

Chapter 5.

NON-AGRICULTURAL RURAL POPULATION IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION PERIOD RELATED TO THE POLISH ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract. *At the end of the 1980s families managing agricultural holdings constituted almost 59% of Polish rural families¹. Transformations in agriculture and agrarian structure, changes in production conditions and agricultural products' sale caused the need to discontinue of farming by a number of rural residents and to search for new non-agricultural earning opportunities, which results in the constantly increasing trend as regards the process of non-agricultural rural families group forming. This category has firmly inscribed itself into rural reality and the further social and economic development of rural areas is to a large extent related to non-agricultural population, thanks to whom the pace of positive changes in rural areas and agriculture is still increasing.*

Keywords: *Rural areas, non-agricultural population, livelihoods.*

¹ Data based on IAFE survey 1988.