

Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)
Third quarter of 2021

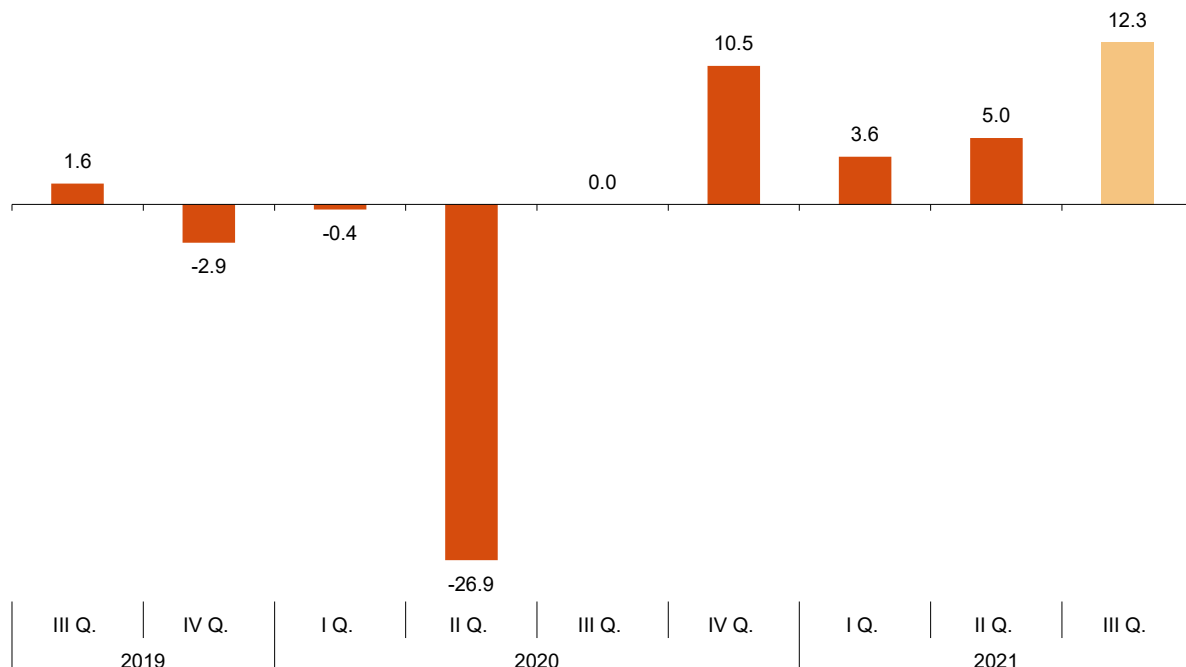
The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases 12.3% in the third quarter of 2021 as compared with the second quarter

21.6% of business establishments foresee a favourable quarter and 22.5% are pessimistic about the performance of their business

Evolution of the Harmonised Business Confidence Index

The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases by 12.3% in the third quarter of 2021 as compared with the second quarter.

Harmonised Business Confidence Index
Third Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

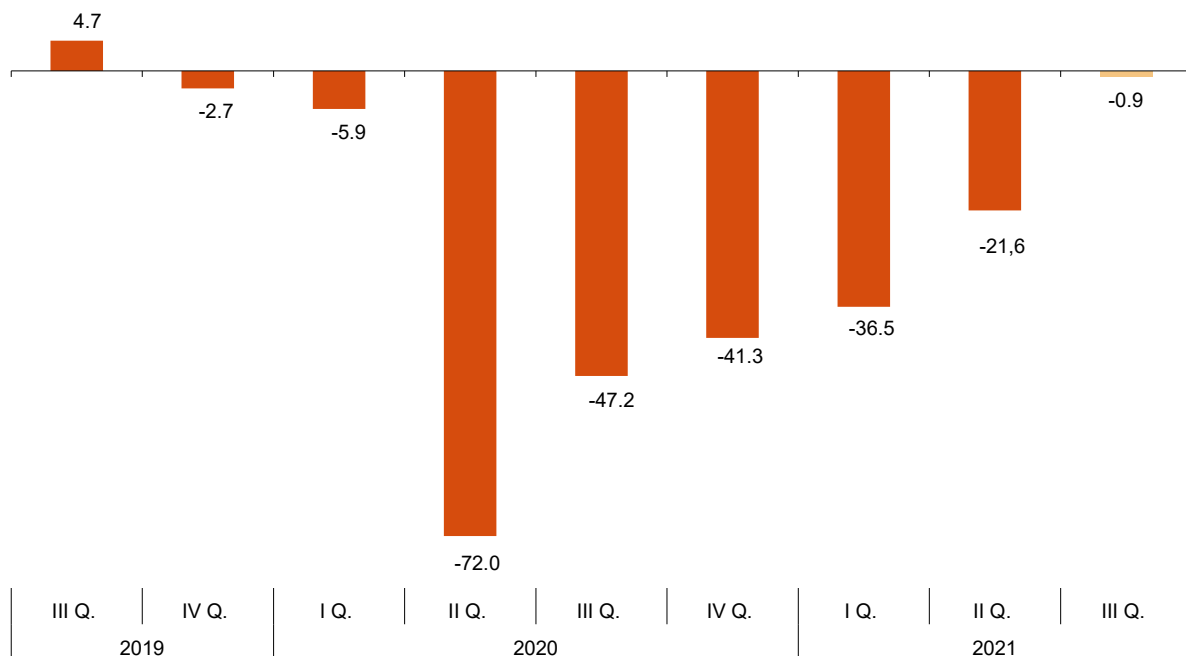
21.6% of business establishments managers considered that the performance of their business during the third quarter of 2021 would be favourable, while 22.5% thought it would be unfavourable. The remaining 55.9% thought that it would be normal.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses, known as Expectations Balance, stood at -0.9 points for Spain as a whole, as compared with the -21.6 obtained in the previous quarter.

Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 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
II	13.8	50.8	35.4	-21.6
III	21.6	55.9	22.5	-0.9

Evolution of the Expectations Balance Third Quarter 2021



Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

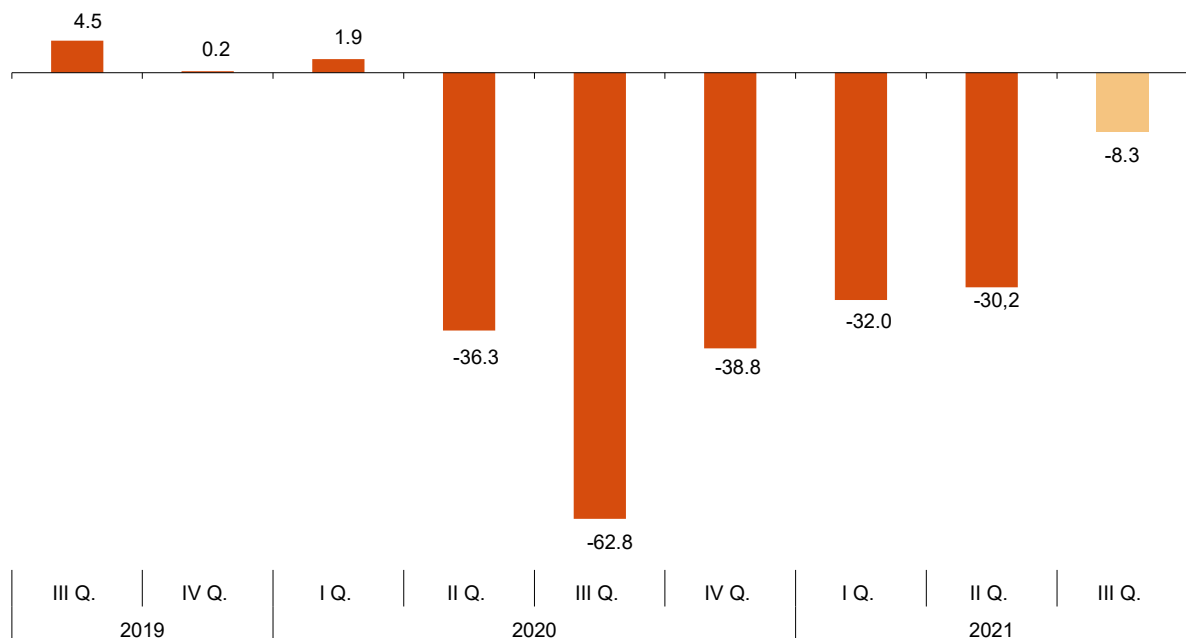
18.8% of business establishments managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their business in the second quarter 2021. In turn, 27.1% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses referring to the ending quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at -8.3 points. This figure improves Expectations previously expressed for that quarter, which stood at -21.6 points.

Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%)	Balance
	(optimistic)		(pessimistic)	(optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 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
II	11.2	47.4	41.4	-30.2
III	18.8	54.1	27.1	-8.3

Evolution of the Situation Balance Third Quarter 2021

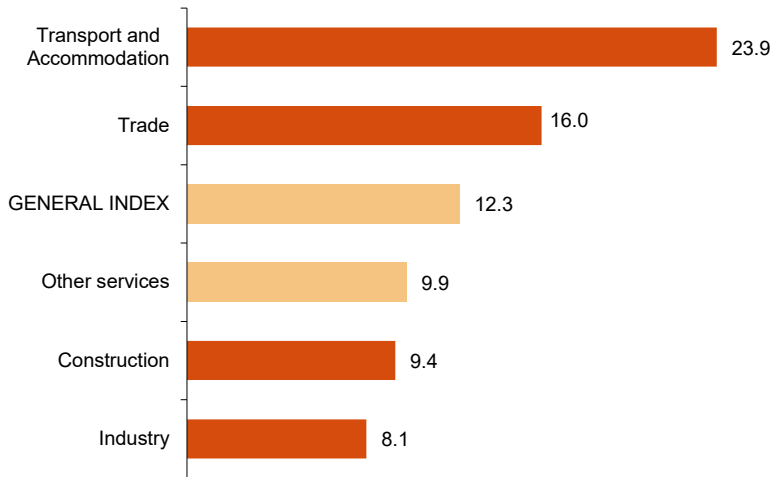


Harmonised Business Confidence Index by activity sector

The five sectors analyzed increased confidence with respect to the previous quarter. *Transport and Accommodation* (23.9%) registered the greatest increases. On the other hand, *Industry* (8.1%) registered the lowest increases.

General Index and by activity sector

Third Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate

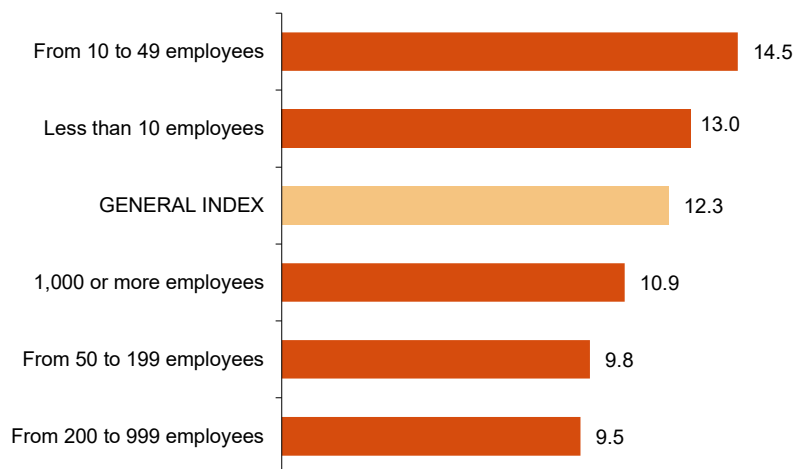


Harmonised Business Confidence Index by size of establishments

The five sizes of establishments analyzed presented an increase in confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. From 10 to 49 employees (14.5%) showed the largest increase and From 200 to 999 employees the smallest increase (9.5%).

General index and by size of establishment

Third Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



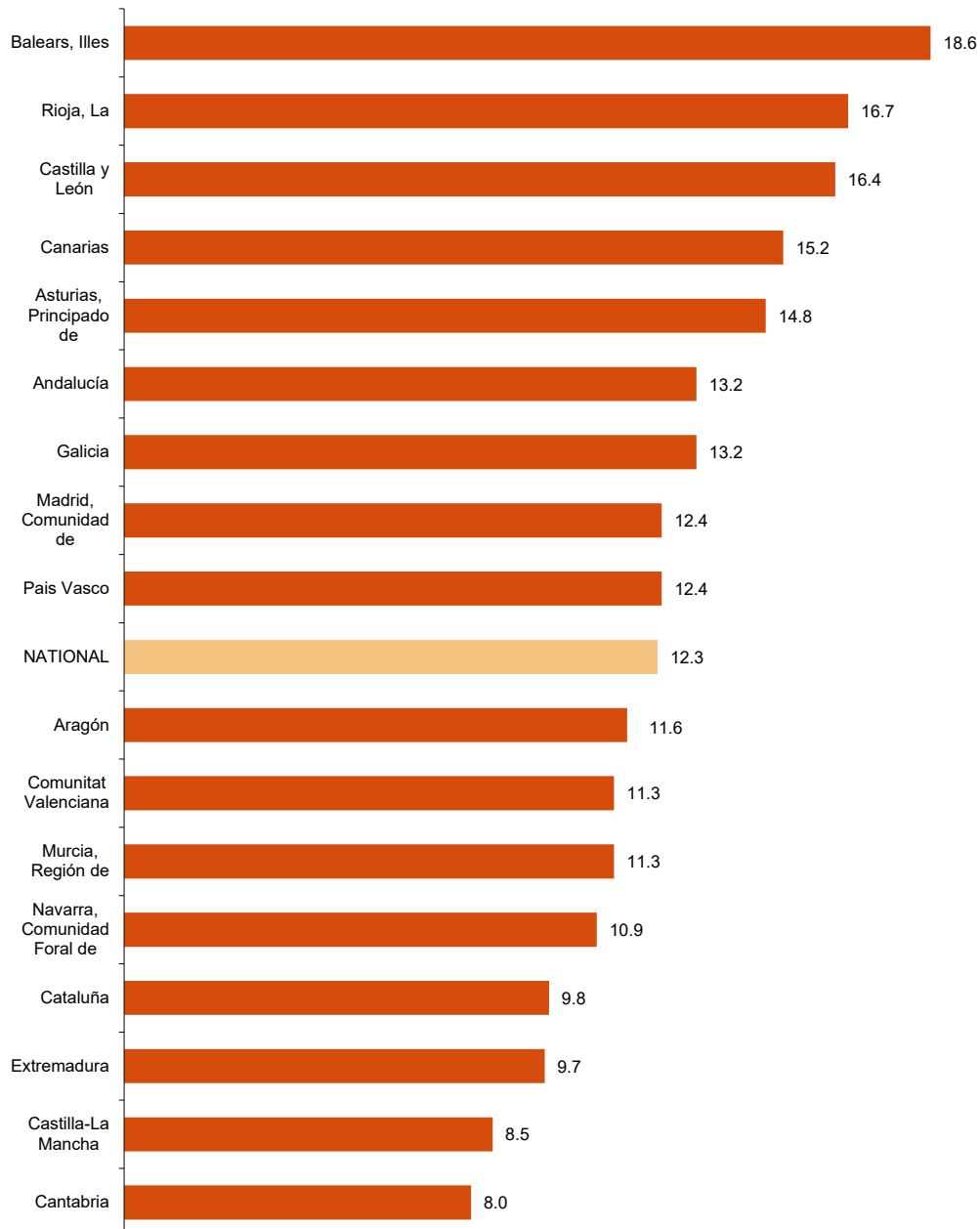
Harmonised Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Communities

Business confidence increased in the third quarter of 2021 as compared with previous quarter in all autonomous communities.

The largest increases were recorded in Illes Balears (18.6%), La Rioja (16.7%) and Castilla y León (16.4%).

National index and by Autonomous Communities

Third Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

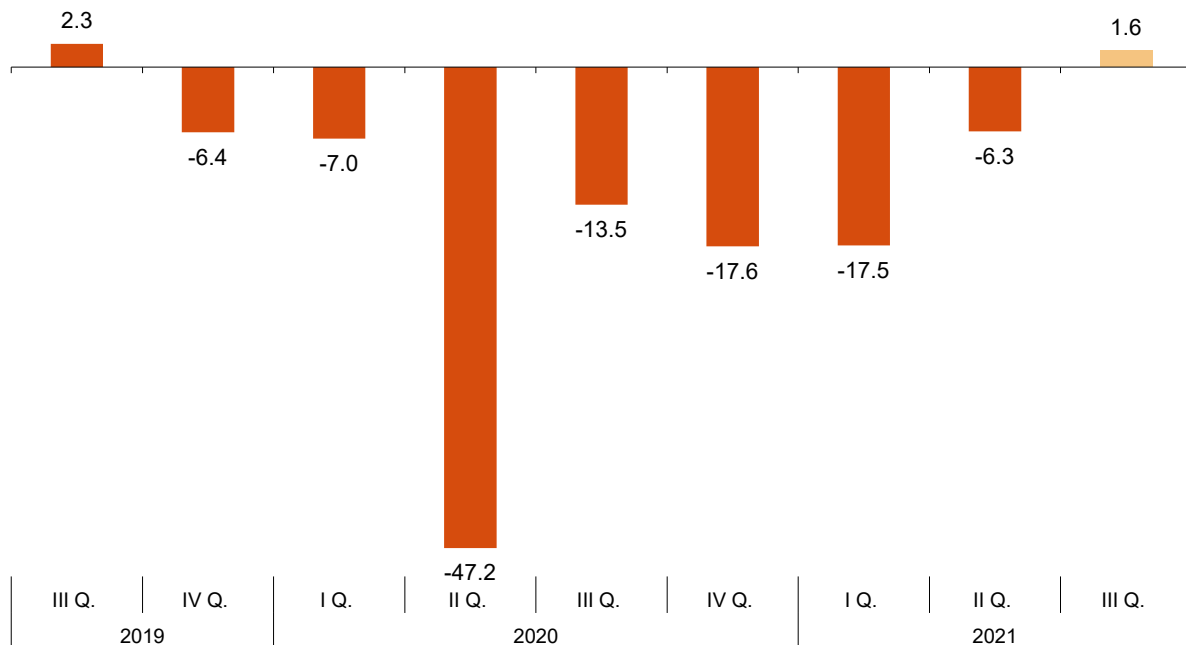
12.6% of business establishments managers consider that employment, referring to personnel hired in their business, will increase in the third quarter of 2021, while 11.0% believe that it will decrease. The remaining 76.4% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses stands at 1.6 points.

Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 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
II	8.4	76.9	14.7	-6.3
III	12.6	76.4	11.0	1.6

**Evolution of the Balance of Employment Expectations
Third quarter 2021.**



Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

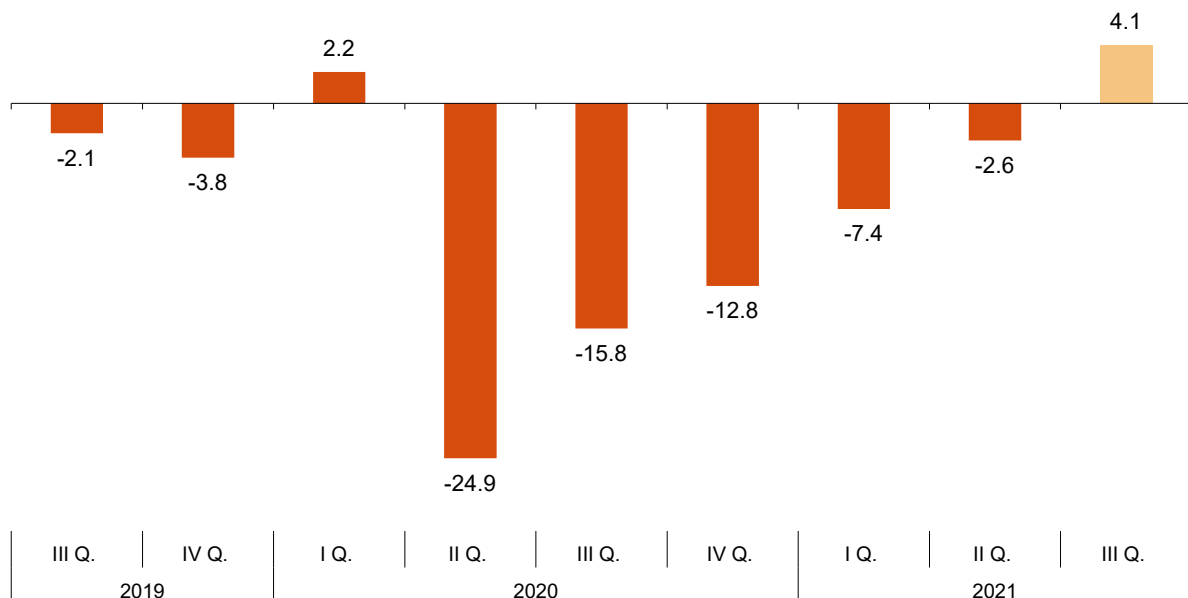
11.4% of business establishment managers foresee that the price level of their business will increase in the third quarter of 2021, while 7.3% estimate that it will decrease. The remaining 81.3% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses stands at 4.1 points, above the -2.6 obtained in the previous quarter.

Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%)	Balance
	(optimistic)		(pessimistic)	(optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 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
II	7.3	82.8	9.9	-2.6
III	11.4	81.3	7.3	4.1

Evolution of the Balance of Price Expectations Third quarter 2021.



Productive capacity in the *Industry*

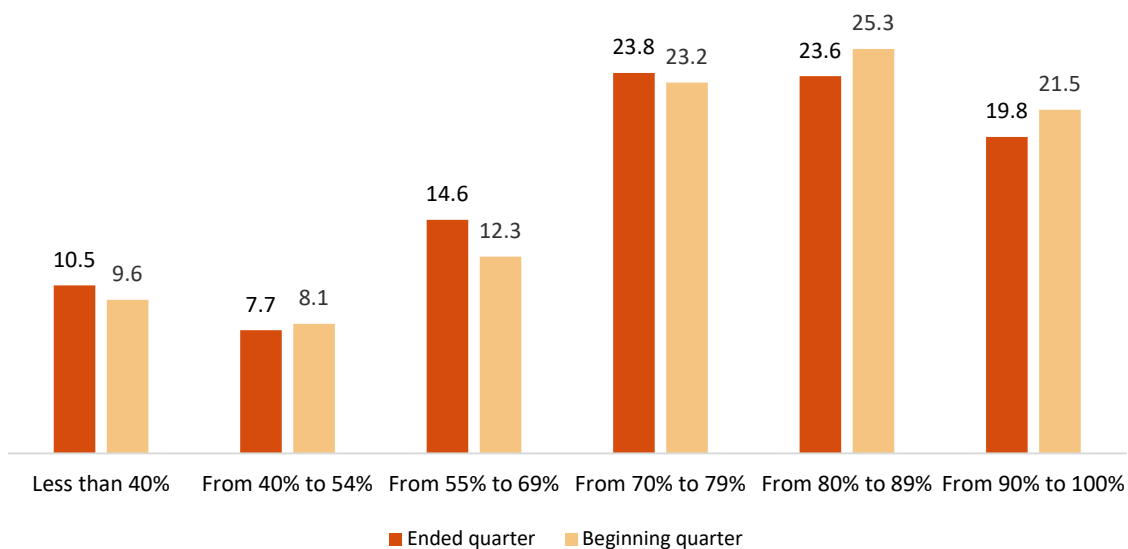
9.6% of industrial establishments expect to use less than 40% of their production capacity in the third quarter of 2021, compared to 10.5% in the previous quarter.

On the other hand, 21.5% of industrial establishments expect to use more than 90% of their production capacity in the beginning of the quarter, compared to the 19.8% declared last quarter.

Utilization of productive capacity in the *Industry*

Situation	Expectation	
	Ended quarter	Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	10.5	9.6
From 40% to 54%	7.7	8.1
From 55% to 69%	14.6	12.3
From 70% to 79%	23.8	23.2
From 80% to 89%	23.6	25.3
From 90% to 100%	19.8	21.5

Situation and Expectations by sections of productive capacity in the *Industry* Third quarter 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 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 (except Ceuta and Melilla).

Sample size: The sample is representative both nationally and by Autonomous Community and is made up of around 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 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 policy 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.

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Business Confidence Indicators Third quarter of 2021

1. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by sectors

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Industry	Construction	Trade	Transport and accommodation	Other Services
2019 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
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

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	1000 or more employees
2019 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
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

3. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Communities

Year / Quarter	NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2019 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
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

Year / Quarter	Cantabria	Castilla y León	Castilla- La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2019 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
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

Year / Quarter	Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2019 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
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

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	21.6	55.9	22.5	-0.9
Industry	24.1	54.4	21.5	2.6
Construction	20.7	59.4	19.9	0.8
Trade	22.6	54.8	22.6	0.0
Transport and accommodation	22.5	44.3	33.2	-10.7
Other services	19.7	60.3	20.0	-0.3

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	21.6	55.9	22.5	-0.9
Less than 10 employees	17.0	55.2	27.8	-10.8
From 10 to 49 employees	23.6	55.7	20.7	2.9
From 50 to 199 employees	25.8	54.4	19.8	6.0
From 200 to 999 employees	26.1	55.4	18.5	7.6
1,000 or more employees	23.7	64.1	12.2	11.5

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	21.6	55.9	22.5	-0.9
Andalucía	20.9	53.2	25.9	-5.0
Aragón	21.2	55.6	23.2	-2.0
Asturias, Principado de	24.3	51.4	24.3	0.0
Balears, Illes	19.4	50.9	29.7	-10.3
Canarias	17.9	47.5	34.6	-16.7
Cantabria	21.2	58.4	20.4	0.8
Castilla y León	27.8	51.7	20.5	7.3
Castilla- La Mancha	20.8	55.2	24.0	-3.2
Cataluña	24.4	57.2	18.4	6.0
Comunitat Valenciana	23.5	53.5	23.0	0.5
Extremadura	18.0	61.3	20.7	-2.7
Galicia	18.9	61.4	19.7	-0.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	21.6	57.9	20.5	1.1
Murcia, Región de	17.6	57.2	25.2	-7.6
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	21.6	56.8	21.6	0.0
País Vasco	24.6	55.8	19.6	5.0
Rioja, La	18.3	57.4	24.3	-6.0

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	18.8	54.1	27.1	-8.3
Industry	24.2	51.6	24.2	0.0
Construction	19.0	59.9	21.1	-2.1
Trade	20.2	51.3	28.5	-8.3
Transport and accommodation	13.3	42.4	44.3	-31.0
Other services	17.0	59.5	23.5	-6.5

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	18.8	54.1	27.1	-8.3
Less than 10 employees	13.3	54.3	32.4	-19.1
From 10 to 49 employees	20.7	52.8	26.5	-5.8
From 50 to 199 employees	22.2	53.7	24.1	-1.9
From 200 to 999 employees	25.4	53.2	21.4	4.0
1,000 or more employees	23.7	60.6	15.7	8.0

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	18.8	54.1	27.1	-8.3
Andalucía	18.1	52.2	29.7	-11.6
Aragón	20.2	54.5	25.3	-5.1
Asturias, Principado de	19.0	55.3	25.7	-6.7
Balears, Illes	12.6	47.5	39.9	-27.3
Canarias	13.7	43.7	42.6	-28.9
Cantabria	19.2	53.0	27.8	-8.6
Castilla y León	22.6	49.1	28.3	-5.7
Castilla- La Mancha	16.0	54.0	30.0	-14.0
Cataluña	23.4	53.3	23.3	0.1
Comunitat Valenciana	22.6	52.3	25.1	-2.5
Extremadura	16.6	57.4	26.0	-9.4
Galicia	12.2	61.4	26.4	-14.2
Madrid, Comunidad de	19.5	56.3	24.2	-4.7
Murcia, Región de	16.5	60.1	23.4	-6.9
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	19.7	52.8	27.5	-7.8
País Vasco	22.7	55.5	21.8	0.9
Rioja, La	14.3	55.7	30.0	-15.7

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

Activity	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	12.6	76.4	11.0	1.6
Industry	12.7	76.8	10.5	2.2
Construction	11.8	76.9	11.3	0.5
Trade	9.7	80.2	10.1	-0.4
Transport and accommodation	17.5	69.7	12.8	4.7
Other services	12.6	76.5	10.9	1.7

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	12.6	76.4	11.0	1.6
Less than 10 employees	5.9	83.4	10.7	-4.8
From 10 to 49 employees	14.6	75.9	9.5	5.1
From 50 to 199 employees	20.4	67.5	12.1	8.3
From 200 to 999 employees	17.8	68.8	13.4	4.4
1,000 or more employees	15.2	74.5	10.3	4.9

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

Activity	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	13.5	73.3	13.2	0.3
Industry	16.7	69.5	13.8	2.9
Construction	15.4	72.1	12.5	2.9
Trade	10.5	73.6	15.9	-5.4
Transport and accommodation	16.0	70.7	13.3	2.7
Other services	12.0	76.5	11.5	0.5

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	13.5	73.3	13.2	0.3
Less than 10 employees	7.3	80.8	11.9	-4.6
From 10 to 49 employees	16.4	71.4	12.2	4.2
From 50 to 199 employees	19.7	67.3	13.0	6.7
From 200 to 999 employees	18.5	64.0	17.5	1.0
1,000 or more employees	15.3	66.8	17.9	-2.6

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

Activity	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	11.4	81.3	7.3	4.1
Industry	16.9	78.0	5.1	11.8
Construction	13.8	78.4	7.8	6.0
Trade	16.9	73.8	9.3	7.6
Transport and accommodatio	9.6	82.2	8.2	1.4
Other services	4.9	88.2	6.9	-2.0

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	11.4	81.3	7.3	4.1
Less than 10 employees	11.4	78.9	9.7	1.7
From 10 to 49 employees	14.0	79.8	6.2	7.8
From 50 to 199 employees	11.4	82.5	6.1	5.3
From 200 to 999 employees	8.9	85.9	5.2	3.7
1,000 or more employees	6.2	89.6	4.2	2.0

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

Activity	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	12.1	78.8	9.1	3.0
Industry	22.5	70.5	7.0	15.5
Construction	14.0	74.9	11.1	2.9
Trade	18.8	71.2	10.0	8.8
Transport and accommodatio	5.7	82.7	11.6	-5.9
Other services	4.0	87.8	8.2	-4.2

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	12.1	78.8	9.1	3.0
Less than 10 employees	11.5	77.7	10.8	0.7
From 10 to 49 employees	15.5	74.9	9.6	5.9
From 50 to 199 employees	11.6	80.5	7.9	3.7
From 200 to 999 employees	10.3	82.5	7.2	3.1
1,000 or more employees	7.0	89.0	4.0	3.0

18. Utilization of productive capacity in industry

	Situation		Expectation	
	Ended quarter		Beginning quarter	
Less than 40%	10.5		9.6	
From 40% to 54%	7.7		8.1	
From 55% to 69%	14.6		12.3	
From 70% to 79%	23.8		23.2	
From 80% to 89%	23.6		25.3	
From 90% to 100%	19.8		21.5	