



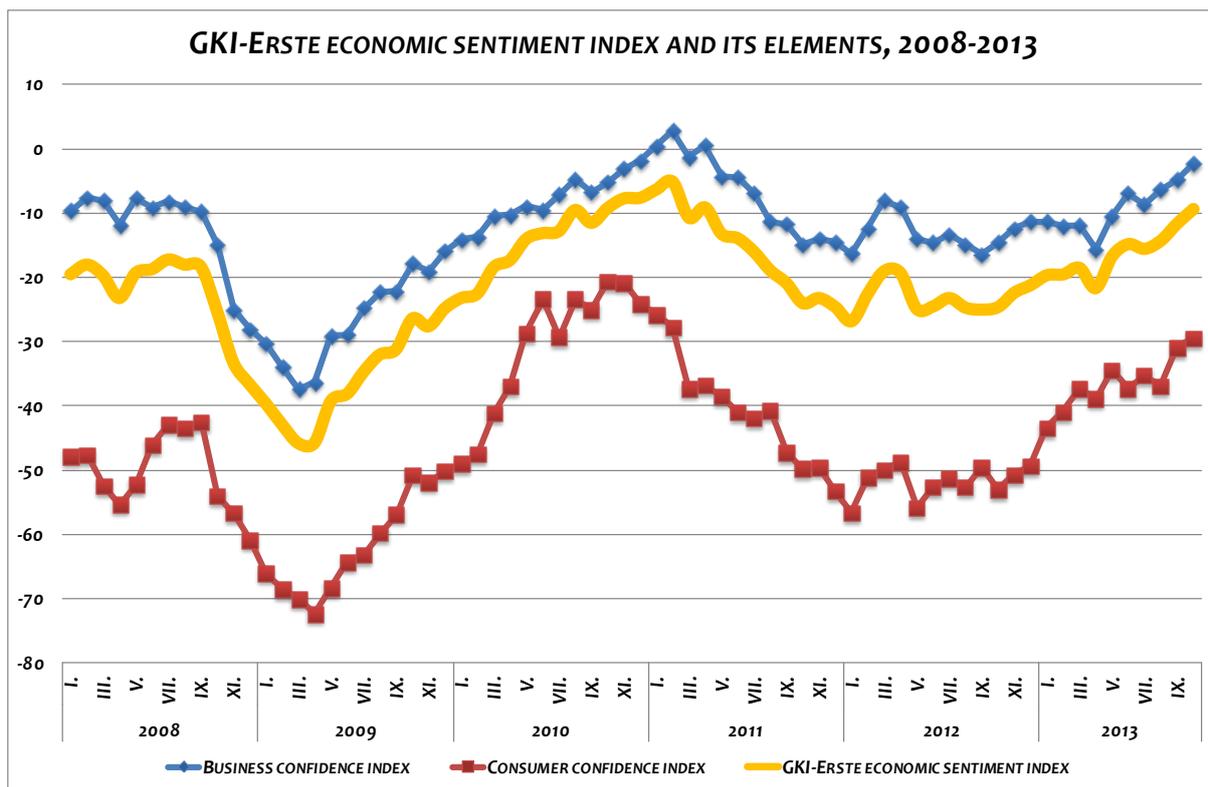
THE RISE OF GKI-ERSTE ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDEX CONTINUED IN OCTOBER

In October GKI-Erste economic sentiment index adjusted for seasonal effects continued to rise, reaching its peak value of this year. According to the empirical survey conducted by GKI (www.gki.hu) with the support of the EU both business and consumer expectations improved. The economic sentiment index of GKI has been on the rise since the end of 2012, and it was similarly positive last time in the spring of 2011, before the announcement of Szell Kalman Plan.

In the **business sphere** expectations became more upbeat in all sectors. In **industry** the assessment of production and the stock of orders (including export orders) improved slightly, whereas respondents qualified the stocks of own production higher than in September. However, it might be the result of inventory replenishment before the expected surge in sales. The spectacular improvement in **construction**, which started at the beginning of 2013, continued in October. Compared with the previous month, the assessment of the production level and the stock of orders of the previous three months became more favourable as well. In **trade** the assessment of sales positions stagnated, whereas respondents considered the level of stocks sharply declining. The **services** confidence index continued to fluctuate in October, this time it improved again. The evaluation of the general business climate and sales in the preceding and the subsequent periods improved.

Intentions to employ improved slightly in all sectors except construction, where they remained unchanged. At the same time, the fear of unemployment of households eased markedly. **Price expectations** remained unchanged or dropped slightly in the business sector (except in services) and the share of firms foreseeing price reductions increased somewhat. Inflationary expectations of households eased further significantly. Opinions about the **prospects of the Hungarian economy** also improved in all sectors except construction, and in industry and trade those expecting improvement outnumbered those anticipating deterioration. In services the share of firms expecting improvement was almost the same as the share of those anticipating deterioration. The opinion of households on this issue has not changed.

GKI consumer confidence index, following a substantial increase in September, continued to rise in October, though at a slower rate. Households evaluated their financial situation in the next 12 months slightly better than in September. However, they considered their saving capacity deteriorating.



EXPLANATION TO THE METHODOLOGY:

In line with the methodology used by the EU, GKI surveys the expectations of industry, trade, construction, services and households in the calculation of its business confidence index. GKI-Erste economic sentiment index is the weighted average of the consumer confidence index and the business confidence index.

The business confidence index is calculated from the responses of enterprises in industry, trade, construction and services given to questions concerning the state of business and expectations of turnover and employment. (As far as services are concerned, similarly to the practice of the EU, companies of the financial and public sectors have not been included in the surveys yet.) GKI publishes seasonally adjusted data by using appropriate mathematical methods to filter out the discrepancies caused by seasonal effects (e.g., differences in weather conditions between winter and summer, increased demand before Christmas, lower output because of summer vacations).

The consumer confidence index is calculated from responses given to questions concerning the expected financial position of households, the expected economic and unemployment situation of the country, and the prospects for saving.

GKI-ERSTE ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDEX AND ITS ELEMENTS, 2008-2013

Year	Month	Business confidence index	Consumer confidence index	GKI-Erste economic sentiment index
2008.	I.	-9.6	-47.8	-19.5
	II.	-7.6	-47.6	-18
	III.	-8.1	-52.4	-19.7
	IV.	-11.8	-55.4	-23.2
	V.	-7.7	-52.3	-19.3
	VI.	-9.1	-46.1	-18.7
	VII.	-8.2	-42.9	-17.2
	VIII.	-9	-43.5	-18
	IX.	-9.8	-42.5	-18.3
	X.	-15	-54	-25.2
	XI.	-25	-56.7	-33.2
	XII.	-28.1	-60.8	-36.6
2009.	I.	-30.3	-66.1	-39.6
	II.	-33.9	-68.5	-42.9
	III.	-37.4	-70	-45.8
	IV.	-36.3	-72.3	-45.7
	V.	-29	-68.3	-39.2
	VI.	-28.9	-64.3	-38.1
	VII.	-24.7	-63.1	-34.7
	VIII.	-22.2	-59.8	-32
	IX.	-22.1	-56.9	-31.2
	X.	-17.8	-50.8	-26.4
	XI.	-19.1	-51.9	-27.6
	XII.	-15.9	-50.1	-24.8
2010.	I.	-14.1	-49.1	-23.2
	II.	-13.7	-47.5	-22.5
	III.	-10.5	-41.2	-18.4
	IV.	-10.3	-37	-17.3
	V.	-8.9	-28.7	-14
	VI.	-9.5	-23.4	-13.1
	VII.	-7.1	-29.3	-12.8
	VIII.	-4.7	-23.4	-9.5
	IX.	-6.7	-25	-11.5
	X.	-5.2	-20.6	-9.2
	XI.	-3.1	-20.8	-7.7
	XII.	-1.8	-24.1	-7.6
2011.	I.	0.5	-25.8	-6.3
	II.	2.9	-27.7	-5.1
	III.	-1.3	-37.3	-10.7
	IV.	0.6	-36.8	-9.1
	V.	-4.3	-38.5	-13.2
	VI.	-4.4	-41	-13.9
	VII.	-6.9	-42	-16
	VIII.	-11.3	-40.7	-18.9
	IX.	-11.7	-47.2	-20.9
	X.	-14.9	-49.8	-24
	XI.	-14	-49.5	-23.2
	XII.	-14.5	-53.3	-24.6

Year	Month	Business confidence index	Consumer confidence index	GKI-Erste economic sentiment index
2012.	I.	-16.3	-56.6	-26.8
	II.	-12.4	-51.2	-22.5
	III.	-8.1	-49.9	-19
	IV.	-9	-48.8	-19.3
	V.	-14	-55.9	-24.9
	VI.	-14.6	-52.6	-24.5
	VII.	-13.3	-51.4	-23.2
	VIII.	-14.9	-52.7	-24.7
	IX.	-16.4	-49.5	-25
	X.	-14.6	-53	-24.6
	XI.	-12.4	-50.7	-22.4
	XII.	-11.3	-49.3	-21.2
2013.	I.	-11.3	-43.4	-19.6
	II.	-12.0	-40.9	-19.5
	III.	-11.9	-37.3	-18.5
	IV.	-15.6	-38.9	-21.7
	V.	-10.5	-34.4	-16.7
	VI.	-6.9	-37.3	-14.8
	VII.	-8.6	-35.3	-15.5
	VIII.	-6.3	-36.9	-14.3
	IX.	-4.8	-31.0	-11.6
	X.	-2.3	-29.4	-9.3

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