

Report

EXPECTATIONS SURVEY FOR NORGES BANK Q3 2021

The survey questions economists, social partners, business leaders
and households



20 August 2021



Preface

On commission by Norges Bank, Ipsos carries out quarterly surveys in Norway of expectations for inflation, wage growth, the krone exchange rate and interest rates among economists in the financial industry and academia, the social partners, business leaders and households. Norges Bank orients monetary policy towards keeping inflation low and stable. Inflation expectations can influence actual inflation. A survey conducted at regular intervals can provide greater insight into these questions.

The survey questions four target groups. Online surveys are used for economists in the financial industry and academia, as well as for representatives of main employer and employee organisations and business leaders. Telephone interviews are used for a random selection of individuals in Norwegian households.

The expectations survey is conducted every quarter and was conducted for the first time in February 2002. Ipsos has conducted the survey from Q3 2020. The report is written by Daniel Hernes and Linn Sørensen Holst. The survey was previously carried out by Epinion, Opinion and TNS Gallup.

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Summary

Brief, overall summary

Short-term price inflation

The economists expect goods and services inflation 12 months ahead to be 2.3 per cent, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. The social partners expect goods and services inflation to be 2.6 per cent 12 months ahead, the same percentage as the previous quarter. Business leaders expect goods and services inflation to be 3.6 per cent 12 months ahead, up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. Households expect goods and services inflation to be 2.3 per cent 12 months ahead, up 0.1 percentage point compared to the previous quarter.

Expected annual wage growth

The economists expect annual wage growth of 2.8 per cent in 2021, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter. Expected annual wage growth among the social partners is 3.0 per cent, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Business leaders expect annual wage growth in their own company of 3.1 per cent this year, up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. Households expect annual wage and pension income growth of 2.2 per cent the next 12 months, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Expected profitability

37.2 per cent of business leaders expect profitability of their own company to improve over the next 12 months, the same percentage as the previous quarter. 40.1 per cent of business leaders expect profitability to remain unchanged over the next 12 months, up 2.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. 19.3 per cent expect profitability to weaken, down 1.4 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Brief summary of individual results for economists

Inflation

Economists expect goods and services inflation to be 2.3 per cent in 12 months, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Expected annual inflation in 2 years is 2.3 per cent, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Economists' expectation of annual inflation 5 years ahead is 2.1 per cent, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

Expected annual wage growth

Economists expect annual wage growth to be 2.8 per cent in 2021, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter. Annual wage growth is expected to be 3.0 per cent for next year, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. The economists expect annual wage growth in 5 years to be 2.8 per cent, the same percentage as the previous quarter.

The krone exchange rate

29.3 per cent of the economists expect the effective krone exchange rate (measured by the trade-weighted krone exchange rate) to be stronger in 12 months, down 11.7 percentage points from the previous quarter. 51.2 per cent expect the effective krone exchange rate to be unchanged in 12 months, up 5.0 percentage points from the previous quarter. 17.1 per cent of the economists expect the effective krone exchange rate to be weaker in 12 months, up 4.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. Average expected appreciation of the krone exchange rate in 12 months is 1.1 per cent, down 1.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

Brief summary of individual results for social partners

Inflation

The social partners expect goods and services inflation to be 2.6 per cent in 12 months, the same percentage as the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect inflation in 12 months to be 2.7 per cent, the same percentage as the previous quarter. Employee organisations expect inflation to be 2.5 per cent in 12 months, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

Expected annual inflation in 2 years among the social partners is 2.7 per cent, the same percentage as the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect annual inflation to be 2.6 per cent in 2 years, down 0.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. Employee organisations expect annual inflation in 2 years to be 2.7 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

The social partners expect annual inflation of 2.8 per cent in 5 years, up 0.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect annual inflation to be 2.8 per cent in 5 years, up 0.2 percentage points. Employee organisations expect annual inflation in 5 years to be 2.8 per cent, up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Expected annual wage growth

The social partners expect annual wage growth for 2021 to be 3.0 per cent, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect annual wage growth to be 2.9 per cent for 2021, the same percentage as the previous quarter, while employee organisations expect annual wage growth of 3.1 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

The social partners expect annual wage growth of 3.1 per cent next year, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect annual wage growth of 3.0 per cent next year, the same percentage as the previous quarter. Employee organisations expect annual wage growth of 3.2 per cent next year, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

The social partners expect annual wage growth of 3.2 per cent in 5 years, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect annual wage growth of 3.2 per cent in 5 years, up 0.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. The employee organisations expect annual wage growth of 3.1 per cent in 5 years, the same percentage as the previous quarter.

Brief summary of individual results for business leaders

Inflation

Business leaders estimate the goods and services inflation has been 3.4 per cent over the last 12 months, up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. Business leaders expect goods and services inflation to be 3.6 per cent in 12 months, up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. Expected annual inflation in 2 years is 3.8 per cent, up 0.3 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Purchase and selling prices

47.6 per cent of business leaders expect the company's purchase prices to increase more over the next 12 months compared to the previous 12 months, up 5.5 percentage points from the previous quarter. 39.3 per cent expect purchase prices in 12 months to increase about the same, down 6.6 percentage points from the previous quarter. The share of business leaders that expect the purchase prices to increase less in the next 12 months is 12.0 per cent, up 1.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

31.6 per cent of business leaders expect the company's selling prices to increase more in the next 12 months compared to the previous 12 months, up 2.5 percentage points from the previous quarter. 50.0 per cent expect the company's selling prices to increase about the same over the next 12 months as the previous 12 months, down 2.7 percentage points. 15.1 per cent of business leaders expect the company's selling prices to increase less the next 12 months, down 1.5 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Expected annual wage growth

Business leaders expect annual wage growth of 3.1 per cent in their own company this year, an increase of 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. Their expectation of their company's annual wage growth next year is 3.1 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Expected profitability

42.9 per cent of business leaders report that profitability in their own company has improved during the past 12 months, down 0.1 percentage point compared to the previous quarter. 28.1 per cent report that profitability in their own company has remained unchanged the past 12 months, up 2.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. 26.0 per cent of business leaders report that profitability has weakened during the past 12 months, down 1.8 percentage points from the previous quarter.

37.2 per cent of business leaders expect improved profitability of their own company in the next 12 months, the same percentage as the previous quarter. 40.1 per cent expect profitability to remain unchanged in the next 12 months, up 2.3 percentage points from the previous quarter, and 19.3 per cent of business leaders expect profitability to weaken, down 1.4 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Employment

32.3 per cent of business leaders report that their company has more employees compared to 12 months ago, down 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. 45.1 per cent have the same number of employees today as 12 months ago, up 3.6 percentage points from the previous quarter. 21.8 per cent have fewer employees compared to 12 months ago, down 2.9 percentage points from the previous quarter.

40.2 per cent of business leaders expect to have more employees in 12 months than they do today, down 2.5 percentage points from the previous quarter. 42.1 per cent expect to have the same number of employees as today, down 1.2 percentage points. 16.3 per cent of business leaders expect to have fewer employees in 12 months, up 3.5 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Investment decisions

58.0 per cent of business leaders report that the need to replace old technology with new is one of the three most important factors that influence their company's investment decisions, up 2.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. This is followed by the need to increase production capacity (50.8 per cent, down 3.9 percentage points) and uncertainty about the development in the market for the company's products (36.6 per cent, up 8.4 percentage points).

59.6 per cent of business leaders report that current income has been one of the two main sources for financing the business's investments over the last 5 years, down 4.9 percentage points from the previous quarter. 33.8 per cent answer that equity earned in previous years is one of the two most important sources, up 6.6 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Brief summary of individual results for households

Inflation

75.1 per cent of the households believe prices for goods and services to be higher now than 12 months ago, up 9.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. 14.0 per cent perceive prices as approximately unchanged, down 7.6 percentage points from the previous quarter. 3.5 per cent believe prices of goods and services to be lower now than 12 months ago, down 0.6 percentage points from the previous quarter. On average, the households' perceived change in prices is 2.9 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

71.9 per cent of households expect prices for goods and services to be higher in the next 12 months, up 2.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. 18.7 per cent expect prices to remain unchanged over the next 12 months, down 4.0 percentage points from the previous quarter. 3.6 per cent of households expect prices for goods and services in 12 months to be lower than at present, the same percentage as the previous quarter. Of households that expect prices to rise, 29.8 per cent believe prices will increase faster than they do today, down 9.4 percentage points from the previous quarter. 53.5 per cent believe they will rise at the same pace as currently, up 4.6 percentage points from the previous quarter. 10.7 per cent expect the prices to rise slower than today, up 3.5 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Households believe prices will rise by 2.3 per cent over the next 12 months, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Over the next 2-3 years, households expect annual inflation to be 3.5 per cent, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Expected growth in annual wages and pension income

The households surveyed estimate a growth in wages and pension income of 2.0 per cent the past 12 months, up 0.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. Expected change in wages and pension income the next 12 months is 2.2 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Interest rate developments

64.5 per cent of households expect the level of deposit and lending rates to rise over the next 12 months, up 5.0 percentage points from the previous quarter. 27.1 per cent expect the level of deposit and lending rates to remain unchanged, down 4.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. 2.5 per cent of households expect the level of deposit and lending rates to fall over the next 12 months, down 0.8 percentage points from the previous quarter.

The survey

On commission by Norges Bank, Ipsos carries out quarterly surveys in Norway of expectations for inflation, wage growth, the krone exchange rate and interest rates among economists in the financial industry and academia, the social partners, business leaders and households. Norges Bank orients monetary policy towards keeping inflation low and stable. Inflation expectations can influence actual inflation. A survey conducted at regular intervals can provide greater insight into these questions. This report and the main results of the expectations survey are published in full on the webpages of Ipsos (<https://www.ipsos.com/nb-no>). The survey of business leaders was broadened in 2009 to include enterprises with 20 or more employees (compared with 50 or more earlier). In addition, appx. 500 business leaders are now interviewed compared with appx. 300 earlier.

The survey for Q3 2021 was conducted in the period 21 July – 10 August 2021.

Questionnaire

To economists and social partners:

- What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?
- What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in two years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?
- What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in five years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?
- What do you think average wage growth will be this year?
- What do you think average wage growth will be next year?
- What do you think average wage growth will be in five years?
- Do you think that in 12 months the krone exchange rate, as measured by the trade-weighted exchange rate index, will appreciate, remain unchanged or depreciate?
- By how much do you think it will appreciate/depreciate?

To business leaders:

- What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services has been the last 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?
- What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?
- What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in two years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?
- Do you expect that over the next 12 months your business's purchase prices will increase more than, increase at approximately the same pace as or increase less than in the past 12-month period?
- Do you expect that over the next 12 months your business's selling prices will increase more than, increase at approximately the same pace as or increase less than in the past 12-month period?
- What do you think the average annual wage growth in your business will be this year?
- What do you think the average annual wage growth in your business will be next year?
- Over the past 12 months, has the profitability of your business, as measured by the operating margin (EBITDA), improved, remained unchanged or weakened?
- Do you think that over the next 12 months, the profitability of your business, as measured by the operating margin (EBITDA), will improve, remain unchanged or weaken?
- Compared with 12 months earlier, does your business currently have more employees, the same number of employees or fewer employees?
- Do you think that in 12 months, your business will have more employees than currently, the same number of employees or fewer employees?
- What are the 3 most important factors that influence your business's investment decisions?
- Over the last 5 years, what have been the main sources of financing for your business's investment?

To households:

- Compared with 12 months ago, do you think that prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), are now higher, approximately unchanged or lower?
- About how much higher/lower, measured in per cent?
- Do you think that over the next 12 months, prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), will be higher, unchanged or lower than they are currently?
- Will prices rise faster, at the same pace as currently, or more slowly?
- About how much higher/lower, measured in per cent?

- How much do you think prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), will rise annually in two to three years, in per cent?
- Ranked from 1 to 3, where 1 is highest, which three prices did you place the most emphasis on in the answers you just gave about expectations for price changes in the future?
- Compared with 12 months ago, by how much do you think your wages or pension has changed in per cent?
- By approximately how much do you think your wages or pension will change in per cent over the next 12 months?
- Do you think that over the next 12 months, the level of deposit and lending rates will rise, remain unchanged or fall?

Tables and graphs

Economists

1. Expected inflation in 12 months
2. Expected inflation in 2 years
3. Expected inflation in 5 years
4. Expected annual wage growth for current year
5. Expected annual wage growth next year
6. Expected annual wage growth in 5 years
7. Expected growth in the krone exchange rate in 12 months
8. Average expected change in the trade-weighted exchange rate index in 12 months

Social partners

9. Expected inflation in 12 months
10. Expected inflation in 2 years
11. Expected inflation in 5 years
12. Expected annual wage growth for current year
13. Expected annual wage growth next year
14. Expected annual wage growth in 5 years

Business leaders

15. Perception of general inflation over the last 12 months
16. Expected general inflation in 12 months
17. Expected general inflation in 2 years
18. Expected increase in purchase prices for own business the next 12 months
19. Expected increase in selling prices for own business next 12 months
20. Expected annual wage growth in own business this year
21. Expected annual wage growth in own business next year
22. Profitability in own business last 12 months
23. Profitability in own business next 12 months
24. Number of employees today compared to 12 months ago
25. Number of employees in 12 months
26. Most important factors to affect your business's investments decisions
27. Most important sources of financing for your business's investments in the last 5 years

Households

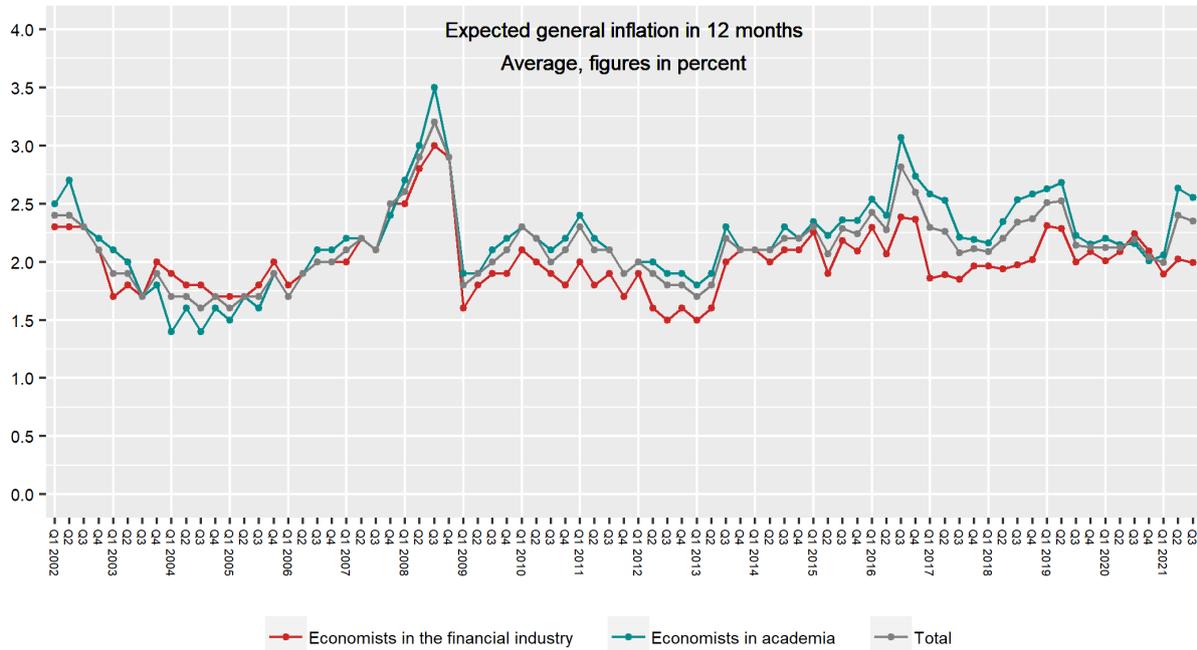
26. Perception of price change last 12 months
27. Perception of price change last 12 months in per cent
28. Expected price change next 12 months
29. Expected price change next 12 months in per cent
30. Expected rate of increase next 12 months
31. Expected rate of increase next 12 months – Detailed
32. Expected inflation in 2-3 years
33. Wage and pension development last 12 months
34. Expected annual wage growth over the next 12 months in per cent
35. Expected exchange rate next 12 months

RESULTS

ECONOMISTS

Question 1: ECONOMISTS

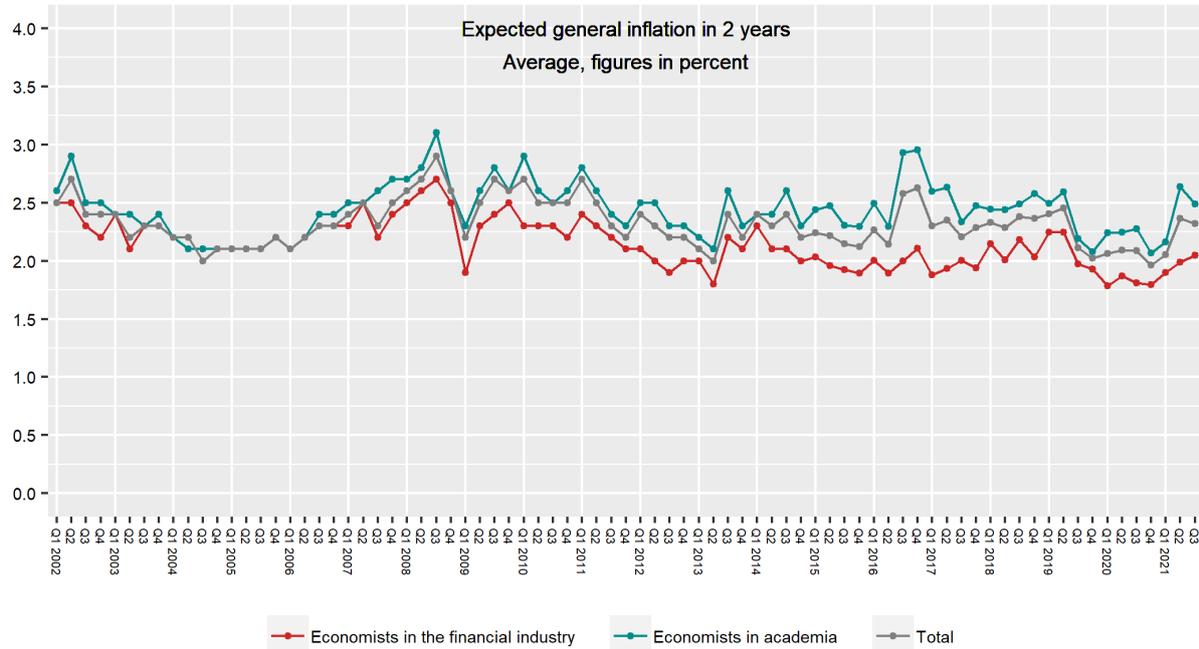
What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Average	2,0	2,0	0,0
	Median	2,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	-1,0	
	Highest value	3,2	3,2	
	Sample	15	15	
Economists in academia	Average	2,6	2,6	0,0
	Median	2,5	2,5	
	Lowest value	2,0	1,3	
	Highest value	4,0	4,2	
	Sample	24	26	
Economists in total	Average	2,4	2,3	-0,1
	Median	2,5	2,5	
	Lowest value	0,0	-1,0	
	Highest value	4,0	4,2	
	Sample	39	41	

Question 2: ECONOMISTS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 2 years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



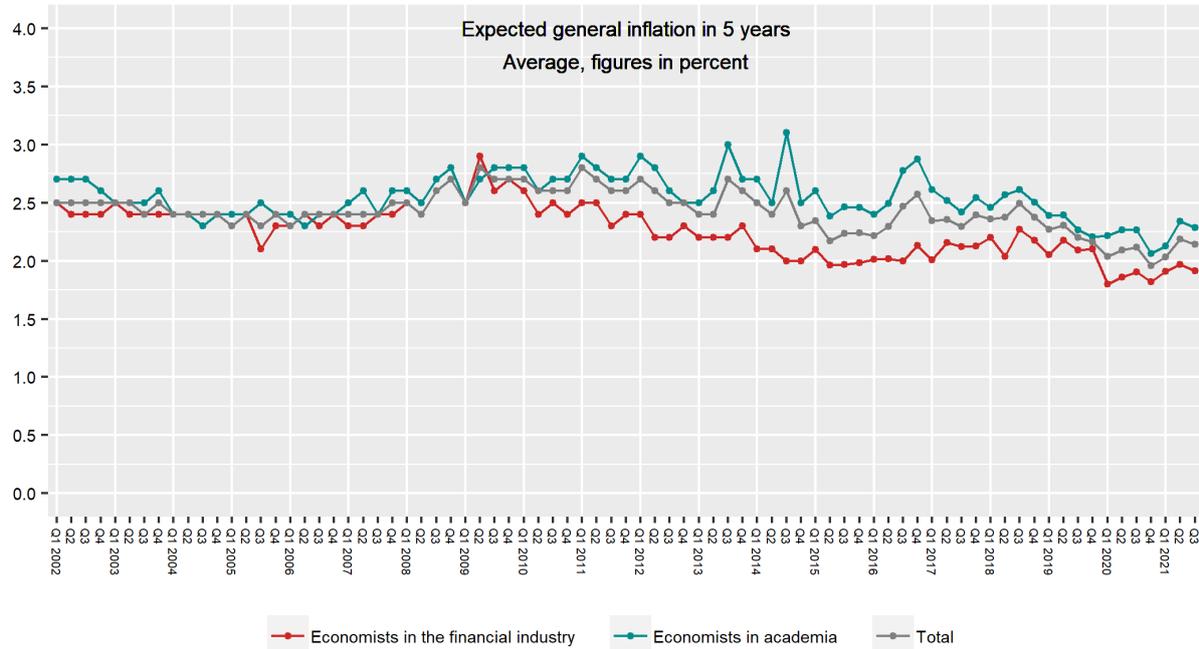
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Average	2,0	2,0	0,0
	Median	2,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	1,0	1,0	
	Highest value	2,9	3,0	
	Sample	15	15	
Economists in academia	Average	2,6	2,5	-0,1
	Median	2,5	2,5	
	Lowest value	2,0	1,4	
	Highest value	4,1	3,9	
	Sample	21	24*	
Economists in total	Average	2,4	2,3	-0,1
	Median	2,2	2,4	
	Lowest value	1,0	1,0	
	Highest value	4,1	3,9	
	Sample	36	39**	

*n=26. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

**n=41. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

Question 3: **ECONOMISTS**

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 5 years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



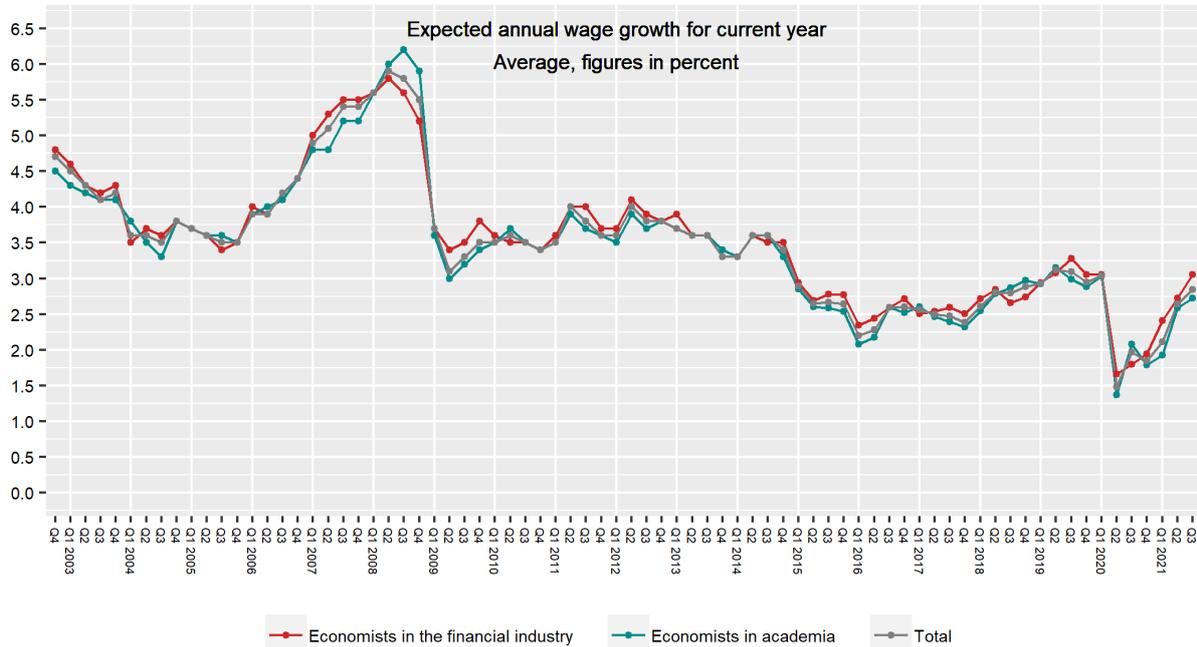
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Average	2,0	1,9	-0,1
	Median	2,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	1,0	1,0	
	Highest value	2,5	2,5	
	Sample	15	15	
Economists in academia	Average	2,3	2,3	0,0
	Median	2,2	2,1	
	Lowest value	2,0	2,0	
	Highest value	3,0	3,2	
	Sample	21	24*	
Economists in total	Average	2,2	2,1	-0,1
	Median	2,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	1,0	1,0	
	Highest value	3,0	3,2	
	Sample	36	39**	

*n=26. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

**n=41. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

Question 4: **ECONOMISTS**

What do you think average wage growth will be this year?



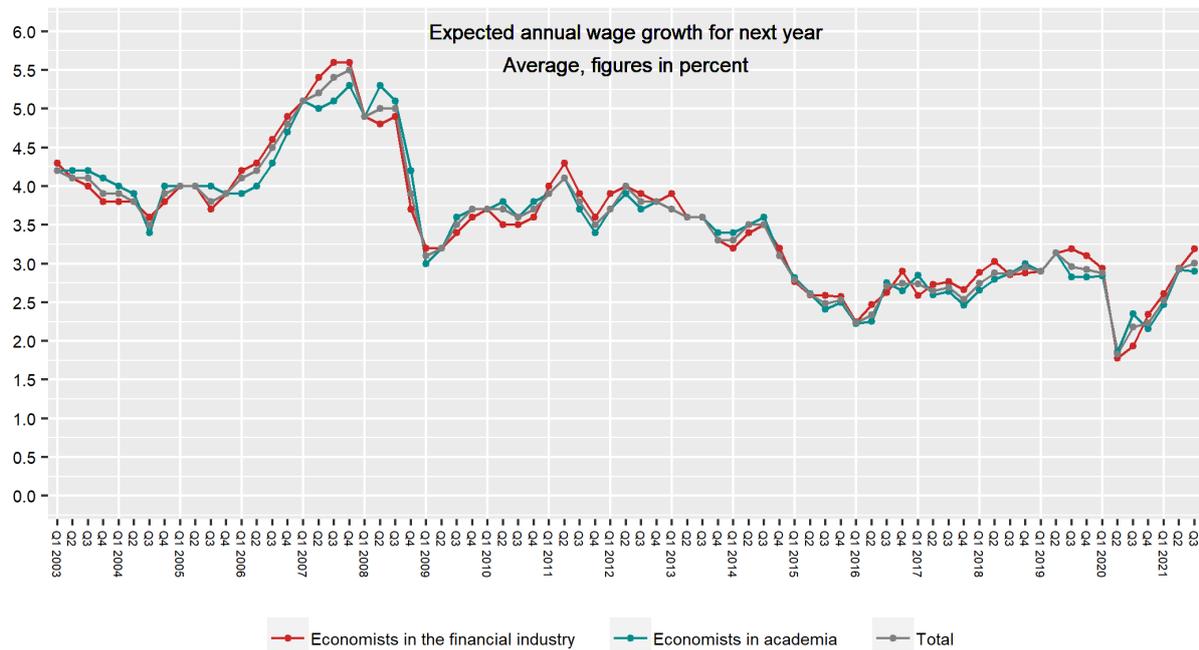
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Average	2,7	3,1	+0,4
	Median	2,7	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,0	2,5	
	Highest value	4,0	4,3	
	Sample	15	15	
Economists in academia	Average	2,6	2,7	+0,1
	Median	2,7	2,8	
	Lowest value	1,0	1,5	
	Highest value	3,5	3,8	
	Sample	23	25*	
Economists in total	Average	2,6	2,8	+0,2
	Median	2,7	2,9	
	Lowest value	1,0	1,5	
	Highest value	4,0	4,3	
	Sample	38	40**	

*n=26. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

**n=41. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

Question 5: ECONOMISTS

What do you think average wage growth will be next year?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Average	2,9	3,2	+0,3
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,5	2,5	
	Highest value	3,4	5,0	
	Sample	15	15	
Economists in academia	Average	2,9	2,9	0,0
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,0	1,0	
	Highest value	4,0	4,0	
	Sample	22	25*	
Economists in total	Average	2,9	3,0	+0,1
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,0	1,0	
	Highest value	4,0	5,0	
	Sample	37	40**	

*n=26. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

**n=41. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

Question 6: ECONOMISTS

What do you think average wage growth will be in five years?



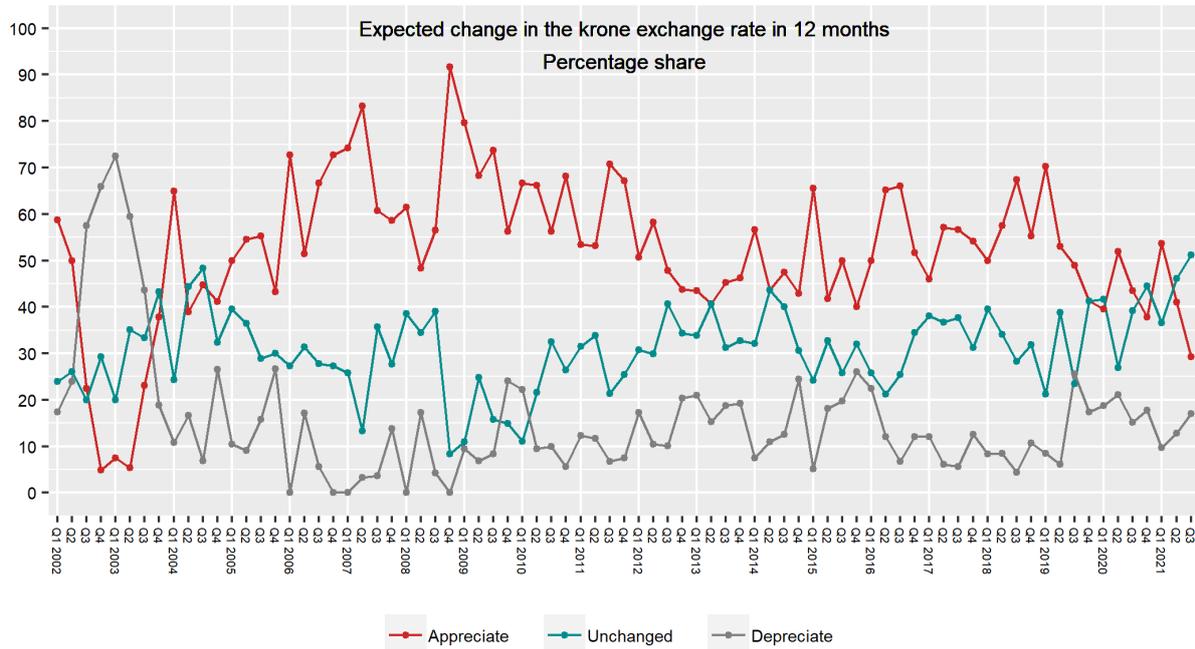
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Average	2,7	2,7	0,0
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,0	2,0	
	Highest value	3,5	3,5	
	Sample	15	15	
Economists in academia	Average	2,9	2,8	-0,1
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	1,0	0,0	
	Highest value	3,5	4,0	
	Sample	21	24*	
Economists in total	Average	2,8	2,8	0,0
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	1,0	0,0	
	Highest value	3,5	4,0	
	Sample	36	39**	

*n=26. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

**n=41. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

Question 7: ECONOMISTS

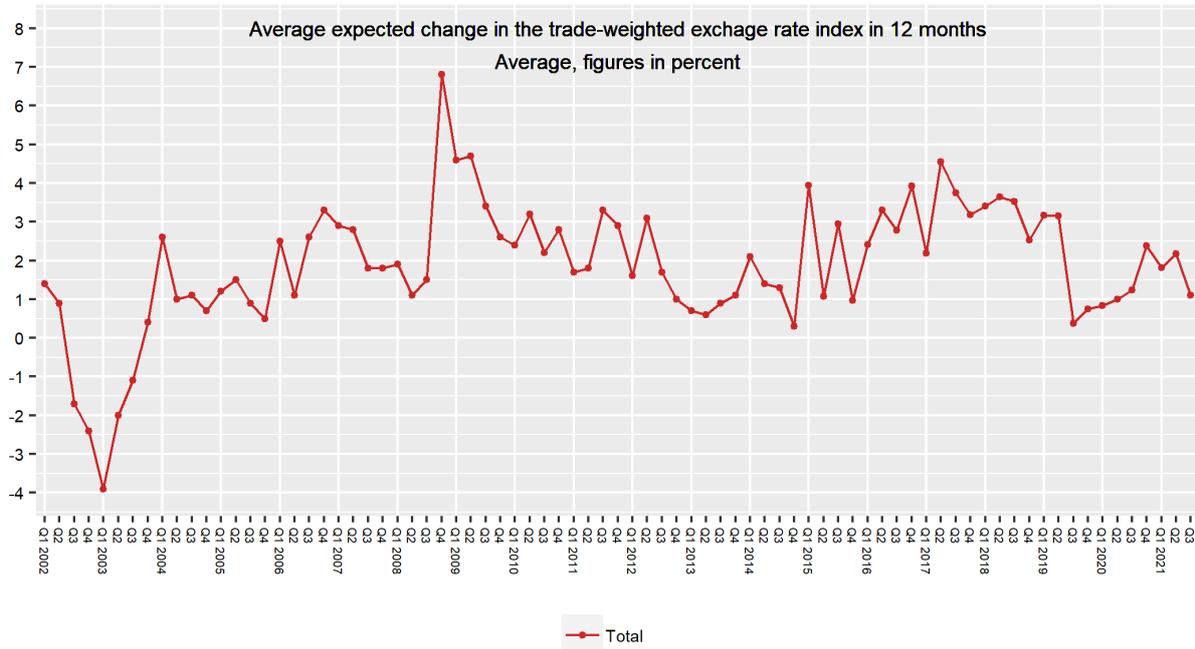
Do you think that in 12 months the krone exchange rate, as measured by the trade-weighted exchange rate index, will appreciate, remain unchanged or depreciate?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Appreciate	40,0	33,3	-6,7
	Unchanged	40,0	33,3	-6,7
	Depreciate	20,0	33,3	+13,3
	Sample	15	15	
Economists in academia	Appreciate	41,7	26,9	-14,8
	Unchanged	50,0	61,5	+11,5
	Depreciate	8,3	7,7	-0,6
	Sample	24	26	
Economists in total	Appreciate	41,0	29,3	-11,7
	Unchanged	46,2	51,2	+5,0
	Depreciate	12,8	17,1	+4,3
	Sample	39	41	

Question 8: ECONOMISTS

By how much do you think it will appreciate/depreciate? (If answered appreciate/depreciate on question 7)



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Economists in the financial industry	Average	1,1	0,6	-0,5
	Median	1,5	-1,0	
	Lowest value	-5,0	-5,0	
	Highest value	7,0	7,0	
	Sample	9	9*	
Economists in academia	Average	3,4	1,7	-1,7
	Median	3,8	2,0	
	Lowest value	0,5	-2,0	
	Highest value	5,0	5,0	
	Sample	8	8**	
Economists in total	Average	2,2	1,1	-1,1
	Median	3,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	-5,0	-5,0	
	Highest value	7,0	7,0	
	Sample	17	17***	

*n=15. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=5, extreme values n=1.

**n=26. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=18, extreme values n=0.

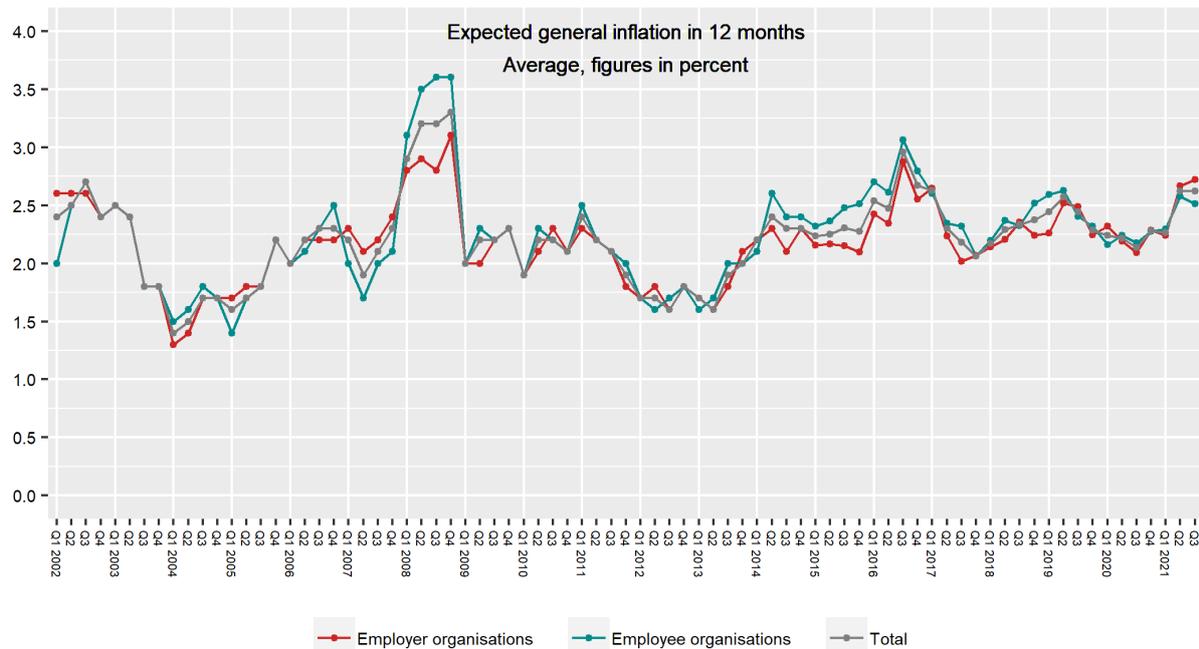
***n=41. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=23, extreme values n=1.

RESULTS

SOCIAL PARTNERS

Question 9: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



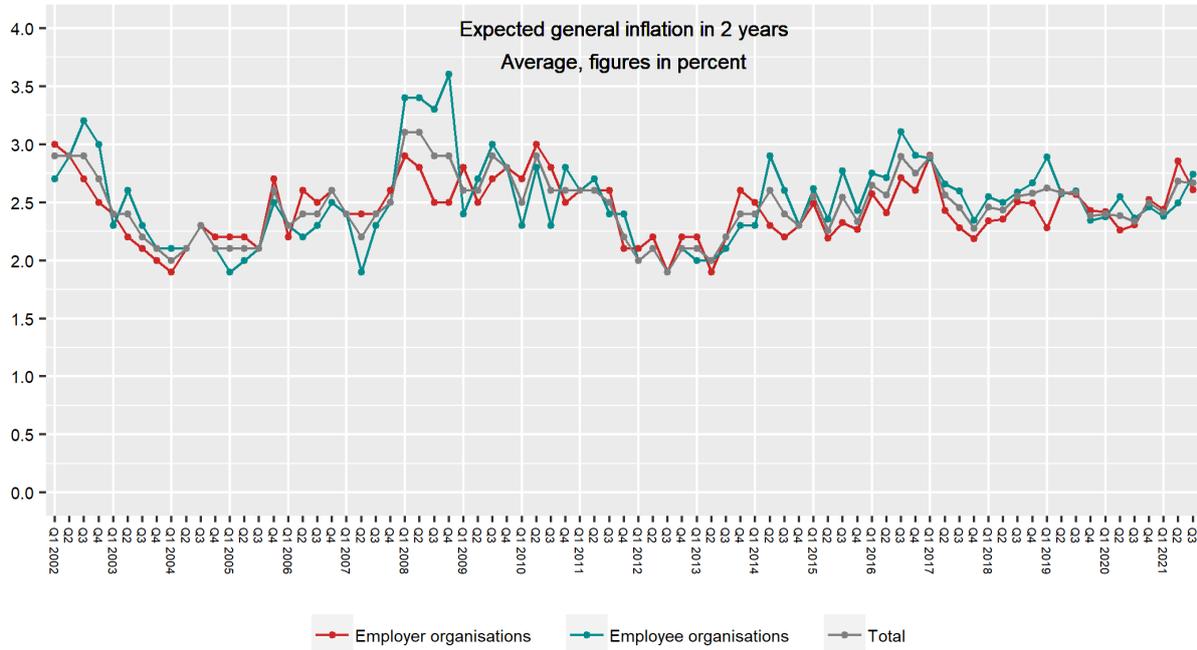
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Employer organisations	Average	2,7	2,7	0,0
	Median	2,8	2,6	
	Lowest value	1,5	1,5	
	Highest value	3,1	6,0	
	Sample	15	16*	
Employee organisations	Average	2,6	2,5	-0,1
	Median	2,7	2,4	
	Lowest value	2,0	1,9	
	Highest value	3,0	3,5	
	Sample	14	14	
Social partners in total	Average	2,6	2,6	0,0
	Median	2,7	2,5	
	Lowest value	1,5	1,5	
	Highest value	3,1	6,0	
	Sample	29	30**	

*n=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=0, extreme values n=1.

**n=31. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=0, extreme values n=1.

Question 10: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in two years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Employer organisations	Average	2,9	2,6	-0,3
	Median	2,8	2,5	
	Lowest value	1,5	1,6	
	Highest value	4,9	4,0	
	Sample	15	16*	
Employee organisations	Average	2,5	2,7	+0,2
	Median	2,5	2,9	
	Lowest value	1,8	1,5	
	Highest value	3,0	4,0	
	Sample	14	13**	
Social partners in total	Average	2,7	2,7	0,0
	Median	2,6	2,5	
	Lowest value	1,5	1,5	
	Highest value	4,9	4,0	
	Sample	29	29***	

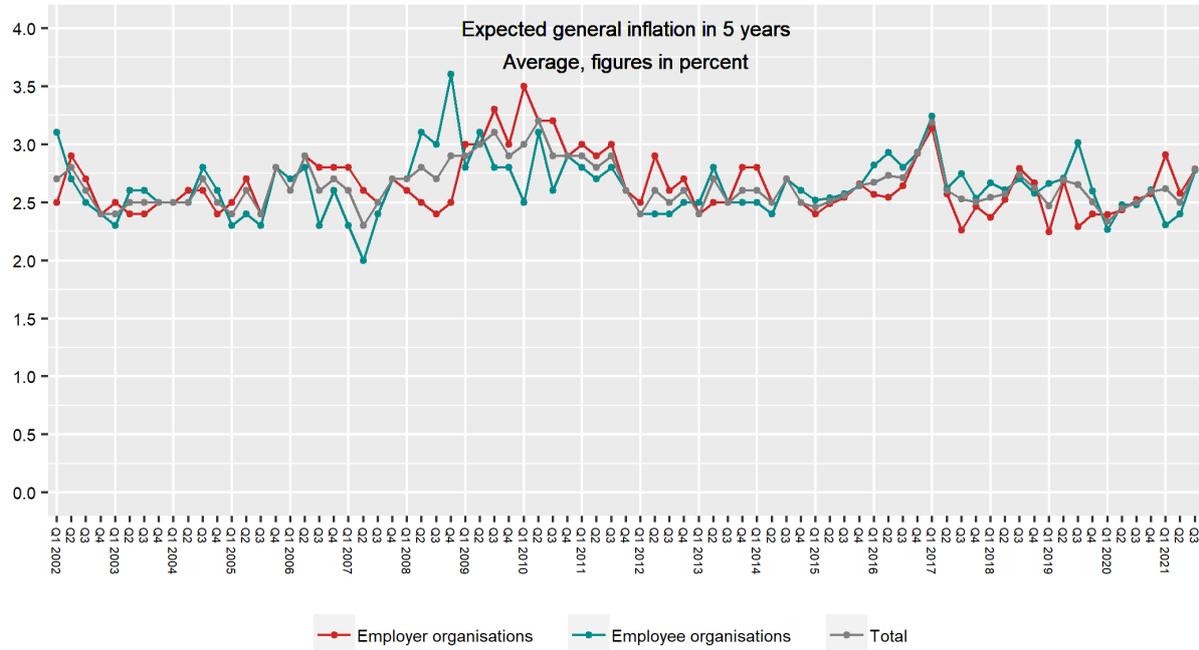
*n=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=0, extreme values n=1.

**n=14. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

***n=31. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=1.

Question 11: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in five years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Employer organisations	Average	2,6	2,8	+0,2
	Median	2,4	2,5	
	Lowest value	1,8	2,0	
	Highest value	4,0	5,0	
	Sample	14	14*	
Employee organisations	Average	2,4	2,8	+0,4
	Median	2,4	2,8	
	Lowest value	1,9	1,5	
	Highest value	3,0	5,0	
	Sample	12	12**	
Social partners in total	Average	2,5	2,8	+0,3
	Median	2,4	2,5	
	Lowest value	1,8	1,5	
	Highest value	4,0	5,0	
	Sample	26	26***	

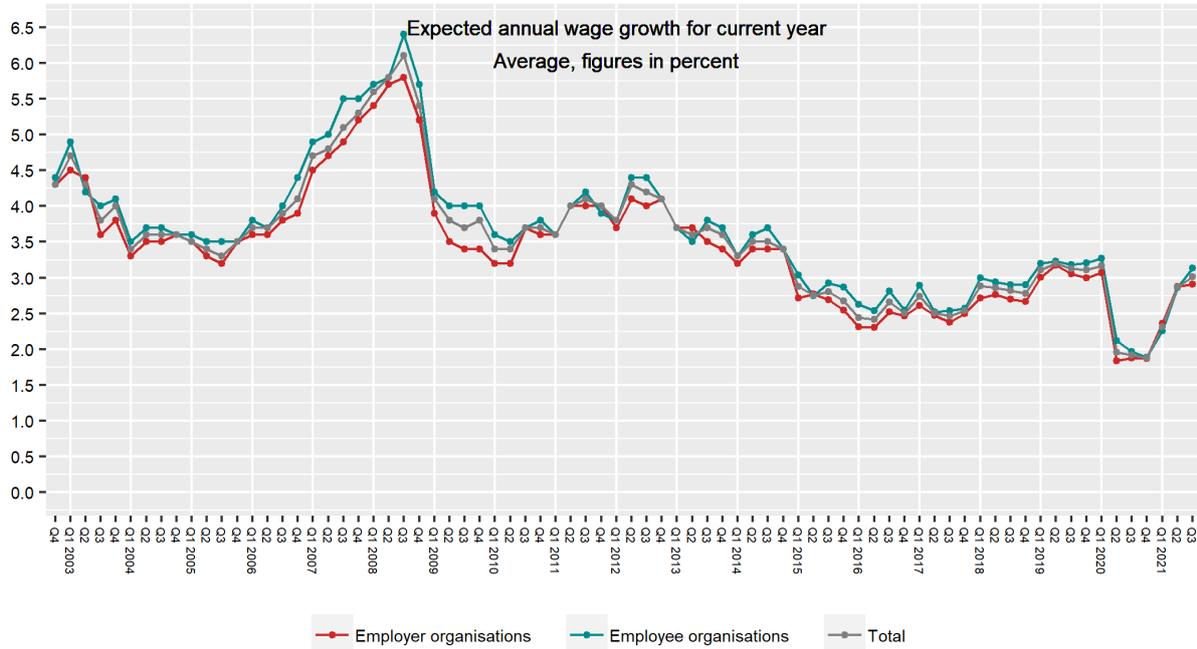
*n=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=1.

**n=14. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

***n=31. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=4, extreme values n=1.

Question 12: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think average wage growth will be this year?



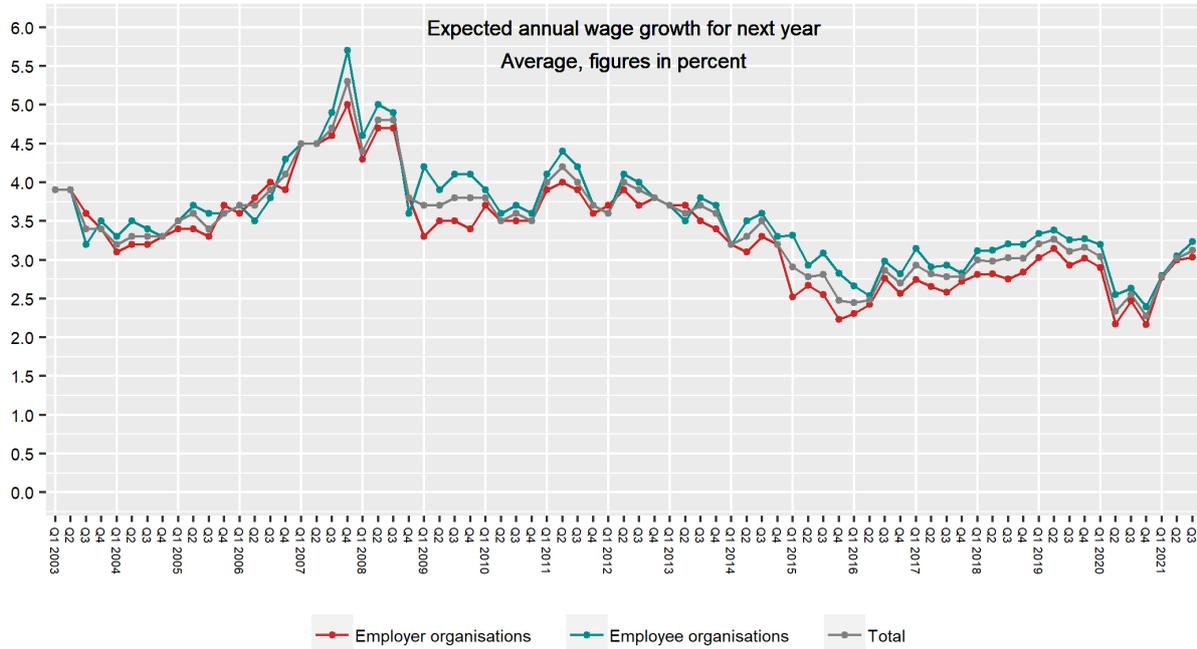
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Employer organisations	Average	2,9	2,9	0,0
	Median	2,8	2,8	
	Lowest value	2,5	1,8	
	Highest value	3,1	7,0	
	Sample	15	16*	
Employee organisations	Average	2,9	3,1	+0,2
	Median	2,8	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,5	2,5	
	Highest value	3,1	4,0	
	Sample	14	14	
Social partners in total	Average	2,9	3,0	+0,1
	Median	2,8	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,5	1,8	
	Highest value	3,1	7,0	
	Sample	29	30**	

*n=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

**n=31. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

Question 13: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think average wage growth will be next year?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Employer organisations	Average	3,0	3,0	0,0
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,5	2,2	
	Highest value	3,5	4,0	
	Sample	15	16*	
Employee organisations	Average	3,0	3,2	+0,2
	Median	3,0	3,1	
	Lowest value	2,4	2,8	
	Highest value	3,5	4,0	
	Sample	14	13**	
Social partners in total	Average	3,0	3,1	+0,1
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,4	2,2	
	Highest value	3,5	4,0	
	Sample	29	29***	

*n=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

**n=14. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=1, extreme values n=0.

***n=31. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

Question 14: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think average wage growth will be in five years?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Employer organisations	Average	2,9	3,2	+0,3
	Median	2,8	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,4	1,9	
	Highest value	4,0	6,0	
	Sample	13	13*	
Employee organisations	Average	3,1	3,1	0,0
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,2	2,5	
	Highest value	5,0	4,0	
	Sample	13	12**	
Social partners in total	Average	3,0	3,2	+0,2
	Median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	2,2	1,9	
	Highest value	5,0	6,0	
	Sample	26	25***	

*n=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=4, extreme values n=0.

**n=14. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=2, extreme values n=0.

***n=31. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=6, extreme values n=0.

RESULTS

BUSINESS LEADERS

Question 15: BUSINESS LEADERS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services has been the last 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?
 (The question was introduced Q3 2020 – see technical comment)²



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Average	3,1	3,6	+0,5
	Weighted median	2,8	3,0	
	Unweighted median	2,8	3,0	
	Lowest value	1,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	233	237*	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Average	2,9	3,3	+0,4
	Weighted median	2,8	3,0	
	Unweighted median	2,7	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	-1,6	
	Highest value	11,0	10,0	
	Sample	244	236**	
Business leaders in total	Average	3,0	3,4	+0,4
	Weighted median	2,8	3,0	
	Unweighted median	2,8	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	-1,6	
	Highest value	11,0	10,0	
	Sample	477	473***	

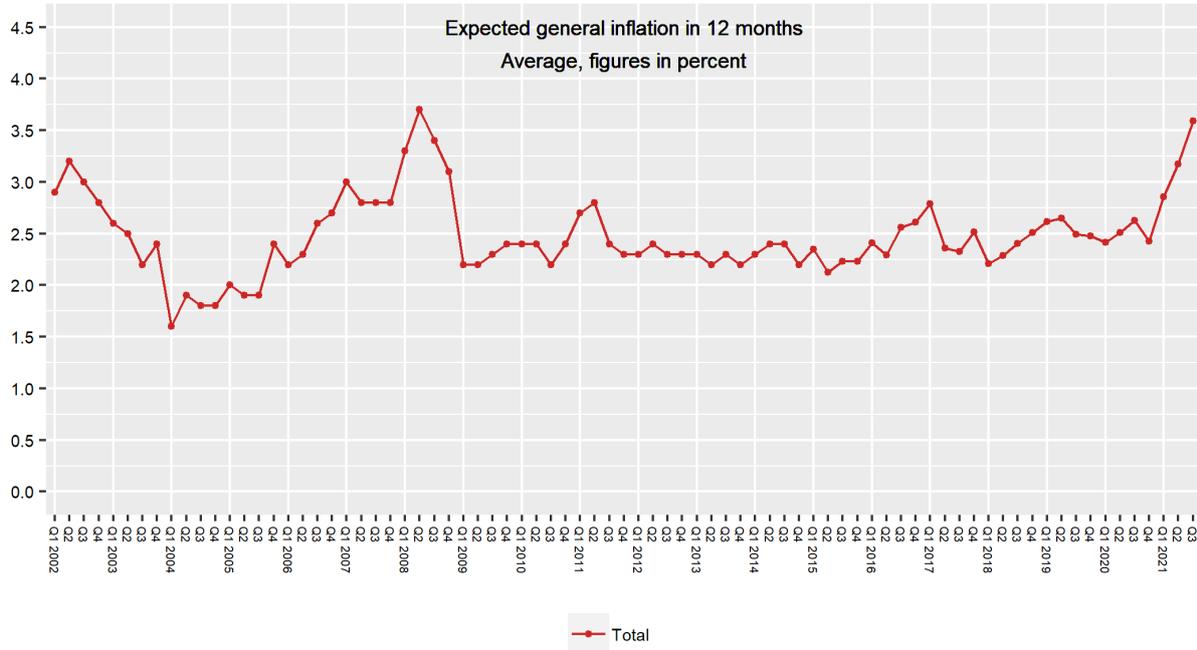
*n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=16, extreme values n=31.

**n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=25, extreme values n=23.

***n=568. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=41, extreme values n=54.

Question 16: BUSINESS LEADERS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Average	3,3	3,8	+0,5
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	-10,0	
	Highest value	10,0	11,0	
	Sample	232	242*	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Average	3,1	3,4	+0,3
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	11,0	11,0	
	Sample	244	238**	
Business leaders in total	Average	3,2	3,6	+0,4
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	-10,0	
	Highest value	11,0	11,0	
	Sample	476	480***	

*n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=16, extreme values n=26.

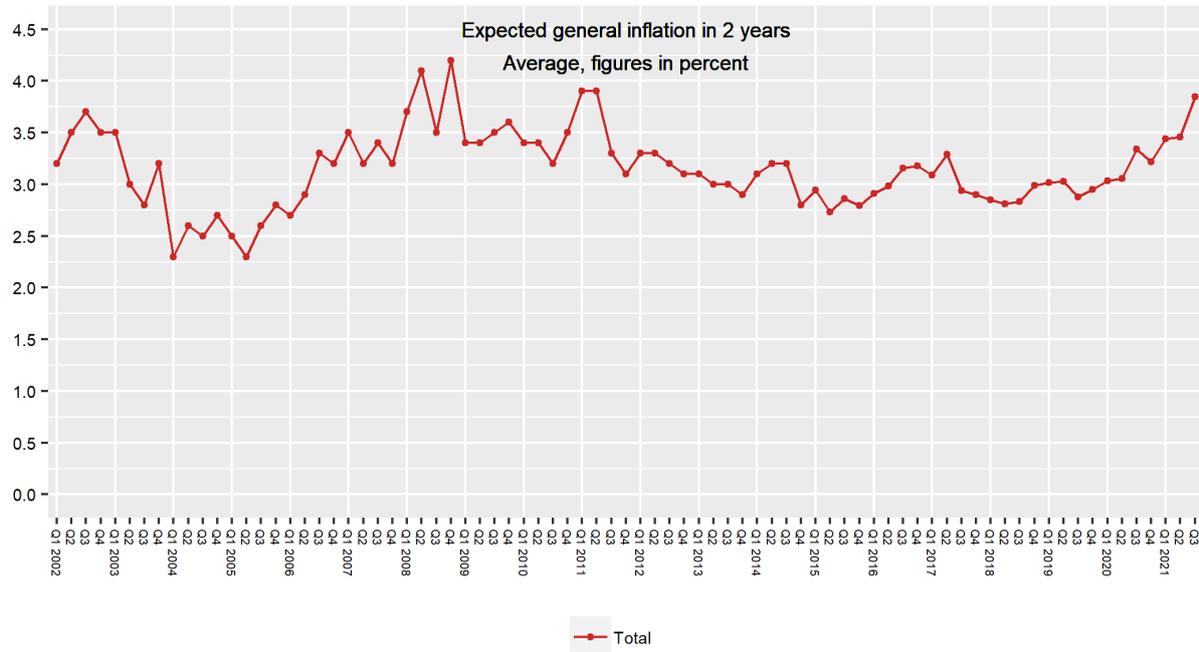
**n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=25, extreme values n=21.

***n=568. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=41, extreme values n=47.

Question 17: BUSINESS LEADERS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in two years, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?

(The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)³



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Average	3,5	4,0	+0,5
	Weighted median	3,0	3,2	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,5	
	Lowest value	1,0	1,0	
	Highest value	10,0	11,0	
	Sample	223	232*	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Average	3,4	3,7	+0,3
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	237	231**	
Business leaders in total	Average	3,5	3,8	+0,3
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	11,0	
	Sample	460	463***	

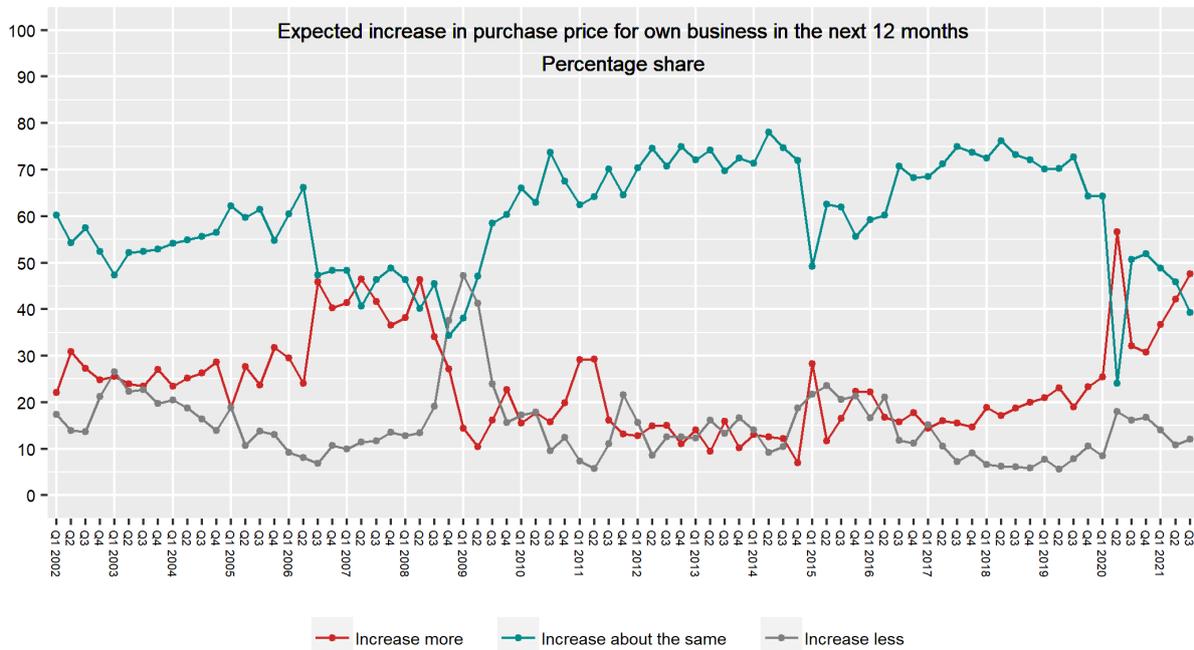
*n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=22, extreme values n=30.

**n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=27, extreme values n=26.

***n=568. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=49, extreme values n=56.

Question 18: BUSINESS LEADERS

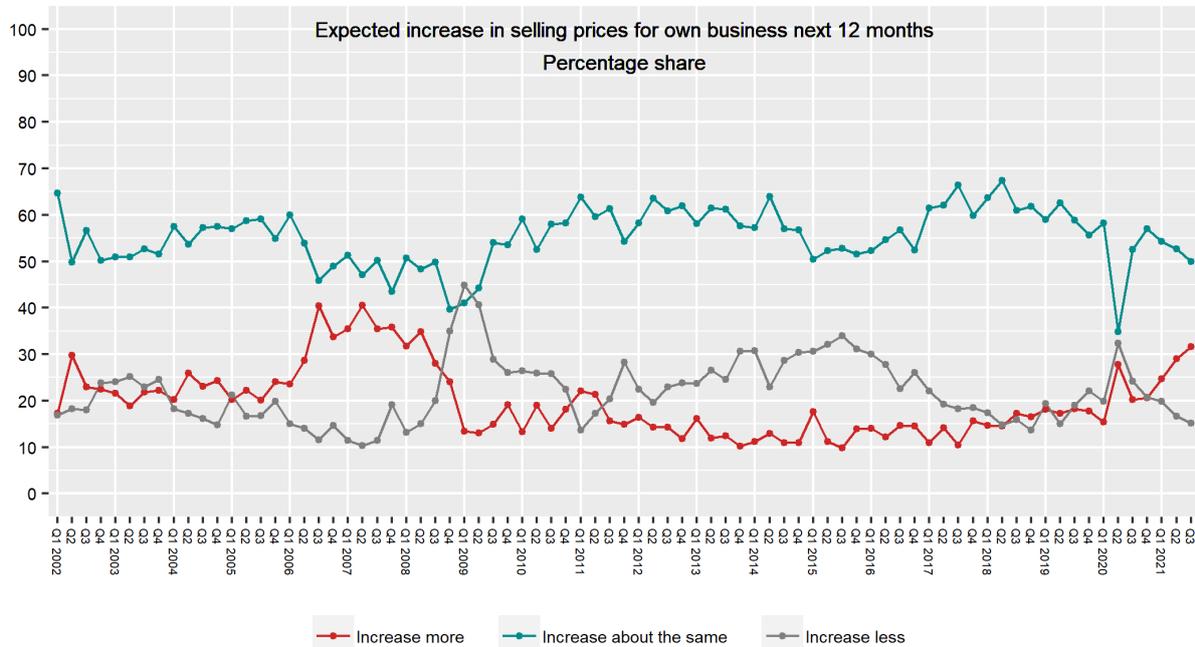
Do you expect that over the next 12 months your business's purchase prices will increase more than, increase at approximately the same pace as or increase less than in the past 12-month period?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Increase more	39,2	49,5	+10,3
	Increase about the same	47,9	38,2	-9,7
	Increase less	11,4	11,6	+0,2
	Sample	271	284	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Increase more	45,1	45,8	+0,7
	Increase about the same	43,9	40,3	-3,6
	Increase less	10,2	12,4	+2,2
	Sample	270	284	
Business leaders in total	Increase more	42,1	47,6	+5,5
	Increase about the same	45,9	39,3	-6,6
	Increase less	10,8	12,0	+1,2
	Sample	541	568	

Question 19: BUSINESS LEADERS

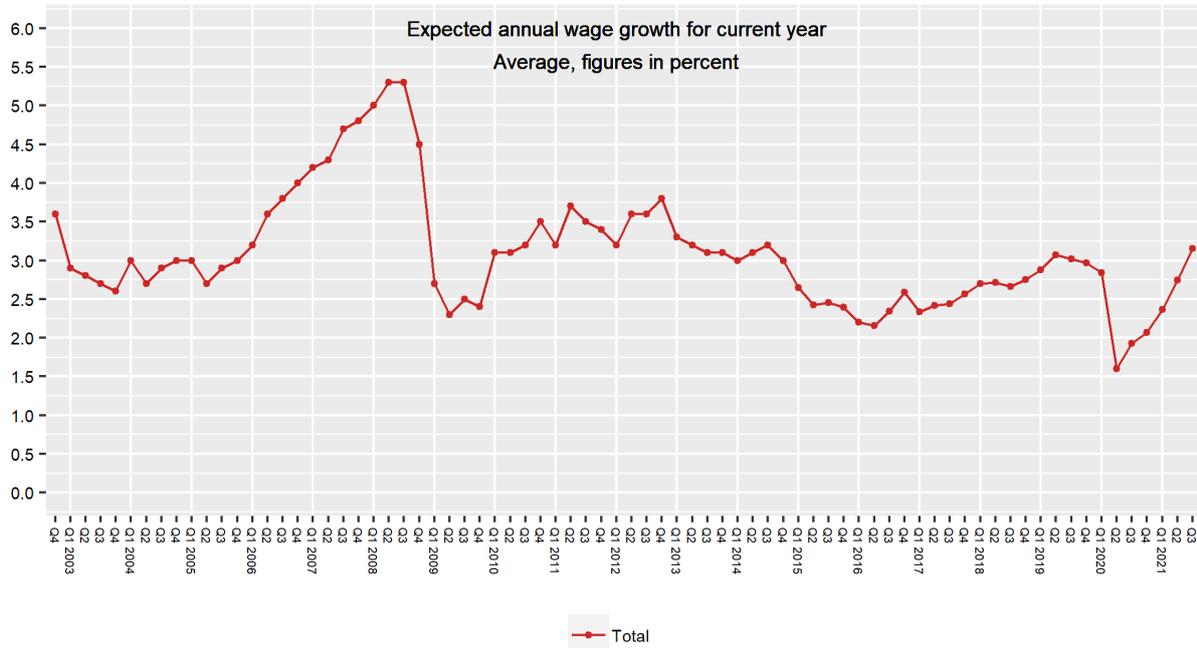
Do you expect that over the next 12 months your business's selling prices will increase more than, increase at approximately the same pace as or increase less than in the past 12-month period?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Increase more	29,4	32,7	+3,3
	Increase about the same	52,0	46,9	-5,1
	Increase less	18,0	17,5	-0,5
	Sample	271	284	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Increase more	28,7	30,5	+1,8
	Increase about the same	53,4	53,1	-0,3
	Increase less	15,2	12,7	-2,5
	Sample	270	284	
Business leaders in total	Increase more	29,1	31,6	+2,5
	Increase about the same	52,7	50,0	-2,7
	Increase less	16,6	15,1	-1,5
	Sample	541	568	

Question 20: BUSINESS LEADERS

What do you think the average annual wage growth will be this year?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Average	2,8	3,3	+0,5
	Weighted median	2,7	3,0	
	Unweighted median	2,8	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	253	262*	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Average	2,7	3,0	+0,3
	Weighted median	2,7	3,0	
	Unweighted median	2,7	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	250	254**	
Business leaders in total	Average	2,7	3,1	+0,4
	Weighted median	2,7	3,0	
	Unweighted median	2,7	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	502	516***	

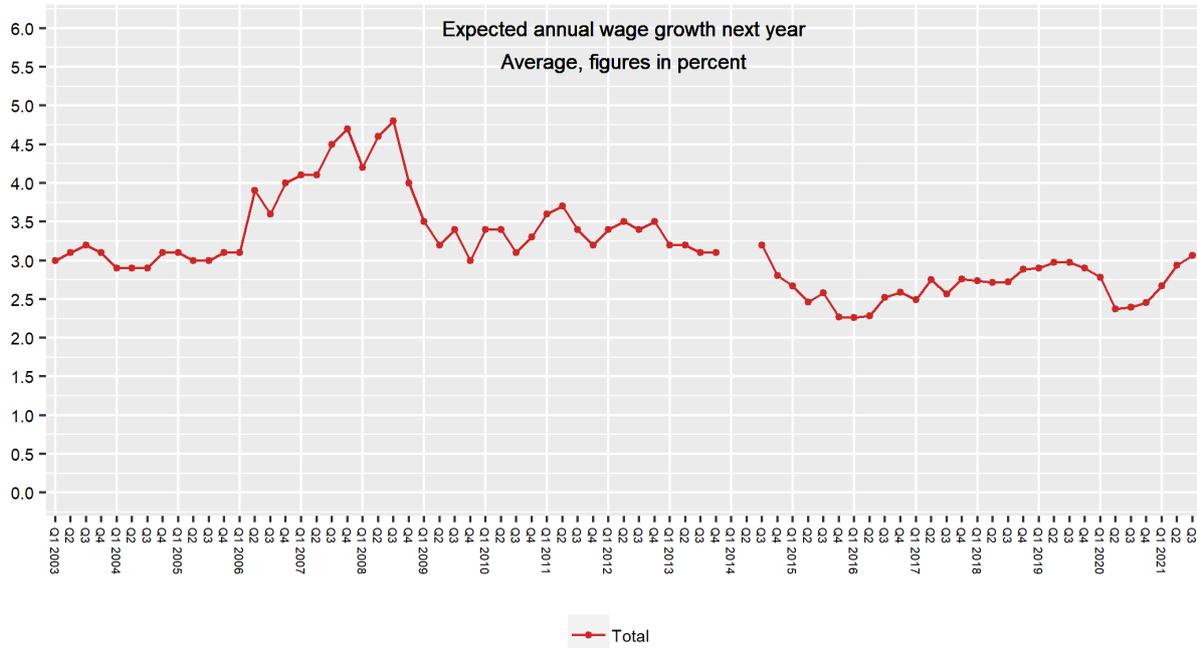
*n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=15, extreme values n=7.

**n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=20, extreme values n=9.

***n=568. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=36, extreme values n=17.

Question 21: BUSINESS LEADERS

What do you think the average annual wage growth will be next year?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Average	3,0	3,1	+0,1
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	248	255*	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Average	2,9	3,0	+0,1
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	252	250**	
Business leaders in total	Average	2,9	3,1	+0,2
	Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
	Lowest value	0,0	0,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	500	505***	

*n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=18, extreme values n=12.

**n=284. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=23, extreme values n=11.

***n=568. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=41, extreme values n=22.

Question 22: BUSINESS LEADERS

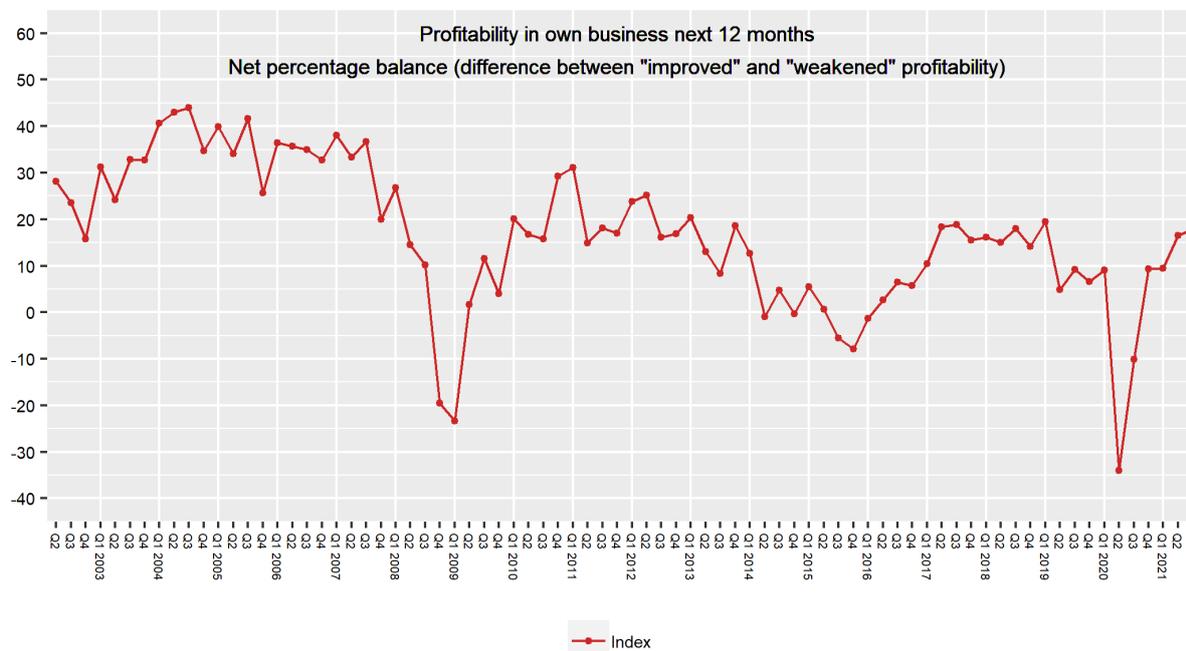
Over the past 12 months, has the profitability of your business, as measured by the operating margin (EBITDA), improved, remained unchanged or weakened?
(The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)⁴



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Improved profitability	40,0	38,4	-1,6
	Unchanged profitability	27,6	30,7	+3,1
	Weakened profitability	28,6	28,5	-0,1
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	11,4	9,9	-1,5
	Sample	271	284	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Improved profitability	46,1	47,5	+1,4
	Unchanged profitability	22,9	25,5	+2,6
	Weakened profitability	27,0	23,6	-3,4
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	19,1	23,9	+4,8
	Sample	270	284	
Business leaders in total	Improved profitability	43,0	42,9	-0,1
	Unchanged profitability	25,3	28,1	+2,8
	Weakened profitability	27,8	26,0	-1,8
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	15,2	16,9	+1,7
	Sample	541	568	

Question 23: BUSINESS LEADERS

Do you think that over the next 12 months, the profitability of your business, as measured by the operating margin (EBITDA), will improve, remain unchanged or weaken?
(The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)⁵

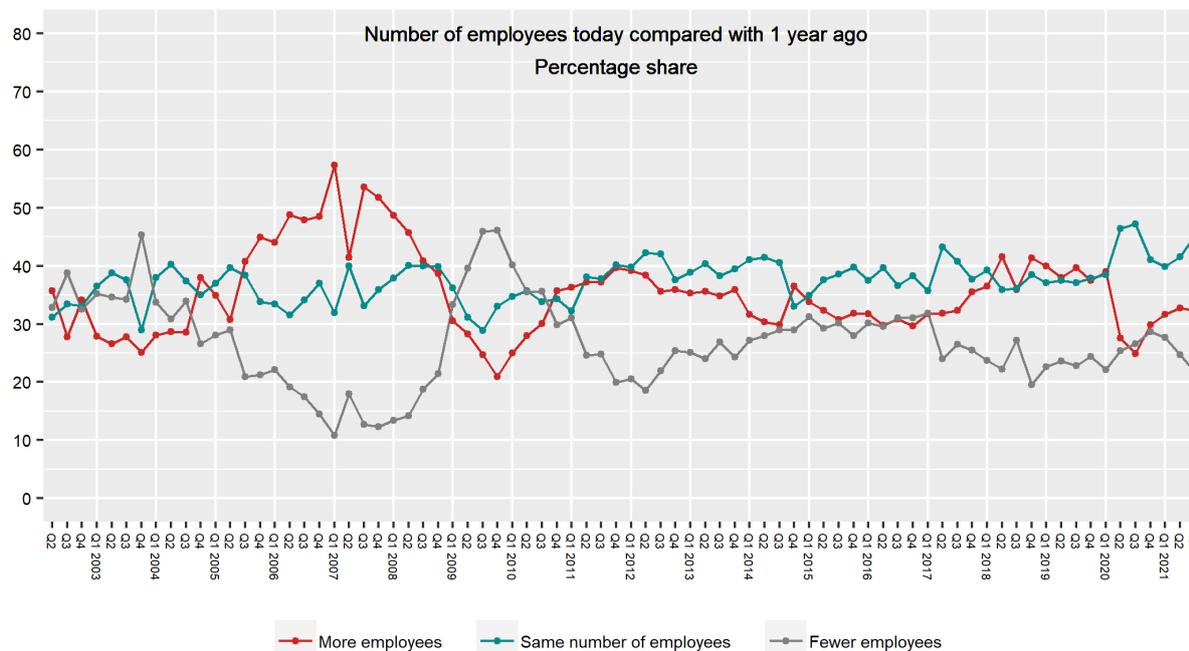


		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Improved profitability	33,0	34,9	+1,9
	Unchanged profitability	40,5	42,8	+2,3
	Weakened profitability	21,6	18,7	-2,9
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	11,4	16,2	+4,8
	Sample	271	284	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Improved profitability	41,3	39,5	-1,8
	Unchanged profitability	35,2	37,4	+2,2
	Weakened profitability	19,7	20,0	+0,3
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	21,6	19,5	-2,1
	Sample	270	284	
Business leaders in total	Improved profitability	37,2	37,2	0,0
	Unchanged profitability	37,8	40,1	+2,3
	Weakened profitability	20,7	19,3	-1,4
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	16,5	17,9	+1,4
	Sample	541	568	

Question 24: BUSINESS LEADERS

Compared with 12 months earlier, does your business currently have more employees, the same number of employees or fewer employees?

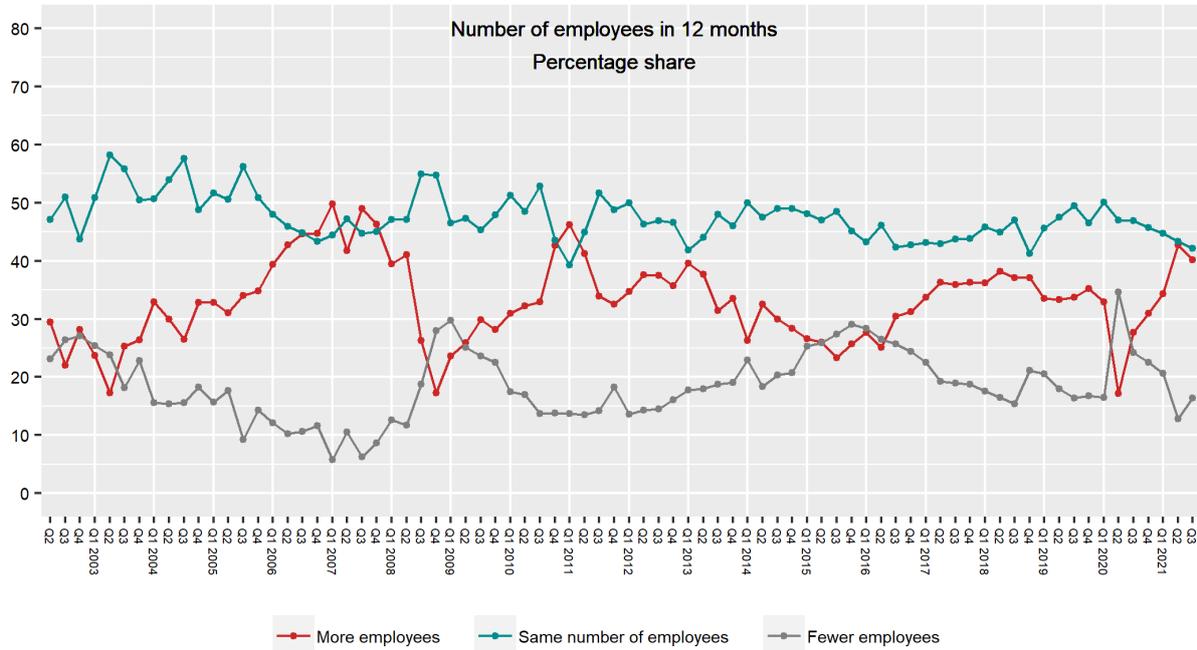
(The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)⁶



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	More employees	30,7	32,6	+1,9
	Same number of employees	45,8	47,7	+1,9
	Fewer employees	22,1	19,0	-3,1
	Net (More employees – Fewer employees)	8,6	13,6	+5,0
	Sample	271	284	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	More employees	34,7	32,1	-2,6
	Same number of employees	37,2	42,6	+5,4
	Fewer employees	27,2	24,6	-2,6
	Net (More employees – Fewer employees)	7,5	7,5	0,0
	Sample	270	284	
Business leaders in total	More employees	32,7	32,3	-0,4
	Same number of employees	41,5	45,1	+3,6
	Fewer employees	24,7	21,8	-2,9
	Net (More employees – Fewer employees)	8,0	10,5	+2,5
	Sample	541	568	

Question 25: BUSINESS LEADERS

Do you think that in 12 months, your business will have more employees than currently, the same number of employees or fewer employees?

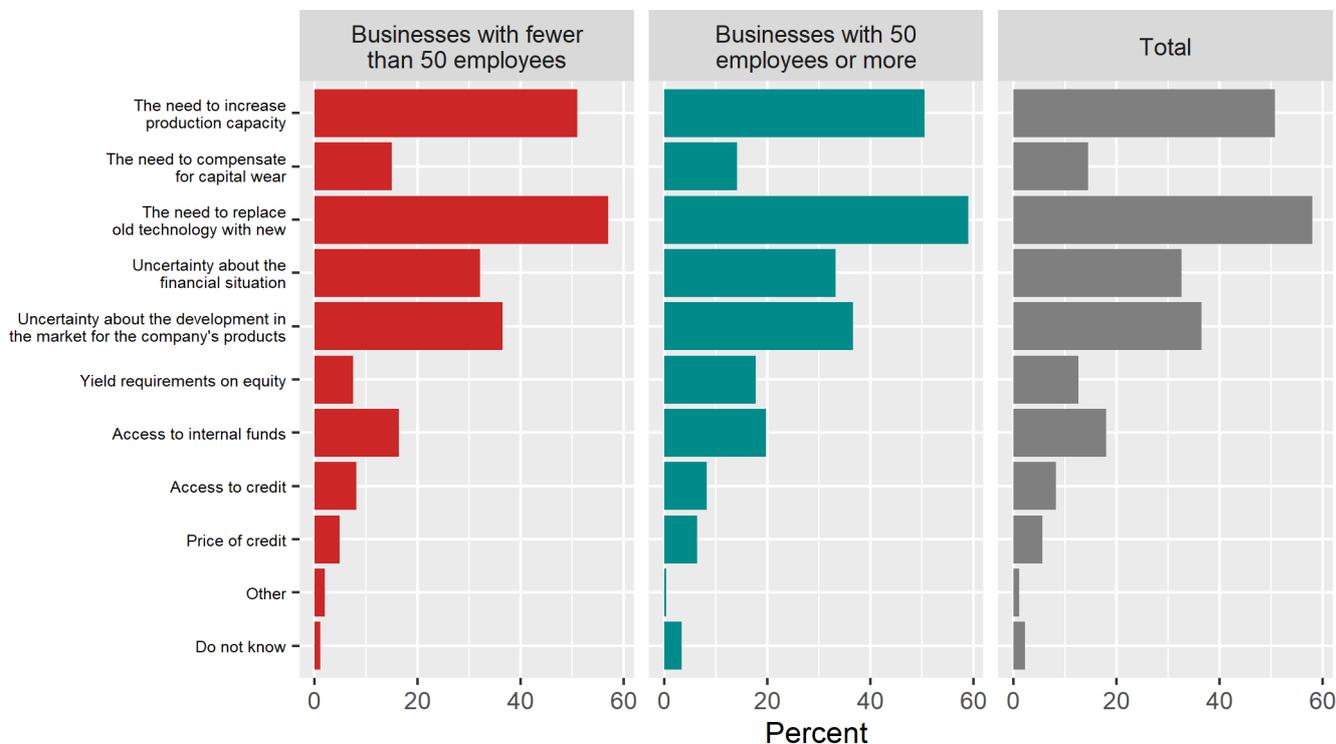


		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	More employees	43,8	38,3	-5,5
	Same number of employees	47,7	44,1	-3,6
	Fewer employees	7,7	16,3	+8,6
	Net (More employees – Fewer employees)	36,1	22,0	-14,1
	Sample	271	284	
Businesses with more than 50 employees	More employees	41,6	42,0	+0,4
	Same number of employees	39,0	40,1	+1,1
	Fewer employees	17,9	16,4	-1,5
	Net (More employees – Fewer employees)	23,7	25,6	+1,9
	Sample	270	284	
Business leaders in total	More employees	42,7	40,2	-2,5
	Same number of employees	43,3	42,1	-1,2
	Fewer employees	12,8	16,3	+3,5
	Net (More employees – Fewer employees)	29,9	23,9	-6,0
	Sample	541	568	

Question 36: BUSINESS LEADERS

What are the 3 most important factors that influence a company's investment decisions? Answer up to three factors

(The question is new in Q4 2020)



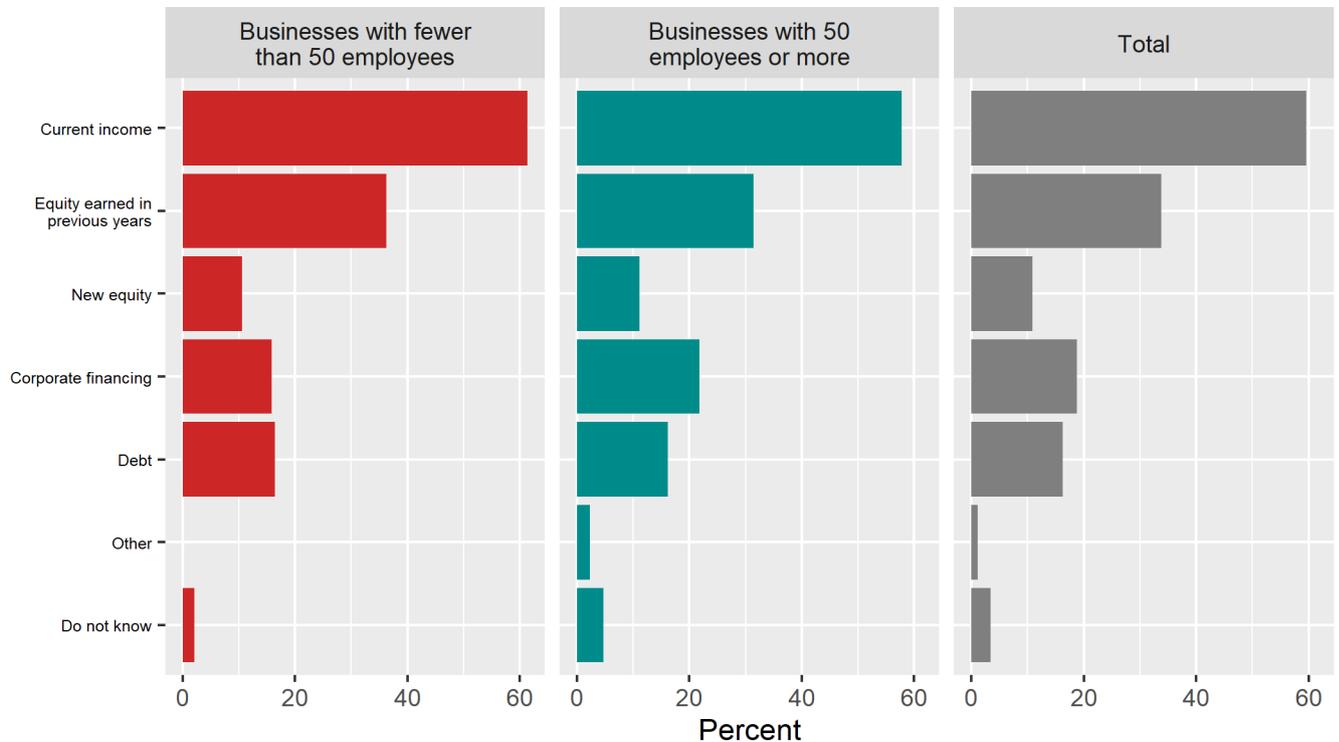
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	The need to increase production capacity	55,7	51,0	-4,7
	The need to compensate for capital wear	16,3	15,0	-1,3
	The need to replace old technology with new	50,7	57,0	6,3
	Uncertainty about the financial situation	37,8	32,1	-5,7
	Uncertainty about the development in the market for the company's products	27,3	36,5	9,2
	Yield requirements on equity	10,5	7,4	-3,1
	Access to internal funds	19,9	16,3	-3,6
	Access to credit	7,9	8,1	0,2
	Price of credit	2,8	4,9	2,1
	Other	2,7	1,9	-0,8
	Don't know/Do not want to answer	2,7	1,1	-1,6
Businesses with more than 50 employees	The need to increase production capacity	53,8	50,6	-3,2
	The need to compensate for capital wear	16,8	14,2	-2,6
	The need to replace old technology with new	59,8	59,0	-0,8
	Uncertainty about the financial situation	33,5	33,2	-0,3
	Uncertainty about the development in the market for the company's products	29,1	36,7	7,6
	Yield requirements on equity	16,0	17,7	1,7
	Access to internal funds	19,6	19,8	0,2
	Access to credit	8,1	8,3	0,2
	Price of credit	5,9	6,4	0,5
	Other	3,2	0,4	-2,8
	Don't know/Do not want to answer	3,1	3,4	0,3
Business leaders in total	The need to increase production capacity	54,7	50,8	-3,9
	The need to compensate for capital wear	16,5	14,6	-1,9
	The need to replace old technology with new	55,2	58,0	2,8
	Uncertainty about the financial situation	35,7	32,7	-3,0
	Uncertainty about the development in the market for the company's products	28,2	36,6	8,4
	Yield requirements on equity	13,2	12,6	-0,6
	Access to internal funds	19,8	18,0	-1,8
	Access to credit	8,0	8,2	0,2
	Price of credit	4,4	5,6	1,2
	Other	3,0	1,2	-1,8
	Don't know/Do not want to answer	2,9	2,3	-0,6

Question 37: BUSINESS LEADERS

Over the last 5 years, what have been the main sources of financing for corporate investment?

Answer up to two sources

(The question is new in Q4 2020)



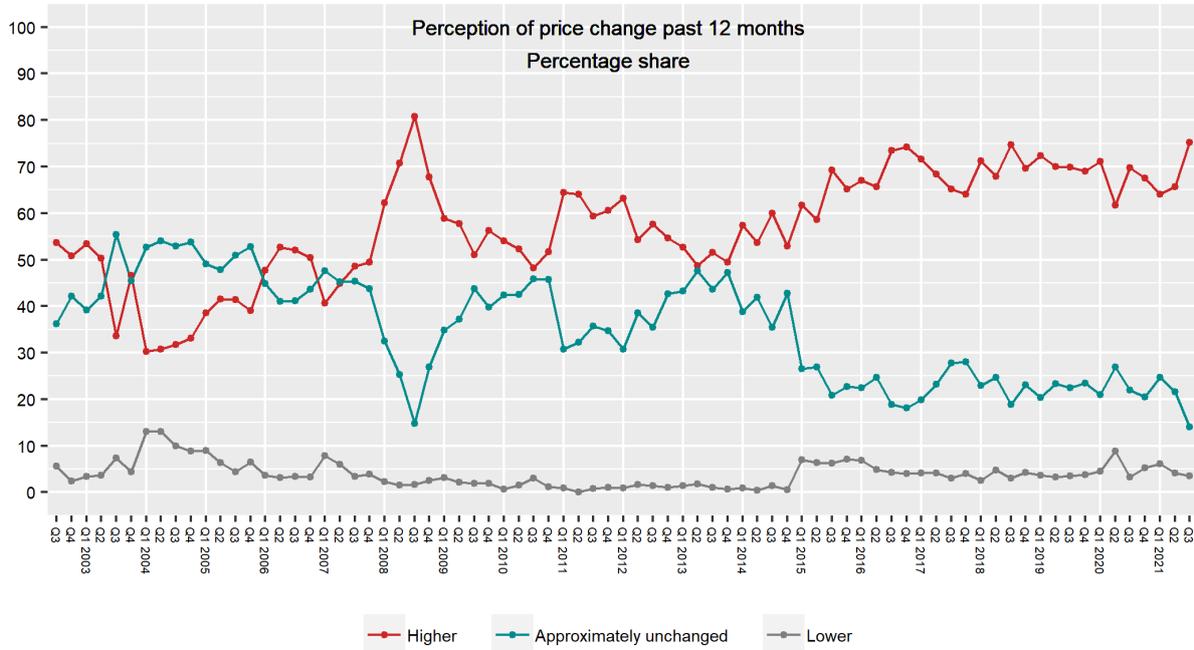
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Businesses with fewer than 50 employees	Current income	64,7	61,4	-3.3
	Equity earned in previous years	25,0	36,2	11.2
	New equity	10,8	10,6	-0.2
	Corporate financing	17,9	15,8	-2.1
	Debt	17,1	16,4	-0.7
	Other	0,5	0,0	-0.5
	Don't know/Do not want to answer	2,2	2,1	-0.1
Businesses with more than 50 employees	Current income	64,2	57,8	-6.4
	Equity earned in previous years	29,4	31,4	2.0
	New equity	8,7	11,1	2.4
	Corporate financing	19,6	21,8	2.2
	Debt	19,6	16,1	-3.5
	Other	1,5	2,3	0.8
	Don't know/Do not want to answer	4,7	4,7	0.0
Business leaders in total	Current income	64,5	59,6	-4.9
	Equity earned in previous years	27,2	33,8	6.6
	New equity	9,8	10,8	1.0
	Corporate financing	18,7	18,8	0.1
	Debt	18,4	16,3	-2.1
	Other	1,0	1,1	0.1
	Don't know/Do not want to answer	3,4	3,4	0.0

RESULTS

HOUSEHOLDS

Question 26: HOUSEHOLDS

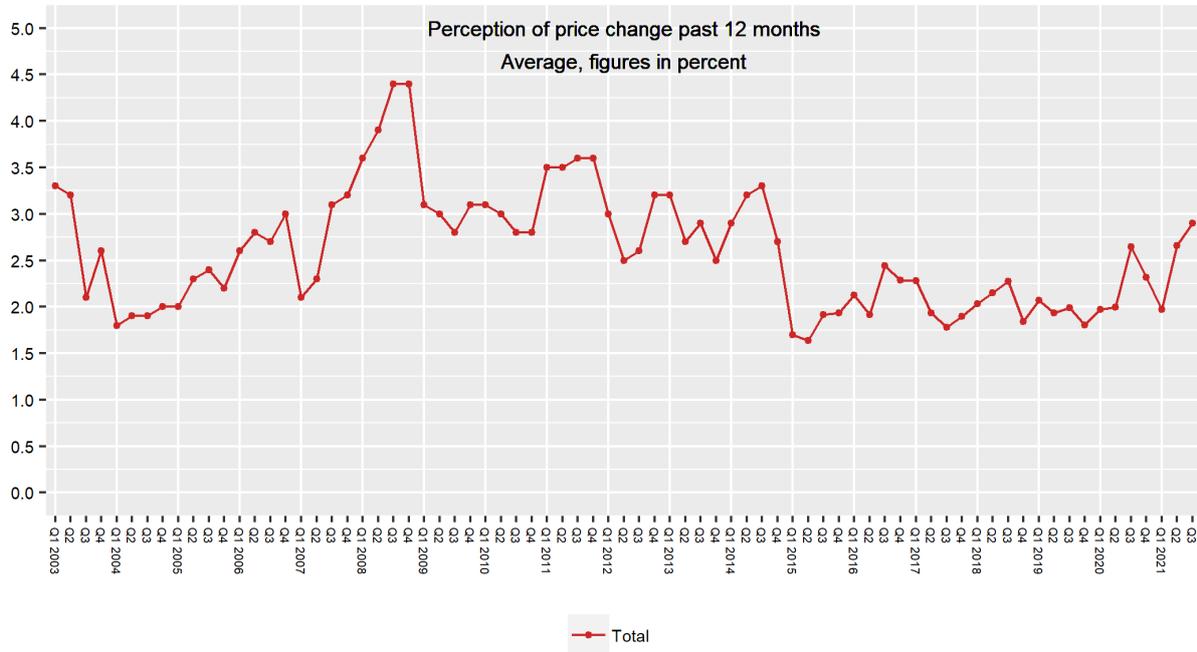
Compared with 12 months ago, do you think that prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), are now higher, approximately unchanged or lower?
 (The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)⁸



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Higher	65,7	75,1	+9,4
	Approximately unchanged	21,6	14,0	-7,6
	Lower	4,1	3,5	-0,6
	Sample	1006	1006	

Question 27: HOUSEHOLDS

About how much higher/lower, measured in percent?
 (The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)⁹



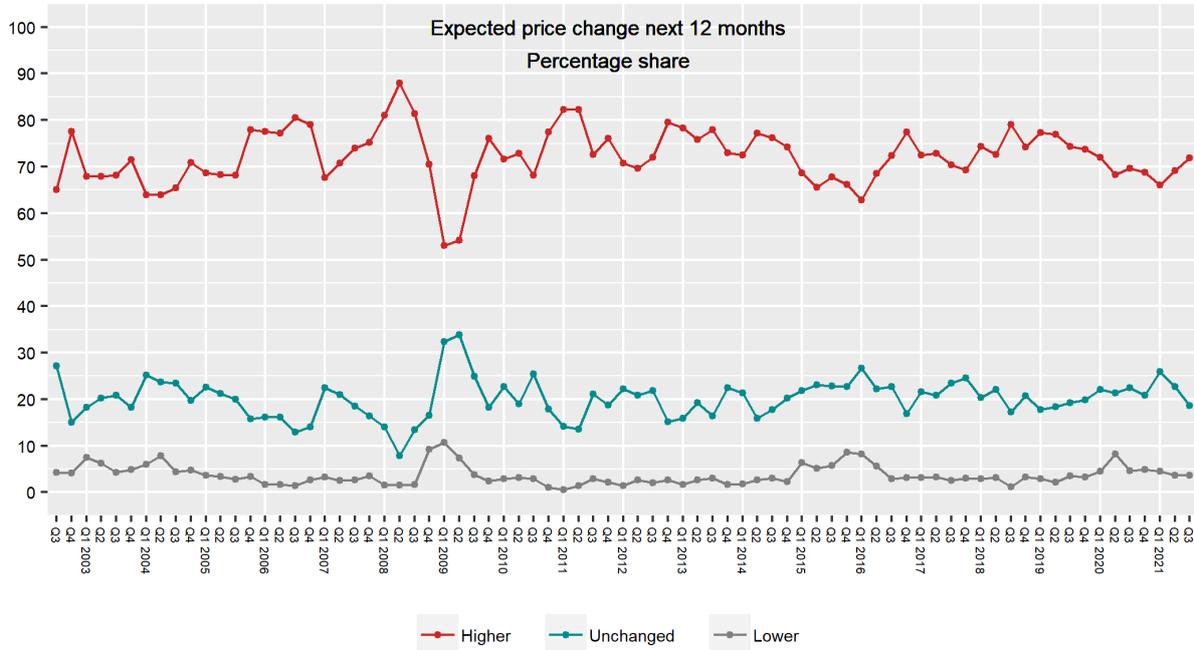
		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Average	2,7	2,9	+0,2
	Weighted median	2,0	2,0	
	Unweighted median	2,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	-10,0	-10,0	
	Highest value	11,0	11,0	
	Sample	727	694*	

*n=1006. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=232, extreme values n=80.

NB: The method for calculating the mean for historical figures in the period of 2015 – 2017 has been changed. The result presented in the graph above is comparable with the previous result. Results published in the period of 2015 – 2017 are changed to include those who answer “approximately unchanged” to question 25 with the value “0” in the mean calculation. See technical comment on page 50 for households for further description.

Question 28: HOUSEHOLDS

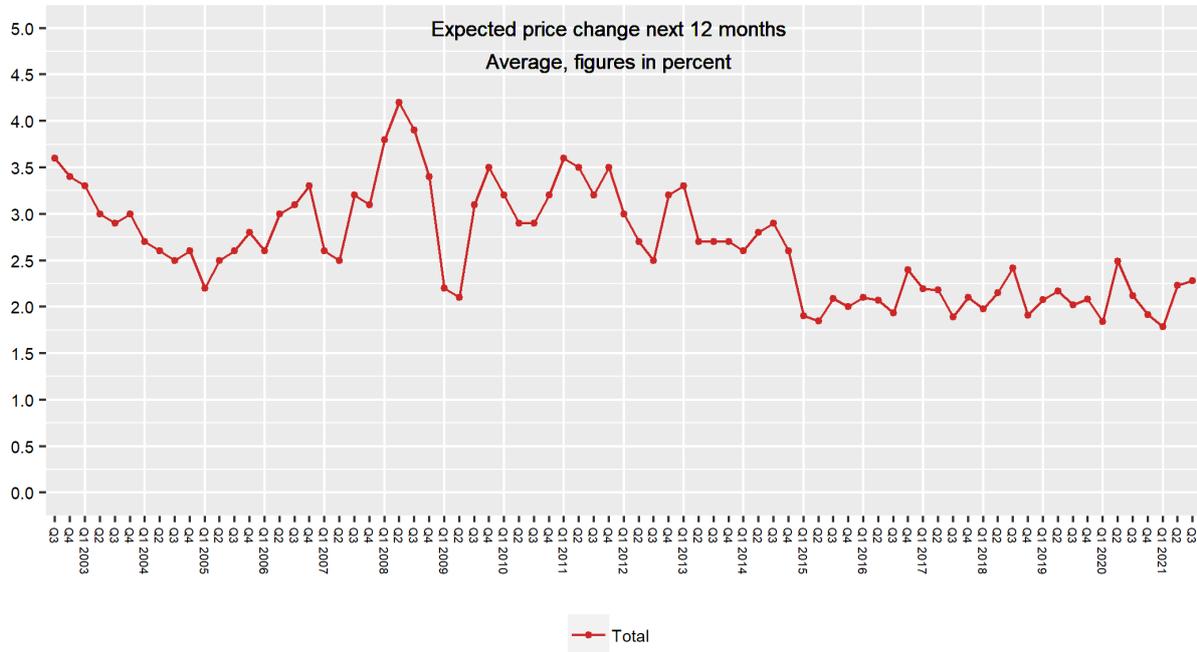
Do you think that over the next 12 months, prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), will be higher, unchanged or lower than they are currently?
 (The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)¹⁰



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Higher	69,1	71,9	+2,8
	Unchanged	22,7	18,7	-4,0
	Lower	3,6	3,6	0,0
	Sample	1006	1006	

Question 29: HOUSEHOLDS

About how much higher/lower, measured in percent?
 (The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)¹¹



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Average	2,2	2,3	+0,1
	Weighted median	2,0	2,0	
	Unweighted median	2,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	-10,0	-10,0	
	Highest value	10,0	11,0	
	Sample	756	725*	

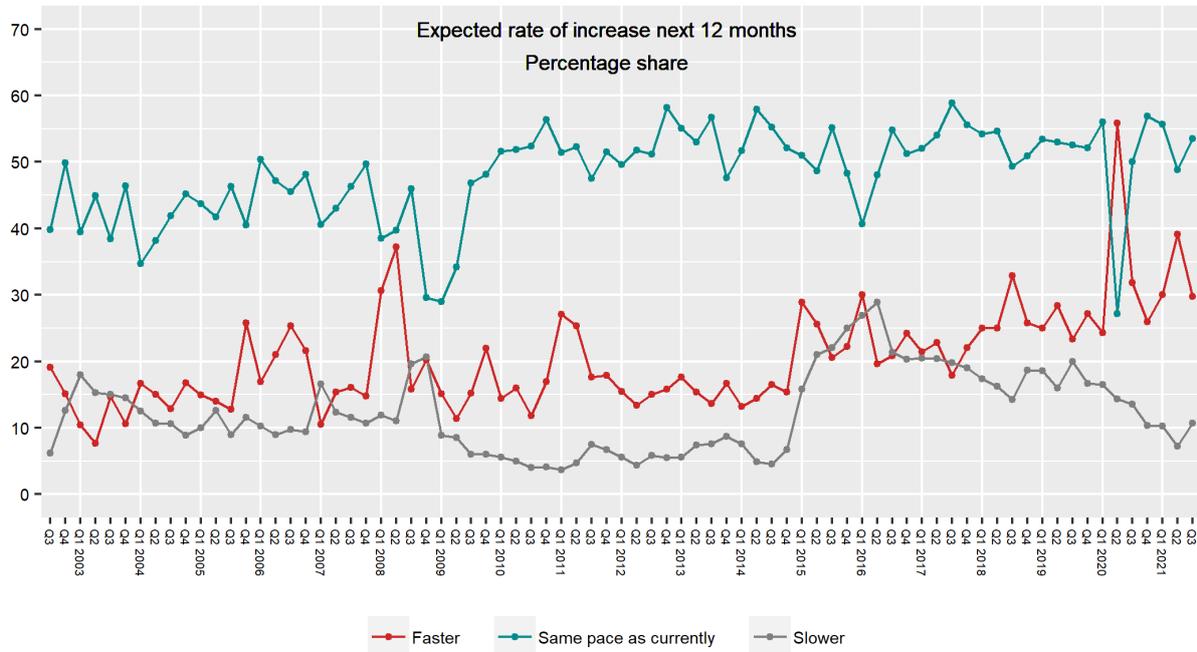
*n=1006. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=233, extreme values n=48.

NB: The method for calculating the mean for historical figures in the period of 2015 – 2017 has been changed. The result presented in the graph above is comparable with the previous result. Results published in the period of 2015 – 2017 have been changed to include those who respond “unchanged” to question 27 with the value “0” in the mean calculation. See technical comment on page 51 for households for further description.

Question 30: HOUSEHOLDS

Will prices rise faster, at the same pace as currently, or more slowly? (If answered higher on question 28)

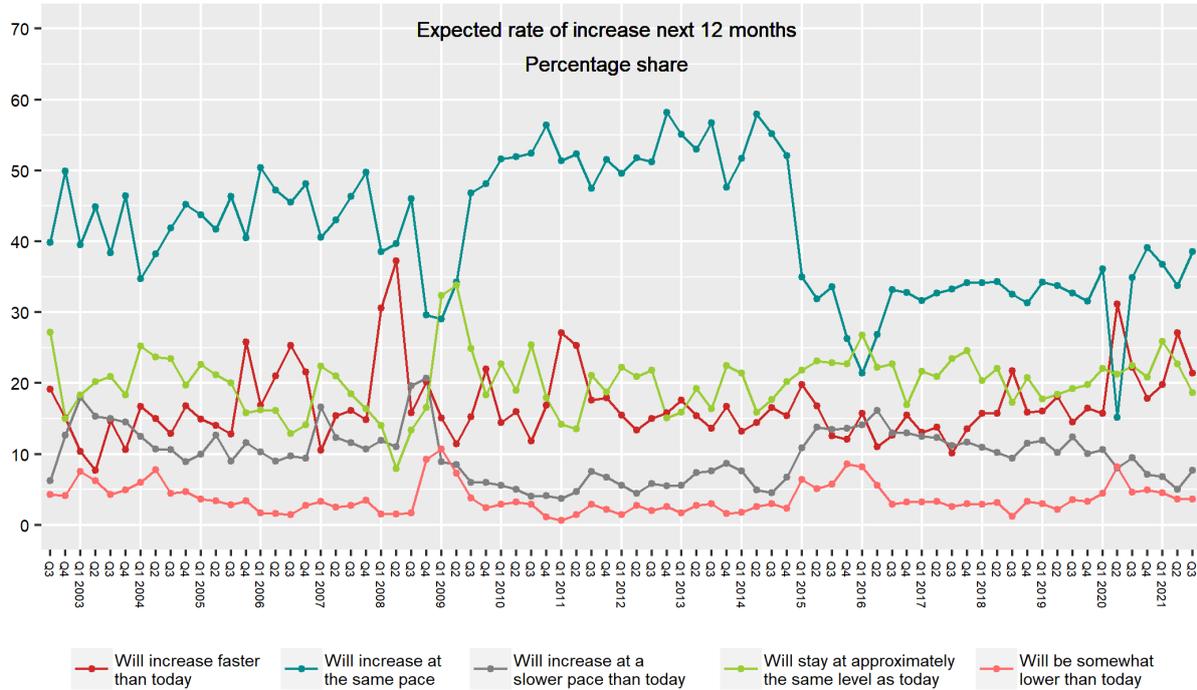
(The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)¹²



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Faster	39,2	29,8	-9,4
	Same pace as currently	48,9	53,5	+4,6
	Slower	7,2	10,7	+3,5
	Sample	695	723	

Question 31: HOUSEHOLDS

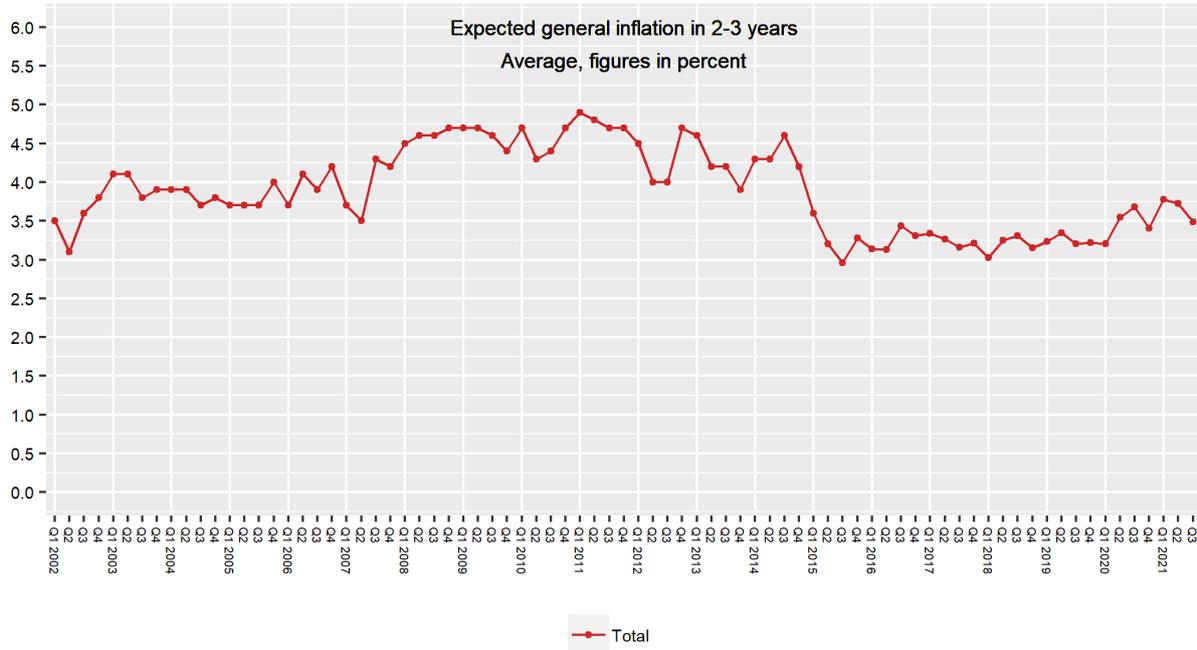
The graph below illustrates households' expected change in prices over the next 12 months. The graphics are made by a combination of answers to questions 28 and 30.



	2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households			
Will increase faster than today	27,1	21,4	-5,7
Will increase at the same pace as today	33,8	38,5	+4,7
Will increase at a slower pace than today	5,0	7,7	+2,7
Will stay at approximately the same level as today	22,7	18,7	-4,0
Will be somewhat lower than today	3,6	3,6	0,0
Sample	1006	1006	

Question 32: HOUSEHOLDS

How much do you think prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), will rise annually in two to three years, in percent?
 (The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)¹³

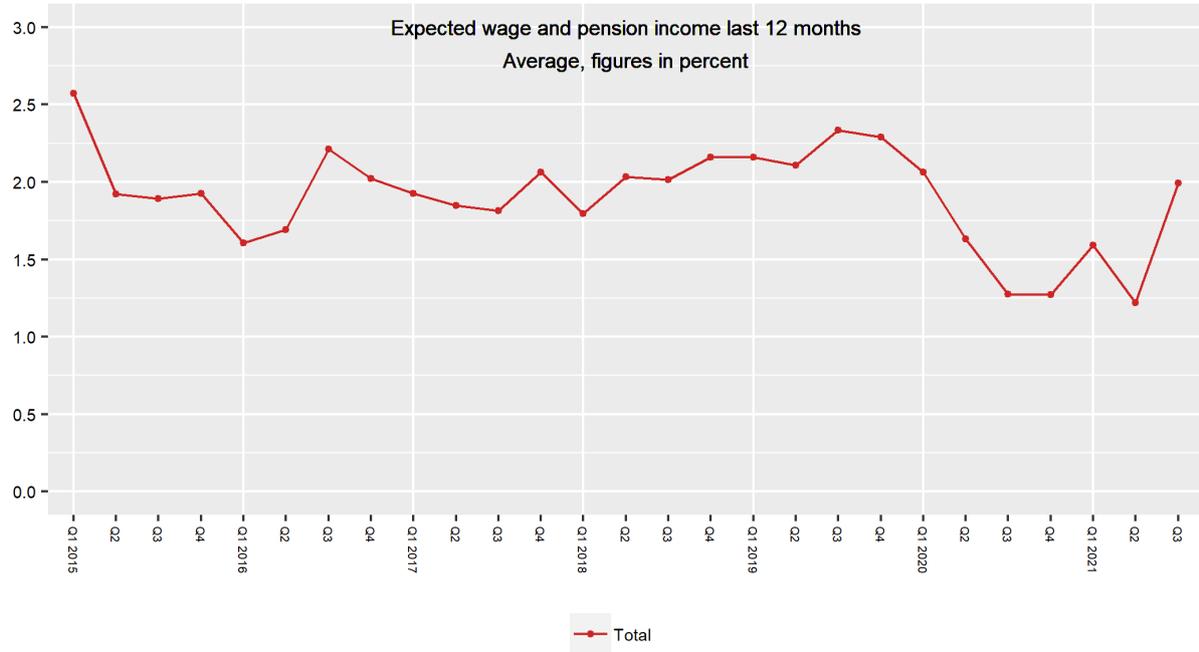


	2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Average	3,7	3,5	-0,2
Weighted median	3,0	3,0	
Unweighted median	3,0	3,0	
Lowest value	-10,0	-10,0	
Highest value	11,0	10,0	
Sample	703	674*	

*n=1006. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=272, extreme values n=61.

Question 33: HOUSEHOLDS

Compared with 12 months ago, by how much do you think your wages or pension has changed in percent?

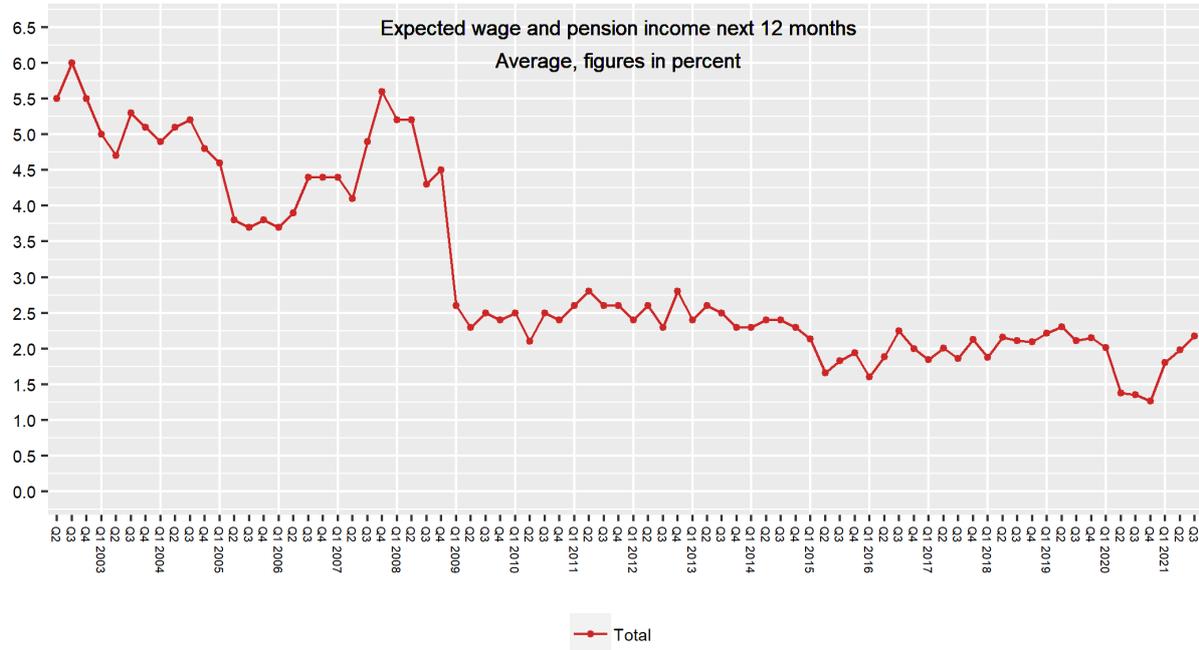


		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Average	1,2	2,0	+0,8
	Weighted median	0,5	2,0	
	Unweighted median	1,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	-11,0	-10,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	774	754*	

*n=1006. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=187, extreme values n=65.

Question 34: HOUSEHOLDS

By approximately how much do you think your wages or pension will change in percent over the next 12 months?

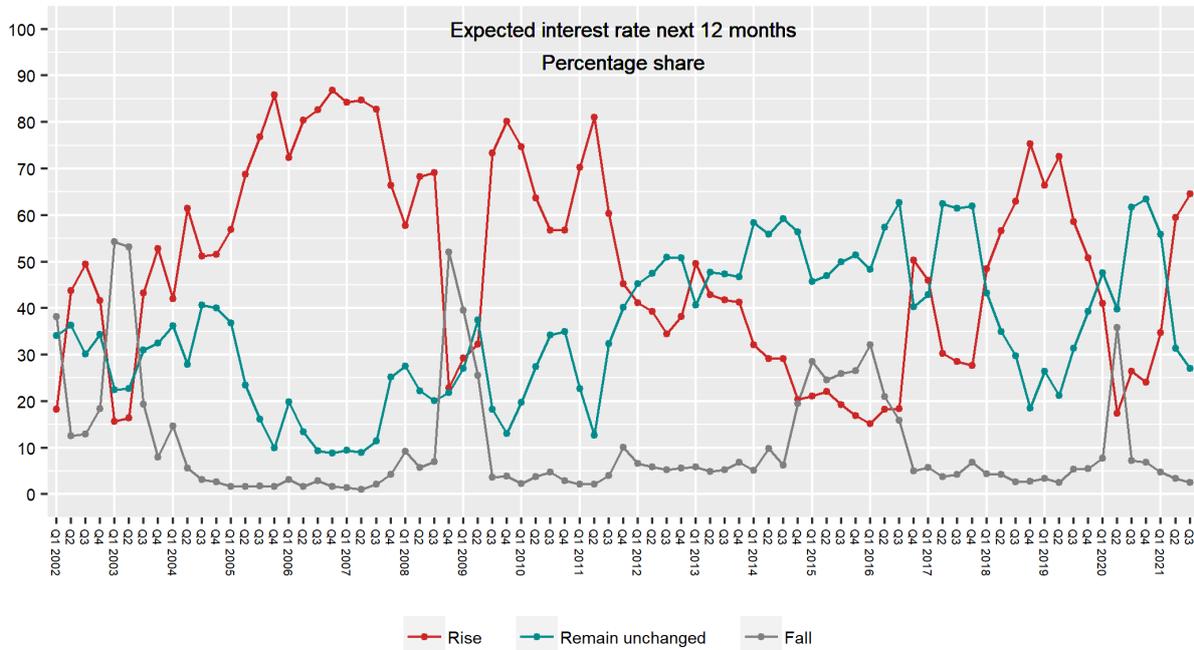


		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Average	2,0	2,2	+0,2
	Weighted median	2,0	2,0	
	Unweighted median	2,0	2,0	
	Lowest value	-10,0	-10,0	
	Highest value	10,0	10,0	
	Sample	792	805*	

*n=1006. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer n=142, extreme values n=60.

Question 35: HOUSEHOLDS

Do you think that over the next 12 months, the level of deposit and lending rates will rise, remain unchanged or fall?



		2. Q. 2021	3. Q. 2021	CHANGE
Households	Rise	59,5	64,5	+5,0
	Remain unchanged	31,4	27,1	-4,3
	Fall	3,3	2,5	-0,8
	Sample	1006	1006	

Technical comments – Economists and social partners

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING METHOD	The sample consists of experts in the financial industry, academia and social partners, enrolled by Ipsos through email and from respondent lists from the previously conducted surveys. The lists are corrected for respondents who are no longer relevant, or no longer wish to participate.
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	In this survey, a total of 72 interviews are conducted among economists within academia and the financial industry, as well as representatives of the social partners. The survey includes 41 interviews with economists and 31 interviews with representatives of the social partners.
WEIGHT	The results in this survey are not weighted.
METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork is done online. Respondents are invited to participate by email.
PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork was conducted in the period 21 July – 10 August 2021.
AVERAGE AND MEDIAN	Respondents who answered “I don’t know” are not included in the calculation of average and/or median.
EXTREME OBSERVATIONS	Extreme observations over 8 per cent (absolute value) are excluded from the presentation of the average figures for price and wage inflation.
MARGIN OF ERROR	The results must be interpreted within a margin of error of +/- 6.2–14.1 percentage points for the main frequencies. The margin of error for sub-groups and possible contingency tables are greater.

Changes in the questionnaire (2015–2020)

¹: Until Q1 2020, questions 1-3 and 9-11 have had the following follow up question: “How likely do you think it is that the general rise in prices for goods and services in (12 months / 2 years / 5 years), as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI) , will be within the following 6 intervals (your answers should sum to 100%): Higher than 4%, From 3% to 4%, From 2,5% to 3%, From 2% to 2,5%, From 1% to 2%, Lower than 1%.” The results from the follow up question have not been published in the report. The follow up question have been removed as of Q1 2020.

Technical comments – Business leaders

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING METHOD	The sample consists of a representative sample of CEOs, CFOs and purchasing managers in Norwegian businesses with 20 employees or more. The sample is a blend of pre-recruited panel and business leaders recruited via CATI/telephone. All interviews are done online.
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	A total of 568 (weighted) interviews have been conducted among business leaders, of which 284 (weighted) are for businesses with 50 employees or more, and 284 (weighted) are for businesses with less than 50 employees.
WEIGHT	The results in this survey are weighted based on the following variables: geography (region), sector (industry), and number of employees in the business. Weighted base is presented in the report.
METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork is done online. Respondents are invited to participate by email/SMS. Most of the sample is from a pre-recruited panel, while a part was recruited for this survey via CATI/telephone.
PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork was conducted in the period 21 July – 10 August 2021.
AVERAGE AND MEDIAN	Respondents who answered “I don’t know” are not included in the calculation of average and/or median.
EXTREME OBSERVATIONS	Extreme observations over 11 per cent (absolute value) are excluded from the presentation of the average figures for price and wage inflation.
MARGIN OF ERROR	The results must be interpreted within a margin of error of +/- 1.9–4.5 percentage points for the main frequencies. The margin of error for subgroups and possible contingency tables are greater.

Changes in the questionnaire (2015–2020)

². Question 15 was introduced Q3 2020. All question numbers are adjusted between the quarters.

³. Question 17 changed from «What do you think the general rise in prices will be in two years?» to «What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in two years, as measured by the consumer price index?» (1. Q. 2015)

⁴. Question 22 changed from «Over the past 12 months, has the profitability of your business improved, remained unchanged or weakened?» to «Over the past 12 months, has the profitability of your business, as measured by the operating margin (EBITDA), improved, remained unchanged or weakened?» (1. Q. 2015)

⁵. Question 23 changed from «Do you think that over the next 12 months, the profitability of your business will improve, remain unchanged or weaken?» to «Do you think that over the next 12 months, the profitability of your business, as measured by the operating margin (EBITDA), will improve, remain unchanged or weaken?» (1. Q. 2015)

⁶. Question 24 changed from «Compared with 1 year earlier, does your business currently have more employees, the same number of employees or fewer employees?» to «Compared with 12 months earlier, does your business currently have more employees, the same number of employees or fewer employees?» (1. Q. 2015)

⁷. Until Q1 2020, question 16 and 17 have had the following follow up question: “How likely do you think it is that the general rise in prices for goods and services in (12 months / 2 years), as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI), will be within the following 6 intervals (your answers should sum to 100%): Higher than 4%, From 3% to 4%, From 2,5% to 3%, From 2% to 2,5%, From 1% to 2%, Lower than 1%”. The results from the follow up question have not been published in the report. The follow up question has been removed as of Q1 2020.

⁸. Questions 36 and 37 were introduced in Q4 2020. With regard to data processing, these have been given numbers 36 and 37 and therefore do not follow the remaining question numbering.

Technical comments – Households

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING METHOD	The survey is conducted with a representative sample of private individuals over 15 years, drawn randomly from Norway's population. Interviews conducted on landline account for 2 per cent, and interviews conducted on mobile phone account for 98 per cent.
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	A total of 1006 interviews (weighted) among Norwegian households.
WEIGHT	The results in this survey are weighted based on the following variables: geography (region), age and gender. Weighted base is presented in the report.
METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork is conducted by phone at Ipsos' CATI-center.
PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork was conducted in the period 2 August – 8 August 2021.
AVERAGE AND MEDIAN	Respondents who answered "I don't know" are not included in the calculation of average and/or median.
EXTREME OBSERVATIONS	Extreme observations over 11 per cent (absolute value) are excluded from the presentation of the average figures for price and wage inflation.
MARGIN OF ERROR	The results must be interpreted within a margin of error of +/- 1.4–3.2 percentage points for the main frequencies. The margin of error for sub-groups and possible contingency tables are greater.

Changes in the questionnaire (2015–2021)

⁹ Question 26 changed from «Compared with 12 months ago, do you think that prices for goods and services are now much higher, somewhat higher, slightly higher, approximately unchanged and lower» to «Compared with 12 months ago, do you think that prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index, are now higher, approximately unchanged or lower?» (1. Q. 2015)

¹⁰ Question 27 changed from «By about how much do you think prices have changed measured in per cent?» to «About how much higher/lower, measured in per cent?». Question 27 is put to those who answered to question 26 that they think prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index, are now higher, approximately unchanged or lower. (1. Q. 2015)

¹¹ Question 28 changed from «Do you think that over the next 12 months, prices for goods and services will be higher, unchanged or lower than they are currently?» to «Do you think that over the next 12 months, prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index, will be higher, unchanged or lower than they are currently?» (1. Q. 2015)

¹² Question 29 changed from «By about how much do you think prices will change in the next 12 months, measured in per cent?» to «About how much higher/lower, measured in per cent?». Question 29 is put to those who answered to question 28 that, over the next 12 months, they expect the prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index, to be higher, unchanged or lower than they are currently. (1. Q. 2015)

¹³ Question 30 changed from «If higher: Will prices rise faster, at the same pace as currently, or more slowly?» to «Will prices rise faster, at the same pace as currently, or more slowly (If answered higher to question 28)?» (1. Q. 2015)

¹⁴ Question 32 changed from «How much do you think prices for goods and services will rise annually in two to three years, in per cent?» to «How much do you think prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index, will rise annually in two to three years, in per cent?» (1. Q. 2015)

¹⁵ Until Q1 2020, question 26, 28 and 32 have had the following follow up question: "You answered that the prices (have increased by X% / have fallen approximately X% / are approximately unchanged) ... (text from question 26, 28 and 32). On a scale from 1 to 4, where 1 is very unsure and 4 is very sure, how sure do you feel that you will be right?" The results from the follow up question have not been published in the report. The follow up question has been removed as of Q1 2020.

¹⁶ New questions added in Q2 2021, and presented as question 38, 39 and 40. These are removed.

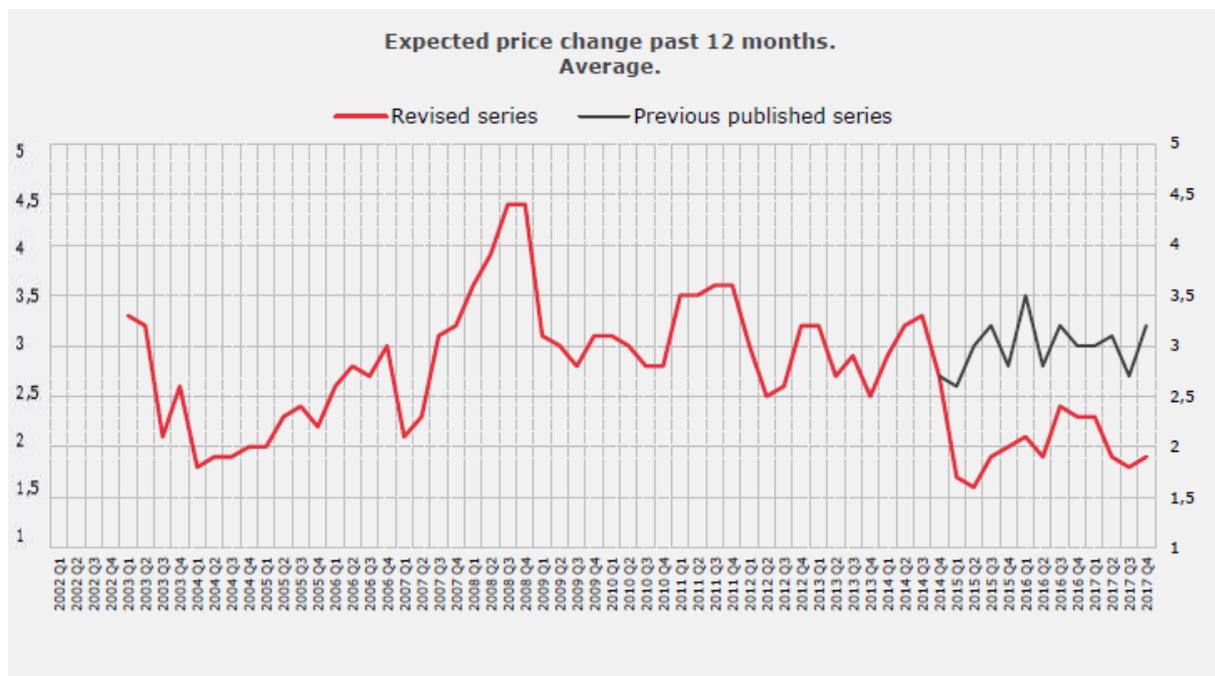
Technical comments – Households

Question 27: By about how much do you think prices have changed measured in per cent?
 (Comparison of differences in published average for question 26 in the period of 2015 - 2017)

The method for calculating the mean for historical figures in the period of 2015-2017 has been changed; the figures presented in the graph below as “Revised series” are comparable with the results published for the period before 2015.

Results published in the period of 2015-2017 as “Revised series” include those who answer “approximately unchanged” to question 25 as “0” in the mean calculations for question 26.

Results published in the period of 2015-2017 as “the previous published series” do not include those who answer “approximately unchanged” to question 26 as “0” in the mean calculation for question 27.



Technical comments - Households

Question 29: About how much higher/lower, measured in per cent?

(Comparison of differences in published average for question 28 in the period of 2015-2017)

The method for calculating the mean for historical figures in the period 2015-2017 has been changed; the figures presented in the graph below as “Revised series” are comparable with the results published for the period before 2015.

Results in the period of 2015-2017 as “Revised series” include those who answer “unchanged” to question 27 as “0” in the mean calculation for question 28.

Results published in the period of 2015-2017 as “the previous published series” do not include those who answer “unchanged” to question 28 as “0” in the mean calculation for question 29.

