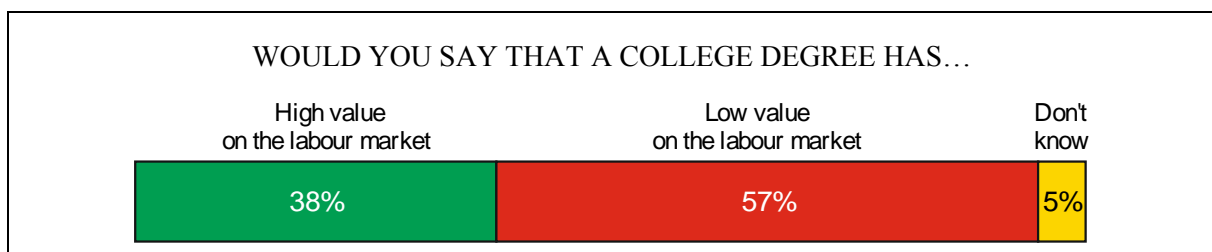


IS EDUCATION WORTHWHILE?

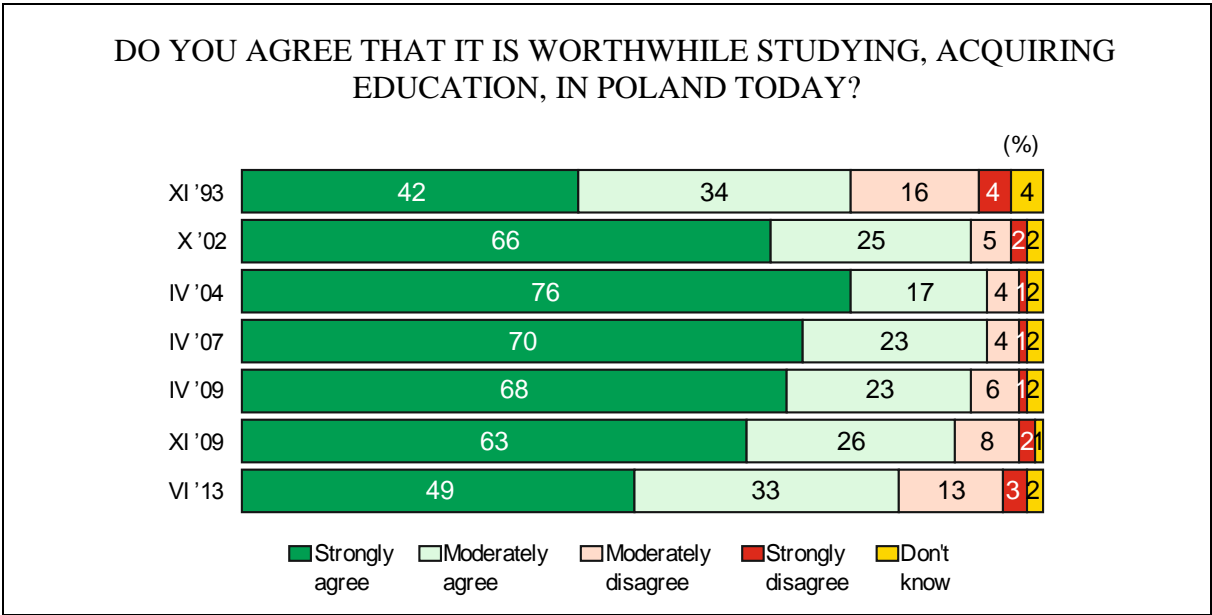
The spread of higher education was one of the aspects of post-1989 systemic transformation. In the first five years of the new system, the number of university students increased five times. According to the OECD, in 2010 over half (52%) of secondary school graduates up to 25 years of age studied, or had completed higher education. The rapid rise of educational aspirations resulted the growth of the educational sector. The demand for higher education was serviced by paid courses offered by both state and private colleges and universities.

The “educational boom” had also negative consequences. One of them was loss in value of a degree. The majority of respondents (57%) think that a university degree has little value on the labour market.



Four-fifths of respondents (82%) believe that it is worthwhile studying in Poland now. While the conviction that education is profitable prevails, it is expressed less frequently than in previous years. Until 2004, the belief that it makes sense studying increasingly strengthened (a 17-point increase from the 76% level recorded in 1993). At the beginning of the 21st century,

the number of people doubting this belief started to grow. This tendency holds today still. The proportion of respondents who think that it is worthwhile receiving education is lower than in 2004-2007 by 11 points.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: *"Higher education: for whom, for what, and with what effect"*, *"Education matters"*, July 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2013, N=1010. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.