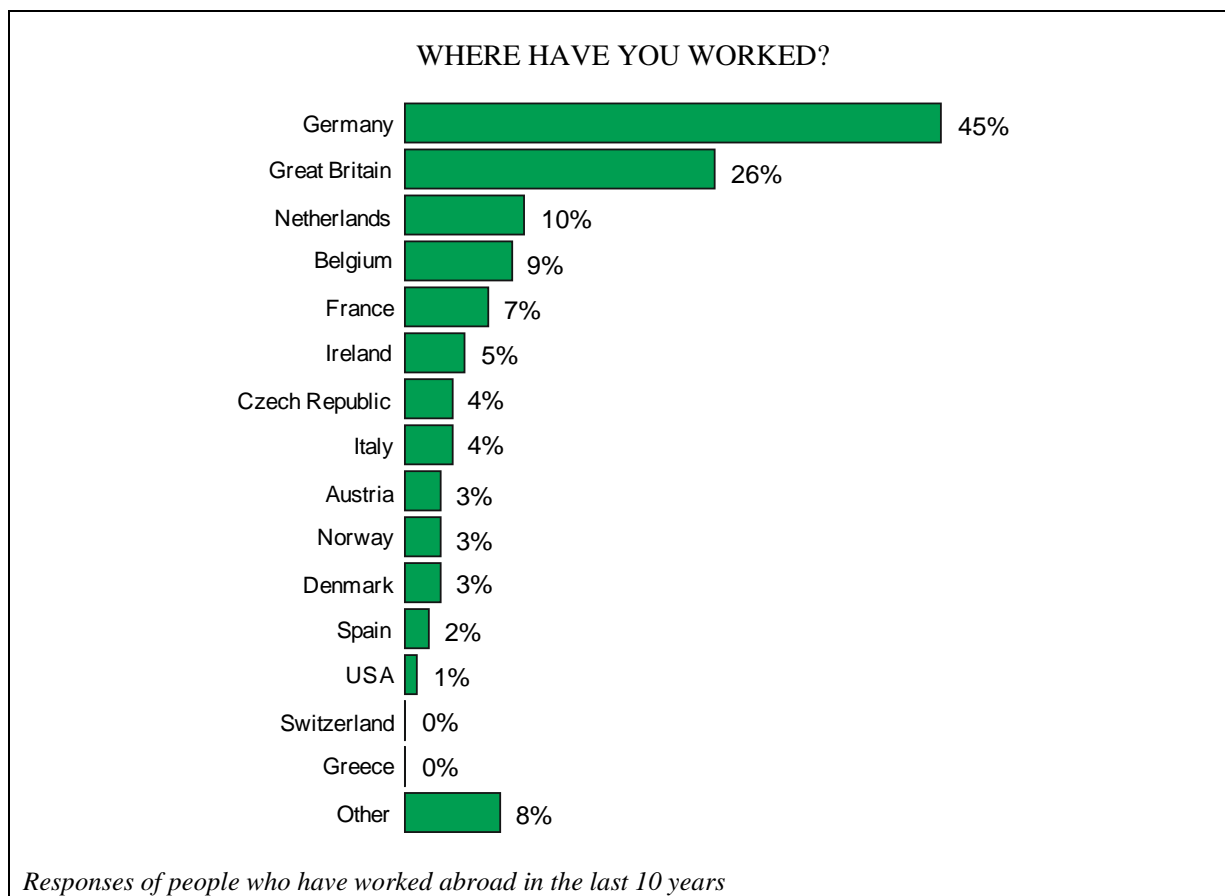


POST-ACCESSION MIGRATIONS FROM POLAND

After Poland entered the European Union, the borders were opened. Freedom to travel abroad is one of the most commonly mentioned benefits of membership. Many Poles believe that the possibility to work abroad is particularly valuable. In the last 10 years, Poles have used this opportunity extensively.

Contemporary Polish emigrants are primarily people who left Poland after EU accession and who still live and work abroad. However, CBOS data concern Poles who live in Poland but worked abroad in the past, or, in very few cases, still work outside of Poland. More than one-ninth of respondents (11%) declare having worked abroad after 1 May 2004, while 1% still work abroad. Such experience is most common among people aged 25-34 years (21%), skilled (24%) and unskilled (29%) manual workers and entrepreneurs (25%).

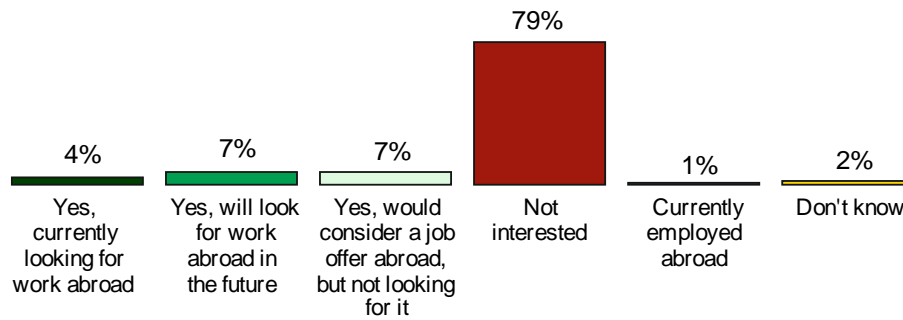
The most common destination of (frequently seasonal) economic migration is Germany. Almost half of people with work experience abroad were employed there. A quarter worked in Great Britain, which was among the first EU member states to open their labour market for Poles after the EU expanded. The other popular countries are Netherlands and Belgium (one in ten found employment there).



Regardless of personal experience, one-tenth of respondents (10%) claim that someone from their household is currently working abroad. Most commonly, family members are employed in Germany (42% of respondents who have a household member working abroad), Great Britain (22%) and Netherlands, which confirms that that these three countries are the most popular destinations of migratory flows. Further down the list are Belgium (5%), Ireland (4%), Austria (4%), France (3%) and USA (3%).

A vast majority of people (79%) definitely reject the possibility of employment abroad, but a significant proportion (18%) would be ready to leave Poland. Among them, 4% claim to be already actively seeking work abroad, while 7% will look for work in the future. The same proportion of respondents (7%) say that they do not look for work abroad, but would accept an offer, if it was made. Young people are most willing to work in another country: one-third (35%) of people aged 18-24 and about one-fifth (22%) of respondents aged 25-34 express interest in employment opportunities in another country. For the age group 35-44 the figure is 15%, while older respondents have such intentions far less frequently.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING ABROAD?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "*Post-accession migrations from Poland*", December 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2014, N=934. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.