

■ Quaterly business survey in industry – April 2014

Demand addressed to the manufacturing industry improves in the first quarter 2014

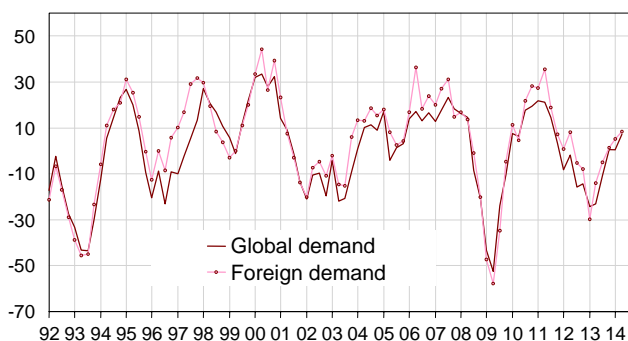
• Demand

Improvement of global and foreign demand

In the first quarter 2014, while the improvement of foreign demand has gone on, the global demand has gone up anew : the corresponding balances stand now above their long-term average. The industrialists forecast an improvement of global demand and a slowdown of foreign demand.

Past change in demand

Balance of opinion, in %

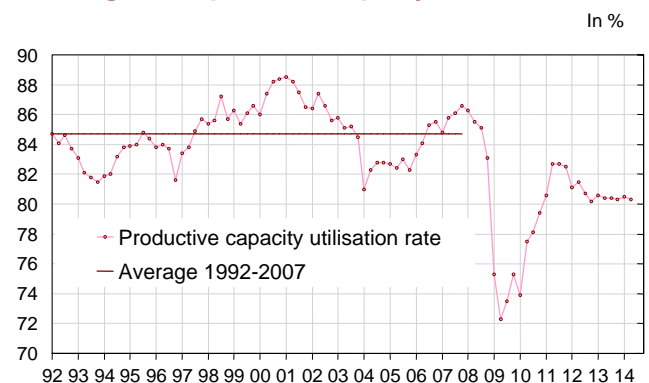


• Production factors

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

Over the first quarter 2014, 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 increased at a level close to its long-term average.

Change in the productive capacity utilisation rate



Industrialists' opinion : demand and production factors

Balance of opinion, in %

Manufacturing industry	Aver.*	Juil. 13	Oct. 13	Jan. 14	April 14
Global demand					
Past change	0	-11	1	1	7
Future change	1	-6	2	4	4
Foreign demand					
Past change	3	-5	1	5	8
Future change	4	-2	12	14	4
Production factors					
Production bottlenecks (in %)	22	23	25	23	25
Assessment of productive capacity	14	14	12	13	17
Productive capacity utilisation rate (in %)	85	80	80	80	80
Difficulties of supply and demand					
Difficulties of supply and demand	8	12	11	11	13
Difficulties of supply	20	14	14	19	18
Difficulties of demand	44	50	46	49	46

* : Long-term average.

Source : Quaterly business survey - Insee

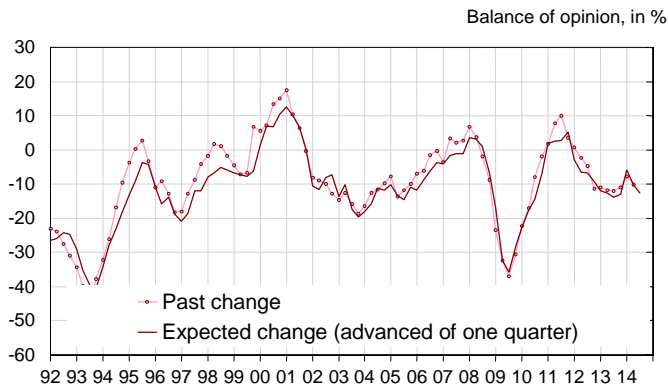
- **Workforce**

Slightly decrease of the balance on the changes of workforce size

According to the business managers, the rate of job losses in the industry has slightly increased over the last months but is still close to its long term average. Over the next months, industrialists consider that the change in workforce size remain unfavorable.

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

Workforce size in the manufacturing industry

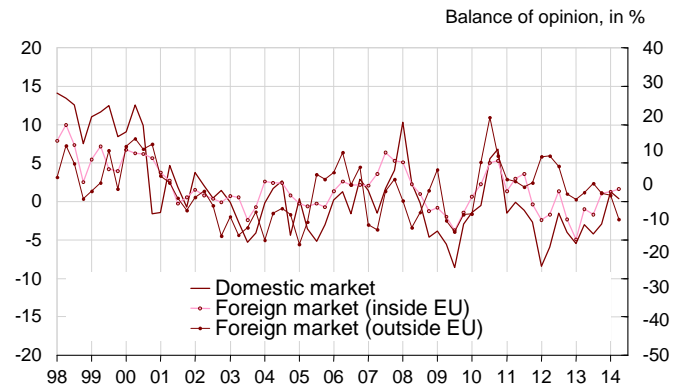


- **Competitive position**

According to the industrialists, in the first quarter 2014, their competitive position is nearly stable on domestic market and on foreign markets inside EU but has deteriorated on foreign markets outside EU, where the corresponding balance stands markedly below its average level on this three markets.

The general exportation expectations remain deteriorated: the corresponding balance has slightly decreased and remains below 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 first quarter 2014.

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

- **Cash-flow and selling prices**

In the first quarter 2014, the proportion of industrialists experiencing cash-flow problems has slightly gone up compared to the previous quarter but is still very close to its average level.

According to the business managers, the selling prices in the manufacturing industry are stable in the first quarter 2014. They forecast a slightly decrease in selling prices for the next quarter.

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

	Balance of opinion, in %				
	Aver.*	Juil. 13	Oct. 13	Jan. 14	April14
Manufacturing industry					
Workforce size					
Past change	-11	-12	-11	-8	-10
Expected change	-13	-13	-6	-10	-12
Difficulties hiring	28	27	28	26	27
Working time					
Past change	-3	-1	1	0	-2
Expected change	-5	-2	-1	-3	-3
Cash-flow and wages					
Cash-flow problems	15	15	14	13	16
Past wages	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,4
Selling prices					
Past change	0,2	-0,6	0,2	-0,5	0,0
Expected change	0,2	0,0	-0,2	0,2	-0,2
Competitive position					
On domestic market	1	-4	-3	1	0
On foreign markets inside EU	-1	-9	-3	-2	-1
On foreign markets outside EU	-1	0	-3	-3	-10
General exportation expectations	-10	-31	-5	-13	-15

* : Long-term average.

Source : Quaterly business survey - Insee

To learn more :

The quarterly survey completes the monthly survey published in the version dated of April 24 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
- Historical data are available on the BDM: [G1267](#)