

17th March, 2010

Monthly Economic Survey

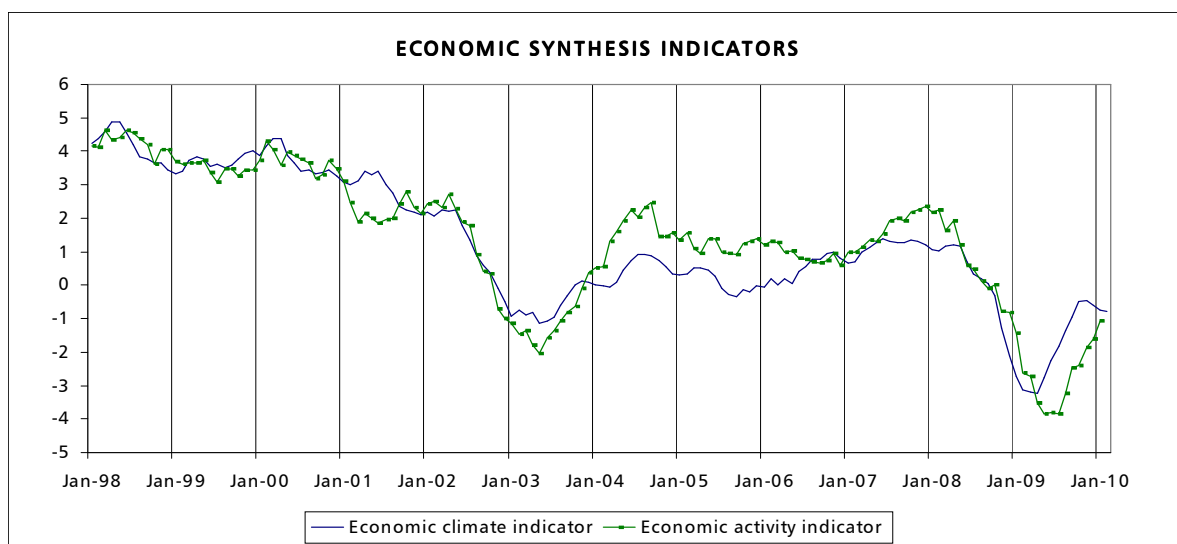
February 2010

The private consumption indicator increases and the investment indicator diminishes less intensely in January. After several months diminishing, nominal exports record a tenuous year-on-year growth in January. In February, the economic climate indicator decreases slightly.

In February, the economic sentiment indicator maintained the upward movement observed in the previous months in the Euro Area (EA) and in the European Union (EU27). In the same month, the consumer confidence indicator recovered again in the EU27, but stabilized in the EA, suspending the strong increase observed since May. The raw materials and the oil (Brent) prices accelerated again in February.

In Portugal, the economic climate indicator, available until February, diminished slightly in the last three months, opposing the upward movement started in May, after registering the minimum value of the series. The economic activity indicator recovered in January, maintaining the positive path observed since June. The private consumption indicator increased again in January, due to the positive contribution of both components, durable and non-durable consumption, more intense in the second case. In the same month, the GFCF indicator diminished less intensely, driven by the evolution of the transport material and construction components. Concerning the international trade of goods, in January the imports presented again a less negative year-on-year nominal change rate than the observed in the previous month (respectively, -2.5% and -6.5%). Exports registered a slight year-on-year nominal growth, changing from -3.3% in December to 2.0% in January. This is the first positive year-on-year nominal change rate of exports since September 2008.

In February, the year-on-year change rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 0.2%, 0.1 p.p. higher than the observed in the previous month. The differential between the EA Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) and the Portuguese HICP diminished 0.2 p.p. in February relatively to the previous month, to 0.7 p.p..



Report based on information available up to March 16, 2010.

Next report will be released on April 20, 2010.

NOTES

With exception of situations duly identified, the values presented in tables and graphs and others that also serve for the analysis are, in the case of quantitative series, year-on-year rates of change (y.r.) under three-month moving average (3-mma) or, in the case of qualitative series, 3-mma of seasonally adjusted values (s.a.) or of effective values (e.v.). Annual information correspond to 12-mma, with the exception of variables presented as y.r. on stocks, where the annual value corresponds to the variation of the balance at the end of the year. Annualised variation (a.v.). Weight (w.).

Balances: differences between the percentage of respondents giving positive and negative replies.



		Year 2008	Year 2009	Quarter 4 2008	Quarter 1 2009	Quarter 2 2009	Quarter 3 2009	Quarter 4 2009	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10
International background															
GDP of customer countries	s.a/y.r.	0.7	-3.7	-1.6	-4.3	-4.5	-3.8	-2.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
GDP European Union	s.a/y.r.	0.8	-4.2	-1.8	-5.0	-5.0	-4.3	-2.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
GDP Euro Area	s.a/y.r.	0.6	-4.1	-1.8	-5.1	-4.9	-4.1	-2.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Industrial production index of customer countries	s.a/y.r./3-mma	-3.6	-14.2	-11.2	-18.4	-17.2	-13.6	-6.6	-14.8	-13.6	-11.7	-9.4	-6.6	-	-
Economic Sentiment Indicator in EU	ind/s.a.-3mma	93.5	79.9	78.5	68.8	74.2	84.3	92.2	85.4	87.0	90.0	91.5	95.0	97.2	97.4
Economic Sentiment Indicator in EA	ind/s.a.-3mma	93.5	80.8	80.0	71.5	75.6	84.1	91.9	84.8	86.7	89.6	91.9	94.1	96.0	95.9
Order books in industry of customer countries	balance/s.a.-3mma	-17.2	-52.2	-39.6	-53.4	-56.3	-52.9	-46.1	-55.1	-52.9	-49.7	-48.0	-46.1	-44.1	-41.2
Consumer confidence indicator in EU	balance/s.a.-3mma	-17.5	-22.8	-26.4	-31.4	-25.6	-19.3	-14.9	-21.3	-19.3	-17.4	-15.7	-14.9	-14.2	-13.6
Unemployment rate in EU	s.a/%	7.0	8.9	7.5	8.2	8.8	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5	-
Harmonised index of consumer prices in EA	y.r.	3.3	0.3	2.3	1.0	0.2	-0.4	0.4	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.9
Production price index of supplying countries	y.r./3-mma	5.6	-5.2	1.1	-4.1	-6.7	-7.3	-2.5	-7.5	-7.3	-6.2	-4.7	-2.5	-0.3	-
Crude oil price (Brent)	Euros	64.9	43.8	41.5	34.1	43.0	47.7	50.5	50.8	46.5	49.1	51.4	51.0	53.4	53.9
Crude oil price (Brent)	y.r.	23.4	-32.5	-32.0	-47.2	-44.7	-37.1	21.5	-32.8	-31.3	-8.6	24.8	71.5	62.7	59.0
Economic activity															
GDP	y.r.	0.0	-2.7	-1.8	-3.8	-3.4	-2.5	-1.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Economic climate indicator	balance/3-mma	-0.1	-1.8	-2.1	-3.2	-2.3	-1.0	-0.6	-1.4	-1.0	-0.5	-0.4	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8
Economic activity indicator	3-mma	0.3	-2.7	-0.8	-2.7	-3.8	-2.5	-1.6	-3.2	-2.5	-2.4	-1.9	-1.6	-1.1	-
Total turnover index	y.r./3-mma	1.0	-12.4	-6.7	-15.6	-15.9	-12.0	-6.0	-13.2	-12.0	-10.5	-8.9	-6.0	-1.9	-
Manufacturing industry production index	s.a/y.r./3-mma	-4.0	-9.8	-8.3	-16.1	-11.8	-7.3	-3.6	-9.0	-7.3	-5.8	-5.4	-3.6	-2.1	-
Production index in construction	s.a/y.r./3-mma	-1.4	-5.1	-2.4	-4.1	-3.4	-5.0	-7.8	-4.6	-5.0	-6.7	-7.4	-7.8	-7.2	-
Retail trade turnover index (real)	y.r./3-mma	0.2	-1.6	-1.7	-4.6	-1.2	-1.2	0.1	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-1.6	0.1	0.7	-
Sales of passenger vehicles	y.r./3-mma	5.6	-24.5	9.4	-42.4	-30.1	-16.6	-6.1	-20.3	-16.6	-7.4	-2.3	-6.1	4.3	17.8
Consumption															
Consumer confidence indicator	balance/3-mma	-38.4	-38.5	-42.7	-51.0	-43.5	-29.5	-30.0	-34.3	-29.5	-27.0	-27.4	-30.0	-32.3	-34.4
Quantitative indicator of private consumption	y.r./3-mma	1.6	-0.3	1.2	-1.7	-0.5	-0.2	1.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.3	0.8	1.2	1.9	-
Indicator of non-durable consumer goods	y.r./3-mma	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.9	2.1	-
Indicator of durable consumer goods	y.r./3-mma	0.5	-13.1	-1.9	-21.5	-16.8	-10.3	-3.7	-12.2	-10.3	-6.8	-3.8	-3.7	0.5	-
Vol. ind. consumption of passenger vehicles	y.r./3-mma	-0.7	-25.4	4.3	-35.2	-30.5	-22.3	-12.7	-24.6	-22.3	-14.9	-8.8	-12.7	-5.1	-
Investment															
GFCF indicator	y.r./3-mma	-3.4	-13.3	-8.0	-17.0	-15.4	-9.6	-11.4	-11.6	-9.6	-10.1	-9.8	-11.4	-9.6	-
Cement sales	y.r./3-mma	-7.9	-12.7	-14.5	-13.5	-12.0	-10.4	-15.3	-9.2	-10.4	-13.2	-12.9	-15.3	-	-
Sales of steel for concrete	y.r./3-mma	-16.2	-12.6	-18.0	-29.8	-27.0	27.1	-3.4	-3.8	27.1	34.4	6.3	-3.4	-	-
Credit for purchase of habitation	y.r./stocks	3.9	5.1	3.9	2.4	1.5	3.1	5.1	1.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	5.1	-	-
Licenses for construction of new habitations	y.r./3-mma	-21.3	-28.7	-33.3	-39.4	-31.3	-23.9	-14.4	-24.9	-23.9	-23.9	-20.8	-14.4	-10.3	-
Machinery and equipment indicator	y.r./3-mma	2.5	-3.4	-1.1	-5.7	-5.4	-2.3	-0.3	-4.5	-2.3	-0.7	-0.1	-0.3	-1.1	-1.6
Sales of light commercial vehicles	y.r./3-mma	-19.1	-29.8	-10.4	-40.5	-36.6	-25.2	-16.9	-32.0	-25.2	-18.9	-15.0	-16.9	-8.4	-1.7
Sales of new heavy commercial vehicles	y.r./3-mma	-1.7	-40.7	-24.4	-38.3	-48.3	-26.2	-50.4	-42.7	-26.2	-35.3	-39.2	-50.4	-48.5	-40.9
External demand															
External demand indicator in value	s.a/y.r./3-mma	1.6	-22.2	-9.8	-25.1	-28.3	-23.6	-10.2	-26.2	-23.6	-21.1	-16.9	-10.2	-	-
External order books	balance/3-mma	-23.1	-53.3	-53.0	-66.0	-66.0	-47.7	-33.3	-56.3	-47.7	-36.3	-33.0	-33.3	-32.3	-29.3
Exports of merchandises in value	y.r./3-mma	1.0	-18.1	-11.1	-25.9	-23.7	-17.1	-3.3	-19.0	-17.1	-13.5	-9.1	-3.3	2.0	-
Imports of merchandises in value	y.r./3-mma	7.2	-18.1	-6.4	-22.2	-24.9	-17.8	-6.5	-19.7	-17.8	-15.5	-9.8	-6.5	-2.5	-
Labour market															
Unemployment rate	%	7.6	9.5	7.8	8.9	9.1	9.8	10.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Employment	y.r.	0.5	-2.8	-0.2	-1.8	-2.9	-3.4	-3.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Unemployed registration along the month	s.a/y.r./3-mma	11.1	18.5	27.0	35.2	26.2	16.2	0.4	18.8	16.2	8.9	4.1	0.4	-0.3	-
Unemployment expectations	balance/3-mma	50.6	64.1	61.1	79.8	70.0	52.5	54.3	57.7	52.5	50.3	51.4	54.3	56.1	56.7
Vacancies along the month	s.a/y.r./3-mma	5.8	-3.3	12.8	-15.2	7.7	3.9	-8.7	8.2	3.9	-1.5	-3.4	-8.7	-3.2	-
Employment indicator (short-term statistics)	y.r./3-mma	0.0	-4.2	-0.8	-3.4	-4.5	-4.5	-4.3	-4.5	-4.5	-4.6	-4.5	-4.3	-3.8	-
Average declared wages	s.a/y.r./3-mma	4.0	3.5	4.2	3.7	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.0	2.8	-
Wage negotiation	av/3-mmaq.w.	3.1	2.9	3.3	2.6	3.9	2.5	2.5	3.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.1
Prices and exchange rates															
Consumer price index	y.r.	2.6	-0.8	1.5	0.0	-1.1	-1.5	-0.7	-1.3	-1.6	-1.5	-0.6	-0.1	0.1	0.2
Core inflation indicator	y.r.	2.4	0.4	2.2	1.4	0.6	0.2	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.6	-0.4
Consumer price index - goods	y.r.	2.3	-2.3	0.7	-1.1	-2.8	-3.5	-1.9	-3.3	-3.5	-3.1	-1.7	-0.9	-0.4	-0.3
Consumer price index - services	y.r.	3.0	1.7	3.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.0
Manufacturing industry production price index	y.r./3-mma	4.7	-5.6	-0.1	-4.6	-7.0	-7.9	-2.9	-8.1	-7.9	-6.9	-5.3	-2.9	-0.5	1.1
Effective exchange rate index for Portugal	y.r.	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.9	2.0	1.9	0.4	0.0	-
Exchange rate eur/USD	y.r.	6.9	-5.0	-9.2	-13.1	-12.9	-4.7	12.3	-4.7	1.3	11.2	17.1	8.7	7.8	7.0
Exchange rate USD/Euro	USD	1.471	1.393	1.317	1.302	1.362	1.431	1.478	1.427	1.456	1.482	1.491	1.461	1.427	1.369
Exchange rate eur/JPY	y.r.	-6.6	-13.6	-22.9	-22.8	-18.9	-17.1	5.1	-17.3	-13.1	0.3	7.9	7.1	8.9	4.4