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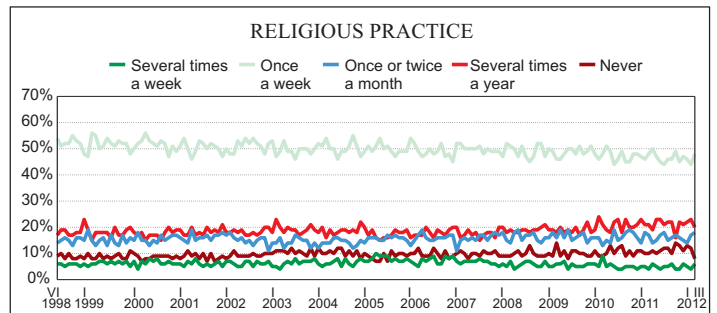
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CHANGING RELIGIOSITY OF THE POLES

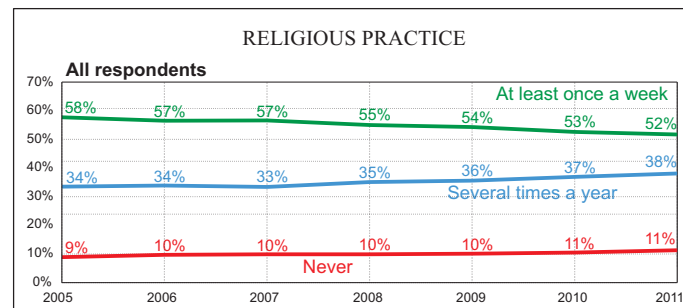
The vast majority of adult Poles (93%) consider themselves Roman Catholic. Only about 1.8% of the total are people of different religious denominations. In the last three years the proportion of people considering themselves as non-believers, atheists or agnostic rose twofold, from 2.1% to 4.2%.

Polish religiosity is exceptional compared with other European nations. The declared faith is almost universal, and over half of adult residents of Poland admit at least weekly participation in religious service.

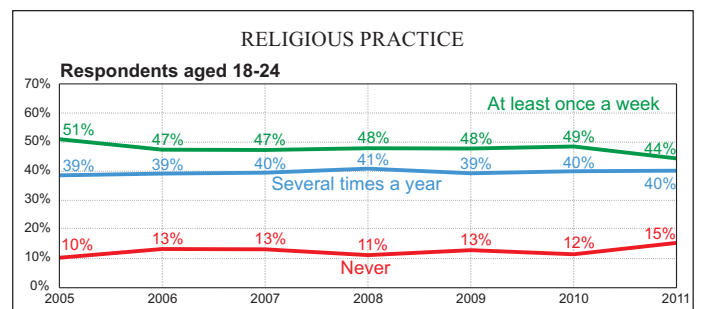
For over a quarter of a century both the declared faith and religious practice have not changed markedly. There were some changes due to particular events in the life of the Catholic Church, but, overall, the general trend in Polish religiosity remains relatively stable.



Nevertheless, in the last years there is a slight trend away from regular practice and towards occasional or no participation in religious service. Since 2005 (the year of the death of pope John Paul II) the proportion of respondents admitting regular practice (attending service at least once a week) fell from 58% to 52% (average yearly for 2011), while the number of respondents going to church not more often than once or twice a month rose from 34% to 38%, and the number of people never attending service rose from 9% to 11%.



The decline in declared religious practice is more pronounced among the youngest respondents. Since 2005, the proportion of people aged 18-24 who go to church at least once a week fell from 51% to 44%, while the number of those who, according to their own declarations, never attend religious service rose by 5 percentage points, from 10% to 15%.



Systematic decline in regular attendance in religious service has been recorded since 2005 in case of the best-educated respondents (from 54% to 47%). As with youth, the proportion of people with college degrees who practice irregularly or don't practice at all rose in total in 2005-2011 from 46% to 52%.

As far as the size of the place of residence is concerned, people living in biggest metropolitan areas have the lowest level of religious practice. Since 2005, the number of

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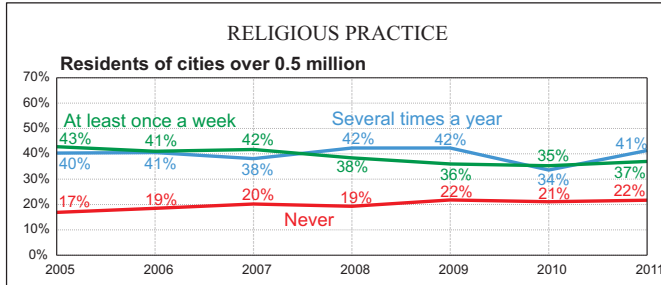
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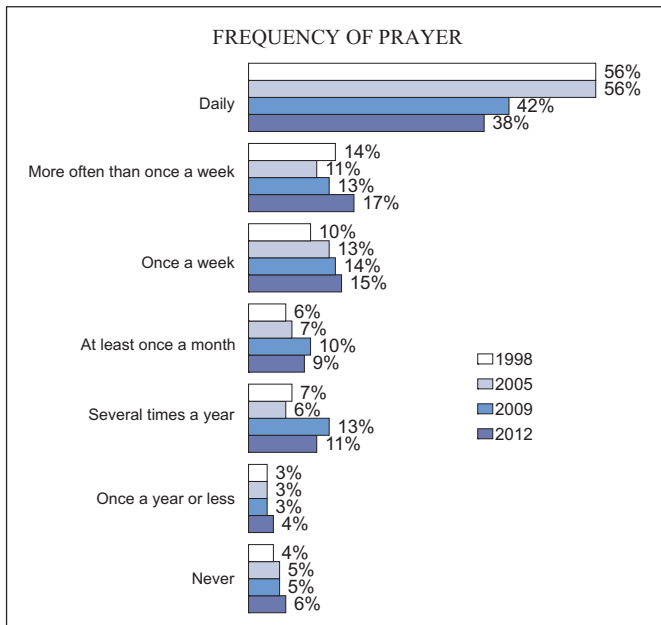
Translated by
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people living in cities above 0.5m who participate at least once a week fell from 40% to 37%, while the proportion of never attending church rose from 17% to 22%. Residents of the biggest cities are one of the few groups in which people practicing irregularly (several times a year) prevail numerically over regular churchgoers.



Another indicator of religiosity is the frequency of prayer. Since 2005, this aspect of religiosity has weakened significantly. The number of those who pray once a year or less often changed minimally, as did the proportion of people who never do that. However, the proportion of people who pray every day fell by 18 pct. points. The percentage of the faithful who practice this form of religiosity weekly or several times a week has risen.

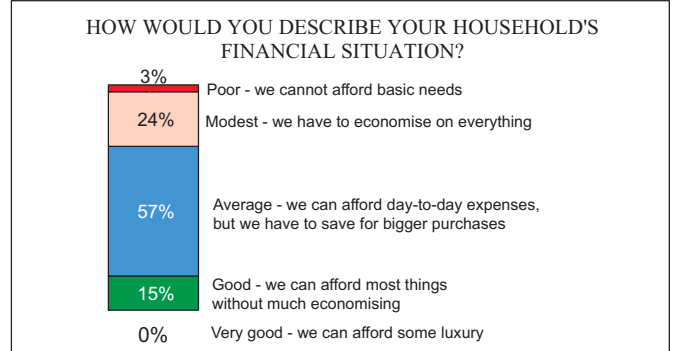


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Changes in faith and religiosity of Poles after the death of pope John Paul II", April 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2012, N=1015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

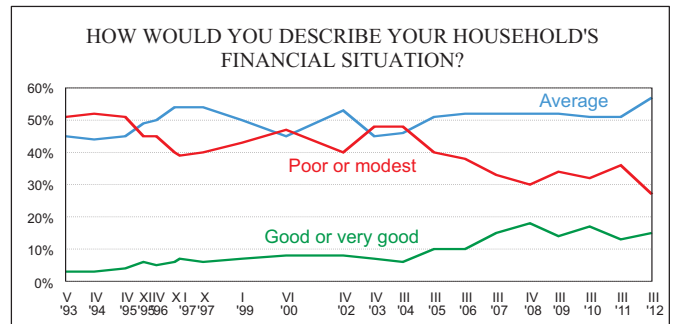
MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS

Most people (57%) describe their financial conditions as average – they can afford day-to-day

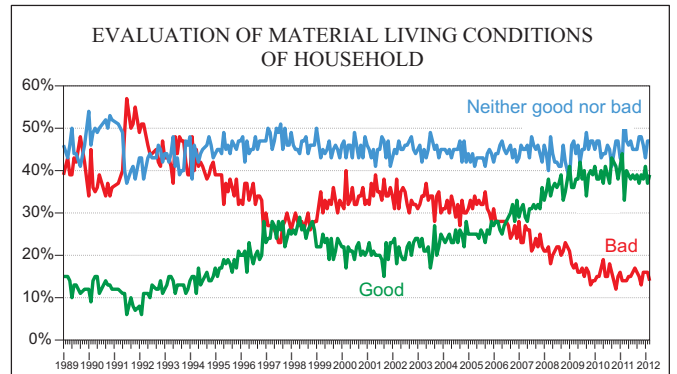
expenses, but have to save for bigger purchases. One-fourth (24%) of respondents live modestly – they have to economise on everything. Few respondents (3%) admit they are poor – they cannot afford basic needs. Only 15% of Poles have some freedom in spending money, saying they can afford most things without much economising.



The financial situation of households was worst in the first half of the 1990s, when the majority of respondents claimed that they lived in modest or poor conditions. In the following years the standard of living improved, with some deviations to the positive trend. Compared with 1993, the proportion of respondents living in bad (poor or modest) conditions declined by half, while the number of people living well or very well rose five times. The improvement can also be noted in the last ten years: the number of people living well (in good or very good conditions) rose twice, while the proportion of people in modest and poor conditions fell.

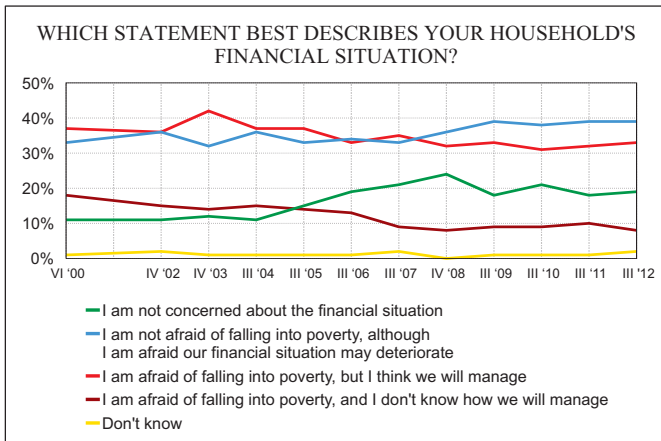


At present, four out of ten adult Poles (39%) evaluate their material living conditions as good, while one in seven (14%) considers them bad. The plurality (47%) think they are average (neither good nor bad).

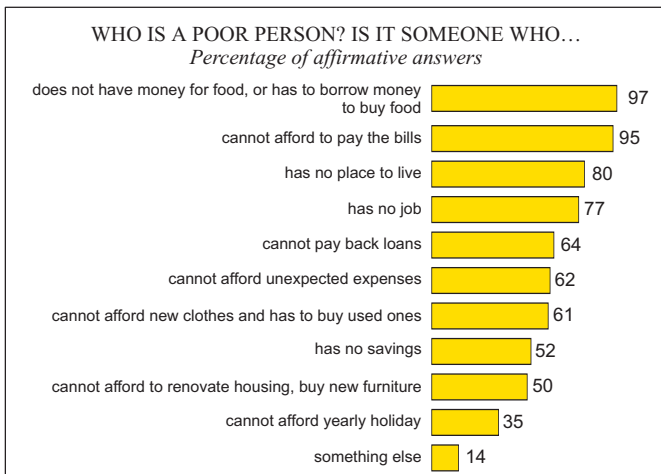


Since 1994, the plurality of Poles have described their material living conditions as average, while the proportions of those living in good and bad conditions vary. Since 2006, positive evaluations have prevailed over negative.

At present, two-fifths (41%) of Poles feel threatened by poverty, out of which 33% think they can handle this problem, while 8% feel helpless about it. Two-fifths (39%) are not afraid of poverty, although they are concerned that their material situation may deteriorate. Only one in five (19%) is not concerned about financial situation. In spite of the financial crisis in Europe, the anxiety has not increased since 2008, and is on a lower level than in the mid-2000s.



For almost all respondents, poverty is associated with inability to satisfy essential needs, such as buying food and paying for utilities (gas, electricity, rent). Most respondents think that a poor person is someone who has no job and no place to live. Two-thirds of respondents associate poverty with inability to pay back loans, cover unexpected expenses, or with buying used clothes instead of new.

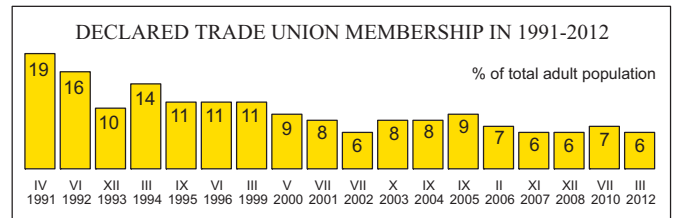


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "Material living conditions" and "Scale of poverty in Poland", April 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2012, N=1015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

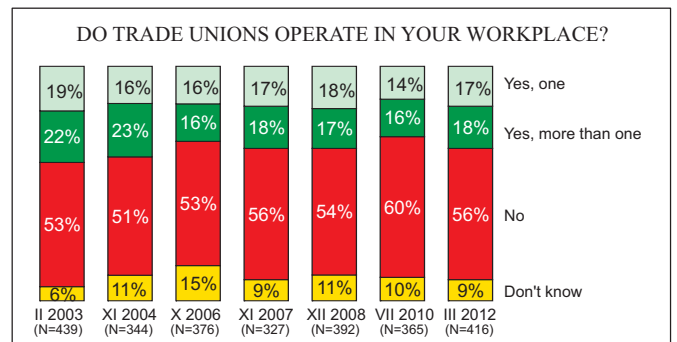
TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

Unionisation in Poland is low. Only about 6% of adult Poles belong to unions, which makes for density rate of 12% of employees. "Solidarity" trade union (NSZZ Solidarność) is the biggest union, representing 5% of employees.

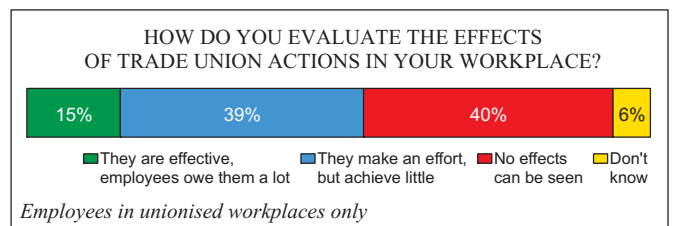
Unions are strongest in state-owned enterprises and public institutions (24%), and weaker in enterprises with mixed state-private ownership (10%), and private enterprises (7%). Unions are relatively strong in production industry (20%), healthcare, science and education (19%), and public administration (17%). They are very weak in retail sale and services (2%). Taking into account enterprise size, unions are strongest in large enterprises, with 250 employees or more (26%).



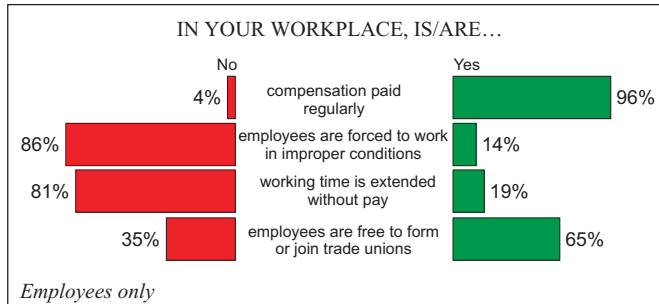
Around one-third of employees work in enterprises in which trade unions are active, and half of that group work in enterprises with more than one union. The majority of employees work in non-unionised enterprises. About one-third of employees of unionised enterprises (34%) belong to trade unions themselves.



The perceived effectiveness of trade unions is not very high. Only a small proportion of employees of unionized workplaces (15%) consider them as effective, while two-fifths (39%) think that trade unions do their best, but achieve little success. A similar group (40%) see no effects of their actions.



Most employees have not encountered violations of employee rights in their enterprises. The most common (35%) was the inability to form or join unions. One-fifth (19%) noted that working time is sometimes extended without proper compensation. Every seventh respondent (14%) found that employees are sometimes forced to work in improper conditions. Few employees (4%) noted irregularity in wage payment.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Trade unions and employee rights"*, April 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2012, N=1015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

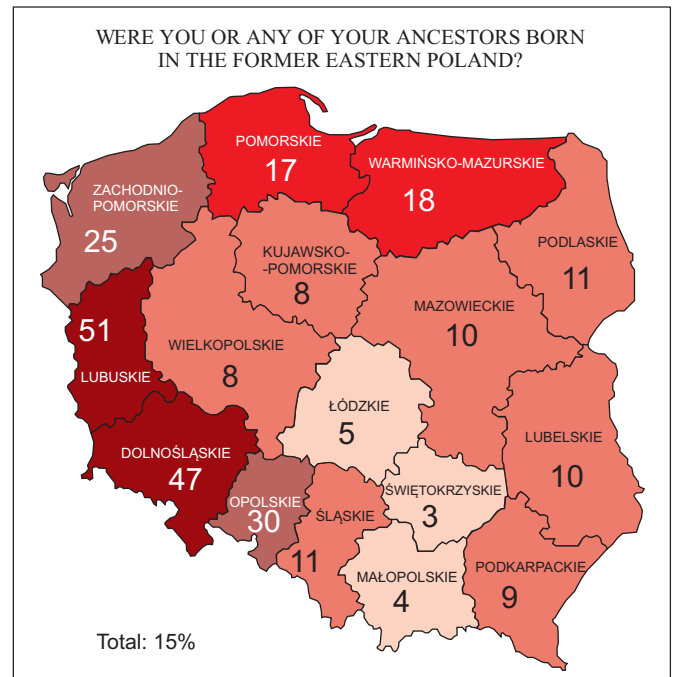
POLES WITH ROOTS IN FORMER EASTERN PART OF POLAND

Before World War II, large parts of what is now Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine belonged to Poland and were populated by ethnic Poles. In the current Polish population, about one in seven respondents (15%) is either directly descended from that area (has a parent, grandparent or great grandparent from the East) or was born there him/herself. This means that about 4.5 million adults have ancestors in these parts.

Although the wave of resettlement happened over half a century ago, and the mobility of the population

markedly increased, there are significant differences between regions in the concentration of the people descended from the former Eastern Poland. By far, the most common declarations are in the north and west, which matches the direction of resettlement from the east.

The largest proportion of people descended from the inhabitants of former Eastern Poland live in Lubuskie (51%) and Dolnośląskie (47%) voivodships. The other regions where Eastern roots are relatively common are Opolskie (30%), Zachodniopomorskie (25%), as well as Warmińsko-Mazurskie (18%) and Pomorskie (17%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Poles with ancestors in the former Eastern Poland"*, April 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: January, February and March 2012, N=3072. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

- ◆ Evaluations and Forecasts of Economic Situation and Living Conditions of Households in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary
- ◆ Lent and Easter Traditions
- ◆ Opinions About State and Private Healthcare
- ◆ Regional Diversity of Opinions on Healthcare System's Functioning
- ◆ Party Preferences in April
- ◆ Opinions About Public Institutions
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