

Socio-economic situation of Poland – main tendencies

In the period of January–September 2017 upward tendencies were observed in the basic areas of the economy. The sold production of industry and construction in the 3rd quarter increased in annual terms to a greater extent than in the 2nd quarter. The growth of retail sales and sales of services in transport has also strengthened.

Average paid employment in the enterprise sector in the period of nine months 2017 was by 4.4% higher than a year before; in the 3rd quarter of 2017 it increased more than in the 2nd one. The inflow to registered unemployment was lower than in the period of January–September of the previous year; the number of persons removed from the unemployed rolls also decreased. At the end of September 2017 the registered unemployment rate dropped to 6.8%.

An annual increase in the average monthly nominal gross wages and salaries in the enterprise sector in the period of January–September 2017 was higher than a year before (in the 3rd quarter the dynamics strengthened). The purchasing power of wages and salaries increased to a lesser extent than a year before, with consumer prices rising. The increase in nominal average gross retirement and other pensions in both systems was weaker than the increase in wages and salaries in the enterprise sector. The purchasing power of retirement and other pensions from the non-agricultural social security system was similar to the one noted a year before, while of individual farmers decreased.

The prices of consumer goods and services in the period of January–September 2017 were by 1.9% higher than a year before. In September 2017 an increase in annual terms in prices strengthened and in the 3rd quarter of 2017 was slightly faster than in the 2nd one. An acceleration of the growth rate of prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages was observed and a slight one of prices related to dwelling. The increase in prices related to transport was slower than in the preceding quarters. Producer prices in the three quarters of 2017 were above the level recorded in the same period of 2016, when a drop was noted; the scale of the growth in the 3rd quarter of 2017 was similar to the one observed in the previous one.

Sold production of industry during the three quarters of 2017 increased by 5.9% in annual terms. The growth was recorded in manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply as well as in water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, with a decrease in mining and quarrying. Among the main industrial groupings, the sales of all types of goods increased; therein the highest growth was observed in capital and intermediate goods. Labour productivity in industry in the period of three quarters of 2017 increased by 2.7% in annual terms, with a growth in employment of 3.1%. In September 2017, the increase in sold production of industry was slightly weaker than a month before and amounted to 4.3% in annual terms (after elimination of seasonal factors – 6.9%). Construction and assembly production in the period of January–September 2017 was higher than in the corresponding period of the previous year by 13.0%. Growth was observed in all divisions of construction, including higher than average in entities dealing mainly with civil engineering. In September 2017 construction and assembly production was by 15.5% higher than a year before (after elimination of seasonal

factors – by 17.9%). Retail sales during the three quarters of 2017 increased by 7.2% in annual terms and in September 2017 increased respectively by 7.5%.

According to the business tendency survey conducted in October 2017, the entrepreneurs' sentiments in manufacturing are slightly less favourable than in the previous months. Forecasts in most of the surveyed areas are positive but more cautious than a month ago. Indications of the current order-books and production are slightly better than in previous periods. Diagnoses of the current financial situation are slightly negative. Construction entities assess business tendency climate slightly positive, but more cautiously than in the previous six months. Assessments of the current order-books and construction and assembly production are less positive than in September 2017; diagnoses of the financial situation of these enterprises are more negative. Forecasts in these areas are pessimistic in contrast to optimistic ones indicated a month ago. Indications concerning the future order-books on the foreign market are slightly more pessimistic. In the retail trade, entrepreneurs assess the business tendency climate slightly less positively than in September 2017. Forecasts of demand for goods and current and future assessments of sales and financial situation remain positive.

The consumer tendency survey conducted in October 2017 indicates a worsening of current optimistic sentiments, of which the most in terms of current major purchases. Consumers' opinions on future tendencies have improved, including more positive indications about the country's future general economic situation, and less negative ones about future savings.

On the agricultural market in the period of nine months of 2017, with a higher supply, the procurement prices of most basic agricultural products were above the level from a year before. Only the procurement prices of potatoes and poultry for slaughter decreased. The price relations in the market of pig and cereals still did not ensure the profitability of pigs breeding.

In the period January–August 2017, the growth in annual terms of foreign trade turnover was higher than a year before; imports grew faster than exports. Trade with all groups of countries, most of all with Central and Eastern European countries, increased. The exchange closed with a positive balance significantly lower than a year before. In the period of January–July 2017, the total terms of trade index was unfavourable.

SELECTED INDICATORS REGARDING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY

Specification a – 2016 b – 2017	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
Paid employment in the enterprise sector ¹ in thous. persons	a	5703	5711	5727	5730	5734	5753	5762	5761	5771	5779	5792	5799
	b	5960	5976	5982	5991	5990	6002	6022	6026	6031			
Registered unemployed persons (end of period) in thous. persons	a	1648	1653	1601	1522	1457	1393	1362	1347	1324	1308	1314	1335
	b	1397	1383	1324	1253	1202	1152	1140	1136	1117			
Unemployment rate (end of period) in %	a	10,2	10,2	9,9	9,4	9,1	8,7	8,5	8,4	8,3	8,2	8,2	8,2
	b	8,5	8,4	8,0	7,6	7,3	7,0	7,0	7,0	6,8			
Average monthly nominal gross wage and salary in the enterprise sector ¹ : in zloty	a	4101,36	4137,55	4351,45	4313,57	4166,28	4252,19	4291,85	4212,56	4217,96	4259,37	4329,71	4635,77
	b	4277,32	4304,95	4577,86	4489,07	4390,99	4508,08	4501,52	4492,63	4473,06			
previous month=100	a	90,8	100,9	105,2	99,1	96,6	102,1	100,9	98,2	100,1	101,0	101,7	107,1
	b	92,3	100,6	106,3	98,1	97,8	102,7	99,9	99,8	99,6			
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	104,0	103,9	103,3	104,6	104,1	105,3	104,8	104,7	103,9	103,6	104,0	102,7
	b	104,3	104,0	105,2	104,1	105,4	106,0	104,9	106,6	106,0			
sector ¹ — corresponding month of previous year=100	a	104,9	104,8	104,3	105,9	105,2	106,1	105,9	105,7	104,4	103,7	104,0	101,8
	b	102,6	101,8	103,1	102,1	103,4	104,5	103,2	104,8	103,9			
Average monthly real gross retirement pay and pension: from non-agricultural social security system													
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	103,8	103,7	102,3	102,4	102,3	102,2	102,2	102,4	102,1	101,8	101,4	100,7
	b	99,9	99,3	100,2	100,1	100,3	100,4	100,1	100,2	99,7			
of farmers													
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	103,1	103,1	100,6	100,3	99,3	100,0	100,7	101,0	100,7	100,5	100,4	99,2
	b	98,6	98,0	99,7	99,5	99,4	99,7	99,4	99,4	99,0			
Price indices of consumer goods and services: previous month=100	a	99,5	99,9	100,1	100,3	100,1	100,2	99,7	99,8	100,0	100,5	100,1	100,7
	b	100,4	100,3	99,9	100,3	100,0	99,8	99,8	99,9	100,4			
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	99,1	99,2	99,1	98,9	99,1	99,2	99,1	99,2	99,5	99,8	100,0	100,8
	b	101,7	102,2	102,0	102,0	101,9	101,5	101,7	101,8	102,2			
December of previous year=100	a	99,5	99,4	99,5	99,8	99,9	100,1	99,8	99,5	99,5	100,1	100,2	100,8
	b	100,4	100,7	100,7	100,9	101,0	100,8	100,6	100,5	100,9			
Price indices of sold production of industry: previous month=100	a	99,5	99,6	99,7	100,3	101,2	100,2	99,9	99,6	100,3	100,5	101,2	101,2
	b	100,3	100,1	99,9	99,8	99,4	99,6	100,3	100,4	100,4			
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	98,8	98,5	98,1	98,8	99,6	99,2	99,5	99,9	100,2	100,6	101,8	103,2
	b	104,0	104,5	104,8	104,2	102,4	101,8	102,2	103,0	103,1			
Price indices of construction and assembly production: previous month=100	a	99,9	99,9	99,9	100,0	100,0	100,1	100,1	100,1	100,0	100,0	100,1	100,1
	b	100,0	99,9	100,0	100,1	100,0	100,0	100,1	100,2	100,2			
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	99,3	99,3	99,2	99,3	99,4	99,5	99,6	99,8	99,8	99,9	100,0	100,2
	b	100,3	100,3	100,4	100,4	100,4	100,3	100,3	100,4	100,5			

1 Data concern economic entities employing more than 9 persons.

SELECTED INDICATORS REGARDING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY (cont.)

Specification a - 2016 b - 2017	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
Sold production of industry ¹ (constant prices ²):													
previous month=100	a	91,9	106,9	107,0	96,9	96,1	107,4	90,0	103,4	110,4	97,5	101,8	95,5
	b	98,2	99,0	117,6	86,7	105,5	102,7	91,5	105,8	106,0			
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	101,3	106,8	100,7	106,0	103,2	106,0	96,6	107,5	103,2	98,7	103,1	102,1
	b	109,1	101,1	111,1	99,4	109,2	104,4	106,2	108,7	104,3			
Construction and assembly production (constant prices ²):													
previous month=100	a	31,9	114,3	120,6	109,9	107,8	113,4	96,6	97,2	118,7	98,3	105,4	134,8
	b	35,4	106,0	149,3	97,9	112,1	116,6	103,6	100,2	111,0			
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	91,4	89,5	84,2	85,1	86,3	87,0	81,2	79,5	84,7	79,9	87,2	92,0
	b	102,1	94,7	117,2	104,3	108,4	111,6	119,8	123,5	115,5			
Dwellings completed (from the beginning of year)	a	12771	25027	37423	51134	62041	73741	86624	99352	112017	128637	145210	163325
	b	15355	26899	40587	51853	65499	78379	93530	108902	123869			
Retail sales of commodities ¹ (constant prices ³):													
previous month=100	a	75,1	101,3	113,6	99,7	99,3	103,1	100,2	101,4	98,6	103,0	96,6	120,6
	b	77,7	97,2	116,5	98,6	100,0	101,6	101,2	101,5	99,1			
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	103,2	106,2	103,0	105,5	104,3	106,5	104,4	107,8	106,3	104,6	107,4	106,1
	b	109,5	105,2	107,9	106,7	107,4	105,8	106,8	106,9	107,5			
State budget balance - from the beginning of year (in mln zł)	a	1759,9	-3098,3	-9587,2	-11125,5	-13482,5	-18683,8	-14387,3	-14929,4	-20615,4	-24641,3	-27567,7	-46159,5
	b	6749,4	856,1	-2284,3	-982,7	-160,6	5860,4	2351,6	4888,0	.			
Average exchange rates in zł – National Bank of Poland:													
100 USD	a	403,97	395,65	386,44	379,85	389,91	392,00	397,07	383,54	385,67	390,75	406,00	420,49
	b	411,66	404,87	401,84	395,62	380,70	375,04	368,05	361,27	357,99			
100 EUR	a	439,35	439,60	429,34	430,68	440,76	440,19	439,66	430,03	432,50	430,86	438,39	443,71
	b	437,06	430,97	429,21	423,85	420,40	420,83	423,61	426,65	427,02			
100 CHF	a	401,76	398,95	393,11	393,89	398,74	403,74	404,65	395,49	395,86	396,15	407,49	412,56
	b	407,92	404,24	400,88	395,34	385,80	387,08	382,91	374,71	372,20			
Foreign trade ⁴ in mln zł:													
exports	a	60048,0	65693,5	68288,2	67421,7	66092,2	69818,4	62752,8	62213,8	70043,6	69990,3	73932,6	67182,7
	b	68866,9	68908,1	80488,6	68332,6	72054,4	71858,2	65935,5	66071,4	.			
imports	a	58015,1	64223,6	66715,5	65315,6	63554,5	66706,1	62008,7	63386,1	69396,6	68873,8	71415,7	66858,8
	b	67155,9	69715,5	78675,7	65983,3	72138,6	72699,7	66733,3	65640,4	.			
balance	a	2032,9	1469,9	1572,7	2106,1	2537,7	3112,3	744,1	-1172,3	647,0	1116,5	2516,9	323,9
	b	1711,0	-807,4	1812,9	2349,3	-84,2	-841,5	-797,8	431,0	.			

1 Data concern economic entities employing more than 9 persons. 2 The average current prices from 2010. 3 The current prices from the period preceding the surveyed period. 4 Since 2017 - preliminary data.