

Informations *Rapides*

21 décembre 2017 - n° 336

Main indicators



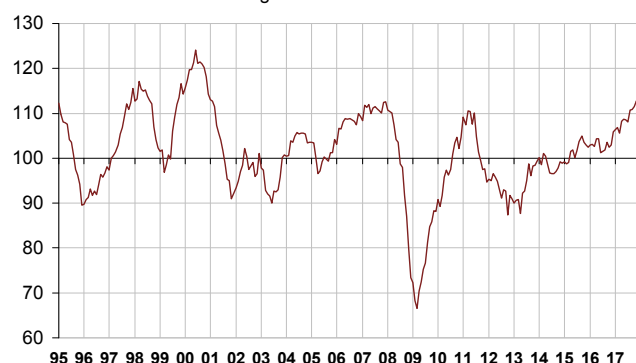
■ Monthly business survey in industry – December 2017

In December 2017, the business climate in manufacturing remains very favourable

According to the business managers surveyed in December 2017, the business climate in industry remains very favourable, although the composite indicator has gone down by one point after hitting a ten-year high in November. At 112, it remains well above its long-term average (100).

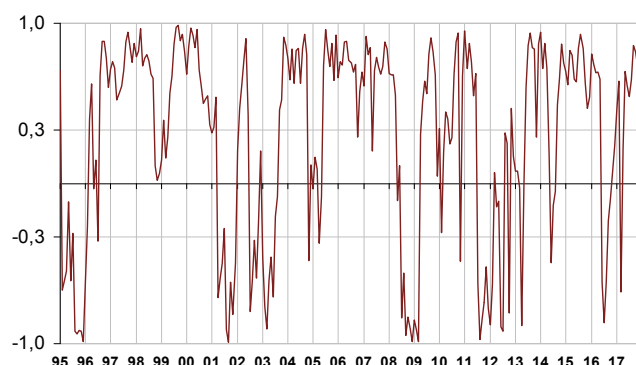
Business climate in manufacturing - Composite indicator

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, the indicator points to a favourable short-term economic situation (-1 is unfavourable). The uncertainty area is between -0.3 and +0.3.

The balance of opinion on past activity has faltered

After a significant rise in November, the balance of opinion on past activity has weakened in December yet remains significantly above average. The balance on general production prospects for the sector has edged down after reaching last month a level unseen since August 2000.

However, manufacturers are as optimistic about their personal production expectations as in November. The corresponding balance remains well above its mean.

After reaching its highest point since March 2008, the balance on global order books has slightly dipped in December, although still well above average. That on export order books has slightly increased and reached its highest level since February 2008.

Lastly, fewer industrialists consider that their finished-goods inventories are above normal. The corresponding balance remains below its long-term average.

Industrialists' opinion on manufacturing activity

Balance of opinion, in %

Manufacturing industry	Ave.*	Sept. 17	Oct. 17	Nov. 17	Dec. 17
Composite indicator	100	111	111	113	112
Past activity	5	12	16	26	21
Finished-goods inventory	13	3	5	7	4
Overall order books	-18	0	0	1	-1
Export order books	-14	1	1	0	2
Personal production expectations	5	20	17	15	15
General production expectations	-8	23	30	31	30

* Long-term average since 1976.

Source: INSEE - Monthly business tendency survey in industry

Revisions

The business climate in manufacturing in November 2017 has been raised from 112 to 113 since its first estimation, mainly due to the inclusion of late responses from businesses.

In the food and beverage production industry, the business climate indicator has inched down

In the manufacture of food products and beverages, the business climate has inched down by one point in December. At 112, it stands well above its long-term average. This slight shift mainly comes from a fall in the balances of opinion on past activity and on overall order books.

The business climate is stable in the manufacture of machinery and equipment goods

In the overall manufacture of machinery and equipment goods, the business climate is stable at 111, significantly above its long-term mean. In particular, the balance on past activity has risen, whereas that on personal production expectations has decreased.

The business climate has improved in electrical equipment while remaining unchanged in machinery and equipment and in the computer, electronic and optical product industry.

The business climate has reached a peak since mid-2001 in the manufacture of transport equipment

In the manufacture of transport equipment, the business climate has improved by two points, to 111, reaching its highest level since June 2001. This increase is primarily driven by the rise in the balance on global order books.

The business climate has further improved in the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers while it is stable in other transport equipment.

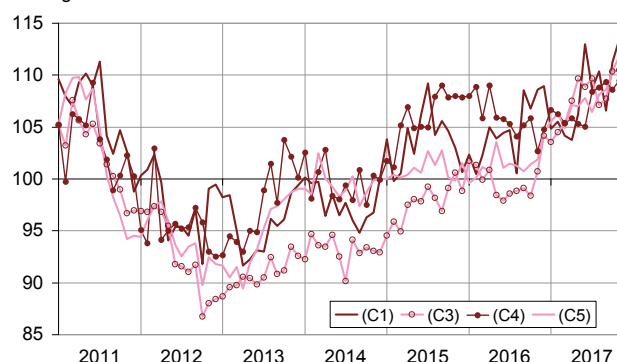
The business climate is slightly less favourable in "other manufacturing industries"

In overall "other manufacturing", the business climate has fallen by two points, back to its October level after peaking in November at its highest level since April 2007. This downturn is due to fall in all the balances apart from that on export order books.

In particular, the business climate indicator has declined again in "other manufacturing industries" and has fallen back in basic metals, clothing-textiles, and rubber and plastic products, while remaining above its mean in the four sectors. In contrast, it has brightened in chemicals and wood-paper.

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** (%)	Oct. 17	Nov. 17	Dec. 17
(C1) Man. of food products and beverages	22	111	113	112
(C3) Machinery and equipment goods	11	110	111	111
[CI] Computer, electronic and optical products	3	113	111	111
[CJ] Electrical equipment	3	106	109	113
[CK] Machinery and equipment	5	109	108	108
(C4) Man. of transport equipment	15	109	109	111
[CL1] Motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	7	112	113	115
[CL2] Other transport equipment	8	104	103	103
(C5) Other manufacturing	46	110	112	110
[CB] Textiles, clothing industries, leather and footwear industry	2	107	112	110
[CC] Wood, paper, printing	5	110	113	117
[CE] Chemicals and chemical products	9	107	105	107
[CG] Rubber and plastic products	7	114	119	114
[CH] Basic metals and fabricated metal products	11	109	111	106
[CM] Other manufacturing industries	9	110	108	107

* 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 are available on the BDM: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/series/102393833>
- Follow us on Twitter @InseeFr_News https://twitter.com/InseeFr_News
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr

Next issue: 24 January 2017 at 08:45am