

Business and Consumer Surveys

July 2020

Consumer confidence indicator decreases and economic climate indicator continues to recover

In July, the Consumer confidence indicator decreased, after recovering partially in the previous two months from the greatest reduction compared to the previous month recorded in April.

The economic climate indicator increased between May and July, after reaching the minimum value of the series in April. Confidence indicators recovered in all sectors, with emphasis on the Manufacturing Industry, which extended the greatest increase in the series registered in the previous month, after having recorded the minimum of the series in May. In Construction and Public Works and in Trade, the indicators recovered partially between May and July. The Services confidence indicator increased in June and July, after having presented the lowest value in the series in May.

Despite the circumstances determined by the pandemic COVID-19, Statistics Portugal will try to maintain the statistical production and release calendar, although some adjustments might occur associated with the impact of the pandemic in obtaining primary information. For this reason, Statistics Portugal asks for the best collaboration by firms, households and public entities in answering to Statistics Portugal's requests to obtain information, using Internet and telephone as alternative channels to face-to-face contacts. The quality of official statistics, particularly its ability to identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, depends crucially on this collaboration that Statistics Portugal is grateful for in advance.

The reduction in the Consumer confidence indicator in July resulted from the negative contributions of the perspectives regarding the future evolution of the country's economic situation and opinions about the past evolution of the household's financial situation. On the contrary, expectations regarding major purchases and the evolution of the household's financial situation contributed positively.

In Manufacturing Industry, the confidence indicator increased in June and July, after decreasing between February and May and reaching the series' historic minimum following the abrupt reduction in April. The increase of the indicator reflected the positive contributions of all components, opinions on the global demand in the last three months, firm's production perspectives over the next three months and opinions on current stock of finished products. In the last two months, the indicator increased significantly in the group of "Intermediate Goods", after reaching the minimum of the series in May. In the remaining groupings, "Consumer Goods" and "Investment Goods", the indicator recovered between May and July.

The Construction and Public Works confidence indicator partially recovered between May and July, after registering in April, the most pronounced decrease in the series, having reached the minimum since November 2015. The recovery of the indicator in the last two months reflected the significant positive contribution of both components, balance of opinions on order books and perspectives on employment. The indicator recovered in all NACE divisions, "Construction of Buildings", "Civil Engineering" and "Specialized Construction Activities", more pronounced in July in the first case.

The confidence indicator for Trade increased between May and July, after having decreased significantly in April and attaining the series' minimum. This evolution reflected the significant positive contribution of the opinions on the volume of sales, suspending the strong fall observed since April that originated in June a new minimum of the series. The perspectives on business activity over the next three months also contributed positively, recovering totally from the historical minimum of the series observed in April, while the opinions on the volume of stocks registered a null contribution. By subsector, the confidence indicator increased in the last two months more sharply in "Wholesale Trade" than in "Retail Trade".

The Services' confidence indicator increased in June and July, after decreasing between February and May, particularly in April, which originated a new historical minimum of the series. The behaviour of the indicator in July resulted from the positive contribution of all components, perspectives on the evolution of the order books, opinions on the evolution of the business situation and opinions on the evolution of the order books. In the last two months, the confidence

indicators increased in all sections, with emphasis on the sections of “Transport and Storage activities” and “Administrative and Support Service activities”, which registered the highest increases compared to previous month.

The economic climate indicator, which summarizes the balances of business surveys’ questions partially recovered between May and July, from the abrupt reduction registered in April which originated a new historical minimum.

Graph 1
Economic Climate Indicator
- Manufacturing Industry, Construction and Public Works, Trade and Services-



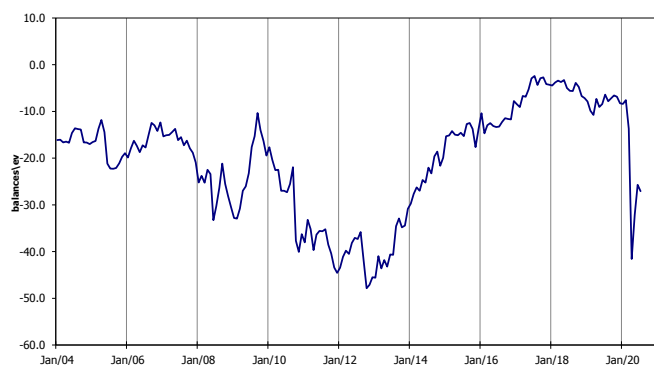
It should be noticed that the collection period (see final notes of the press release) of the consumer survey occurred from 01 to 17 July and from 01 to 24 July in the case of the business surveys, coinciding with the transition to the alert situation (started on June 1) and the end of the state of calamity for most of the country.

In this context, in order to evidence the short-term changes, the analysis in this press release is exclusively based on monthly values (raw or seasonally adjusted data). The summary table with the data from the confidence indicators and respective base series and the economic climate indicator based on three-month moving averages is available on page 10.

The **consumer confidence indicator** decreased in July, interrupting the partial recovery observed in the previous two months, from the greatest decrease in the series observed in April, which led to the minimum value since May 2013. This evolution resulted from the negative contribution of the perspectives regarding the future evolution of the country's economic situation and of the opinions regarding the past evolution of the household's financial situation. On the contrary, expectations regarding major purchases and the evolution of the household's financial situation contributed positively, slightly in the latter case.

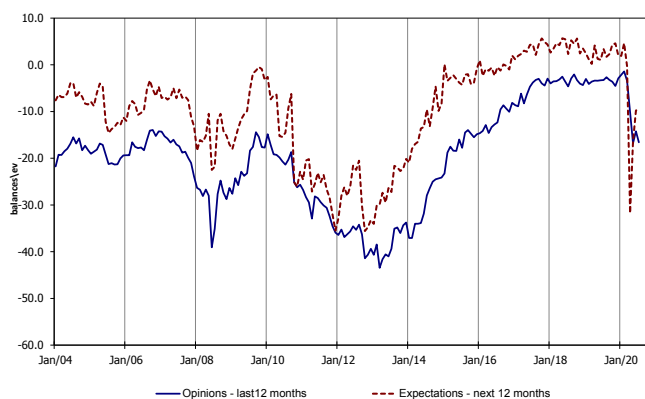
Graph 2

Consumer confidence indicator



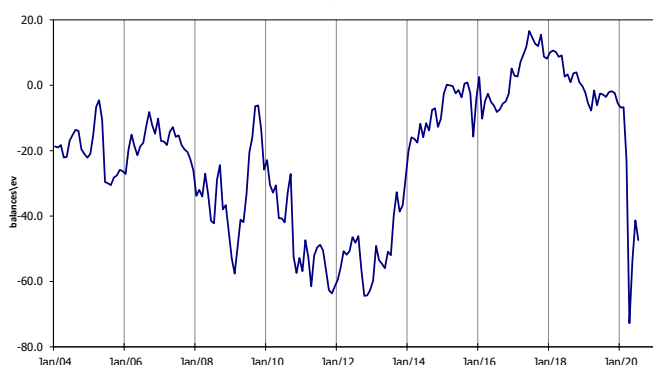
Graph 3

Financial situation of households



Graph 4

General economic situation - Expectations for the next 12 months



Graph 5

Spending money on major purchases - Expectations for the next 12 months



The **Manufacturing Industry confidence indicator** increased in June and July, after decreasing in the four previous months, recovering partially from the significant decreases in April and May. In July, the behaviour of the indicator reflected the positive contributions of all components, balance on the global demand in the last three months, the firm's production perspectives over the next three months and opinions on the current stock of finished products, more intense in the latter case.

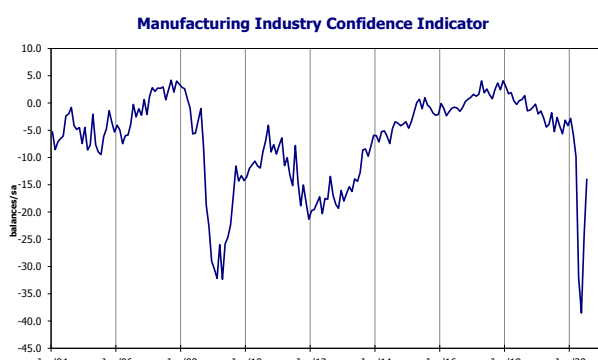
The confidence indicator in the **Intermediate Goods** grouping increased significantly in July, as a result of the strong positive contribution of the firm's opinions on the current stock of finished products, which presented the highest monthly decrease since January 2008. The production perspectives and the balances on the global demand in the last three months also contributed positively to the behaviour of the indicator.

In the **Consumer Goods** grouping, the indicator increased between May and July, reflecting the positive contributions of the production perspectives and the balances of opinions on global demand, while opinions on the stocks of finished products presented a null contribution.

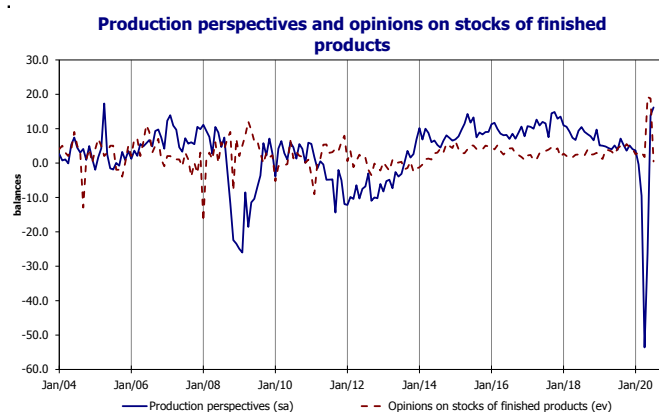
Regarding **Investment Goods**, the confidence indicator also increased in July, due to the positive contribution of all components, production perspectives and opinions on global demand and on current stocks of finished products.

The rate of current operating capacity increased in July, reaching 72.4%, after decreasing significantly in April, from 80.7% in January to 70.9%, registering a new historical minimum of the series. The number of weeks of assured production by the current overall order books increased slightly in July, interrupting the downward evolution observed between October and April, which led to the lowest level since October 2005.

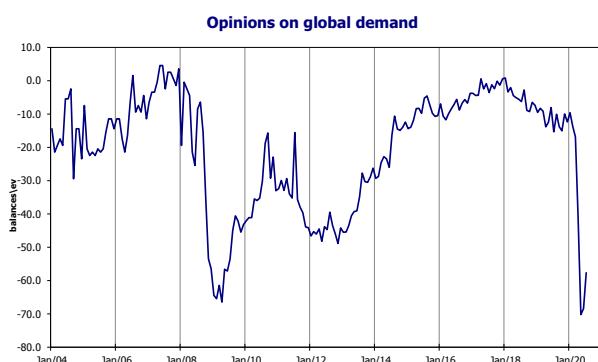
Graph 6



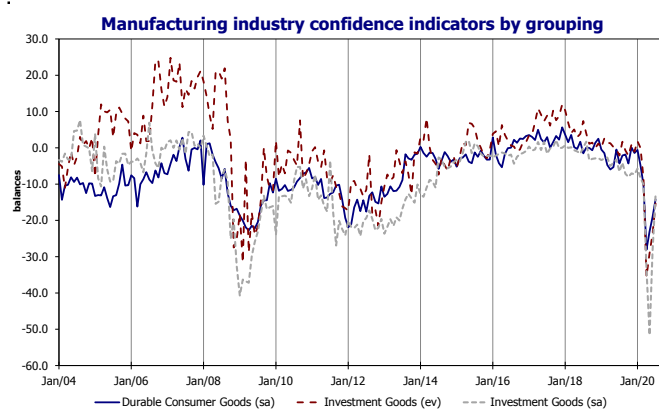
Graph 7



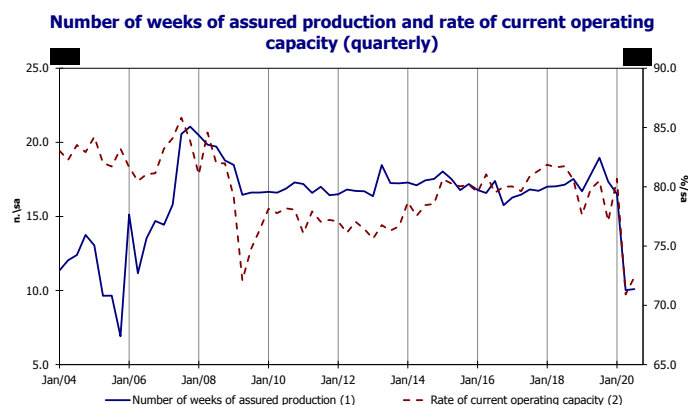
Graph 8



Graph 9



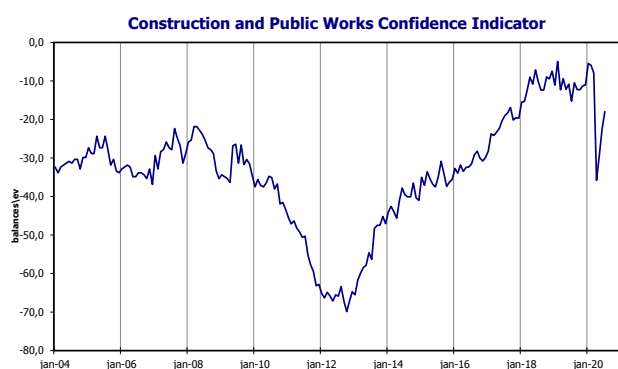
Graph 10



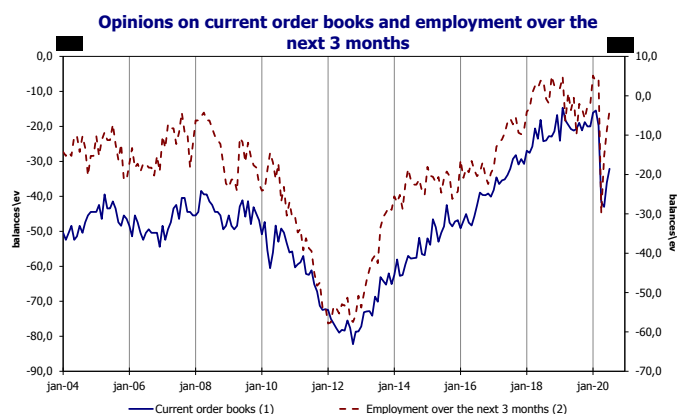
The **Construction and Public Works confidence indicator** recovered between May and July, after having reached in April the minimum value since November 2015 and presented the sharpest decrease since the beginning of the series, initiated in April 1997. The increase of the indicator in the last month reflected the strong positive contribution of both components, opinions on order books and perspectives on employment.

The indicator increased in the three divisions of NACE, "**Construction of Buildings**", "**Civil Engineering**" and "**Specialized Construction Activities**", more pronounced in the first case, and slightly in the second.

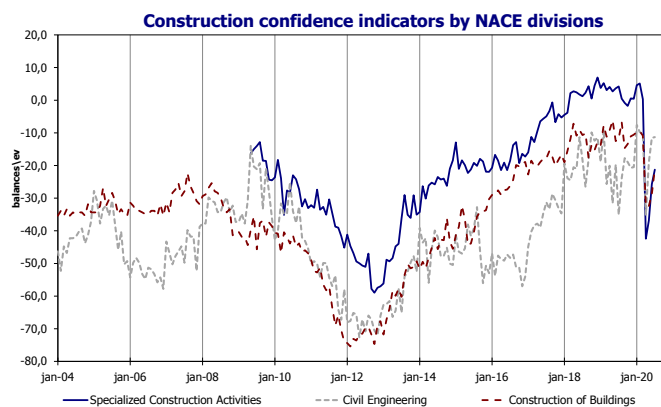
Graph 11



Graph 12



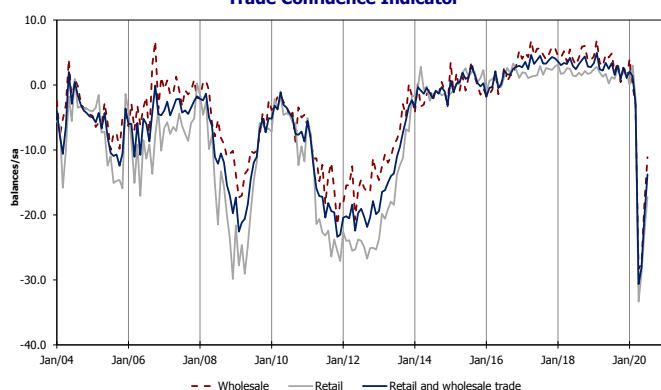
Graph 13



The **Trade confidence indicator** increased in July, for the third consecutive month, after having recorded the lowest of the series in April. This evolution reflected the significant positive contribution of the opinions on the volume of sales, suspending the strong fall observed since April that originated in June a new minimum of the series. The perspectives on business activity over the next three months also contributed positively, recovering totally from the historical minimum of the series observed in April, while the opinions on the volume of stocks registered a null contribution. By subsector, the confidence indicator increased in the last two months more sharply in **Wholesale Trade** than in **Retail Trade**.

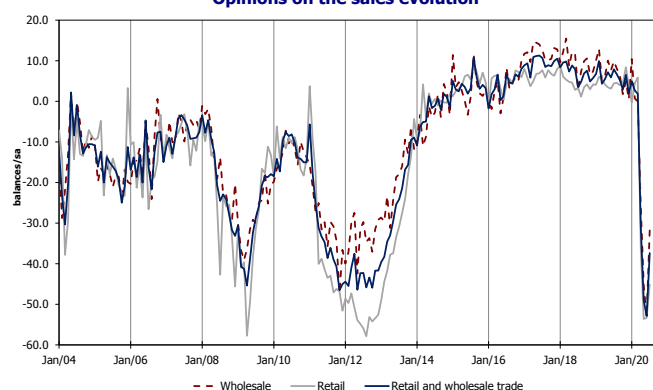
Graph 14

Trade Confidence Indicator



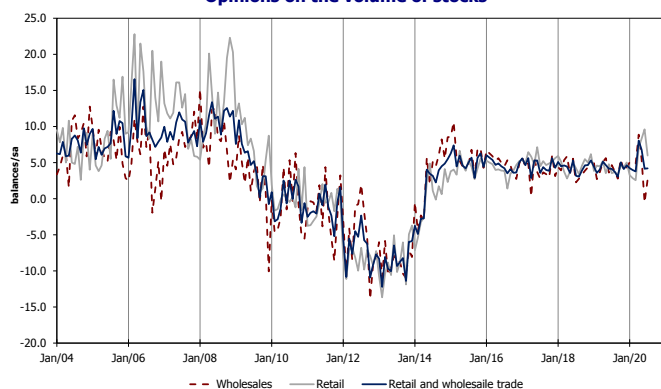
Graph 15

Opinions on the sales evolution



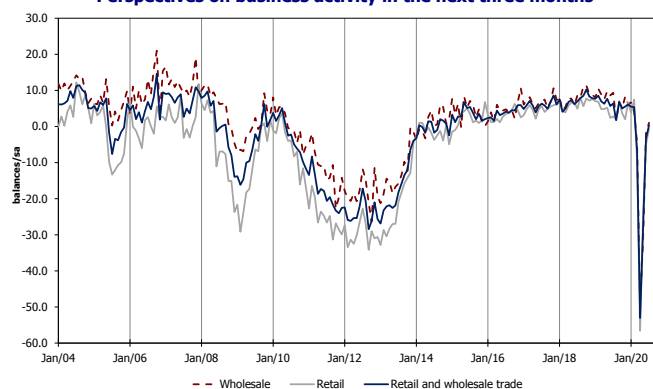
Graph 16

Opinions on the volume of stocks



Graph 17

Perspectives on business activity in the next three months

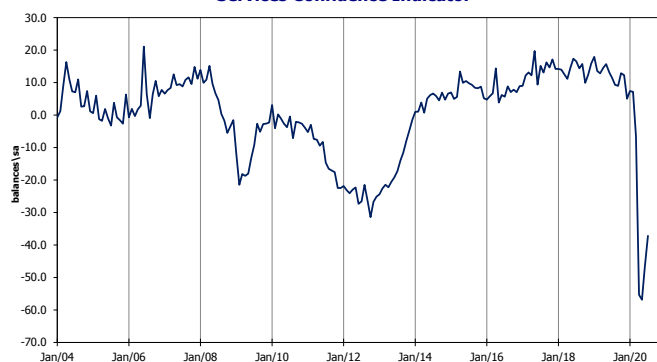


The **Services' confidence indicator** increased in June and in July, after decreasing between February and May, and recording an abrupt fall in April, which led to a new historical minimum of the series. The behaviour of the indicator in July resulted from the positive contribution of all components, perspectives on the evolution of order books, opinions on the evolution of the business situation and opinions on the evolution of the order books.

In the last two months, the confidence indicators increased in all sections, with emphasis on the sections of **Transport and Storage activities**, and **Administrative and Support Service activities**, which registered in July the highest increases compared to previous month.

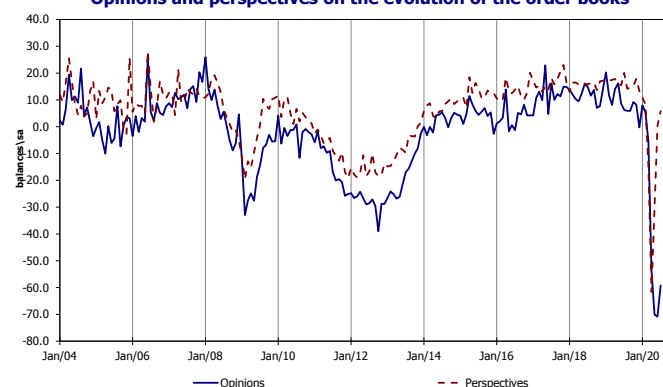
Graph 18

Services Confidence Indicator



Graph 19

Opinions and perspectives on the evolution of the order books



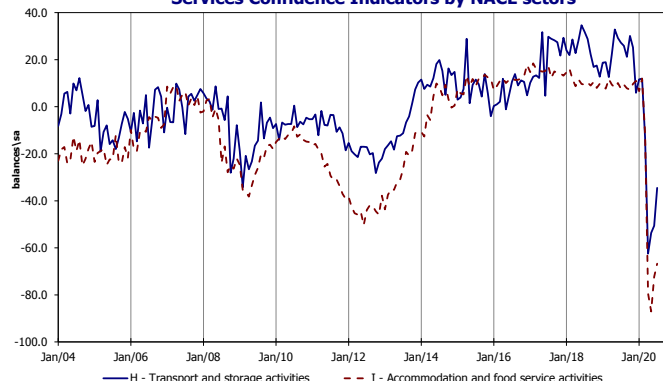
Graph 20

Perspectives on the evolution of the business situation



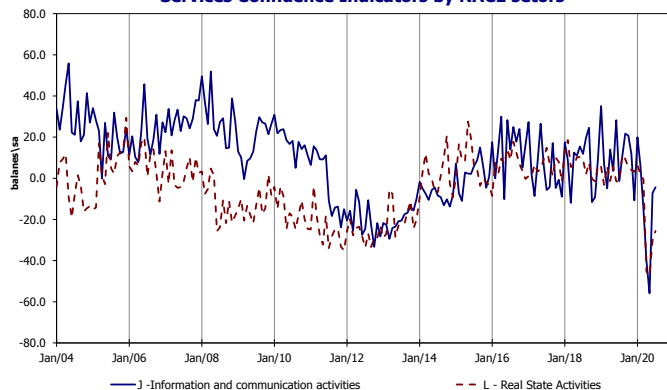
Graph 21

Services Confidence Indicators by NACE sectors



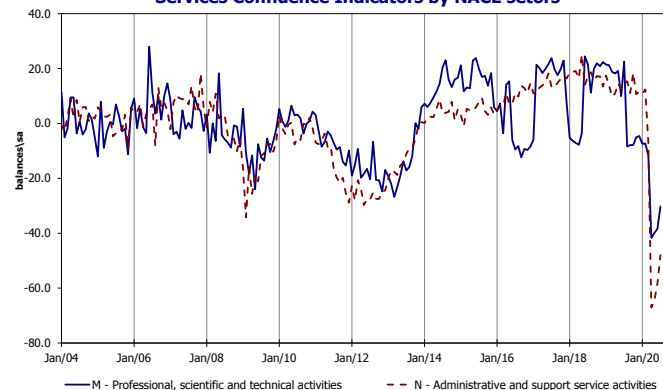
Graph 22

Services Confidence Indicators by NACE sectors



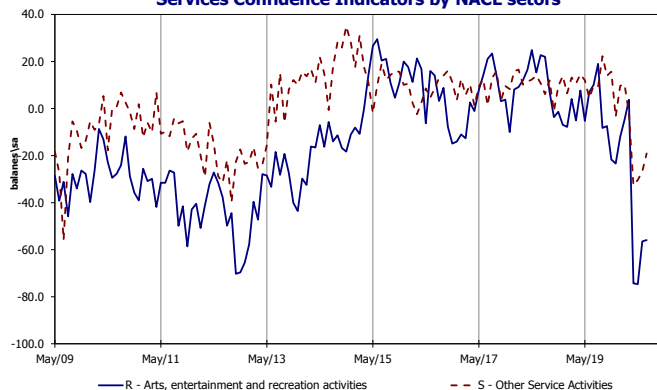
Graph 23

Services Confidence Indicators by NACE sectors



Graph 24

Services Confidence Indicators by NACE sectors



The next press release will be disseminated on August 28, 2020.

Confidence indicators and their underlying series

	Unit	First Period	Average*	Standard Deviation	Minimum		Maximum		2019						2020						
					Value	Date	Value	Date	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Consumers - confidence indicator (a+b+c+d)/4	balance	Sep-97	-17.6	11.7	-47.8	Oct-12	-0.1	Sep-97	-6.4	-7.8	-7.2	-6.6	-6.9	-8.3	-8.4	-7.6	-13.7	-41.6	-32.1	-25.7	-27.1
a Financial situation of the households over the last 12 months	balance	Sep-97	-16.7	11.1	-43.5	Mar-13	0.5	Jan-99	-3.3	-2.7	-3.2	-3.6	-4.5	-2.9	-2.2	-1.4	-3.4	-10.2	-16.8	-14.2	-16.6
b Financial situation of the households over the next 12 months	balance	Sep-97	-7.2	10.7	-35.6	Oct-12	8.6	Feb-99	3.4	1.7	2.3	4.3	4.6	2.0	1.9	4.6	-0.3	-31.8	-16.4	-9.8	-9.4
c General economic situation in the country over the next 12 months	balance	Sep-97	-19.1	20.0	-72.7	Apr-20	16.6	Jun-17	-2.8	-3.6	-2.1	-1.8	-2.4	-5.5	-6.8	-6.7	-23.0	-72.7	-53.4	-41.3	-47.3
d Major purchases over the next 12 months	balance	Sep-97	-27.3	9.8	-51.6	Apr-20	-6.4	Sep-97	-22.9	-26.8	-25.7	-25.2	-25.1	-26.7	-26.5	-26.8	-28.2	-51.6	-41.9	-37.5	-35.1
Manufacturing industry - confidence indicator (a+b-c)/3	balance/sa	Jan-87	-3.0	9.2	-38.5	May-20	19.0	Mar-87	-5.2	-2.7	-4.3	-5.7	-3.2	-4.2	-2.8	-5.7	-9.8	-32.1	-38.5	-24.4	-14.0
a Demand/order books	balance	Jan-87	-14.4	16.7	-70.2	May-20	14.6	Apr-87	-15.3	-10.1	-13.8	-15.0	-10.0	-12.4	-9.6	-13.7	-16.9	-40.8	-70.2	-68.4	-57.7
b Production over the next 3 months	balance/sa	Jan-87	8.9	10.4	-53.6	Apr-20	34.0	Feb-87	3.8	7.1	5.3	3.6	5.1	4.0	3.7	-0.4	-9.5	-53.6	-26.2	13.9	16.2
c Stocks of finished goods	balance	Jan-87	3.4	5.2	-16.9	Jan-08	23.2	Jun-93	4.2	5.0	4.3	5.5	4.6	4.2	2.5	3.2	3.1	1.8	19.2	18.8	0.5
Construction and public works - confidence indicator (a+b)/2	balance	Apr-97	-25.5	19.9	-69.9	Oct-12	20.2	Sep-97	-15.3	-10.5	-12.2	-12.3	-11.3	-11.0	-5.5	-5.9	-7.9	-35.8	-29.2	-22.4	-17.9
a Current order books	balance	Apr-97	-38.3	21.8	-82.2	Oct-12	18.6	Sep-97	-20.7	-19.0	-21.1	-18.8	-20.0	-20.0	-16.1	-15.4	-19.8	-41.7	-43.0	-36.1	-32.1
b Employment over the next 3 months	balance	Apr-97	-12.6	18.8	-57.9	Jan-12	29.9	Jun-97	-9.8	-2.0	-3.3	-5.8	-2.6	-2.1	5.1	3.6	4.0	-29.9	-15.4	-8.8	-3.7
Trade - confidence indicator (a+b-c)/3	balance/sa	Jan-89	-1.9	8.4	-30.6	Apr-20	11.9	Jun-98	3.4	1.6	3.0	1.0	2.7	1.1	2.1	1.4	-2.9	-30.6	-28.1	-20.1	-13.7
- Wholesale	balance/sa	Jan-89	-0.2	7.8	-28.3	Apr-20	14.0	Apr-98	4.8	2.0	3.4	0.4	3.1	0.8	4.0	0.0	-3.1	-28.3	-27.5	-18.2	-11.1
- Retail trade	balance/sa	Jan-89	-3.4	9.6	-33.3	Apr-20	12.3	Jul-98	1.2	0.9	2.6	1.2	2.0	1.9	0.1	3.0	-1.9	-33.3	-28.9	-22.7	-17.2
a Sales over the past 3 months	balance/sa	Jan-89	-6.0	15.6	-52.9	Jun-20	19.0	Feb-89	7.9	6.7	5.2	2.9	6.5	2.0	5.0	2.7	1.9	-30.8	-49.0	-52.9	-37.4
- Wholesale	balance/sa	Jan-89	-4.7	14.8	-53.1	Jun-20	22.8	Feb-89	9.9	8.1	6.3	1.8	4.9	0.5	10.4	0.7	-0.1	-26.0	-45.4	-53.1	-31.7
- Retail trade	balance/sa	Jan-89	-7.3	17.4	-57.9	Aug-12	20.2	Apr-99	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.4	8.4	3.9	-0.3	4.5	5.9	-36.4	-53.6	-53.3	-45.1
b Business situation over the next 3 months***	balance/sa	Jan-89	9.7	15.7	-53.1	Apr-20	40.9	Oct-89	6.4	1.7	6.8	5.0	5.5	6.1	5.5	5.4	-6.7	-53.1	-28.5	-3.4	0.3
- Wholesale	balance/sa	Jan-89	11.5	14.3	-50.0	Apr-20	50.4	Oct-89	9.3	1.7	6.7	5.0	8.3	6.2	6.7	4.2	-4.5	-50.0	-31.6	-1.9	1.1
- Retail trade	balance/sa	Jan-89	8.3	18.3	-56.6	Apr-20	41.2	Jul-94	2.8	2.0	7.1	3.7	2.0	6.6	3.8	7.4	-9.1	-56.6	-24.8	-5.0	-0.6
c Volume of stock	balance	Jan-89	9.3	8.0	-12.2	Feb-13	29.1	Jul-90	4.1	3.7	3.0	5.0	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.0	3.8	8.1	6.8	4.2	4.2
- Wholesale	balance	Jan-89	7.5	7.4	-13.9	Oct-12	29.6	Jul-90	4.7	3.8	2.8	5.4	3.9	4.3	5.1	4.9	4.8	8.9	5.4	-0.5	2.7
- Retail trade	balance	Jan-89	11.2	9.7	-13.7	Feb-13	36.5	Jul-89	3.5	3.7	3.3	4.5	4.4	5.0	3.3	2.8	2.6	7.1	8.3	9.6	6.0
Services - confidence indicator (a+b+c)/3	balance/sa	Apr-01	0.9	13.4	-56.8	May-20	26.7	Jun-01	11.4	9.3	9.0	12.9	12.3	5.0	7.4	7.2	-6.5	-55.3	-56.8	-46.5	-37.2
a Business situation over the past 3 months**	balance/sa	Apr-01	-2.0	15.6	-70.3	May-20	33.0	Jun-01	7.9	7.8	6.6	14.3	10.8	1.9	3.3	7.8	0.9	-50.5	-70.3	-69.1	-58.2
b Demand over the next 3 months	balance/sa	Apr-01	6.3	11.8	-61.6	Apr-20	28.0	Jun-06	20.1	14.2	14.5	15.2	17.8	13.4	11.0	8.3	-14.9	-61.6	-30.2	0.4	5.8
c Demand/order books over the past 3 months	balance/sa	Apr-01	-1.5	15.3	-70.8	Oct-12	27.7	Jan-00	6.3	5.9	5.9	9.2	8.3	-0.3	8.0	5.4	-5.6	-53.9	-70.1	-70.8	-59.2
Climate indicator	balance/sa	Mar-89	1.7	2.3	-5.4	Apr-20	5.2	Feb-89	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.3	1.0	-5.4	-5.1	-2.5	-1.2

* Series average since its beginning till the current observation.

** In May 2003 a break in the series occurred, until that moment the reference period was the month under review and afterwards it refers to the past 3 months.

*** In May 2003 a break in the series occurred, until that moment the question referred to the next 6 months.

Confidence indicators and their underlying series and economic climate indicator (3mma)

	Unit	First Period	Average*	Minimum		Maximum		2019						2020						
				Value	Date	Value	Date	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Consumers - confidence indicator (a+b+c+d)/4	balance	Nov-97	-17.5	-46.8	Dec-12	0.0	Jul-20	-8.0	-7.6	-7.1	-7.2	-6.9	-7.2	-7.8	-8.1	-9.9	-21.0	-29.1	-33.1	0.0
a Financial situation of the households over the last 12 months	balance	Nov-97	-16.8	-41.9	May-13	-0.5	Jul-99	-3.3	-3.1	-3.0	-3.2	-3.8	-3.7	-3.2	-2.2	-2.3	-5.0	-10.1	-13.7	-15.9
b Financial situation of the households over the next 12 months	balance	Nov-97	-7.2	-34.5	Dec-12	7.6	Apr-99	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.7	3.6	2.8	2.8	2.1	-9.1	-16.2	-19.3	0.0
c General economic situation in the country over the next 12 months	balance	Nov-97	-18.9	-63.7	Dec-12	14.6	Aug-17	-3.8	-3.0	-2.8	-2.5	-2.1	-3.2	-4.9	-6.3	-12.2	-34.1	-49.7	-55.8	0.0
d Major purchases over the next 12 months	balance	Nov-97	-27.4	-48.5	Dec-12	-11.0	Nov-97	-26.6	-26.2	-25.1	-25.9	-25.3	-25.7	-26.1	-26.7	-27.2	-35.5	-40.6	-43.7	-38.2
Manufacturing industry - confidence indicator (a+b-c)/3	balance/sa	Mar-87	-3.0	-31.7	Jun-20	18.1	May-87	-3.7	-3.2	-4.1	-4.2	-4.4	-4.3	-3.4	-4.2	-6.1	-15.9	-26.8	-31.7	-25.6
a Demand/order books	balance	Mar-87	-14.4	-65.4	Jul-20	14.6	Jun-87	-12.0	-11.2	-13.1	-13.0	-12.9	-12.5	-10.6	-11.9	-13.4	-23.8	-42.6	-59.8	-65.4
b Production over the next 3 months	balance/sa	Mar-87	8.8	-29.8	May-20	32.8	Mar-87	4.3	5.4	5.4	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.3	2.4	-2.1	-21.2	-29.8	-21.9	1.3
c Stocks of finished goods	balance	Mar-87	3.5	-9.1	Sep-87	21.6	Jul-93	3.4	3.9	4.5	4.9	4.8	4.8	3.8	3.3	2.9	2.7	8.0	13.3	12.8
Construction and public works - confidence indicator (a+b)/2	balance	Jun-97	-25.6	-68.1	Nov-12	18.9	Sep-97	-12.8	-12.2	-12.7	-11.7	-11.9	-11.6	-9.3	-7.5	-6.4	-16.5	-24.3	-29.1	-23.2
a Current order books	balance	Jun-97	-38.5	-79.8	Dec-12	15.9	Nov-97	-20.9	-20.3	-20.3	-19.6	-20.0	-19.6	-18.7	-17.2	-17.1	-25.6	-34.8	-40.2	-37.1
b Employment over the next 3 months	balance	Jun-97	-12.8	-56.7	Nov-12	25.9	Aug-97	-4.6	-4.1	-5.0	-3.7	-3.9	-3.5	0.2	2.2	4.2	-7.4	-13.8	-18.0	-9.3
Trade - confidence indicator (a+b-c)/3	balance/sa	Mar-89	-1.9	-26.3	Jun-20	11.0	Jun-98	3.1	2.5	2.6	1.8	2.2	1.6	2.0	1.5	0.2	-10.7	-20.5	-26.3	-20.7
-Wholesale	balance/sa	Mar-89	-0.2	-24.6	Jun-20	12.6	Jun-98	4.6	3.7	3.4	2.0	2.3	1.5	2.7	1.6	0.3	-10.5	-19.6	-24.6	-18.9
-Retail trade	balance/sa	Mar-89	-3.4	-28.3	Jun-20	10.9	Aug-98	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.7	0.4	-10.7	-21.4	-28.3	-22.9
a Sales over the past 3 months	balance/sa	Mar-89	-6.0	-46.4	Jul-20	14.8	Jun-98	7.0	6.8	6.6	4.9	4.9	3.8	4.5	3.2	3.2	-8.8	-26.0	-44.3	-46.4
- Wholesale	balance/sa	Mar-89	-4.6	-43.4	Jul-20	16.7	Apr-89	9.2	8.5	8.1	5.4	4.4	2.4	5.3	3.9	3.7	-8.5	-23.8	-41.5	-43.4
- Retail trade	balance/sa	Mar-89	-7.2	-56.2	Aug-12	18.1	Apr-99	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.3	5.6	5.6	4.0	2.7	3.3	-8.7	-28.0	-47.8	-50.7
b Business situation over the next 3 months***	balance/sa	Mar-89	9.6	-29.4	May-20	33.9	Dec-89	6.6	4.6	5.0	4.5	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.7	1.4	-18.1	-29.4	-28.3	-10.5
- Wholesale	balance/sa	Mar-89	11.5	-28.7	May-20	38.0	Dec-89	9.3	6.5	5.9	4.5	6.7	6.5	7.1	5.7	2.1	-16.7	-28.7	-27.8	-10.8
- Retail trade	balance/sa	Mar-89	8.2	-32.4	Apr-12	38.5	Sep-94	3.5	2.4	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	6.0	0.7	-19.4	-30.2	-28.8	-10.2
c Volume of stock	balance	Mar-89	9.3	-10.0	Apr-13	28.8	Aug-90	4.3	4.0	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.0	5.3	6.2	6.3	5.0
- Wholesale	balance	Mar-89	7.5	-10.4	Dec-12	27.9	Aug-90	4.6	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.9	6.2	6.4	4.6	2.5
- Retail trade	balance	Mar-89	11.2	-11.6	Mar-13	29.8	Jun-90	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.2	3.7	2.9	4.2	6.0	8.3	8.0
Services - confidence indicator (a+b+c)/3	balance/sa	Jun-01	1.0	-52.9	Jun-20	24.6	Jun-01	13.4	11.3	9.9	10.4	11.4	10.1	8.2	6.5	2.7	-18.2	-39.6	-52.9	-46.9
a Business situation over the past 3 months**	balance/sa	Jun-01	-1.9	-65.9	Jul-20	29.0	Jun-01	12.8	10.4	7.4	9.5	10.5	9.0	5.3	4.3	4.0	-13.9	-40.0	-63.3	-65.9
b Demand over the next 3 months	balance/sa	Jun-01	6.2	-35.6	May-20	21.1	Mar-02	17.2	16.6	16.2	14.6	15.8	15.5	14.1	10.9	1.5	-22.7	-35.6	-30.5	-8.0
c Demand/order books over the past 3 months	balance/sa	Jun-01	-1.3	-66.7	Jul-20	24.3	Jun-01	10.4	7.0	6.1	7.0	7.8	5.7	5.3	4.4	2.6	-18.0	-43.2	-64.9	-66.7
Economic climate indicator ****	%/sa	Mar-89	1.7	-4.3	Jun-20	5.1	Mar-89	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.9	-0.7	-3.2	-4.3	-2.9

* Series average since its beginning till the current observation.

** In May 2003 a break in the series occurred, until that moment the reference period was the month under review and afterwards it refers to the past 3 months.

*** In May 2003 a break in the series occurred, until that moment the question referred to the next 6 months.

**** From September 2004 onwards Services sector was included, besides industry, trade and construction. From May 2019, the indicator includes seasonally adjusted series.

Notes

The Business and Consumer Qualitative Surveys published by Statistics Portugal are developed in the framework of the harmonized EU Business and Consumer Surveys Programme of the European Commission (EC) DG-ECFIN (*Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs*) and are financially supported in the framework of the agreement signed between these two institutions. The questionnaires are harmonized among the European countries, as well as the respective confidence indicators' methodology. The surveys' results are sent to the EC in effective values, and, therefore, the seasonally adjusted values published by the EC are computed by this entity and presented without using three months moving averages. The seasonal adjustment method used by the EC is available on the user guide, accessible in:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/documents/bcs_user_guide_en.pdf

The text and graphs of this press release are based on three terms moving averages, for the monthly variables, and two terms, for the quarterly variables, and on original values, except the cases of the seasonally adjusted series. The seasonal adjustment uses the X13-Arima method (combination of moving averages process and auto-regressive integrated moving average models) developed in the JDemetra+¹ software provided by Eurostat. This application relies on the use of probabilistic models to correct seasonal effects from the original series. The seasonal treatment is updated in May, for monthly and quarterly series, which might result on a revision of the series previously published. The use of moving averages smoothes out the series by removing the irregular movements, allowing the detection of the short-term trends. Since the average is not centred (the information is used to analyse the evolution of the last month) there is a small lag compared with the trend that is supposed to detect.

In order to compare the difference between original and moving average series, the graphical representation of the confidence indicators presents both types of series.

The balances of the questions are the difference between the positive and negative answers, that is $\text{Balance} = \% \text{answer (+)} - \% \text{answer (-)}$. In the Consumer Survey there are questions with more than one option of positive/negative answer. In these cases, to the most positive/negative answers is given the weight 1 and to the others the weight 0.5, that is $\text{Balance} = [\% \text{answer (++)} * 1 + \% \text{answer (+)} * 0.5] - [\% \text{answer (--)} * 1 + \% \text{answer (-)} * 0.5]$. The percentage of answers that correspond to "equal" is not considered.

INFORMATION ON DATA COLLECTION – FROM MARCH TO JULY 2020

The collection period for the business and consumer surveys in **March** occurred from 02 to 13 March in the case of the consumer survey (telephone interviews) and from 01 to 24 March for business surveys ([Webing](#)).

In the case of the data collection from the consumer survey, approximately 86.4% of the total interviews were already obtained until March 10 (the day before the announcement of the closure of schools and universities) and on March 13, the collection process ended. In the case of firms, the cumulative percentages of responses obtained before March 16 (the date when schools and universities were closed) for each survey were as follows: Manufacturing Industry - 79.6%; Construction - 87.1%; Trade - 85.6% and Services - 86.7%.

In **April**, the collection period occurred from 01 to 17 April (working days) in the case of the consumer survey and from 01 to 23 April for business surveys.

As a result of the methodology for sizing and updating the sample of the consumer survey, which is based on a quarterly rotation scheme (in January, April, July and October) of the accommodations, the sample was updated in April. With this update, the number of responses obtained increased from 850 in March to 1130 in April (average of 903 responses in the previous fifteen months).

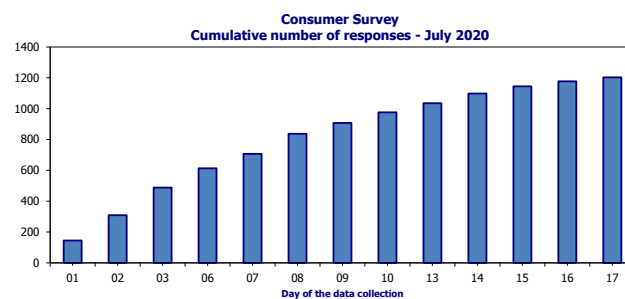
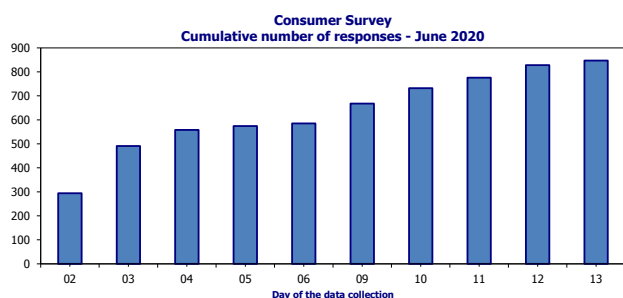
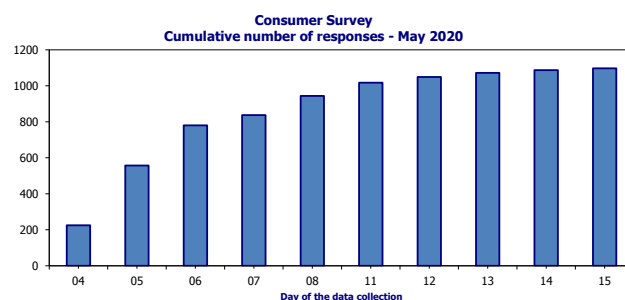
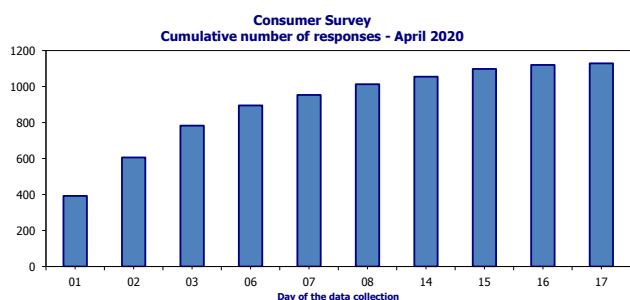
In **May**, the telephone interviews of the consumer survey took place from 04 to 15 May (working days), covering the period of the first phase plan for lifting COVID-19 containment restrictions in Portugal (from 04 to 17 May) and obtaining 1101 responses. The collection period for the business surveys occurred from 01 to 22 May.

In **June**, the collection period of the consumer survey occurred from 01 to 16 June and from 01 to 23 June in the case of the business surveys, coinciding with the third phase of the plan for lifting COVID-19 containment restrictions in Portugal plan (started on June 1) and with the final phase from June 15 onwards.

¹JDemetra+ is an open source tool for seasonal adjustment, available in: <http://www.cros-portal.eu/content/jdemetra>

In **July**, the collection took place between 01 and 17 July, in the case of the consumer survey, and between 01 and 24 July in the case of business surveys, coinciding with the entry into force of the alert situation and the end of the state of calamity for most of the country. With the updating of the sample of the consumer survey, the number of responses obtained increased from 1049 in June to 1203 in July.

The distribution of the cumulative number of responses to the consumer survey in the months between April and July is presented below:



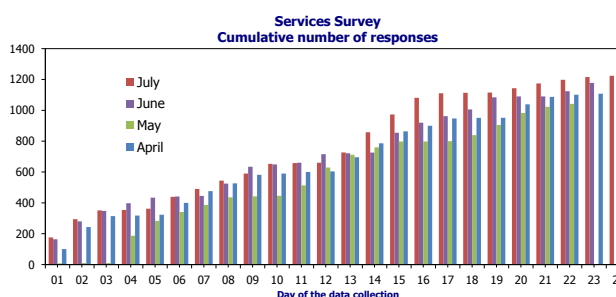
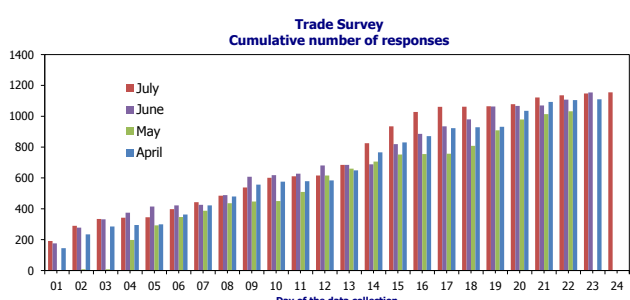
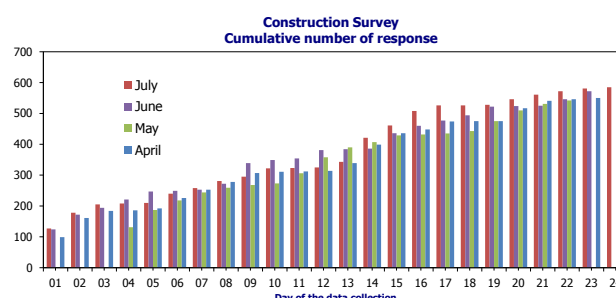
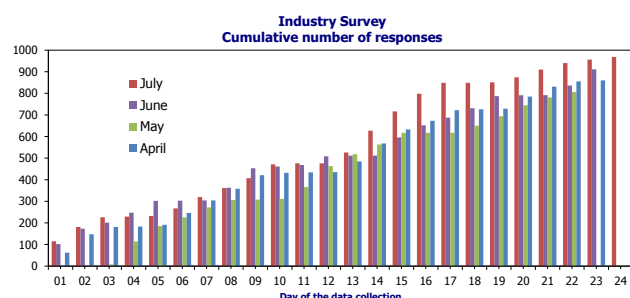
In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the response and weighted response rates for business surveys observed in April, and in particular in May, were lower than the usual pattern, with a greater impact on services survey rates. In June and July, the rates increased in all surveys.

Qualitative Business Surveys	Response Rate				Weighted Response Rate ⁽²⁾			
	2019 ⁽¹⁾	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	2019 ⁽¹⁾	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020
Manufacturing Industry	92.0%	73.3%	82.9%	88.1%	96.1%	88.4%	90.8%	94.5%
Construction and Public Works	88.7%	77.5%	81.9%	83.8%	90.7%	79.8%	84.7%	84.5%
Trade	92.8%	77.5%	86.6%	86.8%	96.7%	84.4%	91.8%	94.1%
Services	91.9%	72.3%	81.8%	85.1%	97.1%	78.4%	92.6%	94.5%

⁽¹⁾ Annual average.

⁽²⁾ Corresponds to the ratio between the turnover of the firms that answered to the survey and the turnover of all the firms in the sample.

The following graphs show the distribution of the cumulative number of responses to business surveys between April and July.



It should also be noted that the representativeness of the branches of activity covered by Business Surveys, considering the Gross Added Value (GVA) at current prices (Final Annual National Accounts 2017) as the economic variable is as follows:

Business Surveys	Weight of the GVA of the branches of each survey in the total GVA of the economy
Industry	14.3%
Construction	4.1%
Trade	13.8%
Services	36.8%

ECONOMIC CLIMATE INDICATOR

Synthetic Indicator estimated using balances of questions from the Manufacturing Industry, Trade, Construction and Public Works and Services Surveys. The method for this indicator uses the factor analysis and the estimated series (the common component) is calibrated using the GDP change rates. The questions that integrate the indicator are:

- Qualitative Manufacturing Industry survey
 - How has your production developed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased.
 - Do you consider your current overall order books to be...? 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
 - Do you consider your current export order books to be...? 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
 - How do you expect your production to develop over the next 3 months? It will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease. (seasonally adjusted)
- Qualitative Trade survey

- How has (have) your business activity (sales) developed over the past 3 months? It has... (They have...) 1. + improved (increased); 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated (decreased). (seasonally adjusted)
- How do you expect your orders placed with suppliers to change over the next 3 months? They will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease. (seasonally adjusted)
- Your business activity is currently...: 1. + more than sufficient; 2. = sufficient; 3. - not sufficient.
- How do you expect your business activity (sales) to change over the next 3 months? It (They) will... 1. + improve (increase); 2. = remain unchanged 3. - deteriorate (decrease). (seasonally adjusted)
- Qualitative Construction and Public Works survey
 - How has your building activity developed over the past 3 months? It has...; 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased.
 - Do you consider your current overall order books to be...?: 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
 - How do you expect your firm's total employment to change over the next 3 months? It will...; 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.
- Qualitative Services survey
 - How has your business situation developed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + improved; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated. (seasonally adjusted)
 - How has demand (turnover) for your company's services changed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased. (seasonally adjusted)
 - How do you expect the demand (turnover) for your company's services to change over the next 3 months? It will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease. (seasonally adjusted)

SECTORIAL CONFIDENCE INDICATORS

The confidence indicators (CI) are the result of the arithmetic average of balance of the following questions:

- Manufacturing Industry confidence indicator
 - Do you consider your current overall order books to be...? 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
 - How do you expect your production to develop over the next 3 months? It will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.
 - [Inverted Sign] Do you consider your current stock of finished products to be...? 1. + too large (above normal); 2. = adequate (normal for the season); 3. - too small (below normal).
- Trade confidence indicator
 - How has (have) your business activity (sales) developed over the past 3 months? It has... (They have...) 1. + improved (increased); 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated (decreased).
 - How do you expect your business activity (sales) to change over the next 3 months? It (They) will... 1. + improve (increase); 2. = remain unchanged 3. - deteriorate (decrease).
 - [Inverted Sign] Do you consider the volume of stock you currently hold to be...? 1. + too large (above normal); 2. = adequate (normal for the season); 3. - too small (below normal).
- Construction and Public Works confidence indicator
 - Do you consider your current overall order books to be...?: 1. + more than sufficient (above normal); 2. = sufficient (normal for the season); 3. - not sufficient (below normal).
 - How do you expect your firm's total employment to change over the next 3 months? It will...; 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.
- Services confidence indicator
 - How has your business situation developed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + improved; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - deteriorated.
 - How has demand (turnover) for your company's services changed over the past 3 months? It has... 1. + increased; 2. = remained unchanged; 3. - decreased.
 - How do you expect the demand (turnover) for your company's services to change over the next 3 months? It will... 1. + increase; 2. = remain unchanged; 3. - decrease.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

The consumer confidence indicator results of the arithmetic average of the balances of the following questions:

- How has the financial situation of your household changed over the last 12 months? It has...1. ++ got a lot better; 2. + got a little better; 3.= stayed the same; 4.- got a little worse; 5. -- got a lot worse; 6. N don't know.
- How do you expect the financial position of your household to change over the next 12 months? It will...1. ++ get a lot better; 2. + get a little better; 3.= stay the same; 4.- get a little worse; 5. -- get a lot worse; 6. N don't know.
- How do you expect the general economic situation in this country to develop over the next 12 months? It will... 1. ++ get a lot better; 2. + get a little better; 3.= stay the same; 4.- get a little worse; 5. -- get a lot worse; 6. N don't know.
- Compared to the past 12 months, do you expect to spend more or less money on major purchases (furniture, electrical/electronic devices, etc.) over the next 12 months? I will spend...1. ++much more; 2. + a little more; 3.- a little less; 4. -- much less; 5. N don't know.

ABBREVIATIONS

Balances: Weighted difference between the percentages of positive and negative responses.

E.V.: Effective Values.

S.A.: Seasonally Adjusted values.

3MMA: Three-Months Moving Average.

2QMA: Two-Quarters Moving Average