

Public libraries¹ in 2023

19.06.2024

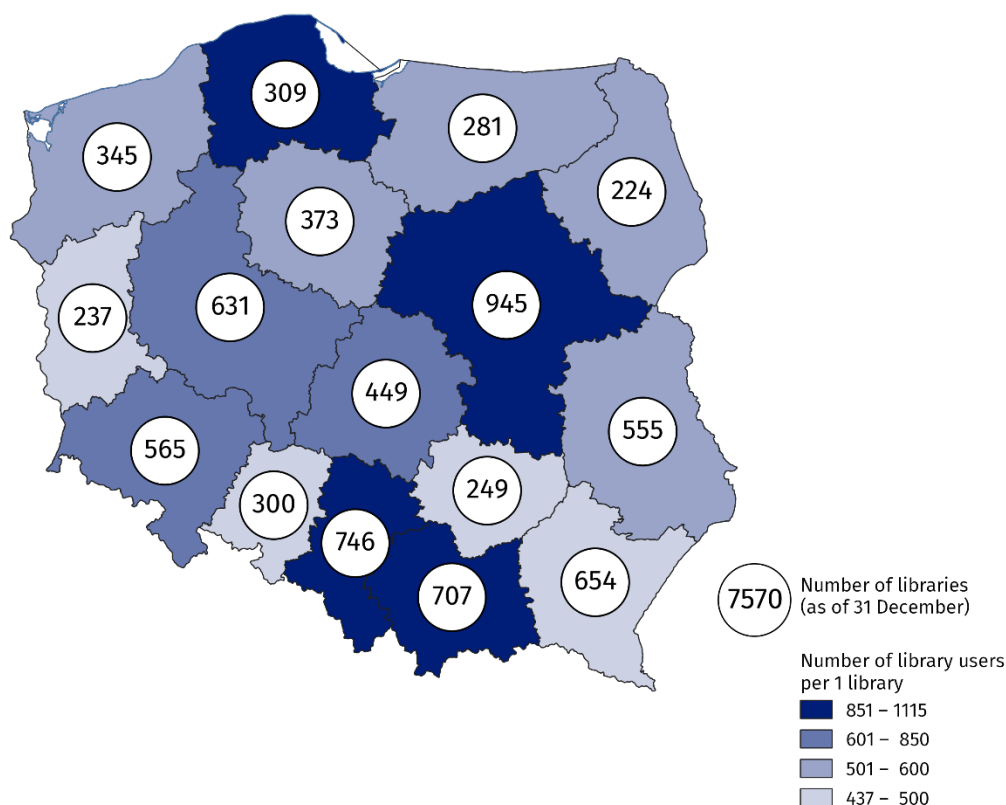

4.5%

Increase in the number of library users in comparison to 2022

As of the end of 2023, 7,570 public libraries were operating in Poland, with 871 branches for children and youth and 751 library service points. Public libraries had 124.3 million volumes of collection. 5.3 million library users were recorded.

The largest number of public libraries were operating in Mazowieckie Voivodship (945), and the least in Podlaskie Voivodship (224). The prevalent part of the entities (64.6%) were located in the countryside. On average, there were 4,972 people per one public library. The highest value of this indicator was reported in Pomorskie Voivodship (7,636 people). On average, one public library had 159 square meters of library space and offered 16 seats in reading rooms for library users.

Map 1. Public libraries in 2023



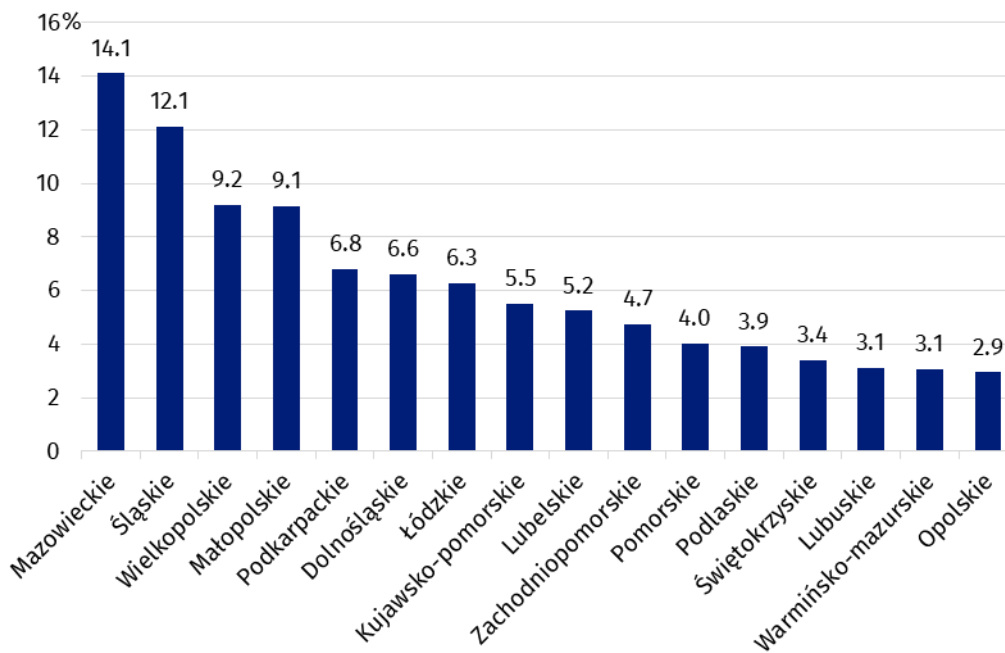
On average, there were 702 library users per one public library

Library collection

As of the end of 2023, public libraries had 124.3 million volumes of collection, of which books constituted 98.5%. Libraries had also 6.0 million library materials forming special collection, among which the largest category was audio-visual materials (3.4 million). On average, one public library offered 7 titles of current magazines.

¹ Including branches.

Chart 1. Collection in public libraries by voivodship in 2023



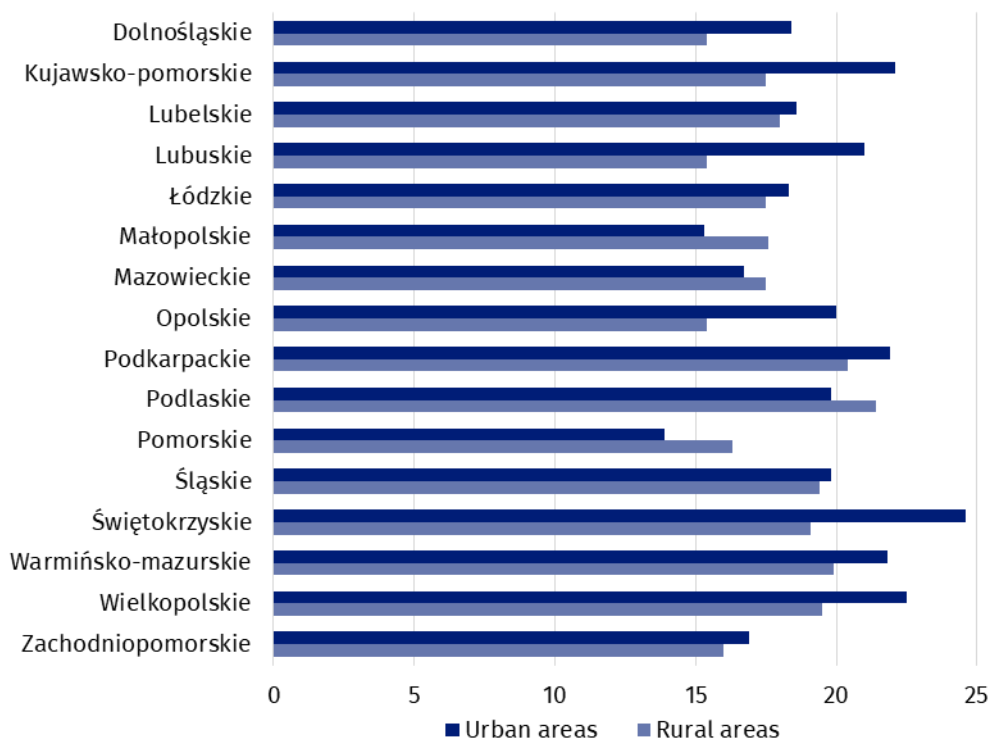
On average, there were 18.4 volumes borrowed per one library user

Library users and loans

There were 6.3 million users registered, i.e. people, who had active account and a valid check-out card during the year. Library users, i.e. users registered, who borrowed at least one volume of collection during the year, amounted to 5.3 million. Compared to 2022 the number of users registered increased by 5.2% and library users by 4.5%. During the year, public libraries recorded 58.4 million library visits (an increase of 7.3%).

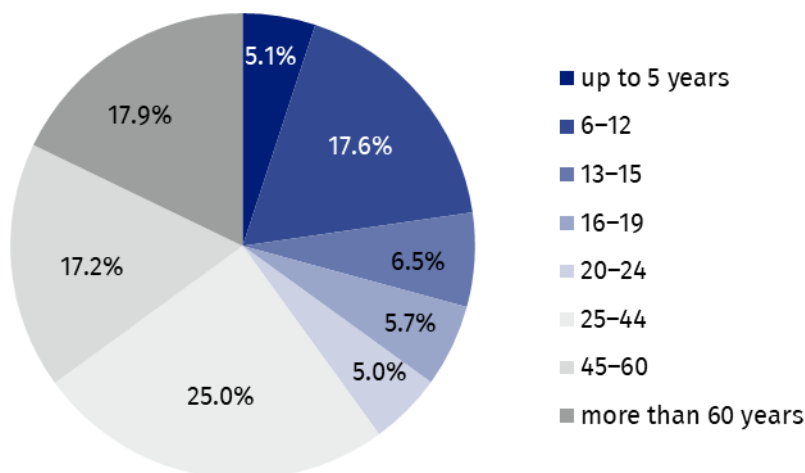
During the year, library users borrowed 97.9 million volumes of collection (3.6% more than in 2022) and 2.8 million library materials forming special collection (1.4% less). 4.9 million volumes of collection were made available in reading rooms, i.e. 8.7% more than in 2022.

Chart 2. Loans of collection in volumes per 1 library user in public libraries in 2023



The largest group of library users in public libraries were people aged 25-44 (25.0%) and working people (39.3%).

Chart 3. Library users in public libraries by age in 2023



Other forms of libraries activity

In 2023, public libraries organised 197.8 thousand events and 1.6 thousand on-line events, in which 5.8 million and 200.4 thousand participants took part, respectively. In addition, 535 conferences and seminars were held in public libraries, which were attended by 27.8 thousand people.

Computerisation and electronic services

As of the end of 2023, 96.3% of public libraries had 51.3 thousand computers, of which 47.3% were available for the library users. 6,537 public libraries used library computer programs.

Most of public libraries offered the following electronic services, i.e. on-line catalogue (82.0% of libraries), possibility of remote reservation of library materials (61.5%), possibility of remote placement of orders for library materials (58.9%), electronic (e-mail/SMS) notification of deadlines for return of library materials (57.3%), possibility of remote extension of deadlines for return of library materials (53.7%).

Employees in libraries







As of the end of 2023, 22.0 thousand people were employed in public libraries. 15.2 thousand people worked in library positions, almost half of them (48.5%) had tertiary librarian education. Of all library employees, 65.7% took part in trainings improving their professional qualifications, financed by the employer.

In the case of quoting data from the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Statistics Poland data source", and in the case of publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Own study based on Statistics Poland data".

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