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# Press Release

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**Swiss Economy's Situation and Outlook:**

## Expectations Improve Across the Board

**Positive signals are increasingly emanating from the Swiss economy. Most sectors recorded an increase in activities over the past three months. In many cases, this growth actually accelerated. Expectations are even more positive than the assessment of the current situation. This is also having an impact on employment plans, which have become more optimistic in nearly all sectors.**

These are the findings of the latest KOF Economic Surveys conducted in April 2010 amongst 7,500 companies drawn from manufacturing, construction and the service sectors.

Amongst the economic sectors surveyed by the KOF, only the hotel and restaurant, construction and banking sectors reported a decline in output. Within the hotel and restaurant sector, the trend has at least become less negative than it was three months ago. The retail sector is gradually gathering momentum. All other sectors saw production rise significantly. Growth actually accelerated in most sectors. In the case of manufacturers, capacity utilisation rose sharply to about 79%.

Only insurers are expecting demand to fall over the next three months. The construction sector as well as architects and engineers are expecting demand to remain flat. However, banks as well as hotels and restaurants appear to have put the worst behind them. They are now looking more optimistically to the future for the first time in twelve months, although still hesitantly. Other sectors are expecting demand to rise noticeably, whereby this optimism has increased still further relative to the previous quarterly survey. The employment outlook has improved in all sectors – with the exception of insurance. In the case of hotels and restaurants as well as banks, however, the negative trend has only levelled off, and the construction sector has merely stopped shedding workers.

In the next six months all sectors – with the exception of insurance – are expecting business activities to increase. In this conjunction, the outlook for the construction sector has switched from negative to positive. Up until January, architects and engineers as well as the hotel and restaurant sector were expecting their business activities to remain stable in the medium term, but now they have become more optimistic too.