

THE ŁÓDŹ ATLAS

Sheet XXVII: Agricultural areas in Łódź and its rural-urban fringe

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Agricultural areas in Łódź

The rural-urban fringe of Łódź is presented within the boundaries of the counties (powiat) that surround Łódź, including Łódzki Wschodni, Pabianicki and Zgierski. The primary spatial units are towns within their administrative boundaries and boroughs (gmina).

. The data for the maps were taken from the Łódzkie Region Statistical Yearbook, 2000, WUS (Rocznik Statystyczny Województwa Łódzkiego). The information was as in 1999, taking into account the new administrative division of Poland. Specific data - concerning trends in crops and animal farming were taken from the General Agrarian Census (Powszechny Spis Rolny) of 1996 (the latest available information). It was necessary to adjust the data to the new administrative division in force as of 1999. The data were found for all three counties (powiat) neighbouring on Łódź, save the borough of Ksawerów that did not exist in 1996, which is why with respect to 1996 no data are shown for Ksawerów.

This Sheet XXVII consists of eight maps:

Map 1 – Share of agricultural land in the overall area in 1999. Agricultural land per farm.

Map 2 – Agricultural land use structure in 1999

Map 3 – Share of forests in the overall area in 1999

Map 4 – Crops structure in 1996

Map 5 – Cattle farming in 1996

Map 6 – Pig farming in 1996

Map 7 – Sheep farming in 1996

Map 8 – Poultry farming in 1996

Map 1. Share of agricultural land in the overall area in 1999. Agricultural land per farm

Agricultural land is defined as that directly used for the purposes of agricultural production. The average share of agricultural land in the overall area in Łódzkie Region (Województwo Łódzkie) in 1999 was 68.7%, with 52% in towns. Glowno, Łódź, and Zgierz had below-average values at about 40%, while in the remaining towns it varied between 50% and 70%.

The highest share of agricultural land (above 80% in excess of the regional average) was recorded in 1999 in the boroughs of the Łódzki Wschodni county neighbouring on Łódź in the south-east – Rzgów and Brójce, and in the north-east – Glowno, Dmosin, and Jeźów. In the remaining counties (apart from the borough of Glowno) the proportion of agricultural land did not exceed 80%. In ten boroughs it varied between 50.7% and 68.4%, below the regional average.

An average farm in Łódź and its exurban zone boasted from less than 5 ha to 10 ha of agricultural land. The largest farms were recorded in the northern part of the rural-urban fringe in the boroughs of Parzęczew, Zgierz, Ozorków, Glowno, Dmosin, and Lutomiersk, with the smallest ones found in towns.

Map 2. Agricultural land use structure in 1999

Agricultural land was divided into arable land, orchards, meadows, pastures and other. This statistics did not take into account intensive suburban crops (e.g. greenhouses, fruit and flower plantations) which were classified under the item other. Within the whole area conventional arable land prevailed occupying at least 70% of the total agricultural land, including that in towns. Exceptions were found in the boroughs of Glowno (56.6%) and Dobroń (67.7%). The average percentage of arable land in Łódzkie Region was 80.9%. The highest proportion of arable land was recorded in Łódzki Wschodni county – including the towns of Brzeziny and Koluszki, and the boroughs of Jeźów, Nowosolna, and Rogów – all above 90%. In the remaining towns and boroughs this value fluctuated between 70–90%.

In the exurban areas of Łódź the proportion of orchards was negligible (mostly below 2%), with the regional average approximating 2%. In comparison with other administrative units, exceptionally large numbers of orchards were found in the town of Glowno (over 38%), and far less in the boroughs of Ksawerów and Dmosin.

Meadows and pastures constituted a larger percentage of farmland than orchards - on average above 10%. An exceptionally high proportion was recorded in the western exurban zone of Łódź – the borough of Dobroń (above 32%), Konstantinów Łódzki, Pabianice, Lutomiersk, as well as Rzgów, Ozorków, and Zgierz.

Map 3 – Share of forests in the overall area in 1999

This non-agricultural land use complements the description of the non-urbanised areas in the exurban zone. The proportion of forest areas in the overall area in Łódzkie Region amounted to 20.3% in 1999, while in towns it was 9.7%. The lowest share of forest areas in the overall area was recorded in towns. In Łódź itself this share approximated 7.38% and in other towns likewise - with the exception of Glowno, where forests occupy over 25%. The most forested boroughs are Koluszki, Dobroń, and Dłutów (32–42%), and Zgierz, Aleksandrów Łódzki, Nowosolna, and Andrespol (24–32%). The boroughs with poor forestation are those with small areas and neighbouring on Łódź in the south - Ksawerów, Rzgów, Brójce, and Jeźów. It is apparent that a correlation exists between farmland and forests – the boroughs with a high proportion of forests boast less farmland and vice versa.

Map 4 – Crops structure in 1996

The map shows the use of farmland for crops production based on the records in the 1996 General Agrarian Census. There are seven groups of crops: cereals, maize, legumes, potatoes, fodder, industrial crops and ‘other’. In towns and boroughs cereals and potatoes traditionally prevail, and in Łódzkie Region they account for 68.4% and 17% of all cropland, respectively..

Cereals (apart from the separated and negligible maize) constituted from 57.9% of crops in Łódź to 82.2% in Glowno. They were followed by potatoes, which ranged from a mere 6% in Glowno to 23.2% in Rogów, while legumes and industrial crops rarely exceeded 1%. Only in a few boroughs - Koluszki, Glowno, and Ozorków - fodder was found to exceed 10% of the overall crop structure. The ‘other’ category was only significant in Łódź (17%), Ozorków (both town and borough) and in Konstantinów Łódzki. This category included intensive suburban crops - fruit and vegetables - which in general have no great tradition in the exurban zone of Łódź. Within the whole Region vegetables only accounted for 2.5% of cropland.

Map 5 – Cattle farming in 1996

Cattle farming, presented as the number of animals per 100 ha of farmland, was found to be least developed in towns - below 20 head. Areas with more intensive cattle farming were

found on the borders in the boroughs of Ozorków, Glowno, Brójce, Dłutów, and Dobroń. The least developed boroughs were those directly adjacent to Łódź, and the average value in 1996 was 41.7 head/ 100 ha of farmland.

Map 6. Pig farming in 1996

Areas with low pig farming output were mostly found in towns (65–80 head/ 100 ha of farmland), with the exception of Ozorków (the highest figure of 293 head) and Konstantinów Łódzki. More pigs were bred in the boroughs south of Łódź, especially in Tuszyn and Dmosin. For the entire Region the figure was 105.3 head/ 100 ha.

Map 7. Sheep farming in 1996

Within Zgierz County no sheep farming was recorded in 1996. This was also true of the boroughs of Aleksandrów Łódzki, Zgierz, Glowno, and Ozorków. In the outstanding towns the number of sheep per 100 ha was very low and fluctuated from 1 (Łódź) to 5. In comparison with other boroughs, the highest numbers (above 8 head) were found in the peripheral boroughs of Lutomiersk, Brójce, and Dmosin. For the whole Region in 1996 the figure was 2 head/ 100 ha.

Map 8. Poultry farming in 1996

In contrast to the other farm animals, poultry farming was found to be very well developed in towns - Zgierz (above 4000 head/ 100 ha – the highest in the zones adjacent to Łódź), Pabianice, Konstantinów Łódzki, Łódź, and Glowno. In these towns the figure exceeded the regional average (361 head/ 100 ha). This type of farming was more intensively developed in the western exurban zone.

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