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THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE STOCK MARKET IN SLOVENIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze how the Slovenian stock market responded to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and the lockdown situation in the country. The study employed a descriptive research design using qualitative and quantitative secondary data. The pandemic-imposed restrictions and the collapse in international trade abruptly halted several years of expansion in Slovenia. Following trends in global markets, the Ljubljana Stock Exchange in March 2020 stumbled due to fears of the new virus and a severe drop in economic activity. The existing literature on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on frontier and less-developed stock markets is very limited. This paper contributes to the existing literature by identifying how less-established stock markets respond to the pandemic crisis. Investors and policymakers can benefit from the results, as understanding how a certain stock market reacts to a sudden global crisis improves decision-making under crisis circumstances.

Keywords: COVID-19, lockdown, Slovenia, stock market

1. INTRODUCTION

Slovenia is a small, export-oriented country located in Central Europe with a population of around 2.1 million (stat.si). It is a member of the European Union and the Eurozone and is one of the wealthiest countries in CEE, with GDP per capita at 91% of the EU average in 2023 (stat.si). The main driver of the Slovenian economy is the service sector, followed by a strong and advanced industry (automotive, pharmaceutical, and household appliances) heavily oriented to exports to other EU countries. Furthermore, measured by HDI (Human Development Index, which evaluates a country's achievements in healthcare, education, life expectancy, and standard of living), Slovenia was ranked 23rd out of 191 countries according to the Human Development Report from 2021. With a high HDI score of 0.918, indicating a very advanced level of human development, Slovenia is ranked among the most developed economies in the world, surpassing countries like Italy, Spain, and France.

Despite significant economic growth and development, the Slovenian capital market has remained poorly developed. The Ljubljana Stock Exchange (LJSE) is the only stock market in Slovenia and was acquired by the ZSE (Zagreb Stock Exchange) in 2016. It is classified as a frontier market (a market less established than an emerging market) due to low liquidity, a small number of listed companies (23 equity instruments), and highly concentrated trading in a few stocks. The reference index is SBI TOP, a free-float market-cap-weighted price index composed of the most liquid and largest companies traded on the Ljubljana Stock Exchange. There are two stock market segments on the LJSE: the prime market (for leading companies in size, liquidity, and transparency) and the standard market (for companies fulfilling regular listing conditions). At the end of 2020, the stock market capitalization of the companies listed on the LJSE amounted to €6,919.4 million, accounting for 14.8% of the GDP for the past year (ljse.si). This ratio is far behind the average European Union ratio of 54.5% in 2018 and 77.4% in 2019. However, international interest in investing in the LJSE exists, as more than half of the turnover is executed by international investors.

In March 2023, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Strategy for the Development of the Capital Market in Slovenia by 2030, which aims to stimulate the further development of the Slovenian capital market. The creation of stock funds of state-owned companies and the issuance of municipal and other bonds are some of the pillars of the adopted Strategy. By increasing the average daily turnover, improving the market capitalization-to-GDP-ratio, and adding new listings, the ultimate goal of the Strategy is to achieve emerging market status and expand the investor base. An expanded investor base could help companies raise capital at a lower cost, stimulating further investments and economic growth.

In December 2019, the first confirmed COVID-19 case appeared in Wuhan City, China, and within a few months, it became a global health, social, economic, and financial threat. As the virus spread to more than 100 countries worldwide by March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic. The first coronavirus case in Slovenia was confirmed on March 4, 2020. Almost at the same time, Slovenia experienced a shift in power, with the Government of Prime Minister Janez Janša swearing in only 9 days after the first confirmed case in the country. After a week under the new government and with only 368 confirmed cases, a complete lockdown was introduced, including the closure of schools and childcare facilities. During the second wave in autumn 2020, the authorities allowed the number of confirmed cases to rise before introducing a new round of strict measures. The second complete lockdown in Slovenia was implemented on October 26, 2020. As of November 24, 2023, over 1.3 million confirmed cases and more than 7.000 deaths were registered in Slovenia (Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center).

World economies were completely unprepared for a pandemic of this scale because most of them expected scenarios similar to previous pandemics in recent history, where the impact on the global economy and stock markets was relatively modest (e.g., Ebola, SARS, and MERS). However, the COVID-19 pandemic caused dramatic consequences on a global level. It severely damaged economies worldwide and restricted people's social lives. To mitigate

the spread of the virus and protect public health, governments around the world promptly responded with an unprecedented set of measures, such as partial and complete lockdowns. While these measures successfully brought the rapid spread of the virus under control, their impact on the global economy was extremely negative. The supply and demand shocks induced by the pandemic pushed the global economy into the worst recession since World War II, while financial markets lost one-third of their value in only a few weeks.

Stock markets around the world experienced historic intraday price corrections, triggering circuit breakers multiple times to alleviate the rapid deterioration in the stock market. The S&P 500 lost 30% of its value in only 22 trading days, which is considered the fastest 30% stock market decline ever recorded. For comparison, during the Great Financial Crisis in 2007, it took one year for such a decline to occur in the S&P 500 (Desroziers, 2020). Increased uncertainty and fear among investors drove market volatility to record-high levels, surpassing those reached during the Great Financial Crisis (GFC). Governments and central banks swiftly introduced massive support packages for households and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures significantly contributed to the stability and recovery of the global stock markets.

At the beginning of 2020, the Slovenian economy was relatively strong after years of continuous expansion, fiscal surpluses, and a stable financial system. However, as an export-oriented economy tied to the EU, it could not avoid the negative effects of the global pandemic. Domestic and global lockdown measures had a devastating effect on tourism and the automotive industry, the largest contributors to Slovenia's GDP. After eleven years of continuous growth in tourism, Slovenia recorded its first decrease in arrivals and overnight stays. Social distancing measures and various travel bans triggered a 74% drop in the number of foreign guests, who are the backbone of tourism in Slovenia. In 2019, the tourism industry contributed almost 10% to Slovenia's GDP, with \$3.35 billion in revenues (worlddata.info). In 2020, the contribution of tourism shrank to 5.3%. The government swiftly recognized the problem and issued tourist vouchers to stimulate domestic tourism and mitigate the losses to a certain extent. The automotive industry faced issues on both the demand side, which sharply decreased due to uncertainty among potential buyers, and the production side, due to disruptions in global supply chains and difficulties in organizing production under strict social distancing measures. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia promptly reacted by approving rescue packages to stabilize the emerging economic and financial crises. During the first lockdown, the government directed support worth €3 billion (6% of GDP) to individuals and companies to help them overcome the losses caused by pandemic measures.

The crashing effect of the COVID-19 pandemic did not bypass the Ljubljana Stock Exchange. Panic, fear, and uncertainty among investors caused an erratic sell-off of all stocks listed on the market. After reaching its peak value in mid-February 2020, the SBI TOP Index (Slovenian blue-chip index) collapsed by more than 30% and hit its lowest point on March 23, 2020. Following the approval of rescue packages, the SBI TOP Index began its recovery as investor confidence was gradually restored.

The literature on the health, economic, financial, and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic grew rapidly, but the vast majority of studies focus on developed markets or specific regions. Most countries worldwide implemented similar measures to slow down the spread of the coronavirus, but the impact of the pandemic differed among countries and economies. Besides global and regional analysis, it is essential to research individual countries during the pandemic and their reactions to it (Cheong et al., 2020). To date, there is a lack of studies analyzing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on frontier stock markets and smaller emerging markets, such as the Ljubljana Stock Exchange. This study aims to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak on the performance of the Ljubljana Stock Exchange in 2020. To evaluate the performance of the LJSE relative to selected developed markets (Germany and the UK), a comparative analysis was conducted. As numerous studies suggest (Mazur et al., 2021), the impact of the pandemic varied significantly across sectors. A sectoral analysis of the stock market in Slovenia could not be carried out due to the relatively small number of listed companies. However, the performance of companies representing the pharmaceutical and financial sectors was examined to determine whether the heterogeneous impact of the pandemic was also present on the LJSE. Despite a significant difference in size and level of development, the results of this study show that the COVID-19 impact on the frontier market does not differentiate much from the impact on developed markets.

This paper makes several contributions. First, it extends the very limited existing literature on how exogenous shocks, such as pandemics, affect frontier markets. Smaller markets are often overlooked, but given their potential and the maturity of developed markets, it is of great value to provide insight into their vulnerability and resilience during global crises. Second, this paper demonstrates that the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative effect on both frontier and developed markets. Although at different paces, both markets began their recovery after the introduction of unprecedented government support packages. Lastly, it provides insight into pandemic-resilient and pandemic-vulnerable sectors in the frontier market.

The remainder of this paper consists of a literature review, data description and methodology, presentation and discussion of the results, and conclusions.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the literature on past pandemics and their impact on stock markets was limited, as pandemics such as SARS and MERS only modestly affected the performance of certain markets. The COVID-19 pandemic shocked the world with its rapid global spread and infiltration into every single aspect of people's lives. Such an extreme event quickly became a topic of interest for many academics and practitioners, and the literature on COVID-19 started to grow rapidly.

Desroziers and Capelle-Blancard analyzed the stock market reaction during the period between January and April 2020 in 74 countries. Their study shows that stock markets initially ignored the pandemic, but when the pandemic epicenter moved to Europe, global stock markets responded with a sharp and sudden decline. During the same period, the Chinese

stock markets stabilized as a result of the fast and rigorous pandemic measures introduced by Chinese authorities (Ali et al., 2020). The stock price performance on the Chinese stock market was negatively affected both by the increase in the number of confirmed cases and the number of deaths (Al-Awadhi, 2020). He et al. (2020) and Liu et al. (2020) found in their studies that the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the stock markets in multiple countries. These findings are also confirmed in studies by Asuraf (2020) and Zhang (2020). The US stock market experienced great losses during February and March 2020, but Fernandes (2020) indicated that the UK, Brazil, Germany, and Colombia stock markets were hit even harder. The study by Davis et al. (2021), which includes 35 sample stock markets, suggests that the pandemic had a much stronger negative effect on US stock market performance and volatility than on the Chinese market. Similar findings presented by Shehzad et al. (2020) indicate that the US and European stock markets were hit harder by the pandemic compared to the Asian markets. Stock markets in Italy, one of the most coronavirus-impacted countries in Europe, plummeted by 35% and did not fully recover until the end of 2020 (Borri, 2020).

Emerging and developing markets experienced an even sharper decline than developed ones. Harjoto and Rossi (2021), in their study, compared the pandemic's impact on the markets in emerging and developed countries by analyzing the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) stock market indices. Their results show that the negative impact of the pandemic was significantly stronger in emerging countries than in developed ones. Additionally, stock markets in both developed and emerging countries recovered their losses faster from the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the Great Financial Crisis of 2008. The pandemic also had disastrous effects on less-established and developing markets. According to Hatmanu and Cautisanu (2021), the Romanian stock market responded to the pandemic outbreak with an increased level of panic and significant losses in stock values. Using panel-data regression, Le Trang Anh and Gan (2020) confirmed the negative pandemic impact on stock returns in Vietnam. However, the lockdown measures had a positive effect on the Vietnamese stock market. The COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected Visegrad financial markets and increased volatility levels (Czech et al., 2020).

The negative reaction was present across all industries, but the hospitality, gas and petroleum, transport, and automotive industries suffered the biggest losses (Schoenfeld, 2020). According to Goodell (2020), the pandemic negatively impacted the financial sector due to growing non-performing loans. During the crash of the US stock market in March 2020, industries that suffered the biggest losses (some even lost over 70% of their market capitalization) included crude petroleum, real estate, hospitality, and entertainment. On the other hand, healthcare, food, software, and technology sectors were among the best performers during the same period (Mazur et al., 2021).

Slovenia confirmed its first case of coronavirus on March 4, 2020. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia promptly responded with the introduction of a complete lockdown on March 20, even though the number of confirmed coronavirus cases and related deaths was very low (Lazić et al., 2020). The measures introduced were effective, and during the first wave of the pandemic, Slovenia was among the countries that managed the pandemic the best.

After easing the pandemic measures on May 18, the number of new confirmed cases began to rise again toward the end of June. This time, the government did not respond immediately with strict measures but allowed the numbers to grow. The second complete lockdown began on October 26, but with much less success during the second wave of the pandemic. By December, Slovenia was ranked among the most affected countries, measured by the number of new confirmed cases and deaths per capita, despite the introduction of rigorous pandemic measures (Ružić Gorenjec et al., 2021).

The pandemic and lockdown restrictions had a massive negative impact on the economic and social situation in Slovenia. Although all industries suffered losses, the strongest negative impact was recorded in the tourism, automotive, and gaming industries (Crnogaj, 2021). The sudden decrease in economic activity during the pandemic outbreak triggered a sharp decline in consumer confidence and business sentiment (OECD, 2020). The results of several studies conducted in Slovenia indicate that almost all economic entities faced difficulties caused by decreased demand, social distancing measures, and disrupted supply chains (Economic Snapshot, GEM 2020).

3. DATA & METHODOLOGY

This study aims to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures on the performance of the Ljubljana Stock Exchange (LJSE) in 2020. To achieve this aim, a descriptive research design using both quantitative (index values, traded volume) and qualitative secondary data (economic reports, government announcements, news, academic articles) was employed. The mixed-method approach provides comprehensive insight into how frontier markets reacted to the pandemic-induced crisis and the measures introduced, and whether they reacted differently than developed markets. The performance of the LJSE is measured by the value fluctuation of the SBI TOP Index, the Slovenian reference index. The SBI TOP Index is composed of nine listed companies, whose transactions represent the vast majority of the total turnover in this market. The analyzed period starts on January 2 and ends on December 30, 2020, covering the period during which the pandemic outbreak and lockdown measures occurred. The selected period also includes the most important pandemic-related events, which had a great impact on stock market movements in Slovenia (March 2, 2020 – first official coronavirus case in Slovenia, March 12, 2020 – WHO declares pandemic, March 20, 2020 – national lockdown, April 2020 – economic stimulus package, October 26, 2020 – second national lockdown). The data on daily closing SBI TOP values for the analyzed period were obtained from the official LJSE webpage. After analyzing the SBI TOP performance in 2020, a comparative analysis was conducted to gain insight into how the LJSE performed compared to the selected European developed markets, Germany and the UK. The data on daily closing values of the DAX (German benchmark index) and FTSE 100 (UK benchmark index) were retrieved from Investing.com. Furthermore, the SBI TOP turnover in 2020 was analyzed to understand the pandemic's impact on stock market liquidity. Daily SBI TOP turnover data was obtained from the Ljubljana Stock Exchange webpage.

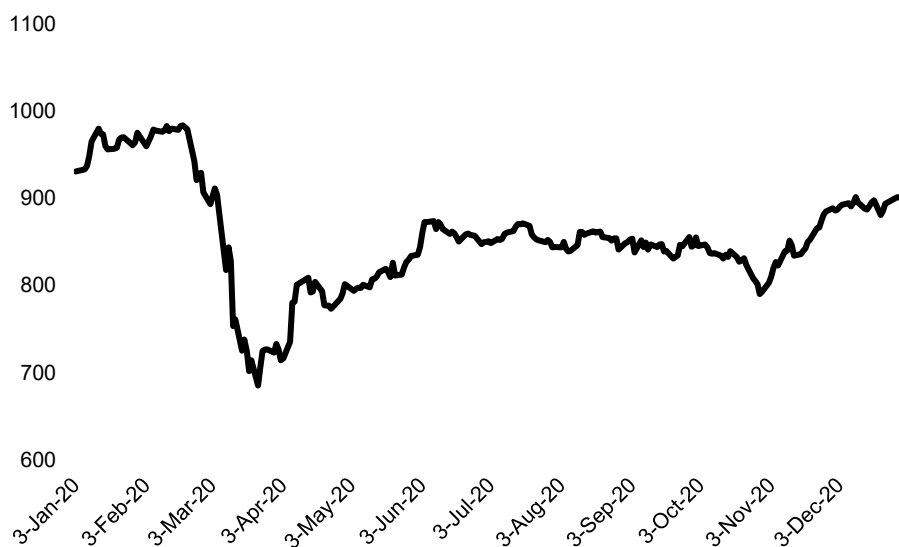
The relatively small number of listed companies on the LJSE did not allow us to conduct a thorough sectoral analysis. However, to examine whether the pandemic's impact varied across sectors on the LJSE, a performance analysis of NLBR and KRKA stocks was conducted. These stocks were selected as representatives of the most pandemic-affected sectors. KRKA (Krka d.d.) is an international generic pharmaceutical company, one of the largest and most important companies in Slovenia, and the most traded stock on the LJSE. NLBR (Nova Ljubljanska Banka d.d.) is Slovenia's largest bank and a member of the NLB Group. Both stocks are constituents of the SBITOP Index. Daily closing prices of NLBR and KRKA stocks were retrieved from the Ljubljana Stock Exchange webpage. In cases of unavailable data due to national holidays or other reasons, index values were assumed to remain the same as the previous trading day. Furthermore, scholarly articles, reports, and statistics from international organizations and institutions were sources for additional secondary data used in this paper (OECD, The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, ScienceDirect, etc.). The Ljubljana Stock Exchange webpage was also a source of general information and trading infrastructure in Slovenia.

4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Figure 1 presents the SBI TOP Index performance throughout 2020. Even though the pandemic started to spread around the world in January 2020, the stock market in Slovenia initially ignored the existence of the pandemic threat and continued to steadily climb to its peak of 983.96, which was reached on February 19. After February 20, awareness of the pandemic and its consequences increased negative sentiment, and panic began to dominate investors' decision-making processes. The market correction that started at the end of February developed into a sudden and sharp crash during March. As the pandemic exploded and Europe became its epicenter, panic selling among investors triggered several historic intraday losses on the Slovenian stock market.

On March 12, 9, and 16, 2020, the SBI TOP Index dropped by 8.96%, 7.28%, and 4.72%, respectively. In only 22 trading days, the SBI TOP plunged by roughly 30% and hit its lowest point on March 23. The introduction of massive government financial and economic support helped recover lost investors confidence and brought stability to the stock market. In the following months, volatility levels remained elevated, but the record values from March were not reached again, not even during the second lockdown in October. Despite significant losses in the first quarter of 2020 and a lockdown period in the last quarter of the year, the SBI TOP recovered most of its earlier losses and ended the year with a loss of around 3%.

Figure 1. SBI TOP Index performance in 2020

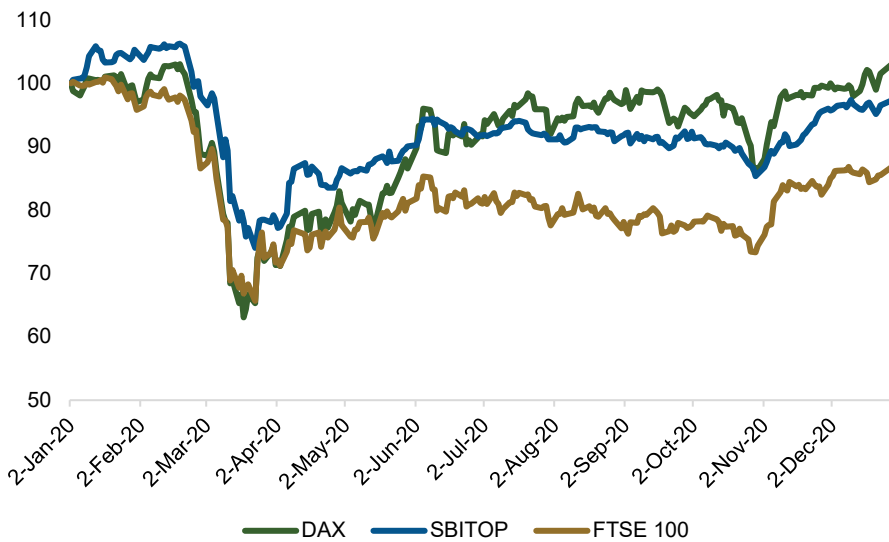


Source: Author's illustration

In further research, a comparative analysis was carried out to evaluate the performance of the SBI TOP Index relative to the major European developed markets, Germany and the UK. The German reference index DAX and the UK reference index FTSE 100 were analyzed for the same period and compared with the performance of the SBI TOP (Figure 2). Despite being small and a frontier market, the performance of the Ljubljana Stock Exchange in 2020 did not deviate much from the developed markets' patterns. Figure 2 shows that DAX, FTSE 100, and SBI TOP began the year with a positive trend, which suddenly ended in the middle of March when the COVID-19 epicenter moved to Europe. In only two trading days (March 9 and 12), the DAX and FTSE 100 dropped by roughly 20%, representing the biggest stock market crash since 1987. As previously mentioned, those trading days were the worst performing for SBI TOP as well.

In April, the German and UK stock markets started to recover from historic losses caused by the pandemic shock. The German DAX index ended the year with a gain of 2.5%, while the UK's main index rebounded only partially to -14.3%, the worst performance since 2008. The FTSE 100's weak performance in 2020 could be partially explained by BREXIT, which was finalized that same year.

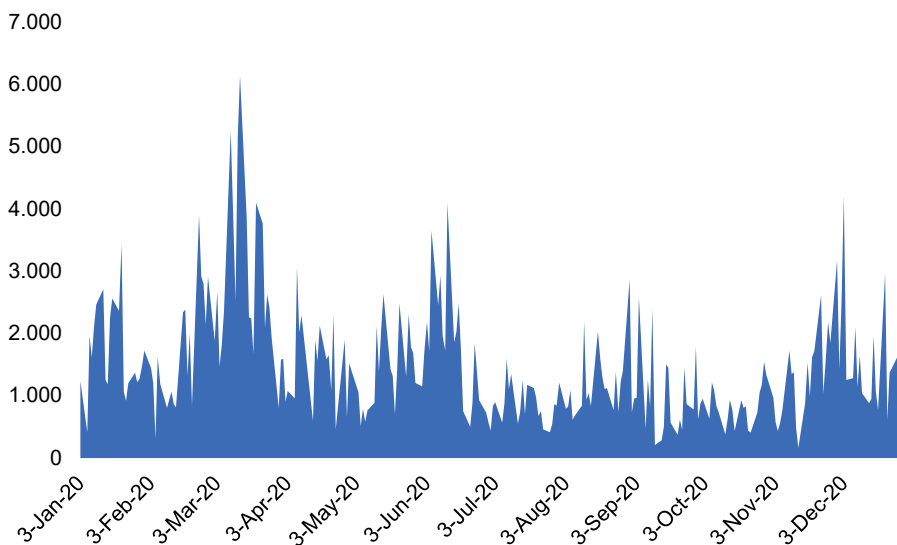
Figure 2. DAX, FTSE 100, and SBI TOP performance in 2020



Source: Author's illustration

The COVID-19 outbreak not only triggered a surge in volatility on the LJSE but also an increase in trading volumes. The total turnover was 21.7% higher than in 2019, with an average daily turnover in the SBI TOP Index of €1.5 million. The most volatile trading days were also the days with notably higher daily turnovers, as Figure 3 shows. The three highest daily turnovers in 2020 occurred in March, at the same time when the highest intraday losses were recorded.

Figure 3. SBI TOP turnover in 2020 (in €000)

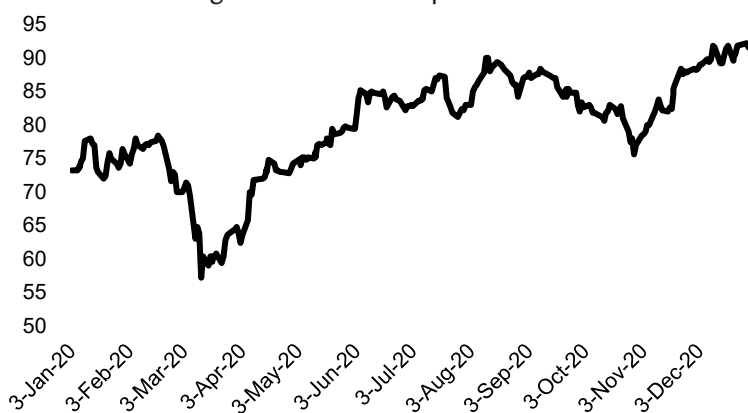


Source: Author's illustration

At the very beginning of the market crash in March 2020, the stock markets seemed to behave irrationally, with a panic sell-off of stocks across all sectors. However, after the initial shock and with more available information, investors focused on identifying “the winners and losers” of the pandemic. Companies that were financially weak or less resilient to the imposed pandemic measures suffered much greater losses than the companies with financial stability or those that quickly adapted to the new business environment. Healthcare, telecommunications, and technology sectors were the best performers, while tourism, retail, oil & gas, and real estate were among the most vulnerable. A sectoral analysis of the Slovenian stock market was not possible due to the low number of listed companies on the LJSE, but there are a few listed companies that were strongly affected by the pandemic.

Several studies have indicated that pharmaceutical industry stocks were among the best performers in the stock markets. To examine the performance of the pharmaceutical sector in Slovenia, the publicly listed company KRKA was chosen. Figure 4 shows KRKA's performance in 2020. During the March sell-off, KRKA's stock price plummeted by more than 25% as panic and fear dominated the market. However, as soon as the market began to rebound in April, KRKA began its strong recovery and, despite elevated volatility, ended the year with a remarkable gain of 25%.

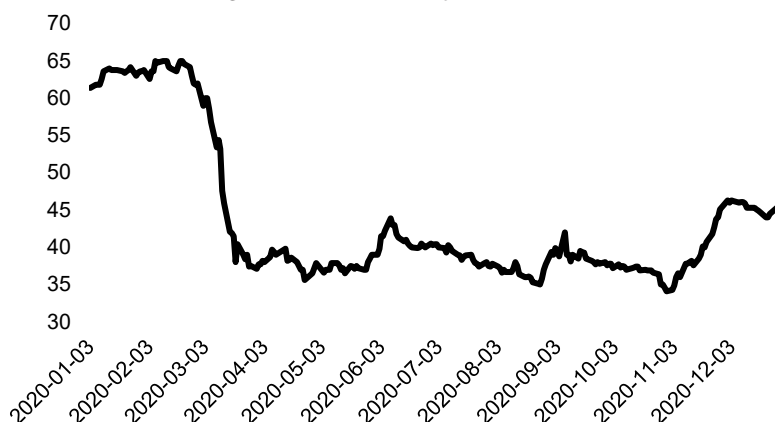
Figure 4. KRKA stock price in 2020



Source: Author's illustration

The financial sector was one of the hardest-hit sectors by the COVID-19 pandemic, and bank stocks globally underperformed as they played a key role in absorbing the pandemic shock. To analyze the performance of the financial sector on the LJSE, Nova Ljubljanska Banka (NLB) was chosen. NLB is the largest bank in Slovenia, and its stock is one of the most traded on the Ljubljana Stock Exchange.

Figure 5. NLBR stock price in 2020



Source: Author's illustration

Figure 5 shows that NLBR stock was not spared from the negative effects of the pandemic. NLBR stock collapsed in March 2020, losing 40% of its value in only a few weeks of trading. While other sectors began to bounce back in April, NLBR stock remained in deep negative territory. After a modest recovery during the summer months, NLBR stock hit its lowest point at the end of October, losing close to 50% from its peak value in February. By the end of the year, NLBR stock had partially recovered its losses and finished the year with a loss of roughly 25%.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in 2020 had a strong negative impact on the performance of the LJSE. Fear and panic triggered a historic sell-off in March, but prompt government and health authorities' support and reaction restored investor confidence as early as April 2020. A similar trend was observed in Germany and the UK, the selected developed markets in the comparative analysis. Finally, the study suggests that the pharmaceutical sector is more resilient to the pandemic crisis than the high-risk financial sector.

5. CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak caused dramatic movements in stock markets across the world. This study examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Ljubljana Stock Exchange, measured by the SBI TOP Index performance during 2020. The results indicate that the pandemic brought a surge in volatility, historic intraday losses, and a dynamic recovery on the LJSE until the end of 2020. Following the trend in global stock markets, the SBI TOP Index value sank dramatically in March 2020. Furthermore, a comparison between the performance of the SBI TOP Indeks and the DAX and FTSE 100 indices was conducted. Despite the significant differences in size and development level, the results of the comparison imply that all three markets responded with similar movements and almost identical timing. A sectoral analysis was not possible, but the performances of KRKA and NLBR stocks are consistent

with existing findings, which suggest the underperformance of the financial sector and the overperformance of the pharmaceutical sector during 2020.

The conducted study contributes to filling the gap in existing literature on the COVID-19 impact on less developed and frontier markets. Policymakers can benefit from these findings as they highlight how the market responds to extreme events such as the pandemic. Timely government intervention was one of the most stabilizing factors during the crisis, which serves as a valuable lesson for policymakers in the event of any future crisis. The findings of this study are helpful for investors and financial analysts. Investors can use them in the investment decision-making process and diversification, as they show how frontier markets and certain sectors behave in an environment of elevated volatility and uncertainty. Considering these findings, financial analysts can more efficiently forecast how different markets will behave and react to future global disruptions. Understanding how a crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, impacts the stock market is an essential tool for more effective responses when the next crisis occurs.

There are several limitations in this study. The analysis is focused solely on the LJSE performance and compared with two selected developed markets. A future study could include other frontier or emerging stock markets to highlight the differences in response to the pandemic in 2020. Modest liquidity and a relatively low number of listed instruments on the LJSE could also be considered limitations of this study. Furthermore, no other economic variables (e.g., GDP, inflation, unemployment rate) were analyzed, except for the stock market performance. Finally, the analyzed dataset covers only the period during 2020, while pandemic conditions continued in the following years. These limitations provide recommendations for future research.

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UTJECAJ PANDEMIJE COVID-19 NA TRŽIŠTE KAPITALA U SLOVENIJI

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SAŽETAK

Cilj ovog članka jest analizirati utjecaj pandemije COVID-19 i uvođenja strogih mjera zatvaranja na tržište kapitala u Sloveniji. Kako bi se postigao cilj članka, tijekom istraživanja se rabila deskriptivno-istraživačka metoda koja je obuhvatila kvalitativne i kvantitativne sekundarne podatke. Uvedene mjere ograničenja i slom međunarodne trgovine u vrijeme pandemije COVID-19 doveli su do naglog prekida višegodišnje ekonomske ekspanzije u Sloveniji. Prateći trendove na globalnim tržištima kapitala i bojeći se novog virusa, kao i snažnog pada ekonomske aktivnosti, indeksi Ljubljanske burze doživjeli su u ožujku 2020. godine drastičan pad vrijednosti. Postojeća literatura o utjecaju pandemije COVID-19 na rastuća i manje razvijena tržišta kapitala veoma je ograničena. Ovaj članak doprinosi postojećoj literaturi prikazujući kako manje razvijena tržišta kapitala reagiraju na krizu uzrokovanu pandemijom. Razumijevanje ponašanja pojedinog tržišta kapitala u uvjetima nagle globalne krize doprinosi unaprijeđenju donošenja odluka investitora i donositelja politika u kriznim situacijama.

Ključne riječi: COVID-19, zatvaranje, Slovenija, tržište kapitala

