

# Border traffic at the external border of the European Union in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020

28.04.2020

**↓ 13.3%**

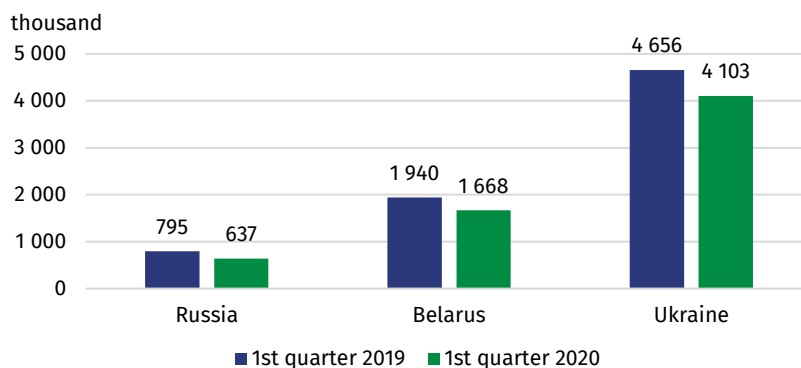
The decrease in the number of crossings of the external border of the European Union in Poland in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 compared to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, at the external land border of the European Union in Poland the number of crossings amounted to 6.4 million (13.3% less than in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019), of which:

- 5.7 million of foreigners – 12.1% less than in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019,
- 0.7 million of Poles – 22.8% less than in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019.

Most people were crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border (64.0% of the total crossings of the external land border of the European Union in Poland), then the border with Belarus (26.0%) and Russia (10.0%).

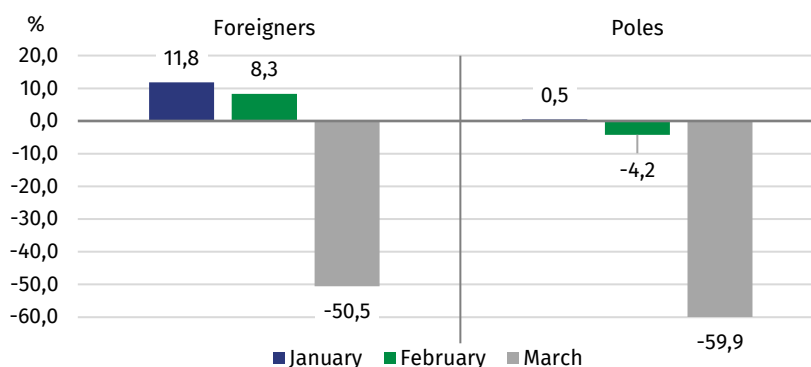
**Chart 1. Border traffic by section of the external border of the UE in Poland**



Among the foreigners crossing individual sections of the land border of Poland, the citizens of the neighbouring country prevailed, for example: on the border with Ukraine – 97.2% were Ukrainian citizens, on the border with Russia – 90.8% were Russian citizens and on the border with Belarus – 87.9% were Belarusian citizens.

In the first quarter of 2020, most crossings of the external border, both by foreigners and Poles, were recorded in January (41.4% of the total number of crossings made by foreigners and Poles during the first quarter), while the lowest in March (20.6% and 18.7%, respectively). In the first quarter of 2019, the highest intensity of border traffic among foreigners and Poles was recorded in March (respectively 36.5% and 36.0% total number of crossings for foreigners and Poles).

**Chart 2. Border traffic by months at the external border of the UE in Poland in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 in comparison with the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019**



In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, the highest number of crossings of the external border was recorded in January and the lowest one in March

Compared to the same periods of the previous year, in January, on the Polish-Ukrainian border there was an increase in the number of crossings for foreigners and Poles by 12.5% and 9.0%, respectively. In February, 7.7% increase in the number of crossings for foreigners was observed and 4.5% decrease in the number of crossings by Poles, and in March a decrease in the number of crossings of both foreigners and Poles by 48.6% and 61.5% respectively.

On the Polish-Belarusian border, in January and February, there was an increase in the number of crossings of foreigners (by 9.3% and 7.6%, respectively) and Poles (by 1.8% and 3.8% compared to the same periods of last year), while in March a decrease in the number of crossings for foreigners by 51.3% and a decrease in the number of crossings of Poles by 49.3%.

On the Polish-Russian border, in January and February, compared to the same periods of last year, an increase was recorded in the number of crossings for foreigners (by 14.2% and 16.8%, respectively) and a decrease in the number of crossings by Poles (by 9.6% and 10.2% respectively), and in March a decrease in the number of crossings for both foreigners and Poles by 64.9% and 66.8%, respectively.

### **Methodological notes**

1. Presented information was developed on the basis of the survey results of „1.30.11 Border movement”, for which data regarding border traffic on the external border of the European Union in Poland come from the Border Guard Headquarters. Data cover all border crossings (road, rail and river).
2. 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.
3. On the basis of the Regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of 13 March 2020 (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 435), border traffic on crossings with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine as of 15 March 2020 was suspended or restricted until further notice.

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