

SUBJECT: Monthly Economic and Commercial Report Slovenia - September 2024

Assessment

A. Internal Developments

- Slovenia exported USD 38.70 billion worth of goods during January - July 2024, a 9.43% increase year-on-year, while imports were up 13.8% to USD 41.09 billion.
- Slovenia will receive EUR 257.7 million from the Recovery and Resilience Facility by the end of 2024 as the European Commission approved the country's third claim for the EU facility designed for post-Covid recovery.
- The Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy has made available just under EUR 42 million in EU Recovery and Resilience funds to energy distributors for upgrade and construction of new low-voltage distribution networks.
- The Council of the EU and the European Parliament's budget committee approved the disbursement of a total of EUR 428 million from the EU Solidarity Fund to Slovenia for reconstruction after the August 2023 floods.
- Slovenia's GDP grew by 2.1% in real terms in 2023, an improvement from earlier estimates. This growth is moderate, reflecting a resilient but cautious economic environment amid global uncertainties.

B. External Developments

- Slovenia's exports in July 2024 reached EUR 5.46 billion (up 24.8% year-on-year), with imports rising by 16.47% to EUR 5.1 billion, driven mainly by trade with non-EU nations like Switzerland. The surplus stood at EUR 0.3 billion.
- Slovenia's trade relations with the world continue to expand, with exports and imports reaching USD 59.51 billion and USD 61.71 billion, respectively, in 2023. A 9.43% growth in exports and 13.8% increase in imports during January - July 2024 illustrates the country's robust engagement in international trade, despite a widening trade deficit.
- The council of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) has given Slovenia a positive assessment of its preparedness for full CERN membership.
- Pharmaceutical products remain Slovenia's dominant export, followed by vehicles and electrical machinery.
- Organic chemicals and pharmaceuticals are the leading imports, indicating Slovenia's dependency on high-value sectors like pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

C. Bilateral Developments

- India - Slovenia bilateral trade continues to grow. As per the data available on M/Commerce GOI of India, the total value of goods imported from India, in the first 7 months [Jan - July 2024], reached to USD 337.39 million when Slovenia exported goods to India for the value of USD 151.09 million. India holds 5th position of top importing countries to Slovenia. The trade balance strongly remains in India's favour.

Slovenia-India Conference

The Delo Media House in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Slovenia (CCS) organized a Conference on 11th September 2024 at the CCS premises. The focus of the conference was exploring opportunities in the Indian market for Slovenian businesses and addressing the broader economic challenges facing Slovenia's export-oriented economy.

In the Conference, Ambassador Ms. Namrata S. Kumar highlighted the strong political relations between India and Slovenia and the significant potential for economic cooperation between the two countries. She noted that two high-level visits from India (the President's visit in 2019 and the Foreign Minister's in 2023) have greatly boosted bilateral trade, which exceeded US\$ 800 million over the last five years. Ambassador emphasized the importance of focusing on science, innovation, and infrastructure to further strengthen ties. She specifically identified the space sector as a promising area for collaboration. Further, she mentioned the growing Indian community in Slovenia, which increased from 200 to 1,000 in five years. She also predicted that India would have around 25 million people in the middle class within the next five years and become the world's third-largest economy by 2030.

Meeting with the Head of Labour Inspectorate

On September 26, 2024, Ambassador Ms. Namrata S. Kumar met with Ms. Katja Coh Kragolnik, Head of the Slovenian Labour Inspectorate. In the meeting, Ambassador emphasized the need to sign two pending agreements – the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) and the Social Security Agreement (SSA) – to protect the rights of Indian workers. Ambassador stressed that these agreements are crucial for ensuring Indian students and skilled workers receive equal rights under Slovenian labor laws. The Labour Inspectorate supported the need for the agreements to safeguard worker rights.

Business events in September - 2024

1. Delegation of the Committee on Economic Affairs [06 September 2024]

German Embassy in Slovenia hosted a delegation of the Committee on Economic Affairs of the German parliament which paid a visit to Slovenia to meet with Economy Minister Mr. Matjaž Han and the Slovenian parliamentary Economy Committee. In focus of the talks were the strengthening of European competitiveness and opportunities to improve bilateral trade relations.

2. Two memorandums of understanding signed with France [13 September 2024]

Representatives of the Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI) and the French energy company EDF signed a memorandum of understanding to promote cooperation in R&D for the construction of new nuclear reactors, where EDF sees Slovenia at the centre of its strategy. The University of Maribor signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Institute of Nuclear

Energy (I2EN) for the development of new university programmes on nuclear science and technology.

3. Slovenia to join CERN in 2025 [27 September 2024]

The council of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) has given Slovenia a positive assessment of its preparedness for full CERN membership, tasking CERN director general Fabiola Gianotti to negotiate further steps. The council based its decision on a report by a group of experts who visited Slovenia at the start of 2024.

4. Slovenia joins D9+ group [27 September 2024]

Slovenia has been accepted into the D9+ group of digital frontrunners in the EU. The membership will allow the country to participate even more actively in drafting EU digital policy and is a confirmation of Slovenia's dedication to the goals of the Digital Decade and support for digital innovation, contributing to Europe's resilience and competitive edge.

A. Slovenia Internal

i. According to data released by Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia on 8 September 2024, foreign-controlled enterprises (in 2022) accounted for 3.9% of all companies in Slovenia, generating 28.2% of the added value and employing 26.8% of the workforce. Economically, the most significant were those controlled by Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Sales revenues from foreign-controlled companies represented 31% of the total in Slovenia.

ii. The government maintained at correspondence meeting on 10 September 2024, that the price of regular petrol sold at service stations outside the Slovenian motorway network fell by 1.1 cents to EUR 1.475 per litre, while the prices of diesel and heating oil remained unchanged at EUR 1.519 and EUR 1.125. The new prices will apply until 23 September.

iii. Data published by Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia ahead of the European Mobility Week on 13 September 2024, shows some 1.2 million cars were registered in Slovenia at the end of 2023, up 15% in the last decade. Greenhouse gas emissions in road traffic increased by 25% from 2008 to 2022, while the total CO₂ emissions have decreased by 24%. In 2022 road traffic produced 5.3 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions or 42% of all annual CO₂ emissions. Cars accounted for 52% and lorries and buses for 48% of road traffic emissions.

iv. Data published by Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia on 20 September 2024, shows average gross pay in Slovenia reached EUR 2,379.38 in July, while average net pay was at EUR 1,508.84, both increasing by 0.5% nominally and 0.6% in real terms. In the private sector, average gross pay was up 1.2%, while in the public sector it decreased by 0.7%. The highest average pay was paid out in the financial and insurance sector (EUR 3,374.04 gross and EUR 2,048.43 net) and the lowest in hospitality (EUR 1,731.35 gross and EUR 1,132.60 net).

v. In annual comparison Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia reported on 30 September 2024, that the annual inflation rate in Slovenia continued to drop, reaching 0.6% in September in what is the second consecutive month with the inflation rate below 1%. The

annual growth rate was pushed up the most (by 0.4 percentage points) by 3.9% higher prices in the recreation and culture category. Measured with the harmonised index of consumer prices, the annual growth of consumer prices in September was 0.7%, while it was at 7.1% a year ago. The monthly price growth stood at 0.2%.

[Source: Slovenian Press Agency (STA)]

Table 1. Key Macroeconomic Parameters

S.No.	Parameter	2024	Remarks
1.	GDP Growth	2.1%	1st quarter 2024
2.	Annual inflation	1.3%	July 2024
3.	Unemployment rate	3.4%	1st quarter 2024

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

a) Primary sector (Extraction of raw materials, Fishing, Agriculture)

i. The Slovenian Competition Protection Agency announced on 9 September 2024, that they have approved the purchase of a 51% stake in Panvita, Slovenia's leading agri-food company, by the Croatian company Mplus, renamed Bosqar in June. Mplus signed a EUR 50 million contract to acquire the majority stake in Panvita at the start of May and will now start recapitalisation procedures.

ii. Mr. Gorazd Bedenčič, the head of the Winemaker' Association at the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GZS) issued a statement on 23 September 2024, warning that this year's grape harvest in Slovenia has been disastrous in terms of volumes. Compared to the five-year average, the yield is about a third lower this year. The winemakers are doing their best to adapt to climate change, but they can no longer cope given the frequency of extreme weather conditions. On a positive side, the harvest is likely to yield a fine if not superb vintage.

iii. President of the Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry (KGZS) Mr. Roman Žveglič in a press release on 24 September 2024, urged the state to stop the continuing conversion of vast areas of prime agricultural land into building plots. In 1971, Slovenia had 921,000 hectares of agricultural land, but just over 40 years later, that figure had fallen to 472,000 hectares. In light of this, the KGZS has proposed that the state itself take responsibility for protecting these lands. The state currently owns about 27,000 hectares of arable land and over 5,000 hectares of permanent crops, including hop fields, vineyards, orchards, and greenhouses, which the chamber believes should be designated as permanently protected and shielded from construction.

iv. Business portal Finance named Tehnos, a family firm that specialises in farm machinery, on 24 September 2024, Exporter of the Year after having become a top ten European producer of mulchers. The company developed, by huge investments in digitalisation and robots, an innovative electric mulcher where the electric engine is build into the mulcher's rotor. They are present in 40 markets worldwide including Australia, Canada and Japan.

[Source: Slovenian Press Agency (STA)]

b) Secondary sector (Construction, Manufacturing, Oil and Gas)

i. The Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy has published a public call on 17 September 2024, for just under EUR 42 million in EU recovery and resilience funds to energy distributors for upgrade and construction of new low-voltage distribution networks. The goal is to modernise the grid to better handle household solar, heat pumps and electric cars. The aim is to fund the construction of nearly 350 new transformers and 730 kilometres of networks.

ii. Business portal Finance reported on 19 September 2024, that a new logistics centre is being built in Logatec, a town sitting along the motorway and the railway linking Ljubljana to the port of Koper. The construction is being managed by Atrios, a Slovak company whose website states that LOGspot Logatec is to span 26,000 square metres of storage space and 1,000 square metres of office space. Construction on the project started in May 2024 and is due to be completed in the first half of 2025. The investor is not known, but the portal reported it was an Austrian company headquartered in Vienna.

iii. The Government Communications Office stated on 19 September 2024, that Slovenia will build a Cybersecurity Situational Centre under a decision adopted by the government. The facility is estimated at EUR 33.5 million and is due to be largely completed by 2027. The centre is designed to improve cybersecurity at the national level by providing permanent monitoring, detection and mitigation of cyberthreats. The investment involves purchases of software and hardware that will be deployed across the state administration, and the training of staff.

iv. The Defence Ministry announced on 19 September 2024, it would build a healthcare centre for national emergencies in the Peter Držaj Hospital in Ljubljana. Worth nearly EUR 87 million, the new facility would serve the dual purpose of providing healthcare for the military and the civilian population. Spanning 18,700 m², the centre will have 160 hospital beds.

v. The national Infrastructure Agency stated on 24 September 2024, that it had selected the contractor to build the central part of the emerging Ljubljana Passenger Centre. The consortium of Slovenian construction companies led by SŽ-ŽGP will build it for EUR 243.9 million, VAT included, or EUR 199.9 million, VAT excluded. The new train terminal within the Ljubljana Passenger Centre will consist of an area of 13,665 square metres featuring an overpass over the tracks and a new train station hall with lifts and escalators.

vi. The Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport announced on 24 September 2024, that it has secured EUR 50.3 million for the co-financing of municipal sports infrastructure this year and next. A total of 141 projects worth EUR 176 million will be co-financed. The investments include 77 outdoor facilities and 64 buildings, either renovations or new builds, ranging from sports halls to pools, ice rinks and stadiums. Several investments are worth in excess of EUR 10 million each.

[Source: Slovenian Press Agency (STA)]

c) Tertiary sector (Retail, Financial services, Services, Health care, Real estate, Hospitality, Transport)

- i. The retailer Spar Slovenija said in a press release on 9 September 2024, they recorded EUR 1.2 billion in gross turnover in 2023, a 13.6% increase year-on-year, while pre-tax profit amounted to EUR 21.6 million, with the operating profit margin standing at 1.97%.
- ii. Slovenia's largest power distributor Elektro Ljubljana and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a EUR 50 million loan agreement on 2 September 2024. The funds will go toward a project worth EUR 164.2 million entailing extensive upgrades and new medium- and low-voltage overhead lines, underground lines and transformers, as well as new EV charging stations, among other things.
- iii. The Slovenian Bank Association has announced on 19 September 2024, that Slovenian jurist Ms. Verica Trstenjak has been appointed to the Administrative Board of Review of the European Central Bank (ECB). The EU law expert is one of Slovenia's four members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague and has previously served as advocate general at the EU Court of Justice and a judge at the General Court of the EU, among other things. The Administrative Board of Review has five permanent and two alternate members, all serving five-year terms with the possibility of reappointment.
- iv. The Finance Ministry announced on 24 September 2024, that Slovenia expanded on the international capital markets the ten-year euro bond due on 10 March 2034 for a second time, this time by EUR 750 million. Slovenia has thus borrowed a total of EUR 2.75 billion with the RS93 notes whose coupon rate is set at 3%. More than a third of the investors come from Germany, Austria and Switzerland and slightly more than a quarter from the UK. Most of the investors are banks (Barclays, Deutsche Bank, Erste Group and J. P. Morgan).
- v. As the only shareholder of Slovenian Sovereign Holding (SSH), the government confirmed on 23 September 2024, the transfer of SSH's real estate business onto DSU, a state-owned real estate management company. SSH had acquired this property when the Bank Assets Management Company, a bank, was folded into SSH at the end of 2022. The transactions should be completed by the end of the month. Projections show that DSU, whose main line of business is real estate management, could use this land or the proceeds from it to build 2,500 affordable rental homes by 2030.
- vi. Slovenian Tourism Board (STO) announced in a press release on 16 September 2024, that Slovenia has joined forces with Croatia and Austria for a tourism promotional campaign in the US. The campaign launching in the next few days is geared at American travellers with higher purchasing power looking for sustainable travel experiences with a touch of modern luxury. Dubbed The Alps. Adriatic. Amazing., the campaign includes digital advertising on the Conde Nast Traveller online portal, which is expected to reach 12 million views, and promotion on the social media channels of Conde Nast Traveller's publishing house.
- vii. The Infrastructure Ministry issued a statement on 23 September 2024, that the fifth call published by the Slovenian government to boost the country's air connectivity has attracted no bidders. The latest call was published in August. The previous calls have produced new air links connecting Ljubljana to Luxembourg, Riga, Madrid and Copenhagen. The ministry is now working on a sixth call.

[Source: Slovenian Press Agency (STA)]

d) Quaternary sector (Public Sector, Education, Communication, ICT, Research and Development, etc.)

i. The government signed a letter of intent with the Biotech Hills institute on 2 September 2024, as part of the Bled Strategic Forum by Economy Minister Mr. Matjaž Han and the president of the the institute's council, Mr. Robert Ljoljo, the president of Sandoz Slovenia. With a newly-established business accelerator in biotechnology, they commit to work together to develop a comprehensive ecosystem in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. The purpose of the agreement with Biotech Hills is to develop a comprehensive ecosystem in biotechnology, which would position Slovenia as the most attractive development destination in this field.

ii. The national recovery and resilience office stated on 16 September 2024, that Slovenia is to get EUR 257.7 million from the Recovery and Resilience Facility by the end of 2024, as the European Commission approved the country's third claim for the EU facility designed for post-Covid recovery. Slovenia filed the third claim on 28 June, asking for a net total of EUR 257.7 million, including the advance payments it received in 2021.

iii. The University of Nova Gorica said in a press release on 16 September 2024, that they signed a contract with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on co-funding a EUR 10 million project aimed at developing cutting-edge machine learning applications to take on some of the toughest challenges in data science, space research, medicine, linguistics and climate research. The university is the coordinator of the SMASH project, which features four partners and 35 associated partners and is co-financed by Horizon Europe.

iv. According to data released by the Statistics Office on 22 September 2024, Slovenia's information and communication technology (ICT) sector generated EUR 6.2 billion in net revenue last year, 8% more than the year before. The industry reported EUR 2.3 billion in value added, a 7% increase year-on-year. The number of companies in the sector, as well as the number of employees increased by 4% each. Some 90% of the revenue was generated by services companies and the rest by production companies.

v. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GZS) stated on 10 September 2024, that they hosted an Innovation Day to confer the national innovation awards. The list of top ten innovators includes steel maker SIJ Acroni, pharma companies Novartis, Krka and Lek, and the German-owned Sartorius BIA Separations. The Special Innovation Challenge Award went to fashion designer Martina Marolt for her brand of women's sustainable modular clothing By Martis.

vi. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food announced on 25 September 2024, that Slovenia will get a new lab and research hub, the Forest Seed, Plant and Protection Centre, to improve the resilience of forests to climate change in a EUR 8.65 million investment. Planned to be completed by the end of 2025, the centre will promote sustainable forest management, explore opportunities for biodiversity conservation and focus on developing tree species more resilient to climate change.

[Source: Slovenian Press Agency (STA)]

a) Slovenia's trade with World

Table 2. Trade between 2021-2023

Unit: USD billion

Exports and imports Slovenia, cumulative data		2021		2022		2023	
		Exports to World	Imports from World	Exports to World	Imports from World	Exports to World	Imports from World
00 Combined	USD	46.69	49.10	55.31	59.63	59.51	61.71
Total	USD	95.80		114.94		121.22	

[Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia]

Table 3. Trade in January - July 2024

Exports and imports cumulative data	Exports to World	Imports from World	Total trade	Growth % of Export to World (y-o-y)	Growth % of Import from World (y-o-y)
in billion USD	38.70	41.09	79.8068	+9.43%	+16.47%

[Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia]

Table 4. Top 10 items of exports from Slovenia to World, 2020-2024 [Unit : USD million]

Prod uct code	Product label	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 January-July
'30	Pharmaceutical products	7,899.01	9,676.15	15,295.96	20,151.11	15,189.61
'87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,587.42	5,355.49	4,575.96	5,012.54	3,364.17
'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television	1,181.22	5,273.95	5,385.34	5,489.10	3,320.34
'84	Machinery, mechanical appliances, nuclear reactors, boilers; parts thereof	3,680.12	4,452.71	4,659.99	5,021.33	2,866.45
'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral	1,143.49	1,918.06	4,367.36	3,310.01	1,743.54
'39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,493.02	2,042.49	2,049.55	1,978.32	1,209.91

'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	1,155.24	1,626.98	1,799.77	1,580.95	965.78
'72	Iron and steel	1,023.35	1,541.46	1,896.15	1,446.54	948.08
'44	Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	816.60	1,072.35	1,200.07	1,066.01	647.45
'73	Articles of iron or steel	806.09	1,124.39	1,177.09	1,148.99	620.85

[Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia]

Table 5. Top 10 items of imports by Slovenia from World, 2020-2024 [Unit: USD million]

Product code	Product label	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 January-July
'29	Organic chemicals	1,372.30	4,147.79	6,055.52	11,733.57	10,431.71
'30	Pharmaceutical products	3,629.80	6,557.36	9,003.89	8,728.75	6,363.88
'87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	844.24	4,237.10	4,353.18	5,077.40	3,352.83
'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral	2,098.33	3,666.07	8,020.97	5,562.55	3,017.17
'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television	3,437.29	4,815.46	4,863.84	4694.32	2,702.69
'84	Machinery, mechanical appliances, nuclear reactors, boilers; parts thereof	3,345.77	4,126.11	4,102.88	4,285.72	2,342.67
'39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,673.93	2,409.97	2,499.73	2,110.33	1,297.08
'72	Iron and steel	1,349.47	2,309.64	2,583.07	2,092.98	1,267.20
'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	999.21	1,566.45	1,781.11	1,496.60	903.15
'90	Optical, photographic, cinematographi	839.89	934.64	922.18	1,042.56	630.39

c, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus, parts and accessories thereof						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

[Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia]

C. India - Slovenia Bilateral

- i. In the month of September 2024, the Mission has attended 138 business inquiries from Indian companies, with an exhausted list of potential partners from both sides, along with the contact details of relevant business chambers and associations.
- ii. In the month of September 2024, the Mission has not issued any business visas.
- iii. Mission spotted article about the India and its economy in the following media/website:
 - a) In newspaper Delo, regarding Slovenia-India Conference organized on 11th September 2024. Establishment of India-Slovenia network for science, innovation, technology and economy was highlighted.

a) Export target set by Ministry of Commerce (India) for financial year 2024-25 is USD 690 Million.

Table 6. Month wise export data by India to Slovenia

Month	Value (in USD Million)
April 2024	50.09
May 2024	46.27
June 2024	40.66
July 2024	36.66

Source: Ministry of Commerce, GOI

Table 7. Bilateral trade between 2020-2024 [Unit: million USD]

Exports and imports Slovenia, cumulative data	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024 January-August	
	Exports to India	Imports from India	Exports to India	Imports from India	Exports to India	Imports from India	Exports to India	Imports from India	Exports to India	Imports from India
Combined	134.60	250.05	133.49	294.83	142.05	563.09	119.39	1,755.27	96.21	3,638.44
Total	384.66		428.33		705.14		1,874.66		3,734.65	
Balance in India's Favor	115.45		161.34		421.04		1,635.87		3,542.22	

Table 8. Top 10 items of import by Slovenia from India during 2020 - 2024 [Unit : USD million]

Product code	Product label	Slovenia's imports from India				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 January-July
'29	Organic chemicals	104.05	118.28	194.15	1,343.70	3,082.62
'30	Pharmaceutical products	81.53	67.74	93.86	99.02	68.30
'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances, mineral waxes	0.12	0.15	137.60	202.59	22.17
'40	Rubber and articles thereof	3.34	4.96	7.07	11.01	10.25
'87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	6.00	9.74	9.21	8.32	7.91
'72	Iron and steel	4.53	10.12	13.13	17.53	7.98
'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	5.08	1.91	28.43	5.56	5.54
'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television	5.06	10.12	10.19	10.83	6.38
'84	Machinery, mechanical appliances, nuclear reactors	5.17	11.27	9.93	11.07	4.43
'09	Coffee, tea, maté and spices	6.22	4.68	7.78	8.77	2.67

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Table 9. Top 10 items of exports from Slovenia to India during 2021-2023

Unit: USD million

'29	Organic chemicals	46.69	49.75	38.30
'84	Machinery, mechanical appliances, nuclear reactors, boilers; parts thereof	21.27	25.20	18.90
'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	12.92	12.15	10.56
'72	Iron and steel	19.10	16.45	9.40
'90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical .	5.50	5.63	8.90

'29	Organic chemicals	46.69	49.75	38.30
'39	Plastics and articles thereof	3.95	4.28	7.22
'48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	5.69	7.14	5.57
'54	Man-made filaments, strip and the like of man-made textile materials	1.21	0.69	2.29
'47	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material, recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	0.01	0.84	2.14
'40	Rubber and articles thereof	2.11	2.20	1.86

Sources: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Table 10. Top 10 items of export from Slovenia to India in 2024 [Unit: USD million]

Product code	Product label	January - July
'29	Organic Chemicals	28.18
'84	Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery And Mechanical Appliances, Parts Thereof	13.72
'72	Iron And Steel	10.09
'85	Electrical Machinery And Equipment And Parts Thereof, Sound Recorders And Reproducers, Television...	6.28
'48	Paper And Paperboard, Articles Of Paper Pulp, Of Paper Or Of Paperboard	5.05
'90	Optical, Photographic, Cinematographic, Measuring, Checking, Precision, Medical Or Surgical Instruments And Apparatus, Parts And Accessories Thereof	4.78
'39	Plastics And Articles Thereof	2.93
'40	Rubber And Articles Thereof	1.70
'44	Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	1.70
'54	Man-made filaments, strip and the like of man-made textile materials	0.63

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Table 11. Top exporting countries to Slovenia and India's position [Unit: USD million]

Importers	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan - Jul)
Switzerland	5,036.23	8,743.75	10,107.15	7,880.33
China	4,753.02	5,324.02	7,983.46	4,750.19
Germany	7,445.42	7,544.73	7,529.28	4,634.22
Italy	5,666.88	6,772.52	6,387.78	3,725.07
India on 5th place, 2024	294.835	563.09	1,755.27	3,241.20
Austria	4,250.99	5,039.76	4,451.91	2,518.09
Croatia	2,777.01	3,105.92	3,065.98	1,717.85
Hungary	1,587.40	2,084.45	2,293.76	1,300.21
Netherlands	1,574.33	1,848.98	1,910.41	1,196.51
France	1,356.62	1,439.79	1,390.08	861.27

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Table 12. Top export destinations of Slovenia and India's position [Unit: USD million]

Exporters	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan - Jul)
Switzerland	6,254.15	11,597.35	16,207.90	12,471.61
Germany	8,193.62	8,048.19	8,030.66	4,765.38
Croatia	3,660.71	4,677.27	4,671.49	3,043.08
Italy	4,926.41	5,909.31	5,115.99	2,900.27
Austria	3,058.07	3,659.39	3,383.52	1,730.31
France	2,054.75	1,873.95	1,971.24	1,336.82
Poland	1,368.26	1,384.15	1,453.75	940.62
Serbia	1,287.08	1,382.16	1,368.59	826.32
Hungary	1,221.49	1,385.89	1,325.35	796.36
India on 40th place, 2024	133.49	142.05	119.39	83.54

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

D. The Recovery and Resilience Plan

1. Third payment request

The European Commission has assessed that Slovenia has satisfactorily met all eight milestones conditioning its third payment request. The European Commission will send its preliminary assessment to the Economic and Financial Committee for its opinion. The European Commission will then make a final assessment and issue a decision formally authorising the disbursement of the fourth tranche of grants of EUR 141.6 million and the second tranche of loans of EUR 116.1 million of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, the largest part of the NextGenerationEU financial package for the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following the receipt of funds under the third payment request, Slovenia will see a 41% inflow of available funds, or EUR 1.1 billion, of which EUR 673 million will be grants and EUR 426 million loans. A total of 64 milestones and targets will be formally met, or 31% of the total of 205 milestones and targets. [Source: GOV]

2. Power grid upgrade

The Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy has published the second public tender for the co-financing of distribution transformer stations and the construction of a low-voltage distribution network for the period 2023 to 2026, which is financed within the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (EUR 42 million).

The purpose of the tender is to modernize the electric low-voltage distribution network for the needs of connecting production devices to renewable energy sources, heat pumps and e-mobility.

The public tender is open until the funds are used up, or at the latest until October 9, 2024, which is also the deadline for submission of applications. [Source: GOV]

3. Post-flood aid

The Council of the EU and the European Parliament's budget committee have approved the disbursement of a total of EUR 428 million from the EU Solidarity Fund to Slovenia for reconstruction after the August 2023 floods. After receiving an advance payment of EUR 100 million from the Solidarity Fund in December 2023, Slovenia is expected to receive the remaining EUR 328.4 million by the end of this year. [Source: European Council]
