

Poland – the best place to invest

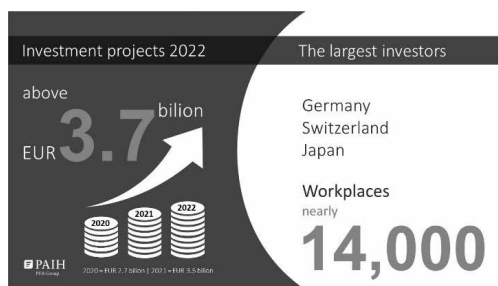
Pawel MILEWSKI

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Japan

Pawel MILEWSKI was appointed to the Ambassador of Poland to Japan in December 2019. He previously served as Counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the People's Republic of China, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Australia and Papua New Guinea and Director of the Asia-Pacific Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Poland has for years been viewed as an extremely attractive place to invest. Despite global difficulties, investors' interest in our country has been growing year by year. Last year set another record for Poland in terms of the number and value of FDI. With the support of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH), in 2022, foreign companies invested over EUR 3.7 billion in our country. This is EUR 200 million more than in the previous year and as much as one billion more than in 2020. Therefore, we can clearly see that investors' interest is certainly not decreasing. This is also confirmed by our country's leading position in the rankings of investment attractiveness in Europe and worldwide.



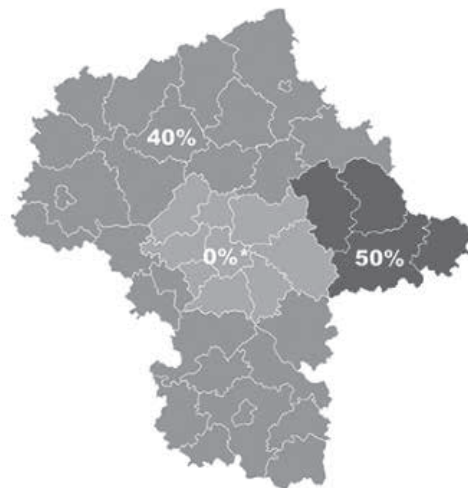
Source: PAIH (https://www.paih.gov.pl/20230117/another_record_breaking_year_for_paih)

There is a number of arguments in favor of choosing Poland as a place to invest. Firstly, we are the largest country in Central and Eastern Europe and the sixth largest country in Europe. Secondly, we have a large internal market of around 38 million people and easy access to the European Union market of more than 500 million consumers. Thirdly, we have a stable economy with an established macroeconomic position. Fourthly,

we are invariably considered one of the safest countries in the world in the OECD ranking, not even the war in Ukraine has changed this. Despite turbulent times, market turmoil caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, and behind our eastern border, Poland is passing the test of resilience to economic crises. Our economy is successfully defending itself against a significant slowdown despite further difficulties. This situation is due to the dynamic activity of Polish companies, employee involvement, and good political decisions. It also matches the long-term trend of growth of the Polish economy.

Poland's major advantage is its location in the center of Europe. This central location makes us a strategic gateway between East and West, North and South. Thanks to our location at the intersection of the main transport routes on the North-South and East-West lines, we have a strong position on the logistics map of Europe. Investors also appreciate the advantages of locating their investments in the Polish Investment Zone, which is made of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). To mention but a few incentives, they offer exemption from real estate tax and CIT. That is why SEZs have become a real magnet for investors. However, the zones are not only about capital investments and new jobs – they are also about increasing the competitiveness of the entire Polish economy, the transfer of technology and know-how, as well as developing cooperation throughout the country. Investors supported by PAIH are also interested in Government Grants awarded on the basis of the “Program for supporting investments of significant importance for the Polish economy for the years 2011-2030”, which additionally emphasizes regional

Amount of tax exemption: Regional state aid map 2022-2027



The maximum amount of state aid in the form of CIT or PIT tax exemption is determined on the basis of the regional aid map for 2022-2027 (representing the percentage of costs eligible for regional aid).

Source: PAIH (https://www.paih.gov.pl/why_poland/Polish_Investment_Zone)

development. Projects that are in less developed areas can count on preferential conditions of support – this applies to both reduced requirements to be able to receive support and the possibility of receiving a higher amount of aid.

Poland is also a country of high technologies, which not only accepts know-how from companies established on the market but can also be a source of innovative ideas and support the development of global giants. In recent years, investors have appreciated that we focus on qualified staff, primarily among engineers and the R&D sector, while maintaining relatively low labor costs. It is the Poles themselves that are Poland’s greatest capital. Their ambition, willingness to learn, strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit are globally recognized. Year after year, Poland’s students occupy high positions in the prestigious ranking of the International Student Assessment (PISA). Over 90% of Poles aged 25-64 also have completed at least secondary education. Companies starting their business in Poland can also count on consumers open to modern solutions - 63% of the population is less than 50 years old, and as much as 25% is under 25 years of age. With nearly 500,000 IT specialists on the market, Poland has the largest pool of IT experts in Central and Eastern Europe.

For Japan, Poland is a natural bridge to the European Union. As early as 2003, we signed the Declaration

Towards a Strategic Partnership. It was only in 2019 that the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Japan entered into force. The good relations between our countries are evident by the long-term presence of the largest Japanese Capital Groups such as Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Toyota, NSK, Bridgestone, Itochu, AGC Glass, and Pilkington (NSG Group). Our country is no longer only an attractive production base for Japanese companies, we see more and more opportunities for cooperation on many other levels. Industries such as mining, food, chemicals, healthcare, and financial services have particularly good potential as areas of cooperation between our countries. Japan is a particularly important partner for Poland due to the fact that Japanese companies were among the first foreign investors in our country after our economic transformation. Investments from Japan have always been, still are, and will certainly be an essential element of the process of constant development and modernization of the Polish economy. 🇯🇵

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