

# Information on the size and directions of emigration for temporary stay from Poland in 2017-2022

20.12.2023

## 1.5 million

Estimated number of emigrants from Poland temporarily staying abroad for 12 months and more at the end of 2022

**An estimation is presented by Statistics Poland regarding the number of Polish residents temporarily staying abroad for at least 12 months in 2017-2022 (the stock of Polish immigrants in other countries). These data are not migration flow – the total number of departures (Poles leaving their homeland) in particular years, and as such cannot be summed up. The presented results for 2017-2020 are a revision of previously published estimates. The presented results for 2022 are projected values.**

The number of Poles temporarily staying abroad (12 months and more) in 2017-2019 was estimated at around 1.6 million, then it decreased. Therefore, in 2020-2022 this number amounted approximately 1.5 million. It is worth emphasizing that the European countries are the most common (approx. 94.2%) country of choice of residence for long-term temporary immigrants from Poland.

According to the estimation at the end of 2022, around 1,523 thousand of permanent residents of Poland temporarily stayed outside the country, which is 24 thousand less than in 2021. There were approximately 1,436 thousand Polish emigrants in Europe (23 thousand less than in 2021), most of them – around 867 thousand – stayed in the EU member states. The higher number of Polish emigrants resided in Great Britain (446 thousand), Germany (411 thousand), Netherlands (116 thousand), Ireland (87 thousand) and Norway (77 thousand).

At the end of 2017, the number of permanent Polish residents staying in Great Britain for at least 12 months was 629,000. In 2018-2019 it decreased significantly to approximately 550,000. At the end of 2020 (after Brexit), the largest decrease in this value was recorded – by almost 100,000 – to the value of approximately 450,000. Since then, this number has remained at similar level.

In 2017-2022, the highest increase in numbers of long-term temporary immigrants from Poland occurred in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Norway respectively by 28,000 (31.8%), 6 thousand (33.3%) and 5 thousand (6.9%). On the other hand, the highest decrease was recorded in Great Britain and Italy respectively by 183,000 (29.1%) and 14,000 (23.7%). In other European countries smaller changes were noted.

The most Poles stayed temporarily in: Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland and Norway

In 2017-2022, the number of Polish emigrants temporarily staying in Great Britain decreased by approximately 183,000 (29.1 %) in 2017-2022

**Table 1. Estimated numbers of emigrants from Poland temporarily staying for 12 months and more in 2017-2022 (number of people staying abroad at the end of the year)**

Country of residence	The number of emigrants in thousand					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 <sup>a</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 690</b>	<b>1 634</b>	<b>1 633</b>	<b>1 531</b>	<b>1 547</b>	<b>1 523</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>1 592</b>	<b>1 540</b>	<b>1 539</b>	<b>1 443</b>	<b>1 459</b>	<b>1 436</b>
<b>European Union (26 countries)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>1 489</b>	<b>1 433</b>	<b>1 428</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>867</b>
of which:						
Austria	30	31	32	32	32	32
Belgium	48	48	48	47	47	46
Czechia	6	6	6	4	4	4
Denmark	24	25	25	25	27	26
France	23	21	21	22	21	21
Greece	7	7	6	6	6	6
Spain	32	32	32	32	32	32
Netherlands	88	96	104	110	118	116
Ireland	84	85	86	88	89	87
Germany	410	419	417	418	418	411
Sweden	29	29	29	28	29	28
Great Britain	629	559	547	.	.	.
Italy	59	55	53	48	46	45
<b>Countries outside the European Union</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>569</b>
of which:						
Iceland	11	13	14	14	14	14
Norway	72	73	75	77	78	77
Switzerland	18	20	21	23	24	24
Great Britain	.	.	.	449	454	446

<sup>a</sup> For 2022 presented data are projected.

<sup>b</sup> For 2017-2019 – 27 countries. Poland is not included in the number of the EU countries.

### Methodological notes

The estimation method is mainly focused on the analysis of the group of people staying temporarily<sup>1</sup> abroad for 12 months and more. This is a modification of previous versions of information, which also included short-term migrations (from 3 to 12 months). This is related to a change in the method of analysing foreign data regarding the number of Poles which are residents<sup>2</sup> of a given country.

Numerous data sources were used to estimate the number of Polish residents temporarily staying abroad for 12 months and more in 2017-2022. The data from population and housing censuses of the rounds 2001, 2011 and 2021 coming from foreign statistical offices were used. In addition, the results of the Polish population and housing censuses from 2002 and 2021

<sup>1</sup> These are also persons who emigrated from Poland, even for many years, but did not deregister from permanent residence in Poland.

<sup>2</sup> Permanent and temporary immigrants for a period of at least a year (12 months).

were also taken into account, as well as current research on permanent emigration conducted by the Statistics Poland.

The estimation method used data from European countries characterized by the most frequently chosen destinations for long-term temporary immigration of Polish citizens.

The algorithm described in appendix to the publication: "National Population and Housing Census 2021. Assessment of the data quality"<sup>3</sup> was applied to determine the distribution of temporary immigration among residents with Polish citizenship for selected countries at the critical moment of Poland's Census 2021. The number of temporary immigrants with Polish citizenship in a given country was estimated using this distribution and updated data on residents with Polish citizenship reported by foreign statistical offices in 2017-2021.

Due to the unavailability of foreign data on the number of residents with Polish citizenship at the end of 2022, results for 2022 are projected values. This analysis was divided into three parts. Firstly, for individual years from the period 2014-2021, the total number of residents (i.e. permanent and temporary residence for 12 months and more) from all individually included countries was calculated. Secondly, a third-degree polynomial was fitted to the values of these sums (this function was the best fit to the data). It was used to estimate the value for 2022. The final procedure was to divide this value for individual countries in accordance with the distribution of residents from 2021. As the result, projected number of residents for selected countries were obtained for 2022. Then, this number was used to estimate long-term temporary immigrants – according to the previously determined distribution of temporary immigration among residents.

An annex has been added to this information on the size and directions of temporary (12 months and more) emigration from Poland, containing estimates of the number of people staying temporarily abroad in 2017-2022 by sex and 5-year age groups of emigrants, and the nature of their place of residence before leaving (city/village) and voivodships.

**It should be noted that the results of the estimation prepared by Statistics Poland reflect the trend and directions of Poles' departures and should be treated as approximate values.**

In case of quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide information: "Source of data: Statistics Poland", and in case of publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please include the following disclaimer: "Own study based on figures from Statistics Poland".

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://stat.gov.pl/en/national-census/national-population-and-housing-census-2021/final-results-of-the-national-population-and-housing-census-2021/national-population-and-housing-census-2021-assessment-of-the-data-quality,1,1.html> (access 06.12.2023) – see Scheme 1.







Prepared by:  
**Demographic Survey Department**  
**Deputy Director Anna Wysocka**  
Phone: (+48 22) 608 33 01

Issued by:  
**The Spokesperson for the President  
of Statistics Poland**  
**Karolina Banaszek**  
Phone: (+48) 695 255 011

**Press Office**

Phone: (+48 22) 608 38 04

**e-mail: [obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl](mailto:obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl)**

-  [stat.gov.pl/en/](https://stat.gov.pl/en/)
-  [@StatPoland](https://twitter.com/StatPoland)
-  [@GlownyUrzadStatystyczny](https://www.facebook.com/GlownyUrzadStatystyczny)
-  [gus\\_stat](https://www.instagram.com/gus_stat)
-  [glownyurządstatystycznygus](https://www.youtube.com/glownyurządstatystycznygus)
-  [glownyurządstatystyczny](https://www.linkedin.com/company/glownyurządstatystyczny)

**Related information**

[National Population and Housing Census 2021. Assessment of the data quality](#)

[Methodological report - Migration of population](#)

[Information on the size and directions of emigration for temporary stay from Poland between 2004-2020](#)

**Data available in databases**

**Terms used in official statistics**

[Migration for permanent residence](#)

[Migration for temporary stay](#)

[Residents](#)

[Emigrants](#)

[Immigrants](#)