

Regional information Podkarpackie / Poland

The region Podkarpackie is located in South-Eastern Poland and borders Slovakia and Ukraine. Traditionally, the rural character of the voivodeship is in contrast with the development of its larger cities. Podkarpackie is basically an agricultural and industrial region. This is reflected by a comparable low urbanisation level. Recently the Aviation industry is the most noticeable element of the regional economy. The main capital and the economic and cultural centre is the city of Rzeszów with more than 180.000 inhabitants. Airport and university foster the significance of this regional hub. Podkarpackie as a whole is often considered as the least developed voivodeship in Poland with low GDP/capita and a high unemployment rate. Even though the GDP production per capita is growing year by year, Podkarpackie ranks last compared to the other Polish voivodeships. The unemployment rate of about 12.6 % is significantly higher than the national average (9.6 %: 2011) and increasing since 2008 (8.2 %).¹ Women's unemployment rates are following this trend and remain constantly approx. 1 % higher than the Polish average since 2008. The region is characterized by a slightly increasing population which grew about 1.5 % from 2008 until 2011 due to surpluses of births and immigration in some of the voivodeship's powiats. This equals an increase of about 31,000 people. Furthermore, the population is comparably young.

Sources

Eurostat

IfL – Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

<http://www.stat.gov.pl>

<https://ec.europa.eu/eures/main.jsp?lang=en&acro=lmi&catId=2797&countryId=PL®ionId=PL3&langChanged=true>

¹ According to Polish calculation the unemployment rate in 2011 was 16.3 % (www.stat.gov.pl).