16 April 2021

Business Confidence Indicators (BCI)
Second quarter of 2021

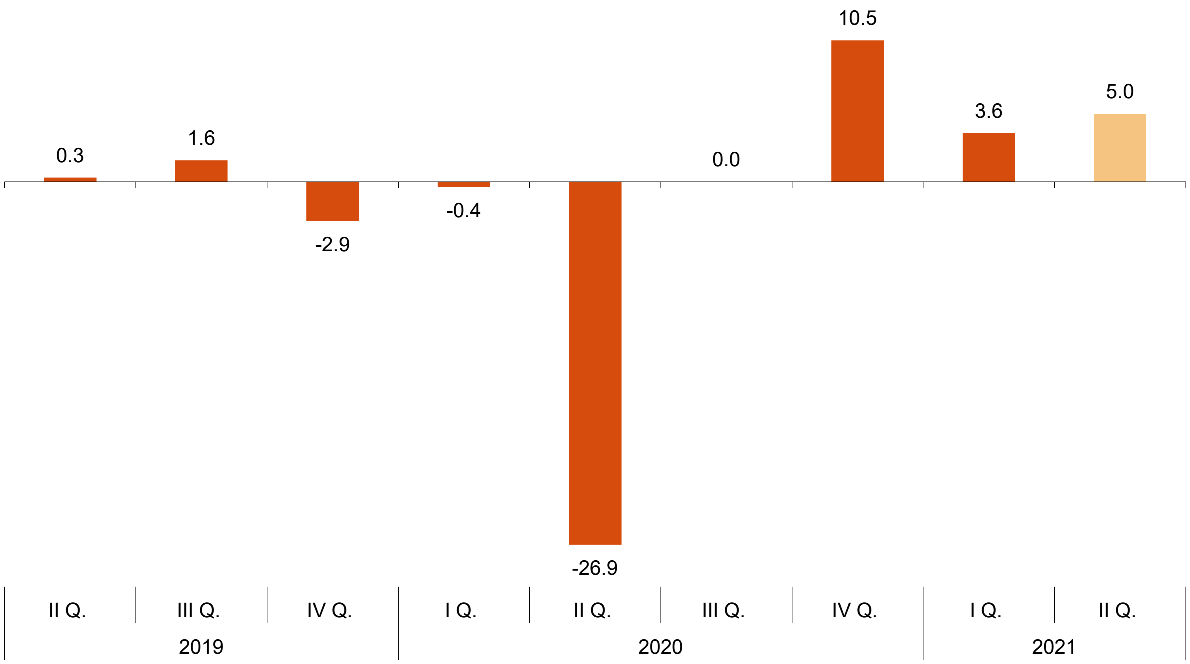
The Harmonized Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases 5.0% in the second quarter of 2021 as compared with the first quarter

13.8% of business establishments foresee a favourable quarter and 35.4% are pessimistic about the performance of their business

Evolution of the Harmonized Business Confidence Index

The Harmonized Business Confidence Index (HBCI) increases by 5.0% in the second quarter of 2021 as compared with the first quarter.

Harmonized Business Confidence Index
Second Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

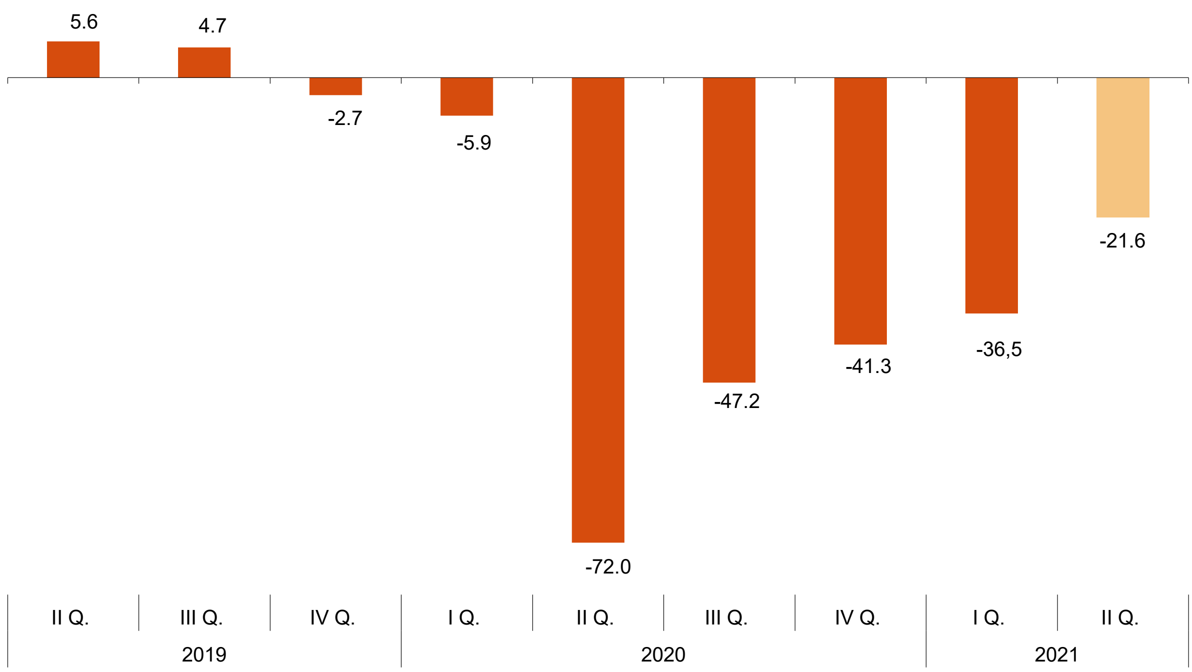
13.8% of business establishments managers considered that the performance of their business during the second quarter of 2021 would be favourable, while 35.4% thought it would be unfavourable. The remaining 50.8% thought that it would be normal.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses, known as Expectations Balance, stood at −21.6 points for Spain as a whole, as compared with the −36.5 points in the previous quarter.

Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter		Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019	II	20.8	64.0	15.2	5.6
	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

Evolution of the Expectations Balancedel Saldo de Expectativas
Second Quarter 2021



Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

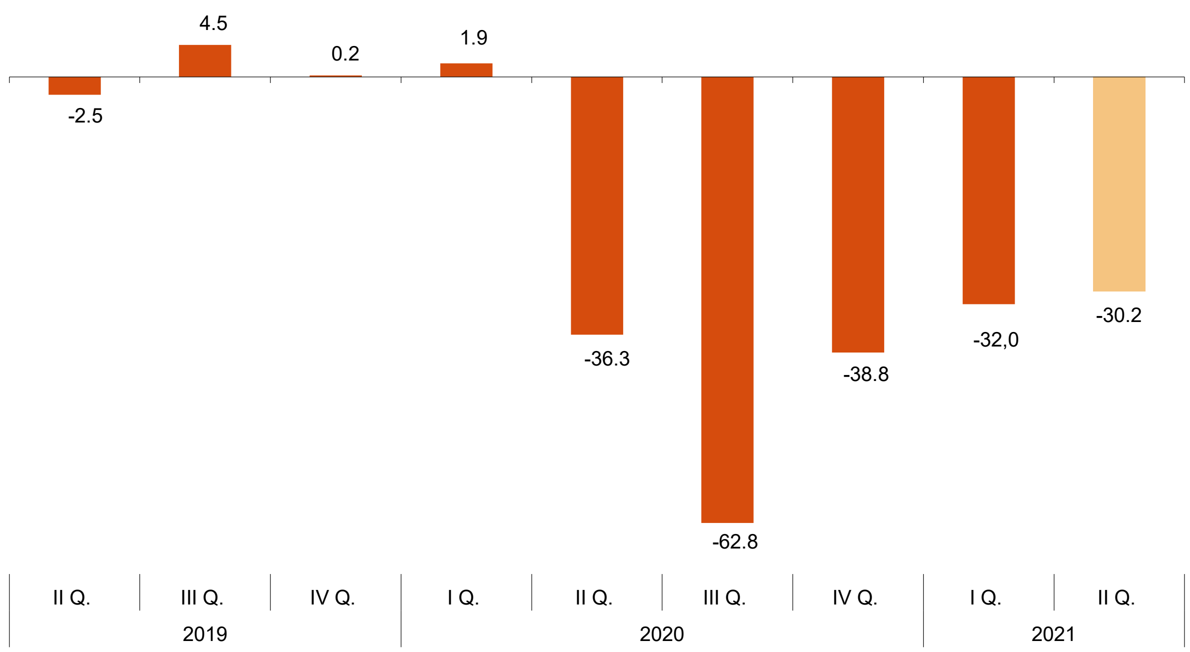
11.2% of business establishment managers expressed a favourable opinion regarding the performance of their business in the first quarter of 2021. In turn, 41.4% had an unfavourable opinion.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses referring to the ending quarter, known as *Situation Balance*, stood at −30.2 points. This figure improves Expectations previously expressed for that quarter, which stood at −36.5 points.

Opinions regarding the ending quarter (Situation)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 II	17.3	62.9	19.8	-2.5
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

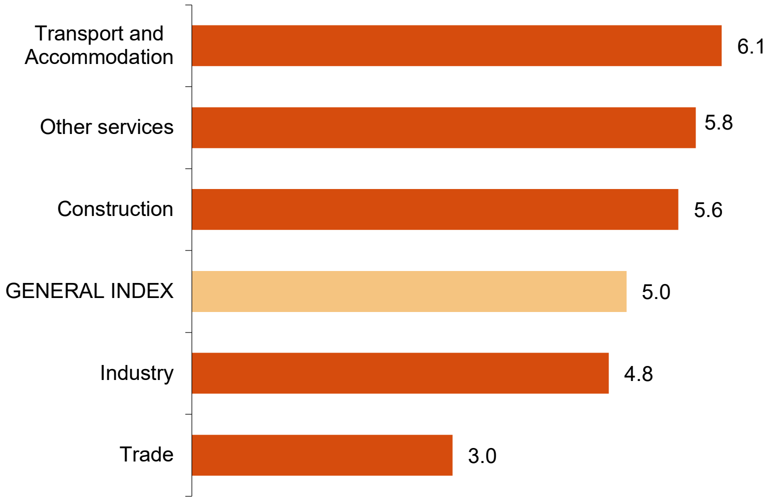
Evolution of the Situation Balance
Second Quarter 2021



Harmonized Business Confidence Index by activity sector

The five sectors analyzed increased confidence with respect to the previous quarter. *Transport and Accommodation* (6.1%) registered the greatest increase. On the other hand, *Trade* (3.0%) registered the lowest increase.

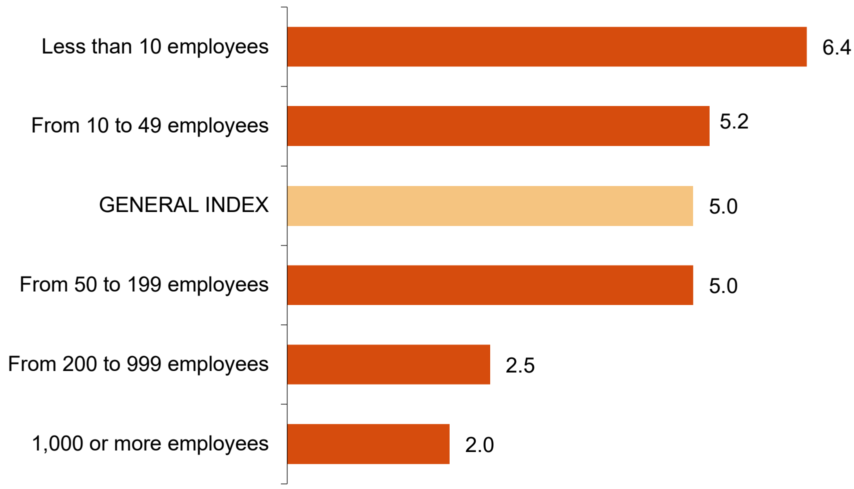
General Index and by activity sector
Second Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Harmonized Business Confidence Index by size of establishments

The five sizes of establishments analyzed presented an increase in confidence, as compared with the previous quarter. Less than 10 employees (6.4%) showed the largest increase and 1,000 or more employees the smallest increase (2.0%).

General index and by size of establishment
Second Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate

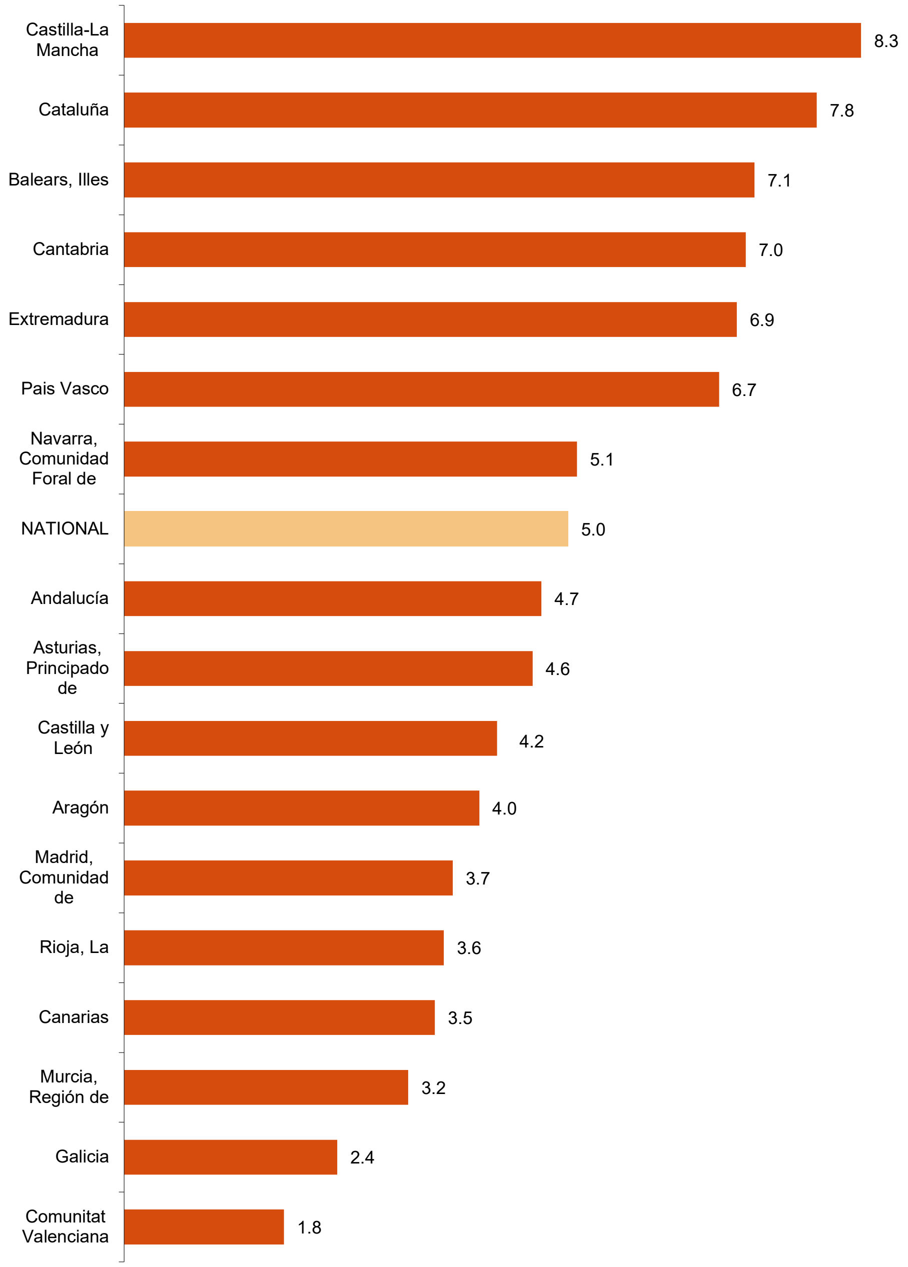


Harmonized Business Confidence Index. Results by Autonomous Communities

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

The largest increases were recorded in Castilla-La Mancha (8.3%), Cataluña (7.8%) and Illes Balears (7.1%).

National index and by Autonomous Communities
Second Quarter 2021. Quarterly rate



Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

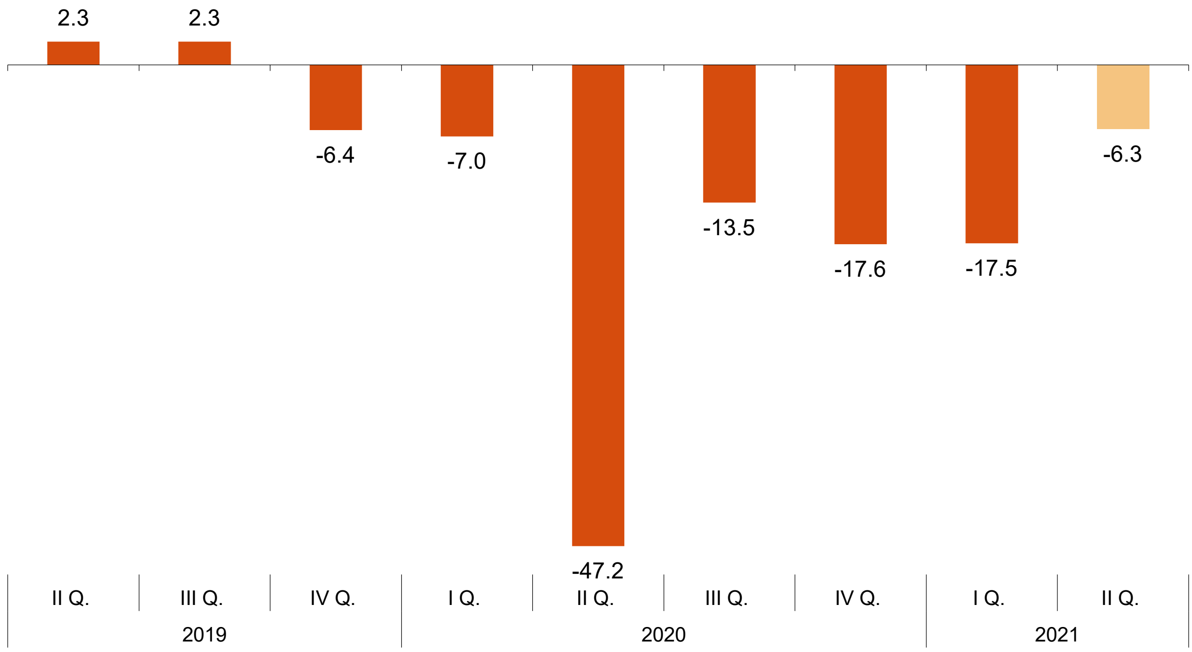
8.4% of business establishments managers consider that employment, referring to personnel hired in their business, will increase in the second quarter of 2021, while 14.7% believe that it will decrease. The remaining 76.9% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses stands at −6.3 points.

Employment. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 II	11.5	79.3	9.2	2.3
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

Evolution of the Balance of Employment Expectations
Second quarter 2021.



Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

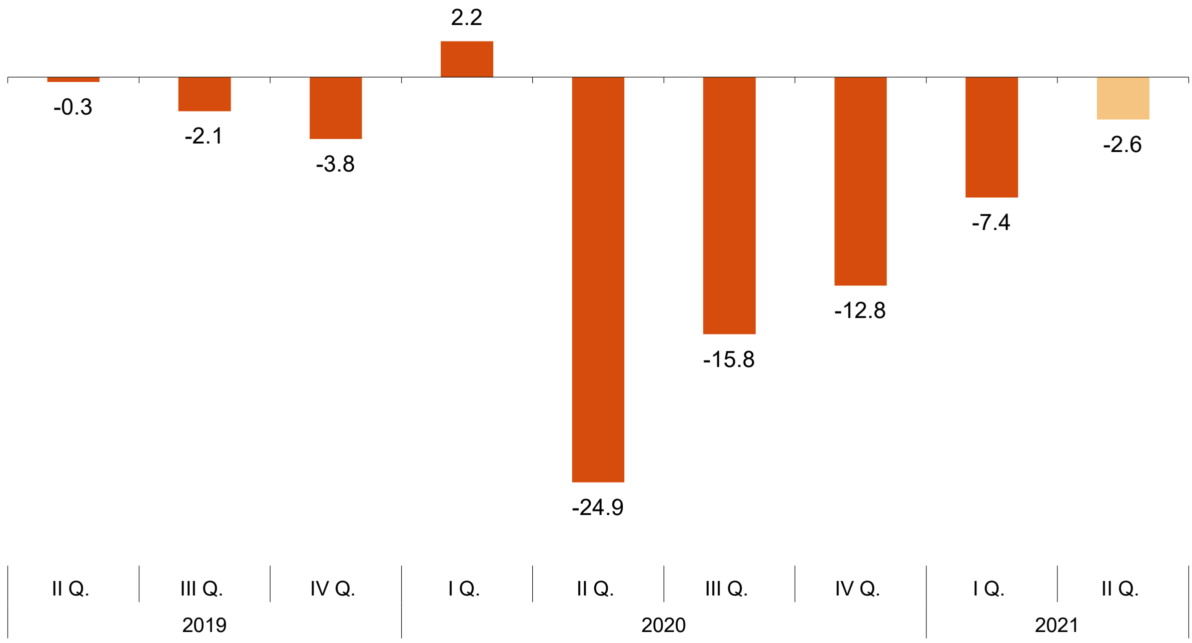
7.3% of business establishment managers foresee that the price level of their business will increase in the second quarter of 2021, while 9.9% estimate that it will decrease. The remaining 82.8% consider that it will remain stable.

The difference between the percentage of favourable and unfavourable responses stands at −2.6 points, above the −7.4 in the previous quarter.

Prices. Opinions regarding the coming quarter (Expectations)

Year / Quarter	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
2019 II	6.3	87.1	6.6	-0.3
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

Evolution of the Balance of Price Expectations
Second quarter 2021.



Productive capacity in the *Industry*

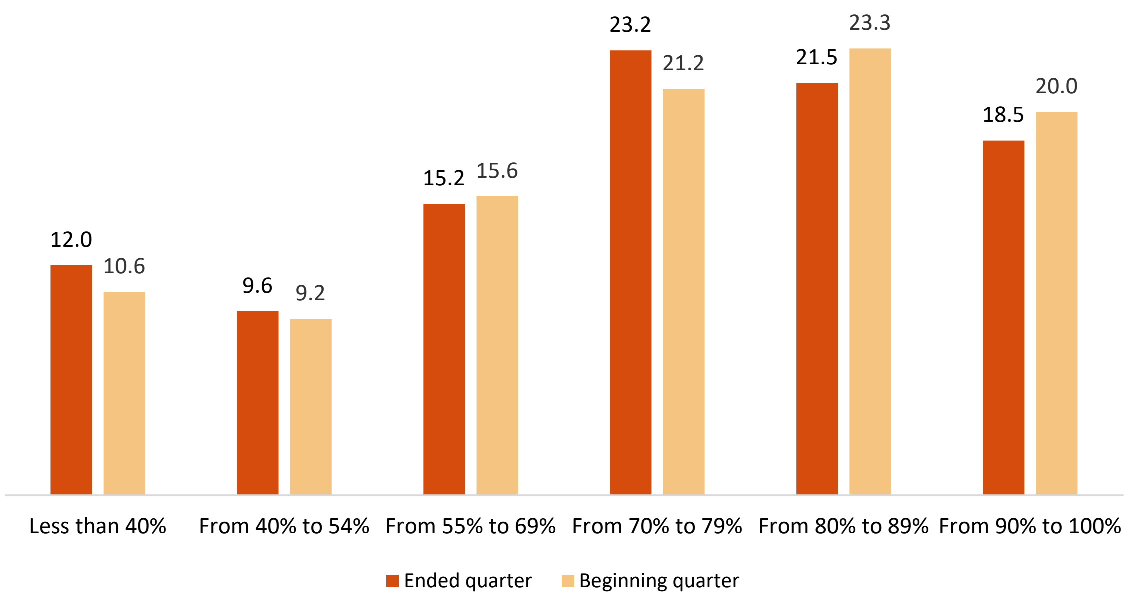
10.6% of industrial establishments expect to use less than 40% of their production capacity in the second quarter of 2021, compared to 12.0% in the previous quarter.

On the other hand, 20.0% of industrial establishments expect to use more than 90% of their production capacity in the beginning of the quarter, compared to the 18.5% declared last quarter.

Utilization of productive capacity in the *Industry*

	Situation	Expectation
	Ended quarter	Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	12.0	10.6
From 40% to 54%	9.6	9.2
From 55% to 69%	15.2	15.6
From 70% to 79%	23.2	21.2
From 80% to 89%	21.5	23.3
From 90% to 100%	18.5	20.0

Situation and Expectations by sections of productive capacity in the *Industry*
Second quarter 2021.



Review and update of data

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 Andalucia, 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 8,000 establishments approximately.

Reference period: the reference period 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 standardized methodological report at:

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

INE statistics are prepared in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information, see the section on Quality in the INE and Code of Good Practices on the INE's website.

Press office: Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – **gprensa@ine.es**
Information Area: Telephone number: (+34) 91 583 91 00 – **www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1**

Business Confidence Indicators
Second quarter of 2021

1. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by sectors

Year / Quarter	TOTAL	Industry	Construction	Trade	Transport and accommodation	Other Services
2019 II	132.9	125.7	146.8	134.3	138.8	130.0
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

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 II	132.9	136.5	136.0	129.2	123.6	121.6
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

3. Harmonized Business Confidence Index by Autonomous Communities

Year / Quarter		NATIONAL	Andalucía	Aragón	Asturias, Principado de	Balears, Illes	Canarias
2019	II	132.9	131.7	134.9	131.7	137.9	123.4
	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

Year / Quarter		Cantabria	Castilla y León	Castilla-La Mancha	Cataluña	Comunitat Valenciana	Extremadura
2019	II	139.5	133.7	142.1	137.1	126.9	136.8
	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

Year / Quarter		Galicia	Madrid, Comunidad de	Murcia, Región de	Navarra, Comunidad Foral	País Vasco	Rioja, La
2019	II	128.7	130.4	128.2	135.4	132.0	130.8
	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

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	13.8	50.8	35.4	-21.6
Industry	18.7	52.7	28.6	-9.9
Construction	13.7	57.6	28.7	-15.0
Trade	13.4	47.5	39.1	-25.7
Transport and accommodation	8.8	33.6	57.6	-48.8
Other services	13.3	55.7	31.0	-17.7

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	13.8	50.8	35.4	-21.6
Less than 10 employees	10.1	47.8	42.1	-32.0
From 10 to 49 employees	14.1	49.8	36.1	-22.0
From 50 to 199 employees	17.5	53.6	28.9	-11.4
From 200 to 999 employees	18.8	55.4	25.8	-7.0
1000 or more employees	17.0	56.9	26.1	-9.1

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	13.8	50.8	35.4	-21.6
Andalucía	10.7	51.8	37.5	-26.8
Aragón	14.1	52.7	33.2	-19.1
Asturias, Principado de	11.6	49.8	38.6	-27.0
Balears, Illes	8.6	41.3	50.1	-41.5
Canarias	9.2	38.1	52.7	-43.5
Cantabria	15.0	54.6	30.4	-15.4
Castilla y León	15.5	49.3	35.2	-19.7
Castilla- La Mancha	13.7	52.7	33.6	-19.9
Cataluña	18.4	53.6	28.0	-9.6
Comunitat Valenciana	17.0	49.9	33.1	-16.1
Extremadura	17.1	49.6	33.3	-16.2
Galicia	9.9	54.7	35.4	-25.5
Madrid, Comunidad de	13.1	52.6	34.3	-21.2
Murcia, Región de	13.1	54.1	32.8	-19.7
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	15.1	51.3	33.6	-18.5
País Vasco	17.7	47.1	35.2	-17.5
Rioja, La	8.3	48.3	43.4	-35.1

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

Activity sectors	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	11.2	47.4	41.4	-30.2
Industry	15.7	51.1	33.2	-17.5
Construction	12.2	55.0	32.8	-20.6
Trade	10.4	42.8	46.8	-36.4
Transport and accommodation	4.7	28.3	67.0	-62.3
Other services	11.3	52.8	35.9	-24.6

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

Size of the establishment	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
TOTAL	11.2	47.4	41.4	-30.2
Less than 10 employees	8.2	43.3	48.5	-40.3
From 10 to 49 employees	11.8	45.1	43.1	-31.3
From 50 to 199 employees	13.0	53.3	33.7	-20.7
From 200 to 999 employees	14.9	53.1	32.0	-17.1
1000 or more employees	15.7	56.1	28.2	-12.5

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

	Favourable (%) (optimistic)	Normal (%)	Unfavourable (%) (pessimistic)	Balance (optimistic - pessimistic)
NATIONAL	11.2	47.4	41.4	-30.2
Andalucía	9.2	46.9	43.9	-34.7
Aragón	12.4	46.7	40.9	-28.5
Asturias, Principado de	10.5	48.3	41.2	-30.7
Balears, Illes	4.6	37.8	57.6	-53.0
Canarias	6.8	37.6	55.6	-48.8
Cantabria	15.0	48.6	36.4	-21.4
Castilla y León	11.3	42.5	46.2	-34.9
Castilla- La Mancha	12.1	48.5	39.4	-27.3
Cataluña	15.4	48.9	35.7	-20.3
Comunitat Valenciana	12.7	48.2	39.1	-26.4
Extremadura	12.6	44.7	42.7	-30.1
Galicia	7.5	50.5	42.0	-34.5
Madrid, Comunidad de	10.3	53.3	36.4	-26.1
Murcia, Región de	9.1	48.2	42.7	-33.6
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	12.2	48.0	39.8	-27.6
País Vasco	15.9	46.5	37.6	-21.7
Rioja, La	7.0	45.2	47.8	-40.8

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

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	8.4	76.9	14.7	-6.3
Industry	9.5	77.3	13.2	-3.7
Construction	8.6	74.3	17.1	-8.5
Trade	7.0	75.3	17.7	-10.7
Transport and accommodation	8.8	72.1	19.1	-10.3
Other services	8.4	80.2	11.4	-3.0

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	8.4	76.9	14.7	-6.3
Less than 10 employees	4.2	82.5	13.3	-9.1
From 10 to 49 employees	9.2	75.3	15.5	-6.3
From 50 to 199 employees	12.7	73.3	14.0	-1.3
From 200 to 999 employees	13.0	68.8	18.2	-5.2
1000 or more employees	10.9	73.7	15.4	-4.5

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

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	7.8	71.1	21.1	-13.3
Industry	10.8	70.0	19.2	-8.4
Construction	10.3	67.4	22.3	-12.0
Trade	5.8	75.0	19.2	-13.4
Transport and accommodation	4.1	65.2	30.7	-26.6
Other services	7.8	72.9	19.3	-11.5

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	7.8	71.1	21.1	-13.3
Less than 10 employees	3.8	76.7	19.5	-15.7
From 10 to 49 employees	9.3	67.6	23.1	-13.8
From 50 to 199 employees	11.2	66.4	22.4	-11.2
From 200 to 999 employees	12.2	66.7	21.1	-8.9
1000 or more employees	9.2	71.3	19.5	-10.3

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

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	7.3	82.8	9.9	-2.6
Industry	12.1	80.7	7.2	4.9
Construction	5.0	82.8	12.2	-7.2
Trade	13.1	76.5	10.4	2.7
Transport and accommodation	5.3	83.4	11.3	-6.0
Other services	2.7	87.5	9.8	-7.1

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	7.3	82.8	9.9	-2.6
Less than 10 employees	7.5	80.2	12.3	-4.8
From 10 to 49 employees	8.6	81.5	9.9	-1.3
From 50 to 199 employees	7.2	85.1	7.7	-0.5
From 200 to 999 employees	6.8	85.5	7.7	-0.9
1000 or more employees	2.2	92.9	4.9	-2.7

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

Activity Sectors	It will increase	It will remain the same	It will decrease	Balance (increase - decrease)
TOTAL	9.3	77.0	13.7	-4.4
Industry	14.8	74.1	11.1	3.7
Construction	6.1	78.1	15.8	-9.7
Trade	15.1	70.7	14.2	0.9
Transport and accommodatio	4.6	76.7	18.7	-14.1
Other services	5.7	81.9	12.4	-6.7

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	9.3	77.0	13.7	-4.4
Less than 10 employees	8.3	75.0	16.7	-8.4
From 10 to 49 employees	10.3	76.3	13.4	-3.1
From 50 to 199 employees	9.2	77.8	13.0	-3.8
From 200 to 999 employees	9.0	80.4	10.6	-1.6
1000 or more employees	12.3	82.6	5.1	7.2

18. Utilization of productive capacity in industry

	Situation	Expectation
	Ended quarter	Beginning quarter
Less than 40%	12.0	10.6
From 40% to 54%	9.6	9.2
From 55% to 69%	15.2	15.6
From 70% to 79%	23.2	21.2
From 80% to 89%	21.5	23.3
From 90% to 100%	18.5	20.0