

Press Release

Zurich, 30 August 2021, 9:00 a.m.

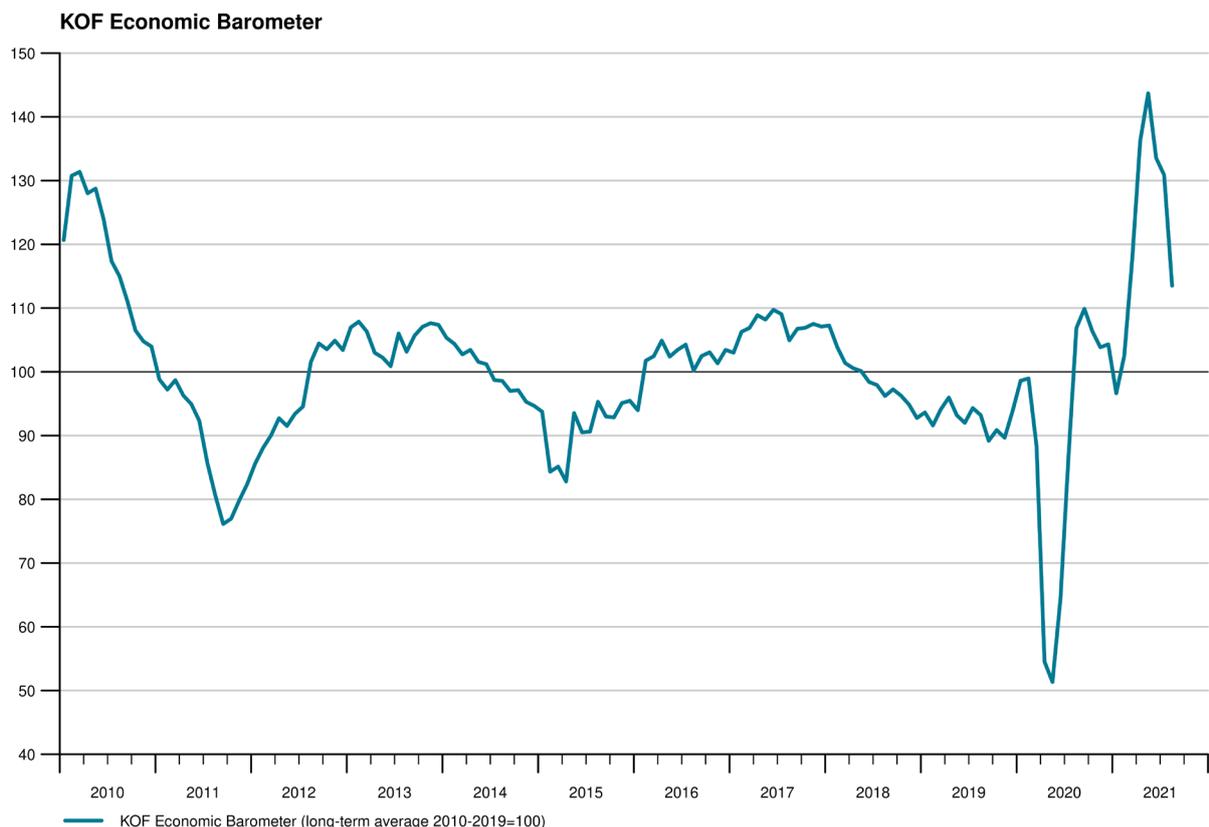
KOF Economic Barometer: Weakening continues

In August, the KOF Economic Barometer fell from its all-time high in May for the third time in a row and now stands at 113.5 points. However, this is still significantly higher than the long-term average. Accordingly, in the coming months the economic recovery from the consequences of the pandemic is expected to continue.

The KOF Economic Barometer fell by 17.4 points in August, from 130.9 (revised from 129.8) to 113.5 points. However, it is still pointing well above its average value of 100. All indicator groups except those from the construction industry contributed to this decline. The fourth wave of the pandemic, which is now becoming increasingly clear, is apparently fuelling doubts about largely unhindered economic activity in the near future.

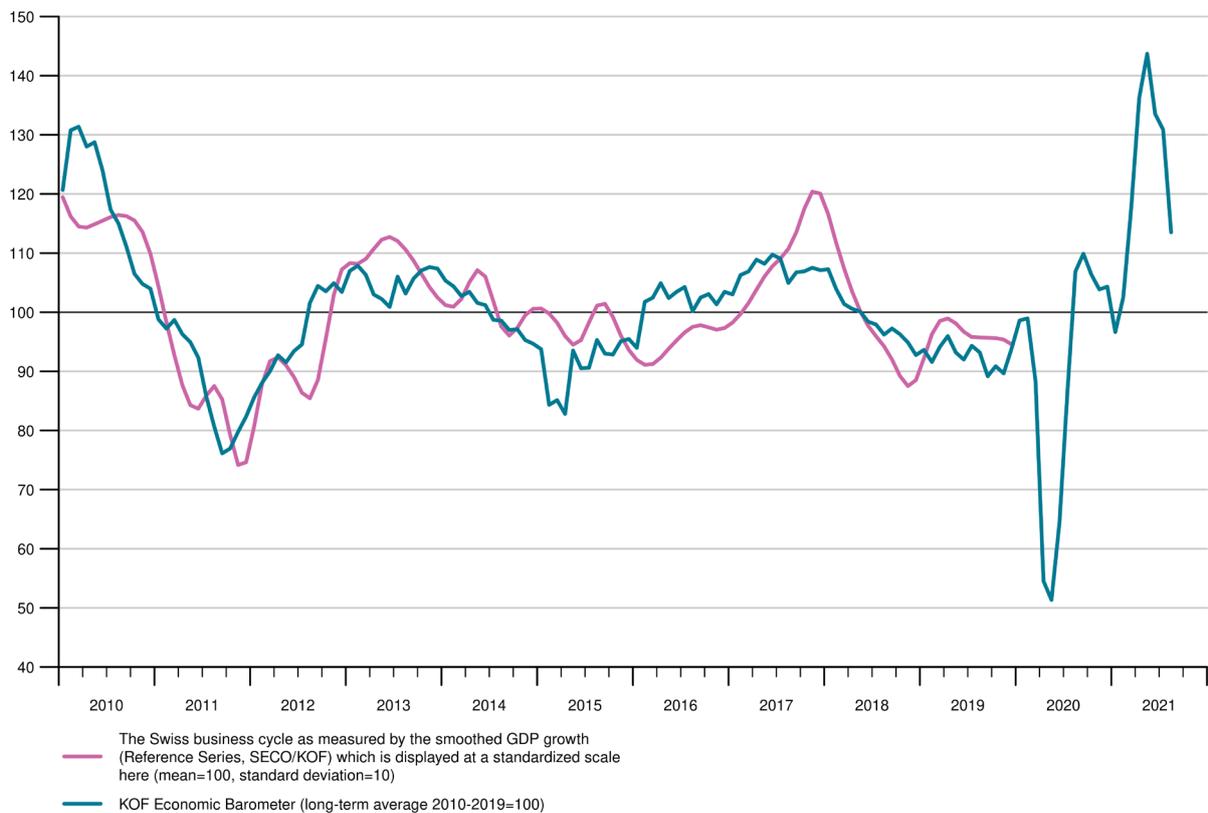
In the goods producing sector (manufacturing and construction), the order backlog in particular is assessed as less positive, followed by earnings, employment, and production. The export prospects are assessed somewhat more favourably.

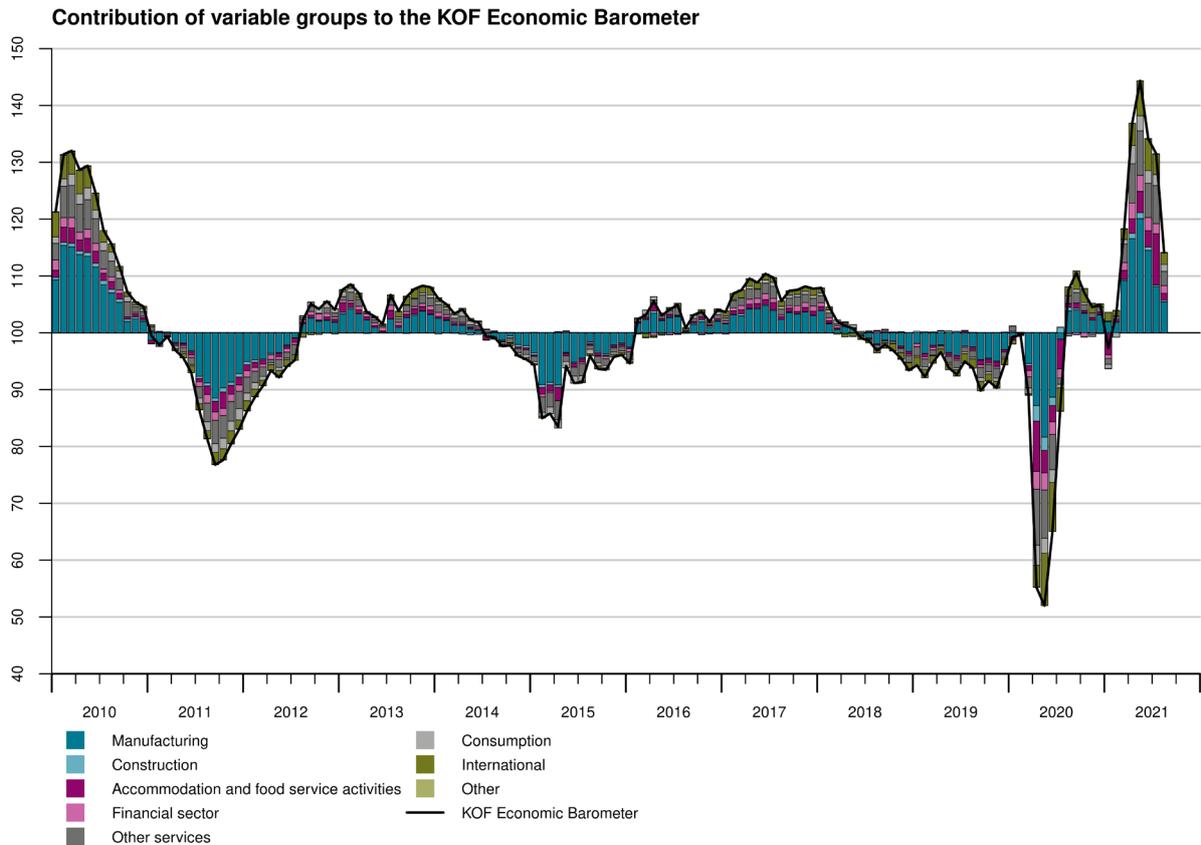
In the manufacturing sector, all sectors reflected in the Barometer, with the exception of the chemical and wood industries, signal a decline compared to the previous month. This is particularly pronounced in the metal industry, followed by the paper and electrical industries.



Month	Current level	Level previous month
Aug 2020	106.9	107.0
Sep 2020	109.9	110.0
Oct 2020	106.4	106.4
Nov 2020	103.9	103.9
Dec 2020	104.3	104.3
Jan 2021	96.6	96.6
Feb 2021	102.5	102.5
Mar 2021	117.7	117.7
Apr 2021	136.2	136.2
May 2021	143.7	143.6
Jun 2021	133.5	133.3
Jul 2021	130.9	129.8
Aug 2021	113.5	

KOF Economic Barometer and Reference Series





This graph shows the 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 calculated with 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 result in the value of the KOF Economic Barometer.

Detailed information regarding the KOF Economic Barometer:

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

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