

Business and consumer survey results for June 2021

Economic Sentiment hitting a 21-year high in the EU and the euro area

In June 2021, the *Economic Sentiment Indicator* (ESI) increased again strongly in both the EU (+3.0 points) and the euro area (+3.4 points) compared to May.¹ At 117.0 (EU) / 117.9 (EA) points, the ESI by far outstrips its long-term average and pre-pandemic level, hitting a 21-year high. The Employment Expectations Indicator (EEI) also increased markedly (+1.2 points to 111.5 in the EU and +1.6 points to 111.6 in the euro area),² bringing it to the highest level since November 2018 in both areas.³

EU developments

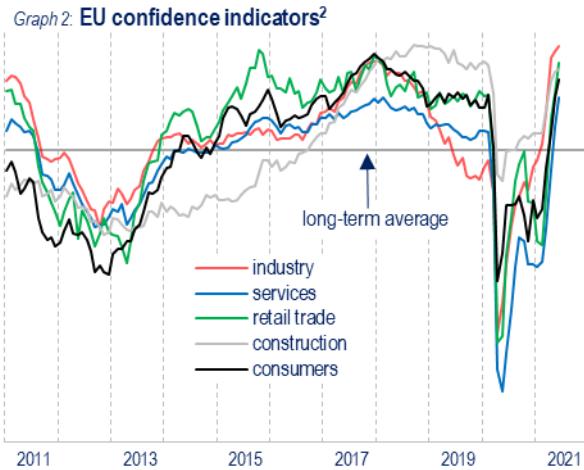
Graph 1: EU Economic sentiment & Employment expectations (s.a.)



source: European Commission services

In the EU, the ESI's increase was propelled by improving confidence in the services sector, but all other surveyed business sectors (i.e. industry, retail trade, construction) and consumers recorded an improvement, too. At the country level, the ESI reached an all-time high in Germany (+5.0) and increased also in Italy (+2.1), the Netherlands (+1.9), France (+1.3) and Poland (+0.2). Of the six largest EU countries, only Spain saw a slight decline (-1.1).

Industry confidence increased for the seventh month in a row (+0.9) and reached a new all-time high. The improvement resulted from very positive developments in managers' assessments of the *current level of overall order books* and the *stocks of finished products*, partially offset by a decrease in their *production expectations* (which had reached an all-time high in April). The order books assessment matched their highest reading on record, while stocks were considered scarcer than ever. Of the questions not entering the confidence indicator, also managers' appraisals of *export order books* improved, while views on *past production* declined slightly from the peak reached in May. **Services confidence** posted its fourth significant improvement in a row (+6.0), hitting the highest since February 2018, and returning to well above its long-term average. Managers expressed increasingly upbeat views on the *past business situation* and *past demand*, and were more optimistic on *demand expectations*. **Consumer confidence** increased for the fifth time in a row (+1.5), driven by an improvement in all its components (i.e. views on their *household's past*

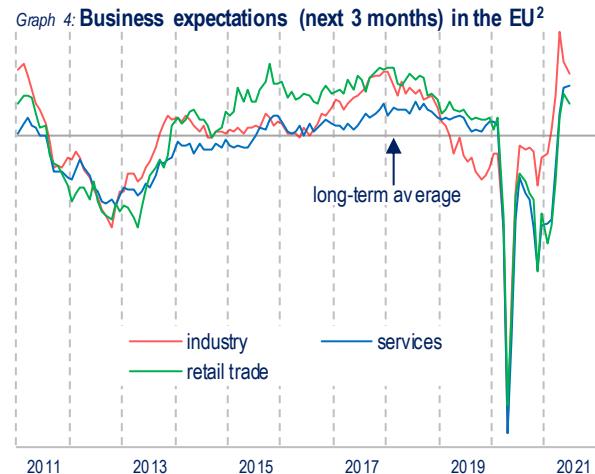
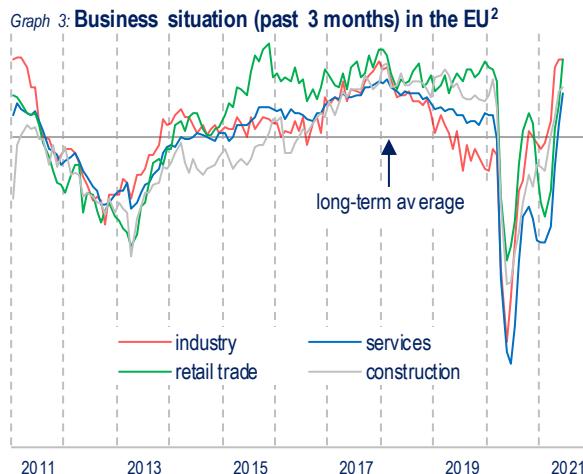


¹ Business confidence indices for France were revised compared to the May press release, the net effect being a slight upwards revision of the ESI for May by 0.1 points to 114.0 in the EU.

² The Employment Expectations Indicator for the euro area was revised slightly downwards, by 0.1 points to 110.0, compared to the May press release.

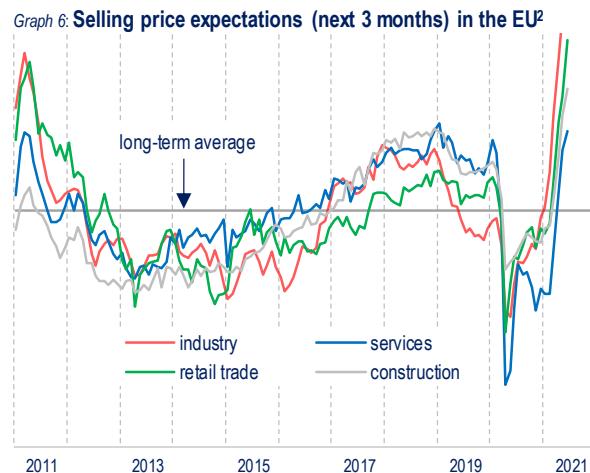
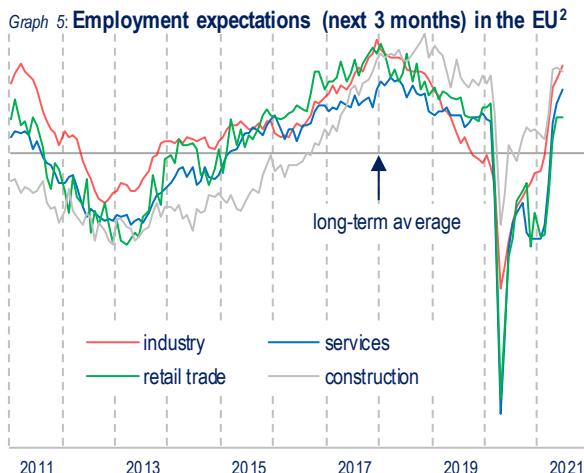
³ The graph presents standardised series to correct for differences in means and standard deviations.

and future financial situation, their expectations of the general economic situation in their country, and their intentions to make major purchases). **Retail trade confidence** rose for the fourth time in a row (+3.8), reflecting managers' improved assessment of the past business situation and the lowest reading on record concerning the assessment of the volume of stocks. Retailers' business expectations declined slightly from their high May levels. **Construction confidence** improved (+0.6), as managers posted better appraisals of the level of order books, despite slightly less optimistic employment expectations. Finally, **financial services confidence** (not included in the ESI) increased strongly again in June (+8.4), thanks to managers' more positive appraisals of the past business situation, past demand and demand expectations.



The further increase in the **Employment Expectations Indicator** (EEI) in June (+1.2) was driven by more optimistic employment plans in industry and services, largely outweighing the slight dip in construction. Employment plans were virtually stable in retail trade. In line with the upbeat employment results, consumers' unemployment expectations (not included in the EEI) receded further, reaching their lowest level since August 2019.

Selling price expectations saw the fourth month of marked and uniform increases across all surveyed business sectors, i.e. industry, services, retail trade and construction. Expectations reached all-time highs in industry and retail trade, and hit their highest level since January 1992 in construction. In services, selling price expectations have recovered back to their January 2019 level. Although not as strongly as managers' selling price expectations, consumer price expectations increased further for the sixth month in a row.





Data collection period: 1 June to 21 June

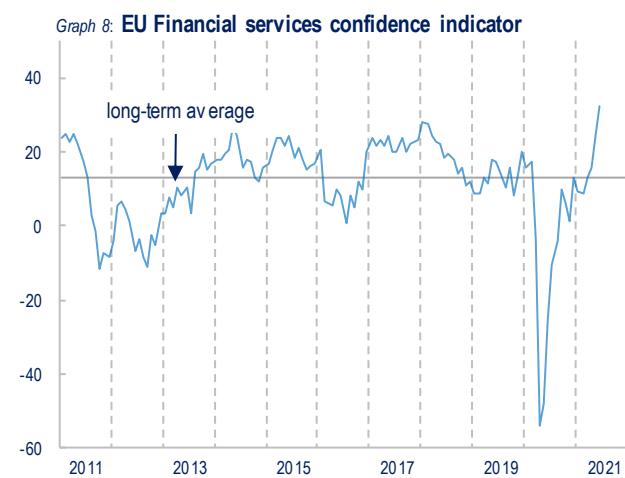


TABLE 3 (continued) : Monthly survey of services (s.a.)

	Since 2000 (%)				2020					2021								
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr			
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS (Question 6)	EU	04-20	-10.6	4.1	12-07	14.4	-0.4	-1.3	-1.1	-2.3	-4.2	-2.4	-2.8	-2.9	0.8	5.6	9.2	10.8
	EA	04-20	-9.8	4.0	12-07	14.1	0.0	-1.0	-0.9	-2.1	-4.0	-2.0	-3.1	-3.2	1.0	5.2	9.4	10.9
	BE	01-10	-13.8	7.4	07-08	28.8	5.6	2.7	4.1	2.5	3.8	5.8	-15	4.7	9.0	11.1	9.9	16.6
	BG	01-11	-11.9	5.4	07-04	37.5	-2.6	-2.5	-1.8	-0.7	-3.8	-4.3	-3.6	-0.4	-1.3	1.7	1.6	0.3
	CZ	05-20	-12.6	4.3	01-04	23.6	-4.2	0.7	4.1	-5.1	-7.7	-2.3	3.2	5.1	-4.0	8.3	7.7	11.4
	DK	04-20	-18.7	-0.4	12-10	16.2	-6.1	-6.0	-5.0	-6.3	-9.0	-6.3	-5.7	-6.5	-7.2	0.9	-0.4	-0.4
	DE	04-03	-8.5	12.2	01-19	26.3	10.0	10.3	8.5	7.5	5.5	8.0	5.8	5.9	13.8	14.7	21.2	25.8
	EE	03-09	-31.5	8.3	01-18	26.8	-13.4	-5.9	-9.9	-5.8	-7.9	-6.4	-5.6	-4.8	-3.9	13.9	21.7	23.8
	IE	08-09	-51.0	1.6	11-18	29.9	2.6	7.1	-0.4	-4.2	-2.8	4.9	-0.6	8.4	5.4	19.3	21.9	25.0
	EL	09-12	-40.2	-4.8	06-06	24.2	-19.3	-12.3	-14.1	-18.4	-22.4	-22.4	-15.4	-12.4	-16.7	-5.7	-10.5	-20.3
	ES	05-20	-19.0	2.6	09-04	20.3	-2.6	-13.9	-8.7	-7.2	-9.7	-8.3	-7.9	-11.2	-5.6	0.6	3.3	7.1
	FR	07-09	-21.0	-3.4	12-00	7.1	-7.9	-7.3	-6.6	-11.1	-13.5	-10.1	-10.8	-12.6	-9.7	-5.6	0.7	0.1
	HR	04-20	-19.8	0.1	07-08	25.4	-10.4	-1.3	-4.1	-3.0	-7.9	-5.7	-3.5	-3.5	1.4	-1.6	7.4	13.2
	IT	04-13	-15.6	-0.7	05-04	17.7	-5.6	-6.1	-4.5	-4.4	-5.5	-5.5	-4.6	-5.6	-4.3	-2.9	2.9	-0.8
	CY	04-13	-38.9	0.3	06-03	72.7	-15.2	-10.0	-6.9	-13.7	-6.0	-8.7	-4.0	-18.3	-10.0	-1.0	6.6	4.9
	LV	12-09	-31.1	5.3	12-07	35.8	-7.3	-4.3	-4.5	-4.5	-6.3	-3.7	-7.1	-6.2	-3.4	4.0	3.1	5.2
	LT	06-09	-23.0	1.5	08-06	20.8	-1.1	0.3	1.8	0.2	1.8	2.1	4.0	6.1	6.6	10.0	7.9	10.6
	LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	HU	02-09	-8.5	7.5	06-21	30.2	11.5	12.6	11.6	12.0	12.7	10.4	8.3	21.7	14.0	19.5	26.7	30.2
	MT	11-16	-45.0	2.7	11-18	39.0	-17.6	-16.5	-4.5	-10.3	-12.0	-8.6	-11.3	-6.9	-8.0	18.5	14.5	30.9
	NL	08-09	-5.5	8.9	01-07	30.7	5.0	4.4	3.1	2.5	10	2.1	-0.1	3.1	4.4	10.5	11.7	13.3
	AT	05-09	-10.3	9.6	11-07	30.4	2.7	2.8	0.6	3.8	-5.7	-2.7	-1.5	-1.5	6.6	14.4	18.9	22.9
	PL	04-20	-16.1	1.1	04-08	16.8	-3.8	-1.7	-1.9	-1.1	-4.5	-2.0	-1.6	-0.1	1.2	9.1	8.0	9.0
	PT	04-20	-21.8	-0.8	11-05	13.7	-7.9	-6.7	-5.3	-4.6	-7.7	-8.1	-10.4	-15.0	-7.6	-0.6	1.7	3.6
	RO	02-21	-13.8	10.5	04-04	54.5	-10.4	-10.4	-1.9	-12.8	-13.3	-12.3	-2.6	-13.8	-4.0	1.2	5.0	10.1
	SI	02-10	-16.4	1.6	01-08	23.1	-3.2	-2.5	-1.0	1.5	-13	-1.2	-1.1	-4.7	1.1	1.4	6.3	9.1
	SK	12-10	-17.5	10.6	07-02	68.9	10.4	5.5	5.2	19.6	-4.6	-9.3	-7.3	3.1	-0.2	20.1	4.5	11.2
	FI	07-04	-25.1	8.1	01-08	40.7	0.1	-4.1	-7.0	-12.4	-0.5	-3.7	-3.7	-2.4	-3.3	8.7	6.5	7.6
	SE	05-20	-23.3	8.4	11-07	32.4	-0.2	-6.8	-7.3	-3.9	-5.5	-8.6	-1.8	-2.5	1.6	12.6	9.9	11.8

(a) Minimum, maximum and averages are calculated over the period of availability which is not necessarily as from 01/2000.

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

TABLE 5 (continued) : Monthly survey of retail trade (s.a.)

	Since 2000 (*)				2020								2021					
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS (Question 6)	EU	08-09	-6.0	6.5	06-21	23.7	15	2.9	4.3	4.8	2.7	4.6	4.1	5.2	9.5	15.4	18.0	23.7
	EA	03-09	-8.7	5.8	06-21	23.1	-0.6	0.8	2.7	3.2	1.4	3.3	2.8	3.9	8.2	14.1	17.5	23.1
	BE	12-20	-15.2	6.4	04-11	26.4	-2.7	0.3	5.6	10.0	-13.4	-15.2	1.5	7.3	13.3	15.3	15.8	17.6
	BG	11-09	-9.2	9.9	07-08	45.8	3.0	-0.1	2.5	0.9	0.1	0.2	1.3	3.5	6.9	9.2	15.8	14.3
	CZ	01-15	-11.9	5.2	08-20	27.6	22.7	27.6	21.0	15.4	15.7	19.2	14.5	22.0	24.1	26.3	18.0	25.5
	DK	04-20	-16.4	-0.3	02-11	24.2	-3.1	-1.8	-17	-0.4	-0.4	-2.8	-5.5	-8.1	-4.8	4.4	3.5	6.6
	DE	04-20	-9.6	11.0	06-21	43.3	-2.5	5.5	8.8	10.9	12.0	18.6	11.5	11.9	16.9	25.2	33.8	43.3
	EE	03-09	-35.9	28.8	06-21	65.8	25.0	27.3	22.8	21.3	18.9	13.1	15.2	22.2	27.8	43.1	55.5	65.8
	IE	07-09	-51.4	8.8	05-21	54.5	7.5	9.1	8.9	9.3	8.1	24.5	12.8	32.2	39.9	30.9	54.5	52.6
	EL	06-12	-35.2	-0.1	05-08	33.6	0.6	5.1	-1.0	0.2	4.9	5.6	0.1	-0.8	0.4	13.8	28.8	28.3
	ES	02-09	-18.6	4.5	01-05	28.7	-4.9	-6.7	-4.2	-5.8	-8.8	-5.0	-2.7	-6.4	-0.9	12.4	16.4	20.1
	FR	03-09	-29.4	-2.7	11-07	14.0	-2.9	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	-4.9	-5.7	0.3	-1.6	1.3	1.8	4.8	10.4
	HR	04-20	-16.9	14	06-08	31.6	-9.3	0.8	-0.6	-5.3	-0.9	3.2	-3.3	-2.2	-14	5.2	13.3	17.4
	IT	08-05	-14.5	6.9	06-08	33.1	2.3	-5.2	-1.1	-2.8	-1.6	-3.6	-3.1	0.1	4.2	8.0	3.4	6.7
	CY	04-13	-27.7	3.9	07-08	34.3	19	3.1	5.3	2.0	14	4.3	0.9	-3.3	2.6	-0.5	8.5	9.8
	LV	01-10	-22.5	19.2	05-04	55.7	10.8	6.7	6.7	3.7	0.8	3.1	2.7	4.3	13.0	23.0	26.5	27.6
	LT	07-09	-46.5	8.1	04-11	61.7	2.1	1.2	3.3	2.9	3.8	1.5	0.3	2.8	7.4	8.1	11.3	15.4
	LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	HU	03-10	3.6	32.5	06-00	80.8	20.6	23.2	27.3	34.7	28.5	28.9	29.1	36.6	38.9	50.4	55.4	57.1
	MT	02-19	-32.9	7.2	05-21	61.7	-6.1	26.9	18.2	28.8	27.1	22.9	45.0	45.3	46.3	-3.3	61.7	46.2
	NL	11-10	-18.7	5.5	10-12	26.2	2.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.2	-1.2	-1.8	-6.0	-1.2	-0.3	6.9	8.6	12.0
	AT	09-09	-1.0	14.0	02-08	34.1	17.0	12.7	12.3	20.7	10.9	6.1	5.4	21.7	31.3	33.4	25.1	33.9
	PL	07-02	-7.0	14.3	03-09	39.4	14.5	16.6	14.8	12.7	9.4	12.7	17.5	15.1	19.5	24.4	23.9	25.6
	PT	07-03	-21.5	3.3	07-05	25.3	-18	-2.5	-3.7	-2.0	-2.6	-0.2	-1.1	-2.1	-0.7	2.1	5.3	5.1
	RO	01-16	-14.9	24.2	10-04	56.0	26.6	22.1	16.8	14.2	11.5	13.0	15.2	9.8	25.8	26.2	24.4	28.0
	SI	03-09	-32.6	9.1	02-08	40.2	8.1	2.3	9.9	11.5	8.1	5.4	-6.5	-13.7	8.4	-8.5	19.4	7.9
	SK	07-09	-36.9	15.6	11-02	73.9	9.4	13.3	9.2	7.8	3.8	3.1	8.1	7.0	16.6	12.5	40.8	29.9
	FI	03-15	-48.9	4.4	07-11	59.6	0.7	2.8	-0.5	-5.8	2.3	5.9	1.7	0.8	1.8	21.0	14.5	29.4
	SE	07-05	-10.3	14.8	11-18	38.8	13.2	18.4	15.7	21.1	13.2	17.3	11.0	15.3	15.7	25.8	18.2	36.8

(*) Minimum, maximum and averages are calculated over the period of availability which is not necessarily as from 01/2000.

(a) The indicator is the arithmetic average of the balances (%) for the present and the future business situation, and for stocks – with inverted sign.

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

	Since 04/2006				2020								2021					
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
FINANCIAL SERVICES	EU	04-20	-53.9	13.4	04-06	43.3	-10.4	-3.9	10.0	6.0	1.2	13.3	9.3	8.9	13.3	15.8	24.2	32.6
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR ^(b)	EA	04-20	-55.4	11.7	04-06	42.6	-8.6	-1.6	12.9	7.8	3.0	15.2	11.5	9.9	14.6	16.9	24.8	32.8
ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS SITUATION	EU	05-20	-59.9	10.6	04-06	38.6	-22.2	-8.1	7.6	2.1	5.6	10.9	10.6	8.0	11.0	11.8	20.9	32.7
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	05-20	-59.9	9.4	04-06	39.6	-20.2	-5.2	11.2	4.9	9.0	14.4	13.9	10.3	12.3	13.5	22.2	33.9
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND	EU	05-20	-48.6	12.8	04-06	41.6	-21.9	-10.8	7.6	10.1	11.4	14.2	13.0	10.6	9.1	12.3	20.9	31.3
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	05-20	-48.2	11.4	04-06	40.3	-20.7	-8.8	11.2	13.0	14.2	16.7	16.8	12.1	11.0	13.8	22.2	31.1
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND EXPECTED	EU	04-20	-65.7	16.6	04-06	49.5	13.0	7.3	14.8	5.7	-13.4	14.8	4.3	8.2	19.8	23.4	30.8	33.9
OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	04-20	-66.9	14.3	04-06	47.8	15.0	9.3	16.1	5.5	-14.2	14.6	3.9	7.3	20.3	23.3	29.8	33.4
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	05-20	-14.5	4.9	01-07	23.3	-9.9	-6.2	-9.0	-10.0	-6.2	-2.0	-3.0	-4.1	2.5	-0.6	4.5	7.5
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS	EA	03-13	-14.7	2.4	09-08	25.7	-8.4	-4.9	-7.0	-8.4	-3.9	1.3	-0.6	-2.5	4.6	1.5	8.2	10.8
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3	EU	04-20	-33.3	4.2	04-06	30.0	-7.6	-5.0	-4.8	-13.3	-18.6	-5.3	2.4	-3.9	1.8	0.9	5.3	8.7
EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3	EA	04-20	-32.8	1.4	04-06	29.5	-5.1	-3.2	-2.6	-11.8	-15.7	-1.4	4.8	-0.2	4.2	5.3	9.0	12.0

(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.

Methods and definitions

The Commission's harmonised Business and Consumer Survey (BCS) programme, managed by the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), was set up in 1961, and its scope has since expanded considerably in terms of both countries and sectors covered. Six surveys are conducted on a monthly basis in the following areas: manufacturing industry, construction, consumers, retail trade, services, and financial services. Some additional questions are asked on a quarterly basis in the January, April, July and October surveys in industry, construction, services, financial services and among consumers. In addition, questions on manufacturing companies' investment plans are included twice a year (April and November). The surveys are conducted by national institutes in the Member States and the candidate countries based on harmonized questionnaires and a common timetable.

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.

The **confidence indicators** are produced to reflect overall perceptions and expectations at the individual sector level in a one-dimensional index. For each of the six surveyed sectors, they are calculated as the simple arithmetic average of the (seasonally adjusted) balances of answers to specific questions chosen from the full set of questions in each individual survey.

The **Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI)** is a composite indicator combining judgements and attitudes of businesses (in industry, construction, retail trade, services) and consumers by means of a weighted aggregation of standardised input series.

The **Employment Expectations Indicator** is constructed as a weighted average of the employment expectations of managers in four surveyed business sectors (i.e. industry, services, retail trade and construction).

More information on methods and definitions can be found in the [methodological guidelines](#) section of the [BCS website](#). All press releases can be found [here](#). Detailed data results of all surveys are freely available for download in the BCS [time series](#) section of the website.

You can also contact DG ECFIN at the following address: ECFIN-BCS-MAIL@ec.europa.eu

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Upcoming releases: Flash Consumer Confidence Indicator 22 July 2021
Full Business and Consumer Survey Results (incl. ESI, EEI, sectoral CIs) 29 July 2021