

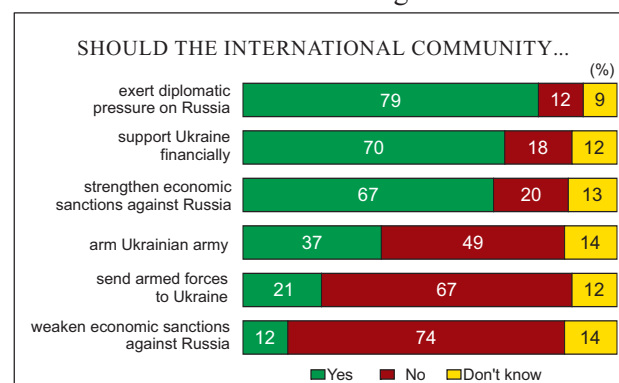
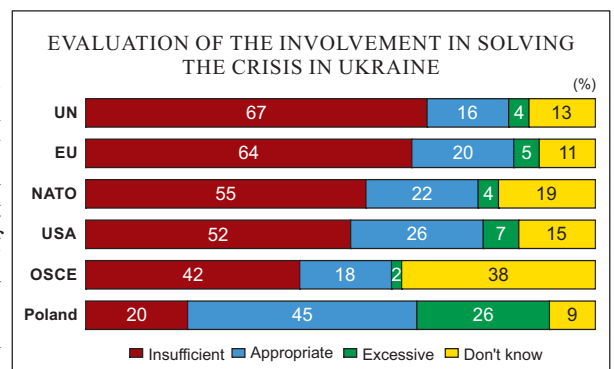
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## INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

In spite of the formal ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine between government forces and the separatists supported by Russia, the situation remains tense, which is reflected in survey results. The interest in the situation in Ukraine remains high in Poland, with 88% of respondents following these events. Moreover, Poles are increasingly concerned that the conflict in Ukraine will spread to other countries. At present, six out of ten respondents (61%, a 9-point rise compared with August) share the opinion that the situation in Ukraine is a threat to peace in the world.

In public opinion, the engagement of the international community in solving the conflict in Ukraine is insufficient. The majority of respondents believe that the United Nations and European Union are not sufficiently involved, while half of Poles think that the United States and NATO should be engaged more. Somewhat less frequently such criticism is levelled at the OSCE; however, a large number of people do not have a clear opinion about the activities of this organisation. On the other hand, Polish involvement is perceived differently. The prevailing view holds that Poland does enough to solve the conflict in Ukraine.



The Polish public opinion expects primarily diplomatic actions on the side of the international community. Moreover, the majority support offering Ukraine financial help and enhancing sanctions against Russia. The proposal to supply arms to the Ukrainian army is far less popular. An even smaller group of respondents would like to send armed forces to the conflict zone. Relatively few respondents

would like to weaken the sanctions against Russia. This idea is supported particularly by farmers (20%), who bore the brunt of Russian reaction to EU sanctions.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Engagement of international community in the conflict in Ukraine"*, September 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2014, N=946. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## POLISH ARMED FORCES AND CITIZENS' PREPAREDNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

The conflict in Ukraine, which has continued for the past months, raises the issue of defence capabilities of Poland in case of open aggression from another country, the so-called hybrid war or terrorist threat. An important element determining the capacity of the armed

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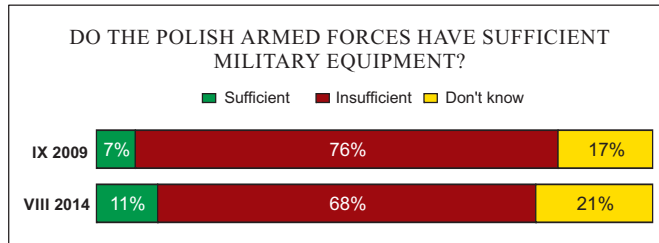
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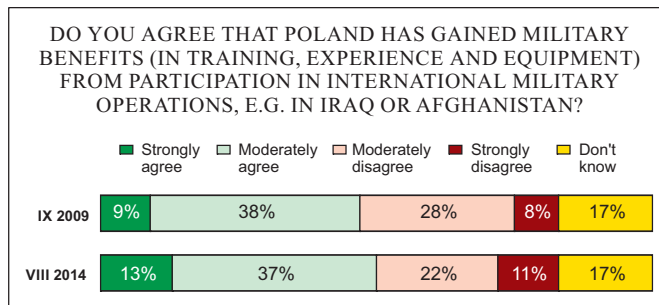
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forces is the military equipment. In public opinion, the Polish army is not very well equipped. The evaluation has improved somewhat relative to 2009, but the majority of respondents still think that the armed forces are insufficiently equipped.



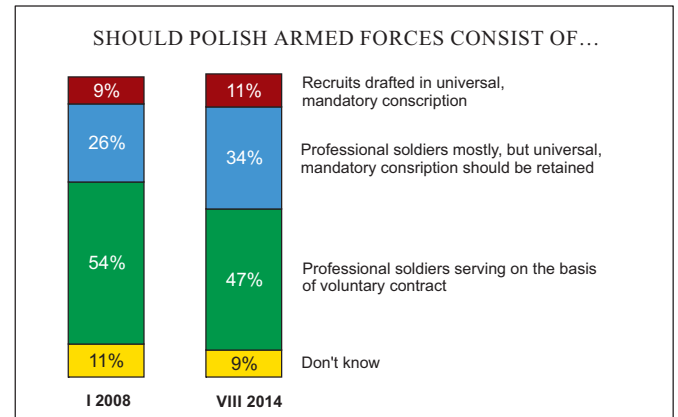
Military preparedness of the Polish armed forces was supposed to be raised by participation in international missions. At present, about half of respondents share the opinion that Poland, due to participation in international military operations (e.g. in Iraq or Afghanistan), improved its forces in terms of training, experience and equipment. Compared with 2009, there has been an increase in conviction about military benefits from participation of Polish forces in international operations.



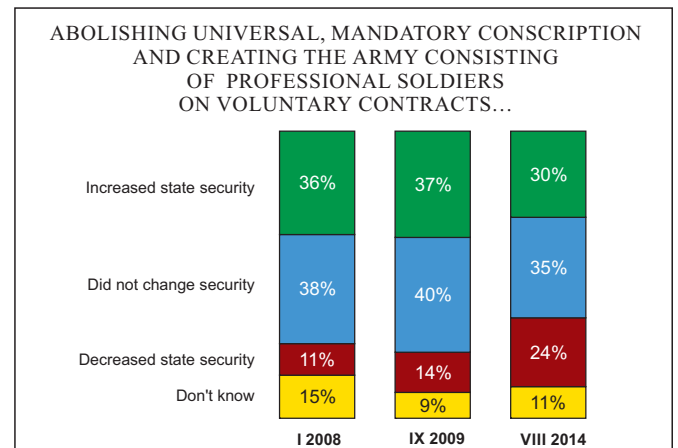
Professionalization of the army was one of the intended means of enhancing its combat capabilities. Since 11 February 2009, conscription to the armed forces has not been conducted, and the process of full professionalization of the army was finished in January 2010. As a result of these changes, the armed forces were reduced in size to 100,000 active service people and 10,000 members of National Reserve Forces. Increasingly, some military experts claim that complete professionalization of the army may have been a mistake, as most young people do not know the rules functioning in the forces and cannot handle weapons, which would be a problem in case of mass mobilisation.

At present almost half of Poles support full professionalization of the army, which is reflected in the agreement with the statement that Polish armed forces should consist of professional soldiers serving on the basis of voluntary contract. About one-third of respondents advocate partial retention of military conscription, while one-ninth believe that the forces should primarily be based on universal, mandatory conscription. It is worth noting that, although full

professionalization remains the most popular option, the support for retaining partial mandatory universal conscription has increased since 2008.

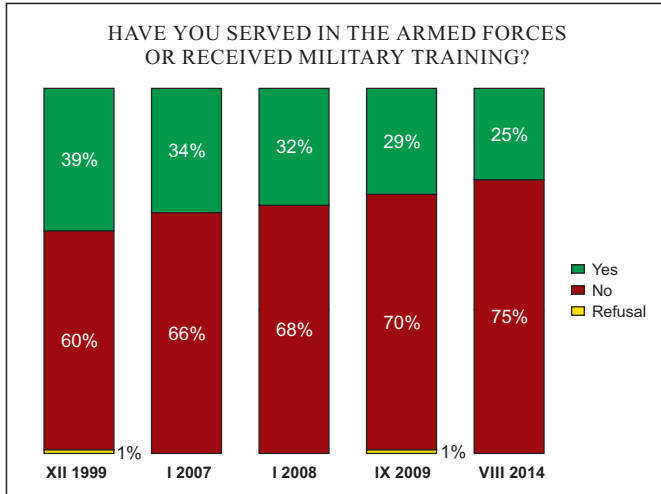


The first years of functioning of the army based solely on professional soldiers have not increased the support for such an arrangement. On the contrary, doubts about the level of security provided by the professional army have increased. At present, only three out of ten respondents consider the abolishing of universal, mandatory conscription and creation of the professional army as a factor increasing the security of the state. It is a significant drop relative to 2008 and 2009, i.e. the last year of the draft and the first months of after it was abolished. At the same time, there has been a rise in the number of respondents who think that state security has decreased.



Abolishing universal conscription and professionalization of the armed forces resulted in the decrease in the proportion of Poles with experience in military service or training. At present, a quarter of respondents declare having had this kind of training, whereas in 1999 almost two-fifths had had such experience. Military service or training is declared by 45% of men and 6% of women. The declarations are associated with respondents' age, which is a direct result of abolishing the draft and professionalization of the army. Over half of respondents with experience in the forces (52%) is over 55 years of age, including almost a

quarter (24%) in retirement age, while only 9% of them are below 35.



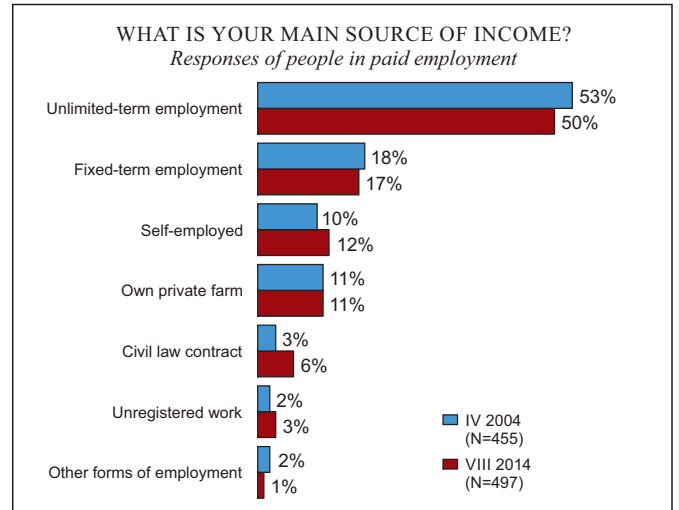
It appears that the end of the cold war reduced the intensity of training, exercises and other activities whose goal was preparing people for self-defence in case of natural or environmental disasters, terrorist threat or war. At present, only 22% of adults declare having participated in such training. Overall, 41% of adults (61% of men, mostly elderly, and 22% of women) have some training in defence. This figure includes both military service and Voluntary Fire Brigades or civil defence training.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Polish armed forces and citizens' preparedness for mass threat", September 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2014, N=980. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

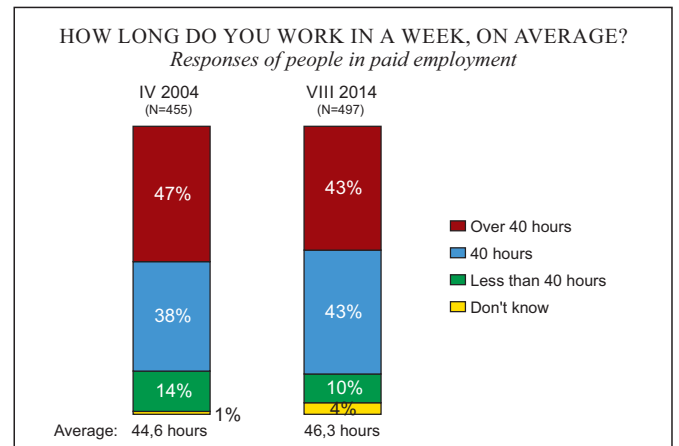
## WORKING POLES

In August 2014, half of respondents (51%) declared being in paid employment. The largest group work on the basis of unlimited-term employment contract. A far smaller group have a fixed-term contract. One-eighth of working Poles are self-employed outside of agriculture, while one-ninth work on a private farm. Only very few respondents declare that their main source of income is a civil law contract or unregistered work. In the last ten years, the proportion of employees on labour law contract has decreased, while the number of people receiving income from civil law contract has risen.

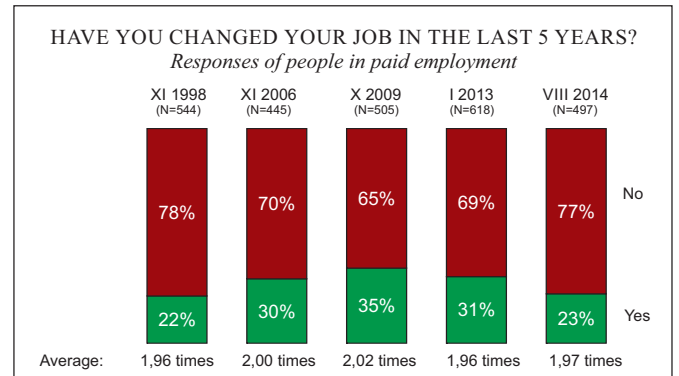
Employment based on a fixed-term labour contract or civil law contract prevails among the youngest respondents. The latter form of work is also relatively frequent among residents of big cities and those with low education. Women, middle-aged employees (aged 35-54) and respondents with higher education relatively often work on the basis of unlimited-term employment contract. Self-employment and farming is associated with older age.



The largest group of economically active people (86%) work at least 40 hours a week. At present, the average working week (46.6 hours a week) is longer than in 2004 (44.6 hours a week) and exceeds the legal working time by about 6 hours. At the same time, in the last decade there has been a slight increase in the proportion of employees who work 40 hours a week on average, while the number of those working more or less has decreased.



Since 2013, professional mobility of Poles has decreased. At present, over three-quarters of employees declare staying in the same job in the last five years. People who changed their job did it, on average, twice.



Professional mobility is more common among younger and better educated employees, especially men. It is also characteristic more frequently of workers on civil law contracts, fixed-term employment and people working without any legal basis.

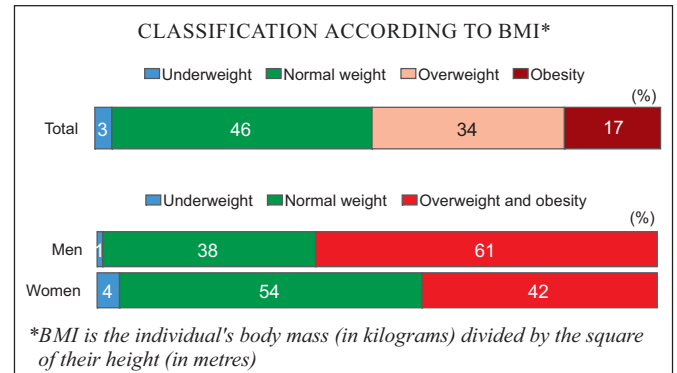
Almost three-quarters of employees (73%) are satisfied with their job. Satisfaction is higher among women, respondents aged 18-24, employees with better education and income, as well as among the self-employed, those working on unlimited-term contracts or civil law contracts. The least satisfied are people working illegally and farmers.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Working Poles. Employment conditions and readiness for change"*, September 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2014, N=980. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

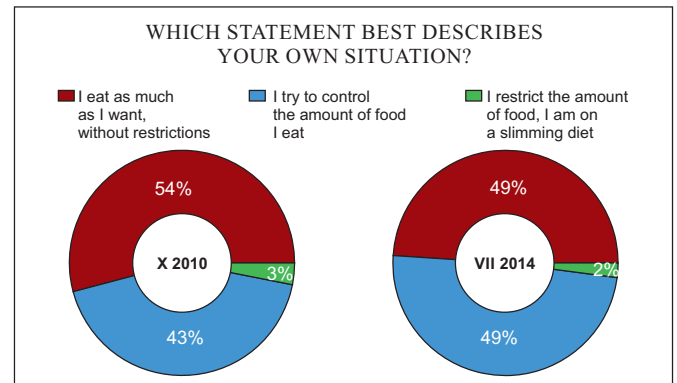
## EXCESSIVE FOOD CONSUMPTION

Although CBOS research indicates that the majority of adult Poles declare healthy diet, half are overweight, including one-fifth who are obese. Less than half of respondents have appropriate weight and only a few weigh too little. The calculation of the BMI (Body Mass Index), which is a measure of appropriateness of weight, was conducted on the basis of information about weight and height given by respondents. The analysis indicates that problems with weight are related to age and gender of respondents. They are more common among men than women. They increase with age, and men start to have problems with weight earlier than women. Among men, the proportion of overweight respondents already prevails in the age group 25-34, while among

women excessive weight predominates only after 55 years of age.



Almost half of respondents declare eating as much as they want, without restrictions. A similar proportion try to control the amount of food consumed, and a few are on a slimming diet. Compared with 2010, the proportion of people restricting the amount of food slightly increased.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Excessive food consumption"*, September 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2014, N=943. 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):

- ◆ Trust in Politicians on the Eve of the New Political Season
- ◆ Social Moods at the end of August
- ◆ Opinions on Minimum Hourly Wage
- ◆ Local Elections
- ◆ Party Preferences after the Election of Donald Tusk as President of the European Council
- ◆ Polish Policy after the Election of Donald Tusk as President of the European Council
- ◆ Social Moods after the Election of Donald Tusk as President of the European Council
- ◆ The Last Ratings of the Cabinet of Donald Tusk
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