

Education in the 2023/2024 school year (preliminary data)

1.07.2024

 **1.4%**

A decrease in the number of children participating in pre-primary education in comparison with the 2022/23 school year

In the 2023/24 school year, there were 22.5 thousand pre-primary establishments (the same as in the 2022/23 school year) with a total of 1512.0 thousand children enrolled (respectively 1.4% fewer).

Pre-primary education

Pre-primary education is the first stage of education in the Polish education system. It usually covers children aged 3-6 years. Education is implemented in nursery schools, pre-primary sections in primary schools, pre-primary education units and pre-primary centres. In the 2023/24 school year, there were 22.5 thousand pre-primary establishments in Poland (like a year earlier) with a total of 1512.0 thousand children (22.2 thousand fewer).

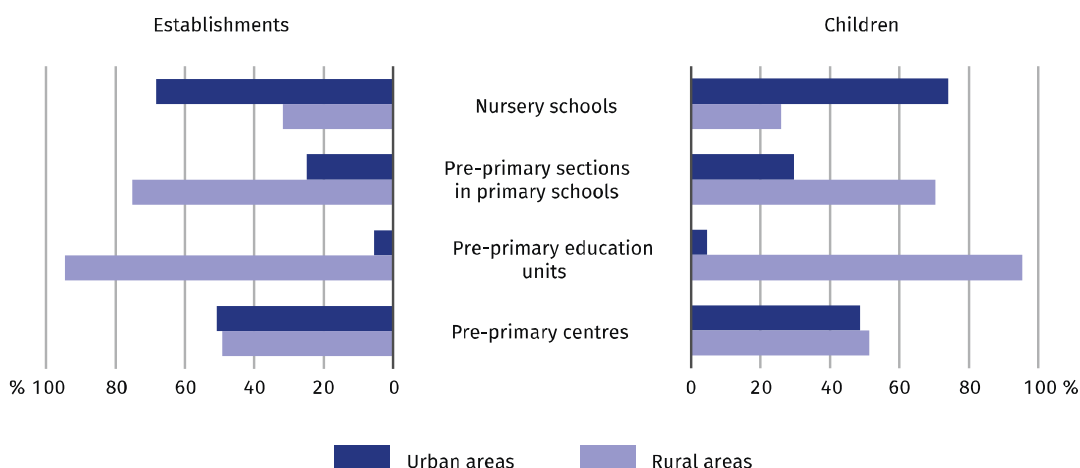
961 per 1,000 children aged 3-6 years participated in various forms of pre-primary education in the surveyed period (949 a year earlier). The net enrollment rate for pre-primary education stood at 115.6% in cities and 72.5% in rural areas.

Table 1. Pre-primary education
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION a – 2022/23 b – 2023/24		Establishments	Sections	Children
Total	a	22505	76002	1534212
	b	22505	76276	1512017
Nursery schools	a	13756	60538	1249173
	b	13888	60788	1228695
Pre-primary sections in primary schools	a	7305	14020	260235
	b	7218	14089	260026
Pre-primary education units	a	45	45	664
	b	37	37	522
Pre-primary centres	a	1399	1399	24140
	b	1362	1362	22774

81.3% of children covered by pre-primary education attended nursery schools, while 17.2% – pre-primary sections in primary schools

Chart 1. Pre-primary education in urban and rural areas
As of 30 September



In the 2023/24 school year, 66.0% of the total number of children covered by pre-primary education attended establishments in urban areas

Primary schools for children and youth

↓ **0.5%**

A decrease in the number of primary schools in comparison with the 2022/23 school year

In the 2023/24 school year, 3.0 million pupils (115.4 thousand less than in 2022/23) attended 14.0 thousand primary schools for children and youth in Poland.

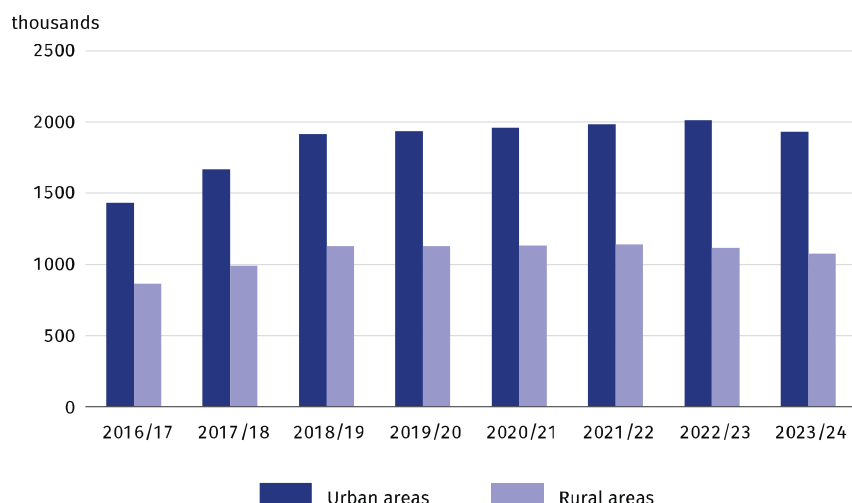
In the 2023/24 school year, there were 14.0 thousand primary schools for children and youth in Poland, 5.9 thousand in urban and 8.1 thousand in rural areas. 1.9 million pupils were enrolled in schools located in cities, while 1.1 million pupils attended schools in rural areas.

Table 2. Primary schools for children and youth
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION a – 2022/23 b – 2023/24		Schools	Sections	Pupils		Graduates	
				total	of which girls	total	of which girls
Total	a	14073	184105	3122826	1510787	512489	252618
	b	14000	180881	3007434	1451572	.	.
of which:							
Branch schools	a	186	742	7523	3617	322	159
	b	167	680	7073	3423	.	.
Art schools ^a	a	55	612	10210	6252	488	297
	b	55	659	11200	6880	.	.
Special schools	a	951	15005	51830	17568	6970	2389
	b	947	15649	53456	17890	.	.

a Not leading to professional certification.

Chart 2. Pupils in primary schools in urban and rural areas
As of 30 September



In the 2023/24 school year, 35.8% pupils were enrolled in primary schools for children and youth in rural areas, 64.2% in urban areas

Primary schools for children and youth run by public sector units represented 88.7% of all establishments (in urban areas – 81.1%, in rural areas – 94.2%). Non-public sector entities, on the other hand, ran 11.3% of schools (including special schools) which concentrated 94.1% and 4.9% of pupils respectively. Schools governed by local government units were the prevalent group (84.0%), accounting for 78.0% in urban and 88.5% in rural areas.

In the 2023/24 school year, an average section in a mainstream primary school comprised 18 pupils. Sections in primary schools for children and youth (excluding special schools) were smaller in rural areas. They averaged 15 pupils, whereas an average primary school section in urban areas concentrated 21 pupils.

There were 512.5 thousand graduates of primary schools in June 2023.

Post-primary schools for youth

 **8.8%**

An increase in the number of students in post-primary schools for youth in comparison with the 2022/23 school year

In the 2023/24 school year, there were 1818.9 thousand students of post-primary schools for youth in Poland (8.8% more than in 2022/23).

In the 2023/24 school year, there were 6.9 thousand post-primary schools for youth (including special schools) in Poland with a total of 1818.9 thousand students enrolled (1671.2 thousand in the previous school year). 2449 general secondary schools for youth were educating 806.1 thousand students, most of whom were women (62.2%). However, 1858 technical secondary schools with 755.2 thousand students concentrated mostly men (61.2%). 217.5 thousand students, 66.7% of whom were men, attended 1695 stage I sectoral vocational schools. 13.0 thousand pursued their education in 261 stage II sectoral vocational schools, including 12.4 thousand students in urban and 0.6 thousand in rural areas.

Special job-training schools are three-year schools exclusively for students with moderate and severe intellectual disability, as well as for students with multiple disabilities.

The graduates of these schools obtain a special job-training certificate.

In the 2023/24 school year, 12.5 thousand students were enrolled in 565 schools of this type.

In the 2023/24 school year, there were 6935 post-primary schools which concentrated by 8.8% more students than a year earlier. The general secondary school students (44.3%) and technical secondary school students (41.5%) prevailed among the students of this type of schools

General art schools leading to professional certification represent a separate group of post-primary schools. In the 2023/24 school year in Poland, 107 schools of this type were educating 14.7 thousand students (1.5% more than in the 2022/23 school year).

Most post-primary schools were governed by local government units – 73.8%.

In the 2022/23 school year, 330.4 thousand students graduated from post-primary schools for children and youth, including 166.8 thousand women.

Table 3. Post-primary schools for youth
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION a – 2022/23 b – 2023/24		Schools	Sections	Students		Graduates	
				total	of which females	total	of which females
Total	a	6819	70693	1671187	816920	330430	166819
	b	6935	76518	1818934	888209	.	.
Special job-training schools	a	560	3813	12713	4924	2868	1135
	b	565	3897	12483	4733	.	.
Stage I sectoral vocational schools	a	1672	9257	195097	63930	46799	15261
	b	1695	10259	217499	72405	.	.
Stage II sectoral vocational schools	a	226	585	11375	3167	1372	399
	b	261	766	12973	3832	.	.
General secondary schools	a	2398	27646	726386	455213	159937	101861
	b	2449	30173	806123	501589	.	.
Technical secondary schools	a	1861	28603	711140	277608	117346	46546
	b	1858	30612	755167	293021	.	.
General art schools ^a	a	102	789	14476	12078	2108	1617
	b	107	811	14689	12629	.	.

a Leading to professional certification.

51.2% of post-primary school students were men

Post-secondary schools

↓ **3.0%**

A decrease in the number of post-secondary schools in comparison with the 2022/23 school year

In the 2023/24 school year, there were 1248 post-secondary schools in Poland, educating 243.1 thousand students (3.5% more than in the 2022/23 school year).

In the 2023/24 school year, there were 1248 post-secondary schools (39 schools fewer than in the previous school year) with a total of 243.1 thousand students enrolled (respectively 8.3 thousand more), 71.3% of whom were women. These schools were mostly governed by private sector units (79.6%). Public schools accounted for 20.4%.

Table 4. Post-secondary schools
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION	2022/23	2023/24
Schools	1287	1248
Sections	9932	10130
Students	234817	243129
of which females	168275	173466
Graduates	68788	.
of which females	53349	.

Schools for adults

↓ **5.1%**

A decrease in the number of schools for adults in comparison with the 2022/23 school year

In the 2023/24 school year, 774 schools for adults operated in Poland. They concentrated 99.3 thousand students (a 12.1% increase on the previous school year).

99.3 thousand students attended 774 schools for adults in the 2023/24 school year. General secondary schools with 98.4 thousand students prevailed among the schools for adults (99.0% of the total number of students in schools for adults). Women represented 47.3% of students in general secondary schools and 34.2% in primary schools.

Table 5. Schools for adults
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION a – 2022/23 b – 2023/24		Schools	Sections	Students		Graduates	
				total	of which females	total	of which females
Total	a	816	3160	88640	41043	8330	3964
	b	774	3513	99326	46841	.	.
Primary schools	a	47	96	1206	398	356	115
	b	44	88	969	331	.	.
General secondary schools	a	769	3064	87434	40645	7974	3849
	b	730	3425	98357	46510	.	.

Enrollment rates

In the 2023/24 school year, 6.7 million children, youth and adults were enrolled in pre-primary establishments, primary schools, post-primary and post-secondary schools, which accounted for 17.8% of the population of Poland.

Table 6. Enrollment rates
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION	Age groups	Total	Males	Females
		in %		
Gross enrollment rates				
Pre-primary education	3-6	98.6	98.6	98.7
Primary schools	7-14	93.2	93.9	92.5
Stage I sectoral vocational schools ^a	15-17	19.2	24.9	13.2
General secondary schools	15-18	58.0	44.6	72.0
Technical secondary schools ^b	15-19	40.3	47.5	32.8
Post-secondary schools ^c	19-21	24.7	14.8	35.0
Net enrollment rates				
Pre-primary education	3-6	96.1	95.8	96.4
Primary schools	7-14	92.0	92.5	91.5
Stage I sectoral vocational schools ^a	15-17	14.4	18.8	9.8
General secondary schools	15-18	43.7	32.9	55.1
Technical secondary schools ^b	15-19	34.4	40.9	27.7
Post-secondary schools ^c	19-21	5.8	4.1	7.5

abc Including: a – special job-training schools, b – general art schools leading to professional certification, c – stage II sectoral vocational schools.

Gross enrollment rate is the ratio of the number of pupils and students at a given level of education **regardless of age** to the population in the age group defined as corresponding to this level of education.

Net enrollment rate is the ratio of the number of pupils and students **in a given age group** at a given level of education to the population in the age group defined as corresponding to this level of education.

Teachers (in full-time equivalents)

 **2.5%**

An increase in the number of full-time equivalents teachers in comparison with the 2022/23 school year

In the 2023/24 school year, there were 525.2 thousand teachers employed in Poland (in full-time equivalents).

In the 2023/24 school year, the educational establishments employed a total of 525.2 thousand teachers (in full-time equivalents). Primary school teachers were the prevalent group – 49.3%. The most women were employed in pre-primary establishments (99.1%) and in primary schools (83.4%). Men prevailed among teachers in art schools (40.9%) and in stage I sectoral secondary schools (41.1%). The majority of teachers were employed as chartered teachers (55.0%).

82.6% of full-time equivalent teachers were women

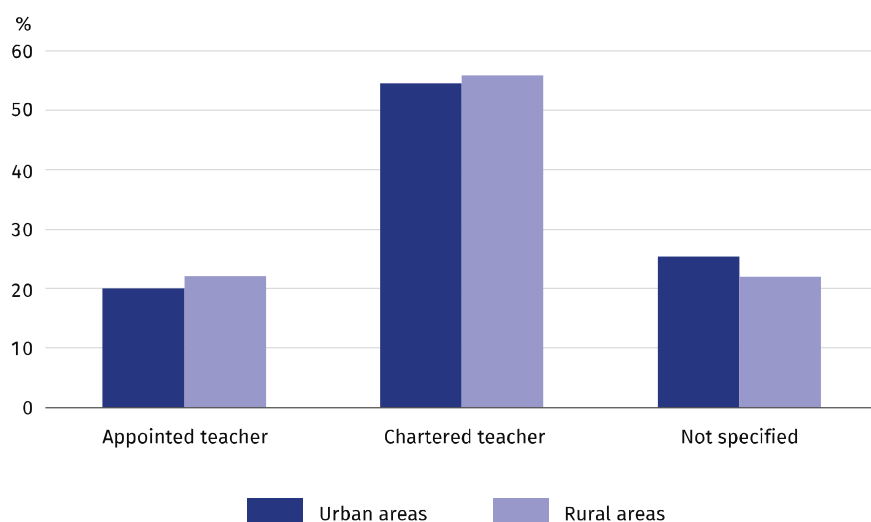
Table 7. Teachers (in full-time equivalents) ^a by type of school
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION	2022/23	2023/24
Total	512102	525157
Pre-primary establishments	108844	121882
Primary schools	264780	259101
Stage I sectoral vocational schools	12995	13606
Stage II sectoral vocational schools	349	370
General secondary schools	51790	55568
Technical secondary schools	54603	55947
Post-secondary schools ^b	2756	2860
Art schools	11007	10990
Special job training schools	4981	4833

^a Data may not sum up due to rounding.

^b Including colleges of social work.

Chart 3. Full-time and part-time teachers (full-time equivalents)^a in urban and rural areas by career advancement degree
As of 30 September



^a Data may not sum up due to rounding.

In the 2023/24 school year,
71.9% of teachers worked
in urban areas

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Related information

[Education in the 2022/2023 school year](#)

Data available in databases

[Local Data Bank – Pre-primary education](#)

[Local Data Bank – Education](#)

[Knowledge Databases – Education](#)

[STRATEG system – Education](#)

[Public Services Monitoring System – Education](#)

[OECD Database – Education](#)

[Eurostat Database – Education and training](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Pre-primary education](#)

[Primary school](#)

[Post-primary school](#)

[Post-secondary school](#)

[School for adults](#)

[Gross enrollment rate](#)

[Net enrollment rate](#)

[Student](#)

[Graduate](#)

[Teacher](#)