

Press Release

Zurich, 5 May 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Results of KOF Business Tendency Surveys, April 2017

Business Situation Improves Further

In April 2017, the business situation of businesses in the private sector was significantly more favourable than during the previous month. This means that businesses have been able to improve their situation continuously since the start of 2017. In addition, firms' expectations concerning the course of business over the coming six months are more confident than previously. The Swiss economy has started the spring with a swing in its step.

Broadly diversified confidence

All of the economic sectors covered by the KOF survey were able to improve or at least maintain their business situation in April compared to the previous month. This means that the improvement in the situation is broadly apparent throughout the Swiss economy. There was a significant boost for the Business Situation Indicator for wholesalers and other service providers. However, also manufacturers, retailers, the project engineering sector and construction reported a more favourable business situation. The hotel and catering sector indicated a slight improvement whilst the providers of financial services and insurance were able to maintain their good position.

Business situation by region

In regional terms, the business situation improved in most of the major regions as defined by the Federal Statistics Office (FSO). The improvement was particularly evident in the Zurich and Lake Geneva regions. However, businesses in Central Switzerland, North West Switzerland and Ticino also reported a more favourable situation compared to the previous month. On the other hand, the figures for Espace Mittelland and Eastern Switzerland fell slightly.

The results of the current KOF Business Tendency Surveys from April 2017 incorporate the answers provided by more than 4,500 businesses from industry, construction and the major service sectors. This corresponds to a response rate of around 56 per cent.

Detailed results of the KOF Business Tendency Surveys can be found in the latest KOF Bulletin No. 107: <https://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events/news/kof-bulletin/kof-bulletin/2017/05.html/> →

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