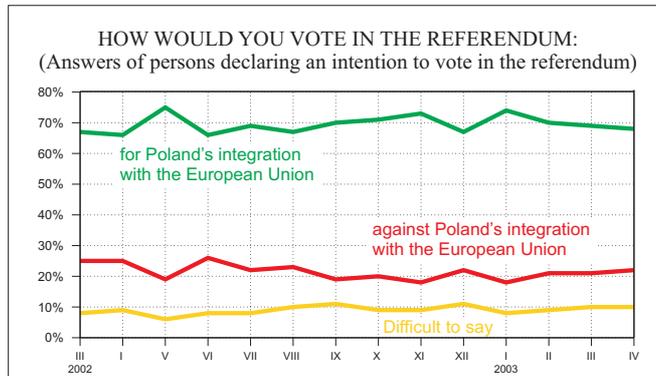
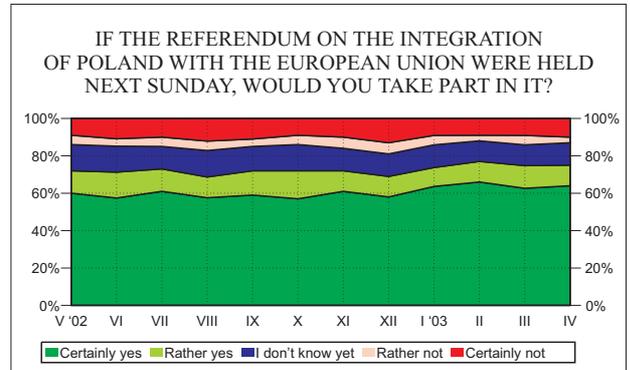


**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- BEFORE THE ACCESSION REFERENDUM
- PERCEPTION OF THE SITUATION ON THE LABOR MARKET
- FEAR OF CRIME
- LENT TRADITIONS IN POLAND

### BEFORE THE ACCESSION REFERENDUM

The declared interest in the referendum on Poland's integration with the European Union has stabilised on the level of more or less three quarters of eligible voters. The support for Poland's membership in this organisation is also stable, both among those who are going to vote in the referendum (about 70%) and among all respondents (about 60%).

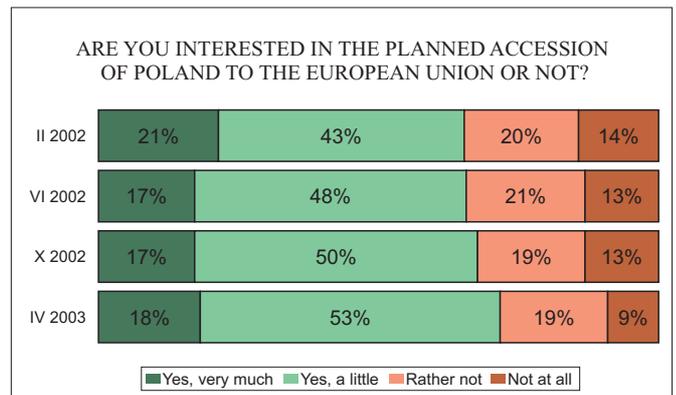
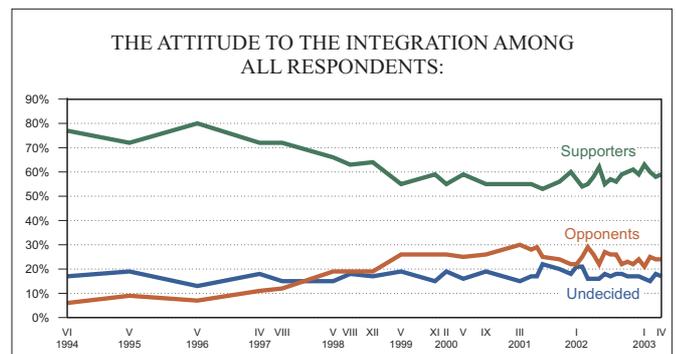


The stronger the declarations of the intention to participate in the referendum, the stronger the support for the integration. If only those who now declare an intention to vote actually voted, 71% of the votes would be for the accession.

Although the day of the referendum is approaching, the

interest in the issues related to Poland's integration with the European Union is growing very slowly. At present, 90% of the respondents with higher education, 80% of those with secondary education and only 54% of those with primary education declare an interest in the integration.

The slow growth of interest in the integration issues is accompanied by a faster increase of the feeling of being informed about it. Currently, the supporters of the integration feel much better informed than the opponents. Also, the supporters seek information about the European Union more actively than the opponents and the undecided.



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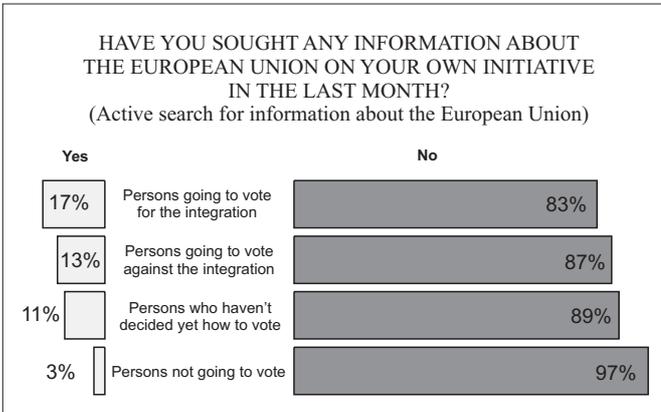
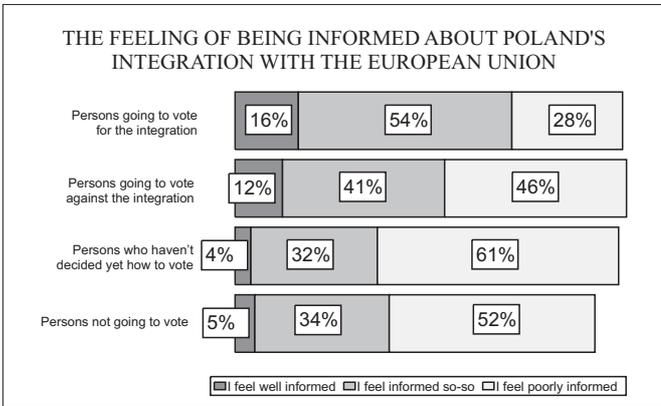
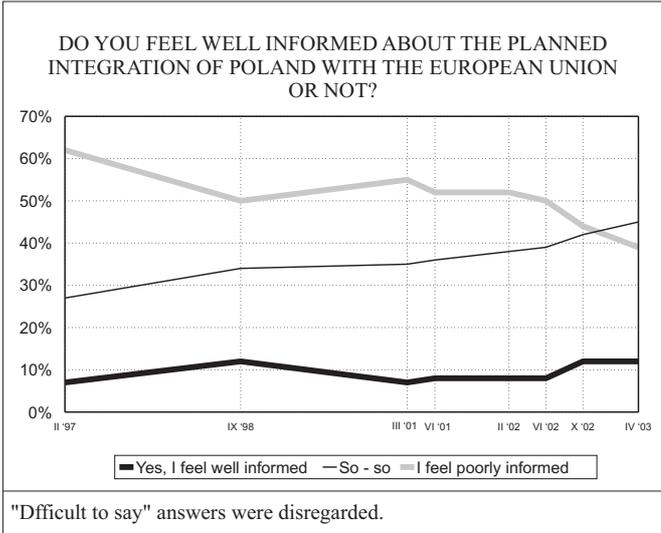
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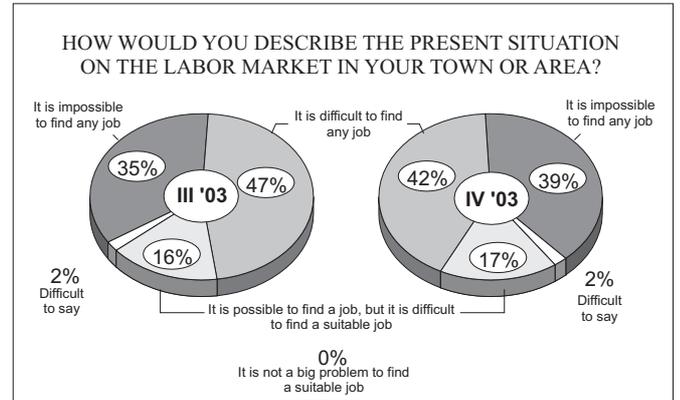


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "Social support for the integration with the European Union", April 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1229 persons.

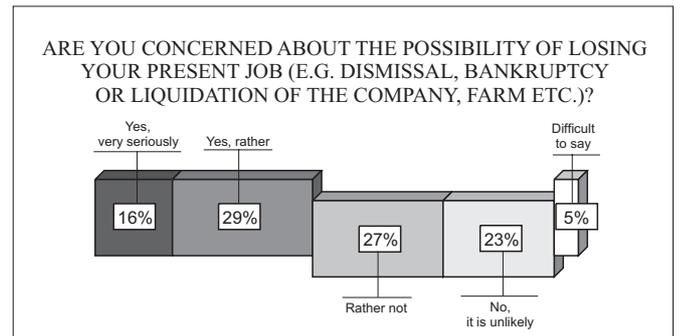
## PERCEPTION OF THE SITUATION ON THE LABOR MARKET

In April, the opinions about the situation on the local labor market were a little more pessimistic than in

the previous month. People living in rural areas and small towns are by far the greatest pessimists with regard to the possibility of finding a job near their place of residence. Half of them (52%) believe that it is impossible to find any job there. The situation is much better in big cities, where only 16% of the respondents believe so (it is, however, by 9 percentage points more than in March).



On the other hand, among the working persons, the fear of losing a job has not changed since March. About half of them feel safe, while more or less one-sixth (16%) are very afraid of losing their job.



The lower a respondent's position at work, the more likely he or she is to be afraid of losing his or her job. Approximately three-fifths of manual workers (unskilled: 60%, skilled: 57%), 46% of junior white collar workers and only 24% of the intelligentsia and managers are concerned about the possibility of losing their jobs.

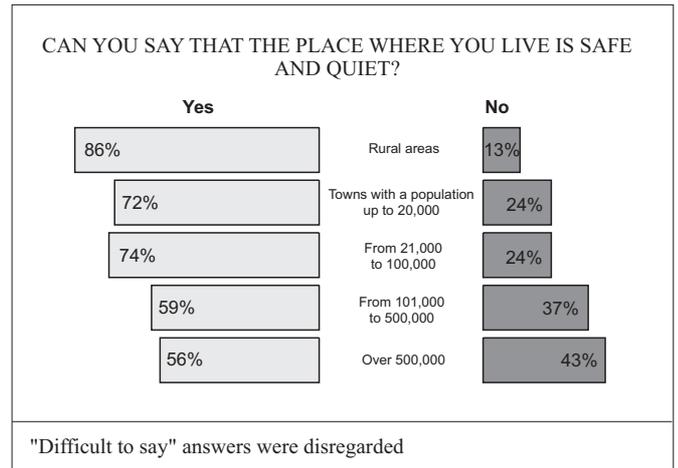
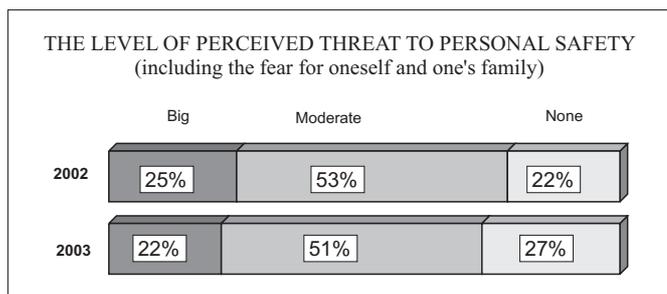
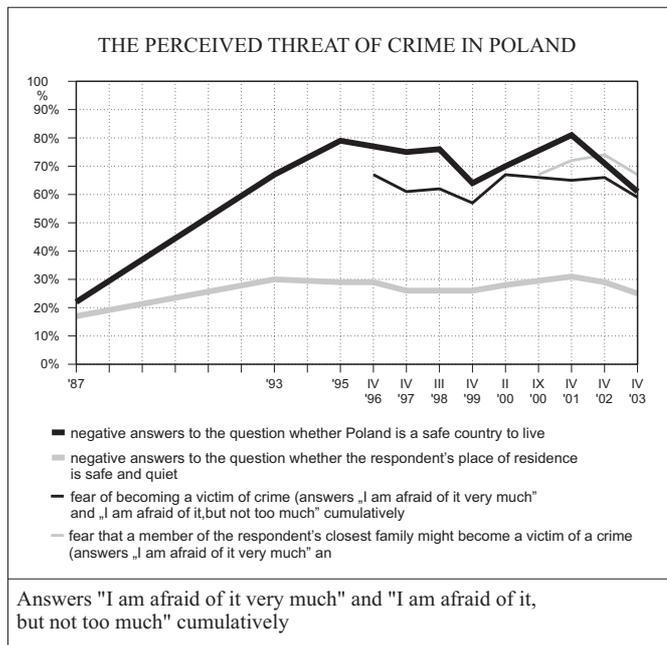
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "Situation on the job market and the fear of unemployment", April 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1229 persons. See also CBOS reports: "The social range of unemployment", April 2003 and "The unemployed about their life", April 2003. Both surveys were executed in March 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=975 "

## FEAR OF CRIME

One of the characteristics of the past decade in Poland was a significant growth of crime, particularly in

its most brutal forms, as well as the appearance of new, previously almost unknown, types of crime (e.g. organised crime). At the same time, as a result of the abolition of censorship, the media coverage of this subject is now much more extensive than under the communist rule, when information about crime (as well as other kinds of social pathology) was among the most restricted. In consequence, the belief that the threat of crime is big in Poland almost tripled between 1980s and early 1990s. However, the situation is different when the respondents are asked about crime in their neighbourhood. In this case, the people's opinions are based on their own experience and observations rather than the media reports. Therefore, the perceived threat of crime in the respondents' immediate environment grew relatively little and was rather stable. Nevertheless, the level of perceived threat to personal safety, monitored by CBOS since mid 1990s, may be described as high: in the years 1996-2001, approximately two-thirds of the respondents were to some extent afraid of becoming victims of a crime (including 15% to 21% of those who were "very" afraid). The respondents were even more concerned about the safety of their families.

The perceived threat of crime on the national as well as the local level has been falling for two years in a row. This year, also the number of the respondents afraid for their personal safety and the safety of their families has decreased.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "Decreasing fear of crime", April 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1229 persons.

### LENT TRADITIONS IN POLAND

Only one in twenty Poles (5%) declares himself to be a non-believer. Twice as many (11%) say that they never take part in religious practices. As far as the religious practices and customs related to the Lent are concerned, Easter confession and avoiding big parties and other festive events are most commonly observed.

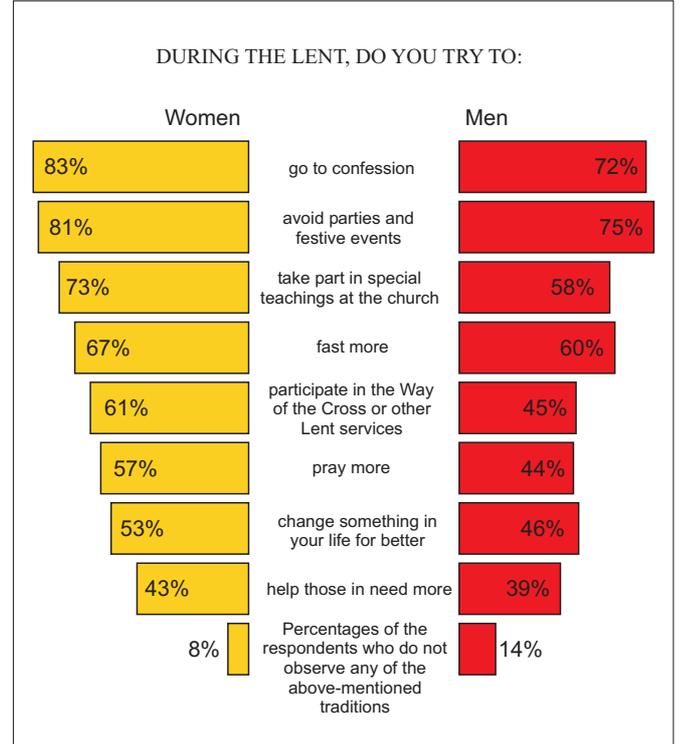
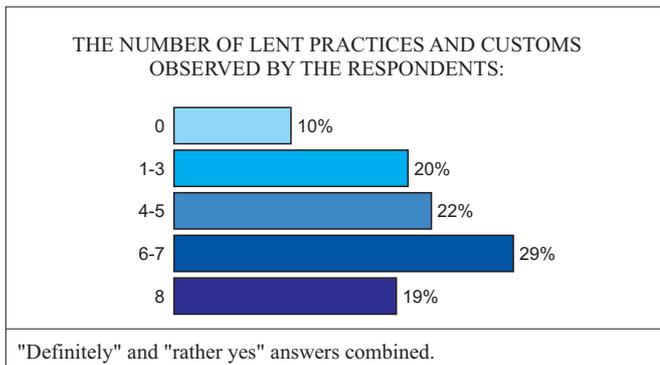
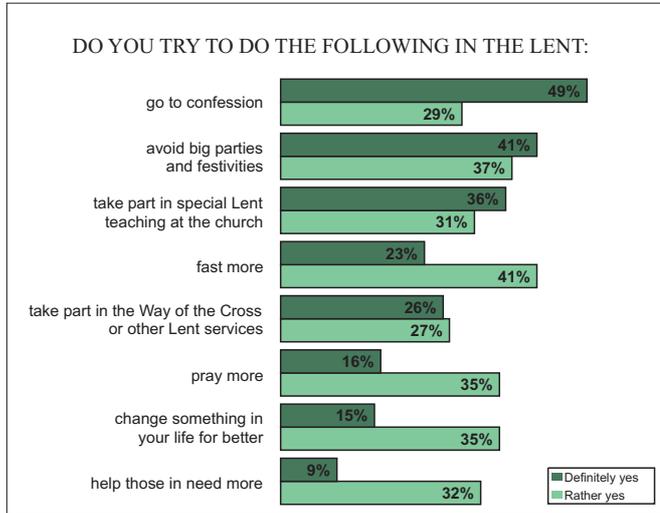
If we add up the practices and customs observed by the respondents, we will find out that one in ten respondents observes none of them, while almost a fifth (19%) declare that they observe all the practices on our list.

Obviously, observance of the Lent practices and traditions is closely connected with the frequency of participation in religious practices during the year. It should be noted, however, that slightly over half (53%) of the respondents who never participate in religious practices observe at least one of the Lent traditions. They usually avoid festivities.

Women observe the practices and customs connected with the Lent more frequently than men. This difference is particularly noticeable when it comes to strictly religious behaviour participation in the Way of the Cross or other services specific to the Lent.

The smaller the community, the bigger the attachment to the Lent traditions. One in twenty (5%) residents of rural areas and one in five (21%) residents of big cities ignore all the traditions mentioned in the survey. Education is an important factor, too. The less the respondents are educated, the more frequently they declare observance of almost all practices and customs listed here. 7% of the respondents with primary education and as many as 20% of university graduates observe none

of these customs. On the other hand, age has little significance. The only significant boundary is the age of 55: younger respondents ignore all the practices and customs mentioned in the survey twice as frequently as those who passed that age.



The average amount that the respondents were going to spend on this year's Easter was PLN 288 per family. For the sake of comparison, the average monthly income declared by the respondents was PLN 571 per person in the family.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "The Lent traditions and Easter expenses of the Poles", April 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1229 persons.

**In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):**

- ◆ Loss of credibility of the persons and institutions connected with the so-called "Rywingate"
- ◆ Another drop in the cabinet ratings
- ◆ Political party preferences in April
- ◆ Opinions about the National Broadcasting Council
- ◆ Social moods in April
- ◆ A decline in the evaluations of the work of the Parliament and the President
- ◆ The Poles about the proposal of early Parliamentary elections
- ◆ Trust in politicians in April
- ◆ Opinions on the proposed ways of repairing the finances of the state

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