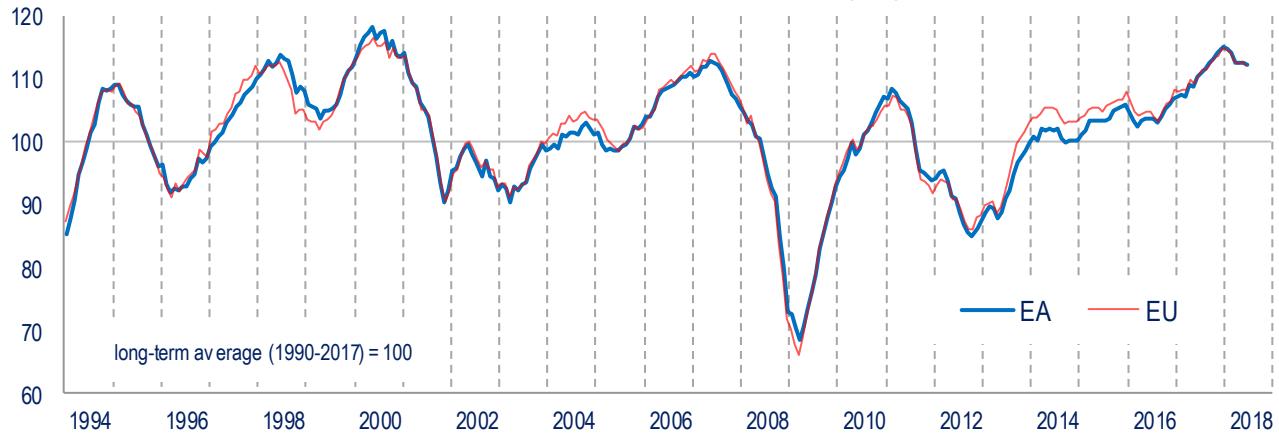




BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS

Graph 1: Economic sentiment indicator (s.a.)



source: European Commission services

June 2018: Economic Sentiment broadly stable in the euro area, slightly down in the EU

In June, the *Economic Sentiment Indicator* (ESI) remained virtually unchanged in the euro area for the third consecutive month, registering a marginal decrease of 0.2 points (to 112.3). In the EU the indicator edged down by 0.6 points (to 112.2). In a quarterly perspective, developments were similarly flat, with both indicators booking a minor decrease of 0.5 points since March.

Euro area developments

Broadly unchanged euro-area sentiment resulted from stable or incrementally higher confidence in industry, services and retail trade compensating for lower consumer and construction confidence. Amongst the largest euro-area economies, the ESI rose noticeably in Italy (+1.2) and France (+1.0), while it decreased in Germany (-0.8) and, more markedly so, in the Netherlands (-1.8). The ESI remained stable in Spain (+0.0).

Unchanged **industry confidence** (+0.0) resulted from managers' brighter *production expectations* being offset by more pessimistic views on the *current level of overall order books*; managers' assessments of the *stocks of finished products* remained stable. Of the questions not included in the confidence indicator, managers' assessment of *past production* remained broadly unchanged while their views on *export order books* deteriorated markedly. Stable **services confidence** (+0.0) resulted from managers' unchanged assessment of the *past business situation*, while their brighter views on *past demand* were offset by the deterioration of their *demand expectations*. The decrease in **consumer confidence** (-0.7) reflected more negative assessments of the *future general economic situation*, *future unemployment* and, in particular, consumers' *savings expectations*; only the views on households' *future financial situation* remained broadly stable. Virtually flat developments in **retail trade confidence** (+0.1) resulted from more positive views on the *expected business situation*, which were partly offset by the worsening of managers' assessment of the *past business situation*; their views on the adequacy of the *volume of stocks* remained virtually unchanged. The drop in **construction confidence** (-1.5) resulted from downward revisions of both managers' *employment expectations* and their assessment of the *level of order books*. Finally, the rise (+1.6) in **financial services confidence** (not included in the ESI) resulted from improved appraisals of *past* and *expected demand*, which were only partly offset by a deterioration in managers' assessment of the *past business situation*.

Employment plans saw a significant upward revision in industry and a slight increase in retail trade, while employment plans worsened in services and construction. **Selling price expectations** increased in industry and remained virtually unchanged in services, while they decreased slightly in retail trade and, more importantly so, in construction. Consumer price expectations were flat in June.

EU developments

The decrease of the headline indicator for the EU (-0.6) was mainly due to the slight deterioration of sentiment in the largest non-euro area EU economy, the UK (-0.5), while the ESI remained unchanged in Poland (+0.0). In line with the euro area, industry confidence remained broadly unchanged while confidence worsened in construction and among consumers. In contrast to the euro area, EU confidence decreased in services and increased markedly in retail trade. As in the euro area, EU confidence rose markedly in the financial services sector.

Managers' employment plans were somewhat more upbeat in the EU than in the euro area, with expectations coming in broadly flat in services and higher in industry and retail trade while decreasing only in construction. Price expectations were broadly in line with those for the euro area for the services, retail trade and construction sectors; in contrast to the euro area, selling prices in the EU are expected to remain virtually unchanged in industry.

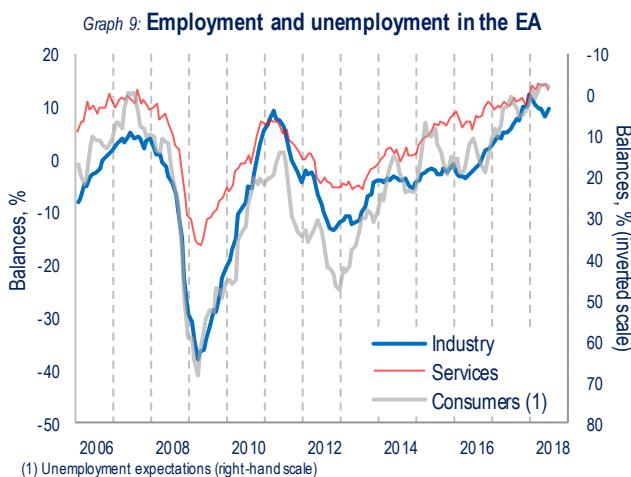
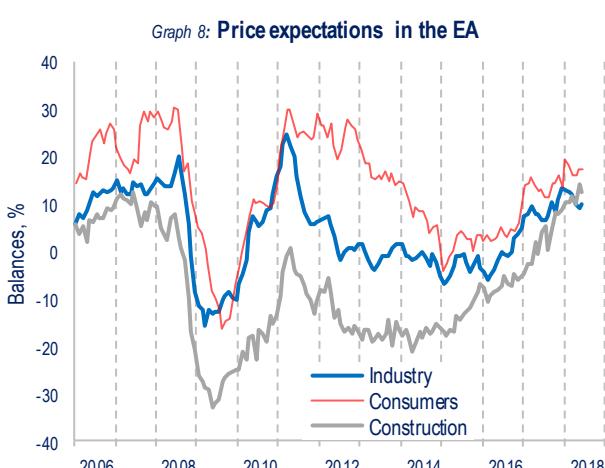
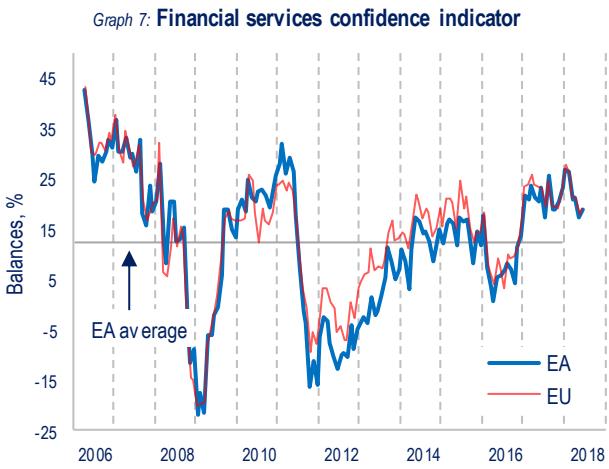
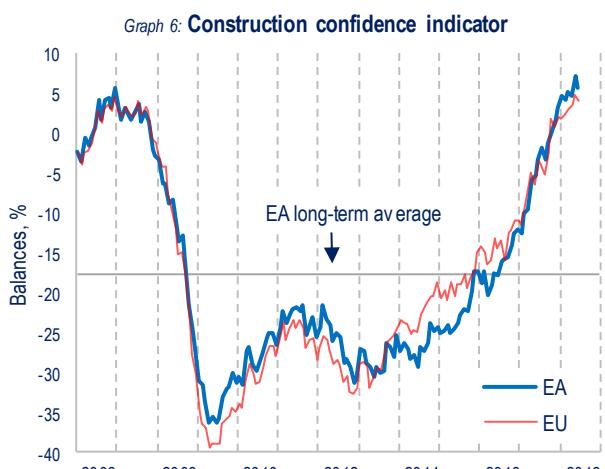
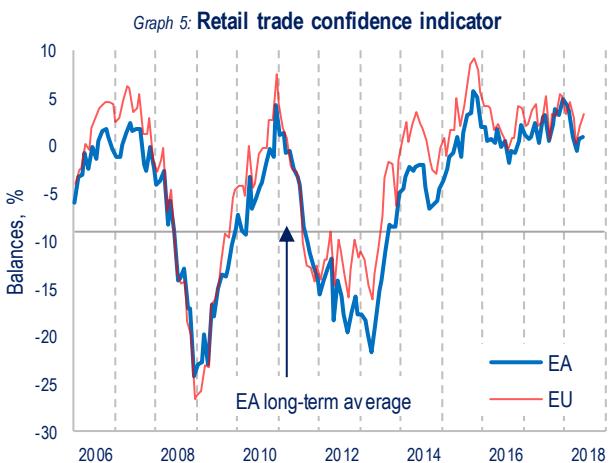
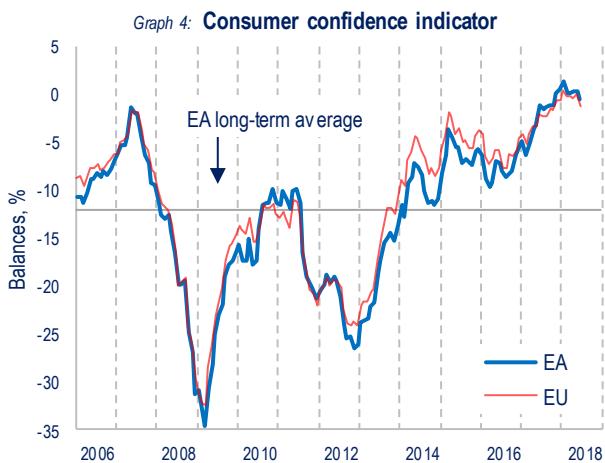
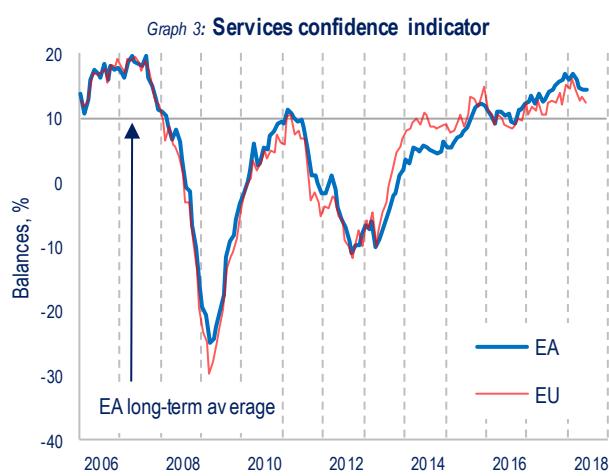
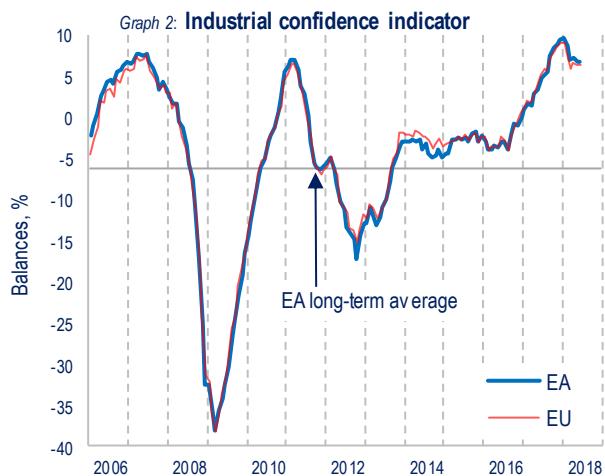


TABLE 7: Monthly survey of financial services sector ^(a)

	Since 04/2006				2017							2018						
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	Date	Value	Date	Date	Value	19.4	24.6	19.5	19.3	19.2	22.8	27.7	25.9	21.3	20.9	17.8	19.0	
FINANCIAL SERVICES	EU	01-09	-20.0	14.3	04-06	43.3	19.4	24.6	19.5	19.3	19.2	22.8	27.7	25.9	21.3	20.9	17.8	19.0
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR ^(b)	EA	01-09	-21.8	12.5	04-06	42.6	17.1	25.6	18.8	18.9	20.2	23.2	26.6	26.2	20.8	21.1	17.3	18.9
ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS SITUATION	EU	02-09	-31.6	11.6	04-06	38.6	21.7	26.2	18.6	16.3	18.2	20.8	26.0	26.7	18.1	16.6	17.6	15.6
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	03-09	-30.1	9.9	04-06	39.6	18.1	27.5	18.1	16.0	20.5	22.0	26.2	28.2	15.8	19.4	16.1	14.1
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND	EU	03-09	-24.9	13.0	04-06	41.6	20.3	27.8	18.1	19.1	17.9	24.0	28.2	25.8	20.2	20.1	17.6	18.7
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	03-09	-25.3	11.4	04-06	40.3	18.7	30.0	18.0	17.2	19.3	25.5	31.4	29.2	22.9	21.2	16.4	18.7
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND EXPECTED	EU	01-09	-18.2	18.4	04-06	49.5	16.4	19.9	21.8	22.5	21.5	23.6	28.8	25.1	25.6	26.0	18.4	22.8
OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	01-09	-19.9	16.1	04-06	47.8	14.5	19.4	20.4	23.4	20.9	22.1	22.3	21.2	23.7	22.7	19.5	23.8
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	02-09	-11.2	6.1	01-07	23.3	-1.7	-1.5	3.0	2.0	6.1	9.0	9.3	8.0	6.2	10.7	9.1	11.4
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS	EA	03-13	-12.4	4.1	09-08	25.7	-5.3	-2.5	-1.7	-2.9	3.2	5.4	2.5	5.9	4.3	7.3	5.4	9.5
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	01-09	-11.8	7.8	04-06	30.0	7.7	9.3	9.0	8.9	2.8	5.5	9.4	13.9	9.4	11.6	11.5	9.6
EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS	EA	12-12	-12.4	4.9	04-06	29.5	-0.8	4.6	2.6	5.1	0.6	4.6	5.6	11.1	5.7	7.4	6.0	7.9

(a) Data are not seasonally adjusted.

(b) The confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the balances (%) for the questions on business situation and past and expected evolution of demand.

(c) Component of the confidence indicator.

Information

The Directorate-General Financial and Economic Affairs (DG ECFIN) of the European Commission publishes the Business and Consumer Survey Results every month. The issues of January, April, July and October also include the quarterly survey results for the manufacturing industry and consumers. The April and November issues also include the investment survey results.

The data of the surveys is processed by DG ECFIN's Unit Economic situation, forecasts, business and consumer surveys (A3), Sector Business and consumer surveys and short-term forecast.

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To obtain additional information regarding these survey results you can contact DG ECFIN at the following addresses:

Mail: European Commission
DG ECFIN / Unit A3
200, Rue de La Loi
B-1049 Brussels

Email: ECFIN-BCS-MAIL@ec.europa.eu

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/index_en.htm

Upcoming releases:	Flash Consumer Confidence Indicator	23 July 2018
	Economic Sentiment Indicator	30 July 2018
	Business Climate Indicator for the euro area	30 July 2018