



30<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

## Business and Consumer Surveys

August 2010

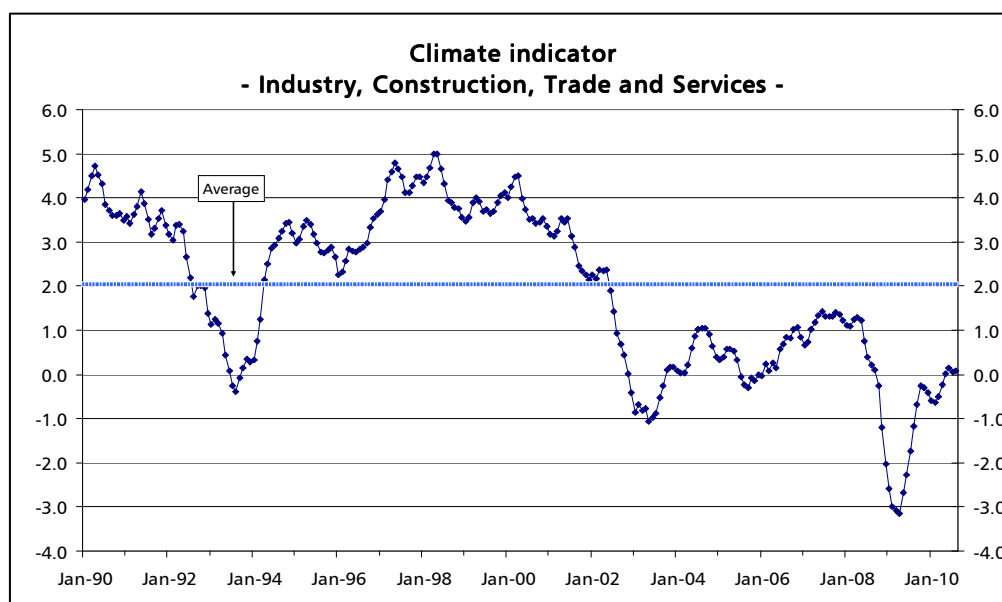
### The economic climate indicator stabilizes and the Consumer confidence indicator recovers in August

The economic climate indicator stabilized in the last two months in the highest value since September 2008, interrupting the upward path started in May 2009. In August, the Manufacturing Industry confidence indicator increased, while in Construction and Public Works, in Trade and in Services this indicator diminished.

The Consumer confidence indicator recovered in August, suspending the pronounced downward path observed since November 2009.

In Manufacturing Industry<sup>1</sup> the confidence indicator increased again in the reference month, extending the pronounced upward path begun in March 2009 and recording the highest value since September 2008. This behaviour was led by the strong positive contribution of the opinions on global demand, while the opinions on the stocks of finished goods and the production perspectives contributed negatively. However, without three month moving averages, this indicator decreased in August. On the contrary, in Construction and Public Works the confidence indicator diminished, suspending the upward movement observed in the two previous months, due to the decrease of the balance on the employment perspectives, while the opinions on the order books' evolution recovered. In Trade, the confidence indicator diminished tenuously in the last two months, interrupting the pronounced positive path started in May 2009. This evolution reflected the negative behaviour registered in both subsectors, Wholesale and Retail Trade. The Services' confidence indicator also decreased, resuming the downward movement started in April. The evolution recorded in August was due to the deterioration registered in all components, opinions on the order books' evolution and on the business activity and demand perspectives, more significant in the first case.

In August, the increase in the Consumer confidence indicator was driven by the positive contribution of all components, more significant in the case of the perspectives on the evolution of the country's economic situation.



<sup>1</sup> Unless stated otherwise, the analysis in this press release refers to three-month moving average.



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**Confidence indicators and their underlying series (3mma; balances; wide range)**

	First Period	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Minimum Value	Date	Maximum Value	Date
<b>1 Manufacturing Industry - confidence indicator (2+3-4)/3 (a) (c)</b>	<b>Jan-87</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>-32.6</b>	<b>Feb-09</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>Apr-87</b>
2 Demand/Order books (a) (c)	Jan-87	-16.3	15.7	-32.6	Apr-09	9.4	Jun-87
3 Production expectations over the next 3 months (a) (c)	Jan-87	7.8	9.6	-28.2	Feb-09	29.4	Mar-87
4 Stocks of finished goods (a) (c)	Jan-87	2.7	5.1	-10.5	Apr-87	18.8	Jul-93
<b>5 Services - confidence indicator (6+7+8)/3 (a) (c)</b>	<b>Apr-01</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>-24.6</b>	<b>Apr-09</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>Apr-01</b>
6 Assessment of the business situation over the past 3 months** (a) (c)	Apr-01	-7.4	9.9	-23.5	Jun-09	22.1	Apr-01
7 Demand perspectives over the next 3 months (a) (c)	Apr-01	2.9	7.1	-20.3	Apr-09	15.3	Jul-01
8 Demand/Order books over the past 3 months (a) (c)	Apr-01	-5.7	10.7	-33.2	Apr-09	20.7	Apr-01
<b>9 Trade - confidence indicator (12+15-18)/3 (a) (c)</b>	<b>Jan-89</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>-21.4</b>	<b>Apr-09</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>Jun-98</b>
10 -Wholesale (a) (c)	Jan-89	0.0	6.9	-17.5	Mar-09	11.3	May-97
11 -Retail trade (a) (c)	Jan-89	-0.6	8.3	-26.5	Apr-09	12.2	Jan-99
12 Sales over the past 3 months (a) (c)	Jan-89	-5.0	12.6	-43.1	Apr-09	14.3	Jun-98
13 - Wholesale (a) (c)	Jan-89	-6.0	12.4	-40.8	Apr-09	14.2	Apr-99
14 - Retail trade (a) (c)	Jan-89	-4.1	13.2	-47.2	May-09	19.3	Apr-99
15 Expected business situation over the next 3 months*** (a) (c)	Jan-89	14.0	12.1	-17.4	Feb-09	31.4	Dec-89
16 - Wholesale (a) (c)	Jan-89	14.5	10.6	-9.7	Mar-09	34.6	Dec-89
17 - Retail trade (a) (c)	Jan-89	14.2	14.9	-27.1	Feb-09	36.7	Sep-94
18 Volume of Stocks (a) (c)	Jan-89	10.2	5.7	-5.3	Apr-10	25.9	Aug-90
19 - Wholesale (a) (c)	Jan-89	8.6	5.9	-6.7	Feb-10	26.1	Aug-90
20 - Retail trade (a) (c)	Jan-89	12.1	6.3	-5.0	Apr-10	25.9	Sep-89
<b>21 Construction and Public Works - confidence indicator (22+23)/2 (a) (c)</b>	<b>Apr-97</b>	<b>-22.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>-45.4</b>	<b>Apr-03</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>Nov-97</b>
22 Current order books (a)	Apr-97	-37.3	20.7	-63.5	May-10	9.7	Nov-97
23 Employment perspectives over the next 3 months (a) (c)	Apr-97	-7.4	15.2	-33.2	Jan-03	23.5	Aug-97
<b>24 Consumers - Confidence indicator (25+26-27+28)/4 (b)</b>	<b>Jun-86</b>	<b>-18.2</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>-51.0</b>	<b>Mar-09</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Nov-87</b>
25 Financial situation of the Households over the next 12 months (b)	Jun-86	-2.8	9.6	-25.0	Aug-08	14.8	Jan-92
26 General economic situation in the country over the next 12 months (b)	Jun-86	-16.0	16.4	-61.2	Mar-09	13.6	Oct-87
27 Unemployment over the next 12 months (b)	Jun-86	34.2	20.4	-0.4	Jun-90	79.8	Mar-09
28 Savings over the next 12 months (b)	Jun-86	-19.7	11.4	-42.3	Apr-09	1.1	Dec-87
<b>29 Economic climate indicator ****</b>	<b>Jan-89</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>Apr-09</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>Jan-89</b>
	Aug-09	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10
<b>1 Manufacturing Industry - confidence indicator (2+3-4)/3 (a) (c)</b>	<b>-23.6</b>	<b>-14.1</b>	<b>-12.5</b>	<b>-12.4</b>	<b>-12.7</b>	<b>-12.2</b>	<b>-11.5</b>
2 Demand/Order books (a) (c)	-57.4	-43.6	-41.2	-40.9	-39.6	-38.4	-33.6
3 Production expectations over the next 3 months (a) (c)	-9.6	-1.0	1.8	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.1
4 Stocks of finished goods(a) (c)	3.6	-2.4	-1.9	-2.6	-0.2	-0.2	2.1
<b>5 Services - confidence indicator (6+7+8)/3 (a) (c)</b>	<b>-15.3</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-7.4</b>	<b>-8.7</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>-10.3</b>
6 Assesment of the business situation over the past 3 months** (a) (c)	-21.2	-16.0	-16.4	-17.8	-17.7	-17.4	-17.6
7 Demand perspectives over the next 3 months (a) (c)	-3.8	4.7	3.6	2.5	-0.9	-1.4	-2.6
8 Demand/Order books over the past 3 months (a) (c)	-20.9	-8.3	-8.0	-6.7	-7.5	-6.3	-10.9
<b>9 Trade - confidence indicator (12+15-18)/3 (a) (c)</b>	<b>-11.6</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
10 -Wholesale (a) (c)	-10.9	-4.6	-3.5	-3.2	-3.2	-4.4	-4.5
11 -Retail trade (a) (c)	-12.7	-3.5	-1.7	-1.7	-1.0	-1.5	-1.9
12 Sales over the past 3 months (a) (c)	-28.2	-16.9	-14.2	-11.9	-8.8	-7.2	-7.9
13 - Wholesale (a) (c)	-29.1	-21.0	-18.4	-14.6	-12.0	-10.3	-11.0
14 - Retail trade (a) (c)	-28.6	-12.5	-9.5	-9.2	-5.4	-5.8	-6.0
15 Expected business situation over the next 3 months*** (a) (c)	-5.1	0.3	1.1	1.2	-0.3	-2.3	-3.6
16 - Wholesale (a) (c)	-2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.6	-1.9	-3.1
17 - Retail trade (a) (c)	-7.8	-2.3	-0.8	0.0	-1.2	-2.4	-3.8
18 Volume of Stocks (a) (c)	1.5	-4.6	-5.3	-3.4	-2.7	-1.4	-2.3
19 - Wholesale (a) (c)	1.5	-4.8	-5.6	-2.6	-1.7	1.0	-0.6
20 - Retail trade (a) (c)	1.6	-4.3	-5.0	-4.3	-3.8	-3.9	-4.0
<b>21 Construction and Public Works - confidence indicator (22+23)/2 (a) (c)</b>	<b>-33.7</b>	<b>-40.2</b>	<b>-41.3</b>	<b>-42.2</b>	<b>-41.4</b>	<b>-39.9</b>	<b>-40.6</b>
22 Current order books (a)	-48.9	-57.4	-60.6	-63.5	-61.1	-56.7	-54.5
23 Employment perspectives over the next 3 months (a) (c)	-18.4	-23.1	-21.9	-20.9	-21.6	-23.1	-26.8
<b>24 Consumers - Confidence indicator (25+26-27+28)/4 (b)</b>	<b>-34.3</b>	<b>-35.4</b>	<b>-36.7</b>	<b>-38.3</b>	<b>-40.1</b>	<b>-42.0</b>	<b>-40.4</b>
25 Financial situation of the Households over the next 12 months (b)	-11.9	-11.7	-13.0	-15.6	-18.6	-21.3	-19.3
26 General economic situation over the next 12 months (b)	-31.1	-36.6	-39.2	-42.6	-45.2	-49.0	-46.3
27 Unemployment over the next 12 months (b)	57.7	56.0	55.4	54.6	54.9	56.6	55.5
28 Savings over the next 12 months (b)	-36.6	-37.2	-39.1	-40.5	-41.7	-41.0	-40.3
<b>29 Economic climate indicator****</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

\* Series average since its beginning till the current observation.

\*\* In May 2003 a break in the series occurred, until that moment the reference period was the month under review and afterwards it refers to the past 3 months.

\*\*\* In May 2003 a break in the series occurred, until that moment the question referred to the next 6 months.

\*\*\*\* From September 2004 onwards Services sector was included, besides industry, trade and construction.

(a) Data after April 2009 is computed using a new sample. Back data was rebased.

(b) Data after April 2008 is computed using a new sample. Back data was rebased.

(c) Seasonal adjusted series.