

# EUROPEAN ECONOMY

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

## Supplement B

Business and consumer  
survey results

No 8/9 – August/September 1992

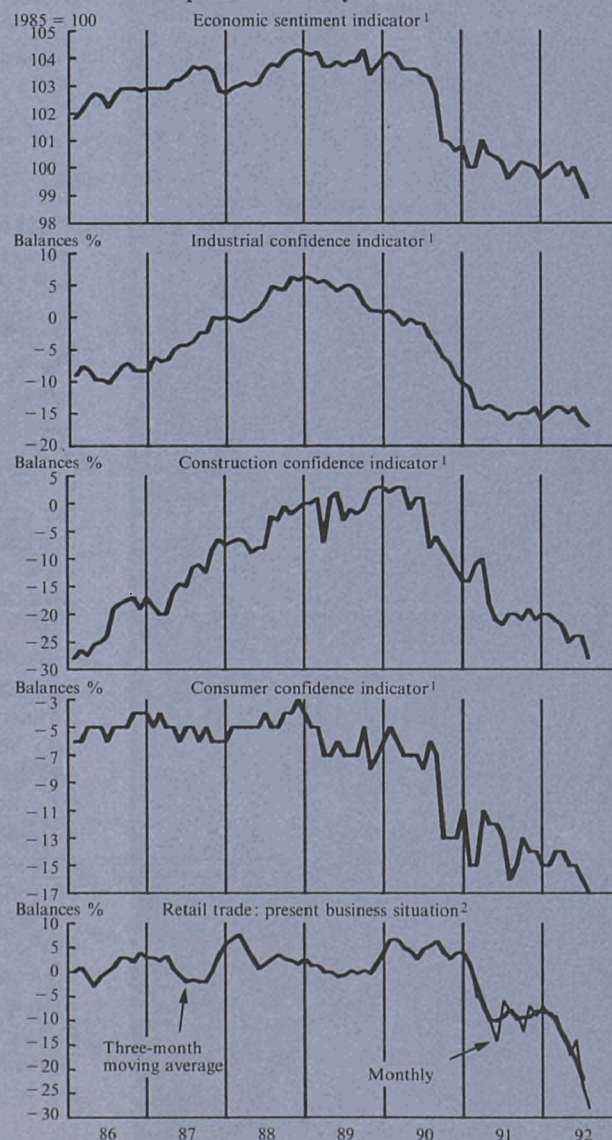


*In this number:  
Capacity utilization in industry*

### THE MAIN POINTS IN BRIEF

- Consumer and company assessments of the economic situation in the Community are more and more pessimistic.
- In August the Community's economic sentiment indicator reached a new low of 98.0 after having already fallen to 98.8 in July, which was 0.7 index points down on June.
- According to the most recent business survey results, capacity utilization by industrial firms in the Community was still 80.6% in July, the same as at the beginning of the year. It was therefore still well down on the last peak of 85.7% in July 1989.

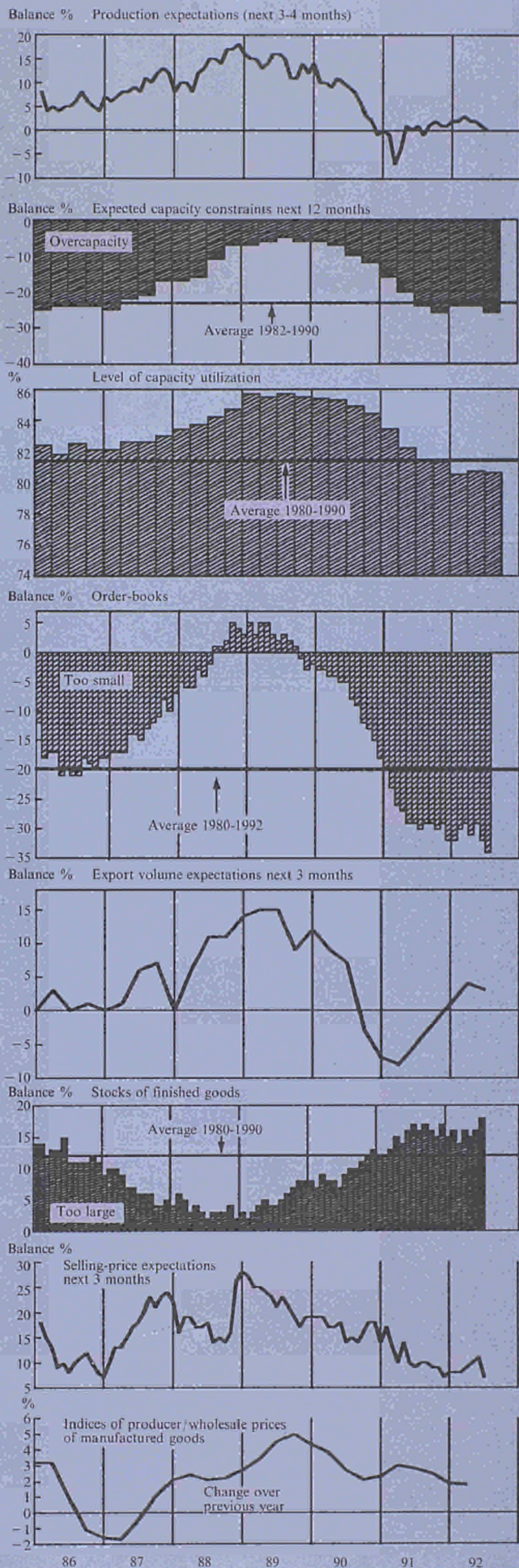
GRAPH 1: Indicators of economic sentiment – European Community



<sup>1</sup> See notes to Table 8.

<sup>2</sup> Not seasonally adjusted.

**GRAPH 2: Indicators of output, demand and prices in industry — European Community**



**Business sentiment in the European Community is becoming increasingly gloomy.** — According to the latest business surveys both consumers and companies are more pessimistic about the economic situation in the Community than in previous months. For the coming months, industrial firms are expecting their output to fall, the construction industry foresees continuing weakness and the retail trade is actually predicting a marked deterioration. The business climate is still dominated by restrained domestic demand: in addition to the decline in investment expenditure, which is particularly responsive to fluctuations in the economic cycle, the weakness of private consumption is also becoming an increasingly burdensome factor. No signs of an early improvement in the economic situation are currently discernible.

For consumers the gradual decline in confidence of recent months continued in July and August. In Greece, Spain, France, Italy and the United Kingdom in particular, consumers are more pessimistic than they were in June. On average for the Community, in August consumers viewed their own financial situation and their future financial prospects more unfavourably than before; they are even more sceptical about the general economic situation and the future outlook for the economy. This is primarily true of consumers in Greece, Spain, France and the United Kingdom. In these countries, but also in Belgium and Italy, an increasing number of consumers do not think that now is the right time to make major purchases.

In industry too, the immediate climate deteriorated: for the first time in a year the number of firms intending to reduce output in the next few months exceeded the number of firms prepared to expand. This represents a reaction by firms to the unsatisfactory order-book situation, which they consider even more unfavourable than before. The majority of firms in the Community are faced with a fall in incoming orders. However, the prospects for exports are again seen as positive even if, in most Community countries, no longer in such a favourable light as in April; western Germany, Spain and France are the only countries where industrialists' assessments of their export prospects are better than in the spring. In view of the recent turmoil on the foreign exchange markets it remains to be seen whether such expectations are fulfilled. On the whole, economic activity is likely to receive little stimulation from industrial production.

**The Community's leading economic sentiment indicator goes on falling.** — In August the Community's economic sentiment indicator reached a new low of 98.0 after having already fallen to 98.8 in July, which was 0.7 index points down on June. At the time of the last cyclical low in October 1982 this index fell to 96.1. The fall in the leading indicator in July and August was particularly marked in Belgium, France, Italy and the United Kingdom. In these countries the main contributory factor was declining consumer confidence.

**Virtually no change in industrial capacity utilization since the beginning of 1992.** — According to the latest business surveys, capacity utilization by industrial firms in the Community was still only 80.6%, the same as at the beginning of the year. This is still well below the last peak of 85.7% in July 1989. Companies are reporting increasing spare capacity by comparison with the production they are planning in the next few months, so that the level of utilization is likely to fall further, even though capacity is growing more slowly because of declining investment. As a result of the current weakness of investment, the level of plant utilization in the investment goods industries was lower in July than it had been in April. This means that capacity utilization is now more than 2 percentage points below the level in the consumer goods industries and the basic materials and producer goods industries, where it has been possible to maintain the level of utilization since the beginning of 1992.

TABLE 1\*: Capacity utilization in manufacturing industry (%) (a) (s.a.)

	Range (b)		1989	1990	1991	1990				1991				1992		
	Peak 79/80	Trough 82/83				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III
<b>B</b>	78,8	74,6	80,3	81,1	79,4	81,1	81,0	80,6	81,5	80,4	79,4	79,1	78,5	77,0	77,7	79,3
<b>DK</b>	:	:	81,2	81,6	80,5	82,4	81,9	81,3	80,9	80,2	81,3	80,2	79,9	79,4	79,2	79,2
<b>D</b>	86,0	75,3	88,0	89,2	88,2	88,8	89,4	89,0	89,5	89,5	88,6	88,2	86,6	85,9	85,4	84,9
<b>GR</b>	:	74,4	77,8	77,0	77,2	77,3	76,2	77,9	76,7	78,6	76,7	76,5	76,9	78,4	79,0	76,8
<b>E</b>	:	:	81,1	79,9	77,6	80,1	79,3	79,9	80,2	78,2	77,6	76,7	77,7	76,4	75,3	78,1
<b>F</b>	85,3	81,1	87,7	87,7	84,2	87,9	88,2	87,2	86,5	85,3	84,1	83,7	83,5	83,1	82,1	82,6
<b>IRL</b>	68,1	56,8	74,4	76,7	75,5	78,7	75,5	75,2	77,4	76,2	74,2	74,3	77,2	77,4	78,5	75,8
<b>I</b>	77,3	69,1	80,0	79,9	77,3	80,2	80,2	80,0	79,1	78,2	77,4	76,5	77,1	76,4	77,8	75,9
<b>L</b>	83,0	66,5	86,2	83,3	82,1	84,3	83,4	83,3	82,0	84,2	81,7	80,6	82,0	80,4	80,6	79,9
<b>NL</b>	83,0	75,8	85,7	86,0	84,6	86,0	86,1	86,0	85,9	84,8	85,1	84,7	83,7	83,3	83,4	84,1
<b>P</b>	:	:	81,7	80,6	79,1	80,8	79,8	81,5	80,6	81,6	78,9	77,0	79,0	77,4	77,5	77,5
<b>UK (d)</b>	87,6	73,0	91,1	86,4	78,6	88,1	87,1	86,2	84,0	81,3	78,7	76,8	77,7	76,6	77,8	78,8
<b>EUR</b>	83,9	76,4	85,6	85,0	82,1	85,2	85,3	84,9	84,4	83,3	82,3	81,4	81,4	80,5	80,7	80,6

TABLE 2: Degree of capacity utilization and orders on hand by industrial branches — European Community (a) (s.a.)

Industries	Degree of capacity utilization in %									Expected capacity constraints: balances overcapacity (+) capacity too small (-)										
	1990		1991		1991			1992			1990		1991		1991			1992		
	I	II	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	I	II	III	
<b>Industry as a whole</b>	85,0	82,1	82,3	81,4	81,4	80,5	80,7	80,6	+9	+22	+20	+25	+25	+24	+24	+26				
<b>Consumer goods (e)</b>	85,8	83,4	83,7	82,4	82,7	81,8	81,6	81,7	+9	+19	+19	+21	+21	+20	+24	+28				
<b>Investment goods (e)</b>	85,9	81,6	82,0	80,7	79,8	79,1	79,2	78,7	+7	+27	+23	+31	+35	+36	+34	+38				
<b>Intermediate goods (e)</b>	84,6	81,5	80,9	80,8	80,8	80,9	81,1	81,0	+11	+25	+24	+28	+28	+27	+22	+25				
Textile industry	82,5	80,0	80,3	78,4	79,3	80,4	81,2	79,5	+19	+28	+30	+26	+28	+32	+27	+25				
Footwear and clothing	86,7	85,0	85,3	84,5	84,6	84,2	83,3	82,5	+12	+20	+20	+23	+23	+20	+24	+33				
Timber/wooden furniture	83,5	81,5	81,5	81,5	80,5	80,7	79,4	79,9	+11	+19	+19	+21	+22	+20	+21	+25				
Manufacture of paper, paper products, printing of which:	86,3	83,6	84,0	82,8	81,4	81,7	83,7	82,7	+9	+18	+15	+20	+25	+28	+25	+25				
manufacture of paper	89,7	89,8	90,4	89,8	87,7	86,9	88,9	88,0	+5	+10	+8	+9	+24	+32	+24	+33				
Leather	82,7	79,6	80,0	78,2	77,2	78,4	77,1	77,3	+11	+25	+25	+35	+25	+37	+29	+22				
Plastics	83,5	81,5	80,6	80,3	80,2	80,7	80,3	79,6	+8	+16	+15	+20	+23	+21	+19	+18				
Mineral-oil refining	90,7	88,2	87,6	87,1	88,8	88,5	93,4	89,3	0	+3	-6	+10	+11	+8	-2	+13				
Metals	84,3	80,4	80,2	78,5	81,1	80,6	82,0	83,2	+13	+29	+31	+30	+28	+26	+19	+34				
Non-metallic mineral products	83,2	81,3	81,2	80,6	80,8	81,3	81,7	80,5	+12	+20	+21	+26	+21	+29	+30	+29				
Metal articles	83,4	80,3	80,3	80,0	78,9	77,8	78,4	77,3	+6	+21	+19	+28	+22	+30	+30	+32				
Mechanical engineering of which:	86,0	80,7	81,5	80,2	78,2	78,1	77,7	78,5	+8	+32	+29	+35	+38	+40	+38	+43				
machines tools	89,1	82,8	83,7	81,1	79,8	77,7	77,1	77,4	-10	+21	+14	+27	+37	+32	+32	+43				
Office and data processing machinery	85,1	82,2	84,8	80,1	78,5	81,3	83,4	78,7	+18	+28	+17	+31	+48	+36	+25	+45				
Electrical engineering	84,3	81,4	83,4	80,3	79,0	79,4	79,7	79,4	+13	+24	+16	+29	+33	+28	+30	+33				
Shipbuilding	83,8	77,0	73,0	75,6	83,1	73,6	76,6	74,0	+22	+37	+62	+27	+46	+71	+54	+53				
Rubber products	83,4	81,1	80,7	81,5	82,1	85,2	85,4	83,3	+20	+40	+47	+51	+28	+15	+1	+4				
Instrument engineering	84,8	82,9	82,9	82,6	81,4	82,6	83,7	82,4	+5	+22	+18	+28	+24	+22	+26	+27				

TABLE 3: Expected capacity constraints in manufacturing industry: i.e. balance of respondents expecting capacity to be more than sufficient in relation to production expectations (a)(c) (s.a.)

	Range (b)		1989	1990	1991	1990	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	1992
	Peak 79/80	Trough 82/83											
<b>B</b>	+35	+53	+15	+12	+24	+15	+18	+26	+26	+28	+29	+32	+31
<b>DK</b>	+10	+38	+15	+15	+23	+20	+23	+22	+23	+24	+29	+28	+28
<b>D</b>	+12	+49	+2	-3	+5	-6	-4	+2	+7	+13	+12	+12	+17
<b>GR</b>	:	+34	+14	+10	+10	+8	+8	+9	+10	+12	+12	+12	+10
<b>E</b>	:	:	+4	+11	+14	+15	+15	+10	+17	+15	+12	+15	+16
<b>F</b>	+11	+48	-2	+2	+18	+10	+14	+21	+19	+20	+20	+23	+25
<b>IRL</b>	+2	+40	+7	+8	+19	+15	+26	+21	+16	+19	+14	+7	+14
<b>I</b>	+17	+58	+16	+18	+33	+23	+29	+32	+38	+36	+36	+35	+33
<b>L</b>	+37	+62	+2	+3	+13	+7	+14	+11	+14	+16	+25	+22	+41
<b>NL</b>	+14	+51	+1	-1	+3	-1	-1	+1	+6	+7	+6	+5	+7
<b>P</b>	:	:	+4	+5	+10	+8	+8	+12	+11	+10	+14	+15	+19
<b>UK</b>	:	+63	+10	+25	+47	+35	+39	+44	+55	+50	+48	+42	+48
<b>EUR</b>	+14	+50	+6	+9	+22	+12	+16	+20	+24	+26	+24	+24	+26

\* Used data-signs in the tables: (s.a.) = seasonally adjusted; : = not available.  
The figures for the Federal Republic of Germany refer to Western Germany, if not mentioned otherwise.  
Source, unless stated otherwise: European Community business surveys.

- (a) The data are collected in January, April, July and October each year.  
(b) These are the extreme (high and low) values of the net balances of the different questions, reached in the period 1979-1983.  
(c) Answers to the questions whether, taking into account the level of order-books or production, capacity is more than sufficient (+), sufficient (=) or less than sufficient (-). This, negative balances (capacity less than sufficient) indicate high levels of capacity utilization and positive balances (capacity more than sufficient) are associated with low levels of capacity utilization.  
(d) The series for the United Kingdom are estimated using the national (Confederation of British Industry) data on the percentage of firms reporting below-capacity working.  
(e) The three major groups do not cover all the sectors of industry as a whole.

TABLE 4: Estimated number of months' production assured by orders on hand in manufacturing industry (a) (s.a.)

	Range (b)		1989	1990	1991	1990	1991				1992		
	Peak 79/80	Trough 82/83					IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
B	3,7	3,0	3,7	4,2	3,7	4,1	4,0	3,8	3,5	3,5	3,5	3,5	3,5
D	3,4	2,6	3,1	3,3	3,2	3,3	3,3	3,2	3,1	3,0	2,9	2,9	2,8
GR	:	5,0	6,5	6,1	5,7	5,5	5,4	5,7	5,5	6,0	5,8	6,0	5,1
E	:	:	2,4	2,5	2,3	2,2	2,1	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,3	2,5	3,0
F	4,2	3,3	3,3	3,4	3,0	3,4	3,4	2,9	3,2	2,9	2,9	3,3	2,7
IRL	2,6	1,5	2,0	2,2	1,9	2,2	1,9	1,9	1,9	2,1	2,4	2,5	2,2
I	5,3	3,8	4,6	4,5	4,1	4,5	4,2	4,1	4,1	3,9	4,0	4,0	3,9
L	2,4	1,7	2,6	2,4	2,4	2,5	2,4	2,4	2,5	2,2	2,2	2,3	2,1
NL	4,2	2,5	3,2	3,2	3,0	3,2	3,3	2,9	2,9	2,8	2,7	2,8	2,9
P	:	:	3,9	4,1	3,8	3,7	3,6	3,8	3,8	3,7	3,5	3,6	3,6
UK	4,2	1,9	3,6	3,3	3,1	3,1	2,9	3,2	3,1	3,3	3,2	3,1	3,1
EUR (c)	3,9	3,0	3,5	3,5	3,3	3,5	3,3	3,3	3,3	3,3	3,1	3,4	3,1

TABLE 5: New orders in manufacturing industry (a) (s.a.)

Balances: i.e., differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies

	Range (b)		1989	1990	1991	1990	1991				1992		
	Peak 1979	Trough 1981/83					IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
B	+8	-22	+5	-1	-12	-3	-11	-14	-9	-13	-12	-12	-13
DK	:	-14	+16	+7	+4	+8	-2	+3	+8	+8	-3	+13	-5
D	+17	-26	+13	+8	-2	+7	+10	-6	-4	-8	-7	-7	-5
E	:	:	+8	+2	+5	-7	-5	+12	+9	+4	+5	+3	+1
F	+14	-35	+17	0	-26	-10	-22	-32	-27	-21	-20	-2	-11
IRL	:	-46	+10	+3	-11	-9	-7	-9	-17	-10	+2	-1	+15
I	+7	-25	+18	+8	-1	+2	-5	+1	+1	0	-1	+4	-5
L	+45	-67	+4	-3	-34	-9	-7	-40	-47	-42	-35	-34	-32
NL	+9	-6	+13	+10	+4	+7	+8	-5	+8	+4	+6	+4	+7
P	:	:	+6	-2	-10	-2	+1	-13	-14	-13	-12	-11	-20
UK	:	-21	+4	-5	-40	-33	-33	-46	-46	-33	-36	-20	-15
EUR (c)	+14	-27	+12	+3	-12	-6	-8	-15	-13	-12	-12	-5	-7

TABLE 6: Export volume expectations in manufacturing industry: (a) (s.a.)

Balances: i.e., differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies

	Range (b)		1989	1990	1991	1990	1991				1992		
	Peak 1979	Trough 1981/83					IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
B	:	:	+6	-2	-14	-5	-10	-18	-9	-19	-8	-8	-11
D	+6	-15	+13	+5	-11	-2	-8	-16	-13	-6	+1	+2	+3
GR	:	-13	+26	+21	+18	+14	+15	+17	+21	+18	+19	+19	+18
E	:	:	+4	-1	+1	-4	0	+3	+2	0	+1	+2	+8
F	+13	-23	+11	+4	-11	-11	-15	-14	-11	-7	-2	-2	+4
IRL	:	-8	+16	+10	+12	-5	+15	+2	+7	+23	-14	+22	+19
I	+16	-14	+24	+15	+6	+10	+1	+7	+9	+8	+5	+9	+6
L	+62	-67	+3	+2	-39	+3	-3	-42	-58	-52	-40	-41	-25
NL	+20	-11	+12	+6	+6	-7	+11	+5	+5	+4	+16	+7	+3
P	:	:	+17	+9	+5	+1	+8	+6	+4	+1	-2	+7	-6
UK	:	-4	+11	+6	-4	-9	-18	-3	-3	+8	-2	+13	+6
EUR (c)	+11	-11	+13	+6	-5	-3	-7	-8	-5	-2	+1	+4	+3

TABLE 7: Employment expectations in manufacturing industry (a) (s.a.)

Balance of respondents expecting employment up, unchanged, down

	Range (b)		1989	1990	1991	1990	1991				1992		
	Peak 1979	Trough 1981/83					IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
B	-2	-17	+2	-3	-10	-9	-12	-13	-7	-8	-8	-14	-16
DK	:	-14	-1	-6	-5	-11	-9	-4	0	-8	-9	-3	-6
D	+2	-38	+1	+9	-7	+4	+1	-8	-10	-12	-19	-21	-25
GR	:	:	+2	-3	-7	-8	-10	-11	-6	-1	-1	0	-10
E	:	:	-11	-14	-18	-18	-18	-16	-17	-20	-18	-17	-21
F	-23	-48	-19	-13	-30	-17	-28	-28	-30	-35	-40	-39	-40
IRL	+4	-35	+8	-1	-15	-4	-11	-25	-9	-15	-25	-10	-4
I	+3	-39	+3	-4	-12	-11	-9	-8	-15	-15	-20	-21	-23
L	-1	-62	-40	-40	-41	-50	-34	-26	-49	-53	-40	-30	-36
NL	-6	-36	-1	+7	-8	0	-7	-8	-6	-10	-9	-15	-13
P	:	:	-6	-6	-12	-8	-8	-12	-11	-16	-18	-21	-21
UK	:	-43	-4	-27	-43	-36	-48	-41	-44	-37	-38	-32	-30
EUR (c)	-6	-40	-4	-7	-19	-12	-16	-18	-21	-22	-25	-25	-26

(a) The data are collected in January, April, July and October each year.

(b) These are the extreme (high and low) values of the net balances of the different questions, reached in the period 1979-1983.

(c) Weighted total of available country data.

TABLE 8: Indicators of output and economic sentiment

		Ranges		1989	1990	1991	1991	1992		1992						
		Peak 79/80	Trough 81/83					IV	I	II	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.
<b>B</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	112,9	118,4	114,7	115,3	116,8	:	116,8	117,2	121,8	:	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		-4	-35	0	-3	-15	-16	-15	-18	-15	-17	-19	-18	-18	-21
	2. construction confidence indicator		-7	-65	-5	-3	-7	-9	-10	-12	-9	-10	-12	-13	-15	-16
	3. consumer confidence indicator		-7	-31	1	-1	-7	-5	-7	-12	-9	-11	-11	-15	-13	-13
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	203,8	184,6	177,4	173,2	183,7	183,4	183,1	180,4	186,3	183,6	177,9	168,1
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		103,9	96,8	105,9	104,7	102,1	102,2	101,8	100,5	101,5	100,9	100,8	100,1	100,3	99,9
<b>DK</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	107,5	108,1	110,0	109,4	112,2	111,1	113,5	112,5	107,0	113,9	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		:	-22	4	-2	-8	-8	-5	-6	:	-6	:	:	-6	:
	2. construction confidence indicator		:	-37	-24	-24	-32	-37	-29	-24	:	-24	:	:	-14	:
	3. consumer confidence indicator		5	-22	-14	-8	-2	0	-2	1	-4	-2	-1	0	1	1
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	132,7	146,1	157,9	166,0	158,9	153,0	151,8	150,5	159,4	149,2	145,9	135,4
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		:	:	98,3	97,8	97,3	97,2	97,2	97,1	97,1	97,1	97,2	97,1	97,1	97,0
<b>D</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	111,0	116,3	120,2	119,4	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	112,1	117,9	121,4	120,4	121,4	120,4	122,0	120,8	120,6	119,9	119,8	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		2	-40	5	8	0	-8	-10	-13	-11	-11	-13	-15	-16	-16
	2. construction confidence indicator		11	-64	-15	-1	-5	-7	-10	-15	-12	-15	-15	-16	-15	-16
	3. consumer confidence indicator		9	-31	1	1	-12	-15	-14	-21	-15	-20	-23	-21	-18	-17
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	133,1	156,0	141,3	138,1	145,2	148,2	148,3	148,0	148,7	148,0	140,8	128,8
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		103,6	94,7	102,5	103,3	100,6	99,5	99,4	98,2	99,2	98,5	98,1	98,1	98,2	98,1
<b>F</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	113,5	116,7	118,0	119,0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	111,4	112,7	113,2	114,0	114,4	113,0	114,4	113,8	112,9	112,4	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		5	-39	8	-8	-20	-20	-16	-17	-14	-19	-16	-17	-20	:
	2. construction confidence indicator		-17	-57	-4	-6	-17	-23	-29	-42	:	-42	:	:	-46	:
	3. consumer confidence indicator		3	-27	-11	-13	-21	-24	-23	-21	-22	-22	-20	-21	-23	:
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	220,9	223,7	208,6	208,9	222,2	232,8	228,0	233,2	237,5	227,7	218,8	:
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		101,8	95,1	105,5	103,9	101,3	100,5	100,6	100,3	100,7	100,2	100,5	100,1	99,4	:
<b>IRL</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	137,5	144,0	148,8	153,9	160,5	:	161,1	165,0	159,1	:	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		20	-40	10	0	-9	-3	-3	-1	-4	-5	-4	7	1	1
	2. construction confidence indicator		:	-60	24	6	-22	-16	-8	5	-16	-1	9	6	-14	-14
	3. consumer confidence indicator		12	-44	-7	-7	-18	-22	-21	-22	-20	-27	-20	-19	-19	-19
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	281,5	269,2	241,4	240,4	242,9	236,7	233,1	248,3	237,0	228,4	218,8	201,8
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		103,6	98,1	104,4	103,4	101,1	100,8	101,0	101,2	100,6	100,1	101,0	101,3	100,7	100,7
<b>I</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	113,5	116,3	117,9	118,4	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	118,3	117,9	115,1	114,5	116,8	115,3	117,6	113,5	118,2	114,1	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		13	-41	8	-1	-13	-13	-13	-14	-14	-14	-13	-15	-14	:
	2. construction confidence indicator		-5	-51	-5	6	-7	-13	-8	-8	-4	-13	-3	-7	-12	:
	3. consumer confidence indicator		:	:	-6	-6	-13	-13	-14	-15	-13	-14	-14	-17	-18	:
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	213,2	194,3	156,4	147,2	151,0	144,7	148,2	147,6	143,5	142,9	129,9	:
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		101,6	97,6	102,3	101,9	99,7	99,5	99,4	99,2	99,5	99,3	99,4	98,8	98,5	:
<b>NL</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	110,3	114,7	117,1	118,3	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	105,5	108,5	113,1	114,3	115,3	113,8	115,1	115,6	113,6	112,2	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		4	-31	1	0	-5	-5	-3	-5	-5	-4	-5	-5	-6	-7
	2. construction confidence indicator		3	-46	1	-1	-7	-10	-11	-14	-15	-13	-13	-16	-18	-18
	3. consumer confidence indicator		5	-37	9	3	-10	-12	-13	-11	-12	-12	-12	-8	-6	-6
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	136,0	131,1	136,0	137,0	143,3	149,7	145,3	147,2	150,6	151,2	144,8	137,9
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		105,3	97,1	102,9	101,8	99,6	99,2	99,2	99,5	99,2	99,3	99,3	99,8	99,7	99,6
<b>UK</b>	<i>gross domestic product</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	116,1	117,1	114,7	114,5	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	109,9	109,3	106,0	106,1	105,3	105,0	105,2	105,7	104,6	104,8	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		9	-60	-2	-18	-32	-25	-25	-18	-22	-21	-15	-17	-23	-28
	2. construction confidence indicator		7	-62	29	-28	-64	-50	-50	-42	-46	-42	-39	-45	-45	-51
	3. consumer confidence indicator		14	-26	-18	-26	-17	-11	-13	-6	-10	-8	-3	-7	-11	-18
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	176,6	173,3	190,3	194,8	196,6	206,3	195,7	200,5	213,3	205,1	191,9	173,1
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		104,9	98,8	101,3	98,2	97,2	98,4	98,3	99,3	98,7	99,0	99,8	99,1	98,5	97,4
<b>EUR</b>	<i>gross domestic product (a)(b)</i>	1985 = 100	:	:	113,3	116,2	117,6	117,8	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	<i>index of industrial production</i>		:	:	112,6	114,6	114,5	114,2	115,5	113,7	115,4	114,0	114,2	113,2	:	:
	1. industrial confidence indicator		3	-36	4	-3	-14	-15	-14	-15	-14	-15	-14	-16	-17	-19
	2. construction confidence indicator		-1	-50	-2	-6	-18	-20	-21	-24	-22	-25	-24	-24	-28	-30
	3. consumer confidence indicator		1	-22	-6	-9	-14	-14	-14	-15	-14	-15	-15	-16	-17	-19
	4. share-price index (c)		:	:	172,1	174,8	174,9	175,9	180,9	186,9	181,7	184,3	191,1	185,4	174,1	161,1
	= 5. economic sentiment indicator		104,1	96,1	103,9	102,6	100,2	99,9	100,0	99,7	100,1	99,7	99,9	99,5	98,8	98,0

(a) Weighted total of quarterly figures for the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK.

(b) For the Federal Republic of Germany, gross national product for quarterly data.

(c) Not seasonally adjusted.

TABLE 9: Monthly survey of manufacturing industry — Monthly questions and the composite industrial confidence indicator<sup>(a)</sup>  
Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (s.a.)

		Ranges(b)		1989	1990	1991	1991	1992		1992						
		Peak 1979/80	Trough 1981/83					I	II	March	April	May	June	July	August	
INDUSTRIAL CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	B	-4	-35	0	3	-15	-16	-15	-18	-15	-17	-19	-18	-18	-21	
	DK	:	-22	4	-2	-8	-8	-5	-6	:	-6	:	:	-6	:	
	D	2	-40	5	8	0	-8	-10	-13	-11	-11	-13	-15	-16	-16	
	GR	:	:	0	-2	-7	0	-1	-5	-1	-5	-6	-4	-3	-3	
	E	:	:	-3	-14	-22	-20	-19	0	-18	-18	-19	-23	-26	-25	
	F	5	-39	8	-8	-20	-20	-16	-17	-14	-19	-16	-17	-20	:	
	IRL	20	-40	10	0	-9	-3	-3	-2	-4	-5	-4	3	1	1	
	I	13	-41	8	-1	-13	-13	-13	-14	-14	-14	-13	-14	-14	:	
	L	16	-65	-2	-4	-24	-32	-34	-32	-33	-30	-36	-29	-25	-22	
	NL	4	-31	1	0	-5	-5	-3	-5	-5	-4	-5	-5	-6	-7	
	P	11	-25	-1	-5	-7	-6	-7	-8	-8	-6	-8	-11	-13	-12	
	UK	9	-60	-2	-18	-32	-25	-25	-18	-22	-21	-15	-17	-23	-28	
	EUR	3	-36	4	-3	-14	-15	-14	-14	-14	-15	-14	-16	-17	-19	
PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS	B	-4	-37	7	0	-12	-11	-6	-13	-8	-12	-14	-13	-15	-19	
	DK	:	8	13	11	8	6	11	6	:	6	:	:	9	:	
	D	10	-30	10	11	3	-2	-2	-5	-3	-3	-5	-6	-3	-3	
	GR	:	:	20	21	18	29	26	28	23	29	27	29	32	32	
	E	18	-20	11	4	-1	-2	4	0	4	4	1	-5	-2	-7	
	F	18	-20	15	4	-4	-1	4	2	5	0	2	3	-2	:	
	IRL	40	-33	20	14	4	10	1	3	-1	1	-2	11	12	5	
	I	24	26	24	15	8	8	6	5	5	6	5	5	6	:	
	L	40	-66	6	5	-27	-36	-35	-33	-35	-29	-38	-33	-27	-28	
	NL	20	-13	8	7	5	7	8	6	3	9	4	6	2	-4	
	P	30	-13	13	13	9	9	5	4	6	7	6	0	6	0	
	UK	29	-52	11	-7	-14	1	1	7	-1	4	10	7	-1	-11	
	EUR	15	-24	14	7	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	-3	
ORDER BOOKS	B	-14	-49	-5	-6	-26	-29	-28	-31	-28	-30	-31	-31	-32	-30	
	DK	:	-34	8	-2	-14	-15	-14	-11	:	-11	:	:	-18	:	
	D	-6	-59	3	10	-4	-15	-18	-22	-19	-19	-22	-26	-29	-31	
	GR	:	:	-14	-14	-23	-19	-22	-26	-21	-27	-29	-22	-20	-20	
	E	:	:	-8	-23	-39	-35	-39	0	-36	-32	-36	-45	-43	-41	
	F	0	-56	11	-11	-35	-36	-35	-36	-33	-39	-33	-36	-39	:	
	IRL	18	-55	9	-9	-22	-15	-9	-7	-9	-8	-8	-6	-2	2	
	I	7	-66	4	-6	-28	-28	-25	-27	-24	-28	-26	-26	-32	:	
	L	8	-70	-14	-13	-38	-50	-56	-47	-53	-46	-52	-43	-36	-29	
	NL	-5	-42	-1	-4	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-12	-11	-11	-13	-13	
	P	3	-35	-7	-14	-21	-22	-23	-26	-25	-23	-25	-30	-29	-28	
	UK	-2	-85	-5	-30	-56	-55	-54	-44	-49	-51	-39	-42	-47	-50	
	EUR	-7	-56	2	-8	-28	-30	-30	-30	-29	-31	-29	-32	-35	-35	
EXPORT ORDER BOOKS	B	-19	-55	-10	-10	-30	-35	-33	-34	-33	-31	-35	-37	-37	-32	
	DK	:	14	15	6	-4	-6	-5	-1	:	-1	:	:	-9	:	
	D	-14	-50	-2	-6	-32	-37	-35	-36	-34	-36	-36	-37	-37	-36	
	GR	:	:	-23	-22	-24	-19	-29	-29	-29	-27	-32	-27	-21	-21	
	E	:	:	-21	-27	-33	-32	-33	0	-34	-31	-43	-39	-35	-34	
	F	10	-52	11	-13	-34	-34	-30	-32	-27	-37	-30	-30	-28	:	
	IRL	:	:	13	-15	-20	-2	0	15	8	6	1	37	5	2	
	I	-6	-59	-4	-15	-33	-31	-30	-34	-29	-29	-34	-38	-41	:	
	L	9	-80	-7	-33	-47	-68	-55	-46	-52	-40	-54	-45	-40	-42	
	P	4	-35	-6	-21	-24	-29	-25	-21	-22	-22	-16	-26	-21	-32	
	UK	-11	-72	-10	-11	-35	-31	-39	-30	-38	-33	-27	-30	-39	-34	
		EUR	-12	-50	-3	-11	-32	-33	-33	-32	-32	-32	-33	-34	-35	-34
STOCKS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS	B	2	18	2	4	7	7	10	11	9	10	13	11	8	15	
	DK	:	24	8	14	18	16	12	13	:	13	:	:	10	:	
	D	-2	31	0	-4	0	7	9	12	10	12	12	12	15	14	
	GR	:	:	8	12	14	10	7	17	4	16	17	19	20	20	
	E	15	35	12	22	26	24	21	0	23	25	21	20	34	27	
	F	3	42	3	15	21	22	17	18	13	19	17	17	20	:	
	IRL	-6	33	0	5	8	3	2	2	1	8	1	-3	6	5	
	I	-8	32	5	12	19	19	19	20	22	20	19	21	17	:	
	L	0	58	-2	3	7	10	11	15	12	16	17	12	11	8	
	NL	3	39	3	4	8	10	7	9	7	8	9	9	8	5	
	P	1	26	7	14	10	5	5	3	5	3	4	3	17	8	
	UK	-1	42	12	17	26	21	20	16	15	15	15	17	20	24	
	EUR	-1	31	5	9	15	16	15	15	14	16	15	16	17	18	
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS	B	39	12	15	7	2	1	4	-1	6	2	-2	-2	0	-1	
	D	38	4	19	16	14	11	12	16	13	15	17	15	12	12	
	GR	:	:	28	31	28	24	33	23	34	29	20	21	27	27	
	E	:	:	14	5	0	-2	-7	0	-6	-8	0	-2	-3	-4	
	F	62	17	20	16	11	10	11	13	7	15	11	13	6	:	
	IRL	77	20	16	1	-1	1	6	-4	8	-1	-13	3	3	-5	
	I	87	37	28	20	16	12	14	15	12	13	14	19	11	:	
	L	74	-38	14	-6	-32	-28	-8	0	-5	-2	-3	5	-16	-22	
	P	:	:	24	21	17	12	18	15	19	14	16	14	11	7	
	UK	70	7	27	23	5	1	1	1	3	-1	3	1	-1	-2	
		EUR	53	22	22	17	11	8	8	10	8	9	10	11	7	6

(a) The indicator is an average of the responses (balances) to the questions on production expectations, order-books and stocks (the latter with inverted sign).

(b) These are the extreme (high and low) values of the balances of the different questions, reached in the course of 1979-1983.

TABLE 10: Survey of the construction industry

Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (s.a.)

		Ranges		1989	1990	1991	1991	1992			1992					
		Peak 79,80	Trough 81,83					IV	I	II	March	April	May	June	July	August
CONSTRUCTION CONFIDENCE INDICATOR <sup>(a)</sup>	<b>B</b>	-7	-65	-5	-3	-7	-9	-10	-12	-9	-10	-12	-13	-15	-16	
	<b>DK</b>	:	-36	-24	-24	-32	-37	-29	-24	:	-24	:	:	-14	:	
	<b>D</b>	11	-64	-15	-1	-5	-7	-10	-15	-12	-15	-15	-16	-15	-16	
	<b>GR</b>	:	-78	-27	-23	-32	-24	-19	-20	:	-20	:	:	-2	:	
	<b>E*</b>	:	:	19	15	-9	-19	-23	-26	-37	-24	-32	-21	-45	-53	
	<b>F</b>	-17	-57	-4	-6	-17	-23	-29	-42	:	-42	:	:	-46	:	
	<b>IRL</b>	:	-60	24	6	-22	-16	-8	5	-16	-1	9	6	-14	:	
	<b>I</b>	-5	-51	-5	6	-7	-13	-8	-8	-4	-13	-3	-7	-12	-13	
	<b>L</b>	31	-77	-3	10	4	-17	-21	-20	-25	-24	-18	-19	-11	-11	
	<b>NL</b>	3	-46	1	-1	-7	-10	-11	-14	-15	-13	-13	-16	-18	:	
	<b>P*</b>	:	:	0	-13	-22	-24	-28	-30	-32	-30	-30	-30	-37	-31	
	<b>UK</b>	7	-62	29	-28	-64	-50	-50	-42	-46	-42	-39	-45	-45	-51	
	<b>EUR</b>	-1	-50	-2	-6	-18	-20	-21	-24	-22	-25	-24	-24	-28	-30	
	ORDER-BOOKS	<b>B</b>	-20	-76	-17	-14	-17	-21	-21	-26	-20	-24	-27	-28	-28	-29
<b>DK</b>		:	-38	-30	-33	-43	-48	-42	-37	:	-37	:	:	-22	:	
<b>D</b>		2	-75	-32	13	-15	-20	-19	-25	-20	-25	-24	-25	-25	-26	
<b>GR</b>		:	-78	-58	-48	-54	-46	-48	-41	:	-41	:	:	-39	:	
<b>E*</b>		:	:	25	25	-11	-22	-20	-29	-29	-31	-46	-11	-34	-55	
<b>F</b>		-26	-73	-10	-14	-27	-36	-41	-53	:	-53	:	:	-58	:	
<b>IRL</b>		:	-58	20	3	-18	-13	-10	6	-18	-2	10	10	-13	:	
<b>I</b>		-8	-62	-8	5	-4	-8	-11	-13	-6	-12	-14	-12	-18	-9	
<b>L</b>		15	-79	-13	4	-8	-23	-17	-12	-16	-8	-10	-17	-13	-13	
<b>NL</b>		-10	-61	-5	-7	-11	-14	-17	-21	-21	-20	-20	-23	-26	:	
<b>P*</b>		:	:	-19	-36	-46	-42	-45	-50	-49	-49	-52	-49	-46	-49	
<b>UK</b>		-1	-74	25	-31	-78	-71	-74	-67	-70	-66	-64	-70	-66	-70	
<b>EUR</b>		-9	-64	-11	-13	-26	-30	-31	-35	-31	-35	-37	-34	-38	-39	
EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS		<b>B</b>	7	-53	8	8	4	4	2	3	3	4	3	3	-1	-2
	<b>DK</b>	:	-35	-17	-14	-21	-25	-16	-11	:	-11	:	:	-5	:	
	<b>D</b>	20	-53	2	11	6	6	1	-5	-3	-5	-5	-6	-5	-6	
	<b>GR</b>	:	-77	4	3	-10	-2	10	2	:	2	:	:	35	:	
	<b>E*</b>	:	:	13	5	-6	-14	-27	-21	-45	-17	-17	-30	-56	-51	
	<b>F</b>	-8	-47	3	3	-5	-9	-16	-30	:	-30	:	:	-33	:	
	<b>IRL</b>	:	-61	28	9	-26	-18	-6	4	-13	1	8	2	-14	:	
	<b>I</b>	2	-39	0	7	-11	-17	-6	-2	-2	-13	9	-2	-6	-16	
	<b>L</b>	46	-75	7	16	0	-11	-24	-29	-33	-40	-26	-20	-9	-8	
	<b>NL</b>	15	-31	7	5	-2	-5	-5	-6	-8	-5	-5	-8	-9	:	
	<b>P*</b>	:	:	20	11	2	-6	-10	-9	-14	-10	-8	-10	-28	-12	
	<b>UK</b>	15	-50	33	-25	-50	-27	-26	-17	-21	-18	-14	-20	-24	-32	
	<b>EUR</b>	7	-35	7	2	-10	-10	-11	-13	-13	-14	-10	-14	-18	-21	
	PRICE EXPECTATIONS	<b>B</b>	61	-18	22	17	11	12	7	3	6	3	6	0	2	2
<b>DK</b>		48	-49	18	31	12	4	1	1	2	-1	4	0	-1	-6	
<b>GR</b>		:	9	10	12	-4	-8	12	-2	:	-2	:	:	7	:	
<b>E*</b>		:	:	51	33	19	28	30	5	25	-5	14	5	3	1	
<b>IRL</b>		:	:	26	10	-30	-18	-15	-11	-9	-19	-8	-6	-5	:	
<b>I</b>		79	2	32	44	25	15	42	24	36	29	23	20	17	24	
<b>L</b>		81	-49	-9	11	1	-17	-18	-37	-24	-36	-39	-35	-17	-26	
<b>NL</b>		:	:	36	55	34	33	40	32	50	37	32	26	24	:	
<b>P*</b>		:	:	52	41	30	28	28	32	24	35	32	30	5	-1	
<b>UK</b>		74	-21	54	-31	-32	-6	-3	-2	3	-5	2	-4	-4	-13	
<b>EUR</b>		:	:	31	21	9	10	17	9	17	8	11	7	5	3	

(a) The indicator is an average of the responses (balances) to the questions on order-books and employment expectations.

\* From this number on the data are seasonally adjusted and included in the average for the community.

TABLE 11: Results of business surveys in the retail trade<sup>(a)</sup> (b)

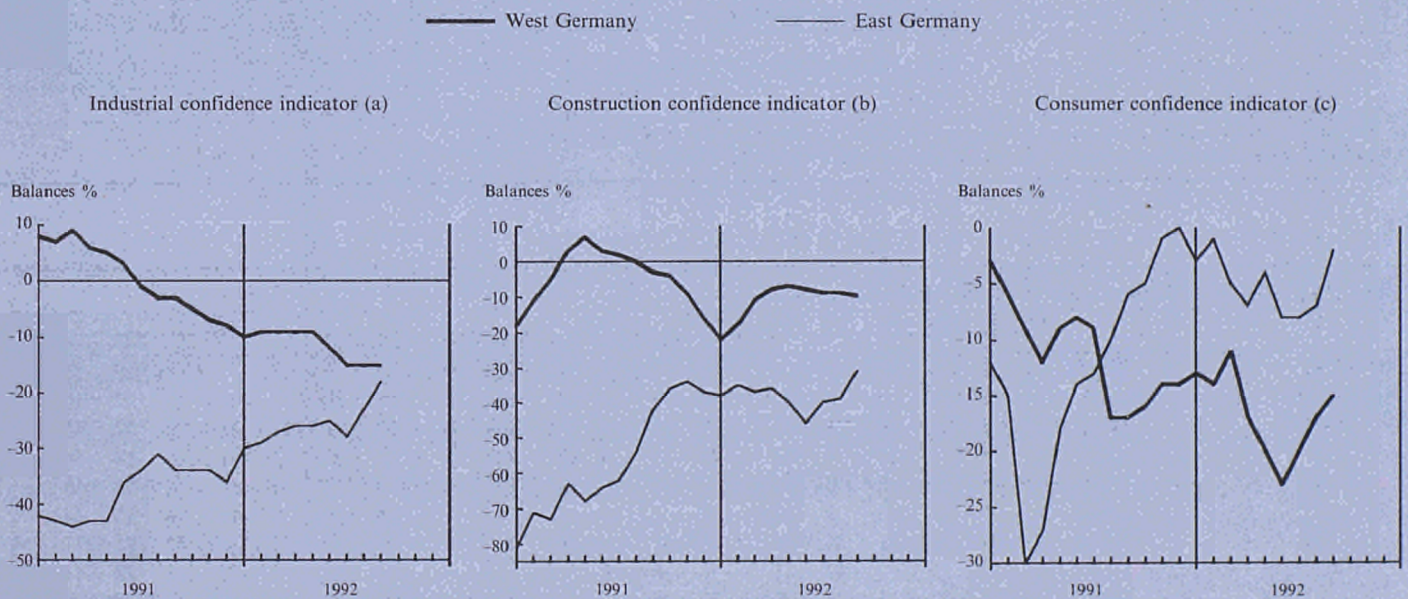
		1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1991					1992								
							July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
PRESENT BUSINESS SITUATION	<b>B</b> (d)	-11	-5	4	15	-9	4	-7	-10	0	-12	-9	-4	3	-21	-19	-2	-17	-16	:
	<b>DK</b>	:	:	:	:	27	33	18	28	33	25	37	38	28	27	42	40	32	17	30
	<b>D</b>	-5	-3	0	28	21	25	14	-5	20	13	16	10	6	-11	-11	-4	-17	-10	-15
	<b>E</b>	:	-19	-21	-34	-33	-32	-36	-29	-22	-28	-35	-33	-32	-47	-41	-46	-54	-56	-52
	<b>F</b>	-15	-9	-6	0	-17	-31	-21	-10	-27	-24	-10	-24	-17	4	-19	-33	-37	-50	:
	<b>I</b> (c)(d)	1	4	6	1	-9	-7	:	-7	:	-6	:	-6	-9	-9	-18	-3	-15	-14	:
	<b>NL</b>	39	34	41	46	41	47	48	33	40	34	46	31	33	32	30	37	21	31	28
	<b>P</b>	:	:	-7	-12	-11	-10	-6	-19	-9	-2	-6	-6	-11	-4	-17	-6	-18	-14	-12
	<b>UK</b> (e)	22	25	6	-7	-33	-35	-27	-33	-31	-27	-34	-26	-23	-36	-26	-24	-30	-51	-25
	<b>EUR</b> (f)	1	3	1	5	-8	-8	-9	-12	-7	-9	-7	-9	-9	-13	-17	-14	-24	-28	:

TABLE 11 (continued): Results of business surveys in the retail trade (a) (b)

		1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1991						1992							
							July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
VOLUME OF STOCKS	<b>B</b> (d)	12	11	12	7	19	24	8	14	23	18	13	13	19	31	25	27	23	22	:
	<b>DK</b>	:	:	:	:	17	6	7	15	22	24	19	20	15	18	27	22	15	13	8
	<b>D</b>	26	25	19	10	19	21	17	21	20	25	26	19	28	26	23	25	25	26	31
	<b>E</b>	:	-5	1	6	2	-2	-2	-5	-3	1	8	5	4	8	3	11	15	13	9
	<b>F</b>	19	20	14	15	13	17	13	8	14	13	22	16	3	4	14	7	11	13	:
	<b>I</b> (c) (d)	21	19	21	27	26	25	:	22	:	25	:	19	23	22	22	15	29	14	:
	<b>NL</b>	14	14	8	10	11	12	7	10	13	15	11	9	11	15	13	10	13	10	7
	<b>P</b>	:	:	15	16	10	16	7	2	3	10	13	7	5	4	15	9	14	13	8
	<b>UK</b>	10	9	22	23	27	27	23	23	21	22	18	14	16	24	27	20	20	22	9
		<b>EUR</b> (f)	19	18	16	16	18	19	14	15	17	19	20	15	15	18	19	16	20	18
INTENTIONS OF PLACING ORDERS	<b>B</b> (d)	-4	0	6	7	-5	-8	12	-3	-4	3	2	1	8	-10	-10	-16	-21	-7	:
	<b>DK</b>	:	:	:	:	19	12	23	22	20	5	29	35	22	28	27	20	22	17	29
	<b>D</b>	-6	-6	0	13	10	12	10	9	10	2	9	2	-3	-6	-3	-10	-5	-3	14
	<b>E</b>	:	6	3	10	8	4	-2	19	12	4	-16	-1	18	7	66	-8	13	19	-12
	<b>F</b>	-20	-20	-17	-12	-23	-25	-21	-17	-24	-21	-26	-30	-26	18	-24	-23	-25	-29	:
	<b>I</b> (c) (d)	-10	-7	-9	-14	-20	-19	:	-13	:	-17	:	-17	-16	-11	-10	-19	-29	-16	:
	<b>NL</b>	13	3	15	17	8	10	17	11	12	8	7	10	8	6	0	-1	-3	6	10
	<b>P</b>	:	:	-13	-5	-8	-12	-8	-2	7	-2	-20	-6	5	4	-28	-19	-23	-20	-13
	<b>UK</b>	33	31	4	-6	-28	-30	-28	-25	-10	-18	-30	-14	-21	-15	-3	-2	-15	-28	-27
		<b>EUR</b> (f)	-2	-2	-3	-1	-10	-11	-7	-6	-5	-10	-13	-10	-10	-10	-8	-12	-14	-13
EXPECTED BUSINESS SITUATION	<b>B</b> (d)	8	8	14	7	3	15	19	6	-3	9	-2	2	21	8	2	7	-19	3	:
	<b>DK</b>	:	:	:	:	40	37	41	34	41	44	48	55	51	47	54	55	41	31	46
	<b>D</b>	3	5	10	19	12	14	5	14	10	11	4	0	7	-8	-3	-5	0	-2	3
	<b>E</b>	:	15	23	19	24	18	24	31	25	19	10	17	36	21	19	7	3	9	19
	<b>F</b>	-38	-34	-18	-20	-41	-42	-43	-43	-48	-50	-47	-59	-43	-36	-43	-30	-12	-35	:
	<b>I</b> (c) (d)	8	4	5	-1	-11	-2	:	-5	:	-21	:	-3	3	4	10	4	-16	-31	:
	<b>NL</b>	31	22	34	34	23	27	30	24	28	25	21	25	26	24	21	12	16	19	25
	<b>P</b>	:	:	11	24	16	13	16	19	17	14	10	15	17	14	14	21	12	-3	7
	<b>UK</b>	38	35	6	-8	1	:	-1	:	:	9	:	:	17	:	:	30	:	:	-13
		<b>EUR</b> (f)	2	2	5	3	-3	-1	-3	-1	-4	-6	-8	-6	2	13	0	2	2	-5

(a) not seasonally adjusted;  
 (b) percentage balances;  
 (c) until 12/1991 bimonthly;  
 (d) excl. large multiple shops;  
 (e) refers to volume of sales for the time of the year.  
 (f) Weighted average of the available country data.

GRAPH 3: Confidence indicators for West and East Germany  
 Balances, not seasonally adjusted



For notes, see table 12.



TABLE 12: Results of monthly business surveys for the Federal Republic of Germany: West and East  
Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (not seasonally adjusted)

Survey of the manufacturing industry

		1991							1992							
		June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Ma.	April	May	June	July	Aug.
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR (a)	West	-1	-3	-3	-5	-7	-8	-10	-9	-9	-9	-9	-12	-15	-15	-15
	East	-34	-34	-31	-34	-34	-36	-30	-29	-27	-26	-26	-25	-28	-23	-18
PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS	West	4	-2	1	2	-4	-4	-3	-1	0	0	0	-4	-7	-4	-1
	East	16	21	23	16	12	3	12	19	23	18	10	11	8	13	30
ORDER-BOOKS	West	-4	-5	-7	-11	-12	-15	-19	-18	-16	-17	-16	-20	-25	-28	-30
	East	-79	-80	-73	-74	-76	-71	-69	-71	-72	-72	-59	-64	-64	-60	-58
EXPORT ORDER BOOKS	West	-30	-32	-36	-35	-38	-37	-34	-36	-31	-32	-33	-34	-35	-35	-36
	East	-64	-71	-64	-58	-65	-64	-53	-60	-57	-65	-48	-52	-51	-51	-53
STOCKS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS	West	2	3	4	5	5	6	8	8	10	11	11	11	12	14	13
	East	39	42	42	43	38	40	35	34	33	25	28	22	29	23	27
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS	West	10	7	1	2	9	12	17	20	19	17	16	14	9	5	5
	East	1	2	4	3	8	10	14	13	14	11	8	4	4	4	4

Survey of the construction industry

		1991							1992							
		June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Ma.	April	May	June	July	Aug.
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR (b)	West	2	0	-3	-4	-9	-16	-22	-18	-11	-8	-7	-8	-9	-9	-10
	East	-62	-54	-42	-36	-34	-37	-38	-35	-37	-36	-40	-46	-40	-39	-31
ORDER-BOOKS	West	-10	-12	-13	-12	-13	-18	-27	-28	-27	-26	-26	-21	-20	-18	-18
	East	-74	-59	-43	-30	-28	-26	-31	-40	-45	-46	-50	-50	-44	-39	-41
EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS	West	14	12	8	4	-4	-14	-17	-8	6	11	12	6	3	0	-1
	East	-50	-48	-41	-41	-40	-47	-45	-30	-28	-26	-30	-41	-36	-39	-21
PRICE EXPECTATIONS	West	18	11	8	3	-4	-9	-7	-1	7	16	16	7	5	1	-7
	East	24	34	42	48	49	54	42	47	59	62	60	44	35	24	25

Survey in the retail trade

		1991							1992							
		June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Ma.	April	May	June	July	Aug.
PRESENT BUSINESS SITUATION	West	28	25	14	-5	20	13	16	10	6	-11	-11	-4	-17	-10	-15
	East	-26	-9	-5	-8	-3	2	13	-9	-2	2	11	-13	-8	-9	:
VOLUME OF STOCKS	West	22	21	17	21	20	25	26	19	28	26	23	25	25	26	31
	East	56	56	50	37	42	41	27	26	22	18	32	41	25	27	:
EXPECTED BUSINESS SITUATION	West	9	14	5	14	10	11	4	0	7	-8	-3	-5	0	-2	3
	East	-20	7	10	-5	23	-4	17	6	8	19	6	4	-5	17	:
EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS	West	2	:	:	6	:	:	-3	:	:	1	:	:	3	:	:
	East	-75	-62	-57	-65	-67	-63	-51	-51	-48	-46	-55	-54	-53	-48	:

Consumer survey

		1991							1992							
		June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Ma.	April	May	June	July	Aug.
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR (c)	West	-9	-17	-17	-16	-14	-14	-13	-14	-11	-17	-20	-23	-20	-17	-15
	East	-13	-10	-6	-5	-1	0	-3	-1	-5	-7	-4	-8	-8	-7	-2
FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLDS — over the last 12 months	West	-3	-12	-15	-13	-13	-13	-10	-11	-10	-13	-17	-17	-16	-13	-12
	East	-5	1	3	3	3	8	5	8	6	6	7	5	6	2	13
— over the next 12 months	West	-5	-12	-11	-8	-7	-6	-5	-6	-5	-9	-10	-11	-9	-7	-3
	East	-10	-10	-8	-7	2	3	1	6	0	1	3	-1	-1	-4	3
GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION — over the last 12 months	West	-14	-25	-27	-27	-22	-22	-21	-22	-14	-28	-33	-41	-34	-32	-29
	East	-12	-6	-4	1	3	2	0	0	-7	-8	-7	-14	-10	-6	-5
— over the next 12 months	West	-12	-20	-20	-15	-12	-12	-12	-16	-16	-20	-25	-28	-22	-20	-20
	East	-1	2	9	11	15	10	6	5	-3	-6	-3	-6	-4	-1	-3
MAJOR PURCHASES — at present	West	-10	-15	-13	-16	-17	-16	-14	-14	-12	-16	-17	-18	-18	-15	-12
	East	-37	-35	-30	-32	-28	-25	-26	-22	-21	-26	-18	-24	-29	-25	-17
— over the next 12 months	West	-18	-21	-22	-20	-20	-23	-18	-21	-20	-22	-22	-23	-21	-21	-21
	East	-41	-37	-34	-34	-31	-31	-30	-32	-29	-32	-33	-29	-32	-29	-32

(a) The indicator is an arithmetic average of the responses (balances) to the questions on production expectations, order-books and stocks (the latter with inverted sign).

(b) The indicator is an arithmetic average of the responses (balances) to the questions on order-books and employment expectations.

(c) The indicator is an arithmetic average of the responses (balances) to the questions on financial situation of households and the general economic situation (past and future) and the present major purchases.





### Institutes carrying out the surveys

Country	Survey: Manufacturing industry	Construction	Investment	Retail trade	Consumer
Belgium	BNB Banque Nationale de Belgique	BNB	BNB	BNB	DIMARSO Gallup Belgium
Denmark	DS Danmarks Statistik	DS	DS	GfK, Observa A/S	DS
Federal Republic of Germany	IFO Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung	IFO	IFO	IFO	GfK Marktforschung
Greece	IEIR Institute of Economic and Industrial Research	IEIR	IEIR	IEIR	NSSG National Statistical Service of Greece
Spain	MIE Ministerio de Industria y Energía	—	MIE	INTERGALLUP SA	INTERGALLUP SA
France	INSEE Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques	INSEE	INSEE	INSEE	INSEE
Ireland	CII and ESRI Confederation of Irish Industries and Economic and Social Research Institute	CIF Construction Industry Federation	CII and ESRI	—	TEAGASC The Agricultural and Food Development Authority
Italy	ISCO Istituto per lo Studio della Congiuntura	ISCO	ISCO	ISCO	ISCO
Luxembourg	STATEC Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques	STATEC	STATEC	—	—
Netherlands	CBS Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek	EIB Economisch Instituut voor de Bouwnijverheid	CBS	NIPO Nederlands Instituut voor de Publieke Opinie en het Marktonderzoek	CBS
Portugal	INE Instituto Nacional de Estatística	AECOPS Associação de Empresas de Construção e Obras Públicas do Sul	INE	INE	NORMA
United Kingdom	CBI Confederation of British Industry	NEDO National Economic Development Office	CBI	CBI	GALLUP Gallup Institute

### Questions of European Community business and consumer surveys\*

#### Manufacturing industry

##### Monthly:

- production trend observed in recent months: up, unchanged, down?
- assessment of order-book levels: above normal, normal, below normal?
- assessment of export order-book levels: above normal, normal, below normal?
- assessment of stocks of finished goods: above normal, normal, below normal?
- production expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- selling-price expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?

##### Quarterly (January, April, July and October):

- employment expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- limits to production: none, insufficient demand, shortage of labour, lack of equipment, others?
- assessment of current production capacity: more than sufficient, sufficient, not sufficient?
- duration of production assured by current order-book levels: in months?
- new orders in recent months: up, unchanged, down?
- export expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- current level of capacity utilization: in percentage?
- assessment of stocks of raw material: high, normal, low?

#### All industries

##### Half-yearly (undertaken in March/April and October/November):

- investment trends and prospects: yearly percentage change of investment expenditure in current money values.

#### Building industry

##### Monthly:

- current production compared with the preceding months: up, unchanged, down?
- limits to production: none, insufficient demand, bad weather, shortage of manpower, shortage of material and/or equipment, others?
- order-books or production schedules: above normal, normal, below normal?
- employment expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?
- price expectations for the months ahead: up, unchanged, down?

##### Quarterly (January, April, July and October)

- duration of assured production: in months?

#### Retail trade sector

##### Monthly:

- we consider our present business (sales) position to be: good, satisfactory (normal for the season), bad;
- we consider our present stock to be: too small, adequate (normal for the season), too large;
- we expect that our orders placed with suppliers during the next (three) months, excluding purely seasonal variations, will be: up, unchanged, down;
- our business trend over the next six months, excluding purely seasonal variations, will improve, remain unchanged, deteriorate.

##### Quarterly:

- In the next (three) months, and compared with today, the number of persons we employ will: increase, remain unchanged, decline.

#### Consumer survey

##### Monthly:

- How does the financial situation of your household now compare with what it was 12 months ago? got a lot better, got a little better, stayed the same, got a little worse, got a lot worse, don't know.

- How do you think the financial position of your household will change over the next 12 months? get a lot better, get a little better, stay the same, get a little worse, get a lot worse, don't know.
- How do you think the general economic situation in this country has changed over the last 12 months? got a lot better, got a little better, stayed the same, got a little worse, got a lot worse, don't know.
- How do you think the general economic situation in this country will develop over the next 12 months? get a lot better, get a little better, stay the same, get a little worse, get a lot worse, don't know.
- Compared with what it was 12 months ago, do you think the cost of living is now: very much higher, quite a bit higher, a little higher, about the same, lower, don't know?
- By comparison with what is happening now, do you think that in the next 12 months: there will be a more rapid increase in prices, prices will increase at the same rate, prices will increase at a slower rate, prices will stay about the same, prices will fall slightly, don't know?
- How do you think the level of unemployment in the country will change over the next 12 months? Will it increase sharply, increase slightly, remain the same, fall slightly, fall sharply, don't know?
- Do you think that there is an advantage for people to make major purchases (furniture, washing machines, TV sets etc.) at the present time? yes, now is the right time; it is neither the right time nor the wrong time; no, it is the wrong time, the purchase should be postponed; don't know.
- Over the next 12 months, how do you think the amount of money you will spend on major purchases will compare with what you spent over the last 12 months? Will it be: much more, a little more, about the same, a little less, much less, don't know?
- In view of the general economic situation, do you think this is: a very good time to save, quite a good time to save, rather an unfavourable time to save, a very unfavourable time to save, don't know?
- Over the next 12 months, how likely are you to be able to save any money? very likely, fairly likely, fairly unlikely, very unlikely, don't know.
- Which of these statements best describes the present financial situation of your household? we are running into debt, we are having to draw on our savings, we are just managing to make ends meet on our income, we are saving a little, we are saving a lot, don't know.

#### Economic sentiment indicator

The economic sentiment indicator is a composite measure in which the industrial confidence indicator and the consumer confidence indicator are given equal weight, while the construction confidence indicator and the share-price index are attributed half the weight of each of the other two. The share-price index is included in the composite indicator in ratio-to-trend form, in order to separate short-term or cyclical variations from long-term increases in the value of shares. The long-term trend of the series is calculated using the NBER Bry-Boschan growth cycle programme.

#### Industrial confidence indicator

The industrial confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the answers (balances) to the questions on production expectations, order-books and stocks (the latter with inverted sign).

#### Construction confidence indicator

The construction confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the answers (balances) to the questions on order-books and employment expectations.

#### Consumer confidence indicator

The consumer confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the answers (balances) to the four questions on the financial situation of households and general economic situation (past and future) together with that on the advisability of making major purchases.

\* See Supplement B: Special edition - July 1991.

### Prices (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg

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