



Poznań. The city profile

Poznań is one of the oldest and largest cities in Poland. It is the historical capital of the Wielkopolska Region, where the Polish State was born 1000 years ago. Today, Poznań is an important center for trade, services, industry, culture, higher education and science. It is also among the leading Polish cities in terms of its economy.

Poznań is located in one of the most important transit corridors, linking the western and eastern parts of Europe. It is situated midway between Berlin and Warsaw, 160 km from the border with Germany. Poznań forms an important junction, linking seven national and international roads. Work is being carried out to improve road transport and further strengthen the position of Poznań as an important transportation center. Construction of the part of A-2 highway (so far 2 sections were completed – from Nowy Tomyśl – Poznań – Strykowo near Łódź with the motorway ring road around Poznań), running from the German border in Świecko via Poznań and Warsaw to the border with Belarus in Terespol, has already commenced in the vicinity of Poznań and will undoubtedly contribute to this. The transportation potential of the city is increased by the existence of a regional airport in Ławica. It services both national as well as international routes. In Poznań, there is also a military airport Krzesiny.

Poznań has a high level of urban development. Almost 50% of its area (262 km²) is well built up. The city was inhabited by 567k people. The population density is 2.2k people per 1 km². Poznań is characterized by a highly developed technical infrastructure. Over 99% of the residents are hooked up to the city's water supply and wastewater collecting systems, and 89% are supplied with gas. There were 222k dwellings in the city. The average usable area of one flat was 63.5 m². An average flat was inhabited by 2.6 people.

Poznań, like the whole of the Wielkopolska region, is famous in Poland for its traditionally good economy, high level of work discipline and thriftiness. It is making effective use of the favourable conditions resulting from the political and economic transformations in Poland. The institutional system supporting businesses has grown dynamically, consisting of a network of financial institutions, consulting companies, enterprise associations, and institutes of higher education and schools of business.

The current, positive economic development of the city is also an effect of the restructuring of large industrial plants, and to a high degree, of the growing role of the sector of small and medium-sized companies. The dominant industries in the city include the food, chemical and electro-machinery industries. Leading producers within their sectors in Poland include: Nivea Polska S.A., Unilever Polska SA, Centra S.A., Fabryka Wodomierzy Powogaz S.A., GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals S.A., Kimball Electronics Poland Sp. z o.o., H.Cegielski Poznań S.A. Polska Kompania Piwowarska S.A., Wyborowa SA, Bridgestone Poznań Sp. z o.o., Volkswagen Poznań Sp. z o.o., Wrigley Poland Sp. z o.o.



There are 90k economic entities operating in Poznań and the number of enterprises with foreign investment is one of the highest in Poland. The unemployment rate in Poznań is among the lowest in the country, equaling 5.1 %.

Poznań is the unquestionable capital of trade in Poland, despite growing competition in this area. Every year, about 40 different international fair events are organized, attended by more than 10,000 exhibitors representing some 60 countries from around the world. The Poznań International Fair is unquestionable leader among other Polish fair. Since 1991, the PIF has been a company in which the city has a share.

The Poznań greater metropolitan area is one of the main locations of foreign investments. Between 1990-2004, the value of foreign investments realized in the city equaled USD 4.3 milliard USD. The share of Poznań in Poland's foreign investments amounts to ca 5.1%. The main aims of investment include the privatization of Poznań-based companies and fuel services, trade and office space. Almost 80 % of the foreign capital comes from Germany, Great Britain, the USA, France, Japan and Sweden, and the largest investors include Volkswagen, GlaxoSmithKline, Bridgestone, Allied Irish Bank, Wrigley, SABMiller, Dalkia Group, Beiersdorf, Exide and Kimball Electronics Group. Several international shared services centers operate in Poznań. They deal with IT, production design and financial services. They are hosted by: Microsoft, Carlsberg, MAN, Duni, GlaxoSmithKline and Kimball Electronics.

One of the more important means for supporting further economic development of the city is the establishment of a powerful conference center in Poznań in order to exchange information and contacts among economic circles. The construction of a new structure called Andersia Tower is in progress. This building will be an extension of the Poznań Financial Center, a joint enterprise of the city authorities and a private investor, which has been completed in 2001. Several new conference centers have also been completed.

Poznań also constitutes a powerful academic and scientific center; the city belongs to the national van in this field. There are 25 higher schools in the city, including 8 public and 17 private schools, attended by 133k students. The scientific activities of the schools are supplemented by over 50 research and development institutes, employing 3k people.

Poznań is also the cultural center of west-central Poland. The city hosts 9 theaters and musical institutions, including a philharmonic, a number of choirs and orchestras and 21 museums, dozens of galleries and exhibition halls. Poznań is also the venue for prominent festivals and music competitions. The most important include the H. Wieniawski International Violin and Lute Competition, Malta International Theater Festival and contemporary music festivals, 'Poznań Music Spring'. Poznań is also a venue of international festivals of alternative theatres MALTA and MASKI.

Poznań is a large center for tourism. The city offers over 7,000 accommodation places in 34 hotels, motel, 4 youth hostels and 2 camping sites. It attracts tourists with its numerous examples of secular and sacral architecture, representing all styles and historical epochs, among which the most precious include the unique in European renaissance architecture in the area of the Old Market Square, in particular the Old Town Hall.



The city's green areas are also attractive to tourists. Worth mentioning here are the Morasko Preserve and the Poznań Green House, one of the biggest in Europe, situated in the historical Wilson Park. There are 4 lakes within the city used for water sports and recreation. Lake Malta, for example, has one of the most modern regatta courses in Europe, and in its immediate vicinity there is a year-round artificial ski slope and bobsledding track. Poznań also has 10 sports stadiums, 14 swimming pools, a horse-riding track, a motorcycle and car tracks, 3 archery ranges and a modern sports and concert hall.

Poznań maintains ongoing relations that consist of exchanges of experience in the areas of local government, culture, education, physical culture, city management and social care, with 11 twin cities, including: Hanover in Germany, Rennes in France, Assen in Holland, Toledo in the USA, Pozuelo de Alarcón in Spain and Nottinghamshire County in Great Britain.

Since 1999 the city is the administration center of Wielkopolska Province with the seat of Wielkopolska Province and Wielkopolska Marshall. Poznań is the seat of Polish Cities Association and Wielkopolska Communities and Counties Association.

In May 2001 Poznań has obtained the rating Baa1, the highest among other Polish cities, attached by independent American rating agency Moody's Investors Service. In April 2006, the rating was increased to the level A3, the highest among all Polish cities.