

## Corporate bankruptcies – France • April 2019

### In March 2019, the number of corporate bankruptcies increased by 1.8% year-on-year

- At the end of March 2019, the aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over the last 12 months amounted to 54,088, up by 1.8% compared to March 2018 (see tables A and B and charts 1 and 2).
- The aggregate number of bankruptcies over the past 3 months decreased compared to the same aggregate 3 months ago (-1.9%).

### 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 (+13.1%, +12.3% and +9.7% respectively, compared to March 2018). Bankruptcies also increased substantially in other sectors, particularly in the accommodation and food service activities (+3.8%).
- However, over the same period, corporate bankruptcies decreased in some sectors, in particular in the information and communication (-5.3%), real estate (-4.8%), agriculture (-3.3%), and wholesale and retail trade (-1.0%) sectors.

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

- Bankruptcies increased for SMEs as a whole (+1.8%), despite a decrease for Very small firms (-3.5%). They decreased for Intermediate-sized enterprises (ISEs) and Large firms (-10 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 March, for around 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 1.6% at the end of April 2019 compared to April 2018, 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>		
	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 19/Mar. 18	Apr. 19 prov.	Apr. 19/Apr. 18	Mar. 19	Jan. 19	Feb. 19	Mar. 19	
<b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing (AZ)</b>	1,461	1,413	-3.3 %	1,383	-5.3 %	-2.8 %	113	121	106	
<b>Industry (BE)</b>	3,804	3,827	0.6 %	3,826	1.0 %	-15.3 %	309	313	277	
<b>Construction (FZ)</b>	11,725	11,718	-0.1 %	11,748	0.0 %	-8.2 %	1,004	821	918	
<b>Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G)</b>	11,627	11,512	-1.0 %	11,523	-0.9 %	-5.4 %	960	921	901	
<b>Transportation and storage (H)</b>	1,854	2,096	13.1 %	2,115	12.3 %	2.1 %	177	193	176	
<b>Accommodation and food service activities (I)</b>	7,077	7,348	3.8 %	7,381	4.2 %	0.3 %	640	591	587	
<b>Information and communication (JZ)</b>	1,348	1,281	-5.0 %	1,282	-4.3 %	-7.3 %	104	102	99	
<b>Financial and insurance activities (KZ)</b>	1,001	1,124	12.3 %	1,103	7.7 %	-5.2 %	93	90	92	
<b>Real estate activities (LZ)</b>	1,734	1,651	-4.8 %	1,640	-7.0 %	4.0 %	144	138	137	
<b>Advisory &amp; Business support activities (MN)</b>	5,695	6,246	9.7 %	6,292	10.1 %	-0.1 %	477	505	549	
<b>Education, human health and social work services, Arts, entertainment and recreation, Other service activities (P to S)</b>	5,312	5,454	2.7 %	5,385	0.7 %	6.6 %	482	487	442	
<b>All firms<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>53,119</b>	<b>54,088</b>	<b>1.8 %</b>	<b>54,086</b>	<b>1.6 %</b>	<b>-1.9 %</b>	<b>4,581</b>	<b>4,355</b>	<b>4,321</b>	

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available at end-May 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>b,c</sup>		Monthly data sa / wda <sup>c</sup>		
	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 19/Mar. 18	Apr. 19 prov.	Apr. 19/Apr. 18	Mar. 19	Jan. 19	Feb. 19	Mar. 19
	SME, among them	53,070	54,049	1.8 %	54,049	1.6 %	-1.9 %	4,577	4,353
Micro-enterprises and unknown firm's size	49,790	50,784	2.0 %	50,817	1.8 %	-1.6 %	4,278	4,109	4,070
Very small firms	2,063	1,991	-3.5 %	1,965	-4.8 %	-6.1 %	172	155	154
Small firms	922	976	5.9 %	959	2.7 %	2.4 %	102	76	78
Medium-sized firms	295	298	1.0 %	308	2.3 %	-10.3 %	38	23	13
ISE – Large Firms	49	39	-20.4 %	37	-30.2 %				
All firms	53,119	54,088	1.8 %	54,086	1.6 %	-1.9 %	4,581	4,355	4,321

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

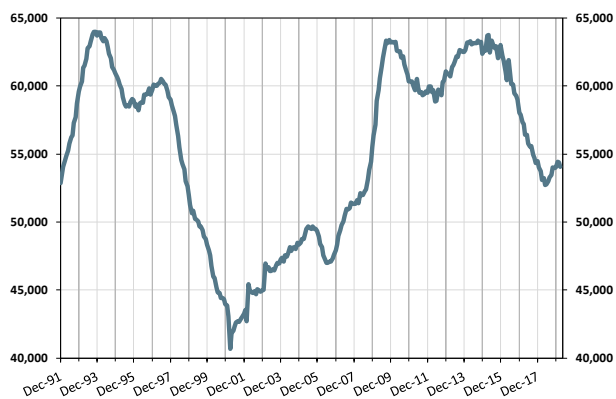
<sup>b</sup> Aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over the past 3 months compared to the same aggregate three months ago

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

## C – Changes in corporate bankruptcies

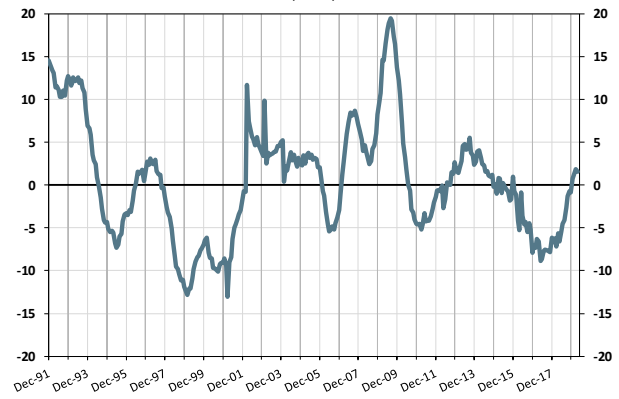
### 1 – Number of bankruptcies

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



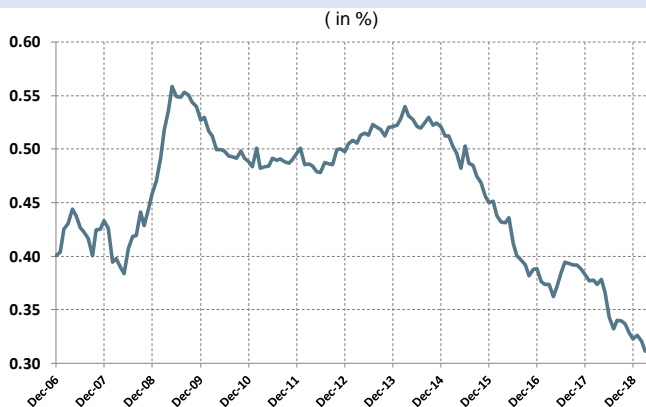
### 2 – Change in bankruptcies

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



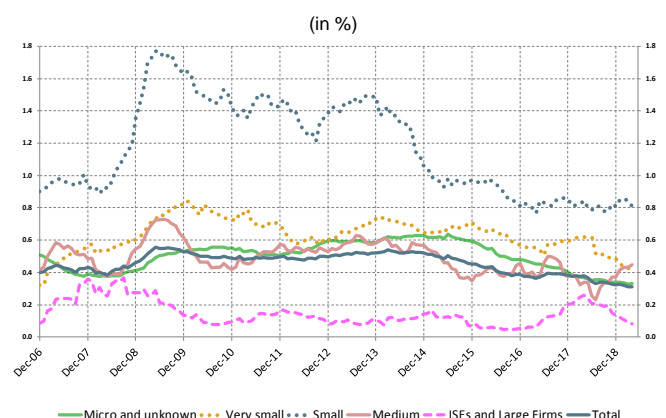
### 3 – Loan amounts of bankrupt non-financial firms over loan amount of all firms

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



### 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 March 2019 (+ April 2019 provisional)  
(in %)



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