

Regional Distribution

Politically, Poland is divided into 49 administrative regions known as *voivodeships* (see Figure 2.1). The national capital is Warszawa (Warsaw) with a population of 1,655,100.

Poland's population density ranks in the middle range of European countries with 123 people per km². After the Second World War, Poland was predominantly rural, but today, approximately 62% of the population lives in cities and towns. By western standards, Poland still has a relatively large rural population, but it is decreasing in both relative and absolute terms as people leave their farms and migrate to the cities.

Figure 2.2 shows the population distribution of Poland's cities and towns as of 1990. By the end of 1991, the number of urban centres with more than 5000 inhabitants had increased to 833. Half of that population was concentrated in 43 cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants each.

Figure 2.1
Administrative Map of Poland

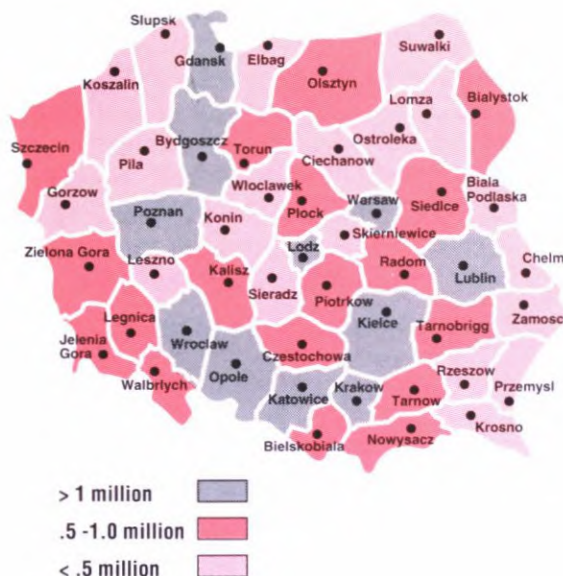


Figure 2.2
Size Distribution of Polish Urban Centres, 1990

Size of Population	No. of Cities
200,000+	20
100,000-199,999	23
50,000- 99,999	48
20,000- 49,999	128
10,000- 19,999	177
5,000- 9,999	177
< 5,000	257
Total	830

Source: Rocznik Statystyczny, 1991.

About one-sixth of the country's population resides in seven urban areas, each of which has more than half a million people (see Figure 2.3). The most heavily populated regions are around Warsaw, Lodz, Katowice and Krakow, the most promising markets for those seeking to do business in Poland.

Figure 2.3
Poland's Largest Cities, 1990
(in 000s)

City	Population
Warszawa	1,656
Lodz	848
Gdansk-Gdynia Metropolitan Area	763
Krakow	751
Wroclaw	643
Poznan	590
Upper Silesian Conurbation ¹	1,972

¹ Includes the adjacent cities of Katowice, Sosnowiec, Bytom, Gliwice, Zabrze, Ruda Slaska, Dabrowa Gornicza, Chorzow, Czeladz, Bendzin, Siemianowice Slaskie, and Swietochlowice.

Source: Rocznik Statystyczny, 1991.