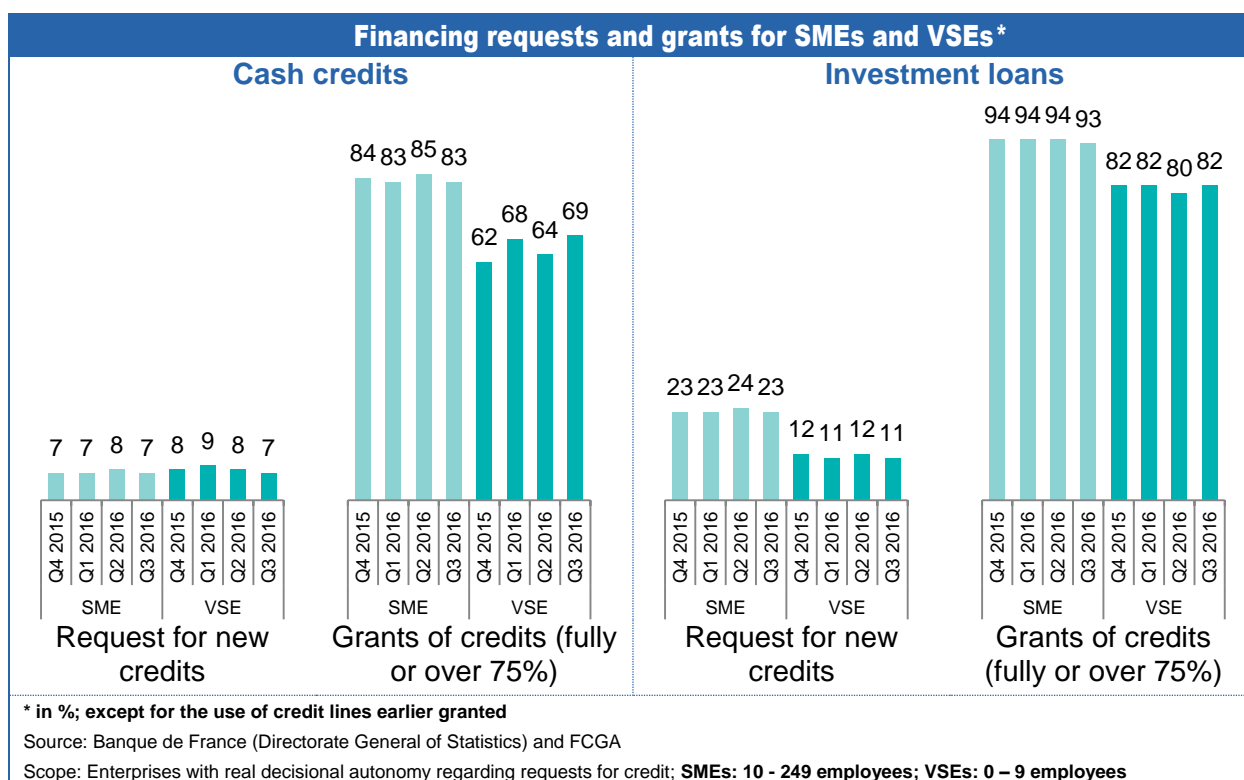


The Banque de France carries out a quarterly survey on the access to bank financing of companies. 4,000 small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) and 400 mid-tier companies (MTEs) have answered; as well as 2,500 very small companies (VSEs) thanks to a **partnership with the Fédération des Centres de Gestion Agréés (FCGA: approved management centres federation)**.

Access to credits eases for VSEs

- Over the third quarter of 2016, **demand for new credits** from SMEs and VSEs was nearly stable, for cash credits as well as for investment loans.
- Cash credit supply** decreased somewhat for SMEs: 83% of SMEs' requests were fully or substantially (over 75% of their demand) granted, versus 85% over the second quarter. **Access to investment loans** was still very easy: 93% of SMEs were fully or substantially granted the loans they requested (versus 94% the previous quarter). More specifically for equipment loans, access was also very wide (90%).
- Access to cash credits** for VSEs eased up to 69% (versus 64% in the second quarter) although it is still less easy than for SME. **Access to investment loans** rose: 82% of VSEs were granted their request (fully of over 75% of the requested loans). Access for equipment loans was a little broader than for all investment loans: 86% of their requests were granted.



Additional information

1 – Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME: 10 - 249 employees)

provided by Banque de France

- To meet their operational requirements, **SMEs** can apply for **credit lines** that remain available over the year, most of the time at the beginning of the year, and/or for various types of cash facilities during the year.
 - The proportion of SMEs applying for credit lines was nearly stable (37%).
 - 64% of SMEs mobilized credit lines, versus 66% during the previous quarter.
- **About new loans** - excluding the use of existing credit lines - :
 - Demand for **new cash credits** decreased somewhat: 7% of SMEs requested a credit, compared to 8% over the second quarter.

The cash credit supply decreased slightly: 83% of SMEs were fully or substantially granted, versus 85% over the previous quarter.
 - Demand for **new investment loans** was almost stable: 23% of SMEs applied for a new request during the third quarter (versus 24% in the second quarter).

Access to investment loans remained easy. 93% of SMEs were fully or substantially granted (versus 94% over the second quarter).
Concerning equipment loans, the granted proportion was also high: 90% of the requests were granted.
- **Bank financing conditions were supportive:** 36% of SMEs reported a drop in the total cost of financing; only 5% stated that additional guarantees were requested.

2 – Very small enterprises (VSE: 0 - 9 employees)

provided by FCGA and Banque de France

- Demand for new financing for **cash credits** from **VSEs** were down by one percentage point (7% of VSEs versus 8% in the previous quarter), the same applied to **investment loans** (11% versus 12%).
- **Access to cash credit** picked up: 69% of VSEs were fully or substantially granted, versus 64% in the previous quarter.
- **Access to investment loans** is somewhat higher than in the second quarter: 82% of VSEs were granted their request (fully of over 75% of the requested loans), versus 80%.
In particular, for **equipment loans**, 86% of VSEs reported their requests to be met fully or substantially.

3 – Mid-tier enterprises (MTE: 250 - 4 999 employees)

provided by Banque de France

- 47% of **MTEs submitted requests for credit lines**. 70% of those MTEs with granted credit lines drew them down.
- **Demand for new cash credits** was stable: 11% of MTEs requested their lenders. The credit supply rate increased: 91% were fully or substantially obtained (88% in the previous quarter).
- **Demand for investment loans** was almost stable: 27% of MTEs requested financing, versus 28% over the second quarter. 95% of MTEs were fully or substantially granted, as many as the previous quarter.
- MTEs access to private debt issuances should also be considered, in order to put into perspective the data issued for this category of firms.

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Subscription to press releases can be requested to 2503-DIFFUSION-UT@banque-france.fr