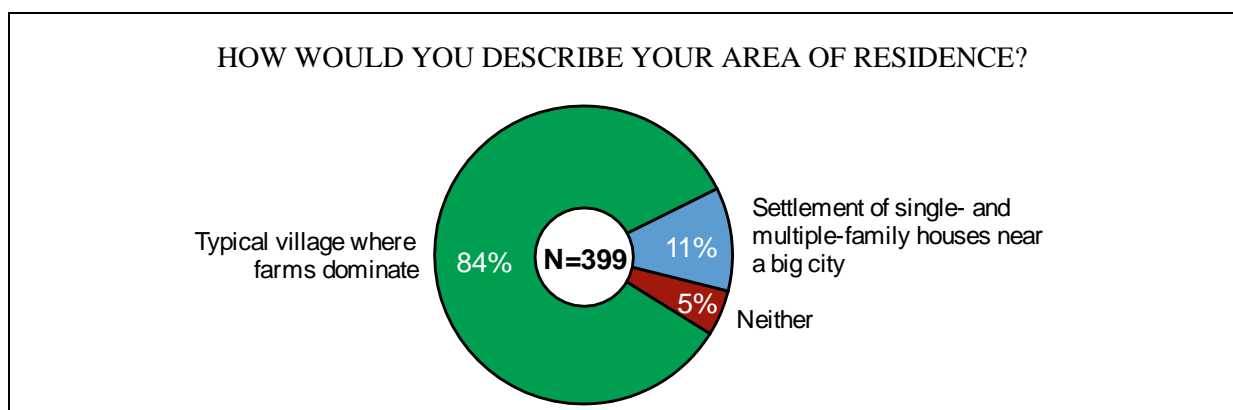


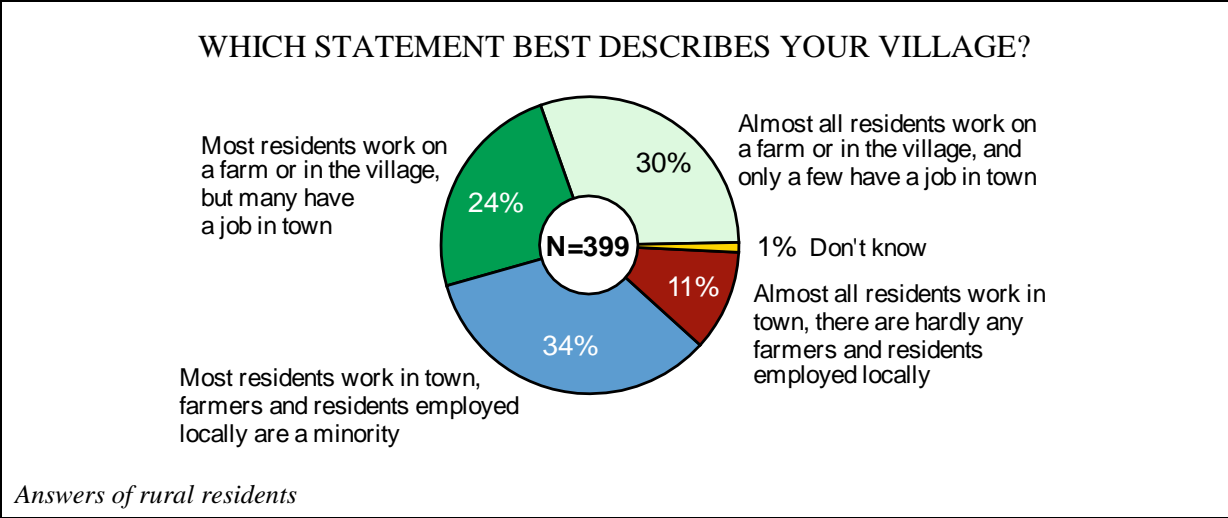
LIFE IN RURAL AREAS

Two-fifths (40%) of Poles live in rural areas. However, according to the Report on rural Poland 2014 (Raport o stanie wsi. Polska wieś 2014), prepared by Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture, only 7% of rural residents derive their income primarily from their farm. Almost half of households are headed by employees. An increasing number of people employed in white-collar jobs is considered to be an indicator of the emerging rural middle class. This trend is reinforced by suburbanization, which transforms villages around cities into suburbs. However, change occurs also in villages located far away from cities.

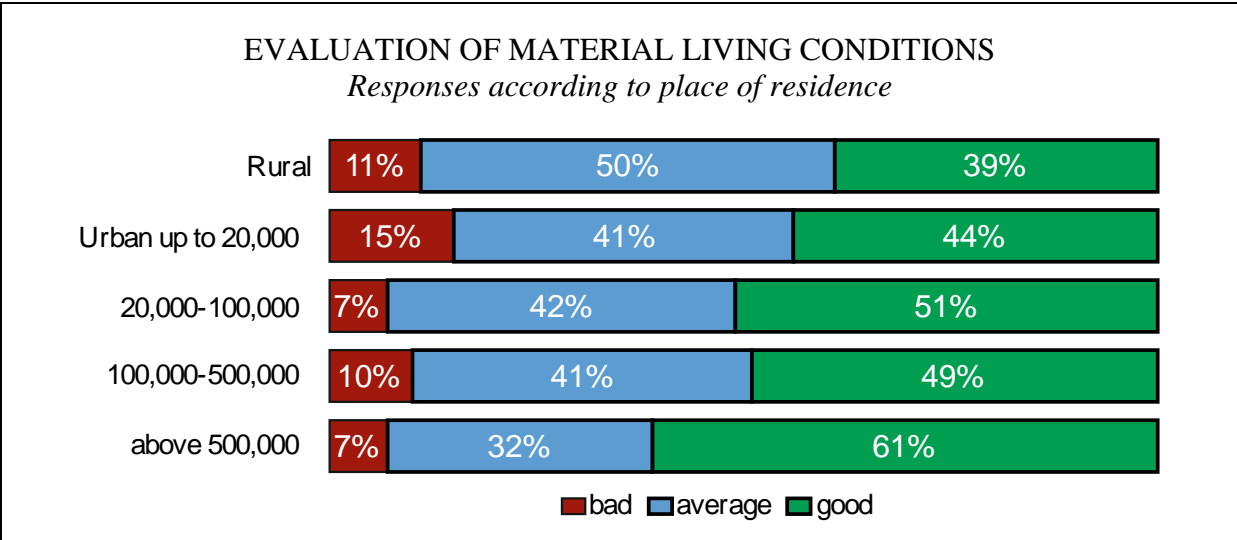
Over four-fifths of respondents living in villages described their area as typical countryside, where agriculture is most important, while one-ninth call their village a suburb of a nearby city, dominated by settlements of single- and multiple-family houses.



Over half of rural residents believe that most of the people living in their village work locally. One-third answered that the majority of residents work in town, while one-ninth think that almost all residents have a job in town. These respondents believe that their place of residence does not have rural character.

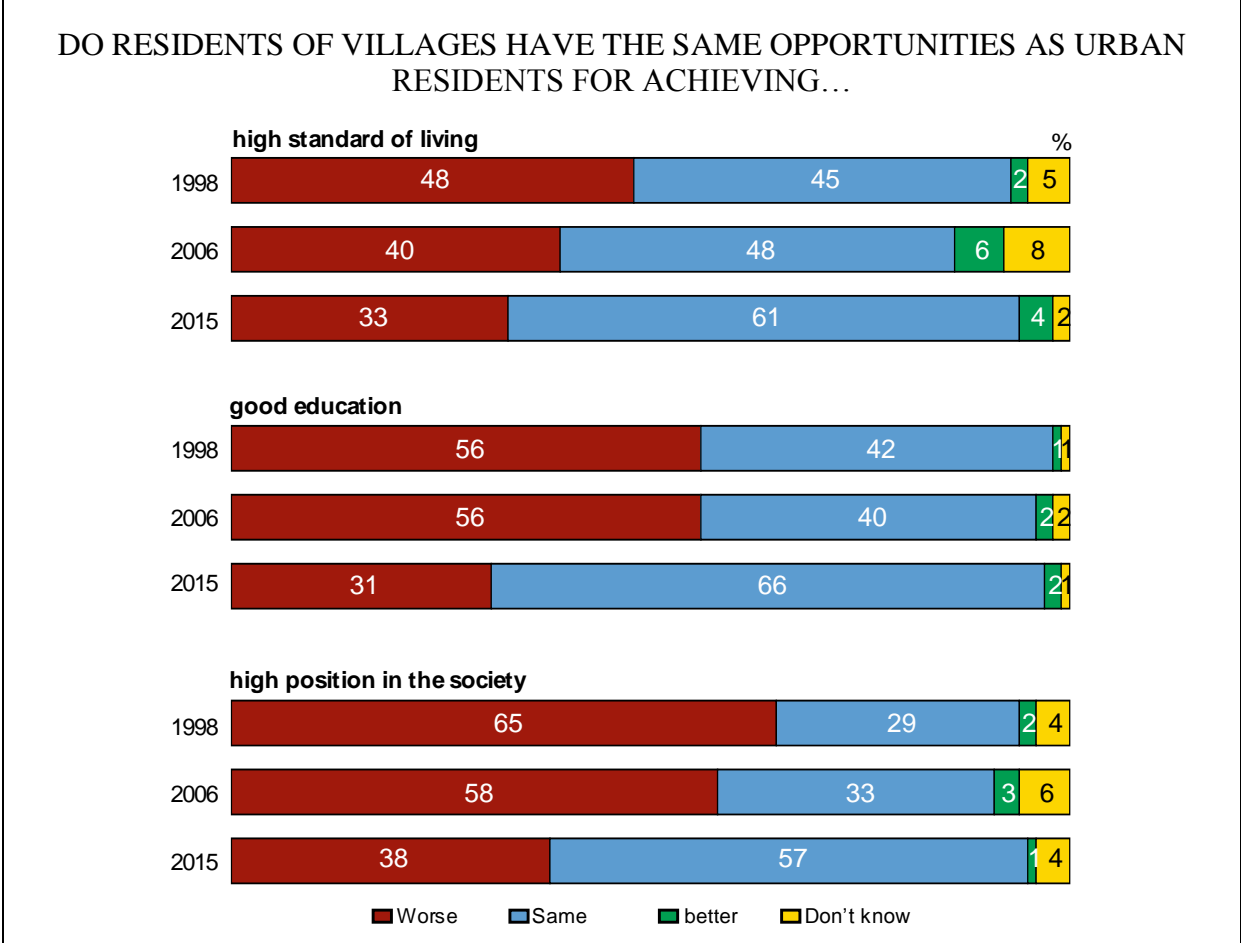


On average, income and expenditure of rural residents are lower than in the country as a whole, but the differences are diminishing. As regards the subjective evaluation of material living conditions, people in villages are not much different from residents of towns and cities. They describe them as average, rather than good, slightly more often than urban residents. There are significant differences when comparing villages and biggest cities, where people with highest education and best qualifications tend to live.



Stereotypes about standards of living and future prospects of people living in the countryside are changing. A few years ago, the majority of Poles thought that, in many respects, rural residents have fewer possibilities for advancement and success than city

dwellers. At present, the dominant opinion holds that place of residence is irrelevant. Two-thirds of respondents think that people living in villages have the same opportunities to achieve education as residents of towns and cities. About three-fifths think that the possibility to achieve high living standard and position in the society are the same for them.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Life in rural areas"*, February 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2015, N=1005. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.