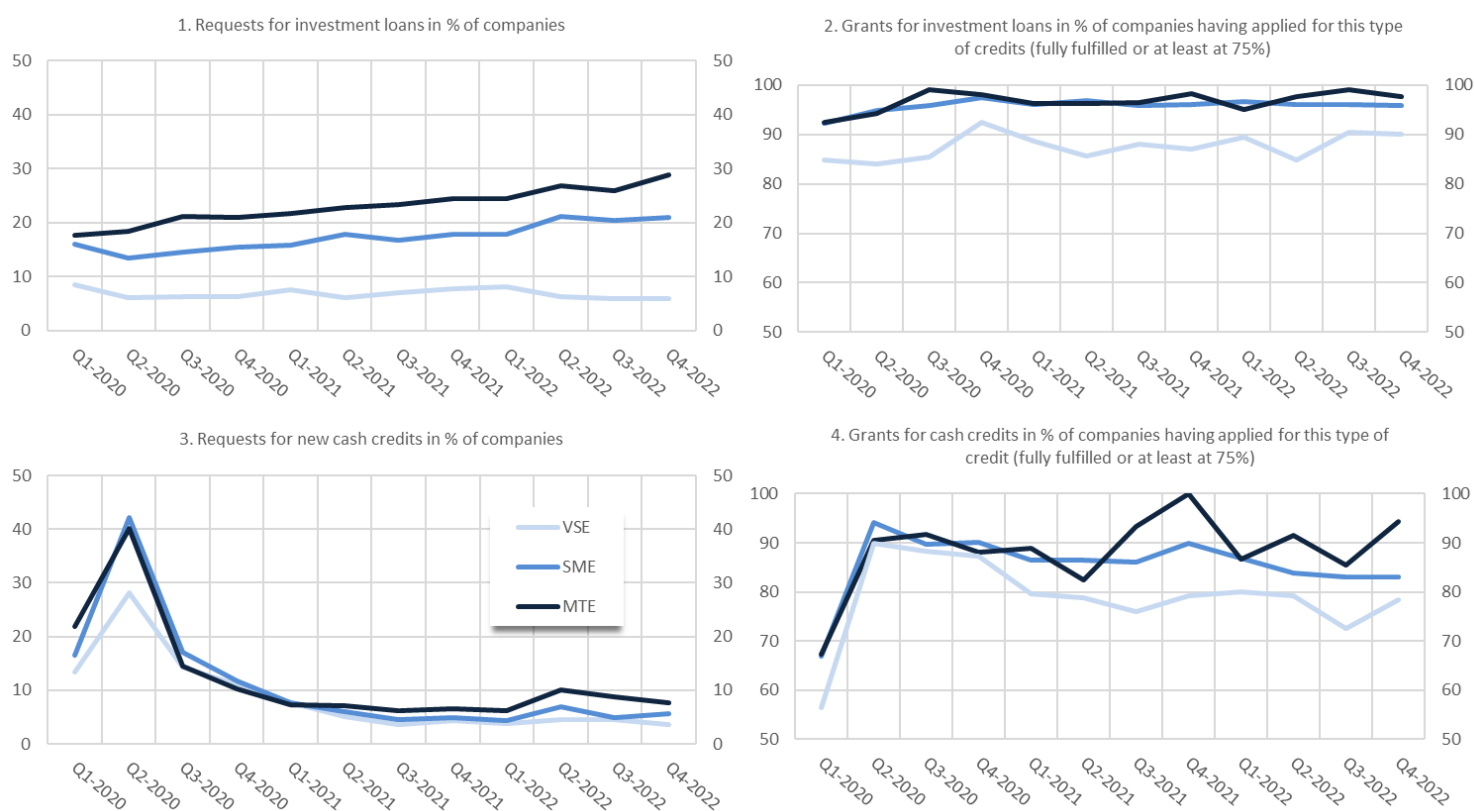


Quarterly survey on the access to bank financing of companies in France • 4th quarter 2022

Credit demands and supply rates remained stable at a high level

The share of companies having applied for new loans remained stable in Q4, with a slight increase for investment loans requested by MTEs. After a decrease in Q3, the supply rate for cash credits increased over Q4, and remained globally constant for investment loans. Once again, a larger proportion of companies reported an increase in the cost of credit compared to previous quarters.

The Banque de France carries out a quarterly survey on the access to bank financing of companies. Around 4,000 small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) and 500 mid-tier companies (MTEs) have answered, as well as 2,500 very small companies (VSEs) thanks to a partnership with the **Fédération des Centres de Gestion Agréés** (small firms authorised management centers federation). N.B.: bank credits alone are examined in this survey; MTEs have access to private financing options, which provides them with financing solutions not covered by this survey.



Data not seasonally adjusted, in %; excluding use of previously granted credit lines

Scope: companies with autonomy to decide on credit applications: VSE = 0 – 9 employees; SME = 10 – 249 employees; MTE = 250 – 4999 employees

New investment loans

Requests for new **investment loans** (see graph 1 above) remained stable during Q4 2022 for **VSEs**, with 6% of them having asked for a loan, and increased by 1 point for **SMEs** to 21% and by 3 points to 29% for **MTEs**. These requests remain well served: 90% of **VSEs**, 96% of **SMEs** and 98% of **MTEs** having requested a loan obtained it fully or at more than 75% (see graph 2).

New cash credits

During Q4 2022, **requests for new cash credits** remained stable for all three categories of companies (see graph 3): 4% of **VSEs**, 6% of **SMEs** and 8% of **MTEs** requested cash credits in the last three months. After a decrease in the **supply rate** for these types of loans in Q3 2022 (see graph 4), it rose by 5 points for **VSEs** (78% of them have obtained their loan in full or at more than 75%) and by 9 points for **MTEs** (94%). The supply rate remained stable for **SMEs**, with 83% of them having obtained all or more than 75% of their loans.



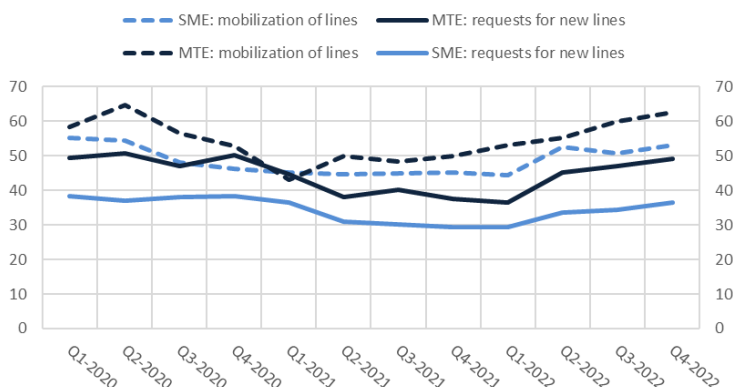
1. Credit lines

For operating needs, SMEs and MTEs can apply (usually at the beginning of the year) for **credit lines** giving them drawing rights over the year.

During Q4, **requests for new credit lines** increased slightly, by 2 points for both **SMEs** and **MTEs**: 36% of SMEs and 49% of MTEs made a request. These requests remained largely satisfied (fully or more than 75%), in 95% of cases for SMEs and MTEs.

53% of **SMEs drew on their credit lines** this quarter, 2 points more than during the previous quarter, whereas 63% of **MTEs** drew on their credit lines, 3 points more than over Q3 2022.

Requests for new credit lines over the last 12 months (in % of companies) and mobilization of credit lines over the last 3 months (in % of companies having been granted new lines)

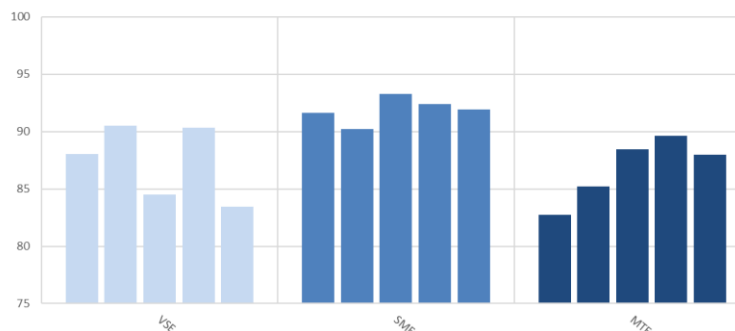


2. Supply rate for new equipment loans

Among **investment loans**, **equipment loans** are intended to finance intangible or tangible assets, excluding real estate.

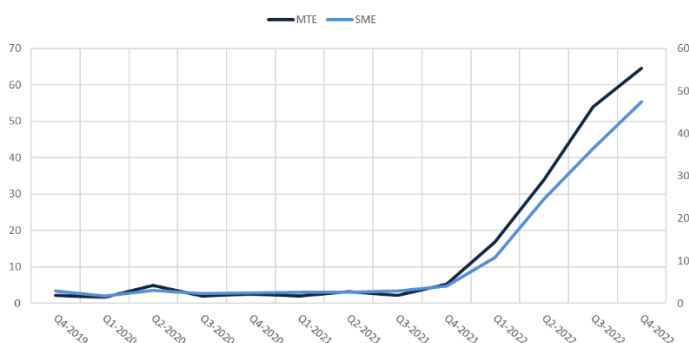
The **supply rate for equipment loans** fell by 7 points for **VSEs**, with 83% having obtained their loan in full or at least at 75%. **The supply rate** for this type of loan remained high at 92% for **SMEs** and decreased by 2 points, at 88% for **MTEs**.

Grants for equipment loans in % of companies having applied for this type of credits (fulfilled at least at 75%) over the five last quarters (Q4 2021 to Q4 2022)



3. Evolution of the cost of credit

Share of companies reporting an increase in the cost of credit (in % of companies)



This quarter, the proportion of companies reporting an increase in the overall cost of credit increased again. 47% of **SMEs** and 65% of **MTEs** report an increase in the cost of credit. At the same time, the proportion of companies reporting a decrease in the cost of credit is less than 2% for both SMEs and MTEs.

These figures can be paralleled with the rise in business interest rates observed since March 2022.

4. Self-censorship

Self-censorship refers to a situation where a company does not apply for new bank credit because it anticipates that the banks will refuse. Companies' expectations for banks turn down stayed on the fringe; the proportion of companies declaring **self-censorship behaviors** remained below the 2% threshold.

