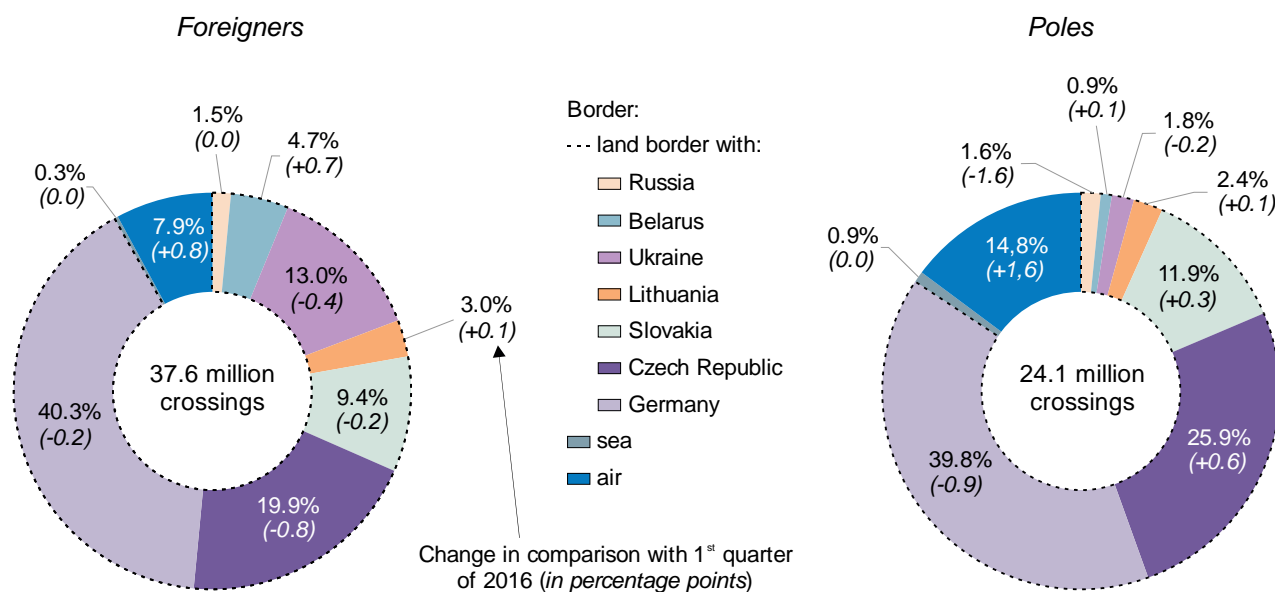


**Border traffic and expenses made by foreigners in Poland
and Poles abroad in the 1st quarter of 2017**

In the 1st quarter of 2017 the estimated number of crossings of the Polish border amounted to 61.7 million, of which 37.6 million was made by foreigners (60.9% in total) and 24.1 million by Poles (39.1%). Approximately 75.5% of the total crossings of the border concerned the Polish land border with the countries of the European Union, 13.4% the external land border of the EU, 10.6% the air border and 0.5% the sea border.

Chart 1. Structure of border traffic of persons (from and to Poland) in the 1st quarter of 2017

The highest number of persons crossed the Polish land border on the section with Germany (45.1% of all crossings of the Polish land border in the 1st quarter of 2017), followed by the border with Czech Republic (25.1%), Slovakia (11.7%), Ukraine (9.7%), Belarus (3.6%) Lithuania (3.1%) and Russia (1.7%).

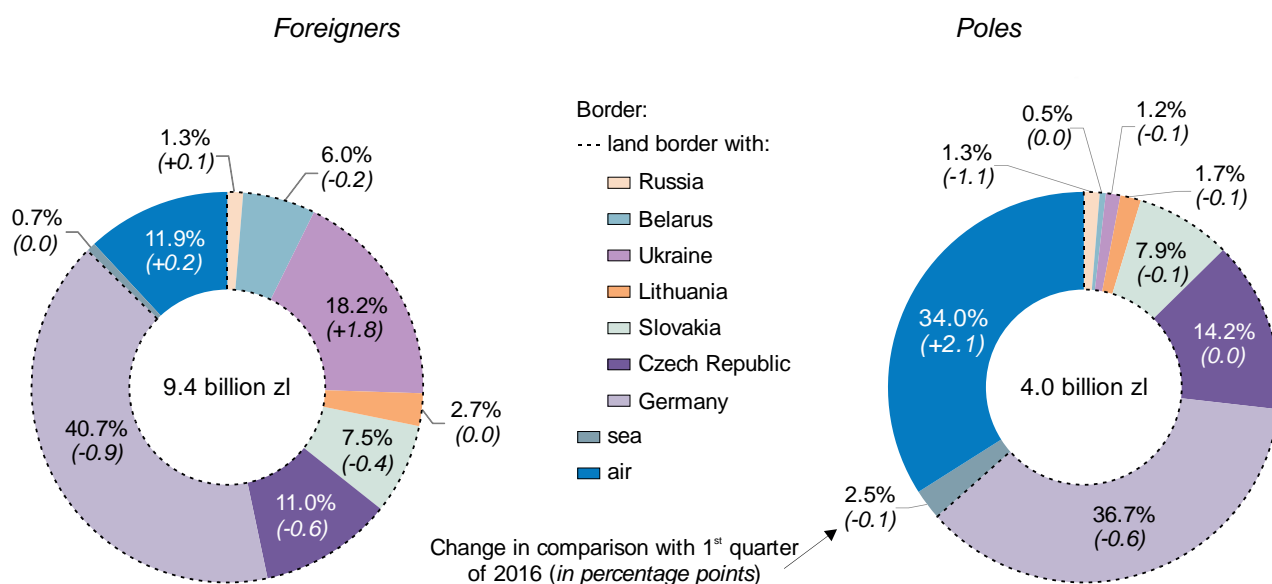
Citizens of a neighbouring country predominated among the foreigners crossing individual sections of the Polish land border, for example, on the border with Ukraine – Ukrainian citizens (97.2%), on the border with Russia – Russian citizens (92.4%), and on the border with Belarus – Belarusian citizens (89.5%).

The estimated value of goods and services purchased in Poland by foreigners (non-residents) in the 1st quarter of 2017 amounted to 9.4 billion zł, and the expenses incurred abroad by the Polish residents to 4.0 billion zł. Compared to the corresponding period of 2016, the expenses made by foreigners and Poles were 7.2% and 5.7% higher respectively. Compared to the previous quarter, the expenses made by foreigners were 2.1% higher and those made by Poles 0.5% lower.

The structure of expenses made in Poland by foreigners who crossed the land border in the 1st quarter of 2017 shows that the largest share was made by expenses of those crossing the border with Germany (46.6%), followed by the border with Ukraine (20.8%), Czech Republic (12.6%), Slovakia (8.5%), Belarus (6.8%), Lithuania (3.1%) and Russia (1.5%).

As to the residents of Poland crossing the land border of the country, the highest expenses were incurred by persons crossing the border with Germany (57.8% of total expenses of Poles crossing the Polish border land in the 1st quarter of 2017), followed by the border with Czech Republic (22.3%), Slovakia (12.4%), Lithuania (2.7%), Russia (2.1%), Ukraine (1.9%) and Belarus (0.8%).

Chart 2. Structure of expenses made by foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 1st quarter of 2017



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.

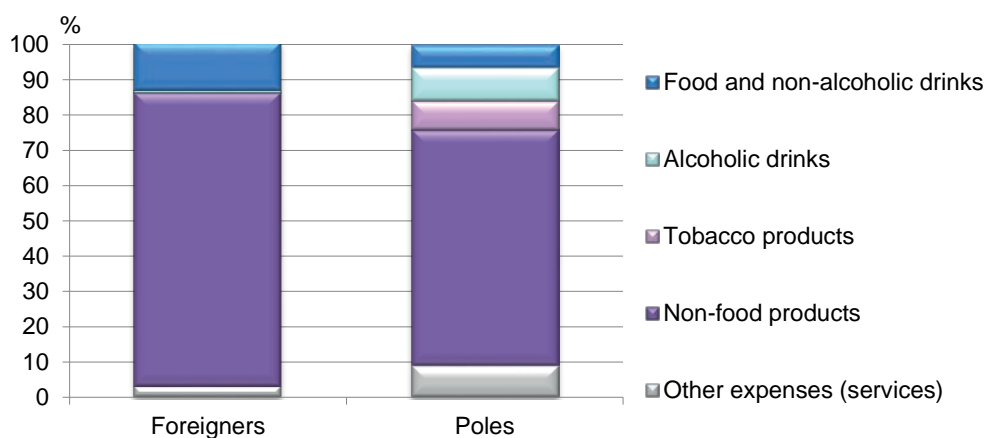
Table 1. Border traffic and expenses of foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 1st quarter of 2017

Border	Border traffic ^a				Expenses				Average expenses ^b			
	foreigners		Poles		foreigners		Poles		foreigners		Poles	
	million persons	1 st qr. 2016 =100	million persons	1 st qr. 2016 =100	million zł	1 st qr. 2016 =100	million zł	1 st qr. 2016 =100	zł	1 st qr. 2016 =100	zł	1 st qr. 2016 =100
Total	37.6	102.5	24.1	103.8	9 350.9	107.2	4 034.3	105.7	503	103.9	337	102.5
land	34.5	101.7	20.4	101.9	8 169.6	106.9	2 560.7	102.4	478	104.6	251	101.1
EU's external	7.2	104.1	1.0	74.9	2 379.9	115.4	122.6	75.7	693	112.1	235	101.5
with: Russia ^c	0.6	104.6	0.4	51.5	124.6	117.9	54.5	58.1	452	113.1	291	112.9
Belarus	1.8	118.9	0.2	121.2	556.4	104.4	20.5	116.1	665	88.5	187	95.2
Ukraine ^d	4.9	99.5	0.4	92.5	1 698.9	119.3	47.6	94.6	731	121.5	212	102.9
EU's internal	27.3	101.0	19.3	103.9	5 789.7	103.8	2 438.1	104.3	424	101.7	252	101.0
with: Lithuania	1.1	105.2	0.6	109.3	255.5	106.9	70.3	101.3	466	103.1	233	99.2
Slovakia	3.5	100.9	2.9	106.2	696.1	101.2	317.5	103.8	390	99.5	223	99.5
Czech Republic	7.5	98.7	6.3	106.3	1 031.1	101.4	571.3	105.6	275	101.0	180	101.7
Germany.....	15.1	102.0	9.6	101.5	3 807.0	104.8	1 479.1	104.1	502	101.8	309	101.3
sea	0.1	98.9	0.2	99.3	65.8	104.6	99.9	100.3	936	104.7	1 065	101.7
air	3.0	114.1	3.6	116.7	1 115.6	109.3	1 373.7	112.7	781	95.0	817	97.4

^a From and to Poland. ^b Per one person during a single trip. ^c Local border traffic at the Polish-Russian border has been suspended since 4 July 2016 (in the 1st quarter of 2017 the share of MRG in border traffic with Russia amounted to 47.1% for foreigners and 89.4% for Poles - GUS estimate).

Foreigners crossing the external land border of the EU on the territory of Poland in the 1st quarter of 2017 incurred approximately 83% of their expenses for the purchase of non-food products, approximately 13% on food and non-alcoholic drinks and around 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 25% of expenses on non-food products), home electronics and appliances (approximately 22%) and parts and accessories for means of transport (approximately 15%).

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 1st quarter of 2017



Residents of Poland crossing the external land border of the EU in Poland in the 1st quarter of 2017 spent the majority of their expenses (approximately 67%) on the purchase of non-food products, mainly for the purchase of fuel. Other expenses (services) constituted a significant share in

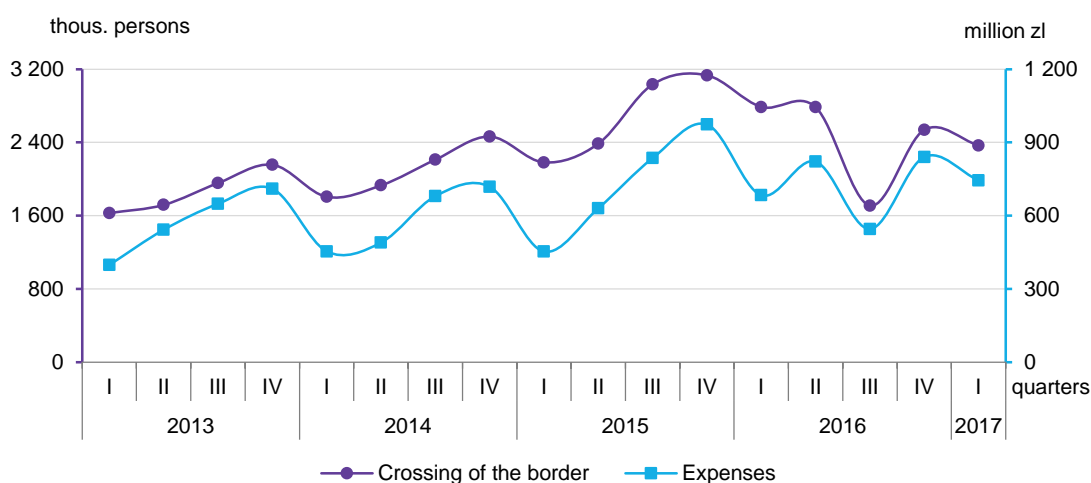
the structure of expenses made by Poles crossing the external border – approximately 9%, while food and soft drinks – approximately 6%.

Foreigners crossing the internal border of the EU in the 1st quarter of 2017 incurred the largest expenses on non-food products - approximately 58%, followed by on other expenses (services) 14% and approximately 12% of their expenses on food and non-alcoholic drinks. Among residents of Poland crossing this border, a significant share in the structure of expenses incurred abroad was constituted by other expenses (services) – approximately 46% and non-food products – 35%, whereas on food and non-alcoholic drinks approximately 14% of their expenses.

As part of local border traffic (MRG) 2.4 million clearances¹ (from Poland to Poland) were recorded on the Polish-Ukrainian border in the 1st quarter of 2017, which accounted for 48.5% of crossings of this section of the border made by foreigners. Compared with the previous quarter, the number of crossings of the border as part of MRG was 6.7% lower, and 15.0% lower compared to the corresponding period of 2016.

The estimated value of the expenses made in Poland by foreigners who crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border as part of MRG in the 1st quarter of 2017 amounted to 744.7 million zł, which accounted for 43.8% of total expenses made by foreigners crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border. These expenses were 11.4% lower than in the previous quarter and 8.9% higher than in corresponding period of 2016.

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

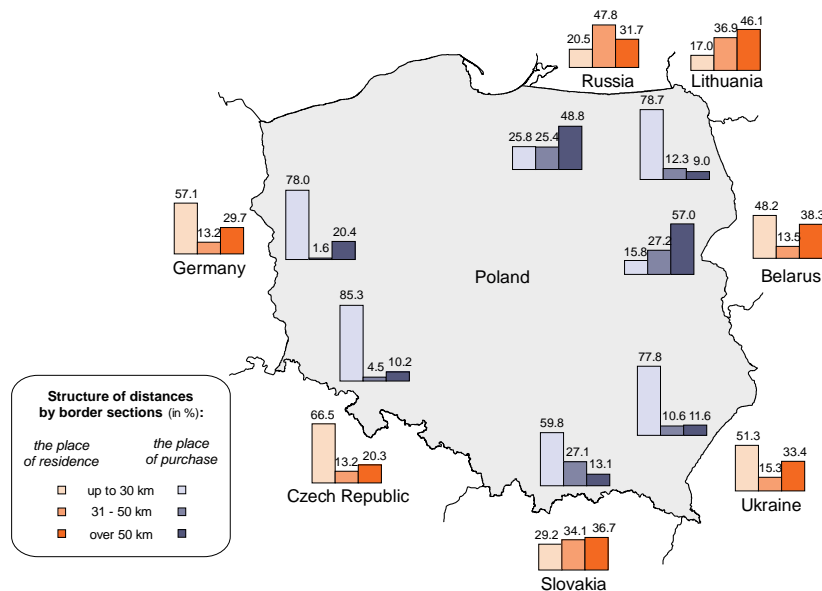


Average expenses incurred in Poland by a foreigner crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border as part of MRG in the 1st quarter of 2017 amounted to 630 zł, while in the previous quarter – to 661 zł, and a year before – to 491 zł.

¹ Data of the Border Guard Main Headquarters

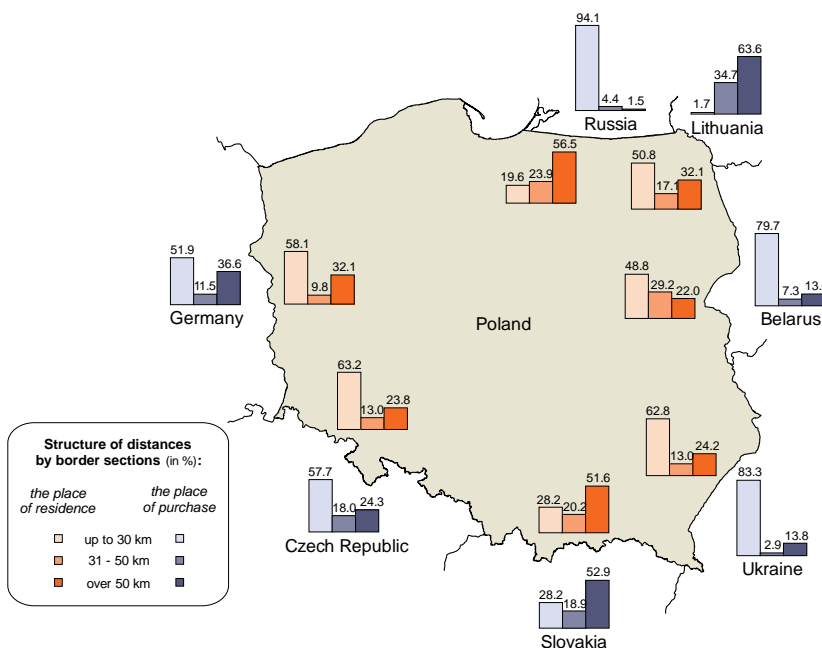
Surveys conducted in the 1st quarter of 2017 show that both foreigners and Poles crossing the Polish land border were mostly residents of the villages located at a distance of 50 km from the border – 70.2% of foreigners and 67.6% of Poles, with 53.2% of foreigners and 54.6% of Poles living in the area up to 30 km from the border.

Map 1. Range of impact of the border on the basis of the distance from the border to the place of residence and the place of purchase of Poles and foreigners in the 1st quarter of 2017



As to the external border of the European Union on Polish territory – 65.6% of foreigners and 64.7% of Poles crossing the Polish land border lived in the strip of up to 50 km from the border, and in the case of the internal border of the European Union – 71.3% and 67.8% 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 1st quarter of 2017



The largest number of surveyed foreigners preferred to make a purchase at the distance of up to 50 km from the border. In the case of the external border of the European Union on Polish territory it was 74.4% of those crossing the border, and in the case of the internal border of the EU – 83.7%. The share of Poles making a purchase at the distance of up to 50 km from the external border of the EU amounted to 90.8% of those crossing the border and in the case of the internal border of the EU – 64.2%.

Methodological notes

1. This report 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 residents of Poland in trips" included in the programme of statistical surveys of official statistics. 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”).
2. 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). It is conducted each quarter on randomly selected days. 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 who have been 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. The survey of border traffic covers persons and vehicles crossing the Polish border with the European Union at selected border crossings.
3. Survey on the participation of Poles in trips 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 also goods purchased abroad for resale in Poland.
4. Data on border traffic at the external border of the EU on the territory of Poland come from the Border Guard Main Headquarters and concern the number of crossings of the border – a person crossing the border several times is counted as many times as he/she crosses this border. Data cover all border crossings (road, rail and river).
5. 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) was more important for the citizens of Ukraine than for the Polish citizens because of the fact that Poles could travel and stay on the territory of Ukraine up to 90 days without a visa. The visa requirement for Ukrainian citizens travelling to the EU was abolished on 11 June 2017.
6. The agreement on local border traffic with Russia entered into force on 27 July 2012. On 4 July 2016 it was suspended by the 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 were introduced by the Russian side towards Polish citizens.
7. Due to rounding the sums of the figures may differ from the figure "total" in some cases. Relative numbers (indicators, percentages) were calculated on the basis of absolute data expressed with more accuracy than it was given in the report.
8. The data presented are preliminary.

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