



BUSINESS AND CONSUMER SURVEYS

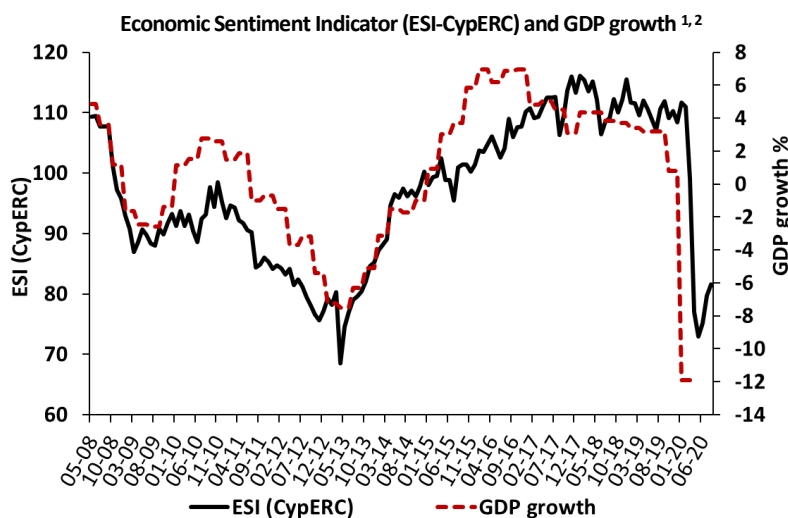
ECONOMICS RESEARCH CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS



August 2020

SUMMARY

- In August 2020, economic sentiment in Cyprus improved as the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI-CypERC) increased by 1.9 points compared with July 2020. The increase in the ESI-CypERC was driven by confidence improvements among firms in all sectors surveyed. Nevertheless, consumer confidence weakened considerably.
- The increase in the Services Confidence Indicator resulted from firms' less adverse assessments of their past performance and upward revisions in demand expectations.
- The increase in the Retail Trade Confidence Indicator was due to improved views on the current stock levels and upward revisions in sales expectations.
- The Construction Confidence Indicator rose as firms' assessments of the levels of order books improved, despite the deterioration in employment expectations.
- The Industry Confidence Indicator increased due to improved assessments of the current levels of stocks of finished products and upward revisions in production expectations.
- The Consumer Confidence Indicator declined as all of its components deteriorated. In August, consumers assessed their recent financial conditions more negatively, and revised their expectations about their future financial conditions and the future economic conditions in Cyprus downwards. Moreover, in August consumers' intentions to make major purchases weakened.
- In August, uncertainty in construction and industry declined, whereas uncertainty in services and retail trade increased. Uncertainty among consumers remained unchanged. Despite the monthly fluctuations, uncertainty in all sectors and among consumers remains elevated compared to a similar period in 2019.



Notes:

¹ 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.

² GDP growth: GDP (in real terms, adjusted for seasonality and working days) is compared to the same quarter of the previous year (Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus).

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Indicators and balances ¹

Month	2019					2020							
	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR (ESI CypERC)²	110.7	111.9	109.1	110.2	108.4	111.7	111.0	98.9	77.0	72.9	75.2	79.7	81.6
SERVICES													
Services Confidence Indicator ³	30	33	26	29	24	32	29	6	-48	-64	-63	-50	-43
Business situation, past 3 months ⁴	29	34	30	33	31	38	44	29	-27	-53	-60	-63	-59
Turnover (demand), past 3 months ⁴	31	33	26	30	28	33	24	25	-31	-58	-70	-62	-55
Expected turnover (demand), next 3 months ⁴	31	31	22	24	13	26	20	-37	-88	-81	-59	-26	-15
Employment, past 3 months	-4	7	2	-10	-9	3	-6	-4	-5	-10	-17	2	9
Expected employment, next 3 months	8	15	5	-2	-7	1	11	-4	-7	-4	-2	7	-4
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	2	7	10	1	3	1	5	-7	-28	-26	-18	-15	-10
Uncertainty: difficulty predicting business situation ^{5,6}	-10									45	63	40	59
RETAIL TRADE													
Retail Trade Confidence Indicator ³	-2	-3	-4	-6	-5	-4	-2	-5	-25	-35	-29	-31	-25
Business activity (sales), past 3 months ⁴	-21	-20	-18	-17	-14	-22	-12	-7	-26	-48	-52	-53	-54
Stock of goods ⁴	-7	2	-1	-2	2	3	0	1	-10	-1	-18	-12	-21
Expected business activity (sales), next 3 months ⁴	7	12	6	-2	2	14	6	-8	-61	-58	-54	-51	-43
Orders placed with suppliers, next 3 months	0	4	-4	-6	2	6	0	-5	-50	-51	-52	-48	-41
Expected employment, next 3 months	1	2	-1	1	-2	1	2	2	-2	0	-1	0	-2
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	5	5	1	8	11	15	8	8	-6	-2	0	2	3
Uncertainty: difficulty predicting business situation ^{5,6}	46									57	53	57	60
CONSTRUCTION													
Construction Confidence Indicator ³	-3	-2	-2	0	2	-5	1	-9	-9	-13	-13	-18	-14
Building activity, past 3 months	24	23	24	29	19	25	21	13	-5	-48	-39	-33	-8
Current overall order books ⁴	-20	-16	-13	-12	-7	-20	-14	-18	-22	-27	-31	-37	-27
Expected employment, next 3 months ⁴	15	11	9	12	11	11	15	-1	3	1	5	1	-2
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	17	23	11	19	16	12	16	10	-9	-8	-6	8	6
Uncertainty: difficulty predicting business situation ^{5,6}	11									60	53	46	44
INDUSTRY													
Industrial Confidence Indicator ³	3	7	9	10	8	10	10	3	-43	-36	-28	-28	-24
Production, past 3 months	1	8	18	23	20	20	22	24	-21	-66	-63	-66	-56
Current overall order books ⁴	-21	-24	-18	-8	-16	-14	-6	-11	-65	-73	-67	-60	-61
Current export order books	-41	-18	-14	-13	-1	-19	-2	-6	-83	-45	-21	-60	-66
Stock of finished products ⁴	-13	-21	-12	-7	-8	-22	-20	-15	-10	-32	-20	-9	-14
Expected production, next 3 months ⁴	18	23	31	30	32	21	16	5	-75	-67	-38	-31	-26
Expected employment, next 3 months ⁵	0	0	9	7	6	4	6	4	-5	-2	-1	0	-1
Expected selling prices, next 3 months	1	3	3	4	3	6	10	1	-1	-1	-3	6	-1
Uncertainty: difficulty predicting business situation ^{5,6}	15									61	53	51	49
CONSUMERS													
Consumer Confidence Indicator ³	-7	-4	-9	-7	-7	-6	-4	-23	-33	-29	-24	-21	-31
Financial situation of household, past 12 months ⁴	-5	-4	-5	-2	-2	-3	-4	-2	-1	-8	-14	-13	-17
Expected financial situation of household, next 12 months ⁴	3	4	-1	-1	3	3	4	-16	-27	-17	-8	-5	-15
General economic situation in Cyprus, past 12 months	4	8	2	9	9	7	7	20	15	-2	-25	-32	-44
Expected general economic situation in Cyprus, next 12 months ⁴	-2	4	-3	-1	1	2	2	-37	-54	-45	-30	-25	-48
Consumer prices, past 12 months	-1	2	3	-2	1	5	12	-1	-3	-7	-13	-13	-16
Expected consumer prices, next 12 months	-3	0	0	-5	3	4	4	-3	-8	-16	-17	-16	-13
Expected unemployment in Cyprus, next 12 months ⁵	-4	-4	-1	-6	-6	-5	-5	42	63	59	51	51	66
Major purchases at present	-13	-13	-18	-11	-7	-8	-7	-45	-55	-41	-35	-30	-39
Major purchases intentions, next 12 months ⁴	-25	-22	-27	-24	-28	-24	-20	-35	-48	-46	-42	-40	-44
Savings at present	-31	-22	-33	-30	-22	-29	-28	-30	-35	-29	-28	-20	-19
Savings intentions, next 12 months	-38	-41	-46	-47	-38	-43	-40	-47	-44	-35	-35	-39	-28
Statement on the current financial condition of household	18	13	13	13	19	15	15	13	12	15	17	15	16
Uncertainty: difficulty predicting household's financial situation ^{5,6}	-5									-1	4	7	7

Notes: ¹ The balance is the difference between the percentage of positive responses and the percentage of negative responses. Positive responses refer to "increase", "improvement", "above normal", "very likely", "fairly likely", etc., while negative responses refer to "decrease", "deterioration", "below normal", "not at all likely", "not likely", etc. Data are seasonally adjusted. ² The weights used in the calculation of the Economic Sentiment Indicator reflect the contribution of each sector to the GDP of Cyprus.

³ The calculation of the confidence (composite) indicator is described in http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/indicators/business_consumer_surveys/userguide_en.pdf and https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/revised-consumer-confidence-indicator_en. ⁴ The responses to this question are used in the calculation of the confidence (composite) indicator for each survey. ⁵ The responses to this question are not adjusted for seasonality. ⁶ The balance is the difference between the percentage of respondents who state that the future business situation (or household financial situation) is difficult to predict, and the percentage of respondents who state the opposite. The data for 2019 refer to the average of the balances over the period May – August.



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