INTRODUCTION
Poland's history as a state began near the middle of the 10th century. By the mid-16th century, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth ruled a vast tract of land in Central and Eastern Europe. During the 18th century, internal disorders weakened the nation, and in a series of agreements between 1772 and 1795, Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland among themselves. Poland became a Soviet satellite state following World War II. Free elections in 1989 and 1990 brought the communist era to a close.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Andrzej DUDA
Head of Government
Prime Minister Mateusz MORAWIECKI
Government Type
parliamentary republic
Capital
Warsaw
Legislature
bicameral legislature consists of the Senate or Senat (100 seats) and the Sejm (460 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
diversified, high-growth European economy; COVID-19 led to first recession in nearly 3 decades, albeit small; EU and NATO member; bolstering US relations; economic concentration in western region; aging labor force; growing debt
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $1.223 trillion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $32,200 (2020 est.)
Industries - machine building, iron, steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages, textiles
Agricultural products - milk, sugar beets, wheat, potatoes, triticale, maize, barley, apples, mixed grains, rye
Exports $333.5 billion (2020 est.)
Cars/vehicle parts, seats, furniture, computers, video displays (2019)
partners: Germany 27%, Czechia 6%, UK 6%, France 6%, Italy 5% (2019)
Imports $292.4 billion (2020 est.)
cars/vehicle parts, crude petroleum, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment, office machinery/parts (2019)
partners: Germany 25%, China 10%, Italy 5%, Netherlands 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
38.2 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
-0.23% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Polish 96.9%, Silesian 1.1%, German 0.2%, Ukrainian 0.1%, other and unspecified 1.7% (2011 est.)
Language
Polish (official) 98.2%, Silesian 1.4%, other 1.1%, unspecified 1.3% (2011 est.)
Religion
Catholic 85% (includes Roman Catholic 84.8% and other Catholic 0.3%), Orthodox 1.3% (almost all are Polish Autocephalous Orthodox), Protestant 0.4% (mainly Augsburg Evangelical and Pentecostal), other 0.3% (includes Jehovah’s Witness, Buddhist, Hare Krishna, Gaudiya Vaishnavism, Muslim, Jewish, Church of Jesus Christ), unspecified 12.9% (2020 est.)

as of December 2021