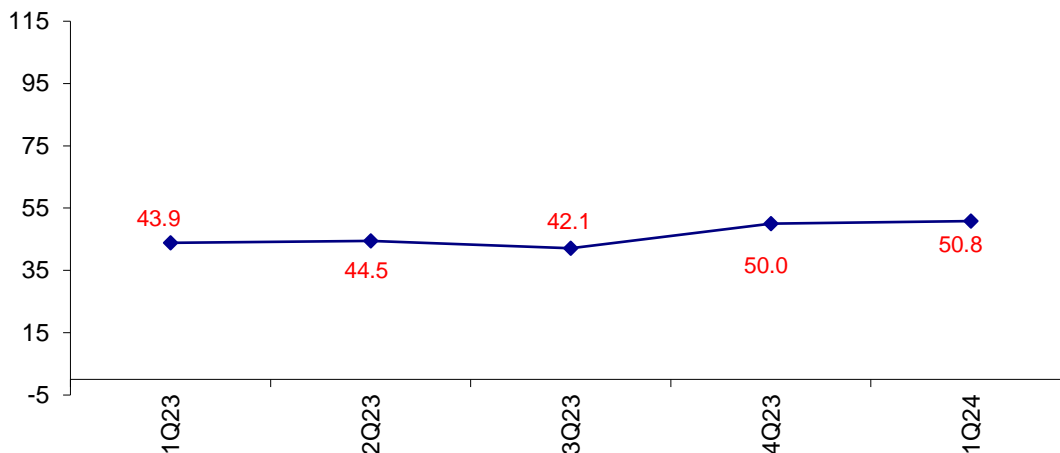


Connector Confidence Index Is Flat at 50.8

The Connector Confidence Index is 50.8, about the same as the 4th quarter of 2023 at 50.0. It is difficult to be confident in this environment. There is rising inflation and wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Additionally, US and China tensions over Taiwan could significantly have a negative impact on trade relations.

World Connector Confidence Index (WCCI) >50.0 = Positive



The **World Connector Confidence Index (WCCI)** is the average of all responses for “present situation,” and “future expectations.”

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Present Business Expectations

Industry personnel were asked, “What is your appraisal of current business conditions (positive, negative, neutral)?

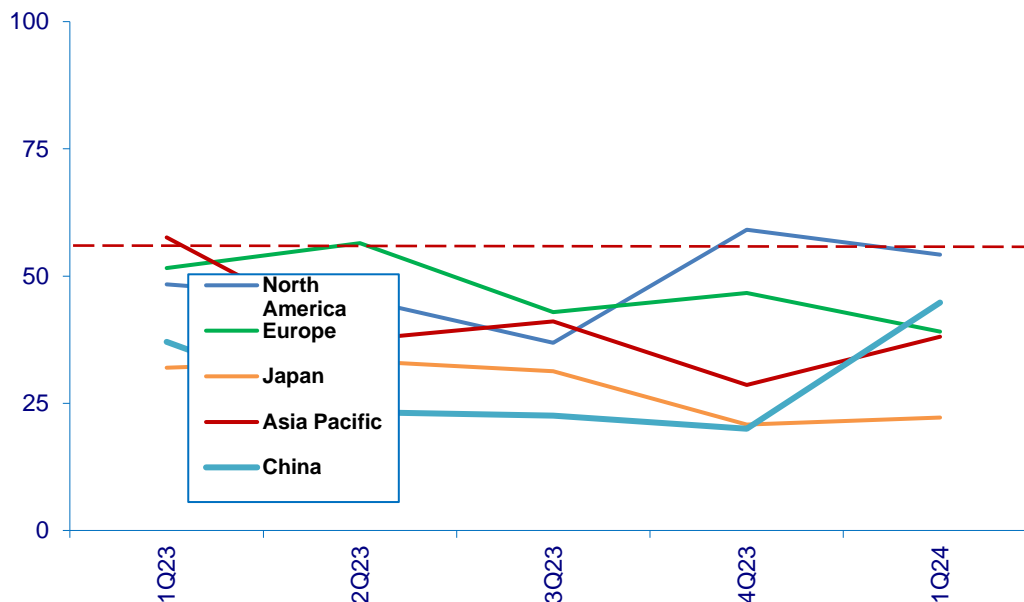
Present Situation Index – 39.5

	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	1Q24	Confidence Level	Confidence Trend
North America	48.4	45.5	36.9	59.1	54.2	+	↓
Europe	51.6	56.5	42.9	46.7	39.1	-	↓
Japan	32.0	33.3	31.3	20.8	22.2	-	↓
Asia	45.5	37.5	41.1	28.6	38.1	-	↑
China	28.9	23.3	22.6	20.0	44.8	-	↑
World	41.1	38.3	34.5	33.0	39.5	-	↑
Confidence	-	-	-	-	-		
Trend		↓	↓	↓	↑		

The present confidence level is very negative at 39.5. North America is the only region with a positive (54.2) confidence level. Although North America’s confidence did drop slightly from last quarter.

Present Situation Index

>50.0 = Positive



Future Expectations

Industry personnel were asked, “What is your expectation of future business conditions six months from now (positive, negative, or neutral)?”

Future Expectations Index – 61.9

	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	1Q24	Confidence Level	Confidence Trend
North America	51.3	66.7	63.8	92.0	72.4	+	↓
Europe	44.2	68.0	61.2	75.0	66.7	+	↓
Japan	40.9	47.0	41.0	52.9	42.9	-	↓
Asia	57.6	47.6	53.7	88.2	66.7	+	↓
China	37.1	28.0	32.8	40.7	57.1	+	↑
World	46.5	51.4	50.0	68.6	61.9	+	↓
Confidence	-	+	+	+	+		
Trend							

All regions, except China, dropped in future confidence from last quarter.

Future Expectations Index

(>50.0 = Positive)

