

Border traffic and expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 4th quarter of 2016

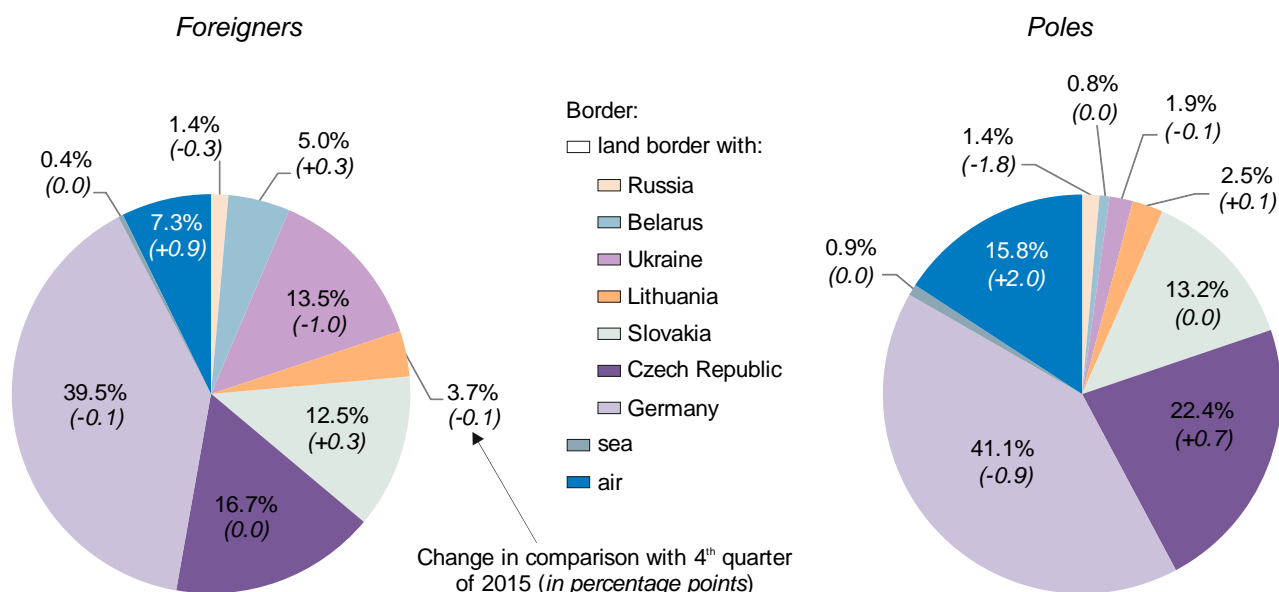
Border traffic

In 2016 the estimated number of border crossings of Poland amounted to 276.1 million people an increase of 3.0% from 2015, of which 165.3 million were foreigners (4.0% more than in the previous year) and 110.8 million Poles (1.7% more than a year ago).

In the 4th quarter of 2016 the estimated number of crossings of the Polish border amounted to 65.4 million, of which 38.9 million was made by foreigners (59.5% in total) and 26.5 million by Poles (40.5%). Approximately 75.1% of the total crossings of the border concerned the Polish land border with the countries of the European Union, 13.5% the external land border of the EU, 10.8% air border and 0.6% sea border.

The highest number of persons crossed the Polish land border on the section with Germany (45.3% of all crossings of the Polish land border in the 4th quarter of 2016), followed by the border with Czech Republic (21.5%), Slovakia (14.4%), Ukraine (10.0%), Belarus (3.7%) Lithuania (3.6%) and Russia (1.5%).

Chart 1. Structure of border traffic of persons (from and to Poland) by the borders in the 4th 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 4th quarter of 2016 was 3.3% higher compared to the previous quarter and 5.6% lower than in the corresponding period of 2015. The number of clearances of foreigners was 3.9% higher than in the 3rd quarter of 2016 and 0.6% lower than the year before, while the number of clearances of Poles was 0.6% lower than in the previous quarter and 30.6% lower than in the 4th quarter of 2015. It should be emphasized that in the 4th quarter of 2016 the MRG agreement with Russia was suspended¹.

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 (97.4%), on the border with Russia – Russian citizens (90.6%), and on the border with Belarus – Belarusian citizens (90.7%).

Table 1. Border traffic and expenses of foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 4th quarter of 2016

Border	Border traffic ^a				Expenses				Average expenses ^b			
	foreigners		Poles		foreigners		Poles		foreigners		Poles	
	million persons	^{4th} qr. 2015 =100	million persons	^{4th} qr. 2015 =100	million zł	^{4th} qr. 2015 =100	million zł	^{4th} qr. 2015 =100	zł	^{4th} qr. 2015 =100	zł	^{4th} qr. 2015 =100
Total	38.9	104.1	26.5	101.0	9 155.0	103.3	4 053.2	103.1	480	100.0	313	101.5
land	35.9	103.0	22.1	98.6	7 791.8	102.8	2 556.1	99.6	441	100.3	236	100.3
EU's external	7.8	99.4	1.1	69.4	2 915.7	104.3	115.3	70.7	751	104.5	213	102.0
with: Russia ^c	0.5	83.3	0.4	42.5	123.2	87.6	47.0	48.7	469	105.8	264	114.7
Belarus	1.9	111.0	0.2	103.6	600.2	100.2	21.6	104.3	652	90.1	201	96.5
Ukraine ^d	5.3	97.6	0.5	99.0	2 192.4	106.6	46.7	101.6	812	108.4	182	104.2
EU's internal	28.2	104.1	21.0	100.8	4 876.1	101.9	2 440.8	101.6	354	98.7	237	99.9
with: Lithuania	1.4	100.8	0.7	103.4	351.0	105.1	69.9	101.7	508	99.7	200	99.9
Slovakia	4.9	106.3	3.5	100.5	571.1	104.1	304.9	101.6	237	101.5	181	100.6
Czech Republic	6.5	103.8	5.9	104.3	874.2	102.8	510.3	101.6	274	99.7	169	99.7
Germany	15.4	103.8	10.9	99.0	3 079.8	100.9	1 555.7	101.6	411	97.7	297	99.9
sea	0.1	104.8	0.2	102.3	95.7	105.0	139.8	103.5	1 557	97.4	1 098	101.6
air	2.9	120.0	4.2	115.2	1 267.4	106.5	1 357.3	110.2	928	92.4	683	95.6

^a From and to Poland. ^b Per one person during a single trip. ^c MRG 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.

Expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad

The estimated value of goods and services purchased in Poland by foreigners (non-residents) in 2016 amounted to approximately 39.1 billion zł, and the expenses incurred abroad by the Polish residents in that period – 18.9 billion zł. This was respectively 3.8% and 2.0% more than in the previous year.

In the 4th quarter of 2016 the expenses made by foreigners amounted to approximately 9.2 billion zł while those made by Poles – approximately 4.1 billion zł and in the corresponding period

¹ In the 4th quarter of 2015, the share of MRG in border traffic with Russia was 49.3% in the case of foreigners and 90.3% in the case of Poles (GUS estimates).

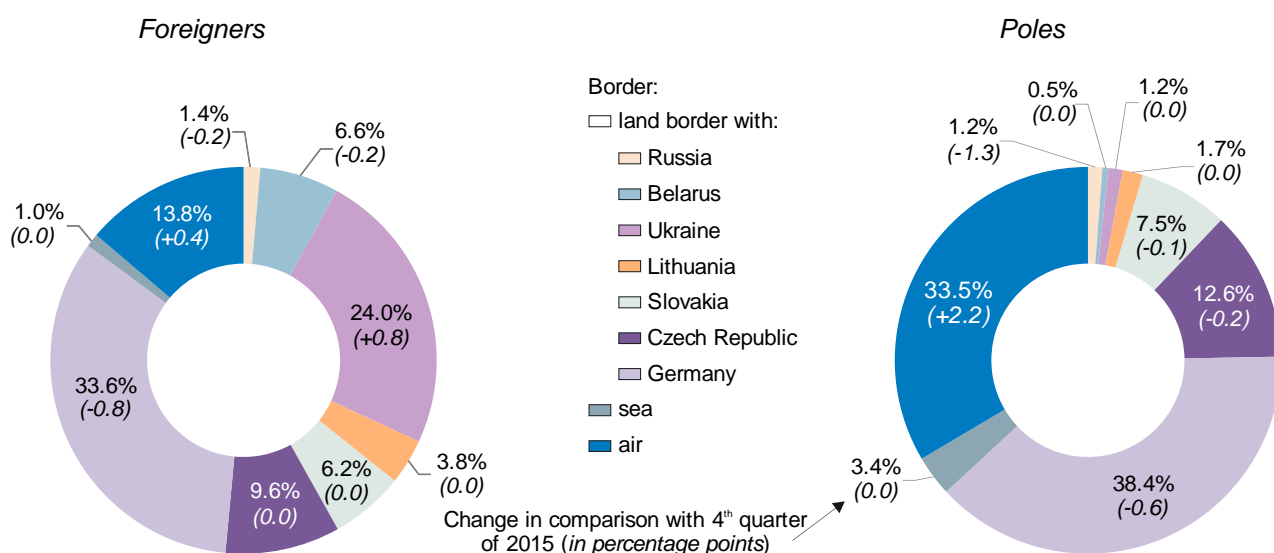
of 2015 were 3.3% and 3.1%. higher, respectively. Compared to the previous quarter, the expenses made both by foreigners and Poles were 15.9% and 36.9% lower, respectively.

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 53.3%, the external land border of the EU 31.8%, air border 13.8% and sea border 1.0%. In the case of expenses incurred abroad by residents of Poland such structure was as follows: 60.2%, 2.8%, 33.5% and 3.4%.

Taking into account the land border, the highest expenses in Poland were incurred by foreigners crossing the border with Germany (39.5% of total expenses made by foreigners crossing the Polish land border in the 4th quarter of 2016), followed by the border with Ukraine (28.1%), Czech Republic (11.2%), Belarus (7.7%), Slovakia (7.3%), Lithuania (4.5%) and Russia (1.6%).

As to the land border of the country, the highest expenses of the Polish residents were incurred by persons crossing the border with Germany (60.9% of total expenses of Poles crossing Polish border land in the 4th quarter of 2016), followed by Czech Republic (20.0%), Slovakia (11.9%), Lithuania (2.7%), Russia and Ukraine (both 1.8%) and Belarus (0.8%).

Chart 2. Structure of expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 4th quarter of 2016



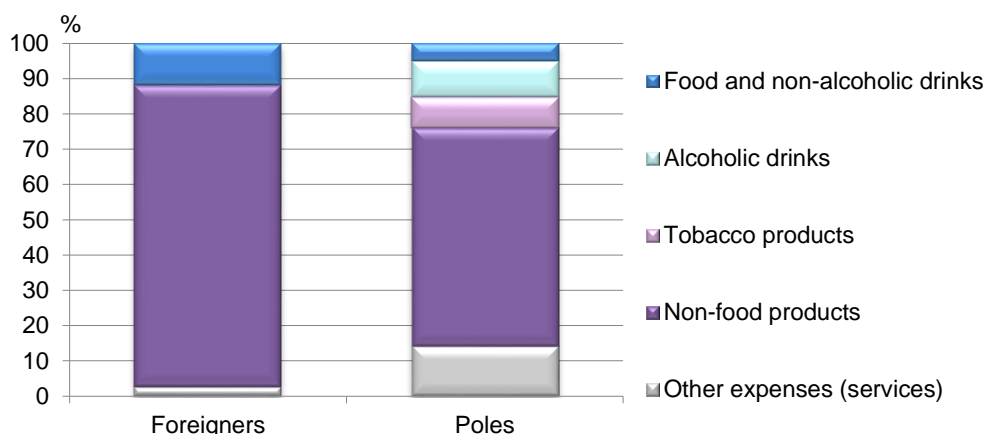
The estimated value of goods and services purchased in Poland by foreigners crossing the Polish section of the external land border of the European Union in the 4th quarter of 2016 amounted to approximately 2.9 billion zł, while the expenses incurred abroad by Polish citizens crossing this section of the border amounted to 115.3 million zł. Expenses incurred by foreigners in Poland at the external border of the EU in the 4th quarter of 2016 were 4.3% higher compared with the same period of 2015, and 15.9% higher compared to the previous quarter. On the other hand, the expenses incurred by Polish citizens abroad were lower, both compared to the 4th quarter of 2015 and to the 3rd quarter of 2016, by 29.3% and 5.7% 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 4th quarter of 2016 incurred approximately 86% of their expenses for the purchase of non-food products, approximately 12%, on food and non-alcoholic drinks and more than 3% 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 26% of expenses on non-food products), home electronics and appliances (approximately 20%) and parts and accessories for means of transport (approximately 15%).

Residents of Poland crossing the external land border of the EU in Poland in the 4th quarter of 2016 spent the majority of their expenses (approximately 62%) 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 14%, while food and soft drinks – approximately 5%.

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 4th quarter of 2016



Foreigners crossing the internal border of the EU in the 4th quarter of 2016 incurred the largest expenses on non-food products - approximately 57%. Foreigners incurred approximately 13% of their expenses on food and non-alcoholic drinks and approximately 12% on other expenses (services). Among Polish citizens crossing the internal border of the EU in the 4th quarter of 2016 a significant share in the structure of expenses incurred abroad was constituted by other expenses (services) – approximately 44%, non-food products – 37%. Poles incurred approximately 15% of expenses on food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Average expenses incurred in Poland by a foreigner (non-resident) in the 4th quarter of 2016 amounted to 480 zł, while the average expenses incurred abroad by a Polish citizen amounted to 313 zł. Definitely the highest average expenses were incurred by non-residents crossing the sea border – 3.5 times higher than in case of land border (crossing the border at airports - more than twice higher). Average expenses of foreigners crossing the external land border of the EU on the territory

of Poland were more than twice 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 five and almost three 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 10% lower than of those crossing the internal land border of EU.

Local Border Traffic

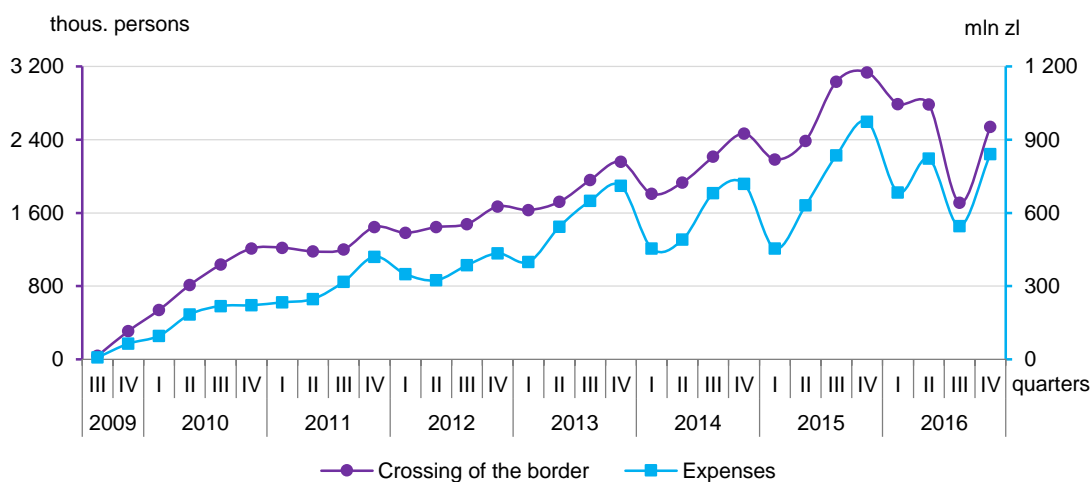
Local border traffic greatly facilitates the regular crossing of the external EU land border by residents living in the border area to stay on the other side of the border, including for social, cultural, family or economic reasons.

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.

On the Polish-Ukrainian border as part of the local border traffic in 2016, 9.8 million foreigners were recorded, ie 8.5% less than in 2015. In the 4th quarter of 2016 2.5 million clearances² (from Poland to Poland) was recorded on the Polish-Ukrainian border, which accounted for 48.1% of crossings of this section of the border by foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 2015, the number of crossings of the border as part of MRG was 19.0% lower.

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



² Data of the Border Guard Main Headquarters

The estimated value of the expenses incurred in Poland by foreigners crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border as part of MRG in 2016 amounted to 2.9 billion zł. i.e. at the similar level to the previous year (by 0.04% less). The estimated value of the expenses as part of MRG in the 4th quarter of 2016 amounted to 840.9 million zł, which accounted for 38.4% of total expenses of foreigners crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border. These expenses were 13.6% lower than in the corresponding period of 2015.

Average expenses incurred in Poland by a foreigner crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border as part of MRG in the 4th quarter of 2016 amounted to 661 zł (in the previous quarter - 649 zł), while a year before – 620 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.

Delimitation of the area of the impact of the border

Surveys conducted in the 4th 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 71.2% of Poles, with 50.8% of foreigners and 57.6% of Poles living in the area up to 30 km from the border. 22.9% of foreigners and 15.2% 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 4th 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	50.8	16.6	9.7	22.9	100.0	71.2	57.6	13.7	13.5	15.2
EU's external.....	100.0	64.7	48.8	16.0	18.9	16.4	100.0	68.9	43.0	25.9	21.9	9.2
with: Russia	100.0	60.3	16.7	43.6	31.9	7.8	100.0	51.9	15.1	36.8	42.9	5.3
Belarus.....	100.0	61.1	47.2	13.9	12.9	26.1	100.0	72.6	44.0	28.5	9.2	18.2
Ukraine	100.0	66.4	52.4	14.0	19.7	13.9	100.0	79.3	62.0	17.2	12.5	8.2
EU's internal	100.0	68.1	51.4	16.8	7.2	24.7	100.0	71.4	58.3	13.0	13.1	15.5
with: Lithuania.....	100.0	56.6	23.2	33.4	20.1	23.3	100.0	72.7	64.9	7.8	2.3	25.0
Slovakia.....	100.0	44.1	21.2	22.9	11.8	44.1	100.0	38.4	10.0	28.4	41.5	20.1
Czech Republic	100.0	79.9	63.3	16.6	5.1	15.0	100.0	82.6	71.6	11.0	7.8	9.5
Germany	100.0	71.9	58.6	13.3	5.4	22.7	100.0	75.4	65.8	9.6	7.7	16.9

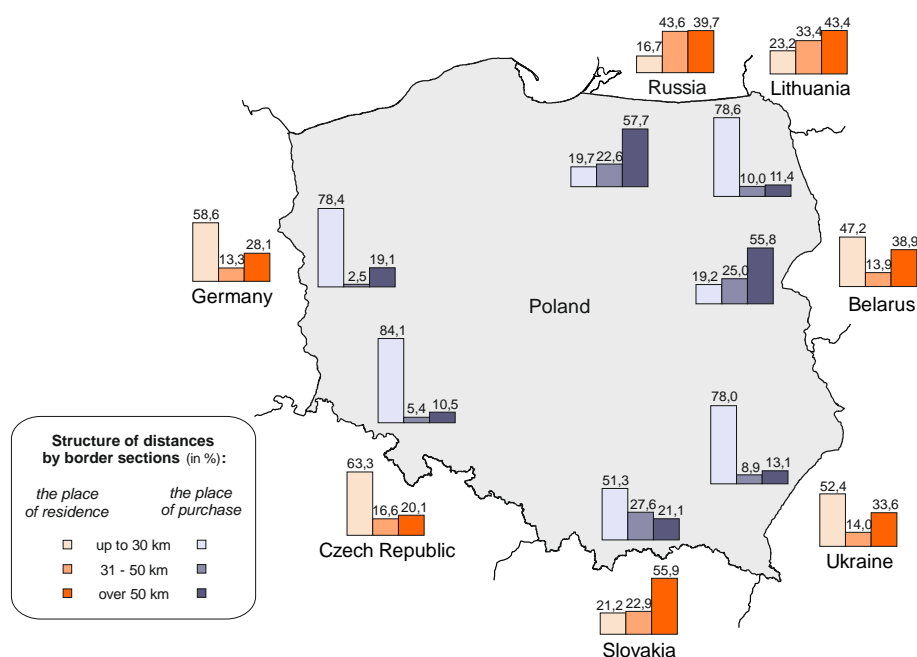
Foreigners and Poles crossing the Polish land border preferred to make a purchase at the distance of up to 50 km from the border – 81.0% of foreigners and 66.9% of the Poles, with 72.4% of foreigners and 51.8% of Poles making a purchase in the area of up to 30 km from the border. On the other hand 11.5% of foreigners and 19.4% 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 4th 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	81.0	72.4	8.5	7.5	11.5	100.0	66.9	51.8	15.1	13.7	19.4
EU's external.....	100.0	73.9	60.3	13.6	17.9	8.2	100.0	91.0	86.8	4.2	2.8	6.2
with: Russia	100.0	42.3	19.7	22.6	20.2	37.4	100.0	98.7	94.5	4.2	0.9	0.4
Belarus.....	100.0	44.3	19.2	25.0	50.8	4.9	100.0	86.0	81.6	4.3	2.9	11.2
Ukraine	100.0	86.9	78.0	8.9	6.4	6.7	100.0	87.8	83.6	4.2	4.1	8.1
EU's internal	100.0	83.0	76.0	7.0	4.5	12.5	100.0	65.6	49.9	15.7	14.3	20.1
with: Lithuania.....	100.0	88.6	78.6	10.0	2.1	9.2	100.0	30.7	5.6	25.1	29.4	40.0
Slovakia.....	100.0	78.9	51.3	27.6	13.9	7.2	100.0	36.9	16.1	20.8	44.5	18.6
Czech Republic	100.0	89.5	84.1	5.4	3.6	6.8	100.0	78.7	61.7	17.0	8.7	12.6
Germany	100.0	81.0	78.4	2.5	2.7	16.3	100.0	69.7	57.1	12.6	6.6	23.7

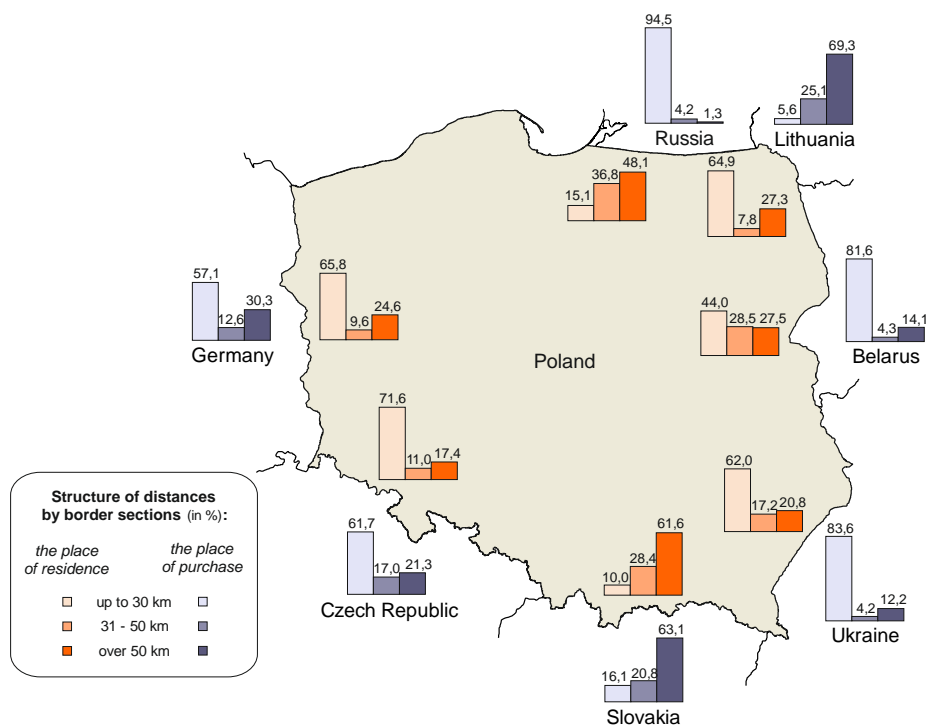
Based on the results of the survey and taking into account the distance from the place of residence and the place of purchase of persons crossing the border the range of the impact of the border is shown on Maps 1 and 2.

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 4th 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 – 64.7% of foreigners and 68.9% of Poles. and in the case of the internal border of the EU – 68.1% and 71.4% 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 4th 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 – 73.9% of those crossing the border. while in the case of the internal border of the EU – 83.0%. 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 91.0%, while in the case of the internal border – 65.6%.

Summary

The analysis shows that different phenomena can be observed on particular types and sections of the border. In the 4th quarter of 2016, approximately 67% 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 32%, as well as holidays and recreation - approximately 40% (with exception that at the external land border of the EU these shares accounted for approximately 84% and approximately 3%). 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 85%, and for services approximately 15%.

while among Polish citizens those expenses amounted to approximately 45% and approximately 55% 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 4th 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. The publication "Border traffic and expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in 2016" with annual results of surveys will be published in October 2017.

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