

ifo Employment Barometer Rises Marginally

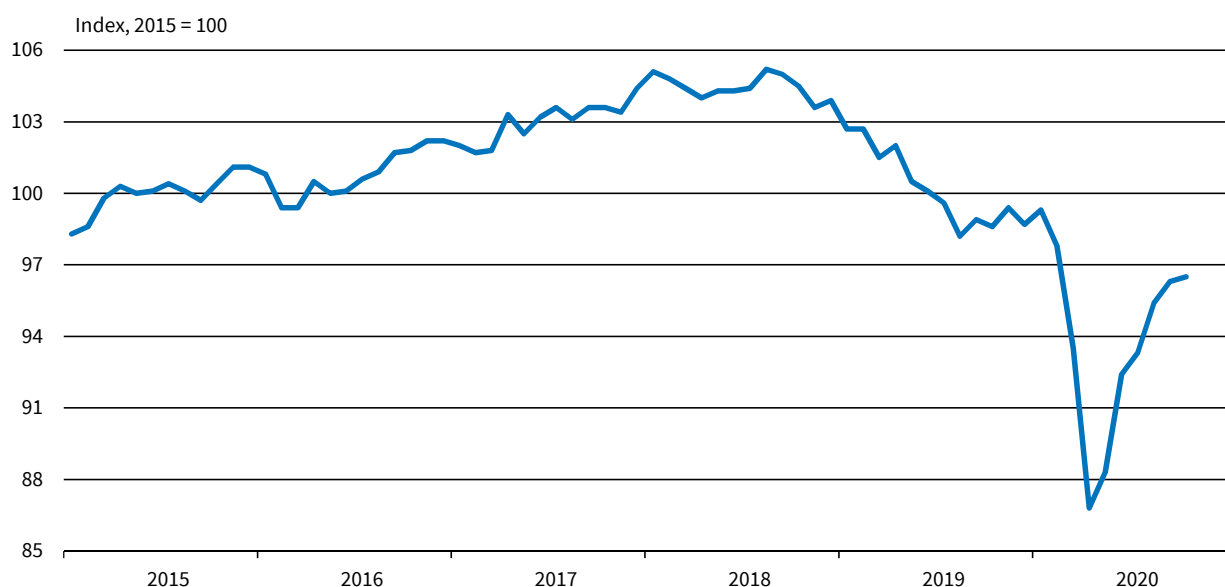
Munich, October 28, 2020 – German companies are cautiously optimistic about hiring. The ifo Employment Barometer climbed to 96.5 points in October after measuring 96.3 points in September. This indicates growth in the workforce in the fourth quarter, but risks remain due to the coronavirus crisis.

In manufacturing, the barometer rose for the fifth consecutive month. Nevertheless, more companies are planning layoffs than hiring. Service providers want to grow headcount, but are somewhat more cautious than in the previous month. Trade continues to benefit from positive consumer sentiment, with more new hires planned in this area. The construction industry, too, is continuously expanding its workforce.

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ifo Employment Barometer Germany^a

Seasonally adjusted



^a Manufacturing, service sector, trade, and construction.

Source: ifo Business Survey, October 2020

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ifo Employment Barometer Germany (Index, 2015 = 100, seasonally adjusted)

Month/year	10/19	11/19	12/19	01/20	02/20	03/20	04/20	05/20	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20
Barometer	98.6	99.4	98.7	99.3	97.8	93.5	86.8	88.3	92.4	93.3	95.4	96.3	96.5

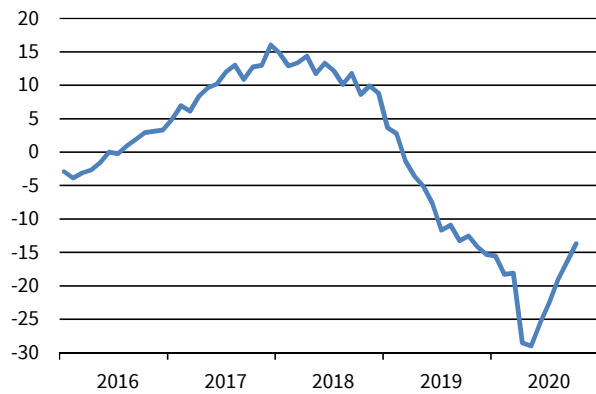
Source: ifo Business Survey

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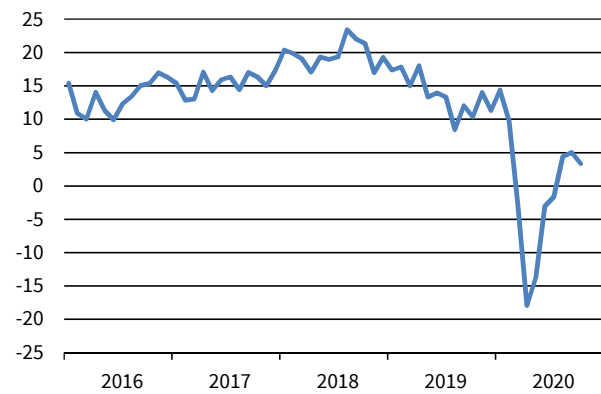
ifo Employment Barometer by Sector

Balances, seasonally adjusted

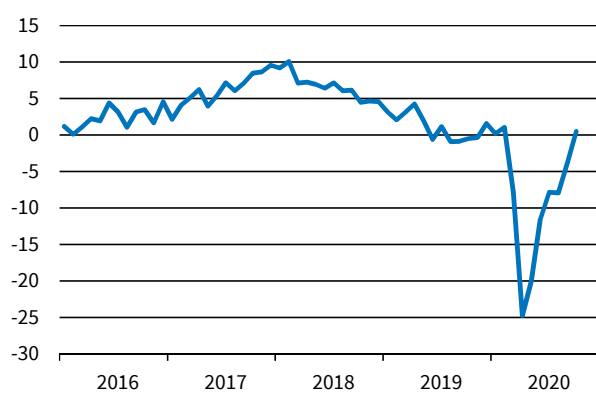
Manufacturing



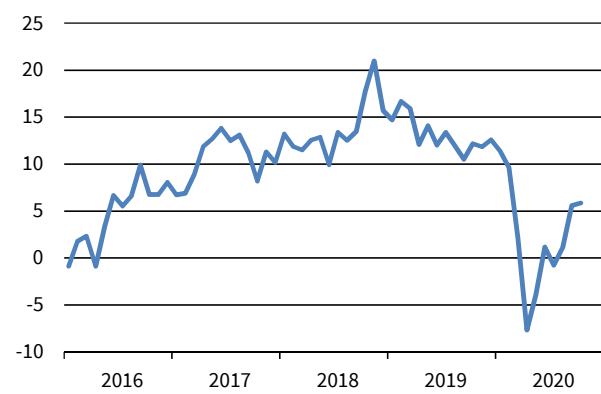
Service sector



Trade



Construction



Source: ifo Business Survey, October 2020

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ifo Employment Barometer by Sector (Balances, seasonally adjusted)

Month/year	10/19	11/19	12/19	01/20	02/20	03/20	04/20	05/20	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20
Manufacturing	-12.5	-14.2	-15.3	-15.5	-18.3	-18.1	-28.5	-29.0	-25.5	-22.6	-19.0	-16.4	-13.7
Service sector	10.3	14.0	11.3	14.4	9.9	-3.0	-18.0	-13.7	-3.1	-1.7	4.4	5.0	3.3
Trade	-0.5	-0.4	1.6	0.2	1.1	-7.9	-24.8	-20.1	-11.6	-7.9	-7.9	-3.9	0.5
Construction	12.2	11.9	12.6	11.4	9.6	2.1	-7.7	-3.9	1.2	-0.8	1.1	5.6	5.9

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Source: ifo Business Survey

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For long time series in Excel format, please see www.ifo.de/en/umfragen/time-series.

The ifo Employment Barometer is based on around 9,000 monthly responses from businesses in manufacturing, construction, wholesaling, retailing, and the service sector. The companies are asked to report on their **employment plans** for the coming three months. They can describe their plans for the number of employees for the coming six months as “increasing,” “stable,” or “decreasing.” The **balance** value of their plans is the difference in the percentage shares of the responses “increasing” and “decreasing.” To calculate the **index value** the balances are normalized to the average for the year 2015.

The ifo Employment Barometer is calculated exclusively for *Handelsblatt*.