

Accidents at work and work-related health problems in the 2nd quarter of 2020 (based on the preliminary results of the LFS module survey)

15.12.2020

38.4%
of people who have ever been employed sustained work-related health problems in the 12 months prior to the survey

Out of 27.3 million people ever employed, 10.5 million reported having suffered from work-related health problems in the 12 months prior to the survey.

1.2% of the employed sustained an accident at work in the 12 months before the survey.

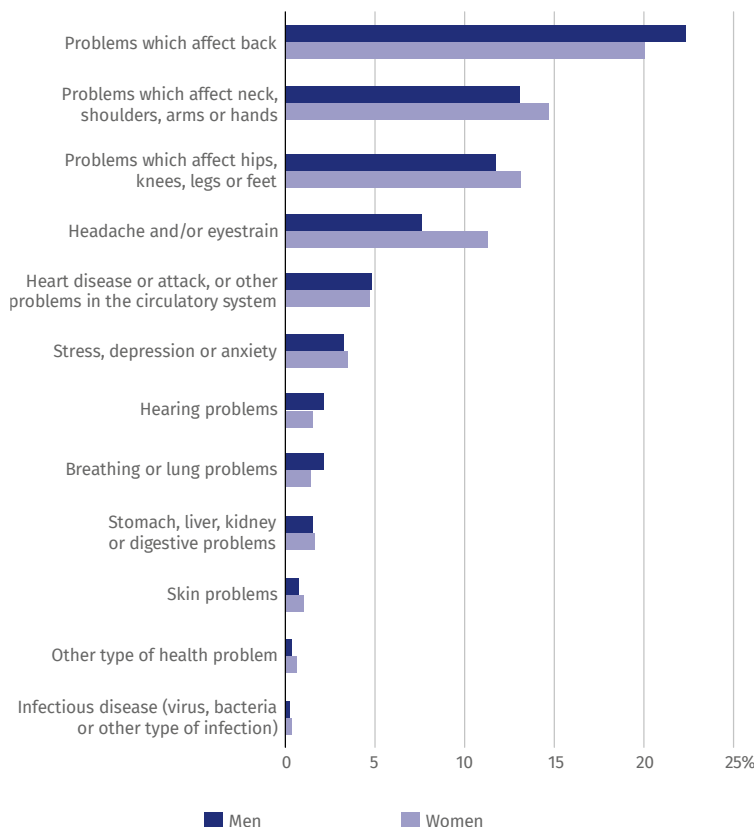
Out of 16.3 million people who were in employment in the 2nd quarter of 2020, 65.7% indicated the occurrence of workplace factors that could have an adverse effect on their physical health, while 45.0% confirmed the presence of mental well-being risk factors (the respondents could indicate more than one factor).

Work-related health problems of people who have ever been employed

The module survey conducted in the 2nd quarter of 2020 collected information on health problems that were caused or made worse by work. The most common were bone, joint or muscle problems which mainly affect the back. These types of problems were indicated by 21.2% of people with employment experience, 13.9% of whom marked it as the most serious work-related health problem. As regards the respondent's job, having health problems was most often reported by farmers, gardeners, foresters and fishermen (47.6% in this occupational group).

Health problems were most often reported by people working as farmers, gardeners, foresters and fishermen – 47.6% of people working in these jobs indicated deterioration of their health due to work

Chart 1. Persons ever employed by sex and types of work-related health problems suffered in the 12 months prior to the survey



19.3% of people who have ever worked indicated only one health problem. There was an average of two health complaints per capita.

Table 1. Persons suffering at least one work-related health problem in the 12 months prior to the survey

SPECIFICATION	Persons suffering one work-related health problem in millions	Work-related health problems	
		only one	two or more
		in %	
TOTAL	10.5	50.4	49.6
men	5.1	53.3	46.7
women	5.4	47.6	52.4
Urban areas	6.2	50.6	49.4
Rural areas	4.2	50.0	50.0

The respondents' age determined the occurrence of work-related health problems. Almost every second respondent (48.2%) aged 50-59 indicated work-related health problems suffered in the current or past job. On the other hand, when analysing the seniority of the respondents, work-related health problems were most often indicated by people with more than 20 years of seniority (45.8%).

In 87.3% of the cases, it was indicated that the most serious health problem had a limited or no effect on day-to-day activity carried out at work or outside work. The remaining people reported that their most serious health problem influenced significantly this activity. In most cases (71.0%), the main health problems did not result in incapacity for work.

Table 2. Persons who had at least one work-related health problem by effects of the most serious health problem on their daily activity at work or outside work¹

SPECIFICATION	Persons suffering one work-related health problem in millions	Effect of the most serious health problem on day-to-day activity at work or outside work		
		no effect	some effect	considerable effect
		in %		
TOTAL	10.5	37.7	49.6	12.7
Men	5.1	39.4	48.1	12.4
Women	5.4	36.0	51.0	13.0

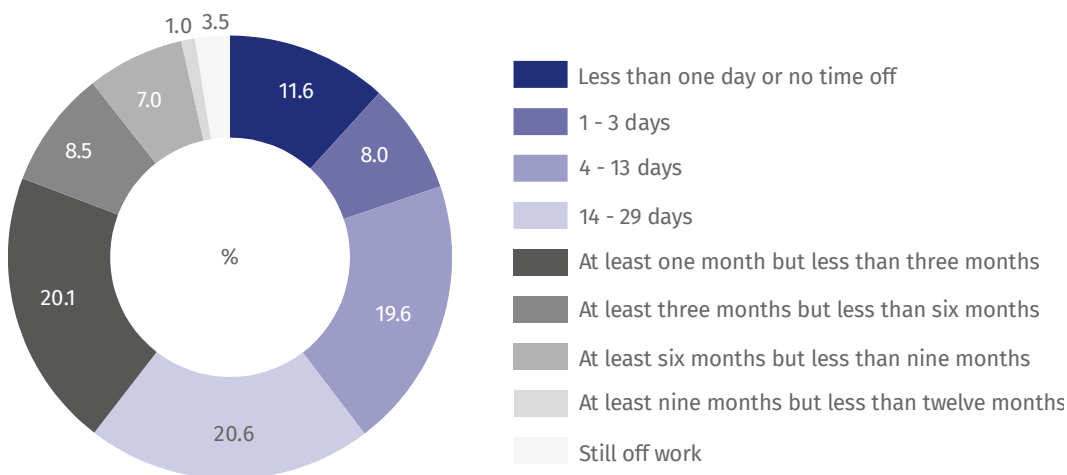
Accidents at work in the 12 months prior to the survey

The survey results reveal that among 17.3 million people who were employed in the 12 months before the survey, 199 thousand had an accident at work. The highest share of accident victims occurred among people aged 30-34 (16.6%). Men prevailed among the accident victims (72.9%). Manufacturing was the section which concentrated the most accident victims (34.7%). Taking into account the type of work performed, most of the injured worked as industrial workers and craftsmen (30.2%). Incapacity for work due to an accident did not usually last longer than 3 months.

1.2% of the employed sustained an accident at work in the 12 months before the survey

¹ The question about the effect of health problems on the activity carried out at work or outside work concerned the most serious health problem indicated by the respondent.

Chart 2. Accidents at work in the 12 months prior to the survey by days lost

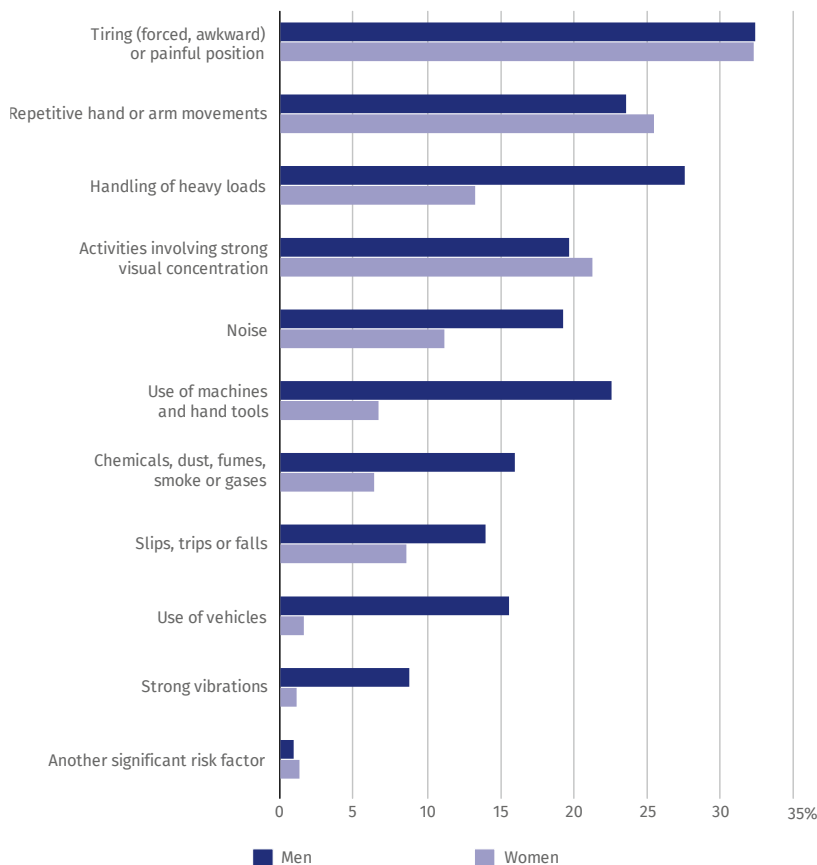


65.7% of people working in the 2nd quarter of 2020 indicated the occurrence of workplace factors that could adversely affect their physical health

Workplace factors that can adversely affect physical health

Out of the 16.3 million employed people in the 2nd quarter of 2020, 10.7 million indicated the occurrence of physical health risk factors in the workplace. 66.9% of them marked more than one risk factor².

Chart 3. Employed persons in the 2nd quarter of 2020 by sex and groups of physical health risk factors in the workplace



Every third person working in the 2nd quarter of 2020 was exposed to risk factors associated with tiring (forced, awkward) or painful position

Men were slightly more often exposed at work to at least one physical health risk factor (70.0% of working men in the 2nd quarter of 2020). The corresponding percentage for women stood at 60.2%. A higher percentage was also recorded for rural residents (71.0% of all rural residents). However, 62.1% of urban residents were exposed to at least one risk factor.

² The recurring survey conducted in accordance with the Eurostat methodology did not cover the risks resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic in the 2nd quarter of 2020.

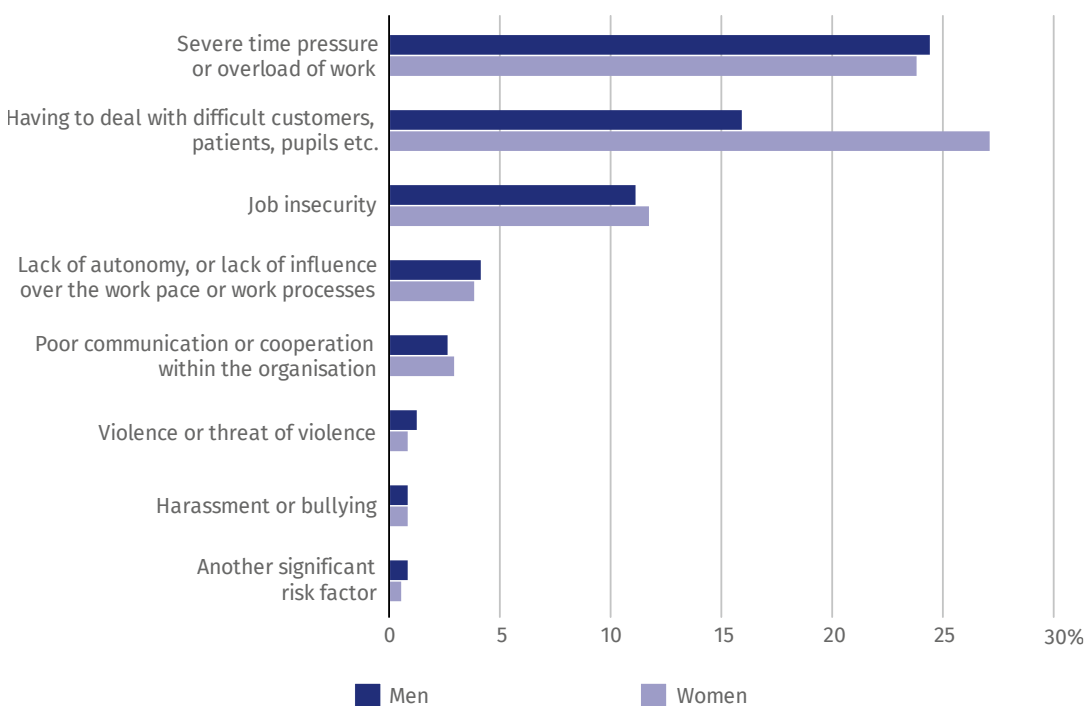
Tiring (forced, awkward) or painful position was the most often indicated physical health risk factor – 32.4%.

Workplace factors that can affect mental well-being

7.3 million of the 16.3 million employed people in the 2nd quarter of 2020 indicated the occurrence of mental well-being risk factors in the workplace, 66.5% of whom indicated only one factor. The most employed persons (24.2%) indicated severe time pressure or overload of work.

45.0% of the employed in the 2nd quarter of 2020 confirmed the occurrence of workplace factors that could adversely affect their mental well-being

Chart 4. Employed persons in the 2nd quarter of 2020 by sex and groups of mental well-being risk factors in the workplace



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Methodological notes

The module "Accidents at work and work-related health problems" was conducted in the 2nd quarter of 2020 in parallel with the Labour Force Survey. The respondents were household members aged 15 or over residing in the sampled dwellings, who at the time of the LFS survey were employed or worked before.

The questions **about work-related health problems** were answered by persons who were in employment in the 2nd quarter of 2020 or before, regardless of their working time and form of employment. The aim of the questions was to determine whether the person suffered in the last 12 months due to a disease, disability or other physical or mental problems caused or made worse by a current or past job (apart from the problems arising from the previously recorded accident at work).

The questions about **accidents at work** were answered by persons employed or those who were not currently in employment but had a job in the 12 months before the survey. The questions dealt with the accidents at work which happened in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Accident at work is understood as a sudden event, caused by external reason, leading to injury or death, which occurred in connection with work:

- 1) during or in connection with performance of ordinary activities or instructions by the employee and activities for the employers, even without instructions,
- 2) when the employee remains at the disposal of the employer on the way between the seat of the employer and the place of performing the obligation arising from the employment relationship.³

The questions regarding **factors that can adversely affect physical health or mental well-being** are to determine which factors the respondent is particularly exposed to at the workplace. This part of the questionnaire was addressed only to persons working in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

Exposure to factors that can adversely affect physical health or mental well-being refers to the psychosocial factors, listed in the ZD-G questionnaire, which may seriously affect the employee's well-being (e.g. mobbing, job insecurity) and the factors which can adversely affect the employee's physical health (e.g. atypical body movements at work, excessive effort, coming into contact with hazardous materials or work environment factors, or being aware of the accident risk). When assessing the exposure, its frequency and scale was taken into account.

The results of the LFS module survey will be presented more extensively in the publication "Accidents at work and work-related health problems" coming out in July 2021.

The scope of the module and the content of the questions comply with the European Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1709 of 13 November 2018 specifying the technical characteristics of the 2020 ad hoc module on accidents at work and other work-related health problems as regards the labour force sample survey pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98.

³ A full definition of an accident at work is provided in Art. 3 of the Act of 30 October 2002 on Insurance against Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases.

Prepared by:

Urząd Statystyczny w Gdańsku
Jerzy Aukształt

Office: phone (+48 58) 768 31 30

Issued by:

The Spokesperson for the President
of Statistics Poland

Karolina Banaszek

Mobile: (+48) 695 255 011

Press Office

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

e-mail: obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl



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Related information

[Labour Force Survey in Poland – quarterly publication](#)

[Accidents at work in 2019](#)

[Other publications presenting the results of these surveys: \[stat.gov.pl\]\(http://stat.gov.pl\) → Topics → Labour market](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Accident at work](#)

[Working conditions](#)

[Employed persons by LFS, Population and Housing Census 2002 and National Census of Population and Housing 2011](#)

[Health](#)



The information contains the results of the survey "Accidents at work and work-related health problems" co-financed from the European Union funds.

