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SOCIAL AND OCCUPATIONAL CHANGES IN SMALL TOWNS IN THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE VOIVODSHIP DURING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

Abstract: The objective of the paper is to present social and occupational changes in small towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship in regard to their accessibility to communication with larger towns in the examined area. Because of the availability of statistic data for the analysis, the time period from 1995 to 2004 was selected.

Answers to the following question were looked for in the paper:

– is there an interdependence between the directions of the occurring social and occupational changes (a change in the number of inhabitants, changes in internal migrations, changes in the employment structure) in small towns of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship and their accessibility to communication with larger towns (exceeding five thousand inhabitants) in the examined area.

A network of towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship, in the form in which it functions since 1999 is examined.

Key words: small towns, social and occupational transformation, accessibility of transport to large and medium size towns.

INTRODUCTION

In 1989, in Poland a transformation of the political system began leading to the development of market economy. Fundamental to these changes are private ownership and free entrepreneurship. Economic changes also influence other areas of life. Transformation takes place in the administration, social and cultural sectors. Changes also have a spatial character. Among others, previous directions of town development undergo changes. The country urbanization processes significantly slowed down. In 1980-1990 the urbanization index increased by about 12% and in 1990-2000 only by about 1%. This phenomenon was caused, besides a decrease in the birth number, by a decreased influx of the population from rural areas into towns (<http://www.stat.gov.pl>). Also, during the last few years is observed a movement of the population from

larger towns to smaller towns located in the vicinity. The size structure of municipal settlement units is changing. The share of smallest towns increases and the share of the largest decreases. The social and occupational structure of our country's inhabitants is also changing. Progressively fewer inhabitants of the country support themselves by financial resources from agriculture. In towns, however, every year grows the percentage of those supporting themselves by work in the services sector. The discussed changes are taking place in different regions of Poland at varying intensity and pace. This is related to the country's growing polarization (Lisowski 1998).

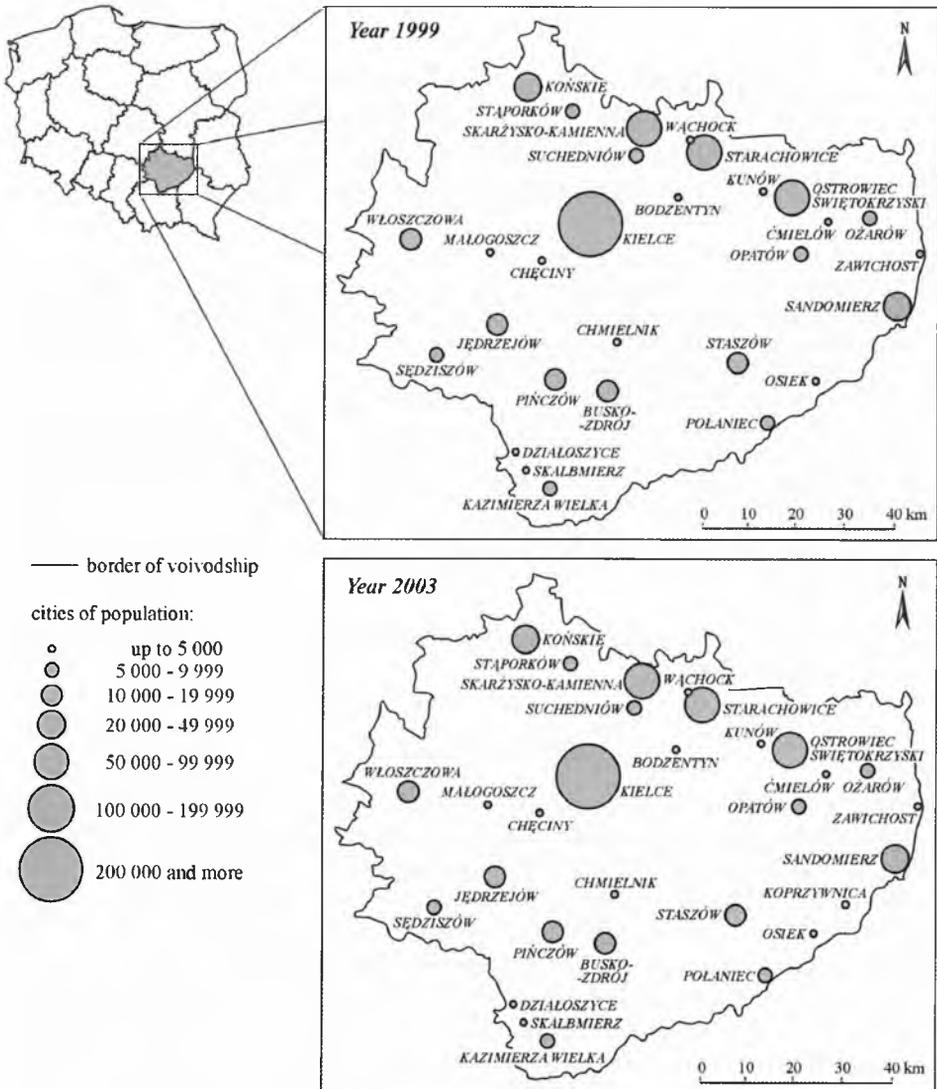


Fig. 1. A network of towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship in 1999 and 2003

The objective of this paper is the presentation of social and occupational changes in small towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship during the political system transformation in regard to their access to communication with larger towns in the examined area. Because of the availability of statistic data for the analysis the years from 1995 to 2004 were selected.

A search is conducted in the paper as to whether there is an interdependence between the directions of the occurring social and occupational changes (a change in the number of inhabitants, changes in internal migrations, changes in the employment structure) in small towns of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship and their accessibility to communication with larger towns (exceeding five thousand inhabitants) in the examined area.

A network of towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship, in the form in which it functions since 1999, is analysed. (Fig. 1).

The town settlement network of the area has been taking shape for the last several hundred years. The oldest towns came into being at the beginning of the XIIIth century as settlements of commercial and artisan character and the youngest were found in the XXth century as industrial settlements, majority of which were related to the Staropolski Okręg Przemysłowy [the Old Polish Industrial District]. Towns of the Voivodship form a system with Kielce, the dominant largest town which, in 2004, was inhabited by 209.962 people, i.e. 35.55% of the Voivodship population. The role of the first town in the voivodeship settlement network is clearly dominating. The size of the settlements is highly diversified. Small towns, with a population of less than five thousand inhabitants, dominate numberwise, even though only 5.5% of the voivodeship population inhabits them (Tab. 1.).

The towns are not distributed evenly. The largest population centers are in the north, north-eastern and south-western parts of the Voivodship (Fig. 1).

Among the thirty municipal settlement units in the examined area (Tab. 2) twenty four may be classified as small towns, i.e. those where the population numbers less than twenty thousand inhabitants.

Taking into account national trends one may suppose that social and occupational changes taking place in towns of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship depend upon the accessibility of their inhabitants to larger towns within the analyzed area. The greater the communication accessibility to them, the small towns should be characterized by a:

- smaller decrease in the population number,
- greater migration growth coefficient,
- more intensified crossing over of professionally active inhabitants from the agriculture and industry sectors to the services sector.

In order to verify the proposed hypothesis analytical specification methods as well as statistical and mathematical methods were used. On the basis of data made available on the official website of the Central Office of Statistics (<http://www.stat.gov.pl/bdr/>) the absolute and relative differences

in the population numbers in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship in 1995-2004 were calculated. For those towns, in the analyzed period of time, according to the formula:

$$W_{p.w.} = \frac{L_n - L_o}{L} \times C$$

Where:

$W_{p.w.}$ – migration growth coefficient;

L_n – number of inhabitants who permanently settled during the examined time period;

L_o – number of inhabitants who permanently departed during the examined time period;

L – average population number during the examined period;

C – constants (1000).

the migration growth coefficient was calculated (Holzer 2002). The percentage share of employees per economic sectors in 1995-2004 was also calculated.

Five towns with the best communication accessibility to large and medium size voivodship towns were selected among twenty four small towns. As the basis of the selection process was the operational range of the Miejskie Zakłady Komunikacyjne [Municipal Communication Companies] functioning in the following five towns: Kielce, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Starachowice, Skarżysko Kamienna, Jędrzejów. As the basis for selecting this criterion was the fact that the Miejskie Zakłady Komunikacyjne [Municipal Communication Companies] in their development plans, besides economic effectiveness, also take into consideration:

- changes in the number and structure of the population inhabiting each of the towns themselves and in their vicinity;
- changes in the range and structure of socio-economic activities;
- changes in the land usage structure;
- interrelations between particular areas of the municipal and suburban areas, their scale and directions;
- division of tasks among different kinds of transport (Domański 1982).

On this basis, it was agreed that towns with the best communication accessibility to large and medium size towns of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship are: Suchedniów, Chęciny, Ćmielów Kunów i Wąchock.

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS IN SMALL TOWNS IN THE SWIĘTOKRZYSKIE VOIVODSHIP AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY TO LARGE AND MEDIUM SIZE TOWNS

Taking under consideration changes in the number of town inhabitants in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship in 1995-2004, it must be noted that the population decreased in all of the towns. The greatest, of over 10%, was in

Wąchock and the smallest, of about 1.7%, was in Kielce (Tab.1.). The average decrease in large and medium size towns was 5.12%. In small towns it reached a similar value, i.e. – 5%. An insignificantly smaller decrease in relation to the mean values may be noted in small towns with the best communication access to large municipal centers. On the average, it amounted to 3.3%: in Suchedniów – 3.42%, in Chęciny only 0.92%, in Ćmielów – 1.84%, in Kunów – 0.03%. Only Wąchock had a significantly greater decrease than the average value as it was as much as 10.36%.

Table 1.

Changes in the number of inhabitants of towns
in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship in 1995-2004

No.	Town	Number of inhabitants		Absolute difference	Relative difference (in %)
		1995	2004		
1	Kielce	213701	209962	-3739	1,68
2	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	79179	74652	-4527	6,06
3	Starachowice	57487	53827	-3660	6,8
4	Skarżysko-Kamienna	51445	49902	-1543	3,09
5	Sandomierz	27010	25339	-1671	6,59
6	Końskie	22332	20960	-1372	6,55
7	Busko-Zdrój	18251	17363	-888	5,11
8	Jędrzejów	17614	16775	-839	5,00
9	Staszów	16723	15648	-1075	6,87
10	Pińczów	12208	11948	-260	3,11
11	Włoszczowa	10944	10699	-245	2,29
12	Suchedniów	9357	9048	-309	3,42
13	Połaniec	9000	8488	-512	6,03
14	Sędziszów	6923	6884	-39	0,57
15	Opatów	7146	6869	-277	4,03
16	Stąporków	6184	6108	-76	1,24
17	Kazimierza Wielka	6380	5844	-536	9,17
18	Ozarów	5390	4913	-477	9,71
19	Chęciny	4274	4235	-39	0,92
20	Chmielnik	4306	4039	-267	6,61
21	Małogoszcz	4240	3941	-299	7,59
22	Ćmielów	3267	3208	-59	1,84
23	Kunów	3140	3139	-1	0,03
24	Wąchock	3099	2808	-291	10,36
25	Koprzywnica		2573		
26	Bodzentyn	2355	2261	-94	4,16
27	Osiek	2057	1917	-140	7,3
28	Zawichost	2060	1906	-154	8,08
29	Skalbmierz	1390	1322	-68	5,14
30	Działoszyce	1187	1115	-72	6,46

Source: Own calculations on the basis of <http://www.stat.gov.pl/bdr/>

The calculations do not allow to fully confirm the hypothesis that in small towns of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship a smaller decrease in the population takes place in those settlement units which have the best access to communication to large and medium size towns in the analyzed area. However, in the majority of the analyzed small towns with a comfortable access to larger towns this decrease is less than average. Only Wąchock, located in the suburban zone of Starachowice, a town with the greatest economic problems, is characterised by a greater than average population decrease.

COEFFICIENT OF MIGRATION GROWTH IN SMALL TOWNS IN THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE VOIVODSHIP AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY TO LARGE AND MEDIUM SIZE TOWNS

The migration growth coefficient, comprising migration within the boundaries of the country, in towns of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship is highly diversified and oscillates between -140 in Połaniec to 47 in Ćmielów and Osiek (Tab. 2.). The mean value for large and medium size towns was -76, for small towns -22.8, and for small towns with the best access to large and medium size towns 11. Therefore, one may state that small towns located within the large and medium size town impact zones are in general characterized by positive migration growth coefficients as opposed to the remaining towns in which the coefficient, for the most part, is negative (Tab. 2.).

Values of the above indices allow to assume that the better the access to communication in small towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship to large and medium size towns, the greater the coefficient of migration growth.

CHANGES IN THE EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE IN SMALL TOWNS IN THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE VOIVODSHIP AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY TO LARGE AND MEDIUM-SIZE TOWNS

Dynamics of passage from the agriculture and industrial sector to the services sector in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship differ. The services sector develops the most intensely in Ożarów (a growth of occupationally active in services from 32.02% to 50.46% has been noted), in Stąporków (from 23.7% to 70.9%) and in Połaniec (from 28.48% to 55.64%) (Tab. 3.). These are towns where, during the analysed period, the largest industrial plants which were the key employers were restructured or closed down. There also are towns in which there was a reduction of the percentage of occupationally active in the services sector. The greatest decrease was observed in Kunów (from 88.25% to 52.9%), in Osiek (from 73.66% to 42.1%) and in Skalmierz (from 90.11% to 62.72%) (Tab.3.). In these towns, however, during the transformation of the political system new industrial plants were located. The average

Table 2.

Coefficient of migration growth for towns
in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship in 1995-2004

No.	Towns	Migrations in 1995-2004		Absolute difference	Migration growth coefficient (1995-2004)
		Residence registration	Residence deregistration		
1.	Kielce	14254	20178	-5924	-28
2.	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	7757	9647	-1890	-24
3.	Starachowice	3734	5266	-1532	-28
4.	Skarżysko-Kamienna	3588	4780	-1192	-24
5.	Sandomierz	3364	3219	145	6
6.	Końskie	2227	2959	-732	-34
7.	Busko-Zdrój	2105	2696	-591	-33
8.	Jędrzejów	1411	2136	-725	-42
9.	Staszów	1878	2632	-754	-46
10.	Pińczów	1342	1657	-315	-26
11.	Włoszczowa	1298	1110	188	17
12.	Suchedniów	922	1024	-102	-11
13.	Połaniec	1443	2670	-1227	-140
14.	Sędziszów	683	979	-296	-42
15.	Opatów	957	964	-7	-1
16.	Stąporków	640	911	-271	-44
17.	Kazimierza Wielka	635	868	-233	-38
18.	Ozarów	816	1276	-460	-89
19.	Chęciny	530	573	-43	-10
20.	Chmielnik	397	542	-145	-34
21.	Małogoszcz	402	736	-334	-82
22.	Ćmielów	808	655	153	47
23.	Kunów	568	505	63	20
24.	Wąchock	435	407	28	9
25.	Koprzywnica	108	100	8	3
26.	Bodzentyn	346	261	85	37
27.	Osiek	277	183	94	47
28.	Zawichost	217	296	-79	-40
29.	Skalbierz	179	223	-44	-32
30.	Działoszyce	173	244	-71	-62

Source: Own calculations on the basis of <http://www.stat.gov.pl/bdr/>

growth of employees in the services sector in large and medium size towns of the Voivodship was 7.03%. In turn, in small towns it was not much less and amounted to 6.3%. In small towns with the best access to communication with large and medium size towns there was a decrease of 1.8% in the share of those occupationally active in the services sector. These results prescribe

Table 3.
Changes in the employment structure of towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship in 1995-2004

Town	Total employed			Employed in agriculture			Employed in industry			Employed in services		
	1995	2004		1995	2004	Difference	1995	2004	Difference	1995	2004	Difference
			%			%			%			%
Kielce	76624	65103	0,4	0,3	-0,1	38,5	31,6	-7,14	61,1	68,1	7,0	
Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	27417	16464	0,4	1,0	0,6	60,9	44,4	-16,5	38,7	54,6	15,9	
Starachowice	15623	11796	0,13	0,31	0,18	52,84	51,76	-1,08	47,03	47,93	0,9	
Skarżysko-Kamienna	17339	12134	0,3	0,3	0	45,1	37,8	-7,3	54,6	61,9	7,3	
Sandomierz	8975	7633	0,72	0,24	-0,48	41,13	35,46	-5,67	58,15	64,3	6,15	
Końskie	8700	7235	0,52	0,08	-0,44	50,15	45,66	-4,49	49,33	54,26	4,93	
Busko-Zdrój	6412	5603	0,02	0	-0,02	19,48	15,96	-3,52	80,5	84,04	3,54	
Jędrzejów	5307	4700	1,11	0,81	-0,3	32,56	26,13	-6,43	66,33	73,06	6,73	
Staszów	5560	4737	1,76	8,82	7,06	41,16	37,45	-3,71	57,18	61,73	4,55	
Pińczów	3787	3279	1,61	0,67	-0,94	42,22	28,65	-13,57	56,17	70,78	14,61	
Włoszczowa	4844	4901	0,95	0,41	-0,54	48,25	56,25	8	50,8	43,34	-7,4	
Suchedniów	1872	1121	2,1	2,4	-0,3	72,2	58,7	-13,5	25,7	39,9	14,2	
Polaniec	4692	2074	0	0	0	79,52	44,36	-35,16	20,48	55,64	35,16	
Sędziszów	2392	2049	2,8	0,1	-2,7	45,4	45,78	0,38	51,8	54,12	2,32	
Opatów	3613	2745	0,4	0,04	-0,36	42,7	34,32	-8,38	56,9	65,64	8,44	
Stąporków	2543	1182	1,57	1,4	-0,17	74,75	27,7	-47,05	23,7	70,9	47,2	
Kazimierza Wielka	2142	1580	2,1	0,26	-1,84	40,6	24,11	-16,49	57,3	75,63	18,33	
Ozarów	2342	742	0	0	0	67,98	17,52	-50,46	32,02	82,48	50,46	
Checin	1183	1134	1,35	0,89	-0,46	7,1	12,87	5,77	91,55	86,24	-5,31	
Chmielnik	1076	864	3,44	2,31	-1,13	32,16	32,3	0,14	64,4	65,39	0,99	
Malogoszcz	1442	1352	0	0	0	61,37	42,9	-18,47	38,63	57,1	18,47	
Cmielów	1064	795	0	0	0	68,89	65,41	-3,48	31,11	34,59	3,48	
Kunów	332	482	2,11	0,2	-1,91	9,64	46,8	37,16	88,25	52,9	-35,35	
Wąchock	342	273	14,62	0,73	-13,89	31,87	31,87	0	53,51	67,4	13,89	
Koprzywnica	264	0	0	0	0	14,02	14,02	0	85,98	85,98	0	
Bodzentyn	282	367	0	0	0	30,5	19,35	-11,15	69,5	80,65	11,15	
Ostiek	224	570	7,14	0	-7,14	19,20	57,9	38,7	73,66	42,1	-31,56	
Zawichost	324	235	0	0	0	28,4	12,34	-16,06	71,6	87,66	16,06	
Skalbierz	273	338	5,86	0	-5,86	4,03	37,28	33,25	90,11	62,72	-27,39	
Działoszyce	233	173	0	0	0	10,78	20,69	9,91	89,22	79,31	-9,91	

Source: Own calculations on the basis of <http://www.stat.gov.pl/bdrr/>

rejection of the hypothesis stating that the better the access of small towns to communication with large and medium size towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship, the greater the growth dynamics of the percentage of those actively employed in the services sector.

CONCLUSIONS

In the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship, intensive social and occupational changes occurred during the years of transformation of the political system. In 1995-2004 a significant reduction in the number of inhabitants took place in all the towns of the Voivodship. However, the smallest relative decrease of the population was noted in small towns of the examined area which have the best access to communication with large and medium size towns. It may be assumed that here, as in large cities in Poland and in the world, the development of extensive suburban areas (Czerny 2005), such as those where the examined settlement units are located, is taking place. The values of the migration growth coefficient confirm these speculations. During the transformation of the political system, the population of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship was most willing to settle in small towns with the best access to communication to large and medium size towns. Changes in domicile in the examined area confirm positive economic and social processes which are taking place in these settlement units. It must be noted, however, that in the examined small towns in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship with good access to communication to large and medium size towns there is no expansion of services oriented activities, which is one of the characteristics of contemporary urbanization (Czerny 2005). Just the opposite, a decrease in the significance of this economic sector has been noted. This probably stems from the fact that the inhabitants prefer services located in nearby towns which may be reached easily.

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