

# Volunteering in 2022

04.11.2022

**8.5 million**

persons in the first quarter of 2022 were volunteers

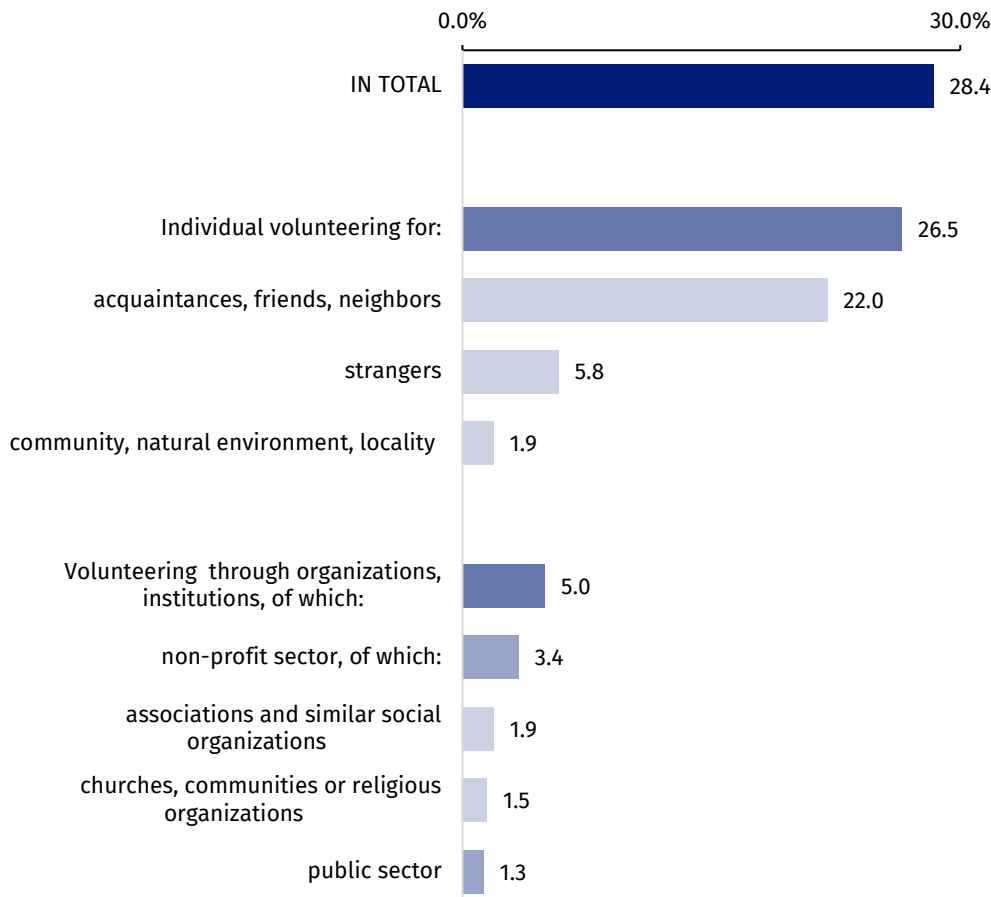
In Poland, 28.4% of persons aged 15-89 engaged in volunteering in the first quarter of 2022. On average, one person spent 10 hours working as a volunteer. Taking into account the socio-demographic characteristics, the highest share of volunteers was recorded among persons with higher education (36.7%).

## Disseminate involvement in volunteering

In the first quarter of 2022, over a quarter of persons aged 15-89 (28.4%) engaged in volunteer work, more often in provided individual (26.5%) than in an organization or institution (5.0%). Poles definitely more often provided direct help to their acquaintances, friends and neighbors (22.0%) than to strangers (5.8%). On the other hand, in organized volunteering, involvement in unpaid work in the non-profit sector (3.4%) stood out, ahead of the public sector (1.9%).

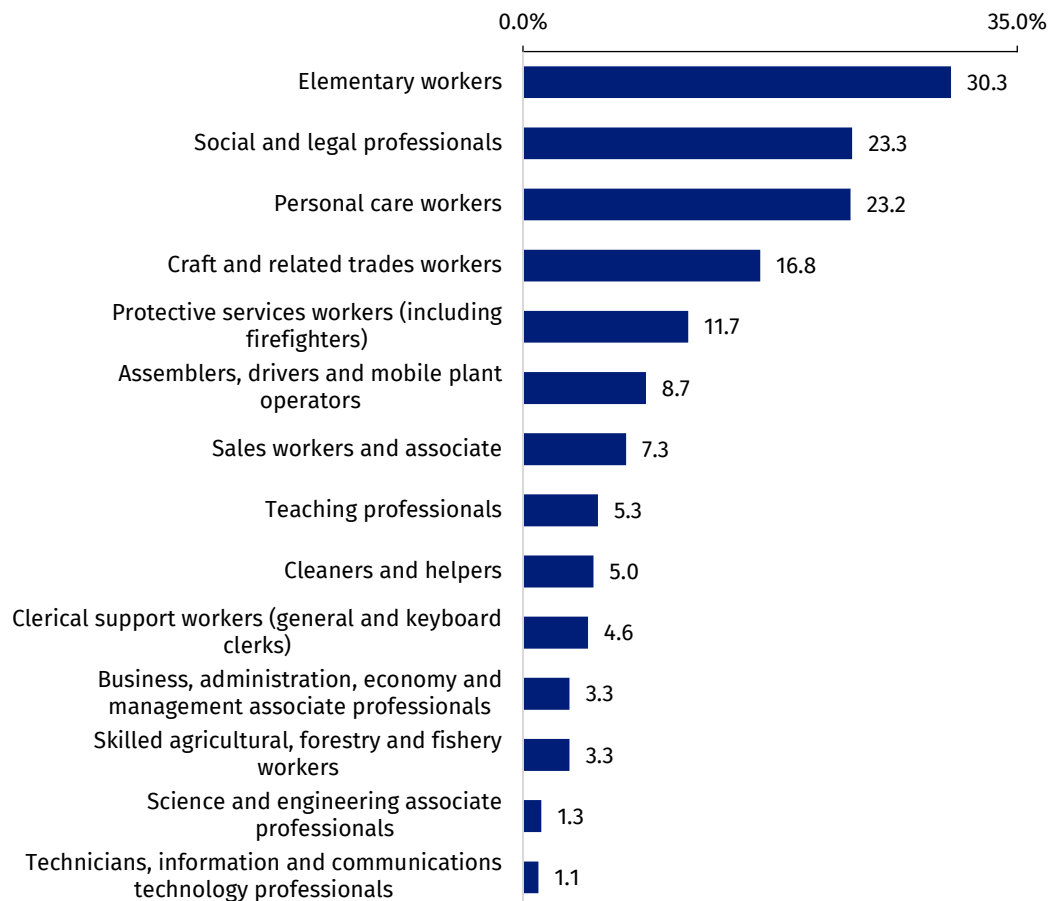
26.5% of persons engaged in individual volunteering, and 5.0% in volunteer work in organizations and institutions in the first quarter of 2022.

**Chart 1. The percentage of volunteers in the first quarter of 2022 by type of volunteering**



Volunteers most often performed elementary works (e.g. snow removal, sweeping, throwing garbage, as a messenger) - 30.3%, then - corresponding to the qualifications of staff in social and legal fields (e.g. providing information, promoting knowledge, legal advice, organizing and running sports and cultural events, providing support to persons who cannot cope with life problems - 23.3%, and providing care (for children, the elderly, the sick) - 23.2%.

**Chart 2. Percentage of volunteers in the first quarter of 2022 by occupational groups corresponding to the work performed as part of volunteering**

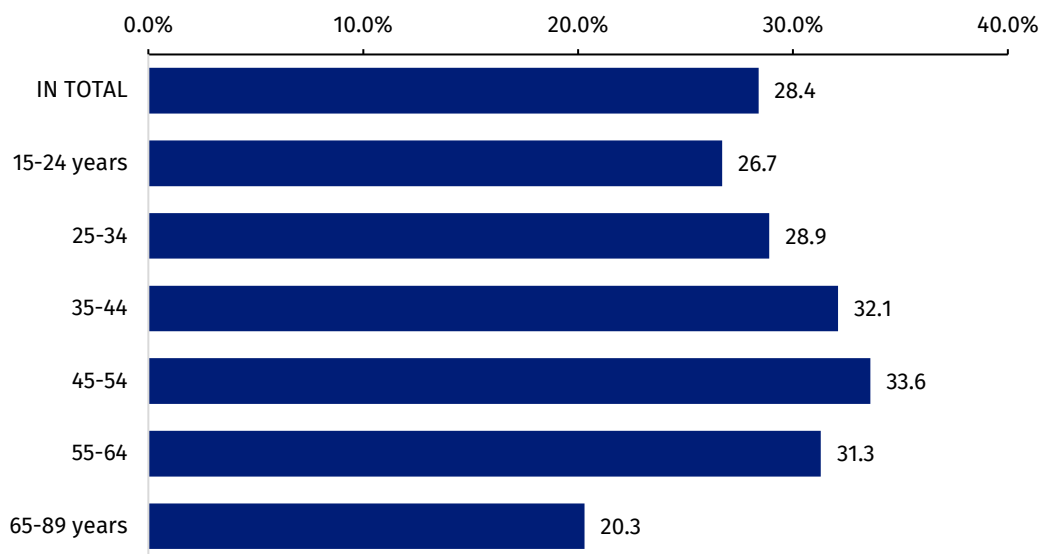


**Volunteers according to socio-demographic characteristics**

Involvement in volunteering was slightly higher among women (29.9%) than among men (26.8%). The type of locality had a similarly small impact on volunteer activity, with the highest percentage of volunteers among city dwellers over 100 thousand. (29.5%), slightly lower in cities below 20,000 inhabitants (28.8%) and in the countryside (28.4%), and the lowest in cities from 20 to 100 thousand inhabitants (26.6%).

Volunteers were more often women (29.9%) than men (26.8%)

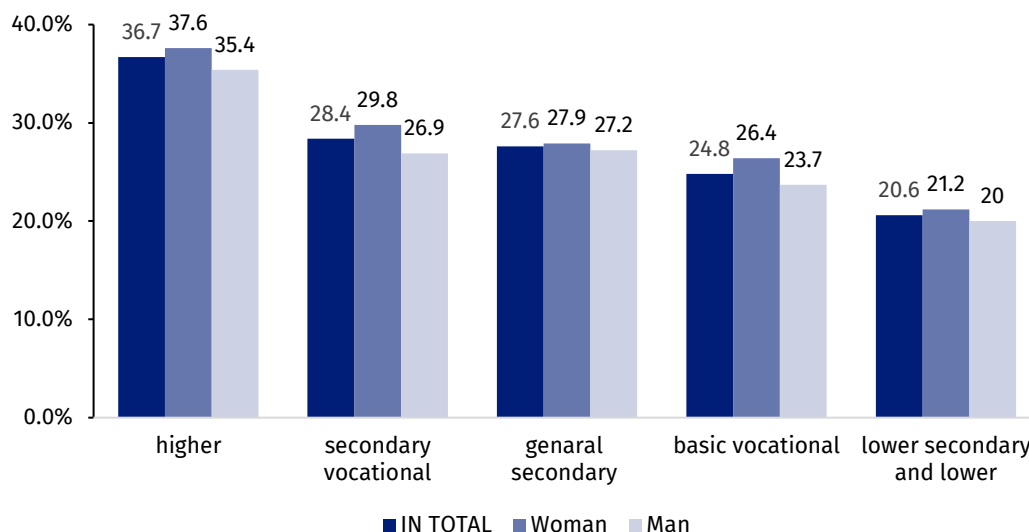
**Chart 3. The percentage of volunteers in the first quarter of 2022 by age**



Age differentiated the phenomenon more clearly, volunteering was most often provided by persons aged 45-54 (33.6%), the least often by the oldest (65-89 years old - 20.3%) and, in turn, by the youngest (15-24 years old - 26.7%).

The voivodship was an even more significant feature, the highest share of volunteers was among the inhabitants of Podkarpacie (35.9%), Podlaskie (35.0%), Mazowieckie (32.8%), and then Lubelskie - 31.7%. Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Opolskie voivodships (21.4% and 21.1% respectively) had the lowest percentage of persons working socially.

**Chart 4. The percentage of volunteers in the first quarter of 2022 by education and gender**



The level of education is the key to the spread of involvement in volunteering. The higher the level of education, the greater the percentage of persons involved in volunteer work. Among persons with higher education, as many as 36.7% devoted their time to volunteer and unpaid work for others, and in the group with lower secondary education, it was by 16.1 percentage points less.

From the point of view of activity in the labour market, the most common volunteers were persons working for profit (32.2%), then the unemployed (29.6%), and the least often economically inactive (23.3%).

### Working time of volunteers

In the first quarter of 2022, the average time spent by a volunteer on volunteer work during a 4-week period was 10 hours. Half of the persons worked a maximum of 4 hours in a month, while the most frequent time indicated by the respondents was 2 hours.

**Table 1. Average, medians and dominants of volunteers' working time in the 4 weeks preceding the survey (first quarter 2022)**

	Average	Median	Mode
IN TOTAL	10	4	2
Provided individually for:	9	4	2
acquaintances, friends and neighbours	9	4	2
strangers	6	2	1
community, natural environment, locality	7	2	1
Provided through organizations, institutions, of which:	8	4	2
non-profit sector, of which:	8	4	2
associations and similar social organizations	9	5	2
churches, communities or religious organizations	5	3	2
public sector	6	3	2

Education is a socio-demographic characteristic that most clearly differentiates involvement in volunteering

The average monthly volunteering time in the first quarter of 2022 was 10 hours, the median - 4 hours, and the mode - 2 hours

Although definitely more persons were involved in individual volunteering than organized volunteering within a given entity, volunteers in organizations and institutions devoted on average to such work a little less time (7 hours) than persons providing social work outside organized structures (9 hours). The median and dominant values, which are the same in both groups (4 hours and 2 hours), also indicate the similar amount of time allocated by individual persons.

The differentiation of the average number of hours devoted to volunteering was related to selected socio-demographic characteristics of persons who engaged in such work. The older the volunteers were, the higher the average time devoted to volunteering was, despite the fact that fewer persons of this age were involved in this type of activity - persons aged 65-89 spent an average of 13 hours, while persons aged 15-24 - 7 hours.

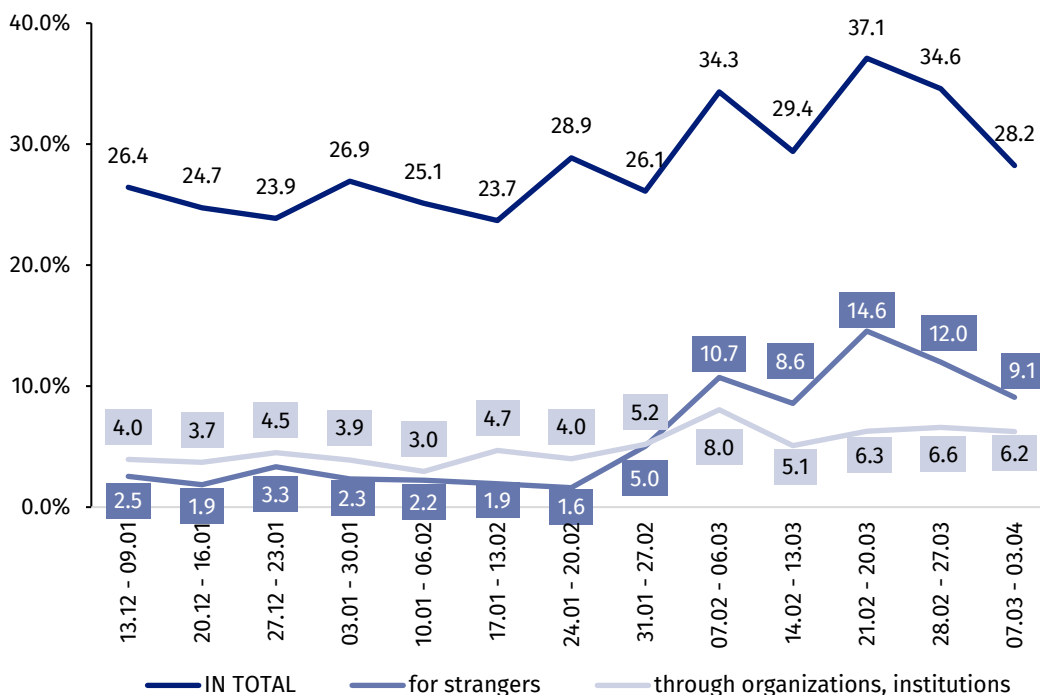
Involvement in volunteer work, expressed in the average number of hours worked in this type of work, was the highest among persons with secondary vocational education - 11 hours, then with higher education - 10 hours, and in the remaining groups it was 9 hours. The average time devoted to community work differed depending on the gender of the volunteers. Volunteer women devoted an average of 11 hours to this type of work, and the volunteer men - 9 hours.

### Changes in engagement over time

In the period covered by the study (from December 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 to April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022), depending on the week of data collection, the level of involvement in volunteering by persons aged 15-89 in the 4 weeks preceding the interview ranged from 23.7% up to 37.1%. It was the highest in the period from February 21<sup>st</sup> this year. until March 20<sup>th</sup> this year. (37.1%), which was related to an increase in assistance to strangers and involvement within organizations and institutions in connection with the situation caused by hostilities on the territory of Ukraine.

The highest percentage of persons involved in volunteering occurred in the period including the first 3.5 weeks of the full-scale war in Ukraine (from February 21<sup>st</sup> until March 20<sup>th</sup>) - 37.1%

**Chart 5. Percentage of volunteers by survey reference period**



The first period when a clear increase in involvement in volunteer work for strangers and within organizations was noted was from February 7<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The activity of persons providing help to strangers increased to 10.7% (in the previous periods it was between 1.6% and 5.0%), while volunteer work in organizations and institutions increased to 8.0% (in the previous periods it ranged from 3.0% to 5.2%). The share of persons helping strangers reached the highest value in the periods from February 21<sup>st</sup> this year. until March 20<sup>th</sup> this year. and on February 28<sup>th</sup> this year. until March 27<sup>th</sup> this year. (14.6% and 12.0%, respectively), while the support within organizations and institutions decreased slightly at that time, although it remained higher than before the outbreak of the war in Ukraine (6.3% and 6.6%, respectively). In the period from February 21<sup>st</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup> this year, when the highest percentage of volunteers was recorded, these persons most often performed specialist work

in the field of law, social fields and culture related to, among others, providing legal advice, information, therapeutic interviews, mental support and collection of clothes and food - 59.0%.

### **Methodological information**

The data presented in the news release are preliminary results of the third edition of the study Volunteer Work Module (VWM), which was implemented as a module for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in the first quarter of 2022. 21.9 thousand persons aged 15-89 participated in the study.

The news release shows data analysis on individual volunteering, provided for the benefit of acquaintances, strangers and the natural environment, as well as volunteering in organizations and institutions. Volunteering as part of organizational structures includes non-profit work provided under associations, foundations, churches and religious communities, trade unions, employers' organizations, business and professional organizations, political parties, governmental or self-governmental institutions and institutions run by them, as well as various types of cooperatives and housing communities.

The reference period, according to the methodology developed by the International Labour Organization (Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work, ILO, Geneva 2011), was the 4 weeks preceding the survey (from December 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 to April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022). For the sake of simplicity, in the titles of graphs and in the text, this period is called the first quarter of 2022.

Only activities that lasted at least one hour during 4 weeks were included in the volunteering work.

The survey was carried out by the method of telephone interviews (CATI) among respondents, from households constituting 3/5 of the quarterly LFS sample, excluding substitute interviews and taking into account the sampling in age classes of the respondents. The detailed method of constructing the sample for the LFS survey was presented in the Statistics Poland publication "Labour force survey in Poland – quarter 1/2022". In terms of generalizing the results of VWM, the method used in LFS was adopted, corrected due to the lower number of observations in VWM in relation to LFS, and taking into account the state of economic activity, education and locality classes in the layers.

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**Related publications**

[Volunteering in 2016](#)

[Involvement of social economy entities in providing support due to hostilities in the territory of Ukraine \(February 24th-March 31st, 2022\)](#)

[Non-profit sector in 2020. Associations, foundations, faith-based charities, business and professional associations](#)

[Development of the social economy in 2019. The results of pilot studies](#)

[Social Economy Satellite Account for Poland 2018](#)