Informations Rapides

23 mai 2017 - n° 133

Main indicators

Insee Mesurer pour comprendre Conjoncture

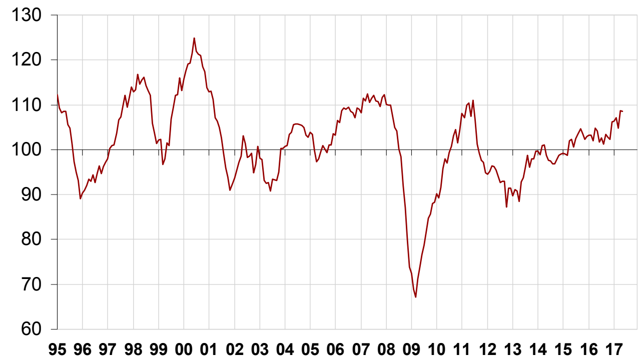
Monthly business survey in industry – May 2017

In May 2017, the business climate in manufacturing remains at its highest level since June 2011

According to the business managers surveyed in May 2017, the business climate in industry remains at 109, its highest level since June 2011, significantly above its long-term average (100).

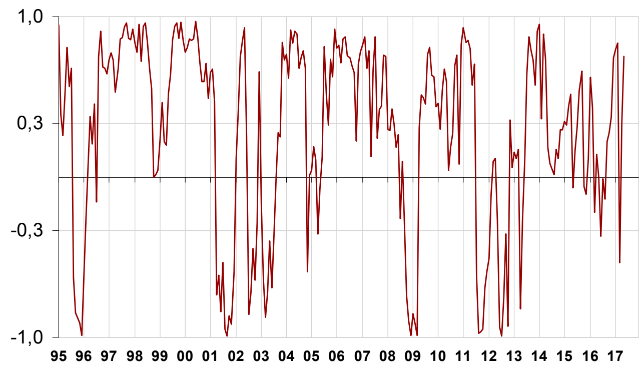
Business climate in industry - Composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



The turning-point indicator remains in the zone indicating a favourable economic outlook.

Turning-point indicator



How to read it: close to 1 (respectively −1), the indicator points to a favourable short-term economic situation (respectively unfavourable). Between −0.3 and +0.3: uncertainty area.

The balance of opinion about general production expectations has jumped

In May 2017, the balance of industrialists’ opinion on their past activity has edged down while that on personal production expectations is virtually stable. Both are significantly above their normal level.

Business managers are much more upbeat than in April on general production prospects for the sector. The corresponding balance has jumped and is significantly above its long-term average, that it has exceeded since February 2015.

In May, their opinion on overall and export order books is almost unchanged, the corresponding balances being significantly above normal.

Finally, almost as industrialists as in April consider that finished-goods inventories are below normal: the corresponding balance remains below its long-term average.

Industrialists’ opinion on manufacturing activity

Balance of opinion, in %

Manufacturing industry	Ave.*	Feb. 17	March 17	April 17	May 17
Composite indicator	**100**	**107**	**105**	**109**	**109**
Past activity	5	8	5	18	15
Finished-goods inventory	13	6	7	6	5
Global order books	–18	–8	–9	–4	–5
Export order books	–14	–3	–5	–1	–2
Personal production expectations	5	19	11	13	14
General production expectations	–9	5	3	1	7

* Long-term average since 1976.

Source: INSEE - Monthly business tendency survey in industry

Revisions

The business climate in manufacturing in April 2017 has been slightly raised from its first estimation last month, from 108 to 109, due to late answers from businesses that have been taken into account.

Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques
Direction générale 18 bd A. Pinard 75675 Paris Cedex 14
Directeur de la publication : Jean-Luc Tavernier

http://www.insee.fr

Slight sectoral variations offset each other

The stability in the business climate in industry in May comes from a slight decrease in transport equipment and in "other manufacturing", offset by a slight increase in equipment goods and in food products and beverages.

In the manufacture of food products and beverages, the business climate has slightly improved

In May, the business climate has increased by one point in the manufacture of food products and beverages, at 104, thus remaining above normal. All balances of opinion have contributed to this improvement, except that on past activity, which has declined.

In the manufacture of machinery and equipment goods, the business climate has reached its highest level since March 2008

In the manufacture of machinery and equipment goods, the business climate has increased by one point reaching 110, its highest level since March 2008. This further increase comes from a further improvement in the balance of opinion on overall and export order books, which have reached their highest level since April 2008.

In the computer, electronic and optical product industry, the business climate has recovered, hitting its highest level since October 2015. It has slightly increased reaching a level unseen, since June 2011 in electrical equipment and since April 2011 in machinery and equipment.

The business climate remains above normal in the manufacture of transport equipment

In the manufacture of transport equipment, the business climate has decreased by one point but, at 105, remains above its long-term average. This slight fall mainly comes from a fall in the balance on past activity.

In the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers as in other transport equipment, the business climate has slightly decreased, albeit remaining above normal.

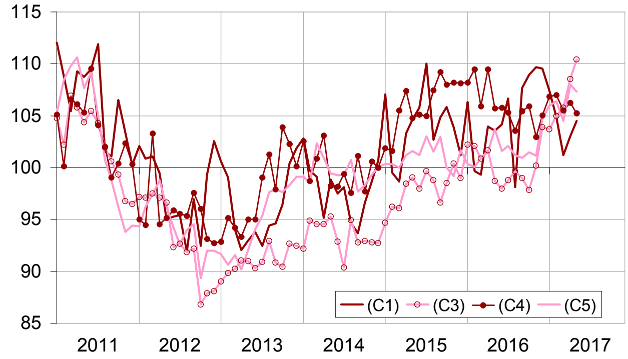
In "other manufacturing", the business climate remains significantly above normal

In overall "other manufacturing", the business climate has decreased by one point, after having reached its highest level since June 2011. Its level (107) remains significantly above normal. This slight decline comes from the drop in the balances on order books and on past activity. Its is partly offset by a further increase in that on personal expectations.

In chemicals and clothing-textiles, the business climate has fallen back albeit remaining above normal. It is stable in wood-paper and in the "other manufacturing industries". However, it has improved in rubber and plastic products and in chemicals, reaching its highest level since mid-2011.

Business climates in a sector-based approach

Average = 100 and standard deviation = 10 since 1990



Legend: (C1): Manufacture of food products and beverages - (C3): Machinery and equipment goods - (C4): Manufacture of transport equipment - (C5): Other manufacturing

Business climates in a sector-based approach

Average = 100 and standard deviation = 10 since 1990

NA* : (A17) et [A38 et A64]	Weights** (%)	March 17	April 17	May 17
(C1) Man. of food products and beverages	**21**	**101**	**103**	**104**
(C3) Machinery and equipment goods	**11**	**106**	**109**	**110**
[CI] Computer, electronic and optical products	3	112	110	115
[CJ] Electrical equipment	3	100	106	107
[CK] Machinery and equipment	5	105	106	107
(C4) Man. of transport equipment	**15**	**106**	**106**	**105**
[CL1] Motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	7	105	107	106
[CL2] Other transport equipment	8	105	104	103
(C5) Other manufacturing	**46**	**105**	**108**	**107**
[CB] Textiles, clothing industries, leather and footwear industry	2	106	110	108
[CC] Wood, paper, printing	5	107	106	106
[CE] Chemicals and chemical products	9	105	111	106
[CG] Rubber and plastic products	7	108	108	109
[CH] Basic metals and fabricated metal products	11	101	105	106
[CM] Other manufacturing industries	9	102	101	101

* NA: aggregated classification, based on the French classification of activities NAF rév.2.
** Weights used to aggregate sub-sector's balances of opinion.
Source: INSEE - Monthly business tendency survey in industry

For more information:

- Complementary data (long series) and metadata (methodology, weblinks, classification, etc.) are available on the web page of this index: https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques?debut=0&theme=30&conjoncture=4
- Historical data is available on the BDM: http://www.bdm.insee.fr/bdm2/choixTheme?request_locale=en&code=16#arbo:montrerbranches=theme149
- Follow us on Twitter @InseeFr_News: https://twitter.com/InseeFr_News
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr

Next issue: 22 June 2017 at 08:45am