Press Release

19 April 2023

Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)
Second quarter of 2023

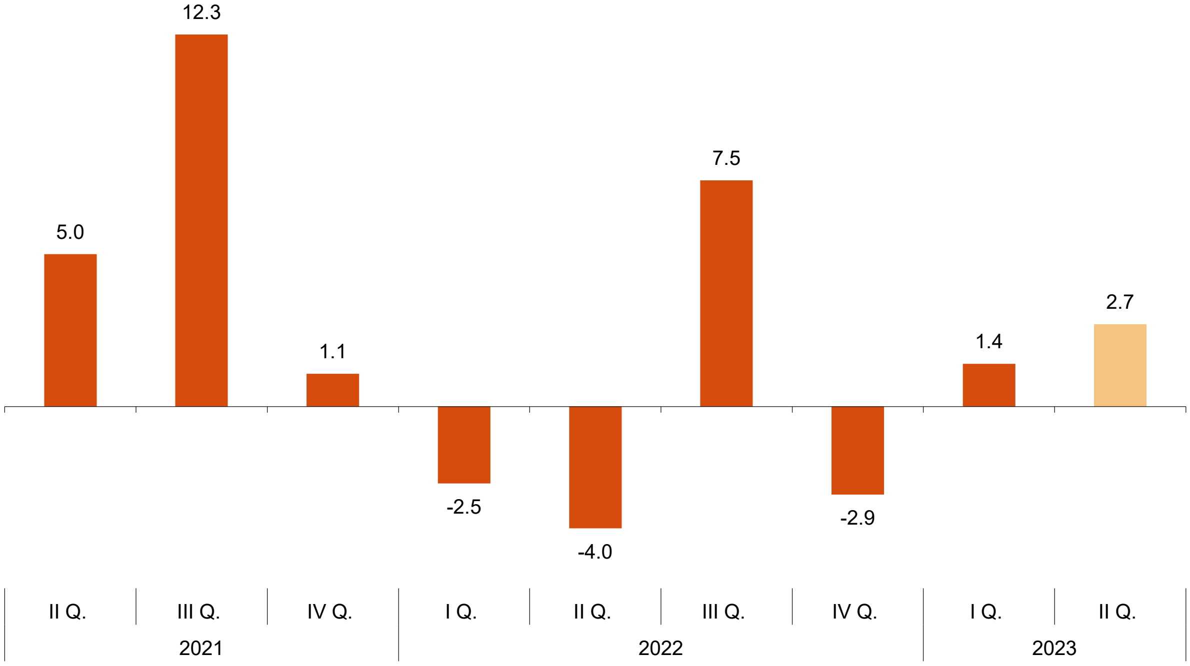
The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases 2.7% in the second quarter as compared with the first quarter

20.6% of business establishments foresee a favourable quarter and 17.2% are pessimistic about the performance of their business

Evolution of the Harmonised Business Confidence Index

The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases by 2.7% in the second quarter of 2023 as compared with the first quarter.

Harmonised Business Confidence Index
Second Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

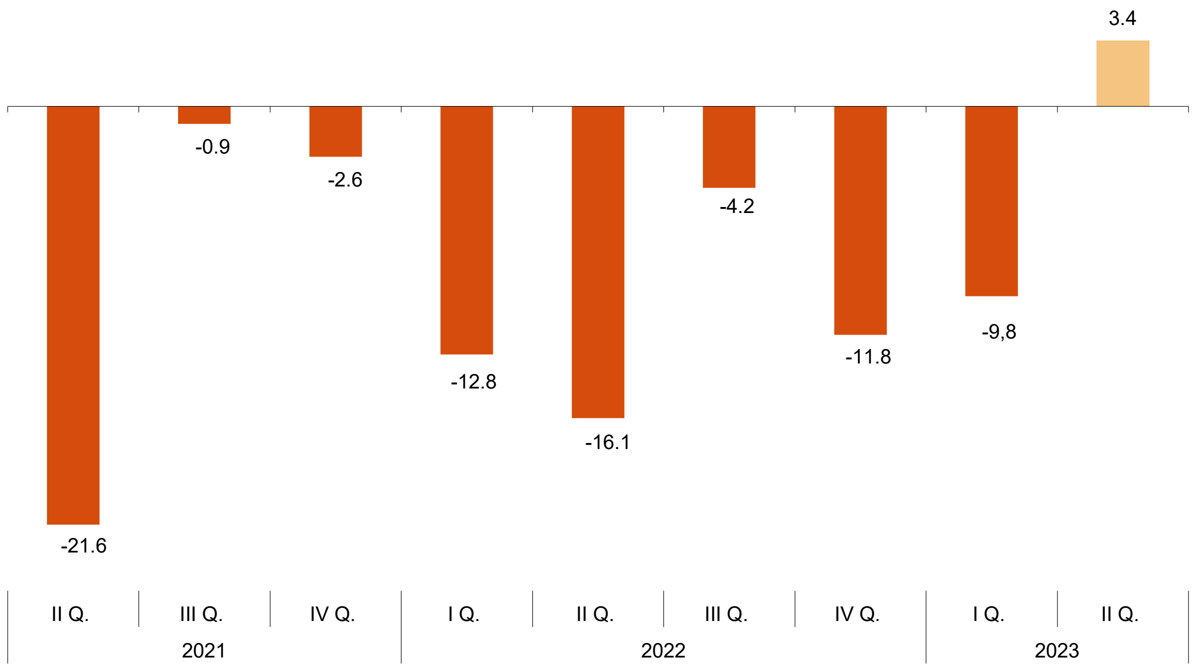
20.6% of business establishments managers considered that the performance of their business durint the second quarter would be favourable, while 17.2% thought it would be unfavoruable. The remaining 62.2% thought that it would be normal.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses, know a Expectations Balance, stood at 3.4 points for Spains as a whole, as compared with the −9.8 in the previous quarter.

Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 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
II	20.6	62.2	17.2	3.4

Evolution of the Expectations Balancedel Saldo de Expectativas
Second Quarter 2023



Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

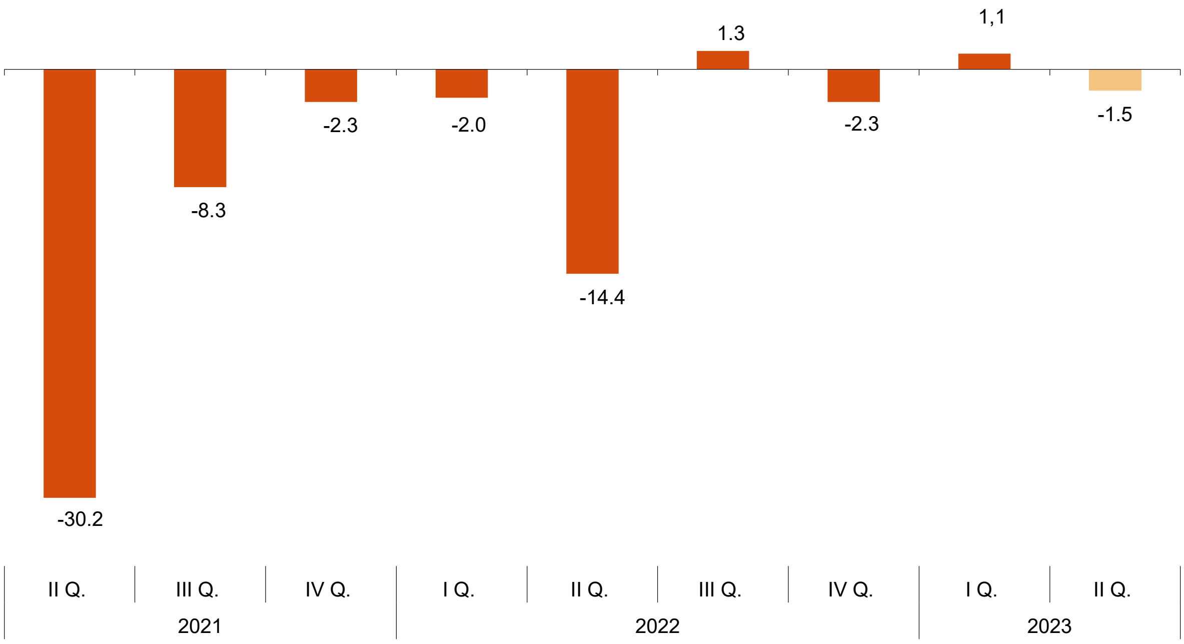
19.0% of business establishments managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their business in the first quarter 2023. In turn, 20.5% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable respondents referring to the ending quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at −1.5 points. This figure improves Expectations previously expressed for that quarte, which stood at −9.8 points.

Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 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
II	19.0	60.5	20.5	-1.5

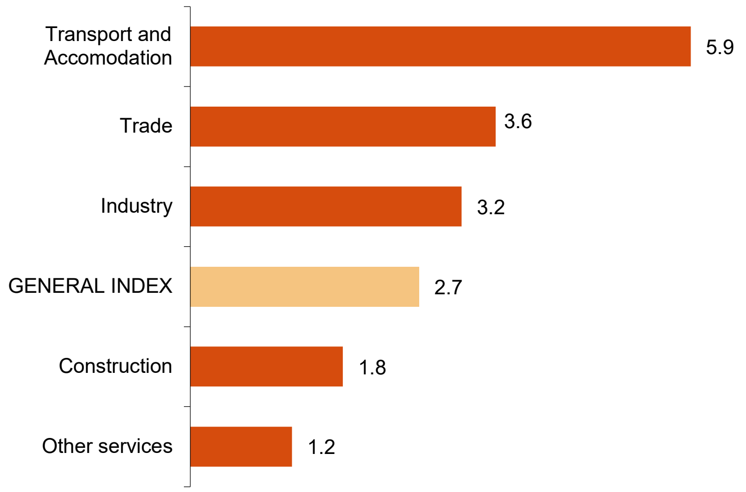
Evolution of the Situation Balance
Second Quarter 2023



Harmonised Business Confidence Index by activity sector

The five sector analysed increased confidence with respect to the previous quarter. *Transport and Accomodation* (5.9%) registered the greatest increases. On the other hand, *Other services* (1.2%) registered the lowest increases.

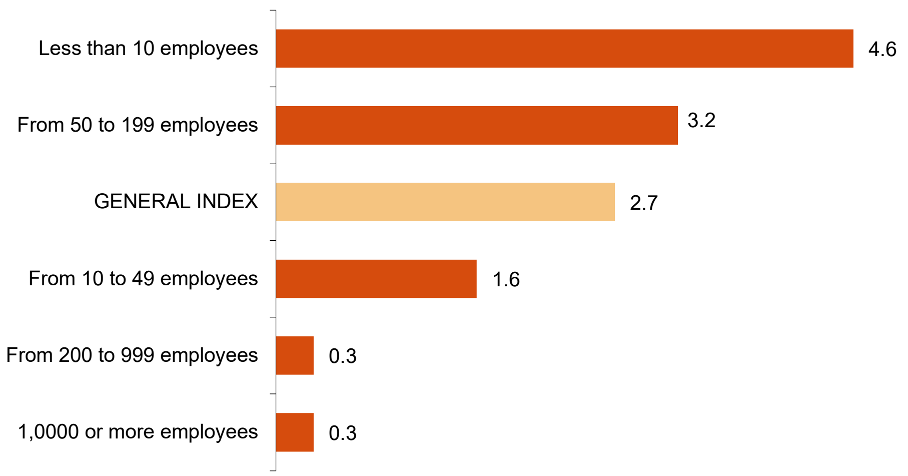
General Index and by activity sector
Second Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



Harmonised Business Confidence Index by size of establishments

The five sizes of establishments analysed presented an increase in confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. *Less than 10 employees* (4.6%) showed the largest increases and *From 200 to 999 employees* and *1,000 or more employees* the lowest increases (0.3%).

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

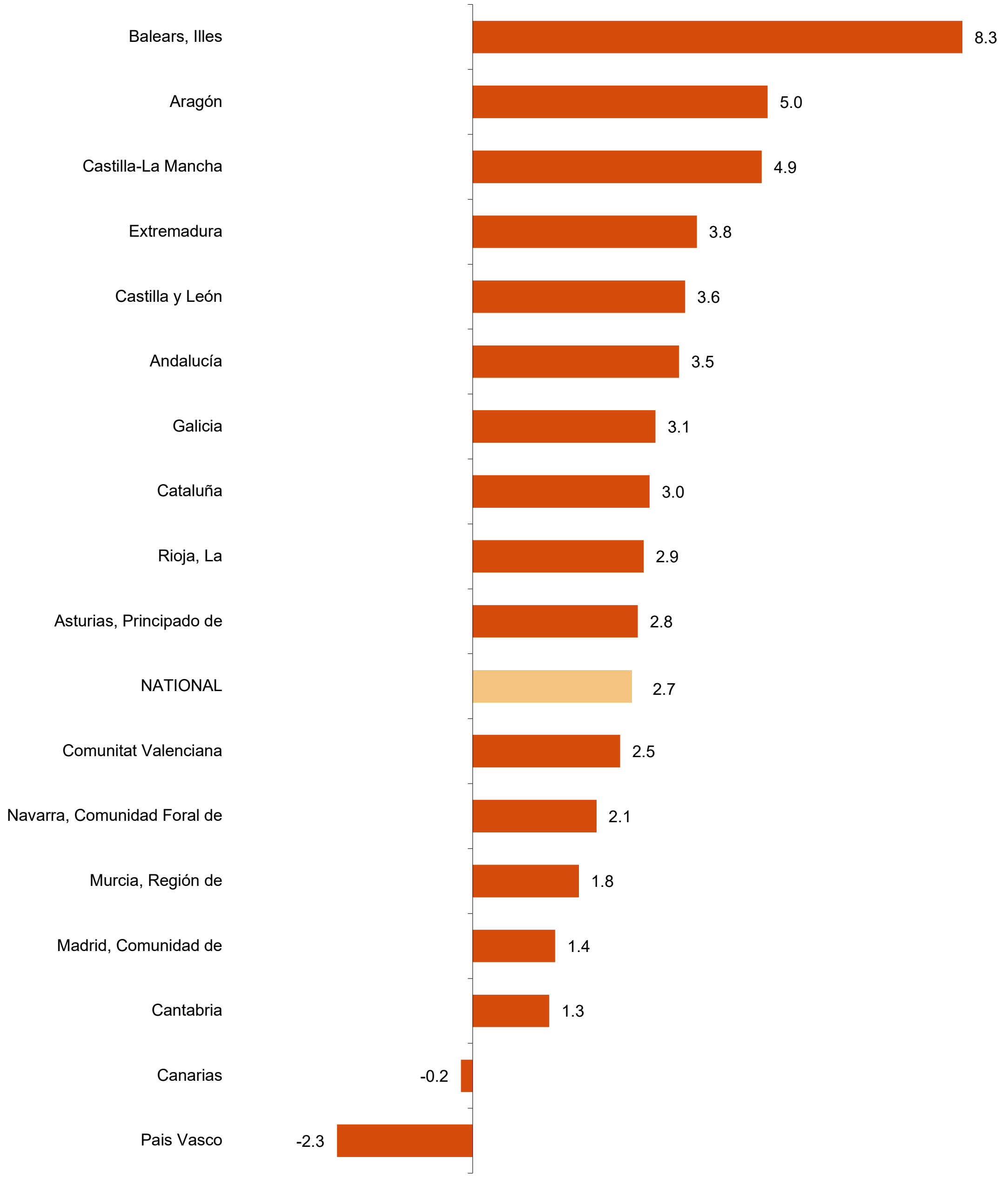


Harmonised Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Communities

Business confidence increased in the second quarter as compared with the first in 15 autonomous communities and decreased in the other dos. The largest increases were recorded in Illes Balears (8.3%), Aragón (5.0%) and Castilla-La Mancha (4.9%). The only decreases were recorded in País Vasco (−2.3%) and Canarias (−0.2%).

National index and by Autonomous Communities

Second Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



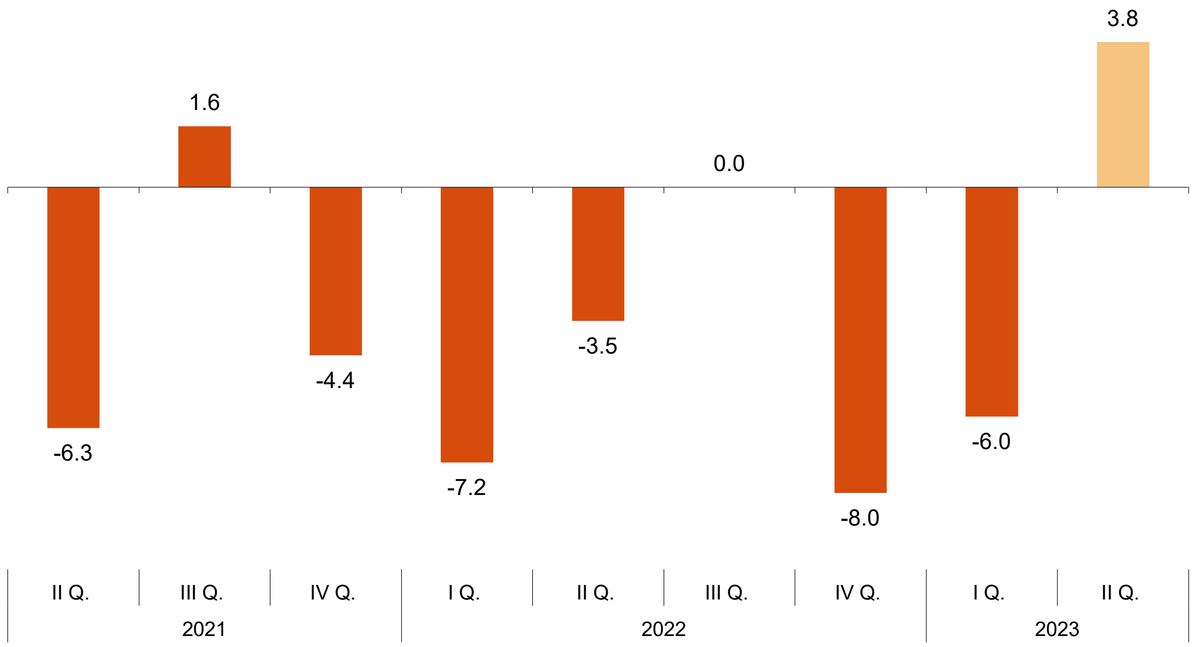
Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

12.4% of business establishments managers consider that employment, referring to personnel hired in their business, will increase in the second quarter of 2023, while 8.6% believe that it will decrease. The remaining 79.0% consider that it will remain stable. The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses stands at 3.8 points.

Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter		Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021	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
	II	12.4	79.0	8.6	3.8

Evolution of the Balance of Employment Expectations
Second quarter 2023.



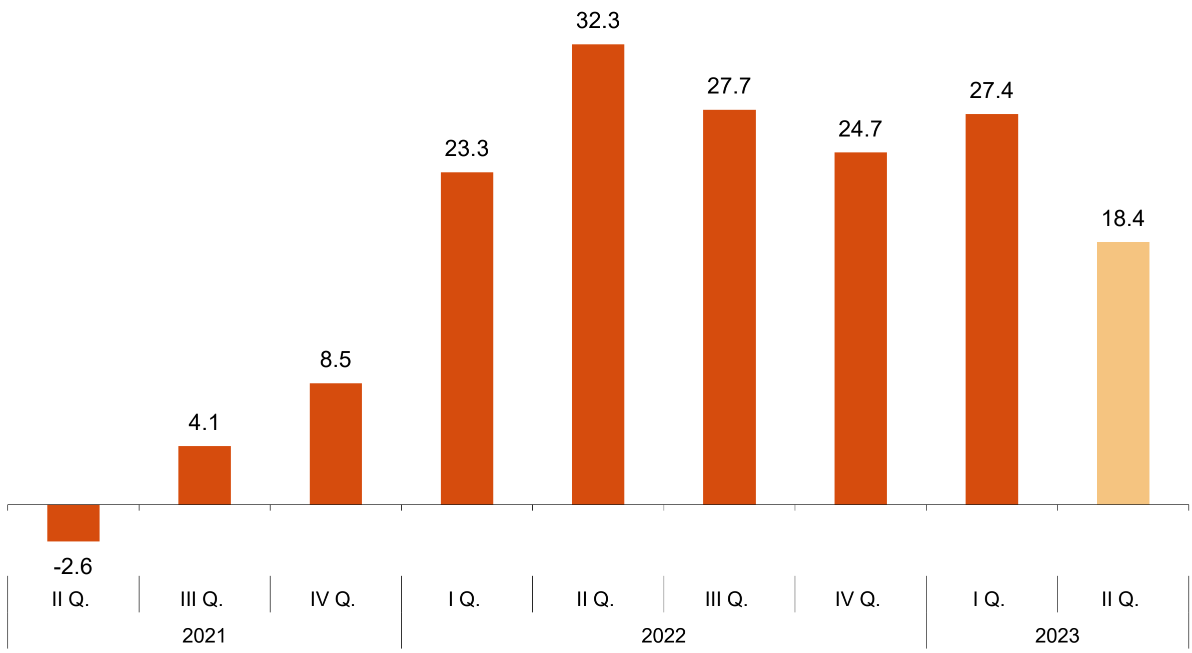
Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

23.1% of business establishments managers foresee that the price level of their business will increase in the second quarter of 2023, while 4.7% estimate that it will decrease. The remaining 72.2% consider that it will remain stable. The balance between the percentage of responses that consider the prices will rise and that of responses that consider that they will fall stands at 18.4 points, under the 27.4 obtained in the previous quarter.

Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 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
II	23.1	72.2	4.7	18.4

Evolution of the Balance of Price Expectations
Second quarter 2023.



Productive capacity in the *Industry*

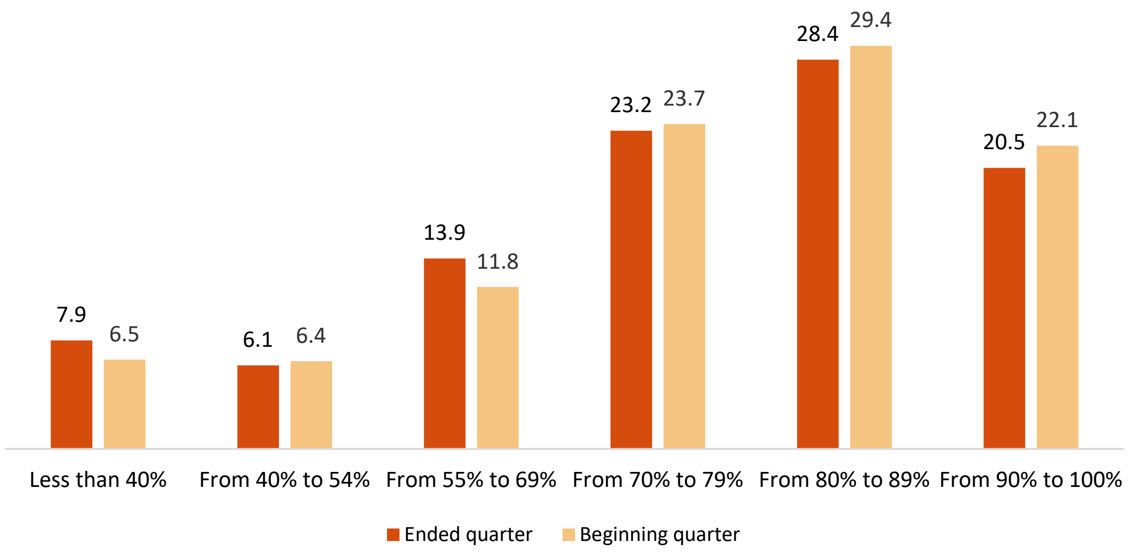
6.5% of industrial establishments expect to use less than 40% of their production capacity in the second quarter of 2023, compared to 7.9% in the previous quarter.

On the other hand, 22.1% of industrial establishments expect to use more than 90% of their production capacity in the beginning of the quarter, compared to the 20.5% declared last quarter.

Utilization of productive capacity in the *Industry*

	Situation Ended quarter	Expectation Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	7.9	6.5
From 40% to 54%	6.1	6.4
From 55% to 69%	13.9	11.8
From 70% to 79%	23.2	23.7
From 80% to 89%	28.4	29.4
From 90% to 100%	20.5	22.1

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



Review and update of data

The data published today are final and will not be suject to further revisión. 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 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 that 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.

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 you can Access the methodology at:

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

And the standardise methdological 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
Second quarter of 2023

1. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by sectors

Year / Quarter		TOTAL	Industry	Construction	Trade	Transport and accomodation	Other Services
2021	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
	II	132.5	123.9	144.5	136.9	138.4	129.2

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	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
	II	132.5	135.0	136.4	130.0	121.1	119.2

3. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Communities

Year / Quarter		NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2021	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
	II	132.5	133.6	137.8	132.4	142.2	131.9

Year / Quarter		Cantabria	Castilla y León	Castilla-La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2021	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
	II	140.3	136.9	143.8	135.3	123.3	130.0

Year / Quarter		Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2021	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
	II	128.6	130.7	123.5	129.0	129.8	125.5

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	20.6	62.2	17.2	3.4
Industry	20.8	60.1	19.1	1.7
Construction	19.6	63.4	17.0	2.6
Trade	19.0	61.3	19.7	-0.7
Transport and accommodation	24.8	56.6	18.6	6.2
Other services	20.2	65.5	14.3	5.9

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	20.6	62.2	17.2	3.4
Less than 10 employees	17.2	60.6	22.2	-5.0
From 10 to 49 employees	22.6	62.0	15.4	7.2
From 50 to 199 employees	25.8	59.8	14.4	11.4
From 200 to 999 employees	20.0	65.3	14.7	5.3
1,000 or more employees	20.5	71.0	8.5	12.0

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	20.6	62.2	17.2	3.4
Andalucía	21.4	59.2	19.4	2.0
Aragón	21.2	61.4	17.4	3.8
Asturias, Principado de	17.4	61.0	21.6	-4.2
Balears, Illes	30.0	59.3	10.7	19.3
Canarias	22.5	60.0	17.5	5.0
Cantabria	20.5	59.4	20.1	0.4
Castilla y León	20.4	60.1	19.5	0.9
Castilla- La Mancha	23.7	58.7	17.6	6.1
Cataluña	21.6	65.7	12.7	8.9
Comunitat Valenciana	21.5	59.3	19.2	2.3
Extremadura	17.9	61.0	21.1	-3.2
Galicia	17.1	67.4	15.5	1.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	21.8	66.2	12.0	9.8
Murcia, Región de	16.9	64.7	18.4	-1.5
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	15.9	62.5	21.6	-5.7
País Vasco	22.0	56.8	21.2	0.8
Rioja, La	15.5	61.4	23.1	-7.6

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	19.0	60.5	20.5	-1.5
Industry	20.4	57.4	22.2	-1.8
Construction	19.0	62.6	18.4	0.6
Trade	19.4	57.5	23.1	-3.7
Transport and accommodation	18.9	57.0	24.1	-5.2
Other services	18.0	64.6	17.4	0.6

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	19.0	60.5	20.5	-1.5
Less than 10 employees	13.5	60.3	26.2	-12.7
From 10 to 49 employees	22.4	58.6	19.0	3.4
From 50 to 199 employees	24.1	59.5	16.4	7.7
From 200 to 999 employees	21.0	61.0	18.0	3.0
1,000 or more employees	20.5	69.5	10.0	10.5

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	19.0	60.5	20.5	-1.5
Andalucía	18.1	60.9	21.0	-2.9
Aragón	21.2	60.2	18.6	2.6
Asturias, Principado de	15.8	58.9	25.3	-9.5
Balears, Illes	17.1	65.9	17.0	0.1
Canarias	28.5	53.9	17.6	10.9
Cantabria	17.9	58.4	23.7	-5.8
Castilla y León	17.9	57.9	24.2	-6.3
Castilla- La Mancha	15.4	62.0	22.6	-7.2
Cataluña	21.7	61.9	16.4	5.3
Comunitat Valenciana	19.8	57.4	22.8	-3.0
Extremadura	14.4	60.3	25.3	-10.9
Galicia	16.3	62.5	21.2	-4.9
Madrid, Comunidad de	21.9	62.9	15.2	6.7
Murcia, Región de	16.9	61.1	22.0	-5.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	17.6	59.1	23.3	-5.7
País Vasco	19.7	58.7	21.6	-1.9
Rioja, La	13.9	58.6	27.5	-13.6

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	12.4	79.0	8.6	3.8
Industry	12.3	80.2	7.5	4.8
Construction	9.6	79.5	10.9	-1.3
Trade	8.8	82.7	8.5	0.3
Transport and accommodation	17.8	73.4	8.8	9.0
Other services	13.5	78.2	8.3	5.2

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	12.4	79.0	8.6	3.8
Less than 10 employees	6.9	84.6	8.5	-1.6
From 10 to 49 employees	13.1	78.0	8.9	4.2
From 50 to 199 employees	20.0	71.5	8.5	11.5
From 200 to 999 employees	17.2	74.0	8.8	8.4
1,000 or more employees	13.0	79.4	7.6	5.4

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	11.7	74.9	13.4	-1.7
Industry	14.0	73.5	12.5	1.5
Construction	12.9	72.5	14.6	-1.7
Trade	12.2	74.2	13.6	-1.4
Transport and accommodation	10.7	75.1	14.2	-3.5
Other services	10.2	76.8	13.0	-2.8

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	11.7	74.9	13.4	-1.7
Less than 10 employees	5.4	82.5	12.1	-6.7
From 10 to 49 employees	14.0	71.6	14.4	-0.4
From 50 to 199 employees	16.8	68.7	14.5	2.3
From 200 to 999 employees	16.6	67.9	15.5	1.1
1,000 or more employees	16.7	72.4	10.9	5.8

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	23.1	72.2	4.7	18.4
Industry	21.7	73.6	4.7	17.0
Construction	28.6	66.4	5.0	23.6
Trade	31.2	63.9	4.9	26.3
Transport and accommodatio	23.7	69.3	7.0	16.7
Other services	17.0	79.3	3.7	13.3

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	23.1	72.2	4.7	18.4
Less than 10 employees	25.2	68.6	6.2	19.0
From 10 to 49 employees	25.0	71.1	3.9	21.1
From 50 to 199 employees	22.5	73.3	4.2	18.3
From 200 to 999 employees	19.2	76.6	4.2	15.0
1,000 or more employees	14.0	83.6	2.4	11.6

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	37.0	57.2	5.8	31.2
Industry	37.4	56.5	6.1	31.3
Construction	38.6	55.3	6.1	32.5
Trade	49.5	44.1	6.4	43.1
Transport and accommodatio	32.8	58.7	8.5	24.3
Other services	30.4	65.4	4.2	26.2

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	37.0	57.2	5.8	31.2
Less than 10 employees	36.8	56.2	7.0	29.8
From 10 to 49 employees	41.8	53.2	5.0	36.8
From 50 to 199 employees	35.5	58.6	5.9	29.6
From 200 to 999 employees	34.6	60.9	4.5	30.1
1,000 or more employees	29.0	66.7	4.3	24.7

18. Utilization of productive capacity in industry

	Situation Ended quarter	Expectation Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	7.9	6.5
From 40% to 54%	6.1	6.4
From 55% to 69%	13.9	11.8
From 70% to 79%	23.2	23.7
From 80% to 89%	28.4	29.4
From 90% to 100%	20.5	22.1