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Institute of Tourism

**TOURIST ACTIVENESS OF YOUTH IN 1994
AND DURING WINTER BREAK OF 1995**

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1. Methodology

Youth between 15-18¹ continuing education after primary schools in vocational schools and high schools constitute 23% of total Poland's population. Interest in their activeness, including a tourist one, is understable for educational and economic reasons.

Questionnaire survey dealing with tourist activeness of this group of youth were carried out at the request of State Sports and Tourism Administration on the representative sample of 2606 students from 43 voivodships (out of 49). The research was conducted in a first quarter of 1995 at the meetings in randomly chosen schools and classes.

The survey let us determine the volume of domestic and outbound tourism of Polish youth in 1994 and its organizational forms as well as tourist activeness during winter break of 1995. There was also an attempt to learn about tourist plans regarding summer holidays 1995.

2. Domestic and international travels

88% of youth took part in various kinds of domestic and international (day trips, weekends and longer than two three days) travels in 1994 (table 1).

Table 1. Participation of youth in tourist trips in 1994 (%).

Sex	Participants in domestic and international trips	Participants in international trips
Total	88	22
Boys	87	24
Girls	88	20

¹/ Age category specified in Statistical Year Book of Central Statistical Office, 1994. The sample at question covered basicly the age span 15-19, though some older students can be found there.

Throughout the year the participation of youth in short trips (up to 3 days) remained on the same level of 76-78%. Organizers of such trips were parents, schools, and young people themselves, respectively.

The basic indicator of tourist activeness of young people are travels during summer holidays - the longest break in school. 87% of students took part in these trips, and 83% while excluding same-day trips.

Like in 1993, 22% students took part in tourists trips to other countries (table 2), 78% of them travelled abroad only once. The number of multiple trips compared to 1993 decreased by 50%.

Majority of foreign travels were relatively long. 38% of young tourists stayed abroad at least one week.

Table 2. Frequency of foreign travel in 1994.

Frequency of travels	Share in %
once	78 %
twice	15 %
3 and more times	7 %

Table 3. Duration of the longest foreign trip in 1994

Duration (number of days)	Share in %
1 day	18 %
2 - 3 days	8 %
4 days	4 %
5 - 6 days	7 %
7 - 11 days	38 %
15 - 30 days	21 %
over 30 days	4 %

Table 4. Character of foreign travels in 1994

Character of travel	Share in %
individual, eg. with parents, friends	66 %
collective, eg. tour, camp	38 %

Table 5. Foreign countries visited in 1994

Visited countries	Share in %
Germany	48 %
Czech Republic and Slovakia	48 %
France	14 %
Austria	11 %
Hungary	6 %
Italy	6 %
Benelux countries	6 %
Great Britain	3 %
Former USSR	3 %
Scandinavia	3 %
Bulgaria	1 %
other European	3 %

Presenting general review of tourist activeness of youth in 1994 it is worth to point out to the way of spending time while on holiday. Students most often indicated following purposes of their trips (it was allowed to indicate more than one):

* social, entertainment	52 %
* recreation	43 %
* cognitive	31 %
* visiting friends and relatives	30 %

80% of young travelers were satisfied with their stay outside their permanent residence.

3. Tourist activeness of youth during summer holidays 1994 and winter break 1995

During summer holidays 83% of youth took active part in travels (see tables below).

During two week winter break of 1995 the participation in tourist travels decreased by half (40%) compared to summer 1994. Travels abroad were taken by only 8% of young people.

Characteristic feature of holiday trips of 1994 was not only their frequency but also the length of stay outside permanent residence.

Travels lasting at least 7 days were taken by 84% of youth. Travels of 7-14 days (46%) and 15-30 days (30%) dominated.

During winter break of 1995 short trips were taken four times more often than in summer. Trips of 7 days and more were seldom.

Travels to friends and relatives dominated both in summer and in winter. Summer holidays were spent with families three times more often than in winter.

Youth were using various kinds of accommodation, though the most popular were stays with friends and relatives, rented rooms and youth hostels. In summer over 1/3 respondents used camp sites and tent areas.

The most popular transportation were cars, then railway and scheduled buses. Majority of respondents declared their daily expenditures both in summer and winter to be below 5 zloty (less than 2 dollars). Such expenditures were declared by 91% respondents in summer and 68% respondents in winter.

The main reason for remaining at home were declared financial problems. Below we present the structure of travel during summer holidays 1994 and winter holiday 1995.

Table 6. Frequency of travel during summer holiday 1994 and winter break of 1995

Frequency of travel	Summer holidays	Winter 1995
1 - 2	59 %	90 %
3 - 4	24 %	7 %
5 - 6	8 %	1 %
7 and more	9 %	2 %

Table 7. Duration of the longest trip during summer holidays in 1994 and winter break of 1995

Duration (days)	Summer Holi- days	Winter 1995
1	4 %	22 %
2 - 3	4 %	13 %
4	2 %	8 %
5 - 6	6 %	15 %
7 - 14	46 %	40 %
15 - 30	30 %	2 %
over 30	8 %	-

Table 8. Type of travel during summer holiday in 1994 and winter break of 1995

Type of travel	Summer holidays	Winter 1995
Youth camp (recreational)	13 %	5 %
Youth camp - special interest (hiking, sports, language learning)	11 %	4 %
Spa and sanatorium	4 %	-
Camping	24 %	-
In holiday center with family	26 %	9 %
Visiting friends and relatives	58 %	69 %
Summer house	7 %	-
Other	20 %	23 %

Table 9. Organization of trips during summer holidays in 1994 and winter break of 1995

Organization	Summer holidays	Winter 1995
Individual	31 %	b.d.
In a group of friends	35 %	b.d.
Family	46 %	b.d.
Parents' employer	8 %	b.d.
School or an organization operating in school	4 %	b.d.
Sports club	4 %	b.d.
Travel agency	4 %	b.d.
Parish (or other religious unit)	6 %	b.d.
Others	10 %	b.d.

Table 10. Accommodation establishments used during summer holidays in 1994 and winter break of 1995

Type of establishments	Summer holidays	Winter 1995
Youth hostile, hostile	10 %	7 %
Rented rooms, pension	11 %	10 %
Home of friends and relatives	57 %	68 %
Camping site, tent area	38 %	1 %
Hotel, motel, inn	6 %	4 %
Holiday center	12 %	3 %
Summer house	8 %	-
Others	9 %	15 %

Table 11. Means of transportation used during summer holidays in 1994 and winter break of 1995

Mean of transportation	Summer holiday	Winter 1995
Railway	45 %	37 %
Scheduled buses	36 %	36 %
Private car	51 %	45 %
Tourist couch	19 %	10 %
Public transport in metropolitan areas	5 %	7 %
Motorcycle, bicycle	11 %	3 %
Hichhiking	6 %	3 %
Plane	1 %	-
Others	4 %	4 %

4. General overview of domestic and outbound holiday plans for summer 1995

The question "do you forseen in 1995 a trip outside your permanet residence" during summer holidays was answered positively by 89% of students. 11% had either no precise travel plans or declared "I would like to but it will depend on a number of factors, first of all funds".

Among those planning domestic travel the prefered areas were the following:

- * seaside 41 %
- * mountains 33 %
- * specific cities or localities 23 %
- * lake districts 22 %
- * traveling across the country 21 %

As many as 31% of youth plan trips abroad with the preference of such countries as Germany, France, Italy, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Referring to previous surveys one can suppose that plans regarding domestic travel will be implemented while only 25% of youth will go abroad.

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