

# Informations *Rapides*

23 janvier 2014 - n° 16

Principaux indicateurs



CONJONCTURE

## ■ Quaterly business survey in industry – January 2014

### Demand addressed to the manufacturing industry is nearly stable in the fourth quarter 2013

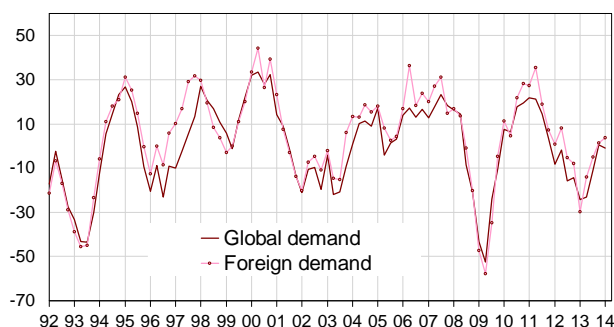
#### • Demand

##### *Slightly improvement of global and foreign demand*

In the fourth quarter 2013, while the improvement of foreign demand has gone on, the one of global demand has stopped : the corresponding balances stand almost at their long-term average. The anticipations of industrialists about the expected change in global and foreign demand get better.

##### Past change in demand

Balance of opinion, in %

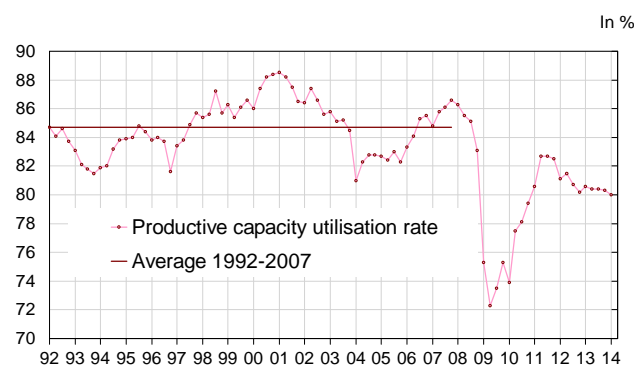


#### • Production factors

##### *The tensions on the means of production are stable at a weak level*

Over the fourth quarter 2013, the tensions of the means of production are almost unchanged at a weak level. So the productive capacity utilization rate is stable compared to the previous quarter and still remains below its average level, indicating that the means of production are underused in the manufacturing industry. The balance on production bottlenecks has slightly weakened at a level very close to its long-term average.

##### Change in the productive capacity utilization rate



##### Industrialists' opinion : demand and production factors

Balance of opinion, in %

Manufacturing industry	Aver.*	Avril 13	Juil. 13	Oct. 13	Jan. 14
<b>Global demand</b>					
Past change	0	-23	-11	1	-1
Future change	1	-4	-6	2	4
<b>Foreign demand</b>					
Past change	3	-14	-5	1	4
Future change	4	2	-2	12	14
<b>Production factors</b>					
Production bottlenecks (in %)	22	25	23	25	23
Assessment of productive capacity	14	23	14	12	13
Productive capacity utilization rate (in %)	85	80	80	80	80
<b>Difficulties of supply and demand</b>					
Difficulties of supply and demand	8	12	12	11	11
Difficulties of supply	20	18	14	14	19
Difficulties of demand	44	47	50	46	49

\* : Long-term average.

Source : Quarterly business survey - Insee

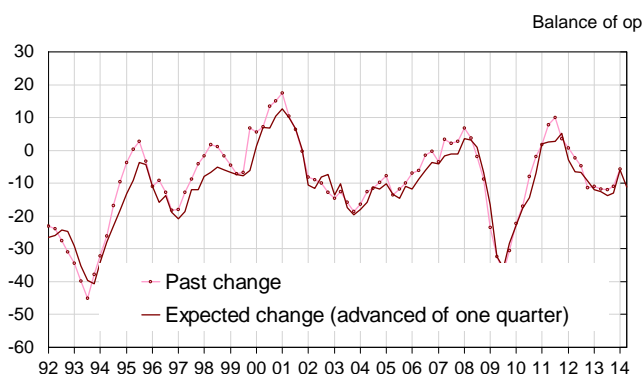
## • Workforce

### **Improvement of the balance on the past change of workforce size**

According to the business managers, the rate of job losses in the industry has stabilized over the last months. Over the next months, industrialists are more pessimistic about the change in workforce size.

The percentage of companies experiencing hiring difficulties in the manufacturing industry has slightly decreased and is close to its long-term average.

#### **Workforce size in the manufacturing industry**

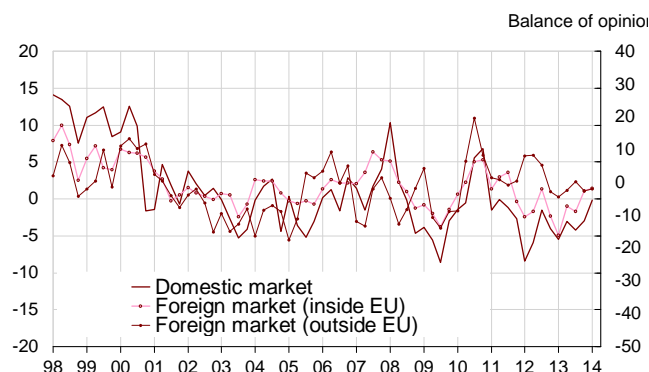


## • Competitive position

According to the industrialists, in the fourth quarter 2013, their competitive position have improved slightly on domestic market and on foreign markets inside and outside EU. The corresponding balances remain slightly below their average level on this three markets.

The general exportation expectations have become anew less favorable: the corresponding balance has decreased but remains close to its long-term average.

#### **Competitive position**



## • Wages and working time

According to the business managers in the manufacturing industry, the wages have increased by 0,4 % over the fourth quarter 2013.

In January, as many industrialists as in October indicate a fall in the weekly working time, while more of them indicate a fall in the weekly working time over the next months.

## • Cash-flow and selling prices

In the fourth quarter 2013, the proportion of industrialists experiencing cash-flow problems is nearly steady compared to the previous quarter and is very close to its average level.

According to the business managers, the selling prices in the manufacturing industry have gone down in the fourth quarter 2013. They forecast a slightly increase in selling prices for the next quarter.

### **Industrialists 'opinion : employment, competitive position, cash-flow, wags and selling prices**

		Balance of opinion, in %				
	Aver.*	Avril 13	Jul. 13	Oct. 13	Jan. 14	
<b>Manufacturing industry</b>						
<b>Workforce size</b>						
Past change	-11	-12	-12	-11	-6	
Expected change	-13	-14	-13	-6	-11	
Difficulties hiring	28	27	27	28	26	
<b>Working time</b>						
Past change	-3	-5	-1	1	1	
Expected change	-5	-7	-2	-1	-4	
<b>Cash-flow and wages</b>						
Cash-flow problems	15	14	15	14	13	
Past wages	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,4	
<b>Selling prices</b>						
Past change	0,2	0,4	-0,6	0,2	-0,5	
Expected change	0,2	0,0	0,0	-0,2	0,1	
<b>Competitive position</b>						
On domestic market	1	-3	-4	-3	0	
On foreign markets inside EU	0	-7	-9	-3	-2	
On foreign markets outside EU	-1	-2	0	-3	-2	
General exportation expectations	-10	-43	-31	-5	-13	

\* : Long-term average.

Source : Quarterly business survey - Insee

### **To learn more :**

The quarterly survey completes the monthly survey published in the version dated of January 23 2014, 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](mailto:bureau-de-presse@insee.fr)
- Historical data are available on the BDM: [G1267](#)

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