

JACEK PETRYSZYN

SILESIAN UNIVERSITY IN SOSNOWIEC

POPULATION DYNAMICS IN LARGE TOWNS OF SILESIA PROVINCE

ABSTRACT. This paper shows changes of population dynamics in large towns of present Silesian Province in the period 1950–2000. The population of large towns was presented in 5-year periods and its dynamic aspect was expressed both in 5-year periods and in the increasing manner every 5 years during the whole period studied (50 years). The analysis of population dynamics was conducted basing on changes in every decade, because this way social-economic life in Poland occurred. The results of investigations revealed that during the period studied there were two clear periods of different population dynamics in the town studied. In the first period that lasted until the end of the 1980s, population increase occurred. Since the beginning of the 1990s, the period of hampering of population increase started, followed by its decrease.

KEY WORDS: population, large towns, population dynamics.

The aim of demographic analysis is to show how dynamics of inhabitant number in large towns of present Silesian Province was changing in the second part of the 20th century (1950–2000). This paper includes all towns, where population exceeded limit value of 100,000 inhabitants at the end of 2000. This critical value between large and medium towns was the most commonly used to separate large towns (Harańczyk, 1998; Michalski, 1995). It also expresses significant position of large towns in the conditions of Polish settlement system.

The source of information concerning population in Silesian Province included Statistical Yearbooks published by General Statistical Institute. Summary tables published recently were not taken into consideration. This approach enabled to evaluate numerous administrative changes. Among the works describing large towns, the monograph concerning demographic changes of Chorzów (Runge,

1997) should be mentioned. This work discusses problems of early depopulation of this town.

Changes of town population result from the size of real increase and also from the administrative changes of boundaries of settlements units. Especially administrative changes make it very difficult to interpret the obtained data concerning population. The best example in the studied area is Ruda Śląska, which originated as the result of combining two towns: Ruda and Nowy Bytom. That is why the tables for 1950 and 1955, give total population of both towns.

The population of large towns was expressed in 5-year periods from 1950 to 2000 (tab. 1). The results of investigation revealed that 13 towns of the Silesian Province comply with the size criterion at the end of the 20th century. Among them only Katowice was populated by more than 300,000. In case of other towns, 4 were populated by more than 200,000 and 8 towns (more than a half of the group studied) were populated by more than 100,000 (tab. 1). At that time, in the whole area of Poland, there were 42 large towns, which means that Silesian Province contained one third of them.

Table 1. Population of large towns of Silesian Province in the period 1950–2000

Town	Population in 1000 on 31 XII										
	1950 ^a	1955	1960 ^b	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Katowice	175	200	270	286	305	344	355	363	367	352	341
Częstochowa	112	150	165	175	188	200	235	249	258	259	256
Sosnowiec	96	124	132	140	145	196	246	256	259	248	241
Gliwice	133	135	150	163	172	197	198	210	214	213	209
Bytom	174	181	183	191	188	234	234	239	231	227	202
Zabrze	172	183	190	199	198	204	196	198	205	201	198
Bielsko-Biała	57	67	75	83	106	121	164	176	181	180	179
Ruda Śląska ^c	110	118	132	141	143	150	159	166	171	166	154
Rybnik	27	30	34	38	44	103	123	138	144	145	144
Tychy	13	27	50	64	72	136	167	184	192	134	131
Dąbrowa Górnicza	32	41	56	60	62	80	141	138	137	130	130
Chorzów	129	141	147	154	152	156	150	142	132	125	120
Jastrzębie-Zdrój	2	2	3	9	25	91	98	101	104	103	101

a – for 1950 results of National General Census of 3 XII 1950;

b – for 1960 results of General Census of 6 XII 1960;

c – the town which originated from function of Nowy Bytom and Ruda in 1959; in 1950 and 1955, total population of both towns is given;

bold – maximum population;

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Main Statistical Office.

Table 2. Population dynamics of large towns in 5-year periods

Town	Population dynamics in % (beginning of each period 100 %)									
	1950-1955	1955-1960	1960-1965	1965-1970	1970-1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000
Katowice	114	135	106	107	113	103	102	101	96	97
Częstochowa	134	110	106	107	106	118	106	104	100	99
Sosnowiec	129	106	106	104	135	126	104	101	96	97
Gliwice	102	111	109	106	115	101	106	102	100	98
Bytom	104	101	104	98	124	100	102	97	98	89
Zabrze	106	104	105	99	103	96	101	104	98	99
Bielsko-Biała	118	112	111	128	114	136	107	103	99	99
Ruda Śląska	107	112	107	101	105	106	104	103	97	93
Rybnik	111	113	112	116	234	119	112	104	101	99
Tychy	208	185	128	113	189	123	110	104	70	98
Dąbrowa Górnicza	128	137	107	103	129	176	98	99	95	100
Chorzów	109	104	105	99	103	96	95	93	95	96
Jastrzębie-Zdrój	100	150	300	278	364	108	103	103	99	98

bold – population loss;

Source: author's calculations.

At the beginning of the period studied (1950), there were 6 towns in the area of present Silesian Province, which could be included to large towns. This made 38% of such towns in Poland (their total number was 16). Thus, their percentage decreased during this 50 years. The highest number of large towns in the studied area occurred at the end of the 1980s and beginning of the 1990s – 7 towns. The former large town is Wodzisław Śląski, which in the period 1975–1991 exceeded limit value of population, but now it is populated by 50,000. Changes of its population (sudden increase and decrease) resulted from administrative changes.

The distribution of large towns in Silesian Province is very specific and typical for towns originated in mining-industrial areas. Nine towns form Katowice agglomeration in the central part of the Province including Katowice, Sosnowiec, Gliwice, Bytom, Zabrze, Ruda Śląska, Tychy, Dąbrowa Górnicza and Chorzów. Two towns – Rybnik and Jastrzębie – represent the largest towns in Rybnik agglomeration located in the south-western part of the Province. Two other towns form separate urban centres – Częstochowa in the northern part of the Province and Bielsko-Biała in the southern part.

Dynamic aspect of population is shown in 5-year periods, assuming each beginning of the period as 100% (tab. 2) and also in increasing form every 5 years in the whole period of 50 years, assuming population of 100 in 1950 (tab. 3). The analysis of population dynamics was conducted basing on changes in individual decades, because social-economic life in Poland occurred in such way.

In the 1950s, there was a significant population increase in towns, which are included at present to large towns (tab. 2). Some of them reached very large increase in the following periods:

- a) 1950–1955 – e.g. Tychy (208%), Częstochowa (134%),
- b) 1955–1960 – further increase of Tychy (185%), Jastrzębie Zdrój (150%), Dąbrowa Górnicza (137%) and Katowice (135%).

In the 1960s, the rate of increase of the towns studied dropped, but it was still positive, except of 3 towns of Katowice agglomeration: Bytom, Zabrze and Chorzów (tab. 2). In case of the latter towns, there was a slight decrease of population at the level of 1–2% in the period 1965–1970. Jastrzębie Zdrój, on the other hand, experienced its dynamic development. Its population increased three times in the period 1960–1965 and almost three times in the period 1965–1970 (tab. 2). This town represents a textbook example of intensively developing mining centre, because its population increased over 12 times during 20-year period (tab. 3).

In the next decade (1970–1975), large towns increased again their growth dynamics. This process is especially well visible in Rybnik, Tychy and Sosnowiec (tab. 2). Their increase is mainly associated with administrative changes – incorporation of towns and districts. The largest increase occurred in Jastrzębie Zdrój – 364% in the period 1970–1975, and during 15 years (1960–1975) its population increased 30 times (maximal dynamics). The second part of the 1970s,

represents the beginning of the drop of increase rate of large towns. Only Dąbrowa Górnicza (176%) and Bielsko-Biała (136%) still showed significant dynamics, but in Zabrze and Chorzów population decreased (tab. 2). Chorzów reached maximal number of inhabitants in 1977 – it was the earliest among the towns studied.

Table 3. Population dynamics of large towns in the period of 50 years (1950–2000)

Town	Population dynamics in % (1950 = 100%)									
	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Katowice	114	154	163	174	197	203	207	210	201	195
Częstochowa	134	147	156	168	179	210	222	230	231	229
Sosnowiec	129	138	146	151	204	256	267	270	258	251
Gliwice	102	113	123	129	148	149	158	161	160	158
Bytom	104	105	110	108	134	134	137	133	130	116
Zabrze	106	110	116	115	119	114	115	119	117	115
Bielsko-Biała	118	132	146	186	212	288	309	317	316	314
Ruda Śląska	107	120	128	130	136	145	151	155	151	140
Rybnik	111	126	141	163	381	456	511	533	537	533
Tychy	208	385	492	554	1 046	1 285	1 415	1 477	1 031	1 008
Dąbrowa Górnicza	128	175	188	194	250	440	431	428	406	406
Chorzów	109	114	119	118	121	116	110	102	97	93
Jastrzębie-Zdrój	100	150	450	1 250	4 550	4 900	5 050	5 200	5 150	5 050

bold – maximum population;

Source: author's calculations.

In the 1980s, further drop of increase dynamics of large towns was observed. Few of them reached the increase of 10%, e.g. Rybnik (112%) but it concerns only the period 1980–1985 (tab. 2). In the next 5 year period, non of the towns reached such increase rate. Some towns showed several-% increase of population, and in case of such towns as Chorzów (93%), Bytom (97%) and Dąbrowa Górnicza (99%) population decreased (tab. 2). Next three towns reached its maximal population in the 1980s: Dąbrowa Górnicza in 1982, Bytom in 1987 and Katowice in 1989.

In the last decade, regress of population in large towns of Silesian Province became more stringent (tab. 2). All towns showed decreasing population dynamics in the 1990s (tabs 2, 3) and reached their maximal values in that decade (mainly in 1991), unless it happened earlier. The process of population loss occurred most intensively in Tychy (70%) in the period 1990–1995 and Bytom (89%) in the period 1995–2000 (tab. 2). The population decrease of these towns

was however associated with administrative changes – separation of Bieruń and Łędziny from Tychy in 1991 and Radzionków from Bytom in 1998.

Figure 1 shows some examples of towns of differentiated population dynamics in the period 1950–2000. Tychy showed very large population dynamics in the period 1970–1975 (considerable administrative incorporations), then gradual decrease of dynamics occurred, followed by population loss in the 1990s (including separation of communes that earlier had been incorporated). Częstochowa is an example of the town of stable and rather small population dynamics. In this case, constant increase of population occurred until 1992, followed by its inconsiderable decrease. Chorzów is the only town, where the loss of population is recorded during the studied period of 50 years. Initially, slowly growing number of inhabitants stopped and then it gradually decreased, reaching in 2000 lower value than it was in 1950 (tab. 3).

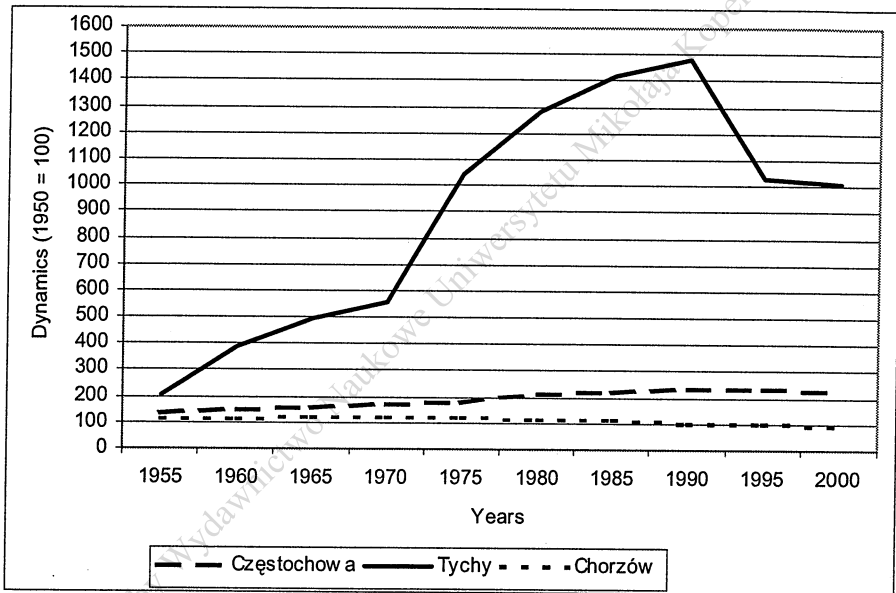


Fig. 1. Population dynamics of the selected towns in the period 1950–2000 (1950 = 100)

* * *

In the period studied 1950–200, significant changes of the size of towns, which are now considered as large towns, occurred. Nevertheless, in this period of 50 years, two stages of population changes in most of the towns studied may be distinguished. In the first, longer stage, which lasted until the end of the 1980s, population of majority of large towns increased. This process occurred

sometimes in a very dynamic way. In the beginning of the 1990s, the rate of population increase was retarded, followed by its loss. This change is especially well visible in case of towns belonging to Katowice agglomeration, where this process started first (Chorzów, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Bytom, Katowice) and gained larger size than in other towns (compare tab. 1, 2, 3). Jastrzębie Zdrój, on the other hand, is in danger of population loss below 100,000 (tab. 1).

In the second part of the 20th century, considerable changes of town sizes occurred, which were associated with changes of their administrative borders. This process included some towns of Katowice and Rybnik agglomerations. The process of towns junction especially occurred in 1959, when Szopienice were incorporated to Katowice, and Ruda was joined with Nowy Bytom, and also in the period 1975–1977, when many areas were incorporated to Katowice, Sosnowiec, Bytom, Rybnik, Tychy and Dąbrowa Górnicza. The separations from large towns occurred mainly in the 1990s.

The results of the studies on population dynamics in the period 1950–2000 (tab. 3) revealed that Jastrzębie Zdrój reached the largest increase (about 50 times) during the 50 years studied. Other towns showed much smaller and very different population increase. In some towns population increased several times, e.g. Tychy 10 times, Rybnik 5 times, Bielsko Biala 3 times. Rapid population growth occurred mainly in towns located in the southern part of Silesian Province. Majority of towns located in the central part of Katowice agglomeration, which population dynamically increased in the earlier period, showed rather small population growth in the period 1950–2000. Chorzów showed the smallest population dynamics – 7% decrease of inhabitants number occurred at that time.

The results of the investigations on demographic development showed that large town of Silesian Province experienced population regress at the end of the 20th century, and this process started in centrally located towns of Katowice agglomeration. It is assumed with large probability that in the near future large towns will continue its trend of population decrease. This concerns towns, which were large at the beginning of the 1950s and also these, which showed dynamic development until the 1990s.

REFERENCES

- Harańczyk, A. (1998) *Miasta Polski w procesie globalizacji gospodarki*, PWN, Warszawa.
- Michalski, T. (1995) *Problematyka badawcza dużych miast na łamach „Przeglądu Geograficznego” i „Czasopisma Geograficznego” w latach 1918–1994*, [w:] VIII konferatorium wiedzy o mieście: „Centra i peryferie dużych miast. Transformacja i przyszłość. Pojęcia i metody badawcze”, Łódź, s. 77–82.
- Runge, J. (1997) *Przemiany demograficzno-społeczne Chorzowa w latach 1945–1995*, Zeszyty Chorzowskie, t. II, s. 34–51.

DYNAMIKA LUDNOŚCIOWA DUŻYCH MIAST REGIONU ŚLĄSKIEGO

STRESZCZENIE

Artykuł ukazuje zmiany dynamiki liczby ludności dużych miast obecnego województwa śląskiego w latach 1950–2000. Stan ludności dużych miast ujęto w 5-letnich odstępach, natomiast ujęcie dynamiczne przedstawiono zarówno w okresach 5-letnich, jak i rosnąco co pięć lat w całym pięćdziesięcioleciu.

Okazało się, iż 13 miast województwa śląskiego spełniało przyjęte kryterium wielkości (100 tysięcy mieszkańców) na koniec XX wieku. Wśród nich tylko Katowice liczyły więcej niż 300 tysięcy ludności. Natomiast spośród pozostałych ośrodków: 4 miasta miały ponad 200 tysięcy ludności, a 8 miast przekraczało 100 tysięcy ludności. W tym samym czasie na terenie całego kraju były 42 duże miasta, czyli w województwie śląskim znajdowała się trzecia część tych miast.

Analizę dynamiki liczby ludności przeprowadzono na podstawie zmian w poszczególnych dekadach, gdyż w ten sposób kształtowało się życie społeczno-gospodarcze w Polsce. Stwierdzono, iż w badanym okresie 50 lat następowały znaczne zmiany wielkości dużych miast na terenie dzisiejszego województwa śląskiego. Niemniej jednak, w tym czasie wyraźnie zaznaczają się dwa różne okresy kształtowania się dynamiki liczby ludności dla większości omawianych miast.

Pierwszy okres znacznie dłuższy, bo trwający mniej więcej do końca lat 80., charakteryzował się wzrostem liczby ludności większości dużych miast; proces ten przebiegał w niektórych ośrodkach bardzo dynamicznie. Natomiast od początku lat 90. rozpoczyna się okres wyhamowania przyrostu ludności dużych miast, a następnie jej ubytku. Szczególnie widać tę zmianę w miastach aglomeracji katowickiej, gdzie ów proces rozpoczął się wcześniej i przybrał większe rozmiary, np. w Chorzowie (od 1977 r.), Dąbrowie Górniczej (1982), Bytomiu (1987), Katowicach (1989).

W drugiej połowie XX wieku wystąpiły liczne zmiany wielkości miast w związku ze zmianami ich granic administracyjnych, proces ten objął niektóre miasta aglomeracji katowickiej i rybnickiej. Proces łączenia miast zaznaczył się szczególnie w 1959 r. przez włączenie Szopienic do Katowic oraz połączenie Rudy i Nowego Bytomia, a także w latach 1975–1977, kiedy dokonano licznych przyłączeń do: Katowic, Sosnowca, Bytomia, Rybnika, Tychów i Dąbrowy Górniczej. Z kolei wyłączenia z nastąpiły głównie w latach 90. w Tychach i Bytomiu.

Dynamiczny wzrost liczby ludności cechował miasta znajdujące się głównie w południowej części województwa śląskiego, np. Jastrzębie-Zdrój osiągnęło ponad 50-krotny wzrost w ciągu 50 lat, Tychy 10-krotny, Rybnik 5-krotny, a Bielsko-Biała 3-krotny. Z kolei większość miast leżących w centrum aglomeracji katowickiej wykazała niewielki przyrost ludności (Bytom, Zabrze, Ruda Śląska), a w Chorzowie odnotowano nawet 7% ubytek ludności.

Zaobserwowany regres liczby ludności dużych miast województwa śląskiego pod koniec XX wieku pozwala stwierdzić z dużym prawdopodobieństwem, że w miastach tych liczba ludności będzie maleć w najbliższej przyszłości.