

10.06.2022

# The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on selected elements of the labour market in Poland in the first quarter of 2022

**5.0%**

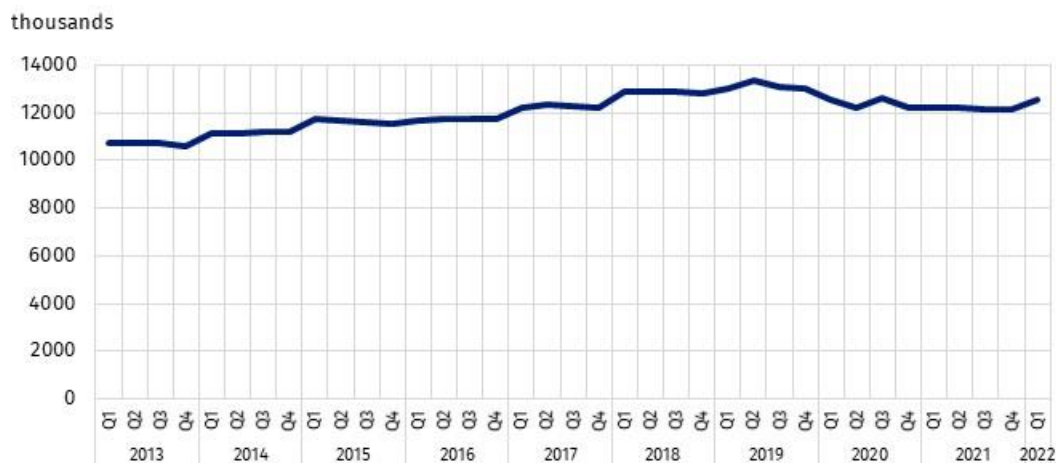
the share of people who at the end of March 2022 worked remotely due to the epidemic situation in the total number of employed persons

In March 2020, the state of epidemic threat was announced in Poland, followed by the state of epidemic in connection with the spread of an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, named COVID-19. Following the assessment of the epidemic situation, solutions were introduced by law to prevent and counteract the spread of the said virus and to combat the disease caused by it. These solutions were also applicable to the labour market. Among them, for instance, was the introduction of the possibility of working from outside a permanent workplace, that is remote work. The data presented in this publication were obtained from the Labour Demand Survey<sup>1</sup>.

The Labour Demand Survey is conducted using the representative method on a quarterly basis. According to the scope of the survey, it covers notional economy entities and their local units employing at least 1 person. The survey shows that at the end of the first quarter of 2022, the number of occupied jobs was by 339.0 thousand larger than at the end of the first quarter of 2021.

## Chart 1. Occupied jobs

As at the end of the quarter



<sup>1</sup> The collected data come from the voluntary responses of reporting units to four additional questions attached on the Reporting Portal to 'the Labour Demand Survey'. Approximately half of the units that completed the reports answered the questions about the impact of the pandemic situation on the way enterprises operate and behave.

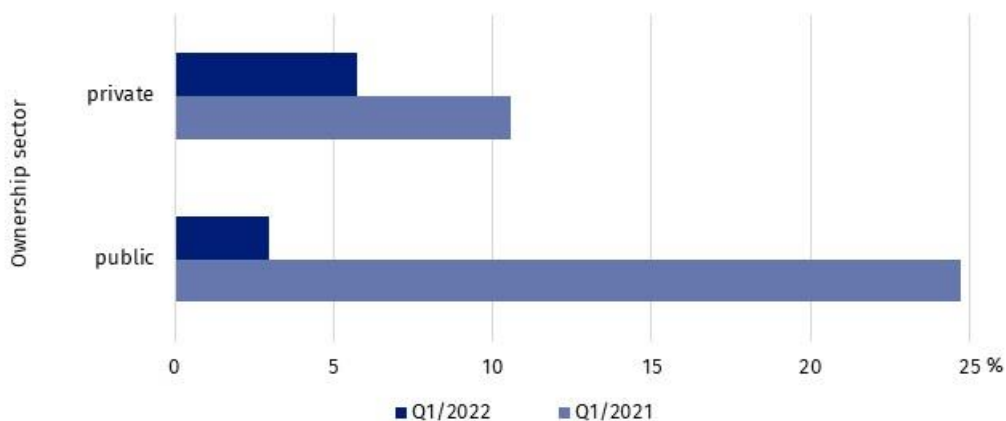
## Remote work during the period of epidemic threat

The epidemic situation that occurred in March 2020 limited the activities of national economy entities in their hitherto existing form. This was manifested, on the one hand, by the liquidation of jobs, and on the other hand, by the fact that employers became open to forms of employment enabling staff to maintain social distance. One of such forms is remote work.

At the end of March 2022, i.e. two years after the announcement of the state of epidemic threat in Poland, the share of people who worked remotely due to the epidemic situation in the total number of employed persons covered by the Labour Demand Survey was 5.0%, 9.2 percentage points lower than at the end of March 2021. During the first quarter of 2022, the extent of remote work in the private sector was higher than in the public sector. However, in both sectors, this share was much lower than in the first quarter of 2021.

**Chart 2. The share of employed persons working remotely due to the epidemic situation by ownership sector**

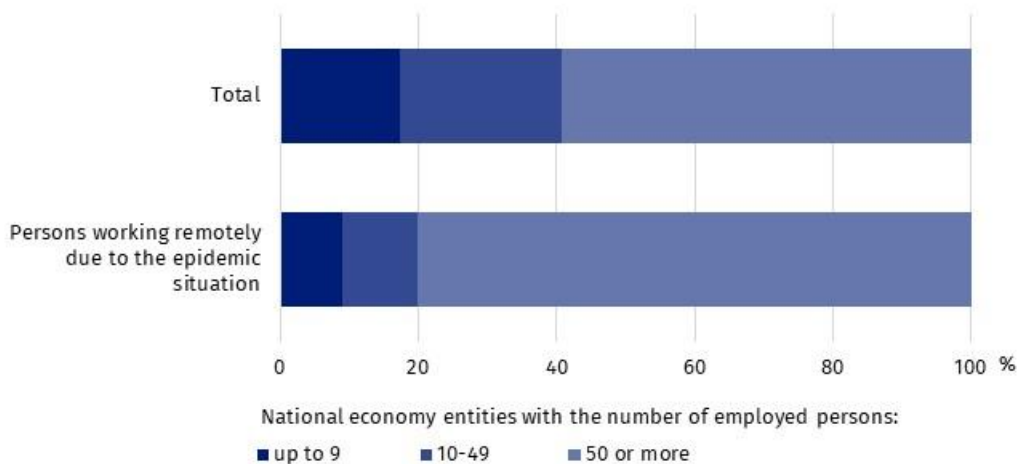
As at the end of the quarter



Across the whole economy, the use of remote work in order to reduce the epidemic risk remained highest in national economy entities with 50 employed persons or more. The share of people working remotely in entities of this size was 6.8%, 9.8 percentage points fewer than in the first quarter of 2021. In national economy entities with up to 9 employed persons, remote work was performed by 2.6% of employed persons, and in entities with 10-49 employed persons – 2.4%.

**Chart 3. The structure of employed persons by size of national economy entities in the first quarter of 2022**

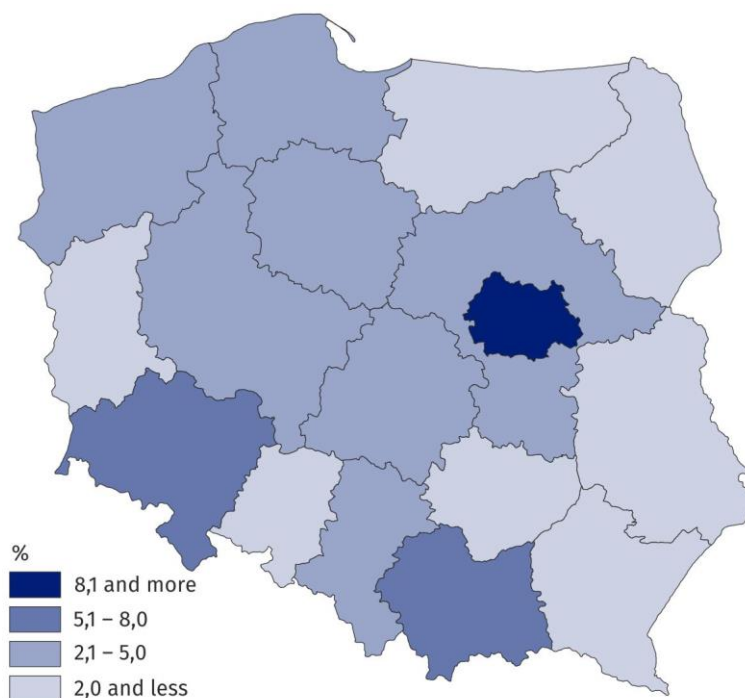
As at the end of the quarter



Remote work caused by the epidemic was implemented by employers in individual regions at different scales.

**Map 1. The share of employed persons working remotely due to the epidemic situation by region (NUTS 2016) in the first quarter of 2022**

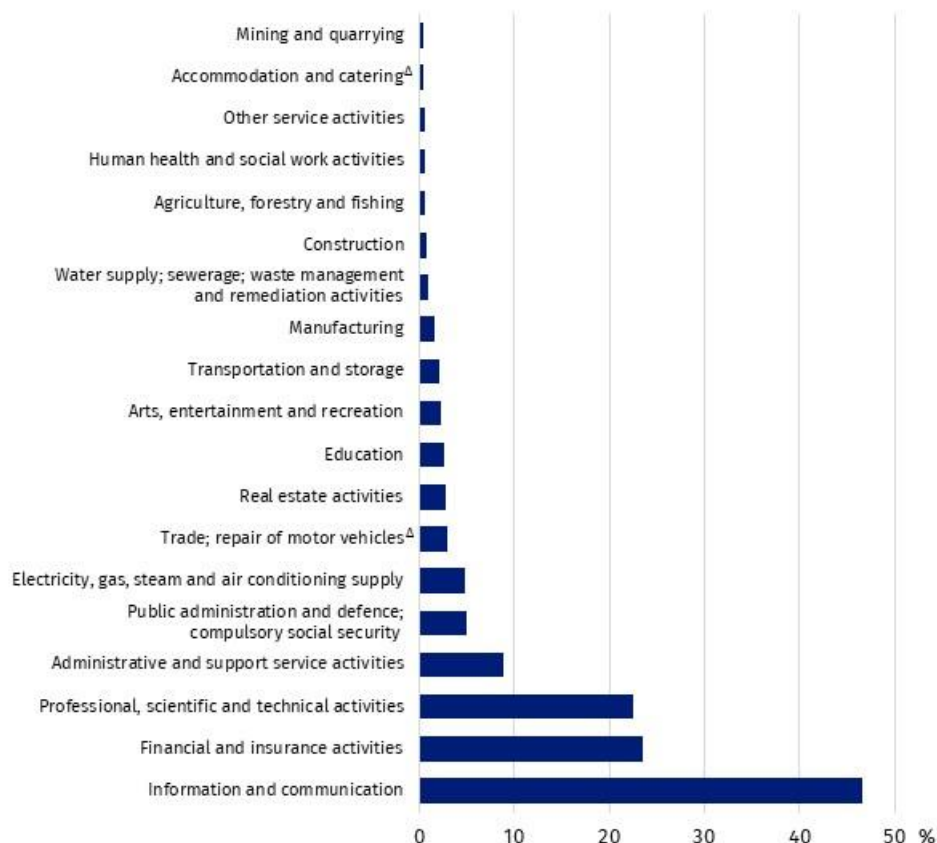
As at the end of the quarter



A significantly greater extent of remote work than statistically in Poland took place in the Warszawski stołeczny region. As a result of the epidemic situation, approximately every seventh employed person worked remotely there. Among the remaining regions, the use of this form of work in the realities of the epidemic threat was least common in the Podlaskie region, where remote work due to the COVID-19 threat was performed by 0.7% of employed persons.

**Chart 4. The share of employed persons working remotely due to the epidemic situation in selected PKD/NACE sections in the first quarter of 2022**

As at the end of the quarter



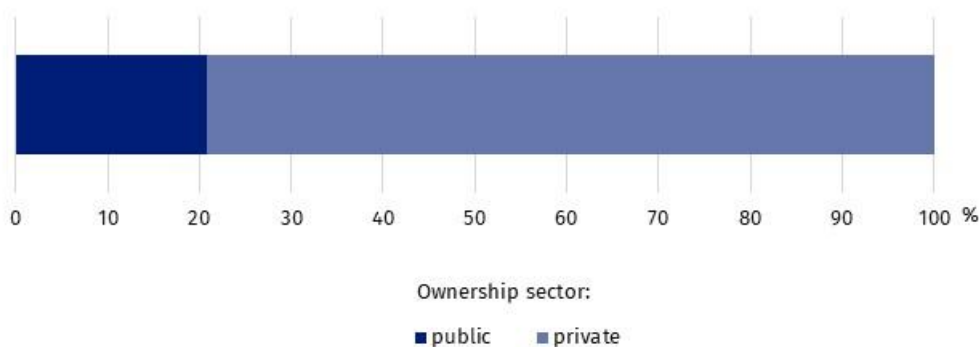
Performing remote work in the first quarter of 2022 varied depending on the kind of activity. For example, in the information and communication section, remote work was performed by 46.7% of employed persons. In comparison to other sections, a relatively large share of employed persons covered by this form of work due to the outbreak of an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus also occurred in the financial and insurance activities section as well as in the professional, scientific and technical activities section.

**Employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age**

By virtue of the Act of 2 March 2020 on Special Solutions to Prevent, Counteract and Combat COVID-19, Other Infectious Diseases and Crisis Situations Caused by Them, working parents or legal guardians were provided with the possibility to receive a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age in case of a closure of a nursery, nursery school, children’s club or school. In the first quarter of 2022, 0.4% of employed persons were exercising this right in Poland, the vast majority of whom worked in the private sector.

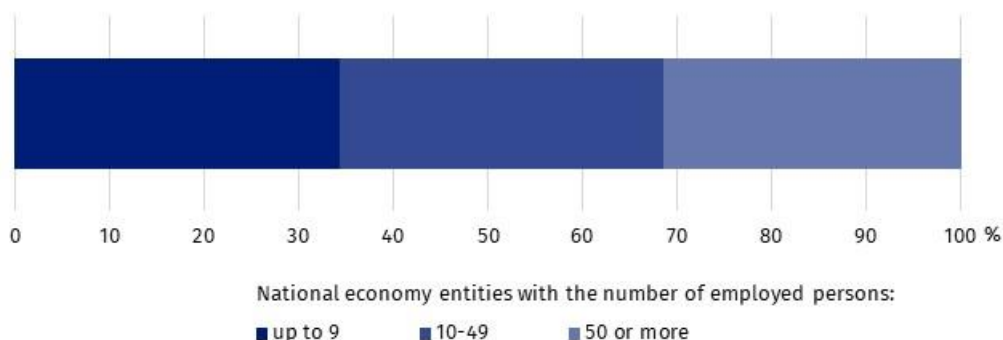
In the first quarter of 2022, compared with the first quarter of 2021, the share of employed persons receiving a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age was slightly smaller (by 1.4 percentage points)

**Chart 5. The structure of employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age in case of a closure of a nursery, nursery school, children’s club or school by ownership sector in the first quarter of 2022**



Regardless of the size of a national economy entity, the scale of taking leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age in case of a closure of a nursery, nursery school, children’s club or school was similar.

**Chart 6. The structure of employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age in case of a closure of a nursery, nursery school, children’s club or school by size of national economy entities in the first quarter of 2022**



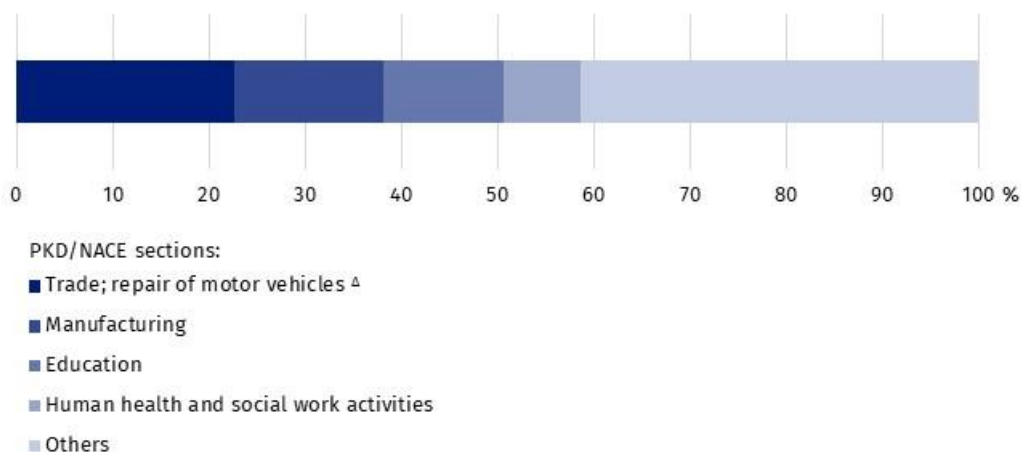
The scale of taking leave to care for a child for the said reason across regions ranged from 0.3% to 0.6%.

According to the survey, relatively the highest number of employed persons, that is 1.1%, took leaves from work because of caring for a child in the other service activities section.

The largest number of employed persons who exercised the right to take care of a child due to the spread of COVID-19 were parents and legal guardians working in sections: trade; repair of motor vehicles<sup>Δ</sup> and manufacturing.

The analysis of the structure of employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age in case of a closure of a nursery, nursery school, children’s club or school by PKD/NACE section shows that employed persons from sections: trade; repair of motor vehicles<sup>Δ</sup>, manufacturing and education accounted together for more than 50% of all persons receiving the allowance.

**Chart 7. The structure of employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age in case of a closure of a nursery, nursery school, children’s club or school by PKD/NACE section in the first quarter of 2022**

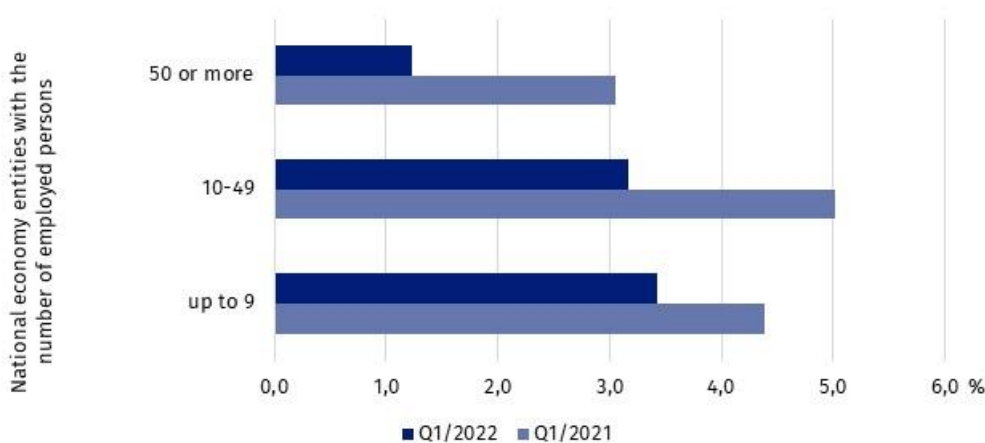


Compared with the first quarter of 2021, the scale of receiving a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation by employed persons in the first quarter of 2022 slightly decreased

**Employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation**

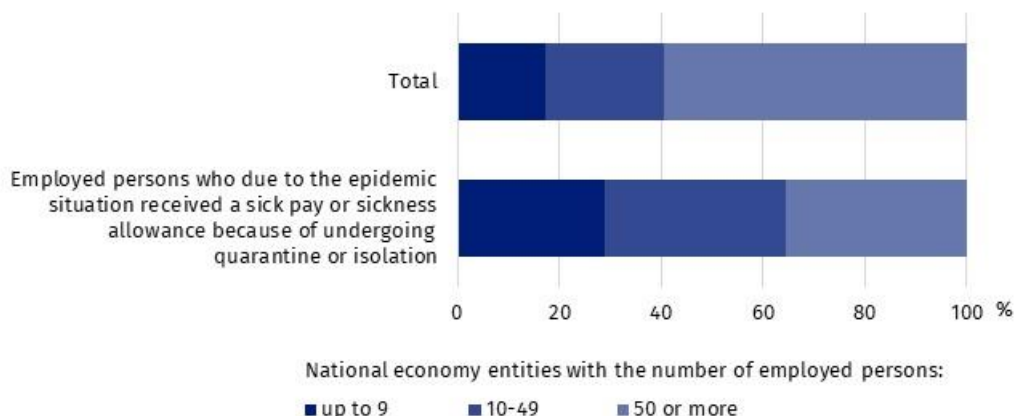
In the first quarter of 2022, in order to limit the spread of the infectious disease, forms of temporary isolation due to the suspicion of infection, for instance quarantine or isolation, were still in use. Employed persons who at the end of March 2022 were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance due to quarantine or isolation accounted for 2.1% of the total employed population. Such cases were recorded at a similar scale in both the public and private sectors.

**Chart 8. The share of employed persons who received a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation by size of national economy entities**  
As at the end of the quarter



The scale of using this kind of temporary isolation due to the suspicion of infection in the first quarter of 2022 was at a lower level than in the first quarter of 2021. This was the case regardless of the size of an entity.

**Chart 9. The structure of employed persons by size of national economy entities in the first quarter of 2022**  
As at the end of the quarter

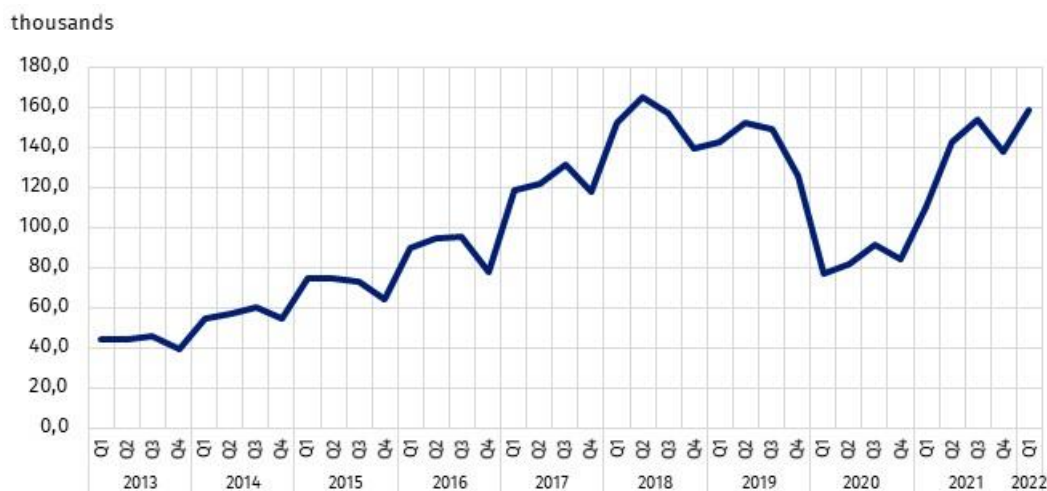


Quarantine or isolation of employed persons took place in all regions, with relatively the highest occurrence in the Zachodniopomorskie and Pomorskie regions. In each of these regions, employed persons who were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation at the end of March 2022 accounted for 2.8% of employed persons. When looking at kinds of activities, it can be noted that at the end of March 2022, the largest shares of employed persons (3% each) subject to the obligation of quarantine or isolation were recorded in sections: other service activities, construction and accommodation and catering<sup>A</sup>.

**Summary**

The SARS-CoV-2 virus began to spread in Poland in the first quarter of 2020. The results of the survey show that the time of the pandemic changed the situation in terms of occupied and unoccupied jobs, and after a significant decrease in the number of these jobs in 2020, in all quarters of 2021 and in the first quarter of 2022, the number of employed persons, which reflects the number of occupied jobs, returned to the level of 2019.

**Chart 10. Job vacancies**  
As at the end of the quarter



The phenomena presented in this news release will be monitored in subsequent editions of the Labour Demand Survey.

In this news release abbreviated names of NACE, Rev. 2 sections were used. Abbreviations are marked with a 'Δ' symbol. Full names are available on the Eurostat website at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/classifications>

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#### **Related information**

[The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on selected elements of the labour market in Poland in the fourth quarter of 2021](#)

[The demand for labour in the fourth quarter of 2021](#)

[The demand for labour – annual publication](#)

[Methodological report. The demand for labour](#)

[Other publications that contain the results of these surveys: \[stat.gov.pl\]\(https://stat.gov.pl\) → Topics → Labour market](#)

#### **Data available in databases**

[Knowledge databases – Labour market](#)

[Strateg → Themes → Labour market](#)

[Local Data Bank → Labour market](#)

#### **Terms used in official statistics**

[Demand for labour](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[Newly created jobs](#)