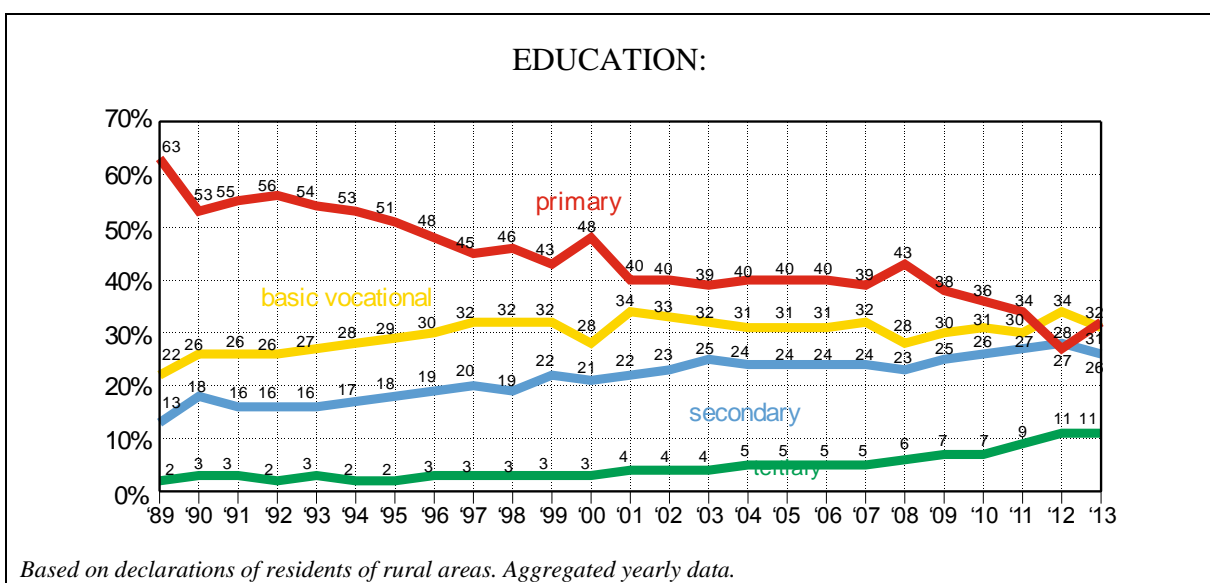


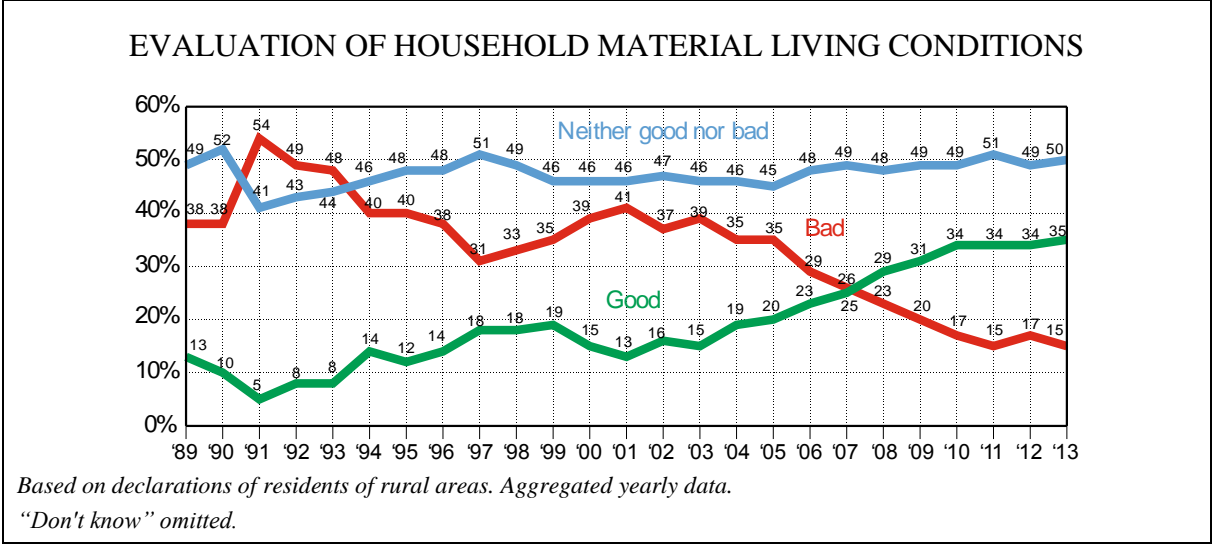
CHANGES IN RURAL AREAS

The rapid transformation taking place in the last decades changed the system and opened the country to the West. These phenomena had significant influence on the rural areas.

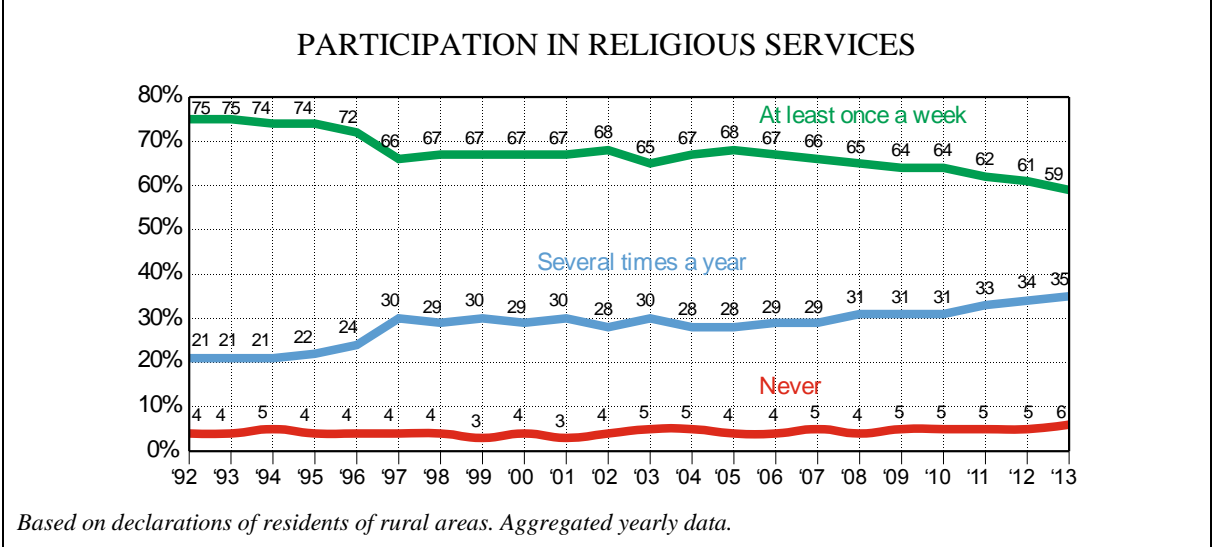
During the last 24 years, the level of education of rural population has increased. In the beginning of the 1990s, the dominant group had only primary education. By 2013, the proportion of the least educated residents decreased by half. At present, basic vocational and secondary education are equally common. As in the country as a whole, there has been an increase in the number of people with higher education.



Since 1989, the evaluation of household material living conditions has improved. The proportion of residents of villages satisfied with their standard of living increased from 13% to 35%. The improvement did not progress linearly. Shortly after the onset of transformation, the opinions deteriorated strongly. They started to improve in the mid-1990s. The biggest change was noted after the EU accession in 2004. The evaluations stabilized after 2010.



The intensity of religious practice decreased systematically in the period under study. Since 1992, the proportion of rural residents attending religious service at least once a week has fallen from 75% to 59%, with the corresponding rise in irregular practice from 21% to 35%. In spite of the decline, only few respondents declared never attending religious service.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Rural Poland: 20 years of changes", November 2013. Aggregated data from CBOS surveys from 1989-2013 (until October)