



## BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEYS

ECONOMICS RESEARCH CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

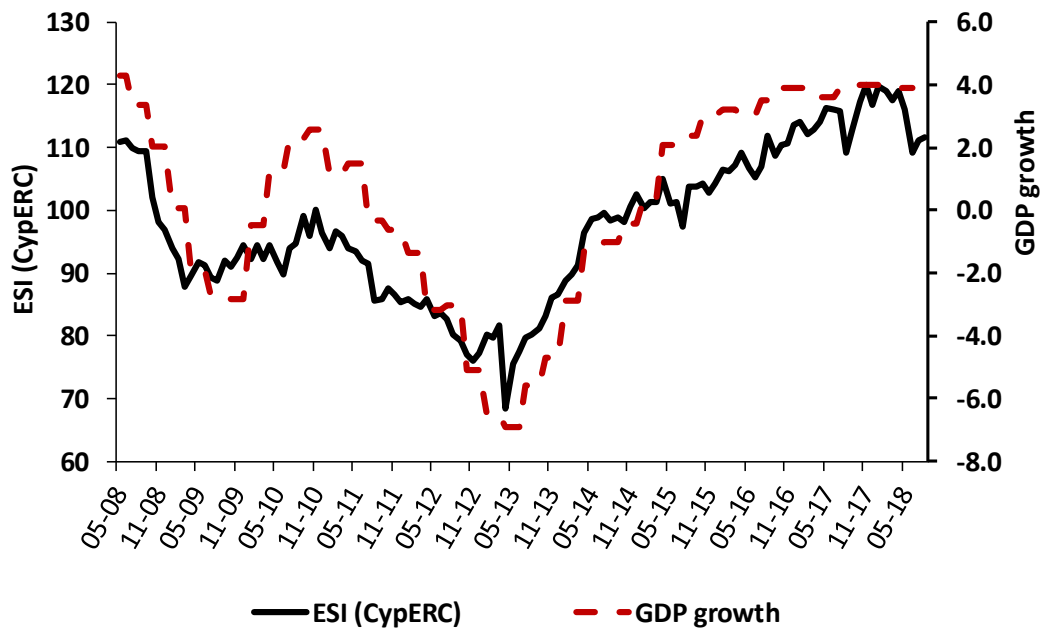


August 2018

### SUMMARY

- In August 2018, economic sentiment in Cyprus improved slightly as the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI-CypERC) increased by 0.5 points compared with July 2018. The increase was driven by stronger confidence in retail trade, industry and among consumers.
- The Services Confidence Indicator declined due to firms' less optimistic views on their past business situation and past demand.
- The Retail Trade Confidence Indicator rose as a result of improved assessments of past sales and stock volumes, and upward revisions in sales expectations.
- The Construction Confidence Indicator remained unchanged as the improvement in firms' views on the current level of order books was offset by the downward revision in employment expectations.
- The increase in the Industry Confidence Indicator was driven by improved assessments of the level of order books, and upward revisions in production expectations.
- The Consumer Confidence Indicator increased as a result of consumers' improved assessments of all components of the Indicator, i.e. households' future financial conditions, future economic conditions in Cyprus, future labour market conditions and savings likelihood.

Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI-CypERC) and GDP growth (%)



Note: The weights used in the calculation of the Economic Sentiment Indicator constructed by the Economics Research Centre (ESI CypERC) reflect the contribution of each sector to the GDP of Cyprus.

The Economics Research Centre of the University of Cyprus (CypERC) and RAI Consultants Ltd participate in the Joint Harmonised European Union Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys. CypERC acknowledges funding from the European Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the University of Cyprus for conducting the Business and Consumer Survey Project in Cyprus.

Co-funded by  
the European Union





# BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEYS

ECONOMICS RESEARCH CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS



Difference between the percentage of positive and negative responses (balance)<sup>1</sup> and ESI (CypERC)

Month	2017					2018							
	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR (ESI CypERC)<sup>2, *</sup></b>	109.1	112.9	117.3	119.9	116.8	119.8	119.1	117.5	119.0	116.1	109.1	111.1	111.6
<b>SERVICES</b>													
Services Confidence Indicator <sup>3</sup>	17	26	37	45	37	45	40	36	40	33	16	25	23
Business situation, past 3 months <sup>4</sup>	14	15	26	34	24	40	27	22	33	20	11	13	11
Turnover (demand), past 3 months <sup>4</sup>	15	15	30	41	42	44	48	41	46	42	22	33	26
Expected turnover (demand), next 3 months <sup>4</sup>	23	48	56	60	44	52	46	46	42	36	16	29	33
Employment, past 3 months	1	1	3	8	6	8	8	8	-8	6	-2	-6	0
Expected employment, next 3 months	4	11	12	7	10	14	4	9	7	9	5	6	11
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	0	2	-8	-3	-5	-10	-6	-2	1	0	-10	-1	-3
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>													
Retail Trade Confidence Indicator <sup>3</sup>	6	6	8	6	10	8	9	13	8	10	6	5	10
Business activity (sales), past 3 months <sup>4</sup>	11	2	6	10	13	7	5	7	14	12	1	3	6
Stock of goods <sup>4</sup>	9	3	7	11	3	9	9	5	9	6	1	4	-3
Expected business activity (sales), next 3 months <sup>4</sup>	15	20	24	19	20	26	30	36	20	23	17	14	20
Orders placed with suppliers, next 3 months	4	9	16	9	8	16	17	24	13	13	10	8	12
Expected employment, next 3 months	1	0	1	0	1	-1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	8	6	9	9	8	2	5	3	11	3	3	4	8
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>													
Construction Confidence Indicator <sup>3</sup>	-26	-26	-28	-23	-24	-23	-19	-16	-17	-13	-15	-11	-11
Building activity, past 3 months	8	6	-4	7	3	12	5	10	13	12	-3	3	10
Current overall order books <sup>4</sup>	-52	-56	-59	-47	-47	-52	-45	-37	-42	-37	-34	-37	-33
Expected employment, next 3 months <sup>4</sup>	1	3	2	1	-2	6	8	6	9	10	5	16	12
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	3	9	7	14	-1	0	11	9	3	13	15	11	14
<b>INDUSTRY</b>													
Industrial Confidence Indicator <sup>3</sup>	4	3	8	9	9	11	11	5	7	4	-3	1	3
Production, past 3 months	10	9	4	18	20	18	13	10	8	15	10	8	4
Current overall order books <sup>4</sup>	-12	-22	-17	-6	-9	-5	-5	-24	-19	-19	-28	-28	-17
Current export order books	-20	-18	-22	8	-23	-6	-15	-21	-12	-18	-36	-7	0
Stock of finished products <sup>4</sup>	-11	-12	-16	-5	-16	-12	-12	-8	-10	-6	-15	-14	-6
Expected production, next 3 months <sup>4</sup>	11	21	25	28	19	24	25	32	30	25	3	16	21
Expected employment, next 3 months <sup>5</sup>	1	3	5	6	0	6	0	7	11	3	2	3	3
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	-7	0	-2	1	-6	-5	0	-1	-1	1	5	-5	1
<b>CONSUMERS</b>													
Consumer Confidence Indicator <sup>3</sup>	-2	-1	-1	2	-1	1	5	2	4	3	-3	-11	-7
Financial situation of household, past 12 months	-7	-7	-6	-5	-5	-5	0	-6	-1	-3	-5	-9	-7
Expected financial situation of household, next 12 months <sup>4</sup>	1	3	6	6	4	5	10	3	8	2	4	0	2
General economic situation in Cyprus, past 12 months	19	18	18	18	18	18	28	24	26	20	17	0	6
Expected general economic situation in Cyprus, next 12 months <sup>4</sup>	22	21	18	20	15	17	23	19	21	17	14	-1	5
Consumer prices, past 12 months	-15	-15	-12	-12	-9	-17	-15	-28	-11	-12	-3	-2	-2
Expected consumer prices, next 12 months	-11	-9	-10	-6	-11	-11	-13	-18	-12	-7	3	-2	0
Expected unemployment in Cyprus, next 12 months <sup>4,5</sup>	-14	-10	-5	-17	-10	-18	-20	-20	-19	-21	-9	-3	-7
Major purchases at present	-17	-19	-16	-18	-15	-17	-21	-13	-11	-13	-15	-20	-11
Major purchases intentions, next 12 months	-29	-31	-28	-27	-21	-26	-17	-22	-19	-15	-15	-24	-14
Savings at present	-15	-17	-15	-18	-18	-20	-9	-14	-11	-9	-14	-27	-24
Savings intentions, next 12 months <sup>4</sup>	-44	-37	-33	-34	-34	-37	-32	-33	-30	-29	-38	-44	-41
Statement on the current financial condition of household	10	12	13	13	12	9	12	15	13	17	12	9	7

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Positive responses refer to increase/improvement/ above normal/very or fairly likely, while the opposite holds for negative responses. Data are seasonally adjusted.

<sup>2</sup> The weights used in the calculation of the Economic Sentiment Indicator reflect the contribution of each sector to the GDP of Cyprus.

<sup>3</sup> The calculation of the confidence (composite) indicator is described in [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/indicators/business\\_consumer\\_surveys/userguide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/indicators/business_consumer_surveys/userguide_en.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> The responses to this question are used in the calculation of the confidence (composite) indicator for each survey.

<sup>5</sup> Following a suggestion by the European Commission, the responses to this question are not adjusted for seasonality.



## **BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEYS**

**ECONOMICS RESEARCH CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS**



**The Economics Research Centre (CypERC) of the University of Cyprus is an independent, non-profit organization with the aim of promoting scientific knowledge in economics, especially in matters concerning Cyprus.**

**Economics Research Centre**

**University of Cyprus**

**P.O. box 20537, 1678 Nicosia, CYPRUS**

**Telephone: 22893660, Fax: 22895027**

**Email: [erc@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:erc@ucy.ac.cy)**

**Website: [www.erc.ucy.ac.cy](http://www.erc.ucy.ac.cy)**

This bulletin publishes results from Business and Consumer Surveys conducted in Cyprus as part of the Joint Harmonised European Union Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys. This bulletin reflects only the authors' views\* and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

\* Charalampos Karagiannakis (email: [Karagiannakis.Charalampos@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:Karagiannakis.Charalampos@ucy.ac.cy))

\* Nicoletta Pashourtidou (email: [n.pashourtidou@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:n.pashourtidou@ucy.ac.cy))

*The material in this document can be copied, distributed, transmitted and otherwise disseminated, but the source must be acknowledged.*