

The OECD Consumer Barometer

Calculation

The OECD Consumer Barometer corresponds to the monthly growth rate of the normalised consumer confidence indicator (CCI). Following the definition given by the [EC Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys](#), the CCI is computed as the arithmetic average of the seasonally adjusted net balances (share of positive and negative replies) of the following four questions:

1. Financial situation over the past 12 months;
2. Expected financial situation for the next 12 months;
3. Expected generic economic situation for the next 12 months; and
4. Expected major purchases for the next 12 months.

Each question has five possible answers: a lot better, a little better, the same, a little worse and a lot worse. The net balance is constructed with weights assigned on the extremes [“a lot better” and “a lot worse” with a weight of 1, “a little better” and “a little worse” with a weight of 0.5, and “the same” with a weight of 0] so for each country the CCI is calculated as follows for a time t :

$$CCI_t = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^4 X_{i,t} \quad (1)$$

Where $X_{i,t}$ corresponds to the net balances of the four questions (i) above.

These data are then normalised by subtracting from CCI_t its mean and dividing by its standard deviation. A value of 100 is added for rescaling purposes. For each country c , the OECD Consumer Barometer (CB) is therefore computed as follows:

$$CB_{c,t} = \left(\frac{CCI_t - \overline{CCI}}{S_{CCI}} \right) + 100 \quad (2)$$

where \overline{CCI} corresponds to the mean of CCI_t and the S_{CCI} to its standard deviation:

$$\overline{CCI} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T CCI_t \quad (3)$$

$$S_{CCI} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T-1} \sum_{t=1}^T (CCI_t - \overline{CCI})^2} \quad (4)$$

Seasonal adjustment

The underlying consumer confidence indicator is seasonally adjusted by either the European Commission (for EU countries) or by the countries themselves (for non-EU OECD and BRIICS).

Country data frequency

The frequency is usually monthly, but for a few exceptions, only quarterly figures are available: Colombia, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Switzerland, India, Russia and South Africa. For those countries, quarterly data are converted to monthly frequencies by means of interpolation.

Zone aggregates

The OECD computes zone aggregates for the following main country groupings, which are included in the dataset available on the [OECD Data Explorer](#):

- OECD total: all OECD countries
- OECD Europe: all European countries that are members of the OECD
- G7, the major seven economies: United States, Canada, Japan, France, Italy, Germany, and United Kingdom
- Major five Asian countries: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Korea



- OECD plus major six non-member countries: OECD plus BRIICS
- OECD excluding Euro Area