

Disabled people in 2019

03.12.2020

↓ 0.2%

Decrease in the number of employed disabled persons in medium and large enterprises compared to 2018

At the end of 2019, the majority of disabled persons working in medium and large enterprises were employed in the private sector (76.8%). More than half of employed disabled persons worked in the section administrative and support service activities (108.0 thousand) and in the section manufacturing (83.3 thousand).

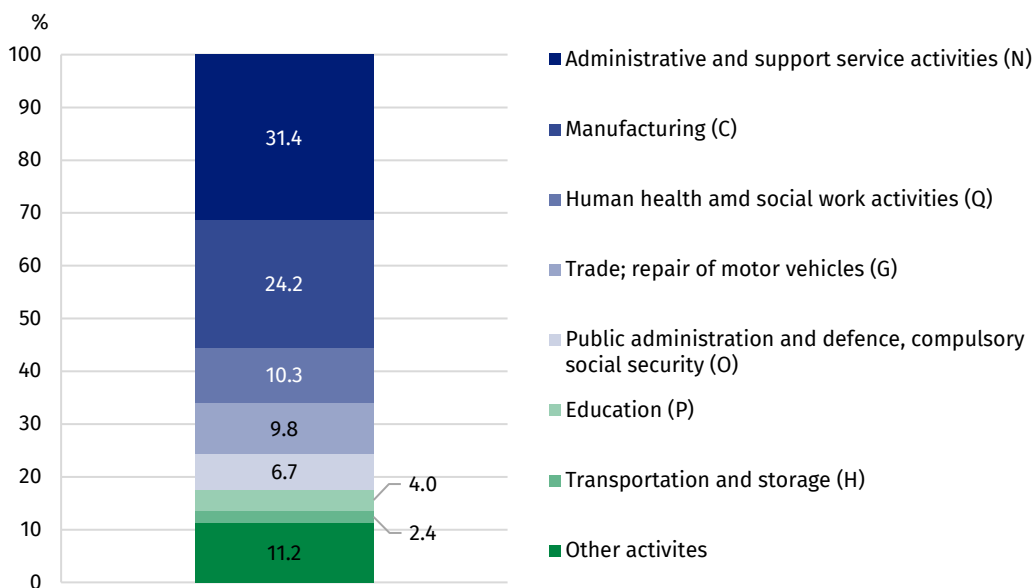
Disabled persons on the labour market

As of 31 December 2019, there were 344.3 thousand disabled persons working for entities employing more than 10 persons¹, they were employed mainly in administrative and support service activities (31.4%), including investigation and security activities (19.9%) and service activities related to maintenance of order in buildings and development of green areas (8.7%). Every fourth disabled person worked in manufacturing (24,2%). 10.3% of disabled persons worked in health care.

At the end of 2019, employed disabled persons accounted for 3.6% of the total number of people working in medium and large enterprises

Chart 1. Structure of employed disabled persons according to NACE sections in 2019

As of 31 December



As of 31 December 2019, 57.5 thousand disabled persons were registered in powiat labour offices, of which 17.1% persons entitled to benefits. In the analysed group of unemployed people, men predominated (55.2%).

¹ Persons with a disability certificate based on Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons (Journal of Laws 2020, items 426, 568, 875).

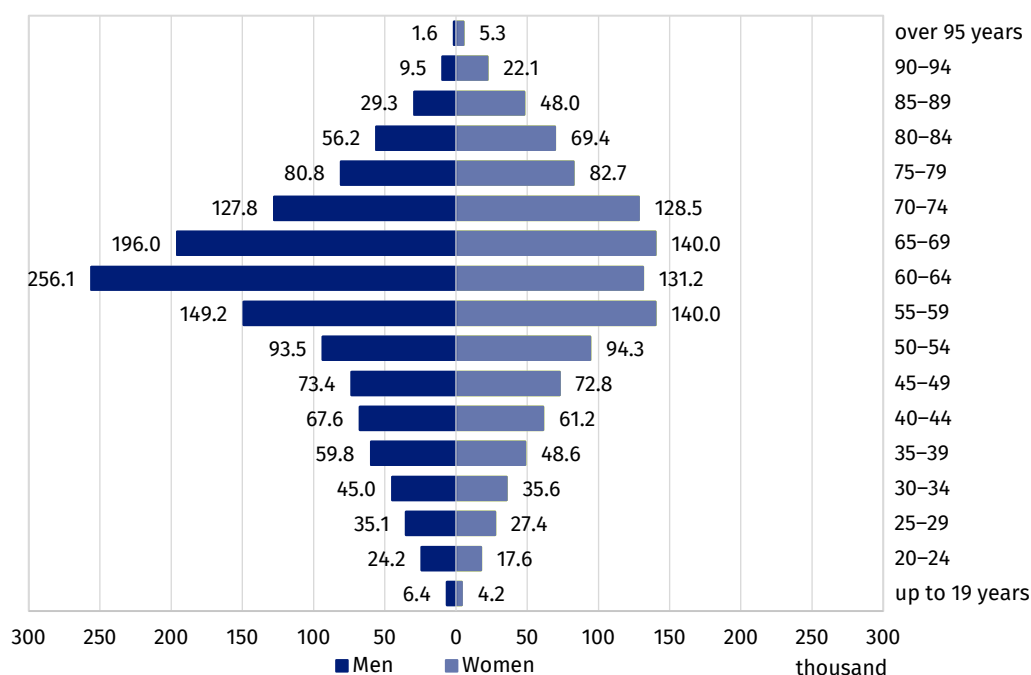
People with a certificate of disability or inability to work

In December 2019, according to data of the Social Security Institution, there were 2.4 million people in Poland², receiving retirement and other pension benefits and/or insured by contribution payers, who had a certificate of disability (issued by disability assessment teams) or certificate of inability to work (issued by the Social Security Institution)³.

In the surveyed group of people with the certificate, men prevailed, constituting 53.7%. Considering the age, males aged 64 (56.4 thousand) were the most frequent in the group of the disabled or people with an inability to work. Over 50 thousand men who had the certificate were 63 or 62 years old (54.3 and 52.3 thousand, respectively). The largest number of women with a certificate of disability or inability to work were at the age of 59 (33.7 thousand). Over 30 thousand women were 70 years old (31.3 thousand) or 58 years old (30.0 thousand). The median age of men with a disability or inability to work certificate was 62 years and was equal to the median age of women.

Men accounted for 53.7% of people with a disability or inability to work certificate

Chart 2. Persons with a certificate of disability or inability to work by sex and age in 2019
As of 31 December



Source: Comprehensive IT System of the Social Insurance Institution.

Most of men and women with a disability or inability to work certificate lived in Śląskie Voivodship (146.5 thousand men and 120.7 thousand women, respectively). Half of the surveyed population lived in the following voivodships: Dolnośląskie, Małopolskie, Mazowieckie, Podkarpackie, Śląskie and Wielkopolskie. Least of persons with a disability or inability to work certificate lived in Opolskie Voivodship (19.8 thousand men and 25.6 thousand women).

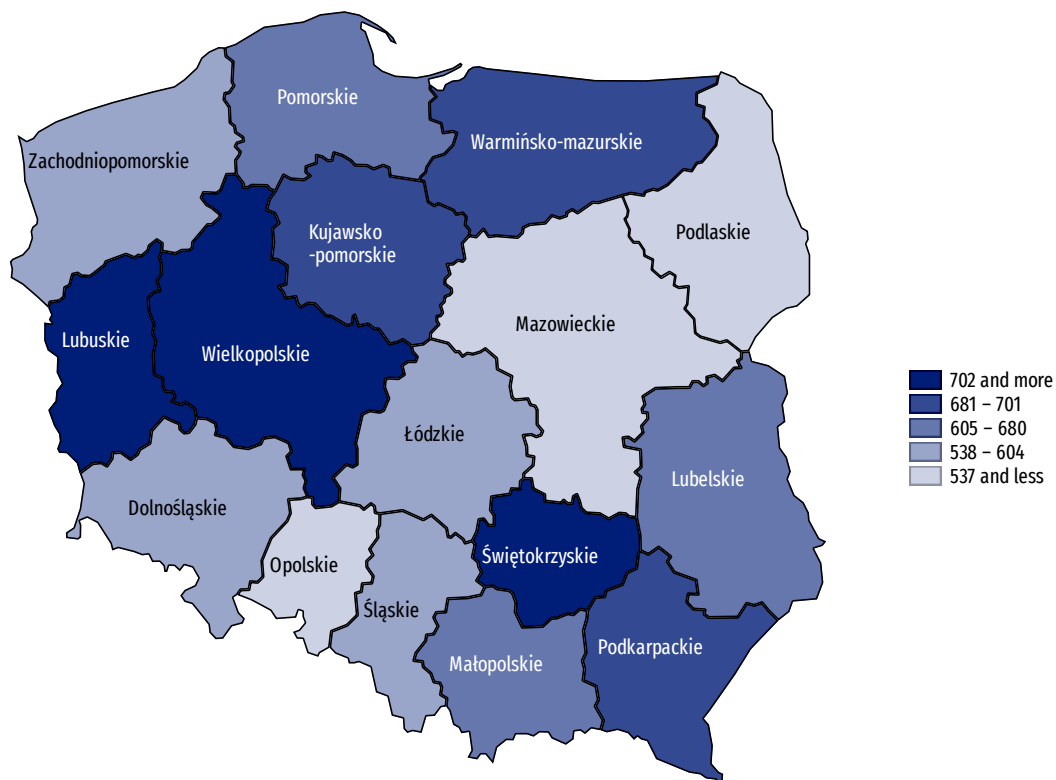
Indicator of the number of persons with a disability certificate per 10 thousand population reached the highest level in Lubuskie Voivodship (886). The indicator has exceeded 700 persons in the voivodships: Wielkopolskie (711) and Świętokrzyskie (710). On the other hand, the lowest number of people with a disability or inability to work certificate per 10 thousand population lived in Mazowieckie voivodship (455). Moreover, the value of the indicator was lower than 500 persons in the following voivodships: Opolskie (463) and Podlaskie (483).

² Compiled on the basis of combined data sets from information systems of the Social Insurance Institution and after removing repeated and empty observations.

³ According to Art. 5 of the Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons (Journal of Laws 2020, items 426, 568, 875), the rulings of the Social Insurance Institution certifying physician on inability to work, incapacity for independent existence and the advisability of retraining are subject to translating into certificates of the degree of disability.

Map 1. Number of persons with a disability or inability to work certificate per 10 thousand population by voivodships in 2019

As of 31 December



The highest value of the indicator of the number of persons with a certificate of disability or inability to work per 10 thousand population was recorded in Lubuskie Voivodship (886)

Source: Comprehensive IT System of the Social Insurance Institution.

Level of the average main retirement and other pension benefit paid to persons with an inability to work certificate

According to data of the Social Insurance Institution, in December 2019 the average main benefit paid to persons recognized as unable to work under Art. 5 of the Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons (uniform text Journal of Laws 2020, items 426, 568, 875) amounted to PLN 1,628.38 in Poland. On average, men received PLN 1,762.91, and women PLN 1,473.90. The average amount of the benefit varied across voivodships. The highest value (regardless of sex) was observed in Śląskie Voivodship (PLN 1,790.07), while the lowest in Podkarpackie voivodship (PLN 1,494.00). The average value of the benefit paid to men was higher by PLN 289.01 than to women. This difference accounted for 19.6% of the amount of the average women's benefit. In a breakdown by voivodships, the largest difference – both in absolute and relative values – concerned Śląskie Voivodship (22.8%) and the lowest – Podlaskie Voivodship (11.6%).

The highest average value of the main benefit was recorded in Śląskie Voivodship (PLN 1,790.07), and the lowest in Podkarpackie Voivodship (PLN 1,494.00)

Table 1. Average amount of the main benefit paid to persons with a certificate of inability to work by gender and voivodships in 2019

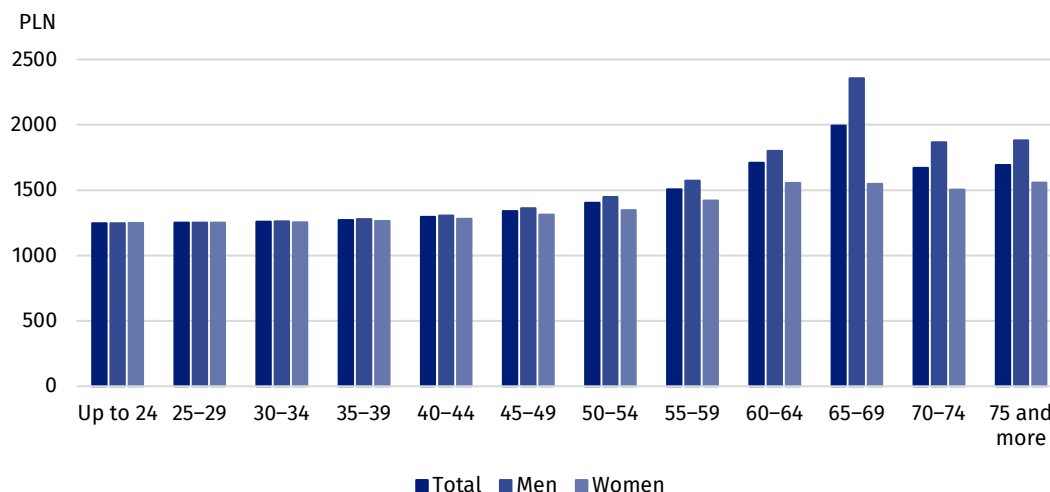
As of 31 December

VOIVODSHIPS	Total	Men	Women
	in zlotys		
POLAND	1628.38	1762.91	1473.90
Dolnośląskie	1664.24	1816.94	1493.20
Kujawsko-pomorskie	1609.13	1736.26	1464.65
Lubelskie	1541.41	1637.91	1439.33
Lubuskie	1612.52	1753.23	1460.75
Łódzkie	1563.36	1667.41	1439.29
Małopolskie	1619.65	1758.17	1473.38
Mazowieckie	1642.44	1760.82	1502.72
Opolskie	1653.92	1792.74	1485.36
Podkarpackie	1494.00	1585.30	1380.38
Podlaskie	1550.51	1642.55	1451.36
Pomorskie	1597.58	1731.41	1454.95
Śląskie	1790.07	1987.78	1534.41
Świętokrzyskie	1562.90	1671.03	1412.65
Warmińsko-mazurskie	1553.72	1650.94	1443.42
Wielkopolskie	1663.45	1816.52	1493.25
Zachodniopomorskie	1638.41	1761.56	1507.03

Source: Comprehensive IT System of the Social Insurance Institution.

Chart 3. Average amount of main benefit paid to persons with a certificate of inability to work by gender and age groups in 2019

As of 31 December



Source: Comprehensive IT System of the Social Insurance Institution.

The average amount of the main benefit paid to persons with a certificate of inability to work up to 44 years of age did not differ significantly, even after considering age and gender. Among people aged 45 and more, there was a systematic increase in the differentiation in the amount of the analysed benefit in the group of women and men. On average, the highest value benefits were received by people aged 65–69. This is also where the highest level of

gender differentiation is observed. This is due to the different type of benefit received by respondents. In old age, the dominant benefit was the retirement pension, which on average brought the highest income and as a derivative of wages and salaries received during the period of economic activity of the respondents, it differentiated the average level of the main benefit in terms of gender. A confirmation of the above assumption can be found in Table 2. Retirement benefits had the highest average amount, also in the group of women and men. In this case, the largest difference in the amount of the average benefit was also noticed in both surveyed groups, with a definite advantage in favour of men.

Table 2. Average amount of the main benefit paid to persons with a certificate of inability to work by gender and type of benefit in 2019

As of 31 December

SPECIFICATION	Total	Men	Women
	in zlotys		
Pension	1842.96	2237.58	1486.94
Disability pension for inability to work	1491.32	1553.60	1362.19
Survivor's pension	1727.67	1563.97	1768.05
Social pension	1234.41	1234.40	1234.43
Pre-retirement allowances and benefits	1140.99	1140.99	1140.99

The highest average amount was observed for the retirement benefit (PLN 1,842.96), while the lowest for allowances and pre-retirement benefits (PLN 1,140.99)

Source: Comprehensive IT System of the Social Insurance Institution.

The Social Insurance Institution certifying physician may indicate: total inability to work and independent existence, complete inability to work or partial inability to work, which translates into: a severe, moderate and slight degree of disability, respectively. This degree also differentiated the average level of the main benefit in such a way that persons with a severe degree of disability obtained the highest average amount of the benefit, and persons with a slight degree of disability – the lowest. Men were characterized by significantly higher values of the average benefit paid compared to women.

Table 3. Average amount of main benefit paid to persons with a certificate of inability to work by gender and degree of inability to work in 2019

As of 31 December

SPECIFICATION	Total	Men	Women
	in zlotys		
Complete inability to work and independent existence	1654.30	1820.35	1530.37
Complete inability to work	1623.37	1747.08	1471.34
Partial inability to work	1615.83	1747.55	1426.93

Source: Comprehensive IT System of the Social Insurance Institution.

Considering the subsequent deciles of the main benefit, it can be concluded that 10% of beneficiaries received benefits in the amount not exceeding approximately PLN 1,100. The median was PLN 1,332.22, which shows that half of the people with a certificate of inability to work received benefits in the amount not higher than the median value mentioned above. 10% of beneficiaries received benefits worth at least PLN 2,568.60. By far the most common amount of the benefit was about PLN 1,235. It repeats in the range of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th decile for both the total number of respondents and women. Moreover, the comparison of deciles shows that the level of the main benefit differs depending on gender. The value of each decile for men was greater than for women, and in particular, this variation grew with increasing benefit levels (decile number).

Table 4. Deciles of the amount of the main benefit paid to persons with a certificate of inability to work by gender in 2019

As of 31 December

SPECIFICATION	Total	Men	Women
	In zlotys		
1	1096.65	1105.39	1070.80
2	1235.16	1235.16	1234.23
3	1235.16	1235.16	1235.16
4	1236.60	1322.30	1235.16
5	1332.22	1452.48	1305.20
6	1508.78	1683.68	1370.89
7	1735.62	1971.88	1530.63
8	2036.43	2321.79	1753.98
9	2568.60	2853.12	2098.08

Half of the persons with a certificate of inability to work received a benefit of up to PLN 1,332.22

Source: Comprehensive IT System of the Social Insurance Institution.

Methodological notes

1. This information report is the second nationwide study on the subject of disabled people, prepared by the employees of the Statistical Office in Kraków. The scope of the presented data does not exhaust the issue of disability due to its complex nature and diversity.
2. The information file uses data collections of the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) and powiat labour offices on unemployed persons with a certificate of disability or inability to work. Statistical information from the Statistics Poland's reports was also used to prepare this news release.
3. In Polish official statistics, legal and biological disability are distinguished. Legally disabled people are people who have a valid certificate of disability, issued by an authorized body. Biologically incapacitated people are those who feel limited ability to perform basic activities for their age (play, study, work, self-service)⁴.
4. The disability certification system in Poland is not uniform. It is defined by two basic legal acts:
 - a. In the Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons (uniform text, Journal of Laws 2020, items 426, 568, 875) in Art. 2, disability is defined as permanent or temporary inability to fulfill social roles due to permanent or long-term impairment of the body's efficiency, in particular resulting in inability to work. Art. 3 defines the degree of disability: severe, moderate and slight, while Art. 4a mentions children up to 16 years of age who are issued a certificate of disability without establishing its degree. Disability adjudication institutions are powiat (first instance) and voivodship (second instance) disability adjudication units. The district labour and social security courts are the last stage.
 - b. The Act of 17 December 1998 on pensions and pensions from the Social Insurance Fund (uniform text, Journal of Laws of 2020, items 53, 252, 568, 1222, 1578) in Art. 12 defines a person incapable of work as one who has completely or partially lost the ability to work for gainful employment due to a violation of the physical fitness and does not expect to regain the ability to work after retraining. Decisions on: inability to work, incapacity for independent existence and purposefulness of retraining, issued by the Social Insurance Institution, are translated into decisions about the degree of disability in accordance with Art. 5 of the aforementioned Act on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons.

⁴ Population and households. The state and socio-economic structure. Part I. Population, National Population and Housing Census 2011, Statistics Poland, Warsaw 2013, p. 24.

A person must have one of the above-mentioned certificates to be recognized as disabled in the legal and formal meaning.

5. Decisions issued after 31 December 1997, which cannot be translated into disability certificates, are:
 - a. statements of inability to work on a farm, issued by the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund,
 - b. decisions on inability to work/service, issued by adjudicating units of the Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration and units of special services (Internal Security Agency and Intelligence Agency).

In the case of quoting data from the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Statistics Poland data source", and in the case of publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Own study based on Statistics Poland data".

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