



CONSUMER SURVEY, OCTOBER 2015

In October 2015 the total consumer confidence indicator preserves its July level (Annex, Figure 1).

According to the consumers' assessments there is certain positive change in the financial situation of households over the last 12 months (Annex, Figure 2). The expectations of living in the villages also are that it will continue over the next 12 months, as opposed the urban population are slightly more pessimistic than they were 3 months ago (Annex, Figure 3).

The total assessment of the households' budget increased by 1.1 percentage point in comparison with July, as the improvement of family finances against three months before concerned largely the urban population (an increase of the balance indicator by 2.7 percentage points).

The consumers' opinions about the development of the general economic situation in the country over the last 12 months (Annex, Figure 4) and their expectations about the next 12 months (Annex, Figure 5) are less negative compared to the previous survey as a result of which the balance indicators increase respectively by 3.1 and 2.5 percentage points.

The consumers continue to consider that over the last 12 months there has been an increase of consumer prices, but at a lower rate (Annex, Figure 6), as their inflation expectations are preserved for the next 12 months. As regards the unemployment in the country the prevailing forecasts that it will continue to increase over the next 12 months (Annex, Figure 7).

In October a slight deterioration of the total assessment of the present situation to make major purchases of durable goods¹ is observed. The consumers continue to register negative opinions regarding the intentions of 'buying or building a home (villa)' over next 12 months. However as regards 'buying a car' in the next 12 months the last inquires report a rising tendency of this balance indicator (Annex, Figure 8).

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

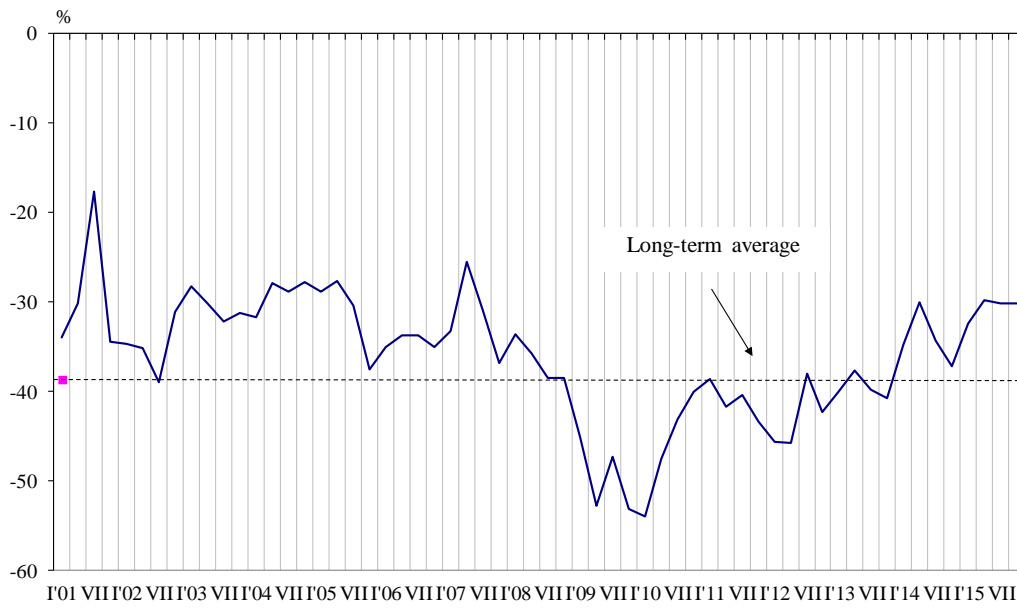


Figure 2. Assessment of the financial situation of households over the last 12 months

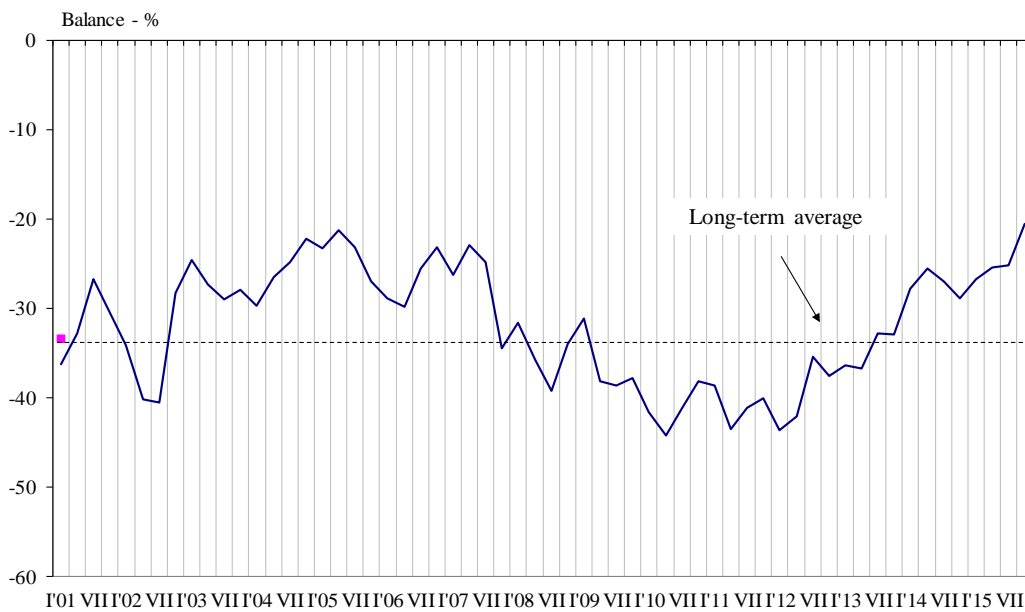




Figure 3. Expectations about the financial situation of households over the next 12 months

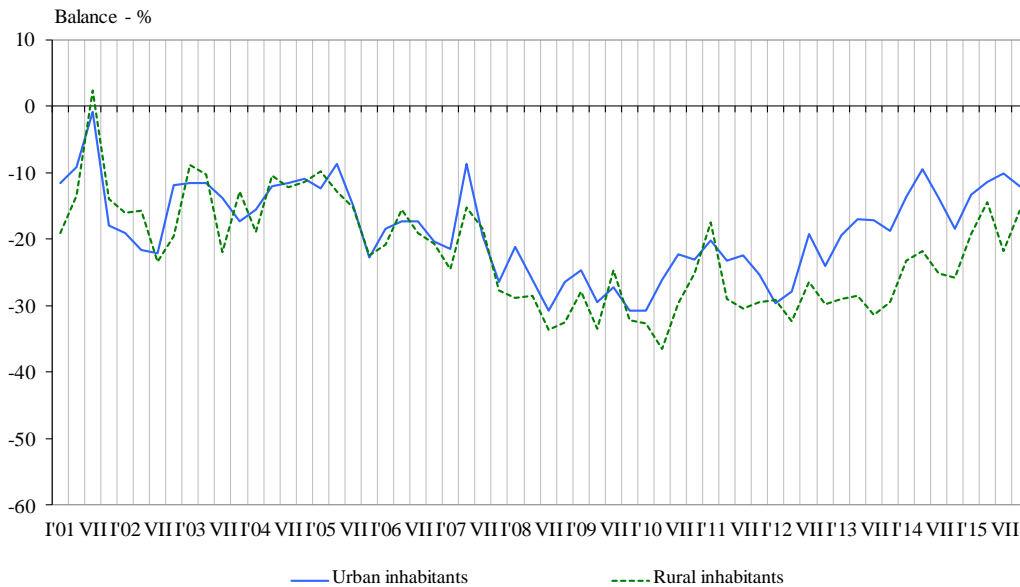


Figure 4. Assessment of the general economic situation over the last 12 months





Figure 5. Expectations about the general economic situation over the next 12 months

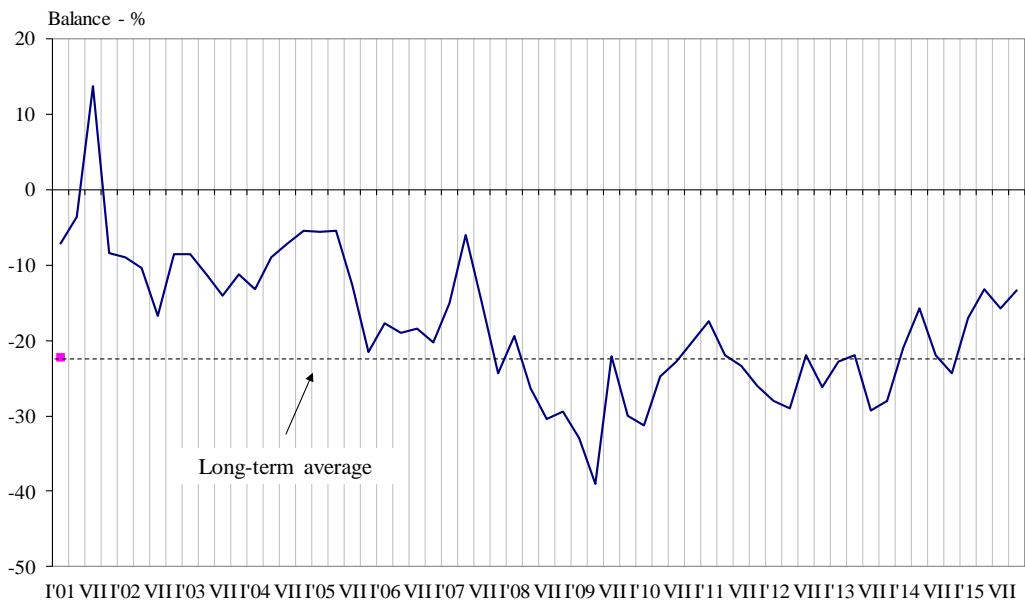


Figure 6. Assessment of the inflation over the last 12 months

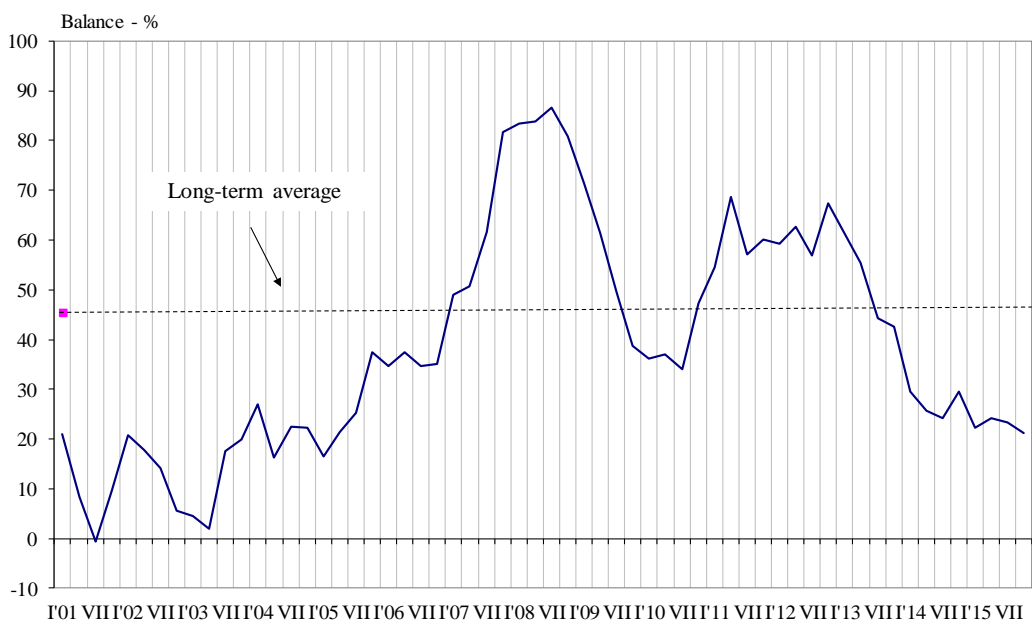




Figure 7. Unemployment expectations over the next 12 months

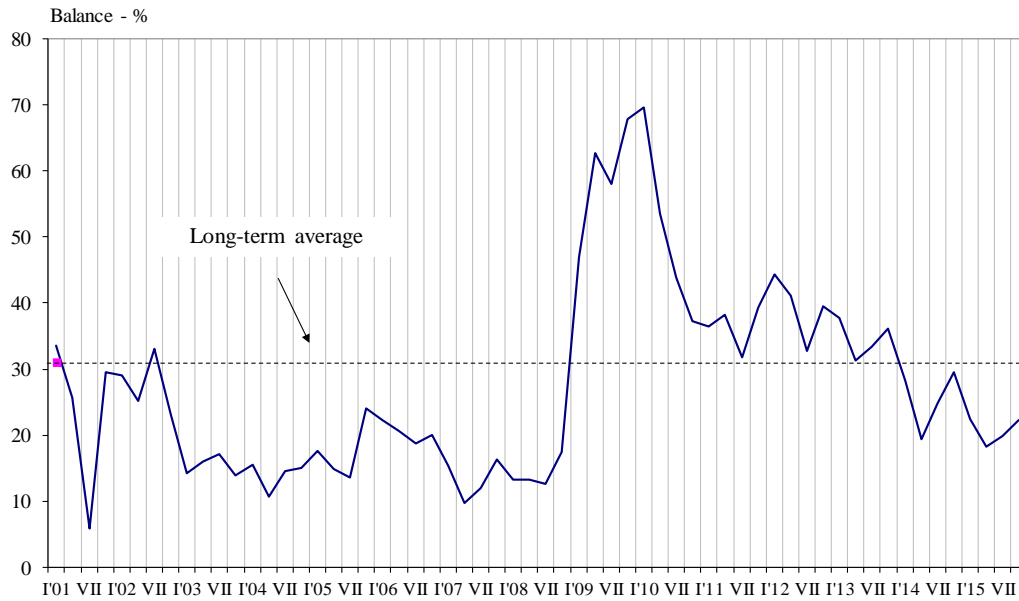


Figure 8. Expectations about buying a car in the next 12 months

