Slovenia Overview

EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY 2021
Slovenia
Overview
EIB Investment Survey Country Overview: Slovenia
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About the EIB Investment Survey (EIBIS)
The EIB Group Survey on Investment, which has been administered since 2016, is a unique, annual survey of some 13,500 firms. It covers firms in all European Union Member States and also includes a sample of firms in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The survey collects data on firm characteristics and performance, past investment activities and future plans, sources of finance, financing issues and other challenges that firms face, such as climate change and digital transformation. The EIBIS, which uses a stratified sampling methodology, is representative across all 27 EU Member States, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as across four classes of firm size (micro to large) and four main economic sectors (manufacturing, construction, services and infrastructure). The survey is designed to build a panel of observations, supporting the analysis of time-series data. Observations can also be linked back to data on firm balance sheets and profit and loss statements. The EIBIS was developed by the EIB Economics Department. It is managed by the department with the support of Ipsos MORI.

About this publication
The series of reports provide an overview of data collected for the 27 EU Member States, the United Kingdom and the United States. The reports are intended to provide a snapshot of the data. For the purpose of these publications, data are weighted by value-added to better reflect the contribution of different firms to economic output. Contact: eibis@eib.org.

Download the findings of the EIB Investment Survey for each EU country or explore the data portal at www.eib.org/eibis.

About the Economics Department of the EIB
The mission of the EIB Economics Department is to provide economic analyses and studies to support the Bank in its operations and in the definition of its positioning, strategy and policy. The department and its team of 40 economists is headed by Debora Revoltella, director of economics.

Main contributors to this publication
Simon Savsek, Julie Delanote, Irene Rizzoli.

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Published by the European Investment Bank. Printed on FSC® Paper.
EIBIS 2021 – Slovenia

KEY RESULTS
Investment Dynamics and Focus
EIBIS 2021 shows that while fewer Slovenian firms invested during 2020, their outlook for 2021 has improved substantially, with more firms expecting to increase rather than decrease investment again. As regards investment priorities, firms in Slovenia spent, on average, 46% of their investment on replacing buildings and equipment. A quarter (26%) of investment expenditures was directed to capacity expansion while a fifth (20%) was for the development of new products and services.

Impact of COVID-19
The pandemic had an important impact on firms. Half of Slovenian firms (52%) report that their sales declined compared to the beginning of 2020. COVID-19 also had an impact on investment activity, with a fifth of firms revising their investment plans downwards. The downward adjustment was, nevertheless, less strong than in the EU overall. As an immediate response to the pandemic, digitalisation stood out with two in five firms (44%) reporting that they have taken action or made investment to become more digital. Overall, around two-thirds of firms (64%) have taken some form of action in response to COVID-19, higher than the EU average.

Investment Needs and Priorities
COVID-19 will undeniably have a long-term impact on needs and priorities. Again, digitalisation stands out, with the majority of firms indicating that they expect COVID-19 to lead to an increased use of digital technologies in the long-term (69%).

The share of Slovenian firms reporting operations at or above full capacity (52%) has declined compared to EIBIS 2020, bringing it closer to the EU average (49%). Nevertheless, the majority of Slovenian firms do not perceive gaps in their investment activities. In spite of the difficult circumstances, three-quarters (74%) of firms believe their investment over the last three years was about right.

Innovation Activities
Over two-fifths of Slovenian firms (44%) report that they developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2020. Three-quarters of firms (75%) have also implemented at least one advanced digital technology, which is more than in the EU overall (61%).

Drivers and Constraints
Overall, Slovenian firms have a relatively optimistic short-term outlook, but remain rather skeptical about the political and regulatory climate. The availability of skilled staff (83%) and uncertainty about the future (79%) remain the most frequently cited barriers to investment.

Investment Finance
Access to finance conditions are more worrisome than the EU average: one in ten (11%) of all firms in Slovenia can be considered external finance constrained. This is similar to EIBIS 2020 (9%) but above the EU average (5%). Construction companies and SMEs are also somewhat more constrained. Firms in Slovenia that used external finance in 2020 are far more likely to be satisfied than dissatisfied with the finance received. Cost of finance is the crucial impediment.

As a result of the pandemic, one in ten Slovenian firms have increased their debt (10%), lower than in the EU (16%). Three-quarters (73%) of Slovenian firms report having received some form of financial support in response to COVID-19. This is above the EU average (56%) and came mostly in the form of subsidies or other financial support that do not need to be paid back (68%).

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
Half of firms in Slovenia (49%) report that physical climate risk has an impact on their business, with the percentage being lower than across the EU. In addition, the majority of firms (56%) suggest the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations will have no impact on their company (the EU average stands at 41%). Among firms that believe that COVID-19 will affect their business, the climate transition is rather perceived as a risk than an opportunity for their business over the next five years (26% and 18% respectively).

A quarter (26%) of Slovenian firms have already invested to deal with climate change while 40% have plans to invest more in the next three years. Nevertheless, both shares are lower than the EU average (43% and 47%, respectively). On the other hand, firms in Slovenia invested more in measures to improve energy efficiency (52% vs 37%). In addition, compared to the EU average, Slovenia also has a higher proportion of firms having set and monitored internal targets on carbon emissions and energy consumption (57% versus 46%) in 2020. 

Firm management, gender balance and employment
Regarding several management practices, seven in ten Slovenian firms (68%) report their company strived for gender balance. Around four-fifths (84%) report having linked individual performance to pay and 74% used strategic business monitoring systems. These shares are higher than the EU average. Owing largely to a substantial policy support, the workforce in Slovenia has remained rather stable since the start of the pandemic, with only a marginal decrease reported by companies. Nevertheless, risks to the investment outlook are material and need to be carefully monitored.
Investment Dynamics and Focus

INVESTMENT DYNAMICS BY INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR

With the COVID-19 crisis abruptly affecting the economy, investment dropped in 2020, until decreasing to 8% below the pre-pandemic 2019 level in Q4 2020. The biggest drop was due to private investment. Private investment started recovering in 2021, considerably increasing compared to the same quarters of 2020. Total investment was at pre-crisis levels again in Q3 2021.

INVESTMENT CYCLE AND EVOLUTION OF INVESTMENT EXPECTATIONS

While fewer Slovenian firms invested during 2020, they have clearly become more optimistic for 2021, with more firms expecting to increase investment rather than decrease it. This represents a substantial positive shift from EIBIS 2020 when firms expected a more substantial drop in investments, which was prevented by a substantial policy support.

Firms in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, as well as large corporations, are more likely to increase investment and hold positive investment expectations.

The graph on the left shows the evolution of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data are transformed into four-quarter sums, deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF. The four-quarter sum of total GFCF in 2019 Q4 is normalized to 0. Source: Eurostat

The graph on the right shows the year-on-year growth of total gross fixed capital formation (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data are deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF. Source: Eurostat.

Share of firms investing shows the percentage of firms with investment per employee greater than EUR 500. The y-axis line crosses x-axis on the EU average for EIBIS 2021.

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)
Investment Dynamics and Focus

PURPOSE OF INVESTMENT IN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR (% of firms’ investment)

On average, firms in Slovenia spent 46% of their investment in 2020 on replacing buildings and equipment. This is mostly in line with results of the previous survey (45%) and the EU 2021 average (50%).

A quarter (26%) of investment expenditure was directed to capacity expansion while a fifth (20%) was for the development of new products and services. Investment into new products and services increased from EIBIS 2020 (13%) bringing the share slightly above the EU average.

Replacement was more of an investment priority for construction (54%) firms than those in other sectors. Large firms (25%) allocated a larger proportion of their investment to new products/services than SMEs (15%).

INVESTMENT AREAS

According to EIBIS, out of the six investment areas considered, the largest share of investment in 2020 went into machinery and equipment (55%). This is followed by land, business buildings and infrastructure (19%), software, data, IT and website activities (9%) and R&D (9%). The distribution of investment areas is similar to the one in EIBIS 2020, but differs from the EU as a whole, where a greater share of investment was directed towards software, data, IT and website activities (15%) while relatively less was dedicated to machinery and equipment (48%) and land (14%).

The data indicate that large firms and those in the construction sector directed a relatively lower proportion of their investment towards ‘intangible assets’ (R&D, software, training and business processes) and made a relatively higher investment in ‘tangible assets’ (land, buildings, infrastructure and machinery).
Impact of COVID-19

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SALES

COVID-19 hit firms in various ways. Half of Slovenian firms (52%) report their sales or turnover to have declined compared to the beginning of 2020, while a fifth (18%) have experienced an increase. These proportions are mostly in line with the EU averages (49% and 21%, respectively).

A higher percentage of large firms (56%) saw sales drop as a result of COVID-19 compared to SMEs (48%).

Q. What has been the impact so far of the COVID-19 pandemic on your company’s sales or turnover compared to the beginning of 2020?

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

In Slovenia, around two-thirds of firms (64%) have taken some form of action in response to COVID-19. The share of firms reporting this is higher than in the EU overall (57%).

As in the EU, digitalisation stood out, with 46% of firms reporting that they became more digital. Three in ten (31%) Slovenian firms developed new products while one in ten shortened supply chains (11%).

Large firms (73%) were more ambitious than SMEs (57%) in terms of taking action in response to COVID-19, particularly as regards digitalization and the development of new products.

Q. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, have you taken any actions or made investments to...?

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)
Impact of COVID-19

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INVESTMENT

COVID-19 also had an important impact on investment activity. In Slovenia, a fifth of firms (20%) revised their investment plans downwards, twice the proportion of firms that made an upwards adjustment (9%). Slovenian firms were less likely than those across the EU (20% versus 26%) to revise their investment plans downwards, and more likely to make an upward revision (9% versus 3%).

The data suggest that manufacturing firms were the most negatively affected by COVID-19, with a quarter (25%) reporting a downward revision of their investment plans in response to the pandemic.

In Slovenia, a quarter of firms (26%) that had reported a decline in sales due to COVID-19 have revised their investment plans downwards (below the EU average of 36%). Firms that had reported an increase in sales or stable sales are fairly evenly split between those having revised their investment plans downwards (13%) and those having made an upward adjustment (10%).
Investment Needs and Priorities

PERCEIVED INVESTMENT GAP

The majority of Slovenian firms do not perceive gaps in their investment activities: in spite of the difficult circumstances, three-quarters (74%) of firms believe that their investment over the last three years was about right. Nevertheless, 25% of firms think they invested too little and this perceived investment gap is greater in Slovenia than across the EU where 14% of firms believe they invested too little over the past three years.

The perceived investment gap is less pronounced in the service sector: fewer than one in five firms (19%) feel they invested too little.

Q. Looking back at your investment over the last 3 years, was it too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Base: All firms (excluding 'Company didn’t exist three years ago' responses)

SHARE OF FIRMS AT OR ABOVE FULL CAPACITY

The share of Slovenian firms that operated at or above full capacity (52%) has declined since EIBIS 2020 (62%) but remains close to the EU average (49%).

Infrastructure (71%) and large firms (61%) are most likely to have been operating at or above full capacity and have maintained high capacity utilization levels since EIBIS 2020.

Full capacity is the maximum capacity attainable e.g. company’s general practices regarding the utilization of machines and equipment, overtime, work shifts, holidays etc.

Q. In the last financial year, was your company operating above or at maximum capacity attainable under normal circumstances?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those operating somewhat or substantially below full capacity)
Investment Needs and Priorities

FUTURE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES (% of firms)

Looking ahead, new product/service development is the most commonly cited investment priority for the next three years by Slovenian firms (39%), followed by capacity expansion for existing products and services (38%).

Compared to the EU average (26%), there is a greater emphasis in Slovenia on new product and service development (39%) while replacement activities (20%) have a lower priority than across the EU overall (33%).

Manufacturing firms (62%) and large firms (48%) place a greater priority on new products/services development than firms in other sectors, while capacity expansion is of greater importance to service firms (52%).

Q. Looking ahead to the next 3 years, which is your investment priority: (a) replacing existing buildings, machinery, equipment, IT; (b) expanding capacity for existing products/services; (c) developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)

COVID-19 LONG-TERM IMPACT

Almost nine in ten firms (88%) expect COVID-19 to have at least one long-term impact on their business. This is higher than what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (73%) and also higher than the EU average (72%).

The most commonly anticipated long-term impact is the increased use of digital technologies (69%). This sentiment has increased sharply since EIBIS 2020 (47%) to stand above the EU average (55%).

The impact on supply chains, as well as the permanent reduction in employment, also stand above the EU average.
Innovation Activities

INNOVATION ACTIVITY

Over two-fifths of firms (44%) developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities. This is in line with what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (40%) and higher than the EU average (36%).

Over one in five firms developed or introduced products, processes or services that are new to the firm (23%), or claim to have undertaken innovation that is new to the country or world (21%). This latter figure is double the EU average (10%).

Looking at differences across sectors, Slovenian manufacturing firms (61%) are at the frontier of the innovation. Large firms are about twice as likely to have invested in new innovations than SMEs (61% versus 30%).

Q. What proportion of total investment was for developing or introducing new products, processes, services?
Q. Were the products, processes or services new to the company, new to the country, new to the global market?

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)

INNOVATION PROFILE

When firms’ innovation and research and development behaviour is profiled more widely, almost a third (31%) of Slovenian enterprises can be considered as ‘active innovators’. A further 7% can be classified as ‘developers’.

These figures are higher than the ones reported in EIBIS 2020 (23% and 4% respectively) while a greater proportion of Slovenian firms can be classified as active innovators than the EU average (18%).

The ‘No innovation and no R&D’ group comprises firms that did not introduce any new products, processes or services but without undertaking any of their own research and development effort. ‘Developers’ are firms that did not introduce new products, processes or services but allocated a significant part of their investment activities to research and development. ‘Incremental’ and ‘Leading innovators’ have introduced new products, processes and services and also invested in research and development activities. The two profiles differ in terms of the novelty of the new products, processes or services. For incremental innovators these are ‘new to the firm’, for leading innovators ‘these are new to the country/world’.

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)
Innovation Activities

IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Three-quarters of firms (75%) have implemented at least one advanced digital technology. This is higher than both what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (64%) and the current EU average (61%).

Large firms (87%) are more likely than SMEs (66%) to have implemented at least one advanced digital technology, as are those operating in the manufacturing sector (86%). On the other hand, barely half of the firms in the construction sector (51%) have implemented at least one advanced digital technology.

Firms in Slovenia are ahead of the EU as regards the implementation of robotics and the Internet of Things and have a relatively high share of firms implementing other advanced digital technologies as well.

Q: Can you tell me for each of the following digital technologies if you have heard about them, not heard about them, implemented them in parts of your business, or whether your entire business is organised around them?

Reported shares combine implemented the technology ‘in parts of business’ and ‘entire business organised around it’

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)

ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

* Sector: 1 = Asked of Manufacturing firms, 2 = Asked of Services firms, 3 = Asked of Construction firms, 4 = Asked of Infrastructure firms

Q: Can you tell me for each of the following digital technologies if you have heard about them, not heard about them, implemented them in parts of your business, or whether your entire business is organised around them?

Sample size SI: Manufacturing (135); Construction (82); Services (83); Infrastructure (91)
Drivers And Constraints

SHORT-TERM FIRM OUTLOOK

Overall, Slovenian firms are relatively balanced about the short-term outlook, but remain rather skeptical about the political and regulatory climate. As a matter of fact, expectations for the overall economic climate, business prospects in the sector and the availability of finance have become much more positive than in EIBIS 2020.

The outlook about the overall economic climate has risen from -71% to +10%, and for perceptions of business prospects in the sector from -27% to +31%.

The short-term outlook of Slovenian firms is broadly in line with the EU average.

SHORT-TERM FIRM OUTLOOK BY SECTOR AND SIZE (NET BALANCE %)

In Slovenia, firms across all sectors and sizes are consistently more positive than negative about business prospects, as well as external and internal finance.

Firms operating in the manufacturing sector and large corporations tend to be the most positive about business prospects. On the other hand, firms across all sectors and sizes remain more negative on balance about the political and regulatory climate.

Meanwhile, perceptions of the overall economic climate are more diverse, with manufacturing firms and large companies again being more optimistic.

Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next twelve months?

Please note: green figures are positive, red figures are negative

Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next twelve months?

*Caution small base sizes

Base: All firms

*Net balance is the share of firms seeing improvement minus the share of firms seeing a deterioration
Drivers And Constraints

LONG-TERM BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT

The availability of skilled staff (83%) and uncertainty about the future (79%) are the most commonly cited barriers to investment by Slovenian firms. The share of firms perceiving the availability of skilled staff as the key barrier has increased since EIBIS 2020.

Firms in Slovenia are more likely than EU firms to cite uncertainty about the future (79% versus 73%) and labour market regulations (71% versus 61%) as barriers to investment but less likely to mention access to digital infrastructure (36% versus 45%), availability of adequate transport infrastructure (39% versus 47%) and availability of finance (39% versus 46%) as barriers.

Almost nine in ten manufacturing firms (88%) consider availability of skilled staff as a barrier to investment. A similar proportion of service sector firms (90%) say uncertainty about the future is an obstacle to their investment activities.

The availability of skilled staff (83%) and uncertainty about the future (79%) are the most commonly cited barriers to investment by Slovenian firms. The share of firms perceiving the availability of skilled staff as the key barrier has increased since EIBIS 2020.

Firms in Slovenia are more likely than EU firms to cite uncertainty about the future (79% versus 73%) and labour market regulations (71% versus 61%) as barriers to investment but less likely to mention access to digital infrastructure (36% versus 45%), availability of adequate transport infrastructure (39% versus 47%) and availability of finance (39% versus 46%) as barriers.

Almost nine in ten manufacturing firms (88%) consider availability of skilled staff as a barrier to investment. A similar proportion of service sector firms (90%) say uncertainty about the future is an obstacle to their investment activities.

Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Slovenia, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is it a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

LONG-TERM BARRIERS BY SECTOR AND SIZE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demand for products/services</th>
<th>Availability of skilled staff</th>
<th>Energy costs</th>
<th>Digital infrastructure</th>
<th>Labour market regulations</th>
<th>Business regulations</th>
<th>Transport infrastructure</th>
<th>Availability of finance</th>
<th>Uncertainty about the future</th>
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Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Slovenia, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is it a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all? Report: The share combines ‘minor’ and ‘major’ obstacles into one category.

Base: All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)
Investment Finance

**SOURCE OF INVESTMENT FINANCE**

Three-quarters (74%) of the investment made by Slovenian firms in 2020 was financed from internal sources. This is in line with what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (69%) and higher than the EU average (63%). External finance made up most of the remainder (25%), with intra-group finance accounting for less than 2% of investment.

Construction and infrastructure firms (both 31%) obtained the greatest share of finance investment from external sources.

Bank loans (49%) continued to make up the highest share of external finance used for investment activities in Slovenia in 2020, but decreased in importance compared to EIBIS 2020. Service sector firms (65%) and large firms (57%) relied more on bank loans than firms in other sectors and SMEs did.

The proportion of external investment consisting of grants was lower in Slovenia than the EU as a whole (4% versus 9%). Apart from leasing activities, the percentages for non-bank external financing sources remained rather low in Slovenia.

Leasing activities are even more prevalent in the construction sector. There, external finance primarily took the form of leasing (58% share).
Investment Finance

ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

As a result of the pandemic, one in ten Slovenian firms have increased their debt (10%). Fewer than one in twenty firms has obtained new equity from either their current owners (3%) or new sources (3%).

All in all, the proportion of firms who have increased their debt is lower in Slovenia than in the EU overall (16%).

Policy support to enterprises was substantial in Slovenia. Indeed, three-quarters (73%) of Slovenian firms report having received some form of financial support in response to COVID-19. This is above the EU average (56%).

Financial support most likely came in the form of subsides that do not need to be paid back (68%), followed by deferral of payments (20%). More Slovenian firms were able to profit from the former category of support than in the EU overall (36%). On the other hand, the uptake of new subsidised or guaranteed credit was much lower in Slovenia (3%) than in the EU overall (17%).

Large firms (80%) are more likely than SMEs (67%) to have received financial support.
Access To Finance

DISSATISFACTION WITH EXTERNAL FINANCE RECEIVED

Firms in Slovenia that used external finance in 2020 are far more likely to be satisfied than dissatisfied with the finance received according to the survey. Nevertheless, cost of finance is an important exception. More than one in ten Slovenian firms (12%) express dissatisfaction with this aspect of external finance. This figure is well above the EU average (5%).

The survey shows that levels of dissatisfaction with the cost of external finance are similar across firms of all sectors and sizes. In addition, the amount and type of finance are the aspects of external finance that are least likely to prompt dissatisfaction. The cost of finance and, in some instances, the collateral are likely to trigger the highest dissatisfaction.
Access To Finance

SHARE OF FINANCE CONSTRAINED FIRMS

One in ten (11%) firms in Slovenia can be considered external finance constrained. This is similar to the share reported in EIBIS 2020 (9%) but double the EU average (5%).

Construction firms (16%) are the most likely to be finance constrained as regards access to external finance, followed by firms operating in the infrastructure sector.

SMEs are also slightly more constrained than large corporates.

Finance constrained firms include: those dissatisfied with the amount of finance obtained (received less), firms that sought external finance but did not receive it (rejected) and those who did not seek external finance because they thought borrowing costs would be too high (too expensive) or they would be turned down (discouraged).

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)

FINANCING CONSTRAINTS OVER TIME

Since EIBIS 2018, the proportion of Slovenian firms classified as external finance constrained has been increasing.

It has also been above the EU average for the past two waves.

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – PHYSICAL RISK

About half of Slovenian firms (49%) report that physical climate risk has an impact on their business. Nevertheless, firms are more likely to think it has a minor (29%), rather than a major impact (19%). The results are similar to EIBIS 2020. In comparison to the EU average, Slovenian firms are somewhat less concerned about the impact of the physical risk.

Firms in the construction sector (62%) and large firms (56%) seem to be the most concerned.

Q. Thinking about climate change and the related changes in weather patterns, would you say these weather events currently have a major impact, a minor impact or no impact at all on your business?

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know / refused responses)

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSITION TO A NET ZERO EMISSION ECONOMY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The majority of firms in Slovenia (56%) believe the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations will have no impact on their company. This is higher than the EU average (41%). Among those who believe that the transition will affect their business, a quarter of Slovenian firms (26%) regard this as a risk while 18% consider it an opportunity. The positive perception of the transition is also lower than in the EU average.

Infrastructure firms appear the most concerned about the impact of the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations, with a third (34%) regarding it as a risk.

Q. Thinking about your company, what impact do you expect this transition to stricter climate standards and regulations will have on your company over the next five years?

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know / refused responses)
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

INVESTMENT PLANS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

A quarter (26%) of Slovenian firms have already invested to deal with climate change while 40% of them have plans to invest more in the next three years. Both figures are mostly in line with those reported in EIBIS 2020 but below the current EU average (43% and 47%, respectively).

Construction and service firms are the least likely to have already invested (12% and 15%, respectively) or to be planning to invest (31% and 24%, respectively).

Q. Now thinking about investments to tackle the impacts of weather events and to deal with the process of reduction in carbon emissions, which of the following applies?

Base: All firms (excluding don’t know/refused responses)

SHARE OF FIRMS INVESTING IN MEASURES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SHARE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT

About half (52%) of Slovenia’s firms invested in measures to improve energy efficiency in 2020, which is above the EU average (37%). The average estimated share of investment in energy efficiency measures is currently 12%, somewhat above the EU average (9%). The majority of infrastructure (54%), manufacturing (63%) and large firms (73%) invested in measures to improve energy efficiency in 2020, while SMEs and construction companies, as well as firms operating in services, were lagging behind.

Q. What proportion of the total investment in the last financial year was primarily for measures to improve energy efficiency in your organisation?

Base: All firms (for share of firms investing)
Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don’t know/refused responses) (average share of investment)
Firm management, climate targets, gender balance and employment

FIRM MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE TARGETS AND GENDER BALANCE

Seven in ten Slovenian firms (68%) report their company strove for gender balance in 2020. This is above the EU average (60%). Around four-fifths (84%) report having linked individual performance to pay, also higher than the EU average (67%).

Comparing to the EU average, Slovenia also has a higher proportion of firms reporting the use of strategic business monitoring systems (74% versus 55%) and having set and monitored internal targets on carbon emissions and energy consumption (57% versus 46%) in 2020.

Large firms were more likely than SMEs to strive for gender balance (78% versus 61%) or to set and monitor targets for carbon emissions and energy consumption (83% versus 36%). Fewer than a quarter (22%) of service sector firms set and monitored such targets.

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT DURING COVID-19

Mostly consistent with the macroeconomic data, the workforce in Slovenia has remained rather stable since the start of the pandemic, with only a marginal decrease of 1.1%. This is very similar in comparison to the EU average.

Nevertheless, the workforce within Slovenian SMEs has dropped by 4.4% which is a larger reduction than that experienced by large firms (-0.9%).
EIBIS 2021 – Country Technical Details

SAMPLING TOLERANCES APPLICABLE TO PERCENTAGES AT OR NEAR THESE LEVELS

The final data are based on a sample, rather than the entire population of firms in Slovenia, so the percentage results are subject to sampling tolerances. These vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>SI</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>SME</th>
<th>Large</th>
<th>EU vs SI</th>
<th>Constr vs Manuf</th>
<th>SME vs Large</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(11920)</td>
<td>(802)</td>
<td>(401)</td>
<td>(135)</td>
<td>(82)</td>
<td>(83)</td>
<td>(92)</td>
<td>(332)</td>
<td>(69)</td>
<td>(11920 vs 401)</td>
<td>(82 vs 135)</td>
<td>(332 vs 69)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 10% or 90% | 1.1% | 3.5% | 3.2% | 5.1% | 6.5% | 6.4% | 6.2% | 2.9% | 6.1% | 3.3% | 8.2% | 6.8% |
| 30% or 70% | 1.7% | 5.3% | 4.8% | 7.7% | 10.0% | 9.8% | 9.5% | 4.5% | 9.3% | 5.1% | 12.6% | 10.3% |
| 50% | 1.8% | 5.8% | 5.3% | 8.4% | 10.9% | 10.7% | 10.4% | 4.9% | 10.2% | 5.6% | 13.7% | 11.3% |

GLOSSARY

**Investment**
A firm is considered to have invested if it spent more than EUR 500 per employee on investment activities with the intention of maintaining or increasing the company’s future earnings.

**Investment cycle**
Based on the expected investment in current financial year compared to last one, and the proportion of firms with a share of investment greater than EUR 500 per employee.

**Manufacturing sector**
Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group C (Manufacturing).

**Construction sector**
Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group F (Construction).

**Services sector**
Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group G (wholesale and retail trade) and group I (accommodation and food Services activities).

**Infrastructure sector**
Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in groups D and E (utilities), group H (transportation and storage) and group J (information and communication).

**SME**
Firms with between 5 and 249 employees.

**Large firms**
Firms with at least 250 employees.

Note: the EIBIS 2021 country overview refers interchangeably to ‘the past/last financial year’ or to ‘2020’. Both refer to results collected in EIBIS 2021, where the question is referring to the past financial year, with the majority of the financial year in 2020 in case the financial year is not overlapping with the calendar year 2020.
The country overview presents selected findings based on telephone interviews with 401 firms in Slovenia (carried out between March and July 2021).

### BASE SIZES

(*Charts with more than one base; due to limited space, only the lowest base is shown*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All firms, p. 2, p. 6, p. 7, p. 10, p. 11</td>
<td>11920/11971</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>401/400</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>92</td>
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<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses), p. 6</td>
<td>11910/11949</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>400/400</td>
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<td>82</td>
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<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 2</td>
<td>11620/11634</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>398/396</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (top)</td>
<td>11860/NA</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>401/NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (bottom)</td>
<td>11891/NA</td>
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<td>401/NA</td>
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<td>82</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (top)</td>
<td>11814/11971</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>395/400</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (bottom)</td>
<td>11660/0</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>395/0</td>
<td>133</td>
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<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 7 (top)</td>
<td>11765/11727</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>397/394</td>
<td>135</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (top)</td>
<td>11648/11720</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>361/383</td>
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<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (bottom)</td>
<td>8780/9039</td>
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<td>11875/NA</td>
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<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 13 (bottom)</td>
<td>11518/11477</td>
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<td>395/393</td>
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<td>All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (top)</td>
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<td>774</td>
<td>393/NA</td>
<td>133</td>
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<td>399/394</td>
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<tr>
<td>All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 9 (top)</td>
<td>9670/10138</td>
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<td>352/357</td>
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<td>86</td>
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<td>All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 9 (bottom)</td>
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<td>667</td>
<td>353/364</td>
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<td>71</td>
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<td>All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12</td>
<td>8675/9255</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>331/331</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 17</td>
<td>11920/11971</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>401/400</td>
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<td>All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12</td>
<td>4003/4354</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>142/157</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>112</td>
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Slovenia
Overview