

DINA for Poland: 2000-2018¹

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Abstract. This paper combines micro-level tax data, household surveys and national accounts data to provide consistent series of income distribution in Poland over the 2000-2018 period consistent with the Distributional National Accounts (DINA) guidelines. We find that today inequalities in Poland are one of the largest in Europe. In the case of individual (couple-split) income, the share of income going to the top 10% is 41.2% (37.4%), to the middle 40% is 40.7% (41.1%), and to the bottom 50% merely 18.1% (21.5%). The top 1% earns 15.7% (13.4%) of the total income. The alternative definitions of income generally produce a higher level of inequality than our baseline. Consistently across our estimates, we document a substantial growth in inequalities in the period 2000-2007 and after 2013, and we link it with a shift of income from labour to capital. Strikingly, the redistribution in Poland has a small positive effect on both the bottom 50% and the top 1% income shares, at the cost of the middle 40% and top 10-1%. Finally, we show that those top income groups are dominated by business owners and males. The raw gender income gap is around 60% and generally remained unchanged over the analysed period. Overall, this paper suggests that the biggest beneficiaries of Poland's spectacular growth since 2000 have been the rich, males and business owners.

¹ The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Finance, Republic of Poland.