



28th September 2023
BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEYS
September 2023

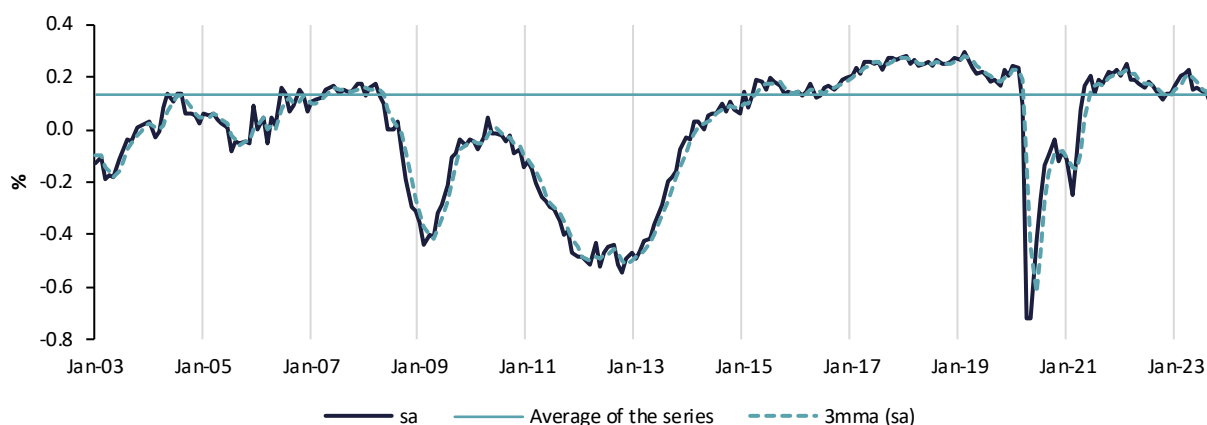
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE INDICATORS DECREASED AGAIN

The Consumer confidence indicator decreased in August and September¹, more significantly in the last month, after registering in July the maximum value since February 2022, following the upward trajectory started in December. The balance of Consumer opinions on the past evolution of prices decreased in the last five months, moving away from the high level it was at, close to the maximum value of the series recorded in October.

The economic climate indicator² decreased between July and September, after stabilizing in June. Confidence indicators decreased in Trade and in Services, having increased in Construction and Public Works and Manufacturing Industry. In the latter case, the confidence indicator increased in the Consumer Goods and Intermediate Goods groups, while it decreased considerably in the Investment Goods group due to the significant reduction observed in the Motor Vehicle Manufacture subgroup.

The entrepreneurs' expectations regarding the future evolution of selling prices, in the Manufacturing Industry, increased in August and September, interrupting the markedly downward trajectory started in November that culminated in July at the lowest value since May 2020. This balance also increased in the last two months in Trade and in Construction and Public Works. In Services, there was an increase in the balance in the last three months.

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 01 to 15 of September (working days), in the case of the consumer survey, and from 01 to 22 of September 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 in August and September, more intensely in the last month after reaching in July the highest value since February of 2022. The evolution of the indicator in the last month resulted from the negative contribution of all components, expectations on the future evolution of major purchases by households, of the country's economic situation, and of households' financial situation, and opinions on the past evolution of households' financial situation, with the first two standing out.

The balance of perspectives regarding the future evolution of the country's economic situation decreased between July and September, more markedly in the last month, suspending the upward trajectory observed since November of 2022, and after reaching in June the maximum value since February 2022.

The balance of expectations about household's future financial situation decreased in the last two months, interrupting the ascending path initiated in November of 2022.

The balance of opinions on the past evolution of the price level decreased in the last five months, moving away from the high level it was at between July of 2022 and April of 2023, close to the maximum value of the series recorded in October. The balance of perspectives on future price developments increased in August and September, after reaching in July the lowest value recorded since February 2021, following the markedly downward trajectory observed since March 2022, when it reached the highest value in the series.

Figure 2. Consumer confidence indicator

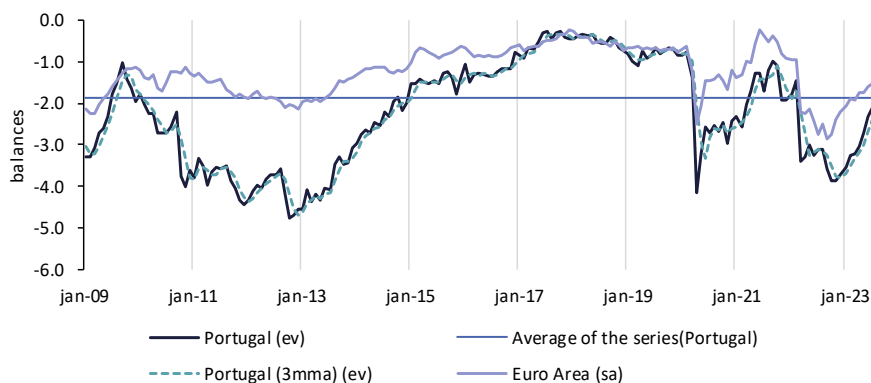
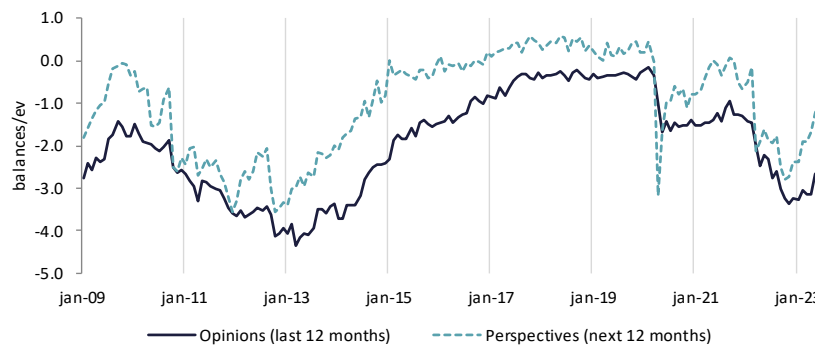


Figure 3. Opinions and expectations about household's financial situation





Manufacturing Industry Survey

The Manufacturing Industry confidence indicator increased in September, after having decreased between April and August. The behaviour of the indicator reflected the positive contributions of all components: opinions on the evolution of the overall order books in the last three months, the firm's production perspectives over the next three months and the opinions on the current stocks of finished products, more significant in the latter case.

The indicator increased in groups of Consumer Goods and Intermediate Goods, while it decreased considerably in Investment Goods due to the significant reduction observed in the Manufacture of Motor Vehicles sub-group.

The balance of opinions on current overall order books increased in September, after having decreased in July and August. Opinions regarding domestic order books recovered in August and September, contradicting the worsening verified in the previous month. In turn, opinions on export order books deteriorated in the last three months.

The balance of opinions on the evolution of sale prices increased in August and September, interrupting the markedly downward trajectory started in November that culminated in July at the lowest value since May 2020. This balance increased in Consumer Goods and Intermediate Goods groups, having decreased in Investment Goods.

Figure 4. Manufacturing industry confidence indicator

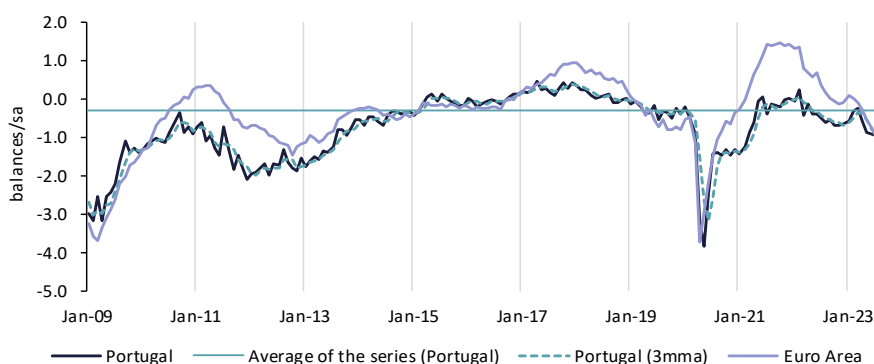
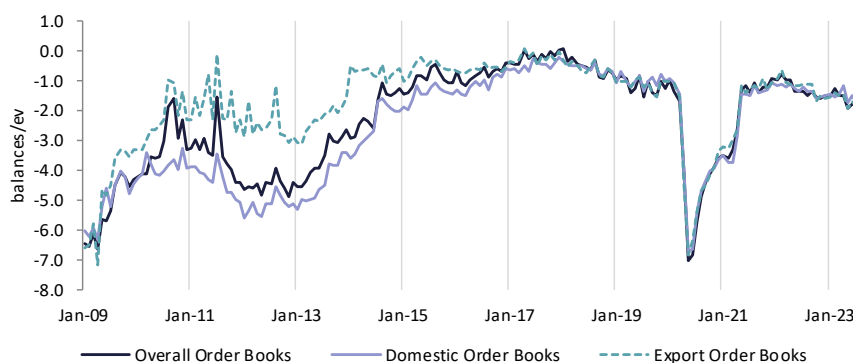


Figure 5. Opinions on current overall order books





Construction and Public Works Survey

The confidence indicator of Construction and Public Works slightly increased in September, after decreasing in July and, more significantly, in August. The increase in the last month reflected the positive contribution of the balance of opinions on current order books, since the perspectives on employment have decreased.

The confidence indicator increased in the divisions of Specialized Construction Activities and Construction of Buildings, slightly in the latter case, and decreased in the division of Civil Engineering.

The balance of opinions on the firm's activity in the last three months decreased in August and September, after increasing significantly in July, when it reached the highest level since December 2021.

The balance of perspectives regarding the selling prices charged by the firm in the next three months increased in August and September, after stabilizing in July, reversing the downward trend that began in July 2022.

Among the main factors limiting activity indicated by firms, the shortage of labour force continued to be the main obstacle to activity, although there was a decrease in the percentage of firms that mentioned it. It should be mentioned that his percentage attained a new maximum of the series in the previous month.

Figure 6. Construction and Public Works confidence indicator

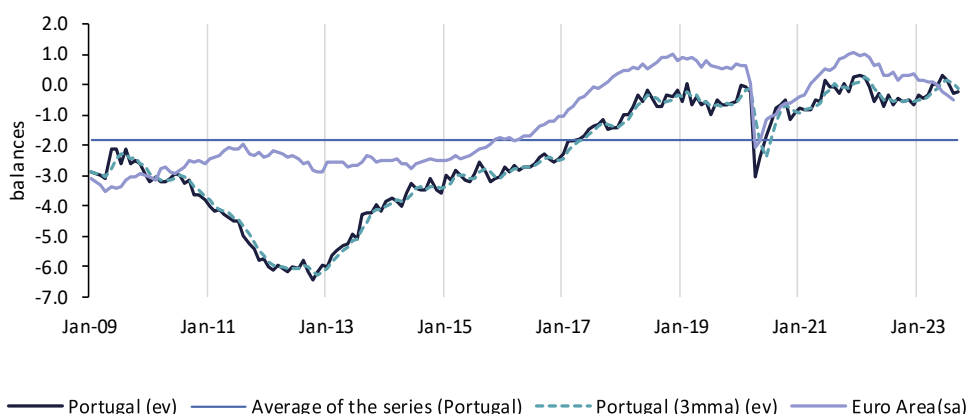
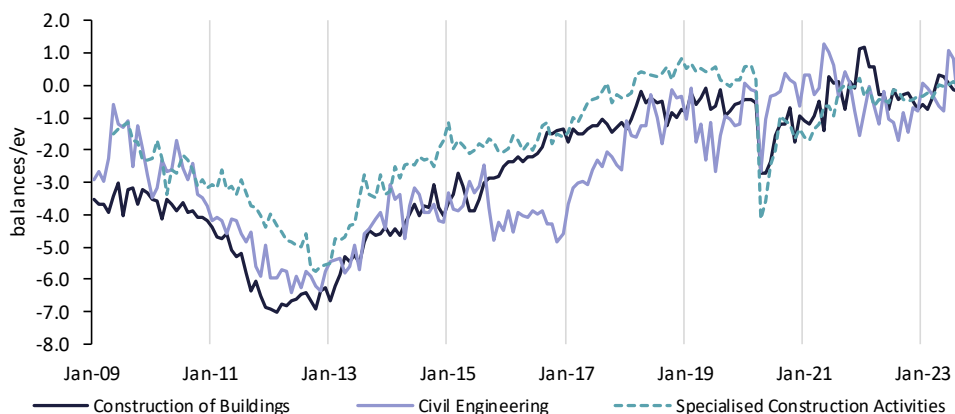


Figure 7. Construction and Public Works confidence indicators by NACE divisions





Trade Survey

The trade confidence indicator decreased in August and September, resuming the downward movement observed between March and June. The evolution of the indicator in the last month resulted from the negative contribution of all components, opinions on the current volume of stocks, assessments on the volume of sales and expectations on the firm's activity over the next three months. In September, the confidence indicator decreased in Retail Trade and Wholesale Trade.

The balance of opinions on the volume of sales decreased between July and September, extending the downward path initiated in March. The perspectives for activity worsened in September, after the recovery observed in July and August.

The balance of opinions on selling prices evolution decreased in September, after the significant increase observed in August. Conversely, the balance of price expectations over the next three months increased in August and, slightly, in September, after having declined uninterruptedly since November and reaching in July the lowest level since February 2021.

Figure 8. Trade confidence indicator

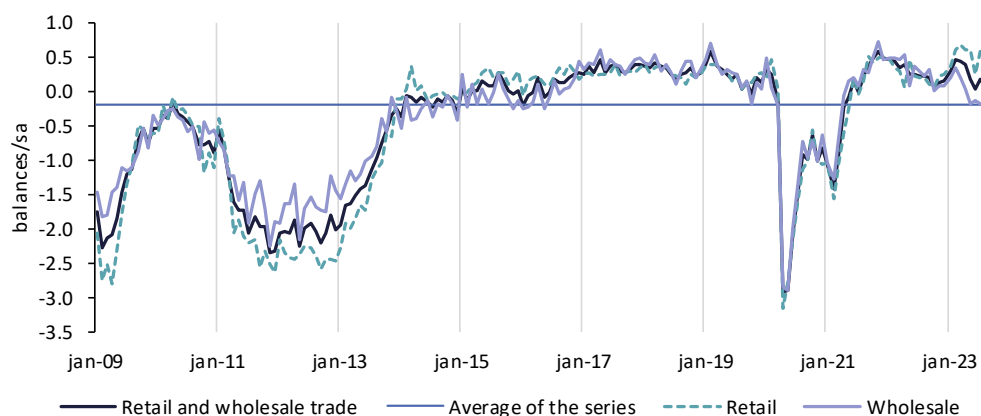
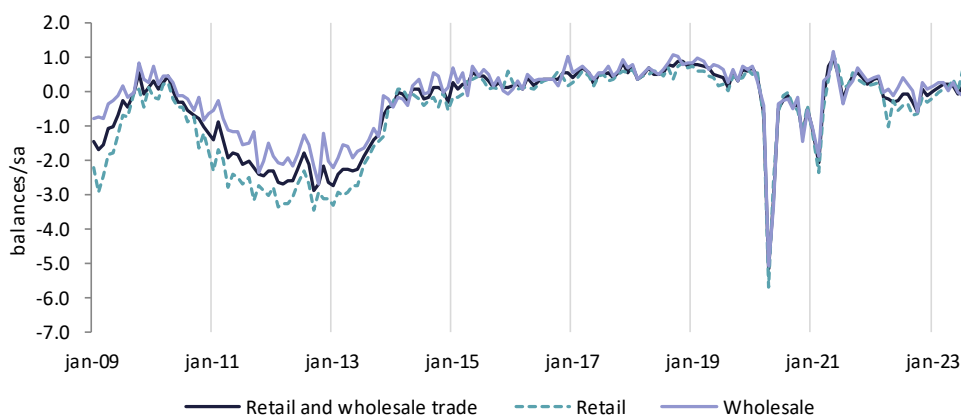


Figure 9. Perspectives on business activity (sales) over the next three months





Services Survey

The Services' confidence indicator decreased between July and September, more markedly in August, reaching the lowest value since May 2021. The indicator's behaviour resulted from the negative contributions of the opinions on the evolution of the business and the assessments on the evolution of the order books, while the perspectives on the evolution of demand recovered.

In September, the confidence indicator decreased in four of the eight sections of Services, with emphasis on the sections of Professional, scientific, and technical activities and Arts, entertainment and recreation activities.

The balance of perspectives on the evolution of demand increased in September, contrary to the decrease recorded in the previous month.

The balance of expectations for prices of services increased in the last three months, suspending the downward movement observed between February and June.

Figure 10. Services confidence indicator

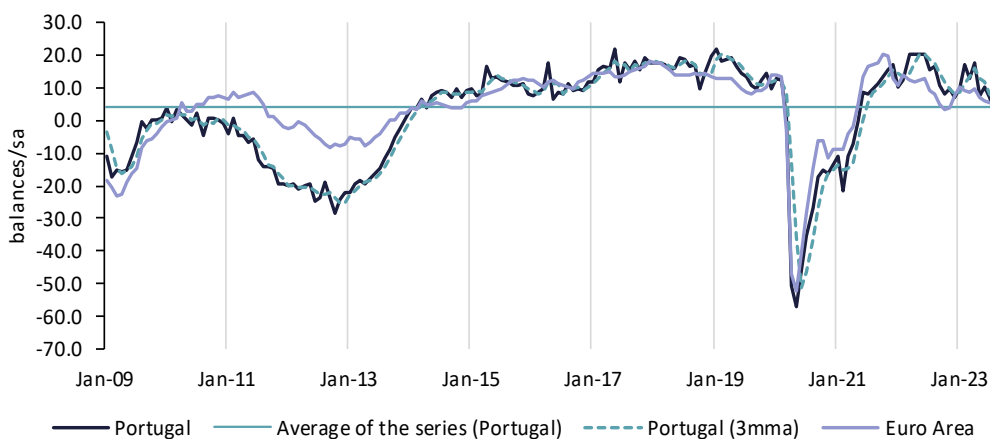
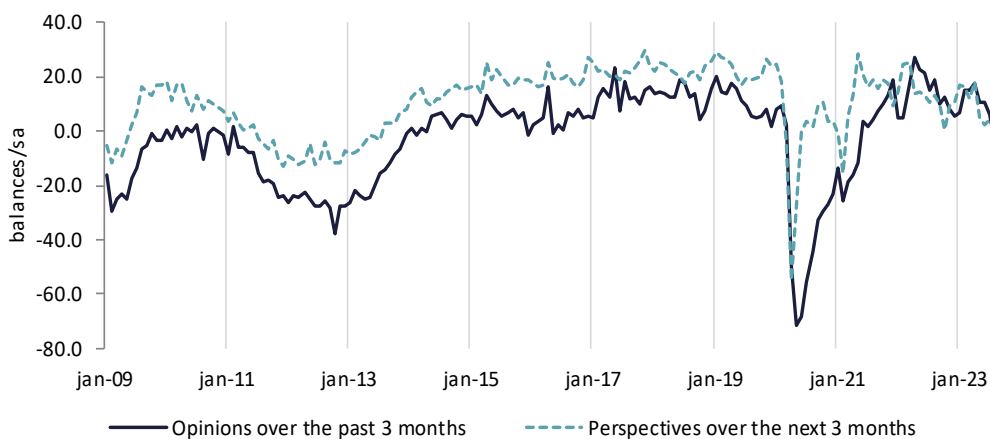


Figure 11. Opinions and perspectives on the evolution of demand (order books)





Monthly series of Consumer and Business Surveys

Table 1. Confidence and climate economic indicators

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2022				2023								
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Confidence indicator																		
Consumers	bal/ev	-47.8	Oct-12	-0.1	Sep-97	-35.8	-38.6	-38.7	-37.1	-35.4	-32.5	-32.3	-30.2	-27.0	-23.2	-20.9	-21.6	-26.1
Manufacturing industry	bal/sa	-38.5	May-20	19.4	Mar-87	-5.2	-6.8	-6.6	-6.4	-5.5	-3.0	-2.4	-5.6	-8.5	-9.0	-9.3	-10.5	-9.4
Construction and public works	bal/ev	-64.5	Oct-12	25.6	Sep-97	-4.4	-5.8	-5.3	-6.4	-3.6	-4.5	-3.6	0.4	-0.5	2.9	1.4	-2.8	-2.5
Trade	bal/sa	-29.3	Apr-20	11.7	Jun-98	2.2	0.6	1.4	1.6	3.1	4.8	4.5	4.0	1.8	0.3	1.7	0.9	-2.3
Services	bal/sa	-57.2	May-20	29.5	Jun-01	11.1	8.0	9.8	7.0	9.5	17.2	13.1	17.5	7.5	10.1	6.9	1.9	-0.3
Economic climate indicator	%/sa	-7.2	May-20	5.5	Apr-98	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	0.9

Table 2. Monthly series of Consumer Survey

	Uni.	Mínimo		Máximo		2022				2023								
		Valor	Data	Valor	Data	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Indicador de confiança (a+b+c+d)/4	sre/ve	-47.8	Oct-12	-0.1	Sep-97	-35.8	-38.6	-38.7	-37.1	-35.4	-32.5	-32.3	-30.2	-27.0	-23.2	-20.9	-21.6	-26.1
Situação económica do país nos próximos 12 meses (c)	sre/ve	-72.7	Apr-20	16.6	Jun-17	-51.9	-60.2	-59.4	-52.4	-50.3	-41.8	-45.1	-38.0	-31.6	-24.3	-24.4	-25.3	-32.2
Situação financeira do agregado familiar nos últimos 12 meses (a)	sre/ve	-43.5	Mar-13	0.5	Aug-99	-30.2	-32.2	-33.8	-32.3	-32.6	-30.6	-31.5	-31.3	-26.8	-25.6	-23.9	-21.6	-23.5
Situação financeira do agregado familiar nos próximos 12 meses (b)	sre/ve	-35.6	Oct-12	8.6	Feb-99	-25.0	-28.0	-27.2	-23.8	-23.7	-19.1	-19.2	-16.8	-12.5	-9.1	-6.5	-9.6	-10.7
Realização de compras importantes nos próximos 12 meses (d)	sre/ve	-51.6	Apr-20	-6.4	Sep-97	-36.1	-34.0	-34.2	-39.8	-34.8	-38.3	-33.7	-34.6	-36.9	-34.0	-28.8	-30.1	-37.9
Situação económica do país nos últimos 12 meses	sre/vcs	-77.1	Oct-12	20.1	Oct-17	-71.8	-76.1	-76.5	-73.5	-75.1	-69.0	-71.6	-67.5	-60.5	-51.9	-50.2	-53.6	-58.3
Realização de compras importantes nos últimos 12 meses	sre/vcs	-88.1	Dec-08	-14.5	Sep-97	-79.6	-80.5	-78.2	-80.7	-80.7	-81.0	-79.6	-79.2	-81.6	-78.1	-77.2	-76.8	-79.6
Poupança no momento atual	sre/ve	-55.1	Nov-22	-0.2	Sep-97	-50.9	-49.8	-55.1	-54.4	-51.9	-52.9	-54.1	-53.9	-52.5	-47.4	-49.0	-48.8	-50.0
Poupança nos próximos 12 meses	sre/ve	-43.4	Nov-22	0.9	Oct-97	-39.1	-41.0	-43.4	-42.6	-34.8	-38.3	-39.6	-39.6	-37.8	-35.5	-31.9	-33.4	-33.5
Desemprego próximos 12 meses	sre/ve	-20.0	Jun-17	85.5	Feb-09	28.3	34.6	42.8	38.0	36.1	33.1	31.5	26.2	24.6	16.9	17.1	23.0	30.8
Preços nos últimos 12 meses	sre/ve	-14.6	Sep-09	87.0	Oct-22	83.2	87.0	86.2	83.9	85.3	83.4	83.9	84.3	73.5	68.0	66.3	64.0	60.1
Preços próximos 12 meses	sre/vcs	-7.6	Dec-15	81.3	Mar-22	45.2	51.7	41.7	33.3	27.2	27.9	22.6	12.5	13.4	7.3	7.0	14.7	16.4

Table 3. Monthly series of Manufacturing Industry Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2022				2023								
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Confidence Indicator (a+b-c)/3	bal/sa	-38.5	May-20	19.4	Mar-87	-5.2	-6.8	-6.6	-6.4	-5.5	-3.0	-2.4	-5.6	-8.5	-9.0	-9.3	-10.5	-9.4
Consumer goods	bal/sa	-27.2	Apr-20	12.6	Jan-99	-3.4	-2.8	-4.5	-6.3	-5.2	-3.2	-4.5	-6.6	-7.7	-6.6	-9.1	-5.9	
Investment goods	bal/ev	-36.0	Apr-20	24.3	Feb-07	-2.7	-3.5	-3.5	-2.2	-2.5	1.2	-1.2	-2.9	-0.9	-1.7	-1.9	-0.1	-10.8
Intermediate goods	bal/sa	-50.6	May-20	17.6	Jan-95	-8.5	-12.8	-11.5	-9.6	-6.7	-5.3	-0.9	-8.3	-11.7	-11.8	-13.7	-14.7	-11.9
Current overall order books (a)	bal/ev	-70.2	May-20	14.6	Mar-98	-13.3	-15.5	-16.0	-14.8	-15.0	-12.3	-14.7	-14.7	-19.3	-17.7	-18.3	-19.5	-19.2
Consumer goods	bal/ev	-60.9	May-20	6.1	Dec-17	-8.3	-9.7	-10.8	-7.7	-15.3	-11.8	-12.9	-14.5	-18.1	-14.4	-15.1	-18.5	-17.3
Investment goods	bal/ev	-84.0	May-20	33.8	Jan-08	-14.4	-11.8	-8.4	-8.2	-10.0	-7.4	-12.8	-11.8	-9.1	-11.1	-9.3	-8.2	-10.5
Intermediate goods	bal/ev	-72.4	Jun-20	33.8	Mar-98	-16.5	-21.5	-23.4	-23.1	-17.0	-15.0	-17.0	-16.2	-24.5	-22.9	-24.4	-25.1	-24.2
Production over next 3 months (b)	bal/sa	-52.7	Apr-20	34.8	Feb-87	0.1	-1.5	0.4	0.4	2.5	4.7	12.4	3.3	0.7	-1.9	-4.1	-3.1	-2.6
Consumer goods	bal/sa	-48.5	Apr-20	39.5	Aug-98	-2.2	1.4	0.4	-5.3	3.3	1.6	6.1	8.2	4.7	0.2	1.2	-2.7	4.2
Investment goods	bal/ev	-44.9	Feb-09	50.6	Aug-00	9.3	3.4	-0.7	4.6	5.4	7.8	6.8	3.0	8.2	8.4	1.3	11.1	-19.1
Intermediate goods	bal/sa	-59.8	Apr-20	32.6	Jan-97	-4.8	-10.6	-4.6	-0.4	1.9	4.4	21.3	-1.6	-1.2	-3.7	-8.1	-5.4	-2.4
Current stock finished products (c)	bal/ev	-17.6	Jan-08	22.5	Jun-93	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.0	4.1	1.5	4.8	5.4	6.8	7.5	5.4	9.0	6.3
Consumer goods	bal/ev	-11.5	Jan-10	22.3	Aug-07	-0.3	0.1	3.2	5.8	3.5	-0.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	8.8	5.8	6.0	4.7
Investment goods	bal/ev	-37.9	Jan-09	22.4	Jun-10	2.8	2.2	1.5	2.9	2.9	-3.3	-2.5	-0.2	1.8	2.4	-2.2	3.2	2.6
Intermediate goods	bal/ev	-30.8	Jan-08	36.5	May-20	4.2	6.4	6.6	5.4	5.1	5.4	7.0	7.2	9.3	8.7	8.4	13.5	9.0
Firm's employment next 3 months	bal/ev	-28.4	Apr-20	13.0	Sep-17	3.3	2.1	11.6	11.2	4.9	5.1	6.3	5.5	2.7	3.9	2.3	3.4	1.2
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/sa	-24.7	Apr-20	44.5	Apr-22	26.9	28.9	22.2	18.2	13.8	10.2	6.5	4.1	-2.3	-3.0	-3.3	1.5	5.7



Table 4. Monthly series of Construction and Public Works Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2022				2023								
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Confidence Indicator (a+b)/2	bal/ev	-64.5	Oct-12	25.6	Sep-97	-4.4	-5.8	-5.3	-6.4	-3.6	-4.5	-3.6	0.4	-0.5	2.9	1.4	-2.8	-2.5
Construction of buildings	bal/ev	-70.2	Feb-12	26.4	Sep-97	-2.6	-2.6	-4.8	-7.5	-5.8	-7.5	-3.8	3.4	2.7	0.9	-1.3	-2.1	-2.0
Civil engineering	bal/ev	-64.3	May-12	16.7	Jul-97	-8.7	-14.4	-7.1	-8.1	0.8	-0.8	-2.7	-6.3	-8.0	10.9	8.1	-6.3	-8.2
Specialised construction activities	bal/ev	-57.7	Oct-12	8.2	Dec-18	-4.2	-4.7	-4.6	-3.4	-3.1	-2.1	-4.1	0.4	-0.5	0.4	1.4	-1.5	1.1
Current overall order books (a)	bal/ev	-77.5	Oct-12	23.3	Sep-97	-12.9	-13.5	-11.2	-14.1	-9.6	-14.6	-13.1	-10.2	-8.7	-3.7	-5.7	-8.7	-7.8
Construction of buildings	bal/ev	-85.6	Oct-12	22.1	Sep-97	-8.5	-7.8	-10.1	-13.6	-10.0	-17.5	-10.8	-5.2	-4.3	-4.3	-7.8	-8.1	-6.2
Civil engineering	bal/ev	-71.5	Jul-12	12.1	Jul-97	-26.0	-31.8	-13.2	-21.5	-12.0	-11.4	-16.2	-23.9	-21.1	4.4	-3.7	-14.3	-23.5
Specialised construction activities	bal/ev	-73.3	Oct-12	2.1	Jul-19	-10.2	-9.1	-11.5	-9.3	-7.1	-12.3	-14.7	-8.1	-7.6	-8.6	-3.4	-5.4	1.0
Employment next 3 months (b)	bal/ev	-51.8	Jan-12	35.9	Jun-97	4.0	1.8	0.7	1.2	2.4	5.7	5.8	11.0	7.8	9.4	8.5	3.1	2.8
Construction of buildings	bal/ev	-59.0	Jan-12	37.6	Jun-97	3.2	2.6	0.5	-1.4	-1.7	2.6	3.2	12.1	9.6	6.1	5.1	4.0	2.1
Civil engineering	bal/ev	-61.7	May-12	31.2	Jul-01	8.7	3.0	-1.0	5.3	13.6	9.7	10.7	11.3	5.0	17.4	19.8	1.6	7.0
Specialised construction activities	bal/ev	-43.6	Dec-12	16.3	Dec-18	1.7	-0.3	2.3	2.4	0.9	8.0	6.6	8.9	6.7	9.4	6.1	2.5	1.1
Activity past 3 months	bal/ev	-65.5	Apr-12	26.7	May-98	3.8	4.3	-0.3	-0.1	4.8	4.1	0.3	3.6	1.9	1.8	9.9	6.4	3.9
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/ev	-29.3	Aug-12	43.0	Jun-22	40.0	39.8	39.7	31.3	33.5	30.2	29.1	26.7	16.6	14.2	14.2	14.5	15.6

Table 5. Monthly series of Trade Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2022				2023								
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Confidence indicator (a+b-c)/3	bal/sa	-29.3	Apr-20	11.7	Jun-98	2.2	0.6	1.4	1.6	3.1	4.8	4.5	4.0	1.8	0.3	1.7	0.9	-2.3
Wholesale	bal/sa	-29.0	May-20	13.1	Apr-98	3.3	0.2	0.8	0.8	2.1	3.4	2.1	0.4	-1.7	-1.2	-1.6	-1.9	-5.6
Retail	bal/sa	-31.6	Apr-20	13.1	Jul-98	1.2	0.7	2.3	2.4	3.8	6.1	6.9	6.1	6.1	2.7	5.9	3.8	1.3
Business activity past 3 months (a)	bal/sa	-56.4	Jun-20	16.4	Feb-89	5.4	6.2	1.7	6.2	10.4	12.8	12.4	12.3	7.5	7.8	7.6	3.8	-2.8
Wholesale	bal/sa	-58.0	Jun-20	19.3	Feb-89	11.6	11.0	4.3	6.8	11.2	12.0	8.9	7.6	0.1	6.2	3.8	0.6	-7.3
Retail	bal/sa	-58.5	Aug-12	19.2	Apr-99	-0.5	0.7	0.6	5.1	9.6	13.6	16.3	16.3	14.3	10.5	11.4	6.8	2.4
Business activity next 3 months (b)	bal/sa	-51.9	Apr-20	40.2	Oct-89	-3.0	-6.1	0.9	-1.3	0.4	1.5	2.3	2.4	2.0	-0.6	1.5	3.6	1.2
Wholesale	bal/sa	-50.9	Apr-20	49.6	Oct-89	0.6	-6.0	2.6	0.7	1.8	2.8	2.8	0.3	2.5	-0.4	-1.3	0.6	-1.8
Retail	bal/sa	-56.7	Apr-20	40.8	Jul-94	-6.6	-6.4	-1.4	-3.0	-1.4	-0.1	1.0	1.1	3.8	0.3	6.6	7.1	4.4
Current volume of stocks (c)	bal/ev	-14.9	Feb-13	26.4	Jul-90	-4.2	-1.6	-1.5	0.0	1.7	-0.1	1.1	2.8	3.9	6.3	3.9	4.8	5.4
Wholesale	bal/ev	-15.3	Oct-12	28.2	Jul-90	2.3	4.5	4.5	5.2	6.7	4.6	5.6	6.5	7.8	9.6	7.5	7.0	7.6
Retail	bal/ev	-17.5	Feb-13	32.6	Jul-89	-10.6	-7.8	-7.6	-5.2	-3.3	-4.8	-3.5	-0.9	-0.3	2.8	0.2	2.5	3.1
Orders next 3 months	bal/sa	-45.2	Apr-20	20.4	Aug-98	-5.1	-6.0	-3.4	-3.4	-2.8	-3.5	-0.9	-1.0	-3.4	-4.5	-5.3	-2.5	-5.7
Employment next 3 months	bal/ev	-29.2	Oct-12	22.8	Sep-97	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	3.1	1.4	4.8	4.1	4.4	0.8	0.8
Selling prices past month	bal/sa	-11.7	Apr-09	41.5	Apr-22	33.2	38.6	31.4	26.5	23.8	23.1	20.4	18.1	4.4	8.0	4.5	11.1	7.4
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/sa	-11.8	Jul-03	41.6	Mar-22	33.7	38.4	32.5	27.8	26.0	25.1	20.5	17.3	10.1	7.5	7.1	10.0	10.2

Table 6. Monthly series of Services Survey

	Unit	Minimum		Maximum		2022				2023								
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Confidence indicator (a+b+c)/3	bal/sa	-57.2	May-20	29.5	Jun-01	11.1	8.0	9.8	7.0	9.5	17.2	13.1	17.5	7.5	10.1	6.9	1.9	-0.3
Business activity past 3 months (a)	bal/sa	-72.4	May-20	33.4	Jun-01	12.8	11.4	11.8	4.8	4.9	20.4	12.6	16.3	6.7	16.8	10.4	6.2	-2.9
Demand next 3 months (b)	bal/sa	-55.2	Apr-20	34.6	Jan-02	10.2	0.2	9.3	10.3	17.1	16.1	11.7	18.3	5.0	2.5	4.2	3.7	9.5
Demand past 3 months (c)	bal/sa	-71.7	May-20	29.1	Apr-01	10.2	12.3	8.2	5.8	6.5	15.2	15.1	17.8	10.9	10.9	6.2	-4.3	-7.4
Employment next 3 months	bal/sa	-29.7	Apr-20	19.4	Aug-19	8.6	6.7	7.9	2.2	9.0	7.3	5.7	7.5	3.8	-1.2	-0.8	9.0	3.7
Selling prices next 3 months	bal/sa	-23.5	Apr-20	24.4	Mar-22	17.4	16.7	18.2	19.5	19.6	18.7	18.5	16.8	8.5	5.3	6.0	8.0	10.9



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. The seasonal adjustment method used by the EC is available on the user guide, accessible in:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/user-guide-joint-harmonised-eu-programme-business-and-consumer-surveys_en

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.

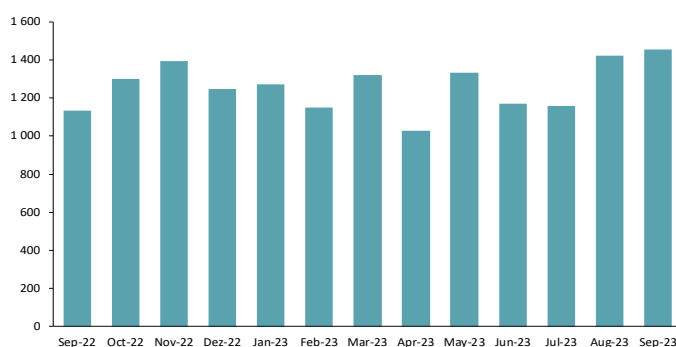


INFORMATION ON DATA COLLECTION

In the results obtained from business and consumer surveys for the collection of September 2023, the data collecting period occurred from 01 to 15 in the case of the consumer survey, with 1455 responses obtained (telephone interviews) and from 01 to 22 for business surveys ([Webing](#)).

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

Figure 12. Consumer Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months



The response and weighted response rates for business surveys were:

Table 7. Response and weighted response rates

Business Surveys	Response Rate				Weighted Response Rate ⁽²⁾			
	2022 ⁽¹⁾	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	2022 ⁽¹⁾	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023
Manufacturing Industry	79.0%	79.7%	76.6%	81.0%	92.3%	92.4%	90.0%	92.1%
Construction and Public Works	71.7%	75.5%	72.5%	76.1%	87.8%	89.2%	85.6%	88.7%
Trade	76.6%	80.0%	77.8%	80.3%	93.5%	93.8%	92.1%	93.4%
Services	76.8%	79.2%	78.2%	79.8%	91.8%	93.4%	77.8%	91.6%

⁽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 13. Manufacturing Industry Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months

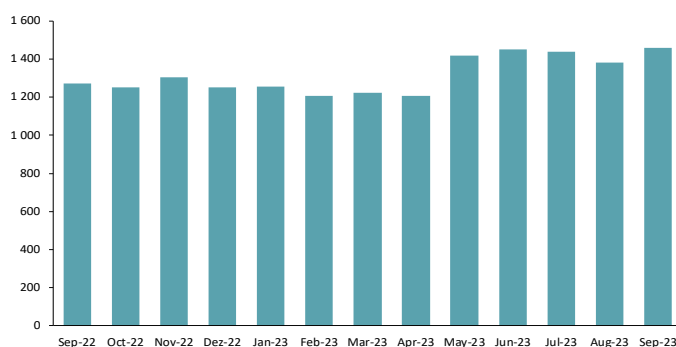




Figure 14. Construction and Public Works - Number of responses by data collection's months



Figure 15. Trade Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months

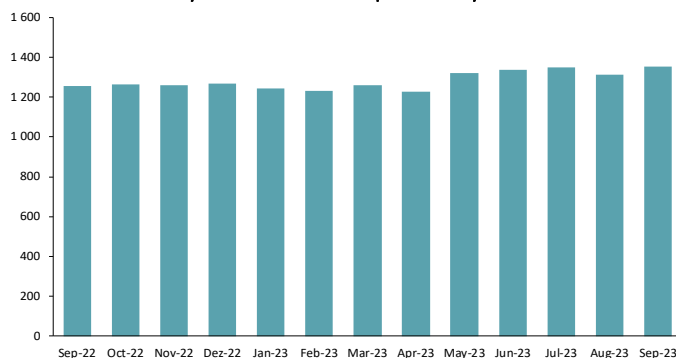
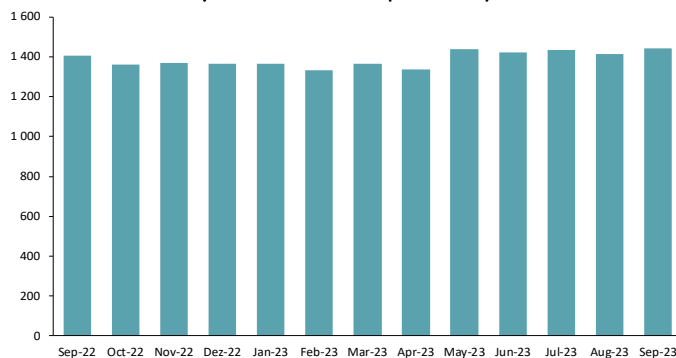


Figure 16. Services Survey - Number of responses by data collection's months





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) as the economic variable, is as follows:

Table 8. 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
	2021
Manufacturing Industry	14.3%
Construction and Public Works	4.6%
Trade	12.7%
Services	36.7%

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 – October 30th 2023
