CEMA Business Barometer

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What is the CEMA Business Barometer?

- A monthly survey within the European agricultural machinery industry (started in 2008)
- Coverage of all major sectors – from tractors to municipal equipment
- Target group: 140 senior managers from 9 (CEMA) countries
- Implementation: online survey
- Questionnaire available in five languages
- Executed by VDMA for CEMA
- Subjects of the survey:
  - current and future business situation
  - situation of order intake
  - development of turnover
  - turnover expectation per country
  - production plans
  - employment plans
  - special topics, e.g. delivery times
- Deadlines: starting ca. 5th each month, closure: ca. 13th
The general business climate index for the agricultural machinery industry in Europe has continued to drop and is thus moving further towards deep recession territory. In November, the index decreased from -32 point to -40 points (on a scale of -100 to +100).

More than half of the survey participants consider current business to be unfavorable and expect their turnover to decline in the next six months. With a view to the coming order intake (an indicator which is not considered in the calculation of the overall barometer index), meanwhile only a negligible 4% of survey participants expect increases.

The index for tractor manufacturers has fallen to -57 points, which is one of the lowest values in the history of the survey. Among component manufacturers, a very large discrepancy has emerged between the evaluation of current business (which 60% still regard as "good") and future expectations (which are very negative).

After order backlogs had peaked at the beginning of the year, the volume of orders has seen a repeated significant reduction and is now corresponding to a production period of 3.6 months, which is still relatively high in a long-term comparison, but substantially lower than at any time in the past two years. Meanwhile, less than 40% of manufacturers have an order volume of more than 3 months. One year ago, the share was over 80%, and in August of this year it was still at around 60%.
Business Climate Index Development

CEMA Business Climate Index (CBI) - Total

CBI = geometric mean of 1) evaluation of the current business situation and 2) turnover expectation; Index scale from -100 to +100; positive index for 1) = majority of respondents evaluates the current situation as favourable and vice versa; positive index for 2) = majority of respondents expects for the next six months an increasing turnover and vice versa (respectively compared to the previous year’s level)

Source: CEMA Business Barometer
Business Climate
Illustration of Business Cycle

Source: CEMA Business Barometer, each value as an average of the last two months
Business Climate
Current Evaluation and Expectations

Question: We consider our current business to be

- very unfavourable: 1%
- unfavourable: 16%
- satisfying: 32%
- good: 22%
- very good: 1%

Question: We expect our overall turnover within the next 6 months to...

- decrease: 16%
- remain unchanged: 30%
- grow: 53%
Employment

Question: Our plans regarding the workforce

Regular employees
- Increase: 5%
- Reduce: 22%
- Keep unchanged: 73%

Temporary employees
- Increase: 2%
- Reduce: 60%
- Keep unchanged: 38%

Source: CEMA Business Barometer November 2023