Informations Rapides
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Principaux indicateurs
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Conjoncture

## Monthly business survey in the building industry – September 2014

# The economic climate remains sluggish in the building industry in September 2014

According to the business managers surveyed in September 2014, the situation remains sluggish in the building industry. The composite indicator has decreased by one point and has reached its lowest level (88) since 1997. It stays below its long-term average. The turning-point indicator is in the unfavorable zone.

### *Activity remains deteriorated*

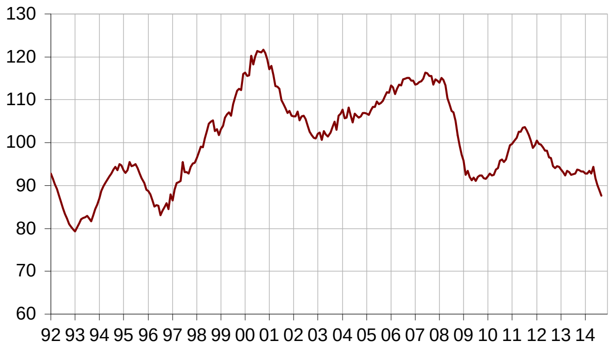
Substantially more business managers than in August indicate a fall in their past activity. The balances of opinion corresponding to past and expected activity are significantly below their long-term average.

### *Decreasing employment*

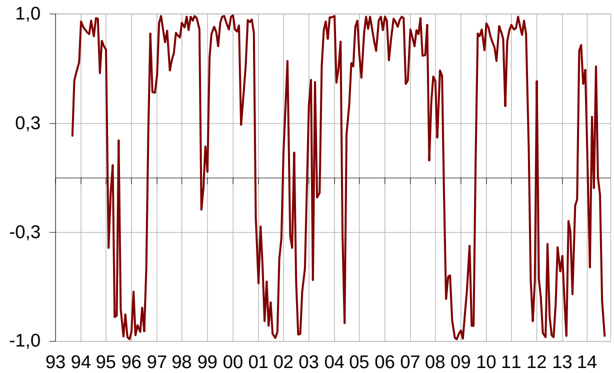
More business managers than in August indicate job losses in the recent period. The balances of opinion corresponding to past and expected employment remain substantially below their long-term average.

**Composite indicator**

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




**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* | June 14 | July 14 | Aug. 14 | Sept. 14 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Composite indicator | 100 | 92 | 90 | 89 | 88 |
| Past activity | –3 | –15 | –19 | –28 | –35 |
| Expected activity | –6 | –17 | –26 | –29 | –28 |
| Gen. business outlook | –18 | | –48 | | |
| Past employment | –4 | –25 | –25 | –27 | –30 |
| Expected employment | –3 | –22 | –20 | –28 | –28 |
| Opinion on order books | –21 | –47 | –52 | –52 | –53 |
| Order books (in month) | 5,3 | 6,8 | 6,4 | 6,6 | 6,6 |
| Productive capacity utilisation rate | 88,8 | 85,3 | 85,3 | 85,4 | 85,0 |
| Obstacles to production increase (in %) | 33 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| - Because of workforce shortage (in %) | 15,1 | 3,7 | 4,4 | 4,1 | 3,9 |
| Recruiting problems (in %) | 59 | | 45 | | |
| Expected prices | –13 | –31 | –35 | –34 | –34 |
| Cash-flow position | –9 | | –25 | | |
| Repayment period | 28 | | 46 | | |

* Mean since September 1993.

*Source: French business survey in the building industry - Insee*

### *Order books are still considered lower than normal*

In September, business managers still consider their order books lower than normal.

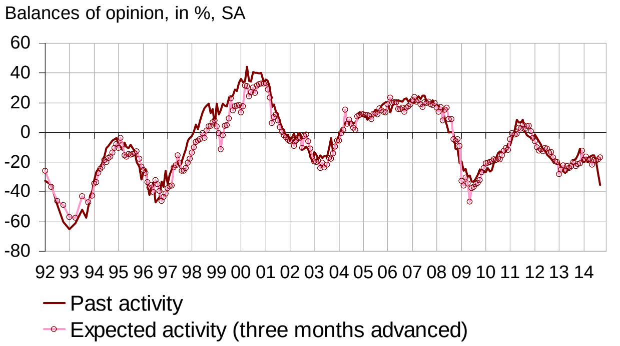
### *Productive capacity underused again*

The productive capacity utilization rate is almost stable and stays below its long-term average. At the same time, almost one business manager out of five declares having difficulties increasing his activity (against one out of three in average).

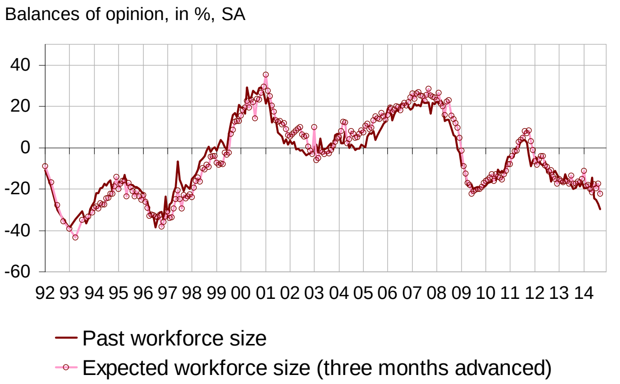
### *Prices not very dynamic*

In September, as many business managers as in August indicate price downturns. The corresponding balance of opinion is well below its long-term average.

**Activity tendency in the building industry**

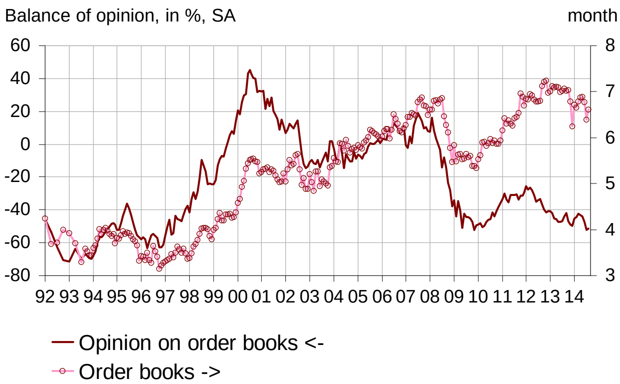



**Workforce size tendency in the building industry**




**Productive capacity utilization rate**


**Order books**




**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…) 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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