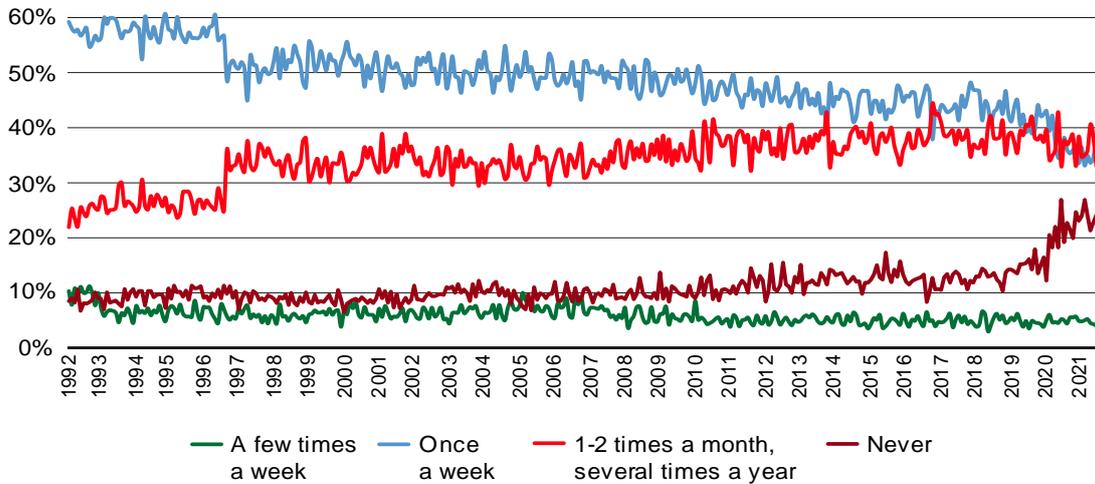


Religiousness of Poles

CBOS data from the last thirty years show a slow decline in religious faith. The percentage of the faithful, although falling, remains at a very high level: in March 1992, believers and deep believers constituted a total of 94% of all respondents, and in August 2021 there were 87%. The percentage of non-believers (moderately and strongly expressing lack of faith) is slowly growing, and in 2021 amounted to a total of 12.5%.

The process outlined in the declarations of faith is more clearly marked in the declarations of religious practice. The percentage of regular churchgoers (attending at least once a week) dropped from 69.5% in March 1992 to 43% in August 2021. The percentage of non-practitioners rose: a decade ago, in 2011, it oscillated around 10%, while in the 2021 year it was 24%. From May 2020, we note an acceleration in the process of abandoning religious practices: almost every month the percentage of declarations of non-practice exceeds 20%, sometimes significantly. The pandemic certainly had an impact on the reduction of religious practices in this period.

Declared participation in religious services in the period 1992–2021. Do you take part in religious practices, such as: Holy Mass, other services or religious meetings?

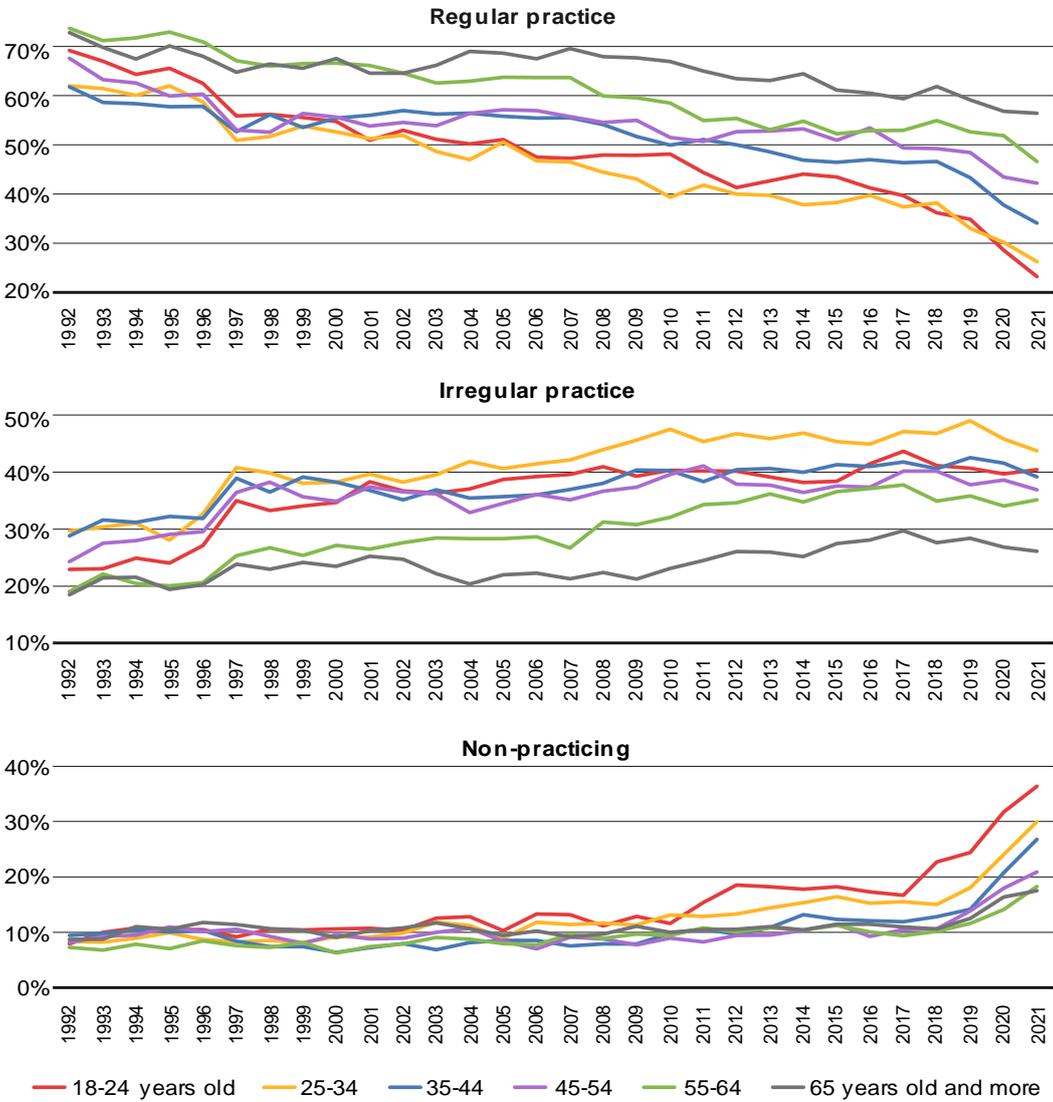


Women practice more regularly than men. In their case, the category of regular practitioners is still the most numerous (January to August 2021: 44.5% on average), for men the largest group is those who practice irregularly (38% on average in 2021). Education influences the level of religious practice; in fact, the higher the level of education, the lower the level of regular religious practice, and the higher the proportion of non-practicing. Among people with higher education, the percentage of non-practitioners in 2021 reached 29%. The size of the place of residence is also important for religious practice. The lowest level of it is in large cities with at least 500,000 population, where the percentage of non-practicing in 2021 averaged 41%.

Taking into account age, the process of abandoning faith and religion is the fastest among the youngest. The proportion of regular practitioners in the youngest age group (18-24) fell from 69% in 1992 to 23% in 2021. The percentage of non-practicing increased from 8% to 36% during this period. The level of religious practice among respondents aged 25–34 was initially slightly lower than among the youngest: in 1992, 62% of them regularly practiced, while 8% never did. Currently, 26% of respondents of this age practice regularly, and 30% do not participate in religious services. The slightly higher level of religious practice than among the youngest proves that the process of abandoning the practice is somewhat slower in this age group. Although the changes in religiosity mainly affect younger respondents, they are also visible among middle-aged and older people. Among the oldest,

aged 65 or over, the proportion of regular practitioners has fallen from 73% in 1992 to 56% today, and the proportion of non-participants has increased from 9% to 17.5%.

Declared participation in religious services in the period 1992–2021 by age.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Religiousness of Young People in Comparison to All Adults”, November 2021. Fieldwork for national samples: March 1992 to August 2021. The random samples are representative for adult population of Poland. In each sample the number of respondents was ca. 1000.