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Workshop: “COVID-19 and Challenges of Compiling Statistics”

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Introduction

- ▶ The impact of COVID-19 on compiling statistics
- ▶ The need for flash data
- ▶ The need to estimate missing data
- ▶ Several projects planned for implementation during 2020 have been postponed for next year
- ▶ More staffing resources are required to be able to meet the users' demand
- ▶ The impact of COVID-19 on in Kosovo's economy

COVID -19 and Challenges of Compiling Statistics

Countries around the world are experiencing challenges to compile statistics due to the coronavirus pandemic situation. Our country is challenged too, with the:

- ▶ Disruption on the production of some statistics
- ▶ Working from distance of statisticians and other officials.
- ▶ Recording the government interventions toward the pandemic crisis
- ▶ Production of a real-time data for policy-making purposes
- ▶ An increased demand for more data
- ▶ Changing economic patterns (e.g. decline in travel services or increase in remittances)

The need for flash data to support real-time monitoring of economic activity

Statistics department of the CBK is continuing to focus on data components that have the highest impact on critical statistics.

- ▶ We have been stepping up efforts to find higher frequency and more granular information to identify and quantify the impact of the virus faster.
- ▶ SWIFT database is one of the sources we started to use is it more. It contains real time data, but information are granular and need a lot of work to make estimates. We are using SWIFT to produce flash estimates for Remittances; We improved the periodicity for remittances from $Tt + 60$ to $(t + 25)$.
- ▶ The traditional ITRS brings information at $t + 15$ days, plus the time to check and validate data. Conducting Surveys is getting difficult, especially introducing new Surveys.

The Need to estimate missing data

- ▶ Difficulties to collect data from reporters are evident.
- ▶ There are cases when reporters are not submitting data to the CBK on a regular and timely manner, due to covid-19 pandemic situation;
- ▶ For components where there are missing data we are temporarily using estimates and alternative data sources. For example, there are delays in some cases to collect Enterprise Surveys.
- ▶ We are estimating values to be able to produce final statements. More frequent data revisions are evident.
- ▶ When possible, our data-users are notified in advance for possible delays in publishing key statistical indicators.

Several projects planned for implementation during 2020 have been postponed

The process of further advancing statistics has been affected too. This is mainly due to:

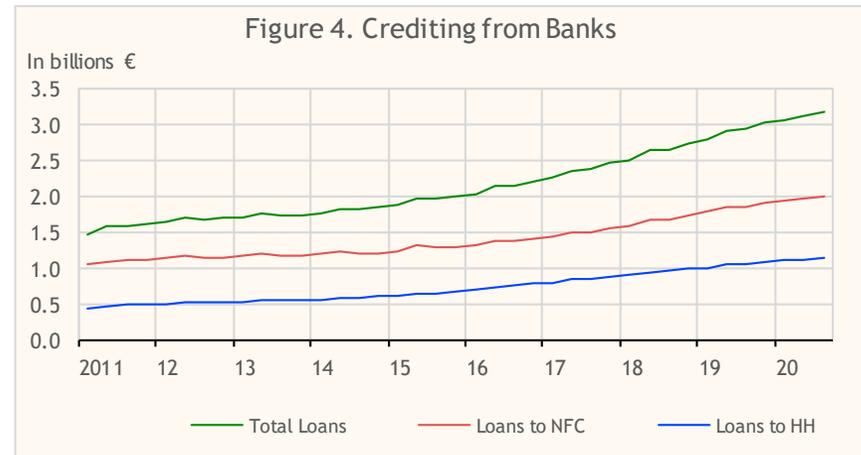
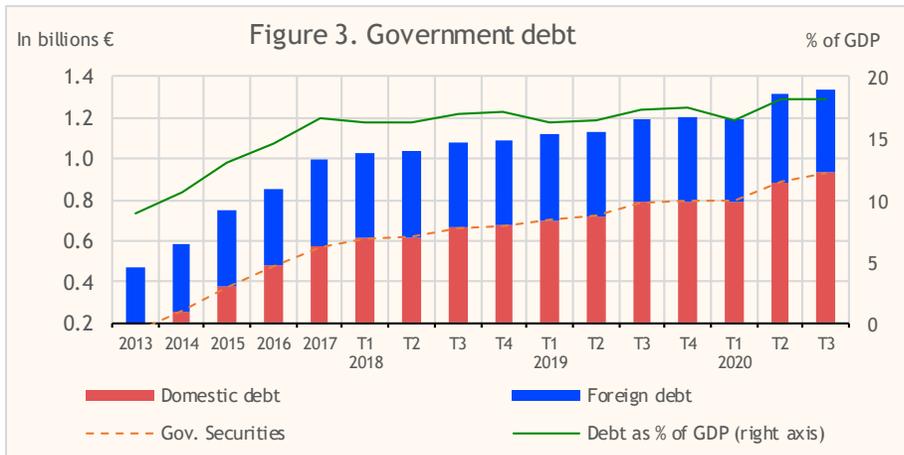
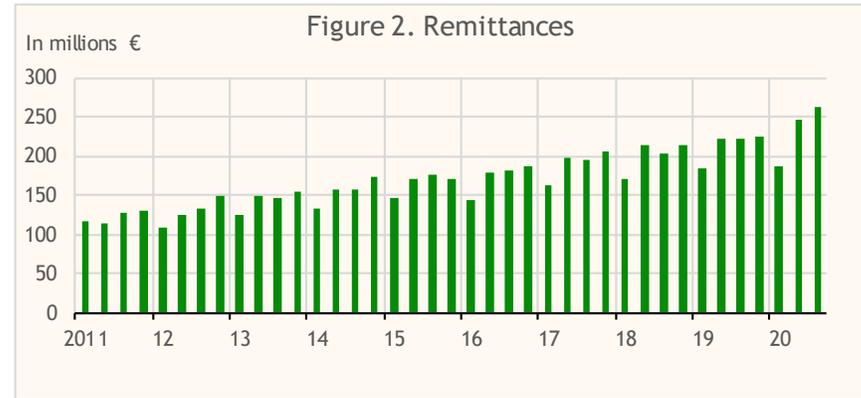
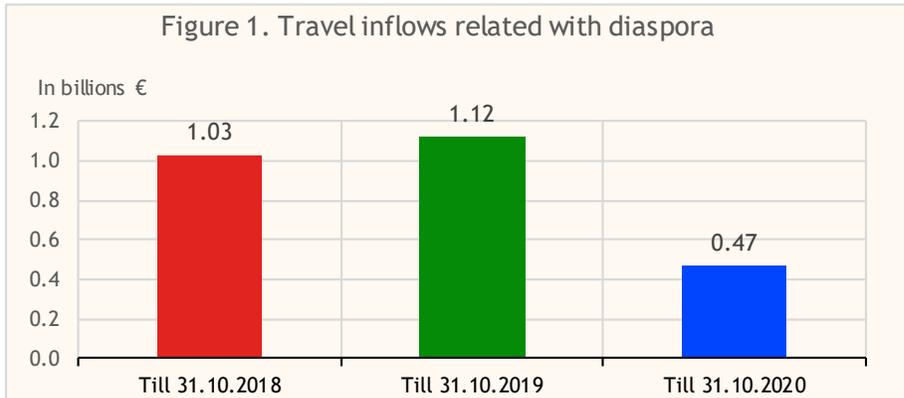
- ▶ Inability to conduct meetings with relevant stakeholders (such as the Ministry of Finance, Enterprises, Agency of Statistics etc.);
- ▶ The agenda and focus of the government has shifted to urgent matters.
- ▶ Lack of cooperation with Private Enterprises and therefore difficulties to present new reporting requests and new reporting forms.
- ▶ The hope is that because the COVID health crisis is temporary, the distress of production of statistics will be, too.

More staffing resources are needed to compile statistics

- ▶ Important impact on hiring processes (new staff) and trainings
 - ▶ Inability or difficulty to conduct testing (and interviews) with a high number of applicants due to restrictions and safety protocols imposed by the government to prevent the spread of Covid 19.
- ▶ Working from home is not effective as working from the office
 - ▶ People are working from home due to lockdowns, and sometimes they have limited access to their systems; (Quality of internet, lack of office utilities, e.g. shortage of laptops, etc.)
 - ▶ Difficult for the junior staff as they need more guidance.
- ▶ Staff on SD are attending trainings offered online which helps, but they are not as much effective as when participating physically.

COVID-19: Main impact in Kosovo's economy

Main components affected by COVID pandemic in case of Kosovo are: Crediting (declined increasing trend); Imports (decline); travel credit (decline); remittances (increase); Direct Investments in form of Real Estate (decline); Debt (increase).



Source: Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo