

Press Release

Zurich, 30 May 2016, 9.00 a.m.

KOF Economic Barometer: Positive Trend Continues

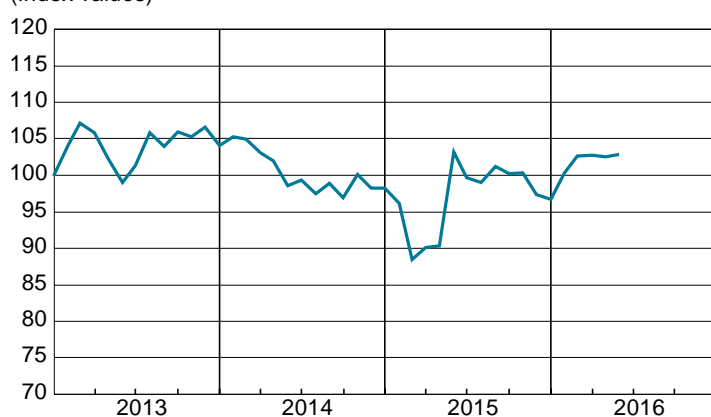
In May, the KOF Economic Barometer has barely changed compared to its April value. It has now a standing of 102.9 points compared to 102.6 (revised from 102.7) in April. Since February, the Barometer has been solidly standing above its long-term average. This indicates an on-going positive development of the Swiss economy in the coming months.

The Economic Barometer has increased minimally in May compared to the previous month. Positive signals came from the manufacturing sector, the financial sector and the export sector. Indicators related to private consumption, however, show a negative dynamic.

Within the constructing sector, slightly positive impulses come from the architectural and engineering offices, whereas the main constructing sector signals a negative dynamic. The positive impulses stemming from the manufacturing sector have to be differentiated as well. These are mainly stemming from the machinery, metal and the paper industry, whereas the chemical and the electronic industries contribute negatively. For the entire manufacturing sector, the purchase of intermediary products, employment, and the production side show a positive dynamic. Negative signals are coming from KOF survey data related to inventories.

KOF Economic Barometer

(Index values)



— KOF Economic Barometer
(long-term average 2005–2014=100)

Values for the past months

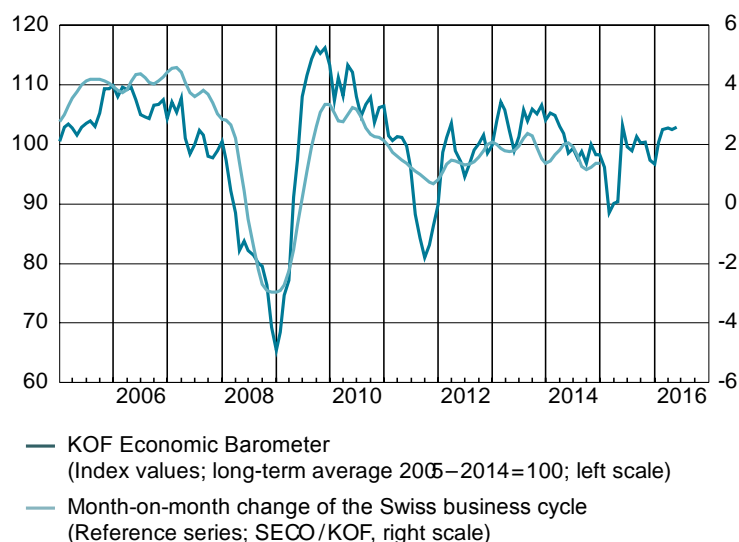
Current level / Level a month ago

2015-5	103,2	103,2
2015-6	99,6	99,7
2015-7	99,0	99,0
2015-8	101,3	101,3
2015-9	100,3	100,3
2015-10	100,4	100,4
2015-11	97,3	97,3
2015-12	96,8	96,8
2016-1	100,4	100,4
2016-2	102,6	102,6
2016-3	102,8	102,8
2016-4	102,6	102,7
2016-5	102,9	

KOF Economic Barometer and reference time series: annual update

In September 2015, the scheduled annual update of the KOF Economic Barometer took place. This annual update concerns the following stages: redefinition of the pool of indicators that enter the selection procedure, update of the reference time series, a new execution of the variable selection procedure and a technical adjustment how to cope with missing monthly values of quarterly variables. Compared to 479 indicators that entered the variable selection procedure in October 2014, the current pool comprises 420 indicators due to elimination of KOF surveys related to prices and monthly changes in inventories. The updated reference series is the smoothed continuous growth rate of Swiss GDP according to the new System of National Accounts ESVG 2010, released at the end of August 2015, which takes into account the release of the previous year's annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. As a result of the indicator variable selection procedure, the updated KOF Economic Barometer is now based on 238 indicators (instead of 217 as in the previous vintage) that are combined using statistically determined weights. Last but not least, with this annual update we introduce a slight modification of how the variables observed at only the quarterly frequency are treated when computing the Barometer. Instead of freezing those values until the next quarterly release is available, we now implement a statistical procedure to interpolate data values for these variables using the information contained in all other variables that are available at monthly frequency.

KOF Economic Barometer and Reference Series



More detailed information regarding the KOF Economic Barometer:

<http://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/indicators/economic-barometer/> →

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