

Business survey January 2019

11 February 2019

Manufacturing industry, market services and construction

- **In January, industrial production fell**, particularly in the aeronautics, chemicals and metallurgy sectors. Conversely, electronic equipment and IT products remained robust.

Order books stabilised.

Business leaders expect industrial production to pick up in February.

- **Service sector activity slowed down**, particularly in the temporary work sector and, to a lesser extent, in accommodation and food services.

Staff levels rose at a slower pace.

Business leaders expect service sector activity to accelerate in February.

- **Construction sector activity continued to improve**, driven by finishing works.

Order books are very strong.

Business leaders expect construction sector activity to continue to grow in February.

The business sentiment indicator in **manufacturing** industry* stood at 99 in January, after 102 in December.

The business sentiment indicator in **services*** stood at 100 in January after 101 in December.

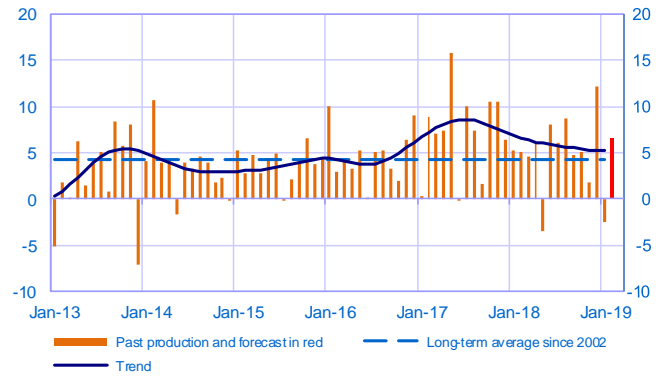
The business sentiment indicator in **construction*** stood at **105** in January as in December.

According to the monthly index of business activity (MIBA), **GDP is expected to increase by 0.4% in the first quarter of 2019** (first estimate).

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

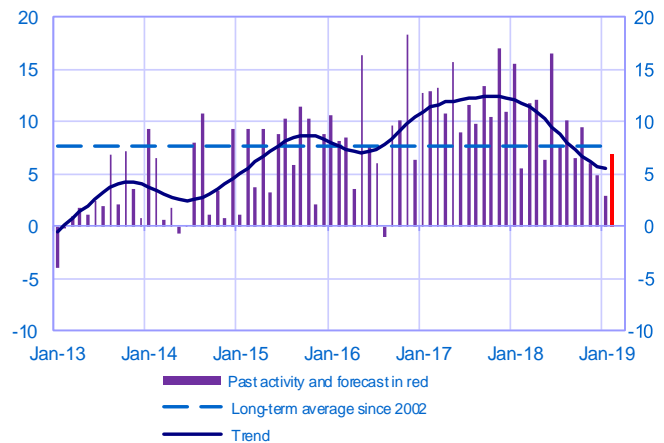
Opinion on the outlook for industrial production*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



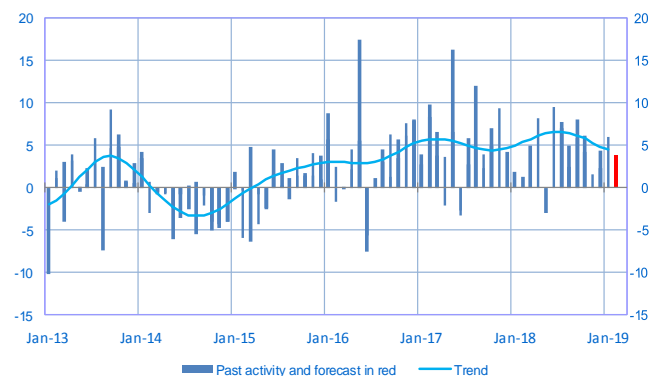
Opinion on the outlook for services activity*

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

Period under review: January 2019

Manufacturing industry

	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19
Change												Forecast
Production	5	6	-4	8	6	9	5	5	2	12	-2	7
Deliveries	4	4	0	7	5	7	7	4	2	10	2	
Total orders	4	7	3	7	7	10	12	6	4	7	4	
Staff	3	4	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	
Final goods prices	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	
Commodity prices	6	4	6	6	6	5	6	6	5	3	2	
Level												
Order books	19	22	20	19	22	21	19	19	15	17	17	
Inventories of finished goods	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	4	4	4	
Capacity utilisation rate	80.5	80.4	79.2	80.1	80.4	81.4	79.9	80.0	79.5	79.5	79.3	
Cash positions	11	12	12	11	11	14	11	12	11	9	9	

Services

	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19
Change												Forecast
Activity	12	12	6	17	8	10	7	9	6	5	3	7
Aggregate demand	13	14	8	15	9	11	9	9	4	7	3	
Prices	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	
Staff	8	9	7	10	7	7	7	7	6	6	4	
Level												
Cash positions	16	17	17	17	18	16	19	19	13	19	16	

Construction

	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19
Change												Forecast
Activity	5	8	-3	10	8	5	8	6	2	4	6	4
Estimates prices	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	2	
Staff	3	3	3	1	1	0	3	3	3	1	3	
Level												
Order books	23	24	25	24	23	23	26	25	24	24	26	

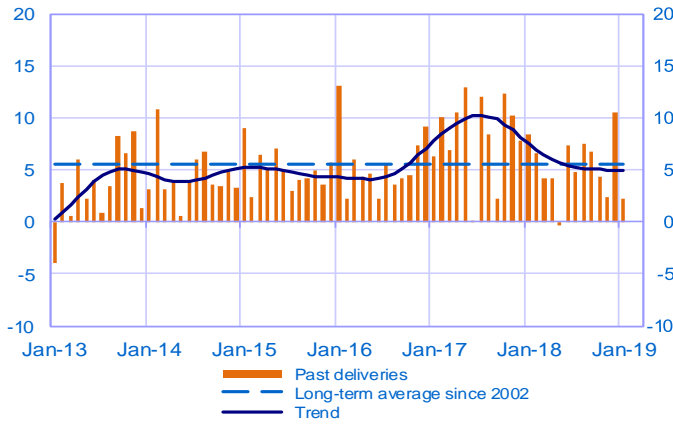
Notes:

- 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

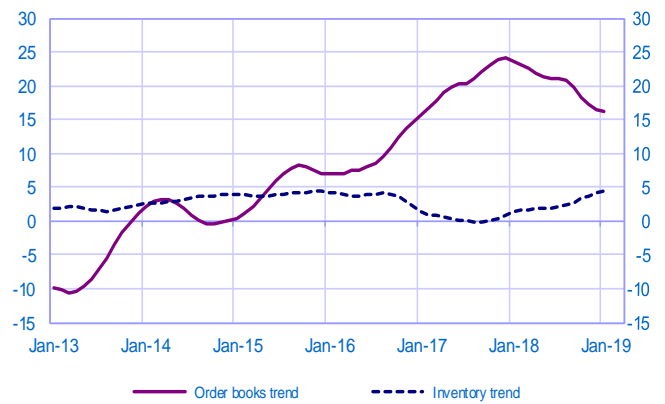
Changes in deliveries

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



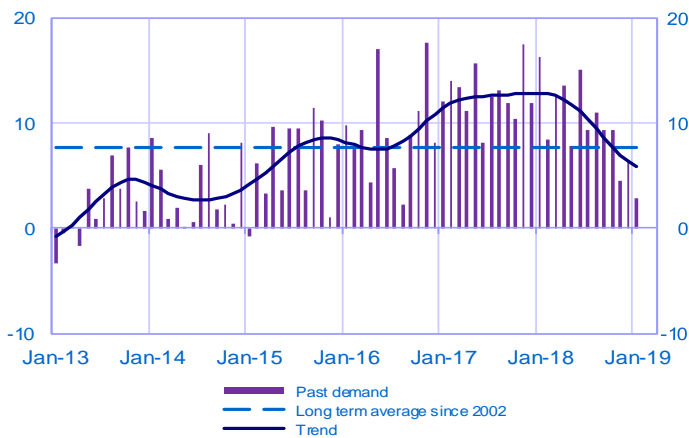
Inventories and order book level

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Changes in demand

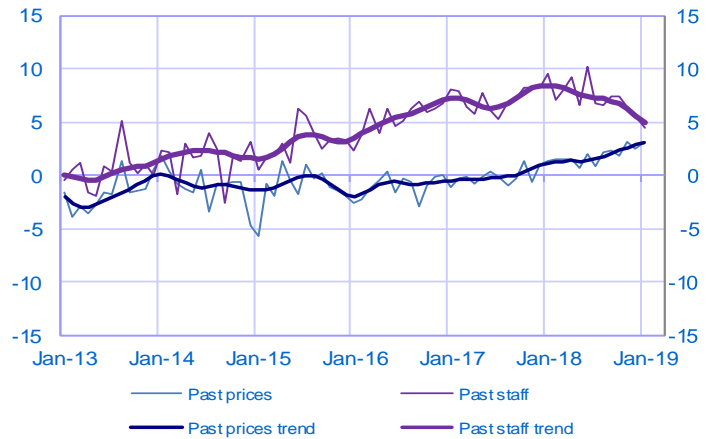
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Services

Changes in prices and staff

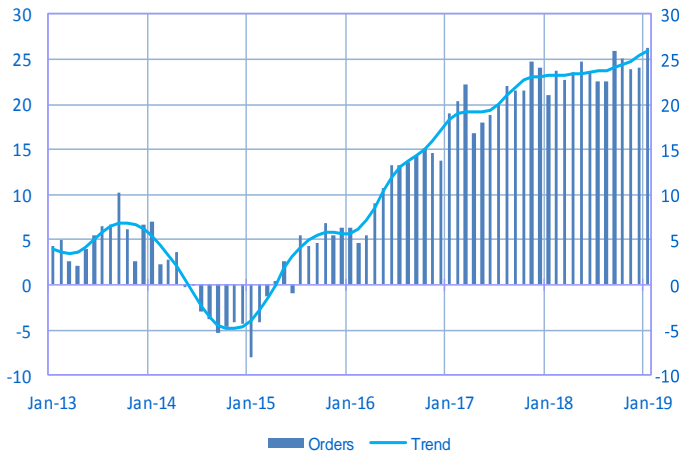
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Construction

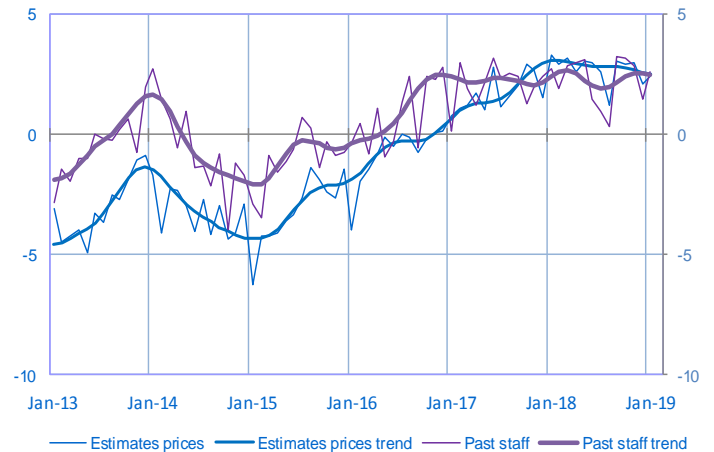
Order book level

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](#)

