

Informations *Rapides*

23 décembre 2018 - n° 340



Main indicators

French business climate and turning point indicators – December 2018

In December 2018, the French business climate has weakened sharply mainly due to retail trade; the employment climate is virtually stable

Retail trade has affected the business climate composite indicator, which has lost three points

In December 2018, the business climate has deteriorated markedly. The composite indicator, compiled from the answers of business managers in the main sectors has lost three points. It stands at 102, its lowest level since December 2016. Compared to the survey of November, the business climate has lost seven points in retail trade and one point in manufacturing industry. It is stable in services and in building construction. The business climate remains above or equal its long-term mean in all the sectors.

The employment climate is virtually stable at a relatively high level

In December 2018, the employment climate is virtually stable. The associated composite indicator stands at 104, above its long-term mean but at its lowest level since March 2017. The rise in the balance of opinion on expected employment in the manufacturing industry has offset to a large extent decreases in the other considered sectors.

Revisions

Compared to their first estimate in November 2018, the composite indicators for the business climate for the whole economy and in services have been risen by one point. This revision results from the integration of late answers from businesses.

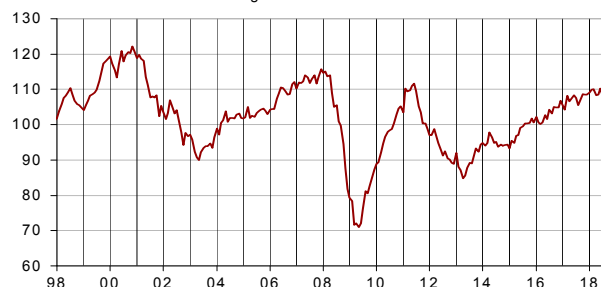
French business climate composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



French employment climate composite indicator

Standardised indicator: average = 100 and standard deviation = 10



Business and employment climates

	Aug. 18	Sept. 18	Oct. 18	Nov. 18	Dec. 18
Business climates					
France	105	106	104	105	102
Manufacturing	110	107	104	105	104
Building	108	108	108	109	109
Services	104	105	103	104	104
Retail trade	111	108	105	107	100
Wholesale trade	-	104	-	104	-
Employment climate					
Employment	107	108	107	105	104

Source: INSEE, Business tendency surveys

The turning point indicator points out a favourable short-term economic outlook

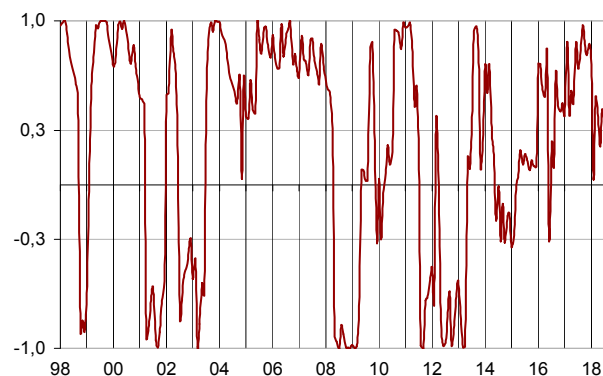
The turning point indicator for the French economy as a whole remains in the area indicating a favourable short-term economic outlook.

Turning point indicators

	Aug. 18	Sept. 18	Oct. 18	Nov. 18	Dec. 18
France	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4
Manufacturing	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4
Building	-0.5	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.4
Services	-0.3	0.0	-0.9	-0.7	-0.6
Wholesale trade	-	-0.2	-	0.7	-

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

Next issue: 23 January 2019 at 08:45 am