

Education



University of Pécs

The modern [University of Pécs](#) was founded on 1 January 2000, however its roots go back to 1367 when the Anjou king of Hungary, Louis the Great established the first Hungarian university in Pécs.

With its ten faculties - Faculty of Adult Education and Human Resources Development, Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Law, Medical School, Faculty of Music and Visual Arts, Faculty of Sciences, Illyés Gyula Faculty of Education and Pollack Mihály Faculty of Engineering - the University of Pécs plays a significant role in Hungarian higher education. The University offers a broad range of training and degree programmes, ensuring high-level knowledge-transfer and research. With its more than 29,000 students and nearly 2,000 teaching and research staff the impact of the University of Pécs extends well beyond the borders of Pécs.

The University of Pécs has also started to develop its programmes within the area of life-long learning. In addition, the University attaches great importance to training in the colleges for advanced studies. Increasing number of Hungarian students participate in international study programmes as an integral part of their education, and likewise, an increasing number of international students and researchers come to the University of Pécs to study and conduct research every year. Therefore, the University continuously works on expanding and improving its co-operation with other universities and international research institutions and is already part of a large network at different levels.



Kaposvár University

Established concurrently with the restructuring of the Hungarian higher education system, [Kaposvár University](#) was founded on the 1st of January, 2000, by the joint decision and fusion of its founder legal predecessors, integrating two faculties and two research institutes.

With its four faculties – Faculty of Animal Science, Faculty of Economic Science, Faculty of Pedagogy and Faculty of Arts – it is the second university of South Transdanubia. The faculties of animal science and arts provides the university a national importance in the Hungarian higher education system. The university has 6000 students, and cultivates intensive relations with the economy of the region. This cooperation is especially fruitful in the sectors of food science and industry, and in the cultural industry. The Institute of Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology of the University boasts a world-renowned teacher-researcher base and applies imaging diagnostics to conduct a broad scope of animal science research and to provide human diagnostic services.

Economic processes and industry

With respect to per capita gross domestic product (GDP) figures, the South Transdanubia region’s position deteriorated by 14,29% compared to the national average between 1994 and 2005. (In 1994 the region reached 83,65% of the national average, the same figure was only 63,96% in 2005.) Apart from a short term stagnation, the difference increased continuously throughout this period. Applying central measures failed to halt, or slow down the increase of differences in regional development.

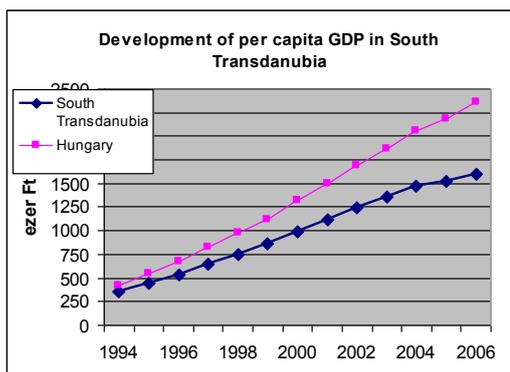


Diagram 1

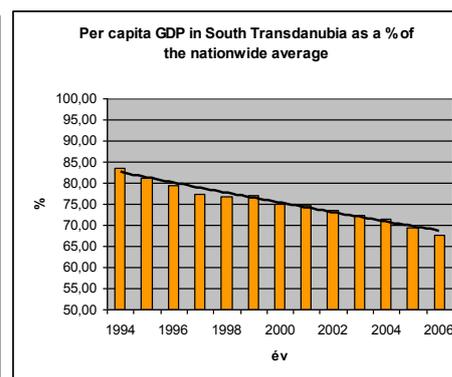


Diagram 2

(data in thousand HUF)
Source: Central Statistical Office (KSH)

Hungary’s per capita gross domestic product, calculated at purchasing power standard (PPS) is suitable for international comparison – despite the difference continuously decreasing throughout the 1990’s – was still only 59,9% of the EU-25 average in 2003. The South Transdanubia region reached merely 42,9% of the EU-25 average in 2003 (Central Statistical Office (KSH)).

The structure of the economy underwent substantial transformation after the change of the political system, primarily with mining being cut back. Parallel to industry being forced to the background, the performance of the service sector became stronger, while that of agriculture shows a continuously decreasing tendency, although with slight variations. The appearance of sectors generating high added value was not able to offset heavy industry losing ground. The strong position of the services sector is outstanding even at Hungarian regional comparison as

well. The proportion of agriculture can be considered high compared to the other regions in Hungary (it is the second highest). The food industry is of outstanding importance in the economy of the region, and the same statement can be made in connection with the processing industry. The nuclear power plant at Paks is the only one in Hungary, consequently plays outstanding role in the regional industry by satisfying more the 40 per cent of the Hungarian energy consumption.



The South Transdanubian region's share of added value that the various sectors of the economy produce nationwide is also very different. In 2002 South Transdanubia provided almost 15% of the national performance of agriculture, wild game husbandry, forest management, and fishing, while 17% of electrical energy (gas, steam, water supply). The significance of food processing, machinery production and electronics, as well as of the textile and tanning industry can be highlighted within the processing industry. The region's contribution to nationwide sectoral performance was less than the above in the other sectors of the economy.

Within the region's industrial sales, the share of export lags significantly behind the proportion of national export. Regarding the performance of sales in the various sectors, the greatest proportion of goods were exported to foreign markets in the machine industry and the textile industry, the bulk of sales in these sectors are made abroad.

The cultural and landscape-natural features of the South Transdanubian region are favourable for the development of tourism. Thanks to this, tourism plays an important role in the region's economic life. The capacities, however, are not adequately utilised: currently a significant portion of the region's tourism product range is not marketable. Providing complex tourism products from attractions separated both thematically and geographically is not achieved effectively due to frequent deficiencies in co-operation among the actors, and human capital being underdeveloped, while the efficient promotion of the existing product range is not effectively achieved either because of improper co-ordination among different regional levels, and the lack of marketing activities. Only few information and services are available online, while the standard of tourism and catering services are not characteristic and location specific, and are also of low quality in many cases. The region's transit-geographical fringe situation is only being alleviated slowly. As a consequence, the region's position is deteriorating year by year, both visitor turnover, and the number of visitor nights is decreasing. This is especially characteristic of foreign tourists, who – at the same time – spend longer time in the region: accordingly 46% of visitor nights spent in the region in 2005 were still derived from foreign visitors.



Tourism in the region is extraordinarily concentrated in space: the Lake Balaton – with international significance – has a 57,1% share of the region’s visitor turnover (water tourism (passive waterside recreation, active waterside recreation – sailing, angling), active tourism (pedestrian trekking, bicycle tourism, equestrian tourism), health tourism, wine tourism, cultural tourism, conference tourism), while the Pécs-Villány-Siklós area has 28% of the same (2005).

The Pécs-Mecsek and Siklós-Villány area is the second most important target area. The architectural heritage and UNESCO World Heritage Site title of Pécs and its cultural offering, moreover the medicinal waters in Harkány, and the established wine tourism products at the Villány winegrowing region are the biggest appeals of this area. The number of visitors is rising in the Siklós micro region, but has been decreasing in that of Pécs since 2002.



Therapeutic baths, business and sports tourism in Kaposvár, the Danube-Drava National Park and water tourism products along the Drava River, as well as rural, equestrian, wine and eco-tourism in the mountains and hills are the region’s additional areas with important appeal.

Excellent opportunity for the region to introduce its cultural heritage and its linkages with the West Balkan countries that in 2010 Pécs was the European Capital of Culture, attracting visitors from all over Europe.