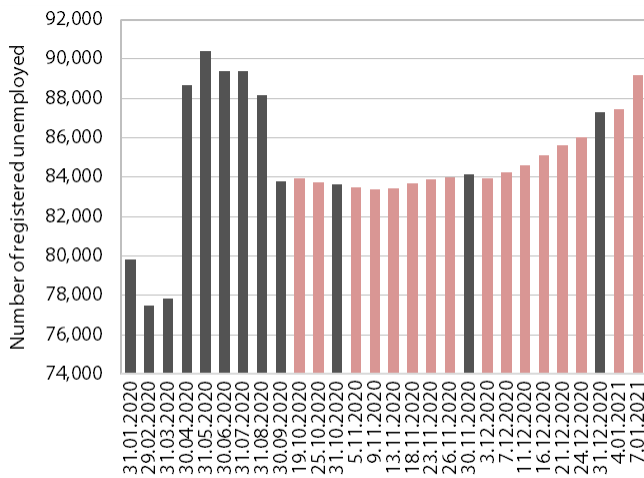


CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

6–11 January 2021

The renewed spread of the epidemic and the adoption of containment measures in Slovenia and its main trading partners towards the end of last year have not had a significant impact on the export part of the Slovenian economy. In November, manufacturing output and exports to main trading partners within the EU increased and the favourable trend continued in December and at the beginning of this year according to some indicators. In December, business expectations regarding production and exports at the beginning of this year remained favourable; traffic on Slovenian motorways and electricity consumption were similar to the same period last year. Moderate growth in the number of registered unemployed, which started in December, continued at the beginning of January. With intervention measures remaining in place, the increase in the number of unemployed did not differ significantly from increases at the end of previous years, which had mostly been a consequence of seasonal factors.

Registered unemployment, January 2021

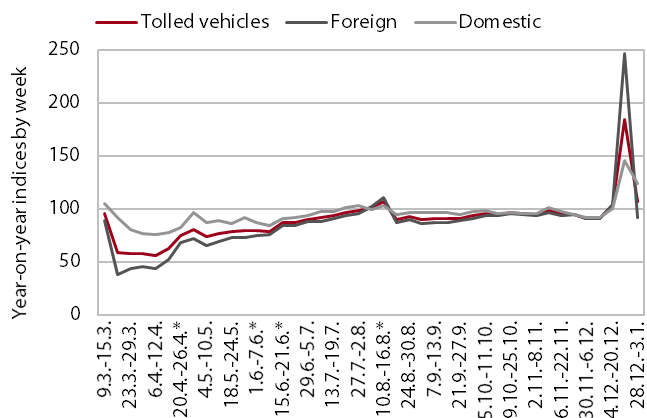


Source: ESS. Note: Pink columns show daily (unofficial) data; grey columns show official data at the end of the month.

At the beginning of January, moderate growth in the number of registered unemployed continued.

Following a pronounced increase 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. Between September and November, it remained roughly unchanged, while in December it started to rise moderately. On 7 January, 89,177 persons were unemployed according to ESS unofficial (daily) data, which is 2.2% more than at the end of December and around 12% more than in the same period last year. With intervention measures remaining in place, the increase in the number of unemployed did not differ significantly from increases at the end of previous years, which had mostly been a consequence of seasonal factors. The smaller increase during the second wave of the epidemic (since mid-October) in comparison with last year's spring months was, among other things, due to the presumably smaller decline in economic activity than during the first wave.

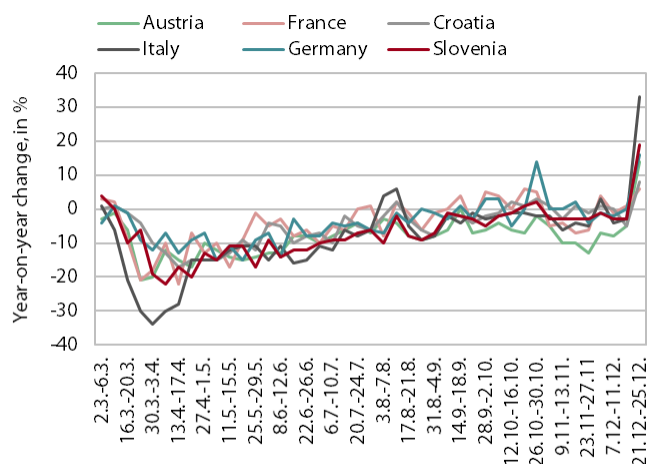
Traffic of electronically tolled vehicles on Slovenian motorways, January 2021



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.

In the week at the transition to 2021, freight traffic on Slovenian motorways was significantly higher year on year, which is mainly related to the distribution of public holidays. Between 28 December and 3 January, traffic was 7% higher year on year. Domestic vehicle traffic was up 23%, while foreign vehicle traffic was down 8%. The higher traffic volume in the last two weeks of the year compared to the corresponding weeks in 2019 was mainly related to the different distribution of holidays during that period.¹ In the last week of 2020, freight traffic otherwise reached only 30% of the annual weekly average; particularly the traffic of foreign vehicles was lower. A year-on-year comparison by month shows that traffic increased slightly in the last two months of the year, reaching 2019 levels in December for the first time since the beginning of the epidemic.

Electricity consumption, December 2020

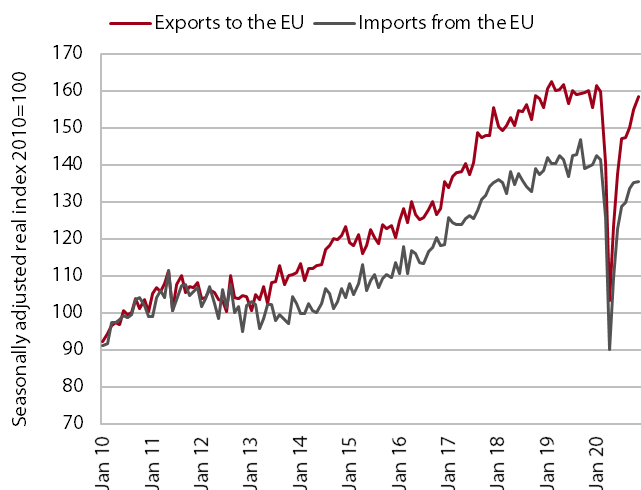


Source: ENTSO-E and Bruegel.org. Notes: Only consumption on working days (between 8.00 and 18.00) is considered. The percentages are adjusted for temperature differences.

In the week before Christmas, electricity consumption was significantly higher year on year. Between 21 and 25 December, electricity consumption was 19% higher year on year, which we estimate was mainly due to a more favourable distribution of public holidays in 2020 from the aspect of the functioning of the economy (industry) and higher household consumption (remote work and schooling). High year-on-year growth was also recorded in our main trading partners (in Austria and Germany at around 15%, France and Croatia at around 7% and Italy even at 33%).

¹ The 52nd week in 2019 was two days closer to the end of the year (when freight traffic tends to slow significantly) than in the same week in 2020. The 53rd week, i.e. the week at the turn of the year, had one fewer working day in 2019 and an unfavourable distribution of holidays (from the aspect of transport).

Exports and imports of goods, November 2020

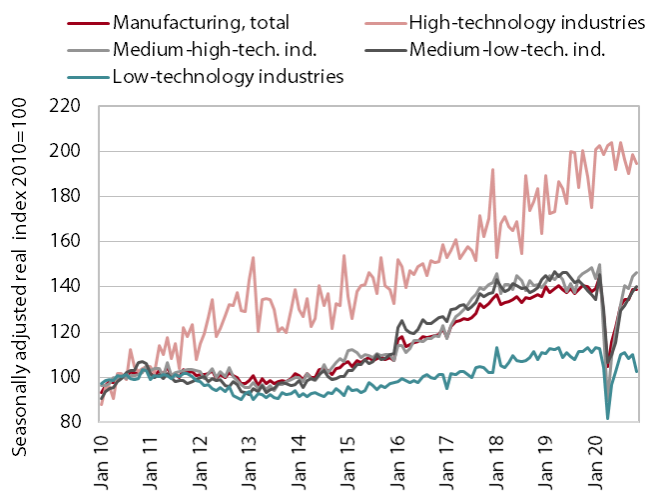


Source: SURS; calculations by IMAD.

Goods trade continued to recover in the autumn months despite the unfavourable epidemiological conditions in Slovenia and the EU.

The renewed spread of the epidemic and the adoption of containment measures in Slovenia's main trading partners in October and November did not have a significant impact on export activity with EU countries. In November, real exports to the EU increased further and came close to pre-crisis levels. The recovery of imports came to a halt, which was mainly related to a fall in private consumption in Slovenia due to the adopted containment measures and, given the functioning of industrial activities, less to the imports of intermediates. In the first eleven months, imports from EU countries (-11.6%) declined more than exports (-9.9%). Export expectations did not change much in December relative to the previous few months, but companies were more optimistic about future foreign demand than during the first wave of the epidemic in the spring.

Production volume in manufacturing, November 2020



Source: SURS; calculations by IMAD.

Manufacturing production increased further towards the end of last year, despite the worsening of epidemiological conditions in Slovenia and the EU.

Growth was mainly driven by *medium-technology industries*, which in November again exceeded the levels of the same period last year. The recovery remained slowest in the manufacture of motor vehicles, where production still lagged behind that in the same period last year. On the other hand, production in the metal industry and most other industries producing intermediate goods has increased markedly in recent months. In November, they mostly exceeded last year's levels (particularly the rubber and chemical industries). Production in *high-technology industries*, which was the least affected during the first wave, remained high. Production in *low-technology industries* declined in November and was also lower year on year, except in the wood processing industry. The prospects remain favourable, as most of the enterprises surveyed also expect production growth at the beginning of this year.

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)	% (Q/Q-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)	% (Q/Q-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)	% (Q/Q-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)	% (Q/Q-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
				2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11	2020 m 12
Trade balance¹	13.01.2021	15.02.2021	EUR m	360,8	96,1	289,0	310,5	259,0	:
Current account¹	13.01.2021	15.02.2021	EUR m	409,0	133,8	379,7	466,9	293,8	:
Exports of goods, real²	08.01.2021	09.02.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	5,6	0,4	2,0	4,6	-1,4	:
	08.01.2021	09.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	-2,0	-3,4	0,7	3,0	1,9	:
Imports of goods, real²	08.01.2021	09.02.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	2,9	4,5	-8,5	8,9	10,6	:
	08.01.2021	09.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	-6,9	4,4	-8,0	-4,1	16,1	:
				2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11	2020 m 12
Inflation (CPI)	30.12.2020	05.02.2021	% (M/M-1)	-0,1	-0,1	-0,4	0,3	-0,8	-0,3
	30.12.2020	05.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	0,3	-0,1	-0,3	-0,1	-0,9	-1,1
				2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11	2020 m 12
Gross earnings per employee – nominal	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-1)	-0,1	0,1	-0,7	1,2	0,0	:
	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	4,3	5,0	5,1	4,6	0,0	:
- private sector	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-1)	1,4	1,1	-1,3	0,3	0,0	:
	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	3,7	5,1	5,2	2,9	0,0	:
- public sector	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-1)	-2,3	-1,7	0,3	2,9	0,0	:
	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	4,8	4,4	4,5	7,1	0,0	:
- of which government sector	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-2,5	-2,6	0,9	3,3	0,0	:
	15.01.2021	15.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	7,2	5,9	5,3	9,1	0,0	:
				2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11	2020 m 12
Employed persons	16.12.2020	18.01.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	:	:
	16.12.2020	18.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	-1,6	-1,6	-1,4	-1,4	:	:
Registered unemployed persons	06.01.2021	03.02.2021	% (M/M-1) ⁴	-1,1	-1,0	-1,8	-2,4	-0,1	-0,5
	06.01.2021	03.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	24,4	23,2	20,0	15,5	16,2	15,9
Registered unemployment rate	16.12.2020	18.01.2021	%	9,2	9,1	8,6	8,6	:	:
				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 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11	2020 m 12
Industrial producer prices, domestic market	21.12.2020	21.01.2021	% (M/M-1)	-0,3	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,2	:
	21.12.2020	21.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,9	0,0	:
Production volume in manufacturing, real	11.01.2021	10.02.2021	% (M/M-1)3	8,1	2,1	0,0	3,0	0,1	:
	11.01.2021	10.02.2021	% (M/M-12)	-5,7	-2,0	-0,1	-1,8	2,1	:
Construction, real value of construction output	15.12.2020	15.01.2021	% (M/M-1)3	12,3	2,2	2,6	-2,2	:	:
	15.12.2020	15.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	-2,1	4,3	7,9	-0,3	:	:
Turnover in trade, real	24.12.2020	27.01.2021	% (M/M-1)3	5,3	-3,9	-0,4	-1,2	:	:
	24.12.2020	27.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	-1,6	-5,3	-2,4	-7,2	:	:
Nominal turnover in market services	24.12.2020	27.01.2021	% (M/M-1)3	6,2	0,9	3,5	-0,7	:	:
	24.12.2020	27.01.2021	% (M/M-12)	-7,7	-10,7	-4,5	-8,0	:	:
				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 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11	2020 m 12
Economic sentiment indicator⁵, seasonally adjusted	24.12.2020	25.01.2021	% ³	-17,6	-6,4	-4,2	-6,9	-14,1	-10,2
				2020 m 7	2020 m 8	2020 m 9	2020 m 10	2020 m 11	2020 m 12
EURIBOR, 3-month	Beginning of the month *	%		-0,4441	-0,4797	-0,4910	-0,5091	-0,5209	-0,5381
Long-term government bond yields	Beginning of the month	%		0,1700	0,0500	0,0500	-0,0760	-0,1380	-0,1500
Exchange rate, USD to EUR	Beginning of the month	US\$		1,1463	1,1828	1,1792	1,1775	1,1838	1,2170

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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