

Activity report



20 18



Measuring. understanding



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EDITORIAL



2018 saw the onset of unprecedented social activism in France. Indeed, countries in Europe and the rest of the world are experiencing ever-more entrenched division across society. As scepticism and mistrust take hold, statistical releases and analyses by INSEE and the official statistics service become all the more critical to informing key debates in this country. In recent years, INSEE has completed a number of studies looking at the sub-national divide, quality of life, the feeling of well-being among the public, as well as social inequality and changes in household purchasing power.⁽¹⁾

At INSEE, our role is to further knowledge and understanding of economic, social and environmental developments in this country. In our pursuit of this ambition, we have made significant progress in 2018.

We have updated the master sample and the Labour Force Survey sample frame, which are key to the quality of household surveys.

Changes have also been made to the population census, with more detailed housing and accommodation questions aimed at gaining more insight into family relationships and multiple residency, in response to recommendations by the

National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS).

National accounts were published using 2014 as the new base year. Although media attention focused on the inclusion of drug production and trafficking, the most significant improvements relate to transactions with the rest of the world and property income flows.

From 2019, structural business statistics publications will incorporate the principle of the company as an economic unit in its own right. A number of sectoral surveys carried out in 2018 used cross-tabulation to take account of legal units and groups.

2018 also saw preparations for implementation of the single electoral register on 1 January 2019. The May 2019 European elections will be the first to use electoral lists based on the new register.

Our regional agencies provided renewed support for national and regional public policies. The institute now carries out national studies on cross-border regions.

At European level, INSEE has renewed its investment in promising projects such as the use of big data in statistical production. Internationally, the institute can take pride in its involvement in updating the statistical system in Tunisia.

As well as the work presented in this report, 2018 was a year in which the institute played an active role in setting up the information systems division as well as two new units, SSP Lab for promoting and developing innovation by encouraging cross-functional working methods, and the Innovation and Information Systems Strategy Unit aimed at promoting innovation in information systems approaches.

INSEE is evolving and upgrading its publications and releases to provide insight into the economic and social realities in this country, as this report demonstrates.

Jean-Luc TAVERNIER,
Director General, INSEE

1. <https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3678538>

GUEST EXPERT

In 2018, the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) developed its policy approaches for 2019-2023.⁽¹⁾ **As we enter this new period, Pierre-Yves Geoffard, former chairman of the public sector information committee, attests to the CNIS' role in producing high-quality statistical information that can be used to inform public debate.**

Pierre-Yves Geoffard is a professor at the Paris School of Economics, Director of Research at the CNRS, and Director of Studies at the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS). His research interests and teaching focus on the economics of risk, innovation in health, behavioural analysis and inequality of health outcomes.

How has the CNIS been able to highlight public needs in relation to statistical information ?

The CNIS is an important organisation in the public statistics system, which aims to provide an interface between official statistics producers and the range of potential users, encompassing research and analysis bodies such as France Stratégie, civil society organisations (e.g. trade unions, think tanks, etc.) and, of course, academic researchers. The work of CNIS is based on thematic committees, which are a forum for discussion between potential users and statistics agencies.

CNIS' role could be understood as matching "supply" with "demand" for official statistics. It allows potential users to give feedback on statistics programmes that are presented regularly by producers, as well as guide producers towards issues considered of particular importance by civil society, including academic researchers. The organisation aims to provide a framework for producing statistics. Notable advances in recent years include the development of court statistics, as well as the creation of a statistics department within the Ministry of the Interior.

What progress has CNIS been able to facilitate ?

CNIS' general policy is to encourage the construction and use of statistical databases derived from management systems, in order to avoid asking survey questions that individuals or companies have already answered as part of their administrative procedures.

Although surveys remain an irreplaceable source of information, their form, content, and regularity aim to align increasingly with management system databases. However, with regard to health data, information sharing now falls within the scope of the national institute for health data, bringing together producers (chiefly the national health insurance fund) and end users who include researchers in the fields of social science, medicine and public health, consultancies, pharmaceutical laboratories and insurance companies.

The CNIS offers civil society actors the opportunity to raise concerns regarding databases containing sensitive personal information, which can be problematic for management system databases. Educational initiatives are sometimes necessary to explain that a unique identifier for each individual is very helpful for analysing movements and trends, but that this in no way makes it possible to trace information back to the individuals themselves.

One of the public sector and public services committee's achievements in this area was its role in resolving issues between the statistics department of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and the Human Rights League, who challenged the use of a "national student identifier", which they viewed as recording every aspect of schoolchildren's lives. Discussions helped to overcome misgivings and restore the necessary trust. Statistics is not record keeping.



1. See cnis.fr

INSEE's twinning programme with Statistiques Tunisie came to an end. The initiative was one of INSEE's most significant acts of international cooperation in recent years.

APRIL

The personal mobility survey, carried out every ten years, was launched. In conjunction with the data and statistical studies unit in the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (SDES), the survey highlights trends in France with respect to the movement of people as a way of anticipating future public works and infrastructure needs.



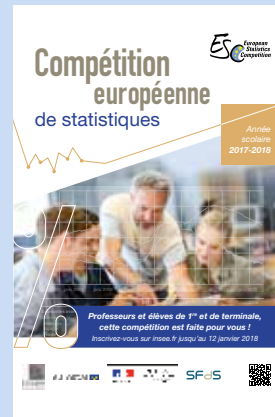
On 30 May, all national accounts data (1949-2017) was made available using 2014 as the base year.

INSEE established SSP Lab, a structure which encourages and promotes data science innovation within the official statistics system.

MAY



The inaugural European statistics competition was won by two Finnish school groups. In France, almost 1,200 sixth-form pupils took part in the initiative, organised by INSEE in partnership with the Ministry for Primary and Secondary Education and the French Statistics Society.



JUNE

Around 650 people attended the 13th INSEE Statistical Methodology Days (JMS) over the period 12-14 June in Paris.

OF 2018

INSEE and the research, surveys and statistics unit in the Ministry for Labour (DARES) launched "Working Conditions of Persons Resident in France". The survey, first carried out in 1978, has been carried out every three years since 2013 and aims to understand work and working conditions, from the perspective of the employee. The survey will be completed on 31 May 2019.

On 15 October, the management portal for the single electoral register was opened for all regions.

OCTOBER

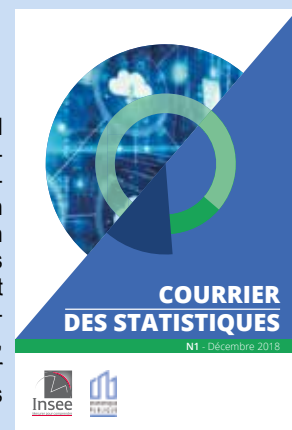
On 15 October, Minister for the Economy and Finance, Bruno Le Maire, officially opened INSEE's new head office at Montrouge. In an address to the executive committee and INSEE staff, he said: "there is no democracy without truth, there is no democracy without INSEE!".



INSEE published a series of national and regional studies that looked at trends in home ownership, with the high-level finding that, "home ownership is higher across all regions than was the case 50 years ago." <https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3645754>

NOVEMBER

INSEE relaunched the flagship *Courrier des Statistiques*, which looks at issues in official statistics based on different approaches, including methodology, forecasting, legal or information systems perspectives.



DECEMBER

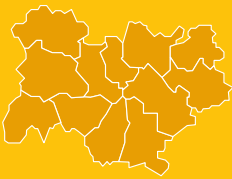
In "Immigrants, foreigners" and "Globalisation", INSEE offered a new approach to key figures, incorporating an educational slant and summaries to reach a wider audience.

2018



Antilles and Guyane

Following hurricane Irma in September 2017, INSEE French West Indies and French Guiana made a special effort to resume its operations and offer the same level of service. In order to carry out the population census under the best possible conditions, the institute conducted a building survey and made changes to data collection process and calendar to take account of conditions in the region.



Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

In September 2018, INSEE Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes created "Design me a survey", a game for new staff in the regional office aimed at explaining the various stages of completion of a survey, in a fun and interactive way. The initiative is part of the @RCHIPΣL project, organised by the general secretariat for the regions (SGAR) in partnership with INSEE and other local stakeholders. The @RCHIPΣL innovation laboratory intends to fulfil three key ambitions in open data and public data sharing, namely to promote transparency in public affairs, stimulate economic and social innovation, and improve and modernise public services.

<http://www.prefectures-regions.gouv.fr/auvergne-rhone-alpes/Region-et-institutions/L-action-de-l-Etat/Innovation>



Bourgogne-Franche-Comté

In their contributions to the Jura Cross-border Statistics Agency (OSTAJ), INSEE Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and the statistics agencies for the Swiss cantons of Vaud and Neuchâtel publish cross-border studies and statistical releases. In March, "Four areas of cooperation within the Jura region" reported that 32,000 working people living on the French side commute to work in Switzerland every day. In October, "Higher Education in the Jura Region: Promoting Science and Technology" reported that science and technology was the most prevalent field among the 78,000 registered students on both sides of the border.

<http://www.ostaj.org/>

Bretagne

INSEE Bretagne, in partnership with central government and the Regional Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESER), published "Poverty and insecurity in Bretagne"*, under the auspices of the regional health and social monitoring forum. The study addressed the demand for data from public sector bodies such as departmental councils for the implementation of public policy in certain areas, such as the recent poverty prevention strategy.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3567852>



Centre-Val de Loire

In February, INSEE Centre-Val de Loire, in partnership with the Regional Council, published "Three territorial systems for regional demographics and employment", which accompanied the process of establishing SRADDET (regional planning, sustainable development and territorial equality programme) by providing an overview of trends in three areas relatively independent of each other, namely the north-east corner bordering Île-de-France, the area along the Loire, and Berry province.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3324748>

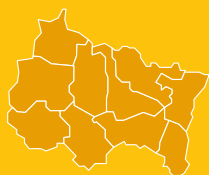


Corse

INSEE Corse has increased its reach by publishing regular updates in regional daily newspapers. A number of thematic studies were published in 2018 in Corse Matin to enable greater understanding among the public about the island's demographics and socio-economic situation. In addition, a number of forums were held with the education authority to introduce the institute and present its work to a number of classes in Finosello, Fesch and Laetitia Bonaparte d'Ajaccio colleges.



BY REGION



Grand Est

As part of its regional development policy, the Prefect for Grand Est has sought to support medium-sized towns in the region. To identify issues and possible policy actions, INSEE Grand Est published “A network of medium-sized towns underpinning a strong regional dynamic”, a study of 47 medium-sized towns in the region. The report notes that “some towns play a vital role in providing services and employment in areas between the major urban centres”.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3535022>



Hauts-de-France

In 2018, INSEE Hauts-de-France updated the regional information and research promotion forum (PIVER) following the merging of the regions. Data and research now cover the whole region, while meetings now more effectively address local planning and development issues raised by regional stakeholders. Following its restructuring, PIVER now has 40 members.

<http://piver-hauts-de-france.org>



Île-de-France

INSEE Île-de-France has signed an agreement with the General Secretariat for Regional Affairs (SGAR) in Île-de-France to carry out research on social and economic interactions between Île-de-France and around twenty neighbouring departments up to 2019. Funded by the General Committee for Territorial Equality (CGET) and coordinated by INSEE Île-de-France, the project brings together the INSEE regional offices for Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Centre-Val de Loire, Grand Est, Hauts-de-France and Normandie.

La Réunion-Mayotte

Alongside its statistical releases and in order to gain insight into companies in Mayotte, INSEE La Réunion-Mayotte published a study on formal enterprises*, and one on the informal sector**, where economic activity is difficult to measure. Informal enterprises do not feature on administrative databases, and often do not keep accounts. In partnership with the *Agence française de développement* (AFD), the French overseas departments note-issuing bank (IEDOM) and the Madagascar national statistics institute, this innovative statistical survey is the first undertaken in France on the informal sector and in cooperation with another country, in this case Madagascar.

* <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3314551>

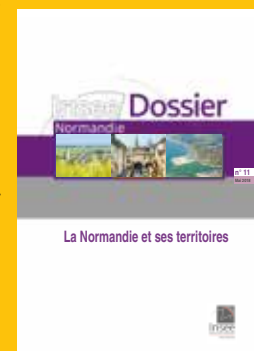
** <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3320117>

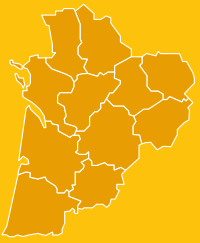


Normandie

On 31 May, INSEE Normandie hosted “Normandie and its territories”, a seminar that brought together 160 attendees from across various local and regional public bodies. It sought to further knowledge and understanding of the new region and its constituent territories, as well as enhance INSEE's presence within the public sector. A number of regional studies were presented at the event and a round table discussion on the prospects for the region included experts, geographers and a number of institutions, including the CGET, the regional economic, social and environmental council and the Caen urban planning agency.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3552769>





Nouvelle-Aquitaine

INSEE Nouvelle-Aquitaine's updated public service remit involves contributing to improvements in production and sharing of data for overseas departments and territories. A dashboard for employment using employment survey data now provides annualised indicators for the five overseas departments as well as metropolitan France.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3568843>



Occitanie

In October 2018, INSEE Occitanie published "Occitanie and other regions: a departmental-level comparison", which took the innovative approach of presenting the region as a "mini France" in terms of its economic, demographic and social characteristics, as well as its intra-regional contrasts.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3629137>



Pays de la Loire

With the help of the Paris-based statistics project team and electoral registry administrators across nine regional offices, INSEE Pays de la Loire has developed the single electoral register administration portal. The tool is a joint initiative of the ministries for the interior, justice and foreign affairs, aimed at implementing new registration procedures for electoral rolls as defined in the Law of 1 August 2016. The new law provides for the establishment of a single electoral register, which will be managed by INSEE. The register is expected to be operational in time for the European elections in May 2019, and will allow citizens to register right up to the time of the vote.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3539086>



Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

In October, INSEE Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur published "One million residents live in a flood zone", a study of population groups susceptible to flooding in the region. For the first time, GPS data and the 2016 individuals and housing register (FIDELI) were used to assess and characterise the flood risk faced by communities and dwellings at sub-municipal level. Areas at risk were identified using the flood zone atlas developed by the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3614748>



For updates from INSEE regional offices:

> <https://twitter.com/Inseeregions>

To access regional publications:

> <https://insee.fr/fr/statistiques?categorie=2>

INSEE BY REGION



INSEE AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS

KEY OBJECTIVE: INFORM ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEBATE

INSEE collects, produces, analyses and publishes data on the French economy and society. This information is of value to government, public sector organisations, social partners, businesses, researchers, media outlets, teachers and the general public. It is used to build knowledge and understanding, and has applications in research, forecasting and decision-making.

INSEE COORDINATES THE WORK OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The official statistical system is made up of INSEE and ministerial statistics units (SSMs) who carry out statistical work within their area of expertise. As part of the institute's coordination activity, INSEE and the SSMs determine the methodologies, standards and procedures for compiling and publishing statistics.

SOME HISTORY...

The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies – INSEE – was established under the Finance Act of 27 April 1946 (Art. 32 and 33). The new institution took over the official statistics remit which has been undertaken continuously since 1833.

INSEE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

INSEE is a directorate-general of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance with offices across France. Its staff are classed as civil servants. INSEE is subject to public accounting rules and is funded out of the general government budget. INSEE operates as a fully independent professional entity. Article 1 of the French Statistics Act states that "the design, production and dissemination of official statistics shall be carried out with full operational independence". The official statistics authority, established by the Economic Modernisation Act of 4 August 2008, works to uphold this independence.

INSEE'S ENGAGEMENT WITH EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIO- NAL ORGANISATIONS

INSEE works with Eurostat (the EU's official statistics agency) and its EU member state counterparts on a daily basis, contributing to the development of the EU's statistical system.

INSEE is also involved in statistical work undertaken by the UN, the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) and the World Bank. It is a member of the UN Statistical Commission, the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the OECD Statistics Committee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION 

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/1302192>

Providing short-term diagnoses



INSEE publishes quarterly short-term economic forecasts, providing an outlook for the next six to nine months.

To produce these forecasts, INSEE economic analysts draw on all short-term indicators published by the institute, as well as business survey (enquêtes de conjoncture) responses by company managers.

INSEE uses these qualitative data to gauge the business climate in various sectors, which, through benchmarking, makes it possible to arrive at forecasts of economic activity. These surveys are harmonised at EU level and provide valuable insight into the productive capacity of the economy. Since mid-2017, they have reported the growing number of companies experiencing production constraints, including 50% of euro zone manufacturing companies in the fourth quarter of 2018.

In 2018, INSEE issued quarterly employment estimates (ETEs) for each overseas department (excluding Mayotte) for the first time. Data cover salaried employment dating back to the end of 2010.

To improve the quality of indicators at European level, the base year for some indicators has changed in 2018 and 2015 benchmarks have been used for all indicators.

“The French Economy” also provides an overview of headline developments in the French and global economies over the past year.



ASSESSING THE CONSTRAINTS on growth in manufacturing

In its business surveys, INSEE asks company managers a number of questions regarding productive capacity, spare capacity and any factors that impede growth. In manufacturing, these surveys aim to gauge potential output, as well as forecast movements in employment and investment.

Results published in the *Note de conjoncture* (economic outlook) for December 2018 highlighted a number of factors that act as a brake on economic growth in the euro zone. These tensions reported in business surveys lead to question the position of European economies within the business cycle. Since mid-2017, an increasing number of

companies in the euro zone have reported experiencing difficulties that prevent the optimal use of productive capacity, such as lack of demand, lack of machinery, materials or labour, or difficulties accessing finance, to name a few examples. In the fourth quarter of 2018, the proportion of companies reporting such issues stood at 50%, eight percentage points higher than in the second quarter of 2017, which was the lowest point since the great recession in 2009 and the average for the period 2000-2009. This development was not limited to manufacturing and was also seen in tradable services and construction, albeit to a lesser extent.

MEASURING ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY in Europe's five largest economies

Each year, "The French Economy" summarises key developments in the French and global economies over the past year. The report uses national accounts with base year 2014, published by INSEE in late May 2018. The most recent edition looks in detail at the issue of uncertainty. Increasing uncertainty is a frequently cited reason for the slowdown in

economic activity, as economic agents hold off on planned actions in response. In theory, uncertainty is characterised by difficulties in predicting the future. However, quantifying this concept proves particularly difficult. The piece highlights a number of ways of measuring uncertainty that can be applied over the last 20 years in Europe's five largest

economies (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom). Overall, in terms of indicators of uncertainty, specific country-level characteristics are less important than their common trends. In this respect, France does not stand out from its European partners.

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

to the quality of short-term economic indicators at European level

Under EU directives, indicators subject to EU regulations on short-term business statistics have seen a change in base year and benchmark to 2015, for monthly data from January 2018 and for quarterly data from the first quarter of 2018.

Changes to the baseline are not only a weighting coefficients' update, an adjustment of the series

to set the base year to 2015, or retropolation with a variable historical depth depending on the index. For some indices, changing the baseline was an opportunity for additional methodological adjustments, chiefly involving expanding the use of annual chain indices (such as for industrial output indices since 1990, building maintenance and improvement

price indices, and construction output indices) or implementing five-year weighting in place of fixed weighting (for sales indices, volume-based metrics or agricultural price indices), to ensure that metrics are robust over the long term.

How does INSEE measure purchasing power?

Purchasing power is the basket of goods and services that a given level of income can buy. Changes in purchasing power reflect comparative changes in income levels and prices.

National accountants first compute what is known as gross disposable household income (GDI), which is the sum of all incomes accruing to households (e.g. salaries, income from self-employment, property income, social security benefits, etc.) from which they deduct taxes and contributions. We then compare movements in this total with those in prices.

It is an overall figure, which reflects changes in the purchasing power of French aggregate household income. The figure is therefore used in macroeconomic analysis in order to understand changes in aggregate consumption, for example.

However, this indicator does not directly tell us about the circumstances of the average person. This is because France has a growing population, and also because average household size is decreasing. To capture individual circumstances, INSEE also calculates a level of income and purchasing power per consumption unit (UC).

What accounts for the difference in trends between purchasing power and household sentiment?

Every month, INSEE measures household sentiment in an economic trends survey, which makes it possible to track their views on living standards in France and price movements.

Broadly, the balance of opinion tends to move in step with changes in incomes and prices, but divergences can occur. Some of these have been persistent. For example, the gap between actual and perceived price movements, which emerged when the euro was introduced, only narrowed a few years ago.



Julien POUGET
Insee

Other instances are undoubtedly more intermittent but can be great in magnitude. The final quarter of 2018 saw a sharp fall in household sentiment, even though mean purchasing power per consumption unit actually rose. Yet it is true to say that it had fallen at the start of the year, and indeed has barely risen

“It is sometimes difficult to identify with an average that often masks huge disparities”

since the recession of 2008-09, in line with relatively weak economic growth.

In terms of national accounting, a number of studies have complemented the wealth of standard indicators to better capture people's individual experience in France. For example,

INSEE calculates household “discretionary” incomes and purchasing power, by subtracting what we call “pre-committed” expenditure such as rent, insurance and utility bills, which limits the room for manoeuvre when people manage their budget.

As it is sometimes difficult to identify with an average that often masks huge disparities, the construction of national accounts and price indices for different household categories can provide useful additional information. Individual databases can also be used to record the wide range of personal circumstances and calculate indicators of inequality.

Julien Pouget is head of the Short-term Economic Analysis in INSEE's Economic Studies and National Accounts Directorate.

Purchasing power in 2018

	T1	T2	T3	T4
Purchasing power for gross disposable income	- 0,6	0,8	0,3	1,1
Purchasing power per consumption unit	- 0,7	0,6	0,2	0,9

Source: national accounts, INSEE

Localised salaried employment data extended to overseas departments

In June 2018, INSEE published quarterly employment estimates (ETEs) for each overseas department (excluding Mayotte) for the first time. Indicators cover salaried employment dating back to the end of 2010. In 2017, for national and local estimates, the scope of ETEs was expanded to employees in the public sector, agriculture and all

private employers. The distinction between “private” and “public” employment, based on the legal classification for employers, is now available at national and local level, including all overseas departments. The level of detail for each sector is the same as that for metropolitan France.

This expansion in both sectoral and geographic scope is the result of a process of “coproduction” of quarterly employment estimates. Since 2017, INSEE has carried out estimates in partnership with ACOSS (private sector, excluding temporary workers) and DARES (for temporary workers).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Publications

“Boosted purchasing power in a context of european slowdown”. *Conjoncture in France*, December 2018. File “How do households perceive changes in their standards of living in the economic outlook surveys”, by Pouget J., Tallet F., Bour R., Rousset C.

<https://insee.fr/en/statistiques/3704143?sommaire=3704320>

“The French Economy”, *Insee Références*, October 2018. File “Characterising economic uncertainties in five European countries” by Lagouge A., Lee R., Ralle P.

<https://insee.fr/en/statistiques/3614246?sommaire=3614270>

“The French Economy”, *Insee Références*, June 2007. File “The measure of power purchase and its sentiment by households” by Accardo J., Chevalier P., Forgeot G., Friez A., Guédès D., Lenglard F., Passeron V.

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/1373149?sommaire=1373158>

“In Q1 2018, the prices of buildings maintenance and improvement works rose by +0.4%”, *Informations rapides* n°142 - May 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3553263>

“Quarterly national accounts in Q3 2018. National accounts in base 2014” - *Insee Résultats*

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3685097?sommaire=3637721>

“Boosted purchasing power in a context of european slowdown”. *Conjoncture in France* - December 2018. File “Supply tensions and the position of the economy in the cycle” by Guillet X., Lagouge A, Virely B. and Rousset C.

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3704095?sommaire=3704320>

Event

[Video] *Journées de l'économie*, Lyon, 8 November 2018, speech by Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director General, INSEE and Vice-Chairman, AFSE in discussion: “Are economists better equipped?”

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3613653>

Studying the functioning of the French economy



Studying the functioning of the French economy also means questioning its systems of measurement and analysis. In 2018, INSEE contributed to the debate on the robustness of gross domestic product as a metric, in a paper in “The French Economy” on the slowdown in economic growth. Some economists believe that GDP underestimates actual economic growth and output, and that this phenomenon has become amplified in recent years.

None of the main criticisms levelled at the GDP metric are however able to challenge the slowdown in economic growth. Yet globalization calls for clarifications concerning what GDP really measures: less and less a concept of “physical” production, rather a measure of the flows of income generated by productive activities or from the insertion of countries in global value chains.

National income was the subject of another paper in the same edition, which looked at movements in the accounts of economic agents in the ten years following the subprime crisis, using 2014 as the new base year in national accounts. While private sector investment remained largely resilient, households markedly held back on consumption and property purchases. In response to the crisis, general government interventions to sustain household consumption and private sector investment led to an increase in gross public debt.



GROWTH IS NOT UNDERESTIMATED but we need to look at it differently

In the view of Sir Charles Bean, “ensuring that statistics reflect a changing economy is one of the toughest challenges that national statistics agencies face”¹

Sir Charles Bean, a professor of economics at the London School of Economics, sees the digital revolution as one such challenge; in particular, factoring in the often free services that the digital economy facilitates. Another issue is capturing production that transcends national borders.

These twin constraints for statisticians are addressed in the first paper of “The French Economy”, published in summer 2018 as part of *Insee Références* collection under the title “Is growth underestimated?”.

A number of economists have questioned the growth levels observed in developed countries in recent years. They point to the stagnation in labour productivity growth that has been observed alongside unprecedented levels of technological innovation.

To determine whether growth is underestimated, the paper’s authors discussed two issues raised by Sir Charles, namely the theoretical foundations and

practice of volume-price decompositions, impacted by digital products, and the relevance of the concept of “domestic” product, challenged by globalisation of production. They also add a third issue – regularly discussed since the establishment of national accounts – the scope of GDP, which excludes or fails to fully capture services that are free or funded by advertising.

These issues are placed in the context of three key uses for GDP: regulation of cyclical macroeconomic policy ; as a reference denominator for other macroeconomic variables, such as public debt, foreign trade, added value distribution, etc. ; and measurement of variations in living standards and, to some extent, well-being.

In conclusion, the authors note that the slowdown in economic growth is indeed real. None of the alternative figures that could be put forward by economists would boost growth by more than a few tenths of a percentage point. Furthermore, additions would be constant from one sub-period to the next and would not account for the slowdown.

They conclude however that it is now necessary to view growth figures differently, after the staggering “growth” figures for Ireland between 2014 and 2015, and to consider additional indicators in parallel, which are more focused on local metrics for output and income that benefit residents.

Such an exercise aligns with the recommendations of Sir Charles Bean, who believes that “national statistics agencies are ideally placed to understand and explain the limitations of their statistics and to develop alternative indicators where necessary”.

1. See his testimony in the INSEE 2016 activity report.

10 YEARS ON FROM THE FINANCIAL CRISIS, public policy has supported business investment

It was a more conventional – but no less valuable – exercise that INSEE undertook in the second paper of “The French Economy”. Ten years on from the subprime crisis and the recession that followed, of a magnitude not seen since the end of the Second World War, how have the balance sheets of economic agents fared, particularly in terms of income? The analysis draws on 2014-base year national accounts published in May 2018, when an in-depth analysis was carried out of the balance sheets of economic agents, households and non-financial corporations (see box).

Growth in gross disposable household income between 2007 and 2017 remained fairly steady, but was much slower than before the financial crisis. Nominal gross disposable income increased by 17% (down from 51% in the previous decade), while real gross disposable income, adjusted for inflation, rose by 8% (down from 30% in the previous decade).

Per-consumption unit purchasing power remained flat, rising by just 0.7% in ten years. Households responded by holding back on consumption and dramatically reducing investment, mostly new property purchases.

The shock was more temporary for non-financial corporations, whose level of gross savings stagnated between 2007 and 2010, before returning to growth comparable to pre-crisis levels, stabilising in 2017 at just over €60bn above their pre-crisis levels – an increase of 30% on 2007. Non-financial corporations therefore managed to sustain their investment activity without any significant increase in their debt burden. This resilience contrasts with general government, whose level of gross savings fell by €76bn between 2007 and 2009, and was negative between 2009 and 2011. It took until 2017 for gross savings to return to pre-crisis levels. Fiscal policy actually led to a postponement of the rebalancing of public

finances, firstly by preventing falls in household income, then by accelerating improvements in corporate accounts. The accumulation of large deficits from 2008 onwards led to systematic expansion of government debt as defined by the Maastricht criteria, increasing from 64.5% of GDP at the end of 2007 to 98.5% at the end of 2017.

Improving measurements for the “rest of the world”

To offer a better picture of how the economy works, statisticians regularly carry out “rebasings” of the national accounts, incorporating new data sources, surveys or government data. National accounts datasets are then comprehensively revised.

Changing the base year to 2014 is specific to France and was the result of a collaborative effort with the *Banque de France*, involving reconciling national accounts and balance of payments estimates. This revision impacted little on estimates of the level of, and movements in, GDP.

Over a number of years, the *Banque de France* has substantially revamped its statistical data collection. For example, it conducts a statistical survey of companies that export and import services. It also

updated its estimates for income from property and for the consumption expenditure of non-residents in France.

Through the use of these new sources, national accounting can improve its estimates for the “rest of the world”, which tracks all transactions between domestic resident economic agents (e.g. businesses, households, public sector bodies) and non-resident entities, in terms of both export and import flows in goods and services as well as property income and transfers (e.g. taxes, subsidies, social contributions and benefits, etc.).

Using the new 2014 base year, the nation’s borrowing requirement now stands at €27.5bn for 2014, instead of €66.1bn for the same year using the old base year.

INSEE has for its part also revised how it calculates dividends paid to households. Estimates are now primarily based on household income tax declarations by individuals.

In 2014, households received less in dividends from non-financial corporations than had been previously estimated: €23.4bn for base year 2014, revised down from €48bn. This sharp reduction has a knock-on impact on estimates of net earnings distributed by non-financial corporations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Publication

“The French Economy”, *Insee Références*, October 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3614270>

Events

Spring economic conference, Paris, 20-23 March 2018. INSEE hosted a session on the theme “Measuring globalisation”, with presentations by three of its experts: Pierrette Briant, Head of the Large Unit Profiling and Processing division, Élisabeth Kremp, Head of the Sectoral Economic Outlooks Department and Jérémi Montornes, economist.

<http://www.printempsdeleco.fr/edition-2018>

French Economic Science Association (AFSE) conference, 14 May 2018. Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director General of INSEE and Vice-Chairman of the AFSE hosted the session “Welfare: measure and mismeasure” during which Didier Blanchet, Director of Economic Studies and National Accounts at INSEE, made a presentation.

<https://afse2018.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/14>

CNIS symposium on “The digital economy: challenges for official statistics”, Paris, 7 March 2018. Presentations by Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director General of INSEE, Didier Blanchet, Director of Economic Studies and National Accounts at INSEE, Christel Colin, Head of Business Statistics at INSEE and Damien Babet, Research Manager and Survey Designer at INSEE.

<https://www.cnis.fr/evenements/colloque-leconomie-numerique-enjeux-pour-la-statistique-publique/>

[Videos] *Journées de l'économie*, Lyon, 6-8 November 2018, Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director General, INSEE and Vice-Chairman of the AFSE hosted the discussion “Do we really want more growth?” and made a presentation during the discussion “Are economists better equipped?”. Didier Blanchet, Director of Economic Studies and National Accounts at INSEE in discussion: “Growth forecasting: mission impossible?”

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3613653>

Providing details about the productive system



Asking businesses about their operations, investment activity, recruitment and organisational structure allows us to learn more about them and paint a picture of their progression and diversity. For this reason, INSEE collects structural information (i.e. size, type of activity, workforce characteristics, type of organisation, etc.) and short-term cyclical data from companies, as well as data relating to specific themes (e.g. energy consumption, use of new technology, innovation). Data is collected through increasing use of administrative sources, but also by conducting surveys, which often fall within the scope of EU regulations.

Among the key studies carried out in 2018 : one dedicated to textile industry in France, a comprehensive European overview of all agricultural sectors, product by product, since 2000, an assessment of the impact of the tax credit for employment and competitiveness (CICE) on prices charged by businesses.

2018 marked the tenth anniversary of the Economic Modernisation Act (LME). The opportunity to rework the contribution of this law by assessing the diversity of businesses that constitute France's productive fabric with Élisabeth Kremp, Head of the Sectoral Economic Outlooks Department within the Business Statistics Directorate at INSEE.



AN OVERVIEW OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE since 2000

Published in July 2018, “French agriculture in Europe from 2000 to 2015” provides an overview of all agricultural sectors, product by product, over fifteen years. The publication looked at structural changes in French and European agriculture. The analysis presents the position of the sector, differentiated by product and agricultural activity. While France remained in first place in this area within Europe, its position is

facing increasing competition in many sub-sectors. France is the European Union’s leading agricultural producer, for both vegetable and animal products (20% and 16% of EU production respectively), and accounts for 18% of European agricultural nominal production (excluding agricultural services and secondary activities in 2015). In fifteen years, France has consolidated its position as a cereal producer, but is losing

ground on certain emblematic produces such as wine and industrial crops. The weakening of France’s position is even more pronounced on livestock production. France remains the Europe’s leading producer of livestock and poultry, but is now more closely followed, depending on the product, by Germany, the United Kingdom, Poland or Spain.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN FRANCE Globalised production, except for luxury products and technical textiles

Sectoral studies provide an insight into the organisation of sectors of the French economy and their factors of production. INSEE produces such studies throughout the year. In October 2018, one study provided a portrait of the French textile industry. Its key finding is that the whole of textile production in France is globalised, except for luxury products and technical textiles. In twenty years, the industry has shed two thirds of its workforce and more than half of

its production. France is now a major importer of textile products, in particular clothing and shoes, half of which come from Asia and one third from elsewhere in Europe. Production in France is organised around textile groups with 250 employees or more, mainly multinationals. These groups are specialised in making luxury items, such as leather goods, or in dedicated production of textiles with high value added, such as technical textiles used in particular in the

aeronautic and car industries. In the clothing, industrial activity remaining in France consists mainly of manufacturing customers placing orders with overseas subcontractors.

Adopted in 2008, the Economic Modernisation Act (LME)¹ introduced a new definition of the enterprise. Why was this change necessary?

In 2008, the LME provided clarity to the definition of an enterprise for economic analysis and statistical purposes. Prior to that, this term was given a very variable content from one study to another and from one country to another. While the term was in common use, it would often describe different underlying realities.

Since the LME and its implementing decree, the enterprise is now understood as the smallest combination of legal units making up an organisational unit of production of goods or services that have a degree of autonomy in decision making, in particular for the allocation of its current resources. The decree also specifies criteria (i.e. number of employees, turnover and balance-sheet total) for the four enterprise categories: micro-enterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises or SMEs, intermediate-sized enterprises or ETIs, and large enterprises.

This definition makes it easier to grasp the organisational structure of groups, consisting as they do of companies that are linked by cross-shareholdings. This provides a better overview of the productive base and takes into account the globalisation of production.

What impact does this have on the analysis of enterprises?

The definition provides a new perspective on enterprises, and on what INSEE figures tell us.

“The definition of enterprise adopted by the Economic Modernisation Act offers a more suitable measurement of labour productivity.”

For example, ETIs and large enterprises occupy a central position within the French economy. ETIs create the most jobs, not the smaller enterprises. Between 2009 and 2015,

employment in ETIs and SMEs increased, and fell in micro-enterprises and large enterprises. Over the same period, legal units forming part of an ETI recorded net employment of 337,500, with 308,500 jobs created by SMEs and 90,500 jobs created by the 18,500 legal units that made

up ETIs between 2009 and 2015.

This economic definition of an enterprise also highlights the high concentration of the productive base in France. Of these 4 million enterprises, 292 large enterprises employ 3.9 million full-time equivalent employees (FTEs), 29% of the total.

On the other hand, micro-enterprises (MICs) account for 3.9 million, or 96%, employing 2.5 million FTEs (19% of the total).

By grouping the various factors of production within the same entity, this definition offers a more suitable measurement of labour productivity, which has grown in manufacturing and construction, and declined in retail and services.

Élisabeth Kremp is Head of Sectoral Economic Outlooks department within the Business Statistics Directorate at INSEE.



Élisabeth KREMP
Insee

Profiling groups: towards completion of a long survey

Profiling involves identifying the relevant enterprise(s) – as defined in the 2008 act – within groups, as well as piecing together their consolidated accounts. INSEE's profiling activities have been ongoing for a number of years. Large groups have been profiled in close cooperation with the groups themselves. Smaller groups are put together algorithmically.

The economic definition of the enterprise will be more broadly adopted in the 2019 edition of *Insee Références* "Enterprises in France". All economic and financial results for 2017 (and 2016) will be presented using the new, more suitable definition for economic analysis, which will facilitate improved understanding of the productive base and its transformations.

¹ Law no. 2008-776 of 4 August 2008 on the modernisation of the economy. Légifrance, NOR: ECEX0808477L
Consolidated text of 28 November 2018: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000019283050>

WHAT IMPACT HAS THE CICE HAD on company pricing practices?

In the 2018 edition of “Enterprises in France”, INSEE devoted a paper to the impact of the tax credit for employment and competitiveness (CICE) on company pricing practices. Having taken effect on 1 January 2013, the tax credit aims to promote both enterprise competitiveness, through an increase in profit margins and investment, as well as employment, through reductions in labour costs. Businesses could use this to reduce their sale prices. Because prices adjust slowly to movements

in cost resulting from the CICE, we would expect a lag of two years before noticing any significant effects. Businesses in labour-intensive sectors have used the CICE the most in order to reduce their prices. In the administrative services and enterprise support, transport and warehousing, and specialist construction sectors, enterprises that have availed most of the CICE have reduced their prices more than others. For administrative services and enterprise support businesses, a one per cent reduction

in labour costs resulting from the CICE led to a 0.05% reduction in prices after four quarters and a 0.23% reduction after eight quarters. On the other hand, in manufacturing and in services intensive in highly-skilled labour, the overall impact of the CICE on prices has not been (statistically) significant. Rather, it has been the level of input costs which has determined the price of output sold by businesses in the short term.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Publications

Labaye B., “The French textile industry: globalised production, except for luxury products and technical textiles”, *Insee Première* n° 1714, October 2018

<https://insee.fr/en/statistiques/3733147>

Heck S., “IT companies still expanding rapidly” *Insee Première* n° 1713, October 2018

<https://insee.fr/en/statistiques/3733143>

Reynaud D., “French agriculture in Europe from 2000 to 2015”, *Insee Première* n° 1704, July 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3606286>

“Enterprises in France” *Insee Références*, November 2018. File “Effects of the Competitiveness and Employment Tax Credit (CICE) on the prices charged by companies” by Monin R. and Suarez Castillo M.

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3606286>

Events

Entrepreneurs’ fair (Paris)

7-8 February 2018

INSEE attended and hosted a workshop on statistics and online tools for carrying out market research, analysing sectoral data, labour market insights and B2B marketing.

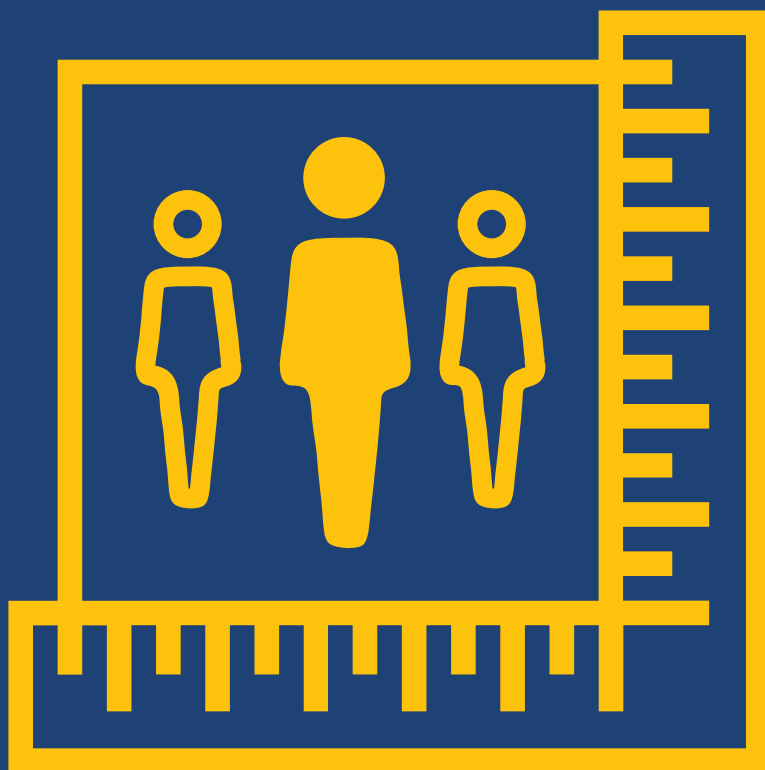
Journées de l’économie (Lyon)

6-8 November 2018

[Videos] Participation of Elisabeth Kremp in two discussions: “ETIs: Strategic and low-key enterprises?” and “Inequality between firms”

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3613653>

Observation of the society



INSEE conducts a large number of surveys amongst households and individuals.

Regular surveys measure the changes or persistence in major social and economic positions (income, living conditions, employment, etc.) when structural surveys, conducted every five to ten years, focus on certain types of behaviour or phenomena, as in the Personal Mobility survey.

INSEE also makes use of many administrative files to consolidate data. When combined with the data from the population census within the continuous demographic sample, the data from administrative files helps generate valuable information about the population, family structures, employment, wages, income distribution, etc.

Besides the publication of baseline studies such as one giving insight into multiple issues concerning people aged 65 and over, 2018 was marked by the launch of some major structural surveys, including: Life History and Household Wealth, the only survey to give a full, detailed description of household wealth; the Personal Mobility survey on the movement of people and their modes of transport, which was carried out with SDES, the statistical department of the Ministry of the Environment; and the Working Conditions survey, conducted with DARES, the statistical department of the Ministry of Labour, to obtain a precise description of work, how it is organised and the related conditions.



WHO WORKS AFTER THE AGE OF 65?

In the 2018 “France, Social Portrait”, INSEE offers insight into several matters regarding older people, including an overview of employment amongst people aged over 65. The proportion of people aged 65 to 74 who are in employment has risen considerably in the last ten years, although it still represents just 5% of this age category. The insight provided helps us know more about these working people aged 65 to 74. Based on Employment surveys, the study answers several questions: what makes them different, especially in socio-demographic terms, in comparison with those of the same age who are not working? What jobs do they hold compared with jobs held by 60-64 year-olds? What are the differences between

65-74 year-olds in employment who are in receipt of a retirement pension and those who do not have one? What are the typical profiles for 65-74 year-olds in employment? Lastly, what are the non-financial reasons why people who are working at age 65 and over continue to do so 18 months later? Compared with people of the same age who are not working, these 65-74 year-olds who are in work are more often men who are in good health, with a degree and living in the Greater Paris area. They are more likely to be managers in paid employment, self-employed or farmers. Compared with 60-64 year-olds in employment, working people aged between 65 and 74 are more likely to be self-employed, and more often working part time

if they are paid employees; and regardless of whether they are paid employees or self-employed, their income from work is lower on average.

In total, four typical profiles emerge for people who work after the age of 65: part-time employees with few qualifications; highly qualified and highly skilled city dwellers; shopkeepers and lastly, elderly farmers.

There are several factors explaining why people continue to work. Although the financial factor is still important, other factors also enter into the equation, such as a non-salaried status, the fact that their spouse is continuing to work, or the low age difference compared with their spouse.

CHANGING JOBS

What are the reasons? What's the result?

Wanting another job when already in work can be a reflection of various situations: in the 2018 edition of “Employment, unemployment and working income” in the *Insee Références* collection, INSEE surveys and analyses the reasons why salaried employees want to change jobs. The Employment survey actually asks people who are in work whether they would like another job, and for what reasons.

So, in 2017, various reasons were given by the 2.3 million people in work who would like to change jobs, i.e. just under one in ten people in work. However, this wish to change jobs is not realised for many in the short term: fewer than one in ten people in work

who would like another job have found a new one in the following quarter.

The reasons for wanting to change jobs include: 23% mainly want to increase their income by changing jobs, as part of a standard career progression through job mobility. The desire to earn more money therefore tends to be cited more by those in less-remunerated occupations (manual and clerical workers) and non-salaried people (farmers and craftsmen). Then there are those who mainly want a more interesting job (16%).

Furthermore, 19% of people wanting to change jobs would like to find a more stable one or are afraid of losing their current

position. This situation particularly concerns employees on temporary or fixed term contracts, for whom changing jobs is more of a necessity than a desire.

Lastly, 27% of people who want to find another job would like to improve their working conditions: this reason is cited more often by women and people over 50. Only 38% of people in work who would like to find another job are actively seeking one, with the others mainly failing to do so through lack of time.

HOUSEHOLD WEALTH

A detailed description

INSEE carries out surveys amongst households and some of them are the only source for obtaining detailed data. That is the case, for example, with the Life History and Household Wealth survey, which is the only reference for providing a full, detailed description of French household wealth, whether consisting of work-related assets, property or financial assets.

This survey, conducted between 25th September 2017 and 31st January 2018 amongst a sample of 21,100 residential dwellings in France, provides data on changes in household wealth and a description of their property, financial and work-related assets. It allows an observation of household wealth, provides some explanations about the form of that wealth and how it is passed on, showing how it has been amassed (inheritance, gifts, life path, etc.), and helps measure inequality in the distribution of household wealth. The previous survey was conducted towards the end of 2014 and early 2015.

In more precise terms, this survey provides answers to the following questions in particular: which savings products do the French prefer? Which financial products do the French use to prepare for their retirement? What is the distribution of household wealth in France? What is the impact of the rise in property prices on household wealth? Do the French have too much debt? Do gifts and settlements favour access to property ownership or business start-ups?

The survey also helps highlight the risk factors that may lead households into situations where they run up too much debt. Private individuals' bank information is not enough as it does not give a representative picture of households as a whole and their life paths. The ups and downs of life, changes in family life, and unemployment are important pieces of information conveyed by the survey, explaining situations in which households run up too much debt.

The initial results of the Life History and Household Wealth survey were published at the end of 2018. Additional analyses will be brought out in 2019 and 2020.

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND MODES OF TRANSPORT

Observing mobility trends today to anticipate tomorrow

What vehicles do households have available? What modes of transport do they use? Do they use public transport? Are they public transport season ticket holders? What is the nature of their trips (short or long distance, for work or leisure purposes, etc.)? What are the current mobility practices?

In order to answer these questions, INSEE and the statistical department of the French Ministry of the Environment (SDES) launched a survey on the movement of people and their modes of transport, running from 24th April 2018 to April 2019.

This survey fits within the framework of national surveys on the movement of people that are carried out about every ten years¹. It is a unique and irreplaceable source of statistical information about people's mobility and allows changes to be measured, notably in order to anticipate infrastructural requirements looking ahead to 2030 and 2050.

It helps offer a coherent view of household mobility, provide baseline indicators on mobility, set the parameters for long distance traffic models, and assess the CO₂ emissions of private vehicles and transport costs. It is the only survey that allows a description and comparison of the conditions regarding private means of transport in all regions, including towns, cities, suburbs and rural areas. New mobility practices have emerged since the last national survey on transport and movement of people was carried out in 2008-2009 (called the ENTD 2008), such as car-pooling, use of self-service bikes, official car sharing schemes and electric vehicle facilities. The national survey on Personal Mobility means these new practices can be precisely quantified, together with details of their form and method. The results of the previous survey helped highlight the new mobility practices of the French, who are showing ever greater enthusiasm for cycling.



Encouraging people to answer surveys

INSEE has set up a communications process to promote its household surveys and encourage the public concerned to answer them. In order for local authorities to act as liaison with their citizens, INSEE provided them with new communication kits for the Personal Mobility survey, conducted with the statistical department of the Ministry of the Environment (SDES), the Working Conditions survey, conducted with DARES, the statistical department of the Ministry of Labour, and the Life History and Household Wealth survey.

1. <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/enquete-mobilite-2018-2019>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Publications

Flamand L., Gilles C., Trannoy A., "Who are those working beyond the age 65?" in "France, Social Portrait", *Insee Références*, November 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3646002?sommaire=3646243>

Guillaneuf J., "Changing jobs: an endeavour driven by various motivating factors, which infrequently comes to pass in the short term", in "Employment, unemployment, earned income", *Insee Références*, July 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3579269?sommaire=3579287>

Cazenave-Lacrouts M.-C., Guillas D., Lebrault G., "Le patrimoine des ménages en 2018" [Household wealth in 2018], *Insee Première* n° 1772, December 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3658937>

"Household income and wealth", *Insee Références*, 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3549541>

Survey presentations

Histoire de vie et patrimoine, une enquête de l'Insee [Life History and Household Wealth: an INSEE survey]

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2964509>

Enquête mobilité des personnes : une enquête sur les déplacements des personnes et leurs modes de transport [Personal Mobility survey on the movement of people and their modes of transport]

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3365007>

Une enquête nationale sur les conditions de travail et les parcours professionnels [A national survey on working conditions and career paths]

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3578573>

Event

Journées de l'économie (Lyon)

6-8 November 2018

[Videos] Stefan Lollivier's speech in the debate on "A better understanding of current inequalities".

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3613653>

Videos

Extracts from the press conference held on 5th June 2018 on "Household income and assets", *Insee Références*, 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3571017>

J. Guillaneuf, "Changing jobs: a plan with a variety of reasons but few short-term results", speech at the press conference on 3rd July 2018 (4:48 – 7:13)

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3586928>

"What have we learnt about the composition of household wealth?", Frédérique Savignac, researcher and wealth expert

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2964509>

Conducting the population census and **using** the results



The French population census is one of INSEE's historical activities and includes organising and overseeing the surveys, mining the data and disseminating the results. The local municipalities deal with the survey fieldwork. Households are increasingly choosing to answer online, an option that has been open to them since 2015. As a result, a total of 48% of households and 56% of people surveyed in 2018 answered via electronic means, saving over 30 million tonnes of paper.

The institute uses all the responses to provide statistics on residents, families and their housing in terms of numbers and characteristics, broken down by gender, age, nationality, occupation, housing conditions, commuting between home and work, transport used for this commuting, etc. which is essential information for many public and private sector stakeholders. 2018 was marked by the introduction of a new questionnaire on family relationships. New statistical data will be able to be produced on step-families and the position of children who are the subject of joint custody arrangements.

Among the many studies in 2018 that use the census data, there is one that was published in November about the changing trends from 1968 to 2014 in households owning their main residence.



58% OF FRENCH HOUSEHOLDS owned their main residence in 2014

The data provided by the annual census survey helps shed light on many issues. Every year, the INSEE statisticians produce several studies based on this data or through reconciling it with other sources. So, in November 2018, INSEE produced figures from 1968 to 2014 on households owning their main residence in Metropolitan France. When mined over a long period, this data confirms that 58% of French households, taking all regions together, owned their main residence in 2014, compared with only 43% in 1968, i.e. an increase of 15 percentage points in just under fifty years.

This strong rise applies to regions as a whole. It is particularly marked among older people, more affluent households, and couples, with or without children. 40% of households rent their accommodation, which is a lower proportion than in 1968. The rise between 1968 and 2014 in the proportion who own their property masks contrasting trends over time. Four periods stand out, notably according to household living standards, property prices, borrowing conditions and the forms of aid available to get on the property ladder. After several decades of continual growth, the proportion

of people owning their homes stabilised in the late 1980s for almost 10 years, before rising again at the end of the 1990s. There was then a surge in property ownership from 2000 until the global financial crisis of 2008, which marked the start of a new period of plateauing in property ownership.

DEMOGRAPHIC SLOWDOWN in French Polynesia

The figures from the census give a better grasp of specific local demographics. A study on French Polynesia, published by the institute in 2018 thus confirms the demographic slowdown that began in 2002

and the numbers of young Polynesian people leaving the region. In fact, between 2012 and 2017, a total of 17,500 people left Polynesia, or 6% of the population. Out of these, 4,500 were aged between 18 and 25 (an average

of 900 young people a year). The number of people leaving has remained stable since 2002. Every year, one in ten young adults aged 18 to 25 leaves the region.

The questionnaire for the population census changed in 2018. Can you explain these changes to us?

We amended the housing section of the questionnaire in order to be able to take better account of family diversity. This change will enable us to shed light on the situation regarding step-families and children who are subject to joint custody arrangements.

This follows on from work by the National Council of Official Statistics (CNIS)¹. In order to improve knowledge about families, the new questionnaire gathers information about the one-to-one family relationships between all occupants of a particular address, whereas previously the only links that were established were those between the person answering the questionnaire and the other occupants.

We're also going to collect new information on the places of residence of children whose parents have separated and on the amount of time spent by the child at each parent's address (over half of the time, half of the time, less than half of the time). In the online version of the questionnaire, the respondent is also asked for details of the municipality where the other parent lives.

“Changing the questionnaire to take account of family diversity.”

transport, with the introduction of a specific question about using a bike to commute, and also changes to take account of French civil partnership agreements (PACS) as a form of civil union.

What earlier amendments were made to take account of changes in society?

Recent changes made to the questionnaire include some about greener modes of

This new data has also been mined for several INSEE studies, such as “Setting off early, by bike”, “PACS to the West, marriages to the East: a breakdown of different types of civil union by area”, etc. (cf. “For more information”).

Lionel ESPINASSE is head of Census Organisation and External Relations in INSEE's Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate.



Lionel ESPINASSE
Insee

RAISING STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE CENSUS

As part of the communications campaign for the 2019 census, INSEE has produced a video aimed at students and shown on the social media channel Brut, to promote the usefulness of the census and emphasize the importance of answering it.

“Every year, from mid-January to mid-February, a census is carried out for 9 million French people. But some are more difficult to reach than others... Students are not against the census. They tend not to know much about it.”

Pierre, student and census agent.

<https://twitter.com/InseeFr/status/1088490375159914501>



1. CNIS working group on changes to the population census questionnaire: <https://www.cnis.fr/instances/groupe-de-travail-evolution-du-questionnaire-du-recensement-de-la-population/>



信息通告

人口普查，是实用的、安全的、简单的

今年，您将列入人口普查名单。所有在法国居住时间或总计居住时间超过12个月，或者在其他国家无常住地址的人员不论其国籍或现状，都必须完成此次人口普查。

您将在这份文件中找到所有信息，以了解需要遵循的步骤。如果您想了解更多信息，人口普查官员与您所在的市政府可以解答您的疑问。您也可以浏览网站 www.le-recensement-et-moi.fr。

感谢您的参与。

此次人口普查适用于：

居民人口少于10000人的市镇：
 -法国本土、安的列斯群岛与法属圭亚那的截止日期为2月16日星期六。
 -留尼汪的截止日期为3月2日星期六。

居民人口大于或等于10000人的市镇：

-法国本土、安的列斯群岛与法属圭亚那的截止日期为2月23日星期六。
 -留尼汪的截止日期为3月9日星期六。

有什么作用？

人口普查可以确定每个城市的官方人口。这些数字决定了国家用于您所在市镇的预算，您所在市镇的人口越多，预算比重就越高。居民人数还决定了商店的数量、市政议会的民选官员数量……

此外，精确地了解人口数量（年龄、住所条件、家庭组成……）可以决定必需的配套设施：开办托儿所、建造住房或开发交通工具。如此一来，有助于更好地满足人口的需求。进行人口普查是一种利于大众的公民行动。

Instructions in Chinese

HELPING NON-FRENCH SPEAKERS to answer the census

In 2018, instructions and questionnaire templates were translated into 7 new languages (German, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian and Turkish) to assist the census agents in their conversations with people who do not speak French. These documents are in addition to the English versions that already exist.

<https://www.le-recensement-et-moi.fr/rpetmoi/notices-explicatives>

FOR MORE INFORMATION +

Publications

Algava É., Penant S. and Yankan L., "En 2016, 400 000 enfants alternent entre les deux domiciles de leurs parents séparés" [In 2016, 400,000 children alternated between the two homes of their separated parents], *Insee Première* n° 1728, January 2019
<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3689165>

Le Graët A., "Dans toutes les régions, des ménages plus souvent propriétaires qu'il y a 50 ans" [In all regions, households are more likely to own their home than was the case 50 years ago], *Insee Focus* n° 132, November 2018
<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3642600>

Vallès V., "374,000 additional housing units each year between 2010 and 2015", *Insee Première* n° 1700, juin 2018
<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3606261>

Robert-Bobée I. et Vallès V., "PACS civil unions in the West, marriages in the East: a regional breakdown of inter-personal unions", *Insee Première* n°1682, January 2018
<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3305188>

Tallet F., Vallès V., "Setting off in the morning, by bicycle...", *Insee Première* n°1629, January 2017
<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2557426>

"Pour comprendre... Le recensement de la population" [To understand... The population census], Insee in brief, January 2019
<https://insee.fr/fr/information/2416930>

Torterat J. and Bolduc M., "Polynésie française. Le ralentissement démographique se confirme, les jeunes continuent à émigrer" [French Polynesia. The demographic downturn continues as young people continue to emigrate], *Insee Première* n° 1721, November 2018
<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3651609>

Websites

The population census website
<https://www.le-recensement-et-moi.fr>

The French Polynesia Institute of Statistics (ISPF)
<http://www.ispf.pf>

Event

Trade show for mayors and local authorities, 20th, 21st and 22nd November 2018, Paris
 Participation by INSEE so as to talk with local authorities, in particular about the Single Electoral Register, the population census and other surveys, as well as about the local data available online.
<https://statistiques-locales.insee.fr/#c=home>

Describing and analysing regions and territories



The strength of its regional offices has allowed INSEE to develop detailed knowledge of the different French regions and territories. Every year, INSEE's regional divisions produce a large number of studies, often in partnership with local public stakeholders.

Like the national publications, these studies make use of the statistical data that the regional divisions help to produce, based on the census survey, business surveys and registers such as SIRENE, the computerised French national register of businesses and establishments. The topics covered include: the economic situation, including employment; the annual economic assessment; population trends, and the digital economy.

The regional divisions provide advice and expertise to regional stakeholders in the public sector, especially the state's chief representative in local government, the Prefect, to answer their queries in connection with the rollout of a public policy such as the regional personal care plans for the elderly or disabled in 2018, or to participate in think tanks and regional committees on specific topics such as youth, poverty, etc., or to give them guidance on how to use the data.

In 2018, INSEE took action to disseminate its strengthened output of statistical information on French overseas departments and French cross-border regions as a whole. It gives a view of the living conditions in French urban areas on the new European scale and French regions from many different angles.



CROSS-BORDER REGIONS

Moving to a national approach

The INSEE divisions based in cross-border regions have been forging very strong partnerships with their European neighbours for many years. Together, they strive to shed light on key areas for possible cooperation to aid the development of cross-border regions. The INSEE statisticians use their expertise to observe and analyse the flow of workers, local cross-border labour markets, demographic trends connected with residential strategies, business start-ups, etc. Studies regularly cast light on situations, like “The Franco-Swiss Jura Arc: four regions striving for diversified cooperation”, published in November 2018 by INSEE with

the collaboration of the Neuchâtel statistics office.

Having defined in its strategic plan, INSEE Horizon 2025, the need to invest in the production and dissemination of cross-border studies and data through the pooling of resources, in 2017 INSEE set up a hub dedicated to cross-border statistics. Its objective is to gather data, qualify it, evaluate it, put it into shape and then make it available for use by research or statistics offices, or for people to access online at insee.fr.

In 2018, the team was involved in the European “Border Region Data Collection” project, along with seven other European

statistical institutes¹ (cf. Jean Peyrony’s testimony on next page).

Its initial work on data consolidation bore fruit in January 2019, with the publication of the first national cross-border statistical study: “Different drivers of demographic growth on either side of borders”.

OVERSEAS STATISTICS

in the spotlight

French official statistical service (SSP) puts great effort into producing statistics in overseas regions, taking care to ensure Mayotte is gradually incorporated. Certain statistical operations have no equivalent in the regions of Metropolitan France. For example, in each overseas region, studies are made possible through extending household survey samples and a monthly consumer price index is calculated. Starting in 2017 and annually since then, INSEE has published a report on its website on the overseas statistics produced by the SSP. Within INSEE itself, a specific unit was established in Limoges at the end of 2017 to supplement the expertise offered by the overseas regional divisions. Its mission is to

maximise the value of existing data, increase the comparability between data for overseas regions and data for Metropolitan France, and evaluate some overseas administrative sources. This work is consistent with the strategic thrust of the “Insee Horizon 2025” plan, aiming to “Standardize, whenever possible and appropriate, the production of statistics in overseas regions, in line with those produced in Metropolitan France” and to “Build up robust statistics for Mayotte”.

Just prior to summer 2018, it released its first piece of work: detailed figures on people joining the labour market in overseas regions and territories, putting into perspective the overseas indicators and key figures for Metropolitan France.

Key developments

1975 : Creation of the Franco-German-Swiss Conference of the Upper Rhine, to which INSEE Alsace, now INSEE Grand Est contributes.

1995 : INSEE Lorraine, now INSEE Grand Est, becomes a stakeholder in the statisticians’ group for the “Grande Region”, bringing together the statistics offices of Lorraine, Luxembourg, Wallonia in Belgium, and Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany.

2000 : INSEE Rhône-Alpes, now INSEE Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, and the Geneva canton’s office for statistics, (OCSTAT) form the cross-border statistical research institute (OST) within the regional Franco-Genevan committee.

What is your organisation's role?

We facilitate development of cross-border regions. We help stakeholders either side of the border to make the most of their potential. This involves several types of action: technical engineering, sharing of experiences, and representation of our members at national and European level to advance their interests.

Why observe cross-border regions?

Together with the Commission for Regional Equality (CGET) and National Federation of Town Planning Agencies (FNAU) we highlighted the need to know more about cross-border regions. That resulted in the setting up, in 2012, of the cross-border strategic committee, bringing together France's neighbouring states and the European Commission. The latter then launched the "Border Region Data Collection (BRDC)" project. The recent Franco-German Treaty of Aachen also includes a section dedicated to cross-border cooperation¹; a joint declaration states both countries' goal of strengthening cross-border observation at their joint border and other European borders.

"The statistical institutes are working together to increase our knowledge."

2005 : Creation of the Jura Arc cross-border statistical research institute (OSTAJ), bringing together the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, the French State, INSEE Franche-Comté, now INSEE Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, CTJSuisse (now arcjurassien.ch) and the Swiss statistics offices for the four border-region cantons of Berne, Jura, Neuchâtel and Vaud.

2010 : INSEE Nord-Pas-de-Calais, now INSEE Hauts-de-France, launches a platform for cross-border exchanging and sharing of information and data.

2017 : Creation of the INSEE cross-border statistics hub within INSEE Grand Est.

2019 : INSEE publishes "Different drivers of demographic growth on either side of borders".



Jean PEYRONY
Cross-border Operational Mission

What are the implications for public statistics and for INSEE in particular?

The statistical institutes are working together to increase our knowledge. The BRDC project has been carried out by eight European statistical institutes², including INSEE on behalf of France. Its objective is to assess how the collection of data on cross-border regions could be improved.

They have analysed the potential offered by various sources to shed light on the issue of the cross-border flow of workers, taking the

first steps towards Europe-wide cross-border observation.

In the past, INSEE would contribute its expertise as and when required. Now, with the creation of the cross-border hub in Nancy, the institute is demonstrating its willingness and determination to shed light on the cross-border issue on a national scale. We applaud this effort.

Jean PEYRONY is Director General of the Cross-border Operational Mission.

1. <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/france-allemande-l-observation-transfrontaliere-au-coeur-de-l-europe/>

2. With Poland, Belgium, Denmark, Slovenia, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands piloting the project.

TO COMPARE LIVING CONDITIONS in the European Union's urban areas

In 2018, INSEE's experts in urban analysis revised the scope of French functional urban areas and updated the databases on the same scale as their European neighbours. This update is part of the drive towards European standardization of regional units, brought about by the Tercet Regulation, adopted by Eurostat in 2017³.

The "City Statistics" database, hosted on the Eurostat website, is made up of about 180 indicators and provides data sets on the main aspects of the quality of life in towns and cities in the European Union, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The themes covered include demographics, housing, health, the labour

market, education, the environment, transport, tourism, etc. The objective is to create a tool to compare living conditions beyond national borders in the European Union's functional urban areas.

This statistical data is produced mainly on two geographical levels: cities and functional urban areas. France has therefore updated the data provided based on this zoning method and geography as at 01/01/2017.

3. See pg 32 of the 2017 activity report.

EXPLORING LOCAL STATISTICS

has never been so easy

What better than a map for revealing the specific characteristics of a region? Anyone can produce their own maps without need of special technical skills, using INSEE's dedicated website:

<https://statistiques-locales.insee.fr/>

The site picks up 230 of the main local indicators (from municipality to employment zone), available for the specific area according to the latest usual

geography, notably for all the new municipalities and inter-municipal authorities. The user can also import their own data to map it and superimpose it on INSEE data. Multiple filtering, selection and export combinations are possible.

The website was launched in November 2017 and opened a new data viewing section in January 2019, for displaying reports. A full set of tables and graphs are thus editable for

a "bespoke" zone of investigation and zone of comparison: INSEE is modernizing the way it disseminates its data and now offers a customised, interactive regional picture, free of charge!

A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL APPROACH

to assessing tourism figures

INSEE regularly offers studies with a twin perspective, both national and regional. This applies to the assessment of summer tourism figures, available in November.

The national assessment shows that the number

of nights spent in tourist accommodation is up by 1.3% compared with 2017, driven by visits from non-residents, which are markedly higher (+ 4.3%), and that this season, the regions with most appeal tend to be in Northern France.

In addition, fourteen publications highlight the figures and specific details for tourism in individual regions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Publications

Official Statistical System, "State of statistics in overseas departments and communities (DOM and COM)"

<https://www.insee.fr/en/information/2386424>

Mironova E., Villaume S., "Different drivers of population growth on both sides of France's borders", *Insee Première* n° 1735, January 2019

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3706818>

Charton C., Bouriez M., René Y., Insee, Hmamda N., Neuchâtel Statistics Office, "Franco-Swiss Jura Arc: four jurisdictions for diversified cooperation", *Insee Analyses* Bourgogne-Franche-Comté n° 44, November 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3648291>

Summer 2018 tourist season: visits increasing thanks to non-resident clientele

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3650846>

Data

Entering the labour market remains more difficult in overseas regions in 2017, June 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3568817?sommaire=3568843>

Database of cities and functional urban areas (FUA) – Eurostat, November 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3642744>

Events

Study Days on "Regional observation and decision-making assistance in cross-border regions", on 17th September 2018, Paris: presentation by Samuel Balmand, INSEE on the "Border Region Data Collection" project

<https://transfront2018.sciencesconf.org/>

A seminar on urban observation, 30th November 2018, Paris, a presentation of grid-referenced data and several INSEE contributions in sessions on "Defining the town through morphological and functional methods" and "Defining the town by its activities"

<https://www.cget.gouv.fr/seminaire-de-l-observation-urbaine>

Saint-Dié-des-Vosges international geography festival, 5th, 6th and 7th October, "INSEE and precise location data users: the production and dissemination of statistics for regional analysis at sub-municipal level", by Valérie Darriau, head of INSEE's Statistics and Urban Analysis division.

<http://www.fig.saint-die-des-vosges.fr/fig-2019/editions-precedentes>

Managing large directories and registers



The INSEE statisticians know how to handle extremely large files and guarantee their security and confidentiality. The institute therefore has the official task, on behalf of the French state, of managing the registers of businesses, establishments and people, although their use is not just for statistical purposes. This includes SIRENE (the computerised French national register of businesses and establishments), used to identify businesses; the National Directory for the Identification of Natural Persons (RNIPP), and the General Electoral Roll, which is to be replaced in 2019 with the Single Electoral Register (REU).

The REU, which has been put in place for the forthcoming European elections, allows electoral rolls to be continually updated by town halls through a dedicated management portal. With regard to business data, in September 2018 INSEE launched a new programme to optimise management of the SIRENE register and data quality.

Since 2013, INSEE has also been issuing LEIs (Legal Entity Identifiers) to French legal entities. These identifiers are unique global identifiers for legal entities participating in financial transactions. In 2018, the issuing and renewal of LEIs increased considerably, following the change in regulatory requirements.



MANAGING ELECTORAL ROLLS on a continual basis with the Single Electoral Register (REU)

The French law of 1st August 2016, reforming the terms and conditions for enrolment on electoral rolls introduced a Single national Electoral Register, management of which is entrusted to INSEE, given its expertise in managing registers and repositories. This Single Electoral Register (REU) allows for a new enrolment process that continually updates the electoral rolls, instead of revising them annually. The issue is, notably, to enable citizens to register to vote very close to an election date.

The register is updated firstly through the decisions taken by municipalities and consular posts to enrol or remove people on or from the register. In addition, based on information received from other

administrations, INSEE automatically enrolls on the register any young people who are going to come of age as well as people who are already of age but who have just obtained French citizenship, and it removes from the register any people who have died, been stripped of their right to vote or have lost their French citizenship. It also takes into account legal rulings on enrolments on or removals from the electoral rolls.

The system for managing the REU allows for electoral roll statements and abstracts, providing pictures of the register on a given date.

In order to manage the REU, INSEE has developed an application called "Elire" (meaning "Elect"), which municipalities can

access either via a dedicated portal or through their electoral management software; the consular lists are managed through a centralised computer system developed by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, which has its own interface with the Elire application.

SIRENE 4: A QUALITY PROGRAMME

to optimise management of the SIRENE register

Open data has already transformed the dissemination of SIRENE register's business data. Since January 2017, INSEE has been making the SIRENE data base available online to everyone, free of charge, at sirene.fr and data.gouv.fr, providing a database that gathers together information on 10 million businesses and 11.5 million active establishments.

In 2018, INSEE made its SIRENE open data offer wider by making an API available, to enable open access to information on businesses and establishments registered in the SIRENE register since its creation in 1973, including units that have closed down.

With this opening of data, the number of direct users has tripled and the number of file downloads has increased six-fold. A community

of open data users has formed itself on the discussion forum at data.gouv.fr. Since the arrival of the SIRENE API, these figures have continued to grow.

At the same time, the number of declarations to be processed has greatly increased, notably following the introduction of the "auto-entrepreneur" regime for self-employed people.

To face these new challenges (new methods of dissemination and the growing number of users), and the future ones such as introducing simplified electronic procedures between administrations and declarants, as envisaged in the PACTE corporate reform law, in 2018 INSEE launched a programme aimed at optimising

management of the SIRENE register. This development is part of a quality drive, to be able to better anticipate users' expectations.

ISSUING AND RENEWING LEGAL ENTITY IDENTIFIERS (LEI)

A rapidly growing activity

In late January 2018, the Global LEI Foundation (GLEIF), the organisation that handles the worldwide coordination of the LEI system, accredited INSEE as LEI issuer for French legal entities, thus rewarding the investment made. There are 33 accredited operators worldwide. In 2018, the implementation of the European

MiFID II regulation, adopted in 2017 increased the number of LEIs issued. This new regulation has extended the obligation to use LEIs for all legal entities, that issue finance instruments or transmit transaction orders to an investment company, even non-financial ones. As a result, the 24,000 LEI creation applications

and 29,000 renewal applications recorded in 2018 represent an increase of over 70% in comparison with 2017.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE SIRENE REGISTER

The SIRENE register lists all businesses (legal entities and sole proprietorships) and all establishments operating on French territory. Each business is identified by a "SIREN number" and each establishment by a "SIRET number" that starts with the SIREN number for the related company. SIRENE's coverage was extended to the public sector in 1983 and to the agricultural sector in 1995. In 2018, 10 million businesses and 11.5 million active establishments were listed. INSEE updates SIRENE based on declarations

made by businesses when they are first set up and again when any events occur that affect them, such as a change of address or business activity, or the winding-up of the business. These declarations are made to Centres for Administrative Formalities (CFE) and sent to INSEE, which thus keeps the SIRENE register constantly up-to-date.

Since January 2017, the businesses and establishments' database derived from the SIRENE register has been freely available online, at no cost, at sirene.fr and data.gouv.fr. Since July 2018, it has also been accessible through an API (Application Programming Interface).

- SIRENE register
<https://sirene.fr>
- SIRENE API
<https://api.insee.fr/catalogue/>
- SIRENE open data
<https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/>
<https://sirene.fr/sirene/public/static/open-data>
- SIRENE open data newsletter
<https://insee.fr/fr/information/3711739>

THE LEI REGISTER

INSEE has been France's domestic issuer of LEIs, or unique identifiers for financial market operatives, since 2013, owing to its experience in managing registers and IDs. It was confirmed in this role in 2018, with its accreditation by the Global LEI Foundation (GLEIF). This new business activity thus consolidates its dominant position in identification procedures for French business entities. The second stage of the initiative, launched mid-2017, consists of supplementing the LEI applicants' identification data with the data relating to the entities by which the applicant is directly and ultimately held. This so-called "level 2" data brings significant improvements in terms of knowledge of the composition of groups, their financial base and, potentially, their strategy.

- LEI-France website managed by INSEE
<https://lei-france.insee.fr/index>
- Unique identifier for financial market operatives (LEI)
<https://insee.fr/fr/information/1730867>

THE SINGLE ELECTORAL REGISTER

The Single Electoral Register (REU), instituted by French law no. 2016-1048 of 1st August 2016, which entrusted management of the REU to INSEE, has been operational since 1st January 2019. It recounts the electoral position for all the electorate.

The register is updated partly by the municipalities and consular posts, who validate the enrolment applications filed by voters, and remove from the register any voters who no longer have grounds to remain on it. Based on information received through the administrations that hold it, INSEE proceeds with the automatic enrolment of people who are going to come of age and of people who have just obtained French citizenship; it removes from the register any of the electorate who have lost the capacity to vote (ward of court, conviction, loss of citizenship) and records the enrolments and removals on or from the register that are ordered by the judicial authorities. Lastly, it removes names of people from the REU if they have died and enters any changes in civil status. The register is continually updated: it covers the whole of the French Republic with the exception of New Caledonia. The electoral rolls that are drawn up with a view to an election are extracted from the REU. The latter is managed through the Elire portal, developed by INSEE.

- Setting up the Single Electoral Register (REU)
<https://insee.fr/fr/information/3539086>
- Accessing the Elire portal
<https://repertoire-electoral.insee.fr>
- Full information on the Elire portal
<https://doc.repertoire-electoral.insee.fr/xwiki/bin/view/Commune/Formation+et+assistance>

NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF NATURAL PERSONS (RNIPP)

The National Directory for the Identification of Natural Persons (RNIPP) includes anyone born in France or abroad who needs to be registered in the social security system, i.e. to get a directory registration number, called an NIR or more commonly known as a social security number (or INSEE number).

For everyone in the directory, it includes their NIR and information about their civil status: surname, first and middle names, date and place of birth and, if applicable, date and place of death.

INSEE updates it based on statistical reports sent by registrars in relation to births, deaths and any other deed affecting a person's civil status.

The RNIPP is an instrument for verifying and certifying civil status for social security organisations, banks and the official registers (SIRENE and the Single Electoral Register).

- RNIPP
<https://www.insee.fr/fr/metadonnees/definition/c1602>

Disseminating its statistics and studies



INSEE has been disseminating its data and publications free of charge online at [insee.fr](https://www.insee.fr) since 2003. With over 30 million visits a year, [insee.fr](https://www.insee.fr) offers a complete showcase for the production of public statistics. The website is continually evolving, notably as a result of satisfaction surveys, like the one conducted at the end of 2017. As a result, since 2018 it has been offering educational overviews, the first two of which were on the subject of “Immigrants and foreigners” and “Globalisation”.

To heighten the impact of its regional publications, in 2018 INSEE set up a dedicated regional Twitter feed: [@InseeRegions](https://twitter.com/InseeRegions).

For the last fifteen years, INSEE has been providing constant support by phone or email for anyone seeking information or requiring further explanation. 2018 proved to be an exceptional year as regards the volume of queries handled, with the support of the municipalities, for the introduction of the Single Electoral Register.

INSEE is involved in public events and forges partnerships with key players. With the support of the French Ministry of Education and Youth, and the French Statistical Society (SFdS), the first European statistics competition helped give many senior school pupils an appreciation of the usefulness of statistics.



BETTER ACCESS to the right figures

Faced with a host of information sources, including some that are not very reliable, propagated on social media in particular, any web surfer curious to find more relevant, reliable and recent figures may ask themselves a number of questions, such as: where can I find the right figures? What is the latest basic data on this subject?

To support web surfers in their research, since 2018 INSEE has been offering themed overviews online at insee.fr. These consist of the key data that anyone can understand without being an expert on the subject, as well as an interplay of questions and answers to shed light on more specific issues, details of methodology and links to

INSEE publications or those of other organisations in order to delve further. The first two themes covered are "Immigrants and foreigners" and "Globalisation".

15 YEARS OF CLOSE SUPPORT for users

INSEE Contact Service has been answering the public's questions and requests for information about INSEE's various services, data and publications for the last 15 years. It is a dedicated entry point for anyone in need of assistance in finding data, ensuring they understand it properly or clarifying methodological points.

New practices associated with internet use, INSEE's increased presence on social media and the defining of new activities assigned to the institute partly explain the increase in requests for assistance made towards INSEE Contact Service and the widening of its field of expertise.

2018 was an exceptional year as regards the volume of queries handled, especially in the final quarter, with the support of the municipalities, for the introduction of the Single Electoral Register. Since opening the portal for managing electoral rolls developed by INSEE, the teams of INSEE Contact Service have in fact been advising town hall personnel on getting to grips with this new tool. In the final quarter of the year, therefore, the equivalent of a year's worth of calls and emails, i.e. over 70,000 requests and queries were processed by INSEE Contact Service. Despite this surge in requests for assistance, the teams succeeded in maintaining user

satisfaction, with over 2 in 3 users satisfied with the service.

Through its survey answers, INSEE Contact Service is working towards online data collection for "mixed-mode" business and household surveys, including the employment survey and population census. In order to increase user satisfaction, INSEE Contact Service is moving towards multi-channel relations with users through the setting up, over the course of 2019, of the online chat function that will supplement the phone and email contact systems.

Which INSEE studies and data do you use?

The FCD's scope of analysis is huge, as our members are actually the major food supermarket chains. Business topics as a whole are of direct concern to FCD members, ranging from upstream issues, such as the price of agricultural raw materials, to downstream matters, e.g. changes in consumer trends, consumer expenditure, the retail business, consumer price trends, etc. We use data from chronological series, whether monthly, quarterly or annual, as well as publications such as the economic outlook reports and sector-based analyses offered in the *Insee Première* collection, and so on.

In what way is this information valuable to your business?

This information enables us to provide continual monitoring of the economic situation for our members. For example, to compile our economic outlook report for the food sector¹, we use many different INSEE sources, including the turnover index for agri-food industries, the French agricultural price index (IPPAP), the agricultural means of production purchasing price index (IPAMPA), producer prices in the industrial production of agri-foodstuffs, consumer prices for food, figures for paid employment, etc.



Isabelle SENAND,
Commerce & Distribution
Federation (FCD)

*“INSEE’s data
is a valuable source
as it is public
and reliable.”*

INSEE's data is a valuable source as it is public and reliable. We use it as least once or twice a week, depending on when data is updated and new analyses published.

It enables us to issue specific, bespoke information, besides purely macroeconomic monitoring.

What does the INSEE website represent for you?

It is obviously a very rich source of information for any institutional or business analyst or economist, as INSEE covers all business sectors, employment, demographics, public accounts, etc. So, it's a key work tool. At our level, we also make our analyses available to everyone on our website at www.fcd.fr.

Isabelle SENAND is the Research Director at the Commerce and Distribution Federation (FCD).

1. <http://fcd.fr/notes-de-conjonctures-de-la-fcd/janvier-2019-note-de-conjoncture-dans-la-filiere-alimentaire/>

EUROPEAN STATISTICS COMPETITION with entries from over 11,000 pupils

In a society that is prone to infobesity, or information overload, where false information appears repeatedly, it is becoming increasingly necessary to have the keys to understanding figures in order to guarantee a well-informed public debate and to know how to enlist the direct support of the source of official figures. INSEE had this in mind when it joined forces with Eurostat and its counterparts, some of Europe's other national statistical institutes, to hold the first European statistics competition for young people aged 14 to 18. There are two stages to this competition. The first, national stage, is run in France by INSEE with the support of the French Ministry of Education and Youth and the French Statistical Society (SFdS), to test pupils' statistical knowledge and their ability to find data and interpret a statistical document. The second stage

is run by Eurostat. The qualifying pupils from each of the participating countries are asked to produce a two-minute video in English on a set theme. For this first competition, pupils answered the question: “Why are official statistics important in our society?”

The finalists from the French stage of the 2017-2018 competition included four teams from schools covered by the Créteil, Grenoble, Lyon and Strasbourg educational authorities. They and their teachers came to INSEE on 5th July 2018 to be awarded their prizes by the Director General of INSEE and representatives from the French Ministry of Education and Youth, and the SFdS. Following the success of this first competition, which gained the support of over 11,000 pupils in twelve countries, a second competition is being held during the 2018-2019 academic year. The

list of winning teams in the French stage is published at the end of March and the overall European winners' names are announced in mid-June.



INSEE'S ALAIN DESROSIÈRES LIBRARY

INSEE's library, with its rich historical, international and digital collection of works on economics and statistics changed its name in 2018 to the Alain Desrosières Library (1940-2013), in tribute to this former INSEE executive. This expert in statistics and human sciences who was renowned in academic and professional circles produced many works on the history of statistics, consistent with the themes championed by the INSEE library that now bears his name.

INSEE's Alain Desrosières Library is unique in the international scale of the works in its collection. Besides the reference works on France's statistics going back to the 18th century, including a count taken of the kingdom dated 1720, results of population censuses since 1801 as well as farming and manufacturing statistics dating back to the end of the 19th century, the library brings together works from foreign statistical institutes, the oldest of which go back to the 1820-1830 period.

It contains a total of 80,000 documents known as monographs and 11,000 journals and reviews in complete collections. Truly a national treasure for historians!

AND NOW THERE ARE THREE, Twitter feeds for regions

In April 2018, INSEE set up a Twitter feed for the latest news from all regions: @InseeRegions. It already had a Twitter presence, with a national account, @Insee_FR, and @InseeOI for information from the Réunion-Mayotte regional division. The institute now has three news feeds on Twitter. What's different about the @InseeRegions news feed? This news feed gives greater prominence to regional information. It informs people of the release of regional publications and of local events, seminars and press conferences that are being held, and speeches given by regional management in the media.

DO YOU USE INSEE.FR? We're interested in your views

One year after putting its new website online, INSEE conducted a satisfaction survey among its users in 2017 to get their views. Over 80% of responses came from regular users of the site. The website's strong points, according to the views expressed, include the richness, quality and exhaustiveness of the statistics, data and studies, of which it is often the sole supplier. Regular users are satisfied with the documentation (86%), presentation of information (75%) and browsing experience (70%).

New users think the browsing process is smooth (78%), presentation of information is sound and the contents are well organised (76%).

Armed with all these results, INSEE continually makes improvements to its website to increase online users' satisfaction regarding all their requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION +

Library

INSEE's Alain Desrosières Library

<http://bibliotheque.insee.net/>

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/1302154>

Epsilon, the digital library of public statistics

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/1303569>

<https://www.epsilon.insee.fr/jspui/>

INSEE Contact Service

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/1912226>

Social media and newsletters

INSEE on social media

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3127332>

Newsletters

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/1405553>

Events

2017-2018 European statistics competition

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3142481>

2018-2019 European statistics competition

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3621206>

Themed overviews

"Immigrants and foreigners"

<https://insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3633212>

"Globalisation"

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3633242>

Websites

<https://www.insee.fr>

<https://statistiques-locales.insee.fr>

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3544265>

<https://le-recensement-et-moi.fr/rpetmoi/accueil>

<https://sirene.fr>

<https://api.insee.fr>

Improving its methods and innovating



New prospects are opening up for INSEE through the “data revolution”, current capabilities for hosting and processing these big data, and the use of administrative files and private data for statistical purposes, facilitated by the French Digital Republic Act.

In order to meet a growing social demand regarding varied, complex subjects, the institute is carrying out major work on methodology and is experimenting with the input of new data, in close collaboration with statistical departments at French ministries.

It is also investing in innovative sample selection methods which it developed in 2018 for replacing two key samples; it is developing online data collection as part of a “mixed-mode” data collection programme that combines face-to-face, telephone and online methods. It is thus preparing for the changes to the Employment survey which will be conducted using mixed-mode data collection as from 2021.

In 2018, the institute also overhauled its geographical information system and designed a spatial statistics manual in collaboration with Eurostat and the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS).



MOVING TO A LABOUR FORCE SURVEY conducted online too

The Labour Force survey is currently conducted by an interviewer, either face-to-face or over the phone. In future, it will also be possible to fill it in online. This move towards mixed-mode data collection is consistent with the strategic thrust of the INSEE 2025 plan and with that of the main national statistical institutes. It is also driven by the future European regulations on social surveys¹.

Protocol development lies at the heart of this change, to optimise response rates, successfully question all categories of the population, including marginal groups and also improve data processing times.

Incorporating an online response method into the data collection protocol is no trivial matter. The way information is gathered has an impact on its quality as that method may generate bias in the responses given by the people being surveyed. So, the INSEE teams are working on this development as though setting up a whole new survey.

Future success demands tests and adjustments to the questionnaire. The teams are taking advantage of the institute's accumulated knowledge of the potential and limitations of using online methods in surveys. Since the start of this decade, the institute has carried out several trials of household surveys conducted online, in parallel with the usual face-to-face methods adopted for these surveys. At the same time, use of this data collection method for the population census and business surveys has developed considerably.

For the Labour Force survey, 2019 will be a pivotal year, with fine tuning of the questionnaire used for re-questioning people, and preparation of the pilot survey that is to be conducted throughout 2020. The protocol will be developed and fine-tuned with the interviewers, in association with the regional INSEE divisions involved in the organisation that needs to be set up to conduct mixed-mode household surveys.

The facility to answer the Labour Force survey online will be incorporated in 2021. The first stage of questioning will still take place using the face-to-face method and data collection will be staggered over the 3 weeks following the reference week. As happens currently, occupants of the residential dwellings in the survey will be re-questioned in the following 5 quarters to update their situation. At that stage, they may answer online and if they fail to do so, will be contacted by phone by an interviewer who will be able to record their answers where applicable. The data collection site will remain accessible until the household answers the survey. The interviewer will be notified within an hour of an online response being submitted, thus preventing any mistaken follow-up calls.

1. Framework regulation regarding production of European statistics on people and households (IESS - Integrated European Social Statistics)
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/about/opportunities/consultations/ieess>

NEW SAMPLES

for household surveys for the next ten years

In 2018, INSEE conducted an operation that will have a decisive effect on the quality of its future surveys. The institute has actually replaced its master sample in Metropolitan France for all household surveys conducted face-to-face. This sample is termed “master” because it determines all the geographical zones for data collection and represents a base on which other samples can then be selected. As part of this same project (nicknamed NAUTILE, with its French initials standing for new survey sampling application for individuals and dwellings), the institute has also replaced the sample for the continuous Labour Force survey.

This operation, which is carried out every ten years, enables INSEE to adjust its samples according to the changes in society, and the relevance of its future analyses is dependent on it.

The two samples have been selected based on the demographic file of dwellings and individuals (FIDELI) derived from tax sources. INSEE has implemented innovative methods to design the two survey frames and sample selections. Firstly, by utilising geographical information to limit the extent of the zones that can be selected for surveys, thus facilitating the interviewers’ task. Then by relying on recent sampling

methods to combine statistical quality with distribution over the whole geographic area so as to improve the accuracy of future surveys (Spatially Balanced Sampling, Grafström and Tillé, 2013). And lastly, to facilitate the work of the data collection organisation, the collection zones for the Labour Force survey have been reconciled with those for other household surveys.

The new sample for the Labour Force survey will be used as from mid-2019, whilst the new master sample will be in use from 2020.

TAKING GEO-SPATIAL INFORMATION INTO ACCOUNT

in statistics

In order to take account of recent changes in access to geographical data and the growing demand for geographically referenced statistical information with a high degree of precision, INSEE has begun an overhaul of its geographical information system, notably for carrying out the population census and mining the resulting data. In order to do this, INSEE is relying on numerous international initiatives (by the UN, Eurostat, etc.) aimed at establishing best practices for the coordinated management of statistical and geographic information.

The Institute also wanted to promote its ability to analyse this type of information. The INSEE division responsible for methods and geographic frames of reference therefore proposed a collaboration with Eurostat and the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS) to write a manual on spatial statistics. This document, available in French and English and distributed free of charge, describes a set of statistical methods that can be deployed to process geo-referenced data. The manual covers a wide spectrum of subjects, from

describing spatial data, to spatial econometrics, spatial smoothing or sampling, and managing data confidentiality. The 14 chapters have been written by about twenty experts from INSEE and academic circles.

While the theoretical foundations play a large part in the work, much importance is also placed on the development of concrete examples, together with data processing programs written in R. The manual can thus serve as a training aid for beginners and professionals alike.

A manual published by INSEE with the support of Eurostat and the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS)

Mariana Kotzeva

Director General of Eurostat

Janusz Dygaszewicz

President of the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS), and the Polish Institute of Statistics

“The last few years have seen various international and national initiatives to build bridges between the world of geospatial information and that of statistical information.[...]

Both Eurostat and EFGS acknowledge that integrating statistical and geospatial information relies on strong methodological guidance to ensure the quality and

comparability of geospatial statistics. This is why they warmly welcome INSEE’s initiative to compile a handbook of geospatial statistics, based on a point-based statistical information system.[...]

We are convinced that this handbook will be useful for experts in all Statistical Offices and National Mapping Authorities worldwide who wish to know more about using geospatial

information in statistics. The handbook will be useful for data producers, users and analysts, both experts and beginners [...].”

Extracts from the foreword to the manual, signed jointly by Mariana Kotzeva and Janusz Dygaszewicz

HACKATHON AND EXPERIMENTS

with new working methods in order to innovate

On 18th and 19th January 2018, INSEE ran a hackathon with over 60 participants, including INSEE employees, members of ministerial statistical offices and close partners. The aim of the hackathon was to strengthen the data science network within the French official statistical service (SSP) to develop innovative and open working methods together, breaking down barriers. This initiative foreshadows what is to become the SSP Lab in June.

For this first hackathon, the experts tackled the practical problem of improving the census production process. Entitled "SIRENE fields", the hackathon proposed improving the

automatic coding for the employer establishment in census data through the use, in particular, of the SIRUS business register or SIRENE API. In self-administered census questionnaires, people give the name of the establishment employing them, the business carried out by that establishment and their workplace address. However, as these details are not pre-entered, the information entered by the people answering the survey may include inaccuracies, thus potentially deviating from the relevant field of business. Details must therefore be compared with external information, from the SIRUS register in particular, to enable the employer to be accurately identified. The automatic

identification system currently in production yields a result in only 45% of cases, with the rest having to be manually corrected. Efficiency improvements could ultimately reduce the time spent by INSEE agents on manual corrections.

To formalize the results, the experience was followed by an experiment carried out by a more select team, using data science and work resulting from the hackathon to put together a prototype.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Publications

Insee - Eurostat - Directed by Vincent Loonis - Coordinated by Marie-Pierre de Bellefon, "Handbook of Spatial Analysis Theory and Application with R" *Insee Méthodes* n°131 - October 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/information/3635545>

Vinceneux K., "How do the collection mode and questionnaire used affect the European indicators in the French Labour Force Survey?", *Documents de travail* n°F1804, October 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/3625353>

Razafindranovona T., "La collecte multimode et le paradigme de l'erreur d'enquête totale" [Multimode data collection and the paradigm of total survey error], *Documents de travail* n° M2015/01, March 2015:

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/1381054>

Events

"The SIRENE fields" Hackathon, 18th and 19th January 2018

<https://github.com/SSP-Lab/Hackathon-2018>

https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/fichier/3559883/hackathon_sirene.pdf

CNIS meeting on "The issues surrounding new data sources", 2nd July 2018. Contributions from Marie Leclair, head of INSEE's Consumer Prices division, Benjamin Sakarovitch from INSEE's SSP Lab, Christel Colin, Director of Business Statistics at INSEE, Chantal Cases, Director of Demographic and Social Statistics at INSEE, and Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director General of INSEE.

Contributing to the construction of European and international statistics



INSEE and the French ministerial statistical offices (SSM) together constitute the French official statistical service (SSP), the coordination of which is handled by INSEE.

INSEE highlights the SSP's concerns at European level in regard to the compiling of official statistical documents. Most of the SSP's production is in fact covered by European regulations defining the characteristics of the statistics to be produced in order to ensure their quality and comparability, as well as certain specific standards to be applied, such as classifications, time limits for conveying information, data formats, etc. In the context of its international relations, INSEE also cooperates with international organisations such as the OECD, the UN, etc. as well as with other countries' national statistical institutes.

INSEE and the SSM get involved in many European projects in order to innovate and strengthen the European statistical system while promoting their own methods among their partners. In 2018, the project to explore the potential of big data entered a new phase, as did the project designed to encourage the sharing of IT services among the various European institutes.

The SSP is also contributing to cooperative activities, resulting in 2018 in the completion of an ambitious twinning operation with the Tunisian national institute of statistics, Statistiques Tunisie.



A NEW PHASE OF EXPLORATION, and new big data sources

European statistical institutes are cooperating to explore the potential offered by big data in producing official statistics. The European “Big Data” project, begun in 2016, entered its second phase in 2018.

The 2016-2018 phase brought together over twenty countries, including INSEE and DARES on behalf of France. The work carried out was as varied as the data formats: webscraping job vacancies, webscraping¹ business characteristics,

smart meters, maritime tracking, mobile phone services, leading indicators and nowcasting², combination of sources (multiple fields), methodology, etc.

To prepare to incorporate big data into the production of official statistics, the project is entering a new phase with the support of experts from INSEE and the SSM. The objective is to implement the most promising experiments from the first phase and develop new pilot projects.

Having participated in the work on data derived from mobile phone use in the 2016-2018 phase, INSEE will extend its investment to other subjects, including satellite imagery and sustainable development targets; internet of things and smart cities, and IT architecture and processes.

SHARING IT TOOLS is central to the production of statistics

INSEE is continuing to pilot a European project aimed at sharing standard tools to facilitate the construction of statistical production lines. Such an organisation may benefit national statistical institutes with fewer resources than their larger counterparts.

An initial phase, carried out between 2016 and 2018, resulted in the delivery of shareable services based on two tools designed or used by INSEE: a questionnaire generator and a big data dissemination module. It also facilitated the dissemination of the jDemetra+ tool for making seasonal

adjustments, developed by BNB, the Belgian central bank.

The next phase, for 2018-2020, should result in the pooling of other valuable tools for use by European statistical offices as a whole.

Seasonal adjustment : what are we talking about?

Correcting for seasonal variations, is a technique used by statisticians to eliminate the effect on data of normal seasonal fluctuations so as to highlight the fundamental trends (trend and irregular component). So, for example, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate eliminates variations due to the usual seasonal profile of people being taken on in the summer and laid off in the winter in business sectors such as farming and construction.

1. A technique for extracting website contents via a script or program, in the aim of processing them to enable them to be used in another context.

2. The prediction of the present, the very near future and the very recent past.

PROMOTING THE DISSEMINATION OF DATA in Semantic Web Standards

The dissemination of data according to the LOD model (standing for Linked Open Data) is the most successful form of dissemination in open format. It allows data and big data to be incorporated, and the data to be linked to other sources, while facilitating automatic usage. It is a Semantic Web Standard that offers users total freedom to explore and query data. INSEE is driving the adoption of this model and taking part in a European project aimed at promoting the publication of linked data by other

statistical organisations in the European Community and beyond.

As part of this process, in September 2018 INSEE brought together representatives from various countries' statistical institutes, including Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, Poland, etc, along with data scientists from every background for a week-long hackathon in Paris on the subject of linked data. Around fifty participants worked on three major themes: designing, producing and using LOD.

This work led to the creation of various data sets, on which highly successful query and viewing applications could be quickly developed. Many people attended the results presentation. It helped convince people of the significant potential of the LOD approach, which has also been incorporated into the main areas of development in INSEE's data dissemination policy.

Hedi SAÏDI

**Director General of Statistiques
Tunisie up until December 2018**

From February 2016 to April 2018, INSEE and the Lithuanian and Italian national statistical institutes (NSI) cooperated with the Tunisian NSI (Statistiques Tunisie) to modernise the Tunisian statistical organisation in order to address three major issues: strengthening governance of the statistical system, improving the production of statistics, and ensuring better communication and dissemination of data.

Hedi SAÏDI, Director General of Statistiques Tunisie up until December 2018 and now Director General of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), goes back over the results achieved through this twinning operation.

"Definite progress was made in all the identified fields of expertise.

The most emblematic example of progress made is the preparation of a new statistical law which has been approved by the Council of Ministers and will very shortly be presented to the Assembly of the Representatives of the People for discussion. It clarifies the role of the NSI responsible for coordination of the public statistical system and for definition of quality standards for the system as a whole, and the role of the Statistics National Council (CNS). The latter must ensure there is consultation between the producers and users of statistical information, offer general guidelines on national statistical activities and ensure there

"This cooperation enabled us to carry out a reform to provide Tunisian society with the knowledge needed for its development".

is full compliance with the code of ethics and fundamental principles of official statistics, such as professional independence. Governance of Tunisia's national statistical system has thus been strengthened. INSEE made a major contribution to this.

For the first time, regional GDP has been calculated for the 7 major regions for 2013 and a system for generating regional statistics has been authenticated and has begun to be set up. We have also reviewed our method of communicating in order to increase the impact of what we produce.

All this has been supported by the development of our organisation at national level but also at regional division level in some of the 24 governorates.

Overall, INSEE worked on all parts of the twinning operation, joining forces with ISTAT, the Italian institute of statistics.

In the space of two years, this cooperation enabled us to carry out a reform to provide Tunisian society with the knowledge needed for its development in a new democratic, economic and social context. Statistiques Tunisie is now equipped to serve its users' needs better, through the production of statistics of a quality that meets international standards, especially current European Union standards."



April 2018, closing seminar for the twinning operation, Tunis (Tunisia). From left to right: Anis MORAI, journalist and presenter on Tunisian national radio and the RTCI Tunisian radio station; Giorgio ALLEVA, President of ISTAT; Hedi SAÏDI, Director General of Statistiques Tunisie; Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, Director General of INSEE; Vilija LAPENIENE, Director General of Statistics Lithuania, the Lithuanian national institute of statistics.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Publications

International Technical Support, newsletter of INSEE n°10, July 2018

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2116900>

Events

Ninth European conference on quality in official statistics (Q2018), 27th - 29th June, in Krakow, Poland.

Five contributions from INSEE, including: a presentation on the guiding principles adopted in 2017 by the Statistical Programme Committee, aimed at ensuring quality within

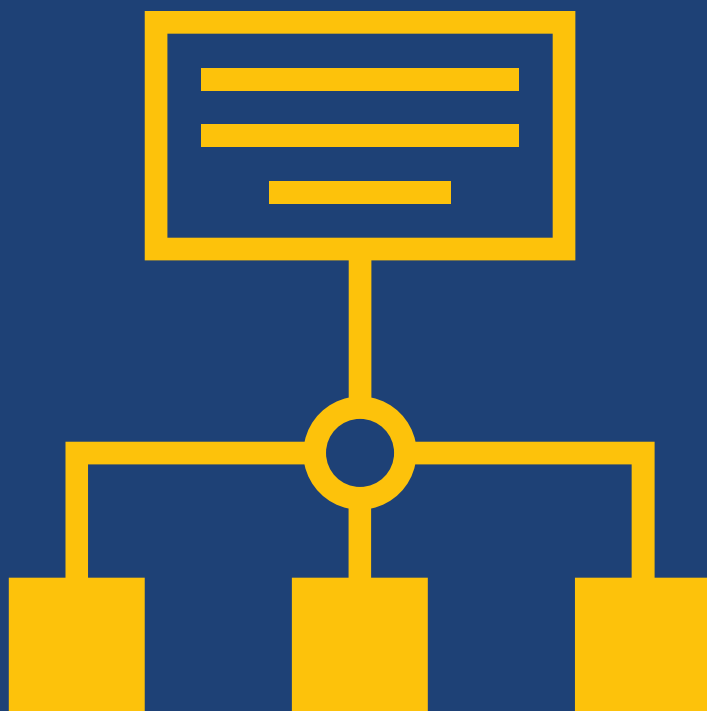
the official statistics service (SSP), during a special session on revising the code of practice, chaired by Mariana Kotzeva, Director General of Eurostat. Also a talk from the INSEE training centre (CEFIL) on the system to raise awareness about quality, as used in the initial training for controllers; a presentation on the early estimation of poverty rates based on microsimulation; a talk on improving quality through spatial sampling, in a special session on geo-referencing issues; and a presentation on an ambitious approach to managing big data throughout the statistical process (RMÉS project).

<https://www.q2018.pl/>

The sixteenth IAOS conference (International Association for Official Statistics), hosted by the OECD, 19th - 21st September. INSEE, as a member of this event's scientific committee, contributed to various sessions, notably on the use of big data; measuring poverty and wellness; the challenges associated with measuring globalisation; the digital economy, and describing urban areas. Another representative of the French official statistics service, Selma Mahfouz, the head of DARES, the Ministry of Labour's statistical department, presented an analysis of trends in the labour market.

<http://www.oecd.org/iaos2018/>

An organisation on the move



In order to increase its capacity for statistical and technological innovation, Insee is further developing its organisation by creating two laboratories, “SSP Lab”¹ and “UnISSI”².

By establishing these two laboratories, it aims to promote innovative practices and to conduct experiments in the fields of statistical methodology and data science in the first instance and transformation of the IT system in the second instance.

1. SSP stands for Service statistique public [Official Statistical System]
2. Innovation and Strategy Unit for the Information System



INVESTING IN NEW DATA, new tools and promoting innovation

In this age of big data and digitisation, official statistical systems are undergoing a process of continual development with regard to data collection and the tools and methods used to process those data with the aim of increasing the relevance of the statistics and studies that they produce.

With that in mind, in 2018, Insee equipped itself with two new mutually complementary laboratories, dedicated to innovation in the fields of statistics and information technology, in order to gain knowledge and experience of benefit to the Official Statistical System as a whole.

Forming part of the Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate – DMCSI, the SSP Lab is a centre for resources and activities associated with data science for the production of statistics. It aims to provide

inspiration and support for innovations in the areas of data sources and data science methods by means of applied research and experimental developments.

The Innovation and Strategy Unit for the Information System – UnISSI, which forms part of the Information System Directorate – DSI, is committed to constructing a digital factory assembling innovative tools in order to implement its algorithms. It aims to anticipate changes to the institute’s information system and to combine the potential for innovation found in the fields of development and IT infrastructures. It was set up following the creation of the DSI, which meets three significant objectives: to be more agile when implementing projects, to improve dialogue with users and statistical systems and to facilitate digital transformation at Insee.

This internal reorganisation at Insee falls under its Horizon 2025 strategic direction of “Innovating and being at the forefront with data sources”, the primary objective of which is: “to guarantee the innovative capacity of Insee and the Official Statistical System by developing an outward-looking Research & Development culture”.

Why have two innovation laboratories, the SSP Lab and the UnISSI, been created at Insee?

Arnaud Degorre : Insee has reorganised its DSI to enable it to establish IT equipment that is more modular and reactive and which takes account of its needs (cybersecurity, robustness of the information system and changes to IT infrastructures). The UnISSI supports the project teams and helps them to adopt technical innovations at the earliest opportunity, while also ensuring compliance with security standards, and it also assists them with the pooling of resources.

Élise Coudin : The SSP Lab was created within the DMCSI in response to Insee's strategic recommendations, one of which is "Innovating and being at the forefront with data sources". It goes hand-in-hand with some promising experiments that have already been carried out at Insee: the integration of scanner data when establishing the consumer price index and experiments surrounding big data and machine learning. It also falls within the international trend that has seen other national statistical institutes equip themselves with similar units in order to seize the opportunities and overcome the challenges brought by new types of digital data.

What tasks do these two labs perform?

Élise Coudin : The SSP Lab monitors technology and disseminates innovative statistical methods that are of relevance for official statistics within the SSP. It explores new data sources and statistical methods, together with new study angles, by means of specific experiments conducted together with the operational units.

Arnaud Degorre : Like the SSP Lab, the UnISSI was set up in response to the goal of acting as a resource, activity and monitoring centre. It provides support to teams adopting new development and datascience tools. It assists with the prototyping of technical solutions using the proof of concept (POC) approach.



Élise COUDIN
Arnaud DEGORRE
Insee

How and with whom do you work?

Élise Coudin : We work closely with the

"Our mission as official statisticians is to effectively fuel public debate with relevant, reliable and long-term statistics. Guaranteeing the quality of our statistics in terms of those three aspects against a backdrop of digital revolution presents a significant challenge".

operational departments to test the potential of new sources of data and innovative data science methods for the production of high-quality, reliable and relevant statistics. These experiments are typical of the collaborative approach to working that we promote. We also explore these subject areas in conjunction with the research community and external entities producing data and disseminating experience, knowledge and practices within the SSP. With the UnISSI, we are hosting an innovation network focusing on data science that is bringing together the SSP and our foreign counterparts.

Arnaud Degorre : Together with the SSP Lab, we participate in projects launched by Eurostat in the form of European collaborative networks or ESSNet (European Statistical System Network), such as ESSNet Big Data, concerning the use of new sources of information for the purposes of producing statistics. Some of these ESSNets, for example ESSNet Implementing Shared Statistical Services, have aspects

that are heavily oriented towards IT to enable developments in IT to be shared between European institutions; others establish meeting points for data scientists and computer scientists, such as ESSNet Linked Open Statistics, in order to encourage the distribution of data in accordance with the standards of the Semantic Web. These activities are always subject to joint monitoring and intensive sharing between the two labs.

How do your areas of work complement one another?

Arnaud Degorre : In the IT sector, the UnISSI is creating a digital experimentation platform to which the SSP Lab is linked. The latter evaluates the most appropriate statistical methods and algorithms, while the UnISSI facilitates the deployment of the software required to implement those statistical methods and algorithms. As a result, an IT infrastructure has been established that is dedicated to innovation. It offers Cloud services to enable the creation of its tailor-made "digital laboratory".

Élise Coudin : From a statistical point of view, the SSP Lab manages a number of experiments aimed at improving the production of statistics, such as the automatic identification of the employer on census forms, the detection of outliers and the adjustment of salaries within payroll data. We work together with Orange Labs for the purposes of including mobile phone data in official statistics.

Élise Coudin is head of the SSP Lab and Arnaud Degorre is head of the UnISSI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION 

SSP Lab launch seminar (5 May 2018)
<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/3559883>

The SSP Lab: The very young experience of the French NSI, Élise Coudin, Insee
<http://www.dgins2018.ro/programme/10th-october/>

INSEE ORGANISATION CHART

as at 31 December 2018

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Jean-Luc Tavernier
Director General



Pascal Rivière
Internal Audit Unit



Benoît Ourliac
Director General's Office



Alain Bayet
General Secretariat



Olivier Lefebvre
Information System Directorate



Sylvie Lagarde
Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate



Christel Colin
Business Statistics Directorate



Didier Blanchet
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Chantal Cases
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Françoise Maurel
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Benoît Rouppert
IT Production and Infrastructure

Patrick Sillard
Statistical Methods

Pierrette Schuhl
Registers, Infrastructures and Structural Statistics

Julien Pouget
Short-Term Economic Analysis

Valérie Roux
Demography

Guillaume Mordant
INSEE Info-Service

Jean-Paul Faur
Human Resources

Jean-Michel Quellec
Living and Working Conditions

Guy Bourgey
Statistical Centre of Metz

François Hada
Coordinator
of Cross-Cutting Actions

Étienne Traynard
Coordinator of the managers
of regional offices

Mylène Chaleix
IT System Development

Arnaud Degorre
Innovation and Strategy Unit
for the Information System

Dominique Bonnans
Quality

Jean-Pierre Cling
Statistical and International
Coordination

Élise Coudin
SSP Lab

Philippe Scherrer
Short-Term Statistics

Élisabeth Kremp
Sectoral Economic Outlooks

Sébastien Roux
General Economic Studies

Guillaume Houriez
National Accounts

Vladimir Passeron
Employment and Earnings

Valérie Albouy
Household Resources
and Living Conditions

Pascal Chevalier
Consumer Price Index
and Household Surveys

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Demographic and Social Studies

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Jean-Philippe Grouthier	Auvergne Rhône-Alpes
Moïse Mayo	Bourgogne Franche-Comté
Éric Lesage	Bretagne
Yvonne Pérot	Centre-Val de Loire
Olivier Léna	Corse
Joël Creusat	Grand Est
Jean-Christophe Fanouillet	Hauts-de-France
Marie-Christine Parent	Île-de-France
Aurélien Daubaire	La Réunion- Mayotte
Daniel Brondel	Normandie
Fabienne Le Hellaye	Nouvelle-Aquitaine
Caroline Jamet	Occitanie
Pascal Seguin	Pays de la Loire
Alberto Lopez	Provence-Alpes- Côte d'Azur

WORKFORCE BY REGION

and by category

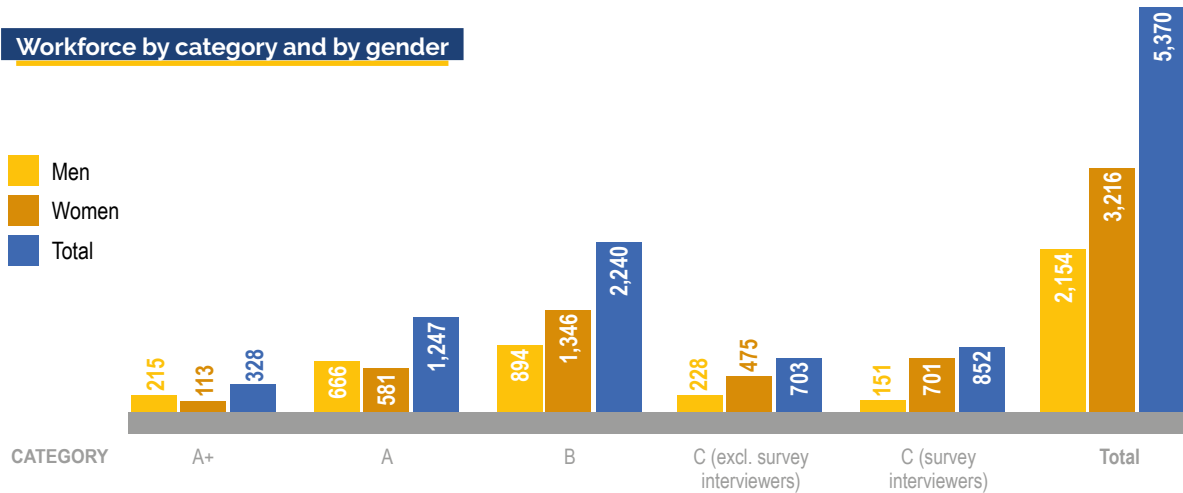
Assignment / Personnel category	A+	A	B	C excl. survey interviewers	C survey interviewers	Total
Head office	269	536	566	163	0	1,534
Paris*	265	471	404	76	0	1,216
Metz	4	65	162	87	0	318
Regional Offices	59	711	1,674	540	852	3,836
Antilles-Guyane	2	32	72	22	97	225
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	7	60	139	52	90	348
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	2	29	115	20	37	203
Bretagne	4	28	64	16	55	167
Centre-Val de Loire	2	40	85	29	31	187
Corse	1	10	28	2	4	45
Grand Est	2	51	161	41	88	343
Hauts-de-France	5	76	136	59	64	340
Île-de-France	4	30	99	42	78	253
La Réunion-Mayotte	1	28	41	19	43	132
Normandie	3	54	169	50	45	321
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	6	54	151	40	69	320
Occitanie	6	57	150	50	75	338
Pays de la Loire	8	120	155	66	28	377
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	6	42	109	32	48	237
Insee total	328	1,247	2,240	703	852	5,370

* Including staff from the INSEE Training Centre in Libourne (CEFIL).

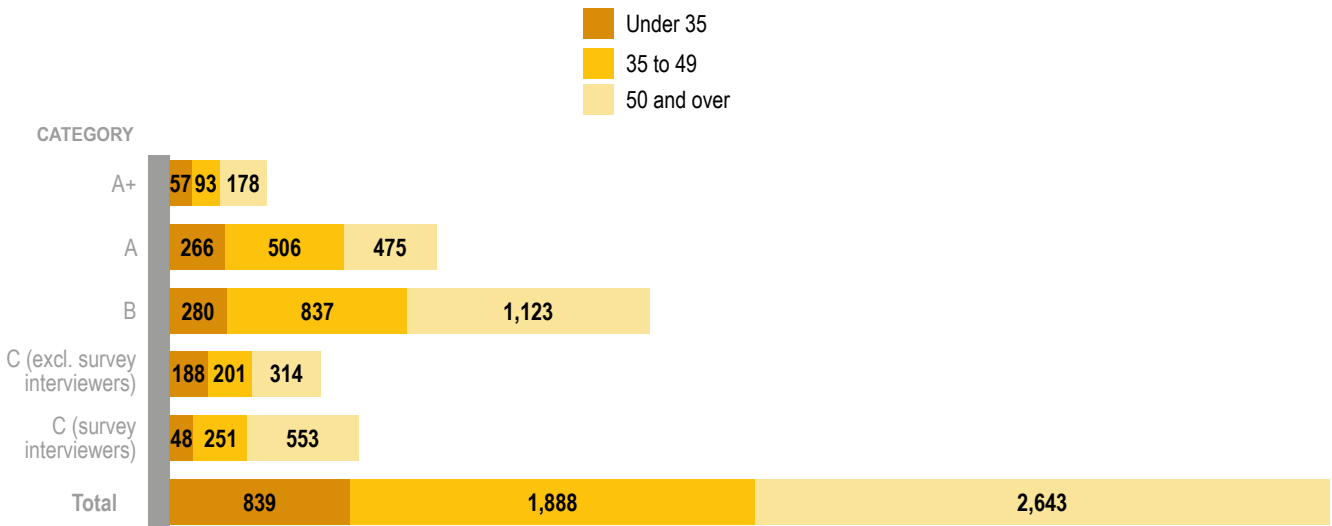
THE WOMEN AND MEN

at Insee as at 31 December 2018

Workforce by category and by gender



Workforce by category and by age group



FOR MORE INFORMATION  on the functioning of INSEE

<https://insee.fr/fr/information/1300620>

TRAINING OF INSEE PERSONNEL

Training programme participation rate ¹

Personnel Category	A+ in %	A in %	B in %	C in %	Total in %
Women	71	76	81	83	81
Men	56	73	77	79	74
Total	61	74	80	82	78

Type of training programme

Improving computer skills	12.2%
Improving non-computer skills	58.2%
Adaptation (changing job category)	21.2%
Preparation for competitive exams	8.4%
Total	100.0%

Average number of training days per trained employee

Personnel category	A+	A	B	C	Total
Women	5.0	6.6	8.0	8.4	7.8
Men	3.5	6.6	10.3	8.7	8.3
Total	4.1	6.6	8.9	8.4	8.0

INSEE BUDGET

Allocation of the budget according to the total cost² of Insee's main activities

Allocation	In €m according to the initial budget law 2018
Staff budget	374.4
Operating budget	51.6
Investment budget	7.0
Intervention budget	20.9
Total	453.9

Activities	Share of Insee's 2017 budget in %
Population census	17.6
Regional activity (including regional distribution)	15.9
Household surveys	14.9
National distribution	7.4
Company registers	6.7
Short-term statistics from companies	6.3
Structural statistics from companies	5.5
Administrative statistics concerning employment and earnings	4.5
Consumer Price Index	4.3
Strategic, coordination, international management	4.1
Marital status, electoral register (including demographic statistics)	3.7
National accounts	3.1
Studies	2.6
Themed surveys of companies	2.3
Economic outlook	1.1
Total	100.0

1. Percentage of employees having attended at least one training program during the year.

2. For each activity, the total cost includes costs associated with support and cross-disciplinary functions (administrative management, property, IT, etc.).

Surveys carried out in 2018



Insee collects data via the statistical surveys that it conducts among households and companies.

The annual surveys conducted among individuals allow us to closely monitor changes in certain economic and social behaviours displayed by households and individuals. Other surveys take place every five to ten years and cover other aspects of their situation and behaviour.

To gain a better understanding of the productive system, Insee gathers structural (size, nature of the activity carried out, workforce characteristics, type of organisation, etc.) and economic information from companies, together with data relating to specific subjects (energy consumption, use of new technologies, innovation, etc.).

The surveys are selected on the basis of European regulatory obligations or following a double review by the National Council of Official Statistics (Conseil national de l'information statistique – CNIS) with input from civil society representatives. The various thematic commissions of the CNIS examine the degree to which the surveys will be of use from the point of view of knowledge and the quality of each survey in terms of their implementation methods.

Household and individual surveys

Demographics

- **Population census**
- **Population census in Wallis and Futuna** (previous census in 2013)

Living conditions

- **Monthly Consumer Confidence Survey (CAMME)**: measures households' opinion on their economic environment, their personal financial situation and their intentions in terms of savings and consumption.
- **“Family Budget” Survey, carried out in Mayotte in 2018**: provides an estimate of the consumption of different goods and services at a very detailed level and broken down by various categories of household.
- **Annual Victimhood Survey – “Living Environment and Security” (CVS)**: the main goal is to gain information concerning any criminal acts of which households and their members have been victim; it also provides the rate of complaint by offence and therefore of undeclared offences.
- **Annual survey on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in households**: gathers information on household equipment and use of computers, internet and telephones.
- **Human Mobility Surveys (EMP) 2018**: aims to gain an understanding of mobility practices and the shares of the various modes of transport used for journeys, regardless of their distance.
- **Working Conditions Survey (CDT)**: aims to gain a specific description of work, the way in which it is organised and the conditions under which it is carried out from the point of view of hours, working patterns, physical strain or risks faced, difficulty, organisation of work, safety, cooperation, disputes, etc. It also looks at issues such as professional development and feelings of self-worth, etc.

Housing

- **Quarterly survey on rents and charges**: measures change in rents within the private rental sector, particularly to be incorporated in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Resources

- **Annual survey on “Statistics on income and living conditions” (SRCV)**: the French part of a European statistical operation providing indicators on poverty and exclusion in the Member States.

- **SRCV survey of overseas departments 2018**: performed for the first time within the 4 historic overseas departments and on a one-off basis during 2018 without the panel aspect.
- **Life Story and Household Wealth**: a European survey that aims to collect information about the composition and evolution of household heritage.

Employment, qualifications, professional integration, wages

- **Labour Force Survey**: conducted on an ongoing weekly basis. This is the largest household survey in terms of sample size. Every quarter it measures the unemployment rate according to the International Labour Office, which makes it possible to make uniform international comparisons. It also provides very comprehensive data on employment, working conditions and working time.
- **Labour Force Survey in Mayotte (annual)**
- **Annual survey on Entry into Adult Life (EVA)**: covers a panel of young people to measure their professional and social integration and links the conditions of their integration with their schooling and university paths.
- **Adult Education Survey (AES)**: conducted every 6 years, this European survey measures the access rate of adults to education and training throughout their lives. Analysis is by population category (e.g. in employment, unemployed, etc.) to reveal rates of access to training and any existing obstacles.

Local economy

- **Survey of travellers leaving Mayotte, known as a “Tourist flow survey”**: provides annual quantitative information on tourists visiting Mayotte in order to follow the development of this important sector of the local economy.

Business surveys

Housing

- **Quarterly survey of social housing providers, on rent in the social housing sector (ELBS)**: measures change in rents within the social housing sector, particularly to be incorporated in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Productive system

- **Annual survey by sector (ESA)**: focusing on services, construction, agri-food industries, transport and trade, the annual sectoral surveys ask companies to provide basic information about their activities (from which their principal activity can be deduced), events that have happened during the year, such as a merger or absorption, and information specific to each sector.

- **Annual output survey (EAP)**: conducted in the manufacturing industry, the annual output survey gathers the same information as the ESA as well as a detailed breakdown of billing and quantities.
- **Outward Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics survey (O-FATS)**: annual survey of French business groups located abroad which provides information on their subsidiaries, their location, their activity and their employee numbers.
- **Survey on Observation of Prices in Industry and Services (OPISE)**: measures the monthly or quarterly change in transaction prices for goods and services. It covers the industrial production indices for the domestic and foreign markets, and the indices for import prices of industrial products.
- **Monthly business survey of food supermarkets (EMAGSA)**: measures changes in the activity of major food retailers, through sales and by broad product category.
- **Annual survey on the use of information and communication technologies and electronic commerce in companies employing at least 10 people (ICT)**: the aim of this survey is to improve understanding of computerisation and the dissemination of information and communication technologies within companies.
- **Structural survey of companies in Mayotte**: the aim of this annual survey is to be able to produce reports, especially for the branches, providing a description of the formal and informal economy of Mayotte, with an accurate breakdown of value added by sector, and to monitor and update the SIRENE register.
- **Survey on corporate purchases**: this unprecedented survey aims to provide an up-to-date insight into corporate purchases integrated into the production process in order to improve estimates of French GDP growth.
- **Survey of new companies established in 2018**: conducted among people who have established a company during the first half of 2018, this survey allows us to gain an insight into the conditions under which companies are established, the profile of the person establishing the company, the difficulties encountered, the current situation of the company and plans for the future. Survey on brand networks: aims to identify establishments selling products or services to individuals that are affiliated to a brand network and to understand the links that they maintain with the head of the network in order to quantify the scale of those brand networks, to assess the level of diversity among the types of organisation involved and to analyse the specific nature of the affiliated establishments.

Tourism

- **Monthly hotel occupancy survey**
- **Monthly outdoor accommodation occupancy survey, April to September**
- **Monthly holiday and other short-stay accommodation survey**

These three surveys are used to monitor the occupancy of these establishments and overnight stays by tourists, by nationality.

Industry

- **Monthly branch survey (EMB):** used to calculate the Industrial Production Index (IPI).
- **Annual survey on the Aerospace sector in Greater South-West France:** measures the economic power of the aerospace sector in Greater South-West France, that is to say of regional units whose activity contributes to the aerospace construction field at a global level.

Environment and sustainable development

- **Survey of environmental protection studies and investments (ANTIPOL):** the aim of the survey is to update knowledge of the total cost and type of studies, investments (yearly) and current expenditure (every three years) for environmental protection.
- **Annual survey on industrial energy consumption (EACEI):** provides information on quantities consumed by energy type and related costs and also provides a breakdown of the use of each energy type.

Financial system and financing the economy

- **Annual leasing survey:** measures the distribution of leasing contracts by institutional sector and sector of activity, information that is required to perform an economic analysis of company accounts.

Companies and market strategies – outlook

- **Monthly outlook survey in industry**
- **Quarterly business outlook survey of investment in industry**
- **Half-yearly survey of the cash flow situation in industry**
- **Monthly outlook survey of the retail trade and the trade and repair of motor vehicles**
- **Bi-monthly business outlook survey of wholesaling**
- **Monthly outlook survey of the building industry**
- **Monthly outlook survey of services**
- **Quarterly outlook survey of public works**
- **Quarterly outlook survey of the building trades**
- **Quarterly business outlook survey of real estate development**

Employment, professional integration, employees

- **Annual survey on the cost of labour and wage structure (ECMOSS):** the purpose is to monitor, on an annual basis, the structure of employee earnings and working time. It alternates between asking for explanations of wage discrepancies one year and measuring and providing a breakdown of labour costs for employing establishments the following year.

Other surveys

Prices, purchasing power

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):**¹ a tool to measure inflation, the CPI is used to estimate the average variation in the prices of products consumed by households between two given periods. The CPI excluding tobacco is used to index-link the minimum wage (SMIC), many private contracts, alimony and annuities.
- **European survey on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)**¹

Territories

- **Outlook survey on local public investment:** survey of territorial authorities, launched in 2016 in partnership with the *Caisse des Dépôts*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION +

Insee statistical surveys: <https://insee.fr/fr/information/1302175>

1. Survey requiring no response time on the part of companies.

2. The surveys are completed by employees of the regional offices and not by investigators.

KEY FIGURES FOR 2018



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK



349 *Informations Rapides* reports
20,000 companies surveyed every month
1,800 households interviewed every month

COMPANIES AND EMPLOYMENT

Company surveys



275,000 companies surveyed

30 surveys completed online

Unemployment



110,000 people interviewed for the Labour Force Survey

LARGE REGISTERS

RNIPP

109,579,629 people registered in the National Directory for the Identification of Natural Persons

Voters

47 million voters on electoral lists – this figure does not include New Caledonia

Sirene

11 million active companies

12 million active establishments

LEI

24,000 LEIs granted and **29,000** renewed

SOCIETY

Household and individual surveys



500,000 households interviewed

14 surveys

852 survey interviewers

Population census¹



5 million homes

9 million people

4.8 million surveys completed online

96% response rate

24,000 census agents

462 supervisors

7,860 municipalities involved, 6,872 of which have fewer than 10,000 inhabitants

1. Census figures in metropolitan France, Antilles-Guyane and La Réunion.

REGIONS AND TERRITORIES



618 regional studies,
one third of which are conducted
in partnership with regional public bodies

EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL



161 international groups,
122 of which are European,
in which Insee experts are involved

139 international
cooperation actions,
46% of which involve national accounting
and economic outlook

WEB, MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS



32 million visits
and **200** million
page views at insee.fr

Followers/subscribers as at 31 December 2018

Twitter

@InseeFr

64,095

@InseeRegions

605

@InseeOl

1,000

LinkedIn²

8,039

“insee.net actualités”
newsletter

32,080

PRICE INDEX



200
survey interviewers

90
staff employed

200,000
prices collected each month

30,000
sales outlets

190,000
tariffs collected each month
(SNCF, electricity, etc.)

70,000



mentions in the press (all media)

of which: **36,700** web

25,200 printed press

268,000


calls per year to the voicemail servers
(Insee contact, SIRENE, Coltrane, ESA, indices)

55,000 of which received telephone responses

74,000 email requests



2. <https://fr.linkedin.com/company/insee>

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Measuring. understanding