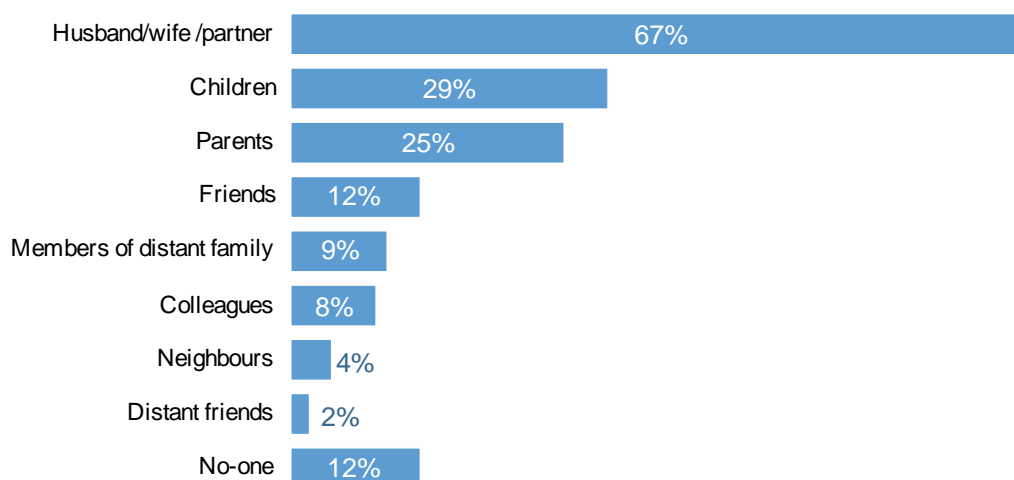


Attitude to income transparency

Talking about money is difficult for many people: we consider this to be inelegant, we do not want to arouse the envy or pity of others. However, knowing how much others earn can also have positive effects, such as reducing gender inequalities in earnings.

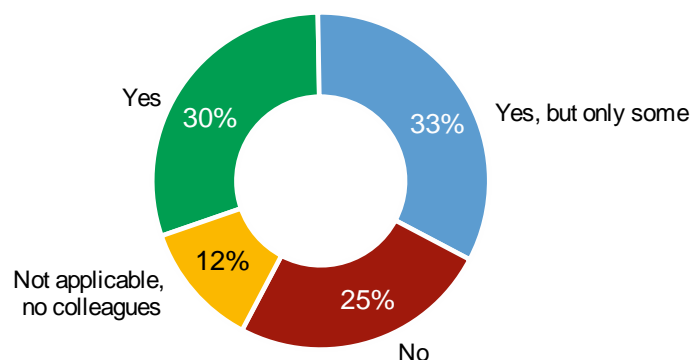
Income level is information not commonly shared outside of a very narrow closest circle. In total, two thirds of respondents (67%) declare that their spouse or partner knows how much they earn. In marriages such knowledge is almost universal: 94% of married people say their husband or wife knows how much they earn. In informal relationships this happens much less often. Less than half of respondents (47%) in such relationships declare that their partner has information about their earnings. The lower levels among people who live in informal relationships may be due to the diversity (in terms of duration or intensity) of such ties. Children and parents have knowledge about respondents' incomes far less often.

Which people you meet in your daily life know what income you get?



Almost two thirds of employees (63%) declare knowing how much at least some of their colleagues earn.

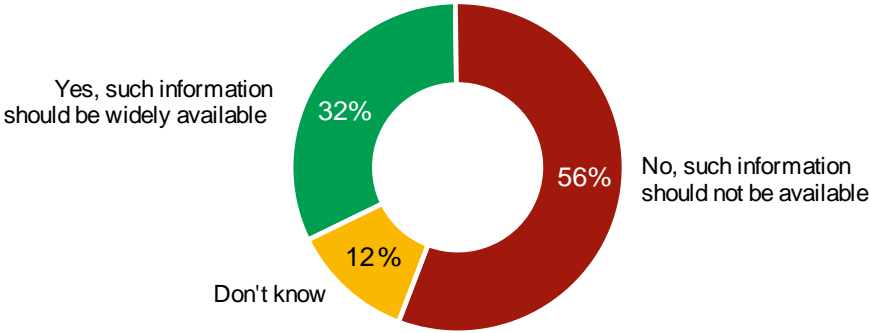
Do you know how much other employees in your workplace earn?



Question asked to respondents in paid employment (N = 584).

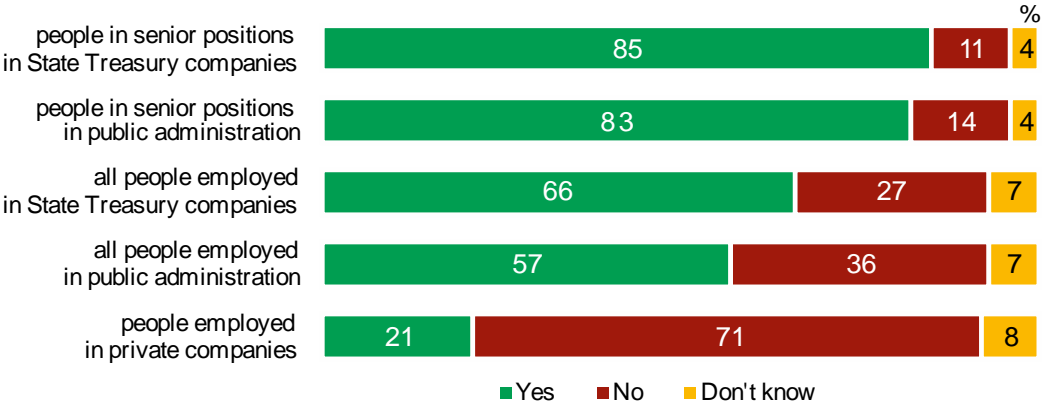
In some European countries, such as Norway or Sweden, knowledge about the finances of citizens is widely available. After meeting certain formal conditions, it is possible to obtain information on the income declared in tax returns. It appears that Poles are mostly negative about disclosing such data: only one third (32%) believe that information on private income should be widely available, while the majority (56%) are of the opposite opinion.

In some countries, information about private income of people is widely available. In this a good solution?



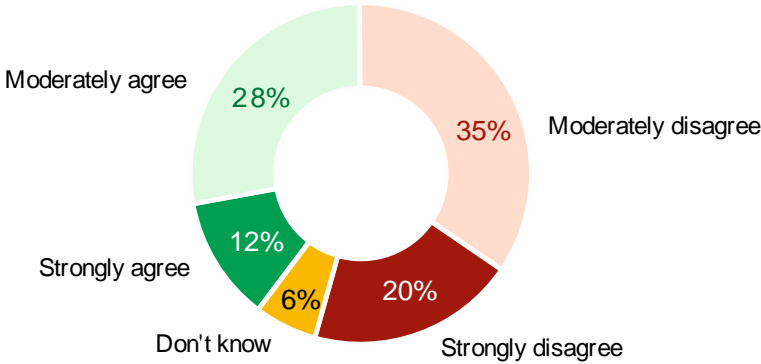
Poles are willing to agree that transparency of earnings may be desirable for some categories of employees. The vast majority of respondents are of the opinion that public information should be available on the salaries of people in higher positions in companies (co-) owned by the state treasury and in public administration. Two-thirds of respondents favourably view disclosure of earnings of all employees in companies (co-) owned by the state treasury, and slightly lower proportion support transparency of earnings of all employees in public administration. The consent to disseminate data on earnings of people employed in private companies is far lower: only one in five respondents agrees to such a solution.

In your opinion, should the public have access to the data on earnings of...



Although most respondents know the earnings of at least some of their colleagues, more than half (55%) think that employees should not know how much other people employed in their workplace earn. Four out of ten respondents (40%) take the opposite view.

Do you agree that employees should know how much other people employed in the same workplace earn?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Who Knows How Much We Earn? Attitude to Income Disclosure", May 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2018, N=1140. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.