

Socio-economic situation of the country – main tendencies

In October 2017 an increase in the sold production of industry in annual terms was higher than in the previous months. The construction and assembly production increased to a greater extent than in September 2017, after a deep decrease a year before. The stable dynamics of retail sales maintained and growth rate in sales of services in transport accelerated. In the period of January-September 2017 the surveyed enterprises achieved better financial results than a year before; the investment activity of these entities slightly decreased.

The average paid employment in the enterprise sector in October 2017 increased in annual terms at a rate similar to the one recorded in the previous months. A further decrease in the number of registered unemployed persons and in the registered unemployment rate (up to 6.6% at the end of October 2017) was observed. The results of the Labour Force Survey for the 3rd quarter 2017 indicate a better situation on the labour market than a year before. The number of employed persons increased, and the number of the unemployed – significantly decreased; the employment rate was higher. The unemployment rate, calculated in accordance with the definition of the International Labour Organisation, was the lowest in entire history of the survey, conducted since 1992. The relation of the number of the unemployed to the number of the employed persons was better.

The average monthly nominal and real gross wages and salaries in the enterprise sector in October 2017 increased in annual terms at a pace faster than that in the previous months. The average nominal gross retirement and other pensions in both systems increased to a greater extent than in September 2017. The purchasing power of retirement and other pensions benefits from the non-agricultural social security system was slightly higher than a year before, and that of benefits of individual farmers decreased.

In October 2017 the increase in prices of consumer goods and services in annual terms was slightly slower than a month before. The prices of goods and services related to transport increased to a lesser extent than in September 2017. The dynamics of prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages and services related to dwelling accelerated. The prices of producers in industry increased in annual terms slower than a month before; the growth rate of prices in construction strengthened.

The sold production of industry in October 2017 was higher than a year before by 12.3% (after eliminating the influence of seasonal factors the increase amounted to 9.7%). An increase in production was observed in most sections of industry (with the exception of mining and quarrying); an increase higher than the average was recorded in manufacturing. Among the main industrial groupings, the sales in all kinds of goods increased, including the highest growth in intermediate goods. The construction and assembly production was higher than a year before by 20.3% (after eliminating the influence of seasonal factors the increase amounted to 19.1%). The retail sales increased in comparison with October 2016 by 7.1%.

According to the surveys conducted in November 2017, the general business tendency climate in manufacturing enterprises is assessed optimistically, similarly as a month before. The diagnoses of the financial situation are positive (after slightly negative a month ago). Indications regarding current production are still optimistic, while the assessments

of the order-books are more cautious. The forecasts within these areas are a slightly less favourable than in October 2017. The construction entities assess the business tendency climate negatively, for the first time since March 2017, but better than in corresponding month of the previous year. The diagnoses of construction and assembly production and order-books are pessimistic (against positive ones in the previous five months), while the assessments of the financial situation of enterprises are more negative. The forecasts in these areas are more unfavourable than a month before. Retail trade entities assess the general business tendency climate slightly more favourably than in October 2017. The current assessments and forecasts within the scope of the financial situation are positive, similar to those formulated a month before. Optimistic and better than a month ago are the expectations of demand for goods as well as the diagnoses and forecasts concerning sales.

The consumer tendency survey in November 2017 indicates an improvement of consumer sentiments, both within the scope of current and future tendencies. Better are consumers' expectations, among others those concerning unemployment trends and changes in the financial situation of households as well as indications regarding the current possibility of making major purchases.

In the period of January-September 2017 non-financial enterprises recorded better financial results than in the corresponding period of the previous year. The basic economic and financial relations of these units were similar to those in the period of three quarters 2016. The share of enterprises showing a net profit in the total number of surveyed enterprises decreased. The financial results of exporters were higher than a year before. Their basic economic and financial relations became slightly worse, but better than those for the all entities.

Investment outlays of all surveyed enterprises (in constant prices) were by 1.0% lower than in the period of January-September 2016 (against a drop by 9.1% a year before). The outlays on buildings and structures decreased, while the outlays on purchasing increased. The investment activity of entities with foreign capital decreased. Enterprises started more investments than a year before and their estimated value substantially exceeded that observed in the period of January-September 2016.

On the agricultural market in October 2017, the supply of most agricultural products (except of potatoes) was higher than a year before. The procurement prices of most basic agricultural products (with the exception of prices of potatoes and pigs for slaughter) were higher than a year before. The profitability of pigs breeding worsened.

In the period of three quarters of 2017 in the foreign trade turnover a higher growth in imports than in exports in annual terms was observed. The exchange closed with a positive balance, lower than a year before. The trade with all groups of countries increased; to the greatest extent – with Central and Eastern European countries. The terms of trade index in the period January-August 2017 in total trade turnover was unfavourable and amounted to 98.9 (compared with 101.5 a year before).

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	6036		
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	1070		
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	6,6		
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	4574,35		
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	102,3		
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	107,4		
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	105,4		
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	100,8		
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	99,3		
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	100,5		
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	102,1		
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	101,4		
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	100,5	100,3		
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	103,2	103,0		
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	100,3	100,3		
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	100,7	101,0		

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	105,9	105,1		
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	104,2	112,3		
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	110,8	102,6		
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	120,3		
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	139424		
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	102,5		
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	107,1		
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	3775,1	.	.	.
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	363,03		
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	426,68		
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	369,68		
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	69287,7	69264,4	80894,8	68689,0	72395,8	72341,1	66570,8	67787,4	73415,4	.	.	.
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	67517,5	69811,5	78822,7	66223,7	72378,4	73069,7	67186,5	67015,5	70596,2	.	.	.
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	1770,2	-547,1	2072,1	2465,3	17,4	-728,6	-615,7	771,9	2819,2	.	.	.

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.