

# Informations Rapides

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## Principaux indicateurs

### ■ Monthly confidence consumer survey – October 2013

## In October 2013, households' confidence remained stable

In October 2013, households' confidence was stable. The synthetic confidence index remained at its September level.

#### • Personal situation

##### **Financial situation : worsening**

In October, households' appreciation of their *past financial situation* decreased (-3 points). Conversely, their opinion on their *future financial situation* was almost stable (+1 point). Households were more numerous than in September to consider October as a *suitable time to make major purchases*, the corresponding balance gained 2 points. These three balances remained clearly below their long term averages.

##### **Savings: expectations sharply increasing**

In October, households' opinion about their *current saving capacity* remained constant. Their opinion about their *future saving capacity* markedly rose (+7 points). These two balances remained above their long term average.

After a surge in September (+8 points), the share of households to think it was an *opportune time to save* remained stable in October. This balance still stood above its long term average.

#### Consumer synthetic index



#### CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally adjusted

	Average (1)	2013			
		July	August	Sept.	Oct.
Synthetic index (2)	100	82	84	85	85
Financial sit., past 12 m.	-19	-34	-33	-33	-36
Financial sit., next 12 m.	-4	-24	-22	-20	-19
Current saving capacity	8	16	16	13	13
Expected saving capacity	-10	-1	-1	-5	2
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	30	24	32	32
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	-14	-28	-29	-30	-28
General economic sit., past 12 m.	-43	-77	-73	-72	-70
General economic sit., next 12 m.	-23	-58	-50	-47	-45
Unemployment, next 12 m.	32	61	58	49	42
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	-13	-10	-3	2	-6
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	-34	-16	-21	-24	-23

(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: still improving**

In October, households' opinion about the *general economic situation* in France kept improving: both *past* and *expected* balances gained 2 points compared to September. These balances have been growing continuously since June, yet they remained distinctly below their long term average.

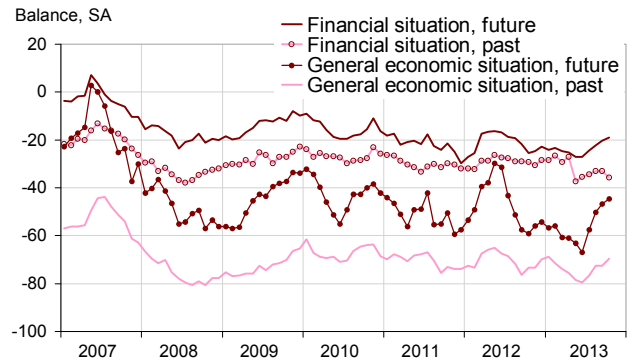
**Future unemployment: fears decreasing again**

Households were less concerned than in September about future employment. The October corresponding balance lost 7 points compared to August, which amounts to a loss of 37 points since June. However, it still stood above its long term average.

**Inflation's appreciation: declining**

In October, households were less numerous than in September to estimate that *past inflation* increased: the corresponding balance decreased by 8 points. Households' opinion about *future inflation* was almost stable in October (-1 point). Both balances remained above their long term average.

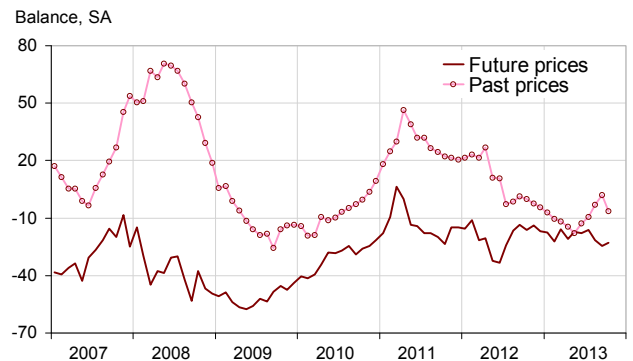
**Balances on personal financial situation and general economic situation**



**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 30<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> October 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](mailto:bureau-de-presse@insee.fr)