

Socio-economic situation of Poland – main tendencies

In February 2017, the growth in the sold production of industry, in annual terms, was slower than the high increase recorded in January 2017, which was influenced, among others, by seasonal factors. Retail sales and the sales of transport services also grew to a lesser extent than a month before. Construction and assembly production, following the growth recorded in January 2017, dropped again, but the decrease scale was lower than the one observed in the previous year.

In 2016, the non-financial enterprises surveyed obtained higher financial results than a year before. The investment activity of those entities decreased. The financial results in the banking sector were higher than in 2015; however, the financial results of insurers worsened.

In February 2017, an increase in average paid employment in the enterprise sector, in annual terms, was close to the one observed in January 2017. The registered unemployment rate dropped to 8.5% at the end of February 2017. According to the results of the labour demand survey, in 2016 slightly more new jobs were created than a year before; at the same time, fewer jobs were liquidated.

In February 2017, the growth rate in the average monthly nominal and real gross wages and salaries in the enterprise sector, in annual terms, was slightly slower than the one observed in January 2017. The average monthly nominal gross retirement pays and other pensions both in the employee and in the farmers system increased, in comparison with February of the previous year, to a relatively slight degree. Their purchasing power, along with the consumer prices being higher than a year before, was lower than in the corresponding period of the previous year.

In February 2017 the growth in the prices of consumer goods and services in annual terms strengthened. This was influenced, among others, by the growth in the prices of food, as well as goods and services associated with transport and dwelling, which was higher than in January 2017. The growth rate of producer prices in industry accelerated, and the growth rate of producer prices in construction was similar to the one recorded a month before.

Sold production of industry in February 2017 was by 1.2% higher than a year before (after eliminating seasonal factors, the growth amounted to 4.8%). Production increased in most sections, except for mining and quarrying. Among the main industrial groupings, higher production, as compared to the previous year, was recorded in capital and non-durable consumer goods, along with a drop in other groupings. In February 2017, construction and assembly production was lower than a year before by 5.4% (and after eliminating the influence of seasonal factors – a drop of 5.0% was recorded). The deepest drop was recorded in civil engineering. Retail sales were by 5.2% higher than a year before.

In March 2017, the general business tendency climate in manufacturing is assessed more optimistically than a month before. Forecasts regarding production and order-books are more favourable and better than in the preceding months. Positive diagnoses, following the negative ones observed in February 2017, are observed in these areas. Forecasts regarding the financial situation are more favourable, along with the continually negative current assessments. Construction entities assess the business tendency climate less pessimistically than

in February 2017. Forecast regarding order-books and production are optimistic (following the negative ones recorded in the preceding six months), along with an improvement, as compared to February 2017, of the negative current assessments in those areas. The unfavourable forecasts and current assessments regarding the financial situation improved. The general business tendency climate in retail trade is assessed positively, and better than in the preceding months. This is influenced, among others, by the improving forecasts concerning the demand for goods, sales and the orders placed with suppliers. Forecasts regarding the financial situation are positive (following the negative ones recorded a month before), but the corresponding diagnoses are slightly negative. Current assessments regarding sales are less favourable than a month before.

The consumer tendency survey in March 2017 indicates a slight worsening of consumers' sentiments. The current consumer confidence indicator is negative and similar to the one recorded in February 2017. The assessments, among others, of the general current economic situation of the country are more pessimistic, whereas the slightly negative diagnoses of the financial situation of households improved. The leading consumer confidence indicator worsened, among others, under the influence of the deepening of the negative assessments concerning future savings.

Non-financial enterprises in 2016 recorded higher financial results than a year before. The economic and financial indicators relations of these entities improved. The share of enterprises showing net profit in the total number of surveyed enterprises decreased. The financial results obtained by exporters, as well as their basic economic and financial relations, were more favourable than a year before and better than for all entities in total.

Investment outlays of the enterprises surveyed in 2016 were by 13.2% lower (at constant prices) than a year before (against a growth of 11.9% in 2015). Outlays on purchases dropped to a lower extent than those on buildings and structures. In 2016, more new investments were started than a year before, and their estimate value was much higher than that recorded in the previous year.

In the agricultural market, in February 2017, the average procurement prices of most basic agricultural products, except for the prices of poultry for slaughter, were higher than a year before. In the marketplace turnover, the prices of animal products reached higher levels than a year before; however, the prices of most crop products (except for rye prices) were lower. The relation of the procurement prices of pigs to the prices of rye on marketplaces improved in annual terms, but it was still unfavourable for pigs producers.

In January 2017, in foreign trade turnover (calculated in PLN) a slightly faster growth was observed in imports than in exports. The exchange closed with a positive balance, lower than in January of the previous year. Trade with all groups of countries increased – to the highest extent with the Central and Eastern European countries (imports from those countries increased for the first time in over two years).

In the period of two months of 2017, the State Budget revenue amounted to PLN 60.9 bn (i.e. 18.7% of the amount assumed in the Budget Act for 2017), and expenditure – to PLN 60.1 bn (15.6%, respectively). As a result, a surplus of PLN 0.9 bn was recorded.