

Informations *Rapides*

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Main Indicators

■ Monthly confidence consumer survey – April 2015

In April 2015, households' confidence keeps improving (+1 point)

In April 2015, households' confidence has improved for the third month in a row; the synthetic confidence index has gained 1 point and has reached 94, its highest value since January 2010. However, it remains distinctly below its long-term average.

• Personal situation

Financial situation: improving

So far this month, households' opinion of their *past financial situation* has improved (+2 points), and their appreciation on their *future financial situation* has been almost stable (+1 point). However, these two balances stay below their long-term average.

Households are more numerous in April to think it is a *suitable time to make major purchases* (+2 points). The corresponding balance has gained 16 points since September 2014; it thus stays slightly above its long-term average, at its highest level since October 2007.

Saving capacity: rising

In April, households' opinion of their *current saving capacity* is almost stable (+1 point). The balance of opinion concerning their *future saving capacity* has kept growing markedly (+3 points), and has reached its highest level since January 2001. These two balances stand significantly above their long-term average.

Moreover, the share of households thinking it is an *opportune time to save* is almost stable (+1 point). The balance remains slightly below its long-term average.

Consumer confidence synthetic index

Balance, SA, normalised to 100 with a standard error of 10



CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally adjusted

	Av. (1)	2015			
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Synthetic index	100	90	92	93	94
Financial sit., past 12 m.	-19	-29	-27	-27	-25
Financial sit., next 12 m.	-4	-17	-14	-14	-13
Current saving capacity	8	14	15	16	17
Expected saving capacity	-10	-4	-3	1	4
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	16	14	15	16
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	-14	-18	-15	-13	-11
Standard of living, past 12 m.	-43	-66	-62	-60	-59
Standard of living, next 12 m.	-23	-40	-37	-36	-36
Unemployment, next 12 m.	32	63	60	45	60
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	-13	-48	-50	-52	-52
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	-34	-45	-44	-46	-43

(1) Average value between January 1987 and December 2014

Source: INSEE, monthly consumer confidence survey

- **Economic situation in France**

Standard of living in France: virtual stability

In April, households' opinion of the *past standard of living* in France is almost stable (+1 point) and remains at its highest value since October 2007. Their appreciation on the *future standard of living* is stable. However, these two balances remain far below their long-term average.

Unemployment: fears strongly rebounding

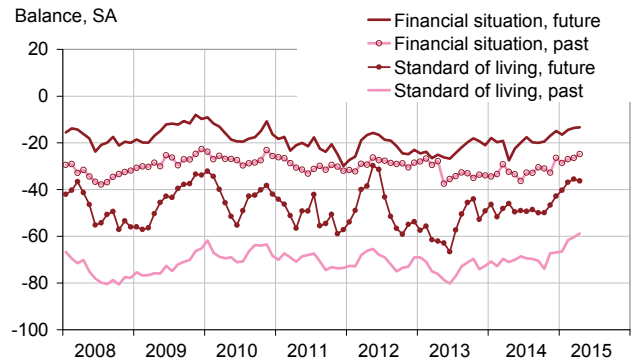
In April, households are substantially more numerous than in March to think that unemployment will rise: the corresponding balance has increased by 15 points, after an equivalent drop in March. It remains above its long-term average.

Future inflation: increasing again

The share of households thinking that prices increased is stable in April, and remains at its lowest level since 1999. It thus stands noticeably below its long-term average.

On the contrary, households are more numerous to expect a rise in prices: the corresponding balance has increased by 3 points. However, it stands clearly below its long-term average.

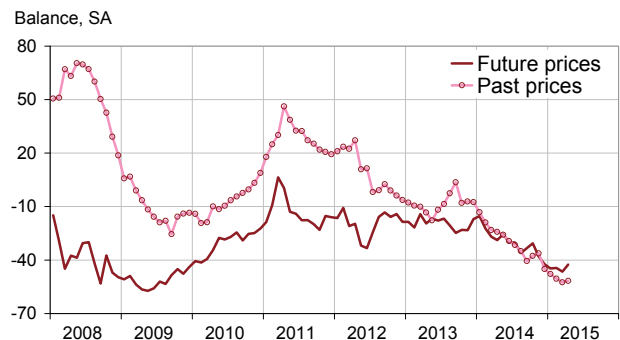
Balances on personal financial situation and standard of living



Households' unemployment expectations



Households' perception of prices



For more information :


Definition - The synthetic households' confidence index summarizes households' opinion of the economic situation: a higher value means a more favorable households' judgement of the economic situation. It is calculated using a factor analysis technique. This technique which enables a summary of 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 in making 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.

Answers to this survey were collected between 30th March and 18th April 2015.

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 the seasonal adjusted balances history for each publication.

- Further data (historical data, methodology, connected web pages, etc.) are available on the web page of this indicator: <http://insee.fr/en/themes/info-rapide.asp?id=20>
- Historical data are available on the BDM : [G389](#)
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