



Learn Your World: Poland

Skills and Professional Development



To support your global practice, ACC Docket offers country-specific fun facts from your peers who've been there — literally.



Economy

GDP (purchasing power parity in USD)

Population
Corruption

\$1.051 trillion (2016 estimate)
38,483,957 (2014 estimate)
According to Transparency International's "2015 Corruption Perceptions Index," Poland is the 30th "cleanest" (i.e., least corrupt) out of the 168 surveyed.

Economic forecast

Real GDP growth is projected to increase from around three percent in 2016 to three and a half percent in 2017. Rising employment and wages, higher social transfers, and low energy prices will support faster consumption growth. Easy credit conditions — and a pickup in infrastructure investment supported by EU funds in 2017 — will also underpin stronger investment. Consumer price inflation is projected to gradually rise, as energy prices stabilize and the labor market tightens, according to the Organisation for Co-operation and Development.

Additional resources

[The Warsaw Voice](#), English language weekly news magazine
[Poland's official tourism site](#)
No Simple Victory: World War II in Europe, 1939-1945 by Norman Davies
God's Playground by Norman Davies

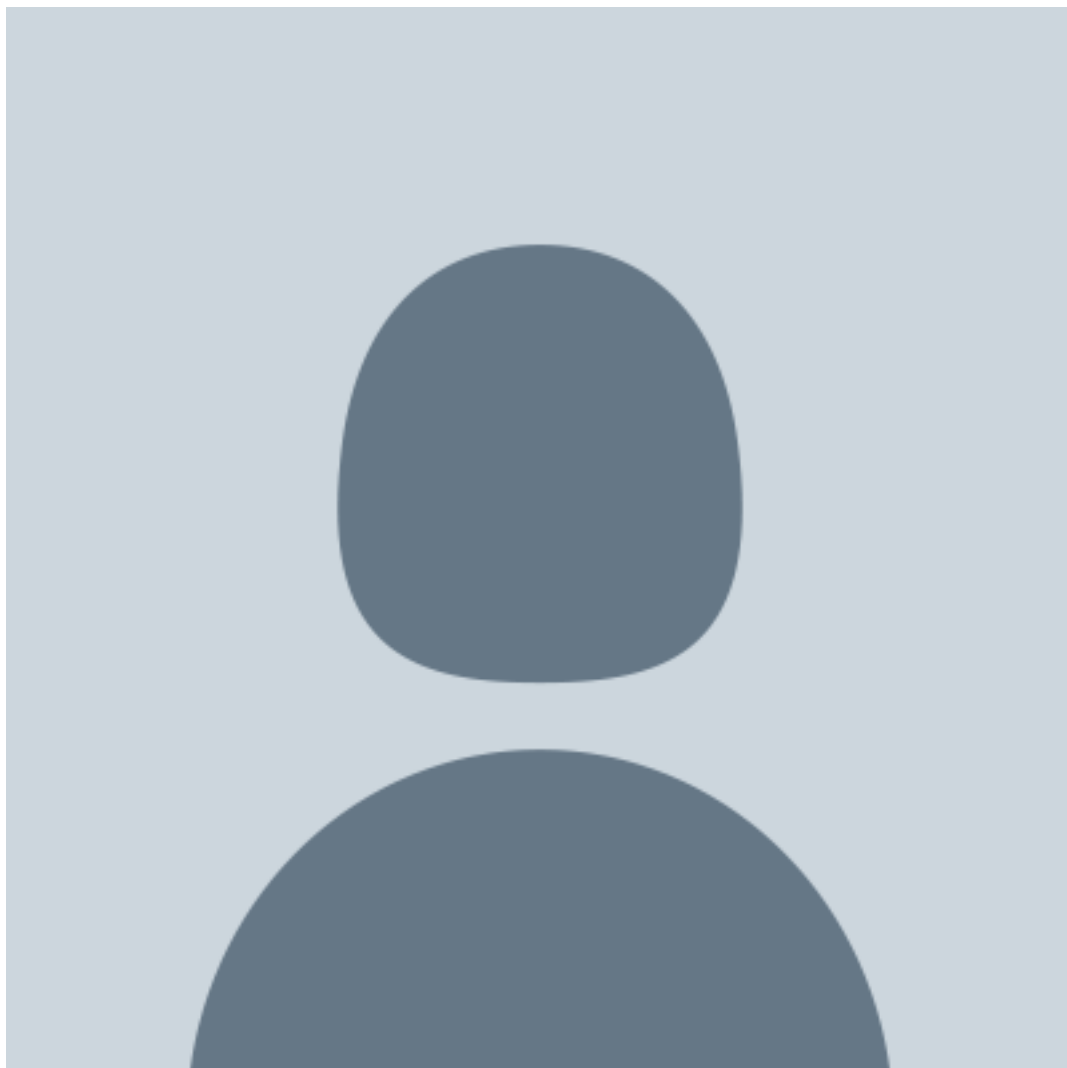
Located in the center of Europe, Poland is a success story of political change and economic development. Foreign investments are welcomed in this former member of the Soviet bloc.

Most Poles in their 20s and 30s speak English either proficiently or fluently. However, it's important to note that most public sector employees speak foreign languages poorly. As a result, communication, including email, can sometimes be difficult. It is advised to have a local person help you.

In business negotiations, Poland is a high-hierarchy and low-context country. Even though local business representatives might be fluent in English, it is not uncommon for both parties to misunderstand one another if complex vocabulary is used during a transaction. Respecting the hierarchy is important. In Poland, being a board member is considered to be far more important than one's actual job in a given organization. If you want to earn a few points at the beginning of a meeting with a board member in Poland, it is worth mentioning the importance of their role by asking for details about the position. It is a great topic for a small talk.

Last but not least — all Poles, regardless of industry sector, position, or political preference, love to discuss the history of Europe. Some say that it is only takes a matter of minutes in Poland before the subject of World War II is brought up for the first time. A casual conversation can sometimes result in a fierce debate. To make sure that you are prepared to participate actively in such a discussion, it is highly advisable that you familiarize yourself with some basic historical facts to demonstrate your knowledge of the country to your Polish colleagues.

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