

Commission of the
European Communities

Directorate-General
for Economic
and Financial Affairs

EUROPEAN ECONOMY

Supplement — Series C

No 3 — December 1979

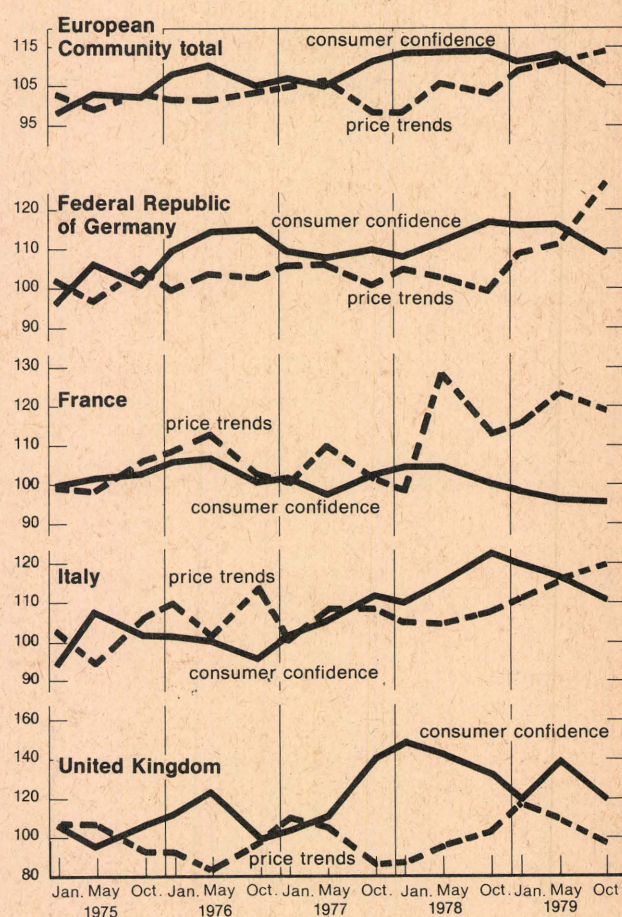
Economic prospects - consumer survey results

General weakening in consumer confidence. — The European Community index of consumer confidence fell by 7,9 points in October, to the lowest level observed since the 1974/75 recession. This compares with a decline of 14,0 between October 1973 and January 1974, following the first oil crisis. The weakening in consumer confidence between May and October of this year was a general Community-wide phenomenon, the declines in individual Member States ranging from 21,3 points in the UK (back to the depressed January 1979 level), through 10,3 points in Denmark, 7,7 points in the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium and 6,2 points in Italy, to moderate falls of 2,0 points in Ireland and 1,2 points in France (see Table 1 and Graph 1). Although the lessening of consumer confidence in mid-1979 (between May and October) is not by any means as severe as that which occurred in the winter of 1973/74, it is, nevertheless, indicative of a clear negative shift in consumer sentiment. It is probable, therefore, that consumers' expenditure in the coming months will be relatively lacking in buoyancy. This will tend to reinforce the weakening tendency of industrial activity which can be foreseen on the basis of recent results of the Community business survey.¹

Pessimistic opinions on the general economic situation. — Consumers' views on general economic trends (as opposed to their personal financial situation) were markedly more pessimistic in October than in May. Thus, the Community index of consumers' opinion on the evolution of the general economic situation (based on 1975 — a recession year — equal to 100) fell by 18,4 points between May and October 1979. The corresponding index relating to the expected economic situation over the coming twelve months declined by 14,2 points. Consumers' sentiment with regard to the general economic environment has apparently been adversely affected by events such as oil price increases and the disturbed world political situation, with the result that expectations with regard to future economic trends (over the next twelve months) are now lower than at any time since the 1974 oil crisis. The most pronounced switch in consumer opinion has occurred in the United Kingdom, where consumer expectations regarding economic trends over the next twelve months have fallen by 48,1 points. The decline in consumers' economic expectations between May and October 1979 was less dramatic in the other Member States but was still very substantial in Belgium (-12,7 points), Italy (-12 points), the Netherlands (-10,7 points) and in the Federal Republic of Germany (-9,7 points).

Lesser deterioration in sentiment regarding personal financial situations. — European consumers, while markedly more pessimistic with regard to the general state of the economy, do not as yet expect to be substantially affected personally by the weaker economic performance. Thus, households' views on their present and future financial situations were only slightly more pessimistic in October than in May 1979. The indicator of households' opinion for

GRAPH 1: Climate of consumer confidence¹ and opinion on price trends over the next twelve months (Index 1975 = 100)



Source: European Community consumer survey.

¹ The climate of consumer confidence is measured by an index based on five questions in the consumer survey. These are the questions relating to the general economic situation, the household financial situation and to major purchases of durable goods (see tables on page 3, 4, 5 and 6 for data and notes).

¹ See 'European Economy', Supplement — Series B: 'Economic prospects — business survey results', No 12, December 1979 (ISSN 0379-2210).

the Community as a whole on their likely financial circumstances over the next twelve months fell by 4 points between May and October 1979; the most substantial decline in households' financial expectations occurred in the United Kingdom (-17,3 points) (see Table 1). Elsewhere in the Community, a weakening of consumers' personal financial expectations was apparent in Denmark, Italy and Belgium, with lesser declines in the other Member States.

Increased expectations of unemployment. — Consistently with consumers' pessimistic views on the general economic situation, expectations of unemployment increased between May and October. The Community indicator of unemployment expectations (see Table 1) is now higher than at any time since the 1974/75 recession, having advanced by 3,8 points since mid-1979. Fears of unemployment are particularly strong in Denmark, where a rise of 28,2 points in the unemployment expectations indicator occurred between May and October. Unemployment expectations are also high in the Federal Republic of Germany and France, but in the latter case they had diminished somewhat (by 3,4 points) in the October survey. The unemployment expectations indicator rose, between the May and October 1979 surveys, by 20,1 points in the UK, while an increase of 5,5 points is reported for Belgium.

Strong inflationary anticipations. — Inflationary expectations were on average stronger at the time of the October 1979 survey than at any time since 1973, a year of very rapid price increases. The indicator of consumers' inflationary expectations rose by 3 points, for the Community as a whole, to 114,5 (see Table 1) between May and October 1979. During the same interval, consumers' perceptions of price increases over the preceding twelve months rose much more substantially, by 10,5 points. Inflationary expectations have grown noticeably stronger in the Federal Republic of Germany (+16,2 points), Ireland (+24,5 points), the Netherlands (+8,8 points) and Belgium (+11,4 points); consumers' anticipations of price increases have, on the other hand, diminished in Denmark (-6,9 points), France (-4,9 points) and the United Kingdom (-12,6 points).

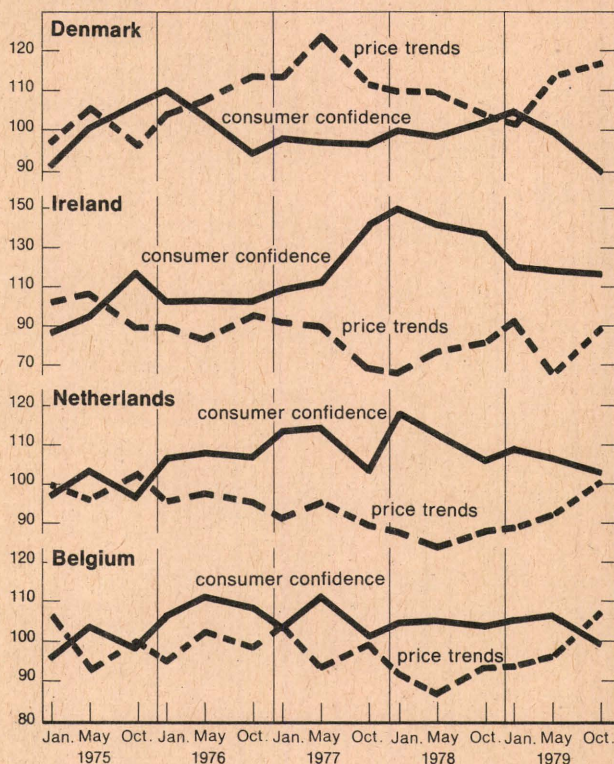
Spending on household equipment and savings' expectations. — Consumers do not consider the present as good a time as 1978 to make major purchases nor (with the exception of certain durable goods — see further below) do they expect to increase their spending on household equipment over the coming twelve months. At the same time, their savings' expectations are generally down, and a somewhat lower level of borrowing is projected. The latter is not surprising in view of tight credit conditions and the high level of interest rates prevailing in the Community.

Consumers' general spending priorities. — In response to the question as to their spending priorities given an increase in income, 33,6% of European consumers would purchase a dwelling (see Table 2), a somewhat higher figure than earlier in the year. There has been some tendency in recent years for housing to advance as a spending priority and for household equipment to fall back. Higher current living standards rose as a spending priority during the 1974/75 recession and maintained their position until recently; the October 1979 survey, however, indicated that current living standards may now be giving way, in favour of housing, as a consumer objective. Investment in real estate assets (other than personal housing and household equipment) is, after housing and current living expenses, the third priority of European consumers, a feature which has not changed since the survey began in 1972. Shares, bonds and other securities are preferred by only 4,3% of consumers but are, nevertheless, coming back into favour following the loss of interest induced by the experience of the 1974/75 recession.

Lower spending foreseen on housing but stronger demand for certain household durable goods. — Although housing ranks first in consumer objectives under the hypothetical assumption of a sharp increase in income, consumers' real-world view of financial and economic conditions have induced them to reduce their present plans to purchase dwellings or to spend major sums on home improvements. This emerges from the October survey (see Table 3), which indicates that 8,3% of consumers intended to buy a home within the next one or two years; this is a fall of 1,8% by comparison with October 1978. Over the same period, the percentage of those intending to spend on home improvements fell by 1,9% to 13,9%. Buying intentions for household consumer durables (freezers, refrigerators, washing-machines, dishwashers, televisions) remain relatively subdued.

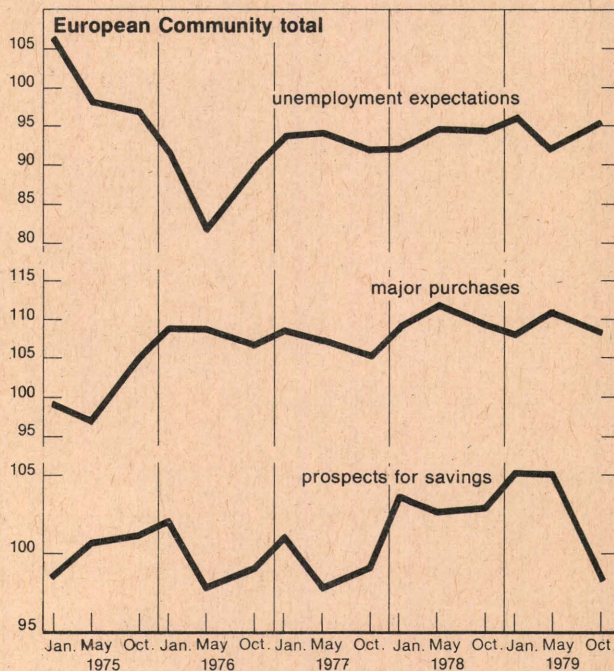
Car-buying intentions rose to a very high level in 1978 (see Table 4) but fell back significantly this October. At the Community level, 15,2% of consumers expressed an intention, in October, to purchase either a new or a second-hand car in the coming twelve months; this is 3,2% less than in October 1978. Car-buying intentions have fallen noticeably in France, Ireland and Italy, while consumers in the Netherlands and the UK were also very much more reticent concerning car purchases in October than in the corresponding month of 1978; however, the absolute level of car-buying intentions in these latter countries remained above the Community average. In Germany, car-buying intentions were, in October, at a record level.

GRAPH 2: Climate of consumer confidence¹ and opinion on price trends over the next twelve months (Index 1975 = 100)



Source: European Community consumer survey.
¹ See note on Graph 1.

GRAPH 3: Consumer opinion on unemployment expected over the next twelve months, the advisability of major purchases at present, and the prospects for savings over the next twelve months¹ (Index 1975 = 100)



Source: European Community consumer survey.
¹ See tables on page 3, 4, 5 and 6 for data and notes.

TABLE 3: Household durable goods and housing

		Possession of consumer durable goods and dwellings								Intention to purchase consumer durable goods, dwellings or to spend on home improvements							
		Percentage of the population, based on the consumer survey sample. ¹								Percentage of the population, based on the consumer survey sample. ¹							
		October survey of each year								October survey of each year							
		1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Freezer	DK	:	:	20,3	19,7	23,0	:	23,0	26,0	:	:	6,8	6,1	4,1	9,3	3,3	3,7
	D	32,4	35,7	37,3	40,6	48,0	53,5	55,4	57,6	18,7	17,3	11,3	11,4	0	8,3	9,4	9,1
	F	7,2	8,6	11,4	15,2	18,2	:	22,5	24,9	:	6,8	7,1	7,2	7,4	7,5	0	7,4
	IRL	:	:	8,6	10,8	15,9	16,8	20,1	23,5	:	:	4,0	3,3	2,7	3,9	3,0	3,1
	I	:	:	:	:	:	18,3	24,8	27,6	9,7	10,1	9,2	9,0	5,3	7,2	6,4	6,7
	NL	:	:	:	:	:	41,9	42,9	44,4	6,1	6,4	7,2	8,3	51,6	7,8	8,7	5,4
	B	:	:	:	:	41,5	46,3	52,3	40,3	4,0	4,5	4,9	5,5	5,5	5,6	1,7	2,2
	UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	37,0	43,9	:	:	8,8	8,3	8,9	9,1	7,8	5,8
	EC	:	:	:	:	:	:	38,2	40,8	:	:	8,9	8,9	7,3	7,9	5,7	7,1
	Refrigerator	DK	:	:	79,9	80,8	79,5	79,0	77,0	76,0	:	:	12,0	12,7	8,6	8,2	8,0
D		91,0	91,2	93,4	94,2	95,4	95,4	97,1	96,5	17,8	16,2	10,3	10,4	0	6,7	6,7	8,0
F		85,2	85,9	87,7	89,0	90,3	80,7	82,2	82,4	:	10,5	10,2	10,6	11,1	11,3	11,7	11,1
IRL		:	:	63,8	67,8	76,0	78,6	80,9	81,1	:	:	7,6	5,4	4,3	5,2	3,8	3,8
I		:	:	:	:	:	91,7	87,6	89,0	:	:	:	:	:	5,8	4,7	5,1
NL		84,2	89,6	91,9	92,9	49,8	96,4	97,2	97,5	9,7	10,5	10,8	12,7	47,3	16,5	18,3	11,3
B		76,3	78,2	81,6	84,2	87,9	89,6	90,2	90,9	5,0	6,1	4,3	5,9	4,9	4,2	1,0	1,4
UK		:	:	15,7	19,4	22,3	55,3	87,0	89,4	:	:	6,2	5,8	6,0	8,3	8,0	6,1
EC		68,8	70,2	61,5	65,3	64,3	83,8	89,5	90,1	:	:	7,7	8,1	6,7	8,5	8,2	8,2
Washing-machine		DK	:	:	54,5	55,9	60,0	61,6	52,0	55,0	:	:	10,7	11,5	7,7	8,2	6,5
	D	78,7	80,6	82,3	84,6	86,1	87,6	87,8	87,9	18,2	16,7	11,0	11,2	0	7,5	7,7	8,9
	F	62,6	65,3	67,5	70,2	72,8	74,4	75,7	78,2	:	12,1	11,4	11,3	11,3	11,9	12,4	12,4
	IRL	:	:	51,2	53,4	59,0	61,9	64,3	68,8	:	:	7,2	5,5	4,7	6,0	5,5	5,6
	I	70,6	75,0	79,9	81,4	83,8	83,6	87,3	87,5	9,6	10,3	9,3	9,1	6,2	7,4	5,8	6,7
	NL	83,8	85,4	86,2	87,5	:	88,1	88,0	87,3	9,4	9,9	9,9	11,3	45,5	14,2	0	9,0
	B	64,2	63,8	63,2	64,1	69,5	73,1	74,8	70,7	5,5	5,9	5,5	6,0	5,6	5,2	1,9	1,9
	UK	:	:	69,3	71,5	73,0	73,4	72,0	75,7	:	:	10,7	9,8	10,2	12,5	11,8	8,5
	EC	:	:	74,5	76,7	:	79,9	80,5	81,7	:	:	10,5	10,4	8,3	9,7	8,5	9,0
	Dishwasher	DK	:	:	11,5	12,6	16,7	19,8	16,0	18,1	:	:	5,1	4,9	3,9	3,5	3,5
D		6,8	7,6	8,6	9,4	12,4	14,2	16,1	17,5	16,4	15,2	8,4	8,4	:	6,6	7,5	7,6
F		4,2	4,8	6,1	7,8	9,0	10,9	12,1	14,3	:	5,0	4,5	4,7	4,7	5,6	6,0	6,1
IRL		:	:	3,4	3,7	4,5	6,1	7,2	7,5	:	:	1,3	0,7	1,1	2,1	1,3	2,0
I		9,8	11,0	14,0	13,7	15,3	16,7	17,0	16,3	6,6	7,5	7,4	7,0	6,1	6,7	5,2	5,7
NL		5,0	5,4	5,9	7,0	6,0	9,1	9,8	10,7	2,3	2,1	1,9	2,4	:	2,9	:	1,6
B		5,0	5,8	6,3	8,0	10,9	11,2	14,1	12,1	3,1	3,1	3,0	3,0	3,3	3,8	1,3	1,3
UK		:	:	2,3	2,9	2,9	2,3	4,0	4,2	:	:	1,3	1,2	1,5	1,6	2,1	1,7
EC		:	:	7,4	8,4	10,0	11,4	12,8	13,8	:	:	5,3	5,4	4,4	5,1	5,1	5,3
Black/white television		DK	:	:	75,3	70,8	59,0	50,9	47,0	41,0	:	:	10,1	8,9	4,9	3,8	3,6
	D	82,4	80,5	77,6	73,4	70,0	64,1	56,4	49,1	17,4	15,7	9,1	9,0	:	5,3	4,8	6,3
	F	72,8	73,3	72,9	72,2	70,2	66,5	62,6	56,6	:	11,9	10,9	11,3	12,1	:	9,5	9,1
	IRL	:	:	53,7	49,6	55,7	49,2	45,8	40,9	:	:	4,7	2,8	2,6	3,2	2,1	2,1
	I	86,6	89,3	91,7	92,1	92,5	91,9	90,7	87,3	7,2	8,8	8,1	7,9	5,2	5,8	4,3	4,6
	NL	81,1	78,4	72,8	65,8	37,1	53,8	48,3	42,9	7,5	6,9	5,2	5,8	31,7	4,2	4,3	2,8
	B	80,9	79,8	75,5	71,0	61,9	52,4	45,2	39,8	5,2	5,8	4,4	4,4	3,0	2,3	0,4	0,4
	UK	:	:	43,9	40,5	40,0	38,4	37,0	38,6	:	:	5,1	4,4	5,0	5,2	4,8	3,7
	EC	:	:	71,5	69,4	65,6	62,9	58,2	53,3	:	:	8,2	8,2	6,5	3,8	5,7	5,8
	Colour television	DK	:	:	17,8	24,7	40,8	50,0	50,0	58,0	:	:	10,1	12,1	8,3	8,0	6,5
D		13,6	16,6	23,3	30,2	36,4	44,8	56,2	65,1	20,5	20,5	13,2	13,6	:	11,0	12,4	10,5
F		4,3	6,2	9,3	12,8	17,2	22,7	28,1	35,6	:	:	:	:	:	12,7	13,0	11,7
IRL		:	:	4,8	6,7	13,1	18,6	25,5	31,6	:	:	3,1	2,5	2,8	4,1	3,9	3,9
I		0,5	0,3	0,7	1,2	4,6	7,2	14,9	20,9	6,9	6,6	6,3	7,9	7,0	9,1	9,0	9,7
NL		12,5	17,6	25,5	33,6	:	51,6	60,4	67,9	6,4	6,9	7,9	8,9	44,7	12,0	13,7	8,5
B		3,9	6,6	12,7	19,3	31,6	41,6	49,8	54,4	5,4	7,1	7,6	8,1	7,8	8,2	3,8	3,6
UK		:	:	12,8	18,1	20,7	24,3	33,0	36,0	:	:	6,8	5,4	6,1	6,9	7,3	5,0
EC		:	:	14,0	19,1	:	30,7	39,6	46,9	:	:	7,2	7,5	5,2	10,3	10,7	9,2
House		DK	:	:	57,0	58,3	60,9	61,8	55,7	54,0	:	:	8,6	7,1	9,8	10,1	10,5
	D	:	40,7	40,4	41,1	44,8	46,0	45,7	41,5	:	8,2	7,0	6,8	8,0	8,8	9,8	10,5
	F	:	46,9	48,0	48,2	48,5	48,7	:	48,9	:	10,2	9,5	8,8	9,1	10,1	10,3	10,4
	IRL	:	:	75,7	78,1	78,2	77,3	77,2	79,9	:	:	13,2	10,7	10,6	11,5	12,3	11,6
	I	51,9	53,3	49,6	51,6	49,1	51,0	52,2	53,8	8,4	8,3	10,7	7,8	7,8	8,3	9,2	8,3
	NL	38,0	41,7	42,0	47,7	:	43,2	44,3	:	7,4	8,5	8,2	8,1	65,5	15,1	10,2	9,1
	B	59,5	61,9	59,7	61,1	62,9	:	66,0	59,8	4,8	4,6	8,1	6,7	8,9	8,9	7,4	7,3
	UK	:	:	52,8	52,9	52,7	53,6	52,0	57,1	:	:	9,8	9,8	11,1	11,8	11,5	13,1
	EC	:	:	47,5	48,3	:	:	:	48,9	:	:	8,9	8,0	12,1	10,0	10,1	10,3
	Home improvements	DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10,9	11,3	12,2	11,3	9,6
D		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	17,2	16,6	15,2	16,8	17,5	17,0	19,0	19,5
F		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	12,3	11,6	10,1	10,0	10,8	11,3	11,5	:
IRL		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	14,2	12,7	12,1	13,3	13,2	14,7
I		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	26,2	25,9	27,3	25,3	16,4	15,5	14,8	15,9
NL		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	9,4	10,5	21,7	22,9	64,6	17,3	14,3	14,2
B		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	9,9	11,2	9,8	9,4	9,4	10,0	10,4	9,7
UK		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	17,4	16,3	17,1	18,9	20,7	23,2
EC		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	16,3	16,1	17,8	15,2	15,8	16,5

¹ For each item, the relevant survey question permits six different responses. These are weighted as shown in the notes below and then added so as to arrive at the percentages shown here.

TABLE 4: Motor-cars

	Possession (percentages)								Buying intentions (percentages)							
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Car	One per household								New car							
DK	:	:	56,0	58,2	58,2	58,8	51,0	53,0	:	:	7,4	9,2	5,8	5,3	5,2	4,6
D	47,1	48,9	47,3	50,5	53,4	52,4	53,1	55,4	9,5	7,4	7,2	7,8	11,3	10,5	11,2	11,4
F	52,4	51,5	52,6	52,1	52,9	52,4	52,7	52,3	6,0	6,1	4,8	5,4	5,4	6,3	9,1	8,0
IRL	:	:	50,9	50,2	51,4	49,8	52,1	53,4	:	:	6,3	5,9	2,8	3,8	4,5	4,0
I	51,1	54,6	53,4	54,0	56,0	56,3	57,0	56,5	10,8	9,5	5,6	6,1	4,1	5,7	4,5	5,4
NL	52,4	52,6	55,0	57,4	56,7	56,9	56,7	57,1	11,9	12,1	13,3	13,4	14,1	15,9	16,3	7,8
B	54,8	52,8	52,1	56,3	59,3	59,2	60,6	53,2	9,5	7,1	7,2	8,3	5,0	4,7	5,3	4,4
UK	:	:	45,0	44,8	42,9	44,0	44,0	46,3	:	:	7,7	7,3	7,3	7,4	8,2	4,0
EC	:	:	50,0	51,2	52,3	52,1	52,4	52,9	:	:	6,7	7,2	7,7	8,0	8,9	7,0
Car	Two or more per household								Second-hand car							
DK	:	:	6,8	7,4	8,4	9,8	6,0	7,0	:	:	10,6	12,2	7,0	6,2	6,6	6,6
D	4,6	4,4	4,8	4,4	7,9	10,1	9,1	10,3	4,3	3,3	4,2	4,6	6,6	6,2	7,7	8,6
F	8,0	8,7	9,7	11,1	11,5	12,7	14,2	15,5	4,7	4,1	3,9	4,7	3,8	4,2	6,7	6,5
IRL	:	:	9,4	7,7	8,9	10,6	13,0	13,6	:	:	9,2	8,6	5,3	6,2	6,4	5,8
I	7,8	8,7	10,1	9,5	12,0	11,5	13,1	15,2	3,8	3,2	1,7	2,5	2,2	3,0	6,4	2,7
NL	5,1	4,6	5,0	5,2	6,5	7,1	10,2	11,7	8,7	10,2	11,3	11,4	12,7	16,2	18,6	10,0
B	5,9	5,6	5,7	7,7	7,4	8,4	9,4	8,8	2,8	2,6	1,9	2,8	2,1	1,7	1,8	1,9
UK	:	:	9,1	8,8	9,8	10,0	10,0	11,1	:	:	17,1	17,0	18,5	20,9	19,0	12,8
EC	:	:	7,7	7,9	9,6	10,6	11,3	12,4	:	:	6,4	6,9	7,4	8,0	9,5	7,6
Car	Total								Total							
DK	:	:	62,8	65,6	66,6	68,6	57,0	60,0	:	:	18,0	21,4	12,8	11,5	11,8	11,2
D	51,7	53,3	52,1	55,0	61,3	62,5	62,2	65,7	13,8	10,7	11,4	12,4	17,9	16,7	18,9	20,0
F	60,4	60,2	62,4	63,2	64,6	65,1	66,9	67,8	10,7	10,2	8,7	10,1	9,2	10,5	15,8	14,5
IRL	:	:	60,3	57,9	60,3	60,3	65,1	67,0	:	:	15,5	14,5	8,1	10,0	10,9	9,8
I	58,4	63,3	63,5	63,5	68,0	67,8	69,1	71,7	14,6	12,7	7,3	8,6	6,3	8,7	10,9	8,1
NL	57,5	57,2	60,0	62,4	63,2	64,1	66,9	68,8	20,6	22,3	24,6	24,8	26,8	32,1	34,9	17,8
B	60,7	58,4	57,8	64,0	66,9	67,6	70,0	62,0	12,3	9,7	9,1	11,1	7,1	6,4	7,1	6,3
UK	:	:	54,1	53,6	52,7	54,0	54,0	57,4	:	:	24,8	24,3	25,8	28,3	27,2	16,8
EC	:	:	57,7	59,1	61,9	62,7	63,7	65,3	:	:	13,1	14,1	15,1	16,0	18,4	15,2

European Community consumer survey

The Community's survey of consumer opinion, which was started in 1972, is carried out in all Member States except Luxembourg, on the basis of representative samples of households. The surveys are undertaken three times a year (in January, May and October) by national institutions on the basis of the Commission's standard questionnaire. The results are communicated to the Commission which processes and publishes the data for Member States and the Community as a whole. The sample size is about 2 500 per country in January and May, and about 5 000 in October.

The questions put are the following (numbers in parentheses are the values given to each response to obtain the weighted average answer to each question):

Questions put in January, May and October

- Financial situation of your household now compared to twelve months ago?
- Financial situation of your household, prospects over the next twelve months?
- General economic situation in the country now compared to twelve months ago?
- General economic situation in the country, prospects over the next twelve months?

For the above four questions the possible responses are: a lot better (+2), a little better (+1), the same (0), a little worse (-1), a lot worse (-2), don't know (0).

- Price levels now compared to twelve months ago? much higher (+3), moderately higher (+2), a little higher (+1), about the same (0), lower (-1), don't know (0).
- Price trends over the next twelve months? more rapid increase (+3), some increase (+2), slower increase (+1), stability (0), fall slightly (-1), don't know (0).
- Unemployment level in the country over the next twelve months? increase sharply (+2), increase slightly (+1), remain the same (0), fall slightly (-1), fall sharply (-2), don't know (0).
- Major purchases (furniture, washing-machine, TV, etc.) at present? yes, right time (+1), neither right nor wrong time (0), wrong time, should postpone (-1), don't know (0).
- Major purchases next twelve months compared to last twelve months? much more (+2), a little more (+1), the same (0), much less (-2), don't know (0).
- Savings at present, a reasonable time to save?
- Savings by you or your household over next twelve months?

For the above two questions the possible answers are: yes, certainly (+2), yes, perhaps (+1), probably not (-1), certainly not (-2), don't know (0).

- Financial situation of households at present - financial asset accumulation? borrowing (-2), drawing on savings (-1), just making ends meet (0), saving a little (+1), saving a substantial amount (+2), don't know (0).
- Use to which a sharp increase in income would be put (first choice)? acquisition of a dwelling, household equipment, raise general standard of living, invest in property, buy securities, cash or bank account, invest in own business, other, don't know.

Question put in January

- Holiday spending intentions, this year compared to last? much more (+2), a little more (+1), the same (0), a little less (-1), much less (-2), don't know (0).

Questions put in October

- Do you own (i) freezer (or combined freezer-refrigerator), (ii) refrigerator, (iii) washing machine, (iv) dishwasher, (v) black and white TV, (vi) colour TV, (vii) house?
- Do you intend to buy each of the above items (i) to (vii) or to spend substantial sums on home improvements? yes, certainly (1,0), yes, perhaps (0,5), probably not (0,3), certainly not (0), don't know (0,3).
- Car ownership? one per household, two or more per household?
- Car-buying intentions? new, second-hand, total.

The surveys are undertaken by:

- DK - Denmark: Danmarks Statistik
- D - Federal Republic of Germany: GfK (Gesellschaft für Konsum- Markt- und Absatzforschung)
- F - France: INSEE (Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques)
- IRL - Ireland: the Agricultural Institute
- I - Italy: ISCO (Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio della Congiuntura)
- NL - Netherlands: CBS (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek)
- B - Belgium: INS (Institut National de la Statistique)
- UK - United Kingdom: CSO (Central Statistical Office).

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OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Boite postale 1003 - Luxembourg

ISSN 0379-217X

Catalogue number: CB-AU-79-003-EN-C