

Informations *Rapides*

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Main indicators



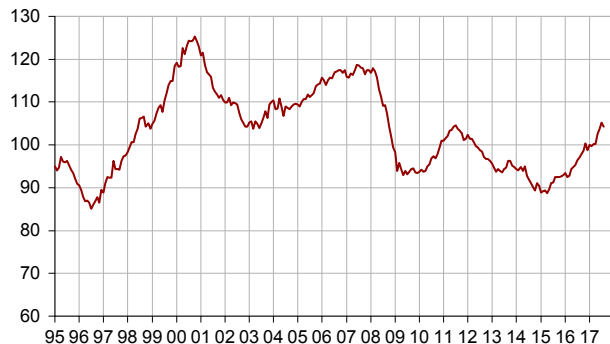
Monthly business survey in the building industry – August 2017

In August 2017, the economic climate is a little less favourable in the building construction industry

According to the business managers in the building construction industry surveyed in August 2017, the business climate is a little less favourable than last month. After three consecutive months of increase, the composite indicator has decreased by one point. At 104, it remains however well above its long-term average (100).

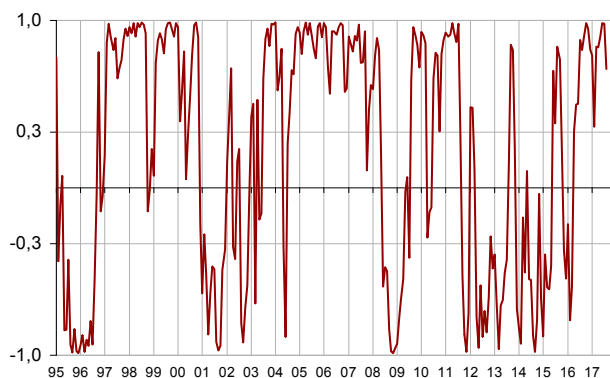
Business climate composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



The turning point indicator remains in the favourable outlook zone.

Turning-point indicator



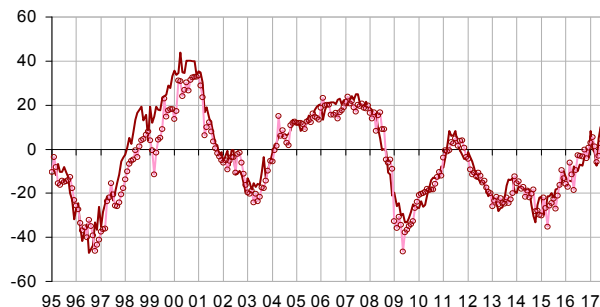
Note: close to 1 (respectively -1), it indicates a favourable climate (respectively unfavourable). Between +0.3 and -0.3: uncertainty area

Fewer business managers have indicated an increase in their past activity

In August 2017, again fewer more business managers than in the previous month have indicated an increase in their past activity. The corresponding balance remains however well above its long-term average. Otherwise, the balance of opinion on expected activity is stable, also well above its long-term average.

Activity tendency in building construction

Balances of opinion, in %, SA



— Past activity — Expected activity (three months advanced)

Building industry economic outlook

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

	Mean*	May 17	June 17	July 17	Aug. 17
Composite indicator	100	103	104	105	104
Past activity	-4	5	10	5	2
Expected activity	-6	1	3	11	11
Gen. business outlook	-18			13	
Past employment	-6	-6	-5	-2	-6
Expected employment	-5	-1	3	6	3
Opinion on order books	-24	-28	-24	-21	-20
Order books (in month)	5.5	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4
Production capacity utilisation rate	88.4	87.8	87.9	88.5	88.2
Obstacles to production increase (in %)	32	29	29	31	31
- Because of workforce shortage (in %)	13.8	7.3	7.1	9.4	9.5
Recruiting problems (in %)	57			55	
Expected prices	-15	-16	-13	-6	-9
Cash-flow position	-10			-9	
Repayment period	29			20	

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

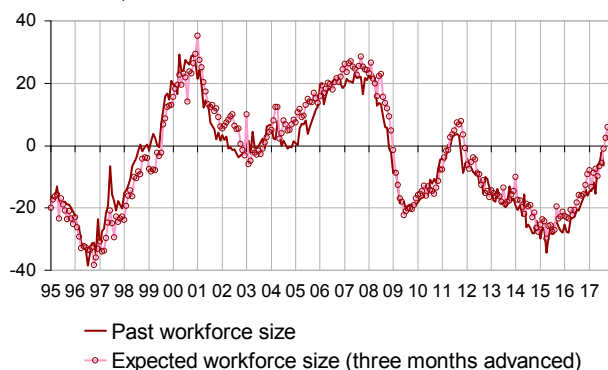
Source: INSEE, French business survey in the building industry

Fewer business managers plan to increase their staff size

In August 2017, significantly fewer business managers than in July have indicated an increase in their staff size over the last three months. The corresponding balance has returned to its long-term average. Likewise, fewer of them plan to recruit: the balance on expected staff size has fallen back sharply for the first time since March 2017. It remains however above its long-term average.

Workforce size tendency in building construction

Balances of opinion, in %, SA

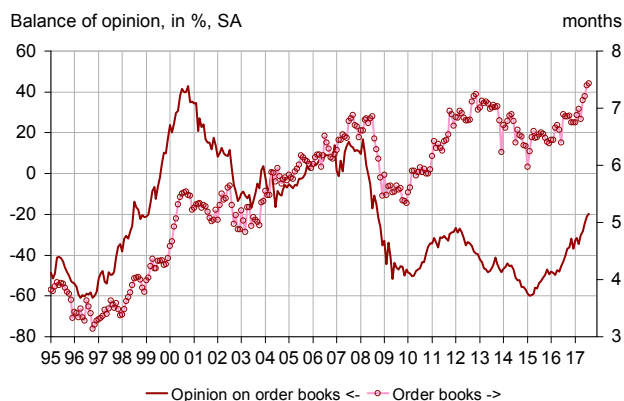


Order books remain well filled

In August 2017, a little more business managers than in July consider that their order books are well filled for the period. The corresponding balance of opinion has recovered regularly for two years and a half and has exceeded its long-term average for two months. With their present staff size, business managers consider that their order books provide 7.4 months of work, the same level as last month and clearly higher than its long-term average (5.5 months).

Order books

Balance of opinion, in %, SA



Production capacity is slightly less used

After five months of steady increase, the production capacity utilisation rate has decreased slightly in August 2017. It stands at 88.2% and has returned below its long-term average (88.4%). Among business managers, 31% have reported production bottlenecks, the same share as last month and a shade below its long-term average.

Production capacity utilisation rate



Fewer business managers plan to increase their prices

In August 2017, fewer business managers than in July have indicated that they would increase their prices over the next three months. The corresponding balance remains however well above its long term-average.

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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