

INCAPACITY FOR WORK DUE TO DISEASE OR INJURY IN 2010

In 2010 the trend in the incapacity for work due to disease or injury in the Czech Republic was significantly affected by changes to the sickness insurance introduced on 1 January 2009. Since 1 January 2009 the sickness insurance has been regulated by the **Act No. 187/2006 Sb. on the sickness insurance**, as amended by following regulations. **Fees for the sickness insurance** are defined by the Act No. 589/1992 Sb. on fees for the social security and on the contribution to the State Employment Policy, as amended. In relation to the adoption of the **Act No. 362/2009 Sb. amending certain acts in context of the bill on the State Budget of the Czech Republic for 2010**, there were modifications carried out to the sickness insurance leading to changes affecting the amount of sickness-insurance benefits. The objective of these measures adopted was to reduce the State Budget deficit.

In 2010 the trend in the incapacity for work was influenced especially by newly determined amounts of sickness-insurance benefits:

- for the period of the first 14 calendar days of the incapacity for work employees shall receive a wage compensation provided by their employers;
- there is entitlement to the wage compensation for working days since the 4th working day (yet from the first day, if quarantine is imposed) in the case of a temporary incapacity for work;
- from the 15th to 30th calendar day of a temporary incapacity for work sickness-insured persons are entitled to receive 60% of the daily assessment basis;
- from the 31st to 60th calendar day of a temporary incapacity for work sickness-insured persons are entitled to receive 66% of the daily assessment basis;
- from the 61st calendar day of a temporary incapacity for work onward sickness-insured persons are entitled to receive 72% of the daily assessment basis.

Moreover, it is needless to mention, that the amendment of the Act No. 187/2006 Sb., on the sickness insurance, also brought methodical differences in the reporting of the sickness benefits drawing compared to the so-far established practice. This was also reflected in the data collection and processing by the Czech Social Security Administration. These data are the administrative information source for the calculation of sickness rate indicators.

Trends in basic indicators are given here below:

The **average number of sickness-insured persons** in 2010 was 4 311 thousand, which is by almost 58 thousand more than in 2009.

The number of **newly notified cases of the incapacity for work** in total decreased slightly from 1 441.5 thousand to 1 324.9 thousand, year-on-year, (i.e. almost by 8.4%).

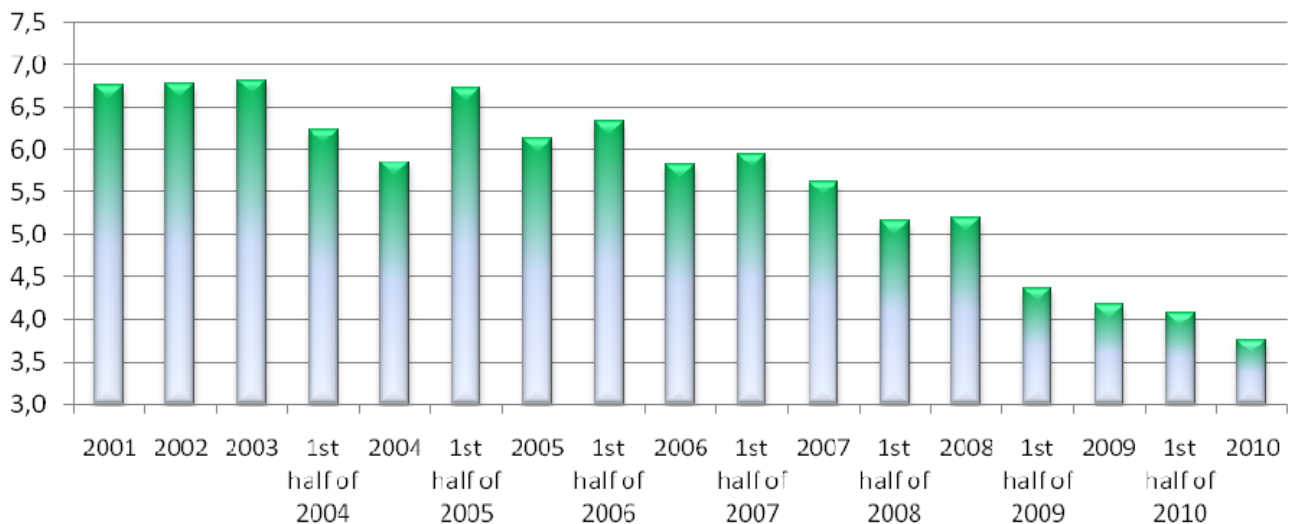
When **calculated per 100 sickness-insured persons** the year-on-year decline in new cases of the incapacity for work due to disease or injury was 3.16 percentage points (p.p.), from 33.89 cases in 2009 down to 30.73 in 2010.

The **average duration of one case of the incapacity for work** decreased year-on-year from 45.06 days in 2009 to 44.69 days in 2010.

In 2010 the **average percentage of the incapacity for work** substantially dropped year-on-year by almost 0.5 p.p. to the current 3.763. It therefore exceeded even the decrease in this indicator in 2009 (4.184).

In 2010 in the Czech Republic 162 215 thousand sickness-insured persons were missing at work every day due to the incapacity for work due to disease or injury, which was almost by 15 747 thousand sickness-insured persons less compared to 2009.

Trend in the average percentage of the incapacity for work due to disease or injury in the period from 2000 to 2010



The average percentage of the incapacity for work was increasing till 2003 when it reached its maximum at 6.814%. That means in practise that, on average, nearly 7 employees/sickness-insured persons out of 100 were absent at work due to disease or injury every day. Since 2005 this indicator has been showing a downward trend following, first of all, from changes in behaviour of sickness-insured persons as a result of legislative regulations. In 2010 the average percentage of the incapacity for work attained the level of 3.763 and thus attained the historically lowest value since the beginning of the 1960s.