

# Informations Rapides

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## ■ Quarterly business survey in civil engineering – January 2016

### In January 2016, the economic climate a little less deteriorated according to civil engineering contractors

According to the business managers surveyed in January 2016, the economic climate in civil engineering in the end of 2015, has improved again.

**Business managers' opinion about their activity in the three past months has improved but their prospects for the first quarter 2016 have slightly weakened**

In January 2016, fewer business manager than in the previous quarter report a fall in their past activity. The corresponding balance has increased significantly and has come closer to its long-term average. The balance of opinion on expected activity for the next three months has slightly fallen back after a continuing rise since October 2014. It remains close to its long-term average, above it for private-sector project but below it for public-sector project.

#### Very few obstacles to production

Obstacles to production remain very low: only 3% of businesses indicate being hampered because of a workforce shortage, against 15% on long-term average. The share of business managers who consider their order books as lower than normal for this period of the year is stable and the corresponding balance remains far below its long-term average.

#### Business managers are less pessimistic about expected workforce trend

In January 2016, fewer business manager than the previous quarter forecast a fall in their staff size. The corresponding balance has increased significantly gradually since April 2014, albeit remaining well below its long-term average.

#### For further information:

The balance of opinion is 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=58>
- Historical data are available on the BDM : [G1281](#).
- Press contact: [bureau-de-presse@insee.fr](mailto:bureau-de-presse@insee.fr)
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#### Economic outlook in civil engineering

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

	Mean*	April 15	July 15	Oct. 15	Jan. 16
Past activity	-7	-58	-38	-36	-16
- public-sector project	-13	-67	-50	-49	-32
- private-sector project	-12	-40	-27	-17	-9
Expected activity	-15	-47	-30	-12	-16
- public-sector project	-18	-56	-39	-23	-27
- private-sector project	-18	-36	-19	-4	-3
Opinion on order books	-27	-68	-67	-57	-57
Obstacles to production increase because of workforce shortage (in %)	15	3	1	3	3
Expected workforce	-17	-59	-46	-38	-23

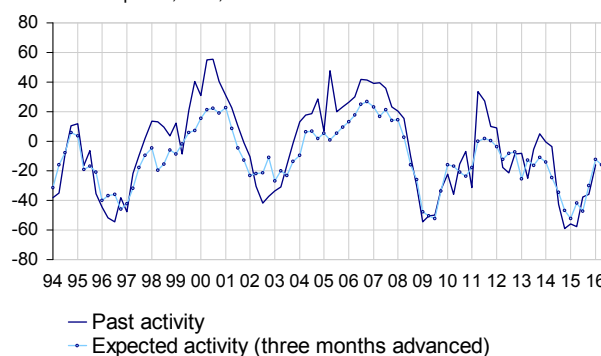
Note: the balances of opinion by customer may differ from the balance of the whole, because sometimes the firms don't distinguish public-sector project and private-sector project.

\* Mean since January 1981

Sources: FNTF and INSEE

#### Activity tendency in public works

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



Sources: FNTF and INSEE