

10 October 2018

## Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)

Fourth quarter of 2018

**The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) decreases by 1.7% in the fourth quarter of 2018 as compared with the third quarter**

**19.0% of business establishments foresee a favourable quarter and 16.1% are pessimistic about the performance of their business**

### Evolution of the Harmonised Business Confidence Index

The Harmonised Business Confidence Index (HBCI) decreased by 1.7% in the fourth quarter of 2018 as compared with the third quarter.

#### Harmonised Business Confidence Index

Fourth Quarter 2018. Quarterly rate



## Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

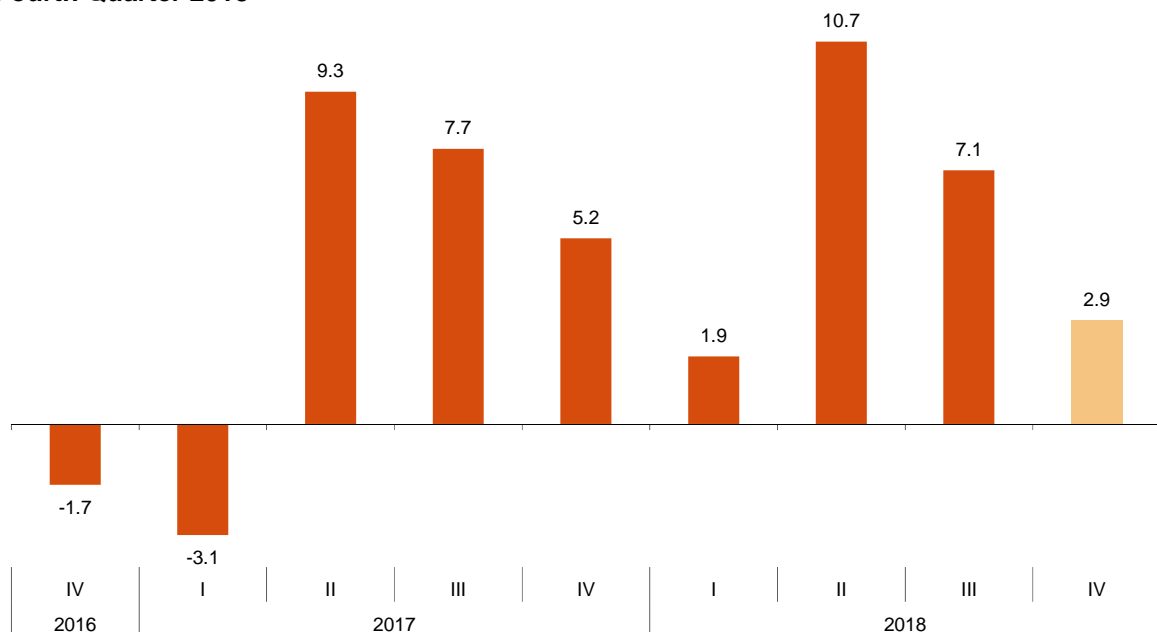
19.0% of business establishments managers considered that the performance of their business during the fourth quarter of 2018 would be favourable, while 16.1% thought it would be unfavourable. The remaining 64.9% thought that it would be normal.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses, known as *Expectations Balance*, stood at 2.9 points for Spain as a whole, as compared with 7.1 in the previous quarter.

## Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2016 IV	18.9	60.5	20.6	-1.7
2017 I	17.0	62.9	20.1	-3.1
II	24.1	61.1	14.8	9.3
III	24.4	58.9	16.7	7.7
IV	21.1	63.0	15.9	5.2
2018 I	19.6	62.7	17.7	1.9
II	23.5	63.7	12.8	10.7
III	22.8	61.5	15.7	7.1
IV	19.0	64.9	16.1	2.9

## Evolution of the Expectations Balance Fourth Quarter 2018



## Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

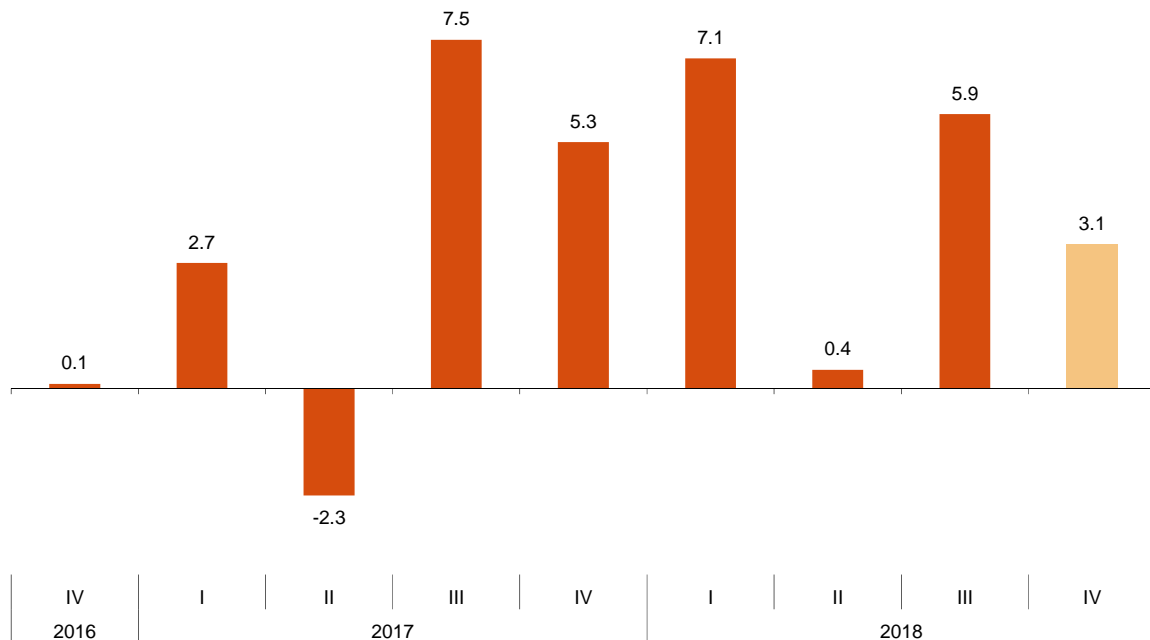
20.7% of business establishments managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their business in the third quarter 2018. In turn, 17.6% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses referring to the ending quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at 3.1 points. This figure worsens *Expectations* previously expressed for that quarter, which stood at 7.1 points.

## Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavoruable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2016 IV	20.8	58.5	20.7	0.1
2017 I	21.6	59.5	18.9	2.7
II	18.5	60.7	20.8	-2.3
III	23.5	60.5	16.0	7.5
IV	22.4	60.5	17.1	5.3
2018 I	23.9	59.3	16.8	7.1
II	19.5	61.4	19.1	0.4
III	21.7	62.5	15.8	5.9
IV	20.7	61.7	17.6	3.1

## Evolution of the Situation Balance Fourth Quarter 2018

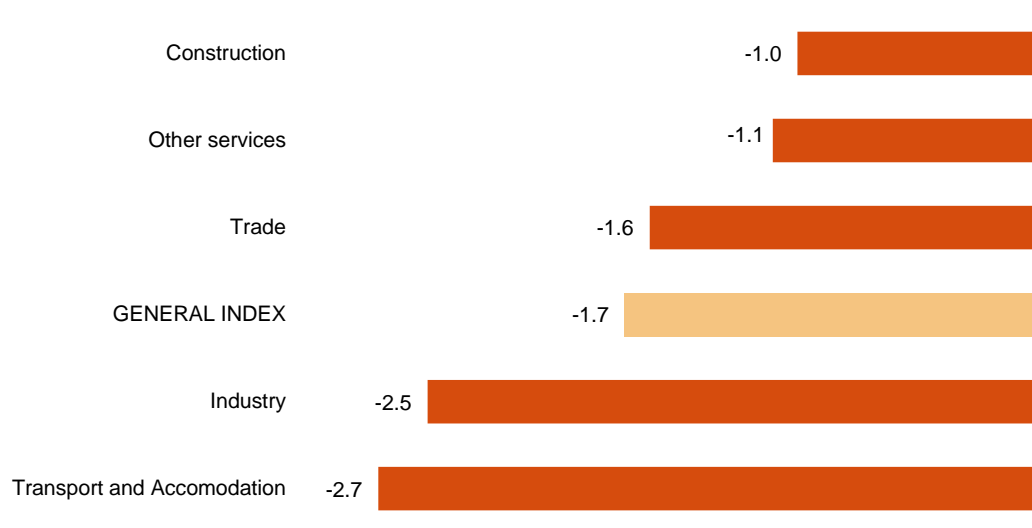


### Harmonised Business Confidence Index by activity sector

The five sectors analysed reduced confidence with respect to the previous quarter. *Transport and Accommodation* (-2.7%) and *Industry* (-2.5%) registered the greatest decreases. In turn, *Construction* (-1.0%) and *Other services* (-1.1%) registered the lowest decreases.

#### General index and by activity sector

Fourth Quarter 2018. Quarterly rate

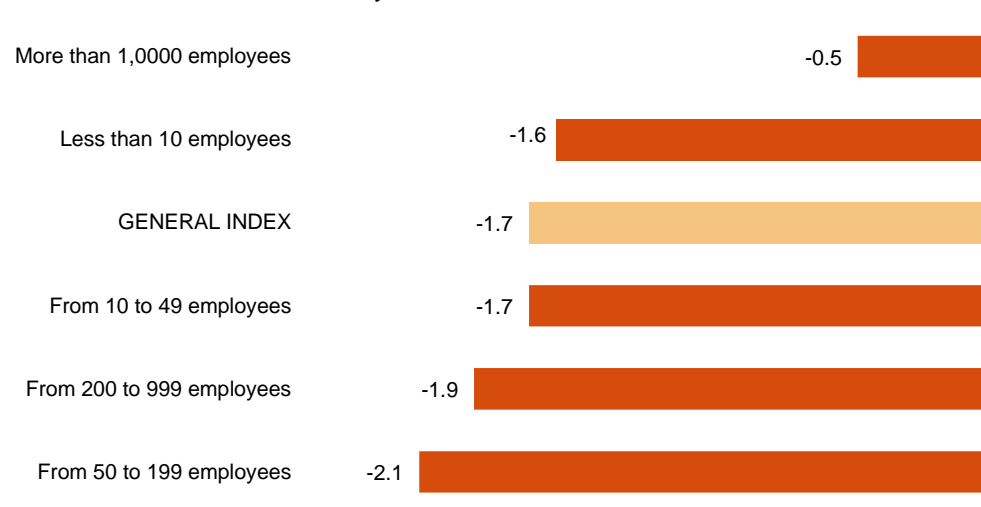


### Harmonised Business Confidence Index by size of the establishments

The five sizes of establishments analysed presented a decrease in confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. The *50-199 employees bracket* registered the greatest decrease (-2.1%) and that of *More than 1,000 employees* the smallest decrease (-0.5%).

#### General index and by size of establishment

Fourth Quarter 2018. Quarterly rate

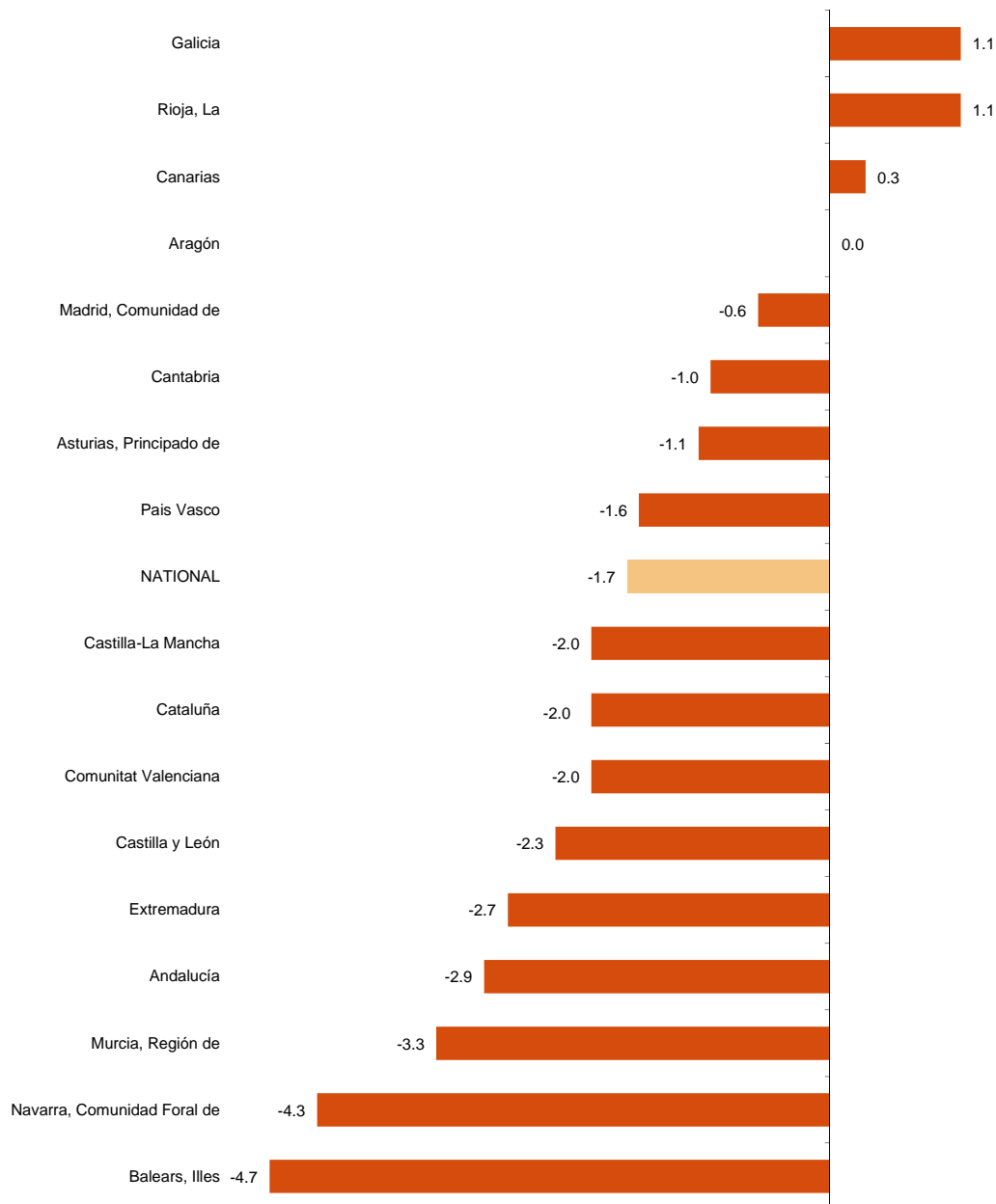


### Harmonised Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Communities

Business confidence fell in the fourth quarter of 2018 compared to the previous quarter in 13 Autonomous Communities, increased in three and remained the same in Aragón.

Illes Balears (-4.7%), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (-4.3%) and Región de Murcia (-3.3%) registered the greatest decreases. On the other hand, Galicia and La Rioja (both 1.1%) and Canarias (0.3%) recorded the only increases.

### National index and by Autonomous Communities Fourth Quarter 2018. Quarterly rate



## 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.

**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](https://www.ine.es/en/metodologia/t37/t3730199_en.pdf)

And the standardised methodological report at:

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

---

For further information see **INEbase:** [www.ine.es/en/](http://www.ine.es/en/) Twitter: [@es\\_ine](https://twitter.com/es_ine)

All press releases at: [www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa\\_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm)

**Press office:** Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – [gprensa@ine.es](mailto:gprensa@ine.es)

**Information Area:** Telephone number: (+34) 91 583 91 00 – [www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1](http://www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1)

---

## Business Confidence Indicators Fourth quarter of 2018

10 October 2018

### 1. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by sectors

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Industry	Construction	Trade	Transport and accommodation	Other Services
2016 IV	131.4	125.6	133.5	138.4	141.0	126.7
2017 I	131.8	128.2	136.6	137.0	136.7	127.7
II	134.2	129.1	140.7	138.0	141.7	130.2
III	136.9	130.6	144.4	140.9	148.2	132.1
IV	135.4	128.8	143.9	139.2	145.2	130.8
2018 I	134.9	129.4	145.8	138.0	139.7	131.1
II	135.5	130.8	144.9	137.6	141.3	132.1
III	136.2	130.6	147.8	138.0	143.4	132.4
IV	133.9	127.3	146.3	135.8	139.5	130.9

### 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	Over 1000 wage earners
2016 IV	131.4	133.8	135.8	128.3	123.1	120.4
2017 I	131.8	132.2	136.9	130.2	125.0	122.4
II	134.2	136.8	137.7	132.2	126.2	121.9
III	136.9	141.0	140.2	134.2	127.0	123.0
IV	135.4	138.0	139.8	133.5	125.9	122.2
2018 I	134.9	135.6	139.9	133.0	127.3	125.8
II	135.5	137.6	139.7	134.2	126.3	123.5
III	136.2	139.4	140.1	133.7	127.1	121.4
IV	133.9	137.1	137.7	130.9	124.7	120.8

### 3. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Communities

Year / Quarter	NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2016 IV	131.4	131.5	129.1	132.6	140.7	132.2
2017 I	131.8	132.0	131.9	129.6	133.6	134.2
II	134.2	133.6	134.8	136.1	141.0	132.8
III	136.9	136.3	137.4	139.2	149.2	132.6
IV	135.4	134.1	134.7	136.3	140.8	136.7
2018 I	134.9	134.4	140.9	135.7	131.5	136.5
II	135.5	135.0	138.5	137.4	142.3	132.1
III	136.2	136.5	138.2	135.8	142.8	128.8
IV	133.9	132.5	138.2	134.3	136.1	129.2

Year / Quarter	Cantabria	Castilla y León	Castilla- La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2016 IV	133.6	135.8	140.1	138.4	124.6	129.2
2017 I	134.5	135.3	140.4	138.9	127.2	128.0
II	141.0	137.2	143.9	142.6	126.2	127.6
III	149.5	142.7	146.9	143.8	128.3	137.0
IV	143.5	142.1	145.6	140.6	129.3	138.0
2018 I	142.7	138.2	143.0	137.5	128.1	137.2
II	141.9	139.3	141.7	140.0	131.6	137.9
III	146.0	141.4	147.9	140.5	131.3	140.2
IV	144.6	138.2	145.0	137.7	128.7	136.4

Year / Quarter	Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2016 IV	127.8	125.8	126.1	129.8	129.0	129.8
2017 I	129.5	127.3	126.9	130.4	130.9	127.7
II	129.2	128.0	131.7	133.5	133.7	130.7
III	132.4	128.4	128.8	137.7	136.1	132.9
IV	131.2	127.7	129.7	135.6	132.7	131.9
2018 I	129.5	130.5	131.3	135.1	135.0	132.5
II	125.5	129.9	129.6	139.2	136.3	132.6
III	129.2	127.8	131.0	140.5	137.4	131.4
IV	130.6	127.0	126.7	134.4	135.2	132.9



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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
<b>TOTAL</b>	19.0	64.9	16.1	2.9
Industry	23.0	61.9	15.1	7.9
Construction	20.0	62.7	17.3	2.7
Trade	16.0	64.5	19.5	-3.5
Transport and accommodation	18.1	62.1	19.8	-1.7
Other services	18.8	68.6	12.6	6.2

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
<b>TOTAL</b>	19.0	64.9	16.1	2.9
Less than 10 wage earners	13.7	65.0	21.3	-7.6
From 10 to 49 wage earners	20.6	65.4	14.0	6.6
From 50 to 199 wage earners	24.5	63.6	11.9	12.6
From 200 to 999 wage earners	24.3	63.7	12.0	12.3
Over 1000 wage earners	24.7	69.0	6.3	18.4

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
<b>NATIONAL</b>	19.0	64.9	16.1	2.9
Andalucía	17.6	62.6	19.8	-2.2
Aragón	18.3	68.3	13.4	4.9
Asturias, Principado de	13.5	65.7	20.8	-7.3
Balears, Illes	12.8	66.8	20.4	-7.6
Canarias	23.2	59.2	17.6	5.6
Cantabria	16.9	65.0	18.1	-1.2
Castilla y León	16.1	62.5	21.4	-5.3
Castilla- La Mancha	15.3	65.6	19.1	-3.8
Cataluña	24.0	64.6	11.4	12.6
Comunitat Valenciana	25.9	60.0	14.1	11.8
Extremadura	20.6	61.3	18.1	2.5
Galicia	15.1	68.7	16.2	-1.1
Madrid, Comunidad de	18.6	68.3	13.1	5.5
Murcia, Región de	21.9	64.6	13.5	8.4
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	16.5	68.0	15.5	1.0
País Vasco	22.8	62.7	14.5	8.3
Rioja, La	16.5	68.0	15.5	1.0

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
<b>TOTAL</b>	20.7	61.7	17.6	3.1
Industry	22.2	58.6	19.2	3.0
Construction	21.7	62.3	16.0	5.7
Trade	17.9	60.2	21.9	-4.0
Transport and accommodation	24.8	56.0	19.2	5.6
Other services	19.6	66.4	14.0	5.6

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
<b>TOTAL</b>	20.7	61.7	17.6	3.1
Less than 10 wage earners	17.7	60.3	22.0	-4.3
From 10 to 49 wage earners	22.6	62.5	14.9	7.7
From 50 to 199 wage earners	24.8	59.8	15.4	9.4
From 200 to 999 wage earners	22.2	63.8	14.0	8.2
Over 1000 wage earners	19.3	71.2	9.5	9.8

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
<b>NATIONAL</b>	20.7	61.7	17.6	3.1
Andalucía	19.2	59.7	21.1	-1.9
Aragón	19.5	63.7	16.8	2.7
Asturias, Principado de	18.3	62.5	19.2	-0.9
Balears, Illes	23.4	62.0	14.6	8.8
Canarias	22.2	57.2	20.6	1.6
Cantabria	21.7	64.5	13.8	7.9
Castilla y León	21.9	59.8	18.3	3.6
Castilla- La Mancha	21.0	64.0	15.0	6.0
Cataluña	23.1	62.7	14.2	8.9
Comunitat Valenciana	22.5	60.0	17.5	5.0
Extremadura	22.3	57.8	19.9	2.4
Galicia	21.9	60.0	18.1	3.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	16.7	65.9	17.4	-0.7
Murcia, Región de	16.5	62.3	21.2	-4.7
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	20.9	62.0	17.1	3.8
País Vasco	25.2	57.0	17.8	7.4
Rioja, La	17.7	64.6	17.7	0.0

**10. Other economic variables. Opinions with regard to the quarter that is beginning**

Economic variables	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
Employment (hired personnel)	10.3	75.5	14.2	-3.9
Price level	6.4	86.2	7.4	-1.0

**11. Other economic variables. Opinions with regard to the quarter that has ended**

Economic variables	It increased	It remained the same	It decreased	Balance (increase - decrease)
Employment (hired personnel)	15.3	72.9	11.8	3.5
Price level	6.7	85.5	7.8	-1.1