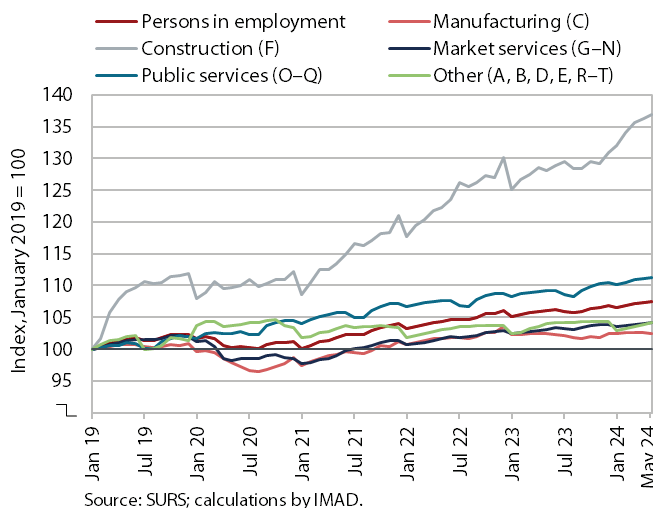


CHARTS OF THE WEEK

15–18 July 2024

In May, the year-on-year growth in number of persons in employment (1.3%) remained similar to the first four months of the year and was higher than at the end of last year (a methodological change in the definition of persons in employment was introduced in January). This growth continued to be driven mainly by the hiring of foreigners, who accounted for 15.8% of the total labour force in May and as much as 50% in construction. Construction activity remained largely unchanged in May, while in the first five months, it was lower year-on-year. The volume of road freight transport rose again slightly in the first quarter of 2024, while the volume of rail transport declined. Both were lower than a year ago. The current account surplus continues to widen, especially on the back of higher surplus in goods trade.

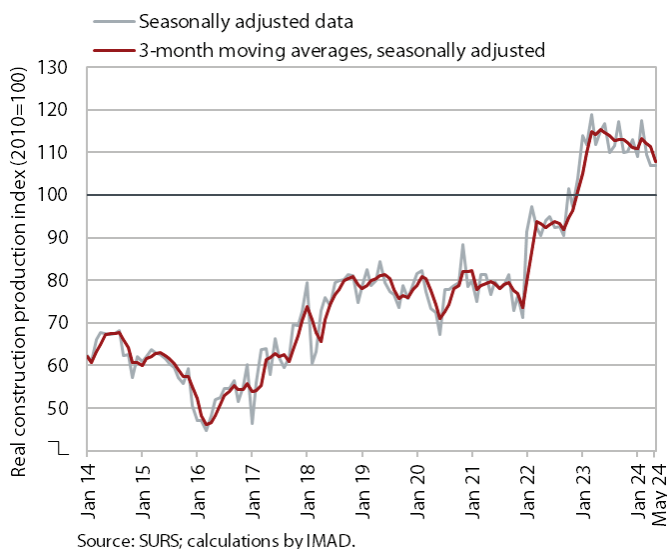
Number of persons in employment, May 2024



In May, the number of persons in employment (1.3%) remained similar to the first four months and higher than at the end of last year. This year's acceleration was mainly due to a change in the definition of persons in employment at the beginning of the year, which now also includes workers posted abroad.¹ Growth was still the highest in construction, which faces great labour shortages, and where data was impacted by the aforementioned change of definition. The increase in the overall number of persons in employment was due to a higher number of employed foreign nationals, while the number of employed Slovenian citizens fell. The share of foreign citizens among all persons in employment was 15.8% in May, 1.4 p.p. higher than a year earlier. Notably, the activities with the largest shares of foreign workers were construction (50%), transportation and storage (34%) and administrative and support service activities (29%).

¹ Inclusion of individuals posted to work or undergo training abroad and caregivers of family members among the persons in employment at the beginning of 2024. According to SURS data, just over 6,900 persons were posted to work or undergo training abroad at the end of 2023. These persons will most likely become persons in paid employment when their existing insurance basis expires (as of January 2024, there were just under 4,600 posted workers remaining). The effect of the changed definition is the largest in construction and among foreign nationals (see SURS <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/news/Index/12740>). According to our estimate, they contribute about a half to the total year-on-year growth.

Activity in construction, May 2024

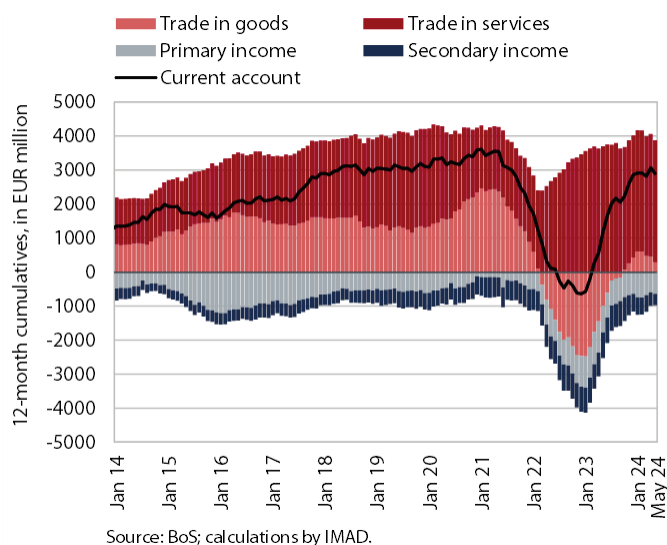


According to data on the value of construction work put in place, construction activity remained largely unchanged in May, although it was lower year-on-year.

After experiencing high growth at the beginning of last year, the value of construction work put in place gradually declined amid monthly fluctuations. In May this year, construction activity was 7% lower compared to the same month last year. The largest year-on-year decline was recorded in civil engineering (by 10%). Activity also decreased in the construction of buildings and specialised construction activities.

This lower construction put in place is (partly) related to government investment activity. *Capital expenditure* (according to the consolidated general government budgetary accounts) was slightly higher in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year (by 3% in nominal terms). Expenditure on *new construction, reconstruction, and renovation* was 24% lower.

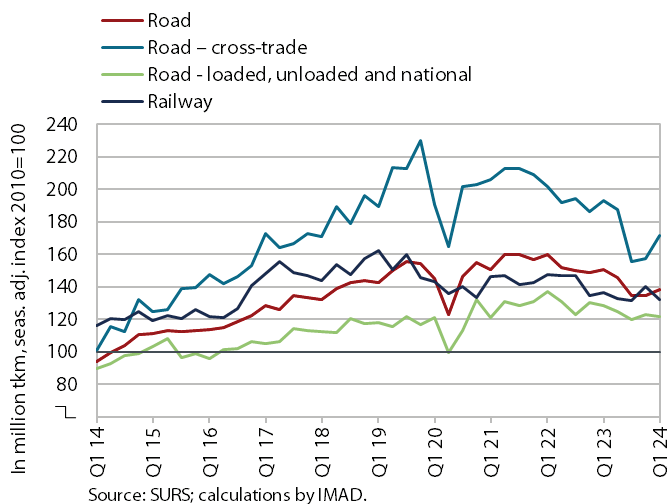
Current account of the balance of payments, May 2024



The 12-month current account surplus increased compared to the previous 12-month period, reaching EUR 2.9 billion (4.3% of estimated GDP).

The main reason for the year-on-year higher surplus was the goods trade surplus, as imports of goods have fallen more sharply than exports. Services surplus in the last 12 months was lower year-on-year, due to deterioration in the balance of trade in travel services. Expenditure of Slovenian tourists abroad has increased much more (by EUR 0.5 billion) than the income from foreign tourists travelling to Slovenia (by EUR 0.2 billion). Net outflows of primary and secondary income were lower year-on-year. The primary income deficit decreased mainly due to higher net interest receipts by the Bank of Slovenia from deposits in foreign accounts. The secondary income deficit decreased due to higher net positive transfers to the government sector from abroad (funds for current international cooperation from the EU budget) and higher private sector transfers (payments of non-life insurance premiums).

Road and rail freight transport, Q1 2024



The volume of road freight transport increased slightly again in the first quarter of 2024, while the volume of rail transport declined. The increase in the volume of road transport performed by Slovenian vehicles (by 3%) was mainly due to the growth in cross-trade, which increased by almost 9%, while road traffic performed at least partially on Slovenian territory (exports, imports and national transport) fell slightly. The volume of road goods transport fell by 8% year-on-year and was still slightly more than 1% lower compared to the first quarter of 2019. Despite a slight improvement, the share of cross-trade in total transport (about 43%) is still a few percentage points below the pre-COVID-19 levels. Rail freight transport, which had increased sharply at the end of last year, fell in the first quarter of 2024 (by 6%) and was 3% lower year-on-year and almost 18% lower compared to the same quarter of 2019.

Table: Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia

The table format accessible to screen reader users can be found on the IMAD website among the appendices to the current charts of the week.

Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia	Date of release		Unit	Reference period					
	Latest	Next		2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4	2024 Q1
	GDP, real	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-1) ³	0.3	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.9
	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-4)	-0.2	1.1	1.7	1.3	2.2	2.1
Private consumption, real	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-1) ³	0.2	1.0	-0.4	0.3	0.4	0.1
	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-4)	0.0	3.4	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.9
Government consumption, real	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-1) ³	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.8	1.2
	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-4)	-1.6	-1.0	3.2	2.4	4.8	5.1
Gross investment, real	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-1) ³	2.3	-3.3	-6.6	4.0	2.0	1.9
	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-4)	1.9	-16.0	-13.9	-3.9	-4.2	0.9
Exports of goods and services, real	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-1) ³	-5.6	0.8	-0.8	-2.3	0.8	2.4
	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-4)	-1.3	4.0	-0.4	-8.6	-2.3	-0.6
Imports of goods and services, real	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-1) ³	-4.0	-0.5	-2.5	-3.0	3.1	3.4
	15.05.2024	14.08.2024	% (Q/Q-4)	-1.1	-0.4	-5.0	-10.6	-4.0	-0.9
				2024 m 1	2024 m 2	2024 m 3	2024 m 4	2024 m 5	2024 m 6
Trade balance ¹	15.07.2024	13.08.2024	EUR m	117.9	-55.1	62.5	30.8	50.9	:
Current account ¹	15.07.2024	13.08.2024	EUR m	247.8	130.3	303.2	383.4	365.0	:
Exports of goods, real ²	05.07.2024	02.08.2024	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.1	-2.4	0.2	1.0	-3.5	:
	05.07.2024	02.08.2024	% (M/M-12)	3.0	1.9	-6.2	13.8	-5.0	:
Imports of goods, real ²	05.07.2024	02.08.2024	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-0.8	2.9	-3.4	1.3	-5.6	:
	05.07.2024	02.08.2024	% (M/M-12)	-1.6	3.8	-5.4	14.1	-2.6	:
				2024 m 1	2024 m 2	2024 m 3	2024 m 4	2024 m 5	2024 m 6
Inflation (CPI)	28.06.2024	31.07.2024	% (M/M-1)	-0.6	0.8	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.4
	28.06.2024	31.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.0	2.5	1.5
				2024 m 1	2024 m 2	2024 m 3	2024 m 4	2024 m 5	2024 m 6
Gross earnings per employee – real	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-1)	-0.7	-2.4	2.1	-0.5	:	:
	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	4.6	3.4	2.7	4.3	:	:
- private sector	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-1)	0.6	-1.6	1.9	-0.5	:	:
	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	5.5	3.9	3.5	7.3	:	:
- public sector	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-1)	-3.2	-4.0	2.5	-0.8	:	:
	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	3.0	2.4	1.3	-1.2	:	:
- of which government sector	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-1)	-2.1	-3.8	1.2	0.3	:	:
	21.06.2024	22.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	2.3	1.6	2.4	-2.0	:	:
				2024 m 1	2024 m 2	2024 m 3	2024 m 4	2024 m 5	2024 m 6
Employed persons	16.07.2024	19.08.2024	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	:
	16.07.2024	19.08.2024	% (M/M-12)	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	:
Registered unemployed persons	03.07.2024	05.08.2024	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.4	-1.0	-0.9	-1.0	-0.7	-0.3
	03.07.2024	05.08.2024	% (M/M-12)	-6.8	-6.9	-6.9	-7.0	-6.6	-6.1
Registered unemployment rate	16.07.2024	19.08.2024	%	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.4	:
				2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4	2024 Q1
Employment, LFS	27.05.2024	26.08.2024	% (Q/Q-1) ⁵	-0.5	-0.3	1.4	-0.9	1.4	1.3
	27.05.2024	26.08.2024	% (Q/Q-4)	0.1	-0.8	0.9	-0.4	1.5	3.2
ILO unemployment rate, LFS	27.05.2024	26.08.2024	%	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.4
				2024 m 1	2024 m 2	2024 m 3	2024 m 4	2024 m 5	2024 m 6
Industrial producer prices, domestic market	21.06.2024	19.07.2024	% (M/M-1)	-0.2	-1.1	-0.1	0.1	0.1	:
	21.06.2024	19.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	0.3	-3.4	-3.7	-3.8	-3.0	:
Production volume in manufacturing, real	10.07.2024	09.08.2024	% (M/M-1) ³	9.7	2.4	-6.7	9.8	-7.5	:
	10.07.2024	09.08.2024	% (M/M-12)	-1.7	3.0	-6.7	13.5	-4.8	:
Construction, real value of construction output	15.07.2024	14.08.2024	% (M/M-1) ³	-3.5	7.6	-6.7	-2.4	-0.1	:
	15.07.2024	14.08.2024	% (M/M-12)	-4.2	5.6	-7.7	-4.9	-7.4	:
Turnover in trade, real	27.06.2024	29.07.2024	% (M/M-1) ³	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	2.2	:	:
	27.06.2024	29.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	-0.1	4.9	-3.8	10.7	:	:
Real turnover in market services	28.06.2024	31.07.2024	% (M/M-1) ³	0.2	-2.4	1.0	-0.5	:	:
	28.06.2024	31.07.2024	% (M/M-12)	6.1	1.5	-2.9	6.8	:	:
				2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
General government deficit/surplus (ESA 2010)	29.03.2024	30.09.2024	% BDP	0.7	0.7	-7.6	-4.6	-3.0	-2.5
Consolidated gross general government debt (ESA 2010)	29.03.2024	30.09.2024	% BDP	70.3	65.4	79.6	74.4	72.3	69.2
				2024 m 1	2024 m 2	2024 m 3	2024 m 4	2024 m 5	2024 m 6
Economic sentiment indicator ² , seasonally adjusted	21.06.2024	25.07.2024	% ³	-3.1	-3.2	-4.1	-2.0	-2.3	-2.0
				2024 m 1	2024 m 2	2024 m 3	2024 m 4	2024 m 5	2024 m 6
EURIBOR, 3-month	Beginning of the month *		%	3.925	3.923	3.922	3.886	3.814	3.725
Long-term government bond yields	Beginning of the month		%	3.07	3.23	3.18	3.23	3.28	3.33
Exchange rate, USD to EUR	Beginning of the month		US\$	1.091	1.080	1.087	1.073	1.081	1.076

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

Notes: ¹Balance of payments statistics of the BoS. ²External trade statistics SURS. Deflation by IMAD. Exports and imports are adjusted for the estimate of goods processing in connection with the trade in pharmaceutical products with Switzerland.

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>