

Informations Rapides

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Principaux indicateurs



■ Monthly business survey in the building industry – October 2013

The economic climate shows a slight improvement in building industry in October 2013

According to the business managers surveyed in October 2013, the situation has improved slightly in the building industry: the composite indicator has increased by one point but stays below its long-term average. The turning-point indicator stays in the favorable zone.

Activity remains deteriorated

Business managers consider that their activity is still deteriorated in the recent period. They stay pessimistic about their activity in the next few months.

The general business outlook, which expresses the business manager's opinions about the general trend in the sector, is sharply better than the last quarter, but remains below its long term average.

Fewer business managers indicate a fall in their staff size

Fewer business managers than in September indicate a fall in their staff size for the next few months.

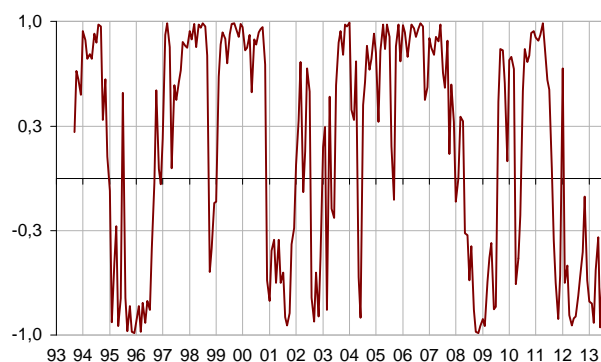
The balances of opinion corresponding to past employment and expected employment stay significantly below their long-term average.

Composite indicator

Standardized with mean equal to 100 and a standard deviation equal to 10



Turning-point indicator



Lecture : close to 1 (respectively -1), it indicates a favorable climate (respectively unfavorable).

Building industry economic outlook

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

	Mean*	July 13	Aug. 13	Sept. 13	Oct. 13
Composite indicator	100	91	92	93	94
Past activity	-2	-28	-18	-16	-17
Expected activity	-5	-25	-23	-10	-18
Gen. business outlook	-17	-46			-29
Past employment	-3	-21	-22	-21	-14
Expected employment	-2	-18	-18	-15	-8
Opinion on order books	-20	-48	-48	-43	-45
Order books (in month)	5,3	7,0	7,1	7,0	7,0
Productive capacity utilisation rate	89,0	86,2	86,4	86,5	86,3
Obstacles to production increase (in %)	33	22	22	25	26
- Because of workforce shortage (in %)	15,7	4,9	5,0	4,8	5,3
Recruiting problems (in %)	59	46			46
Expected prices	-13	-43	-33	-31	-29
Cash-flow position	-9	-23			-27
Repayment period	28	42			43

* Mean since September 1993.

Order books are still considered lower than normal

In October, business managers still consider their order books lower than normal.

Productive capacity underused again

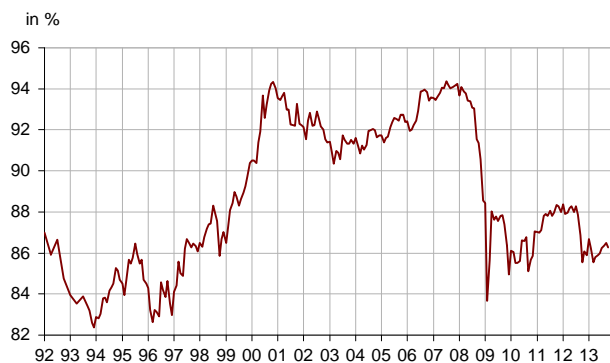
The productive capacity utilization rate has stabilized and stays below its long-term average. At the same time, almost one business manager out of four declares having difficulties increasing his activity. Approximately, one business leader out of two continues to feel the impact of recruiting problems; this ratio is again under its long-term average.

Prices not very dynamic

In October, slightly fewer business managers than in September indicate price downturns. The corresponding balance of opinion remains sharply inferior to its long-term average.

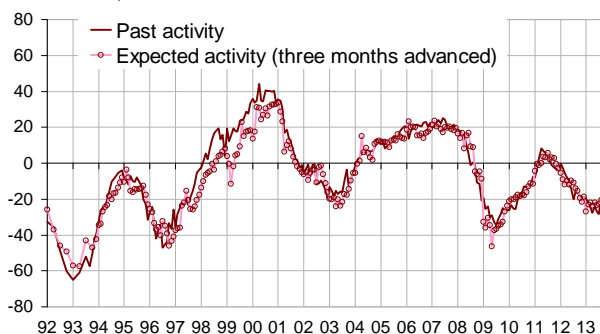
According to business leaders, the cash-flow position of the overall sector may deteriorate and the repayment period is likely to be stable.

Productive capacity utilization rate



Activity tendency in the building industry

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



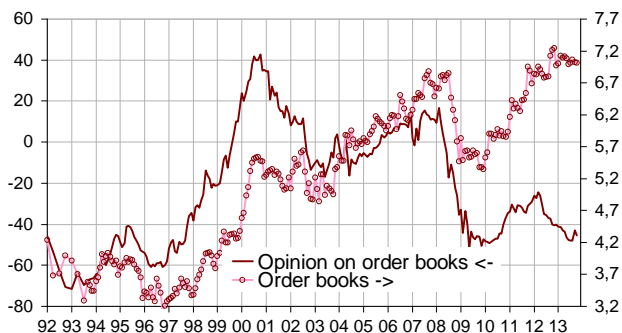
Workforce size tendency in the building industry

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



Order books

Balance of opinion, in %, SA



For further information:

The balance of opinion is calculated as the difference between the percentage of response "increase" and the percentage of response "decrease".

- Additional information (long series, methodology, links...) are available on the HTML page of this indicator: <http://www.insee.fr/en/themes/info-rapide.asp?id=56>
- Historical data are available on the BDM: [G1273](#), [G1276](#), [G1274](#).
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr

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