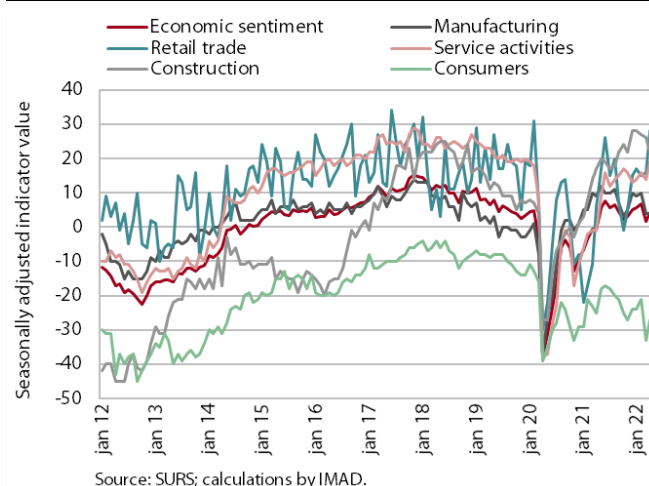


CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

19–22 April 2022

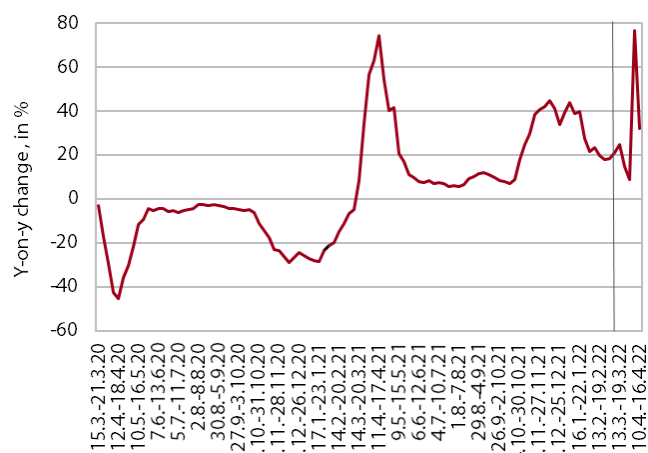
After the value of the sentiment indicator had fallen sharply in March, it rose slightly in April and was also higher year-on-year. The situation in the international environment (war in Ukraine, rising prices, and supply chain bottlenecks) affected confidence in manufacturing and among consumers, which was lower year-on-year. According to data on fiscal verification of invoices, turnover in the first half of April was much higher in nominal terms than a year ago due to lockdown in this period last year. The growth of Slovenian industrial producer prices accelerated in March and amounted to 17.9% year-on-year; prices went up in all industrial groups. Year-on-year growth of the number of persons in employment remained high in February; it was highest in accommodation and food service activities and in construction. Given the shortage of domestic labour, the number of foreign citizens in employment is increasing, with their share particularly high in construction, transportation and storage, and administrative and support service activities. Average wages in the public sector remained lower year-on-year for the fourth month in a row in February due to the cessation of epidemic-related allowances in the middle of last year. Year-on-year wage growth in the private sector (4.2%) was similar to the previous month and lower than in the final months of 2021, with the strongest growth in accommodation and food service activities, but also high in construction, and transportation and storage, which could already be due to labour shortages.

Economic sentiment, April 2022



After falling sharply in March, the value of the sentiment indicator rose again slightly in April and was also higher year-on-year. Confidence was significantly higher year-on-year in retail trade (by 22 p.p.) and in service activities (by 20 p.p.) and slightly higher in construction (by 5 p.p.). Year-on-year, confidence was slightly lower among consumers and in manufacturing (by 2 and 5 p.p. respectively). Confidence among consumers is most affected by rising prices and uncertainty about further price increases, which in turn affects expectations about the future financial situation of households, while confidence in manufacturing is strongly influenced by the situation in the international environment, most recently by the bottlenecks in the supply of raw materials, rising commodity and energy prices, and the Russian-Ukrainian war.

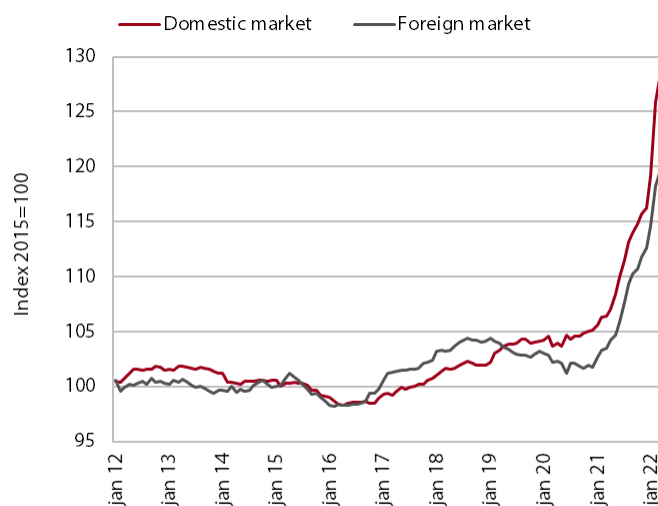
Turnover based on fiscal verification of invoices, in nominal terms, 3–16 April 2022



Source: FURS; calculations by IMAD. Up to the end of February 2022, 4-week moving averages are shown.

According to data on the fiscal verification of invoices, total turnover between 3 and 16 April 2022 was 50% higher year-on-year in nominal terms and 24% higher than in the same period of 2019. Year-on-year growth was much higher than the previous two weeks due to last year's low base as a result of the lockdown (between 1 and 11 April). It increased sharply in all three main trade segments (retail trade, wholesale trade and sale of motor vehicles). Growth was still high for activities that were almost completely shut down until the end of April last year (especially tourism-related services).

Slovenian industrial producer prices, March 2022

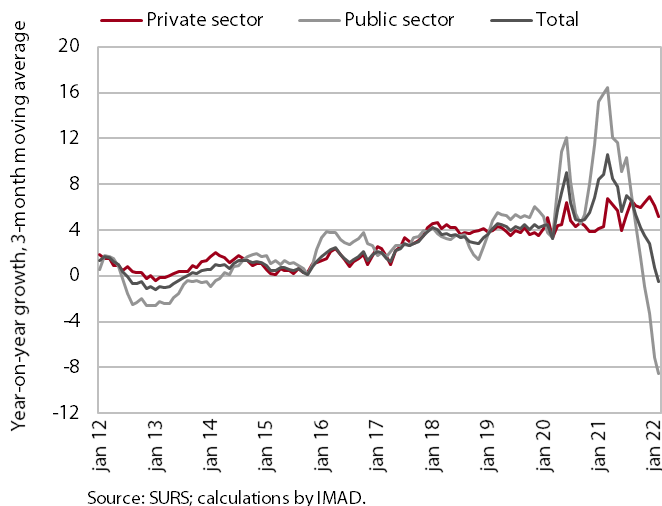


Source: SURS.

Growth of Slovenian industrial producer prices increased in March, reaching 17.9% year-on-year.

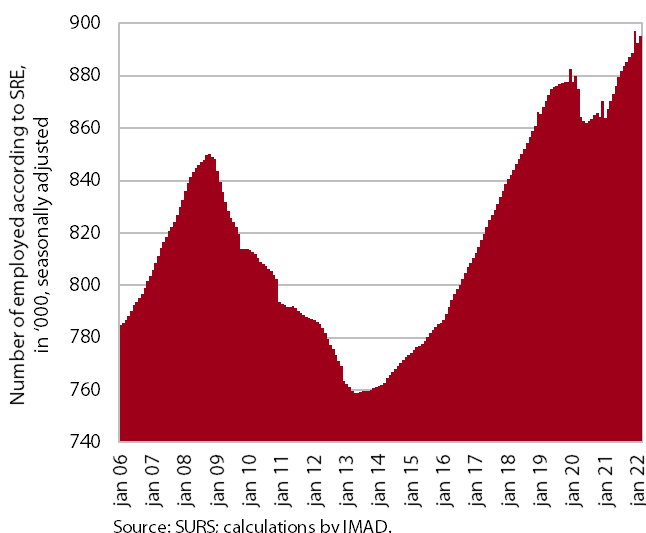
Prices increased year-on-year in all industrial groups. Growth was slightly stronger in the domestic market, where prices were about one fifth higher on average. Overall price growth continues to be driven mainly by intermediate goods, whose prices were 23.8% higher year-on-year. The strongest year-on-year increase was still recorded by energy prices, which rose by almost 55%, but their contribution to overall growth was lower due to their lower weight compared to intermediate goods. Capital goods prices increased by about 10% year-on-year in the first quarter of this year. Consumer goods prices continued to rise gradually, increasing by 7.1% year-on-year in March. Prices for the group of non-durable goods grew somewhat more strongly, by 7.4%, while prices for durable consumer goods rose by 6% year-on-year.

Wages, February 2022



In February, average wages in the public sector were 8.4% lower year-on-year, while they were 4.2% higher in the private sector (-1.0% overall). Due to the cessation of epidemic-related allowances, year-on-year wage growth in the public sector slowed significantly in the second half of last year and turned negative year-on-year last November.¹ Year-on-year growth in the private sector in February was similar to the previous month and lower than in the last few months of 2021, partly due to a relatively high base year-on-year (given a large increase in the minimum wage and the impact of the methodology used to calculate average wages). Growth was by far the highest in accommodation and food service activities and it was also high in construction, and transportation and storage, which could already be the consequence of labour shortages.

Labour market, February 2022



In February, the year-on-year growth in the number of persons in employment remained high (3.2%). It was the strongest in accommodation and food service activities and in construction. In the latter, the number of persons in employment was significantly higher than before the epidemic, while in the former it remained slightly below the level of two years ago. Amid economic recovery, growth in the number of persons in employment still depended largely on the employment of foreign workers, whose contribution to overall year-on-year growth was more than 50% in February. The share of foreigners among all persons in employment is also increasing, up 1.2 p.p. to 12.8% last year. This is largely related to the shortage of domestic labour, which is most pronounced in construction and administrative and support service activities (mainly due to a high job vacancy rate). The activities with the largest share of foreigners are construction (45%), transportation and storage (31%) and administrative and support service activities (24%).

¹ An important factor behind these developments is the declaration of the epidemic at the end of October 2020, which led to a significant increase in wages due to the payment of allowances.

Table: Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia

Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia	Date of release		Unit	Reference period					
	Latest	Next		2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4
GDP, real	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-1) ³	11.8	-0.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	5.4
	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-4)	-1.4	-3.1	1.5	16.1	5.0	10.4
Private consumption, real	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-1) ³	20.7	-11.0	4.1	4.3	10.9	2.2
	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-4)	1.4	-11.2	-1.1	17.9	7.2	22.9
Government consumption, real	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-1) ³	2.0	-1.1	2.1	1.4	0.9	2.4
	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-4)	5.0	3.5	1.2	4.4	3.2	7.0
Gross investment, real	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-1) ³	2.1	22.8	-3.7	11.9	-5.4	-0.9
	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-4)	-21.7	12.0	5.6	36.3	24.5	0.8
Exports of goods and services, real	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-1) ³	17.5	5.6	3.2	1.2	1.3	5.8
	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-4)	-8.9	-0.7	1.6	30.5	11.6	12.1
Imports of goods and services, real	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-1) ³	14.5	7.5	5.0	4.5	1.2	5.0
	28.02.2022	16.05.2022	% (Q/Q-4)	-12.2	-0.8	1.2	36.1	19.1	16.8
Trade balance ¹	13.04.2022	13.05.2022	EUR m	23.0	-227.1	-46.8	-248.7	:	:
Current account ¹	13.04.2022	13.05.2022	EUR m	135.1	-159.4	78.9	-217.9	:	:
Exports of goods, real ²	04.04.2022	05.05.2022	% (M/M-1) ⁴	3.3	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	:	:
	04.04.2022	05.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	13.8	17.3	7.4	3.6	:	:
Imports of goods, real ²	04.04.2022	05.05.2022	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-2.8	7.2	-2.1	4.6	:	:
	04.04.2022	05.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	-3.3	19.8	19.7	18.6	:	:
				2021 m 11	2021 m 12	2022 m 1	2022 m 2	2022 m 3	2022 m 4
Inflation (CPI)	31.03.2022	29.04.2022	% (M/M-1)	0.7	0.0	0.4	1.4	-1.1	:
	31.03.2022	29.04.2022	% (M/M-12)	4.6	4.9	5.8	6.9	5.4	:
				2021 m 11	2021 m 12	2022 m 1	2022 m 2	2022 m 3	2022 m 4
Gross earnings per employee – nominal	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-1)	10.5	-1.0	-6.8	0.2	:	:
	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	2.8	2.1	-2.7	-1.0	:	:
- private sector	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-1)	13.4	-2.2	-7.6	1.6	:	:
	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	7.1	7.8	3.4	4.2	:	:
- public sector	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-1)	5.4	1.5	-5.2	-2.4	:	:
	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	-4.2	-6.3	-10.8	-8.4	:	:
- of which government sector	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-1)	0.5	4.8	-3.2	-3.0	:	:
	22.04.2022	23.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	-8.5	-8.2	-13.3	-10.8	:	:
				2021 m 11	2021 m 12	2022 m 1	2022 m 2	2022 m 3	2022 m 4
Employed persons	19.04.2022	17.05.2022	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.2	0.9	-0.5	0.3	:	:
	19.04.2022	17.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.2	:	:
Registered unemployed persons	05.04.2022	05.05.2022	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-2.7	-3.0	-2.7	-2.3	-2.0	:
	05.04.2022	05.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	-22.3	-24.4	-25.9	-26.4	-26.7	:
Registered unemployment rate	19.04.2022	17.05.2022	%	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.6	:	:
				2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4
Employment, LFS	28.02.2022	31.05.2022	% (Q/Q-1) ⁵	0.4	1.2	-4.9	4.8	1.1	-1.0
	28.02.2022	31.05.2022	% (Q/Q-4)	-0.3	0.4	-5.5	1.1	1.9	-0.3
ILO unemployment rate, LFS	28.02.2022	31.05.2022	%	5.1	5.1	5.6	4.3	4.5	4.5
				2021 m 11	2021 m 12	2022 m 1	2022 m 2	2022 m 3	2022 m 4
Industrial producer prices, domestic market	21.04.2022	20.05.2022	% (M/M-1)	0.8	0.4	2.5	5.7	1.7	0.0
	21.04.2022	20.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	10.1	10.6	12.8	18.4	20.3	0.0
Production volume in manufacturing, real	11.04.2022	10.05.2022	% (M/M-1) ³	3.2	1.1	-1.2	-2.3	:	:
	11.04.2022	10.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	9.4	15.8	10.8	2.4	:	:
Construction, real value of construction output	15.04.2022	13.05.2022	% (M/M-1) ³	3.8	-3.6	22.0	8.4	:	:
	15.04.2022	13.05.2022	% (M/M-12)	-13.7	-9.7	15.7	32.3	:	:
Turnover in trade, real	29.03.2022	28.04.2022	% (M/M-1) ³	5.5	-1.4	-1.2	:	:	:
	29.03.2022	28.04.2022	% (M/M-12)	23.6	24.4	22.3	:	:	:
Real turnover in market services	30.03.2022	29.04.2022	% (M/M-1) ³	1.2	-1.9	-0.7	:	:	:
	30.03.2022	29.04.2022	% (M/M-12)	17.9	20.8	25.5	:	:	:
				2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
General government deficit/surplus (ESA 2010)	31.03.2022	30.09.2022	% BDP	-1.9	-0.1	0.7	0.4	-7.8	-5.2
Consolidated gross general government debt (ESA 2010)	31.03.2022	30.09.2022	% BDP	78.5	74.2	70.3	65.6	79.8	74.7
				2021 m 11	2021 m 12	2022 m 1	2022 m 2	2022 m 3	2022 m 3
Economic sentiment indicator ⁵ , seasonally adjusted	22.04.2022	25.05.2022	% ³	3.0	5.0	5.5	6.7	1.6	4.3
				2021 m 11	2021 m 12	2022 m 1	2022 m 2	2022 m 3	2022 m 4
EURIBOR, 3-month	Beginning of the month *		%	-0.5674	-0.5820	-0.5601	-0.5323	-0.4967	:
Long-term government bond yields	Beginning of the month		%	0.2300	0.2600	0.4400	0.8400	1.1700	:
Exchange rate, USD to EUR	Beginning of the month		US\$	1.1414	1.1304	1.1314	1.1342	1.1019	:

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 euro area)

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