



30 March 2022
BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEYS
March 2022

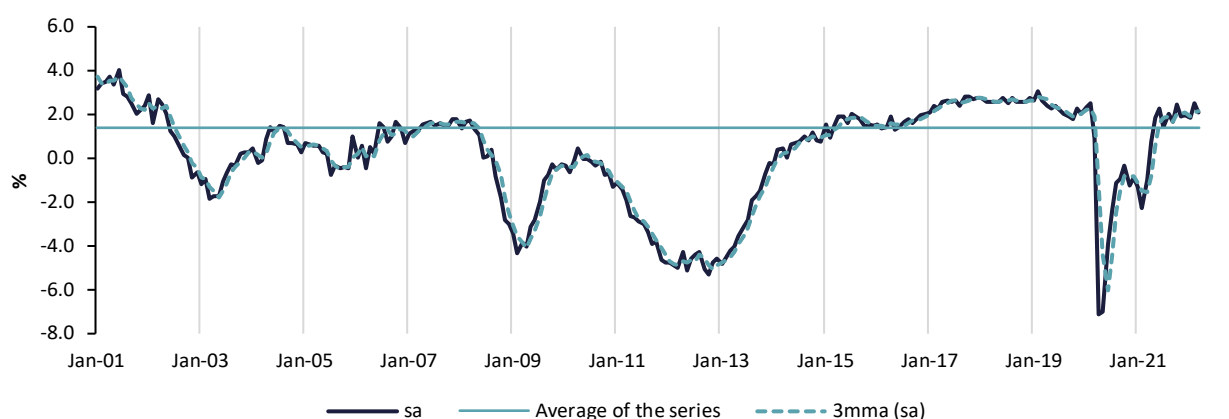
SHARP REDUCTION IN THE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR AND MODERATE DECREASE IN THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE INDICATOR

In the context of the war against Ukraine, Consumer confidence indicator decreased abruptly in March¹, following the increases of the previous two months. The observed decline was the second largest of the series, being only surpassed by the fall registered in April of 2020, in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The balance of Consumers expectations regarding the future evolution of the price level registered in March the largest increase of the series, largely surpassing the previous maximum value.

The economic climate indicator² decreased moderately in March, after reaching in the previous month a level identical to that observed in February 2020 and presenting an irregular behavior between July and January. Confidence indicators decreased in March in Manufacturing Industry and Construction and Public Works and increased in Trade and Services.

In all these sectors, the entrepreneurs' expectations regarding the future evolution of selling prices increased significantly in March, recording the maximums of the respective series, with emphasis on the Manufacturing Industry, where the largest increase was observed.

Figure 1. Economic climate indicator
- Manufacturing Industry, Construction and Public Works, Trade and Services-



¹ The collection period (see final notes) of the consumer survey occurred from 02 to 18 of March (working days), in the case of the consumer survey, and from 01 to 24 of March in the case of business surveys.

² The economic climate indicator summarizes the balances of business surveys' questions.



Consumer Survey

The Consumer confidence indicator decreased abruptly in March, after the increases recorded in the first two months of 2022. The evolution observed in March was mostly due to the extremely negative contributions of the perspectives on the future evolution of the country's economic situation and of households' financial situation, with perspectives on the future evolution of households' spending on major purchases and opinions on the past evolution of households' financial situation also contributing negatively.

The balance of perspectives regarding the future evolution of the country's economic situation, registered the second largest decline of the series, very close to the largest observed in April 2020 when the pandemic began. Similarly, the balance of expectations about household's future financial situation also recorded in March the second largest decline of the series, still not near the one observed in April 2020.

The balance of opinions on the past evolution of the price level increased in the last six months, extending the markedly ascending trajectory initiated in March 2021 and reaching values not observed since July 2008. The balance of expectations regarding the future evolution of the price level registered in March the largest increase of the series initiated in September 1997, largely surpassing the previous maximum value.

Figure 2. Consumer confidence indicator

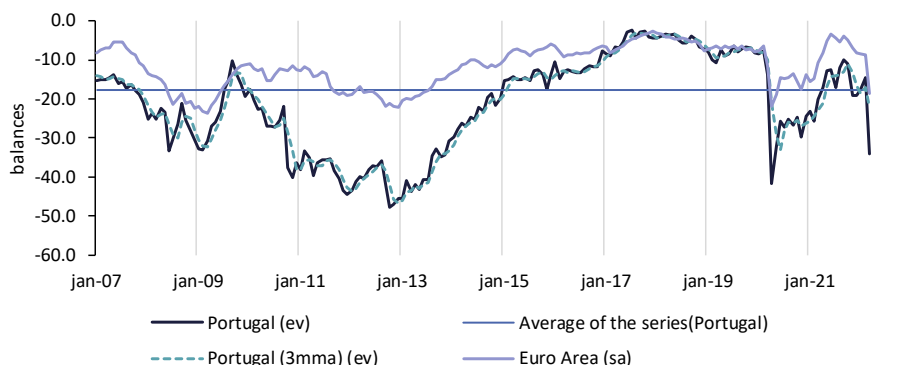
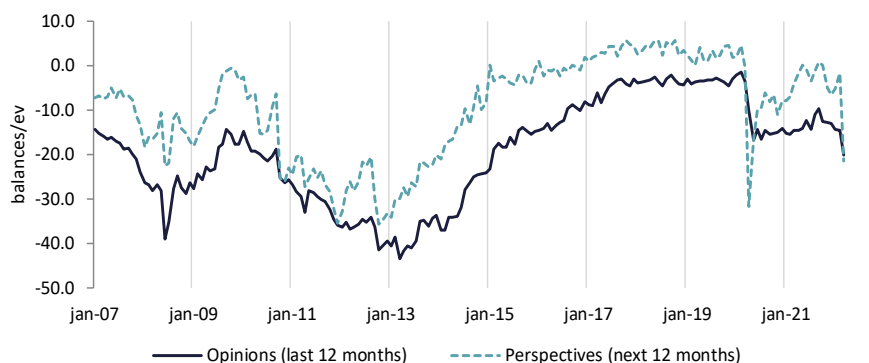


Figure 3. Opinions and expectations about household's financial situation





Manufacturing Industry Survey

The Manufacturing Industry confidence indicator decreased in March, after having increased in the previous month. The behaviour of the indicator reflected the negative contributions of all components: opinions on the evolution of the overall order books in the last three months, opinions on the current stocks of finished products and firm's production perspectives over the next three months, more intense in the latter case. The indicator decreased in all groups, more intensely in the Investment Goods group.

The balance of opinions on current overall order books decreased in the last three months, after increasing strongly in December. Opinions regarding domestic order books, considering firms with production oriented to the domestic market, deteriorated between January and March, slightly in the last month. Similarly, opinions of export order books, considering firms with production oriented to the foreign market, weakened in March, as in the previous month.

The balance of opinions on the evolution of sale prices increased sharply in March, after decreasing in the two previous months, reaching the maximum of the series that began in January 1987. This balance increased significantly in all groups: Consumer Goods, Intermediate Goods and Investment Goods.

Figure 4. Manufacturing industry confidence indicator

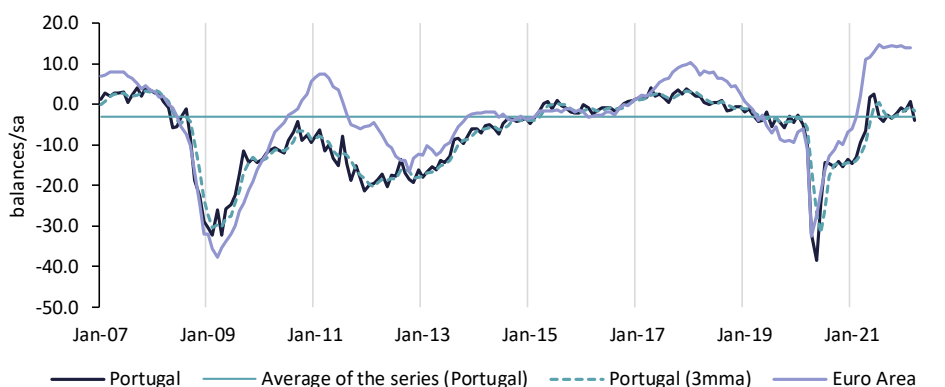
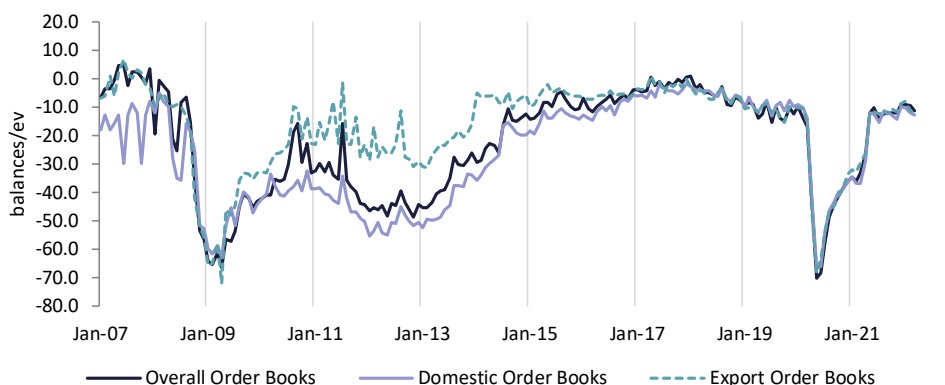


Figure 5. Opinions on current overall order books





Construction and Public Works Survey

The Construction and Public Works confidence indicator decreased in February and March, more markedly in the latter case, interrupting the upward trend observed since May 2020, which led in January to the maximum value since December 2001. The decrease in the last month reflected the negative contribution of both components, balance of opinions on current order books and perspectives on employment

The confidence indicator decreased in all the divisions, Construction of Buildings, Civil Engineering, and Specialized Construction Activities.

The balance of opinions on the firm's activity decreased in the last two months, after reaching in January the maximum value since October 2001.

The balance of perspectives regarding the selling prices charged by the firm in the next three months increased markedly in March, resuming the accentuated upward movement observed since May 2021 and reaching the maximum value of the series.

Figure 6. Construction and Public Works confidence indicator

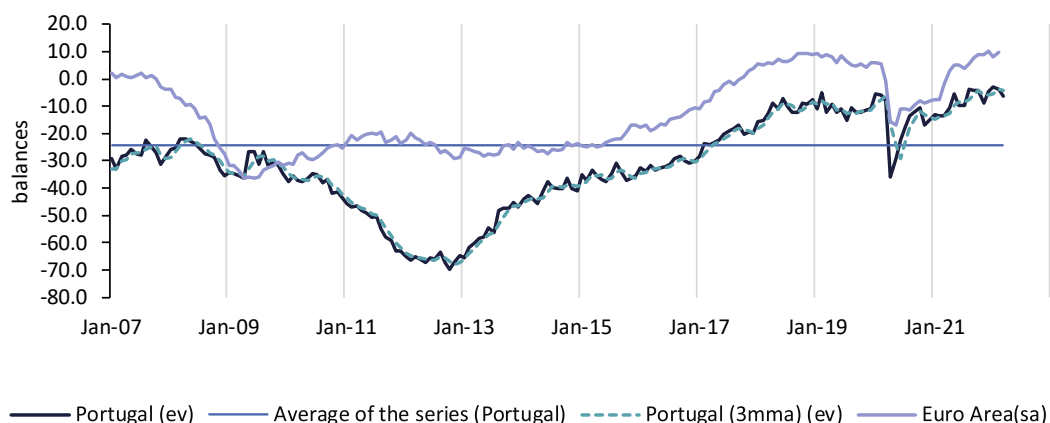
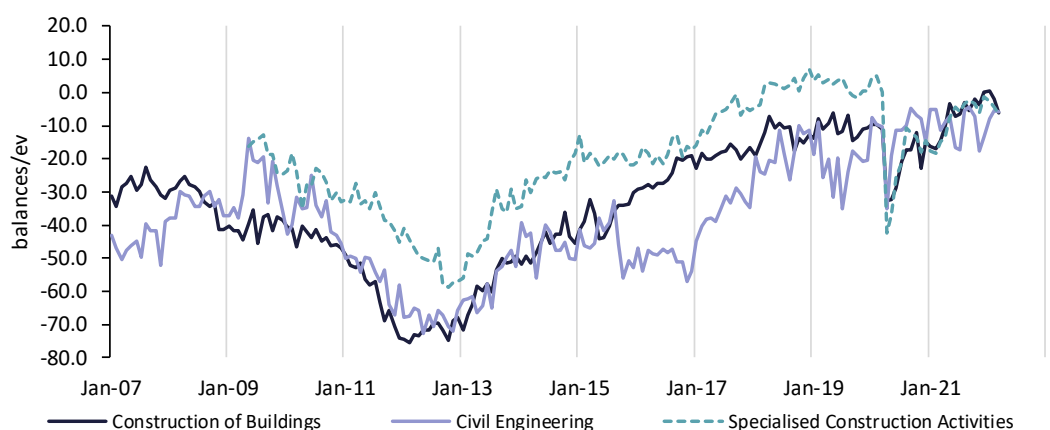


Figure 7. Construction and Public Works confidence indicators by NACE divisions





Trade Survey

The Trade confidence indicator increased in March, after decreasing in February. The evolution in the last month reflected the negative contribution of expectations on the firm's activity over the next three months, and the positive contribution of opinions on current volume of stocks and opinions on the volume of sales. By subsector, the confidence indicator decreased in Retail Trade and increased in Wholesale Trade.

The perspectives of the firm's activity over the next three months deteriorated in March, for the second consecutive month, expressively in the reference month. The opinions on the volumes of sales recovered in March, after decreasing in the last four months.

The balances of opinions on selling prices evolution compared to the previous month and the balance of price expectations over the next three months increased sharply in March, reaching a new maximum value for both series.

Figure 8. Trade confidence indicator

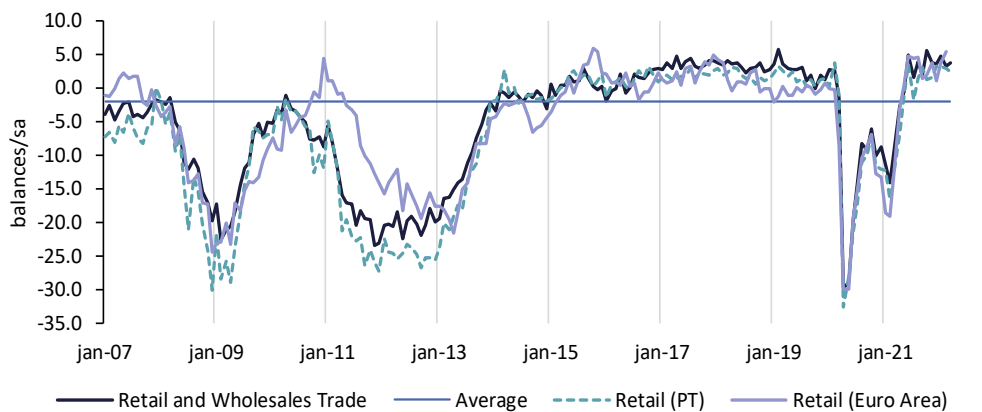
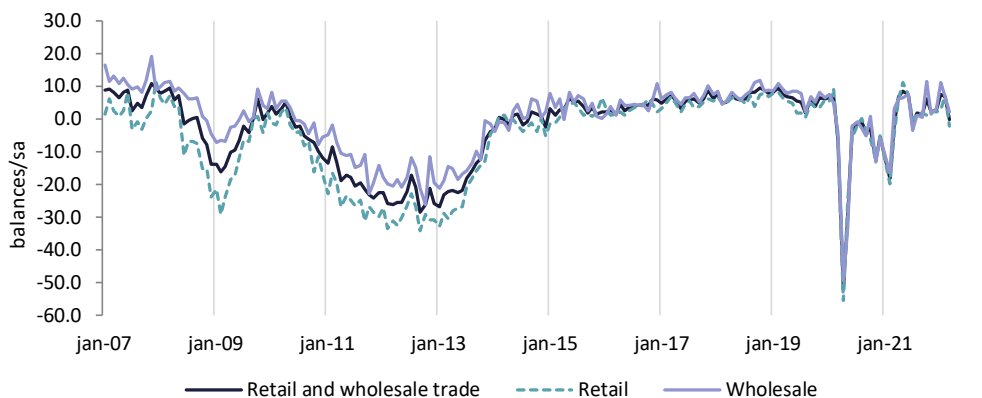


Figure 9. Perspectives on business activity (sales) over the next three months





Services Survey

The Services' confidence indicator increased in February and March, after having decreased in the two previous months. The indicator's recovery resulted from the positive contribution on the opinions on the evolution of the order books and the assessments on the evolution of the business situation, while the perspectives on the evolution of demand contributed negatively.

In March, the confidence indicators increased in four of the eight sections, with emphasis on the sections of Arts, entertainment and recreation activities, and Real estate activities.

The balance of perspectives on the evolution of demand decreased in March, after increasing in the last two months, significantly in February, suspending the upward trajectory started in May 2020.

The balance of expectations for prices of services increased in March, after having decreased in February, reaching a new maximum of the series started in May 2003 and reinforcing the accentuated upward movement observed since May 2020.

Figure 10. Services confidence indicator

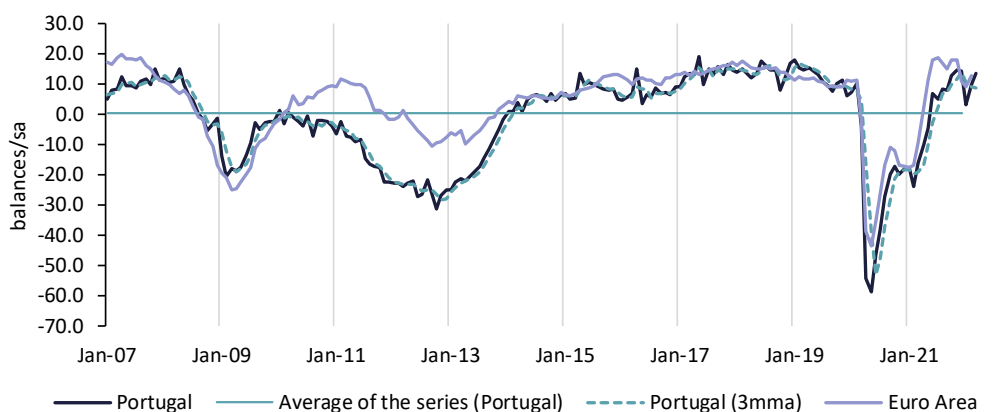
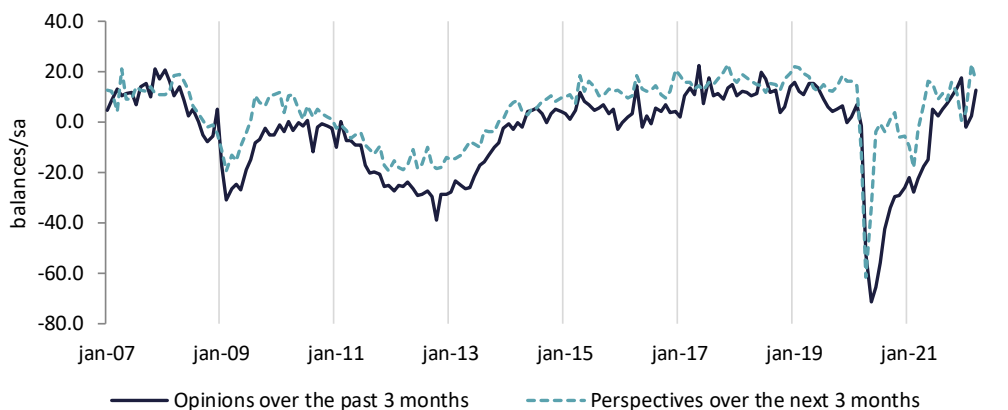


Figure 11. Opinions and perspectives on the evolution of demand (order books)





Monthly series of Consumer and Business Surveys

Figure 12. Confidence and climate economic indicators

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2021												2022		
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Confidence indicator																				
Consumers	bal/ev	-47.8	Oct-12	-0.1	Sep-97	-20.2	-17.1	-12.8	-12.6	-17.0	-11.9	-9.9	-11.0	-19.2	-19.2	-17.7	-14.5	-34.1		
Manufacturing industry	bal/sa	-38.5	May-20	19.0	Mar-87	-9.5	-6.5	1.7	2.7	-3.2	-4.1	-2.6	-3.4	-2.1	-0.7	-1.6	0.6	-4.0		
Construction and public works	bal/ev	-69.9	Oct-12	20.2	Sep-97	-13.6	-10.6	-5.6	-9.5	-9.8	-4.0	-4.3	-4.0	-8.9	-4.7	-3.0	-3.7	-6.2		
Trade	bal/sa	-29.8	Apr-20	11.9	Jun-98	-9.1	-2.7	-0.6	4.9	1.6	4.0	2.0	5.5	3.8	3.7	4.7	3.3	3.7		
Services	bal/sa	-58.7	May-20	26.7	Jun-01	-16.2	-10.3	-4.4	6.8	5.2	8.6	7.9	12.9	14.7	14.5	3.0	9.7	13.6		
Economic climate indicator	%/sa	-7.2	Apr-20	5.5	Apr-98	-1.0	0.8	1.8	2.3	1.4	2.0	1.7	2.4	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.1		

Figure 13. Monthly series of Consumer Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2021												2022		
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Confidence indicator (a+b+c+d)/4	bal/ev	-47.8	Oct-12	-0.1	Sep-97	-20.2	-17.1	-12.8	-12.6	-17.0	-11.9	-9.9	-11.0	-19.2	-19.2	-17.7	-14.5	-34.1		
General economic situation in the country over the next 12 months (c)	bal/ev	-72.7	Apr-20	16.6	Jun-17	-29.3	-22.9	-8.0	-8.1	-21.7	-6.9	-1.3	-3.8	-30.9	-25.2	-22.4	-12.0	-60.1		
Financial situation of the households over the last 12 months (a)	bal/ev	-43.5	Mar-13	0.5	Aug-99	-14.5	-14.5	-14.1	-12.2	-14.3	-11.0	-9.6	-12.6	-12.7	-12.9	-14.3	-14.6	-20.0		
Financial situation of the households over the next 12 months (b)	bal/ev	-35.6	Oct-12	8.6	Feb-99	-4.0	-1.6	0.1	-0.8	-3.3	-1.2	0.9	0.1	-4.9	-6.5	-5.1	-1.7	-21.4		
Major purchases over the next 12 months (d)	bal/ev	-51.6	Apr-20	-6.4	Sep-97	-32.9	-29.4	-29.3	-29.2	-28.7	-28.6	-29.4	-27.6	-28.1	-32.2	-28.9	-29.6	-35.1		
General economic situation in the country over the last 12 months	bal/sa	-77.1	Oct-12	19.9	Oct-17	-70.3	-67.5	-64.2	-53.6	-56.0	-50.8	-41.9	-45.6	-49.2	-50.5	-51.0	-39.8	-52.0		
Major purchases over the last 12 months	bal/sa	-88.0	Dec-08	-14.5	Sep-97	-71.0	-68.4	-67.0	-67.4	-68.0	-67.4	-63.7	-62.0	-62.7	-63.0	-60.6	-55.4	-67.2		
Current savings	bal/ev	-53.7	Feb-08	-0.2	Sep-97	-27.8	-23.9	-29.4	-28.7	-29.5	-27.6	-25.0	-27.4	-32.0	-35.9	-32.0	-31.8	-42.3		
Savings over the next 12 months	bal/ev	-42.6	Nov-12	0.9	Oct-97	-19.6	-17.7	-16.6	-20.3	-16.6	-16.4	-17.7	-17.0	-20.8	-22.3	-17.4	-22.2	-33.2		
Unemployment next 12 months	bal/ev	-20.0	Jun-17	85.5	Feb-09	51.0	41.1	21.1	19.9	35.3	19.4	8.4	6.7	18.5	20.4	16.7	4.6	26.7		
Prices over the last 12 months	bal/ev	-14.6	Sep-09	79.2	May-08	2.6	9.5	15.9	19.3	32.6	26.4	26.4	39.5	47.5	47.6	54.1	59.9	61.8		
Prices over the next 12 months	bal/sa	-7.4	Dec-15	80.7	Mar-22	7.7	11.3	13.1	17.9	27.0	22.7	23.1	34.6	51.0	44.9	42.6	42.8	80.7		

Figure 14. Monthly series of Manufacturing Industry Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2021												2022		
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Confidence Indicator (a+b-c)/3	bal/sa	-38.5	May-20	19.0	Mar-87	-9.5	-6.5	1.7	2.7	-3.2	-4.1	-2.6	-3.4	-2.1	-0.7	-1.6	0.6	-4.0		
Consumer goods	bal/sa	-27.6	Apr-20	12.6	Jan-99	-7.3	-6.4	-4.3	-3.8	-5.3	-8.8	-4.3	-7.5	-3.4	-1.9	-3.3	-0.1	-2.7		
Investment goods	bal/ev	-35.5	Apr-20	24.8	Feb-07	-5.9	-5.5	-4.4	-5.6	-10.8	-2.3	-6.2	-5.8	-6.8	-5.4	-2.6	3.3	-3.7		
Intermediate goods	bal/sa	-51.6	May-20	16.0	Jan-95	-11.4	-7.0	8.6	9.7	1.2	-1.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.5	0.8	0.1	-0.2	-4.2		
Current overall order books (a)	bal/ev	-70.2	May-20	14.6	Mar-98	-33.2	-26.4	-12.0	-10.2	-14.2	-12.2	-11.9	-12.0	-12.2	-8.9	-9.2	-9.4	-11.2		
Consumer goods	bal/ev	-60.6	May-20	6.5	Dec-17	-35.0	-26.1	-22.7	-16.8	-19.7	-24.0	-14.1	-16.7	-9.9	-7.4	-8.8	-10.1	-7.7		
Investment goods	bal/ev	-81.8	May-20	36.1	Jan-08	-18.6	-18.3	-20.0	-12.3	-20.2	-12.1	-24.0	-20.7	-17.9	-16.4	-13.9	-7.5	-13.7		
Intermediate goods	bal/ev	-74.8	Jun-20	31.4	Mar-98	-36.9	-29.3	-2.3	-5.1	-8.7	-4.5	-6.6	-6.0	-11.7	-7.5	-7.8	-9.6	-12.6		
Production over next 3 months (b)	bal/sa	-53.1	Apr-20	34.0	Feb-87	3.2	7.5	17.2	20.4	7.2	2.0	7.4	4.5	7.2	8.4	5.7	11.4	0.9		
Consumer goods	bal/sa	-47.8	Apr-20	40.1	Aug-98	10.8	6.9	14.0	10.5	8.9	4.7	7.8	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.0	15.4	4.5		
Investment goods	bal/ev	-46.4	Feb-09	49.0	Aug-00	-1.3	2.9	3.5	-3.1	0.6	4.0	5.3	-1.9	-3.7	5.1	10.6	15.1	6.9		
Intermediate goods	bal/sa	-60.8	Apr-20	34.9	Jun-21	1.7	9.3	26.6	34.9	9.5	1.2	7.7	4.7	10.3	9.6	5.8	6.1	-1.1		
Current stock finished products (c)	bal/ev	-16.9	Jan-08	23.2	Jun-93	-1.6	0.7	0.1	2.3	2.5	2.0	3.3	2.6	1.4	1.6	1.2	0.0	1.7		
Consumer goods	bal/ev	-9.3	Jan-10	24.6	Aug-07	-2.3	-0.1	4.2	5.2	5.2	7.0	6.5	9.7	4.4	2.8	5.1	5.7	4.7		
Investment goods	bal/ev	-38.8	Jan-09	21.5	Jun-10	-2.3	1.1	-3.4	1.4	12.8	-1.3	-0.1	-5.3	-1.1	4.7	4.5	-2.4	4.3		
Intermediate goods	bal/ev	-30.2	Jan-08	37.1	May-20	-0.9	1.0	-1.5	0.6	-2.7	-0.1	2.2	0.5	0.2	-0.2	-2.4	-2.9	-1.2		
Firm's employment next 3 months	bal/ev	-32.5	Apr-20	8.8	Sep-17	2.8	1.7	1.9	3.8	3.6	3.4	-10.9	1.8	4.1	3.6	4.0	4.9	3.4		
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/sa	-28.6	Apr-20	38.2	Mar-22	11.5	13.0	17.2	18.4	18.1	15.0	16.5	22.4	24.4	27.0	26.5	24.7	38.2		



Figure 15. Monthly series of Construction and Public Works Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2021												2022		
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Confidence Indicator (a+b)/2	bal/ev	-69.9	Oct-12	20.2	Sep-97	-13.6	-10.6	-5.6	-9.5	-9.8	-4.0	-4.3	-4.0	-8.9	-4.7	-3.0	-3.7	-6.2		
Construction of buildings	bal/ev	-75.4	Feb-12	21.1	Sep-97	-14.6	-10.2	-3.2	-7.1	-6.5	-3.1	-5.4	-1.9	-3.7	0.0	0.3	-2.0	-6.2		
Civil engineering	bal/ev	-72.6	May-12	8.4	Jul-97	-11.2	-9.0	-7.3	-16.7	-17.4	-5.5	-4.2	-7.2	-17.7	-13.5	-7.8	-5.3	-5.9		
Specialised construction activities	bal/ev	-59.0	Oct-12	6.9	Dec-18	-14.9	-13.3	-7.4	-4.5	-5.7	-3.5	-2.4	-3.5	-6.3	-1.4	-2.6	-4.4	-6.7		
Current overall order books (a)	bal/ev	-82.2	Oct-12	18.6	Sep-97	-27.6	-25.5	-18.1	-21.2	-21.0	-15.8	-14.1	-12.7	-18.3	-14.4	-13.4	-13.5	-15.9		
Construction of buildings	bal/ev	-87.0	Oct-12	20.7	Sep-97	-24.0	-20.3	-10.0	-14.3	-11.4	-6.4	-12.4	-6.7	-10.3	-4.6	-3.9	-9.3	-14.0		
Civil engineering	bal/ev	-83.6	Jul-12	0.0	Jul-97	-33.1	-32.6	-30.1	-38.5	-41.1	-30.8	-18.1	-20.6	-30.0	-32.2	-28.1	-21.1	-20.6		
Specialised construction activities	bal/ev	-71.9	Oct-12	3.5	Jul-19	-26.7	-25.1	-16.4	-10.4	-11.5	-12.6	-11.8	-12.6	-17.0	-8.2	-10.4	-11.0	-13.0		
Employment next 3 months (b)	bal/ev	-57.9	Jan-12	29.9	Jun-97	0.5	4.3	7.0	2.1	1.3	7.9	5.5	4.6	0.6	4.9	7.3	6.2	3.5		
Construction of buildings	bal/ev	-68.1	Jan-12	28.5	Jun-97	-5.1	-0.1	3.6	0.1	-1.7	0.1	1.6	2.9	2.8	4.6	4.6	5.3	1.6		
Civil engineering	bal/ev	-66.2	May-12	26.8	Jul-01	10.7	14.6	15.5	5.2	6.3	19.8	9.6	6.2	-5.3	5.2	12.6	10.5	8.9		
Specialised construction activities	bal/ev	-47.5	Dec-12	12.4	Dec-18	-3.1	-1.6	1.7	1.4	0.2	5.6	7.0	5.5	4.4	5.3	5.1	2.3	-0.3		
Activity past 3 months	bal/ev	-70.0	Apr-12	22.2	May-98	-13.1	-6.7	-3.0	-0.6	-6.4	-1.8	1.5	-1.2	-3.5	-2.2	3.5	-3.0	-6.4		
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/ev	-41.6	Aug-12	29.9	Mar-22	-1.9	-0.7	9.2	8.8	13.1	9.1	13.3	17.6	20.8	23.7	29.4	21.6	29.9		

Figure 16. Monthly series of Trade Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2021												2022		
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Confidence indicator (a+b-c)/3	bal/sa	-29.8	Apr-20	11.9	Jun-98	-9.1	-2.7	-0.6	4.9	1.6	4.0	2.0	5.5	3.8	3.7	4.7	3.3	3.7		
Wholesale	bal/sa	-28.3	Apr-20	14.0	Apr-98	-6.3	-0.6	2.2	7.2	4.8	6.2	1.1	9.1	5.3	3.3	5.6	3.0	4.4		
Retail	bal/sa	-32.7	Apr-20	12.3	Jul-98	-12.3	-6.9	-1.3	3.6	-1.8	1.5	3.1	1.2	1.7	3.3	3.3	3.0	2.4		
Business activity past 3 months (a)	bal/sa	-51.5	Jun-20	19.0	Feb-89	-24.1	-16.6	-10.2	7.5	6.8	11.1	3.4	8.1	6.7	5.2	3.5	2.3	9.9		
Wholesale	bal/sa	-50.0	Jun-20	22.8	Feb-89	-22.3	-13.5	-1.9	12.6	17.6	19.2	3.9	15.0	13.6	7.1	6.6	4.5	12.5		
Retail	bal/sa	-57.6	Aug-12	20.1	Apr-99	-28.4	-24.8	-12.7	5.7	-4.7	3.0	4.0	-1.4	-2.5	0.8	-1.0	-2.5	4.5		
Business activity next 3 months (b)	bal/sa	-52.3	Apr-20	40.8	Oct-89	-1.6	6.8	8.5	7.5	-1.9	1.9	1.6	6.3	2.2	2.9	7.4	7.0	-0.2		
Wholesale	bal/sa	-49.4	Apr-20	50.4	Oct-89	3.1	6.3	6.6	7.6	-3.5	1.2	0.4	11.5	1.5	3.2	11.1	6.8	2.2		
Retail	bal/sa	-55.5	Apr-20	41.2	Jul-94	-4.6	6.2	11.2	7.5	-0.2	1.6	1.9	1.3	2.5	2.4	3.0	7.3	-2.1		
Current volume of stocks (c)	bal/ev	-12.2	Feb-13	29.1	Jul-90	1.6	-1.8	0.1	0.3	0.1	1.1	-1.0	-2.2	-2.6	-3.0	-3.2	-0.7	-1.5		
Wholesale	bal/ev	-13.9	Oct-12	29.6	Jul-90	-0.3	-5.3	-1.9	-1.5	-0.1	1.9	1.1	-0.7	-0.6	0.2	0.8	2.4	1.3		
Retail	bal/ev	-13.7	Feb-13	36.5	Jul-89	3.7	2.1	2.4	2.4	0.4	0.1	-3.4	-3.9	-5.0	-6.8	-7.9	-4.2	-4.8		
Orders next 3 months	bal/sa	-46.2	Apr-20	19.6	Aug-98	-11.7	-1.7	4.0	-1.5	-4.5	-1.2	-5.5	2.6	-1.4	-3.7	-4.5	1.6	1.0		
Employment next 3 months	bal/ev	-29.7	Oct-12	22.2	Sep-97	-2.4	-1.9	0.8	1.2	0.3	-1.2	-1.6	-1.4	-0.3	-1.5	2.4	5.2	2.0		
Selling prices past month	bal/sa	-15.2	Jun-12	33.6	Mar-22	5.6	3.4	7.8	13.7	15.2	13.3	11.7	21.2	20.1	15.7	14.8	20.0	33.6		
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/sa	-15.0	Jul-03	36.1	Mar-22	6.0	4.3	8.9	10.9	12.0	11.4	13.8	18.5	19.5	17.4	21.0	22.6	36.1		

Figure 17. Monthly series of Services Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2021												2022		
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Confidence indicator (a+b+c)/3	bal/sa	-58.7	May-20	26.7	Jun-01	-16.2	-10.3	-4.4	6.8	5.2	8.6	7.9	12.9	14.7	14.5	3.0	9.7	13.6		
Business activity past 3 months (a)	bal/sa	-71.4	May-20	33.0	Jun-01	-23.4	-20.4	-14.9	0.1	4.0	9.0	7.5	12.7	19.5	25.1	6.7	4.0	11.9		
Demand next 3 months (b)	bal/sa	-61.7	Apr-20	28.0	Jun-06	-3.0	7.0	16.3	15.5	9.2	11.4	8.7	16.0	11.2	0.7	4.4	22.8	16.3		
Demand past 3 months (c)	bal/sa	-71.2	May-20	27.8	Apr-01	-22.2	-17.6	-14.7	5.0	2.4	5.3	7.4	9.9	13.4	17.5	-2.0	2.3	12.6		
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/sa	-26.1	Apr-20	24.3	Mar-22	-5.7	-3.9	-0.1	5.2	0.0	2.8	3.0	7.7	12.5	9.0	12.5	11.5	24.3		



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The Business and Consumer Qualitative Surveys published by Statistics Portugal are developed in the framework of the harmonized EU Business and Consumer Surveys Programme of the European Commission (EC) DG-ECFIN (Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs) and are financially supported in the framework of the agreement signed between these two institutions. The questionnaires are harmonized among the European countries, as well as the respective confidence indicators' methodology. The surveys' results are sent to the EC in effective values, and, therefore, the seasonally adjusted values published by the EC are computed by this entity and presented without using three months moving averages. The seasonal adjustment method used by the EC is available on the user guide, accessible in:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/documents/bcs_user_guide_en.pdf

The seasonal adjustment uses the X13-Arima method (combination of moving averages process and auto-regressive integrated moving average models) developed in the JDemetra+, software provided by Eurostat. This application relies on the use of probabilistic models to correct seasonal effects from the original series. The seasonal treatment is updated for monthly and quarterly series in January, for consumer survey, and in May, for business surveys, which might result on a revision of the series previously published.

The use of moving averages smoothes out the series by removing the irregular movements, allowing the detection of the short-term trends. Since the average is not centered (the information is used to analyze the evolution of the last month) there is a small lag compared with the trend that is supposed to detect. In order to compare the difference between original and moving average series, the graphical representation of the confidence indicators presents both types of series.

The balances of the questions are the difference between the positive and negative answers, that is $\text{Balance} = \% \text{answer}(+) - \% \text{answer}(-)$. In the Consumer Survey, there are questions with more than one option of positive/negative answer. In these cases, to the most positive/negative answers is given the weight 1 and to the others the weight 0.5, that is $\text{Balance} = [\% \text{answer}(++) * 1 + \% \text{answer}(+) * 0.5] - [\% \text{answer}(--) * 1 + \% \text{answer}(-) * 0.5]$. The percentage of answers that correspond to "equal" is not considered.

The analysis of this press release is based on monthly series of effective values (raw or seasonally adjusted data), which allows for a clearer identification of very short-term movements, particularly relevant in the context of worsening impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The monthly series in three-months moving average (3mma) and the quarterly series in two-quarters moving averages (2qma) are available in the excel file that supports this press release.

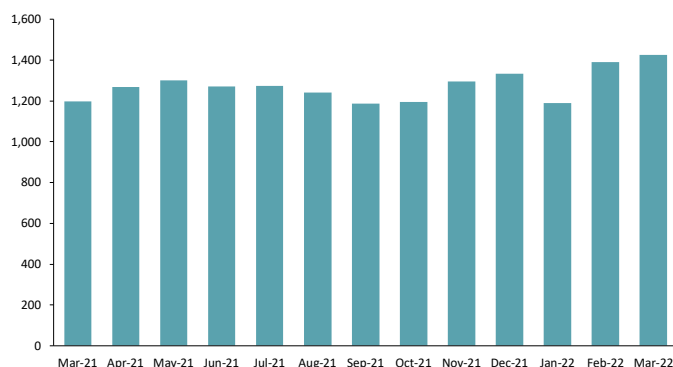


INFORMATION ON DATA COLLECTION

In the results obtained from business and consumer surveys for the collection of March 2022, the data collecting period occurred from 02 to 18 March in the case of the consumer survey, with 1426 responses obtained (telephone interviews) and from 01 to 24 March for business surveys ([Webinq](#)).

The distribution of the number of responses by data collection's months to the consumer is presented in the next figure.

Figure 18. Consumer Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months



The response and weighted response rates for business surveys were:

Figure 19. Response and weighted response rates

Business Surveys	Response Rate				Weighted Response Rate ⁽²⁾			
	2021 ⁽¹⁾	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	2021 ⁽¹⁾	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022
Manufacturing Industry	86.5%	89.0%	87.8%	89.1%	93.5%	97.1%	96.2%	97.2%
Construction and Public Works	84.2%	85.7%	80.9%	88.6%	88.8%	89.4%	86.9%	93.3%
Trade	87.5%	89.9%	87.1%	90.4%	93.0%	96.7%	95.3%	96.3%
Services	84.8%	87.2%	85.3%	86.3%	83.8%	86.2%	84.3%	94.9%

⁽¹⁾ Annual average.

⁽²⁾ Corresponds to the ratio between the turnover of the firms that answered to the survey and the turnover of all the firms in the sample.

The following graphs show the distribution of the number of responses by data collection's months to the business surveys.



Figure 20. Manufacturing Industry Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months

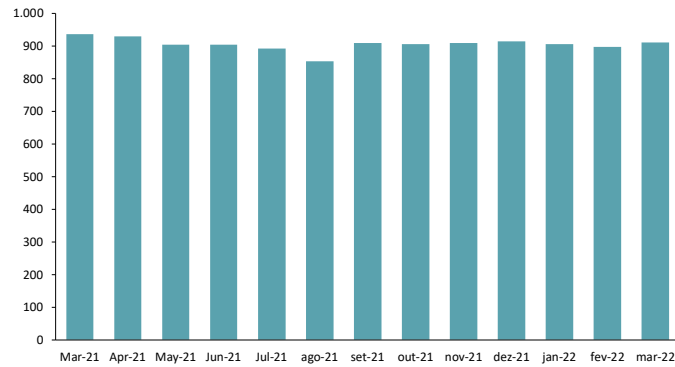


Figure 21. Construction and Public Works - Number of responses by data collection's months

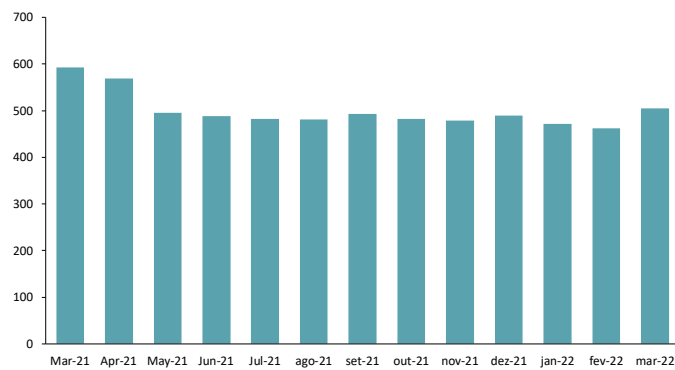


Figure 22. Trade Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months

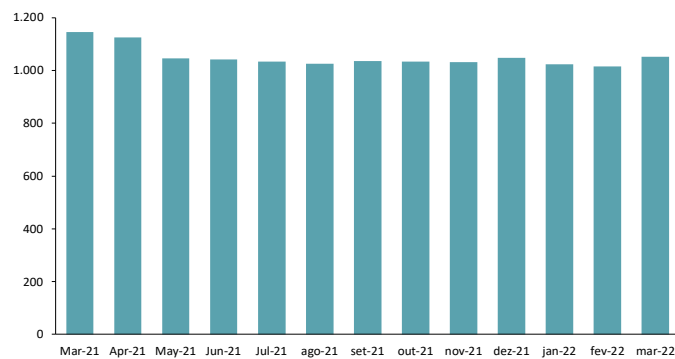
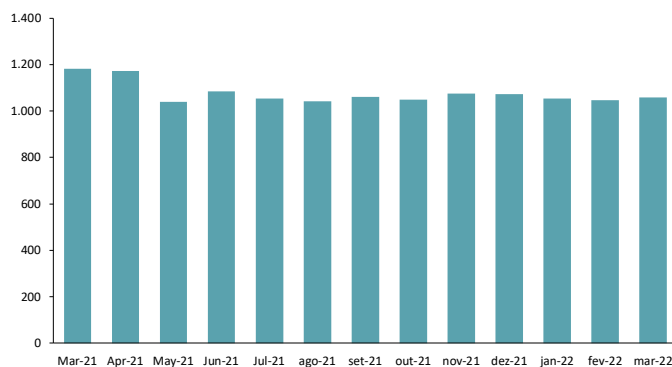




Figure 23. Services Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months



It should also be noted that the representativeness of the branches of activity covered by Business Surveys, considering the Gross Added Value (GVA) at current prices (Final Annual National Accounts 2019) as the economic variable, is as follows:

Figure 24. Weight of the GVA of the branches

Qualitative Business Surveys	Weight of the GVA of the branches of each survey in the total GVA of the economy
Manufacturing Industry	13.7%
Construction and Public Works	4.4%
Trade	13.1%
Services	38.1%

ECONOMIC CLIMATE INDICATOR

Synthetic Indicator estimated using balances of questions from the Manufacturing Industry, Trade, Construction and Public Works and Services Surveys. The method for this indicator uses the factor analysis and the estimated series (the common component) is calibrated using the GDP change rates. The questions that integrate the indicator are:

Qualitative Manufacturing Industry survey

- How has your production developed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased.
- Do you consider your current overall order books to be...? 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
- Do you consider your current export order books to be...? 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
- How do you expect your production to develop over the next 3 months? It will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease. (seasonally adjusted)



Qualitative Trade survey

- How has (have) your business activity (sales) developed over the past 3 months? It has... (They have...) 1. + improved (increased); 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated (decreased). (seasonally adjusted)
- How do you expect your orders placed with suppliers to change over the next 3 months? They will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease. (seasonally adjusted)
- Your business activity is currently...: 1. + more than sufficient; 2. = sufficient; 3. - not sufficient.
- How do you expect your business activity (sales) to change over the next 3 months? It (They) will... 1. + improve (increase); 2. = remain unchanged 3. - deteriorate (decrease). (seasonally adjusted)

Qualitative Construction and Public Works survey

- How has your building activity developed over the past 3 months? It has...; 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased.
- Do you consider your current overall order books to be...?: 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
- How do you expect your firm's total employment to change over the next 3 months? It will...; 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.

Qualitative Services survey

- How has your business situation developed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + improved; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated. (seasonally adjusted)
- How has demand (turnover) for your company's services changed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased. (seasonally adjusted)
- How do you expect the demand (turnover) for your company's services to change over the next 3 months? It will...1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease. (seasonally adjusted)

SECTORIAL CONFIDENCE INDICATORS

The confidence indicators (CI) are the result of the arithmetic average of balance of the following questions:

Manufacturing Industry confidence indicator

- Do you consider your current overall order books to be...? 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
- How do you expect your production to develop over the next 3 months? It will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.
- [Inverted Sign] Do you consider your current stock of finished products to be...? 1. + too large (above normal); 2. = adequate (normal for the season); 3. - too small (below normal).

Trade confidence indicator

- How has (have) your business activity (sales) developed over the past 3 months? It has... (They have...) 1. + improved (increased); 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated (decreased).
- How do you expect your business activity (sales) to change over the next 3 months? It (They) will... 1. + improve (increase); 2. = remain unchanged 3. - deteriorate (decrease).
- [Inverted Sign] Do you consider the volume of stock you currently hold to be...? 1. + too large (above normal); 2. = adequate (normal for the season); 3. - too small (below normal).

Construction and Public Works confidence indicator

- Do you consider your current overall order books to be...?: 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
- How do you expect your firm's total employment to change over the next 3 months? It will...; 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.



Services confidence indicator

- How has your business situation developed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + improved; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated.
- How has demand (turnover) for your company's services changed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased.
- How do you expect the demand (turnover) for your company's services to change over the next 3 months? It will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

The consumer confidence indicator results of the arithmetic average of the balances of the following questions:

- How has the financial situation of your household changed over the last 12 months? It has...1. ++ got a lot better; 2. + got a little better; 3.= stayed the same; 4.- got a little worse; 5. -- got a lot worse; 6. N don't know.
- How do you expect the financial position of your household to change over the next 12 months? It will...1. ++ get a lot better; 2. + get a little better; 3.= stay the same; 4.- get a little worse; 5. -- get a lot worse; 6. N don't know.
- How do you expect the general economic situation in this country to develop over the next 12 months? It will... 1. ++ get a lot better; 2. + get a little better; 3.= stay the same; 4.- get a little worse; 5. -- get a lot worse; 6. N don't know.
- Compared to the past 12 months, do you expect to spend more or less money on major purchases (furniture, electrical/electronic devices, etc.) over the next 12 months? I will spend...1. ++much more; 2. + a little more; 3.- a little less; 4. -- much less; 5. N don't know.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bal: Balances correspond to weighted difference between the percentages of positive and negative responses.

EV: Effective Values.

SA: Seasonally Adjusted values.

3MMA: Three-Months Moving Average.

2QMA: Two-Quarters Moving Average

Next monthly press release – April 28th, 2022
