

Business failures – France • August 2024

At the end of August, the cumulative number of bankruptcies over the year is stable overall

- At the end of August, the provisional cumulative number of corporate bankruptcies aggregated over the last twelve months amounted to 62,893 compared with 63,380 the previous month (see graph 1).
- On an annual basis, the increase in the cumulative number of corporate bankruptcies over the last twelve months continued to fall, rising by 23.8% in August, compared with 25.8% in July (see Table A). This trend concerns most sectors of the economy (see table A) and the various sizes of company (see table B).
- This rise in insolvencies is taking place against a backdrop of strong business creation in the wake of the health crisis (according to INSEE, between the 2nd quarter of 2023 and the 2nd quarter of 2024, more than one million businesses, including micro-entrepreneurs, were created).
- The number of cases referred to the Credit Mediation Service has not increased. At the same time, the public services and those of the Banque de France are mobilised to help companies in difficulty.

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

A – Corporate bankruptcies by sector

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

Business sector	Aggregate over previous 12 months ^a (raw data)							
	Mean 2010_2019	July 24	July 24 / July 23	July 24 / 2010-2019	Aug. 23	Aug. 24 prov.	Aug. 24 / Aug. 23	Aug. 24 / 2010-2019
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (AZ)	1,359	1,409	14.4 %	3.7 %	1,238	1,399	13.0 %	2.9 %
Industry (BE)	4,442	4,182	12.6 %	-5.9 %	3,723	4,154	11.6 %	-6.5 %
Construction (FZ)	14,684	13,956	36.0 %	-5.0 %	10,315	13,868	34.4 %	-5.6 %
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G)	13,070	13,490	22.7 %	3.2 %	11,048	13,415	21.4 %	2.6 %
Transportation and storage (H)	1,901	2,772	38.0 %	45.8 %	2,032	2,752	35.4 %	44.8 %
Accommodation and food service activities (I)	7,374	8,373	19.6 %	13.5 %	7,071	8,288	17.2 %	12.4 %
Information and communication (JZ)	1,480	1,875	22.9 %	26.7 %	1,554	1,860	19.7 %	25.7 %
Financial and insurance activities (KZ)	1,150	1,616	39.0 %	40.5 %	1,184	1,607	35.7 %	39.7 %
Real estate activities (LZ)	1,984	2,482	49.4 %	25.1 %	1,689	2,472	46.4 %	24.6 %
Advisory & Business support activities (MN)	6,379	7,448	29.1 %	16.8 %	5,829	7,388	26.7 %	15.8 %
Education, human health and social work services, Arts, entertainment and recreation, Other service activities (P to S)	5,311	5,692	14.0 %	7.2 %	5,056	5,605	10.9 %	5.5 %
All firms^b	59,342	63,380	25.8 %	6.8 %	50,818	62,893	23.8 %	6.0 %

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available early September 2024: final for July, provisional for August.

Calculation: Banque de France – Companies Directorate – Companies Observatory.

Note: The corporate population is growing; according to INSEE, since 2021, more than a million businesses have been created every year.

^a Aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over previous 12 months compared to the same aggregate one year before and with the 2010-2019 mean.

^b 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 (%)

Aggregate over previous 12 months^a (raw data)

Size	Mean 2010_2019	July 24	July 24 / July 23	July 24 / 2010-2019	Aug. 23	Aug. 24 prov.	Aug. 24 / Aug. 23	Aug. 24 / 2010-2019
SME, among them	59,309	63,319	25.8 %	6.8 %	50,763	62,832	23.8 %	5.9 %
Micro-enterprises and unknown firm's size	56,055	58,031	24.8 %	3.5 %	46,846	57,574	22.9 %	2.7 %
Very small firms	2,011	3,294	37.9 %	63.8 %	2,439	3,264	33.8 %	62.3 %
Small firms	913	1,500	36.6 %	64.3 %	1,112	1,492	34.2 %	63.4 %
Medium-sized firms	330	494	35.7 %	49.7 %	366	502	37.2 %	52.1 %
ISE – Large Firms	33	61	7.0 %	84.8 %	55	61	10.9 %	84.8 %
All firms	59,342	63,380	25.8 %	6.8 %	50,818	62,893	23.8 %	6.0 %

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available early September 2024: final for July, provisional for August.

Calculation: Banque de France – Companies Directorate – Companies Observatory.

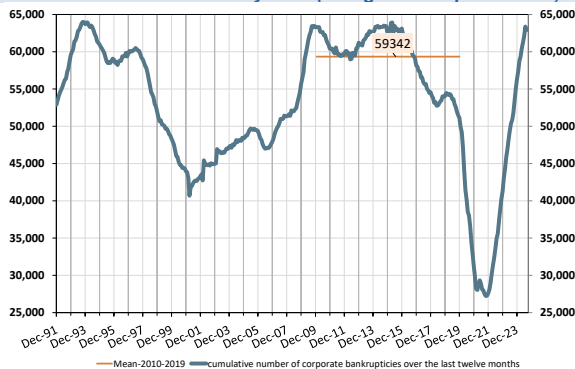
^a Aggregate number of corporate bankruptcies over previous 12 months compared to the same aggregate one year before and with the 2010-2019 mean.

C – Changes in corporate bankruptcies

1 – Number of bankruptcies

Cumulated over previous 12 months

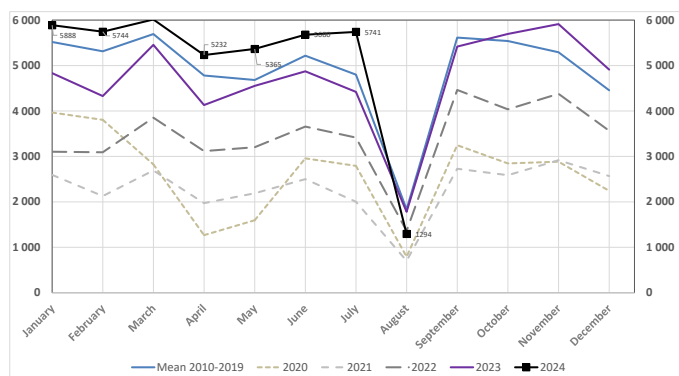
From Dec. 1991 to July 2024 (+ August 2024 provisional)



Note: The orange line represents the average value of the number of corporate bankruptcies over twelve months observed monthly between January 2010 and December 2019.

3 – Monthly number of bankruptcies

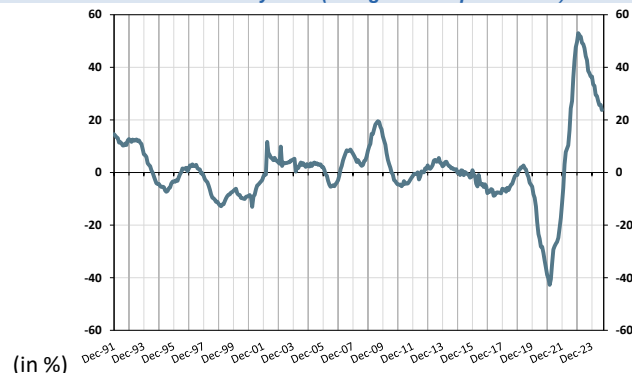
Mean 2010-2019 and from Jan. 2020 to July 2024 (+August 2024 provisional)



2 – Change in number of bankruptcies

Annual year-on-year change

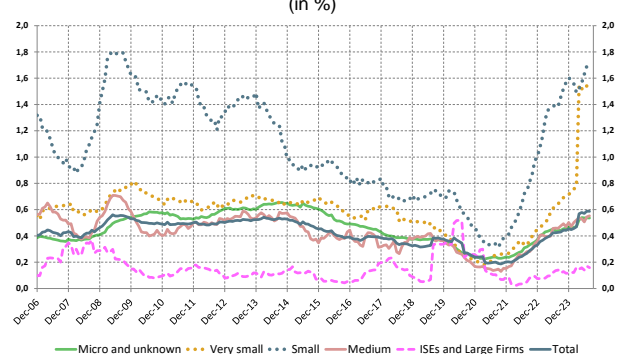
From Dec. 1991 to July 2024 (+ August 2024 provisional)



4 – Loan amounts of bankrupt non-financial firms

over loan amount of all firms – by firm size

Cumulated over previous 12 months
From Dec. 2006 to July 2024 (+ August 2024 provisional)



Note: the sharp rise in the weighting of outstanding loans in the Very small businesses category from April 2024 is due to a legal unit, classified in this category due to its small size. Without this legal unit, the weight of Very small businesses failures in terms of outstanding loans would be equal to 0.84%. For small businesses, the rise is due both to an increase in the number of bankruptcies and to an increase in the average loan outstanding. Over the month of August, it was further strengthened by the default of a small corporate with significant outstandings in this category.

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available early September 2024: final for July, provisional for August.