

Business survey September 2016

Manufacturing industry, market services and construction

October 10, 2016

- **In September, industrial production grew slightly.** Production rose in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, whereas it declined in the automobile sector.

Deliveries firmed.

Order books improved significantly.

Cash positions strengthened further.

According to business leaders, industrial production should continue to grow in October.

- **Services sector activity picked up.** The IT and temporary work sectors gained ground. The accommodation and food sector was almost stable, following a marked decline in August.

Staff levels continued to rise.

Prices trended downwards.

According to business leaders, service sector activity should grow in October.

- **Construction activity was stable.**

Order books continued to improve.

Business leaders expect a recovery in construction activity in October.

The business sentiment indicator in manufacturing industry* stood at 98 in September, like in August.

The business sentiment indicator in services* stood at 97 in September, after 96 in August.

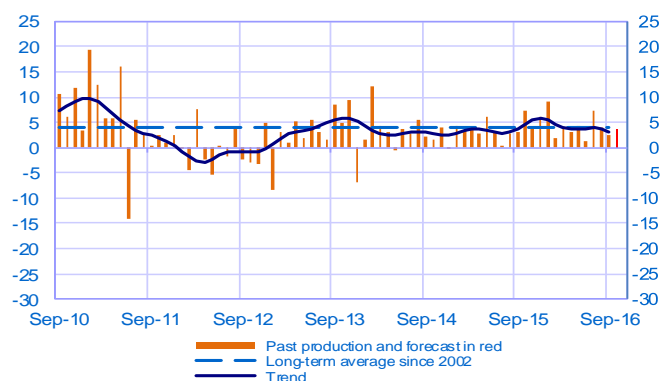
The business sentiment indicator in construction* stood at 98 in September, like in August.

According to the monthly index of business activity (MIBA), **GDP is expected to increase by 0.3% in the third quarter of 2016** (third estimate, unchanged).

* Calculations are based on survey data, SA-WDA and smoothed over five months

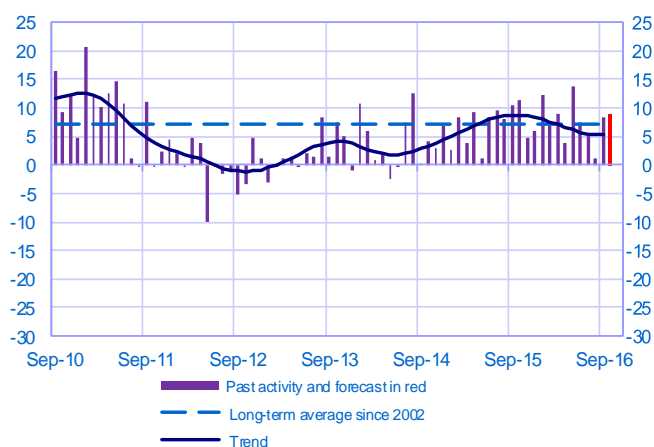
Opinion on the outlook for industrial production*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



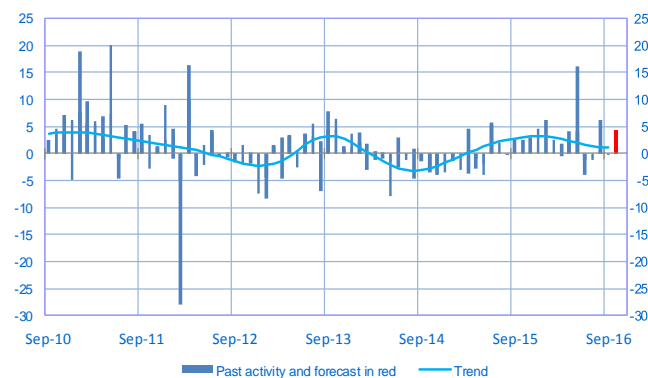
Opinion on the outlook for services activity*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Opinion on the outlook for construction activity*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



* A positive (negative) balance of opinions corresponds to a rise (fall) in the evolution of activity

Manufacturing industry

	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16
Change												Forecast
Production	4	6	9	2	4	3	4	1	7	4	2	4
Deliveries	3	7	13	1	5	4	3	3	8	1	5	
Total orders	5	5	12	2	7	3	4	6	8	6	7	
Staff	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	-1	1	3	
Final goods prices	-2	-2	-3	-3	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	
Commodity prices	-2	-2	-4	-4	-3	-1	0	1	0	1	3	
Level												
Order books	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	9	12	
Inventories of finished goods	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	2	4	5	4	
Capacity utilisation rate	77.8	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	77.9	78.3	77.8	77.7	78.9	77.8	
Cash positions	10	10	10	10	9	9	10	14	10	12	16	

Services

	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16
Change												Forecast
Activity	5	6	12	7	9	4	14	7	5	1	8	9
Aggregate demand	5	6	11	6	10	4	14	8	4	5	8	
Prices	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	-2	-3	
Staff	4	3	4	4	6	4	7	5	3	6	7	
Level												
Cash positions	14	8	13	12	17	12	12	15	15	9	14	

Construction

	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16
Change												Forecast
Activity	3	5	6	3	-1	4	16	-4	-1	6	0	4
Estimates prices	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	
Staff	-1	-1	0	1	-1	1	-1	0	0	2	0	
Level												
Order books	5	6	7	6	6	8	10	14	12	12	14	

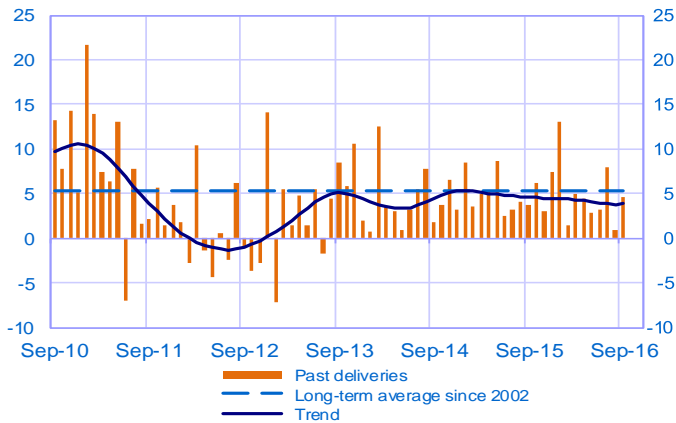
Notes:

- A positive (negative) balance of opinions corresponds to a rise (fall) in the evolution of activity.
- The last point corresponds to the business leaders' forecasts of future activity.
- The series are revised on a monthly basis. These revisions take into account additional gross data and the evolution of the seasonal and working-day adjustment depending on the latest available data. The business sentiment indicators of the previous months are revised accordingly.

Manufacturing industry

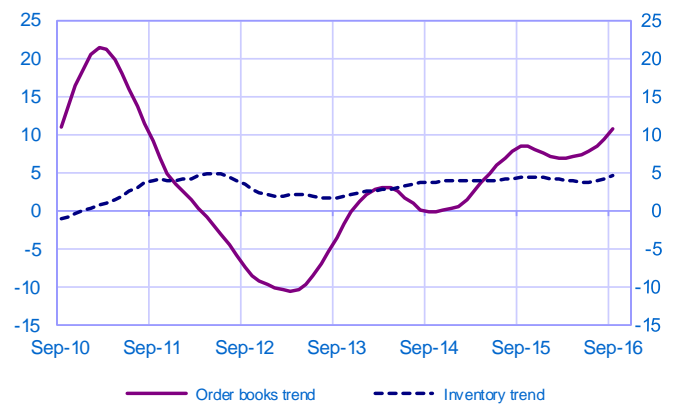
Changes in deliveries

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Inventories and order book level

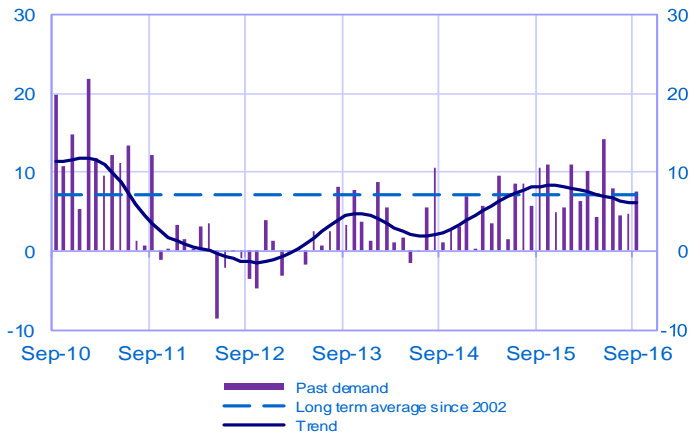
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Services

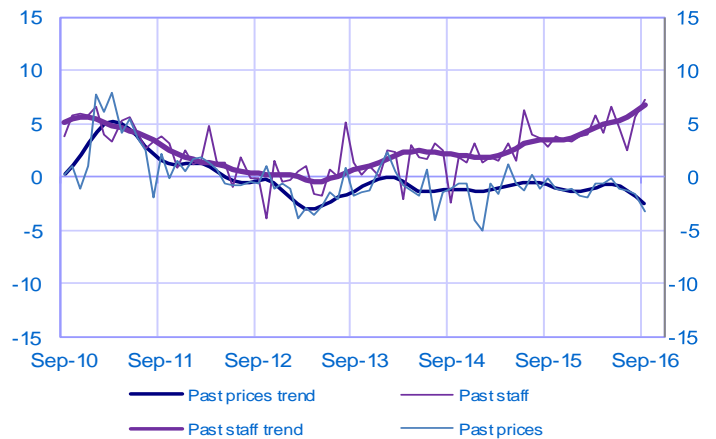
Changes in demand

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Changes in prices and staff

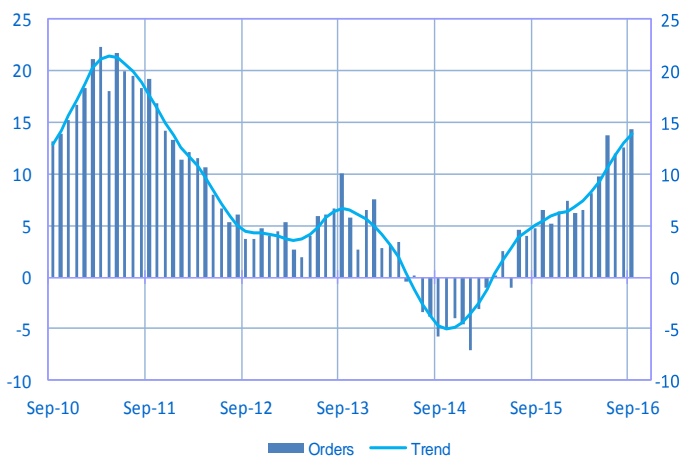
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Construction

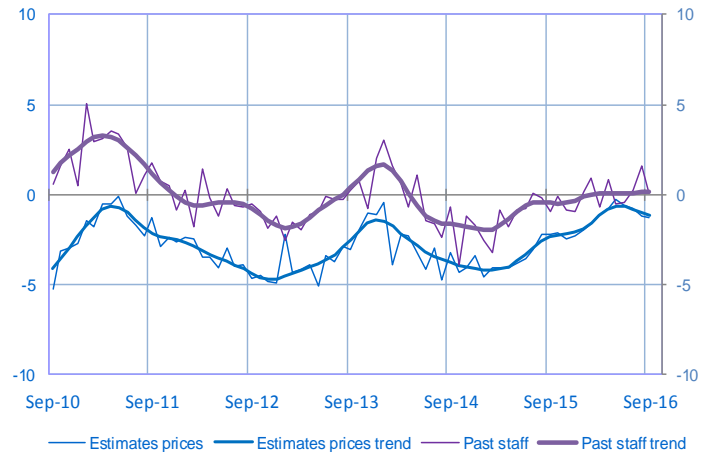
Order book level

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Changes in estimates prices and staff

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



For further details, see [sectoral level information](#), the [methodology](#), the [publications calendar](#), the [contacts](#) and all statistical time series published by the Banque de France can be accessed [WEBSTAT Banque de France](#)

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