

# Business survey October 2018

12 November 2018

## Manufacturing industry, market services and construction

- In October, industrial production slowed down, essentially because of a sluggish automobile sector. The electrical, computer, electronic and optical products sectors held up well.

Order books were stable.

**Business leaders expect industrial activity to increase somewhat more rapidly in November.**

- Service sector activity continued to grow rapidly. The advertising, consulting, information and communication sectors were very buoyant. The temporary work sector experienced a lull.

Staff levels rose.

**Business leaders expect service sector activity to grow at the same pace in November.**

- Construction sector activity grew significantly, for both structural and finishing works.

Order books were robust. Staff levels increased.

**In November, business leaders expect construction sector activity to grow less rapidly.**

The business sentiment indicator in **manufacturing industry\*** stood at **103** in October, after 104 in September.

The business sentiment indicator in **services\*** stood at **102** in October as in September.

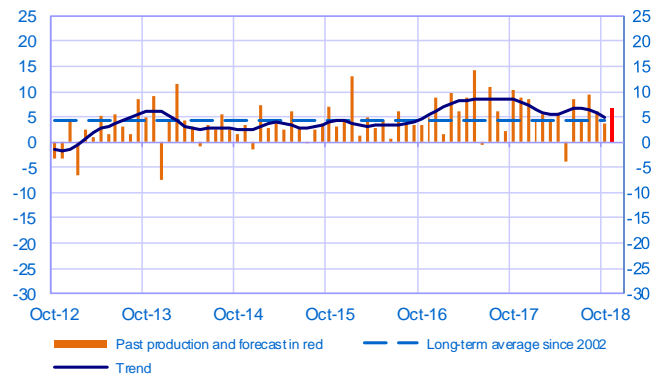
The business sentiment indicator in **construction\*** stood at **106** in October, after 105 in September.

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

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

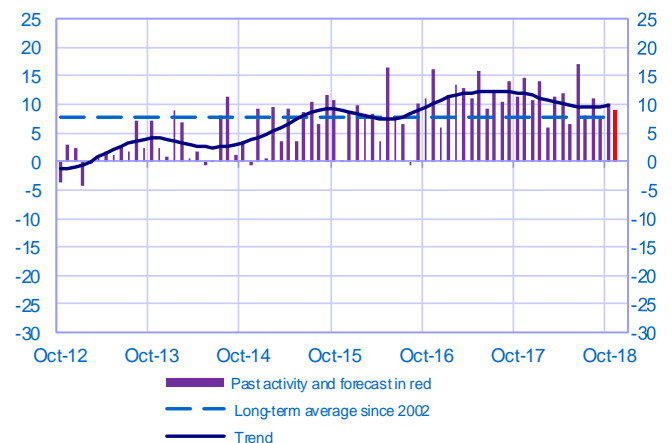
### Opinion on the outlook for industrial production\*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



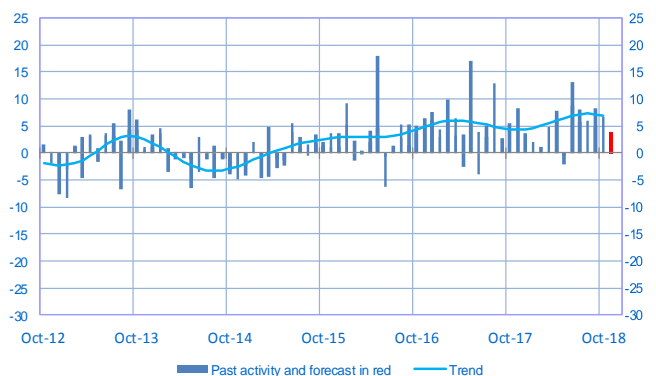
### Opinion on the outlook for services activity\*

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: October 2018

## Manufacturing industry

	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18
<b>Change</b>												<b>Forecast</b>
Production	9	5	6	5	6	-4	8	5	9	6	4	<b>7</b>
Deliveries	10	6	7	4	4	-1	8	4	8	9	3	
Total orders	18	2	9	5	6	3	8	5	10	14	6	
Staff	3	4	3	3	4	0	2	1	1	2	2	
Final goods prices	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Commodity prices	6	6	6	5	4	6	7	7	5	6	7	
<b>Level</b>												
Order books	24	23	24	19	22	20	19	22	22	19	19	
Inventories of finished goods	1	2	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	
Capacity utilisation rate	81.5	80.5	80.5	80.4	80.5	79.1	80.1	80.4	81.4	80.0	80.1	
Cash positions	13	13	12	11	12	12	11	11	14	12	13	

## Services

	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18
<b>Change</b>												<b>Forecast</b>
Activity	11	14	6	11	12	7	17	8	11	8	10	<b>9</b>
Aggregate demand	12	15	9	12	14	8	16	10	12	11	11	
Prices	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	
Staff	8	9	7	8	9	7	10	7	7	8	8	
<b>Level</b>												
Cash positions	23	18	17	16	17	17	17	18	16	20	19	

## Construction

	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18
<b>Change</b>												<b>Forecast</b>
Activity	4	2	1	5	8	-2	9	8	6	8	7	<b>4</b>
Estimates prices	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	
Staff	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	1	0	3	3	
<b>Level</b>												
Order books	24	21	24	23	24	25	23	23	23	26	25	

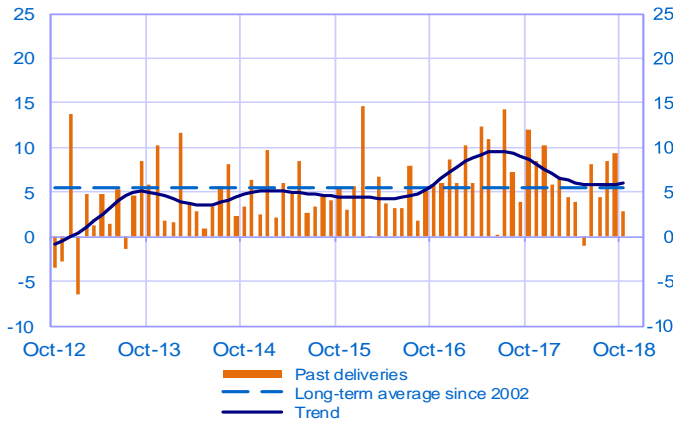
### Notes:

- 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

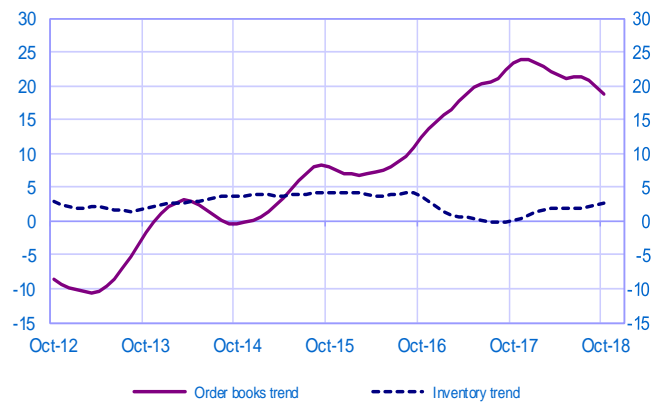
### Changes in deliveries

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



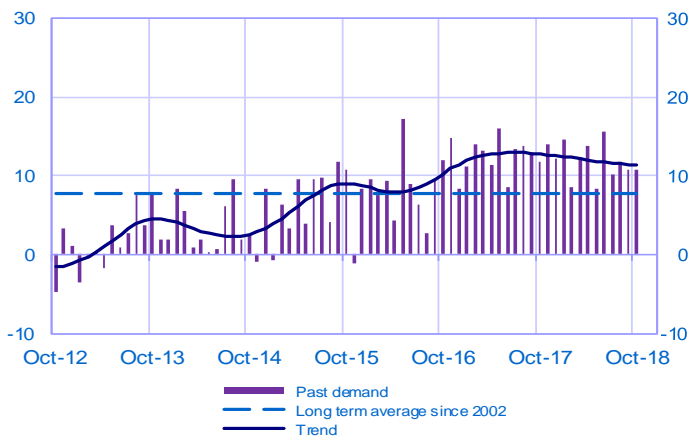
### Inventories and order book level

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



### Changes in demand

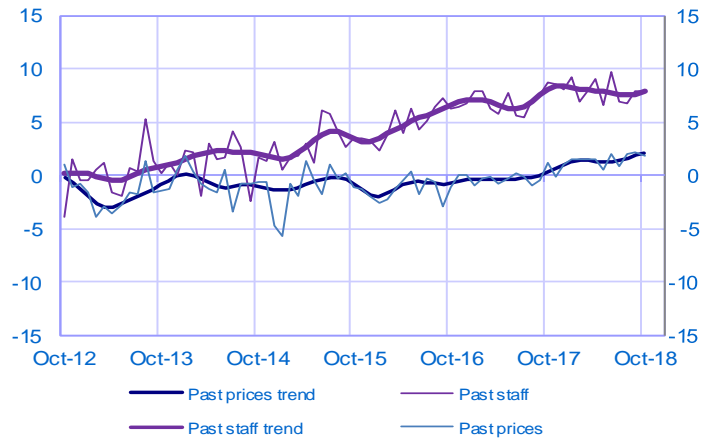
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



## Services

### Changes in prices and staff

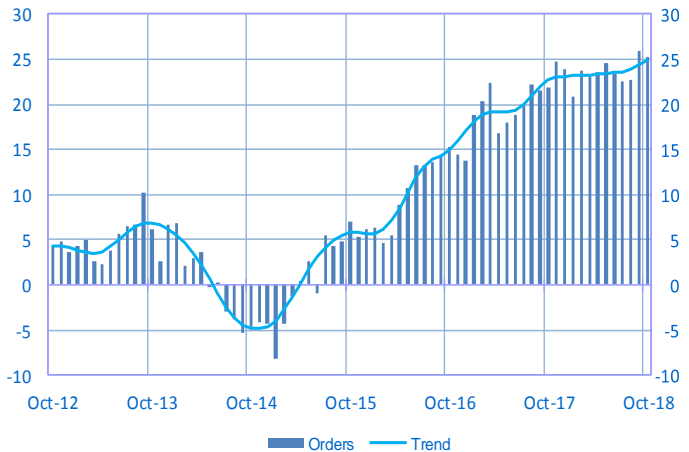
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



## Construction

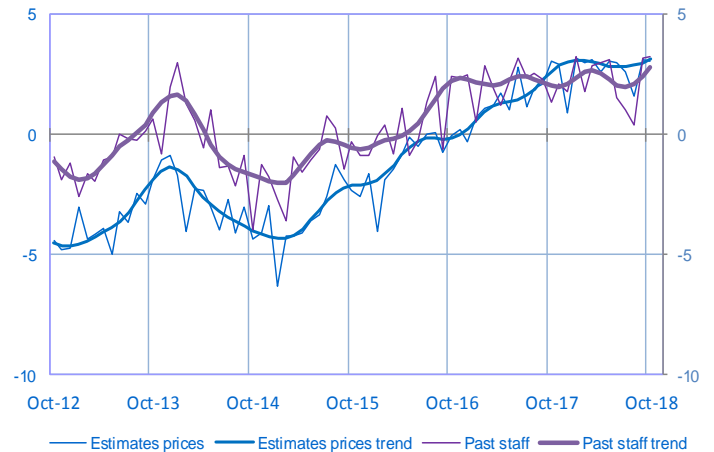
### Order book level

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](#)

