

Informations *Rapides*

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■ Quarterly business survey in the building crafts sector - April 2016

In April 2016, an halftone economic climate in the building craft sector

Craftsmen's general business outlook have improved but balances on their own activity have fallen back

In April 2016, more building craftsmen than in January 2016 consider a fall in their activity in the last three month: the corresponding balance has fallen back after improving in January. The balance on expected activity has decreased slightly after rising almost continuously since late 2014. However, opinion's craftsmen on the general business outlook in the building sector has improved again and the corresponding balance closers to its long-term average.

Employment prospects are stable

Slightly more craftsmen indicate a fall in their staff size during the three last months. The balance of opinion on expected employment is stable after increasing since the beginning of 2015 and remains almost at its long-term average level.

Less than one firm out of three have recruiting problems

In April 2016, recruiting problems have concerned 29% of businesses. This proportion has increased since January but stands well below its long-term average (41%). The share of businesses training apprentices has increased slightly and has reached 37%, a level close to its long-term average.

Building crafts sector economic outlook

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

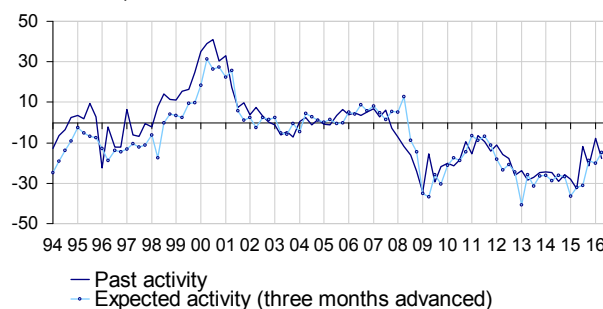
	Mean *	July 15	Oct. 15	Jan. 16	April 16
Past activity	-6	-12	-21	-8	-18
Expected activity	-9	-19	-20	-15	-17
General business outlook	-22	-33	-28	-27	-24
Past employment	-4	-9	-5	-5	-7
Expected employment	-4	-9	-7	-5	-5
Recruiting problems (in %)	41	29	26	24	29
Apprentice training (in %)	38	33	37	35	37

* Mean since October 1990.

Source: French business survey, building crafts sector - INSEE

Activity tendency in the building crafts sector

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



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=59>
- Historical data are available on the BDM : [G1269](#), [G1271](#).
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr
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