



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Connect4B April Nowcast Signals Further Decline in German Business Sentiment

Zurich, Switzerland – 20 April 2026 – Connect4B’s latest Germany Business Monitor indicates that the Ifo Institute Business Climate Index is likely to weaken again in April, following the decline recorded in March.

Based on interviews with German business owners and senior decision-makers conducted through mid-April, Connect4B estimates the **April 2026 Ifo Business Climate Index at 85.7**, compared with **86.4 in March**.

The implied range of outcomes is **85.3 to 86.1**.

Expectations Continue to Weaken

The latest survey wave suggests that forward-looking expectations remain under pressure, while current business conditions are comparatively more stable.

Softer readings were observed across several core operating indicators, including:

- Revenue trends
- Domestic orders
- Export demand

- Investment intentions
- Earnings outlook^^
- Employment plans

This pattern points to continued caution among German firms as they assess demand conditions and the broader economic environment.

Commentary

“Germany’s corporate sector continues to show resilience operationally, but confidence regarding the next six months remains fragile,” said Stefan James Lang. “Our April data suggests sentiment has not yet found a durable bottom.”

Why This Matters

The monthly Ifo Institute survey is one of the most closely watched indicators of German economic momentum. As Europe’s largest economy, shifts in German sentiment are relevant for investors, exporters, policymakers and financial markets across the region.

Methodology

The Connect4B Germany Business Monitor is based on ongoing interviews with German business owners and senior executives. The April nowcast incorporates responses collected through 18 April 2026 and maps proprietary business sentiment measures against historical Ifo trends.

About Connect4B

Connect4B AG is an independent research institute based in Switzerland specialising in business sentiment, executive surveys and forward-looking economic intelligence across international markets.

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