

# Communicating the impact of the crisis

on existing products  
and providing new products and services

Dominik A. Rozkrut

# Intro

# COVID as an unprecedented crisis

- the impact of COVID-19 has reverberated through every corner of the globe
- the pandemic poses unprecedented threat to statistics
- COVID as a test of resilience and agility
- a global effort needed

# The COVID-19 pandemic impact on official statistics

## Primary dimensions

- Work organization  
(organizational innovation)
- Methods and techniques of production  
(process innovation)
- Huge demand for statistics and insight  
(communication innovation)
- New data sources needed  
(product innovation)

# Major challenges

- Remote work
- No face-to-face interviews
- Delays in administrative data
- Delays in statistical reporting
- Broken regularities. difficulties with imputation and estimation
- Communication under high uncertainty
- Fake news, fake surveys, fake research

# The COVID-19 pandemic impact on official statistics - practicalities

- Difficulties with primary data collection
- Need for increased imputation and re-assessment models
- Need to ensure comparability
- Challenge to keep and communicate the quality
- Challenge to keep data releases as planned
- Response to emerging customized data needs and services

# Challenges in primary data collection

- Halt to “physical” collection, move to telephone interviews
- Household surveys, sample allocation
- Consumer prices, collecting price quotes in shops
- Lower response rates
- Closed or partially closed industries
- Response burden on businesses
- Delayed access to other sources (e.g. admin data)

# Support for NSIs

- Eurostat has released a range of guidance
- ESSC, ESS PG
- ESS PG TF on access to privately held data
- OECD CSSP
- UNECE CES, website on best practices
- UN surveys on COVID response
- UN TT capacity building for big data in official stats



# Statistics Poland response

# Statistics Poland response principles

1. Act asap, start with short-term, quick monthly statistics
2. Extend the scope of existing surveys  
(vs approach based on introducing short, separate, dedicated survey)
3. Go deep and across all stats domains
4. Focus on both current and long term user needs
5. Data steward for public administration

# Statistics Poland responses

- New or improved organization
- New or improved methods
- New or improved products
  - Extensive use of existing surveys and data sources
  - Extending the scope of the surveys through new modules and questions dedicated to COVID-19
  - Experimental studies
    - based both on established and new data sources (e.g. agriculture, tourism, maritime)

# SP response - examples

- CATI only, no CAPI (face-to-face), some CAI
- Fully functional remote work for most of the staff
- New tools integrated in existing surveys (new COVID-related questions)
- New, more granular and timely aggregations from existing surveys
- Extended, in-depth metadata, descriptions and explanations

# SP response - examples

- New data sources (mobility, labor market, tourism)
- Deep integration of administrative sources
- Data services for other ministries
- Data services for epidemiological research
- Economy dashboard, [[dashboard.stat.gov.pl](https://dashboard.stat.gov.pl)]
- COVID info, [[covid.stat.gov.pl](https://covid.stat.gov.pl)]
- Cooperation with Government Centre for Security [[covid-19-rcb-info.hub.arcgis.com](https://covid-19-rcb-info.hub.arcgis.com)]

# Communication challenges

- Issues raised
  - Changes in the processes (CATI, np CAPI)
  - Irrelevancy of established definitions
  - Quality issues stemming from (possibly) lower response rates
- Each case taken seriously
  - mostly related to LFS and inflation
  - quick responses over social media
  - in-depth explanatory materials published regularly
  - extensive communication with major stakeholders

# Communication challenges

- Biggest communication challenges?
  - Communication lagging behind the pace of product innovations
  - Effectively communication of the extent to which new products were offered

# Additional modules / questions

- Tendency surveys
  - Business tendency survey (monthly)
  - Consumer opinion (sentiment) survey
- Economy
  - Business activity survey
  - Survey of the production and stocks in industry



# Additional modules / questions

- Labor
  - Labour demand
  - Labor force survey
- Living conditions
  - Household budget survey
  - Survey of nurseries and children's clubs

# Additional modules / questions

- Social economy
  - Survey on cooperation, management, and communication activities of non-profit organizations - organizations' involvement in reducing the effects of the epidemic
  - Survey for monitoring the development of the social economy sector
  - Survey on the activities of the cooperatives
  - Survey on the activities of foundations, associations, and similar organizations
  - Surveys on the activities of economic and professional self-government

# Additional modules / questions

- Tourism
  - Survey on the use of the tourist accommodation facility
  - Survey on the participation of Polish residents in travels
- Health care
  - Survey on the stationary social welfare facility
  - Outpatient healthcare survey
  - Health protection in households

# Additional modules / questions

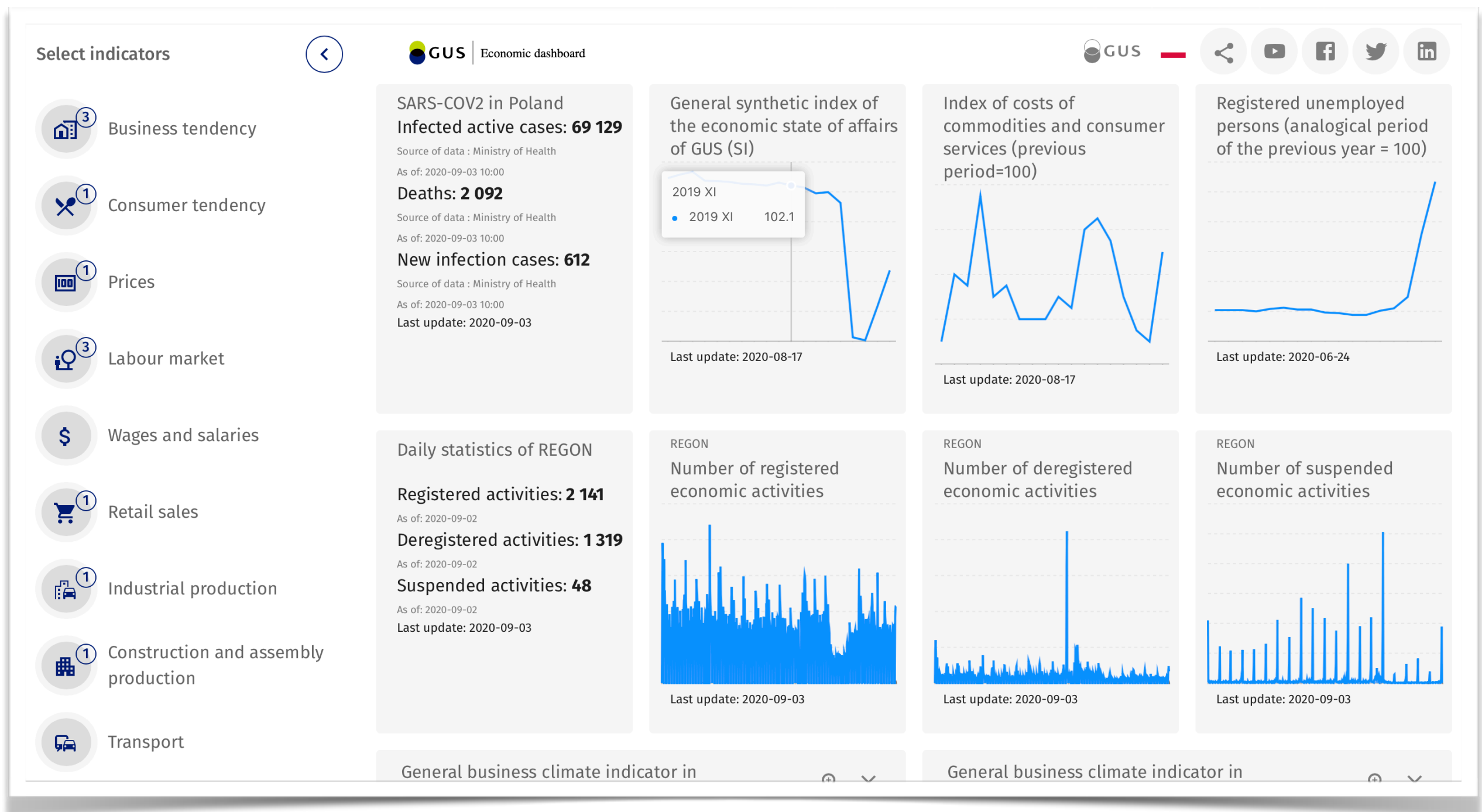
- Science, technology and digital society
  - ICT usage in enterprises
  - ICT usage in households and by individuals (annual)
  - R&D survey
  - Innovation survey

# Additional modules / questions

- Culture
  - Survey on artistic and entertainment activities
  - Survey on the activities of the museums
  - Survey of libraries
  - Survey on exhibition activity
  - Film production survey
  - Survey of multiplexes and theaters

# New products

Economy dashboard:  
[dashboard.stat.gov.pl](https://dashboard.stat.gov.pl)



- Economy dashboard, [[dashboard.stat.gov.pl](https://dashboard.stat.gov.pl)]

# New products

PL: [covid.stat.gov.pl](https://covid.stat.gov.pl)

EN: [stat.gov.pl/en/covid/](https://stat.gov.pl/en/covid/)



# Business tendency in manufacturing, construction, trade and services – August 2020

## Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on business tendency – assessment and expectations (Annex)

↑ -6.6

General business climate indicator for manufacturing (NSA)

In August general business climate indicator is less negative than in July in all presented kinds of activities, but only in information and communication as well as financial and insurance activities sectors it is positive. In assessments (“diagnosis”) improvement is observed, while negative expectations (“forecast”) in most cases remain unchanged or even deteriorate.

In the current month – answers provided between 1 and 10 August – supplementary set of questions has been added to the survey. This particular set aims to additionally diagnose the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on business tendency (results in Annex).







21.08.2020

General business climate indicator and its components in the last six months

— seasonally adjusted indicator (SA)  
 — non-seasonally adjusted indicator (NSA)  
 - - - - - "diagnostic" component (NSA)  
 ..... "forecast" component (NSA)

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/business-tendency/business-tendency/business-tendency-in-manufacturing-construction-trade-and-services-august-2020,2,8.html>

Table 2. Survey data on impact of COVID-19 pandemic on business tendency

Questions		 Manufacturing	 Construction	 Wholesale trade	 Retail trade	 Transportation and storage	 Accommodation and food service activities
<b>1. Negative effects of coronavirus pandemic and its impact on your business activity were (in July) and will be (in August):</b>							
<b>July 2020</b>	minor	54.8	54.6	59.1	54.4	52.1	36.2
	serious	31.8	25.1	23.2	29.5	35.1	31.9
	a threat to company's stability	3.4	9.1	8.3	9.1	9.2	31.5
	lack of negative effects	10.0	11.2	9.4	7.0	3.6	0.4
<b>August 2020</b>	minor	55.5	54.3	58.6	54.7	51.7	45.2
	serious	31.3	23.9	25.1	29.8	35.3	23.2
	a threat to company's stability	3.3	10.2	8.4	8.4	8.3	31.2
	lack of negative effects	9.9	11.6	7.9	7.1	4.7	0.4
<b>2. What forms of assistance and facilitation within the so-called Anti-Crisis Shield did your company use so far?</b>							
	salary surcharges	40.9	22.5	24.5	26.8	31.9	48.6
	loans or subsidies and other financial assistance	15.2	53.2	36.2	40.1	29.0	57.1

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/business-tendency/business-tendency/business-tendency-in-manufacturing-construction-trade-and-services-august-2020,2,8.html>

## Production of industrial products related to the prevention of spreading / combating COVID-19 in July 2020

25.08.2020

**1 935 850 p/st**

face masks used in medicine

In July 2020 entities having 50 or more persons employed and participating in the monthly survey of production of industrial products, on voluntary basis additionally reported production of 1 935 850 face masks used in medicine and 8 312 119 other protective face masks.

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/industry-construction-fixed-assets/industry/production-of-industrial-products-related-to-the-prevention-of-spreading-combating-covid-19-in-july-2020,14,4.html>

Product name	Measurement unit	VII 2020	III-VII 2020
Protective clothing (overalls, aprons)	p/st	990 445	4 898 482
Face masks used in medicine	p/st	1 935 850	15 854 037
Other protective face masks	p/st	8 312 119	85 100 700
Rubber gloves	pa	.	294 569
Disposable plastic film gloves	p/st	457 105	2 344 005
Protective head caps	p/st	830 240	1 680 906
Protective face shields	p/st	75 115	2 709 004
Safety goggles	p/st	10 433	70 367
Protective shoe covers	pa	186 500	1 195 092

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/industry-construction-fixed-assets/industry/production-of-industrial-products-related-to-the-prevention-of-spreading-combating-covid-19-in-july-2020,14,4.html>

## Information regarding the labour market in the second quarter of 2020 (preliminary data)

### Part I. The results of the Labour Force Survey and the survey on Registered unemployment in the second quarter of 2020.

The situation connected with COVID-19 pandemic undoubtedly had a key impact on the changes observed on the labour market in the second quarter of 2020. The characteristic feature of this period is the fact that the decrease in the number of the employed was similar, as regards its scale, to the respective increase in the population of the economically inactive; whereas, the changes in the population of the unemployed were observed to a lower extent. A specific period and limitations connected with moving, the necessity to keep a social distance, as well as difficulties regarding operating of numerous firms and branches of economy also influenced the internal changes observed for many subpopulations (including in case of the employed, i.a., extended absences, more often work from home).

# 55.5%

Activity rate (by the LFS)

The results of the labour force survey (LFS) presenting average data for the quarter indicate that in the second quarter of 2020, economically active persons comprised 55.5% of the population aged 15 years and more. The indicator decreased compared to both: the first quarter of 2020, as well as the second quarter of 2019 (respectively by 0.5 percentage point and 0.7 percentage point).

25.08.2020

Activity rate decreased compared to both: the previous quarter, as well as in respect to the situation observed one year ago

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/labour-market/working-unemployed-economically-inactive-by-lfs/information-regarding-the-labour-market-in-the-second-quarter-of-2020-preliminary-data,8,35.html>

## Part II. Additional indicators describing the changes on the labour market

Due to the situation connected with COVID-19 pandemic, in July 2020, Eurostat after the settlement with the Member States published<sup>3</sup> a set of additional, quarterly indicators based on the data coming from the LFS. The objective of this publication was widening the characteristic of the situation on the labour market in the EU, mainly in the first quarter of 2020, albeit also providing supplementary indicators for a thorough analysis in the successive phases of the pandemic. The situation on the labour market during the pandemic is to a large extent connected with implementation of the means targeted at stopping the spread of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and protection of the labour market across the entire EU. Therefore, it is slightly atypical and difficult to characterise with the standard indicators. In particular, at the first stage of the crisis, the means applied by governments of particular countries targeted at reducing loss of employment, resulted rather in temporary absence from work than dismissals; then, the persons without work cannot look for employment or have limited possibilities for a job search because of implemented restrictions, therefore they cannot be included among the unemployed in accordance with the conception of the International Labour Organisation applied in the LFS.

**Additional indicators concern the population of persons aged 20 – 64 years** and they include mainly:

- total labour force slack,
- absences from work divided by reasons,
- the total number of actual hours worked in the main job.

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/labour-market/working-unemployed-economically-inactive-by-lfs/information-regarding-the-labour-market-in-the-second-quarter-of-2020-preliminary-data,8,35.html>

19.08.2020

## Consumer tendency – August 2020

 **1.8 p. p.**

Change in current consumer confidence indicator

In August 2020, there was a deterioration in both current and future consumer sentiment moods compared to the previous month. The current consumer confidence indicator, synthetically describing the current trends in individual consumption, was -15.2<sup>a</sup> which was by 1.8 p.p. lower in relation to last month.

### Current consumer confidence indicator in August 2020

Among the components of the indicator, the evaluations of the future and current economic situation of the country deteriorated the most (declines by 6.0 percentage points and 5.0 percentage points, respectively). There was also an decrease in the evaluation of the future financial situation of the household (by 1.8 percentage points). On the other hand, the evaluations of the current possibility of making important purchases and the current financial situation of the household have improved (increase by 3.1 percentage points and 1.1 percentage points, respectively).

Current consumer confidence indicator is lower by 1.8 percentage points compared to the previous month

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/business-tendency/business-tendency/consumer-tendency-august-2020,3,8.html>

## Annex

### Additional questions in relation to the epidemiological situation (threat of COVID-19 coronavirus)

↓ 83.8 %

respondents declared the impact of the epidemiological situation on responses regarding the consumer tendency (in July it was 84.6%)

In August 2020, for 36.1% of respondents, the current epidemiological situation poses a big threat to the health of the population of Poland as a whole (increase of 8.2 percentage points compared to the previous month).

#### Impact of the current epidemiological situation on responses to the consumer tendency

From among respondents declaring the impact of the epidemiological situation on responses regarding the consumer tendency, 56.6% described it as moderate and 27.2% as significant. For 16.2% of respondents, the current situation had no impact on the answers.

**Chart 1. Impact of current epidemiological situation (COVID-19 coronavirus) on responses - response structure (%)**

27.2% of respondents declared a significant impact of the epidemiological situation on responses regarding the consumer tendency

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/business-tendency/business-tendency/consumer-tendency-august-2020,3,8.html>



# Experimental statistics

## Results of the application of satellite remote sensing methods for the development of a preliminary estimate of the main agricultural and horticultural crops

### 240 thousand ha

The area of sugar beet determined on the experimental method of crop identification based on satellite imagery in 2020. Compared to the area of last year's crops, it is approximately 1% smaller, and also approximately 1% smaller than the area estimated by Central Statistical Office experts at the stage of preliminary estimation in 2020.

#### Introduction

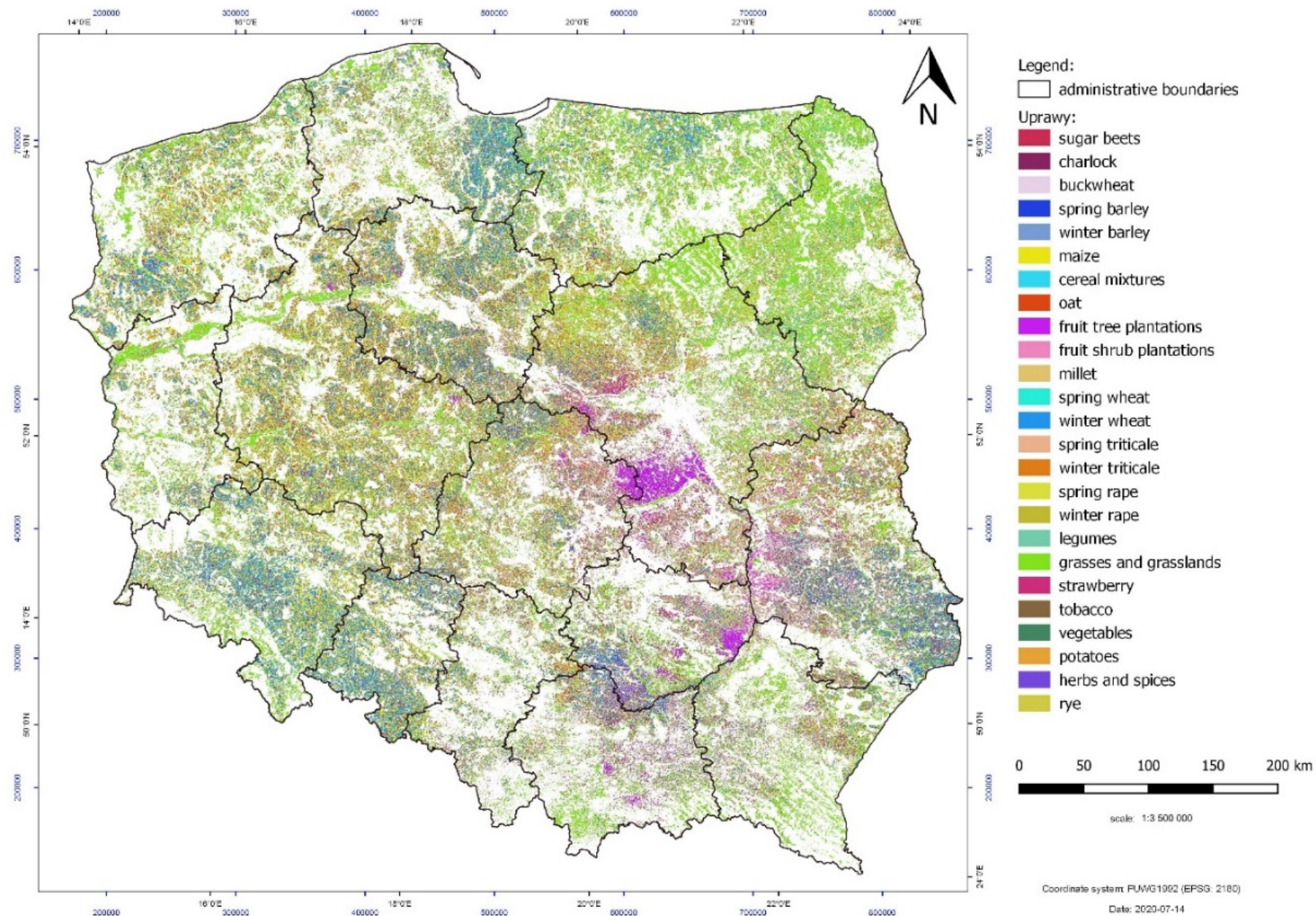
The application of modern methods of satellite image processing for the purposes of agricultural statistics is one of the innovative activities carried out by public statistics.

03.08.2020

A project entitled "Satellite identification and monitoring of crops for the purposes of agricultural statistics – SATMIROL" as part of the 1st competition for open projects within the framework of the strategic programme of scientific research and development works, entitled: "Social and Economic Development of Poland in the Conditions of Globalizing Market – GOS-POSTRATEG".

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/experimental-statistics/agriculture/results-of-the-application-of-satellite-remote-sensing-methods-for-the-development-of-a-preliminary-estimate-of-the-main-agricultural-and-horticultural-crops,1,1.html>

**Map 1. Preliminary estimate of the main agricultural and horticultural crops**



<https://stat.gov.pl/en/experimental-statistics/agriculture/results-of-the-application-of-satellite-remote-sensing-methods-for-the-development-of-a-preliminary-estimate-of-the-main-agricultural-and-horticultural-crops,1,1.html>

## The foreign population in Poland during the COVID-19 pandemic

↓ **223 thous.**

the decline in the number of foreigners staying in Poland at the end of April compared to the figure at the end of February 2020.

In the first two months of the pandemic, i.e. in March and April 2020, the estimated number of foreigners staying in Poland fell by 223 thousand, which represents a decline by 10.1% from the figure at the end of February.

4th June 2020

### Introduction

The following study report presents preliminary estimates concerning changes in the number of foreigners staying in Poland before 1<sup>st</sup> of March and at the end of April 2020 in the light of data from administrative registers and information on foreigners arriving in and leaving Poland provided by the Border Guard.

The results should be treated as experimental and tentative. The study is based on a number of assumptions reflecting the availability and quality of data sources used to produce the estimates.

### The foreign population in Poland in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

The estimates are based on the size of the foreign population staying in Poland at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, which was established using information on citizenship from administrative

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/experimental-statistics/human-capital/the-foreign-population-in-poland-during-the-covid-19-pandemic,10,1.html>



07th July 2020

## Appendix

# The foreign population in Poland during the COVID-19 pandemic

The report on „The foreign population in Poland during the COVID-19 pandemic” describes how the size of selected foreign subpopulations in the ZUS register changed over time. The data, referring to the number of insured (natural) persons who indicated citizenship other than Polish in their application for old-age and invalidity pension, were compiled at the end of the February-April period. Additionally, these counts were compared to those at the end of 2019. In the course of cooperation with ZUS, more detailed information from the ZUS registers was obtained regarding the foreign population (in total and citizens of Ukraine). In particular, the newly acquired data contained information about:

- 1) Sex
- 2) Age group (aged 19 and younger, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, aged 65 and older)
- 3) NACE section

As regards sex and age groups, information was obtained on:

<https://stat.gov.pl/en/experimental-statistics/human-capital/appendix-the-foreign-population-in-poland-during-the-covid-19-pandemic,10,2.html>

**Figure 4: A decline in the number of foreigners (employees) registered for old-age and invalidity insurance by sex and age**



<https://stat.gov.pl/en/experimental-statistics/human-capital/appendix-the-foreign-population-in-poland-during-the-covid-19-pandemic,10,2.html>

# The census



# AGRICULTURAL **CENSUS**

1 SEPT–30 NOV 2020





# Censuses during the pandemic

- Censuses in 2020
  - pilot population census, April, 2020
  - agricultural census, September-November, 2020
  - initial plans: mix of administrative records, **CAII**, CATI, CAPI
  - pilot in April in extreme conditions of pandemic peak
- Reorganization of the census apparatus
  - legislative changes to allow for greater flexibility
  - no CAPI (still available if needed and possible)
  - CAII promoted even stronger, communicated as an opportunity

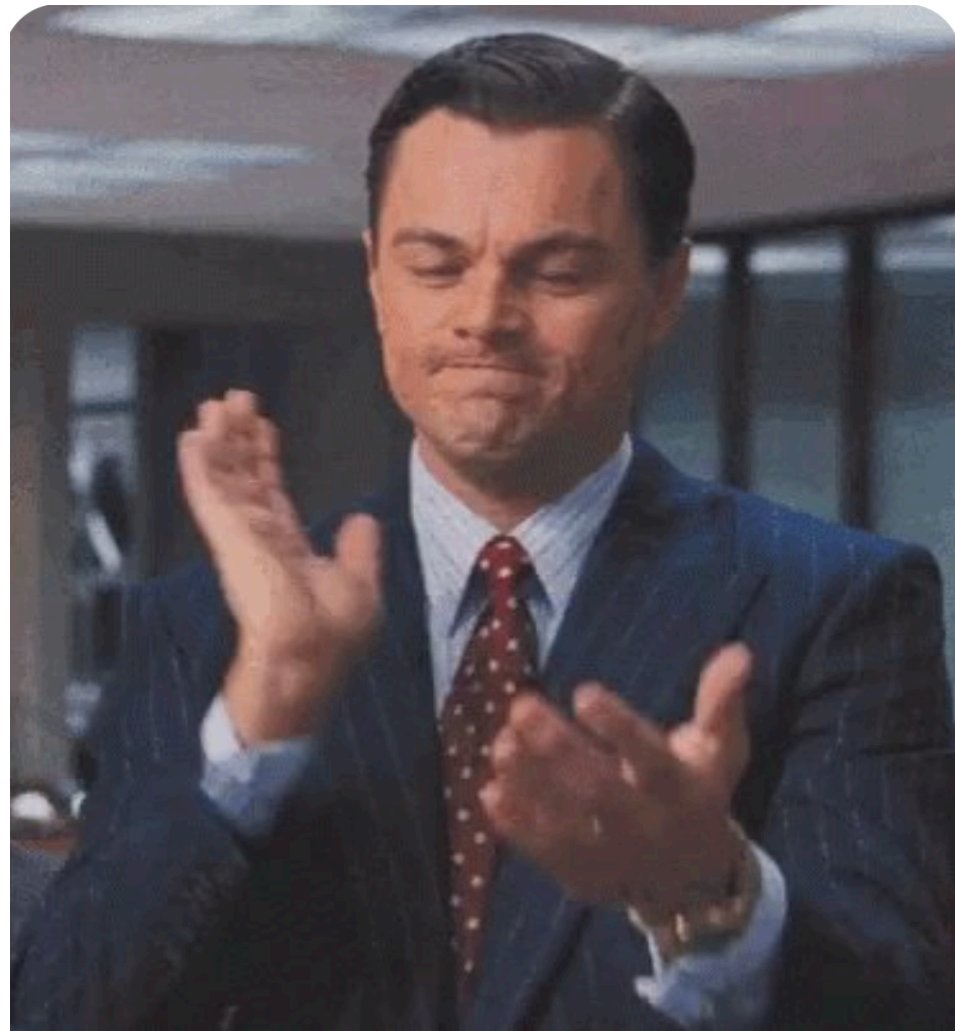
# Concluding remarks

# Statistics Poland strategic response

- Pilot census with a different method-mix (April 2020)
- New baseline strategy for censuses (assumes continuing pandemic)
- Amendments of the existing legislation on censuses (more flexibility in organization, method-mix and financing)
- Amendments of the existing legislation on official statistics (easier access to directories of telephone numbers)
- New strategy for future field operations (different method-mix, better backend IT tools)
- Focus on ongoing massive communication related projects: StatsGate, GeoStatPortal

# Concluding remarks

- COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity
  - leveraging the innovative solutions and new data sources for the future production, dissemination and communication of statistics
- Extensive international cooperation and exchange of good practices
  - in adjusting to the ,new COVID-19 reality', ,new normal'



Elastyczność @GUS\_STAT w dostosowaniu treści publikacji do panujących warunków jest godna pochwały. Dodatkowe zbiory danych, pytania ankietowe i odpowiednie przycinanie/rozszerzanie okresów prezentacji to jest właśnie to, czego oczekujemy od statystyki publicznej.  
<https://t.co/F1eDJqrTaX>



mBank Research  
twitter.com

@GUS\_STAT's flexibility in adapting the publications content to the prevailing conditions is

**commendable.**

Additional data sets, survey questions, and appropriate cutting / extending presentation periods are

**precisely what we expect**

from official statistics.

**Thank you**  
for your attention!