



Brazilian National Confederation of Industry

ECONOMIC INDICATORS CNI

# Business confidence remains at all-time low

The Business Confidence Index (ICEI) remained virtually unchanged between April and May 2020 as it edged up from 34.5 points to 34.7 points. With this result, the ICEI remains at its lowest point in the series.

The index reflects the lack of business confidence brought about by the strong contraction in activity and high uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lack of confidence contributes to bringing investments to a standstill while hindering economic recovery.



\*Figures above 50 points indicate business confidence. The further above 50 points, the greater and more widespread is the confidence. Figures below 50 points indicate lack of business confidence. The further below 50 points, the greater and more widespread is the lack of confidence.

## **ICEI** components

The Current Conditions Index, which reflects entrepreneurs' perception of how current conditions of businesses and of the Brazilian economy have evolved, decreased by 8.9 points in May to 25.2 points. The index hit an all-time low in the historical series and shows a pronounced deterioration in current business conditions in May. The indicator continued on the downward trend initiated in February, accumulating a drop of 33.8 points in the period.

The Expectations Index, which reflects entrepreneurs' outlook for the next six months, edged up by 4.8 points in May to 39.5 points. Despite the increase, however, the index remains far from the dividing line, denoting pessimism among entrepreneurs.

#### **Current Conditions Index**

Index (0-100 points)\*



<sup>\*</sup> Figures above 50 points indicate a better situation. Figures below 50 points indicate a worse situation. The further from 50 points, the greater and more widespread is the change.

# **Expectations Index**

Index (0-100 points)\*\*



<sup>\*\*</sup> Figures above 50 points indicate optimistic expectations. Figures below 50 points indicate pessimistic expectations. The further from 50 points, the greater and more widespread is optimism or pessimism.

#### Summary of results

ICEI components	MAY19	APR20	MAY20
ICEI	56.5	34.5	34.7
Current conditions (as compared to the last six months) in relation to:	47.9	34.1	25.2
Brazilian economy	45.6	30.7	20.0
Company	49.0	35.8	27.9
Expectations (for the next six months) on:	60.8	34.7	39.5
Brazilian economy	58.0	29.9	33.8
Company	62.2	37.2	42.3

Figures above 50 points indicate business confidence, a better situation or optimistic expectations. Figures below 50 points indicate lack of business confidence, a worse situation or pessimistic expectations.



### **Technical specifications**

#### Sample profile

1,370 enterprises, including 554 small, 514 medium and 302 large companies.

**Data collection period** May 4-8, 2020.

Document closed by May 15, 2020.



#### **Learn more**

For more information on the survey, including sectoral and regional results, previous editions, methodology and historical series, visit: <a href="https://www.cni.com.br/e\_icei">www.cni.com.br/e\_icei</a>

ICEI® - BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX | English version of "ICEI - Índice de Confiança do Empresário Industrial, Maio 2020" | Monthly publication of the National Confederation of Industry - CNI | www.cni.com.br | Industrial Development Board - DDI | Analysis: Marcelo Azevedo | Research and Competitiveness Unit - GPC | Executive manager: Renato da Fonseca | Statistics Unit | Manager: Edson Velloso | Team: Aretha Silícia Soares and Roxana Maria Rossy Campos | Editing Unit | Coordinator: Carla Gadelha | Graphic Design: Simone Marcia Broch

Customer Service - Phone: +55 (61) 3317-9992 - email: sac@cni.com.br

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