

This is Poland

This is Poland

FOREWORD

In the period 1 July–31 December 2011, Poland for the first time is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Facing this important challenge is at the same time a chance to familiarise the European community with Poland's achievements, cultural heritage and beauties of nature as well as to attract interest in our accomplishments and efforts to be made.

On the occasion of the Polish Presidency, the Central Statistical Office of Poland presents a publication "*This is Poland*". The study includes basic information on the socio-economic situation of Poland. The individual sections identify major trends of selected issues observed in Poland since the accession to the European Union. Some data are also presented in comparison with the results achieved by other EU Member States.

I believe that this elaboration will give you an inspiration for getting to know more about our country. At the same time, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the rich information resources of the Polish official statistics.



Janusz Witkowski
Acting President of the Central Statistical Office

Warsaw, June 2011

Statistical symbols

(—)	– magnitude zero
(.)	– data not available or not reliable
(x)	– not applicable

Major abbreviations

thous.	– thousand
mln	– million
bn	– billion
zł	– zloty
USD	– United States dollar
km ²	– square kilometer
ha	– hectare
t	– tonne
PPS	– Purchasing Power Standard
EU	– European Union
SITC	– Standard International Trade Classification
GDP	– Gross Domestic Product
ISCED	– International Standard Classification of Education

General notes

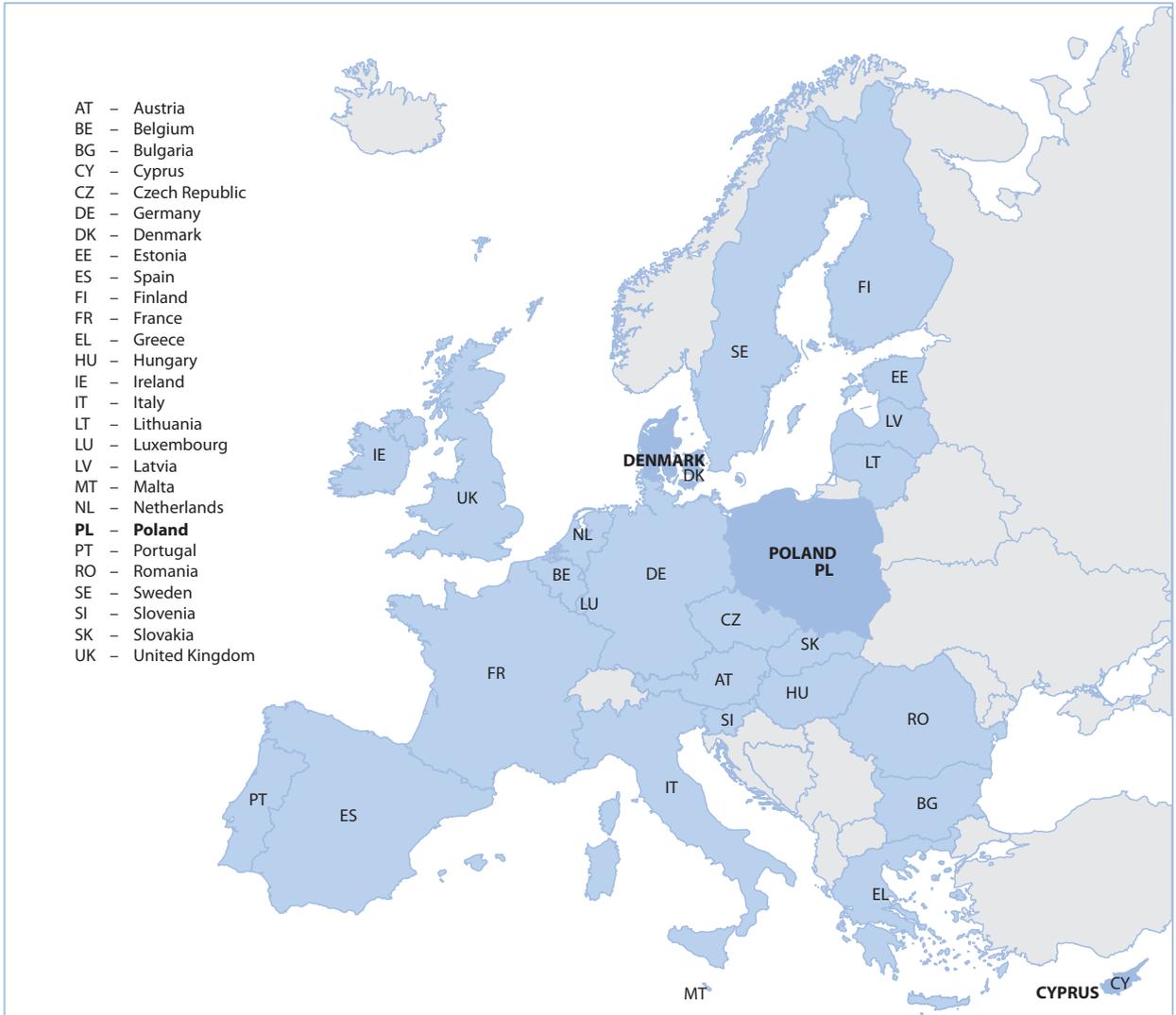
- Data on national accounts are presented in accordance with NACE Rev. 1.1.
- Data concerning economic activity of the population were compiled on the basis of Labour Force Survey (LFS).
- Graphs on the European Union countries are prepared on the basis of data extracted from the Eurostat's database on 29 April 2011.

Publication available on the website – www.stat.gov.pl

Graphic design & print STATISTICAL PUBLISHING ESTABLISHMENT

Contents

1. Governance	9
2. Territory	13
3. Population	17
4. Education	23
5. Labour market	27
6. Incomes and Living conditions	33
7. Health	37
8. Culture	41
9. Information society	45
10. Environment	49
11. Agriculture	53
12. Industry and Construction	57
13. Services	61
14. Foreign trade	65
15. National accounts	69



1

Governance





MAJOR EVENTS IN POLAND WITHIN THE LAST 30 YEARS

August 1980	The foundation of the NSZZ "Solidarność" (Independent Self-governing Trade Union "Solidarity")
February 1989	The Round Table Talks, opening up the opportunity for the first free elections in Poland
November 1990	The first general Presidential elections
November 1991	Admission to the Council of Europe
November 1996	Accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
March 1999	Accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
May 2004	Accession to the European Union (EU)
July–December 2011	Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The Republic of Poland is a democratic State of law, whose political system is defined by the Constitution of 2 April 1997.

3 May – National Constitution Day. The Constitution adopted in 1791 was Europe’s first and the world’s second Constitution regulating the organisation of State authorities, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

The political system of the Republic of Poland is based on the separation and balance of legislative, executive and judicial powers. The legislation is exercised by Parliament, the executive power by the President and the Council of Ministers, while the judiciary by independent courts and tribunals.

“Poland is not yet lost, while we live...” – with these words the Polish National Anthem begins – a song of the Polish Legions in Italy commanded by General J. H. Dąbrowski, penned in 1797 by J. Wybicki.

In 1989 the bicameral Parliament, comprising the Sejm and the Senate, was restored. 460 deputies – representatives of the lower house of Parliament (the Sejm), and 100 senators, are elected for a 4-year term. Members of Parliament are elected by secret voting in free, general elections conducted according to the proportional representation system.

11 November – National Independence Day (commemorating the anniversary of Poland’s assumption of independent Statehood in 1918 after 123 years of partition).

In the 7th term of the European Parliament (2009–2014) Poland is represented by 50 Eurodeputies.

The national symbols of the Republic of Poland are the White Eagle, the red and white colours as well as Polish National Anthem “Mazurek Dąbrowskiego”.

The Polish zloty is the official currency in Poland.



Sejm of the Republic of Poland – main building

2

Territory



Population density in Poland by voivodships in 2010 (as of 31 December)

Poland = 122



Territorial structure of Poland in 2010 (as of 31 December)

Voivodships	16
Powiats	314
Cities with powiat status	65
Gminas	2 479

The three-tier territorial division is binding in Poland – gminas, powiats and voivodships.

Poland is a relatively big country located in Central Europe in the temperate climate zone. In the west, Poland borders on Germany, in the south on the Czech Republic and Slovakia, in the east on Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania, and in the north on Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast). Most of the Polish northern border is the coastline of the Baltic Sea (770 km shoreline). The country's area equals 312,7 thous. km², which ranks Poland ninth in Europe and sixth among the EU Member States.

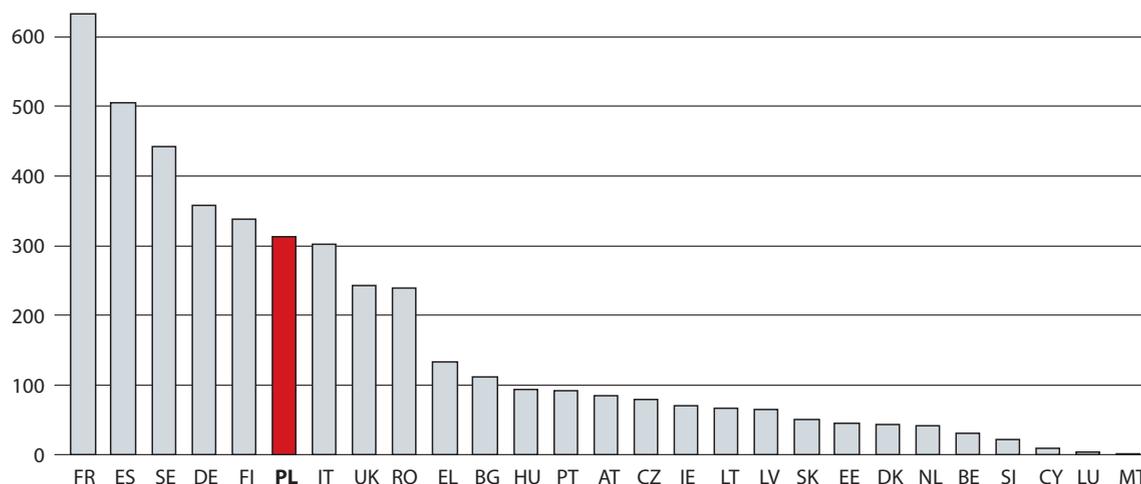
Most of the Polish eastern border is the external border of the Schengen Area.

Poland is a lowland country with most of its area not exceeding 200 metres above the sea level. However, all land forms can be found here – from depressions to high mountains.

The Masurian Lake District – a finalist in the New 7 Wonders of Nature project – is one of the most beautiful and touristically-interesting places in Poland and in the world. Masuria (a region located in the north-eastern part of Poland) is called the District of a Thousand Lakes – in fact it comprises much more than this (over 3 thousand lakes). The richness of its landscape parks, abounding forests and nature reserves, with a network of attractive tourist trails, makes the region enthusiastically visited by tourists.

North Poland is famous for abundant and picturesque lakes, causing great admiration of tourists. The longest Polish river – the Vistula River – runs through the central part of the country, from the Carpathian Mountains in the south to the Baltic Sea in the north.

Total area in thous. km²



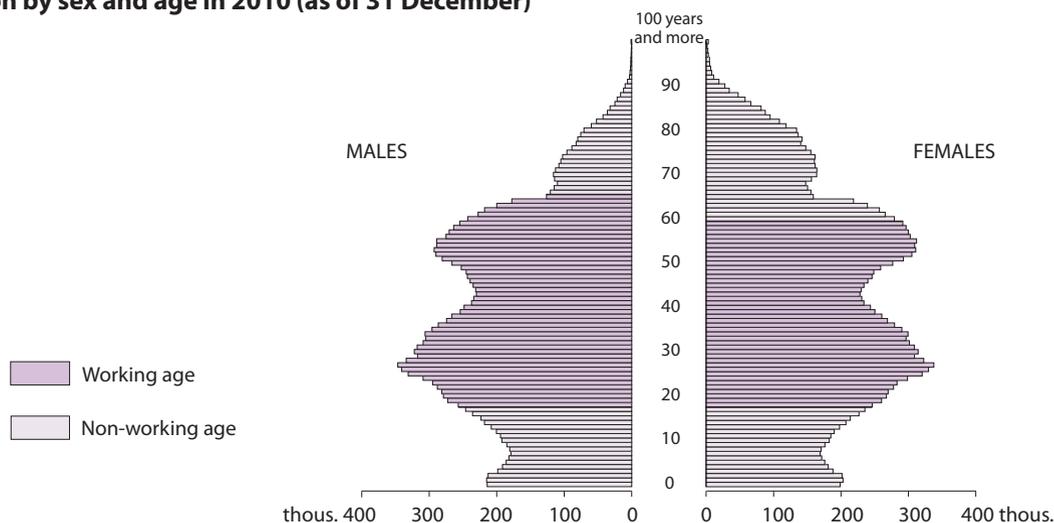
3

Population



POPULATION

Population by sex and age in 2010 (as of 31 December)



Basic demographic data

	2000	2003	2010
Population (as of 31 December) in thous.	38 254	38 191	38 200
In % of total population of age:			
pre-working age	24.4	21.9	18.7
working age	60.8	62.9	64.4
post-working age	14.8	15.2	16.9
Non-working age population per 100 persons at working age	64.5	58.9	55.2
Females per 100 males	106.4	106.6	107.1
Per 1 000 population:			
live births	9.9	9.2	10.8
deaths	9.6	9.6	9.9
natural increase	0.3	-0.4	0.9
marriages	5.5	5.1	6.0
divorces	1.1	1.3	1.6
separations	0.04	0.08	0.07
Infant deaths per 1 000 live births	8.1	7.0	5.0

Poland with about 38.2 mln inhabitants is the sixth most populated country in the European Union. Women account for almost 52% of the population. About 61% of the inhabitants live in urban areas.

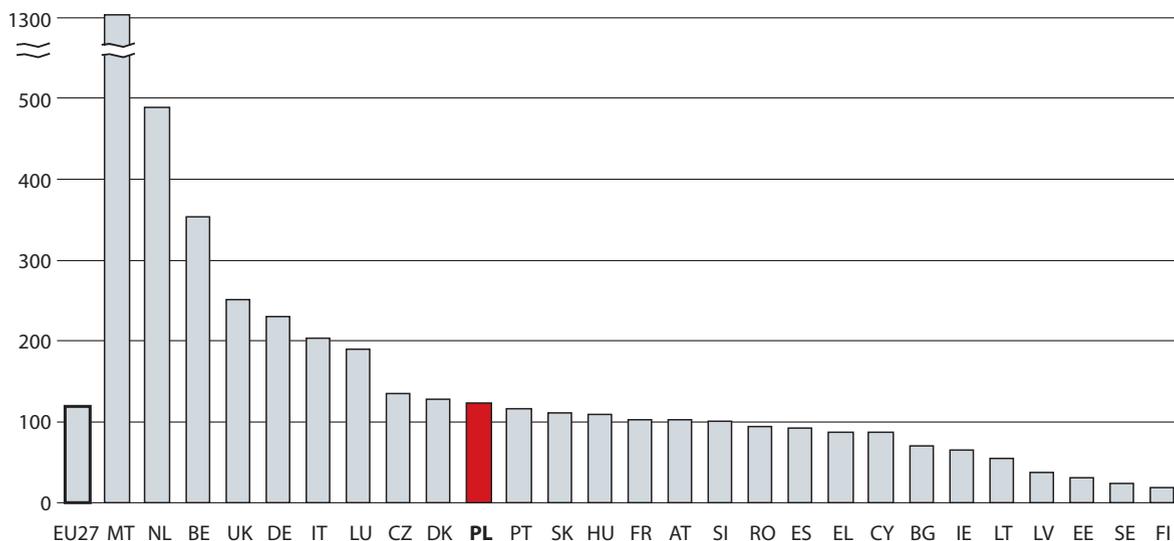
Warsaw, with 1.7 mln inhabitants is the most populated municipality. It means that 4.5% of the total population live in the capital of Poland.

Life expectancy in Poland is increasing but there is still a significant distance in comparison with some European countries. Polish women live longer than men – in 2010 life expectancy for women amounted to 80.6 years and for men to 72.1 years.

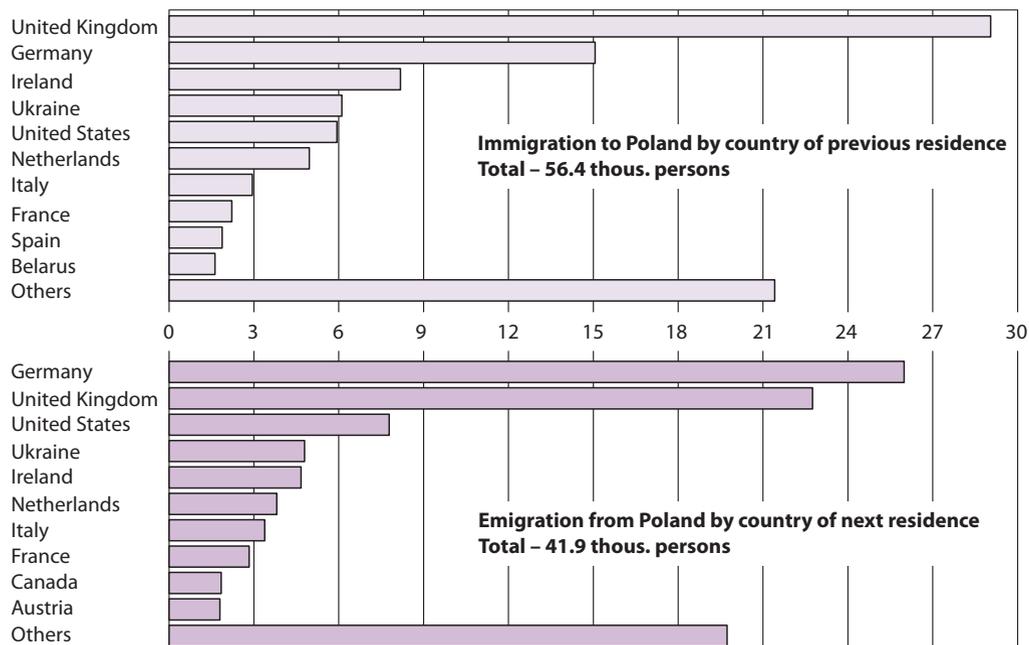
Gradual changes within the age structure of the Polish society have been observed. The advanced ageing of the labour force as well as the progressive process of the ageing of the whole population is being reported. In 2010 the share of persons aged 65 years and more in the total population was 13.6%, whereas the percentage of children (aged 0–14) was 15.1%. Despite these changes, compared with other European countries, Poland is still a young society. The average age of Poles is 37.8 years.

Population density in 2008

Population per 1 km²



The directions of international migrations for period of at least 12 months in 2009 (in % of total)



Basic demographic data (cont.)

	2000	2003	2010
Life expectancy (in years):			
males	69.7	70.5	72.1
females	78.0	78.9	80.6
Median age of population:			
males	33.4	34.2	35.9
females	37.4	38.3	39.8
Median age of women at child-bearing	26.1	26.9	28.6
Median age of bridegrooms and brides:			
males	25.6	26.5	28.0
females	23.6	24.4	26.0

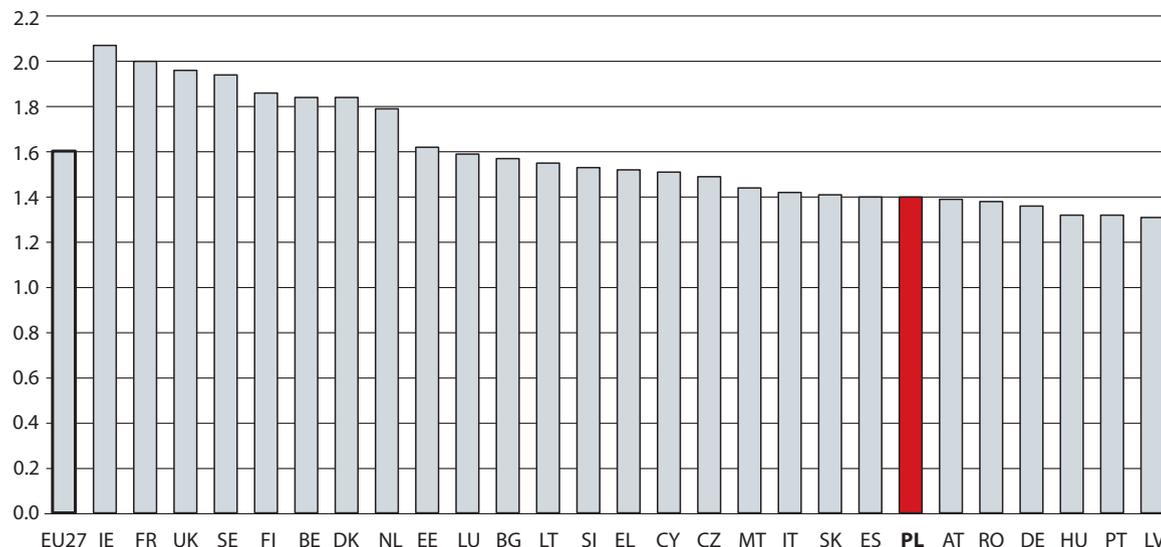
In Poland, as in most EU countries, the low natural increase of population is a serious problem (in 2010 it amounted to 0.9‰). Since 2004 the number of births has been rising, however the fertility rate is still too low for ensuring a simple replacement of generations – in 2010 there were 14 births per 10 women on average (while it is considered that every woman is to give birth to 2.1 children for the population to be reproduced).

The average age of women at childbirth has significantly grown in recent years. Nevertheless, on average Polish women at childbirth are among the youngest in the EU.

A vast majority of children (almost 80%) are born within marriages. At the same time a growth of the proportion of illegitimate births is being observed. However, in comparison with other EU countries this percentage is still at a low level.

Net long-term international migration (lasting at least 12 months) in 2009 was positive and amounted to over 14 thous. persons. There were over 56 thous. immigrants, the majority of whom were Poles returning to their country. In the previous years emigration was predominating.

Total fertility rate in 2009



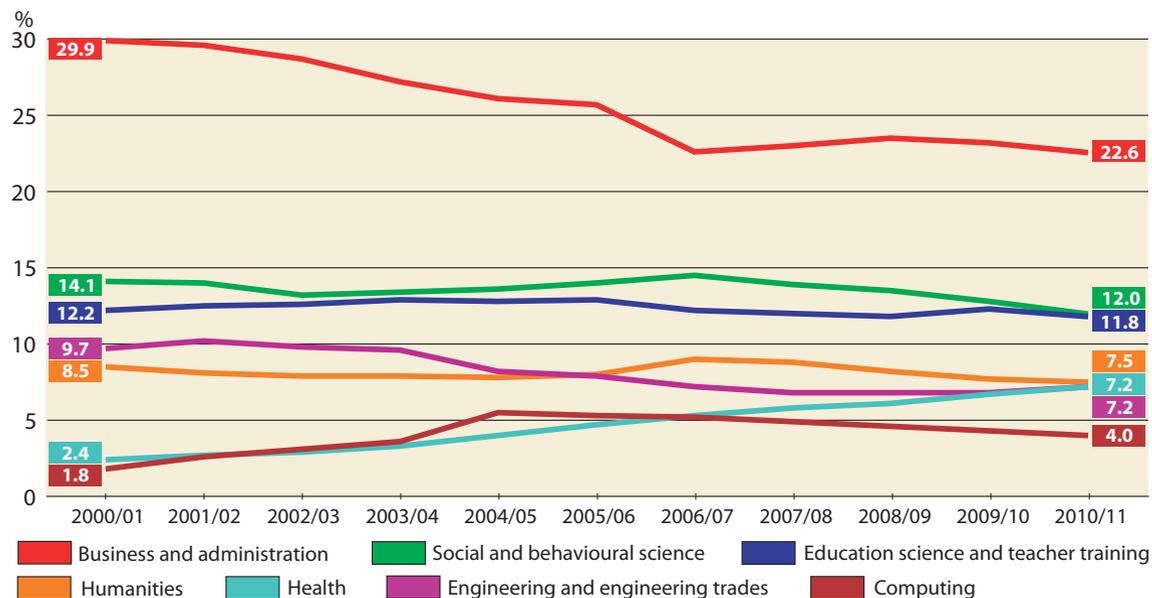
4

Education



EDUCATION

Students of higher education institutions by selected fields of education (according to ISCED '97) – in % of total



Net enrollment rate in %

	Age groups	School year	
		2003/04	2010/11
Schools:			
primary (ISCED 1)	7–12 years	98.5	96.4
lower secondary (ISCED 2)	13–15	95.6	93.8
basic vocational (ISCED 3)	16–18	} 87.7	14.2
general and specialized secondary (ISCED 3)	16–18		46.6
technical secondary (ISCED 3)	16–18		28.8
post-secondary (ISCED 4)	19–21	8.1	6.9
tertiary ^a excluding postgraduate studies (ISCED 5)	19–24 years	35.3	40.8

^a Excluding foreign students as well as students of extra-mural studies pursuing this form of education until the 2005/06 academic year.

The education system in Poland comprises pre-school institutions, primary schools, lower secondary (gymnasia) and upper secondary (post-gymnasium schools). In accordance with Polish law, higher education institutions constitute a separate system of tertiary education.

Generally, children start education at the age of six. Pupils' educational achievements are graded according to a 6-mark scheme (from 1 – failed to 6 – excellent).

Progressing demographic changes are reflected in the size and structure of the population participating in education – since 1995 the number of pupils at particular educational levels has been gradually decreasing. Similar tendencies have been recorded regarding the number of students of lower and upper secondary schools.

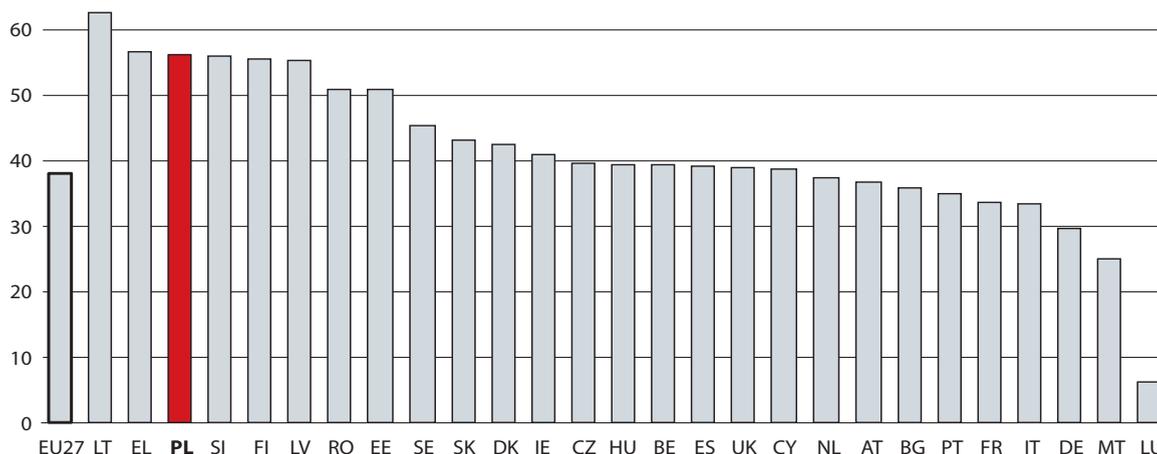
Tertiary education has been dynamically developing. The number of students has grown five times over the

last 20 years. The percentage of persons with tertiary education aged 30–34 has been regularly increasing – to 32.8% in 2009. The most frequently-pursued fields of education include, among others, business and administration, social and behavioural science, education science and teacher training as well as engineering.

Poland has already achieved a target of the 'Europe 2020' strategy, i.e. reducing the share of early school leavers to less than 10%. In Poland the percentage of young people who leave the education system before accomplishing lower-secondary education is the lowest among the EU countries and was equal to 5.0% in 2009.

The most popular foreign languages studied by children and youth are English and German. Recent surveys have shown that almost 40% of population aged 25–64 declare command of at least one foreign language.

Students of higher education institutions per 1000 population in the 2008/09 academic year

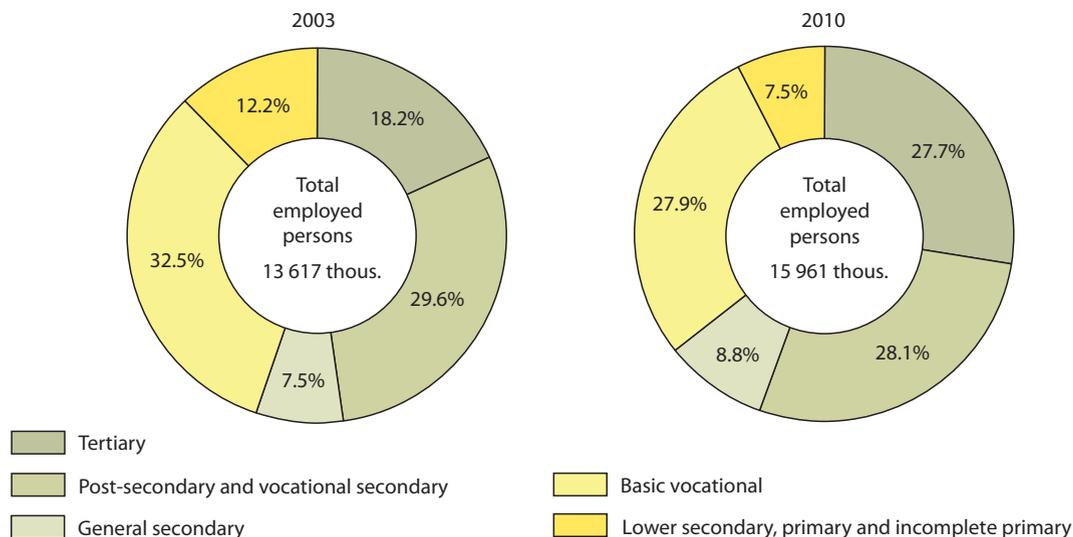


5

Labour Market



Structure of employed persons by educational level



Economic activity of the population aged 15 years and more (annual averages)

	2003	2010
Economically active persons in thous.	16 946	17 660
employed persons	13 617	15 961
unemployed persons	3 329	1 699
Economically inactive persons in thous.	14 007	14 014
Employed persons by economic sectors in thous.:		
agriculture	2 508	2 050
industry	3 892	4 813
services	7 217	9 087
Activity rate in %	54.7	55.8
Employment rate in %	44.0	50.4
of which persons aged 15–64	51.4	59.3
of which persons of working age ^a	55.7	64.9

^a Men aged 18–64 and women aged 18–59.

Poland has a considerable high-qualified human resources potential which is not fully used by the domestic labour market. The economically active persons amount to almost 56% of the population aged 15 years and more. Despite a gradual improvement observed until 2008, in 2010 the employment rate was still significantly lower than the EU average and amounted to just under 51%.

Although vital changes were recorded within the last twenty years there is still relatively high proportion of persons employed in agriculture and industry in Poland. The share of persons employed in the service sector amounted to almost 57%, while the EU average is about 70%. Over three out of four working persons are paid employees. Less than 74% of total employed persons work in the private sector. Many people in Poland work on temporary contracts – about 27% of total employees

are those with a contract of limited duration, which is the highest share in the EU. Part-time employment in Poland is considerably lower than in the EU on average (part-time employees are slightly over 8% of total employment).

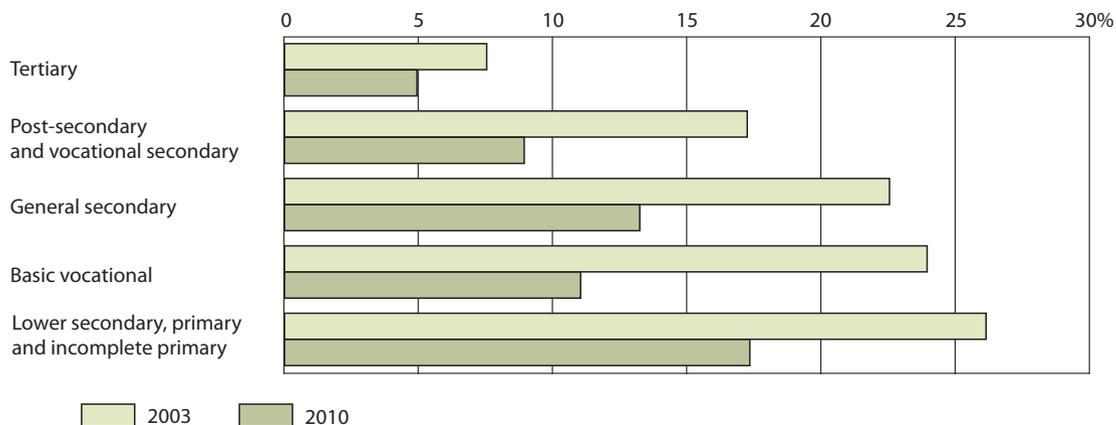
The economically active population (aged 15–64) of Poland amounted to 7.2% of total EU labour force in 2009.

Opening of European labour markets caused significant work-related emigration of Poles. Most popular destination countries to go to work are the United Kingdom and Germany, but also Ireland and the Netherlands. This phenomenon was recently diminished by the global financial and economic crisis.

Average growth rate of employment and labour productivity in 2003–2009



Unemployment rate by educational level



Unemployment^a (annual averages)

	2003	2010
Unemployed persons in thous.:		
men	3 329	1 699
women	1 588	803
of which persons aged: 15–24	855	414
55–64	130	132
Unemployment rate in %:	19.6	9.6
men	19.0	9.3
women	20.4	10.0
of which persons aged: 15–24	43.0	23.7
55–64	11.2	7.2
Unemployed persons by duration of job search in thous.:		
3 months and less	525	550
4– 6	467	358
7–12	683	357
13 months and more (long-term unemployed)	1 653	434
Average duration of job search in months	16.2	10.8

^a Data concern persons aged 15–74.

Unemployment still constitutes a problem in Poland. However, its scale is definitely smaller than 7–8 years ago. Since the accession to the EU, the unemployment rate was decreasing consistently up to 2008. As a result of the economic slowdown the unemployment grew within the next years and in 2010 the unemployment rate in Poland amounted to the EU average level (9.6%).

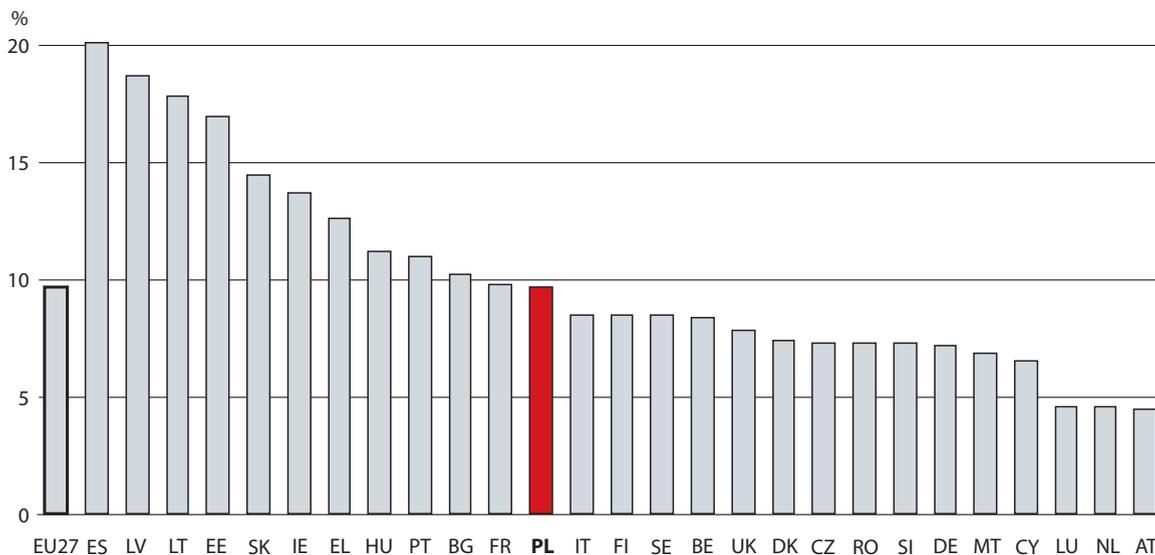
The unemployment rate among persons with tertiary education in Poland amounted to 4.4% in 2009, which is slightly lower than the EU average (4.9%).

The unemployment rate for men (9.3%) in 2010 typically remained lower than for women (10.0%), yet the gender

inequalities in unemployment have been decreasing for the last years. Unemployment rates by age groups show that the highest unemployment rate (as in most EU countries) was recorded among persons aged less than 25 years – 23.7%. The lowest unemployment rate (6.9%) was among persons aged 35 to 44.

A lack of qualifications is one of the factors causing unemployment. People with the lowest level of education have the most serious difficulties in finding a job, whereas those having a tertiary education are affected by unemployment to the least extent.

Unemployment rate in 2010



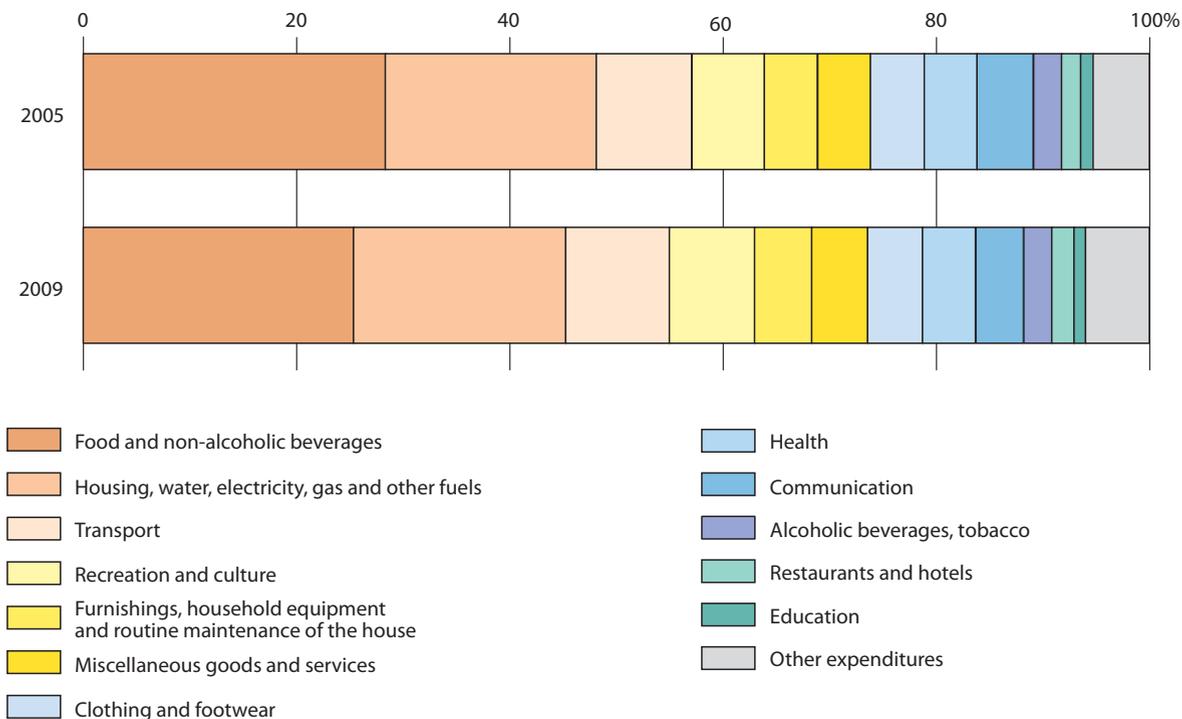
6

Incomes and Living Conditions



INCOMES AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Average monthly expenditures per capita in households



Selected social cohesion indicators

	2005	2009
	in %	
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers	29.8	23.6
At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers	20.5	17.1
Material deprivation rate	33.8	15.0
Low work intensity household rate	14.2	6.9
Gini coefficient	35.6	31.4

The income situation of households in Poland has been gradually improving. Based on the survey on income and living conditions EU-SILC it is estimated that over the period 2005–2009 the real value of disposable income grew by more than one third. At the same time, a decrease of inequalities in income distribution was observed.

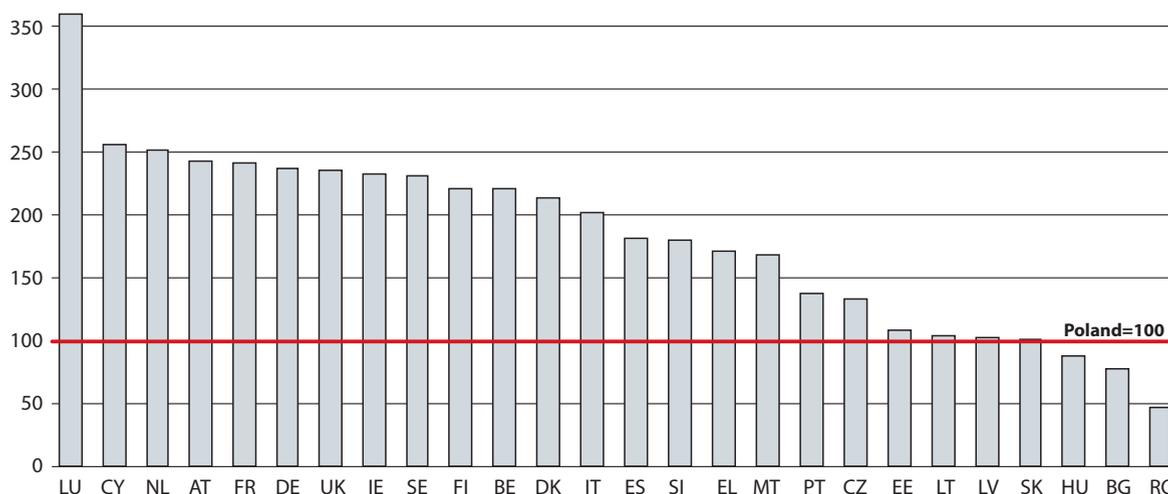
In 2009 about 15% of Poland's population experienced material deprivation, while in 2005 – 34%. The value of the corresponding rate for the EU countries amounted to 8% and 11% respectively. These numbers refer to people who are unable, due to financial problems, to satisfy at least 4 of 9 needs assumed as basic.

In spite of positive changes, Poland is one of the EU countries with a relatively low level of income. In 2009

mean annual disposable income per one adult in Poland amounted to EUR 5984. In nominal terms it was almost three times lower than the mean value for the EU. Yet, if differences in prices between countries are taken into account, disproportions between the purchasing power of income in Poland and in the richest countries were smaller.

Despite continuous improvement of living standards and gradual reduction in the income inequalities, poverty remains a significant social problem in Poland. In 2009 about 17% of the population lived in relative poverty (i.e. over 3 percentage points less than upon Poland's accession to the EU). At the same time, the at-risk-of-poverty rate for the EU was 16%. Although its value in Poland was similar to the EU average, the country ranked among those with the lowest poverty thresholds.

Disposable income in PPS in 2009

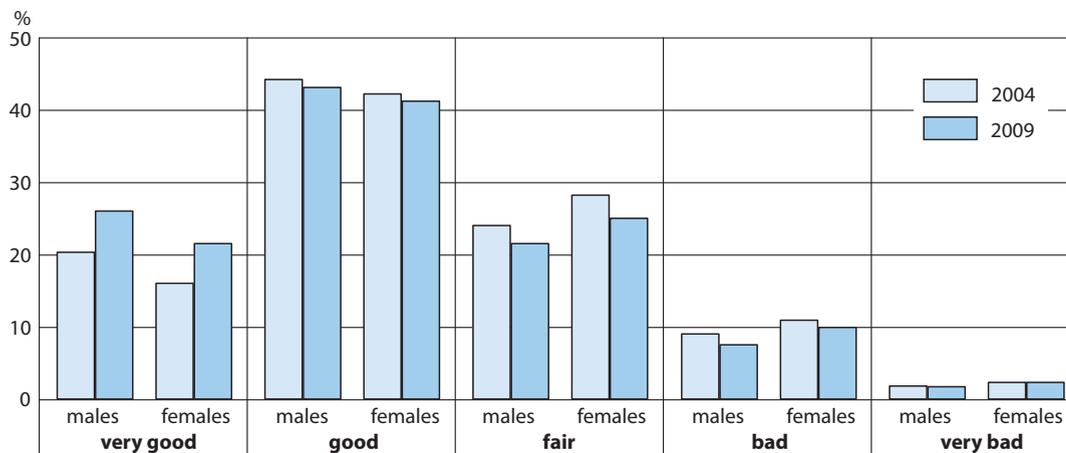


7

Health



Self-perceived health



Medical personnel, general hospitals, out-patient health care

	2003	2009
	per 10 000 population	
Medical personnel ^a :		
of which:		
doctors	24.3	21.7
dentists	2.9	3.2
nurses	47.4	52.4
midwives	5.5	5.8
Hospitals:		
facilities	2.0 ^b	2.1 ^b
beds	51.2	50.6
in-patients (excluding inter-ward patient transfer)	1 822	2 008
Out-patient health care:		
health care institutions	3.1	4.3
of which non-public	2.2	3.5
medical practices	2.1	1.8
consultations provided	6.6 ^c	7.6 ^c

a Working directly with patient. *b* Per 100 000 population. *c* Per capita.

Health status of the Polish society has been gradually improving over the last decades. Poles take care of their physical condition and the health awareness is getting better – e.g. a share of cigarette smokers has been decreasing, a growth is observed in the proportion of persons undergoing preventive examinations.

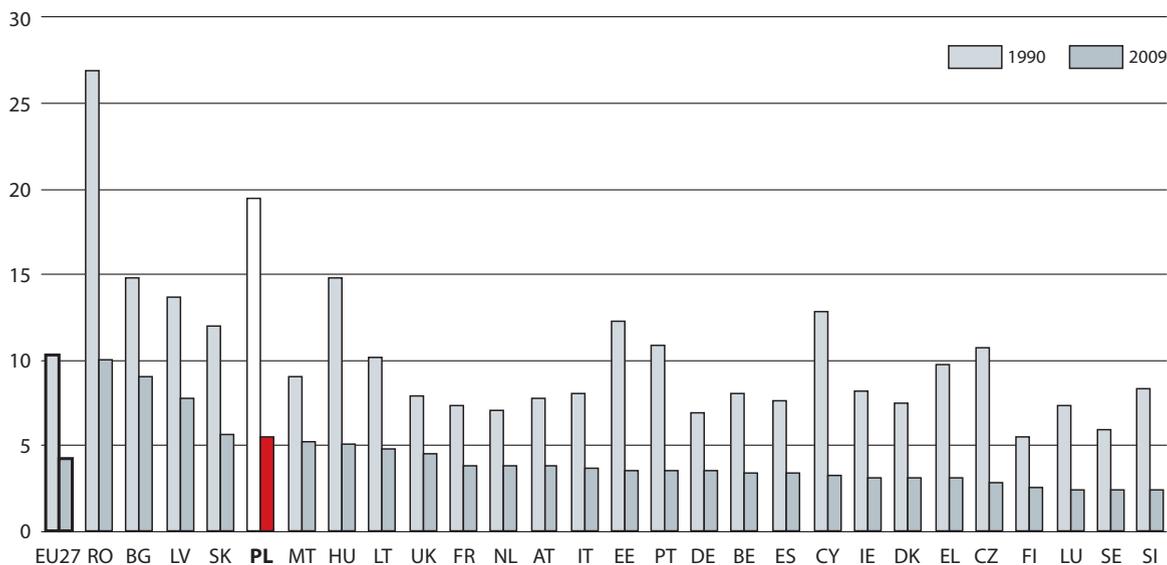
In Poland private medical services have been developing dynamically over the last few years. In 2009 non-public hospitals amounted to almost 30% of all hospitals and almost every tenth patient was treated in a non-public centre.

Positive trends in the area of healthy way of life are still accompanied by unfavourable phenomena, including the increasing percentage of overweight and

obese adults. Diseases of the circulatory system, being the main cause of death, are a serious health problem of the Polish society. In 2009 diseases of the circulatory system caused 46.1% of deaths; however, their share considerably dropped in relation to the one observed at the beginning of the 1990s (52.2% in 1990). Despite the fact that neoplasm prevention is being promoted, a problem regarding this disease has intensified – in 2009 almost one fourth of deaths was caused by neoplasms and the number of new cases has risen as well.

The number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births has been regularly decreasing in Poland. This ratio has declined from 19.3‰ in 1990 to 5.6‰ in 2009 and it was one of the most advantageous improvement in the EU.

Infant mortality rate

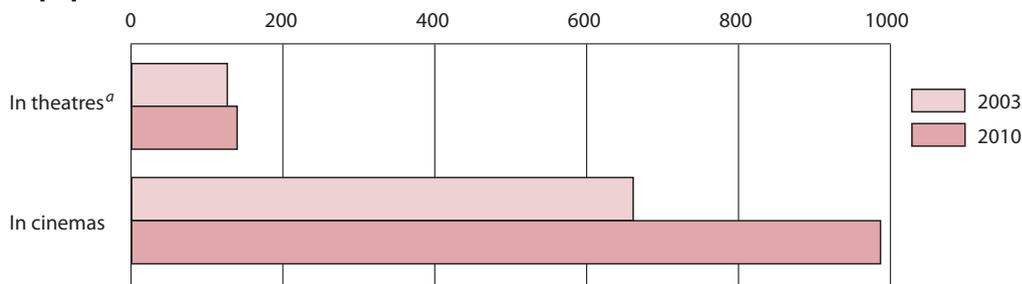


8

Culture



Audience per 1000 population



^a Data concern dramatic and puppet theatres.

Culture

	2005	2009
The share of expenditure on culture and protection of national heritage in percent of total expenditure:		
from the state budget	0.50	0.53
from local self-government entities budgets	3.31	3.79
The share of expenditure on culture in percent of total expenditure in households:		
employees	3.38	3.47
farmers	1.84	2.11
the self-employed	3.75	3.69
retirees	3.56	3.41
pensioners	2.85	2.98

UNESCO PROPERTIES IN POLAND

- Cracow's Historic Centre**
- Wieliczka Salt Mine**
- Auschwitz-Birkenau;**
German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940–1945)
- Białowieża Forest / Belovezhskaya Pushcha;**
located on the territory of Poland and Belarus
- Historic Centre of Warsaw**
- Old City of Zamość**
- Medieval Town of Toruń**
- Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork**
- Kalwaria Zebrydowska;**
the Mannerist Architectural and Park Landscape Complex and Pilgrimage Park
- Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica**
- Wooden churches of southern Little Poland:**
Binarowa, Blizne, Dębno, Haczów, Lipnica Murowana, Sękowa
- Park Mużakowski / Muskauer Park;**
located on the territory of Poland and Germany, along the Nysa Łużycka River
- Centennial Hall in Wrocław**

Progressive changes in the Poles' lifestyle are reflected in their cultural preferences. Involvement in the cultural events of the Polish society has been increasing over the last 10 years. Among the most popular forms of participation in culture is film viewing. In 2009 87.0% more persons than in 2000 went to cinemas. The growing number of viewers is accompanied by changes in infrastructure – while the number of cinemas dropped (to 455 against 687 in 2000), an increase was recorded in the number of cinema screens, especially in modern multiplexes.

In autumn of 2010 the Copernicus Science Centre was opened in Warsaw. This cultural institution offers interactive exhibitions for children, young people and adults where one can deal with the mysteries of the science world.

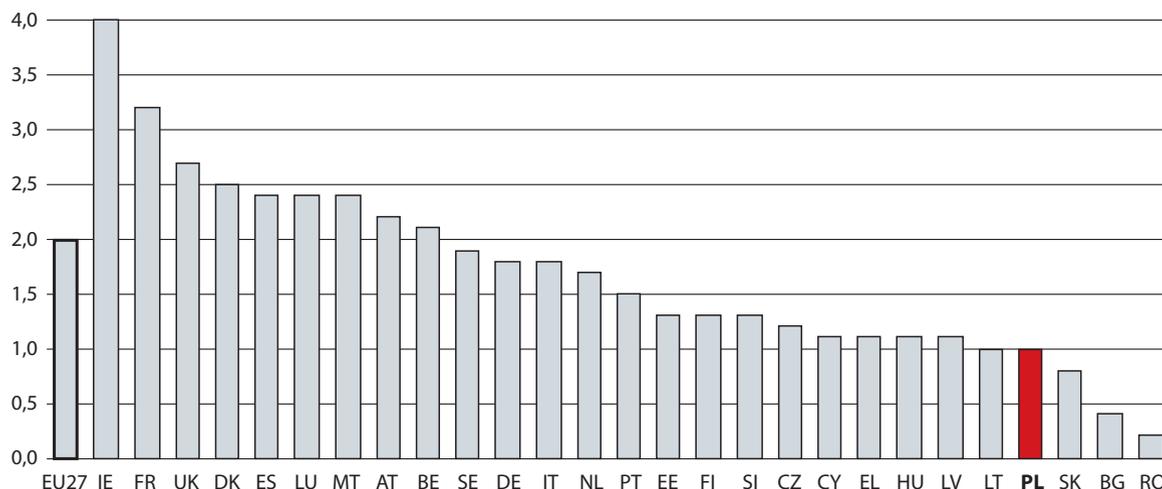
A large interest in the art-gallery exhibitions is observed. A gradual increase (by 50.9%) in the number of visitors

was recorded over the period 2000–2009. The growing demand is due to the infrastructure development – the number of art-galleries increased by 36.8% in relation to 2000.

Museums recorded a growing interest during the period 2000–2009. The number of visitors increased by 24.3% and museums grew from 632 to 774. The audience of the theatres and musical institutions has been also gradually increasing over the last decade.

About 24% of individuals of the Polish households use the Internet for playing/downloading games, images, films or music and 22% listen to the web radio and/or watch web TV via the Internet.

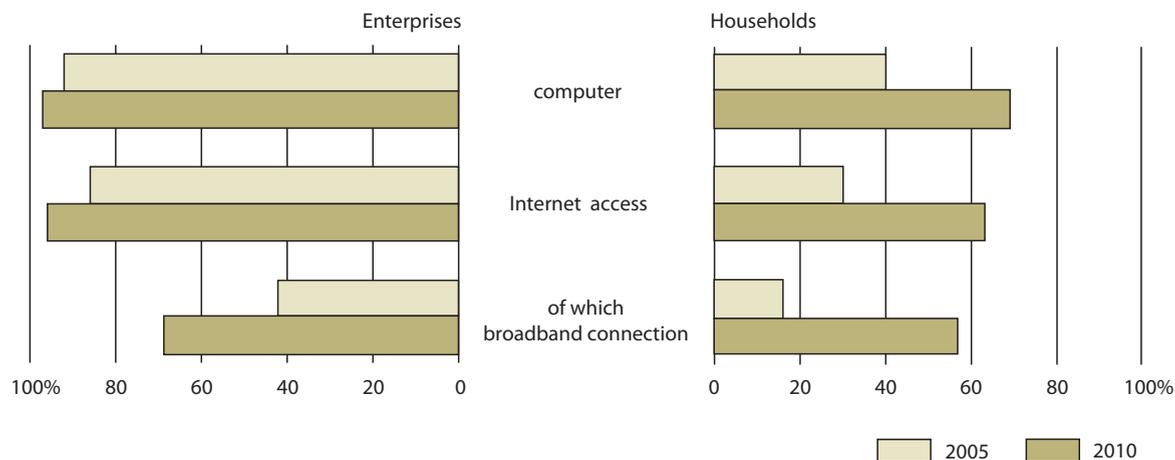
Average annual number of cinema admissions per inhabitant in 2009



9

Information Society



Access to selected information and communications technologies (in % of total)

Persons aged 16–74 regularly using computer

	2005	2010
	in % of persons aged 16–74	
Total	40.1	57.7
By gender:		
males	41.3	59.3
females	39.0	56.3
By age:		
16–24 years	78.9	95.1
25–34	51.9	83.7
35–44	42.2	68.7
45–54	29.3	49.1
55–64	15.7	27.4
65–74 years	3.3	8.8
By education level:		
primary or lower secondary	34.3	41.6
upper secondary or post-secondary	34.6	53.3
tertiary	76.6	89.2

The progress made in recent years in the field of information society and ICT in our country resulted in reducing the distance between Poland and the most developed EU countries.

Polish enterprises use the Internet, among others, for the Internet banking services and to interact with public authorities.

In 2010 almost all Polish enterprises (96%) declared having access to the Internet (the EU average was 94%). A rate of broadband connection use has been visibly improving, reaching 69% in Poland against 86% on average in the EU.

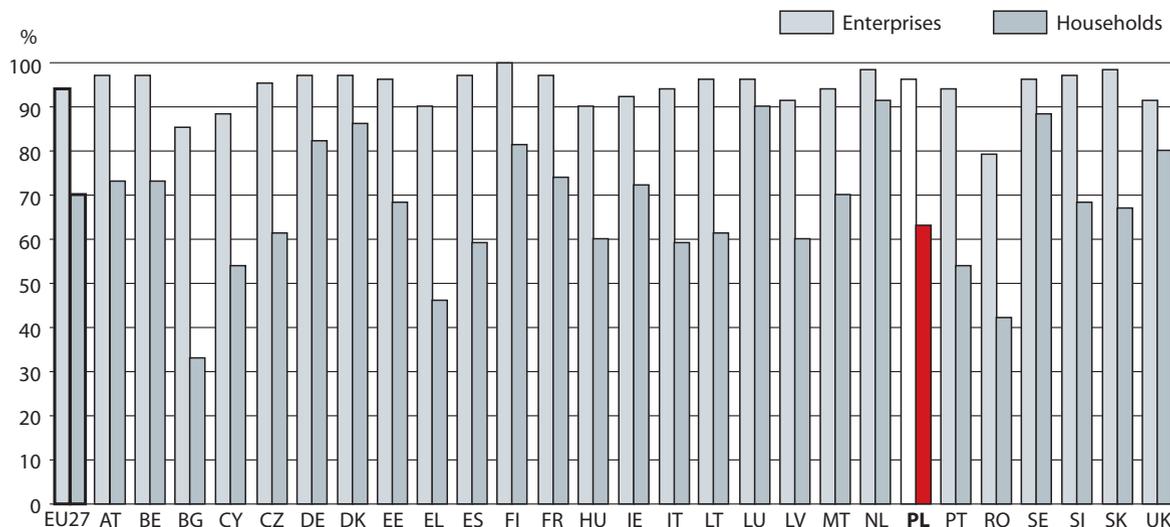
Almost 70% of households in Poland in 2010 had at least one computer (74% on average in the EU). The majority

of regular computer users are students (aged 16–24) and persons with tertiary education.

As in other EU countries, households in Poland use the Internet mainly to communicate (e.g. telephoning and sending/receiving e-mails), as well as to find information about goods and services.

In subsequent years the percentage of households with access to the Internet at home has been regularly increasing – 63% of households had access to the Internet in 2010 (against 70% in the EU), of which 57% of households had broadband Internet connection. A growth rate in the percentage of households having access to the Internet in a sparsely populated area was significantly higher than the EU average.

Enterprises and households with Internet access in 2010



10

Environment



**Selected form of nature protection in Poland
(as of 1 January 2011)**

- Voivodship borders
-  Areas of special habitat protection Natura 2000
-  Areas of special bird protection Natura 2000
-  National parks
-  Landscape parks



Source of data and map compilation:
General Directorate for Environmental Protection

**Legally protected areas possessing unique environmental value
(as of 31 December)**

	2009		
	in thous. ha	in % of total area of the country	per capita in m ²
Total	10 104	32.3	2 647
National parks	314.5	1.0	82
Nature reserves	163.4	0.5	43
Landscape parks	2 518	8.1	660
Protected landscape areas	6 973	22.3	1 827
Ecological arable lands	47.3	0.1	12
Landscape-nature complexes	86.4	0.3	23

**Selected protected species
in 2009 (in units)**
Mammals

European Bisons	1 139
Wolves	696
Lynxes	212
Chamois	186
Bears	119

Birds

Black Storks	1 200–1 400
Black Grouses	1 149
Sea Eagles	900
Wood Grouses	592

Poland is well-known for exceptionally rich natural and landscape resources as well as high values of the biodiversity indices on the European scale. In order to preserve those natural features there have been developed various forms of environmental protection – for areas, objects as well as for particular plant and animal species and their habitats.

The Białowieża National Park – the oldest national park in Poland – is famous for the largest population of free-living European Bisons in the world. The Park protects the best preserved part of the Białowieża Forest – the last virgin forest on the European lowlands.

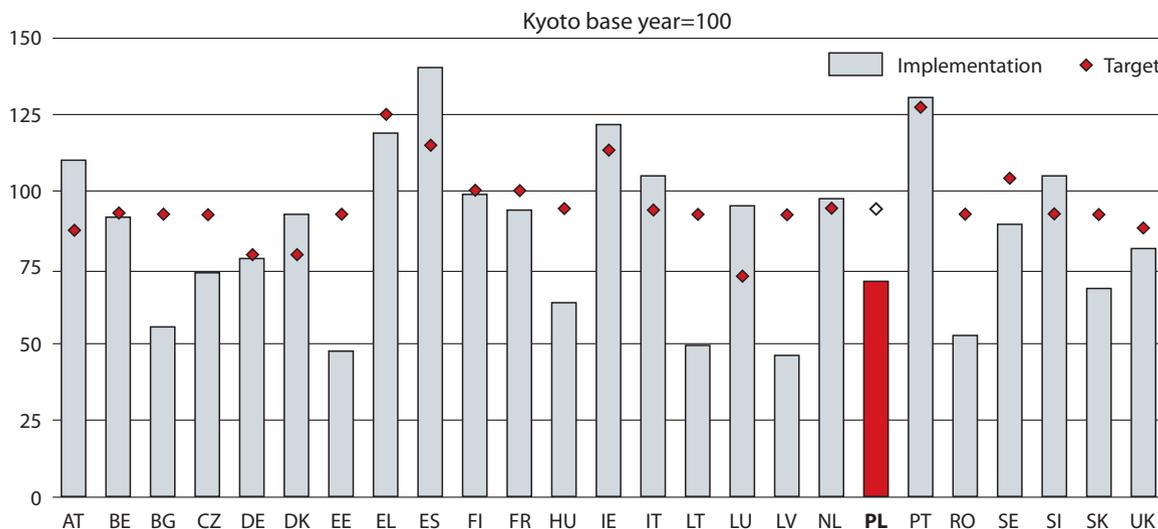
At the end of 2009 the area of legally protected nature (excluding Natura 2000 areas) amounted to 32.3% of the country's area. National parks are of the highest

rank among legally protected forms of environmental protection. So far 23 national parks were established in Poland. They cover about 1% of total country area. 9 national parks were acknowledged by UNESCO as the biosphere reserves.

A significant reduction of energy intensity of the economy contributed to a drop in the emission of greenhouse gases in Poland (of 29% from 1988 to 2009).

The energy intensity of Polish economy remains high. However, it has been gradually reduced. Complying with the principle of sustainable development, a priority of the Polish energy policy is to improve the energy efficiency (among others, by using energy saving technologies and equipment) as well as to promote renewable energy sources.

Total greenhouse gas emissions in 2008



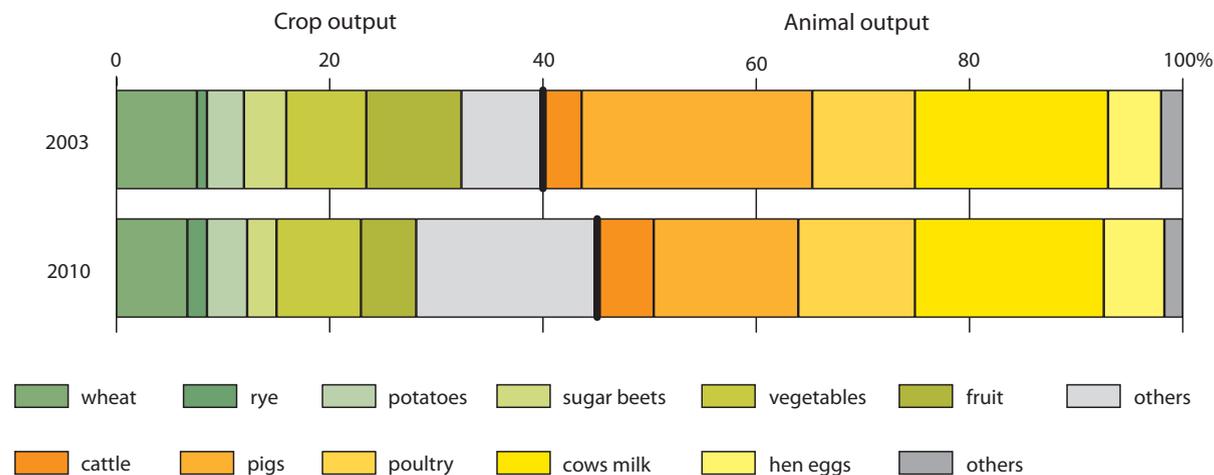
11

Agriculture



AGRICULTURE

Structure of market agricultural output by products



Land use

	2003	2009
Total agriculture land (as of June) in thous. ha	16 169	16 120
of which in % of total:		
arable land	78.2	75.1
orchards	1.6	2.1
meadows and pastures	20.2	19.7
Private farms exceeding 1 ha of agricultural land (as of June) in thous.	1 850	1 766
by area groups – in % of total:		
1.01– 1.99 ha	25.8	23.4
2.00– 4.99	33.0	33.8
5.00– 9.99	22.1	22.1
10.00–14.99	9.2	9.4
15.00–19.99	4.2	4.4
20.00–49.99	4.7	5.5
50.00 ha and more	1.0	1.4

Agricultural sector, despite the gradual reduction of its significance for the creation of GDP, still plays an important role in the Polish economy. In 2009 agricultural sector generated 3.6% of gross value added, while the number of persons employed in agriculture amounted to 14.6% of persons employed in the national economy. Agricultural land covers 51.6% of the total country's area.

Polish farms amounted to more than 17% of the total number of farms in the European Union – according to the Farm Structure Survey 2007.

Due to favourable changes in the Polish agriculture over the last years, a progressive drop in the number of farms and an increase in their average size have been recorded. In 2002, the average size of a farm upwards of 1 ha amounted to 8.44 ha. Preliminary data of the Agricultural Census 2010 indicate that the average size of a farm grew to 9.50 ha. Simultaneously, the structure of farms has improved – the share of the smallest farms with the

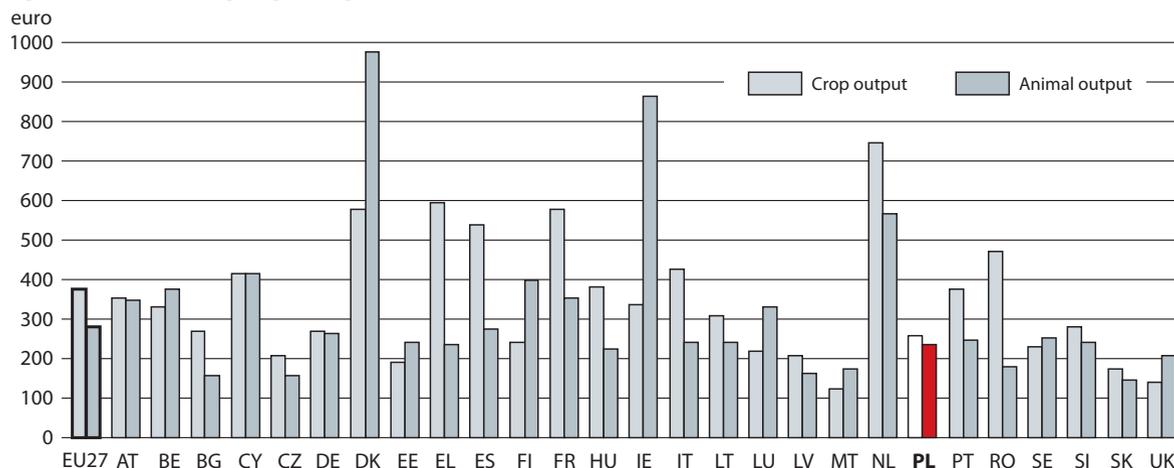
agricultural land area from 1 to 5 ha is decreasing, while the share of farms with the area over 20 ha is rising.

Poland is a significant producer and exporter of, among others, cereals, apples, potatoes, raspberries and strawberries.

The structure of crops has changed over the last years. While the share of the orchards area has been continuously growing, the percentage of arable land and a permanent grassland has been dropping. In Poland, cereals predominate in the sown area – their share has remained at the level of about 70% since 2003. Furthermore, a gradual decrease has been observed in the cultivation area of potatoes, whereas an increase in industrial plants area has been recorded.

The accession to the European Union stimulated the development of organic farming. The number of organic farms rose in Poland from 1.3 thous. in 2003 to 20.5 thous. in 2010.

Crop and animal output per capita in 2010



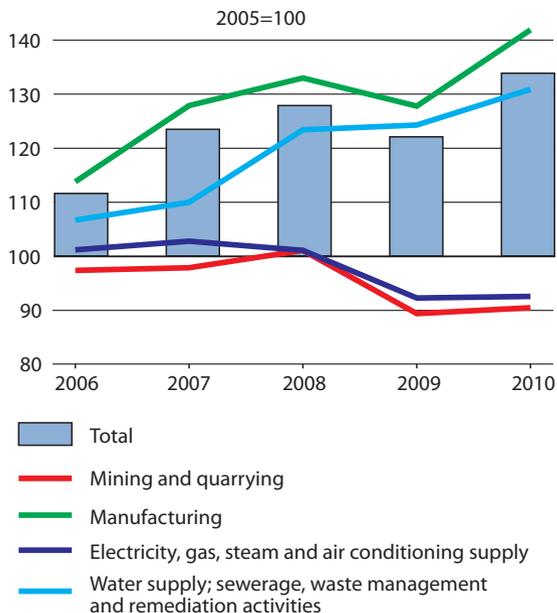
12

Industry and Construction

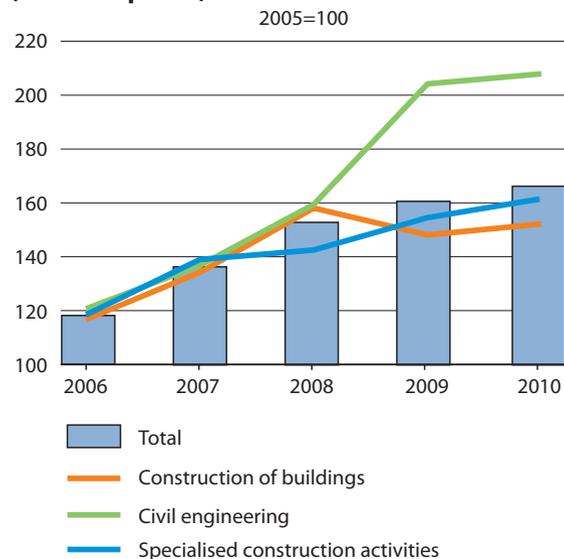


INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

Sold production of industry (constant prices)



Sale of construction and assembly production (constant prices)



Sold production of industry and construction

	2005	2010
Production of industry of total (current prices) in mln zł	687 810	1 010 303
in % of total:		
mining and quarrying	5.1	5.1
manufacturing	83.1	83.5
electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	9.7	9.1
water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2.1	2.3
Construction and assembly production of total (current prices) in mln zł	82 470	155 031
in % of total:		
construction of buildings	46.9	44.1
civil engineering	18.7	23.1
specialised construction activities	34.4	32.8

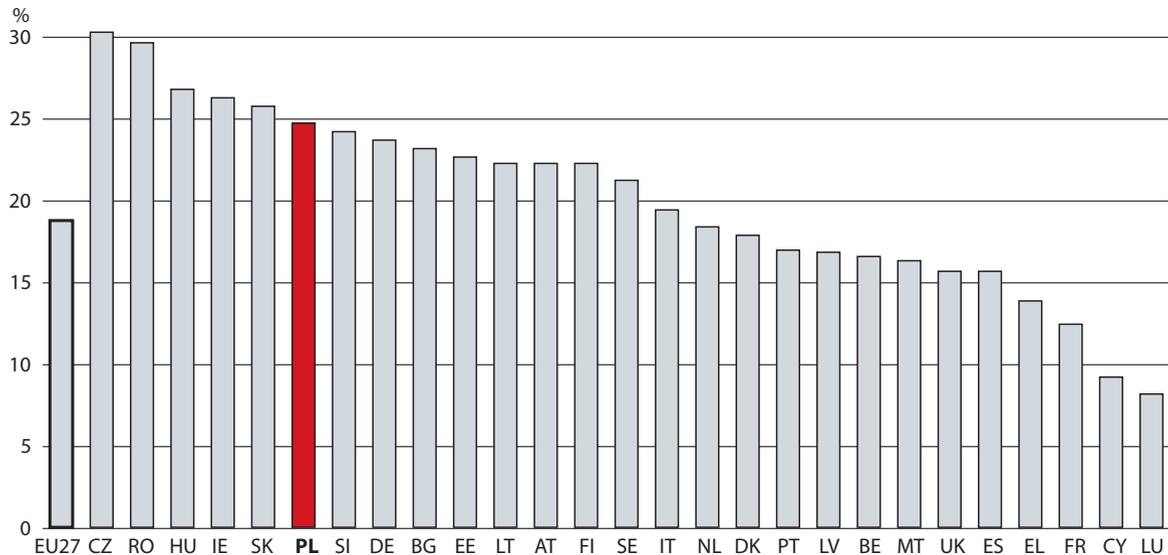
Industry and construction are crucial elements of the Polish economy. The share of these sectors both in generating gross value added and in providing jobs in the national economy amounts to over 30%.

During the period 2005–2010, Poland was ranked second of the EU countries in terms of industrial production growth (by 34.0%), while in the EU a slight drop was recorded. Taking into account main industrial groupings the highest increase was observed in production of durable consumer goods (among others production of consumer electronics and domestic appliances) and of capital goods (including production of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers). A considerable growth was also noted in production of non-durable consumer goods, with a large share of food products and an increasing significance of pharmaceutical products.

The share of state-owned enterprises in total industry has been gradually declined (to 15.4% in 2009) but is still significant in some divisions – e.g. electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, mining of coal and lignite, manufacture of chemicals and chemical products.

A substantial growth in construction and assembly production has been recorded over the last years in Poland – in 2010 in comparison with 2005 it amounted to over 60%. A structure of construction and assembly production has been gradually changing. The share of production related to construction of buildings (both residential and non-residential) has decreased while civil engineering works (including mainly transport infrastructure) has increased respectively.

Share of industry in gross value added in 2010



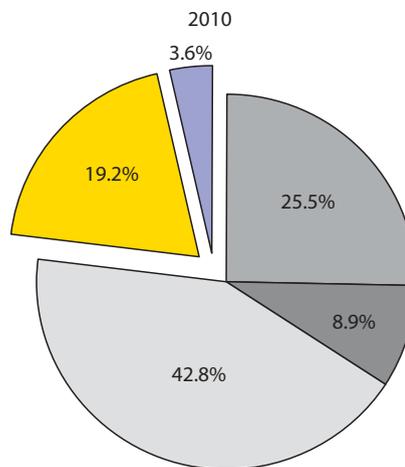
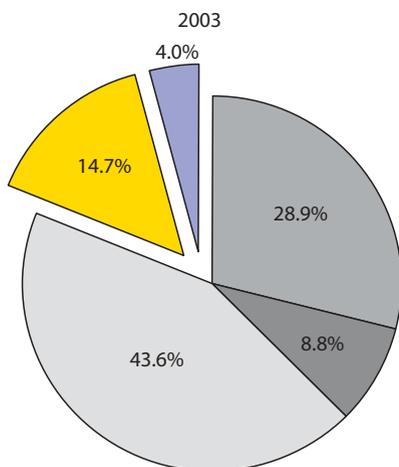
13

Services



SERVICES

Structure of retail sales (current prices)



Consumer goods:

 food and non-alcoholic beverages

 alcoholic beverages, tobacco

 non-foodstuffs

 Non-consumer goods

 Goods and own produced goods in catering establishments

Transport of goods and passengers

	2003	2009	2003	2009
	goods in thous. t		passengers in thous. of persons ^a	
Total transport ^b	1 231 609	1 691 015	1 112 533	902 176
of which:				
railway transport ^b	234 396	200 820	283 359	282 619
road transport	911 997	1 424 883	822 875	612 875
air transport	31	37	3 978	4 350
pipeline transport	51 782	50 242	x	x
Goods loaded and unloaded in commercial seaports	51 885	45 079	x	x
Passenger traffic in seaports	x	x	3 188	1 434

^a Excluding urban road transport. ^b Excluding shunting in regard to transport of goods.

In 2010 services amounted to 64.8% of gross value added and generated jobs for 56.9% of total employed persons in Poland.

Intensive development of banking and financial intermediation services has been observed in Poland over the last years. Despite the economic crisis in 2009, an absorption capacity of the internal market and the solid foundations of the banking sector in Poland allowed to maintain the stability of the Polish financial market.

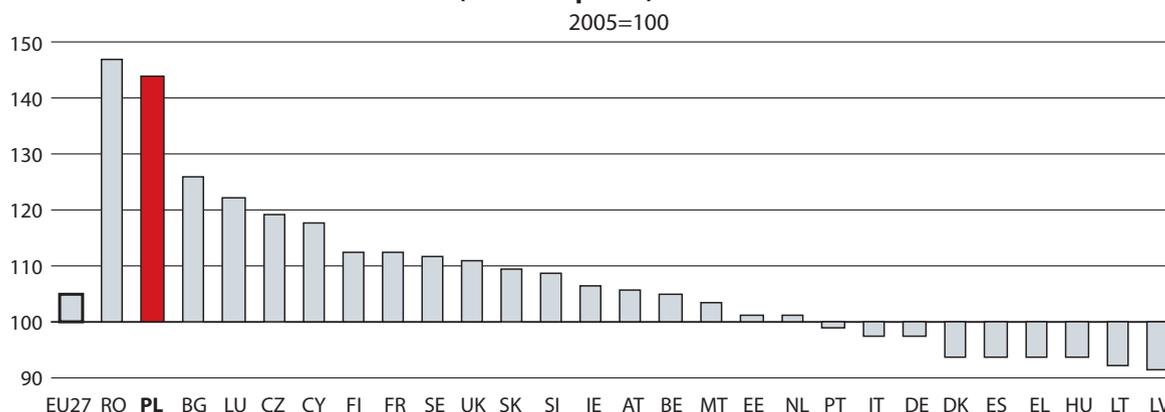
Trade enterprises are of a dominant position in service activities. The most significant area of trade is retail sales, which rose over 25% in constant prices from 2003 to 2010.

Growing mobility of Poles and an increasing demand among enterprises noted since the accession to the EU have contributed to the development of the transport services sector. Over the period 2003–2008 the growth of transport volume, both freight and passenger, was significantly higher than in most EU countries.

The Polish freight transport, both by railway and by road, plays crucial role in the EU transport system. In terms of the general transport of goods volume (measured in tonne-kilometres) in 2009 Poland was ranked second among the EU countries regarding railway transport and third for road transport. Within road transport the international transport developed to the greatest extent – from fourth position among the EU countries in 2004 – Poland became a leader in this field (first rank in 2008 and 2009).

Over the period 2005–2010 the communication sector considerably expanded and sales of its services rose by about 30% in constant prices. The progress of telecommunication market – referring to both infrastructure and services – led to rapid development of mobile telecommunication system. Main telephone lines has been replaced by cellular telephone subscriptions, which take predominant part in total revenues from communication sector.

Deflated turnover in retail trade in 2010 (constant prices)



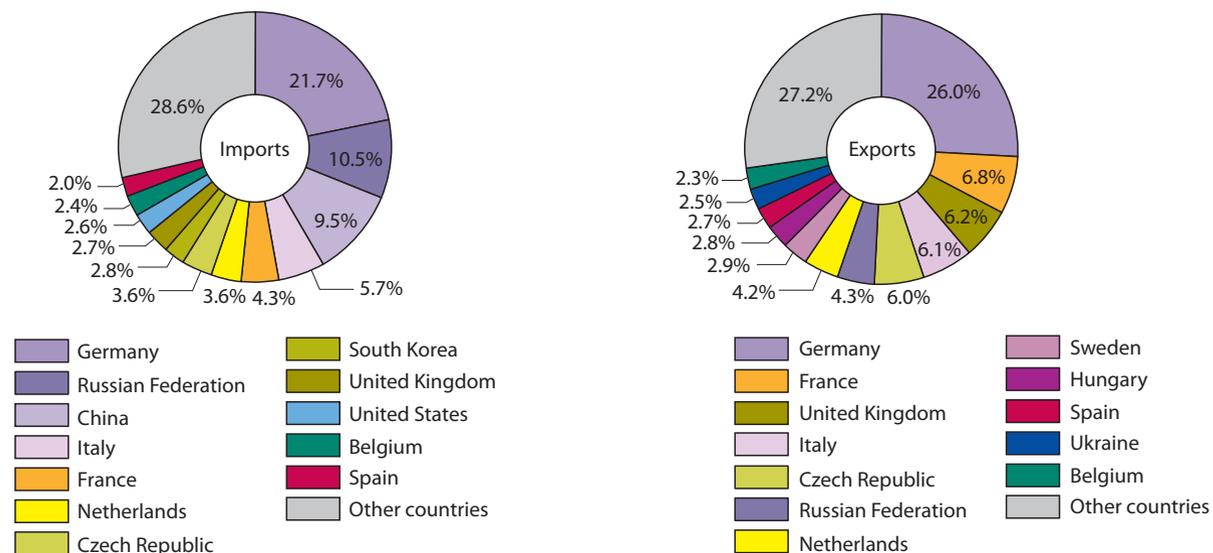
14

Foreign Trade



FOREIGN TRADE

The structure of foreign trade turnover by main partners in 2010



Imports and exports of commodities according to SITC (current prices)

	2003	2010	2003	2010
	imports		exports	
Total in mln euro	60 354	130 870	47 526	117 382
in % of total:				
food and live animals	4.6	6.5	7.6	9.3
beverages and tobacco	0.3	0.6	0.3	1.4
crude materials, inedible, except fuels	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.2
mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	9.1	10.9	4.3	3.8
animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.2
chemicals and related products	14.8	14.3	6.5	8.6
manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	21.0	17.8	23.8	20.3
machinery and transport equipment	38.0	34.1	37.7	41.5
miscellaneous manufactured articles	8.7	10.3	17.1	12.6

Poland's accession to the European Union affected further development of trade with the EU countries. In 2010 the share of exports to the EU in total exports amounted to 78.6%, whereas the imports 58.8% (in 2003 68.8% and 61.1% respectively). In 2003 and 2004 Poland recorded a deficit in trade with the EU countries. Since 2005 a positive balance has been observed.

Poland recorded a high increase in the value of total trade turnover between 2003 and 2010 – exports at constant prices grew by 80.1% and imports by 71.4%. Over this period trade with the EU countries increased by 78.8% in exports and by 58.8% in imports respectively.

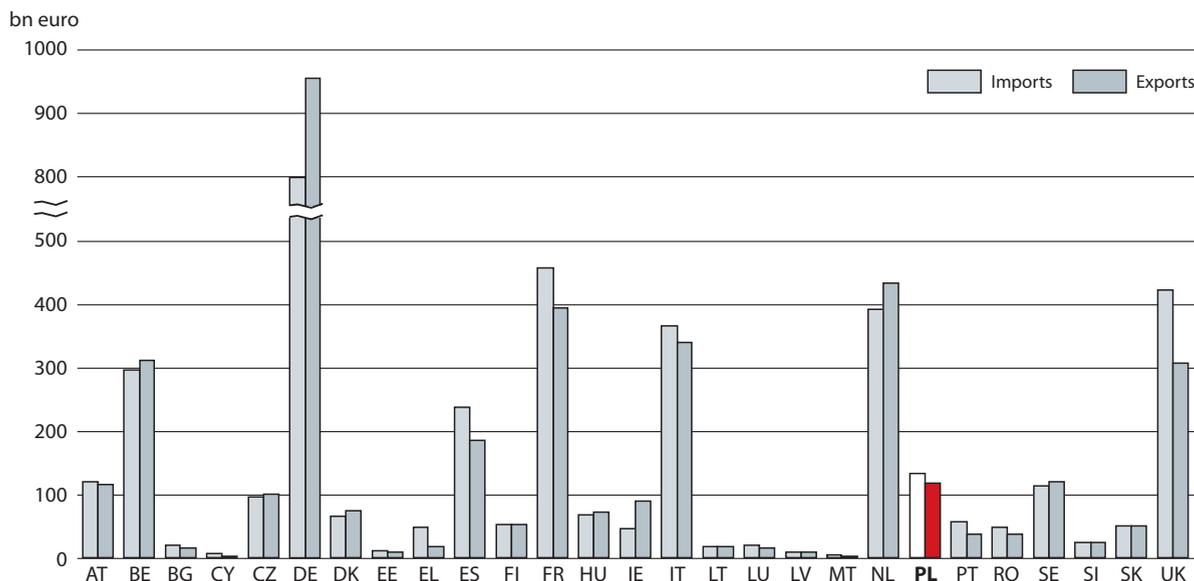
Germany has been the most important trade partner for Poland (both in exports and imports) for more

than twenty years. The second most significant partner in exports is France, while Italy, which was ranked second receiver of Polish goods in 2003, dropped to the fourth position in 2010.

Trade with Germany amounted to 26.0% of exports and 21.7% of total imports in 2010.

Goods dominating in exports by Poland to the EU countries are: passenger cars, internal combustion engines, parts and accessories for passenger cars, furniture, television receivers, tyres, refined copper. For imports the leaders are: passenger cars, parts and accessories to passenger cars, medicaments, petroleum oils.

Foreign trade turnover in 2010



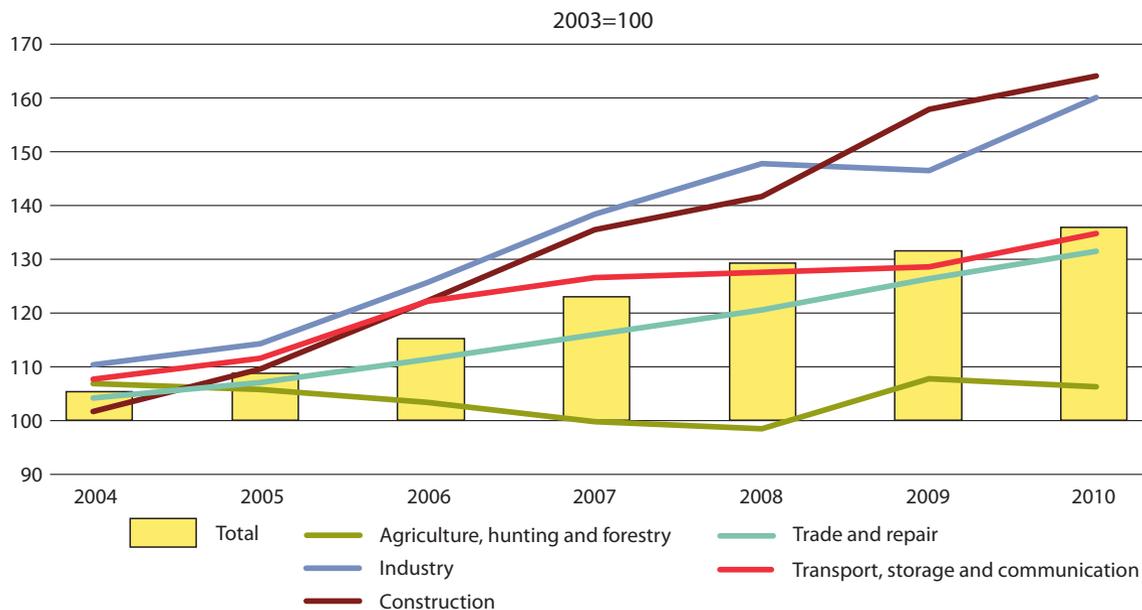
15

National Accounts



NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Gross value added by selected sections (constant prices)



Gross domestic product

	2010		
	2003=100 ^a	2009=100 ^a	in % of GDP ^b
Gross domestic product	137.2	103.8	100.0
of which gross value added	135.8	103.3	88.0
Domestic demand	138.4	104.4	101.0
final consumption expenditure	131.8	103.3	80.2
of which:			
individual consumption expenditure of households sector	131.1	103.2	60.6
public – general government sector	135.9	104.0	18.8
gross capital formation	167.5	108.5	20.8
of which gross fixed capital formation	164.1	99.0	19.7

^a At constant prices. ^b At current prices.

Since the accession to the EU Poland has considerably improved its position in terms of the volume of the gross domestic product. The value of the GDP in 2010 amounted to EUR 354.3 bn, that made Poland seventh economy among the EU countries (while in 2003 Poland was tenth).

The value of the GDP in Purchasing Power Standard amounted to 575.9 bn in 2010, what ranked Poland sixth of the EU countries. The GDP per capita in Poland reached 61% of the EU average in 2009.

The contribution of the Polish economy in generating the EU GDP increased over the period 2003–2010 to the greatest extent in relation to other Member States and equalled 2.9% in 2010.

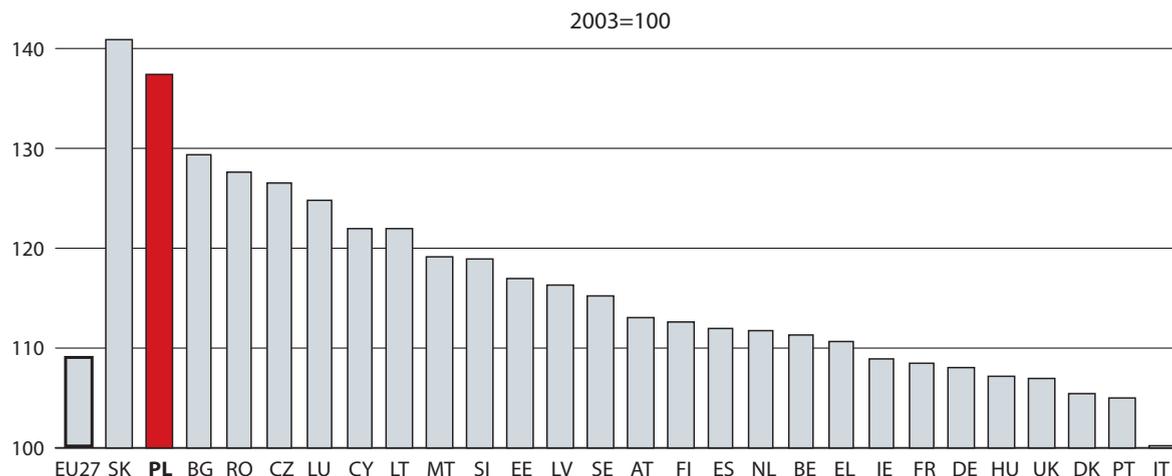
Poland has one of the most rapidly growing economies among the European countries. In 2009, during the worldwide crisis, Polish economy was doing relatively

well. Poland was the only Member State with the economic growth – GDP increased in real terms by 1.6%. In 2010 the economic growth rate strengthened and GDP rose by 3.8%. Once again in this area Poland was placed among leading countries – next to Sweden and Slovakia.

In 2010 individual consumption in households sector grew by 3.2% in annual terms. Gross fixed capital formation fell by 1.0%, whereas its average growth in 2003–2009 equalled 8.8%. Exports in constant prices increased in 2010 by 10.1% and imports – by 11.5%.

The worldwide crisis has had a negative impact on the condition of public finances in the EU countries. This pattern was followed also in Poland – in 2010 the general government deficit was equal 7.9% of GDP and was higher than for the EU27. The relation of the general government debt to GDP was 55.0% (while for the EU27 amounted to 80.0% of GDP).

Gross domestic product in 2010 (constant prices)



Photos

Cover

The Frederic Chopin Monument in the Warsaw's Royal Łazienki Park; source: Polish Tourist Organisation.
Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers, 1970 in Gdańsk; source: www.wp.pl; **photo Bartosz Lewicki**.
Bypass of Gorzów Wielkopolski (fragment of S3 expressway); source: Ministry of Infrastructure.
European Bison in Białowieża National Park; source: Polish Tourist Organisation.
Panorama of Toruń; source: City Office of Toruń; **photo Małgorzata Litwin**.
Gdańsk; source: Central Statistical Office; **photo Emil Bielak**.
The Tatra National Park; source: Statistical Office in Kraków/Branch Office in Tarnów; **photo Anna Siadek**.
Cornfields in Mazovia region; source: Polish Tourist Organisation; **photo Morek/FORUM**.

Sections

1 Governance

The seat of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Warsaw; source: Chancellery of the Prime Minister; **photo Grzegorz Rogiński**.
Sejm of the Republic of Poland – main building; source: www.sejm.gov.pl; **photo Krzysztof Białoskórski**.

2 Territory

The Biebrza National Park; source: Polish Tourist Organisation.

3 Population

People; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo M. Tomczak**.

4 Education

A, B, C; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Gorilla**.

5 Labour market

Workers assembling the skeleton of a modern building; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Dwight Smith**.

6 Incomes and Living conditions

Shopping at the supermarket; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Pavel Losevsky**.

7 Health

Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology in Warsaw – Nuclear Medicine Department; source: Polish Tourist Organisation.

8 Culture

The Wawel Royal Castle and the Vistula River; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Artur Bogacki**.

9 Information society

Children and computer; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Liv Friis-larsen**.

10 Environment

Wind farm; source: Polish Wind Energy Association; **photo Jan Siemiński**.

11 Agriculture

Arable fields; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Kaja**.

12 Industry and Construction

Oil refinery in Gdańsk; source: LOTOS Group.

13 Services

Shopping centre "Gallery Mokotów" in Warsaw; www.galeriamokotow.pl

14 Foreign trade

Container ship; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Rafael Ramirez**.

15 National accounts

Money; source: www.pl.fotolia.com; **photo Jacek Michiej**.

