

6 October 2017

Balance of payments France August 2017

The current account deficit narrows in August

The current account balance remains in deficit in August (-1.5 billion euros, in seasonally and working days adjusted data), but improves significantly after the depressed month of July (-4.3 billion). The deficit in goods reverts to -3.2 billion, after -5.3 billion in July, as merchandise exports increase while imports decrease. The surplus on services increases (0.8 billion, after 0.1 billion in July), notably thanks to travel services (surplus of 0.5 billion in August).

Within the financial account (non-seasonally adjusted data), direct investments show net outflows of 1.4 billion, after 3.1 billion in July, with a decrease in French investments abroad and foreign investments in France. Portfolio investments result in net outflows of 6.1 billion, with net purchases of foreign securities by residents exceeding purchases of French securities by non-residents. Deposits and loans (“other investments”) post net inflows of 3.6 billion.

France's balance of payments

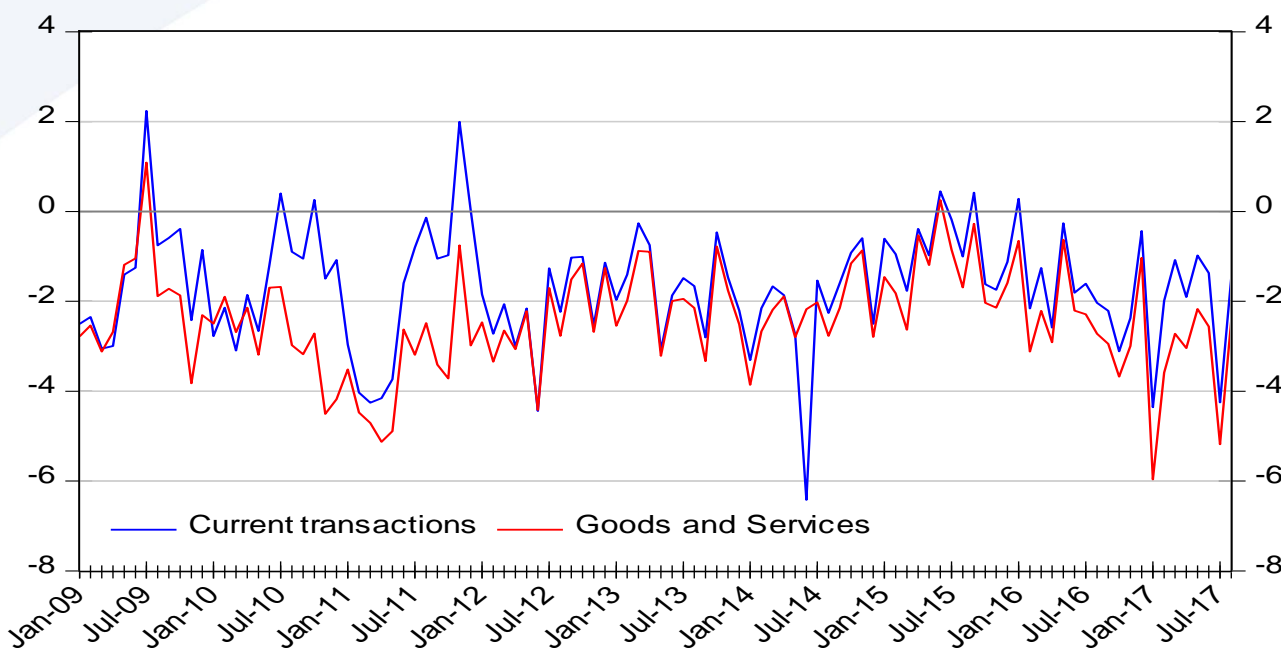
(EUR billions)	2015 (a)	2016 (a)	Jul-17 (b)	Aug-17 (b)
Current account (seasonally and working-day adjusted) (1)	-9.6	-19.0	-4.3	-1.5
<i>Goods</i> (2)	-25.0	-26.8	-5.3	-3.2
General merchandise (3)	-45.1	-47.9	-5.9	-4.5
Other goods (4)	20.1	21.1	0.6	1.3
<i>Services</i>	8.9	0.0	0.1	0.8
Travel	5.0	1.8	0.1	0.5
Other services	3.9	-1.8	0.0	0.2
<i>Primary income</i>	50.8	52.8	4.7	4.7
<i>Secondary income</i>	-44.3	-45.0	-3.8	-3.8
Capital account (not adjusted)	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.1
Financial account (not adjusted)	-12.2	-28.8	-17.4	1.6
<i>Direct investment</i>	-2.4	26.2	3.1	1.4
- Abroad	37.5	58.4	6.7	4.3
- In France	39.9	32.2	3.6	2.9
<i>Portfolio investment</i>	46.4	-3.6	3.2	6.1
- Assets	51.0	47.5	9.8	10.9
- Liabilities	4.6	51.1	6.6	4.8
<i>Financial derivatives</i>	10.8	0.6	0.9	-3.2
<i>Other investment</i>	-74.2	-54.2	-22.2	-3.6
<i>Reserve assets</i>	7.2	2.2	-2.4	0.8
Net errors and omissions	-4.4	-9.8	-14.2	1.6

(a) Annual report 2016 data. (b) Provisional data.
(1) to (4) See methodological notes on page 2.

Source and production : BANQUE DE FRANCE – DIRECTORATE GENERAL STATISTICS

Current account – Goods and services balance

(EUR billions)



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

Methodological notes relating to page 1 table.

- (1) Figures for monthly current account are seasonally and working day adjusted.
- (2) 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), merchanting and methodological adjustments 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.
- (3) General merchandise is compiled by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI). It contains all goods imports and exports which go in and out French territory.
- (4) Other goods are compiled by the Banque de France. Other goods include some corrections and adjustment to the FOB-FOB values of goods exchanged, in order to include only the transactions entailing a change of economic ownership, as well as goods procured in ports by carriers and goods under merchanting.

On the Banque de France website a detailed [methodological note on balance of payments and international investment position](#) can be found.

Revisions Q2 2017

Not seasonally adjusted, EUR billions

	Current publications	Previous publications	Revisions
	(a)	(b)	(a-b)
	Q2	Q2	Q2
Current account	-2.0	-1.3	-0.7
<i>Goods</i>	-8.8	-8.9	0.1
General merchandise	-13.6	-13.7	0.1
Other goods	4.8	4.8	0.0
<i>Services</i>	5.3	2.4	2.9
Travel	2.9	1.4	1.5
Other services	2.4	1.0	1.4
<i>Primary income</i>	11.2	14.8	-3.6
<i>Secondary income</i>	-9.7	-9.6	-0.1
Capital account	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial account	-12.8	4.4	-17.2
<i>Direct investment</i>	4.5	10.1	-5.6
- Abroad	13.9	18.0	-4.1
- In France	9.5	7.9	1.6
<i>Portfolio investment</i>	23.3	33.2	-9.9
- Assets	54.7	63.5	-8.8
- Liabilities	31.4	30.4	1.0
<i>Financial derivatives</i>	1.0	1.2	-0.2
<i>Other investment</i>	-42.1	-40.7	-1.4
<i>Reserve assets</i>	0.6	0.6	0.0
Net errors and omissions	-10.8	5.6	-16.4

Simultaneously with the publication of the data for the second month of each quarter, revisions are made on the previous periods. These revisions are mainly related to an enrichment of the information used for the production of the balance of payments, in particular quarterly collection from securities custodians.