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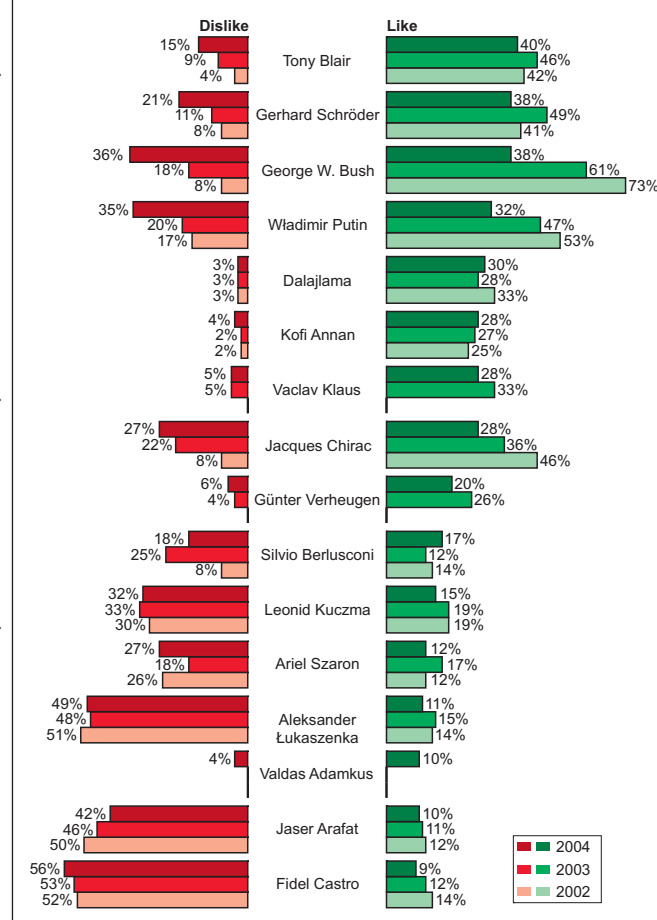
## THE POLES ABOUT FOREIGN POLITICIANS

At present, none of the leading figures of international politics is liked by most Poles. Until last year, the US President George W. Bush was the most liked well-known foreign politician in Poland. His predecessors, George Bush Senior and Bill Clinton, also occupied top positions in our liking-disliking rankings in the first half of the 1990s. So, it seems that to date the Poles have used to like current President of the United States. In 2003, George W. Bush still was the unquestionable leader of the list, although positive feelings about him decreased significantly, and dislike grew over twofold. This year's survey revealed far-reaching changes in the distribution of the likes and dislikes of the Poles. Now the President of the United States is liked by the Poles as frequently as disliked. As compared with the previous year, positive feelings about George W. Bush decreased by almost a third, and as compared with the year 2002 by almost fifty percent. The proportion of the respondents who dislike him doubled in relation to the previous year and increased four times as compared with the year 2002. The change in the attitude to George W. Bush is to a large extent a consequence of the negative evaluation of his policy towards Iraq.

The attitude to the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, and, although to a lesser extent, the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, also deteriorated during the last year. However, liking these three politicians still clearly prevails over disliking. The image of the French President in the eyes of the Poles has also been deteriorating systematically since 2002. Positive feelings about Jacques Chirac decreased by over one-third and dislike grew over threefold since then. At present, the proportions of the respondents who like and dislike him are roughly equal. The President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, is also systematically losing in the eyes of the Poles. He is now disliked slightly more frequently than liked.

For two years, the same politicians are most disliked in Poland: Fidel Castro, Alexander Lukashenka and Yaser Arafat.

CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDE TO FOREIGN POLITICIANS



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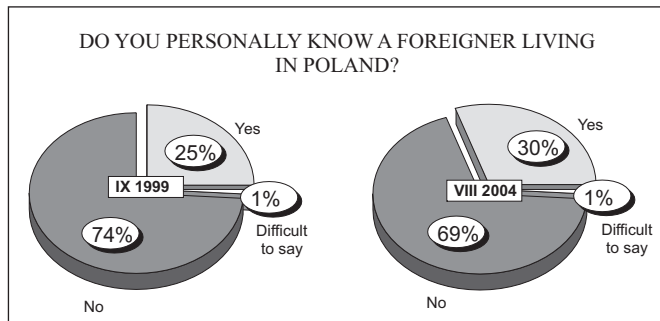
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More information about this issue can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *The Poles about foreign politicians*, August 2004. Survey executed in July 2004. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N = 920.

## FOREIGNERS IN POLAND

Nearly a third of the respondents know a foreigner living in Poland. It means that the percentage of the Poles who personally know a foreigner has increased by 5 percentage points over the last five years.

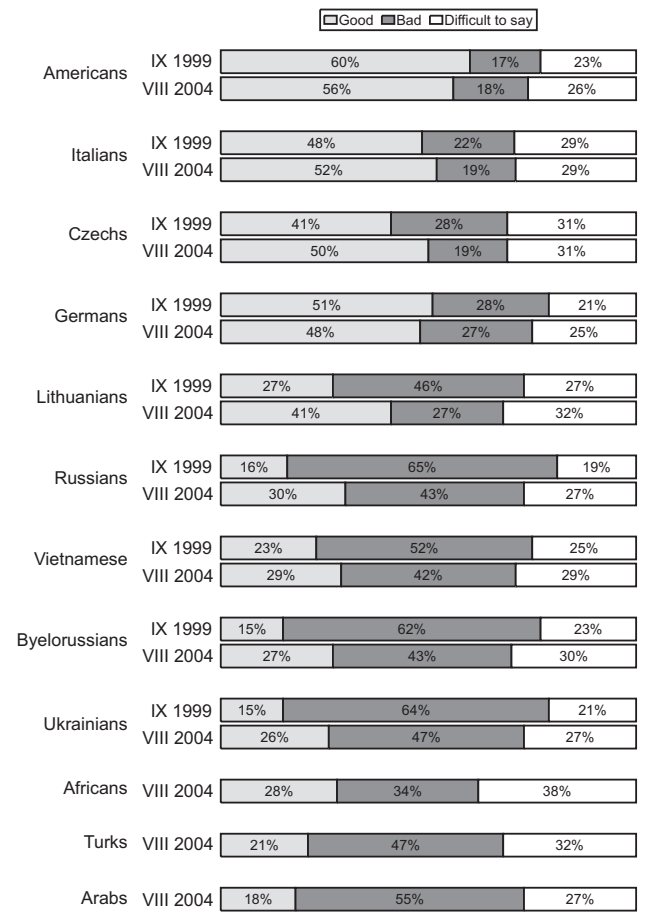


The presence of people from developed Western countries and those Central and Eastern European countries which have joined the European Union with Poland (the Czech Republic, Lithuania) is considered a positive phenomenon. On the other hand, the presence of people from the former USSR (with the exception of Lithuanians), the Vietnamese, Turks, Arabs and Africans is seen as rather disadvantageous.

The Poles' attitude to foreigners has improved during the last five years. Today, more Poles than in the past notice the advantages of the presence of people from the former USSR, the Czech Republic and Vietnam.

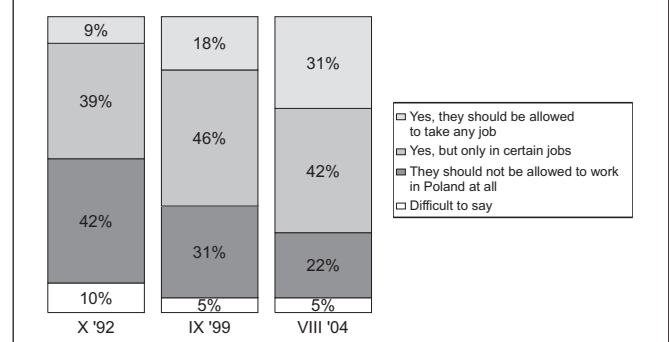
The Poles indicate the threats associated with the presence of foreigners in Poland somewhat more frequently than the advantages (74% and 63%, respectively). The perceived risks and threats are mainly socio-economic in nature. On the whole, almost half of the Poles (46%) see economic benefits of the presence of foreigners in Poland. The following are the most frequently mentioned: investments and new jobs (indicated by 31% of all respondents), development of trade and better supply of goods on the market (6%), modernisation of the economy (6%) and inflow of money (6%). Moreover, over a quarter of the respondents (27%) see benefits of the presence of foreigners in Poland in the sphere of culture and customs in a broad sense. Nearly half of the respondents (47%) mention some negative socio-economic effects of the presence of foreigners in Poland. The opinions that foreigners present a threat to the job market in Poland, because they work for less money and often illegally, are definitely the most common (36%). Some respondents say that foreigners are a burden for the state and the citizens, because they receive social benefits in Poland (5%), exploit the Poles economically as cheap labour (4%) or buy out Polish factories and Polish land (3%). As far as other negative effects of the presence of foreigners in Poland are concerned, growth of crime was mentioned in the first place (20%).

### IS THE PRESENCE OF ... IN POLAND GOOD FOR POLAND OR NOT?

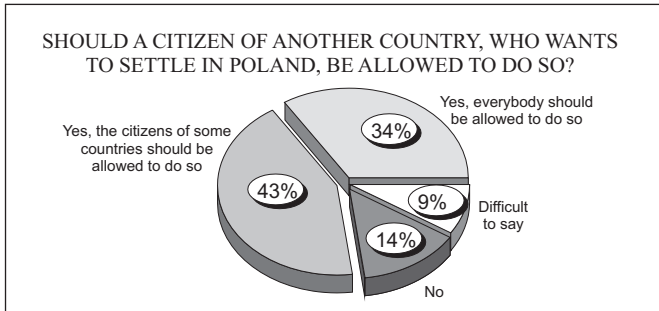


Almost three quarters of the respondents accept the presence of foreigners on the Polish job market, one-third of them would not impose any restrictions in this respect. The acceptance for foreign workers in Poland has increased considerably over the last five years.

### SHOULD FOREIGNERS BE ALLOWED TO WORK IN POLAND?



The opinions about immigration to Poland are ambiguous. On the one hand, a definite majority of the respondents believe that the citizens of at least some countries should be allowed to settle in Poland. On the other hand, most (83%) believe that Poland does not need more immigrants.

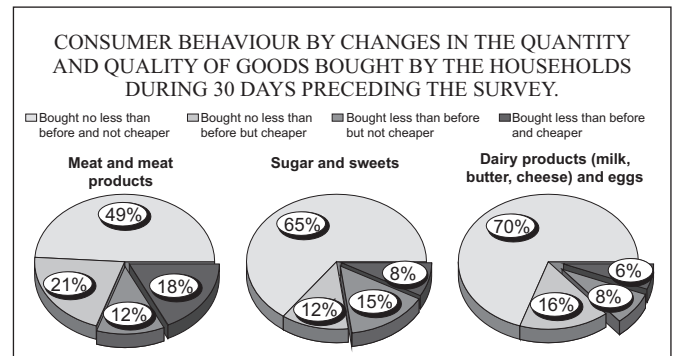
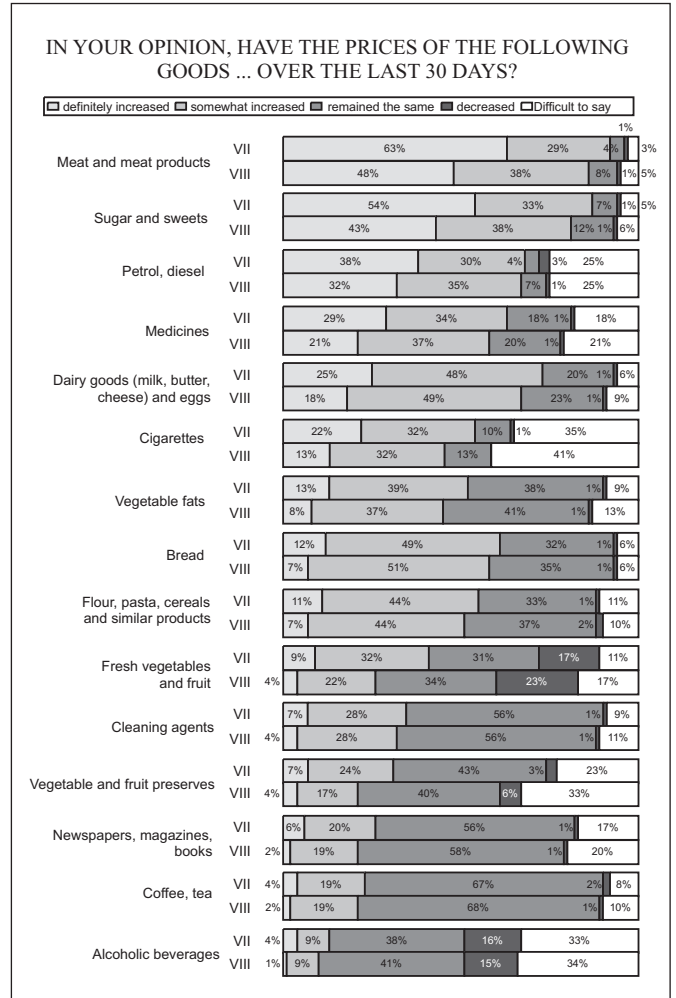


More information about this issue can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *Foreigners in Poland*, August 2004. Survey executed in August 2004. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N = 922.

## PERCEIVED PRICE INCREASE AND CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

The accession of Poland to the European Union has contributed to a substantial increase of the prices of some consumer goods. The price increase was noticed in particular in the case of meat and meat products, sugar and sweets, dairy products and eggs, medicines and petrol. This growth of prices was significantly more noticeable by the society in June than in July. The only products with prices somewhat more frequently perceived as lower than higher after the accession are alcoholic beverages.

The perceived price increase visibly affect consumption. First, more expensive goods are replaced with cheaper ones, and subsequently the quantity of purchased goods decreases. The changes in consumer behaviour caused by the perceived growth of prices are particularly visible in the consumption of meat and meat products. During 30 days preceding the August survey approximately one-fifth of the consumers (18%) bought less and switched to cheaper kinds of meat and meat products. A slightly bigger group (21%) bought the same quantity, but chose cheaper products. Relatively few respondents (12%) decided to cut the quantity of meat products purchased, but not compromise the quality. On the whole, over half of the consumers of meat and meat products (51%) started to buy less and/or choose cheaper meat. Over a third of the consumers (35%) cut the quantity or changed the quality of sweets bought, and over a quarter (26-30%) declared that the standard of their consumption (quantity and/or quality) of the following goods decreased: dairy products and eggs, flour, pasta and other cereals, vegetable fats, vegetable and fruit preserves (although this change is most probably seasonal), cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. About a fifth of the consumers (19-23%) declared cuts or other changes in their consumption of: medicines, newspapers, magazines and books, fresh vegetables and fruit, fuels, bread, cleaning agents, coffee and tea.

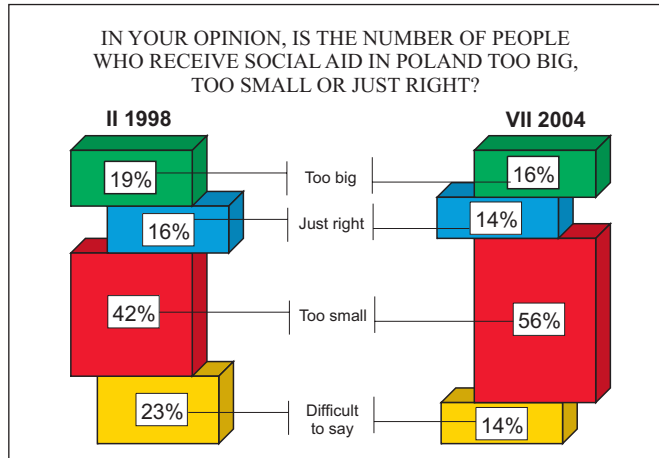


More information about this issue can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *Perceived price changes and consumer behaviour*, August 2004. Survey executed in August 2004. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N = 922.

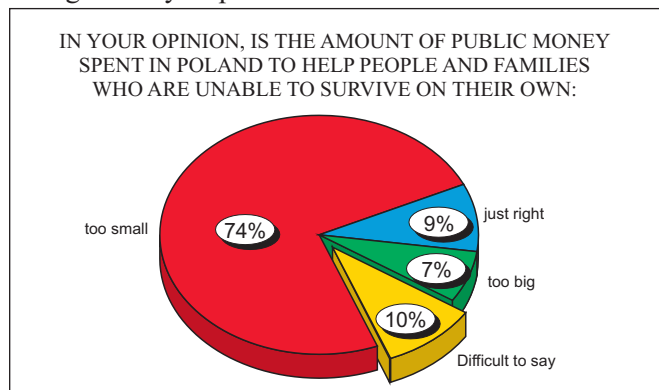
## OPINIONS ABOUT PUBLICLY FUNDED SOCIAL AID

The number of persons who believe that too few Poles receive social aid adequate to the needs has grown in the last years. Currently over half of the Poles (56%) notice people who do not receive any support, although

they need it. More than a quarter of all adult Poles (28%) declare that they know personally at least one person who recently applied for social aid, but did not receive it.

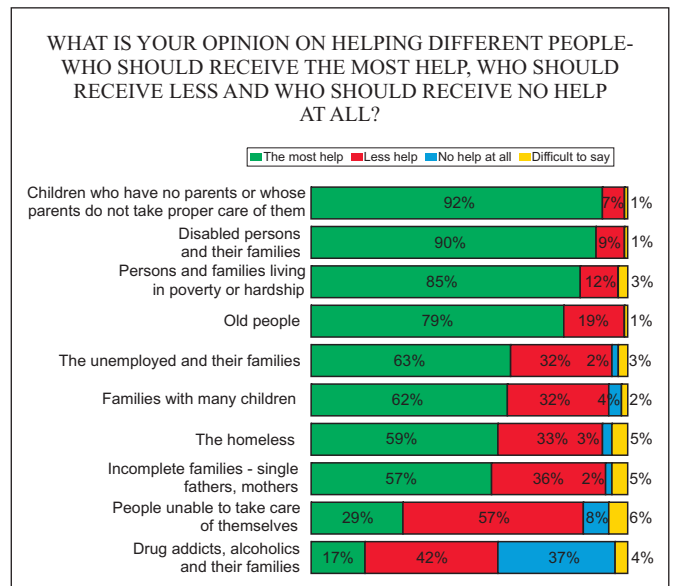


The amount of public money spent to help people and families who are unable to survive on their own is criticised even more than the social range of the aid. Nearly three quarters of the Poles (74%) believe that not enough money is spent on social aid.



It is commonly believed in Poland that children left without care and disabled persons should receive

help in the first place. Old people and people living in poverty are also seen as those who need support the most.



One in eight respondents have received social aid personally during the last few years (12%). 15% of the respondents declare that a member of their family is or has been a beneficiary of social aid. So, on the whole one-fifth of the surveyed families (22%) were or are clients of social services. The persons who used or still use social aid usually received cash benefits (78%), frequently paid on a one-off basis in connection with the client's special needs or personal situation. One-eighth of those in need used benefits in kind or received subsidies for rent, electricity or gas (13%). Only 5% received any services and 4% received a pension from the social services.

More information about this issue can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *Opinions about publicly funded social aid*, August 2004. Survey executed in July 2004. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N=920.

### In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ Opinions about the job market and the threat of unemployment in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary
- ◆ Opinions about the presence of Polish soldiers in Iraq and the threat of terrorism
- ◆ Opinions on the work of the Parliament and the President
- ◆ Opinions about privatisation
- ◆ Interest in the Olympics and opinions about the chances of the Poles for medals
- ◆ Opinions about the job market and the threat of unemployment in August
- ◆ The attitude to the government and the Prime Minister
- ◆ Evaluations of the work of the Sejm, the Senate and the President
- ◆ Trust in politicians in August
- ◆ The attitude to the presence of Polish soldiers in Iraq
- ◆ What do Poles know about lay judges?

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