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[Poland](#) has been cited as an example of the successful use of shock therapy. When democracy came to this central European nation, the government took Sachs' advice and immediately withdrew regulations, price controls and subsidies to state-owned industries. However with respect to the privatization of the state sector (which may or may not be considered as part of shock therapy depending on the definition being used) the change was much more gradualist. Whereas many economic factors were immediately applied, privatization of state-owned enterprises was delayed until society could safely handle the divestiture, as contrasted with the 'robber baron' state of affairs in [Russia](#).

Productivity increased although at the same time unemployment rates rose as well. As of 2008, the GNP was 77% higher than in 1989.<sup>[26]</sup> Moreover, inequality in Poland actually decreased right after the economic reforms were implemented, although it rose back up again in later years.<sup>[27][28]</sup> Today, although Poland is confronted with a variety of economic problems such as double-digit unemployment, it still has a higher [GDP](#) than during communist times, and a gradually developing economy.<sup>[29]</sup> Poland was converging towards the EU as regards the income level in 1993-2004.<sup>[30]</sup>

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please note

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