

We are all post-socialist now!
The UK economy and the
transformation of east central
Europe

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“Stony-faced Brown gets ANOTHER lecture on the economy... from Poland’s prime minister”

Trade and Investment

- annual UK trade with NMS
 - imports: £13.9 billion
 - exports: £7.7 billion
- 2001-08: significantly higher growth rates in imports/exports with key NMS
 - imports: Slovakia (31.3%), Poland (17.2%), Hungary (16.7%), Czech Republic (15.2%) [cf. 2.6%]
 - exports: Estonia (12.6%), Slovakia (11%), Poland (10.6%), Romania (10%) [cf. 4.9%]
- 927 firms with British capital invested in Poland, including 126 with investments > \$1 million
- growth in recent years of FDI **out** of ECE/FSU



NMS – new member states

Competition and Cooperation

- cost-cutting manufacturing relocations east
 - e.g. Electrolux, Black and Decker, Indesit
- peripheral UK regions increasingly competing with their new neighbours for jobs and investment
- loss of structural funds as “the centre of gravity of the EU ... move[s] east”
- international cooperation: sharing interests, countering competition, imagining other Europes

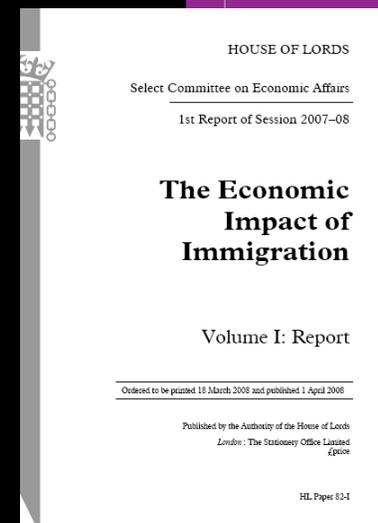
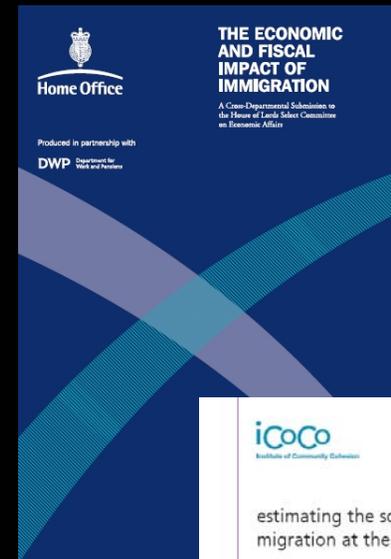


Migration

- earlier waves of migration (late 19th/early 20th; DPs and EVWs; post-war) ⇒ 180,000 eastern Europeans resident in UK in 2001
- over 100,000 seasonal workers (SAWS) and self-employed in early 2000s
- BUT 2002-2008, 1,242,200 National Insurance applications from NMS

Labour

- contested assessments of impact of post-accession migration
- Home Office estimated £6 billion contribution to economic growth in 2006
- plugging 'hard-to-fill' vacancies (often low-skill and low-pay ... but not always)
- concerns about wages, unemployment and workforce development, especially among young workers and in 'workless' communities
- reinforcing reliance of UK public sector on migrant labour



Labour II

- post-accession migration promoted by UK local and regional authorities as salvation of local economies and labour markets
- growth and development of employment agencies, both new specialist and multinational – increasingly in partnership with agencies/recruiters in ECE
- new transnational/bilingual forms of trade union organising



Consumption

- ‘Polish pound’ valued at £8.4 billion in 2008
- targeted by numerous high street firms in all sectors
 - supermarkets, banks, mobile phone companies, DIY, bookshops etc.
 - new markets in difficult times
- Polish food “fastest-growing ethnic food range ever launched in Britain”
- beyond migrants: new tastes and product innovation
- swift and pronounced response
- connects to market activity and supply chains in Poland: migrants as entry point for further expansion in ECE
- public services: spatial mismatch between costs and benefits of migration



Lloyds TSB Strona główna O nas Procedura

Konto w Wielkiej Brytanii

Złóż wniosek o założenie darmowego konta* w Wielkiej Brytanii przed wyjazdem z Polski.

Wybierz najbardziej godny zaufania bank Zjednoczonego Królestwa** i zyskaj dostęp do 150 oddziałów, w których doradcy mówią po polsku.

Zadzwoń na bezpłatną infolinię, a nasi polskojęzyczni konsultanci pomogą Ci rozpocząć procedurę zakładania rachunku bankowego przez telefon. Po przyjeździe do Wielkiej Brytanii będziesz potrzebował tylko jednego dokumentu ze zdjęciem, żeby aktywować konto.

Zadzwoń teraz
00 800 55 69 55 69
Pon. – pt. 10.00 - 21.00

O nas
Lloyds TSB to brytyjska grupa finansowa i ubezpieczeniowa. Została stworzona w 1995 roku poprzez połączenie Lloyds Bank i Trustee Savings Bank (TSB). [więcej →](#)

Procedura
Złóż wniosek o założenie konta w Lloyds TSB przed wyjazdem z Polski. Skontaktuj się z naszym centrum telefonicznym... [więcej →](#)

* Obsługa jest bezpłatna przy dodatnim saldzie na rachunku.
** LloydsTSB od sierpnia lat jest uznawany przez respondentów sondażu Readers Digest za najbardziej godny zaufania bank w Wielkiej Brytanii.
Połączenie jest bezpłatne z większości telefonów stacjonarnych.
Prosimy zwrócić uwagę na to, że operatory sieci komórkowych mogą naliczać opłaty z tytułu połączeń z numerem rozpoczynającym się na 00 800. O szczegóły należy pytać swojego dostawcę usług telefonicznej komórkowej.
W trosce o najwyższą jakość usług rozmowy mogą być monitorowane lub nagrywane.
Założenie konta jest uzależnione od oceny Twojej sytuacji finansowej. Aby złożyć wniosek o otwarcie rachunku musisz mieć ukończone 18 lat.

Enterprise

The collage contains several distinct advertisements:

- Wywóz Śmieci (Waste Removal):** Offers services for residential and commercial waste, with contact numbers like 07966637973.
- WYWÓZ ŚMIECI:** A large green advertisement for waste removal with the phone number 07974137910.
- POLAND EXPRESS LTD:** A recruitment agency for various roles, including drivers and warehouse staff, with contact numbers 0208 4283 288 and 07951957573.
- STREFA:** An advertisement for a property or business space, with the slogan 'Najlepsze jako oferta dla Ciebie'.
- SZUKASZ PRACY? (Looking for a job?):** An advertisement for job opportunities, featuring a woman's photo and contact information for Symbiont.
- POMYŚL O OCHRONIE! (Think about security!):** An advertisement for security services, listing various locations like London, Manchester, and others.
- Letting Line:** An advertisement for rental services in London, with the slogan 'The easy way to rent rooms and flats in London'.
- KURSY DLA ELEKTRYKÓW (Courses for electricians):** An advertisement for training courses, with the slogan 'Zostań elektrykiem w UK'.

- emergence of post-accession 'migration industry'
 - media, training, recruitment, transport, money transfer, health, benefits, financial advice, wholesalers, retailers and producers
- some emerging from earlier self-employment, some with links to 'mainstream' providers
- extending beyond 'ethnic niche': e.g. Poles capitalising on other ECE communities
- SMES also serving demand in wider economy: construction, security, cleaning etc.
- development of business support services for would-be entrepreneurs: Business Link, RDAs, NGOs, banks



przekazypieniężne.com
 Money Systems w UK

Networks

- developing associational life
- including business support networks
- often small-scale and localised, but new economic actors engaged in transnational activities
- TN actors working between business environments east and west (UKTI; EEF)



Geographies

- changing economic landscapes of cities and regions
 - competition for jobs, investment and structural funds
 - cooperation with previously distant partners
 - migrants living in every UK local authority, working alongside UK citizens and bringing new products and services
- new economic relationalities
 - creating transnational households
 - firms, TUs, LAs etc. extending activities and relationships to new places and new partners
 - new economic actors working between east and west

Geographies II

- multidimensionality of flows: E-W, W-E, circular – varied temporalities and often indirect geographies
- return flows and ‘mobility’: familiarity with, attachment to, experience of UK products, services, practices, cultures ⇒ transnational enterprise, trade and investment – cooperating with 25,000 Britons living in NMS?
- ubiquitous but uneven – and a very different geography to previous waves of migration

Conclusions

- the emergence – and development – of economic activities, which flow between the UK and ECE have transformed the UK's economic geography, remaking the economic landscapes of Britain's cities and regions and forging new economic relationships
- the scale of some of these transformations is small but they signify qualitative shifts in the UK's economic geography
- need for a fuller critical reflection on the post-socialist economic geographies of the UK and a fuller recognition that the twenty years of post-socialism have remade the economic relationships between east and west
- with such work, the *Daily Mail's* interpretation of the Tusk-Brown encounter – and economic geography's provincialising of post-socialist transformations – become untenable