

CONTENTS

Evaluation

of government activities during the epidemic

Attitudes towards the coronavirus epidemic

The epidemic and professional careers

Religiosity of Poles in the last two decades

Impact of the epidemic on religiosity

IN ADDITION

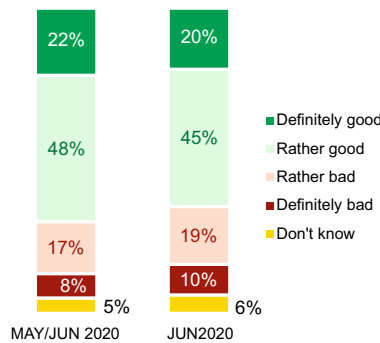
TO THE REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY (IN POLISH):

- Everyday Life in the Time of Plague
- Lower, Middle and Upper Class. Characteristics Based on Self-Identification
- Political Party Preferences at the Turn of May and June
- Preferences in Presidential Election at the Turn of May and June
- Opinions about Parliament and President
- Moods on the Job Market at the Turn of May and June
- Assessment of Government Actions During the Epidemic
- Social Moods at the Turn of May and June
- Trust in Politicians at the Turn of May and June
- Government Ratings at the Turn of May and June
- Summer Vacation During a Pandemic
- Should EU Coordinate Lifting Restrictions Related to Coronavirus Epidemic?
- Preferences before the First Round of Presidential Election 2020
- Political Party Preferences before the First Round of Presidential Election 2020

Evaluation of government activities during the epidemic

The first case of Covid-19 in Poland was confirmed on March 4. The government response to the emergence of the coronavirus was immediate: from March 14, the operation of shopping malls, restaurants and entertainment venues was restricted, borders were closed from March 15, and the day after, schools and colleges closed. Although the epidemic has affected Poland less than many other European countries, and the daily increase in the number of infected people did not exceed 600 cases, so far there is no clear decrease in infections and the end is not in sight. Nevertheless, the process of lifting further restrictions and freeing the economy is ongoing. However, compliance with sanitary restrictions is still mandatory, including maintaining social distance.

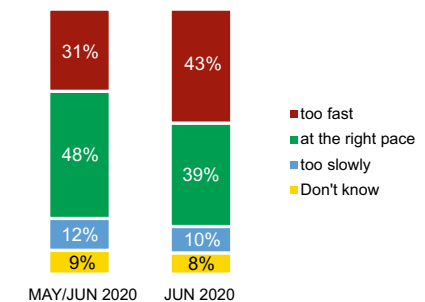
In general, how do you evaluate government's efforts to combat the coronavirus epidemic in Poland?



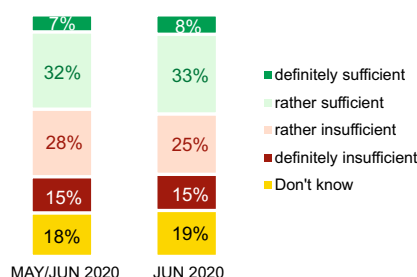
The majority of Poles (65%) assess the government's efforts to combat the coronavirus epidemic well. The opposite view is held by every fourth respondent (25%). In recent weeks, opinions about the effectiveness of government actions in the fight against the epidemic have deteriorated.

In recent weeks, concerns have increased over the pace of lifting restrictions related to the epidemic. The proportion of people convinced that the government eased restrictions too quickly increased from 31% to 43%. At the same time, the percentage of people who think it is done at the right pace decreased from 48% to 39%. Relatively few (10%) believe that restrictions are lifted too slowly.

In your opinion, does the government ease restrictions related to Covid-19...



Are government actions to help Polish companies and their employees:

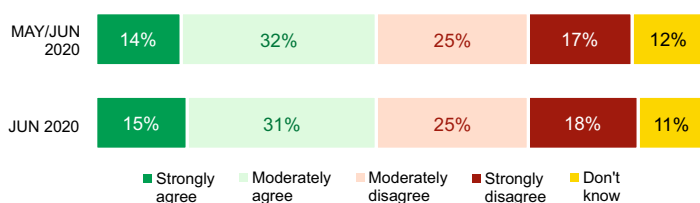


In order to protect employers and employees from negative economic effects related to the pandemic, the government prepared a package of solutions: the so-called anti-crisis shield. The first regulations entered into force at the beginning of April, while the last, i.e. fourth package of solutions is effective from 24 June.

Opinions on the government activities aimed at helping Polish companies and their employees are divided. In total, 41% of respondents consider the government actions to be sufficient, almost as many (40%) believe that they are insufficient. The scale of support for Polish companies and their employees is currently rated slightly better than at the turn of May and June.

The conviction that policies of the current cabinet create opportunities for improving the economic situation is currently expressed by 46% of respondents, while 43% are sceptical about this.

Do you agree that the policy of the current government creates an opportunity to improve the economic situation?

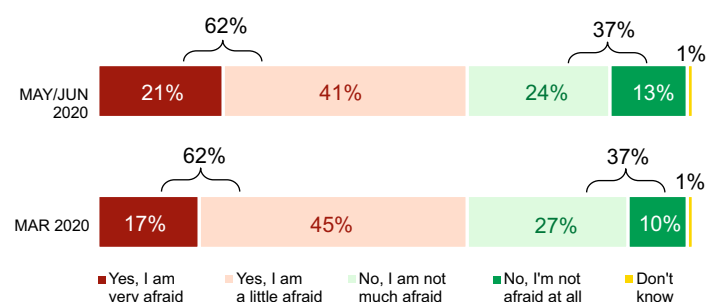


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "The Government and the Epidemic – Assessments in the Second Half of June", July 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2020, N=1378. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Attitudes towards the coronavirus epidemic

Poles have gradually got used to the epidemic. The vast majority of respondents are afraid of getting Covid-19, but the level of anxiety is similar to mid-March, at the very beginning of the crisis. Currently, like then, a total of 62% of adult Poles are afraid of coronavirus infection, and 37% are not afraid. The youngest respondents up to 34 years old (44%) have the lowest level of concern. In the next age group (35-44 years) the proportion of people declaring fear of infection exceeds half (57%) and then with each subsequent age group anxiety rises. People from the age group in which the course of the disease is sometimes the most severe, i.e. above 65 years of age are afraid the most (78%). Women are more likely to be afraid (68%) than men (56%).

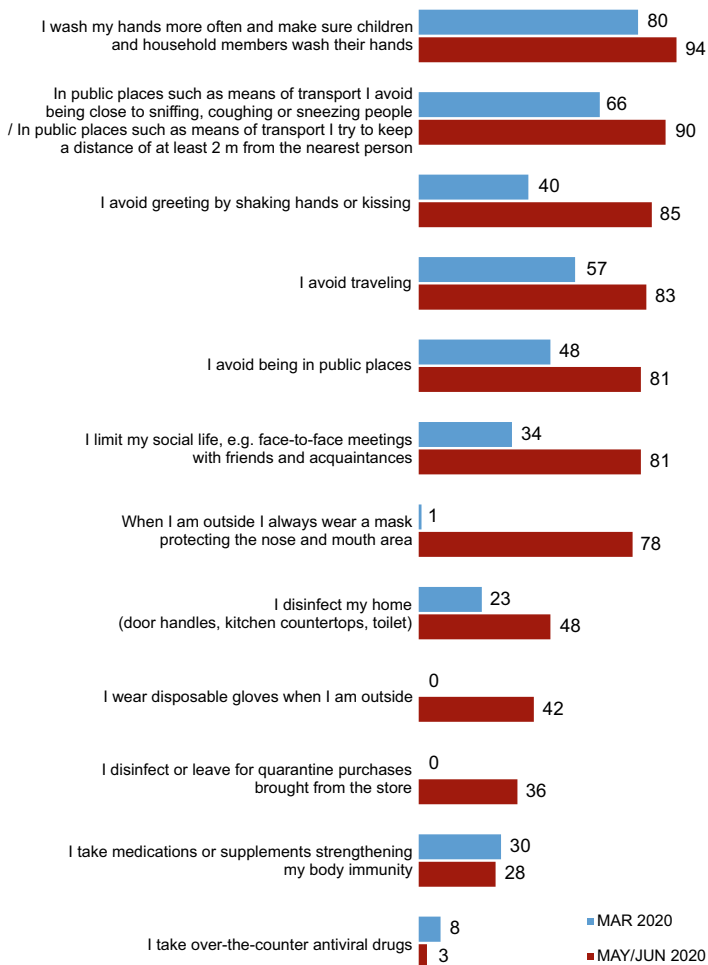
Are you personally afraid of coronavirus infection?



As in the first phase of the epidemic, the most frequently performed activity to protect against the possibility of infection is careful washing of hands, as well as ensuring that household members wash their hands regularly. At the beginning of the epidemic, four fifths of respondents (80%) declared that, and now 94% do it. In the first period of the epidemic threat, two-thirds of respondents (66%) followed the principle of maintaining distance and moving away from people showing noticeable features of infection. At the turn of May and June, compliance with the rule of keeping two meters distance from other, unknown people was almost universally declared (90%). The dissemination of information on the most common ways of contracting coronavirus probably influenced the greeting customs: currently the vast majority of respondents (85%) greet others without direct contact, i.e. without shaking hands. At the beginning of the epidemic, half as many people (40%) did so. In mid-March, more than half (57%) declared that they avoided traveling at all. Currently, travel associated with the need to contact strangers is avoided by more than four fifths of respondents (83%). In March, 48% tried not to be in public places at all, where they are often exposed to direct contact with unknown people. Currently, more than four fifths of respondents (81%) avoid public places. At the turn of May and June the same percentage of Poles (81%) modified their social life to a high degree and did not meet their friends or acquaintances directly, while in the first days of the epidemic only one third of respondents (34%) tried this way to reduce socialisation. The most common change in everyday life is the use of respiratory masks. Currently, over three quarters of respondents (78%) use face masks when going outside. In March, only 1% of respondents wore a mask. Men (28%) avoid masks more often than women (17%); young and middle-aged people fail to wear them more than others (about 30% to 32% of people up to 44 years fail to wear a mask). Older people (over 55 years) use them almost universally. According to declarations, two-fifths of Poles (42%) put on disposable gloves when going outside. In March, in the face of the epidemic threat, less than a quarter (23%) reported enhanced care for hygiene in their home (sanitizing door handles, kitchen countertops, toilets). At present, almost half do (48%). More than a third of respondents (36%) carefully disinfect purchases brought from the store or leave them for so-called quarantine, during which any pathogens should die off. Poles relatively have rarely tried to protect themselves by taking prophylactic drugs or dietary supplements strengthening immunity (30% in March and 28% now). Taking over-the-counter antiviral drugs is rare (8% in March and 3% at present).

Do you use the following preventive measures?

Percentage of affirmative answers



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes toward Coronavirus Epidemic at the Turn of May and June", June 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: May/June 2020, N=1308. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

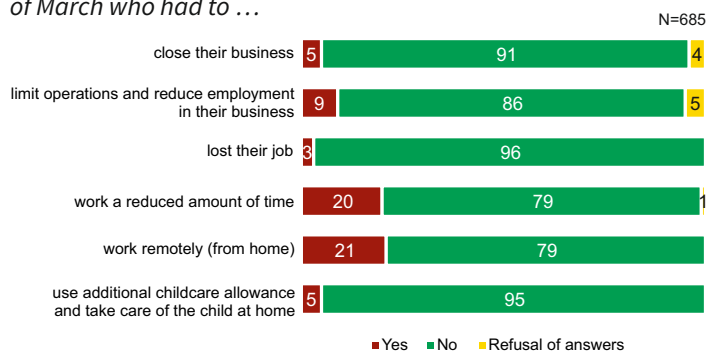
The epidemic and professional careers

The epidemic and restrictions associated with it have more or less severely affected the professional career of almost half (46%) of people in employment on March 1 2020 (including employees, the self-employed, farmers and people performing commissioned work on civil contracts). Almost one in ten in that group (9%) had to limit operations and reduce employment in their own company, and every twentieth (5%) had to close a company. A total of 11% of respondents working on March 1 report scaling down or total cessation of business activity. One-fifth (20%) of those who worked on March 1 2020 have been working part-time because of the epidemic, and three in a hundred (3%) have lost their jobs. The synthetic approach shows that due to the epidemic, 7% of those who worked at the beginning of March lost

their employment or closed their own business, and a quarter (25%) experienced adverse changes in earning opportunities due to reduced working time or the need to limit the company's operations. Over a fifth (21%) of respondents worked from home during lockdown, while one twentieth (5%) were in receipt of a carer's benefit to look after their children at home.

Have there been any changes in your professional career due to the coronavirus epidemic and related restrictions?

Percentages of respondents employed at the beginning of March who had to ...



Nearly one in three self-employed (31%) had problems with their own business: 23% of them had to limit and 14% quit their activities. The youngest, least educated and unskilled employees most often report redundancy; women mention it twice as often as men. Limiting the possibility of earning a living, i.e. a forced reduction in the number of working hours, also applied most often to the youngest employees. The other highly affected groups were mid-level staff and technicians, as well as service and administrative employees. Remote work was conducted most often by people with higher education, managers and specialists, administrative and office employees, and employees in public institutions. Generally, those living in the largest cities did it more than others: half of them have had such experience. Childcare allowance for children was used mostly by women (nine times more frequently by women than men). Administrative and office employees used it more than on average.

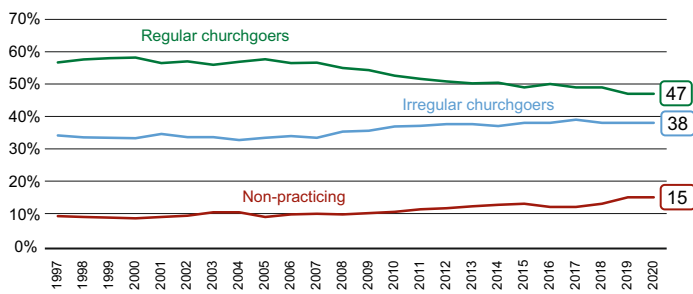
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Coronavirus Epidemic and Professional Situation of Poles", June 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: May/June 2020, N=1308. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Religiosity of Poles in the last two decades

Over the past years, there has been a decline in the religiosity of Poles: the percentage of adults regularly participating in religious practices has decreased, while there are more irregular churchgoers and the non-practicing.

The percentage of regular churchgoers was stable in the years 1997–2007, at 57% to 58%. Later, their proportion began to decline, but in the years 2013–2018 we again saw stabilization at 49% to 50%. In the last two years, the rate of regular practices is 47%, which is 11 percentage points lower than the highest result in the history of these studies. The percentage of those not practicing at all was stable for a very long time and did not exceed 10% until 2009. Then, after a slight increase, it fluctuated between 12% and 13%, and recently it has reached 15%.

Declarations of religious practices.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Religiousness of Poles in the Last 20 Years”, June 2020. Surveys were conducted in 1997-2020. Fieldwork for 2020 data: Jan.-March 2020. The random samples are representative for adult population of Poland.

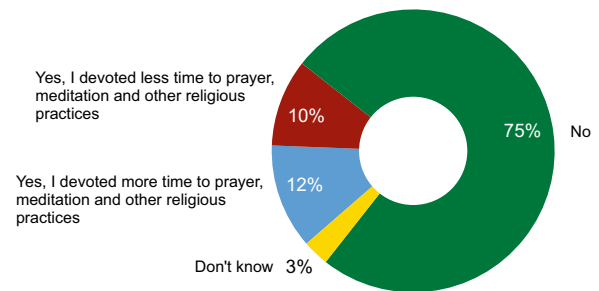
Impact of the epidemic on religiosity

In Poland, from the end of March, the opportunity for religious worship was severely limited. The strongest bans covering all areas of social life fell on Easter, when many traditional elements of the holiday simply did not take place due to the pandemic. At the same time, new opportunities appeared in the media: participation in the religious service via radio, television or the Internet. Many parishes organized online broadcasts.

Three-quarters of Poles declare that during the pandemic their religious involvement was at the same level as before (75%). Among the remaining, slightly more people think that their religious activity has increased: this is how one-eighth (12%) perceive their situation, and one-tenth believe that their religious involvement has decreased (10%). Based only on declarations, we could conclude that

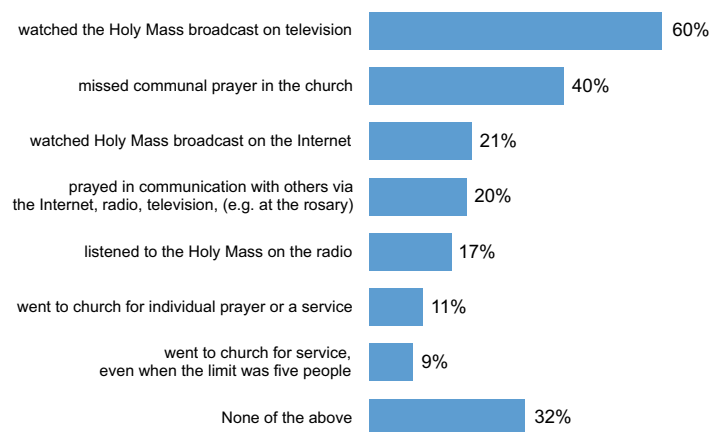
those commentators are right who saw in this period the chance for an increase in Poles' religiosity.

Has your religious involvement changed during the period of quarantine?



Generally, two-fifths (40%) of respondents missed community prayer in the church. Over half of Poles (60%) have declared watching Holy Mass broadcast on TV. Among other possible ways of attending the service, Internet has proved more popular than radio. More than one-fifth of Poles (21%) took part in online broadcasts at least once, while Holy Mass on the radio was listened to by 17%. Every fifth person has prayed at least once during national isolation in communication with others through technology. Almost one-ninth (11%) prayed individually in church or attended a church service during the pandemic, and slightly fewer (9%) attended church service (non-virtually) even when the number of people allowed was five.

Proportion of respondents who during the pandemic...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Religiousness of Poles”, June 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: May/June 2020, N=1308. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS

5/7, Świętojerska, 00-236 Warsaw, Poland

Phones: (48) 22 629 35 69, 22 628 37 04 Fax: (48) 22 629 40 89

e-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl www.cbos.pl

Circulation: 50 copies

CBOS EXPERTISE

in providing professional, accurate and timely research has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.

All sources must be credited when any part of this publication is reproduced

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS, 2020