

Population on the labour market in Opolskie Voivodship – preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021

06 December 2022

**402.9**
thousand

The number of employed persons in the voivodship aged 15 years and more

**14.5**
thousand

The number of unemployed persons in the voivodship aged 15–74 years

This news release presents preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021 regarding the situation of persons on the labour market in Opolskie Voivodship. The observation period was the week preceding critical moment of the census, i.e. 25-31 March 2021 while the survey covered persons aged 15 years and more¹. Compared to the results of the Census 2011, there was observed an increase in the number of employed persons by 8.9% and a decrease in the number of unemployed persons by 71.4% (in the country: by 13.8% and by 68.6%, respectively).

In the last week of March 2021, the number of economically active persons aged 15 years or more amounted to 417.4 thousand (402.9 thousand of employed persons and 14.5 thousand of the unemployed). The unemployment rate, determined as the share of the unemployed in the total number of economically active persons, accounted for 3.5%. Compared to the results of the National Population and Housing Census 2011, the number of economically active persons decreased by 3.4 thousand, i.e. by 0.8% (in the country – an increase of 3.9%). Changes occurred among particular categories of the economically active. The number of employed persons increased by 32.9 thousand, i.e. by 8.9%, while the number of unemployed persons decreased by 36.2 thousand, i.e. by 71.4%. These changes influenced a decline in the unemployment rate from 12.1% to 3.5%.

Changes in the number and structure of economically active persons by age are of great importance for the labour market. Compared to the National Population and Housing Census 2011, an increase in the number of the economically active was noted for persons aged over 54 years (including also working age), with a simultaneous decrease in the number of economically active persons aged up to 34 years, indicating ageing of actual labour resources. Compared to National Population and Housing Census 2011, the number of economically active persons aged 55 years and more increased by 38.9 thousand (to 93.6 thousand in 2021) while at the age up to 34 years – decreased by 37.0 thousand (to 122.8 thousand). The share of persons aged up to 34 years in 2021 accounted for 29.4% of the total number of the economically active, i.e. by 8.6 percentage points fewer than in 2011. In case of persons aged 55 years and more, studied share accounted for 22.4%, i.e. by 9.4 percentage points more than ten years before.

The number of the economically active, compared to 2011 decreased by 3,4 thousand, i.e. by 0,8%

¹ Results of the census were compiled for categories of population according to the national definition (definition is presented at the end of this news release).

Employed persons

In the last week of March 2021, the number of employed persons amounted to 402.9 thousand (219.5 thousand men and 183.3 thousand women). Over a half (53.2%) of the total number of employed persons were inhabitants of urban areas.

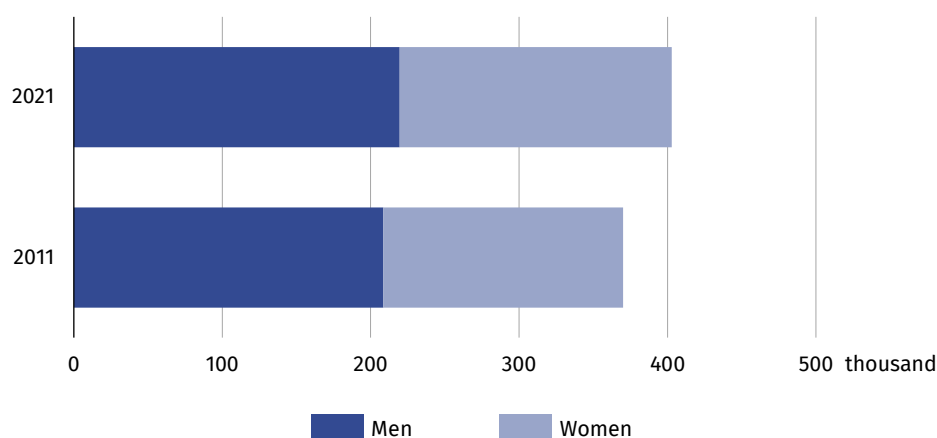
Over a half of the employed were men i.e. 54.5%

Table 1. Employed persons by sex and place of residence

Specification	2011		2021	
	in thousands	in %	in thousands	in %
Total	370.0	100.0	402.9	100.0
men	208.6	56.4	219.5	54.5
women	161.4	43.6	183.3	45.5
Urban areas	193.6	52.3	214.3	53.2
Rural areas	176.4	47.7	188.6	46.8

Compared to 2011, the number of employed men increased by 5.2% and women – by 13.6% (in the country: by 10.0% and by 18.4%, respectively). Taking into account the place of residence, the number of employed urban residents was higher by 10.7%, and employed inhabitants of rural areas – by 6.9% (in the country: by 12.9% and by 15.3%, respectively).

Chart 1. Employed persons by sex

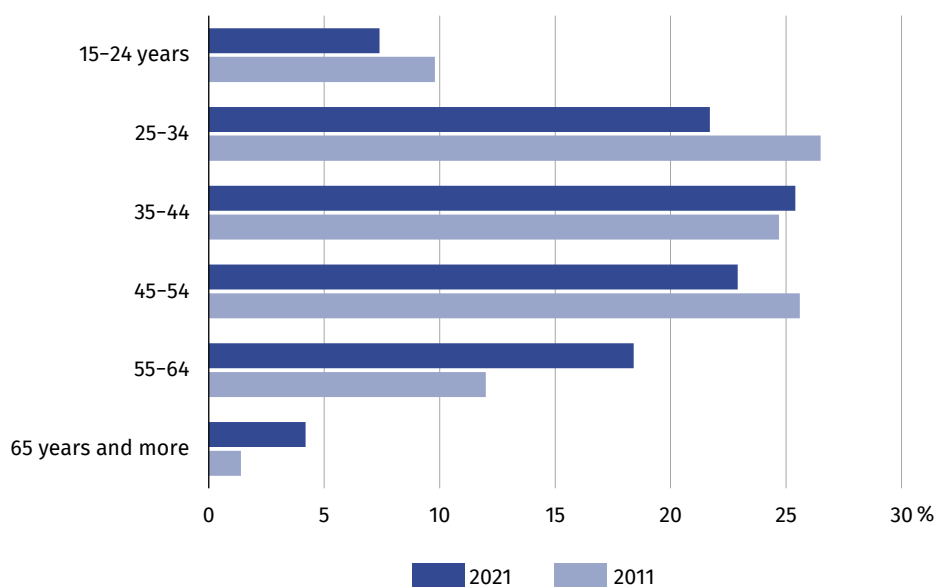


According to preliminary results of National Population and Housing Census 2021, persons of-working age accounted for 92.8% of all the employed, persons of post-working age – 7.0% and 0.2% were persons aged 15-17 years (pre-working age). In case of men these shares were as following: 94.8%, 5.0% and 0.2%, while for women: 90.3%, 9.5% and 0.2%. These differences are influenced by, i.a. different upper limit of working age for men and women, resulting from the retirement age.

Table 2. Employed persons by sex and age

Specification	2011			2021		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
	in thousands					
Total	370.0	208.6	161.4	402.9	219.5	183.3
15–24 years	36.2	21.8	14.5	29.7	16.8	12.9
25–34	98.0	55.0	43.0	87.3	47.7	39.6
35–44	91.4	49.9	41.5	102.5	54.6	47.8
45–54	94.8	50.1	44.7	92.3	47.2	45.1
55–64	44.3	28.6	15.7	74.1	42.3	31.8
65 years and more	5.2	3.2	2.1	17.0	10.9	6.1
Of which of age:						
working	360.5	204.9	155.6	373.7	208.1	165.6
post-working	8.6	3.2	5.5	28.4	10.9	17.5

Compared to 2011, the number of employed persons of working age increased by 3.7% (men – by 1.6% and women – by 6.4%). Significant changes were also observed, consisting in a three-fold increase, both among men and women, in the number of employed persons of post-working age, which resulted in an increase in the percentage of persons at this age, calculated in relation to the total number of employed persons (among men this share increased by 3.5 percentage points, while among women – by 6.1 percentage points).

Chart 2. Structure of employed persons by age

Over the ten-year period, the share of employed persons aged 15–34 years decreased (by 7.3 percentage points), while simultaneously there was an increase in the share of employed persons aged 35–44 years (of 0.7 percentage point) as well as aged 55 years and more (of 9.2 percentage points).

Unemployed persons

In the last week of March 2021, the number of unemployed persons amounted to 14.5 thousand (7.9 thousand men and 6.6 thousand women). Almost 60% of unemployed persons were urban inhabitants.

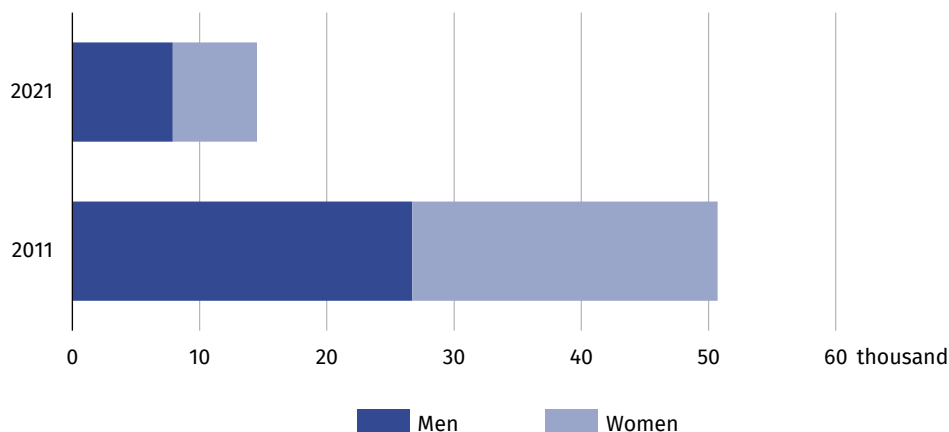
Over a half of the unemployed were men i.e. 54.5%

Table 3. Unemployed persons by sex and place of residence

Specification	2011		2021	
	in thousands	in %	in thousands	in %
Total	50.7	100.0	14.5	100.0
men	26.7	52.6	7.9	54.5
women	24.0	47.4	6.6	45.5
Urban areas	29.0	57.2	8.6	59.3
Rural areas	21.7	42.8	5.9	40.7

Compared to the results of the National Population and Housing Census 2011, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 36.2 thousand. In case of unemployed women, that group was smaller by 72.5% in relation to 2011, and for men – by 70.4% (in the country: by 70.5% and by 66.9%, respectively). In urban areas, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 70.3%, while in rural areas – by 72.8% (in the country – by 69.6% and by 67.0%, respectively).

Chart 3. Unemployed persons by sex

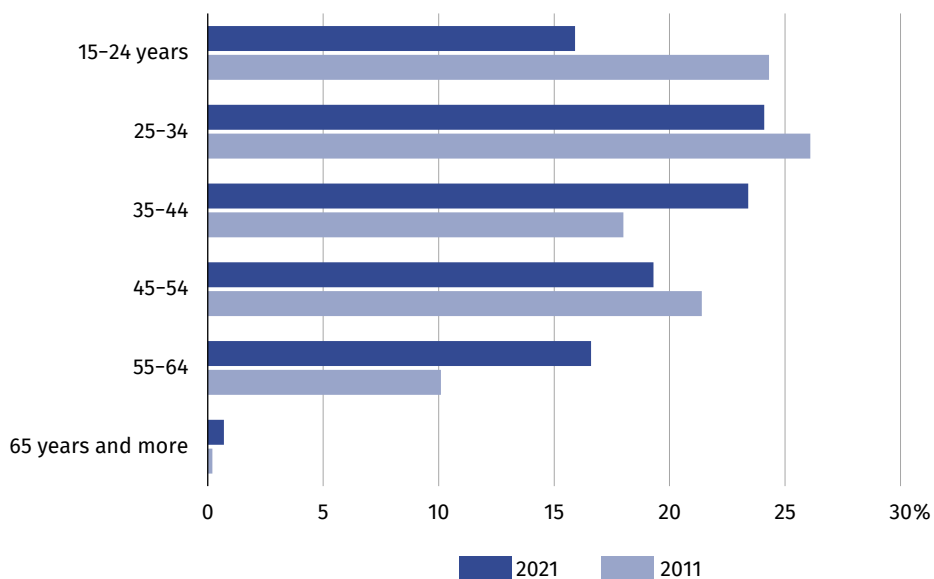


According to the preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021, persons of working age accounted for 98.6% of the total number of the unemployed and of-post-working age – 0.7% (in 2011 it was: 99.5% and 0.3%, respectively). Almost 2/3 of the unemployed were persons aged up to 44 years (63.4% in 2021 versus 68.4% in 2011), with significant differences occurring in the age structure by sex. In the group of unemployed men, the percentage of persons up to the age of 44 years accounted for 58.2%, while among women – 71.2% (in 2011: 65.8% and 71.3%, respectively).

Table 4. Unemployed persons by sex and age

Specification	2011			2021		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
	in thousands					
Total	50.7	26.7	24.0	14.5	7.9	6.6
15–24 years	12.3	6.7	5.7	2.3	1.1	1.2
25–34	13.2	6.7	6.5	3.5	1.7	1.8
35–44	9.2	4.2	5.0	3.4	1.8	1.7
45–54	10.9	5.6	5.3	2.8	1.5	1.3
55–64	5.1	3.5	1.6	2.4	1.7	0.7
65 years and more	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Of which of age:						
working	50.5	26.6	23.9	14.3	7.8	6.6
post-working	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

The analysis of census data over a ten-year period shows a decrease in the number of unemployed persons in every 10-year age group, regardless of sex. However, a differentiated scale of these changes resulted in a significant change in the structure of the unemployed by age compared to 2011. Within the total population of the unemployed, percentages of persons decreased in age groups 15–24 years (by 8.4 percentage points), 25–34 years (by 2.0 percentage points) and 45–54 years (by 2.1 percentage points). On the other hand, shares increased for unemployed persons aged 35–44 years (by 5.4 percentage points), 55–64 years (by 6.5 percentage points) as well as 65 years and more (by 0.6 percentage point).

Chart 4. Structure of unemployed persons by age

In the last week of March 2021, the unemployment rate, measuring the intensity of unemployment in the economically active population, accounted for 3.5% and was at the same level for both men and women.

Table 5. Unemployment rate by sex and age

Specification	2011			2021		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
	in %					
Total	12.1	11.3	13.0	3.5	3.5	3.5
15-24 years	25.4	23.4	28.2	7.3	6.3	8.5
25-34	11.9	10.9	13.1	3.8	3.4	4.4
35-44	9.1	7.7	10.7	3.3	3.2	3.3
45-54	10.3	10.0	10.5	2.9	3.1	2.7
55-64	10.3	10.9	9.4	3.1	3.8	2.1
65 years and more	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.2
Of which of age:						
working	12.3	11.5	13.3	3.7	3.6	3.8
post-working	1.8	1.3	2.0	0.5	0.7	0.3

Changes in the employed and unemployed population over the ten-years period also had a significant impact on changing unemployment intensity. The total unemployment rate decreased by 8.6 percentage points, among men it decreased by 7.8 percentage points and among women – by 9.5 percentage points. The highest unemployment rate, i.e. 7.3% (twice as high as for the total population) was recorded in the group of persons aged 15-24 years. Even more difficult situation concerned women of this age, for whom the unemployment rate accounted for 8.5%. The unemployment intensity in next age groups, with the exception of the group of persons aged 65 years and more, was similar – the total unemployment rate ranged from 2.9% to 3.8%.


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Related information

[Preliminary results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021](#)

[National Census of Population and Housing 2021. Report on preliminary results](#)

[National Population and Housing Census 2021 Research methodology and organization](#)

Data available in databases

[Local Data Bank – National Censuses](#)

Terms used in official statistics

Selected census terms and definitions relate directly to the presented research topic.

Population according to the national definition – it comprises permanent residents of Poland, including persons who are temporarily abroad (regardless of the period of their stay), but have maintained registering for permanent residence in Poland. Immigrants staying in Poland temporarily are not included among the resident population.

Age of individuals is determined by the number of years completed as determined by comparing the full date of birth to the date of the census so-called critical moment, i.e. 31 March 2021).

The definitions of economic activity of the population recommended by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Statistical Office (Eurostat) were applied to the census. In accordance with these recommendations, the survey objective was the fact of performing/having a job during the reference week (in Poland it was the week directly preceding the census critical moment, i.e. the period from 25 March to 31 March 2021) or the fact of seeking a job and availability to take up work. The applied principle of specifying the categories ensures that each person will be ranked among only one of the three categories: the employed, the unemployed and economically inactive persons (the actual not formal-legal labour market status of surveyed persons).

Economically active population includes all persons who are considered as employed or unemployed according to the definitions presented below.

Among **employed persons** were included all persons aged 15 years and more who during the reference week:

- performed for at least 1 hour any work generating earnings or income,
- did not perform work but formally had a job, while a reason for temporarily not performing work was, e.g. sickness, holiday leave or leave related to care of a child or an adult, economic down -time of a company.

Unemployed persons are persons aged 15-74 years, who simultaneously met three conditions:

- during the reference week were not employed persons,
- were actively seeking a job, i.e. undertook particular actions targeted at finding work during the period between 1 to 31 March.
- were available/ready to start work during the reference week and the following one.

Among the unemployed were also included persons who had found a job and were waiting to start work in the period no longer than 3 months and were available to take up this work.

Unemployment rate is calculated as the percentage share of unemployed persons (total or of a particular group) in the number of economically active population (total or of a particular group).