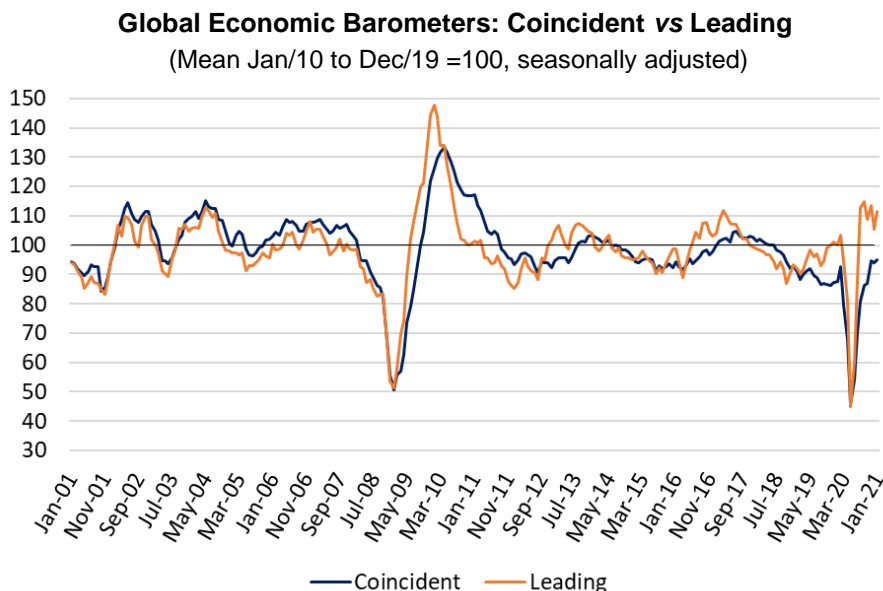


## Press Release

Rio de Janeiro and Zurich, 8 January 2021, 10 am (local time) – 1 pm (UTC).

### World economic barometers reflect cautious optimism despite second wave

The Coincident and Leading Global Economic Barometers rise in January, signaling a continued recovery of global economic activity. The increase in the Coincident Barometer is small and reverses the fall in the previous month. The Leading Barometer increases more noticeably, once again reflecting optimism, which may now be driven by the beginning of vaccination campaigns against COVID-19 in various countries.



Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

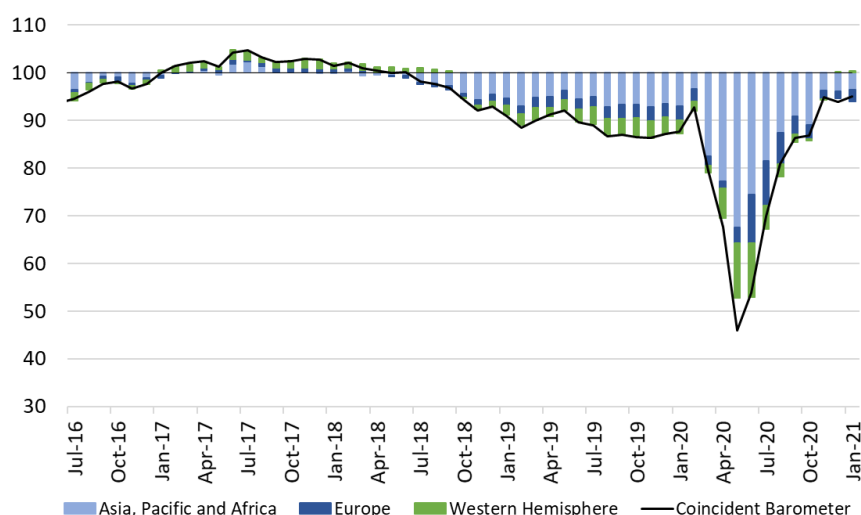
The Coincident Global Barometer increases by 1.1 points in January, from 93.9 to 95.0 points, after last month's temporary interruption of the upward tendency. The Leading Global Barometer rises by 6.1 points to 111.6 points. All the regions contribute positively to the aggregate result of the Coincident Barometer. For the Leading Barometer, the *Western Hemisphere* moved in the opposite direction to the other regions, contributing negatively to the aggregate result.

"While the effects of social distancing measures relating to the second wave of the pandemic explain the modest result of the Coincident Barometer, the beginning of the immunization process in some countries justifies the favorable expectations backing up the positive performance of the Leading Barometer. The trajectory of robust growth in economic activity in all the regions and sectors is conditioned by the relative speeds of virus transmission and immunization of the countries' populations over the coming months.", evaluates Paulo Picchetti, researcher of FGV IBRE.

## Coincident Barometer – regions and sectors

The Coincident Barometers of the three regions increase in January, with *Europe* contributing 0.7 points (or 64%) to the rise in the aggregate result. The second highest contribution comes from the *Asia, Pacific and Africa* region, which contributes 0.3 points to the result (26%). The value for *Western Hemisphere* continues to rise, but at a progressively lower rate. This month, it contributes to the aggregate result with 0.1 points. Immunization campaigns against COVID-19 have been launched in various countries in the region, but the temporarily adverse result in the race between vaccination and the pandemic may have influenced the poor result of the regional indicator. The graph below illustrates the contribution of each region to the deviation of the Coincident Barometer from the historical average of 100 points.

**Regional Contributions to the Coincident Global Economic Barometer**



Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

Coincident Regional Barometers				
Period	Asia, Pacific and Africa	Europe	Western Hemisphere	Coincident Barometer
Feb-20	93.8	91.0	92.4	92.7
Mar-20	69.8	92.8	94.5	79.5
Apr-20	61.0	84.2	74.7	67.7
May-20	44.4	51.7	53.1	45.9
Jun-20	56.1	55.9	53.9	53.9
Jul-20	68.1	68.8	80.2	70.0
Aug-20	78.3	82.1	89.5	81.0
Sep-20	84.1	86.2	93.7	86.3
Oct-20	81.1	91.3	98.6	86.8
Nov-20	93.5	93.1	100.2	94.8
Dec-20	93.0	88.8	101.3	93.9
<b>Jan-21</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>95.0</b>
Cumulative Var. Mar/20-Jan/21	-0.2	1.0	9.1	2.3

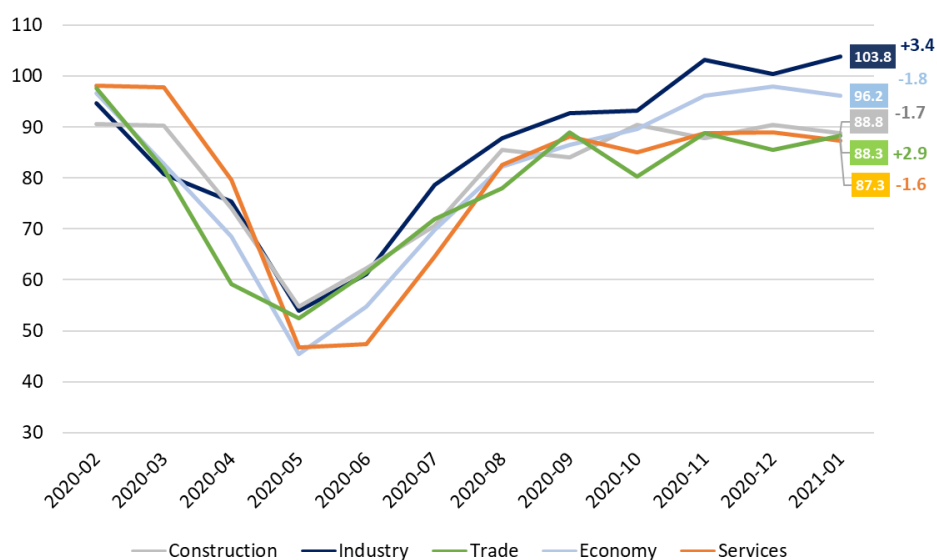
Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

Regional Contributions to Changes in the Coincident Barometer				
Period	Contributions per Regions			Monthly Variation
	Asia, Pacific and Africa	Europe	Western Hemisphere	Coincident Barometer
Mar-20	-14.1	0.4	0.5	-13.2
Apr-20	-5.2	-1.8	-4.8	-11.8
May-20	-9.7	-6.8	-5.3	-21.8
Cum. Contrib. Mar/20-May/20	-29.0	-8.2	-9.6	-46.8
Jun-20	6.9	0.9	0.2	8.0
Jul-20	7.0	2.7	6.4	16.1
Aug-20	6.0	2.8	2.3	11.0
Sep-20	3.4	0.9	1.0	5.3
Oct-20	-1.8	1.0	1.2	0.5
Nov-20	7.3	0.4	0.4	8.0
Dec-20	-0.2	-0.9	0.3	-0.9
<b>Jan-21</b>	0.3	0.7	0.1	1.1
Cum. Contrib. Jun/20-Jan/21	28.8	8.4	11.8	49.1
Cum. Contrib. Mar/20-Jan/21	-0.2	0.2	2.2	2.3

Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

The largest sectorial contribution to the rise of the Coincident Global Barometer in January once again comes from *Industry*. The other sectors contribute modestly, with *Trade* positively influencing the aggregate result and the set of variables reflecting the *aggregated development of economies (Overall Economic Development)* as well as the *Services* and *Construction* sectors contributing negatively.

### Coincident Global Barometers - Sectors

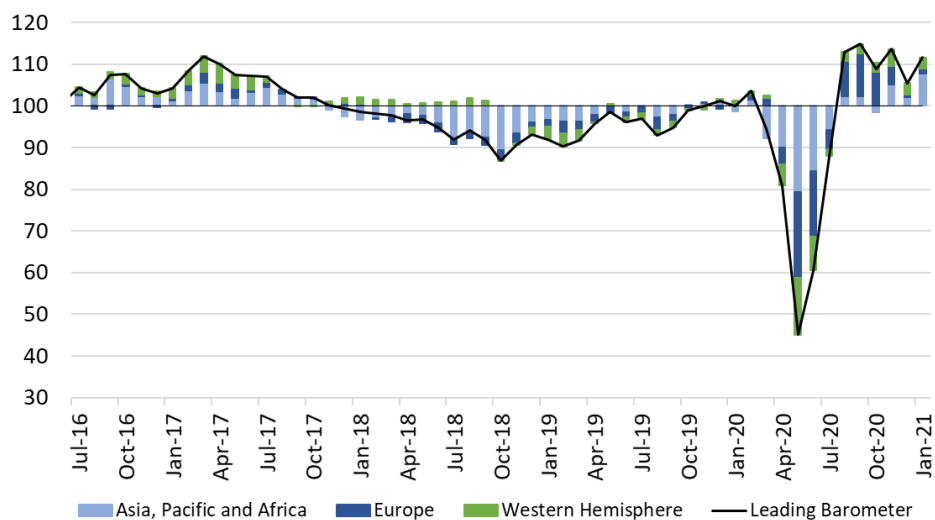


Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

## Leading Barometer – regions and sectors

The Leading Global Barometer leads the world economic growth rate cycle by three to six months on average. In January, the *Asia, Pacific and Africa* region is responsible for more than 90% of the increase in the aggregate indicator, followed by *Europe*, which contributes 0.7 points, or 11%. Only the *Western Hemisphere* contributes negatively this month, possibly also reflecting the delay in vaccination plans in some countries and the critical pandemic situation in Brazil and the United States.

**Regional Contributions to the Leading Global Economic Barometer**



Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

Leading Regional Barometers				
Period	Asia, Pacific and Africa	Europe	Western Hemisphere	Leading Barometer
Feb-20	102.3	106.0	103.2	103.5
Mar-20	87.0	108.3	102.6	94.6
Apr-20	83.3	81.2	80.1	80.9
May-20	65.9	3.8	46.2	45.1
Jun-20	73.9	27.7	67.5	60.5
Jul-20	90.4	77.9	93.5	87.8
Aug-20	103.6	139.3	108.7	112.9
Sep-20	103.6	148.3	108.8	114.8
Oct-20	97.3	137.9	109.0	108.8
Nov-20	108.2	121.0	116.1	113.6
Dec-20	103.3	102.4	111.6	105.5
<b>Jan-21</b>	<b>112.5</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>110.9</b>	<b>111.6</b>
Cumulative Var. Mar/20-Jan/21	10.1	-0.1	7.8	8.1

Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

Regional Contributions to Changes in the Leading Barometer				
Period	Contributions per Regions			Monthly Variation
	Asia, Pacific and Africa	Europe	Western Hemisphere	Leading Barometer
Mar-20	-9.3	0.6	-0.2	-8.9
Apr-20	-2.2	-5.9	-5.6	-13.7
May-20	-10.6	-16.6	-8.6	-35.8
Cum. Contrib. Mar/20-May/20	-22.1	-21.9	-14.4	-58.4
Jun-20	4.9	5.1	5.4	15.4
Jul-20	10.0	10.8	6.6	27.3
Aug-20	8.0	13.2	3.8	25.1
Sep-20	-0.1	1.9	0.0	1.9
Oct-20	-3.8	-2.2	0.0	-6.0
Nov-20	6.7	-3.6	1.8	4.8
Dec-20	-3.0	-4.0	-1.1	-8.1
Jan-21	5.6	0.7	-0.2	6.1
Cum. Contrib. Jun/20-Jan/21	28.3	21.9	16.3	66.5
Cum. Contrib. Mar/20-Jan/21	6.2	0.0	1.9	8.1

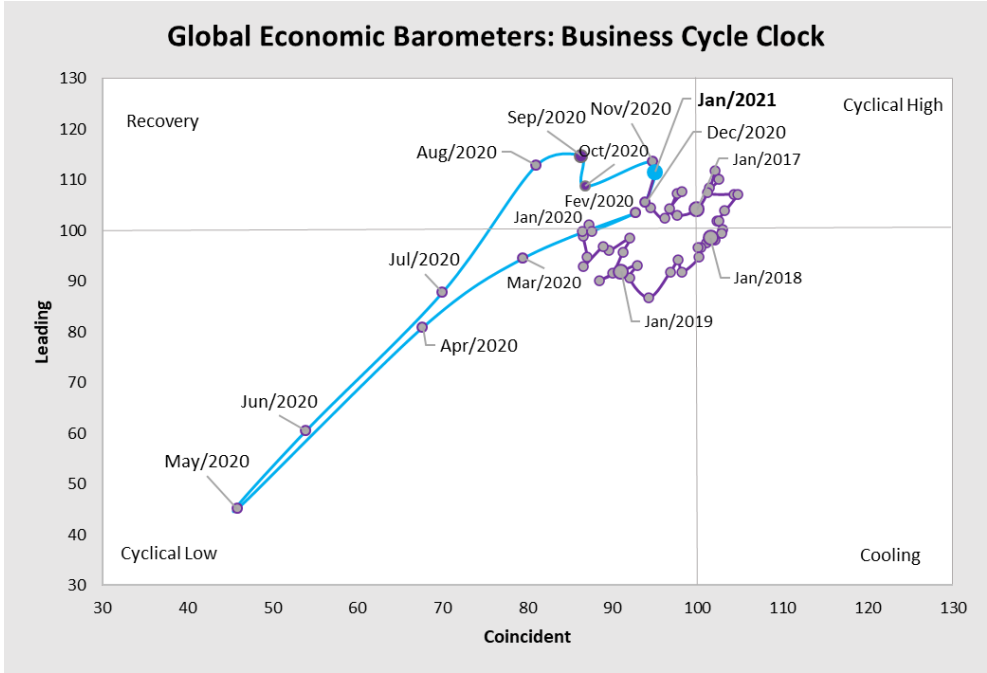
Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

In January, all Leading Barometer sectors are facing upswings, with *Industry* and the set of variables reflecting the *aggregated development of economies (Overall Economic Development)* being the most optimistic groups (with 120.4 and 115.9 points, respectively). The *Trade* sector records the highest increase for the month, although it has yet to recover from the losses of the March-May 2020 period, together with *Services*.

Leading Barometers - Sectors					
Period	Construction	Economy	Industry	Trade	Services
Feb-20	102.8	110.2	104.5	108.1	112.6
Mar-20	105.2	88.8	97.4	95.7	109.1
Apr-20	83.8	76.8	90.5	53.5	71.1
May-20	48.3	46.7	37.6	50.4	45.1
Jun-20	65.1	70.8	50.9	75.2	57.7
Jul-20	79.7	91.7	92.1	89.2	79.1
Aug-20	122.8	116.4	123.8	99.0	95.0
Sep-20	107.2	116.7	125.0	102.4	119.2
Oct-20	111.6	122.7	109.7	92.6	120.1
Nov-20	112.0	118.8	124.2	98.9	103.9
Dec-20	109.4	113.1	111.6	85.2	104.7
<b>Jan-21</b>	<b>109.5</b>	<b>115.9</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>105.0</b>
% of losses between Mar/20 and May/20 were recovered until Jan/21	112%	109%	124%	96%	89%

Source: KOF ETH Zurich and FGV IBRE

*Industry* is the sector that contributes the most to the increase in the aggregate indicator for the month, with 4.0 points. *Trade* contributes with 1.5 points, followed by less noteworthy contributions from the set of variables reflecting the *aggregated development of economies (Overall Economic Development)*, *Services* and *Construction*.



Period	<i>Global Coincident Barometer</i> Vintages		<i>Global Leading Barometer</i> Vintages	
	January 2021	December 2020	January 2021	December 2020
Jan-20	87.6	87.9	99.9	100.8
Feb-20	92.7	92.7	103.5	104.1
Mar-20	79.5	79.2	94.6	95.0
Apr-20	67.7	67.6	80.9	81.0
May-20	45.9	47.4	45.1	45.0
Jun-20	53.9	52.4	60.5	60.4
Jul-20	70.0	69.9	87.8	87.4
Aug-20	81.0	81.6	112.9	112.8
Sep-20	86.3	85.7	114.8	114.9
Oct-20	86.8	86.5	108.8	109.0
Nov-20	94.8	94.7	113.6	113.6
Dec-20	93.9	93.7	105.5	105.7
Jan-21	95.0		111.6	

\* The Global Barometer series are revised monthly to reflect updates in the component series and revision of the seasonal adjustment

## **The Global Economic Barometers**

The Global Economic Barometers are a system of indicators enabling timely analysis of global economic development. They represent a collaboration between the KOF Swiss Economic Institute of the ETH Zurich in Switzerland and Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The system consists of two composite indicators, the Coincident Barometer and the Leading Barometer. The Coincident Barometer reflects the current state of economic activity, while the Leading Barometer provides a cyclical signal roughly six months ahead of current economic developments.

The two Barometers comprise the results of economic tendency surveys conducted in more than 50 countries with the aim of achieving the broadest possible global coverage. The advantages of economic tendency surveys are that their results are usually readily available and are not substantially revised after first publication.

The Coincident Barometer includes more than 1,000 different time series, while the Leading Barometer consists of over 600 time series. Cross-correlation analysis is used to decide which individual time series are included in the barometers. This involves correlating the individual time series with a reference series. The reference series used is the year-on-year growth rate of global gross domestic product (GDP), where the individual national GDPs are aggregated at purchasing power parity to form global GDP. A time series is only included in a Barometer if it shows a sufficiently high correlation and a suitable synchronization or lead with the reference series.

The series of the two Barometers are revised each month at publication and are standardized to have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 10 for the 10-year period previous to the most recent observations. The coefficients of the component series of the Global Barometers have remained stable since the April 2020 edition.

**More information on the Global Economic Barometers is available on the KOF website:**

<https://kof.ethz.ch/prognosen-indikatoren/indikatore/kof-globalbaro.html> →

**The Global Barometers methodology is described in:**

Klaus Abberger, Michael Graff, Aloisio Campelo Jr., Anna Carolina Lemos Gouveia, Oliver Müller and Jan-Egbert Sturm (2020), The Global Economic Barometers: Composite indicators for the world economy. KOF Working Papers, vol. 471, Zurich: KOF Swiss Economic Institute, ETH Zurich, 2020.

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