

Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)
Third quarter of 2023

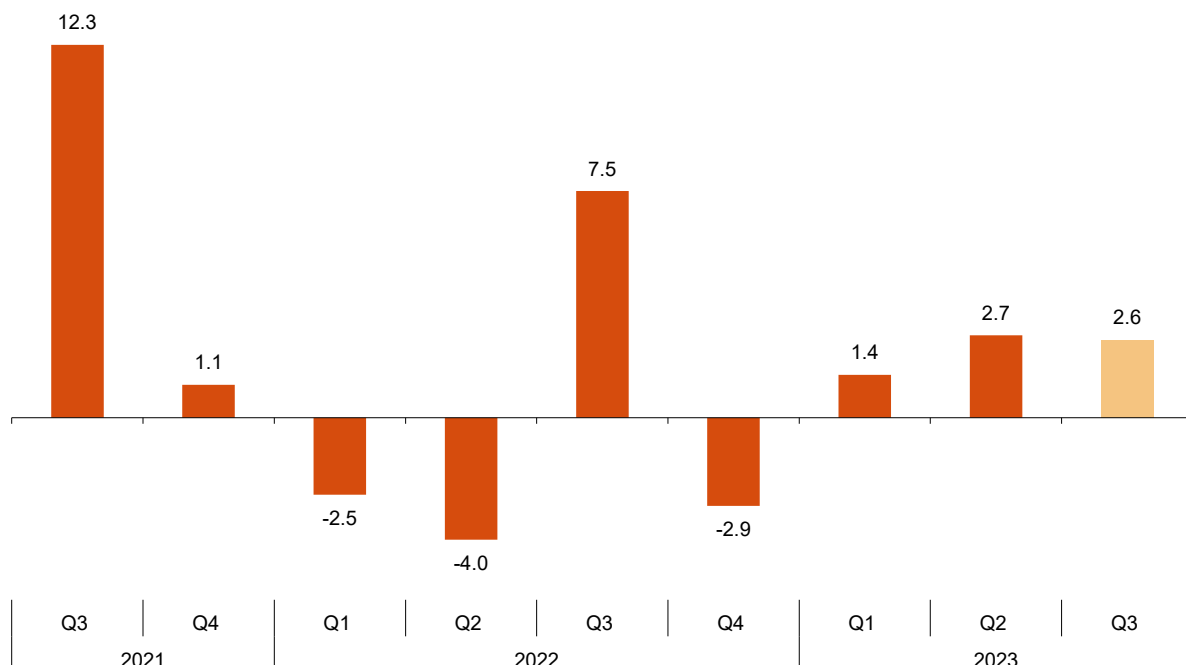
The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases 2.6% in the third quarter of 2023 as compared with the second quarter

22.2% of business establishments foresee a favourable quarter and 17.0% are pessimistic about the performance of their business

Evolution of the Harmonised Business Confidence Index

The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases by 2.6% in the third quarter of 2023 as compared with the second quarter.

Harmonised Business Confidence Index
Third Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

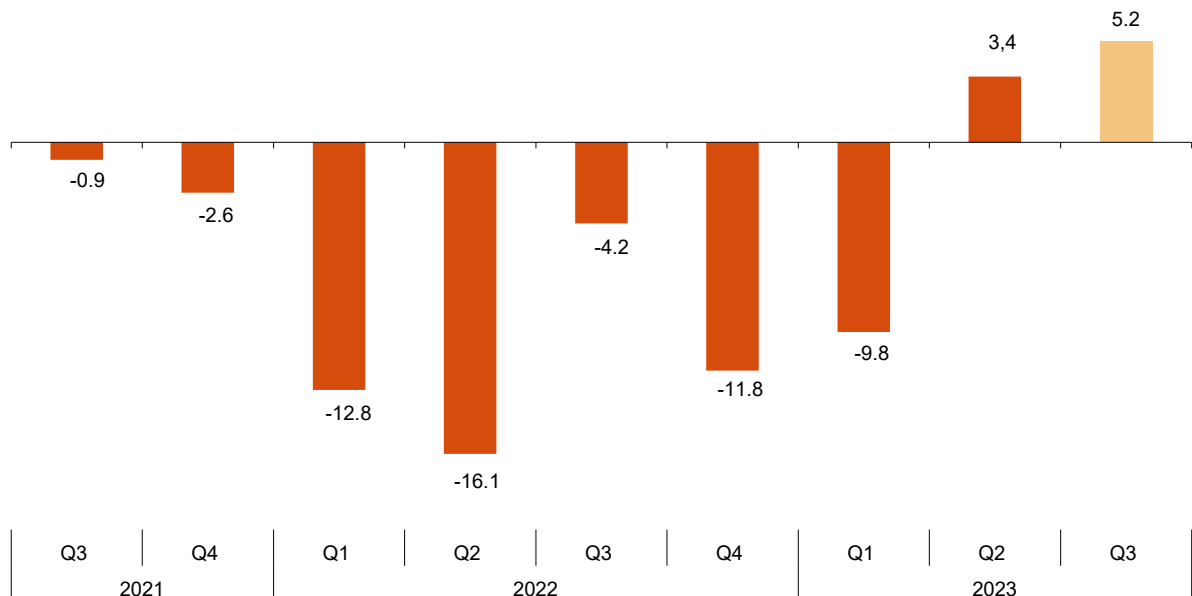
22.2% of business establishments managers considered that the performance of their business during the third quarter of 2023 would be favourable, while 17.0% thought it would be unfavourable. The remaining 60.8% thought that it would be normal.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses, known as an Expectations Balance, stood at 5.2 points for Spain as a whole, as compared with the 3.4 in the previous quarter.

Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 Q3	21.6	55.9	22.5	-0.9
Q4	18.9	59.6	21.5	-2.6
2022 Q1	14.7	57.8	27.5	-12.8
Q2	14.5	54.9	30.6	-16.1
Q3	19.6	56.6	23.8	-4.2
Q4	15.5	57.2	27.3	-11.8
2023 Q1	15.1	60.0	24.9	-9.8
Q2	20.6	62.2	17.2	3.4
Q3	22.2	60.8	17.0	5.2

Evolution of the Expectations Balance del Saldo de Expectativas Third Quarter 2023



Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

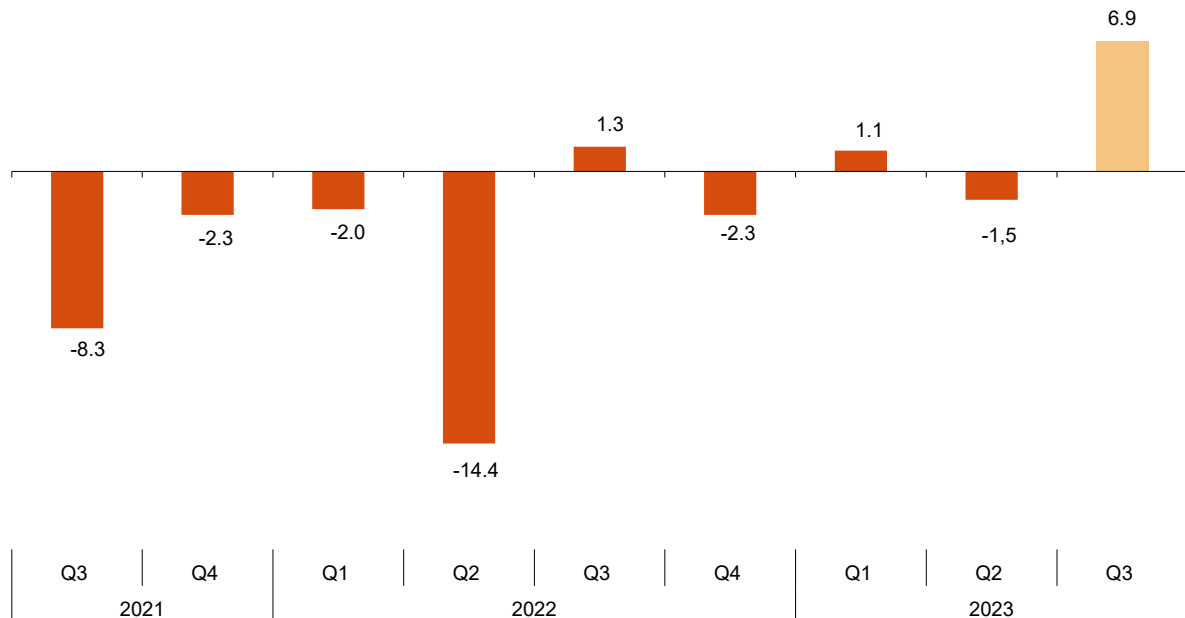
22.6% of business establishments managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their business in the second quarter 2023. In turn, 15.7% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable respondents referring to the ending quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at 6.9 points. This figure improves Expectations previously expressed for that quarter, which stood at 3.4 points.

Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruabe (%)	Balance
	(optimistic)		(pessimistic)	(optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 Q3	18.8	54.1	27.1	-8.3
Q4	20.3	57.1	22.6	-2.3
2022 Q1	20.6	56.8	22.6	-2.0
Q2	14.8	56.0	29.2	-14.4
Q3	21.9	57.5	20.6	1.3
Q4	20.1	57.5	22.4	-2.3
2023 Q1	21.1	58.9	20.0	1.1
Q2	19.0	60.5	20.5	-1.5
Q3	22.6	61.7	15.7	6.9

Evolution of the Situation Balance Third Quarter 2023

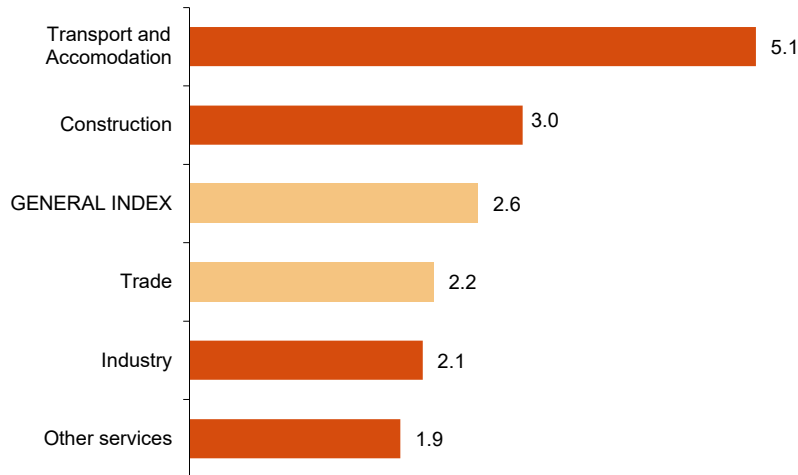


Harmonised Business Confidence Index by activity sector

The five sector analysed increased confidence with respect to the previous quarter. *Transport and Accomodation* (5.1%) registered the greatest increases. On the other hand, *Other services* (1.9%) registered the lowest increases.

General Index and by activity sector

Third Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate

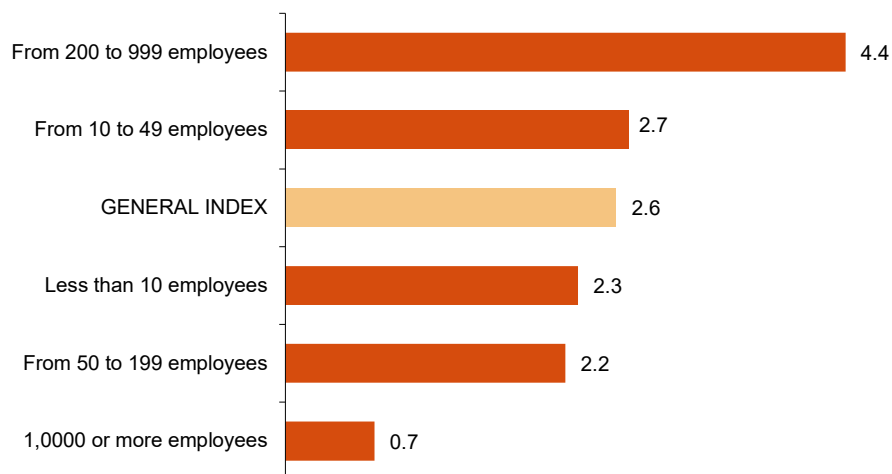


Harmonised Business Confidence Index by size of establishments

The five sizes of establishments analysed presented an increase in confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. From 200 to 999 employees (4.4%) showed the largest increases and 1,0000 or more employees the lowest increases (0.7%).

General index and by size of establishment

Third Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



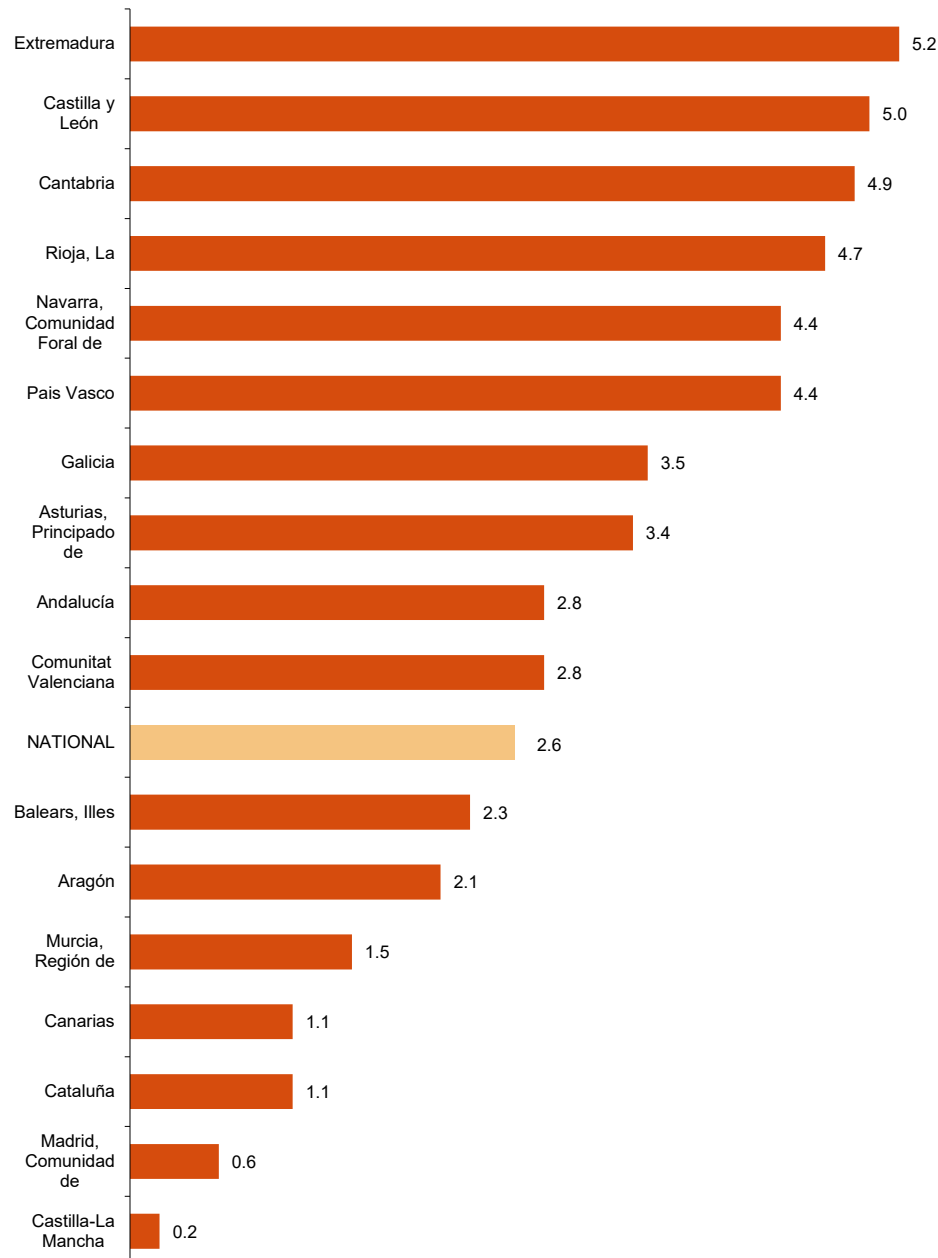
Harmonised Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Communities

Business confidence increased in the third quarter of 2023 as compared with previous quarter in all autonomous communities.

The largest increases were recorded in Extremadura (5.2%), Castilla y León (5.0%) y Cantabria (4.9%).

National index and by Autonomous Communities

Third Quarter 2023. Quarterly rate



Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

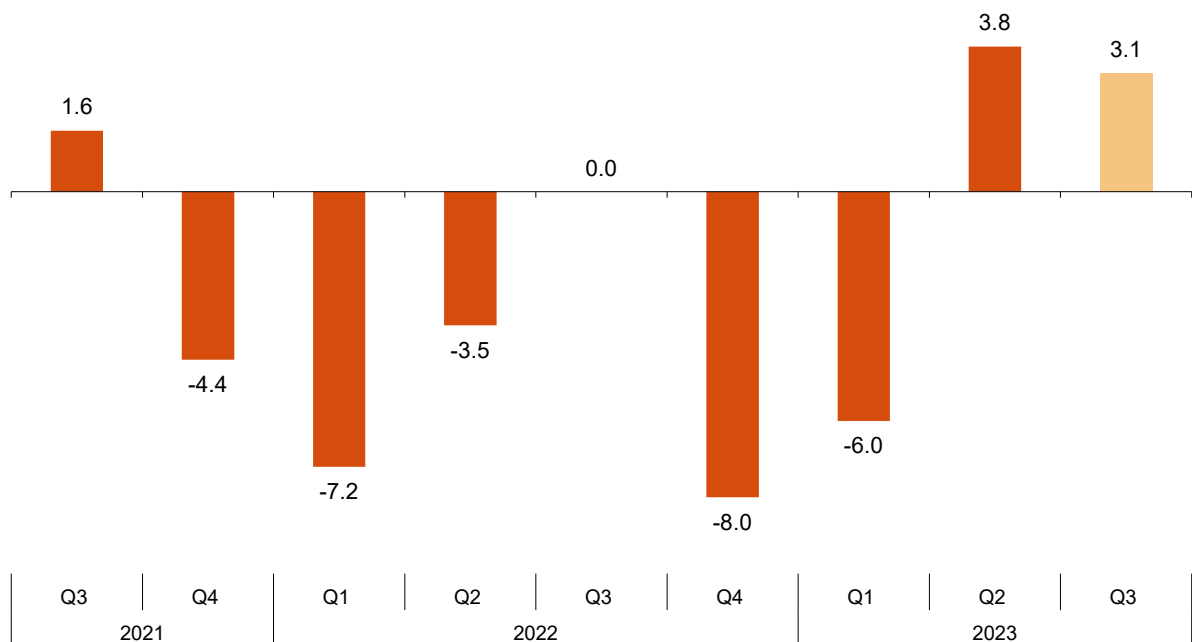
12.8% of business establishments managers consider that employment, referring to personnel hired in their business, will increase in the third quarter of 2023, while 9.7% believe that it will decrease. The remaining 77.5% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses stands at 3.1 points.

Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 Q3	12.6	76.4	11.0	1.6
Q4	10.1	75.4	14.5	-4.4
2022 Q1	7.3	78.2	14.5	-7.2
Q2	9.8	76.9	13.3	-3.5
Q3	11.9	76.2	11.9	0.0
Q4	8.6	74.8	16.6	-8.0
2023 Q1	7.6	78.8	13.6	-6.0
Q2	12.4	79.0	8.6	3.8
Q3	12.8	77.5	9.7	3.1

Evolution of the Balance of Employment Expectations Third quarter 2023



Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

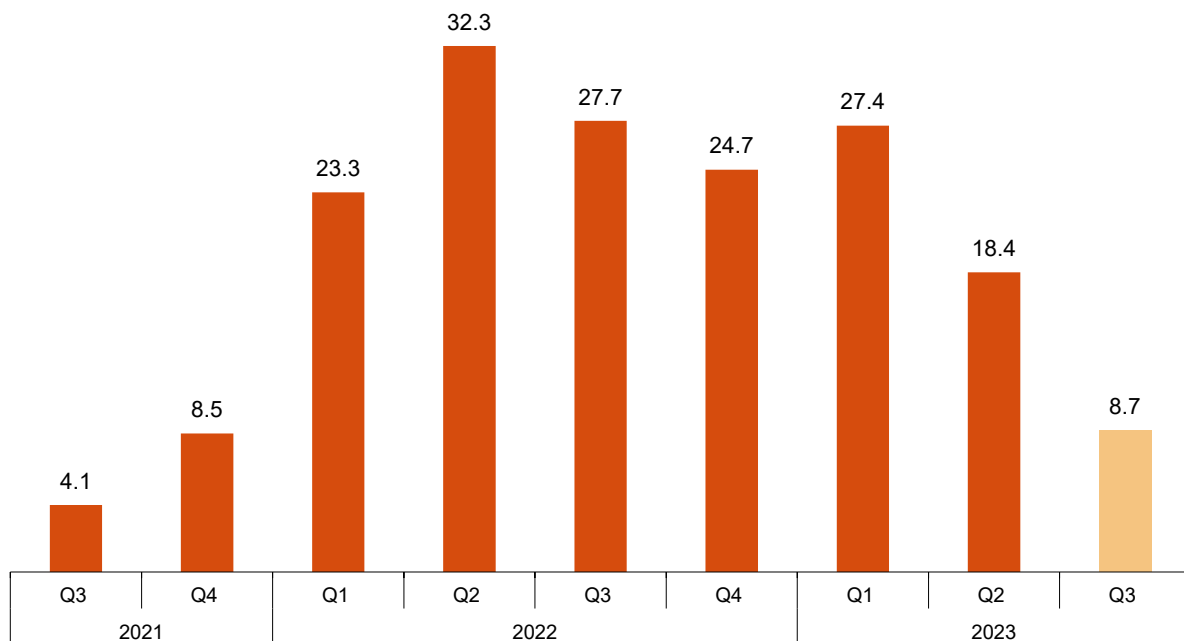
14.2% of business establishments managers foresee that the price level of their business will increase in the third quarter of 2023, while 5.5% estimate that it will decrease. The remaining 80.3% consider that it will remain stable.

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 8.7 points, under the 18.4 obtained in the previous quarter.

Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2021 Q3	11.4	81.3	7.3	4.1
Q4	15.4	77.7	6.9	8.5
2022 Q1	30.1	63.1	6.8	23.3
Q2	37.5	57.3	5.2	32.3
Q3	32.5	62.7	4.8	27.7
Q4	30.9	62.9	6.2	24.7
2023 Q1	33.8	59.8	6.4	27.4
Q2	23.1	72.2	4.7	18.4
Q3	14.2	80.3	5.5	8.7

**Evolution of the Balance of Price Expectations
Third quarter 2023**



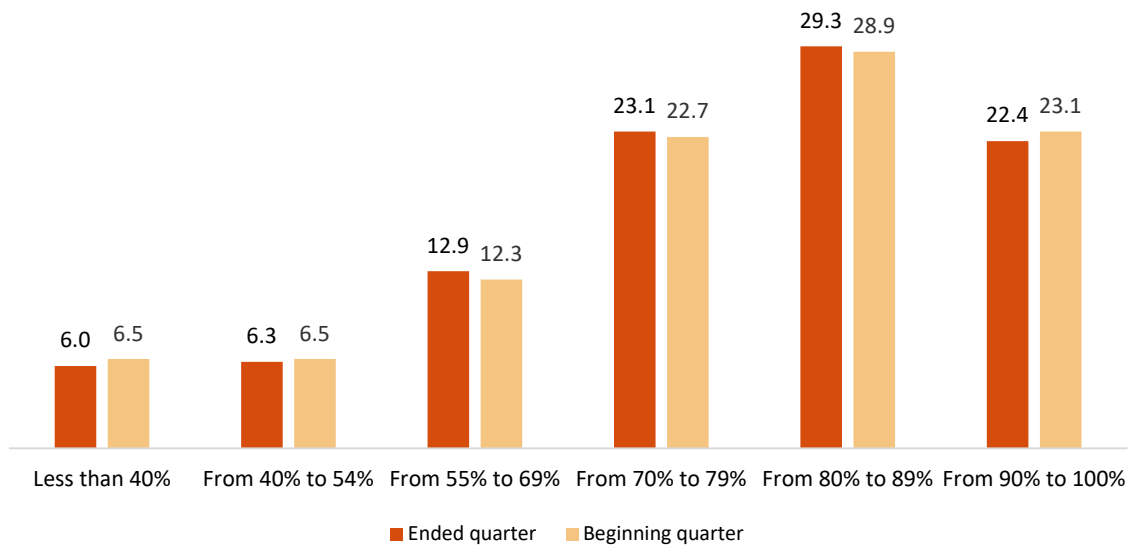
Productive capacity in the *Industry*

6.5% of industrial establishments expect to use less than 6.0% of their production capacity in the third 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 22.4% declared last quarter.

Utilization of productive capacity in the *Industry*

Situation	Expectation	
	Ended quarter	Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	6.0	6.5
From 40% to 54%	6.3	6.5
From 55% to 69%	12.9	12.3
From 70% to 79%	23.1	22.7
From 80% to 89%	29.3	28.9
From 90% to 100%	22.4	23.1

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



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 y Melilla).

Sample size: The sample 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 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 2023

1. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by sectors

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Industry	Construction	Trade	Transport and accomodation	Other Services
2021 Q3	128.9	124.8	142.9	135.5	123.5	125.0
Q2	130.3	123.9	144.4	135.6	131.0	126.4
2022 Q1	127.0	121.9	140.3	131.2	121.9	125.2
Q2	121.9	113.6	132.4	122.3	122.9	122.6
Q3	131.0	121.9	140.4	131.4	138.7	130.1
Q4	127.2	116.0	139.5	128.7	134.7	126.3
2023 Q1	129.0	120.1	142.0	132.1	130.7	127.7
Q2	132.5	123.9	144.5	136.9	138.4	129.2
Q3	135.9	126.5	148.9	139.9	145.4	131.7

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 Q3	128.9	130.7	131.9	125.3	122.0	118.4
Q2	130.3	133.1	133.1	127.5	122.6	115.7
2022 Q1	127.0	128.0	129.7	123.8	120.7	119.1
Q2	121.9	123.2	123.5	120.3	114.3	114.8
Q3	131.0	132.7	134.5	128.5	121.1	119.8
Q4	127.2	129.6	130.5	124.4	117.6	114.9
2023 Q1	129.0	129.1	134.3	126.0	120.7	118.8
Q2	132.5	135.0	136.4	130.0	121.1	119.2
Q3	135.9	138.1	140.1	132.9	126.4	120.0

3. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Communities

Year / Quarter	NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2021 Q3	128.9	128.3	133.2	134.8	122.9	112.4
Q2	130.3	130.7	131.0	137.8	130.6	123.7
2022 Q1	127.0	126.9	133.7	124.5	122.0	118.6
Q2	121.9	121.9	122.9	122.0	127.9	120.3
Q3	131.0	130.1	130.5	127.1	148.7	128.4
Q4	127.2	126.7	126.8	128.5	136.7	126.6
2023 Q1	129.0	129.1	131.2	128.8	131.3	132.2
Q2	132.5	133.6	137.8	132.4	142.2	131.9
Q3	135.9	137.4	140.7	136.9	145.5	133.3

Year / Quarter	Cantabria	Castilla y León	Castilla- La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2021 Q3	139.5	139.3	138.0	132.6	122.9	130.7
Q2	140.6	137.6	140.6	133.4	126.3	132.3
2022 Q1	135.2	130.0	139.1	131.1	120.5	130.0
Q2	131.4	122.4	130.6	128.3	113.4	118.0
Q3	137.4	135.4	138.3	136.6	124.8	125.1
Q4	139.7	128.2	136.8	131.8	121.7	124.0
2023 Q1	138.5	132.2	137.1	131.4	120.3	125.3
Q2	140.3	136.9	143.8	135.3	123.3	130.0
Q3	147.2	143.7	144.1	136.8	126.8	136.7

Year / Quarter	Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2021 Q3	124.8	124.4	121.1	130.2	132.0	125.3
Q2	124.9	124.1	122.2	130.6	130.2	126.8
2022 Q1	121.3	128.0	119.1	123.3	127.4	122.0
Q2	113.3	121.6	113.8	123.5	122.2	114.8
Q3	127.3	129.3	118.8	130.6	131.0	124.9
Q4	122.1	125.3	117.4	123.3	125.6	122.2
2023 Q1	124.7	128.9	121.3	126.4	132.8	122.0
Q2	128.6	130.7	123.5	129.0	129.8	125.5
Q3	133.1	131.5	125.4	134.7	135.5	131.4

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	22.2	60.8	17.0	5.2
Industry	20.6	61.7	17.7	2.9
Construction	22.1	63.6	14.3	7.8
Trade	21.1	59.5	19.4	1.7
Transport and accommodation	28.0	52.7	19.3	8.7
Other services	21.5	63.4	15.1	6.4

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	22.2	60.8	17.0	5.2
Less than 10 employees	17.9	59.2	22.9	-5.0
From 10 to 49 employees	24.3	60.3	15.4	8.9
From 50 to 199 employees	26.3	61.0	12.7	13.6
From 200 to 999 employees	24.8	61.7	13.5	11.3
1,000 or more employees	22.6	69.4	8.0	14.6

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	22.2	60.8	17.0	5.2
Andalucía	22.6	59.7	17.7	4.9
Aragón	21.3	62.0	16.7	4.6
Asturias, Principado de	20.6	58.4	21.0	-0.4
Balears, Illes	29.0	58.5	12.5	16.5
Canarias	27.5	55.7	16.8	10.7
Cantabria	22.8	62.7	14.5	8.3
Castilla y León	25.8	56.1	18.1	7.7
Castilla- La Mancha	22.5	55.4	22.1	0.4
Cataluña	22.5	62.8	14.7	7.8
Comunitat Valenciana	21.8	59.1	19.1	2.7
Extremadura	18.3	62.5	19.2	-0.9
Galicia	19.6	68.2	12.2	7.4
Madrid, Comunidad de	22.1	63.7	14.2	7.9
Murcia, Región de	17.6	61.9	20.5	-2.9
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	19.8	60.4	19.8	0.0
País Vasco	23.9	58.7	17.4	6.5
Rioja, La	21.2	57.4	21.4	-0.2

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	22.6	61.7	15.7	6.9
Industry	22.8	59.8	17.4	5.4
Construction	21.4	64.8	13.8	7.6
Trade	22.2	58.3	19.5	2.7
Transport and accommodation	27.1	58.0	14.9	12.2
Other services	21.5	65.0	13.5	8.0

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	22.6	61.7	15.7	6.9
Less than 10 employees	16.6	62.7	20.7	-4.1
From 10 to 49 employees	26.0	60.6	13.4	12.6
From 50 to 199 employees	26.6	61.5	11.9	14.7
From 200 to 999 employees	28.2	58.7	13.1	15.1
1,000 or more employees	22.3	66.0	11.7	10.6

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	22.6	61.7	15.7	6.9
Andalucía	22.3	61.2	16.5	5.8
Aragón	23.6	63.2	13.2	10.4
Asturias, Principado de	18.7	62.3	19.0	-0.3
Balears, Illes	24.5	63.3	12.2	12.3
Canarias	27.3	54.8	17.9	9.4
Cantabria	20.2	65.3	14.5	5.7
Castilla y León	23.6	59.3	17.1	6.5
Castilla- La Mancha	20.4	58.5	21.1	-0.7
Cataluña	24.7	61.8	13.5	11.2
Comunitat Valenciana	25.0	57.8	17.2	7.8
Extremadura	21.2	64.3	14.5	6.7
Galicia	18.5	66.0	15.5	3.0
Madrid, Comunidad de	24.1	63.1	12.8	11.3
Murcia, Región de	21.3	59.5	19.2	2.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	21.3	63.3	15.4	5.9
País Vasco	25.1	59.8	15.1	10.0
Rioja, La	17.3	62.0	20.7	-3.4

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

Activity	It will increase	It will remain	It will decrease	Balance
Sectors	the same			(increase - decrease)
TOTAL	12.8	77.5	9.7	3.1
Industry	11.0	79.9	9.1	1.9
Construction	10.1	79.8	10.1	0.0
Trade	10.7	79.8	9.5	1.2
Transport and accommodation	17.6	70.8	11.6	6.0
Other services	14.1	76.5	9.4	4.7

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

Size of	It will increase	It will remain	It will decrease	Balance
the establishment	the same			(increase - decrease)
TOTAL	12.8	77.5	9.7	3.1
Less than 10 employees	6.9	84.6	8.5	-1.6
From 10 to 49 employees	13.6	76.1	10.3	3.3
From 50 to 199 employees	19.6	69.6	10.8	8.8
From 200 to 999 employees	19.1	68.9	12.0	7.1
1,000 or more employees	13.7	78.5	7.8	5.9

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

Activity	It will increase	It will remain	It will decrease	Balance
Sectors	the same			(increase - decrease)
TOTAL	15.0	75.0	10.0	5.0
Industry	15.6	74.5	9.9	5.7
Construction	14.0	73.0	13.0	1.0
Trade	11.6	78.3	10.1	1.5
Transport and accommodation	18.6	71.6	9.8	8.8
Other services	15.6	75.4	9.0	6.6

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

Size of	It will increase	It will remain	It will decrease	Balance
the establishment	the same			(increase - decrease)
TOTAL	15.0	75.0	10.0	5.0
Less than 10 employees	7.7	83.4	8.9	-1.2
From 10 to 49 employees	18.2	71.0	10.8	7.4
From 50 to 199 employees	21.3	67.7	11.0	10.3
From 200 to 999 employees	19.7	68.5	11.8	7.9
1,000 or more employees	17.6	75.2	7.2	10.4

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
Sectors				(increase - decrease)
TOTAL	14.2	80.3	5.5	8.7
Industry	10.0	83.3	6.7	3.3
Construction	13.7	81.4	4.9	8.8
Trade	19.1	74.3	6.6	12.5
Transport and accommodatio	19.1	74.6	6.3	12.8
Other services	11.8	84.2	4.0	7.8

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	14.2	80.3	5.5	8.7
Less than 10 employees	15.1	78.4	6.5	8.6
From 10 to 49 employees	15.9	79.5	4.6	11.3
From 50 to 199 employees	12.5	82.6	4.9	7.6
From 200 to 999 employees	13.7	80.5	5.8	7.9
1,000 or more employees	8.0	88.1	3.9	4.1

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
Sectors				(increase - decrease)
TOTAL	21.3	72.6	6.1	15.2
Industry	18.3	73.0	8.7	9.6
Construction	23.5	71.6	4.9	18.6
Trade	30.8	62.6	6.6	24.2
Transport and accommodatio	24.1	68.7	7.2	16.9
Other services	15.5	80.3	4.2	11.3

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	21.3	72.6	6.1	15.2
Less than 10 employees	22.9	70.0	7.1	15.8
From 10 to 49 employees	23.8	70.5	5.7	18.1
From 50 to 199 employees	19.8	74.2	6.0	13.8
From 200 to 999 employees	20.0	74.5	5.5	14.5
1,000 or more employees	9.9	87.0	3.1	6.8

18. Utilization of productive capacity in industry

	Situation		Expectation	
	Ended quarter		Beginning quarter	
Less than 40%	6.0		6.5	
From 40% to 54%	6.3		6.5	
From 55% to 69%	12.9		12.3	
From 70% to 79%	23.1		22.7	
From 80% to 89%	29.3		28.9	
From 90% to 100%	22.4		23.1	