

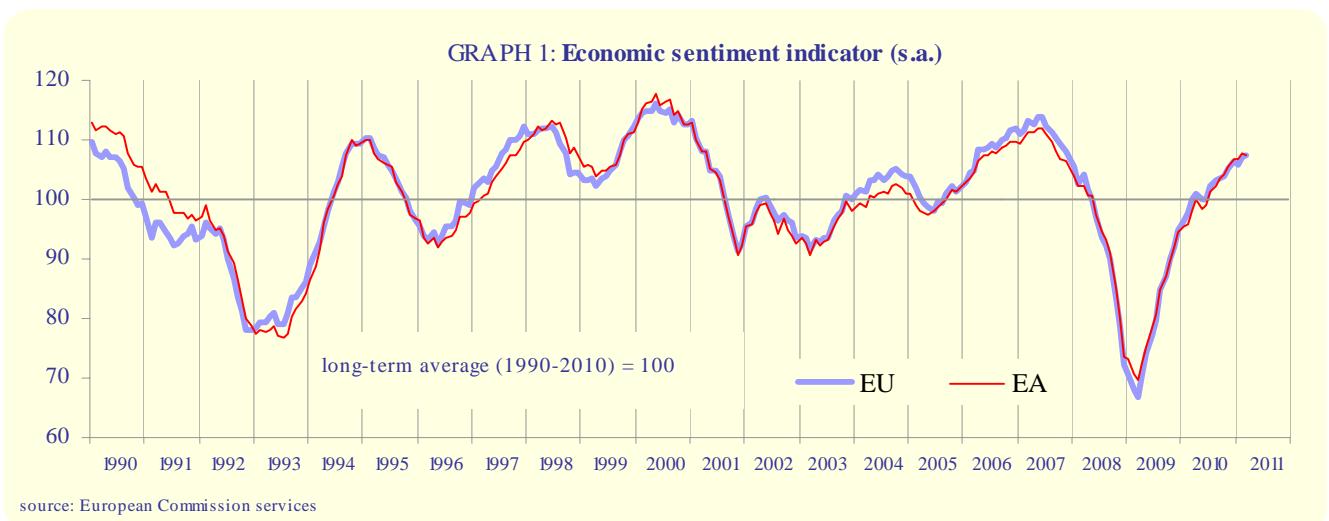
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**



**BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS  
March 2011**

*From February 2011 onwards, business surveys are presented exclusively in accordance with the NACE rev. 2 classification. In previous months, a combination of NACE rev. 1 and rev. 2 has been used.*

Upcoming releases of Business and Consumer Survey results – Flash CCI: 18 April, ESI: 29 April 2011  
[ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/bcs](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/bcs)



### Economic sentiment stable in the EU and slightly down in the euro area

In March, the *Economic Sentiment Indicator* (ESI) was broadly unchanged at 107.4 in the EU, while it decreased by 0.6 point to 107.3 in the euro area. The overall decline in the euro area resulted from broadly unchanged sentiment in industry and weakening confidence in the other business sectors and among consumers. In the EU, industry and services remained on an upward trend offsetting the declines observed in retail trade, construction and among consumers.

Most Member States recorded a decline in sentiment. Among the seven largest Member States, *Poland* (-3.1 points), *Spain* (-3.0) and *Germany* (-0.7) reported decreases, while the *Netherlands* (+3.1), the *UK* (+2.7) and *France* (+0.9) improved. Meanwhile, *Italy* (+0.1) remained broadly stable. The ESI is above its long-term average in five of the seven largest Member States. *Poland* went back to just below its long-term average, while *Spain* remained well below it.

Sentiment in *industry* increased further - by 0.6 points - in the EU, while remaining broadly unchanged in the euro area. The difference between the two regions is mainly explained by a strong increase in the *UK* (+3.0 points). *Production expectations* decreased both in the EU and in the euro area, despite an improvement in the assessment of the *level of order books* and an increasing number of managers considering their *stocks* as not sufficient. Managers were also slightly more pessimistic about their *export order books*.

Sentiment in *services* rose in the EU (+0.6) and decreased in the euro area (-0.4). Managers were more positive about *expected demand* but more pessimistic about *demand observed in the past months*. Sentiment in *construction* decreased in both in the EU (-1.6) and the euro area (-0.8), partly offsetting the improvement registered in February. The indicator remains at very low levels in both regions. Sentiment in the *retail* sector weakened in both the EU (-0.3) and the euro area (-1.3). Also, confidence among *consumers* decreased in both the EU (-0.4) and the euro area (-0.6), reflecting more pessimism about the future *general economic situation*, *consumers' future financial situation* and their *possibility to save money* in the next 12 months. In contrast, consumers reported slightly decreasing *unemployment fears*.

Confidence in *financial services* – not included in the ESI – decreased significantly in both the EU (-2.1) and the euro area (-5.7), mainly because of a weaker assessment of *past* and *expected demand evolution*. Meanwhile managers' assessment of *past business situation* improved.

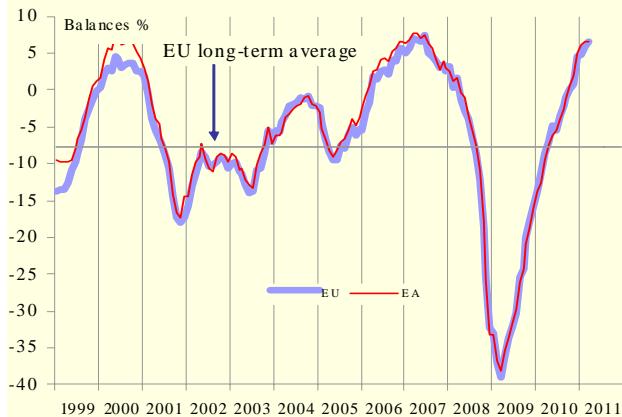
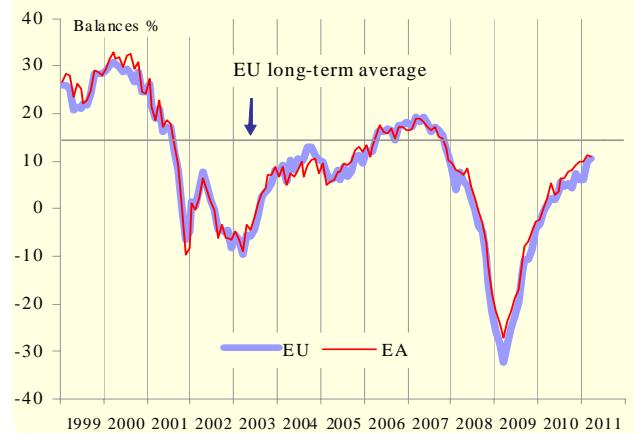
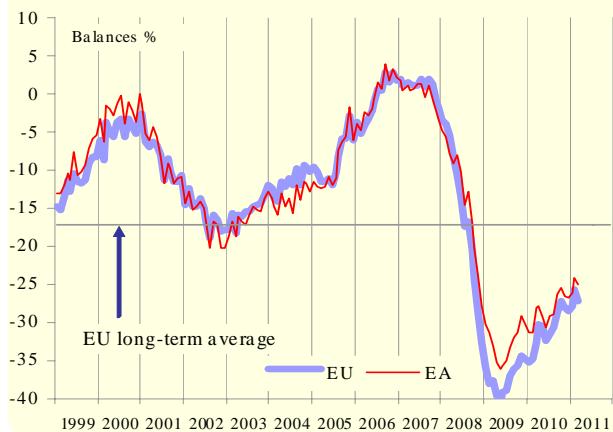
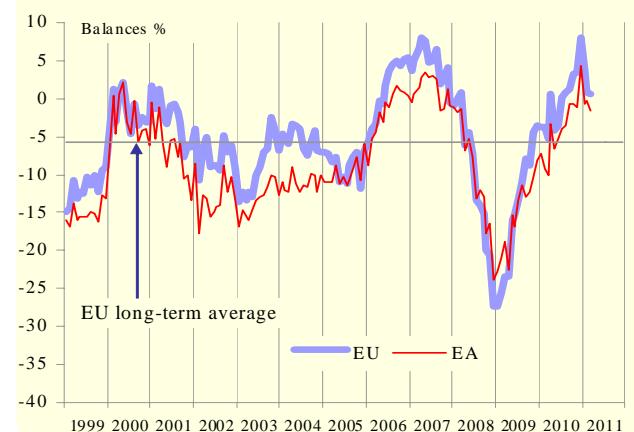
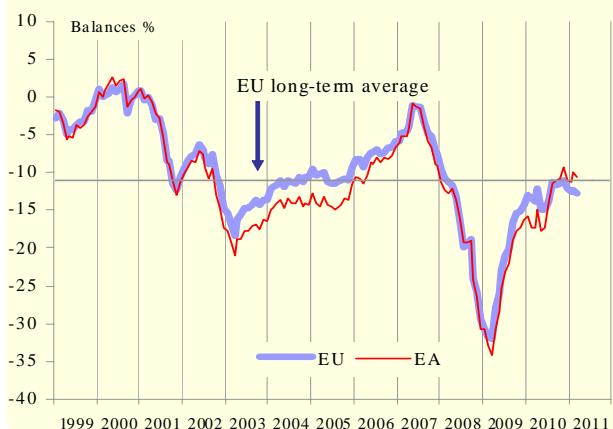
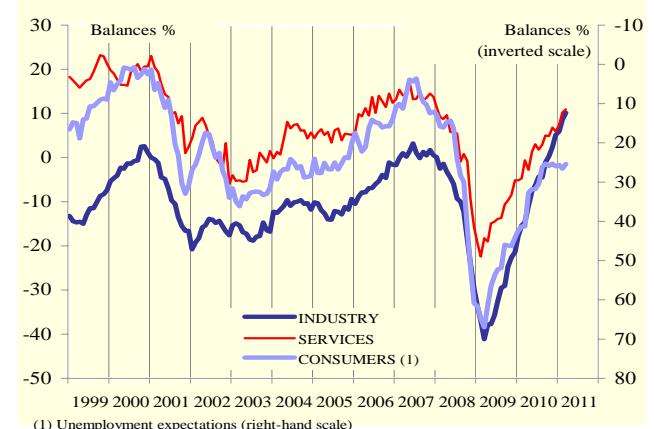
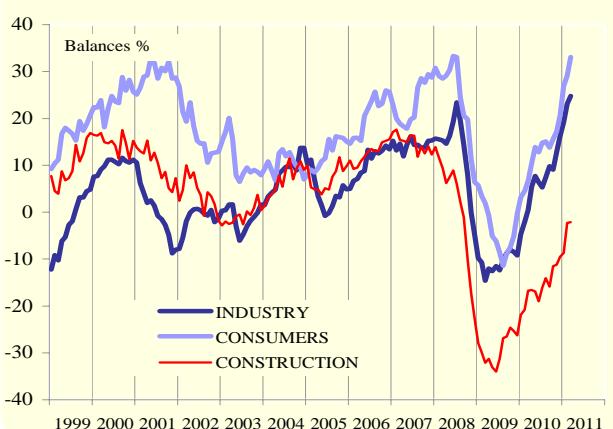
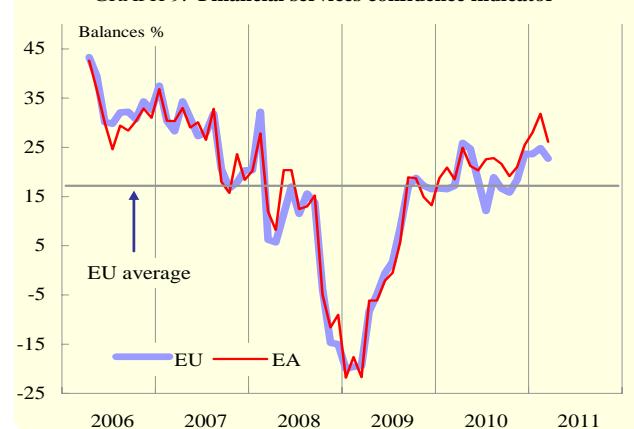
**GRAPH 2: Industrial confidence indicator****GRAPH 3: Services confidence indicator****GRAPH 4: Construction confidence indicator****GRAPH 5: Retail trade confidence indicator****GRAPH 6: Consumer confidence indicator****GRAPH 7: Employment and unemployment in the EU****GRAPH 8: Price expectations in the EU****GRAPH 9: Financial services confidence indicator**















TABLE 3: (continued) Monthly survey of services (s.a.)<sup>(a)</sup>

	Since 1990 (*)								2010						2011			
	Min.		Ave.		Max.													
	Value	Date	Value	Date	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
SELLING-PRICE EXPECTATIONS (Question 6)	<b>EU</b>	-13.6	03-09	3.2	14.4	07-08	-0.8	0.7	1.4	-1.2	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.8	2.8	4.7	8.9	10.8
	<b>EA</b>	-10.3	07-09	4.1	16.1	07-08	1.4	1.1	1.8	0.6	2.1	2.6	4.2	3.1	5.9	6.0	10.1	12.3
	<b>BE</b>	-13.8	01-10	5.8	28.8	07-08	4.7	4.5	2.6	7.8	3.6	7.5	12.8	11.1	10.1	19.7	14.9	16.6
	<b>BG</b>	-11.9	01-11	10.2	37.5	07-04	-5.9	-4.6	-9.8	-7.5	-4.1	-7.8	-5.4	-6.1	-11.0	-11.9	-7.4	-4.1
	<b>CZ</b>	-6.6	12-09	5.6	23.6	01-04	-2.5	-0.1	3.2	4.7	2.2	1.4	3.2	-0.3	0.4	4.7	0.4	4.6
	<b>DK</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	<b>DE</b>	-11.5	07-09	6.8	29.7	07-08	9.0	9.8	6.6	6.3	10.9	7.3	13.0	12.4	21.1	16.9	23.6	29.7
	<b>EE</b>	-31.5	03-09	9.0	26.4	09-05	0.7	6.2	6.0	2.6	2.2	4.8	9.3	9.7	10.8	20.4	21.9	23.6
	<b>IE</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	<b>EL</b>	-23.8	03-11	4.8	24.2	06-06	-17.9	-19.8	-23.8	-23.1	-21.6	-10.4	-8.3	-16.9	-13.2	-19.9	-20.8	-23.8
	<b>ES</b>	-17.3	11-09	7.9	20.3	09-04	0.9	-5.7	8.8	2.1	1.1	-0.2	-7.6	-11.3	-14.0	-7.5	-3.0	-2.8
	<b>FR</b>	-21.0	07-09	-1.8	16.6	04-90	-8.1	-6.2	-5.8	-8.4	-5.5	-3.7	-1.6	-0.2	1.6	1.3	4.6	5.4
	<b>IT</b>	-10.5	01-03	1.3	17.9	05-04	1.1	-2.2	-0.3	-3.6	0.0	0.6	-0.5	-2.8	-5.2	-3.2	-1.1	2.6
	<b>CY</b>	-23.3	07-09	7.2	72.7	06-03	-4.8	-8.3	-12.0	-8.3	-2.0	1.9	6.5	6.1	0.3	10.7	8.3	12.0
	<b>LV</b>	-31.1	12-09	10.8	35.8	12-07	-9.2	-9.8	-6.9	-3.3	-3.2	-8.1	-4.1	-3.0	-4.0	-2.8	3.9	4.8
	<b>LT</b>	-23.0	06-09	0.3	20.8	08-06	-4.0	-4.6	-1.5	1.5	-0.6	-1.6	3.0	-3.8	-7.9	-6.8	-7.3	0.1
	<b>HU</b>	-8.5	02-09	7.4	28.0	09-06	-1.9	1.1	2.1	-2.8	1.5	3.9	4.7	2.2	-1.9	-3.4	7.0	10.3
	<b>NL</b>	-5.5	08-09	10.8	30.7	01-07	3.4	7.3	7.0	10.5	8.3	9.4	8.8	6.9	8.7	10.2	13.5	10.4
	<b>AT</b>	-10.3	05-09	10.0	30.4	11-07	7.0	5.8	5.4	10.0	12.7	9.4	14.0	7.1	17.7	14.1	20.8	21.4
	<b>PL</b>	-2.6	08-04	3.0	16.8	04-08	-0.3	-0.3	0.0	-0.7	0.8	0.6	1.2	2.1	3.0	5.6	9.0	7.9
	<b>PT</b>	-17.3	11-03	-2.4	10.6	11-05	-5.0	-5.4	-4.1	-3.3	-4.6	1.0	1.1	0.2	-0.3	4.8	5.1	-0.5
	<b>RO</b>	-8.7	06-10	19.5	54.5	04-04	-0.2	-2.8	-8.7	9.6	8.2	12.3	4.1	8.5	7.5	5.0	7.6	14.1
	<b>SI</b>	-16.4	02-10	4.3	23.1	01-08	5.1	-2.9	-4.1	-4.2	-3.9	-2.7	-5.2	2.8	3.9	1.6	1.4	5.6
	<b>SK</b>	-17.5	12-10	16.8	68.9	07-02	-3.8	-9.6	-8.2	4.5	-8.5	-2.2	-11.5	-13.1	-17.5	-14.5	2.1	-3.4
	<b>FI</b>	-25.1	07-04	10.1	40.7	01-08	19.4	12.9	13.4	17.2	12.0	16.0	22.8	29.6	29.2	27.1	30.0	20.6
	<b>SE</b>	-17.0	04-09	10.4	32.4	11-07	11.0	13.5	12.2	17.0	14.8	17.7	19.4	25.3	29.4	22.5	23.8	26.0
	<b>UK</b>	-34.3	02-09	-2.6	17.1	01-07	-9.5	-2.0	-1.5	-11.8	-1.4	-7.0	-13.0	-7.8	-13.9	-3.9	2.4	3.2

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













TABLE 5 (continued): Monthly survey of retail trade (s.a.) <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>

	Since 1990 (*)								2010						2011			
	Min.		Ave.		Max.													
	Value	Date	Value	Date	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
SELLING-PRICE	EU	-4.3	09-09	10.7	28.3	03-11	6.3	9.7	11.6	8.7	12.8	13.9	14.3	15.3	20.9	24.2	27.5	28.3
EXPECTATIONS	EA	-12.1	09-09	6.1	23.6	11-07	0.5	2.5	3.3	3.2	1.9	4.6	5.0	7.1	9.6	11.6	17.7	19.0
(Question 6)	BE	-13.2	08-09	4.7	24.7	11-07	4.9	0.2	7.5	11.1	11.1	19.0	19.2	17.5	16.2	12.2	8.2	14.7
	BG	-9.2	11-09	17.2	45.8	07-08	8.0	10.3	7.6	8.9	5.1	-3.3	-1.3	-0.3	7.2	9.8	10.0	14.1
	CZ	-11.3	12-08	1.7	22.5	01-04	1.6	-0.2	1.8	-7.3	-10.8	-10.2	-5.6	4.1	-1.6	5.2	0.2	2.0
	DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	DE	-21.1	09-09	10.8	42.2	12-06	-0.3	5.0	3.5	5.6	1.4	5.7	12.3	19.1	21.4	26.0	35.3	38.1
	EE	-35.9	03-09	24.5	53.7	03-11	22.1	30.6	31.8	21.3	32.4	32.1	44.1	45.7	48.1	47.0	52.4	53.7
	IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	EL	-29.6	04-09	6.0	33.6	05-08	-4.7	-15.0	-5.2	-8.5	-15.3	-14.4	-11.0	-18.7	-17.1	-11.4	-14.3	-19.3
	ES	-18.6	02-09	10.2	28.7	01-05	-1.6	5.8	4.8	10.3	1.0	1.5	-10.3	-6.0	-5.2	-1.7	0.1	-5.8
	FR	-29.4	03-09	-2.3	15.5	09-95	-2.0	-3.8	-0.4	-5.7	-6.4	-2.3	0.4	2.3	0.9	2.7	6.6	10.8
	IT	-13.9	08-05	10.9	33.1	06-08	5.3	7.4	4.0	3.9	8.1	7.1	8.3	5.7	14.0	11.4	23.5	16.7
	CY	-6.6	03-09	9.7	34.3	07-08	12.2	10.9	-5.6	-0.5	-5.6	5.1	-2.3	-1.4	5.1	21.6	13.9	9.4
	LV	-22.5	01-10	27.2	55.7	05-04	-2.2	1.4	3.7	8.0	10.2	18.3	19.6	23.8	33.0	32.6	38.9	41.0
	LT	-46.5	07-09	6.3	41.2	12-10	-7.1	5.5	-3.5	0.2	-2.3	7.6	29.7	34.3	41.2	24.3	36.5	39.5
	HU	3.6	03-10	48.9	81.3	05-96	5.6	6.5	7.9	9.5	21.4	20.1	25.1	24.1	26.7	30.3	25.7	32.5
	NL	-18.7	11-10	8.3	23.3	05-06	-10.0	-8.5	-1.8	-11.3	1.4	2.3	-10.8	-18.7	-15.7	-9.2	-7.1	17.7
	AT	-1.0	09-09	10.9	34.1	02-08	19.4	18.7	16.8	15.7	9.2	11.0	8.3	19.3	22.8	19.1	24.1	19.9
	PL	-7.0	07-02	16.9	39.4	03-09	9.5	10.5	14.4	11.6	12.4	16.3	14.3	14.5	20.3	28.4	25.8	30.7
	PT	-19.6	07-03	9.9	27.2	07-05	12.0	4.7	11.1	8.0	9.8	9.6	11.1	12.9	12.5	12.3	12.4	10.0
	RO	8.6	09-09	34.6	56.0	10-04	24.0	27.3	25.2	46.6	36.2	33.4	31.9	31.6	33.9	28.3	37.8	36.8
	SI	-32.6	03-09	11.5	40.2	02-08	16.6	14.6	19.1	19.9	23.8	31.7	34.0	36.9	36.5	35.8	31.9	15.7
	SK	-36.9	07-09	18.7	73.9	11-02	-7.4	-11.6	-6.9	-5.7	2.3	9.9	34.5	34.2	29.6	22.7	27.8	19.8
	FI	-43.3	09-09	3.5	50.9	03-11	-0.3	7.6	17.5	33.6	29.9	42.3	22.7	27.1	37.1	35.8	38.1	50.9
	SE	-10.3	07-05	14.5	36.8	07-08	10.3	0.6	6.8	10.1	6.0	12.2	9.4	12.3	27.2	29.0	24.7	24.5
	UK	-2.4	07-05	23.0	66.9	01-11	25.2	35.8	40.8	26.0	52.1	47.2	47.5	44.0	59.5	66.9	62.2	61.3

(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.

(c) The survey for the Netherlands is temporarily discontinued.





TABLE 7: Monthly survey of financial services sector <sup>(a)(n)</sup>

		Since 04/2006						2010										2011			
		Min. Value		Ave. Date		Max. Value Date		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
		EU	-20.0	01-09	17.2	43.3	04-06	25.9	24.7	18.3	12.1	18.9	16.6	15.8	18.4	23.7	23.6	24.8	22.7		
FINANCIAL SERVICES CONFIDENCE INDICATOR	EA	-21.8	01-09	17.9	42.6	04-06	24.9	21.2	20.3	22.6	22.8	21.6	19.1	21.0	25.5	28.0	31.8	26.1			
ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS SITUATION OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS <sup>(c)</sup>	EU	-31.6	02-09	13.2	38.6	04-06	25.6	22.3	10.3	8.0	12.6	16.4	9.7	18.7	21.6	24.3	20.1	21.5			
	EA	-30.1	03-09	14.2	39.6	04-06	22.3	16.0	10.2	17.5	18.6	23.5	15.2	18.2	24.7	31.8	27.9	26.4			
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS <sup>(c)</sup>	EU	-24.9	03-09	14.7	41.6	04-06	19.7	23.3	17.4	13.5	14.0	10.2	11.3	17.4	22.5	21.8	22.8	19.4			
	EA	-25.3	03-09	15.3	40.3	04-06	18.5	18.7	21.4	23.2	18.8	12.3	11.9	20.8	25.9	27.8	31.3	22.2			
EVOLUTION OF DEMAND EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS <sup>(c)</sup>	EU	-18.2	01-09	23.7	49.5	04-06	32.4	28.5	27.3	14.9	30.0	23.4	26.4	19.3	27.0	24.8	31.4	27.0			
	EA	-19.9	01-09	24.2	47.8	04-06	33.9	28.8	29.2	27.1	31.1	29.1	30.3	24.1	25.8	24.3	36.0	29.8			
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS	EU	-11.2	02-09	8.7	23.3	01-07	8.6	10.6	-1.6	7.7	4.6	9.5	14.9	10.6	6.1	7.7	-0.5	8.3			
	EA	-10.9	02-09	10.3	25.7	09-08	6.2	5.7	-1.8	7.3	6.0	7.9	12.4	10.7	9.2	9.4	1.5	8.8			
EVOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS	EU	-11.8	01-09	10.8	30.0	04-06	8.6	5.6	5.8	8.1	8.8	7.5	0.6	6.0	12.7	6.9	10.9	16.9			
	EA	-11.6	01-09	11.3	29.5	04-06	6.2	2.6	4.4	9.7	7.3	9.3	2.0	8.7	11.2	8.9	14.9	19.5			

(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.