

7 July 2017

Balance of payments France May 2017

Current transactions deficit narrows slightly in May

The deficit of the current transactions account decreases slightly in May to -2.3 billion euros, after -2.6 billion in April, in seasonally and working days adjusted data. The deficit in goods reverts to -3.6 billion, after -4.0 billion. Exports of transport equipment, mainly aeronautics, increase, but the balance of other industrial goods continues to deteriorate. The surplus of the services account remains close to zero, at 0.2 billion (after 0.4 billion), despite a slight recovery in the travel services balance.

Within the financial account (non-seasonally adjusted data), French direct investments abroad are lower than in April (3.3 billion, after 10.4 billion) while foreign direct investments in France increase (3.7 billion, after 2.9 billion); the balance of direct investment therefore shows net inflows of 0.4 billion. Portfolio investments result in net inflows of 2.6 billion. In the opposite direction, deposits and loans (“other investments”) post net outflows of 8.1 billion.

France's balance of payments

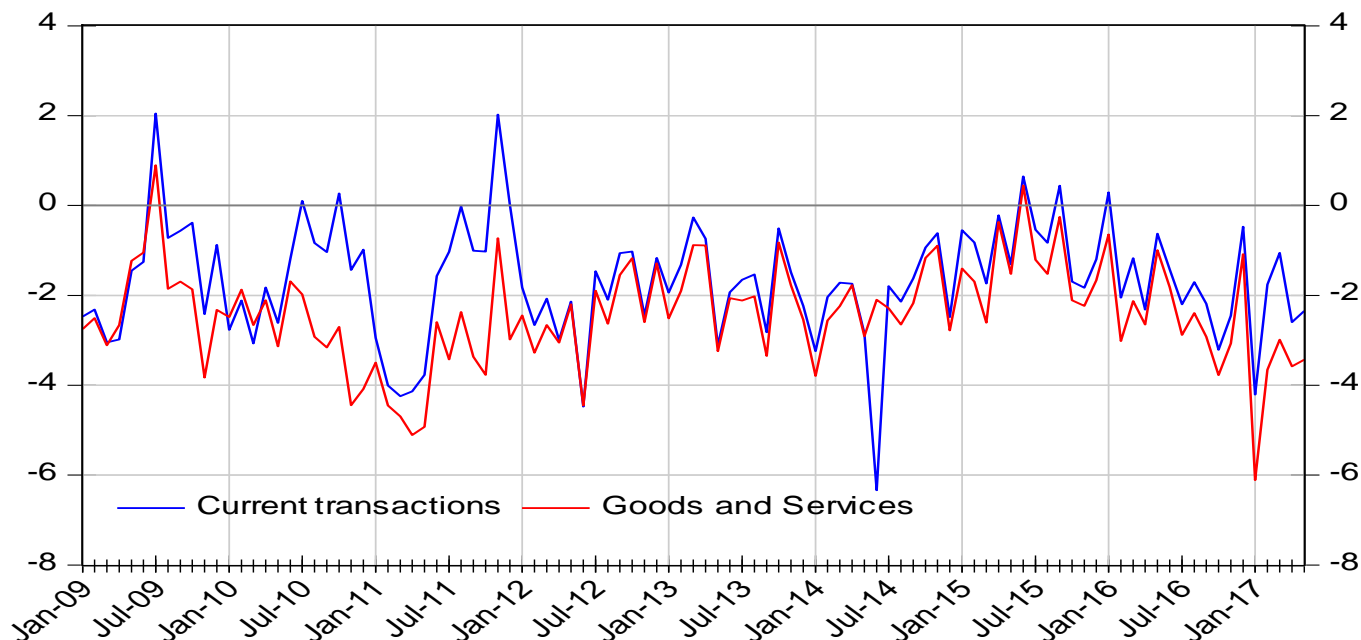
(EUR billions)	2015 (a)	2016 (a)	Apr-17 (b)	May-17 (b)
Current account (seasonally and working-day adjusted) (1)	-9.6	-19.0	-2.6	-2.3
<i>Goods</i> (2)	-25.0	-26.8	-4.0	-3.6
General merchandise (3)	-45.1	-47.9	-5.6	-4.9
Other goods (4)	20.1	21.1	1.6	1.3
<i>Services</i>	8.9	0.0	0.4	0.2
Travel	5.0	1.8	-0.1	0.3
Other services	3.9	-1.8	0.5	-0.1
<i>Primary income</i>	50.8	52.8	4.6	4.7
<i>Secondary income</i>	-44.3	-45.0	-3.6	-3.6
Capital account (not adjusted)	1.8	0.0	-0.1	0.1
financial account (not adjusted)	-12.2	-28.8	-19.3	6.7
<i>Direct investment</i>	-2.4	26.2	7.5	-0.4
- Abroad	37.5	58.4	10.4	3.3
- In France	39.9	32.2	2.9	3.7
<i>Portfolio investment</i>	46.4	-3.6	46.5	-2.6
- Assets	51.0	47.5	37.0	16.3
- Liabilities	4.6	51.1	-9.5	18.8
<i>Financial derivatives</i>	10.8	0.6	0.6	-0.1
<i>Other investment</i>	-74.2	-54.2	-71.2	8.1
<i>Reserve assets</i>	7.2	2.2	-2.7	1.7
Net errors and omissions	-4.4	-9.8	-16.6	4.4

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

Source and production : BANQUE DE FRANCE – DIRECTORATE GENERAL STATISTICS

Current account – Goods and services balance

(EUR billions)



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

Methodological notes relating to page 1 table.

- (1) Figures for monthly current account are seasonally and working day adjusted.
- (2) Data on trade in goods are FOB-FOB values, which means without cost, insurance and freight. This expenditure is recorded in the services item. Exchanges of goods cover General merchandise published by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI), merchandising and methodological adjustments in order to ensure the comparability of French balance of payments with those of other countries and conformity with the international standards. The international standard for Balance of Payments statistics is released under the aegis of the International Monetary Fund. The key concept for the balance of payments is the concept of economic ownership which is consistent with the national accounts.
- (3) General merchandise is compiled by the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI). It contains all goods imports and exports which go in and out French territory.
- (4) Other goods are compiled by the Banque de France. Other goods include some corrections and adjustment to the FOB-FOB values of goods exchanged, in order to include only the transactions entailing a change of economic ownership, as well as goods procured in ports by carriers and goods under merchandising.

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

Revisions Q1 2017

Raw data, EUR billions

	Current publications	Previous publications	Revisions
	(a)	(b)	(a-b)
	Q1	Q1	Q1
Current account	-20.3	-23.6	3.3
<i>Goods</i>	-15.5	-15.6	0.1
General merchandise	-20.0	-19.8	-0.2
Other goods	4.5	4.2	0.3
<i>Services</i>	-3.2	-2.6	-0.6
Travel	-0.9	-1.0	0.1
Other services	-2.3	-1.6	-0.7
<i>Primary income</i>	10.1	5.9	4.2
<i>Secondary income</i>	-11.7	-11.2	-0.5
Capital account	-0.5	0.3	-0.8
Financial account	-39.1	-68.4	29.3
<i>Direct investment</i>	-17.5	-7.8	-9.7
- Abroad	1.6	6.6	-5.0
- In France	19.2	14.4	4.8
<i>Portfolio investment</i>	14.1	-20.3	34.4
- Assets	48.3	43.8	4.5
- Liabilities	34.2	64.1	-29.9
<i>Financial derivatives</i>	-2.1	-4.1	2.0
<i>Other investment</i>	-31.2	-33.8	2.6
<i>Reserve assets</i>	-2.3	-2.3	0.0
Net errors and omissions	-18.3	-45.1	26.8

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