

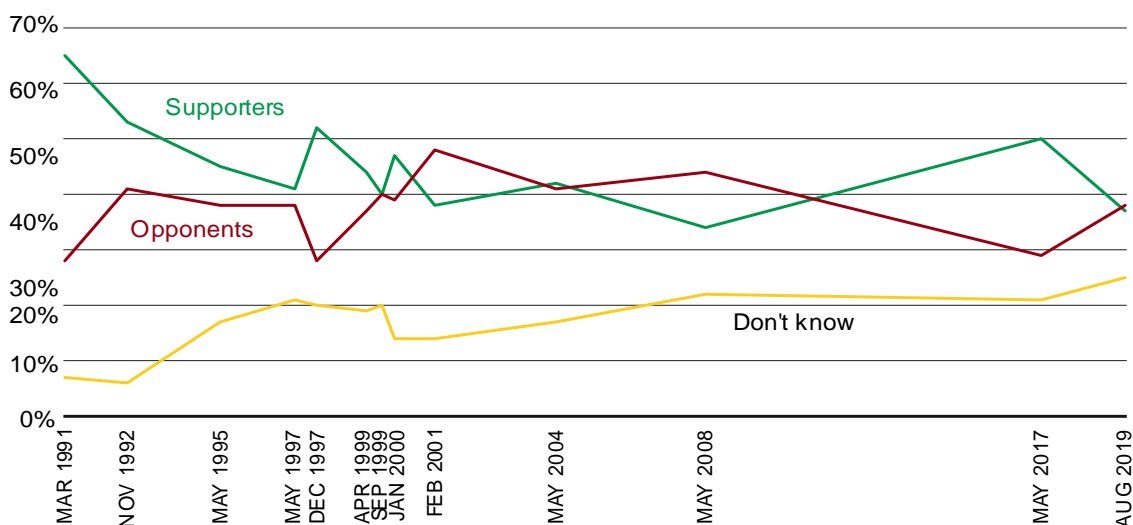
Opinions about reprivatisation

Despite many initiatives regarding the statutory regulation of reprivatisation, Poland remains the only country in Central and Eastern Europe where this problem has not been solved systematically.

Poles are divided about reprivatisation. It currently has almost as many supporters (37%) as opponents (38%).

The attitude of Poles to property restitution to former owners changed over time. We noted the greatest support for reprivatisation at the beginning of the system transformation process. In March 1991, almost two-thirds of Poles were in favour of reprivatisation. In subsequent years, the attitude towards the return of property to former owners was no longer so clear, although its supporters predominated. In May 2017 half of respondents expressed support for reprivatisation. Since then, the percentage of supporters of reprivatisation has decreased by 13 percentage points, and the proportion of its opponents has increased by 9 points.

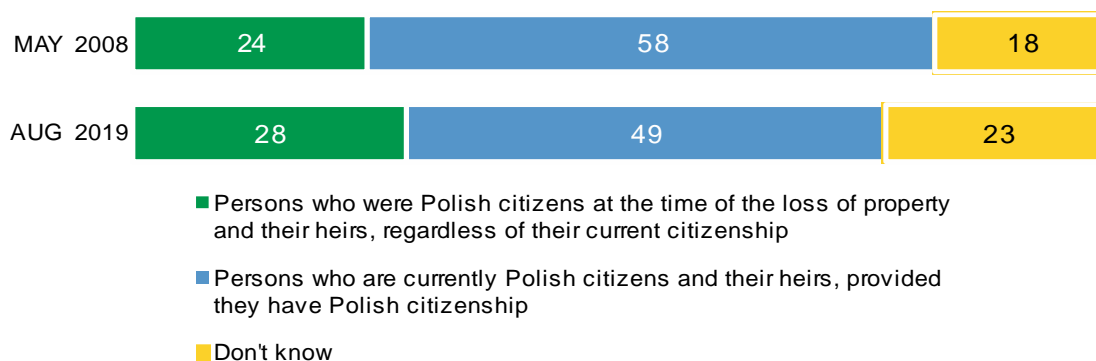
Attitude to reprivatisation



Do you personally support or oppose reprivatisation, i.e. the return of property to former owners?

One of the key issues related to reprivatisation are the criteria for being entitled to claim property return or compensation. Nearly half of respondents (49%) are of the opinion that such a right should be enjoyed only by current Polish citizens. Almost half that much (28%) think that Polish citizenship at the time of loss should decide, regardless of current citizenship. This means that Poles are now slightly more willing to extend the number of people entitled to reprivatisation compared to a decade ago.

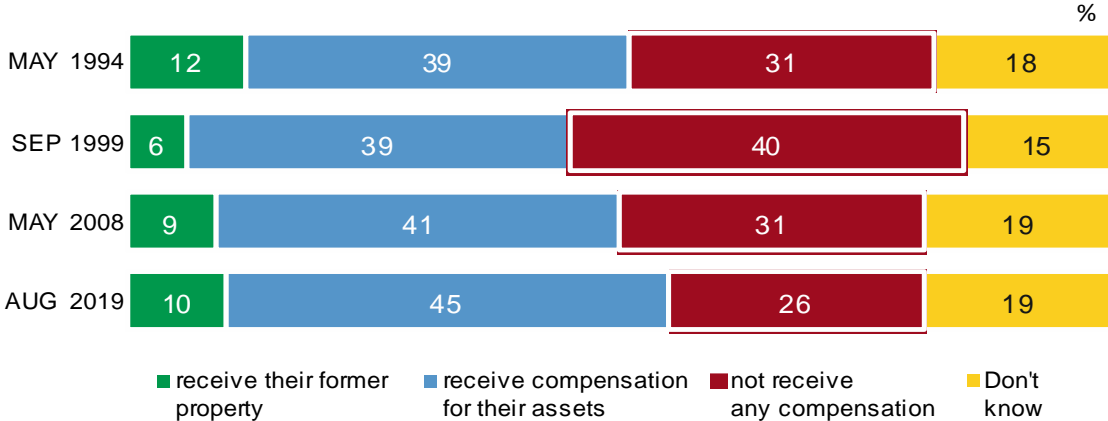
Who should have the right to have property returned or obtain compensation for lost property?



Determining the group entitled to apply for the return of property or compensation for lost assets is related to the issue of Jewish property. Currently, over half of Poles (55%) are in favour of the reprivatisation of Jewish property, and the majority of them believe that former Polish citizens of Jewish nationality should receive compensation. Only one-tenth

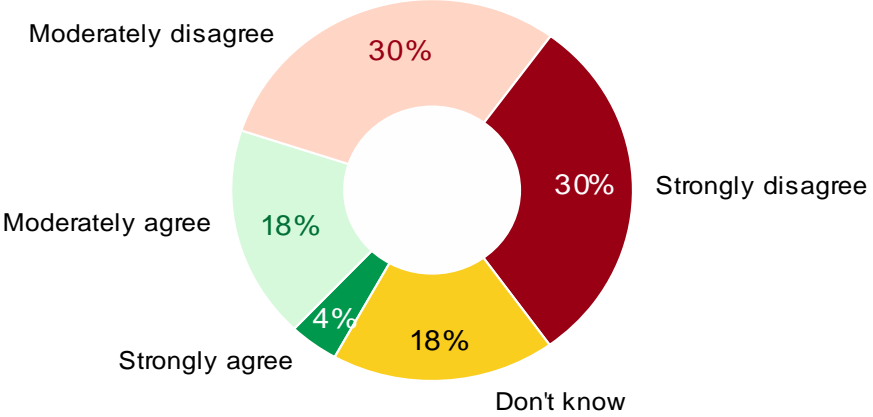
opt for the return of former Jewish property in kind. Support for the reprivatisation of former Jewish property is now slightly higher than in previous years (1994–2008).

During the war, many Polish citizens of Jewish nationality were killed. Others emigrated, leaving their former property (real estate) in Poland. Do you think these people or their heirs should ...



In the context of the so-called S.447 Act, emotions are raised by former Jewish property that is claimed by no heirs. Although most Poles support the payment of compensation (or, less often, a return in kind) to the Jewish owners of property left in our country or their heirs, the majority (60%) oppose the payment of compensation for left-behind property to organizations that associate victims of the Holocaust.

A large portion of former Jewish property is not claimed by heirs. Do you agree that Poland should, in order to make amends to the Jewish victims of the war, pay compensation for the these assets to organizations of Holocaust victims?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions on Reprivatisation", September 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2019, N=974. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.