

■ Quaterly business survey in industry – October 2013

Demand addressed to business leaders improves again in the third quarter 2013

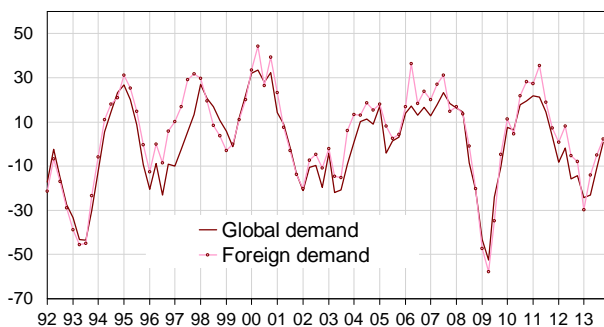
- Demand

Improvement of global and foreign demand

In the third quarter, the improvement of global and foreign demand has gone on: the corresponding balances reach now their long-term average. The anticipations of industrialists about the expected change in global and foreign demand in the fourth quarter 2013 get better clearly.

Past change in demand

Balance of opinion, in %

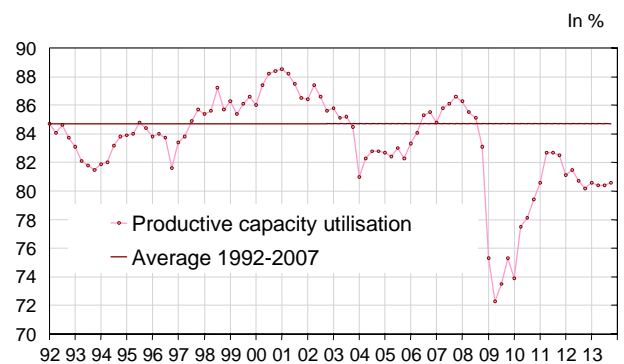


- Production factors

The tensions on the means of production go up slightly

Over the third quarter 2013, the tensions of the means of production go up slightly but they remain weak. So the productive capacity utilisation rate increases by one point compared with the previous quarter but remains below its average level, indicating that the means of production are underused in the manufacturing industry. The balance on production bottlenecks increase slightly and is now above its long-term average.

Change in the productive capacity utilisation rate



Industrialists' opinion : demand and production factors

Balance of opinion, in %

Manufacturing industry	Aver.*	Jan. 13	Avril 13	Juil. 13	Oct. 13
Global demand					
Past change	0	-24	-23	-11	1
Future change	1	-9	-4	-6	1
Foreign demand					
Past change	3	-30	-14	-5	2
Future change	4	-14	2	-2	10
Production factors					
Production bottlenecks (in %)	22	27	25	23	25
Assessment of productive capacity	14	23	23	14	13
Productive capacity utilisation rate (in %)	85	81	80	80	81
Difficulties of supply and demand					
Difficulties of supply and demand	8	8	12	12	11
Difficulties of supply	20	19	18	14	14
Difficulties of demand	44	57	47	50	47

* : Long-term average.

Source : Quaterly business survey - Insee

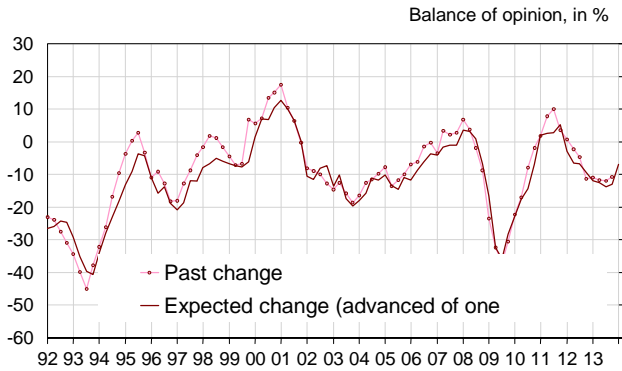
- **Workforce**

Improvement of balances of the workforce size

According to the business managers, the rate of job shedding in the industry stabilizes over the last months. Over the next months, industrialists are more optimistic about the change in workforce size.

The percentage of companies experiencing hiring difficulties in the manufacturing industry is slightly stable and reaches its long-term average.

Workforce size in the manufacturing industry



- **Wages and working time**

According to the business managers in the manufacturing industry, the wages increase by 0,2 % over the third quarter 2013.

The industrialists are less numerous in October to indicate a fall in the weekly working time both in the last and in the next months.

- **Cash-flow and selling prices**

In the third quarter 2013, the proportion of industrialists experiencing cash-flow problems is slightly steady compared with the previous quarter and reaches its average level.

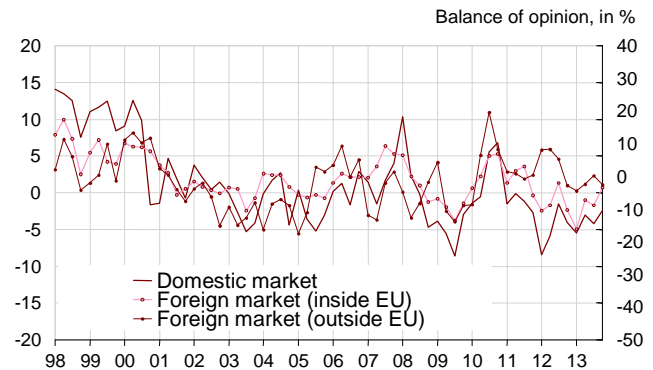
According to the business managers, the selling prices in the manufacturing industry go up slightly in the third quarter 2013. They forecast a fall in selling prices for the next quarter.

- **Competitive position**

According to the industrialists, in the third quarter 2013, their competitive position remains deteriorated on domestic market and foreign markets inside EU, even if it recovers slightly. It gets worst once again on foreign market outside EU.

The general exportation expectations rebound markedly. For the first time since the second quarter 2011, the corresponding balance is now above its long-term average.

Competitive position



Industrialists'opinion : employment, competitive position, cash-flow, wages and selling prices

		Balance of opinion, in %				
		Aver.*	Jan. 13	Avril 13	Jul. 13	Oct. 13
Manufacturing industry						
Workforce size						
Past change	-11	-11	-12	-12	-11	-11
Expected change	-13	-13	-14	-13	-7	-7
Difficulties hiring	28	24	27	27	28	28
Working time						
Past change	-3	-6	-5	-1	1	1
Expected change	-5	-9	-7	-2	-1	-1
Cash-flow and wages						
Cash-flow problems	15	16	14	15	14	14
Past wages	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,2	0,2
Selling prices						
Past change	0,2	-0,1	0,4	-0,6	0,2	0,2
Expected change	0,2	0,3	0,0	0,0	-0,2	-0,2
Competitive position						
On domestic market	1	-5	-3	-4	-2	-2
On foreign markets inside EU	0	-16	-7	-9	-3	-3
On foreign markets outside EU	-1	-4	-2	0	-3	-3
General exportation expectations	-10	-34	-43	-31	-4	-4

* : Long-term average.

Source : Quaterly business survey - Insee

Pour en savoir plus :

The quaterly survey completes the monthly survey published in the version dated of October 23 2013, notably on the demand and the production factors.

- Complementary data (long series) and metadata (methodology . linked internet pages...) are available on the HTML page of this index: <http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/indicateur.asp?id=12>
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr
- Historical data are available on the BDM: [G1267](#)

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