



8 ŽIVLJENJSKA RAVEN
LEVEL OF LIVING

št./No 4

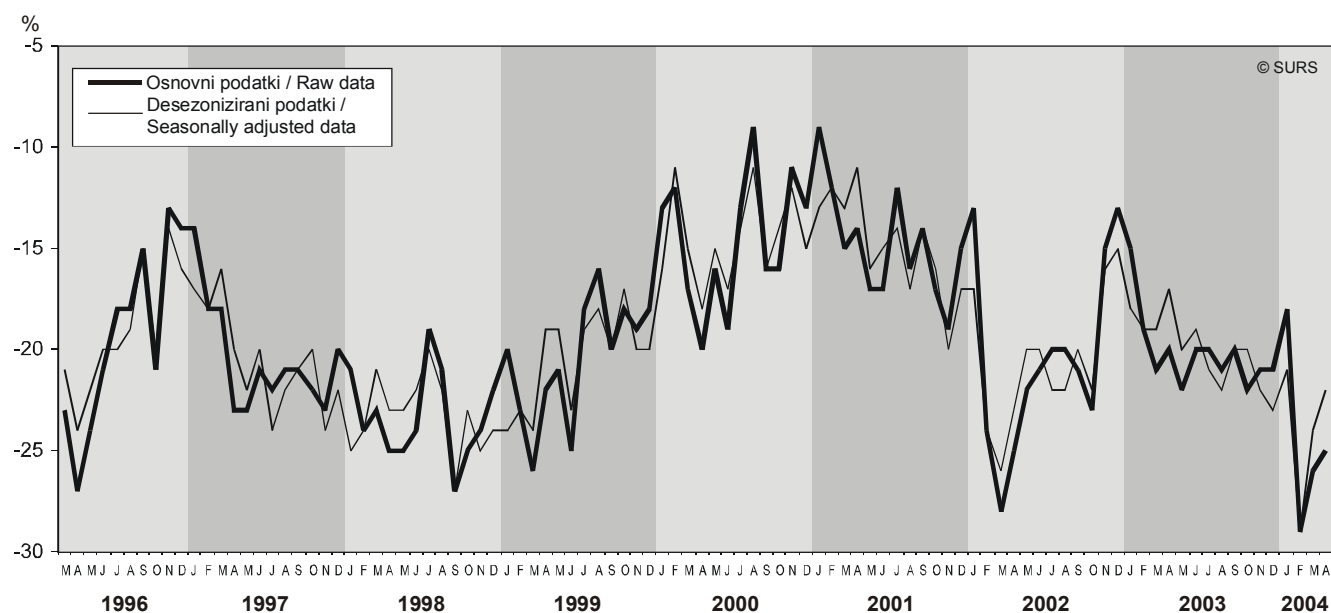
ANKETA O MNENJU POTROŠNIKOV, SLOVENIJA, MAJ 1996 - APRIL 2004

CONSUMER SURVEY, SLOVENIA, MAY 1996 - APRIL 2004

- ▶ Kazalec zaupanja je po relativno stabilnem položaju v letu 2003 v februarju 2004 zelo padel in dosegel najnižjo vrednost od začetka izvajanja ankete. Podobno gibanje, ko je najprej kazalec v začetku leta močno padel, potem pa se postopno spet dvigal, smo lahko opazili že leta 2002. Enako gibanje ima desezonirana vrednost kazalca zaupanja potrošnikov, ki je v februarja 2004 padla za 8 odstotnih točk, se marca dvignila za 5 in aprila za 2 odstotni točki in s tem dosegla enako raven kot novembra 2003.
- ▶ Kazalec zaupanja potrošnikov je aprila 2004 v primerjavi z enakim obdobjem lani padel v vseh izobrazbenih skupinah, najbolj med tistimi s končano višjo, visoko šolo in več. V tej skupini je bil kazalec zaupanja kar za 10 odstotnih točk nižji kot aprila 2003.
- ▶ Med vsemi oblikami ravnotežij je bilo med potrošniki v aprilu 2004 v primerjavi s preteklim mesecem največ optimizma pri vprašanju o oceni gospodarskega stanja v Sloveniji v prihodnjih 12 mesecih. To ravnotežje se je v primerjavi s prejšnjim mesecem dvignilo za 4 odstotne točke.
- ▶ Ravnotežje na vprašanje o nakupu stanovanja v prihodnjih 12 mesecih se je v drugem četrtletju 2004 v primerjavi s prvim četrtletjem 2004 dvignilo za 2 odstotni točki. Če pogledamo deleže odgovorov na to vprašanje, dobimo za april 2004 naslednje rezultate: 5 % potrošnikov bo v naslednjih 12 mesecih kupilo ali zgradilo stanovanje oz. hišo, 5 % mogoče, 3 % verjetno ne, 87 % pa ne.
- ▶ The consumer confidence indicator decreased significantly in February 2004 after a relatively stable period in 2003. With this fall it reached the lowest level since the beginning of the survey. We can notice the similar trend in 2002, when the indicator significantly decreased in the beginning of the year, and then it started slowly to increase. The same trend as for the raw values of the indicator in the last period was noticed for seasonally adjusted values; in February 2004 the value fell by 8 percentage points, then it increased in March by 5 and in April by 2 percentage points and reached the same level as in November 2003.
- ▶ Compared to April last year, in April 2004 the consumer confidence indicator decreased in all educational groups, especially among consumers with completed college or higher education. In this group the indicator was 10 percentage points lower than in April 2003.
- ▶ Of all balances, in April 2004 consumers were the most optimistic in their answers to the question about the general economic situation in Slovenia in the next 12 months. The balance increased by 4 percentage points compared to March 2004.
- ▶ The balance for the question about purchasing or constructing a dwelling over the next 12 months increased by 2 percentage points in the second quarter of 2004 compared to the first quarter of 2004. If we look at the structure of responses, we get the following proportions for April 2004: 5% of consumers will buy or construct a dwelling over the next 12 months, 5% maybe, 3% probably not and 87% not.

Slika 1: Gibanje kazalca zaupanja pri potrošnikih, marec 1996 – april 2004

Chart 1: Evolution of the consumer confidence indicator, March 1996 - April 2004



Slika 2: Kazalec zaupanja glede na dohodek, marec 1996 - april 2004

Chart 2: Confidence indicator by income, March 1996 - April 2003

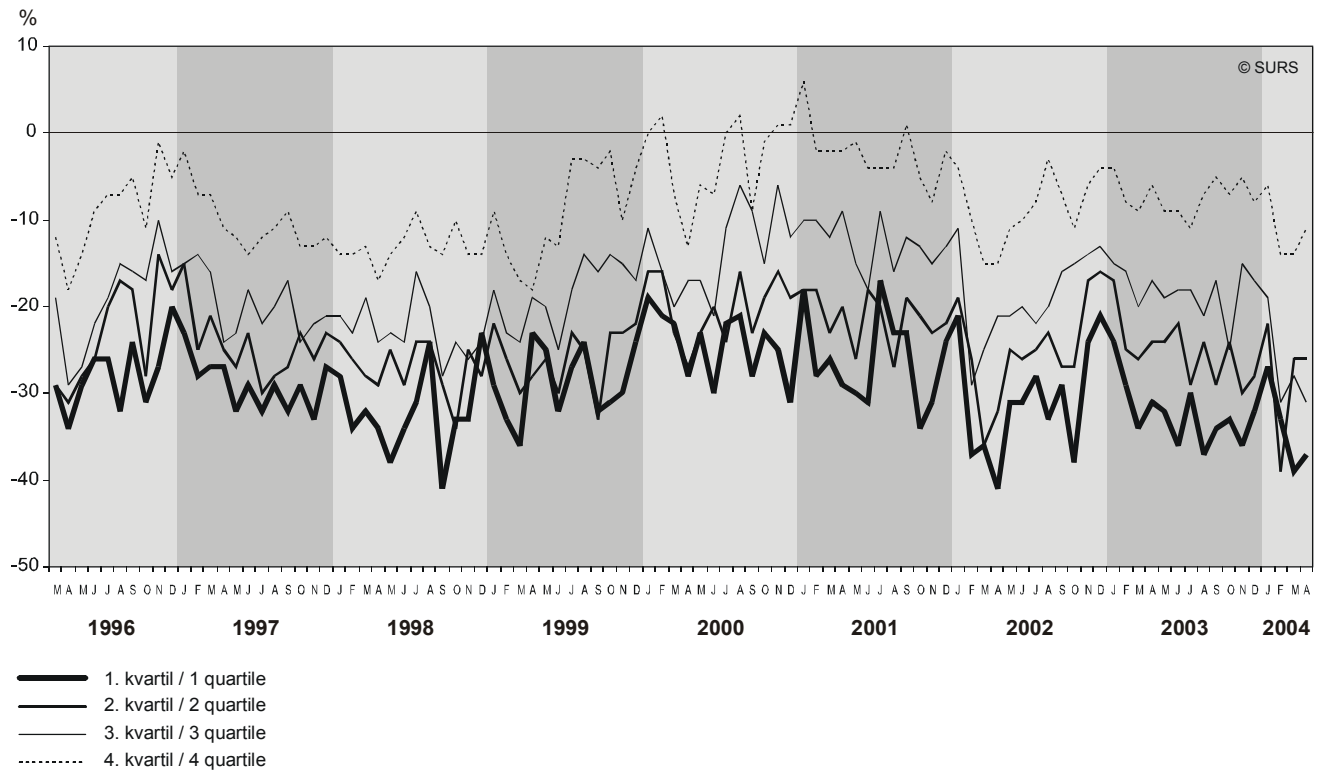
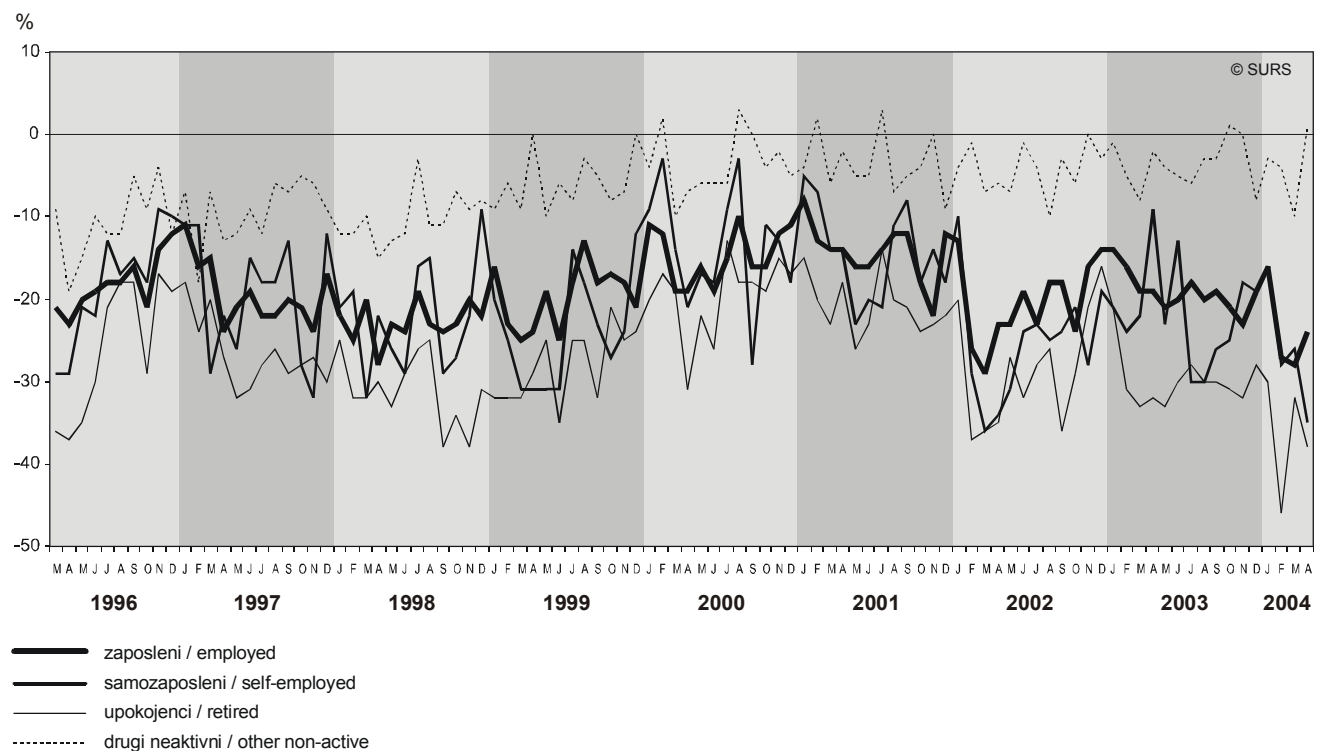
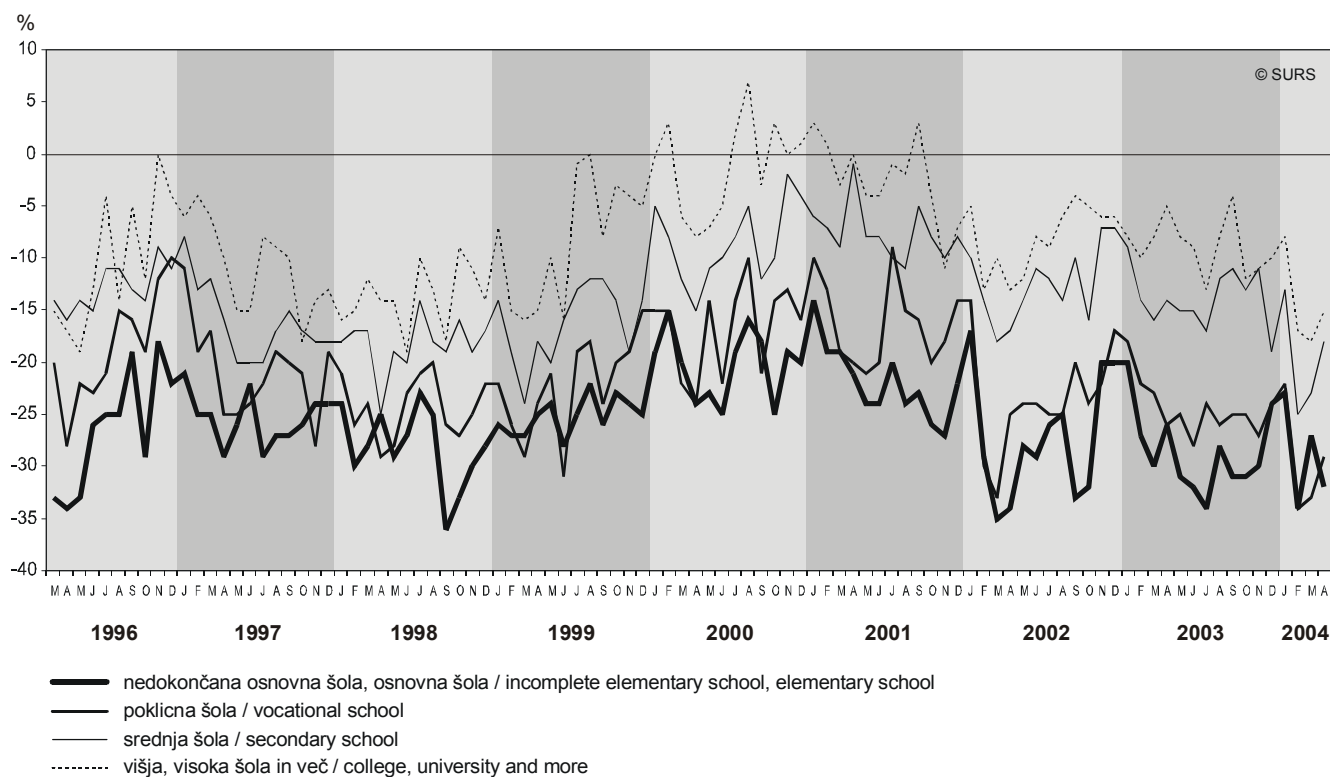
**Slika 3: Kazalec zaupanja glede na zaposlitveni status, marec 1996 - april 2004**

Chart 3: Confidence indicator by employment status, March 1996 - April 2004



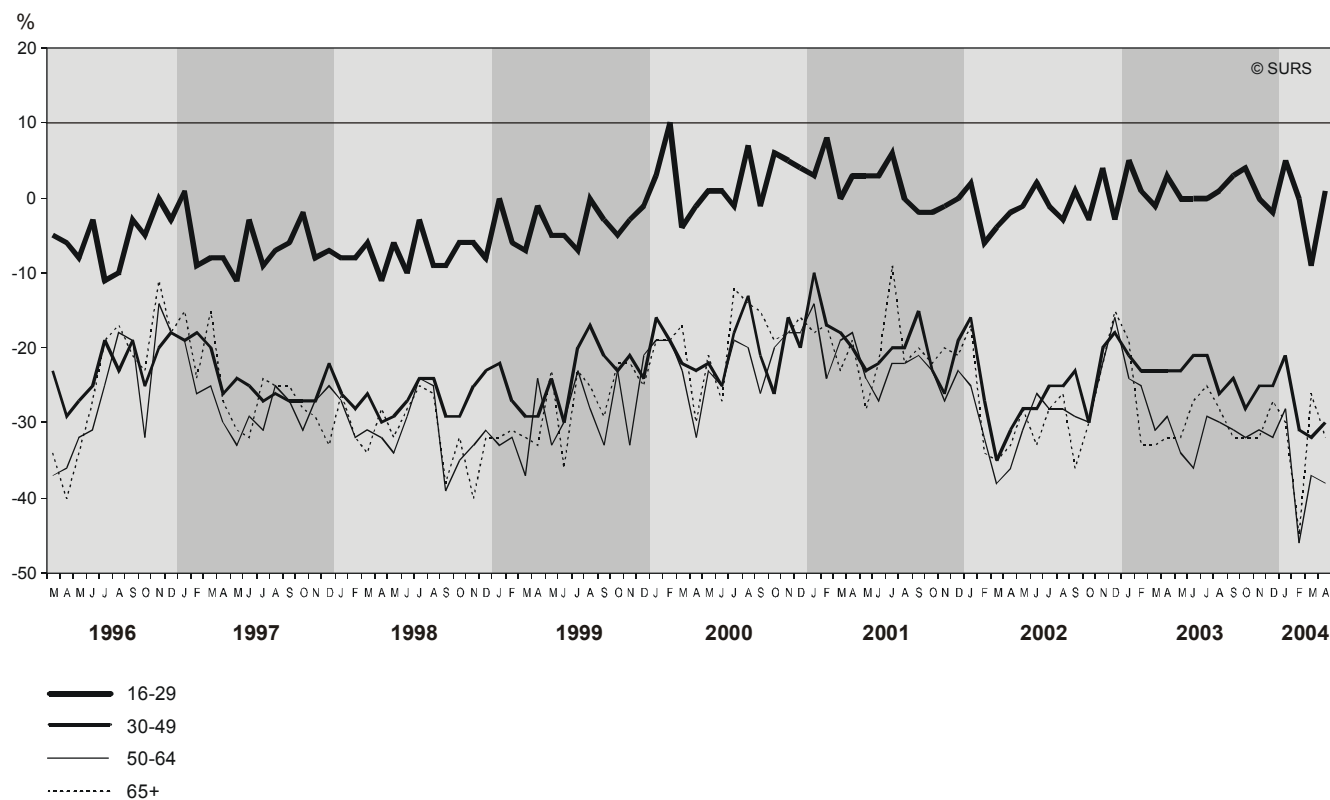
Slika 4: Kazalec zaupanja glede na izobrazbo, marec 1996 - april 2004

Chart 4: Confidence indicator by education, March 1996 - April 2004



Slika 5: Kazalec zaupanja glede na starost, marec 1996 - april 2004

Chart 5: Confidence indicator by age, March 1996 - April 2004



Slika 6: Finančno stanje v gospodinjstvu v zadnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004

Chart 6: Financial situation of the household over the past 12 months, September 2001 - April 2004

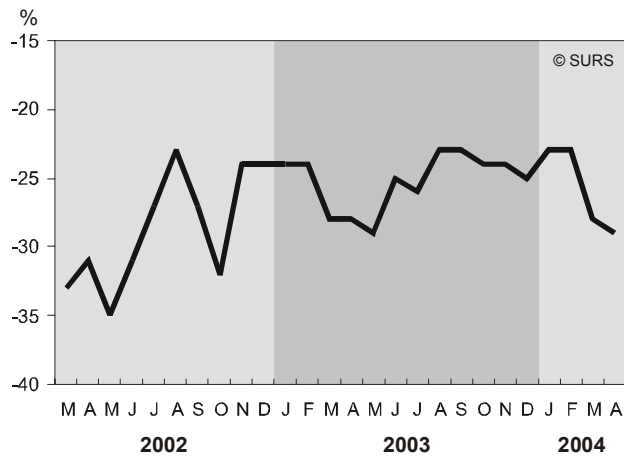
**Slika 7: Finančno stanje v gospodinjstvu v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004**

Chart 7: Financial situation of the household over the next 12 months, September 2001 - April 2004

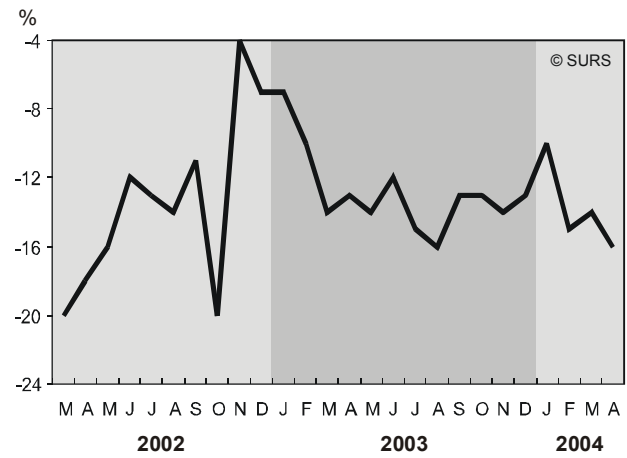
**Slika 8: Gospodarsko stanje v Sloveniji v zadnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004**

Chart 8: General economic situation in Slovenia over the past 12 months, March 2002 - April 2004

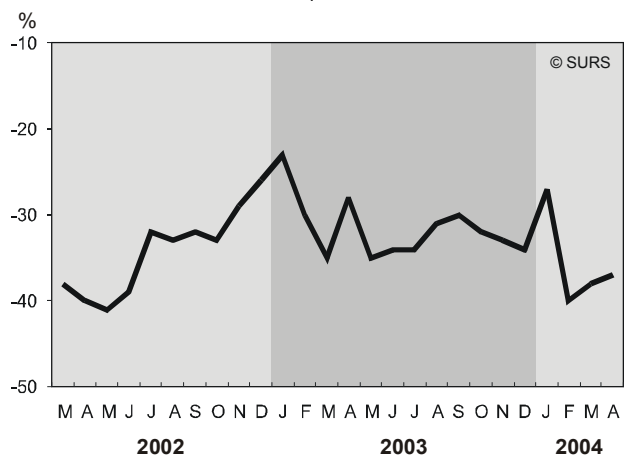
**Slika 9: Gospodarsko stanje v Sloveniji v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004**

Chart 9: General economic situation in Slovenia over the next 12 months, March 2002 - April 2004

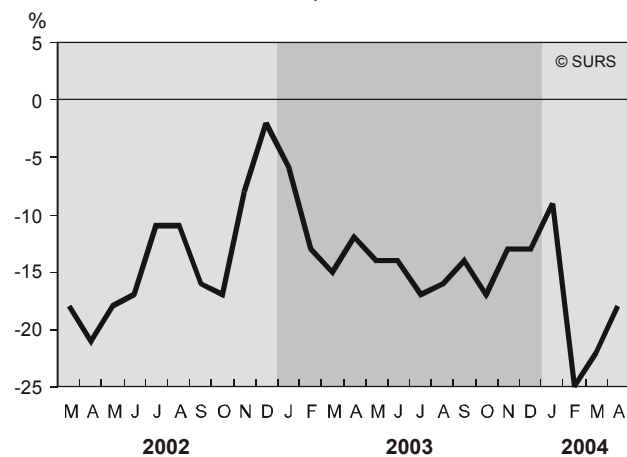
**Slika 10: Cene v zadnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004**

Chart 10: Prices over the past 12 months, March 2002 - April 2004

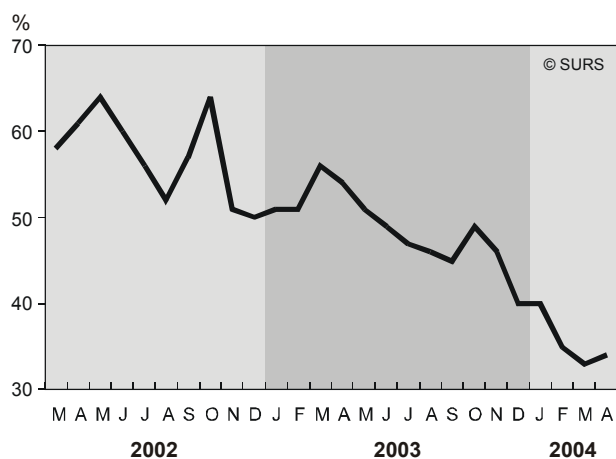
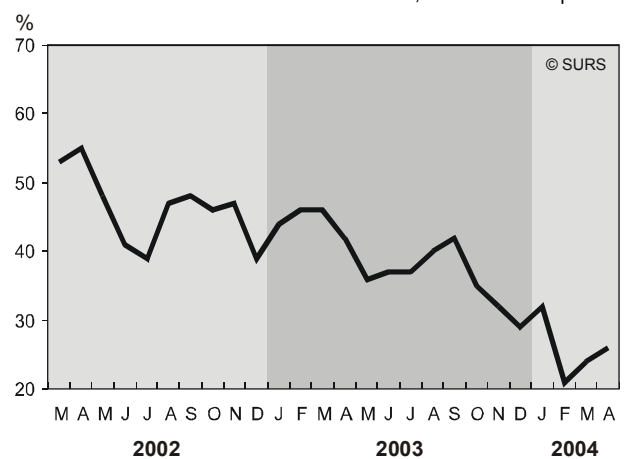
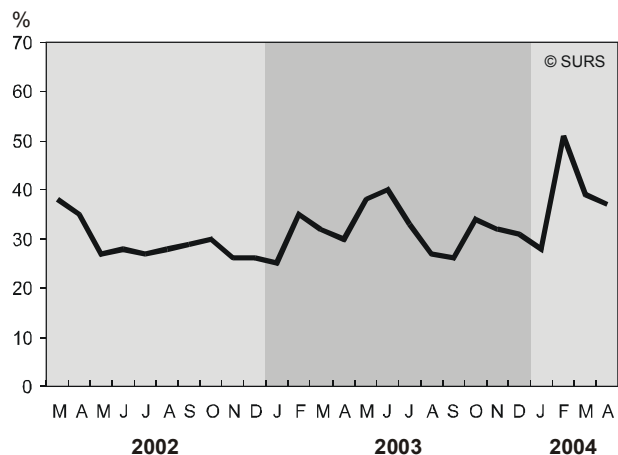
**Slika 11: Gibanje cen v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004**

Chart 11: Price trend over the next 12 months, March 2002 - April 2004



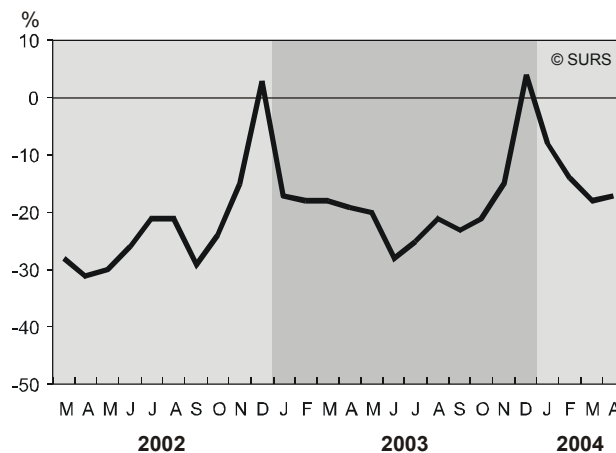
Slika 12: Raven brezposelnosti v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004

Chart 12: Unemployment over the next 12 months, March 2002 - April 2004



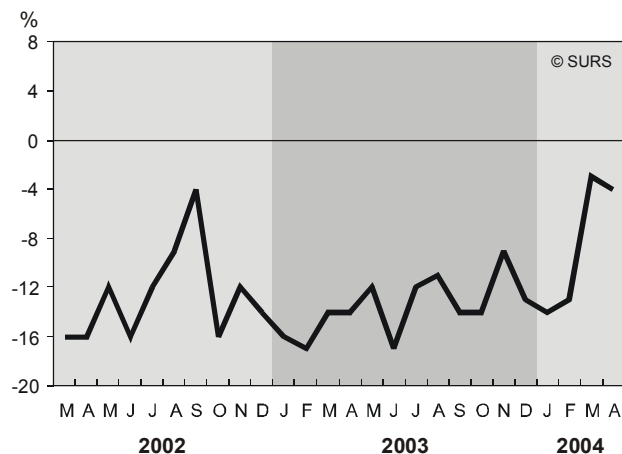
Slika 13: Primernost trenutka za večje nakupe, marec 2002 - april 2004

Chart 13: Major purchases at present, March 2002 - April 2004



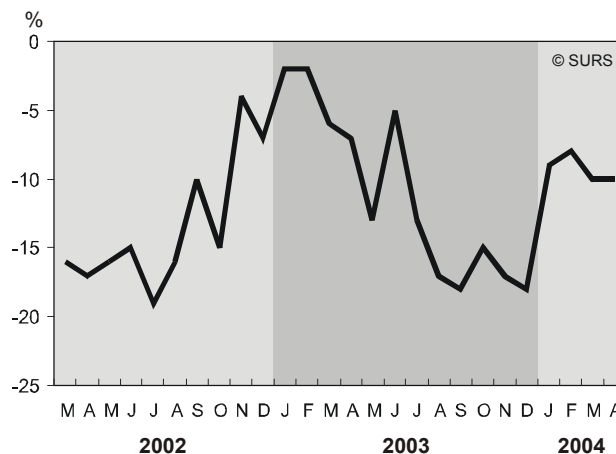
Slika 14: Večji nakupi v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004

Chart 14: Major purchases over the next 12 months, March 2002 - April 2004



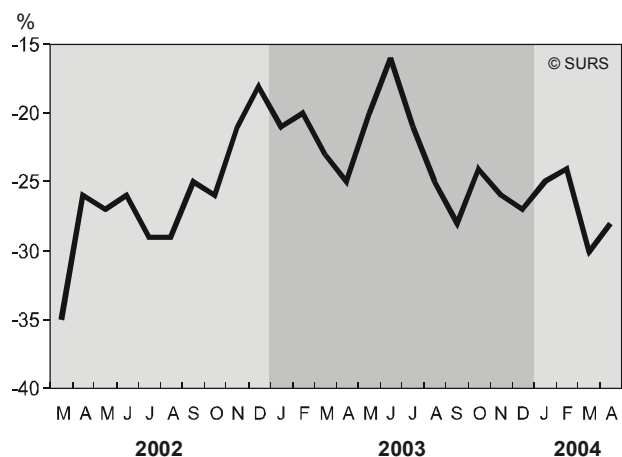
Slika 15: Primernost trenutka za varčevanje, marec 2002 - april 2004

Chart 15: Savings at present, March 2002 - April 2004



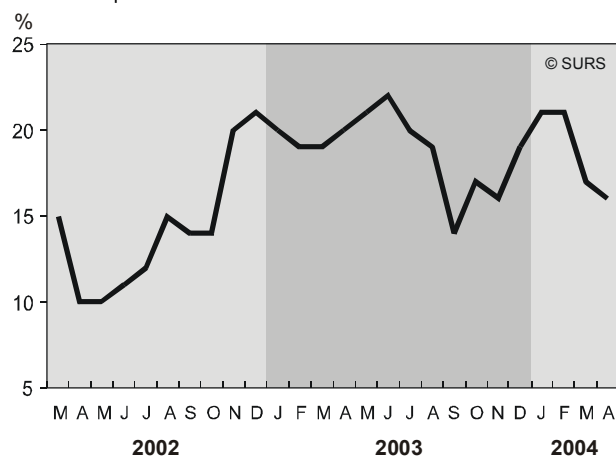
Slika 16: Varčevanje v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, marec 2002 - april 2004

Chart 16: Savings over the next 12 months, March 2002 - April 2004



Slika 17: Sedanje finančno stanje v gospodinjstvu, marec 2002 - april 2004

Chart 17: Financial situation in the household at present, March 2002 - April 2004



Slika 18: Nakup avtomobila v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, I. četr. 1998 - II. četr. 2004*

Chart 18: Purchase of a car within the next 12 months, I quarter 1998 - II quarter 2004**

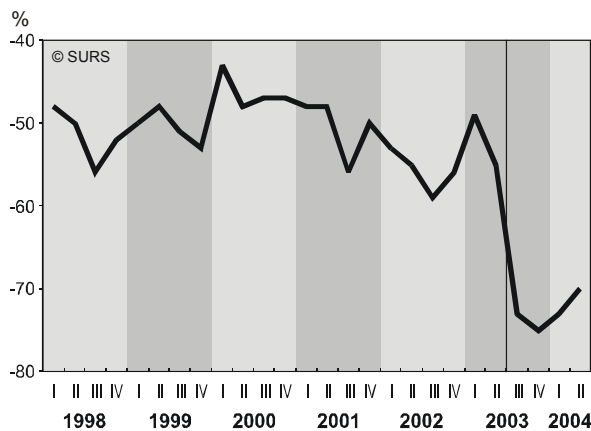
**Slika 19: Nakup ali gradnja stanovanja v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, I. četr. 1998 - II. četr. 2004***

Chart 19: Purchase or construction of a dwelling within the next 12 months, I quarter 1998 - II quarter 2004**

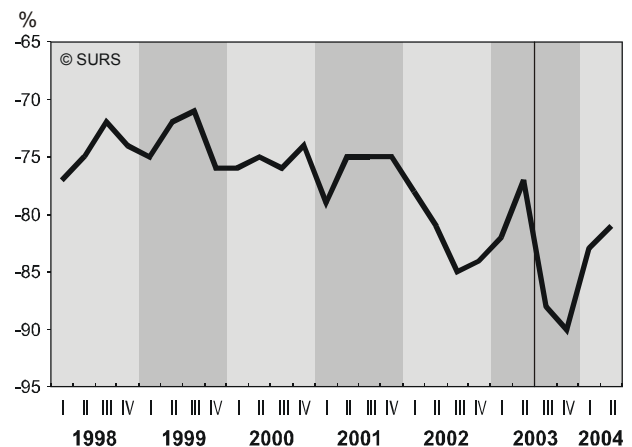
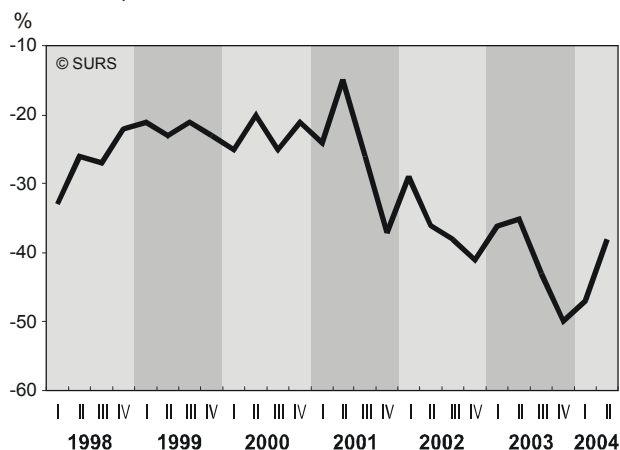
**Slika 20: Izboljšave v stanovanju v prihodnjih 12 mesecih, I. četr. 1998 - II. četr. 2004**

Chart 20: Home improvements over the next 12 months, I quarter 1998 - II quarter 2004



* Od julija 2003 je spremenjeno časovno referenčno obdobje iz 2. let na 12 mesecev.

** From July 2003 on the reference time period has been changed from 2 years to 12 months.

METODOLOŠKA POJASNILA

Anketo o mnenju potrošnikov izvajamo od marca 1996. Pri tem uporabljamo poenoten vprašalnik po priporočilih Evropske komisije in upoštevamo tudi metodologijo, ki jo uporabljajo članice EU. Z anketo ugotavljamo, kako ljudje ocenjujejo svoje finančne zmožnosti za nakup, kako načrtujejo svoje nakupe, kaj menijo o varčevanju, gospodarskem položaju v Sloveniji, o gibanju cen ipd.

Anketa poteka mesečno na vzorcu 1500 oseb. Vzorčni okvir sestavljajo gospodinjstva izbranih zasebnih telefonskih naročnikov, na anketna vprašanja pa odgovarja tisti član izbranega gospodinjstva, ki bo prvi imel rojstni dan in je star najmanj 16 let. Potem ko je bil določen telefonski naročnik izbran, je za 12 mesecev izločen iz vzorčnega okvira.

METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS

The Statistical Office has been carrying out the Consumer Survey since March 1996. We use a harmonised questionnaire recommended by the European Commission. We also use the same methodology as EU Member States. With the Consumer Survey we are establishing the opinion of consumers about their possibility for purchase, willingness for purchase, saving, the economic situation in Slovenia, price changes, etc.

The Consumer Survey is carried out monthly on the sample of 1,500 persons. The sampling frame is the database of all telephone subscribers that are listed in the directory of the National Telephone Company. A person in the household aged 16 years or older is selected according to the "next birthday method". Numbers that were selected in the sample are excluded from the sampling frame for the next twelve months.



Stopnja odgovorov se giblje med 60 in 75 odstotki, kar je za telefonsko anketiranje sprejemljivo.

Slike prikazujejo razliko med pozitivnimi in negativnimi odgovori. Ta razlika se imenuje **ravnotežje** in je izražena v odstotkih. Ravnotežja ne prikazujejo dejanskih velikosti ekonomskih kazalcev.

Kazalec zaupanja potrošnikov je povprečje ravnotežij iz odgovorov na vprašanja o sedanjem in pričakovanem finančnem stanju v gospodinjstvu (vprašanja 1 in 2), o sedanjem in pričakovanem ekonomskem stanju v državi (vprašanja 3 in 4) in o tem, ali je sedanjí trenutek primeren za nakup večjih potrošnih dobrin (vprašanje 8).

Kazalec zaupanja smo desezonirali z metodo Tramo/Seats, ki temelji na ARIMA-modelih. Pri oblikovanju modela smo upoštevali časovno obdobje od marca 1996 do januarja 2004. Na sliki 1 so prikazane desezonirane vrednosti. To so vrednosti, pri katerih je izločen vpliv sezone, tj. vrednosti, ki vsebujejo trendni cikel in naključno komponento. Pri časovni vrsti ravnotežja odgovorov na vprašanje o pričakovanem finančnem stanju v gospodinjstvu, ki je sestavni del kazalca zaupanja, sezonska komponenta ni upoštevana. Prav tako smo desezonirali tudi vsa ostala ravnotežja, ki niso vključena v kazalec zaupanja, pri katerih je upoštevana sezonska komponenta (rast cen v preteklih 12 mesecih, brezposelnost in primernost trenutka za varčevanje). Pri teh rezultatih v komentarju v primerjavi s preteklim mesecem uporabljamo desezonirane vrednosti, v vseh ostalih primerjavah pa izvirne vrednosti.

Pri delitvi anketiranih oseb na kvartile upoštevamo neto dohodek celotnega gospodinjstva na člana in nato razdelimo anketirane osebe na kvartile. Najrevnejša gospodinjstva so v 1. kvartilu, najpremožnejši so uvrščeni v 4. kvartil.

Kazalec zaupanja potrošnikov glede na zaposlitveni status se nanaša na podatke o zaposlenih, samozaposlenih, upokojencih in drugih neaktivnih osebah. K zaposlenim osebam prištevamo osebe, ki so v delovnem razmerju v podjetjih ali organizacijah (v zavodih, državni upravi, političnih organizacijah, društvih ipd.), pri podjetniku, kmetu, koncesionarju ali osebi v svobodnem poklicu. K samozaposlenim prištevamo samostojne podjetnike, osebe v svobodnih poklicih, koncesionarje in kmete. K drugim neaktivnim osebam prištevamo dijake, študente, gospodinje ter nezmožne za delo. K upokojencem prištevamo osebe, ki prejemajo starostno, družinsko ali invalidsko pokojnino.

Anketa vsebuje mesečno 12 vprašanj, četrletno pa so dodana še 3 vprašanja. Vsa so kvalitativna in predvidevajo od tri do pet možnih odgovorov.

Mesečna vprašanja v Anketi o mnenju potrošnikov:

1. Če primerjate finančno stanje v vašem gospodinjstvu s tistim pred 12 meseci, kakšno je po vašem mnenju danes: veliko boljše, malo boljše, ostalo je enako, malo slabše, veliko slabše (slika 6).
2. V katero smer se bo po vašem mnenju spremenilo finančno stanje vašega gospodinjstva v prihodnjih 12 mesecih: precej na bolje, malo na bolje, ostalo bo enako, malo na slabše, precej na slabše (slika 7).
3. Kako se je po vašem mnenju spremenila splošna gospodarska situacija v Sloveniji v preteklih 12 mesecih: zelo se je izboljšala,

The response rate is between 60% and 75%, which is quite acceptable for a telephone survey.

The charts show the **balance** by individual questions. The balance is the difference between positive and negative answers, expressed as percentage. The balance does not show the real size of economic indicators.

The consumer confidence indicator is the average of balances from answers to the questions about the present and expected household financial situation (questions 1 and 2), the present and expected general economic situation in the country (questions 3 and 4), and the question about the advantage for people to make major purchases at present time (question 8).

The consumer confidence indicator was seasonally adjusted with the Tramo/Seats method, which is based on the ARIMA models. In the specification of the model the data from March 1996 to January 2004 were taken into account. Chart 1 shows seasonally adjusted values, i.e. values that exclude the seasonal component, i.e. values that include the trend-cycle component and the irregular component. For the balance of the question about the expected financial situation in the household, which is included in calculation of the confidence indicator, seasonal component was not detected. We seasonally adjusted also all others balances, which are not included in calculation of confidence indicator, but there was detected influence of the season (price development in the next 12 months, unemployment and whether the current moment is good time for saving). For all these results in comment seasonally adjusted values are used when comparing data to previous month, while in all other comparisons raw values are used.

When dividing respondents into quartiles we take into account the net income per household member and then divide respondents into quartiles. Households with the lowest incomes are included in the 1st quartile and households with the highest incomes are included in the 4th quartile.

According to the employment status we publish the data for employed, self-employed, pensioners, and other non-active persons. The category "employed" includes those persons who are employed by enterprises or organisations (institutions, public administration, political organisations, societies, etc.), entrepreneurs, farmers, concessionaires or persons with liberal professions. The category "self-employed" includes owners of enterprises, persons with liberal professions, concessionaires and farmers. The category "other non-active" includes pupils, students, homemakers and those who are unable to work. The category "retired" includes persons receiving old-age pensions, disability pensions or survivors' pensions.

The Consumer Survey monthly includes 12 questions, and quarterly 3 additional questions are added. All the questions are qualitative with three to five possible responses.

Monthly questions in the Consumer Survey - in all questions we ask for opinion:

- Q 1 How does the financial situation of your household now compare with what it was 12 months ago: got a lot better, got a little better, stayed the same, got a little worse, got a lot worse (Chart 6);
- Q 2 How will the financial situation of your household change over the next 12 months: get a lot better, get a little better, stay the same, get a little worse, get a lot worse (Chart 7);
- Q 3 How has the general economic situation in our country changed over the last 12 months: got a lot better, got a little better, stayed

- malo se je izboljšala, ostala je enaka, malo se je poslabšala, zelo se je poslabšala (slika 8).
4. V katero smer se bo po vašem mnenju spremenilo gospodarsko stanje v Sloveniji v prihodnjih 12 mesecih: precej na bolje, malo na bolje, ostalo bo enako, malo na slabše, precej na slabše (slika 9).
5. Če primerjate cene danes glede na tiste pred 12 meseci, ali so: zelo narasle, nekoliko narasle, rahlo narasle, ostale približno enake, rahlo padle (slika 10).
6. Kakšna bo rast cen v prihodnjih 12 mesecih glede na sedanje gibanje cen: cene bodo rasle hitreje, naraščale po enaki stopnji, po nižji stopnji, ostale približno enake kot sedaj, rahlo padle (slika 11).
7. Ali bo brezposelnost v Sloveniji po vašem mnenju v prihodnjih 12 mesecih: zelo narasla, nekoliko narasla, ostala enaka, nekoliko padla, zelo padla (slika 12).
8. Ali je po vašem mnenju sedaj primeren trenutek za večje nakupe: da, ni niti pravi niti napačen čas, sedanji trenutek ni primeren (slika 13).
9. Koliko denarja boste predvidoma porabili za večje nakupe v prihodnjih 12 mesecih predvidoma porabili v primerjavi s preteklimi 12 meseci: veliko več, malo več, približno enako, malo manj, veliko manj (slika 14).
10. Ali je glede na splošno gospodarsko stanje sedaj po vašem mnenju: zelo dober čas za varčevanje, še kar dober čas za varčevanje, prej neprimeren kot primeren čas za varčevanje, zelo neprimeren čas za varčevanje (slika 15).
11. Kakšna je verjetnost, da boste v prihodnjih 12 mesecih privarčevali nekaj denarja: zelo verjetno, verjetno, ni posebej verjetno, sploh ni verjetno (slika 16).
12. Katera od naslednjih trditev najbolje opisuje sedanje finančno stanje vašega gospodinjstva: veliko lahko privarčujemo, malo lahko privarčujemo, ravno shajamo z našimi dohodki, živimo s pomočjo prihrankov, sposojamo si, da poravnava tekoče stroške (slika 17).
- Četrtna vprašanja:
13. Kakšna je verjetnost, da boste v prihodnjih 12 mesecih kupili avto: zelo verjetno, verjetno, ni posebej verjetno, sploh ni verjetno (slika 18).
14. Ali nameravate v prihodnjih 12 mesecih kupiti ali graditi stanovanje: da, mogoče, verjetno ne, ne (slika 19)
15. Kakšna je verjetnost, da boste v prihodnjih 12 mesecih porabili večje vsote denarja za izboljšave v vašem domu: zelo verjetno, verjetno, ni posebej verjetno, sploh ni verjetno (slika 20).
- the same, got a little worse, got a lot worse (Chart 8);
- Q 4 How will the general economic situation in our country develop over the next 12 months: get a lot better, get a little better, stay the same, get a little worse, get a lot worse (Chart 9);
- Q 5 Compared with those 12 months ago, have the prices now: risen a lot, risen moderately, risen slightly, hardly changed, fallen slightly (Chart 10);
- Q 6 In comparison with what is happening now, do you think that in the next 12 months: there will be a more rapid increase in prices, prices will increase at the same rate, prices will increase at a slower rate, prices will stay about the same, prices will fall slightly (Chart 11);
- Q 7 Will the level of unemployment over the next 12 months: increase sharply, increase slightly, remain the same, fall slightly, fall sharply (Chart 12);
- Q 8 Is there an advantage for people to make major purchases at the present time: yes, it is neither the right time nor the wrong time, no (Chart 13);
- Q 9 Over the next 12 months, how much money will you spend on major purchases compared to what you spent over the last 12 months: much more, a little more, about the same, a little less, much less (Chart 14);
- Q 10 In view of the general economic situation, is there: a very good time to save, quite a good time to save, rather an unfavourable time to save, a very unfavourable time to save (Chart 15);
- Q 11 Over the next 12 months, how likely will you be able to save any money: very likely, fairly likely, fairly unlikely, very unlikely (Chart 16);
- Q 12 Which of these statements best describes the present financial situation of your household: we are saving a lot, we are saving a little, we are just managing to make ends meet on our income, we are having to draw on our savings, we are running into debt (Chart 17).
- Quarterly questions:
- Q 13 How likely are you to buy a car within the next 12 months: very likely, fairly likely, fairly unlikely, very unlikely (Chart 18);
- Q 14 Are you planning to purchase or construct a dwelling within the next 12 months: yes, possibly, probably not, no (Chart 19);
- Q 15 Over the next 12 months, how likely are you to spend any large sums of money on home improvements: very likely, fairly likely, fairly unlikely, very unlikely (Chart 20).

Podatki so uteženi glede na velikost gospodinjstva, ker imajo osebe, ki živijo v gospodinjstvu z več člani, manjšo verjetnost izbora. Po osnovnem uteževanju uporabimo postopek (raking), ki prilagodi porazdelitev kontrolnih spremenljivk strukturi v populaciji. Za prilagoditev smo uporabili naslednje spremenljivke: spol, starost, velikost gospodinjstva, izobrazbo in omrežno skupino.

Rezultate Ankete o mnenju potrošnikov objavljamo četrtno.

The basic weighting criterion is the household size, because persons living in a household with more members have lower probability of selection. After that we use the raking procedure which adjusts the distribution of control variables to the structure in the population. For adjustment we use the following variables: sex, age, household size, education, and telephone area code.

We are publishing the results of the Consumer Survey quarterly



KOMENTAR

Kazalec zaupanja potrošnikov se je aprila 2004 v primerjavi z istim obdobjem lani znižal za 5 odstotnih točk in tako za 6 odstotnih točk zaostal za dolgoletnim povprečjem. Po podatkih, v katerih ni upoštevan sezonski vpliv, je kazalec zaupanja v februarju 2004 padel kar za 8 odstotnih točk in s tem dosegel najnižjo vrednost od začetka izvajanja ankete. V marcu in aprilu pa se je spet začel dvigovati.

Omenjeni padec kazalca zaupanja v februarja 2004 je bil najizrazitejši pri gospodinjstvih v 2. dohodkovnem kvartilu, kamor sodijo srednje revna gospodinjstva. Februarja je bil tako kazalec zaupanja v 2. dohodkovnem kvartilu tudi najnižji med vsemi kvartili, saj je v primerjavi z januarjem 2004 padel kar za 17 odstotnih točk in bil tako za 14 odstotnih točk nižji kot februarja 2003.

Glede na zaposlitveni status oseb je bil kazalec zaupanja najvišji, kot je že običajno, med drugimi neaktivnimi osebami; to pa je hkrati tudi edina skupina, v kateri se je kazalec zaupanja potrošnikov aprilu 2004 v primerjavi z enakim obdobjem lani dvignil za nekaj odstotnih točk. Najbolj pesimistični so še vedno upokojeanci, saj je bil februarja 2004 kazalec zaupanja v tej skupini najnižji kot kdaj koli prej v kateri koli zaposlitveni skupini doslej.

Z vidika izobrazbe oseb, zajetih v raziskovanje, je bil aprila 2004 kazalec zaupanja potrošnikov najvišji pri osebah z višjo, visoko šolo ali še višjo stopnjo izobrazbe. V primerjavi z dolgoletnim povprečjem je v tem obdobju kazalec zaupanja padel v vseh izobrazbenih skupinah, še najbolj pri osebah s poklicno šolo (za 8 odstotnih točk).

Kazalec zaupanja potrošnikov je bil aprila 2004 najnižji pri osebah, ki so stare od 50 do 64 let, najvišji pa je še vedno pri osebah, ki so stare od 16 do 29 let; aprila 2004 je bil v tej starostni skupini za 3 odstotne točke nad dolgoletnim povprečjem.

Ravnotežje pri odgovorih na vprašanje o finančnem stanju v gospodinjstvu je bilo februarja 2004 enako kot mesec prej, marca 2004 je padlo za 5 odstotnih točk, aprila pa še za eno. V aprilu se je tako to ravnotežje izenačilo z najnižjo vrednostjo v lanskem letu, doseženo v maju.

Mnenje potrošnikov o finančnem stanju v gospodinjstvih v prihodnjih 12 mesecih je, potem ko se je v februarju 2004 zmanjšalo za 5 odstotnih točk, do aprila ostalo na enaki ravni. V aprilu je bilo ravnotežje za 3 odstotne točke pod lanskoletnim povprečjem.

Tendencia ravnotežja pri vprašanju o gospodarskem stanju v Sloveniji zdaj v primerjavi s preteklimi 12 meseci je po dvigu v januarju 2004 februarja padla kar za 13 odstotnih točk. Marca in aprila je to ravnotežje spet začelo naraščati, kljub temu pa je bilo aprila še vedno za 5 odstotnih točk nižje od lanskoletnega povprečja. Gospodarsko stanje so v aprilu 2004 najbolj ocenjevali potrošniki v starosti od 16 do 29 let, saj je 24 odstotkov teh oseb izjavilo, da se je gospodarsko stanje malo izboljšalo. Najslabše so gospodarsko stanje ocenili potrošniki, stari od 50 do 64 let 38 odstotkov teh oseb namreč meni, da se je gospodarsko stanje v Sloveniji zelo poslabšalo.

COMMENT

Compared with the same month last year, the consumer confidence indicator decreased in April 2004 by 5 percentage points and reached the level of 6 percentage points below the long-term average. If we look at the seasonally adjusted data, the consumer confidence indicator in February 2004 decreased by as much as 8 percentage points compared to January 2004 and reached the lowest value since the beginning of the survey. In March and April 2004 the consumer confidence indicator started to increase again.

When significant decrease of the consumer confidence indicator occurred in February 2004 it reflected the most in the second income quartile of households, where the averagely poor households are. Therefore in February the consumer indicator was on the lowest level among all income groups in the second quartile, where it fell by 17 percentage points compared to January 2004 and it was 14 percentage points lower than in February 2003.

As regards employment status, according to the long-term trend, the consumer confidence indicator was the highest among other non-active persons; this group was also the only one in which the consumer indicator in April 2004 increased by several percentage points in comparison with the same period of 2003. The most pessimistic consumers are still the retired persons as the confidence indicator in this group was in February 2004 the lowest in comparison with all results by employment groups ever.

Persons with university or higher level of education had the highest consumer confidence indicator in April 2004. In comparison with the long-term average the indicator fell in all educational groups, especially among the consumers with finished vocational school, where the consumer indicator was in April 2004 by 8 percentage points below long-term average.

In April 2004 the consumer confidence indicator was the lowest among persons from 50 to 64 years old. The highest consumer confidence indicator is still that of consumers aged 16 to 29. In this age group the indicator was in April 2004 3 percentage points higher than the long-term average.

The balance for the question about the financial situation in the household over the past 12 months was in February 2004 on same level as in January 2004. In March 2004 it fell by 5 percentage points and in April by another percentage point. In April 2004 this balance reached the same level as was the lowest balance value last year, which was reached in May 2003.

The opinion of the consumers about the financial situation in the household over the next 12 months fell by 5 percentage points in February and then remained on the same level from February 2004 to April 2004. In April the balance was 3 percentage points below the 2003 average.

The balance for the question about the general economic situation in Slovenia now in comparison with the one 12 months ago increased in January 2004 and fell in February by as much as 13 percentage points. From March to April the balance has been increasing, nevertheless it was in April 2004 by 5 percentage points below the average of the previous year. Age distribution for this balance shows that young people more often thought that the general economic situation was better than older people did. In the age group 16 to 29 years, 24% of them claimed that the economic situation got a little better. On the other hand, 38% of respondents in the age group 50 to 64 years claimed that the general economic situation in Slovenia got a lot worse.

Podobno kot ravnotežje o trenutnem gospodarskem stanju v Sloveniji se gibljejo tudi napovedi za gospodarsko stanje v naslednjih 12 mesecih. Po velikem padcu v februarju 2004 se je marca in aprila ravnotežje dvigovalo, vendar je bilo v aprilu še vedno za 4 odstotne točke nižje od lanskega povprečja.

Ravnotežje pri vprašanju o zdajšnjih cenah v primerjavi s preteklimi 12 meseci je že od novembra 2002 padajoče, le marca in oktobra 2003 ter aprila 2004 se je rahlo dvignilo. Ker so pri tem ravnotežju upoštevani sezonski dejavniki, se izkaže, da gre pri dvigu oktobra 2003 in aprila 2004 za vpliv sezone. Zato lahko rečemo, da potrošniki vse od marca 2003 pričakujejo čedalje nižjo rast cen. Aprila 2004 je bilo to ravnotežje za 15 odstotnih točk višje od lanskega povprečja.

Februarja 2004 so potrošniki pričakovali najnižjo rast cen v prihodnjih 12 mesecih od začetka izvajanja raziskovanja. V marcu in aprilu se je ravnotežje rahlo dvignilo, vendar je bilo kljub temu aprila 2004 kar za 22 odstotnih točk boljše od dolgoletnega povprečja. Slaba četrtna potrošnikov je aprila 2004 menila, da bodo cene ostale enake ali da bodo rahlo padle.

Podobno kot pri vprašanju o cenah v preteklih 12 mesecih vsebuje tudi vprašanje o prihodnji brezposelnosti sezonsko komponento. Potrošniki so februarja 2004 napovedovali kar za 11 odstotnih točk višjo brezposelnost kot v januarju. Marca se je ravnotežje izboljšalo za 7 odstotnih točk in na enaki ravni je ostalo tudi v aprilu 2004.

Potrošniki so, podobno kot prejšnja leta, v decembru ocenjevali tekoči mesec kot primeren trenutek za večje nakupe, ravnotežje je bilo v decembru 2003 na najvišji ravni po letu 1999. Do marca 2004 je to ravnotežje padalo in je bilo za 21 odstotnih točk nižje kot decembra 2003. Ko se je aprila 2004 dvignilo za eno odstotno točko v primerjavi s prejšnjim mesecem, je bilo kljub padanju ravnotežja po decembru 9 odstotnih točk nad dolgoletnim povprečjem.

Potrošniki so februarja, predvsem pa marca 2004 menili, da bodo, v primerjavi z januarjem 2004 ter decembrom 2003, v naslednjih 12 mesecih porabili za večje nakupe več denarja, kot so ga v preteklih 12 mesecih. Kljub padcu ravnotežja aprila 2004 za eno odstotno točko je bilo ravnotežje za 10 odstotnih točk nad lanskim povprečjem.

Pri izračunu ravnotežja pri vprašanju o primernosti trenutka za varčevanje v tem trenutku smo odkrili vpliv sezone. Čeprav izvorni podatki kažejo padajoči trend v prvem četrtletju 2004, pa po izločitvi vpliva sezon opazimo pozitiven, naraščajoč trend. April 2004 so tako potrošniki ocenili kot najprimernejši čas za varčevanje (glede na stanje od avgusta 2003 dalje).

Pri tendenci ravnotežja pri vprašanju o varčevanju v gospodinjstvu v prihodnjih 12 mesecih opazimo, da je, potem ko je bilo ravnotežje januarja in februarja 2004 na ravni lanskega povprečja, marca 2004 to ravnotežje padlo za 6 odstotnih točk, v aprilu 2004 pa se je znova dvignilo za 2 odstotni točki.

Potem ko se je ravnotežje pri vprašanju o finančnem stanju v gospodinjstvu januarja in februarja 2004 približalo najvišji ravni od začetka izvajanja ankete, je marca 2004 padlo za 4 odstotne točke, aprila 2004 pa še za dodatno odstotno točko. Aprila 2004 je skoraj polovica potrošnikov izjavila, da ravno shaja s svojimi dohodki, ravnotežje pa je

Consumers' expectations about the general economic situation within the next 12 months are similar to expectations about the current economic situation. After the significant fall of the balance in February 2004, they started to increase in March and April, but were in April 2004 still by 4 percentage points below the average of the previous year.

The balance for the question about prices now in comparison with 12 months ago has been decreasing since November 2002 with the exception of March and October 2003 and also April 2004, when the balance slightly increased. Due to the presence of the seasonal component for this balance, we can indicate that those increases in October 2003 and April 2004 are the effect of the season. Therefore, we can claim that consumers noticed ever lower rise of prices from month to month since March 2003. In April 2004 this balance was by 15 percentage points better than the average of the previous year.

In February 2004 consumers expected the lowest growth of prices over the next 12 months since the beginning of the survey. In March and April the balance slightly increased, nevertheless it was in April 2004 as much as by 22 percentage points better than the long-term average. Nearly one quarter of consumers thought in April 2004 that the prices would stay the same or fall slightly in the following 12 months.

Similarly as for the question on prices in the past 12 months, also the question on future unemployment has the seasonal component. The consumers estimated for as much as by 11 percentage points higher unemployment in February 2004 than a month before. In March this balance got better by 7 percentage points and remained on the same level also in April 2004.

The consumers were, similarly as in the previous years, estimating the current month in December as a more suitable moment for major purchases, so this balance in December 2003 reached the highest level since 1999. The balance was falling from month to month until March 2004 and it was by 21 percentage points lower than in December 2003. When the balance raised in April 2004 by 1 percentage point compared to the previous month it was by 9 percentage points above long-term average despite the decreasing trend after December 2003.

In February and especially in March 2004 compared to January 2004 and December 2003 consumers thought that they would spend more money on major purchases than they did in the last 12 months. Despite the fall of the balance by one percentage point in April 2004, the balance was by 10 percentage points above the average of the previous year.

In case of the balance on the question about the good time to save money, we detected the seasonal component. Despite the falling trend of original data in the first quarter of 2004, we can notice a positive, increasing trend for this time when eliminating the effect of the season. After August 2003 the consumers chose April 2004 as the most suitable time for saving.

In case of the balance on the question about savings in the households over the next 12 months we can notice a fall of balance in March 2004 by 6 percentage points after it had been in January and February 2004 on the average previous year level. In April the balance increased again by 2 percentage points.

After the balance for the question about the financial situation in the household came near the highest levels since the beginning of the survey in January and February 2004, it fell in March 2004 by 4 percentage points and additionally by one percentage point in April 2004. In April 2004 nearly one half of consumers declared that they were just managing to make ends meet on their income, and the balance was by 1

bilo za 1 odstotno točko nad dolgoletnim povprečjem.

Ker je pri usklajevanju z vprašalnikom EU prišlo pri vprašanju o nakupu osebnega avtomobila in stanovanja do spremembe referenčnega obdobja (z dveh let na eno leto), imamo za ti dve vprašanji primerljive podatke le od tretjega četrtrletja 2003 dalje. V primerjavi s prejšnjim četrtrletjem sta se obe obliki ravnotežij dvignili: nakup avtomobila za 3, nakup stanovanja pa za 2 odstotni točki.

Od začetka lanskega leta so potrošniki vedno slabše napovedovali vlaganja večjih izdatkov za izboljšave v svojem domu. V prvem četrtrletju 2004 se je to ravnotežje dvignilo za 3, v drugem pa za 9 odstotnih točk in je bilo v aprilu za 9 odstotnih točk višje od lanskoletnega povprečja.

Statistično raziskovanje je sofinancirala Evropska komisija. Za objavljene podatke in besedila je odgovoren izključno Statistični urad Republike Slovenije in ne Evropska komisija.

percentage point above the long-term average.

Due to harmonization with the EU questionnaire, where the reference time period was shortened from two years to 12 months, we have for the questions on purchasing a car and a dwelling comparable data only from the third quarter of 2003 onwards. Both balances increased in the last quarter: purchase of a car by 3 percentage points and purchase of a dwelling by 2 percentage points.

The balance for the question about the home improvements over the next 12 months has been decreasing since the beginning of 2003. In the first quarter of 2004 this balance increased by 3 percentage points and in the second quarter 2004 by 9 percentage points. In April it was 9 percentage points above the average of the previous year.

The statistical survey was co-financed by the European Commission. The European Commission is not liable for the published data and texts.

Sestavil / Prepared by: Matija Remec

Izdaja, založba in tisk Statistični urad Republike Slovenije, Ljubljana, Vožarski pot 12 - **Uporaba in objava podatkov dovoljena le z navedbo vira** - Odgovarja generalna direktorica mag. Irena Križman - Urednica zbirke Statistične informacije Marina Urbas - Slovensko besedilo jezikovno uredila Ivanka Zobec - Angleško besedilo jezikovno uredil Boris Panič - Tehnični urednik Anton Rojc - Naklada 124 izvodov - ISSN zbirke Statistične informacije 1408-192X - ISSN podzbirke Življenjska raven 1580-1748 - Informacije daje Informacijsko središče, tel.: (01) 241 51 04 - El. pošta: info.stat@gov.si - <http://www.stat.si>.

Edited, published and printed by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Vožarski pot 12 - **These data can be used provided the source is acknowledged** - Director-General Irena Križman - Rapid Reports editor Marina Urbas - Slovene language editor Ivanka Zobec - English language editor Boris Panič - Technical editor Anton Rojc - Total print run 124 copies - ISSN of Rapid Reports 1408-192X - ISSN of subcollection Level of living 1580-1748 - Information is given by the Information Centre of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, tel.: +386 1 241 51 04 - E-mail: info.stat@gov.si - <http://www.stat.si>.