



## POLAND'S TOURIST ACTIVITY AND ACCOMMODATION BASE BY VOIVODESHIP

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JEL Classification: Z30, Z32.

Key words: tourism, accommodation, spatial differentiation.

### Abstract

The purpose of the article was to find out the changes in the size of the accommodation base and the number of tourists in Poland regionally in 2018, 2020 and 2022, and to determine the changes that took place in tourism as a result of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic. Based on the analysis, it was found that the number of accommodations and the number of tourists in Poland in the years under study varied greatly among the provinces. The highest level of the analyzed values was in the provinces of Lesser Poland, Pomerania and West Pomerania. The lowest values were recorded in the Opole province. Due to the limitations of the pandemic, a significant decrease in the number of tourists visiting Poland in 2020 by 50%, including foreign tourists by about 70%, compared to 2018, can be noted.

### RUCH TURYSTYCZNY I BAZA NOCLEGOWA POLSKI WEDŁUG WOJEWÓDZTW

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Kody JEL: Z30, Z32.

Słowa kluczowe: turystyka, baza noclegowa, zróżnicowanie przestrzenne.

### Abstrakt

Celem artykułu było poznanie zmian wielkości bazy noclegowej i liczby turystów w Polsce w ujęciu regionalnym w latach 2018, 2020 i 2022 oraz określenie zmian, które miały miejsce w ruchu turystycznym w wyniku pandemii COVID-19. Na podstawie przeprowadzonej analizy stwierdzono, że liczba miejsc noclegowych oraz liczba turystów w Polsce w badanych latach była bardzo zróżnicowana w poszczególnych województwach. Najwyższym poziomem analizowanych wartości charakteryzowały się województwa małopolskie, pomorskie i zachodniopomorskie. Najniższe wartości zanotowano w województwie opolskim. Ze względu na ograniczenia wynikające z pandemii można zauważyć znaczny spadek liczby turystów odwiedzających Polskę w 2020 roku o 50%, w tym turystów zagranicznych o ok. 70%, w porównaniu z rokiem 2018.

## Introduction

According to classical definitions, tourism is primarily associated with travel for the purposes of sightseeing, healthcare or leisure. In modern definitions of tourism, however, there are also additional economic and social dimensions, where it is referred to as an opportunity to earn money spent by tourists who are currently enjoying a temporary stay. While travelling, tourists visit new places and make new acquaintances. Tourist traffic is driven by the demand for tourism services, i.e. the services and consumer goods that tourists are willing to purchase while visiting. Tourism enterprises handle tourism traffic, including the provision of increasingly high-quality hotel, catering and entertainment services (Płocka, 2009, p. 6).

Improving the standard of living of local residents is an important factor in the development of tourism. An increase in the real average salary in the economy, disposable income and a decreasing rate of unemployment significantly contribute to satisfying the citizens' needs regarding tourism (Majchrzak-Jaszczak *et al.*, 2019, p. 64).

Non-economic factors also affect decisions on tourism demand. Increasingly often, tourists have high expectations regarding the emotional perception of the places they visit, the sites and the people they meet during their stay. It should be noted that tourist trips tend to be driven by different motivations. For some people, tourist trips provide a source of leisure and relaxation, while for others, they may serve an exploratory and social purpose (Niezgoda, 2012, p. 21).

Poland is found highly attractive by tourists. The country's area features a variety of natural values. The fundamental elements of a region's attractiveness include touristic development and access to transportation (Ozimek *et al.*, 2019, p. 7).

Territories located by the Baltic Sea are among the most attractive regions in Poland. The seaside towns and cities are constantly being transformed, becoming increasingly appealing to tourists, and are becoming one of the main tourist destinations. Visitors can enjoy their stay in well-known seaside

resorts or book accommodation in smaller picturesque spots. In the summer season of 2022, six seaside towns and cities in Poland (Kołobrzeg, Ustronie Morskie, Ustka, Władysławowo, Hel, Puck) were reviewed in terms of their tourist attractiveness. Data taken from the Central Statistical Office (GUS) and information on the localities concerned published on relevant websites were used for this purpose. In addition, spatial development in the studied localities was monitored during the summer season. The highest number of tourists throughout the year was recorded in the commune of Kołobrzeg, while the lowest was in the commune of Hel. Selected elements of tourism development were also evaluated, with a value of 1 assigned to the destination characterised by a very poor state of tourism development. Ustka was considered to be a model tourist destination in the opinion of tourists (Nędza & Matlingiewicz, 2022).

The area of Małopolskie voivodeship offers excellent conditions for tourism and recreation. It is one of the most developed tourist regions in Poland due to its large number of accommodation facilities. Małopolskie voivodeship features a significant number of tourist routes and museums. More than 90% of communes carry out activities related to tourism, taking into account the principles of sustainable development and the opinions of local residents (Bajgier-Kowalska & Kapera, 2019, p. 93).

The city of Cracow is visited by millions of tourists every year. Tourists can choose from a wide range of accommodation and restaurant facilities to suit their requirements. The main intention of people visiting Cracow is tourism because of the numerous historical sights of the city (Tracz *et al.*, 2019, p. 171).

In Poland, agrotourism activities are extensively developed. This is attributable to the richness of the natural environment in many regions of the country. The need to be close to nature has a significant impact on the development of this activity. Tourists increasingly seek scenic beauty, peace, and quiet, and they wish to spend time away from large urban agglomerations. One aspect of great importance to owners of agrotourism farms is gaining additional income from, among other things, the rental of accommodation and the sale of agricultural products (Ciepiela, 2016).

According to the report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in 2018, there were 3.5 tourist accommodation facilities with ten or more beds available per 100 km<sup>2</sup> in Poland. Hotel facilities ranked first (37.7% of the total number of facilities), followed by guest rooms and agrotourism quarters, accounting for 27.5% of all accommodation facilities in Poland. The largest share of these (almost 40% of all active agrotourism farms in Poland) were located in Małopolskie, Podkarpackie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeships (*Rolnictwo i gospodarka żywnościowa w Polsce*, 2019, p. 57).

The tourism industry was severely affected by the crisis resulting from the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. This is particularly true for accommodation, food and beverage and leisure services. Based on a study conducted in 2020, almost

50 percent of people expressed a preference to spend their holidays domestically (Widomski, 2020, p. 775).

Information obtained from the Central Statistical Office indicates that 36.5 million tourists stayed in tourist accommodation facilities in Poland in 2019.

Compared to the previous year, this was an increase of 5.6%. In 2019, foreign tourists used 18.7 million overnight stays. Almost all foreign tourists stayed overnight in facilities with ten or more beds. By type of accommodation facilities, guest rooms and agrotourism accommodation dominated in Poland in 2019, accounting for 21.4% of all accommodation facilities.

The number of facilities with up to ten beds increased in comparison with previous years. In 2019, 88.5 million foreigners visited Poland.

Foreign tourists spent 4.5% more than in the previous year. The visitors were predominantly foreigners, who collectively accounted for 82.6% of tourists visiting Poland. Zachodniopomorskie, Pomorskie and Małopolskie voivodeships had the highest number of tourist accommodation facilities (per 100 km<sup>2</sup>). In these voivodeships, there were between 7.0 and 10.2 facilities per 100 km<sup>2</sup>, respectively. The tourism density rate was highest in the Małopolskie and Śląskie voivodeships, where it exceeded 230 tourists per km<sup>2</sup>. The Mazowieckie voivodeship ranked first in 2019 owing to its accommodation development indicator. The reason for this was the fact that tourism in this province operates all year round. Małopolskie and Pomorskie voivodeships were ranked first due to the highest volume of domestic tourist traffic in 2019, with each of them visited by almost 7 million tourists in 2019 (GUS, 2020).

The events surrounding the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in 2020 had a profound impact on tourist traffic at a global level. Closing hotels and other nightlife, sports and cultural venues, limiting the operation of shopping malls, and restricting movement within the country for work or tourism purposes all contributed to the crisis in the tourism industry (Gabryjończyk & Gabryjończyk, 2021).

A survey concerning holiday trips of the residents of the Podkarpackie voivodeship indicated that in 2020 there was a noticeable increase in the number of people spending their holidays in Poland and holidaying with their families. The outbreak of the coronavirus had a considerable impact on people's decisions regarding holiday plans in Poland (Nizioł & Pólichłopek, 2023).

## Research Methodology

The analysis of the tourism industry was conducted using data on selected issues relating to tourism for the years 2018, 2020 and 2022. The paper uses secondary data taken from the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office regarding:

- the number of accommodation establishments by selected types (number of establishments);
- the number of tourists staying at accommodation establishments (persons);
- the occupancy rate for accommodation establishments (in %).

According to the classification used by the Central Statistical Office, hotel facilities include hotels (usually located in urban areas and having at least ten rooms), motels (located along transport routes and, in addition to hotel services, also providing car services, including parking), boarding houses (having at least seven rooms and, in addition to hotel services, providing full board) or other accommodation establishments. Agrotourism quarters are defined as tourist accommodation facilities that have rooms or dwelling houses and other buildings belonging to the respective rural property. These establishments are owned by farmers who rent them out to tourists for an appropriate fee. The number of accommodation establishments was calculated for the type of facilities that were in operation on 31 July of the year in question. Their use applies to the entire reporting year, i.e., the number of tourists staying overnight was determined for the entire calendar year. The analysis relied on data on the number of hotel facilities and agrotourism accommodations, given the largest number of these types of facilities. Detailed information on the research methodology concerning tourism in Poland can be found on the Central Statistical Office website (GUS, 2019, 2021, 2023).

The purpose of this paper was to explore changes in the size of the accommodation base and the number of tourists in Poland at the regional level in 2018, 2020 and 2022, as well as to determine the changes that have taken place in tourism following the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic.

## **Analysis of the Findings**

Table 1 presents information on the number of tourist accommodation establishments, including hotel facilities and agrotourism accommodation.

During the years under study, Małopolskie, Pomorskie and Zachodniopomorskie voivodeships recorded the highest number of total accommodation facilities. In 2018, this number exceeded 1,500 facilities each time, while in 2022 it was lower by 13.05%, 14.78% and 10.05%, respectively. In 2020, the number of accommodation facilities in Małopolskie voivodeship decreased by less than 10% and in the remaining of the above-mentioned voivodeships by approximately 5% compared to 2018. Małopolskie and Dolnośląskie voivodeships were ranked first due to the highest number of hotel facilities in all the studied years. An increase in the number of hotel facilities (by approximately 3.13%) was recorded only in Dolnośląskie voivodeship in 2020. The smallest number of total hotel facilities was noted in Opolskie voivodeship, and compared to Pomorskie voivodeship, they accounted for approximately 10% of the surveyed years. In Poland, the number

of hotel facilities in 2022 fell by 4.91%, while the number of agrotourism accommodation units decreased by 23.19% compared to 2018. The number of agrotourism accommodation units in Poland in 2020 decreased by 15.02%, and the number of hotel facilities decreased by less than 5% compared to two years earlier. A drop in the number of total accommodation facilities and agrotourism accommodation units can be observed in all voivodeships in 2020, with the largest decrease in Małopolskie voivodeship by 33.33% compared to 2018.

Table 1

The number of tourist accommodation establishments by selected types

| Specification       | Total accommodation facilities<br>(as of July) |        |       | Total hotel facilities<br>(as of July) |       |       | Agritourist quarters<br>total<br>(as of July) |      |      |
|---------------------|--|--------|-------|--|-------|-------|---|------|------|
|                     | 2018   | 2020   | 2022  | 2018                                   | 2020  | 2022  | 2018  | 2020 | 2022 |
| Polska              | 11,076   | 10,291 | 9,766 | 4,179                                  | 3,990 | 3,974 | 759   | 645  | 583  |
| Dolnośląskie        | 1,046  | 1,012  | 914   | 447                                    | 461   | 442   | 75  | 69   | 57   |
| Kujawsko-Pomorskie  | 414  | 374    | 372   | 204                                    | 190   | 193   | 26  | 20   | 18   |
| Lubelskie           | 472  | 429    | 442   | 191                                    | 189   | 196   | 35  | 24   | 25   |
| Lubuskie            | 300  | 281    | 257   | 136                                    | 128   | 118   | 26  | 22   | 20   |
| Łódzkie             | 340  | 277    | 273   | 198                                    | 169   | 174   | 21  | 14   | 17   |
| Małopolskie         | 1,510  | 1,362  | 1,313 | 552                                    | 526   | 547   | 83  | 60   | 54   |
| Mazowieckie         | 614  | 561    | 548   | 360                                    | 340   | 345   | 42  | 37   | 38   |
| Opolskie            | 173  | 138    | 120   | 86                                     | 73    | 69    | 13  | 10   | 7    |
| Podkarpackie        | 642  | 609    | 605   | 232                                    | 222   | 219   | 63  | 60   | 56   |
| Podlaskie           | 281  | 270    | 250   | 97                                     | 97    | 92    | 48  | 48   | 45   |
| Pomorskie           | 1,637  | 1,555  | 1,395 | 350                                    | 361   | 358   | 74  | 65   | 60   |
| Śląskie             | 671  | 620    | 603   | 342                                    | 310   | 314   | 44  | 35   | 24   |
| Świętokrzyskie      | 251  | 235    | 227   | 137                                    | 129   | 127   | 29  | 24   | 23   |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie | 507  | 490    | 469   | 211                                    | 206   | 196   | 75  | 60   | 51   |
| Wielkopolskie       | 665  | 594    | 581   | 337                                    | 294   | 299   | 66  | 64   | 56   |
| Zachodniopomorskie  | 1,553  | 1,484  | 1,397 | 299                                    | 295   | 285   | 39  | 33   | 32   |

Source: BDL GUS.

The largest share in the total number of accommodation establishments in Poland in 2022 belonged to Pomorskie and Zachodniopomorskie voivodeships, where it exceeded 14% (Fig. 1), while in Opolskie voivodeship it did not exceed 2%.

In 2022, Podlaskie voivodeship saw 5.4 p.p. more agrotourism accommodation establishments than hotel facilities.

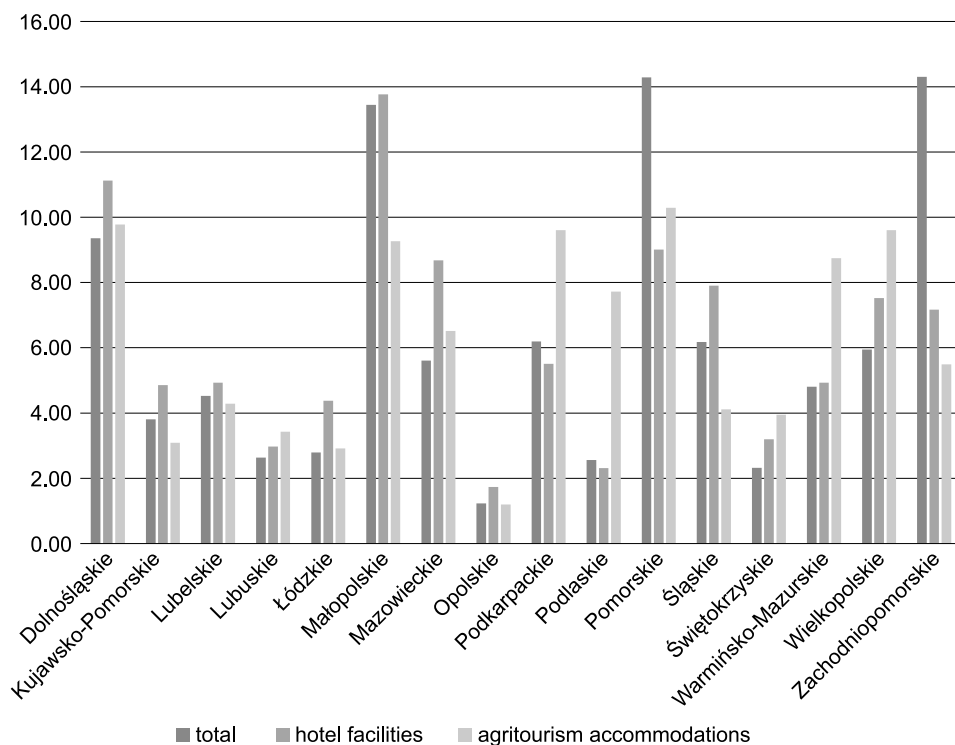


Fig. 1. Share of accommodation establishments of a given type in the total number of accommodation establishments in Poland in 2022 (in %)

Source: compiled on the basis of BDL GUS data.

Based on the data presented in Table 2, it can be observed that the highest number of tourists used accommodation in Małopolskie and Mazowieckie voivodeships, where more than 5 million tourists were reported in 2018 and 2022. This constituted approximately 15% of all tourists using overnight stays. In 2020, the share of all tourists using accommodation in Mazowieckie voivodeship decreased by 60.34%, while two years later, an increase of 178.47% was observed. In each of the analysed years, about 60% of tourists using accommodation visited five voivodeships (Dolnośląskie, Małopolskie, Mazowieckie, Pomorskie and Zachodniopomorskie). In the years under consideration, the fewest tourists used accommodation in Opolskie and Świętokrzyskie voivodeships, where their share never exceeded 2%.

Foreign tourists accounted for 20.89% of tourists using overnight accommodation in Poland in 2018, where a decrease of 8.23 p.p. in this value was recorded in the next analysed year. Foreign tourists using accommodation in 2018 and 2022 in the Małopolskie and Mazowieckie voivodeships accounted for between 20% and 25% of all foreign tourists. Given the COVID-19 pandemic,

Table 2

Total number of tourists using accommodation facilities (in persons)

| Specification       | Total                              |            |            |  |           |           |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|--|-----------|-----------|
|                     | Tourists-total<br>January-December |            |            | Foreign tourists<br>January-December – non-residents |           |           |
|                     | 2018                               | 2020       | 2022       | 2018   | 2020      | 2022      |
| Polska              | 33,895,930                         | 17,878,969 | 34,249,004 | 7,082,231  | 2,263,761 | 5,846,611 |
| Dolnośląskie        | 3,654,787                          | 2,067,828  | 3,732,773  | 696,726  | 278,009   | 534,049   |
| Kujawsko-Pomorskie  | 1,326,633                          | 716,234    | 1,370,209  | 116,637  | 37,860    | 76,288    |
| Lubelskie           | 1,079,253                          | 628,256    | 1 158,669  | 126,390  | 33,364    | 160,785   |
| Lubuskie            | 687,751                            | 399,845    | 635,432    | 177,639  | 73,169    | 124,797   |
| Łódzkie             | 1,351,302                          | 610,328    | 1,212,965  | 194,876  | 64,235    | 125,426   |
| Małopolskie         | 5,207,352                          | 2,389,128  | 5,196,105  | 1,504,318  | 367,052   | 1,178,390 |
| Mazowieckie         | 5,336,963                          | 2,116,493  | 5,893,738  | 1,588,719  | 390,626   | 1,461,969 |
| Opolskie            | 419,238                            | 213,303    | 336,781    | 54,454   | 22,632    | 32,169    |
| Podkarpackie        | 1,263,445                          | 710,332    | 1,209,430  | 151,037  | 44,754    | 208,509   |
| Podlaskie           | 638,801                            | 377,445    | 568,939    | 145,137  | 42,843    | 111,609   |
| Pomorskie           | 3,047,790                          | 1,972,559  | 3,289,820  | 572,393  | 176,690   | 424,329   |
| Śląskie             | 2,809,293                          | 1,350,043  | 2,665,400  | 422,025  | 130,420   | 364,825   |
| Świętokrzyskie      | 624,099                            | 335,217    | 617,200    | 36,984   | 14,252    | 25,102    |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie | 1,308,573                          | 872,936    | 1,204,600  | 162,345  | 45,487    | 60,688    |
| Wielkopolskie       | 2,099,501                          | 1,012,093  | 1,898,586  | 310,980  | 106,428   | 229,574   |
| Zachodniopomorskie  | 3,041,149                          | 2,106,929  | 3,258,357  | 821,571  | 435,940   | 728,102   |

Source: compiled on the basis of BDL GUS data.

these provinces saw a decrease in the share of foreign tourists in 2020 by around 75 p.p. compared to 2018 and witnessed the largest decrease in the number of foreign tourists. It can be noted that the largest number of foreign tourists in 2020 used accommodation in Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship (19.26%), while in Świętokrzyskie voivodeship the share was less than 1% in each of the surveyed years. Opolskie and Świętokrzyskie voivodeships were ranked last in terms of the share of foreign tourists using overnight accommodation.

Table 3 shows that the number of tourists using overnight accommodation in Poland in 2020 decreased by 47.25%, with the number of foreign tourists down by 68.04%. Two years after the announcement of the pandemic, there were 158.27% more foreign tourists staying overnight. The smallest decrease in the number of tourists who used accommodation in Poland in 2020 was observed in Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship (by 30.72%), while the largest decrease was

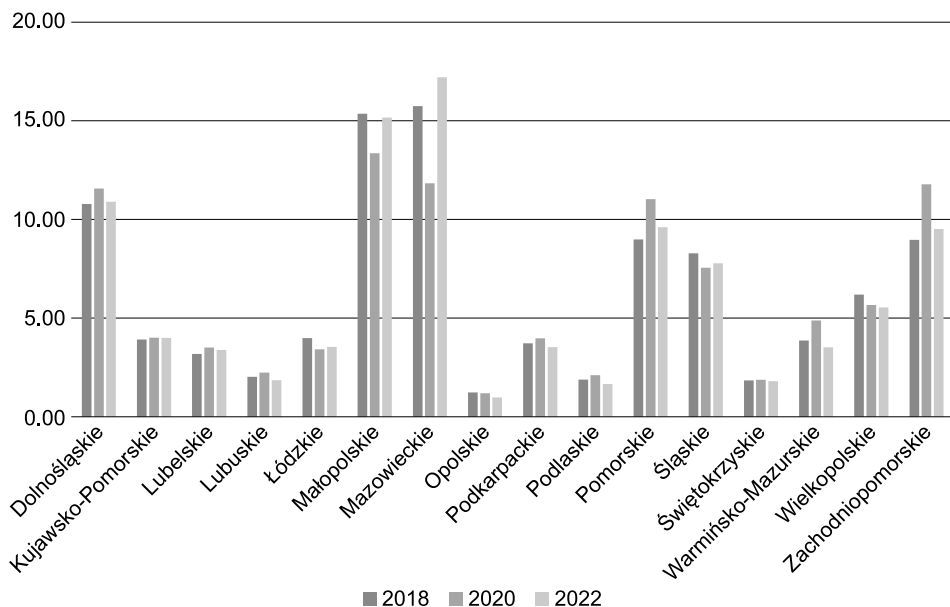


Fig. 2. Share of tourists in individual voivodeships in the total number of tourists using accommodation (in %)

Source: compiled on the basis of BDL GUS data.

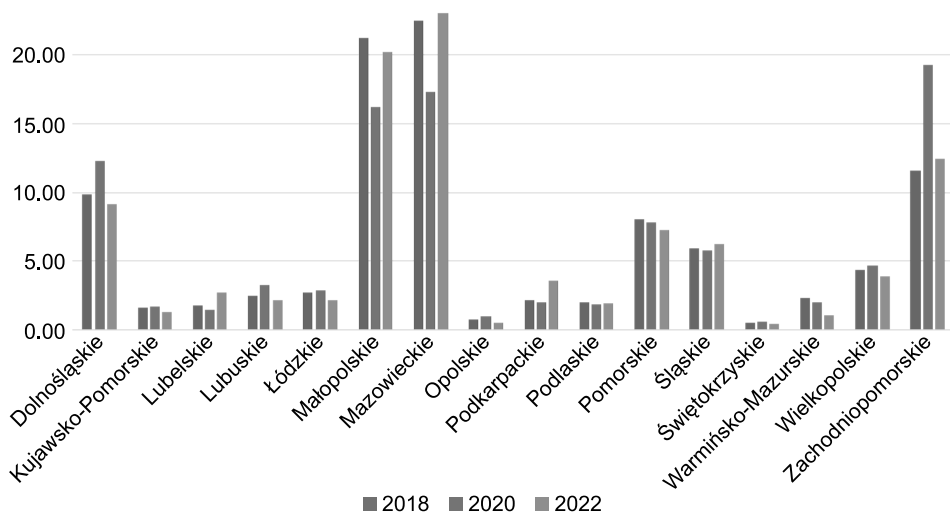


Fig. 3. Share of foreign tourists in the total number of tourists using accommodation in the voivodeships (in %)

Source: compiled on the basis of BDL GUS data.

Table 3

Dynamics of the overall number of tourists using accommodation facilities

| Specification       | Total tourists |           |           | Foreign tourists |           |           |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | 2020/2018      | 2022/2018 | 2022/2020 | 2020/2018        | 2022/2018 | 2022/2020 |
| Polska              | 0.53           | 1.01      | 1.92      | 0.32             | 0.83      | 2.58      |
| Dolnośląskie        | 0.57           | 1.02      | 1.81      | 0.40             | 0.77      | 1.92      |
| Kujawsko-Pomorskie  | 0.54           | 1.03      | 1.91      | 0.32             | 0.65      | 2.02      |
| Lubelskie           | 0.58           | 1.07      | 1.84      | 0.26             | 1.27      | 4.82      |
| Lubuskie            | 0.58           | 0.92      | 1.59      | 0.41             | 0.70      | 1.71      |
| Łódzkie             | 0.45           | 0.90      | 1.99      | 0.33             | 0.64      | 1.95      |
| Małopolskie         | 0.46           | 1.00      | 2.17      | 0.24             | 0.78      | 3.21      |
| Mazowieckie         | 0.40           | 1.10      | 2.78      | 0.25             | 0.92      | 3.74      |
| Opolskie            | 0.51           | 0.80      | 1.58      | 0.42             | 0.59      | 1.42      |
| Podkarpackie        | 0.56           | 0.96      | 1.70      | 0.30             | 1.38      | 4.66      |
| Podlaskie           | 0.59           | 0.89      | 1.51      | 0.30             | 0.77      | 2.61      |
| Pomorskie           | 0.65           | 1.08      | 1.67      | 0.31             | 0.74      | 2.40      |
| Śląskie             | 0.48           | 0.95      | 1.97      | 0.31             | 0.86      | 2.80      |
| Świętokrzyskie      | 0.54           | 0.99      | 1.84      | 0.39             | 0.68      | 1.76      |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie | 0.67           | 0.92      | 1.38      | 0.28             | 0.37      | 1.33      |
| Wielkopolskie       | 0.48           | 0.90      | 1.88      | 0.34             | 0.74      | 2.16      |
| Zachodniopomorskie  | 0.69           | 1.07      | 1.55      | 0.53             | 0.89      | 1.67      |

Source: compiled on the basis of BDL GUS data.

observed in Łódzkie (by 54.83%) and Mazowieckie (by 60.34%). Two years after the announcement of the pandemic, the number of tourists using overnight accommodation increased by 178.47% in Mazowieckie voivodeship, and this was the largest increase in this category. The largest decrease among foreign tourists using overnight accommodation was observed in 2020 in Małopolskie and Mazowieckie voivodeships (by 75.60% and 75.41%), while the smallest decrease (less than 50%) was reported in Zachodniopomorskie. In 2022, the number of foreign tourists in Podkarpackie voivodeship increased by 365.90% when compared to two years prior, followed by Małopolskie and Mazowieckie voivodeships with more than double the number of foreign tourists.

In 2020, significantly fewer tourists used accommodation in each voivodeship than in 2018 (Tab. 4). This was a consequence of the introduction of restrictions on travelling for tourism purposes. Regarding the rate of occupancy of accommodation in all tourist establishments, the largest decrease in 2020 was recorded in the Mazowieckie voivodeship – by 23.30 p.p. Agrotourism quarters in this

voivodeship were used by fewer tourists in 2020, a decrease of 3.3 p.p. compared to 2018. In 2020, the rate of occupancy of accommodation in all accommodation establishments decreased by 4 p.p. in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship, while agrotourism establishments reported an increase of 5.7 p.p. compared to 2018. Pomorskie voivodeship was characterised by the highest occupancy rate in agrotourism establishments in 2022, while in Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Podlaskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeships, the occupancy rate of agrotourism establishments in 2022 was lower compared to 2020. There was a decrease in the hotel accommodation occupancy rate in every voivodeship in 2020. As for agrotourism accommodation, four voivodeships saw more overnight stays in 2020 compared to two years earlier.

Table 4

Occupancy of beds in selected types of facilities [%]

| Specification       | Total accommodations |      |      | Hotel facilities |      |      | Agritourism quarters |      |      |
|---------------------|----------------------|------|------|------------------|------|------|----------------------|------|------|
|                     | 2018                 | 2020 | 2022 | 2018             | 2020 | 2022 | 2018                 | 2020 | 2022 |
| Polska              | 40.1                 | 26.8 | 40.4 | 40.8             | 25.5 | 41.3 | 15.3                 | 14.2 | 16.7 |
| Dolnośląskie        | 38.4                 | 26.3 | 38.8 | 39.9             | 27.6 | 40.0 | 13.2                 | 8.9  | 15.0 |
| Kujawsko-Pomorskie  | 44.6                 | 29.9 | 45.3 | 32.5             | 22.5 | 36.0 | 18.9                 | 14.4 | 19.6 |
| Lubelskie           | 31.8                 | 21.1 | 33.8 | 30.4             | 20.8 | 35.1 | 18.1                 | 17.8 | 15.4 |
| Lubuskie            | 29.8                 | 21.1 | 31.2 | 31.2             | 21.0 | 34.4 | 16.5                 | 14.9 | 17.9 |
| Łódzkie             | 34.0                 | 21.9 | 38.2 | 35.0             | 21.9 | 38.4 | 12.4                 | 11.4 | 15.5 |
| Małopolskie         | 41.7                 | 25.7 | 41.8 | 47.9             | 26.3 | 45.3 | 12.3                 | 12.3 | 14.4 |
| Mazowieckie         | 44.6                 | 21.3 | 45.7 | 47.8             | 21.2 | 47.7 | 15.4                 | 12.2 | 13.8 |
| Opolskie            | 31.9                 | 22.2 | 31.5 | 32.9             | 23.2 | 32.7 | 9.7                  | 9.4  | 11.6 |
| Podkarpackie        | 34.8                 | 25.4 | 35.2 | 31.6             | 22.2 | 35.7 | 17.8                 | 22.0 | 15.3 |
| Podlaskie           | 29.2                 | 22.1 | 32.8 | 31.8             | 22.3 | 36.0 | 12.1                 | 13.9 | 10.7 |
| Pomorskie           | 42.5                 | 31.7 | 42.7 | 44.7             | 30.6 | 45.0 | 19.8                 | 16.3 | 18.1 |
| Śląskie             | 38.2                 | 23.3 | 38.1 | 39.2             | 22.8 | 40.0 | 15.2                 | 10.4 | 16.3 |
| Świętokrzyskie      | 33.7                 | 21.9 | 33.2 | 31.7             | 21.9 | 33.9 | 12.8                 | 10.9 | 18.2 |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie | 31.5                 | 27.5 | 31.8 | 34.4             | 28.3 | 33.2 | 10.4                 | 16.1 | 15.9 |
| Wielkopolskie       | 30.7                 | 20.4 | 31.7 | 32.7             | 20.6 | 34.1 | 19.4                 | 17.4 | 23.6 |
| Zachodniopomorskie  | 51.6                 | 37.8 | 47.8 | 51.6             | 38.4 | 46.7 | 18.1                 | 18.3 | 20.7 |

Source: compiled on the basis of BDL GUS data.

## Summary and Conclusions

Poland is a highly attractive tourist destination. It is noticeable that the number of tourists and their use of accommodation vary greatly between the voivodeships. It is primarily related to the presence of natural values in a given area. The outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic in 2020 had a significant impact on the operation of the tourism industry both in Poland and worldwide. Increased tourist traffic contributes to the spread of the coronavirus and poses a threat to health and life.

The analysis carried out allows the following conclusions to be drawn:

1. There is a noticeable, significant variation in the number of accommodation facilities and their occupancy by voivodship.

2. Nearly half of the accommodation facilities were located in three voivodeships (Małopolskie, Pomorskie and Zachodniopomorskie).

3. The lowest number of accommodation facilities was in the Opolskie voivodeship.

4. Most tourists used accommodation in Małopolskie and Mazowieckie voivodeships, while the least number of tourists stayed in Świętokrzyskie voivodeship.

5. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Poland, the number of tourists using overnight stays in 2020 was nearly halved, while the number of foreign tourists decreased by two-thirds compared to 2018.

6. In 2022, the number of tourists using overnight accommodation in Poland almost doubled, while the number of foreign tourists increased by 168% when compared to 2020.

7. The largest increase in the number of tourists using accommodation in 2022 was recorded in the Mazowieckie voivodeship and, for foreign tourists, in the Podkarpackie voivodeship (compared to 2020).

The current study found that coastal and mountainous areas were the most popular with tourists. The tourism industry has suffered numerous setbacks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions on social contact and travel. It will take time and significant financial resources to recover.

Translated by Joanna Jensen

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