

Informations Rapides

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Principaux Indicateurs

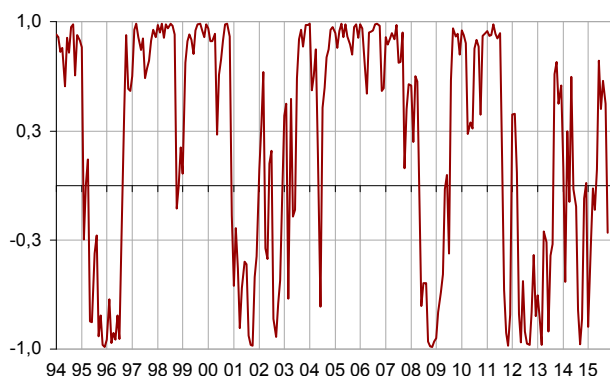


■ Monthly business survey in the building industry – October 2015

In October 2015, the short-term economic climate remains deteriorated in the building construction industry

According to the business managers surveyed in October 2015, the business climate is virtually stable in the building construction industry. The composite indicator which measures it has decreased by one point and remains significantly below (90) its long-term average (100). The turning point indicator has moved into the neutral zone.

Turning-point indicator



Lecture: close to 1 (respectively -1), it indicates a favorable climate (respectively unfavorable).

Building industry economic outlook

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

	Mean *	July 15	Aug. 15	Sept. 15	Oct. 15
Composite indicator	100	90	91	91	90
Past activity	-4	-24	-22	-24	-17
Expected activity	-7	-14	-11	-13	-20
Gen. business outlook	-19	-27			-24
Past employment	-5	-28	-26	-26	-31
Expected employment	-4	-22	-24	-21	-24
Opinion on order books	-23	-55	-53	-52	-53
Order books (in month)	5,4	6,5	6,6	6,6	6,5
Production capacity utilisation rate	88,6	85,0	84,7	84,4	84,5
Obstacles to production increase (in %)	32	23	23	21	20
- Because of workforce shortage (in %)	14,5	3,4	2,9	2,6	2,8
Recruiting problems (in %)	58	40			41
Expected prices	-14	-32	-29	-29	-33
Cash-flow position	-10	-20			-12
Repayment period	29	42			39

* Mean since September 1993.

Business climate composite indicator

Standardized with mean equal to 100 and a standard deviation equal to 10



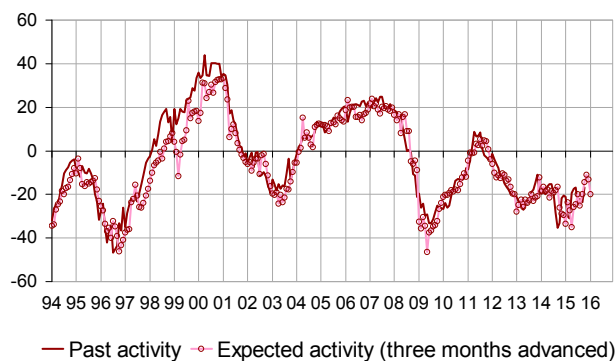
More business managers forecast a fall in their activity

In October 2015, slightly fewer business managers than in the previous month have declared a fall in their activity in the recent period. Their opinion on general business outlook has continued to improved compared to the past quarters. However, more business managers than in September forecast a fall in their activity for the next three months.

The three corresponding balances are far below their long-term average.

Activity tendency in building construction

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



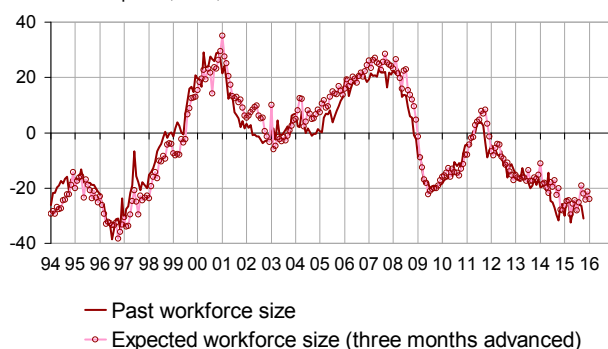
Source: INSEE, French business survey in the building industry

Increased pessimism about employment

In October 2015, more business managers than in September have indicated a fall in their staff size in the recent period and for the next few months. The corresponding balances, already below their long-term average, have deviated further from their long term average.

Workforce size tendency in building construction

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



Order books are considered far below normal

Business managers' opinion about their order books remains very negative. The corresponding balance has been very low for more than a year now. Considering their workforce, they evaluate that their order books cover 6.5 months of work.

Order books

Balance of opinion, in %, SA



Production capacity remains underused

Since 2008, the production capacity utilisation rate has been below its long-term average. In October 2015, it is virtually stable compared to the previous month (84.5%). One business manager out of five has reported difficulties in increasing output, against one out of three in average since 1993. Only 41% of construction firms have difficulties in recruiting labor force, against 58% in average.

Production capacity utilisation rate




More price cuts have been declared

In October 2015, more business managers than in September have indicated price falls. The corresponding balance remains substantially below its long-term average. However, according to business managers, the cash-flow position is less deteriorated than in the previous quarter and the repayment period is reduced slightly.

For further information:

The balance of opinion is calculated as the difference between the percentage of responses “increase” and the percentage of responses “decrease”.

- Additional information (long series, methodology, links, etc.) is available on the web page of this indicator: <http://www.insee.fr/en/themes/info-rapide.asp?id=56>
- Historical data are available on the BDM: [G1273](#), [G1276](#), [G1274](#).
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr
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