

Informations *Rapides*

25 juillet 2018 - n° 195



■ Quarterly business survey in civil engineering – July 2018

In July 2018, the economic climate improves sharply in civil engineering

According to the business managers surveyed in July 2018, the economic climate in civil engineering has improved sharply. The civil engineering professionals are confident: all the balances of opinion stand well above their long-term average.

Business managers' opinion on their past activity improves

In July 2018, more business managers than in April have indicated an increase in their activity over the past three months, mainly due to public-sector projects. After a fall in April, probably in connection with unfavourable weather conditions in the first quarter of 2018, the corresponding balance of opinion has picked up and has almost returned to its level hit at the beginning of the year, far above its long-term average. Otherwise, as many business managers as in April forecast an increase in their activity over the next three months. The corresponding balance is virtually stable for both types of customers, public sector and private sector, and remains in both cases well above its long-term average. Furthermore, business managers deem that their order books are more filled; the corresponding balance of opinion has advanced and has exceeded more largely its long-term average.

Lack of workforce is more felt

In July 2018, obstacles to production due to workforce shortage have intensified. Indeed, 51% of businesses have indicated being hampered because of workforce shortage, the highest proportion since April 2001 and well above its long-term average (15%).

Employment prospects improve again sharply

Slightly more business managers than in April 2018 plan to increase their workforce in the next few months. The corresponding balance has increased again and stands far above its long-term average.

Public works economic outlook

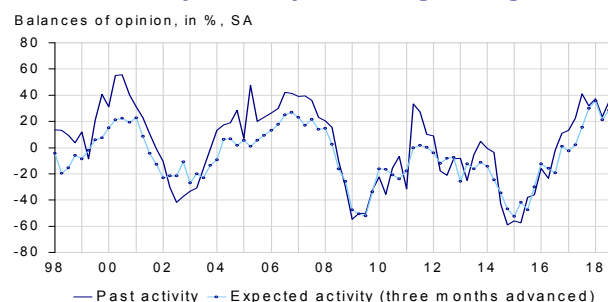
Balances of opinion, in %, SA					
	Mean*	Oct. 17	Jan. 18	April 18	July 18
Past activity	-6	32	37	23	35
- public-sector project	-12	20	23	14	29
- private-sector project	-10	28	32	24	25
Expected activity	-13	36	21	29	29
- public-sector project	-17	23	17	22	23
- private-sector project	-16	29	16	24	22
Opinion on order books	-26	11	14	10	19
Obstacles to production increase because of workforce shortage (in %)	15	35	40	38	51
Expected workforce	-14	37	29	31	33

Note: the balances of opinion by customer may differ from the balance of the whole, because sometimes the firms don't distinguish public-sector project and private-sector project.

* Mean since January 1981

Sources: FNTF and INSEE

Activity tendency in civil engineering



Sources: FNTF and INSEE

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>
- Press contact: bureau-de-presse@insee.fr
- Follow us on Twitter @InseeFr_News: https://twitter.com/InseeFr_News

Next publication: 26 October 2018 at 12:00