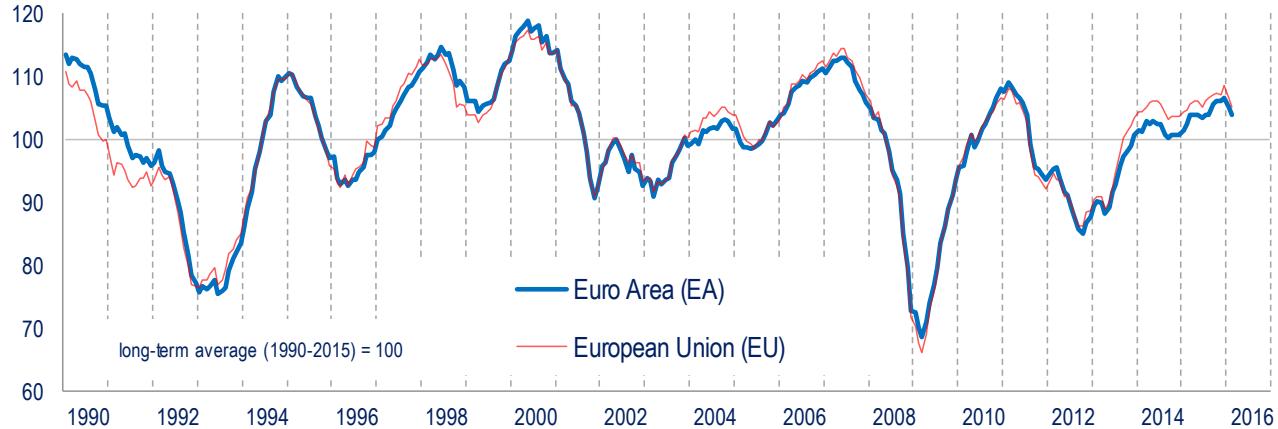




BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS

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



source: European Commission services

February 2016: Economic Sentiment decreases further in both the euro area and the EU

In February, the *Economic Sentiment Indicator* (ESI) decreased significantly in both the euro area (by 1.3 points to 103.8) and the EU (by 1.5 points to 105.2),¹ marking its second consecutive decline in 2016.

Euro area developments

The deterioration of euro-area sentiment resulted from worsening confidence among consumers and in all business sectors but construction. The ESI declined in all of the largest euro-area economies, sharply so in the Netherlands (-2.0) and Italy (-1.4) and more mildly so in Germany (-0.6), France (-0.5) and Spain (-0.5).

The marked decrease in **industry confidence** (-1.3) was due to managers' more pessimistic views on the *current level of overall order books* and worsened *production expectations*. While the assessment of the *stocks of finished products* improved somewhat, managers' assessments of the *past production* and *export order books* – which are not included in the confidence indicator – deteriorated too. The decline in **services confidence** (-0.9) was driven by managers' markedly grimmer *demand expectations*. While the assessment of *past demand* was slightly up, the *past business situation* was again seen more negatively. **Consumer confidence** fell significantly (-2.5) resulting from worsened expectations regarding all four components (the *general economic situation*, *future unemployment*, households' *financial situation* and their *savings*). The decline of **retail trade confidence** (-1.1) was fuelled by markedly worsened *business expectations*. While the *present business situation* was also assessed more negatively, views on the adequacy of the *volume of stocks* remained broadly unchanged. The improvement in **construction confidence** (+1.5) mainly resulted from a marked upward revision in managers' assessment of the level of *order books*; also their *employment expectations* improved. The steep fall (-10.2) in **financial services confidence** (not included in the ESI) was the result of more negative expectations regarding all three components (*past business situation*, *past demand* and *demand expectations*).

Employment plans saw significant downward revisions in services, while managers in construction, retail trade and, to a lesser extent, industry revised their plans upwards. **Selling price expectations** decreased markedly in construction and industry, and stayed unchanged in services. In retail trade selling price expectations increased, in line with higher consumer price expectations.

EU developments

In line with euro-area developments, the decrease of the ESI in the EU (-1.5) was due to deteriorating confidence among consumers (-2.4), in industry (-1.6) and in services (-0.6). However, EU confidence remained almost unchanged in retail trade (-0.1) and decreased also in construction (-0.7). Looking at the largest non-euro area countries, the ESI was broadly stable in Poland (+0.2), but fell significantly in the UK (-1.6).

EU managers' employment plans were broadly in line with the euro area, except for the construction sector, where plans were significantly revised downwards, and the industry sector, where they worsened slightly. In contrast to the euro area, price expectations decreased markedly also in retail trade and services.

¹ The business confidence indices for France were slightly revised compared to the January press release, causing an upward revision of a decimal point for the EA ESI (to 105.1).

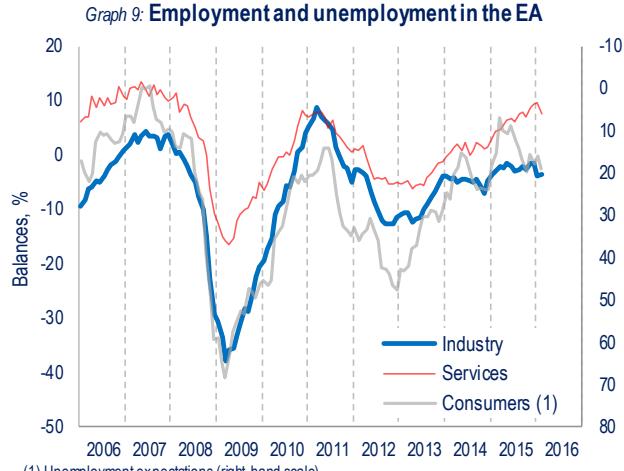
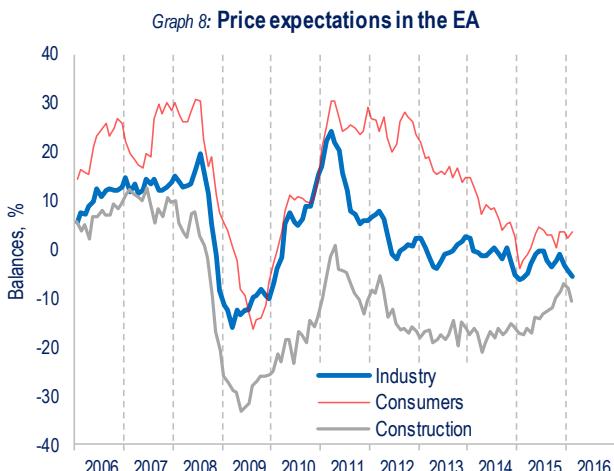
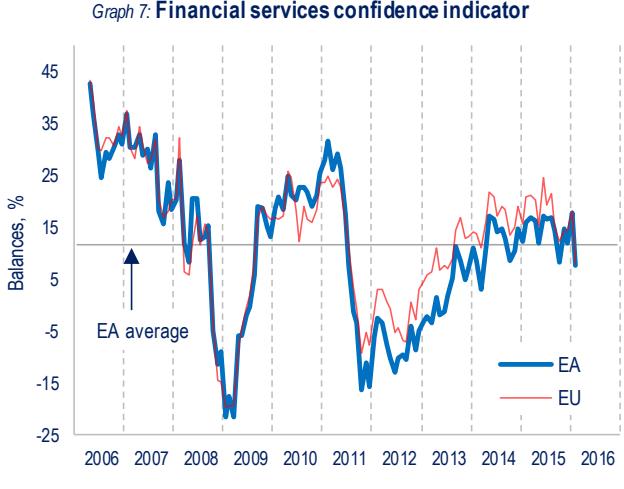
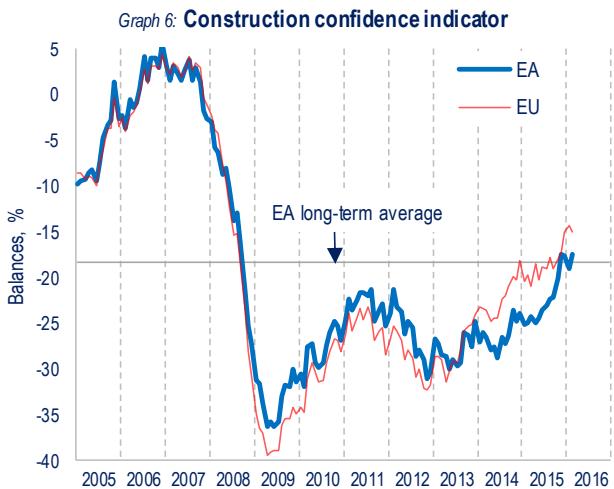
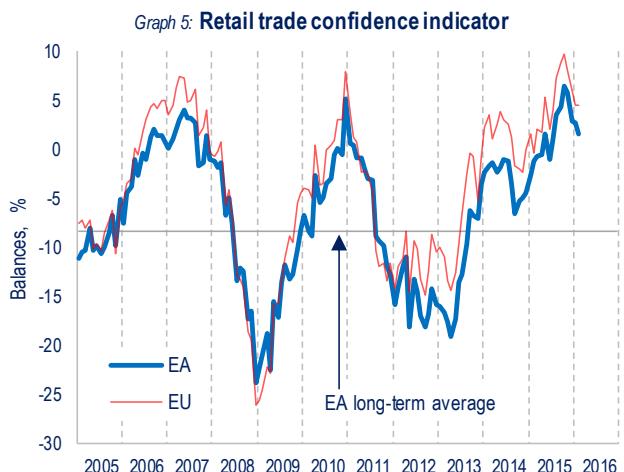
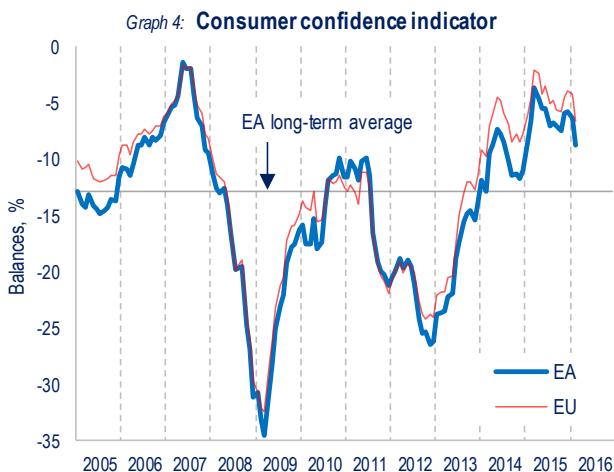
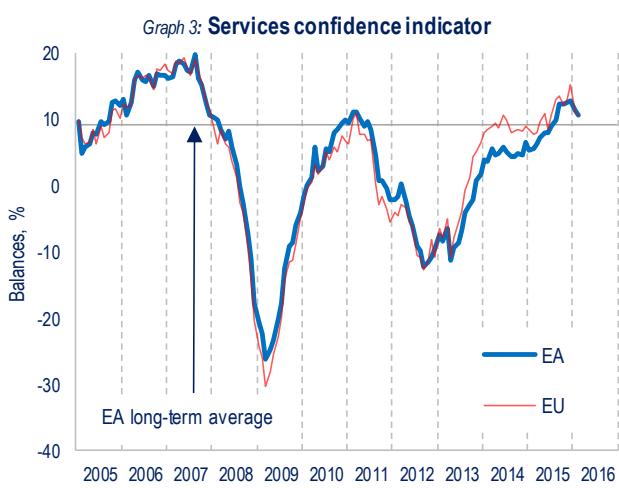
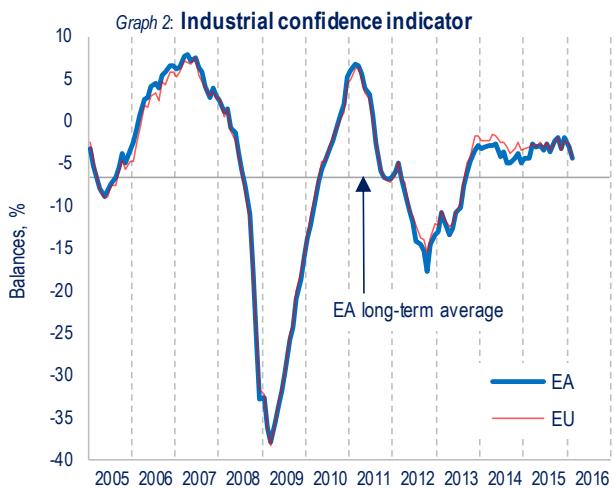


TABLE 1* (continued) : Indicators of confidence and economic sentiment (s.a.)

	Since 1990 (*)								2015						2016			
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
SK	1. Industry	04-09	-31.8	3.0	05-96	25.8	1.8	6.9	-1.3	5.3	-0.2	4.6	-0.7	7.4	-0.6	-2.9	11.1	8.9
	2. Services	05-09	-24.0	25.9	03-02	62.6	7.1	7.5	16.0	5.8	2.1	7.0	8.5	13.4	0.8	1.0	-0.4	5.3
	3. Consumer	09-99	-49.0	-23.1	12-06	6.6	-7.5	-7.7	-17.2	-14.3	-17.0	-14.8	-15.3	-10.6	-12.5	-10.7	-5.4	-7.2
	4. Retail trade	03-09	-22.7	8.9	11-98	34.4	10.2	12.4	14.3	11.9	13.1	16.3	15.3	12.7	9.6	14.8	13.2	14.7
	5. Construction	07-99	-86.1	-27.3	03-97	17.5	-16.3	-12.9	-9.5	-8.1	-5.1	-9.6	-2.4	2.2	-1.0	-5.7	-14.1	-14.2
	= 6. ESI	04-09	65.1	100.0	05-96	122.8	100.3	102.5	99.1	99.6	95.9	99.9	98.3	104.0	96.8	96.3	102.5	102.6
FI	1. Industry	03-09	-37.3	1.0	10-94	31.3	-9.1	-9.1	-12.7	-9.3	-10.5	-12.1	-7.9	-3.6	-8.6	-7.5	-6.5	-10.6
	2. Services	12-01	-47.6	13.9	09-00	51.1	1.9	0.9	1.4	0.8	1.6	2.7	4.3	6.4	13.4	9.3	14.0	9.3
	3. Consumer	12-08	-6.4	12.9	09-10	23.8	10.2	11.8	14.6	12.1	9.8	10.9	7.5	5.8	7.1	5.1	9.8	6.8
	4. Retail trade	02-15	-30.0	-2.2	08-07	23.8	-26.1	-24.1	-22.1	-26.6	-16.4	-13.4	-15.8	-8.5	-13.5	-12.5	-4.9	-16.4
	5. Construction	06-91	-99.0	-18.7	06-98	36.5	-23.7	-20.8	-13.7	-17.8	-3.7	-11.3	-6.8	-1.4	3.2	-1.1	-7.5	-6.3
	= 6. ESI	04-91	72.6	100.0	11-94	121.8	94.3	94.1	93.8	94.3	94.6	94.7	95.5	97.7	97.7	96.7	99.1	95.3
SE	1. Industry	03-09	-38.5	-4.5	09-10	15.8	-1.8	-7.9	-2.4	-2.2	-1.4	0.7	1.9	6.0	2.5	8.5	14.0	9.4
	2. Services	04-09	-26.3	19.8	02-11	53.0	23.1	25.6	26.2	24.6	24.9	27.8	26.7	28.0	29.5	28.8	28.9	24.0
	3. Consumer	12-08	-10.0	10.0	09-10	28.0	12.4	9.3	10.2	10.8	10.5	10.7	9.3	9.0	3.6	6.9	8.5	8.6
	4. Retail trade	01-09	-38.3	11.0	01-10	47.6	18.0	21.3	21.2	20.6	16.9	22.7	23.1	24.1	27.8	29.0	28.6	18.5
	5. Construction	12-93	-82.9	-23.2	08-07	47.6	-12.3	-9.6	-5.9	-5.8	2.5	1.4	5.7	18.9	20.6	16.6	10.0	15.2
	= 6. ESI	08-91	77.1	100.0	01-11	118.2	104.2	102.1	104.3	103.9	105.1	106.2	107.1	108.4	107.5	109.8	112.2	108.9
UK	1. Industry	03-09	-49.0	-9.1	06-14	12.3	1.4	1.3	2.9	-0.4	1.7	-1.3	-3.7	-2.7	-6.3	-7.4	-4.9	-8.8
	2. Services	03-09	-57.4	4.7	10-97	36.1	14.6	19.1	21.7	9.3	16.8	27.4	19.0	10.0	13.5	26.6	7.6	9.2
	3. Consumer	01-09	-35.2	-8.8	05-14	7.6	5.6	6.9	1.1	5.1	3.0	2.8	0.4	0.3	1.0	4.1	3.8	1.1
	4. Retail trade	01-09	-47.1	1.2	09-15	26.7	8.2	4.8	18.0	8.9	11.7	20.2	26.7	20.3	15.4	14.4	6.5	12.4
	5. Construction	06-91	-79.3	-21.5	04-15	8.4	-8.9	8.4	-4.1	0.2	-5.0	-0.6	-10.6	-15.5	-23.4	-9.6	2.0	-8.5
	= 6. ESI	03-09	64.3	100.0	06-14	119.1	110.7	112.4	113.0	109.2	112.5	113.0	110.2	108.2	107.1	110.1	106.6	105.0

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 (1990-2015) 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 2016.

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

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

	Since 1990 (*)				2015												2016	
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS (Question 6)	EU	02-09	-12.7	2.7	06-08	12.8	2.2	2.8	2.3	4.5	4.9	3.7	4.1	5.3	5.2	5.3	4.9	3.7
	EA	07-09	-10.1	2.9	06-08	13.2	2.3	2.1	2.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.7	4.6	4.1	2.3	3.2	3.2
	BE	01-10	-13.8	6.1	07-08	28.8	2.7	2.1	3.9	5.1	5.3	4.7	5.9	7.0	6.2	1.9	-2.2	8.7
	BG	01-11	-11.9	6.5	07-04	37.5	3.7	-2.9	-3.1	2.6	-0.2	-0.7	-1.9	-1.6	0.9	0.9	-1.2	0.9
	CZ	02-13	-8.3	4.0	01-04	23.6	-0.6	2.0	1.3	1.7	3.0	3.0	2.3	1.8	0.3	1.6	3.3	4.1
	DK	01-13	-7.4	0.6	12-10	16.2	-3.5	-2.9	-4.9	-2.2	-2.3	-2.9	-6.2	-2.5	-2.5	-1.3	-2.1	-3.5
	DE	07-09	-10.9	9.2	03-11	22.9	18.0	15.3	16.0	19.8	14.5	15.8	17.7	18.9	17.8	17.1	16.0	14.4
	EE	03-09	-31.5	8.8	09-05	26.4	-1.7	-3.9	-0.1	-1.4	2.7	1.3	4.4	2.1	0.3	-2.5	-4.7	-7.9
	IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	EL	09-12	-40.2	-4.4	06-06	24.2	-15.8	-14.9	-15.1	-13.6	-14.3	-16.3	-16.0	-11.6	-10.6	-10.1	-2.4	-6.6
	ES	11-11	-17.9	2.1	09-04	20.3	-1.2	1.9	1.3	-1.0	-2.8	-3.3	-0.3	3.2	0.2	4.4	0.4	0.4
	FR	07-09	-21.0	-2.8	04-90	16.6	-10.0	-8.5	-7.0	-6.4	-8.7	-7.0	-7.8	-5.0	-5.4	-9.5	-10.3	-6.5
	HR	03-10	-10.6	-2.0	07-08	25.4	-6.3	-6.2	-3.0	-5.2	-5.0	0.0	-1.8	-2.9	-1.0	2.1	0.9	-1.3
	IT	04-13	-15.8	-0.6	05-04	17.9	-3.6	-2.2	-3.7	-0.9	-1.0	-3.7	-4.4	-2.6	-2.7	-7.4	4.5	-1.7
	CY	04-13	-38.9	1.3	06-03	72.7	-21.2	-10.5	-6.1	-9.2	-12.3	-9.3	-9.9	-8.8	1.4	-6.6	-5.2	0.6
	LV	12-09	-31.1	7.0	12-07	35.8	-1.8	-3.1	-1.6	-0.6	-0.3	-0.4	1.9	1.3	-0.3	0.2	-4.2	-3.0
	LT	06-09	-23.0	-0.1	08-06	20.8	-1.8	-2.6	-1.4	-0.8	2.1	3.9	2.3	-0.5	1.9	1.6	4.9	4.9
	LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HU	02-09	-8.5	4.9	09-06	28.0	2.5	-4.2	2.5	4.1	4.9	1.9	4.6	-1.3	-1.9	2.3	-4.6	-0.4
	MT	08-09	-21.6	0.8	05-08	18.6	4.7	1.3	7.4	7.8	5.5	-2.6	2.0	8.1	7.3	3.4	8.9	8.4
	NL	08-09	-5.5	8.9	01-07	30.7	6.8	5.4	5.3	7.2	7.9	6.7	7.3	8.2	8.4	8.7	5.9	7.0
	AT	05-09	-10.3	9.5	11-07	30.4	8.2	-4.0	-0.8	1.3	4.8	-1.2	3.1	3.4	6.3	11.0	3.6	12.4
	PL	07-13	-10.6	1.2	04-08	16.8	-8.3	-5.3	-3.5	-2.8	-2.8	-2.7	-2.7	-2.5	-1.3	-2.3	-3.6	-2.9
	PT	11-03	-17.3	-3.8	11-05	10.6	-5.4	-5.7	-5.5	-6.4	-4.9	-3.5	-7.0	-2.5	-4.0	-4.2	0.0	-5.7
	RO	06-10	-8.7	14.0	04-04	54.5	0.1	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.9	1.8	-0.8	3.2	0.5	0.9	-4.3	3.2
	SI	02-10	-16.4	0.7	01-08	23.1	-4.9	-3.0	-1.5	-2.6	-3.6	-3.7	-3.8	-3.7	-0.4	-1.0	-1.3	-1.0
	SK	12-10	-17.5	11.6	07-02	68.9	6.6	5.5	-2.2	-9.2	-7.8	-1.5	0.7	0.7	12.8	15.8	8.5	-5.8
	FI	07-04	-25.1	9.2	01-08	40.7	1.0	7.9	2.8	0.2	1.9	5.5	1.4	-2.2	-0.2	-15.2	-0.3	-0.7
	SE	04-09	-17.0	9.2	11-07	32.4	2.1	5.2	4.6	2.2	7.8	8.3	11.3	10.6	11.3	10.2	11.4	6.5
	UK	02-09	-34.3	0.0	12-15	19.7	4.0	7.6	3.1	9.2	19.3	12.4	11.7	10.4	12.2	19.7	14.0	7.6

(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 (*)										2015					2016		
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS (Question 6)	EU	09-09	-4.6	9.0	06-08	27.2	-0.3	1.1	-0.2	2.0	0.5	2.2	2.7	3.9	1.9	2.8	3.2	-0.4
	EA	03-09	-11.3	5.6	11-07	23.4	0.5	2.7	2.4	4.6	0.8	3.1	-0.6	2.0	2.4	1.3	0.3	1.7
	BE	08-09	-13.2	5.0	04-11	26.4	5.5	3.2	9.6	8.8	2.9	14.0	7.9	12.1	5.9	2.2	4.1	6.2
	BG	11-09	-9.2	11.6	07-08	45.8	5.5	6.1	4.0	6.2	4.2	1.9	5.4	4.7	1.7	4.4	-1.9	4.2
	CZ	01-15	-11.9	2.1	01-04	22.5	2.7	2.9	5.8	6.7	6.3	8.0	8.0	6.1	1.9	0.7	-8.7	-0.2
	DK	02-13	-12.5	0.6	02-11	24.2	-5.4	-3.0	2.6	6.4	1.3	-0.6	-3.5	2.8	-4.7	-4.2	-0.7	4.4
	DE	09-09	-21.1	11.1	12-06	42.2	7.4	12.9	8.2	12.0	5.1	7.1	0.9	5.7	4.8	6.7	3.9	2.3
	EE	03-09	-35.9	26.3	04-11	54.9	14.6	18.9	20.0	19.8	18.1	16.7	15.0	10.9	15.2	16.0	16.8	25.4
	IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	EL	06-12	-35.2	-2.0	05-08	33.6	-3.7	1.5	3.9	-5.2	6.0	2.6	2.5	-2.9	0.7	-1.4	-1.1	3.0
	ES	02-09	-18.6	4.9	01-05	28.7	12.4	1.7	6.6	3.6	-1.0	0.1	-2.6	3.5	1.8	1.1	3.0	4.4
	FR	03-09	-29.4	-2.7	09-95	15.5	-10.3	-4.7	-8.3	-3.1	-6.5	-7.4	-7.8	-2.5	-2.9	-8.3	-8.0	-3.2
	HR	02-14	-13.2	-0.1	06-08	31.6	-7.7	-8.1	-5.4	-6.5	0.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.5	-4.3	3.5	0.1	-0.3
	IT	08-05	-14.5	8.8	06-08	33.1	-4.5	-0.4	2.9	4.9	3.1	8.9	4.5	0.7	1.7	5.4	3.0	6.6
	CY	04-13	-27.7	3.9	07-08	34.3	-2.5	8.7	9.8	10.0	1.0	-3.0	-0.2	-0.4	1.7	-5.5	-11.1	-2.8
	LV	01-10	-22.5	22.1	05-04	55.7	3.9	2.6	7.6	8.0	6.9	4.9	3.9	4.9	2.8	3.2	2.7	4.1
	LT	07-09	-46.5	9.5	04-11	61.7	0.9	-20.7	-20.0	-7.4	4.3	0.9	-2.6	5.1	-1.4	11.9	15.6	17.6
	LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	HU	03-10	3.6	41.6	05-96	81.3	7.9	12.3	21.0	16.6	20.2	17.5	15.8	16.2	16.1	9.1	7.1	10.0
	MT	02-14	-24.6	9.1	04-15	33.7	28.7	33.7	26.2	16.7	16.4	17.9	0.8	22.5	16.9	15.2	-3.8	8.4
	NL	11-10	-18.7	6.2	10-12	26.2	1.9	0.6	1.9	5.4	2.5	5.7	0.0	5.5	7.4	5.6	5.4	6.1
	AT	09-09	-1.0	12.9	02-08	34.1	20.6	16.2	17.1	13.9	13.7	14.0	18.7	10.1	22.5	11.4	16.2	11.9
	PL	07-02	-7.0	14.8	03-09	39.4	2.5	0.6	1.2	2.3	2.4	3.6	4.3	6.0	3.9	5.2	4.4	6.0
	PT	07-03	-19.6	6.1	07-05	27.2	1.0	2.1	4.4	5.6	0.6	1.6	-0.4	-0.4	2.7	-1.4	-0.4	1.6
	RO	01-16	-14.9	27.2	10-04	56.0	6.3	5.6	3.9	-6.0	-7.0	-1.6	2.7	3.5	-2.6	-9.9	-14.9	-10.5
	SI	03-09	-32.6	11.0	02-08	40.2	-0.8	-21.9	-12.8	-5.2	-14.0	8.1	-2.6	-5.5	2.8	-11.6	-17.3	-24.8
	SK	07-09	-36.9	16.0	11-02	73.9	1.5	3.1	12.9	12.8	10.9	8.3	4.6	-2.4	-4.1	-13.7	-17.3	-10.2
	FI	03-15	-48.9	6.0	07-11	59.6	-48.9	-39.2	-27.5	-29.2	-26.8	-20.9	-27.1	-30.1	-19.4	-27.0	-36.9	-44.9
	SE	07-05	-10.3	12.5	07-08	36.8	19.9	17.8	25.9	24.6	28.2	27.8	29.0	18.8	29.2	27.9	21.0	22.1
	UK	05-15	-17.3	20.4	01-11	66.9	-7.4	-7.8	-17.3	-13.4	-6.3	-6.4	11.2	8.2	-3.9	6.7	14.8	-13.9

(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						2015											
	Min.		Ave.	Max.		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
	Date	Value		Date	Value													
FINANCIAL SERVICES	EU	01-09	-20.0	13.6	04-06	43.3	21.2	20.4	15.2	24.5	19.2	21.4	14.9	12.2	14.2	14.3	18.2	7.8
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR ^(b)	EA	01-09	-21.8	11.6	04-06	42.6	16.8	16.2	11.9	17.2	16.6	16.7	14.2	8.3	14.6	11.9	17.7	7.5
ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS SITUATION	EU	02-09	-31.6	10.7	04-06	38.6	18.9	19.9	12.2	23.2	16.2	22.3	11.1	7.5	11.1	10.0	16.0	3.5
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	03-09	-30.1	8.9	04-06	39.6	13.9	15.5	9.8	16.1	13.9	18.3	12.2	1.2	10.0	8.8	18.6	4.9
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND	EU	03-09	-24.9	12.0	04-06	41.6	20.0	21.4	16.8	23.7	20.4	22.8	14.3	12.4	13.4	16.9	21.8	10.4
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	03-09	-25.3	10.0	04-06	40.3	15.5	19.4	12.1	15.8	17.4	16.3	12.3	8.8	12.8	17.0	21.8	9.7
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND EXPECTED	EU	01-09	-18.2	18.2	04-06	49.5	24.6	19.8	16.5	26.5	20.9	19.2	19.4	16.7	18.2	15.9	16.7	9.5
OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	01-09	-19.9	15.9	04-06	47.8	21.1	13.8	13.7	19.8	18.5	15.5	18.2	15.0	20.9	9.9	12.7	7.9
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	02-09	-11.2	6.4	01-07	23.3	8.7	4.8	5.1	5.9	10.4	11.0	10.0	9.1	2.2	6.2	6.3	6.9
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS	EA	03-13	-12.4	5.0	09-08	25.7	3.4	-0.3	0.4	2.4	5.0	7.4	3.7	1.7	-3.4	-0.2	2.0	2.1
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	01-09	-11.8	8.2	04-06	30.0	8.3	7.7	10.2	13.7	13.1	10.8	6.4	9.2	8.5	7.3	7.4	5.5
EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS	EA	12-12	-12.4	5.7	04-06	29.5	1.9	2.1	5.8	7.9	9.3	4.0	2.2	5.0	1.3	0.1	5.1	-0.4

(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 (A4), Sector Business and consumer surveys and short-term forecast.

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Upcoming releases:	Flash Consumer Confidence Indicator	21 March 2016
	Economic Sentiment Indicator	30 March 2016
	Business Climate Indicator for the euro area	30 March 2016