

QUARTERLY REPORT

Mype Business Confidence Index

January - March 2021



THE SMEs CONFIDENCE INDEX FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021 HAS IMPROVED MILDLY.

When the first Quarter of 2021 came to an end, doubts and uncertainty for that year started to drift away. As a result, a more positive trend was observed among business dynamics.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the report <https://observatoriomype.org/perspectivas-economicas-para-la-mype-2021/>, published in December of last year, we took a risk and predicted a slightly positive perspective for SMEs business dynamics, which would be boosted by: the reactivation of all business segments by the end of 2020, the recently acquired resilience, and capacity to adapt of business owners, the bigger control of gained over the pandemic, and the fact that this sector doesn't get too big of an impact by the political situation.

The same report also describes the reasons that are boosting the business dynamics of SMEs, on top of all the factors that promote a favorable atmosphere for its reactivation and economic upturn.

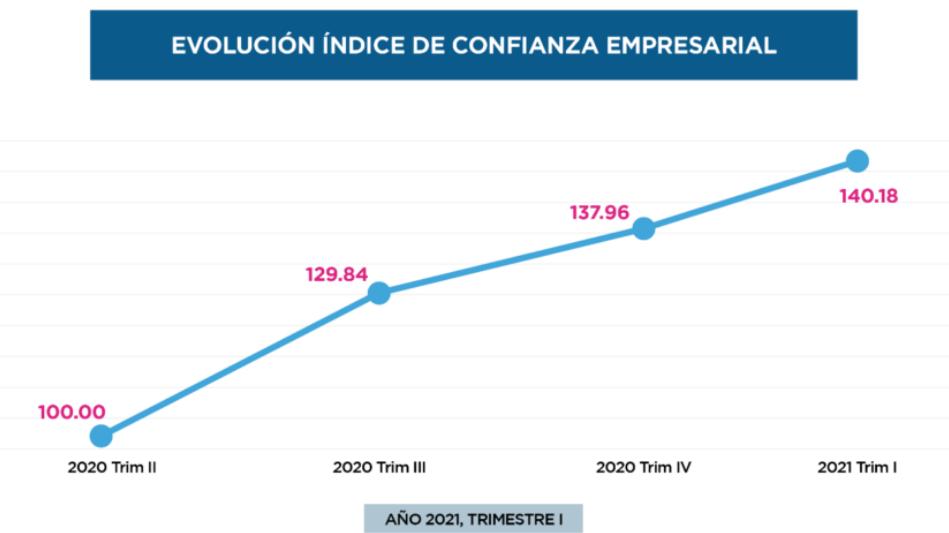
This research showcases the behavior of Business Dynamics of Micro and Small Enterprises by the end of the First Quarter of 2021. These results allow us to see that we actually did a very close prediction of what the future would be for SMEs.

II. RESULTS OF THE MICROBUSINESSES' DYNAMICS SURVEY

1. Elements that make up the Business Confidence Index

As of March 2021, the confidence of micro and small enterprise business owners grew by 40% when comparing it to how it was in June 2020 (the moment when the confinement measures were most strict). This means that the sector has seen a continuous improvement for 3 quarters, although the rate of these positive advancements is starting to go down. In comparison to the last quarter, the growth index has slightly grown by 2,22%.

Figura 1

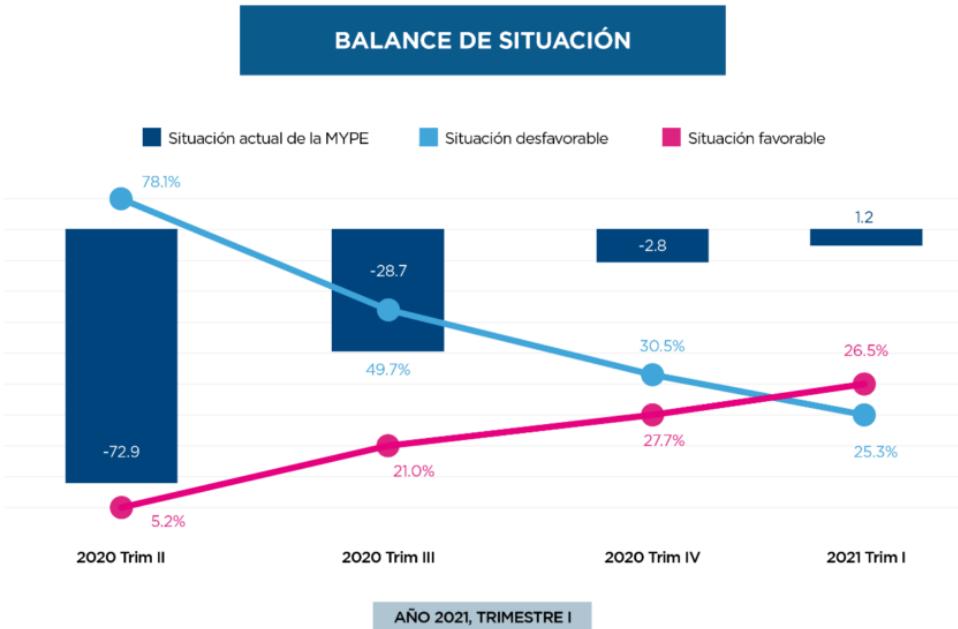


The Situational Index or Situational Assessment measures the behavior of business during the last closed quarter (in this case from January to March 2020) and comes as a result of combining and evaluating the percentage of business owners that had favorable opinions versus the ones that had unfavorable judgments when they had to answer the following question: How would you compare the performance of yours businesses during the first quarter of 2021 in comparison to the IV quarter of 2020.

The number of business owners that admitted to having a positive I Quarter during 2021, in comparison to what they experienced during the IV Quarter of 2020, went from 27.7% to 26.5%. When it came to negative opinions, the number of business owners that considered the I Quarter to be unfavorable with respect to Quarter IV of 2020 went from 30.5% to 25.3%. We can conclude that the economic situation for Micro and Small enterprises is somewhat stable. Also, it is the first time that it has turned out to be positive as can be seen in the graph; it went from -2.8 to 1.2.

These indicators mean that there is a neutral economic situation for SMEs, and they reflect the lack of significant change that business owners have perceived in the performance of their businesses for the Quarter that is just ending.

Figura 2



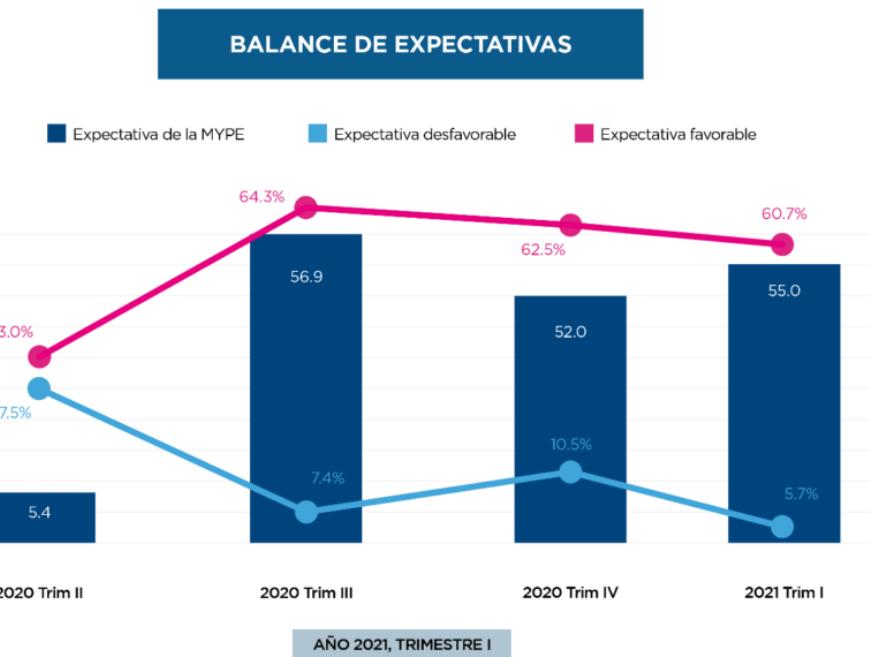
The **Expectations Index**, or *Expectations Balance* whose objective is to identify business owners' perceptions regarding their businesses' performance for the upcoming quarter (April to June 2021), compares and contrast favorable and unfavorable opinions to the question: How do you think your business' performance will be for the upcoming Quarter compared to what it was during the Quarter that just came to an end?

60.7% of all surveyed business owners answered that they expect a favorable II Quarter regarding the performance of their businesses, and in comparison, to how it was during the I Quarter of 2020. Only 5.7% reckons that this second Quater Will be unfavorable.

From these results, we were able to obtain an Expectation Index of 55.0, which is above the 52.0 we obtained for Quarter IV of 2020.

The figure below reflects the evolution of the index in time.

Figura 3



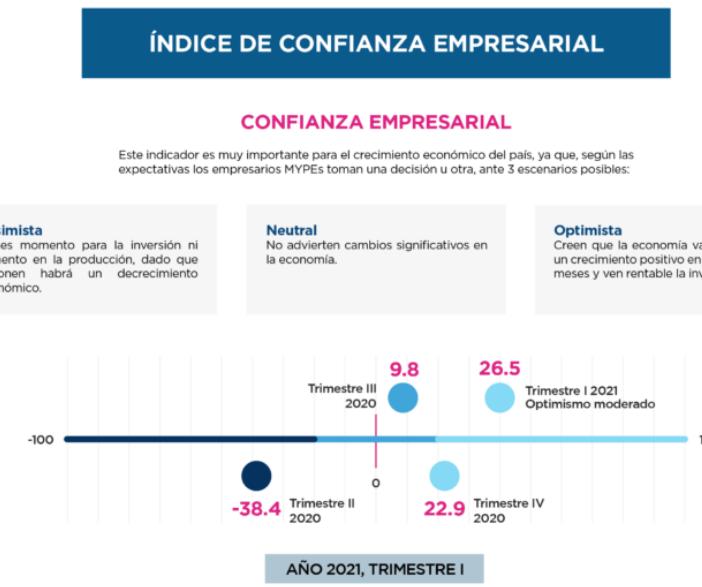
In summary, the Expectation Index reflects optimism as can be seen in the following figure, the score of 50.0 points reflects positive hopes from business owners, even when the results they obtained for every closed period do not show big variations among them. This optimistic attitude is what business owners wear to work every morning, it is also what characterizes the whole SMEs sector, which is one of the segments that most dynamizes the economy of the country.

Figura 4



The third element that makes up the Business Confidence Index, is actually the Business confidence, which has been portraited and reflected in figure 5. The obtained result was 26.5, which means that business owners, although prudently, do believe that their businesses will experiment a bigger growth in the upcoming months.

Figura 5



2. Factors that inhibit the development of SMEs

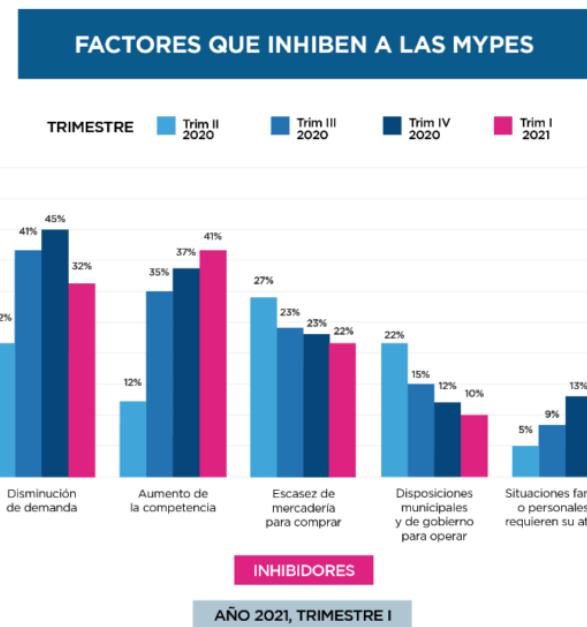
Below, we show you how the responses from surveyed business owners have evolved, with regard to the main aspects that slow the growth, capacity, and development of their businesses:

- Financial difficulties continue to be the main barrier that entrepreneurs face. The number of respondents that suffer from this situation continues to be high, that is 49%.
- The decline of the demand is something that 45% of business owners foresaw when last year was coming to an end. For the first Quarter of 2021, 32% are observing a problem with the demand on their sales.
- A bigger dynamization of the economy can be seen by the increase of competition; 41% of business owners report this situation.
- Difficulties to stock their businesses with merchandise continue to be experimented by 22% of entrepreneurs, and supply chains continue to be affected as well.
- Only 10% of business owners continue to have municipal restrictions that hinder their operations.
- The percentage of interviewed respondents reported being affected for having to provide attention to family-related issues or personal situations. This number continues to grow, this last Quarter it made up 15% of all respondents.

- Just like the previous index results, 15% of business owners report being affected by criminality when it came to their businesses' performance. There is a growing trend, undoubtedly.

Below, we showcase the previous statements portraited in a graph.

Figura 6



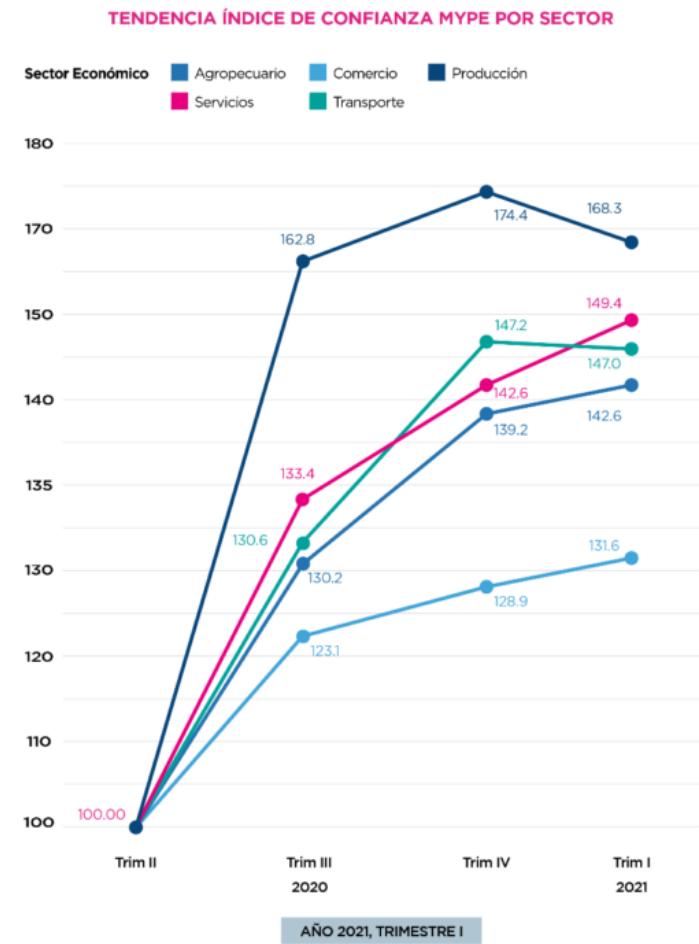
3. Business Confidence Index per Segment and Economic Sectors

As can be seen in figure 7, 3 of the previously mentioned sectors improved in comparison to the previous Quarter. Small Enterprises are the ones that showcase the biggest increase (5.8%). On the other hand, Amplified Accumulation Microenterprises, which tend to be a very dynamic sector, have gone through a decrease of -5.2%.

From all 5 economic sectors, the level of confidence increased in the following: Services (6.8%), and Commerce (2.7%). On the other side, the Transportation sector decreased by (-0.2%). Finally, the Production sector is the one that showcased the biggest decrease (-6.1%), and although it has been the one to go down the most, it continues to be the one with the best performance.

Figura 7

ÍNDICE DE CONFIANZA POR SEGMENTO Y SECTOR ECONÓMICO



Below, we showcase a summary table about the business confidence index. Also, we've added all different items that make it up.

ÍNDICE DE CONFIANZA MYPE

INDICADOR	AÑO		
	TRIM II	2020	2021
ÍNDICE DE CONFIANZA EMPRESARIAL MYPE	100.0	129.8	138.0
1. SITUACIÓN ACTUAL DE LA MYPE	-72.9	-28.7	-2.8
2. EXPECTATIVA DE LA MYPE	5.4	56.9	52.0
CONFIANZA EMPRESARIAL	-38.4	9.8	22.9
3. ÍNDICE DE VENTAS	100.0	134.5	133.4
4. ÍNDICE DE INVERSIÓN	100.0	125.3	126.7
5. ÍNDICE DE EMPLEO	100.0	125.3	126.4
6. ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS	100.0	95.3	94.9

Business confidence in terms of Sales, Investment in companies, and creation of jobs is still on the rise. On the contrary, the price level of products continues to showcase a rising trend, which makes business confidence in them diminish.

ANEXO 1.

NOTA METODOLÓGICA

Ámbitos de la encuesta

i. Ámbito poblacional

La población objeto de estudio está formada por todos los micro y pequeños empresarios pertenecientes al sector informal de las diferentes actividades económicas. Dadas las características de las variables que se recogen, los informantes deben ser los propietarios o gestores de los establecimientos, puesto que son ellos quienes tienen una percepción global de la marcha del negocio y de la evolución de las variables para las que se solicita información.

ii. Ámbito Territorial

Las unidades de análisis se encuentran ubicadas en todo el territorio del país.

iii. Ámbito Temporal

Estos indicadores estadísticos se realizan trimestralmente. La fase de levantamiento de información dura una semana e incluye el final de un trimestre y el inicio del siguiente. Se pregunta sobre la evolución del trimestre que finaliza y sus expectativas para el trimestre que comienza. De este modo, en cada periodo se obtiene información referente a dos trimestres diferentes: el que finaliza y el entrante. Ante esta doble alusión temporal se asignan los resultados publicados al trimestre entrante.

iv. Definiciones

En el cuestionario hacer referencia a:

- **Expectativas**

Se pregunta información sobre la tendencia que esperan los propietarios respecto a la evolución de sus negocios durante el trimestre entrante. Las variables para preguntar son:

- marcha del negocio en general,
- personal ocupado en el establecimiento,
- inversión para realizar y
- nivel de precios.

v. Situación

Se pregunta información sobre la tendencia seguida por su negocio en el trimestre que acaba de finalizar. Las variables de pregunta son las mismas que se emplean para medir las expectativas

vi. Inhibidores de la Actividad del Negocio

Se pide opinión sobre los factores que los Mypes creen que limitan la actividad del negocio. Las opciones pueden ser:

- baja demanda,
- escasez de mercadería
- dificultades financieras,
- aumento de la competencia,
- restricciones municipales y de gobierno,
- situaciones familiares o personales que requieren su atención,
- otras.

vii. Diseño de la Muestra

CONSIDERANDO EL UNIVERSO FINITO

FORMULA DE CALCULO

$$n = \frac{Z^2 * N * p * q}{e^2 * (N-1) + (Z^2 * p * q)}$$

Donde:

- Z = nivel de confianza (correspondiente con tabla de valores de Z)
p = Porcentaje de la población que tiene el atributo deseado
q = Porcentaje de la población que no tiene el atributo deseado = 1-p
Nota: cuando no hay indicación de la población que posee o no el atributo, se asume 50% para p y 50% para q
N = Tamaño del universo (Se conoce puesto que es finito)
e = Error de estimación máximo aceptado
n = Tamaño de la muestra

INGRESO DE DATOS

Z =	1.96
p =	50%
q =	50%
N =	845,347
e =	4%

TAMAÑO DE MUESTRA

n = 600

La muestra es de 600 micro y pequeños empresarios a entrevistar, la cual se ha dividido mediante muestreo estratificado con base a estimaciones de participación de cada segmento en el universo de Mypes informales de El Salvador.

viii. Cuestionario

Tomando en cuenta que la población objetiva es poco probable que lleve registros por escrito y en los casos que tienen esta práctica son a nivel detallado lo cual dificulta extraer información cuantitativa precisa y sin sesgo, se recomienda apelar al buen dominio mental que tienen del desempeño de sus negocios en el tiempo y realizar preguntas de índole cuantitativo con fácil comprensión para la respuesta de los diferentes estratos a estudiar. El cuestionario propuesto es:

1. ¿Cómo califica la marcha de su negocio?
 - a) Para el trimestre que está finalizando
 - b) Para el trimestre que está por llegar

Opciones de respuesta para cada literal: Favorable, Normal o Desfavorable. Solo se debe permitir elegir una.

2. Al comparar el trimestre que finaliza con el período anterior, ¿Cómo valora la tendencia de las siguientes variables en su negocio?
 - a) Ventas realizadas
 - b) Número de personas ocupadas en su negocio (incluyéndose usted)
 - c) Compra de mercadería y activo fijo
 - d) Precios de mercadería

Opciones de respuesta para cada literal: Aumentó, Fue igual, Disminuyó. Solo se debe permitir elegir una

3. Para las siguientes variables ¿Cómo espera que sea el trimestre que va a comenzar en comparación con el que termina
 - a) Ventas que espera realizar
 - b) Número de personas que estarán ocupadas en su negocio (incluyéndose usted)
 - c) Mercadería y activo fijo que espera comprar
 - d) Precios de mercadería

Opciones de respuesta para cada literal: Aumentará, Será igual, Disminuirá. Solo se debe permitir elegir una

4. ¿Qué factores cree usted que limitan la actividad o buena marcha de su negocio?

Seleccione los que considere relevantes:

- a) Disminución de la demanda
- b) Mercadería escasa para comprar
- c) dificultades financieras
- d) aumento de la competencia
- e) disposiciones municipales y de gobierno para operar
- f) situaciones familiares o personales que requieren su atención
- g) otras.

Opciones de respuesta deben ser para el trimestre que termina y para el que se viene.

5. Adicionar preguntas cerradas de identificación que pueden ser orientadas a: Actividad económica que realiza, departamento y municipio donde realiza la actividad, rango de edad, rango de ventas mensuales, rango de número de personas que dependen económicamente, etc.

ix. Definición y Cálculo de Indicadores

- Índice de Percepción de la Situación Económica Actual. Refleja la diferencia entre respuestas favorables y desfavorables relativas al trimestre que acaba. Este puede oscilar entre -100 (todos tienen una percepción negativa) y + 100 (todos tienen una percepción positiva). Si el resultado es positivo, la valoración del trimestre que finaliza tiene más opiniones favorables.
- Índice de Expectativa. Se mide al igual que el Índice de Percepción de la Situación Actual. Si el resultado es positivo, significa que los optimistas superan a los pesimistas respecto a cómo marcharán los negocios en el próximo trimestre.
- Índice de Confianza Empresarial.

Se construye a partir de una media geométrica normalizada entre el Índice de Situación y el de Expectativa.

$$\text{Confianza Empresarial} = \sqrt{(Situación + 200) * (Expectativa + 200)} - 200$$

La Confianza Empresarial puede fluctuar entre -100 y +100.

A partir de aquí calculamos el índice cuya base es este primer trimestre que tendremos, es decir, este primer ejercicio el índice será +100. Para el segundo ejercicio que realicemos el cálculo del Índice de Confianza Empresarial será:

$$= \frac{\text{Confianza Empresarial} + 200}{\text{Confianza Empresarial a Jun20} + 200} * 100$$