

Sheet XLIX: The impact of Łódź on the regional and national socio-economic space

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Map 1. The map presents Łódź’s range of impact on the socioeconomic space of the region via selected exogenic functions – administrative, social, and economic. The boundary lines are used to indicate the range of impact for particular institutions. Most of the data were collected directly in the field (from firms and organisations) or extracted from available source materials (legislation, official Internet sites of institutions).

The functions so presented are formal and their spatial range is determined by the laws and regulations governing the activities of the institutions under analysis. Certainly, the most essential function is that of the regional administration headquartered in Łódź. Łódź is the seat of the central government’s representative, the Regional Governor (Wojewoda) and his Regional Council (Urząd Wojewódzki), and the regional-level local government bodies - the Regional Marshal (Marszałek Województwa) and the Regional Assembly (Sejmik Wojewódzki). The boundaries of the new Łódzkie Region delineate the range of impact of many regional and local institutions: police, fire brigade, customs inspectorate, as well as those parts of the health and education systems that are subordinate to the local government. Some institutions, such as the post office, telecommunications, and energy providers retain the same boundaries as they had before the administrative reform in 1999. Adjusting these areas to the new administrative division would entail significant costs.

The boundaries of the archdiocese of Łódź, the Regional State Forests Directorate, and the Main Railway Freight Depot have no reference to the administrative divisions (tab. 1).

Table 1. Range of impact of social and economic institutions – divisions and branches in Łódź

Institution	Range
Uniformed Services	
Police and State Security Bureau	Region
State Firefighting Service	Region
Customs Inspection	Region
Polish Armed Forces	Silesian district HQ in Wrocław
Health Care	
Healthcare Fund	Region
Environmental Health Inspection	Region
Education	
Superintendent of Schools	Region
Transport and Communication	
Polish Post Office	Former Regions: Łódzkie, Skierniewickie, Sieradzkie
Telecommunications	Former Regions: Łódź, Skierniewickie, Sieradzkie
Railway Cargo Freight	Area delimited by the towns and villages (dispatch branches) of: Szczutów, Ponętów, Siedzice, Rusiec Łódzki, Radomsko, Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Koruszki, Mszczonów, Zawidz
Economy	
State Forests	21 forestry commissions – 292 064 ha incl. 78.4 in Łódzkie Region, 17.9 in Mazowieckie, 2.4 in Świętokrzyskie, 1.3 in Kujawsko-Pomorskie
Electric Power (Łódź Electric Power Company and Electric Power Company Łódź-Teren)	Former Regions: Łódź, Skierniewickie, Sieradzkie
Others	
Court of Appeal	Łódzkie Region and the counties of Kępno, Kalisz, Oszeszów, Pleszew, Krotoszyn, Jarocin (now in Wielkopolskie Region)
Archdiocese	34 diaconates, 212 parishes, wholly within Łódzkie Region
Labour inspection	Region

Map 2. The impact of Łódź on the socio-cultural space of the region

The map shows the area impacted by Łódź-based media (press, radio, and television) and the locations of branches of higher education institutions headquartered in the city, including their accreditations. The required data were collected in the field (from the institutions in question).

The media and higher education institutions have the greatest impact on the formation of the social and cultural space of the given region. They are the carriers of higher culture. They exert a strongly integrative impact on the entire area and its relations with Łódź, the region’s capital.

In Łódź published are 8 press titles. Three of them are magazines with a national circulation: *Angora*, *Fakty i Mity*, and *To i Owo*. The outstanding 5 titles enjoy a regional circulation: *Dziennik Łódzki - Wiadomości Dnia*, *Express Ilustrowany*, *Gazeta Łódzka* (supplement of *Gazeta Wyborcza*), *Kalejdoskop*, and *Odgłosy*. The first two have a combined circulation of nearly 200 000 copies daily. Out of their number, three are daily newspapers, and two, *Odgłosy* and *Kalejdoskop*, are cultural magazines. Complementary to the local press market is the supplement to *Murator*, a monthly building magazine, edited outside Łódź.

Łódź also impacts its region through the electronic media. The city has seven radio stations, two of which are only audible to listeners in Łódź only (TKM FM and Radio Żak), the others can be heard within the radius of approx 60–70 km. Independent broadcasting stations operating only in Łódź and its region are Radio Classic and Parada, with the remaining stations being branches of national networks (ESKA, Plus, and Polskie Radio).

On the television market the largest institution is the Polish Television (Telewizja Polska) – Regional Centre in Łódź. Its programmes can be received up to 100 km from Łódź, reaching the former Sieradzkie, Piortkowskie, Skierniewickie and Plockie Regions, and are available almost everywhere in the new Łódzkie Region. The signal of the private television network TOYA is transmitted via cable and only reaches the subscribers in the city.

In Łódź there are also two editorial offices linked to the national media: the regional offices of TVN and Trybuna.

Higher education has a significant function in shaping the socio-cultural space of the region. Direct activity outside Łódź is made possible via branches in other towns and through systems of accreditation which confirm the quality of education and its certification. The University of Łódź has opened five departments in its branches at Tomaszów Mazowiecki and Sieradz, while the Technical University of Łódź (Politechnika Łódzka) has two departments in Sieradz. The University of Łódź has also granted accreditation to Akademia Świętokrzyska.

The region that can be delimited so as to reflect the impact of the media and higher education institutions to a large extent coincides with the territory of the new Łódzkie Region.

Map 3. The range of Łódź’s impact in the eyes of local communities on the peripheries of Łódzkie Region

The map illustrates the spatial range of Łódź’s impact in terms of the public’s acceptance of their membership of Łódzkie Region against the background of the actual bonds with the city with respect to satisfying their higher needs – major shopping expeditions, visits to medical specialists, cultural and leisure opportunities, and more. The cartogram shows the public’s preferences and the strength of such service bonds with Łódź in comparison to other regional centres.

The map is prepared based on the Łódzkie Region Awareness Study. Delimitation of the Potential Territory of Łódzkie Region (Studium wiedzy o regionie łódzkim. Delimitacja potencjalnego obszaru województwa łódzkiego) (Koter, Liszewski & Suliborski, 1996), a result of empirical field research conducted on the local populations in July of 1996, i.e. just before the administrative reforms within the area of the former Łódzkie Region. From this work used were the maps no. 17 and 28, as well as table 5A.

1. The research proved strong bonds with Łódź, as shown by a majority of the boroughs (gmina) under study in the peripheral zone of Łódzkie Region. A strong preference is recorded in the northern boroughs: Poddębicki, Kutnowski, and Łowicki. A counterbalance to Łódź’s impact is only provided by Warsaw in the east, especially in the region of Skierniewice and Nowe Miasto nad Pilicą, while in the west preference for Poznań was expressed only in three boroughs. Kielce as the regional centre was chosen by the majority of inhabitants in three boroughs in the south-east which had belonged to Kieleckie Region as of 1975.

2. A declaration of affiliation in most cases reflected the existing functional dependence. When asked which centres fulfilled the various higher needs, respondents frequently indicated Łódź. This is true particularly of the inhabitants of the boroughs in the western and northern strip of the area under study, where Łódź always occupied first or second place. It is worth noting that the current (and former) county (powiat) centres, functionally linked with Łódź, were quite commonly mentioned. In the southern part of the area under study inhabitants also have contacts with cities lying outside Łódzkie Region (Kępno, Częstochowa and Końskie).

Łódzkie Region in its current shape (after 1999) covers the areas that are strongly linked with the regional capital, and its boundaries generally reflect the preferences of the majority of inhabitants in the area under study.

Sources:

Koter M., Liszewski S., Suliborski A., *Studium wiedzy o regionie łódzkim. Delimitacja potencjalnego obszaru województwa łódzkiego*, Łódzkie Tow. Nauk., Łódź 1996.

Map 4. Impact of Łódź’s tertiary sector

With the use of vector diagram the map presents the range and intensity of organisational connections with Łódź in the banking and insurance sectors. The information concerning the bank units subordinate to the banking and insurance branches operating in Łódź was collected in March and April of 2002.

Łódź is the venue of the head offices of two banks, LG Petrobank and Bank Przemysłowy S.A., both of which maintain small regional and national network of branches. Łódź is also the regional centre of certain banks whose head offices operate in other cities (in Łódź there operate 17 banks having their head offices in Warsaw, two headquartered in Poznań, and single banks with their registered seats in Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Katowice and Kraków).

Two national insurance companies have their headquarters in Łódź: Zakład Ubezpieczeń i Reasekuracji POLONIA S.A. and Zakład Ubezpieczeń i Reasekuracji Polonia - Życie S.A. (both have a vast network of branches across Poland). Łódź’s regional connections are also generated

by insurance companies with their head offices in other cities (eight in Warsaw, two in Sopot, two in Szczecin, and two in Radom).

It is worth mentioning that in the largest Polish banks (PKO BR, Pekao S.A.) and insurance companies (PZU S.A.), the role of Łódź is limited. Within their organisational structures they maintain networks of branches (in most of the towns in Łódzkie Region) which report directly to the headquarters in Warsaw.

Respondent details	Total	%
Sex		
Male	2989	51,5
Female	2812	48,5
Age group		
18–25	925	15,9
26–45	2991	51,6
46–65	1577	27,2
over 65	308	5,3
Education background		
Incomplete elementary	73	1,3
Elementary	858	14,8
Vocational	1473	25,4
Secondary	2512	43,3
Incomplete higher	245	4,2
Higher	638	11,0
Employment		
Farmer	763	13,2
Entrepreneur	578	10,0
Private sector worker	963	16,6
Public sector worker	2021	34,8
Pensioner	599	10,3
Unemployed	503	8,7
Student	345	5,9

Łódź impacts all major towns in the region through agencies, authorised offices, branches, and other subordinate units of the banking and insurance sectors. The highest number of such facilities are recorded in the former (before 1999) regional capitals of Sieradz, Skierniewice, and Piotrków Trybunalski. A large number of affiliates are also found in Bełchatów and Tomaszów Mazowiecki

Map 5. Transport impact of Łódź

Using flow and pie charts, the map presents the range and intensity of transport connections with Łódź, measured by the number of passenger services offered by coaches PKS (state bus company) and railways PKP (state rail company), and based on the train and bus timetables available at the central station – Łódź Fabryczna.

Coach services form a well-developed network in all directions. They play an essential role above all in the regional connections. Service intensity decreases with the distance. Railway services are less developed, which results from the network’s pattern and the ensuing significantly longer distances as compared to straight line connections.

The highest traffic is on the roads and railroads connecting Łódź with the largest towns of the region. Within the regional configuration, the weakest connections, measured by regular services of passenger transport, are found in the most remote settlements in the southern part of the Region.

Within the transregional transport system, Łódź has the highest number of services to and from Warsaw and the cities lying within the 200km equidistance from the city. The strongly developed network of services in the southerly direction should be noted, as well as the absence of public transport routes to the central parts of mid-western and mid-eastern Poland.

Map 6. Łódź’s functions in the regional and national settlement networks

The functions of Łódź both in the regional and national settlement network were determined as in 1999 by applying the theorems of the economic base theory of towns (Dziewoński 1971). The assumed measure of this function was the information on employment levels in Łódź and other towns of Łódzkie Region in breakdown into the twelve sectors of the national economy. Applied was the indirect function identification method known as the residual method and developed by Hoyt (cf Jerczyński 1971).

The concept of function is not just a simple characteristic of a city resultant from the number and scale of socio-economic activities located in it (measured by employment), but a result of the dual nature of its economy - endogenic and exogenic. Endogenic functions support the basic needs of the city, while exogenic functions determine its interrelations and role within the national settlement system (Suliborski, 2001). Exogenic functions have a relational character and depend on such variables as the total number and scale of socio-economic activities, the scale of a specific activity in the city, as well as on their corresponding values across the country, and additionally on the city’s population.

The map includes divided circle diagrams which are used to present the structure of the exogenic functions of Łódź and towns in its region. The size of the concentric rings is proportional to the total number of employed and the number of employed in the exogenic sectors. The circles that illustrate the exogenic group show its structure, which indicates both the number and scale of its functions. The exogenic group is always a part of the overall employment in cities. This relation is shown by the concentric circles and table 1 on the reverse side of the map.

Łódź is the focal point of the largest regional potential of socio-economic activities, which is expressed by the concentration of nearly 229 000 employed. Of all the towns in the region, Łódź has the lowest share of the exogenic sector in the overall employment figure (30%), which is indicative of a significant balance of the city’s economy.

2The structure of Łódź’s exogenic functions is complex and comprised of nine elements, of which the largest share is held by: industry and construction (26%), health care (19%), education (14%), finance (13%), and property maintenance services (13%). Additionally, the city has administrative, transport, trade, and other functions. Łódź fulfils all of the foregoing functions within the national and regional settlement network. Relative to its size, the city has quite weak commercial and transport functions.

3Most of the towns in Łódzkie Region have a low diversity exogenic sector in which one element, most frequently industry, strongly dominates. Only Piotrków Trybunalski, Sieradz, Wieluń and Bełchatów have exogenic groups that comprise all nine elements, but each has a more uniform structure than Łódź itself. Łódź is not only the largest city in the region and its capital, but has the greatest functional impact on the regional settlement system as well.

4. In 1995, (cf tab. 2) Łódź was still a monofunctional city, strongly dominated by industry (43%), and no other exogenic function met the criteria of co-dominance. The city’s contemporary functional development indicates that it has already developed a multifunctional (complex) structure, characteristic of large metropolitan centres (Suliborski, 2000).

Literature

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