

NEWS RELEASE

March 24, 2026

Overall confidence in the economy has been rising slightly since the beginning of the year

Additional information to NR Business cycle survey – March 2026

The composite confidence indicator (economic sentiment indicator), expressed as a basic index, rose by 1 point m-o-m to 102.1 in March, when both of its components develop in the same way. The business confidence indicator rose slightly by 0.6 points to 100.4 and the consumer confidence indicator rose by 2.8 points to 110.4. Compared with March last year, the composite indicator, the business indicator, and the consumer indicator are at a higher level.

Economic confidence among **industrial** businesses increased m-o-m. The confidence indicator rose by 2.0 points to 99.5. The proportion of businesses that view their *current overall demand* negatively remained unchanged from the previous month. Expectations regarding the *growth rate of manufacturing activity* over the next three months increased. Inventories of *finished goods* remained at approximately the same level as in February. The share of entrepreneurs expecting an increase in the prices of their products rose again m-o-m. Y-o-y, confidence in the industrial sector is higher.

In **construction** sector, business confidence in the economy declined m-o-m. The confidence indicator fell by 2.3 points to 113.8. The proportion of respondents who viewed their current demand for construction work negatively remained at roughly the same level as last month. The share of construction firms expecting to *increase their current workforce* over the next three months declined. The share of entrepreneurs expecting construction *prices to rise* over the next three months also fell m-o-m, yet remains above average. Compared to March of last year, confidence in the construction sector is lower.

In **trade** sector, business confidence in the economy increased m-o-m. The confidence indicator rose by 1.4 points to 98.2. The share of businesses reporting an improvement in their *overall economic situation* over the past three months increased quite significantly. In contrast, the share of respondents *expecting their economic situation to improve* over the next three months declined m-o-m. *Inventory levels* decreased. The share of entrepreneurs expecting *prices to rise* over the next three months increased. Y-o-y, confidence in the trade sector is lower.

Business confidence in **selected service sectors** (including the financial sector) declined slightly m-o-m. The confidence indicator fell by 0.6 points to 100.3. The share of entrepreneurs in selected service sectors who view their *current economic situation* positively is slightly higher than in February. The share of entrepreneurs who viewed their *current demand* for services positively declined significantly m-o-m. In contrast, the share of entrepreneurs expecting an increase in demand over the next three months rose compared to February. The share of entrepreneurs

NEWS RELEASE

expecting *prices for their services to rise* over the next three months remained virtually unchanged. Compared to March 2025, confidence in selected service sectors is lower.

Consumer confidence in the economy has increased compared to February. The confidence indicator rose by 2.8 points to 110.4. The share of consumers expecting the overall economic situation in the Czech Republic to worsen over the next twelve months has declined for the second month in a row. The share of respondents who *assess their current financial situation* as worse than it was in the previous twelve months also decreased slightly. The share of households expecting an *improvement in their financial situation* over the next twelve months remained unchanged m-o-m. The number of respondents who do not plan to make major purchases in the next twelve months decreased slightly compared to February. Consumer concerns about rising prices increased m-o-m. Concerns about further increases in unemployment remained virtually unchanged. Y-o-y, consumer confidence is higher.

Notes:

Contact person:

Jiri Obst, Head of Business Cycle Surveys Unit, tel.
+420604815440, e-mail: jiri.obst@csu.gov.cz

Detailed time series of balances and basic
indices of confidence indicators:

https://csu.gov.cz/produkty/kpr_ts

Business and Consumers Surveys are co-financed by grant agreements of the European Commission DG ECFIN.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/business-and-consumer-surveys_en