



# Slovakia

Overview

**EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY**

**2021**



EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY 2021

# Slovakia

Overview

## **EIB Investment Survey Country Overview: Slovakia**

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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](mailto: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](http://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.

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### **Disclaimer**

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# EIBIS 2021 – Slovakia

## KEY RESULTS

### Investment Dynamics and Focus

EIBIS 2021 shows that firms in Slovakia have become more optimistic again, with more firms expecting to increase investment rather than decrease it. This represents a substantial positive shift from EIBIS 2020.

Firms in Slovakia spent a third of their investment on replacing buildings and equipment, less than the average for the EU (50%). The largest share of investment went into machinery and equipment (56%).

### Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 had an impact on firms' sales: around half (52%) of firms in Slovakia report their sales to have declined since the beginning of 2020, while only 13% report an increase. This is similar to the EU average (49% and 21% respectively). The pandemic also affected some firms' investment plans, with around 30% of Slovakian firms reporting that they revised their investment plans downwards in response to COVID-19. Only 7% revised their investment plans upwards.

Less than a half of firms (45%) have taken some form of short-term action in response to COVID-19, fewer than the EU average (57%). Digitalisation stood out, with 38% of firms reporting that they have become more digital in response to the pandemic.

### Investment Needs and Priorities

COVID-19 will undeniably have an impact on investment needs and priorities. Almost two-thirds of firms in Slovakia (61%) expect COVID-19 to have a long-term impact on their business, below the EU average (72%). Around 40% of firms think that COVID-19 will lead to an increased use of digital technologies, fewer than among EU firms (55%).

The share of firms operating at or above full capacity declined in 2020 (43% versus 68% in 2019). Nevertheless, Slovakian firms do not perceive major gaps in their investment activities, as most firms (80%) believe that they invested about the right amount over the past three years. This is similar to the EU average (82%) and Slovak firms' assessment in EIBIS 2020 (87%).

### Innovation Activities

Around 39% of Slovakian firms were developing or introducing new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2020. In addition, around three-quarters (76%) of firms have implemented at least one of the advanced digital technologies they were asked about

### Drivers and Constraints

Compared to EIBIS 2020, firms in Slovakia report that their short-term prospects have considerably improved. Slovakian firms are more optimistic than the average EU firm about the political and the regulatory climate (+5% versus -15% respectively). On all other measures the views of the Slovakian and EU firms are very close.

The most frequently cited barriers to investment are the availability of skilled staff (83%) and uncertainty about the future (81%).

### Investment Finance

Access to finance conditions are benign: only 4% of all firms in Slovakia appear finance constrained, which is in line with EIBIS 2020 and the EU average. Firms that used external finance in 2020 are generally satisfied with the finance received. The highest proportion of dissatisfaction is with cost of finance (9%) and the collateral requirements (9%).

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, 9% of firms in Slovakia increased their debt and 5% received new equity from their current owners. Nearly two thirds of firms (64%) have received financial support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than on average for the EU (56%). Firms most frequently received subsidies or support that does not need to be paid back (56%), again more than in the EU overall (36%).

### Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Slovakian firms feel the impact of weather events. More than half of all firms (57%) report that climate change is having an impact on their business. This is in line with what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (53%) and the EU average (58%). The share of firms that believe that the transition to a stricter climate standards will pose a risk to the company is about as large as that of firms believing it to be an opportunity (22% and 25% respectively). On average, 27% of firms in Slovakia have already invested to tackle the impact of climate change, fewer than on average in the EU (43%). While this share is similar to what firms reported in EIBIS 2020, many more firms state in EIBIS 2021 that they plan to invest to tackle climate change. Nearly four in ten firms in Slovakia (39%) invested in energy efficiency in 2020, less than they did in 2019 (47%), but in line with the EU average (37%). Moreover, 55% of firms in Slovakia set and monitored internal targets on carbon emissions and energy consumption, more than the EU average (46%).

### Firm management, gender balance and employment

Firms in Slovakia in 2020 were more likely than firms in the rest of the EU to link individual performance to pay (82% versus 67% respectively).

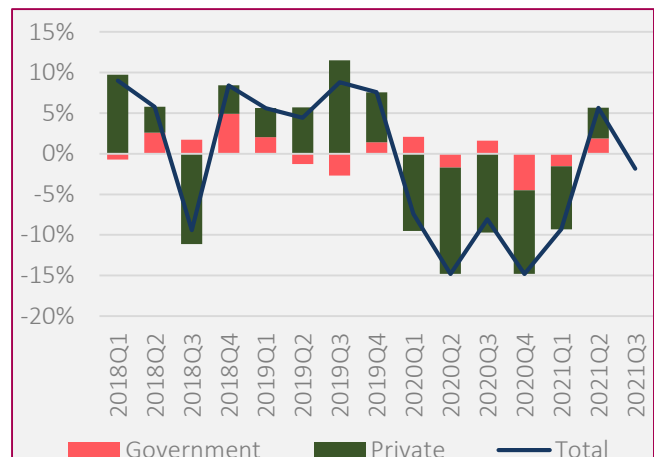
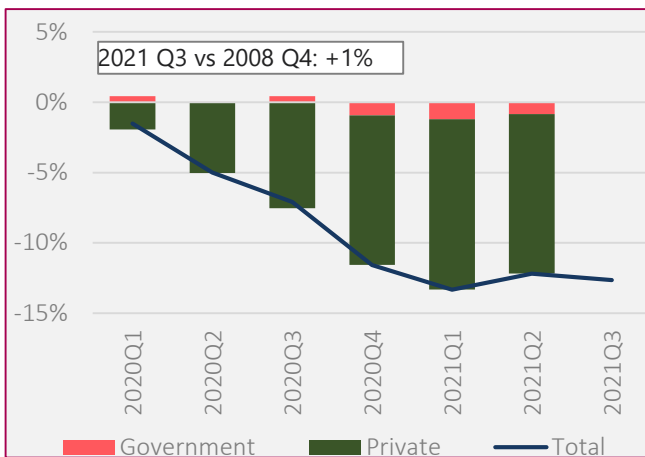
Ignoring sector-specific differences, firms did not materially adjust the number of their part- and full-time staff between January 2020 and their interview date (generally Q2 2021). This is similar to the EU overall.

# Investment Dynamics and Focus

## INVESTMENT DYNAMICS BY INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR

With the COVID-19 crisis abruptly affecting the economy, investment in Slovakia kept decreasing since Q2 2020, reaching its deep in Q1 2021. The drop was driven by private investment, which remained 9 to 13% lower in 2020 compared to the same quarters of 2019. The fall was not mitigated by public investment, which also experienced a

slight fall compared to the pre-pandemic levels. In Q2 2021 investment seemingly improved compared to the same quarter of 2020, but signs of recovery are weak, as investment in Q2 and Q3 2021 still remained 12-13% below the levels recorded in Q4 2019 (the pre-pandemic period).

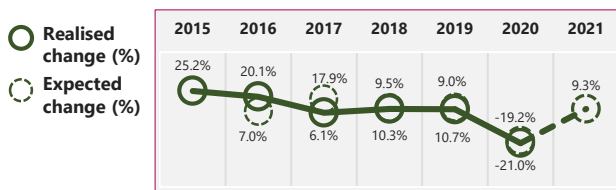


The graph on the left shows the evolution of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data are transformed into four-quarter sums, deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF. The four-quarter sum of total GFCF in 2019 Q4 is normalized to 0. Source: Eurostat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

## INVESTMENT CYCLE AND EVOLUTION OF INVESTMENT EXPECTATIONS

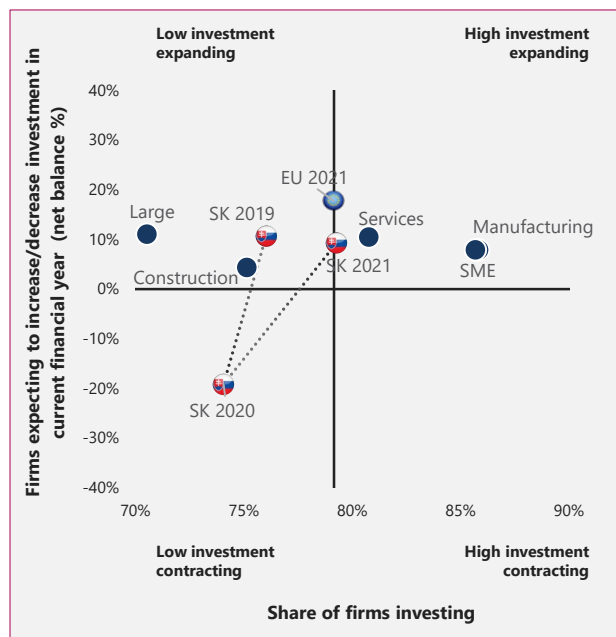
Slovakian firms have become more willing to increase investment again, a sharp turnaround from EIBIS 2020. A net balance of 9% expects to increase investment for 2021 rather than decrease it.

Firms in the services sector are on balance more likely to expect to increase investment for 2021 than firms in other sectors.



'Realised change' is the share of firms who invested more minus those who invested less; 'Expected change' is the share of firms who expect(ed) to invest more minus those who expect(ed) to invest less.

Base: All firms



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.

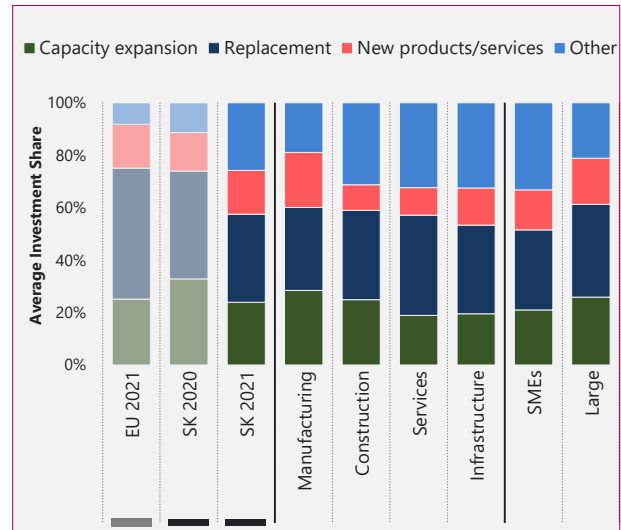
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

# Investment Dynamics and Focus

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

On average, firms in Slovakia spent a third (34%) of their investment on replacing buildings and equipment in 2020. This proportion has dropped since EIBIS 2020 (41%) and below the average for the EU (50%).

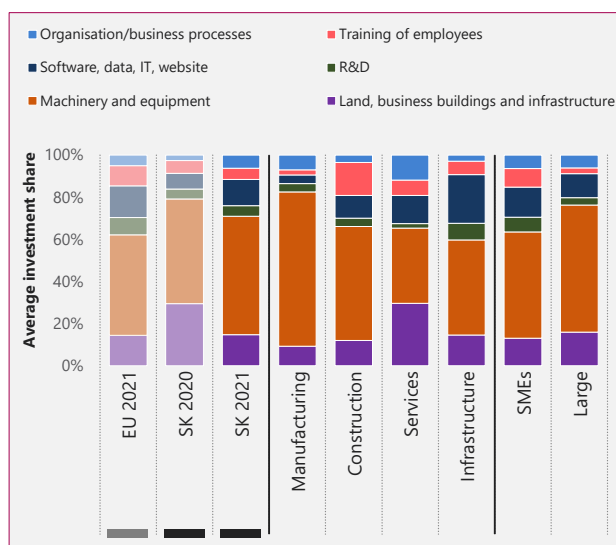
Investment in capacity expansion accounted for almost a quarter (24%) of the total investment spent, in line with the EU (25%).



Q. What proportion of total investment was for (a) replacing capacity (including existing buildings, machinery, equipment, IT) (b) expanding capacity for existing products/services (c) developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

## INVESTMENT AREAS



Slovakian firms spent the largest share of their investment in tangible capital, in particular machinery and equipment (56%). Investment in intangible capital was considerably smaller: For example, software, data, IT and websites attracted only 13%. This pattern is broadly in line with the average for the EU.

Manufacturing and large firms allocated a larger share of their investment to machinery and equipment than firms in other sectors.

Q. In the last financial year, how much did your business invest in each of the following with the intention of maintaining or increasing your company's future earnings?

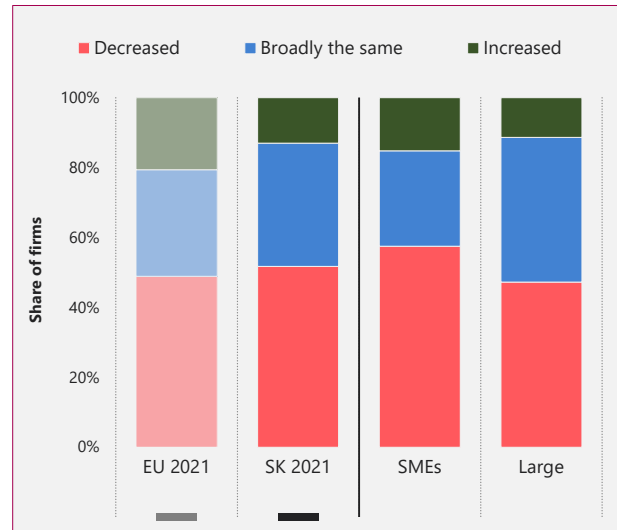
Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

# Impact of COVID-19

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SALES

COVID-19 hit firms in various ways. Around half of firms in Slovakia (52%) report that their sales declined since the beginning of 2020. Only 13% report an increase. This is similar to the EU average (49% and 21% respectively).

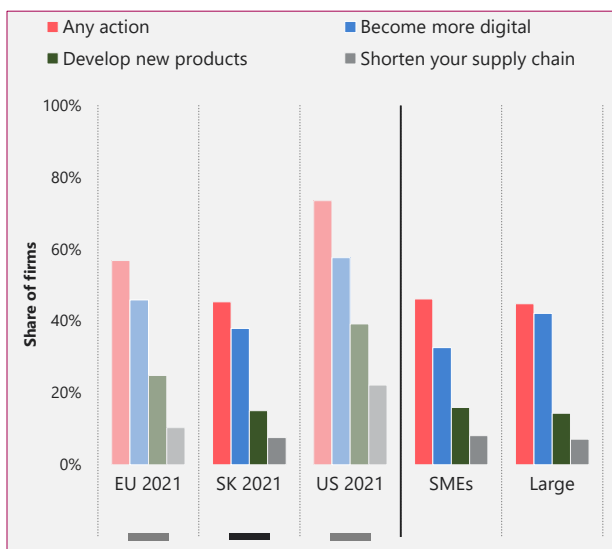
Among SMEs, the share of firms experiencing a more negative impact was slightly larger than among large firms (57% vs 47%).



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



Less than a half of firms (45%) have taken some form of short-term action in response to COVID-19, fewer than on average in the EU (57%).

Digitalisation stood out, with 38% of firms in Slovakia reporting that they have become more digital in response to the pandemic. For large firms, this share is 42%.

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)



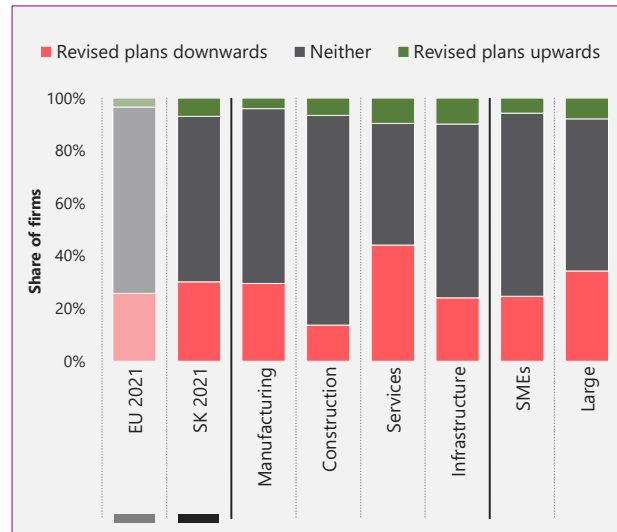
# Impact of COVID-19

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INVESTMENT

The pandemic also affected some firms' investment plans, as reported by 30% of firms in Slovakia, which revised their investment plans downward as a result of COVID-19. Only few (7%) revised their investment plans upwards.

Firms in the services sector are the most likely to have revised their investment plans downwards due to the pandemic (44%), while those operating in construction are the least likely to have done so (14%).

Large firms are also slightly more likely to have revised their investment plans downwards (34%) compared to SMEs (25%).

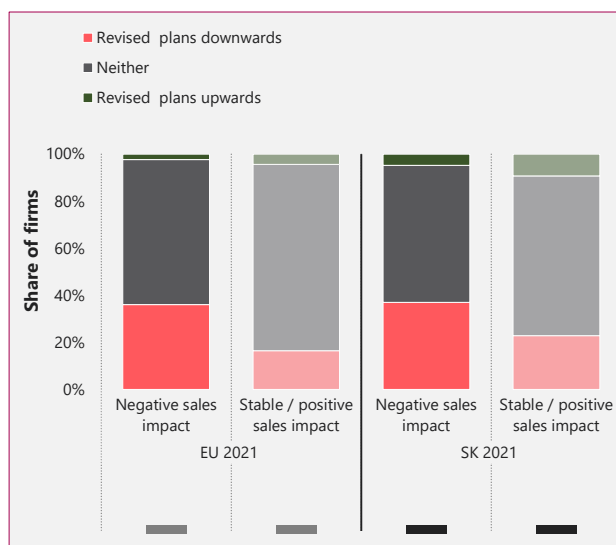


Q. Has your company taken any of the following actions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Q. You mentioned revising your investment plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Did you revise them upward or downward?

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

## DIFFERENCES IN IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INVESTMENT



Overall, firms whose sales or turnover had been negatively impacted by COVID-19 were more likely to revise their investment plans downwards compared to firms whose sales or turnover had been buoyant.

Around a third (37%) of firms who have experienced a negative sales impact revised their investment plans downwards. This is similar to the EU overall (36%).

Q. Do you expect the COVID-19 outbreak to have a long-term impact on any of the following?

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? Has it...?

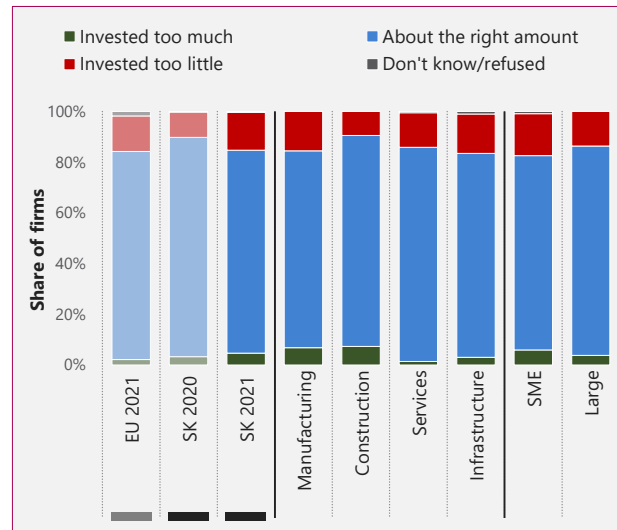
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

# Investment Needs and Priorities

## PERCEIVED INVESTMENT GAP

The majority of firms in Slovakia do not perceive gaps in their investment activities, as 80% believe that they invested about the right amount over the past three years. This is similar to the EU average (82%) and firms' assessment in EIBIS 2020 (87%)

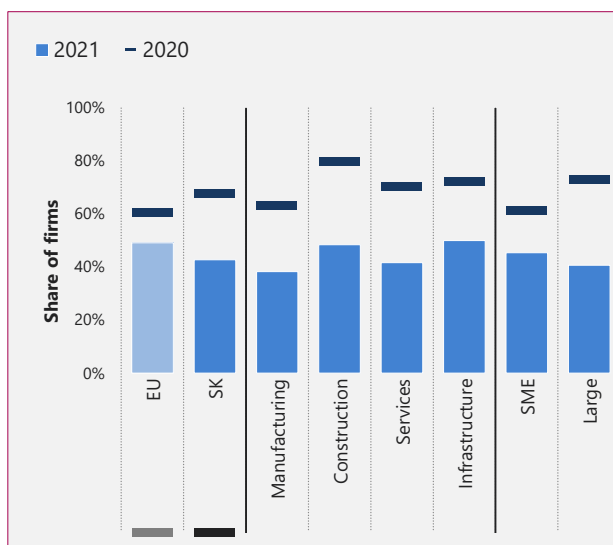
Looking across sectors and firm sizes, there are no large differences in the perception of the amount invested over the last three years.



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



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)

The share of firms operating at or above full capacity declined in 2020 (43% versus 68% in 2019). It is broadly similar to the EU average (49%).

Firms in the manufacturing and services sectors reported the lowest share of firms operating at or above full capacity (38% and 42% respectively).

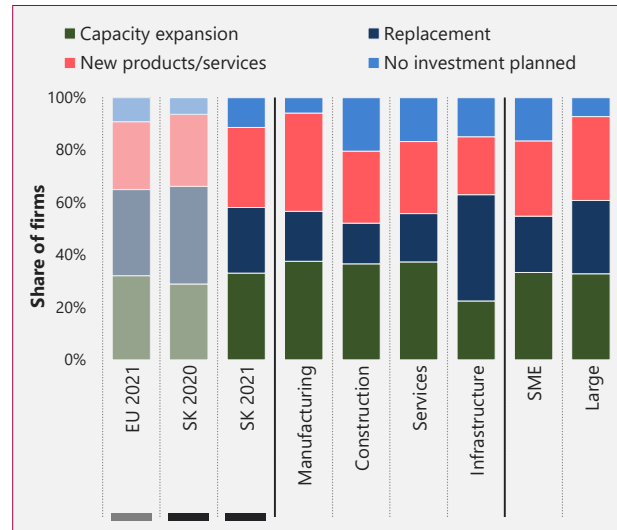
# Investment Needs and Priorities

## FUTURE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES (% of firms)

Looking ahead to the next three years, expanding capacity for existing products/services is the most commonly cited investment priority (33%) among Slovakian firms, closely followed by the introduction and development of new products and services. This marks a shift from EIBIS 2020, when replacing existing buildings, machinery and equipment was the main priority.

Investment priorities differ across sectors and size classes. Manufacturing firms are the most likely to prioritise new products and services (38%), while infrastructure are the most likely to prioritise replacement (41%).

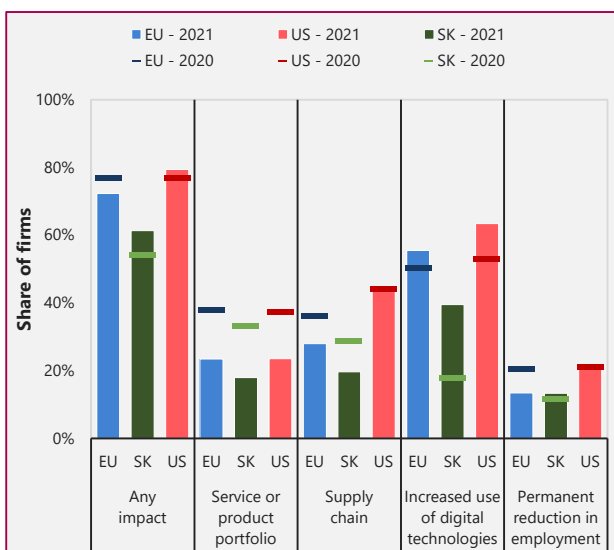
SMEs are slightly more likely than large firms to have no investment planned (17% versus 7%).



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 two-thirds of firms in Slovakia (61%) expect COVID-19 to have a long-term impact on their business in at least one of the areas they were asked about. This is below the EU average (72%).

Moreover, 40% of firms think that they will make more use of digital technologies, fewer than among EU firms (55%).

Overall, firms in Slovakia were less likely to expect COVID-19 to have a long-term impact on their product portfolio when interviewed in EIBIS 2021 compared to EIBIS 2020 (19% versus 33% respectively).

Q. Do you expect the COVID-19 outbreak to have a long-term impact on any of the following?

Base: All firms

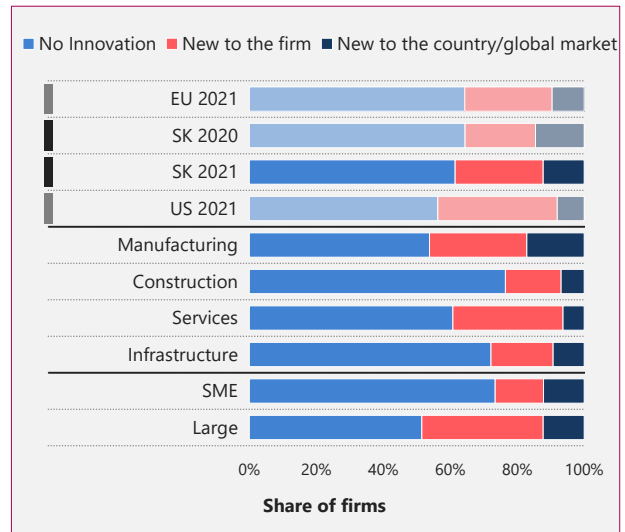
# Innovation Activities

## INNOVATION ACTIVITY

More than one third of firms in Slovakia (39%) developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2020. This is about the same as what they reported for 2019 in EIBIS 2020 and with the EU average (both 36%).

Manufacturing and service sector firms were more likely to innovate (46% and 39% respectively), compared to infrastructure and construction firms (28% and 24% respectively).

About half of large firms (48%),<sup>7</sup> invested in developing innovative products, processes or services, compared to about a quarter of SMEs (27%).

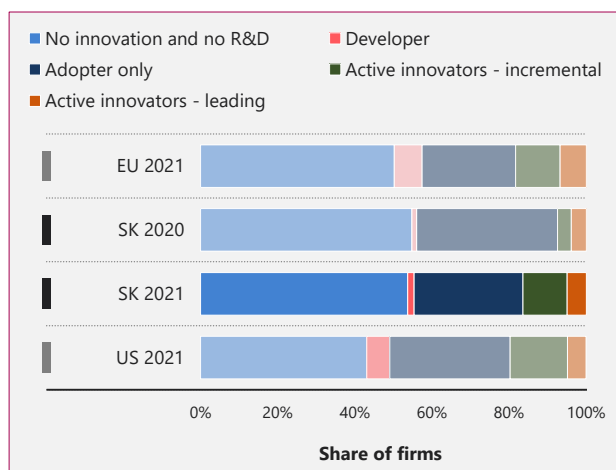


Q. What proportion of total investment was for developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

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



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?

Q. In the last financial year, how much did your business invest in Research and Development (including the acquisition of intellectual property) with the intention of maintaining or increasing your company's future earnings?

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

16% of firms in Slovakia have introduced new products, processes and services in 2020 and invested in research and development ('active innovators'). This is broadly in line with the EU average of 18%.

The share of firms classified as active innovators has increased from 2019 to 2020 (16% EIBIS 2021 versus 7% EIBIS 2020).

The 'No innovation and no R&D' group comprises firms that did not introduce any new products, processes or services in the last financial year. The 'Adopter only' introduced 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.

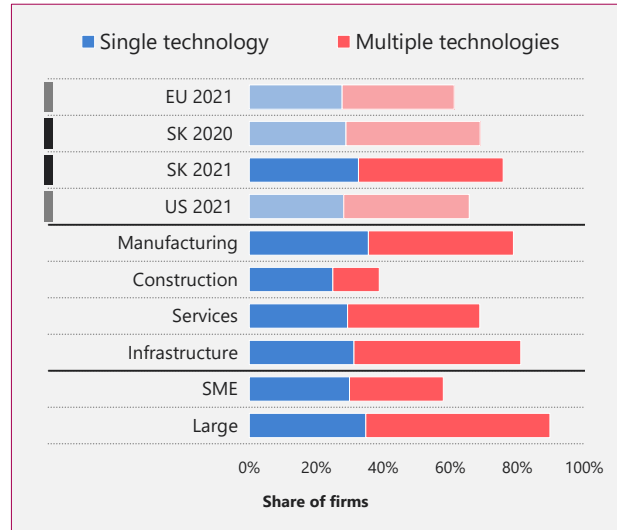
# Innovation Activities

## IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Around three-quarters (76%) of firms have implemented at least one of the advanced digital technologies they were asked about. The share of Slovakian firms implementing advanced digital technologies has increased since EIBIS 2020 (69%) and is above the EU average (61%).

Firms in the construction sector are the least likely to have implemented any advanced digital technologies within their business (39%) compared to other sectors.

Firms in Slovakia report a high uptake of robotics (65%) and platforms (63%) compared with EU firms overall (48%). The implementation of internet of things is also higher (45%) compared to the rest of the EU.

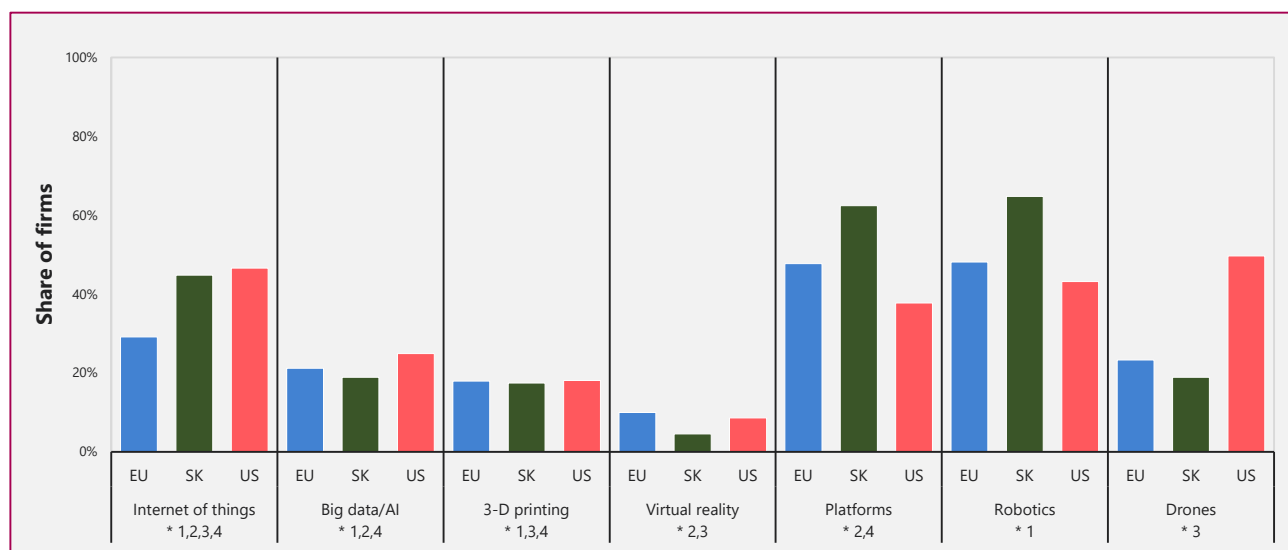


Q. Can you tell me for each of the following digital technologies if you have heard about them, not heard about them, implemented them in parts of your business, or whether your entire business is organised around them?

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?

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);  
Sample size SK: Manufacturing (131); Construction (76); Services (90); Infrastructure (103)

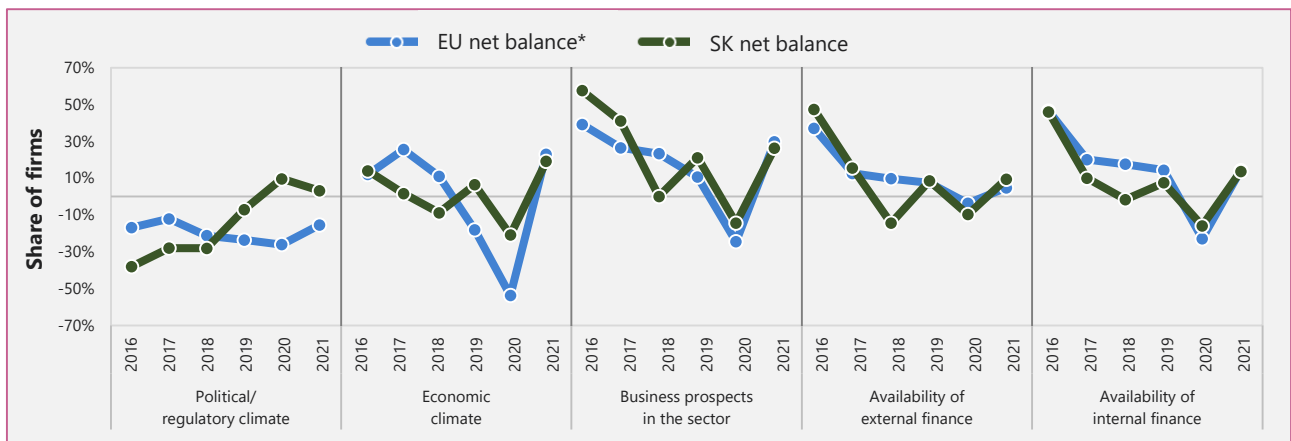
# Drivers And Constraints

## SHORT-TERM FIRM OUTLOOK

Relative to EIBIS 2020, firms in Slovakia report that their short-term prospects have considerably improved.

On balance, firms in Slovakia are more optimistic

than the average EU firm about the political and the regulatory climate (+5% versus -15% respectively). On all other measures the views of Slovakian and EU firms are very close.

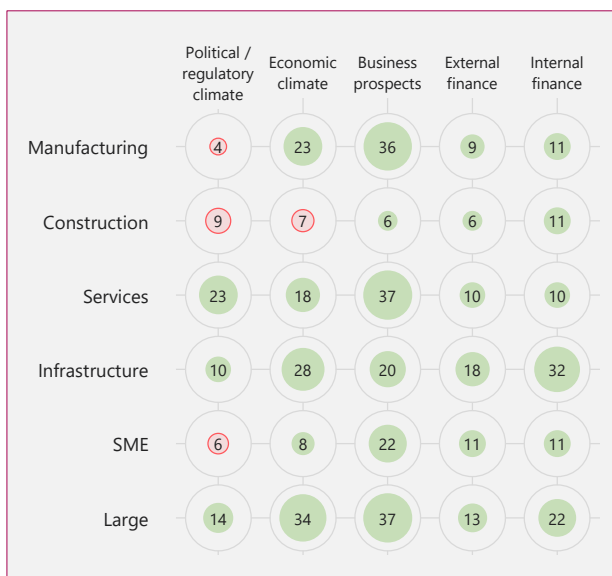


Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next twelve months?

\*Net balance is the share of firms seeing improvement minus the share of firms seeing a deterioration

Base: All firms

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



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?

Base: All firms

Business prospects have improved most among manufacturing and services sector firms. Together with infrastructure firms, they are also more optimistic that internal finance will improve.

Firms in infrastructure are the most positive about the availability of external and internal financing (18% and 32% respectively)

Large firms are more optimistic across all categories than SMEs.

# Drivers And Constraints

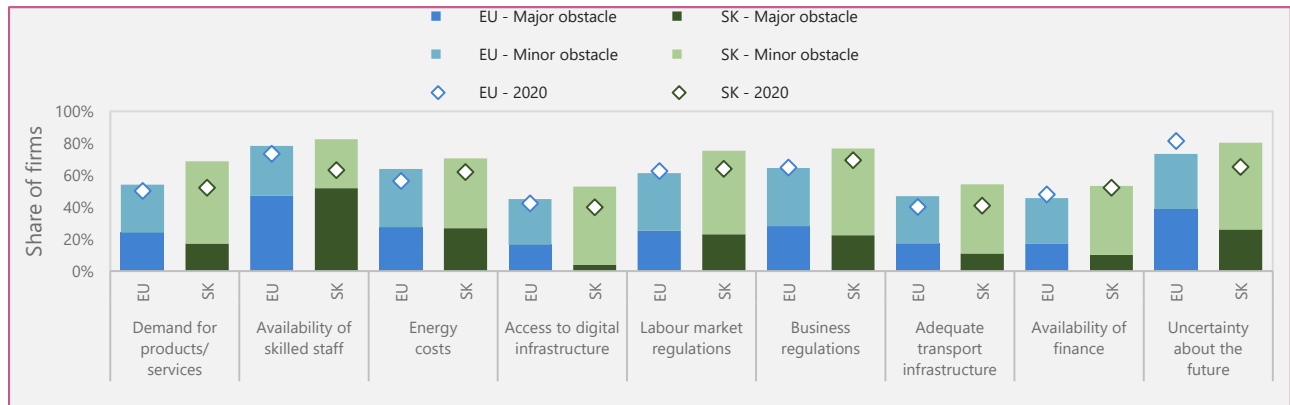
## LONG-TERM BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT

The most frequently cited barriers are the availability of skilled staff (83%) and uncertainty about the future (81%).

Since EIBIS 2020, an increasing number of Slovakian firms see the demand for products/services, access to digital infrastructure, labour market regulations and adequate transport

infrastructure as a barrier.

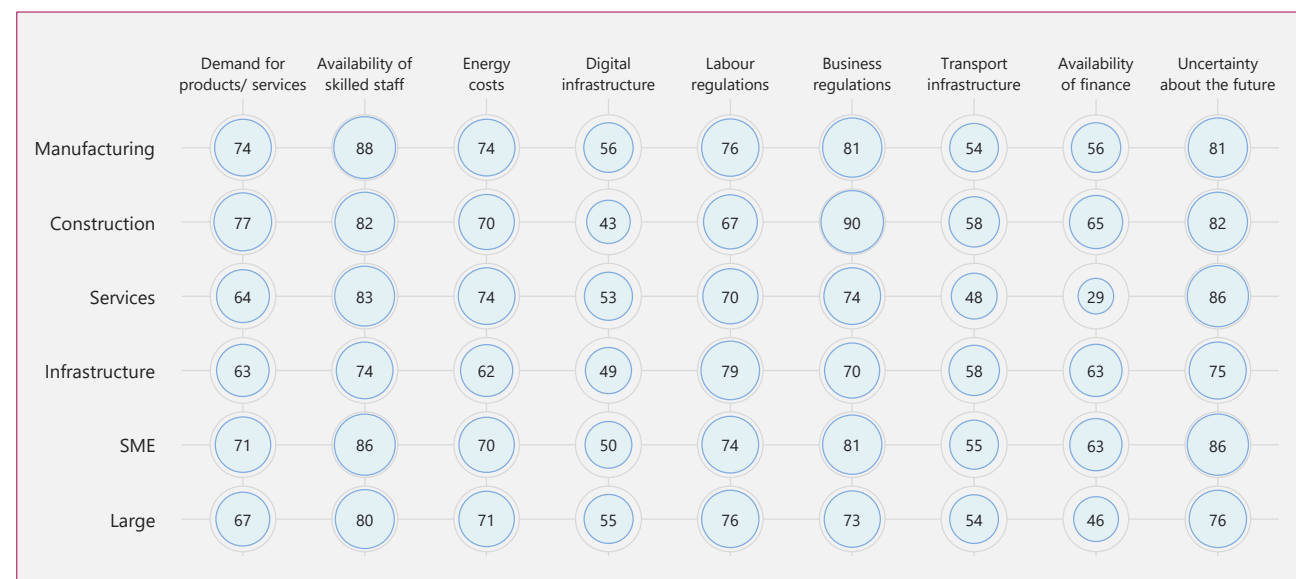
Firms in Slovakia are more likely than firms in the EU overall to see demand for products and services (69% versus 54% respectively), labour market regulations (75% versus 61%) and business regulations (77% versus 65%) as barriers to investment.



Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Slovakia, 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



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

Reported shares combine '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)

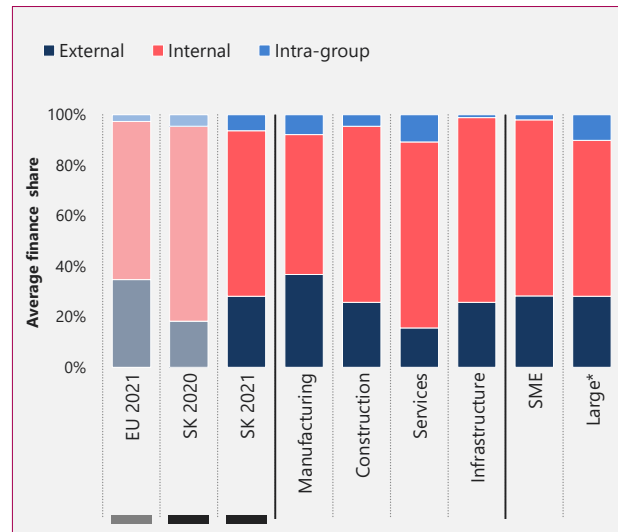
# Investment Finance

## SOURCE OF INVESTMENT FINANCE

Firms in Slovakia funded the majority of their investment in 2020 through internal financing (65%), somewhat less than in 2019 (77%) and very similar to the EU average (63%).

External finance made up 28% of the investment activity in Slovakia and the share has increased since EIBIS 2020 (18%). In addition, 6% of the investment in Slovakia was funded through intra-group financing.

Firms in the manufacturing sector report the largest share of investment funded through external sources (37%). Large firms report a higher share of intra-group financing compared to SMEs (10% vs 2% respectively).

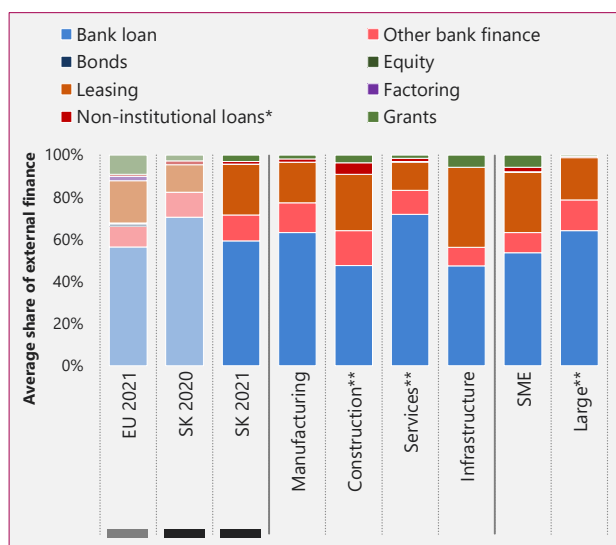


Q. What proportion of your investment was financed by each of the following?

\*Caution small base size

Base: All firms who invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

## TYPE OF EXTERNAL FINANCE USED FOR INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES



Q. Approximately what proportion of your external finance does each of the following represent?

\*Loans from family, friends or business partners

\*\*Caution small base size

Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Firms in Slovakia funded the majority of their investments in 2020 through bank loans (59%), followed by leasing (24%). The share of bank loans has declined since 2019, while the share of leasing has increased. The results in EIBIS 2021 are in line with the EU average.

Infrastructure and construction firms relied more on leasing (38% and 27% respectively) compared to manufacturing and services firms (19% and 13% respectively). The share of investment funded through bank loans accounted for 64% of the external financing for large firms, above the share for SMEs (54%).



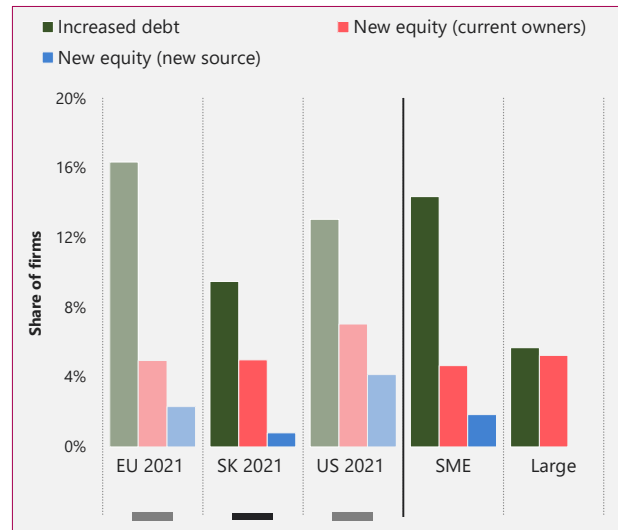
# Investment Finance

## ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, 9% of firms in Slovakia increased their debt, 5% received new equity from their current owners and 1% received new equity from a new source.

Fewer firms in the country increased debt as a result of the pandemic than firms across the EU (16%).

Furthermore, SMEs are more likely to have increased their debt as a result of COVID-19, compared to large firms (14% versus 6%).



Q. Has your company taken any of the following actions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

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

## SHARE OF FIRMS RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Public support was important in Slovakia: nearly two thirds of firms (64%) have received financial support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than the average EU firm (56%).

Subsidies or support that do not need to be paid back is the most cited form of support received in Slovakia (56%) and is more prevalent than in the EU overall (36%).

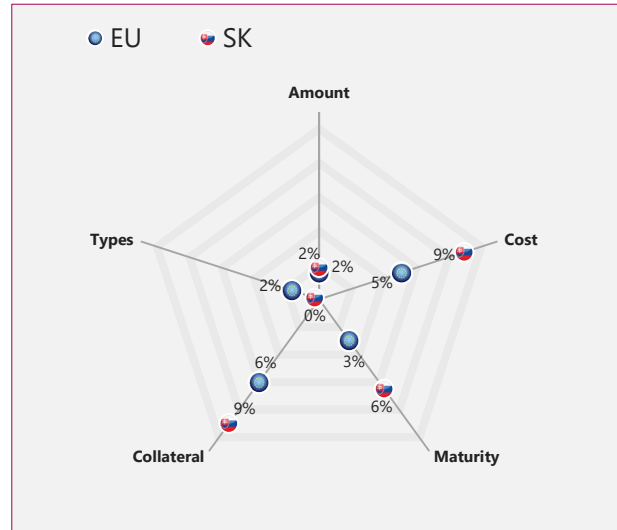
Q. Since the start of the pandemic, have you received any financial support in response to COVID-19? This can include finance from a bank or other finance provider, or government-backed finance

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

# Access To Finance

## DISSATISFACTION WITH EXTERNAL FINANCE RECEIVED

Firms that used external finance in 2020 are generally satisfied with the finance received. The highest proportions of dissatisfaction are with cost of finance (9%) and the collateral requirements (9%).



Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with ...?

Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

## DISSATISFACTION BY SECTOR AND SIZE (%)



Levels of dissatisfaction with the cost of finance are higher for firms in the infrastructure sector (21%), while dissatisfaction with collateral requirements is more common among manufacturing firms (15%).

Firms in the infrastructure sector are also more dissatisfied with the maturity of the received finance (19%) and the cost of finance (21%) when compared to other sectors.

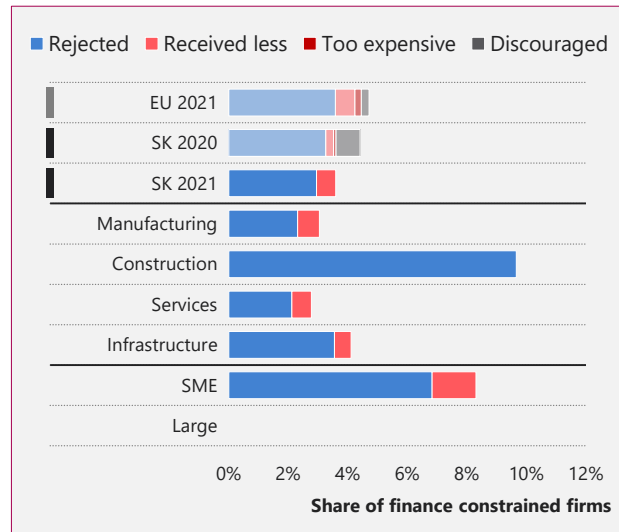
Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with ...?

Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

# Access To Finance

## SHARE OF FINANCE CONSTRAINED FIRMS

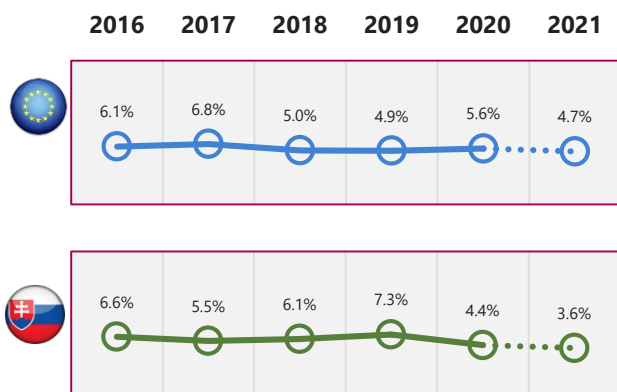
Only 4% of all firms in Slovakia can be categorised as finance constrained, which is in line with the share reported in EIBIS 2020 and the EU average.



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



There has been little change in the share of finance constrained firms in Slovakia since EIBIS 2016.

The share of finance constrained firms in the country is also similar to the EU average over the years.

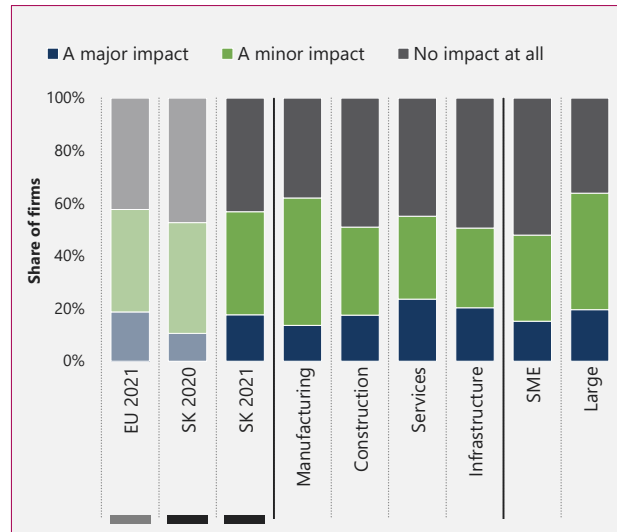
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

# Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

## IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – PHYSICAL RISK

Slovakian firms feel the effect of weather events. More than half of all firms (57%) report that climate change is having an impact on their business. This is in line with what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (53%) and the EU average (58%).

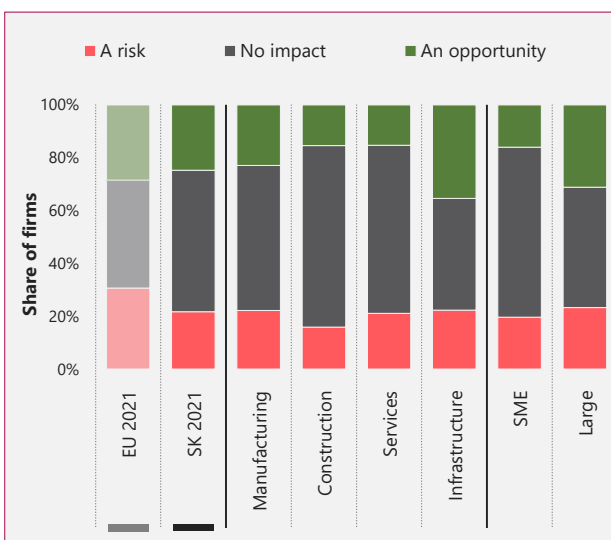
Manufacturing firms are more likely to say that climate change has an impact on their business (62%) than firms in other sectors (ranging from 51% to 55%). Similarly, large firms are more likely than SMEs to say the weather events are having an impact on their business (64% versus 48%).



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 share of firms that believe that the transition to stricter climate standards will pose a risk to the company is about as large as that of firms believing it to be an opportunity (22% and 25% respectively). Around half (53%) of firms do not expect an impact on their company, higher than the EU average (41%).

Infrastructure firms are the most optimistic about the impact of the transition to stricter climate standards and regulation, with 35% perceiving this as an opportunity. Large firms are also more likely to see the transition as an opportunity than SMEs (31% versus 16%).

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?

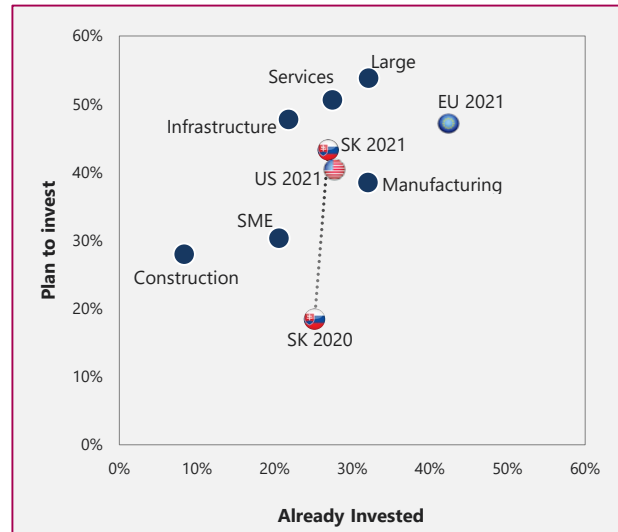
Base: All firms (excluding don't know / refused responses)

# Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

## INVESTMENT PLANS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

On average, 27% of firms in Slovakia have already invested to tackle the impact of climate change, fewer than in the EU overall (43%). While this share is similar to what firms reported in 2020, many more firms in EIBIS 2021 state that they intend to invest to tackle climate change (43%).

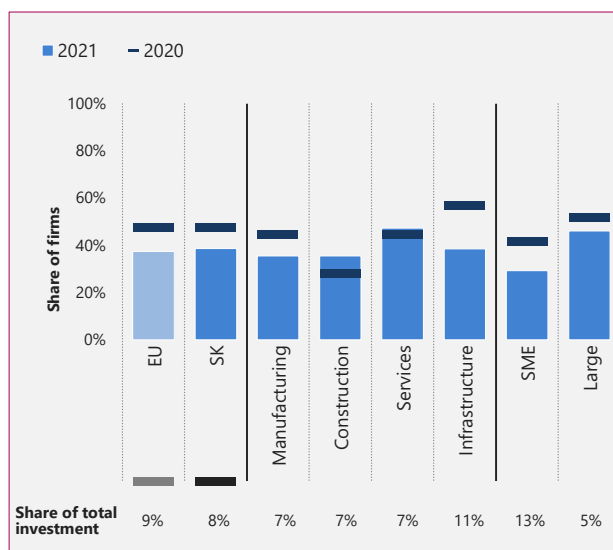
Large firms are much more likely to have already invested (32%) and are more likely to invest in the future (54%) than SMEs (21% and 30% respectively).



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



Nearly four in ten firms in Slovakia (39%) invested in energy efficiency in 2020, less than they did in 2019 (47%), but in line with the EU average (37%).

Large firms were more likely than SMEs to invest in measures to improve energy efficiency (46% versus 29%). The average share of total investment allocated to measures to improve energy efficiency was 8%, in line with the EU average (9%).

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)

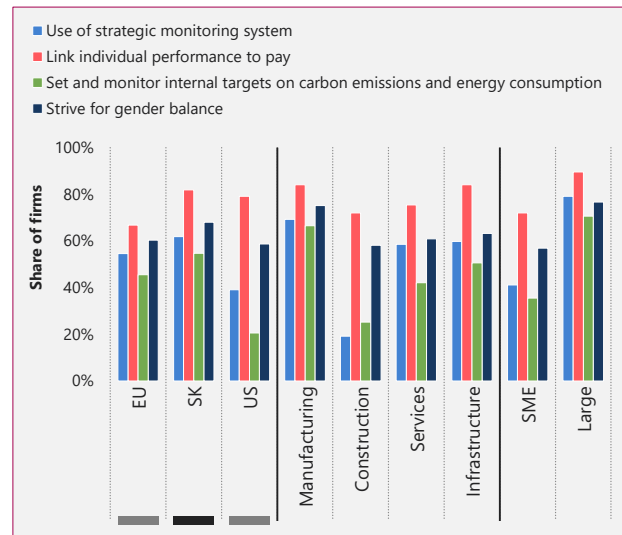
Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses) (average share of investment)

# Firm management, climate targets, gender balance and employment

## FIRM MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE TARGETS AND GENDER BALANCE

Firms in Slovakia in 2020 were more likely than firms in the EU overall to link individual performance to pay (82% versus 67% respectively) and to set and monitor internal targets on carbon emissions and energy consumption (55% versus 46% respectively). Approximately two thirds strove for gender balance (68%) and further two thirds used strategic monitoring system (62%), in line with the EU average.

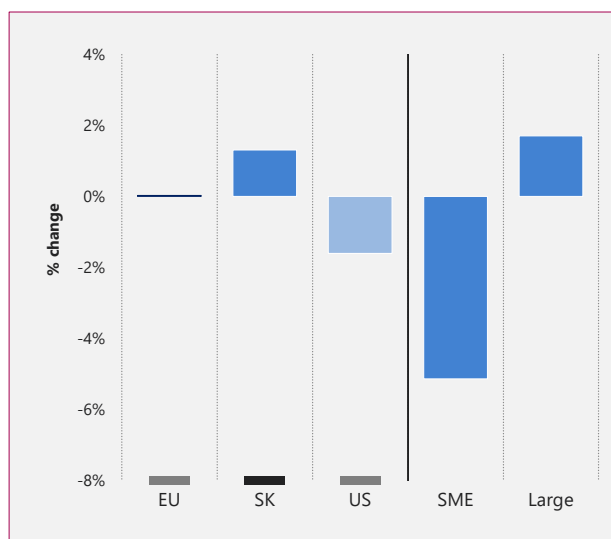
Large firms were more likely to implement all of these managerial practices than SMEs.



Q. In 2020, did your company...?

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

## CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT DURING COVID-19



Aggregated across sectors, firms did not materially adjust the number of their part- and full-time staff between January 2020 and their interview date (generally Q2 2021). This is similar to the EU average.

Firms of different size classes were affected in different ways: there was a drop in employment for SMEs (-5%), while there was a small increase in employment for large firms (1.7%).

Q. How many people does your company employ either full or part time at all its locations, including yourself?

Q. How many people did your company employ either full or part time at all its locations at the beginning of 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic?

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

# 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 Slovakia, so the percentage results are subject to sampling tolerances. These vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned.

	EU	US	SK	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large	EU vs SK	Manuf vs Constr	SME vs Large
	(11920)	(802)	(400)	(131)	(76)	(90)	(103)	(355)	(45)	(11920 vs 400)	(76 vs 131)	(355 vs 45)
10% or 90%	1.1%	3.5%	4.4%	6.5%	6.0%	9.7%	8.9%	2.9%	7.6%	4.6%	8.8%	8.1%
30% or 70%	1.7%	5.3%	6.8%	9.9%	9.2%	14.9%	13.5%	4.5%	11.6%	7.0%	13.5%	12.4%
50%	1.8%	5.8%	7.4%	10.8%	10.0%	16.2%	14.8%	4.9%	12.6%	7.6%	14.7%	13.5%

## GLOSSARY

<b>Investment</b>	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.
<b>Investment cycle</b>	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.
<b>Manufacturing sector</b>	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group C (Manufacturing).
<b>Construction sector</b>	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group F (Construction).
<b>Services sector</b>	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group G (wholesale and retail trade) and group I (accommodation and food Services activities).
<b>Infrastructure sector</b>	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).
<b>SME</b>	Firms with between 5 and 249 employees.
<b>Large firms</b>	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.*

# EIBIS 2021 – Country Technical Details

The country overview presents selected findings based on telephone interviews with 400 firms in Slovakia (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)*

Base definition and page reference	EU 2021/2020	US 2021	SK 2021/2020	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large
All firms, p. 2, p. 6, p. 7, p. 10, p. 11	11920/11971	802	400/400	131	76	90	103	355	45
All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses), p. 6	11910/11949	802	400/398	131	76	90	103	355	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 2	11620/11634	768	380/381	126	72	87	95	335	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (top)	11860/NA	800	399/NA	131	76	90	102	354	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (bottom)	11891/NA	802	399/NA	130	76	90	103	354	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (top)	11814/11971	768	399/400	131	76	90	102	354	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (bottom)	11760/0	766	399/0	131	76	90	102	354	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 7 (top)	11765/11727	793	394/398	129	75	89	101	350	44
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (top)	11648/11720	779	390/398	126	75	88	101	348	42
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (bottom)	8780/9039	618	261/245	83	55	52	71	232	29
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 9	11891/11938	802	400/400	131	76	90	103	355	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 13 (top)	11882/NA	777	399/NA	131	76	90	102	354	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 13 (bottom)	11857/NA	775	400/NA	131	76	90	103	355	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 15	11518/11477	743	391/379	129	74	89	99	346	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (top)	11849/11898	798	397/398	131	75	88	103	352	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (bottom)	11384/NA	783	383/NA	127	73	86	97	338	45
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 17	11659/11739	775	390/396	124	75	90	101	348	42
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 18 (top)*	11616/NA	774	386/NA	122	73	88	102	345	41
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 18 (bottom)	11664/11402	794	377/389	123	71	86	97	335	42
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 3 (top)	9670/10138	674	317/325	112	62	60	83	273	44
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 3 (bottom)	9523/9874	667	276/251	89	59	54	74	244	32
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12	8675/9255	621	280/283	90	61	51	78	252	28
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)*, p. 17	11920/11971	802	400/400	131	76	90	103	355	45
All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12	4003/4354	284	135/117	47	29	26	33	120	15
All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 14*	3964/4310	281	135/118	46	30	26	33	120	15







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# Slovakia

Overview

## EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

# 2022

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