

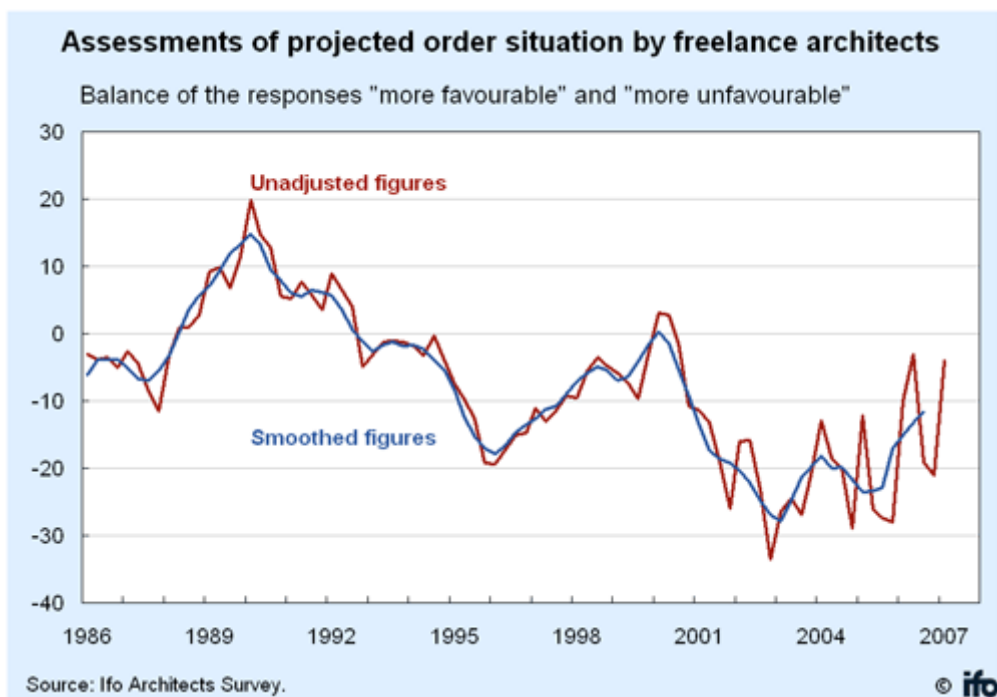
## Ifo Architects Survey

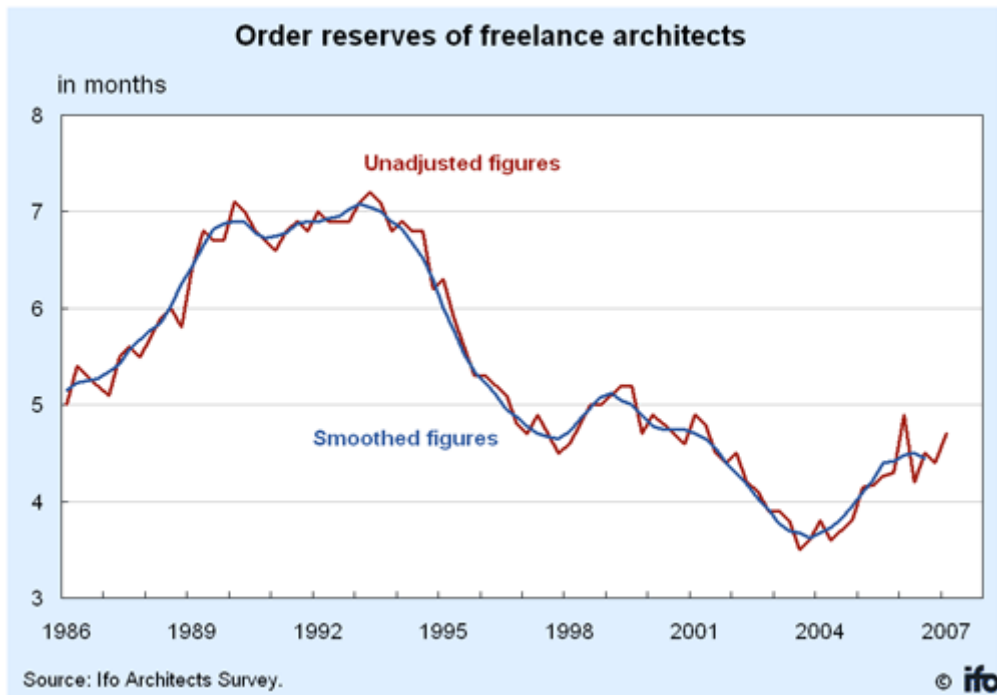
### Ifo Architects Survey: Business expectations less sceptical

According to the results of the recent quarterly survey of freelance architects conducted by the Ifo Institute, the business climate clearly brightened at the beginning of the first quarter of 2007. The improvement was based solely on again-rising optimism with regard to future developments. Although a seventh of the survey participants continue to expect their projected order situation to be "more favourable" in half a year, only 18% (compared to 29% in the previous quarter) anticipate a "more unfavourable" development in the coming six months. The assessments made by the freelance architects of their current business were just as poor as they were three months ago.

For the survey quarter, the estimated construction volume from recently concluded contracts (new construction excluding planning services for existing buildings) was more than a quarter above the level of the previous quarter. The total planning volume in residential construction the architects had acquired was about as large as it was in the third quarter of 2006. In non-residential construction, in contrast, the contract amount increased by 50% over the previous quarter.

The average depth of orders on hand of the surveyed architectural offices increased clearly. The order reserves at year-end were 4.7 months; three months before they had been only 4.4 months. Overlooking the outlier that occurred one year ago, the order reserves have reached the highest level in six years.





**Publication:**

Erich Gluch, „ifo Architektenumfrage: Geschäftserwartungen weniger skeptisch“, ifo Schnelldienst 60 (9), 2007, p. 40-41 (in German)

**Legend:** The Ifo Institute has conducted its quarterly survey of freelance architects Germany-wide since 1996 (since 1980 in only four federal states) among a panel of 2,500 architects. The survey gathers data on the business climate, new contracts – from which construction volume is estimated – as well as orders on hand. The quarterly data is supplemented by annually surveyed data on how large the architectural offices are and on their legal forms and volume of fees.