

Education in the 2025/2026 school year (preliminary data)

1.07.2026


31.5 thousand

A decrease in the number of persons enrolled in educational institutions in comparison with the 2024/25 school year

In the 2025/26 school year, 6.7 million children, youth and adults were enrolled in pre-primary establishments, primary schools, post-primary and post-secondary schools (0.5% fewer than in the previous year), accounting for 17.9% of Poland's population.

Pre-primary education

In the Polish education system, pre-primary education is provided in nursery schools, pre-primary sections in primary schools, pre-primary education units and pre-primary centres. **In the 2025/26 school year, there were 21.9 thousand pre-primary establishments (1.8% fewer than a year earlier), attended by 1362.1 thousand children (6.2% fewer).**

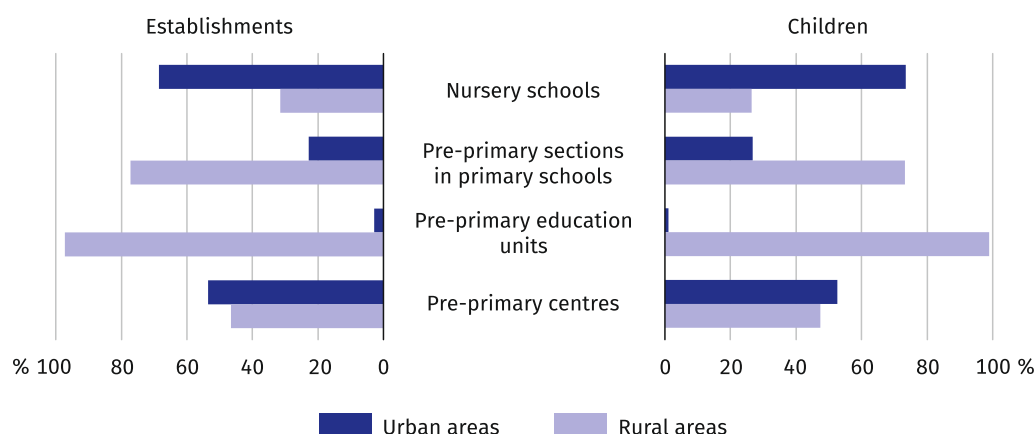
971 per 1,000 children aged 3-6 years participated in various forms of pre-primary education in the reported period (similarly to the previous year). The net enrollment rate for pre-primary education stood at 114.4% in cities and 75.5% in rural areas. The greater availability of pre-primary establishments in urban areas, combined with the occupational mobility of parents who drop off their children on their way to work, leads to an inflow of children from rural gminas to these establishments.

Table 1. Pre-primary education
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION a – 2024/25 b – 2025/26		Establishments	Sections	Children
Total	a	22279	75098	1452357
	b	21877	72490	1362124
Nursery schools	a	13962	60224	1188544
	b	13962	58480	1123602
Pre-primary sections in primary schools	a	6997	13554	242509
	b	6656	12751	219486
Pre-primary education units	a	34	34	457
	b	36	36	460
Pre-primary centres	a	1286	1286	20847
	b	1223	1223	18576

82.5% of children enrolled in pre-primary education attended nursery schools, while 16.1% – pre-primary sections in primary schools

Chart 1. Pre-primary education in urban and rural areas in the 2025/26 school year
As of 30 September



In the 2025/26 school year, 65.6% of the total number of children enrolled in pre-primary education attended establishments in urban areas

Primary schools for children and youth

In the 2025/26 school year, 3.3 million pupils (46.3 thousand more than in 2024/25) attended 13.9 thousand primary schools for children and youth in Poland. This increase was caused by two main factors: the introduction of compulsory school attendance for refugee children from Ukraine, effective as of 1 September 2024, and demographic changes following the graduation of the so-called double cohort. There were 6.1 thousand primary schools in urban areas and 7.9 thousand in rural areas. 2.1 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

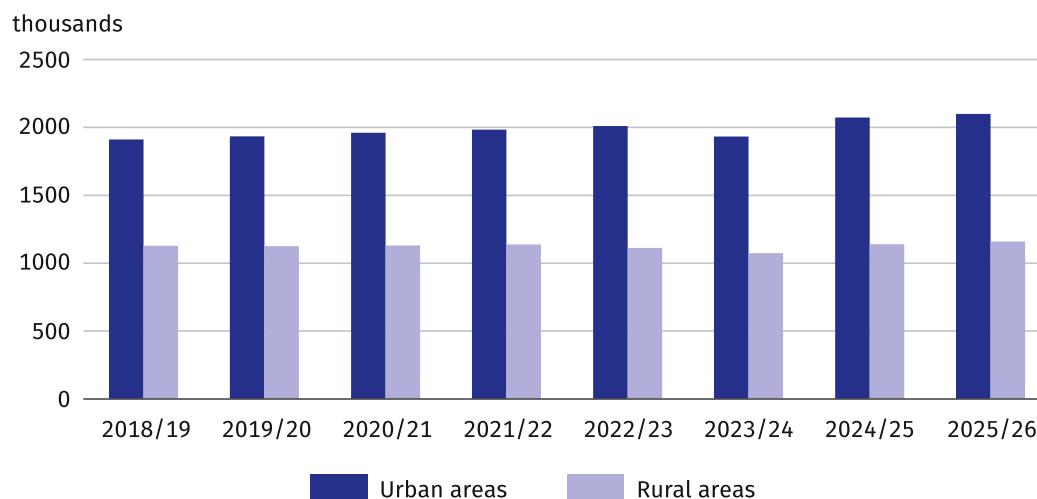
SPECIFICATION a – 2024/25 b – 2025/26		Schools	Sections	Pupils		Graduates	
				total	of which girls	total	of which girls
Total	a	14012	190723	3213121	1556864	367281	175377
	b	13947	193610	3259428	1582727	•	•
of which:							
Branch schools	a	151	637	6789	3310	170	83
	b	137	584	6324	3017	•	•
General art schools ^a	a	57	684	11862	7309	1214	722
	b	57	701	12217	7561	•	•
Special schools	a	953	16459	56853	19076	6997	2503
	b	960	17297	59882	20080	•	•

In the 2025/26 school year, there were 1.4% more pupils/students in primary schools for children and youth than a year ago

a Not leading to professional certification.

Chart 2. Pupils in primary schools for children and youth in urban and rural areas

As of 30 September



In the 2025/26 school year, 64.4% pupils were enrolled in primary schools for children and youth in urban areas, 35.6% in rural areas

In the 2025/26 school year, primary schools for children and youth (including special schools) run by public sector entities represented 88.0% of all establishments (80.0% in urban areas and 94.1% in rural areas). The largest group (83.4%) comprised schools run by local government units – 76.9% in urban areas and 88.4% in rural areas.

In the 2025/26 school year, the average section size in mainstream primary schools was 18 pupils. Sections in primary schools for children and youth (excluding special schools) were smaller in rural areas. The average section in a rural school had 15 pupils, compared to 20 per section in urban schools.

367.3 thousand pupils graduated from primary schools at the end of the 2024/25 school year.

Post-primary schools for youth

In the 2025/26 school year, there were 7.1 thousand post-primary schools for youth in Poland, including special schools (1.8% more than in the previous school year), attended by a total of 1703.7 thousand students (0.2% more than a year earlier). 2.5 thousand general secondary schools for youth educated 778.2 thousand students, most of whom were female (61.0%). However, 684.9 thousand students attended 1.8 thousand technical secondary schools, where males predominated (62.3%). A total of 190.8 thousand students, 66.4% of whom were male, attended 1.7 thousand stage I sectoral vocational schools. 22.5 thousand pursued their education in 0.3 thousand stage II sectoral vocational schools – most of them were male (69.2%).

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. Graduates of these schools obtain a certificate of special job-training. In the 2025/26 school year, 12.8 thousand students were enrolled in 0.6 thousand such schools.

General art schools leading to professional certification represent a separate group of post-primary schools. In the 2025/26 school year, 14.5 thousand students were enrolled in 0.1 thousand such schools in Poland (3.1% more than in the 2024/25 school year).

The majority of post-primary schools (74.1%) were operated by local government units.

In the 2024/25 school year, 349.5 thousand students graduated from post-primary schools for children and youth, of whom 170.3 thousand were female.

The general secondary school students (45.7%) and technical school students (40.2%) prevailed among the students of this type of schools in the 2025/26 school year

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

SPECIFICATION a – 2024/25 b – 2025/26		Schools	Sections	Students		Graduates	
				total	of which females	total	of which females
Total	a	6945	73879	1699834	823586	349465	170281
	b	7067	74845	1703659	821290	•	•
Special job-training schools	a	568	4050	12610	4774	2380	926
	b	574	4192	12784	4819	•	•
Stage I sectoral vocational schools	a	1697	10360	212415	71854	68608	23313
	b	1700	9835	190802	64150	•	•
Stage II sectoral vocational schools	a	252	690	12627	3798	3856	1232
	b	320	1002	22494	6924	•	•
General secondary schools	a	2470	29025	760353	468360	161244	100397
	b	2505	30028	778159	474653	•	•
Technical secondary schools	a	1848	28943	687737	262686	111100	42492
	b	1849	28957	684896	258313	•	•
General art schools ^a	a	110	811	14092	12114	2277	1921
	b	119	831	14524	12431	•	•

a Leading to professional certification.

Post-secondary schools

In the 2025/26 school year, there were 1.2 thousand post-secondary schools (3 schools fewer than in the previous school year), with a total of 243.5 thousand students enrolled (2.3 thousand fewer), 71.3% of whom were female. The majority of these schools were operated by private sector entities (79.1%).

Table 4. Post-secondary schools
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION	2024/25	2025/26
Schools	1215	1212
Sections	10252	10540
Students	245869	243546
of which females	172844	173619
Graduates	80618	•
of which females	61041	•

In the 2025/26 school year, there were more post-primary schools of all types, the highest increase was recorded in stage II sectoral vocational schools (27.0%)

In the 2025/26 school year, there were 0.2% fewer post-secondary schools in Poland with 0.9% fewer students than in the previous school year

Schools for adults

In the 2025/26 school year, 0.7 thousand schools for adults operated in Poland, attended by 114.7 thousand students (10.9 thousand more than in the 2024/25 school year). General secondary schools prevailed among the schools for adults, with 113.9 thousand students (99.4% of the total number of students in schools for adults). Women represented 45.9% of students in general secondary schools and 32.3% in primary schools.

Table 5. Schools for adults
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION a – 2024/25 b – 2025/26		Schools	Sections	Students		Graduates	
				total	of which females	total	of which females
Total	a	751	3590	103731	48668	27053	13576
	b	715	3680	114656	52569	•	•
Primary schools	a	40	77	850	293	355	147
	b	36	76	724	234	•	•
General secondary schools	a	711	3513	102881	48375	26698	13429
	b	679	3604	113932	52335	•	•

In the 2025/26 school year, there were 4.8% fewer schools for adults, but 10.5% more students in comparison with the previous school year

Enrollment rates

Table 6. Enrollment rates in the 2025/26 school year
As of 30 September

SPECIFICATION	Age groups	Total	Males	Females
		in %		
Gross enrollment rates				
Pre-primary education	3-6	99.5	99.6	99.4
Primary schools	7-14	102.5	102.6	102.3
Stage I sectoral vocational schools ^a	15-17	15.9	20.5	11.0
General secondary schools	15-18	53.1	42.4	64.3
Technical secondary schools ^b	15-19	34.0	40.7	27.0
Post-secondary schools ^c	19-21	24.5	15.4	34.1
Net enrollment rates				
Pre-primary education	3-6	97.1	96.9	97.4
Primary schools	7-14	101.2	101.0	101.3
Stage I sectoral vocational schools ^a	15-17	13.0	16.9	9.0
General secondary schools	15-18	46.7	36.1	57.9
Technical secondary schools ^b	15-19	33.3	40.0	26.4
Post-secondary schools ^c	19-21	6.7	5.1	8.3

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

Teachers (in full-time equivalents)

In the 2025/26 school year in Poland, educational institutions employed a total of 508.3 thousand teachers (in full-time equivalents), 0.5% fewer than in the 2024/25 school year. Primary school teachers were the prevalent group – 51.9%. The most women were employed in pre-primary establishments (99.0%) and in primary schools (83.7%). Men were most represented among teachers in art schools (41.5%) and in stage I sectoral secondary schools (40.6%). The majority of teachers held the position of chartered teachers (56.5%).

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

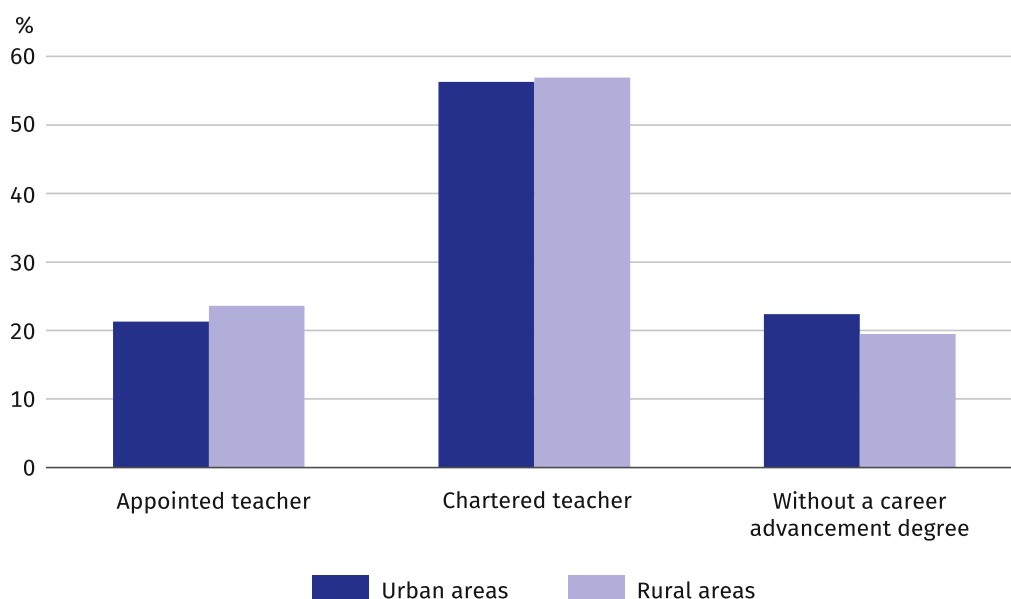
SPECIFICATION	2024/25	2025/26
Total	511030	508326
Pre-primary establishments	107356	105390
Primary schools	263762	263739
Stage I sectoral vocational schools	13763	13256
Stage II sectoral vocational schools	359	544
General secondary schools	53992	54325
Technical secondary schools	53515	52230
Post-secondary schools ^c	2710	2855
Art schools	10718	11025
Special job training schools	4856	4960

a See methodological explanations.

b Data do not sum up due to rounding.

c Including colleges of social work.

Chart 3. Full-time and part-time teachers ^a (full-time equivalents) ^b in urban and rural areas by career advancement degree in the 2025/26 school year
As of 30 September



a See methodological explanations.

b Data do not sum up due to rounding.

In the 2025/26 school year, 82.6% of full-time equivalent teachers were women

In the 2025/26 school year, 71.8% of teachers worked in urban areas, the majority of them held the position of chartered teachers – 56.3% in urban areas, while 56.9% in rural areas

METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS

The presented data are derived from the Educational Information System which operates under the Act of 15 April 2011 (Journal of Laws 2022, item 868, as amended) and is managed by the minister responsible for school education.

The data on pupils and students are given as of 30 September and relate to the 2024/25-2025/26 school years. The data on graduates refer to the 2024/25 school year. The number of external graduates is included in the total number of graduates of schools for adults and post-secondary schools.

Pre-primary education covers children from the beginning of the school year in the calendar year when the child turns 3 until the end of the school year in the calendar year when the child reaches the age of 7. It is implemented in nursery schools, pre-primary sections in primary schools and in other forms of pre-school education (pre-primary education units and pre-primary centres). The purpose of pre-primary education is to provide children with care, support their individual development, implement the core curriculum and prepare them for school education.

Schools and pre-primary establishments can be public or non-public. Only public schools may be established and run by competent ministers and local government units (gminas, powiats and voivodships). Non-public schools are run by legal or natural persons on the basis of an entry in the register of non-public establishments and schools maintained by the education department of the relevant local government unit.

In this publication, schools are divided into schools for children and youth, and schools for adults, which operate under a separate organisation of education. Schools for adults admit persons aged 18 and over (including those who turn 18 in the calendar year of enrollment).

The data on teachers refer to those employed to conduct compulsory educational activities (i.e. excluding staff engaged exclusively in extracurricular activities, etc.) and non-teaching staff employed to conduct classes. The teacher career advancement path comprises two formal career advancement degrees and one preparatory period (beginning teachers, teachers employed pursuant to Article 10 (9) of the Teacher's Charter Act, and persons employed pursuant to Article 15 (1-06) of the Law on School Education). The number of teachers is given in full-time equivalents, covering both full-time and part-time teachers.

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.

A detailed description of the methodology concerning school education is available in the annual publication "[Education in Poland](#)", available on the Information Portal of Statistics Poland.

When quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide the information: "Source of data: Statistics Poland", and when publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please include the following disclaimer: "Own study based on figures from Statistics Poland".

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[Knowledge Databases – Education](#)

[STRATEG system – Education](#)

[Public Services Monitoring System – Education](#)

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[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](#)