







# Construction Industry Outlook Brightens in May

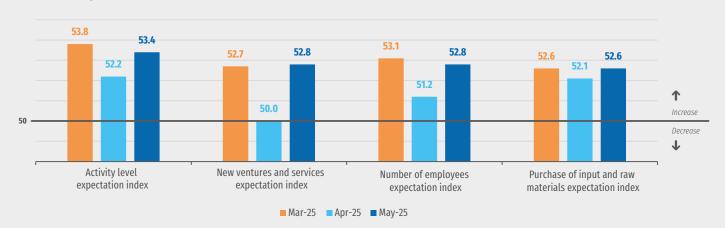
In April 2025, the activity level evolution index remained virtually unchanged compared to March, while the employment evolution index held steady. The Utilization of Operational Capacity (UCO) also stayed flat for the fifth consecutive month at 67%.

Against this backdrop, in May 2025, the lack of confidence among Construction

entrepreneurs diminished, driven primarily by a slightly less negative perception of current economic conditions in Brazil and improved expectations for both the national economy and their own firms.

Consequently, growth expectations for employment, input and raw material purchases, activity levels, and new ventures and services over the next six months became more positive, reversing the decline seen in the previous month. Investment intentions in the sector also increased.

# **Expectations indices** Indices (0 to 100 points)\*



\*Values above 50 points indicate an expectation of growth. Values below 50 points indicate an expectation of decline. The further away from 50 points, the greater and more widespread the expected variation.

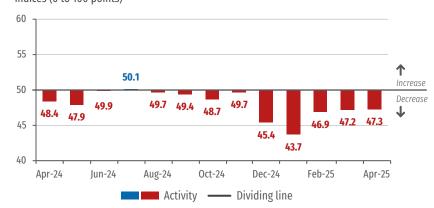
#### PERFORMANCE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN APRIL 2025

# **Activity and employment indices remain virtually stable**

In April 2025, the construction industry activity level evolution index stood at 47.3 points, virtually unchanged from the previous month (47.2 points). Although this marks the highest level since November 2024 (49.7 points), it remains below April 2024 (48.4 points) and April 2023 (49.7 points). A higher index indicates stronger sector performance.

The employment evolution index remained unchanged at 48.1 points in April 2025, a level similar to February (48.2 points) and close to April 2024 (48.4 points), though still below April 2023 (50 points).

# Activity level evolution Indices (0 to 100 points)\*



#### Number of employees evolution

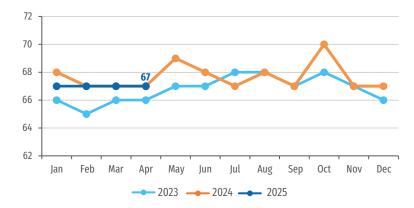


\*Values above 50 indicate an increase in activity or employment compared to the previous month. Values below 50 points indicate a decrease in activity or employment compared to the previous month. The further away from 50 points, the greater and more widespread is the variation.

# **Capacity Utilization holds steady**

In April 2025, the Utilization of Operational Capacity (UCO) in the construction industry remained stable at 67% for the fifth consecutive month. This level matches April 2024 and is 1 percentage point higher than April 2023.

# Utilization of Operational Capacity Percentage (%)



#### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX IN MAY 2025

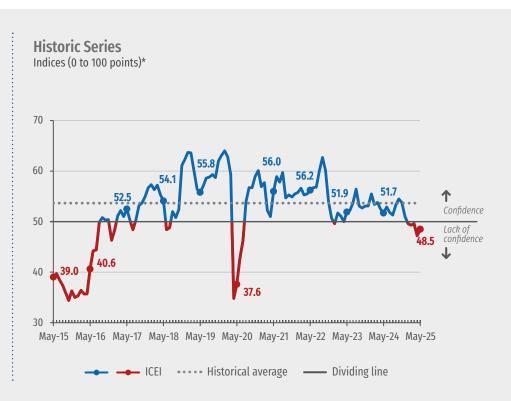
#### **Decline in lack of confidence**

The Construction Industry Business
Confidence Index (ICEI) reached 48.5
points in May 2025, up 1.3 points from
April. While still below the 50-point
threshold (indicating lingering caution),
the increase suggests a less intense
and widespread lack of confidence.
This marks the fifth consecutive month
below 50 points. The reduction in
pessimism stemmed from improved
assessments of current conditions
and, especially, brighter expectations
among sector entrepreneurs.

The Current Conditions Index rose to 44.0 points in May (+1.2 points vs. April). Business leaders continued to perceive a deterioration in Brazil's economy and their own firms' conditions compared to the prior six months. The improvement was almost entirely due to a 2.9-point increase in the Brazilian economy subindex (37.4 points), while the firm-specific conditions subindex edged up just 0.4 points (to 47.3 points).

The Expectations Index climbed 1.3 points to 50.7 points in May, crossing the 50-point threshold – shifting from contractionary to expansionary sentiment.

# Construction ICEI Indices (0 to 100 points)\* Confidence Historical average 53.7 Lack of confidence



\*Values above 50 points indicate business confidence and the higher above 50 points, the greater and more widespread is the confidence. Values below 50 points indicate a lack of business confidence and the lower below 50 points, the greater and more widespread is the lack of confidence.

#### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EXPECTATIONS IN MAY 2025

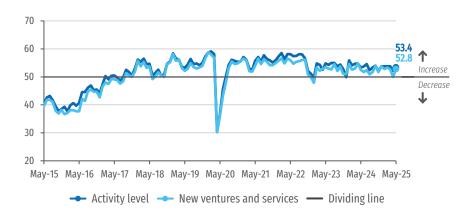
## **Optimism recovers after April decline**

In May 2025, expectations for employment, input and raw material purchases, activity levels, and new ventures and services all improved. Moving further above the 50-point threshold, these indices signal stronger and more widespread anticipation of growth over the next six months, reversing the prior month's downturn.

The new ventures and services expectation index reached 52.8 points (+2.8 points vs. April). The activity level expectation index rose to 53.4 points (+1.2 points).

The input and raw material purchases expectation index hit 52.6 points (+0.5 points), while the employment expectation index climbed to 52.8 points (+1.6 points).

# Expectations indices Indices (0 to 100 points)\*





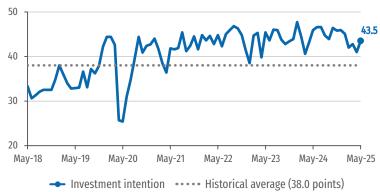
\*Values above 50 points indicate an expectation of growth. Values below 50 points indicate an expectation of decline. The further away from 50 points, the greater and more widespread is the expected variation.

# **Investment intentions rise**

After a 2.5-point increase from April, the construction sector's investment intention index reached 43.5 points in May 2025 – 5.5 percentage points above the historical average of 38 points.

## Investment intentions

Indices (0 to 100 points)\*



\*The higher the index, the greater the industry's propensity to invest.

#### RESULTS

#### **Construction industry performance**

|        | CAPACITY UTILIZATION (%) <sup>1</sup> |    |        | ACTIVITY LEVEL VARIATION INDEX <sup>2</sup> |        |        |        | ACTIVITY LI |        | NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES VARIATION INDEX <sup>2</sup> |        |      |
|--------|---------------------------------------|----|--------|---|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--|--------|------|
|        | Apr-24 Mar-25 Apr-25                  |    | Apr-24 | Mar-25                                      | Apr-25 | Apr-24 | Mar-25 | Apr-25      | Apr-24 | Mar-25   | Apr-25 |      |
| SURVEY | 67                                    | 67 | 67     | 48.4  | 47.2   | 47.3   | 43.3   | 43.9        | 42.6   | 48.4   | 48.1   | 48.1 |
| Small  | 61                                    | 59 | 58     | 46.3  | 45.8   | 45.7   | 41.1   | 42.2        | 40.7   | 45.0   | 46.8   | 45.4 |
| Medium | 64                                    | 63 | 63     | 46.8  | 46.4   | 46.3   | 42.0   | 42.2        | 40.6   | 47.9   | 49.4   | 49.0 |
| Large  | 71                                    | 72 | 73     | 50.0  | 48.1   | 48.5   | 44.9   | 45.5        | 44.5   | 50.0   | 47.8   | 48.5 |

#### **Expectations of the construction industry**

|        | EXPECTATIONS INDICES <sup>4</sup> |           |        |                              |        |                                 |        |        |                        |        | INDEV OF INTENTION TO |   |        |        |        |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------|------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|---|--------|--------|--------|
|        | AC                                | TIVITY LE | /EL    | NEW VENTURES<br>AND SERVICES |        | INPUT AND RAW MATERIAL PURCHASE |        |        | NUMBER OF<br>EMPLOYEES |        |                       | INDEX OF INTENTION TO INVEST <sup>5</sup> |        |        |        |
|        | May-24                            | Apr-25    | May-25 | May-24                       | Apr-25 | May-25                          | May-24 | Apr-25 | May-25                 | May-24 | Apr-25                | May-25                                    | May-24 | Apr-25 | May-25 |
| SURVEY | 53.3                              | 52.2      | 53.4   | 52.5                         | 50.0   | <b>52.8</b>                     | 52.7   | 52.1   | <b>52.6</b>            | 52.7   | 51.2                  | <b>52.8</b>                               | 45.9   | 41.0   | 43.5   |
| Small  | 53.8                              | 52.6      | 48.9   | 53.1                         | 48.9   | 48.0                            | 52.2   | 50.6   | 50.0                   | 51.6   | 50.4                  | 49.6                                      | 41.0   | 35.3   | 37.7   |
| Medium | 53.0                              | 53.1      | 52.5   | 52.5                         | 50.8   | 51.7                            | 52.1   | 52.7   | 52.3                   | 52.3   | 53.7                  | 52.1                                      | 42.5   | 39.0   | 37.9   |
| Large  | 53.3                              | 51.5      | 55.5   | 52.2                         | 50.0   | 55.1                            | 53.3   | 52.3   | 53.7                   | 53.3   | 50.0                  | 54.4                                      | 49.6   | 44.2   | 48.9   |

#### **Construction Industry Business Confidence Index and its components**

|        | ICE    | - CONSTRUCTI | ON <sup>6</sup> | INDEX O | F CURRENT CON | DITIONS <sup>7</sup> | EXPECTATIONS INDEX <sup>8</sup> |        |        |  |
|--------|--------|--------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--|
|        | May-24 | Apr-25       | May-25          | May-24  | Apr-25        | May-25               | May-24                          | Apr-25 | May-25 |  |
| SURVEY | 51.7   | 47.2         | 48.5            | 46.8    | 42.8          | 44.0                 | 54.1                            | 49.4   | 50.7   |  |
| Small  | 50.7   | 46.7         | 48.4            | 44.7    | 40.9          | 40.9                 | 53.7                            | 49.6   | 52.1   |  |
| Medium | 50.4   | 47.6         | 50.2            | 45.6    | 41.7          | 44.5                 | 52.8                            | 50.6   | 53.1   |  |
| Large  | 52.7   | 47.2         | 47.6            | 48.2    | 44.1          | 44.9                 | 55.0                            | 48.7   | 48.9   |  |

- 1 The indicator varies within the range from 0% to 100%. The series started in January 2012.
- 2 The indicator varies within the range from 0 to 100. Values above 50 show an increase.
- 3 The indicator varies within the range from 0 to 100. Values above 50 show higher activity than usual.
- 4 The indicator varies within the range from 0 to 100. A score above 50 points indicates positive expectations.
- 5 The indicator varies within the range from 0 to 100. The higher the value, the greater the intention to invest.
- 6 The ICEI Construction varies within the range from 0 to 100. A score above 50 points indicates the entrepreneur is confident.
- 7 The indicator varies within the range from 0 to 100. A score above 50 points indicates a better status when compared to the last six months.
- 8 The indicator varies within the range from 0 to 100. A score above 50 points indicates optimistic expectations for the next six months.

#### Sample profile

313 companies: 115 small, 130 medium and 68 large.

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