EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS



FLASH CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

FOR EU AND EURO AREA

February 2010

Final results for February, including the country breakdowns, will be published in the ESI press release of 25 February 2010 http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys

In February 2010, the DG ECFIN flash estimate¹ of the consumer confidence indicator² for the euro area signals the first fall after 10 months of improvement (down to -17.4 from -15.8 in January). Confidence declined also among EU consumers, but to a lesser extent (down to -13.6 from -13.1 in January).

Computation of Flash CCI

To compute the flash consumer confidence indicator for the EU and euro area, DG ECFIN uses the data available on the cut-off date. The estimation procedure combines historical data with information from those Member States for which data are available in the reference month. Experience has shown this procedure to be statistically reliable.

Further information on the computation procedure can be found in the <u>European Business Cycle Indicators</u> of January 2010.

Scheduled publication dates

Consumer confidence for	Flash estimate	Final release EU, euro area and Member States
March 2010	22 March 2010	29 March 2010
April 2010	22 April 2010	29 April 2010
May 2010	20 May 2010	31 May 2010

¹ Consumer survey data from 22 EU countries were used to compute the Flash CCI. These represent 97% of the total weight of final EU consumer confidence. For the euro area, the 14 countries included represent 97% of the total.

 $^{^2}$ Consumer confidence indicator is built on selected questions addressed to consumers according to the Joint Harmonised EU Business and Consumer Surveys. More details on the consumer confidence indicator as well as long time series can be found via the following link:

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