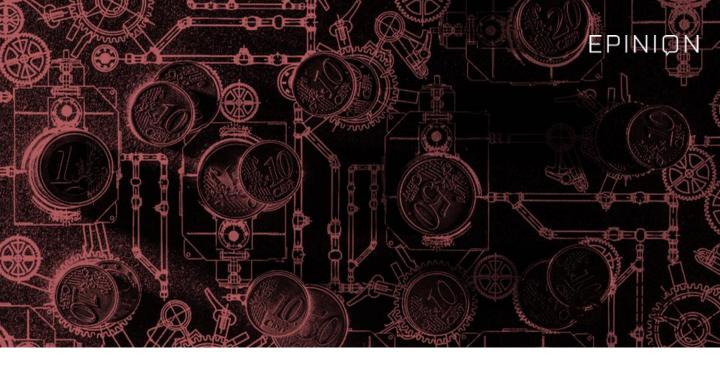


## **EXPECTATIONS SURVEY FOR NORGES BANK** 2019 Q1

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

21 February 2019



### PREFACE

On commission by Norges Bank, Epinion 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. Epinion has published the survey from 2015 Q1. The survey was previously carried out by Opinion and TNS Gallup.

Stavanger, February 2019

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## SUMMARY FOR Q1 2019

### Short-term price inflation

The economists surveyed expect goods and services inflation 12 months ahead to be 2.5%, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. The social partners expect goods and services inflation to be 2.4% 12 months ahead, unchanged from the previous quarter. Business leaders expect goods and services inflation 12 months ahead to be 2.6%, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Households expect goods and services inflation to be 2.1% 12 months ahead.

### Expected annual wage growth

The economists expect annual wage growth of 2.9% in 2019. Expected annual wage growth among the social partners is 3.1%. Business leaders expect annual wage growth in their own companies of 2.9% in 2019. Households expect wage and pension income growth of 2.2% in the next 12 months, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

### Expected profitability

38.4% of business leaders expect profitability to improve over the next 12 months, up 6.9 percentage points from the previous quarter. 37.3% of business leaders expect profitability to remain unchanged over the next 12 months, down 1.9 percentage points from the previous quarter, and 18.9% expect profitability to weaken, up 1.6 percentage points from the previous quarter.

### Brief summary of individual results for economists

### **Inflation**

Economists expect inflation to be 2.5% in 12 months, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Expected annual inflation in 2 years is 2.4%, unchanged from the previous quarter. Economists' expectations of annual inflation 5 years ahead is 2.3%, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

### Expected annual wage growth

The economists expect annual wage growth to be 2.9% in 2019. Annual wage growth is expected to be 2.9% for next year. The economists expect annual wage growth in 5 years to be 2.8%, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

### The krone exchange rate

70.2% of the economists expect the effective krone exchange rate (measured by the trade-weighted krone exchange rate) to be stronger in 12 months, up 14.9 percentage points from the previous quarter. 21.3% expect the effective krone exchange rate to be unchanged in 12 months, down 10.6 percentage points from the previous quarter. 8.5% of the economists expect the effective krone exchange rate to be weaker in 12 months, down 2.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Average expected appreciation of the krone exchange rate in 12 months is 3.2%, up 0.7 percentage point from the previous quarter.

### Brief summary of individual results for social partners

### <u>Inflation</u>

The social partners expect inflation to be 2.4% in 12 months, unchanged from the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect inflation in 12 months to be 2.3%, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Employee organisations expect inflation to be 2.6% in 12 months, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

Expected annual inflation in 2 years among the social partners is 2.6%, unchanged from the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect inflation to be 2.3% in 2 years, down 0.2 percentage point from the previous quarter. Employee organisations expect inflation in 2 years to be 2.9%, up 0.2 percentage point from the previous quarter.

The social partners expect annual inflation of 2.5% in 5 years, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Employer organisations expect inflation to be 2.2% in 5 years, down 0.5 percentage point from the previous quarter. Employee organisations expect annual inflation in 5 years to be 2.7%, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

#### Expected annual wage growth

The social partners expect annual wage growth for 2019 to be 3.1%. Employer organisations expect annual wage growth to be 3.0% for 2019, while employee organisations expect annual wage growth of 3.2%.

The social partners expect annual wage growth of 3.2% next year. Employer organisations expect annual wage growth of 3.0% for next year. Employee organisations expect annual wage growth of 2020 to be 3.3%.

The social partners expect average annual wage growth of 3.1% in 5 years, unchanged from the previous quarter.

### Brief summary of individual results for business leaders

#### <u>Inflation</u>

Business leaders expect the goods and services inflation 12 months ahead to be 2.6%, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter. Expected annual inflation in 2 years is 3.0%, unchanged from the previous quarter.

### Purchase and selling prices

21.0% of business leaders expect purchase prices for the company to increase more over the next 12 months compared with the past 12 months, up 1.0 percentage point form the previous quarter. 70.2% expect purchase prices in 12 months to increase about as much as in the first quarter of 2019, down 1.9 percentage point from the previous quarter. 7.8% of business leaders expect purchase prices to increase less than in the past 12 months, up 1.9 percentage point from the previous quarter.

18.1% of business leaders expect the company's selling prices to increase more in the next 12 months compared with the past 12 months, up 1.6 percentage point from the previous quarter. 59.0% expect the company's selling prices to increase about the same, down 2.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. 19.3% of business leaders expect the company's selling prices to increase less the next 12 months, up 5.7 percentage points from the previous quarter.

#### Expected annual wage growth

Business leaders expect annual wage growth of 2.9% in own company for 2019. Annual wage growth is expected to be 2.9% for next year.

### Expected profitability

30.9% of business leaders report that profitability in own company has improved during the past 12 months, up 6.7 percentage points from the previous quarter. 29.8% report that profitability in their own company has remained unchanged the past 12 months, down 2.8 percentage point. 33.8% of business leaders report that profitability in their own company has weakened during the past 12 months, up 2.9 percentage points from the previous quarter.

38.4% of business leaders expect improved profitability in the next 12 months, up 6.9 percentage point from the previous quarter. 37.3% expect profitability to remain unchanged in the next 12 months, down 1.9 percentage points from the previous quarter, and 18.9% of business leaders expect profitability to weaken, up 1.6 percentage point from the previous quarter.

### <u>Employment</u>

33.5% of business leaders expect to have more employees in 12 months, down 3.6 percentage point from the previous quarter. 45.6% expect to have the same number of employees in 12 months, up 4.4 percentage points from the previous quarter, while 20.5% expect to have fewer employees, down 0.6 percentage points from the previous quarter.

### Brief summary of individual results for households

### **Inflation**

72.3% of the households surveyed believe prices for goods and services to be higher now than 12 months ago, up 2.7 percentage points from the previous quarter. 20.4% perceives prices as approximately unchanged, down 2.7 percentage points from the previous quarter, while 3.7% believes prices of goods and services to be lower now than 12 months ago, down 0.6 percentage point. Perceived change in prices over the past 12 months is 2.1%.

77.3% of households expect the prices for goods and services to be higher in the next 12 months, up 3.1 percentage points from the previous quarter. 17.7% expect prices to be unchanged, down 3.1 percentage points from the previous quarter. 3.0% of households expect prices for goods and services in 12 months to be lower than at present, down 0.3 percentage point from the previous quarter. Households expect goods and services inflation in 12 months to be 2.1%.

Households expect annual inflation in 2-3 years to be 3.2%, unchanged from the previous quarter.

### Expected growth in annual wages and pension income

The households surveyed expected growth in wages and pension income of 2.2% the past 12 months, unchanged from the previous quarter. Expected change in wages and pension income the next 12 months is 2.2%, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter.

### Interest rate developments

66.4% of households expect the level of deposit and lending rates to rise over the next 12 months, down 8.9 percentage points from the previous quarter. 26.4% expect the level of deposit and lending rates to remain unchanged, up 7.9 percentage points from the previous quarter. 3.4% of households expect the level of deposit and lending rates to fall over the next 12 months, up 0.6 percentage point from the previous quarter.

### The survey

On commission by Norges Bank, Epinion 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 Epinion (www.epinion.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 2019 Q1 was conducted in the period 28<sup>th</sup> of January – 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### To economists and social partners:

- What do you think 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?
- What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in five years?
- 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 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? (average)
- 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 average wage growth will be this year?
- What do you think average wage growth 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?

### To households:

- 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?
- By about how much do you think prices have changed measured in percent?
- 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?
- About how much higher/lower, measured in percent?
- Will prices rise faster, at the same pace as currently, or more slowly?
- 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 percent?
- Compared with 12 months ago, by how much do you think your wages or pension has changed in percent?
- By approximately how much do you think your wages or pension will change in percent 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. Ecxpected 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. Expected general inflation in 12 months
- 16. Expected general inflation in 2 years
- 17. Expected increase in purchase prices for own business the next 12 months
- 18. Expected increase in selling prices for own business next 12 months
- 19. Expected annual growth in labour costs own business current year
- 20. Expected annual wage growth in own business next year
- 21. Profitability in own business last 12 months
- 22. Profitability in own business next 12 months
- 23. Number of employees today compared to 1 year ago
- 24. Number of employees in 12 months

### Households

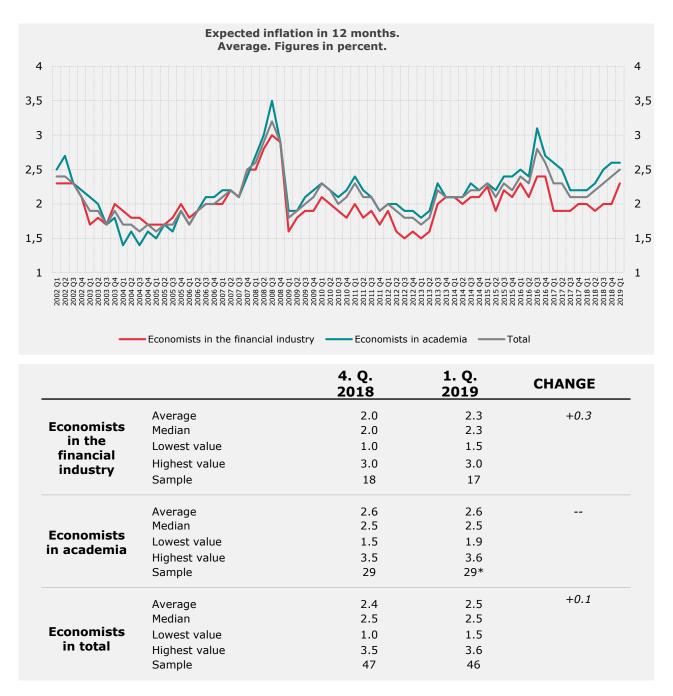
- 25. Perception of price change last 12 months
- 26. Perception of price change last 12 months in percent
- 27. Expected price change next 12 months
- 28. Expected price change next 12 months in percent
- 29. Expected rate of increase next 12 months
- 30. Expected rate of increase next 12 months in percent
- Expected inflation in 2-3 years
- 32. Wage and pension developement last 12 months
- 33. Expected annual wage growth in 1 year in percent
- Expected exchange rate next 12 months



# **RESULTS - ECONOMISTS**

## Question 1: ECONOMISTS

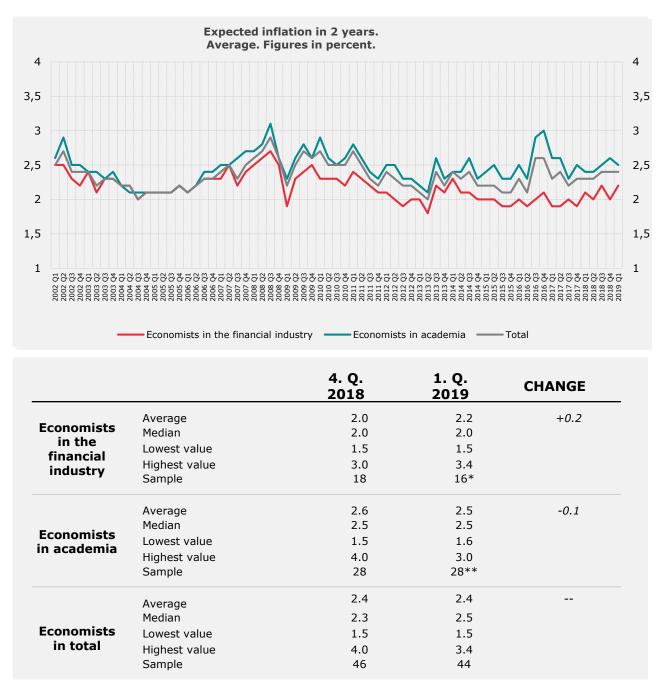
What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



\*N=30. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=1, Extreme values N=0

## Question 2: ECONOMISTS

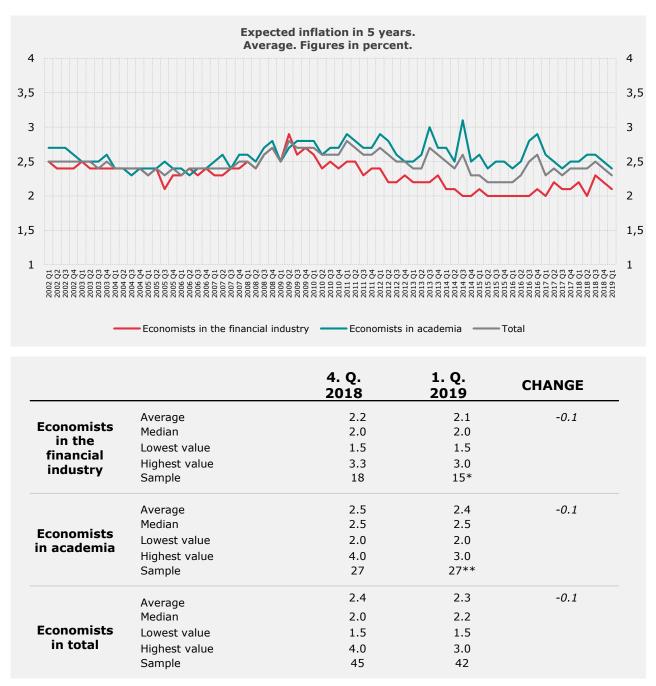
What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in two years?



\*N=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=1, Extreme values N=0 \*\*N=30. 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 five years?



\*N=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=2, Extreme values N=0 \*\*N=30. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=3, Extreme values N=0

## Question 4: ECONOMISTS

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



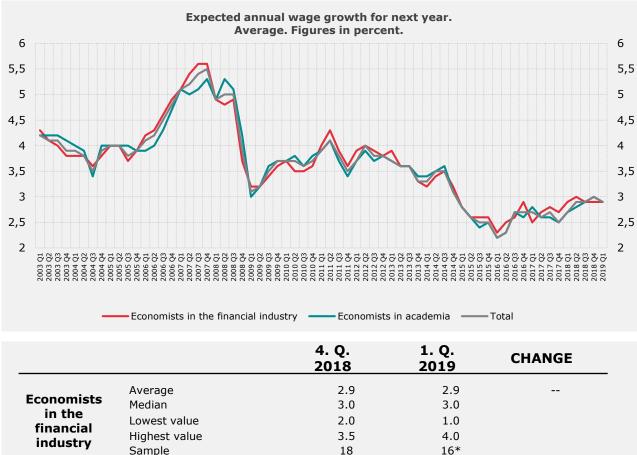
Economists in the financial industry	Economists in academia	Total

		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.7	2.9	+0.2
Economists	Median	2.8	3.0	
in the financial	Lowest value	1.5	1.5	
industry	Highest value	3.5	3.5	
maastiy	Sample	18	17	
	Average	3.0	2.9	-0.1
	Median	3.0	3.0	
Economists in academia	Lowest value	1.8	1.0	
in acauemia	Highest value	4.0	4.0	
	Sample	28	29*	
	Average	2.9	2.9	
	Median	2.9	3.0	
Economists	Lowest value	1.5	1.0	
in total	Highest value	4.0	4.0	
	Sample	46	46	

\*N=30. 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?

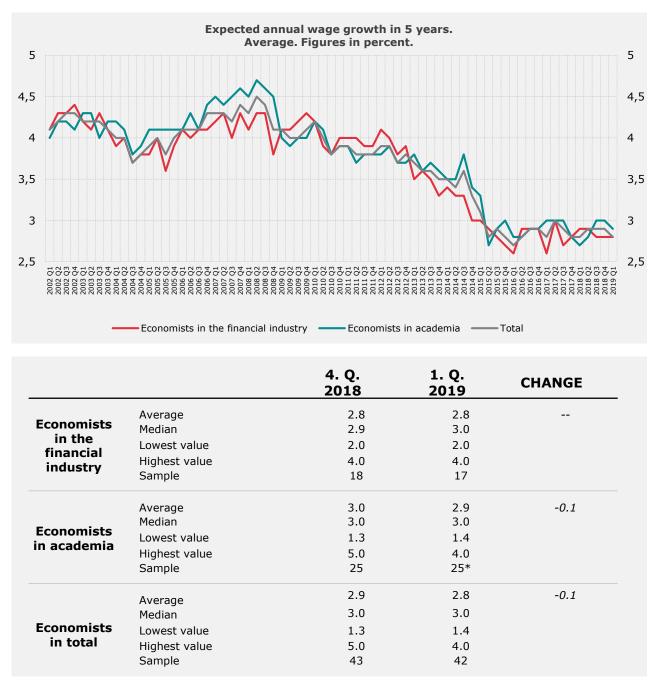


industry	ringhest value	5.5	1.0	
	Sample	18	16*	
	Average	3.0	2.9	-0.1
	Median	3.0	3.0	
Economists	Lowest value	0.4	1.8	
in academia	Highest value	4.0	4.0	
	Sample	28	28**	
	Average	3.0	2.9	-0.1
	Median	3.0	3.0	
Economists in total	Lowest value	0.4	1.0	
	Highest value	4.0	4.0	
	Sample	46	44	

\*N=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=1, Extreme values N=0 \*\*N=30. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=2, Extreme values N=0

## Question 6: ECONOMISTS

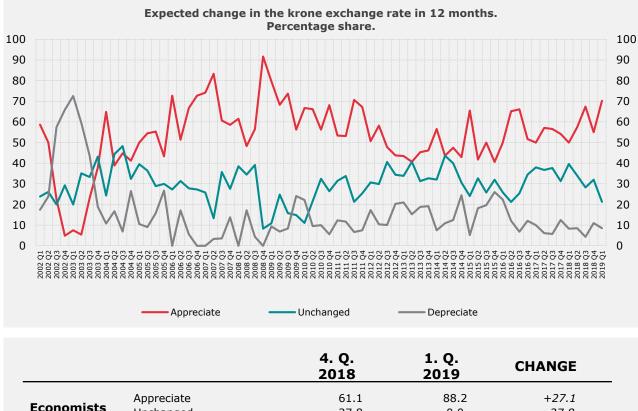
What do you think average wage growth will be in 5 years?



\*N=30. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=5, Extreme values N=0

## Question 7: ECONOMISTS

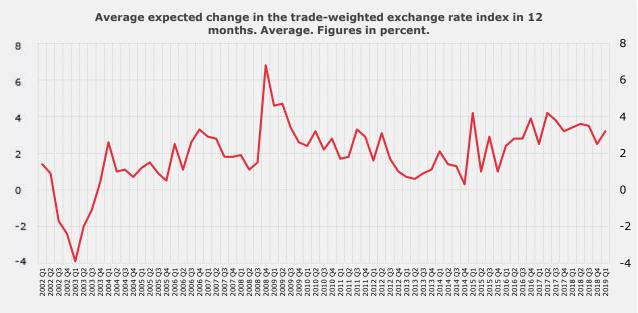
Do you think that in 12 months, the krone exchange rate, as measured by the tradeweighted exchange rate index, will appreciate, remain unchanged or depreciate?



Economists in the financial industry	Appreciate Unchanged Depreciate Sample	61.1 27.8 11.1 18	88.2 0.0 11.8 17	+27.1 -27.8 +0.7
Economists in academia	Appreciate Unchanged Depreciate Sample	51.7 34.5 10.3 29	60.0 33.3 6.7 30	+8.3 -1.2 -3.6
Economists i total	Appreciate Unchanged Depreciate Sample	55.3 31.9 10.6 47	70.2 21.3 8.5 47	+14.9 -10.6 -2.1

## Question 8: ECONOMISTS

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



 Total
 TULAI

		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Economists	Average	2.5	2.5	
in the	Median	3.0	3.0	
financial	Lowest value	-5.0	-2.0	
	Highest value	7.0	5.0	
industry	Sample	11	12*	
	Average	2.6	3.7	+1.1
<b>-</b>	Median	3.5	5.0	
Economists	Lowest value	-5.0	-5.0	
in academia	Highest value	5.0	8.0	
	Sample	10	15**	
	Average	2.5	3.2	+0.7
	Median	3.0	5.0	
Economists	Lowest value	-5.0	-5.0	
in total	Highest value	7.0	8.0	
	Utvalg	21	27	
	-			

\*N=17. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=3, Extreme values N=2 \*\*N=20. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=3, Extreme values N=2



# **RESULTS – SOCIAL PARTNERS**

## Question 9: SOCIAL PARTNERS

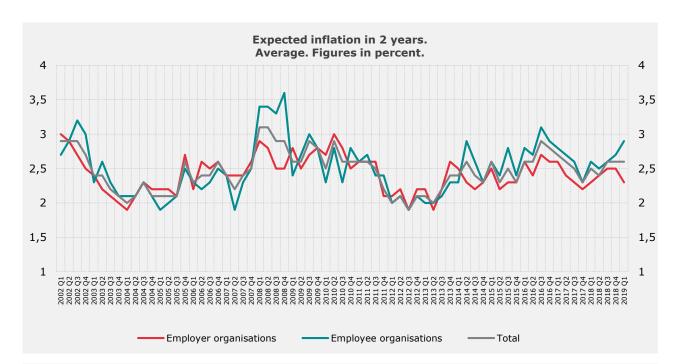
What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in 12 months, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer price index (CPI)?



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.2	2.3	+0.1
Employer	Median	2.0	2.4	
organisations	Lowest value	1.5	1.6	
organisations	Highest value	3.0	3.0	
	Sample	18	15	
	Average	2.5	2.6	+0.1
	Median	2.5	2.5	
Employee	Lowest value	1.8	1.7	
organisations	Highest value	3.2	3.5	
	Sample	17	18	
	Average	2.4	2.4	
Social	Median	2.5	2.5	
partners in	Lowest value	1.5	1.6	
total	Highest value	3.2	3.5	
	Sample	35	33	
		55	55	

## Question 10: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in two years?

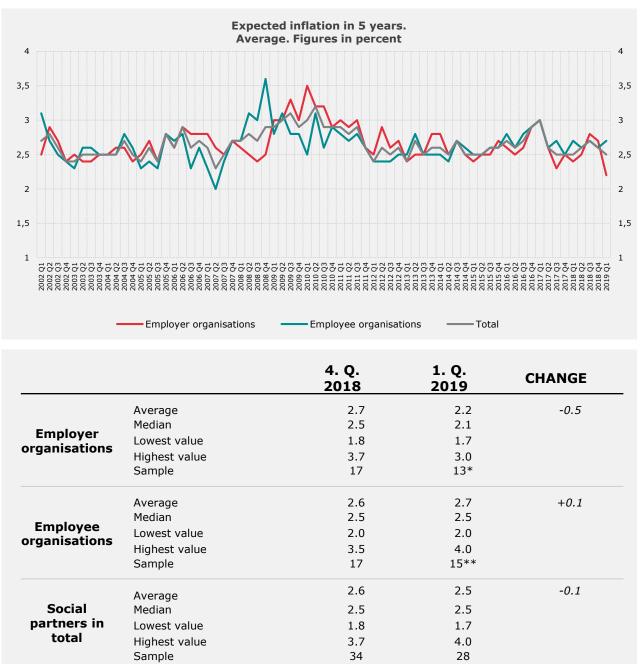


		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.5	2.3	-0.2
<b>F</b>	Median	2.5	2.2	
Employer organisations	Lowest value	1.5	1.4	
organisations	Highest value	3.3	3.0	
	Sample	18	14*	
	Average	2.7	2.9	+0.2
<b>-</b>	Median	2.5	2.7	
Employee	Lowest value	1.5	2.0	
organisations	Highest value	4.0	5.0	
	Sample	17	18	
	Average	2.6	2.6	
Social	Median	2.5	2.5	
partners in	Lowest value	1.5	1.4	
total	Highest value	4.0	5.0	
	Sample	35	32	

\*N=15. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=1, Extreme values N=0

## Question 11: SOCIAL PARTNERS

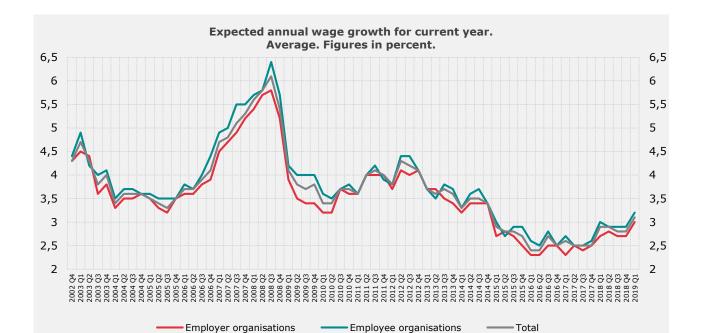
What do you think the general rise in prices for goods and services will be in five years?



\*N=15. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=2, Extreme values N=0 \*\*N=18. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=3, Extreme values N=0

## Question 12: SOCIAL PARTNERS

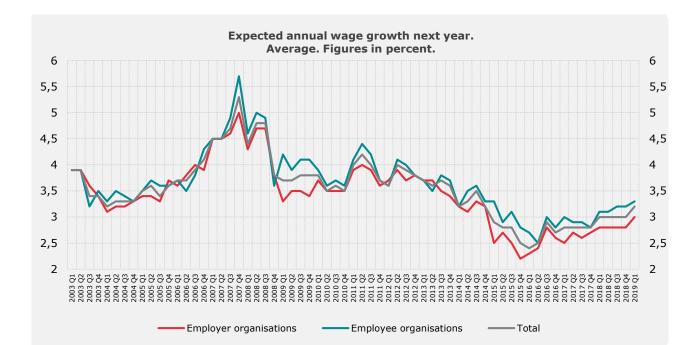
What do you think average wage growth will be this year?



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.7	3.0	+0.3
	Median	2.8	3.0	
Employer	Lowest value	1.8	2.5	
organisations	Highest value	3.0	3.5	
	Sample	18	15	
	Average	2.9	3.2	+0.3
<b>F</b>	Median	2.9	3.2	
Employee	Lowest value	2.6	2.5	
organisations	Highest value	3.3	4.0	
	Sample	17	18	
	Average	2.8	3.1	+0.3
Social	Median	2.9	3.1	
partners in	Lowest value	1.8	2.5	
total	Highest value	3.3	4.0	
	Sample	35	33	
	•			

## Question 13: SOCIAL PARTNERS

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

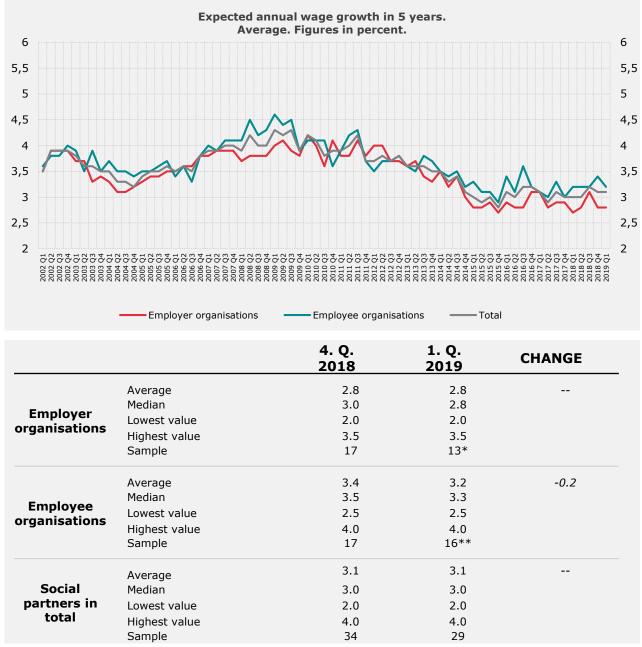


		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.8	3.0	+0.2
Employer	Median	3.0	3.0	
organisations	Lowest value	2.0	2.5	
Sigamsations	Highest value	3.4	3.7	
	Sample	17	14*	
	Average	3.2	3.3	+0.1
<b>F</b>	Median	3.2	3.3	
Employee organisations	Lowest value	2.8	3.0	
organisations	Highest value	3.5	4.3	
	Sample	17	18	
	Average	3.0	3.2	+0.2
Social	Median	3.1	3.1	
partners in	Lowest value	2.0	2.5	
total	Highest value	3.5	4.3	
	Sample	34	32	

\*N=15. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=1, Extreme values N=0

## Question 14: SOCIAL PARTNERS

What do you think average wage growth will be in 5 years?



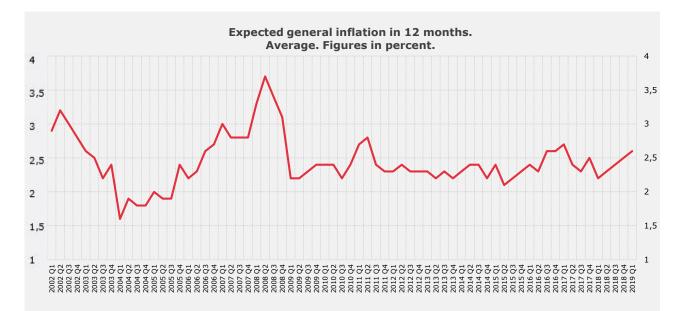
\*N=15. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=2, Extreme values N=0 \*\*N=18. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=2, Extreme values N=0



## **RESULTS – BUSINESS LEADERS**

## Question 15: 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)?

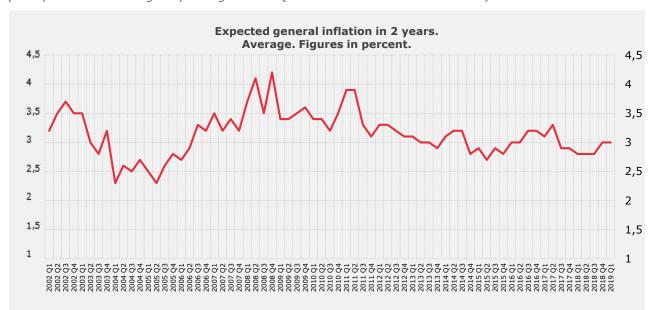


		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.5	2.6	+0.1
Businesses	Median	2.5	2.6	
with fewer than 50	Lowest value	0.1	0.0	
employees	Highest value	7.0	4.1	
employees	Sample	193	190*	
	Average	2.5	2.6	+0.1
Businesses	Median	2.5	2.7	
with more than 50	Lowest value	0.0	0.1	
employees	Highest value	4.0	5.0	
employees	Sample	270	239**	
	Average	2.5	2.6	+0.1
Business	Median	2.5	2.6	
leaders in	Lowest value	0.0	0.0	
total	Highest value	7.0	5.0	
	Sample	463	429	

\*N=209. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=19, Extreme values N=0 \*\*N=254. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=15, Extreme values N=0

## Question 16: BUSINESS LEADERS

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? (*The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment*)<sup>1.</sup>



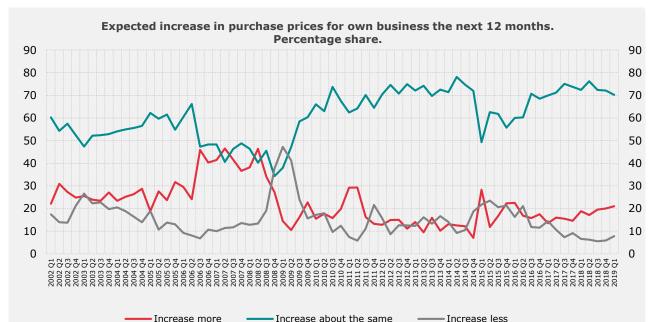
— Total

		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	3.0	3.1	+0.1
Businesses	Median	2.8	2.9	
with fewer	Lowest value	1.0	-1.0	
than 50	Highest value	7.0	8.0	
employees	Sample	179	177*	
	Average	3.0	3.0	
Businesses	Median	3.0	2.6	
with more	Lowest value	0.8	0.5	
than 50	Highest value	7.0	8.0	
employees	Sample	265	238**	
	Average	3.0	3.0	
Business	Median	3.0	2.7	
leaders in	Lowest value	0.8	-1.0	
total	Highest value	7.0	8.0	
	Sample	444	415	
	•			

\*N=209. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=31, Extreme values N=1 \*N=255. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=17, Extreme values N=0

## Question 17: BUSINESS LEADERS

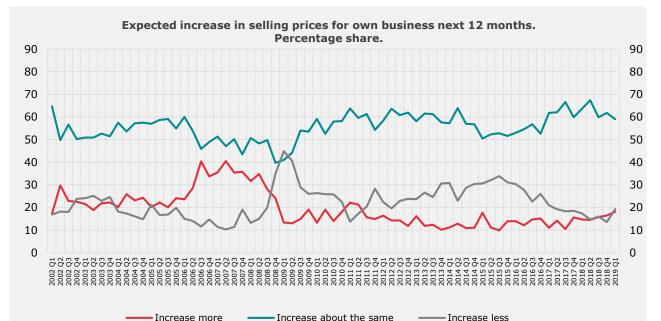
Do you expect that over the next 12 months your business's purchase prices will increase more than, increase at approximately the same pace as or increase less than in the past 12-month period?



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Businesses	Increase more	20.3	21.0	+0.7
with fewer	Increase about the same	69.1	70.2	+1.1
than 50	Increase less	7.1	8.5	+1.4
employees	Sample	214	209	
Businesses	Increase more	19.8	21.0	+1.2
with more	Increase about the same	74.4	70.2	-4.2
than 50 employees	Increase less	5.0	7.2	+2.2
	Sample	285	254	
	Increase more	20.0	21.0	+1.0
Business	Increase about the same	72.1	70.2	-1.9
leaders in	Increase less	5.9	7.8	+1.9
total	Sample	499	464	

## Question 18: 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?



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Businesses	Increase more	18.0	15.8	-2.2
with fewer	Increase about the same	57.1	61.0	+3.9
than 50	Increase less	16.4	21.6	+5.2
employees	Sample	214	209	
Businesses	Increase more	15.3	20.0	+4.7
with more	Increase about the same	65.4	57.3	-8.1
than 50	Increase less	11.6	17.5	+5.9
employees	Sample	285	254	
	Increase more	16.5	18.1	+1.6
Business	Increase about the same	61.8	59.0	-2.8
leaders in total	Increase less	13.6	19.3	+5.7
	Sample	499	464	

### Question 19: BUSINESS LEADERS

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



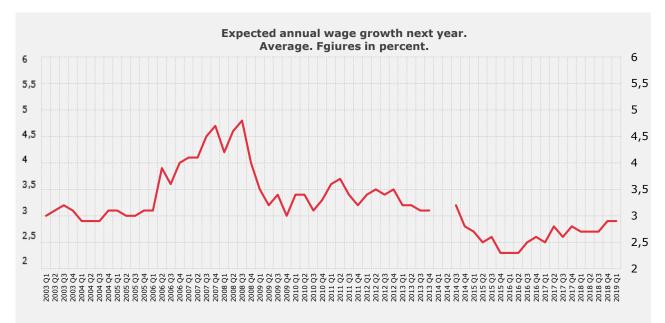
- Total

		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Ducinococo	Average	2.7	2.9	+0.2
Businesses with fewer	Median	2.8	3.0	
than 50	Lowest value	0.0	0.0	
employees	Highest value	10.0	6.0	
employees	Sample	195	202*	
_ ·	Average	2.8	2.9	+0.1
Businesses	Median	2.8	3.0	
with more	Lowest value	0.5	0.0	
than 50	Highest value	8.0	6.5	
employees	Sample	279	248**	
	Average	2.8	2.9	+0.1
Business	Median	2.8	3.0	
leaders in	Lowest value	0.0	0.0	
total	Highest value	10.0	6.5	
	Sample	474	450	

\*N=209. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=7, Extreme values N=0 \*N=254. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=6, Extreme values N=0

## Question 20: BUSINESS LEADERS

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



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.9	2.9	
Businesses	Median	3.0	3.0	
with fewer	Lowest value	0.0	0.0	
than 50 employees	Highest value	10.0	7.0	
employees	Sample	194	196*	
D	Average	2.9	2.9	
Businesses with more	Median	3.0	3.0	
than 50	Lowest value	0.0	0.0	
employees	Highest value	8.0	10.0	
employees	Sample	277	245**	
	Average	2.9	2.9	
Business	Median	3.0	3.0	
leaders in	Lowest value	0.0	0.0	
total	Highest value	10.0	10.0	
	Sample	471	441	

\*N=209. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=12, Extreme values N=1 \*N=255. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=10, Extreme values N=0

## Question 21: 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*)<sup>2.</sup>



<ul> <li>Profitability</li> </ul>	index	last	12	months
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		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Improved profitability	21.0	31.9	+10.9
Businesses	Unchanged profitability	36.3	32.1	-4.2
with fewer	Weakened profitability	32.5	33.6	+1.1
than 50 employees	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	-11.5	-1.7	+9.8
	Sample	214	209	
	Improved profitability	26.6	30.2	+3.6
Businesses	Unchanged profitability	29.9	28.0	-1.9
with more than 50 employees	Weakened profitability	29.8	34.0	+4.2
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	-3.2	-3.8	-0.6
	Sample	285	254	
	Improved profitability	24.2	30.9	+6.7
Business	Unchanged profitability	32.6	29.8	-2.8
Business	Weakened profitability	30.9	33.8	+2.9
leaders in total	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	-6.7	-2.9	+3.8
	Sample	499	464	

## Question 22: 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)<sup>3.</sup>

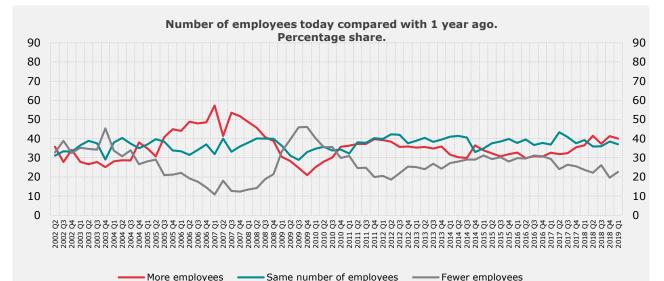


#### Profitability index next 12 months

		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Improved profitability	30.2	40.9	+10.7
Businesses	Will remain unchanged	40.5	39.3	-1.2
with fewer	Weakened profitability	18.5	16.8	-1.7
than 50 employees	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	11.7	24.1	+12.4
	Sample	214	209	
	Improved profitability	32.4	36.3	+3.9
Businesses	Will remain unchanged	38.2	35.7	-2.5
with more than 50 employees	Weakened profitability	16.4	20.6	+4.2
	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	16.0	15.7	-0.3
	Sample	285	254	
	Improved profitability	31.5	38.4	+6.9
<b>D</b>	Will remain unchanged	39.2	37.3	-1.9
Business	Weakened profitability	17.3	18.9	+1.6
leaders in total	Net percentage balance (profitability index)	14.2	19.5	+5.3
	Sample	499	464	

## Question 23: BUSINESS LEADERS

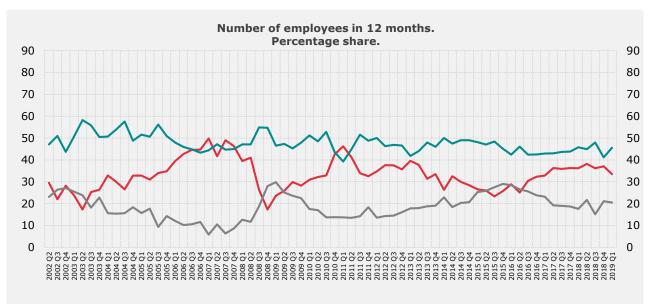
Compared with 12 months earlier, does your business currently have more employees, the same number of employees or fewer employees? (*The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment*)<sup>4.</sup>



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	More employees	46.3	41.0	-5.3
Businesses	Same number of employees	36.9	35.6	-1.3
with fewer	Fewer employees	15.5	23.4	+7.9
than 50 employees	Net (more employees – fewer employees)	30.8	17.6	-13.2
employees	Sample	214	209	
	More employees	37.6	39.1	+1.5
Businesses	Same number of employees	39.7	38.4	-1.3
with more	Fewer employees	22.7	21.9	-0.8
than 50 employees	Net (more employees – fewer employees)	14.9	17.2	+2.3
cinployees	Sample	285	254	
	More employees	41.3	40.0	-1.3
Business	Same number of employees	38.5	37.1	-1.4
	Fewer employees	19.6	22.6	+3.0
leaders in total	Net (more employees – fewer employees)	21.7	17.4	-4.3
	Sample	499	464	

## Question 24: 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?



More employed	ployees
---------------	---------

Same number of employees

Fewer employees

		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	More employees	37.5	36.6	-0.9
Businesses	Same number of employees	47.4	47.9	+0.5
with fewer	Fewer employees	13.7	15.6	+1.9
than 50 employees	Net (more employees – fewer employees)	23.8	21.0	-2.8
	Sample	214	209	
	More employees	36.7	31.0	-5.7
Businesses	Same number of employees	36.6	43.7	+7.1
with more than 50 employees	Fewer employees	26.7	24.6	-2.1
	Net (more employees – fewer employees)	10.0	6.4	-3.6
employees	Sample	285	254	
	More employees	37.1	33.5	-3.6
<b>D</b>	Same number of employees	41.2	45.6	+4.4
Business	Fewer employees	21.1	20.5	-0.6
leaders in total	Net (more employees – fewer employees)	16.0	13.0	-3.0
	Sample	499	464	
	•			



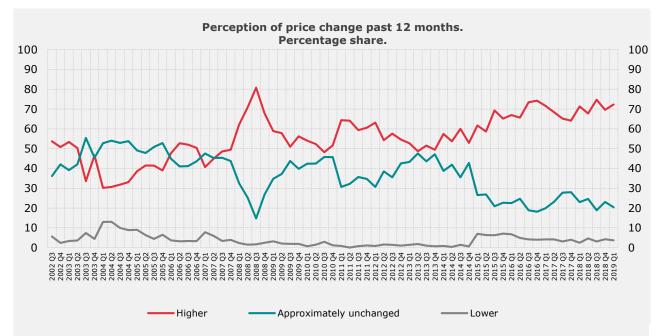
# **RESULTS – HOUSEHOLDS**

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# Question 25: HUSHOLDNINGENE HOUSEHOLDS

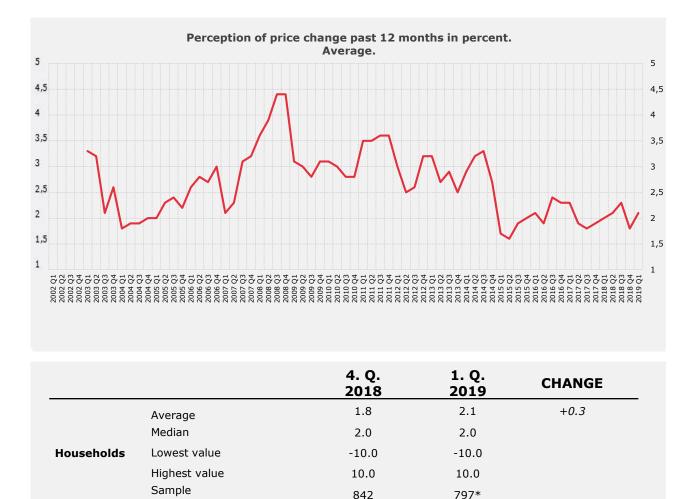
Compared with 12 months ago, do you think that prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index, are now higher, approximately unchanged or lower? (*The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment*)<sup>5.</sup>



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Households	Higher	69.6	72.3	+2.7
	Approximately unchanged	23.1	20.4	-2.7
	Lower	4.3	3.7	-0.6
	Sample	1024	1012	

# Question 26: HOUSEHOLDS

By about how much do you think prices have changed measured in percent? (*The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment*)<sup>6.</sup>



\*N=973. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=156, Extreme values N=20

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 27: HOUSEHOLDS

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? (*The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment*)<sup>7.</sup>

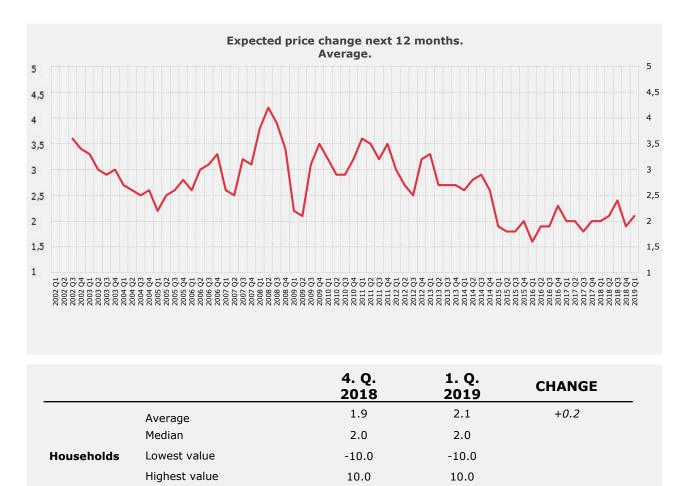


		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Households	Higher	74.2	77.3	+3.1
	Unchanged	20.8	17.7	-3.1
	Lower	3.3	3.0	-0.3
	Sample	1024	1012	

## **Question 28: HOUSEHOLDS**

Sample

About how much higher/lower, measured in percent? (The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)<sup>8.</sup>



852 \*N=992. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=142, Extreme values N=22

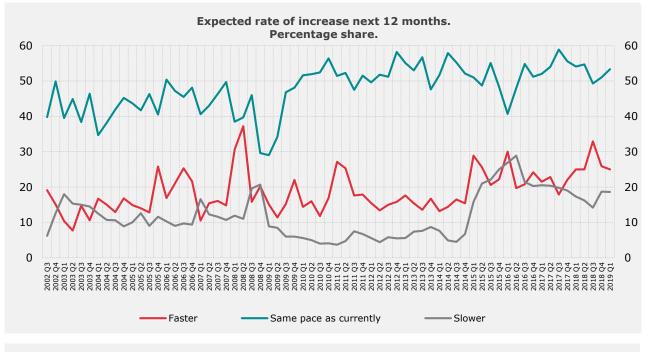
828\*

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 guestion 27 with the value "0" in the mean calculation. See technical comment on page 51 for households for further description.

## Question 29: HOUSEHOLDS

Will prices rise faster, at the same pace as currently, or more slowly? (*If answered higher on question 27*)

(The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment)<sup>9.</sup>



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Households	Faster	25.9	25.0	-0.9
	Same pace as currently	51.0	53.3	+2.3
	Slower	18.7	18.6	-0.1
	Sample	629	649	

## Question 30: 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 27 and 29.

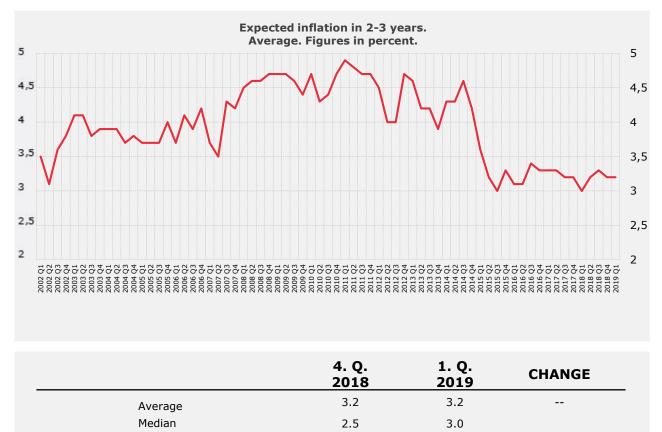


Will increase faster than today Will stay at approximately the same level as today Will increase at the same pace as today Will increase at a slower pace than today Will be somewhat lower than today

		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Households	Will increase faster than today	15.9	16.1	+0.2
	Will increase at the same pace as today	31.3	34.3	+3.0
	Will increase at a slower pace than today	11.5	11.9	+0.4
	Wiil stay at approximately the same level as today	20.7	17.7	-3.0
	Will be somewhat lower than today	3.0	2.1	-0.9
	Sample	1024	1012	

# Question 31: HOUSEHOLDS

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 percent? (*The question was marginally changed from Q1 2015 – see technical comment*)<sup>10.</sup>



Households	Lowest value	0.0	0.0
	Highest value	10.0	10.0
	Sample	727	758*

\*N=1012. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=216, Extreme values N=37

# Question 32: HOUSEHOLDS

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

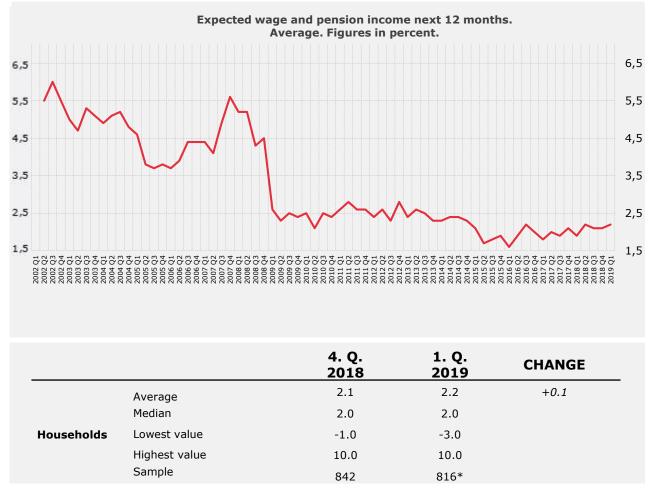


		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
	Average	2.2	2.2	
Households	Median	2.0	2.0	
	Lowest value	-10.0	-3.0	
	Highest value	11.0	10.0	
	Sample	815	788*	

\*N=1012. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=192, Extreme values N=31

# Question 33: HOUSEHOLDS

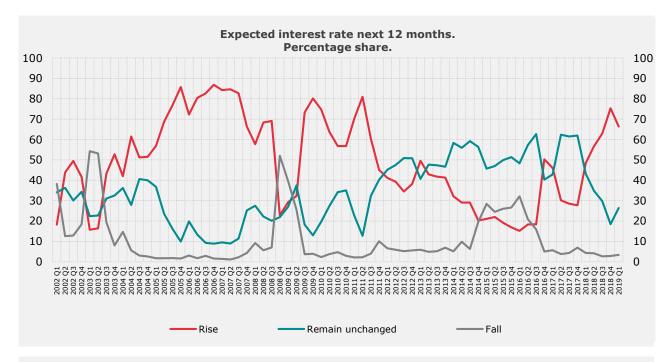
By approximately how much do you think your wage or pension income will change in percent over the next 12 months?



\*N=1012. The presented sample exclude respondents who answered: Don't know/Do not want to answer N=164, Extreme values N=32

# Question 34: HOUSEHOLDS

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



		4. Q. 2018	1. Q. 2019	CHANGE
Households	Rise	75.3	66.4	-8.9
	Remain unchanged	18.5	26.4	+7.9
	Fall	2.8	3.4	+0.6
	Sample	1024	1012	



# TECHNICAL COMMENTS- ECONOMISTS AND SOCIAL PARTNERS

SAMPLE AND METHOD OF SAMPELING	The sample consists of experts in the financial industry, academia and social partners, enrolled by Epinion through e- mail 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 80 interviews are conducted among economists within academia and the financial industry, as well as representatives of the social partners. The survey includes 47 interviews with economists and 33 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 using the data collection tool IBM-SPSS. Respondents are invited to participate by e-mail.
PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork is conducted in the time period of $28^{th}$ of January – $13^{th}$ February 2019.
AVERAGE AND MEDIAN	Respondents who answer "I don't know" are not included in the calculation of average and/or median.
EXTREME OBSERVATIONS	Extreme observations over 8 percent (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.

# **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.
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	A total of 464 interviews have been conducted among business leaders, of which 254 are for businesses with 50 employees or more, and 209 are for businesses with less then 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 using the data collection tool IBM-SPSS. Respondents are invited to participate by e-mail.
PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork is conducted in the time period of $28^{th}$ of January – $15^{th}$ February 2019.
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 percent (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 (Changed 1st quarter 2015)

<sup>1</sup>Question 16 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? »

<sup>2</sup>·Question 21 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?»

<sup>3.</sup>Question 22 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?»

<sup>4</sup>·Question 23 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?»



# **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 15 percent, and interviews conducted on mobile phone account for 85 percent.
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	A total of 1012 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 Epinion's CATI-center.
PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION	The fieldwork is conducted in the time period of $31^{st}$ of January – $12^{th}$ February 2019.
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 percent (absolute value) are excluded from the presentation of the mean 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 (Changed 1st quarter 2015)

<sup>5</sup>·Question 25 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?»

<sup>6</sup> Question 26 changed from «By about how much do you think prices have changed measured in percent?» to «About how much higher/lower, measured in percent?». Question 26 is put to those who answered to question 25 that they think prices for goods and services, as measured by the consumer price index, are now higher, approximately unchanged or lower.

<sup>7.</sup>Question 27 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?»

<sup>8</sup>-Question 28 changed from «By about how much do you think prices will change in the next 12 months, measured in percent?» to «About how much higher/lower, measured in percent?». Question 28 is put to those who answered to question 27 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.

<sup>9</sup> Question 29 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 27)?»

<sup>10</sup>.Question 31 changed from «How much do you think prices for goods and services will rise annually in two to three years, in percent?» 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 percent?»

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# **TECHNICAL COMMENTS – HOUSEHOLDS**

Question 26: By about how much do you think prices have changed measured in percent? *(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 calculation 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 25 as "0" in the mean calculation for question 26.



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# **TECHNICAL COMMENTS – HOUSEHOLDS**

Question 28: About how much higher/lower, measured in percent? (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 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 "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 27 as "0" in the mean calculation for question 28.* 



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