

Political views in the years 1990-2015.

Opinions of the youth against the background of the society as a whole

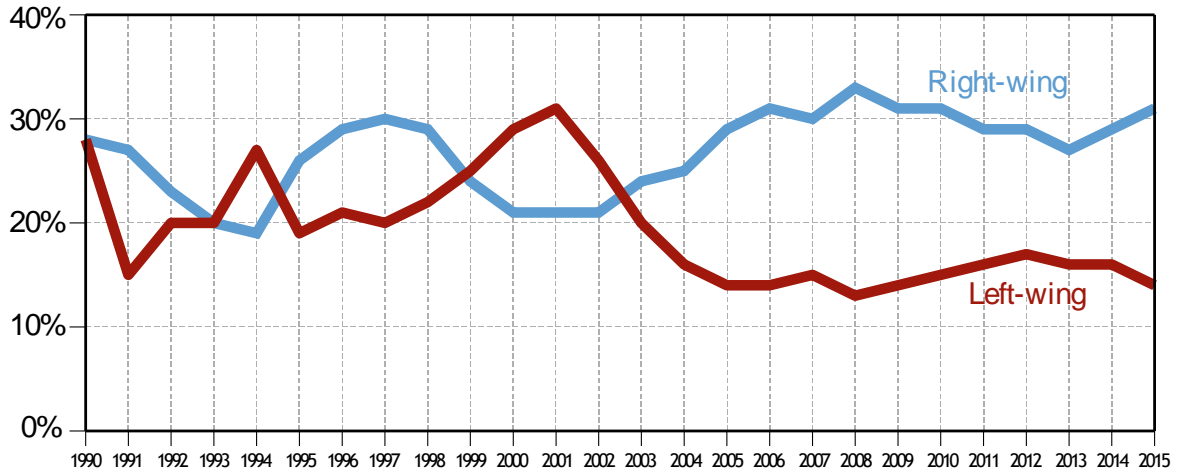
BOS measures political views on a 7-point scale, where 1 signifies left-wing views and 7 means the right wing. Respondents are asked to select the point which best reflects their political orientation. People selecting points 1 to 3 are considered left-wing and respondents choosing points 5 to 7 are considered right-wing.

After systemic change, the proportion of citizens self-identifying as left-wing fell from 28% in 1990 to 15% in 1991. Until 1993 declarations of right-wing identity prevailed, but their magnitude systematically fell. A year later, the left-wing group (27%) was 8 percentage points bigger than the right. However, the good times for the left lasted a year only.

In 1995-1998 right-wing declarations dominated. The increase in social support for the left wing started in 1999 and resulted in the electoral victory of the coalition of Alliance of the Democratic Left and Union of Labour (SLD-UP) in 2001. However, as early as a year after SLD formed the government the support for the left started to decline. In 2008 it reached its lowest level in the last 25 years (13%) and subsequently hovered between 14% and 17%. In 2008 33% of respondents declared having right-wing views. At present this proportion is only slightly smaller (31%).

Declared political views of Poles in the years 1990-2015*

Yearly proportion of respondents self-identifying as left-wing and right-wing

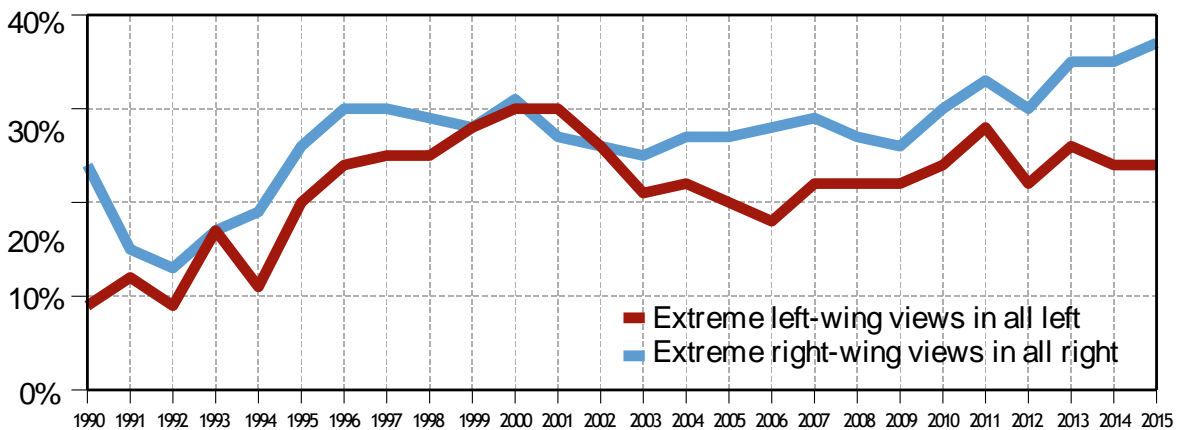


**In 2015 data for the months Jan-Sep*

Analyses show that right-wing self-identification tends to be more radical than left-wing. This is a long-term regularity. Since 1990, the proportion of extreme right-wing declarations (point 7) was generally larger than the proportion of extreme left-wing views (point 1). The exceptions to this rule were the years 1993 and 1999-2002, when there were more extreme left-wing declarations, or the proportions were comparable. Since 2002 the views of right-wing respondents have become more decisive.

Declared political views of Poles in the years 1990-2015*

Yearly proportion of extreme views in right-wing and left-wing declarations



**In 2015 data for the months Jan-Sep*

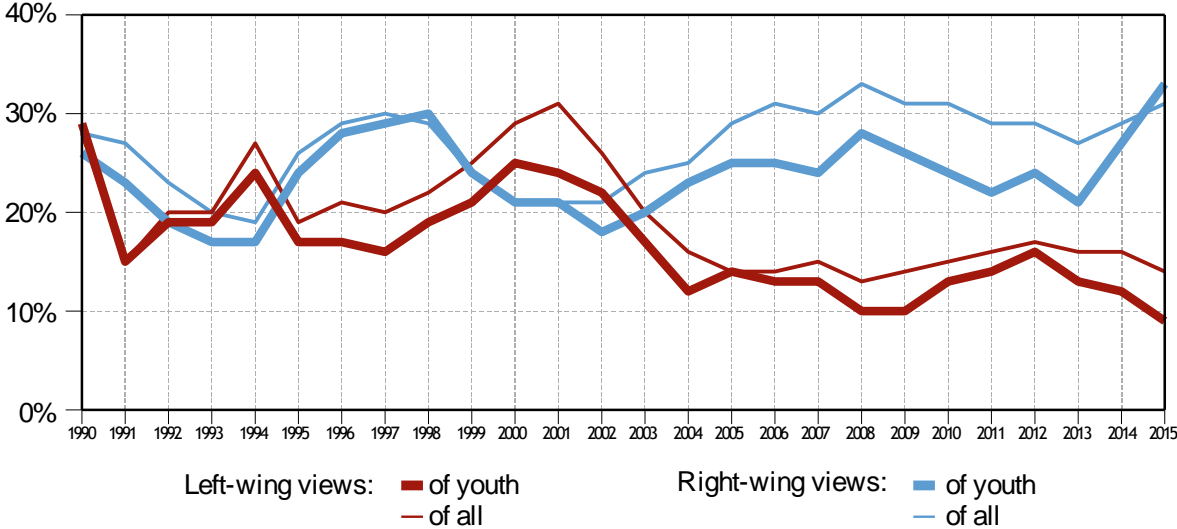
In the last two years there has been radicalisation of right-wing views. In the first three quarters of 2015, people who self-identified as extreme right constituted 12% of all respondents (37% of right wingers). Such a result was recorded for the first time in CBOS surveys.

Trends among respondents aged 18-24 years are similar to those recorded in the whole society. Young people relatively often declare centrist orientation or answer “don't know.” This means that for most of the time they held both left-wing and right-wing views less often than all Poles.

In 2014 the frequency of right-wing declarations among the young people started to rise rapidly, which was accompanied by a strong decrease in left-wing views. In 2015 the proportion of right wingers among them was higher than in general population. In the first three quarters of 2015 a third (33%) of people aged 18-24 years described their political views as right-wing.

Declared political views of Poles aged 18-24 in the years 1990-2015*

Yearly proportion of young respondents self-identifying as left-wing and right-wing compared with all respondents



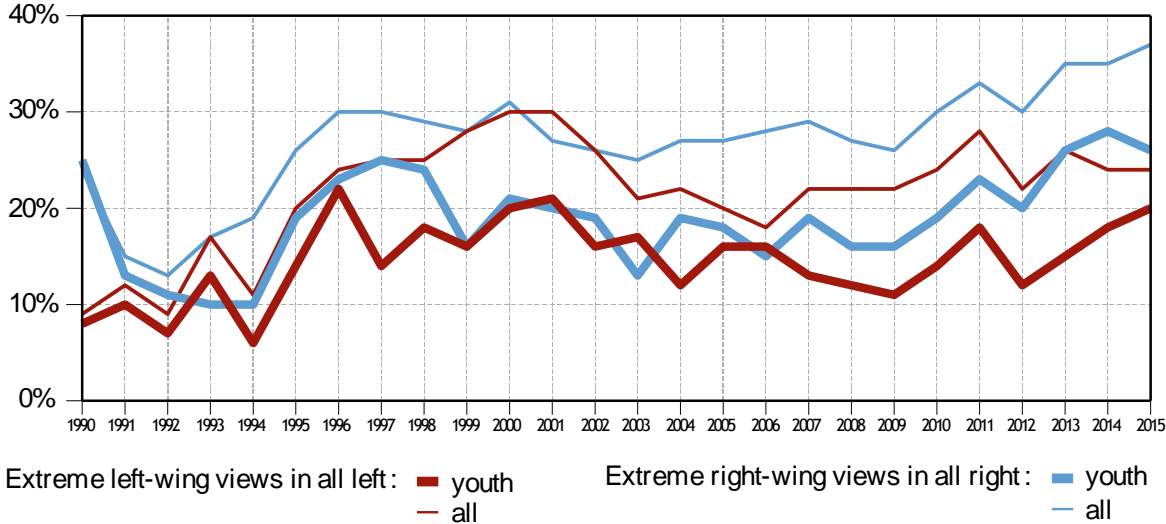
*In 2015 data for the months Jan-Sep

Nevertheless, political views of people aged 18-24 years are less clearly defined than opinions of the whole society. It is indicated by data on radical attitudes. The proportion of extreme answers in left and right-wing responses among the youth is much lower than among all Poles. This means that young people are less radical in their political opinions.

The only time when this was not true was in 1990. Back then, 25% of right-wing respondents aged 18-24 expressed extreme views.

Declared political views of Poles aged 18-24 in the years 1990-2015*

Yearly proportion of extreme declarations in all left-wing and right-wing declarations. Youth compared with all respondents



*In 2015 data for the months Jan-Sep

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Interest in Politics and Political Views in Years 1989–2015. Young People Compared to Others", October 2015. Fieldwork conducted monthly from 1989 until September 2015.