

Renewable Energy Index Switzerland

Economic Activity in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Sectors

1st Quarter 2011

Index at end of Q1 2011: 61.4 index points

Change on previous quarter: +7.1 index points

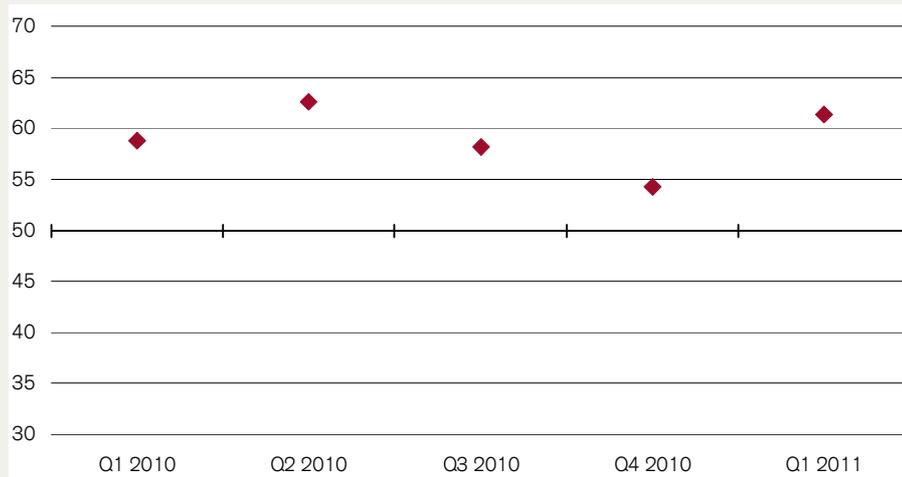


Change on same quarter in previous year: + 2.7 index points



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Performance of the index



Renewable Energy Index		
2010	Q1	58.7
2010	Q2	62.6
2010	Q3	58.2
2010	Q4	54.3
2011	Q1	61.4

Substantial Growth in Order Backlog

In the first quarter of 2011 the Renewable Energy Index rose sharply by 7.1 points to reach 61.4 points. The index had stood at 54.3 at the end of the previous quarter. This means that the index has stayed above the growth threshold of 50 points, indicating continued positive economic activity. The fact that the indicator has moved upward shows that growth in the sector has accelerated in comparison with the previous quarter. Of the five components making up the index (sales, backlog of orders, delivery times, inventories, and employment), none was below the growth threshold in the first quarter. The Sales subindex rose by 1.3 points to 61.6. This indicates that sales are growing more quickly than in the previous quarter. The Backlog of Orders subindex rose even more sharply to 71.2, a jump of 18.1 points. This upward trend suggests that sales revenues are likely to rise in coming quarters. The Delivery Times subindex reached 51.8 points, slightly over the growth threshold – capacity utilization has clearly risen slightly. Inventories finished the quarter at 52.4 points, a clear indication that companies have increased their purchasing activities, while Employment rose to 58.1 points – a sign that companies took on more new employees than in the previous quarter. The Exports subindex, which is not included in the Renewable Energy Index, rose slightly to 48 points but failed to breach the growth threshold of 50 points, suggesting a fall-off in export activity.

The Renewable Energy Index Switzerland is published each quarter by Credit Suisse in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (A EE). This indicator is based on a survey of companies in the sustainable energy solutions sector (renewable energies and energy efficiency). The data is collected and analyzed in accordance with the standards of the International Federation of Purchasing and Materials Management. The A EE's remit is to conduct the survey, and Credit Suisse is responsible for analysis and publication. The Renewable Energy Index directly reflects the course of business and performance in the sustainable energy solutions sector. Five sub-indices and additional information provide a more detailed view of this picture. Launched in the first quarter of 2010, the Renewable Energy Index survey is thus a valuable addition to the basic data sources for this sector.

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Subindices

	higher (%)	same (%)	lower (%)	net	Index	+/-
Sales	43	37	20	23	61.6	1
Order Backlog	54	34	12	42	71.2	18
Supplier Deliveries	12	80	8	4	51.8	4
Inventories	20	66	15	5	52.4	3
Employment	27	63	10	16	58.1	3
Exports	8	80	12	-4	48.0	0

This table summarizes the results of the latest survey. For each subindex, it shows the percentage of responses that were higher, the same, or lower in relation to the previous month. The level attained by each subindex is also shown. The level for a subindex is obtained by adding the percentage of "higher" responses to half the percentage of "same" responses. The Renewable Energy Index corresponds to the weighted average of the subindices (weightings are shown in parentheses): Sales (0.25), Order Backlog (0.30), Supplier Deliveries (0.15), Purchasing Inventories (0.10) and Employment (0.20). If the level of the Renewable Energy Index or of one of its subindices is above the 50.0 point mark, this should be interpreted as an increase; a figure below 50.0 points indicates a decrease.

The Renewable Energy Index Switzerland appears on a quarterly basis. Free subscriptions are available from Credit Suisse. To subscribe, please send your e-mail address to:
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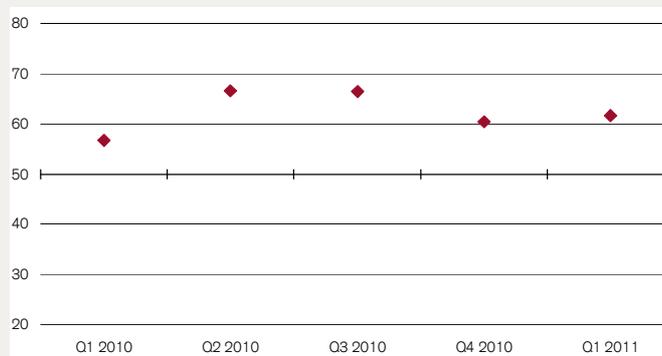
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Sales

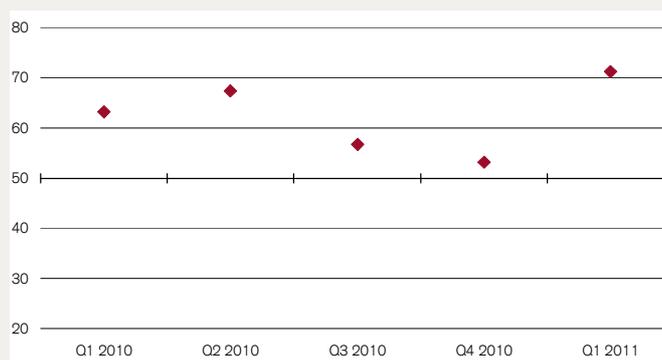
		higher (%)	same (%)	lower (%)	net	Index
2010	Q1	34	46	20	13	56.6
	Q2	48	37	15	33	66.5
	Q3	45	42	12	33	66.5
	Q4	41	38	21	21	60.4
2011	Q1	43	37	20	23	61.6



In the first quarter of 2011 the Sales subindex rose by 1.3 percent (rounded) to reach 61.6 points. This rise follows a 6.1 point drop in the previous quarter. The positive growth in sales has therefore slightly accelerated once again following a fall-off in the previous quarter.

Order Backlog

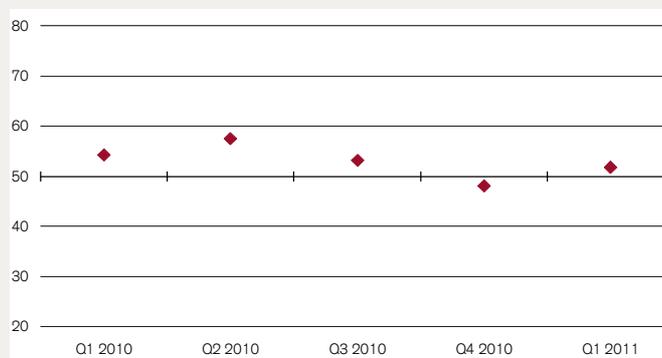
		higher (%)	same (%)	lower (%)	net	Index
2010	Q1	42	42	16	26	63.2
	Q2	47	40	13	35	67.4
	Q3	38	39	24	14	56.8
	Q4	32	42	26	6	53.1
2011	Q1	54	34	12	42	71.2



The Backlog of Orders subindex rose sharply to 71.2, a jump of 18.1 points. After two quarters with a downward trend this substantial upward movement is an indicator that sales are likely to rise in coming quarters.

Supplier Deliveries

		higher (%)	same (%)	lower (%)	net	Index
2010	Q1	19	71	10	8	54.2
	Q2	21	74	6	15	57.5
	Q3	15	77	8	6	53.2
	Q4	11	75	14	-4	48.0
2011	Q1	12	80	8	4	51.8



The Delivery Times subindex climbed 3.8 points and, at 51.8, is once again above the growth threshold. This shows that capacity utilization rose, leading to longer delivery times.

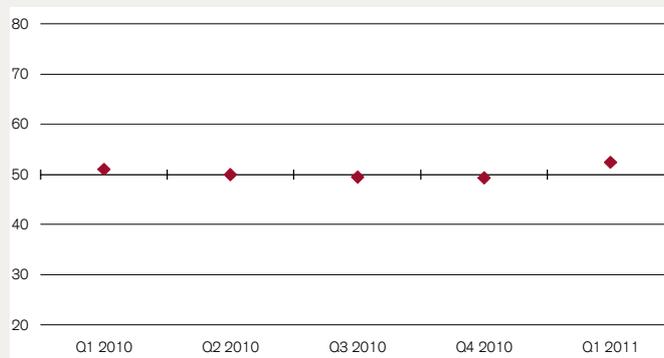
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Inventories

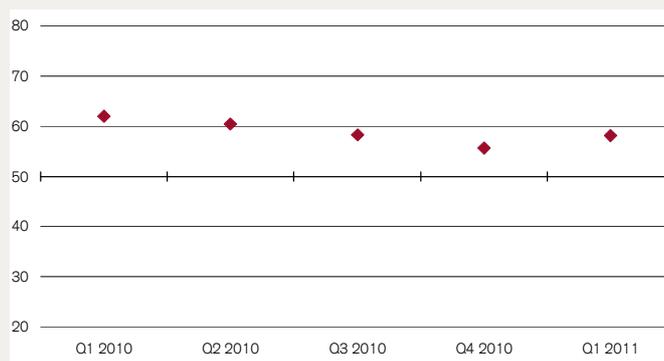
		higher (%)	same (%)	lower (%)	net	Index
2010	Q1	16	71	14	2	51.0
	Q2	11	78	11	0	50.0
	Q3	19	62	20	-1	49.4
	Q4	15	69	16	-1	49.3
2011	Q1	20	66	15	5	52.4



In the first quarter of 2011, Inventories (of purchased raw materials, semifinished products and components for production) broke through the growth threshold of 50 points, indicating that companies have increased their purchases of primary products.

Employment

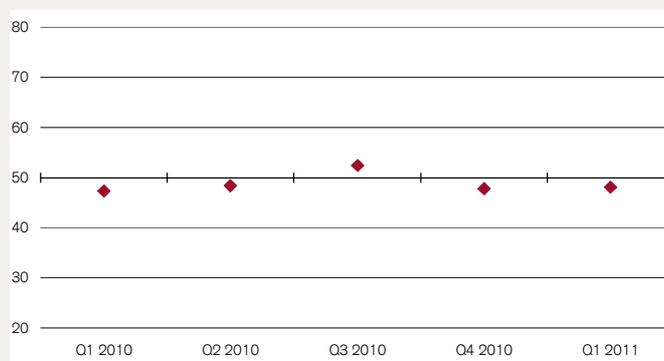
		higher (%)	same (%)	lower (%)	net	Index
2010	Q1	30	64	6	24	61.9
	Q2	27	67	6	21	60.4
	Q3	26	65	9	16	58.2
	Q4	20	72	9	11	55.6
2011	Q1	27	63	10	16	58.1



The Employment subindex rose within the growth zone by 2.6 points (rounded) to 58.1 points. This indicates that, following two quarters of stagnating growth, companies have once again begun to hire new staff.

Exports

		higher (%)	same (%)	lower (%)	net	Index
2010	Q1	11	72	17	-5	47.3
	Q2	12	74	15	-3	48.4
	Q3	17	71	12	5	52.4
	Q4	4	87	9	-4	47.8
2011	Q1	8	80	12	-4	48.0



The Exports subindex ended the first quarter slightly higher, but is still below the 50-point growth threshold. Negative economic growth in the export sector has clearly improved slightly as compared with the previous quarter.

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A EE

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