



"Studi e Analisi" presents surveys and analysis carried out by the Research Department in its areas of interest

Assolombarda Business Survey of the Milan Area Manufacturing Sector

October 2007

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The recovery of entrepreneur confidence continued also in October, even if the index remained lower than at the beginning of summer.

The confidence climate index rose to 97,6 (it was 97,0 in September), thanks to better short-term forecasts of production. Among the other components of the indicator, demand remained substantially stable, while stock inventories grew.

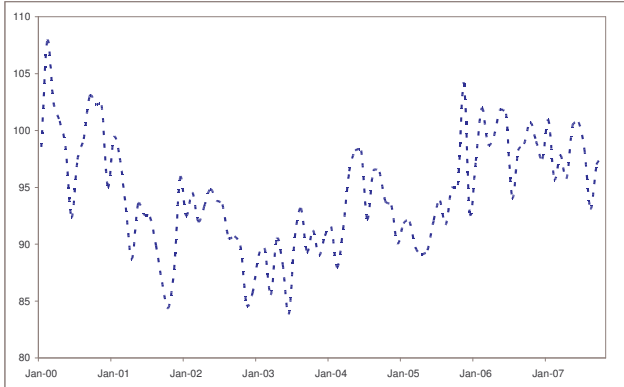
In terms of balances, industrial production improved further (it was the seventh consecutive increase), reaching the highest level since June 2006. On the other hand, turnover decreased, particularly in the domestic market, and employment remained negative, as in the previous month.

With reference to short-term prospects, expectations of domestic orders grew slightly while forecasts of foreign orders remained unchanged compared with the previous month. Finally, entrepreneurs' opinion on the general economic situation became less optimistic after the improvement in September, revealing a zero balance between favourable and unfavourable expectations.

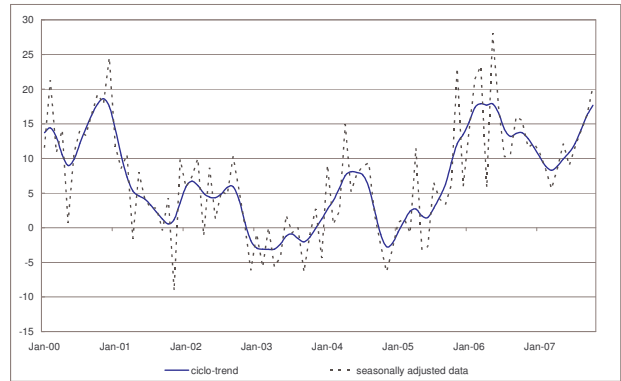


1 Graphs

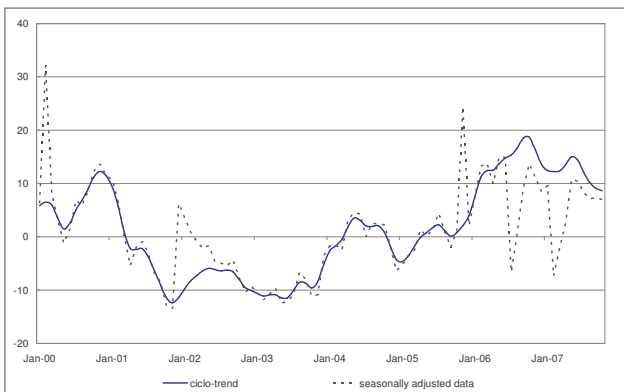
Graph 1 - Confidence Climate¹



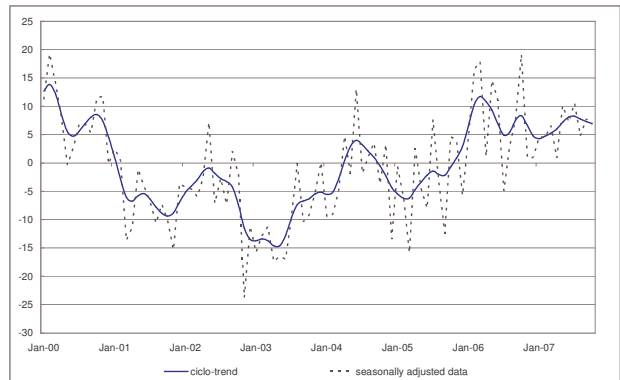
Graph 2 - Production assessment



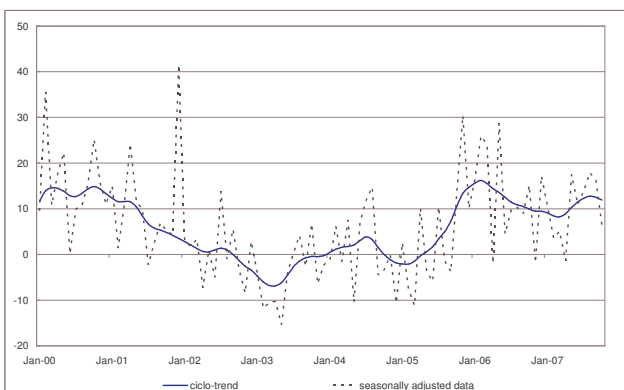
Graph 3 - Assessment on domestic orders



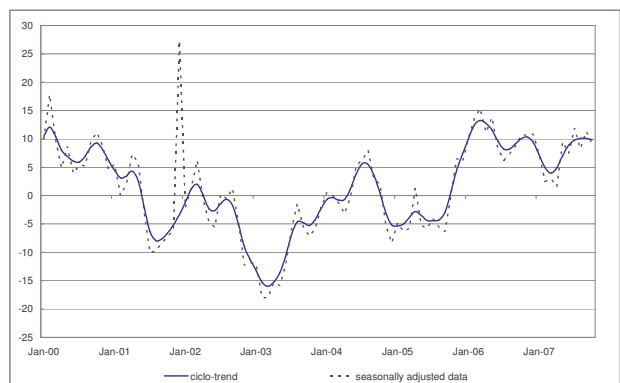
Graph 4 - Assessment on foreign orders



Graph 5 - Assessment on domestic turnover



Graph 6 - Assessment on foreign turnover



2 Data

Table 1 - Confidence climate¹

Reference period	Index (2000=100)
July-07	98,3
August-07	93,1
September-07	97,0
October-07	97,6

Table 2 - Production

Reference period	Assessment seasonally adj. data	Assessment raw data	Expectations seasonally adj. data	Expectations raw data
July-07	12	30	22	18
August-07	14	-52	18	15
September-07	16	51	15	11
October-07	20	36	20	6

Table 3 - Domestic orders

Reference period	Assessment seasonally adj. data	Assessment raw data	Expectations seasonally adj. data	Expectations raw data
July-07	8	25	11	10
August-07	7	-51	14	16
September-07	7	39	13	10
October-07	7	17	15	3

Table 4 - Foreign orders

Reference period	Assessment seasonally adj. data	Assessment raw data	Expectations seasonally adj. data	Expectations raw data
July-07	11	24	16	20
August-07	5	-48	9	10
September-07	8	34	17	14
October-07	7	15	17	9

Table 5 - Domestic turnover

Reference period	Assessment seasonally adj. data	Assessment raw data
July-07	14	31
August-07	18	-47
September-07	16	49
October-07	6	22

Table 6 - Foreign turnover

Reference period	Assessment seasonally adj. data	Assessment raw data
July-07	12	38
August-07	8	-53
September-07	11	44
October-07	9	24

Table 7 - Other balances

Reference period	Inventories seasonally adj. data	Inventories raw data	Employment seasonally adj. data	Employment raw data	Expectations on economic situation seasonally adj. data	Expectations on economic situation raw data
July-07	4	3	-5	-4	-2	-3
August-07	14	9	0	-4	-2	-8
September-07	0	0	-3	2	7	2
October-07	2	1	-3	0	0	-4

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¹ The industrial confidence indicator is the arithmetic average of the seasonally adjusted data on production expectations, order books and stocks of finished products (with inverted sign). The index base is 2000=100.