



CONSUMER SURVEY, APRIL 2017

In April 2017 the total consumer confidence indicator decreases by 1.6 percentage points compared to its level 3 months ago (Annex, Figure 1) which is due entirely to the decreased confidence among the urban population.

The consumers' opinions about the development of the general economic situation in the country over the last 12 months (Annex, Figure 2) and their expectations over the next 12 months (Annex, Figure 3) are slight deteriorated in comparison with the previous survey. Compared to January their forecasts about the unemployment in the country over the next 12 months are also more negative.

The assessments about the change of the consumer prices over the last 12 months are also more unfavourable in comparison with the opinions registered 3 months earlier, as their inflation expectations over the next 12 months are strengthened.

As regards the financial situation of the households both the assessments and expectations of the consumers living in the cities are more negative, while the rural inhabitants' opinions marked some improvement (Annex, Figure 5 and Figure 6).

At the same time, the last inquiry reports a more favourable total assessment of the present situation to make major purchases of durable goods¹, as in the consumers' intentions to make such expenditures over the next 12 months the same tendency is also preserved (Annex, Figure 7).

¹ When commenting the replies regarding the purchases (expenditures), one has to take into account that the questions are asked on a quarterly basis, although these purchases (expenditures) are to be made by the consumers in a longer period of time. That is why it is normal for the prevailing values of balances of opinions to be permanently situated in the negative zone of the graphs. However, for the purpose of the economic analysis is important to consider the direction of development of balances of opinions as indicators of positive or negative change.



Methodological notes

The survey is a part of the harmonized program of European Union for business and consumer surveys and it is representative for the population of 16 years and older.

The persons of 16 years and older are the object of the survey; the sample method is random, clustered, proportional to the population by regions, incl. urban/rural inhabitants (154 clusters with 8 persons per cluster). The interviewing method is face to face. The questionnaire contains standardized questions about the financial situation of households, general economic situation, inflation, unemployment, saving, intentions of making major purchases on durable goods or purchasing/building a home or buying a car. The proposed variants of answers give an opportunity to arrange them from optimistic, through neutral to pessimistic. The balance of opinions is calculated as a difference between relative shares of positive opinions and relative shares of negative opinions, as there is one specification: the strong positive opinions and the strong negative opinions are given a coefficient of 1, and the more moderate positive and negative opinions - a coefficient of 0.5.

The survey results are used to capture the direction of change of surveyed variables incl. that of the consumer confidence level, which gives an opportunity to analyze the tendencies in the development of public opinions on significant economic phenomena.

The consumer confidence indicator is an arithmetic mean of the balances of the expectations about the development over the next 12 months of the financial situation of households, general economic situation, savings and unemployment, as the last is taken with a negative sign.



Annex

Figure 1. Consumer confidence indicator

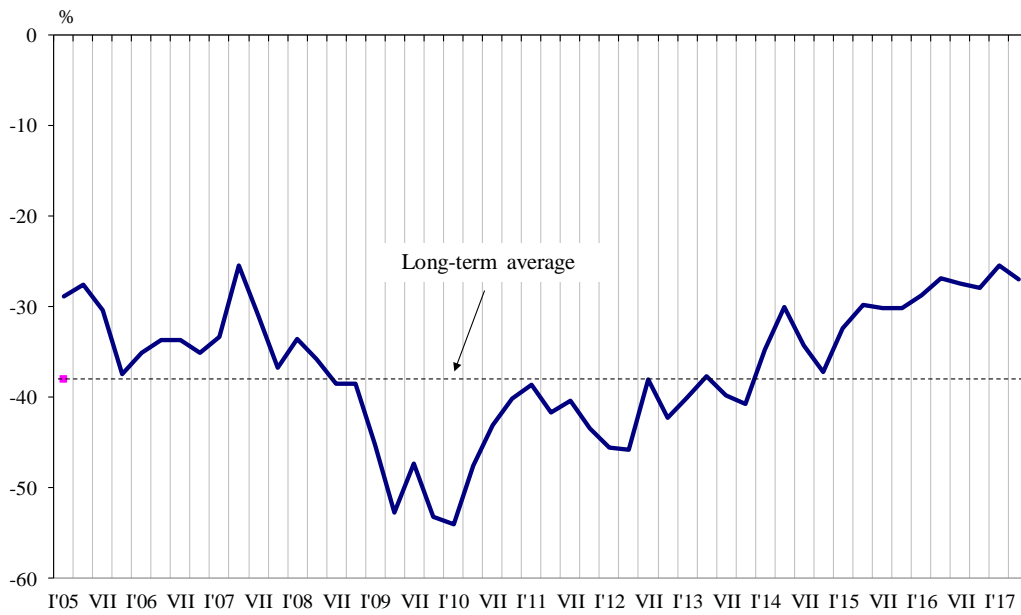


Figure 2. Assessment of the general economic situation in the country over the last 12 months

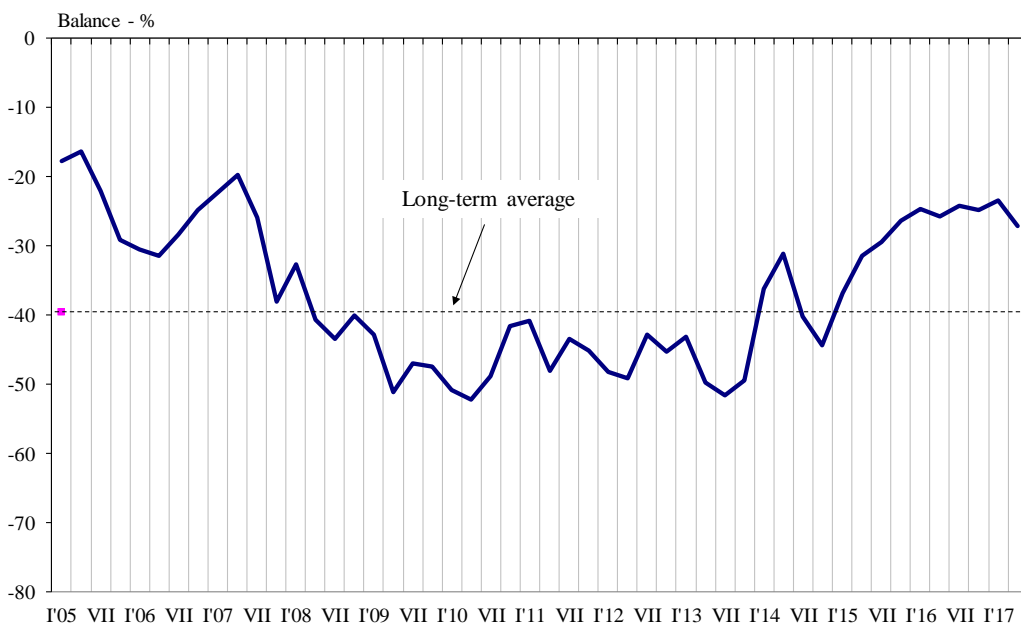




Figure 3. Expectations about the general economic situation in the country over the next 12 months

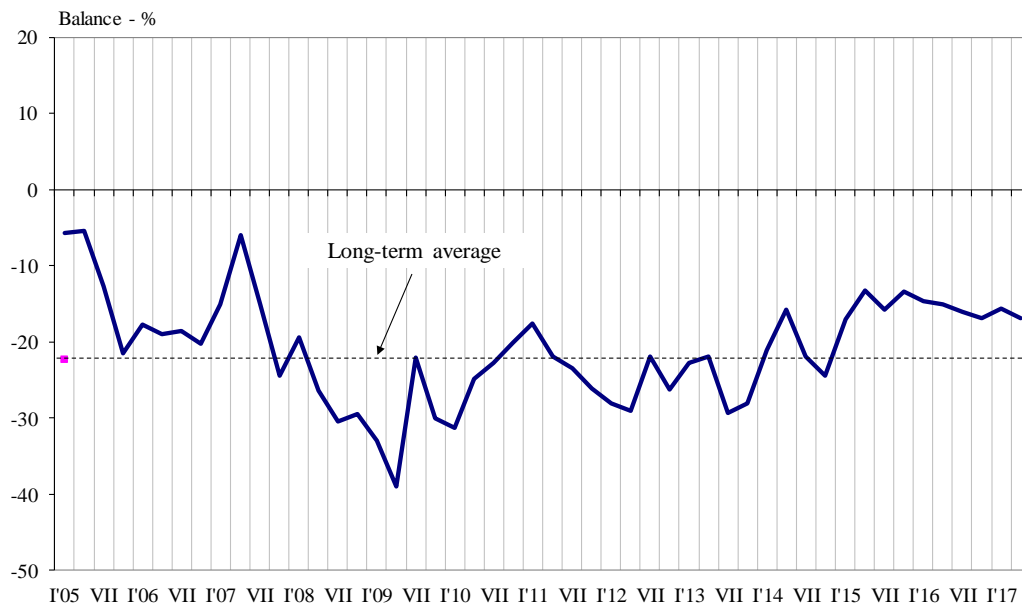


Figure 4. Unemployment expectations over the next 12 months

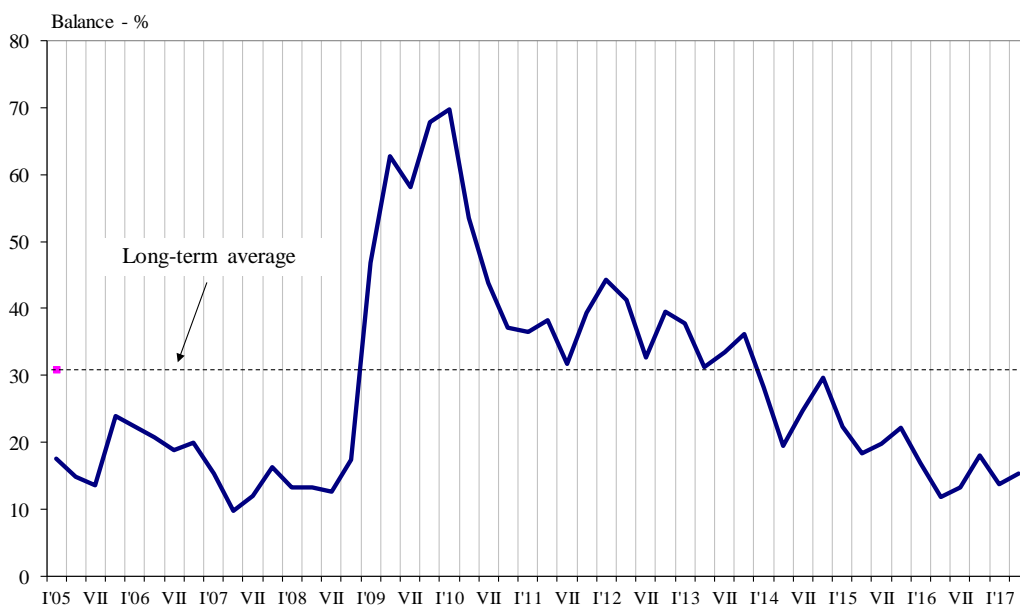




Figure 5. Assessment of the financial situation of households over the last 12 months

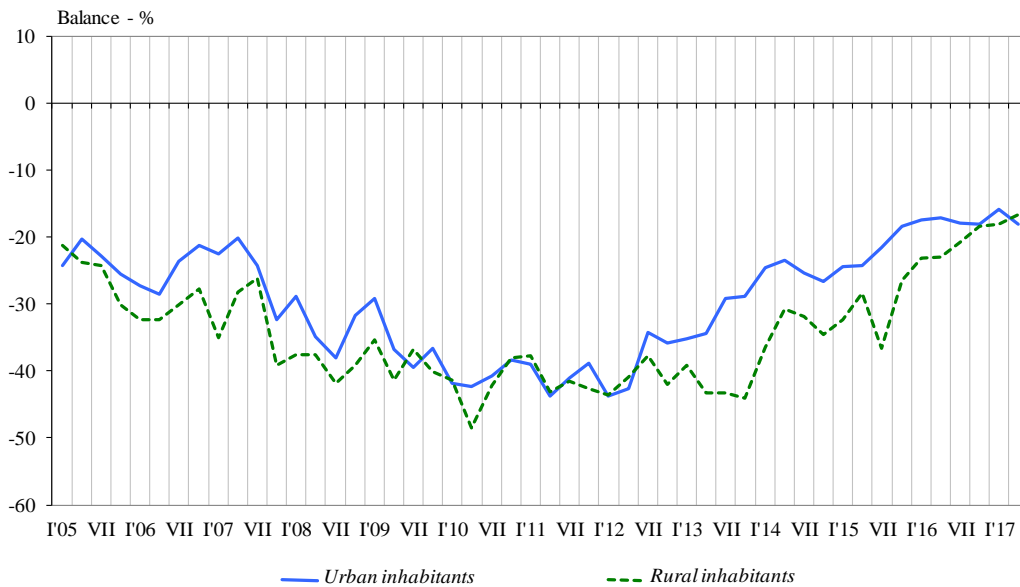


Figure 6. Expectations about the financial situation of households over the next 12 months

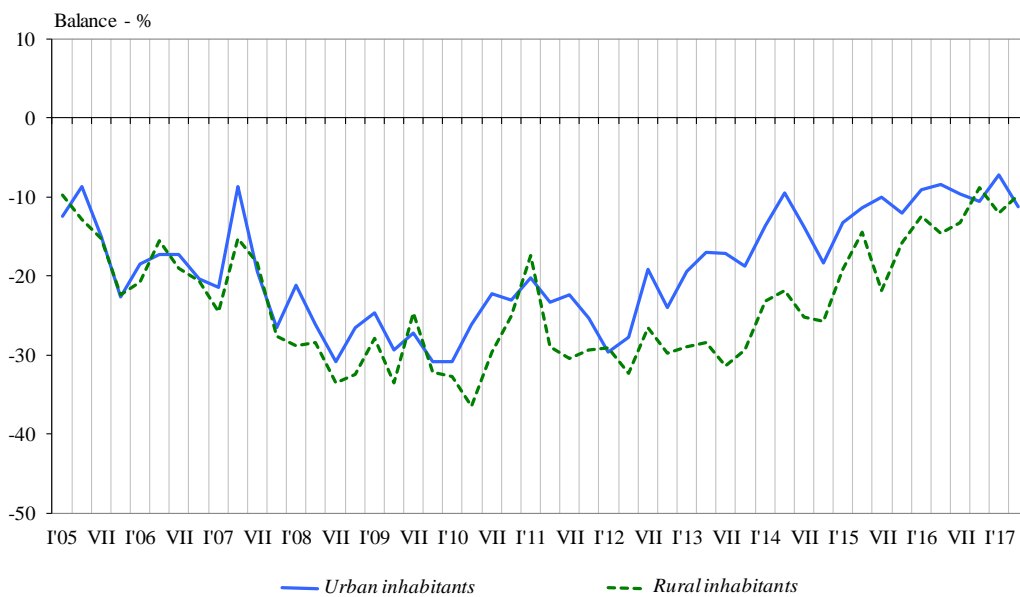




Figure 7. Intentions of making major purchases of durable goods over the next 12 months

