
IFO INSTITUTE – LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH E. V.

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Field of Activities

The Ifo Institute is one of the major German economic research institutes. It examines short-term developments in the overall economy and in individual sectors as well as longer term tendencies and structural changes of the German and European economy. The institute regularly conducts short-term forecasts, medium-term business cycle perspectives and long-term growth scenarios, both for the economy as the whole and for individual sectors and industries (e.g. construction industry with sub-sectors, types of work and categories of buildings). In its various business surveys the institute gathers and analyses data from many thousand firms monthly. The Ifo Institute publishes far more than 60 years the main survey findings, e.g. the well known Ifo Business Climate (based on ca. 7,000 survey responses). Since 1981, the Ifo Institute has conducted its World Economic Survey (WES). Amongst around 1,100 business leaders and economists in about 120 countries. Every quarter, these experts assess the present and the prospective economic situation in their countries. Special attention is given to the early detection of emerging economic problems. The institute also analyses current and projected economic policy measures and puts forward its own economic policy recommendations.

Setting-up and Status

The Ifo Institute was founded in 1949 in Munich as a non-profit, independent research organization and has the legal status of a registered society. Since 2002 there is an institutional link to the University of Munich as basis for a strong co-operation. The Ifo Institute has more than 350 corporate and institutional members, mainly enterprises, associations, foundations, interest groups and political parties.

Organisation

Since 2010, the Ifo Institute is structured in the following eight Ifo Centers (research and service divisions): Business Cycle Analyses and Surveys; Public Finance and Political Economy; Labour Market Research and Family Economics; Economics of Education; Industrial Organisation and New Technologies; Energy, Climate and Exhaustible Resources; International Economics; International Institutional Comparisons and Migration Research.

Resources

With almost 200 staff members, the Ifo Institute covers the whole spectrum of economic activity. Around two thirds of the Institute's funds are provided by the government, according to the general agreement on joint financial support of research in Germany. The remaining one third of the funds are mainly raised through contract research, multi client studies, conference fees and foundation grants. The research contracts are primarily awarded by federal and state ministries, international organisations and the EU Commission, business associations and private companies. Membership fees and the sale of the institute's various publications contribute also to the funding of the organization.