IMSEE Monaco Statistics

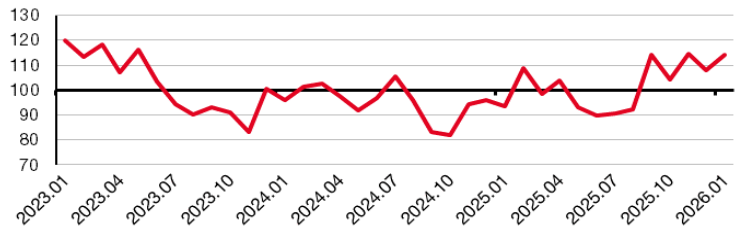
N°26 — March 2026

Barometer
Manufacturing industry and craft

## *Monthly manufacturing industry and craft survey — January 2026*

# The business climate rises again and approaches its highest level

**1. Business climate composite indicator**




*Source: Monaco Statistics*

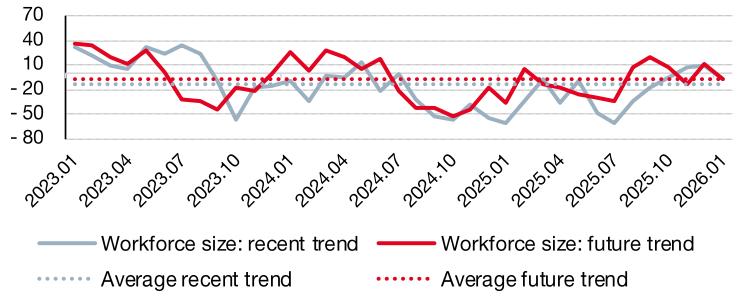
**2. Composite indicator and balances of opinion, in %**

| | Average since | 2025 | | | 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan. 2023 | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan |
| **Business climate** | **100** | **104** | **115** | **108** | **114** |
| Past production | **-33** | -14 | -11 | -8 | **-6** |
| Expected production | **-30** | -14 | -1 | 4 | **-10** |
| Order books | **-46** | -27 | -14 | -9 | **-16** |
| Stocks | **24** | 6 | 76 | 2 | **76** |
| Past selling prices | **-2** | 2 | -3 | -2 | **-1** |
| Expected selling prices | **0** | 5 | 5 | 10 | **5** |
| Workforce size: recent trend | **-14** | -5 | 8 | 9 | **-7** |
| Workforce size: future trend | **-7** | 8 | -14 | 11 | **-6** |
| Cash position | **30** | 52 | 66 | 68 | **60** |
| Economic uncertainty felt | **12** | 17 | 25 | 23 | **24** |
| Recruitment constraints | **0** | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |

Note for the reader: Regarding the evolution of the past production over the last three months, considering a base 100 respondents, each with a unit weight:
- on average since January 2023, business leaders who answered "down" are 33 more than business leaders who answered "up";
- in January 2026, business leaders who answered "down" are 6 more than business leaders who answered "up".

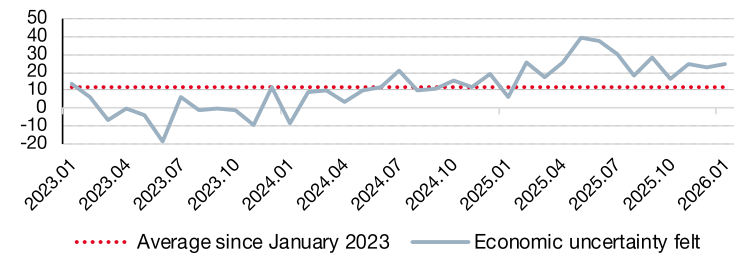
*Source: Monaco Statistics*

**3. Recent and future trend in workforce size**




Unit: Balance of opinion
*Source: Monaco Statistics*

**4. Economic uncertainty felt**




Unit: Balance of opinion
*Source: Monaco Statistics*

According to the business leaders surveyed, in January 2026, the business climate is improving again and approaching its highest level in the manufacturing and craft industries.

The composite indicator rose by 6 points to 114 in January. This result is due to a sharp increase in inventories. In addition, past production improved slightly. Finally, although expected production and order books are down, they remain at a high point.

The balance of opinion regarding **past production** continues to improve. The one regarding **expected production** is decreasing. Both are above their usual standard.

The level of **order books** is declining, although it stayed above its long-term average.

**Stocks** of finished goods are rising sharply after an important drop in December. They are returning to above normal.

**Past selling prices** are stable, at their normal point.

**Expected selling prices** are falling but continue to be above their average level.

**Recent and future trend of workforce sizes** are down. Both balances remain above their respective historical averages.

**Cash position** is declining slightly but is still well above normal observations.

Finally, the **economic uncertainty felt** by business leaders in the industry remains stable, still above its average.

**Balance of opinion** : difference between the weighted percentage of 'increasing' and 'decreasing' responses

## *Monthly manufacturing industry and craft survey — January 2026*

### 5. Production constraints

| | Jan 2025 | April 2025 | July 2025 | Oct 2025 | Jan 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proportion of businesses reporting production constraints linked to : | 63% | 70% | 69% | 62% | **54%** |
| *Insufficient demand* | *55%* | *48%* | *58%* | *48%* | ***45%*** |
| *Labour difficulties (shortage, cost, etc.)* | *25%* | *26%* | *8%* | *4%* | ***30%*** |
| *Lack of appropriate equipment* | *5%* | *4%* | *8%* | *0%* | ***0%*** |
| *Financial difficulties* | *15%* | *22%* | *17%* | *22%* | ***15%*** |
| *Difficulties with premises (cost, size, lack of available space)* | *40%* | *30%* | *25%* | *35%* | ***15%*** |
| *Logistical difficulties* | *15%* | *17%* | *0%* | *22%* | ***10%*** |
| *Supply difficulties (semi-finished products, raw materials, etc.)* | *0%* | *4%* | *0%* | *0%* | ***5%*** |
| *Energy-related difficulties (cost, shortage, etc.)* | *20%* | *13%* | *13%* | *13%* | ***5%*** |
| *Other* | *0%* | *13%* | *25%* | *9%* | ***20%*** |

Note: As the question on production constraints is a multiple choice question, the total is greater than 100..
*Source: Monaco Statistics*

Just over half of companies are facing production constraints in January 2026, the lowest level observed in a year.

Among them, 45% are experiencing difficulties related to insufficient demand and 30% are experiencing labour difficulties (shortages, costs, etc.).

15% are affected by financial difficulties and issues related to premises. Logistics constraints affect one in ten companies, while 5% cite supply or energy issues. Finally, no companies report difficulties related to a lack of appropriate equipment.

### 6. Recruitment constraints

| | Jan 2025 | April 2025 | July 2025 | Oct 2025 | Jan 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proportion of businesses reporting recruitment constraints linked to : | 28% | 27% | 23% | 24% | **27%** |
| *Uncertain economic situation* | *11%* | *0%* | *13%* | *0%* | ***0%*** |
| *Unavailability of labour* | *100%* | *100%* | *75%* | *78%* | ***70%*** |
| *Lack of services for employees and their families (housing, childcare, etc.)* | *22%* | *22%* | *0%* | *0%* | ***30%*** |
| *Cost of recruitment* | *11%* | *11%* | *0%* | *0%* | ***20%*** |
| *Cost of labour* | *0%* | *0%* | *0%* | *0%* | ***0%*** |
| *Lack of job flexibility* | *22%* | *22%* | *0%* | *0%* | ***10%*** |
| *Procedures associated with recruitment* | *11%* | *11%* | *13%* | *11%* | ***10%*** |
| *Size of premises and/or lack of available space* | *11%* | *11%* | *0%* | *11%* | ***10%*** |
| *Other* | *0%* | *0%* | *25%* | *0%* | ***0%*** |

Note: As the question on recruitment constraints is a multiple choice question, the total is greater than 100.
*Source: Monaco Statistics*

In January 2026, 27% of companies reported recruitment difficulties, a proportion that remained broadly stable throughout the year.

Among them, seven out of ten cited the unavailability of labour, which remains by far the main reason given.

The lack of services for employees and their families is cited by 30% of companies. The cost of recruitment is cited by one in five. Finally, 10% consider the lack of job flexibility, the hiring process and the size of premises and/or lack of available space to be constraints.

Questions on **recruitment** and **production constraints** are asked **quarterly.**

**Results and methodology of the montly business survey in industry**: avaiable on monacostatistics.mc

INSTITUT MONÉGASQUE DE LA STATISTIQUE ET DES ÉTUDES ÉCONOMIQUES
9 rue du Gabian
98000 MONACO
monacostatistics.mc

ISSN-L 2015-0800