

Introduction

Commercial companies are an important part of the Slovenian economy, generating almost 60% of the economy's total value added and employing approximately 50% of all employees. They are thus a common subject of economic analyses. Statistical evidence from the companies' balance sheets and profit and loss accounts, collected and published by the national Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), is one of the main sources of information about their performance.

This Working Paper analyses the statistical data from commercial companies' balance sheets and profit and loss accounts, focusing on individual activities of the Slovenian economy. The analysis of data allows a detailed look at individual activities and a better understanding of their performance, and serves as the basis for the activity-specific forecasts of economic trends that form part of the IMAD's Spring and Autumn Reports. **Using data for commercial companies, the paper comments on the performance of individual activities in 2005, identifies the main factors that contributed to the financial results and value added in each activity, and describes the main structural shifts within these activities.** The period analysed is mainly 2005, while long-term comparisons cover the period reaching back as far as 2002. Comparisons for prior periods have largely been omitted due to methodological changes¹ in compiling the balance sheets and profit and loss accounts that were enforced in 2002.

The Working Paper is divided into twelve chapters. In the first chapter we present some common characteristics of the performance, assets and financial situation of commercial companies. The subsequent chapters systematically analyse the performance of companies in individual activities classified according to the SCA. We have included those activities where commercial companies, representing one type of legal organisational form, generated an important part of the activity's value added. These are: agriculture (A), fishing (B), mining (C), manufacturing (D), electricity, gas and water supply (E), construction (F), distributive trades (G), hotels and restaurants (H), transport, storage and communications (I), real estate, renting and business activities (K), and other community, social and personal service activities (O). The chapter presenting the manufacturing sector includes a separate analysis of groups of manufacturing industries according to technology intensity.

Key words: financial results, value added, statistical data from balance sheets and profit and loss accounts, commercial companies, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, transport, services, technology intensity, recreation, culture and sports activities, construction, energy sector, hotels and restaurants, mining, agriculture, fishing.

¹ As of 2002, commercial companies have had to comply with the new provisions of the Act Amending the Companies Act (Official Gazette of the RS Nos. 45/01, 39/02, 50/02) and the new Slovenian Accounting Standards (Official Gazette of the RS No. 107/01) in compiling their annual reports. In order to ensure a more realistic presentation of the companies' business results and their financial and property standing, the new Accounting Standards mainly changed the valuation method and contents of certain balance sheet items. The new Standards eliminated the general revaluation (indexation) of balance sheet items and introduced a compulsory general revaluation of capital relative to the changes in the domestic currency purchasing power, as well as a specific revaluation of assets and liabilities reflecting their increase/decrease or the increase/decrease in debt relative to the changes in the prices of economic categories.