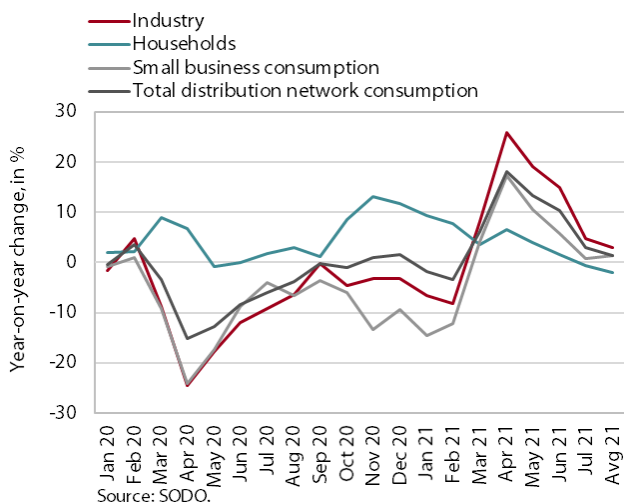


CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

13–17 September 2021

Some economic indicators point to a slowdown in growth during the summer months. Electricity consumption growth has slowed in recent months. This is mainly due to industrial consumption lagging behind pre-epidemic levels due to disruptions in material supply and lower production. Construction activity declined in July, with a particularly unfavourable trend in non-residential construction. Employment remained relatively high in July, with the largest year-on-year increases in health care and social work and in construction. The current account surplus also remains high.

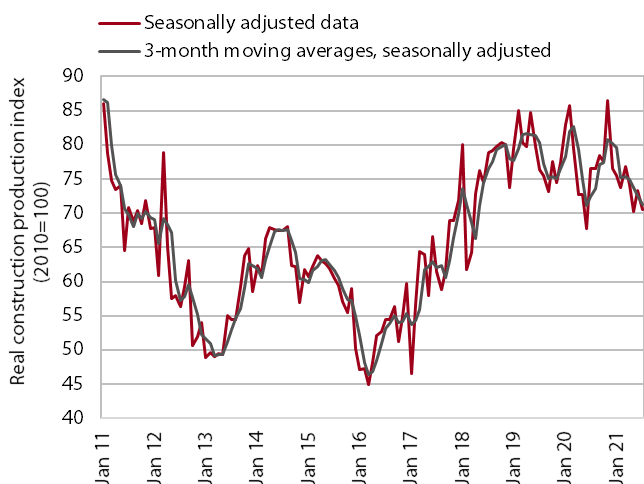
Electricity consumption by consumption group, August 2021



August was the second consecutive month in which industrial electricity consumption was lower than the same period in 2019, while small business electricity consumption has lagged behind 2019 levels since the epidemic began. Industrial consumption fell by 3.4% (by 4.9% in July), which we believe is related to supply constraints and high material prices, and consequently lower production. Small business electricity consumption¹ was 5.3% lower (3.3% lower in July), while household consumption was 0.8% higher. Compared to August last year, industrial electricity consumption was 3.1% higher and small business electricity consumption was 1.4% higher. Household consumption was 2.1% lower, which may indicate that more households decided to go on holiday than last year.

¹ In this consumption group, consumption is most frequently measured in service activities and shops. This group also includes warehouses, agricultural activity, etc., as well as large manufacturing plants that do not consume significant amounts of electricity at some measurement points.

Construction, July 2021

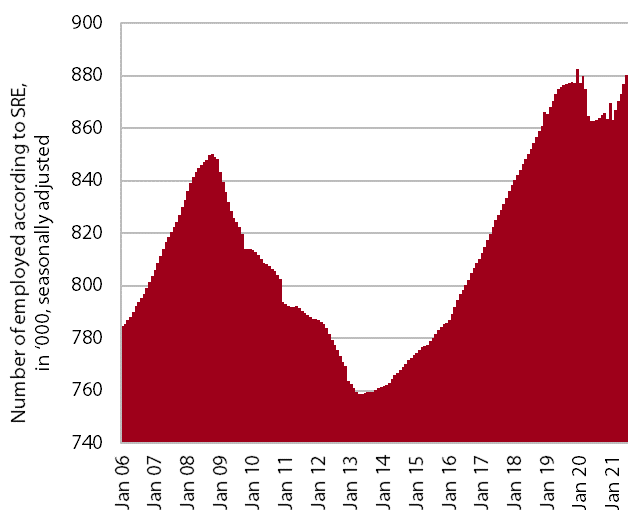


Source: SURS; calculations by IMAD.

Construction activity declined in July. The value of construction output fell by 3.9% and was 8.0% lower than a year earlier. At the monthly level, activity in individual construction segments is highly volatile. Amid these fluctuations, activity in residential buildings, civil engineering and specialised construction remains at the level reached at the beginning of the year, while it declined sharply in non-residential construction. Data on the number of contracts suggest that activity in non-residential construction will remain relatively low, while other segments, particularly civil-engineering and specialised construction activities, are expected to perform better.

Construction prices have risen significantly under the pressure of rising commodity prices (and labour shortages). The implicit deflator of the value of completed construction works (used to measure prices in the construction sector) was 7% in July, its highest level since 2005.

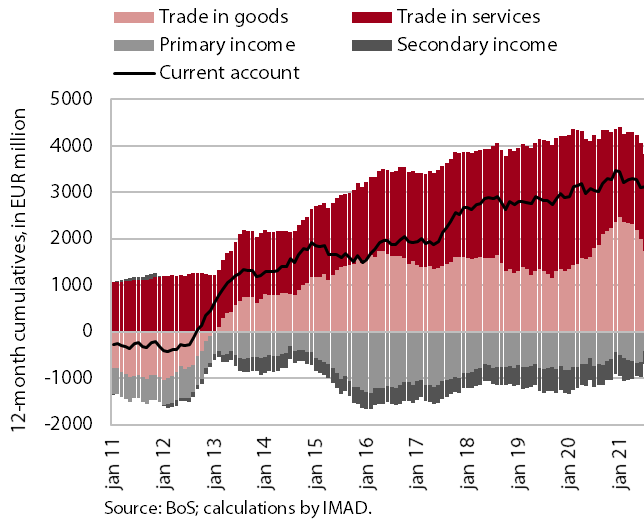
Labour market, July 2021



Source: SURS; calculations by IMAD.

Employment remained at a similar level to the previous month, but year-on-year growth strengthened due to the base effect. The number of employed persons was up 2.3% year-on-year in July, mainly due to a sharp decline in the spring months of last year. Year-on-year growth was similar for both employees (2.2%) and the self-employed (2.1%), although the decline in the number of self-employed last year was much smaller than for employees. The highest year-on-year increases were observed in health and social work and in construction. For the first time since the outbreak of the epidemic, employment also rose year-on-year in the accommodation and food service activities in July. Year-on-year, employment was lower only in arts, entertainment and recreation, the sectors severely affected by the containment measures.

Current account of the balance of payments, July 2021



The current account surplus remained high in July. It totalled EUR 3.1 billion (6.5% of estimated GDP) in the last 12 months. In comparison with the same period a year before, the higher surplus arose mainly from lower primary income deficit, lower net payments of interest on external debt and lower net payments of income on equity. The deficit in secondary income was lower as the government received more funds from European Social Fund. Despite the recovery in trade in services, the surplus in trade in services is still lower year-on-year, mainly due to a lower surplus in travel. The current account surplus narrowed, due to² higher prices of energy and other primary commodities, which have the largest impact on import price growth. Export prices rose by 0.9% year-on-year, and import prices rose by 2.0% and the terms of merchandise trade deteriorated by 1.1%.

² In the last three months, year-on-year real import growth was also significantly higher than export growth (balance of payments statistics, calculations by IMAD).

Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia	Date of release		Unit	Reference period					
	Latest	Next		2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2
GDP, real	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ³	-4.7	-9.5	12.1	-0.2	1.5	1.9
	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	-1.3	-11.0	-1.4	-3.1	1.7	16.3
Private consumption, real	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ³	-6.9	-11.3	20.7	-10.7	4.4	4.4
	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	-3.1	-13.1	1.4	-11.2	-0.6	18.8
Government consumption, real	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ³	4.3	-1.4	1.5	-0.8	1.0	-0.3
	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	5.3	3.2	5.0	3.5	0.5	1.4
Gross investment, real	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ³	1.6	-11.7	1.0	22.0	-2.3	12.2
	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	-4.3	-13.3	-21.7	12.0	6.0	35.9
Exports of goods and services, real	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ³	-1.6	-20.5	15.6	7.1	3.3	1.1
	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	-0.8	-23.5	-8.9	-0.7	1.4	30.2
Imports of goods and services, real	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ³	0.2	-21.4	13.5	8.4	4.7	4.1
	31.08.2021	30.11.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	-1.2	-23.6	-12.2	-0.8	0.9	34.9
				2021 m 3	2021 m 4	2021 m 5	2021 m 6	2021 m 7	2021 m 8
Trade balance¹	13.09.2021	14.10.2021	EUR m	173.3	136.2	-2.8	88.7	89.0	:
Current account¹	13.09.2021	14.10.2021	EUR m	347.0	292.2	118.5	129.8	209.2	:
Exports of goods, real²	09.09.2021	08.10.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	1.2	1.5	-4.8	0.7	2.7	:
	09.09.2021	08.10.2021	% (M/M-12)	17.0	53.1	28.2	16.0	11.2	:
Imports of goods, real²	09.09.2021	08.10.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	4.0	4.5	-0.8	-0.5	0.3	:
	09.09.2021	08.10.2021	% (M/M-12)	17.6	59.7	40.9	18.7	11.6	:
				2021 m 3	2021 m 4	2021 m 5	2021 m 6	2021 m 7	2021 m 8
Inflation (CPI)	31.08.2021	30.09.2021	% (M/M-1)	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.1
	31.08.2021	30.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	0.1	2.1	2.1	1.4	2.0	2.1
				2021 m 3	2021 m 4	2021 m 5	2021 m 6	2021 m 7	2021 m 8
Gross earnings per employee – nominal	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-1)	3.3	-0.7	0.7	-2.8	:	:
	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	14.3	3.0	6.1	7.7	:	:
- private sector	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-1)	2.8	-1.8	2.1	1.6	:	:
	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	12.8	2.0	2.4	7.5	:	:
- public sector	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-1)	4.1	1.0	5.1	-8.9	:	:
	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	16.0	5.6	13.4	8.3	:	:
- of which government sector	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-1)	2.1	2.3	7.8	-11.4	:	:
	23.08.2021	22.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	18.3	6.2	16.8	9.0	:	:
				2021 m 3	2021 m 4	2021 m 5	2021 m 6	2021 m 7	2021 m 8
Employed persons	16.09.2021	18.10.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	:
	16.09.2021	18.10.2021	% (M/M-12)	-0.5	1.0	1.6	2.1	2.3	:
Registered unemployed persons	03.09.2021	04.10.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-1.5	-2.0	-3.7	-3.2	-1.8	-1.7
	03.09.2021	04.10.2021	% (M/M-12)	6.1	-10.6	-16.9	-20.5	-21.0	-21.4
Registered unemployment rate	16.09.2021	18.10.2021	%	8.5	8.2	7.7	7.3	7.3	:
				2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2
Employment, LFS	27.08.2021	26.11.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ⁵	0.9	-2.0	0.7	0.8	-5.0	5.0
	27.08.2021	26.11.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	0.4	-2.3	-0.3	0.4	-5.5	1.1
ILO unemployment rate, LFS	27.08.2021	26.11.2021	%	4.6	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.6	4.3
				2021 m 3	2021 m 4	2021 m 5	2021 m 6	2021 m 7	2021 m 8
Industrial producer prices, domestic market	20.08.2021	21.09.2021	% (M/M-1)	0.1	0.6	1.3	1.4	1.4	:
	20.08.2021	21.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	2.6	3.0	4.6	5.1	6.9	:
Production volume in manufacturing, real	10.09.2021	11.10.2021	% (M/M-1)3	0.2	1.1	-0.4	2.3	-1.3	:
	10.09.2021	11.10.2021	% (M/M-12)	16.3	39.5	29.4	21.4	7.6	:
Construction, real value of construction output	15.09.2021	15.10.2021	% (M/M-1)3	4.3	-3.4	-5.4	4.5	-3.9	:
	15.09.2021	15.10.2021	% (M/M-12)	-2.8	1.9	-3.9	7.8	-8.0	:
Turnover in trade, real	30.08.2021	29.09.2021	% (M/M-1)3	1.3	-2.1	0.2	-0.2	:	:
	30.08.2021	29.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	27.9	33.6	16.2	7.7	:	:
Real turnover in market services	30.08.2021	30.09.2021	% (M/M-1)3	-2.6	-2.4	0.9	9.9	:	:
	30.08.2021	30.09.2021	% (M/M-12)	13.7	28.4	22.8	17.5	:	:
				2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
General government deficit/surplus (ESA 2010)	31.03.2021	30.09.2021	% BDP	-2.8	-1.9	-0.1	0.7	0.4	-8.4
Consolidated gross general government debt (ESA 2010)	31.03.2021	30.09.2021	% BDP	82.6	78.5	74.1	70.3	65.6	80.8
				2021 m 3	2021 m 4	2021 m 5	2021 m 6	2021 m 7	2021 m 8
Economic sentiment indicator⁵, seasonally adjusted	25.08.2021	24.09.2021	% ³	-0.9	-0.5	5.9	7.9	5.6	6.4
				2021 m 3	2021 m 4	2021 m 5	2021 m 6	2021 m 7	2021 m 8
EURIBOR, 3-month	Beginning of the month *		%	-0.5391	-0.5382	-0.5401	-0.5429	-0.5448	-0.5476
Long-term government bond yields	Beginning of the month		%	0.0240	0.0600	0.2300	0.1455	-0.0200	-0.1179
Exchange rate, USD to EUR	Beginning of the month		US\$	1.1899	1.1979	1.2146	1.2047	1.1822	1.1772

Source: SURS, BS, ECB, EUROSTAT, EURIBOR.org, calculations by IMAD.

Notes: ¹Balance of payments statistics of the BoS. ²External trade statistics SURS. ³Seasonally adjusted – SURS. ⁴Seasonally adjusted – IMAD. ⁵Difference between positive and negative answers, in %.

* calculations by IMAD.

For comparisons with the EU and EMU see: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/euro-indicators/peels>

The table format accessible to screen reader users can be found on the IMAD website among the appendices to the current graphs of the week (Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia).

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