

# Informations *Rapides*

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## ■ Quarterly business survey in the building crafts sector - October 2013

### The economic climate shows a slight improvement in the building crafts sector, in October 2013

#### *The business outlook is improving*

In October 2013, fewer craftsmen than in July indicate a decrease in their past activity and in their expected activity. The corresponding balance of opinion stays significantly below its long-term average.

The general business outlook, which expresses the craftsmen's opinion on the overall change in the sector, improves sharply compare to the previous quarters, even if the corresponding balance of opinion remains below its long-term average.

#### *Decreasing employment*

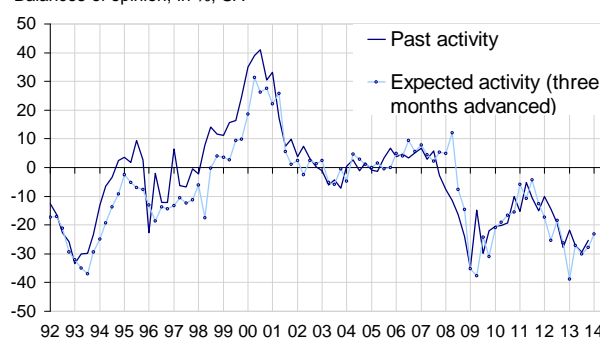
According to the craftsmen, the workforce size declined last quarter: the corresponding balance of opinion stays below its long-term average. The employment shrinkage may ease in the next quarter.

#### *Recruiting problems are almost stable*

Recruiting problems concerned around one firm out of four. This proportion remains sharply inferior to its long-term average. The rate of businesses training apprentices has declined to reach 36 %.

#### Activity tendency in the building crafts sector

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



#### Building crafts sector economic outlook

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

	Mean*	Jan. 13	April 13	July 13	Oct. 13
Past activity	-4	-22	-27	-29	-25
Expected activity	-8	-27	-30	-28	-23
General business outlook	-20	-51	-52	-50	-34
Past employment	-3	-8	-8	-11	-14
Expected employment	-3	-15	-15	-14	-8
Recruiting problems (in %)	42	30	30	29	29
Apprentice training (in %)	38	41	40	39	36

\* Mean since October 1990.

#### 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=59>
- Historical data are available on the BDM : [G1269](#), [G1271](#).
- Press contact: [bureau-de-presse@insee.fr](mailto:bureau-de-presse@insee.fr)

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