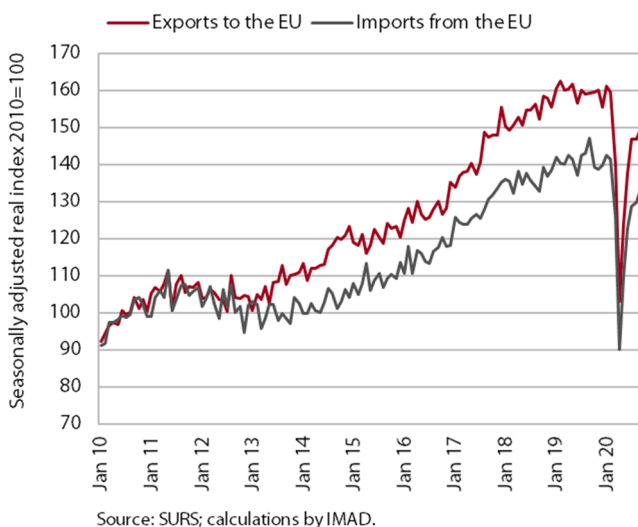


CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

7–11 December 2020

In October the export-oriented part of the economy was not yet significantly affected by the renewed spread of the COVID-19 epidemic in Slovenia and its main trading partners. Both goods exports and manufacturing production increased further; the most modest recovery was still recorded in industries and goods related to the automotive industry. Data from the beginning of December on electricity consumption and freight traffic on Slovenian motorways confirm that industry has been less affected in the second wave of the epidemic than the service sector, which is subject to similar containment measures to those that were in place during the spring wave. Registered unemployment has remained at a similar level since October, which, in addition to the partial adaptation of businesses and consumers to different ways of operation, is mainly due to the extension of intervention measures and a smaller decline in economic activity than during the first wave.

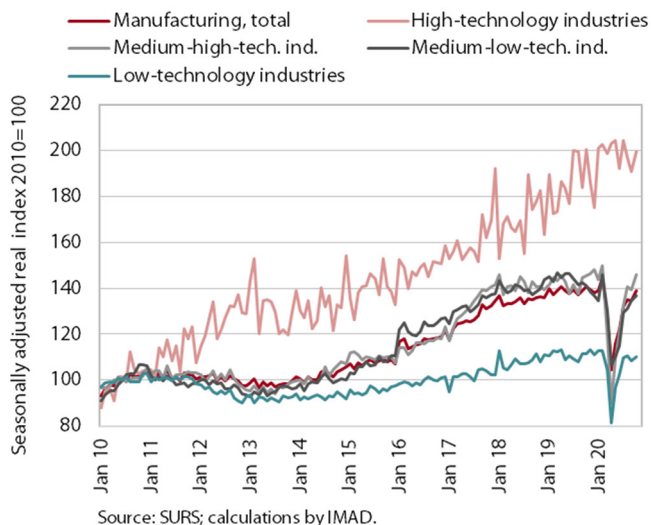
Exports and imports of goods, October 2020



Goods trade continued to recover in October. The renewed spread of the epidemic in Slovenia and its main trading partners had a significantly smaller impact on export activity than in the spring, as goods exports to EU countries in particular recovered in October, where they were still lower year on year. A recovery was recorded for most main product groups (especially electrical equipment and industrial machinery).¹ However, the recovery of exports of products related to the automotive industry has slowed in recent months. Imports of goods also increased (particularly of intermediate goods), but they also remained significantly lower year on year. Exports expectations deteriorated in November, which points to a decline in goods trade by the end of the year, but enterprises are nevertheless more optimistic about future foreign demand than during the first wave in the spring.

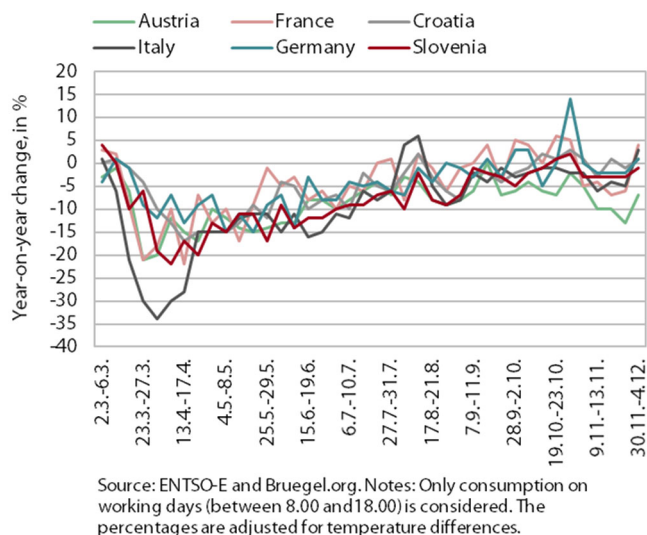
¹ Detailed data by sections of SITC are available until September 2020.

Production volume in manufacturing, October 2020



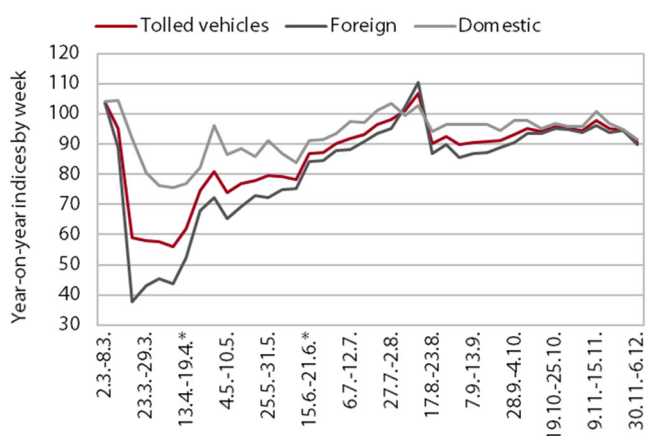
After a rebound in the third quarter, manufacturing production increased further in most industries in October. In the last months the recovery has been strongest in medium-high-technology industries, which have reached the levels from the beginning of this year, i.e. before the beginning of the epidemic. We estimate that this has mainly been due to the manufacture of machinery and equipment (which has also exceeded last year's production levels) and the manufacture of electrical equipment. The recovery still lags behind in motor vehicle manufacturing (where the lag behind last year's levels remains among the largest) and in some industries of lower technological intensity, which are suppliers in the automotive industry (particularly the metal industry).

Electricity consumption, December 2020



In the first week of December, the y-o-y decline in weekly electricity consumption was, as over the whole period of the second wave of the epidemic, significantly smaller than in the spring. Electricity consumption was 1% lower year on year (at the end of April and the beginning of May by around 5%). The smaller decline is mainly attributable to a lower fall in activity in industry than in the first wave of the epidemic. In our main trading partners the y-o-y fall was, as for several weeks, largest in Austria (7%). In others consumption exceeded last year's level, in France and Italy by around 3% and in Germany and Croatia by 1%.

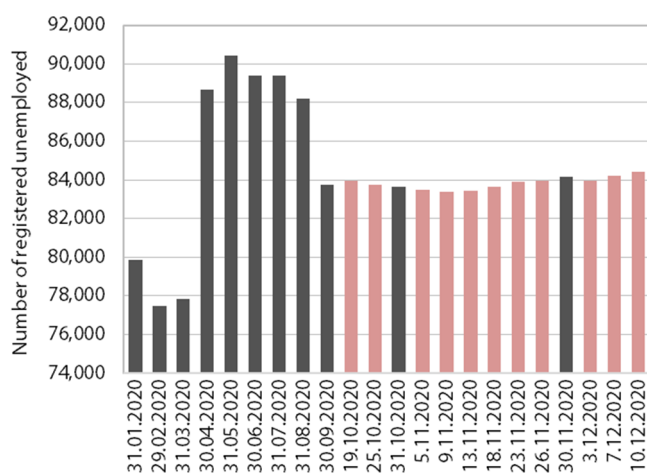
Traffic of electronically tolled vehicles on Slovenian motorways, December 2020



Source: Internal reports obtained from DARS. Note: *Owing to a different number of working days, we adjusted the dataset by excluding some days from the calculation, but the comparison nevertheless remains somewhat uncertain.

At the beginning of December, freight traffic on Slovenian motorways² again fell slightly more below the pre-epidemic level, which can be largely attributed to snow. In the week between 30 November and 6 December it was 9% below last year's level, similarly for foreign and domestic hauliers. The smaller deterioration in comparison with the previous week is not so much due to the impact of restrictions in trade and accommodation and food service activities, but rather to worse weather and driving conditions, because if the day when the traffic flow was affected by snow and several accidents is excluded from the comparison, the data did not deteriorate significantly.

Registered unemployment, December 2020



Source: ESS. Note: Pink columns show daily (unofficial) data; grey columns show official data at the end of the month.

Amid the restrictions particularly on business operations in service activities since mid-October, in the middle of December the number of registered unemployed persons remained at almost the same level as in the previous three months. Following the strong growth in the first wave of the epidemic, the number of registered unemployed persons has been gradually falling since mid-year after the adoption of intervention job retention measures and the lifting of restrictions. Since mid-October, when the second wave of the epidemic was declared, the number has remained at a similar level, which, in addition to the partial adaptation of businesses and consumers to different ways of operation, is to a great extent due to the extension of intervention measures and a smaller decline in economic activity than in the first wave. According to ESS unofficial (daily) data, 84,440 persons were unemployed on 10 December, which is 0.4% more than at the end of November and around 12% more than in the same period last year.

² Measured in kilometres driven.

Table: Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia

Selected macroeconomic indicators for Slovenia	Date of release		Unit	Reference period					
	Latest	Next		2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3
GDP, real	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	% (O/O-1) ³	0.0	0.9	0.4	-4.7	-9.8	12.4
	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-1)3	% (Q/Q-4)	3.3	3.1	2.0	-2.4	-13.0	-2.6
Private consumption, real	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	% (Q/Q-1) ³	1.2	0.3	-0.2	-7.9	-10.6	20.0
	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-1)3	% (Q/Q-4)	6.6	5.8	2.2	-6.3	-17.4	-0.9
Government consumption, real	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	% (O/O-1) ³	0.4	0.3	-1.0	4.4	-4.5	2.7
	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-1)3	% (Q/Q-4)	2.4	2.5	-0.3	4.1	-1.1	1.4
Gross investment, real	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	% (O/O-1) ³	-1.7	7.2	-6.1	-2.3	-8.2	-4.1
	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-1)3	% (Q/Q-4)	-2.4	5.8	-1.3	-2.2	-10.5	-19.6
Exports of goods and services, real	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	% (Q/Q-1) ³	0.9	-0.5	-0.4	-1.9	-21.3	16.8
	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-1)3	% (Q/Q-4)	5.4	4.9	1.1	-1.0	-23.4	-9.5
Imports of goods and services, real	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	% (O/O-1) ³	0.7	-0.1	-2.3	-0.7	-21.6	13.0
	00.01.1900	00.01.1900	% (Q/Q-4)	6.0	7.6	-0.3	-1.9	-24.2	-13.1
Trade balance¹	13.11.2020	14.12.2020	EUR m	285.6	371.2	108.1	317.9	:	:
Current account¹	13.11.2020	14.12.2020	EUR m	326.1	415.3	144.5	416.6	:	:
Exports of goods, real²	10.12.2020	08.01.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	8.5	5.6	0.5	2.0	4.9	:
	10.12.2020	08.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	0.1	-2.1	-3.6	0.5	3.0	:
Imports of goods, real²	10.12.2020	08.01.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	14.1	3.0	4.9	-9.0	7.5	:
	10.12.2020	08.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	1.2	-6.9	4.4	-8.3	-4.6	:
				2020 m 6	2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11
Inflation (CPI)	30.11.2020	30.12.2020	% (M/M-1)	1.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	0.3	-0.8
	30.11.2020	30.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	-0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.9
				2020 m 6	2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11
Gross earnings per employee – nominal	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-1)	-4.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.7	:	:
	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	5.5	4.3	5.0	5.1	:	:
- private sector	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-1)	-3.3	1.4	1.1	-1.3	:	:
	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	4.2	3.7	5.1	5.2	:	:
- public sector	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-1)	-4.6	-2.3	-1.7	0.3	:	:
	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	7.1	4.8	4.4	4.5	:	:
- of which government sector	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-1)	-5.1	-2.5	-2.6	0.9	:	:
	16.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	9.3	7.2	5.9	5.3	:	:
				2020 m 6	2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11
Employed persons	17.11.2020	16.12.2020	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	:	:
	17.11.2020	16.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.4	:	:
Registered unemployed persons	03.12.2020	06.01.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0.0	-1.0	-0.9	-1.8	-2.3	-0.1
	03.12.2020	06.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	26.3	24.4	23.2	20.0	15.5	16.2
Registered unemployment rate	17.11.2020	16.12.2020	%	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	:	:
				2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3
Employment, LFS	27.11.2020	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-1) ⁵	0.3	-1.3	0.5	0.9	-2.2	0.7
	27.11.2020	26.02.2021	% (Q/Q-4)	0.7	-0.8	-0.4	0.4	-2.3	-0.3
ILO unemployment rate, LFS	27.11.2020	26.02.2021	%	4.2	4.8	4.0	4.6	5.2	5.1
				2020 m 6	2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11
Industrial producer prices, domestic market	20.11.2020	21.12.2020	% (M/M-1)	0.9	-0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	:
	20.11.2020	21.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9	:
Production volume in manufacturing, real	10.12.2020	11.01.2021	% (M/M-1)3	5.3	8.1	2.1	-0.1	3.3	:
	10.12.2020	11.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	-4.7	-5.7	-2.0	-0.2	-1.6	:
Construction, real value of construction output	13.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-1)3	-7.3	12.3	2.2	2.6	:	:
	13.11.2020	15.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	-15.8	-2.1	4.3	7.9	:	:
Turnover in trade, real	27.11.2020	24.12.2020	% (M/M-1)3	4.8	5.2	-3.8	-0.2	:	:
	27.11.2020	24.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	0.0	-1.6	-5.3	-2.2	:	:
Nominal turnover in market services	26.11.2020	24.12.2020	% (M/M-1)3	9.9	6.7	-1.6	5.1	:	:
	26.11.2020	24.12.2020	% (M/M-12)	-11.8	-7.7	-10.7	-4.1	:	:
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
General government deficit/surplus (ESA 2010)	19.10.2020	31.03.2021	% BDP	-5.5	-2.8	-1.9	-0.1	0.7	0.5
Consolidated gross general government debt (ESA)	19.10.2020	31.03.2021	% BDP	80.3	82.6	78.5	74.1	70.3	65.6
				2020 m 6	2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11
Economic sentiment indicator⁵, seasonally adjusted	24.11.2020	24.12.2020	% ³	-23.5	-17.6	-6.4	-4.4	-7.0	-13.8
				2020 m 6	2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11
EURIBOR, 3-month	Beginning of the month *	%	-0.3760	-0.4441	-0.4797	-0.4910	-0.5091	-0.5209	
Long-term government bond yields	Beginning of the month	%	0.4300	0.1700	0.0500	0.0500	-0.0760	-0.1380	
Exchange rate, USD to EUR	Beginning of the month	US\$	1.1255	1.1463	1.1828	1.1792	1.1775	1.1838	

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

Notes: ¹ Balance of payments statistics of the BoS. ² External trade statistics SURS. ³ Seasonally adjusted – SURS. ⁴ Seasonally adjusted – IMAD. ⁵ Difference 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>

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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