



PRESS RELEASE

No. 19 of January 30, 2012

Trends in the evolution of economic activity during January - March 2012

For correct interpretation of the results, please read „Methodological notes” from page 2 of this press release

General trends

According to January 2012 opinions of the companies' managers, for January – March 2012 period, compared to those three previous months, **relative stability in manufacturing and services, moderate decrease in retail trade and decrease in construction** is forecast, according to the balance indicator.

The balance indicator shows the perception of respondents over the one phenomenon dynamics, but it should NOT be interpreted as intensity of growth or decrease of a statistical indicator value.

Evolutions	Manufacturing		Construction		Retail trade		Services	
	Dec. 11- Feb. 12	Jan. 12 - March 12	Dec. 11- Feb. 12	Jan. 12- March 12	Dec. 11- Feb. 12	Jan. 12- March 12	Dec. 11- Feb. 12	Jan. 12- March 12
Economic situation	▲	→	▲	▲	→	▲	▲	→
Number of employees	→	→	▲	▲	→	→	▲	→
Prices	▼	▼	→	→	▼	▼	▼	▼

Manufacturing

Trend of activity relative stability

Within business tendency survey from January 2012, managers from manufacturing forecast for the next three months relative stability of production volume (balance +1%) and in the number of employees (balance -2%). Some of activities will register growth trend regarding production estimation namely: manufacture of coking products and products from crude petroleum processing (balance +40%) and road transport motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers (balance +21%).

For prices of industrial products, their moderate growth is forecast for the next three months (balance +9%).

Construction

Trend of activity decrease

According to January 2012 estimations, for the next three months, construction activity will register decrease of production volume (balance -21%) and in the number of employees (balance -21%). Managers estimate the decrease in the stock of contracts and orders (balance -23%). Regarding prices of construction works, their relative stability is forecast (balance +4%).

Retail trade

Trend of activity moderate decrease

In retail trade sector, managers estimated for the next three months moderate decrease trend of economic activity (balance -6%) and of volume of orders placed with suppliers of goods (balance -6%).

Total volume of merchandise' sales will have decrease trend (balance -16%).

Employers forecast for the next three months relative stability in the number of employees in this sector (balance -1%)

Managers of trade companies estimate that retail selling prices will register growths for the next period (balance +24%).

Services

Trend of activity relative stability

According to January 2012 estimations, demand of services (turnover) will register relative stability (balance - 4%).

For the next three months, the sector of services estimated relative stability in the number of employees (balance -1%).

According to the managers' opinion, selling or invoice prices of provisions of services will register moderate growth (balance +9%).

Methodological notes

Results presented in this press release were obtained from the **business tendency surveys**, based on the estimations of the companies' managers regarding the evolution trends of economic activity.

Business tendency surveys are **qualitative** surveys, whose purpose is to analyze the evolution trend of short and medium term economic indicators. These surveys are complementary to quantitative statistical surveys, they differ by method and use. Specificity of business tendency surveys is that instead of exact figures, the response is an assessment of respondent against the level "over normal/ normal/ under normal", in case of **level** questions, or such as: "increased/ the same/ decreased" or "will grow/ the same/ will decrease", in case of questions indicating **an evolution over time** of a phenomenon.

Received responses (managers of enterprises in the sample of statistical survey choose only one response alternative for this type of questions) are later processed, while final result is obtained as a percentage **business tendency balance**, obtained as difference between percentage of those who chose the positive alternative of the phenomenon and percentage of those who indicated the negative alternative.

The following thresholds interpreting the short term balances were set up:
up to $\pm 5\%$ relative stability;
from $\pm 6\%$ to $\pm 15\%$ moderate growth, respectively moderate decrease;
from $\pm 16\%$ to $\pm 40\%$ growth, respectively decrease;
over $\pm 40\%$ robust growth, respectively robust decrease.

Balance indicators are calculated based on the data processed and aggregated according to **NACE Rev 2**. The surveys were carried out based on samples representative for manufacturing (2000 economic units), construction (1610), retail trade (2110) and services (2492). Size of samples was set up to insure maximum admitted estimation error of $\pm 5\%$ at level of total sector.

Simple random stratified survey was used and stratification variables are main activity and enterprises size.

Business tendency surveys are carried out in co-financing with the contribution of European Commission - DGECFIN (Brussels).

The next press release will be issued on February 28, 2012.