

# The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on selected elements of the labour market in Poland in the first quarter of 2021

10.06.2021

**14.2%**

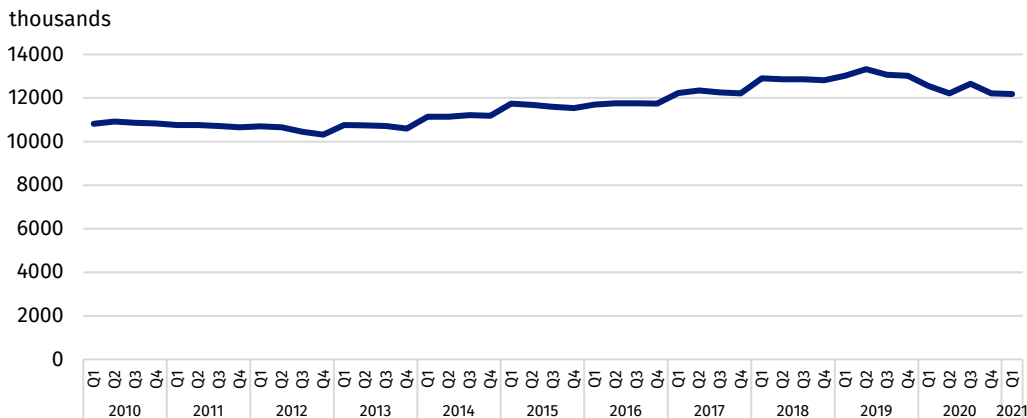
the share of people who worked remotely on 31 March 2021 due to the epidemic situation in the total number of employed persons

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 a 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 2021, the number of occupied jobs was 2.9% lower than at the end of the first quarter of 2020.

**Chart 1. Employed persons**

As at the end of the quarter



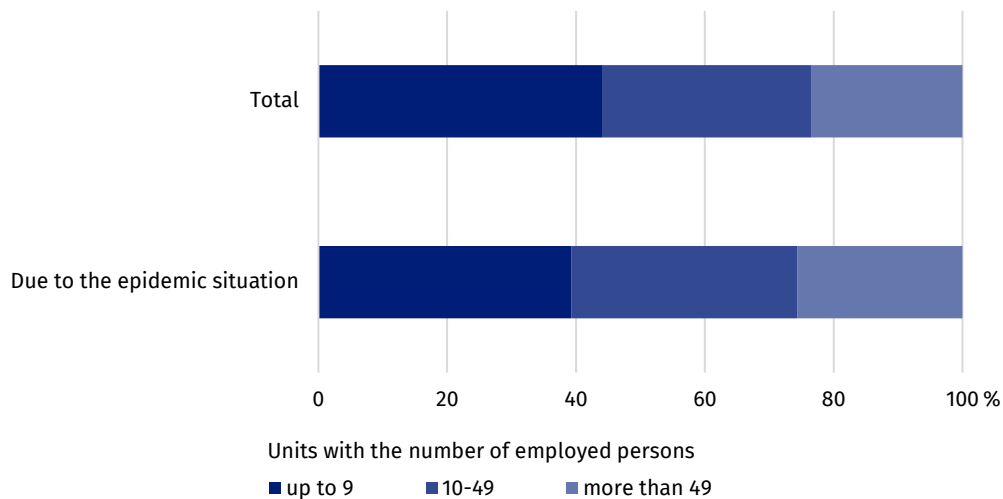
<sup>1</sup> The collected data come from the voluntary responses of reporting units to four additional questions attached on the Reporting Portal to 'the Labour Demand Survey'. Approximately half of the units that completed the reports answered the questions about the impact of the pandemic situation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

## Liquidated jobs

In the first quarter of 2021, 70.2 thousand jobs were liquidated, 41.5% fewer than in the first quarter of 2020. It should be noted, however, that the number of job cuts related to the spread of COVID-19 accounted for nearly 24% of all job losses. The cutting of jobs took place in all size classes of units. The share of jobs liquidated due to the epidemic situation lower than the average share for Poland was recorded in units with up to 9 employed persons. In other size classes of units, the share was higher than the average share for Poland.

Out of all job losses in the first quarter of 2021, 23.8% were caused by the epidemic situation

**Chart 2. Liquidated jobs in Poland in the first quarter of 2021**



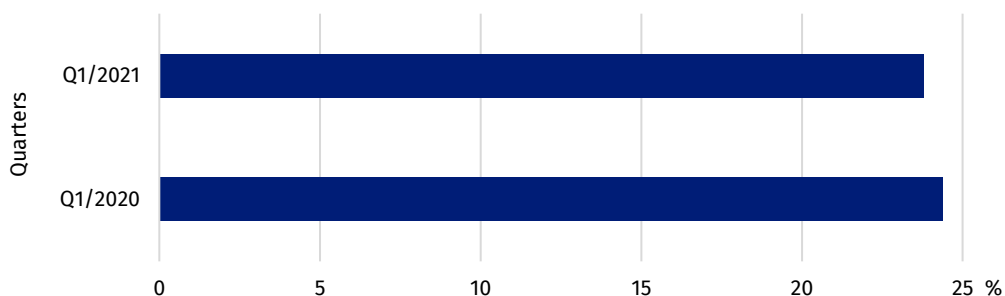
Job losses due to the spread of COVID-19 occurred mainly in the private sector.

Taking into account the type of activity according to the PKD (NACE Rev.2) classification it can be stated, that the structure of jobs lost due to the epidemic in individual sections was similar to the structure of all job losses.

For example, jobs liquidated in the manufacturing section accounted for approximately 20% of jobs liquidated in the whole economy, and jobs liquidated in this section due to the epidemic situation accounted for 21.0% of all jobs lost for this reason.

In the first quarter of 2021, compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, slightly fewer jobs were lost due to the epidemic in the country.

**Chart 3. The share of jobs liquidated due to the epidemic situation**



## Remote work during the period of epidemic threat

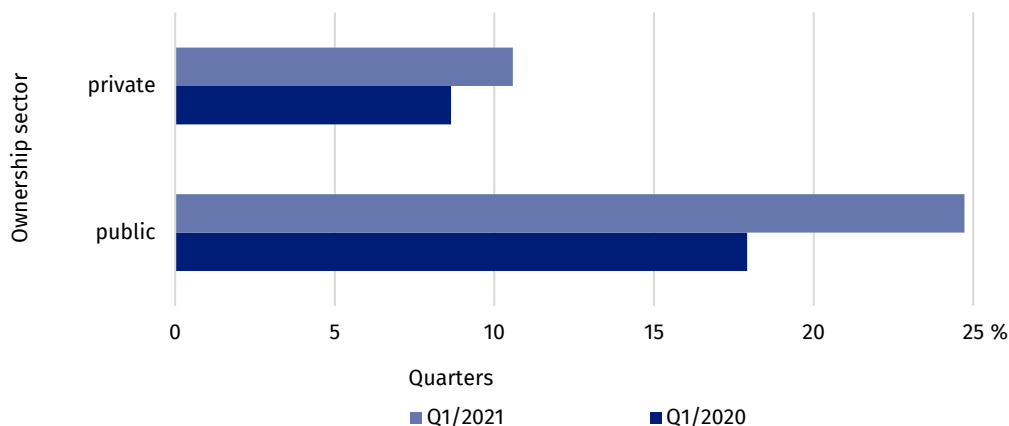
The epidemic situation that occurred in March 2020 limited the activities of national economy entities in their hitherto existing form. This was manifested, on the one hand, by the liquidation of jobs, and on the other hand, by the fact that employers became open to forms of employment enabling staff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

At the end of March 2021, 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

14.2%, 3.2 percentage points more than at the end of March 2020. During the first quarter, the extent of remote work in the private sector was larger than in the public sector.

**Chart 4. The share of employed persons working remotely due to the epidemic situation by ownership sector**

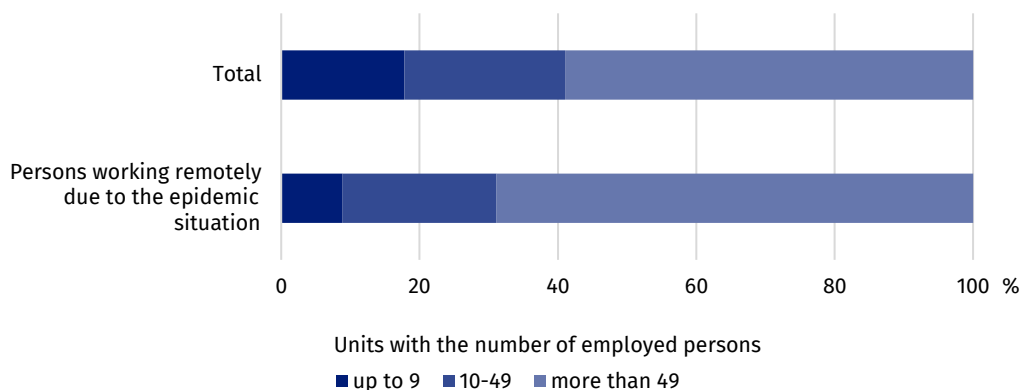
As at the end of the quarter



Across the whole economy, the use of remote work in order to reduce the epidemic risk remained highest in units employing over 49 persons. The share of people working remotely in units of this size was 16.6%, 6.5 percentage points more than in the first quarter of 2020. In units employing up to 9 persons, remote work was performed by 7.1% of employed persons, whereas in units with 10 to 49 employed persons – 13,6%.

**Chart 5. The structure of employed persons by size of units in the first quarter of 2021**

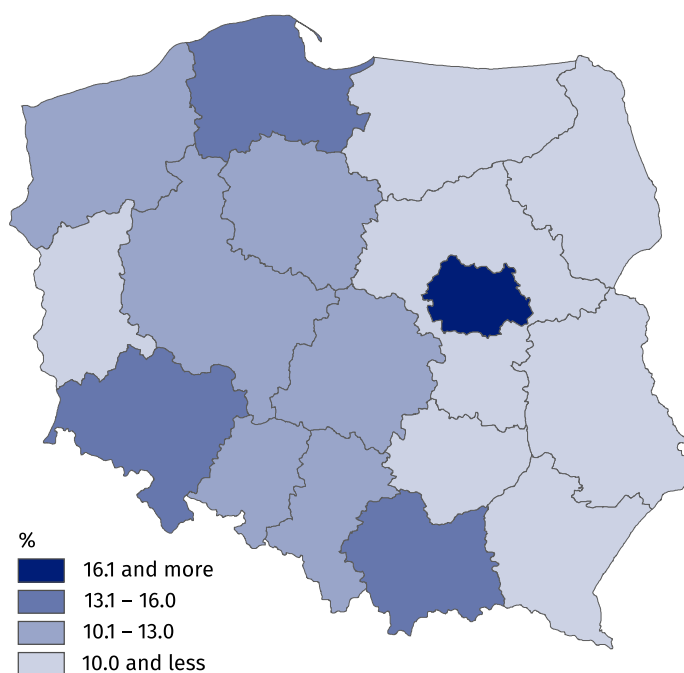
As at the end of the quarter



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 2021**

As at the end of the quarter

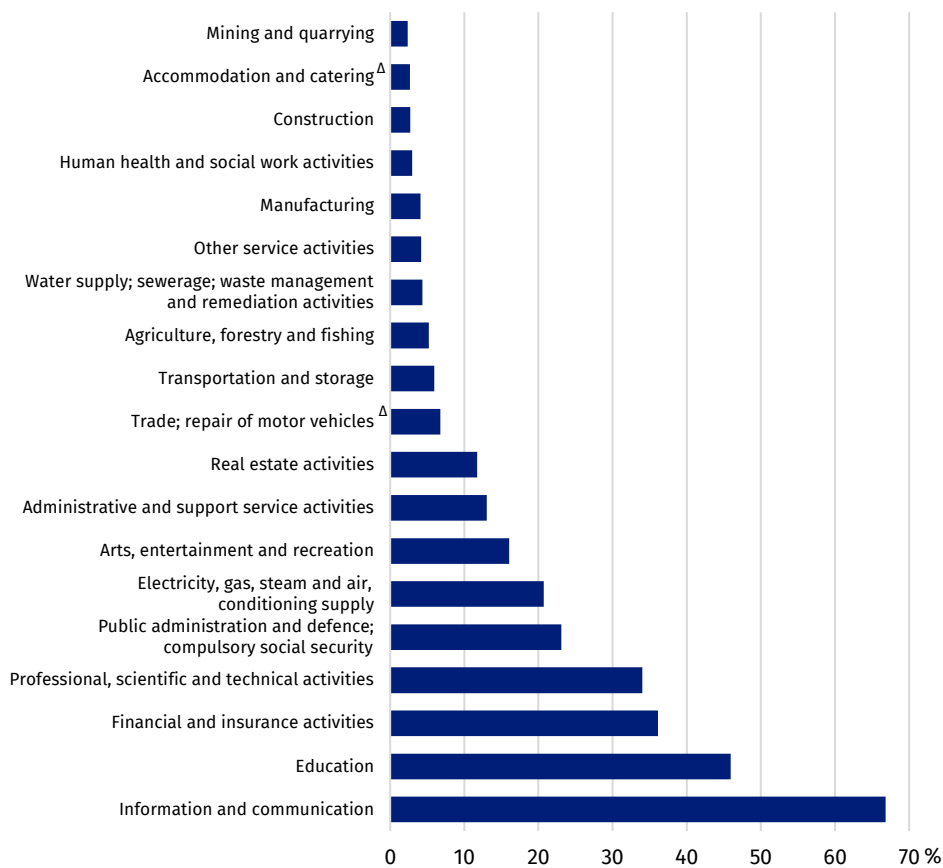


The transition to remote work to a significantly higher degree than statistically in Poland took place in the Warszawski stołeczny region. As a result of the epidemic situation, approximately every fourth employed person working there remotely. Among the remaining regions, the use of this form of work in the realities of the epidemic threat was least common in the Świętokrzyskie region, where remote work due to the COVID-19 threat was performed by 6.9% of employed persons.

Performing remote work in the first quarter of 2021 varied depending on the type of activity. For example, in the information and communication section, remote work was performed by nearly 67% of employed persons. In the education section nearly 46% of employed persons worked remotely due to the pandemic caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

**Chart 6. The share of employed persons working remotely due to the epidemic situation in selected PKD (NACE Rev. 2) sections in the first quarter of 2021**

As at the end of the quarter

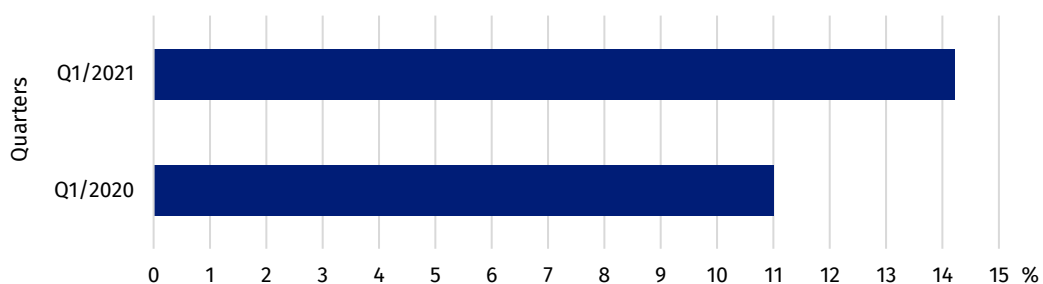


In the first quarter of 2021, 1.8% of employed persons received a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the necessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age

The share of employed persons who worked remotely due to the epidemic situation in the first quarter of 2021 was higher than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

**Chart 7. The share of employed persons working remotely due to the epidemic situation**

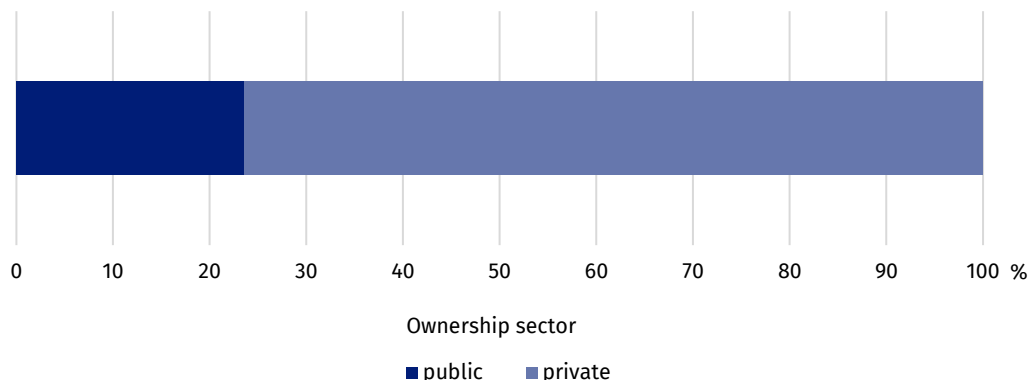
As at the end of the quarter



**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**

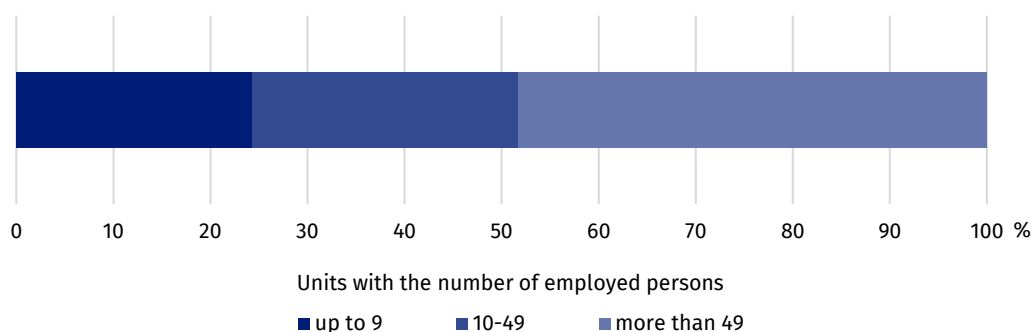
By virtue of the Act of 2 March 2020 on Special Solutions to Prevent, Counteract and Combat COVID-19, Other Infectious Diseases and Crisis Situations Caused by Them, working parents or legal guardians were provided with the possibility to receive a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from 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 2021, 1.8% of employed persons were exercising this right in Poland, the vast majority of whom worked in the private sector.

**Chart 8. 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 2021**



Of employed persons who due to the epidemic situation 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 nursery, nursery school, children’s club or school the largest number worked in units with more than 49 employed persons – 48.3%.

**Chart 9. 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 units in the first quarter of 2021**



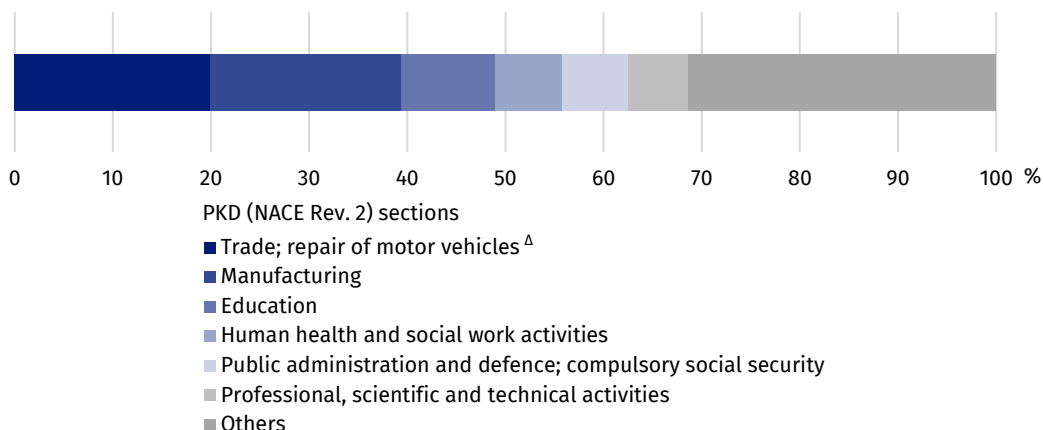
The scale of taking leave to care for a child for the said reason in particular regions was quite similar. The share of the number of working parents and legal guardians exercising the right to care for a child due to the epidemic situation ranged from 1.3% in the Lubelskie region to 2.2% in the Zachodniopomorskie region.

According to the survey, the relatively highest number of employed persons, that is 4.5%, 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>A</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 Rev. 2) section shows that employed persons from sections: trade; repair of motor vehicles<sup>A</sup> and manufacturing accounted together for nearly 40% of all persons receiving the allowance.

**Chart 10. 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 Rev.2) section in the first quarter of 2021**



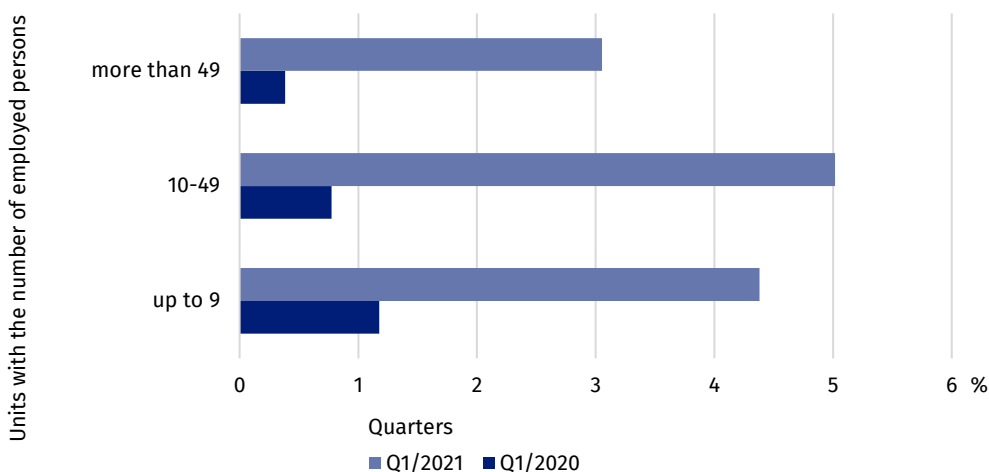
**Employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation**

In the first quarter of 2021, 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 were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance due to quarantine or isolation as at 31 March 2021, constituted 3.7% of the total employed population.

Such cases were reported at a similar scale in both the public and private sectors.

As at 31 March 2021, 3.7% of employed persons were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation

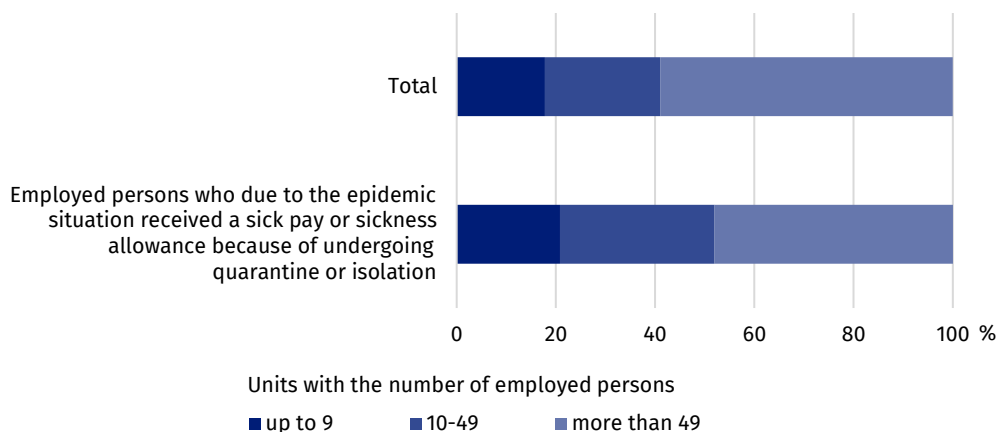
**Chart 11. The share of employed persons who received a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation by size of units**  
As at the end of the quarter



The scale of using this kind of temporary isolation (i.a. quarantine or isolation) due to the suspicion of infection was higher in the first quarter of 2021 than in the first quarter of 2020.

**Chart 12. The structure of employed persons by size of units in the first quarter of 2021**

As at the end of the quarter



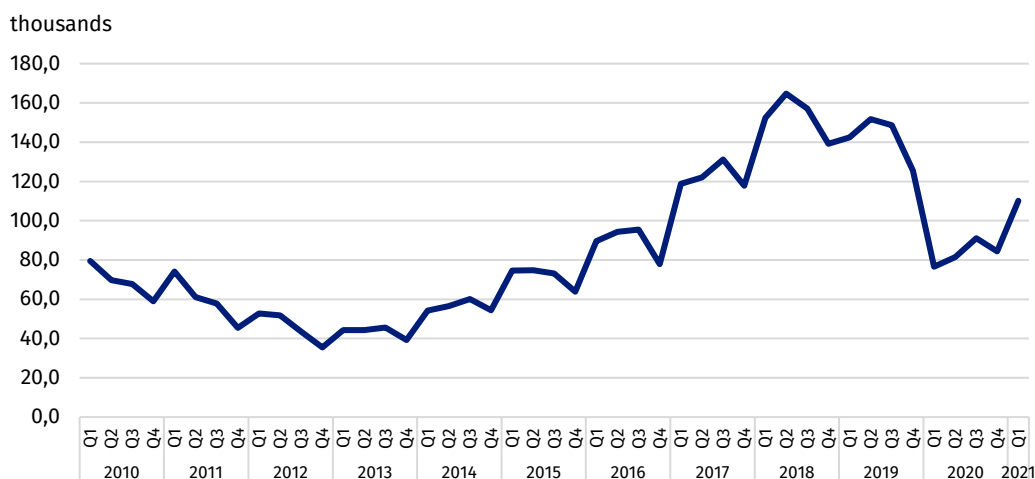
Quarantine or isolation of employed persons took place in all regions, with the relatively highest occurrence in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Pomorskie regions. In these regions, employed persons who were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation as at 31 March 2021, accounted for 4.7% of employed persons. When considering types of activities, it can be stated that at the end of March 2021, the largest share of employed persons subject to the obligation of quarantine or isolation was recorded in sections: other service activities 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 in the subsequent quarters the situation regarding occupied and unoccupied jobs was different than in the previous years of the second decade of the 21st century. In the first quarter of 2021, the number of employed persons, which reflects occupied jobs, after a significant decrease in 2020 returned to the level of the fourth quarter of 2019.

**Chart 13. Job vacancies**

As at the end of quarters



In the first quarter of 2021, the number of job vacancies decreased by 30.6% compared to the previous quarter. This is a situation that has taken place almost every month since the second decade of the 21st century except for the first quarter of 2020, when the number of job vacancies decreased by 39.0% compared to the previous quarter.



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

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."

Prepared by:  
**Statistical Office in Bydgoszcz**  
**Director Wiesława Gierańczyk, Ph.D.**  
Office: tel. (+48 52) 366 93 90

Issued by:  
**The Spokesperson for the President  
of Statistics Poland**  
**Karolina Banaszek**  
Mobile: (+48) 695 255 011

#### **Press Office**

Office: tel. (+48 22) 608 34 91, 22 608 38 04

e-mail: [obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl](mailto:obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl)



[stat.gov.pl/en/](https://stat.gov.pl/en/)



[@GUS\\_STAT](https://twitter.com/GUS_STAT)



[@GlownyUrzadStatystyczny](https://www.facebook.com/GlownyUrzadStatystyczny)

#### **Related information**

[The impact of the Covid-19 epidemic on selected elements of the labour market in Poland in the fourth quarter of 2020](#)

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

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

[Other publications that contain the results of these surveys: 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](#)