

Informations *Rapides*

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Main indicators

■ Monthly confidence consumer survey – October 2016

In October 2016, households' confidence improves slightly

In October 2016, households' confidence has improved slightly: the synthetic confidence index has gained 1 point, and now stands at 98. It has returned to its level of May 2016, the highest since October 2007. However, it remains below its long-term average (100).

• Personal situation

Futur financial situation: improving

In October, households' opinion of their *personal financial situation in the next twelve months* has improved: the corresponding balance has gained 3 points, returning to its level of December 2015. Thus, it has moved closer to its long-term average. The balance of opinion on their *personal financial situation in the past twelve months* is stable, slightly below its long-term average.

The share of households considering it has been a *suitable time to make major purchases* has grown a little again. The corresponding balance has gained 1 point and stands above its long-term average.

Saving capacity: downturn

In October, households' balance of opinion on their *current saving capacity* has lost 3 points and has gone back below its long-term average. The balance concerning their *expected saving capacity* holds steady, slightly above its long-term average.

The share of households considering it has been a *suitable time to save* has declined as well (–3 points). The balance stands clearly below its long-term average.

Consumer confidence synthetic index

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



Source: INSEE

CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally adjusted

	Av. (1)	2016			
		July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Synthetic index (2)	100	96	97	97	98
Financial sit., past 12 m.	–21	–28	–22	–23	–23
Financial sit., next 12 m.	–5	–10	–10	–10	–7
Current saving capacity	8	8	10	9	6
Expected saving capacity	–9	–11	–9	–7	–7
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	2	0	1	–2
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	–15	–8	–10	–6	–5
Standard of living, past 12 m.	–45	–52	–53	–54	–53
Standard of living, next 12 m.	–25	–31	–34	–31	–29
Unemployment, next 12 m.	35	27	34	31	41
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	–14	–52	–53	–47	–53
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	–34	–38	–37	–35	–37

(1) Average value between January 1987 and December 2015

(2) This indicator is normalised in such a way that its average equals 100 and standard error equals 10 over the estimation period (1987-2015).

Source: INSEE, monthly consumer confidence survey

- **Economic situation in France**

Standard of living in France: rising optimism

In October, household's opinion of *the future standard of living in France* has improved again: the corresponding balance has gained 2 points and has moved closer to its long-term average. The one of the *past standard of living* is virtually stable (+1 point) and remains below its long-term average.

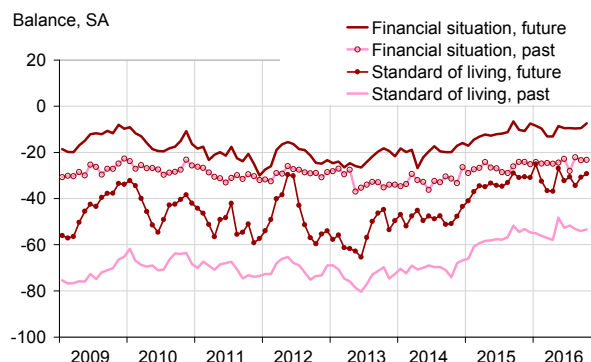
Unemployment: sharp increase in fears

After a slight dip in September, households' fears about unemployment have surged sharply in October. The corresponding balance has increased by 10 points and has gone back above its long-term average.

Perceived and expected inflation: falling

In October, households are less numerous than in September to consider that prices increased *during the past twelve months*. The corresponding balance has lost 6 points and has fell back to its level of August 2016. Therefore, it remains far below its long-term average. Likewise, households are less numerous to consider that prices are likely to increase *during the next 12 months*: the balance has lost 2 points, and has also returned to its level of August, below its long-term average.

Balances on personal financial situation and standard of living in France



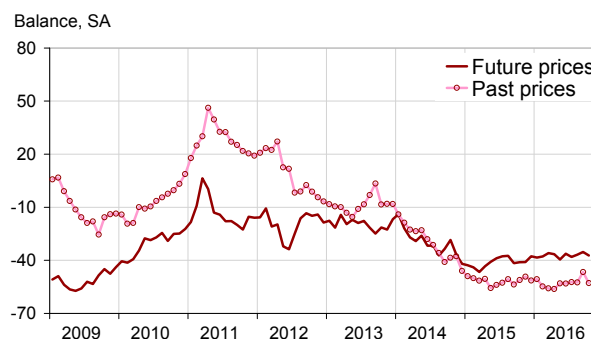
Source: INSEE

Households' unemployment expectations



Source: INSEE

Households' perception of prices



Source: INSEE

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 and expected savings capacity.

Calculation method - Around 2,000 households are surveyed each month by telephone. Surveys occur during the first three weeks of each month. Answers to this survey were collected between 28 September and 18 October 2016.

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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