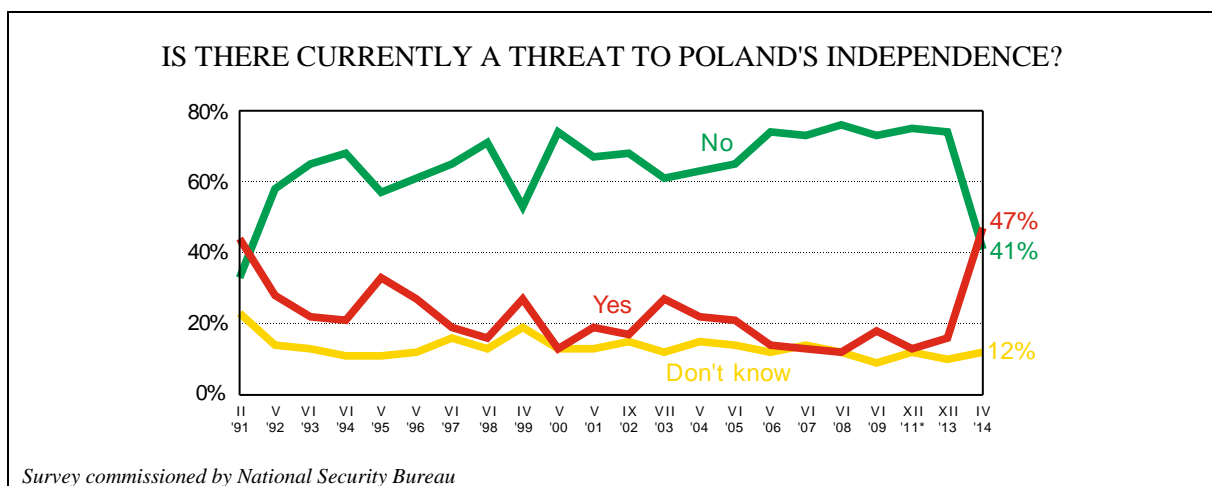
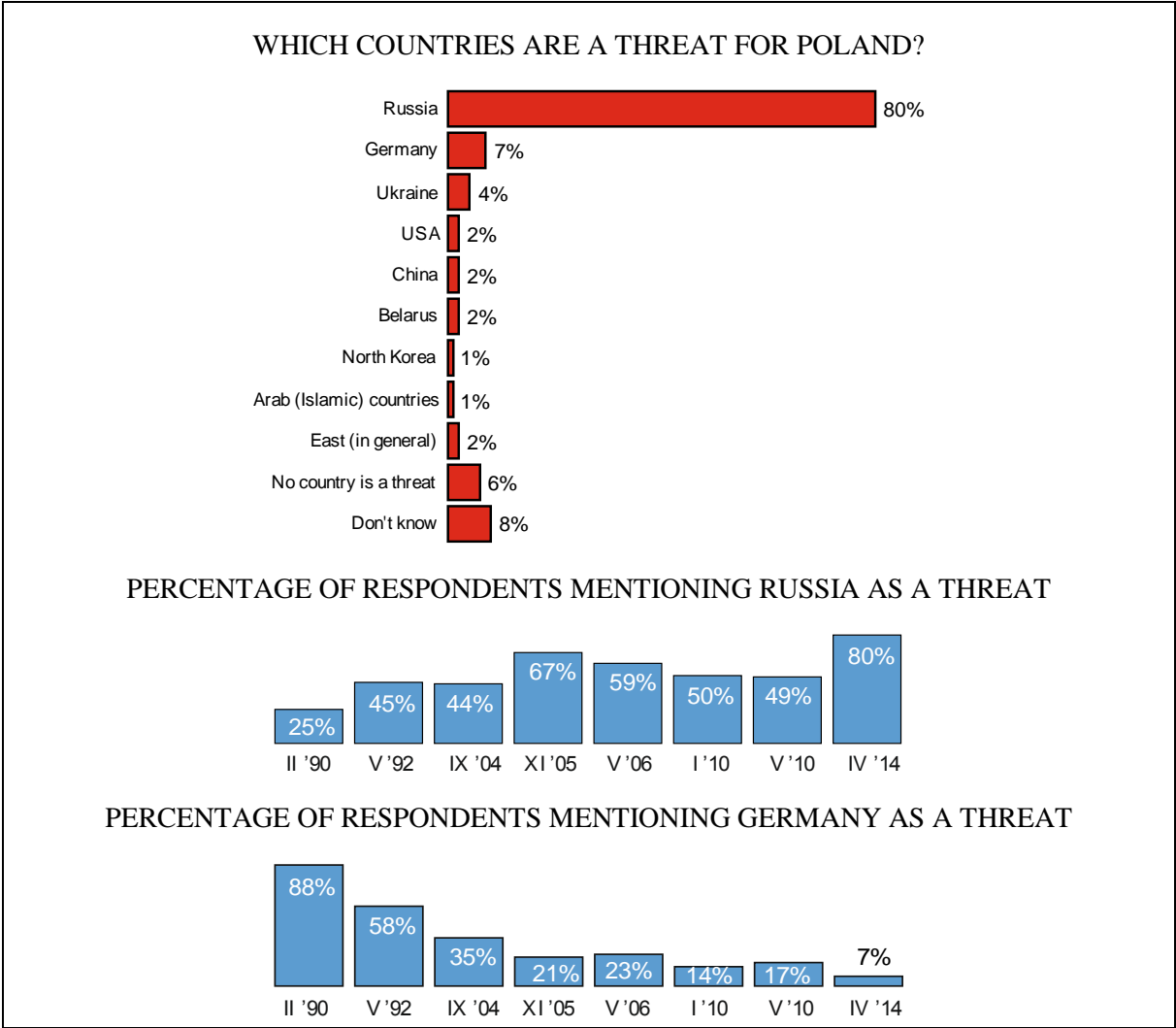


OPINIONS ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY

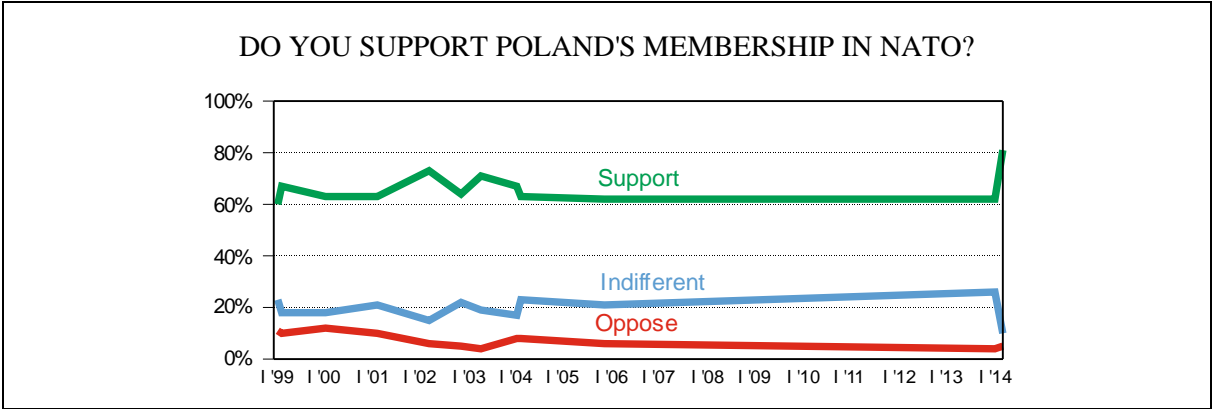
The events in Ukraine contributed to the heightened concern about international security of Poland. At present, it is on the highest level since 1991. Almost half of respondents (47%) think that there currently exists a threat to Poland's independence. Similar level of concern (44%) was recorded in 1991, when there were persistent fears about the acceptance of Poland's systemic transformation by the USSR, which then still existed. In the last 20 years such fears were far lower, and as late as December 2013 only less than one-fifth expressed them. Even the armed conflict between Russia and Georgia, while slightly increasing such fears, had relatively minor influence on security concerns.



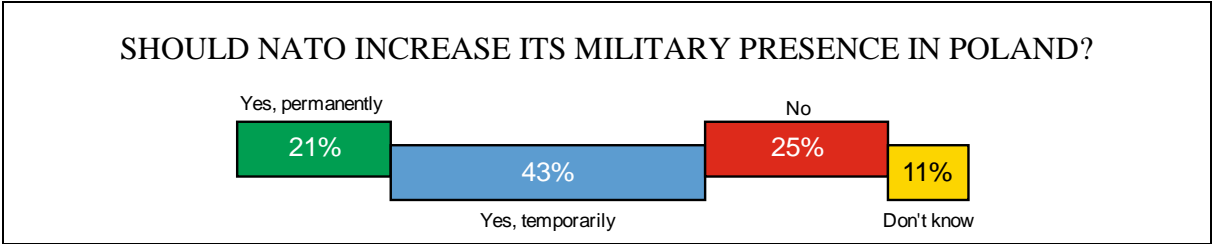
A vast majority of respondents (80%) names Russia among countries causing security concerns. Small proportions mention Germany (7%) and Ukraine (4%). Some respondents named USA, China, Belarus or the East in general (2% each), and North Korea or Arab countries (1% each). Compared with previous surveys, there is significant increase in the percentage of people convinced that Russia is a threat for this country. At the same time, since early 1990s there is systematic decrease in the perception of Germany as a threat (from 88% in 1990 to 7% now).



On 12 March there was 15th anniversary of Poland's accession to NATO. Membership in this alliance is one of the pillars of national security. From the very beginning its support has been high. Moreover, recent events convinced Poles even more about the benefits of membership. At present, four-fifths of respondents (81%, a 19-point increase from February) support Poland's membership in NATO, while 5% oppose it.



Poles have significant expectations from membership in the Alliance. The majority (64%) would like to see tangible evidence of allied support in the form of increased military presence in Poland. Over two-fifths (43%) think that military presence should be temporary, while one-fifth (21%) support permanent stationing of NATO forces in Poland. A quarter (25%) oppose military presence of NATO forces in Poland.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Opinions about national security and NATO"*, April 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2014, N=1028. The random address samples are representative for adult population of Poland.