

Informations *Rapides*

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Main Indicators

Monthly confidence consumer survey – April 2017

In April 2017, households' confidence remains stable

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

Personal situation

Financial situation: virtually stable

In April, households' opinion on their *future financial situation* is virtually stable, as the one on their *past financial situation*. The first balance stays below its long term average, the second one has been at its average level or close to it for five months.

In April, the share of households considering it has been a *suitable time to make major purchases* has grown by 3 points and has returned to its level of January 2017. Thus, the corresponding balance remains above its long-term average.

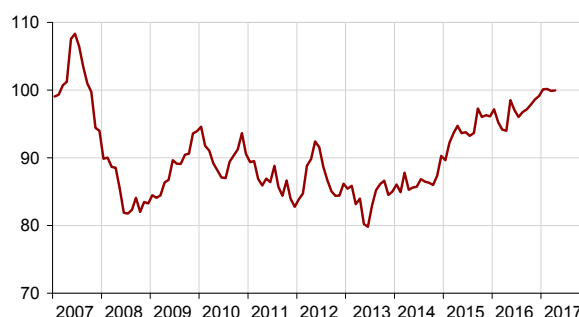
Saving capacity: virtually stable

In April, households' opinion on their *saving capacity (current and expected)* is virtually stable : both balances have increased by 1 point. They stand above their long term average.

The share of households considering it has been a *suitable time to save* is unchanged compared to last month; the corresponding balance stays 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

	Avg. (1)	Jan. 17	Feb. 17	March 17	April 17
Synthetic index (2)	100	100	100	100	100
Financial sit., past 12 m.	-21	-22	-22	-21	-20
Financial sit., next 12 m.	-5	-5	-6	-8	-9
Current saving capacity	8	8	11	12	13
Expected saving capacity	-9	-6	-2	-3	-2
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	18	-1	3	5	5
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	-14	-4	-1	-7	-4
Standard of living, past 12 m.	-45	-49	-49	-49	-51
Standard of living, next 12 m.	-25	-25	-24	-24	-23
Unemployment, next 12 m.	35	18	19	19	15
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	-16	-44	-46	-45	-48
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	-34	-22	-29	-26	-28

(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: slight decrease

In April, households' balance of opinion on the *past standard of living* in France has lost 2 points and has moved further away from its long term average. The balance of opinion on the *future standard of living* in France is virtually stable (+1 point). It stands at its highest level since October 2007, slightly above its long term average.

Unemployment: fears retreating

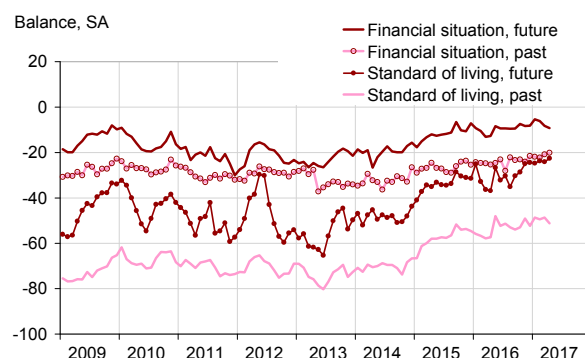
Households' fears concerning unemployment have diminished in April (-4 points) and have reached their lowest level since June 2008. The corresponding balance, clearly above its long term average for six months, keeps deviating from it.

Inflation: balances of opinion decreasing

In April, households are less numerous to expect prices to increase *during the next twelve months*: the corresponding balance has lost 2 points while staying above its long-term average.

Households are also less numerous to consider that prices were on the rise *in the past twelve months*: the corresponding balance has lost 3 points. It has remained below its long term average since February 2014.

Balances on personal financial situation and standard of living in France



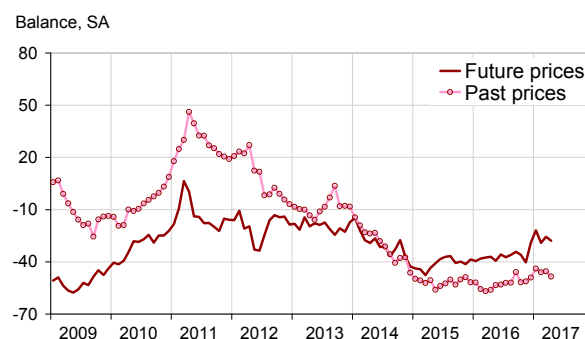
Source: INSEE

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 29 March and 15 April 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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