



Podlaskie

Total area of the voivodeship	20 187 km ²
Number of citizens: - in urban areas	1 186 625 60.6 %
Population per 1 km ²	59 persons/km ²
Principal city	Białystok
Bigger cities in the voivodeship	Suwałki, Łomża, Augustów, Bielsk Podlaski, Grajewo
Special Economic Zones	Suwałska, Tarnobrzaska
Industrial & Technology Parks	Białystok Science and Technology Park, Scientific and Technological Park Eastern Poland in Suwałki, Podlaski Industrial Park in Czarna Białostocka Industrial Park in Zambrów
Regional Investor Assistance Centre	Białystok

Podlaskie Voivodeship is located in the north-east Poland. It borders with three other provinces: Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Mazowieckie and Lubelskie voivodeships. It also borders with Lithuania in the north-east and with Belarus in the east. Podlaskie Voivodeship marks the internal (Lithuanian) and external (Belarusian) border of the European Union. Mainly agricultural region with dynamically developing sector of food, milk, meat, poultry and cereals, as well as the sectors: light, wood, construction and engineering. Three large universities in Białystok - the capital of the voivodeship have a significant influence on shaping and developing intellectual capital of the region as well as the country.

Investment opportunities

- proximity of the border with Lithuania and Belarus
- good network of roads
- well developed system of tertiary and secondary education
- growing number of private enterprises and constantly increasing activity of entrepreneurs
- natural environment favourable for a development of food production, timber and construction sectors
- dynamic cluster development
- low labour costs: 88% polish average indicator
- dynamic development of the region

Sectors with huge potential

Food production

- network of modern food sector plants:
 - Mlepol - dairy products with „Łaciate” brand
 - Mlekovita

- Kompania Piwowarska which is a brewery, owner of Białystok-based beer brand Żubr and other national beer brands,
- Białystok-branch of spirits producer “Polmos” with „Żubrówka” brand
- Suempol - salmon products producer
- dynamic development of dairy production:
 - 2nd place in cow milk production
 - 19% of the domestic milk output is purchased by the Podlaskie voivodeship
- Mlepol and Mlekovita - in the lead among the largest dairy firms in Poland, substantial share of the output of „Mlekovita” is sold on the EU and Eastern markets.
- favourable natural conditions:
 - farmland constitutes approx. 62% of the total area of the region
 - natural conditions favourable for ecological production

Machine

- machine sector plants:
 - Pronar Ltd - producer of tractors, face gears, cabins etc. - invests in innovativeness by employing over 200 engineers
 - Samasz from Białystok - the largest in Poland and leading European producer of modern lawn mowers

Structural

- Industry leaders are among others Unibep S.A. or Danwood S.A. The most innovative area of their activity is modular construction, ie production of ready-made houses.
- Eastern Construction Cluster, which is the largest in Podlaskie, includes over one hundred companies from the construction industry.

Touristic

- outstanding natural features of the voivodeship:
 - swamps, forests (30% of the voivodeship area)
 - numerous lakes and water routes
 - over 30% of the area is subject to environmental protection:
 - Augustów Wilderness, one of the largest of this kind in Poland
 - Augustów Channels - together with their lakes and Czarna Hańcza river form attractive water routes
 - Białowiecki National Park - one of the best preserved primeval forests in Europe - since 1979 on the “World Heritage List”
 - Biebrzański National Park - the largest national park in Poland
 - Narwiański National Park - referred to as “Polish Amazonia”
 - Wigierski National Park - in 1975 enlisted on the “International Environmental Protection Union” of the most precious parks in the world;
 - Podlaskie is the most diversified region in the country in terms of cultural heritage
- clean natural environment:
 - voivodeship referred to as “Green Lungs of Poland”
- numerous opportunities for tourism:
 - water tourism
 - spa tourism
 - environmental-recreational tourism
 - business tourism
- important national routes:
 - Via Baltica, linking Scandinavia and northern Russia with Central and Western Europe

Economic potential

Gross value added by kind of activity (in mln) in 2014

	Total	Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	Industry	Construction	Trade and repair; hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communi- cation	Financial and insurance activity; real estate, renting and business activities	Other service activities
Poland	1 524 939	43 419	403 844	119 345	436 636	145 104	376 591
Podlaskie	34 233	2 530	7 530	2 563	9 335	3 156	9 119

Source: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/BDL>

Average monthly gross wages and salaries (in PLN) in 2016

Poland	4 290,52
Podlaskie	3 767,20

Source: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/BDL>

Local job market

Economic activity of the population aged 15 and more

	Economically active persons (in thous.) I Q 2017	Activity rate (%) I Q 2017	Registered unemployment rate (%) I Q 2017
Poland	17 208	56,2	5,4
Podlaskie	499	54,7	5,4

Source: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/BDL>

The structure of unemployment by educational level in I Q 2017 (in thous.)

	Total	Tertiary	Vocational	General	Basic vocational	Lower secondary, primary and incomplete primary
Poland	1 324,3	175,3	285,5	141,4	350,7	371,2
Podlaskie	47,8	7,0	10,9	5,5	11,1	13,3

Source: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/BDL>

The structure of unemployment by age in in I Q 2017 (in thous.)

	Total	24 years and less	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 years and more
Poland	1 324,2	170,7	370,6	294,5	236,1	252,4
Podlaskie	47,8	6,6	14,1	9,6	8,3	9,4

Source: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/BDL>

Higher education institutions including non-public higher education institutions

Higher education institutions in 2016

	Schools (public and non-public schools)	Students	
		public schools	non-public schools
Poland	390	1 033 801	313 680
Podlaskie	16	30 027	4 182

Source: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/BDL>

Selected higher education institutions

University of Białystok

selected faculties: law, economics, pedagogy, national security, administration, criminology

Technical University of Białystok

selected faculties: construction, IT, mechanical engineering and machine building, logistics, management

Medical University of Białystok

Higher School of Finance and Economy in Białystok

Non-State Higher School of Pedagogy in Białystok

Higher Economy School in Białystok

Higher School of Public Administration in Białystok

Information Technology and Enterprise Academy in Łomża

Białystok Higher Medical School

Higher School of Management in Białystok

Higher School of Physical Education and Tourism in Białystok

State Vocational University in Suwałki

Selected investors who have invested in the region – the 25 largest companies

Ordinal number	Firm	Sektor	Location	Capital	Number of employees (end of 2015).
1.	SM Mlekovita GK	dairy	Wysokie Mazowieckie	polish	2 860
2.	Spółdzielnia Mleczarska Mlekpól	dairy	Grajewo	polish	2 219
3.	Unibep SA GK Bielsk Podlaski	structural	Bielsk Podlaski	polish	1 101
4.	Okręgowa Spółdzielnia Mleczarska Piątnica	dairy	Piątnica	polish	754

5.	SOTPM Białystok	food and drink	Białystok	polish	474
6.	Barter S.A.	gas industry	Białystok	polish	n/a
7.	Pronar Sp. z o.o.	machine	Narew	polish	1 897
8.	Danwood S.A.	structural	Bielsk Podlaski	polish	988
9.	Glob-Terminal Sp. z o.o. Białystok	logistics - gas industry	Białystok	polish	40
10.	Społem PSS Białystok	food and drinks, the others sectors	Białystok	polish	n/a
11.	Arhelan Burzyńscy Sp.j Bielsk Podlaski	food and drinks	Bielsk Podlaski	polish	n/a
12.	Adampol S.A. Zaścianki	logistics	Zaścianki	polish	601
13.	British American Tobacco Polska S.A.	tobacco	Augustów	foreign	n/a
14.	Auto Idea Sp. z o.o. Białystok	automotive	Białystok	polish	n/a
15.	Padma Art. Sp. z o.o. Sp.k.	paper products	Suwałki	polish	n/a
16.	Rosti (Polska) Sp. z o.o.	electronic	Białystok	foreign	n/a
17.	Metal – Fach Sp. z o.o. Sokółka	machine	Sokółka	polish	n/a
18.	Kalter Sp. z o.o.	structural	Białystok	polish	n/a
19.	BR Konsorcjum Refleks Sp. z o.o. sp.k.Białystok	structural	Białystok	polish	n/a
20.	Bialchem Group Sp. z o.o. Białystok	gas industry	Białystok	polish	n/a
21.	AC S.A.	gas industry- gas installations	Białystok	polish	396
22.	PPH Rodex Sp. z o.o. Białystok	structural	Białystok	polish	n/a
23.	AL BA Podlaskie Centrum Mięśne	food and drinks	Białystok	polish	n/a
24.	Telmex Sp. z o.o.	logistics	Białystok	polish	718
25.	Electrum Sp. z o.o.	investment projects and facilities from power, industry and construction	Białystok	polish	n/a

Source: the elaboration based on "List of 2000 Polish Enterprises and Exporters", Rzeczpospolita, 24.11.2016.

Useful addresses

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*Information was updated by Podlaskie Investor Assistance Centre
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