

CIRET Bi-Annual Conference 2026

Jointly hosted by the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) at Stellenbosch University and the South African Reserve Bank (SARB)

Exploring New Frontiers in Economic Monitoring and Forecasting

9–12 September 2026 | Stellenbosch, South Africa

The global economic landscape is undergoing profound transformation. Fiscal space in advanced economies—like in many emerging and low-income countries—has narrowed under the weight of post-pandemic debt and ageing populations. Inflation has resurged, productivity growth remains sluggish, and artificial intelligence is both a disruptor and source of innovation. These seismic shifts, layered onto the traditional uncertainties facing businesses and consumers, challenge economic analysts, policymakers, and institutions tasked with monitoring and forecasting economic trends.

Special Topic: Economic Surveys, Indicators and Policy Making: Navigating Uncertainty in a Constrained World

In a world marked by tighter policy constraints and heightened economic uncertainty, the role of surveys and indicators in supporting effective decision-making is under increasing scrutiny. This special topic invites contributions on:

- How shrinking fiscal and monetary space influences business and consumer expectations.
- The measurement and role of uncertainty in economic analysis and forecasting.
- Survey-based insights into the effectiveness and credibility of policy strategies.
- Innovations in economic indicator development and the relevance of traditional business cycle measurement tools.
- The role of global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical shocks in business cycle analysis.
- The integration of AI, big data, and new technologies into survey methodologies.
- Institutional case studies and cross-country comparisons on real-time monitoring tools.

Conference Structure and Highlights

The academic program will run from **Wednesday, 9 September to Friday, 11 September 2026**, and will include:

- An **opening address by a keynote speaker** to set the stage for discussions.
- **Parallel sessions** with presentations of accepted academic papers across the full range of CIRET-relevant topics¹.
- A **dedicated session**, in partnership with the **OECD**, geared especially towards practitioners.
- A **closing address** delivered by the winner of the **Isaac Kerstenetzky Scholarly Achievement (IKA) Award**.

A **social excursion and farewell lunch** with partners will take place on **Saturday, 12 September**, at a wine farm just outside Stellenbosch, offering participants a relaxing opportunity to network and experience the region's hospitality.

Why Attend?

- **Present & Refine Your Research:** Share your latest work, receive insightful feedback, and engage in stimulating discussions with peers.
- **Engage with Practitioners:** Connect with international experts at the forefront of economic monitoring and forecasting.
- **Learn & Innovate:** Discover novel survey techniques, real-time tracking tools, and forward-looking indicators.
- **Expand Your Network:** Build relationships with researchers and professionals facing similar analytical challenges.
- **Experience Stellenbosch:** Set in the heart of South Africa's renowned wine country, Stellenbosch offers an inspiring setting for rigorous intellectual exchange and collaboration.

We invite you to be part of this exciting conversation. Submit your research, join the discussions, and help shape the future of economic analysis in an era of heightened uncertainty and technological advancement.

More details on submissions, program highlights, and keynote speakers will follow soon. Interested participants are encouraged to monitor <https://ciret.org> for updates.

We look forward to welcoming you to Stellenbosch in 2026!

About CIRET Conferences

The *Centre for International Research on Economic Tendency Surveys (CIRET)* brings together leading economists, research institutes, universities, central banks, and other institutions engaged in analysing and forecasting business cycle developments. CIRET serves as a global forum for exchanging knowledge on both the theoretical and practical aspects of economic survey research—ranging from questionnaire design and data harmonisation to the development of leading indicators.

The highlight of CIRET's activities is its **biennial international conference**, first held in Munich in 1953. Over the decades, these conferences have grown into a truly global event, attracting participants from every continent. They provide a platform for presenting and discussing cutting-edge research based on business tendency, investment, innovation, and consumer surveys—covering topics such as business cycle analysis, forecasting, statistical methods, and public policy.

CIRET conferences bridge theory and practice, integrating the perspectives of academic researchers and practitioners who apply survey data in real-world analysis. They also foster collaboration among established scholars and early-career researchers, offering opportunities for feedback, dialogue, and professional development.

Conference papers are made available to CIRET members and participants, and selected contributions are often published in *CIRET's Journal of Business Cycle Research (JBCY)*, published by Springer since 2016.

ⁱ Business tendency and consumer opinion surveys, business cycles, forecasting, real-time economic monitoring, price and inflation expectations, labour markets, innovation, and structural economic shifts