
**Abstract:**

This paper analyses trends in social mobility in Poland in the process of system transformation to market capitalism. Using data from the Polish Panel Survey POLPAN, it compares social origin effects on educational attainment and on occupational status of the first job as well as the impact of formal education on the latter. The analysis is performed over four cohorts that have entered the labor market: (1) between 1983 and 1989, (2) between 1990 and 1998, (3) between 1999 and 2006, and (4) between 2007 and 2013. With regard to the impact of social origin on attainment of tertiary education upon entry to the labor market and on the status of the first job the analyses show stable social origin effects across time. Furthermore, there is evidence of a rising polarization of the effect of educational level on occupational position in the first employment.