

Media Release

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Results of KOF Business Tendency Surveys from October 2015

KOF Business Situation Indicator Given a Slight Boost, but Still at Low Level

The business situation of companies in Switzerland improved slightly in October compared with the previous month. However, the boost to the Business Situation Indicator is slight and, overall, the indicator has been at a comparatively low level for six months, with slight fluctuations. The companies' business situation is clearly worse than at the same time in the previous year. With regard to the coming six months, quiet confidence can be observed in the companies' business expectations. On the whole, survey participants do not expect business to deteriorate further. However, the Swiss economy has only just set foot on the road out of its trough.

Business situation by region

From a regional perspective, the business situation in Northwestern Switzerland and in the Zurich region developed positively in October. The business situation has also recovered slightly in the Lake Geneva area. In all other regions – Central Switzerland, Eastern Switzerland, Espace Mittelland and Ticino, the business situation has deteriorated. In comparison with the situation at the beginning of the year, before the lower limit for the franc was lifted, pronounced drops were apparent, particularly in Eastern Switzerland and Espace Mittelland.

Development by economic area

The slight improvement in the business situation in the Swiss private sector touches all industries covered by KOF in its business surveys, with one exception. In comparison with the preceding survey in July, the situation in the manufacturing industry, retail and wholesale trades, hospitality, project planning, financial services and other services providers has improved slightly. Only the business situation in the construction industry, which has deteriorated, is not keeping pace with the positive trend.

Responses from more than 4,500 businesses from industry, construction and the most important service sectors were included in the results of the latest KOF Business Tendency Surveys from October 2015. This corresponds to a rate of return of approximately 57%.

Detailed results from KOF Business Tendency Surveys can be found here:
<http://kof.ethz.ch/en/media/press-releases/k/business-tendency-surveys/> →

Contacts:

Dr. Klaus Abberger | Phone +41 44 632 51 56 | abberger@kof.ethz.ch
Media Services | Phone +41 44 632 40 61 or +41 44 632 40 61 | kofcc@kof.ethz.ch