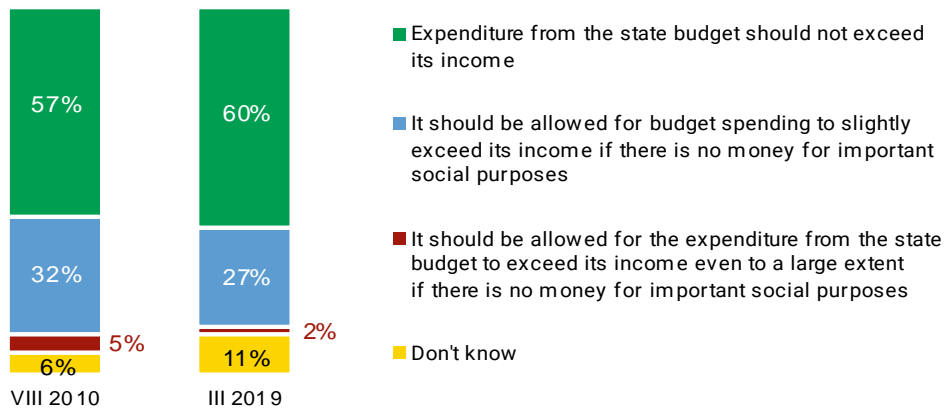


Opinions about budget deficit

Law and Justice (PiS) leader Jarosław Kaczyński announced the introduction of new social programs during the February electoral convention in Warsaw. In the so-called 'Kaczyński five' are: benefit from the Family 500 Plus program for each child, payment of a one-off supplement to pensions in the amount of the lowest public system (ZUS) pension, zero PIT for employees up to 26 years of age, reduction of labour costs and restoration of local bus connections. It is estimated that the implementation of all announced programs will cost the state budget an additional PLN 40 billion, which may significantly contribute to increasing the budget deficit in Poland.

Although all the solutions presented were received favourably (support ranges from 73% for zero PIT for employees ≤ 26 to 84% for pension supplement), opinions about whether Poland can afford them are divided. In total, 45% of respondents think that Poland can afford to finance new solutions, but only slightly fewer people (38%) are of the opposite opinion.

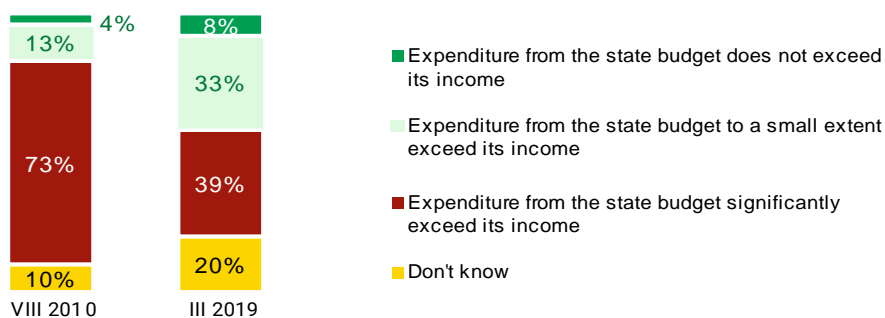
In your opinion, should it be allowed for spending from the state budget to exceed its income?



In general, the majority of Poles believe that spending from the state budget should not exceed its income (60%), whereas a fourth allow for the expenditure to exceed the income to a small extent if there is no money for important social goals (27%). There is no social consent for the expenses to exceed the income to a large extent (such a solution is accepted by only 2% of respondents). Currently, Poles are in favour of more financial discipline than in 2010, when the deficit was much higher than at present. In 2010, public deficit in relation to GDP was 7.3%, in 2017 it was 1.4%, and, according to estimates, in 2018 it was even lower.

Respondents, when asked about the current situation in Poland, in the vast majority believe that currently expenditure from the state budget exceeds income, but opinions about the size of the deficit are divided. The conviction that the deficit is significant prevails over the opinion that it is small (39% v. 33%). A comparison of this year's results with assessments of the budgetary situation from nine years ago shows that Poles have a general idea of the state of public finances. In 2010, the vast majority of respondents (73%) believed that the deficit in Poland was significant.

How do you assess the situation in Poland?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Reactions to the Kaczyński New Five Proposals", March 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2019, N=968. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.