

CONTENTS:

- LIFE SATISFACTION

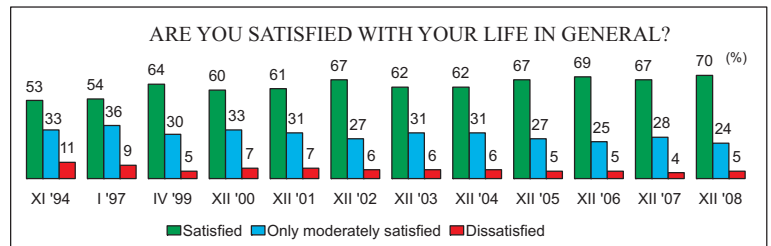
- OCCUPATIONAL PRESTIGE

- MEMBERSHIP IN TRADE UNIONS

- USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

LIFE SATISFACTION

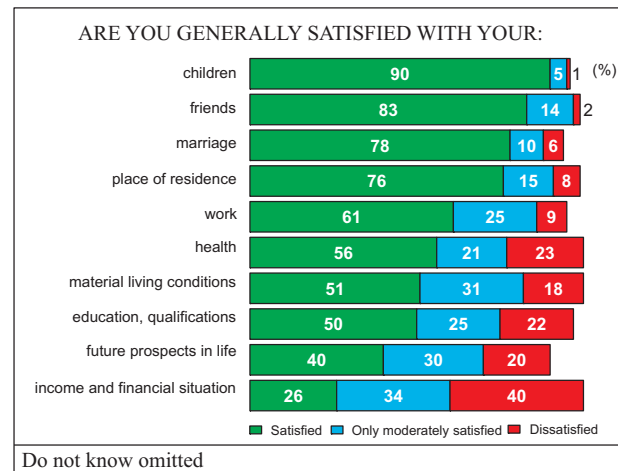
The transformation in Poland coincides with an increase in life satisfaction of its inhabitants. In the mid-1990s, slightly more than half of adult Polish people declared satisfaction with their life, one-third had ambivalent feelings, and about one-tenth were dissatisfied. In 1999, we noted marked improvement, and since then the majority of respondents (60%-70%) have claimed to be satisfied with their life. The last measurement brings the best result in the whole period under study.



In almost all socio-demographic groups the majority of respondents declare satisfaction with their life, but the level of satisfaction is socially differentiated. It depends on the socio-economic position, and it increases with material living conditions, household per capita income, education and professional status. Young respondents tend to be more satisfied.

Polish people are usually satisfied with their family life, their friends (acquaintances), and their locality. It has to be noted, however, that the latest indicators of satisfaction with

family relations are slightly worse than previous. In Dec. 2008, a vast majority of parents (90%) were satisfied with their children, but the number fell by 5 pct. points compared with the previous year. A strong majority of married people declared satisfaction with their relationship (78%), but their number fell by 10 pct. points compared with last year and now is the lowest ever recorded. Satisfaction with friends and other close people outside of the family (83%) is more frequent than



satisfaction with marriage. There is a long-term, gradual, but halting, rise in satisfaction with the place of residence. In Dec. 2008, a vast majority were satisfied (76%, 5 pct. points less than in 2007, but 12 points more than in 2000). The level of satisfaction with work is volatile. It was lowest in the years 1994-2000, it increased markedly in 2005, later it fell, but at the end of 2008 it was one of the highest ever (61%). Fewer people (51%) are satisfied with their education and qualifications. Since 1999, people are increasingly more satisfied with the state of their health. In Dec. 2008, they were in majority (56%). The level of satisfaction with future prospects in life is relatively low (40%, the same as a year ago).

As in previous years, the least satisfactory is the economic dimension of life. However, over the last 14 years improvement can be noted. The level of satisfaction with material living conditions (accommodation, durable goods) recorded in Dec. 2008 was the highest ever recorded. Half of respondents declared satisfaction (51%, up 4 points from 2007 and 27 from 1994). Less than one-fifth were dissatisfied (18%, down 22 points from 1994). The level of satisfaction with income and financial situation is much worse.

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER - CBOS -

4a Żurawia
00-503 Warszawa
POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69
(48 22) 628 37 04
(48 22) 693 46 91

Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl
<http://www.cbos.pl>

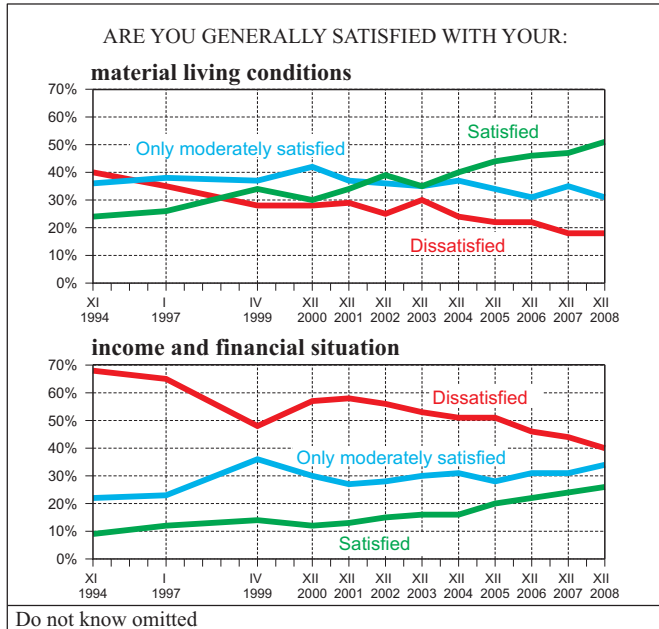
Editor:
Beata Roguska

Translated by
Michał Wenzel

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Nevertheless, last year levels were highest in the whole period under study. A quarter of respondents were satisfied (26%, up 17 points from 1994), while dissatisfaction was expressed by two-fifths (40%, down 4 points from 2007 and 28 points from 1994).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in *Polish Life Satisfaction in the Years 1994-2008*, Jan. 2008. Fieldwork: Dec. 2008, N=1011. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

OCCUPATIONAL PRESTIGE

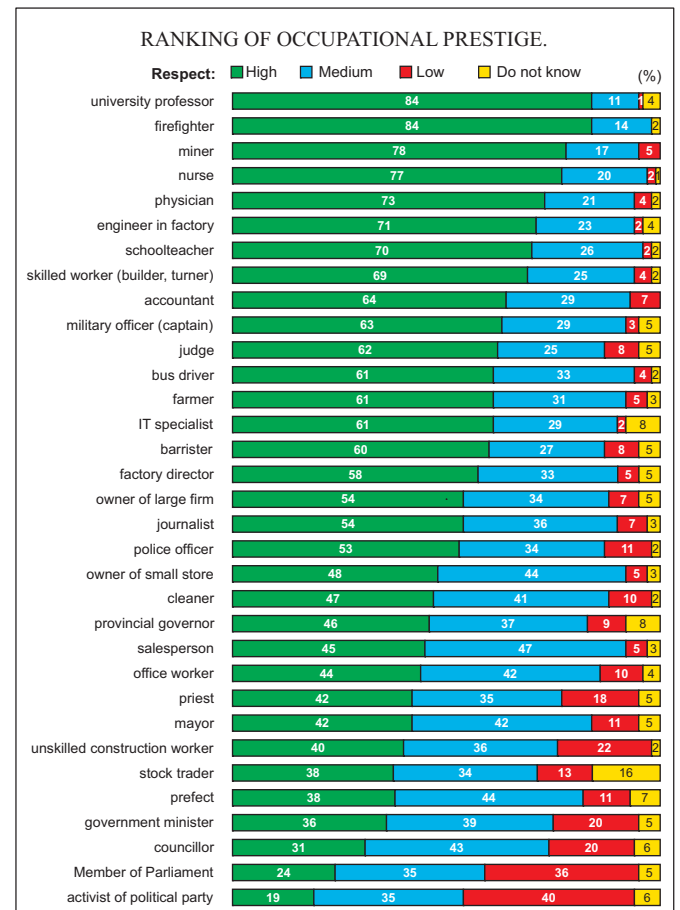
Some jobs are valued more, some less. Some are perceived as particularly useful, or requiring exceptional effort, skill or responsibility. Others, in public opinion, are not so important.

The highest prestige is tied to two professions completely different in character: the university professor and the firefighter. The high rank of the professor is probably due to the expertise associated with the profession. The prestige may be tied to the scientific title and the authority derived from it, as well as the intellectual independence associated with the university. In case of the firefighter, the decisive factors are: usefulness of work, the importance of safety and security, risking one's life in order to rescue others.

The next positions in the ranking of prestige are occupied by professions whose common denominator is high social usefulness and exertion (esp. physical) they entail. The nurse and the miner are respected by over three-thirds of the Polish people (77%-78%). Three professions requiring higher education enjoy slightly lower respect: the physician, the engineer in a factory and the teacher (70%-73%). The fact that the nurse enjoys more prestige than the doctor may be form of compensation for low earnings.

Skilled workers enjoy considerable respect (69%). The work of a builder or turner is valued almost as much as that of an engineer employed in a factory (71%).

Professions and functions related to wielding power and politics are ranked low. One exception is the office of the provincial governor (*wojewoda*), who enjoys respect of almost half of respondents (46%). The mayor enjoys high and medium respect equally often (42%), whereas low level positions of local government (prefect, *starosta*, and local councillor, *radny gminny*) are rated lower. The lowest prestige is associated with the activist of a political party (40% declare low respect), and Member of Parliament (36%). The function of government minister is perceived more favourably: in the opinion of two-fifths of respondents (39%) it deserves medium respect, over a third (36%) rate it high, and one-fifth (20%) rate it low.

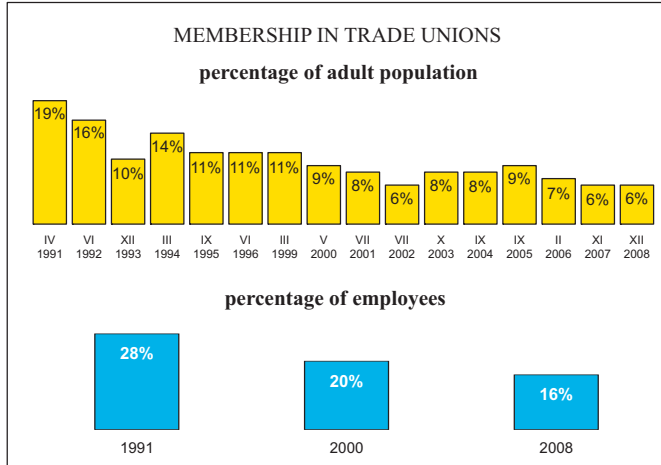


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in *Polish Occupational Prestige*, Jan. 2008. Fieldwork: Nov. 2008, N=1050. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

MEMBERSHIP IN TRADE UNIONS

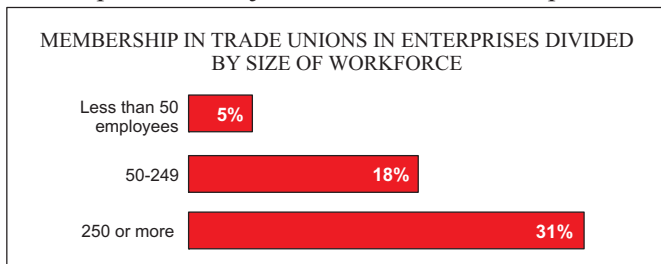
Polish workforce is weakly unionised. About 6% of adult Polish people, i.e. 16% of employees, belong to

trade unions. After systemic transformation, the number of members of trade unions rapidly decreased. The steepest drop occurred at the beginning of the 1990s. Since 2002, no significant changes occurred. In the years 1991-2008 unionisation, understood as the proportion of employees belonging to unions, fell from 28% to 16%.



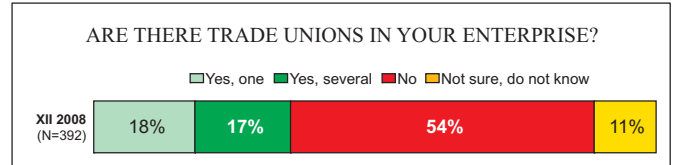
Union members tend to be experienced employees: they are best represented in the age category 45-54. Membership depends on workplace ownership, in that state-owned enterprises and institutions have a stronger union presence. Among those working in public institutions and state-owned plants, over a quarter (29%) belong to a trade union. In enterprises with mixed (state and private) ownership membership is lower (20%), while the employees in private enterprises only seldom belong to unions (4%). In professional groups, membership is highest among skilled workers (24%), and among white-collar workers without higher education (24%). The sectors of economy with strongest unionisation are health and education (25%), transport (22%), and mining and industry (21%). Lowest unionisation was recorded in retail and services (4%).

The bigger the enterprise, the more trade union members there proportionately are. A significant number of employees work in small enterprises, where workforce numbers do not meet the legal minimum requirements to form a union. About a quarter are employed in workplaces with up to 10 employees, and almost half work in places with up to 50 employees. The atomisation of workplaces is a major barrier to union development.

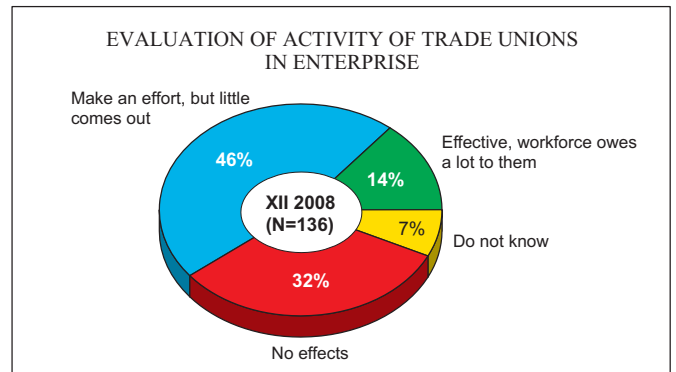


Overall, slightly more than one-third of employees work in enterprises where trade unions are

active, out of which about half have several unions in their workplace. Less than half of those employed in unionised enterprises signed up to be a member.



Trade unions are not very effective at the level of enterprise. A plurality believe that they make an effort, but little comes out of it. About one-third of employees in unionised workplaces see no effects of their activities. Only one in seven declares that they are effective, and the workforce owes a lot to them.



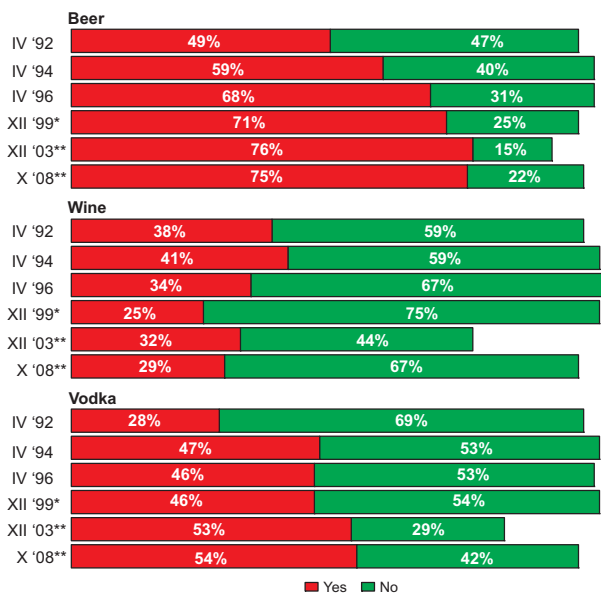
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Membership in Trade Unions. Violation of Employee Rights and Illegal Employment*, Jan. 2008. Fieldwork: Dec. 2008, N=1011. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

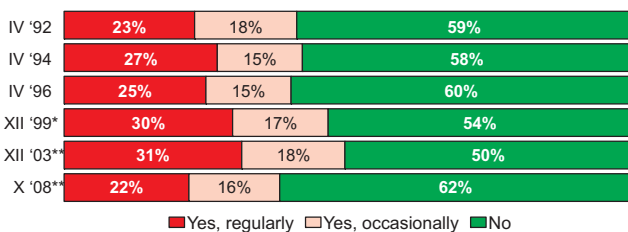
Alcohol is the most commonly used substance among students. In the month preceding the survey, 75% of students of the last form of secondary schools drank beer at least once, 54% drank vodka or other spirits, and 29% drank wine. Compared with the first half of the 1990s, consumption of vodka has increased, while consumption of wine decreased. In a 5-year perspective, the proportion of drinkers among youth has fallen.

Previous research documented a gradual increase in the number of cigarette smokers in the years 1992-2003 (from 23% to 31%). The last survey indicates the reversal of this trend. In the last five years, the proportion of regular smokers among students has fallen to 22%, while the proportion of non-smokers has risen to 62%. Previously, young people from different backgrounds had similar smoking behaviour. Results from the last survey indicate that presently socio-economic status has started to differentiate them. High status means that a young person is less likely to smoke.

HAVE YOU DRUNK ALCOHOL IN THE LAST MONTH?



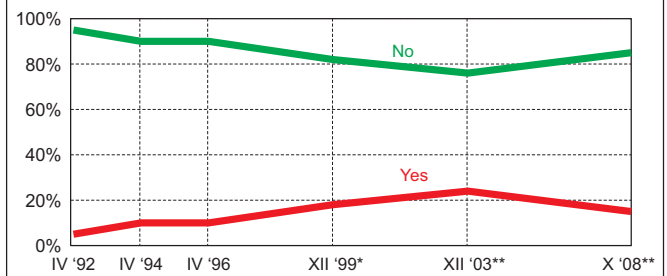
DO YOU SMOKE CIGARETTES?



In the 1990s, the problem of increasing consumption of psychoactive substances (commonly called narcotics or drugs) by young people gained in importance. The mass media campaigned to control the spread of this phenomenon, and numerous prophylactic programs were addressed directly to young people. The results from the last survey show that in recent years the

scale of drug consumption among youth has decreased. In 2003, a quarter of students admitted using drugs, whereas now 15% declare having used them.

HAVE YOU USED DRUGS, NARCOTICS IN THE LAST YEAR?



Mother's education is the socio-demographic variable with strongest influence on the probability of drug use among students. The better the mother's education, the bigger the proportion of students admitting drug use. This pattern has been noted in all surveys since 1992. In 2008, 21% of children of mothers with post-secondary education, and only 11% of children of mothers with basic vocational school admit using drugs. Neither father's education, nor material living conditions differentiate drug use.

Religious practices are a factor reducing the use of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. Generally, the more frequent they are, the less frequent the declared substance use.

* Research commissioned by Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology

** Research commissioned by National Bureau for Drug Prevention

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in *Polish Consumption of Psychoactive Substances Among Young People*, Jan. 2008. Research commissioned by National Bureau for Drug Prevention. Fieldwork: Oct. 2008, N=1400. The sample is representative for students of the last form of secondary schools. Method: self-administered questionnaire.

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

- ◆ Politician of the Year 2008 in Poland and in the World
- ◆ Opinions about Trade Unions and Social Dialogue
- ◆ Event of the Year 2008 in Poland and in the World
- ◆ The Problem of Schools Closing Down
- ◆ Party Preferences in January
- ◆ Attitude to the Government in January
- ◆ Social Moods in January
- ◆ Public Interest in Elections to European Parliament
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in January
- ◆ Opinions About the Activity of President, Parliament, National Bank of Poland and Trade Unions
- ◆ Extension of Pre-school Education and Lowering of School Age
- ◆ Opinions About the Introduction of the Euro in Slovakia

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CBOS POLAND
4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw
Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

e-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl
http://www.cbos.pl

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