



25 novembre 2013 - n° 269 Principaux indicateurs

Monthly business survey in the building industry – November 2013

The economic climate is stable in building industry in November 2013

According to the business managers surveyed in November 2013, the situation is stable in the building industry: the composite indicator has stabilized below its long-term average. The turning-point indicator stays in the favorable zone.

Fewer business managers indicate a fall in their activity

Fewer business managers than in October, indicate a fall in their past activity and expected activity. However, the corresponding balances of opinion are still below their long-term average.

Decreasing employment

More business managers than in October 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.



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				
		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	Mean*	13	13	13	13
Composite indicator	100	92	93	94	94
Past activity	-2	-18	-16	-14	-10
Expected activity	-5	-23	-10	-17	-13
Gen. business outlook	-17			-29	
Past employment	-3	-22	-21	-14	-18
Expected employment	-2	-18	-15	-9	-17
Opinion on order books	-20	-48	-43	-47	-47
Order books (in month)	5,3	7,1	7,0	7,0	6,8
Productive capacity					
utilisation rate	88,9	86,4	86,5	85,9	85,9
Obstacles to production					
increase (in %)	33	22	25	24	25
- Because of workforce					
shortage (in %)	15,6	5,0	4,8	4,5	4,5
Recruiting problems					
(in %)	59			46	
Expected prices	-13	-33	-31	-29	-29
Cash-flow position	-9			-27	
Repayment period	28			43	

* Mean since September 1993.

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Order books are still considered lower than normal

In November, 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, one business manager out of four declares having difficulties increasing his activity.

Prices not very dynamic

As many business managers as in October indicate price downturns. The corresponding balance of opinion remains sharply inferior to its long-term average.



Activity tendency in the building industry



Workforce size tendency in the building industry



Order books Balance of opinion, in %, SA month 60 7,7 7.2 40 6,7 20 6,2 0 5,7 5,2 -20 4.7 -40 4,2 Opinion on order books <--60 3,7 Order books -> -80 3.2 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13

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: <u>G1273</u>, <u>G1276</u>, <u>G1274</u>.
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr

Next publication: 20 12 2013 at 08h45