

## Downside manufacturing risks remain: BER

Despite some improvements in manufacturing activity during the fourth quarter of 2011, downside risks from the slowdown in Eurozone economic growth momentum remain, says the Bureau for Economic Research.

"Manufacturers remain rather cautious about the outlook for the sector. The respondents expect business conditions to deteriorate in the first quarter of 2012 and to remain weak in a year's time," said the Bureau in its latest manufacturing survey on Monday.

The report indicated that manufacturing business confidence stabilised at relatively low levels, edging down from 36 to 35 index points in the fourth quarter.

"However, the relatively low confidence index hides the improvements in business conditions as reported by manufacturers."

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