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In this number :
Ad hoc survey on labour
market in services

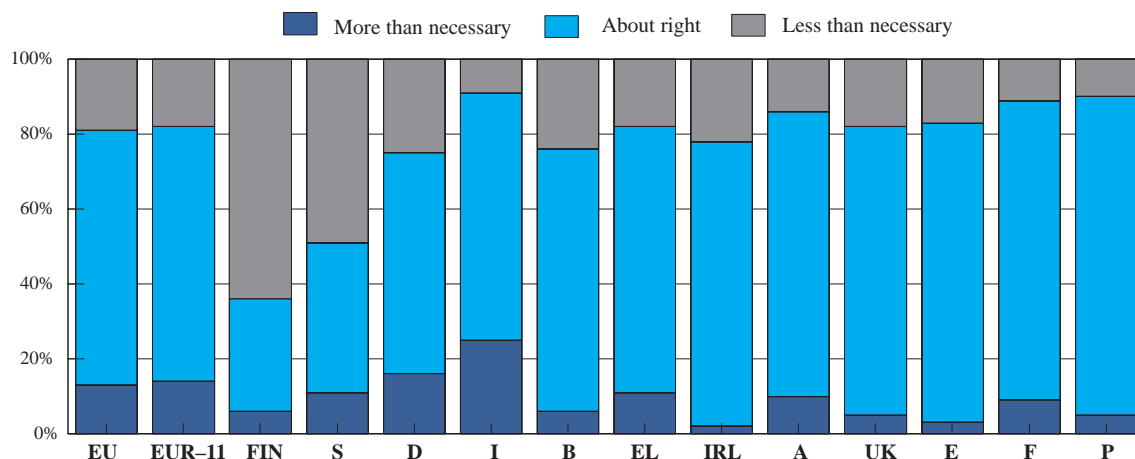
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Labour market survey in services sector

- The main features of the employment structure in services are the primacy of full-time jobs, the high share of skilled employees and the importance of permanent employment.
- Firms deem the situation of employment in services quite satisfactory for the European Community as a whole. Balances of desired employment changes are positive showing the existence of a margin for employment creation. This margin is relatively large for Finland, Sweden, Belgium and Ireland. In contrast, Italy is the only member that showed a negative balance.
- Labour demand of firms in services will be centred on skilled employees. Moreover, firms will offer more full-time than part-time jobs.
- The main reasons for firms' increasing labour demand in services sector in the European Union are the present and expected levels of demand and the introduction of new technologies or services.
- Legal provisions constraining working time flexibility are regarded the most important obstacle to a stronger output response to a demand stimulus. The lack of qualification as a limitation to modified in job assignments of existing personnel is quoted second in order of importance, followed by a reluctance to hire permanent workers because of tight employment protection regulations.

GRAPH 1 : **Employment situation in relation to the present level of activity– European Community**
(in order of importance)

Question 2a: In relation to your present level of engagements is the number of your staff more than necessary, about right or less than necessary?



Note: Members states have been classified following the importance of the replies "about right".
Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

TABLE 1: **Structure of employment in services – European Community**

Question 1:

How many people does your company employ at present?

	Total	Male		Female	
		% of total		% of total	
Full-Time	83	54	65	29	35
Part-Time	17	4	22	14	78
Skilled	78	49	63	29	37
Unskilled	22	10	45	12	55
Permanent	91	54	59	37	41
Temporary	9	5	56	4	44

Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

Despite some recent improvement, the overall labour market conditions in the European Union are still far from satisfactory. Thus, any additional information and analysis contributing to a better understanding of current developments in the labour market should be regarded as highly welcomed. Against this background, the Commission has again collected new data from a harmonised ad-hoc labour market survey covering services, industry, retail trade and opinions of employees and industry managers, in the European Community Member States in 1999. Due to the rising importance of services in the European economy, the Commission has extended the harmonised labour market survey to the services with the exclusion of Luxembourg, Netherlands, Denmark).

This Supplement B discusses the results of the ad-hoc labour market survey for the services sector. Subsequent issues will deal with the others sectors, and a full report about the survey results will be published in a special issue of European Economy – Reports and Studies. In the end, the overall results of the survey should help decision-makers in adjusting and fine-tuning policies for tackling unemployment in the European Union.

Structure of employment in services.– Most of the employees in services are under *full-time* contracts, while the share of the total employed population in *part-time* jobs still amounts to only 17%. This result matches well with the latest Eurostat statistics for services. Indeed, the 1997 Eurostat figures (collected in June 1999) for the same services industries as covered in the present survey give exactly the same number for the share of part-time jobs in total employment in the European Union. The survey reconfirms that part-time work is predominantly female, with women representing 83% of all part-time employment; in contrast, women account for only 35% of full-time employment. Only *Finland* employs relatively more men in part-time jobs than women. The smallest share of part-time workers in services is recorded in *Greece* (9%), while the highest share of part-time jobs in services has been found in *Austria*.

A similarly uneven distribution is revealed along the *skilled/unskilled* dimension. If around three-quarters of all employees in the services sector are skilled workers, this is especially true for men. In fact, men represent 63% of the total skilled workers; in contrast, women account for 55% of the unskilled workers in the services sector.

Permanent employment seems to be a third main feature of services in the European Union: it accounts for 91% of the European Union total employment in services, a slightly higher number than the results reported by Eurostat (Eurostat put the share of workers in services with a *temporary job* equal to 11% in 1997). Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, the split between permanent/temporary work in the services sector does not appear to be characterised by a significant gender dimension. At the European level, the share of women on a permanent contract is only marginally lower than that of men; thus, temporary jobs concern nearly as many men as women.

Employment situation in relation to the present level of activity.– The surveyed firms in the services sector have regarded their *current employment situation quite satisfactory*,

TABLE 2: **Prospective trend of employment in services** (balances)

Question 2b:

According to your present plans, the number of employees in your company over the next 12 to 24 months will probably: increase, remain constant, decrease or do not know?

	Expected variation in full-time employment		Expected variation in part-time employment		Expected variation in total employment	
	Skilled	Unskilled	Skilled	Unskilled	Skilled	Unskilled
B	52	-5	24	17	50	-3
D	20	-10	-3	-7	22	-9
EL	51	13	18	7	32	9
E	20	3	7	3	26	6
F	20	-6	7	11	19	5
IRL	29	9	5	6	19	10
I	35	19	81	61	37	23
A	28	1	18	3	33	0
P	24	8	9	7	15	8
FIN	82	-47	63	-41	79	-36
S	77	-1	15	3	70	0
UK	21	6	10	3	19	3
EU	27	0	20	11	27	3
EUR-11	26	-1	22	13	27	3

Note: Balances are the differences between the replies "increase" and "decrease" to the question 2b.

Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

TABLE 3: **Reasons for increasing the total number of employees** (coefficient of importance)

Question 2c:

Do you plan to increase the total number of employees? If yes, what are the reasons?

	Present and expected levels of demand	Introduction of new technologies or services	Present and expect lev-els of labor costsed	Government measures	Other
B	58	35	28	28	2
D	34	33	12	4	1
EL	53	43	31	34	9
E	33	20	23	18	1
F	36	28	23	17	31
IRL	37	27	22	14	11
I	31	8	6	4	22
A	42	32	13	8	5
P	38	18	14	12	6
FIN	82	80	61	7	0
S	71	57	38	24	27
UK	34	23	24	20	13
EU	37	27	18	12	13
EUR-11	36	26	16	10	13

Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

with no major difference between the case of EU-15 and the case of EUR-11. For both aggregates, the difference between the rate of the “less than necessary” replies and the “more than necessary” replies to the question regarding the adequacy of current employment has turned out positive. Accordingly, services in the European Community can be expected to create employment. The only member state apparently in a different position is *Italy*, where the percentage of “more than necessary” replies is twice as high as the percentage of the “less than necessary” replies. At the other hand of the spectrum are *Finland*, *Sweden* and *Belgium*. Those three countries are in a position of strong potential labour demand in services: the “less the necessary” answers account for at least 20% of the total, whereas the “more than necessary” answers are relatively low, less than 10% of the total.

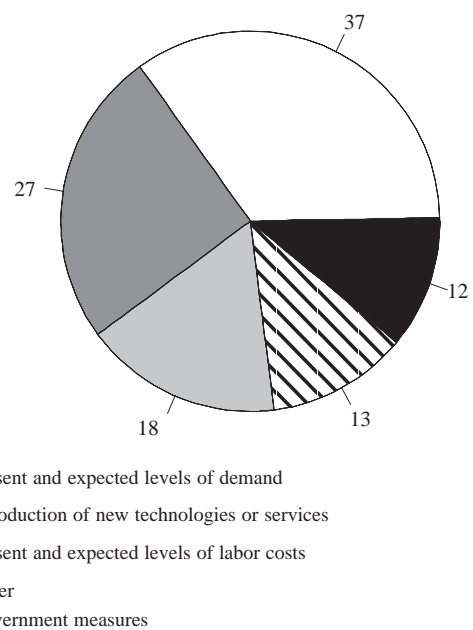
Prospective trend of employment in services.— The tendencies described above are mirrored in the table describing prospective trends. First, the calculated balances being positive for the European Union reconfirm the *potential growth in demand for labour in services*. The second trend was the importance of skilled labour and the last tendency was the high level of full-time employment. Job creation considered by firms concerns mainly full-time and skilled contracts.

The relative importance of unskilled employment in *Italy* and *Portugal* is still visible in the survey results: in both member states an increase of this type of job is expected. *Sweden* and *Finland* appear to be heading for significant job creation in services, given the results depicted in graph 2. Still, there is a particularity for *Finland*, where large negatives variations are forecasted for part-time and full-time unskilled employment. Thus, it seems that the relatively high percentage of “employment more than necessary” replies as indicated in graph 2 is mainly due to unskilled jobs.

Reasons for increasing the total number of employees.— At the Community level, the three major reasons quoted for

an increase of the total number of employees in services are the present and expected levels of demand, the introduction of new technologies or services, and the favourable present and expected levels of labour costs. For *Finland*, *Sweden*, *Greece* and *Belgium*, where job creation is expected to be particularly significant, the coefficients of importance are relatively high, especially for the three reasons cited above. Government measures are quite important in *Greece*, *Belgium* and *Sweden*. Other reasons stand out for *France*, *Sweden* and *Italy*.

GRAPH 1: **Reasons for increasing the total number of employees – European Community** (coefficient of importance)



Note: The coefficient of importance ranks replies from 0 (all companies consider a particular reason to be “not so important”) to 100 (all companies consider a particular reason to be “very important”).

Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

TABLE 4: Reasons for decreasing the total number of employees (coefficient of importance)

Question 2d:

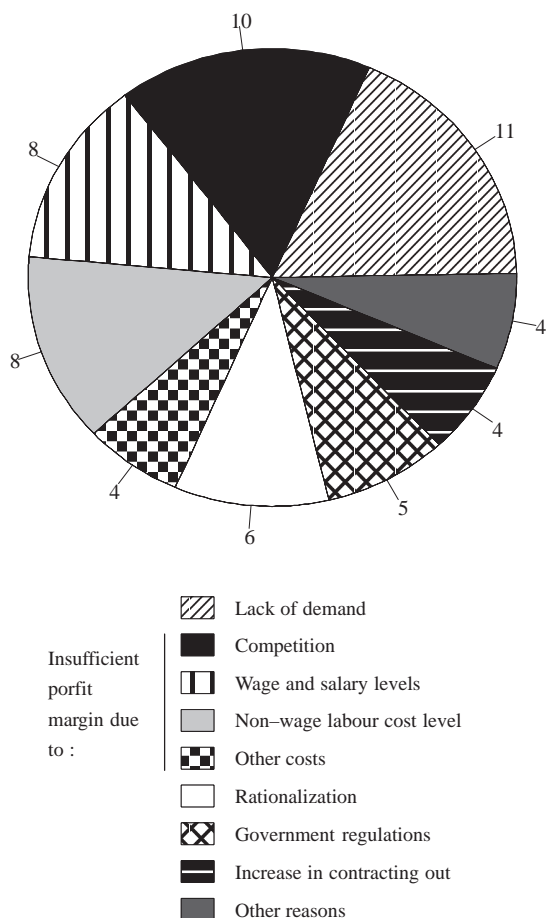
If you do plan to decrease the number of employees, what are the reasons?

	Insufficient profit margin due to:								
	Lack of demand	Competition	Wage and salary levels	Non-wage labour cost level	Other costs	Rationalization	Increase in contracting out	Government regulations	Other reasons
B	7	7	10	8	1	6	4	1	0
D	19	15	12	16	4	8	6	9	3
EL	5	6	5	8	5	10	4	3	2
E	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
F	14	18	11	10	8	9	3	4	4
IRL	3	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	4
I	7	6	7	0	1	0	7	7	6
A	7	7	8	8	6	7	6	7	5
P	5	10	10	5	3	11	6	4	3
FIN	3	5	3	3	1	4	1	0	0
S	9	7	5	8	5	11	5	4	11
UK	3	3	3	2	2	3	1	3	2
EU	11	10	8	8	4	6	4	5	4
EUR-11	12	11	9	9	4	6	5	6	4

Note: The coefficient of importance ranks replies from 0 (all companies consider a particular reason to be "not so important") to 100 (all companies consider a particular reason to be "very important").

Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

GRAPH 2: Reasons for decreasing the total number of employees (coefficient of importance) – European Community



Note: The coefficient of importance ranks replies from 0 (all companies consider a particular reason to be "not so important") to 100 (all companies consider a particular reason to be "very important").

Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

Reasons for decreasing the total number of employees.— *Lack of demand, insufficient profit margins* due to competition, *labour costs* and other costs, and *rationalisation* are the most quoted reasons for a planned decrease in the total number of employees in the services in the European Community. *France* and *Germany* show relatively high coefficients of importance compared to the other Member States. Looking at *Italy*, for which the employment situation was not as good as for the Community as a whole, no clear cut distinction between the different possible reasons for employment reductions can be identified. Rationalisation has a relatively high coefficient of importance for *Sweden, Portugal* and *Greece*. For *Sweden*, no particular reason for employment reduction in services has emerged as a predominant cause among those firms that plan to reduce their workforce.

Constraints to labour utilisation flexibility.— In the survey, firms can indicate several obstacles to a more flexible use of their workforce, thereby limiting the output response to a demand stimulus. However, the survey results do not deliver a clear priority ranking. At the European Union level, all the reasons quoted reach nearly the same level of significance. Anyway, *legal provisions* constraining working time flexibility are apparently regarded the most important obstacle to labour utilisation flexibility. *Lack of qualification* limiting modified job assignments of existing personnel comes out as the second most important obstacle in the European Community, followed by a reluctance to hire permanent workers due to the associated *legal procedures*. Within the Union, limitations in hiring temporary personnel are considered to be an important constraint particularly in countries with a high percentage of "less than necessary" replies to the adequacy of employment question (Belgium, Finland, Sweden). On the other hand, in *Italy*, a country with a low percentage of "less than necessary" responses, limitations in hiring temporary personnel and readiness of the staff are apparently regarded as relatively less important.

(continued on page 6)

TABLE 5: Constraints to labor utilization flexibility (coefficient of importance)

Question 2e:

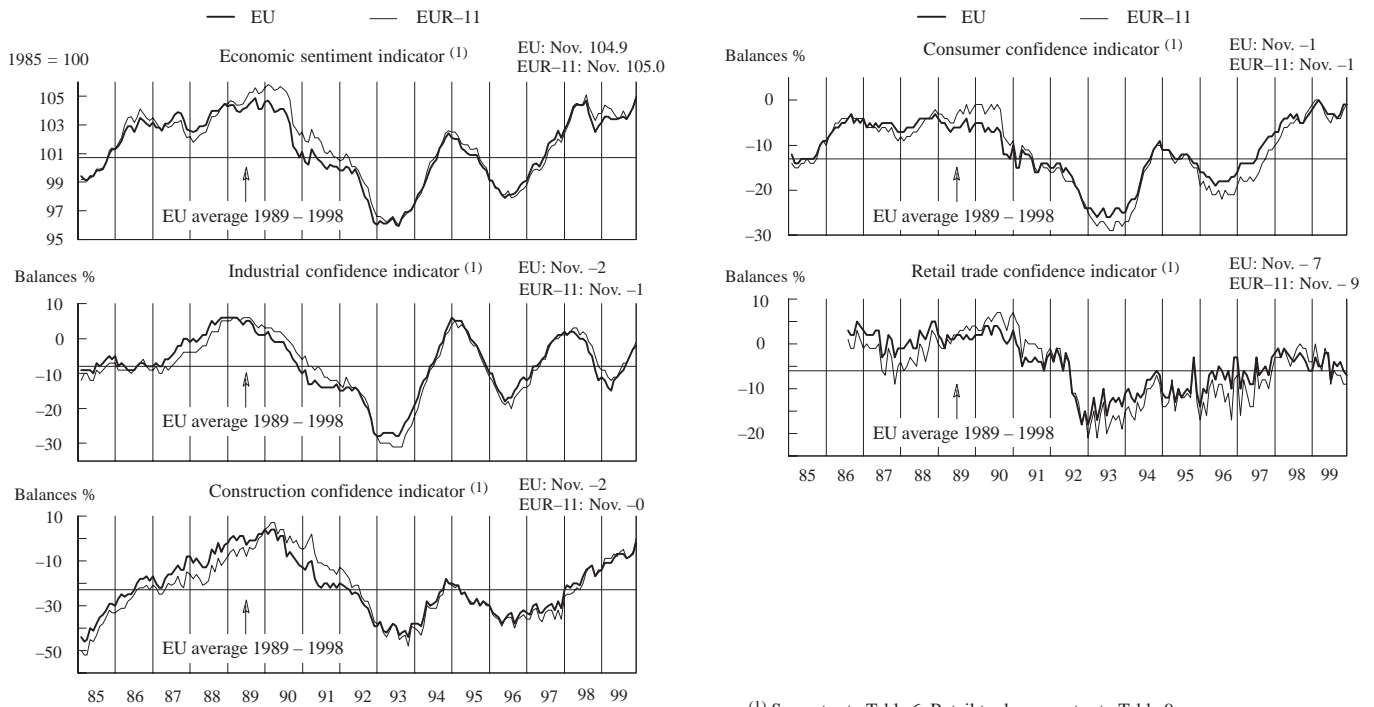
Here is a list of constraints to labor utilization flexibility which may hinder your firm to respond to a demand stimulus. Could you indicate which of these factors are very important, important, not so important?

	Limitations in hiring temporary personnel	Reluctance to hire personnel with permanent contracts due to:		Limitations of the modification in job assignments of existing personnel		Limitation to working time flexibility			Other
		severance payments	legal procedures	lack of qualification	other	legal	contractual	readiness	
B	53	27	36	22	9	56	38	47	9
D	41	26	54	43	8	29	26	21	9
EL	48	46	44	33	8	44	34	28	6
E	32	27	9	92	13	96	6	8	7
F	49	26	31	22	29	58	55	32	61
IRL	58	16	22	16	9	7	23	14	72
I	42	96	98	98	98	96	96	20	98
A	46	30	28	29	11	33	17	20	84
P	34	20	20	21	7	35	23	22	21
FIN	84	12	11	63	10	68	70	72	86
S	70	36	45	59	41	51	57	65	21
UK	28	23	25	9	6	12	10	12	28
EU	43	38	46	46	29	51	42	24	41
EUR-11	44	41	50	53	33	58	47	24	45

Note: The coefficient of importance ranks replies from 0 (all companies consider a particular constraint to be "not so important") to 100 (all companies consider a particular constraint to be "very important").

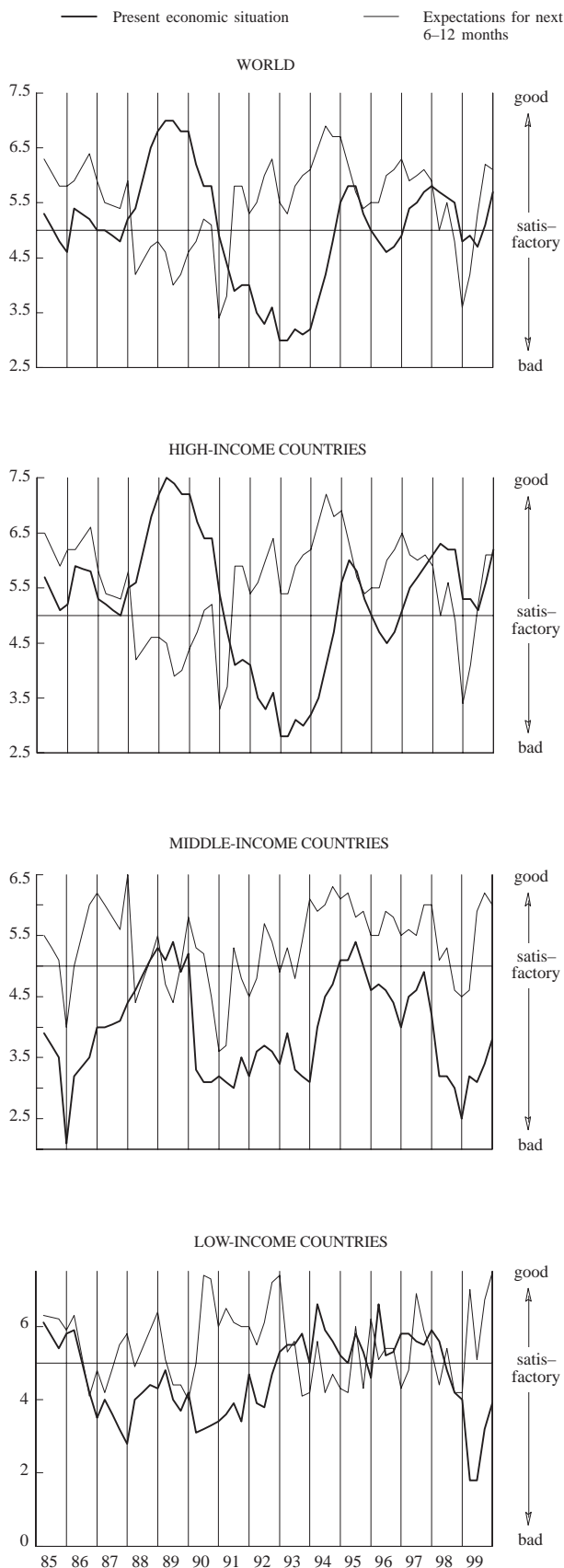
Source: EU ad hoc labour market survey in services, 1999.

GRAPH 3: Indicators of economic sentiment — European Union (s.a.)



(1) See notes to Table 6. Retail trade: see notes to Table 9.

GRAPH 4 : Present economic situation and expectations for the next six to twelve months



The Economic Survey International has been conducted by the IFO Institute on behalf of the European Commission 4 times per year (January, April, July, October) and is based on the answers of about 400 economic experts in more than 60 countries. The replies are 'graded': positive responses (+) receive a grade of 9, indifferent ones (=) a grade of 5 and negative ones (-) a grade of 1. Grades between 5 and 9 imply a preponderance of positive replies or increase, while grades between 5 and 1 indicate that negative replies or decreases predominated.
Source: European Commission business surveys.

Favourable economic conditions continue in the EU

Confidence in the industrial sector increased in November in the EU, and even more strongly in the euro-area. Industrialists in all countries except Sweden showed in November an equal or greater confidence than last October. The six-point increase in France is particularly significant, along with the rises in Germany, Spain and Italy.

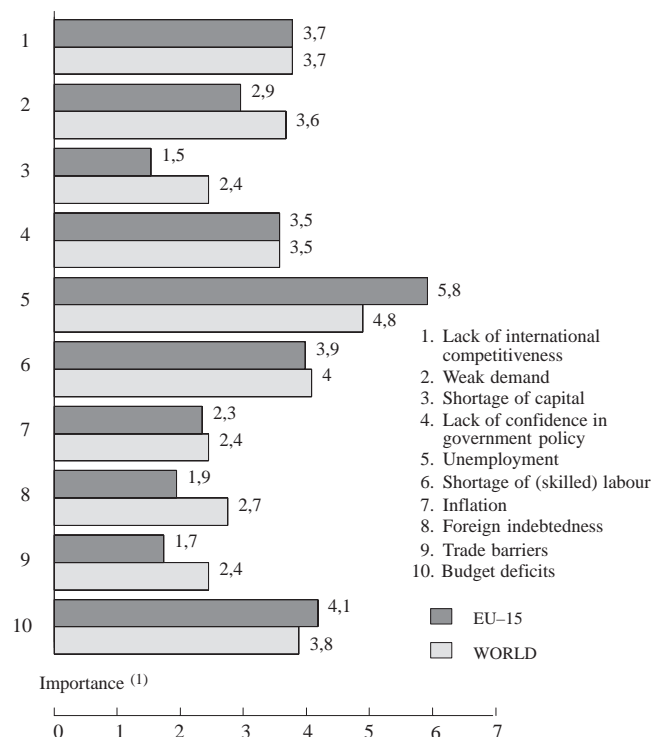
The construction confidence indicator has experienced a quite impressive rise in November, five points in the case of the EU and seven points for the euro-area. This can be attributed to a great extent to the upsurge in order books and the better expectations for employment in this sector.

Consumer confidence in the EU remained unchanged in November after two consecutive rises in the previous months. However, in the euro-area there has been a further advance. Consumers in both areas feel particularly optimistic about the advisability of making major purchases of durable consumer goods and about the present general economic situation compared to 12 months earlier.

The composite economic sentiment indicator for November reveals a 0.7 point improvement in the euro-zone and an equal rise in the EU, compared to October. The main contributor to this situation has been France with a full percentage point rise due to significant increases in all the components of this indicator. Besides, in Germany, the positive trends observed in the construction and industrial sectors along with the stability in consumer confidence have caused half a percentage point rise. Italy and Spain contributed too with smaller, but still significant, increases.

(continued on page 8)

GRAPH 5 : Problems considered important at the present time on average for the European Union and the world — December 1999 —



(1) 1: not so important; 5: very important; 9: the most important.
Source: ESI-International.

TABLE 6*: Indicators of confidence and economic sentiment (s.a)

	Aver.	Values		1997	1998	1999			1999						
		89/98	Max. 87/91			Min. 91/95	I	II	III	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
B															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-11	4	-33	-3	-8	-17	-10	-8	-10	-9	-9	-5	-1	-1	
2. construction conf. ind.	-15	7	-35	-19	-11	-3	-2	2	0	2	1	4	5	3	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-12	5	-30	-22	-6	0	-4	-5	-9	-5	-6	-3	-1	2	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	257.7	241.3	168.7	355.1	481.1	525.5	496.4	481.3	490.0	478.8	472.6	492.6	464.4	504.3	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	103.0	107.8	98.7	101.8	105.0	105.5	105.0	104.8	104.0	104.7	104.3	105.4	105.8	106.5	
DK															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-1	5	-18	6	-1	-17	-18	-9	-18	-15	-8	-4	-8	-7	
2. construction conf. ind.	-10	12	-38	7	2	-9	-1	-14	2	-13	-15	-13	-10	-9	
3. consumer conf. ind.	0	2	-10	9	3	-7	-5	2	-4	-1	5	1	1	-1	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	194.3	168.7	128.5	301.2	350.6	315.3	323.3	343.4	326.7	341.8	338.1	350.4	346.7	372.2	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	97.7	97.4	94.7	99.9	98.4	95.4	95.6	96.7	95.7	95.9	97.0	97.1	96.8	96.7	
D															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-9	11	-36	-10	-5	-16	-16	-15	-17	-15	-15	-14	-12	-11	
2. construction conf. ind.	-29	3	-54	-52	-44	-33	-30	-27	-29	-27	-27	-26	-29	-27	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-13	5	-30	-19	-7	1	-4	-6	-5	-5	-5	-7	-6	-6	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	181.9	174.2	122.6	258.3	328.9	327.9	340.9	347.9	343.1	357.6	340.4	345.6	343.6	373.9	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	99.9	104.9	95.7	98.5	100.9	100.9	100.4	100.3	100.2	100.5	100.3	100.2	100.3	100.7	
EL															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-1	6	-11	4	4	0	2	-1	1	-1	-1	0	4	4	
2. construction conf. ind.	-21	-12	-51	-10	10	15	15	4	16	-2	4	10	13	:	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-26	-8	-36	-26	-29	-19	-16	-16	-16	-19	-18	-12	-8	-8	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	724.2	1876.1	416.1	876.6	1293.9	1932.1	2265.7	2955.5	2379.0	2579.0	2846.9	3440.5	3384.4	3336.1	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	98.8	100.3	97.8	99.2	99.7	100.8	101.4	101.6	101.5	101.0	101.3	102.5	103.0	102.9	
E															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-12	:	-44	-1	1	-4	-3	-5	-3	-4	-7	-4	-2	0	
2. construction conf. ind.	-12	:	-57	-26	4	34	22	10	14	21	6	3	7	15	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-12	3	-38	-3	5	8	6	8	6	9	7	8	11	11	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	433.0	381.0	226.0	659.9	968.2	1050.1	1071.0	1049.5	1083.1	1070.9	1028.2	1049.5	1021.8	1110.8	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	101.2	103.3	98.5	101.4	102.8	103.6	103.1	102.7	102.9	103.1	102.5	102.5	102.8	103.1	
F															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-10	12	-41	-5	5	-6	-9	0	-8	-4	0	3	4	10	
2. construction conf. ind.	-31	3	-61	-41	-19	-11	-1	7	4	6	7	8	13	18	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-18	-7	-29	-20	-10	-4	-6	-5	-7	-6	-5	-4	-2	0	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	264.1	256.6	183.5	338.4	453.9	507.2	536.5	557.5	544.2	559.3	544.4	568.8	571.0	631.5	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	101.3	104.8	97.7	100.9	103.9	104.5	104.6	105.5	104.8	105.3	105.5	105.8	106.4	107.4	
IRL															
1. industrial conf. indicator	0	14	-22	3	3	-3	-1	8	1	6	6	11	9	21	
2. construction conf. ind.	7	32	-43	38	40	41	28	40	23	43	42	34	39	:	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-2	-2	-27	18	17	15	20	22	21	22	23	21	22	23	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	387.1	320.0	197.1	603.4	864.3	957.0	925.9	910.2	885.7	927.8	905.2	897.7	873.3	891.7	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	103.9	105.2	100.3	106.5	106.8	106.2	106.3	106.9	106.3	107.0	106.9	106.7	106.8	107.4	
I															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-4	13	-22	0	0	-10	-8	-2	-5	-3	-2	-1	3	4	
2. construction conf. ind.	-20	21	-68	-35	-21	-20	-15	-18	-11	-16	-21	-16	-17	-4	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-18	0	-36	-22	-11	-8	-14	-14	-14	-13	-14	-16	-13	-13	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	214.7	253.2	114.0	265.1	416.8	458.7	467.0	443.4	459.4	453.2	430.7	446.2	427.7	445.8	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	99.9	104.0	96.0	99.1	101.4	101.2	100.6	100.6	100.7	100.9	100.5	100.3	100.9	101.2	
NL															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-2	3	-12	3	2	-3	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	4	4	
2. construction conf. ind.	-5	9	-20	4	5	13	12	12	13	16	12	8	17	16	
3. consumer conf. ind.	2	11	-21	17	22	15	16	19	15	17	17	23	25	26	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	230.1	145.1	117.5	405.7	512.4	519.9	554.7	566.9	561.2	569.6	560.4	570.6	550.6	595.0	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	101.3	103.6	97.2	104.2	105.0	103.6	103.8	104.2	103.7	104.1	103.8	104.6	105.3	105.5	
A															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-10	9	-30	-10	-9	-17	-18	-11	-16	-13	-12	-9	-11	-9	
2. construction conf. ind.	:	:	:	-33	-34	-32	-22	-18	-17	-17	-18	-19	-23	-15	
3. consumer conf. ind.	:	:	:	-12	-3	-1	2	6	2	4	8	6	6	7	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	1086.7	1657.8	724.2	1290.9	1335.6	1129.1	1227.2	1197.6	1205.1	1235.7	1192.1	1165.0	1121.5	1156.4	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	101.0	112.6	95.2	99.9	101.6	100.4	101.8	103.4	102.3	103.0	103.7	103.4	102.9	103.9	
P															
1. industrial conf. indicator	-6	13	-28	0	2	-5	-6	-4	-5	-3	-4	-5	-3	-3	
2. construction conf. ind.	-23	:	-55	-7	-12	-12	-16	-12	-16	-9	-14	-12	-7	-8	
3. consumer conf. ind.	-12	6	-31	-10	-5	-4	-6	-5	-5	-4	-5	-7	-4	-6	
4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	143.7	179.8	85.6	193.6	278.5	257.4	236.6	219.3	231.4	226.5	222.2	209.3	210.0	222.6	
=5. econom. sentiment ind.	101.5	106.4	98.0	102.3	103.4	102.5	102.0	101.9	102.0	102.2	101.8	101.6	101.9	101.6	

TABLE 6* (continued): Indicators of confidence and economic sentiment (s.a.)

	Aver.	Values		1997	1998	1999			1999						
		89/98	Max. 87/91			Min. 91/95	I	II	III	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct	Nov.
FIN	1. industrial conf. indicator	:	:	:	11	2	-14	-7	-2	-7	-6	-1	0	6	8
	2. construction conf. ind.	-28	33	-103	24	30	12	11	10	11	12	12	7	27	20
	3. consumer conf. ind.	2	:	-16	15	15	13	14	14	15	14	13	14	16	14
	4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	375.4	378.3	110.2	611.0	865.1	1163.3	1335.2	1472.7	1400.3	1522.9	1423.1	1472.1	1552.6	1916.4
	=5. econom. sentiment ind.	101.9	105.0	94.3	106.5	104.8	102.4	103.0	103.1	103.0	102.8	103.2	103.2	104.4	104.3
S	1. industrial conf. indicator	:	:	:	-1	3	-16	-10	-2	-5	-7	0	0	-1	-4
	2. construction conf. ind.	:	:	-83	-71	-37	-27	-25	-29	-30	-30	-27	-30	-31	:
	3. consumer conf. ind.	:	:	:	1	6	6	7	12	10	9	12	14	12	12
	4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	314.9	251.2	128.1	546.9	631.6	638.0	699.3	733.4	719.9	726.1	731.3	742.9	752.5	849.7
	=5. econom. sentiment ind.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1. industrial conf. indicator	-10	21	-40	-1	-16	-27	-15	-10	-12	-16	-9	-5	-6	-6
	2. construction conf. ind.	-25	43	-80	-12	-10	-17	-11	-9	-12	-13	-6	-8	-9	-7
	3. consumer conf. ind.	-11	7	-25	4	0	-2	1	1	2	0	3	1	3	0
	4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	255.5	202.9	161.1	361.4	436.1	466.2	493.1	481.5	495.0	494.8	478.4	471.2	467.0	499.8
	=5. econom. sentiment ind.	99.6	104.1	96.0	101.4	100.6	99.7	100.7	100.7	100.8	100.3	100.9	100.9	100.9	100.9
EU	1. industrial conf. indicator	-8	6	-28	-4	-3	-14	-11	-7	-10	-9	-7	-5	-3	-2
	2. construction conf. ind.	-23	4	-44	-30	-17	-11	-8	-8	-7	-7	-9	-8	-7	-2
	3. consumer conf. ind.	-13	-3	-26	-11	-4	-1	-3	-3	-3	-3	-4	-3	-1	-1
	4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	249.5	220.8	164.6	349.7	470.6	512.8	538.0	548.9	543.0	552.9	537.6	556.2	549.7	595.5
	=5. econom. sentiment ind.	100.7	104.8	95.9	101.1	103.5	103.4	103.4	103.6	103.5	103.6	103.3	103.8	104.2	104.9
EUR-11	1. industrial conf. indicator	-8	6	-31	-4	-1	-11	-10	-6	-9	-7	-7	-5	-3	-1
	2. construction conf. ind.	-22	7	-48	-33	-19	-9	-7	-7	-6	-5	-9	-8	-6	0
	3. consumer conf. ind.	-14	-1	-29	-15	-5	0	-4	-4	-5	-3	-4	-4	-2	-1
	4. share-price index ⁽ⁿ⁾	245.7	219.8	155.2	345.3	476.8	514.7	534.9	538.4	538.6	547.8	526.3	541.1	533.7	583.2
	=5. econom. sentiment ind.	101.2	105.8	96.0	100.8	103.8	104.1	103.6	103.7	103.5	104.0	103.5	103.7	104.3	105.0

(n) not seasonally adjusted. Source: Eurostat, DRI. Weights for the calculation of EU and EUR-11 have been updated according to GDP.

* Used data-sign in the Tables: (s.a.) = seasonally adjusted, : = not available.

The consumer survey results for Portugal have been estimated for the period 1996:07 to 1997:11.

EUR-11: The eleven Member States participating in Economic and Monetary Union as of January 1999 are: Belgium, Germany, Spain,

France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, and Finland.

Economic sentiment indicator and share-price index: 1985 = 100; the confidence indicators: balances.

Source, unless stated otherwise: European Commission business and consumer surveys.

The Economic Survey International.— This survey was carried out in October, with the participation of 400 experts in over 60 countries. The *world economic climate indicator* has risen, for the fourth time in a succession, to 5.9 reaching the peak of March 1997 and approaching its all-time-high of October 1994. The reasons for this climb can be founded in the increasing strength of the European economy, the

continuance of the US growth, the turnaround in the Asian countries and the improved situation in Latin America. In this context there seems to be an upward trend in the interest rates while inflation remains subdued (see graphs 5 and 6 on page 6).

13 December 1999