statistical reflections

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Compared to the previous quarter – according to seasonally and calendar-adjusted indices – the output of Hungary's economy rose by

0.9% in the 3^{rd} quarter following expansions of 0.9% in the 1^{st} quarter

In the first nine months of 2013 – according to the seasonally and calendaradjusted index, used in international comparisons – the performance

of the domestic economy was 0.6% higher than a year earlier. This put Hungary in the middle of the ranking of performance of EU member states.

Looking at the expenditure side, economic growth was principally due to the increase of internal demand. **Domestic use** was 0.4% higher in January–September 2013 than a year earlier. Internal demand as

a proportion of GDP was 91.1%, 0.6 percentage point lower than in

In the first nine months of 2013 the actual final consumption of

households, accounting for over seven-tenths of internal demand,

diminished by 0.4% compared to the corresponding period of the

previous year. Household final consumption expenditure, representing

the largest proportion within this, were 0.2% lower than a year earlier.

Household consumption was unfavourably affected by the change of

social transfers in kind: the volume of social transfers in kind from

the government decreased by 1.2% and that of transfers from non-

The actual final consumption of the government - accounting for more

than a tenth of internal demand - has already expanded continuously

for one and a half years, the rise reaching 4.6% in January-September

2013. Actual final consumption, made up of the total of the actual final

consumption of households and the government, increased by 0.2%.

and 0.4% in the 2nd guarter.

January–September 2012.

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Statistical report: Economy and society, January–October 2013



- 1 Domestic and international macro-economic trends
- 3 Output of branches
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Domestic and international macro-economic trends

- According to the forecast of the International Monetary Fund the output of the global economy will expand by 2.9% in 2013. The gross domestic product for the OECD as a whole, predominantly comprising developed countries, rose by 1.0%¹ on average in the first three quarters of 2013 compared to the same period of the previous year.
- The aggregate output of European Union (EU-27) member states was down by 0.3%² in January–September 2013 compared to one year earlier. At the same time the GDP of Germany, the largest national economy in the EU, was up by 0.2%².
- In the first nine months of 2013 the economic performance of the United States expanded by 1.6%², that of China by 7.7% and that of Japan by 1.3%² compared to a year before.
- The decreasing trend in Hungary, lasting for over a year, stopped in the 2nd quarter of 2013, the domestic economy expands again. According to raw (unadjusted) data the gross domestic product of Hungary rose by 1.8% in quarter 3 of 2013 and by 0.6% in quarters 1–3. (A higher growth than in quarter 3 was last observed in the 1st quarter of 2011.)



Figure 1

Volume of GDP and consumption (change on same quarter of the previous year)

profit institutions serving households by 2.4%.





¹ Seasonally adjusted.

² Seasonally and working day adjusted.

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- Gross fixed capital formation was up by 3.5% in the first nine months of 2013. (A growth of 8.2% was registered in quarter 3, and a larger increase than this was last measured in the 1st quarter of 2006.) The proportion of the item of expenditure to GDP was 16.5%, 0.2 percentage point more than in January–September 2012.
- In the course of 2013 the decreasing tendency of national economic investments - accounting for over 80% of gross fixed capital formation - stopped and turned into growth. Investment output was up by 9.8% in guarter 3 of 2013 and by 3.1% in the first three guarters of 2013 compared to the same period of the previous year. Within this, investments in machinery and equipment rose by 4.7%, while construction investments by 1.1% in the first nine months of 2013.
- The volume of investments expanded by 2.1% among enterprises - implementing over the half of investments and having no less than 50 employed persons - engaged in the private sector and by 23% in the public sector.
- In the majority of sections the volume of investments increased in January-September 2013. Out of sections with larger weight, the investment output of transportation and storage rose by 5.5% and that of manufacturing by 1.2%. In line with the decreasing number of dwelling constructions a considerable fall (13%) was recorded in the developments of real estate activities. These three largest sections of investment represent nearly six-tenths of all investments.
- Out of sections with a low share not exceeding 7% investment output grew significantly in the area of water and waste management (74%), because of water treatment and sewerage projects. In addition, considerable expansions were registered in the field of scientific and technical activities (39%), in public administration (30%) – as a consequence of large projects in flood protection works and developments in disaster management -, in administrative services (25%), in agriculture (15%) as well as in construction (13%).
- Among sections with relatively low weight the volume of investments fell considerably in energy industry (28%), and in the area of information and communication (12%) – along with a high base one year earlier.



- Hungary remained highly open in economic terms. In guarters 1–3 of 2013 – in parallel with improving terms of trade – a surplus of HUF 1895 billion was generated in the external trade of the national economy, which equals 8.9% of GDP. (This has been the highest proportion considering the corresponding periods of former years.)
- In the first nine months of 2013, external trade similarly to internal demand but to a lower extent - contributed positively to the performance of the economy. The volume of both exports and imports expanded more and more dynamically in guarters 1-3 of 2013, that of the former

rising by 4.1% and that of the latter by 4.2% in total. In external trade in goods, accounting for the predominant part of external trade, the volume of exports was 4.5% and that of imports 4.6% higher. In international trade in services, also including tourism, exports were up by 2.1% and imports by 1.8%.

- On the production side, the performance of the different branches was heterogeneous. Gross value added rose by 0.8% in the first nine months of 2013, within which the total value added of goods-producing branches by 1.5% compared to one year earlier.
- In January–September 2013 the performance of agriculture following a fall of 17% a year before – rose by 22% compared to the same period of the previous year. This was partly due to the favourable effect of the weather, influencing crop production.
- The gross value added of industry went down by 1.4% in the first nine months of 2013, however, the declining trend lasting for one and a half years was interrupted in quarter 3 thanks to manufacturing. Within industry the output of manufacturing decreased by 0.7%, while that of **energy** industry to a higher extent in January–September 2013. Out of the subsections of manufacturing, production fell considerably in the manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations as well as in that of computer, electronic and optical products, primarily due to the markedly decreasing demand on external markets. Similarly to the last few quarters, a significant expansion of production was measured in the manufacture of transport equipment - predominantly as a consequence of export sales – as well as in that of chemicals and chemical products.
- The output of construction growing more and more dynamically over the year to date - rose by 5.6%, within which there was an increase in both main groups of constructions (construction of buildings and civil engineering works).



Distribution of gross value added, 1st-3rd quarters of 2013



- The gross value added of the services sector essentially stagnated (-0.1%) in the first nine months of 2013. Within this, the output of the different branches and groups of branches was heterogeneous. The highest increase (2.5%) occurred in the field of arts, entertainment and other service activities. In addition, growths were recorded in the area of - typically state-financed - public administration, education, health and social work activities (1.8%), in transportation and storage (0.9%) as well as in business services (0.7%).
- In January-September 2013 the value added by financial services was 1.5% lower, the declining trend lasting for more than three and a half years. The decrease was influenced by falls in the credit stock and in the number of contracts registered by insurers. The output of

the group of branches of wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities was 1.5% lower than a year earlier, within which the value added of accommodation and food service activities rose by 1.3%, while that of wholesale and retail trade decreased. The output of real estate activities was 3.5% and that of information and communication 0.4% lower.

- In external trade in goods, the euro value of exports grew by 4.7% and that of imports by 2.7% in **October** 2013 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The balance of external trade reached a surplus of EUR 781 million in the tenth month of the year, which means that the balance improved by EUR 164 million compared to the figure recorded one year before. In the period of January-October the growths of the euro values of exports and imports were 2.0% and 1.8% respectively. The balance of external trade for ten months showed a surplus of EUR 6179 million, EUR 231 million more than in the same period of the previous year.
- The forint price level of external trade decreased by 0.3% in exports and by 0.9% in imports in **January–September**, so the terms of trade improved by 0.6%. The Hungarian national currency weakened by 1.4% against major currencies over a year, within which a rate of depreciation of 1.8% was recorded against the euro and a rate of appreciation of 0.9% against the dollar.
- In January-November 2013 the consolidated cash-based deficit of the central sub-system of the general government – based on preliminary data of the Ministry for National Economy - was HUF 876 billion, HUF 185 billion more than a year earlier. A contributor to the deterioration was that several former tasks of local governments were already financed from the central sub-system of the general government this year. The revenue of the general government amounted to HUF 14.4 trillion, while its expenditure to HUF 15.3 trillion in January–November, corresponding to increases of 13% and 14% respectively compared to a year before. Among sub-systems, the balance of the central government deteriorated by HUF 257 billion, and the deficit came to HUF 997 billion. (Expenditures were increased considerably by institutional re-structuring, in the frame of which the pay of teachers in public education and the expenditures of reclassified health, social and other institutions were already accounted as expenditures of the central government in 2013.) In respect of social security funds, the second largest sub-system, however, a balance improvement of HUF 136 billion was observed, as a result of which a surplus of HUF 51 billion was generated there for the period of January-November. The balance of extra-budgetary funds was HUF 63 billion less favourable compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. However, despite the deterioration a surplus was recorded in the system, the amount of which was HUF 69 billion.

Figure 5



Main economic indicators, 1st-3rd quarters of the given year (corresponding period of the previous year=100%)

Output of branches

- The volume of industrial production in October following a growth of 5.5% in September – increased by 6.0% compared to the same period of the previous year according to both unadjusted data and the workingday-adjusted index. According to the latter indicator the volume of production has risen for the fifth month. The expansion of production compared to October 2012 was primarily due to the volume increase in the manufacture of transport equipment, to that in the related supplying branches as well as to the growing sales in the manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products. Both domestic and export sales were higher in October than one year before, the former were up by 5.3% and the latter by 10.8%.
- In January-October the volume of industrial production was 0.7% higher than the performance in the corresponding period one year earlier. The volume of industrial sales grew at a higher rate, by 1.6%, within which export sales rose by 4.2%, while domestic sales decreased by 1.9%.
- Out of the sections of industry the volume of output in manufacturing - representing over nine-tenths of industrial production - increased by 1.3% in the first ten months, while that in the energy sector decreased by 7.0% and that in **mining**, representing a small share, by 15.7%. The manufacture of transport equipment, accounting for nearly onequarter of manufacturing, was 16.6% higher than in the same period last year, and growths were observed in bothdirections of sales. Among sections with medium weight, the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products was up by 7.2% and that of electrical equipment by 2.3%. Output in the manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products – representing one-tenth of production and typically producing for the domestic market - was 0.9% lower, and the volume of the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products - also having a significant share in production and selling goods principally on external markets - was 12.2% less.
- Along with the growth of the volume of production the number of employees in industry³ rose by 0.4% in the first ten months, and the volume of industrial production per employee increased by 0.3%. Productivity was up by 0.8% in manufacturing and decreased by 4.9% in energy industry compared to the same period of the previous year.
- The volume of new orders rose by 5.9% in October compared to a year earlier. The volume of new orders expanded in both exports and imports: that of export orders by 4.6% and that of new domestic orders by 14.2%.
- The total stock of orders at the end of October was 23.4% higher in the observed manufacturing branches than a year before, which is due exclusively to the 26.6% volume increase of export orders, the domestic stock of orders not reaching the level at the same time in the previous year (-6.9%) despite the growth of new orders.
- Industrial producer prices were 0.8% higher in the first ten months than one year before. Domestic sales prices were cut by 0.3% on average thanks to the price level decrease in the energy sector, while the price level of export sales was 1.4% higher in the first ten months than one year before. The rise of prices was largely influenced by the 2.8% growth in the manufacture of transport equipment, representing some one-third of export sales, and by the significant increases of the price levels in the manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (8.7%) as well as food products, beverages and tobacco products (6.0%).
- The growth of **construction** that started in February continued **in October**, the volume of output - according to both unadjusted and working-day adjusted figures – was 10.7% higher than in October 2012. Output rose in both main groups of constructions: the construction of buildings was 12.1% higher and civil engineering works were 9.5% higher than a year earlier. The volume of output after seasonal and working-day adjustment was 0.8% lower than in the previous month. Output compared to the previous month decreased in three of the first ten months.

³ For industrial enterprises employing no less than 5 persons.

- In January-October the volume of construction output was up by 8.3% compared to one year before. Growth has been continuous in both main groups of constructions since February, the construction of buildings rose by 8.3% and civil engineering works by 8.2% in the first ten months. The expansion of output in the former was due to the low base as well as the construction of industrial buildings, while the expansion of output in the latter was due to railway and road construction works and to a smaller extent to the developments of public utilities.
- The volume of the **stock of contracts at the end of October** was nearly 37% higher than a year before: a 7.3% larger volume of contracts were concluded for the construction of buildings and a 49% higher volume for civil engineering works than a year earlier.
- In January–October the volume of new construction contracts was 18% higher than in the same period of 2012. Within this, the volume of new contracts concluded for the construction of buildings increased by 1.7% and that of contracts made for civil engineering works by 30%. Contracts concluded primarily for health, industrial and – to a lower extent – educational buildings were predominant in the former and some high-value contracts made for the developments of the expressway network, bypasses and public utilities in the latter.
- The buying sentiment of households continued to rise: the volume of retail trade turnover after calendar adjustment increased by 2.5%

 according to first estimates in October 2013 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The volume of sales rose by 1.2% in the retail trade of food, drinks and tobacco, by 3.3% in the retail trade of non-food products and by 3.7% in the retail trade of automotive fuel.
- In January-October 2013, 7 million 666 thousand tourists spent 20 million 70 thousand tourism nights at public accommodation establishments. The number of tourists rose by 5.3%, while that of tourism nights by 4.4% compared to the same period of the previous year. In the first ten months of the year the number of international tourists (3 million 822 thousand) was up by 5.5%, and that of the tourism nights spent by them (10 million 540 thousand) increased by 4.9%. 3 million 844 thousand domestic tourists and 9 million 530 thousand domestic tourism nights were registered at accommodation establishments, equal to expansions of 5.1% and 3.8% respectively in tourism compared to the same period of 2012. Tourism - measured in tourism nights - at hotels (accounting for 75% of tourism) rose by above the average (by 5.3%), while the occupancy rate of their rooms was 2.0 percentage points higher over a year and equalled 50.9% on average. The gross sales revenues of accommodation establishments amounted to HUF 255 billion at current prices, 9.8% more than in January-October 2012. Domestic tourists paid by Széchenyi Recreation Card in a value of nearly HUF 13 billion at accommodation establishments in the examined period.
- In the 1st-3rd guarters of 2013, 33 million 816 thousand foreign visitors arrived in Hungary, 0.3% more than in the same period of 2012. The number of same-day visits slightly decreased (by 0.2%), while the number of overnight visitors rose by 1.8%. On the whole, the length of stay of visitors grew by 2.6% over one year due to the 4.0% increase in the length of stay of overnight visitors. At the same time, they spent 7.3% more in Hungary. In the first three quarters the number of times Hungarians travelled abroad was 12 million 158 thousand, diminishing by 1.3%. The number of both same-day and overnight visitors decreased, by 1.8% and 0.2%, respectively. Those travelling abroad spent 1.1% more time, altogether 35 million days outside Hungary, but they spent 3.2% less during their travels. Because of the exports (expenditures of foreigners in Hungary) and imports (expenditures of Hungarians abroad) of international tourism services amounting to HUF 985 billion and HUF 396 billion, respectively, the balance of international tourism services showed a surplus of HUF 589 billion, corresponding to an improvement of HUF 81 billion (16%) compared to the first nine months of 2012.
- In the 1st-3rd quarters of 2013 the goods transport performance of the national economy, expressed in freight tonne kilometres, was basically the same as - 0.2% lower than - one year before. The 'near

stagnation' was the aggregate effect of a 2.5% drop in the volume of goods transported and a comparable rate of increase in the average distance of transportation. Out of transport modes, the performance of road transport – which accounts for 68% of the total performance expressed in freight tonne kilometres – increased by 1.0%, while that of rail transport fell slightly and those of pipeline transport and inland waterways transport more markedly. The passenger kilometre performance of interurban passenger transport was 1.8% higher than in January-September 2012. More than the half of the increment of performance is connected to international bus transport, thus considerably exceeding the share (4%) of the international relations of this mode of transport in total transport performance. Passenger traffic at the Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport in guarters 1-3 was 6.5 million persons, basically the same as -0.2% more than - one year earlier. In local passenger transport one and a half billion trips were registered in the 1st-3rd quarters, which equalled the figure in the corresponding period last year. In case of bus transport, accounting for the largest share, a decrease of 1.4% was recorded, which fall was offset by the increases observed for the other modes of transport.

In the first nine months of the year 91.1 thousand **passenger cars** were **registered for the first time** in Hungary, which was 16% more than one year earlier, and, at the same time, was the highest value measured in the 1st-3rd quarters of the last five years. (However, the number of registrations was 34% lower compared to the corresponding period of the last year preceding the crisis, i.e. quarters 1–3 of 2008.) The growth compared to the period of January–September 2012 was predominantly due to the rise in the registrations of second-hand – more than two years old – cars (30%), though the turnover of new passenger cars increased (4.2%), too, following the first nine months. Owing to the substantially differing paces of increase, more second-hand cars were already registered than new ones in January–September (their proportions were 52% and 48%, respectively).

Social and income trends

- According to basic vital statistical indicators, fewer births and deaths were recorded in the first ten months of 2013 than in the corresponding period of the previous year.
- According to preliminary data, 73,987 children were born in January– October 2013, which was 2.3% (1,772 children) fewer than one year earlier, so the birth rate fell by 0.2 per mille point to 9.0 per mille. The number of deceased people (104,905 persons) was 2.8% (2,973 persons) lower than a year before, and the death rate went down from 13.0 per mille to 12.7 per mille. The infant mortality rate of 5.1 per mille in the first ten months was 0.2 per mille point higher than in the same period of the previous year.
- The pace of **natural decrease** decelerated somewhat, since the number of deaths fell at a higher rate than that of births. The decrease was 30,918 in the first ten months of the year, 1,201 persons fewer than one year before.
- In August–October 2013, the indicators of employment were more favourable than a year earlier. The number of 15–64 year-old employed persons increased by 61 thousand (1.6%) to 3 million 960 thousand, while the employment rate (59.3%) rose by 1.1 percentage points compared to August–October 2012. The increase of employment was mainly connected to men; the employment rate was 65.3% among them, while it was 53.4% for women. The improvement of employment was characteristic of all the three major age groups. The employment rate of young people aged 15–24 years was 20.5%, that of people in the 'best working age', i.e. aged 25–54 years was 76.3%, while it equalled 39.3% for the older, 55–64 age group.
- The number of unemployed persons also among the 15–64 yearold population and in the observed period – decreased by 29 thousand to 434 thousand, while the unemployment rate (9.9%) was 0.7 percentage point lower than in August–October 2012. Unemployment declined among both men and women, and the unemployment rate was the same, 9.9% for both genders. Unemployment decreased in the age

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groups 15–24 and 25–54, but it increased among the 55–64 year-olds year-on-year. Almost 56% of unemployed people had been looking for a job for at least one year, and the average length of unemployment rose from 17.6 months to 19.6 months.

- In January-October 2013, monthly average gross earnings of fulltime employees in the national economy⁴ were HUF 227,800, 3.8% more than one year before. Monthly average net earnings calculated without family tax benefit amounted to HUF 149,200, which meant a rise of 5.2% compared to January-October 2012. (Disregarding the effect of public employment, average gross earnings rose by 4.2% and average net earnings by 5.7%.) Monthly average net earnings were HUF 156,100 in the business sector and almost HUF 10 thousand less, i.e. HUF 146,500 at budgetary institutions excluding public workers. Average net earnings rose by 5.3% at corporations and by 6.8% at budgetary institutions without public workers over one year. At non-profit organizations, average net earnings increased by 4.9% to HUF 136,700.
- In order to offset tax and contribution changes, a monthly compensation not making part of earnings was paid to the affected group of persons employed in the public sector and at non-profit organizations; the gross amount of the compensation was HUF 10,200 and HUF 9,900 per month, respectively.
- The rise in **consumer prices** continued to decelerate compared to the earlier years, and inflation was below 2% in each month since April. First of all the reduction of overhead costs and the decreasing prices of consumer durables contributed to this deceleration, but, for a few months, fuel prices have also been lower than a year earlier. The rate

⁴ Corporations employing at least 5 persons, budgetary institutions and observed non-profit organizations.

of inflation was 0.9% in November and 1.9% in January-November compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Among the main commodity groups, the prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco rose the most (by 10.8%) in January-November 2013 year-on-year, first of all due to the rise of excise tax. At the same time, the price rise of food products (3.0%) was more moderate than a year earlier, partly due to the base effect. Within this, the price of meat, fish and their products rose by 5.1%, that of flour by 5.3% and that of potato by 61% compared to January-November 2012. Among sweets, the consumer price of sugar decreased by 7.0%, while that of chocolate and cocoa by 2.6% which was influenced by the changes in world market prices as well. The consumer price of eggs fell by 8.5% compared to the high base last year. The price level of services increased by 3.6% in the first eleven months; within this, rents and housing prices hardly changed (+0.1%), prices of communication were up by 2.6% and those of transport services by 4.5%. Consumer prices of financial services rose by 34% on average. After a price rise of 7.6% in the corresponding period last year, consumer prices of other goods and fuels increased by 0.4% in January–November this year. Within this, consumer prices of motor fuels fell by an average of 2.2% compared to the high base earlier. Consumer prices of clothing and footwear went slightly down (by 0.3%) year-onyear, while those of consumer durables continued to fall (by 2.0%). Within this latter commodity group, the prices of both television sets and second hand passenger cars diminished by some one tenth year-on-year. Household energy prices fell to the largest extent (7.6%), first of all due to the reduction of overhead costs. Within this, prices fell by 10.7% for district heating, 8.9% for piped gas and 9.0% for electricity.

Table 1

Comprehensive data

(indices as a % of the same period of the previous year)

1.) January-October 2013

| Denomination | 2012 | January–September | October | January–October |
|--|--------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|
| | | 2013 | | |
| Industrial indices | | • | | |
| Production | 98.2 | 100.0 | 106.0 | 100.7 |
| Domestic sales | 96.1 | 97.3 | 105.3 | 98.1 |
| Export sales | 99.3 | 103.4 | 110.8 | 104.2 |
| Employment | 97.9 | 100.3 | 100.9 | 100.4 |
| Productivity | 100.4 | 99.8 | 105.1 | 100.3 |
| Index of construction output | 93.4 | 108.0 | 110.7 | 108.3 |
| Agricultural sales index | 102.3 | 97.5 | 121.3 | 101.4 |
| Index of retail trade turnover | 97.8 | 100.1 | 102.5 | 100.4 |
| Value of imports, million euro | 73,297 | 55,474 ^R | 6,915 | 62,390 |
| value index | 100.5 | 101.7 ^R | 102.7 | 101.8 |
| Value of exports, million euro | 79,952 | 60,872 ^R | 7,697 | 68,569 |
| value index | 100.0 | 101.6 | 104.7 | 102.0 |
| Price indices | | | | |
| Industrial producer prices | 104.3 | 100.8 | 100.2 | 100.8 |
| Industrial domestic sale prices | 105.3 | 99.9 | 98.7 | 99.7 |
| Agricultural producer prices | 115.4 | 100.0 | 84.6 | 95.5 |
| Forint prices of imports | 104.3 | 99.1 | | |
| Forint prices of exports | 102.9 | 99.7 | | |
| Number of employees 1000 persons | 2,674 | 2,677 | 2,721 | 2,681 |
| Index | 99.4 | 100.1 | 100.8 | 100.2 |
| Unemployment rate ^{a)} , % | 11.0 | | | 9.9 ^b) |
| Average monthly gross earnings thousand HUF | 223.1 | 227.5 | 229.9 | 227.8 |
| nominal index | 104.7 | 103.6 | 105.7 | 103.8 |
| Average monthly net earnings thousand HUF | 144.1 | 149.0 | 150.6 | 149.2 |
| nominal index | 102.1 | 105.0 | 107.2 | 105.2 |
| a) As a percentage of population aged 15–64. | | | | |

b) August-October 2013.

R Revised data

2.) January-November 2013

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| Denomination | 2012 | January– October | November | January–November |
|--|-------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| | | | 2013 | |
| Consumer prices | 105.7 | 101.9 | 100.9 | 101.9 |
| Balance of general government billion HUF | -599 | -888 | 11 | -876 |
| Of which: | -611 | -1 192 | 196 | -997 |
| Central government Social security funds | -118 | 235 | –183 | 51 |

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