BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEYS

ECONOMICS RESEARCH CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

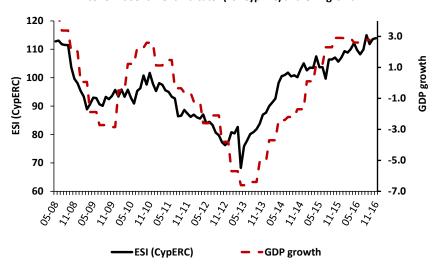


November 2016

SUMMARY

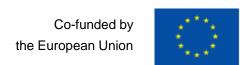
- In November 2016, the economic sentiment in Cyprus edged up as the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI-CypERC) increased by 0.3 points compared to October because of improvements in retail trade, industry and consumer confidence.
- The Retail Trade Confidence Indicator increased because of firms' more optimistic views regarding their sales over the next three months.
- The increase in the Industry Confidence Indicator was mainly driven by upward revisions in firms' future production plans and more favourable assessments of the stocks of finished products.
- The Consumer Confidence Indicator increased as a result of consumers' more optimistic responses
 regarding their future financial situation and the future economic conditions in Cyprus, in general; a
 less negative attitude towards savings also contributed to the pickup of the Indicator.
- The Construction Confidence Indicator declined because of firms' less favourable assessments of their future employment plans.
- The Services Confidence Indicator fell due to more pessimistic views regarding firms' future turnover.

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.

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Difference between the percentage of positive and negative responses (balance)¹ and ESI (CypERC)

	20	15	2016										
Month	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR (ESI CypERC) ²	105.6	107.1	109.3	108.8	110.1	112.2	109.8	108.2	109.9	115.0	111.8	113.6	113.9
SERVICES					·····					•••••			
Services Confidence Indicator ³	4	8	15	17	20	19	16	10	14	27	20	21	20
Business situation, past 3 months ⁴	1	5	13	17	21	20	14	5	16	23	16	14	19
Turnover (demand), past 3 months ⁴	3	3	13	16	20	16	15	8	16	20	20	16	21
Expected turnover (demand), next 3 months ⁴	7	17	21	18	18	22	20	16	11	38	22	33	21
Employment, past 3 months	-3	1	5	4	10	3	4	3	5	3	1	2	-2
Expected employment, next 3 months	1	1	9	3	3	1	5	-1	2	-1	-1	1	-5
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	2	-7	-5	1	-2	7	-4	-5	2	1	-3	2	4
RETAIL TRADE													
Retail Trade Confidence Indicator ³	-4	-2	-5	-3	-5	0	0	-6	-1	3	0	4	6
Business activity (sales), past 3 months ⁴	-19	-20	-15	-17	-24	-19	-8	-19	-16	-3	-8	-6	-6
Stock of goods ⁴	-1	-1	-4	-10	-5	-4	0	4	-4	6	2	-5	-4
Expected business activity (sales), next 3 months ⁴	6	14	-5	-1	3	15	6	5	8	19	10	12	22
Orders placed with suppliers, next 3 months	-11	-4	-13	-20	-16	-1	-8	-7	-10	1	-6	-4	8
Expected employment, next 3 months	-1	-1	0	-2	-4	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	1	-2	-1
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	2	-6	-11	-3	-9	7	2	4	0	3	3	2	6
CONSTRUCTION													
Construction Confidence Indicator ³	-28	-30	-28	-28	-28	-25	-34	-28	-24	-32	-24	-26	-28
Building activity, past 3 months	-8	3	-13	1	7	1	0	6	2	3	12	-6	11
Current overall order books ⁴	-60	-64	-55	-52	-55	-54	-62	-56	-51	-62	-51	-59	-56
Expected employment, next 3 months ⁴	5	4	-1	-5	-1	5	-6	0	2	-2	2	6	1
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	-17	-9	-1	-16	-8	-4	-2	-10	-5	0	0	-4	2
INDUSTRY													
Industrial Confidence Indicator ³	-4	-4	-6	-3	-3	4	4	1	0	8	-2	-2	3
Production, past 3 months	1	-8	-8	-7	9	8	7	14	12	6	13	3	7
Current overall order books ⁴	-39	-33	-39	-48	-43	-34	-29	-29	-33	-25	-32	-40	-39
Current export order books	-27	-31	-30	-47	-28	11	-3	-38	-31	5	-14	-30	-36
Stock of finished products ⁴	-19	-15	-13	-22	-19	-26	-25	-23	-19	-26	-11	-18	-29
Expected production, next 3 months ⁴	7	7	7	16	16	20	17	11	14	24	15	15	18
Expected employment, next 3 months ⁵	0	3	1	4	-2	0	1	1	1	-1	1	-1	-1
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	-2	-4	-6	-3	-3	5	4	-3	-2	5	0	2	-1
CONSUMERS													
Consumer Confidence Indicator ³	-8	-10	-10	-16	-14	-7	-11	-7	-8	-7	-6	-3	-1
Financial situation of household, past 12 months	-22	-23	-18	-20	-19	-20	-17	-16	-14	-13	-14	-11	-13
Expected financial situation of household, next 12 months ⁴	1	-3	-3	-9	-5	-1	-6	-1	-3	1	-2	2	7
General economic situation in Cyprus, past 12 months	-11	-15	-8	-14	-11	-1	-3	-1	-2	5	6	8	8
Expected general economic situation in Cyprus, next 12 months ⁴	12	12	10	-3	-3	10	5	12	9	14	15	18	19
Consumer prices, past 12 months	-23	-14	-26	-28	-36	-25	-23	-19	-10	-7	-13	-17	-18
Expected consumer prices, next 12 months	-20	-20	-28	-28	-31	-14	-13	-7	-9	-17	-15	-14	-14
Expected unemployment in Cyprus, next 12 months ^{4,5}	-3	3	-1	3	-3	-7	-7	-10	-3	-6	-5	-11	-9
Major purchases at present	-31	-36	-31	-30	-36	-27	-36	-32	-33	-28	-30	-24	-23
Major purchases intentions, next 12 months	-37	-40	-35	-44	-37	-30	-37	-36	-34	-38	-30	-24	-22
Savings at present	-24	-25	-21	-25	-30	-17	-23	-17	-19	-19	-23	-18	-13
Savings intentions, next 12 months ⁴	-50	-47	-48	-51	-52	-45	-51	-48	-41	-49	-43	-43	-41
Statement on the current financial condition of household	2	2	3	6	1	4	3	5	8	6	5	9	9

Notes:

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

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

³The calculation of the confidence (composite) indicator is described in http://ec.europa.eu/economy finance/indicators/business consumer surveys/userguide en.pdf.

 $^{^4}$ The responses to this question are used in the calculation of the confidence (composite) indicator for each survey.

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

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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.

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