



Bolsa de Comercio de Santa Fe



ICASFe

Monthly Composite Coincident Index for the province of Santa Fe

Monday, November 18, 2013. Monthly digest Nº 11, year 7.

ONCE MORE AGROINDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES BOOST SANTA FE'S ECONOMY.

Although many sub-indicators did not regain their historical levels from 2007, across 2013 Santa Fe's economic activity grew supported by certain industrial branches and the construction sector.

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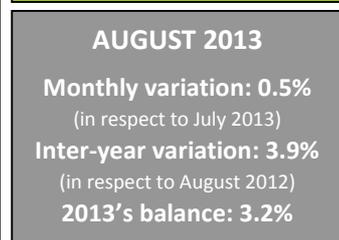
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AUGUST 2013'S MAIN RESULTS

ICASFe's level was measured in **160.8**, presenting a monthly variation of **0.5%** in respect to July 2013.

Inter-year variation rates reached **3.9%** (comparing August 2013 vs. august 2012).

Between January and August 2013 Santa Fe's economic activity grew **3.2%**.

¿What is ICASFe for?

The Composite Coincident Index for the province of Santa Fe (ICASFe) constitutes a monthly indicator used in order to monitor local economy's activity. To this regard, its main purpose is to capture cyclical movements, being able to determine the precise dates in which recessions/expansions begin and end; it also generates information about phase's duration, amplitude and diffusion.

As indicator, It provides a reliable source of information appropriate to support decision makers of public and private institutions. ICASFe was developed by a technical agreement with the *Universidad Nacional de Tucumán* (UNT).

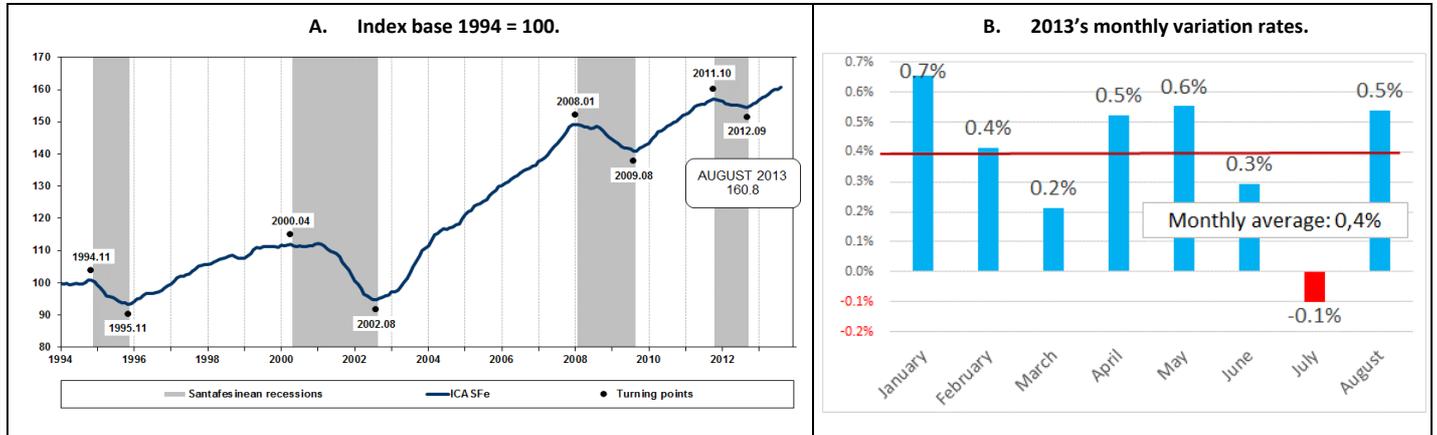
Output data considerations

The last twelve monthly results exposed in this document are based on preliminary information and hence subject to further revisions. Calculated values gain consistency while primary sources publish consolidated data which provides an input to our indicator. Time series are handled in real terms and filtered by seasonality and outliers with the X12-ARIMA software.

Province of Santa Fe's economic activity

Santa Fe's economic activity registered a positive monthly variation of 0.5% in August, a stable behavior if 2013's average rate is considered (0.4%). Within these results the coincident index speeds up again in terms of June and July presenting a total cumulated expansion of 3.2% along the year.

Graph 1 - ICASFe - Monthly Composite Coincident Index for the Province of Santa Fe -



Source: Research and Services Center, Santa Fe's Chamber of Commerce.

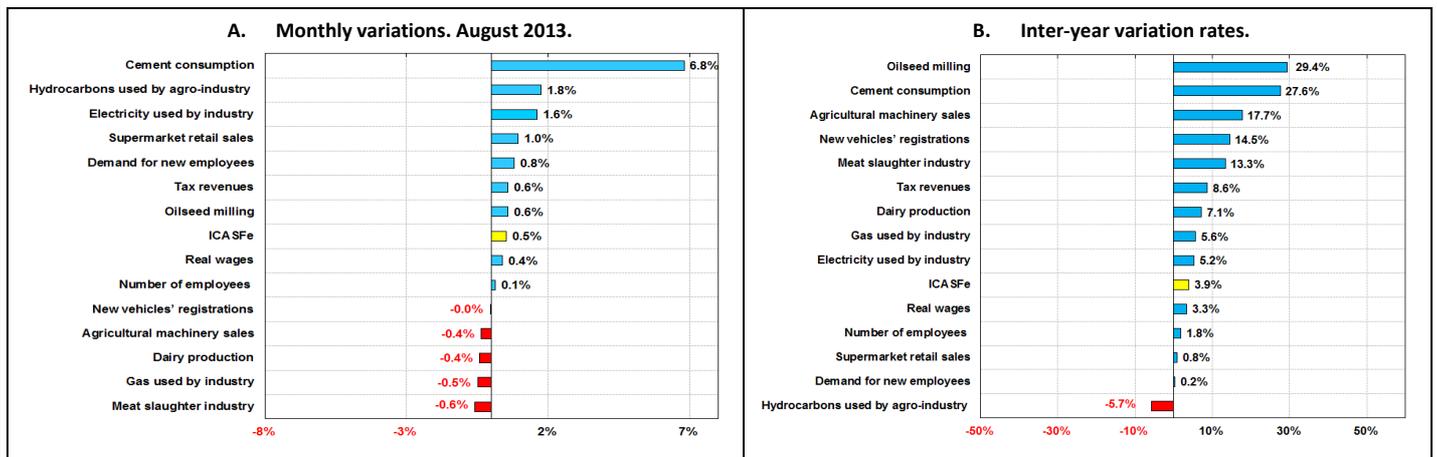
Indicator by indicator

More than 60.0% of the economic representative sub-indicators obtained positive monthly variation rates in August 2013 (nine over fourteen). In addition, the other five series registered mild contractions and only one of them shows a negative inter-year variation. **Cement consumption** keeps recovering and its last measure was located 27.6% above August 2012's. In terms of volumes, 2013's monthly average reached 73.000 tons.

Oilseed milling also shows a favorable behavior presenting a 29.4% inter-year variation rate. So does **meat slaughter industry** which is being mainly boosted by the porcine segment. To this regard, its general activity level was measured 13.3% over August 2012's; although the series registered a monthly contraction of -0.6%. Similarly, **agricultural machinery sales** went down -0.4% in August and signaled a 17.7% expansion in terms of inter-year variations.

In relationship to the secondary sector both **electricity and gas consumption** have improved in an inter-year comparison; with rates of 5.2 and 5.6%, respectively. On the other hand, **hydrocarbons used by agro-industry and transportation** was the only sub-indicator within a negative inter-year variation rate (-5.7%) whereas compared to July it grew 1.8% in August.

Graph 2 - Economic activity's indicators for the Province of Santa Fe -



Source: Research and Services Center, Santa Fe's Chamber of Commerce.

Because of the inflationary context **supermarket retail sales** slowed down since the beginning of 2012. In August 2013 the series increased 1.0% within a 0.8% inter-year variation rate. By the contrary, **new vehicles' registrations** fell -0.04% in August but stayed upon a historical level, signaling a 14.5% expansion along the last 12 months.

In August 2013 **tax revenues** grew 0.6% in respect to July and the series also improved on an inter-year comparison (8.6%). This, in spite of a contraction verified in federal resources which represent near 60.0% of Santa Fe's total tax incomes.

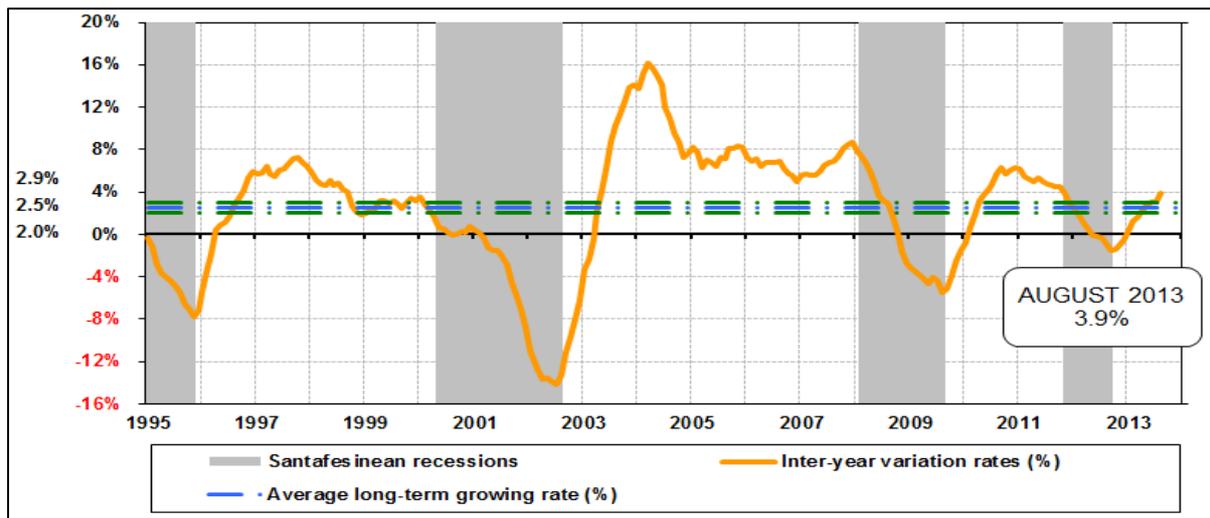
The labor market keeps showing a positive but modest behavior. In August **registered jobs** increased only 0.1%, cumulating a total expansion of 1.8% during the last 12 months. Moreover, **real wages** registered a monthly variation rate of 0.4% and an inter-year growth of 3.3%. **Demand for new employees**, which is related to employment's expectations, stays at low historical levels but also experienced positive variations: 0.8 and 0.2%, respectively.

Summary and perspectives

In August 2013 the coincident index's inter-year variation rates reached 3.9%, climbing over Santa Fe's average long term growing rate (see statistical confidence bands in Graph 3). Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the comparison was based on a benchmark related to a recessive period (dated between October 2011 and September 2012 with a total contraction of -0.5%). Therefore, part of the registered recovery is actually founded, relatively, on 2012's pour performance.

In terms of diffusion, 2013's growth is centered on a favorable agricultural campaign and its positive externalities over industry and the construction sector. But even though most indicators are recovering lost terrain in terms of 2012, many are also having trouble to regain their historical levels from 2007 and 2008. To this regard, economic activity seems to be facing a new mid-term scenario with shorter expansions/contractions, of milder intensity but more frequent.

Graph 3 - Monthly Composite Index's inter-year variation rates -



Source: Research and Services Center, Santa Fe's Chamber of Commerce.

In order to download or get access to:

- Statistical database, methodological documents and related publications | <http://ces.bcsf.com.ar>
- An on-line graphical tool to access historical data (series) | <http://www.bolcomsf.com.ar/ces/icasfe.php>