

## Corporate bankruptcies – France • March 2019

### In February 2019, the number of corporate bankruptcies increased by 1.1% year-on-year

- At the end of February 2019, the aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over the last 12 months amounted to 54,344, up by 1.1% compared to February 2018 (see tables A and B and charts 1 and 2).
- The aggregate number of bankruptcies over the past 3 months decreased by 1.3% compared to the same aggregate 3 months ago.

### Over the past 12 months, the evolution of corporate bankruptcies varies across sectors

- The transportation sector, the financial and insurance activities, and the advisory and business support activities recorded the strongest increases in bankruptcies (+12.5%, +7.9% and +7.1% respectively, compared to February 2018). Bankruptcies also increased substantially in other sectors, particularly in the accommodation and food service activities (+4.2%), and in the industry (+2.5%).
- However, over the same period, corporate bankruptcies decreased in some sectors, in particular in the agriculture (-5.4%), information and communication (-5.3%), construction (-1.7%) and wholesale and retail trade (-1.4%) sectors.

### In February 2019, bankruptcies increased essentially for SMEs

- Bankruptcies increased for SMEs as a whole (+1.1%), despite a decrease for Very small firms (-3.3%). They also decreased for Intermediate-sized enterprises (ISEs) and Large firms (-12 bankruptcies over 12 months see table B).

The outstanding loan amount of firms filing for bankruptcy over the past 12 months accounts, at the end of February, for more than 0.3% of the total outstanding loan amount reported to the Banque de France's Central Credit Register.

The aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies increased by 1.7% at the end of March 2019, according to provisional data (see tables A and B and chart 2).

To find out more: data on business start-ups are reported by the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE): [Business start-ups on the INSEE's website](#)

### A – Corporate bankruptcies by sector

Bankruptcies in number of legal units, year on year change (%)

Business sector	Aggregate over the last 12 months <sup>a</sup> (gross data)					Quarter to Quarter sa / wda <sup>bc</sup>		Monthly data sa / wda <sup>c</sup>	
	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 19/Feb. 18	Mar. 19 prov.	Mar. 19/Mar. 18	Feb. 19	Dec. 18	Jan. 19	Feb. 19
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (AZ)	1,505	1,423	-5.4 %	1,395	-4.7 %	7.6 %	134	114	120
Industry (BE)	3,809	3,905	2.5 %	3,824	0.6 %	-1.7 %	380	312	312
Construction (FZ)	11,952	11,753	-1.7 %	11,710	-0.1 %	-6.3 %	1,017	1,001	829
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G)	11,786	11,618	-1.4 %	11,506	-1.1 %	-1.5 %	1,004	962	921
Transportation and storage (H)	1,859	2,091	12.5 %	2,096	13.1 %	0.8 %	176	177	193
Accommodation and food service activities (I)	7,109	7,408	4.2 %	7,351	3.9 %	0.1 %	647	642	593
Information and communication (JZ)	1,370	1,298	-5.3 %	1,281	-5.2 %	0.3 %	112	103	101
Financial and insurance activities (KZ)	1,027	1,108	7.9 %	1,121	12.2 %	5.3 %	104	94	90
Real estate activities (LZ)	1,732	1,674	-3.3 %	1,642	-5.4 %	3.9 %	141	143	136
Advisory & Business support activities (MN)	5,749	6,160	7.1 %	6,233	9.4 %	-0.3 %	519	477	505
Education, human health and social work services, Arts, entertainment and recreation, Other service activities (P to S)	5,369	5,471	1.9 %	5,435	2.3 %	8.7 %	484	482	485
<b>All firms<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>53,748</b>	<b>54,344</b>	<b>1.1 %</b>	<b>54,013</b>	<b>1.7 %</b>	<b>-1.3 %</b>	<b>4,604</b>	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,339</b>

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available at end-April 2019

Calculation : Banque de France – Companies Directorate – Companies Observatory

<sup>a</sup> Aggregate : number of corporate bankruptcies over the past 12 months compared to the same aggregate one year ago

<sup>b</sup> Aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over the past 3 months compared to the same aggregate three months ago

<sup>c</sup> sa : seasonally adjusted – wda : working day adjusted

<sup>d</sup> The line « All firms » includes legal units whose business sector is not known

## B – Corporate bankruptcies by firm size

Bankruptcies in number of legal units, year on year change (%)

Size	Aggregate over the last 12 months <sup>a</sup> (gross data)				Quarter to quarter sa / wda <sup>bc</sup>		Monthly data sa / wda <sup>c</sup>		
	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 19/Feb. 18	Mar. 19 prov.	Mar. 19/Mar. 18	Feb. 19	Dec. 18	Jan. 19	Feb. 19
SME, among them	53,699	54,307	1.1 %	53,974	1.7 %	-1.3 %	4,601	4,576	4,337
Micro-enterprises and unknown firm's size	50,394	51,014	1.2 %	50,715	1.9 %	-1.3 %	4,312	4,276	4,093
Very small firms	2,076	2,008	-3.3 %	1,987	-3.7 %	0.5 %	182	174	156
Small firms	938	970	3.4 %	974	5.5 %	-0.5 %	75	102	76
Medium-sized firms	291	315	8.2 %	298	1.0 %	9.4 %	26	37	21
ISE – Large Firms	49	37	-24.5 %	39	-20.4 %				
All firms	53,748	54,344	1.1 %	54,013	1.7 %	-1.3 %	4,604	4,580	4,339

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available at end- April 2019

Calculation : Banque de France – Companies Directorate – Companies Observatory

<sup>a</sup> Aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over the past 12 months compared to the same aggregate one year ago

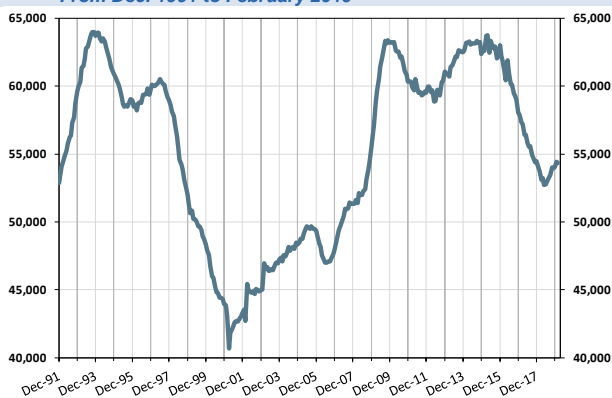
<sup>b</sup> Aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over the past 3 months compared to the same aggregate three months ago

<sup>c</sup> sa : seasonally adjusted – wda : working day adjusted

## C – Changes in corporate bankruptcies

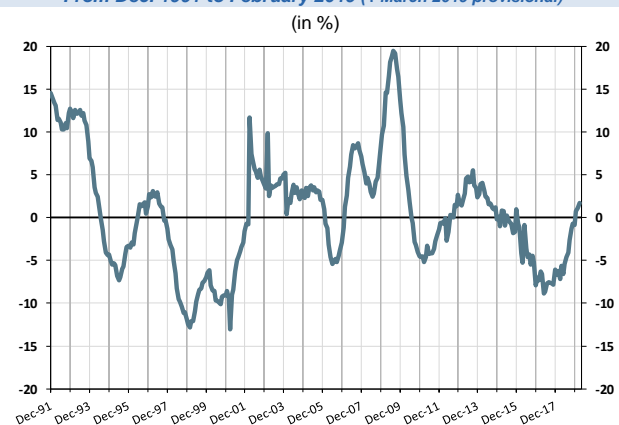
### 1 – Number of bankruptcies

Aggregate number of bankruptcies over the past 12 months  
From Dec. 1991 to February 2019



### 2 – Change in bankruptcies

Year-on-year change in the 12-month aggregate  
From Dec. 1991 to February 2019 (+ March 2019 provisional)



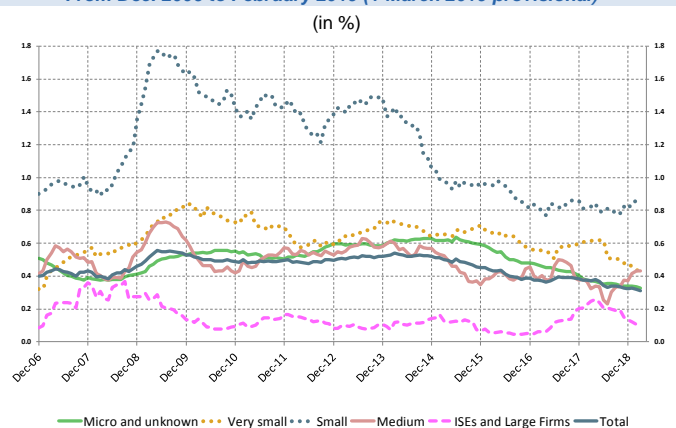
### 3 – Loan amounts of bankrupt non-financial firms over loan amount of all firms

Aggregate over the past 12 months  
From Dec. 2006 to February 2019 (+ March 2019 provisional)



### 4 – Loan amounts of bankrupt non-financial firms over loan amount of all firms – broken down by firm size

Aggregate over the past 12 months  
From Dec. 2006 to February 2019 (+ March 2019 provisional)



Source: Banque de France, Companies Directorate, Data available at end-April 2019