

Press Release

Zurich, 30 January 2020, 9:00 a.m.

KOF Economic Barometer: Normalisation at the Start of the Year

The KOF Economic Barometer rises in January. After already taking a step upwards in December, it is now back to its long-term average value. The barometer did not reach this level throughout 2019. The Swiss economy can free itself somewhat from its shackles.

The KOF Economic Barometer rises by 3.9 points in January, from 96.2 in December (revised from 96.4) to 100.1 points. Together with the rise in December, it has thus climbed by 7.6 points within two months. The indicator bundle for manufacturing is no longer as unfavourable as before and the prospects for other services have improved. In addition, the changes in the indicators for foreign demand, accommodation and food service activities, financial and insurance services and construction are slightly positive. The private consumption prospects are practically unchanged.

In the goods producing sectors (manufacturing and construction), the indicators for production and production capacities are more favourable than at the end of 2019. In addition, personnel planning is no longer dampening the barometer as much as in the previous month. By contrast, the development is slightly muted by the indicators for the competitive position.

Within manufacturing, indicators for almost all industries are recovering. This improvement is particularly noticeable in machinery, in other manufacturing industries and in the chemicals, pharmaceuticals and plastics industry. By contrast, the electrical industry and the metal industry cannot entirely keep pace.

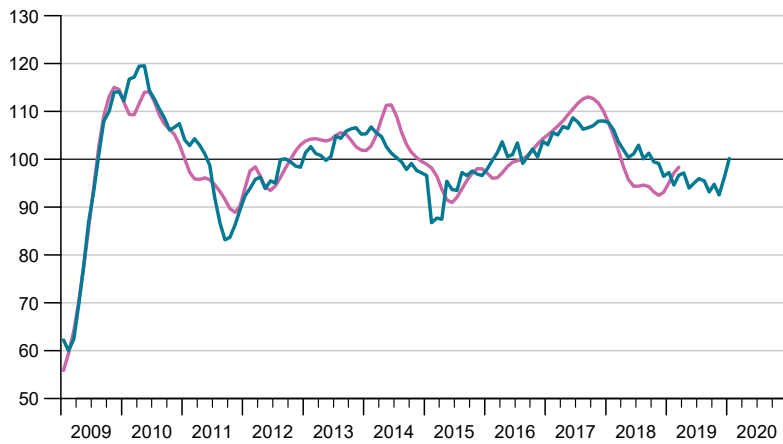


Values for the past months

Current level / Level a month ago

2019m1	97.2	97.2
2019m2	94.6	94.6
2019m3	96.7	96.7
2019m4	97.2	97.2
2019m5	94.0	93.9
2019m6	95.0	95.0
2019m7	96.0	96.0
2019m8	95.4	95.4
2019m9	93.2	93.1
2019m10	94.8	94.8
2019m11	92.5	92.6
2019m12	96.2	96.4
2020m1	100.1	

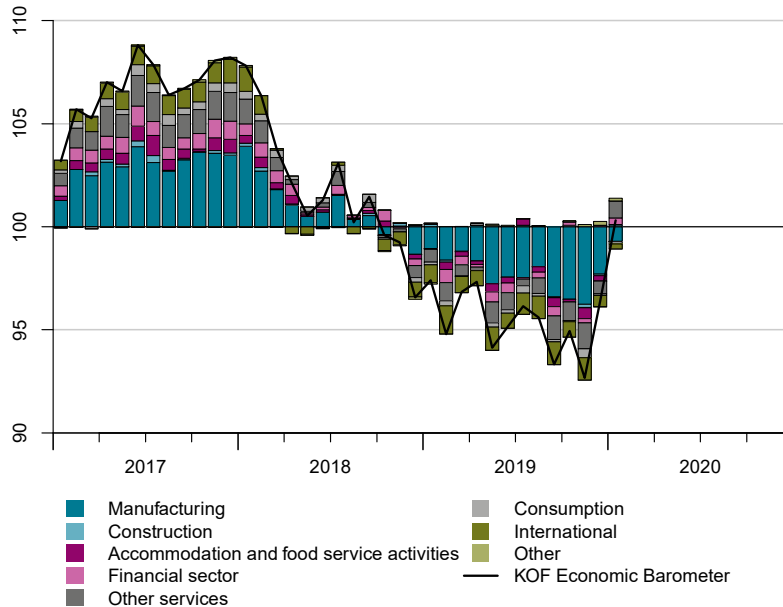
KOF Economic Barometer and Reference Series



— The Swiss business cycle as measured by the smoothed GDP growth (Reference Series, SECO/KOF) which is displayed at a standardized scale here (mean=100, standard deviation=10)

— KOF Economic Barometer (long-term average 2009–2018=100)

Contribution of variable groups to the KOF Economic Barometer



Deviations of the variable groups from the long-term group mean, which is standardized at 100. The variables included in the KOF Economic Barometer are divided into groups. The group values are calculated from the weighted group totals computed from the individual variable weights. Example: A group value of 102.0 means that the weighted group total deviates upwards by 2.0 from the group average. A contribution of 98.0 means that the weighted group total deviates downwards by -2.0 from the group average. The total deviations of all groups from their respective group average plus 100 results in the value of the KOF Economic Barometer.

More detailed information regarding the KOF Economic Barometer:

www.kof.ethz.ch/en/forecasts-and-indicators/indicators/kof-economic-barometer.html/ →

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