

Moldova – Culture and Tourism, Economy and Economic Relations with Poland

Basic Information

Official language: Romanian. Russian, Ukrainian and Gagauz are also spoken locally. Knowledge of Russian is very useful in Moldova.

Currency: Moldovan leu (MDL). The euro serves as a reference currency; in some hotels and restaurants, particularly in larger cities, payments in euros are possible.

Capital: Chişinău.

Location: Moldova is a landlocked country with no access to the sea. The country remains largely dependent on imports of fuel and raw materials.

Entry requirements for Polish citizens: Polish citizens do not need a visa for stays of up to 90 days. Entry is possible with either a passport or an identity card. Different rules apply to Transnistria, Moldova's separatist region. A passport is required when crossing into this territory, and visitors should clearly specify the duration of their planned stay.

August 27 – Independence Day: This national holiday has been celebrated since Moldova gained independence following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Festivals, fairs, concerts and official ceremonies are held throughout the country.

2026 – 35th anniversary of Moldova's independence: Jubilee celebrations at the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Warsaw are planned for early September.

Culture and Tourism

Wine as a symbol of the country. Wine holds a special place in Moldova's culture and economy. It is regarded not only as an alcoholic beverage, but also as an important food product and an element of the country's cultural heritage.

Purcari – one of Moldova's oldest and most award-winning wineries.

National Wine Day – traditionally celebrated on the first weekend of October. The largest celebrations take place in Chişinău and include fairs, festivals, concerts, workshops and tastings. Traditionally, wine is often served with grilled vegetables and Moldovan cheeses, including the popular brânză cheese.

Cricova – the city is home to one of the world's largest underground wine cellars. Its tunnels stretch for almost 120 km in total, forming a kind of underground city.

Hospitality: Moldova is renowned for its exceptional hospitality. When visiting someone's home, it is considered polite to bring a small gift or something to eat or drink.

Tourist attractions: Moldova is known for its numerous monasteries, including rock monasteries such as Tipova and Saharna, as well as the Orheiul Vechi archaeological and landscape complex. Another important tourist attraction is the fortress in Soroca.

Cuisine: Moldovan cuisine has many similarities with traditional Polish cuisine. Popular dishes include:

Zeamă – a soup made with chicken, vegetables and homemade noodles, resembling Polish *rosół* (chicken broth).

Sarmale – a dish often served as a main course, similar to Polish *goląbki* (stuffed cabbage rolls), although usually smaller and with a somewhat different flavour.

Plăcintă – a pastry that is one of the symbols of Moldovan cuisine. It comes in both sweet and savoury varieties and can be fried or baked. It is served for breakfast, lunch, dessert, or as a quick snack while sightseeing. Popular varieties include those filled with meat, potatoes, brânză cheese, cheese and herbs, as well as sour cherries.

Cuşma lui Guguță ("Guguță's Hat") – one of the most characteristic Moldovan desserts. It is made from pancakes, sour cherries and cream, arranged in a triangular shape resembling the hat worn by the hero of popular Moldovan children's stories.

Popular meats include rabbit and quail. Fruit and vegetables also play an important role in the everyday Moldovan diet and are often served in restaurants as a complimentary starter before a meal.

Music: Music plays a very important role in the social life and culture of Moldovans. This is reflected in the large number of folk ensembles and the strong tradition of singing Moldovan songs together.

Youth exchanges: Moldova places great importance on educating the younger generation. Numerous youth exchange programmes are organized with Western countries, including Poland.

Economy – Main Sectors, Imports and Exports

- **ICT sector** is one of the key and fastest-growing sectors of the Moldovan economy. In 2025, it accounted for 7.5% of GDP. Companies operating in this sector include EBS Integrator, Bamboo, Digital Ego, ITMedia Digital Agency, New Light Digital and Minicode SRL.
- **Agriculture** accounted for 7.4% of GDP in 2025. Crop production performed well in 2025, increasing by 24.3% compared with 2024. Moldova is one of the leading producers of grapes, apples, plums, peaches, apricots and sunflower in the region.

- **Food industry** accounts for approximately 7-8% of GDP. It includes, among other things, the processing of fruit and vegetables (juices, jams and canned products), the production of meat and dairy products, and wine production. Wine production for international markets is particularly important. Poland receives 5.9% of Moldova's exports of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. In addition to wine, Moldova also produces vodka and brandy, among other beverages.
- **Industrial production** accounts for 7.4% of GDP. The sector includes, among other areas, mining, manufacturing, computer equipment production, and the repair and installation of machinery.
- **Textile sector** is of significant importance to the country's economy. It includes the production of clothing, fabrics, footwear and accessories. The sector accounts for approximately 5% of GDP and 10% of Moldova's total exports. Many Moldovan female designers collaborate with Western fashion houses.

Export Structure

- The ICT sector is one of the key and fastest-growing sectors of the Moldovan economy. In 2025, it accounted for 7.5% of GDP. Companies operating in this sector include EBS Integrator, Bamboo, Digital Ego, ITMedia Digital Agency, New Light Digital and Minicode SRL.
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Import Structure

The following categories dominated Moldova's imports in 2025:

- gas and industrial products derived from gas – **9.1%** of total imports,

- petroleum, petroleum products and related products – **8.7%**,
- road vehicles – **8.2%**,
- electrical machinery, equipment and parts thereof – **7.0%**,
- electrical energy – **4.3%**,
- general industrial machinery and equipment, and parts and accessories thereof – **3.5%**,
- medicinal and pharmaceutical products – **3.3%**,
- vegetables and fruit – **3.0%**,
- telecommunications and sound and image recording and reproduction equipment – **2.8%**,
- yarn, fabrics, textile articles and related products – **2.7%**,
- specialized machinery and equipment for particular industries – **2.7%**,
- metal manufactures – **2.5%**,
- iron and steel – **2.5%**.

Investment and Infrastructure

- The main types of economic activity benefiting from foreign direct investment include financial and insurance activities, trade, manufacturing, information and communication, transport and storage, energy, and real estate activities.
- As a transit country, Moldova is also actively involved in the development of its infrastructure.

Poland - Moldova Economic Relations – Trade and Investment

- **Bilateral trade** between Poland and Moldova reached EUR 530.7 million in 2025. Polish exports amounted to EUR 402.2 million, while imports totalled EUR 128.5 million. According to data for the first five months of 2026, Polish goods exports increased by 1.8% compared with the same period in 2025, while imports increased by 0.4%.
- Poland is the largest destination for Moldovan juice exports, accounting for 32% of their exports, and the third-largest importer of Moldovan wine in the European Union.
- Currently, 88 companies with Polish capital operate in Moldova, with total investments amounting to approximately EUR 12.8 million, placing Poland among the thirteen largest investors in the country.
- According to data from the National Bank of Poland (NBP), the stock of Polish investment in Moldova amounted to EUR 37.1 million at the end of 2024. For comparison, it stood at EUR 36.7 million at the end of 2023 and EUR 40.7 million at the end of 2022.

- The stock of Moldovan investment in Poland amounted to EUR 31 million at the end of 2024. At the end of 2023, it was EUR 37.6 million, compared with EUR 7.5 million at the end of 2022.
- Polish companies operating on the Moldovan market include:

ICS Moldova Zahar SRL – an investment by Krajowa Spółka Cukrowa S.A.;

Plastics Moldova – an investment by Plastics Sp. z o.o., a distributor of plastic and aluminium sheets, films and semi-finished products;

Inter Cars – a leading distributor of automotive spare parts in Central and Eastern Europe and the second-largest company of its kind in Europe.

Polish food and beverage group Maspex acquired a majority stake in Purcari.

Several other Polish companies are interested in starting operations in Moldova, including in the fields of aviation services, modernization of medical facilities, and the production of environmentally friendly packaging.

Some planned investments are dependent on obtaining EU funding under the Moldova Growth Plan.

Promising Areas for Cooperation

The most promising areas of Polish-Moldovan economic cooperation include:

- agriculture and the food industry,
- energy and renewable energy sources,
- thermal modernization and energy efficiency,
- environmental protection,
- road and railway infrastructure,
- pharmaceuticals,
- information and communication technologies (ICT).

Polish agricultural machinery is widely used in Moldova. Polish companies offer a wide range of solutions that help Moldovan farmers improve the efficiency and quality of production.

The most well-known Polish agricultural machinery brands in Moldova include:

UNIA Group – one of Poland's largest manufacturers of agricultural machinery, offering, among other products, ploughs, cultivators, seed drills and fertilizer spreaders;

Pronar Sp. z o.o. – a manufacturer of tractors, trailers, balers and other agricultural machinery;

Metal-Fach – a manufacturer of agricultural trailers, front loaders, fertilizer spreaders, balers and other machinery;

Sipma S.A. – a manufacturer of round balers, forage harvesters and other hay and straw harvesting equipment;

Kujawska Fabryka Maszyn Rolniczych Krukowiak – a manufacturer of crop sprayers and other plant protection equipment.

ICT Sector

The ICT sector is a particularly promising area of investment for Polish businesses.

Moldovan Innovation Technology Park (MITP) is the first virtual technology park in Europe, established by the Moldovan government in 2018. The park offers IT and new technology companies a business model based on a single 7% tax on revenue, fully digitalized procedures, and no requirement for companies to maintain a physical presence in the park's offices. Simplified procedures also apply to the employment of foreign specialists and managers.

Incentives for Investors

Moldova offers a range of benefits and incentives aimed at attracting foreign investors, including:

- seven free economic zones (FEZs) offering favourable conditions for conducting business, including tax incentives and simplified registration procedures;
- tax incentives for companies investing more than USD 250,000, including a reduced corporate income tax rate for the first five years;
- the national treatment principle for foreign enterprises, ensuring equal conditions for domestic and foreign investors;
- the EU – Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA);
- relatively low labour costs, which are important not only in the ICT sector but also in agriculture, renewable energy and textiles.

The Moldovan market may be attractive to Polish small and medium-sized enterprises due to relatively low entry barriers, moderate business risks and the possibility of scaling up business projects.

**June 2026 – a business mission of Polish companies to Chişinău organized by the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH).*

Trade Fairs and Business Events

Moldexpo

Moldexpo, the main exhibition centre in Chişinău, organizes a number of international trade fairs every year, primarily during the autumn season. The most important events include:

- Moldconstruct – construction;
- Moldenergy – energy-efficient technologies, gas, heating and air conditioning;
- MoldAgroTech – agriculture, equipment, cultivation technologies and agribusiness solutions;
- Moldmedizin – medical equipment, pharmaceutical products and dentistry;
- Beauty – cosmetics and perfumery;
- Food & Drinks – food products;
- HoReCa Expo – equipment and technologies for the HoReCa and food-processing sectors;
- Packaging. Depot – packaging materials and production technologies;
- Tourism and Travel Expo – tourism and travel;
- Expo Mobila – furniture, equipment, tools, materials and accessories;
- Farmer – agricultural products, technologies and equipment.

***Made in Moldova / Fabricat în Moldova**

Made in Moldova (Fabricat în Moldova) is a national trade fair for Moldovan businesses, organized by the Moldovan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It is one of the largest annual gatherings of the Moldovan business community, bringing together approximately 400-500 local companies. A business mission of Polish companies to Moldova was also organized in connection with the 2024 edition of the event.

Relations with Toruń

According to information provided by the Consul, Chişinău is being considered as a potential partner city for Toruń.

A delegation of representatives of Chişinău is scheduled to visit Toruń in October this year. The visit could provide a good opportunity to hold direct discussions and identify potential areas of cooperation between the two cities, particularly in the fields of economy, culture, education and tourism.

Cooperation with the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova in Toruń – Jan Mrozowski

Two editions of the “Common Roots. Polish-Moldovan Meetings” project have been carried out in cooperation with the Blessed Jutta Secondary School in Głuchowo, with the support of the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova.

As part of a student exchange between the school in Głuchowo and young people from the Moldovan town of Glodeni, the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region hosted members of the “Styrczańskie Dzwoneczki” folk ensemble. The school in Głuchowo, as the host institution, prepared an extensive and engaging programme for the children and young people from Moldova from May 19 to 25, 2016.

The regional self-government also supported the organization of a return visit by young people from the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region to Moldova, which took place from September 18 to 24, 2016.

Most of the activities focused on exploring shared roots and experimenting with the music of the two countries.