Informations Rapides

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Principaux indicateurs

Monthly confidence consumer survey– April 2013

In April 2013, households' confidence was stable

In April 2013, households' confidence about the economic situation was stable: The synthetic confidence remained at the level of March. It was still below its long term average.

• Personal situation

Financial situation: almost stable

In April, households appreciation of their *past financial situation* slightly increased (+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 almost stable (+1 point). These three balances remained clearly below their long term averages.

Savings: decreasing

Households' opinion about their *current saving capacity* decreased in April (-3 points). Their opinion about their *savings capacity in the next 12 months* was almost stable (-1 point).

Households were less numerous in April than in March to think that it was a suitable moment to save (-4 points). This balance remained however clearly beyond its long-term average.

Consumer synthetic index

CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally ajusted

		2013			
	Average (1)	Jan.	Feb.	March	April
Synthetic index (2)	100	85	86	84	84
Financial sit., past 12 m.	–19	–29	–27	–30	–28
Financial sit., next 12 m.	–4	–24	–23	–24	–25
Current saving capacity	8	18	20	18	15
Expected saving capacity	–10	–1	0	–3	–4
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	36	30	36	32
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	–14	–30	–31	–30	–29
General economic sit., past 12 m.	–43	–69	–72	–74	–76
General economic sit., next 12 m.	–23	–56	–55	–61	–62
Unemployment, next 12 m.	32	69	72	76	74
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	–13	–7	–11	–14	–18
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	–34	–19	–24	–18	–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).

Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques
Direction générale 18 bd A. Pinard 75675 Paris Cedex 14
Directeur de la publication : Jean-Philippe COTIS

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- **Economic situation in France**

General economic situation in France: decreasing

In April, households' opinion about the *expected general economic situation* in France decreased anew (-1 point), and was at its historically lowest level. Their opinion about *past general economic situation* also decreased (-2 points). It remained clearly below its long-term average.

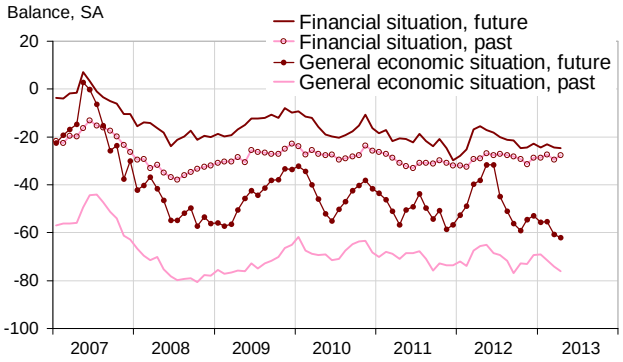
Future unemployment: expectations decreasing

In April, households were less numerous to forecast an increase in unemployment. The corresponding balance lost 2 points with respect to March but remained widely above its long-term average.

Inflation's appreciation: decreasing too

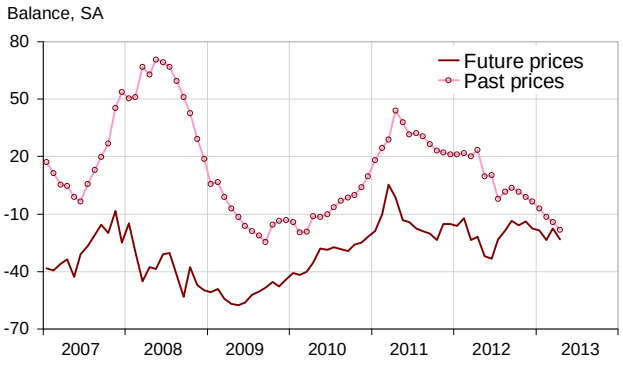
In April, households were less numerous than in March to estimate that *past inflation* increased. The corresponding balance lost 4 points, and 22 points with respect to September 2012. The balance was below its long-term average. Moreover, households were more numerous to estimate that *future inflation* will decrease (-5 points). However, the corresponding balance remained above its long-term average.

Balances on personnal 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 March and 17th April 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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