

# Informations Rapides

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## Main indicators

### ■ Monthly confidence consumer survey – November 2018

## In November 2018, households' confidence has declined sharply

In November 2018, households' confidence in the economic situation has strongly declined: the synthetic index has lost 3 points and reached 92, its lowest level since February 2015, below its long term average (100).

#### Personal situation

##### **Suitable time to make major purchases: marked decrease**

In November, households' opinion balance concerning their future financial situation has slightly decreased: it has lost 2 points and remains below its long term average. Household's opinion on their *past personal situation* has remained virtually stable and the corresponding balance still stands below its long term average.

The share of households considering *it is a suitable time to make major purchases* has clearly declined. The corresponding balance has lost 8 points and is below its long term average for the first time since December 2015.

##### **Expected saving capacity: clear drop**

In November, households' opinion balance on their *expected saving capacity* has decreased clearly: the corresponding balance has lost 6 points and now stands below its long term average. However, households' opinion balance on their *current saving capacity* has been virtually stable and remains above its long term average.

The share of households considering *it is a suitable time to save* has been virtually stable. The corresponding balance remains below its long term average.

#### 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)	August 18	Sept 18	Oct. 18	Nov. 18
Synthetic index (2)	100	96	94	95	92
Financial sit., past 12 m.	-21	-29	-30	-29	-28
Financial sit., next 12 m.	-5	-12	-16	-16	-18
Current saving capacity	8	11	10	12	11
Expected saving capacity	-9	-5	-9	-8	-14
Savings intentions, next 12 m.	17	12	6	5	6
Major purchases intentions, next 12 m.	-14	-8	-8	-9	-17
Standard of living, past 12 m.	-45	-46	-49	-51	-56
Standard of living, next 12 m.	-25	-29	-36	-31	-42
Unemployment, next 12 m.	34	22	19	6	27
Consumer prices, past 12 m.	-17	-25	-15	-14	-11
Consumer prices, next 12 m.	-34	-21	-16	-13	-14

(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

### Standard of living in France: strong degradation

In November, the share of households considering that the *future standard of living in France will improve in the next twelve months* has clearly decreased: the corresponding balance has dropped by 11 points (after increasing by 5 points in October), standing clearly below its long term average.

Households' opinion balance about the *past standard of living in France* has declined again: it has lost 5 points and moves away its long term average.

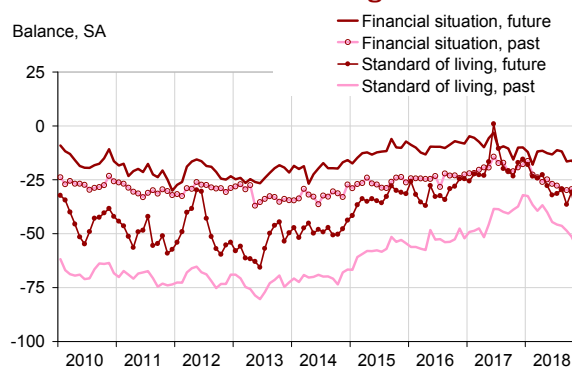
### Unemployment: fears rising sharply

Households' fears about the unemployment trend have strongly increased in November: the corresponding balance has gained 21 points and reaches its highest level since November 2016. Nevertheless, it remains below its long term average.

### Perceived inflation: rising again

In November, households considering that *prices were on the rise during the last twelve months* have been more numerous than the previous month: the corresponding balance has gained 3 points and hence stands slightly above its long term average. However, households considering that *prices will be on the rise during the next twelve months* were not more numerous than last month: the corresponding balance has been almost stable and remains clearly above its long term average.

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



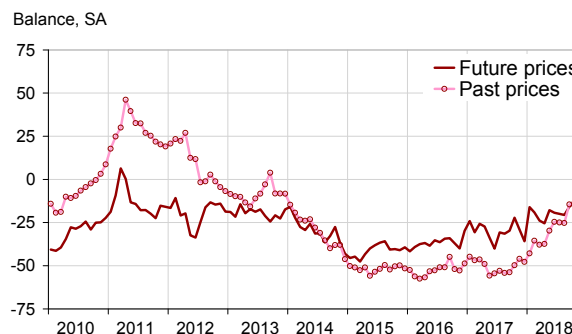
Source: INSEE

## 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 30 October and 19 November 2018.

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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