

# The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on selected elements of the labour market in Poland in the second quarter of 2020

10.09.2020

**10.2%**

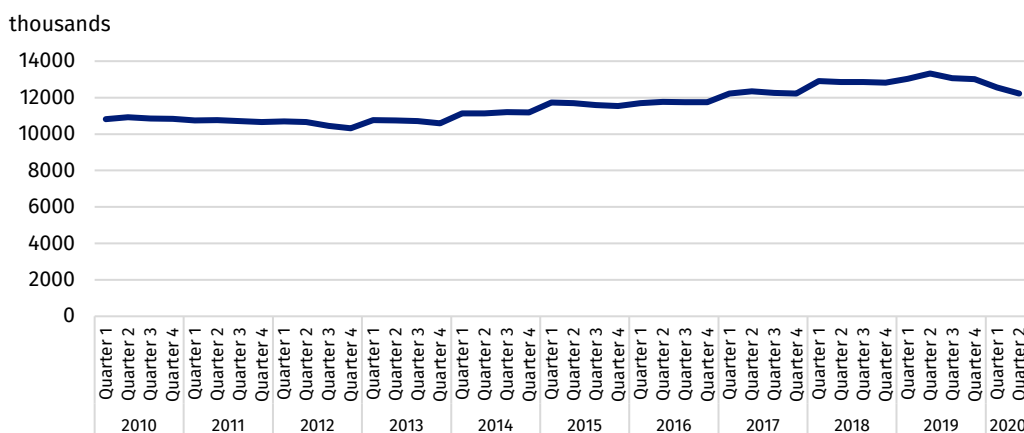
The share of people who worked remotely on 30 June 2020 due to the epidemic situation in the total number of employed persons

In March 2020, a state of epidemic threat was announced in Poland, followed by a state of epidemic in connection with the spread of an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, called COVID-19. The solutions introduced by law, preventing and counteracting the spread of the said virus and combating the disease caused by it applied also to the labour market. Among them was for instance the introduction of the possibility of working from outside a permanent workplace, that is remote work. The data presented in this publication were obtained during 'the Survey on the demand for labour'<sup>1</sup>.

The Survey on the demand for labour is conducted by a representative method on a quarterly basis. It covers entities of the national economy and their local units employing at least 1 person, in accordance with the subject matter of the survey. At the end of the second quarter of 2020, the number of employed persons was 2.7% lower than at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The analysis of the number of employed persons indicates that from 2012 to 2018, in the second quarters it was very similar to that in the first quarters – the increase or decrease in the number of employed persons did not exceed 1%. The situation was slightly different in the next two years. In the second quarter of 2019, there was an increase in the number of employed persons of over 2%, and in 2020, a decrease in the number of employed persons of almost 3%.

**Chart 1. Employed persons**

As at the last day of the quarter



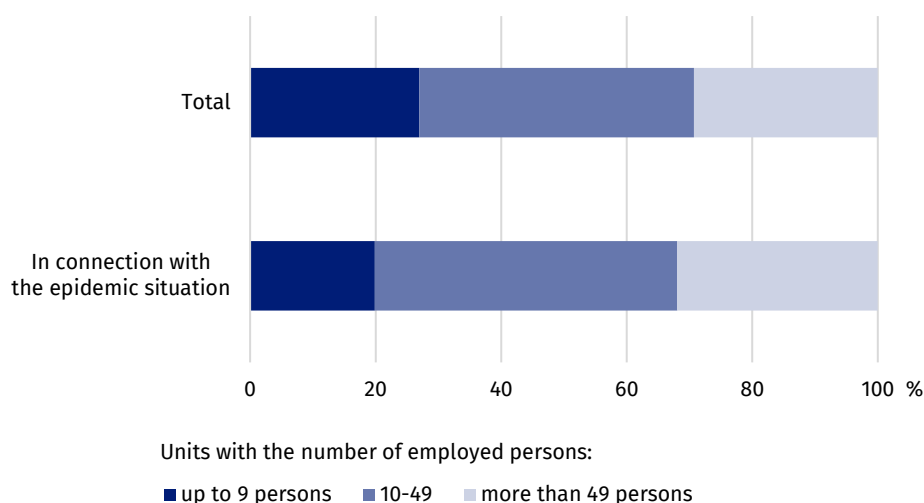
<sup>1</sup> The collected data come from the voluntary responses of reporting units to four additional questions attached on the Reporting Portal to 'the Survey on the demand for labour'. Half of the units that completed the reports answered the questions about the impact of the pandemic situation on the way enterprises operate.

## Liquidated jobs

In the second quarter of 2020, 93.6 thousand jobs were liquidated, 21.9% fewer than in the first quarter of 2020. However, the scale of job losses due to the spread of COVID-19 increased. While in the first quarter such a relationship concerned around a quarter of the liquidated jobs, in the second quarter it concerned as much as a third of the liquidated jobs. The liquidation of jobs took place in all size classes of units. The share of job losses caused by the epidemic situation lower than the average for Poland was in units with up to 9 employed persons. In the remaining size classes of units, the share was over 48%.

Out of all job losses in the second quarter of 2020, 44.1% were caused by the epidemic situation

**Chart 2. Liquidated jobs in Poland in the second quarter of 2020**



Job losses due to the spread of COVID-19 took place almost exclusively in the private sector.

Taking into account the type of activity according to the Polish Classification of Activities (PKD)/ NACE Rev.2 it can be stated that the number of jobs liquidated due to the epidemic situation in individual sections was most often proportional to the number of jobs lost at all. For instance, jobs liquidated in the Manufacturing section constituted 23.0% of jobs liquidated in the whole economy, while jobs liquidated in this section due to the epidemic situation accounted for around 25.9% of all jobs lost due to this reason. It is worth emphasising that in the case of such sections as: Administrative and support service activities, Manufacturing or Accommodation and food service activities, the share of jobs liquidated due to the epidemic situation was around 3 percentage points higher than the share of all jobs liquidated in these sections.

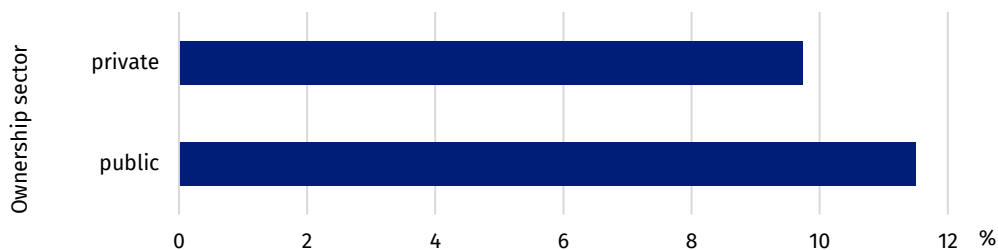
## Remote work during the period of epidemic threat

The epidemic situation that occurred in March 2020 caused a reduction in activity in its hitherto existing form. This was manifested on the one hand by the liquidation of jobs, but on the other hand by the fact that employers became open to forms of employment allowing staff to maintain social distance. One of these forms is remote work.

As at the end of June 2020, the share of people who worked remotely in connection with the epidemic situation in the total number of employed persons covered by 'the Survey on the demand for labour' was 10.2%, 0.8 percentage points lower than at the end of March 2020. During the second quarter, the scale of using remote work in the public and private sectors was similar.

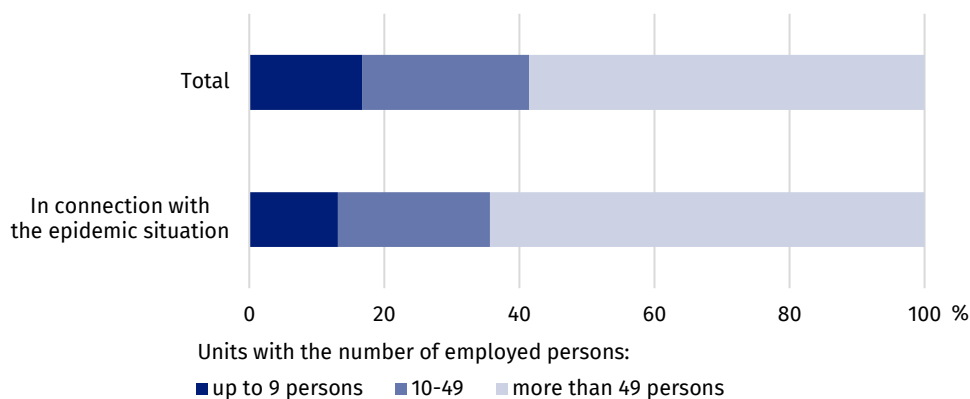
At the end of June 2020, 10.2% of employed persons worked remotely

**Chart 3. The share of employed persons performing telework in connection with the epidemic situation by ownership sectors as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**



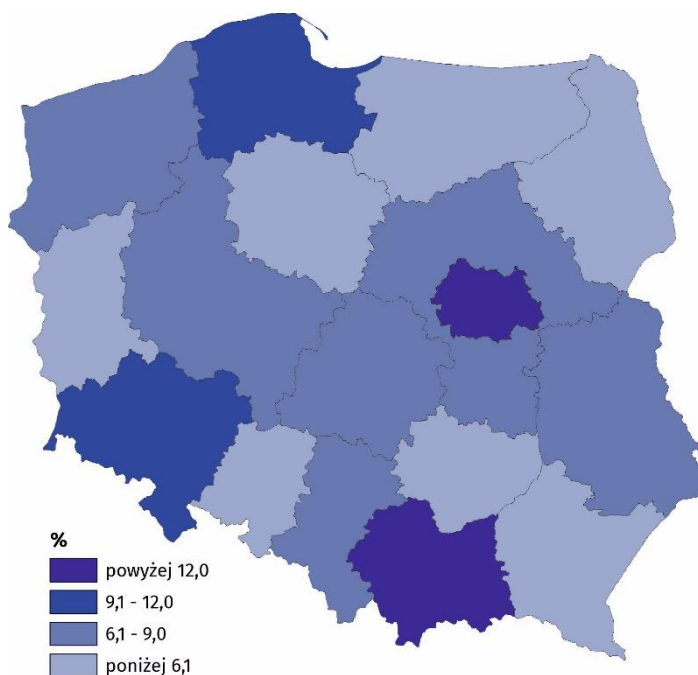
Across the whole economy, the use of remote work in order to reduce the epidemic threat was increasing with the size of entities. In units employing more than 49 persons, around 11% of the employed worked remotely due to the epidemic situation, while in units employing up to 9 persons around 8% of the employed.

**Chart 4. The structure of employed persons by size of units as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**



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

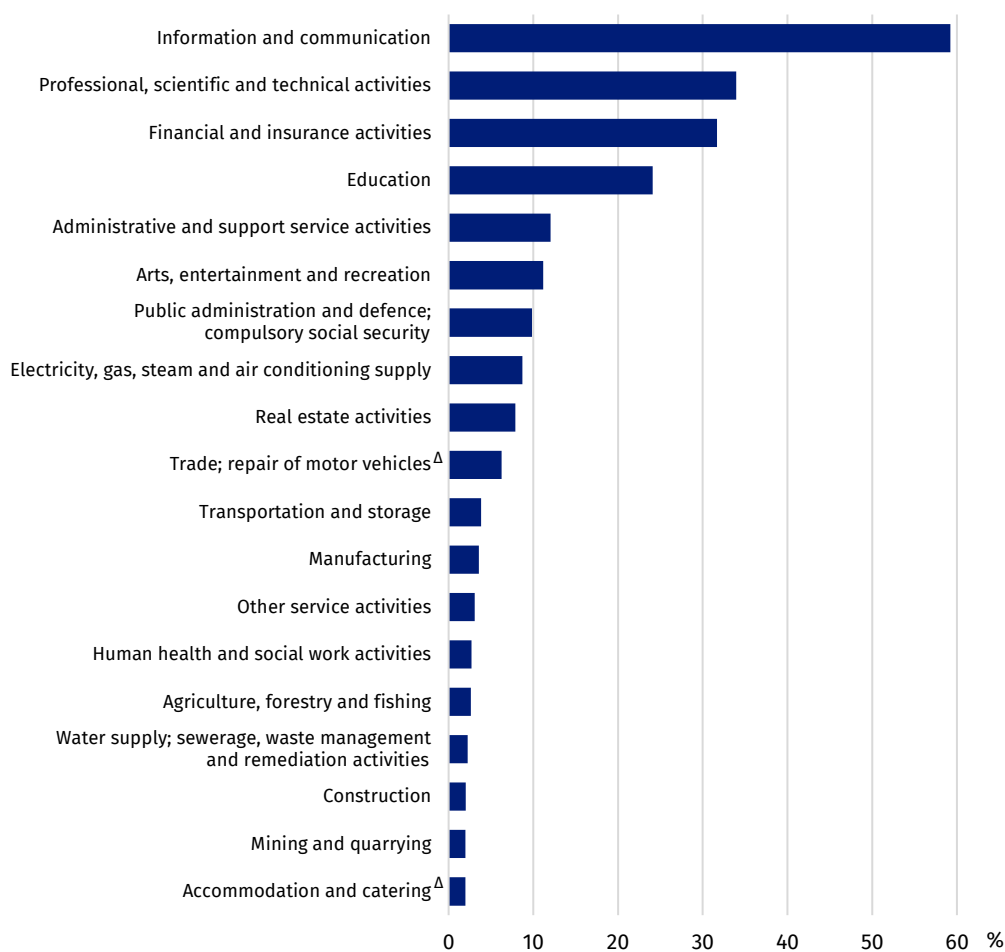
**Map 1. The structure of employed persons performing telework in connection with the epidemic situation by regions (NUTS 2016) as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**



The transition to remote work to a significantly higher degree than on average in Poland took place in the Warszawski stołeczny region. Almost every fifth employed person there worked remotely as a result of the epidemic. Among the remaining regions, the use of the described form of work in the realities of the epidemic threat was least common in the following regions: Podlaskie, Opolskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Świętokrzyskie, where remote work due to the COVID-19 threat was performed by every 20th employed person.

Remote work in the second quarter of this year was diverse in terms of the type of activity. For instance, in PKD (NACE) sections covering industry, remote work was performed by around 3% of employed persons. In services, the scale of the phenomenon was four times larger, while the use of the analysed form of work was conditioned by the specificity of services. While in such sections as Information and communication this form of work, due to the outbreak of an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, covered almost 60% of the employed, in the Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles section, this form of work was used by around 6% of employed persons.

**Chart 5. The structure of employed persons performing telework in connection with the epidemic situation in selected PKD (NACE Rev.2) sections as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**

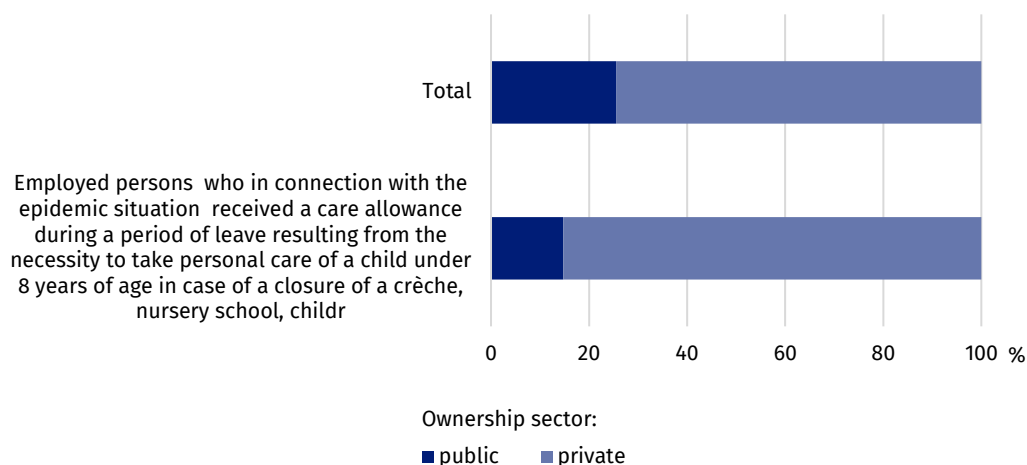


**Employed persons who in connection with the epidemic situation received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age**

By virtue of the Act of 2 March 2020 on Specific 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 crèche, nursery school, children’s club or school. As at the end of the second quarter of 2020, 2.1% of employed persons were exercising this right in Poland. There were 0.2 percentage points fewer of them than at the end of the first quarter of this year. The share of employed persons who under the aforementioned act remained at home was slightly higher in the private sector than the public sector. It was 2.4% and 1.2%, respectively.

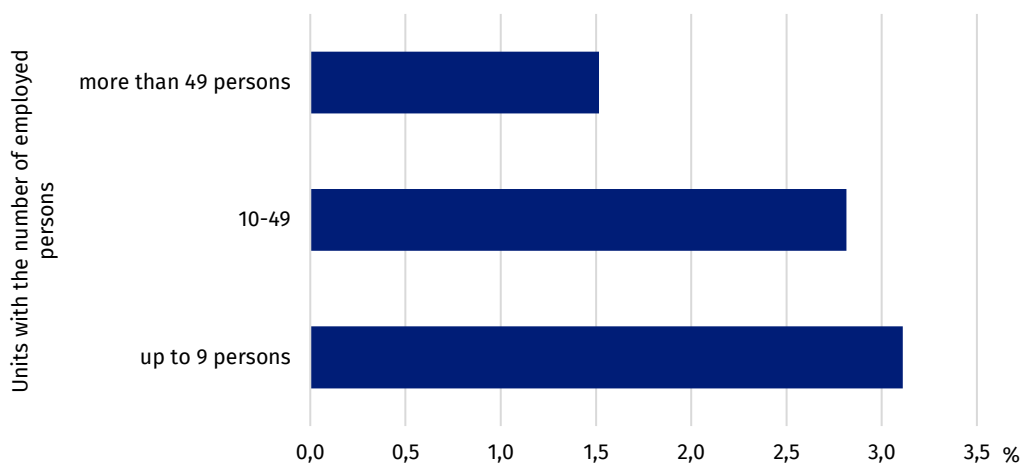
As at the end of the second quarter of this year, 2.1% of employed persons received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age

**Chart 6. The structure of employed persons who in connection with 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 crèche, nursery school, children's club or school by ownership sectors as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**



As a result, those working in the private sector who benefited from this solution, constituted the majority of the total number of the employed 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 crèche, nursery school, children's club or school.

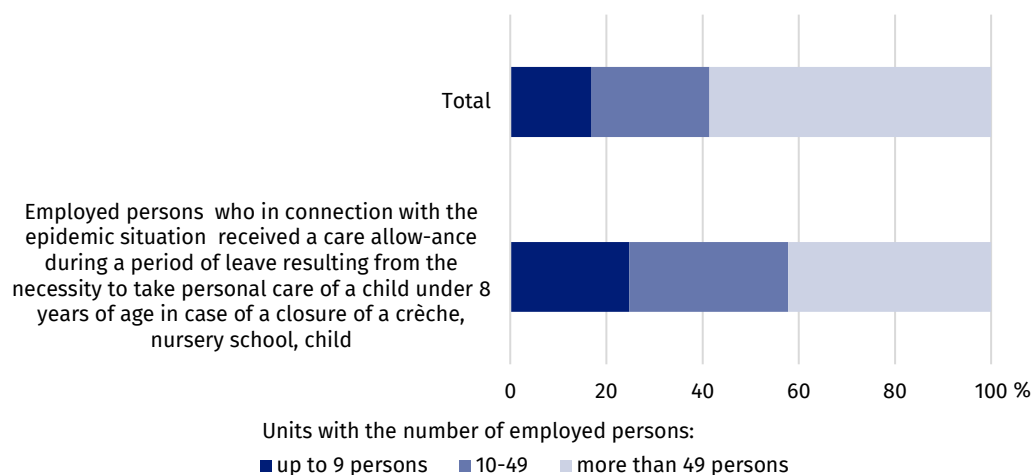
**Chart 7. The share of employed persons who in connection with the epidemic situation received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age in case of a closure of a crèche, nursery school, children's club or school by size of units as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**



The use of this COVID-19 prevention instrument by working parents and legal guardians was inversely proportional to the size of units. In the smallest units 3.1% of employed persons used it, while in units employing more than 49 persons 1.5%.

Out of the total number of employed persons who as at 30 June 2020 were recipients of 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 crèche, nursery school, children's club or school around 42% were parents and legal guardians working in units with more than 49 employed persons.

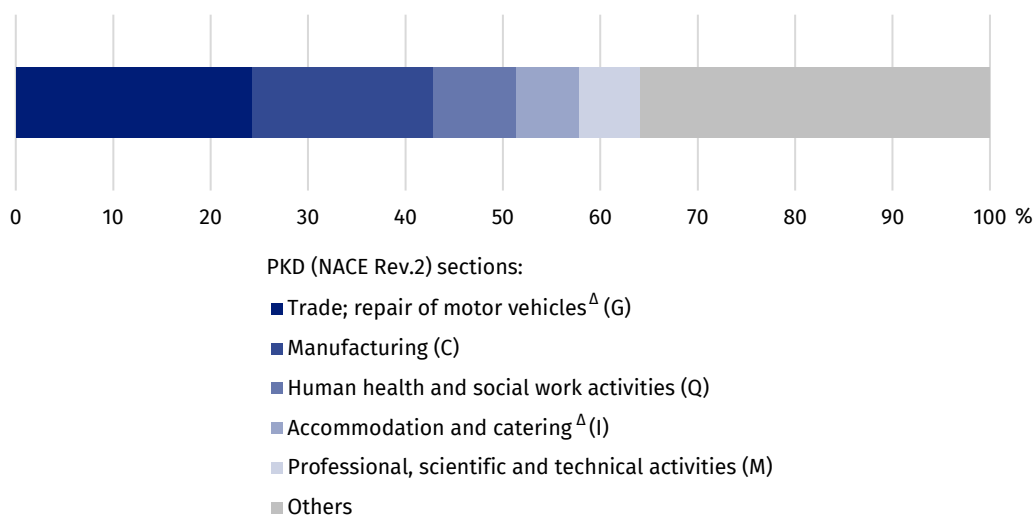
**Chart 8. The structure of employed persons by size of units as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**



The scale of making use of the possibility of caring for a child for the said reason in particular regions was quite similar. The share of the number of working parents and legal guardians exercising the right to care for a child due to the epidemic situation fluctuated around 2-3%.

According to the survey, the highest percentages of employed persons (5.0%) who were not performing work because of childcare were in sections: Other service activities and Accommodation and food service activities. In the remaining sections, the share of employed persons who made use of this particular solution was lower than 3.2%. The largest number of employed persons who exercised their right to care for a child due to the spread of COVID-19 were parents and legal guardians working in the Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles section.

**Chart 9. The structure of employed persons who in connection with 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 crèche, nursery school, children’s club or school by PKD (NACE Rev.2) sections as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**

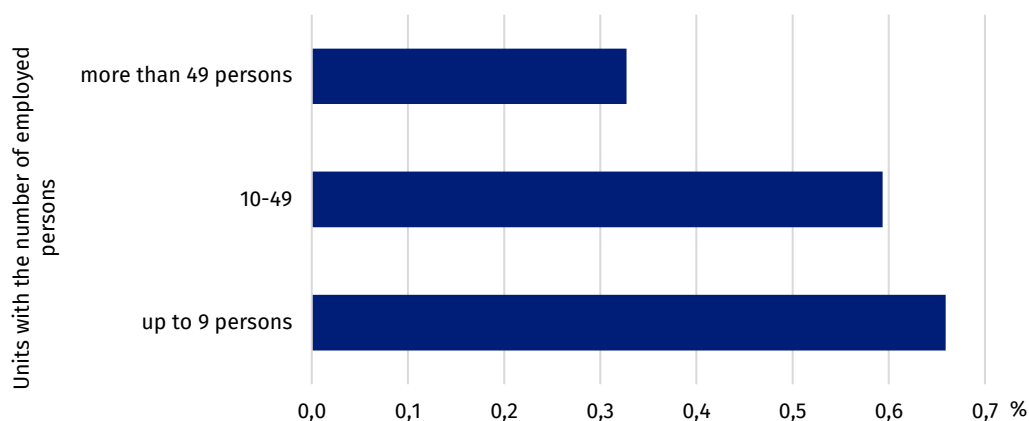


## Employed persons who in connection with the epidemic situation received a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation

In the second quarter of 2020, in order to limit the spread of the infectious disease, forms of temporary isolation due to the suspicion of an infection were still in use, for instance quarantine and isolation. Employed persons who, as at 30 June 2020, were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance due to quarantine or isolation, constituted 0.4% of the total employed population. Such cases were reported at a similar scale in both the public and private sectors.

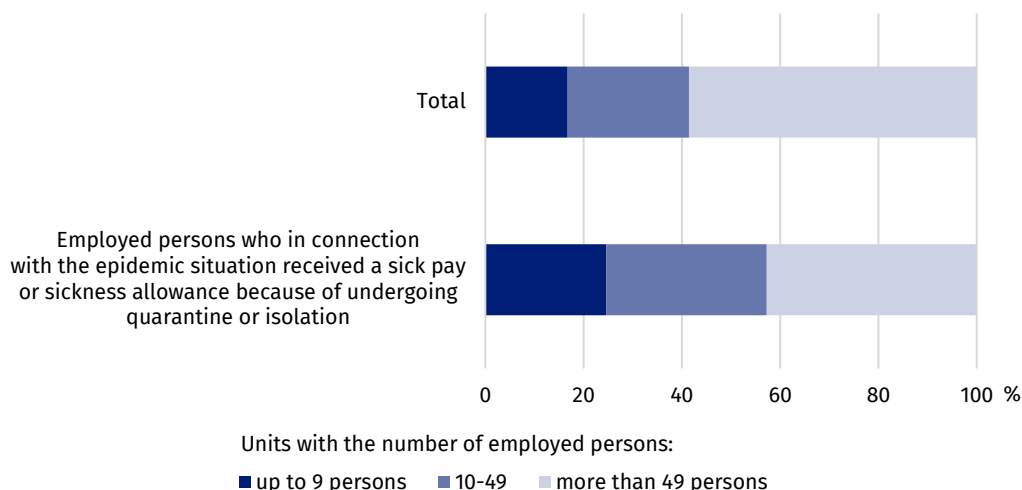
As at 30 June 2020, 0.4% of employed persons were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation

**Chart. 10. The share of employed persons who in connection with the epidemic situation received a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation by size of units as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**



Taking into account the size of units, it can be seen that the share of employed persons in quarantine or isolation was inversely proportional to the size of units. The highest share of employed persons in such a situation occurred in units employing up to 9 persons, while the lowest in the largest units.

**Chart 11. The structure of employed persons by size of units as at the end of the second quarter of 2020**

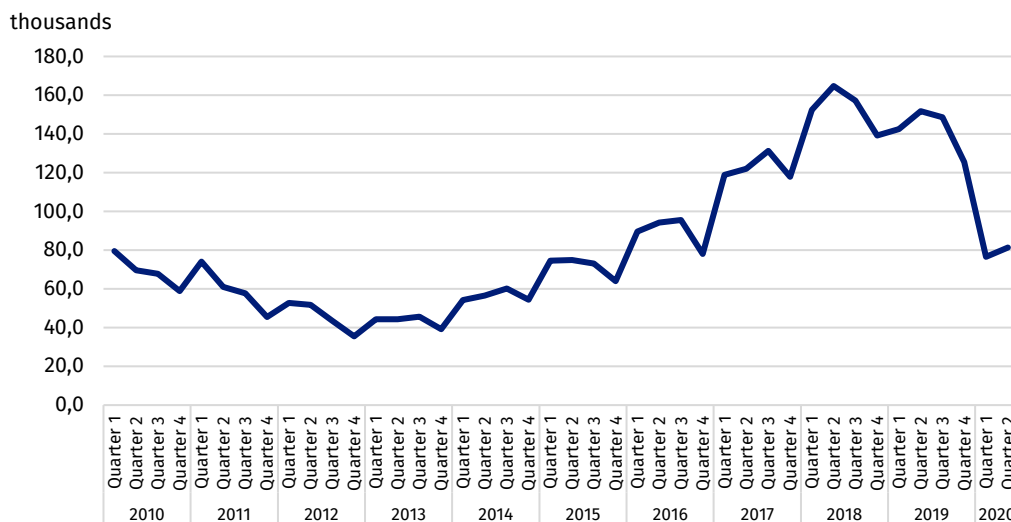


Quarantine or isolation of employed persons occurred in all regions, with the largest number of cases in the Śląskie Voivodship. When considering types of activities, it can be stated that at the end of June 2020, much higher shares of employed persons covered by the obligation of quarantine or isolation than the average share for Poland were in sections: Accommodation and food service activities and Mining and quarrying.

## Summary

The SARS-CoV-2 virus began to spread in Poland in the first quarter of 2020. In the second quarter of 2020, despite the continuous use of specific solutions related to preventing, counteracting and combating COVID-19 disease caused by this virus, such as remote work or a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age, the number of employees was lower than at the end of March 2020. The share of jobs liquidated due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the total number of liquidated jobs increased compared to the end of the previous quarter.

**Chart 12. Job vacancies**



In the second quarter of 2020, despite the continuation of the pandemic, the decline in the number of job vacancies observed in the first quarter of this year stopped. The number of vacancies increased by over 6%. The phenomena presented in this study will be monitored in subsequent editions of 'the Survey on the demand for labour'.

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



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[The demand for labour in the first quarter of 2020](#)

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

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

[Knowledge databases – Labour market](#)

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

[Demand for labour](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[Newly created jobs](#)