

The Director General of INSEE wishes to convey via this press release how the institute intends to carry out its missions over the coming weeks, taking into account the impact of the public health measures now in force on service continuity on the one hand, as well as the unprecedented nature of the economic situation on the other.

In terms of registers:

- Maintaining the National Register for the Identification of Natural Persons (RNIPP), which is an instrument for verifying and certifying civil status, in particular for the administration and social security organizations;
- Maintaining the register of companies and establishments (Sirene).

In terms of statistical production:

INSEE will publish in a manner conforming to, or close to, that which is scheduled: monthly industrial production indices, monthly sector turnover indices, quarterly employment estimates, and monthly consumer price indices.

Business surveys, which are conducted online, will be maintained. However, reminder notices will not be sent nor of course will any litigation be entered into, in the case of non-response.

Household surveys are usually carried out either face-to-face (via home visits), by telephone, or experimentally via the Internet.

As from today, face-to-face surveys will be suspended and replaced with telephone surveys wherever possible. This will be notably the case concerning the Labour force survey, which should enable INSEE to publish an estimate of the unemployment rate in the first and second quarters. It is likely however that the quality of this statistic will be degraded.

INSEE expects it will be able to publish its consumer price index every month

Decisions relating to consumer price surveys in those stores that remain open have yet to be clarified. In any event, thanks to a combination of centralized and online surveys, along with the collection of scanner data regarding certain consumption segments, INSEE believes that it will be able to publish each month the consumer price index within two weeks of the end of the month, in line with its regular schedule. On the other hand, it is not possible today to say whether or not INSEE will be able to produce flash estimates at the end of each month.

INSEE aims to ensure the continuity of its production of national accounts.

It is nevertheless possible that the publication of quarterly accounts in the first and second quarter of 2020 may not follow the usual timetable, notably the first estimate that is normally forecast 30 days after the end of each quarter. The provisional results of the 2019 annual accounts should for their part be published in accordance with the scheduled calendar, as should the notification of the 2019 general government deficit and debt, in line with European regulations, at the end of the month of March.

Concerning economic analysis

The next INSEE Economic Outlook, scheduled for publication on March 24, has been postponed. From this point forward INSEE's objective will be to disseminate every two weeks, where possible, a short analysis of the unfolding economic situation.

NB

Before the announcements of last Thursday and last Saturday, the data collected suggested a forecast of a slight drop in gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2020, followed by a more significant drop in the second quarter. Indeed, despite favorable economic indicators in January and February, the first responses to business surveys received at the beginning of March signaled a deterioration of the business climate in France, of at least the same order of magnitude as in the autumn of 2008. The toughening up of public health measures has made these estimates obsolete in any case.

Publication of various studies

The schedule will be adjusted as the weeks progress.

**The press office remains at the disposal of journalists seeking further information or requesting clarification (by email) regarding INSEE statistics and studies:
bureau-de-presse@insee.fr**

With regard to the economic situation, the press office will not be able to give any information beyond that which is presented in this press release.

INSEE will update this press release as appropriate, especially if the conditions for collecting information should deteriorate or if the institute were to encounter difficulties in ensuring the desired continuity of service.