

## Ifo Architects Survey

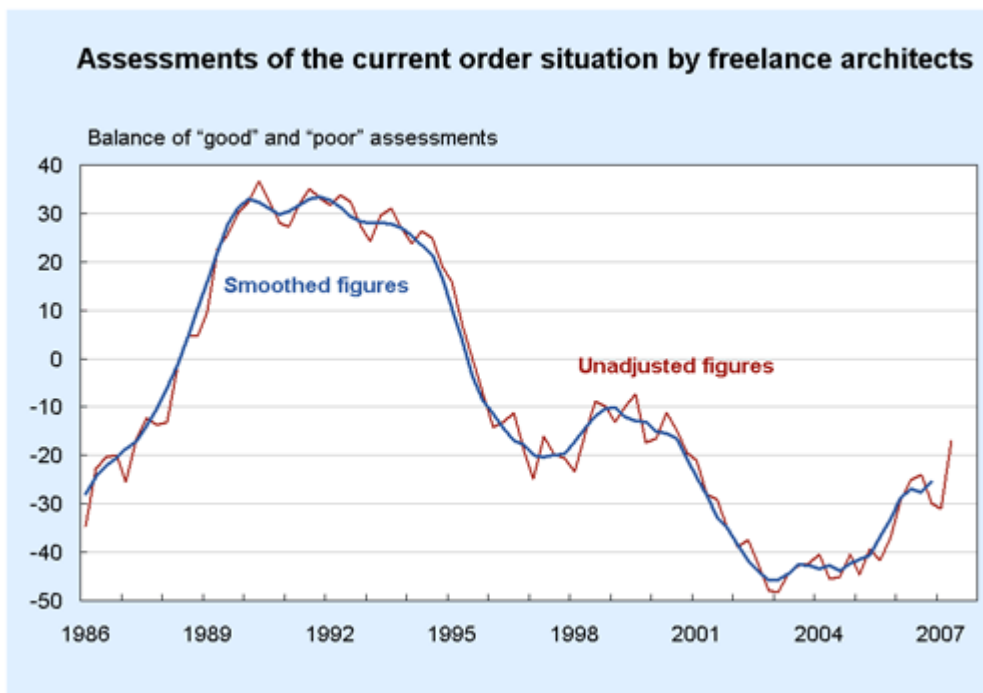
### Ifo Architects Survey: Further improved business situation

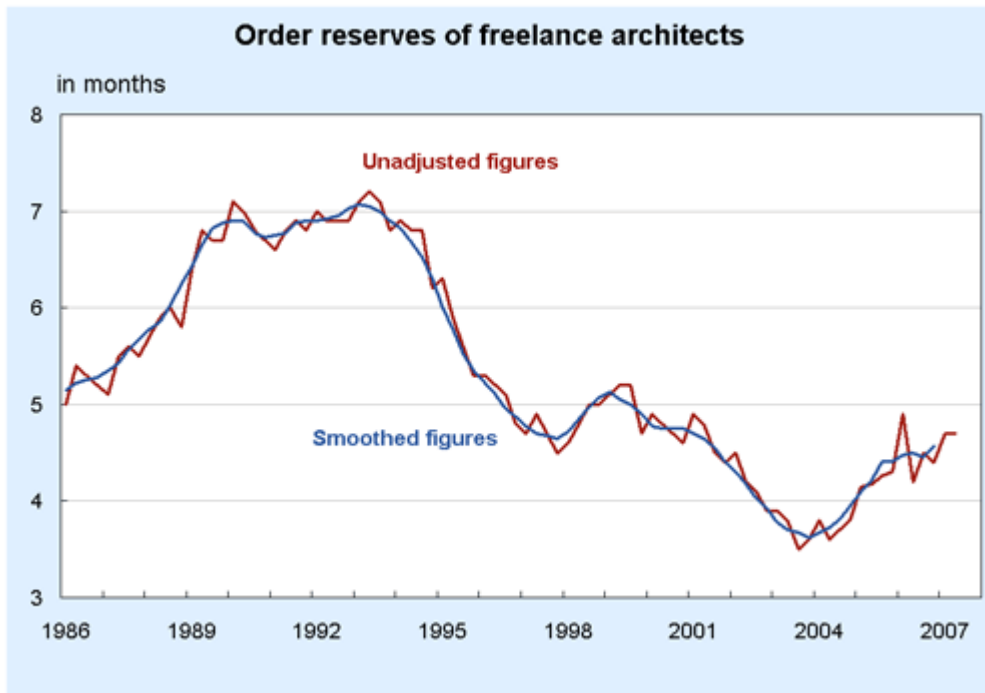
The latest results of the quarterly survey that the Ifo Institute conducts among freelance architects indicate that the business situation at the beginning of the second quarter of 2007 has further improved. The climate indicator is now at its highest level in seven years. The surveyed architects were more satisfied with their current business situation than they were the previous quarter; on balance, one in five architects designated the current order situation as "good". The outlook was assessed somewhat less favourably, but the major portion of surveyed architects anticipates no significant change (ca. 70 percent).

In the first quarter of 2007, 51 percent of the surveyed freelance architects concluded new contracts – 3 percentage points more than in the previous quarter. Even this small increase should be seen positively, however, since seasonally the first quarter is generally weaker than the last quarter of the previous year.

Estimated construction volume from newly concluded contacts (planning of new buildings, excluding planning measures for existing buildings) in the second quarter was about 20 percent below the level of the previous quarter, with differing results in the construction segments: in residential construction a plus of more than one tenth was registered, but the planning volume in non-residential construction was about 30 percent below the results of the first quarter.

According to the survey responses, order reserves at the end of the first quarter of 2007 – on average for the federal states – were 4.7 months, the same level as the previous quarter. One year ago, the order cushion was a half a month smaller.





**Publication:**

Erich Gluch, „ifo Architektenumfrage: Geschäftslage weiter verbessert“,  
ifo Schnelldienst 60(13), 2007, 33-34 (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.