

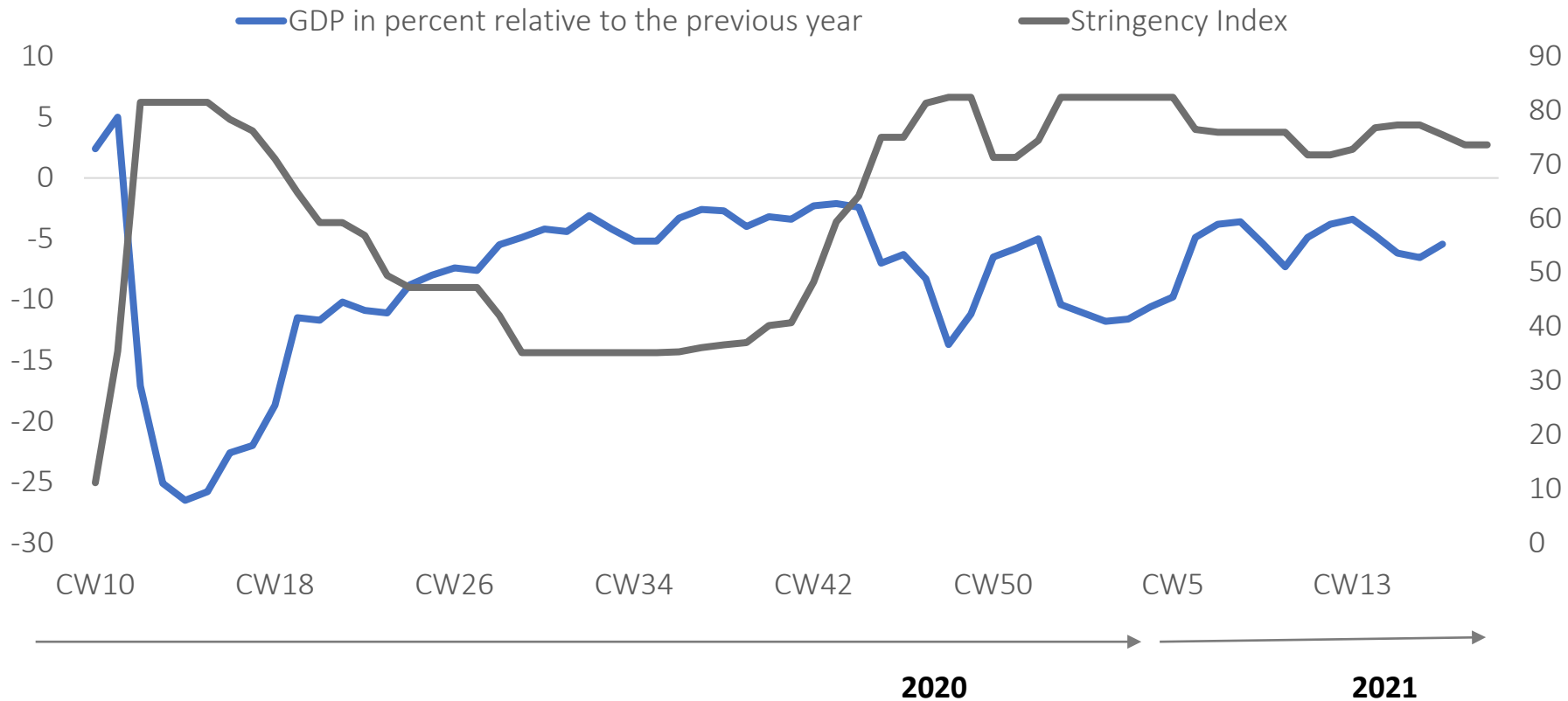


Austria: Outlook for SME

Christoph M. Schneider
Department for Economic and Trade Policy
Austrian Federal Economic Chamber

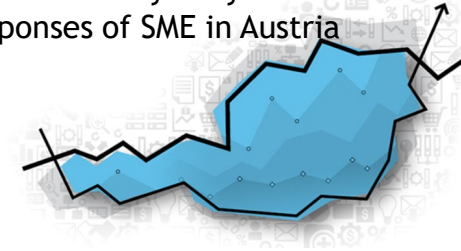
Bouncing forward - realizing potential by re-opening

GDP versus changes in containment measures per calendar week (CW)



easing restrictive policies clearly correlated with stronger economic growth

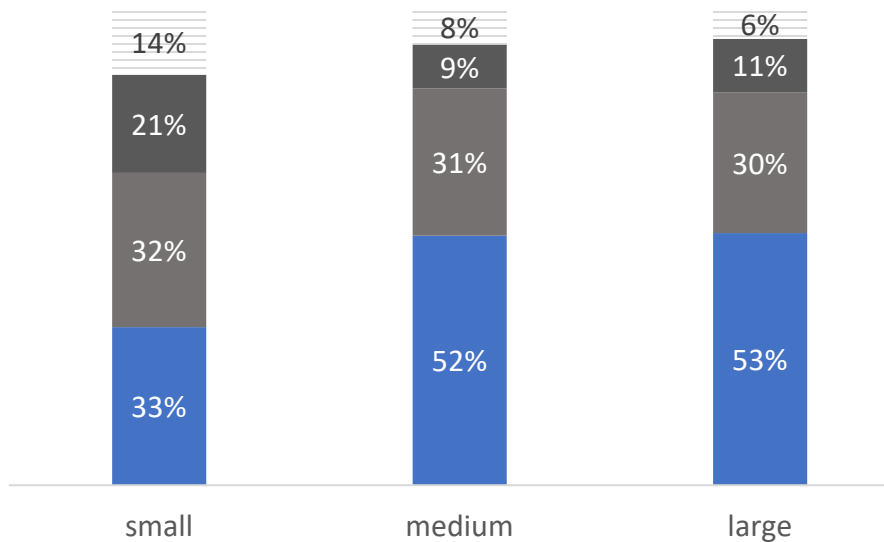
- large proportion of tourism
- international comparison: strict measures (but also generous government support)



Economy on track

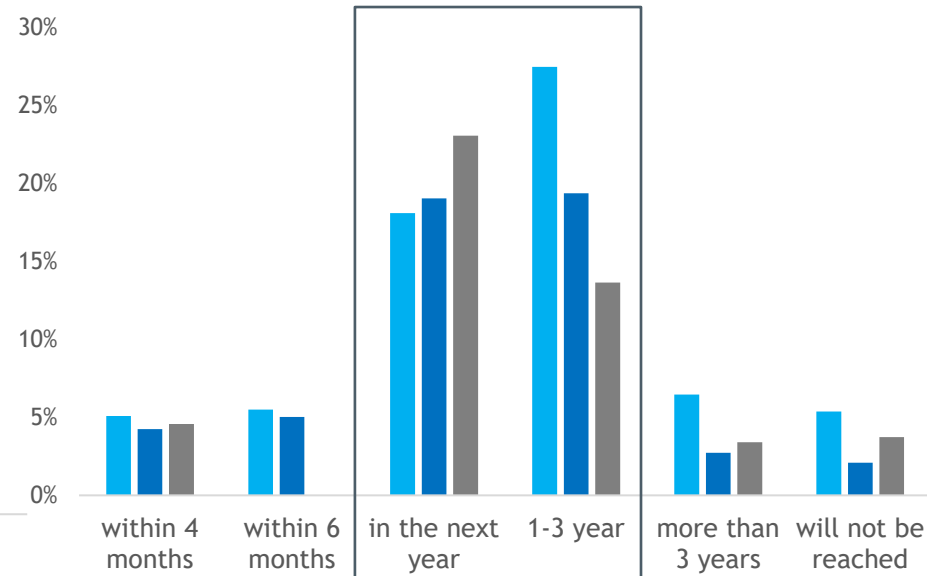
Orders – expectations for the coming 12 months

■ increasing ■ stable ■ decreasing = no assessment possible



When will the pre-crisis level be reached?

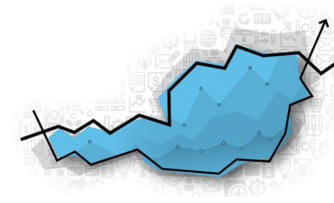
■ small ■ medium ■ large



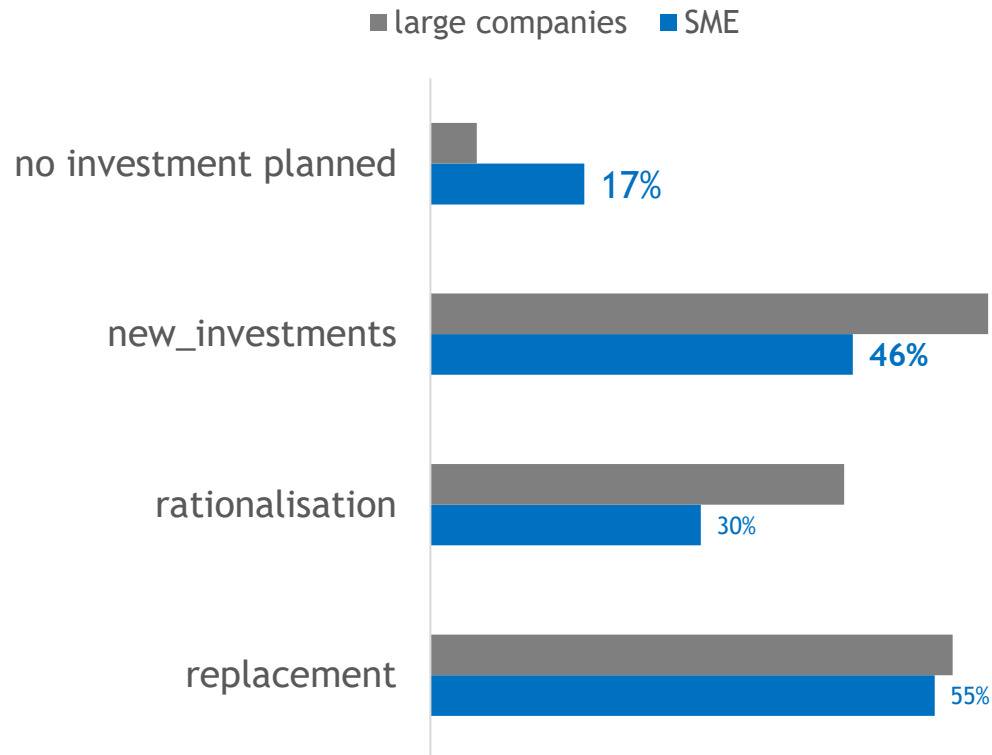
**large companies
recover first**

- expectations of SME lower concerning sales and orders -> more reluctant to invest and hire new staff
- larger enterprises creating more jobs early in the recovery
- 56 % of SME expect prices to rise in the coming year (no difference in size classes)

SME: Mixed signals for investment plans



Investment motives



Main reasons for investment for SME



57 % digitalization



51 % innovation



50 % sustainable investments



investments are key for sustainable recovery

- 17 % of SME have no investments planned in the coming 12 months
- positive indication: 46 % expecting new investments (however, clearly below the level of large enterprises)
- large enterprises more efficient in terms of rationalisation investment activities

Key challenges for SME



73%

Skills shortage



52%

Supply chain
problems



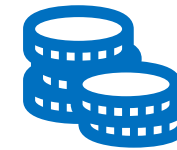
51%

Labour costs



46%

Energy prices



37 %

financing & investment
requirements (liquidity
constraints, repayment of
debt due to Covid-19,
financing conditions)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION