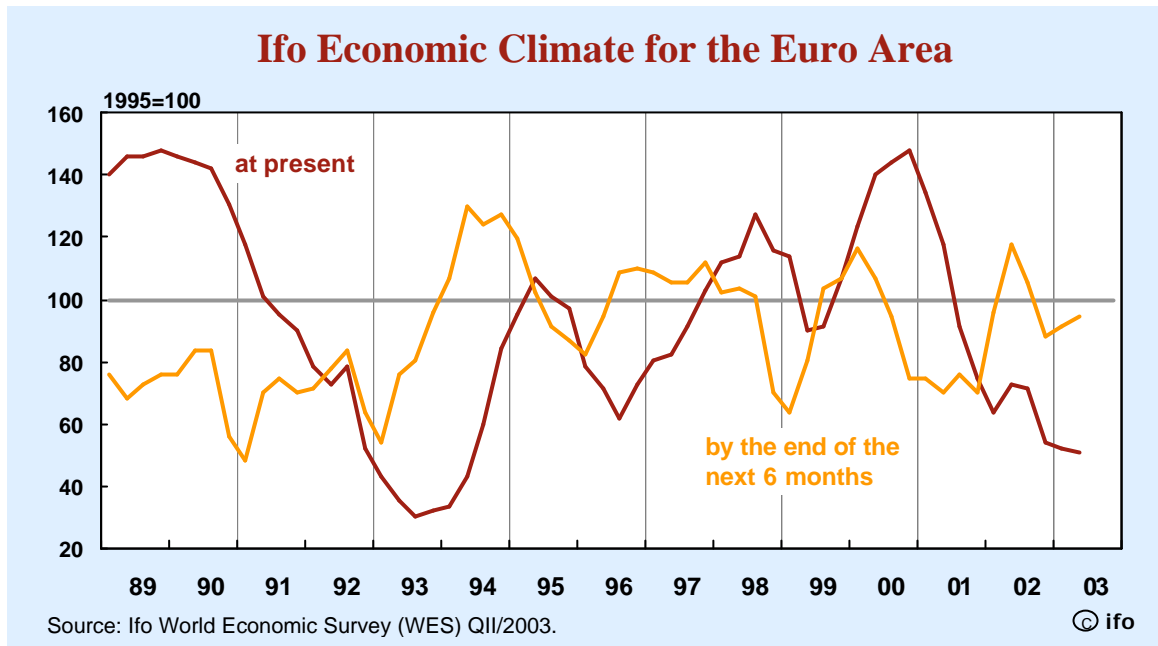


Embargo: Tuesday, 20 May, 3 p.m. GMT



Quarter/year	II/01	III/01	IV/01	I/02	II/02	III/02	IV/02	I/03	II/03
<b>Climate</b>	91.5	83.1	72.0	81.4	97.5	89.8	72.9	73.7	74.6
<b>Situation</b>	117.8	91.6	74.8	63.6	72.9	71.0	54.2	52.3	50.5
<b>Expectations</b>	69.8	76.0	69.8	96.1	117.8	105.4	88.4	91.5	94.6

The Ifo World Economic Survey (WES) investigates world wide economic trends by polling transnational as well as national organisations in different countries. This allows for a rapid up-to-date assessment of the economic situation prevailing around the world. The full set of results will be published on 27 May 2003.

The April euro area results, which are published here in advance, are based on the responses of 274 economic experts. WES is conducted in co-operation with the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris and receives financial support from the European Commission.

### Expectations Slightly Improved in the Euro Area

*Advanced results of the Ifo World Economic Survey (WES) of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003*

The Ifo indicator for the economic climate in the euro area showed conflicting trends in April 2003 compared with the WES results of January 2003. Although the expectations for the next six months improved, the assessments of the present economic situation deteriorated further, reaching the lowest level since the second quarter of 1994.

Since the expectations tend to lead the assessments of the present situation, there is some hope that the European economic climate will brighten again in six months. At the moment, however, the economy remains in the doldrums.

Hans-Werner Sinn, President of the Ifo Institute for Economic Research