

Press Release

Zurich, 30 March 2023, 9:00 a.m.

KOF Economic Barometer: Level falls marginally

The KOF Economic Barometer fell marginally in March. It now points just slightly below its long-term average value. Accordingly, the outlook for the Swiss economy has hardly changed compared to the previous month.

The KOF Economic Barometer fell by 0.7 points in March from 98.9 (revised from 100.0). At 98.2, it is now just below its average value of 100, which means that the upward trend observed up to the previous month since the last low in November 2022 (89.3) has not continued. The economic outlook thus remains average.

While the overall barometer reading has hardly changed compared to the previous month, negative signals are coming from the manufacturing, services and construction sectors, although these are at least partly offset by positive developments in the indicator bundle reflecting Swiss exports. In contrast, the other indicators included in the barometer show little change.

In the producing sector (manufacturing and construction), the situation referring to employment and inventories is assessed more negatively than before, while the assessments of new orders and intermediate goods have improved. Obstacles to production are thus evidently still primarily due to recruitment problems in the labour market.

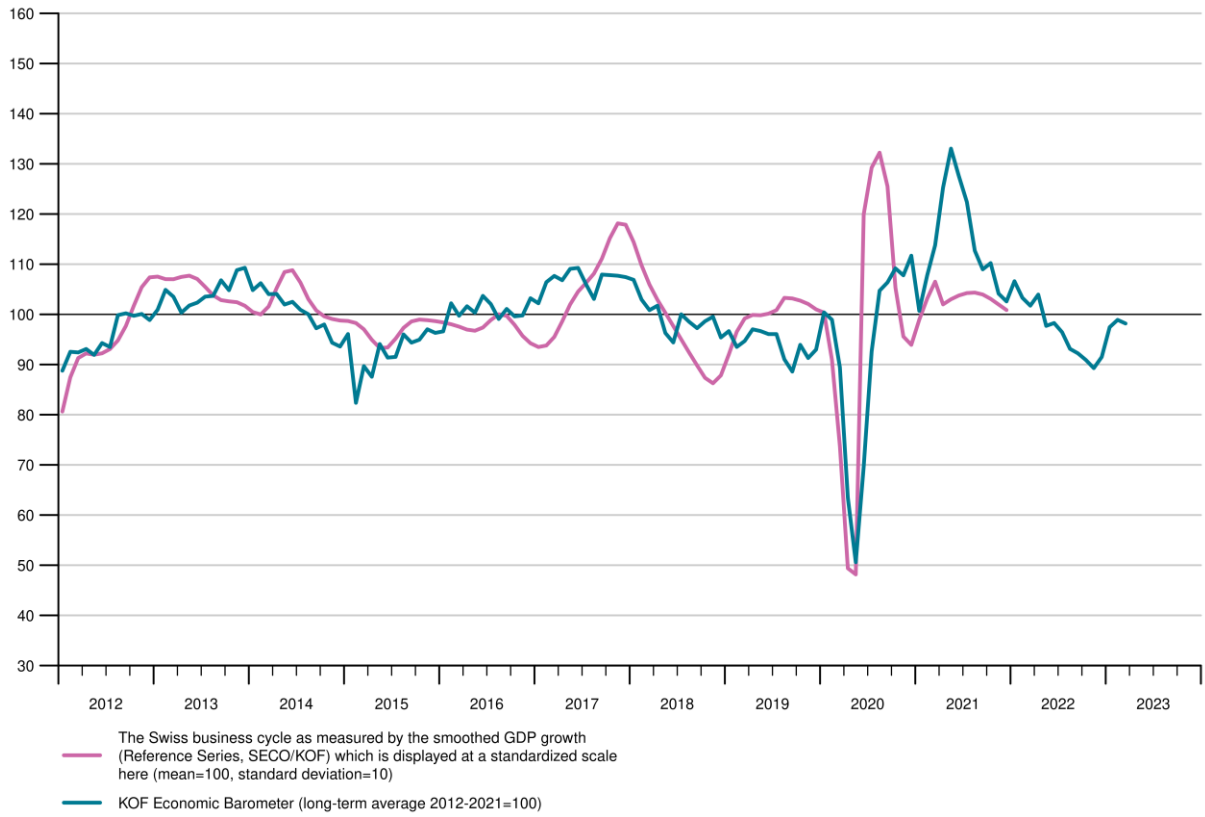
Within manufacturing, the electrical and wood industries are in particular signalling deteriorations, followed by the chemical industry. In contrast, positive signals are coming from the textile and paper industries.

KOF Economic Barometer

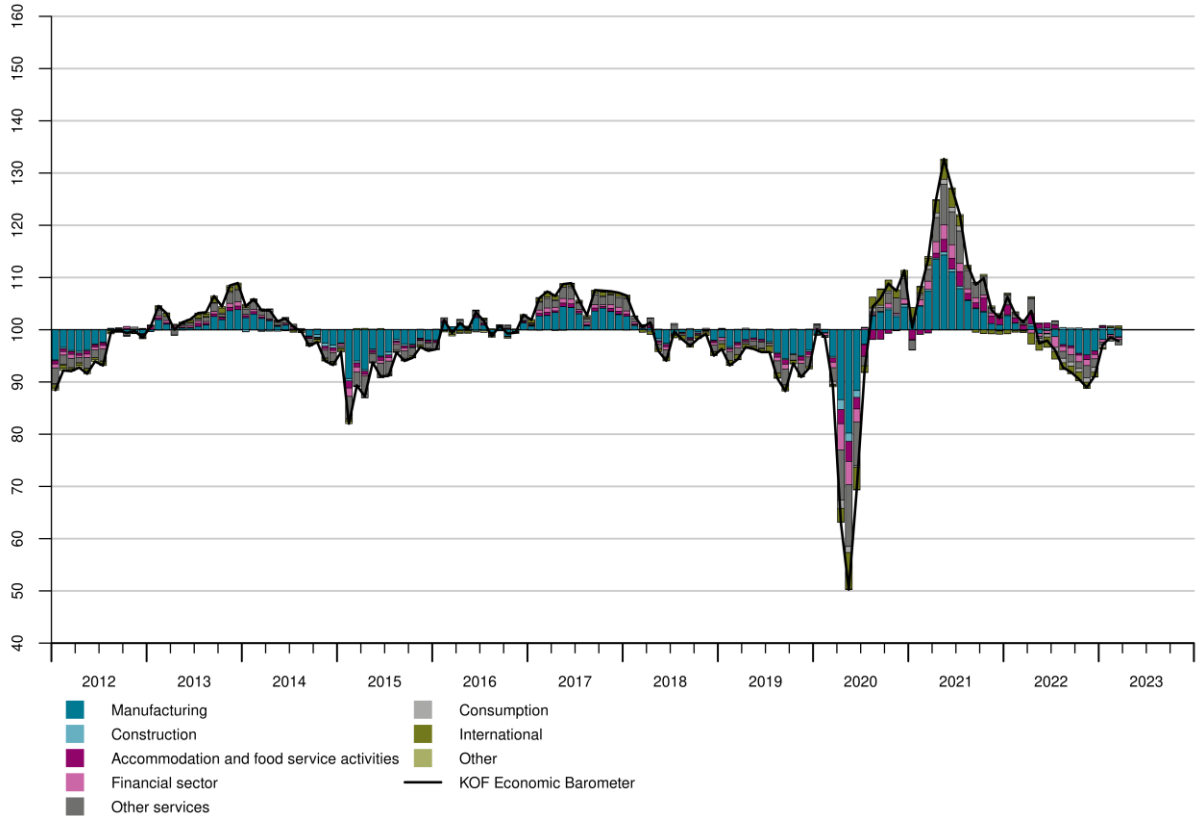


| Month | Current level | Level previous month |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Mar 2022 | 101.7 | 101.7 |
| Apr 2022 | 103.9 | 103.9 |
| May 2022 | 97.7 | 97.7 |
| Jun 2022 | 98.3 | 98.3 |
| Jul 2022 | 96.4 | 96.4 |
| Aug 2022 | 93.1 | 93.1 |
| Sep 2022 | 92.2 | 92.2 |
| Oct 2022 | 90.9 | 90.9 |
| Nov 2022 | 89.3 | 89.3 |
| Dec 2022 | 91.5 | 91.6 |
| Jan 2023 | 97.4 | 97.4 |
| Feb 2023 | 98.9 | 100.0 |
| Mar 2023 | 98.2 | |

KOF Economic Barometer and Reference Series



Contribution of variable groups to the KOF Economic Barometer



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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