The Commitment to Development Index (CDI) ranks 27 of the world’s richest countries based on their dedication to policies that benefit poor nations. Looking beyond standard comparisons of foreign aid flows, the CDI measures national policies in seven areas that are important to developing countries: aid, trade, finance, migration, environment, security, and technology. This report reviews Poland’s performance on the 2013 CDI.

For more details, visit cgdev.org/cdi.

Poland ranks 23rd overall in 2013. Despite a high level of fossil fuel production per capita, Poland scores well on the environment component, due to its high gas taxes and low greenhouse gas emissions growth compared to GDP over the last decade. As a share of GDP, however, the Polish government gives the lowest net volume of aid of any CDI country, while giving a large share of its aid to less poor and relatively worse-governed countries. It also does little to promote international security, while substantial barriers to entry discourage immigration. Poland also ranks at the bottom in technology due to lowest government support of R&D among CDI countries.
Poland Country Report

Aid
Aid quality is just as important as aid quantity, so the CDI measures gross aid as a share of GDP adjusted for various quality factors: it subtracts debt service, penalizes “tied” aid that makes recipients spend aid only on donor goods and services, rewards aid to poor but relatively well-governed recipients, and penalizes overloading poor governments with many small projects.

- Score: 0.9
- Rank: 27

Weaknesses
- Low net aid volume as a share of the economy (0.08%; rank: 27)
- Small share of aid to poor and better-governed recipients (selectivity rank: 26)
- Fails to report tied aid
- Does not report private charitable giving

Trade
International trade has been a force for economic development for centuries. The CDI measures trade barriers in rich countries against exports from developing countries. It also penalizes costly importation processes and restrictions against purchasing services from foreigners.

- Score: 5.5
- Rank: 9

Strengths
- As a member state of the European Union, Poland imposes low tariffs on agricultural products including wheat, dairy, some meats, textiles, and apparel
- Few limitations on the importation of services (Services Trade Restrictions Index score: 11.9; rank: 2)

Weaknesses
- As a member state of the European Union, Poland imposes high tariffs on rice, sugar, and beef
- Many documents required for importation (16 documents; rank: 22)

Finance
Rich-country investment in poorer countries can transfer technologies, upgrade management, and create jobs. Conversely, policies that permit financial secrecy of companies and banks can facilitate illicit activities and financial flows abroad. The CDI rewards policies that support healthy investment in developing countries and promote transparency in financial transactions at home.

- Score: 6.0
- Rank: 5

Strengths
- Political risk insurance agency provides wide coverage and screens potential projects for violations of human, labor and environmental rights
- Provides assistance to companies looking for investment opportunities in developing countries
- Scores above average in the Financial Secrecy Index for regulations in place to promote transparent financial transactions within its jurisdiction (rank: 1)
- Strong support to identifying bribery and corrupt practices

Weaknesses
- Weak leadership in extractive industry transparency initiatives

Migration
The movement of people from poor to rich countries provides unskilled immigrants with jobs, income, and knowledge. This increases the flow of money sent home by migrants abroad and the transfer of skills when the migrants return.

- Score: 1.8
- Rank: 24

Weaknesses
- Small number of immigrants from developing countries entering Poland (rank by share of population: 23)
- Small share of foreign students from developing countries (68.3%; rank: 15)
- Bears small share of the burden of refugees during humanitarian crises (rank: 19)
**Environment**
Rich countries use a disproportionate amount of scarce resources, and poor countries are most vulnerable to global warming and ecological deterioration, so the CDI measures the impact of policies on the global climate, fisheries, and biodiversity.

- **Score**: 7.6
- **Rank**: 6

**Strengths**
- GDP growth exceeded growth in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the past decade (average annual GHG growth rate/GDP, -4.10%; rank: 5)
- High gas taxes ($1.54 per liter; rank: 2)

**Weaknesses**
- High fossil fuel production rate per capita (6 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 20)
- Poor compliance with mandatory reporting requirements under multilateral environmental agreements relating to biodiversity (rank: 19)

**Technology**
Rich countries contribute to development through the creation and dissemination of new technologies. The CDI captures this by measuring government support for R&D and penalizing strong intellectual property rights regimes that limit the dissemination of new technologies to poor countries.

- **Score**: 2.5
- **Rank**: 27

**Strengths**
- Provides patent exceptions for research purposes

**Weaknesses**
- Low government expenditure on R&D (rank by share of GDP: 27)
- Offers patent-like proprietary rights to developers of data compilations, including those assembled from data in the public domain
- Imposes strict limitations on anti-circumvention technologies that can defeat encryption of copyrighted digital materials
- Pushes to extend intellectual property rights in bilateral trade treaties (“TRIPS Plus” measures) that restrict the flow of innovations to developing countries
- Allows patents on plant and animal varieties

**Security**
Since security is a prerequisite for development, the CDI rewards contributions to internationally sanctioned peacekeeping operations and forcible humanitarian interventions, military protection of global sea lanes, and participation in international security treaties. It also penalizes arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments.

- **Score**: 3.7
- **Rank**: 21

**Weaknesses**
- Low personnel contributions to internationally sanctioned peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions over last decade (rank by share of GDP: 25)
- Relatively small contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Operations budget (rank by share of GDP: 27)
- No protection of global sea lanes
- Has not ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

*For More*
Visit cgdev.org/cdi for the complete 2013 edition of the Commitment to Development Index. There, you can explore the numbers with our interactive graphing tool, view additional publications and background papers, and dive deeper into the CDI methodology by downloading our data and code.
The above table lists ranks for each of the 27 CDI countries across seven policy areas. The final column shows the change in each country’s overall rank since 2012 (using 2013 methodology).

### Commitment to Development Rankings, 2013

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<th>Overall</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Aid</th>
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<th>Finance</th>
<th>Migration</th>
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### About the CDI

The Commitment to Development Index has been compiled each year since 2003 by the Center for Global Development (CGD), an independent think tank that works to reduce global poverty and inequality through rigorous research and active engagement with the policy community. CGD Europe director and senior fellow Owen Barder directs the Index, building on the previous work of CGD former senior fellow David Roodman. Petra Krylova is the CDI coordinator. Collaborators have included William R. Cline on trade; Theodore H. Moran and Petr Janský on finance; Jeanne Batalova, Kimberly A. Hamilton, and Elizabeth Grieco on migration; Amy Cassara and Daniel Prager on environment; Michael E. O’Hanlon, Adriana Lins de Albuquerque, Mark Stoker, and Jason Alderwick on security; and Keith Maskus and Walter Park on technology. The Index is supported by the CDI Consortium.

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Center for Global Development
Independent Research and Practical Ideas for Global Prosperity
www.cgdev.org
1800 Massachusetts Ave., NW • Washington DC 20036, USA
Tel: 202.416.4000 • Fax: 202.416.4050
London: c/o BMGF, 80–100 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5JL, UK