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1. Monetary development

In March, consumer prices increased month-on-month by 0.2%, causing a slowdown in the 12-month rate of inflation. Over the course of the month, the value of the Slovak crown depreciated by 0.3% due to developments on the interbank foreign exchange market. Exchange-rate development was influenced by the closing of crown positions of non-residents at the end of the month, which fell by approximately Sk 1.6 billion over the course of March.

Monetary development was characterised by a slowdown in the 12-month rate of inflation, depreciation in the value of the crown, ...

Owing to the refinancing policy of the NBS and the lack of external upsets, the level of interbank deposit rates fell month-on-month by approximately 5 percentage points in March, when the average interest rate on one-month deposits reached a level of 18% and the average rate on overnight deposits approached 10%. The reduction in price of interbank deposits since the beginning of the year, has not yet been reflected in the rates of interest on primary deposits and consumer loans, which ceased to show an upward trend in February. The favourable development of the interbank market did not affect the level of yields earned from government securities, since, owing to the need to issue large amounts, interest rates will probably be less sensitive to interbank market developments in the coming months. Monetary aggregates experienced favourable development in March, when the rates of year-on-year growth in money supply and net credit to the Government slowed in comparison with the figures for the previous months.

... fall in the level of interbank deposit rates, and favourable development in monetary aggregates

1.1. Factors affecting the development of the money supply

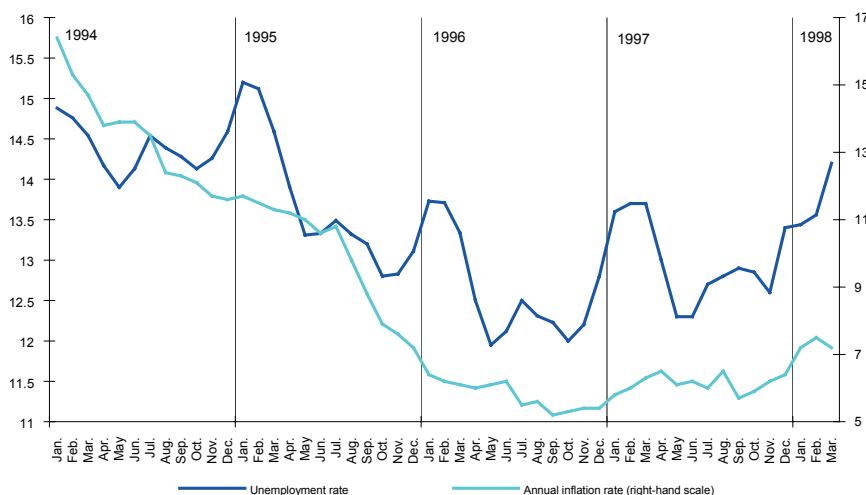
In March, the money supply in terms of M2 fell month-on-month by Sk 7.5 billion, representing a 2.3% slowdown in the rate of growth. The month-on-month decline in the money supply in March was due primarily to a fall in net domestic assets.

Decline in the money supply due to development of net domestic assets, ...

The development of net domestic assets (a decline of Sk 6.6 billion) was influenced by the payment of personal and corporate income taxes for 1997. This led to a growth in other items net (Sk 6.9 billion), due mostly to the writing-off of taxes from the accounts of corporate entities and private individuals. Similarly, the development of net credit to the Government was also affected: it fell by Sk 5.0 billion and the rate of year-on-year growth slowed from 44.8% in February to 39.4% in March. This had the effect of compensating for the growth in bank lending, i.e. in terms of net domestic assets.

... that is, growth in the volume of other items net and fall in net credit to the Government

Unemployment rate and inflation rate (%)



The surplus generated by the State budget ...

At the end of March, the current performance of the State budget resulted in a surplus of Sk 1.1 billion, representing an improvement of Sk 0.9 billion in budgetary performance. Budget revenue reached Sk 43.9 billion and expenditure totalled Sk 42.8 billion.

... positively influenced the internal debt of the Government

At the end of March, the net position of the Government vis-a-vis the banking sector reached, according to preliminary data, Sk 65.4 billion. This amount was covered by government liabilities at commercial banks in the amount of Sk 75.0 billion (estimate), while the position of the Government vis-a-vis the NBS was that of a creditor (Sk 9.6 billion).

The month-on-month fall (approximately Sk 2.6 billion) in the level of internal government debt vis-a-vis the banking sector (approx. Sk 3.9 billion since the beginning of the year) was influenced in March by application of the system of keeping a single State account with the NBS, which incorporates budget revenue and expenditure accounts including Treasury bills of the current year, as well as accounts related to the so-called lending operations of the State connected with the repayment of government debt (the general memorandum account of the State resulted in a balance of Sk 5.4 billion at the end of March). Regarding the structure of the debt, government bonds earmarked to cover the deficit of the 1996 State Budget were redeemed in the total amount of Sk 2.0 billion in March, while Sk 3.0 billion worth of government bonds (issued in 1998) were registered at the Securities Centre. The internal debt of the Government was positively influenced by the growth in deposits held in the accounts of local organisations and other State deposits in the total amount of approximately Sk 1.0 billion.

Growth in the money supply was positively influenced by the position of the NPF ...

Over the course of March, the growth in M2 was supported by net credit to the National Property Fund (NPF), whose position changed from that of a creditor (Sk - 0.6 billion in February) to that of a debtor (Sk 0.2 billion in March), which was caused in part by the continued redemption of bonds from the second wave of privatisation to citizens over 70 years of age.

... and the lending activities of commercial banks

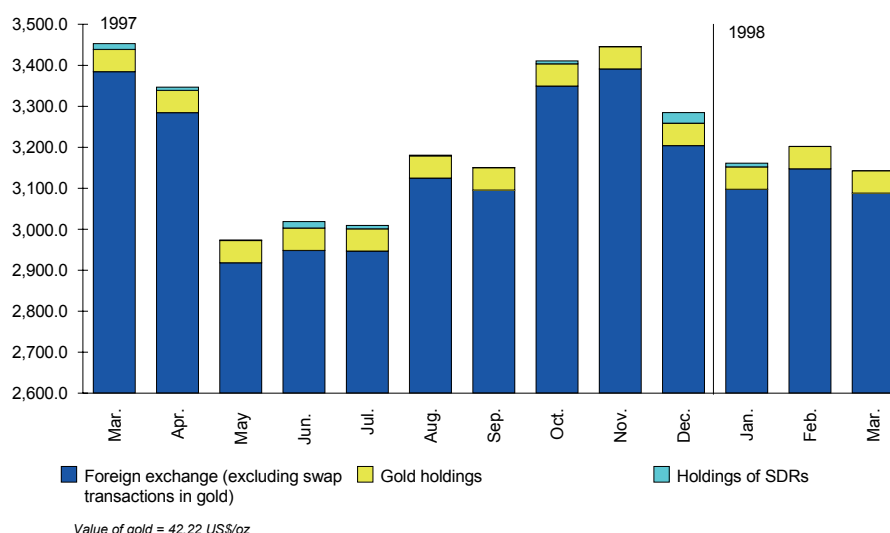
Despite the month-on-month increase in commercial bank lending (Sk 4.4 billion), the rate of year-on-year growth did not change significantly in March (it reached 2.9%).

Development of net foreign assets in the banking sector

According to preliminary data, the volume of net foreign assets (at fixed exchange rates) in the banking sector fell month-on-month by Sk 1.0 billion, due to the faster decline in foreign assets (Sk 2.7 billion) than in foreign liabilities (Sk 1.7 billion). The decline in net foreign assets at commercial banks (Sk 2.2 billion) was accompanied by a moderate increase in net foreign assets at the NBS (Sk 1.2 billion).

Development of NBS foreign exchange reserves

(US\$ millions)



In March, the foreign exchange reserves of the NBS (at fixed exchange rates) fell month-on-month by Sk 1.6 billion, while debt repayment by the Government (Sk 3.2 billion) was partly offset by the positive balance of foreign exchange fixing (Sk 1.4 billion). Foreign liabilities of the Government and the NBS decreased by Sk 2.8 billion, while repayments of principal on EU loans totalled Sk 2.4 billion.

Foreign assets of commercial banks fell month-on-month by Sk 1.1 billion, due mainly to decline in short-term deposits at foreign banks. Foreign liabilities of commercial banks increased month-on-month by Sk 1.1 billion, due to growth in short-term borrowings from foreign banks.

At the end of March, the total foreign exchange reserves of the NBS (at current exchange rates) reached US\$ 3,142.8 million, representing a month-on-month decline of US\$ 59.3 million. The volume of foreign exchange reserves was 3.1 times greater than the average volume of monthly imports of goods and services to Slovakia in 1997.

Foreign exchange reserves of the NBS

1.2. Structure of the money supply

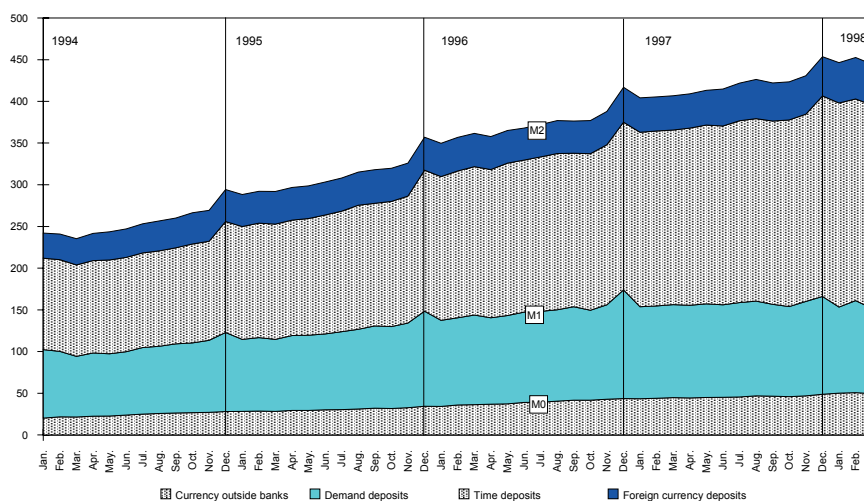
In March, the M2 money supply (at fixed exchange rates) suffered a decline of Sk 7.5 billion, which was caused by tax payments for the previous year by the deadline of 31 March and concerned mostly demand deposits. The decline in M2 was due exclusively to a fall in the M1 aggregate (Sk 9.3 billion), while quasi-money increased by Sk 1.8 billion. At the end of the month, the volume of the money supply amounted to Sk 445.0 billion.

Month-on-month decline in M2, ...

The rate of year-on-year growth in the M2 money supply reached 9.2%, representing a relatively marked decline (11.5%) compared with the previous month's figure. The slowdown in the year-on-year growth of M2 was caused by the difference in terms for paying tax bills. In 1998, the deadline was set at 31 March; whereas in 1997, the deadline was 1 April, thus tax payments were not included in the statistical reports for March. Quasi-money increased year-on-year by 16.7%, while the M1 aggregate fell year-on-year by 2.9% due to a marked decline in demand deposits.

... accompanied by a slowdown in the rate of year-on-year growth ...

Development of the M2 monetary aggregate (Sk billions)



The volume of currency outside banks fell by Sk 1.1 billion over the course of March. The monthly cycle of currency issue followed a standard course with a lower maximum as well as minimum.

In March, demand deposits recorded a month-on-month decline of Sk 8.2 billion, due primarily to tax payments for 1997. The decline was concentrated in the last period of the month.

... due primarily to tax payments for 1997

Time deposits increased by Sk 1.9 billion, while foreign currency deposits recorded a month-on-month decline of Sk 0.1 billion in March.

As far as the individual components of the M2 money supply are concerned, the weight of the M1 aggregate decreased and that of quasi-money increased during March. In comparison with the beginning of the year and the same period of last year, the money-supply components followed the same course of development.

Structure of the money supply (M2)

(%)

	1.1.1998	28.2.1998	31.3.1998	31.3.1997
Money supply [M2]	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Money [M1]	36.63	35.58	34.09	38.32
Currency outside banks [M0]	10.74	11.20	11.15	10.97
Demand deposits	25.89	24.38	22.94	27.36
Quasi-money [QM]	63.37	64.42	65.91	61.68
Time deposits	53.01	53.48	54.81	51.40
Foreign currency deposits	10.36	10.94	11.10	10.28

Decline in crown deposits

Slovak-crown deposits, as a component of the money supply, fell in March by Sk 6.3 billion, while corporate deposits declined by Sk 6.4 billion and household deposits grew by Sk 0.1 billion. Compared with the beginning of the year, the volume of crown deposits has fallen by Sk 11.8 billion; corporate deposits have declined by Sk 16.8 billion, and household deposits have grown by Sk 5.0 billion. The rate of year-on-year growth in crown deposits reached 7.8%. Household deposits increased year-on-year by 17.5%, while corporate deposits declined by 8.0%.

1.3. Bank lending

*Growth in crown lending,
accompanied by a fall
in foreign-currency loans*

In March, total bank lending (loans to enterprises, households, central and local authorities for extra-budgetary purposes, NBS loans, etc.) increased month-on-month by Sk 3.0 billion, due to growth in crown loans (Sk 4.1 billion) and decline in foreign-currency loans (Sk 1.1 billion). At the end of March, the volume of bank loans totalled Sk 392.2 billion, of which loans in Slovak crowns accounted for Sk 346.2 billion and foreign-currency loans Sk 46.0 billion. The most significant increases were recorded in loans to enterprises (Sk 4.3 billion) and loans to households (Sk 0.4 billion).

In the same period of 1997, crown loans increased month-on-month by Sk 4.8 billion and loans in foreign currency by Sk 0.6 billion. The volume of total bank credit increased year-on-year by 4.3%, of which crown loans accounted for 1.8% and loans in foreign currency 27.8%.

1.4. Interest rate development in February

*The average interest rate on
the total volume of loans
increased*

In February, the average interest rate on the total volume of loans increased month-on-month by 0.62 points, to 17.28%, due mainly to a rise in the level of lending rates for long-term loans (by 1.6 points, to 13.86%). Average interest rates on short-term loans were stagnant, while the rates on medium-term loans fell slightly.

*The level of interest rates on
new loans rose slightly*

The average interest rate on new loans rose by 0.07 points (to 20.82%); the rate on short-term loans by 0.25 points (to 21.81%), and that on long-term loans by 0.69 points (to 13.73%), in response to interest rate developments on the interbank money market. The average lending rate for medium-term loans fell by 0.68 points, to 16.88%. The development of average interest rates was marked by a significant increase in the volume of new loans and a change in their structure by purpose. The increase concerned mainly loans with interest rates above 20%: the volume of standard loans grew by Sk 4.23 billion, the rate of interest rose by 1.55 points;

bills-of-exchange loans increased by Sk 2.01 billion, the rate rose by 0.92 points; and development loans expanded by Sk 1.8 billion, the interest level rose by 2.98 points. Of the total volume of new loans, 30.1% was granted at fixed interest rates and 69.9% at flexible rates.

With regard to individual types of loans by purpose, average interest rates fell on consumer loans to households (by 3.51 points, to 11.48%) and overdrafts (by 1.06 points, to 22.35%). Marked month-on-month increases were recorded in average interest rates on development loans (by 2.98 points, to 17.69%), standard loans (by 1.55 points, to 24.23%), and bills-of-exchange loans (by 0.92 points, to 20.35%).

Compared with the level in January, the average interest rate on total crown deposits fell by 0.23 points, to 9.98% in February, due to a month-on-month increase in the share of demand deposits (by 1.6 points, to 31.9%) with low interest rates (3.73%). The reduction in interest rates was reflected mainly in the average rates for 7-day time deposits (3.13 points) and 9-month deposits (0.35 points).

The average interest rate on deposits fell

As a result of a rise in the average interest rate on the total volume of loans (0.62 points) and fall in the average rate for total crown deposits (0.23 points), the nominal margin increased to 7.3 % in February, from 6.45 % in January. The level of real interest rates on one-year deposits fell from 3.49% in January to 3.17% in February, due to a rise in the 12-month rate of consumer-price inflation (from 7.2% to 7.5%), while the average rate of interest on one-year deposits was stagnant.

The level of real interest rates fell

2. Implementation of monetary policy

In March, monetary policy was implemented in line with the Monetary Programme of the NBS for 1998 in an environment marked by falling interest rates on the interbank market. During the first half of March, surplus commercial bank liquidity led to a fall in the level of interest rates and in the volume of government bond issues. The diminished success of Treasury-bill auctions affected the replenishment of the NBS portfolio with short-term government securities, which the NBS used for the sterilisation of bank liquidity. The sale of Treasury bills with a maturity of up to seven days from the portfolio of the NBS was more attractive for commercial banks than Treasury bills offered at auctions with monthly maturity.

In March, the implementation of monetary policy aimed at influencing the level of interest rates via Treasury-bill auctions, ...

With regard to the outflow of liquidity from the banking sector via issues of government securities, the NBS granted refinancing through open market operations. The prudential policy of the NBS during the second half of the month and the growth in budget revenue at the end of the second period, were reflected in a fall in the level of excess reserves in the banking sector.

... however, excess reserves in the banking sector were gradually reduced, ...

With regard to the monetary base of the NBS, no significant changes were recorded in March. The monetary base of the NBS increased by Sk 0.1 billion in average terms, when the positive influence of autonomous factors on the level of bank liquidity was eliminated by a fall in monetary-policy factors.

... while autonomous and monetary-policy factors followed different courses

In foreign exchange fixing, seven transactions were concluded in the total amount of US\$ 40 million (US\$ 23.5 million and DEM 30 million), representing purchases of foreign exchange by the NBS. The currency basket unit followed the course of development on the interbank foreign exchange market: the value increased from 1.0195 (28 February) to 1.0225 (31 March); the maximum value was recorded on 16 March (1.0250).

Foreign exchange fixing at the NBS

In March, when the net foreign assets of the NBS remained virtually unchanged, the net position of the Government deteriorated by Sk 2 billion, of which Sk 0.8 billion (in average terms) was due to the repayment of a foreign government loan from the funds of State financial assets with a counter-item in the net foreign

assets of the NBS, without influencing bank liquidity. The month-on-month fall in other assets (Sk 0.7 billion in average terms) was due to an increase in funds derived from government bond issues and held in accounts at the NBS, which represented an outflow of liquidity from the banking sector.

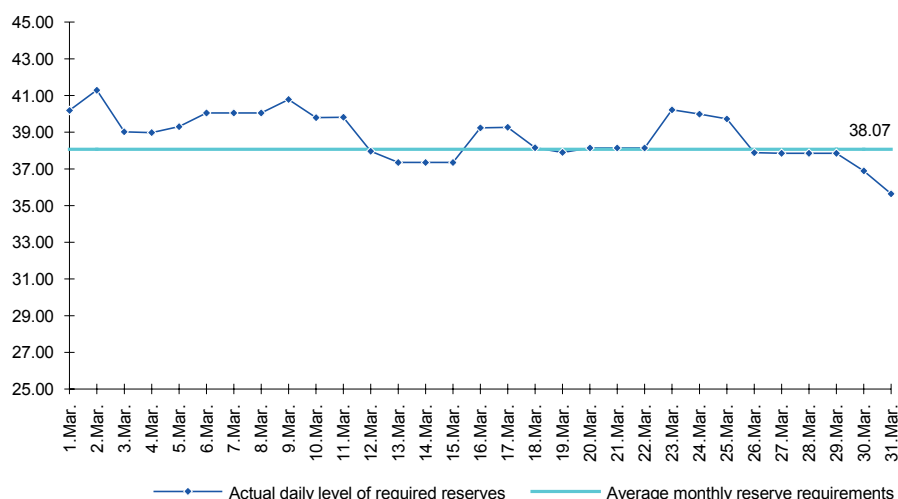
In March, monetary-policy factors declined month-on-month by an average of Sk 0.9 billion (by Sk 1.6 billion including transactions in NBS bills), due to instalments on bills of exchange deals and a fall in securities held in the NBS portfolio, as a result of which the average level of excess reserves fell in March by Sk 0.4 billion compared with the figure for February. The month-on-month decline (Sk 0.4 billion) in the average volume of issued currency positively influenced the level of liquidity in the banking sector.

Fulfilment of reserve requirements

In March, the level of required reserves in the banking sector was set at Sk 38,070 million, i.e. Sk 1,280 million less than originally expected. At the end of the month, the actual level of required reserves reached Sk 38,782 million, representing a fulfilment of 101.87%.

At the end of the first period, the reserve requirements were fulfilled to 103.21% (Sk 39,291 million) with average excess reserves at the level of Sk 1,221 million. At the end of the second period, the actual level of required reserves reached Sk 38,305 million (100.62%) and average excess reserves amounted to Sk 235 million.

Fulfilment of reserve requirements (Sk billions)



3. Inflation

Consumer prices rose month-on-month by 0.2%

Compared with the previous month, the level of consumer prices rose in March by 0.2%, representing an increase of 2.8% since the beginning of the year. The 12-month rate of consumer price inflation fell from 7.5% in February, to 7.2% in March.

The level of food prices fell

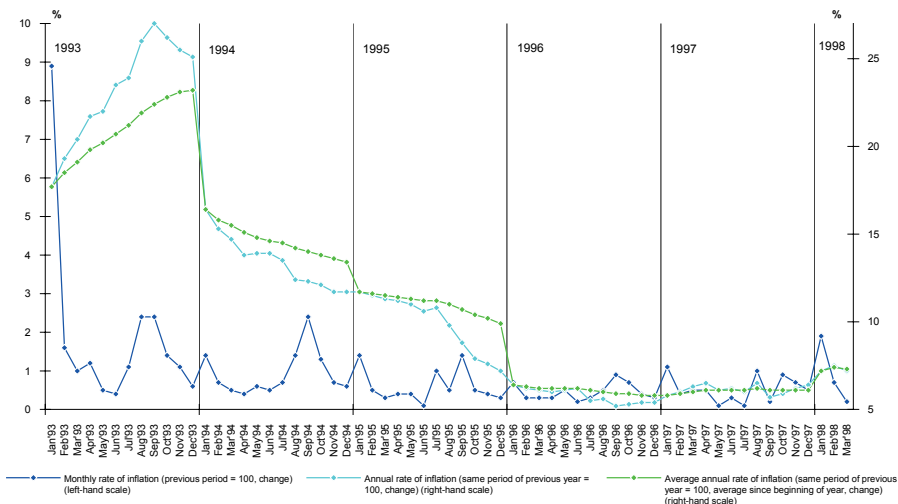
The relatively low month-on-month increase in prices was due mainly to a fall in the level of food prices. The price of food and non-alcoholic beverages fell by 0.2%, due to decreases in the prices of meat, milk, cheese, and eggs.

The most rapid price increases were recorded in the categories of education (2.6%); furnishings and standard maintenance of flats and houses (1.0%); clothes and footwear (0.7%); and hotels, cafes, and restaurants (0.7%). In education, the contribution to expenses related to the admittance of students to universities was increased. In other categories, month-on-month price increases ranged from 0.2% to 0.5%.

Marked increases were recorded in the prices of some non-tradable commodities (e.g. accommodation services, personal care, regular repairs and maintenance of flats). We consider that the non-tradable sector, which is highly sensitive to price fluctuations in other categories, has reacted to the marked increases in prices of tradable commodities during the previous months.

Inflation

(%)



4. Money market

4.1. Primary market for Treasury bills

In March, the Ministry of Finance of the SR put Treasury bills up for auction in accordance with the issuing schedule for the 1st quarter of 1998. Auctions were held at biweekly intervals. At the first auction, no bids were accepted by the issuer, owing to the favourable performance of the State budget at the beginning of the month. At the second auction in March, Treasury bills were placed on the market for short-term securities in the total amount of Sk 1,068 million.

Treasury-bill auctions

The difference between budget revenue and expenditure caused a time discrepancy between the current level of budget deficit and the sale of Treasury bills at auctions. For that reason, the budget deficit has been, since 9 March, financed from technical issues made for the portfolio of the NBS with a maturity of seven days.

Technical issues of Treasury bills

4.2. Secondary market

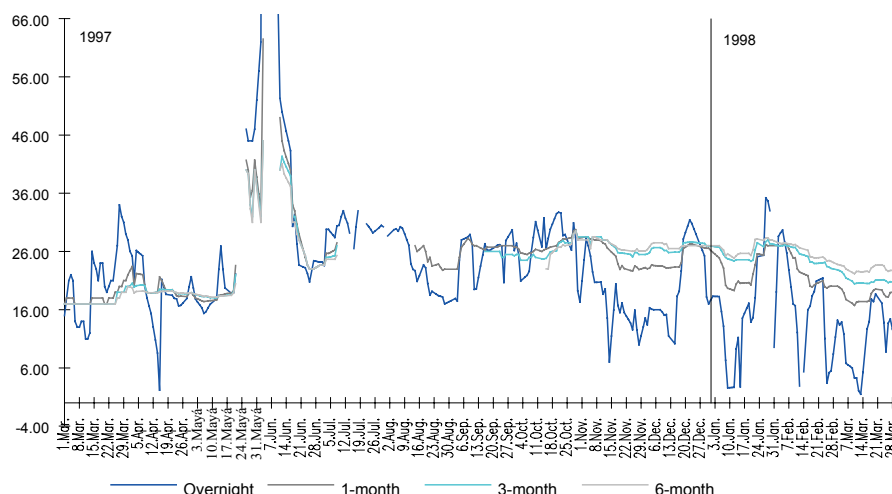
The beginning of the month saw a marked surplus of liquidity in the banking sector. The surplus was caused by the transfer of increased fulfilment of reserve requirements from the end of the second period in February to the first period in March. On the following days, the level of liquidity in the banking sector showed a downward trend owing to the repayment of REPO tenders conducted for refinancing purposes during the previous month (Sk 3 billion). Therefore, the NBS responded to the fall in the level of liquidity by conducting a REPO tender for refinancing purposes (Sk 1 billion) with a maturity of 14 days. Demand was four times higher than the offered volume of the tender and the average interest rate on the accepted bids reached 14.33%. With regard to liquidity, the situation changed during the following days, owing to a regular increase in budget expenditure. The NBS responded to this surplus by selling Treasury bills (Sk 2 billion) with a maturity of 6 days, obtained from technical issues made by the Ministry of Finance of the

Open market operations of the NBS

SR, through which the total volume of direct credit to the Government was also reduced. The first day of the second period was marked by a rise in the level of liquidity in the banking sector due to the maturity of Treasury bills sold during the first period. On the following days, the NBS intervened in connection with the issue of Treasury bills (Sk 1.0 billion) and government bonds (Sk 2.1 billion), by conducting a REPO tender for refinancing purposes (Sk 2.0 billion) with a maturity of 14 days. Demand was more than 3 times higher than the offered volume of the tender and the average interest rate on accepted bids reached 16.16%.

During the period under review, the NBS provided refinancing to the banking sector through REPO tenders in an average daily amount of Sk 1.55 billion and through technical issues in the amount of Sk 2.7 billion per day. During the same period, the NBS sterilised the banking sector by selling Treasury bills to maturity in an average amount of Sk 0.39 billion on a daily basis. During the period under review, the average daily balance of central bank intervention was Sk 3.86 billion in the form of refinancing.

Development of average interbank offered rates (BRIBOR) (% , p.a.)



Development of BRIBOR rates

Over the course of March, BRIBOR rates followed the development of liquidity in the banking sector. Overnight rates reached a monthly minimum of 1.5% and a maximum of 18.7%. Compared with the previous month's figure, the monthly average of overnight rates fell by 6.1%. Other average interbank deposit rates also fell: one-month rates by 4.12%, three-month rates by 2.76%, and six-month rates by 2.93%. The decision of Moody's rating agency to lower the credit rating of Slovakia announced on the last day of the month caused a marked rise in some deposit rates (one-month rates to 24.3%), owing to the increased interest of banks in deposits with longer maturities. During the period under review, the rates for long-term deposits were relatively stable and recorded only moderate fluctuations except for the last day of the month.

5. Capital market

5.1. Primary market

Government bonds

In March, four auctions were held in government bonds in accordance with the schedule for the issue of government securities. Interest yield was set at 18% p.a. for all these issues.

In the case of Issue No. 046, total demand at the auction reached Sk 2,660 million. Of this amount, the issuer (Ministry of Finance) accepted Sk 1,150 million, with an average yield of 23.449% p.a. to maturity. In the case of Issue No. 047, total

demand reached Sk 3,824 million. Of the individual bids, the issuer decided to accept Sk 2,230 million worth of bonds with an average yield of 23.325% p.a. to maturity. For issues No. 046 and No. 047, the par values of the bonds were set at Sk 100,000 in the issuing conditions. In the case of Issue No. 048, the issuer increased the par value to Sk 1,000,000. Total demand reached Sk 3,680 million; the issuer accepted bids for Sk 2,230 million at an average yield of 23.053% p.a. In the case of Issue No. 049, total demand reached Sk 2,120 million; the issuer accepted bids for Sk 1,110 million. The average yield to maturity was 23.388% p.a. and the par value of the bonds was set at Sk 1,000,000 in the issuing conditions.

The auctions took place in the form of American-style auction with unlimited issue-amounts. A common feature of the March issues was the effort of investors to increase the level of yield to maturity. In spite of this, the four issues were all successful, which probably helped to confirm the conviction of investors that the Ministry of Finance needs to be financed through auctions of government bonds at higher yields to maturity as well. The higher yields to maturity at government bond auctions will also affect the level of interest rates on the money market for deposits with maturities longer than three months.

5.2. Secondary market

In March, the volume of trading on the Bratislava Stock Exchange (BCPB) totalled Sk 45,065 million. However, development of the market cannot be regarded as positive, since the disproportion between direct and price-setting anonymous transactions has grown in comparison with the previous months. In direct transactions, securities were traded in the total amount of Sk 45,006 million, whereas anonymous trading declined further in March, the volume of contracts falling to Sk 59.1 million. The downward trend in the proportion of price-setting anonymous contracts continued in March. Since the beginning of the year, the volume of securities traded on the BCPB floor has reached roughly Sk 70,100 million; of this amount, anonymous transactions accounted for only 0.7% (roughly Sk 500 million in absolute terms).

On the securities market, there was a shift towards trading in bonds. For dealers, trading in shares is becoming unattractive and their attention is turning more and more to government bonds, offering yields comparable with those on the money market.

Slovak Share Index - SAX (%)



In March, both components of the Slovak Bond Index (SDX) recorded a moderate increase. The component for government bonds rose by 1.45%, to 109.14 points;

Index SDX

and the figure for corporate and bank bonds increased by 0.76%, to 111.69 points. Over the course of March, government bond No. 035 was excluded from the base of the index and was replaced, after a successful primary auction, by government bond issues No. 046 to 050.

Index SAX In March, the course of the Slovak Share Index (SAX) was marked by rapid fluctuations in the average values of all components. The monthly maximum of SAX (148.53 points) was recorded on 2 March, the first trading day of the month. The monthly minimum (135.46 points) was reported on 26 March.

Regarding the structure of share and bondholders registered at the Securities Centre, the most significant month-on-month changes were recorded in the number of bonds held by residents (an increase of 14.23%) and that of bonds held by domestic banks (a decrease of 7.78%). The number of shares held by domestic banks recorded a more moderate change (an increase of 3.95%).

6. Interbank foreign exchange market

Foreign exchange market in the SR In March, the total volume of transactions concluded on Slovakia's foreign exchange market increased month-on-month by 36.8%, from US\$ 3,945.1 million to US\$ 5,398.1 million. The said increase was due mainly to a 65.4% growth in trading on the interbank foreign exchange market. The foreign exchange market of the SR was dominated by trading between Slovak and foreign banks, the volume of which exceeded that of the interbank foreign exchange market by 88.8%.

Transactions between Slovak banks The volume of trading between Slovak banks accounted for almost 97.6% of the country's interbank foreign exchange market. After a period of decline recorded during the previous months, the volume of trading between Slovak commercial banks increased in March by 25.4%, from US\$ 1,458.3 million to US\$ 1,828.9 million. Most trading was again concluded in US\$ (81.2%, compared with 80.9% in February), followed by DM (16.3%, compared with 16.7% in February) and other European currencies (2.4%, compared with 2.5% in February). The number of contracts increased to 974 (from 841 in February), while the average amount per contract increased to US\$ 1.9 million, from US\$ 1.7 million.

Transactions between Slovak and foreign banks A marked expansion (41.9%) was recorded in trading between Slovak and foreign banks, the volume of which increased from US\$ 2,486.4 million to US\$ 3,529.1 million and maintained its dominant position on the country's foreign exchange market. Most trading was again concluded in US\$ (88.2%), followed by DM (10.7%), and other European currencies (1.1%). The number of transactions increased from 905 to 1,054, with an average amount of US\$ 3.3 million per contract. Slovak commercial banks continued to purchase foreign exchange from foreign banks. In March, the balance of trading between Slovak and foreign banks reached US\$ 141.9 million, due to an inflow of foreign capital with a view to profiting from the interest-rate differential between the Slovak crown and fully convertible currencies.

7. Net foreign debt of the SR at 31 December 1997

The net foreign debt of Slovakia - calculated as the difference between gross foreign debt, i.e. US\$ 9.9 billion (liabilities of the Government and the NBS, liabilities of commercial banks and the corporate sector - import commitments and financial credits) and foreign assets, i.e. US\$ 8.0 billion (foreign exchange reserves of the NBS, foreign assets of commercial banks and the corporate sector - export claims and financial credits), reached US\$ 1.9 billion at the end of December 1997.

Appendices

Monetary survey

(Sk billion)

	1997										1998		
	31.3.	30.4.	31.5.	30.6.	31.7.	31.8.	30.9.	31.10.	30.11.	31.12.*/	31.1.	28.2.	31.3.*/
Fixed exchange rate SKK / USD	31.895	31.895	31.895	31.895	31.895	31.895	31.895	31.895	31.895	31.895	34.782	34.782	34.782
Fixed exchange rate SKK / DEM	20.514	20.514	20.514	20.514	20.514	20.514	20.514	20.514	20.514	20.514	19.398	19.398	19.398
ASSETS													
Net foreign assets	65.7	63.8	58.5	64.8	68.9	72.3	71.0	76.8	74.0	71.2	68.3	72.3	71.3
Foreign assets	204.6	211.4	202.8	219.1	232.1	242.3	239.8	254.0	259.9	234.8	252.5	255.3	252.6
Foreign liabilities	138.9	147.6	144.3	154.3	163.2	170.0	168.8	177.2	185.9	163.6	184.2	183.0	181.3
Net domestic assets	341.9	346.1	355.5	351.2	354.1	354.8	352.3	347.9	357.4	382.7	378.6	380.2	373.6
Domestic credit	434.4	438.6	442.1	445.0	446.5	450.7	455.1	458.0	464.4	467.6	463.4	467.9	468.3
- Net credit to Government	73.4	74.9	77.5	81.0	85.3	87.0	89.2	92.3	96.9	100.5	99.2	99.4	94.5
- Net credit to FNM ^{1/}	-2.1	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.5	-2.9	-2.3	-2.0	-2.2	-3.0	-1.7	-0.6	0.2
Credit to households and enterprises	363.1	366.0	366.9	366.4	363.7	366.6	368.2	367.7	369.7	370.1	365.9	369.1	373.5
- Credit in SKK	331.9	334.2	334.8	333.4	329.9	332.7	333.8	334.7	335.4	334.3	331.1	334.5	338.8
- Credit to enterprises	313.7	315.8	316.2	314.6	310.9	313.5	314.5	315.1	315.6	314.1	310.9	314.1	318.0
- Credit to households	18.2	18.4	18.6	18.8	19.0	19.2	19.3	19.6	19.8	20.2	20.2	20.4	20.8
- Credit in foreign currency	31.2	31.8	32.1	33.0	33.8	33.9	34.4	33.0	34.3	35.8	34.8	34.6	34.7
LIABILITIES													
Liquid liabilities [M2]	407.6	409.9	414.0	416.0	423.0	427.1	423.3	424.7	431.4	453.9	446.9	452.5	445.0
Money [M1]	156.2	155.5	157.3	156.1	158.7	160.5	156.6	154.0	160.1	166.1	154.3	161.0	151.7
Currency outside banks [M0]	44.7	44.3	44.9	45.2	45.5	46.8	46.4	46.0	46.8	48.7	51.0	50.7	49.6
Demand deposits	111.5	111.2	112.4	110.9	113.2	113.7	110.2	108.0	113.3	117.4	103.3	110.3	102.1
- Households	48.6	49.6	49.6	49.6	49.3	49.3	47.9	46.0	45.8	46.2	45.7	45.1	
- Enterprises	61.3	60.4	61.7	60.2	62.8	63.1	61.3	61.1	66.6	69.6	56.3	63.5	
- Insurance companies	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.7	
Quasi-money [QM]	251.4	254.4	256.7	259.9	264.3	266.6	266.7	270.7	271.3	287.8	292.6	291.5	293.3
Time and savings deposits	209.5	212.4	214.4	214.3	218.1	218.7	219.9	223.7	224.5	240.4	244.7	242.0	243.9
- Households	150.6	150.9	151.3	154.1	155.7	156.7	159.6	164.3	168.3	182.8	185.9	188.8	
- Enterprises	40.4	42.8	43.8	41.6	43.7	43.3	42.5	42.7	39.6	41.4	41.4	35.5	
- Insurance companies	18.5	18.7	19.3	18.6	18.7	18.7	17.8	16.7	16.6	16.2	17.4	17.7	
Foreign currency deposits	41.9	42.0	42.3	45.6	46.2	47.9	46.8	47.0	46.8	47.4	47.9	49.5	49.4
- Households	36.9	37.1	37.5	37.8	38.5	38.8	39.1	39.3	39.6	40.0	39.2	38.9	
- Enterprises	5.0	4.9	4.8	7.8	7.7	9.1	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.4	8.7	10.6	
Other items net	92.5	92.5	86.6	93.8	92.4	95.9	102.8	110.1	107.0	84.9	84.8	87.7	94.6

*/ Preliminary data

1/ FNM - National Property Fund

Foreign Exchange Reserves

(USD million)

End-of-period figures	1997										1998		
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
Official reserves of NBS	3,453.1	3,346.9	2,974.0	3,018.7	3,009.5	3,181.0	3,150.9	3,410.9	3,446.0	3,284.9	3,161.1	3,202.1	3,142.7
Reserves of commercial banks	2,447.3	2,610.6	2,797.2	3,109.3	3,372.3	3,550.5	3,625.7	3,859.1	3,883.2	3,204.9	3,862.7	3,881.4	3,838.9
Total	5,900.4	5,957.5	5,771.2	6,128.0	6,381.8	6,731.5	6,776.6	7,270.0	7,329.2	6,489.8	7,023.8	7,083.5	6,981.6

Gross Foreign Debt

(USD billions)

End-of-period figures	1996	1997											
	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Total gross foreign debt	7.8	7.8	8.0	8.0	8.4	8.5	9.0	9.4	9.5	9.7	10.3	10.7	9.9*/
- official debt of the Government and the NBS	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8
- foreign debt of enterprises	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.1
- foreign debt of commercial banks	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	2.9
Total gross debt per capita (in USD)	1,473	1,474	1,502	1,516	1,586	1,601	1,705	1,766	1,789	1,826	1,937	2,023	1,867

*/ At the end of December 1997, the actual level of foreign debt was higher by roughly USD 800 million. The level of foreign debt was reduced to USD 9.9 billion artificially, due to an accounting operator performed by a foreign bank based in the SR in December 1997.

Money Supply M2

(Sk billion)

	1.1.1998	28.2.1998	31.3.1998 ^{*/}	Month-on-month change	Month-on-month change (in %)	Change since beginning of year	Change since beginning of year (in %)	31.3.1997	Year-on-year change	Year-on-year change (in %)
Money Supply [M2]	453.5	452.5	445.0	-7.5	-1.7	-8.5	-1.9	407.6	37.4	9.2
Money [M1]	166.1	161.0	151.7	-9.3	-5.8	-14.4	-8.7	156.2	-4.5	-2.9
Currency outside banks [M0]	48.7	50.7	49.6	-1.1	-2.2	0.9	1.8	44.7	4.9	11.0
Demand deposits	117.4	110.3	102.1	-8.2	-7.4	-15.3	-13.0	111.5	-9.4	-8.4
Quasi-money [QM]	287.4	291.5	293.3	1.8	0.6	5.9	2.1	251.4	41.9	16.7
Time deposits	240.4	242.0	243.9	1.9	0.8	3.5	1.5	209.5	34.4	16.4
Foreign currency deposits	47.0	49.5	49.4	-0.1	-0.2	2.4	5.1	41.9	7.5	17.9
Crown deposits	357.8	352.3	346.0	-6.3	-1.8	-11.8	-3.3	321.0	25.0	7.8
- Households	229	233.9	234.0	0.1	0.0	5.0	2.2	199.2	34.8	17.5
- Enterprises (incl. insurance)	128.8	118.4	112.0	-6.4	-5.4	-16.8	-13.0	121.8	-9.8	-8.0

*/ Preliminary data

Monetary-Policy Instruments

	As at 1 January 1997	Change during the year 1997	As at 1 January 1998	Change during the year 1998
1. Discount rate	8.8%		8.8%	
2. Lombard rate	15%		15%	
3. REPO rate				
sterilisation	-	Jan. 16.1% ^{1/} Feb. 15.4% Mar. 14.2% Apr. 15.2% May - Jun. - Jul. - Aug. - Sep. - Oct. - Nov. - Dec. -	-	Jan. 11.7% Feb. - Mar. - Apr. - May - Jun. - Jul. - Aug. - Sep. - Oct. - Nov. - Dec. -
refinancing	-	Jan. 14.8% ^{2/} Feb. - Mar. 17.4% Apr. 15.8% May 16.8% Jun. 19.2% Jul. 16.6% Aug. 13.9% Sep. 15.9% Oct. 19.7% Nov. 15.7% Dec. 19.2%	-	Jan. 21.95% Feb. 19.45% Mar. 15.25% Apr. - May - Jun. - Jul. - Aug. - Sep. - Oct. - Nov. - Dec. -
4. Reserve requirements	9% of primary deposits of banks 3% of primary deposits of building societies		9% of primary deposits of banks 3% of primary deposits of building societies	
5. Exchange rates vis-a-vis convertible currencies				
a) currency basket	60% DEM, 40% USD		60% DEM, 40% USD	
b) fluctuation band	± 7%		± 7%	

^{1/} Average interest rate on tenders conducted during the second RR-period

^{2/} Average interest rate on tenders conducted during the first RR-period

Development of Deposits

(Sk billion)

	28.2.1998	31.3.1998 ^{1/}	Change
Deposits in Sk and foreign currency	443.3	434.2	-9.1
- Deposits in Slovak crowns	391.0	382.2	-8.8
of which			
- Entrepreneurial sector	107.0	98.5	-8.5
- Government sector	38.6	38.1	-0.5
- Households	233.9	234.1	0.2
- Other ^{2/}	11.5	11.4	-0.1
- Deposits in foreign currency ^{3/}	52.3	52.0	-0.3

1/ Preliminary data

2/ Nonresidents, unincorporated and non-profit organisations

3/ In convertible currencies (residents and non-residents)

Development of Loans

(Sk billion)

	28.2.1998	31.3.1998 ^{1/}	Change
Loans in Sk and foreign currency	389.2	392.2	3.0
- Loans in Slovak crowns	342.1	346.2	4.1
of which			
- Entrepreneurial sector	311.2	315.5	4.3
- Government sector	7.5	7.4	-0.1
- Households	20.4	20.8	0.4
- Other ^{2/}	3.0	2.5	-0.5
- Loans in foreign currency ^{3/}	47.1	46.0	-1.1

1/ Preliminary data

2/ Nonresidents, unincorporated and non-profit organisations

3/ In convertible currencies (residents and non-residents)

Average Lending Rates of Commercial Banks

(%)

	1997											1998	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
1. TOTAL VOLUME OF LOANS ^{1/}	13.77	13.93	14.17	14.58	14.94	15.37	15.49	15.66	15.75	15.84	16.21	16.66	17.28
A) Loans by sector													
of which													
a) Enterprise sector	13.78	13.86	14.26	14.55	14.91	15.35	15.49	15.60	15.66	15.80	16.16	16.71	17.27
- Public sector	13.12	13.12	13.78	13.95	14.33	14.79	14.89	14.95	14.96	14.99	15.33	15.72	16.31
- Private sector (incl. cooperatives)	14.44	14.59	14.73	15.15	15.48	15.90	16.08	16.24	16.35	16.60	16.98	17.70	18.22
b) Households	7.25	7.38	7.51	7.42	7.46	7.73	7.74	7.69	7.86	7.53	7.32	7.51	7.48
B) Loans by term													
of which													
- Short-term	14.93	15.34	15.69	16.58	17.28	18.23	18.38	18.72	18.92	19.13	19.91	20.77	20.77
- Medium-term	15.54	15.59	15.68	15.66	15.88	15.94	16.00	16.10	16.06	16.35	16.41	16.61	16.47
- Long-term	11.59	11.54	11.39	11.52	11.63	11.77	11.82	11.82	11.90	11.88	11.88	12.26	13.86
2. NEW LOANS IN TOTAL	15.63	16.21	16.53	19.08	19.33	18.59	18.51	19.91	19.84	20.56	20.93	20.75	20.82
A) Loans by sector													
of which													
a) Enterprise sector	14.69	15.02	15.43	17.36	20.36	17.43	16.27	18.70	19.38	19.39	21.27	19.06	19.53
- Public sector	14.26	14.03	14.52	15.77	22.40	15.64	13.11	17.72	19.09	18.65	21.30	15.84	17.45
- Private sector (incl. cooperatives)	15.12	16.00	16.34	18.94	18.31	19.22	19.43	19.67	19.67	20.12	21.23	22.28	21.60
b) Households	11.09	12.77	12.44	12.30	11.71	10.52	10.11	9.96	10.07	10.43	10.18	13.59	9.99
B) Loans by term													
of which													
- Short-term	15.88	16.17	16.78	19.70	20.01	18.98	18.97	20.90	20.76	21.56	21.63	21.56	21.81
- Medium-term	13.63	15.36	15.82	16.12	15.58	16.28	15.39	16.80	15.78	17.60	16.31	17.56	16.88
- Long-term	13.98	17.65	13.44	15.49	15.45	16.14	16.12	15.46	16.46	15.12	15.40	13.04	13.73

1/ Excluding loans at zero interest rate

Average Interest Rates on Crown Deposits and Volume of Crown Deposits

		1997										1998		
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Total deposits	a	354,058	352,996	356,816	359,518	357,452	363,532	363,937	361,401	361,865	368,269	388,784	378,097	382,397
	b	7.03	7.52	7.57	7.84	7.75	8.07	8.09	8.65	8.82	8.76	8.69	10.21	9.98
of which														
Demand deposits	a	122,906	122,886	123,202	125,110	124,685	128,557	126,628	124,935	121,642	127,027	140,524	114,600	121,846
	b	3.01	3.04	3.04	3.08	3.19	3.43	3.41	3.48	3.50	3.57	3.50	3.78	3.73
Time deposits	a	231,152	230,110	233,614	234,408	232,767	234,976	237,309	236,466	240,214	241,242	248,260	263,496	260,550
	b	9.21	9.98	9.97	10.28	10.17	10.63	10.63	11.40	11.54	11.48	11.62	13.00	12.90
- 7-day deposits	a	6,771	4,871	6,695	7,703	8,856	11,138	12,339	10,621	11,764	10,106	8,702	15,394	13,893
	b	10.44	18.23	14.74	21.23	14.76	16.91	14.67	20.43	18.54	16.46	17.10	20.48	17.35
- 1-month deposits	a	21,209	21,965	22,248	21,386	21,718	24,081	28,735	32,863	38,779	43,216	49,095	49,923	51,504
	b	10.31	10.71	10.49	11.02	12.27	12.52	12.43	15.45	15.95	15.84	16.25	18.59	18.66
- 3-month deposits	a	11,432	9,655	10,322	11,145	8,808	9,188	9,556	9,338	8,599	10,814	11,166	17,330	17,584
	b	9.30	8.85	10.12	11.11	11.37	11.65	12.61	13.30	13.08	13.37	15.04	18.85	18.74
- 6-month deposits	a	13,053	13,394	14,077	13,527	13,406	11,308	10,416	9,619	9,781	8,977	6,743	13,209	14,117
	b	9.29	9.85	9.61	9.60	9.56	9.84	10.59	10.74	11.27	11.10	11.37	15.59	16.20
- 9-month deposits	a	2,278	2,193	2,374	2,446	2,422	2,137	2,195	1,673	1,194	661	518	533	569
	b	10.04	10.08	10.27	10.80	10.34	11.48	11.81	12.52	12.85	15.04	16.78	17.76	17.41
- 12-month deposits	a	72,996	74,330	73,343	74,097	73,633	72,932	70,761	70,279	68,674	67,406	64,957	63,275	61,818
	b	9.05	9.96	9.95	10.06	10.11	10.29	10.38	10.49	10.52	10.63	10.51	10.69	10.67
- 18-month deposits	a	1,483	1,657	1,635	1,765	1,788	1,430	1,296	1,324	1,302	1,482	1,341	1,324	1,003
	b	6.91	10.99	11.06	11.25	11.96	11.45	10.43	10.72	10.69	10.96	11.14	11.72	12.78
- 2-year deposits	a	51,867	51,394	52,374	51,699	51,108	52,131	51,444	50,248	49,531	48,044	50,785	48,170	45,974
	b	9.43	10.74	10.74	10.74	10.70	10.86	10.86	10.84	10.84	10.79	10.77	10.80	10.76
- 3-year deposits	a	2,017	2,020	2,040	2,160	1,624	1,363	1,367	1,418	1,459	1,501	1,447	1,521	1,817
	b	12.67	12.66	12.64	12.68	12.61	12.99	12.95	12.89	12.84	12.12	12.14	12.36	12.87
- 4-year deposits	a	8,653	8,574	8,513	8,537	8,572	8,579	8,586	8,583	8,605	8,600	8,601	8,443	8,406
	b	13.14	13.13	13.13	13.13	13.13	13.13	13.13	13.13	13.13	13.13	13.13	12.90	12.98
- 5-year deposits	a	13,361	13,473	13,282	13,188	13,460	12,871	12,664	12,387	11,956	11,506	11,832	11,246	10,755
	b	12.85	12.59	12.53	12.50	12.50	13.25	13.00	12.99	13.03	12.98	12.92	13.39	13.26
- above 5 year	a	26,031	26,585	26,711	26,754	27,370	27,819	27,951	28,114	28,570	28,930	33,072	33,129	33,110
	b	4.85	4.82	4.82	4.81	4.76	4.75	4.75	4.74	4.69	4.69	4.51	4.54	4.49
- short-term	a	127,740	126,408	129,058	130,305	128,844	130,784	134,001	134,393	138,791	141,180	141,182	159,663	159,484
	b	9.36	10.28	10.57	10.89	10.68	11.36	11.41	12.75	12.96	12.90	13.39	15.42	15.24
- medium-term	a	77,381	77,117	77,844	77,349	76,553	76,374	75,357	73,959	72,853	71,132	74,006	70,704	67,956
	b	10.55	11.39	11.36	11.37	11.35	11.50	11.51	11.50	11.50	11.46	11.42	11.51	11.52
- long-term	a	26,031	26,585	26,711	26,754	27,370	27,819	27,951	28,114	28,570	28,930	33,072	33,129	33,110
	b	4.85	4.82	4.82	4.81	4.76	4.75	4.75	4.74	4.79	4.69	4.51	4.54	4.49
- demand and short-term	a	250,646	249,293	252,260	255,415	253,529	259,340	260,630	259,328	260,433	268,207	281,705	274,264	281,331
	b	6.21	6.66	6.69	7.05	7.06	7.57	11.02	8.26	8.52	8.48	8.45	10.56	10.26

a - Volume of deposits (\$K million)

b - Average interest rate (%)

Development of Average Interbank Offered Rates (BRIBOR)

	1997										1998		
	3	4	5 ^{1/}	6 ^{1/}	7 ^{1/}	8 ^{1/}	9 ^{1/}	10 ^{1/}	11	12	1	2	3
Overnight	19.97	18.71	26.75	53.91	29.58	23.63	25.18	27.18	17.71	18.55	16.69	17.22	11.12
1 week	18.20	19.96	25.77	42.34	28.06	24.96	26.20	27.48	22.00	21.18	19.99	21.12	15.31
2 weeks	18.09	19.94	25.12	40.76	26.23	23.31	26.09	27.28	23.06	21.71	21.03	21.60	16.67
1 month	17.71	19.92	24.27	33.80	25.46	24.70	26.51	27.00	25.52	24.42	23.07	22.82	18.70
2 months	17.35	19.43	23.83	32.48	25.22	-	26.50	26.59	26.61	25.54	24.57	24.43	20.03
3 months	17.30	19.36	23.78	31.48	24.93	-	25.66	26.17	26.93	26.48	25.80	24.06	21.30
6 months	17.15	19.09	23.61	30.89	24.45	-	-	26.68	27.10	26.92	26.61	26.04	23.11

Note: All average rates were calculated for the days on which they were listed

^{1/} Figures based on data from the unofficial Monitoring of Interbank Deposit Rates in the SR (since 29 May 1997), due to the marked fall in trade on the interbank market and the subsequent suspension of listing of BRIBOR rates. The listing of BRIBOR rates was renewed on 16 October 1997.

Basic Characteristics of Slovakia's Foreign Exchange Market in March 1998

	USD			DEM			Other currencies			Total	
	Turnover		Number of transactions	Turnover		Number of transactions	Turnover		Number of transactions	Turnover USD million	Number of transactions
	USD million	%		USD million	%		USD million	%			
Foreign exchange fixing	23.5	58.8	4	16.5	41.3	3				40.0	7
Transactions among Slovak banks without participation of foreign banks	1,485.4	81.2	610	298.9	16.3	227	44.7	2.4	137	1,828.9	974
Interbank foreign exchange market fixing + transactions between Slovak banks.	1,508.9	80.7	614	315.4	16.9	230	44.7	2.4	137	1,868.9	981
Transactions between Slovak and foreign banks	3,112.2	88.2	795	378.3	10.7	225	38.6	1.1	34	3,529.1	1,054
Foreign exchange market in the SR - total	4,621.1	85.6	1,409	693.7	12.9	455	83.3	1.5	171	5,398.1	2,035

Average Monthly Exchange Rates of SKK

midpoint rate	1997										1998		
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
FRF	5.804	5.782	5.793	5.750	5.665	5.601	5.716	5.714	5.786	5.806	5.786	5.807	5.730
1,000 ITL	19.604	19.660	19.775	19.756	19.631	19.333	19.695	19.574	19.775	19.832	19.690	19.727	19.513
100 JPY	27.150	26.529	28.005	29.274	29.697	29.563	28.542	27.861	26.883	26.722	27.177	28.092	27.248
CAD	24.257	23.891	24.106	24.174	24.801	25.097	24.829	24.352	23.757	24.229	24.424	24.593	24.745
NLG	17.399	17.318	17.369	17.252	16.975	16.764	17.063	17.019	17.190	17.250	17.197	17.271	17.045
ATS	2.782	2.767	2.776	2.758	2.716	2.683	2.731	2.724	2.753	2.763	2.755	2.767	2.731
DEM	19.580	19.476	19.534	19.409	19.111	18.881	19.217	19.173	19.376	19.438	19.379	19.467	19.211
CHF	22.664	22.770	23.235	23.260	23.096	22.975	23.354	23.189	23.845	24.022	23.854	24.123	23.595
USD	33.226	33.263	33.261	33.463	34.142	34.833	34.429	33.718	33.528	34.528	35.137	35.322	35.041
GBP	53.359	54.218	54.324	54.989	57.117	55.888	55.067	54.941	56.573	57.401	57.525	57.892	58.166
XEU	38.011	37.997	38.084	37.917	37.690	37.173	37.708	37.668	38.328	38.471	38.279	38.439	38.096
CZK	1.138	1.114	1.072	1.035	1.018	1.017	1.024	1.025	1.012	0.994	0.994	1.023	1.031

Gross Domestic Product

(Sk billion)

		1996	1997				year
		year	1. quarter	2. quarter	3. quarter	4. quarter	
Gross domestic product in constant 1995 prices	a	550.8	136.0	147.3	152.4	151.1	586.8
	b	106.6	106.4	106.2	106.6	106.9	106.5
	c	-	96.2	108.3	103.5	99.1	-
Gross domestic product in current prices	a	575.7	148.7	162.6	170.2	172.4	653.9
	b	111.4	113.9	112.7	113.1	114.6	113.6
	c	-	98.9	109.3	104.7	101.3	-

Note: Conversion is based on the method of ESA

a - In the specified unit

b - Index same period of previous year = 100

c - Index previous quarter = 100

Consumer Prices

(according to the methodology being in force since 1 January 1997)

		1997											1998	
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Goods and services	a	100.4	100.5	100.5	100.1	100.3	100.1	101.0	100.2	100.9	100.7	100.5	101.9	100.7
	b	106.9	107.5	108.1	108.2	108.5	108.6	109.6	109.9	110.8	111.5	112.1	108.4	109.1
	c	101.5	102.1	102.6	102.7	103.0	103.0	104.1	104.3	105.2	105.9	106.4	101.9	102.6
	d	106.0	106.3	106.5	106.1	106.2	106.0	106.5	105.7	105.9	106.2	106.4	107.2	107.5
of which														
foodstuff goods	a	100.4	100.7	100.3	99.2	100.5	99.3	99.9	100.1	101.0	100.7	101.0	101.9	101.2
	b	106.4	107.1	107.4	106.5	107.1	106.3	106.2	106.3	107.3	108.1	109.1	106.6	107.8
	c	102.0	102.7	103.0	102.1	102.6	101.9	101.8	101.9	102.9	103.6	104.6	101.9	103.0
	d	106.3	107.1	107.1	105.9	107.4	106.0	105.4	103.2	103.3	103.8	104.6	104.9	105.7
non-foodstuff goods	a	100.5	100.4	100.3	100.6	100.2	100.3	100.6	100.4	101.0	100.6	100.5	101.5	100.6
	b	107.7	108.1	108.5	109.1	109.3	109.6	110.3	110.7	111.8	112.5	113.0	108.0	108.7
	c	101.4	101.8	102.1	102.8	103.0	103.2	103.9	104.3	105.3	105.9	106.4	101.5	102.1
	d	106.0	106.0	106.1	106.1	105.6	105.7	105.8	105.8	106.3	106.4	106.4	107.0	107.2
public catering	a	100.0	100.5	100.0	100.3	100.2	100.4	100.0	100.2	100.5	100.6	100.3	100.4	101.2
	b	103.5	104.1	104.1	104.4	104.7	105.1	105.0	105.3	105.8	106.4	106.7	103.0	104.3
	c	99.5	100.0	100.0	100.4	100.6	101.0	101.0	101.2	101.7	102.3	102.6	100.4	101.7
	d	104.5	104.7	104.2	104.0	103.5	103.6	103.2	102.8	102.7	102.7	102.6	103.6	104.8
services	a	100.5	100.5	101.1	100.3	100.2	100.6	102.7	100.2	100.6	100.7	100.1	102.4	100.3
	b	107.0	107.6	108.8	109.2	109.4	110.1	113.0	113.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	111.3	111.6
	c	101.3	101.9	103.0	103.4	103.6	104.2	107.0	107.2	107.8	108.5	108.6	102.4	102.7
	d	105.2	105.3	106.3	106.4	106.4	106.8	108.5	108.1	108.2	108.7	108.6	110.3	110.2

a - Index previous period = 100

b - Index December two years before = 100

d - Index December of previous year = 100

e - Index same period of previous year = 100

Producer Prices of Selected Products and Materials

(%)

		1997										1998		
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Industrial products	a	100.6	99.4	100.6	99.4	100.2	100.6	100.6	100.4	101.6	99.8	100.1	100.8	100.0
	b	101.7	101.2	101.7	101.2	101.3	101.9	102.5	102.9	104.5	104.3	104.4	100.8	100.8
	c	108.2	107.5	108.2	107.5	107.7	108.4	109.0	109.4	111.1	110.9	111.0	102.8	102.8
	d	105.3	104.2	104.8	103.2	103.7	104.4	104.3	104.2	104.8	104.4	104.4	104.1	103.5
	e	106.1	105.5	106.1	105.5	105.7	106.3	106.9	107.3	109.0	108.8	108.9	109.8	109.8
Building materials	a	100.9	99.4	101.6	101.8	100.3	100.4	100.9	100.4	100.4	100.5	100.3	101.6	101.5
	b	102.2	101.6	103.2	105.1	105.4	105.8	106.7	107.1	107.5	108.0	108.3	101.6	103.1
	c	108.2	107.6	109.3	111.3	111.6	112.0	113.0	113.4	113.8	114.4	114.7	116.5	118.3
	d	106.3	104.8	106.2	108.2	108.0	107.7	108.5	108.5	108.2	107.9	108.3	108.7	109.3
	e	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agricultural products	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	d	111.1	111.1	108.6	106.8	106.8	108.6	107.6	105.6	102.0	99.4	98.9	102.9	102.3
	e	107.0	110.9	110.8	109.6	110.7	115.4	118.7	113.1	107.7	107.0	108.0	106.6	109.5
of which:	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Plant products	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	d	118.4	117.6	113.3	109.0	110.7	109.7	108.9	107.8	100.7	96.5	92.8	94.5	93.0
	e	119.5	121.0	120.5	120.4	123.7	119.7	123.3	117.8	108.2	108.1	109.4	110.7	111.1
Animal products	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	d	109.3	109.8	108.0	106.5	106.2	107.3	105.6	103.4	103.4	102.6	103.5	104.8	104.9
	e	104.1	108.9	109.5	108.3	109.2	110.7	112.6	108.4	107.2	105.9	107.1	105.8	109.2

a - Index previous month = 100

b - Index December of previous year = 100

c - Index average of previous year

d - Index same period of last year = 100

e - Index same period of 1995 = 100, for industrial producers December 1995 = 100

Inflation Rate

(in terms of consumer prices)

	1997										1998		
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
Monthly rate of inflation ^{1/}	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	1.0	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.5	1.9	0.7	0.2
Annual rate of inflation ^{2/}	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.5	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.4	7.2	7.5	7.2
Average annual rate of inflation ^{3/}	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	7.2	7.4	7.3

1 - Index (previous month = 100)

2 - Index (same period of previous year = 100)

3 - Annual rate of inflation, average from the beginning of the year

Unemployment

		1997										1998		
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Number of vacancies	a	19,712	23,038	27,155	28,116	28,543	29,120	28,982	26,765	24,135	20,674	19,318	18,299	19,254
	b	3,081	3,326	4,117	961	427	577	-138	-2,217	-2,630	-3,461	-1,356	-1,019	955
Number of unemployed	a	356,181	349,658	337,180	320,530	319,923	331,707	332,828	336,858	334,327	328,379	347,753	372,500	375,325
	b	2,576	-6,523	-12,478	-16,650	-607	11,784	1,121	4,030	-2,531	-5,948	19,374	24,747	2,825
Number of unemployed per vacancy	a	18	15	12	11	11	11	11	13	14	16	18	20	19
Unemployment rate (in %)	a	13.7	13.4	13.0	12.3	12.3	12.8	12.8	13.0	12.9	12.6	12.5	13.4	13.6

a - In the specified unit

b - Difference (+,-) compared with previous period

State Budget

		1997										1998		
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
State budget revenue	a	39,924	56,081	65,597	78,499	96,144	109,746	125,153	144,874	159,142	180,826	16,397	25,991	43,939
	b	23.3	32.8	38.3	45.9	56.2	64.1	73.1	84.7	93.0	105.7	9.1	14.5	24.4
State budget expenditure	a	43,374	60,773	72,774	91,708	114,080	134,015	153,121	176,138	192,632	217,825	12,923	25,753	42,835
	b	20.9	29.2	35.0	44.1	54.8	64.4	73.6	84.7	92.6	104.7	7.0	13.9	23.2
State budget balance	a	-3,450	-4,692	-7,177	-13,209	-17,936	-24,269	-27,968	-31,264	-33,490	-36,999	3,474	238	1,104

a - In the specified unit at the end of month (cumulative figures)

b - Budget performance in %

Industrial Production

(Sk millions)

		1997										1998		
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Total industrial production	a	44,790	46,290	46,952	46,241	48,529	44,016	43,349	47,711	53,611	52,811	49,050	46,232	47,137
	b	101.1	103.3	101.4	98.5	104.9	90.7	98.5	110.1	112.4	98.5	92.9	94.3	102.0
	c	102.6	102.0	108.6	100.2	107.4	103.5	98.3	99.3	102.4	103.3	105.2	100.8	102.9
	d	89,108	135,398	182,350	228,591	277,120	321,136	364,485	412,196	465,807	518,618	567,668	46,232	93,369
	e	101.5	101.7	103.4	102.7	103.5	103.5	102.9	102.4	102.4	102.5	102.7	100.8	101.9
	f	41,608	43,299	43,835	43,398	45,586	40,991	40,129	44,047	48,879	48,112	44,586	41,666	42,825
of which in the private sector	a	31,218	32,884	33,946	33,690	36,253	32,717	31,843	35,579	40,361	39,634	36,576	34,388	35,120
	b	102.1	105.3	103.2	99.2	107.6	90.2	97.3	111.7	113.4	98.2	92.3	94.0	102.1
	c	110.3	111.5	116.8	107.5	115.6	112.3	104.5	107.8	108.3	111.0	112.9	108.8	109.2
	d	61,793	94,677	128,623	162,313	198,566	231,283	263,126	298,705	339,066	378,700	415,276	34,388	69,508
	e	109.9	110.4	112.1	111.1	111.9	111.9	111.0	110.6	110.3	110.4	110.6	108.8	109.0
	g	69.7	71.0	72.3	72.9	74.7	74.3	73.5	74.6	75.3	75.0	74.6	74.4	74.5
Labour productivity (Sk / employee)	a	73,013	75,750	77,125	76,291	79,414	72,407	71,419	78,371	87,959	86,848	81,307	77,186	80,298
	b	100.7	103.7	101.8	98.9	104.1	91.2	98.6	109.7	112.2	98.7	93.6	94.9	104.0
	c	103.7	103.8	110.2	102.1	108.9	105.9	100.9	101.7	104.8	105.8	108.4	102.9	107.6

a - In the specified unit

b - Index previous month = 100

c - Index same period of last year = 100

d - From the beginning of year (in Sk million)

e - Index same period of last year = 100 (cumulative)

f - In the specified unit at constant 1995 prices

g - Share of private sector in industrial production (%)

Construction

(Sk millions)

		1997										1998		
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Total construction sector output (including output abroad)	a	4,331	4,646	5,633	6,157	6,707	6,870	6,944	6,980	8,031	7,614	6,411	4,709	5,337
	b	114.0	107.3	121.2	109.3	108.9	102.4	101.1	100.5	115.1	94.8	84.2	73.5	113.3
	c	117.3	110.6	112.7	106.9	103.9	111.0	111.8	106.6	111.4	110.2	105.8	113.9	114.1
	d	8,130	12,776	18,409	24,566	31,273	38,143	45,087	52,067	60,098	67,712	74,123	4,709	10,046
	e	111.0	110.9	111.4	110.3	108.8	109.2	109.6	109.2	109.5	109.6	109.2	113.9	114.0
	f	3,664	3,875	4,686	5,101	5,520	5,585	5,609	5,629	6,445	6,077	5,100	3,717	4,183
of which in the private sector	a	3,708	3,819	4,558	4,920	5,344	5,562	5,650	5,771	6,597	6,226	5,514	4,120	4,458
	b	112.5	103.0	119.4	107.9	108.6	104.1	101.6	102.1	114.3	94.4	88.6	74.7	108.2
	c	119.5	108.6	110.1	102.5	100.8	110.2	110.2	107.0	109.2	107.6	106.2	114.8	111.4
	d	7,005	10,824	15,382	20,302	25,646	31,208	36,858	42,629	49,226	55,452	60,966	4,120	8,578
	e	112.4	111.0	110.8	108.7	107.0	107.5	107.9	107.8	108.0	107.9	107.8	114.8	113.0
	g	85.6	82.2	80.9	79.9	79.7	81.0	81.4	82.7	82.1	81.8	86.0	87.5	83.5
Construction output in the SR	a	4,064	4,296	5,234	5,685	6,172	6,493	6,487	6,543	7,539	7,164	6,062	4,447	5,047
	b	113.4	105.7	121.8	108.6	108.6	105.2	99.9	100.9	115.2	95.0	84.6	73.4	113.5
	c	120.7	115.1	118.7	110.3	107.9	117.0	115.2	110.9	115.6	111.5	107.2	114.0	115.0
	d	7,647	11,943	17,177	22,862	29,034	35,527	42,014	48,557	56,096	63,260	69,322	4,447	9,494
	e	114.3	114.6	115.8	114.4	113.0	113.7	113.9	113.5	113.8	113.5	112.9	114.0	114.6
	f	3,438	3,583	4,355	4,710	5,080	5,279	5,240	5,277	6,051	5,717	4,823	3,510	3,955
Construction output abroad	a	267	350	399	472	535	377	457	437	492	450	349	262	290
	b	123.6	131.1	114.0	118.3	113.3	70.5	121.2	95.6	112.6	91.5	77.6	75.1	110.7
	c	81.6	74.7	67.7	77.9	72.4	59.2	78.8	68.0	71.3	92.6	86.3	111.3	100.5
	d	483	833	1,232	1,704	2,239	2,616	3,073	3,510	4,002	4,452	4,801	262	552
	e	76.4	75.7	72.9	74.2	73.8	71.3	72.3	71.7	71.7	73.3	74.1	111.3	105.4
	f	226	292	331	391	440	306	369	352	394	360	277	207	228
Labour productivity per employee in Sk (of total construction output)	a	30,230	32,275	38,456	41,742	45,080	45,324	45,318	45,140	51,383	49,108	42,465	32,066	36,445
	b	113.6	106.8	119.2	108.5	108.0	100.5	100.0	99.6	113.8	95.6	86.5	75.5	113.7
	c	118.4	111.5	114.3	108.6	105.1	111.3	111.2	105.4	108.9	108.0	102.9	110.7	111.7

a - In the specified unit

b - Index previous month = 100

c - Index same period of last year = 100

d - Cumulative from the beginning of year in Sk million

e - Index same period of last year = 100 (cumulative)

f - In the specified unit at constant prices - average 1995 prices

g - Share of private sector in production (%)

Foreign Trade

(Sk millions)

		1997												1998
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
Imports	a	28,097	27,826	29,419	35,443	28,193	29,238	28,665	26,060	27,975	30,556	27,097	26,480	23,698
	b	28,097	55,923	85,342	120,785	148,978	178,216	206,881	232,941	260,916	291,472	318,569	345,049	23,698
	c	122.5	103.7	108.9	116.0	112.6	113.2	111.4	110.2	109.0	107.1	104.5	101.2	84.3
of which: Czech Republic	a	6,201	6,797	6,902	8,645	6,285	7,061	5,612	6,038	6,930	7,562	6,042	5,260	4,892
	b	6,201	12,998	19,900	28,545	34,830	41,891	47,503	53,541	60,471	68,033	74,075	79,335	4,892
	d	22.1	24.4	23.5	24.4	22.3	24.2	19.6	23.2	24.8	24.7	22.3	19.9	20.6
Exports	a	21,223	24,284	24,502	25,402	24,037	26,205	25,745	24,753	26,250	27,009	26,094	20,070	18,186
	b	21,223	45,507	70,009	95,411	119,448	145,653	171,398	196,151	222,401	249,410	275,504	295,574	18,186
	c	103.6	113.4	113.0	116.9	113.4	113.6	113.3	113.7	112.6	112.0	110.4	109.2	85.7
of which: Czech Republic	a	6,033	6,492	7,193	6,868	6,756	6,968	6,162	6,576	6,765	7,681	6,552	4,735	4,981
	b	6,033	12,525	19,718	26,586	33,342	40,310	46,472	53,048	59,813	67,494	74,046	78,781	4,981
	d	28.4	26.7	29.4	27.0	28.1	26.6	23.9	26.6	25.8	28.4	25.1	23.6	27.4
Balance	a	-6,874	-3,542	-4,917	-10,041	-4,156	-3,033	-2,920	-1,307	-1,725	-3,547	-1,003	-6,410	-5,512
	b	-6,874	-10,416	-15,333	-25,374	-29,530	-32,563	-35,483	-36,790	-38,515	-42,062	-43,065	-49,475	-5,512
of which: Czech Republic	a	-168	-305	291	-1,777	471	-93	550	538	-165	119	510	-525	89
	b	-168	-473	-182	-1,959	-1,488	-1,581	-1,031	-493	-658	-539	-29	-554	89

Note: Preliminary data

- a - In the specified unit in current prices
b - From the beginning of the year in Sk millions
c - Index same period of previous year = 100 (cumulative)
d - Share of total volume in period (%)