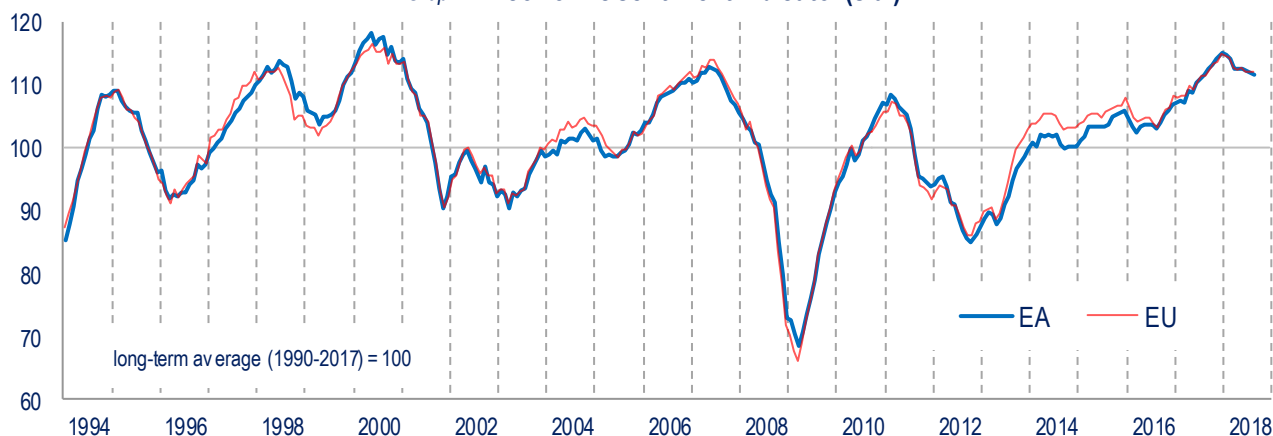




BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS

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



source: European Commission services

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

In August, the *Economic Sentiment Indicator* (ESI) decreased slightly in the euro area (by 0.5 points to 111.6), while it remained stable in the EU (at 112.3).

Euro area developments

The decrease in the euro-area sentiment indicator resulted from a marked deterioration of confidence among consumers and a milder decrease in the services sector, which were only partly offset by increases in the retail trade and construction sectors. Confidence in the industry sector remained broadly stable. Amongst the largest euro-area economies, the ESI remained virtually unchanged in Germany (-0.1), while it decreased in France (-1.3), Italy (-0.8), Spain (-0.7) and the Netherlands (-0.5).

Broadly flat developments in **industry confidence** (-0.3) reflected managers' more optimistic *production expectations* almost offsetting the worsening in their assessment of the *current level of overall order books* and the *stocks of finished products*. Of the questions not included in the confidence indicator, managers' views on both *export order books* and *past production* deteriorated, with the worsening of the latter being particularly strong. The slight deterioration in **services confidence** (-0.6) resulted from managers' significantly lower *demand expectations*, and slightly worse assessments of the *past business situation*, which were only partly offset by an improvement in their assessment of *past demand*. The marked decrease in **consumer confidence** (-1.4) was mainly due to a deterioration in consumers' assessment of the *future unemployment*, while consumers' views on their future *financial situation*, the *future general economic situation*, and their *savings expectations* remained broadly stable. The marked rise in **retail trade confidence** (+1.4) was fuelled by more positive views on the *present business situation* and the adequacy of the *volume of stocks*, while managers' assessment of the *expected business situation* remained virtually unchanged. The increase in **construction confidence** (+1.0) resulted from upward revisions in both managers' *employment expectations* and their assessment of the level of *order books*. Finally, the slight decrease (-0.5) in **financial services confidence** (not included in the ESI) resulted from markedly worse appraisals of *past demand* and the *past business situation*, which were not fully offset by a strong improvement in managers' *demand expectations*.

Employment plans saw a significant upward change in services and construction, while employment plans worsened slightly in industry and more strongly so in the retail trade sector. **Selling price expectations** increased in industry, retail trade and construction, while they remained practically unchanged in services. Also consumer price expectations remained broadly stable in August.

EU developments

Stable sentiment in the EU (+0.0) resulted from the marked improvement of sentiment in the largest non-euro area EU economy, the UK (+1.5), while the ESI decreased significantly in Poland (-1.3). Changes at sector level were in line with those in the euro area, but the decreases registered in services and among consumers were somewhat less pronounced and the improvement in the retail sector was more marked. EU confidence in the financial services sector fell in line with the euro area, but the drop was sharper.

As in the euro area, EU managers reported a strong upward change in their employment expectations in services and construction and a mild deterioration in industry. Contrary to the euro area, employment expectations improved also in the retail trade sector. Price expectations were up in line with the euro area for the industry and retail trade sectors; however prices in the EU were expected to remain broadly stable in construction and decrease slightly in services. EU consumers' price expectations increased markedly.

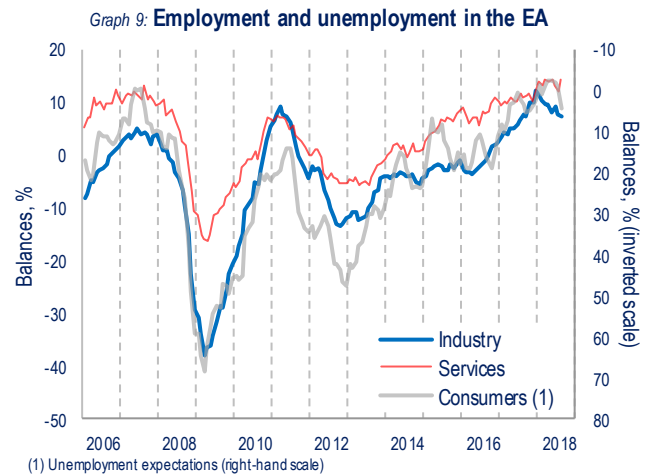
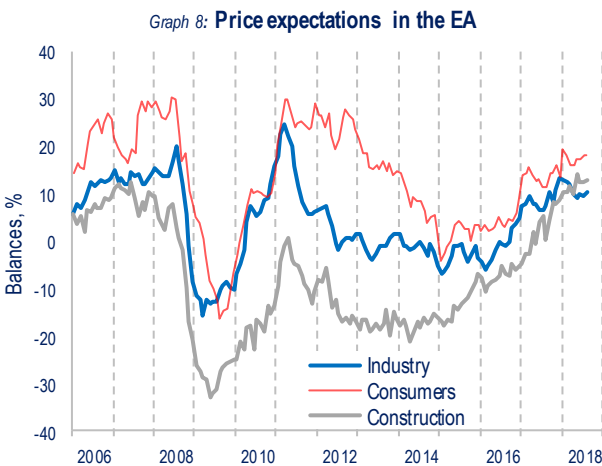
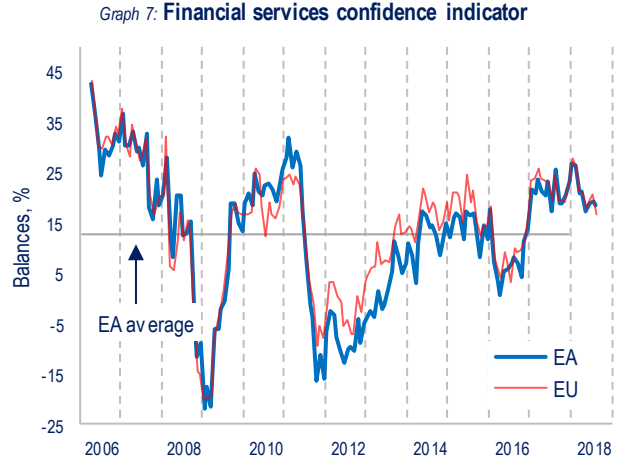
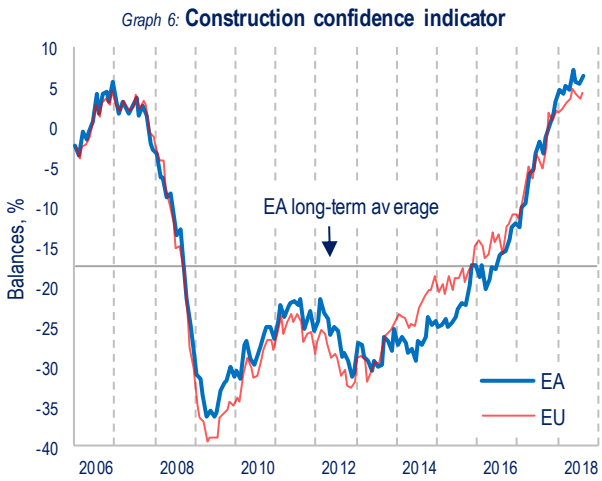
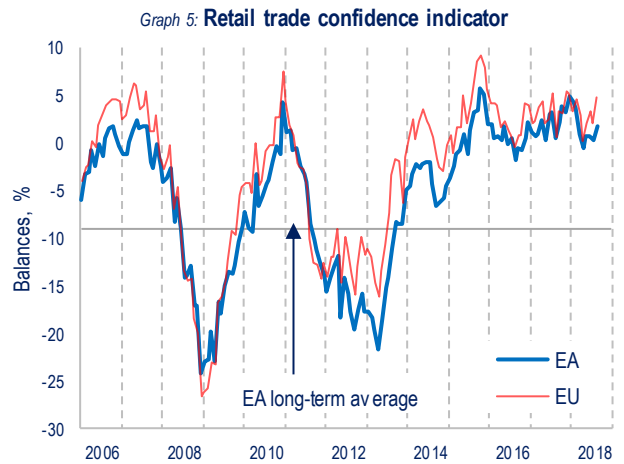
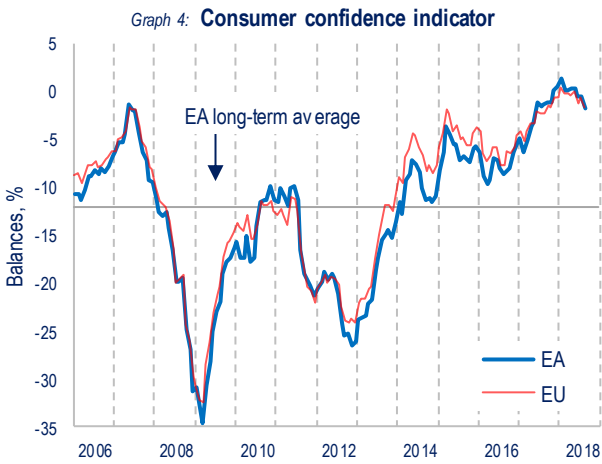
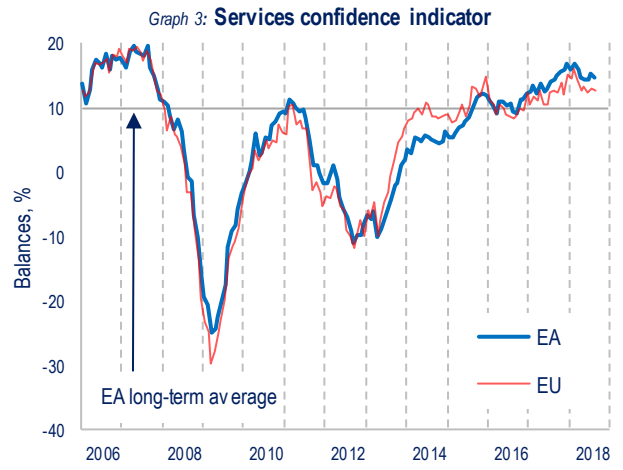
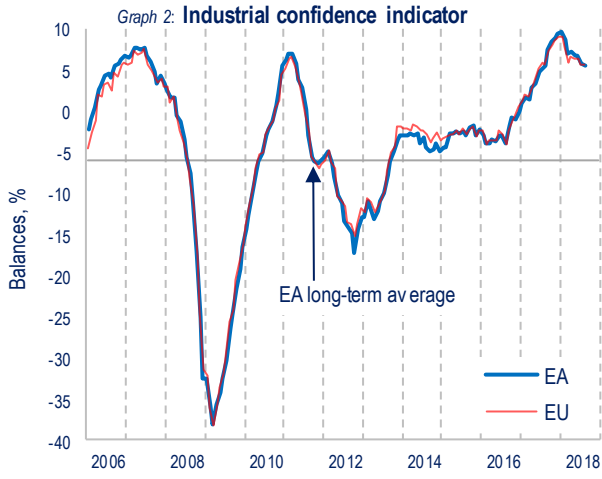


TABLE 1* (continued): Indicators of confidence and economic sentiment (s.a.)

		Since 1990 (*)				2017				2018								
		Min.		Ave.	Max.		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
		Date	Value		Date	Value												
SK	1. Industry	04-09	-31.8	3.1	05-96	25.8	3.3	8.7	2.3	6.9	-4.3	8.7	8.0	6.2	2.5	1.2	1.4	0.1
	2. Services	05-09	-24.0	23.3	03-02	62.6	22.9	11.0	6.2	-0.6	4.2	7.3	8.0	8.7	7.7	5.4	2.4	-5.1
	3. Consumer	09-99	-49.0	-20.9	12-06	6.6	-3.4	-4.8	-4.6	-5.7	-3.0	-3.8	-5.5	-7.1	-3.0	-3.4	-3.9	-3.9
	4. Retail trade	03-09	-22.7	9.9	11-98	34.4	21.1	18.8	21.5	19.8	24.3	24.0	22.0	24.8	26.5	27.2	23.1	20.2
	5. Construction	07-99	-86.1	-25.3	03-97	17.5	-4.6	0.5	-2.9	-1.5	-2.7	-1.7	-5.5	-1.3	-3.1	0.5	-2.5	-2.6
	= 6. ESI	04-09	63.9	100.0	05-96	123.5	107.6	106.2	101.8	101.8	99.2	105.7	104.7	103.5	102.6	101.7	100.5	97.7
FI	1. Industry	03-09	-37.3	1.4	10-94	31.3	11.0	12.8	14.3	18.2	15.9	14.1	11.3	12.7	12.0	15.0	17.7	14.5
	2. Services	12-01	-47.6	14.5	09-00	51.1	26.7	26.3	24.6	21.1	22.2	27.9	29.8	22.0	23.7	16.9	17.7	17.7
	3. Consumer	12-08	-6.4	13.8	10-17	27.2	27.1	27.2	25.8	26.9	26.1	26.8	25.1	25.5	25.2	23.6	23.9	22.9
	4. Retail trade	02-15	-30.0	-1.3	02-18	26.2	21.8	5.7	21.7	12.1	10.7	26.2	12.8	6.0	19.1	15.4	14.9	15.0
	5. Construction	09-91	-108.6	-17.6	06-98	36.5	-4.8	4.5	9.6	8.4	2.3	4.0	1.5	8.4	5.9	6.7	-2.9	13.1
	= 6. ESI	04-91	72.2	100.0	11-94	121.9	111.9	111.9	112.0	113.4	112.1	113.3	112.0	110.6	111.0	109.9	111.3	109.9
SE	1. Industry	03-09	-38.5	-2.7	08-18	20.6	20.5	19.0	20.2	15.5	13.5	14.7	16.7	19.9	18.1	15.1	18.1	20.6
	2. Services	04-09	-26.3	20.6	02-11	53.0	26.1	27.8	27.9	30.7	28.0	28.2	24.4	24.5	22.7	27.1	26.0	23.5
	3. Consumer	12-08	-10.0	10.4	09-10	28.0	14.6	16.1	17.2	16.7	16.3	14.6	13.6	15.0	13.6	13.6	11.6	14.4
	4. Retail trade	01-09	-38.3	11.5	01-10	47.6	11.6	15.5	16.5	19.3	17.8	20.2	17.6	13.1	16.3	18.8	11.4	14.4
	5. Construction	12-93	-82.9	-19.1	08-07	47.6	32.1	35.5	29.0	28.7	30.0	27.4	26.3	28.6	22.0	23.1	19.1	22.8
	= 6. ESI	04-09	76.6	100.0	01-11	117.6	112.2	113.0	113.3	111.8	110.8	111.1	110.6	112.2	111.3	111.1	110.9	112.0
UK	1. Industry	03-09	-49.0	-7.8	07-17	16.2	10.3	10.5	11.5	13.2	13.0	6.4	0.1	5.1	3.6	5.9	7.0	7.6
	2. Services	03-09	-57.4	4.6	10-97	36.1	0.5	4.8	-6.0	5.7	7.1	10.9	5.2	1.9	7.5	0.9	2.1	2.5
	3. Consumer	01-09	-35.2	-8.4	05-14	7.6	-5.2	-5.5	-5.2	-7.0	-4.8	-4.1	-3.4	-5.9	-3.0	-7.0	-2.9	-3.6
	4. Retail trade	01-09	-47.1	1.4	09-15	26.7	4.0	-5.0	9.8	0.6	-7.5	2.8	4.9	-4.0	0.2	7.6	4.0	14.5
	5. Construction	06-91	-79.3	-20.0	10-17	10.7	-6.5	10.7	-1.9	-1.0	-11.1	-4.7	-5.1	0.5	-2.0	0.5	-1.9	-2.4
	= 6. ESI	03-09	63.3	100.0	06-14	118.8	108.5	109.8	108.2	111.8	111.1	109.5	105.3	105.5	107.4	106.9	108.5	110.0

In the tables: (s.a.) = seasonally adjusted, (n) = not seasonally adjusted, : = not available.

(*) Minimum, maximum and averages are calculated over the period of availability which is not necessarily as from 01/1990.

The economic sentiment indicator is composed of the industrial confidence indicator (40%), the service confidence indicator (30%), the consumer confidence indicator (20%), the construction confidence indicator (5%), and the retail trade confidence indicator (5%). Its long term average (1990-2017) equals 100. The reported ESI average is based on this standardisation sample. All confidence indicators are balances.

The country weights have been updated in January 2018.

(a) Business surveys for Ireland have been temporarily discontinued as from 05/2008.

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

	Since 1990 (*)				2017				2018									
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
SELLING-PRICE	EU	02-09	-11.9	3.6	06-08	13.2	8.5	9.2	10.0	9.1	11.4	10.6	8.9	9.1	10.1	9.9	9.5	9.1
EXPECTATIONS	EA	05-09	-8.4	3.7	12-07	13.8	7.7	8.6	8.2	7.9	9.0	9.4	8.3	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.2
(Question 6)	BE	01-10	-13.8	6.5	07-08	28.8	8.7	10.9	15.6	25.0	21.8	12.3	8.4	12.2	14.0	17.0	15.0	13.2
	BG	01-11	-11.9	5.9	07-04	37.5	4.6	2.7	5.6	2.7	5.8	7.4	6.2	3.7	6.4	5.8	5.8	6.1
	CZ	02-13	-8.3	4.3	01-04	23.6	6.0	3.7	9.1	15.3	14.7	6.0	10.4	7.8	11.9	8.1	7.0	11.8
	DK	01-13	-7.4	0.3	12-10	16.2	1.3	-1.4	-0.3	2.2	-0.8	2.4	2.3	0.9	2.7	4.2	0.8	3.4
	DE	04-03	-8.5	11.5	04-18	24.8	22.2	22.8	18.4	19.5	21.9	24.5	21.4	24.8	24.1	22.2	24.7	23.4
	EE	03-09	-31.5	9.0	01-18	26.8	16.6	16.8	16.7	22.1	26.8	22.4	17.1	11.9	13.5	16.5	19.3	18.0
	IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	EL	09-12	-40.2	-4.2	06-06	24.2	2.5	-2.0	-3.7	-5.5	-3.8	-3.6	0.7	6.6	-2.5	-1.1	0.6	-3.5
	ES	11-11	-17.9	2.8	09-04	20.3	2.9	5.8	9.1	5.9	11.4	9.0	11.5	7.8	9.5	8.5	10.4	10.2
	FR	07-09	-21.0	-3.0	04-90	16.6	-2.7	-3.2	-2.7	-3.0	-2.4	-3.9	-2.8	-3.0	-2.6	-4.4	-5.3	-1.6
	HR	03-10	-10.6	-0.8	07-08	25.4	3.0	5.8	1.8	6.2	1.1	4.9	4.7	5.5	4.8	2.8	3.8	1.7
	IT	04-13	-15.6	-0.5	05-04	17.7	0.8	1.9	1.4	0.7	-1.8	2.1	-1.5	-0.4	0.0	5.5	0.9	0.2
	CY	04-13	-38.9	0.9	06-03	72.7	1.5	-8.0	-3.3	-5.1	-9.6	-6.4	-2.0	0.9	0.2	-10.0	-1.3	-2.8
	LV	12-09	-31.1	6.3	12-07	35.8	4.1	5.9	4.4	5.8	9.7	8.2	5.3	3.9	3.2	3.8	2.7	2.1
	LT	06-09	-23.0	0.7	08-06	20.8	3.0	4.9	4.2	4.4	5.4	5.6	3.4	1.7	7.0	9.3	7.2	10.1
	LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HU	02-09	-8.5	5.9	09-06	28.0	10.4	9.5	14.7	17.5	17.4	17.0	17.9	14.7	16.2	14.9	20.5	21.8
	MT	11-16	-45.0	1.6	11-17	28.4	7.9	7.7	28.4	6.0	13.1	6.3	-1.0	1.6	-1.9	-0.5	10.3	16.2
	NL	08-09	-5.5	9.0	01-07	30.7	9.7	11.9	11.8	10.4	13.8	12.5	11.7	9.8	9.7	10.4	10.7	10.5
	AT	05-09	-10.3	9.8	11-07	30.4	16.2	16.3	14.4	12.8	13.4	16.2	17.4	12.9	16.4	15.1	15.4	14.8
	PL	07-13	-10.6	1.0	04-08	16.8	-1.0	0.4	0.7	0.8	3.7	3.5	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.5	4.1	3.6
	PT	11-03	-17.1	-0.7	11-05	13.7	3.3	5.7	4.2	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.7	3.0	4.1	4.5	4.9	4.5
	RO	06-10	-8.7	12.3	04-04	54.5	4.7	7.2	7.2	8.0	8.8	9.6	10.9	6.2	6.9	5.5	3.6	3.7
	SI	02-10	-16.4	1.2	01-08	23.1	0.6	3.8	3.1	5.2	9.9	11.3	10.1	7.7	7.3	5.8	6.6	7.1
	SK	12-10	-17.5	10.7	07-02	68.9	-3.8	6.4	16.9	25.3	3.0	4.2	11.6	18.1	3.5	22.5	6.7	4.7
	FI	07-04	-25.1	8.6	01-08	40.7	8.3	10.8	11.8	13.8	12.1	15.1	13.3	8.6	8.0	6.2	3.2	5.6
	SE	04-09	-17.0	9.4	11-07	32.4	9.2	12.9	7.1	5.4	8.3	10.3	12.9	11.8	12.2	7.4	12.8	5.7
	UK	02-09	-34.3	2.0	01-18	23.8	14.1	14.3	20.9	16.0	23.8	17.8	11.6	11.0	16.2	15.7	12.9	10.2

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

(*) Minimum, maximum and averages are calculated over the period of availability which is not necessarily as from 01/1990.

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

	Since 1990 (*)						2017				2018							
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
SELLING-PRICE	EU	11-14	-2.7	9.5	03-11	26.7	13.6	13.7	16.4	15.7	12.8	13.2	11.4	12.2	14.0	11.2	12.7	13.8
EXPECTATIONS	EA	03-09	-8.5	5.6	11-07	21.2	5.2	7.0	6.9	7.3	7.1	6.5	6.4	6.1	7.3	6.8	6.8	7.8
(Question 6)	BE	08-09	-13.2	5.3	04-11	26.4	13.9	11.8	10.8	10.4	6.8	5.0	10.9	9.1	7.0	11.8	10.5	6.9
	BG	11-09	-9.2	10.5	07-08	45.8	6.4	8.0	5.3	9.0	11.6	6.9	5.6	6.1	9.5	7.7	10.7	
	CZ	01-15	-11.9	3.3	01-04	22.5	19.9	22.1	20.2	9.5	11.3	7.3	7.5	13.5	12.5	9.4	9.5	8.4
	DK	02-13	-12.5	0.2	02-11	24.2	0.4	-3.6	1.9	-0.7	4.8	0.2	-5.5	-1.2	-0.5	-0.2	0.2	-1.4
	DE	11-09	-5.6	11.9	07-91	41.0	10.8	11.5	12.4	13.6	12.7	10.2	11.0	10.4	14.7	14.1	14.2	18.2
	EE	03-09	-35.9	28.2	04-11	54.9	48.4	49.3	51.2	49.7	50.7	47.2	44.4	48.5	44.2	41.8	50.9	45.2
	IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	EL	06-12	-35.2	-0.9	05-08	33.6	-0.4	-2.1	-3.6	1.7	1.0	0.1	3.2	1.3	4.6	-4.7	3.2	5.9
	ES	02-09	-18.6	4.7	01-05	28.7	4.5	7.1	9.1	6.1	8.4	5.1	4.2	3.2	2.6	0.9	2.2	2.5
	FR	03-09	-29.4	-2.7	09-95	15.5	-2.0	3.1	-0.4	-2.5	-3.6	2.0	-2.7	-0.4	-0.5	-3.1	-0.6	-2.0
	HR	02-14	-13.2	1.1	06-08	31.6	3.7	9.5	8.7	2.6	-0.3	7.1	4.4	12.2	10.9	11.2	8.0	6.2
	IT	08-05	-14.5	8.0	06-08	33.1	4.4	6.6	5.9	9.1	7.1	4.3	9.5	5.6	6.5	8.3	4.7	5.2
	CY	04-13	-27.7	3.9	07-08	34.3	6.2	9.2	9.1	8.1	2.0	4.6	2.8	11.2	3.0	3.2	4.3	7.7
	LV	01-10	-22.5	20.9	05-04	55.7	18.6	17.1	16.3	18.5	27.6	22.6	17.4	16.0	15.5	17.0	15.8	14.3
	LT	07-09	-46.5	8.6	04-11	61.7	6.3	8.7	10.3	5.9	3.2	1.5	-2.0	0.5	2.0	9.7	4.9	3.5
	LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HU	03-10	3.6	39.1	05-96	81.3	20.8	21.0	19.5	26.8	22.0	27.0	36.7	25.1	20.7	32.1	39.6	32.8
	MT	02-14	-25.0	6.7	04-15	33.7	4.8	3.4	-1.9	-3.1	3.4	12.6	-5.9	-5.4	-5.1	8.1	3.0	4.2
	NL	11-10	-18.7	5.6	10-12	26.2	0.7	-1.3	-1.3	3.5	4.6	2.8	0.0	2.8	3.5	3.5	4.2	2.9
	AT	09-09	-1.0	13.7	02-08	34.1	17.5	11.5	21.2	25.2	20.8	17.1	14.7	12.0	13.9	17.5	13.9	21.2
	PL	07-02	-7.0	14.1	03-09	39.4	12.3	14.3	13.7	14.9	12.7	11.8	12.7	9.8	12.0	12.7	12.5	11.3
	PT	07-03	-21.5	3.8	07-05	25.3	2.4	1.6	1.0	2.3	4.2	1.8	0.8	0.9	2.7	2.0	1.7	5.0
	RO	01-16	-14.9	25.0	10-04	56.0	28.3	29.7	30.1	25.3	28.9	24.8	17.7	18.6	29.8	26.1	26.4	17.7
	SI	03-09	-32.6	9.7	02-08	40.2	3.2	-0.6	12.6	-2.2	12.1	6.9	8.2	9.0	2.4	-4.8	13.2	6.3
	SK	07-09	-36.9	15.3	11-02	73.9	18.1	18.0	19.2	13.7	26.5	9.9	18.1	18.6	23.5	28.6	19.8	18.2
	FI	03-15	-48.9	4.1	07-11	59.6	-11.6	8.4	7.3	4.7	23.9	36.2	26.6	23.8	18.3	19.6	15.3	3.0
	SE	07-05	-10.3	13.0	07-08	36.8	11.6	12.5	13.4	11.2	13.8	13.6	13.6	14.7	24.3	25.4	32.8	27.1
	UK	05-15	-17.3	23.4	01-11	66.9	48.0	40.6	56.1	51.3	34.9	40.9	31.3	37.5	40.6	25.7	33.0	37.7

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

(b) United Kingdom: refers to the volume of sales for the time of the year.

(*) Minimum, maximum and averages are calculated over the period of availability which is not necessarily as from 01/1990.

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

		Since 04/2006			2017				2018									
		Min.		Ave.	Max.		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
		Date	Value		Date	Value												
FINANCIAL SERVICES	EU	01-09	-20.0	14.4	04-06	43.3	19.5	19.3	19.2	22.8	27.7	25.9	21.3	20.9	17.8	19.0	20.6	16.9
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR ^(b)	EA	01-09	-21.8	12.6	04-06	42.6	18.8	18.9	20.2	23.2	26.6	26.2	20.8	21.1	17.3	18.9	19.1	18.6
ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS SITUATION	EU	02-09	-31.6	11.6	04-06	38.6	18.6	16.3	18.2	20.8	26.0	26.7	18.1	16.6	17.6	15.6	19.7	13.0
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	03-09	-30.1	10.0	04-06	39.6	18.1	16.0	20.5	22.0	26.2	28.2	15.8	19.4	16.1	14.1	18.4	16.7
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND	EU	03-09	-24.9	13.2	04-06	41.6	18.1	19.1	17.9	24.0	28.2	25.8	20.2	20.1	17.6	18.7	23.0	19.4
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	03-09	-25.3	11.5	04-06	40.3	18.0	17.2	19.3	25.5	31.4	29.2	22.9	21.2	16.4	18.7	22.5	21.1
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND EXPECTED	EU	01-09	-18.2	18.4	04-06	49.5	21.8	22.5	21.5	23.6	28.8	25.1	25.6	26.0	18.4	22.8	19.3	18.2
OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	01-09	-19.9	16.1	04-06	47.8	20.4	23.4	20.9	22.1	22.3	21.2	23.7	22.7	19.5	23.8	16.5	17.9
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	02-09	-11.2	6.2	01-07	23.3	3.0	2.0	6.1	9.0	9.3	8.0	6.2	10.7	9.1	11.4	13.7	9.0
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS	EA	03-13	-12.4	4.2	09-08	25.7	-1.7	-2.9	3.2	5.4	2.5	5.9	4.3	7.3	5.4	9.5	9.1	8.5
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	01-09	-11.8	7.9	04-06	30.0	9.0	8.9	2.8	5.5	9.4	13.9	9.4	11.6	11.5	9.6	15.0	13.4
EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS	EA	12-12	-12.4	5.1	04-06	29.5	2.6	5.1	0.6	4.6	5.6	11.1	5.7	7.4	6.0	7.9	14.5	12.3

(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:

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Upcoming releases:	Flash Consumer Confidence Indicator	24 September 2018
	Economic Sentiment Indicator	27 September 2018
	Business Climate Indicator for the euro area	27 September 2018