ifo Export Expectations Slump

Munich, March 28, 2022 – **Sentiment among German exporters has slumped dramatically due to the war in Ukraine. The ifo Export Expectations slipped to minus 2.3 points, down from 17.0 points in February. To date, the only other time the index suffered a steeper decline was at the beginning of the coronavirus crisis in April 2020 (minus 31.2 points). When considering the coming six months, companies were significantly more pessimistic, especially those with economic ties to Russia. The growth in exports will slow down noticeably.**
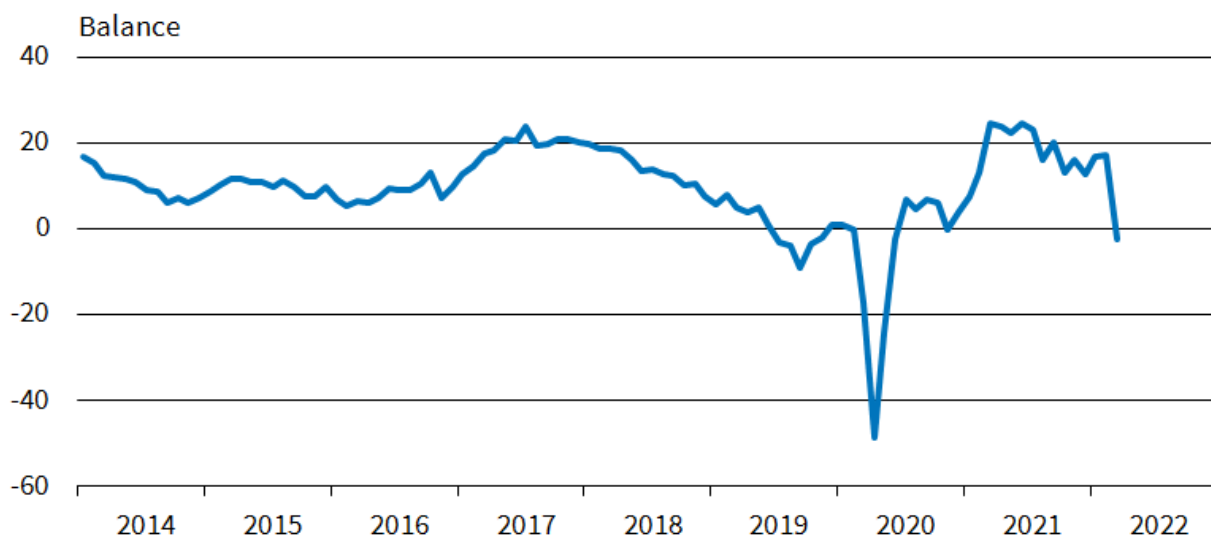
Export expectations fell across all manufacturing industries. Car manufacturers and their suppliers suffered a significant setback and are expecting exports to decline. This expectation is shared by the rubber and plastics industry as well as printing companies. In the chemical industry, positive and negative assessments are more or less balanced. The same applies to manufacturers of machinery and equipment. The electrical and electronics industry continues to anticipate rising international sales, but to a lesser extent than recently.

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ifo Export Expectations for Manufacturing
Seasonally adjusted

Source: ifo Business Survey, March 2022.   © ifo Institute

ifo Export Expectations in Manufacturing (Balances, seasonally adjusted)

Month/year	03/21	04/21	05/21	06/21	07/21	08/21	09/21	10/21	11/21	12/21	01/22	02/22	03/22
Expectations	24.4	23.7	22.2	24.5	22.9	16.2	20.2	13.1	16.1	12.8	16.7	17.0	−2.3

Source: ifo Business Survey   © ifo Institute

For long time series in Excel format, please see www.ifo.de/en/umfragen/time-series.
The ifo Export Expectations are based on around 2,300 monthly reports from manufacturers. Companies are asked to report their **export expectations** for the next three months. They can describe their expectations as "increasing," "unchanged," or "declining." The **balance** value of their plans is the difference in the percentage shares of the responses "increasing" and "decreasing."