góra benefits from the modernisation and

development of international and domestic road links.

Zielona Góra has a developed and diverse economic structure with some sectors being particularly competitive thanks to their long manufacturing traditions and the possibilities of exploiting foreign supply links and capital sources.

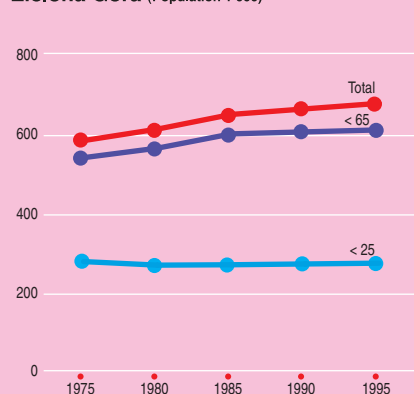
In order to take advantage of the voivodship's potential to the full, the further

development of the transport infrastructure, tourist facilities and business infrastructure is necessary, and it is hoped to obtain further foreign capital involvement in the development of industry and in particular to extend cooperation with Germany and German industry.

ZIELONA GÓRA Demographic account 1984-95 (1 000)

Population 31. 12. 1984	638.9
Births	111.5
Deaths	66.2
Net permanent migration	- 7.7
Net temporary migration	- 2.3
Population 31. 12. 1995	674.1

Zielona Góra (Population 1 000)



ZIELONA GÓRA Population by age – 1995

	M + F 1 000	M + F %	M %	F %
< 15	160	23.7	24.6	22.8
15-24	111	16.5	17.3	15.8
25-39	144	21.4	22.3	20.6
40-54	134	19.9	20.2	19.6
55-64	58	8.5	7.8	9.2
≥ 65	67	10.0	7.7	12.1
Total	674	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main indicators

	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1 000 km ²	1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	%	%	% Agriculture	% Industry
		1995	1995	1986-95	May 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995
Zielona Góra voivodship	8.9	674	76	4.4	56.5	17.1	17	33	50
Poland	312.7	38 609	123	3.4	57.9	14.9	27	30	43

Only half the agricultural land in private hands

The achievements of the economic changes introduced in 1989 include the development of the private sector, which by 1995 employed 59 % of all the voivodship's workers and accounted for 53 % of the sales value of industrial output, 90 % of construction-assembly production and 97 % of retail sales.

Key industries are the manufacture of foods and beverages (36 %), wood and wood products, furniture, fabrics and clothing, and machinery and equipment. Almost 17 % of the voivodship's total production is destined for export. This differentiated structure of industrial production, and the close proximity of the German border, has made the region attractive to foreign investors.

Zielona Góra's agriculture is characterised by Poland's lowest proportion of privately-owned agricultural land (53 %) and by a low proportion of employment (17 % in 1995) in agriculture. At 9 hectares, private farms are larger here than the national average. However, 54 % of all farms have no more than 5 hectares of agricultural land.

A good climate with a long growing period favours agricultural production, but soil conditions are less favourable, with poor class V and VI soils predominating. Cereals, particularly rye, account for about 63 % of the area sown. Rape and potatoes are also grown. Livestock farming focuses on pigs and poultry.

Zielona Góra voivodship, characterised by a relatively high level of development, provides a good environment for business. Development of the banking system, along with the activities of institutions in the business community and the regional and local authorities in promoting the region, create a good investment climate. The voivodship's location within the two Euroregions of Nysa and Sprewa-Nysa-Bóbr, favours the establishment of close co-operation. Developing regional contacts with foreign

partners plays an important role and the voivodship has ties with Alsace (France), Abruzzi (Italy), Murcia (Spain) and with Kaliningrad (Russian Federation).

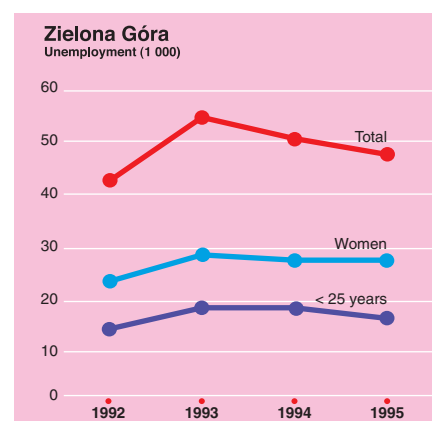
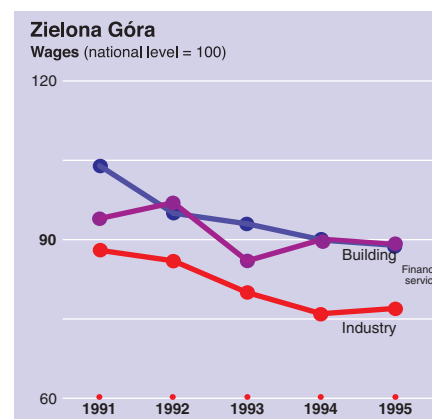
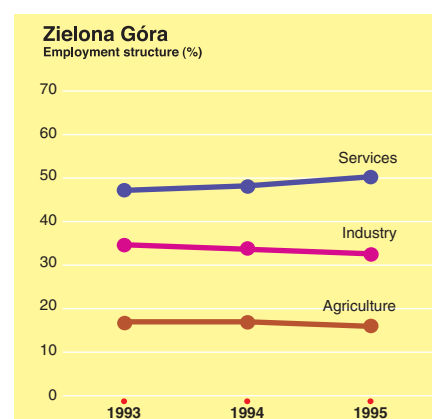
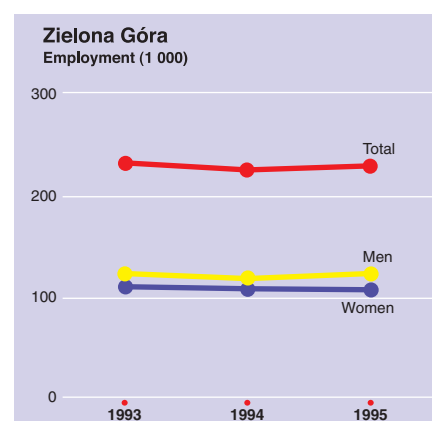
Strength of the services sector

Characteristic of employment in the Zielona Góra voivodship are the strength of the services sector and the low level of employment in agriculture. Overall, the total number of jobs fell from 245 000 at the end of 1991 to 228 000 in December 1995 with the biggest losses in agriculture. From a position of employing 58 000 people – 23.5 % of all jobs – in 1991, the agricultural sector in Zielona Góra counted just 39 000 jobs four years later, just 17 % of the total. To put this in perspective, the fall in agricultural employment Poland as a whole over the same period was much smaller; from 28 % of all jobs to 27 % at the end of 1995. By contrast, employment in services rose between 1991 and 1995 from 42 % to 50 % of all jobs, an absolute net increase of some 10 000 jobs. Almost all of this growth has been in the market services branch.

The activity rates in the voivodship as at May 1995 stood at 56.5 % overall and 50 % for women; both rates slightly below the national figures. Unemployment was higher in the region than nationally, standing at 17.1 % at the end of 1995. A more encouraging trend is that the number of long-term unemployed fell from 21 600 at the beginning of 1994 to 14 600 in December 1995 and at 31 % this group form a lower proportion of the unemployed than in Poland as a whole (37.4 %). Average wages and salaries in the voivodship in 1995 were only 86.5 % of the Polish average.

Zielona Góra is a centre of higher education and science for a wide region with its Polytechnic and College of Education.

ZIELONA GÓRA Agriculture – 1995			
Number of private farms	18 824	Main products – proportion of agricultural commodity output	
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	353 452	Pork	29.6 %
Agricultural land in private ownership (%)	53	Cereals	13.5 %
Cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land	19	Industrial crops	9.7 %
Pigs per 100 ha of agricultural land	98	Vegetables	6.5 %
Arable land (%)	75		



Explanatory notes

Sources: Central Statistical Office of Poland (all data relating to Poland)
Eurostat database REGIO (all EU data)

Employment and unemployment :

Employment and unemployment data refer to 31 December of the preceding year.

For the structure of employment, agriculture includes forestry, hunting and fishing. Industry includes mining, manufacturing, energy and construction. Services includes all other branches.

Unemployment data relates only to those registered as unemployed.

Population:

Population data refer to 31 December of the preceding year.

Notes on specific graphs and tables

Graph: Main indicators (national level = 100)

Population, employment and unemployment figures relate to December 1995. The activity rates are derived from the micro census of May 1995 and represent the proportion of active earners and unemployed in the population aged 15 and over. Forested and agricultural areas are as of June 1995.

Graph: Employment structure (%)

(see note on employment data above). Data on employment structure is not available for 31/12/92.

Graph: Wages (national level = 100)

The national average wage in each sector is set at 100. Financial services includes insurance. Industry excludes construction.

Table: Agriculture – 1995

Data refer to June 1995.

Smallholdings of less than 1 hectare are not included in the number of private farms.

Note on comparability

The definitions and methods used by the Central Statistical Office of Poland do not always coincide with those used by Member States of the European Union. Comparisons of Polish voivodships with regions in other countries should therefore be made with caution.

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Legend to maps

Region	STŘEDOČESKÝ	Centre of Culture	
Capital of the Region	SZCZECIN	Military airport	
Town of over 100,000 inhabitants	● HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ	Heavy Industry	
Town of over 50,000 inhabitants	● STARACHOWICE	Thermal Bath	
Town of over 25,000 inhabitants	● LITVÍNŮV	Civilian Airport	
Town of over 10,000 inhabitants	● SŁAWNO	Historic Monument	
Town of over 5,000 inhabitants	● Planá	Port	
Border crossing point (railway)	○	Nature Reserve	
Border crossing point (road)	⊙	Tourist Attraction	
Motorway		Car Assembly	
Main Road		Ski Resort	
Waterway		Water sports	
Railway		National Park	NP

LEGEND

Regions of the Czech Republic and Poland

Maps designed by András Trócsányi and Zoltán Wilhelm

Janus Pannonius University, Faculty of Sciences
Department of General Human Geography and
Urban Studies - Pécs, Hungary - 1997

Symbols and abbreviations

≥	Greater than or equal	GVA	Gross value-added
<	Less than	LU	Livestock unit
:	Not available	inhab.	Inhabitant
0	Less than half of the unit used	M	Male
		F	Female
		ha	Hectare
		km	Kilometre
		m	Metre

European Commission

Volume 6: Portrait of the regions – Czech Republic and Poland

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2000 – VIII, 207 pp. – 21.0 x 29.7 cm

Classification themes: 13, 16 and 17

ISBN: 92-828-4395-5

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: EUR 50

Volume 6 of the "Portrait of the Regions" series comprises a detailed presentation of the regions of the Czech Republic and Poland. Within each country, the regions (8 and 49 regions respectively) are each presented in a consistent format, using maps, diagrams, statistical tables and commentaries. Topics covered include population patterns and trends, employment, the economic fabric, the environment and the strengths and weaknesses of each region.

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