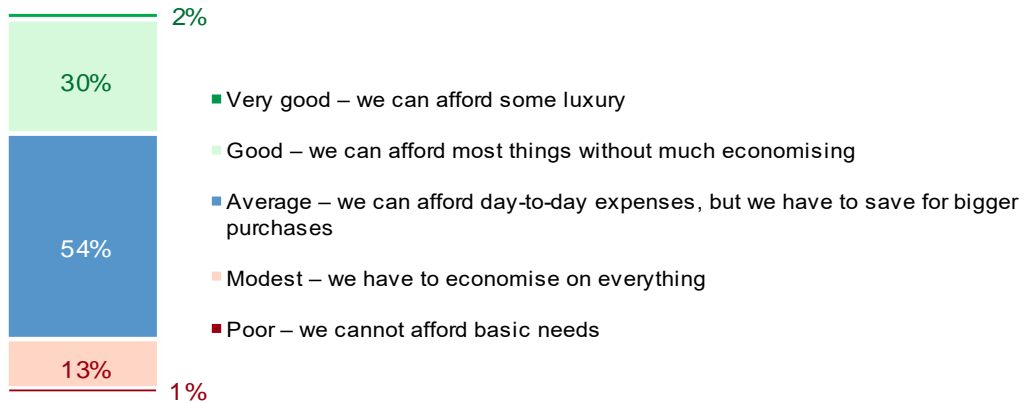


## **Material living conditions before the epidemic**

The epidemic, whose economic effects are increasingly felt, came at a time when the assessment of the financial situation and living standards had been best in over three decades.

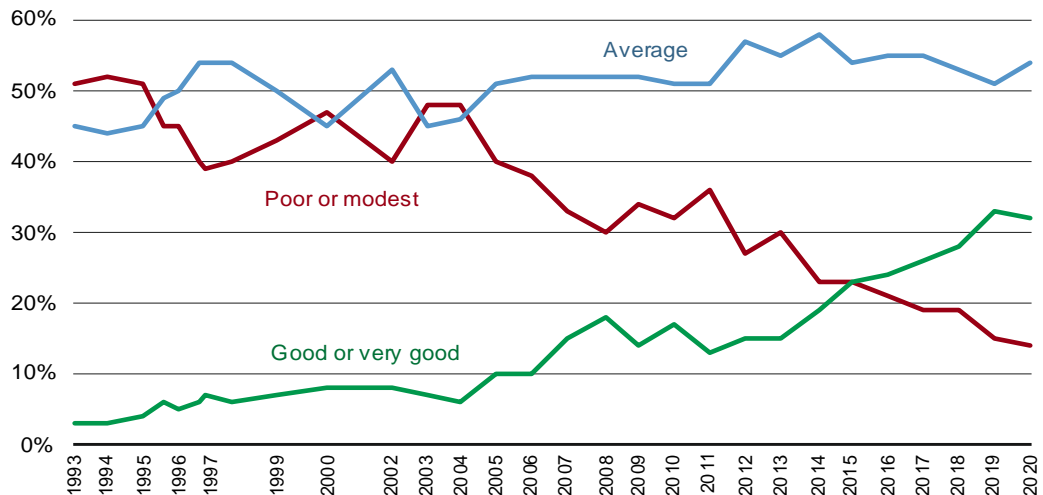
In the second half of March, more than half of adults described their household finances as being on a medium level - they had enough for everyday expenses, but they had to save for more serious expenses (54%). Almost one in three people had more freedom in managing their budget - in their household they had enough without special savings (30%) or could afford some luxury (2%). Less than one-seventh lived modestly - they had to manage very economically every day (13%). Only very few respondents (1%) admitted that they lived very poorly and could not meet basic needs.

### How would you describe your household's financial situation?



In the last year, financial situation has changed little: there has been some increase in the number of people declaring that they lived on average level. On the other hand, clear changes in living standards are visible from a longer perspective. Even in 2004, more people declared that they lived modestly or even very poorly (48% in total) than on an average level (46%), and only 6% admitted that they were living well, i.e. had certain freedom in managing their budget. From then on until 2008, the standard of living was gradually improving. In the following years - from 2009 to 2013 - the effects of the global financial and economic crisis were felt in Poland: the GDP growth rate varied, the increase in consumer spending slowed down, while the unemployment rate increased. At that time, declarations on household budgets, despite some fluctuations from year to year, did not change clearly. From 2014 to 2019, along with the improvement in the socio-economic situation, there was a systematic improvement in the assessment of how money was managed in households.

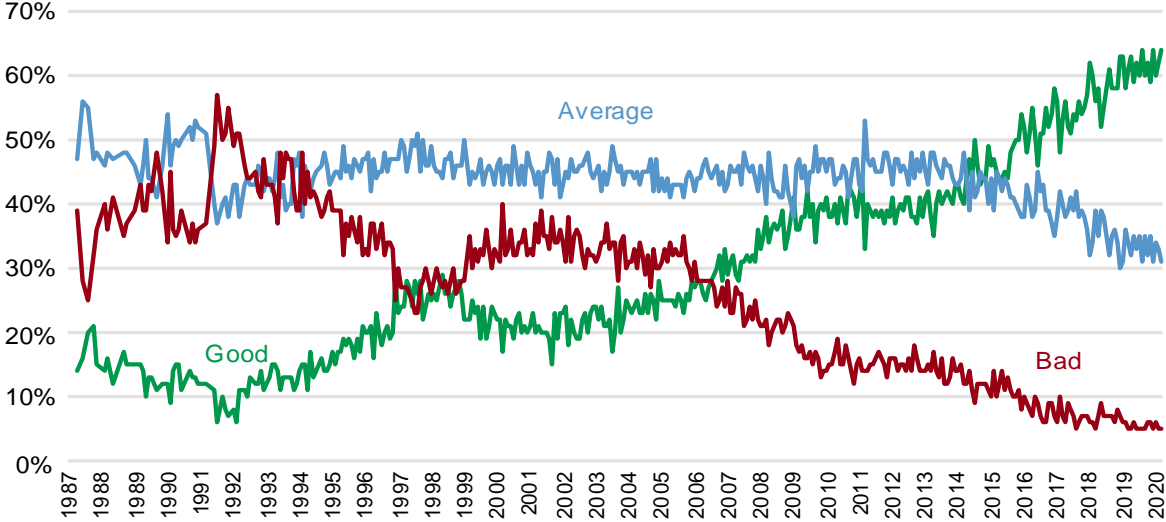
### How would you describe your household's financial situation?



According to data from March 2020, 64% of respondents rated the material conditions of their household as good. Nearly a third thought they were average (neither good nor bad, 31%), and only a few (5%) described them as bad.

The assessments of material conditions, despite some variation from month to month, have been steadily improving since roughly half of the last decade. Since August 2006, more people have been satisfied with material conditions than dissatisfied, and for about five years positive ratings have outweighed not only negatives but also average opinions.

**Evaluation of household material living conditions**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Material Living Conditions before the Epidemic”, April 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2020, N=875. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.