



3rd Quarter 2023: Economic Decline Has Slowed Down

Business Cycle Index KonSens (Issue 4/2023, November 15th, 2023): The prolonged business cycle downturn of Liechtenstein's economy has slowed down. The value of the business cycle index KonSens rose by about 0.6 index points to -0.4 in the 3rd quarter of 2023. While employment and business survey data have shown a mostly positive development, goods exports have continued to decrease. For already seven quarters now the KonSens has been in negative territory, which signals quarterly economic growth below the historical average. This represents the longest period of consecutive negative KonSens values since the negative phase of 2001–2003.

The business cycle index KonSens by the Liechtenstein Institute is a quarterly, coincident composite indicator for Liechtenstein's business cycle and consists of 16 individual economic indicators. It offers a timely aggregation of various – sometimes contradicting – business cycle signals to a consistent picture. Applying various statistical methods, the KonSens generates for each quarter an indexed data point – adjusted for seasonal effects and with removal of the long-run growth trend – and shows whether real economic growth is above (boom) or below (recession) average since 1998. The Name KonSens originates from the conception of the business cycle as a «consensus» of various individual economic impulses. But it is also the simple abbreviation of «Konjunktur-Sensor» (sensor of Liechtenstein's business cycle situation). The KonSens focuses on the measurement of the state of Liechtenstein's business cycle, rather than on its determinants or influences. It represents a conceptual supplement to the ordinary focus on the Gross Domestic Product and is accessible on a timelier and more frequent basis than Liechtenstein's annually published GDP.