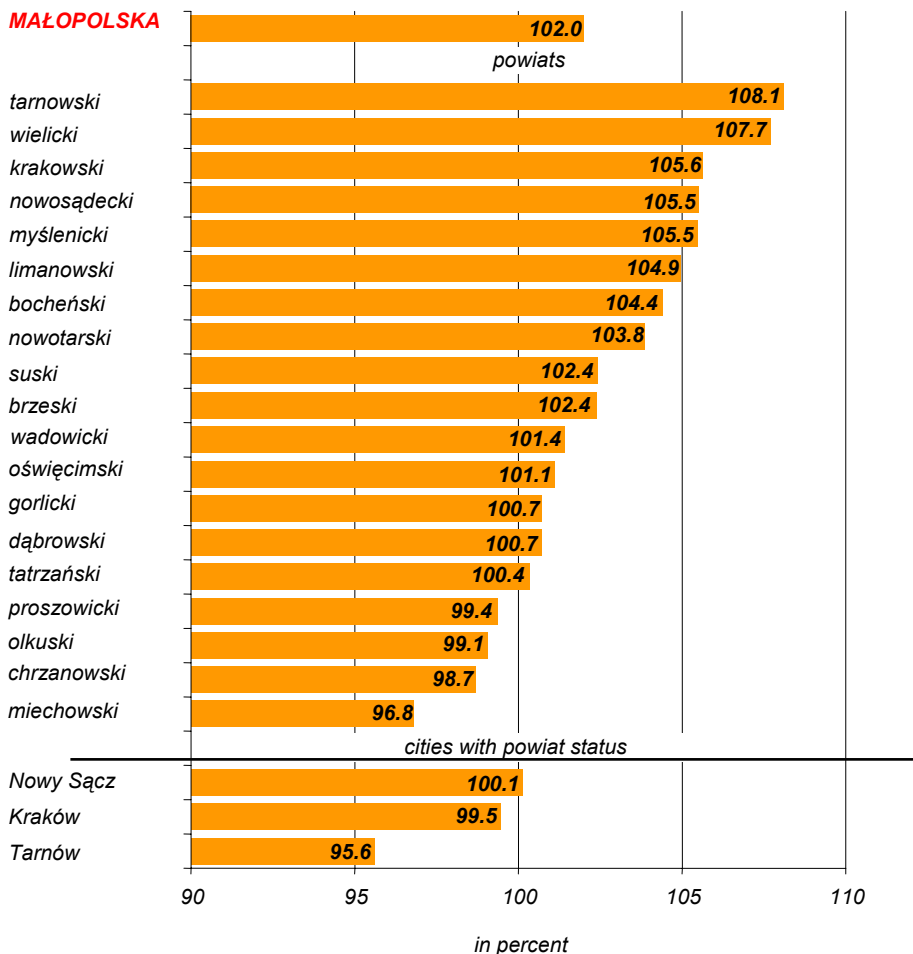


POPULATION

At the end of 2008 the **Małopolskie voivodship numbered 3287.1 thous. residents**, that was 8.6% of total population of Poland. It was more by 0.2% and in absolute numbers by 8.1 thous. persons more than a year ago. Average annual pace of population's growth has stayed at the unchanged level since 2000. Three largest powiats of the voivodship concentrated around cities with powiat status are also the biggest ones as regards the number of residents. It is the result of a high pace of the actual increase of population in recent years.

CHANGES OF POPULATION OF MAŁOPOLSKIE VOIVODSHIP, 2000-2008 (2000=100)



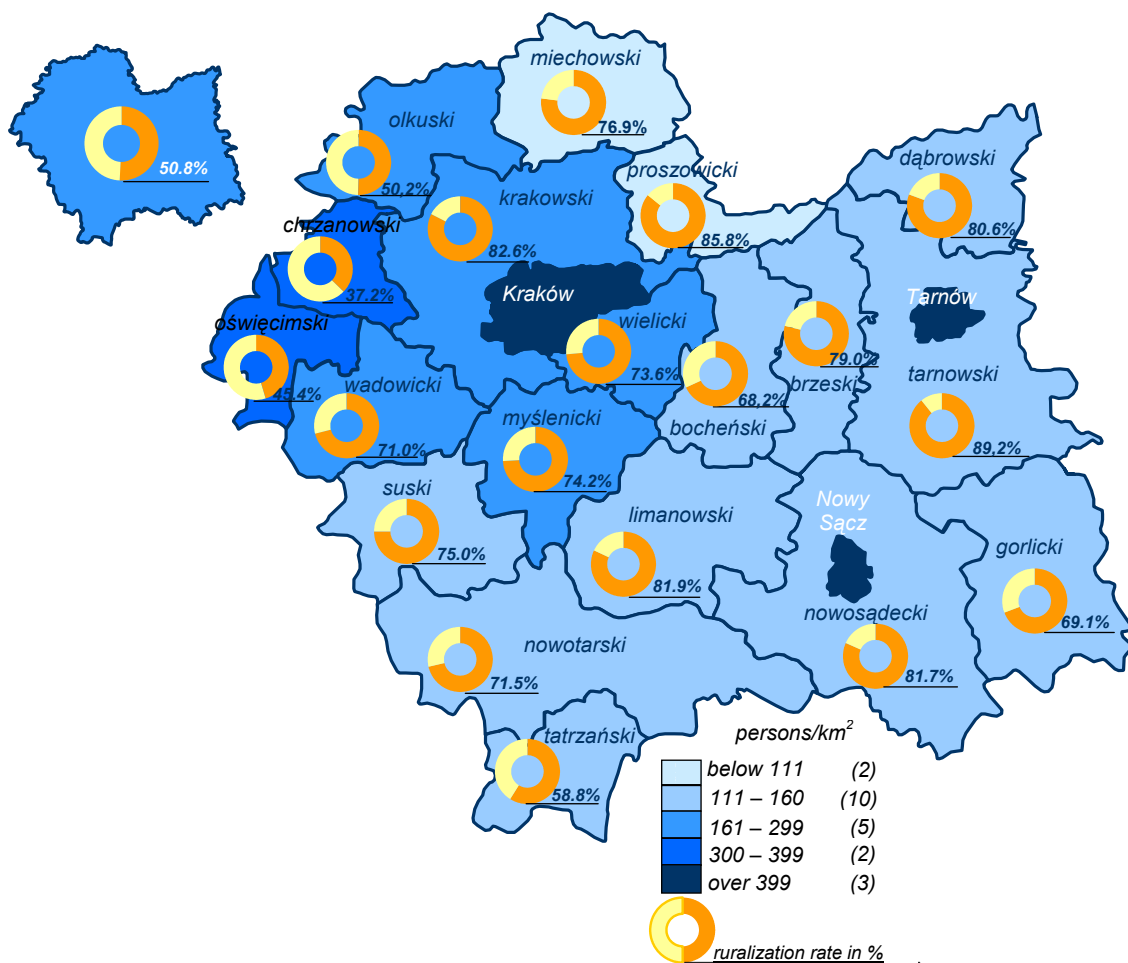
Krakowski powiat – the biggest, as regards the number of population, in 2008 was inhabited by 250.4 thous. people, i.e., more than 1/10 of population of all landed powiats. Two another powiats: nowosądecki and tarnowski had the similar number of population, respectively 201.4 thous. and 195.0 thous. persons. In the period 2000-2008 in above mentioned powiats a high increase of the number of residents was recorded in tarnowski powiat – by 8.1%, krakowski powiat – by 5.6% and in nowosądecki powiat – an increase by 5.5%. In the period since 2000 an increase of the number of population definitely higher than the voivodship's one, amounting to 2.0%, was achieved in 4 powiats: wielicki – an increase by 7.7%, myślenicki – by 5.5%, limanowski – by 4.9% and bocheński – an increase by 4.4%.

In recent 8 years there was a relatively high decrease of the number of residents in powiats: miechowski – by 3.2%, chrzanowski – by 1.3%, olkuski – by 0.9% and proszowicki – a decrease by 0.6%.

At the end of 2008 Kraków was inhabited by 754.6 thous. people, i.e., almost 23% of total residents of the voivodship. Within the space of 8 years the population of the voivodship's capital decreased by 0.5%. In the same period the population of Tarnów decreased by 4.4% and at the end of 2008 it amounted to 115.5 thous. persons. In Nowy Sącz since 2000 the number of residents has stayed at the same level and at the end of 2008 it amounted to 84.5 thous. persons.

Since the beginning of the last decade of the 20th century one can observe in the Małopolskie voivodship a progressive, systematic increase of the population of rural areas. At the end of 2008 the ruralization rate, i.e., the percentage of rural population amounted to 50.8% and it was higher by 1.4 percentage point than at the beginning of nineties.

**POPULATION DENSITY AND RURALIZATION RATE
IN MAŁOPOLSKIE VOIVODSHIP BY POWIATS IN 2008
As of 31 XII**



In the spatial layout the highest ruralization rate occurs in tarnowski and proszowicki powiats, in which rural areas are inhabited respectively by: over 89% and almost 86% of total residents. However, the lowest percentage of rural population was recorded in powiats: chrzanowski – 37.2% and oświęcimski – 45.4%.

A significant increase of the population caused that in the Małopolskie voivodship the **population density** amounted to **217 persons/km²** and it was marginally higher than in the previous year (216 persons/km²). This is a high population density rate, the second one in Poland, after the Silesian voivodship – 377 persons/km².

Kraków with level of 2308 persons per 1 km², characteristic for big cities, has a decisive influence on this rate. In Tarnów there are 1604 persons per 1 km² and in Nowy Sącz – 1456 persons. Residents of miechowski powiat have the more “space” – 74 persons/km².

Powiats of Małopolska with the highest population density are located in the western part of the voivodship. These are powiats: oświęcimski, chrzanowski and wadowicki as well as wielicki powiat, directly neighbouring Kraków, in which the population density rate is higher than the voivodship's one and it amounts from 378 to 241 persons/km². Relatively low population density rates, below 120 persons/km², occurred in powiats: proszowicki, gorlicki and dąbrowski.