

Sarmatian Review Data

Higher education and debt in America in 2013

Average student debt for seniors graduating from colleges and universities with loans in 2012: \$26,000.

Average tuition, room and board at four-year colleges: \$22,000 a year, up from \$9,000 a year (adjusted for inflation) in 1980–81.

Median family income in 2012: \$50,000, compared to \$46,000 in 1980 (adjusted for inflation).

Total student debt in 2012: around 1 trillion dollars, or more than total credit-card debt in that year.

Average interest charged by Federal Reserve in lending money to banks: 0.75 percent.

Interest charged on Stafford loans, or government-sponsored student loans: 6.8 percent.

Source: “Student Debt and the Crushing of the American Dream,” *New York Times* (blog), 12 May 2013
(accessed on the same day).

Bureaucracy under Prime Minister Tusk’s government

Number of deputy ministers in the government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk: 91.

Ministry in which the number of deputy ministers is the highest: Ministry of Finance under Jan Vincent Rostowski. It has nine deputy ministers.

Ranking of Poland in EU from the standpoint of number of deputy ministers: number two, after Croatia and before Romania.

Number of deputy ministers in Germany (twice the size of Poland and seven times the GDP of Poland): 51.

Source: “Biurokracja w Polsce: Premierowi do rządzenia potrzeba 91 wiceministrów,” <forsal.pl> 07/02/2013
(accessed on the same day).

Polish Prime Minister Tusk’s party in numbers

Number of members in good standing of Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform), Prime Minister Donald Tusk’s party that is generally considered to represent city dwellers with higher level of education: 43,000.

Percentage of Civic Platform members who answered the question about their formal education in a poll conducted in September 2013: 70 percent.

Of those who answered, the number of people who admitted to having only primary education: 14,100 persons, or nearly 50 percent of all active members who revealed their educational status.

Number of people who left Platforma Obywatelska in 2012–2013: 7,000, or nearly 20 percent.

Source: Renata Grochal, “Partia Tuska w liczbach,” *Gazeta Wyborcza*, 17 September 2013.

Was poverty under Soviet communism a byproduct or a goal? The economy in Soviet-occupied Poland (1945–1989)

Infant mortality rate in Poland in 1985: twice that of western Europe.

Percentage of people between 19–24 who attended college in Soviet-occupied Poland: 10 percent.

In 1989, percentage of ecologically polluted land: 11 percent, with 33 percent of the population affected.

Amount of Polish coal sent to the USSR between 1945–1953 at 10 percent of the world price: 54,000,000 tons (worth \$630,000,000 in 1950s US dollars).

Number of Poles and Germans expelled from their original domicile and forced to move west: 9 million Poles and 3 million Germans (these figures concern territory taken away from Poland in the east and territory given to Poland in the west in 1945).

Treatment of farmers who refused to join collective farms between 1948–1956: they were sentenced for years to labor camps, prisons, or punitive military units.

One of the ways of enriching the USSR at Polish expense in 1945–1989: Poles bought technology in the West for Western currency and were obliged to sell it to the USSR for the so-called “transfer roubles” worthless outside the USSR.

Source: Janusz Kaliński, *Gospodarka w PRL* (Warsaw: IPN, 2012).

How many books are needed to portray a president?

Number of published books about President John F. Kennedy: 40,000.

Source: Jill Abramson, *New York Times*, 22 October 2013,
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/27/books/review/the-elusive-president.html?hp>> (accessed 22 October 2013).

Emigration from Poland

Number of persons who emigrated from Poland (when Poland joined the EU in 2004) as of December 2012: 2,100,000, or the largest emigration in Polish history and the largest group of migrants from a European country in the twenty-first century.

Number of people who emigrated between 2010–2012: 130,000.

Unemployment in Poland in 2013: 14 percent.

Countries in which the emigrants settle: Germany (40 percent), Great Britain (23 percent), Holland (12 percent), and Norway (9 percent).

Percentage of Poles in Poland aged 25–34 who live with parents, mainly because they cannot afford to rent or buy their own apartment: 44 percent.

Source: *Rzeczpospolita*, 7 October 2013; <Polskatimes.pl>, 8 October 2013 (accessed 16 October 2013).

Emigration from the Russian Federation

Number of people who left Russia between 2002–2012: two million.

Number of entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation subjected to criminal prosecution: three million.

Source: Mikhail Khodorkovsky (an inmate at Penal Colony No. 7 in Karelia), “Ten Years a Prisoner,” *New York Times*, 24 October 2013 (accessed 24 October 2013).

Financial institutions in Poland

Estimated amount of profits that foreign banks with branches in Poland transfer out of the country each year: 15 billion dollars.

Amount of money for which the postcommunist government sold Polish banks to foreign owners: 25 billion dollars.

Estimated value of Polish banks undersold to the larger foreign banks: 200 billion dollars.

Pattern of economic development seen in Poland: a copy of the development imposed on African countries by foreign financial institutions.

Source: Professor Witold Kieżun, former United Nations economist who spent several years working for the UN in Africa, interviewed by *wSieci*, 20 October 2013 <<http://www.wsieci.pl/nie-o-taka-polske-walczyłem-pnews-482.html>> (accessed 22 October 2013).

Homicide rates in Poland and environs in 2011

Intentional homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants in Poland, Germany, the Russian Federation, and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe in 2011 (or the most recent available data): Poland, 1.2; Russian Federation, 9.7; Lithuania, 6.4; Slovakia, 1.2; Czech Republic, 0.8; Ukraine, 4.3 (for 2010); Belarus, 4.9 (for 2009); Germany, 0.8.

Average for the world: 6.9.

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2012 study <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/search.html?q=homicides>> (accessed 2 November 2013).

U.S. National Security Agency in figures

Number of NSA employees and NSA budget under President Obama: 35,000 and \$11 billion.

Percentage of the budget going to private contractors: 70 percent.

Source: Tom Engelhardt, “US digs a security black hole,” *Asia Times*, 14 November 2013 <atimes.com> (accessed 14 November 2013).

Higher education in Poland in numbers

Number of institutions of higher education in Poland in 2011/2012: 460, of which 328 are private.

Number of students: 1,764,000, of which 520,000 studied at private schools.

Number of academic teachers: 16,000 (includes both professors and lecturers).

Source: Andrzej Gelberg, <wpolityce.pl>, 3 November 2013 (accessed 3 November 2013).

Polish students win a competition for a Mars rover

Place of Polish Martian rovers in the 2013 international student competition University Rover Challenge held annually at the Mars Desert Research Station outside of Hanksville, Utah: number one (Hyperion from Białystok Polytechnic) and two (Scorpio from Wrocław Polytechnic). In addition, the Białystok team received the score of 493 out of 500, the highest ever.

Prizes: the winning team receives transportation, lodging and admission for five individuals to present their rover at the Annual International Mars Society Convention, as well as cash prizes.

Source: “Polish Students Design Best Mars Rover of 2013,” *TechNews Daily* <<http://www.technewsdaily.com/18234-best-student-rover-2013-urc.html>> (accessed 19 August 2013).