

# Informations *Rapides*

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## ■ Quarterly business survey in the building crafts sector - October 2016

### In October 2016, business prospects darken in the building crafts sector

#### **Craftsmen's personal business prospects darken again**

In October 2016, more building craftsmen than in July forecast a fall in their activity, the balance going back below its long-term average. The balance on past activity is stable at a level close to its long-term average. Likewise, opinion of craftsmen concerning the general business outlook in the building sector is virtually stable; it remains well above its long-term average.

#### **Slight improvement in employment in summer but employment prospects decline slightly**

Slightly fewer craftsmen than in July indicate a fall in their staff size during the last months. The corresponding balance of opinion has exceeded its long-term average for the first time since April 2008. On the contrary, slightly more craftsmen than in July forecast a fall in their staff size. The corresponding balance remains close to its long-term average.

#### **Less than one firm out of three has recruiting problems**

In October 2016, 29% of businesses have experienced recruiting problems. This proportion has increased slightly compared to the last quarter and stay well below its long-term average (41%). Slightly less businesses indicate that they train apprentices: their share has reached 36%, falling slightly below its long-term average.

#### **Building crafts sector economic outlook**

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

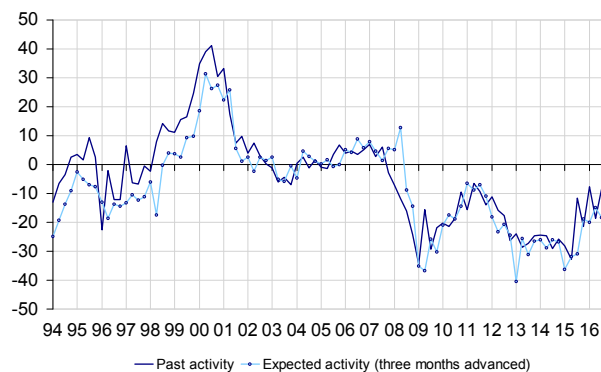
	Mean *	Jan. 16	April 16	July 16	Oct. 16
Past activity	-6	-8	-19	-8	-8
Expected activity	-9	-15	-18	-5	-12
General business outlook	-21	-27	-24	-13	-12
Past employment	-4	-5	-6	-5	-2
Expected employment	-4	-5	-6	-3	-6
Recruiting problems (in %)	41	24	30	28	29
Apprentice training (in %)	38	35	36	38	36

\* 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](mailto:bureau-de-presse@insee.fr)
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