

Informations Rapides

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Principaux indicateurs



■ Monthly confidence consumer survey – February 2013

In February 2013, households' confidence was stable

In February 2013, households' confidence about the economic situation was stable: The synthetic confidence index remained at the level of December and January. It was still below its long term average.

• Personal situation

Financial situation: slightly increasing

In February, households' appreciation of their *past financial situation* slightly improved (+2 points), while their opinion on their *future financial situation* was almost stable (+1 point). Their opinion on the *timeliness to make major purchases* was also almost stable (-1 point). These three balances remained clearly below their long term averages.

Savings: decreasing

Households' opinion about their *current saving capacity* gained two points in February. Their opinion about their *savings capacity in the next 12 months* was almost stable (+1 point).

On the other hand, households considered it less opportune than in January to save: the corresponding balance of opinion lost 5 points. It remained however clearly beyond its long-term average.

Consumer synthetic index



CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally adjusted

	Average (1)	2012		2013	
		Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Synthetic index (2)	100	84	86	86	86
Financial sit., past 12 m.	-19	-31	-29	-29	-27
Financial sit., next 12 m.	-4	-25	-23	-24	-23
Current saving capacity	8	18	18	19	21
Expected saving capacity	-10	-1	-1	-1	0
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	37	37	35	30
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	-14	-28	-28	-30	-31
General economic sit., past 12 m.	-43	-73	-69	-68	-71
General economic sit., next 12 m.	-23	-55	-53	-55	-55
Unemployment, next 12 m.	32	66	72	70	73
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	-13	-1	-3	-7	-11
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	-34	-14	-18	-19	-25

(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: perception of the past decreasing, expectations stable

In February, households' opinion about the *past general economic situation* in France decreased by -3 points, after two consecutive months of increase. *Expected general economic situation* was stable. These balances of opinion remained clearly below their long-term averages.

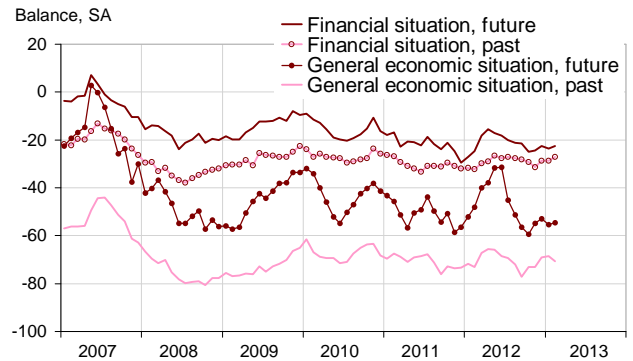
Future unemployment: expectations increasing anew

After a decrease in January (-2 points), households were more numerous in February to forecast an increase in unemployment (+3 points). The corresponding balance returned to its September 2012 level, the highest since July 2009, and remained widely above its long-term average.

Inflation's appreciation: decreasing again

In February, households were more numerous than in January to estimate that *past inflation* declined (-4 points). This balance reached its lowel since May 2010. Their opinion about *future inflation* sharply decreased too (-6 points), a decrease by 11 points since November. Theses two balances remained however above their long-term averages.

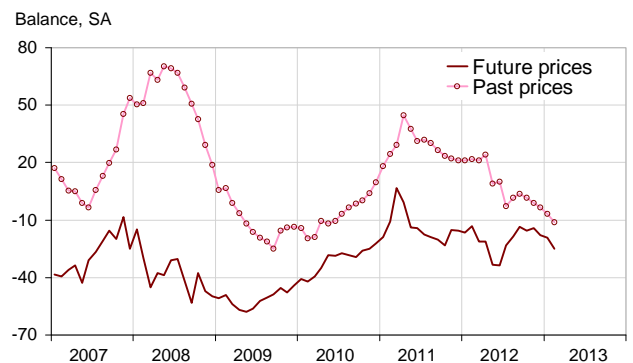
Balances on personal financial situation and general economic situation



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 29th January and 16th February 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

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