

Introduction

In February of 2010, in many areas of the economy the tendencies observed in the previous month maintained. Sold production of industry was again above the level recorded a year before. In construction, a drop in production recorded a month before deepened, which was still considerably influenced by weather conditions. Retail sales were again lower than a year before. Average nominal gross wages and salaries in the enterprise sector grew faster than in January of 2010. Under the conditions of a growth in consumer prices, which was lower than in the previous months, the purchasing power of wages and salaries was only slightly lower than a year before. Together with the weakening drop in average employment in the enterprise sector, a growth in the unemployment rate was again recorded. The financial results of enterprises for 2009 were more favourable than a year earlier, though their investment activity was limited.

Sold production of industry in February of 2010 was higher than a year before by 9.2%. Except for mining and quarrying, a growth occurred in all industry sections, of which the highest in manufacturing. A drop in construction and assembly production deepened (24.6%), which was accompanied by a further price drop – of 0.7%. For the second month in a row, retail sales were lower in annual terms (by 2.8%).

In March of 2010, the consumer confidence is still pessimistic, though a gradual improvement in the consumer expectations concerning the nearest twelve months is observed. The forecasts concerning changes in the financial situation of households, saving money and the level of unemployment are better. In comparison with February, the confidence among enterprises has improved considerably. The general business tendency climate in manufacturing and in retail trade is assessed positively, better than a month before, and the assessments in construction are less pessimistic. The improvement of assessments in the field of industry production and construction is influenced, among others, by the optimistic forecasts concerning the order book and production, and in retail trade – by the positive projections concerning sales and orders at suppliers. Enterprises operating in all the surveyed areas are also optimistic about the future economic situation.

On the agricultural market, in February of 2010 the prices of animal products, except for pigs and poultry for slaughter, exceeded the previous year's level. However, the cereal prices were lower than in February of the previous year. A drop in the prices of pigs for slaughter in procurement, deeper than that of the wheat prices on marketplaces, influenced the worsening of the profitability of pigs fattening, both in comparison with the one recorded a month before and in annual terms.

The prices of consumer goods and services in February of 2010 grew considerably slower than in January (2.9% against 3.5%). Despite of the slowing down of the price dynamics, as well as, a growth in nominal wages and salaries, higher than in January of 2010, the average real gross wage

and salary in the enterprise sector was by 0.1% lower than a year before. A growth in average real retirement pays and pensions in both systems maintained.

The scale of the year-on-year drop in average employment in the enterprise sector in February of 2010 was smaller than in the previous months. The registered unemployment rate increased to 13.0%.

In January of 2010, in the value of commodity turnover in foreign trade a slight growth in exports was recorded, in relation to the low level recorded a year before, together with a drop in imports. As a result, the negative balance of exchange improved. Following a deep drop in the previous year, the turnover with the Central and Eastern European countries, especially with Russia, increased considerably.

In 2009, the surveyed enterprises achieved more favourable financial results than a year before. The dynamics of revenues from total activity was higher than that of costs, with a high growth being recorded especially in the scope of financial revenues. The basic economic and financial relations improved: the cost level indicator amounted to 95.0%, the profitability rate of net turnover – to 5.0%, and the net turnover one – to 4.1%; the financial liquidity ratio of the first degree increased to 38.5%, and of the second degree to – 102.2%. The share of enterprises showing net profit in total number of enterprises increased. The basic economic and financial relations of exporters (except for the profitability rate from sales of products, goods and materials) reached a more favourable level than in 2008, though they were worse than for the total number of surveyed enterprises.

In 2009, following a few years of growth, a drop in investment outlays of the surveyed enterprises was recorded. Outlays on the purchases decreased considerably, and so did (though to a lower degree) outlays on buildings and structures. A drop in outlays incurred by the entities with foreign participation was deeper than on average. The share of the private sector in total outlays declined. The number of investments newly started as well as their estimated value declined.

The state budget revenues in the period of January–February of 2010 amounted to PLN 38.3 billion, and expenditure – to PLN 55.0 billion. As a result, the budget closed with a deficit of PLN 16.7 billion, which accounted for 32.1% of the amount assumed in the Budget Act for 2010.

SELECTED INDICATORS REGARDING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY

Specification a - 2009, b - 2010	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
Registered unemployed persons (in thous.) a	1634,4	1718,8	1758,8	1719,9	1683,4	1658,7	1676,1	1689,0	1715,9	1744,3	1811,1	1892,7
..... b	2052,5	2101,5										
Unemployment rate ¹ (in %) a	10,4	10,9	11,1	10,9	10,7	10,6	10,7	10,8	10,9	11,1	11,4	11,9
..... b	12,7	13,0										
Paid employment in the enterprise sector in thous. persons a	5374	5352	5325	5309	5292	5280	5273	5270	5267	5267	5265	5255
..... b	5301	5293										
Sold production of industry ² :												
previous month=100 a	93,7	102,4	115,6	93,1	98,2	106,0	97,4	95,6	115,0	101,9	96,8	94,6
..... b	94,6	103,1										
corresponding month of previous year=100 a	84,7	85,4	98,1	87,8	94,8	95,5	95,6	100,1	98,7	98,7	109,9	107,4
..... b	108,5	109,2										
Construction and assembly production ² :												
previous month=100 a	37,9	117,2	115,1	112,0	107,7	116,2	105,5	99,2	106,1	107,6	85,5	141,0
..... b	31,1	104,3										
corresponding month of previous year=100 a	107,4	101,9	101,2	100,5	100,3	100,5	110,7	111,0	105,7	102,7	109,9	103,2
..... b	84,7	75,4										
Dwellings completed (from the beginning of year) ... a	22101	31838	41503	54396	64318	76165	91637	103205	114859	130369	143938	160019
..... b	11681	21697										
Price indices of consumer goods and services:												
previous month=100 a	100,5	100,9	100,7	100,7	100,5	100,2	100,1	99,6	100,0	100,1	100,3	100,0
..... b	100,6	100,2										
corresponding month of previous year=100 a	102,8	103,3	103,6	104,0	103,6	103,5	103,6	103,7	103,4	103,1	103,3	103,5
..... b	103,5	102,9										
December of previous year=100 a	100,5	101,3	102,0	102,7	103,2	103,4	103,5	103,1	103,1	103,3	103,5	103,5
..... b	100,6	100,9										
Price indices of sold production of industry:												
previous month=100 a	102,3	102,6	100,0	99,1	99,7	100,8	98,5	99,6	99,8	100,4	99,6	99,8
..... b	100,4	99,9										
corresponding month of previous year=100 a	103,6	105,7	105,5	104,8	103,7	104,1	102,8	102,2	101,6	102,0	101,9	102,1
..... b	100,2	97,6										
Price indices of construction and assembly production:												
previous month=100 a	99,9	99,8	99,9	99,9	99,8	100,0	99,9	99,9	100,0	100,1	100,1	100,0
..... b	99,8	99,9										
corresponding month of previous year=100 a	102,4	101,8	101,3	100,7	100,3	99,9	99,6	99,3	99,2	99,1	99,2	99,3
..... b	99,3	99,3										

¹ Ratio of registered unemployed persons to the economically active civil population.

² Indices were calculated in constant prices of 2005.

(cont.)

Specification a - 2009, b - 2010	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
Average monthly nominal gross wage and salary in the enterprise sector ¹ (in zł)	a	3215,75	3195,56	3332,65	3294,76	3193,90	3287,88	3361,90	3268,69	3283,18	3312,32	3403,92	3652,40
	b	3231,13	3288,29										
previous month=100	a	93,8	99,4	104,3	98,9	96,9	102,9	102,3	97,2	100,4	100,9	102,8	107,3
	b	88,5	101,8										
corresponding month of previous year=100	a	108,1	105,1	105,7	104,8	103,8	102,0	103,9	103,0	103,3	102,0	102,3	106,5
	b	100,5	102,9										
Average monthly real gross wage and salary in the enterprise sector monthly average of 2000=100	a	117,5	115,9	120,1	117,9	113,8	116,9	119,5	116,6	117,1	118,0	121,0	130,0
	b	114,4	116,2										
Profitability rate of gross turnover ² - from the beginning of year (in %)	a	.	.	3,0	.	.	4,9	.	.	5,2	.	.	5,0
Profitability rate of net turnover ³ - from the beginning of year (in %)	a	.	.	2,2	.	.	4,0	.	.	4,2	.	.	4,1
State budget balance - from the beginning of year (in mn zł)	a	2918,0	-5250,9	-11219,8	-15306,1	-16356,7	-16629,2	-15037,1	-15655,8	-21343,7	-23918,6	-24342,1	-23790,0
	b	-4779,2	-16748,7										
Average exchange rates in zł – National Bank of Poland:													
100 US dollars	a	317,17	363,14	354,12	334,80	323,37	321,46	305,96	289,56	285,95	284,69	279,90	283,52
	b	285,18	293,85										
100 EUR	a	421,81	464,42	462,37	441,93	441,05	450,81	430,53	413,11	416,35	421,73	417,34	414,27
	b	407,20	401,55										
Foreign trade ⁴ in mn zł													
exports	a	29820,5	34324,7	38457,6	34124,4	33565,5	36175,3	34951,4	30429,0	38165,7	39658,1	36786,2	30592,7
		30834,9											
imports	a	34094,1	36676,3	41939,9	37699,2	36155,0	39658,7	38771,4	34008,2	39524,4	41862,5	39299,6	35076,8
		33745,7											
balance	a	-4273,6	-2351,6	-3482,3	-3574,8	-2589,5	-3483,4	-3820,0	-3579,2	-1358,7	-2204,4	-2513,4	-4484,1
		-2910,8											

¹ Including contributions to compulsory social security.² Relation of gross financial result to revenues from total activity.³ Relation of net financial result to revenues from total activity.⁴ Since January 2009 – preliminary data.