



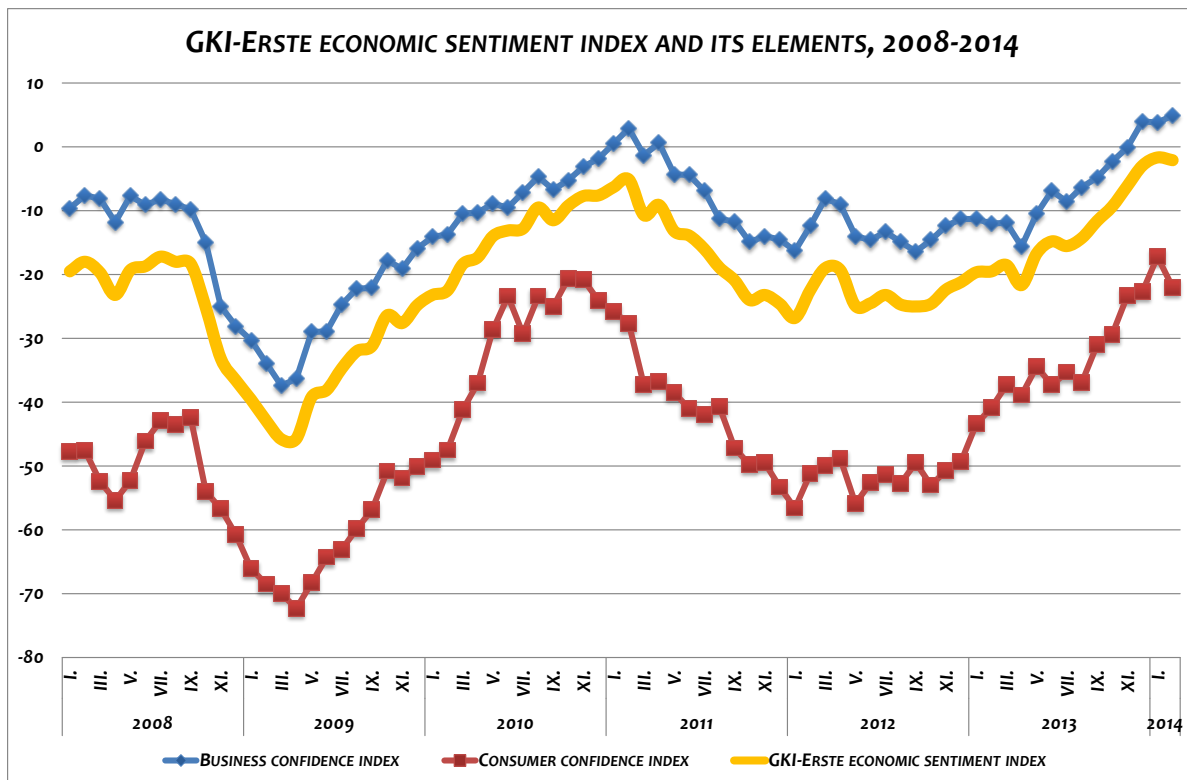
THE NINE-MONTH RISE OF THE GKI-ERSTE ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDEX STOPPED IN FEBRUARY

The almost continuous nine-month rise of the GKI-Erste economic sentiment index adjusted for seasonal effects stopped in February. According to the empirical survey conducted by GKI (www.gki.hu) with the support of the EU, economic expectations deteriorated in all sectors (except industry) and among consumers as well. Although optimism not observed for more than a decade has still been reigning in Hungary, it should be noted that in February the assessment of the Hungarian economy deteriorated spectacularly.

In the **business sector** only industrial expectations improved in February. (In January it was the other way around.) The rise of the **industrial** confidence index was mainly due to the greatly improved assessment of production, and the opinion on the stock of orders and to some extent on production prospects improved as well. However, export orders were considered slightly less favourable. The **construction** confidence index fell in February for the first time after a long time, though only modestly. The assessment of the production level and the stock of orders of the previous three months slightly improved further. The **trade** confidence index fell sharply after its seven-month increase. The evaluation of the sales positions, with rising inventory levels, deteriorated slightly, whereas that of expected orders fell noticeably. The decline in the confidence index of **services** was modest, and it was due to the worsening evaluation of the general business climate. The turnover of the previous and the following periods, however, was seen more favourably by the respondents.

Intentions to employ became worse in all sectors, and fear of unemployment among households intensified. Intentions to **increase prices** picked up in industry and services. The proportions of construction companies seeking either to increase or to lower their prices did not differ significantly from each other in February. In trade the share of firms planning price rises and the size of price rises, too, decreased. The inflationary expectations of consumers slightly increased. The assessment of the **perspectives of the Hungarian economy** deteriorated in every industry, especially in those oriented to the domestic market, and it dropped among consumers as well.

In February the **GKI consumer confidence index** declined noticeably after its overall strong growth for five months. Households assessed their future financial situation and saving capability worse than in January.



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, 2008-2014

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
	XI.	-0.1	-23.3	-6.1
	XII.	4.0	-22.7	-2.9
2014	I.	3.8	-17.2	-1.7
	II.	4.9	-22.0	-2.1

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