

Informations *Rapides*

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Principaux Indicateurs

■ Monthly confidence consumer survey – September 2013

In September 2013, households' confidence kept recovering (+1 point)

In September 2013, households' confidence kept improving. The synthetic confidence index gained 1 point compared with August, and increased by 6 points since its minimum in June.

• Personal situation

Financial situation : expectations slightly increasing

In September, households' appreciation of their *future financial situation* increased (+2 points) while their opinion on their *past financial situation* was stable. However, the balance of opinion on whether September was a *suitable time to make major purchases* decreased (-2 points). These three balances remained clearly below their long term averages.

Savings: decreasing

In September, households' opinion about their *saving capacity*, both *current* and *future*, decreased (-3 points). These two balances remained above their long term average.

The share of households to consider September as *opportune to save* sharply increased (+8 point) after a significant decrease in August (-6 points). This balance remained distinctly above its long term average.

Consumer synthetic index



CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally adjusted

	Av. (1)	2013			
		June	July	August	Sept.
Synthetic index (2)	100	79	82	84	85
Financial sit., past 12 m.	-19	-35	-34	-33	-33
Financial sit., next 12 m.	-4	-27	-25	-22	-20
Current saving capacity	8	14	17	16	13
Expected saving capacity	-10	-6	-2	-2	-5
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	31	30	24	32
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	-14	-34	-28	-29	-31
General economic sit., past 12 m.	-43	-80	-77	-73	-73
General economic sit., next 12 m.	-23	-67	-58	-50	-47
Unemployment, next 12 m.	32	79	62	60	51
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	-13	-12	-8	-1	3
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	-34	-18	-17	-22	-25

(1) Average value between January 1987 and December 2012

(2) This indicator is normalised in such a way that its average equals 100 and standard error equals 10 over the estimation period (1987-2012).

• Economic situation in France

General economic situation in France: expectations less concerned

In September, households' opinion about the *past general economic situation* in France was stable. Their opinion on the *expected general economic situation* rose (+3 points): it has gained 20 points since June when it reached its lowest value. Nevertheless, these balances remained clearly below their long term averages.

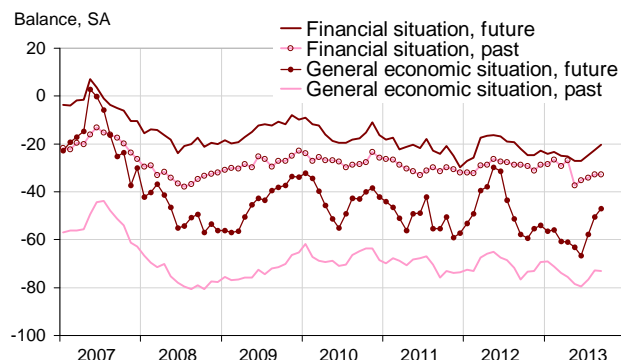
Future unemployment: fears still decreasing

In September, households were less anxious about future employment. The corresponding balance lost 9 points with respect to August, and has lost 28 points since June. However, it remained above its long term average.

Inflation perceived as increasing again

In September, households were more numerous than in August to estimate that *past inflation* increased. The corresponding balance increased by 4 points, and by 20 points since May. However, households' opinion about *future inflation* decreased (-3 points). Both balances remained above their long term average.

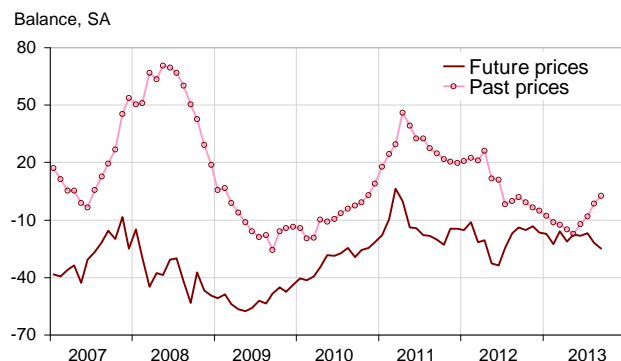
Balances on personal financial situation and general economic situation



Households' unemployment expectations



Households' perception of prices



For more information :

Definition - The synthetic households confidence index summarizes their opinion about the economic situation : a higher value means a more favorable households' judgment about the economic situation. It is calculated using factor analysis technique. This technique enables to summarize concomitant movements of variables that display high correlations with each other . The index describes here the common factor of 8 balances of opinion: past and future general economic situation in France, past and future personal financial situation, unemployment, timeliness to make major purchases, current savings capacity (balance named until 2010 « current financial situation ») and expected savings capacity (formerly named « savings capacity »).

Calculation method - Around 2000 households are surveyed each month by telephone. Surveys occur during the first three weeks of each month. The estimate of August that appears on the graphs comes from the linear interpolation of data resulted from July and September surveys.

Answers to this survey were collected between 29th August and 17th September 2013.

For each question asked, a balance of opinion is calculated as the difference between the percentages of positive and negative answers. Since the level of these balances is not directly significant, comments above only lean on their changes and their distance to long-term average.

Seasonal coefficients are calculated again each month, hence the slight revision of seasonal adjusted balances history for each publication.

- Further data (historical data, methodology, connected web pages ...) are available on the HTML page of this indicator : <http://insee.fr/en/themes/info-rapide.asp?id=20>
- Historical data are available on the BDM : [G389](#)
- Press contact : bureau-de-presse@insee.fr

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