

Relaunch of Belgian employment initiated in May: coronavirus temporary unemployment halved

SD Worx Employment Tracker reveals sectors with largest increase in employment

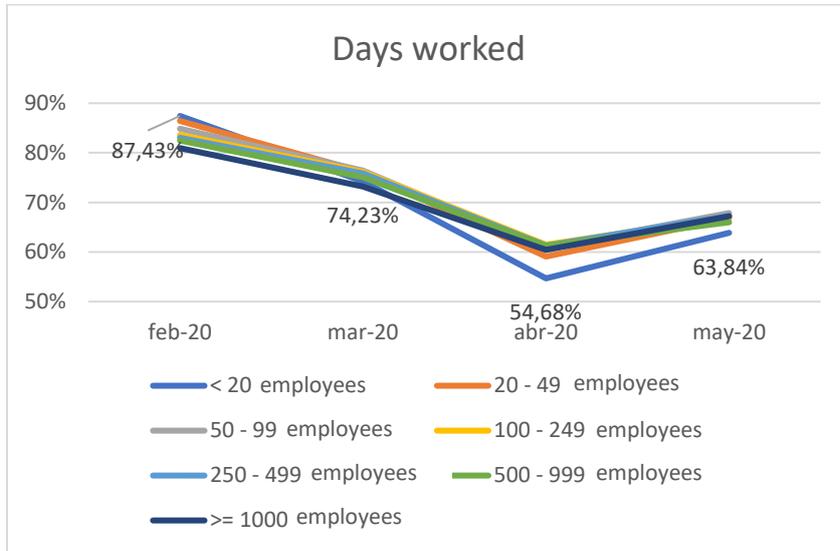
Brussels, 11 June 2020 – People are getting back to work across Belgium's regions and provinces. This is clearly reflected in the most up-to-date payroll data from HR service provider SD Worx. The SD Worx monthly Employment Tracker follows almost 1 million employees in the private sector and shows that the biggest increase occurred in the most affected regions and organisations. Particularly companies with fewer than 20 employees have revved up their activities considerably: they went from 55% to 64% days worked. Blue-collar workers achieved the highest return to the workplace – from 49% to 60% – although they are still 20% below the 'normal' level of days worked. The top 10 biggest risers include service cheque companies, large retailers, independent retailers, department stores, garages, clothing companies, construction companies, electricians and social enterprises. The full report is available in [Dutch](#) and [French](#).

Since March this year, SD Worx has been monitoring how the number of days worked has evolved each month. The biggest payroll company in Belgium has developed the SD Worx Employment Tracker to reflect the impact of the coronavirus crisis on the Belgian labour market. The tracker uses a number of parameters to show which of the country's sectors and regions have been affected most and which have been most active.

Bart Pollentier, Director of the SD Worx Knowledge Centre: *"In May the country experienced a first real positive turning point in employment with an increase from 60% to 67% of days worked. This was mainly due to a significant 43% fall in temporary unemployment, from 22% in April to 13%. However, we are far from back to the 'normal' level of the same period last year; we still have 12% to go."*

Companies with less than 20 employees have caught up the most

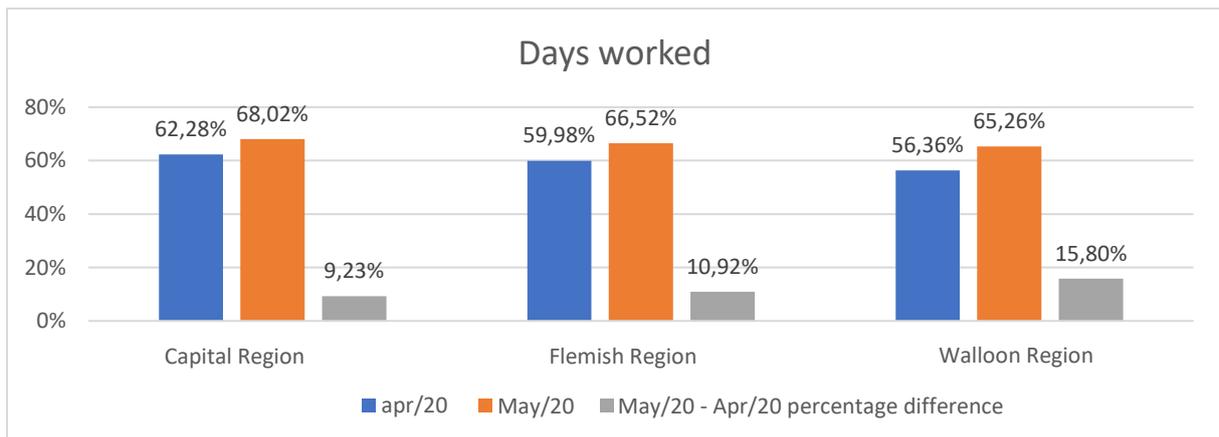
The coronavirus outbreak has hit small, medium-sized and large organisations hard, but SD Worx found that the percentage of days worked has risen most in the group of small to medium-sized enterprises, particularly in small organisations with less than 20 employees. Back in February, companies with up to 20 employees were still the frontrunners with 87% of days worked, but in April that fell to 55%. In May, they were able to catch up the most with 64% days worked, but they are still lagging behind larger organisations at 20% below last year's level.



Source: 'SD Worx Employment Tracker'

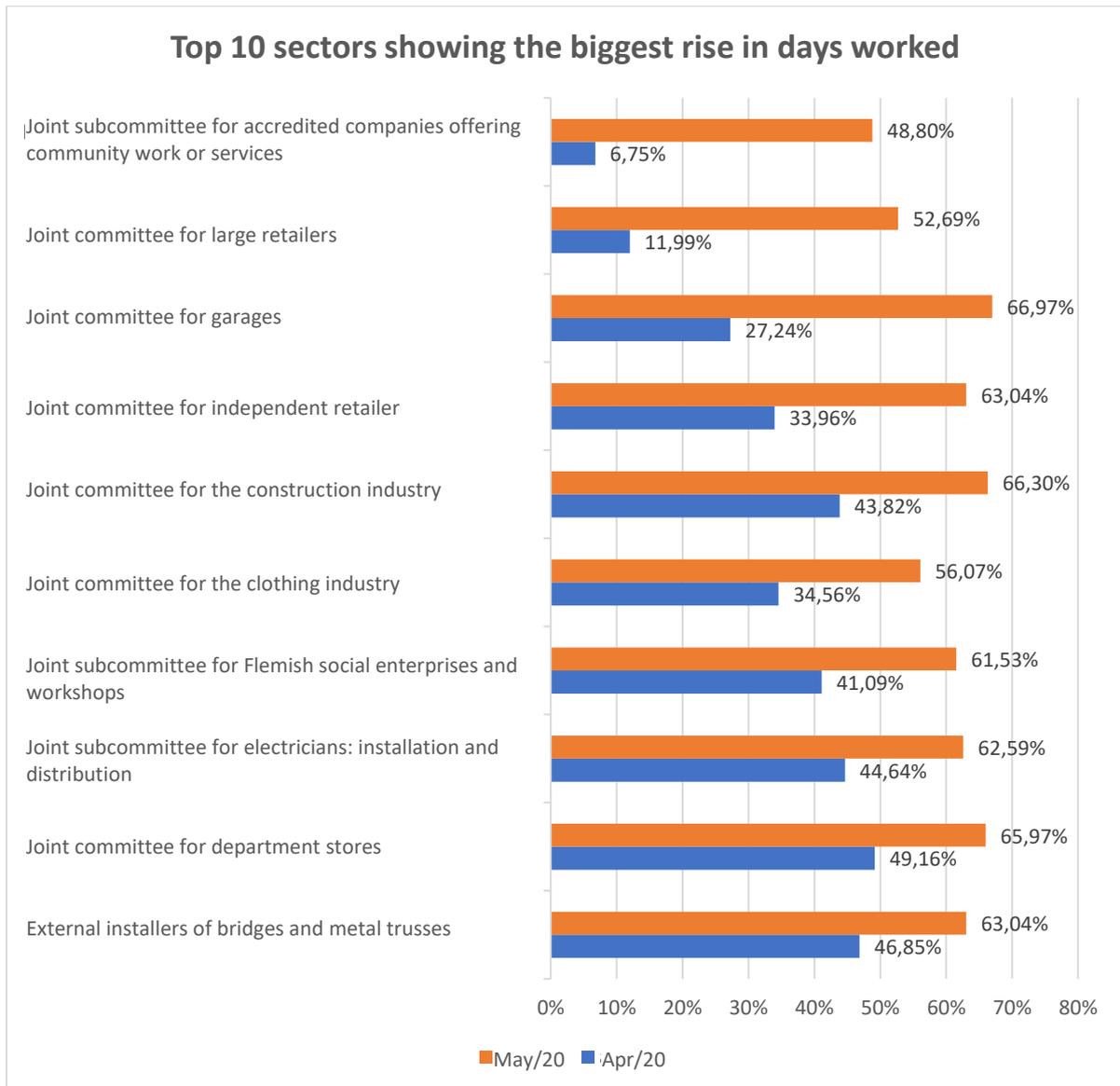
Most affected regions show largest increase in May

The recovery is happening in all of Belgium’s regions and provinces. Like last month, the percentage of days worked is still the highest in Brussels and the lowest in Wallonia, but Wallonia has seen the biggest increase – no less than 16%, followed by a 16% increase in Flanders and a 9% increase in Brussels. All regions are currently showing a similar percentage of days worked: in Brussels it is 68%, in Flanders 67% and in Wallonia 65%. However, regional differences are still visible by province: the biggest rise in days worked occurred in the most affected provinces of Namur, Luxembourg and Liège in Wallonia, and Limburg and West Flanders in Flanders (more detailed figures are provided in the attached report).

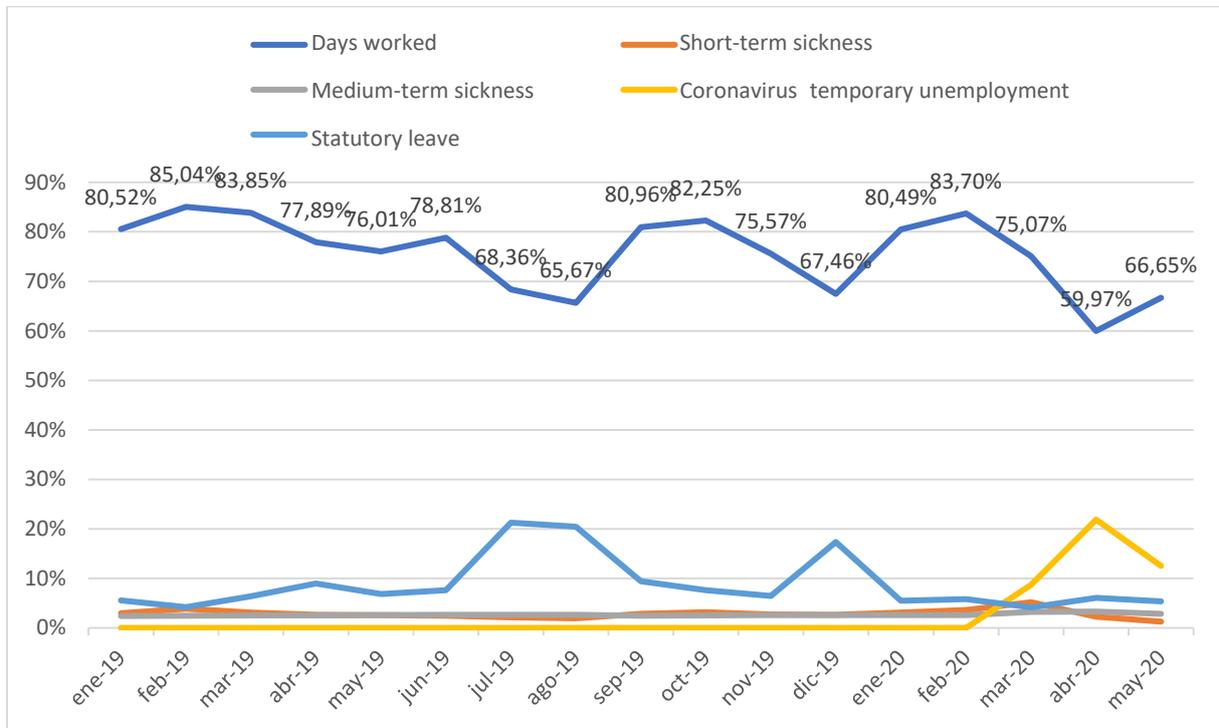


Source: 'SD Worx Employment Tracker'

Top 10 sectors showing the biggest rise in days worked



SD Worx Employment Tracker – May 2020



Source: 'SD Worx Employment Tracker'

For further details, read the full report [in Dutch](#) or [French](#)