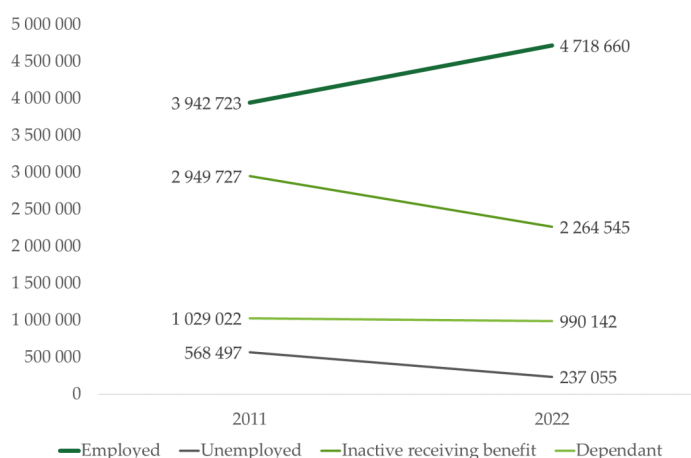


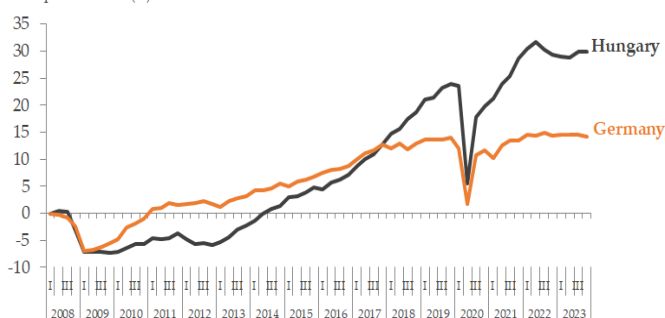
# Monthly Bulletin of Economic Trends

## Labour market trends based on 2022 Census data - Employment trends by demographic characteristics

This brief analysis looks at employment trends based on the census data of the HCSO. The results of the 2022 Census on economic activity are analysed and presented according to different demographic characteristics such as gender, age, educational ...[More](#)



GDP evolution rate compared to 2008 (%)



## GDP trends compared to the 2008 and 2020 crises, by region

The following short analysis compares the impact of the 2008 world financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 on the economy of Hungary and of other countries in the region. The quarterly change in GDP since the start of the crisis is used as an indicator in comparison to the previous quarters....[More](#)

## International trends

In Germany, the IFO business climate index continues to increase in April. The manufacturing purchasing manager index (PMI) also rose, and the unemployment rate remained the same in Germany compared to the previous period. The French INSEE business climate index....[More](#)

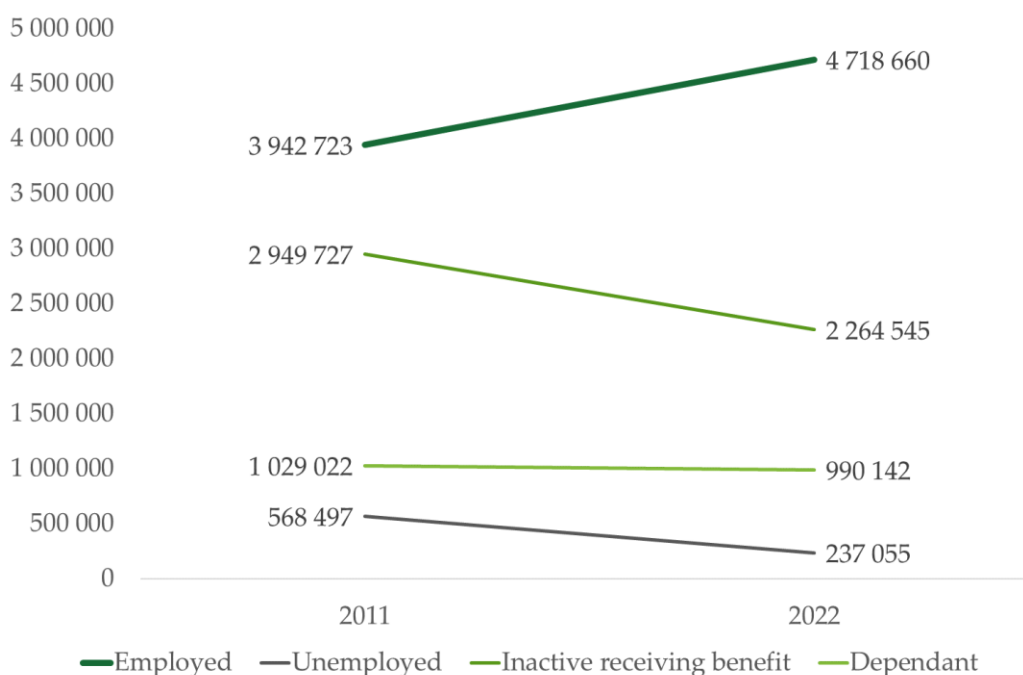
## LABOUR MARKET TRENDS BASED ON 2022 CENSUS DATA – EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This brief analysis looks at employment trends based on the census data of the HCSO. The results of the 2022 Census on economic activity are analysed and presented according to different demographic characteristics such as gender, age, educational attainment and type of settlement.

According to the 2022 census, 57.5% (4,718,660 persons) of the population aged 15 and over (8,210,402 persons) were employed. The number of people in employment increased by nearly 776,000, or 11 percentage points, compared to the last census in 2011. Overall, the number of

people in employment had increased by about one fifth in the last 11 years. The number of employed persons among men was 2,475,000 and among women it was 2,244,000, with the former group increasing by 373,300 and the latter by 402,700 between 2011 and 2022.

**Figure 1: Economic activity of the population aged 15 and over in 2011 and 2022**



Source: HCSO, Census 2022, WBS004<sup>1</sup>

### Age groups

The number and share of people in employment increased in all age groups since 2011. In the age group 15-19, the share of dependants dropped by almost 10

percentage points, probably also due to the lowering of the age of compulsory schooling and changes in the school system. Meanwhile the share of employed persons increased by 7 percentage points,

<sup>1</sup> Data available at <https://nepszamlalas2022.ksh.hu/adatbazis/>.

the share of unemployed persons by 1 percentage point and the share of inactive persons receiving benefits, such as childcare allowance, by almost 2 percentage points. The proportion of people in employment in this age group at the time of the census was 10%.

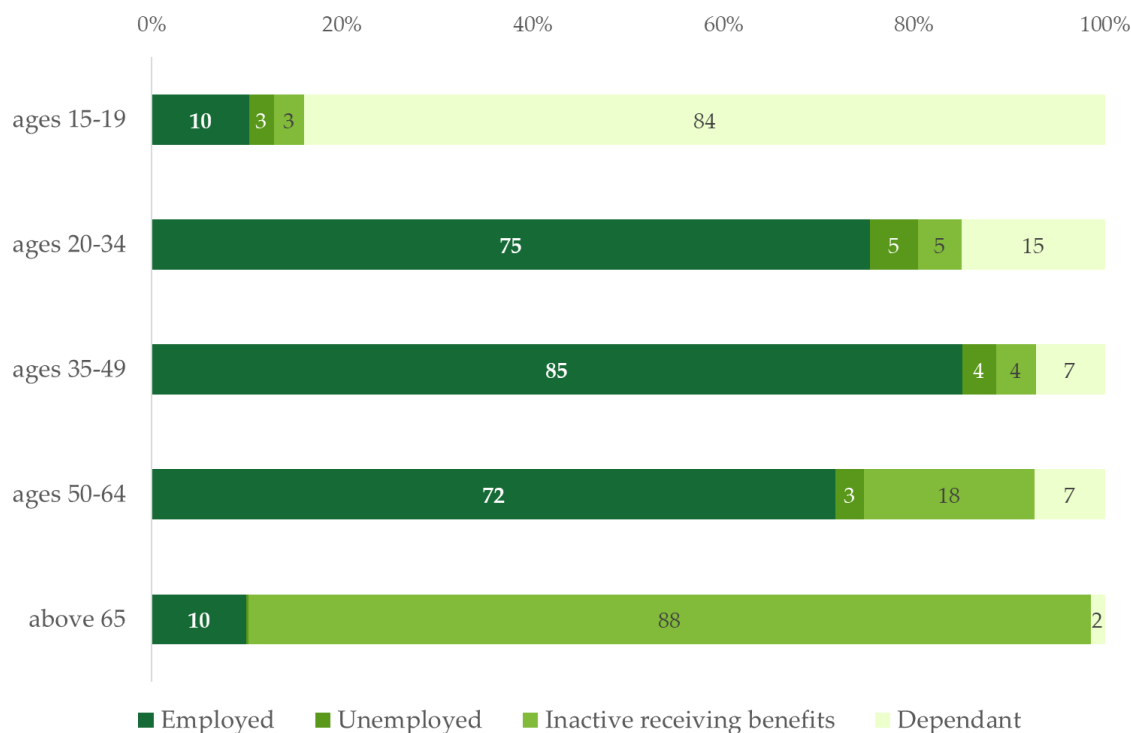
The employment rates were the highest in the 20-34 age group and the 35-49 age group, with 75.3% and 85%, respectively. The number of people in employment aged 20 to 34 increased by 13.6 percentage points compared to 2011. The unemployment rate for this age group, however, is 5.1 percent, higher than the 2.9% for the total population aged 15 and over, and than the 3.8% for the population aged 20-65.

In total, the share of people in employment in the age group 50-64 increased the most

compared to 2011. While the number of people in this age group decreased by nearly 235,000, the number of people in employment the group increased by 334,000, resulting in a 24 percentage point increase in the share of people in employment.

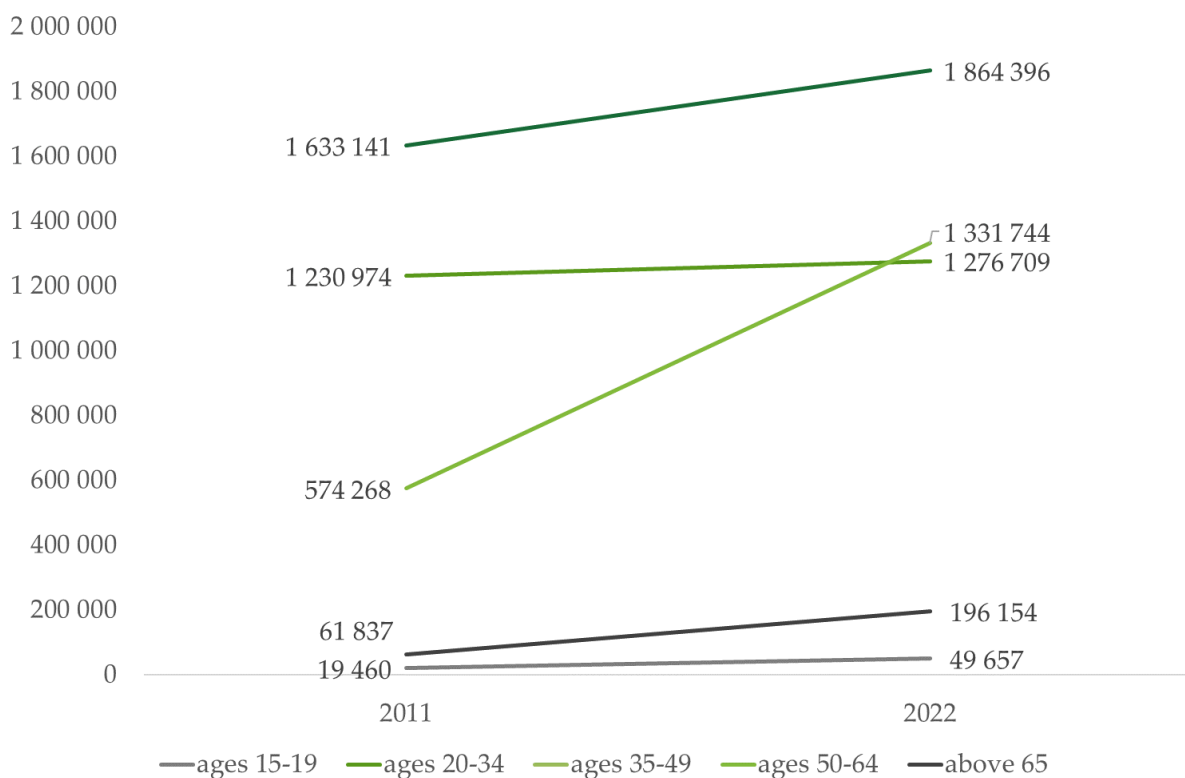
10% of the population aged 65 and over were employed at the time of the census. Altogether, this represents an increase of 134,000 people in employment in this age group compared to 2011, more than three times the previous number. Within the age group, the number of people in employment aged 65-69 increased from 41,000 to 121,000, and the increase is significant in the age group 70 and over as well (nearly 75,000 employed compared to 21,000 previously).

**Figure 2: Economic activity by age group in 2022, percentage**



Source: HCSO, Census 2022, WBS004

The chart shows the proportion of people in different economic activity categories within age groups.

**Figure 3: Changes in the number of employed persons in different age groups 2011 - 2022.**

Source: HCSO, Census 2022, WBS004

### Educational attainment

With respect to educational attainment, the share of people in employment increases with educational level. As for the population aged 15 years and over, the share of employed persons with less than primary education or primary education was 15% and 28% in 2022, respectively. The number and share of employed persons in both groups increased compared to 2011. The employment rate among those with a vocational secondary education is 63%, but the number of employed persons has decreased by 17,000 compared to the previous census, in parallel with the decline in the number of persons with such education attainment. The total number of

people with secondary school degree and tertiary education had increased over the period – by 165,000 and 394,000 respectively – and the number of people in employment showed significant increase in these groups as well. Among those with a secondary school degree with final examinations, 17,088,000 were employed in 2022 (63% of those with such a qualification), an increase of 327,000 in employment, a 9 percentage point increase compared to 2011. Employment grew most among those attained tertiary education: 76% of those with such a degree were employed, 1,400,900 with the number of employed persons increasing by 406,300 between 2011 and 2022.

**Table 1: Number and share of employed persons by highest educational attainment in 2011 and 2022**

	2011	2022
Primary school lower than grade 8	20,191 (5)	28,170 (15)
Primary school first 8 grades	434,047 (19)	485,870 (28)
Secondary school without final examinations, with vocational degree	1,111,880 (62)	1,094,933 (63)
Secondary-school degree with final examinations	1,381,968 (54)	1,708,792 (63)
University, college, etc. with a degree	994,637 (69)	1,400,895 (76)

Source: HCSO, Census 2022, WBS004

In brackets, the share of employed persons within the given education group, percentage.

### Settlement type

As in past censuses, the proportion of employed people is highest in the capital: in 2022, 62% of the population aged 15 and over in Budapest – 913,300 people - were employed. In towns with county's rights and other towns, the share of employed persons was similar to the national rate,

while in villages, the share of employed persons was slightly lower at 55%. At the same time, the number of persons employed increased most in the villages. The total number of employed persons in these municipalities increased by more than a quarter, or 275,000, compared to 2011, with the number of unemployed persons decreasing by more than 100,000.

## **GDP TRENDS COMPARED TO THE 2008 AND 2020 CRISES, BY REGION**

---

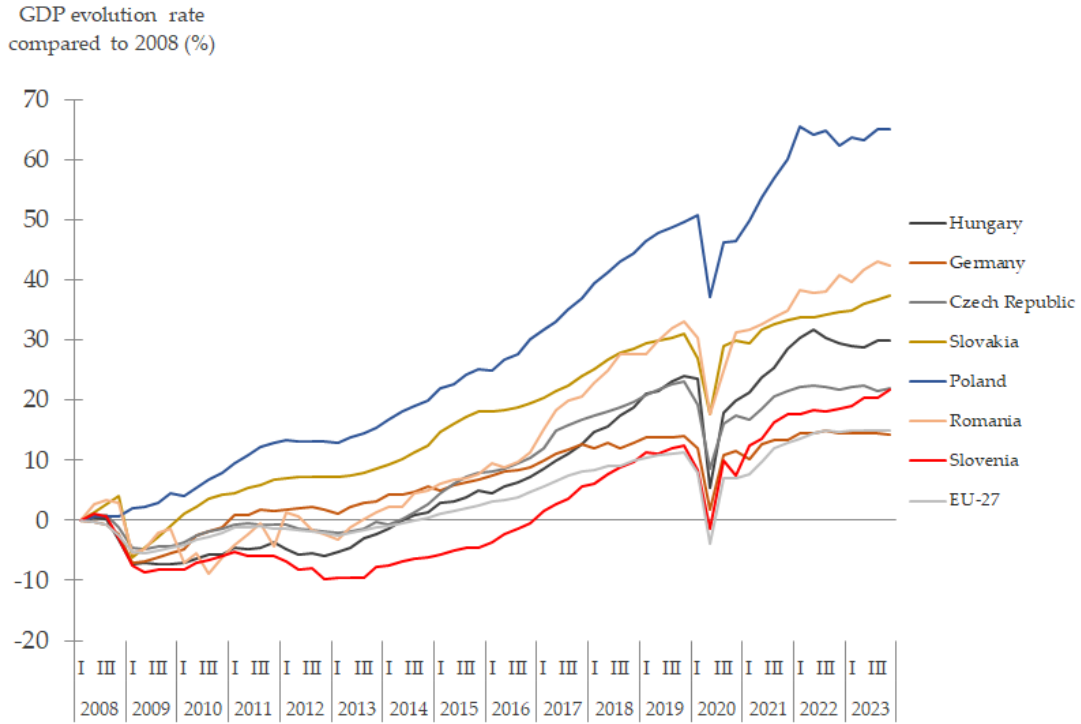
The following short analysis compares the impact of the 2008 world financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 on the economy of Hungary and of other countries in the region. The quarterly change in GDP since the start of the crisis is used as an indicator in comparison to the previous quarters.

Data available on the recovery of the Hungarian economy from the 2008 crisis show that Hungary's GDP took much longer to reach its pre-crisis level than in Poland, Slovakia, Germany or even Romania (Figure 1). Another important takeaway from the figure is that although the economy of Hungary was particularly hard hit by the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 in the first half of 2020, it had one of the fastest growth rates in the region in 2021, alongside Slovenia and Poland. From 2022 onwards, however, economic growth in all countries of the region was brought to a halt as a result of the Russo-Ukrainian war and the resulting energy crisis, and this stagnation continued in 2023. However, while in Q4 2023, the GDP in Hungary was 30% higher than before the global crisis of 2008 (Q1 2008), the same figure was 65% in Poland, 42% in Romania and 37% in Slovakia. In other words, during this period, the GDP growth rates of Poland, Romania and Slovakia were all higher than those of Hungary, and in the

first half of 2020 and 2022, these economies saw no or only a minor downturn.

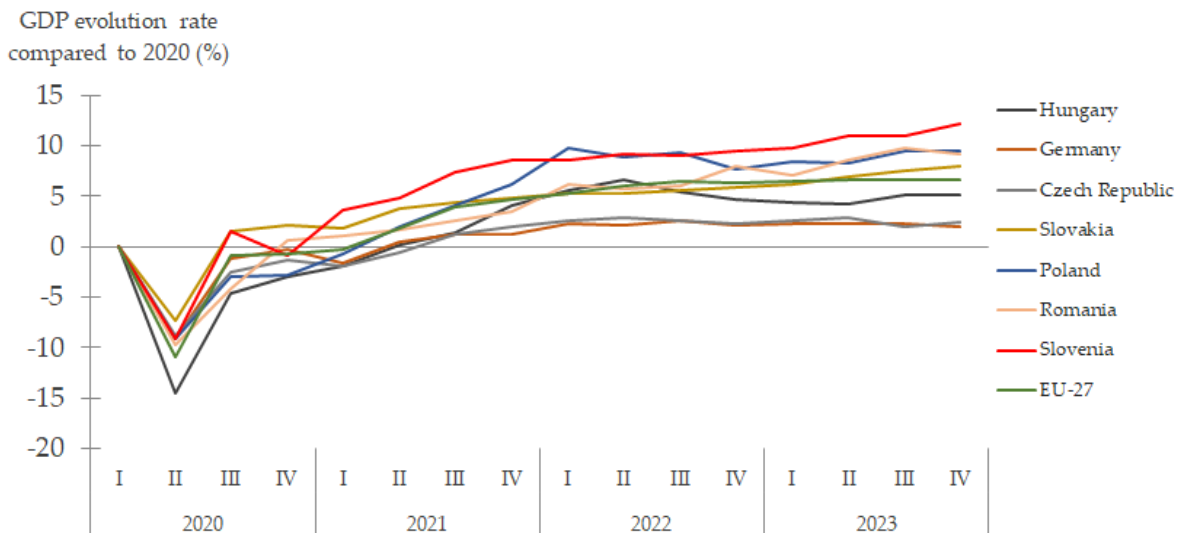
The economic crisis resulting from the impact of COVID-19 hit Hungary more severely in the first half of 2020 the country than its neighbours in the region, Germany and even the EU-27 average, with a 15% drop in GDP in the second quarter compared to its first quarter. By the second half of 2021, however, GDP in the region and the EU-27 average had exceeded the GDP in 2020. In Hungary, it was slightly above the EU average, GDP in Q4 2021 was already 4% higher than at the start of the economic crisis (Q1 2020) when COVID-19 took off. In Q4 2022, considering the region-wide slowdown due to the war and the energy crisis, the same figure was 5%, as in Q4 2023. The Slovenian (14%), Romanian (9%), Polish (9%) and Slovakian (8%) economies in the region have all recovered more strongly than the Hungarian economy over the past four years.

**Figure 1: Where we are now compared to the 2008 crisis. Change in GDP in the quarters since the onset of the crisis (2008 q1 – 20223 q4)**



Source: IEER, calculation based on KSH, Eurostat and Destatis data

**Figure 2: Where we are now compared to the 2008 crisis. Change in GDP in the quarters since the onset of the crisis (2020 q1 – 20223 q4)**

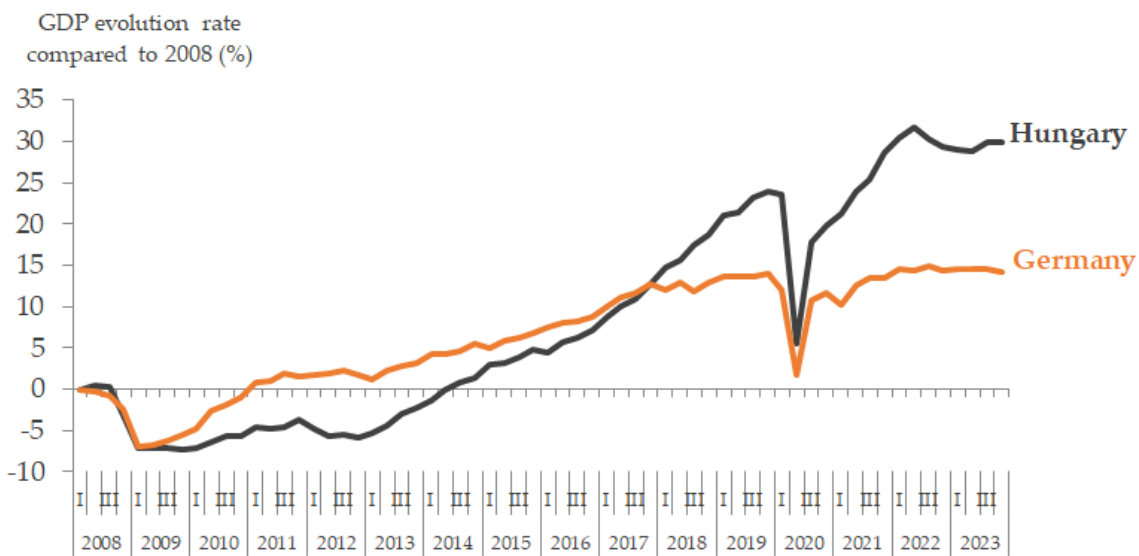


Source: IEER, calculation based on KSH, Eurostat and Destatis data

Compared with the economy of Germany, the Hungarian economy has taken much more time to recover from the 2008 global economic crisis: the German economy reached its pre-crisis level in the first quarter of 2011, while the Hungarian economy only did so in the third quarter of 2014. The gap between the growth rates of the Hungarian and German economies closed between the first quarter of 2016 and the fourth quarter of 2017, and figures for 2018 and 2019 show that the Hungarian economy was increasingly outpacing the German economy. As a result of the

economic crisis that unfolded in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the gap between the growth rates of the two countries shrank again compared to 2008, while the German economy reached its lowest level since 2008. Nevertheless, the recession was followed by a rapid rebound in both countries, and from its lowest in the second half of 2020, the economy of Hungary quickly returned to a growth rate ahead of the German economy, which was not significantly affected by the stagnation and slight decline caused by the war and the energy crisis.

**Figure 3: Change in GDP in Hungary and Germany since the start of the crisis in 2008 (Q1 2008=100%)**





## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Changes in the production, consumption and employment situation in certain major international economies compared with peer expectations and the previous period.

		Period in review	Actual data	Expectations	Previous period
	Unemployment Rate	(April)	<b>5.9%</b>	5.9%	5.9%
Germany	Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index	(April)	<b>42,2</b>	42,8	<b>41,9</b>
	IFO Business Climate Index <sup>1</sup>	(April)	<b>89,4</b>	89,9	87,9
France	INSEE Business Climate Index <sup>2</sup>	(April)	<b>98,7</b>		100,0
	Unemployment Rate	(April)	<b>3,9%</b>	3,8%	3,8%
USA	CB Consumer Confidence Index	(April)	<b>97,0</b>	104,0	<b>103,1</b>
	Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index	(April)	<b>50,0</b>	49,9	<b>51,9</b>
China	Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index	(April)	<b>50,4</b>	50,3	50,8

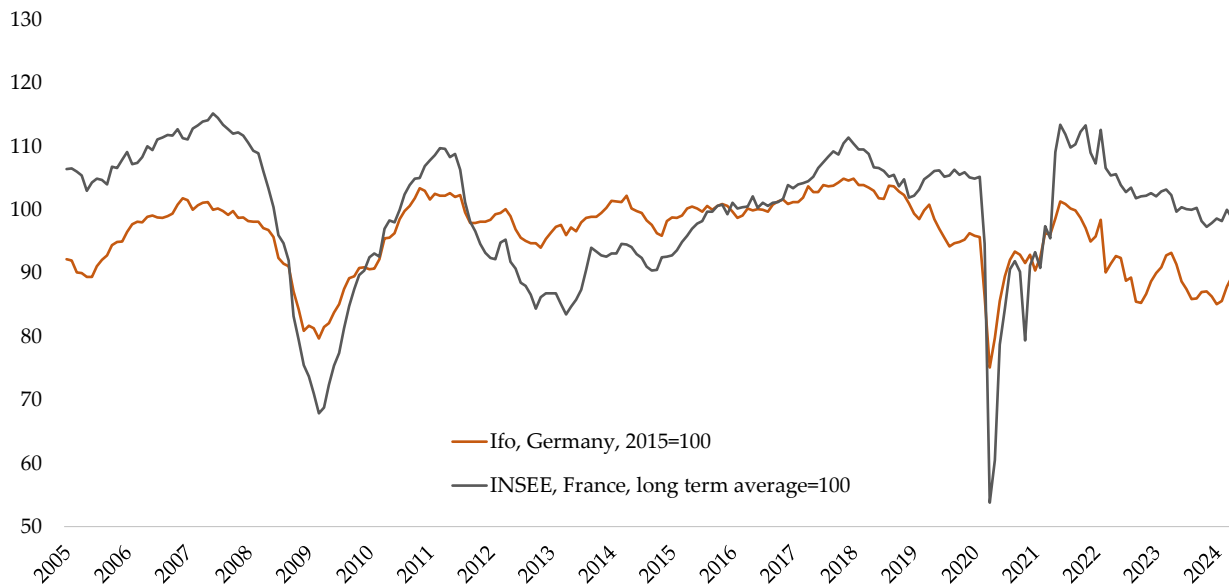
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ifo.de/en/survey/ifo-business-climate-index-germany>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques?debut=0&theme=30&conjoncture=23>

The rest of the data source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/economic-calendar>

In Germany, the IFO business climate index continues to increase in April. The manufacturing purchasing manager index (PMI) also rose, and the unemployment rate remained the same in Germany compared to the previous period. The French INSEE business climate index slightly decreased compared to the month prior. The unemployment rate increased in the USA compared to the month prior. The CB consumer confidence index and the manufacturing PMI decreased compared to March and the consumer confidence index performed worse than expected. The Chinese manufacturing PMI declined compared to the previous month.

Business confidence in Germany and France,  
based on the Ifo and INSEE business climate survey,  
January 2005 – April 2024



Sources: [www.ifo.de](http://www.ifo.de), [www.insee.fr](http://www.insee.fr)

### CONTACT

MKIK GVI  
1054 BUDAPEST, SZABADSÁG TÉR 7.  
TEL: 1/235-05-84  
E-MAIL: [GVI@GVI.HU](mailto:GVI@GVI.HU)  
INTERNET: [HTTP://WWW.GVI.HU](http://WWW.GVI.HU)

### PREPARED BY

NÁBELEK FRUZZSINA, RESEARCH DIRECTOR  
BACSÁK DÁNIEL, ANALYST  
MAKÓ ÁGNES, ANALYST

### RESEARCH MANAGER

NÁBELEK FRUZZSINA, RESEARCH DIRECTOR

15 MAY 2024

In case of publication please cite as follow:  
HCCI IEER: Monthly Bulletin of Economic Trends,  
April 2024, Budapest,  
2024-05-15