

Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)
Second quarter of 2015

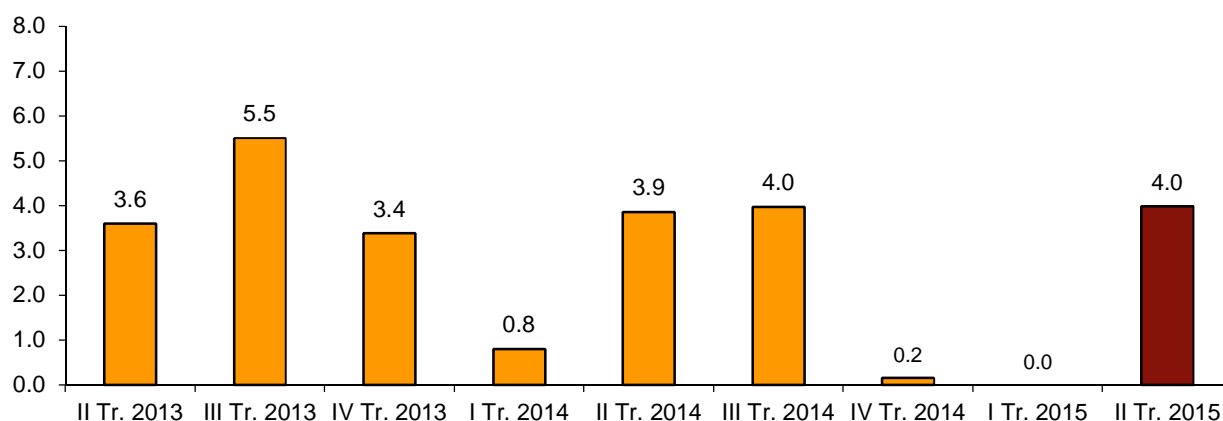
The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases by 4.0% in the second quarter of 2015 as compared with the first quarter

20.7% of the business establishments are optimistic about the performance of their business, and for the first time of the beginning of the survey they exceed the pessimist

Evolution of the Harmonised Business Confidence Index. HBCI

The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) in the second quarter of 2015 increased by 4.0% as compared with the first quarter 2015.

Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI)
Quarter-on-quarter rate



Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

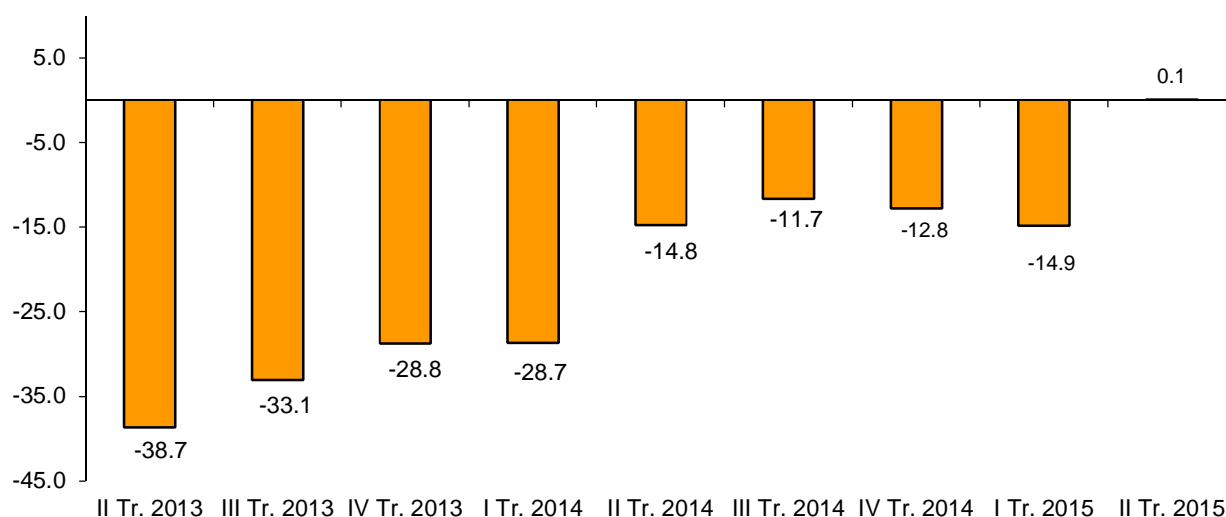
20.7% of the establishments' managers considered that the performance of their business during the second quarter of 2015 would be favourable, whereas 20.6% considered that it would be unfavourable. For the first time of the beginning of the survey the optimists beat the pessimist. The remaining 58.7% considered that it would be normal.

The difference between the percentages of favourable and unfavourable responses, known as *Expectations Balance*, stood at 0.1 points for Spain as a whole, as compared with -14.9 of the previous quarter.

Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Period	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2013 II Quarter	8.3	44.7	47.0	-38.7
III Quarter	10.9	45.1	44.0	-33.1
IV Quarter	11.6	48.0	40.4	-28.8
2014 I Quarter	11.0	49.3	39.7	-28.7
II Quarter	16.0	53.2	30.8	-14.8
III Quarter	17.3	53.7	29.0	-11.7
IV Quarter	15.8	55.6	28.6	-12.8
2015 I Quarter	14.3	56.5	29.2	-14.9
II Quarter	20.7	58.7	20.6	0.1

Evolution of the Expectations Balance



Opinions regarding the last quarter (Situation)

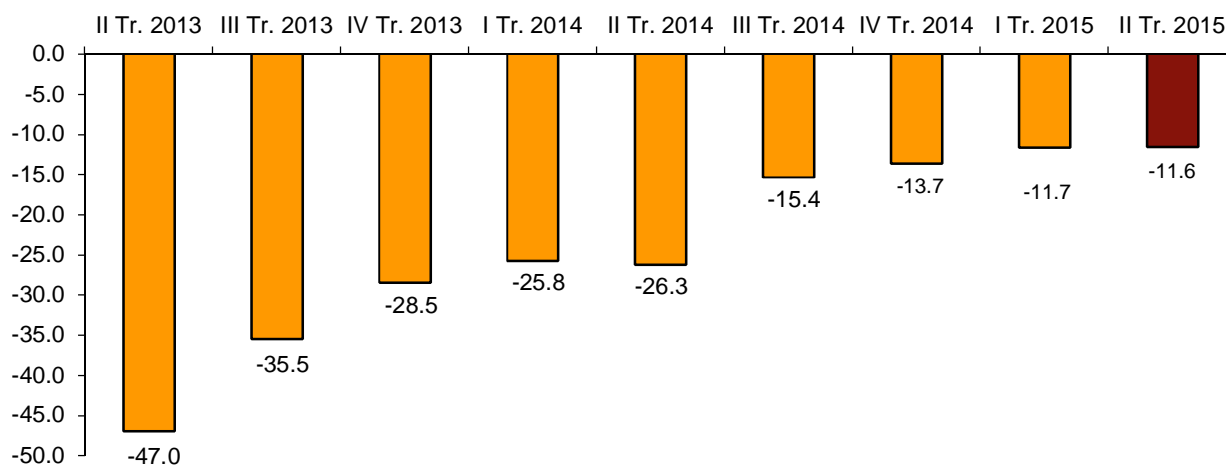
16.2% of the establishments' managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their business in the first quarter 2015. In turn, 27.8% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between these percentages of favourable and unfavourable responses referring to the last quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at -11.6 points, thereby slightly improving the *Expectations* previously expressed for said quarter, which stood at -14.9 points.

Opinions regarding the last quarter (Situation)

Period	Favourable (%)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%)	Balance
	(optimistic)		(pessimistic)	
2013 II Quarter	6.1	40.8	53.1	-47.0
III Quarter	9.4	45.7	44.9	-35.5
IV Quarter	12.1	47.3	40.6	-28.5
2014 I Quarter	13.0	48.2	38.8	-25.8
II Quarter	12.3	49.1	38.6	-26.3
III Quarter	15.3	54.0	30.7	-15.4
IV Quarter	16.0	54.3	29.7	-13.7
2015 I Quarter	17.5	53.3	29.2	-11.7
II Quarter	16.2	56.0	27.8	-11.6

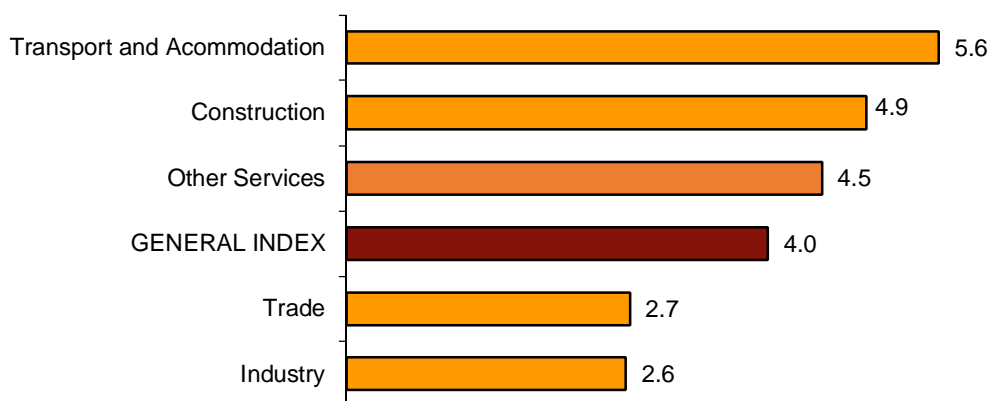
Evolution of the Situation Balance



Harmonised Business Confidence Index by activity sector

All the activity sectors analysed presented an improvement on the confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. In turn, *Transport and accommodation* registered the greatest increase (5.6%).

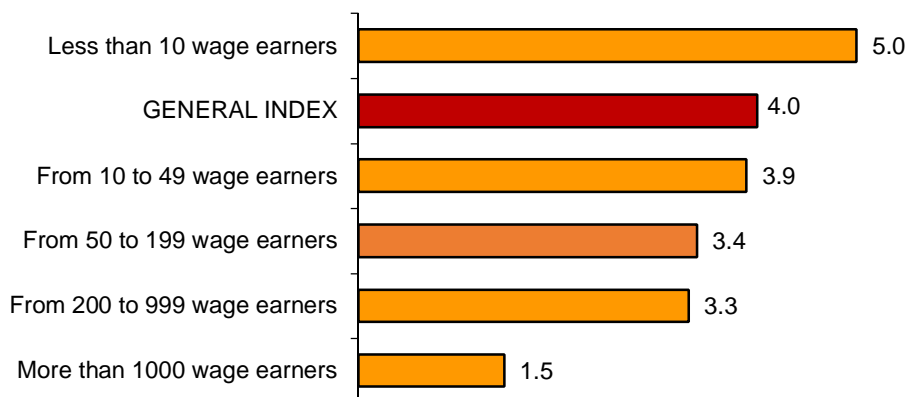
Quarter-on-quarter rate of the HBCI General Index and by activity sectors



Harmonised Business Confidence Index by size of the establishments

Regarding the five sizes of establishments analysed, presented the greatest rise in confidence, as compared with the first quarter of 2015. The size bracket *Less than 10 wage earners* registered the greatest increase (5.0%).

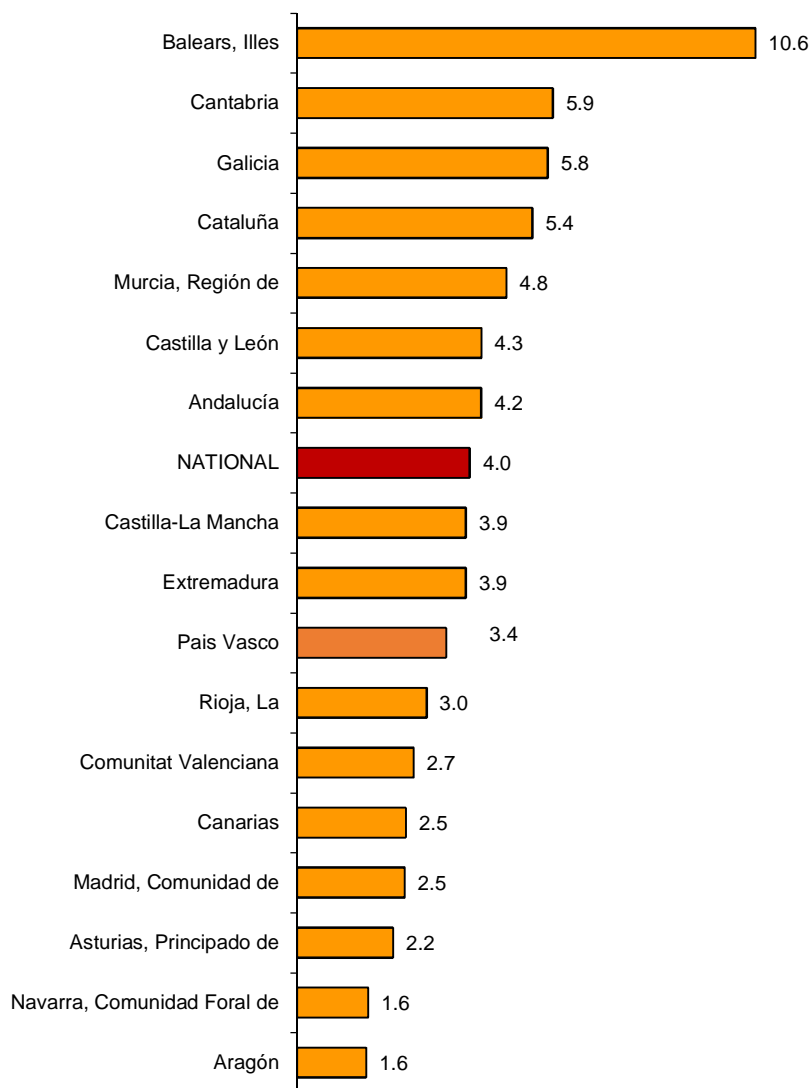
Quarter-on-quarter rate of the HBCI General Index and by size of the establishments



Harmonised Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Community

In the second quarter of 2015, the Business Confidence Index improved in all Autonomous Communities, as compared to the previous quarter. Illes Balears (10.6%), Cantabria (5.9%) and Galicia (5.8%) registered the greatest increases.

**Quarte-on-quarter rate of the HBCI
National Index and by Autonomous Community**



Methodological note

The survey on which the BCIs are based is the first opinion poll conducted by the INE, and it is prepared based on a representative sample of establishments, whose opinions began to be collected for the first quarter of 2012.

The methodology of the survey enables the integration of the analogous data compiled by the statistics services of the Autonomous Communities once their consistency is checked, so they can be incorporated in the general process of the survey according to the appropriate agreements for this purpose.

The data from Andalucía, Illes Balears, Canarias, Castilla y León and Cataluña were integrated during the first quarter of 2013. The data from La Rioja did so by the third quarter 2013.

The population scope of the survey is comprised of all those establishments whose main activity is included in the following sections of CNAE-2009: B to N (inclusive, except division 70), R (only divisions 92 and 93) and S (only divisions 95 and 96).

The BCIs gather the opinions of the establishment managers regarding the performance of their business for each last quarter, and regarding their expectations for each coming quarter. The methodology is based on the Japanese **TANKAN** index. In other words, there are no weightings or elevations according to the characteristics of the establishments, as the opinion of each respondent carries the same weight.

The BCIs are compiled and published quarterly. Three indicators are based on this question from the questionnaire:

1. How would you assess the performance of the business in your establishment?

	Favourable	Normal	Unfavourable
1. In the quarter that is ending?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. In the quarter that is commencing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The **Harmonised Expectation Indicator** (known as the **Expectations**) includes the difference or balance between the percentages of favourable and unfavourable responses with regard to the coming quarter. It can fluctuate between -100 (all of the respondents are pessimistic - that is, they have marked the *Unfavourable* box - regarding the coming quarter) and +100 (all of the respondents are optimistic - that is, they have marked the *Favourable* box-).

An intuitive interpretation thereof is simple and direct. If the *Expectations* are positive, the optimists exceed the pessimists with regard to the coming quarter.

In turn, the **Harmonised Situation Indicator** (known as the **Situation**) is the difference or balance between the percentages of favourable and unfavourable responses with regard to the quarter that is ending.

The **Harmonised Business Confidence Index** (HBCI) is built using the *Situation* and the *Expectations*. The base for this index is the first quarter of 2013, and the value of that first quarter is therefore equal to 100. Information about the three indicators is disseminated for the national total and for each Autonomous Community, by activity sectors¹ and size of the establishments.

¹ For Industry and Construction, there is more information available about the climate indicators on the Business Tendency Survey, carried out by the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism.

Business Confidence Indicators Second quarter of 2015

15-Apr-15

1. Harmonised Business Confidence Index by sector

Period	TOTAL	Industry	Building construction	Trade	Transport and accommodation and cat	Others Market
2013 Quarter 2	103.6	102.7	102.0	103.3	106.7	103.5
Quarter 3	109.3	109.4	105.9	111.1	115.6	107.0
Quarter 4	113.0	110.9	109.1	117.1	119.2	110.9
2014 First quarter	113.9	112.5	112.2	118.9	116.5	111.6
Quarter 2	118.3	116.8	116.0	121.8	124.9	115.6
Quarter 3	123.0	120.6	122.3	127.9	130.9	119.0
Quarter 4	123.2	119.3	122.5	127.0	130.9	120.6
2015 First quarter	123.2	121.4	124.3	127.1	127.0	120.3
Quarter 2	128.1	124.6	130.4	130.5	134.1	125.7

2. Harmonised Business Confidence Index by size

Period	TOTAL	Less than 10 wage-earners	10 to 49 wage-earners	50 to 199 wage-earners	200 a 999 wage-earners	More than 1000 wage-earners
2013 Quarter 2	103.6	104.6	103.7	103.0	101.7	101.3
Quarter 3	109.3	110.5	110.0	109.2	107.1	101.8
Quarter 4	113.0	114.1	114.5	112.3	110.1	107.4
2014 First quarter	113.9	112.4	115.8	115.0	114.2	109.9
Quarter 2	118.3	118.5	120.3	119.6	114.7	115.0
Quarter 3	123.0	123.9	125.6	125.1	116.8	115.7
Quarter 4	123.2	124.2	125.9	123.9	117.6	115.2
2015 First quarter	123.2	122.8	126.6	124.4	118.5	117.0
Quarter 2	128.1	128.9	131.5	128.6	122.4	118.7

3 Harmonised Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Community

Period	NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2013 Quarter 2	103.6	105.2	103.0	105.2	111.8	103.1
Quarter 3	109.3	112.8	110.2	110.5	123.1	103.9
Quarter 4	113.0	115.7	113.0	116.3	119.0	113.5
2014 First quarter	113.9	116.7	114.5	118.2	114.5	115.8
Quarter 2	118.3	119.2	120.2	118.9	126.3	117.8
Quarter 3	123.0	124.5	124.2	122.0	133.1	117.1
Quarter 4	123.2	125.4	124.8	124.4	129.3	122.2
2015 First quarter	123.2	124.8	125.6	126.4	122.2	123.7
Quarter 2	128.1	130.1	127.6	129.2	135.1	126.8

Period	Cantabria	Castilla and León	Castilla- La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2013 Quarter 2	106.7	103.2	106.5	105.6	100.7	96.2
Quarter 3	108.6	110.8	113.8	112.6	105.6	105.6
Quarter 4	112.7	115.5	114.1	115.5	107.3	107.3
2014 First quarter	117.5	113.0	114.5	118.6	107.3	111.7
Quarter 2	119.9	119.9	117.6	125.5	110.6	114.4
Quarter 3	125.7	127.5	126.0	129.1	116.4	117.2
Quarter 4	128.7	126.0	127.0	126.2	115.3	122.1
2015 First quarter	125.6	124.6	128.5	129.2	119.1	118.3
Quarter 2	133.0	129.9	133.5	136.2	122.3	122.9

Period	Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2013 Quarter 2	98.9	103.2	102.1	105.6	104.4	102.4
Quarter 3	106.4	106.6	107.3	110.2	105.4	110.8
Quarter 4	114.6	110.1	110.4	112.9	111.3	115.3
2014 First quarter	110.3	114.0	109.8	113.5	111.5	112.9
Quarter 2	114.3	114.6	116.8	125.2	113.0	118.2
Quarter 3	119.7	118.4	117.4	126.7	124.2	123.5
Quarter 4	120.1	119.2	118.6	124.9	123.6	121.9
2015 First quarter	114.3	120.8	116.0	127.7	122.1	123.9
Quarter 2	120.9	123.8	121.6	129.8	126.3	127.6

4. Opinions regarding to the quarter start (expectations) by sector

Economic of activity	favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	20.7	58.7	20.6	0.1
Industry	22.5	59.5	18.0	4.5
Building construction	16.1	54.7	29.2	-13.1
Trade	19.9	57.8	22.3	-2.4
Transport and accommodation	23.9	54.6	21.5	2.4
Other services	20.3	61.8	17.9	2.4

5. Opinions regarding to the quarter start (expectations) by size

Size of the establishment	favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	20.7	58.7	20.6	0.1
Less than 10 wage-earners	17.2	56.1	26.7	-9.5
10 to 49 wage-earners	22.9	57.8	19.3	3.6
50 to 199 wage earners	24.8	61.2	14.0	10.8
200 a 999 wage-earners	22.6	63.8	13.6	9.0
More than 1000 wage-earners	24.9	64.6	10.5	14.4

6. Opinions regarding to the quarter start (expectations) by Autonomous Community

	favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	20.7	58.7	20.6	0.1
Andalucía	23.9	54.3	21.8	2.1
Aragón	14.5	62.3	23.2	-8.7
Asturias, Principado de	16.9	59.7	23.4	-6.5
Balears, Illes	26.7	59.2	14.1	12.6
Canarias	20.2	60.3	19.5	0.7
Cantabria	14.9	65.8	19.3	-4.4
Castilla y León	21.1	53.0	25.9	-4.8
Castilla-La Mancha	19.5	53.2	27.3	-7.8
Cataluña	27.5	58.8	13.7	13.8
Comunitat Valenciana	20.0	62.4	17.6	2.4
Extremadura	16.9	53.9	29.2	-12.3
Galicia	16.8	58.5	24.7	-7.9
Madrid, Comunidad de	19.0	62.9	18.1	0.9
Murcia, Región de	21.8	56.4	21.8	0.0
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	22.2	58.3	19.5	2.7
País Vasco	21.3	57.7	21.0	0.3
Rioja, La	19.9	59.1	21.0	-1.1

7. Opinions regarding the finished quarter (Situation) by sectors

Economic of activity	favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	16.2	56.0	27.8	-11.6
Industry	21.5	54.6	23.9	-2.4
Building construction	12.7	51.6	35.7	-23.0
Trade	13.5	53.0	33.5	-20.0
Transport and accommodation	16.4	53.3	30.3	-13.9
Other services	16.2	60.9	22.9	-6.7

8. Opinions regarding the finished quarter (Situation) by size

Size establishment	favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	16.2	56.0	27.8	-11.6
Less than 10 rate	11.0	52.6	36.4	-25.4
10 to 49 wage earners	18.9	54.6	26.5	-7.6
50 to 199 wage earners	22.4	58.9	18.7	3.7
200 a 999 wage earners	20.0	63.9	16.1	3.9
More than 1000 wage earners	22.3	61.8	15.9	6.4

9. Opinions regarding the finished quarter (Situation) by Autonomous Community

	favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	16.2	56.0	27.8	-11.6
Andalucía	15.0	56.9	28.1	-13.1
Aragón	13.1	58.9	28.0	-14.9
Asturias, Principado de	14.3	54.9	30.8	-16.5
Balears, Illes	14.4	57.6	28.0	-13.6
Canarias	22.2	54.7	23.1	-0.9
Cantabria	11.9	54.9	33.2	-21.3
Castilla y León	15.6	48.4	36.0	-20.4
Castilla-La Mancha	12.6	53.2	34.2	-21.6
Cataluña	24.6	54.2	21.2	3.4
Comunitat Valenciana	17.9	58.0	24.1	-6.2
Extremadura	13.6	50.1	36.3	-22.7
Galicia	12.8	55.4	31.8	-19.0
Madrid, Comunidad de	16.4	60.8	22.8	-6.4
Murcia, Región de	15.5	56.3	28.2	-12.7
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	16.1	56.5	27.4	-11.3
País Vasco	14.4	59.4	26.2	-11.8
Rioja, La	14.6	57.1	28.3	-13.7

10. Other variables economic. Opinions regarding the finished quarter

Economic variables	will increase	will remain the same stable	will decrease	Balance (increased)
Employment (hired staff)	10.6	78.2	11.2	-0.6
Comparative price levels	4.6	84.9	10.5	-5.9

11. Other economic variables Opinions regarding the finished quarter

Economic variables	Increased	Remained the same stable	Decreased	Balance (increased)
Employment (costs)	10.7	73.9	15.4	-4.7
Comparative price levels	5.8	76.9	17.3	-11.5