

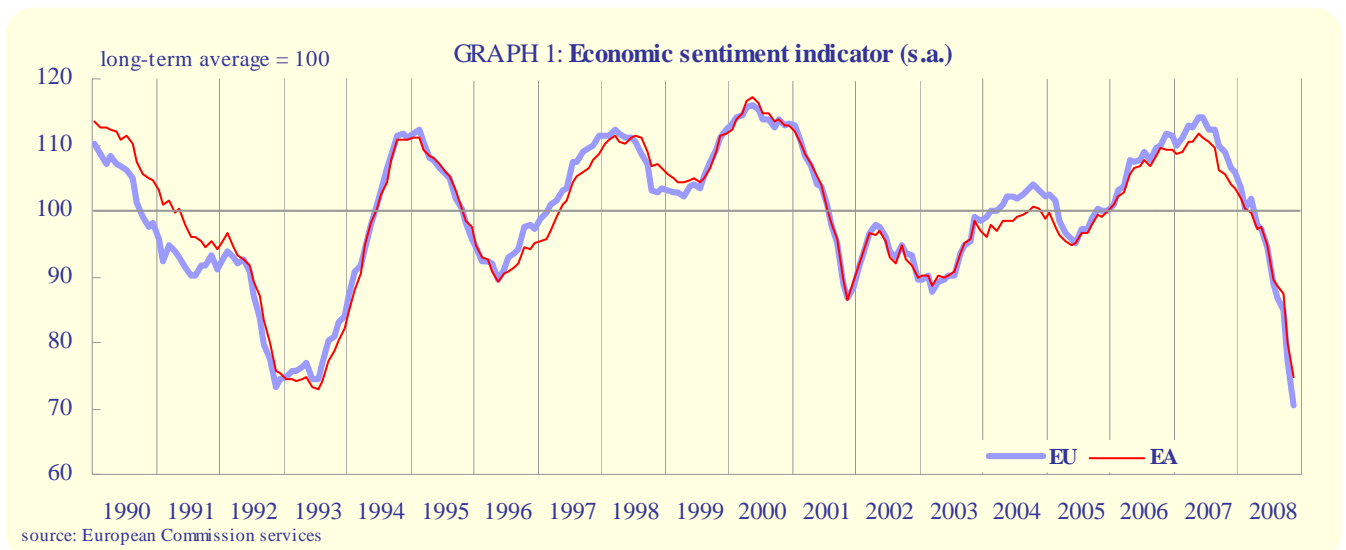


BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS

November 2008

Next publications of Business and Consumer Survey Results: 8 January and 29 January 2009

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/db_indicators8650_en.htm



Economic sentiment falls to historically low levels in both the EU and the euro area

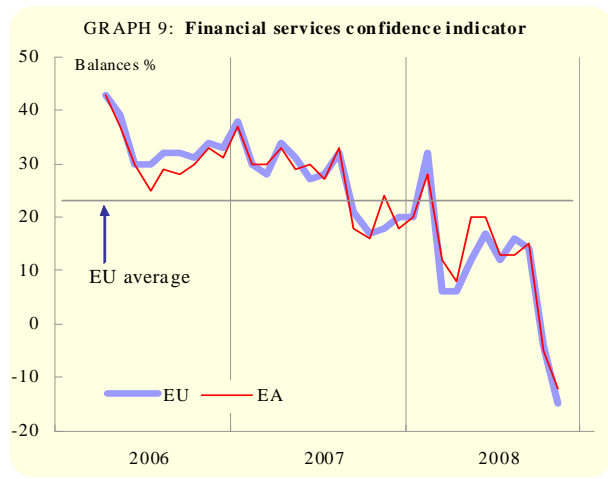
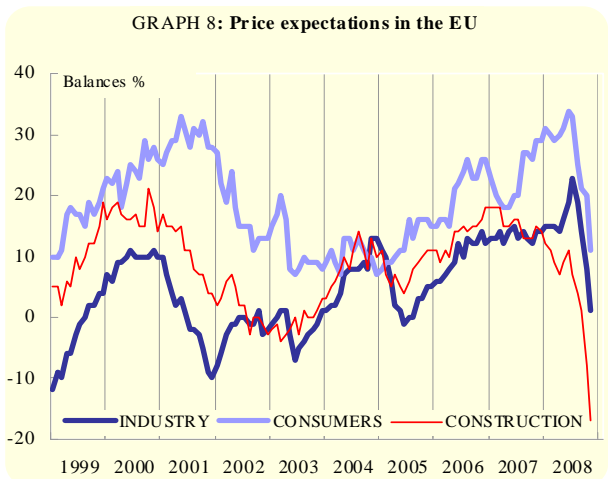
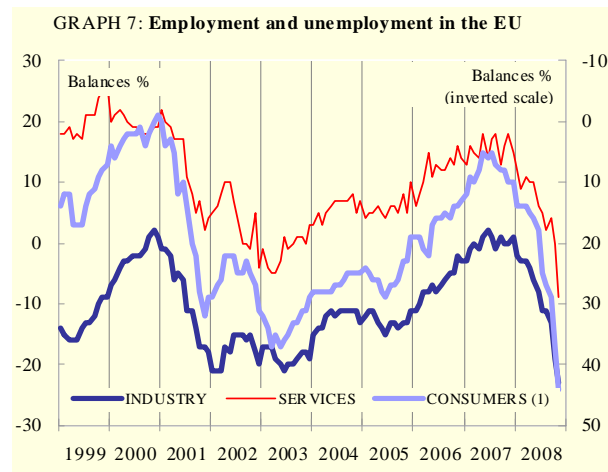
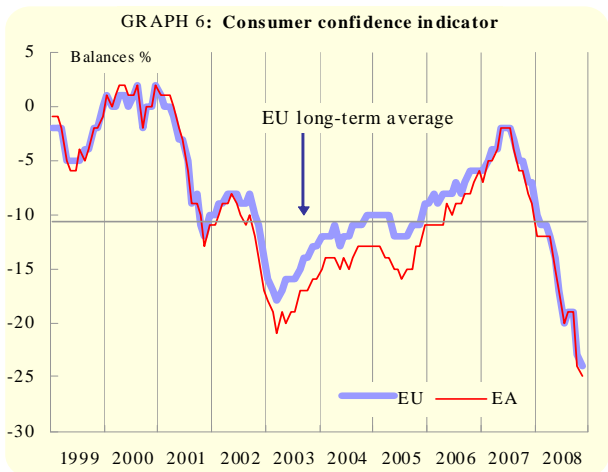
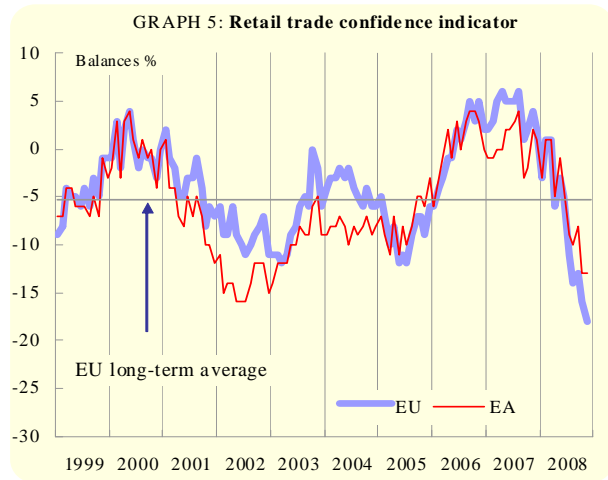
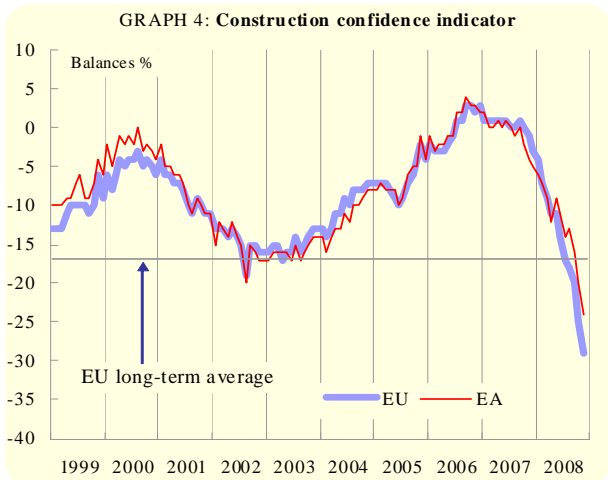
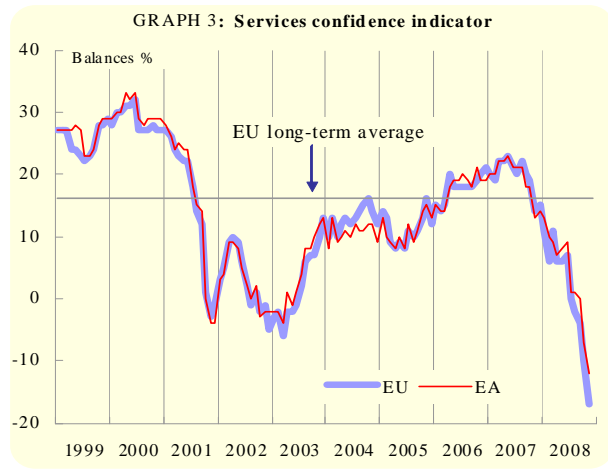
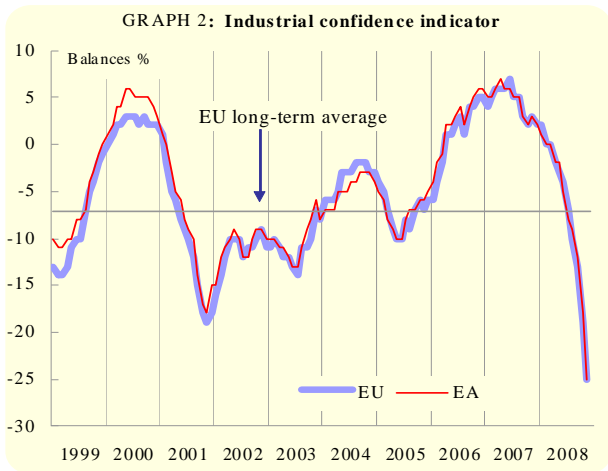
In November, the *Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI)* declined considerably in the EU and the euro area, continuing the sharp fall in sentiment already observed in the October survey. It fell by 6.7 points in the EU and by 5.1 points in the euro area, to 70.5 and 74.9, respectively. This puts the ESI for the EU at its lowest since January 1985, and that for the euro area at its lowest since August 1993.

In both the EU and the euro area, the decline in the overall ESI reflects a general decrease in sentiment. The *industrial confidence indicator* fell significantly again in both regions. The *services confidence indicator* marks a new record-low level for both regions since the introduction of the survey twelve years ago. *Consumer confidence* declined only marginally, but remains at very low levels compared to its average value. Sentiment in the *retail* sector declined further in the EU, but remained the same in the euro area, while the *construction confidence indicator* dropped markedly – by 4 points in both regions.

Reflecting the widespread deterioration in economic sentiment, all EU countries reported weakening sentiment. Among the large Member States, confidence in the *UK* fell the most (-8.8 points), followed by *Poland* (-7), *Germany* (-6.3) and the *Netherlands* (-5.4). The confidence indicator fell less significantly in *France* (-1.3), *Italy* (-1.2) and *Spain* (-2.8); however the latter now stands at its lowest ever.

The *financial services confidence indicator* – not included in the ESI – reported another substantial fall in both regions this month. Last month, it turned negative for the first time since the survey was launched in 2006. The majority of managers interviewed expect demand for their financial services to decline in the next three months after they reported worsening demand over the past three months.

According to the six-monthly *industrial investment survey*, which was carried out in October and November of this year, managers in most Member States expect to decrease their investment volumes in 2009 compared to 2008. More specifically, in 2009 real investment is expected to drop by 5% in both the EU and the euro area. In the same survey, managers estimated that real investment grew by 3% (EU) and 4% (euro area) in 2008 compared to 2007, lower than foreseen in spring 2008.



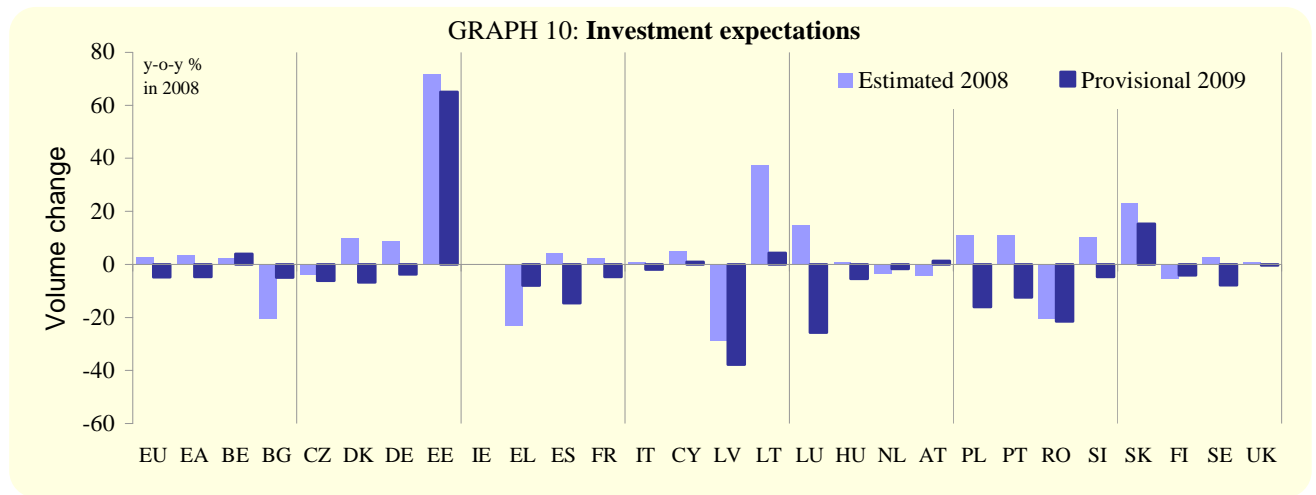


TABLE 2a: (continued) Monthly survey of manufacturing industry (s.a.)^{(a)(c)}

	Since 01/1990															2007		2008						
	Min.		Ave.		Max.		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.						
	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Date																		
EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS	EU	-38	06-93	-13	2	06-07	1	-2	-3	-3	-4	-6	-8	-11	-11	-13	-19	-23						
	EA	-41	06-93	-12	4	11-00	3	0	-1	-1	-2	-3	-4	-7	-9	-11	-16	-22						
	BE	-26	09-93	-8	9	09-00	-4	0	-3	1	-5	-5	-6	-3	-8	-12	-22	-22						
	BG	-47	06-99	-16	6	11-06	-3	-2	2	4	-2	-3	2	-1	-13	-9	-13	-18						
	CZ	-58	06-99	-20	15	09-07	12	13	6	4	1	-3	-5	-5	-6	-14	-18	-35						
	DK	-27	11-08	-3	13	03-98	3	5	2	-6	-6	-4	-10	-13	-13	-18	-18	-27						
	DE	-52	06-93	-16	8	02-90	6	3	2	2	2	2	-3	-5	-10	-11	-15	-23						
	EE	-78	04-92	-9	22	11-06	3	1	1	-9	-12	-15	-10	-6	-6	-16	-21	-32						
	IE	-34	12-92	-9	16	09-00	-10	5	-9	0	-27	:	:	:	:	:	:	:						
	EL	-15	11-08	-2	12	05-02	1	1	-4	-2	-3	-5	2	-4	-2	-3	-10	-15						
	ES	-53	06-93	-8	9	03-01	-5	-7	-10	-9	-10	-16	-9	-11	-10	-15	-24	-25						
	FR	-50	09-93	-16	12	09-00	-1	-4	-4	-7	-5	-10	-10	-13	-15	-17	-22	-30						
	IT	-30	08-96	-4	11	11-00	2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-4	-5	-7	-10	-9						
	CY	-16	04-02	13	38	10-04	19	18	18	18	18	25	23	-10	20	24	-14	11						
	LV	-51	04-93	-7	11	11-05	0	-1	-4	-8	-7	-11	-13	-16	-15	-18	-23	-31						
	LT	-59	04-94	-23	8	06-06	1	2	-6	-7	-11	-4	-2	-12	-15	-21	-28	-30						
	LU	-55	12-91	-25	4	03-08	-3	0	-6	4	0	-3	-8	-3	-11	-13	-23	-30						
	HU	-60	12-91	-15	10	10-97	-4	-4	0	-7	-2	-7	-4	-4	-1	-1	-9	-26						
	MT	-27	06-07	-6	17	11-02	-8	-9	6	-6	-11	-12	-27	-7	-15	-12	-13	-21						
	NL	-30	06-93	-7	15	06-90	10	8	8	8	8	8	4	2	1	1	-5	-15						
	AT	-29	01-96	-6	13	04-07	5	7	7	8	7	7	5	2	-5	-5	-12	-18						
	PL	-50	05-99	-20	9	01-07	8	6	5	5	2	2	-2	-4	-5	-6	-10	-13						
	PT	-35	06-93	-16	-2	02-90	-8	-13	-13	-13	-10	-14	-16	-17	-17	-19	-24	-31						
	RO	-67	07-92	-22	0	09-08	-8	-4	-6	-3	-3	-3	-6	-7	-7	0	-2	-11						
	SI	-42	10-95	-19	14	02-08	10	9	14	11	6	6	-6	-2	-1	-6	-17	-35						
	SK	-56	06-99	-20	3	07-07	1	0	3	-5	-1	0	-3	-2	-10	-12	-16	-30						
	FI	-60	06-91	-13	15	12-00	6	4	3	2	-7	-2	-7	-8	-6	-14	-22	-27						
	SE	-51	06-92	-18	23	12-94	3	-3	-3	-6	-6	-13	-15	-19	-21	-25	-34	-41						
	UK	-50	03-91	-20	2	06-97	-12	-12	-15	-13	-17	-21	-23	-29	-21	-20	-32	-28						
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS	EU	-13	12-98	6	28	02-95	14	15	15	15	14	16	19	23	19	14	8	1						
	EA	-10	12-98	6	26	02-95	13	14	14	13	13	13	16	20	16	12	6	1						
	BE	-18	02-96	3	26	12-94	11	14	18	13	9	12	13	17	12	4	-4	-6						
	BG	-28	02-00	27	89	11-96	17	19	19	21	22	17	31	26	11	21	19	11						
	CZ	-6	12-98	18	71	03-95	12	19	9	9	12	12	14	19	13	7	-2	-5						
	DK	-12	11-01	3	26	01-08	23	26	16	17	8	11	20	10	21	18	9	1						
	DE	-8	12-93	7	23	02-95	14	15	13	13	14	14	16	19	16	11	7	0						
	EE	-28	03-99	17	86	04-92	28	28	22	20	13	16	17	21	17	10	3	-2						
	IE	-25	11-92	-1	29	11-03	5	13	3	6	-1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:						
	EL	-4	01-99	17	41	10-90	24	29	21	24	23	22	25	28	27	19	5	1						
	ES	-18	04-93	4	35	04-95	14	11	12	8	7	7	11	15	10	10	-3	-6						
	FR	-26	01-99	1	27	07-08	11	10	15	14	15	14	21	27	24	12	9	5						
	IT	-10	12-98	11	40	03-95	14	15	14	12	11	11	16	19	15	12	6	5						
	CY	-8	10-01	7	39	10-03	23	18	13	8	9	28	25	30	24	17	5	0						
	LV	-17	12-98	18	50	07-94	30	29	23	21	22	21	18	16	14	11	8	-4						
	LT	-20	01-00	15	75	11-93	32	29	18	14	16	17	19	19	15	0	-2	-14						
	LU	-50	08-91	-1	53	12-94	-2	19	13	4	15	15	17	36	12	11	1	-12						
	HU	1	02-06	25	51	01-01	12	18	20	25	24	22	24	20	12	14	7	3						
	MT	-39	12-04	-9	38	12-03	-5	4	-9	7	3	-17	-20	6	6	-4	-8	19						
	NL	-7	01-99	6	20	12-94	10	17	15	16	14	15	16	18	16	15	11	5						
	AT	-23	03-96	1	20	01-07	13	18	15	14	14	9	13	17	14	14	6	-2						
	PL	-7	06-02	14	39	06-93	19	21	18	21	15	17	17	19	11	9	5	4						
	PT	-15	11-08	8	29	10-90	7	11	11	9	12	21	24	21	7	-1	-1	-15						
	RO	10	09-97	51	97	10-93	24	29	33	31	23	30	32	38	28	27	34	25						
	SI	-24	04-99	-4	22	01-08	14	22	13	13	15	17	19	19	15	11	0	-10						
	SK	-33	03-01	27	81	04-95	3	39	25	24	26	31	28	32	39	8	-10	-17						
	FI	-34	03-96	5	49	08-94	24	22	17	19	16	18	16	21	7	16	0	-5						
	SE	-20	11-96	5	37	12-94	4	4	7	11	11	2	13	27	6	9	6	-5						
	UK	-30	01-99	2	38	07-08	19	17	23	22	22	30	29	38	33	30	18	5						

(a) The indicator is the arithmetic average of the balances (%) of the questions on production expectations, order-books and stocks (the last with inverted sign).

(b) Highest figure is considered as a minimum, lowest figure is considered as a maximum.

(c) With effect from May 2008, a number of partner institutes in the programme have changed; this may cause a break in some series. Details of the changes are available on the BCS website.

TABLE 2e: **Industrial investment survey - all branches. EU Member States.**Results of October/November 2008 investment survey, % change in **value**, over the preceding year

Date of survey:	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.
	2005	2006	2006	2007	2006	2007	2007	2008	2007	2008	2008	2009	2008
	Previs.	Previs.	Estim.	Definit.	Previs.	Previs.	Estim.	Definit.	Previs.	Previs.	Estim.	Definit.	Previs.
Year	2006				2007				2008				2009
EU	5	8	5	8	6	9	8	8	5	8	6	:	-3
EA	6	8	5	7	7	8	7	9	5	8	6	:	-3
BE	22	17	4	4	20	18	13	12	7	12	3	:	6
BG	1	8	12	30	19	7	10	21	0	2	-13	:	1
CZ	10	5	3	6	8	6	6	5	8	6	-1	:	-5
DK	7	9	7	5	12	16	20	13	3	12	10	:	-5
DE	9	13	8	7	9	10	11	11	6	9	12	:	-2
EE	56	92	74	96	98	71	77	67	60	86	69	:	63
IE	8	16	26	43	-2	-7	7	20	5	30	:	:	:
EL	11	15	8	4	-2	45	-7	-13	15	8	-21	:	-5
ES	19	4	-4	5	9	4	-6	3	13	19	7	:	-13
FR	1	6	4	5	6	4	5	4	3	9	3	:	-4
IT	-5	-1	0	13	-1	1	0	10	-1	-4	3	:	0
CY	1	1	-1	-1	1	1	-1	-1	0	0	9	:	4
LV	5	27	32	42	-10	51	54	9	-48	11	-23	:	-39
LT	20	23	59	76	29	72	56	68	22	12	42	:	5
LU	15	8	4	1	29	15	30	-11	-8	15	18	:	-24
HU	12	12	10	10	15	9	8	13	10	16	5	:	-2
NL	0	14	3	1	7	19	10	13	4	11	-2	:	1
AT	9	15	6	10	14	21	18	15	11	5	-3	:	2
PL	-8	16	13	26	-7	28	31	17	5	16	12	:	-15
PT	-12	-4	-2	5	0	5	3	-1	14	21	9	:	-11
RO	-11	-3	-1	0	-14	-13	-10	-7	-14	-16	-9	:	-14
SI	29	20	16	16	13	21	14	24	23	20	16	:	-2
SK	20	19	19	4	14	3	-1	5	20	21	28	:	20
FI	1	1	0	-1	6	8	12	8	5	2	-5	:	-4
SE	-6	9	6	3	-7	21	12	9	3	9	5	:	-6
UK	1	0	5	5	6	4	4	2	6	4	4	:	0

Source: European Commission investment surveys.

TABLE 2f: **Industrial investment survey - all branches. EU Member States.**Results of October/November 2008 investment survey, % change in **volume**, over the preceding year

Date of survey:	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.	Mar./Apr.	Oct./Nov.
	2005	2006	2006	2007	2006	2007	2007	2008	2007	2008	2008	2009	2008
	Previs.	Previs.	Estim.	Definit.	Previs.	Previs.	Estim.	Definit.	Previs.	Previs.	Estim.	Definit.	Previs.
for Year	2006				2007				2008				2009
EU	2	5	2	5	3	6	5	5	2	5	3	:	-5
EA	3	5	2	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	3	:	-5
BE	19	14	1	2	19	17	12	11	6	11	2	:	4
BG	-6	0	4	20	10	-1	1	12	-9	-7	-21	:	-5
CZ	12	7	5	8	10	8	8	7	5	3	-4	:	-6
DK	7	9	7	5	12	17	21	14	3	12	10	:	-7
DE	11	14	9	8	10	11	12	12	3	6	9	:	-4
EE	43	76	59	80	86	61	66	57	63	89	72	:	65
IE	7	16	25	42	-3	-8	6	19	6	31	:	:	:
EL	10	13	7	2	-4	42	-8	-14	11	4	-23	:	-8
ES	16	2	-6	3	7	3	-7	1	11	17	5	:	-15
FR	0	4	3	4	4	3	3	2	2	9	3	:	-5
IT	-7	-3	-2	11	-3	0	-1	8	-3	-6	1	:	-2
CY	0	0	-2	-2	-2	-2	-4	-4	-4	-3	5	:	1
LV	-7	13	17	26	-22	32	34	-5	-52	3	-29	:	-38
LT	20	23	59	77	24	66	51	62	18	9	38	:	4
LU	18	10	7	3	29	15	30	-11	-10	12	15	:	-26
HU	6	6	4	4	12	6	5	10	5	11	1	:	-5
NL	1	15	4	2	9	21	12	15	2	9	-4	:	-2
AT	8	13	5	9	12	19	16	13	9	3	-4	:	1
PL	-8	16	13	26	-5	30	34	19	4	14	11	:	-16
PT	-11	-3	-1	5	-2	3	2	-2	16	23	11	:	-13
RO	-15	-7	-5	-4	-20	-20	-16	-14	-24	-26	-21	:	-22
SI	28	19	15	15	10	18	11	20	17	14	10	:	-5
SK	18	17	17	2	13	3	-2	5	16	16	23	:	15
FI	-1	-1	-2	-3	6	9	12	8	4	1	-6	:	-4
SE	-6	8	5	2	-7	21	12	9	1	7	3	:	-8
UK	3	2	7	7	5	3	3	1	2	1	1	:	0

Source: European Commission investment surveys.

TABLE 2i: Factors influencing industrial investment by country (2007-2009) - Balances ^(a)

	Demand			Financial resources or expected profits			Technical factors ^(b)			Other factors		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
EU	44	28	18	18	13	6	38	36	34	5	4	2
EA	42	26	15	17	9	2	39	38	37	4	3	0
BE	51	49	48	35	37	39	59	61	61	25	27	27
BG	52	50	46	35	39	37	30	26	29	6	6	7
CZ	67	70	63	45	51	50	47	54	25	26	27	25
DK	63	56	53	33	29	25	51	48	49	5	9	10
DE	43	11	-9	22	4	-8	44	42	44	6	4	-1
EE	49	16	21	23	-1	2	36	24	26	50	14	14
IE	37	:	:	24	:	:	19	:	:	-5	:	:
EL	46	38	30	14	13	8	40	29	27	14	4	1
ES	23	6	-2	0	-2	-13	-2	-1	5	-30	-32	-38
FR	43	33	25	4	1	-3	36	34	32	10	13	10
IT	49	49	44	29	30	28	48	50	38	5	6	7
CY	8	27	22	4	18	20	9	19	22	-3	-1	1
LV	46	38	37	25	21	20	24	21	21	6	3	3
LT	59	48	48	37	36	32	45	44	40	7	7	5
LU	42	46	21	24	25	22	51	49	50	6	-3	0
HU	33	19	11	21	11	6	17	11	8	-5	-6	-9
NL	36	25	27	-3	-16	-17	22	25	21	-5	-39	-43
AT	46	38	31	28	24	18	42	38	40	4	4	5
PL	75	71	70	58	56	56	64	64	65	35	38	38
PT	19	11	10	10	3	4	22	18	19	4	1	0
RO	51	52	53	41	46	42	39	44	45	0	1	-2
SI	41	22	-1	19	7	-11	22	19	17	-6	-5	-7
SK	78	71	70	35	32	23	47	39	40	23	23	23
FI	42	50	50	-1	25	15	57	51	42	11	32	34
SE	40	28	18	27	18	12	22	20	19	3	1	0
UK	45	20	11	6	9	3	32	23	19	4	1	1

(a) Balances are the weighted averages of the percentages of answers describing each factor as 'very stimulating' (coefficient 1), 'stimulating' (0.5), 'limiting' (-0.5) and 'very limiting' (-1). The answers which do not mention any of these descriptions are not taken into account in calculating these percentages.

(b) The main technical factors are technological developments, the availability of labour and its attitude towards new technologies, and the technical conditions set by the public authorities before they grant the investment permit.

Source: European Commission investment surveys.

TABLE 2j: Structure of industrial investment in industry as a whole (2007-2009)

(Breakdown of industrialists' views of the type of investment) ^(a)

	Replacement			Extension			Rationalisation			Other factors		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
EU	32	31	32	30	33	30	23	25	27	17	16	16
EA	31	30	31	29	32	30	23	23	24	17	16	16
BE	31	31	35	43	43	38	10	16	17	8	7	9
BG	20	22	19	41	46	38	28	22	32	11	10	11
CZ	59	63	62	30	27	22	10	10	15	1	0	1
DK	32	33	30	27	26	27	30	33	33	11	8	10
DE	29	29	31	35	40	36	22	21	23	14	10	10
EE	47	41	33	47	42	44	52	37	49	38	27	33
IE	52	:	:	36	:	:	32	:	:	18	:	:
EL	23	24	17	44	35	38	19	26	26	15	16	19
ES	21	19	15	34	42	44	26	22	18	19	17	23
FR	27	27	28	17	17	16	23	23	23	33	33	34
IT	35	35	37	20	20	20	31	32	34	13	13	10
CY	38	59	56	41	65	67	42	76	67	38	37	38
LV	51	45	46	53	53	55	42	42	44	28	27	26
LT	45	47	38	49	39	33	57	47	50	30	31	39
LU	83	73	72	58	51	47	62	69	61	46	50	50
HU	52	50	47	34	33	30	6	11	17	9	23	25
NL	36	39	40	34	38	36	16	15	16	13	8	8
AT	39	39	39	22	21	20	25	27	28	14	13	14
PL	28	27	27	29	29	29	27	29	29	16	15	15
PT	28	25	25	43	47	30	15	15	30	14	13	15
RO	22	22	20	20	21	21	20	19	23	38	38	37
SI	30	30	30	28	27	25	23	23	26	18	20	21
SK	14	19	19	21	25	24	26	25	22	39	31	35
FI	43	33	32	31	27	30	15	25	23	11	15	15
SE	27	62	63	55	78	76	14	59	57	3	25	26
UK	36	28	30	26	27	20	20	29	34	18	16	16

(a) % of respondents that choose this category as the most relevant. More than one category can be chosen, therefore the sum of the 4 categories may be greater than 100.

Source: European Commission investment surveys.

TABLE 7: Monthly survey of financial services sector ^{(a),(n)}

		Since 04/2006						2007		2008									
		Min.		Ave.		Max.		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
		Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Date												
FINANCIAL SERVICES	EU	-15	11-08	23	43	04-06	20	20	32	6	6	12	17	12	16	14	-4	-15	
CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	EA	-12	11-08	23	43	04-06	18	20	28	12	8	20	20	13	13	15	-5	-12	
ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS SITUATION	EU	-18	11-08	20	39	04-06	20	15	30	-4	-2	3	18	9	8	8	-13	-18	
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	-14	10-08	20	40	04-06	20	17	25	4	0	10	21	14	7	9	-14	-13	
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND	EU	-13	11-08	22	42	04-06	26	22	30	5	1	5	13	15	19	11	1	-13	
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	-5	11-08	22	40	04-06	24	22	26	13	3	16	17	15	11	10	-1	-5	
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND EXPECTED	EU	-14	11-08	28	50	04-06	15	24	37	18	18	27	21	10	20	23	0	-14	
OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS ^(c)	EA	-17	11-08	28	48	04-06	10	22	32	19	22	35	23	10	21	27	0	-17	
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	-5	11-08	14	23	01-07	20	6	20	7	9	6	17	9	17	20	6	-5	
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS	EA	-1	11-08	17	26	09-08	12	9	24	14	8	16	16	7	23	26	11	-1	
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	EU	-1	11-08	16	30	04-06	20	15	23	14	14	13	19	12	9	6	-1	-1	
EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS	EA	-2	11-08	17	30	04-06	15	16	25	16	14	16	20	15	12	4	1	-2	

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

(n) Data are not seasonally adjusted.

(c) Component of the confidence indicator.