

Podkarpackie Voivodship profile with special focus on the border powiats

Podkarpacie is the furthest south-eastern voivodship of Poland. It borders Ukraine in the east (with Lviv region and Zakarpattia region on a short stretch) and Slovakia in the south. After Poland's accession to the European Union, the eastern border of the Republic of Poland became the longest part of the EU's external land border. Having 1163 km in length, it constitutes the eastern border of the Podkarpackie Voivodship for 235 km at the same time.

Area and population

The Podkarpackie voivodship covers 17,8 thous. sq km of area, which is 5,7 % of Poland's territory. It had a population of 2,1 million at the end of 2006, with 118 people per sq km. The urbanisation rate was 41 %.

Powiats bordering with Ukraine

*Powiats such as **Lubaczowski**, **Jarostawski**, **Przemyski** including city-powiat **Przemysł**, and **Bieszczadzki** which are situated by the Ukrainian border make up 4,7 thous. sq km in total, i.e. 26,5% of the voivodship's area.*

339,5 thous. of people live here, i.e. 16,2% of Podkarpacie's population, with 72 persons per 1 sq km. 42% of population live in towns.

Powiats bordering with Slovakia

*Powiats such as **Leski**, **Sanocki**, **Krośnieński** including city-powiat **Krosno**, and **Jasielski** which are situated by the Slovakian border make up 3,9 thous. sq km in total, i.e. 21,7% of the voivodship's area.*

393,8 thou. of people live here, i.e. 18,8% of Podkarpacie's population, with 102 persons per 1 sq km. 38% of population live in towns.

Students

In 2006, there were around 76 thous. students studying in higher education institutions. The percentage of foreign students was small although they have showed steady growth for the last years – their number grew from 199 in 2000 to 558 in 2006. Students of Ukrainian descent were the biggest group among them – it had 353 students (64% of all foreign students). There were 6 students from Slovakia.

Labour market

At the end of 2005 there were 639 thous. employed persons in the Podkarpackie voivodship, which was 5,1% of all employed persons in the country. Almost ¼ of them is employed in agriculture. The other largest percentage was made up by persons employed in industry, trade and repair as well as education.

In 2006, 211 work permits were issued for foreigners, of which 140 for Ukrainian citizens. 2/3 of foreigners are employed in education, and one in five in industry.

In 2006, the Podkarpackie voivodship was ranked 10 in the country with the unemployment rate 16,5%. In powiats bordering with Ukraine, the unemployment rate was highly above the voivodship's average.

Entities of the national economy

At the end of 2006, there were 140,7 thous. entities registered in the REGON register in the Podkarpackie voivodship. There were 66 entities per 1000 inhabitants. Entities employing up to 9 persons have the highest share (94%) of all units both in the voivodship and border powiats.

In powiats bordering with the Ukraine, there were 22,3 thous. of entities, i.e. around 16% of all entities in the voivodship, while in powiats bordering with Slovakia – 27,5 thous., i.e. 19,6%.

Companies with the Ukrainian and Slovakian capital participation

In 2005 there were 49 companies with the Ukrainian capital participation in the Podkarpackie voivodship (in 2002 – 48). They employed 141 persons (in 2002 – 83). The amount of the Ukrainian capital was 3,2 million zł (in 2002 – 0,7 million zł) and its share in the foreign capital in the voivodship was small – 0,3%.

There were 5 companies with the Slovakian capital participation in the voivodship in the same period. They employed 674 persons (in 2002 – 15). The amount of the Slovakian capital was 5,2 million zł in 2005 (in 2002 – 0,4 million zł) and its share in the foreign capital in the voivodship was – 0,4%.

Regional accounts

In the Podkarpackie voivodship, the largest contribution to the production of gross value added was made by market and non-market services – 63,1%, then by industry – 28,3%. Substantially smaller input was made by construction – 5,3%, and the smallest by agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishery – 3,3%. When compared to 2000, the contribution of industry and market and non-market services grew by 1,6 and 1,5 points respectively, while the contribution of construction and agriculture decreased by 2 and 1,2 points correspondingly.

Agriculture

Agricultural land has a share of 44,1% of total area of the Podkarpackie voivodship, of which arable land makes up more than 30%. In the structure of crops, cereals are the dominant ones (67,5%), and among them, wheat makes up 42,5%.

Crop and animal output have almost an equal share in the structure of total agricultural production. The forest cover rate is one of the highest in the country – 36,6%.

Tourism

In 2006, the collective tourist accommodation establishments located in the Podkarpackie voivodship were visited by around 23 thous. of Ukrainian citizens (36% of all foreign visitors) and by 1,8 thous. of Slovakian citizens. There were approximately 2 nights spent per 1 Ukrainian tourist and 1,9 per 1 Slovakian tourist.