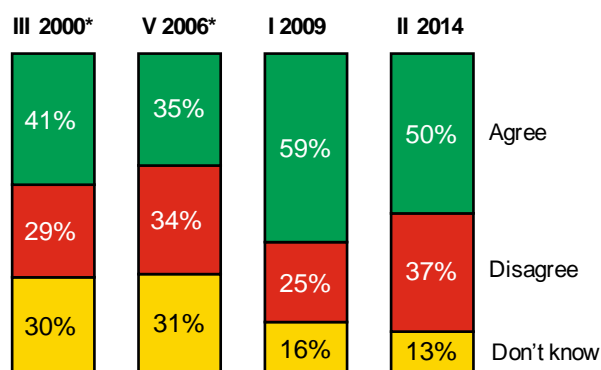


OPINIONS ABOUT MARKET ECONOMY

Twenty-five years ago, Leszek Balcerowicz presented a plan of systemic economic reforms, enabling the transition from centrally planned to market economy based on private enterprises. In January 1991, at the beginning of transition, three-quarters of respondents (73%) supported the effort to create in Poland a market economy based on the Western model. High social costs of reform, such as bankruptcy of many enterprises and rapid rise of unemployment (unknown in state socialism) caused the support to diminish. Consolidation of the new socio-economic order and the improving economy contributed to the increase in acceptance for reforms, including economic change. Vice-versa, social acceptance of the market economy became a factor consolidating the economic reform.

In 2000, two fifths of Poles (41%) thought that capitalist economy is the best system for this country. The support was even lower in 2006. However, in 2009 there was a marked increase in the number of supporters of market economy: 59% of respondents agreed that it is the best economic system. At present, Poles are more sceptical in the evaluation of the free market. Half (50%) agree that market economy based on private enterprises is the best economic system for Poland, while almost two-fifths (37%) disagree with this opinion.

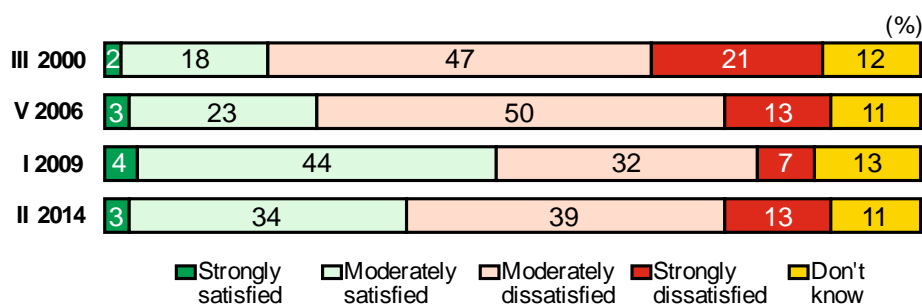
DO YOU AGREE THAT MARKET ECONOMY BASED ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISES IS THE BEST ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR POLAND?



*The term 'capitalist economy' was used instead of 'market economy' in these surveys

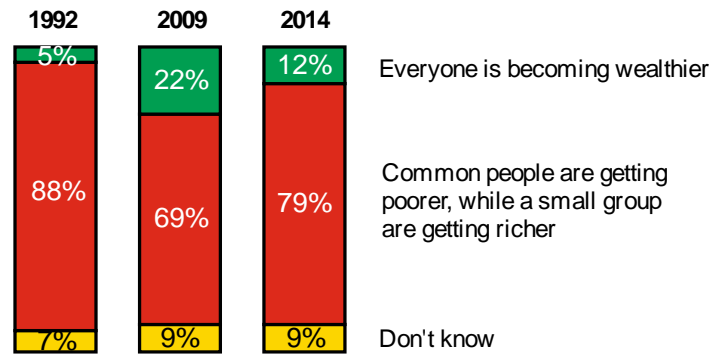
The level of acceptance of market economy in principle is higher than the evaluation of its functioning in Poland. Surveys from 2000 and 2006 documented significant dissatisfaction with the functioning of the market economy in Poland. It decreased in subsequent years. Five years ago, more people declared satisfaction (48%) than dissatisfaction (39%) in this area. At present, criticism in evaluation of the functioning of the market economy prevails again (52%).

SATISFACTION WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MARKET ECONOMY IN POLAND



There is a dominant view that only a few people benefit from the economic transition (79%). Only one-eighth think that living standards increase and everyone is becoming wealthier. Compared with 2009, there are more respondents convinced that inequality rises. However, at present more people than in 1992 are convinced that the introduction of the market economy increased the living standard.

WHICH VIEW ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CHANGES STARTED IN 1989 IS CLOSER TO YOUR OWN OPINION?



Over half of Poles (56%) think that, at the beginning of the transformation, firms were started primarily by people who had connections in public institutions. Only about a third (31%) share the view that in that period entrepreneurs with good ideas had the possibility to start a business.

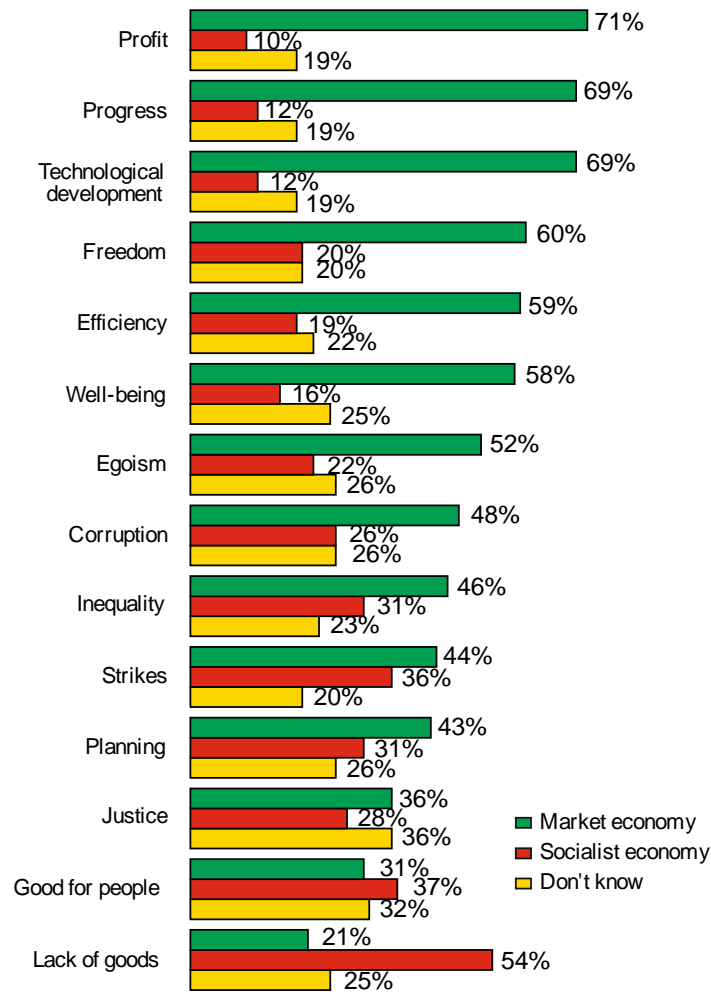
WHO PRIMARILY STARTED NEW PRIVATE COMPANIES IN THE INITIAL PERIOD OF ECONOMIC TRANSITION AFTER 1989?



Poles have the following mental associations with the economy based on private enterprises: profit (71%), progress, technological development (69% each), freedom (60%), efficiency (59%), well-being (58%), egoism (52%), corruption (48%) and inequality (46%). Moreover, strikes, planning and justice are more commonly associated in societal consciousness with market economy than with socialist.

Socialist economy is associated most commonly with lack of goods: the majority of Poles (54%) have this image. At the same time, almost two-fifths (37%) associate socialist economy with being good for the people (31% have such opinion about market economy in this respect).

WHICH DESCRIPTIONS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MARKET ECONOMY
 BASED ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, AND WHICH DESCRIBE THE SOCIALIST
 ECONOMY WITHOUT PRIVATE ENTERPRISES?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about free market economy", March 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2014, N=1020. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.