

NBP

National Bank of Poland
holds the exclusive right to issue currency of the Republic of Poland.

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**, the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**. Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture, science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 złoty** coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

All coins and notes issued by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

Information on the issue schedule and par value sale of the 2 zł NG coins can be found at the www.nbp.pl/money website.

Collector coins issued by the NBP are sold exclusively at the Internet auctions held in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website:

www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 KOLEKCJONER

and at the Regional Branches of the NBP.

On 17 October 2011, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation a coin of the series “Cities and towns in Poland” depicting Łódź, with a face value of 2 zł – struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold.



face value 2 zł • metal CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy • finish standard
diameter 27.0 mm • weight 8.15 g • mintage (volume) 800,000 pcs

Obverse: An image of the Eagle established as the Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue, 20-11. Below the Eagle, an inscription, ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Along the rim, inscription, RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. Below the Eagle, on the right, the Mint's mark, M/W.

Reverse: At the bottom, against the background of a stylised element of elevation, a fragment of the Palace of Izrael Kalmanowicz Poznański in Łódź. At the top right side, semi-circular inscription: ŁÓDŹ.

On the edge: The inscription: NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated with stars.

Coin designer: Ewa Tyc-Karpińska

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.

Cities and towns in Poland

In 2009 the NBP launched a series of coins “Cities and towns in Poland”. The coin featuring Łódź is the 13th of the series.



ŁÓDŹ
17 October 2011



Łódź grew into a city only in the 19th century although its roots date back to the Middle Ages. The village of Łodzia was first mentioned in 1332 and in 1423 it was granted the city charter by King Władysław Jagiełło. However, until the end of the 18th century Łódź was a small agricultural town. For almost 400 years, the number of inhabitants was a few hundred people and their main activity was farming, crafts and trade.

In 1820, following the decision of the Kingdom of Poland on transforming Łódź into a textile manufacturing centre, the city started to develop dynamically.

Weavers began to arrive in Łódź - from Great Poland, Silesia, Saxony, the Czech lands, Brandenburg and Moravia. The settlers were granted plots of land and government loans. In 1821–1823, the city authorities established a clothiers' settlement called Nowe Miasto (New Town) with a centrally located marketplace which is today's Plac Wolności.

In 1824–1827, another settlement of manufacturers was established – Łódka, situated near today's Piotrkowska street. It is there that the first linen and cotton yarn mills sprang up by the numerous creeks and mill ponds.

A dynamic development of Łódź started in the middle of the 19th century. In several dozen years, Łódź changed from a small town into an industrial metropolis and at the turn of the 19th and 20th century it had 300 thousand inhabitants. The beginnings of the great industrial Łódź were connected with the establishment of large manufactories, among others, Ludwik Geyer's factory complex (the White Factory), the industrial empire of Karol Scheibler or the factory of the third "cotton king" who competed with the latter – Izrael K. Poznański, as well as many others who belonged to famous industrial families. The traces of their activities are still present in the city landscape – the huge factory complexes, eclectic palaces, and Art Nouveau tenements. One of the symbols of the power of the industrial Łódź is the palace of Poznański, called "the Łódź Louvre", which hosts the collection of the Museum of the City of Łódź.

In the 19th century Łódź became the proverbial promised land for resourceful inhabitants of this multinational and multicultural city. Until 1939, more than 600 thousand people lived there, including 52% of Poles, 33% of Jews, 10% of Germans and less numerous

representatives of other nationalities. After World War II, only a scarce number of the 200 thousand Jewish Diaspora and 60 thousand German citizens remained in Łódź.

Despite several crises and historical turbulence Łódź was the capital of Polish textile and light industry for over 150 years. The period of economic transition at the beginning of the 1990s turned out to be the most difficult time. Efforts to protect hundreds of cotton, wool, silk, clothing and leather factories against bankruptcy failed. The city has been forced to look for a new growth path in recent decades and decided to focus on branches of industry different than before. Such industries have been introduced as electro-technical industry, household goods manufacturing, services for businesses, logistics, as well as cultural and artistic traditions of Łódź, in particular, in cinematography (the famous film school) and the avant-garde (Museum of Art).

In the former factory buildings, high class office blocks, hotels, galleries and commercial centres are situated nowadays, using new technologies and innovative solutions. The lofts of the old spinning mill in Księży Młyn, formerly owned by Scheibler, have been adapted for housing, and the factory of Poznański (later the seat of POLTEX) is now a huge commercial and entertainment complex called Manufaktura, vibrant with life.

Łódź invests in modern industries and creativity, the development of the fashion industry, of design and art. An investment project worthy of a new phase of the city's history is planned in the coming years – the construction of an underground railway station and the New Centre of Łódź. This is a challenge of the 21 century stature to be accomplished with the participation of architects of world-renown, such as Daniel Libeskind, who comes from Łódź. In the former EC1 power station a modern science and technology museum is being constructed and the multi-storey station will be ready by the end of 2014. Above it, the new heart of the city is to be erected on 90 hectares, including, among others, Rynek Katarzyny Kobro (Katarzyna Kobro Marketplace) with Polish, Jewish, German and Russian streets inspired by the four cultures present in Łódź before World War II, and a Special Art Zone.