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**NEW TRENDS IN POPULATION OF RURAL AREAS
OF THE CARPATHIAN MTS. DURING TRANSITION
PERIOD OF POLAND**

ABSTRACT. The study presents the trends in population of the rural areas of the Polish Carpathians in the 1978–1998 period, i.e. during the transition from the centrally planned economy to the market one. The dynamics of these changes was studied from the point of view of relation between the natural increase and the migration balance, i.e. two basic components of the actual increase of the population, using J. W. Webb's method. A distinct diminution of the level of both those components was found (a decrease in the negative migration balance was higher than that of the natural increase) and a considerable diversity of the discussed region as regard the particular types of the demographical dynamics. A new phenomenon, rather unusual for the Carpathian rural areas, are the inflow zones, proving the undoubted growth of their attractiveness for future immigrants.

KEY WORDS: The Carpathians, rural population, actual increase, J. W. Webb's typology.

© A natural consequence of the post-war socio-economic development of Poland was the dynamic growth of cities, which caused the decrease of the rural population number. The Carpathians were different from the rest of Poland, because there was the trend of the rural population growth. In the 90s, due to the political and demographical transformation, the rate of the population growth fell, both in Poland and in the Carpathians. Despite that, in 1998 the discussed region contained 11% of the rural population of the whole country, being a sort of the demographical „basin” or „reservoir”.

The Carpathians, being the author's research object, are the mountains lying in the south-eastern part of Poland. This is the physico-geographical unit (Kon-dracki, 1998) – not the administrative one.

The aim of the author was to show trends in the rural population of the Carpathians both in the local and regional scales, over the 1978–1998 period, analyzing the dynamics of these changes from the point of view of the relation between the natural increase and the migration balance, the basic elements of the actual increase of the population. The well-known J. W. Webb's method (Webb, 1963; Kosiński, 1967) was used. This method is more and more popular in the studies on the demographical changes of the whole country (Pakulska, Rakowski, 1995), the chosen regions (Michalski, 1998) or voivodeships (Grzelak-Kostulska, 2000; Długosz, 2001) – and even of the physico-geographical units (Długosz, Soja, 1991; Soja, 2001).

The typology of the Carpathian rural communities was based on indices being averages for three-year subperiods of that of 1978–1998. Therefore an influence of random variables and a randomness of the chosen subperiods were excluded. Three subperiods, typical for successive stages of Poland's socio-economic development were chosen: that of 1978–1980, being the period of the centrally planned economy, that of 1987–1989, the transitional one – and the 199–1998 period, during which the radical changes occurred.

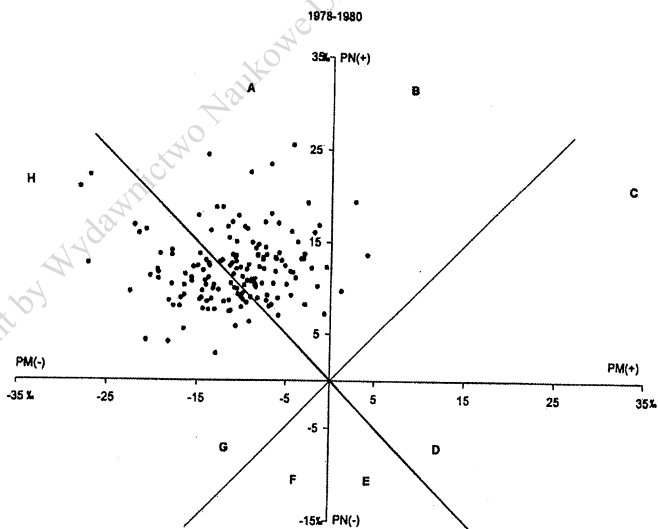


Fig. 1. Typology of Carpathian rural zones population changes over the 1978–1980 period (according to J. W. Webb's method)

PM – migration increase, PN – natural increase.

Source: Based on the Central Statistic Office data.

During the first subperiod, between 1978 and 1980, three of eight possible types of demographical evolution were observed – those of A, B and H. Dominated the communities showing the positive actual population increase (the A type), where the high natural increase recompensed the population outflow. The Carpathians as a whole, with numerous communities of the A and H type, were the region of emigration (fig. 1). At the end of 80s. the number of the H type communities, where the high negative migration balance was over the natural increase rate (thus the population number was falling) was considerably reduced. However the Carpathians were still the region of the population outflow (fig. 2). In this subperiod the level of the actual increase elements was distinctly lower than before.

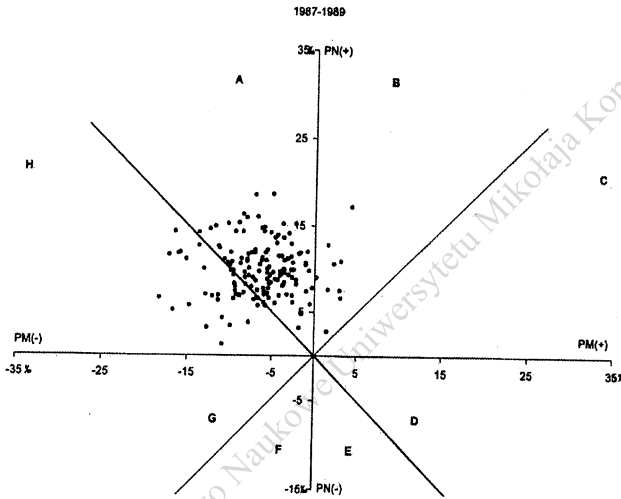


Fig. 2. Typology of Carpathian rural zones population changes over the 1987–1989 period (according to J. W. Webb's method)

PM – migration increase. PN – natural increase.

Source: Based on the Central Statistic Office data.

The general change of the discussed types distribution occurred in the 90s (fig. 3). More and more are communities of the B and C type, in which the immigration exceeds the natural increase (the C type) or is below that (the B type). The continued fall of the components of actual decrease of the population shows the new phenomenon in the Carpathians, namely the growing importance of the immigration in shaping the demographical growth of the rural areas. In the past, i.e. in the 70s, this phenomenon concerned only the Carpathian cities.

The scale of the rural zones demographical transformation can be proved if one compares the averages of the 3-year values of the actual increase elements for the 1978–1980 and 1996–1998 subperiods. The level of the negative migration balance decreased from -10.3% to -0.2% respectively, that of the

natural increase fell from 11.9‰ to 5.1‰. The fall of the negative migration balance was higher than that of the natural increase (fig. 4). The decrease of the spatial mobility of the Carpathian population is observed in the whole country.

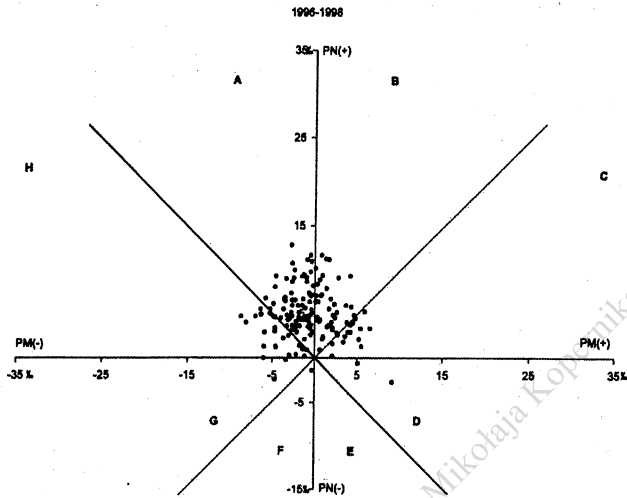


Fig. 3. Typology of Carpathian rural zones population changes over the 1996–1998 period (according to J. W. Webb's method)
 PM – migration increase, PN – natural increase,
 Source: Based on the Central Statistic Office data.

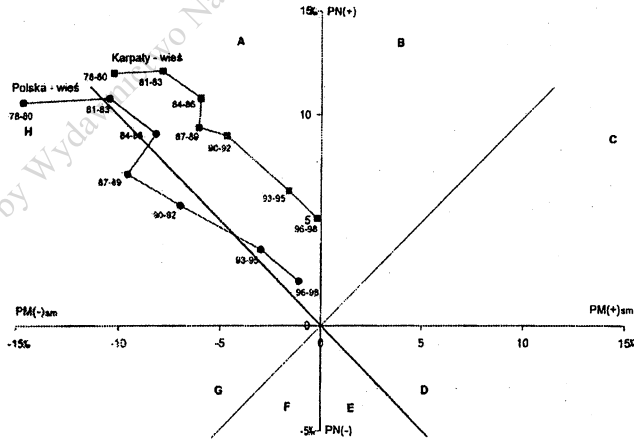


Fig. 4. Actual increase of Carpathian rural population against that of Poland over the 1978–1998 period (according to J. W. Webb's method; three-year averages)
 Polska wieś – rural population of Poland; Karpłaty wieś – rural population of the Carpathians.
 Source: Based on the Central Statistic Office data.

As regards the particular types distribution, the Carpathians in the 70s were the area of intensive outflow, being dominated by the A and H types (fig. 5). The rural zones showing the demographical growth were situated mostly in the central part of the discussed region. The depopulation areas, of the H type, were found: 1) in the contact zones of the voivodeship boundaries, i.e. of the Przemysł, Rzeszów and Krosno ones and those of Tarnów and Krosno, too, 2) surrounded from north the Carpathian Industrial Region, 3) formed the buffer zones between the commuting areas of the particular industrial centres. Such the distribution was caused by the poor transport accessibility, or the site between two railway lines (Długosz, Soja, 1991).

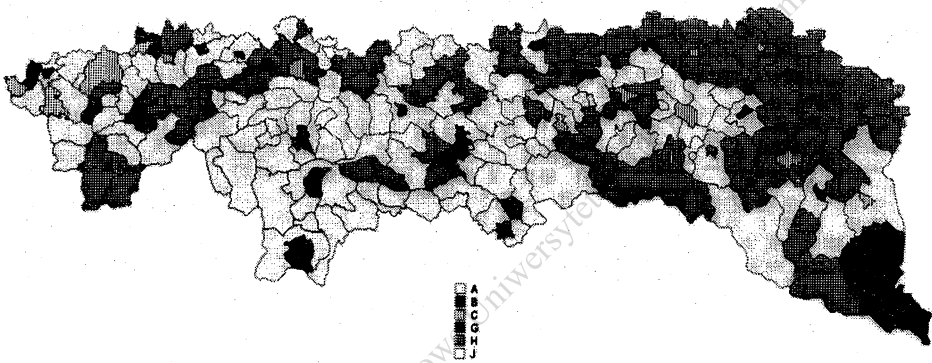


Fig. 5. Spatial distribution of the development types of the Carpathian rural population by communities, over the 1978–1980 period

A – J: types.

Source: Based on the Central Statistic Office data.

In the 1987–1989 subperiod the Carpathians were still the area of the population outflow, although in the western sector there were communities showing the features of the immigration areas, of the B or C type. The scope of the eastern zone of depopulation is smaller, its communities pass from the H type to the A one.

The spatial distribution of the discussed types in the 90s shows the persistence of the previous character of the region – the emigration one. But there are distinct zones of immigration (B, C and D types). These are the isolated groups of communities, i.e. in the Sądecka Basin or in the Sądecki Beskid, and the distinct zone in west, between the cities of Bielsko-Biała and Żywiec, stretched north-eastward, to the communities lying south of Cracow. There is also the zone of depopulation in the eastern sector of the Carpathians, but its scope is smaller and smaller (fig. 6).

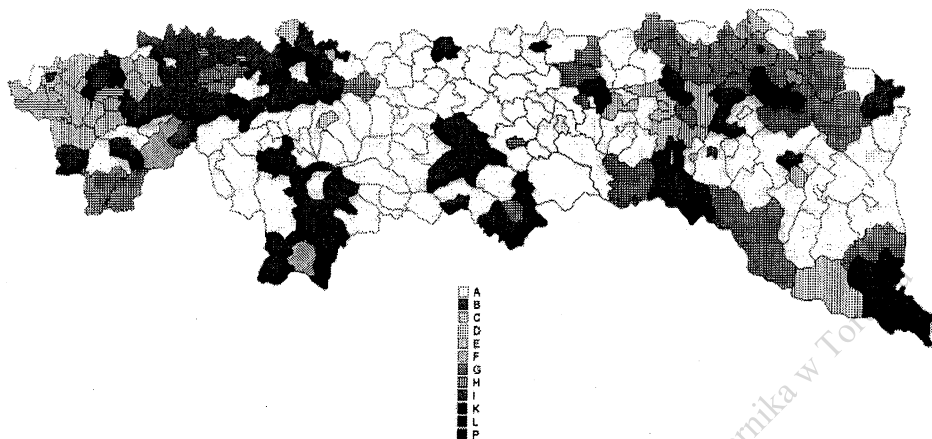


Fig. 6. Spatial distribution of the development types of the Carpathian rural population by communities, over the 1996–1998 period

A – P: types.

Source: Based on the Central Statistic Office data.

Summing up her consideration, the author finds, that the transition of Poland from the centrally planned economy to the market one slowed down the rate of the demographical growth, both on the whole country and in the Carpathians. The results of the rural areas population change typology, from the point of view of relation between the natural increase and the migration balance (according to J. W. Webb's method) are as follows: 1) the level of both those elements of the actual increase diminished, although the fall of the negative migration balance was higher than that of the natural increase, 2) the discussed region showed the considerable spatial differentiation of the particular types distribution there were disappearing or emerging zones of the demographical growth or decrease. In the spatial pattern, the new phenomenon, unusual in the Carpathian rural areas, is the appearing and development of areas of immigration, proving the growth of their attractiveness for future immigrants.

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NOWE TENDENCJE W ZALUDNIENIU TERENÓW WIEJSKICH KARPAT W OKRESIE PRZEMIAN USTROJOWYCH

STRESZCZENIE

W opracowaniu przedstawiono tendencje zmian zaludnienia terenów wiejskich Karpat w latach 1978–1998, tj. okresie przechodzenia z gospodarki socjalistycznej do gospodarki rynkowej. Dynamikę zmian zaludnienia rozpatrywano z punktu widzenia wzajemnych relacji przyrostu naturalnego i migracyjnego, tj. głównych składowych przyrostu rzeczywistego ludności. Wykorzystano w tym celu znaną metodę J. W. Webba (Webb, 1963; Kosiński, 1967). Jest ona coraz częściej wykorzystywana w badaniach nad dynamiką zmian zaludnienia rozpatrywaną w skali całego kraju (Pakulska, Rakowski, 1995), wybranych regionów (Michalski, 1998), ale i poszczególnych województw (Grzelak-Kostulska, 2000; Długosz, 2001) czy jednostek fizycznogeograficznych (Długosz, Soja, 1991; Soja, 2001). Typologia gmin karpaccich opiera się na miernikach obliczonych jako wartości średnie dla okresów trzyletnich z lat 1978–1998.

Karpaty, będące przedmiotem badań, to obszar górski położony w południowo-wschodniej części kraju, stanowiący nie administracyjną, ale fizycznogeograficzną jednostkę podziału Polski (Kondracki, 1998). W latach dziewięćdziesiątych w wyniku dokonującej się transformacji ustrojowej, jak i transformacji demograficznej nastąpiło spowolnienie tempa rozwoju ludnościowego Polski i Karpat. Mimo to w 1998 r. region ten skupiał aż 11,0% ogółu ludności wiejskiej kraju, stanowiąc tym samym swoiste „zagłębienie demograficzne” Polski.

Przemiany demograficzne, jakie nastąpiły w Polsce w wyniku transformacji ustrojowej i gospodarczej w latach 1978–1998 objęły także tereny wiejskie Karpat. Stwierdzono m.in.: wyraźne zmniejszanie się poziomu komponentów przyrostu rzeczywistego

(spadek ujemnego salda migracji był większy niż przyrostu naturalnego) – podobnie jak i w skali całego kraju. Ponadto uwidoczniło się przestrzenne zróżnicowanie omawianego regionu w zakresie rozkładu poszczególnych typów. Chodzi tu o zanikające lub pojawiające się obszary wzrostu bądź ubytku rzeczywistego ludności. Zjawiskiem nowym, nietypowym jak na tereny wiejskie Karpat jest pojawienie się i częściowe już wykształcenie obszarów o charakterze imigracyjnym, co niewątpliwie świadczyć może o wzroście atrakcyjności tych terenów wśród imigrantów.