

# Preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021

27 January 2022



**38 179.8 thousand**

Population of Poland on 31 March 2021



**15.2 million**

Number of dwellings in Poland on 31 March 2021

According to the preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021, the population of Poland amounted to 38179.8 thousand people. The number of population decreased by 0.9% compared to the results of the Census 2011.

There were 15.2 million dwellings in Poland. The number of dwellings increased by 12.6% compared to the Census 2011.

## The size and structure of the population of Poland

According to the preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021, 38179.8 thousand people lived in Poland on 31 March 2021 (48.5 % of the population was male and 51.5 % was female).

Compared to the results of the National Population and Housing Census 2011, the population in 2021 decreased by approximately 332 thousand, i.e. 0.9%. The number of women decreased by 187.8 thousand (i.e. 0.9%) and the number of men by 144.4 thousand (i.e. 0.8%). In the inter-census period there was no significant change in the proportions of the population by sex.

The population of Poland decreased by 332 thousand within a decade

**Table 1. Population by sex** (as of 31 March)

Specification	2011		2021		2011=100
	in thousand	in percent	in thousand	in percent	
<b>Total</b>	<b>38511.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>38179.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.1</b>
Women	19868.0	51,6	19680.2	51.5	99.1
Men	18643.9	48,4	18499.5	48.5	99.2

Preliminary results of the census indicate that there have been major changes in the structure of the population by economic age groups between 2011 and 2021. In the inter-census period, the proportion of the population at pre-working age decreased from 18.7% in 2011 to 18.2% in 2021, as well as at working age - from 64.4% in 2011 to 60.0% in 2021. The share of people at mobile working age in the total population decreased more (by 2.4 pp) than the share of people at non-mobile working age (by 2 pp). On the other hand, the share of the post-working age population increased significantly - from 16.9% to 21.8%, i.e. by almost 5 pp. This means that during the past decade over 1.8 million people joined the 60/65 and older age group, and thus more than every fifth resident of Poland is over 60 years old.

**Table 2. Population by economic age groups** (as of 31 March)

Specification	2011	2021	
	in thousand		2011=100
<b>Total</b>	<b>38511.8</b>	<b>38179.8</b>	<b>99.1</b>
Pre-working age (0-17)	7202.3	6956.4	96.6
Working age (18–59/64)	24797.4	22886.4	92.3
in which:			
mobile age (18-44)	15418.9	14347.4	93.1
non-mobile age (45–59/64)	9378.5	8539.0	91.0
Post-working age (60/65 and more)	6512.1	8337.0	128.0

**Table 3. Population structure by economic age groups** (as of 31 March)

Specification	2011	2021
	in percent	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Pre-working age (0-17)	18.7	18.2
Working age (18–59/64)	64.4	60.0
in which:		
mobile age (18-44)	40.0	37.6
non-mobile age (45–59/64)	24.4	22.4
Post-working age (60/65 and more)	16.9	21.8

### Dwellings and buildings located in Poland

Preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021 indicate that as of 31 March 2021, there were nearly 15.2 million dwellings in Poland, located in approximately 6.8 million buildings. In comparison with the results of the National Population and Housing Census 2011, the number of dwellings increased by almost 1.7 million, i.e. by 12.6%, while the number of buildings increased by almost 800,000, i.e. by 13.3%.

The useful floor area of dwellings at the disposal of the population, as of 31 March 2021, amounted to 1121.3 million m<sup>2</sup> and, compared to the results of the National Population and Housing Census 2011, increased by almost 175 million m<sup>2</sup> (i.e. by 18.5%).

Compared to the Census 2011, the number of dwellings increased by 12.6% and their useful floor area by 18.5%

**Table 4. Dwellings and buildings** (as of 31 March)

Specification	2011	2021	
	in million		2011=100
Dwellings <sup>a</sup>	13.5	15.2	112.6
Useful floor area in m <sup>2</sup>	946.3	1121.3	118.5
Buildings <sup>b</sup>	6.0	6.8	113.3

a Inhabited and uninhabited. b Buildings in which dwellings are located.

### Methodological notes

The National Population and Housing Census 2021 was conducted on the territory of the Republic of Poland from 1 April to 30 September 2021, as of 31 March 2021.

The thematic scope of the census and the rules for its implementation are defined in the Act of 9 August 2019 on the National Population and Housing Census 2021. (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1775, of 2020, item 1486, of 2021, item 615, of 2021, item 1143) and Regulation (EC) No. 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses (OJ EU L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 14) - together with implementing acts.

The thematic scope was consulted with the key data users, in particular public administration units and scientific and research centres, which use statistical data to perform their statutory tasks<sup>1</sup>.

The census enumeration was conducted as a complete survey and covered:

- natural persons permanently residing and temporarily staying in dwellings, buildings and other inhabited premises other than a dwelling,
- natural persons without place of residence,
- dwellings, buildings, collective living quarters and inhabited premises not being dwellings.

However, the census did not include:

- heads and foreign staff of diplomatic representations and consular offices of foreign countries, members of their families and other persons enjoying privileges and immunities under agreements, laws or generally recognized international customs,
- dwellings, buildings, facilities and premises owned by diplomatic representations and consular offices of foreign countries.

Participation in the census was mandatory and Polish residents were obliged to provide accurate, exhaustive and truthful responses (Article 28, paragraph 1 of the Act on the Census).

### Data sources

In accordance with the Act on the Census 2021, the National Population and Housing Census 2021 was conducted using the mixed model consisting of merging the data from administrative registers with the data collected from respondents.

The data covered by the information scope of the census was obtained from the population with the use electronic online forms and the following data collection channels:

- self-enumeration by Internet (CAWI);

<sup>1</sup> A detailed report of the public consultation can be found on the website of Statistics Poland at: <https://stat.gov.pl/spisy-powszechnie/nsp-2021/> - accessed: 17.01.2022.

- telephone interviews conducted on the census hotline (the so-called census on demand);
- telephone interviews conducted by census enumerators (CATI);
- face-to-face interviews with the participation of census enumerators (CAPI), which were conducted from 21 June to 30 September 2021 due to the pandemic situation prevailing in the country.

## Selected census definitions

**Population according to the national definition** - permanent residents of Poland, including persons who temporarily stay abroad (regardless of the period of stay), but still have permanent residence in Poland. The population does not include immigrants temporarily staying in Poland.

### Economic age groups

Three basic age groups are conventionally defined to classify people's ability to work: pre-working age, working age (including mobile working age, non-mobile working age) and post-working age. In Poland, it is assumed that minors (0-17 years) constitute the first group, while the lower age threshold of the third group is the same as the retirement age in Poland, i.e. 60 years for women and 65 years for men.

**Pre-working age** - age at which people have not yet attained working ability, i.e. age group 0-17.

**Working age** - age of working ability, i.e. for men the age group 18-64 years, for women - 18-59.

- **Mobile age** - part of working age group including the population aged 18-44.
- **Non-mobile age** - part of working age group including the population aged: men - 45-64, women - 45-59.

**Post-working age** - age at which people usually end their careers, i.e. for men - 65 years and more, for women - 60 years and more.

**Dwelling** – premises for a permanent residence of persons - built or remodelled for residential purposes structurally separated by fixed walls within a building, into which a separate access leads from a staircase, a passage, a common hall or directly from a street, a courtyard or a garden, comprising one or several rooms and auxiliary spaces whether or not it is inhabited under one or more legal titles.

**Useful floor area of a dwelling** – a total useful area of all premises in a dwelling, i.e. rooms, a kitchen (with and without a window), larders, anterooms, alcoves, halls, corridors, bathrooms, toilets, a cased veranda, a porch, a dressing room and other premises for residential and utility needs of dwellers regardless of their designation and purpose of use (among other things: ateliers, recreation facilities etc).

**Building** – a construction permanently connected with the ground, with foundation, separated by means of construction partitions (walls and covers) surrounded by walls and covered by a roof, with or without a cellar, together with built in plumbing, sewerage, heating, electrical, gas and other installations, as well as with built in furniture constituting normal building installations.

## Dissemination of the National Population and Housing Census 2021 results

Preliminary data including the breakdown for voivodships will be made available progressively from April to July 2022. Data at lower levels of the country's administrative division, including gminas, will be made available from September 2022. Census results will be published on the Statistics Poland website [Statistics Poland](#) (press releases and publications) and in the [Local Data Bank](#) A modernised [Geostatistics Portal](#) will be used for spatial cartographic presentation of data.




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#### **Terms used in official statistics**

[Population](#)

[Mobile age](#)

[Non-mobility age](#)

[Non-working age](#)

[Post-working age](#)

[Working age](#)

[Pre-working age](#)

[Dwelling](#)

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