

Informations *Rapides*

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Main indicators



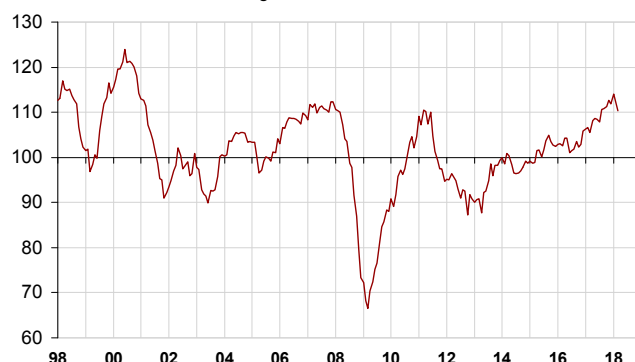
■ Monthly business survey in industry – April 2018

In April 2018, the business climate in manufacturing weakens slightly again

According to the business managers surveyed in March 2018, the business climate in industry is somewhat less favourable. The composite indicator has dipped by one point, after losing two points in February and in March. It had reached a seventeen-year peak at the beginning of the year. At 109, it remains well above its long-term average (100).

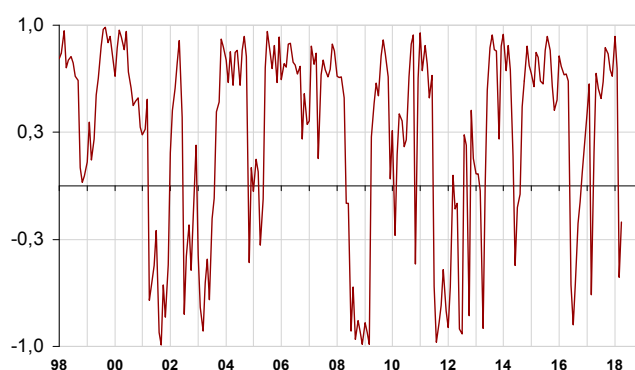
Business climate in industry - Composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



The turning-point indicator stands in the uncertainty area.

Turning-point indicator



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

The balance on past activity has dropped but production expectations have rebounded

The balance of industrialists' opinion on past activity has drastically decreased and is back to its average level. Conversely, that on personal production expectations has rebounded and is back to its February level, well above its long-term average.

Manufacturers are also less optimistic about the general production prospects for the sector than at the beginning of the year – the corresponding balance had then reached its highest level since July 2000. Their opinion on overall and export order books is virtually stable, with corresponding balances slightly lower than in January and February when they had reached levels not seen since December 2007.

As many industrialists as in March consider that their finished-goods inventories are above normal. The corresponding balance remains below its long-term mean.

As regards employment, the balance of opinion on expected workforce size has slightly fallen after reaching in February its highest level since June 2011. That on past workforce size is stable. Both balances remain well above their long-term average.

Industrialists' opinion on manufacturing activity

Balance of opinion, in %

Manufacturing industry	Ave.*	Jan. 18	Feb. 18	March 18	April 18
Composite indicator	100	114	112	110	109
Past activity	5	23	19	17	5
Finished-goods inventory	13	3	5	5	5
Overall order books	-18	2	2	1	0
Export order books	-14	3	3	2	1
Past workforce size	-10	5	5	4	4
Expected workforce size	-12	3	5	5	3
Personal production expectations	5	20	15	9	15
General production expectations	-8	34	30	26	24

* Long-term average since 1976.

Source: INSEE - Monthly business tendency survey in industry

In the agrofood industry, the business climate is less favourable

In the manufacture of food products and beverages, the business climate indicator has dipped by two points in April. At 108, it still remains well above its long-term average (100). The slight decrease mainly comes from the drop in the balances on past activity and on 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 remains at a high level after reaching a ten-year high in January. The decrease in the balances on past activity and on export order books is offset, notably by the increase in the balance on overall order books.

The business climate has slightly improved in the computer, electronic and optical product industry while it is stable in electrical equipment and machinery and equipment.

The business climate remains at a high level in the manufacture of transport equipment

In the manufacture of transport equipment, the business climate is up by one point, back to its January and February level, its highest since June 2001. This comes from the increase in the balances on export order books and on personal production expectations, partly offset by the decline in that on past activity.

The business climate indicator has slightly faltered in the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, while remaining well above its average. In the manufacture of other transport equipment, however, it has slightly improved.

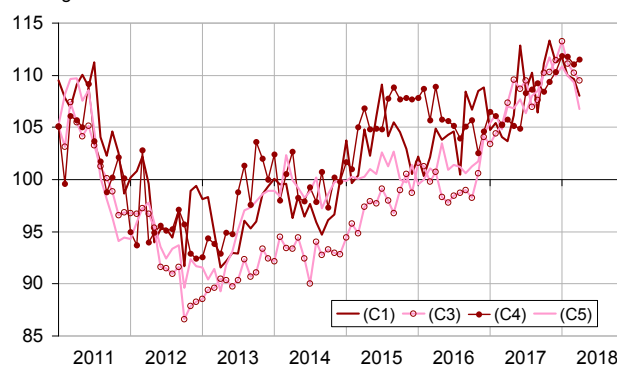
The business climate has slightly fallen in "other manufacturing industries"

In overall "other manufacturing", the business climate has further deteriorated slightly. At 107, it remains however well above its long-term average. This slight drop is due to a decrease in the balances on export order books and on past and expected activity.

By subsector, the business climate indicator has declined in wood-paper, chemicals, clothing-textiles and in basic metals. It is stable in "other manufacturing industries" and has slightly picked up in rubber and plastic products.

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** (%)	Feb. 18	March 18	April 18
(C1) Man. of food products and beverages	22	110	110	108
(C3) Machinery and equipment goods	11	111	110	110
[CI] Computer, electronic and optical products	3	110	107	108
[CJ] Electrical equipment	3	111	110	110
[CK] Machinery and equipment	5	109	110	110
(C4) Man. of transport equipment	15	112	111	112
[CL1] Motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	7	113	113	112
[CL2] Other transport equipment	8	106	104	105
(C5) Other manufacturing	46	110	109	107
[CB] Textiles, clothing industries, leather and footwear industry	2	115	116	113
[CC] Wood, paper, printing	5	115	111	109
[CE] Chemicals and chemical products	9	105	108	105
[CG] Rubber and plastic products	7	113	109	110
[CH] Basic metals and fabricated metal products	11	108	107	104
[CM] Other manufacturing industries	9	106	105	105

* 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

Revisions

The business climate in manufacturing in March 2018 has been lowered from 111 to 110 since its first estimation published in March, mainly due to the inclusion of late responses from businesses.

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>
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