Activities and experiences of Poles in 2022

Changes in the scale of activity of Poles in 2022 indicate that after two weaker years, with restrictions experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, everyday life is returning to normal.

Compared to 2020-2021, the scale of participation of Poles in cultural events has clearly increased. Almost half of respondents (47%, 11 percentage points more than in 2021) went to the cinema last year. Compared to 2021, there were also noticeably more people at concerts (34%, increase by 9 points), at the exhibitions in galleries or museums (32%, increase by 7 points) and in theatres (19%, increase by 7 points). While going to the cinema and to a concert are still less frequent than before the epidemic, museums, galleries and theatres are already enjoying popularity similar to 2019. It is also worth remembering that not all changes and processes should be attributed solely to the epidemic. For example, the decline in the popularity of the cinema can be the result of the growing audience of streaming services, which may mean that going to the cinema will never be as frequent as it used to be.
The COVID-19 epidemic limited social life, although 2021 was already noticeably better than 2020 in this respect. In 2022 there was further improvement. Compared to 2021, the popularity of going out to restaurants with family or friends has increased. It was reported by three-quarters of respondents (76%, an increase of 8 percentage points).

There were also more people who organized a party for a group of friends and acquaintances (increase from 63% to 70%). The popularity of reading a book remains unchanged compared to 2021. In 2022, six out of ten Poles (60%) read a book for pleasure. The scale and frequency of reading books has been stable in the last four years. Nearly a third of adults (30%) attended a sporting event last year. This is more than in 2021 by 8 percentage points, but still slightly less than before the COVID-19 epidemic.
Despite high inflation, the percentage of Poles going on vacation last year reached the pre-pandemic level. At least one such trip is reported by more than half of respondents (53%, an increase of 4 percentage points from 2021). Many more people than in 2020-2021, but still less than before the epidemic, went abroad. They account for almost a third of adults (30%, 10 points more than in 2021). The percentage of people working abroad has also remained stable since 2016, currently at 5%.

**Activities in a given year (participation at least once):**

In 2022, the scale of charitable activity increased significantly, which can be associated with a wave of aid to Ukrainians affected by the war. In the past year, seven out of ten respondents (71%) donated money to charity. This is 8 percentage points more than in 2021 and almost as much as in 2019. Many more Poles than in 2020-2021 provided material assistance (61%, an increase of 13 points compared to last year). The scale of this form of aid is similar to the level before the epidemic. After two weaker years, the percentage of respondents who donated their own work to charity returned to its previous level. In 2022, they accounted for over one-fifth (22%, 7 points more than in 2021). The number of volunteers also increased from 5% to 8%. The percentage of Poles participating in demonstrations was slightly lower than in 2021 (6%, a decrease of 3 percentage points), but it is worth noting that in 2021 it was at a record high level.
Activities in a given year (participation at least once):

In 2022, despite high inflation, Poles were slightly more than in 2021 inclined to buy something attractive and unplanned. Last year, the percentage of people who made such a spontaneous purchase (56%, 4 percentage points more than in 2021) returned to the level recorded before the epidemic.

The scale of loan-taking remains relatively stable in the last few years, both from financial institutions (14%) and from friends (12%).

Activities in a given year (participation at least once):

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Activities and Experiences of Poles in 2022”, February 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2023, N=1028. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.