

EUGENIUSZ KWIATKOWSKI

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**The Labour Market in Łódź Voivodeship  
Between 1999 and 2007**

**Abstract**

*The study aims at presenting change tendencies in employment and unemployment in the Łódź voivodeship and in its poviats between 1999 and 2007.*

*Analysis shows that total employment in the voivodeship decreased by 19% from 1998 to 2006. However, the situation seems to be taking a more favourable course, because employment in 2006 was higher compared with 2005 by ca 2%. In the analysed years, the structure of employment changed as well. Especially the service-providing sections of economy increased their employment, but the modern industries' share in employment is far too low. The light industry continues to be an important factor shaping employment.*

*Numbers of unemployed persons in the Łódź voivodeship and in its poviats were varying. A falling number of unemployed persons and a declining unemployment rate have replaced since 2005 the initially predominant unemployment growth tendencies. Within the structure of unemployment, young persons, women, urban residents, persons with low education and without qualifications are the most common.*

**1. Introduction**

This study investigates the labour market in the Łódź voivodeship between 1999 and 2007. The voivodeship was established in its present shape on 1 January 1999. It consists of 21 poviats (middle-tier units of local government)

and 3 towns with poviats status (Łódź, Piotrków Trybunalski, Skierniewice). In the transition period, voivodeship's economy was exposed to changes that had to influence the labour market situation.

The study intends to present change directions in employment and unemployment in the voivodeship and in its poviats.

Information resources used in this study encompass statistical data and information characterizing the labour market in the voivodeship and in its poviats, which were derived from statistical yearbooks and bulletins published by the Statistical Office in Łódź and from publications of the Voivodeship Labour Office in Łódź.

The study is organized in the following manner. Section 2 characterises changes in the number of workers and in the structure of employment by section, industry branch, sex, age, and place of residence. Section 3 analyses variations in the rate of unemployment and in the extent of unemployment in both the voivodeship of Łódź and its poviats. In addition, it describes changes in the structure of unemployment by various profiles, such as education, sex, age, length of unemployment, and entitlement to the unemployment benefit. Section 4 formulates main conclusions resulting from previous discussions.

## **2. Employment**

An important variable characterizing the labour market situation is the number of persons in employment. In the voivodeship of Łódź, total employment has been falling since the voivodeship was established in its new shape (i.e. since 1999). At the end of 1998 employment amounted to 1,134,700 persons, but this number dropped to 917,300 in late 2006 (Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2001, p. 36 and Small Statistical Yearbook of Poland 2007, p. 56, 2007, p. 645). Therefore, employment in Łódź voivodeship decreased more than 217,000 persons in the investigated period, that is by over 19%. It is a slim consolation that similar downward tendencies appeared all over the country and that employment slightly increased in Poland in 2006 (by 1.6% against 2005).

Worker numbers varied depending on the section of national economy as indicated by statistical data on the numbers of hired and terminated persons in years 2000 and 2005 presented in table 1. According to the table, employment in industry, healthcare and welfare, transport and communication, building, trade and agriculture declined deeply. On the other hand, sections such as services to real estate and business, science, hotels and restaurants, public administration,

insurance and education recruited more persons than they dismissed, thus increasing their employment. The changes are manifestation of the transforming structure of employment by section in the Łódź voivodeship economy.

**Table 1. Labour turnover in the voivodeship of Łódź, years 2000 and 2005 (persons)\***

Specification		Hires	Terminations	Balance
TOTAL	2000	93764	111282	-17518
	2005	97918	92754	+5164
Agriculture	2000	775	1281	-506
	2005	487	493	-6
Industry	2000	36930	47484	-10554
	2005	39257	37580	+1677
Building	2000	9800	10446	-646
	2005	7194	6966	+228
Trade and repairs	2000	11735	12766	-1031
	2005	11261	10701	+560
Hotels and restaurants	2000	768	657	+111
	2005	1207	1112	+95
Transport, storage and communication	2000	4717	4512	+205
	2005	5559	4895	+664
Financial intermediation	2000	2357	2909	-352
	2005	1541	1788	-247
Services to real estate and business, science	2000	7416	6191	+1225
	2005	10072	8567	+1505
Public administration, national defence social and health insurance	2000	5462	5318	+144
	2005	8174	7825	+349
Education	2000	7418	6953	+465
	2005	5774	5596	+178
Health care and welfare	2000	4733	11166	-6433
	2005	5622	5788	-166
Other community, social, and personal service activities	2000	1634	1575	+59
	2005	1770	1443	+327

\* full-time workers in organizations employing more than 9 persons.

Source: developed by the author based on Statistical Yearbooks of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2001, p. 357-358 and 2006, pp. 124-126.

Statistical data characterizing voivodeship's employment structure by section are presented in table 2. From the table it follows that the services sections are the most important for employment, with trade and repairs, healthcare, real estate and business services, and education at the forefront. It is worth stressing that the relative weight of education, services to real estate and business, science, trade, and services grew in the years in question. Surprisingly,

however, shares of sections such as financial intermediation, building, healthcare and welfare were either declining or showed relative stability.

**Table 2. Employment structure by section in the voivodeship of Łódź, years 2000 and 2005 (%)**

Specification	2000	2005
Total	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	32.5	21.4
Industrial manufacturing	20.1	22.2
Building	4.1	4.1
Trade and repairs	12.7	15.7
Hotels and restaurants	1.0	1.3
Transport, storage and communication	4.2	4.6
Financial intermediation	1.8	2.0
Real estate and business services; science	4.7	6.4
Public administration and national defence; compulsory social and health insurance	3.0	4.2
Education	5.5	7.3
Healthcare and welfare	6.0	5.6
Other community, social and personal service activities	2.0	2.5

Source: developed by the author based on Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2001, pp. 355-356; Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2006, p. 120.

Industrial manufacturing accounting for over 20% of total employment in the voivodeship belongs to the leading sections of voivodeship's economy (see table 9). Major branches of industry are manufacture of foodstuffs and beverages (20% of all workers in industrial manufacturing), manufacture of clothing and fur products (15.4%), and of textiles (14.0%). Relevant data are presented in table 3. Other relatively important branches in voivodeship's economy are manufacture of non-metallic products (6.7% of total employment in industrial manufacturing), manufacture of machinery and equipment (6.3%), and manufacture of furniture (5.6%), as well as manufacture of rubber and plastic products (5.2%). The voivodeship of Łódź still holds a central position in the country regarding branches such as textiles, clothing, and furriery.

In a modern market economy, labour force education plays an increasingly important role. The National Census data of 2002 provide interesting information about the structure of population in the Łódź voivodeship by level of education. The data are compiled in table 4. They show that almost 50% of total population aged 13 years and older have secondary education, nearly 37% have primary or incomplete primary education, more than 9% have tertiary education, and slightly more than 3% of population has post-secondary

general education. The above structure of education slightly differs in groups of men and women, likewise for the urban and rural populations.

**Table 3. Employment structure in industry by branch in the enterprise sector of the Łódź voivodeship, end of 2006**

Specification	No. of employees (thousands)	Structure (%)
Industrial manufacturing:	152.5	100.0
- Manufacture of food products and beverages	30.2	20.0
- Textiles	21.0	14.0
- Manufacture of clothing and fur products	23.5	15.4
- Manufacture of leather and leather products	1.8	1.2
- Manufacture of wood, products of wood, straw and wicker	3.9	2.6
- Manufacture of pulp and paper	2.1	1.4
- Publishing,; printing and reproduction of recorded media	2.8	1.8
- Manufacture of chemical products	5.8	3.8
- Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	8.0	5.2
- Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	10.2	6.7
- Manufacture of metals	1.6	1.0
- Manufacture of metal products	9.9	6.5
- Manufacture of machinery and equipment	9.6	6.3
- Manufacture of electric machinery and equipment	5.4	3.5
- Manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	0.8	0.5
- Manufacture of medical, precision and optical instruments, clocks and watches	1.6	1.0
- Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	4.0	2.6
- Manufacture of other transport equipment	0.7	0.4
- Manufacture of furniture; other manufacturing	8.6	5.6

Source: Statistical Bulletin of the Voivodeship of Łódź, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2004 and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2006, Statistical Office in Łódź, author's calculations.

Education structure is much more favourable among women than in the group of men. In relative terms, there are more women with tertiary education (10% of all women in the age group 13 years and older) than men (8.4%). The group of persons with post-secondary general education shows similar relations. However, this favourable structure of female education is impaired by the slightly more frequent occurrence of persons with primary or lower education. On the other hand, in the group of women persons with secondary education are

less frequent (46%) than in the group of men (over 53%). This mainly results from the very low percentage of women with basic vocational education (15.4%), much lower than among men (over 27%).

Urban and rural areas in the voivodeship of Łódź show significant variations in the structure of population by education (see table 4). The rural structure of education is much less favourable. The percentage of persons with tertiary education, post-secondary general education, and secondary education is much lower in rural areas than in towns. Only the rate of persons with basic vocational education is larger for rural population than for urban population (25.4% and 18.8%, respectively), but this can hardly be recognized as a symptom of positive structure of education. Additionally, persons with primary education and incomplete primary education are also significantly more frequently in rural areas (over 50%) than in towns (below 30%).

**Table 4. Education structure of population aged 13 years and older in the Łódź voivodeship in 2002 (%)**

Education	Total	Men	Women	Urban	Rural
Tertiary	9,2	8,4	10,0	12,1	3,7
Post-secondary general	3,1	1,6	4,4	3,8	1,8
Secondary total, with	49,6	53,5	46,0	52,4	44,1
- vocational	19,0	20,2	18,0	21,4	14,3
- secondary general	9,6	6,1	12,7	12,2	4,3
- basic vocational	21,0	27,3	15,4	18,8	25,4
Complete primary	32,3	31,5	33,1	26,9	42,6
Incomplete primary and without education	4,4	3,5	5,9	2,8	7,5
Unknown	1,4	1,5	1,3	2,0	0,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Report on the Results of National Censuses 2002, Voivodeship of Łódź, Statistical Office in Łódź, Łódź 2003, p. 107.

**Table 5. Education structure of population aged 15 years and older in the Łódź voivodeship, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2005 (%)**

Education	Population (thousands)	Share (%)	Employment rates
Tertiary	343	14,0	76,4
Post-secondary general and secondary vocational	582	23,8	57,0
Secondary general	275	11,3	36,4
Basic vocational	557	22,8	52,4
Junior secondary, primary and incomplete primary	686	28,1	17,3

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2006, p. 119, author's calculations.

In 2005, the education structure of the Łódź voivodeship population improved. The proportion of persons with tertiary education showing the highest employability grew considerably, which is proved by their high rate of employment (over 76%). The percentage of persons with post-secondary general and secondary vocational education, secondary general education and basic vocational education also increased, although to a smaller degree (by ca 2 percentage points). At the same time, the share of persons with the lowest education decreased (by ca 8 p.p.). In spite of this, such persons still predominate in the population structure of the Łódź voivodeship, although their employment opportunities are scarce, as shown by the lowest employment rate for this group (above 17%).

Statistical data on employment in poviats of the Łódź voivodeship provide information about total employment and about the structure of employment by group of sections. They are presented in table 6.

From the table it follows that different poviats have different employment rates. The city of Łódź is indisputably the regional centre of employment, accounting for over 29% of total employment in the voivodeship. Relatively large centres of employment are poviats Sieradzki, Bełchatowski, and Zgierski, where employment totals over 35,000 persons. On the other hand, poviats Brzezinski, Skierniewicki, Łaski and Poddębicki have the lowest numbers of workers.

Data in table 6 allow us to identify the character of economic structure in the poviats. Firstly, poviats Skierniewicki, Piotrkowski, Łęczycki, Poddębicki are agricultural units, where the share of agriculture, forestry, fishery, and hunting in total employment exceeds 63%. Secondly, the most developed industrial and building sector can be found in poviats Pabianicki (47.3% of total employment), Bełchatowski (53.2%), the town of Skierniewice (36.9%), the town of Piotrków Trybunalski (37.5%), poviats Zduńskowolski (42.6%) and Wieruszowski (40.6%). Distinct outsiders are powiat Łęczycki, where industry and building account for only 9.5% of total employment, as well as Skierniewicki, where the section's share in employment is only 8.1%. Thirdly, towns with powiat status have relatively best developed services sector, i.e. Łódź (over 70% of total employment), Piotrków Trybunalski (over 60.5%) and Skierniewice (59.7%), and additionally poviats Zgierski and Zduńskowolski.

**Table 6. Employment by section in poviats of the Łódź voivodeship in 2006**

Powiat	Total (persons)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fish culture	Industry and building	Market services	Non-market services
		% of total			
Voivodeship:	716402	26.7	29.5	29.4	20.4
Bełchatowski	41104	16.7	53.2	15.9	14.2
Brzeziński	7387	50.8	18.6	9.8	20.8
Kutnowski	29925	33.1	30.9	18.8	17.2
Łaski	13391	40.2	30.8	10.2	18.8
Łęczycki	17424	64.9	9.5	9.9	15.7
Łowicki	25594	56.6	18.3	10.6	14.4
Łódzki Wschodni	14771	31.3	30.5	22.6	15.6
Opoczyński	24409	51.5	22.5	11.8	14.2
Pabianicki	26824	13.9	47.3	19.1	19.7
Pajęczański	13766	55.4	21.7	7.3	15.6
Piotrkowski	23296	63.3	15.4	10.0	11.3
Poddębicki	13095	65.8	13.5	6.8	13.9
Radomszczański	30576	40.1	26.4	15.3	18.1
Rawski	15585	55.8	18.2	11.4	14.0
Sieradzki	36526	48.9	19.0	12.2	19.8
Skierniewicki	10353	77.7	8.1	5.6	8.6
Tomaszowski	30241	32.9	30.0	18.1	18.9
Wieluński	25600	45.8	28.1	12.3	13.8
Wieruszowski	14511	33.7	40.6	7.4	12.3
Zduńskowolski	18098	16.9	42.6	22.3	18.2
Zgierski	35250	22.0	38.2	20.0	19.8
Towns with powiat status:					
Łódź	210824	1.0	28.9	41.9	28.2
Piotrków Tryb.	24353	2.0	37.5	32.7	27.8
Skierniewice	13499	3.4	36.9	34.0	25.7

Source: Pracujący w gospodarce narodowej 2006, GUS, Warsaw 2007, pp. 56-59, author's calculations.

### 3. The level and structure of unemployment

Let us now examine unemployment rates that provide the best synthetic measures of the labour market situation. It is worth remembering that unemployment rates are determined by a number of factors. On one hand, their evolution is significantly influenced by factors related to labour supply, labour demand (which further depends on the dynamics of production, labour costs,



labour productivity, restructuring, etc.) and to structural gaps existing in the labour market, and, on the other, by factors linked with the labour market institutions and regulations that affect the behaviour of employees, the jobless and employers that ultimately shapes the size of registered unemployment.

**Table 7. Registered unemployment in poviats of the Łódź voivodeship in years 1999, 2002 and 2007 (thousands of persons)**

Poviats	1999	2002	2007*
Voivodeship	182.5	234.9	123.0
Bełchatowski	9.9	11.2	5.6
Brzeziński**	–	2.9	1.5
Kutnowski	11.5	13.3	7.0
Łaski	3.4	4.4	2.3
Łęczycki	4.7	5.4	3.1
Łowicki	4.9	6.3	3.0
City of Łódź	50.3	65.1	29.9
Łódzki Wschodni		5.4	3.2
Opoczyński	8.1	9.1	5.7
Pabianicki	7.4	11.0	5.4
Pajęczański	4.9	4.9	2.2
Town of Piotrków	10.6	6.7	3.6
Piotrkowski		6.9	3.5
Poddębicki	2.9	3.6	2.1
Radomszczański	11.8	13.8	8.7
Rawski	2.8	3.9	1.7
Sieradzki	8.2	10.2	7.1
Town of Skierniewice	3.2	3.0	1.5
Skierniewicki		1.9	0.8
Tomaszowski	12.6	14.3	7.5
Wieluński	5.5	5.7	2.8
Wieruszowski	2.8	3.3	1.6
Zduńskowolski	4.0	5.7	3.5
Zgierski	12.7	16.2	9.6

\* unemployment as of 31 October 2007.

\*\* until 2002 powiat Brzeziński was part of Łódzki Wschodni.

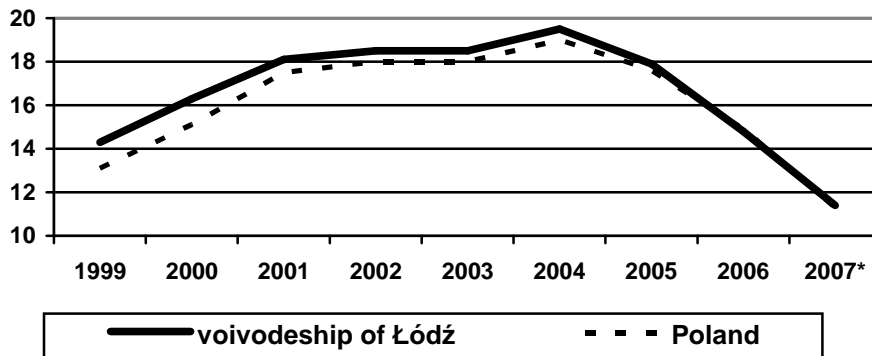
Source: website of the Voivodeship Labour Office in Łódź, [www.wup.mm.com.pl](http://www.wup.mm.com.pl); [www.stat.gov.pl](http://www.stat.gov.pl)

Table 7 presents data on registered unemployment in the voivodeship of Łódź and in its poviats between 1999 and 2007. They show that in the analysed period 1999-2002 unemployment grew in the voivodeship by over 52,000 persons, but in successive years the number of unemployed persons was

distinctly declining. Between 1999 and 2007, the decline amounted to 59,500 persons. Such upward trend in the number of unemployed persons appeared between 1999 and 2002 in all poviats. It is worth noting, however, that in 2007 unemployment was falling in all poviats compared with 1999.

Secondly, data in table 7 highlight poviats with the largest and the smallest concentration of unemployment. According to the numbers of jobless persons shown in the table, in 2007 the centres of unemployment were the city of Łódź (almost 30,000 people), and poviats Zgierski (9,600), Kutnowski (7,000), Tomaszowski (7,500), Radomszczański (8,700), Piotrkowski together with the town of Piotrków Trybunalski (7,100), and Sieradzki (7,100). On the other hand, the smallest number of unemployed persons could be found in poviats Wieruszowski (1,600), Brzeziński (1,500), Rawski (1,700) and Skierniewicki (800), and in the town of Skierniewice (1,500).

A more reliable indicator capturing the labour market situation is unemployment rate, which reflects the relative intensity of unemployment and thus enables comparative analyses of poviats and of the voivodeship.



**Graph 1. Rate of registered unemployment in the voivodeship of Łódź and in Poland, years 1999–2007 (%)**

\* Rate of unemployment as of 31 October 2007.

Source: website of the Voivodeship Labour Office in Łódź [www.wup.mm.com.pl](http://www.wup.mm.com.pl) and of the Central Statistical Office [www.stat.gov.pl](http://www.stat.gov.pl)

Figure 1 illustrates rates of registered unemployment in the voivodeship of Łódź and in Poland between 1999 and 2007. Firstly, the figure shows that unemployment rate in the voivodeship was higher in years 1999-2005 than its national value (by ca 1-1.5 p.p.). In 2006, the rate of unemployment was somewhat lower in the voivodeship of Łódź (14.8%) than in Poland (14.9%); in

2007, (31 October) it was 11.4% against the national rate of 11.3%. Secondly, variations in the voivodeship of Łódź unemployment rate follow national tendencies, which means that the systemic and national factors are important for the formation of unemployment in the voivodeship. Thirdly, it is worth noting that the period of rather fast growing unemployment rate in the voivodeship in years 1999–2001 (by almost 4 p.p.) was followed by a period of the rate's decelerating growth, and between 2005 and 2007 the rate was dropping (more than 3 p.p. each year).

Unemployment rates in poviats of the Łódź voivodeship show strong variations. This finding is supported by statistical data in table 8. In 2007, the highest unemployment rates were in poviats Kutnowski (15.7%), Zgierski (16%), Tomaszowski (15.8%), Radomszczański (17.7%) and Opoczyński (16.2%). It is noteworthy that the poviats' unemployment rates were among the highest not only at the end of the analysed period, i.e. in 2007, but also at its beginning, in 1999. The high unemployment rates in the poviats show, therefore, some degree of stability, which suggests that unemployment in these administrative units has a deep, structural background. On the other hand, relatively low unemployment rates were observed in 2007 in poviats Skierniewicki (6.3%), Wieluński (8%), Wieruszowski (8.3%), Rawski (8%), the town of Skierniewice (7.7%), powiat Łowicki (15.0%) and in the city of Łódź (8.8%). The relatively low rates in poviats Skierniewicki and Rawski can be explained by indicating the favourable influence that the Warsaw agglomeration exerts on the labour market. As for the other poviats, a significant role should be attributed to their relatively well-developed private farming that contributes to slight underestimation of the size of registered unemployment (because of laws applying to the registration of farm owners). Relatively low unemployment rates in the city of Łódź and in the town of Skierniewice are due to the developing services sector and industry.

Characterization of the group of unemployed persons requires paying attention to their levels of education. Relevant data are presented in table 9. According to the table, in 2006 only 6.3 % of unemployed persons in the voivodeship of Łódź had tertiary education, although this rate somewhat improved compared with the previous period. The largest group of the unemployed was persons with junior secondary education, primary education and those with incomplete primary education (35.5%), as well as persons with basic vocational education (28.1%), although their share decreased vis-à-vis 2000. The proportion of unemployed persons with secondary general education was relatively small (below 10%), while unemployed persons with post-secondary general education and secondary vocational education were over twice as many, and their share was quite stable. The data indicate that the level

of education is an important determinant of person's position in the labour market.

**Table 8. Rates of registered unemployment in poviats of the Łódź voivodeship, years 1999, 2002, 2007 (%)**

Poviats	1999	2002	2007*
Total voivodeship	14.3	18.5	11.4
Bełchatowski	15.2	17.3	10.0
Brzeziński**	—	19.5	13.0
Kutnowski	20.2	23.9	15.7
Łaski	13.5	17.2	11.6
Łęczycki	15.4	17.9	13.3
Łowicki	11.2	14.4	8.8
City of Łódź	13.7	18.8	9.1
Łódzki Wschodni	12.2	19.2	12.6
Opoczyński	16.9	19.1	16.2
Pabianicki	14.1	20.6	12.0
Pajęczański	15.8	16.2	11.0
Town of Piotrków	12.9	18.4	10.2
Piotrkowski		15.3	10.8
Poddębicki	11.5	14.1	11.3
Radomszczański	18.5	21.4	17.7
Rawski	10.2	15.0	8.0
Sieradzki	12.3	15.2	13.6
Town of Skierniewice	7.9	15.2	7.7
Skierniewicki		9.5	6.3
Tomaszowski	21.3	24.4	15.8
Wieluński	12.2	12.8	8.0
Wieruszowski	11.9	14.2	8.3
Zduńskowolski	12.3	18.1	12.6
Zgierski	19.6	24.8	16.0

\* unemployment rate as of 30 November 2007.

\*\* until 2002 powiat Brzeziński was part of Łódzki Wschodni.

Source: website of the Voivodeship Labour Office in Łódź: [www.wup.mm.com.pl](http://www.wup.mm.com.pl); [www.stat.gov.pl](http://www.stat.gov.pl)

**Table 9. Structure of unemployment by education in the voivodeship of Łódź, years 2000 and 2006 (%)**

Specification	2000	2006
Tertiary	2,8	6,3
Post-secondary general and secondary vocational	20,1	20,8
Secondary general	7,1	9,3
Basic vocational	32,9	28,1
Primary and incomplete primary	37,1	35,5 <sup>a/</sup>

<sup>a/</sup> including junior secondary education

Source: developed by the author based on Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2001, Łódź, 2001, p. 385; Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2006, Łódź, 2006, p. 130; Statistical Bulletin of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2006, Statistical Office in Łódź, Łódź, February 2007, p. 32.

**Table 10. Rate of unemployment in selected groups of persons in the voivodeship of Łódź in 2006 (%)**

Rate of unemployment	2006*
Total	12.2
Men	11.5
Women	22.9
Urban areas	14.8
Rural areas	7.9
Persons aged 15-24 years	21.3
Persons with primary, junior secondary and basic vocational education	16.8

\*July – September 2006.

Source: Statistical Bulletin of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2006, p. 33.

Unemployment rates in the voivodeship of Łódź vary for men and women, and for urban and rural populations. Characteristically, women and urban population have almost twice larger unemployment rates than men and rural population, respectively. Young persons aged 15-24 years are also exposed to unemployment, as well as persons with basic vocational and primary education. Unemployment rates in these groups considerably exceed the total rate of unemployment in the voivodeship of Łódź.

**Table 11. Structure of unemployment by its length in the voivodeship of Łódź, years 2000 and 2006 (%)**

Specification	2000	2006
3 months and less	19.8	21.4
3-6 months	14.2	13.1
6-12 months	18.4	14.7
12-24 months	23.9	15.2
More than 24 months	23.8	35.6

Source: developed by the author based on Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2001, Łódź, 2001, p. 386; Statistical Bulletin of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2006, Statistical Office in Łódź, Łódź, February 2007, p. 32.

Another important variable describing the labour market situation is the period of unemployment. Data in table 11 present the structure of unemployment by its length. From the table it follows that in 2006 as much as 50.8% of all unemployed persons were jobless longer than 12 months and that the rate's value was larger than in 2000 (47.7%). However, the proportion of persons unemployed below 3 months is rather low (somewhat over 21% in 2006), although it slightly grew compared with 2000 (19.8%). This justifies the conclusion that the stock of unemployment in the voivodeship continues to be more stagnant. The high percentage of persons with long periods of lasting unemployment indicates that turnover of persons in unemployment stock was limited, as well as the strong role played by the long-term unemployment. This phenomenon is highly unfavourable and produces many negative social and economic effects.

**Table 12. Structure of unemployment in poviats of the Łódź voivodeship in 2006 (% of the total number of unemployed persons in a given poviat)**

Poviat	Women	Unemployed at mobile working age (18-44 years)	Unemployed with basic vocational, junior secondary and lower education	Not entitled to benefits
Voivodeship	52.6	63.8	63.6	85.9
Bełchatowski	64.4	69.7	60.3	89.3
Brzeziński*	45.0	66.3	68.6	90.0
Kutnowski	58.8	66.6	67.9	83.2
Łaski	49.8	64.2	63.7	88.2
Łęczycki	51.4	73.3	66.0	93.0
Łowicki	47.7	67.5	63.4	88.8
City of Łódź	51.8	51.3	60.1	86.2
Łódzki Wschodni	48.1	62.7	65.1	87.6
Opoczyński	52.6	73.5	63.1	89.7
Pabianicki	49.3	60.2	65.6	86.3
Pajęczański	54.7	75.7	65.3	86.9
Town of Piotrków	56.8	62.9	58.8	86.6
Piotrkowski	53.2	71.6	67.7	86.4
Poddębicki	49.6	75.3	68.9	84.6
Radomszczański	56.2	69.4	65.1	84.9
Rawski	44.1	64.5	67.9	88.9
Sieradzki	51.1	61.5	62.2	90.8
Town of Skierniewice	59.8	60.7	53.7	85.3
Skierniewicki	53.5	71.9	61.2	85.7
Tomaszowski	48.7	65.5	67.8	77.1
Wieluński	52.3	69.3	60.7	87.7
Wieruszowski	57.9	69.4	61.8	88.1
Zduńskowolski	53.3	66.8	62.8	89.3
Zgierski	50.0	63.9	67.3	79.7

\* Until 2001 Brzeziński poviat was part of Łódzki Wschodni poviat.

Source: developed by the author based on Statistical Yearbook of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2001, Łódź, 2001, pp. 146-158; Statistical Bulletin of Łódzkie Voivodeship 2006, pp. 74-76.

Table 12 provides interesting information about the structure of unemployment in Łódź voivodeship poviats in 2006. Firstly, it shows rather considerable variations in the percentages of female unemployment in the poviats. The lowest rates (below 50%) were found in poviats Brzeziński, Łaski, Łódzki Wschodni, Łowicki, Pabianicki, Poddębicki, Rawski, and Tomaszowski. Secondly, the percentage of unemployed persons aged 18–44 years in total unemployment was relatively high in all poviats, but it was especially high (over

70%) in poviats Skierniewicki, Łęczycki, Poddębicki, Opoczyński, Pajęczański, Piotrkowski; in the city of Łódź (51.3%) it was the lowest. Thirdly, all poviats and the city of Łódź had relatively high shares, exceeding 60%, of unemployed persons with basic vocational, junior secondary or lower education in total unemployment excluding the towns of Skierniewice (53.7%) and of Piotrków Trybunalski (58.8%). The rates were relatively high (over 67%) in poviats Brzeziński, Kutnowski, Piotrkowski, Poddębicki, Rawski, Tomaszowski, and Zgierski. Fourthly, the share of unemployed persons not entitled to benefits in total unemployment was comparatively high in all poviats. The rate exceeded 85%, and in poviats Brzeziński, Sieradzki and Łęczycki it went over 90%. The rate was the lowest in two poviats, Zgierski and Tomaszowski (79.7% and 77.1%, respectively), but their unemployment rates were among the highest, hence a relatively large number of persons drew benefits.

#### 4. Conclusions

- From the presented discussion it results that between 1999 and 2006 employment dropped in the voivodeship of Łódź, especially in the subperiod 1999–2002, although some sections of economy recorded its growth, namely services to real estate and business, science, hotels and restaurants, administration, insurance and education.
- In years 1999-2004, the rate of unemployment kept growing in the voivodeship of Łódź, but starting from 2005 it showed a downward trend. Throughout the period, it exceeded the national unemployment rate. The highest rates of unemployment occurred in 2007 in poviats Kutnowski, Zgierski, Tomaszowski, Radomszczanski, and Opoczyński, and the lowest rates were in poviats Skierniewicki, Wieluński, Wieruszowski, Rawski, Łowicki, in the town of Skierniewice and in the city of Łódź.
- Most unemployed persons in the voivodeship of Łódź are persons with primary and incomplete primary education, basic vocational education, as well as post-secondary general and secondary vocational education. However, the highest unemployment rates are among persons with primary and basic vocational education, women, persons aged 15-24 years and urban population.
- Poviats in the voivodeship of Łódź have unfavourable shares of unemployed women and of unemployed persons aged 18-44 years in total unemployment. Research shows that persons with basic vocational education, junior secondary education, and lower, as well as unemployed



persons not entitled to benefits are predominant among unemployed persons (over 60% and 85-90% of all unemployed, respectively) in poviats of the voivodeship of Łódź.

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