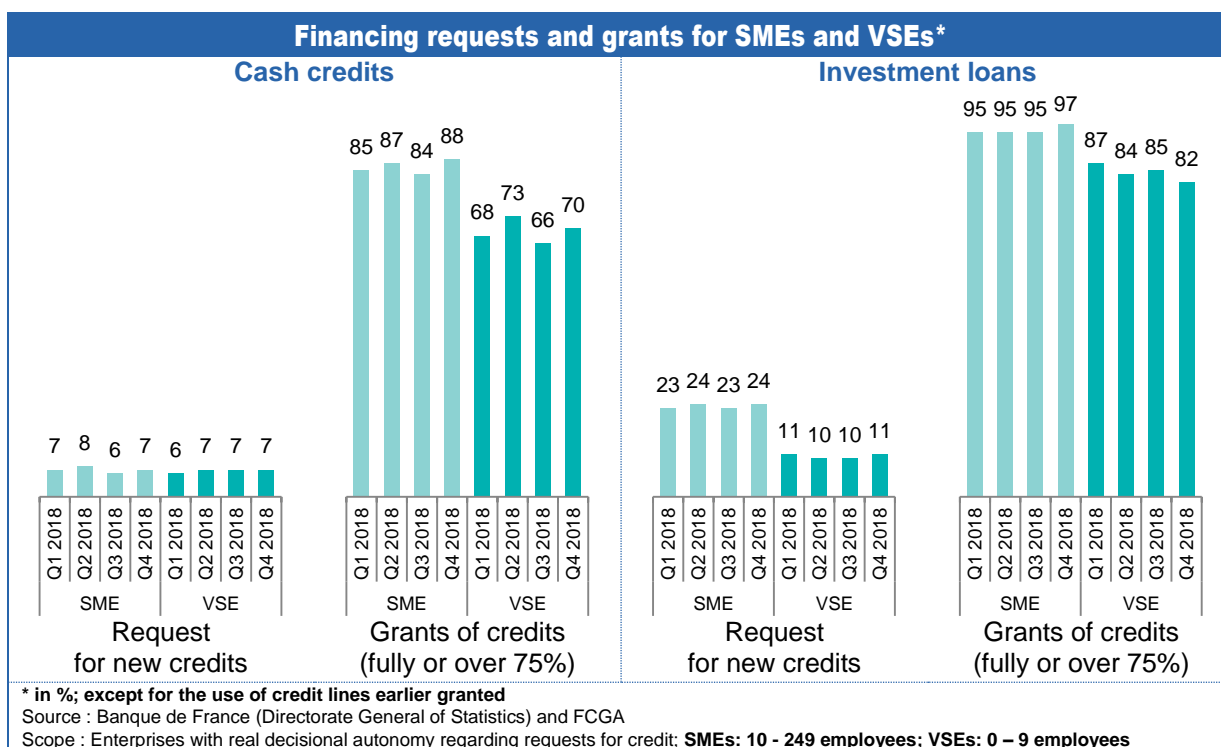


Quarterly survey on the access to bank financing of companies in France • 4th quarter 2018

SMEs and VSEs gained access to cash credits more easily

- **Demand for new credits** was stable for SMEs as for VSEs. Anticipating a bank refusal was rare: less than 2% of entrepreneurs censored themselves.
- **Cash credit supply for SMEs** grew significantly: 88% of SMEs' requests of cash credits were fully or almost fully granted, against 84% in previous quarter. **Access to investment loans**, even larger, raised by 2 points at 97%. For **equipment loans** more specifically, access also stayed at a high level (90%).
- After decreasing in the third quarter, **access to cash credits for VSEs** expanded again: 70% of VSEs were granted their requests. **Access to investment loans** remained high but decreased compared to previous quarters: 82% of VSEs requests were fully or almost fully satisfied, against 85% in previous quarter.



The Banque de France carries out a quarterly survey on the access to bank financing of companies. 4,000 small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) and 400 mid-tier companies (MTEs) have answered; as well as 2,500 very small companies (VSEs) thanks to a partnership with the **Fédération des Centres de Gestion Agréés** (small firms authorised management centers federation).



Additional information

1- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME: 10 - 249 employees)

provided by Banque de France

- **SMEs** can apply for **credit lines** that remain available over the year, most of the time at the beginning of the year, and/or for various types of cash facilities during the year.
 - The proportion of SMEs applying for credit lines remained stable at 37%. These requests were widely granted.
 - 62% of SMEs mobilized credit lines this quarter, almost as much as in the previous quarter (63%).
- **Regarding new loans** - excluding the use of available credit lines - :
 - Demand for **new cash credits** was almost stable (7% against 6% in the previous quarter).
Cash credit supply for SMEs increased this quarter thus reaching a high level: 88% of SMEs' requests of cash credits were fully or almost fully granted, against 84% in the third quarter.
 - Demand for **new investment loans** related to 24% of SMEs (23% in the previous quarter).
Access to investment loans remained very large. 97% of SMEs were fully or very substantially granted, slightly more than in the three previous quarters (95%).
- Only 4% of SMEs reported a rise in the total cost of financing.

2 - Very small enterprises (VSE: 0 - 9 employees)

provided by FCGA and Banque de France

- **Demand for new financing from VSEs** was stable for cash credits (7%) and changed little for investment loans (11%).
- **Access to cash credit** expanded again after falling in the third quarter: 70% of VSEs were fully or very substantially granted their requests, against 66% in the previous quarter.
- **Access to investment loans**, still high, reduced nonetheless: 82% of VSEs were granted their request (fully or over 75% of the requested loans), against 85% in the previous quarter. Concerning equipment loans specifically, the supply rate remained flat at 81%.

3 - Mid-tier enterprises (MTE: 250 - 4 999 employees)

provided by Banque de France

- 48% of MTEs submitted requests for credit lines. 74% of those MTEs drew down available credit lines, against 66% in the third quarter.
- **Demand for new cash credits** raised slightly: 13% of MTEs requested cash credits this quarter, after 11% in the previous quarter. The credit supply rate (fully or over 75% of the requested loans) sharply increased to 97% this quarter, against 91% in the third quarter.
- **Demand for investment loans** also expanded: 31% of MTEs requested financing, against 28% in the previous quarter. 95% of MTEs were fully or almost fully granted. Concerning equipment loans specifically, the supply rate went down to 87% (91% in Q3).
- MTEs access to private debt issuances should also be considered for this category of firms.

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