

Tendencies and directions of changes in the market of tertiary education services in Małopolska

Tertiary students in Małopolska

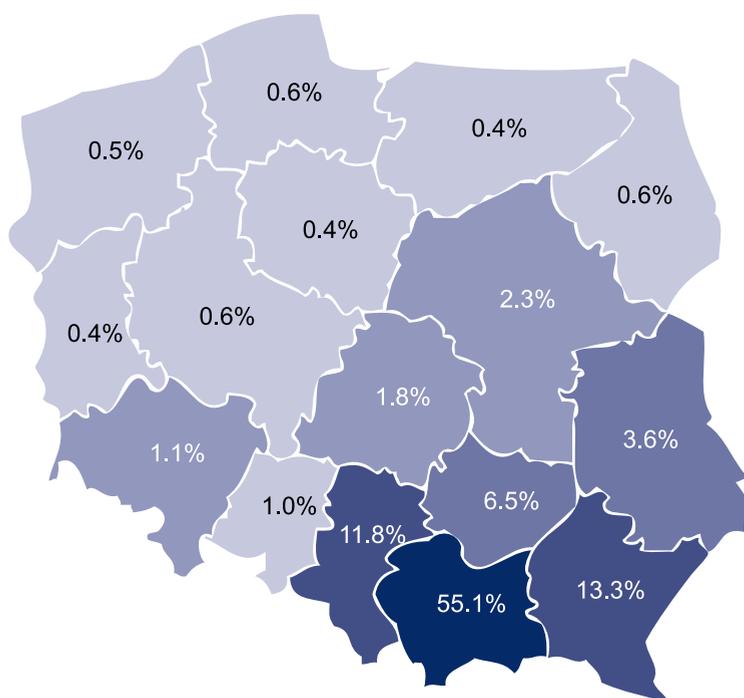
In the 2012/2013 academic year, 55.1% of the first-year full-time students in Małopolska¹ came from this region.

Most newcomers arrived from the regions of Podkarpackie (13.3%), Śląskie (11.8%), Świętokrzyskie (6.5%) and Lubelskie (3.6%).

For Małopolska, the 2011/2012 academic year was second in a run which fitted the coun-

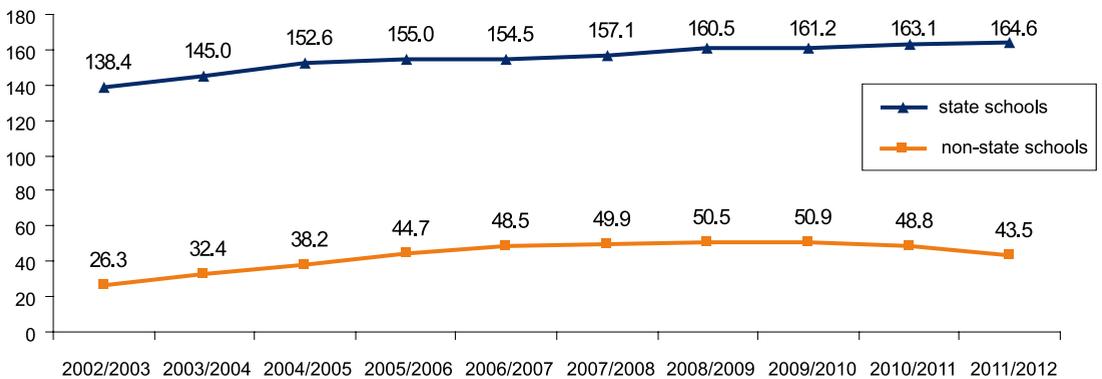
trywide tendency of decrease in the number of tertiary students. During last year, their number dropped by 1.8% (4.5% nationally). The decrease was caused by a drop in the number of part-time students, noted for several years (in the 2011/2012 academic year, the figure was 8.6%). Over the past five years, on the other hand, the number of full-time students was growing in Małopolska (the years of 2010/2011–2011/2012 saw an increase of 2.9%).

Percentages of tertiary students in Małopolska, by origin



¹ The figures concern 17 schools of higher education which participated in the "Survey of tendencies and directions of changes in the market of tertiary education services in Małopolska". Detailed results and methodological comments can be found in the report available from the website of the Labour Market and Education Observatory of Małopolska, www.obserwatorium.malopolska.pl.

Students by type of schools of higher education (in thousands)



The number of people studying at state schools of higher education was growing steadily too. In 2011/2012, these schools had 1,500 students more (a 0.9% increase). On the other hand, the number of secondary school leavers taking up studies in non-state schools has been decreasing for two years now – last year it dropped by 5,300 people (a decrease by 10.9%). In the 2011/2012 academic year, the highest number of tertiary students were educated in technical schools (24.1%) and universities² (22.2%). Higher schools of economics and pedagogy gathered 16.4% and

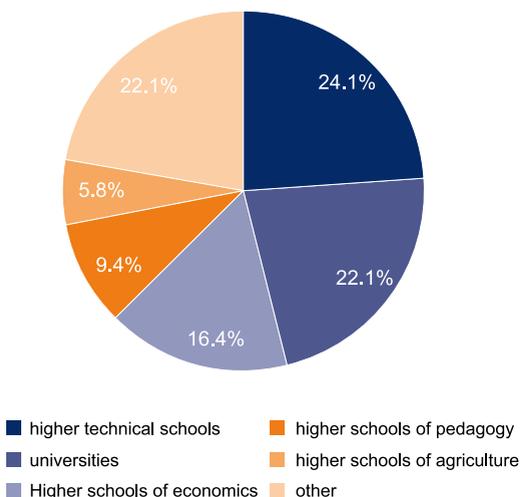
9.4% of the students respectively. Małopolska is thus characterised by a higher-than-national average proportion of students of higher schools of pedagogy and higher technical schools, with a lower percentage of university students.

Secondary school leavers as potential candidates for tertiary studies

Over the past eight years, schools of higher education in Małopolska noted a marked drop in the number of potential candidates for tertiary studies³. Compared with 2004, the number of people who could go to study there, decreased by nearly 31%, and a further decrease is anticipated during the following years (by another 22%). The causes for such trend may be seen in several factors:

- unfavourable demographic situation relating to a decreasing number of people aged 19 (between 2002 and 2011, the figure dropped in Małopolska by 12,800 or 21.8%);
- social and demographic trends, including a decreasing fertility rate;
- growing number of technical secondary school students deciding not to take the baccalaureate examination (since the 2005/2006 school year, the figure has increased nearly

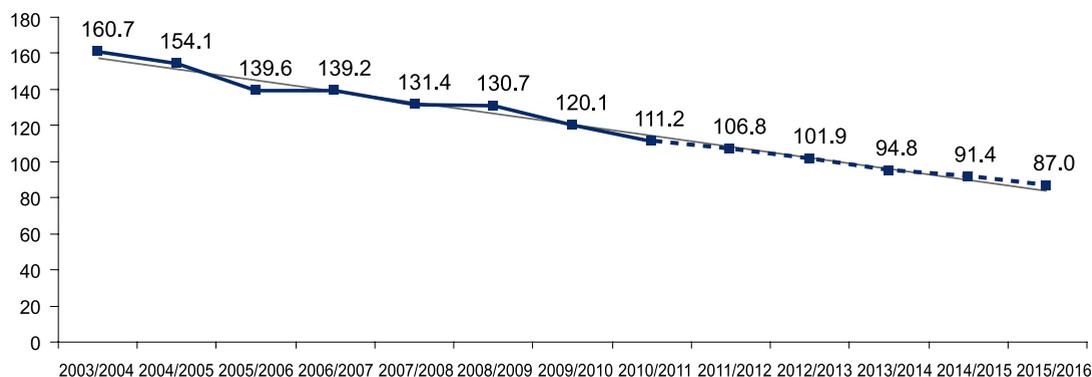
Structure of students, by type of schools of higher education



² In Małopolska, only the Jagiellonian University was classified within this category. A detailed breakdown of schools of higher education is presented in the report on the survey.

³ Potential candidates for tertiary studies are leavers of secondary general schools, profiled secondary schools and technical secondary schools who have been awarded their baccalaureate certificates and who come from five regions of key importance for schools of higher education in Małopolska (cf. map "Percentages of tertiary students in Małopolska, by origin").

Number of potential candidates (in thousands)



three times);

■ decreasing success rate in the baccalaureate exam (over the past eight years, by nearly eight percentage points); the lower success rate in the exam has been particularly noticeable in secondary vocational schools.

Candidates for tertiary studies

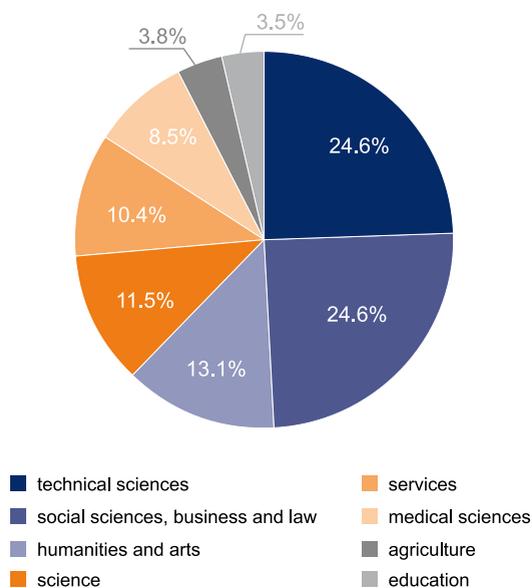
In the 2012/2013 academic year, the highest number of applications to study⁴ were fi-

led for courses within the following groups⁵ “Social sciences, business and law” and “Technical sciences” (24.6% each). A numerous group was also formed by candidates from the groups of “Humanities and Arts” (13.1%) and “Science” (11.5%).

The forecast for the next four years indicates a gradual decrease in the percentages of candidates to study social sciences, business and law, and a regular increase in the number of those interested in technical sciences. It is expected that over the coming years, the latter will constitute more 25% of the total number of applicants to study at schools of higher education.

The results of the “Vocational school leavers survey”, done in 2012⁶, demonstrate that the leavers of technical secondary schools most frequently continued their education pursuing tertiary studies, and the most popular courses included: computing (11.0%), finance and accounting (8.0%) and management (7.6%). The field of education of choice usually corresponded to the occupation learnt at school (students of computing held the title of IT technicians, ICT technicians or electronic technicians; those studying finance and accounting were economic technicians, trading technicians, etc.)

Structure of candidates for tertiary studies in 2012/2013



⁴ The figures concern schools of higher education which participated in the survey. Detailed information is presented in the report on the survey.

⁵ The groups of courses of study are in line with the International Standard Classification of Education ISCED'97.

⁶ Cf. Report on Zawodowy start. Raport z badania losów absolwentów szkół zawodowych 2012⁶ (“Occupational start. Report on the Vocational school leavers survey 2012”), Kraków: Wojewódzki Urząd Pracy w Krakowie, 2013. Its electronic version is available from <http://www.obserwatorium.malopolska.pl/pl/badania-i-analizy/badania-cykliczne/badanie-absolwentow.html>.

Foreigners studying in Małopolska

The group of candidates for tertiary studies comprises also people coming to Małopolska from abroad. In the 2011/2012 academic year, like elsewhere in Poland, foreigners in schools of higher education in Małopolska constituted 1.3% of the total figure. At the same time, foreign tertiary students in Małopolska accounted for 10.9% (2,600 people) of all foreigners studying throughout Poland, which is a figure considerably in excess of the average for one region (1,500).

In the surveyed schools of higher education, in the 2011/2012 academic year, there were 2,214 full-time foreign students. One year later, the figure increased by 32.3%. It is noteworthy that nearly 29% of the surveyed schools declared running courses addressed to foreigners.

Amongst management students, there was less correspondence with their prior educational background (this course of study included primarily economic technicians, hotel management technicians, IT technicians and trading technicians).

Cooperation between schools of higher education with employers

The results of the questionnaire indicate a cooperation between schools of higher education with employers as regards the referral of students to practical training and internships:

- amongst students undergoing their practical training, 87.3% studied in state schools of higher education;
- the initiator of the cooperation in organising practical training was the school and its students (85.7%). Employers were less frequent to propose the organisation of practical training (28.6%);
- 98.1% of the students joined the practical training for a period of less than three months,

and only 1.9% of them had the opportunity to acquire their knowledge and qualifications for a longer period of time;

- most of the schools of higher education cooperated with employers to run internship programmes (57.1%). In the remaining cases, students demonstrated their own initiative and looked for possibilities to hold an internship (42.9%).

Complete results of the survey can be found in the publication „Tendencje i kierunki zmian na rynku usług szkolnictwa wyższego w Małopolsce. Ocena z uwzględnieniem czynników demograficznych i koniunkturalnych” („Tendencies and directions of changes in the market of tertiary education services in Małopolska. Assessment taking into account demographic and business climate-related factors”) available from the project website at www.obserwatorium.malopolska.pl.

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