



Commuting to work in the Polish LFS

1. Introduction

Commuting to work is a very significant phenomenon not only from the point of view of the labour market, but also regarding development of the economic infrastructure, including the communication one. Commuting, i.e. a special kind of population migratory movement, consisting in everyday, oscillatory movement, *inter alia* to and from work comprises an important element of the labour force balance in the territorial context; generally speaking, it comprises one of the significant criteria of the social and economic space delimitation.

In the Polish Labour Force Survey, variables allowing characteristic of commuting to work were introduced in 2008, following the requests of the data users. The issue was approached in a very broad way. Therefore, not only migration connected with a short-term movement resulting in crossing administrative borders of the place of residence was considered, but also any other kinds of commuting to work (understood as “going to work” by various means of transport), also within the territorial unit of the place of residence, i.e. gmina (NUTS 5).

2. Information available in the Polish LFS concerning commuting to work

In 2008, new questions were introduced into the individual questionnaire (addressed to persons aged 15 years and more) concerning:

- distances covered in their way to work (there were specified persons working at home or on their own agricultural holding and persons performing field work, i.e. the ones who due to the specific character of their jobs do not have a permanent place of work, e.g. sales representatives, etc.)
- commuting frequency,
- means of transport,
- time needed to reach the place of work.

Additional questions allowed also to determine in the surveyed population persons commuting to work outside the gmina of residence (NUTS 5), outside the voivodship (NUTS 2), and outside the country's borders, and eventually to answer the question **how common such types of commuting are.**

The structure of employed persons by the place of work in 2010 was is presented below:

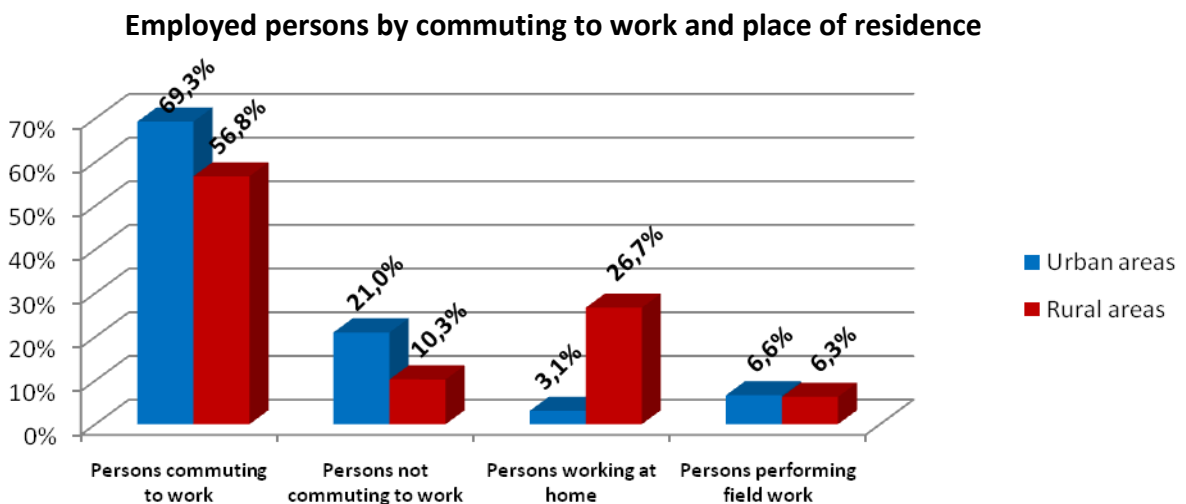
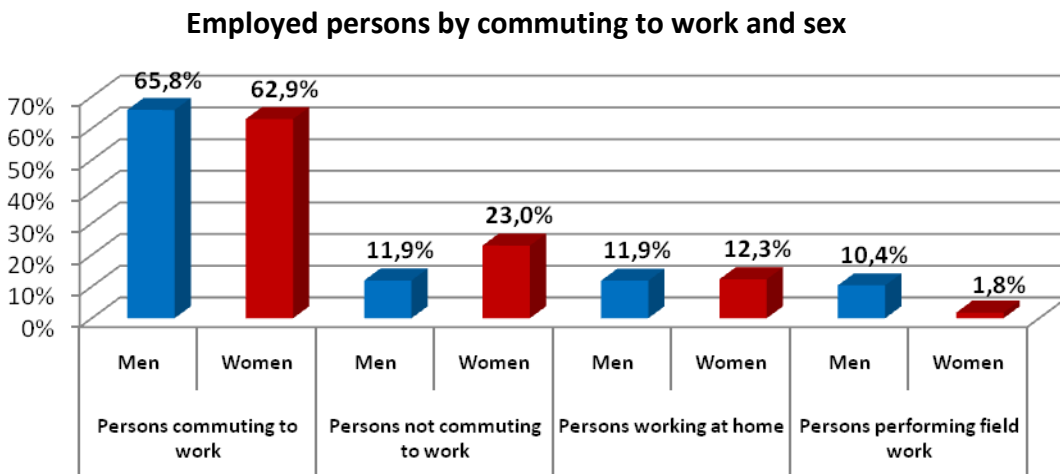
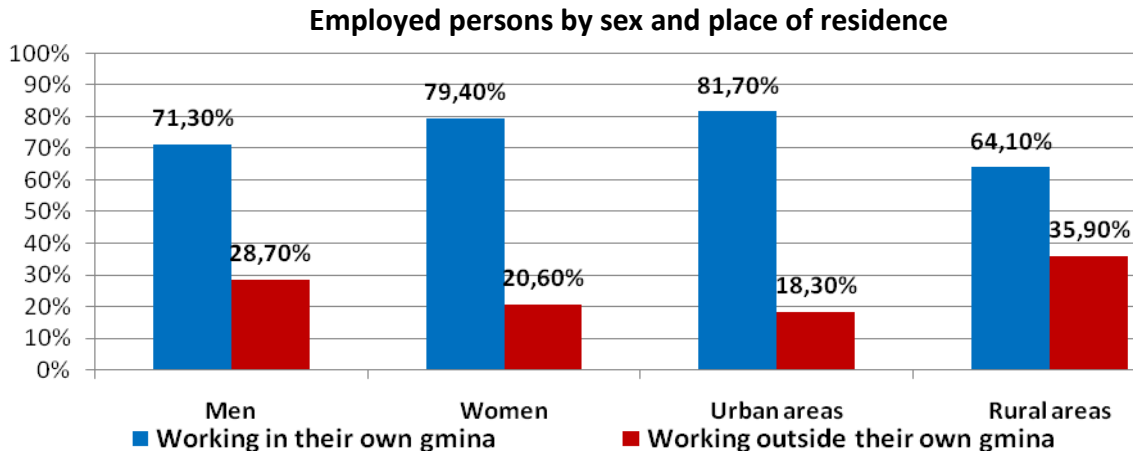
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • The employed total: | 15.961 thousand persons |
| Of which: | |
| ○ Persons working in Poland ¹ : | 15.863 thousand persons, i.e. 99.4% |
| Of which: | |
| ✓ In their own gmina: | 11.896 thousand persons, i.e. 74.5% |

¹ The number of persons working in Poland is not the sum of number of persons working in their own gmina and number of persons working outside their own gmina because the questionnaire included the possibility of answer "I do not know".

- ✓ Outside their own gmina: 3.959 thousand persons, i.e. 24.8%
 - Of which:
 - ☐ in their own voivodship: 3,620 thousand persons, i.e. 22.7%
 - ☐ in another voivodship: 339 thousand persons, i.e. 2.1%
 - Persons working abroad: 98 thousand persons, i.e. 0.6%

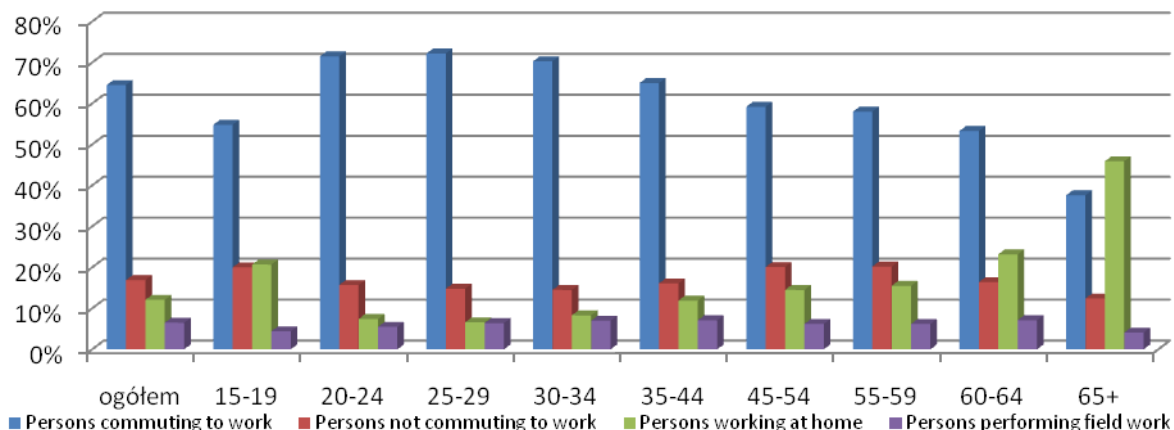
Variables included in the core survey allow **detailed characteristic of the population of employed persons** – in the context of commuting to work, in which by the main criteria:

- sex and the place of residence:



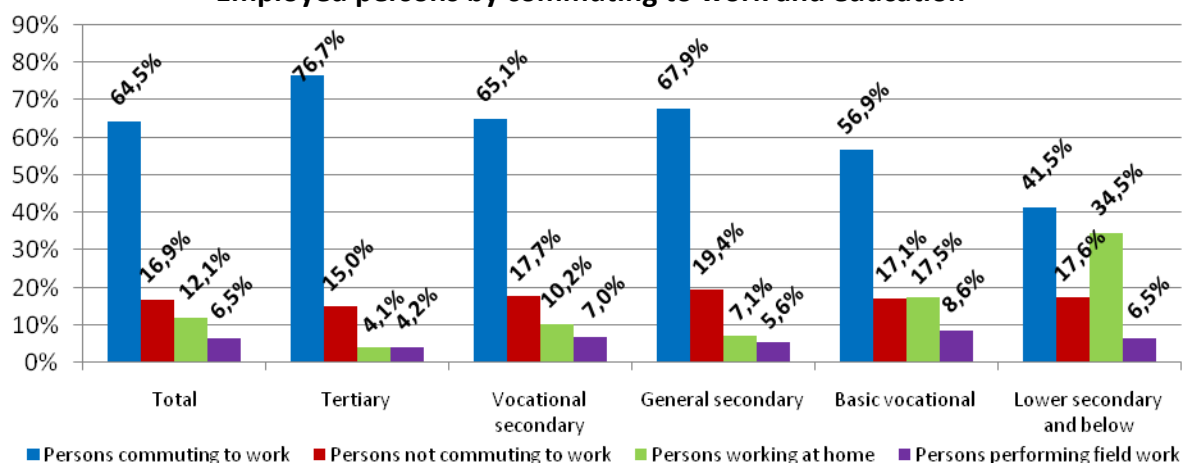
- by age:

Employed persons by commuting to work and age



- education:

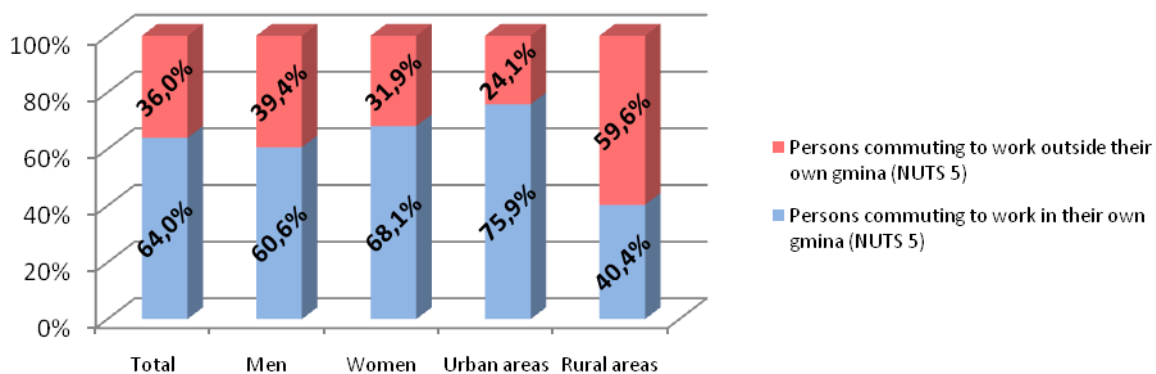
Employed persons by commuting to work and education



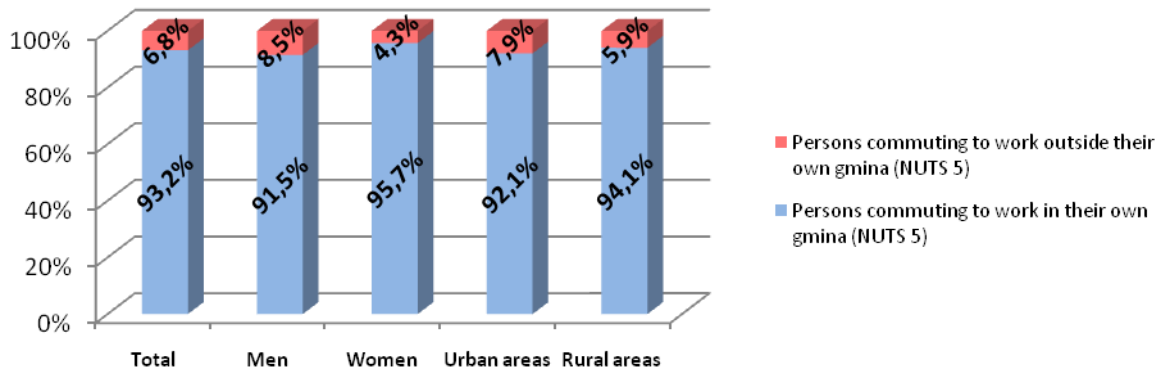
Variables from the core survey allow also a deepened analysis on the population of persons commuting to work selected from the population of employed persons.

- by sex and place of residence:

Structure of employed persons commuting to work by sex and place of residence

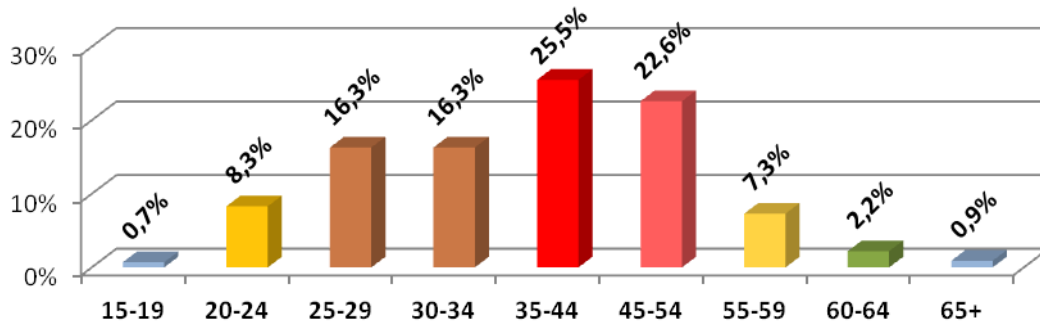


Structure of employed persons commuting to work outside their gmina (NUTS 5) by sex and place of residence



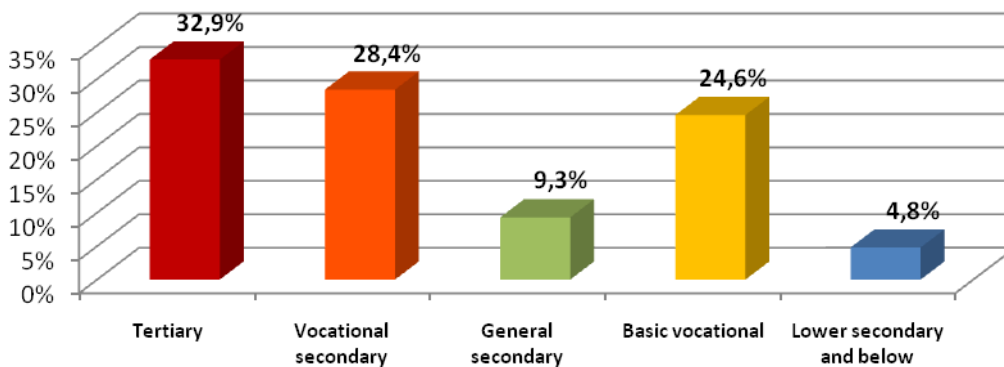
- by age:

Structure of the population of persons commuting to work by age



- education:

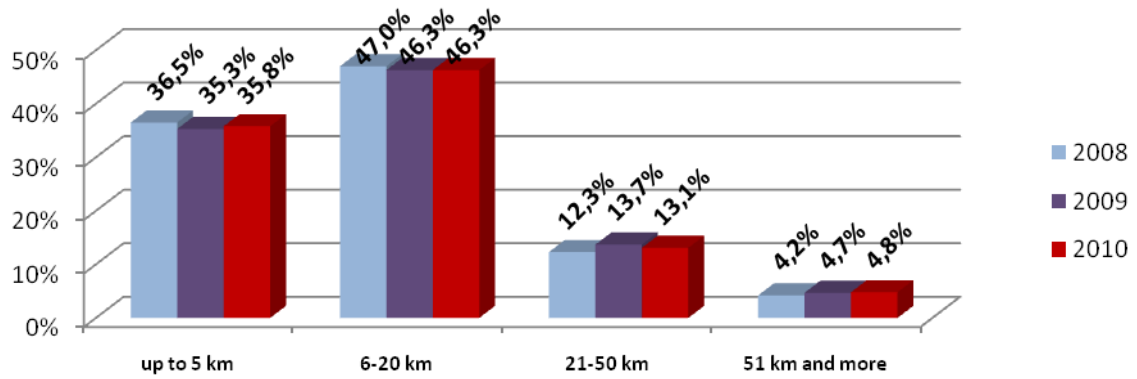
Structure of the population of persons commuting to work by education



The new variables introduced into the survey allow enrichment of the characteristic of persons commuting to work with the information concerning directly the issues connected with commuting to work, such as:

- distance from the place of residence to the place of work:

Structure of employed persons by distance from the place of residence to work



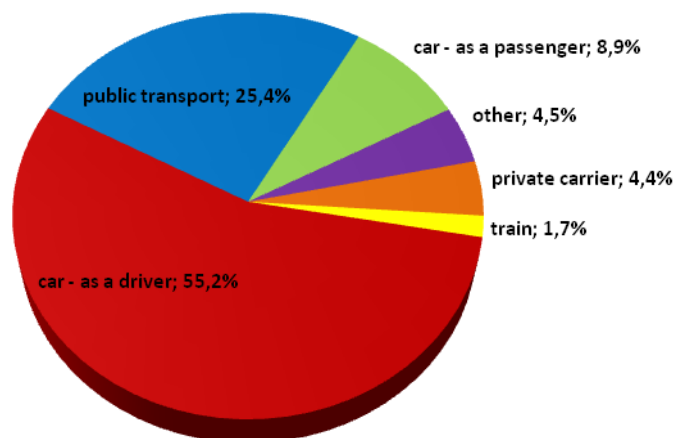
- duration of commuting to work:

Structure of employed persons by duration of commuting to work



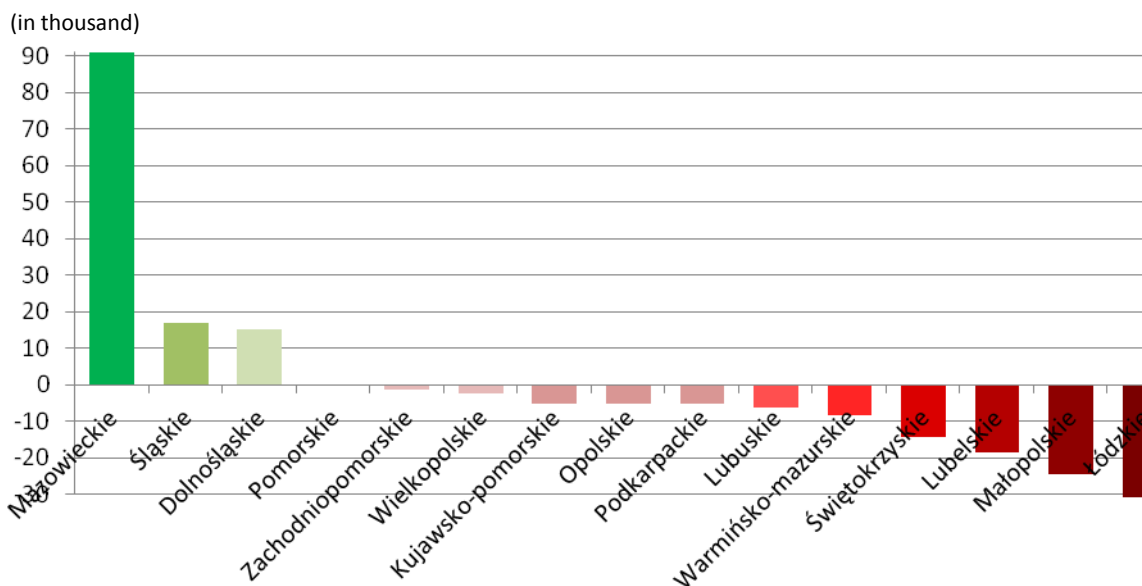
- used means of transport:

Structure of persons commuting to work by the used means of transport



For the users of data in the survey on employment related population flows, the possibility to characterise their special structure according to various administrative aggregation has a great significance. Specific character of a sample survey determined by the sample size allows only presentation of the territorial differentiation of persons commuting to work by voivodships (NUTS 2).

- the balance of flows of employed persons related to commuting to work in another voivodship:



3. Recapitulation

Distribution of the widely understood economic activity, both production and service related, regarding the existing surpluses and shortages of the labour force in the local labour markets, or qualifications related mismatches of the labour force supply and demand in these markets, results in the necessity of commuting to work, quite often connected with crossing the administrative borders of the gmina of the employed persons' place of residence.

The Labour Force Survey showed that in the years 2008-2010, over 99% of employed population had their places of work on the territory of Poland. Among persons employed in the country over $\frac{3}{4}$ had their place of work on the territory of their gmina, while about $\frac{1}{4}$ were employed outside their gmina, sometimes on the territory of another voivodship.

The survey on commuting to work is valuable mainly from the point of view of the labour market. Using the LFS data allows to characterise the commuting population by demographic and socio-occupational characteristics and the information regarding the frequency of commuting, the distances covered in the way to work, means of transport and the time necessary in order to get to work. However, it does not allow to present the good quality data on the special structure, as well as directions and intensity of migration at territorial levels lower than voivodship. Nevertheless, the survey is a valuable supplement to the information available from administrative sources, which concentrate mainly on directions and intensity of employment related migration.

Elaborated with the use of paper available on the website: http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_12281_PLK_HTML.htm