

COUNTRY GUIDE

POLAND



The country's name derives from the Slavic tribe called the Polanians that inhabited the area during the 9th-10th centuries A.D. The name of the tribe is likely attributed to the Slavic word "pole" which means "field or plain" and describes the flat nature of the country. Poland has had a tumultuous political history including, a take over by Germany and the Soviet Union in World War II, then continuing on as a soviet satellite after the war, up until the free elections of 1990 that put an end to the country's communist rule. Since the early 90s, Poland has been able to transform into a democratic, market-oriented country with a dynamic economy. Foreign investors are attracted to Poland because of its strong growth prospects, large population, well-educated and competitive workforce, and location.

STABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

According to the European Union's Eurostat, in 2019, Poland had the 6th highest GDP among the block's member states. Despite the economic challenges facing many countries due to the global covid-19 pandemic, Poland is projected to continue being one of the fastest-growing economies in the region.

SUPPORTING INNOVATION

Supporting innovation through R&D investments has been a large focus for the Polish government's economic development agenda. With the launch of their Industry 4.0 platform, the country's government aims to modernize the Polish industry, increase company innovation, and develop competencies in areas such as robotics and automation.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing is one of the most important industries in Poland, accounting for about 22% of the country's GDP. Poland is the 6th largest manufacturing country in the EU and is growing to become a manufacturing powerhouse in the region. The government's R&D push and investment in new technologies, particularly in manufacturing, hope to drive Poland's economy to the next level with the creation of new and innovative manufacturing technologies.

AN AGING SOCIETY

One of the main challenges to continued economic growth that Poland faces is its aging population. In a recent World Bank report, 35% of the country's population is expected to be over the age of 65 by 2030. The prospect would further decrease the country's labor force and put a strain on its healthcare and pension systems.

	Geography	Location: Poland is located in Central Europe, bordered by the Baltic Sea to the north, Germany to the west, Czech Republic to the south, and Ukraine and Belarus to the east.
		Area: 312,685 sq km Time zone: Central European Time (GMT+1)
	Population	38,282,325 (<i>July 2020 est.</i>)
	Language(s)	Polish
	Economy	Machine Building, Iron and Steel, Coal Mining, Chemicals, Shipbuilding, Food Processing, Glass, Beverages, Textiles
	Capital City	Warsaw
	Currency	Polish zloty (zł)
	Political structure	Parliamentary republic
	Legal system	Civil Law System

This information is not intended to provide legal advice or serve as a substitute for legal research to address specific situations.

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Main Types of Legal Entities

	LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (SPÓŁKA Z OGRANICZONĄ ODPOWIEDZIALNOŚCIĄ)	JOINT-STOCK COMPANY (SPÓŁKA AKCYJNA)	BRANCH OFFICE
Share capital			
Minimum paid-up	PLN 5,000	PLN 100,000	N/A
Maximum authorized	No maximum	No maximum	N/A
Usual currency	Polish złoty (PLN)	Polish złoty (PLN)	Polish złoty (PLN)
Permitted currencies	Polish złoty (PLN)	Polish złoty (PLN)	Polish złoty (PLN)
Domiciliation			
Registered address	Required	Required	Required
Directors			
Minimum number	One	One	One
Minimum local	No requirement	No requirement	No requirement
Corporate directors	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Statutory			
Annual filing	Required	Required	Required
Company secretary	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual general meeting (AGM)	Required	Required	Not required
Beneficial owner reporting	Required	Required	Required
Re-domiciliation	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Financial administration			
Audit required	Required for companies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Employ at least 50 people ▶ Have a balance sheet of more than €2.5 million ▶ Generate net revenue from sales of more than €5 million 	Required for companies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Employ at least 50 people ▶ Have a balance sheet of more than €2.5 million ▶ Generate net revenue from sales of more than €5 million 	Required
Filing of annual return	Must be filed annually with the Polish tax authorities and company books maintained in Polish.	Must be filed annually with the Polish tax authorities and company books maintained in Polish.	Must be filed annually with the Polish tax authorities and company books maintained in Polish.
Tax			
Tax rates	19%	19%	19%
VAT	23%	23%	23%
Tax treaties	Negotiated with over 90 countries	Negotiated with over 90 countries	Negotiated with over 90 countries
Other taxes	Customs duties, Transfer taxes, Stamp duty, Capital tax, Payroll tax, and Social Security contributions	Customs duties, Transfer taxes, Stamp duty, Capital tax, Payroll tax, and Social Security contributions	Customs duties, Transfer taxes, Stamp duty, Capital tax, Payroll tax, and Social Security contributions
Government fees			
Registry fee	PLN 350 - 600	PLN 350 - 600	PLN 350 - 600
License fee	May be required depending on the type of business being conducted.	May be required depending on the type of business being conducted.	May be required depending on the type of business being conducted.

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Incorporation process			
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completion and notarization of the articles of association. These documents must specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business name and registered office • Type of business activity to be conducted • Amount of share capital • Shares and shareholder details • Term of the company (if applicable) ➤ Payment of share capital ➤ Appointment of directors (and a supervisory board or audit committee if required) ➤ Registration with the Polish National Court Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completion and notarization of the articles of association. These documents must specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business name and registered office • Type of business activity to be conducted • Amount of share capital • Shares and shareholder details • Term of the company (if applicable) ➤ Payment of share capital ➤ Appointment of directors (and a supervisory board or audit committee if required) ➤ Registration with the Polish National Court Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ruled based on the bylaws set by the parent company. ➤ Must register the branch with the Polish National Court Register.
Time	1-7 days	1-7 days	1-7 days
Other			
Are shelf corporations available?	Yes	Yes	N/A

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CT Service Offerings – Poland



Global Transactional Services

- Due diligence searches
 - Certificate of Good Standing (or equivalent)
 - Health check services
 - Liens/charges
 - Litigation
 - Bankruptcy
- Document retrieval
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - Memorandum of Association
 - Chamber of Commerce Extract
- Authentications & legalizations
- Board changes
- Company searches
- Incorporations
- Liquidation of entities
- Process agent appointments
- Translation services
- Global Entity Management

Corporate Secretarial Services

- Annual Compliance
 - Statutory filings
 - Annual board resolution drafting
 - Corporate minute book management
- Domiciliation/Registered address
- Director Services and Legal Representation

To learn more about how CT can help you better manage your global compliance needs, contact a CT representative at 855.444.5358 (toll-free U.S.).

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