

Business survey February 2018

Manufacturing industry, market services and construction

8 March 2018



- Industrial production continued to rise in February.** Activity levels in the IT, chemical and metalworking product sectors were buoyant. Transport equipment, non-electric and non-electronic equipment and machinery, and rubber and plastic industries were sluggish.

Order books remained strong.

Business leaders expect industrial production to rise further in March.

- Service sector activity slowed.** Transport, temporary work and food services were affected by adverse weather conditions. Consultancy and IT activities continued to improve.

Staff levels increased again.

Business leaders expect a sharp recovery in services in March.

- Activity in the construction sector was stable,** but structural work was particularly badly affected by adverse weather conditions.

Order books remained strong.

Business leaders expect construction activity to rebound strongly in March.

The business sentiment indicator in manufacturing industry* stood at 105 in February like in January.

The business sentiment indicator in services* stood at 103 in February, after 104 in January.

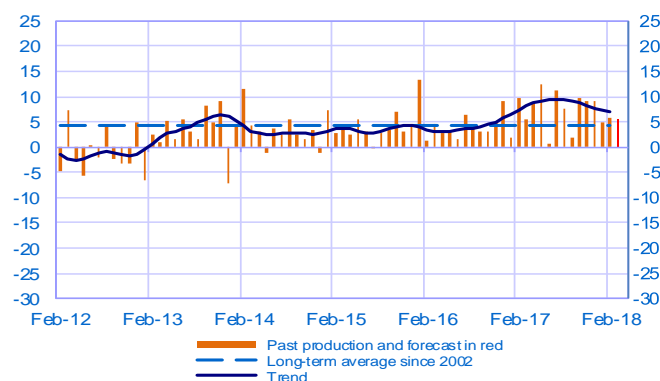
The business sentiment indicator in construction* stood at 104 in February like in January.

According to the monthly index of business activity (MIBA), **GDP is expected to increase by 0.4% in the first quarter of 2018** (second estimate, unchanged).

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

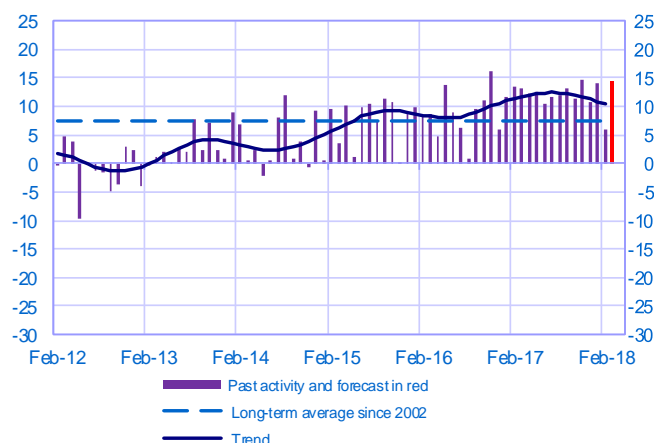
Opinion on the outlook for industrial production*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



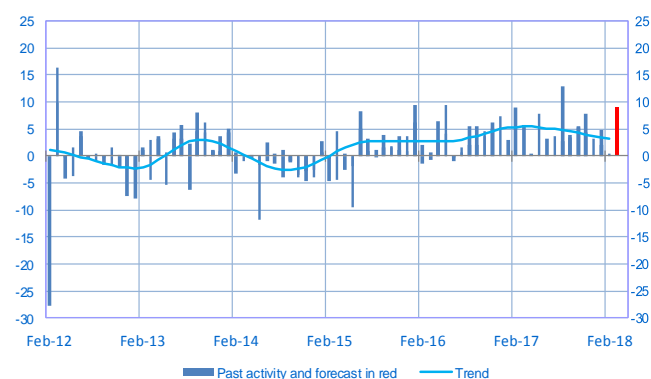
Opinion on the outlook for services activity*

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

	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Change												Forecast
Production	9	12	1	11	7	2	10	9	9	5	6	6
Deliveries	12	10	1	14	8	6	11	9	11	6	7	
Total orders	12	10	6	13	9	10	13	11	19	3	10	
Staff	3	4	4	4	2	5	4	5	3	4	4	
Final goods prices	4	3	3	1	2	3	4	4	3	5	4	
Commodity prices	6	4	4	4	4	6	7	6	6	6	6	
Level												
Order books	18	20	20	20	21	22	24	24	24	23	24	
Inventories of finished goods	1	4	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	1	2	0	
Capacity utilisation rate	79.1	80.0	79.8	80.1	80.8	80.1	80.6	80.9	81.6	80.6	80.6	
Cash positions	13	15	15	14	13	13	13	13	14	13	13	

Services

	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Change												Forecast
Activity	12	13	11	12	12	13	11	15	11	14	6	14
Aggregate demand	13	12	11	13	15	13	11	14	12	15	8	
Prices	-1	-1	1	-1	-1	0	1	0	1	2	2	
Staff	7	7	7	4	7	8	9	9	8	9	7	
Level												
Cash positions	15	16	17	22	19	18	18	19	22	18	17	

Construction

	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Change												Forecast
Activity	1	8	3	4	13	3	5	8	3	2	1	9
Estimates prices	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	
Staff	2	3	3	2	2	3	1	2	2	3	2	
Level												
Order books	16	18	19	19	22	22	22	25	24	21	24	

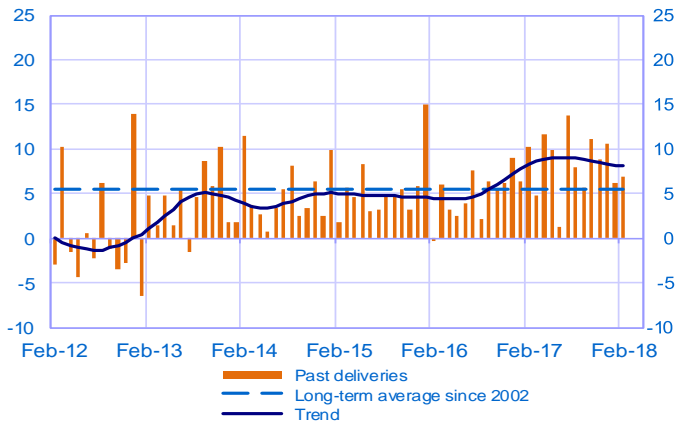
Notes:

- 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

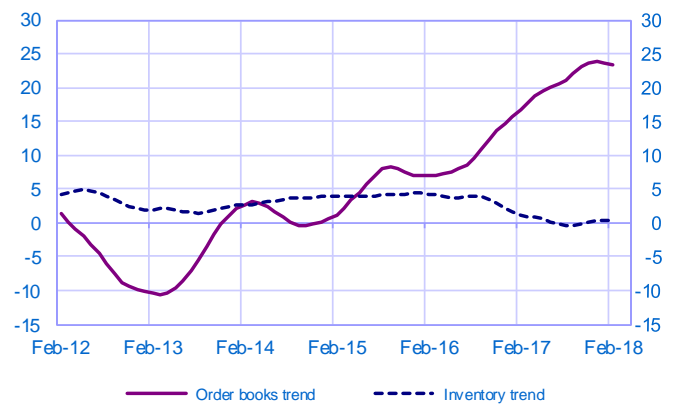
Changes in deliveries

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Inventories and order book level

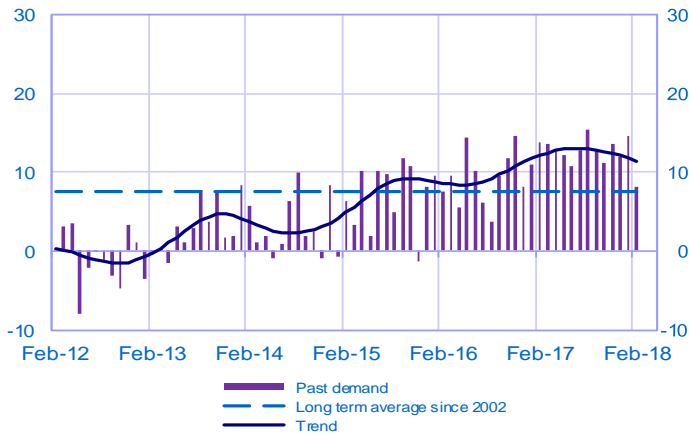
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Services

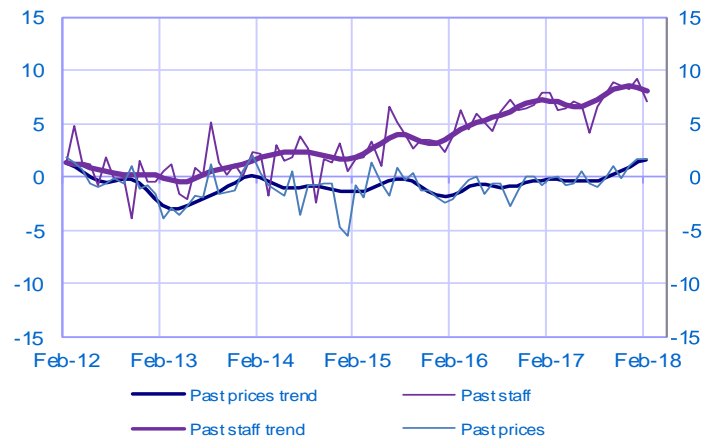
Changes in demand

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Changes in prices and staff

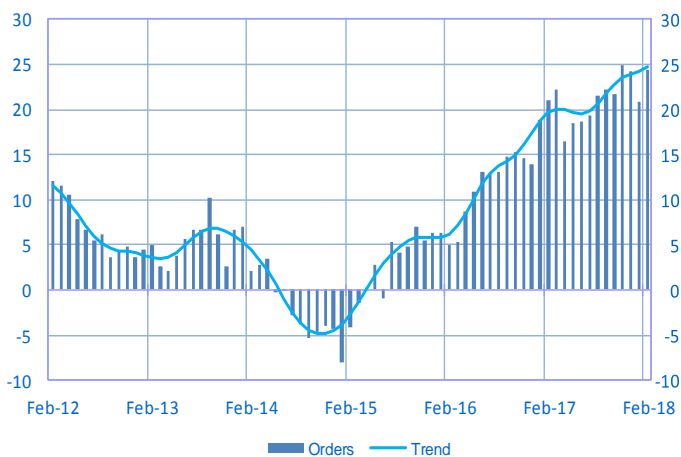
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Construction

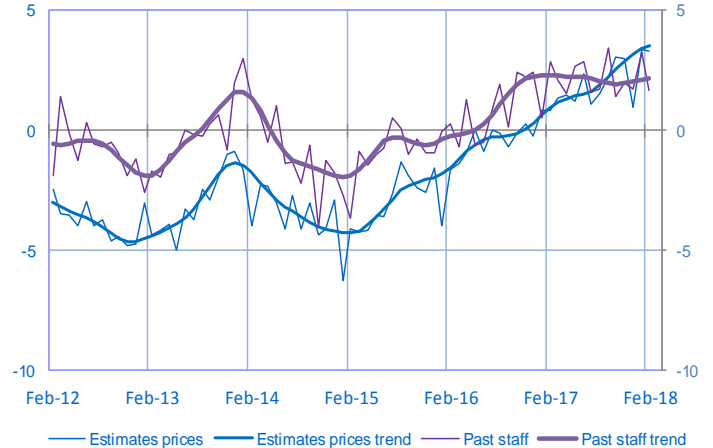
Order book level

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](#)