

Informations *Rapides*

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Main Indicators

Monthly confidence consumer survey – March 2017

In March 2017, households' confidence is stable

In March 2017, households' confidence in the economic situation is stable: the synthetic index remains at 100, its long-term average.

Personal situation

Expected financial situation: slightly declining

In March, households' opinion on their *future financial situation* has worsened slightly. The corresponding balance has lost 2 points and stands below its long-term average. Households' balance of opinion on their *past financial situation* is virtually stable (+1 point), at its long-term average.

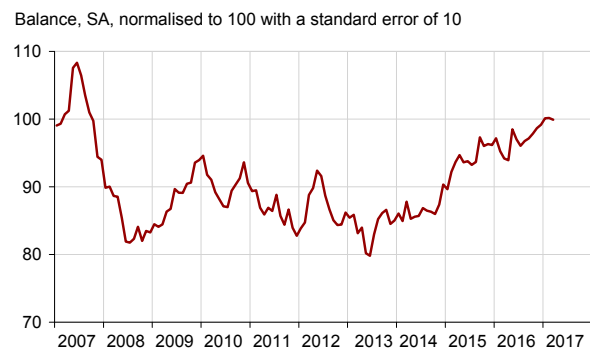
In March, the share of households considering it has been a *suitable time to make major purchases* has fallen sharply (–6 points), after going up by 4 points in February. However, the corresponding balance remains far above its long-term average.

Saving capacity: near stability

In March, households' opinion on their *saving capacity* has barely changed: the balance on their *current saving capacity* has increased by one point while the balance on their *expected saving capacity* has lost one. Both balances are above their long-term average.

Households considering it has been a *suitable time to save* are slightly more numerous: the corresponding balance has gained 2 points. Despite a three-month growth, it stays far below its long-term average.

Consumer confidence synthetic index



Source: INSEE

CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally adjusted

	Avg. (1)	Dec. 16	Jan. 17	Feb. 17	Mar. 17
Synthetic index (2)	100	99	100	100	100
Financial sit., past 12 m.	–21	–22	–22	–22	–21
Financial sit., next 12 m.	–5	–8	–5	–6	–8
Current saving capacity	8	8	8	11	12
Expected saving capacity	–9	–6	–6	–2	–3
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	–7	–1	3	5
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	–14	–4	–5	–1	–7
Standard of living, past 12 m.	–45	–52	–48	–49	–48
Standard of living, next 12 m.	–25	–24	–25	–24	–25
Unemployment, next 12 m.	35	21	19	20	21
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	–16	–49	–44	–45	–45
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	–34	–29	–22	–29	–25

(1) Average value between January 1987 and December 2016

(2) This indicator is normalised in such a way that its average equals 100 and standard error equals 10 over the estimation period (1987-2016).

Source: INSEE, monthly consumer confidence survey

Economic situation in France

Standard of living in France: near stability

In March, households' opinion on the *past standard of living* in France is almost unchanged: the corresponding balance has gained 1 point but remains below its long-term average. The balance of opinion on the *future standard of living* in France is also virtually stable (-1 point) and stands at its long-term average.

Unemployment: virtually stable

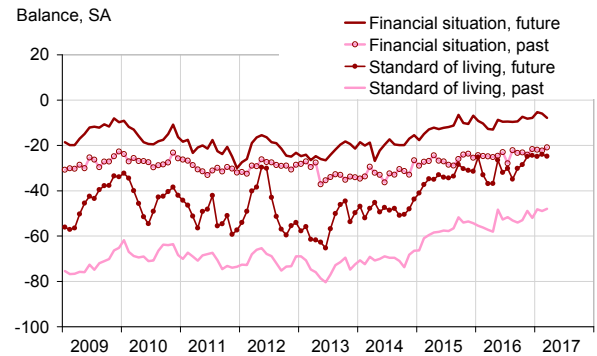
Households' fears concerning unemployment are virtually stable (+1 point in March). The corresponding balance has been clearly below its long-term average since November 2016.

Expected inflation rising

In March, households are more numerous than in February to expect prices to increase *during the next twelve months*: the corresponding balance has gained 4 points and has deviated anew from its long-term average.

Households are as numerous as in February to consider that prices were on the rise *in the past twelve months*. The corresponding balance has been below its long-term average since February 2014.

Balances on personal financial situation and standard of living in France



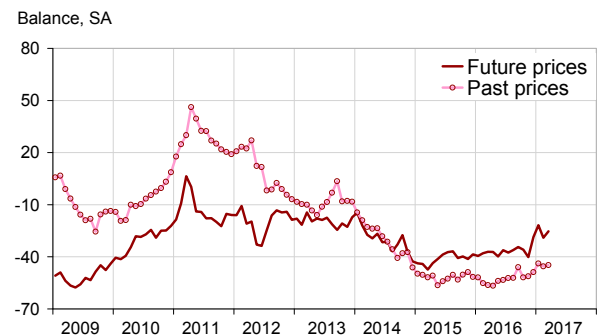
Source: INSEE

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 27 February and 20 March 2017.

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.) is available on the web page of this indicator: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques?debut=0&theme=30&conjoncture=32>
- Historical data is available on the BDM: [G389](#)
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