

SUMMARY

Having declined in 1999 for the first time since 1994 (falling by 32 or 0.1% as against 1998), the number of companies increased again in 2000 by 142 or 0.4% compared to the year before. The number of employees also rose after having fallen in 1996-1998: it was up by 4,387 or 1.0% in 1999 as against 1998 and up by 5,196 or 1.1% in 2000 from the year before. Given these trends seen in the number of companies and their employees, the average number of people employed by one company was on a decline in 1994-1998, going down from 15.4 to 12.2, while the average number was on an increase in 1999-2000, going up from 12.3 to 12.4. This implies that the process of breaking up companies into smaller units came to an end in 1998. In 1999 and relative to the year before, the number of small enterprises fell for the first time, while the number of large and medium-sized enterprises rose. This trend continued into 2000: compared to 1998, the number of small enterprises was 871 lower, while the numbers of medium-sized and large enterprises were 705 and 276 higher, respectively. This was probably the result of the mergers and acquisitions taking place in this period.

Companies recorded positive business results for the third year running. The best results were seen in 1999, when companies reported a positive difference between their net profits and losses totalling SIT 119,520 million, while in 2000 this figure came in at SIT 117,521 million, a fall of 1.7% compared to the previous year.

This Working Paper provides an analysis of company performance in 2000 for the corporate sector as a whole, performance broken down by activities, the number of employees, size, and type of ownership. The Paper concludes with an overview of selected performance indicators for 1997-2000.