

DRŽAVNI ZAVOD ZA STATISTIKU
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

INTERESTING FACTS

Zagreb, 31 January 2018

Overview of positive trends in 2017

In January, we usually sum up the year that is behind us. Guided by this idea, we decided to make a short overview of positive trends in 2017 to bring some optimism into January, the most depressing month of the year.

Tourism

Tourism, as one of the prospective economic sectors, recorded a growth in tourist nights in commercial accommodation establishments in the first eleven months compared to the same period of 2016. Observing the period from January to November 2017, foreign tourists realised 79.8 million nights, which is 8.1 million more than in the same period last year. Comparing the aforementioned period of 2017 with the same period of 2010, there was an increase of as much as 29.1 million nights realised by foreign tourists.

Traditionally, the largest number of tourist nights is realised in August. In August 2017, foreign tourists realised 25.3 million nights in commercial accommodation establishments, which is an increase of 44,1% compared to August 2010. In the structure of nights realised by foreign tourists, the largest number of nights was realised by tourists from Germany, traditionally our most loyal guests. Therefore, tourists from Germany realised 6.5 million nights in August 2017, which is 63,6% more than in August 2010.

Tourism is not the only area that recorded an increase in 2017. A positive trend was also recorded in most of the statistical areas in Croatia, such as transport, industrial production, retail trade, foreign trade in goods, construction, wages and even GDP, which has been growing for three consecutive quarters in 2017.

Transport

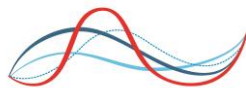
Traffic in airports is closely associated with the tourist season and therefore, in the period from January to October 2017, there were 8.9 million passengers, an increase of 4.2 million compared to the same period of 2010. The month with the largest number of passengers in Croatian airports in the period from January to October 2017 was July, when there were 1.7 million passengers, while in July 2010, there were only 861 thousand passengers.

Industrial production

The increased number of tourists on the Adriatic coast in 2017 also stimulated industrial production, namely the manufacture of food products and beverages. During the 2017 tourist season, in the period from June to September, an increase was recorded in the manufacture of food products and beverages as compared to the same period of 2016. The manufacture of food products increased by 7.8% and the manufacture of beverages by 4.8%, observing according to the working-day adjusted indices.

Retail trade

When it comes to the increase in the manufacture of food products and beverages, it is also worth mentioning the growth of retail trade. In the first eleven months of 2017, the working-day adjusted retail trade turnover increased by 5.1% in real terms in relation to the first



eleven months of 2016. Observing the trends in the retail trade turnover in Croatia over a longer period, a growth trend has been noticeable since September 2014, that is, for 39 consecutive months.

Foreign trade in goods

Retail trade is usually associated with foreign trade in goods. The largest value of foreign trade in goods of the Republic of Croatia is realised with the European Union, countries in the region, as well as with the overseas countries. Since foreign trade in goods with the European Union countries is most important, it should be noted that in the period from January to September 2017, export to the European Union countries increased by 19.8 billion kuna compared to the same period of 2010. In the aforementioned period of 2017, Croatia exported goods to the European Union countries in the amount of 48.9 billion kuna, while in the same period of 2010, export to the European Union countries amounted to 29.1 billion kuna.

Construction

The number of building permits issued also increased in 2017. In the first nine months of 2017, as compared to the same period of 2016, the number of building permits issued increased by 24.7%. In addition to the increase in the number of building permits, the total volume of construction works also went up according to the working-day adjusted indices, and the largest increase of 5.9% was recorded in the volume of construction works on buildings.

Wages

In the first nine months of 2017, the average monthly paid off earnings per person in paid employment in legal entities also increased in relation to the same period of 2010. The average monthly paid off net earnings were 12.4% higher in nominal terms in the first ten months of 2017 than in the same period of 2010. In October 2017, the average monthly paid off net earnings per person in paid employment in legal entities amounted to 6 014 kuna, while in the same month of 2010, it amounted to 5 351 kuna.

Gross domestic product

The growth of gross domestic product in 2017 is the result of economic recovery. In the third quarter of 2010, the real GDP growth rate was 1.0%, while in the same quarter of 2017, the real GDP growth rate was 3.3%. At the same time, the third quarter of 2017 was the thirteenth quarter in a row with a positive growth rate of gross domestic product.

Taking into account all the indicators of a country's recovery, such as the increase in average monthly paid off net earnings and the increase in the real GDP growth rate, we hope that 2018 will be even better for Croatia than 2017.