

Regional information Podlaskie / Poland

The Podlaskie Voivodeship is located in the north-east of Poland covering ca. 20,000 km² and is inhabited by ca. 1.2 million people. The region is very sparsely populated. The population density is nearly half of the Polish average, due to a low level of urbanisation. To the east it borders Lithuania and Belarus. Over the last decade the population decreased slightly. After a minimum in 2010 it started to grow again for which a positive population development caused by in-migration and surpluses of births in the eastern region around the voivodeship's central city Białystok (approx. 295,000 inhabitants) seems to be responsible for. The economy is highly characterised by agriculture and a low level of industrialisation and relies on food processing, light industry, wood industry and the production of machines. It produces a very low GDP compared to Polish and EU averages. The regional labour market is characterized by increasing unemployment rates (since 2008) which constantly were ca. 1 % higher than the national average in the last 5 years. In 2011 Podlaskie showed an unemployment rate of 9.3 %¹ and also a high rate of youth unemployment, especially among young women (27.8 %).

Sources

Kondratiuk-Nierodzińska, M. (2007): Regional Innovation System analysis in Podlasie, Poland. Białystok.

Eurostat

<http://www.wrotapodlasia.pl/en/gospodarka/>

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

¹ According to national calculation 14.6 % (<http://www.stat.gov.pl>).