

## **Perception of location in the social structure**

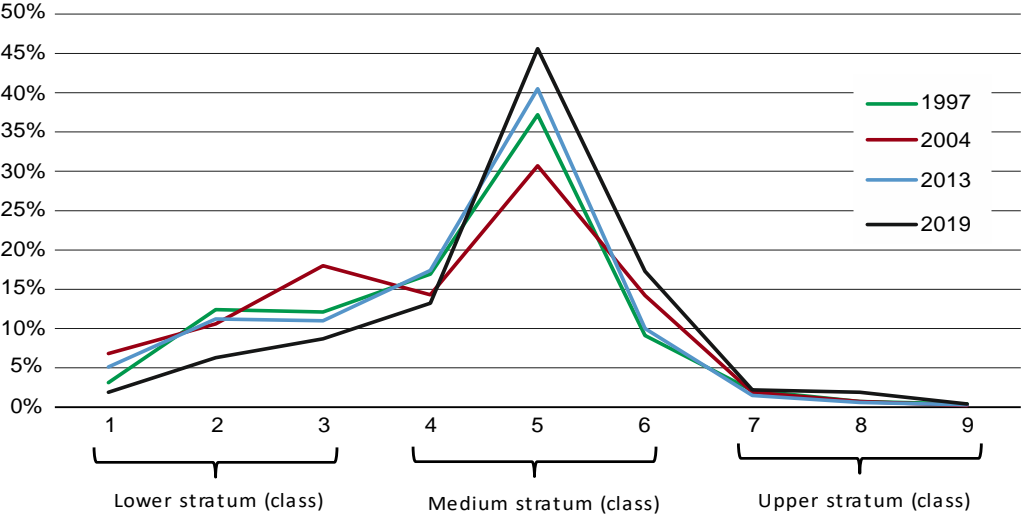
Respondents were asked to specify their social position on a scale from 1 to 9, on which 1 means low stratum (class) and 9 means high. Most often, they placed themselves in the middle of the scale (45.6%). By dividing the scale into three parts: the lower strata (points 1-3), medium (points 4-6) and the higher (points 7-9), we can see a tendency to self-locate around the centre of the scale. Currently, three-quarters of respondents (76.1%) considered themselves as belonging to the middle class, one-sixth (16.9%) are below the average, and a few identify with the upper class (4.5%).

In recent years, the percentage of respondents identifying with the middle class has increased significantly, i.e. by 8.2 percentage points compared to 2013 and by 16.9 compared to 2004. There has been a slight increase in the proportion of people seeing themselves in higher positions (by 2.1 points in compared to 2013, by 1.7 points compared to 2004), while the number of those self-identifying in the lower class has decreased by 10.4 points compared to 2013 and by 18.5 points compared to 2004.

As in previous years, we have recorded a numerical prevalence of people identifying with the lower strata over those identified with the upper, but for the last fifteen years this difference has been decreasing. While in 2004 those in the lower strata were about thirteen

times more common than those in the upper, in 2013 the difference was about eleven times, while now they are four times as numerous. It is also worth emphasizing that currently the largest number of Poles in the history of our research self-locate in the middle class.

**Some people occupy higher positions in society, while others are in lower positions. Where would you place yourself?**



„Don't know” omitted.

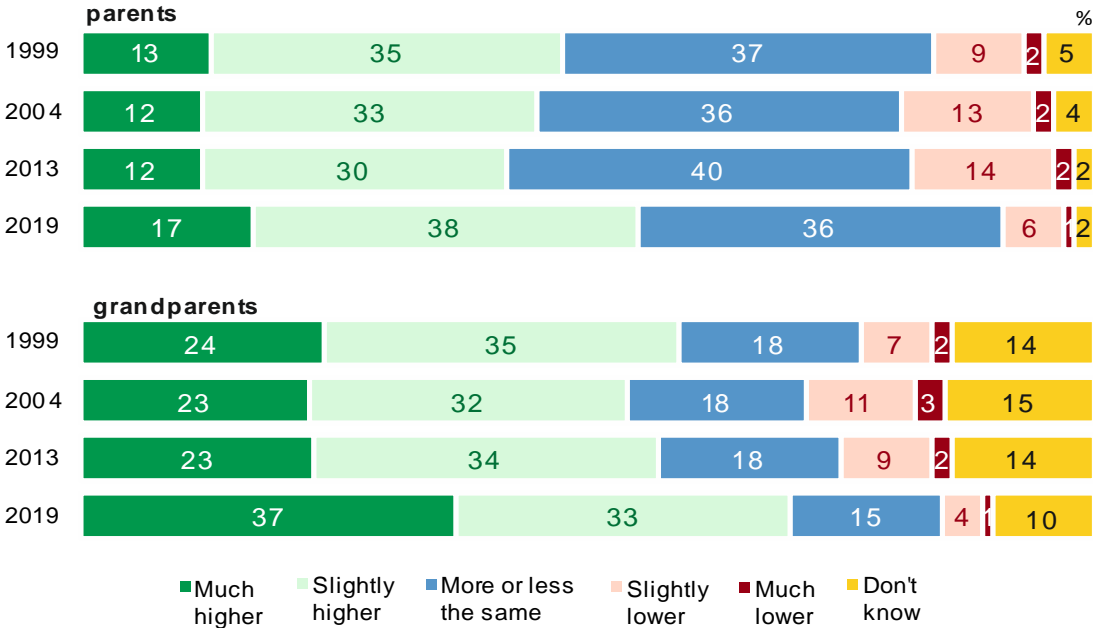
Perception of one's social position depends to a large extent on education and material status. The higher the level of education and the better the assessment of material conditions as well as income per person in the household, the higher the subjective position in the social hierarchy. In addition, analyses show that younger respondents (aged 25-34) have relatively good self-perception. Good evaluations are also expressed by residents of cities (the highest ratings are given by respondents from the largest cities), and by members of the following socio-professional groups: senior staff and specialists with higher education, students and administrative staff.

The vast majority of respondents believe that they occupy a higher position in society than their grandparents (70%), one-seventh think they are in the same position (15%), and only a few note decrease (5%). The perceived mobility relative to parents is slightly smaller, as a little more than half of respondents (55%) are of the opinion that their position is higher than their parents, every third thinks that it is the same (36%), and very few think it is lower (7%).

Taking into account the longer twenty year perspective, it can be concluded that in Poland the sense of upward mobility is prevailing compared to previous generations, and we have noted extremely high conviction about it in the last six years.

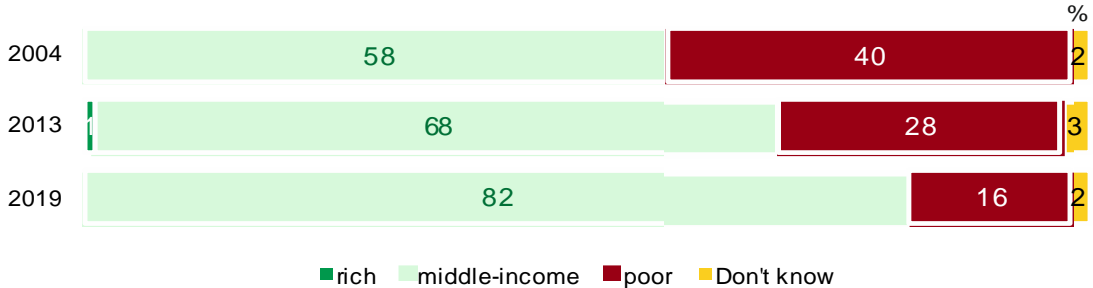
**Is your position in society higher, lower or more or less the same compared to your parents / grandparents?**

*Position in society of respondents compared to the positions of:*



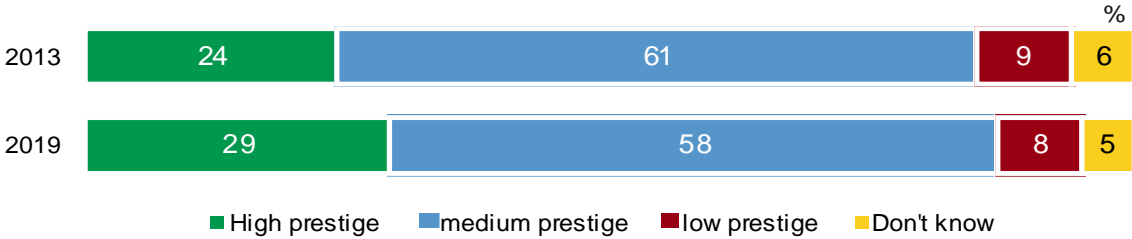
When asked about their material position, Poles most often consider their situation as average (82%), far less often as poor (16%), and almost no one described themselves as rich. Over the past six years, we have recorded a clear increase in the percentage of the average assessments (up by 14 percentage points) and at the same time a large decrease in the percentage of those describing themselves as poor (down by 12 points).

**Do you consider yourself:**



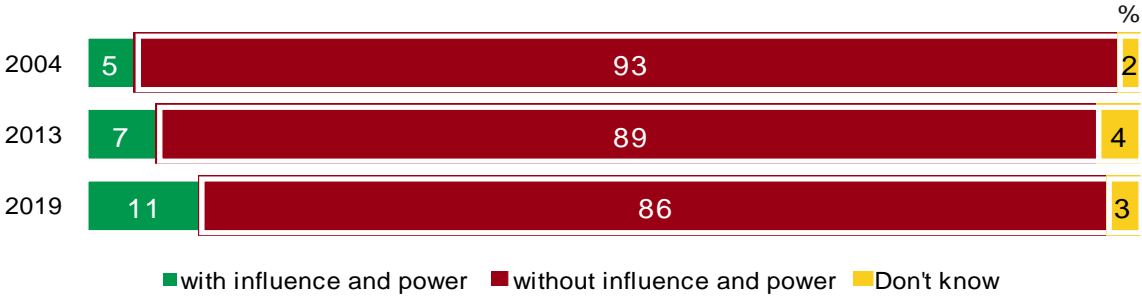
As regards prestige, the largest group of respondents have described themselves as enjoying average social status (58%), three out of ten think they are highly respected (29%), and every thirteenth think they enjoy low prestige (8%). Positive changes are also visible in this dimension, but not as large as in the case of material position. Over the past six years, the percentage of respondents has increased (by 5 percentage points) who think they belong to the high status group, with corresponding 3-point decrease in size of the number of people who enjoy average respect.

**Do you consider yourself as a person who enjoys...**



As for the distribution of power, as six years ago, the vast majority of respondents include themselves among people without influence or power. It should be noted, however, that the percentage of respondents claiming to have influence and power increased compared to 2013 by 4 percentage points, and compared to 2004 by 6 points.

**Do you consider yourself as a person...**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Perception of One's Place in the Social Structure", February 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2019 (N=944) and December 2019 (N=910). The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.