

## INCAPACITY FOR WORK DUE TO DISEASE OR INJURY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2010

In the first half of 2010, incapacity for work caused by disease or injury in the Czech Republic was significantly affected by changes in sickness insurance introduced on 1 January 2009. In the framework of Act No. 261/2007 Sb., the Public Budget Stabilisation Act, in particular the following adjustments to the way of determining the amounts of sickness insurance benefits were made. Since 1 January 2009, sickness insurance has been regulated by Act No. 187/2006 Sb., on sickness insurance, as amended.

In the first half of 2010, incapacity for work was influenced especially by newly determined amounts of sickness insurance benefits:

- 60% of the daily assessment basis for the 15<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> calendar day of temporary incapacity for work;
- 66% of the daily assessment basis for 31<sup>st</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup> calendar day of temporary incapacity for work;
- 72% of the daily assessment basis from the 61<sup>st</sup> calendar day of temporary incapacity for work;
- During the first 14 calendar days employees receive compensation for their wages provided by their employer.
- Compensation of wages in case of temporary incapacity for work cover the working days from the 4<sup>th</sup> working day (from the first day if quarantine is imposed).

Moreover, amendment of the Sickness Insurance Act No. 187/2006 Sb. also caused some methodical differences in reporting of sickness benefits taking as compared to the established practice. This was reflected in data collection and processing by the Czech Social Security Administration. These data are the administrative information source for calculation of sickness rate indicators. Therefore, in the first year of legal force of the new Act it is better to compare rough calculations rather than absolute numbers of newly notified cases and numbers of calendar days of incapacity for work.

The average number of sickness insured persons in the first half of 2010 was 4,233.7 thous., which is by 2.2% less than in the first half of 2009. Thus, considerable decrease in the number of insured persons from 2010 was mitigated.

The total number of **newly notified cases of incapacity for work** decreased slightly from 767.7 thous. to 702.9 thous., year-on-year, (i.e. almost by 8.4 %).

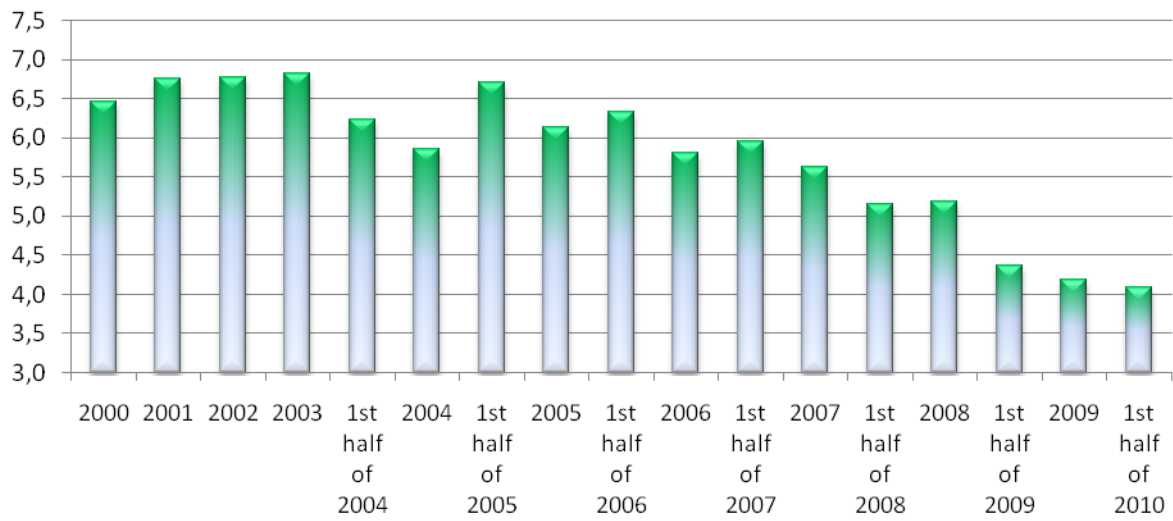
**When calculated per 100 insured persons** the year-on-year decline in new cases of incapacity for work due to disease or injury was 1.14 percentage points (from 17.74 cases in the first half of 2009 down to 16.60 in the first half of 2010).

Increase in the average duration of one case of incapacity for work from the last year almost stopped and the number of days of one incapacity for work in the first half of 2010 was 44.57 (in the first half of 2009 it was 44.55).

In the first half of 2010, the **average percentage of incapacity for work** was 4,087, which is less by 0.279 percentage points compared to the same period in 2009.

In the first half of 2010, in the Czech Republic, the total of 73,043 insured persons were missing at work every day due to incapacity for work caused by disease or injury, which is almost by 16 thousand insured persons less compared to the first half of 2009.

## Average percentage of incapacity for work due to diseases or injury



The average percentage of incapacity for work was on the increase up to 2003 when it topped out at 6.814 %. That means nearly 7 employees/insured persons out of 100 were not at work on grounds of disease or injury. Since 2005, this indicator has been showing a downward trend due to changes in behaviour of sickness insured persons caused by legislative amendments.