

Is it simply a case of “cheap nannies, cheap restaurants and Polish plumbers” ?

United Kingdom is becoming the Europe's most highly populated nation in last two generations caused by immigration. Most of the immigrants don't come from China or Korea as in other countries but from Poland.

Polish migration to the UK started in 1974 by the Polish resettlement act, continued and also increased significantly in 2004, when Poland together with other 7 eastern European countries (known as A8) and 2 mediterranean island states joined the European Union and citizens of these countries won the freedom to work in Britain. Many members of these countries used this advantage and came to Britain to get a job but even in 2004 the proportion of Polish immigrants with A8 countries was 38% and it increased rapidly and in 2005 it was 70% furthermore by July 2006 447 000 people from Eastern Europe registered with the WRS and 62% of them were polish. Additional 1500 00 came from eastern Europe as self-employed workers (builders, plumbers,...) who do not need to register with the WRS.

There are many reasons for Polish people migration to the UK. Some of them might immigrate just because they want to experience new life or improve their English speaking skills. However, one of the major factor is that Poland has the highest unemployment rate in the Europe (in 2005 it was 18.2% and in some rural areas over 40%) and in contrast UK's unemployment rate was 5.1% and was seeking for semi-skilled and also unskilled labour. Second major factor is the income. In UK they are four to five times more than in Poland and the cost of living is approximately two times higher. The average annual income (GDP per capita) in Poland in 2004 was \$13 146 compared to the UK's \$31 098. In 2009 Poland's GDP per capita increased to \$16 466 what is significant increase but in UK the GDP per capita decreased to \$31 042.

Low-cost airlines are ZAZNAMENAVAJU economical ROZKVET. In 2000 5.7 mil international passengers used polish airlines and by 2006 it increased to 15 million and this makes Poland the second-fastest growing air traffic market in the world after China.

There are many advantages and disadvantages of Polish migration to the UK.

The biggest advantage is the economic impact on the UK. Polish migrants caused the economic growth of the UK to increase by half in 2005-2006 and it raised from 0.5% to 1% and £2.54bn is contributed to the UK's economy by eastern European immigrants. Many of Polish immigrants come unskilled such as farmers and they make up the cheap labour force in Britain. They are also very hardworking and flexible due to the will of making the employer happy. Most of Polish immigrants are 18-35 years old what makes them more valuable because they are more willing to work and are much stronger and also they benefit to the UK's ageing population. Also many doctors and dentists from Poland migrated to the UK, due to the fact that doctor's income in Poland and also in many other European countries are too low despite an excellent medical education in those countries. Every country needs as many doctors and dentists as possible and these ones are or they tend to be more multilingual.

However, with advantages also come some disadvantages.

By immigration to the UK they didn't bring just the work force but also their traditions and culture what is kind of disturbing for many UK's inhabitants. Well-known fact is that most of the Polish population are very religious Catholics and most of the UK's population is Protestant. This has been the biggest concern because Protestants attack Poles for their Catholic views. Polish migrants came mostly to the capital cities and large urban industrial cities such as London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leicester. Surprisingly there are large proportions of them across the rural areas as well such as

Hertfordshire. These rural areas did not experienced the migration like that before and therefore it has created NEPOKOJE and misunderstandings. Many graffiti against the polish, abuse and attacks on immigrant workers have appeared. Another problem was very basic. The UK's populations has been BURIT SA against polish immigration due to the fact that poles are taking the jobs from them and then large proportion of the poles are going back to their country with the earnings they have made in the UK what contributes to the decreased GDP per capita in the UK that I mentioned before. Also there are many illegal immigrants and large proportion is not paying tax for the money they earn. However, many efforts have been made to make the migrants lives easier such as opening a telephone service in Polish, road signs in Polish in some areas and so on.

Over 600 000 eastern europeans migrated to the uk so far and it has been said to be the major demographic event of the current decade. Most of the migrants are registered with WRS in manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries and distribution, hotel and retail. However, the workers in banking and finance, education and health and public administration are under-represented. The impact of the polish immigrants is huge in many areas, but the most significant is in the economics. The predictions together present facts states that many migrants have already returned home and many of them are planning to go home.