

## Advance Release

# NRW.BANK.ifo Business Climate August 2018

### Optimists gaining the upper hand again

The Ifo Business Climate for industry and trade in North Rhine-Westphalia deteriorated in August. According to the results of the Ifo Business Climate Survey, companies no longer rated their current situation quite as favourably as before. Unlike the previous month, however, most of them were again optimistic about the near future.

In August, the business climate in the manufacturing sector was no longer quite as good as in the previous months. While manufacturers were less satisfied with their current business situation than in the previous month, there were no more signs of the scepticism about the future they had expressed before.

The construction sector continues to boom. The business climate improved once again in the reporting month, as construction firms assessed their current situation even more favourable than last month. However, they were a bit less optimistic about their business outlook.

The climate indicator for the retail sector slid further into negative territory. For the first time since March of this year, retailers again viewed their current situation rather negatively, although their pessimism about the future declined noticeable. By contrast, the business climate in the wholesale sector hardly changed at all. While the current business situation in August was no longer rated positively by as many wholesalers as before, the latter were cautiously optimistic again about the next half-year.

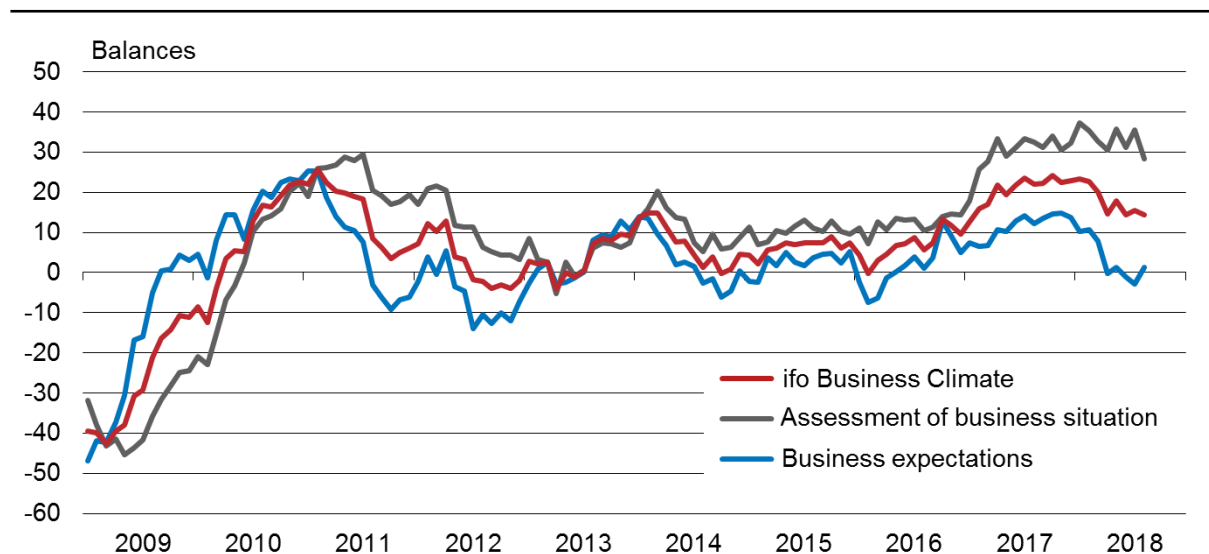
### Trade and Industry in North Rhine-Westphalia (balances, seasonally adjusted)

Month/Year	08/17	09/17	10/17	11/17	12/17	01/18	02/18	03/18	04/18	05/18	06/18	07/18	08/18
<b>Climate</b>	22,1	22,3	24,2	22,5	22,8	23,4	22,7	20,0	14,6	17,9	14,4	15,4	14,4
<b>Situation</b>	32,5	31,3	34,1	30,4	32,3	37,2	35,4	32,7	30,6	35,7	31,1	35,5	28,3
<b>Expectations</b>	12,2	13,6	14,6	14,9	13,7	10,3	10,6	7,9	-0,3	1,4	-1,2	-2,9	1,4

Source: Ifo Business Survey.

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### ifo Trade and Industry<sup>a)</sup> in North Rhine-Westphalia Seasonally adjusted



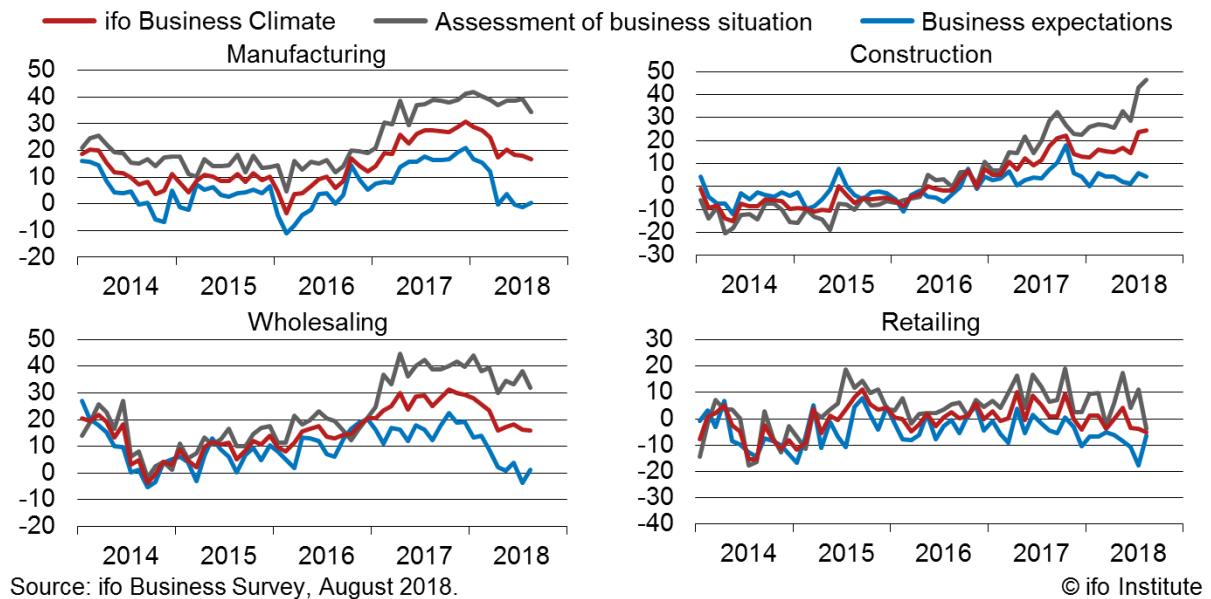
<sup>a</sup> Manufacturing, construction, wholesaling and retailing.

Source: Ifo Business Survey, August 2018.

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## Business Situation and Expectations by Sector

Balances, seasonally adjusted



### ifo Business Climate North Rhine-Westphalia (balances, seasonally adjusted)

Month/Year	08/17	09/17	10/17	11/17	12/17	01/18	02/18	03/18	04/18	05/18	06/18	07/18	08/18
<b>Trade and Industry</b>	22,1	22,3	24,2	22,5	22,8	23,4	22,7	20,0	14,6	17,9	14,4	15,4	14,4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	27,4	27,3	27,0	28,9	30,9	29,0	27,6	25,1	17,5	20,4	18,4	18,0	16,7
<b>Construction</b>	17,7	21,0	22,3	14,3	13,2	12,7	16,0	15,3	14,8	16,9	14,6	23,6	24,4
<b>Wholesaling</b>	25,1	28,0	31,2	30,1	29,3	28,1	25,7	23,6	15,8	17,2	18,1	16,2	16,0
<b>Retailing</b>	0,9	0,8	9,5	-0,3	-4,1	1,2	1,3	-3,7	-0,1	4,2	-3,4	-3,9	-5,2

Source: Ifo Business Survey.

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