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## Poland

**Post:** Warsaw

### Proposal to Prohibit Trade on Sundays in Poland

**Report Categories:**

Retail Foods

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**Report Highlights:**

After a recent attempt to introduce a new retail tax, the Polish retail sector is likely to go through further changes as a law to prohibit retail operations on Sundays is being discussed at the Polish Parliament. Over 500,000 Poles signed a petition supporting such a change. The current project proposal includes numerous exceptions allowing trade on Sundays; including establishment of the so-called seven "Trading Sundays" during the year. Stores are also to be open on the Sundays preceding Christmas and Easter. The exact economic effect of this change is yet difficult to determine as many different alternative versions of applications of this law are being considered.

**General Information:**

After a recent attempt to introduce a new retail tax failed, the Polish retail sector is likely to see changes as the desire to prohibit retail operations on Sundays gains more and more supporters.

Over 500,000 Poles signed a petition supporting such a change and the new law is under discussion by the Polish Parliament. The proposed new law was submitted by a Legislative Initiative Committee consisting of labor union “Solidarnosc” (Solidarity) and other social organizations, Catholic organizations, workers and employers’ organizations. Describing the basis for the petition, the committee members stress the need for individuals working within Poland’s retail sector on Sundays to have time for family life one day in the week. In addition to the submitted proposal, representatives of all major parties within the Poland’s Parliament also contributed to the draft law text. As the proposed new law appears to be supported by a majority within the Polish Parliament, it’s likely that it will be successfully adopted before the end of 2016.

The current proposal includes numerous exceptions allowing for some trade on Sundays. Sales may be permitted at gas stations, bakeries, convenience stores located at railway stations and airports or at newsstands. Small shops will be permitted to operate provided that sales will be conducted by their owners. The effort envisages establishment of so-called ”Trading Sundays” during the year on seven occasions. Additionally, stores are also to be open on the Sundays preceding Christmas and Easter.

The exact economic effect of this change is difficult to determine as many different alternative versions of applications of this law are under consideration. One such proposal envisages stores being closed only on the first Sunday of the month or on the last three Sundays of the month – allowing the Government to evaluate scale of economic costs of full implementation of the proposal.

For additional information on the Polish retail sector please refer to FAS/Warsaw GAIN [Retail Sector Report](#) and the recent report on the [Proposed Retail Tax](#), available at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) – Data and Analysis - Attaché GAIN Reports link.

End of Report.