

Report of the Observatory of Multiculturalism and Migration 2025

Economic and forced immigrants in Kraków in 2025 Summary

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Scale of the phenomenon and data sources

The number of foreigners in Kraków increased in 2025, but the scale of the phenomenon depends on the data source. The differences result from different definitions of the population: registration of residence, labour market activity (insured persons), and legalisation of stay.



76.9k

FOREIGNERS REGISTERED IN ZUS



78k

FOREIGNERS WITH VALID RESIDENCE CARDS (MUW)



32.3k

FORCED MIGRANTS FROM UKRAINE IN THE UKR REGISTER



18.9k

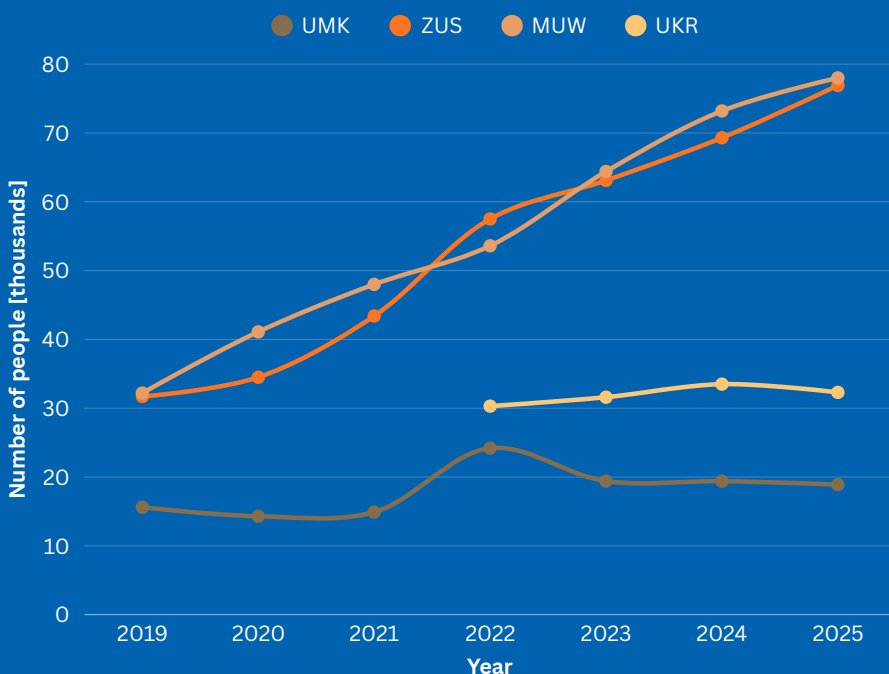
FOREIGNERS REGISTERED AS RESIDENTS (UMK)



110k (MUW+UKR)

ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS

Number of foreigners in Kraków by data source, 2019-2025



Key conclusions:

- ✓ The highest figures in 2025 come from the MUW and ZUS registers - around 77-78 thousand persons.
- ✓ UMK data is lower and more stable, as it covers only registered residents.
- ✓ The UKR register covers Ukrainian nationals with temporary protection. Data on Ukrainians and other foreigners should therefore be analysed separately.
- ✓ Combining MUW and UKR data gives a fuller picture: an estimated 110,000 immigrants lived in the city in 2025.



How to read the data?

Different registers describe different aspects of migration: ZUS (Social Insurance Institution) – insured persons; UMK (Kraków City Office) - registered residence; MUW (Małopolska Voivodeship Office) - legalisation of stay; UKR - temporary protection for Ukrainian citizens.

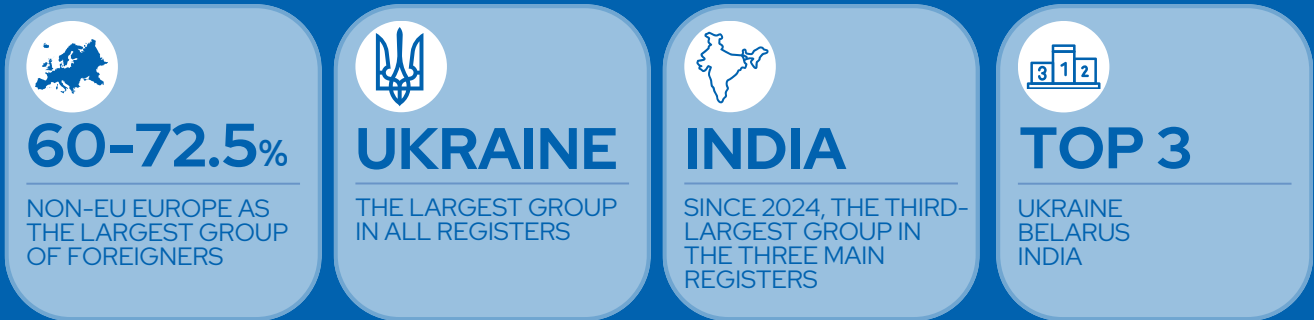
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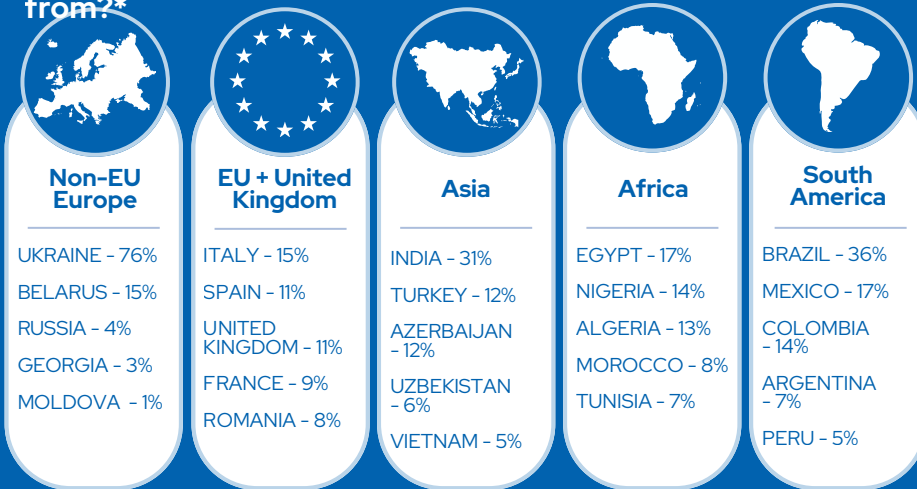
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Who lived in Kraków in 2025?

The foreign population in Kraków in 2025 was diverse in terms of country of origin, age, and gender. Immigrants from non-EU Europe dominated, but the importance of Asian, African, and South American communities was also increasing.



Where did the residents of migration-related Kraków come from?*

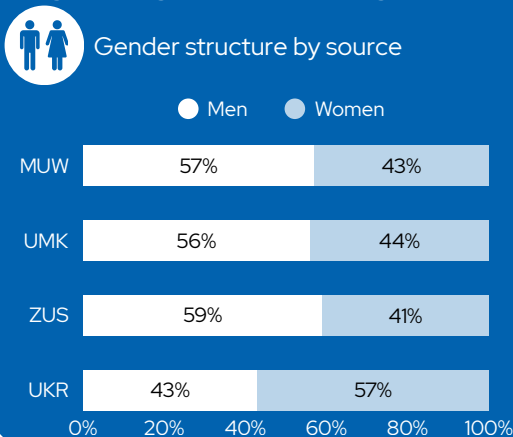


*Shares refer to the structure of citizenship regions according to MUW 2025 data.

Key trends

- Ukrainians remain the largest group in Kraków: there were 40 thousand in the MUW database and 44.5 thousand in ZUS.
- The UKR register includes 32.3 thousand Ukrainian citizens in Kraków.
- Belarusians remain the second-largest nationality group.
- The number of Colombians and Filipinos registered with ZUS is growing rapidly.

Age and gender of immigrants



Largest age groups according to MUW data

25-34 years → 35%

35-44 years → 27%

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Who lived in Kraków in 2025?

Education and marital status

Migrants living in Kraków were characterised by a relatively high level of human capital. In the marital-status structure, single people were the most common group, but changes were also visible due to the growing share of divorced people, especially women.



63.3%

F IMMIGRANTS AGED 25+ HAD HIGHER EDUCATION



34%

FOR COMPARISON: COMPARABLE FIGURE FOR ALL KRAKÓW RESIDENTS



25-34 years

THE MOST NUMEROUS AGE GROUP AMONG FOREIGNERS



58%

UKRAINIANS AGED 25+ WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

Marital status of immigrants



Men

57.6% → single

40.8% → married

Divorced women: 4.3% in 2019 → 7.6% in 2025

Divorced men: 3.1% in 2019 → 4.3% in 2025

In both groups, single status is the most common, but among women the share of divorced people is growing more strongly.



Women

55.2% → single

39.3% → married

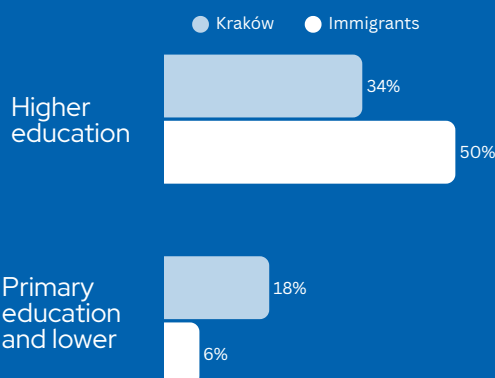


Wykształcenie według regionów

- ✓ In all analysed regional groups, people with higher education were dominant:
- ✓ North America: 79%,
- ✓ South America: 73%; Africa: 75%; Asia: 64%,
- ✓ Non-EU Europe + United Kingdom: 60%,
- ✓ EU and United Kingdom: no data in 92% of cases.

Education level of immigrants

Kraków overall vs immigrants



Immigrants aged 25+ with higher education according to MUW data



Overall **63.3%**



Women **69.7%**



Men **58.5%**

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Where did immigrants live?

Immigrants were concentrated primarily in central and south-central districts of Kraków. MUW and UMK data differ in scale, but they show a similar spatial pattern.



20% OLD TOWN

THE HIGHEST SHARE OF FOREIGNERS ACCORDING TO MUW



5,1% PODGÓRZE

THE HIGHEST SHARE OF FOREIGNERS ACCORDING TO UMK



8k PODGÓRZE

THE LARGEST NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS ACCORDING TO MUW

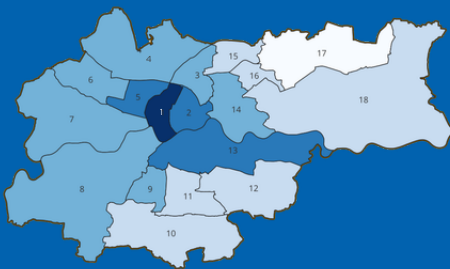


2,3k PODGÓRZE

THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED FOREIGNERS ACCORDING TO UMK

Where was the concentration highest?

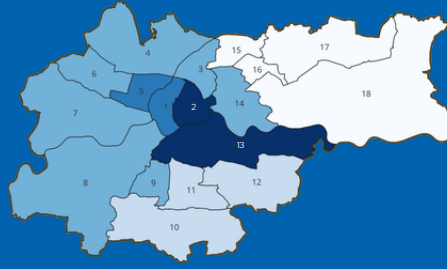
MUW (valid residence cards) - share of foreigners in district population



- 1 Stare Miasto - 20%
- 2 Grzegórzki - 16%
- 5 Krowodrza - 16%
- 13 Podgórze - 16%

- 17 Wzgórza Krzesławickie - 2%
- 16 Bieńczyce - 4%
- 15 Mistrzejowice - 4%

UMK (registered residence) - share of foreigners in district population



- 13 Podgórze - 5.1%
- 2 Grzegórzki - 4.8%
- 5 Krowodrza - 4.4%
- 1 Stare Miasto - 4.3%

- 17 Wzgórza Krzesławickie - 0.9%
- 16 Bieńczyce - 0.9%
- 18 Nowa Huta - 1.1%



Key conclusions

- ✓ Central and south-central districts attract the largest number of immigrants.
- ✓ MUW data show higher indicators than UMK data, but the spatial pattern is similar.
- ✓ In every district, people from non-EU Europe and the United Kingdom dominate.
- ✓ The share of immigrants from Asia is smaller, but visible in districts with higher concentration.
- ✓ The lowest values are found mainly in peripheral districts.

District ranking

	MUW
13 Podgórze	8,092
8 Dębniki	7,902
4 Prądnik Biały	7,891
1 Stare Miasto	7,140

	UMK
13 Podgórze	2,303
8 Dębniki	2,164
4 Prądnik Biały	2,026
2 Grzegórzki	1,519

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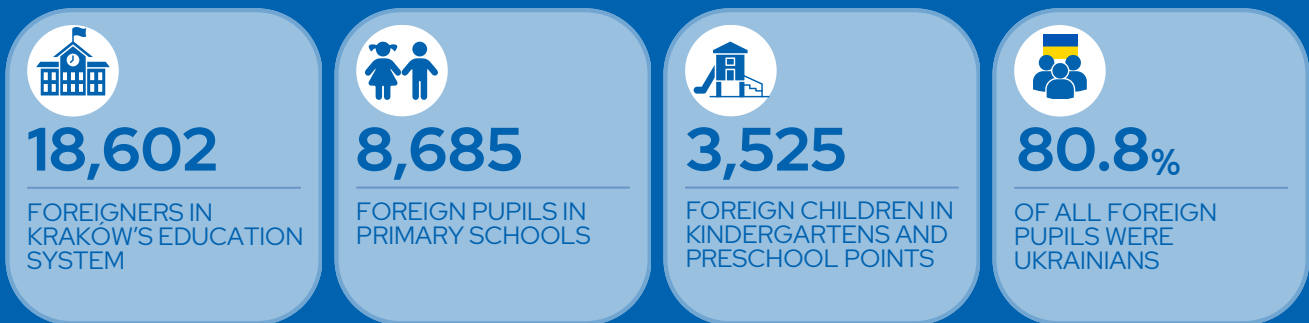


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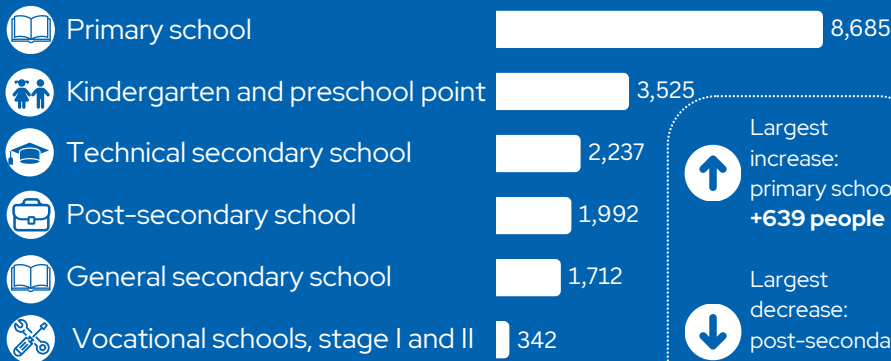
Immigrants in the education system

Kindergartens and primary schools

In the 2025/2026 school year, 18,602 foreigners studied in educational institutions in Kraków, which was 885 fewer than a year earlier. Despite the overall decline, the number of foreign children increased in kindergartens and primary schools, while the overall result was most strongly affected by a decline in post-secondary schools.



Where did foreigners study?



Largest increase:
primary schools
+639 people

Largest decrease:
post-secondary schools
-2,547 people



Key conclusions

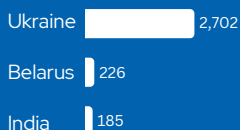
- ✓ The largest number of foreigners study in primary schools.
- ✓ The share of foreign children in kindergartens is 10.6%, and in primary schools 13%.
- ✓ Pupils from Ukraine dominate, but the presence of children from Belarus and India is also visible.



Kindergartens

33,111 children in total
3,525 foreign children
10.6% share of foreigners

Nationality structure



Most frequently chosen institutions

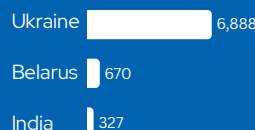
- LOGOSENS
- WE LOVE KIDS
- BIG BEN



Primary schools

67,189 children in total
8,685 foreign children
13% share of foreigners

Nationality structure



Most frequently chosen institutions

- European PS
- PS no. 151
- PS no. 47

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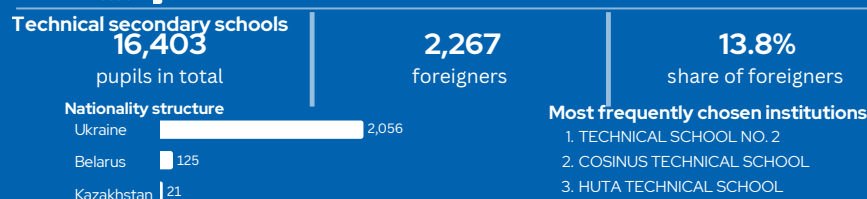
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Immigrants in the education system

Secondary schools, post-secondary schools, and universities

In secondary and post-secondary schools, the situation was varied: the number of foreigners increased in general secondary schools and technical secondary schools, while it fell sharply in post-secondary schools. At Kraków universities, the share of international students in the 2024/2025 academic year remained high, although the pace of growth clearly slowed.

General secondary schools



Key conclusions

- ✓ The largest growth in secondary schools occurred in licea and technical schools.
- ✓ The largest decline occurred in post-secondary schools.
- ✓ The decline is related to new regulations concerning the requirement to hold language certificates. Foreigners must now have a certificate in Polish at B1 level.
- ✓ In Kraków, in the 2024/2025 academic year, 9.6 thousand foreigners from 133 countries studied.
- ✓ The largest number of international students come from Ukraine.
- ✓ The number of international students is growing more slowly than before.

International students at Kraków universities in the 2024/2025 academic year



Universities with the largest number of international students



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Labour market and economy

Working immigrants and employment sectors

Immigrants are playing an increasingly important role in Kraków's labour market. In 2025, 76,910 foreigners working in Kraków were registered with ZUS. This was 11% more than the previous year. This means that 14.9% of all working people in the city were people from abroad. In the Małopolskie Voivodeship, this number was 117 thousand people.



76,910

FOREIGNERS REGISTERED WITH ZUS



14.9%

OF ALL WORKING PEOPLE WERE IMMIGRANTS



117k

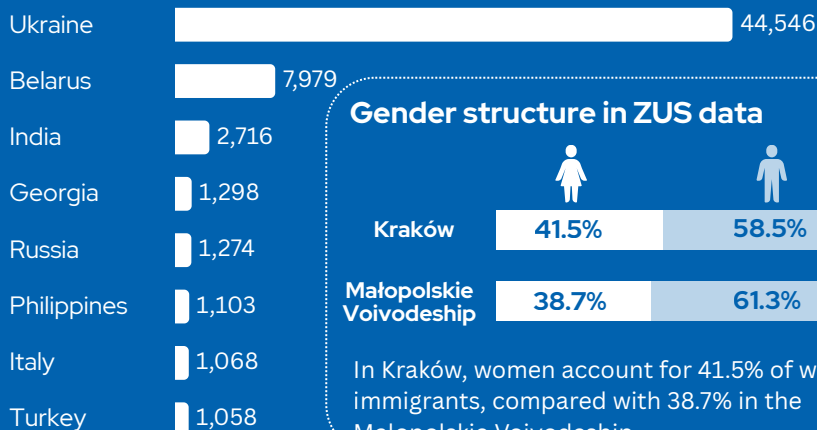
FOREIGNERS WORKING IN THE MAŁOPOLSKIE VOIVODESHIP



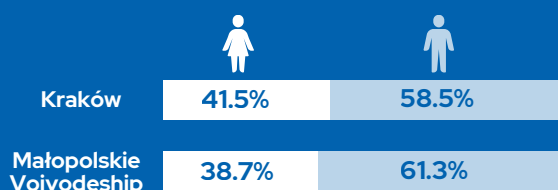
44.5k

WORKING UKRAINIANS IN KRAKÓW

Immigrants in Kraków registered with ZUS by citizenship



Gender structure in ZUS data



In Kraków, women account for 41.5% of working immigrants, compared with 38.7% in the Małopolskie Voivodeship.



Key conclusions

- ✓ Nearly 1 in 6 workers in Kraków comes from abroad.
- ✓ Apart from Ukraine, the importance of workers from India, the Philippines, Georgia, and Turkey is increasing.
- ✓ Among working Ukrainians in Kraków, there are more women than men.

Largest employment sectors for immigrants in Kraków

- N** Administrative and support service activities: **14,621**
- J** Information and communication: **11,785**
- M** Professional, scientific, and technical activities: **5,832**
- I** Professional, scientific, and technical activities: **5,399**
- H** Transportation and storage: **5,254**
- F** Construction: **4,953**
- G** Wholesale and retail trade: **4,227**

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Labour market and economy

Entrepreneurship, employment, and activation

Immigrants not only work, but also establish their own businesses and fill labour shortages. In 2025, the number of sole proprietorships established by foreigners in Kraków exceeded 8 thousand, and the Grodzki Labour Office registered 13,607 declarations of entrusting work to a foreigner. Unemployment among foreigners was very low: 1,244 people compared with 76,910 working people. Fewer than 80 people per month were entitled to unemployment benefit, which means a maximum of approximately 6.4% of unemployed foreigners.



8,000+

SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS ESTABLISHED BY FOREIGNERS



5.7k

SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS ESTABLISHED BY UKRAINIAN CITIZENS



13,607

DECLARATIONS OF ENTRUSTING WORK TO A FOREIGNER



1,244

UNEMPLOYED FOREIGNERS REGISTERED WITH THE GRODZKI LABOUR OFFICE

Immigrant entrepreneurship – number of sole proprietorship



Kraków

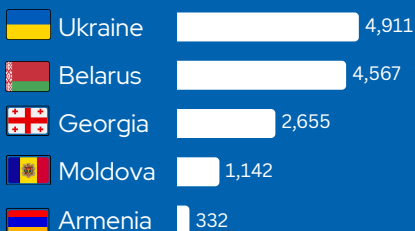
8+ k



Małopolskie Voivodeship

10+ k

Declarations of work assignment



Most common job categories

- Construction workers - **2 809**
- Warehouse workers - **2 691**
- Heavy goods vehicle, delivery, and taxi drivers - **1 640**

Unemployment, activation, and benefits

1,244 unemployed foreigners
961 of them were citizens of Ukraine

68.4% of unemployed foreigners were women

78.4% of unemployed Ukrainians were women

712 foreigners used assistance from the Grodzki Labour Office in looking for work

568 of them were Ukrainians



Key conclusions

- ✓ Immigrant entrepreneurship continues to grow and increasingly affects the local economy.
- ✓ The largest number of businesses are established by Ukrainian citizens.
- ✓ Among unemployed foreigners, women dominate, especially Ukrainian women.
- ✓ Unemployed foreigners account for a smaller share than their share among working people.

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Summary



Forced migration from Ukraine is stabilising, and many Ukrainians are becoming more permanently rooted in Kraków.



Kraków is becoming increasingly global thanks to the growing number of migrants from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



Immigrants are an important part of Kraków's economy and labour market, and unemployment in this group is marginal.



The growing number of foreign pupils requires additional support for schools and teachers.

What next?



Continue monitoring using various data sources.



Support integration and intercultural dialogue at the local level.



Develop intercultural education and language support.



Include immigrants in the social and civic life of the city.



Create migration policies based on data and the needs of Kraków.

Links and multimedia

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Demographic report

Learn about the most important data and trends concerning the “new” residents of Kraków.

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Presentation of the demographic report

Watch the presentation and learn about the key conclusions in an accessible form.

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