

Informations *Rapides*

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■ Quarterly business survey in civil engineering – October 2017

In October 2017, the economic climate improves again in civil engineering

According to the business managers surveyed in October 2017, the economic climate in civil engineering is more favourable again than in the previous quarter. The confidence of civil engineering professionals has strengthened: except for past activity, the balances of opinion have increased and have exceeded their long-term average even more.

Business managers' opinion on their activity prospects continues to improve

In October 2017, fewer business managers than in July have indicated an increase in their past activity for public-sector projects: the corresponding balance of opinion has fallen back while remaining above its long-term average. The one about past activity for private-sector project is stable, remaining thus at a high level. However, business managers are more optimistic than in July about their expected activity over the next three months. Already at a high level in July, the corresponding balance has increased again and stands well above its long-term average. This rise concerns both public-sector and private-sector projects.

Furthermore, order books have continued to fill up; the corresponding balance of opinion has improved sharply, far above its long-term average.

Stronger production constraints

In October 2017, more business managers than in July have reported obstacles to production due to workforce shortage: 35% of businesses have indicated being hampered because of workforce shortage against 15% on long-term average.

More and more business managers forecast an increase in their staff size

Since summer 2016, business managers' opinion on their future workforce has increased continuously. Between July and October 2017, the corresponding balance has risen by five points.

Public works economic outlook

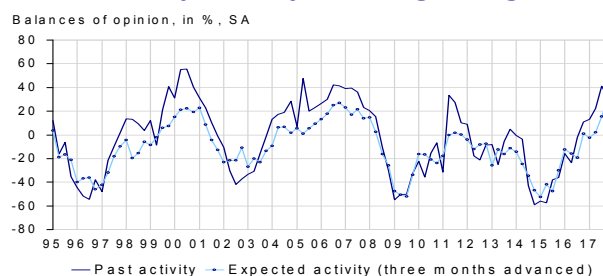
Balances of opinion, in %, SA					
	Mean*	Jan. 17	April 17	July 17	Oct. 17
Past activity	-6	13	22	41	32
- public-sector project	-12	1	12	28	20
- private-sector project	-11	17	17	28	28
Expected activity	-14	2	16	30	36
- public-sector project	-17	-9	10	19	23
- private-sector project	-16	6	11	21	29
Opinion on order books	-26	-25	-10	1	11
Obstacles to production increase because of workforce shortage (in %)	15	9	19	32	35
Expected workforce	-15	6	12	32	37

Note: the balances of opinion about all customers are not the average of the balances about each customer type, because sometimes the firms do not distinguish between public-sector projects and private-sector projects.

* Mean since January 1981

Source: FNTF and INSEE

Activity tendency in civil engineering



For further information

The balance of opinion is 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=12>
- Historical data are available on the BDM : <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/series/102874976>
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