

Informations *Rapides*

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Main Indicators



■ French business climate and turning point indicators – May 2018

In May 2018, the French business climate and the employment climate continue to get less bright

The French business climate weakens in May

In May 2018, the business climate has faltered slightly for the fifth consecutive month, while remaining at a high level. The composite indicator, compiled from the answers of business managers in the main sectors, has lost two points from the previous month. At 106, it has returned to its level of June 2017, well above its long-term mean (100). The business climate has lost six points in wholesale trade, four points in services, one point in retail trade; it is stable in building construction and in manufacturing industry. It remains well above its long-term mean in all the sectors.

French business climate composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10

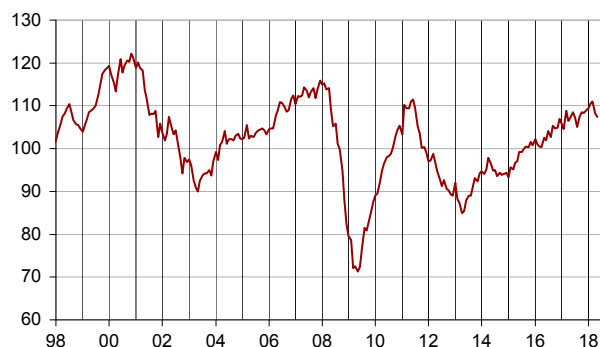


The employment climate is slightly less favourable

In May 2018, the employment climate has weakened slightly but remains at a high level. The associated composite indicator has lost one point compared to April. It stands at 107, well above its long-term average. This decrease mainly comes from a decline in the balances of opinion on past workforce size in service sector excluding temporary employment and on expected workforce size in retail trade.

French employment climate composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



Revisions

Compared to their first estimates in April 2018, the composite indicators for the building construction and for retail trade have been raised by one point, the employment climate has been lowered by one point. Compared to its first estimate in March 2018, the composite indicator for wholesale trade has been raised by one point. Those revisions result from the integration of late answers from businesses.

Business and employment climates

	Jan. 18	Feb. 18	March 18	April 18	May 18
Business climates					
France	111	110	109	108	106
Manufacturing	114	112	110	109	109
Building	108	106	107	108	108
Services	109	107	107	107	103
Retail trade	114	115	113	111	110
Wholesale trade	107	-	110	-	104
Employment climate					
Employment	109	110	111	108	107

Source: INSEE, Business tendency surveys

The turning point indicator stands in the uncertainty area

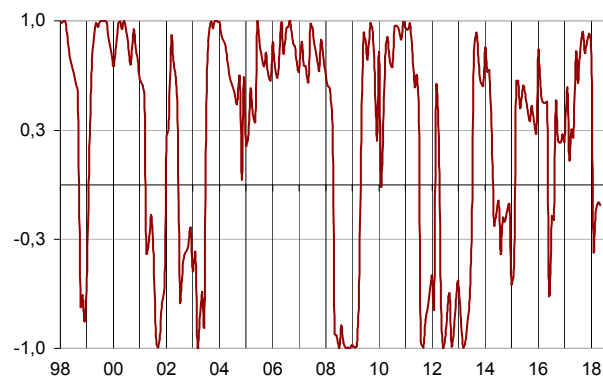
The turning point indicator for the French economy as a whole remains in the area indicating an uncertain short-term economic outlook.

Turning point indicators

	Jan. 18	Feb. 18	March 18	April 18	May 18
France	0.8	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Manufacturing	0.9	0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2
Building	0.1	-0.8	-0.3	0.1	0.1
Services	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	-0.4
Wholesale trade	0.5	-	0.6	-	-0.8

Source: INSEE. Business tendency surveys

Turning point indicator



Close to +1 (resp. -1) the indicator shows a favourable business climate (resp. unfavourable). The uncertainty area is between -0.3 and +0.3.

For further information

The business climate and turning point indicators summarise the information provided by the surveys in manufacturing, services, trade (retail and wholesale), and construction. The business climate is built from 26 balances of opinion from these surveys while the turning point indicator is built from 14 balances of opinion from surveys in manufacturing, services and construction. The employment indicator is based on the 10 balances of employment, past and expected, from the surveys in manufacturing, services, retail trade and construction. The balances of opinion concerning employment in services that are used in the employment climate distinguish the services excluding temporary work employment sector from temporary work agencies. For the latter, the balances on past and expected workforce size are not weighted, unlike the other sectors.

- Additional information (historical data, methodology, links, etc.) are available on the web page of this indicator: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques?debut=0&theme=30&conjoncture=23>
- Historical data are available on the BDM: <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/series/103047029>
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