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ABSTRACT. The aim of the article is to present demographic changes that occurred in Lubuskie voivodeship during the transformation period between 1992 and 2003. The issues discussed include: population dynamics, natural increase, net migration, population change, and age/sex structure. To establish spatial differences in selected population processes and structures, an analysis was carried out at the level of poviats and towns of the voivodeship. It was intended to reveal general tendencies underlying those demographic differences in Lubuskie voivodeship.

KEY WORDS: population processes, population dynamics, natural increase, net migration, Lubuskie voivodeship.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the study is to present population changes that occurred in Lubuskie voivodeship during the transformation period between 1992 and 2003.

Lubuskie voivodeship is situated in the west of Poland; it lies in its entirety on the so-called Western and Northern Lands. Its population came here after Germans had been expatriated; half arrived from the Eastern Borderland, but there were also people from Wielkopolska, Silesia and other regions. The area has for ages been the frontier land and periphery of Brandenburg, Pomerania, Wielkopolska, and Lower Silesia. Hence its high percentage of woodland, low population density (14th position among the 16 voivodeships of Poland), and absence of big towns. In terms of area, Lubuskie ranks 13th, but in terms of population, at slightly more than a million, it comes last.

The voivodeship is a dual unit and has two capitals: Gorzów Wielkopolski, the seat of the voivode, and Zielona Góra, the seat of local government. Both towns are situated peripherally in the region. It comprises 12 non-urban poviats and the above two poviat-ranking towns.

To define spatial differences in selected population processes and structures, an analysis was carried out at the level of poviats for the years 1995-2003 and towns of the voivodeship for the years 1992-2003. The shorter period in the analysis of poviats was determined by the availability of data.

The principal aim of the research can be defined as finding answers to the following detailed cognitive questions:

(1) What was the pattern of population dynamics of the poviats and towns of Lubuskie voivodeship?
(2) What was the change in the relation between the basic components of population growth (the natural increase and the net migration) in those poviats and towns?
(3) Was there a change in the age/sex structure of the population in those poviats and towns?

SPATIAL DIFFERENCES IN POPULATION PROCESSES IN LUBUSKIE VOIVODESHIP

POVIATS

The population figure stopped growing in the present Lubuskie voivodeship in 2002. Between 1995 and 2001 it increased by 9,900, or 1.0%, while over the entire study period of 1995-2003 it fell by 5,800, or 0.6%, to reach 1,008,800 in 2003.

Population growth showed some differences from poviat to poviat. Not all displayed the same tendency in population figures. The highest growth dynamics over the study period was recorded in two non-urban poviats: Zielona Góra (dynamics index Di = 104.2) and Gorzów (Di = 103.6), while Nowa Sól poviat suffered the greatest population loss, as much as 31.8%. This, however, was largely due to a new Wschowa poviat being carved out of it in 2002, because the dynamics index for the population of the two poviats jointly amounted to 98.7. Shifts of the administrative borders occurred in that period also in the urban poviat of Gorzów Wielkopolski (which recorded an increase in area by 9 km^2) and non-urban Gorzów poviat (a decrease in area by 4 km^2). Unlike in the Nowa Sól case, however, those changes did not affect the population figures of the two poviats. The strongest tendency towards depopulation was displayed by Krosno poviat, and the immediate cause of this process was a high net out-migration.

With the drop in the Lubuskie population, there was a slight decline in total population density, from 73 persons per 1 km^2 in 1995 to 72 in 2003. The index shows a considerable variation within the voivodeship. Apart from Gorzów Wielkopolski and Zielona Góra, the highest density in 2003 was recorded in Nowa Sól poviat (113 persons/km^2) and the lowest - less than a half of the voivodeship average - Sulęcin poviat (30). Generally, the southern parts of the voivodeship had a higher index than the northern ones, hence the Zielona Góra subregion displayed a higher density (80 persons/km^2) than the Gorzów one (60).

The basic controls of the demographic status of the poviats of Lubuskie voivodeship presented above are the natural increase and net migration. Their role varied between 1995 and 2003, and led to the development of several population growth types, highly variable in time.

At the start of the study period, in 1995, Lubuskie poviats represented three types according to J. Webb's typology, viz. A, B and C, whose population is on the increase (Table 1). Thus, only growth types were represented. Six poviats displayed an excess of the natural increase over migration losses (type A); in five, the natural increase was greater than net in-migration (a moderate type B); the dynamic type C with net in-migration exceeding the natural increase appeared twice.

In 2003, the poviats were much more diversified: seven Webb types were represented (Table 1). Since 1995, there had developed three depopulation types: G, in which net out-migration is greater than the natural decrease; H, in which net out-migration exceeds the natural increase; and F, where the natural decrease is greater than migration losses; as well as the growth type D with migration gain exceeding the natural decrease.

The analysis of changes in the population growth components that occurred over the eight years under study revealed that more and more poviats recorded negative values of either net migration or the natural increase, or both. As a result, depopulation types (8 poviats) started to predominate over growth types (6 poviats). There was an increase in net out-migration figures, hence G (4 poviats) and H (3 poviats) became the largest types. The other types looked as follows: 2 poviats represented type A, 2 type C (the non-urban poviats of Gorzów and Zielona Góra with the highest population growth dynamics), 1 belonged to type B, 1 to type D, and 1 to the depopulation type F.

What shows the typological shifts over those eight years to have been massive is the fact that between 1995 and 2003 all the poviats changed their growth type.

While in 1995 all registered a natural increase, eight years later there was a natural decrease in as many as six poviats, also in Zielona Góra (where it appeared as early as 1998). The highest natural increase was recorded in non-urban Gorzów poviat (2.0‰) (Table 1).

Table 1. Types of population change in poviats of Lubuskie voivodeship in 1995 i 2003

Poviat	1995				2003			
	NI	NM	PC	Webb's type	NI	NM	PC	Webb's typ
	per 1,000 population				per 1,000 population			
Gorzów	3.2	1.1	4.3	B	2.0	6.2	8.2	C
Krosno	4.0	1.6	5.6	B	-0.1	-6.9	-7.0	G
Międzyrzecz	4.1	-3.3	0.8	A	1.0	-2.1	-1.1	H
Nowa Sól*	3.5	-2.2	1.3	A	0.4	-2.3	-1.9	H
Słubice	3.3	0.1	3.4	B	1.7	-0.3	1.4	A
Strzelce-Drezdenko	3.7	-2.9	0.8	A	0.4	-1.9	-1.5	H
Sulęcin	3.9	-1.9	2.0	A	-0.5	-2.1	-2.6	G
Świebodzin	3.2	-1.9	1.3	A	-0.7	-0.6	-1.3	F
Wschowa	x	x	x	x	0.5	0.1	0.6	B
Zielona Góra	4.0	1.4	5.4	B	0.4	4.6	5.0	C
Żagań	1.6	1.8	3.4	C	-0.6	-1.8	-2.4	G
Żary	2.5	-0.7	1.8	A	-0.3	-4.1	-4.4	G
Gorzów Wielkopolski (town)	1.8	0.1	1.9	B	0.6	-0.2	0.4	A
Zielona Góra (town)	1.1	2.7	3.8	C	-0.4	1.0	0.6	D
voivodeship	2.8	-0.1	2.7	A	0.3	-0.6	-0.3	H

* in 1995 together with the present Wschowa poviat

NI – natural increase; NM - net migration; PC – population change.

Source: Based on Rocznik Statystyczny Województw 2004, GUS, Warszawa and Powiaty w Polsce, GUS, Warszawa 1999.

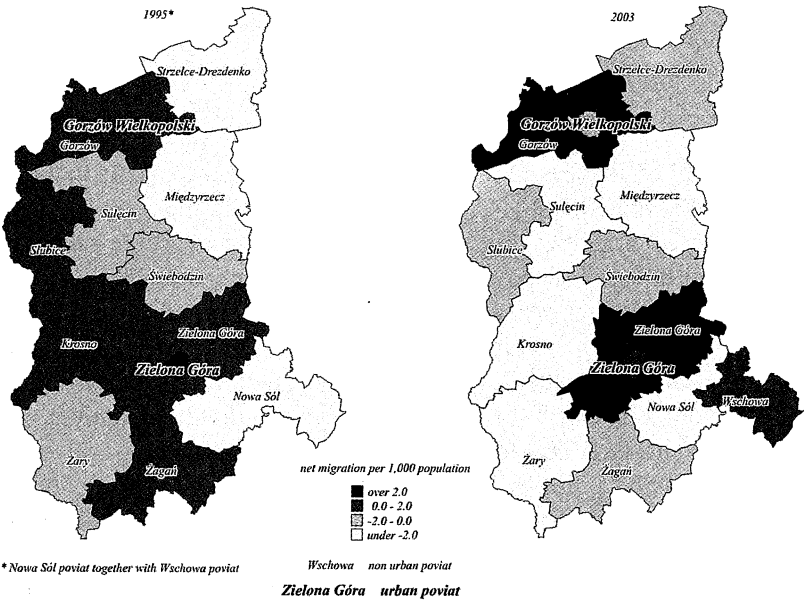

Fig. 1. Net migration in the poviats of Lubuskie voivodeship in 1995 and 2003

Source: Based on Rocznik Statystyczny Województw 2004, GUS, Warszawa and Powiaty w Polsce, GUS, Warszawa 1999

The spatial distribution of net migration by poviat also underwent some alterations (Fig. 1). In 1995, there were six poviats with net out-migration as against ten in 2003, of which the depopulating Krosno poviat had the highest rate of migration loss (-6.9‰). Worth noting is the fact that areas of the highest migration gain (6.2‰ and 4.6‰, respectively) were the non-urban poviats surrounding the two regional centres, viz. Gorzów Wielkopolski and Zielona Góra, which clearly shows the dominant role of those towns. Some of their residents have moved to the suburban communes while still working in town, because the suburban zone today offers better living conditions: cheaper building plots, cheaper housing, lower taxes, a cleaner environment, and good transport to the centre.

TOWNS

The urban network of Lubuskie voivodeship embraces a total of 42 units of which only two are large towns with more than 100,000 inhabitants (Gorzów Wielkopolski - 125,800 and Zielona Góra - 118,700), but they account for 37.6% of the urban population and 24.2% of the voivodeship total (Table 2). Medium-sized units include four towns, with the largest - Nowa Sól - having a population of 40,800. They are all situated in the Zielona Góra subregion, hence the disproportion between the central town and the next one in the settlement system is smaller here than in the Gorzów subregion.

Table 2. Size structure of towns of Lubuskie voivodeship in 1992 and 2003

Towns by population (thous.)	Number of towns		Population (thous.)		Population (%)	
	1992	2003	1992	2003	1992	2003
up to 2	1	2	1.3	3.3	0.2	0.5
2 – 5	16	16	58.6	56.1	9.0	8.6
5 – 10	5	6	37.7	43.1	5.8	6.6
10 – 20	11	12	156.7	174.3	24.2	26.8
20 – 50	5	4	154.8	128.4	23.9	19.8
100 – 200	2	2	239.7	244.5	36.9	37.6
Total	40	42	648.8	649.6	100.0	100.0

Source: Own compilation.

However, predominant in the voivodeship (85.7%) are towns classed as small, up to 20,000 inhabitants (Table 2). This proportion is markedly higher than for the entire set of Polish towns, where the figure is 75%. A settlement structure similar to that of Lubuska Land can be found in the entire Western and Northern Lands (Regiony Polski. Województwo lubuskie..., 1999). The small-town category in Lubuskie voivodeship is not homogeneous. The largest, Mię-

dzyrzecz, has a population of slightly less than 19,000, while the smallest unit, Szlichtyngowa, has merely just over 1,300 inhabitants.

In 1992, there were 33 small towns (82.5%) accounting for 39.2% of the urban population (Table 2). By 2003 their number grew to 36, swelled by two new units which had received municipal rights in 1994-1995 (Torzym and Lubniewice) as well as Międzyrzecz, which in 1992 was in the medium-sized category. As a result of the above changes, the proportion of small-town population in the urban population figure of Lubuskie voivodeship went up to 42.6% (as against 20.8% at the national scale), while the proportion of population of towns in the 20,000-50,000 category fell. Hence, urbanisation prospects in Lubuskie voivodeship will depend on the development of small towns to a greater extent than in the country as a whole.

The steady increase in the urban population in the territory of the present Lubuskie voivodeship stopped in 2000 when a downward tendency set in. The inhabitants of towns grew by 13,800, or 2.1%, between 1992 and 1999, while over the entire study period of 1992-2003 the figure increased by a mere 750, or 0.1%, to reach 649,600 in 2003. The low growth dynamics of the voivodeship's urban population is reflected in the decline in its proportion from 64.9% in 1995 to 64.4% in 2003. Its urbanisation level can be described as average (7th place in the country). Within the voivodeship itself, the Gorzów subregion displays a higher urbanisation index (65.6%) than the Zielona Góra one (63.6%).

The 1992-2003 growth dynamics of the Lubuskie urban population was highly diversified, both in terms of individual towns and town-size categories.

The towns of the voivodeship can be divided into four groups: those with the lowest growth dynamics, up to 95.0; those with the figure between 95.1 and 100.0; those with 100.1-105.0; and finally those with 105.1 and over. A detailed presentation of the towns by size categories is given in Table 3.

As the table shows, not all the town-size categories displayed the same tendency of population change. The highest population growth dynamics (Di = = 102.0) was characteristic of big towns (100,000-200,000). Right behind them were two categories of small towns: those with 5,000-10,000 inhabitants (Di = = 101.4) and under 2,000 inhabitants (Di = 101.6). The remaining two small-town groups had lower growth rates, at Di = 99.6 in the 2,000-5,000 group and Di = 98.4 in the 10,000-20,000 one. The population figure dwindled most steeply, by 4.5%, in the medium-sized category of 20,000-50,000.

In the years 1992-2003, 18 out of the 42 towns of Lubuskie voivodeship recorded a population increase. The growth rate was the highest in small towns like Łęknica (Di = 109.8), Sława (107.8), Słubice (105.9), Kostrzyn (105.1), and Witnica (105.1). A significant role in their development is played by both, the functions they perform and their geographical location. In three (Słubice, Kostrzyn and Łęknica) there are Polish-German border crossings. Kostrzyn and Słubice lie within the Kostrzyn-Słubice Special Economic Zone established in 1997.

Moreover, Kostrzyn gained residents after its area had been enlarged by 5 km^2. Słubice became an academic centre in 1998 when Collegium Polonicum, co-operating with Viadrina University in Frankfurt, was established there. Sława is a tourist centre, situated as it is in an area of outstanding natural and scenic beauty. What promotes the growth of Witnica, in turn, is the town's location on the main route connecting Gorzów Wielkopolski and Kostrzyn. Thus, this group embraces towns with a convenient location, also in terms of accessibility, which may promote entrepreneurship, the setting up of new firms, often with the participation of foreign capital, the development of housing, and population inflows.

However, not all towns whose location can be termed convenient achieved a high rate of population increase. Gubin can serve as an example. Although there is a border crossing in the town, it suffered substantial population losses as a result of a net out-migration. The cause of its depopulation must be sought in its poor economic condition.

The depopulation group of Lubuskie towns also includes four medium-sized ones. Their population decrease is largely due to external factors, viz. migration losses. This shows them to be connected with Zielona Góra, because the region's capital owes its relatively dynamic population growth of the recent years mainly to in-migration.

Worth emphasising is the fact that, with the exception of Słubice, all the towns performing the function of poviat capitals show stagnation or depopulation tendencies.

Towns with the lowest population growth rates usually also feature a poor level of entrepreneurship, a net out-migration, and regression in residential housing.

Among the factors modifying urban population figures are shifts in the administrative limits of towns. However, over the study period an increase in area was registered in only three cases: in Gorzów Wielkopolski (by 9 km^2), the above-mentioned Kostrzyn (by 5 km^2), and Drezdenko (by 1 km^2). Hence, administrative changes did not affect population growth in the towns of the voivodeship in any significant way.

The demographic situation of the Lubuskie towns is determined by the natural increase and net migration. The role of those two components of population change varied over the study period 1992-2002[1]. As in the case of poviats, this leads to the development of various types of towns in terms of population growth that display great variations in time.

In the initial year of the study, 1992, the Lubuskie towns represented five Webb types: A, B and C, whose population is on the increase, and H and G suffering population loss (Table 4). The growth types predominated with 27 towns, while depopulation types included 12 units.

There were 11 towns representing a moderate type B, equally many in type C, and 5 in type A. Among the depopulation types, H was recorded as frequently as 11 times and G once. Also once, there appeared an intermediate type A/H (where the natural increase is equal to the net out-migration).

Table 3. Growth dynamics of the urban population in Lubuskie voivodeship by town-size group in the years 1992 – 2003

Dynamics index (1992 = 100)	Towns by population size (as of 31 December 2003)					
	up to 2 thous.	2 – 5 thous.	5 – 10 thous.	10 – 20 thous.	20 – 50 thous.	100 – 200 thous.
up to 95.0		Nowe Miasteczko 91.1 Trzciel 91.6 Małomice 93.0		Międzyrzecz 92.3 Gubin 92.8 Szprotawa 93.9 Krosno Odrzańskie 95.9	Nowa Sól 94.7	
95.1 – 100.0		Gozdnica 95.3 Iłowa 95.9 Czerwieńsk 97.4 Jasień 98.3 Torzym** 99.2	Kożuchów 99.3 Sulęcin 99.7 Zbąszynek 100.0	Lubsko 97.0 Drezdenko 99.7 Skwierzyna 99.7 Strzelce Krajeńskie 100.0 Wschowa 100.0	Żagań 95.2 Żary 95.7 Świebodzin 96.9	
100.1- 105.0	Szlichtyngowa 101.2 Lubniewice* 101.8	Babimost 101.6 Dobiegniew 101.9 Ośno Lubuskie 101.9 Cybinka 103.2 Kargowa 103.6 Bytom Odrzański 104.1	Rzepin 102.2 Nowogród Bobrzański 104.2	Sulechów 100.9		Gorzów Wlkp. 101.0 Zielona Góra 103.1
105.1 and over		Sława 107.8 Łęknica 109.8	Witnica 105.1	Kostrzyn 105.1 Słubice 105.9		
Mean value of dynamics index	101.6	99.6	101.4	98.4	95.5	102.0
Number of towns	2	16	6	12	4	2

* Dynamics index calculated for the period 1995 – 2003 (chartered as a town in 1995).

** Dynamics index calculated for the period 1994 – 2003 (chartered as a town in 1994).

Source: Own calculations based on Miasta w Polsce, GUS, Warszawa 1994 and Województwo lubuskie. Podregiony, powiaty, gminy 2004. Urząd Statystyczny w Zielonej Górze.

Table 4. Types of population change in towns of Lubuskie voivodeship in 1992

TOWNS BY POPULATION SIZE (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1992)						WEBB'S TYPE
UP TO 2 THOUS.	2 – 5 THOUS.	5 – 10 THOUS.	10 – 20 THOUS.	20 – 50 THOUS.	100 – 200 THOUS.	
Szlichtyngowa*	Kargowa Nowogród Bobrzański	Kożuchów Rzepin	Gubin			A
	Bytom Odrzański Łęknica Ośno Lubuskie	Sulęcin	Kostrzyn Krosno Odrzańskie Strzelce Krajeńskie Wschowa	Nowa Sól Żary	Zielona Góra	B
	Sława		Drezdenko Lubsko Skwierzyna Słubice Sulechów Szprotawa	Międzyrzecz Świebodzin Żagań	Gorzów Wlkp.	C
						D
						E
						F
	Gozdnica Babimost Cybinka Czerwieńsk Dobiegniew					G
Szlichtyngowa*	Iłowa Jasień Małomice Nowe Miasteczko Trzciel	Witnica Zbąszynek				H

* The town represents an intermediate type A/H.

Source: Calculations and compilation based on Miasta w Polsce, GUS, Warszawa 1994.

Table 5. Types of population change in towns of Lubuskie voivodeship in 2002

Towns by population size (as of 31 December 2002)						Webb's type
up to 2 thous.	2 – 5 thous.	5 – 10 thous.	10 – 20 thous.	20 – 50 thous.	100 – 200 thous.	
Lubniewice*	Babimost* Czerwieńsk	Zbąszynek	Kostrzyn Słubice Wschowa		Gorzów Wlkp.	A
Lubniewice*	Babimost* Bytom Odrzański Kargowa					B
	Cybinka Łęknica	Rzepin Witnica				C
	Sława				Zielona Góra	D
	Dobiegniew Iłowa					E
						F
	Jasień Małomice Nowe Miasteczko	Kożuchów	Lubsko Międzyrzecz Szprotawa	Żagań Żary		G
Szlichtyngowa	Gozdnica Ośno Lubuskie Torzym Trzciel	Nowogród Bobrzański Sulęcin	Drezdenko Gubin Krosno Odrzańskie Skwierzyna Strzelce Krajeńskie Sulechów	Nowa Sól Świebodzin		H

* The town represents an intermediate type A/B.

Source: Calculations and compilation based on Miasta w liczbach 2001–2002, GUS, Warszawa 2004 and Rocznik Statystyczny Województwa Lubuskiego 2003, Urząd Statystyczny w Zielonej Górze.

In 2002 the towns were more diversified: seven Webb types were represented (Table 5). Since 1992, there had developed the growth type D and the depopulation type E (where the natural decrease is greater than the net in-migration).

When analysing the changes in the population growth components that occurred over the ten years under study, one can find, as in the case of poviats, that more and more towns recorded negative values of either net migration or the natural increase, or both. As a result, depopulation types (26 towns) started to predominate over growth types (16 towns). There was an increase in net out-migration figures, hence H (15 towns) and G (9 towns) became the largest types. The other types looked as follows: 6 towns represented type A, 4 type C, 2 type B, 2 type D, 2 the intermediate type A/B (where the natural increase is accompanied by a migration balance), and 2 the depopulation type E.

What shows the typological shifts over those ten years to have been great is the fact that between 1992 and 2002 as many as 38 towns changed their growth type. Only two units, viz. Bytom Odrzański and Trzciel, maintained their old type. Significantly enough, all the medium-sized towns of Lubuskie voivodeship moved from the growth types B and C to the depopulation types G and H.

While in 1992 only one town registered a natural decrease (Gozdnica in Żagań poviat), in 2002 there were as many as 13 such towns, with the worst figure shown by Iłowa in Żagań poviat (-7.5‰). The highest natural increase was recorded in Czerwieńsk (Zielona Góra poviat, 6.2‰). There appeared a regularity: a natural increase was registered by all towns from poviats lying between Gorzów Wielkopolski and Zielona Góra, viz. the poviats of Gorzów, Słubice, Sulęcin, Krosno, Świebodzin, and Zielona Góra.

As many as 30 towns showed net migration outflows, with Gubin in the lead (-15.7‰). The highest migration gain was recorded in Sława in Wschowa poviat (8.3‰).

In summing up the analysis of population change in Lubuskie voivodeship, one should stress the high variability of its components over time. They also varied a lot in individual towns. The natural increase and net migration can change especially fast in smaller units. Generally, net out-migration figures tend to climb in the towns. Despite the rapid changes in the relation between the components, the types of urban population change can be considered representative of the period under study. They reflect some regularities in the demographic growth of the Lubuskie towns.

Vital statistics and migration control the age/sex structure of the population. In turn, the age/sex structure directly affects the rate of reproduction through its link with the rate of nuptiality and birth and death rates.

In 2003, the number of women per 100 men averaged 106 for the entire Lubuskie voivodeship (as against ca. 107 for Poland), while the figure for all the Lubuskie towns was 109 (as against ca. 110 for the towns in Poland). The highest feminisation figures were recorded in the biggest towns, viz. Zielona Góra (113),

Gorzów Wielkopolski (110), Nowa Sól (110) and Żary (111), and besides in Słubice (112) and Kożuchów (110). Zielona Góra and Słubice were also units where the index was observed to climb over the period 1992-2003. The towns with the lowest feminisation figures were usually ones with not more than 5,000 inhabitants, like Cybinka (101), Nowe Miasteczko (101), Nowogród Bobrzański (102), Jasień (103), Babimost (103), Szlichtyngowa (103), and Czerwieńsk (104). In terms of poviats, the lowest index was recorded in Sulęcin poviat (101).

While the increase in the feminisation index was the prevalent tendency in the poviats and towns of Lubuskie voivodeship in the study period, there were also units where a decline was registered. The most conspicuous example is Iłowa in Żagań poviat where there were 113 females per 100 males in 1992 while in 2003 the figure dropped to a mere 107.

When analysing the age structure of the Lubuskie population, use was made of the so-called economic grouping, i.e. a division into the pre-working age group (0-17 years of age), the population of the working age (18-64 for males and 18-59 for females) and the post-working age group (65+ for males and 60+ for females).

Over the study period the society of most of the poviats and towns of Lubuskie voivodeship had aged. The process was readily visible in the marked decline in the proportion of the pre-working age group in total population to 22.5% and in urban population to 21.9%, and in an increase in the percentage of the post-working age group to 13.4% and 13.3%, respectively. As a result, there was also an increase in the population of the working age (to 64.1% and 64.8%, respectively).

Worth noting is the fact that in some towns the decline in the proportion of the pre-working age group was accompanied by a slight drop rather than an increase in the percentage of persons over pension age. Those towns were Cybinka, Łęknica, Ośno Lubuskie, and Sława.

The relations between the age groups have a crucial effect on the demographic burden of the population. The burden is expressed as the ratio between the population of non-employable age and the working population. Between 1998 and 2003 there was a marked decrease in the demographic burden in Lubuskie voivodeship, from 65 persons of non-working age per 100 workers to 56 (in Poland to 53). In the case of Lubuskie towns, the index dropped from 69 to 52 between 1992 and 2003. The same tendency was displayed by Polish towns in general. While the large pre-working age group due to the baby boom of the early 1980s entered the labour market in those years, the group itself dwindled because of the present slump in the birth rate. Hence the ratio of persons of the pre-working age per 100 workers dropped in the towns of Lubuskie voivodeship from 51.5 to 31.8, while for persons over pension age the index grew from 17.3 do 20.5. In sum, the general index of demographic burden decreased, but its structure worsened.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of population changes that occurred in Lubuskie voivodeship over the study period made it possible to determine spatial differences in selected population processes and structures in its poviats and towns.

The population of today's Lubuskie voivodeship stopped growing in 2002 and according to the forecasts of the Central Statistical Office it is going to dwindle to 950,300 in 2030, down by 58,500 from 2003.

Over the period 1995-2003, the highest growth dynamics was recorded in the two non-urban poviats surrounding the region's big towns, viz. Zielona Góra and Gorzów poviats, which displayed the highest in-migration figures in the recent years. The strongest tendency towards depopulation was registered in Krosno poviat, and the immediate cause of this process was a high net out-migration.

The population inhabiting the towns of Lubuskie voivodeship has been on the decrease since 2000, and according to the forecasts of the Central Statistical Office it is going to fall to 571,300 in 2030, down by 78,300 from 2003, which will mean the onset of the de-urbanisation process.

The 1992-2003 growth dynamics of the Lubuskie urban population was highly diversified, both in terms of individual towns and town-size categories. The highest population growth dynamics was characteristic of big towns (100,000-200,000) closely followed by two categories of small towns: those with 5,000-10,000 inhabitants and under 2,000 inhabitants. The population figure dwindled the most in the medium-sized category of 20,000-50,000. As to individual towns, the growth rate was the highest in small places like Łęknica, Sława, Słubice, Kostrzyn, and Witnica. What contributes to their development is the functions they perform and their geographical location.

When analysing the changes in the population growth components that occurred over the eight years under study, it was found that more and more poviats and towns registered negative values of either net migration or the natural increase, or both. As a result, depopulation types started to predominate over growth types. With an increase in net out-migration figures, H and G became the largest types. What shows the typological shifts over those eight years to have been substantial is the fact that between 1995 and 2003 all the poviats changed their growth type, while there were only two towns which managed to maintain their old type over the ten years under study.

Generally, the prevalent tendency observed in the poviats and towns of Lubuskie voivodeship was an increase in the feminisation index.

Over the study period the society of most of the poviats and towns of Lubuskie voivodeship had aged. The ageing was readily visible in a marked decli-

ne in the proportion of the pre-working age group and an increase in the percentage of the post-working age group. As a result, there was also an increase in the population of the working age, and ultimately a marked decrease in the demographic burden of the population in Lubuskie voivodeship.

NOTES

(1) Owing to incomplete migration data for 2003, 2002 was adopted as the final year in the analysis of this issue.

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