Informations Rapides

27 août 2015 - n° 207

Principaux indicateurs

Insee Mesurer pour comprendre Conjoncture

Monthly business survey in the building industry – August 2015

In August 2015, the economic climate is virtually stable in the building construction industry

According to the business managers surveyed in August 2015, the business climate is virtually stable in the building construction industry. The composite indicator has increased by one point but stays below (91) its long-term average (100). The turning point indicator has decreased and has gone into the neutral zone.

Business managers' opinion about activity has slightly improved

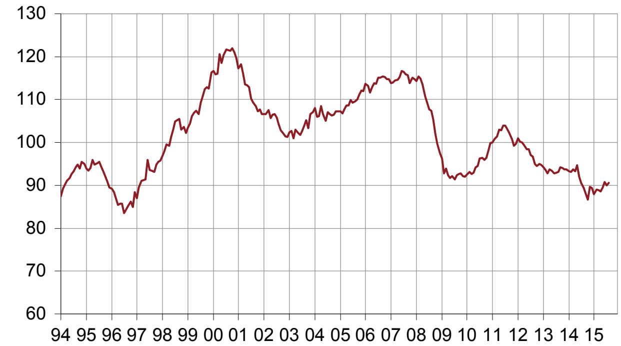
In August 2015, fewer business managers than in the previous month forecast a fall in their activity for the next three months, again. Similarly, fewer business managers than in July declared a fall in their activity over the past three months. However, the corresponding balances of opinion remain far below their long-term average.

Business manager are pessimistic about employment

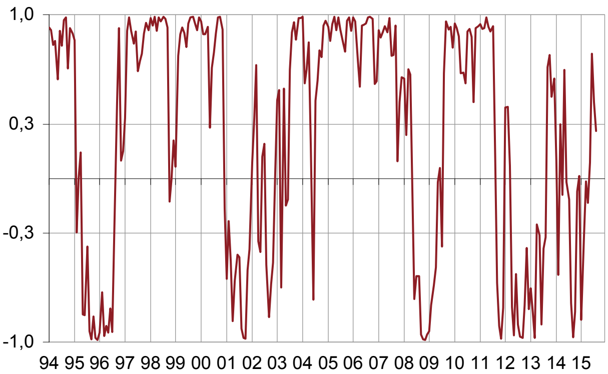
In August 2015, slightly more business managers than in July indicate a fall in their staff size for the next few months, again. As many business managers as in July indicate a fall in their staff size in the recent period. The corresponding balances remain substantially below their long-term average.

Business climate 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*	May 15	June 15	July 15	Aug. 15
Composite indicator	100	90	91	90	91
Past activity	–4	–17	–17	–24	–21
Expected activity	–7	–25	–20	–14	–11
Gen. business outlook	–19			–27	
Past employment	–5	–28	–24	–28	–28
Expected employment	–4	–25	–19	–22	–24
Opinion on order books	–23	–54	–56	–55	–54
Order books (in month)	5.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6
Production capacity utilisation rate	88.6	83.9	84.5	85.0	84.6
Obstacles to production increase (in %)	32	17	22	23	24
- Because of workforce shortage (in %)	14.6	2.6	2.7	3.4	3.3
Recruiting problems (in %)	58			41	
Expected prices	–14	–34	–32	–32	–31
Cash-flow position	–10			–21	
Repayment period	29			43	

* Mean since September 1993.

Source: French business survey in the building industry - INSEE

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Order books have been considered very low for 10 months

Business managers' opinion about their order books remains deteriorated. The corresponding balance has been very low since October 2014. However, the number of months covered by these order books is practically stable (6.6 months), above its long term average (5.4 months).

Production capacity is still largely underused

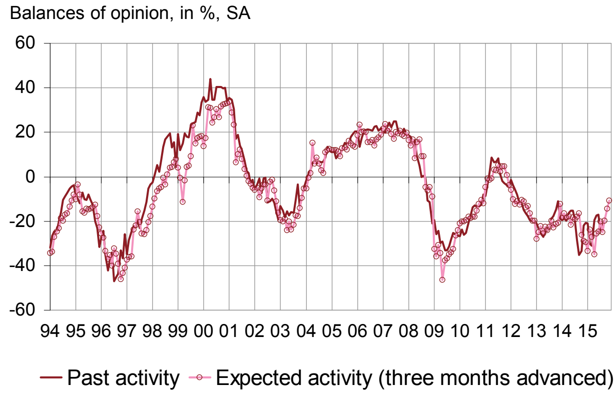
The production capacity utilisation rate has been below its long-term average since 2008. In August 2015, it has decreased anew (84.6%) after a slight rebound in July (85.0%). At the same time, almost one business manager out of four has reported difficulties to increase its output, against one out of three in average since 1993.

Prices remain tight

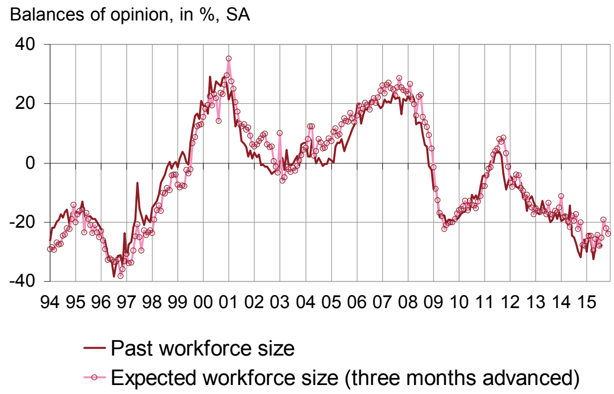
In August 2015, almost as many business managers as in July indicate price falls. The corresponding balance remains substantially below its long-term average.

Production capacity utilisation rate

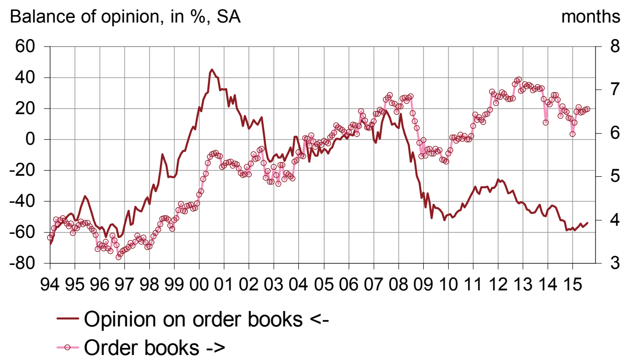
Activity tendency in building construction



Workforce size tendency in building construction



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, 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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