



# Poland

CBOS

## Globalization and Trade

A relatively modest majority of Poles believe that globalization is positive. While large majorities see international trade as good for their economy, consumers and even for creating jobs, only smaller ones consider it good for job security and only a plurality says it is good for the environment.

- A slight majority (52%) of Poles say that globalization is mostly good for their country.
- More than three-quarters say international trade is good for the Polish economy (76%) and Polish companies (77%).
- 70% say trade is good for consumers like themselves and 59% see it as good for their own standard of living.
- While a large majority (71%) sees trade as positive for “creating jobs in Poland,” only a small majority (53%) believes it is good for “job security for Polish workers.”
- A plurality believes international trade is good for the environment (49% to 25%).
- About nine in 10 Poles say trade agreements should include both “minimum standards for working conditions” (88%) and for environmental protections (90%).

## Climate Change

A majority of Poles agree that global warming is a real problem though they disagree about whether urgent action is needed to deal with it. They are overwhelmingly in favor of helping developing countries cope with carbon emissions.

- 69% of Poles say something should be done about climate change. This includes 39% who say that global warming can be dealt with gradually with low cost measures and 30% who feel that the issue requires immediate action “even if this involves significant costs.” Only 11% believe action should be postponed “until we are sure global warming is really a problem.”
- Most Poles (84%) think that if less developed countries make a commitment to limit their greenhouse gas emissions, developed countries should provide “substantial aid.”

## Genocide and Darfur

A majority of Poles believe the UN Security Council should act to halt genocide and a plurality thinks they have the right to act to stop the violence in Darfur, though many seem unaware of the situation in western Sudan.

- A majority of Poles (54%) say that the UN Security Council has “the responsibility to authorize the use of force to protect people from severe human rights violations such as genocide, even against the will of their own government.”
- On Darfur: 46% of Poles say the United Nations has either the right to authorize intervention (23%) or the responsibility to do so (23%). Just 8% say it does not have the right. Nearly half declined to answer (47%).
- The Polish public does not support sending their own troops on a mission to Darfur: 42% are against Polish participation, 28% in favor.

## Future of the United Nations

Poles strongly favor some measures to increase the power of the United Nations, but are lukewarm about others. Views are mixed about whether their government should accept UN decisions they disagree with.

- Significant majorities in Poland support establishing a standing peacekeeping force “selected, trained, and commanded by the United Nations” (63%) and giving the UN “the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights” (58%).
- Pluralities favor allowing the UN to regulate the international arms trade (44% to 28%) and to impose a tax on the international sale of arms or oil (40% to 27%).
- Poles have mixed views about whether their government should be more willing to make decisions within the United Nations: 35% believe that Poland should be more willing to make decisions within the UN, while 31% say it should not.

## US Leadership

Poles are exceptionally positive about the United States. A modest majority trusts the United States to act responsibly in the world and believes it should maintain its overseas military presence. Nonetheless, most Poles feel US leaders fail to consider Polish interests.

- A slight majority (51%) says they trust the United States to act responsibly in the world, though nearly one third (32%) say they do not.
- Poles are comfortable with the US military presence overseas: a majority (54%) says the United States should either keep “about as many” bases as it has now (45%) or increase (9%) the number. Just 22% feel the United States should have fewer bases.
- More than three-quarters (76%) of Poles think the United States does not take Polish interests into account much or at all when it makes foreign policy decisions. This is the largest percentage expressing this opinion among the seven publics asked.
- A majority of Poles (60%) see their country’s relationship with the United States as stable and one-quarter (25%) as improving.

## Rise of China

Poles lean toward the view that China's economy will catch up to the US economy. Only a minority sees this as something to be concerned about, though a plurality does not trust China to act responsibly in the world.

- The most common view among Polish respondents is that "China's economy will grow to be as large as the US economy" (43%); just one quarter (26%) believes that the US economy will always stay larger than China's. Nearly one third (31%) declined to answer, however.
- Despite their affinity with the US, only 21% believe China's economic rise to equal the US would be mostly negative. Most think it would be "equally positive and negative" (34%), or that it would be "mainly positive" (22%).
- A plurality of Poles (47% to 28%) do not trust China to "act responsibly in the world." In contrast, a plurality does trust Japan to act responsibly (41% to 30%) and a majority trusts the US (51%).
- Poles do not believe that either China (69%) or Japan (66%) takes Polish interests into account when making foreign policy. Interestingly, even greater numbers think the United States does not do so (76%).
- A slight majority of Poles (52%) say their relations with China are "staying about the same" with very small numbers saying they are improving (9%) or getting worse (5%). Similarly, 49% feel that relations with Japan are remaining stable (15% say they are improving, 3% getting worse).