

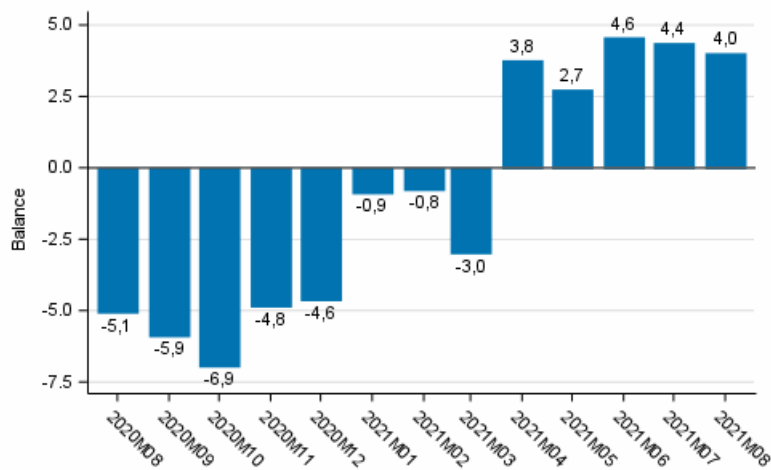
Consumer Confidence

2021, August

Consumers' view of their own economy improved further in August

The consumer confidence indicator (CCI) stood at 4.0 in August, whereas in July it was 4.4 and in June 4.6. Confidence in the economy continued very strong in August, as the long-term average of the CCI is -1.7. In the corresponding period last year, the CCI received the value -5.1. The data are based on Statistics Finland's Consumer Confidence Survey, to which 971 persons resident in Finland responded between 1 and 19 August.

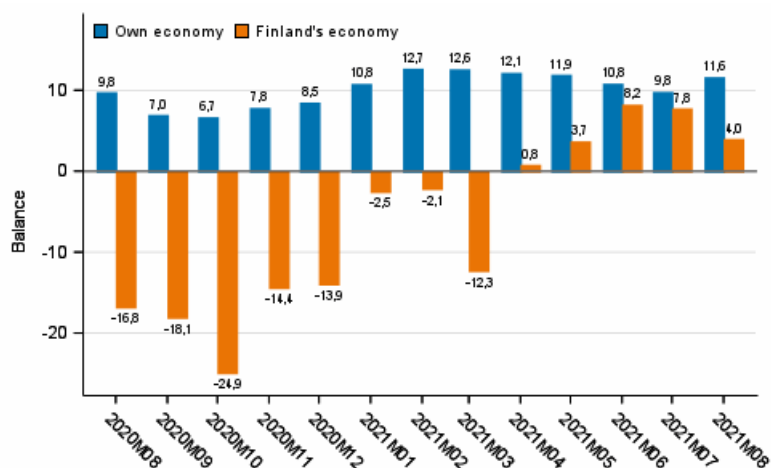
Consumer confidence indicator (CCI)



Of the four components of the CCI, consumers' views of their own economy at present were in August brightest in the entire measuring history, 1995 to 2021. Expectations of their own economy in 12 months were also very optimistic. In addition, consumers had plenty of intentions to spend money on durable goods in the coming months. Views of the future development of Finland's economy were also good in August.

Compared to July, expectations concerning one's own economy improved in August. By contrast, expectations about Finland's economy weakened in a month. Views of their own economy at present and intentions to spend money remained more or less unchanged in August. Compared with August last year, all four components of the CCI were now even clearly stronger.

Consumers' expectations concerning their own and Finland's economy in 12 months' time



Consumers' expectations concerning the development of the general unemployment situation in Finland weakened slightly in August but still remained bright. This was also the case for views of the personal threat of unemployment or temporary lay-off experienced by the employed, that is, wage and salary earners and self-employed persons at the time of the survey. In August, consumers' anticipation of the rise in consumer prices, i.e. inflation in 12 months was already going above its long-term average.

As in previous months, consumers regarded their own financial situation to be excellent in August. The time was considered very favourable for saving, also favourable for raising a loan and reasonable for buying durable goods. Saving possibilities were expected to be still high in the coming months.

As in the past few months, considerably many intended to take out a loan within one year in August. Similarly, consumers still had plenty of plans to buy a dwelling. There were also a great deal of plans for home renovation, and in August many considered buying a car over the next 12 months.

Consumer confidence by major region and population group

In August, consumer confidence was, as usual, strongest in Greater Helsinki (CCI 9.1) and weakest in Eastern Finland (0.0). Among population groups, upper-level salaried employees were most optimistic (11.9). Pensioners again had clearly the gloomiest expectations concerning economic development (-6.7).

Consumer confidence usually decreases with the person's age, and correspondingly the confidence typically increases as income grows. Men are likely to have better confidence in the economy than women. More detailed information is available in the [Database tables](#).

EU results

The (seasonally adjusted) survey results concerning economic expectations for all EU countries are released monthly on the European Commission website: [Press releases](#).

Concepts

The **balance figures** are obtained by deducting the weighted proportion of negative answers from that of positive answers. The **consumer confidence indicator** (CCI/A1) is the average of the balance figures for the CCI components. The components of the CCI are: consumer's own economy now (B1), consumer's own economy in 12 months (B2), Finland's economy in 12 months (B4) and consumer's spending money on major purchases in the next 12 months compared to the past 12 months (E1). The balance figures and

the confidence indicator can range between -100 and +100 – the higher balance figure, the brighter the view on the economy.

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1. Examination of response distributions

Consumers' own and Finland's economy

As many as 45 per cent of consumers thought in August that Finland's economy was now worse than a year ago and 24 per cent of consumers felt that it was better. Fifteen per cent of consumers thought that their own economy is at the moment worse than one year ago. Clearly more consumers, or 31 per cent, considered their own economy stronger in August than one year ago. The proportions concerning consumers' own economy were 14 and 29 per cent in July and 22 and 24 per cent one year ago.

In August, 38 per cent of consumers believed that Finland's economic situation would improve in the coming twelve months, while 27 per cent of them thought that the country's economy would deteriorate. One month earlier, the corresponding proportions were 41 and 24 per cent and in last year's August gloomy 23 and 46 per cent.

In all, 30 per cent of consumers believed in August that their own economy would improve and 11 per cent of them feared it would worsen over the year. In July, the corresponding proportions were 28 and 11 per cent and twelve months ago 29 and 14 per cent.

Unemployment and inflation

Altogether 35 per cent of consumers expected in August that general unemployment in Finland would decrease over the next year, while 30 per cent of them believed it would increase. The corresponding proportions were 38 and 28 per cent in July, and gloomy 17 and 60 per cent one year ago.

In August, 11 per cent of employed persons believed that their personal threat of unemployment or temporary lay-off had lessened over the past few months, whereas 18 per cent thought it had grown. On the other hand, 40 per cent of employed persons felt that they were not threatened by unemployment or temporary lay-off at all. One month earlier these three proportions were 11, 16 and 47 per cent, and in August last year gloomy 4, 33 and 35 per cent.

Consumers predicted in August that consumer prices would go up by 3.0 per cent over the next 12 months. One year ago, the predicted inflation rate was 2.5 per cent and its long-term average is 2.9 per cent.

Saving and taking out a loan

In August, 67 per cent of consumers thought the time was favourable for saving. Twelve months ago, the proportion was only 50 per cent. In August, 65 per cent of households had been able to lay aside some money and 78 per cent believed they would be able to do so during the next 12 months.

In August, 60 per cent of consumers regarded the time good for taking out a loan. One year earlier, the corresponding share was 48 per cent. In August, 19 per cent of consumers were planning to take out a loan within one year. The average long-term proportion is 16 per cent.

Use of money

In August, 31 per cent of consumers considered the time favourable for buying durable goods. Eighteen per cent of consumers planned on increasing and 28 per cent on reducing their spending on durable goods over the next 12 months.

In August, 16 per cent of consumers were either definitely or possibly going to buy a car during the next 12 months. Considerably many were thinking of buying a dwelling within a year: 17 per cent of consumers. In addition, as many as 22 per cent of consumers were planning in August to spend money on renovating their dwelling within a year. The long-term average for intentions to buy a car is 14 per cent, to buy a dwelling 13 per cent and to make renovations 18 per cent.

2. Method of the Consumer Confidence Survey

The Consumer Confidence Survey measures Finnish consumers' confidence in the economy, that is, views and expectations about the development of their own and Finland's general economic situation. The survey also examines consumers' intentions of making major purchases, saving and raising loans. The survey is carried out with a mixed-mode data collection method, i.e. with a web questionnaire and by telephone interviews (CATI). For the Consumer Confidence Survey, answers are given by means of answer options (qualitative survey).

The former name of the Consumer Confidence Survey was the Consumer Survey. Earlier the survey was carried out by means of telephone interviews only. The first interviews were conducted in November 1987. Until 1991, the survey was carried out twice a year, in May and November. In 1992, the survey times increased to four: the survey months were February, May, August and November. Since October 1995, the consumer confidence data have been collected monthly on assignment from and partial financing of the [European Commission](#).

Sampling and data collection

The population of the Consumer Confidence Survey comprises 3.9 million persons aged 18 to 74 in Finland. A rotating panel design is applied in the survey. Participants are meant to respond twice within six months. Each month, the target is a random sample of about 2,200 persons, of whom one half are first-timers and one half participate for the second time. The target area of the survey is the whole country and the respondents represent the population in Finland, according to age, gender, area of residence and native language. The data collection period for the survey is the first two or three weeks of the month.

In August 2021, in all, 971 responses were gained. Of responses, 78 per cent came from the web questionnaire. The non-response rate of the survey was 55.3 per cent. This includes those who refused from the survey or were otherwise prevented from participating, as well as those who could not be contacted. Possible over-coverage (dead, inmates of institutions, moved abroad, etc.) is also included in non-response here.

Weighting

The response data of the Consumer Confidence Survey are expanded to the whole population with weighting coefficients. Weighting corrects the effects of non-response and improves the statistical accuracy of the data. The weights are established by using a calibration method (Calmar) and the probability of each observation to be included in the sample. The figures and series presented are not seasonally adjusted.

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Consumers' views and intentions¹⁾

	Average 10/1995-	Max. 10/1995-	Min. 10/1995-	08/2020	07/2021	08/2021	Outlook ²⁾
A1 Consumer confidence indicator, CCI = (B1+B2+B4+E1)/4	-1.7	6.8	-13.9	-5.1	4.4	4.0	++
B1 Own economy now (balance)	3.1	9.3	-5.3	0.7	9.1	9.3	++
- Better (%)	.	.	.	23.5	29.4	30.7	
- Worse (%)	.	.	.	21.8	14.5	15.1	
B2 Own economy in 12 months' time (balance)	8.1	13.5	1.2	9.8	9.8	11.6	++
- Better (%)	.	.	.	29.0	27.7	29.8	
- Worse (%)	.	.	.	13.7	11.5	10.8	
B3 Finland's economy now (balance)	-7.8	25.9	-66.5	-59.2	-16.6	-14.0	-
- Better (%)	.	.	.	2.2	23.1	23.7	
- Worse (%)	.	.	.	85.8	46.2	44.7	
B4 Finland's economy in 12 months' time (balance)	-2.0	20.3	-32.8	-16.8	7.8	4.0	+
- Better (%)	.	.	.	23.2	41.4	38.0	
- Worse (%)	.	.	.	45.6	23.6	27.2	
B5 Inflation now (per cent)	3.1	6.9	-2.7	2.3	3.1	3.2	
B6 Inflation in 12 months' time (per cent)	2.9	5.3	1.7	2.5	2.9	3.0	
B7 Unemployment in Finland in 12 months' time (balance)	-10.7	20.3	-59.5	-26.8	3.4	0.9	+
- Less (%)	.	.	.	16.7	37.9	34.6	
- More (%)	.	.	.	60.2	28.3	30.4	
B8 Own threat of unemployment now (balance)	-6.4	4.7	-26.6	-18.5	-2.9	-4.0	+
- Decreased (%)	.	.	.	4.4	10.7	11.3	
- Increased (%)	.	.	.	32.9	15.9	18.4	
C1 Favourability of time for purchasing durables (balance)	19.5	43.5	-14.3	10.3	21.8	17.0	=
- Good time (%)	.	.	.	28.3	34.2	31.5	
- Bad time (%)	.	.	.	18.0	12.4	14.5	
C2 Favourability of time for saving (balance)	4.6	29.4	-28.5	3.4	20.4	22.2	++
- Good time (%)	.	.	.	49.9	65.1	67.0	
- Bad time (%)	.	.	.	48.7	34.0	32.1	
C3 Favourability of time for raising a loan (balance)	7.5	31.7	-60.4	-1.6	12.0	12.5	+
- Good time (%)	.	.	.	47.8	60.1	59.5	
- Bad time (%)	.	.	.	50.2	38.4	38.6	
D1 Own financial situation now (balance)	22.0	33.1	6.4	30.3	33.1	33.0	++
- Money is saved (%)	.	.	.	64.7	66.5	65.2	
- Uses savings or gets into debt (%)	.	.	.	10.3	8.9	8.9	
D2 Own saving possibilities in the next 12 months (balance)	40.2	53.6	9.8	47.7	50.6	51.1	++
- Can save (%)	.	.	.	77.0	77.9	78.3	
- Cannot save (%)	.	.	.	22.9	22.1	21.2	
D5 Intention to raise a loan in the next 12 months (% of consumers)	15.6	24.2	10.5	20.3	17.8	18.9	++
- Yes, absolutely (%)	.	.	.	5.8	3.8	5.8	

	Average 10/1995-	Max. 10/1995-	Min. 10/1995-	08/2020	07/2021	08/2021	Outlook ²⁾
- Possibly (%)	.	.	.	14.5	14.0	13.1	
E1 Spending on durables, next 12 months vs. last 12 months (balance)	-16.1	-6.9	-26.7	-13.9	-9.2	-8.8	++
- More (%)	.	.	.	13.9	17.2	17.6	
- Less (%)	.	.	.	31.2	27.4	28.1	
E2 Intention to buy a car in the next 12 months (% of consumers)	14.4	19.2	10.1	14.8	16.3	16.0	+
- Very likely (%)	.	.	.	4.2	5.1	7.0	
- Quite likely (%)	.	.	.	10.6	11.2	9.0	
E4 Intention to buy a dwelling in the next 12 months (% of consumers)	12.8	18.1	9.1	16.3	16.3	16.6	++
- Yes, absolutely (%)	.	.	.	4.2	4.3	5.4	
- Possibly (%)	.	.	.	12.1	12.0	11.2	
E5 Intention to spend money on basic repairs of dwelling in the next 12 months (% of consumers)	17.6	26.0	8.1	19.5	23.6	21.9	++
- Very likely (%)	.	.	.	6.6	6.9	8.4	
- Quite likely (%)	.	.	.	13.0	16.6	13.5	

1) Long-term average, maximum and minimum figures cannot be presented for response distributions.

2) Outlook: ++ very good, + good, = neutral, - poor, -- very poor; deviation of balance from average has been compared to standard deviation.

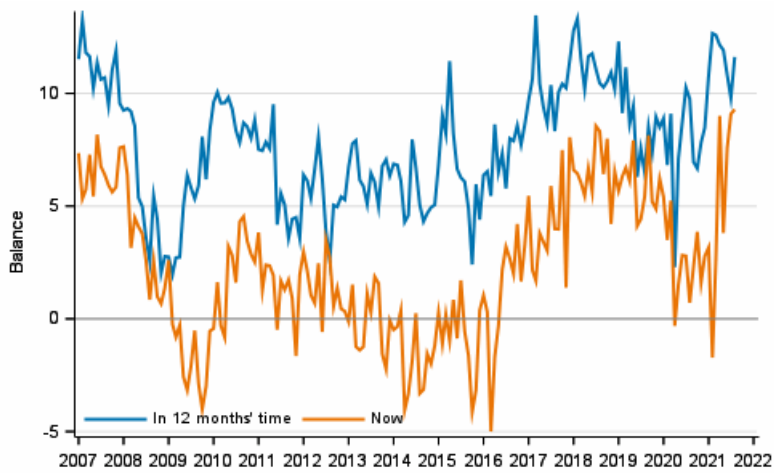
Appendix figures

Appendix figure 1. Consumer confidence indicator (CCI)

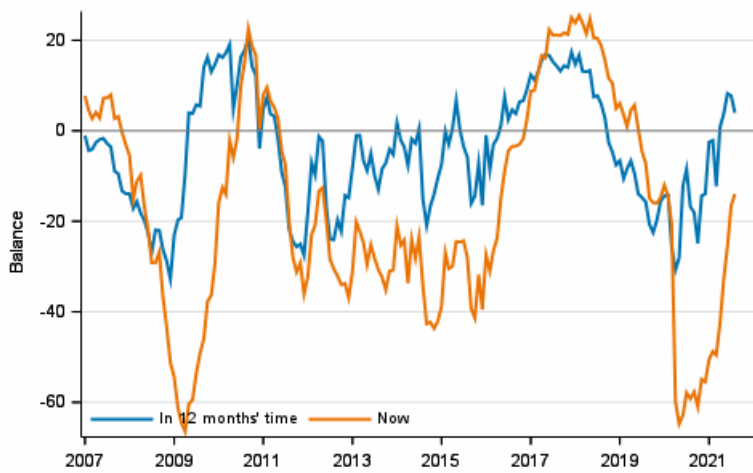


1) average 10/1995 - 08/2021

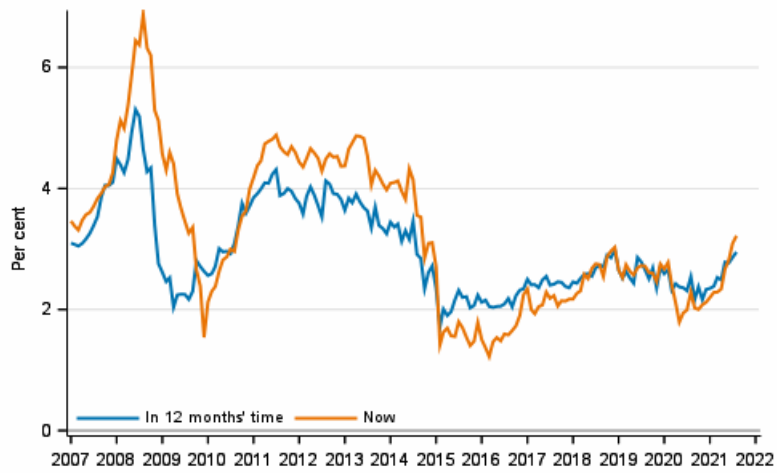
Appendix figure 2. Own economy



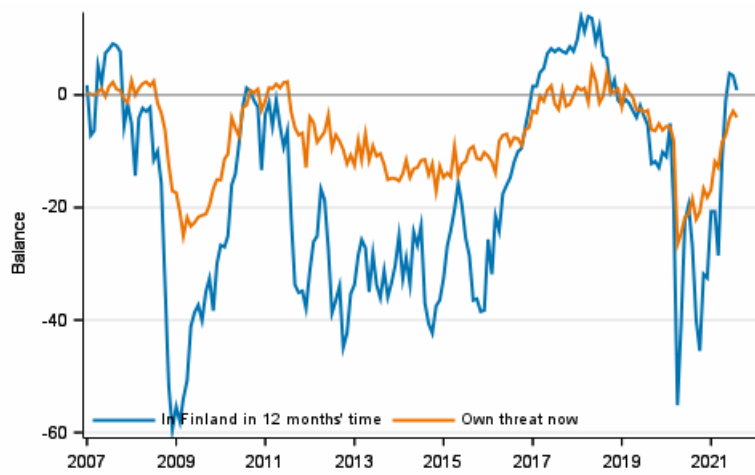
Appendix figure 3. Finland's economy



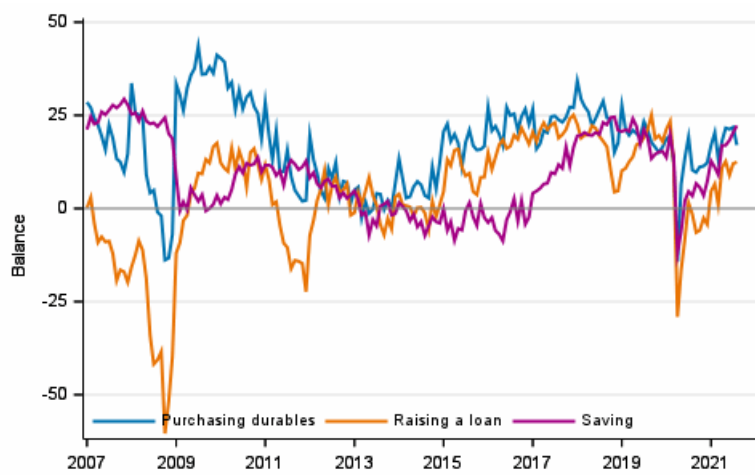
Appendix figure 4. Inflation



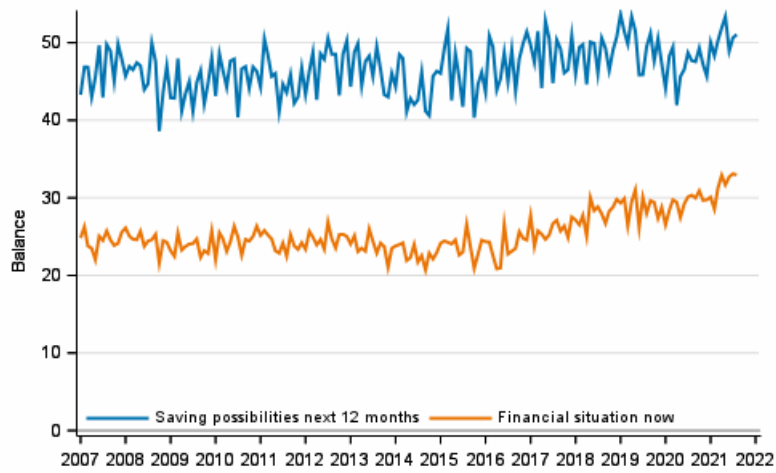
Appendix figure 5. Unemployment



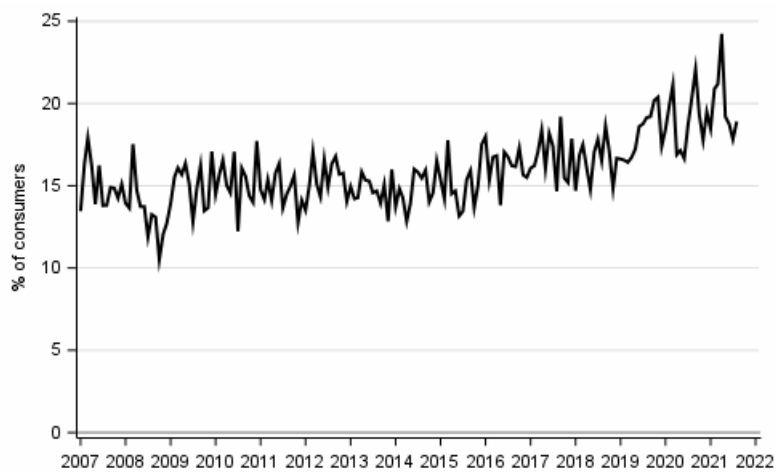
Appendix figure 6. Favourability of time for



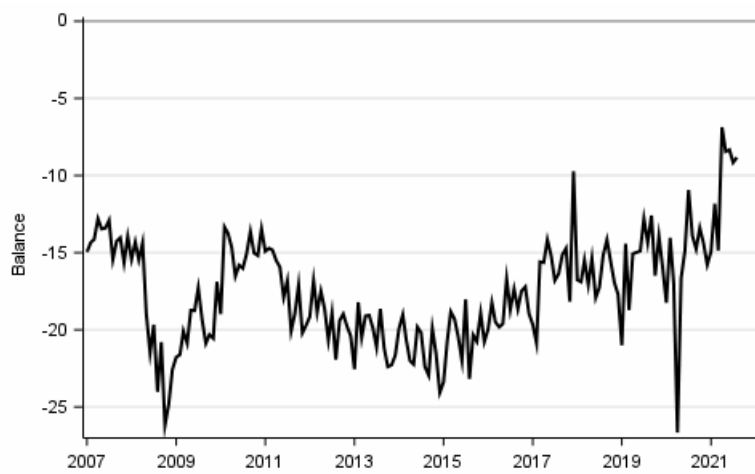
Appendix figure 7. Own financial situation and saving possibilities



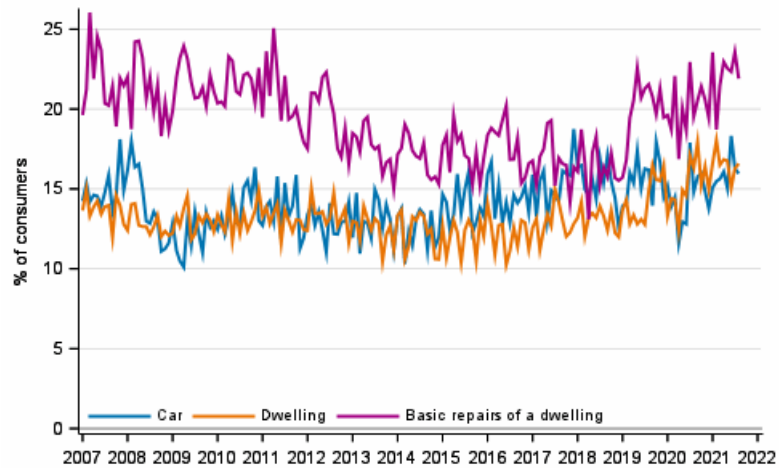
Appendix figure 8. Intention to raise a loan, next 12 months



Appendix figure 9. Spending on durables, next 12 months vs. last 12 months



Appendix figure10. Intentions to buy, next 12 months



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