

**Jean Monnet Chair**  
**European Migration Studies**



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# ***COUNTRY REPORT:***

# **MIGRATION IN POLAND**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Since the end of the communist era, Poland started to cover a more relevant role in global migration processes. The economic development and the larger investments in national industries have led to an increase in immigration flows. However, shortages in the domestic labour market have also resulted in an upsurge in emigration. Especially after entering the European Union in 2004, many Polish citizens emigrated to other European countries, such as France, United Kingdom and Ireland. The reason is mainly the lack of job opportunities in Poland and higher salaries abroad. However, since 2016 there has been a general decline, partly due to the improving economic condition of the country but also due to the incentive policies implemented by the most recent nationalist governments.

Due to the country's reputation for large numbers of Polish migrants, little attention was paid to incoming migrants. In fact, since 2010, the incoming migratory flow has increased a lot, stabilizing since 2018. However, incoming migrants tend to represent only one social group. They are economic migrants of the Christian religion, mostly from neighbouring Ukraine. Many of those newcomers do unskilled work as replacements for Polish nationals, who are either rejecting lower-paid jobs after five years of falling unemployment in the booming country, or have migrated elsewhere in Europe, chasing higher salaries. A growing number also come to attend Polish universities.

It has to be said, Poland's massive migration numbers, and the warm welcome Ukrainians have received, stands in marked opposition to the anti-migrant electoral campaign that helped bring PiS to power four years ago. The majority of refugees in Poland are from Russia, Afghanistan and the Yugoslav peninsula.

In the following pages, therefore, an attempt is made to analyze and highlight the characteristics of the migration phenomenon in Poland, taking into account the country's peculiarities. From an initial general analysis of the population, we then move on to a more specific analysis of the migration phenomenon, ending with a study of integration indicators.

This work aims to highlight the large number of migrants who arrive at the Polish border and who therefore represent the driving force behind the integration process needed in the country. This is because, as integration is a two-way process, it is also important to address the need for greater awareness and recognition of the positive impact migrants have on Poland.

# **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**



To give the most accurate description of the migration phenomenon in Poland, it is necessary to start withdrawing the historical and economical background of the country itself. Starting from the 18th century, internal disorders weakened the nation, and in a series of agreements between 1772 and 1795, Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland among themselves. Poland regained its independence in 1918 only to be overrun by Germany and the Soviet Union in World War II. It became a Soviet satellite state following the war. Labour turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity" that in 1990 won the first multi-party elections, bringing the communist era to a close. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004. Poland now is a market-oriented country largely completed and with large investments in defence, energy, and other infrastructure. In the last presidential elections in 2020, the former President Duda has been reconfirmed, giving rise to further concerns about its nationalist and Eurosceptic positions.

Population	37,846,611 (July 2020)
Ethnic groups	Polish 96.9%, Silesian 1.1%, German 0.2%, Ukrainian 0.1%, other, and unspecified 1.7% (2011 est.)
Religions	Catholic 85.9%, Orthodox 1.3%, other 0.4% (2017 est.)
Median age (total)	41.9 years (2019 est.)
Population growth rate	-0.23% (2021 est.)

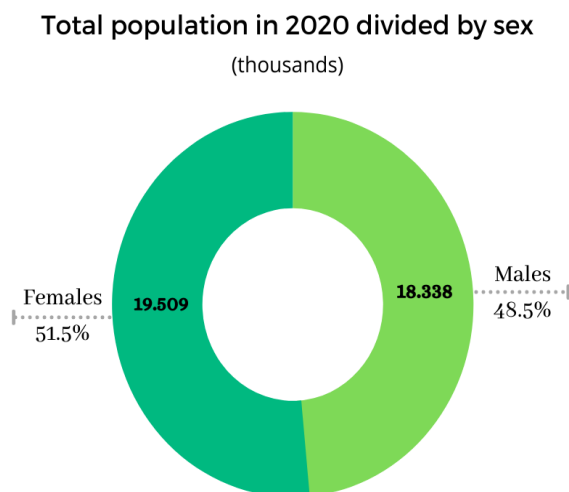
Birth rate	8.69 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)
Death rate	10.68 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)
Net migration rate	-0.33 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)
Government type	Parliamentary republic
Real GDP growth rate	4.55% (2019 est.)
Labour force	9.561 million (2020 est.) [1]
Freedom House classification	Free, semi-consolidated democracy [2]

[1] For further information, source: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/poland/#people-and-society>

[2] For further information on the democratic criteria: <https://freedomhouse.org/country/poland/freedom-world/2020>

## 2. STOCK

### 2.1 Total population



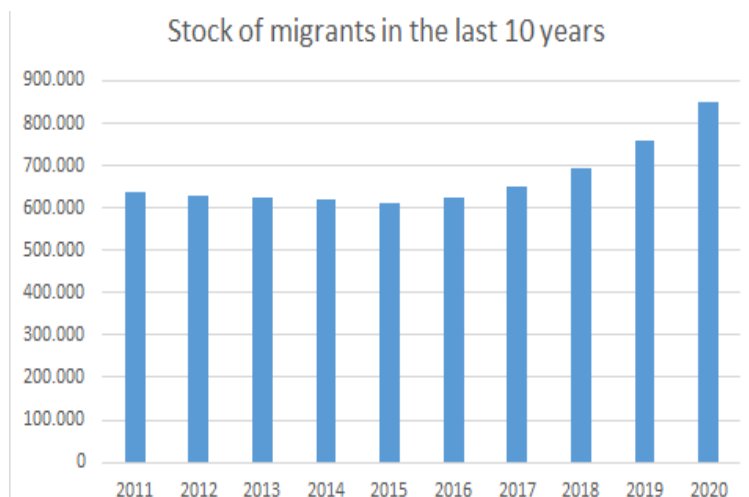
<https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>.

Source: UNDESA, World Population Prospects 2019; GEO: Poland; Extracted: 01/04/2021.

The total population of Poland (both sexes combined) was about 37,846,611 as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (last year).

### 2.2 Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

*[migr\_imm3ctb]*

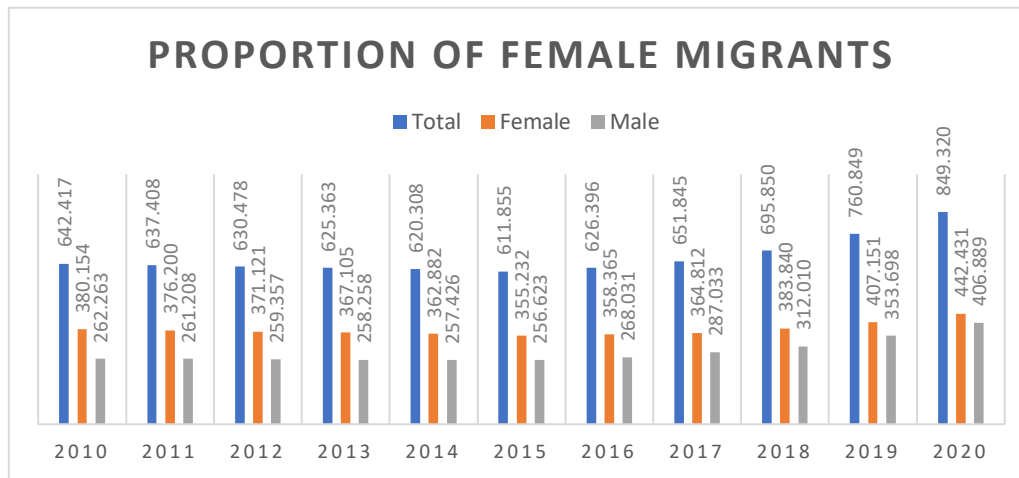


<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2011/2020; AGE: Total [TOTAL]; SEX: Total [T]; UNIT: Number [NR]; C. Birth: [FOR]; Last Update: 12/03/2021

In the graph, it can be observed that the stock of migrants has remained fairly constant from 2011 to 2016 and has increased in the last three years, reaching its highest share in 2020.

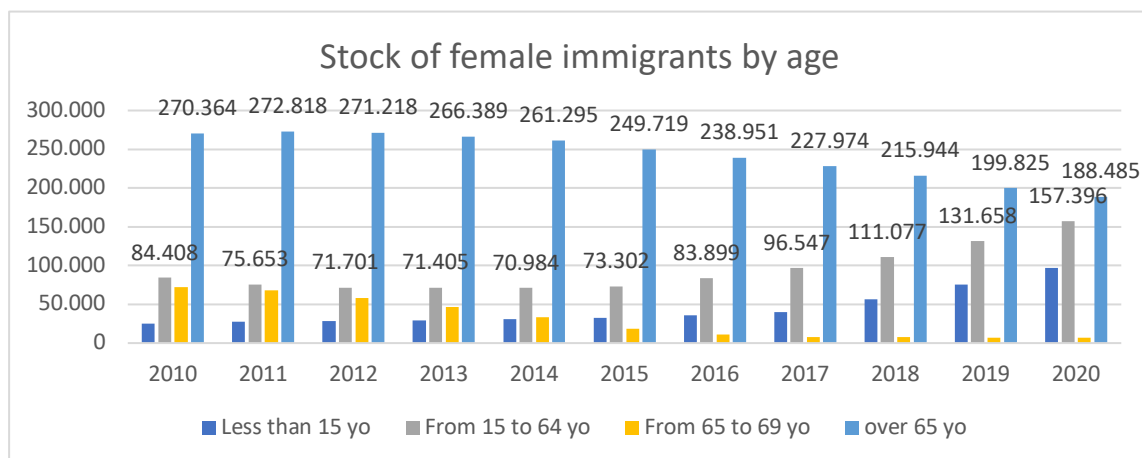
## 2.3 Immigration stock by category [migr\_pop3ctb]



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://data-explorer.europa.eu)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; C\_BIRTH: Foreign country [FOR]; AGE: Total; SEX: Total [T], Males [M] and Females [F]; UNIT: Number; Last update: 08/04/2021

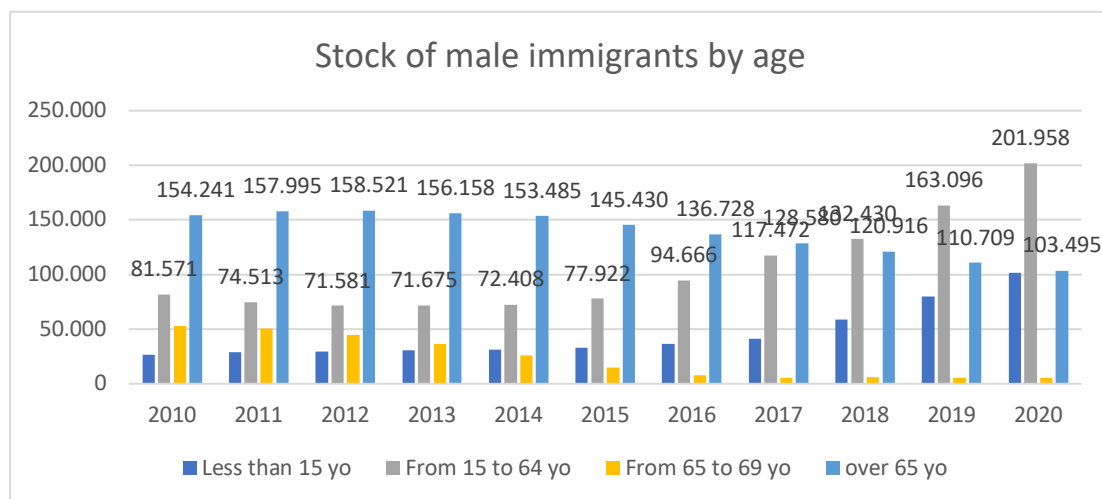
The graph shows that the proportion of female migrants is higher than that of male migrants in a relatively constant way from 2010 to 2020, it is meant in the total number of migrants. The difference between the two categories is not large, but it is present.



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://data-explorer.europa.eu)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; AGE: Less than 15 years [Y\_LT15], from 15 to 64 years [Y15-64], from 65 to 69 years [Y65-69] and 65 years or over [Y\_GE65]; C\_BIRTH: Foreign country [FOR]; SEX: Female [F]; TIME: 2010/2020; UNIT: Number [NR]; Last Update: 08/04/2021

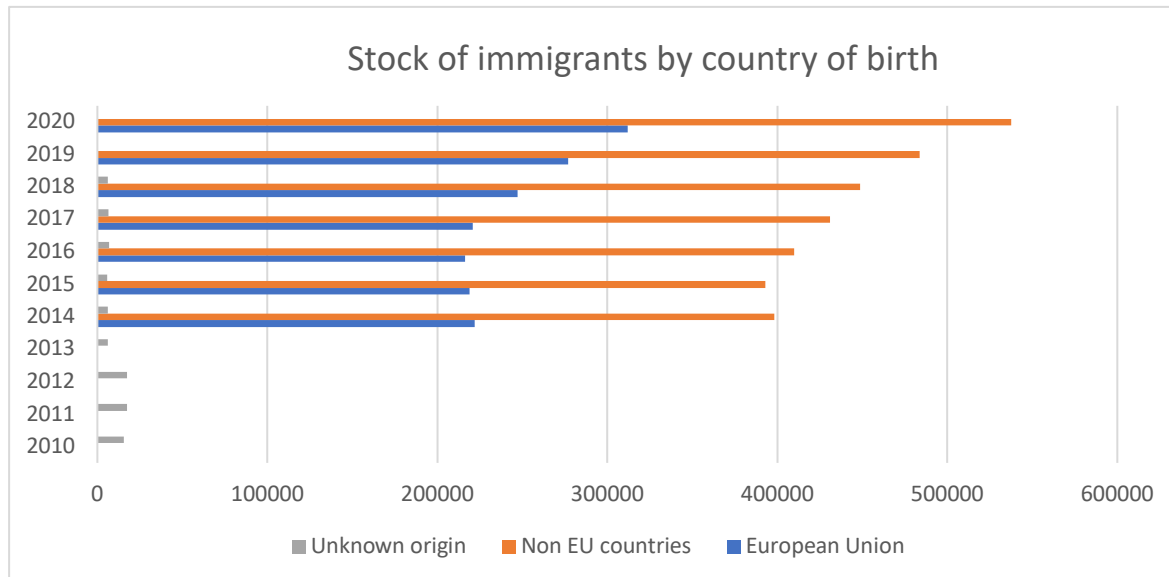
If we consider migrant women, it is clear from the graph that the category of women over 65 has declined since 2016, although it remains quite substantial. Compared to the other age groups, the number of women aged between 15 and 65 increased significantly in 2018, almost reaching the over-65 age group in 2020. Finally, the number of women aged between 65 and 69 fell dramatically in 2015 to reach almost zero.



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; AGE: Less than 15 years [Y\_LT15], from 15 to 64 years [Y15-64], from 65 to 69 years [Y65-69] and 65 years or over [Y\_GE65]; C\_BIRTH: Foreign country [FOR]; SEX: Male [M]; TIME: 2010/2020; UNIT: Number [NR]; Last Update: 08/04/2021

Concerning the male portion of migrants, it can be noted that from 2010 to 2017 the largest percentage of migrants was over 65 years old. While from 2017 onwards, the proportion of male migrants aged between 15 and 65 has increased exponentially. Finally, it is relevant to note that the share of underage migrants has also increased over the last three years.



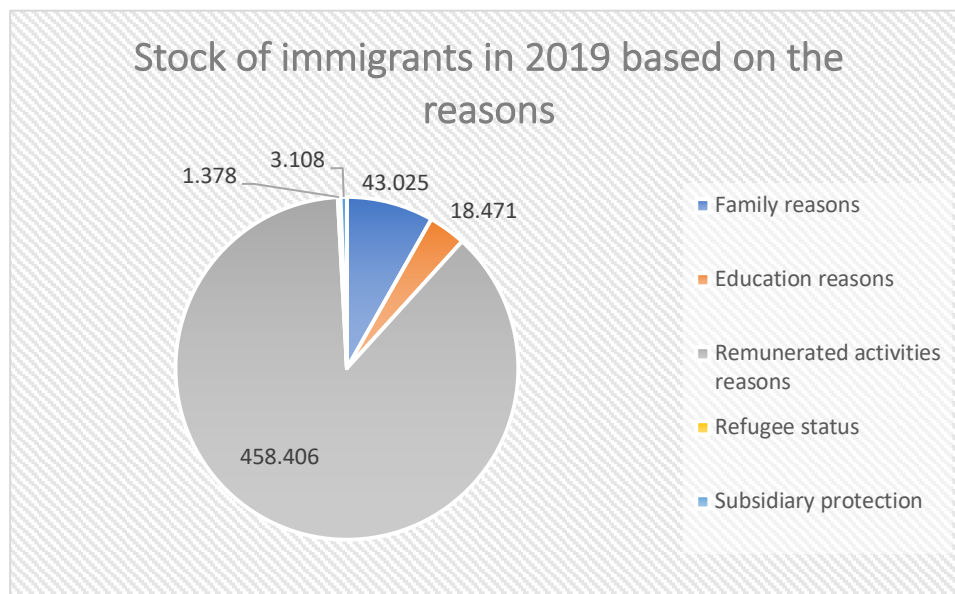
[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2020; AGE: Total [TOTAL]; SEX: Total [T]; C\_BIRTH: EU28 countries [EU28\_FOR], Non-EU28 countries [NEU28\_FOR], Unknown [UNK]; UNIT: Number [NR]; Last Update: 08/04/2021

Regarding the country of origin, instead, the difference between migrants coming from non-European Union countries and those coming from European Union countries is remarkable. From 2014 to 2020 the difference between the two categories reaches almost double values.



[migr\_resvalid]



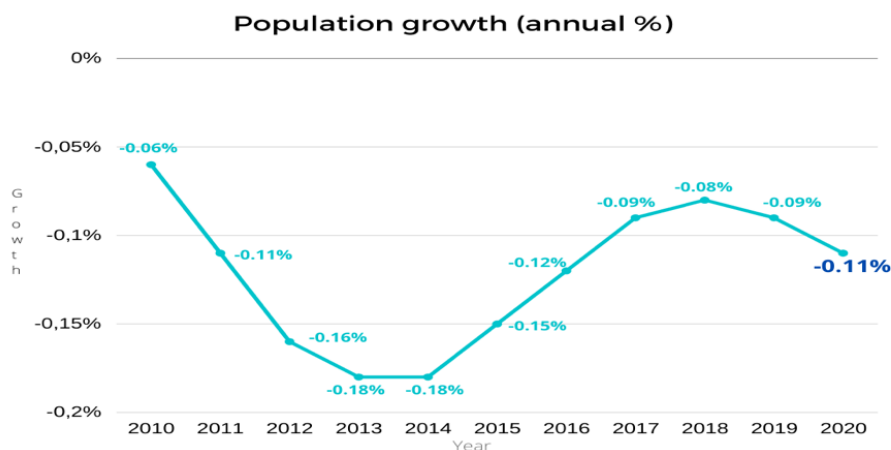
[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; CITIZEN: Total [TOTAL]; DURATION: Total [TOTAL]; TIME: 2019; REASON: Family reasons [FAM], Education reasons [EDUC], Remunerated activities reasons [OCCUP], Refugee status [REF], Subsidiary protection [SUB]; UNIT: Person [PER]; Last Update: 09/04/2021

Concerning the reasons that motivate migrants to move to Poland in 2019, most of them are remunerated activities reasons with a value of about 450000, followed by family reasons, then educational reasons, finally by those identified under refugee or subsidiary protection status.

### **3. FLOW**

#### **3.1 Population growth (annual %) in the last 10 years**



<https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>

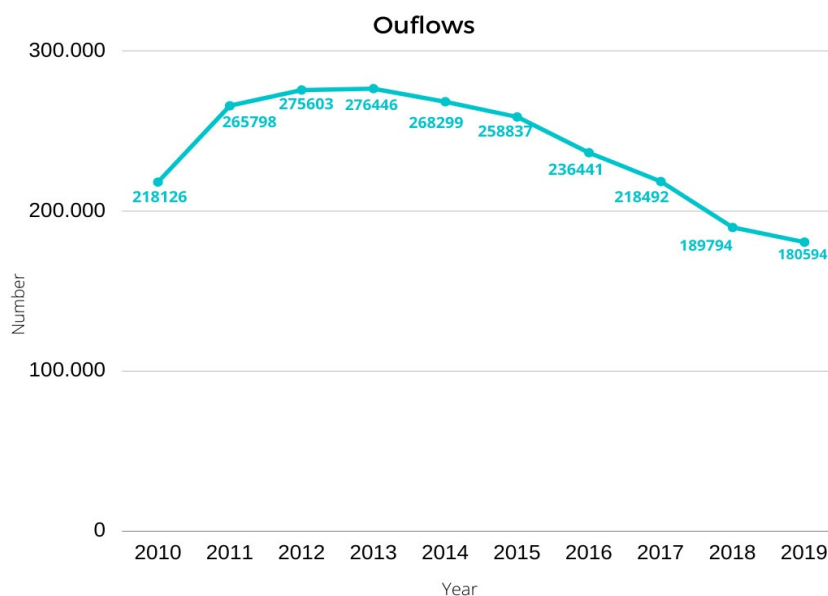
Source: UNDESA, World Population Prospects 2019; GEO: Poland; Extracted: 01/04/2021.

Given the fact that in 2020 the rate of population growth was negative by -0,11%, we can state that the population has decreased by 0,11%. The estimated growth rate for 2021 is -0,13%. In the last 10 years, from 2010 to 2020, the rate has fluctuated from -0,06% to -0,11% with the lowest rate (-0,18%) reached in 2013 and 2014. In 10 years, the total population has decreased from 38.329.781 people in 2010 to 37.846.611 in July 2020.

#### **3.2 Outflows**

(flow of emigrants in the last 10 years)

[migr\_emi2]



[http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_emi2&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_emi2&lang=en)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; AGE: Total; SEX: Total [T]; UNIT: Number [NR]; Last Update: 07/03/2021

Following Poland's entry into the European Union and the Schengen Region, a large number of Poles emigrated, mainly to the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Ireland. As maintained by the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the majority of them left in search of better job prospects abroad while keeping permanent residency status in Poland.

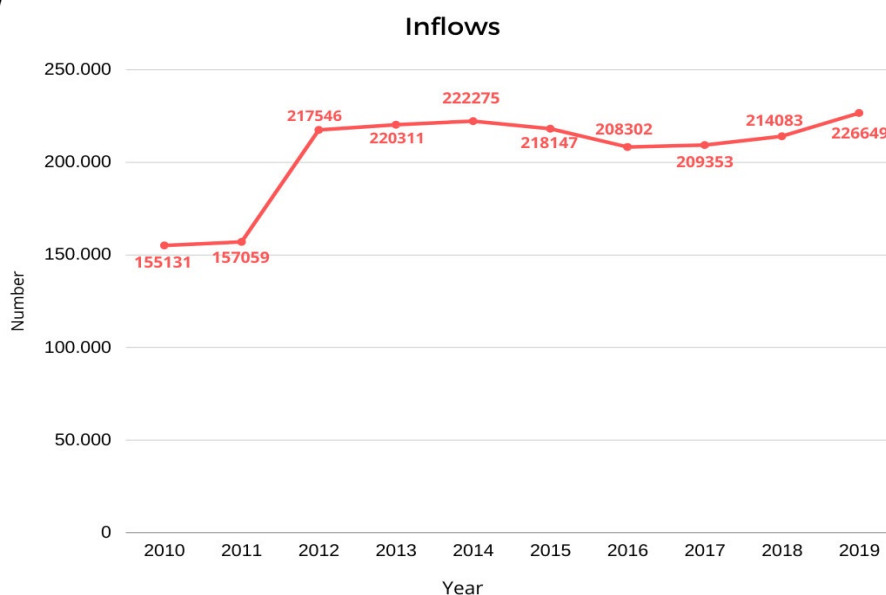
According to a survey conducted in 2011, 33% of those questioned pointed to higher wages as motivation for emigration and 31% to unemployment, with 3% stating professional development and 16% declaring family reasons.

Nevertheless, since 2013, the emigration trend has been steadily declining, from a high of 276.446 to a low of 180594, in 2019. This is connected to the better economic conditions and the growth of the Polish salaries at 70% of the EU average from 2016.

### 3.3 Inflows

(flow of migrants in the last 10 years)

[migr\_imm8]



[http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_imm8&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_imm8&lang=en)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; AGE: Total [TOTAL]; SEX: Total [T]; UNIT: Number [NR]; Last Update: 07/03/2021

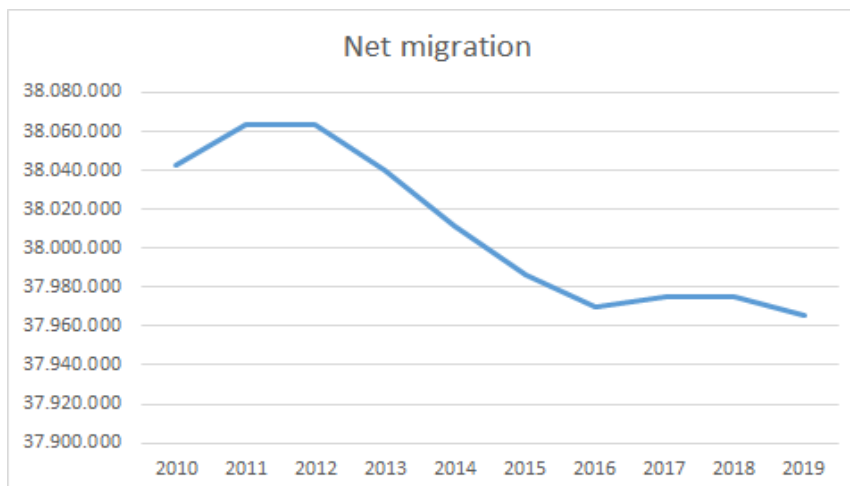
Poland has introduced the Schengen border rules to limit illegal immigration and trade as an EU's external border member state. A steady influx growth can be seen in the graph below from 2010, with a subsequent stabilization after 2012 until 2018 and controlled growth in 2019.

Evidence shows large immigration from Ukraine and a large scale of short-term immigration, especially for economic and educational reasons. Immigration statistics in Poland are quite dynamic, though ethnic diversity is not that large. Poland has,

throughout most of its long history, experienced only very limited immigration from abroad. This factor explains why 96,8% of the population of Poland is ethnic Polis.

### 3.4 Net migration in the last 10 years

[demo\_gind]



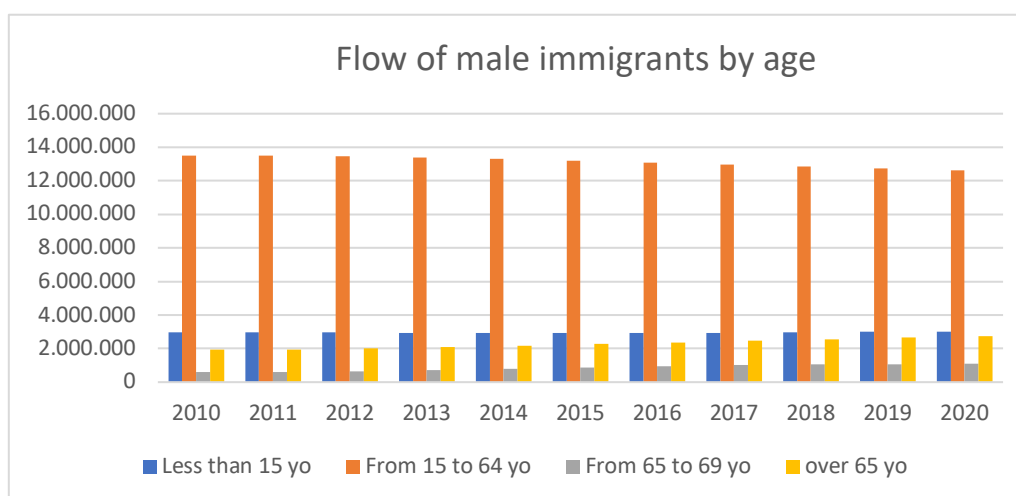
<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2011/2019; INDIC-DE [avg]- [cnmigrat]-[cnmigrant]- [death]- [fav]-;  
Last Update: 11/03/2021

The net migration rate is the difference between the number of immigrants (people coming into an area) and the number of emigrants (people leaving an area) throughout the year. Though Poland's net migration rate fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through the 2011 - 2020 period ending at -0.78 migrants per thousand population in 2020.

### 3.5 Immigration flow by category

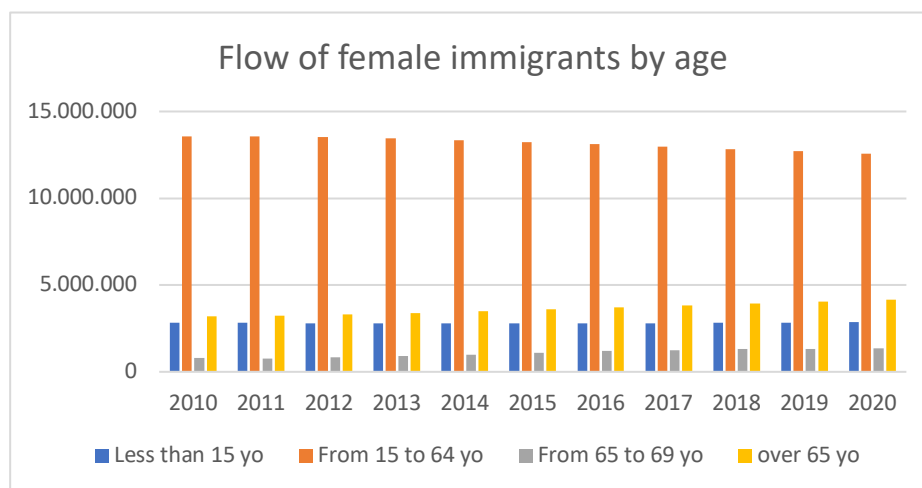
[migr\_pop3ctb]



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://data.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/dataexplorer/)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; AGE: Less than 15 years [Y\_LT15], from 15 to 64 years [Y15-64], from 65 to 69 years [Y65-69] and 65 years or over [Y\_GE65]; C\_BIRTH: Total [TOTAL]; SEX: Male [M]; TIME: 2010/2020; UNIT: Number [NR]; Last Update: 08/04/2021

The graph shows that the flow of male migrants concerns in particular the age group between 15 and 64 years, where the value is close to 13/14 million from 2010 to 2020 in a rather constant way. On the other hand, in a much smaller percentage, there are male migrants under 15 (about 3 million), followed by the over 65s.

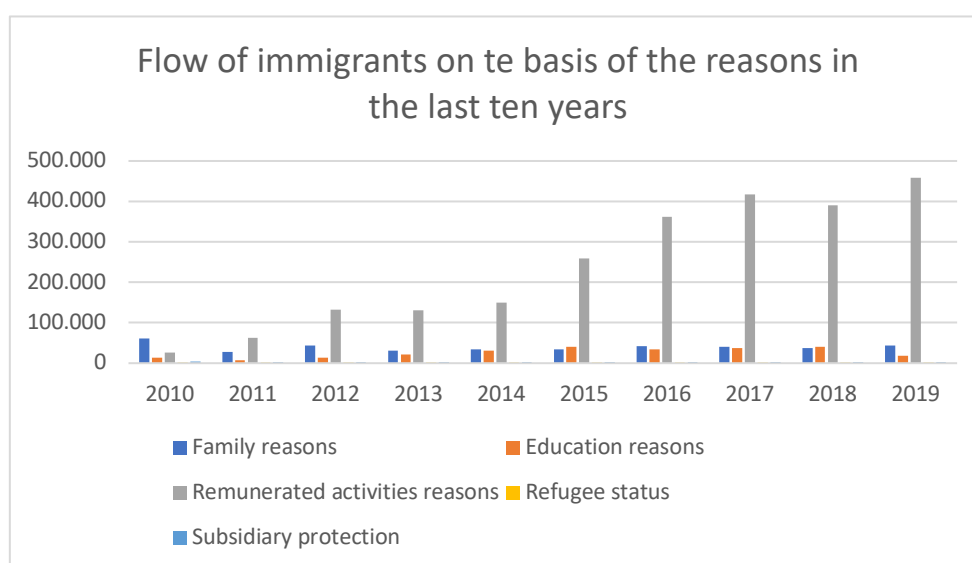


[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; AGE: Less than 15 years [Y\_LT15], from 15 to 64 years [Y15-64], from 65 to 69 years [Y65-69] and 65 years or over [Y\_GE65]; C\_BIRTH: Total [TOTAL]; SEX: Female [F]; TIME: 2010/2020; UNIT: Number [NR]; Last Update: 08/04/2021

A similar situation to the previous one occurs in the case of the flow of female migrant, the graph shows that this movement concerns in particular the age group between 15 and 64 years, where the value touches 13/14 million from 2010 to 2020 in a rather constant way. While, in a much smaller percentage, there are migrants over 65 and those under 15, whose values are rather similar and are around 3/4 million.

[migr\_resvalid]



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; CITIZEN: Total [TOTAL]; DURATION: Total [TOTAL]; TIME: 2010/2019;

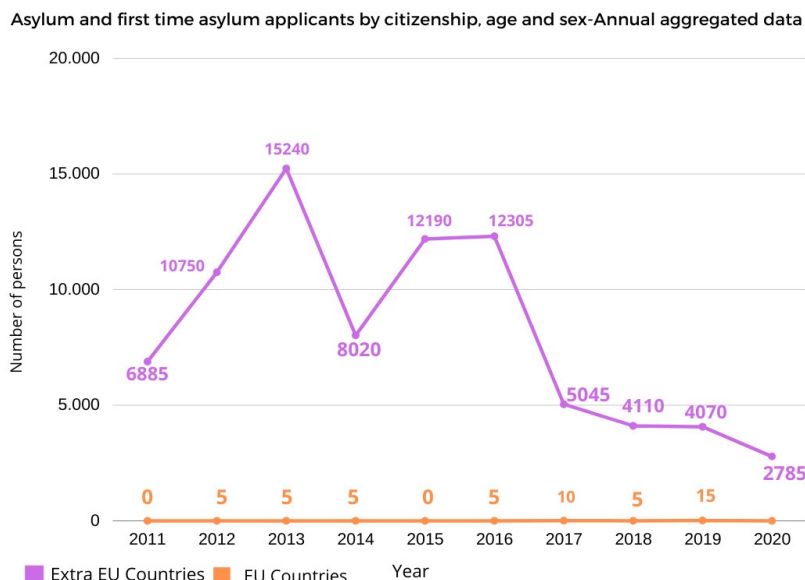
REASON: Family reasons [FAM], Education reasons [EDUC], Remunerated activities reasons [OCCUP], Refugee status [REF], Subsidiary protection [SUB]; UNIT: Person [PER]; Last Update: 09/04/2021

Over the last ten years, the reasons for migration flows consist of remunerated activities, although the value has seen a significant increase from 2010, when it was around 30,000 migrants, to 2019, when it reached around 450,000. The other motivations that, however incomparable in terms of values especially since 2012, are family and education.

## 4. INDICATORS

### 4.1 Total number of refugees and asylum applicants

[migr\_asyappctza]



<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2009/2018; CITIZENSHIP: European Union – 28countries [EU28] and Extra-EU28 [EXT\_EU28]; ASYL\_APP: Asylum applicant [ASY\_APP]; SEX: Total [T]; AGE: Total [TOTAL]; UNIT: Person [PER]; Last Update: 06/04/2021

After Poland's admission to the Refugee Convention in 1951 and its Protocol in 1967, in 1992 the UNHCR established a presence in the country.

Originally, Poland became one of the countries of destination for refugees from the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. Anyhow, the number of asylum seekers in Poland was insignificant if compared to Western countries. The number enlarged by the late 1990s, during the preparation for Poland's accession to the European Union.

Today the five most common countries of origin among asylum seekers are Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Tajikistan and Georgia. Besides, following the disputed presidential elections in Belarus, an increased influx of asylum seekers from Belarus has been observed since mid-2020.

From 2010 the number of people applying for refugee and asylum in Poland has been oscillating at around 7.000 to 15.000, reaching its peak in 2013, before decreasing from 2017 onwards.

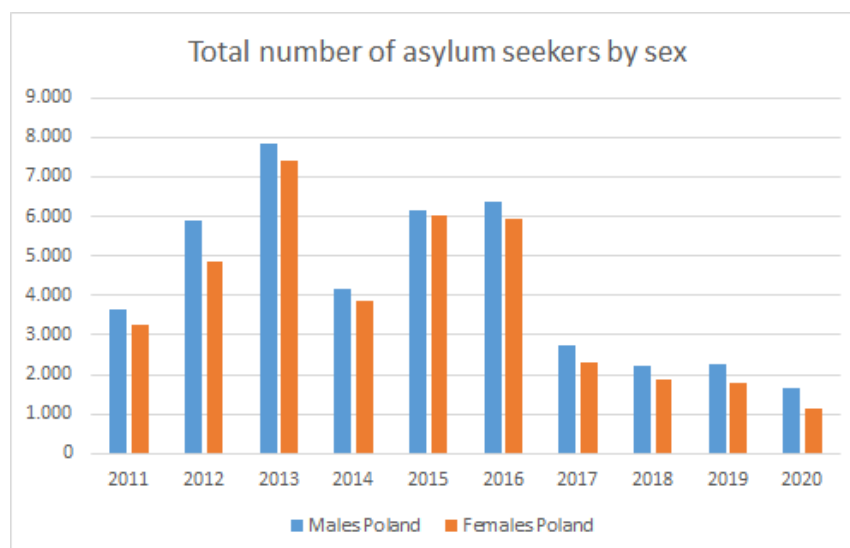
## 4.2 Total number of asylum seekers by category [migr\_asyappctza]



<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2009/2018; CITIZENSHIP: European Union – 28countries [EU28] and Extra-EU28 [EXT\_EU28]; ASYL\_APP: Asylum applicant [ASY\_APP]; SEX: Total [T]; AGE: [Y\_LT18] - [Y18-34]- [Y35-64]- [Y\_GE65]; UNIT: Person [PER]; Last Update: 06/04/2021

From the graph, it can be seen that the data on the age of the total number of asylum seekers fluctuates greatly; the age group most affected is certainly the under-18 age group, whose value peaks in 2013 (7500 asylum seekers) and again in 2016 and then gradually decreases until 2020 when it reaches a value of 1000 people. The other age group that undergoes this upward and then the downward trend is the 18-34 age group, followed by the 34-64 age group.



<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2009/2018; CITIZENSHIP: European Union – 28countries [EU28] and Extra-EU28 [EXT\_EU28]; ASYL\_APP: Asylum applicant [ASY\_APP]; SEX: Male and Female [M]- [F]; AGE: Total [TOTAL]; UNIT: Person [PER]; Last Update: 06/04/2021



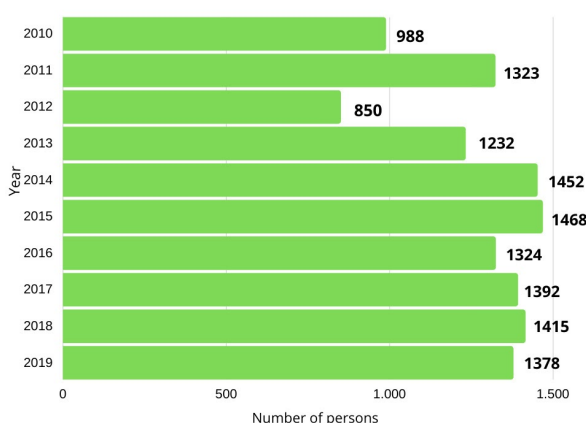
As regards the gender of asylum seekers, there is no remarkable difference between men and women; however, even in this case, there is a rather fluctuating trend: from 2011 to 2013 the trend is increasing, while from 2016 to 2020 the trend is noticeably decreasing.

### 4.3 Refugee status

(all valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year)

[migr\_resvalid]

All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year



<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2017; SEX: Total [T]; CITIZEN: Total [TOTAL]; DURATION: Total [TOTAL]; REASON: Refugee status [REF]; UNIT: Person [PER]; Last Update: 26/03/2021

This graph considers all legal refugee status in a given year, but the number of permits issued each year is significantly smaller. For example, from 2014 to 2019, according to the UNHCR, the official refugee protection has been granted to 2360 persons while the status has been given to 8429 individuals.

Taking into account the period from 2010 to 2019, the number of refugees in Poland has increased, but starting from 2014 to 2019 it has remained quiet stable.

### 4.4 Share of refugees on total migration

[migr\_resvalid]-[migr\_imm8]

PERSONS/TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Total migrants</b>	155.131	157.059	217.546	220.311	222.275	218.147	208.302	209.353	214.083	226.649
<b>Refugees</b>	988	1.323	850	1.232	1.452	1.468	1.324	1.392	1.415	1.378

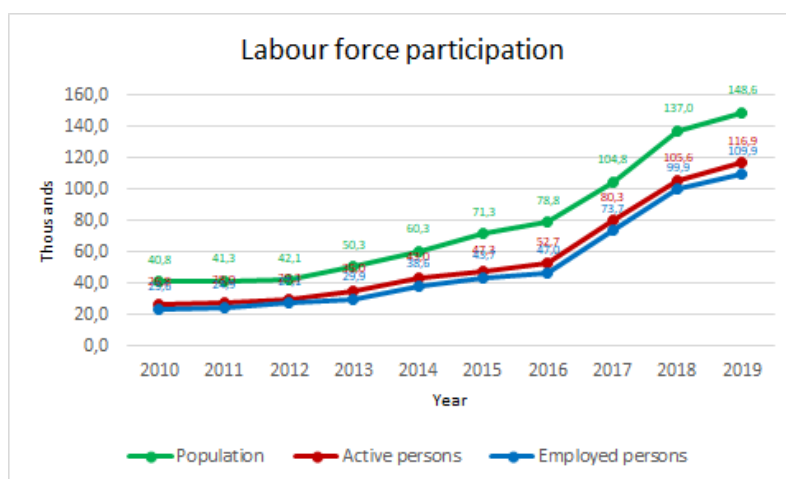
<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; CITIZENSHIP: Total [TOTAL]; AGE: Total [TOTAL]; UNIT: Person [PER]; SEX: Total [T]; Last Update: 06/04/202; REASON: Refugee status [REF]- Total inflows

The table shows the share of refugees on the total number of migrants in the country. The number of refugees is negligible, as it constitutes just about 1% of the total migration.

#### 4.5 Labour force participation in the last 10 years

*Population by sex, age, citizenship and labour status (thousands)*  
[lfsa\_pganws]



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

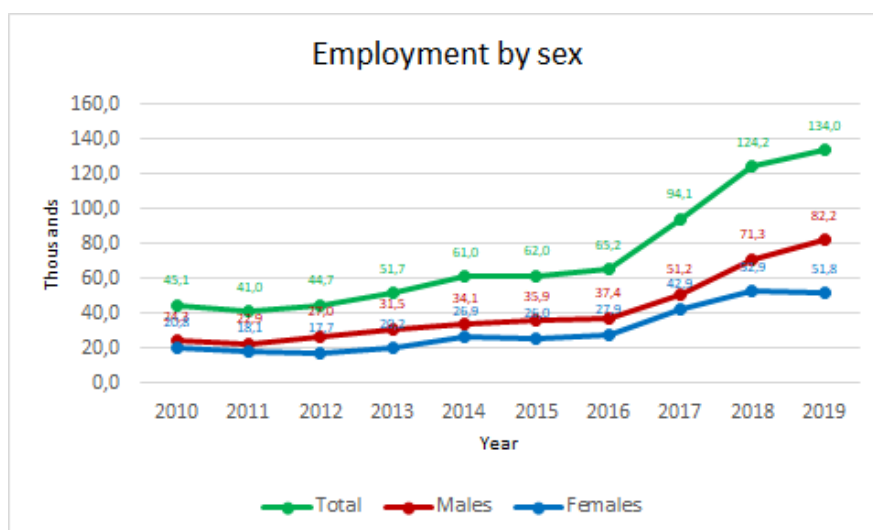
Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; AGE: from 15 to 74 [Y15-74]; SEX: Total; CITIZEN: Foreign country [FOR]; WSTATUS: Population [POP], Active persons [ACT] and Employed persons [EMP]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

The chart shows the participation of migrants in the labour market. Active persons refer to the economically active population (the labour force), which includes both employed persons and unemployed persons, but not the economically inactive part of the population (for example children, students and retired people).

The difference between the number of active migrants and the number of employed migrants (that is the number of unemployed migrants) is minimal, even though it is increasing over the years. In 2019, only about 6% of active migrants were unemployed, while about 94% of them were employed.

#### 4.6 Employment in the last 10 years by sex group, age, country of birth and reason for migration

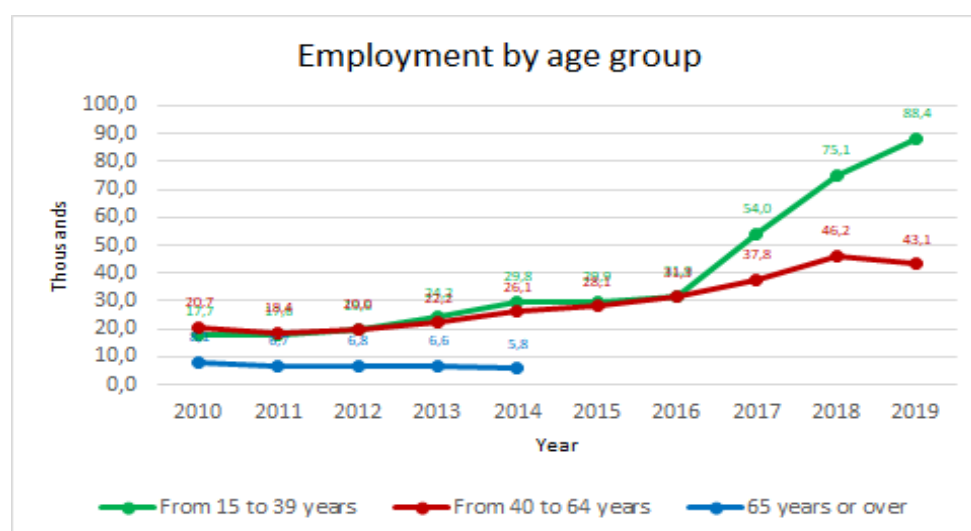
*Population by sex, age, country of birth and labour status*  
[lfsa\_pgacws]



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; SEX: Total [T], Males [M] and Females [F]; AGE: From 15 to 74 [Y15-74]; C\_BIRTH: Foreign country [FOR]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; WSTATUS: Employed persons [EMP]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

The chart shows the number of employed migrants divided by sex. There are more employed males than females and the difference between the two has increased in the last two considered years.



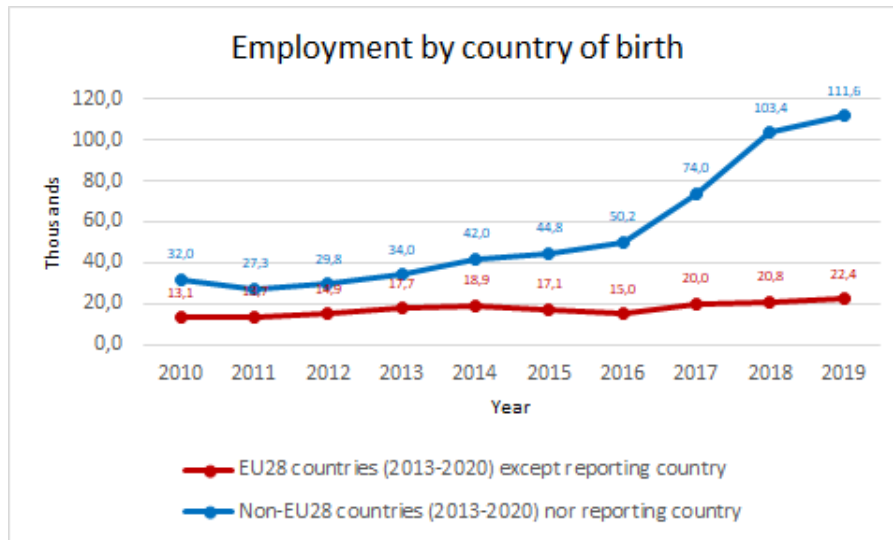
[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; SEX: Total [T]; AGE: From 15 to 39 [Y15-39], from 40 to 64 [Y40-64] and 65 years or over [Y\_GE65]; C\_BIRTH: Foreign country [FOR]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; WSTATUS: Employed persons [EMP]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

With regard to the population aged 65 or over, from 2014 onwards data are not available.

The employment of persons aged from 15 to 39 years and that of persons aged from 40 to 64 years has been almost identical and increasing until 2016; from 2016 onwards the two lines are significantly divided, with the number of employed persons aged from 15 to 39 years way higher than the number of employed persons aged from 40 to 64

years, which has increased as late as 2017 and 2018 and then in 2019 has slightly reduced.

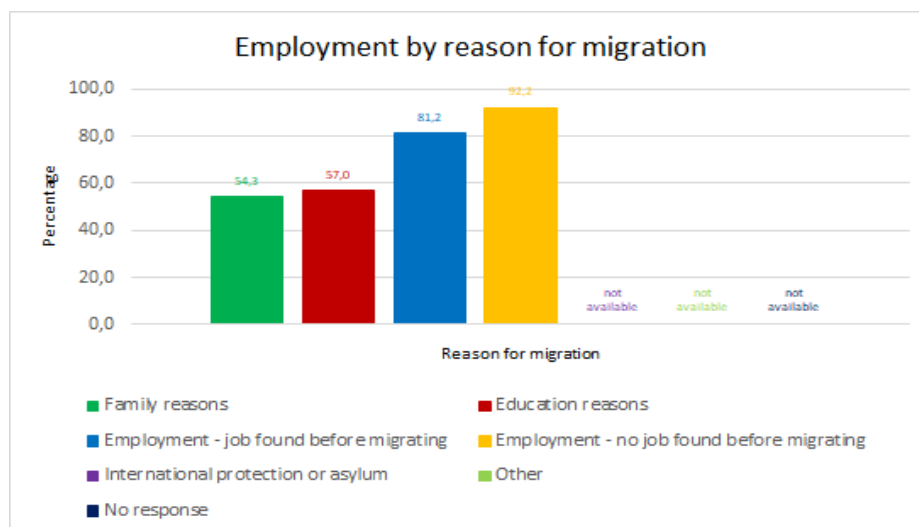


[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; SEX: Total [T]; AGE: From 15 to 74 [Y15-74]; C\_BIRTH: EU28 countries (2013-2020) except reporting country [EU28\_FOR] and Non-EU28 countries (2013-2020) nor reporting country [NEU28\_FOR]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; WSTATUS: Employed persons [EMP]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

The chart shows the employment of migrants by country of birth. We can notice that there are more employed migrants coming from non-EU countries than coming from the EU Member States and the difference between the two values is constantly increasing. However, we must consider that there are more migrants from non-EU countries than from EU countries.

*The employment rate of the first generation of immigrants by sex, age, years of residence and reason for migration*  
[lfsa\_14l1empr]



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

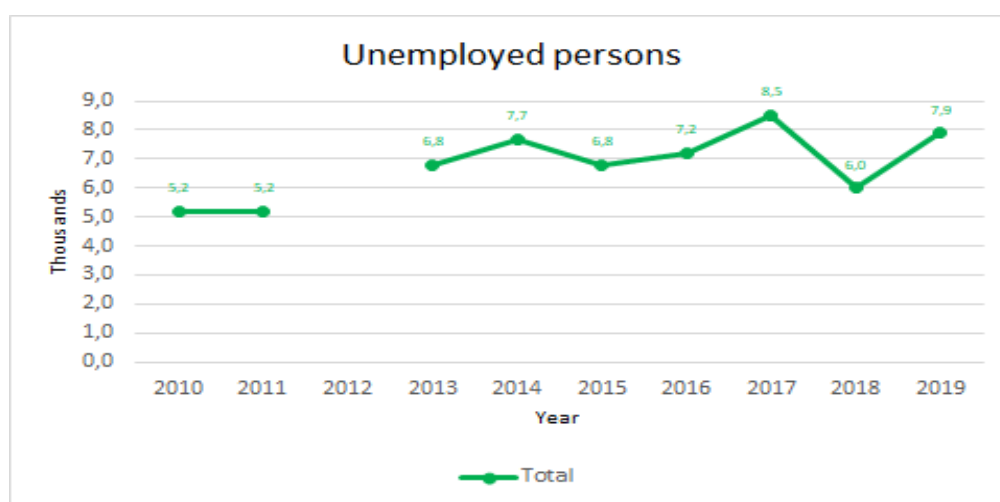
Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2014; AGE: From 15 to 64 [Y15-64]; DURATION: Total [TOTAL]; REASON: Family reasons [FAM], Education reasons [EDUC], Employment, job found before migrating [EMP\_F\_JOB], Employment, no job found before migrating [EMP\_NF\_JOB], International protection or asylum [IPROT\_ASY], Other [OTH] and No response [NRP]; SEX: Total [T]; UNIT: Percentage [PC]; Last Update: 18/03/2021

(Data are available only for 2014)

The graph shows that, in general, work has a higher percentage, both for those who did not have a job before migrating and for those who did; these values are followed by family and educational reasons.

#### 4.7 Unemployment in the last 10 years by sex group, age, country of birth and reason for migration

*Population by sex, age, citizenship and labour status (1 000)*  
[lfsa\_pgacws]



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

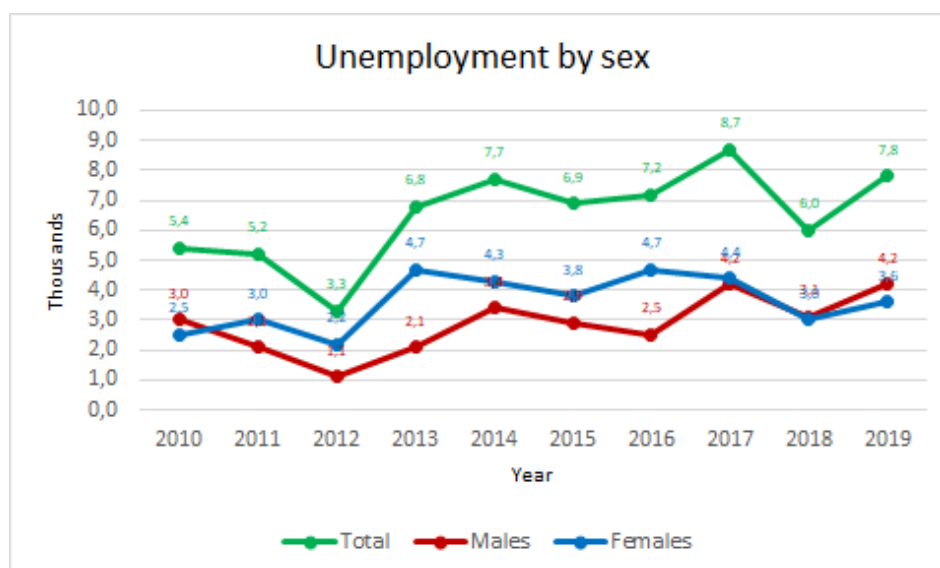
Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; SEX: Total [T], Males [M] and Females [F]; AGE: From 15 to 74 [Y15-74]; C\_BIRTH: Foreign country [FOR]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; WSTATUS: Unemployed persons [UNE]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

Using the [lfsa\_pgacws] label, there is only data available with regard to the total of unemployed migrants, that is not divided by sex. Moreover, there is no data available for 2012.

In order to find the unemployment by sex for the foreign population, we have subtracted Reporting country/Unemployed/by sex to the Total population/Unemployed/by sex. We have noticed that the values of the total number of unemployed foreigners are almost identical to those of the chart above, so the calculation is sufficiently correct.

C_BIRTH	SEX/TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019

Reporting country	Total	1.644,8	1.653,5	1.745,9	1.785,8	1.559,1	1.297,4	1.056,2	835,2	653,2	549,9
Reporting country	Males	877,8	854,1	898,5	924,6	811,8	698,5	578,6	460,0	359,8	279,3
Reporting country	Females	766,9	799,4	847,4	861,2	747,3	599,0	477,6	375,3	293,4	270,6
Total	Total	1.650,2	1.658,7	1.749,2	1.792,6	1.566,8	1.304,3	1.063,4	843,9	659,2	557,7
Total	Males	880,8	856,2	899,6	926,7	815,2	701,4	581,1	464,2	362,9	283,5
Total	Females	769,4	802,4	849,6	865,9	751,6	602,8	482,3	379,7	296,4	274,2
Foreign country	Total	5,4	5,2	3,3	6,8	7,7	6,9	7,2	8,7	6,0	7,8
Foreign country	Males	3,0	2,1	1,1	2,1	3,4	2,9	2,5	4,2	3,1	4,2
Foreign country	Females	2,5	3,0	2,2	4,7	4,3	3,8	4,7	4,4	3,0	3,6



[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://data-explorer.europa.eu)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; SEX: Total [T], Males [M] and Females [F]; AGE: From 15 to 74 [Y15-74]; C\_BIRTH: Reporting country [NAT] and Total [TOTAL]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; WSTATUS: Unemployed persons [UNE]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

We can notice that in 2010, 2011 and 2012, the unemployed foreigners were few, then their number increased. Since 2015/2016, although the total number of unemployed persons in the country decreased as well as the number of native unemployed, the number of foreign unemployed generally increases.

As one might expect, there are more unemployed women than men, with the exception of the situation in 2010, 2018 and 2019, but in those years the difference is minimal.

*Population by sex, age, citizenship and labour status (1 000)*  
*[lfsa\_pganws]*

Also, in this case, no data is available directly with regard to the unemployment by age group, so we used the same methods used for the previous chart.

**CITIZEN: Reporting country**

AGE/TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>From 15 to 24 years</b>	411,2	417,2	414,2	406,6	346,9	284,7	243,4	196,3	150,1	121,9
<b>From 25 to 49 years</b>	926,8	926,7	999,8	1.036,6	907,4	756,8	613,8	473,7	382,2	326,9
<b>From 50 to 64 years</b>	303,9	308,4	329,0	339,7	303,1	255,0	196,3	163,7	118,5	99,7

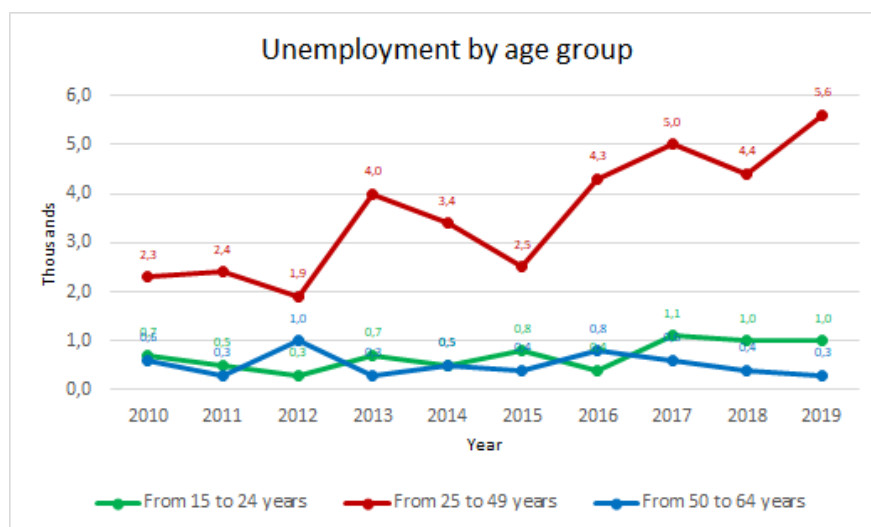
**CITIZEN: Total**

AGE/TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>From 15 to 24 years</b>	411,9	417,7	414,5	407,3	347,4	285,5	243,8	197,4	151,1	122,9
<b>From 25 to 49 years</b>	929,1	929,1	1.001,7	1.040,6	910,8	759,3	618,1	478,7	386,6	332,5
<b>From 50 to 64 years</b>	304,5	308,7	329,1	340,0	303,6	255,4	197,1	164,3	118,9	100,0

**CITIZEN: Foreign country**

AGE/TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>From 15 to 24 years</b>	0,7	0,5	0,3	0,7	0,5	0,8	0,4	1,1	1,0	1,0
<b>From 25 to 49 years</b>	2,3	2,4	1,9	4,0	3,4	2,5	4,3	5,0	4,4	5,6

<b>From 50 to 64 years</b>	0,6	0,3	1,0	0,3	0,5	0,4	0,8	0,6	0,4	0,3
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[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2010/2019; SEX: Total [T]; AGE: From 15 to 24 [Y15-24], From 25 to 49 [Y25-49], From 50 to 64 [Y50-64]; C\_BIRTH: Reporting country [NAT] and Total [TOTAL]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; WSTATUS: Unemployed persons [UNE]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

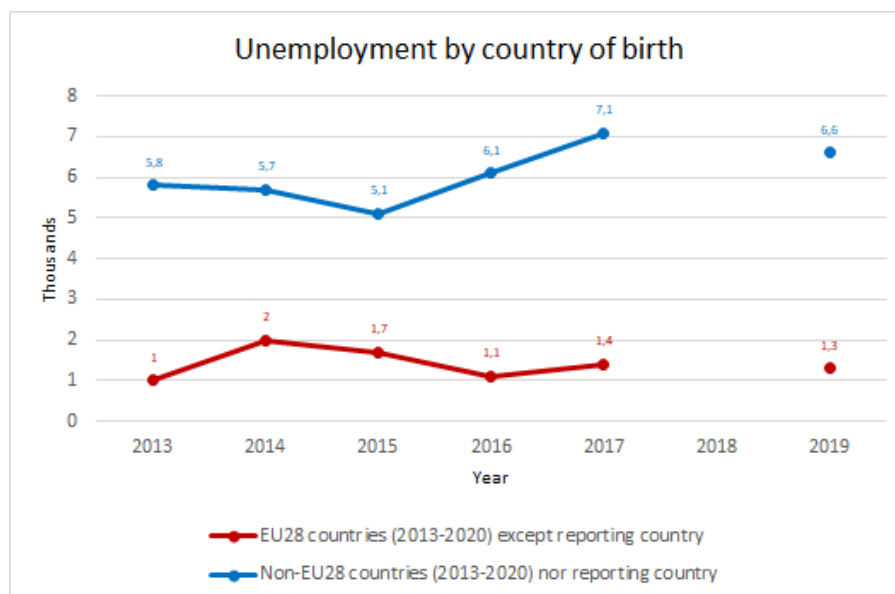
The chart shows the unemployment of migrants by age groups. The most affected are those aged between 25 and 49, but theirs is also the most numerous groups.

*Unemployment by sex, age, country of birth and degree of urbanization*  
[lfst\_r\_lfu2gacu]

There is data only for Non-EU28 countries (2013-2020) nor reporting country (NEU28\_FOR), not for EU28 countries (2013-2020) except reporting country (EU28\_FOR) and only from 2013 onwards (with the exception of 2018). Nevertheless, using the total (FOR) we managed to get the missing data.

C_BIRTH/TIME	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Non-EU28 countries (2013-2020) nor reporting country</b>	5,8	5,7	5,1	6,1	7,1		6,6
<b>Foreign country</b>	6,8	7,7	6,8	7,2	8,5	6,0	7,9
<b>EU28 countries (2013-2020) except reporting country</b>	1	2	1,7	1,1	1,4		1,3





[Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

Source: Eurostat; GEO: Poland [PL]; TIME: 2013/2019; SEX: Total [T]; AGE: From 15 to 74 [Y15-74]; C\_BIRTH: Non-EU28 countries (2013-2020) nor reporting country [NEU28\_FOR] and Foreign country [FOR]; UNIT: Thousands [THS]; DEG\_URB: Total [TOTAL]; Last Update: 08/02/2021

We can notice that the number of unemployed migrants coming from other EU Member States is much lower than the one of unemployed migrants coming from non-EU countries. However, there are more migrants from non-EU countries than from EU countries. Moreover, migrants from third countries are more likely to face more difficulties and barriers, such as the lack of language skills, the lack of recognition of qualification, difficulties relating to the residence permit, to the origin and their religious and social background.

## **CONCLUSION**

The development of Polish migration and asylum policies and laws dates back to 1989, when political and socio-economic transformations began. The reality of migrants' inflow to Poland was dominated by citizens of Ukraine coming to work. Meanwhile, the public debate was focused on the arrivals of migrants from the Middle East or Africa, namely citizens of countries almost non-existent in Poland's immigration statistics (e.g. Syria, Iraq). Thus, it was the imagined inflow to Poland to attract attention, rather than the real one. To some extent, this was the result of the media coverage of the 'migration/ refugee crisis in Europe.

Importantly, Poland, as a country where it's possible to travel from east to west, has also become a transit country for economic migrants and asylum seekers. Poland's attractiveness as a destination country has increased with its accession to the European Union and its accession to the Schengen zone. Furthermore, EU membership has significantly contributed to the outflow of Polish citizens to EU labor markets and at the same time, it has also influenced the development of migration policies and laws, which have made it necessary not only to react to the observed phenomena (a reactive policy characterized in particular by the 1990s), but also to manage external migration in the most profitable for the country and its economy, while attracting desirable migrant workers to the Polish labor market.

The history of asylum seekers and refugees in Poland is strictly determined by the region of origin of foreigners seeking protection in Poland. Poland refugee statistics for 2019 was 12,658.00, showing a 1.3% increase from 2018. The migratory and refugee crisis experienced by Europe in 2015 and subsequent years did not affect the demographics of arriving migrants and asylum seekers in Poland, but rather the conflicts or political and economic disturbances in the countries to the east of Poland. The scale of employment of foreigners in Poland has been steadily growing each year. In 2018, a total of 328,800 work permits were issued to foreigners representing 125 countries of origin. The number of work permits granted increased nearly 40% compared to the previous year and it was five times greater than in 2015. The vast majority of foreign workers in Poland were men (77.2%). The number of immigrants in Poland is increasing and their presence in various areas of social life is also increasing, they are present in both the primary and secondary labor market.

The largest group of foreigners working in Poland were Ukrainians (72.5%). For the first time, the second largest group were Nepalese (around 6.1%). Significant numbers of work permits were also granted to Belarusians (5.8%) as well as to Indians and Pakistanis (2.5% each). However, at this point, we can't state whether or not the trajectories for achieving status are open for those starting their career in Poland on the secondary labor market. Most likely it will be difficult for many of them to escape from the trap of employment in unstable and relatively low-paid jobs. So far, a rather large part of migrant labor in Poland has been cyclical, but this has been possible only thanks to the geographical proximity of Ukraine. Immigrants from other countries of origin (e.g. increased immigration from India) will not be able to return as easily to their country of origin in order to meet some of their social needs and, as can be expected,

this is likely to put more pressure on polish institutions to adapt to the ever increasing presence of immigrants.

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