

Balance of payments – France • October 2020

Current transactions improved in October

The current account deficit stood at 3.7 billion euros in October 2020 after a deficit of 5.6 billion euros in the previous month (seasonally and working day adjusted data). This improvement of 1.9 billion euros derived from the balance of goods excluding energy, whose deficit shrank by 2.9 billion euros, following a 3% growth of non-energy goods exports compared with September, whereas imports fell by 4%. The energy goods deficit remained stable at 2.0 billion euros.

On the other hand, the services balance deteriorated by 1 billion and turned slightly negative. The turnaround in the services surplus stemmed mainly from other business services, whose balance turned into a deficit.

In the financial accounts, French net direct investments abroad showed a slight increase, while portfolio investments recorded net capital outflows of 5.9 billion euros after net inflows of 25.4 billion in the previous month.

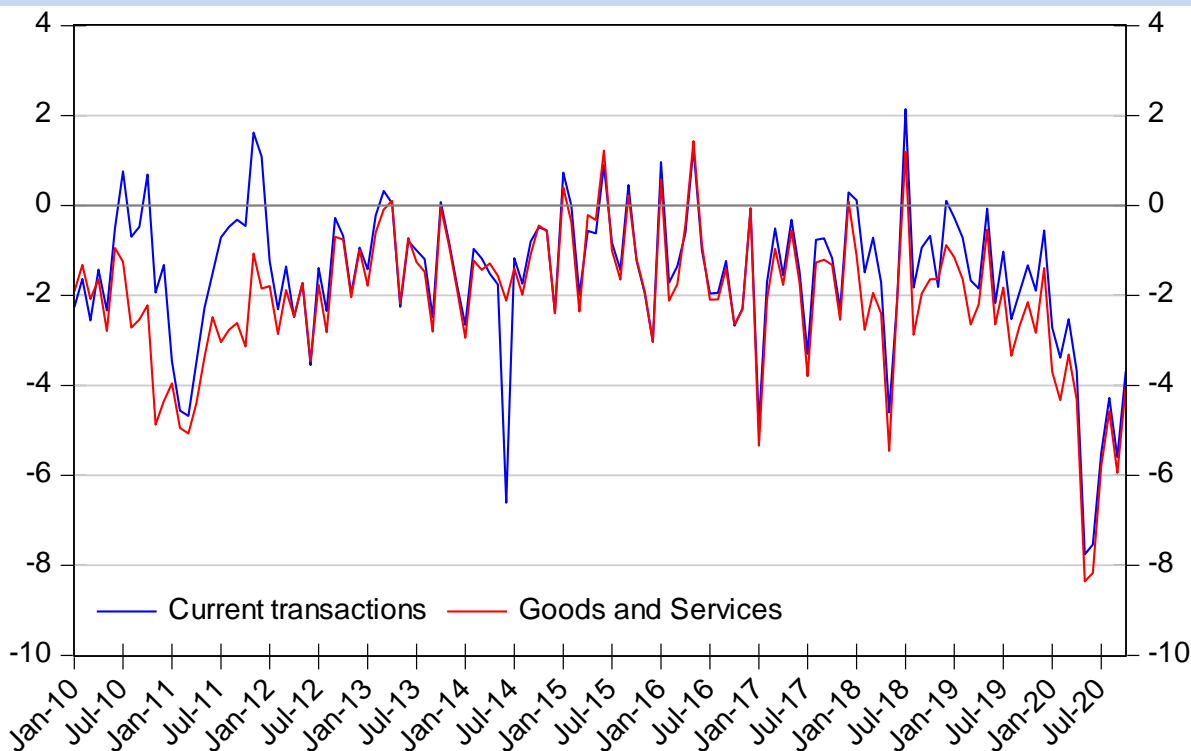
France's balance of payments

(EUR billions)	2018 (a)	2019 (a)	Sep-20 (b)	Oct-20 (b)
Current account (seasonally and working-day adjusted)	-13.2	-16.2	-5.6	-3.7
<i>Goods (1)</i>	-48.1	-46.8	-6.8	-3.9
Energy	-43.4	-42.7	-2.0	-2.0
Goods excl. Energy	-4.6	-4.2	-4.8	-1.9
<i>Services</i>	24.8	21.6	0.8	-0.2
Travel	14.5	10.8	0.1	0.1
Transport services	-6.9	-5.0	-0.3	-0.1
Professional and management consulting services, Research and development and Technical services, trade-related and other business services	7.6	7.2	0.7	-0.8
Other services (2)	9.6	8.6	0.3	0.6
<i>Primary and secondary income (3)</i>	10.1	9.0	0.4	0.3
Capital account (not adjusted)	2.1	1.9	0.0	0.1
Financial account (not adjusted)	-23.3	-28.8	-7.7	9.4
<i>Direct investment</i>	57.1	4.2	0.0	1.7
- Abroad	118.3	49.8	2.6	4.0
- In France	61.2	45.6	2.6	2.3
<i>Portfolio investment</i>	9.4	-93.0	-25.4	5.9
- Assets	29.0	53.2	-18.1	18.3
- Liabilities	19.6	146.2	7.3	12.5
<i>Financial derivatives</i>	-25.9	3.7	3.9	2.0
<i>Loans and deposits(4)</i>	-74.4	53.4	13.8	-0.6
<i>Reserve assets</i>	10.4	2.8	0.1	0.4
Net errors and omissions	-12.2	-14.6	-2.1	14.9

(a) Yearly 2019 data (b) Provisional data
(1) to (4) See methodological notes on page 2.

Source and production : BANQUE DE FRANCE – DGSEI

Current account - Goods and services balance



The series shown on this chart have been seasonally and working-day adjusted

Methodological notes relating to page 1 table

(1) Data on trade in goods are FOB-FOB values, which means without cost, insurance and freight. This expenditure is recorded in the services item. Exchanges of goods cover General merchandise published by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI) on one side, merchanting and methodological adjustments calculated by the Banque de France, on the other side. In order to ensure the comparability of French balance of payments with those of other countries and conformity with the international standards, the international standard for Balance of Payments statistics is released under the aegis of the International Monetary Fund. The key concept for the balance of payments is the concept of economic ownership which is consistent with the national accounts.

(2) Services other than travel (tourism and professional travels), transport services, professional and management consulting services, R&D and development and technical services, trade-related and other business services include manufacturing, maintenance and repair, construction, insurance and pension services, financial services, charges for the use of intellectual property, telecommunication, computer and information services, personal, cultural and recreational services and government goods and services.

(3) Income includes primary and secondary incomes. Primary income refers to the flows received by economic agents for their participation in the production process ("compensation of employees") or for the provision of financial assets ("investment income") or for the rental of natural resources ("rent"). Taxes and subsidies on products and production are also included in primary income. Secondary income records current transfers between residents and non-residents. A transfer is a transaction that involves the provision of a good, service, financial asset or another non-produced asset without receiving something of economic value in exchange.

(4) The "other investment" (loans and deposits) component of the financial account includes all transactions in financial assets and liabilities with non-residents that do not concern direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives or reserve assets. In practice, this mainly concerns bank deposits and interbank lending, as well as loans and deposits made by insurance companies and all kinds of investment companies and funds.

On the Banque de France website a detailed [methodological note on balance of payments and international investment position](#) can be found. Highlights on specific topics are also available:

- [foreign direct investments \(English and French\)](#),
- [remittances \(French\)](#),
- [international tourism in France \(French\)](#),
- [international banking activity \(English and French\)](#),
- [banks foreign establishment \(French\)](#),
- [net foreign assets \(English and French\)](#),
- [business services \(French\)](#).

