



Press release

Date

2 September 2021

Gross domestic product in the second quarter of 2021: domestic economy recovering from second COVID slump

Swiss GDP grew by 1.8 % after contracting 0.4 % in the first quarter.¹ Value added grew markedly in the service sector as a result of relaxed COVID measures. Private consumption recovered strongly. Industry also grew, although not as strongly as in previous quarters. In the second quarter, total GDP was only 0.5 % lower than the pre-crisis level seen in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Numerous public health restrictions were relaxed or lifted during the second quarter. The largest value-added growth thus appeared in sectors that had been most affected by these measures. **Accommodation and food services** (+48.9 %) made a clear recovery after setbacks in the winter quarters. Catering businesses were allowed to reopen gradually, while domestic tourism picked up again. Pre-crisis value-added levels were nevertheless undershot in the second quarter by approximately half. **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (+52.9 %)² also registered strong growth thanks to less restrictive measures. Here too, however, value added came in far below pre-crisis levels.

Trade (+4.8 %) grew markedly once brick-and-mortar businesses reopened. In addition to the non-food retail area, wholesale trade also contributed to this result. Increased mobility among the population brought **transport and communication** into positive figures (+1.9 %). Finally, **business-related services** (+1.1 %) grew again. **Financial services** (–0.7 %) were the only service sector to register a noticeable decline in value added. The broad-based growth of the services sector was accompanied by rising **services exports** (+3.2 %).

With the easing of COVID measures, **private consumption** (+4.1 %) rose strongly after the marked declines of the winter quarters. Households increased their consumption expenditure in almost all sectors. **Government consumption** (+5.5 %) grew even more strongly, due to extraordinary expenditure to cope with the pandemic. Finally, **investment in equipment** (+1.6 %) expanded again after a negative previous quarter. Overall, domestic demand rose strongly, which was accompanied by a slight increase in **imports**³ (+0.5 %). **Construction**

¹ Real rate of change compared to previous quarter. Adjusted for sporting events, GDP growth was +1.6 % in the second quarter and –0.4 % in the first quarter.

² Adjusted for sporting events: +20.7 %

³ Services and goods excluding valuables.

investment (+0.1%) was the only domestic component of demand that virtually stagnated, in line with the subdued development of **construction** (−0.3 %).

In the **manufacturing** sector (+0.9 %), the dynamics normalised after the strong recovery of the previous quarters. Value added had already climbed above its pre-crisis level in the first quarter; in the second quarter it was 4.7 % higher. Most recently, falling growth in global industry and world trade slowed down parts of Swiss industry. Exports of cyclical industrial goods, such as machinery and precision instruments, decreased. In contrast, the chemical–pharmaceutical industry was again able to expand strongly. Accordingly, **exports of goods**⁴ (+0.3 %) rose slightly despite the decline in transit trade.

Notes

Further information on GDP in the second quarter of 2021 can be found in the autumn 2021 edition of “**Konjunkturtendenzen**” at www.seco.admin.ch/gdp.

With the calculations for the second quarter, the revised annual data of the Federal Statistical Office were integrated into the quarterly national accounts as usual. As part of the 2021 annual revision, the basic data and methods were reviewed in depth and revised where necessary. This ensures that no distorting effects arise due to the COVID pandemic.⁵ More extensive revisions than usual were necessary for individual time series.

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⁴ Excluding valuables.

⁵ See <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/metadata/covid-19-support-for-statisticians>.

Quarterly figures on GDP

Appendix to the SECO's press release of 2.9.2021¹

Figure 1: Gross domestic product²

Real, seasonally adjusted, q-o-q change in %

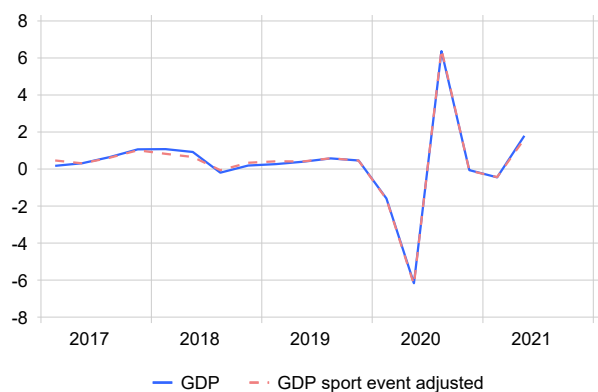


Figure 2: Growth contributions

Real, seasonally adjusted, q-o-q change, in percentage points

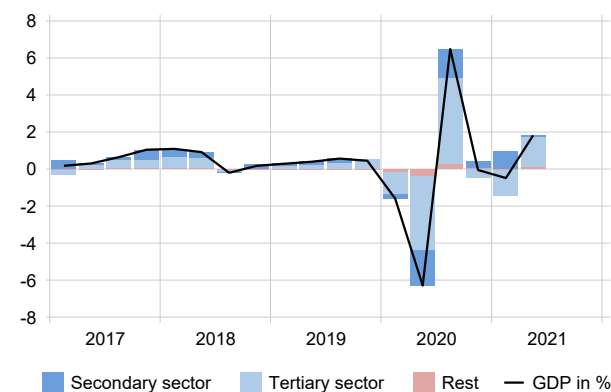


Table 1: Production approach³

Real, seasonally adjusted, quarterly change in %

	20:3	20:4	21:1	21:2
Gross domestic product	6.4	-0.1	-0.4	1.8
Manufacturing	6.2	1.8	5.1	0.9
Construction	7.3	-0.4	0.3	-0.3
Trade	7.4	-0.3	-4.6	4.8
Accommodation, food	120.8	-22.7	-45.9	48.9
Finance, insurance	0.3	0.6	0.2	-0.2
Business services	3.4	0.0	-0.7	1.1
Public administration	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.0
Health, social activities	9.0	0.9	-0.4	0.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation	73.3	-10.9	-2.7	52.9
Other	10.1	-1.1	-0.9	1.3
Gross domestic product sport event adjusted	6.5	-0.1	-0.4	1.6

Table 2: Expenditure approach⁴

Real, seasonally adjusted, quarterly change in %

	20:3	20:4	21:1	21:2
Gross domestic product	6.4	-0.1	-0.4	1.8
Private consumption	9.3	-1.6	-3.1	4.1
Government consumption	0.1	2.7	2.4	5.5
Equipment and software investment	10.3	1.1	-0.9	1.6
Construction investment	5.1	-0.1	0.3	0.1
Exports of goods excl. valuables	9.2	-0.3	2.6	0.3
as well as excl. merchanting	10.3	3.6	4.8	2.6
Exports of services	2.2	12.2	-4.9	3.2
Imports of goods excl. valuables	11.7	0.0	1.2	0.2
Imports of services	7.7	7.6	-4.5	1.0

¹ Data and further information: www.seco.admin.ch/gdp

² As an interpretation aid, the SECO also publishes a «sport event adjusted» GDP, which includes but smooths out the effects of major sportevents. Further information can be found in the Konjunkturtendenzen of [autumn 2017](#) and [spring 2018](#).

Table 3: Production approach³

Real, change in %

	previous year		previous year's quarter			
	2019	2020	20:3	20:4	21:1	21:2
Gross domestic product	1.2	-2.4	-1.4	-1.5	-0.7	7.7
Manufacturing	3.0	-3.0	-3.3	-1.2	4.1	15.2
Construction	1.3	-2.6	-0.6	-1.8	-0.2	6.8
Trade	-1.2	2.1	5.3	3.7	-0.4	6.3
Accommodation, food	1.1	-41.8	-30.6	-47.2	-60.9	38.1
Finance, insurance	1.7	5.6	5.6	3.9	1.6	1.0
Business services	1.8	-2.4	-1.8	-2.0	-1.9	3.8
Public administration	0.9	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.3
Health, social activities	3.3	-0.7	2.2	2.5	4.5	9.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation	-31.4	-26.0	-13.5	-21.0	-11.6	129.5
Other	1.7	-8.8	-7.8	-8.4	-5.4	9.5
Gross domestic product sport event adjusted	1.5	-2.4	-1.4	-1.5	-0.7	7.6

Table 4: Expenditure approach⁴

Real, change in %

	previous year		previous year's quarter			
	2019	2020	20:3	20:4	21:1	21:2
Gross domestic product	1.2	-2.4	-1.4	-1.5	-0.7	7.7
Private consumption	1.4	-3.7	-1.2	-2.7	-3.3	8.2
Government consumption	0.7	3.5	3.0	5.0	6.3	11.0
Equipment and software investment	1.4	-2.5	1.6	-3.7	1.1	12.8
Construction investment	-0.9	-0.4	0.9	-0.3	0.6	5.7
Exports of goods excl. valuables	3.4	-1.1	0.2	0.8	3.6	12.5
as well as excl. merchandising	4.9	-2.9	-4.0	0.2	2.6	23.7
Exports of services	-2.3	-14.5	-19.3	-8.0	-7.4	12.6
Imports of goods excl. valuables	2.8	-6.2	-5.7	-3.4	-3.1	14.1
Imports of services	1.4	-11.0	-17.8	-8.5	-11.0	12.1

³ **Manufacturing:** Noga 10–33; **Construction:** Noga 41–43; **Trade:** Wholesale and retail trade; Repair of motor vehicles, Noga 45–47; **Accommodation, food:** Accommodation and food service activities, Noga 55–56; **Finance, insurance:** Financial and insurance activities, Noga 64–66; **Business services:** Real estate services; professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities, Noga 68–82; **Public administration:** Public administration and defence; compulsory social security, Noga 84; **Health, social activities:** Human health and social work activities, Noga 86–88; **Arts, entertainment, recreation:** Arts, entertainment and recreation, Noga 90–93. **Other:** Agriculture, forestry, fishing, Noga 01–03; Mining and quarrying, Noga 05–09; Energy and water supply, waste management and remediation activities, Noga 35–39; Transportation and storage, Noga 49–53 Information and communication, Noga 58–63; Education, Noga 85; Other service activities, Noga 94–96; Activities of households as employers, Producing activities of households for own use, Noga 97–98; taxes and subsidies on products.

⁴ Valuables contain: precious metals, jewellery and gems, works of art and antiques and non-monetary gold.