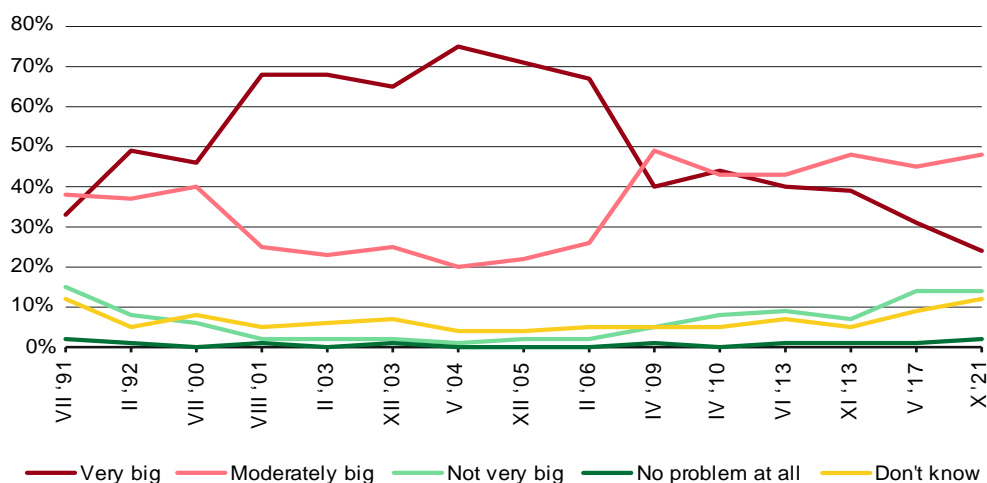


Corruption in Poland

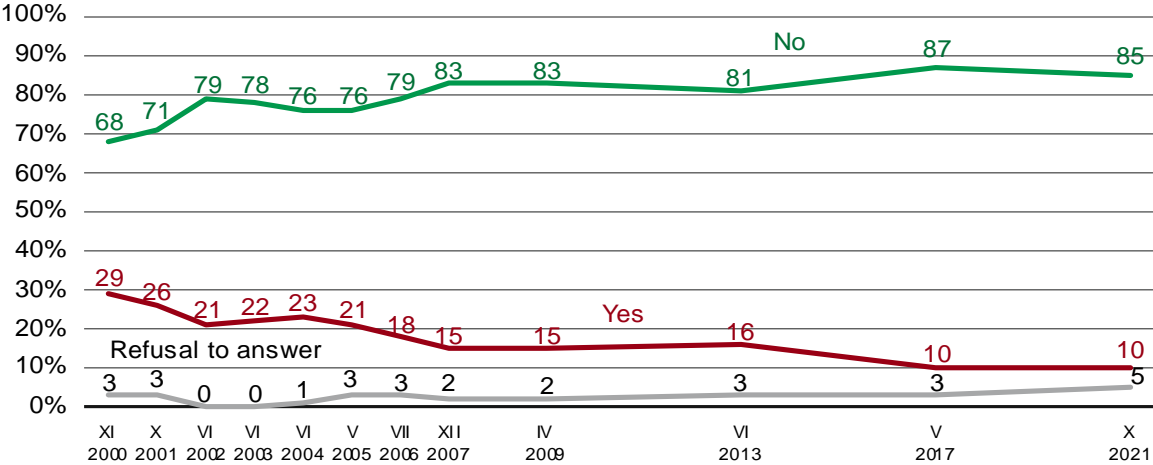
Almost three-quarters of respondents (72%) are convinced that corruption is currently a serious problem in Poland, with one fourth (24%) considering it a very important problem, and 48% seeing it as rather big, while 16% downplay corruption, considering it insignificant. Compared to the assessments from the previous three decades, the threat of corruption is not perceived today as particularly strongly present in political and social life. It was considered a particularly big problem in the first decade of this century. The current general distribution of ratings is almost identical to that of over thirty years ago, shortly after Poland regained sovereignty, in July 1991. Today's perception of corruption as an important social problem is therefore the lowest in thirty years.

Is corruption a big problem in Poland?



People who personally know someone who takes bribes constitute 10% of all respondents, which is the same as four years ago and clearly less than we registered in the earlier period. Judging by the responses, accepting bribes at the beginning of this century was much more frequent than today.

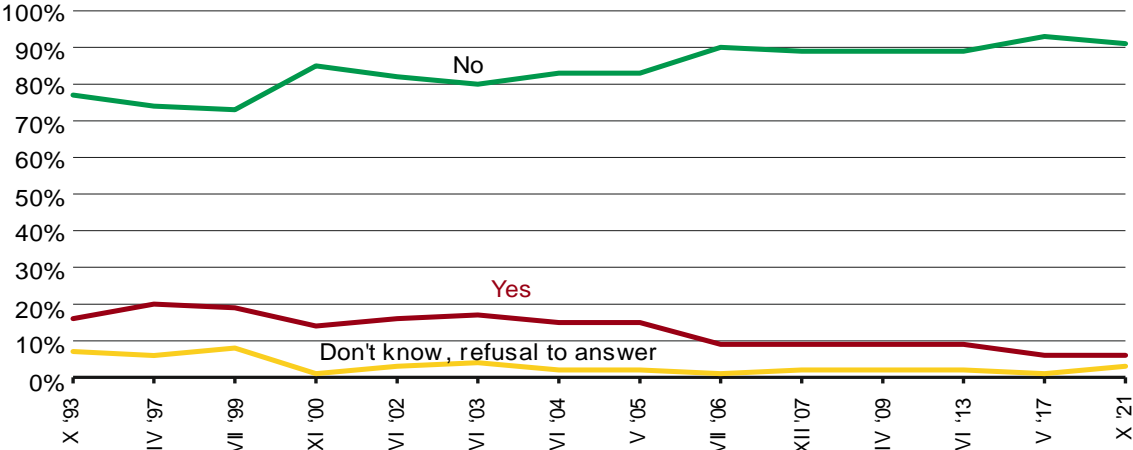
Do you personally know anyone who takes bribes?



Every twentieth respondent (5%, the same as four years ago) was offered a bribe at least once in his or her life.

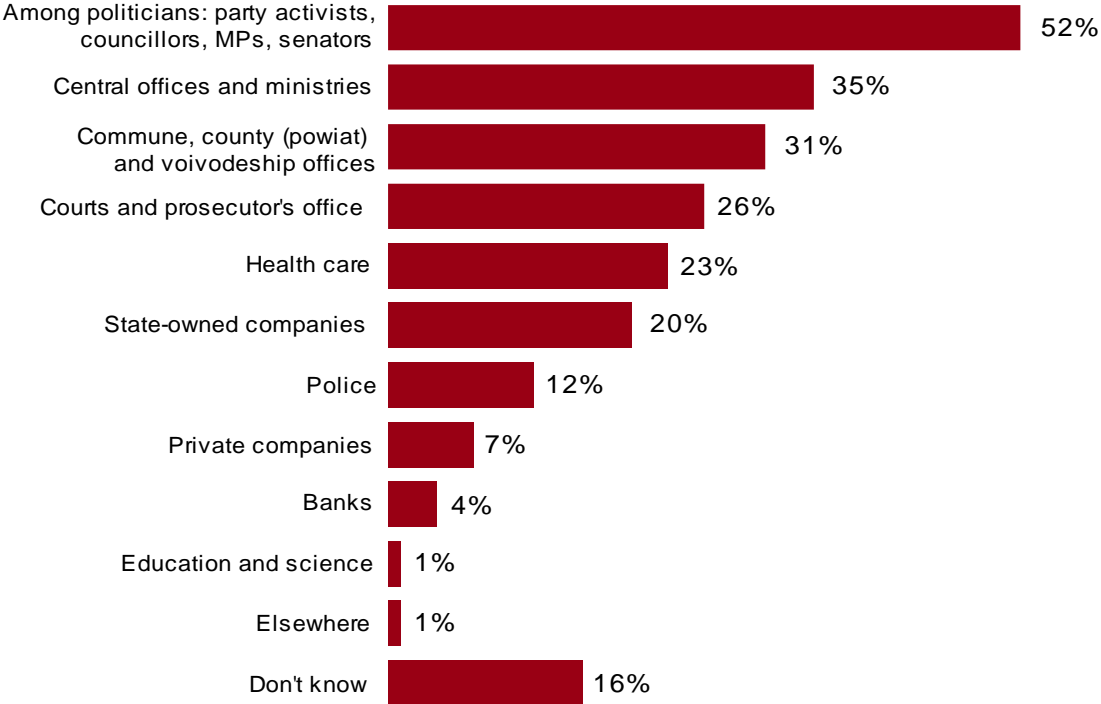
Declarations regarding giving bribes also show that the scale of corruption has been reduced in recent years. Since 2017, the percentage of respondents declaring giving bribes (6%) has remained the same, i.e. the lowest recorded for less than three decades. For comparison, at the end of the 1990s this percentage was as high as 20% and was the highest in the analysed period.

In the last 3-4 years, were you forced to pay a bribe?



According to Poles, the area of social life in which corruption is currently the most widespread is politics. More than half (52%) are convinced of various forms of corruption among party activists, parliamentarians or councillors. In the second place on the list of the most corrupt institutions, with around one third of the votes, are central offices and ministries (35%), followed by commune, county (powiat) and voivodeship offices (31%).

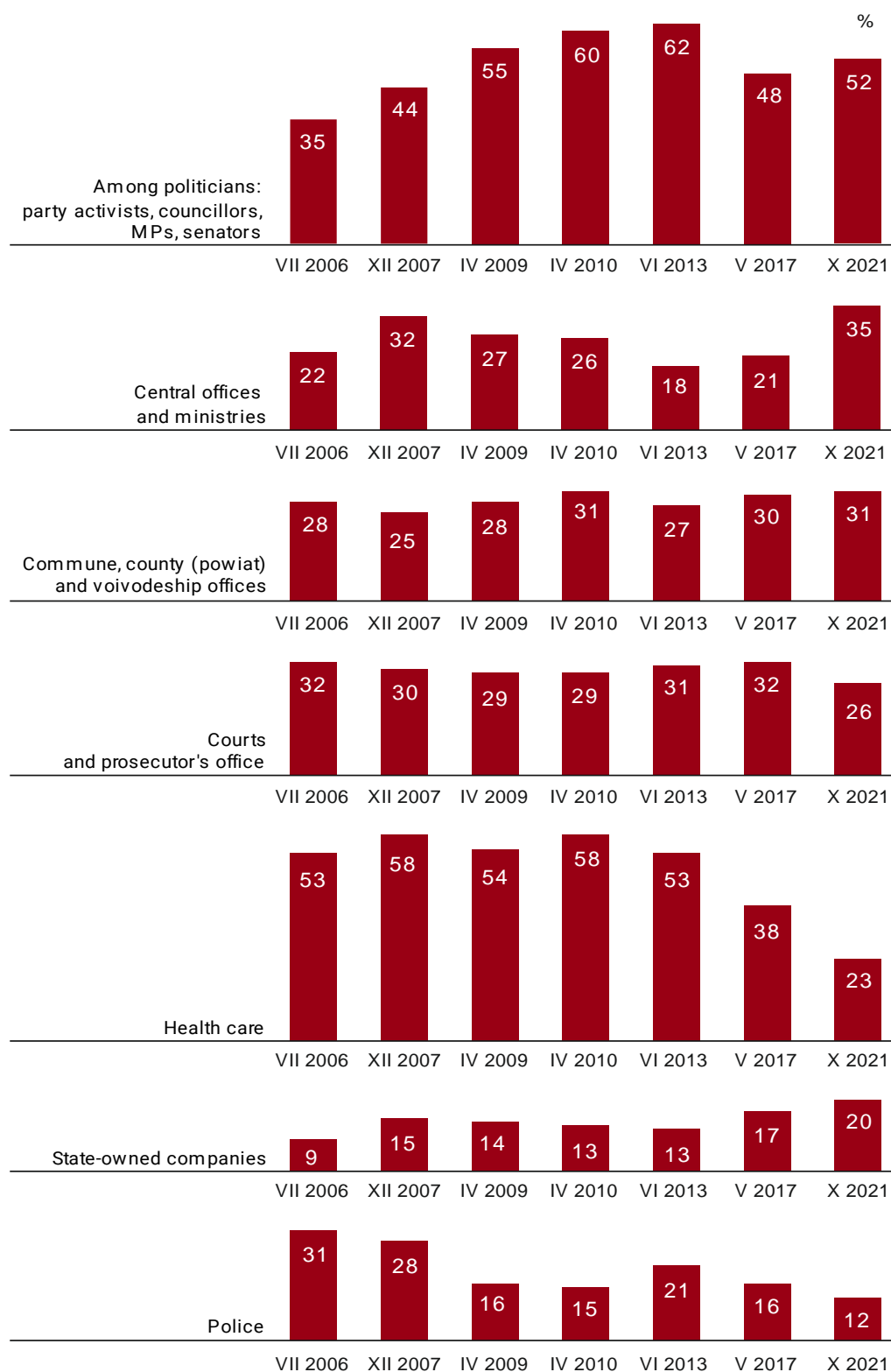
Where is corruption the most common?



The belief that politics is the area in which corruption occurs most frequently was more widespread than it is now during the rule of the previous coalition of Civic Platform and Polish Peasant Party (PO-PSL): in 2013 it was expressed by 62% of respondents. At the same time, it was clearly shared less often than today during the first Law and Justice (PiS) rule: in 2006 it was expressed by 35% of respondents. Moreover, more people than during the previous PiS rule and during the PO-PSL rule see corruption in central offices and ministries as well as in state-owned companies. On the other hand, the percentage of people noticing corruption in the health care system, in the police force, courts and the prosecutor's office is the lowest since we first conducted our research, i.e. since 2001.

Where is corruption the most common?

Percentage of respondents indicating given areas in years 2006-2021.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Various Colours of Corruption in Poland", December 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2021, N=1161. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.