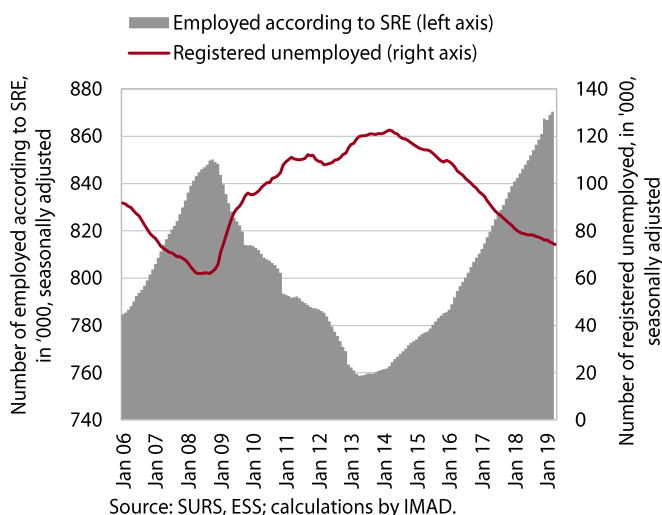


CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

13 – 17 May 2019

In the first quarter, favourable labour market developments continued; employment increased and the growth of wages strengthened. The construction sector recorded further growth in both the construction of civil-engineering works and the construction of buildings; the indicators of future activity in construction are favourable as well.

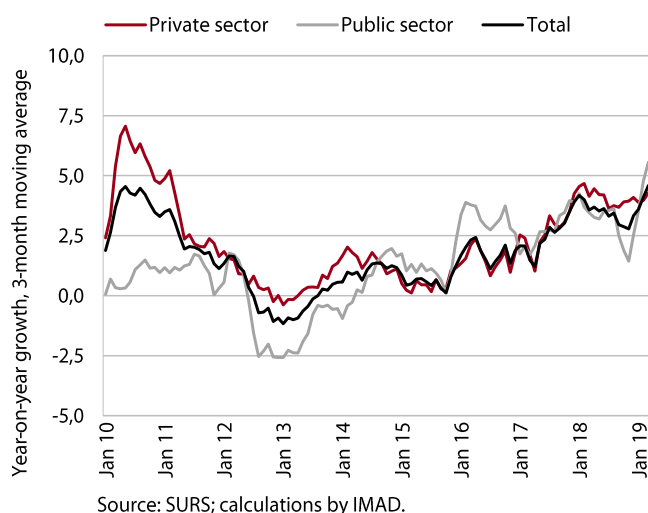
Labour market, March – April 2019



Labour market conditions continued to improve at the beginning of the year.

In the first quarter, the number of employed persons increased further – the most in construction, transportation and manufacturing. Labour market conditions continued to be marked by labour shortages amid high demand for labour, which is also indicated by the high job vacancy rate and increased hiring of foreigners. In the first four months, the number of registered unemployed declined further, though more slowly than in previous years amid the already low level of unemployment. At the end of April, 73,965 persons were registered as unemployed, 5.8% fewer than in the same period of 2018.

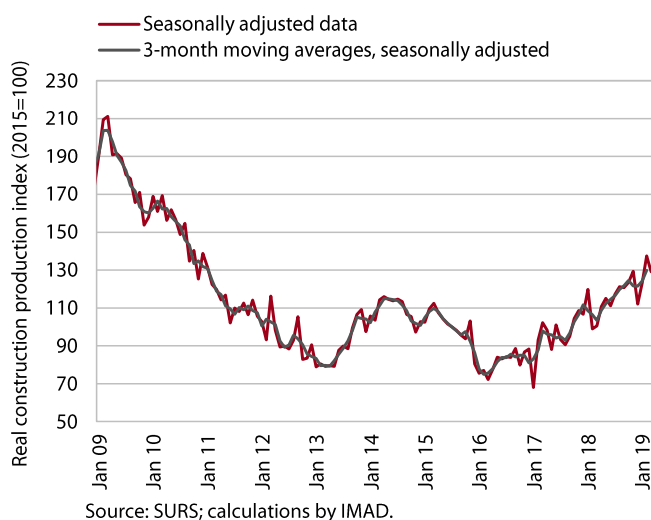
Wages, March 2019



Wage growth strengthened in the first three months of this year, in line with expectations.

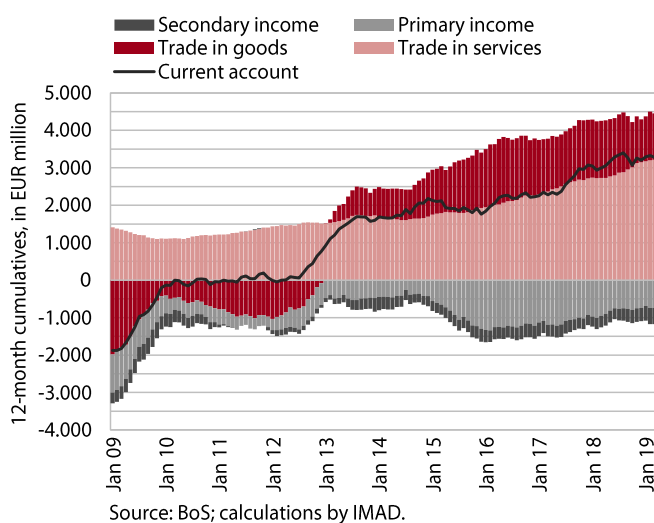
Wage growth in the private sector was – in addition to economic and demographic factors (good business results and gradual productivity growth, labour shortages and thus upward pressure on wages) – also due to the increase in the minimum wage. Wages rose the most in sectors that face the greatest labour shortages and have a high share of minimum wage recipients, i.e. trade, accommodation and food service activities and administrative and support service activities. Wage growth in the public sector, on the other hand, was mainly a consequence of strong wage growth in the government sector owing to the agreed wage rises at the end of last year; to some extent, it was also due to the increase in the minimum wage.

Construction, March 2019



In the first quarter, construction activity increased further, with considerable monthly fluctuations. After February's strong growth, the value of construction output declined in March, but remained high. The first quarter recorded further growth in the construction of civil-engineering works, driven by higher investment by the government, municipalities and infrastructure companies. Further growth was also recorded in the construction of buildings. In residential construction, this was related to the strong demand for flats and the low construction of flats in previous years, while growth in non-residential construction was mainly due to good business results. The vigorous growth in activity, amid signs of labour shortages, is also reflected in pressures on prices: price growth in construction has not been so high since 2008. The values of the indicators of contracts, which suggest future activity in construction, also strengthened at the beginning of the year, the most in residential construction.

Current account, March 2019



In the first quarter, the current account surplus widened further year-on-year. The year-on-year increase arose mainly from a higher surplus in trade in goods and services. This was attributable primarily to volume factors (higher growth in exports than imports), while growth in import prices exceeded growth in export prices (deterioration in the terms of trade). The surplus also strengthened owing to a further narrowing of the deficit in primary income, particularly net interest receipts. This was a consequence of lower government debt servicing costs and a net inflow of interest into the private sector due to a considerable decline in external debt of commercial banks and increased financial investment in foreign securities. The higher net outflows of secondary income were marked particularly by higher VAT- and GNI-based payments into the EU budget in the first quarter of the year

Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia	Date of release		Unit	Reference period					
	Latest	Next		2017 Q3	2017 Q4	2018 Q1	2018 Q2	2018 Q3	2018 Q4
GDP, real	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-1) ³	0.9	2.2	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.8
	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-4)	4.2	6.3	4.8	4.1	5.0	4.1
Private consumption, real	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-1) ³	1.2	1.2	0.2	-0.3	0.4	1.4
	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-4)	1.6	3.2	3.9	1.8	1.2	2.1
Government consumption, real	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-1) ³	0.1	1.1	0.2	3.5	-2.2	0.1
	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-4)	-0.2	1.3	1.2	4.9	2.6	1.5
Gross investment, real	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-1) ³	-2.5	7.6	4.2	-0.9	5.2	1.3
	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-4)	7.7	15.3	16.1	7.7	16.9	10.0
Exports of goods and services, real	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-1) ³	4.0	2.5	0.1	2.6	0.3	3.0
	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-4)	12.1	12.7	8.0	8.6	5.4	6.8
Imports of goods and services, real	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-1) ³	3.6	2.8	1.2	1.7	0.0	2.8
	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-4)	10.9	11.8	10.2	8.9	5.5	6.6
				2018 m 11	2018 m 12	2019 m 1	2019 m 2	2019 m 3	2019 m 4
Trade balance ¹	14.05.2019	13.06.2019	EUR m	89.6	-82.9	130.6	160.1	127.6	:
Current account ¹	14.05.2019	13.06.2019	EUR m	246.5	98.1	322.6	181.1	255.5	:
Exports of goods, real ²	10.05.2019	07.06.2019	% (M/M-1) ⁴	1.9	-2.3	6.9	-0.5	-3.1	:
	10.05.2019	07.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	8.2	0.8	11.1	10.3	5.5	:
Imports of goods, real ²	10.05.2019	07.06.2019	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-2.4	2.2	3.5	-2.4	0.2	:
	10.05.2019	07.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	6.9	5.6	8.2	8.1	7.8	:
				2018 m 11	2018 m 12	2019 m 1	2019 m 2	2019 m 3	2019 m 4
Inflation (CPI)	30.04.2019	31.05.2019	% (M/M-1)	0.1	-0.6	-1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8
	30.04.2019	31.05.2019	% (M/M-12)	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.7
				2018 m 11	2018 m 12	2019 m 1	2019 m 2	2019 m 3	2019 m 4
Gross earnings per employee – nominal	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-1)	8.1	-1.7	-3.0	-0.8	2.2	:
	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	3.2	3.4	4.2	4.7	4.9	:
- private sector	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-1)	11.2	-4.8	-3.6	-0.2	1.9	:
	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	4.2	3.4	4.1	4.5	4.3	:
- public sector	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-1)	2.8	4.2	-2.0	-2.0	2.8	:
	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	1.7	4.0	4.9	5.4	6.3	:
- of which government sector	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-1)	0.7	2.8	2.7	-1.1	0.4	:
	15.05.2019	17.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	1.0	2.5	6.3	6.2	6.6	:
				2018 m 11	2018 m 12	2019 m 1	2019 m 2	2019 m 3	2019 m 4
Employed persons	16.05.2019	18.06.2019	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.3	0.8	-0.1	0.3	0.2	:
	16.05.2019	18.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	2.9	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.1	:
Registered unemployed persons	07.05.2019	05.06.2019	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-0.6	-0.9	0.1	-1.0	-0.8	-0.7
	07.05.2019	05.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	-7.7	-7.7	-5.8	-5.8	-5.8	-5.8
Registered unemployment rate	16.05.2019	18.06.2019	%	7.9	8.1	8.6	8.4	7.9	:
				2017 Q3	2017 Q4	2018 Q1	2018 Q2	2018 Q3	2018 Q4
Employment, LFS	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-1) ⁵	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.5
	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	% (Q/Q-4)	5.5	5.2	3.1	3.0	1.7	1.2
ILO unemployment rate, LFS	28.02.2019	31.05.2019	%	6.3	5.8	5.9	5.2	5.0	4.4
				2018 m 11	2018 m 12	2019 m 1	2019 m 2	2019 m 3	2019 m 4
Industrial producer prices, domestic market	19.04.2019	21.05.2019	% (M/M-1)	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.3	:
	19.04.2019	21.05.2019	% (M/M-12)	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	:
Production volume in manufacturing, real	10.05.2019	10.06.2019	% (M/M-1) ³	-0.2	-2.1	5.7	-1.1	-0.6	:
	10.05.2019	10.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	2.7	-2.5	5.8	4.6	0.7	:
Construction, real value of construction output	15.05.2019	14.06.2019	% (M/M-1) ³	4.8	-13.4	10.0	11.6	-6.1	:
	15.05.2019	14.06.2019	% (M/M-12)	19.5	4.3	2.9	39.2	28.2	:
Turnover in trade, real	26.04.2019	31.05.2019	% (M/M-1) ³	0.2	0.9	0.2	2.0	:	:
	26.04.2019	31.05.2019	% (M/M-12)	9.2	10.0	10.5	14.7	:	:
Nominal turnover in market services	26.04.2019	27.05.2019	% (M/M-1) ³	-0.8	0.5	1.2	2.1	:	:
	26.04.2019	27.05.2019	% (M/M-12)	7.7	5.7	8.0	11.4	:	:
				2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
General government deficit/surplus (ESA 2010)	29.03.2018	30.09.2018	% BDP	-14.7	-5.5	-2.8	-1.9	0.0	0.7
Consolidated gross general government debt (ESA)	29.03.2018	30.09.2018	% BDP	70.4	80.4	82.6	78.7	74.1	70.1
				2018 m 11	2018 m 12	2019 m 1	2019 m 2	2019 m 3	2019 m 4
Economic sentiment indicator ⁵ , seasonally adjusted	25.04.2019	24.05.2019	% ³	9.9	10.9	12.2	9.0	9.0	6.9
				2018 m 11	2018 m 12	2019 m 1	2019 m 2	2019 m 3	2019 m 4
EURIBOR, 3-month	Beginning of the month *	%		-0.316	-0.312	-0.308	-0.308	-0.309	-0.311
Long-term government bond yields	Beginning of the month	%		1.13	1.07	1.06	0.99	0.81	0.67
Exchange rate, USD to EUR	Beginning of the month	US\$		1.1367	1.1384	1.1416	1.1351	1.1302	1.1238

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/pees>