Investing in Poland

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Warsaw seeks path beyond low-cost growth model

Country faces painful challenges as it enters post-communist ‘adolescence’, reports Henry Foy

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reaked Bplit’s sprawling steel plant on the industrial outskirts of Krakow, Poland’s second city, is an emblem of the country’s economic boom. Inefficient and outdated during its years as a state-run plant, it lurched towards closure in the 1990s. But when the world’s largest steelmaker just before Poland’s 2004 entry into the EU.

consideration and strategic investments, the company has invested over $3bn since. Its impressive steelmaking plant, just 15 minutes drive west of the city, now has an annual output of around 10m tonnes.

A record investment by the company of $381m a few years later made it Europe’s most modern hot strip mill.

But in August, the plant shut down, halted by a power shortage in the EU’s sixth-largest economy caused by unusually hot weather.

A cap of strong sunshine could cripple one of Poland’s biggest and most valuable businesses, along with other large factories across the country, jarred with the country’s image as the EU’s powerhouse of economic growth, a country that — as any Polish politician will tell you — uniquely within the EU avoided recession after 2008 and has posted average annual growth of around 3.3 per cent until the dark days of summer. But the first power cut was a startling reminder that, despite a wildly successful 25 years of democracy and a decade of EU membership, Poland must continue to invest and develop if the 25 years of economic growth are to be celebrated as the last.

Poland’s spending on research is just 0.9 per cent of GDP.

It’s economy is expanding at a steady clip of around 3.3 per cent, and development indicators are all moving in the right direction. Despite perceived stagnation, exports and industrial output are rising, and the country recently left the EU’s excessive deficit procedure — a less-than-“naughty” club for those unable to get their budgets under control.

The country has become the key destination for many regional investment portfolios, commonly described by the country’s business community as “safe-haven emerging economy”.

It has steadily climbed up the World Bank’s rankings for ease of doing business, from 72nd in 2010 to 32nd in the world in 2015, leaving it placed one below France and one above Spain. And infrastructure has improved so much in the past two decades that the country has 500 km of motorways and high-speed railways comparable to those in England and France.

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But many say more needs to be done. The country’s spending on research and development is just 0.9 per cent of GDP.

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Country battles with productivity quandary

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Declining birth rates and high levels of emigration herald future worker shortages

Tough time for farmers

Russian retaliation on trade bans fuels hunt for new export destinations

Country battles with productivity quandary

Healthy GDP growth masks low spending on research

Power house: Poland requires more investment to fuel growth — Reuters

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Bouyant Law and Justice likely to oust ruling party

General Election

Voters are eager for change after eight years of centre-right rule, says Henry Foy

A year ago, as Poland prepared for months of political campaigning before the general election with Beata Szydło as Prime Minister, a leading survey suggested that over 60% of voters in Poland were fed up with the established parties, both the Civic Platform (PiS) and Law and Justice (PiS). Szydło’s party was found to be in disarray and unable to deliver on its main campaign promises, and her impressive rise to power was widely seen as a result of her聪明ness and her ability to appeal to a wider audience.

However, since winning the election, Szydło has been focused on delivering on her promises, and has enjoyed widespread support from the public. Her popularity has continued to grow, and she is widely seen as a strong leader.

Despite this, the electoral landscape is far from settled, with a number of parties vying for power. The main opposition group, Civic Platform (PiS), is led by Beata Szydło, who has been Prime Minister since 2015. The party has a mix of centre-right and liberal policies, and is known for its focus on market reforms and fiscal discipline.

However, the centre-right opposition has faced challenges in recent years, with a number of scandals and missteps in government. This has led to a rise in support for the left-wing opposition, led by Zbigniew Ziobro. Ziobro’s party, Law and Justice (PiS), has been gaining popularity, and is seen as a more radical and populist alternative to Szydło’s centre-right party.

In the run-up to the election, the main issues have been economic policy, immigration, and foreign policy. The economy has been growing strongly, with inflation and unemployment at historic lows. However, there are concerns about the sustainability of this growth, and about the potential for a downturn in the future.

On immigration, the government has taken a hard line, with restrictions on asylum seekers and migrants. There have been concerns about the impact of this policy on the economy and on social cohesion.

Foreign policy has been dominated by the question of Poland’s accession to the eurozone. The government has been pushing for Poland to join the eurozone, which it sees as a way to boost economic growth and reduce unemployment. However, there are concerns about the impact of this on the country’s financial stability.

Overall, the election is likely to be a close contest, with both Szydło and Ziobro vying for support from a wide range of voters. The result will be watched closely by the international community, as Poland is an important power in Europe and a key player in the European Union.

Structural reforms are vital for success

Risk aversion hinders further economic progress

Research and development

Country still struggling with productivity conundrum, writes Andrew Kuehn

At first glance, Poland’s economy woes an unprecedented 60% principle for the past three years. This is a result of the country’s high dependency on its manufacturing sector, which has been hit hard by the global downturn.

Despite this, there are some signs of hope on the horizon. The government has been working to diversify the economy, and there are signs that some sectors, such as technology and healthcare, are growing strongly.

However, the overall picture is still one of stagnation, with productivity growth lagging far behind that of other advanced economies.

Innovation is needed. The challenge is how to translate this increasingly focused on investment and technology. The government has been working to improve the business environment, and there are signs that more companies are beginning to invest in R&D.

At the same time, the government has been working to improve education, with a focus on increasing the number of students entering universities and improving the quality of education. This is seen as crucial for the country’s future success.

In the short term, the government has focused on improving the business environment, with a focus on reducing bureaucracy and improving access to finance. This has led to some improvements, but there is still work to be done.

Overall, the government is taking a long-term view, with a focus on developing a more competitive and innovative economy. This is seen as crucial for the country’s future success.
Shrinking population heralds labour shortage

Comment

Tony Barber

It is in the nature of historical analysis to be selective and partial, and as is important and to change subtly with time. Also, the 1965 letter and the generation supplement and reshape them only. The Catholic bishops’ letter in a different light. The Polish bishops’ letter in a different light. The Polish bishops’ letter in a different light.

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After the political uncertainty, Poland will still have to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its economy. The government has implemented various measures to support businesses and workers, but the full extent of the economic damage is yet to be determined. The country is counting on the recovery of external demand to help boost growth.

Poland's journey since 2004 has been marked by challenges, but it has also shown resilience and adaptability. The government has been proactive in implementing reforms to modernize the economy and attract foreign investment. The country's accession to the European Union in 2004 was a turning point, providing it with access to a larger market and a wealth of resources.

Poland's economic growth has been driven by the manufacturing sector, particularly in the automotive and construction industries. The country is also a major exporter of agricultural products, including fruit and vegetables. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Poland remains a key player in the European economy and continues to attract investment from abroad.

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