Press Release

19 January 2023

Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)
First quarter of 2023

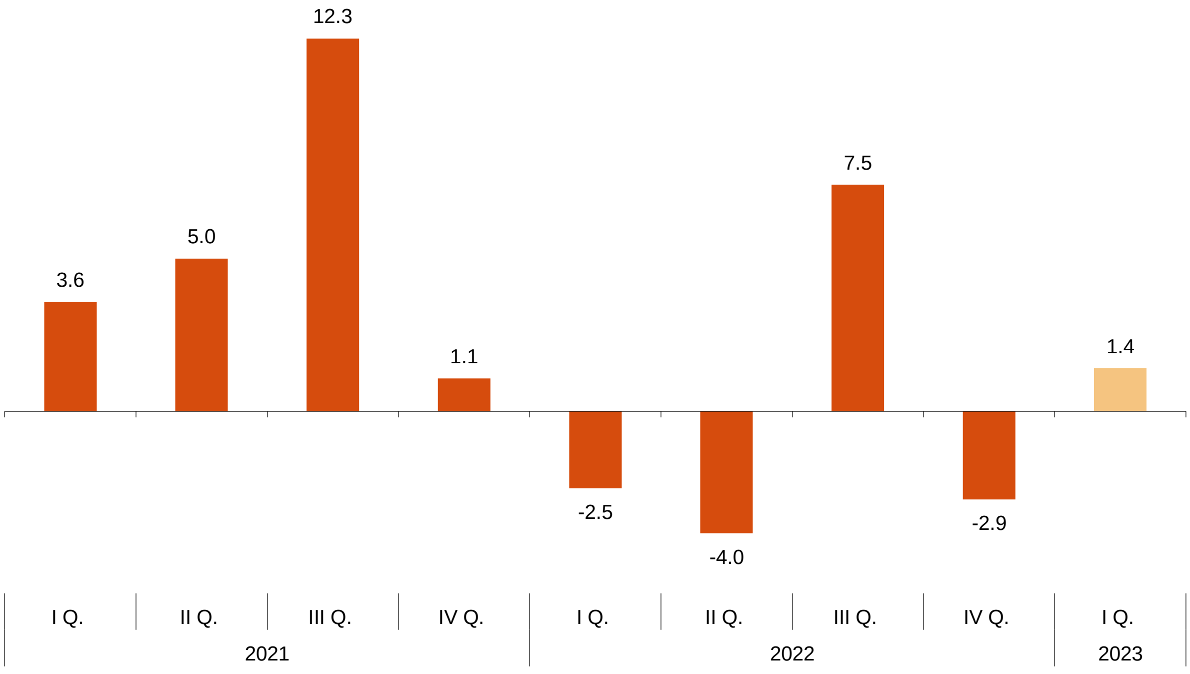
The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases 1.4% in the first quarter of 2023 as compared with the fourth quarter

15.1% of business establishments foresee a favourable quarter and 24.9% are pessimistic about the performance of their business

Evolution of the Harmonised Business Confidence Index

The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases by 1.4% in the first quarter of 2023 as compared with the fourth quarter.

Harmonised Business Confidence Index
First Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



Opinions regarding the next quarter (Expectations)

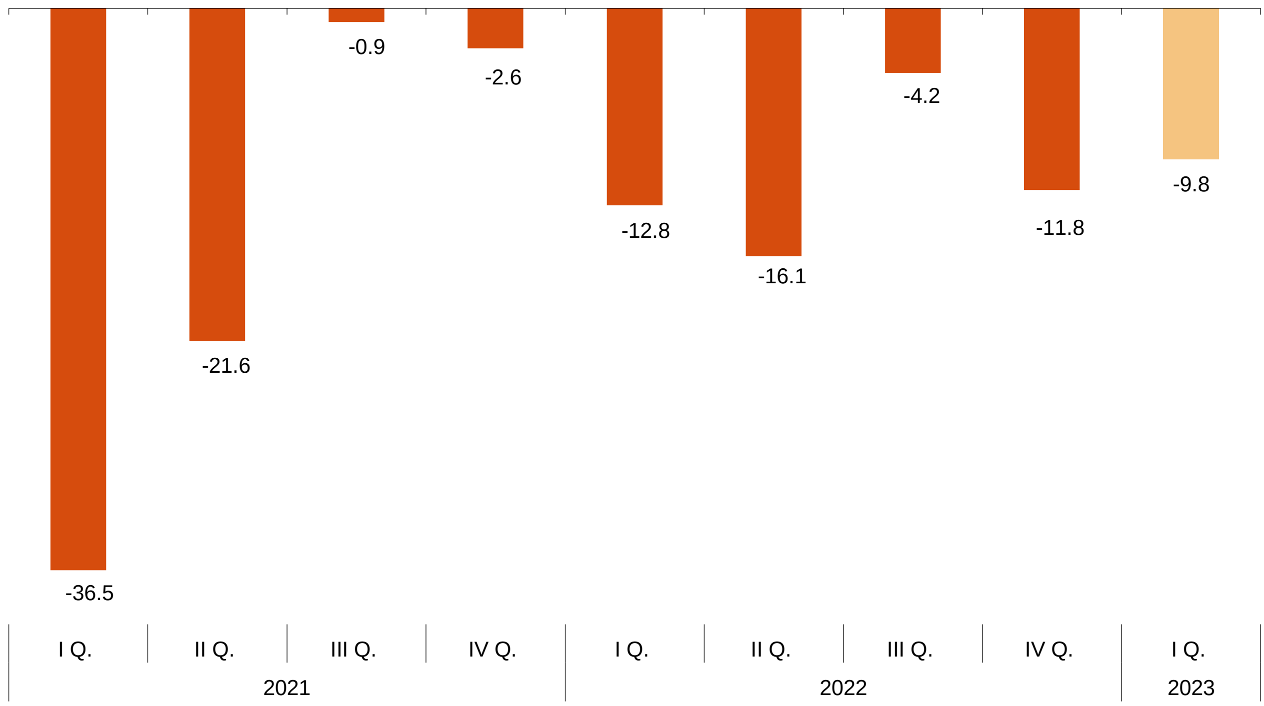
15.1% of business establishments managers considered that the performance of their business during the first quarter of 2023 would be favourable, while 24.9% thought it would be unfavourable. The remaining 60.0% thought that it would be normal.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses, known as Expectations Balance, stood at −9.8 points for Spains as a whole, as compared with the −11.8 in the previous quarter.

Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 I	8.6	46.3	45.1	-36.5
II	13.8	50.8	35.4	-21.6
III	21.6	55.9	22.5	-0.9
IV	18.9	59.6	21.5	-2.6
2022 I	14.7	57.8	27.5	-12.8
II	14.5	54.9	30.6	-16.1
III	19.6	56.6	23.8	-4.2
IV	15.5	57.2	27.3	-11.8
2023 I	15.1	60.0	24.9	-9.8

Evolution of the Expectations Balance
First Quarter 2023



Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

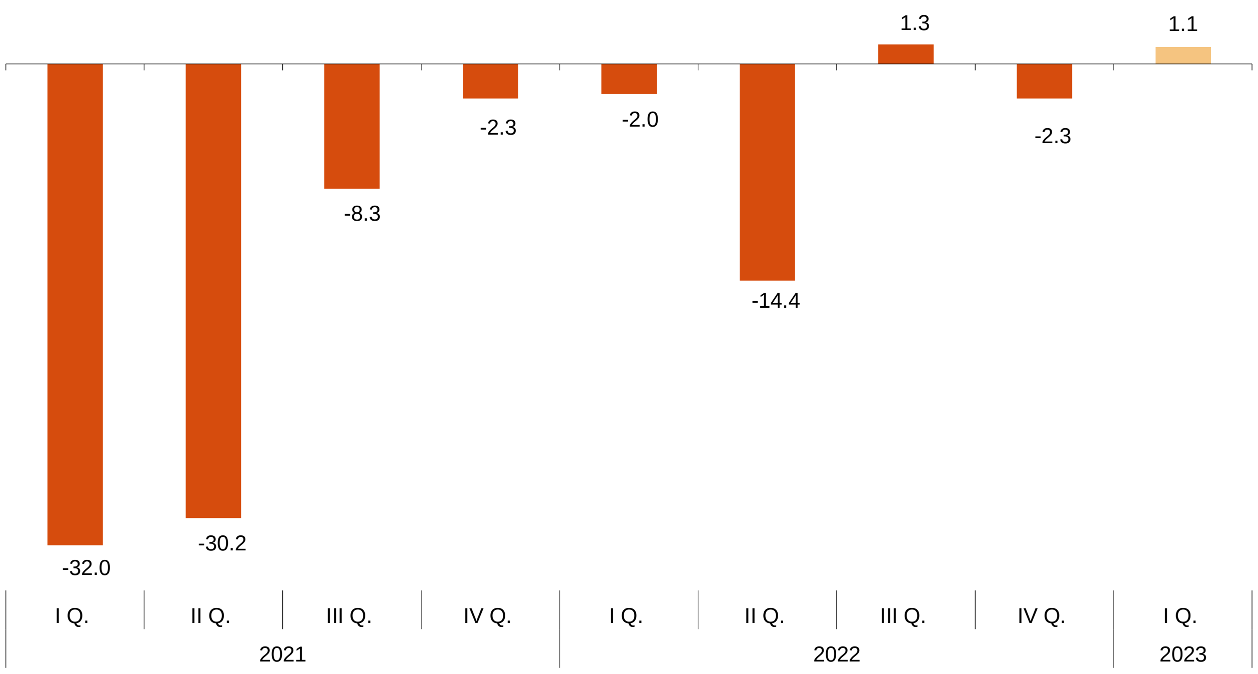
21.1% of business establishments managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their business in the fourth quarter 2022. In turn, 20.0% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable respondents referring to the ending quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at 1.1 points. This figure improves Expectations previously expressed for that quarter, which stood at −11.8 points.

Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

Year / Quarter		Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021	I	12.4	43.2	44.4	-32.0
	II	11.2	47.4	41.4	-30.2
	III	18.8	54.1	27.1	-8.3
	IV	20.3	57.1	22.6	-2.3
2022	I	20.6	56.8	22.6	-2.0
	II	14.8	56.0	29.2	-14.4
	III	21.9	57.5	20.6	1.3
	IV	20.1	57.5	22.4	-2.3
2023	I	21.1	58.9	20.0	1.1

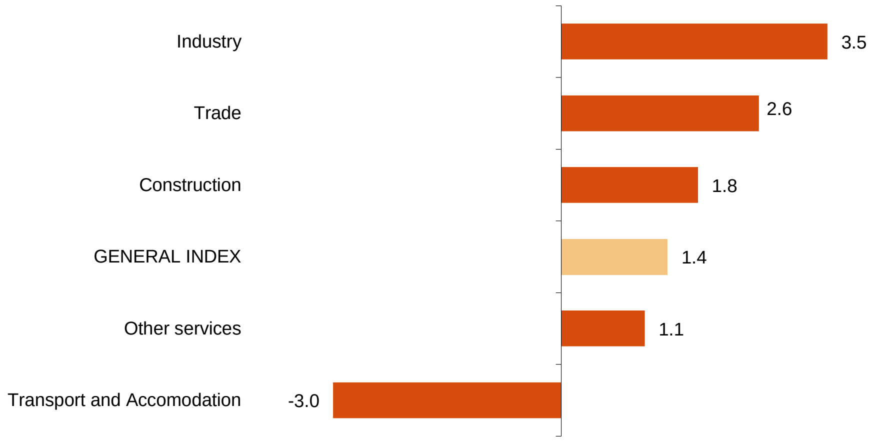
Evolution of the Situation Balance
First Quarter 2023



Harmonised Business Confidence Index by activity sector

Four of the five sector analysed increased confidence with respect to the previous quarter. *Industry* (3.5%) registered the greatest increase. On the other hand, *Transport and Accomodation* (−3.0%) registered the only decrease.

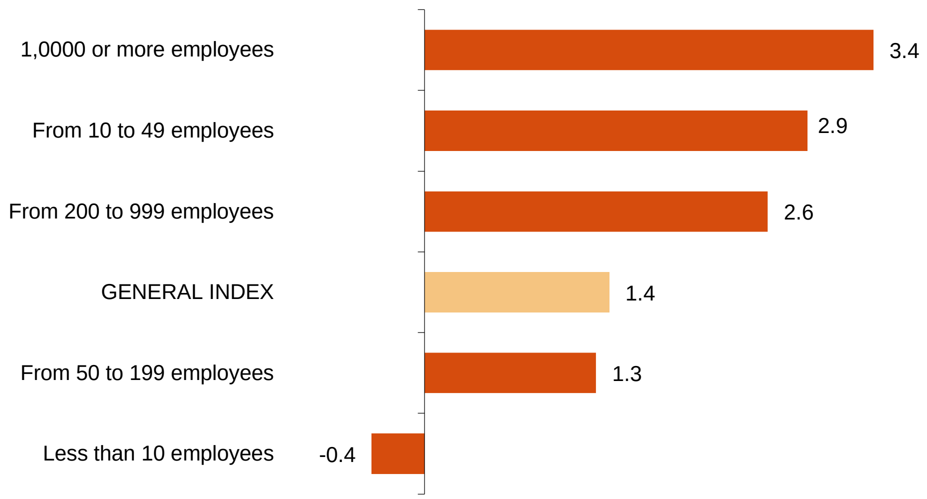
General Index and by activity sector
First Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



Harmonised Business Confidence Index by size of establishments

Four of the five sizes of establishments analysed presented an increase in confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. 1,0000 or more employees (3.4%) showed the largest increases. On the other hand, Less than 10 employees (−0.4%) registered the only decrease.

General index and by size of establishment
First Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate

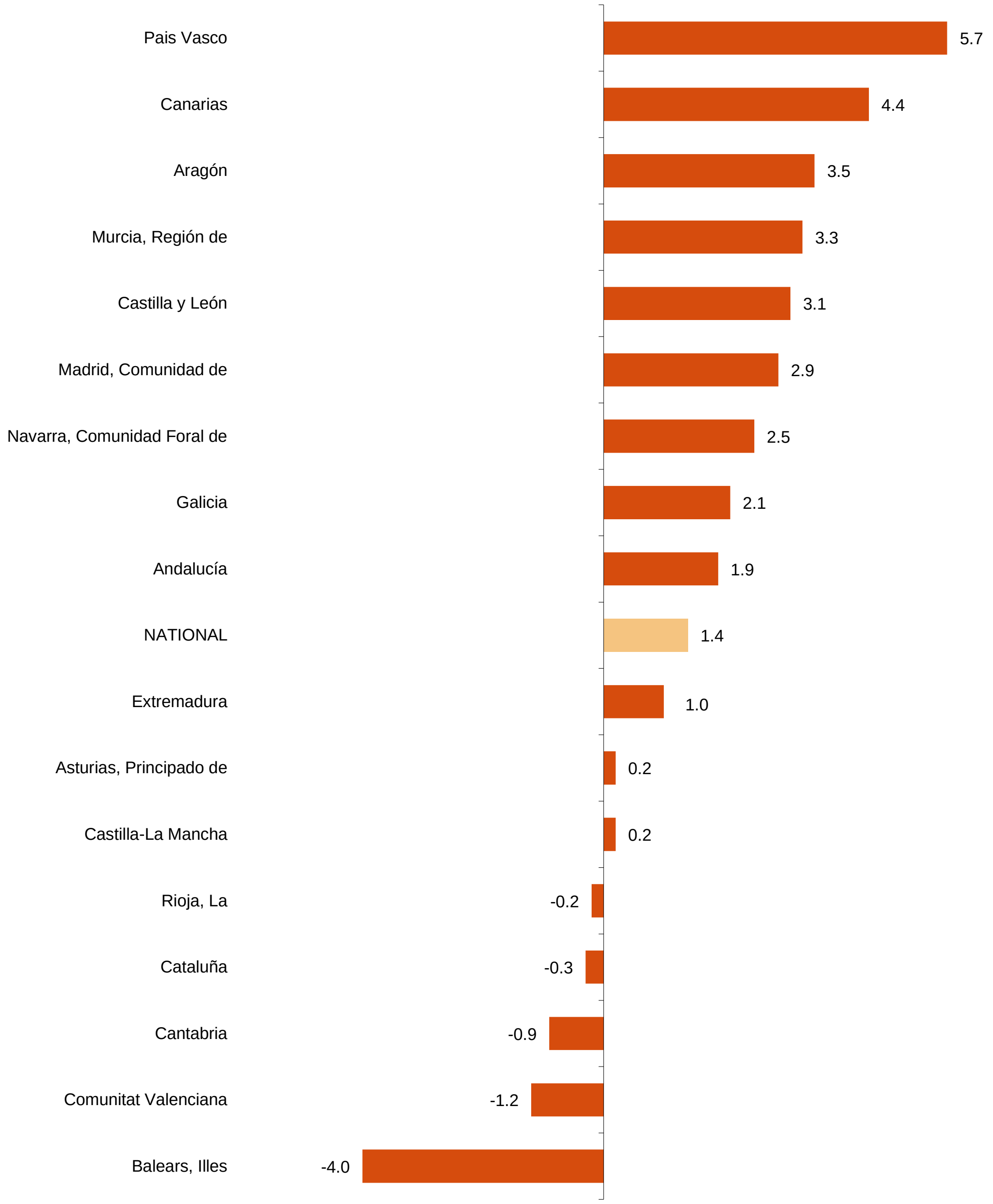


Harmonised Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Communities

Business confidence increased in the first quarter of 2023 as compared with previous quarter in 12 autonomous communities and decreased in the other five.

The largest increases were recorded in País Vasco (5.7%), Canarias (4.4%) y Aragón (3.5%). The largest decreases were recorded in Illes Balears (−4.0%), Comunitat Valenciana (−1.2%) and Cantabria (−0.9%).

National index and by Autonomous Communities
First Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

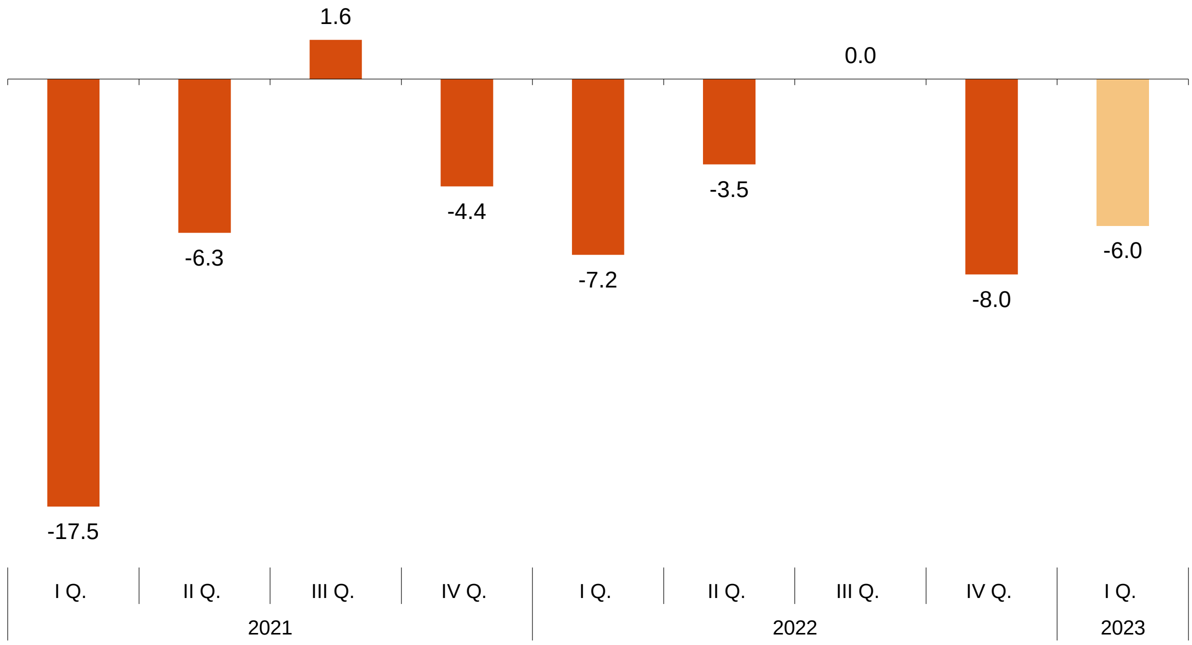
7.6% of business establishments managers consider that employment, referring to personnel hired in their business, will increase in the first quarter of 2023, while 13.6% believe that it will decrease. The remaining 78.8% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses stands at −6.0 points.

Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter		Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021	I	5.0	72.5	22.5	-17.5
	II	8.4	76.9	14.7	-6.3
	III	12.6	76.4	11.0	1.6
	IV	10.1	75.4	14.5	-4.4
2022	I	7.3	78.2	14.5	-7.2
	II	9.8	76.9	13.3	-3.5
	III	11.9	76.2	11.9	0.0
	IV	8.6	74.8	16.6	-8.0
2023	I	7.6	78.8	13.6	-6.0

Evolution of the Balance of Employment Expectations
First quarter 2023.



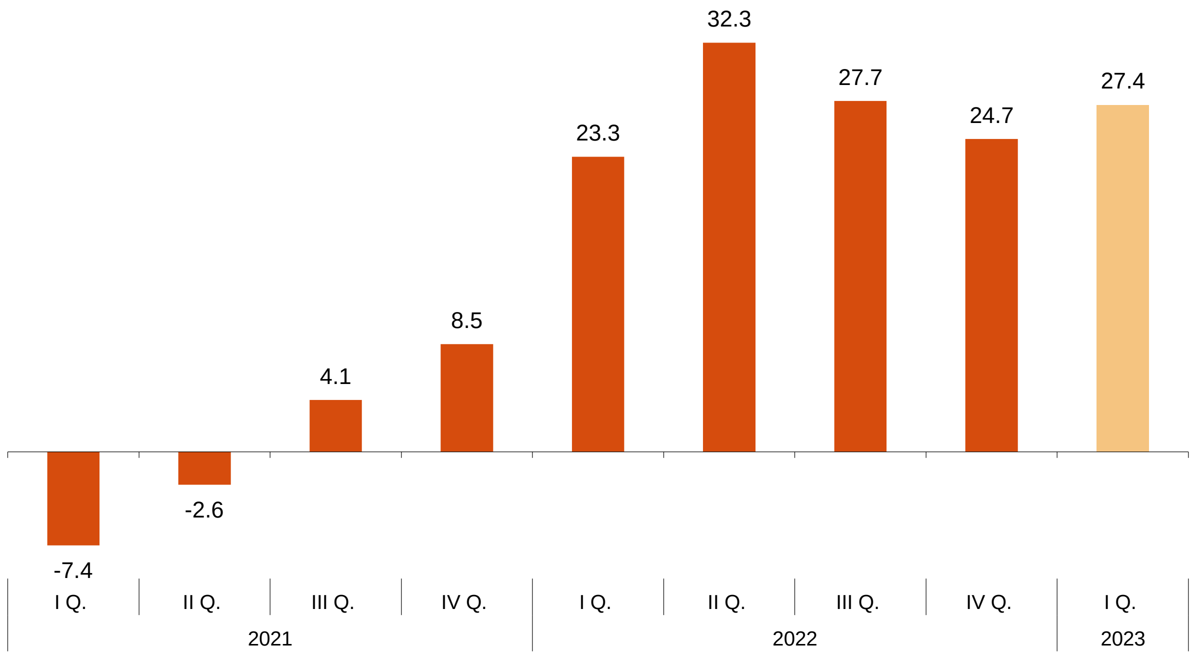
Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

33.8% of business establishments managers foresee that the price level of their business will increase in the first quarter of 2023, while 6.4% estimate that it will decrease. The remaining 59.8% consider that it will remain stable.

The balance between the percentage of responses that consider the prices will rise and that of reponses that consider that they will fall stands at 27.4 points, above the 24.7 obtained in the previous quarter.

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 I	7.7	77.2	15.1	-7.4
II	7.3	82.8	9.9	-2.6
III	11.4	81.3	7.3	4.1
IV	15.4	77.7	6.9	8.5
2022 I	30.1	63.1	6.8	23.3
II	37.5	57.3	5.2	32.3
III	32.5	62.7	4.8	27.7
IV	30.9	62.9	6.2	24.7
2023 I	33.8	59.8	6.4	27.4

Evolution of the Balance of Price Expectations
First quarter 2023.



Productive capacity in the *Industry*

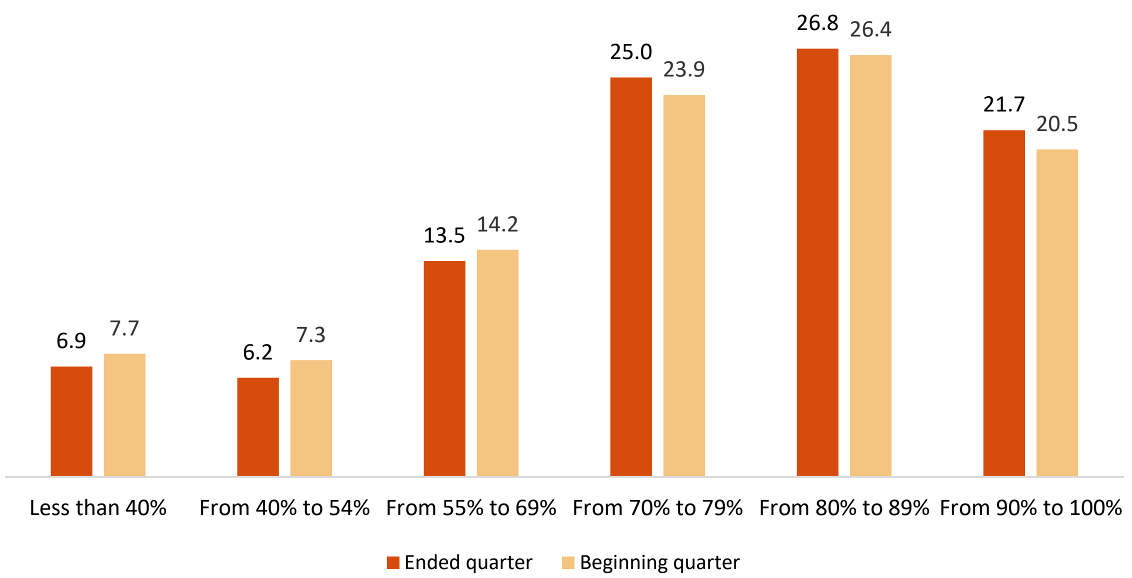
7.7% of industrial establishments expect to use less than 40% of their production capacity in the first quarter of 2023, compared to 6.9% in the previous quarter.

On the other hand, 20.5% of industrial establishments expect to use more than 90% of their production capacity in the beginning of the quarter, compared to the 21.8% declared last quarter.

Utilization of productive capacity in the *Industry*

	Situation Ended quarter	Expectation Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	6.9	7.7
From 40% to 54%	6.2	7.3
From 55% to 69%	13.5	14.2
From 70% to 79%	25.0	23.9
From 80% to 89%	26.8	26.4
From 90% to 100%	21.7	20.5

Situation and Expectations by sections of productive capacity in the *Industry*
First quarter 2023.



Review and update of data

The data published today are final and will not be suject to further revisión. There have benn 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 business 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 Andalucía, 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.

Sample size: The simple is representative both nationally and by Autonomous Community and is made up of some 8,000 establishments.

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 the methodology can be accessed at:

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

And the standardised methodological report at:

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

INE's statistics are produced according to the European Statistics Code of Practice, that underlies the politicy and strategy of the institution quality. For further information, take a look at the section Quality at INE and Code of Practice at INE Website.

Business Confidence Indicators
First quarter of 2023

1. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by sectors

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Industry	Construction	Trade	Transport and accomodation	Other Services
2021 I	109.3	110.1	123.7	113.4	94.0	107.5
II	114.8	115.4	130.6	116.8	99.7	113.7
III	128.9	124.8	142.9	135.5	123.5	125.0
IV	130.3	123.9	144.4	135.6	131.0	126.4
2022 I	127.0	121.9	140.3	131.2	121.9	125.2
II	121.9	113.6	132.4	122.3	122.9	122.6
III	131.0	121.9	140.4	131.4	138.7	130.1
IV	127.2	116.0	139.5	128.7	134.7	126.3
2023 I	129.0	120.1	142.0	132.1	130.7	127.7

2. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by size

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Less than 10 wage earners	From 10 to 49 wage earners	From 50 to 199 wage earners	From 200 to 999 wage earners	1,000 or more wage earners
2021 I	109.3	108.7	109.5	108.7	108.7	104.7
II	114.8	115.7	115.2	114.1	111.4	106.8
III	128.9	130.7	131.9	125.3	122.0	118.4
IV	130.3	133.1	133.1	127.5	122.6	115.7
2022 I	127.0	128.0	129.7	123.8	120.7	119.1
II	121.9	123.2	123.5	120.3	114.3	114.8
III	131.0	132.7	134.5	128.5	121.1	119.8
IV	127.2	129.6	130.5	124.4	117.6	114.9
2023 I	129.0	129.1	134.3	126.0	120.7	118.8

3. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Communities

Year / Quarter	NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2021 I	109.3	108.2	114.8	112.2	96.7	94.3
II	114.8	113.3	119.4	117.4	103.6	97.6
III	128.9	128.3	133.2	134.8	122.9	112.4
IV	130.3	130.7	131.0	137.8	130.6	123.7
2022 I	127.0	126.9	133.7	124.5	122.0	118.6
II	121.9	121.9	122.9	122.0	127.9	120.3
III	131.0	130.1	130.5	127.1	148.7	128.4
IV	127.2	126.7	126.8	128.5	136.7	126.6
2023 I	129.0	129.1	131.2	128.8	131.3	132.2

Year / Quarter	Cantabria	Castilla y León	Castilla-La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2021 I	120.7	114.9	117.4	112.1	108.4	111.4
II	129.2	119.7	127.2	120.8	110.4	119.1
III	139.5	139.3	138.0	132.6	122.9	130.7
IV	140.6	137.6	140.6	133.4	126.3	132.3
2022 I	135.2	130.0	139.1	131.1	120.5	130.0
II	131.4	122.4	130.6	128.3	113.4	118.0
III	137.4	135.4	138.3	136.6	124.8	125.1
IV	139.7	128.2	136.8	131.8	121.7	124.0
2023 I	138.5	132.2	137.1	131.4	120.3	125.3

Year / Quarter	Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2021 I	107.6	106.8	105.4	111.7	110.0	103.7
II	110.2	110.7	108.8	117.4	117.4	107.4
III	124.8	124.4	121.1	130.2	132.0	125.3
IV	124.9	124.1	122.2	130.6	130.2	126.8
2022 I	121.3	128.0	119.1	123.3	127.4	122.0
II	113.3	121.6	113.8	123.5	122.2	114.8
III	127.3	129.3	118.8	130.6	131.0	124.9
IV	122.1	125.3	117.4	123.3	125.6	122.2
2023 I	124.7	128.9	121.3	126.4	132.8	122.0

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	15.1	60.0	24.9	-9.8
Industry	15.8	57.8	26.4	-10.6
Construction	16.2	61.4	22.4	-6.2
Trade	12.4	59.3	28.3	-15.9
Transport and accommodation	12.0	55.1	32.9	-20.9
Other services	17.3	62.8	19.9	-2.6

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	15.1	60.0	24.9	-9.8
Less than 10 employees	9.9	57.4	32.7	-22.8
From 10 to 49 employees	17.6	60.1	22.3	-4.7
From 50 to 199 employees	19.0	59.7	21.3	-2.3
From 200 to 999 employees	19.7	60.9	19.4	0.3
1,000 or more employees	18.3	71.0	10.7	7.6

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	15.1	60.0	24.9	-9.8
Andalucía	14.5	56.9	28.6	-14.1
Aragón	17.5	54.4	28.1	-10.6
Asturias, Principado de	12.8	56.4	30.8	-18.0
Balears, Illes	11.7	65.3	23.0	-11.3
Canarias	20.2	59.2	20.6	-0.4
Cantabria	14.1	60.5	25.4	-11.3
Castilla y León	13.3	55.3	31.4	-18.1
Castilla- La Mancha	13.9	58.3	27.8	-13.9
Cataluña	15.1	66.0	18.9	-3.8
Comunitat Valenciana	15.7	56.8	27.5	-11.8
Extremadura	11.2	57.0	31.8	-20.6
Galicia	12.7	63.2	24.1	-11.4
Madrid, Comunidad de	17.0	66.4	16.6	0.4
Murcia, Región de	16.2	58.0	25.8	-9.6
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	15.5	55.1	29.4	-13.9
País Vasco	20.5	60.1	19.4	1.1
Rioja, La	12.2	53.3	34.5	-22.3

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	21.1	58.9	20.0	1.1
Industry	21.1	56.1	22.8	-1.7
Construction	20.9	60.7	18.4	2.5
Trade	20.5	57.1	22.4	-1.9
Transport and accommodation	22.3	55.3	22.4	-0.1
Other services	21.2	62.2	16.6	4.6

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	21.1	58.9	20.0	1.1
Less than 10 employees	14.9	58.7	26.4	-11.5
From 10 to 49 employees	26.3	56.6	17.1	9.2
From 50 to 199 employees	24.9	58.9	16.2	8.7
From 200 to 999 employees	24.6	57.6	17.8	6.8
1,000 or more employees	21.9	69.4	8.7	13.2

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	21.1	58.9	20.0	1.1
Andalucía	21.9	56.4	21.7	0.2
Aragón	20.2	57.3	22.5	-2.3
Asturias, Principado de	18.3	57.1	24.6	-6.3
Balears, Illes	16.4	65.4	18.2	-1.8
Canarias	31.4	54.6	14.0	17.4
Cantabria	18.8	63.2	18.0	0.8
Castilla y León	22.1	55.2	22.7	-0.6
Castilla- La Mancha	18.5	57.3	24.2	-5.7
Cataluña	23.0	60.4	16.6	6.4
Comunitat Valenciana	22.9	55.6	21.5	1.4
Extremadura	17.5	57.7	24.8	-7.3
Galicia	16.5	63.2	20.3	-3.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	24.9	60.7	14.4	10.5
Murcia, Región de	17.7	60.5	21.8	-4.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	18.1	58.5	23.4	-5.3
País Vasco	25.1	56.9	18.0	7.1
Rioja, La	15.7	59.2	25.1	-9.4

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	7.6	78.8	13.6	-6.0
Industry	8.6	78.3	13.1	-4.5
Construction	7.5	78.1	14.4	-6.9
Trade	5.8	81.0	13.2	-7.4
Transport and accommodation	4.7	76.8	18.5	-13.8
Other services	9.3	78.6	12.1	-2.8

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	7.6	78.8	13.6	-6.0
Less than 10 employees	3.5	83.2	13.3	-9.8
From 10 to 49 employees	8.0	77.7	14.3	-6.3
From 50 to 199 employees	12.3	72.5	15.2	-2.9
From 200 to 999 employees	12.5	74.0	13.5	-1.0
1,000 or more employees	8.8	81.4	9.8	-1.0

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	12.0	73.4	14.6	-2.6
Industry	12.9	71.8	15.3	-2.4
Construction	11.4	73.4	15.2	-3.8
Trade	12.0	75.1	12.9	-0.9
Transport and accommodation	11.4	70.0	18.6	-7.2
Other services	12.0	74.5	13.5	-1.5

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	12.0	73.4	14.6	-2.6
Less than 10 employees	5.3	81.5	13.2	-7.9
From 10 to 49 employees	13.7	70.9	15.4	-1.7
From 50 to 199 employees	17.4	65.9	16.7	0.7
From 200 to 999 employees	20.6	62.8	16.6	4.0
1,000 or more employees	15.1	74.1	10.8	4.3

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	33.8	59.8	6.4	27.4
Industry	35.0	58.2	6.8	28.2
Construction	36.0	58.1	5.9	30.1
Trade	39.5	54.0	6.5	33.0
Transport and accommodatio	28.3	62.6	9.1	19.2
Other services	31.1	63.7	5.2	25.9

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	33.8	59.8	6.4	27.4
Less than 10 employees	33.3	58.8	7.9	25.4
From 10 to 49 employees	38.1	56.5	5.4	32.7
From 50 to 199 employees	32.1	61.3	6.6	25.5
From 200 to 999 employees	31.6	62.9	5.5	26.1
1,000 or more employees	29.3	67.5	3.2	26.1

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	31.4	62.2	6.4	25.0
Industry	35.3	58.1	6.6	28.7
Construction	37.7	56.8	5.5	32.2
Trade	45.7	48.4	5.9	39.8
Transport and accommodatio	28.0	62.3	9.7	18.3
Other services	19.6	74.8	5.6	14.0

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	31.4	62.2	6.4	25.0
Less than 10 employees	32.2	60.0	7.8	24.4
From 10 to 49 employees	35.9	59.0	5.1	30.8
From 50 to 199 employees	28.8	65.1	6.1	22.7
From 200 to 999 employees	29.4	64.1	6.5	22.9
1,000 or more employees	20.8	75.2	4.0	16.8

18. Utilization of productive capacity in industry

	Situation Ended quarter	Expectation Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	6.9	7.7
From 40% to 54%	6.2	7.3
From 55% to 69%	13.5	14.2
From 70% to 79%	25.0	23.9
From 80% to 89%	26.8	26.4
From 90% to 100%	21.7	20.5