

Information regarding the labour market in the third quarter of 2021 (preliminary data)

20.12.2021

Results of the Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Since the first quarter of 2021, the base of the LFS methodology have been definitions regarding employed, unemployed and economically inactive persons included in the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization. The Resolution was worked out at the Nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in Geneva (ICLS) in 2013 and recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the use in all countries of the world (until the end of 2020, the LFS base had constituted provisions of the Thirteenth ICLS of 1982).

In the European Union, the implementation of the provisions of the above-mentioned Resolution was achieved through passing new legal acts. Since 2021 onwards, the EU-LFS has been one of the key surveys included in the framework regulation for social statistics (i.e. IESS FR). Accompanying the IESS FR implementing regulations regarding the domain of labour force specify the range of the core survey and module surveys, describe the survey organisation and define in a detailed way particular populations specified according to the status of persons on the labour market. The object of the LFS survey still remains the situation within the scope of economic activity of population, i.e. the fact of performing work, being unemployed or economically inactive during the reference week, albeit these definitions have been revised (the valid definitions are included in the methodological notes attached to the Information regarding the labour market in the first quarter of 2021).¹

Due to the implementation of the above-mentioned changes into the survey, the LFS data for the first, second and third quarter of 2021 cannot be currently compared with the results obtained before the year 2021. The work regarding compilation of the historical data for the main LFS indicators in a form respective to revised definitions have been recently carried out by Statistics Poland, the data will be available on the Statistics Poland website in January 2022.

58.2%

Activity rate of persons aged 15-89 years

The results of the labour force survey (LFS) presenting the average data for the quarter indicate that in the third quarter of 2021, economically active persons accounted for 58.2% of the population aged 15-89 years. The indicator increased as compared with the second quarter of 2021 by 0.6 percentage point.

Compared to the second quarter of 2021, the activity rate for persons aged 15-89 years increased among both men and women

Economic activity of the population aged 15-89 years by the LFS²

In the third quarter of 2021, the number of economically active persons aged 15-89 years comprised 17342 thousand persons, of which: 16814 thousand constituted employed persons, while 528 thousand – the unemployed. The population of economically inactive persons at the same age group amounted to 12475 thousand persons.

Compared to the second quarter of 2021, the number of economically active persons increased by 139 thousand, i.e. by 0.8%, while the number of economically inactive persons decreased by 176 thousand, i.e. by 1.4%.

Economic activity of men was higher than economic activity of women, for both: persons aged 15-89 years and persons at the working age

¹ <https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/labour-market/working-unemployed-economically-inactive-by-lfs/information-regarding-the-labour-market-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021-preliminary-data,8,39.html>

² It concerns persons in individual households. The basic information regarding the population covered by the survey and the applied definitions is available in the methodological notes attached to the Information regarding the labour market in the first quarter of 2021.

In the third quarter of 2021, the share of economically active persons in the total number of persons aged 15-89 years was higher among men and accounted for 66.3%, while in the population of women this percentage was at the level of 50.7% (the respective figures for persons at working age³ are 83.4% and 75.9%). The corresponding indicators for urban and rural areas respectively accounted for 58.3% and 57.9% (at the working age: 82.1% and 76.9%).

The indicator defining the ratio of the number of not working persons (the unemployed aged 15-74 years and economically inactive aged 15-89 years) to the number of employed persons (aged 15-89 years) decreased compared to the previous period. In the third quarter of 2021, there were 773 jobless persons aged 15-89 years per 1000 employed persons (in the second quarter of 2021 there were 799 persons).

56.4%

Employment rate of persons aged 15-89 years

In the third quarter of 2021, employed persons accounted for 56.4% of the population aged 15-89 years. Compared to the second quarter of 2021, the rate increased by 0.8 percentage point. Employment rate was decidedly higher in the population of men – it stayed at the level of 64.3%, while among women, it accounted for 49.1% (respective figures for persons at working age were 80.9% and 73.4%).

Compared to the second quarter of 2021, the activity rate for persons aged 15-89 years increased among both men - by 0.9 percentage point, as well as among women - by 0.7 percentage point

Employed persons aged 15-89 years by the LFS

In the analysed period, the population of employed persons aged 15-89 years comprised 16814 thousand persons and increased as compared to the previous quarter by 217 thousand, i.e. by 1.3%. The dominant among the employed were men, who constituted 54.6% (i.e. 9184 thousand) of this population. Whereas regarding the place of residence, the share of employed urban residents was 59.8% (i.e. 10058 thousand persons).

As regards sex, the number of employed persons increased over the quarter by a similar amount among both: women (a growth by 106 thousand, i.e. by 1.4%) and men (a growth by 111 thousand, i.e. by 1.2%).

In respect to the place of residence, a greater growth in the number of employed persons concerned rural areas – over the quarter it constituted 2.1% (by 137 thousand persons). Compared to the previous quarter, among urban residents the employed population increased by 0.8% (by 80 thousand persons).

In the third quarter of 2021, 15834 thousand persons performed full-time work, while 980 thousand worked part-time. Compared to the second quarter of 2021, the number of persons employed full-time increased – by 293 thousand, i.e. by 1.9%, while the number of persons employed part-time decreased – by 76 thousand, i.e. by 7.2%. The average number of hours worked in the reference week in the main job amounted to 40.6 hours and it was higher than the one observed in the second quarter of 2021 (by 1.3 hour).

An increase in the number of employed persons compared to the previous quarter concerned persons employed full-time

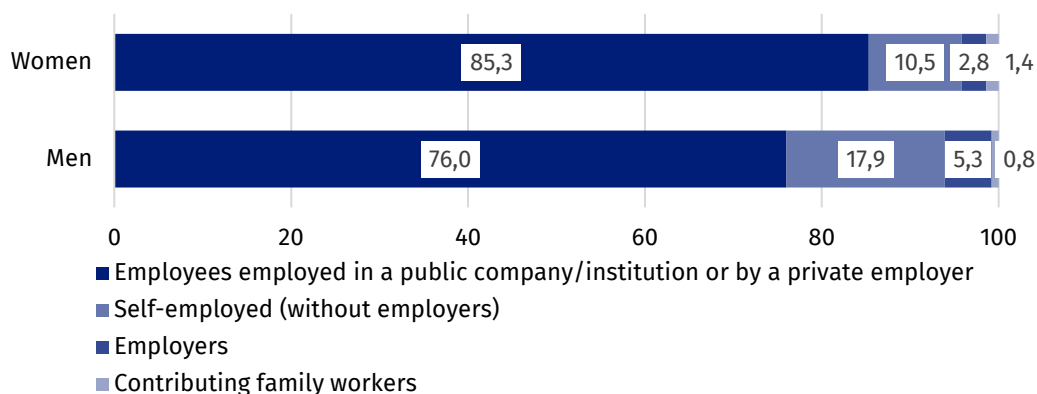
Over the quarter, the share of employees employed in public firms/institutions or by a private employer in the total number of employed persons decreased – by 0.3 percentage point to the level of 80.2% (13479 thousand), the share of contributing family members also slightly decreased – a drop by 0.1 percentage point to 1.1% (184 thousand). Whereas, the share of self-employed persons increased - by 0.4 percentage point to 18.7% (3151 thousand).

A decided majority of employees employed in public firms/institution or by a private employer performed their work on the basis of a contract for unlimited duration (85.9%, i.e. 11573 thousand). Over the quarter, this share increased by 1.4 percentage point.

As regards the kind of activity of the main job, in the third quarter of 2021, the number of employed persons increased as compared to the previous quarter mainly in public administration and defence; compulsory social security (by 61 thousand), agriculture, forestry and fishing (by 37 thousand), transportation and storage (by 33 thousand), and manufacturing (by 31 thousand). Whereas, the highest decline concerned the number of persons employed in mining and quarrying (by 22 thousand), water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities as well as in construction (by 20 thousand in each).

³ 18-59 years for women, 18-64 years for men.

Chart 1. Structure of employed women and men aged 15-89 years by employment status in the main job in the third quarter of 2021 (in %)



In the third quarter of 2021, which includes the season of vacation and leaves, 1429 thousand persons had a job but were not performing work in the reference week, which accounted for 8.5% of the total number of the employed (the respective population in the previous quarter comprised 839 thousand, i.e. 5.1%). Among these persons, only 15 thousand (i.e. 1.0%) indicated that it was directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic (in the previous quarter it comprised 134 thousand persons, which accounted for 16.0%).

There was still observed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the place of performing work, albeit to a much lower extent. In the third quarter of 2021, the number of persons performing their work usually or sometimes at home comprised 2111 thousand, which accounted for 12.6% of the total number of the employed (in the second quarter of 2021, the respective figure was 2802, i.e. 16.9%). Among this population, 631 thousand persons (i.e. 29.9%) worked at home because of the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (in the second quarter of 2021 it comprised 1499 thousand, i.e. 53.5%). In the third quarter of 2021, 937 thousand persons (which accounted for 5.6% of the total of the employed) carried out their work-related responsibilities in a form of remote work (the place of performing work is not considered here), among whom 65.2% worked in this form because of the COVID-19 pandemic (in the second quarter of 2021, it comprised 1831 thousand, i.e. 11.0% of all employed persons, of whom 86.0% due to the pandemic).

About 6% of the employed worked in a remote form, for almost two thirds such organisation of work was directly connected to the pandemic

3.0%
Unemployment rate

In the third quarter of 2021, unemployed persons accounted for 3.0% of economically active population aged 15-89 years (a drop by 0.5 percentage point compared with the second quarter of 2021). Unemployment rate of men attained a level lower than unemployment rate of women (respectively by 2.9% vs. 3.2%). As regards the place of residence, the intensity of unemployment stayed at a similar level among both: urban and rural residents (respectively 3.0% vs. 3.1%).

Unemployment rate by the LFS decreased as compared with the previous quarter and was lower in the male population than in the female population

Unemployed persons by the LFS

In the third quarter of 2021, the population of unemployed persons aged 15-74 years comprised 528 thousand and it decreased as compared to the second quarter of 2021 by 78 thousand, i.e. by 12.9%. A majority of this population were men - 52.8%, i.e. 279 thousand. Regarding the place of residence, urban residents constituted 59.5%, i.e. 314 thousand.

Compared to the previous quarter, the number of unemployed persons decreased to a greater extent among men (a drop by 54 thousand, i.e. by 16.2%) than among women (a drop by 24 thousand, i.e. 8.8%).

When analysing this group in respect to the place of residence, a drop in the number of the unemployed as compared to the second quarter of 2021 concerned both: urban as well as rural residents (in urban areas - a drop by 53 thousand, i.e. 14.4%, in rural areas - by 25 thousand, i.e. 10.5%).

Unemployment rate decreased over the quarter in all analysed below age groups. Still the highest unemployment is observed among the youngest persons (aged 15-24 years), for whom unemployment rate was 11.4%. Among persons aged 25-34 years, the intensity of unemployment stayed at the level of 3.7%, 35-44 years – 2.2%, 45-89 years – 2.0%. Among persons at the working age (18-59/64 years) unemployment rate comprised 3.2%.

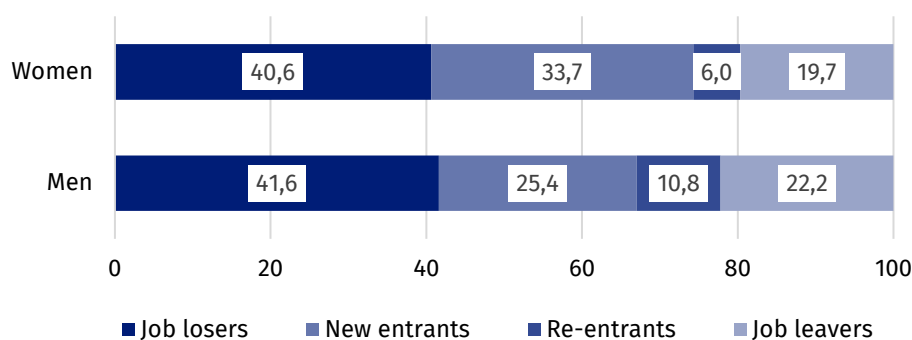
Still the highest intensity of unemployment is observed among young persons aged 15-24 years

A drop in unemployment rate was also observed in most groups specified according to the level of education: among persons with post-secondary and vocational secondary education (by 1.1 percentage point to 3.0%), basic vocational or basic sectoral vocational (by 0.8 percentage point to 3.3%), and lower secondary, primary, incomplete primary and without school education (by 0.3 percentage point to 7.5%). Among persons with tertiary and general secondary education unemployment rate did not change as compared to the second quarter of 2021 and comprised respectively 1.7% and 5.3%.

To the greatest extent, unemployment affected persons with the lowest level of education

The largest subpopulation among the unemployed constituted persons who lost a job (41.1%, i.e. 217 thousand). The share of persons re-entering employment after a break accounted for 29.4% (155 thousand), the share of persons taking up their first job accounted for 21.0% (111 thousand), while the number of persons who resigned from work was the lowest - 8.5% (45 thousand).

Chart 2. Structure of unemployed persons by the source of inflow to unemployment and sex in the third quarter of 2021 (in %)



In the third quarter of 2021, among 366 thousand unemployed persons previously working, 62 thousand (16.9%) declared the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as a direct reason for termination of the last performed work (in the previous quarter it comprised 110 thousand, i.e. 23.6%). Among this group, 34 thousand persons (i.e. 54.8%) as a direct reason for termination of work indicated liquidation of an establishment or a work position, 11 thousand (i.e. 17.7%) termination for other reasons, while 10 thousand (i.e. 16.1%) termination of temporary duration/casual/seasonal work.

Almost every sixth person previously working indicated that he/she lost a job or stopped working due to the pandemic

In the presented period, the average duration of job search comprised 8.3 months (in the previous quarter it comprised 8.1 months). The longest job search was observed for persons aged 55-74 years (11.9 months), aged 35-44 years (10.1 months), and 45-54 years (9.5 months), while the youngest persons in the age group 15-19 years and 20 - 24 years were seeking work for the shortest duration (respectively 2.2 months and 6.0 months).

41.8%

The share of economically inactive persons in the total number of the population aged 15-89

In the third quarter of 2021, economically inactive persons accounted for 41.8% of the total number of population aged 15-89 years (by 0.6 percentage point less than in the previous quarter). The percentage was decidedly lower in the population of men (33.7%) than among women (49.3%). Whereas, the share was at a similar level among urban (41.7%), as well as rural residents (42.1%).

The percentage of economically inactive persons decreased as compared to the previous quarter in both the female and male population, respectively by 0.6 percentage point and 0.5 percentage point

Economically inactive persons aged 15-89 years by the LFS

In the third quarter of 2021, the population of economically inactive persons aged 15-89 years comprised 12475 thousand (over a half of this group constituted women - 61.4%, i.e. 7657 thousand) and attained the level lower than in the second quarter of 2021 (a drop by 176 thousand, i.e. by 1.4%). As regards the place of residence, urban residents accounted for 59.4% of this population (i.e. 7416 thousand).

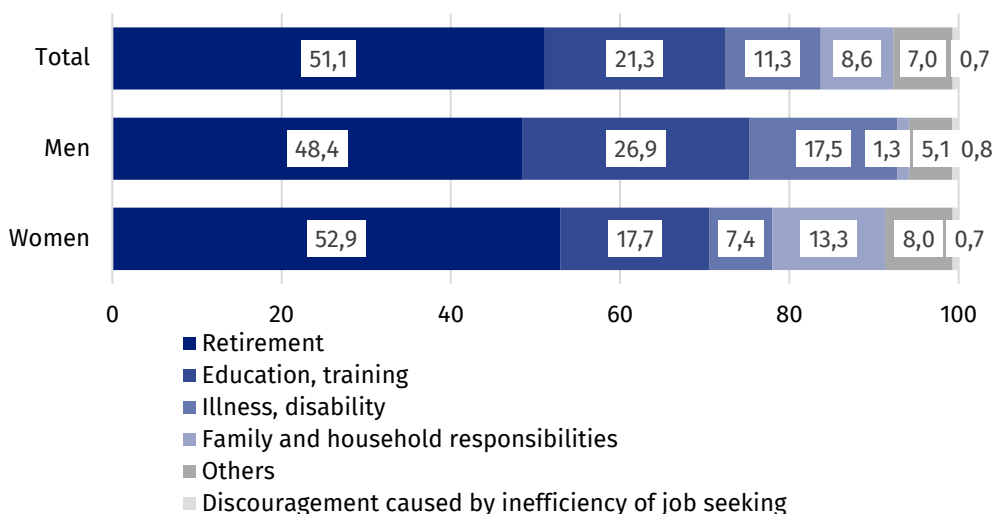
Compared to the second quarter, a drop in the number of this group was observed among both: female population (by 100 thousand, i.e. by 1.3%), as well as male one (by 77 thousand, i.e. by 1.6%). As regards the place of residence, a decrease in the economically inactive population occurred among both: rural residents (by 112 thousand, i.e. by 2.2%), and among urban residents (by 64 thousand, i.e. by 0.9%).

Women still constitute the majority of the economically inactive population

The economically inactive population is a specific one in respect to the labour market resources, as its scope includes persons who have not entered the labour market yet (including the majority of the youth still participating in education), persons who have definitely left the labour market or will never enter the labour market (some retirees, pensioners, persons maintaining themselves from other sources than work), but also persons who entered the labour market, then partially deactivated and who will want to re-enter the labour market after a break.

In the third quarter of 2021, over a half of the economically inactive population aged 15-74 years, which comprised 10329 thousand persons (the reason for inactivity was determined for this age group) constituted retirees (51.1%), while the second largest group were students (21.3%). Whereas, in the case of economically inactive persons at the working age (4165 thousand), the most often reasons for inactivity were: education and training (29.3%), illness and disability (24.4%), family responsibilities (20.4%) and retirement (9.1%).

Chart 3. Structure of economically inactive persons aged 15-74 years by sex and reasons for inactivity in the third quarter of 2021 (in %)



When quoting the data from the Statistics Poland, please do include information: "Data source Statistics Poland", while in case of publishing the calculations done with the use of the data published by Statistics Poland, please do include information: "Own elaboration based on the Statistics Poland data".

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