

# Informations Rapides

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## Main indicators

### Monthly confidence consumer survey – December 2017

## In Decembre 2017, households' confidence improves further

In December 2017, households' confidence in the economic situation rose again: the synthetic index gained 2 points and reached 105, clearly above its long-term average (100).

### Personal situation

#### **Past financial situation: mild improvement**

In December, households' opinion on their *past financial situation* improved slightly: the corresponding balance gained 2 points and returned to its July 2017 level. It stands above its long term average. Households' opinion on their *future financial situation* was stable. The corresponding balance thus remains below its long term average.

The proportion of households considering *it is a suitable time to make major purchases* was almost unchanged in December (+1 point). The corresponding balance has remained above its long term average since January 2016.

#### **Expected and current saving capacity: virtually stable**

In December, households' balance of opinion on their *current saving capacity* lost 1 point and the balance on their *expected current saving capacity* gained one. Those two balances were thus almost unchanged. Both stand above their long term average.

The share of households considering *it is a suitable time to save* was stable in December. The corresponding balance has been below its long term average since May 2015.

### Consumer confidence synthetic index

Balance, SA, normalised to 100 with a standard error of 10



Source: INSEE

### CONSUMER OPINION: synthetic index and opinion balances

Balance of responses, seasonally adjusted

	Avg. (1)	Sept. 17	Oct. 17	Nov. 17	Dec. 17
Synthetic index (2)	100	101	100	103	105
Financial sit., past 12 m.	-21	-21	-21	-19	-17
Financial sit., next 12 m.	-5	-11	-16	-10	-10
Current saving capacity	8	10	11	12	11
Expected saving capacity	-9	-3	-9	-2	-1
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	17	4	-4	4	4
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	-14	-3	-6	-4	-3
Standard of living, past 12 m.	-45	-40	-39	-39	-32
Standard of living, next 12 m.	-25	-22	-23	-17	-16
Unemployment, next 12 m.	34	15	13	7	9
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	-17	-53	-50	-45	-49
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	-34	-30	-21	-30	-34

(1) Average value between January 1987 and December 2017

(2) The indicator is normalised in such a way that its average equals 100 and standard error equals 10 over the estimation period (1987-2017).

Source: INSEE, monthly consumer confidence survey

## Economic situation in France

### **Past standard of living in France: more favourable assessment**

In December, households were significantly more optimistic about the *past standard of living* in France than in the previous month: the corresponding balance gained 7 points and deviated further from its long term average. Households' balance of opinion on the *future standard of living* in France was virtually stable (+1 point). Since February 2017, it has been above its long term average.

### **Unemployment: fears rising slightly**

Households' fears about unemployment increased slightly in December: the corresponding balance recovered (+2 points), after falling by 7 points in November. However, it remains far below its long term average.

### **Perceived and expected inflation: declining**

In December, households were less numerous than in November to consider that *prices were on the rise during the last twelve months*: the corresponding balance fell back by 4 points and stands way below its long-term average.

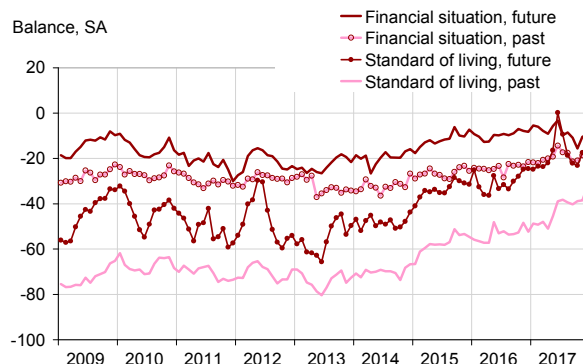
Households were also fewer than in November to *expect prices to increase during the next twelve months*: the corresponding balance fell by 4 points and returned to its long-term average.

## Revisions

Compared to the previous estimation, the households' confidence index in November 2017 has been slightly revised upwards (+1 point), as a result of updated seasonal adjustment coefficients.

Besides, long term averages have been updated, due to the annual reestimation of the seasonal adjustment models, along with the integration of an additional year in the calculation.

## Balances on personal financial situation and standard of living in France



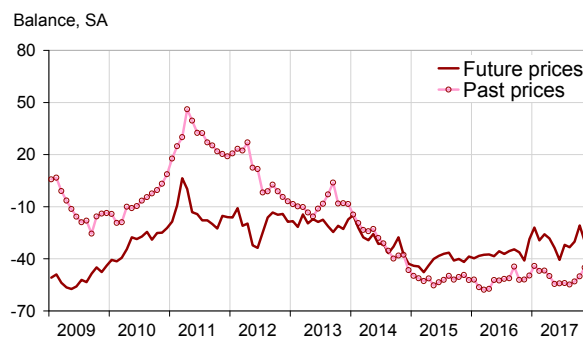
Source: INSEE

## Households' unemployment expectations



Source: INSEE

## Households' perception of prices



Source: INSEE

## For more information

**Definition** - The synthetic households' confidence index summarizes households' opinion on the economic situation: the higher its value, the more favorable households' judgement of the economic situation is. It is calculated using a factor analysis technique, which enables to summarize concomitant movements of highly correlated variables. The index describes here the common factor of 8 balances of opinion: past and future general economic situation in France, past and future personal financial situation, unemployment, major purchases intentions, current savings capacity and expected savings capacity.

**Calculation method** - Around 2,000 households are surveyed by telephone, during the first three weeks of each month. Answers to this survey were collected between 28 November and 18 December 2017.

For each question, a balance of opinion is calculated as the difference between the percentages of positive and negative answers. Since the level of these balances is not open to direct interpretation, comments are based on their changes and their distance to their long-term average.

Seasonal coefficients are calculated again every month, hence the slight revision of the seasonal adjusted balances history at each publication.

- Further data (historical data, methodology, connected web pages, etc.) are available on the web page of this indicator: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques?debut=0&theme=30&conjoncture=32>
- Historical data are available on the BDM: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/series/102414547>
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