

Informations Rapides

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Main indicators

Household consumption expenditure on goods – March 2017

Household consumption expenditure on goods receded again in March 2017 (–0.4%) and fell by 0.4% over the first quarter 2017

In March 2017, household consumption expenditure on goods decreased in volume* (–0.4%), after an already sharp decline in the previous month (–0.7%). Over the whole first quarter, it retreated by 0.4%, after a +0.9% rise over the fourth quarter of 2016. In March as well as over the whole quarter, the fall in energy consumption weighed on the overall expenditure.

- **Energy: decreasing again in March, stepping back sharply over the quarter**

In March 2017, energy consumption kept on declining (–1.8%), though at a far slower pace than in February (–10.9%). A slight rebound in purchases of refined products (+0.5%), notably in fuel, partially offset a further drop in expenses on gas and electricity, as a result of temperatures still above seasonal norms. Over the whole quarter, the particularly mild temperatures at the end of winter reduced household energy consumption (–3.8%).

- **Engineered goods: near stability in March, moderate growth over the first quarter**

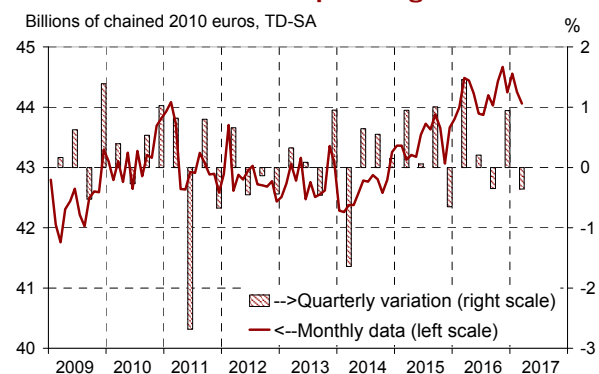
In March 2017, purchases of engineered goods were almost unchanged (–0.1%). Over the quarter, they increased moderately (+0.4% after +1.0%).

Durables: slowdown in March

In March, expenses on durables slowed down (+0.4% after +1.5%), in particular in household durables. Purchases of new vehicles increased moderately again. Over the whole quarter, consumption of durables was stable, buoyed by expenditure on household durables (+1.3%) but hampered by lower spending on automobiles (–0.4%).

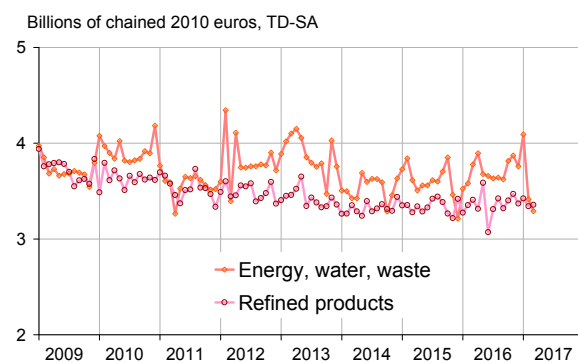
*Volumes are measured at chain-link previous year prices (2010 euro billions) and all figures are trading-day and seasonally adjusted.

Total consumption of goods



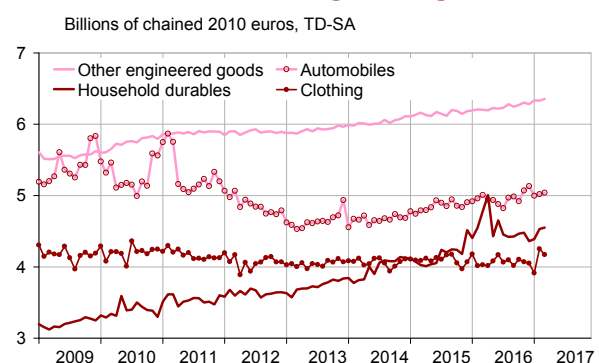
Source: INSEE

Breakdown of energy



Source: INSEE

Breakdown of engineered goods



Source: INSEE

Textile-clothing: decreasing over the month

In March, expenses on textile-clothing fell back after a sharp recovery in February. Over the whole quarter, spending sped up (+0.9% after +0.3%).

Other engineered goods: speeding up over the quarter

In March, expenses on other engineered goods picked up slightly (+0.4% after -0,1%). Over the whole quarter, purchases accelerated (+0.9% after 0.5% over the fourth quarter of 2016), in particular those of DIY materials.

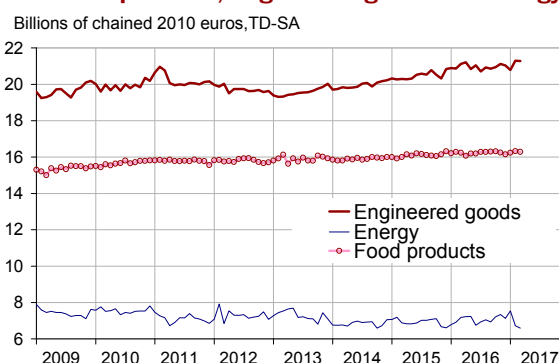
• Food products: slight fall in March and moderate rise over the quarter

In March, consumption of food products edged down (-0.3% after +0.5%), notably due to tobacco consumption. Over the whole quarter, spending on food products picked up slightly (+0.3% after -0.3%), particularly on agrifood products.

The variation in February 2017 is revised upwards

The variation in household expenditure on goods in February 2017 is revised upwards by 0.1 points (-0.7% instead of -0.8%). Since the previous publication, new information has been integrated, especially in households durables and the seasonal adjustment coefficients have been updated.

Food products, engineered goods and energy



Source: INSEE

Household consumption expenditure on goods

Variation in percentage

| | Weight (1) | Jan. 2017 | Feb. 2017 | Mar. 2017 | Mar. 17 / Mar. 16 | Q1 2017 / Q4 2016 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Food products | 38 | 0.6 | 0.5 | -0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Engineered goods | 45 | -1.2 | 2.5 | -0.1 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| - Durables | 22 | -1.4 | 1.5 | 0.4 | -1.4 | 0.0 |
| Including : | | | | | | |
| - Automobiles | 12 | -2.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | -0.4 |
| - Household durables | 8 | 0.7 | 3.2 | 0.5 | -4.7 | 1.3 |
| - Textile-clothing | 9 | -3.4 | 8.7 | -1.9 | 3.5 | 0.9 |
| - Other engineered goods | 13 | 0.9 | -0.1 | 0.4 | 2.4 | 0.9 |
| Energy | 17 | 5.8 | -10.9 | -1.8 | -8.2 | -3.8 |
| - Energy. water. waste | 10 | 8.8 | -16.5 | -3.7 | -12.9 | -5.7 |
| - Refined Products | 7 | 1.6 | -2.4 | 0.5 | -1.5 | -1.2 |
| Total | 100 | 0.7 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -1.0 | -0.4 |
| - Including Manufactured goods | 84 | -0.2 | 1.4 | -0.3 | 0.6 | 0.4 |

(1) Weighting in the consumption expenditure on goods in value in 2016

Source: INSEE

For more information:

Scope and definition - Consumption expenditure on goods is compliant with the national-accounts definition (NAF Rev. 2). In 2010, they accounted for half of total households' consumption expenditure. They are divided into three main items:

- Food: products of agriculture, forestry and fishing (AZ), food, drinks and tobacco (C1)
- Energy: mining products, as well as water, gas, electricity and air conditioning, sanitation and waste management (DE), and refined and coked products (C2).
- Engineered goods: computers, electronic, electrical and optical goods (C3), transport equipment (C4), textiles and clothing, products made of leather, wood, paper, metals, plastic, rubber, chemicals, minerals, furniture, hardware, drugs (C5). Within this heading are distinguished "durable" goods which include transport equipment, household durables (furniture, household appliances, etc.) and other durable goods (jewelry, watches, GPS, glasses, medical devices, etc.).
- The manufactured goods correspond with all the products C1, C2, C3, C4, C5.

Sources: This indicator is the compilation of a variety of statistical sources issued by the Bank of France, the French Federation of Automobile Manufacturers (CCFA), the Department of Observation and Statistics (SOeS) of the Ministry of Equipment, the French Institute of Fashion (IFM), the National Health-Insurance Administration (CNAM), the National Federation of Rubber and Plastics Industries (SNCP), the Board of Oil (CPDP), GFK, Logista, the International Union Committee of Automobile and Motorcycle (CSIAM), etc. Figures are seasonally and trading-days adjusted (TD-SA).

- Additional data (historical data, methodology, associated web pages, etc.) are available on the web page of this indicator: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques?debut=0&theme=30&conjoncture=31>

- Historical data are available on the BDM: [G1555](https://www.insee.fr/en/bdm)

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