Ifo Architects Survey

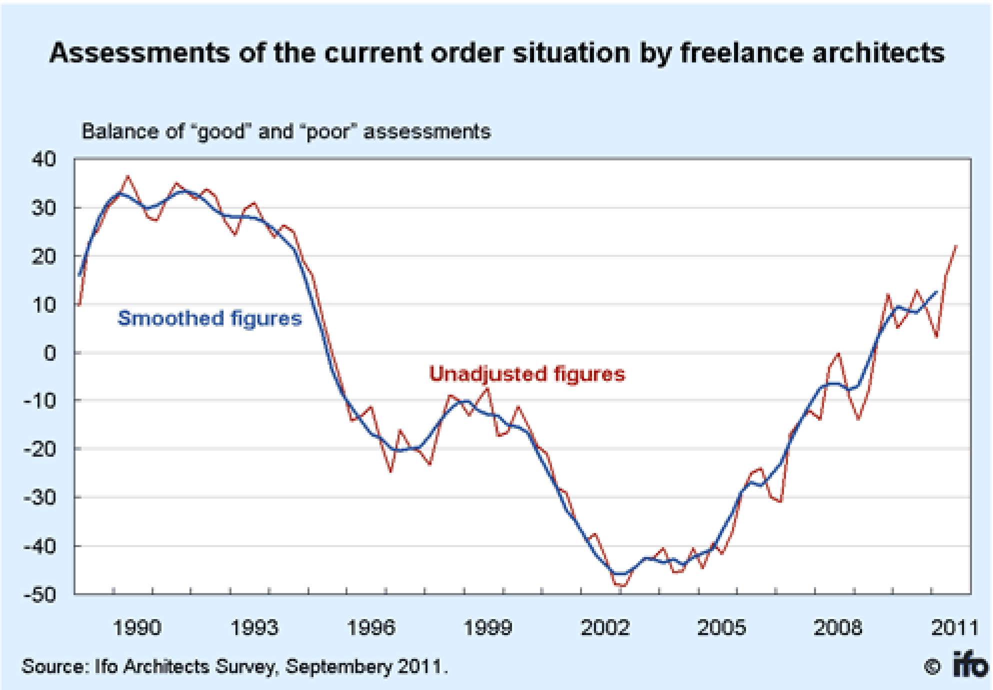
Results of the Ifo Architects Survey of 3rd quarter 2011

Order stocks remain high

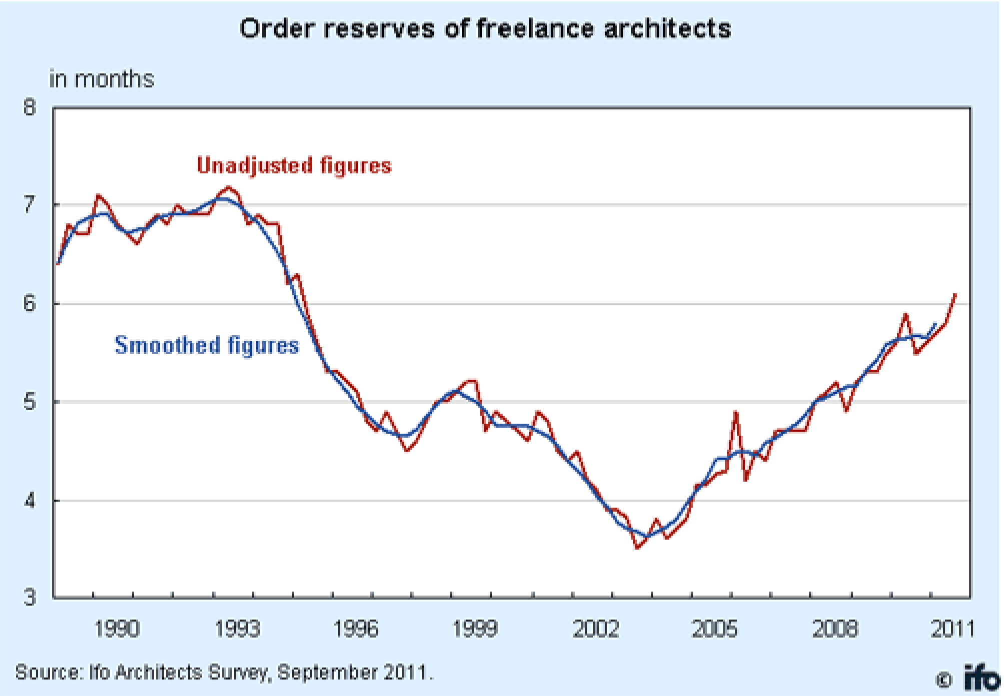
According to the results of the quarterly survey of freelance architects by the Ifo Institute, the business climate at the beginning of the third quarter of 2011 has brightened and remains at a quite a favourable level. The surveyed architects once again appraised their current business situation more favourably but their business prospects a little more sceptically than a quarter year ago. In the second quarter of 2011, 55 percent of the freelance architects were able to conclude new contracts.

In the second quarter of 2011, the estimated construction volume from the newly concluded contracts in residential construction was roughly 12 percent larger than in the previous quarter. In contrast, in non-residential construction the planning volume declined by nearly a fifth. Here, the downward trend is attributable to less extensive planning for commercial buildings. The volume of total new orders in this sub-sector was about one-tenth smaller than in the previous quarter.

The planning contracts awarded by public authorities were about 5 percent larger than in the first quarter of 2011. This is quite remarkable, especially considering that already in the previous four quarters the contract volumes increased, on average, by around a 25 percent each quarter.



The average order stocks increased – at 6.1 months, order reserves at the end of June 2011 were a good half a month larger more than three years ago, or roughly 75 percent larger than eight years ago.



Publication:
Erich Gluch, "ifo Architektenumfrage: Weiterhin hohe Auftragsbestände", ifo Schnelldienst 64(19), 2011, 3-4

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.