

Informations Rapides

■ Monthly business survey in services – March 2016

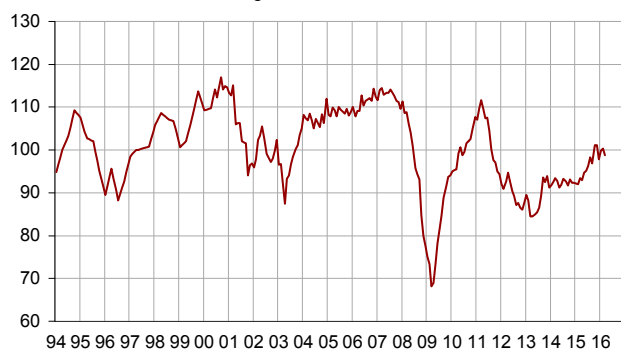
In March 2016, the business climate is almost unchanged in services

• All services

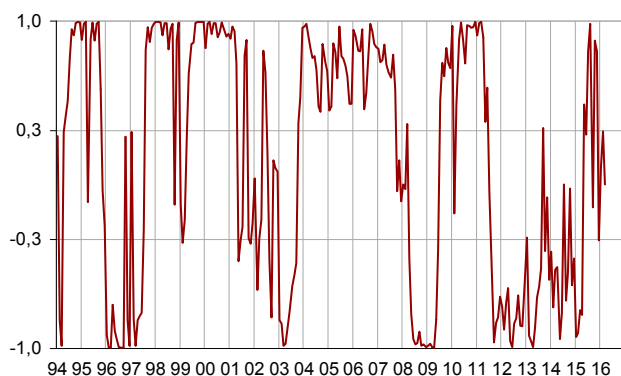
According to business managers surveyed in March 2016, the business climate in services is virtually stable. The business climate composite indicator has decreased by one point and has fallen back (99) slightly below its long-term average (100). The turning point indicator stays in the uncertainty area.

Business climate composite indicator

Standardized indicator : average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



Turning point indicator



Note: close to 1 (respectively -1), this indicator indicates a favourable short-term economic situation (respectively unfavourable). Between +0.3 and -0.3: uncertainty area.

The balance of opinion on the general outlook, which relates the assessment of business leaders over their whole sector, remains at its long-term average.

The balance on past activity is unchanged, slightly below its long-term average. However, the balances on expected activity and demand have decreased; the balance on demand has fallen back just below its long-term average.

The balances on employment remain above their long-term average, particularly in temporary work agencies, even if the balance on expected employment has fallen back to its level of January.

The balances on past and expected investments are stable above their long-term average.

Economic outlook in the services sector

Balances of opinion, in %, seasonally adjusted

	Average*	Dec. 15	Jan. 16	Feb. 16	March 16
Composite indicator	100	98	100	100	99
General outlook	-8	-9	-4	-8	-8
Past activity	2	-1	-2	0	0
Expected activity	2	-2	-1	0	-2
Expected demand	-1	-4	-1	1	-2
Past selling prices	-4	-7	-7	-10	-9
Expected selling prices	-3	-10	-12	-4	-4
Past employment <i>except temporary work agencies</i>	3	11	11	7	9
Expected employment <i>except temporary work agencies</i>	1	2	4	3	7
Expected employment <i>except temporary work agencies</i>	2	7	8	11	8
Investments					
<i>Past investments</i>	1	7	5	6	6
<i>Expected investments</i>	1	7	6	3	3

* Average of the balances of opinion since 1988

Source: INSEE, business survey in services

• Revisions

The business climate in services in February 2016 has been revised upward by one point since its first estimate, because of late businesses' answers that have been taken into account.

- **Road transport**

In road freight, the balances on activity and demand have increased. They are superior to their long-term average. The balances on employment are virtually stable, above their long-term average.

- **Accommodation and food services**

In accommodation and food service activities, the balance on past activity has improved. However, the expectations on activity and demand have deteriorated. The corresponding balances have returned to their long-term average.

- **Information and communication**

In information and communication, the balance on past activity has fallen back below its long-term average. The balances on expected activity and demand have decreased slightly ; the balance on expected demand stays close to its long-term average.

- **Real estate**

In real estate, the balance on past activity has dropped significantly. The expectations on activity and demand have deteriorated too. Those balances have deviated further from their long-term average. The balance on past employment has recovered whereas the balance on expected employment has decreased again.

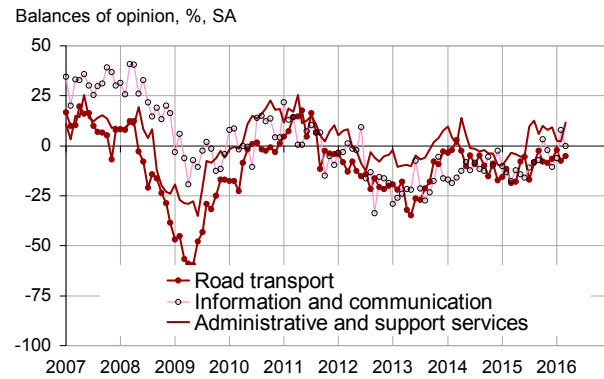
- **Professional, scientific and technical activities**

In professional, scientific and technical activities, the balance on past activity has recovered and has returned to above its long-term average. The expectations on activity and demand are virtually stable. The balance on past employment has increased again but the balance on expected employment has gone down and has come back slightly below its long-term average.

- **Administrative and support service activities**

In administrative and support service activities, the balance on past activity has improved markedly and has returned to above its long-term average. The balance on expected activity is stable and above its long-term average. The expectations on demand have slipped back but the corresponding balance remains above its long-term average. The balances on employment have decreased, albeit remaining above their long-term average, particularly in temporary work agencies.

Past activity in services



Detailed data

Balances of opinion, in %, seasonally adjusted

A21	Average*	Dec. 15	Jan. 16	Feb. 16	March 16
(H) Road transport					
Past activity	-8	-6	-2	-8	-5
Expected activity	-9	-4	-5	-5	-3
Expected demand	-13	-14	-11	-10	-5
Past employment	-8	-3	-3	-5	-6
Expected employment	-11	-4	-3	-3	-1
(I) Accommodation and food service activities					
Past activity	-7	-10	-14	-5	1
Expected activity	-7	-5	0	0	-6
Expected demand	-9	-7	-3	-7	-9
Past employment	-4	3	2	-5	5
Expected employment	-5	-6	-7	7	6
(J) Information and communication					
Past activity	8	-10	-6	8	0
Expected activity	10	0	0	2	0
Expected demand	10	1	14	11	9
Past employment	6	5	10	12	7
Expected employment	10	9	8	7	6
(L) Real estate activities					
Past activity	7	5	8	-4	-14
Expected activity	7	-1	1	3	-2
Expected demand	1	-5	-5	-1	-8
Past employment	3	3	4	1	11
Expected employment	2	6	11	4	-4
(M) Professional, scientific and technical activities					
Past activity	-1	2	1	-2	1
Expected activity	-2	-5	-5	-4	-5
Expected demand	-6	-7	-8	-6	-6
Past employment	1	5	1	4	8
Expected employment	0	3	1	2	-1
(N) Administrative and support service activities					
Past activity	6	9	3	2	11
Expected activity	5	3	5	8	8
Expected demand	3	2	1	9	4
Past employment	8	29	26	18	11
Expected employment	7	18	24	25	18

* Average of the balances of opinion since 1988 (2006 for road transport)

For further information:

A balance of opinion is calculated as the difference between the percentage of "increase" responses and the percentage of "decrease" responses.

- Additional information (long series, methodology, links, etc.) is available on the web page of this indicator:

<http://www.insee.fr/en/themes/indicateur.asp?id=62>

- Historical data are available on the BDM: [G1244](#), [G1245](#), [G1246](#).

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