

Socio-economic situation of Poland – main tendencies

In the period of four months of 2015, Polish economy was developing at stable pace. In the 1st quarter of 2015, relatively high economic growth rate was recorded. The surveyed non-financial enterprises achieved better financial results than in the first three months of the previous year; investment activity of enterprises increased. Foreign trade turnover was higher than in the 1st quarter of the previous year.

In April of 2015, in most basic areas of the economy the growth tendencies continued. The sold production in industry increased at a slower rate than in the 1st quarter of 2015. However, the dynamics of construction and assembly production strengthened. The growth in retail sale was slower than in previous months, which was influenced, among others, by the calendar tendencies. The sales of services in transport shaped at a slightly lower level than in the corresponding term of the previous year. Prices of consumer goods and services decreased in annual terms less than in the previous months. On the labour market, a further gradual improvement was observed.

In April of 2015, the average paid employment in the enterprise sector increased in annual terms at the rate comparable to the one recorded in the previous months. The registered unemployment rate dropped to 11.2% at the end of April of 2015. The preliminary results of Labour Force Survey for the 1st quarter of 2015 indicate growth, in annual terms, in the number of employed persons and the employment rate. The unemployment rate decreased, with simultaneous improvement in the relation of the number of not employed to employed persons improved, the share of the long-term unemployed persons in total number of registered decreased.

The growth in average monthly nominal gross wages and salaries in the sector of enterprises in annual terms in April of 2015 was slightly lower than in the 1st quarter of 2015. With a weakening scale of decrease in consumer prices, a slowdown was also observed in the growth of purchasing power of wages and salaries. Average nominal and real retirement and other pensions in non-agricultural social security system increased to a lesser extent than in the period of January-March of 2015, and those of individual farmers – to a greater extent.

The sold production of industry in April of 2015 was by 2.3% higher than in the corresponding terms of the previous year (after eliminating seasonal factors, it increased by 2.7%). The growth was observed in most sections with a decrease in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply. The production in all main industrial groupings was higher than in the corresponding term of the previous year (except for non-durable consumer goods); the greatest increase was recorded in capital goods. Construction and assembly production increased in annual terms by 8.5% (after eliminating seasonal factors – by 7.4%). The highest growth of construction and assembly production was observed in in entities specialising in civil engineering. Retail sales in April of 2015 was by 1.5% higher than in the corresponding term of the previous year when a very high growth (by 8.9%) was recorded.

An general business climate in manufacturing in May of 2015 is assessed positively, similarly to a month ago. Assessments of the current order-books and production are favourable, though more cautions than in April of 2015, and the financial situation of enterprises is assessed slightly less negatively than a month ago. There was a slight weakening in positive forecasts in manufacturing enterprises in the above areas. In construction, the business climate is assessed less pessimistically than in the previous months. Comparing to April of 2015 the negative assessments of current order-books, construction and assembly production and financial situation improved, and expectations in these areas remain optimistic. Assessments of the general business climate formulated by retail trade entities are still favourable, but slightly weaker as compared to April of 2015. Optimistic diagnoses and forecasts of sales are sustained. The assessments of financial situation of enterprises remain negative, at slightly optimistic forecasts in this area.

In the 1st quarter of 2015, the surveyed non-financial enterprises recorded higher gross and net financial results than a year before (respectively by 10.8% and by 9.7%). There was observed an improvement in basic economic and financial relations. The share of number of enterprises showing net profit in the total number of enterprises and their share revenues from the whole activity was higher than a year before. Economic and financial indicators of exporters were better than in the 1st quarter of the previous year and more favourably than for enterprises in total. Investment activities of the examined entities increased – investment outlays at constant prices increased by 14.6%.

On the agricultural market, in April of 2015 a decrease in annual terms was observed in prices of most basic agricultural products, except for marketplace prices of cattle for slaughter. Profitability of pigs fattening, in spite of an improvement, was still low. The preliminary results of the survey conducted at the end of March of 2015 indicate further increasing tendency of pigs, which was influenced by growth, in annual terms, in the numbers of most categories of pigs stocks, except for sows.

Foreign trade turnover (calculated in PLN) in the 1st quarter of 2015 increased in annual terms to a greater extent in exports than in imports. The total balance of trade turnover was positive against the negative one recorded in the previous years. The exchange with developing countries significantly increased, and so was trade with developed countries (including EU countries). Trade with Central and Eastern European countries clearly decreased. In the period of January-February of 2015, the total terms of trade index, similarly to the year before, was favourable and reached the level of 104.2.

The revenue of State Budget in the period of four months of 2015 reached to PLN 96.1 bn, and expenditure – to PLN 112.8 bn (i.e. accordingly 32.3% and 32.9% of the amount assumed in the Budget Act for 2015). As a result, a deficit in the amount of PLN 16.7 bn was recorded, which accounted for 36.2% of the plan.

SELECTED INDICATORS REGARDING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY

Specification		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
a – 2014													
b – 2015													
Paid employment in the enterprise sector ¹ in thous. persons	a	5506	5508	5515	5515	5515	5526	5531	5535	5537	5545	5551	5549
	b	5573	5573	5576	5575								
Registered unemployed persons (end of period) in thous. persons	a	2261	2256	2182	2079	1987	1913	1879	1853	1822	1785	1800	1825
	b	1919	1919	1861	1782								
Unemployment rate (end of period) in %	a	13,9	13,9	13,5	13,0	12,5	12,0	11,8	11,7	11,5	11,3	11,4	11,5
	b	12,0	12,0	11,7	11,2								
Average monthly nominal gross wage and salary in the enterprise sector ¹ :													
in zloty	a	3805,28	3856,56	4017,75	3976,80	3878,31	3943,01	3964,91	3893,23	3900,49	3980,92	4004,80	4379,26
	b	3942,78	3981,75	4214,14	4123,26								
previous month=100	a	90,1	101,3	104,2	99,0	97,5	101,7	100,6	98,2	100,2	102,1	100,6	109,4
	b	90,0	101,0	105,8	97,8								
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	103,4	104,0	104,8	103,8	104,8	103,5	103,5	103,5	103,4	103,8	102,7	103,7
	b	103,6	103,2	104,9	103,7								
Average monthly real gross wage and salary in the enterprise sector ¹ — corresponding													
month of previous year=100	a	103,0	103,3	104,2	103,5	104,6	103,2	103,6	103,7	103,7	104,3	103,2	104,7
	b	105,2	105,0	106,6	104,9								
Average monthly real gross retirement pay and pension:													
from non-agricultural social security system													
corresponding month of previous year=100.....	a	103,9	104,3	102,1	103,2	103,6	103,4	104,2	103,7	103,7	103,7	103,9	104,2
	b	104,5	104,6	104,8	103,3								
of farmers													
corresponding month of previous year=100.....	a	103,8	103,8	100,8	101,0	101,2	101,3	101,7	101,9	101,9	102,0	102,4	102,9
	b	102,8	103,2	104,9	104,5								
Price indices of consumer goods and services:													
previous month=100	a	100,1	100,1	100,1	100,0	99,9	100,0	99,8	99,6	100,0	100,0	99,8	99,7
	b	99,8	99,9	100,2	100,4								
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	100,5	100,7	100,7	100,3	100,2	100,3	99,8	99,7	99,7	99,4	99,4	99,0
	b	98,6	98,4	98,5	98,9								
December of previous year=100	a	100,1	100,2	100,3	100,2	100,1	100,1	99,9	99,5	99,4	99,5	99,2	99,0
	b	99,8	99,6	99,8	100,3								
Price indices of sold production of industry:													
previous month=100	a	100,0	99,9	99,8	99,8	99,8	99,9	99,9	100,3	100,0	99,6	99,5	98,8
	b	99,9	99,9	100,1	99,7								
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	99,0	98,6	98,7	99,3	99,0	98,2	97,9	98,5	98,4	98,7	98,4	97,3
	b	97,2	97,2	97,5	97,4								
Price indices of construction and assembly production:													
previous month=100	a	99,8	99,8	99,9	99,9	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	99,9	99,9
	b	99,9	99,9	100,0	100,0								
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	98,3	98,4	98,5	98,5	98,6	98,7	98,8	99,1	99,2	99,3	99,4	99,2
	b	99,5	99,6	99,7	99,7								

¹ Data concern economic entities employing more than 9 persons.

SELECTED INDICATORS REGARDING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY

(cont.)

Specification		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
a - 2014													
b - 2015													
Sold production of industry¹ (constant prices²):													
previous month=100	a	103,0	98,2	109,4	97,8	98,3	100,0	102,1	91,5	116,5	103,6	92,5	97,4
	b	96,8	101,4	113,4	91,9								
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	104,2	105,3	105,5	105,5	104,4	101,8	102,4	98,1	104,2	101,7	100,3	108,1
	b	101,6	105,0	108,8	102,3								
Construction and assembly production (constant prices²):													
previous month=100	a	36,0	118,7	124,2	103,2	114,0	116,8	100,9	94,6	119,8	107,2	90,6	129,6
	b	34,8	116,7	128,2	108,7								
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	96,1	114,4	117,4	112,2	110,0	108,0	101,1	96,4	105,6	99,0	98,4	105,0
	b	101,3	99,7	102,9	108,5								
Dwellings completed (from the beginning of year) ..	a	12511	24973	35562	47208	56101	66418	79677	88821	100142	114866	127871	143166
	b	11208	20753	31817	41839								
Retail sales of commodities¹ (constant prices²):													
previous month=100	a	78,7	99,5	112,5	102,3	97,5	99,2	105,2	99,6	99,0	104,0	92,1	120,1
	b	78,0	98,4	117,1	97,4								
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	104,8	107,0	103,3	108,9	104,3	101,8	103,1	102,8	103,0	103,7	101,4	104,0
	b	103,6	102,4	106,6	101,5								
State budget balance - from the beginning of year (in mln zł)													
	a	-2601,1	-11718,2	-17491,0	-21179,9	-22362,6	-25298,6	-26403,2	-24603,5	-22444,6	-27233,2	24790,7	-28977,5
	b	-586,9	-11324,0	-16660,1	-16700,4								
Average exchange rates in zł - National Bank of Poland:													
100 USD	a	306,50	306,13	303,78	302,93	304,15	304,25	305,98	314,82	324,75	331,52	337,77	342,87
	b	367,39	367,66	381,38	373,47								
100 EUR	a	417,76	417,86	419,72	418,41	417,90	413,69	414,47	419,32	419,01	420,50	421,15	422,33
	b	427,97	417,76	412,78	402,91								
100 CHF	a	339,35	342,05	344,71	343,17	342,44	339,65	341,14	346,02	346,95	348,14	350,11	351,23
	b	392,73	393,22	389,12	388,12								
Foreign trade⁴ in mln zł:													
exports	a	55718,8	54071,7	58525,3	58676,5	56460,0	55997,0	56901,5	50029,5	61611,0	64294,2	59698,1	50376,4
	b	58475,3	59183,7	63597,3	.								
imports	a	56094,1	54642,6	59408,9	57898,9	58480,6	56539,0	58852,6	51783,0	60745,7	64245,3	60017,5	53864,6
	b	55879,4	55801,5	60819,7	.								
balance	a	-375,3	-570,9	-883,6	777,6	-2020,6	-542,0	-1951,1	-1753,5	865,3	48,9	-319,4	-3488,2
	b	2595,9	3382,2	2777,6	.								

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 Preliminary data.