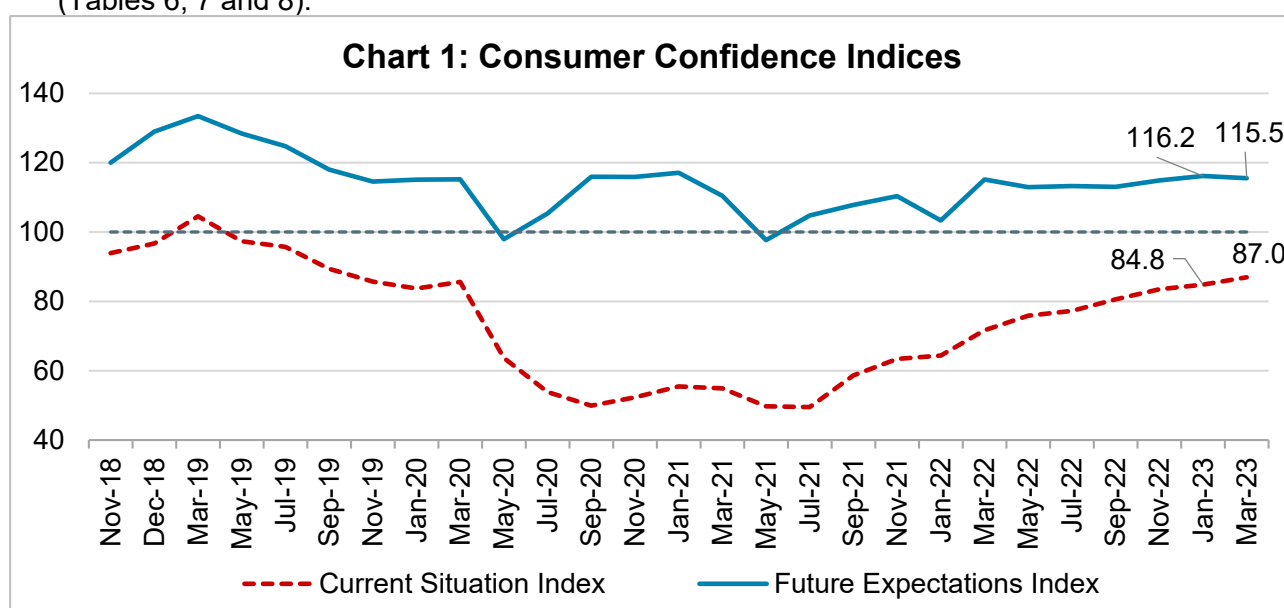


Consumer Confidence Survey

Today, the Reserve Bank released the results of March 2023 round of its bi-monthly consumer confidence survey (CCS)¹ The survey obtains current perceptions (*vis-à-vis* a year ago) and one year ahead expectations on general economic situation, employment scenario, overall price situation and own income and spending across 19 major cities. The latest round of the survey was conducted during March 2-11, 2023, covering 6,075 respondents. Female respondents accounted for 52.3 per cent of this sample.

Highlights:

- I. Consumer confidence continues to recover from the historic low recorded in mid-2021, though it remained in the pessimistic zone; the current situation index (CSI)² rose by 2.2 points on account of improved perception on general economic situation, employment, and household income (Chart 1 and Tables 1, 2 and 5).
- II. Households' overall outlook for the year ahead remained in positive terrain despite marginally lower optimism (Chart 1).
- III. With an uptick in current perception, the sentiments on employment are nearing the levels seen around mid-2019; consumers are also optimistic about the employment outlook as more than half of the respondents expect employment scenario to improve over the next one year (Table 2).
- IV. Household assessment of inflation conditions improved for the current period reflecting more confidence on economic conditions; notwithstanding a marginal uptick in the latest round, inflationary expectations improved over their average level since September 2021.
- V. Household spending was buoyant on the back of higher essential and non-essential spending; more than a third of the households expect a rise in non-essential outlay over the next year (Tables 6, 7 and 8).



Note: [Please see the excel file for time series data.](#)³

¹ The survey results reflect the respondents' views, which are not necessarily shared by the Reserve Bank. Results of the previous survey round were released on the Bank's website on [February 08, 2023](#).

² CSI and FEI are compiled on the basis of net responses on the economic situation, income, spending, employment and the price level for the current period (as compared with one year ago) and a year ahead, respectively. CSI and FEI = 100 + Average of Net Responses of the above parameters.

³ Unit-level data for previous rounds of the survey are available on the Database on Indian Economy (DBIE) portal of the Bank (web link: <https://dbie.rbi.org.in/DBIE/dbie.rbi?site=unitLevelData>)

Summary based on Net Responses ⁴						
Main Variables	Current Perception compared with one-year ago			One year ahead Expectations compared with current situation		
	Jan-23	Mar-23	Change	Jan-23	Mar-23	Change
Economic Situation	-23.7	-20.4	↑	17.0	15.0	↓
Employment	-19.9	-15.7	↑	21.6	22.8	↑
Price Level	-92.3	-92.9	↓	-76.1	-77.5	↓
Income	-8.3	-5.9	↑	47.6	46.7	↓
Spending	68.4	69.6	↑	70.8	70.8	↔
Consumer Confidence Index	84.8	87.0	↑	116.2	115.5	↓
↑ Positive Sentiments with sign of improvement compared to last round				↑ Negative Sentiments with sign of improvement compared to last round		
↓ Positive Sentiments with sign of deterioration compared to last round				↓ Negative Sentiments with sign of deterioration compared to last round		
↔ Positive Sentiments with no change compared to last round				↔ Negative Sentiments with no change compared to last round		

⁴ 'Net response' is the difference between the percentage of respondents reporting optimism and those reporting pessimism. It ranges between -100 and 100. Any value greater than zero indicates expansion/ optimism and values less than zero indicate contraction/ pessimism.

Table 1: Perceptions and Expectations on the General Economic Situation

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Improved	Remained Same	Worsened	Net Response	Will Improve	Will Remain Same	Will Worsen	Net Response
Mar-22	21.7	16.2	62.2	-40.5	49.2	15.2	35.7	13.5
May-22	22.5	14.9	62.7	-40.2	45.4	15.3	39.4	6.0
Jul-22	21.6	15.4	63.0	-41.5	46.4	14.9	38.8	7.6
Sep-22	26.2	14.6	59.2	-33.0	46.5	15.4	38.1	8.4
Nov-22	28.0	16.3	55.7	-27.8	48.0	15.6	36.4	11.6
Jan-23	28.3	19.6	52.1	-23.7	50.2	16.6	33.2	17.0
Mar-23	31.4	16.9	51.7	-20.4	49.9	15.1	35.0	15.0

Table 2: Perceptions and Expectations on Employment

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Improved	Remained Same	Worsened	Net Response	Will Improve	Will Remain Same	Will Worsen	Net Response
Mar-22	23.6	17.0	59.5	-35.9	52.9	17.0	30.2	22.7
May-22	27.3	17.8	54.9	-27.6	51.3	16.7	32.1	19.2
Jul-22	28.1	17.3	54.6	-26.5	50.7	17.2	32.0	18.7
Sep-22	28.4	17.6	54.0	-25.7	49.4	17.3	33.3	16.1
Nov-22	31.8	18.6	49.6	-17.8	51.5	18.3	30.3	21.2
Jan-23	30.0	20.1	49.9	-19.9	51.8	18.0	30.2	21.6
Mar-23	32.2	19.9	47.9	-15.7	52.9	17.1	30.1	22.8

Table 3: Perceptions and Expectations on Price Level

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Increased	Remained Same	Decreased	Net Response	Will Increase	Will Remain Same	Will Decrease	Net Response
Mar-22	93.3	5.6	1.2	-92.1	79.1	10.4	10.5	-68.6
May-22	95.4	4.1	0.5	-94.9	80.0	11.1	8.9	-71.1
Jul-22	95.2	4.0	0.9	-94.3	80.4	10.9	8.8	-71.6
Sep-22	94.6	4.3	1.1	-93.6	79.9	11.0	9.1	-70.8
Nov-22	94.9	4.1	1.0	-93.9	82.2	9.3	8.6	-73.6
Jan-23	93.6	5.0	1.3	-92.3	83.0	10.1	7.0	-76.1
Mar-23	93.8	5.2	1.0	-92.9	84.3	9.0	6.7	-77.5

Table 4: Perceptions and Expectations on Rate of Change in Price Level (Inflation)*

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Increased	Remained Same	Decreased	Net Response	Will Increase	Will Remain Same	Will Decrease	Net Response
Mar-22	88.5	9.3	2.2	-86.2	83.9	12.4	3.7	-80.2
May-22	91.3	7.0	1.7	-89.7	81.7	14.2	4.1	-77.6
Jul-22	88.5	8.9	2.6	-85.9	81.8	13.6	4.6	-77.3
Sep-22	89.6	7.8	2.6	-87.0	80.6	14.5	4.9	-75.7
Nov-22	87.5	9.2	3.3	-84.2	82.9	13.2	3.9	-79.1
Jan-23	86.5	10.5	3.0	-83.6	80.3	15.5	4.1	-76.2
Mar-23	86.5	10.0	3.5	-82.9	81.4	14.0	4.6	-76.8

*Applicable only for those respondents who felt price has increased/price will increase.

Table 5: Perceptions and Expectations on Income

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Increased	Remained Same	Decreased	Net Response	Will Increase	Will Remain Same	Will Decrease	Net Response
Mar-22	16.0	42.1	42.0	-26.0	52.9	38.5	8.6	44.3
May-22	17.6	46.0	36.4	-18.9	52.4	39.2	8.4	44.0
Jul-22	18.2	46.0	35.9	-17.7	51.6	40.0	8.4	43.3
Sep-22	20.2	45.5	34.4	-14.2	51.3	39.8	8.9	42.4
Nov-22	20.9	46.1	32.9	-12.0	52.5	39.9	7.6	44.9
Jan-23	21.4	49.0	29.6	-8.3	54.5	38.7	6.9	47.6
Mar-23	22.2	49.7	28.1	-5.9	54.1	38.4	7.5	46.7

Table 6: Perceptions and Expectations on Spending

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Increased	Remained Same	Decreased	Net Response	Will Increase	Will Remain Same	Will Decrease	Net Response
Mar-22	64.1	24.8	11.1	53.0	70.4	23.2	6.4	64.1
May-22	69.4	22.1	8.5	60.9	72.5	21.7	5.8	66.7
Jul-22	72.6	21.1	6.3	66.3	73.0	22.4	4.6	68.3
Sep-22	75.9	17.5	6.6	69.2	74.2	20.7	5.2	69.0
Nov-22	74.9	19.2	5.9	69.0	75.0	20.3	4.7	70.2
Jan-23	73.9	20.6	5.5	68.4	75.5	19.8	4.7	70.8
Mar-23	75.0	19.6	5.4	69.6	75.4	19.9	4.6	70.8

Table 7: Perceptions and Expectations on Spending- Essential Items

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Increased	Remained Same	Decreased	Net Response	Will Increase	Will Remain Same	Will Decrease	Net Response
Mar-22	76.6	15.7	7.7	68.9	78.6	16.2	5.2	73.5
May-22	81.7	12.8	5.5	76.2	79.9	15.7	4.4	75.4
Jul-22	82.0	13.7	4.3	77.7	80.0	16.5	3.6	76.4
Sep-22	85.2	10.7	4.1	81.1	80.9	15.4	3.7	77.3
Nov-22	84.7	11.6	3.7	81.0	81.1	15.4	3.5	77.7
Jan-23	84.1	12.3	3.6	80.5	81.3	15.2	3.5	77.8
Mar-23	85.3	11.5	3.2	82.1	81.7	14.8	3.5	78.2

Table 8: Perceptions and Expectations on Spending- Non-Essential Items

(Percentage responses)

Survey Round	Current Perception				One year ahead Expectation			
	Increased	Remained Same	Decreased	Net Response	Will Increase	Will Remain Same	Will Decrease	Net Response
Mar-22	16.1	31.6	52.2	-36.1	28.9	36.7	34.4	-5.5
May-22	16.6	34.1	49.3	-32.7	27.5	38.4	34.1	-6.6
Jul-22	18.7	35.9	45.5	-26.8	29.3	38.5	32.2	-2.9
Sep-22	20.9	32.5	46.7	-25.8	29.5	37.6	33.0	-3.6
Nov-22	22.4	33.8	43.8	-21.4	32.8	35.1	32.2	0.6
Jan-23	22.1	35.2	42.8	-20.7	31.9	38.4	29.8	2.1
Mar-23	25.2	34.8	40.0	-14.8	34.5	36.8	28.8	5.7
