

Eligibility Assessment of the Bank of Slovenia's Adjustment Policy to Surges in Capital Flows

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Abstract: The assessment of the Slovenian central bank, the Bank of Slovenia (BS), adjustment policy to surges in capital flows has shown that BS was quite successful in its attempts to mitigate detrimental effects of capital flows on national economy. As such an increased flows through capital account did not cause the excessive money supply. The latter meets money demand and current account most of the time. On the other side, analysis indicates that the BS was not so successful in preventing real appreciation of exchange rate, deriving from excessive foreign currency inflow, which had a rather strong significance as one of the foreign exchange determinants with negative influence on its growth (depreciation). In addition to indirect adjustment methods the so-called direct methods of adjustment to surges in capital flows were also used. Specially those with the intention to reduce foreign debt flows as foreign exchange minimum, open foreign exchange position, custody accounts, restrictions on borrowing abroad, etc.

Key words: appreciation, capital controls, capital flows, foreign exchange

JEL Classification: C100, E580, F310

Introduction

Quite some ink has run over the paper explaining capital flows during the last decades. Before 1981, private capital flows consist of 64 per cent of bank credits, 4 per cent of bonds, 0,5 per cent of portfolio investments and 16 per cent of FDI. After 1990 the picture was different. Private capital flows consist of 55 per cent of FDI, 16 per cent of portfolio investments and only 15 per cent of bonds and 14 per cent of bank credit. Although different kinds of financial crisis constantly threatened to stop lunatic growth of capital flows, investors still have passionately sought for promised regions with long-lasting high rate of return. Some economies in transition (like CEC countries) faced financial inflows on a scale similar to other developing economies in

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the nineties. Since for the latter the dominant factor behind the private capital inflows were changes in the interest rates (as a push factor, see Dooley, Fernandez-Arias, Kletzer, 1996), for transition economies (especially countries like Hungary and Czech Republic) the main factors were that deriving from privatisation and major institutional changes (all together, transitional process). Before transition those economies were almost without foreign capital.

Recent empirical evidence from various episodes reveals that increased capital inflows have been accompanied by a revival of economic growth and a remarkable increase of foreign exchange reserves in the recipient developing countries (see, Mishra, Mody, Murshid, 2001). In spite of that foreign capital inflows may also raise several concerns. The main ones include; speculative reversals, reducing external competitiveness, increasing fiscal debt, losing control over the money base, exchange rate appreciation in nominal and real terms, acceleration of inflation, etc. The negative side of capital inflows depend also on their volatility and persistency (see for e.g. Calvo, Leiderman, Reinhart, 1993).

Between CEC countries, Slovenia is one of the smallest. It was established in 1991 and it was then that its currency, named tolar, also emerged. Like others Slovenia got its share of foreign capital market attention in the nineties, although because of some specifics (like relative smallness, administrative barriers, slow development of capital market) has not faced such enormous flows of equity capital. The majority of foreign capital flows came to Slovenia through debt instruments, which increased Slovenia's external indebtedness (see Tables 2 to 4) and forced the Slovenian central bank to take measures to mitigate negative influences of surges in foreign capital flows through the capital account on national economy. In spite of a short history of Slovenia's capital market the movements of foreign capital can be divided into a few periods regarding their peculiarities. Bole (Bole, 2001) states that in the last ten years four major changes of the balance of payment structure happened, and in accordance with this central bank was forced to take measures. The first change happened immediately after Slovenia independence, when in the end of 1992 a surplus of the current account considerably decreased from 7.4 per cent of GDP in 1992 to 1.5 per cent of GDP in 1993 (see Table 1).

Table 1.: Net Foreign Currency Inflows into Slovenia (USD mill.)

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
GDP	12.523	12.673	14.386	18.744	18.878	18.208	19.585	20.071	18.167	19.530
Current account	926	192	573	-99	-31	-11	-147	-783	-594	31
Net capital inflows ¹	54	454	450	513	871	666	347	650	1055	1251
International reserves (banks)	-71.8	-451	-328	-202	-339	-599	-29.5	-29.5	-241	-276
International reserves (BS)	-633	-111	-641	-237	-587	-1287	-158	-81.1	-179	-1285
(as a % of GDP)										
Current account	7.39	1.52	3.98	-0.53	-0.16	-0.06	-0.75	-3.90	-3.27	0.16
Net capital inflows	0.43	3.58	3.13	2.74	4.61	3.66	1.77	3.24	5.81	6.41

Source: BS Monthly Bulletins, BS Annual Reports

: Net foreign currency inflows in 1992 were small (0.4 per cent of GDP, see Table 1 and Picture 1) and international reserves increased mostly because of the surplus in the current account (by 6 per cent of GDP). Foreign debt was quite modest and it increased by negligible USD 37 mill (see Table 2). During 1993 and 1994, Slovenia still annotated substantial current account surplus due to considerable export of services. Foreign direct investments ranged around 1 per cent of GDP each year while foreign portfolio investments were almost totally absent, similarly to outflows of capital. The majority of net foreign currency inflows were due to resident's deposits of foreign currency and net selling of foreign currency in exchange offices. During this period Slovenian enterprises started to run into foreign debt substantially (foreign debt increased in 1994 by USD 327 mill., see Table 2), while consequently international reserves amounted to USD 2.8 billion, which represented 122 per cent of foreign debt (see Table 4). In the third period, during 1995 to 1998, for the first time in its history current account deficit emerged in Slovenia. Small deficit (the account was almost balanced, see Table 1) was mainly due to external reasons.

Three main reasons for greater indebtedness of Slovenian banks and enterprises were: lower risk premium, high domestic interest rate and lightening of foreign debt access. External indebtedness rose to around 25 per cent of GDP in 1998, which means that Guidotti-Greenspar rule was violated (external debt to foreign reserves ratio fell to 97 per cent). Next to the current account deficit during this period, Slovenia was also faced with enhanced foreign currency flows through FDI that

increased by USD 1 billion. FDI share in total GDP represented 14.1 per cent, but that was still much less than in some other transitional countries like the Czech Republic (25.5 per cent of GDP), Estonia (35 per cent of GDP), Hungary (39 per cent of GDP). International reserves reached the highest point of USD 4.8 billion.

The last period is the period from 1998 up to the present time. Current account deficit rose further (in 1999 it represented almost 4 per cent of GDP, in 2000 3.3 per cent of GDP) and so did indebtedness. In the end of 2000, external debt exceeded the amount of international reserves by almost 30 per cent (see Table 4). Term structure of foreign debt was adequate (on average 10.5 years) and the long-term debt comprised the majority of it. Net capital flows were extremely high² (see Table 1, Figure 1) but they did not cause such problems to the central bank policies as in previous years. Major part of them were non-trade related loans taken abroad by banks and enterprises.

Table 2.: Structure of Net Capital Flows in Slovenia (USD mill.)

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
FDI (inflows)	111	113	128	178	194	375	248	181	181	188
FDI (outflows)	1.8	1.3	2.9	5.1	-6.3	-35.6	1.7	-37.7	-47.6	-24.4
Portfolio (inflows) ¹⁾	-8.9	3.1	-32.5	-13.5	637	236	89.6	354	189	420
Loans from abroad	37.2	161	327	566	-7.5	332	272	772	936	215
(as % of GDP)										
FDI (inflows)	0.89	0.87	0.89	0.95	1.03	2.06	1.27	0.90	0.99	1.00
FDI (outflows)	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	-0.03	-0.19	0.01	-0.18	-0.26	-0.13
Portfolio (inflows)	-0.06	0.02	-0.22	-0.07	3.37	1.29	0.46	1.76	1.04	2.31
Loans from abroad (total)	0.29	1.27	2.27	3.02	-0.04	1.83	1.39	3.84	5.15	1.17

¹⁾ for a clearer view we should deduct government bond issues in 1996 (USD 786 mill), 1997 (USD 228 mill), 1998 (USD 557 mill), 1999 (USD 438 mill), 2000 (USD 385 mill), 2001 (USD 496 mill)

Source: Bank of Slovenia (BS) Monthly Bulletins, BS Annual Reports

Currency inflows through portfolio investments were mostly caused by issues of government bonds (see Table 2, note 1), while portfolio equity investments in securities were absent.

Figure 1.: Net Flows of Foreign Currency (monthly dynamics)

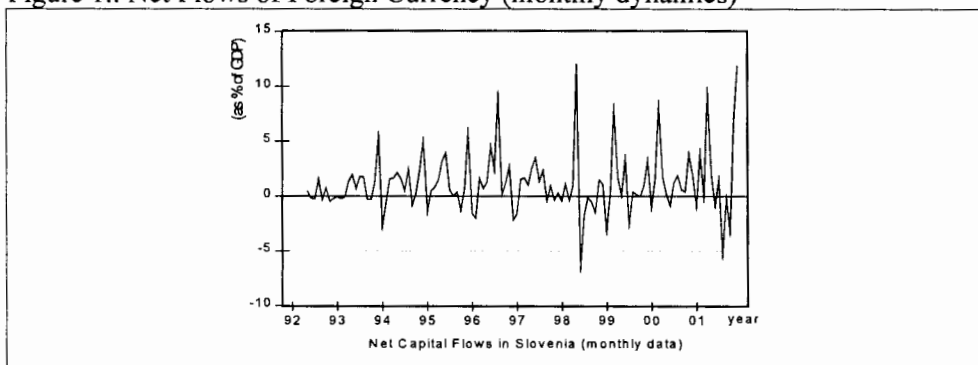


Table 3.: International Investment Position of Slovenia (USD mill.)

on 31 st December	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Assets	5899	6798	7125	7719	8458	7787	8214	9837
Liabilities	5121	6301	7625	8017	9434	9790	10553	11177
Net	777	497	-499	-297	-976	-2003	-2339	-1340
(as a % of GDP)								
Assets	41.0	36.3	37.7	42.4	43.2	38.8	45.2	50.4
Liabilities	35.6	33.6	40.4	44.0	48.2	48.8	58.1	57.2
FDI (abroad)	2.46	2.61	2.43	2.52	3.11	3.01	4.37	4.90
FDI (in Slovenia)	9.22	9.41	10.58	12.12	14.12	13.23	15.46	16.43
Portfolio (abroad)	0.43	0.56	0.49	0.31	0.25	0.31	0.39	1.28
Portfolio (in Slovenia)	0.62	0.56	6.03	7.01	7.25	8.19	9.74	9.61
Foreign loans	13.02	12.62	12.92	13.45	14.86	16.02	20.49	20.30

Source: BS Monthly Bulletins, BS Annual Reports

Table 4.: External debt and international reserves data (USD mill.)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
External debt (EDT)	1873	2258	2970	3981	4123	4915	5400	6217	6717	8799
Long-term debt (LDOD)	1744	2172	2916	3931	3988	4915	5400	6217	5972	8680
International reserves (total)	1567	2763	3426	4124	4377	4781	4115	4376	5746	8152
(Principal ratios)										
International reserves/ EDT (in %)	83.6	122.4	115.3	103.6	106.2	97.3	76.2	70.3	71.4	80.3

Int.reserves /import (months)	2.5	4	3.8	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.2	4.4	4.4	6.5
(Debt in %)										
External debt (as a % of GDP)	14.8	15.7	15.8	21.1	22.6	25.1	26.9	34.2	36.9	45.0

Source: BS Monthly Bulletins, BS Annual Reports

Adjustment Policy to Surges in Capital Flows in Slovenia

Almost from the beginning Slovenia was facing large foreign currency inflows that had, due to Slovenian's relative smallness and openness, potentially quite a few detrimental consequences. In such circumstances, consequences of surges in capital flows are even more harmful, especially due to intensive reconstructing processes that were taking place. Due to that, ordinary measures for the neutralisation of negative effects of capital inflows were adjusted to the development of institutional infrastructure and to the process of ownership transformation. In the latter case any major role of foreigners was not anticipated. At the beginning, the major instrument for fighting with surges in capital inflows was sterilisation, but shortly afterwards the BS expanded its range of used instruments and it imposed more direct forms of restrictions³. Two main independent variables that the BS used to manage increased capital inflows were money supply and exchange rate.

The most frequent measures used to neutralise detrimental effects of surges in capital inflows were: interventions in the foreign exchange market through purchases and sales of foreign exchange and signalling and the use of conditionality mechanisms, sterilisation policy through open market operations, prescribing foreign exchange minimum, prescribing mandatory reserve rates, prescribing net daily foreign exchange position, regulation for banks to balance their claims and liabilities in foreign currency (open foreign exchange position), custody accounts and restrictions on borrowing abroad (tolar deposits on foreign financial loans). Listed measures were certainly only 'the second best solution' in the process of adjustment to surges in capital flows, due to the distortions in the financial sector and some other sectorial underdevelopments. The first best solution would be direct strengthening of some weakest points in the national economy (Bole, 2001, Dooley, 1995). The combination of adjustment measures has been significantly changing over the observed period. It has been adjusted to changes in capital flows dynamics and structure as well as to costs caused by using instruments.

We divided ten year period of capital flows into four periods according to their characteristics. Similarly we can also divide this same period into four different periods taking into account various combinations of instruments and measures that

were used. Survey of individual periods and instruments used in those periods can be seen in Figure 2.

The first period between 1992 and 1994, the period of surplus in the current account balance and the period of external equilibrium. The mobility of foreign capital was low and liquidity risk premium still high enough to prevent some detrimental surges in foreign (especially debt) inflows. The majority of inflows came through household sector and export and a minor part through FDI and external borrowing. In that period costs of sterilisation were relatively low. Next to sterilisation the exchange rate was controlled by periodical purchases and sales of foreign currency and regulations like foreign exchange minimum. With listed measures, the BS increased absorption of foreign currency in residents' portfolios and high liquidity risk premium still represented a barrier for non-residents to buy foreign currency bills. Due to the reasons already stated the BS was still able to raise yield on foreign currency bills without excessive costs to absorb surpluses. The main instruments within sterilisation were treasury bills.

Figure 2.: Survey of adjustment measures used by BS between 1992 and 2001

I. Period			II. Period		III. Period		IV. Period		
Modest use of adjustment measures, relatively closed capital market			Increased use of adjustment measures, borrowing abroad oriented restrictions		The most intensive use of adjustment measures and especially restricted capital market		EU association agreement signed, low adjustment needs, intensive process of capital market liberalisation, new foreign exchange law adoption		
1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
			Deposits on foreign financial loans						
				Open foreign exchange position					
					Custody accounts on foreign portfolio investments				
BS interventions in the foreign exchange market through purchases and sales of foreign exchange and through signalling and use of conditionality mechanisms, sterilisation policy through open market operations									
Prescribing foreign exchange minimum, prescribing mandatory reserves rate									

Source: BS Annual Reports

The second period was the period between 1995 and 1996. Liquidity risk premium fell and potential mobility of foreign capital rose. Residents got an easy access to relatively inexpensive long-term foreign loans. In addition, capital inflows through portfolio investments started to rise. During this period adjustment process to surges in capital inflows with regular instruments became more and more inefficient and expensive. Due to these the BS started to introduce some more direct measures of capital flows restrictions. In February 1995, the BS introduced an interest-free deposit of 40 per cent in tolar counter-value on all draw downs under non-trade related loans taken abroad with maturity of less than 5 years. This measure was later

amended many times in line with the current capital market situation. The costs of open market instruments and sterilisation rose further.

The third period in adjustment policy to surges in foreign capital flows started at the end of 1996 and it lasted until February 1999, when Slovenia signed an associated agreement with the EU. A few months later a new foreign exchange Law was adopted through which many which made access of residents to foreign loans even easier and consecutively increased foreign currency inflow. Additionally, portfolio investments in Slovenian's equity securities were accelerated. The BS introduced the so-called 'Open foreign exchange position' to stimulate capital outflows the later was of especial importance, while capital inflows were very low and mainly concentrated on debt repayments and commercial credits. Through this instrument banks were forced to balance their claims and liabilities to foreign persons to protect themselves against foreign exchange risk. At that time also the so-called 'Custody accounts' were introduced. This capital control imposed by the BS on foreign portfolio investment forced foreign portfolio investors to purchase securities via brokers or domestic banks to the debit of custody account open with one of the authorised banks against payment of custody fee. Although some antagonist of this instrument argued that this instrument totally stopped foreign investment activity in Slovenia during 1997 and 2001 it is evident that long-term foreign investors were actually shielded from external short-term distortions.

The fourth period started at the same time as The Association Agreement between Slovenia and the EU came into effect (February, 1999). The Agreement obligated Slovenia to fully liberalise some forms of capital flows (e.g. FDI) and allowed a transitional period in deregulation for the rest (e.g. purchase of foreign securities for residents, some cash business, etc). In line with The Association Agreement also the new Foreign Exchange Law was adopted (in June, 1999). Consecutively adjustment measures to restrict free capital flows became quite bounded and limited to a six months period (see The Foreign Exchange Law, 1999).

Assessment of Adjustment Policy Measures

The framework for assessment of adjustment policy measures to surges in capital flows, used by the Slovenian central bank, The BS during the last decade, is the rate of tolar appreciation and the influence of foreign capital inflows on base money. This is so because almost all adjustment measures to manage excessive capital inflows to Slovenia were aimed at exchange rate dynamics.

The prevailing idea in present theory (Edwards, 2000, Reinhart, Smith, 1997) is that eligibility assessment of adjustment policy to surges in capital flows is rather an unthankful job especially due to intersection of effects of adjustment instruments and

other economic policy instruments used simultaneously. Adjustment policy to excessive capital inflows is usually implemented during major institutional changes in national economy (this was the case in transitional countries and also in Slovenia) or during the period of intensive economic and technical development (this was the case in countries in Latin America and countries of SE Asia). If we, however want to get an answer about eligibility of adjustment policy measures that the BS used in Slovenian economy than we have to look for answers to the following questions:

a) Was The BS successful in preventing most of detrimental effects of surges in capital flows in Slovenia during the last decade? This would mean that the value of local currency was consistent with exchange rate policy goals, i.e. tolar exchange rate was in accordance with current account dynamics and it was not a consequence of capital account dynamics. It is questionable if the BS succeeded to isolate exchange rate dynamics from oscillations in capital transactions. Further, it is important if the base money increased within the range of monetary policy goals or its dynamics was somehow influenced by surges in capital flows,

b) Did 'direct methods' within the range of adjustment policy instruments, as open foreign exchange position, custody accounts, restrictions on borrowing abroad, foreign exchange minimum, used by the BS, significantly contribute to foreign capital flows regulation and if listed measures really supported indirect methods used to reduce tensions on exchange rate and base money dynamics?

In order to address some of these questions some empirical analysis has been carried out. We wanted to find out if exchange rate dynamics and base money growth rate were influenced by capital account oscillation. In a detailed empirical analysis we examined mutual interaction and linkage of some variables: nominal and real exchange rate growth, base money growth rate, current and capital account dynamics, international reserves dynamics, purchase and sales of tolar and foreign currency treasury bills and some most frequently used direct measures included in the econometrical model like dummy variables.

First, Granger causality test has been carried out to establish interdependence of various listed variables. The main question was if the BS, with its adjustment policy succeeded to 'isolate' major economic variables, such as exchange rate and base money growth rate, from oscillations in capital accounts. Thus we got some preliminary suitability assessment of used indirect adjustments methods. For more exact suitability assessments of 'indirect adjustment methods' and also for suitability assessment of 'direct adjustment methods' historic regression analysis has been done, accompanied by some other empirical observations with which we wanted to confirm the suggested hypotheses:

a) The BS was applying such a combination of ‘indirect’ adjustment measures to manage surges in foreign capital flows. It succeeded in preventing extensive detrimental effects of foreign currency flows on exchange rate and base money growth rate. Net capital inflows therefore had no statistically significant influence on dependent variables,

b) The BS has succeeded in reducing extensive surges in foreign capital flows by using eligible combination of ‘direct’ adjustment measures. During this period, they had detrimental effects on tolar’s external value and base money growth rate. Indirect adjustment measures, divided into: foreign debt capital inflows oriented restrictions and foreign equity capital inflows oriented restrictions had no statistically significant influence on listed dependent variables.

Granger causality test results are given below (Table 5) for pairs of dependent and independent economic variables later used in econometric regression analysis. The hypothesis is verified on quarterly data with four lags included. Numbers found in Table 5 represent F-statistics. The null hypothesis, verified with F-statistic, is that x does not Granger-cause y and that y does not Granger-cause x . If values of F-statistics are high (above 2.10), the null hypothesis can be rejected. So it is an implicitly accepted hypothesis that the ‘result’ depends on the ‘cause’, while F-statistics do not indicate direction of positive or negative variable interconnections.

Table 5.: Granger causality test results

		Consequence (result)												
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
C a u s e	(1)	*	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.3	1.6	1.9	1.6	2.4
	(2)	0.3	*	1.3	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2
	(3)	2.3	2.7	*	0.9	4.9	2.5	6.1	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.8	3.1	1.7
	(4)	1.9	2.5	0.5	*	2.7	2.7	4.2	1.7	2.0	0.8	1.5	3.4	1.6
	(5)	2.1	0.9	0.4	0.3	*	0.6	0.7	2.7	0.6	4.1	1.0	1.3	3.1
	(6)	1.7	1.8	2.9	1.2	3.6	*	4.2	2.2	2.8	1.6	1.4	2.1	2.6
	(7)	3.9	0.3	2.2	0.6	1.3	1.4	*	3.2	0.2	1.8	1.6	0.1	2.6
	(8)	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	3.2	*	2.2	3.2	1.3	1.8	1.3
	(9)	0.4	5.5	1.3	1.1	1.0	2.8	0.7	0.5	*	0.4	0.4	2.5	0.1
	(10)	3.9	1.4	2.0	1.8	0.8	2.9	2.8	6.7	0.6	*	1.9	0.9	5.9
	(11)	4.6	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.2	*	2.0	0.9
	(12)	4.4	1.6	2.4	2.2	0.9	2.3	2.2	0.9	1.3	2.9	4.1	*	3.5
	(13)	1.9	0.3	1.9	0.8	0.4	0.8	2.8	1.6	0.6	2.4	1.6	0.7	*

(1) GDP – Gross Domestic Product (2) BSL – the BS Loans to Banks (3) TBT – Treasury Bills of the BS (Total)

(4) TBFC – Foreign Currency Treasury Bills (5) LL – Liquidity Loans of the BS (6) IRBS – the BS International Reserves (7) FCD – Foreign Currency Deposits (8) IIE – Import of Investment Equipment (9) NCI – Net Capital Inflows (10) CAB – Current Account Balance (11) PI – Price Index (12) ERSIT – Tolar Exchange Rate (13) M0 – Base Money

Granger causality test indicated some significant connections between tested variables. Some of them were expected while for others adequate explanation cannot be found. As the most ‘dependent’ among the listed variables are: GDP, *international reserves*, *base money*. They were caused by almost 6 or 7 variables. Results of connections between *net capital inflows* and *current account balance* as causal variables and *base money* and *tolar exchange rate* as caused variables indicated that net capital inflows did not affect tolar exchange rate. *Current account balance* caused base money growth but it did not have any significant influence on tolar exchange rate. Next, we observed interconnections of variables that expose application of adjustment policy instruments with variables of tolar exchange rate, base money and current account. Results confirmed eligibility of adopted adjustment policy. *Treasury bills* were affected by the BS international reserves changes and by current account balance. Changes in base money were caused by *liquidity loans* of the BS, while tolar exchange rate oscillations were caused by oscillations in the BS *international reserves*, *treasury bills* of BS and *foreign currency treasury bills*. Next, interesting connections between BS *loans to banks* and issued treasury bills and issued foreign currency bills were discovered. The later could indicate that banks started to shift their assets in more profitable the BS securities while their current liquidity was assured by the BS liquidity loans. This should point to some external effects produced by the BS open market operations.

Additional empirical analyses and regression assessments. In this section, we made some empirical analyses and raised some econometric models to additionally reject or confirm hypotheses suggested above. As a theoretical framework to observe correlations between some main economic variables, the following models were used:

- a) Cagan’s money supply theoretical model (1956)⁴,
- b) various models that illustrate facts and causes of capital flows, and
- c) Dornbusch (1976) extended model of balanced exchange rate in terms of fixed prices and open economy⁵. The latter was used as a theoretical framework for nominal exchange rate response observation on *net capital inflows*.

Econometric analysis of NCI influence on M₀ growth rate. First we observed if the increase in the BS international reserves were compensated with open market policy instruments in such an extent that the influence of net capital inflow on the base

DW-coef.: 1.85

M_1 – money aggregate M_1

GDPNOM – Slovenian GDP at current prices

i_r – Slovenian bank deposits interest rate

FCD – Foreign Currency Deposits

Coefficients in parenthesis represent t-statistics of used variables. After M_1 was valuated, we accounted M_{0req} and made a regression assessment of determinants of the difference between ‘actual’ and ‘required’ base money supply $d(M_0 - M_{0req})$:

$$d(M_0 - M_{0req})(t) = C(t) + \alpha * CAB(t) + \beta * NCI(t) + \delta * LL(t) + u(t)$$

$$(+3.600) \quad (-1.145) \quad (+1.838)$$

$R^2 = 0.64$

DW-koef: 2.00

CAB – Current Account balance

LL – BS Liquidity loans

The results indicated that Net capital inflows did not have a significant influence on the difference between ‘actual’ base money and ‘required’ base money supply. The sign before t-statistic was negative. The latter shows that purchases of a ‘very profitable’ BS Treasury Bills in some period became even detrimental for the liquidity of the economy, especially during 1994, when the BS had to intervene with some additional liquidity loans to banks. Generally base money supply followed to money demand and the dynamics of current account. Due to this we can assess that the BS indirect adjustment measures as suitable and effective. Chow stability test of the assessed model showed normal stability of the model, thus we can assume that there were no model specification errors.

Furthermore, historic regression was carried out to estimate effectiveness of ‘direct’ methods of adjustment to surges in capital flows, used by the BS during the last decade. Direct methods, like prescription of foreign currency minimum, open foreign exchange position, deposits on foreign exchange loans and custody accounts were directed towards reducing immoderate indebtedness. All, except the last listed instrument, were directed towards debt capital inflows, while the latter was directed toward the so-called ‘hot money’ known as foreign portfolio investments. Listed instruments were introduced into the model of ‘net capital inflows’ as dummy variables. Instruments directed towards debt capital were de-notated as DCD (debt capital dummy) and instruments directed towards portfolio transactions as PCD (portfolio capital dummy). Net capital inflow function is defined as:

$$\text{NCI}(t) = C(t) + \alpha * \text{GDP}(t) + \beta * \text{IIE}(t) + \chi * \text{DCD}(t) + \delta * \text{PRIV} + \varepsilon * \text{PCD} + u(t)$$

$$(2.543) \quad (1.121) \quad (-1.314) \quad (1.448) \quad (-0.402)$$

$$R^2 = 0.62$$

DW-coefficient: 1.89

IIE - Import of investment equipment

PRIV – abbreviation for privatisation represent some institutional changes in Slovenia (transformation of public ownership of firms to private ownership). The rest of abbreviated variables have already been explained.

The results have indicated that the introduction of some direct methods, namely restrictions on debt capital has significant influence on dependent variable. A negative sign before T-statistic indicates that during the instrument implementation, debt capital inflows were reduced, i.e. they were smaller as in the case of the absence of listed instruments. Next, portfolio capital restriction appeared to be less important. Moreover, it was established that the variable Import of investment equipment had a significant influence on net capital inflows from which it can be derived that Slovenian enterprises were financing their investments mostly with foreign loans (the later was stated also by Simonetti and Jamnik, 2000).

Further on, it was observed that Net capital inflows had some significant influence on tolar exchange rate dynamics. Namely, surges in capital inflows represent significant appreciation pressure for Slovenian national currency. In contrast to some other transitional countries, Slovenia was confronted with a constant nominal appreciation due to surges in capital inflows (as in Hungary, the Czech Republic, etc). Tolar was constantly nominally depreciated, but not in real terms. In real term, tolar appreciated. The tolar exchange rate model was defined as ($R^2=0.63$ and DW-coefficient: 1.68):

$$\text{ERSIT}(t) = C(t) + \alpha * \text{CAB}(t) + \beta * \text{NCI}(t) + \chi * \text{TBFC}(t) + \delta * \text{FCD}(t) + \varepsilon * \text{DCD}(t) + u(t)$$

$$(-1.349) \quad (-2.583) \quad (1.121) \quad (6.549) \quad (1.243)$$

Results have indicated a significant negative relation of tolar exchange rate dynamics with current account dynamics and net capital inflows. Both variables made pressure on tolar real appreciation. On the other hand, depreciation was accelerated with some of the BS instruments as foreign currency treasury bills and 'direct instruments' for debt capital restrictions, DCD.

The previous model served as a framework for simulation that indicated what the tolar exchange rate dynamics would be in the case of total absence of the BS adjustment policy. The results of this simulation are shown in Figure 4 and 5 and in Table 6.

Figure 4 shows tolar exchange rate dynamics, ERSIT, assessed with regression between 1993 and 2001 and simulated values of tolar exchange rate in the case of absence of all BS adjustment instruments. Additional appreciation pressure can be noted as a difference between both values.

4.: ERSIT dynamics and simulated dynamics in the absence of all BS measures

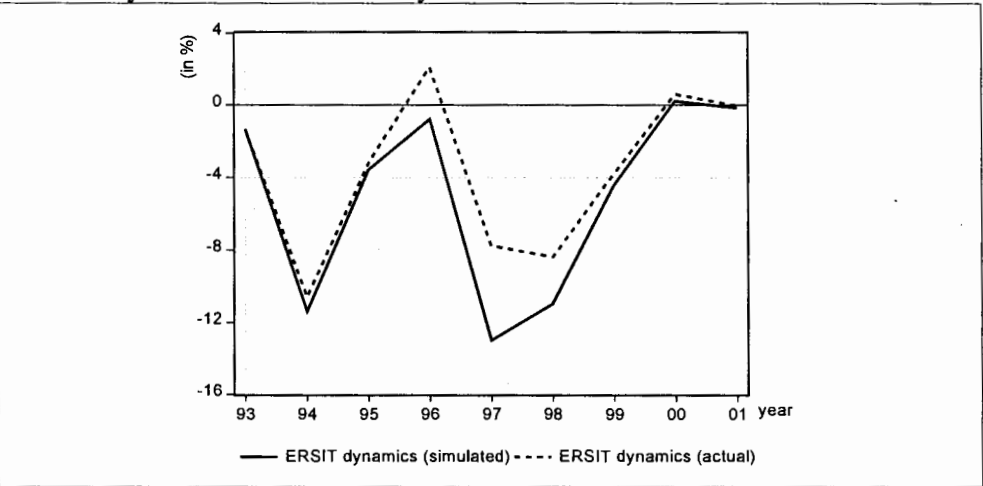


Figure 5.: Additional exchange rate depreciation due to the BS adjustment policy

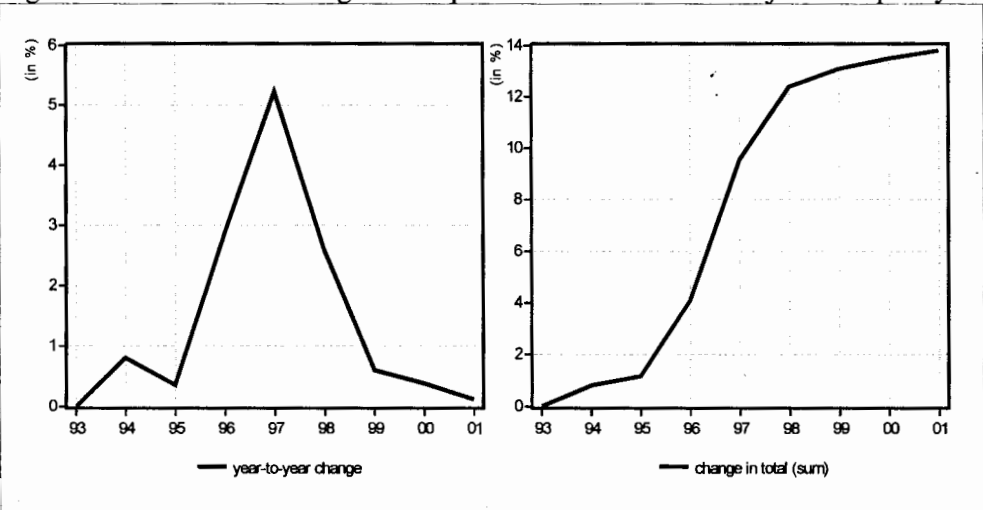


Figure 5 shows additional depreciation due to the BS adjustment policy, as year-to-year change and as a cumulative change during the analysed period.

Table 6.: Additional exchange rate depreciation due to the BS adjustment policy

	Year-to-year change (in %)	Total change (in %)	Actual tolar exchange rate (SIT/DEM)	Total change (in SIT)	Exchange rate in the absence of the BS measures (SIT/DEM)
1993	0.00	0.00	69.08	0.00	68.84
1994	0.81	0.81	79.60	0.64	78.96
1995	0.36	1.16	82.93	0.96	81.97
1996	2.19	3.35	90.09	3.02	87.08
1997	5.03	8.38	92.27	7.73	84.54
1998	2.55	10.92	94.50	10.33	84.18
1999	1.28	11.53	99.21	11.44	87.78
2000	0.38	12.81	105.15	13.47	91.68
2001	0.12	12.97	109.43	14.19	95.24

With regard to the simulated estimations the tolar exchange rate would have depreciated less than it had had if the BS had not applied any adjustment policy aimed towards surges in capital inflows. In that case, appreciation of Slovenian national currency would have been 13 per cent higher than it actually was (assessment done till June 2001). It can be noted that the BS supported nominal depreciation of tolar exchange rate, on average 1.4 per cent per year. Tolar had the highest support during the 1996 to 1998. Although exchange rate constantly lagged behind inflation, it appreciated by around 4 per cent per year in the analysed period, the appreciation being highest in 1994 (3.3 per cent), 1995 (7.8 per cent), 1997 (6.3 per cent) and 1998 (6.4 per cent) and the lowest in 1999 (1.6 per cent) and in the first half of 2001 (1.2 per cent), as foreign currency supply was additionally reduce by current account deficit.

Summary and Suggestions

The paper presents an empirically tested assessment of suitability of the BS adjustment policy to capital flows during the last decade. Exchange rate appreciation, banking sector crisis, immoderate money market oscillation, unstable economic trends are just some of the detrimental effects that can be provoked by surges in capital flows if the national economy is faced with some fundamental deficiencies in

their economic sectors. Yet the empirical results indicate that the BS successfully mitigated listed effects during the observed period. With the combination of direct and indirect adjustment methods succeeded in preventing, still vulnerable Slovenian financial sector from a major form of financial crisis.

Suggested hypotheses were, that The BS was applying such a combination of 'indirect' adjustment measures which helped to prevent extensive detrimental effects of net capital flows on tolar exchange rate dynamics and base money growth rate and succeeded to reduce extensive surges in foreign capital flows by using a suitable combination of 'direct' adjustment measures in this period. In order to examine the hypotheses, some empirical tests, like Granger causality test and historical LS regression, were carried out. Acquired results demonstrated that the dynamics of base money as a regulated economic variable really was independent from capital account transactions, but this can not be asserted for the dynamics of tolar exchange rate. The latter was significantly influenced by net capital inflows, although the BS succeeded significantly to reduce the mentioned influences. It can be said that the BS accelerated nominal depreciation by additional 13 per cent. In the absence of any BS measures, the value of nominal tolar exchange rate, would be around 95 SIT/DEM instead of the actual 109,43 SIT/DEM as the average value during the first half of 2001 was. Due to presented results we can partly confirm the suggested hypotheses and conclude that the Bank of Slovenia adjustment policy to surges in capital flows during last decade was suitable regarding circumstances in the national economy, although there were some deficiencies.

With regard to the future capital movements and corresponding economic policy assessment it can be argued that they will be in accordance with Slovenia's accession to the EU and further capital market deregulation. Concerning debt capital flows, there are certain limits and Slovenia is not far shot from them, while future equity capital inflows determinants will be most likely connected with some internal factors (further capital market development, privatisation of state-owned companies, interest rate reduction and creation of a friendlier environment for foreign direct and portfolio investment). Finally, the importance of capital outflows should be mentioned. Till now they were almost totally absent, partly due to the former foreign exchange law and partly due to the lack of domestic capital surpluses.

NOTES

- ¹ Net capital inflows (NCI) = (increase in reserves + statistical error) – current account balance
- ² Increase in net capital flows was the consequence of domestic institutional changes, especially a move towards free capital market through signing EU association agreement and the adoption of a new Foreign Exchange Law in June 1999.
- ³ For transitional economies large capital inflows are more harmful than for other, because of the absence of some specific conditions that mitigate detrimental effects of surges in capital inflows. Specific conditions are: weak fiscal position, hard controllability of work costs due to micro-distortions on labour market, to moderate savings rate and a weak financial sector. The range of economic policy instruments is also low, especially the range of sterilisation, due to shallowness of financial intermediation, unstable tax incomes and unfinished institutional reforms (Calvo et al., 1993; Bole, 2001).
- ⁴ Cagan's theoretical model (1956) of money and inflation can be treated as a special case of LM curve, where 'm' represent money supply and 'p' price level in a national economy. The money supply should in total be dependent on the expected growth of prices. Linear form of Cagan model can be written down (logarithmically) as: $m_t^d - p_t = -h d_t (p_{t+1} - p_t)$ cagan's model specification is a simplified form of keynes-hicks's (1936) lm curve. a final form of cagan's model in a small open economy, with moderate inflation and money demand dependence on nominal interest rate and real product can be put down as: $M_t^d - p_t = -h i_{t+1} + f Y_t - h d_t (p_{t+1} - p_t)$. Where $i = \log(1+i)$, p is logarithm of price level and Y logarithm of real product. On the other side there is regulated money supply that is in the case of the absence of all money market operations, influenced by purchases and sales of foreign currency that come into economy through current or/and capital transactions. As an origin of base money, M_0 specification aggregate balance of monetary authorities was used. This is a balance of base money creation that enables the easiest analysis of money supply (M^b) causes. Those determinants are: transaction flows with banks, current account flows, capital account flows, demand on budget money.
- ⁵ For our purpose Dornbusch's exchange rate model (Dornbusch, 1976) was used, more precisely, his money theory of short-term rigid prices in the case of open economy. It tries to explain exchange rate movements as a consequence of money market changes. It argues that exchange rate oscillations are influenced by different adjustment speed of goods and capital markets on external shocks. While capital markets adjustments is almost immediate the adjustment of goods markets is slow due to rigidity of prices. Model is based on the presumption of the existence of small open economy, imperfect substitution of domestic and imported goods and perfect substitution of domestic and foreign securities. Dornbusch's monetary theory of exchange rate consists of the system of the following functions: Uncovered interest-rate parity function, Dornbusch function of domestic product and Cagan's money market equilibrium function. The model is suitable for Slovenian circumstances as it presumes that domestic price level exceeds external price level and that depreciation of domestic currency indicates the shift of domestic consumption from goods of tradables sector to goods of non-tradable sectors. It can be derived from the model that the difference between domestic and foreign interest rate is inversely proportional with domestic exchange rate depreciation. With the support of present model we will analyse response of nominal exchange rate, ERSIT as a dependent variable on Net capital inflows, and NCI as an independent variable.

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