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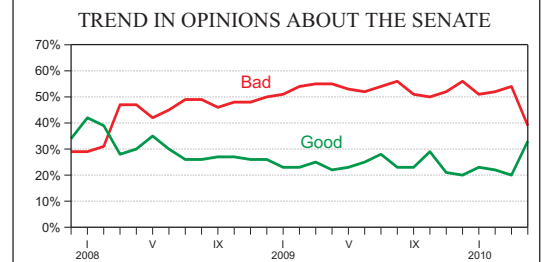
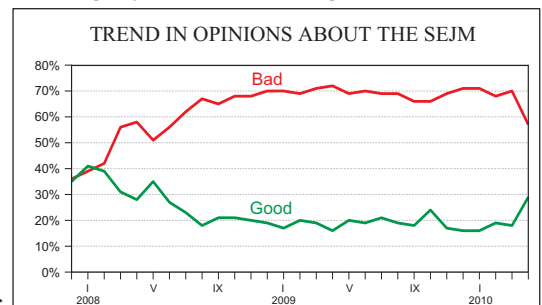
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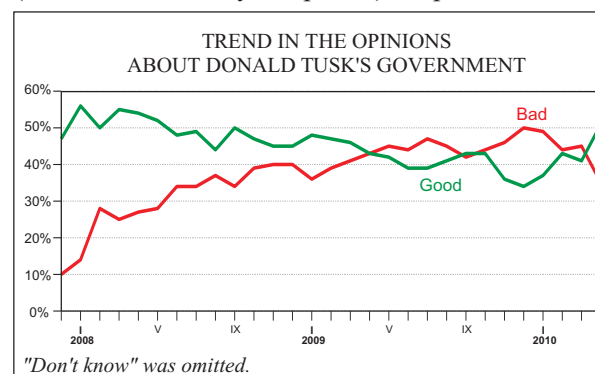
## ATTITUDE TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

On 10th April 2010, the president of Poland was killed in a plane crash near Smolensk, Russia. The president's wife, many prominent politicians, military elite as well as representatives of the Catholic and Orthodox Church died too. The fatal flight was transporting the passengers intending to commemorate the mass killings of Polish officers perpetrated by NKVD in Katyn, Russia. The tragedy evoked feelings of sorrow and sympathy for victims and their families but it also allowed Poles to regard the political elite, politicians in general and other people crucial for the country from a slightly different perspective. A part of this survey was done soon after the plane crashed in Smolensk and it reveals an improvement in the attitude to political institutions. This might mean that the level of identification with the state rose as well. The assessment of the Sejm, Senate and the government in April is notably better.

Despite the improvement, negative opinions about the work of Polish parliament prevail. Presently, MPs are assessed positively by 29% of respondents (11 percentage points more than a month earlier) and over a half (57%) judge them negatively (the number fell by 13 points). A positive



"Don't know" was omitted.



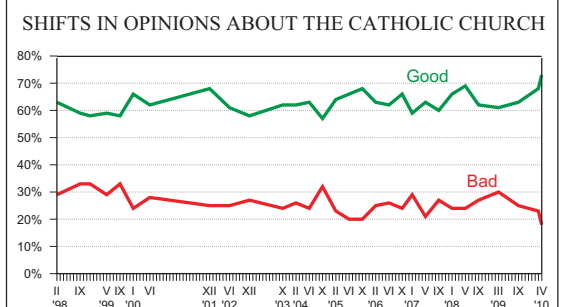
"Don't know" was omitted.

Over one third (35%, a 10 point decrease) are negative about it.

The improvement in the opinions about Polish parliament and the government is matched by a shift upwards in the evaluation of the Polish army and the Catholic Church. These last two institutions lost some of their prominent members in the Smolensk plane crash and, after the tragedy, they actively participated in the mourning ceremonies in the country.

opinion about the Senate is held by every third Pole (33%). It is a 13 point growth since March. Less than two in five (39%) hold a negative opinion about the Senate. It is less by 15 points compared to the previous month.

The evaluation of the work of the government has also improved significantly. About half of respondents (51% - a 10 point increase) assess the results positively.



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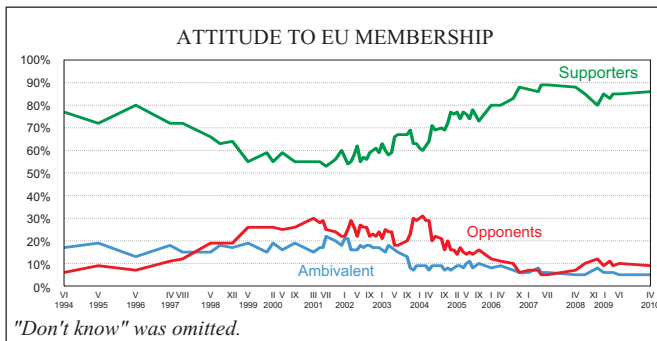
The Polish army is assessed positively by two thirds of respondents (76%, a 10 point increase since March). Only very few Poles (5%) perceive it negatively.

Positive opinions about the Catholic Church are held by nearly three quarters of adult Poles (73%, up 5 points since March). The Church is assessed negatively by less than a fifth of respondents (18%, down 5 points).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Public institutions", "The rise in the government's ratings", April 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2010, N=1056. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

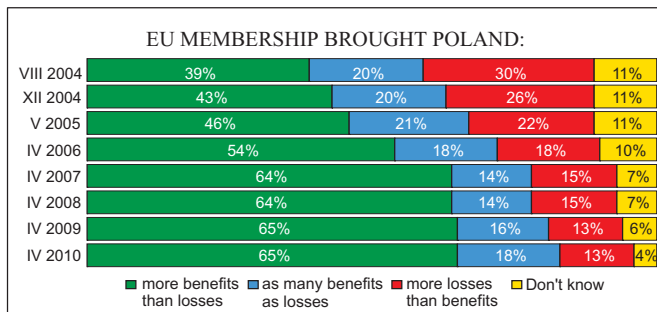
## SIX YEARS OF EU MEMBERSHIP

Since Poland joined the European Union, the public support for EU membership has maintained a high and stable level. Presently, 86% of Poles support the membership, and only one in eleven (9%) oppose it.



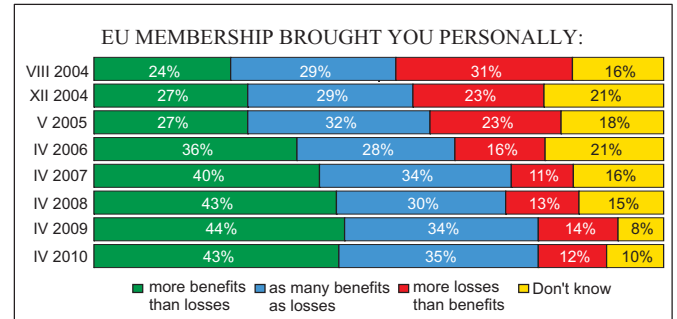
The public opinion about the effects that joining the EU brought for Poland and the Poles has maintained a stable and relatively high level for three years. It is much higher than in the first years of the membership.

The effects for the country itself are assessed most positively. Nearly two thirds of respondents (65%) think that joining the EU brought more benefits than losses to Poland. The opposite opinion is held only by 13% of respondents. Less than every fifth Pole (18%) considers the effects of six-year membership to be neither beneficial nor detrimental.

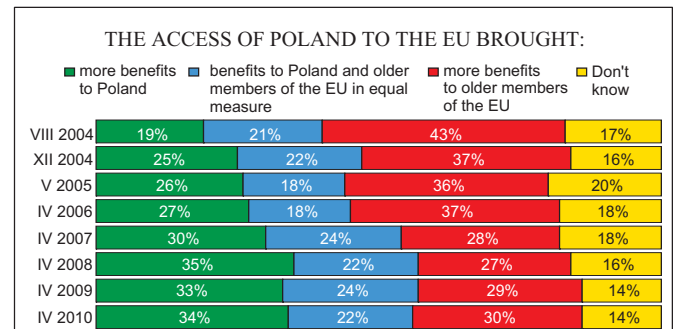


Similarly to previous years, there are evidently fewer people who personally feel the benefits of EU membership. One third of respondents (35%) cannot

explicitly say whether they benefited or lost after the accession of Poland to the EU. Those who have a clear opinion about this subject declare much more often that they personally benefited (43%) from the membership, rather than lost (12%).



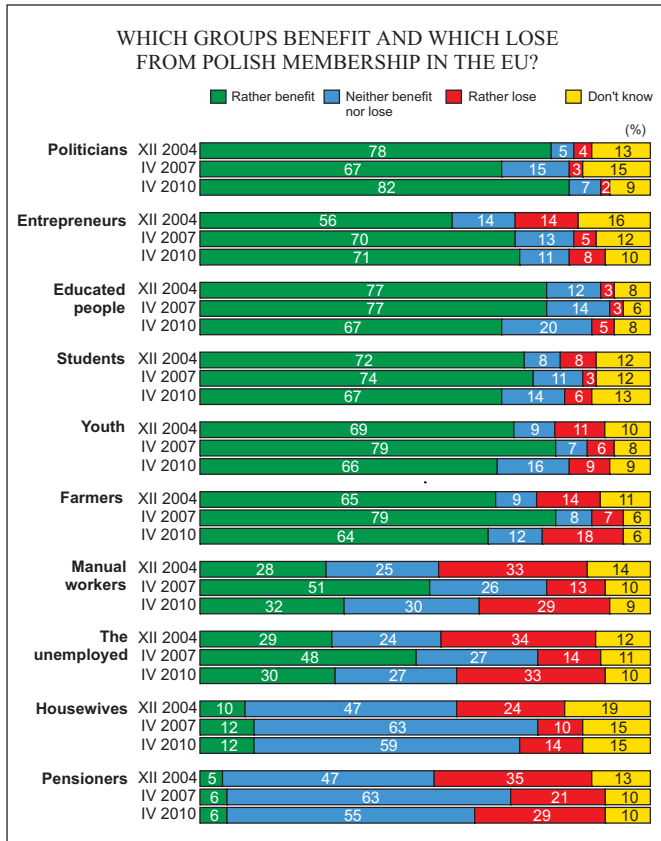
The opinions are invariably divided as to who benefited most after the extension of the EU in 2004, Poland or older members. Every third respondent (34%) believes that more benefits came to Poland. Only slightly fewer people (30%) are convinced that older members gained more. Over one fifth of respondents (22%) say that Polish membership brought benefits to Poland and the so called "Old Europe" in equal measure.



With regard to specific social groups, Poles are convinced that the politicians benefit most from Polish membership (82%). Other frequently mentioned groups are: entrepreneurs (71%), educated people (67%), students (67%), youth (66%) and farmers (64%). Opinions about the benefits for manual workers and the unemployed are divided. The number of respondents who believe that EU membership brought benefits to manual workers is almost the same as the number of people holding the opposite view or the percentage of the undecided. Poles believe that housewives and pensioners felt the effects of joining the EU to a lesser degree. They are perceived as the groups that neither benefited nor lost on the accession.

Most social groups are considered as the beneficiaries of the EU. However, presently, the balance between the benefits and losses for these groups is less favourable in comparison to 2007. It resembles the balance in 2004, six months after the accession. Poles point much more often than three years ago to politicians as the group which benefited on the Polish membership in the EU. The number of people convinced that politicians

benefited rather than lost on the accession has grown by 15 percentage points.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Six years of EU membership", April 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2010, N=1056. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

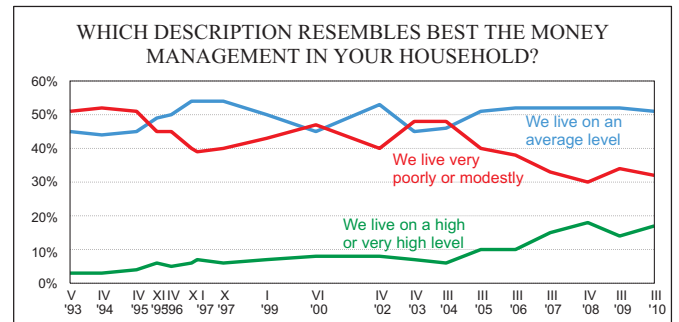
## MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS

In terms of material living conditions, the life of Polish families is improving. There are fewer households threatened by poverty. The increase of fears about the future could be seen in the early stages of the financial crisis. Yet after a year, the situation regained its balance and now certain optimistic tendencies can be observed.

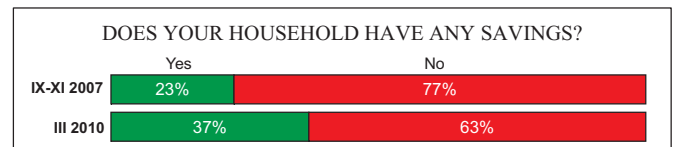
Asked to characterize their management of money in their households, and whether they could meet their needs, the respondents most often (51%) claim their standard of living is average (they can pay their everyday expenses but they have to save to cover larger purchases). Over a quarter of respondents (27%) describe their life as modest - they have to carefully manage their everyday expenses. Five in a hundred (5%) admit they live very poorly and cannot afford to satisfy even the basic needs. Only one in six (17%) does not have to worry about meeting his/her needs. They claim that their families can afford much without exceptional saving. Among them, two in a hundred (2%) say they can even afford some

luxury. Thus, there are twice as many people living modestly or very poorly (32%) than there are those living above average (17%).

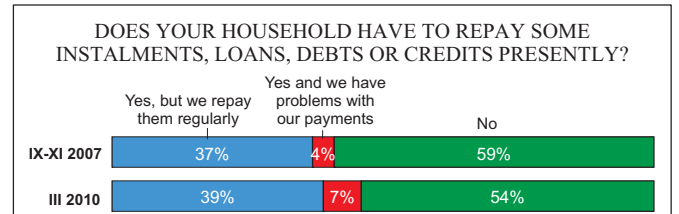
In the first half of the 90s, the material living conditions of families were the worst. Over a half of respondents described their life standard as modest or lower. In the autumn 1995, life standard of Poles started to improve - there were more households in the middle bracket, and fewer in the modest one. It was not until 2005 that a visible increase in respondents from the higher bracket could be observed. It was followed by a notable fall in those living modestly or very poorly. The proportion was best in 2008 but in 2009 it deteriorated. This year however, it is nearly the same as two years ago.



According to the declarations, most households in Poland (63%) do not have any savings. Slightly more than one third (37%) of Poles admit they have some savings set aside. Still, in comparison to two and a half years ago the percentage of families with savings is significantly higher (14 point increase).



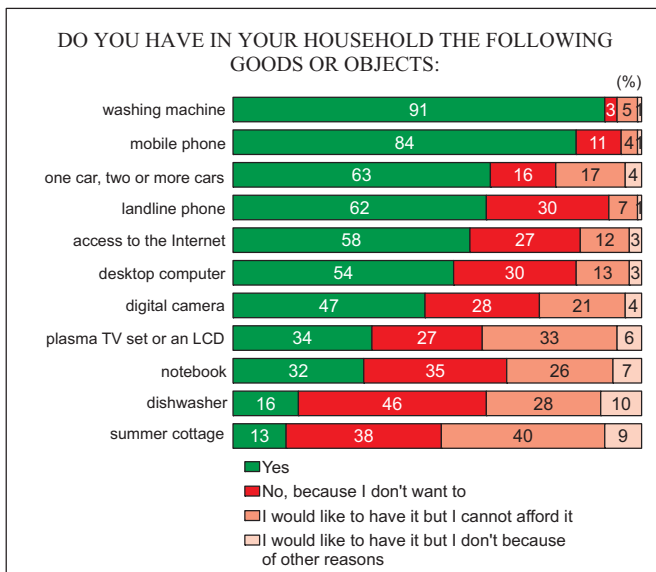
In comparison to 2007, the debt rate of Poles slightly increased. Data show that buying on credit and taking loans to support the family budget becomes gradually more popular. On the whole, nearly half of respondents (46%) declare that their households have to pay back instalments, loans, debts or credits. Every fourteenth (7%) admits that his/her household has too many debts, i.e. they face problems with repayment of their debt.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Household money management" and "Debts and savings", April 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2010, N=995. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

Different types of objects and appliances might be a part of household equipment. Some of them serve purely utilitarian purposes and satisfy basic needs. Other objects have a prestigious character or are used to signal the owner's wealth. As households get richer, they have more objects of permanent use that signify luxury. The types of objects present in households change also together with developments in electronic equipment. The objects that used to denote someone's high financial status, now slowly become available to the general public.

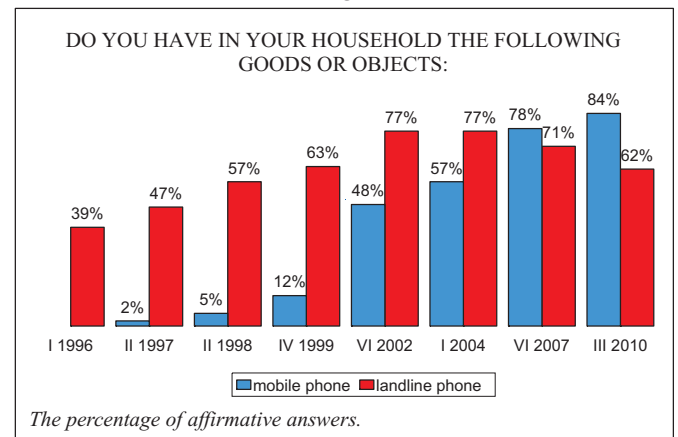


The most common good is the washing machine, owned by nearly all respondents (91%). The second most frequent possession is the mobile phone, owned by 84% of Poles. It is more by 22 points than the number of landline phone owners. Over two thirds (63%) declare they own a car. Moreover, 16% of households say they have more than one car. The ownership of a computer (desktop computer and/or a notebook) and access to the

Internet is an indicator of wealth as well as the level of computer literacy. Desktop computers can be found in at least half of Polish houses (54%), notebooks in every third (32%) and access to the Internet is present in 58% of households. Frequently, both types of computers are present in a household. Nearly half of the surveyed people (47%) have a digital camera. Every third house is equipped with a plasma TV set or an LCD. The goods that are definitely least frequent in households (owned by 16% of respondents) are dishwashers and summer cottages (13%).

It is worth mentioning that the lack of a given object in a household frequently signifies no need for it, rather than lack of money.

If wealth is defined by goods and objects, then we can easily say that the society becomes richer. The only good whose ownership rate has not changed is the summer cottage. The value attached to landline phones decreases as they are substituted by technologically more advanced mobile phones. The percentage of landline phone ownership was highest in 2004 (77%) but since that time the number is falling.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Material standard of living" April 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2010, N=995. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

- ◆ Public Opinion About Celebrations at Katyn
- ◆ Collective Memory About Pope John Paul II
- ◆ Public Opinion About Parliamentary Committee Investigating Gambling Scandal
- ◆ Retirement Age for Men and Women - the Same or Different
- ◆ Party Preferences in April
- ◆ Social Moods in April
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in the Period of National Mourning

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