



BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS

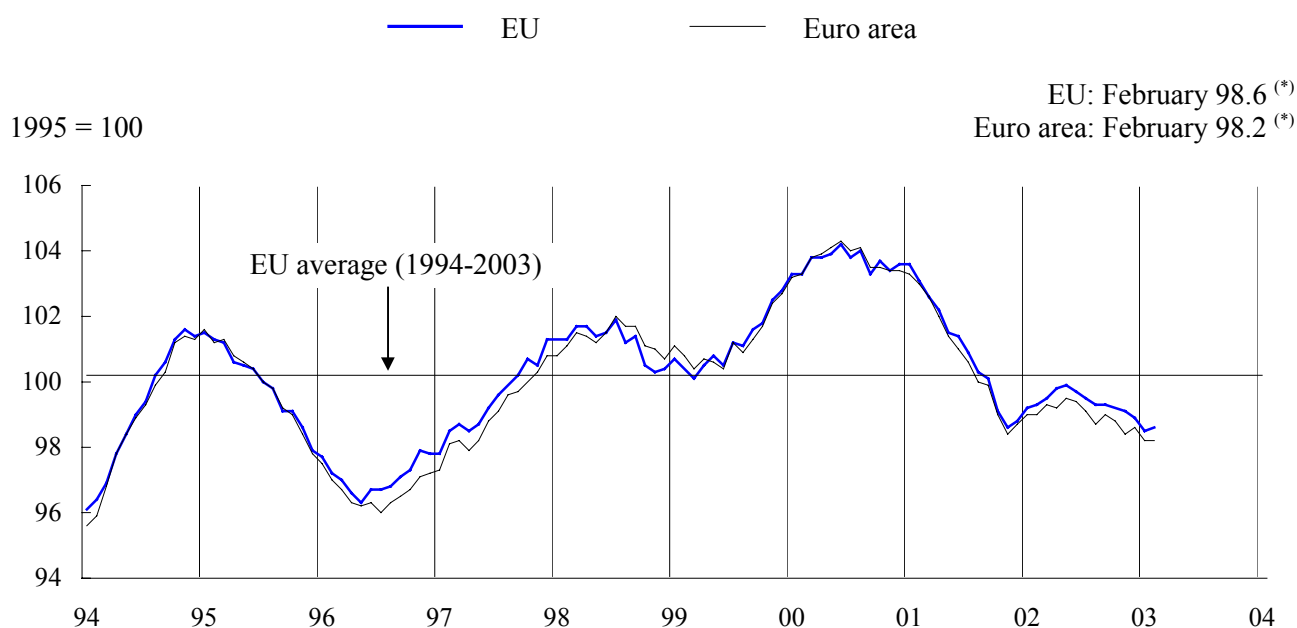
February 2003

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http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/indicators/businessandconsumersurveys_en.htm

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GRAPH 1: **Economic sentiment indicator (s.a.)**



^(*) Provisional data

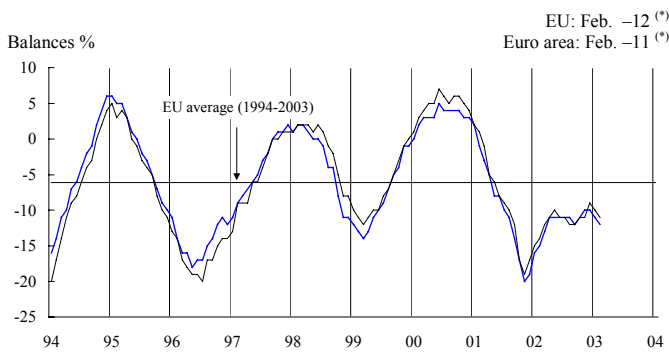
Economic sentiment improved slightly in the EU and remained unchanged in the euro area

The *economic sentiment indicator (ESI)* for the EU as whole recorded a slight increase of 0.1 percentage points in February 2003, reaching a value of 98.6. This is the first improvement of the ESI since May 2002, when it stood at 99.9. In the euro area, the indicator stabilised at 98.2 between January and February. The economic sentiment indicator rose in *Sweden* (0.8 percentage points), *Spain* (0.5), *Germany*, *Austria*, *Finland* (0.4), *Greece* and *Italy* (0.1). It remained unchanged in *Denmark*, while it fell in the *Netherlands* (0.9), *France* (0.5), the *United Kingdom* (0.4), *Belgium* (0.3), *Ireland* and *Portugal* (0.2).

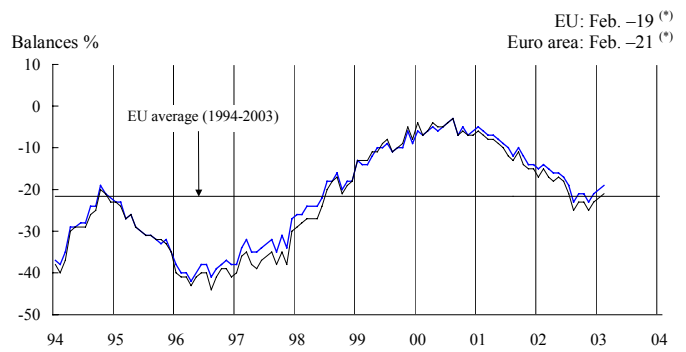
GRAPHS 2-5: Economic sentiment indicator components (s.a.)

— EU — Euro area

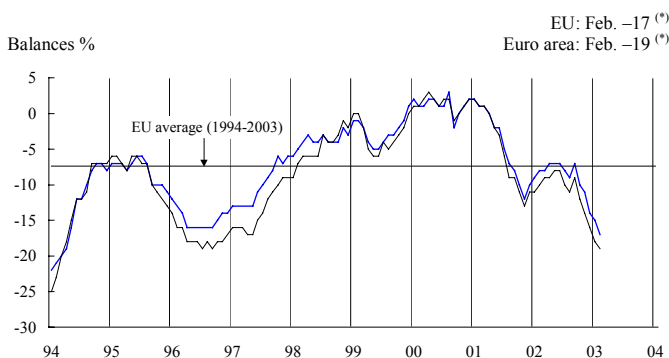
GRAPH 2: Industrial confidence indicator



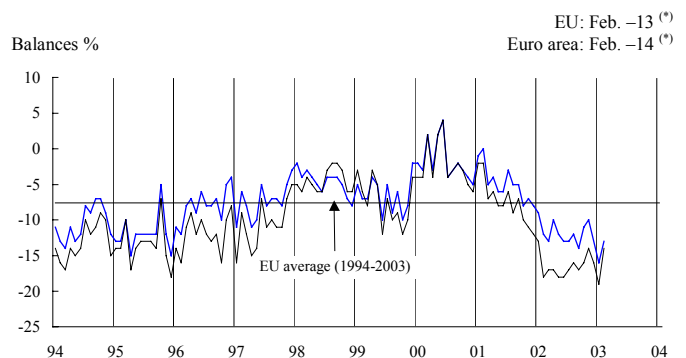
GRAPH 4: Construction confidence indicator



GRAPH 3: Consumer confidence indicator



GRAPH 5: Retail trade confidence indicator



(*) Provisional data

These developments are mainly attributable, both in the EU and the euro area, to a strong improvement in the *retail trade confidence indicator* in combination with a further slight recovery in the *construction confidence indicator*. By contrast, the *industrial confidence indicator* declined in both aggregates. Similarly, the *consumer confidence indicator* declined in the EU and the euro area, continuing its rapid deterioration of previous months.

The overall decline of the ***industrial confidence indicator*** was driven by decreases in *France* (5 points), *Ireland* (4), the *Netherlands*, the *UK* (3), *Italy* (2) and *Luxembourg* (1). These decreases more than offset the increases registered in *Sweden* (14), *Finland* (7), *Spain*, *Austria* (3) and *Belgium* (1). Industrial confidence remained unchanged in *Denmark*, *Germany*, *Greece* and *Portugal*.

Behind the deterioration of industrial confidence was a decrease in *production expectations* and in *order books*. Moreover, in the euro area also *stocks of finished products* increased.

Production expectations, while decreasing in the aggregate, were highly divergent across Member

States. They decreased in *Luxembourg* (9 points), *France* (8), *Ireland*, the *UK* (6), *Denmark*, *Italy*, the *Netherlands* (3), *Germany*, *Greece* (2) and *Belgium* (1). By contrast, they increased strongly in *Finland* (26), *Sweden* (25) and *Spain* (15), and, to a lesser extent, in *Austria* (3) and *Portugal* (1).

Order books also developed in an uneven manner. They deteriorated significantly in the *UK* (8), *France* (7), *Spain* (6), and, more moderately, in *Italy*, *Luxembourg*, the *Netherlands*, *Finland* (3), and *Ireland* (2). On the other hand, *order books* improved substantially in *Sweden* (12), *Austria* (5), *Belgium* (4), and, to a lesser extent, in *Germany*, *Greece*, *Denmark* and *Portugal* (between 1 and 2 points).

Stocks of finished products decreased markedly in *Luxembourg* and the *UK*, and, to a lesser extent, in *Denmark* and *Sweden*. *Production trends* observed in recent months, *export order books* and *selling price expectations* increased slightly in the EU and the euro area. On a positive note, industrialist's *employment expectations* improved in a majority of Member States.

The ***consumer confidence indicator*** decreased in the EU and the euro area by 1 and 2 points,

respectively. It decreased in *France* (6), *Denmark*, *Portugal* (4), *Belgium* (3), *Finland* (2), *Greece*, *Spain*, *Luxembourg*, the *Netherlands*, *Sweden* and the *UK* (1). It remained unchanged in *Ireland* and *Austria*. Consumer confidence increased only in *Italy* (3).

A further deterioration in the expected developments of the *general economic situation* and the expected increase in *unemployment* are behind the worsening of consumer confidence in both the EU and the euro area. However, *households' expectations about their financial situation and their savings over the next 12 months* remained unchanged.

Consumers' expectations about the *general economic situation* deteriorated in most Member States with the exception of *Ireland*, *Italy* and *Austria*, where they improved, and that of *Netherlands*, where they remained steady.

Consumers' expectations concerning their *financial situation over the next 12 months* remained unchanged in 6 Member States. They improved slightly in the *Netherlands* and *Sweden*, while they worsened moderately in *Denmark*, *Portugal*, *Belgium*, *Germany*, *Spain*, *Finland* and the *UK*.

Unemployment expectations of consumers rose in a majority of Member States. A substantial increase occurred in *Denmark*, *France*, the *Netherlands* and *Portugal*. *Unemployment expectations* decreased significantly in *Italy*, and somewhat less in *Germany*, *Luxembourg* and *Austria*. Balances for *price trends over the next 12 months* increased slightly in the EU and euro area, implying an increase in inflationary expectations. However, consumers in *Italy* expect an easing of inflation pressures.

The ***construction confidence indicator*** increased by 1 point in both the EU and the euro area. The indicator improved marginally in *Germany* and *France*, and more significantly in *Denmark*, *Spain*, *Luxembourg*, *Austria*, *Finland* and *Sweden*. It deteriorated in *Belgium*, *Greece*, *Ireland*, the *Netherlands*, *Portugal* and the *UK*, while it remained unchanged in *Italy*. Such developments in the construction sector were basically attributable

to an improvement of *order books* and *employment expectations* in both the EU and the euro area. The assessment of the current *activity trend compared with preceding months* improved significantly. Moreover, most managers in the construction sector do not expect a decrease in *inflationary tensions* in the future.

The ***retail trade confidence indicator*** increased by noticeable 3 and 5 points in the EU and the euro area, respectively. The positive perception of the *present business situation* as well as the decrease in *volume of stocks* are behind the improvement of retailers' confidence in a majority of Member States. Such developments in the retail trade sector were more pronounced in *Germany*, *Greece*, *Spain*, *Italy*, *Austria*, and *Finland*. However, the perception of the *expected business situation* worsened in *Belgium*, *Denmark*, *Ireland*, *Italy*, the *Netherlands*, *Portugal* and the *UK*. *Employment expectations* improved in both the EU and the euro area, while the indicator concerning *intentions of placing orders* decreased.

The ***services confidence indicator*** increased by 1 point in both the EU and the euro area. The positive evolution of confidence among the managers in the services sector is mainly caused by the improvement in the *recent evolution of demand* and in the *assessment of the business climate*. However, the *expected evolution of demand* worsened for both aggregates. Moreover, both the *recent* and *expected evolution of employment* deteriorated.

In the ***future Member States*** the *industrial confidence indicator* continued its improving trend. On the other hand, the *consumer* and *retail trade confidence indicators* deteriorated, while *construction confidence* remained unchanged. The confidence indicator in the industrial sector increased in almost all countries, with *Cyprus* being the exception. Consumer confidence deteriorated moderately in almost all countries, with the exception of *Cyprus*, *Slovakia* and *Slovenia*. The retail trade confidence indicator increased only in *Latvia*, *Lithuania* and *Slovakia*. Finally, the construction confidence indicator increased markedly in *Latvia*, *Lithuania* and *Romania*.

Brussels, 28 February 2003.

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

		Since 01/1990				2002								2003			
		Min.		Max.		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Value	Date	Value	Date												
EU	1. industrial conf. ind.	-28	07-93	6	01-95	-13	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-12	-11	-10	-10	-11	-12
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-27	07-93	3	08-00	-8	-7	-7	-7	-8	-9	-7	-10	-11	-14	-15	-17
	3. construction conf. ind.	-42	04-96	4	02-90	-15	-16	-16	-17	-19	-23	-21	-21	-23	-21	-20	-19
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-18	03-93	4	06-00	-13	-10	-12	-13	-13	-12	-14	-11	-10	-13	-16	-13
	=5. economic sent. ind.	93.7	07-93	104.2	06-00	99.5	99.8	99.9	99.7	99.5	99.3	99.3	99.2	99.1	98.9	98.5	98.6
	6. services conf. ind.	-5	01-03	32	06-00	8	8	6	3	0	-1	1	-3	-4	-5	-5	-4
Euro area	1. industrial conf. ind.	-31	08-93	7	06-00	-12	-11	-10	-11	-11	-12	-12	-11	-11	-9	-10	-11
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-29	08-93	3	04-00	-9	-9	-8	-8	-10	-11	-9	-12	-14	-16	-18	-19
	3. construction conf. ind.	-44	08-96	4	03-90	-17	-18	-17	-18	-21	-25	-23	-23	-25	-23	-22	-21
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-21	03-93	8	08-90	-17	-17	-18	-18	-17	-16	-17	-16	-14	-16	-19	-14
	=5. economic sent. ind.	93.4	08-93	104.3	06-00	99.3	99.2	99.5	99.4	99.1	98.7	99.0	98.8	98.4	98.6	98.2	98.2
	6. services conf. ind.	-7	11-01	34	08-98	7	7	6	3	0	-2	0	-4	-4	-5	-4	-3
B	1. industrial conf. ind.	-33	04-93	5	06-00	-12	-12	-8	-8	-11	-11	-10	-12	-10	-13	-13	-12
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-27	08-93	17	12-00	0	-2	-1	-1	-2	-3	-3	-2	-2	-7	-11	-14
	3. construction conf. ind.	-35	11-95	10	02-00	-17	-18	-19	-22	-23	-24	-23	-21	-17	-18	-17	-18
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-25	05-93	12	04-90	-5	-6	-1	-4	2	1	1	-1	8	-2	2	-6
	=5. economic sent. ind.	96.9	04-93	104.8	06-00	100.8	100.7	101.2	101.0	100.8	100.7	100.8	100.6	101.3	100.5	100.4	100.1
	6. services conf. ind.	-7	12-01	33	03-98	0	0	5	-3	-4	-4	-4	4	0	-5	-5	2
DK	1. industrial conf. ind.	-26	12-98	16	12-94	-3	1	-3	-4	-5	-7	-8	-6	-4	-2	-4	-4
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-11	10-90	17	12-97	9	11	8	9	8	7	8	11	10	5	8	4
	3. construction conf. ind.	-38	12-91	20	03-98	-10	-13	-15	-15	-15	-18	-18	-17	-19	-20	-20	-16
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-6	10-01	37	11-94	18	21	18	17	16	15	12	22	15	11	13	10
	=5. economic sent. ind.	95.0	12-98	101.5	11-94	98.3	98.7	98.1	98.0	97.8	97.5	97.3	97.8	97.8	97.7	97.7	97.7
	6. services conf. ind.	7	10-01	40	07-00	28	30	25	22	24	24	21	17	15	14	18	17
D	1. industrial conf. ind.	-36	08-93	11	10-90	-19	-19	-18	-19	-17	-19	-21	-19	-19	-17	-18	-18
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-28	10-93	6	08-00	-11	-11	-11	-8	-8	-10	-5	-11	-17	-20	-19	-19
	3. construction conf. ind.	-62	11-02	3	01-91	-47	-49	-50	-51	-54	-53	-57	-58	-62	-59	-55	-53
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-44	01-03	21	02-91	-35	-39	-40	-37	-36	-38	-43	-40	-39	-40	-44	-33
	=5. economic sent. ind.	95.5	08-93	105.8	12-90	97.3	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.4	97.1	96.8	96.7	96.1	96.4	96.4	96.8
	6. services conf. ind.	-23	12-02	52	03-99	-2	-3	-8	-13	-14	-14	-10	-19	-21	-23	-20	-18
EL	1. industrial conf. ind.	-12	09-90	13	03-00	2	2	4	6	5	3	1	3	5	1	-1	-1
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-43	08-92	-6	04-00	-24	-31	-26	-28	-27	-25	-30	-30	-30	-32	-36	-37
	3. construction conf. ind.	-51	09-94	33	04-00	3	3	4	4	9	9	10	10	16	14	17	11
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-24	06-95	23	08-00	0	7	6	8	3	2	1	5	4	3	-2	5
	=5. economic sent. ind.	98.8	09-91	104.4	04-00	101.8	101.7	102.1	102.2	102.1	102.0	101.6	101.9	102.2	101.7	101.3	101.4
	6. services conf. ind.	-7	09-02	62	08-00	11	1	3	1	-5	-7	-7	-1	-1	0	8	-3
E	1. industrial conf. ind.	-44	01-93	7	04-00	-10	-11	-8	-4	-4	-2	-5	-5	-3	0	-1	2
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-37	10-92	6	03-00	-12	-10	-10	-12	-12	-13	-11	-12	-12	-16	-16	-17
	3. construction conf. ind.	-57	10-92	42	01-99	3	1	11	15	17	-19	8	8	3	5	10	16
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-36	02-93	10	06-00	-3	-2	-2	-3	-4	-3	-2	0	-1	-3	-5	0
	=5. economic sent. ind.	94.4	01-93	102.6	04-00	99.9	99.9	100.3	100.6	100.6	100.4	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.5	100.5	101.0
	6. services conf. ind.	15	08-02	56	06-98	22	29	27	28	21	15	19	22	18	19	17	22
F	1. industrial conf. ind.	-41	07-93	15	06-00	-9	-8	-4	-8	-12	-13	-11	-9	-11	-5	-6	-11
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-34	08-93	4	01-01	-15	-15	-11	-12	-15	-15	-16	-17	-18	-17	-20	-26
	3. construction conf. ind.	-61	03-93	34	10-00	9	6	3	2	-5	-4	-5	-8	-10	-6	-10	-8
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-37	01-93	5	10-94	-21	-19	-17	-18	-18	-16	-13	-17	-14	-15	-23	-22
	=5. economic sent. ind.	94.9	07-93	105.9	10-00	102.0	101.9	102.3	101.8	101.1	101.1	101.2	101.0	100.7	101.5	100.9	100.4
	6. services conf. ind.	-22	06-93	25	06-90	-3	2	3	4	-2	-1	-1	0	0	2	-2	1
IRL	1. industrial conf. ind.	-23	11-01	21	11-99	-8	-7	-7	-13	-13	-7	1	-2	-4	-7	-10	-14
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-31	03-93	19	01-00	-6	-4	-2	-3	-8	-10	-8	-9	-13	-17	-17	-17
	3. construction conf. ind.	-54	09-02	58	06-97	10	-9	-5	-43	-19	-52	-54	-14	-20	-21	-15	-16
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-15	07-02	24	06-00	3	2	-1	-8	-15	-8	-2	-9	-10	-14	-3	-7
	=5. economic sent. ind.	96.8	02-93	102.5	11-99	99.6	99.4	99.5	98.5	98.5	98.4	98.8	99.2	98.8	98.4	98.5	98.3
	6. services conf. ind.	-10	12-02	44	08-98	8	15	13	9	-4	-1	-1	6	-3	-10	-3	-2
I	1. industrial conf. ind.	-22	02-93	16	06-00	-3	-4	-1	-4	-3	-5	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-3
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-38	04-93	2	06-01	-4	-7	-6	-8	-11	-10	-10	-13	-12	-17	-16	-13
	3. construction conf. ind.	-68	10-93	21	05-90	-1	6	11	5	4	3	8	5	8	9	1	1
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-19	10-96	39	10-95	-7	-2	-3	-5	0	5	8	14	17	16	13	19
	=5. economic sent. ind.	94.9	04-93	101.5	06-00	99.4	99.5	99.9	99.2	99.3	99.2	99.8	99.5	99.7	99.3	99.2	99.3
	6. services conf. ind.	-5	10-02	43	02-98	28	21	23	15	11	4	7	-5	3	-1	7	0

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

		Since 01/1990				2002										2003	
		Min.		Max.		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Jan.	Feb.
		Value	Date	Value	Date												
NL	1. industrial conf. ind.	-12	05-93	6	10-00	-5	-4	-5	-5	-6	-2	-4	-6	-4	-4	-6	-9
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-20	07-93	31	04-00	5	3	5	-2	-5	-5	-8	-8	-6	-8	-15	-16
	3. construction conf. ind.	-20	09-93	27	12-00	3	1	-2	-5	-11	-11	-12	-12	-17	-14	-13	-19
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	1	03-95	29	10-99	21	19	16	13	10	6	8	4	5	2	4	2
	=5. economic sent. ind.	96.0	05-93	104.7	04-00	100.6	100.3	99.9	99.3	98.4	98.7	98.4	97.7	98.1	97.8	97.3	96.4
	6. services conf. ind.	-9	07-93	35	03-99	13	20	16	16	19	20	20	16	13	14	10	6
A	1. industrial conf. ind.	-30	09-93	8	03-90	-18	-17	-16	-14	-16	-18	-18	-12	-16	-15	-14	-11
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-16	04-96	11	08-00	9	5	4	4	2	-1	6	5	7	7	2	2
	3. construction conf. ind.	-60	04-96	-13	02-03	-38	-38	-38	-40	-33	-37	-38	-36	-38	-38	-27	-13
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-27	01-03	4	07-00	-13	-14	-20	-18	-20	-19	-20	-18	-15	-25	-27	-18
	=5. economic sent. ind.	96.7	04-96	99.6	07-00	98.1	98.1	98.1	98.2	98.0	97.8	98.0	98.4	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.6
	6. services conf. ind.	0	01-02	30	03-98	8	10	12	13	7	7	4	8	9	8	8	8
P	1. industrial conf. ind.	-28	07-93	6	03-98	-8	-10	-11	-9	-13	-12	-13	-14	-17	-16	-18	-18
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-48	02-03	-1	07-91	-24	-24	-33	-37	-36	-36	-37	-42	-40	-41	-44	-48
	3. construction conf. ind.	-57	02-03	-1	12-97	-19	-21	-27	-37	-37	-44	-43	-45	-49	-50	-51	-57
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-27	02-03	4	07-99	-14	-10	-14	-17	-18	-23	-17	-21	-23	-19	-27	-27
	=5. economic sent. ind.	96.2	07-93	102.4	05-98	99.8	99.6	98.8	98.5	98.2	97.9	97.9	97.4	97.1	97.2	96.6	96.4
	6. services conf. ind.	-8	11-02	29	06-01	8	0	6	7	8	-1	3	2	-8	-4	-3	-2
FIN	1. industrial conf. ind.	-24	01-93	29	11-94	-4	2	-11	-9	-7	-6	0	-5	0	-8	-17	-10
	2. consumer conf. ind.	6	11-01	23	02-00	13	16	15	14	14	13	15	12	13	11	12	10
	3. construction conf. ind.	-98	09-91	48	06-98	-18	-24	-10	13	-11	2	-6	1	13	11	11	18
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-17	11-00	8	05-97	3	-6	2	-1	-11	-7	-14	-8	-3	-11	-10	-2
	=5. economic sent. ind.	94.5	09-91	101.5	12-97	99.7	99.8	99.6	99.9	99.5	99.6	99.8	99.6	100.2	99.7	99.4	99.8
	6. services conf. ind.	-6	11-96	61	09-00	34	23	24	15	3	18	10	21	25	21	1	21
S	1. industrial conf. ind.	-29	10-01	15	05-00	-14	-12	-13	-4	-12	-14	-11	-16	-14	-11	-9	5
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-10	09-96	24	08-00	12	10	8	11	11	11	13	8	10	10	7	6
	3. construction conf. ind.	-83	12-93	25	01-01	-17	-16	-25	-40	-47	-40	-51	-53	-39	-45	-41	-30
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-8	10-01	27	04-00	9	16	13	14	15	15	12	13	19	16	11	9
	=5. economic sent. ind.	97.1	06-96	101.6	08-00	99.3	99.5	99.2	99.5	99.0	98.9	98.9	98.6	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.8
	6. services conf. ind.	-24	01-03	46	02-01	-16	-3	-6	-6	-11	-9	-10	-19	-17	-16	-24	-17
UK	1. industrial conf. ind.	-40	02-91	11	02-95	-19	-12	-17	-13	-11	-8	-15	-13	-9	-15	-15	-18
	2. consumer conf. ind.	-28	10-92	7	04-98	-5	-3	-4	-5	-5	-2	-1	-2	-1	-6	-9	-10
	3. construction conf. ind.	-80	06-91	3	09-01	-3	-6	-8	-3	-5	-7	-5	-1	-3	-2	1	-6
	4. retail trade conf. ind.	-27	09-92	19	04-02	3	19	8	5	-1	0	-3	3	2	-7	-9	-12
	=5. economic sent. ind.	95.6	02-91	101.9	10-97	100.3	101.0	100.5	100.7	100.7	100.9	100.5	100.9	101.0	100.4	100.3	99.9
	6. services conf. ind.	5	10-01	37	11-97	14	15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

The economic sentiment indicator (1995 = 100) is composed of the industrial confidence indicator (40%), the consumer confidence indicator (20%), the construction confidence indicator (20%), and the retail trade confidence indicator (20%). All confidence indicators are balances.

Source: unless stated otherwise: European Commission business and consumer surveys.

TABLE 4 (continued): Survey of construction industry ^(a)

Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (s.a.)

		Since 01/1990				2002										2003	
		Min.		Max.		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Value	Date	Value	Date												
PRICE	EU	-23	04-96	25	04-90	5	6	4	0	-1	-6	-5	-5	-5	-5	-4	-3
EXPECTATIONS	Euro area	-26	04-96	32	04-90	3	3	2	-2	-3	-10	-8	-9	-9	-8	-8	-5
	B	-22	01-96	28	01-90	-8	-10	-8	-9	-10	-13	-11	-14	-10	-15	-13	-14
	DK	-30	01-03	0	05-98	-16	-18	-20	-20	-23	-26	-24	-26	-27	-30	-30	-26
	D	-45	03-96	45	02-90	-12	-11	-13	-15	-17	-22	-23	-24	-27	-24	-22	-20
	EL	-28	03-93	35	06-95	22	25	21	12	6	6	6	15	17	25	22	17
	E	-20	10-93	71	10-00	27	29	33	21	10	-12	4	-3	6	2	5	18
	F	-60	03-93	32	10-00	-5	-5	-12	-13	-9	-15	-19	-19	-17	-15	-14	-16
	IRL	-63	09-02	58	03-00	-61	-35	-48	-49	-27	-62	-63	-42	-30	-46	-52	-35
	I	-16	07-93	63	06-90	25	24	26	22	23	20	24	24	21	25	22	26
	L	-67	05-93	29	11-00	-29	-30	-37	-33	-42	-55	-60	-58	-54	-63	-58	-55
	NL	0	01-03	69	04-01	32	24	28	24	22	20	18	10	5	6	0	3
	A	-53	04-96	18	06-91	-17	-11	-15	-18	-12	-13	-13	-7	-4	-17	-5	-6
	P	-28	02-03	48	01-91	8	-3	-2	-7	-18	-19	-22	-15	-18	-19	-24	-28
	FIN	-45	06-91	65	05-97	-7	-21	-11	-7	1	0	-2	8	-3	5	0	5
	S	-75	08-91	33	01-01	-7	-8	-24	-20	-10	-14	-25	-16	-11	-24	-22	-8
	UK	-56	12-90	39	12-97	29	31	25	23	22	21	23	30	23	24	26	17

(a) The indicator is the average of the balances (%) for the questions on order-books and employment expectations.

TABLE 5: **Results of business surveys in the retail trade** ^{(a) (b)}
Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (s.a.)

		Since 01/1990				2002								2003			
		Min.		Max.													
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
RETAIL TRADE CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	EU	-18	03-93	4	06-00	-13	-10	-12	-13	-13	-12	-14	-11	-10	-13	-16	-13
	Euro area	-21	03-93	8	08-90	-17	-17	-18	-18	-17	-16	-17	-16	-14	-16	-19	-14
	B	-25	05-93	12	04-90	-5	-6	-1	-4	2	1	1	-1	8	-2	2	-6
	DK	-6	10-01	37	11-94	18	21	18	17	16	15	12	22	15	11	13	10
	D	-44	01-03	21	02-91	-35	-39	-40	-37	-36	-38	-43	-40	-39	-40	-44	-33
	EL	-24	06-95	23	08-00	0	7	6	8	3	2	1	5	4	3	-2	5
	E	-36	02-93	10	06-00	-3	-2	-2	-3	-4	-3	-2	0	-1	-3	-5	0
	F	-37	01-93	5	10-94	-21	-19	-17	-18	-18	-16	-13	-17	-14	-15	-23	-22
	IRL	-15	07-02	24	06-00	3	2	-1	-8	-15	-8	-2	-9	-10	-14	-3	-7
	I	-19	10-96	39	10-95	-7	-2	-3	-5	0	5	8	14	17	16	13	19
	NL	1	03-95	29	10-99	21	19	16	13	10	6	8	4	5	2	4	2
	A	-27	01-03	4	07-00	-13	-14	-20	-18	-20	-19	-20	-18	-15	-25	-27	-18
	P	-27	02-03	4	07-99	-14	-10	-14	-17	-18	-23	-17	-21	-23	-19	-27	-27
	FIN	-17	11-00	8	05-97	3	-6	2	-1	-11	-7	-14	-8	-3	-11	-10	-2
	S	-8	10-01	27	04-00	9	16	13	14	15	15	12	13	19	16	11	9
UK	-27	09-92	19	04-02	3	19	8	5	-1	0	-3	3	2	-7	-9	-12	
PRESENT BUSINESS SITUATION	EU	-27	06-93	18	07-90	-15	-13	-15	-16	-16	-16	-21	-15	-11	-20	-24	-16
	Euro area	-29	01-03	22	07-90	-22	-25	-24	-23	-23	-22	-25	-21	-17	-24	-29	-17
	B	-41	10-95	29	06-00	1	-12	0	-5	0	4	12	6	17	-2	7	3
	DK	-1	10-01	57	11-94	28	34	34	24	28	25	20	39	33	26	21	18
	D	-66	02-02	46	11-90	-50	-57	-53	-50	-49	-50	-62	-45	-43	-55	-65	-46
	EL	-50	06-95	11	08-00	-14	-7	-7	-9	-18	-21	-23	-12	-12	-19	-25	-7
	E	-72	07-93	4	06-00	-12	-18	-2	-12	-20	-13	-11	-14	-14	-19	-20	-11
	F	-64	02-93	16	09-98	-29	-27	-27	-20	-20	-24	-26	-30	-26	-27	-35	-33
	IRL	-23	07-02	37	06-98	7	7	2	-5	-23	-17	-1	-12	-8	-7	3	5
	I	-42	02-95	73	02-93	4	3	-7	-6	2	9	12	16	27	21	15	38
	NL	4	03-95	57	10-99	43	43	35	34	32	24	29	19	18	15	19	23
	A	-33	12-02	13	07-00	-12	-16	-23	-19	-22	-18	-18	-19	-16	-33	-27	-19
	P	-48	02-03	3	07-99	-32	-25	-30	-36	-37	-41	-35	-39	-38	-42	-46	-48
	FIN	-15	11-00	23	12-01	20	3	17	17	-10	8	-7	3	13	-6	-6	11
	S	-21	10-96	34	07-00	3	21	11	7	19	19	8	15	26	27	23	16
UK	-57	09-92	40	04-02	14	40	23	12	7	4	-8	3	9	-10	-8	-19	
VOLUME OF STOCKS	EU	11	05-93	23	03-02	23	19	20	18	17	15	16	16	18	18	19	15
	Euro area	7	01-91	23	03-02	23	21	21	18	17	14	15	15	18	16	18	14
	B	-4	09-90	32	03-92	11	11	8	11	2	3	1	9	0	5	1	2
	DK	-1	05-98	32	04-00	12	14	18	11	17	20	23	13	23	24	17	19
	D	4	02-91	43	02-02	38	40	38	31	34	30	31	32	39	33	35	28
	EL	-7	11-02	41	12-93	16	5	7	19	13	14	14	2	-7	6	10	9
	E	-8	02-96	16	07-92	9	8	15	4	8	3	7	5	4	6	6	3
	F	-3	10-93	21	09-98	13	14	13	18	11	10	8	11	8	9	11	11
	IRL	-5	07-00	25	08-98	15	10	12	14	19	13	11	12	13	18	9	10
	I	-8	10-99	43	10-96	22	7	7	3	1	0	-2	-5	6	4	2	1
	NL	5	07-99	17	11-95	7	10	10	9	12	12	9	12	13	10	11	14
	A	-2	01-00	36	01-96	26	21	23	26	24	22	25	21	17	24	34	22
	P	-3	06-96	25	06-90	7	9	6	6	1	11	5	8	8	3	9	3
	FIN	22	11-01	40	08-00	25	31	26	27	28	31	34	31	28	28	29	23
	S	18	04-00	44	06-98	26	21	21	19	19	23	19	21	22	23	23	25
UK	4	04-93	33	02-91	24	10	19	17	15	16	19	21	20	23	25	14	
EXPECTED BUSINESS SITUATION	EU	-16	01-93	17	06-00	0	1	-1	-4	-6	-6	-4	-2	0	-2	-6	-7
	Euro area	-22	03-93	16	06-00	-7	-6	-8	-12	-11	-12	-11	-11	-7	-7	-10	-10
	B	-18	02-03	22	04-98	-6	4	5	3	9	3	-7	-1	8	0	0	-18
	DK	7	10-01	71	07-94	38	43	37	39	37	40	40	40	36	31	34	31
	D	-42	10-02	26	12-90	-17	-21	-29	-30	-26	-33	-37	-42	-35	-32	-33	-25
	EL	-4	06-95	60	06-00	30	34	31	51	41	41	41	28	18	33	30	31
	E	-34	02-93	34	04-91	11	20	11	6	17	7	13	18	16	15	10	14
	F	-50	03-93	11	10-94	-20	-15	-12	-15	-23	-15	-4	-10	-7	-9	-22	-21
	IRL	-18	12-02	44	11-97	17	9	6	-6	-2	7	7	-2	-9	-18	-2	-15
	I	-20	03-93	59	06-96	-2	-2	4	-7	-2	5	9	22	29	30	27	20
	NL	-3	02-03	41	10-99	27	24	24	14	11	5	4	4	9	0	4	-3
	A	-21	05-96	15	07-00	0	-5	-13	-8	-14	-16	-16	-15	-11	-17	-20	-13
	P	-29	02-03	39	01-90	-3	3	-6	-10	-15	-17	-10	-15	-23	-12	-26	-29
	FIN	-4	10-01	39	05-97	14	11	16	8	4	3	-1	3	7	1	4	5
	S	19	10-01	67	04-00	49	48	50	55	46	50	47	46	53	44	34	37
UK	-25	10-98	40	01-97	19	28	21	20	6	13	18	28	18	13	6	-4	

TABLE 5 (continued): Results of business surveys in the retail trade^(a)

Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (s.a.)

		Since 01/1990				2002										2003	
		Min.		Max.		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Value	Date	Value	Date												
INTENTIONS OF PLACING ORDERS	EU	-16	10-02	13	01-90	-3	-5	-9	-7	-10	-14	-15	-16	-10	-10	-11	-14
	Euro area	-22	10-02	15	01-90	-8	-12	-16	-13	-15	-18	-21	-22	-16	-15	-13	-16
	B	-27	05-93	15	03-90	-7	2	-6	-3	-3	-5	-6	-4	-5	-8	-6	-17
	DK	-12	10-01	58	07-94	16	17	11	12	13	11	8	20	3	13	4	4
	D	-51	09-02	21	02-91	-27	-31	-37	-30	-34	-42	-51	-49	-44	-42	-31	-35
	EL	-23	04-93	38	06-96	8	19	12	18	4	4	5	9	10	8	0	7
	E	-31	02-93	21	01-90	9	7	-5	3	8	0	4	8	9	3	5	3
	F	-37	01-93	11	10-99	-9	-13	-11	-8	-9	-11	-14	-15	-7	-9	-7	-8
	IRL	-31	12-02	27	08-00	-8	-22	-22	-29	-30	-15	-10	-7	-27	-31	-18	-26
	I	-24	10-97	69	04-92	17	6	4	-3	-1	0	5	-10	12	24	14	6
	NL	-22	02-03	25	08-99	8	7	10	0	-7	-11	-8	-10	-8	-14	-16	-22
	A	-42	03-99	-16	06-00	-27	-29	-32	-34	-31	-28	-28	-28	-28	-31	-35	-30
	P	-47	02-03	12	11-98	-20	-15	-24	-30	-23	-26	-38	-31	-38	-35	-41	-47
	FIN	-18	09-02	6	05-97	-7	-9	-9	-6	-14	-13	-18	-11	-9	-9	-7	-9
	S	-17	10-01	52	03-00	1	19	11	16	25	19	22	21	24	19	19	14
UK	-37	03-91	34	10-96	23	25	20	19	6	0	8	7	9	5	-8	-11	
EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS	EU	-13	12-92	9	08-00	1	2	-5	-4	-3	-4	-4	-5	1	-2	-5	-3
	Euro area	-11	02-97	10	08-00	-1	-3	-9	-7	-5	-5	-7	-7	-1	-3	-9	-6
	B	-13	12-92	16	07-90	2	9	4	10	5	6	6	5	10	6	0	6
	DK	-8	05-01	28	05-00	8	10	5	7	10	10	5	8	6	5	6	4
	D^(c)	-32	01-03	15	03-98	-12	-19	-30	-23	-20	-20	-23	-25	-20	-25	-32	-24
	EL	-8	09-00	62	03-98	21	6	20	28	4	0	-1	26	31	4	2	6
	E	-19	09-93	8	12-98	2	3	-2	2	2	1	1	4	5	3	-1	0
	F	-14	06-92	12	10-00	2	4	-1	5	4	2	-4	-1	0	-3	-3	-1
	IRL	-8	06-02	22	03-98	-6	-4	-4	-8	-5	1	3	1	-6	-6	-4	-6
	I	-34	02-97	54	02-00	15	12	4	-4	7	5	13	5	29	37	22	18
	NL	-6	06-95	13	01-00	8	6	4	3	4	-1	3	2	-1	-3	0	-3
	A	-20	03-99	71	01-96	-10	-11	-11	-10	-11	-9	-9	-10	-6	-12	-8	-7
	P	-21	02-03	13	09-97	-7	-2	-11	-9	-15	-16	-14	-12	-15	-15	-17	-21
	FIN	-15	05-01	7	03-98	2	-2	0	-1	-6	-2	-6	-6	-2	-7	-6	-5
	S	-34	10-96	23	06-00	-4	1	1	2	5	6	6	7	12	7	5	4
UK	-32	12-91	25	10-97	6	23	12	9	1	-1	9	4	9	4	9	6	

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

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

(c) Quarterly data, seasonally adjusted monthly.

TABLE 6 (continued): **Monthly survey of services** — Monthly questions ^(a)

Balances: i.e. differences between the percentages of respondents giving positive and negative replies (s.a.)

		Since 01/1990				2002								2003			
		Min.		Max.		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Value	Date	Value	Date												
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT IN RECENT MONTHS	EU	-6	12-02	26	03-99	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	-2	-3	-6	-3	-5
	Euro area	-6	12-02	28	03-99	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	-2	-3	-6	-2	-3
	B	-14	08-02	30	08-98	-13	-13	-4	-10	-13	-14	-10	-7	-5	-7	-5	-8
	DK ⁽ⁿ⁾	-3	01-03	23	06-00	6	7	6	5	7	7	4	3	0	0	-3	-1
	D	-19	12-02	44	03-99	-8	-7	-5	-6	-5	-5	-6	-13	-19	-19	-17	-11
	EL	-42	06-01	44	06-00	-10	-1	11	9	11	12	12	-3	-2	-3	-5	-9
	E	5	12-02	45	08-98	7	11	16	6	10	10	5	10	9	5	6	16
	F	-27	06-93	23	03-00	6	4	7	9	5	5	9	8	6	3	6	0
	IRL	-11	11-02	25	02-98	-4	-5	-2	0	-4	-8	-8	-4	-11	-10	-6	-9
	I	-6	06-01	25	05-00	12	4	2	8	17	8	9	4	6	-5	16	-5
	NL	-1	02-03	66	06-98	7	14	14	8	8	6	6	6	3	4	-1	-1
	A	-7	08-02	18	06-00	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-7	2	-6	-6	-6	-5	-3
	P	-30	01-03	28	07-98	-18	-9	-5	-8	-3	-4	-9	-18	-13	-18	-30	-27
	FIN	-26	04-97	91	11-97	4	26	-1	6	0	11	-6	5	49	50	8	45
	S	-37	01-02	42	01-01	-29	-18	-12	-19	-18	-18	-19	-24	-21	-19	-33	-33
UK	3	10-01	27	06-00	5	5	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT EXPECTED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD	EU ⁽ⁿ⁾	-7	10-02	25	01-01	11	11	9	5	2	-1	-4	-7	-5	-7	2	0
	Euro area ⁽ⁿ⁾	-7	10-02	27	04-00	10	10	9	6	3	-1	-4	-7	-4	-6	2	0
	B	-9	01-03	34	11-99	0	3	-2	-4	-5	-8	2	-5	-9	-1	-9	-3
	DK ⁽ⁿ⁾	1	12-02	20	06-00	17	8	13	8	9	9	2	6	3	1	7	6
	D ⁽ⁿ⁾	-15	12-02	15	02-01	5	1	-2	-5	-9	-10	-8	-15	-15	-15	-8	-7
	EL	-33	06-01	47	06-99	-5	19	21	24	17	13	9	2	3	5	3	-3
	E	3	08-02	41	04-00	7	12	18	17	12	3	4	9	9	8	6	8
	F	-31	06-97	21	06-98	2	7	7	11	4	1	-10	-2	9	0	2	3
	IRL	-4	08-02	31	04-98	4	3	16	8	0	-4	-1	4	5	-2	2	0
	I	-6	01-97	34	06-00	15	14	20	8	16	17	15	10	13	12	11	-2
	NL	1	02-03	40	03-99	15	17	14	14	8	6	8	6	3	2	7	1
	A	-3	10-01	27	09-98	2	2	2	3	2	3	-1	-1	0	-1	3	2
	P	-24	01-03	30	05-98	0	-2	1	-4	-1	-17	-14	-17	-17	-15	-24	-20
	FIN	-31	11-96	82	12-00	5	3	13	-2	19	-17	3	8	13	-2	37	11
	S	-35	11-01	62	09-00	-18	-5	-10	-13	-24	-17	-19	-15	-14	-17	-25	-23
UK	3	06-00	33	06-98	22	25	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	

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

(n) Not seasonally adjusted.

TABLE 7: Business and consumer surveys in the future Member States (s.a.)^(a)

		Since 01/1990				2002										2003	
		Min.		Max.		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Value	Date	Value	Date												
INDUSTRIAL	All	-21	02-99	4	11-97	-8	-11	-10	-12	-11	-9	-10	-9	-9	-8	-7	-4
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	BG	-30	06-93	8	11-95	-5	-4	-1	-1	-4	-6	-8	-9	-4	-5	-3	-3
	CY ⁽ⁿ⁾	-6	02-03	10	06-01	7	8	4	3	2	-5	-4	-2	7	0	-4	-6
	CZ	-31	03-99	27	06-00	4	-7	-1	0	-4	-3	-3	9	0	-2	-5	4
	EE	-31	07-92	19	03-01	18	15	15	14	15	15	18	17	12	7	17	18
	HU	-15	05-99	8	04-98	-10	-10	-3	-6	-5	-4	-5	-4	-5	-6	-10	-8
	LV	-44	04-93	6	03-02	6	-2	-1	-1	0	-1	0	1	1	2	1	3
	LT	-37	11-98	0	07-95	-8	-8	-9	-14	-13	-9	-10	-5	-7	-8	-9	-8
	PL	-29	10-01	9	09-97	-18	-20	-20	-24	-21	-18	-20	-23	-21	-18	-12	-8
	RO	-22	09-92	28	06-96	3	-6	-5	-5	-1	0	-2	0	0	-2	2	6
	SK	-23	12-95	26	05-96	12	1	6	1	1	4	8	9	9	8	-1	2
	SI	-21	03-99	18	06-00	-6	-7	-3	-4	-8	-6	-5	-3	0	-1	-1	-1
CONSUMER	All ⁽ⁿ⁾	-28	12-01	-22	10-02	-26	-26	-23	-25	-24	-23	-23	-22	-25	-27	-25	-27
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	BG ⁽ⁿ⁾	-36	03-02	-12	08-01	-36	-31	-30	-31	-31	-29	-32	-28	-31	-28	-27	-31
	CY ⁽ⁿ⁾	-38	10-01	-9	06-01	-22	-18	-25	-22	-24	-27	-30	-27	-26	-22	-26	-23
	CZ	-36	03-98	1	04-01	-5	-5	-5	-4	-7	-8	-10	-10	-10	-9	-13	-15
	EE	-56	04-93	-3	01-03	-8	-7	-7	-7	-7	-9	-4	-6	-5	-7	-3	-4
	HU	-59	04-95	0	08-02	-6	-1	-2	-2	-1	0	-3	-3	-9	-7	-14	-20
	LV ⁽ⁿ⁾	-48	03-93	5	12-02	-4	-3	-5	-2	-3	1	-3	-1	1	5	0	-2
	LT ⁽ⁿ⁾	-33	05-01	-6	01-03	-24	-22	-21	-21	-22	-20	-18	-18	-17	-15	-6	-9
	PL ⁽ⁿ⁾	-40	08-01	-27	09-01	-38	-39	-35	-37	-33	-33	-30	-30	-34	-38	-34	-35
	RO ⁽ⁿ⁾	-35	07-02	-20	06-01	-29	-32	-28	-31	-35	-28	-26	-27	-26	-22	-21	-25
	SK ⁽ⁿ⁾	-48	09-99	-24	09-02	-27	-29	-29	-32	-30	-28	-24	-26	-42	-42	-40	-37
	SI	-29	06-99	-12	06-01	-24	-23	-21	-17	-23	-20	-21	-23	-17	-16	-19	-19
CONSTRUCTION	All	-64	06-93	-2	09-96	-36	-36	-36	-34	-34	-34	-35	-33	-33	-36	-31	-31
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	BG	-56	10-93	-7	02-02	-18	-25	-22	-15	-23	-20	-22	-18	-20	-31	-18	-20
	CY ⁽ⁿ⁾	4	02-03	25	09-02	:	:	11	9	21	17	25	17	18	17	10	4
	CZ	-64	06-99	3	06-95	-14	-6	-7	1	-6	-9	-7	-8	-5	-1	-7	-6
	EE ⁽ⁿ⁾	-46	03-99	32	07-02	:	:	27	27	32	29	18	10	-1	-11	-5	-2
	HU	-21	07-96	12	09-98	-7	-3	-4	-3	-4	-3	-9	-8	-10	-10	-20	-16
	LV	-64	07-93	-8	10-02	-14	-22	-16	-10	-17	-19	-20	-8	-14	-18	-20	-13
	LT	-76	09-00	-8	10-02	-43	-29	-20	-24	-24	-26	-38	-8	-29	-28	-26	-13
	PL	-63	12-02	-23	03-98	-61	-63	-62	-62	-62	-61	-60	-60	-58	-63	-51	-54
	RO	-60	09-99	35	06-96	-7	-20	-24	-29	-30	-25	-35	-22	-26	-28	-28	-20
	SK	-86	07-99	18	03-97	-21	-23	-20	-18	-14	-18	-16	-20	-22	-21	-23	-21
	SI ⁽ⁿ⁾	-28	05-02	-13	10-02	:	:	-28	-27	-20	-19	-17	-13	-18	-27	-17	-20
RETAIL TRADE	All	-4	11-01	9	10-97	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	-1
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	BG	5	11-00	32	07-00	15	13	11	14	14	16	15	13	19	15	15	13
	CY ⁽ⁿ⁾	-19	07-02	0	01-03	:	:	-8	-15	-19	-13	-12	-6	-1	-6	0	-6
	CZ	-2	02-99	26	01-03	19	21	25	23	25	26	26	22	23	21	26	17
	EE ⁽ⁿ⁾	-37	03-99	17	08-02	:	:	11	17	17	17	14	10	10	8	6	5
	HU	-15	12-01	9	02-98	-7	-10	-3	-5	-4	-3	-6	-4	-5	-3	-7	-11
	LV	1	12-96	15	09-02	7	9	12	10	12	9	15	11	11	12	10	12
	LT	-25	09-00	7	12-02	-6	2	4	3	3	4	7	6	7	7	2	4
	PL	-19	01-02	7	07-98	-10	-11	-10	-11	-12	-10	-10	-12	-9	-10	-7	-11
	RO	1	06-99	36	12-97	16	21	21	9	11	12	11	12	10	10	13	7
	SK	-17	11-94	34	11-98	17	9	7	9	13	7	-3	4	1	2	-4	23
	SI	3	01-01	22	04-99	10	4	10	10	5	6	6	9	12	9	10	6

(a) All data are balances.

(n) Not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Surveys conducted by national statistical (and other) institutes and harmonised by European Commission.