

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

10.03.2022

6.9%

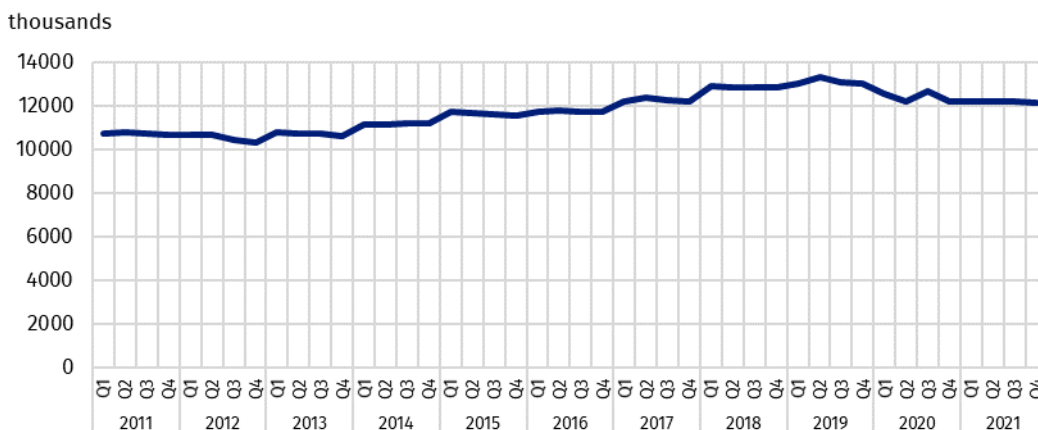
the share of people who worked remotely on 31 December 2021 due to the epidemic situation in the total number of employed persons

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 Survey¹.

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 fourth quarter of 2021, the number of occupied jobs was almost the same as at the end of the third quarter of 2021.

Chart 1. Occupied jobs

As at the end of the quarter



¹ 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.

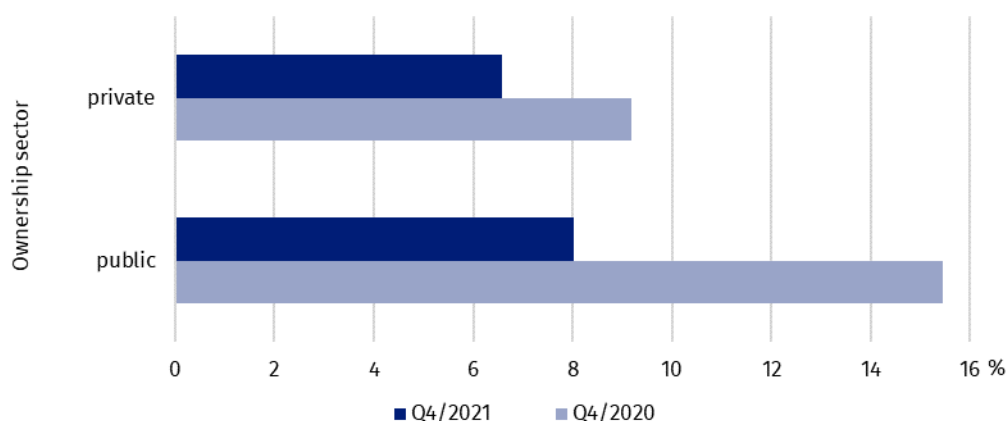
Remote work during the period of epidemic threat

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 December 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 6.9%, 3.9 percentage points lower than at the end of December 2020. During the fourth quarter of 2021, the extent of remote work in the public sector was higher than in the private sector. However, in both sectors, this share was lower than in the fourth quarter of 2020.

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

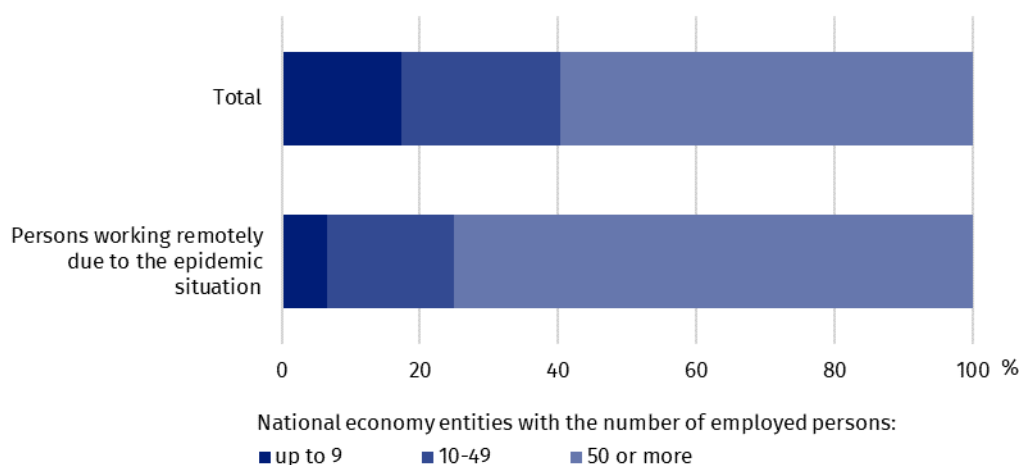
As at the end of the quarter



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 8.8%, 3.8 percentage points fewer than in the fourth quarter of 2020. 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 – 5.5%.

Chart 3. The structure of employed persons by size of units in the fourth quarter of 2021

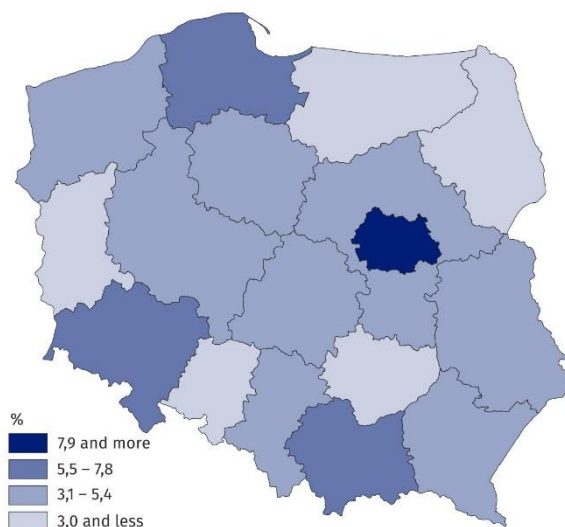
As at the end of the quarter



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 fourth quarter of 2021

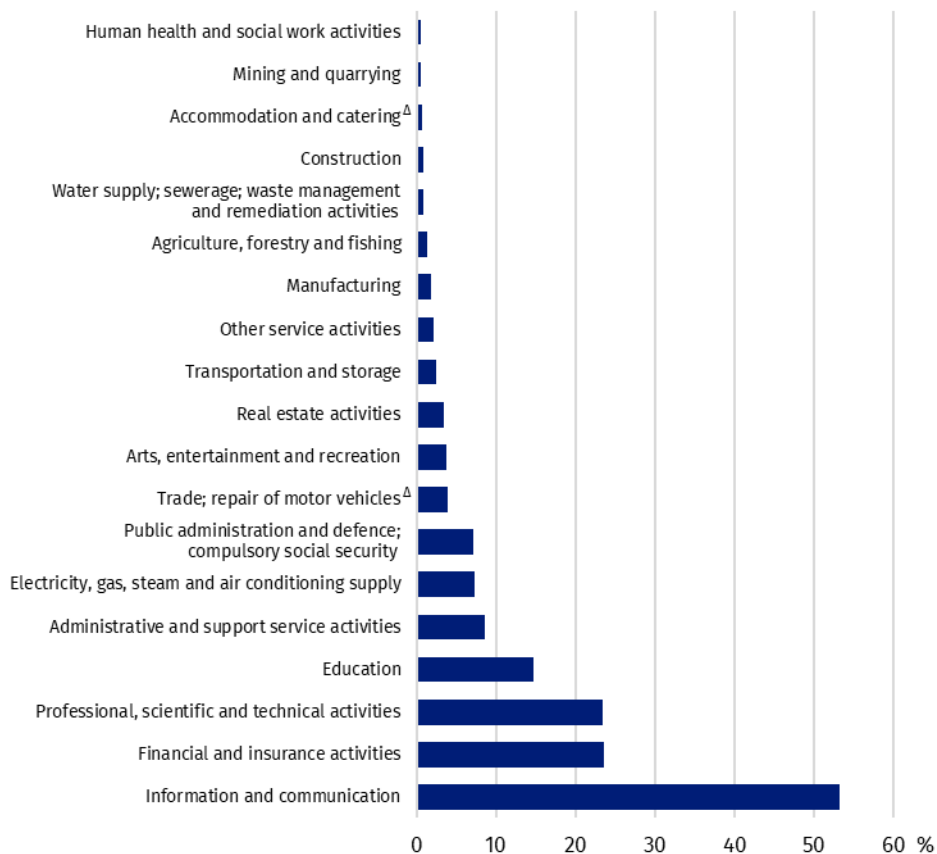
As at the end of the quarter



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 sixth 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 Świętokrzyskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie regions, where among the remaining regions, the use of this form of work in the realities of the epidemic threat was least common in the Świętokrzyskie, Podlaskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie regions. In each of these regions remote work due to the COVID-19 threat was performed by 2.4% of employed persons.

Chart 4. The share of employed persons working remotely due to the epidemic situation in selected PKD/NACE sections in the fourth quarter of 2021

As at the end of the quarter



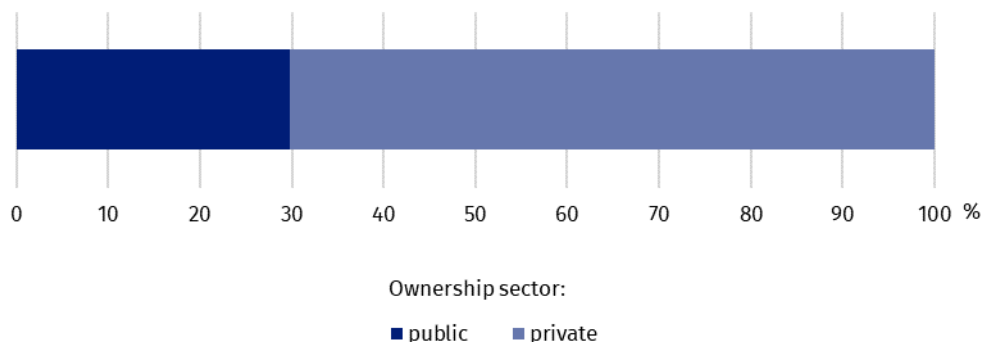
Performing remote work in the third quarter of 2021 varied depending on the kind of activity. For example, in the information and communication section, remote work was performed by 53.3% of employed persons. As regards other sections, a relatively large share of employed persons covered by this form 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 pe-riod 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 fourth quarter of 2021, 0.6% of employed persons were exercising this right in Poland, the vast ma-jority of whom worked in the private sector.

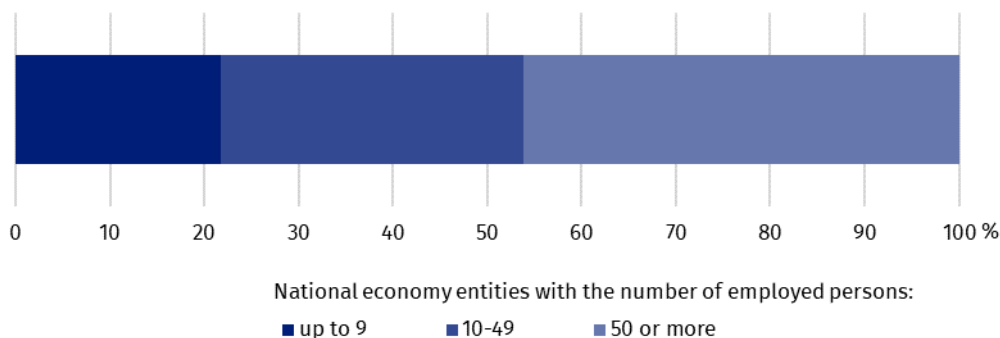
In the fourth quarter of 2021, compared to the fourth quar-ter of 2020, the share of em-ployed persons receiving a care allowance during a period of leave resulting from the ne-cessity to take personal care of a child under 8 years of age re-mained at a similar level

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, chil-dren’s club or school by ownership sector in the fourth 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 entities with 50 or more employed persons – 46.2%.

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, chil-dren’s club or school by size of national economy entities in the fourth quarter of 2021



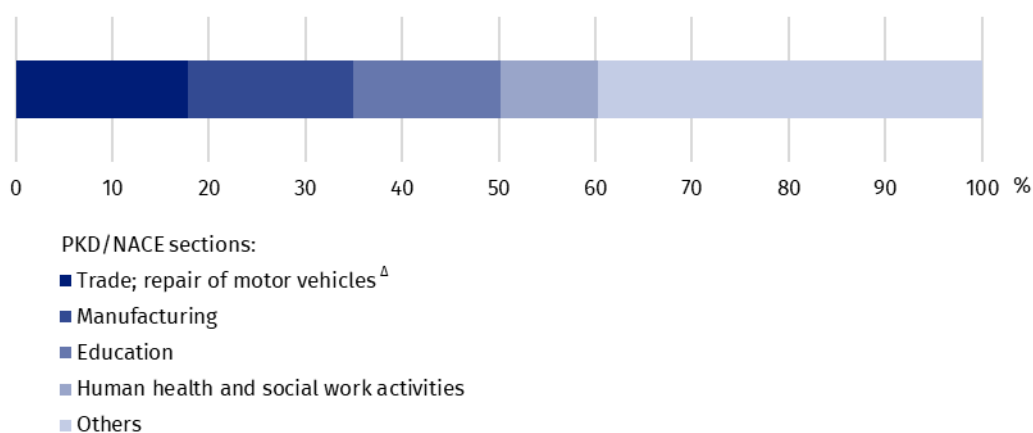
The scale of taking leave to care for a child for the said reason in particular regions was quite similar. The share of the number of working parents and legal guardians exercising the right to care for a child due to the epidemic situation ranged from 0.5% to 0.9%.

According to the survey, relatively the highest number of employed persons, that is 1.0%, 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^Δ 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^Δ, 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 fourth quarter of 2021

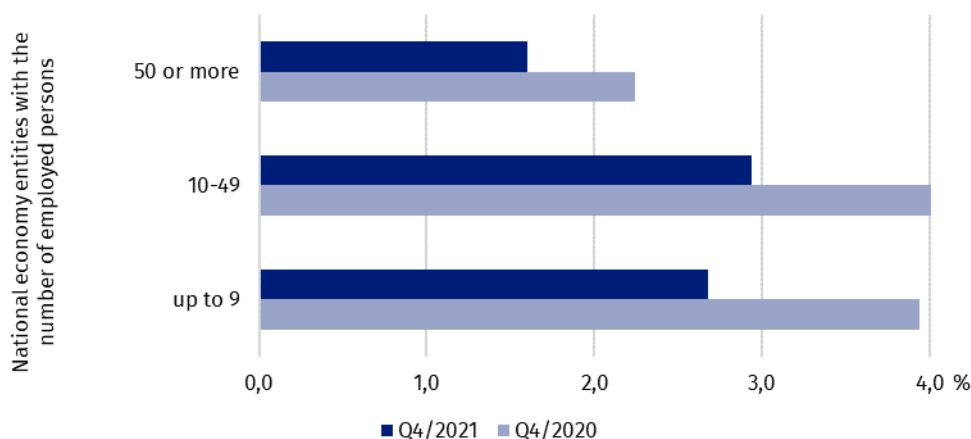


Employed persons who due to the epidemic situation received a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation

In the fourth 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 December 2021, constituted 2.1% of the total employed population. Such cases were recorded at a similar scale in both the public and private sectors.

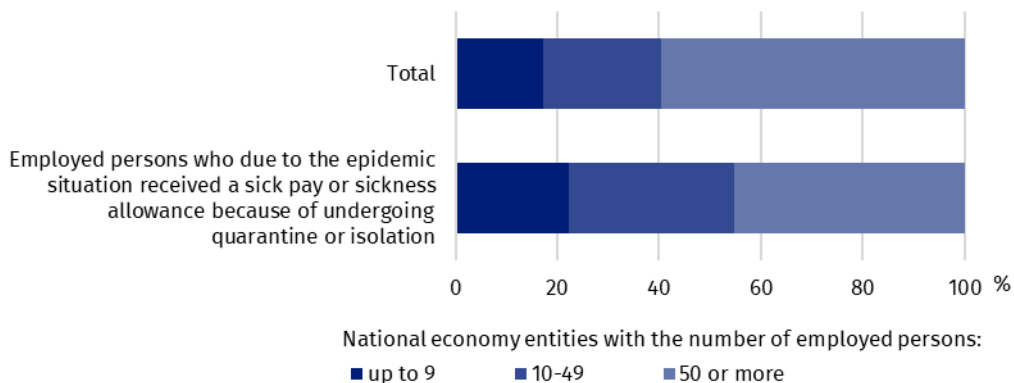
When compared with 31 December 2020, the scale of receiving a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation by employed persons as at 31 December 2021 slightly decreased

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 (i.a. quarantine or isolation) due to the su-spicion of infection was higher in the fourth quarter of 2021 than in the fourth quarter of 2020. 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 fourth quarter of 2021
As at the end of the quarter

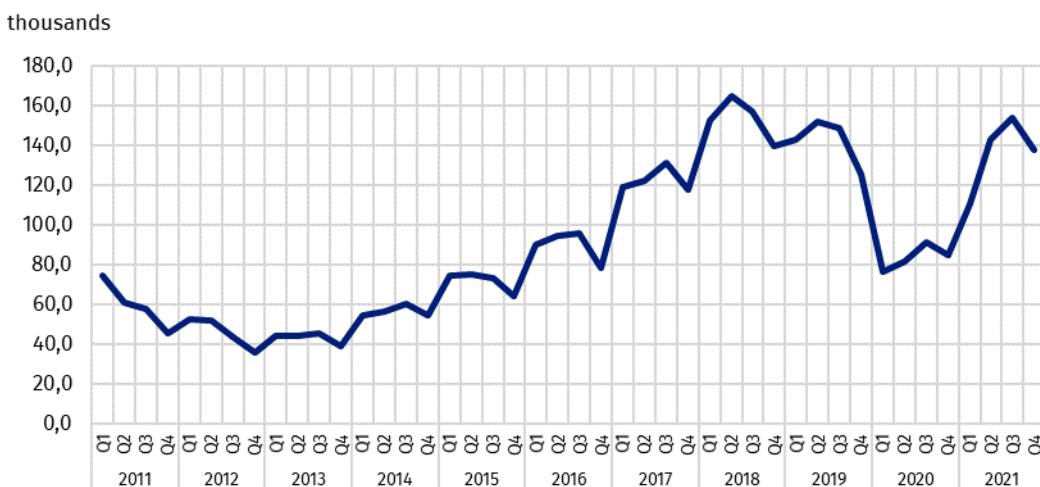


Quarantine or isolation of employed persons took place in all regions, with relatively the highest occurrence in the Zachodniopomorskie and Opolskie regions. In each of these regions, employed persons who were recipients of a sick pay or sickness allowance because of undergoing quarantine or isolation as at 31 December 2021, accounted for 3% of employed persons. When looking at kinds of activities, it can be noted that at the end of December 2021, the largest share of employed persons subject to the obligation of quarantine or isolation was recorded in the accommodation and catering^Δ section and the other service activities section.

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 reduction in the number of these jobs in 2020, in all quarters of 2021, 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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Terms used in official statistics

[Demand for labour](#)

[Vacancies](#)

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