

Informations Rapides

22 juin 2017 - n° 165

Main indicators



Monthly business survey in the building industry – June 2017

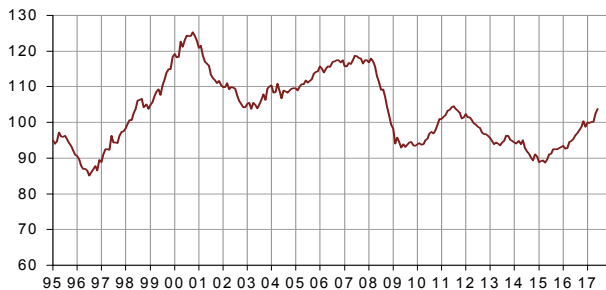
In June 2017, the economic climate improves again in the building construction industry

Warning: in the survey of June 2017, the seasonal coefficients have been updated as well as the parameters of the composite indicator. As a result, the set of results previously published in this survey is subject to slight revisions.

According to the business managers in the building construction industry surveyed in June 2017, the business climate has improved again. After having increased by three points in May, the composite indicator has increased by one point and stands at 104, a level unseen since August 2011 and above its long term average (100). Almost all balances of opinion have reached or exceeded their long-term average.

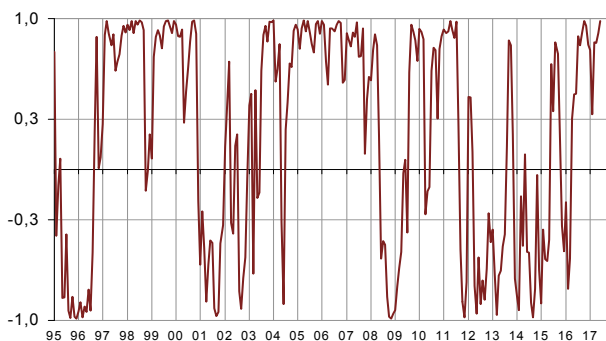
Business climate composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



The turning point indicator remains in the favourable outlook zone.

Turning-point indicator



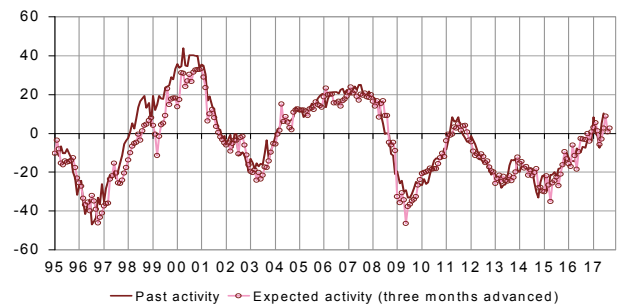
Note: close to 1 (respectively -1), it indicates a favourable climate (respectively unfavourable). Between +0.3 and -0.3: uncertainty area

Business managers' opinion on their past activity has improved again

In June 2017, more business managers than in May have indicated an increase in their past activity. The corresponding balance stands well above its long-term average and at its highest level since April 2008. Moreover, the balance of opinion on expected activity has recovered slightly. It stands far above its long-term average as well.

Activity tendency in building construction

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



Building industry economic outlook

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

	Mean*	March 17	April 17	May 17	June 17
Composite indicator	100	100	100	103	104
Past activity	-4	-2	-8	5	10
Expected activity	-6	3	9	1	3
Gen. business outlook	-18		6		
Past employment	-6	-12	-15	-6	-6
Expected employment	-5	-7	-5	-1	3
Opinion on order books	-24	-35	-30	-28	-24
Order books (in month)	5.5	7.0	6.8	7.1	7.2
Production capacity utilisation rate	88.4	87.3	87.7	87.8	88.1
Obstacles to production increase (in %)	32	27	29	29	31
- Because of workforce shortage (in %)	13.8	5.9	6.6	7.3	7.7
Recruiting problems (in %)	57		51		
Expected prices	-15	-13	-13	-16	-13
Cash-flow position	-10		-10		
Repayment period	30		30		

* Mean since April 1975 for the composite indicator and since September 1993 for the balances of opinion.

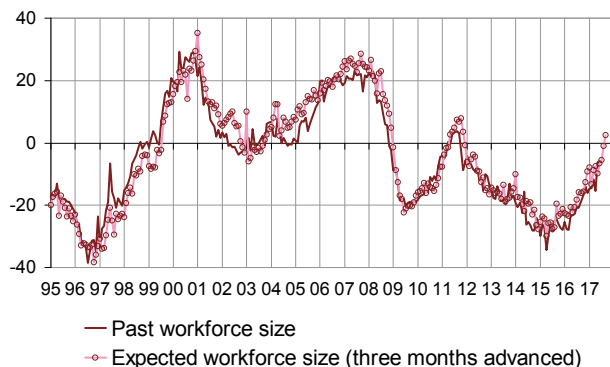
Source: INSEE, French business survey in the building industry

More business managers plan to increase their staff size

In June 2017, as many business managers as in May have indicated an increase in their staff size over the last three months. The corresponding balance stands at its long-term average. The balance of opinion on expected employment has kept improving since March 2017. It has risen again in June 2017 and now stands well above its long-term average.

Workforce size tendency in building construction

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

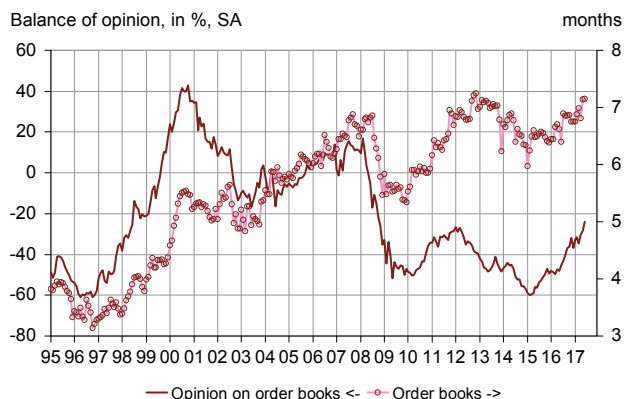


Order books fill up

In June 2017, more business managers than in May consider that their order books are well filled for the period. The corresponding balance of opinion has picked up regularly for two years and has joined its long-term average for the first time since October 2008. With their present staff size, business managers consider that their order books provide 7.2 months of work, a slightly higher level than last month and clearly higher than its long-term average (5.5 months).

Order books

Balance of opinion, in %, SA



Production capacity is more used

After having weakly hovered around 87% between August 2016 and February 2017, the production capacity utilisation rate has risen again since March. In June 2017, it has increased again and reached 88.1%. However, it remains slightly below its long-term average (88.4%). 31% of business managers have reported production bottlenecks, a share unseen since June 2009 and a shade below its long-term average.

Production capacity utilisation rate

in %



More business managers plan to increase their prices

In June 2017, more business managers than in May have indicated that they will increase their prices in the next three months. The corresponding balance has exceeded its long term-average and has returned to the level hit at the beginning of the year, its highest since July 2011.

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: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques?debut=0&theme=30&conjoncture=10>
- Historical data is available on the BDM: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/series/102411948>
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Next issue: 25 July 2017 at 08:45am