

Activity of cultural institutions in Opolskie Voivodship in 2023

29 August 2024

↑ 4.0%

Increase in the number of public library users in relation to 2022

In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2023, there were 300 public libraries, in which 131.5 thousand library users borrowed out-of-library 2.5 million volumes of book collection during the year. Exhibition activities were conducted by 20 museums and 2 art galleries, while performance activities by 4 theatres and music institutions. At the end of 2023, there were 14 operating indoor cinemas, in which, during the year, 38.3 thousand screenings

took place. In the voivodship, there were also 185 cultural institutions, which organised 6.9 thousand events.

Public libraries and library-information units

In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2023, there were 336¹ public libraries and library-information units and their number decreased by 1 compared to the previous year and by 17 in relation to 2015. Among all libraries and library-information units, majority were public libraries. At the end of 2023, there were 300 of them, including 227 library branches. Most public libraries with branches operated in rural areas (74.7%). The number of public libraries and branches decreased by 1 compared to 2022 and by 15 in relation to 2015. At the end of 2023, there were 14 operating library service points, i.e. fewer by 3 than in the year before and by 1 in relation to 2015.

Per 1 public library or branch, there were 3122 persons in the voivodship on average (in the country – 4972), while in the year before – 3131. In the urban area this indicator was 3 times higher than in rural one and amounted to: 6500 and 1976, respectively.

The level of readership, measured with the number of readers in public libraries increased compared to 2022, however decreased versus 2015. The number of registered actively borrowing library users in 2023 amounted to 131.5 thousand, i.e. more by 4.0% in relation to 2022, though fewer by 15.9% compared to 2015.

In 2023, the number of public libraries users increased compared to the previous year

Table 1. Public libraries (with branches)

Specification	2015	2022	2023		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2022=100
Public libraries ^a	315	301	300	95.2	99.7
Library service points ^a	15	17	14	93.3	82.4
Collection ^a in thousand volumes	3844.3	3666.1	3652.1	95.0	99.6
Library users ^b in thousands	156.4	126.4	131.5	84.1	104.0
Loans ^b :					
in thousand volumes	2941.0	2388.5	2459.8	83.6	103.0
per 1 library user in volumes	18.8	18.9	18.7	.	.

a As of 31 December. b Including library service points.

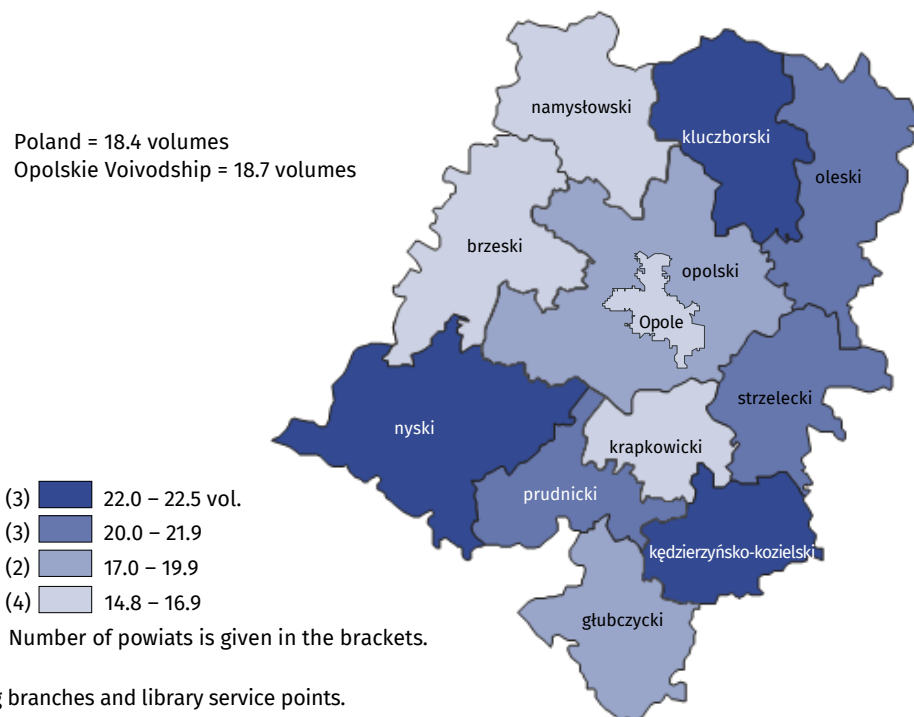
¹ Of which 1 library also had the scientific library status.

In 2023, the most numerous group of public library users by age categories were persons aged 25–44, who constituted 23.6% of the total number of library users. In terms of occupation, the most public library users were employed persons, i.e. 38.1% while studying persons accumulated 36.5% of library users.

The largest number of library users in 2023 benefitted from public libraries in the city of Opole (30.5 thousand) then in Opolski Powiat (15.6 thousand) and Nyski Powiat (13.6 thousand). In terms of number of library users per 1000 inhabitants, the leading one was city of Opole (242), while the second place was Krapkowicki Powiat (201), followed by Oleski Powiat (151).

The most public library users per 1000 inhabitants were recorded in the city of Opole

Map 1. Loans^a of collection in public libraries per 1 library user in 2023



^a Including branches and library service points.

In 2023, public libraries in Opolskie Voivodship recorded an increase (of 4.8%) in the number of collection loans to users in reading rooms and out-of-library loans (of 3.0%) in relation to the previous year. The highest value of the indicator of loans from public libraries per 1000 population was recorded in the city of Opole (4017 volumes) and powiats: Oleski (3115 volumes) and Krapkowicki (2976 volumes). The value of the loan indicator per 1 library user in 2023 amounted to 18.7 volumes versus 18.9 volumes in the previous year and 18.8 volumes in 2015. The highest value was recorded in powiats: Kluczborski and Nyski (22.5 volumes each) as well as in Kędzierzyńsko-Kozielski (22.4 volumes).

The number of collection loans in public libraries in reading rooms increased by 4.8% compared to 2022

The network of public libraries in the voivodship is supported by library-information units. In 2023 conducting activity were 23 scientific libraries, 7 professional libraries, 5 pedagogical libraries, 1 specialised-fiction library and 1 centre of scientific, technical and economic information (INTE).

Collection of public libraries and library-information units, at the end of 2023, amounted to 5669.1 thousand volumes and was lower than in the previous year by 0.4%. Special collections amounted to 344.4 thousand volumes (in 2022 – 342.8 thousand volumes), of which the most numerous category were audio-visual materials (137.1 thousand).

In 2023, in public libraries and library-information units, 1.7 thousand computers were used, of which 44.1% were computers for the use of library users (of which 96.4% had an access to the Internet).

Besides lending their collection to library users, public libraries and library-information points organise various kinds of cultural-educational events. In 2023 there were 8.9 thousand of such events (in the year before – 9.6 thousand), of which the most (97.9% of all undertakings) were organised in public libraries. A total of 249.9 thousand users were involved in classes (in 2022 – 261.7 thousand). As part of their activity in 2023, public libraries and library-information units organised 14 conferences and seminars, attended by 1.5 thousand users (in the previous year: 9 conferences and 0.6 thousand users, respectively).

In terms of amenities for persons with special needs in 2023, building entrances adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities were in 136 facilities, i.e. 40.5% of all public libraries and library-information units. Amenities inside the building were in 29.2% of units (26.1% in the previous year).

Centres of culture, cultural establishments and centres, clubs and community centres

In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2023, there were 185 centres of culture, cultural establishments and centres as well as clubs and community centres. The most numerous group were community centres (52.4% of all establishments), followed by cultural establishments (21.6%), while the least numerous were clubs (3.8%) and centres of culture (5.9%). A larger part of facilities (73.0%) was located in rural areas, with the rural facilities being mostly community centres (93.8% of the total number of this type of institutions) and cultural establishments (73.3%). Clubs occurred only in urban areas.

The most facilities operated in the area of powiats: Brzeski (24), Nyski (23) and Strzelecki (22), while the least were in Głubczycki Powiat (4) and city of Opole (6).

In Opolskie Voivodship, there were on average 5.1 thousand people (in the country 9.5 thousand) per 1 facility. The best situation in this regard was in Namysłowski Powiat (2.2 thousand) where there were 2 times fewer inhabitants per 1 facility than on average in the voivodship, followed by Prudnicki Powiat (3.0 thousand) then Krapkowicki Powiat (3.1 thousand).

In 2023 there were 11 centres of culture, 30 cultural establishments, 40 cultural centres, 7 clubs and 97 community centres

Table 2. Centres of culture, cultural establishments and centres, clubs and community centres

as of 31 December

Specification	2015	2022	2023		
	in absolute numbers		2015=100	2022=100	
Institutions	214	188	185	86.4	98.4
Events ^a	8157	5976	6868	84.2	114.9
Event participants ^a in thousands	659.4	493.0	593.7	90.0	120.4
Artistic groups (ensembles)	542	457	462	85.2	101.1
Members of artistic groups in thousands	8.3	7.2	7.5	89.9	103.6
Groups (clubs)	687	712	647	94.2	90.9
Members of groups (clubs) in thousands	14.9	12.7	11.3	75.8	89.5
Courses ^a	98	112	64	65.3	57.1
Course graduates ^a in thousands	1.5	1.8	1.2	78.8	65.5

a During the year.

An important aspect of functioning of cultural institution is their infrastructure facilities. In 2023, in Opolskie Voivodship, 95.1% of institutions used a separate building. Premises shared with other institutions were most often used by cultural centres (41.6%), community centres (35.6%), followed by centres of culture (8.9%). Among all facilities, 50.5% were

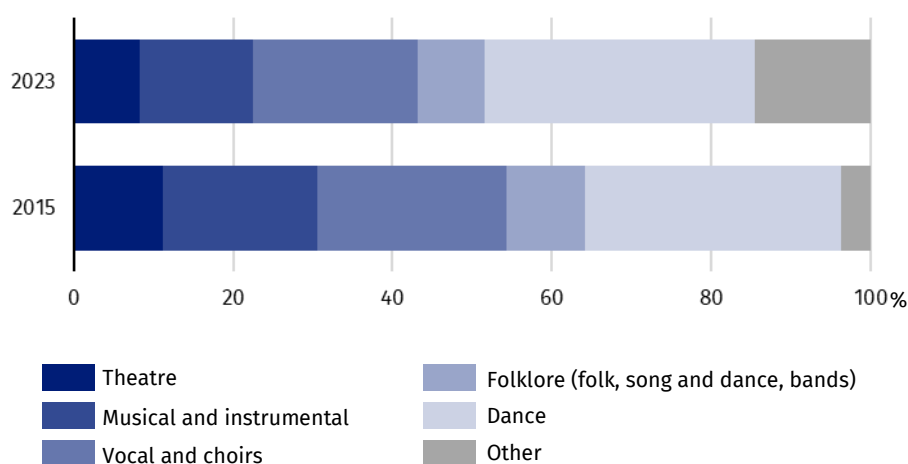
adjusted to the needs of persons with disabilities. Out of this group, 96.4% had an adapted entrance to the building and 72.1% adequate amenities inside the building.

In 2023, centres of culture, cultural establishments, clubs and community centres organised 6.9 thousand events, i.e. more by 14.9% than in the previous year, however fewer by 15.8% in relation to 2015. They were attended by 593.7 thousand participants, that is more by 20.4% compared to 2022, while fewer by 10.0% than in 2015. Workshops (29.1%), presentations, meetings, lectures (12.2%) as well as tourist and sport-recreational events (10.7%) were most often organised. The largest number of participants per 1 event was recorded in following types of events: concerts (261), festivals and artistic reviews (200) as well as theatrical performances (179). The most dynamic, in terms of number of organised events per 1 institution, were centres of culture – on average 92 events during the year, while the least, i.e. on average 17 events, were organised by community centres.

In all institutions in 2023, there were 462 artistic groups (the year before – 457, while in 2015 – 542), with 7.5 thousand members (in 2022 – 7.2 thousand, while in 2015 – 8.3 thousand). The most numerous were dance groups (2.8 thousands), vocal groups and choirs (1.3 thousand) as well as musical-instrumental groups (1.1 thousand). On average, 1 artistic group had 16 members. Among members of artistic groups predominant were children and school youth (66.5%). Every fifth member of the artistic group was a person over 60 years of age (19.4%).

1 institution organised 37 events on average

Chart 1. Structure of artistic groups by type
as of 31 December



In 2023, on average, per 1000 inhabitants of the voivodship, 8 persons were members of a chosen artistic group operating in the centre of culture, cultural establishment and centre, club or community centre. The most active in this regard were inhabitants of Głubczycki Powiat, in which 17 per 1000 persons took part in activities of artistic groups, followed by powiats: Kluczborski (13) and Opolski (12). The lowest level of discussed indicator was recorded in the city of Opole, where 1 person per 1000 population participated in activity of artistic groups.

In centres of culture, cultural establishments and centres, clubs and community centres there were also groups, clubs, sections, i.e. systematic classes with specific thematic profile in organised groups. At the end of 2023, there were 647 groups, clubs, sections, i.e. fewer by 9.1% than in the previous year and by 5.8% versus 2015. There were 11.3 thousand persons (the year before – 12.7 thousand, while in 2015 – 14.9 thousand) who were members of groups, clubs, sections. On average, there were 18 members per 1 group, club, section. The most members per 1 group, club, section gathered in senior clubs/The Third Age University (47 persons) and film discussion clubs (24). The level of participation rate

of inhabitants in centres, clubs, sections activity (the number of centres, clubs and sections members per 1000 population) at the end of 2023 in the voivodship amounted to 12 (in the year before – 13). The highest rate was recorded in Prudnicki Powiat (25), followed by Strzelecki Powiat (18), while the lowest in the city of Opole (4).

The offer of centres of culture, cultural establishments and centres, clubs and community centres also included organising various kinds of courses. In 2023, all institutions conducted 64 courses (in the year before – 122), among which the most popular were learning foreign languages (21), dance (16) as well as learning to play instruments (12). The status of graduate was given to 1.2 thousand persons, i.e. fewer by 34.5% than in the previous year. Persons over 60 years of age accounted for 17.2% of all course graduates.

Museums² and art galleries

At the end of 2023, in Opolskie Voivodship, exhibition activity was carried by 20 museums, including 2 museum branches. Stakeholder of vast majority of institutions were local government units (65.0%). Entrance to the building adjusted to the needs of persons with disabilities was present in 65.0% of museum facilities and just as many facilities were fitted with amenities inside the building.

The total number of museum exhibits, as of the end of 2023, amounted to 284.4 thousand and increased by 4.9% compared to the previous year. The most museum exhibits were located in the city of Opole (48.4%), followed by Brzeski Powiat (22.2%). The richest in museum exhibits were interdisciplinary (41.8%) and historical (33.6%) museums.

Table 3. Museums

Specification	2015	2022	2023		
	in absolute numbers		2015=100	2022=100	
Museums and museum branches ^a	16	20	20	125.0	100.0
Museum exhibits ^{ab} in thousand pieces	129.3	271.0	284.4	.	104.9
Temporary exhibitions	148	133	142	95.9	106.8
Museum and exhibition visitors in thousands	237.2	248.7	256.2	108.0	103.0
of which youth school ^c	60.0	43.6	48.6	81.0	111.6

a As of 31 December. b In 2015 in inventory schools. c Visiting museums in organised groups.

Museums in 2023 were visited by 256.2 thousand persons and their number increased by 3.0% compared to 2022 and by 8.0% in relation to 2015. Organised groups of school youth accounted for 19.0% the total number of visitors (in 2022 – 17.5%). In 2023, the number of visitors to museums and exhibitions per 1000 amounted to 273 persons (in the country – 1123), while in 2022 – 263. The most popular among visitors were interdisciplinary museums, which were visited by 58.9 thousand persons, museums with a historical profile – 57.8 thousand persons as well as ethnographic anthropological museums – 51.7 thousand.

The annually organised “Night of Museums” is an opportunity to get to know Polish heritage. This form of sightseeing in 2023 in Opolskie Voivodship was used by 11.4 thousand persons versus 12.6 thousand in the previous year and 11.9 thousand – in 2015.

Museum exhibits were presented as part of permanent and temporary exhibitions. In 2023 in museums, there were 142 temporary and 73 permanent exhibitions. Besides exhibitions, as part of educational activity, museums organised 638 readings and lectures as well as

Museums in 2022 were visited by 3.0% more persons than in 2022

1 museum organised 7 temporary exhibitions on average

²From 2020 onwards, counted as museums are only museums, which operate on the basis of statute agreed with the Minister of Culture and National Heritage or regulation.

presented 142 film screenings for visitors. Museums also carried out publishing activity, as part of which they published 22 titles, i.e. as in 2022, with a total edition of 12.0 thousand copies (the year before – 14.0 thousand).

In Opolskie Voivodship in 2023, there were 2 art galleries. The number of visitors amounted to 139.3 thousand persons and was higher by 18.6% than in the year before and by 22.9% compared to 2015. Per 1 art gallery there were, on average, 69.7 thousand visitors (in the country – 12.6 thousand), in the year before – 58.8 thousand, while in 2015 – 37.8 thousand. On average 1 exhibition was seen by 2.3 thousand persons (in the country – 1.1 thousand), the year before – 2.6 thousand, while in 2015 – 2.8 thousand.

In 2023, art galleries organised 60 exhibitions in the country

Table 4. Art galleries

Specification	2015	2022	2023		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2022=100
Art galleries ^a	3	2	2	66.7	100.0
Exhibitions ^b	41	46	60	146.3	130.4
Expositions ^b	41	49	60	146.3	122.4
Visitors in thousands	113.4	117.5	139.3	122.9	118.6

a As of 31 December. b In the country.

In Opolskie Voivodship's galleries, own collections included, similarly to the year before, 1241 exhibits with the largest part being painting (602) and photography (289).

Art galleries, besides exhibition activity, organised various kinds of educational meetings. In 2023, galleries in Opolskie Voivodship organised 181 workshops and lessons, in which 3.9 thousand persons participated. As part of galleries' activities, lectures and presentations, film screenings, concerts and shows, competitions and performances. These events gathered in total 9.2 thousand participants and spectators. Additionally, art galleries carried out publishing activity, which in 2023 covered 77 titles in printed form with a total edition of 9.8 thousand copies.

Theatres and musical institutions

In 2023, in Opolskie Voivodship, performance activity was carried out by 4 theatres and institutions (2 dramatic theatres, puppet theatre and philharmonic hall) and all of them had their own, permanent artistic ensemble.

Table 5. Theatres and music institutions

Specification	2015	2022	2023		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2022=100
Theatres and music institutions ^a	3	4	4	133.3	100.0
Seats in fixed halls ^a	2048	2311	2286	111.6	98.9
Performances and concerts ^b	806	726	905	112.3	124.7
Spectators and listeners ^b in thousands	160.1	141.2	167.6	104.7	118.7

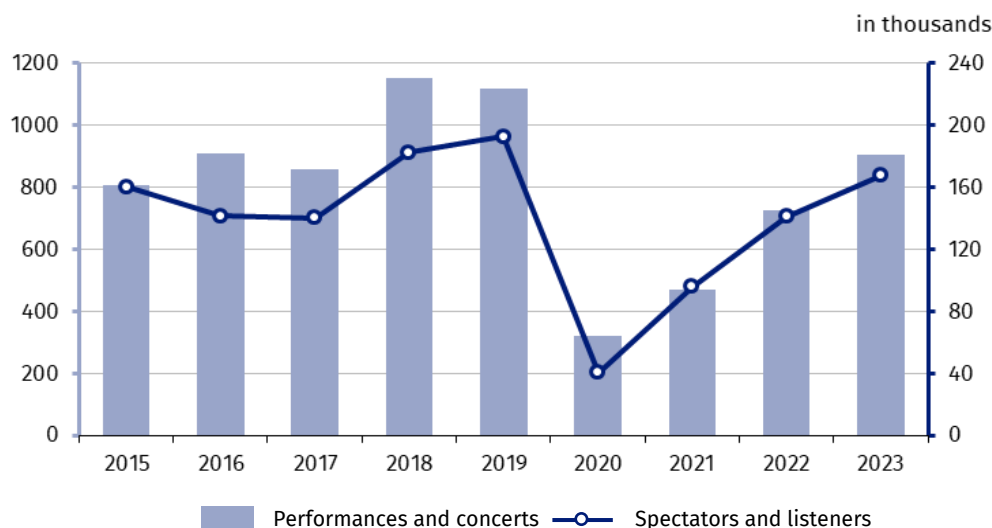
a As of 31 December. b By locality.

Theatres and music institutions organised 905 performances and concerts, which were attended by 167.6 thousand spectators and listeners. Compared to the previous year, the number of performances and concerts increased by 24.7%, while the number of spectators and

Theatres and music institutions organised by 24.7 more performances and concerts than in 2022

listeners by 18.7%. In relation to 2015, there was also an increase: of 12.3% and of 4.7%, respectively. The average number of performances and concerts per 1 entity in 2023 amounted to 226 (in the country – 325) versus 182 in the year before and 269 in 2015.

Chart 2. Performances and concerts as well as spectators and listeners in theatres and music institutions^a



^a By locality.

In 2023, the most performances (42.5%) were organised in dramatic theatres, performances in puppet theatres accounted for 41.0% of the total number of performances and concerts, whereas those organised by philharmonic – 16.5%. Theatres: dramatic and puppet in 2023 gathered 106.2 thousand spectators on 756 performances, while 61.4 thousand listeners attended 149 concerts organised by philharmonic.

The number of spectators and listeners per 1 performance and concert in 2023 was at the level of 185 (in the country – 207), in the year before 195 while in 2015 – 199. This indicator was the largest in case of philharmonic, where 1 concert was on average listened by 412 persons, followed by dramatic theatres where 1 performance was attended by 186 persons, while in puppet theatre – 93 persons. The indicator describing the number of spectators and listeners per 1000 population amounted to 178 (in the country – 325) versus 149 in 2022.

In 2023 the number of seats in fixed halls during the year decreased by 1.1%, however increased by 11.6% in relation to 2015. There were 410 inhabitants of the voivodship (in 2022 – 408) per 1 seat in fixed halls of theatres and music institutions at the end of 2023.

Buildings of theatres and music institutions in the voivodship were adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. Adapted entrance to the building was in every facility, as well as all theatres and music institutions were equipped with amenities inside the buildings.

Indoor cinemas

As of the end of 2023, in Opolskie Voivodship, there were 14 indoor cinemas, i.e. as in the previous year and more by 3 than in 2015. Indoor cinemas had 30 projection halls and 5.2 thousand seats. The number of projection halls was the same as in the previous year, while higher by 8 in relation to 2015. The number of seats decreased by 0.6% compared to 2022, however by 10.1% in relation to 2015.

185 persons on average participated in 1 performance

Table 6. Indoor cinemas

Specification	2015	2022	2023		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2022=100
Cinemas ^a	11	14	14	127.3	100.0
Projection halls ^a	22	30	30	136.4	100.0
Seats ^a	4701	5211	5178	110.1	99.4
Screenings in thousands	26.5	38.3	38.3	144.8	100.2
Audience in thousands	723.5	698.9	804.3	111.2	115.1

a As of 31 December.

At the end of 2023 in Opolskie Voivodship, 13 indoor cinemas were adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities, of which 12 cinemas had an entrance adapted to the needs of such persons and were equipped with amenities inside the building.

In 2023, there were 38.2 thousand film screenings in indoor cinemas, which were seen by 804.3 thousand spectators. The number of film screenings increased by 0.2% in relation to 2022, while by 44.8% compared to 2015. The number of spectators in indoor cinemas increased by 15.1% in relation to the previous year and by 11.2% in comparison with 2015. On average, per 1 film screening in Opolskie Voivodship, there were 21 spectators (in the country – 23), the year before – 18, versus 27 in 2015. Among the total number of film screenings, 21.0% were Polish production film screenings (in 2022 – 24.8%, in 2015 – 16.7%). In 2023, Polish production films gathered 166.8 thousand spectators in indoor cinemas, which accounted for 20.7% of the total number of spectators in indoor cinemas (in 2022 – 23.3%, in 2015 – 19.8%). Per 1000 population in 2023, there were 856 spectators (in the country – 1319) and this indicator was higher than in the year before (739).

On average, there were 21 spectators per 1 screening

Mass events

In 2023, in Opolskie Voivodship, 179 mass events were organised, i.e. more by 17.8% than in the year before. They were attended by 395.0 thousand persons, i.e. more by 23.2% compared to the previous year. On average, per 1 mass event, there were 2.2 thousand persons (in the country – 4.3 thousand) versus 2.1 thousand in 2022. Majority of participants (84.5%, the year before – 83.8%) took part in paid mass events. Over a half, i.e. 58.7% of the total number of mass events (in 2022 – 59.2%) were undertakings organised in closed objects.

Mass events were attended by 23.2% more persons than in 2022

As part of the mass events, 114 sport events took place, i.e. more by 16.3% than in 2022. They were attended by 225.6 thousand persons (the year before – 183.3 thousand), which accounted for 57.1% of the total number of participants of mass events. In 2023, 65 (in the previous year – 54) art and entertainment events were organised, and the number of participants in these events amounted for 169.4 thousand, i.e. by 23.4% more than in the previous year.

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