01 January 2021

Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)
First quarter of 2021

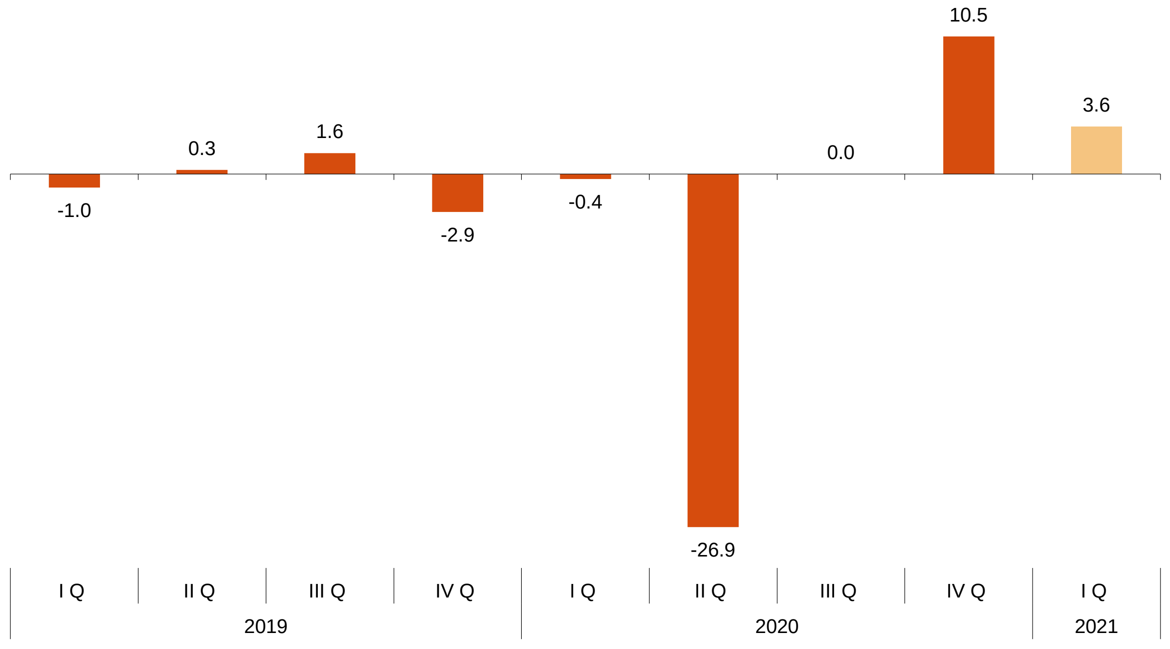
The Harmonized Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases 3.6% in the first quarter of 2021 as compared with the previous quarter

8.6% of business establishments foresee a favourable quarter and 45.1% are pessimistic about the performance of their businesses

Evolution of the Harmonized Business Confidence Index

The Harmonized Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases by 3.6% in the first quarter of 2021 as compared with the fourth quarter of 2020.

Harmonized Business Confidence Index
First Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

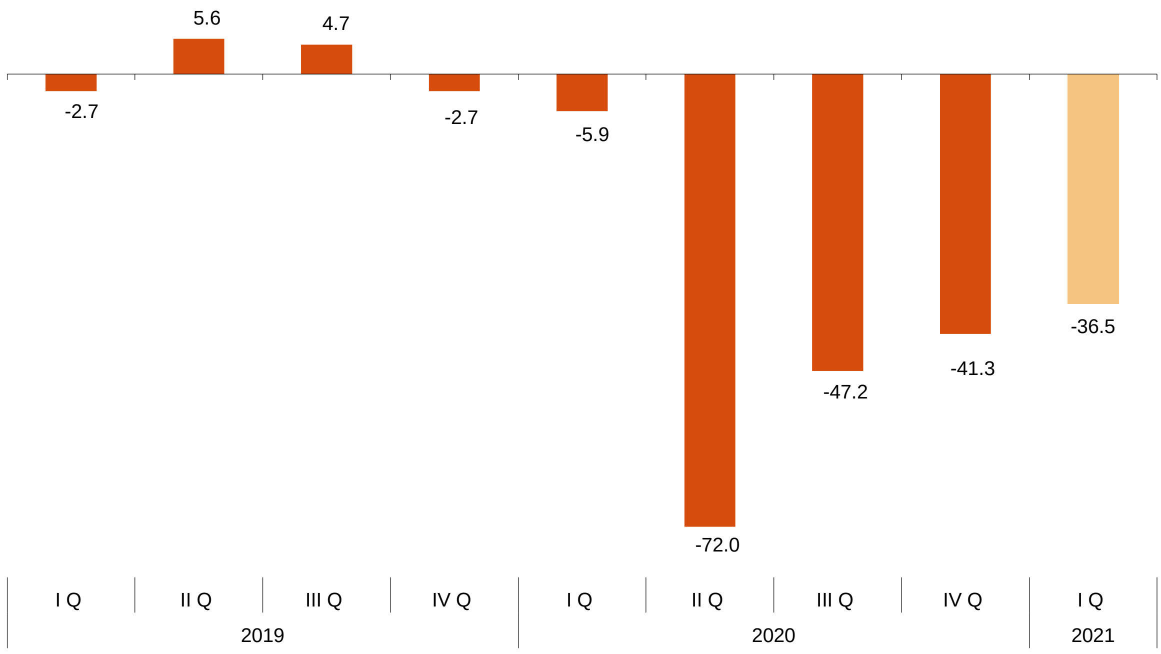
8.6% of business establishments managers considered that the performance of their businesses during the first quarter of 2021 will be favourable, while 45.1% thought it will be unfavourable. The remaining 46.3% thought that it will be normal.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses, known as Expectations Balance, stood at −36.5 points for Spain as a whole, as compared with the −41.3 in the previous quarter.

Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 I	16.6	64.1	19.3	-2.7
II	20.8	64.0	15.2	5.6
III	21.4	61.9	16.7	4.7
IV	16.7	63.9	19.4	-2.7
2020 I	15.2	63.7	21.1	-5.9
II	3.1	21.8	75.1	-72.0
III	7.7	37.4	54.9	-47.2
IV	8.1	42.5	49.4	-41.3
2021 I	8.6	46.3	45.1	-36.5

Evolution of the Expectations Balance
First Quarter 2021



Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

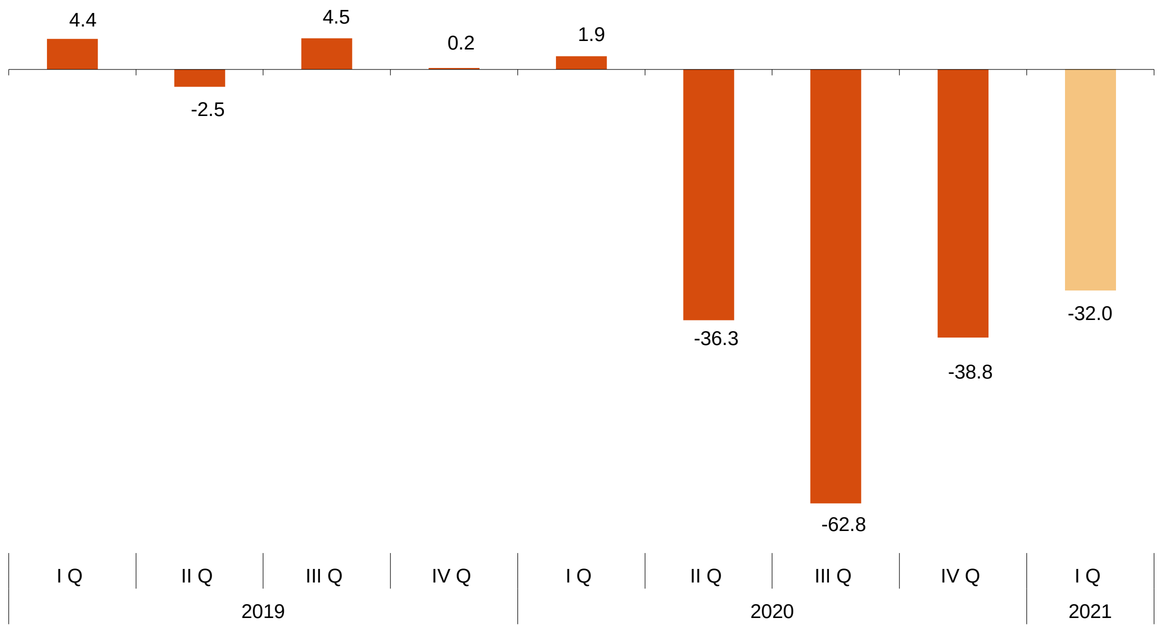
12.4% of business establishments managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their businesses in the fourth quarter of 2020. In turn, 44.4% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses referring to the ending quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at −32.0 points. This figure improves the Expectations previously expressed for that quarter, which stood at −41.3 points.

Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 I	21.6	61.2	17.2	4.4
II	17.3	62.9	19.8	-2.5
III	20.9	62.7	16.4	4.5
IV	19.0	62.2	18.8	0.2
2020 I	20.8	60.3	18.9	1.9
II	10.2	43.3	46.5	-36.3
III	6.0	25.2	68.8	-62.8
IV	10.0	41.2	48.8	-38.8
2021 I	12.4	43.2	44.4	-32.0

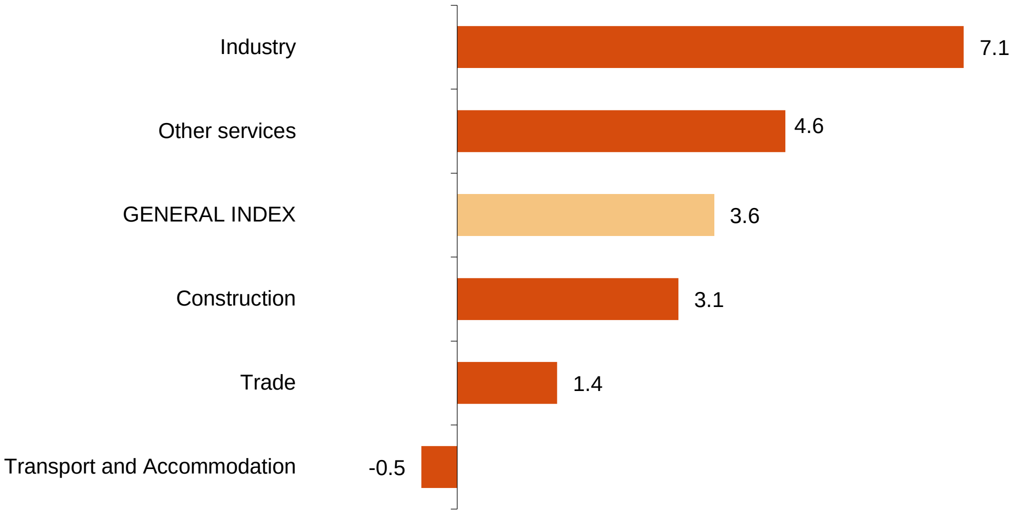
Evolution of the Situation Balance
First Quarter 2021



Harmonized Business Confidence Index by activity sector

Four of the five sectors analyzed increased confidence with respect to the previous quarter. *Industry* (7.1%) registered the greatest increases. On the other hand, Transport and Accommodation (−0.5%) registered the only decrease.

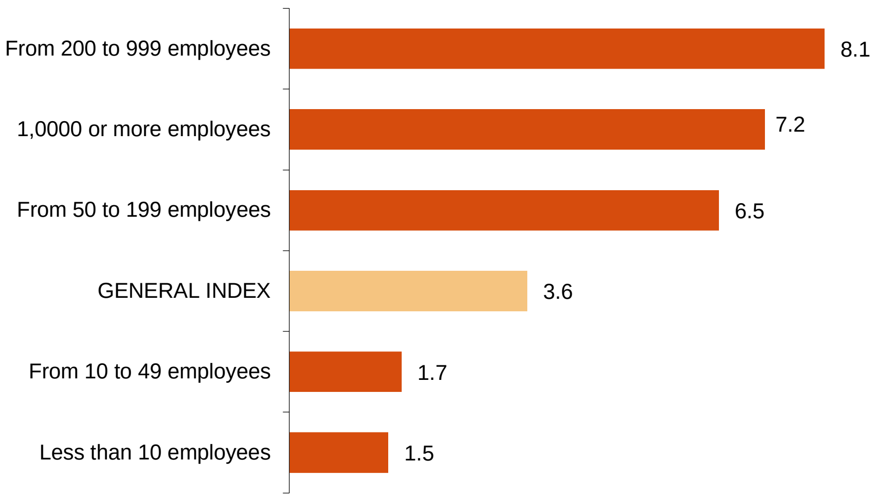
General Index and by activity sector
First Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Harmonized Business Confidence Index by size of establishments

The five sizes of establishments analyzed presented an increase in confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. From 200 to 999 employees (8.1%) showed the largest increase and Less than 10 employees the lowest increase (1.5%).

General index and by size of establishment
First Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate

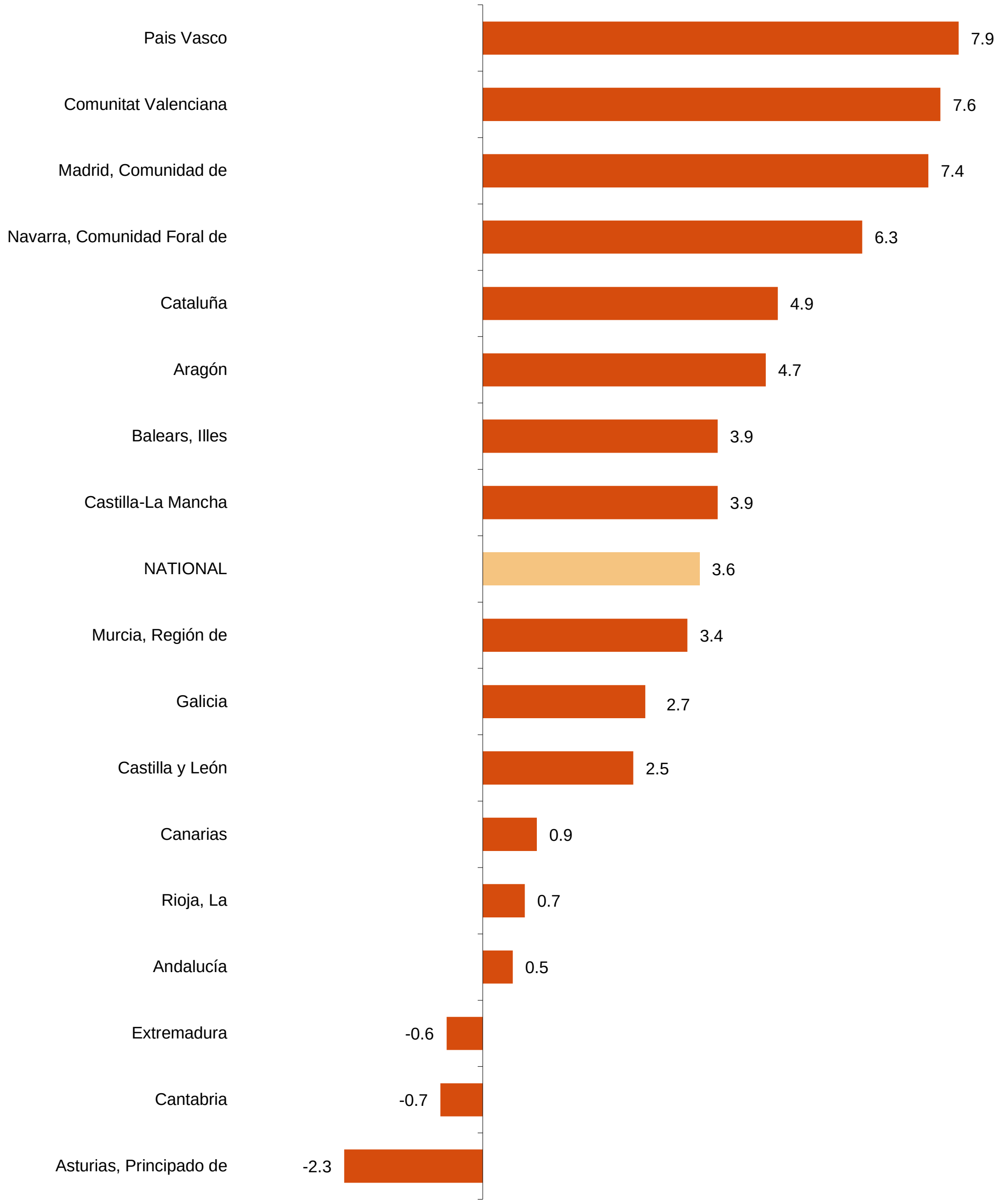


Harmonized Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Communities

Business confidence increased in the first quarter of 2021 as compared with previous quarter in 14 autonomous communities and decreased in the other three.

The largest increases were recorded in País Vasco (7.9%), Comunitat Valenciana (7.6%) and Comunidad de Madrid (7.4%). The only decreases were recorded in Principado de Asturias (−2.3%), Cantabria (−0.7%) and Extremadura (−0.6%).

National index and by Autonomous Communities
First Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

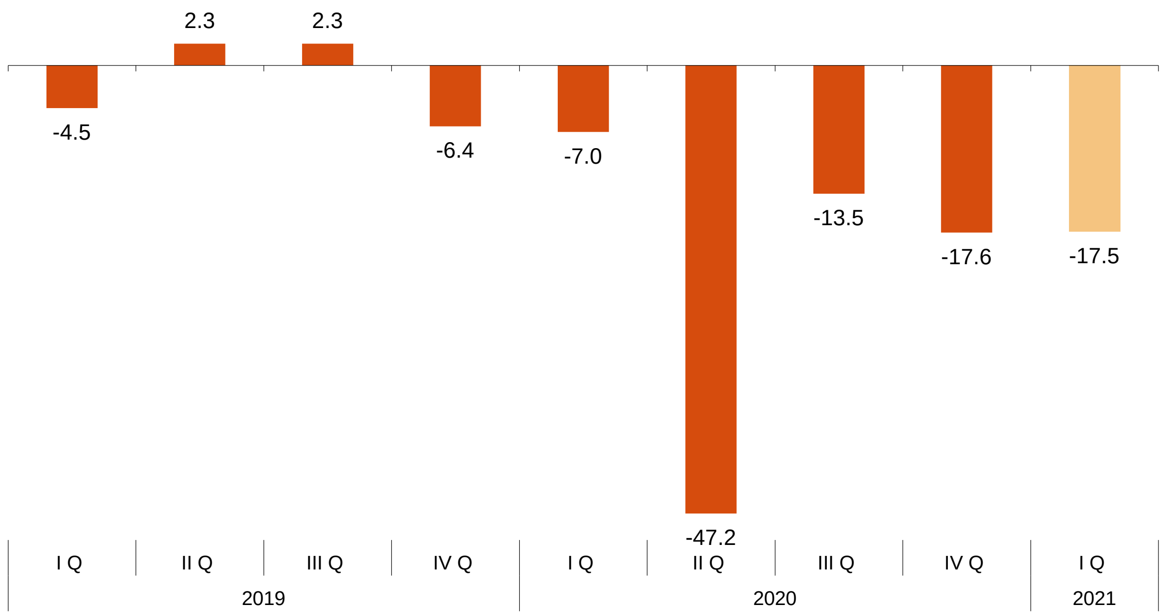
5,0% of business establishments managers consider that employment, referring to personnel hired in their business, will increase in the first quarter of 2021, while 22.5% believe that it will decrease. The remaining 72.5% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favorable and unfavorable responses stands at −17.5 points, very similar to the −17.6 in the previous quarter.

Employment. Opinions with regard to the quarter that in beginning (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	It will increase (%)	It will remain the same (%)	It will decrease (%)	Balance (increase - decrease)
2019 I	7.6	80.3	12.1	-4.5
II	11.5	79.3	9.2	2.3
III	12.4	77.5	10.1	2.3
IV	9.1	75.4	15.5	-6.4
2020 I	7.1	78.8	14.1	-7.0
II	2.6	47.6	49.8	-47.2
III	10.8	64.9	24.3	-13.5
IV	6.6	69.2	24.2	-17.6
2021 I	5.0	72.5	22.5	-17.5

Evolution of the Balance of Employment Expectations
First quarter of 2021



Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

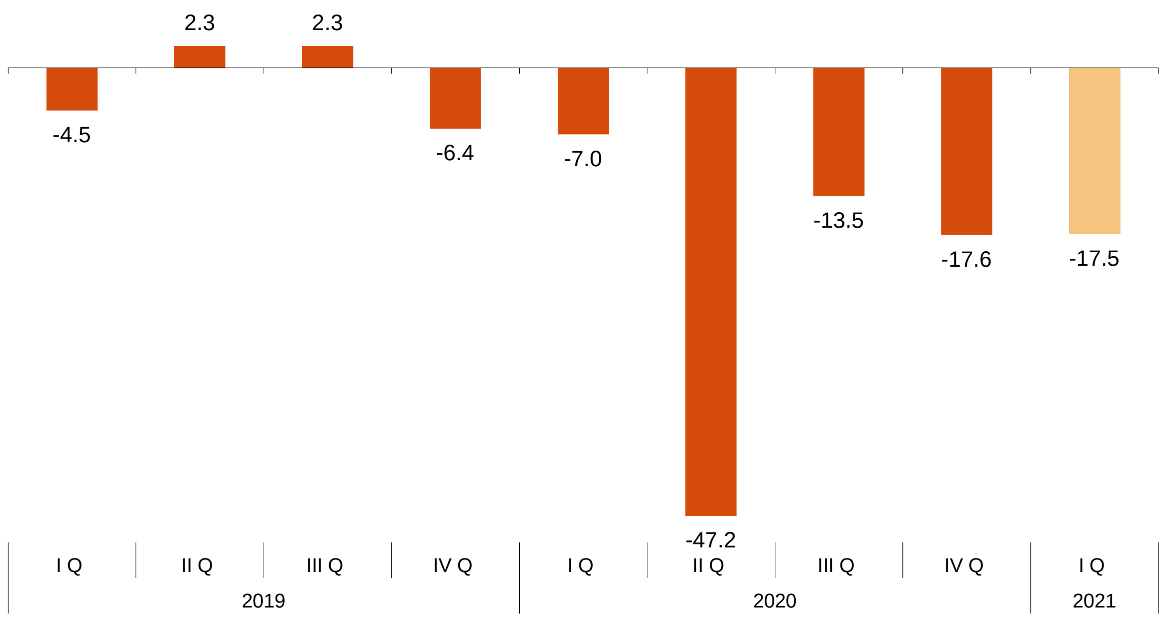
7.7% of business establishment managers foresee that the price level of their business will increase in the first quarter of 2021, while 15.1% estimate that it will decrease. The remaining 77.2% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favorable and unfavorable responses stands at −7.4 points, above the −12.8 in the previous quarter.

Prices. Opinions with regard to the quarter that in beginning (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	It will increase (%)	It will remain the same (%)	It will decrease (%)	Balance (increase - decrease)
2019 I	12.1	79.8	8.1	4.0
II	6.3	87.1	6.6	-0.3
III	5.1	87.7	7.2	-2.1
IV	4.8	86.6	8.6	-3.8
2020 I	11.0	80.2	8.8	2.2
II	3.9	67.3	28.8	-24.9
III	4.3	75.6	20.1	-15.8
IV	3.2	80.8	16.0	-12.8
2021 I	7.7	77.2	15.1	-7.4

Evolution of the Balance of Price Expectations
First quarter of 2021



Productive capacity in the Industry

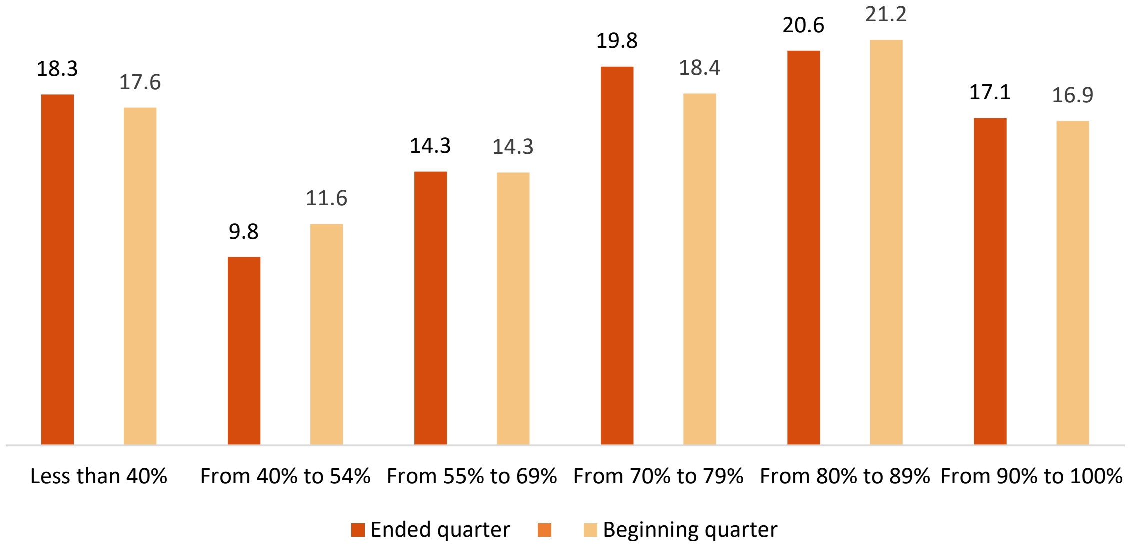
17.6% of industrial establishments expect to use less than 40% of their production capacity in the first quarter of 2021, compared to 18.3% in the previous quarter.

On the other hand, 16.9% of industrial establishments expect to use more than 90% of their production capacity in the beginning of the quarter, a percentage similar to the 17.1% declared last quarter.

Utilization of productive capacity in industry

	Situation	Expectation
	Ended quarter	Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	18.3	17.6
From 40% to 54%	9.8	11.6
From 55% to 69%	14.3	14.3
From 70% to 79%	19.8	18.4
From 80% to 89%	20.6	21.2
From 90% to 100%	17.1	16.9

Situation and Expectations by sections of productive capacity in the Industry
First quarter of 2021



Review and update of data

The data published today are final and will not be subject to further revision. There have been no updates to previous publications. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

The objective of this survey is to find out, at a given time, the vision that establishment managers have about their situation.

The BCI survey collects opinions from establishment managers regarding the performance of their businesses for each last quarter and on their expectations for each coming quarter.

The methodology is based on the Japanese TANKAN index, that is, there is no weighting or elevation depending on the characteristics of the establishment since the opinion of each informant counts equally.

The survey methodology enables the integration of analogous data compiled by the statistics services of the Autonomous Communities, once their consistency is checked so they can be incorporated into the general process of the survey. There are currently agreements signed to this effect with Andalucia, Illes Balears, Canarias, Castilla y León, Cataluña, la Rioja, Extremadura and Comunitat Valenciana.

Type of survey: quarterly continuous survey.

Base period: First quarter of 2013.

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

Geographical scope: the entire national territory (except Ceuta and Melilla).

Sample size: The sample is representative both nationally and by Autonomous Community and is made up of about 8,000 establishments with a response rate of 70,2%.

Reference period: the reference is quarterly and questions are asked about the quarter ending and about the coming quarter.

Collection method: completion of the questionnaire by establishment managers themselves using one of the following methods: internet (IRIA system), e-mail, fax, telephone or by postal mail.

For more information you can Access the methodology at:

https://www.ine.es/en/metodologia/t37/t3730199_en.pdf

And the standardized methodological report at:

https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30199

INE statistics are prepared in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information, see the section on Quality in the INE and Code of Good Practices on the INE's website.

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Business Confidence Indicators
First quarter of 2021

1. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by sectors

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Industry	Construction	Trade	Transport and accommodation	Other Services
2019 I	132.5	126.2	146.4	134.8	134.9	129.8
II	132.9	125.7	146.8	134.3	138.8	130.0
III	135.0	127.2	147.8	136.5	143.3	131.7
IV	131.1	123.5	142.3	134.3	139.1	127.4
2020 I	130.6	123.5	142.9	131.3	135.3	128.5
II	95.5	94.7	101.1	98.0	91.5	93.8
III	95.5	91.3	105.3	104.9	87.2	92.4
IV	105.5	102.8	120.0	111.8	94.5	102.8
2021 I	109.3	110.1	123.7	113.4	94.0	107.5

2. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by size

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Less than 10 employees	From 10 to 49 employees	From 50 to 199 employees	From 200 to 999 employees	1,000 or more employees
2019 I	132.5	134.2	136.9	130.1	123.6	121.5
II	132.9	136.5	136.0	129.2	123.6	121.6
III	135.0	138.5	139.2	131.1	125.1	119.1
IV	131.1	134.4	134.5	127.4	121.6	117.9
2020 I	130.6	131.8	133.3	127.7	123.8	121.2
II	95.5	94.0	95.9	95.6	90.8	94.5
III	95.5	98.3	97.5	93.2	88.5	84.6
IV	105.5	107.1	107.7	102.1	100.6	97.7
2021 I	109.3	108.7	109.5	108.7	108.7	104.7

3. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Communities

Year / Quarter	NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2019 I	132.5	131.9	136.3	133.6	130.8	125.4
II	132.9	131.7	134.9	131.7	137.9	123.4
III	135.0	135.3	135.3	134.3	139.4	122.6
IV	131.1	130.8	131.2	133.1	132.8	121.2
2020 I	130.6	131.1	134.0	131.9	128.9	122.2
II	95.5	96.2	95.0	96.7	90.1	85.7
III	95.5	96.9	97.3	102.0	86.9	86.4
IV	105.5	107.7	109.6	114.9	93.1	93.5
2021 I	109.3	108.2	114.8	112.2	96.7	94.3

Year / Trimester	Cantabria	Castilla y León	Castilla-La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2019 I	139.4	136.3	144.0	137.4	126.9	132.4
II	139.5	133.7	142.1	137.1	126.9	136.8
III	145.2	140.2	146.0	138.2	128.2	141.3
IV	142.9	135.1	141.5	134.3	126.4	132.1
2020 I	135.1	131.3	138.7	134.6	125.7	134.4
II	100.9	99.9	103.0	93.9	90.2	94.5
III	104.6	100.6	106.7	94.9	89.9	103.5
IV	121.5	112.1	113.0	106.9	100.7	112.1
2021 I	120.7	114.9	117.4	112.1	108.4	111.4

Year / Trimester	Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2019 I	127.1	128.3	128.6	134.9	132.2	130.1
II	128.7	130.4	128.2	135.4	132.0	130.8
III	131.9	129.7	128.0	137.4	137.2	131.8
IV	129.0	126.3	123.8	133.5	130.3	130.0
2020 I	128.1	127.3	124.1	133.1	131.4	126.3
II	97.0	94.1	95.8	100.8	98.4	91.9
III	93.1	90.3	94.0	98.3	95.3	94.8
IV	104.8	99.4	101.9	105.1	101.9	103.0
2021 I	107.6	106.8	105.4	111.7	110.0	103.7

4. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations) by sectors

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	8.6	46.3	45.1	-36.5
Industry	13.5	48.3	38.2	-24.7
Construction	8.3	52.4	39.3	-31.0
Trade	7.5	45.6	46.9	-39.4
Transport and accommodation	4.8	26.0	69.2	-64.4
Other services	8.2	51.0	40.8	-32.6

5. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations) by size

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	8.6	46.3	45.1	-36.5
Less than 10 employees	5.4	40.8	53.8	-48.4
From 10 to 49 employees	7.8	45.6	46.6	-38.8
From 50 to 199 employees	11.3	50.1	38.6	-27.3
From 200 to 999 employees	15.1	52.9	32.0	-16.9
1,000 or more employees	12.1	60.5	27.4	-15.3

6. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations) By Autonomous Communities

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	8.6	46.3	45.1	-36.5
Andalucía	8.8	43.4	47.8	-39.0
Aragón	9.0	46.9	44.1	-35.1
Asturias, Principado de	8.0	46.3	45.7	-37.7
Balears, Illes	2.6	35.2	62.2	-59.6
Canarias	5.0	35.8	59.2	-54.2
Cantabria	7.8	48.9	43.3	-35.5
Castilla y León	8.3	44.3	47.4	-39.1
Castilla- La Mancha	9.8	41.1	49.1	-39.3
Cataluña	10.0	49.5	40.5	-30.5
Comunitat Valenciana	12.4	49.1	38.5	-26.1
Extremadura	10.6	40.9	48.5	-37.9
Galicia	6.3	49.6	44.1	-37.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	8.8	51.2	40.0	-31.2
Murcia, Región de	10.3	45.3	44.4	-34.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	8.6	50.0	41.4	-32.8
País Vasco	9.4	49.5	41.1	-31.7
Rioja, La	5.6	43.1	51.3	-45.7

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	12.4	43.2	44.4	-32.0
Industry	17.8	44.3	37.9	-20.1
Construction	12.7	50.9	36.4	-23.7
Trade	12.1	43.0	44.9	-32.8
Transport and accommodation	5.9	24.7	69.4	-63.5
Other services	12.1	46.8	41.1	-29.0

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	12.4	43.2	44.4	-32.0
Less than 10 employees	8.3	39.4	52.3	-44.0
From 10 to 49 employees	13.3	41.7	45.0	-31.7
From 50 to 199 employees	15.5	46.8	37.7	-22.2
From 200 to 999 employees	17.4	48.6	34.0	-16.6
1,000 or more employees	17.2	51.9	30.9	-13.7

9. Opinions regarding the last quarter (Situation) by Autonomous Communities

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	12.4	43.2	44.4	-32.0
Andalucía	11.0	40.2	48.8	-37.8
Aragón	14.1	45.7	40.2	-26.1
Asturias, Principado de	10.1	44.6	45.3	-35.2
Balears, Illes	5.7	33.1	61.2	-55.5
Canarias	8.5	34.4	57.1	-48.6
Cantabria	15.1	44.9	40.0	-24.9
Castilla y León	14.8	40.8	44.4	-29.6
Castilla- La Mancha	12.6	39.7	47.7	-35.1
Cataluña	13.8	46.3	39.9	-26.1
Comunitat Valenciana	15.5	46.2	38.3	-22.8
Extremadura	13.4	41.6	45.0	-31.6
Galicia	12.4	44.9	42.7	-30.3
Madrid, Comunidad de	12.2	47.1	40.7	-28.5
Murcia, Región de	11.1	47.6	41.3	-30.2
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	12.0	45.2	42.8	-30.8
País Vasco	15.7	38.5	45.8	-30.1
Rioja, La	9.2	40.2	50.6	-41.4

10. Employment. Opinions with regard to the quarter that is beginning by sectors

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	5.0	72.5	22.5	-17.5
Industry	6.4	72.8	20.8	-14.4
Construction	3.7	72.0	24.3	-20.6
Trade	4.4	76.1	19.5	-15.1
Transport and accommodation	4.2	62.4	33.4	-29.2
Other services	5.3	74.1	20.6	-15.3

11. Employment. Opinions with regard to the quarter that is beginning by size

Size of the establishment	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	5.0	72.5	22.5	-17.5
Less than 10 employees	2.2	76.2	21.6	-19.4
From 10 to 49 employees	5.5	68.5	26.0	-20.5
From 50 to 199 employees	8.0	69.1	22.9	-14.9
From 200 to 999 employees	8.8	71.4	19.8	-11.0
1,000 or more employees	5.7	75.7	18.6	-12.9

12. Employment. Opinions with regard to the quarter that has ended by sectors

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	9.8	66.5	23.7	-13.9
Industry	13.8	65.7	20.5	-6.7
Construction	10.0	66.5	23.5	-13.5
Trade	9.5	69.9	20.6	-11.1
Transport and accommodation	6.8	54.4	38.8	-32.0
Other services	8.9	69.3	21.8	-12.9

13. Employment. Opinions with regard to the quarter that has ended by size

Size of the establishment	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	9.8	66.5	23.7	-13.9
Less than 10 employees	4.8	73.3	21.9	-17.1
From 10 to 49 employees	9.9	63.1	27.0	-17.1
From 50 to 199 employees	14.9	60.6	24.5	-9.6
From 200 to 999 employees	16.9	60.1	23.0	-6.1
1,000 or more employees	13.8	65.3	20.9	-7.1

14. Prices. Opinions with regard to the quarter that is beginning by sectors

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	7.7	77.2	15.1	-7.4
Industry	9.7	78.9	11.4	-1.7
Construction	4.3	77.6	18.1	-13.8
Trade	12.5	72.7	14.8	-2.3
Transport and accommodatio	3.3	77.4	19.3	-16.0
Other services	6.3	79.0	14.7	-8.4

15. Prices. Opinions with regard to the quarter that is beginning by size

Size of the establishment	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	7.7	77.2	15.1	-7.4
Less than 10 employees	7.1	73.6	19.3	-12.2
From 10 to 49 employees	8.4	77.2	14.4	-6.0
From 50 to 199 employees	7.7	80.3	12.0	-4.3
From 200 to 999 employees	5.9	83.4	10.7	-4.8
1,000 or more employees	10.8	81.1	8.1	2.7

16. Prices. Opinions with regard to the quarter that has ended by sectors

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	3.7	79.6	16.7	-13.0
Industry	5.3	82.2	12.5	-7.2
Construction	2.3	80.1	17.6	-15.3
Trade	7.9	76.2	15.9	-8.0
Transport and accommodatio	1.7	73.5	24.8	-23.1
Other services	1.6	82.2	16.2	-14.6

17. Prices. Opinions with regard to the quarter that has ended by size

Size of the establishment	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	3.7	79.6	16.7	-13.0
Less than 10 employees	3.9	76.1	20.0	-16.1
From 10 to 49 employees	3.6	80.0	16.4	-12.8
From 50 to 199 employees	3.6	81.0	15.4	-11.8
From 200 to 999 employees	3.4	83.3	13.3	-9.9
1,000 or more employees	4.0	87.8	8.2	-4.2

18. Utilization of productive capacity in industry

	Situation Ended quarter	Expectation Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	18.3	17.6
From 40% to 54%	9.8	11.6
From 55% to 69%	14.3	14.3
From 70% to 79%	19.8	18.4
From 80% to 89%	20.6	21.2
From 90% to 100%	17.1	16.9