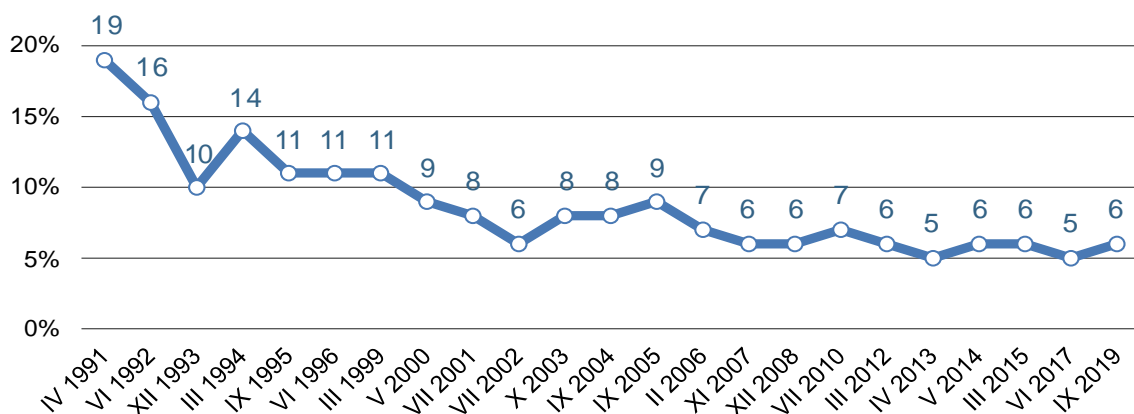


Trade unions: membership and evaluation of activities

Currently, only 6% of adult Poles declare membership in trade unions, which is 13% of the total number of employees surveyed. In comparison with June 2017, the unionization of Polish workforce has slightly increased. The percentage of trade union members among all adult Poles has remained at a similar level since 2006. At the same time, it is lower than in the earlier period, especially at the very beginning of the 1990s. In 1991, almost every fifth adult (19%) declared trade union membership. Over the next few years, this number decreased by almost half, and in the 21st century the percentage of people belonging to this type of organization did not exceed 9%.

Declared trade union membership



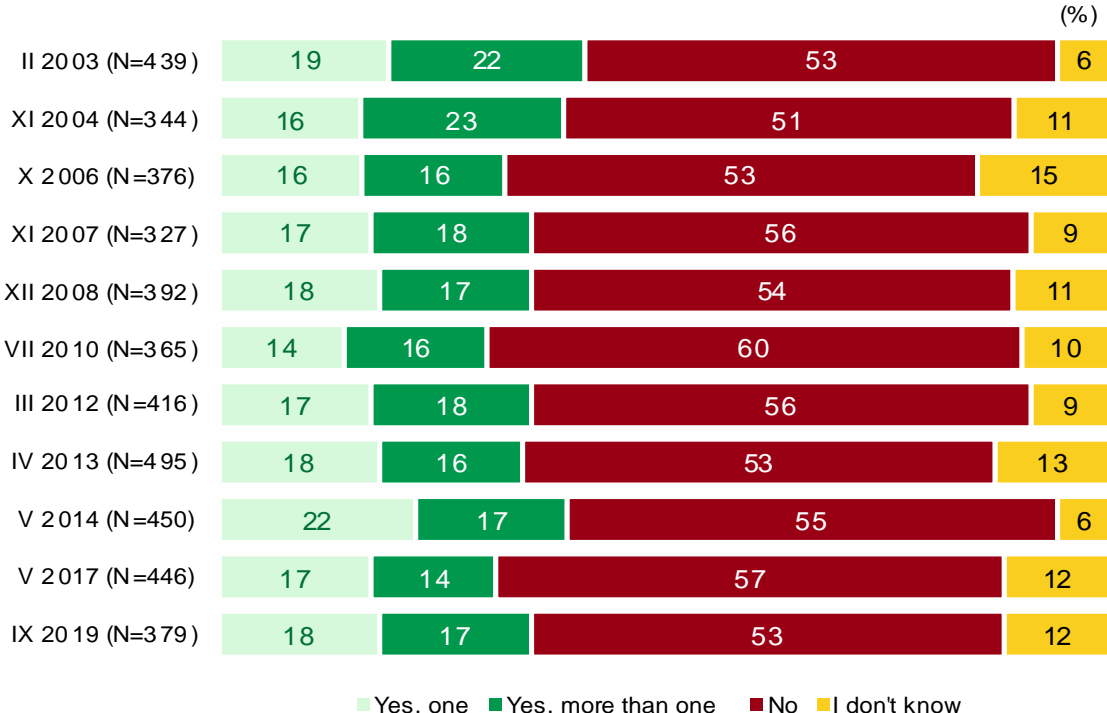
Employee declarations regarding membership in trade unions are differentiated by the size of the workplace measured by the number of employees. The larger the company or institution in which the respondents work, the greater the likelihood that they belong to trade unions. Membership in trade unions is declared by only 3% of employees in companies employing up to 50 people, by 17% of employees in enterprises with 50 to 249 employees and by 33% in enterprises from 250 people up.

Union membership is most common in the public sector: 29% of employees in public institutions, state- and self-government owned enterprises as well as in state sole shareholder companies belong to unions. On the other hand, in private companies and in companies with the participation of private owners and the state the percentage of trade unionists is very small (4% each).

Since 2004, about a third of the employed persons have answered that trade unions operate in their workplaces (currently 35%), while the majority work in companies and institutions where there is no trade union organization (currently 53%). The percentage of people who do not know whether there are trade unions or not is significant (12%). Employees who know that there are trade unions at their workplace almost equally often claim that they have only one trade union organization (18%), and that there is more than one (17%).

Are there trade unions in your workplace?

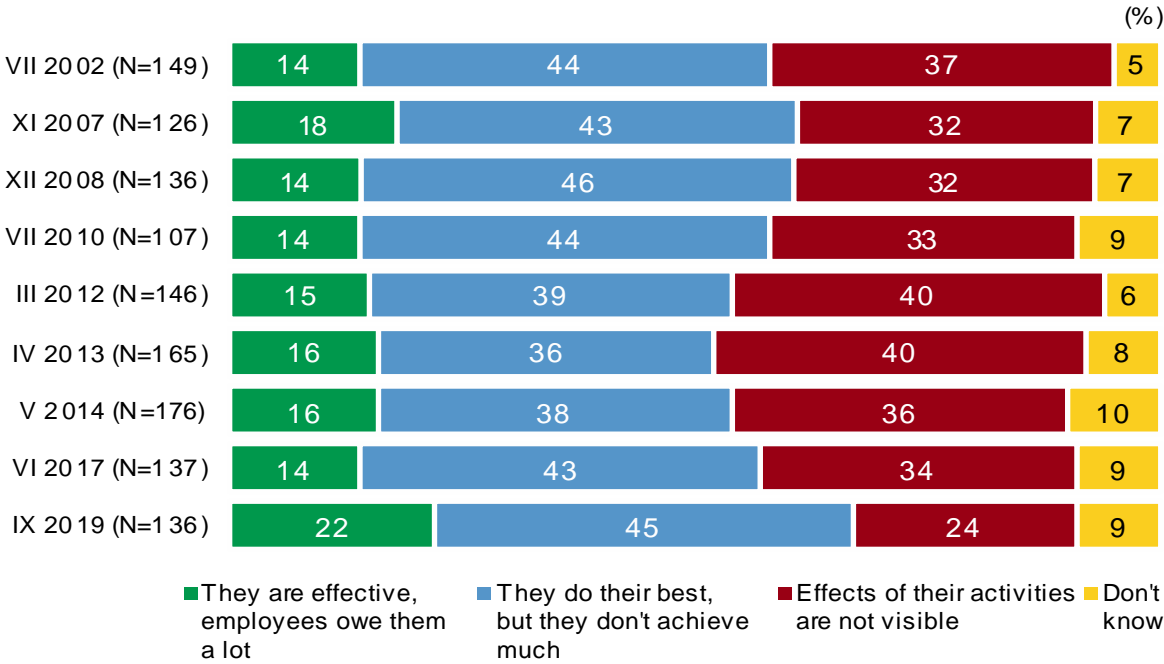
Answers of employees.



The assessment of trade union activity in the workplaces is the best recorded since 2002. The largest group believe that the trade unions in their workplace are doing their best, but achieve little (45%), while less than a quarter of employees in enterprises with trade unions claim that their activities are not visible (from June 2017 a decrease by 10 percentage points) At the same time, 22% believe that unions are effective and employees owe them a lot (from June 2017 an increase by 8 points).

How do you assess the activity of trade unions in your enterprise (workplace)?

Answers of employees of enterprises in which there are trade unions.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Trade Unions in Poland", 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2019, N=936. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.