

Press Release

Zurich, 7 November 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Results of KOF Business Tendency Surveys, October 2017

Muted Business Situation

The KOF Business Situation Indicator has fallen slightly. However, the business situation is significantly better than it was throughout most of the first half of 2017. The slightly less buoyant situation is attributable largely to the financial and insurance services as well as other service providers. Whilst the business situation remains good in these sectors, the positive mood is less pronounced. Nevertheless, the economic situation and the outlook remain positive overall.

Development by economic sector

The business situation developed very unevenly in October within the different areas of the economy. The Business Situation Indicator increased in most sectors, although fell significantly in some. For instance, the Indicator posted gains in the wholesale, accommodation and food service and project engineering sectors. The Indicator also rose slightly for manufacturers, whilst the construction sector is also slightly more satisfied with the situation than it was during the previous month. On the other hand, the retail sector posted a small decline. The previously good situation for financial and insurance service providers and for other service providers worsened, which explains the reversal in the overall Business Situation Indicator.

Business situation by region

On a regional level, the business situation gave ground on all fronts. The Business Situation Indicator fell in six of the seven major regions as defined by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO). The only exception was Espace Mittelland, where the indicator improved slightly. In all other regions – Central Switzerland, Lake Geneva Region, Zurich Region, Ticino, North West Switzerland and Eastern Switzerland – the Indicator fell.

The results of the current KOF business tendency surveys from October 2017 incorporate the answers provided by more than 4,500 private sector businesses from industry, construction and the major service sectors. This corresponds to a response rate of around 59 per cent.

Detailed results from KOF Business Tendency Surveys can be found online via:

<https://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events/media/press-releases/2017.html/> →

Contacts:

Klaus Abberger | Phone +41 44 632 51 56 | abberger@kof.ethz.ch

Corporate Communications | Phone +41 44 632 40 61 | kofcc@kof.ethz.ch