

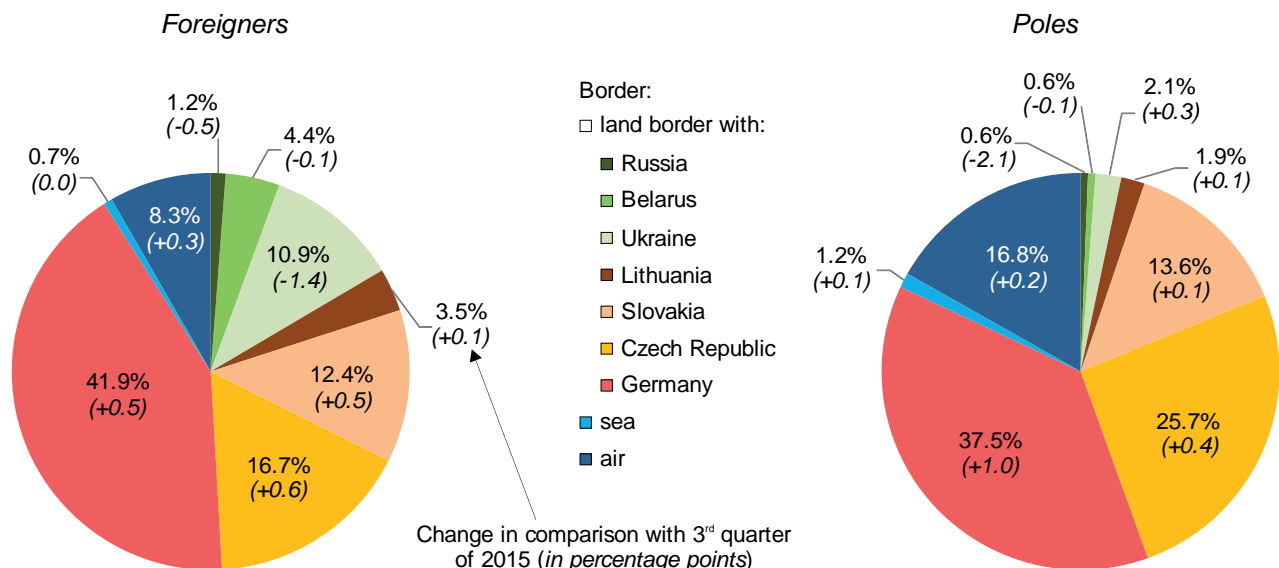
Border traffic and expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 3rd quarter of 2016

Border traffic

In the 3rd quarter of 2016 the estimated number of crossings of the Polish border amounted to 78.0 million, of which 45.0 million was made by foreigners (57.7% in total) and 33.0 million by Poles (42.3%). Approximately 76.2% of the total crossings of the border concerned the Polish land border with the countries of the European Union, 11.0% the external land border of the EU, 11.9% air border and 0.9% sea border.

The highest number of persons crossed the Polish land border on the section with Germany (45.9% of all crossings of the Polish land border in the 3rd quarter of 2016), followed by the border with Czech Republic (23.5%), Slovakia (14.8%), Ukraine (8.2%), Belarus and Lithuania (3.2%) and Russia (1.1%).

Chart 1. Structure of border traffic of persons (from and to Poland) by the borders in the 3rd quarter of 2016



According to the Border Guard Main Headquarters, the number of clearances at the European Union's external land border on the territory of Poland in the 3rd quarter of 2016 was 5.8% lower compared to the previous quarter and 13.7% lower than in the corresponding period of 2015. The number of clearances of foreigners was 1.4% lower than in the 2nd quarter of 2015 and

8.9% lower than the year before, while the number of clearances of Poles was 28.1% lower than in the previous quarter and 36.1%¹ lower than in the 3rd quarter of 2015. The suspension of agreements on local border traffic (MRG) had an effect on the size of the cross-border traffic in the 3rd quarter of 2016.

Citizens of a neighbouring country predominated among the foreigners crossing individual sections of the Polish land border, for example, on the border with Ukraine - Ukrainian citizens (95.4%), on the border with Russia - Russian citizens (84.9%), and on the border with Belarus - Belarusian citizens (83.4%).

Table 1. Border traffic and expenses of foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 3rd quarter of 2016

Border	Border traffic ^a				Expenses				Average expenses ^b			
	foreigners		Poles		foreigners		Poles		foreigners		Poles	
	million persons	3 rd qr. 2015 =100	million persons	3 rd qr. 2015 =100	million zł	3 rd qr. 2015 =100	million zł	3 rd qr. 2015 =100	zł	3 rd qr. 2015 =100	zł	3 rd qr. 2015 =100
Total	45.0	102.0	33.0	101.4	10 879.5	103.1	6 421.3	100.5	491	101.3	393	100.4
land	41.0	101.7	27.1	101.1	9 222.8	102.4	4 237.8	99.0	456	100.9	314	99.5
EU's external	7.5	91.1	1.1	63.9	2 516.6	94.1	122.3	60.1	693	104.2	224	94.5
with: Russia ^c	0.6	74.4	0.2	20.8	123.6	84.7	33.1	27.4	444	114.7	355	131.6
Belarus	2.0	100.0	0.2	90.6	647.4	86.0	19.6	95.0	668	86.9	197	102.1
Ukraine ^d	4.9	90.1	0.7	117.9	1 745.6	98.2	69.7	111.9	732	109.8	197	96.4
EU's internal	33.5	104.4	26.0	103.6	6 706.2	105.9	4 115.5	100.9	404	101.5	317	99.0
with: Lithuania	1.6	105.7	0.6	102.7	403.6	105.2	114.8	100.4	515	99.6	312	97.5
Slovakia	5.6	106.0	4.5	102.4	800.1	103.8	641.1	102.0	290	99.7	290	100.1
Czech Republic	7.5	105.9	8.5	103.3	1 120.6	103.4	1 300.3	100.8	304	99.9	298	99.3
Germany	18.9	103.3	12.4	104.4	4 381.9	107.0	2 059.3	100.6	469	102.3	342	98.5
sea	0.3	104.0	0.4	103.8	163.1	105.1	167.6	105.2	971	100.4	849	100.5
air	3.7	105.9	5.6	103.0	1 493.5	107.9	2 016.0	103.5	839	101.6	764	100.5

^aFrom and to Poland. ^bPer one person during a single trip. ^cMRG agreement with the Russian Federation in the part concerning crossings in local border traffic was suspended from 4 July 2016 by the Polish and Russian side. ^dMRG agreement with Ukraine was suspended by the Polish side in the section on crossings in local border traffic in the period from 4 July 2016 to 2 August 2016.

Expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad

The estimated value of goods and services purchased in Poland by foreigners (non-residents) in the 3rd quarter of 2016 amounted to approximately 10.9 billion zł, and the expenses incurred abroad by the Polish residents –6.4 billion zł. The expenses made by foreigners were 3.1% higher than in the corresponding period of 2015, while those made by Poles were 0.5% higher. Compared to the previous quarter, the expenses made both by foreigners and Poles were 5.1% and 39.2% higher, respectively.

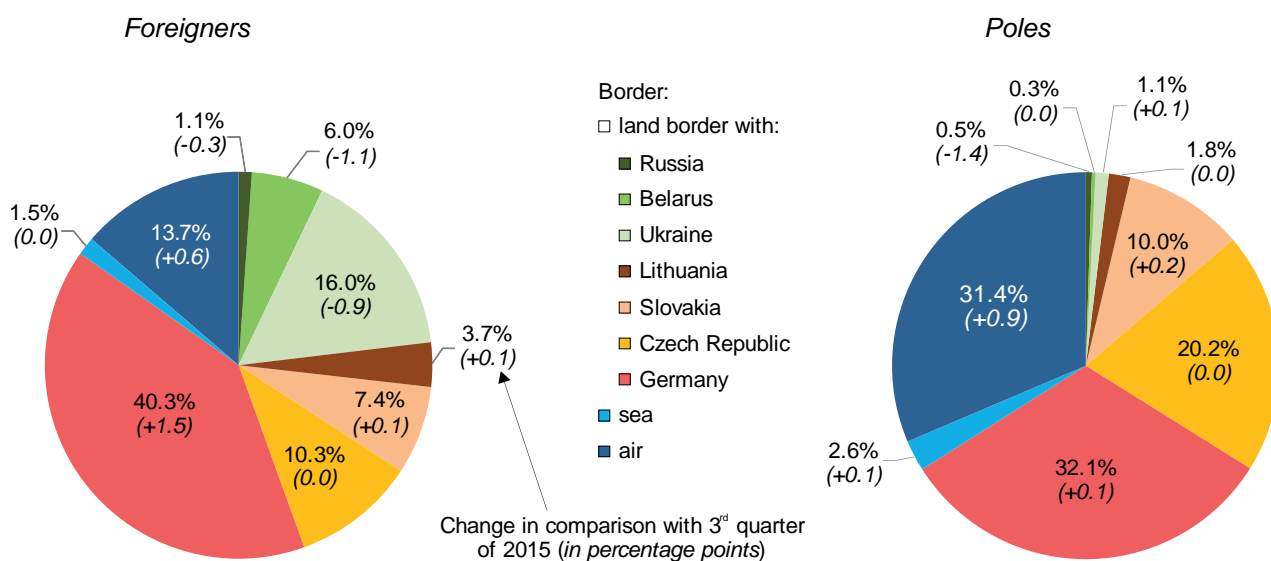
Out of total expenses of foreigners, the expenses made by persons crossing the internal land border of the European Union on the Polish territory accounted for 61.6%, the external land border of the EU 23.1%, air border 13.7% and sea border 1.5%. In the case of expenses incurred abroad by residents of Poland such structure was as follows: 64.1%, 1.9%, 31.4% and 2.6%.

¹ In the third quarter of 2015, the share of MRG in border traffic with Russia was 45.6% in the case of foreigners and 94.0% in the case of Poles (GUS estimates), and with Ukraine - 55.8% in the case of foreigners.

Taking into account the land border, the highest expenses in Poland were incurred by foreigners crossing the border with Germany (47.5% of total expenses made by foreigners crossing the Polish land border in the 3rd quarter of 2016), followed by the border with Ukraine (18.9%), Czech Republic (12.2%), Slovakia (8.7%), Belarus (7.0%), Lithuania (4.4%) and Russia (1.3%).

As to the land border of the country, the highest expenses of the Polish residents were incurred by persons crossing the border with Germany (48.6% of total expenses of Poles crossing Polish border land in the 3rd quarter of 2016), followed by Czech Republic (30.7%), Slovakia (15.1%), Lithuania (2.7%), Ukraine (1.6%), Russia (0.8%) and Belarus (0.5%).

Chart 2. Structure of expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 3rd quarter of 2016



The estimated value of goods and services purchased in Poland by foreigners crossing the Polish section of the external land border of the European Union in the 3rd quarter of 2016 amounted to approximately 2.5 billion zł, while the expenses incurred abroad by Polish citizens crossing this section of the border amounted to 122.3 million zł. Expenses incurred by foreigners in Poland at the external border of the EU in the 3rd quarter of 2016 were 5.9% lower compared with the same period of 2015, and 2.1% higher compared to the previous quarter. On the other hand, the expenses incurred by Polish citizens abroad were lower, both compared to the 3rd quarter of 2015 and to the 2nd quarter of 2016, by 39.9% and 35.0% respectively.

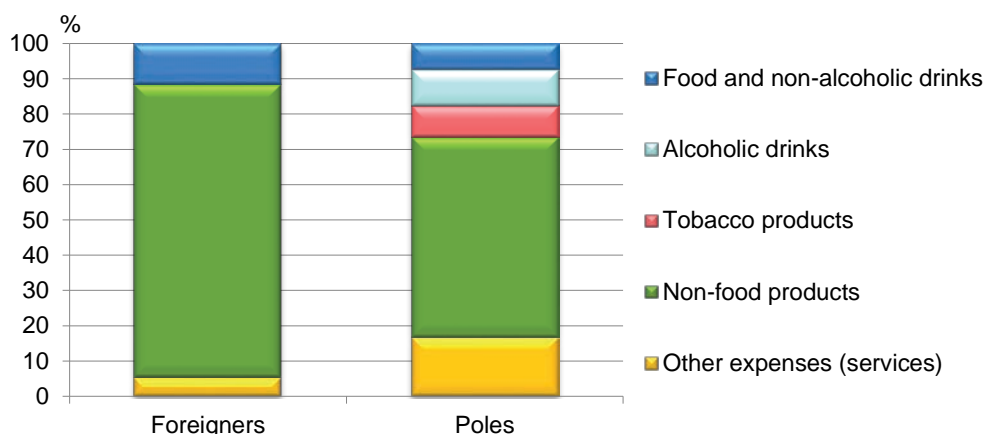
Differences in expenses, also in terms of the structure of products, were observed on individual sections of the border, both among foreigners as well as Poles. It is associated with the way of travelling, destination, length of stay and profitability of shopping abroad, among other things.

Foreigners crossing the external land border of the EU on the territory of Poland in the 3rd quarter of 2016 incurred approximately 83% of their expenses for the purchase of non-food products, approximately 11%, on food and non-alcoholic drinks and more than 5% on other expenses (services). With regard to non-food products, foreigners showed the greatest interest in materials for construction,

renovation and maintenance of the apartment or house (approximately 24% of expenses on non-food products), home electronics and appliances (approximately 20%) and parts and accessories for means of transport (approximately 13%).

Residents of Poland crossing the external land border of the EU in Poland in the 3rd quarter of 2016 spent the majority of their expenses (approximately 57%) on the purchase of non-food products, mainly for the purchase of fuel. Other expenses (services) constituted a significant share in the structure of expenses made by Poles crossing the external border – approximately 17%, while food and soft drinks – approximately 7%.

Chart 3. Structure of expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad crossing the external border of the European Union on the territory of Poland in the 3rd quarter of 2016



Foreigners crossing the internal border of the EU in the 3rd quarter of 2016 incurred the largest expenses on non-food products - approximately 52%. Foreigners incurred approximately 13% of their expenses on food and non-alcoholic drinks and approximately 20% on other expenses (services). Among Polish citizens crossing the internal border of the EU in the 3rd quarter of 2016 a significant share in the structure of expenses incurred abroad was constituted by other expenses (services) – approximately 54%, non-food products –29%. Poles incurred approximately 12% of expenses on food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Average expenses incurred in Poland by a foreigner (non-resident) in the 3rd quarter of 2016 amounted to 491zł, while the average expenses incurred abroad by a Polish citizen amounted to 393 zł. Definitely the highest average expenses were incurred by non-residents crossing both the sea and air border (approximately twice as high than in the case of land border). Average expenses of foreigners crossing the external land border of the EU on the territory of Poland were more than 70% higher than of those crossing the EU’s internal land border. In the case of Poles, the average expenses of those crossing the sea and air border were significantly higher (almost three and more than two times) than crossing the land border. Average expenses of Poles crossing the external land border of the EU on the territory of Poland were approximately 29% lower than of those crossing the internal border EU land.

Local Border Traffic

Local border traffic greatly facilitates the regular crossing of the external EU land border by residents living in the border area to stay on the other side of the border, including for social, cultural, family or economic reasons.

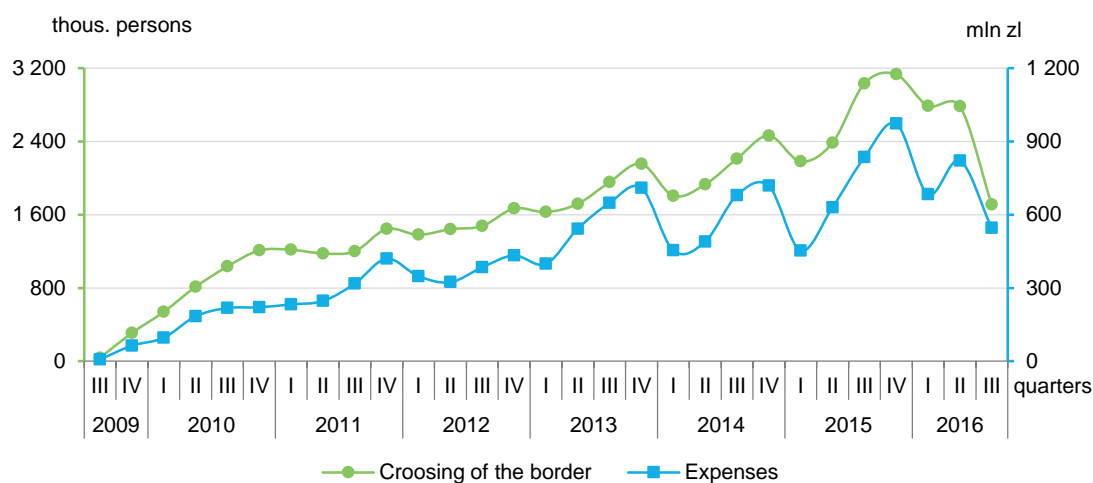
The Polish-Ukrainian border

The agreement on local border traffic with Ukraine entered into force on 1 July 2009. In the case of the Polish-Ukrainian border, the local border traffic (MRG) is more important for the citizens of Ukraine than for the Polish citizens because Poles can travel and stay on the territory of Ukraine up to 90 days without a visa. In the period from 4 July to 2 August 2016, MRG agreement was suspended by the Polish side in the section on entry and stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland by the residents of the border area of Ukraine.

In the period when the local border traffic was valid, 1.7 million clearances²(from Poland to Poland) was recorded on the Polish-Ukrainian border, which accounted for 34.9% of crossings of this section of the border by foreigners. Compared with the previous quarter, the number of crossings of the border as part of MRG was 38.6% lower, and 43.6% lower as compared to the same period of 2015.

The estimated value of the expenses incurred in Poland by foreigners crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border as part of MRG in the 3rd quarter of 2016 amounted to 545.5 million zł, which accounted for 31.3% of total expenses of foreigners crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border. These expenses were 33.6% lower than in the previous quarter and 34.7% lower than in the corresponding period of 2015.

Chart 4. Local border traffic of foreigners on the Polish-Ukrainian border



² Data of the Border Guard Main Headquarters

Average expenses incurred in Poland by a foreigner crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border as part of MRG in the 3rd quarter of 2016 amounted to 649 zł (in the previous quarter - 590 zł), while a year before – 555 zł.

The Polish-Russian border

The agreement on local border traffic with Russia entered into force on 27 July 2012. On 4 July 2016 it was suspended by Polish side in the section on the entry and stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland of the residents of the border area of Russian Federation. Similar restrictions on Polish citizens were introduced by the Russian side.

In the period of three days in July, the Border Guard reported 16.7 thousand clearances (from and to Poland) of foreigners as part of MRG.

Delimitation of the area of the impact of the border

Surveys conducted in the 3rd quarter of 2016 show that foreigners crossing the Polish land border, as well as Poles, were mostly residents of the villages located at a distance of 50 km from the border – 67.4% of foreigners and 67.9% of Poles, with 49.0% of foreigners and 55.7% of Poles living in the area up to 30 km from the border. 23.9% of foreigners and 19.8% of Poles crossing the Polish land border resided at the distance of over 100 km from the border.

Table 2. Structure of foreigners and Poles crossing the Polish land border by the distance from the border to the place of residence in the 3rd quarter of 2016

Border	Foreigners (non-residents)						Poles (residents)					
	total	0-50 km	of which		51-100	over 100 km	total	0-50 km	of which		51-100	over 100 km
			0-30	31-50					0-30	31-50		
in percent												
Total	100.0	67.4	49.0	18.4	8.8	23.9	100.0	67.9	55.7	12.2	12.3	19.8
EU's external.....	100.0	61.7	45.6	16.1	18.8	19.5	100.0	64.6	45.8	18.7	16.5	18.9
with: Russia	100.0	57.3	8.9	48.4	28.1	14.5	100.0	50.0	14.0	36.0	40.1	9.9
Belarus	100.0	55.9	42.4	13.5	14.6	29.6	100.0	68.0	41.1	26.9	9.7	22.3
Ukraine	100.0	64.6	51.2	13.4	19.5	15.9	100.0	67.4	55.5	11.9	12.2	20.3
EU's internal	100.0	68.6	49.7	18.9	6.6	24.8	100.0	68.0	56.1	11.9	12.2	19.8
with: Lithuania.....	100.0	47.4	15.9	31.5	17.9	34.7	100.0	52.3	48.4	4.0	11.5	36.2
Slovakia.....	100.0	55.3	28.7	26.6	11.1	33.6	100.0	39.9	25.7	14.2	32.6	27.5
Czech Republic	100.0	75.0	57.9	17.1	5.2	19.8	100.0	79.9	64.7	15.2	7.0	13.1
Germany.....	100.0	71.8	55.6	16.3	4.8	23.4	100.0	70.7	61.5	9.2	8.4	20.8

Foreigners and Poles crossing the Polish land border preferred to make a purchase at the distance of up to 50 km from the border – 78.4% of foreigners and 63.5% of the Poles, with 69.2% of foreigners and 49.2% of Poles making a purchase in the area of up to 30 km from the border. On

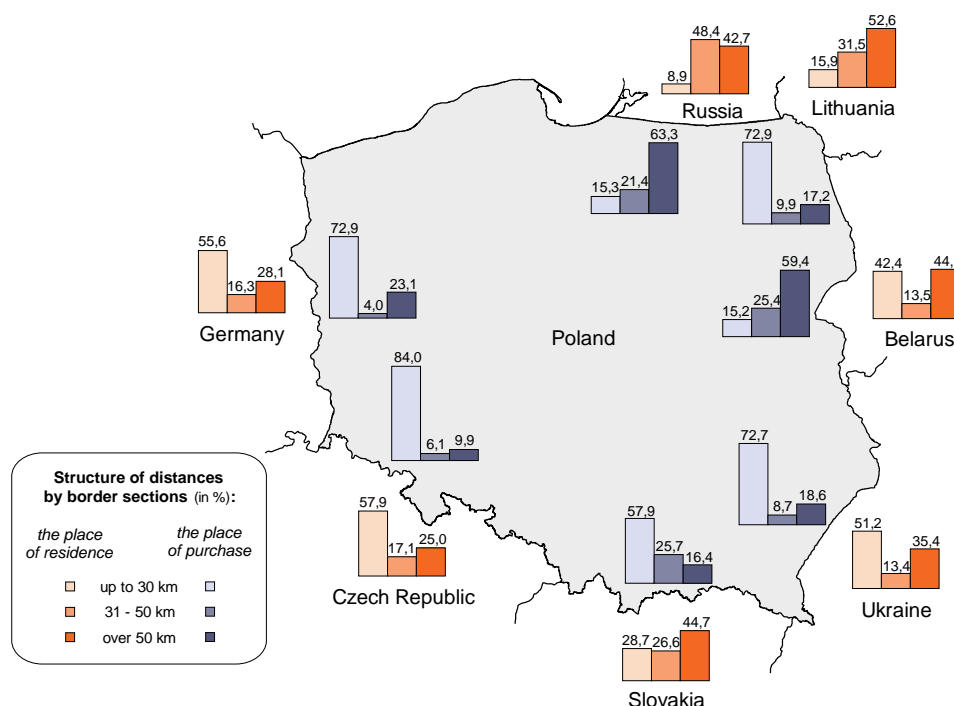
the other hand, 14.4% of foreigners and 24.0% of Poles made a purchase at a distance of over 100 km from the border.

Table 3. Structure of foreigners and Poles crossing the Polish land border by the distance from the border to the place of purchase in the 3rd quarter of 2016

Border	Foreigners (non-residents)						Poles (residents)					
	total	0-50 km	of which		51-100	over 100 km	total	0-50 km	of which		51-100	over 100 km
			0-30	31-50					0-30	31-50		
in percent												
Total	100.0	78.4	69.2	9.2	7.2	14.4	100.0	63.5	49.2	14.3	12.5	24.0
EU's external.....	100.0	67.1	53.0	14.1	20.2	12.7	100.0	81.6	78.1	3.5	4.5	13.9
with: Russia	100.0	36.7	15.3	21.4	23.0	40.4	100.0	95.9	95.1	0.8	0.9	3.2
Belarus	100.0	40.6	15.2	25.4	45.5	13.9	100.0	71.3	62.6	8.7	2.7	26.1
Ukraine	100.0	81.4	72.7	8.7	9.5	9.0	100.0	80.7	78.0	2.8	5.9	13.3
EU's internal	100.0	80.9	72.9	8.0	4.3	14.8	100.0	62.7	47.9	14.8	12.9	24.4
with: Lithuania.....	100.0	82.8	72.9	9.9	2.6	14.7	100.0	39.4	3.6	35.8	23.2	37.4
Slovakia.....	100.0	83.5	57.9	25.7	10.1	6.4	100.0	30.4	16.2	14.2	32.9	36.7
Czech Republic	100.0	90.2	84.0	6.1	3.1	6.8	100.0	71.3	55.2	16.1	8.9	19.8
Germany.....	100.0	76.9	72.9	4.0	3.4	19.7	100.0	70.5	57.9	12.5	7.3	22.3

Based on the results of the survey and taking into account the distance from the place of residence and the place of purchase of persons crossing the border, the range of the impact of the border is shown on Maps 1 and 2.

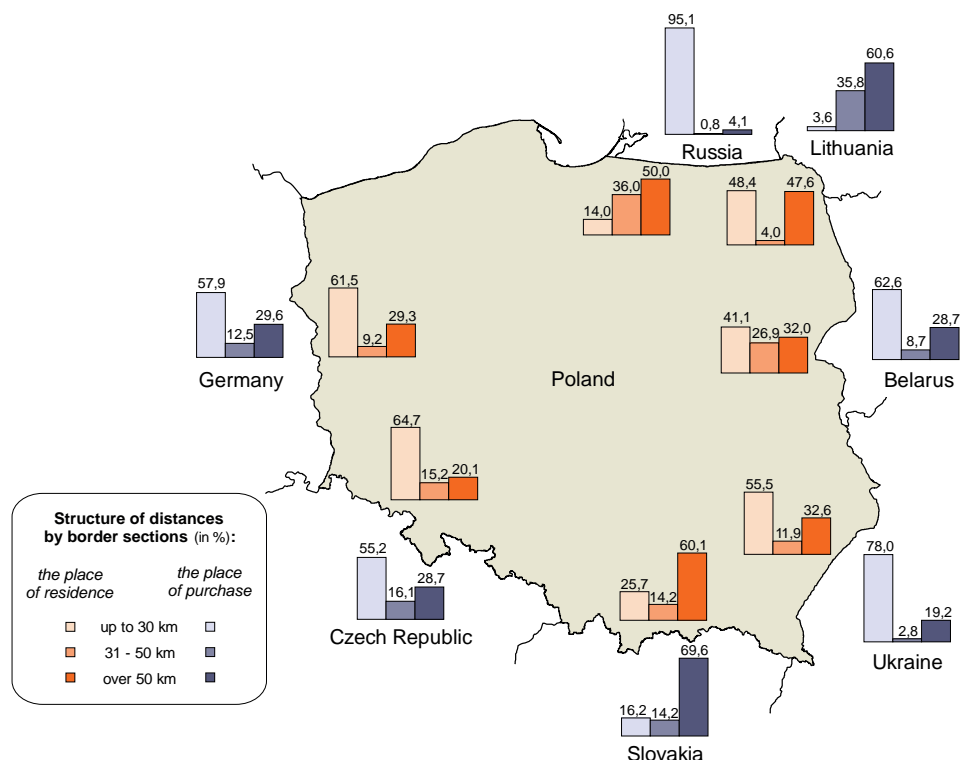
Map 1. Range of impact of the border of the basis of the distance from the border to the place of residence and the place of purchase of Poles and foreigners in the 3rd quarter of 2016



The vast majority of foreigners and Poles crossing the Polish land border lived in the area of up to 50 km from the border: in the case of the external border of the European Union on Polish

territory –61.7% of foreigners and 64.6% of Poles, and in the case of the internal border of the EU – 68.6% and 68.0% respectively.

Map 2. Range of impact of the border on the basis of the distance from the border to the place of residence and place of purchase of Poles in the 3rd quarter of 2016



Most surveyed foreigners made a purchase in the strip of up to 50 km from the border, in the case of the external border of the EU on the territory of Poland – 67.1% of those crossing the border, while in the case of the internal border of the EU - 80.9%. On the other hand, the percentage of Poles who made a purchase in the strip of up to 50 km of the external border amounted to 81.6%, while in the case of the internal border –62.7%.

Summary

The analysis shows that different phenomena can be observed on particular types and sections of the border. In the 3rd quarter of 2016, approximately 64% of the total arrivals of foreigners to Poland were connected with making a purchase. Foreign trips of Polish citizens were related to shopping to a large extent – approximately 26%, as well as holidays and recreation - approximately 51% (with exception that at the external land border of the EU these shares accounted for approximately 76% and 5%). Differences in types of the incurred expenses are associated with the structure of the purpose for which respondents go abroad. Among foreigners the expenses incurred in Poland for the purchase of goods accounted for approximately 77%, and for services approximately 23%, while among Polish citizens those expenses amounted to approximately 40% and approximately 60% respectively.

The results of the survey conducted both among foreigners (non-residents) and Poles show that the greatest intensity of these phenomena occurs in areas in the strip of up to 50 km along the border, as reflected by a high percentage of persons crossing the border who incurred expenses in this strip, as well as the fact that the inhabitants of villages located in this area were the vast majority of persons crossing the border, among other things.

Also, a considerable impact that the phenomena associated with the crossings of the border have at further distances, including over 100 km from the border, is observed.

Compared to the previous quarter and the same period of last year, in the 3rd quarter of 2016 there was a significant decrease in border traffic at the external border of the EU on Polish territory, in particular with Russia. Undoubtedly, it was influenced by the suspension of agreements on local border traffic.

Methodological notes

Presented information was developed on the basis of the survey results of "Trips made by non-residents to Poland. The movement of vehicles and persons at the Polish border with the countries of the European Union" and "Participation of Polish citizens (residents) in trips". The survey methodology has been prepared by the Central Statistical Office, Statistical Office in Rzeszów in cooperation with the National Bank of Poland and the Ministry of Sport and Tourism. Since 2014 the surveys conducted jointly by these institutions are the result of the integration of several surveys (including „The survey of goods and services turnover at the external land border of European Union on the territory of Poland”). They provide information for the needs of tourism statistics, national accounts and the balance of payments and cross-border areas.

The survey on trips made by non-residents to Poland and the movement of vehicles and persons at the Polish border with the countries of the European Union is conducted in an environment of selected border crossings with passenger traffic movement (including airports and seaports) on randomly selected days in such a way that in a quarter each day of the week occurred once. The survey of border traffic covers persons and vehicles crossing the Polish border with the European Union at selected border crossings. Vehicles (including country of registration) and persons crossing the border in the direction to and from Poland are counted. The survey of trips made by foreigners (non-residents) includes those leaving Poland by internal and external border of UE on the territory of Poland. Persons living in Poland for over one year are not covered by the survey (with the exception of those traveling for educational and health purposes). Data on expenses incurred by foreigners (non-residents) in Poland include goods purchased in Poland for resale in the country of foreigner.

Survey on participation of Polish citizens (residents) in travel is conducted in households on a quarterly basis (in the month following the quarter) by a direct interview. The survey does not cover persons staying abroad for more than one year (with the exception of those traveling for educational and health purposes). The presented data on expenses incurred abroad by residents include expenses financed only from own funds (expenses financed by workplace and other individuals and institutions are not included) and goods purchased abroad for resale in Poland.

Data on border traffic at the external border of the EU on the territory of Poland come from the Border Guard Main Headquarters and covers all border crossings (road, rail and river). To estimate border traffic at the internal border of the EU on the territory of Poland and traffic on the sea border secondary results of other statistical surveys ("Tourist accommodation establishments and their utilization", "Sea and coastal transport") are used. Traffic data relate to the number of border crossings – a person crossing the border several times is counted as many times as he/she crosses this border.

Due to rounding, the sums of the figures may differ from the figure "total" in some cases. These figures are correct in terms of content.

The data presented are preliminary.

**Produced by:
Statistical Office in Rzeszów
The Centre of Transborder Areas Surveys
and Statistics for Euroregions
Wiesława Magryś
Telephone: +48 17 8535210**

**Dissemination:
The Spokesman for the President of the CSO
Karolina Dawidziuk
Telephone: + 48 22 608 3009, 22 608 3475
e-mail: rzecznik@stat.gov.pl**

More on: <http://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/ceny-handel/handel>