

NEWSLETTER

Dear ICOSPA member,

I was deeply honored and truly delighted to be able to host this 21st International Congress on Sheet Metal Work in Osaka, nearly 20 years since Japan last held one in 2005.

I would like to sincerely thank all the officials from ICOSPA member countries and everyone who participated in it for your efforts in making this event possible.

During the congress, we focused on the theme of "Sustainable Manufacturing -Harmony of Tradition and Innovation- ", featuring presentations from representatives of various countries, along with keynote speech by Mr. Hideki Taoka (Former Honda Motor Co., Ltd. /Former president of The Japan Society Die and Mold Technology).



Ryuichi Takagi
ICOSPA President

I believe everyone was able to experience of the essence of Japan through various performance at the party. I also received numerous compliments from attendees.

I wish for the success of the next international congress in the United States and for the continued development of ICOSPA.

Thank you very much.

Ryuichi Takagi
President of Japan Metal Stamping Association
ICOSPA President

SAVE THE DATE

ICOSPA MEETING 2025
Tuesday, November 11th to
Thursday, November 13th, 2025
in Tokyo, Japan

Venue-The Prince Park Tower Tokyo and Tokyo Prince Hotel



Global metalforming event was held in Japan for the first time in 19 years and concluded successfully.

The 21st ICOSPA International Congress was held in Japan for the first time in 19 years. JMSA is honored to have hosted this conference. Held in Osaka from October 23 to 25, the event saw 206 participants.

The event began with a welcome party at the Hotel New Otani Osaka, aimed at greeting incoming guests and fostering camaraderie among members.

The next day, the congress commenced with the theme "Sustainable Manufacturing – Harmony of Tradition and Innovation."

First, the keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Taoka, former Honda engineer, lecturing the crucial role of sheet metal forming technology in the future. He also lectured "How will start driving EVs in 2030!".

Following that, representatives from China, France, Germany, Japan, the U.K., and the U.S. participated in a ICOSPA representatives Panel Discussion, discussing innovative technologies that are transforming metal stamping, ways to achieve sustainable performance, and shared challenges facing each country.

In this congress, Japanese press manufacturers showcased advanced technologies and hosted exhibition booths, capturing the interest of many international attendees.

A presentation by Mr. Yang Ming from Tokyo Metropolitan University explored "Towards Sustainable Manufacturing with Smart Metal Forming Technologies."

At the conclusion of the conference, "Osaka Declaration" was announced, in which six countries jointly aim for sustainable manufacturing, followed by a ceremonial signing on an ema (a wooden board used to make wishes in Japan).

I feel that this congress was very meaningful as we were able to share Japan's latest technology with the ICOSPA members and learn from each other's problems from each country.

On October 25, participants visited several factories, including DAIKIN INDUSTRIES, LTD, KOYO Corporation, KYOCERA Corporation, SUGAWA SHATAI, CO., LTD., SENGOKU WORKS, LTD, and Kawasaki Motors LTD., where they gained insights into advanced technology.

The three-day event concluded with a farewell party at the Rihga Royal Hotel Osaka. During the party, JMSA president Mr. Takagi hand over the Presidential Wreath to Mr. Dave Arndt, president of PMS with praying for success in the next host country. At the end of the Party, attendees joined hands, singing "Auld Lang Syne", a memorable end to the conference.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to all the secretariats in each country and everyone involved for their dedicated cooperation.

Manabu Barada
Executive Director
Japan Metal Stamping Association

ICOSPA

International Council of Sheet Metal Presswork Associations



COUNTRY REPORTS

Japan Metal Stamping Association (JSA)



Japan’s HistoricYenDepreciation

USD Exchange Rate:
JPY 146 (Oct 6)

Japan’s Historic Yen Depression:
JPY 161 (July 3)

Japan’s Historic Yen Depression in 2024

The Japanese yen has been under pressure in the past few years as markets focused on the wide U.S.-Japan interest rate differentials. The yen lost more than 20% against the dollar since the outset of 2022, prompting several rounds of intervention by Tokyo to prop up the currency in September and October that year. It kept falling despite further intervention in April and May 2024, touching a 38-year lowof 161.96 to the dollar on July 3. Japan is suspected to have stepped in again in mid-July to put a floor under the yen.

Energy

Japan fuel prices, electricity prices, natural gas prices.

Unemployment rate

2024 Japan Unemployment Rate: 2.7%



Employment rate

Employment Rate in Japan
increased to 62% in June



Fuels, price per liter	Date	JYP (per liter)	USD (per liter)
Gasoline prices	September 30, 2024	174.7	1.22
Diesel prices	September 30, 2024	154.3	1.07
Kerosene prices	September 30, 2024	117.1	0.82
Electricity prices per kWh	Date	JYP (per liter)	USD (per liter)
Households	March, 2024	31.78	0.22
Businesses	March, 2024	27.64	0.19
Natural gas prices per kWh	Date	JYP (per liter)	USD (per liter)
Households	September 30, 2024	12.48	0.09
Businesses	September 30, 2024	13.1	0.09

Supply Chain

Government Initiatives for Manufacturing Reform

- Enhancing production and quality management using **digital technologies**
- Implementation of smart factories utilizing **IoT and AI**
- Addressing decarbonization and transitioning to a *circular economy*
- Shifting towards **value creation** (“Koto zukuri”) businesses
- Ensuring **resilience**
- Establishing **traceability**
- Addressing **labor shortages**
- **Passing on technical skills** for the next generation

Material Supply

In 2024, raw material prices in the manufacturing industry may continue to rise

Factors:

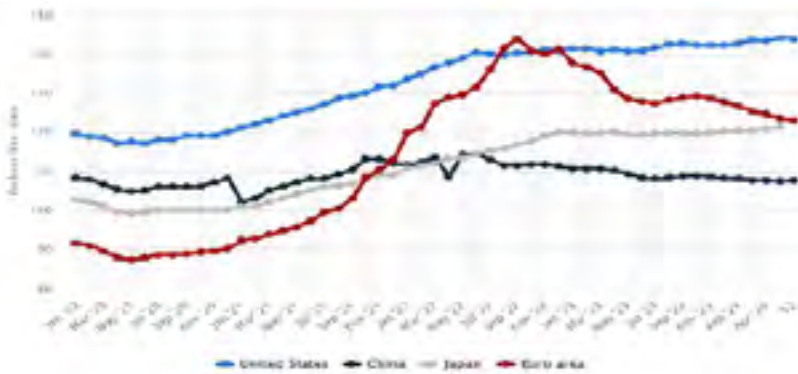
- increase in oil prices
- Rise in resource costs

Trade Association Activities

Current JMSA Activities:

- Working on revitalizing the mold and casting industry, which includes the metal stamping sector.
- Organizing Factory Tours and seminars.
- Hosting exhibitions that members can participate in at a low cost.

	JAPAN STAMPING TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2024 OSAKA 17 to 19 April 2024	JAPAN STAMPING TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2024 NAGOYA 28 to 28 June 2024
Number of Visitors	37,057	38,998



Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM)

Economy, October 2024

General Indicators

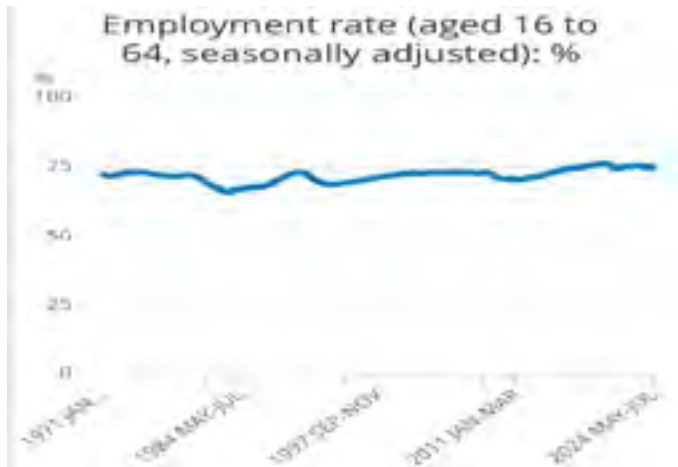
Euro Exchange rate 1.20 Euros /£
Last Year 1.16Euros /£

Dollar Exchange rate 1.31 \$/£
Last Year 1.29\$/£

Basic interest rate 5% October 2024
Was 5 % in July 2023

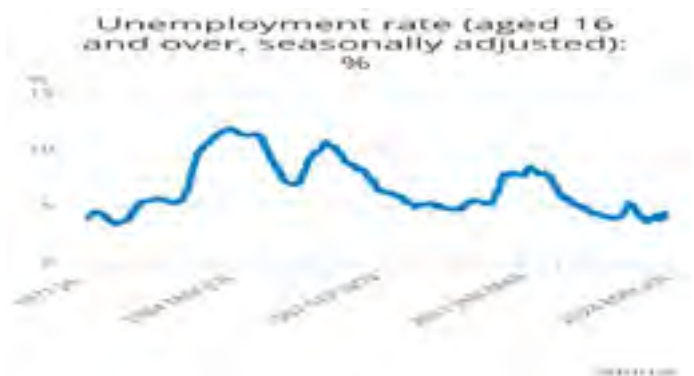
The BoE have been under pressure to reduce the interest rate further but have kept it at the current level to keep inflation under control, which was rising slightly due to pay increases

Unemployment rate



The unemployment rate in the UK for May to July 2024 was 4.1%, which is a decrease from the previous quarter and lower than the same period in 2023. This is equivalent to 1.44 million people aged 16 and over being unemployed

Employment rate



In July 2024, the employment rate in the United Kingdom for people aged 16 to 64 was 74.8 percent, compared with 74.9 in the same period of 2023.


Energy

Electricity and gas unit prices and standing charges, 1 October to 31 December 2024

	Energy price cap per unit and standing charge 1 July to 30 September 2024
Electricity	22.36 pence per kWh 60.12 pence daily standing charge
Gas	5.48 pence per kWh 31.41 pence daily standing charge

Energy Price Guarantee from 1 July 2023

[Find out how the EPG operated from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024.](#)

1. Energy billing often works to 3 decimal places. The discount rates to 3 decimal places in Great Britain were 16.570p/kWh for electricity and 2.185p/kWh for gas. 



Country Updates UK

Supply Chain

Statistics (ONS), the UK's supply chain is facing a number of challenges in 2024, including:

Brexit

The UK's exit from the EU continues to impact the supply chain, with new regulations and border controls on import from the EU.

International conflict

The conflict in the Middle East is a major concern for businesses, with 41% of businesses with 10 or more employees reporting it as the main reason for supply chain disruption in March 2024.

Shipping disruption

Shipping disruption is a concern for businesses, with 8% of businesses reporting it as a concern over the next 12 months.

Increased barriers to trade

Increased barriers to trade is a concern for businesses, with 8% of businesses reporting it as a concern over the next 12 months.

Inflation

Businesses are already dealing with inflation, which hinders the flow of goods across borders.

Material Supply

- Increased barriers to trade (8%), with the wholesale and retail trade and manufacturing industries both at 17%
- Shipping disruption (8%), with the wholesale and retail trade industry at 23%
- International conflict (8%), with the manufacturing industry at 15%

Businesses were also asked how they expect these factors to impact their supply chain. The most reported impacts were:

- Increased costs of sourcing materials (36%)
- Increased transportation costs (28%)
- Increased labour Costs (16%)

Trade Association Activities

CBM have been actively been working to increase our membership this has resulted in the successful in recruiting several new key members ;

- JLR
- NatWest Bank
- The Kaizen Institute

ISTMA

CBM have recently joined ISTMA , we've done this on the understanding that it gives access to ICOSPA members . The first meeting is Aachen ,Germany on November 13th.

Main topics for lobbying have been :-

- A major Safeguarding issue has arisen with HMRC, several CBM members impacted with over £1 million being claimed back in import duty by the HMRC. Not straight forward but 129 companies impacted so it's a big issue.
- CBM continue to work with Lobby Groups more recently with a new government in place on the Industrial Strategy and the Employments Rights Bill
- Steel safeguarding -. TRA opened the new submissions for Steel Safeguarding, which we have responded as did some of our members. We requested 12a to be removed from Safeguarding but wasn't successful. However, the increased quota we had put in place is proving sufficient.

Country Updates Germany

IBU - Industrieverband Blechumformung e.V.

Economic Situation



Business Climate Supplier Industry –September 2024(ArgeZ – Arbeitsgemeinschaft Zulieferindustrie/ Working group supplier industry)

Inflation



Inflation rate in Germany August 2021 – August 2024
(Increase of consumer price index compared to previous month)

Source: Statista 2024

GDP

Economic development

(GDP price-adjusted, change compared to previous year/
previous quarter in %)

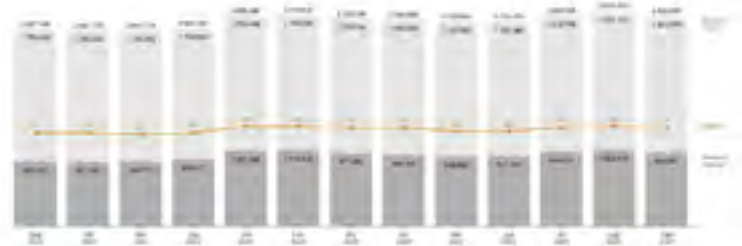
Source: Statistisches Bundesamt 2024

Merkmal	Einheit	2023	2023				2024	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Bruttoinlandsprodukt (BIP)								
preisbereinigt ¹	%	-0,3	0,6	-0,4	-0,7	-0,4	-0,8	0,3

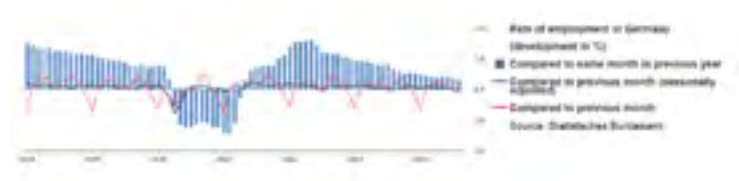
Development of unemployment rate

Number of people unemployed and rate of unemployment in Germany

Source: Bundesagentur für Arbeit



Development of employment rate



Current topics regarding staff

- Shortage of qualified staff on all levels e.g. potential apprentices, unskilled workers, highly qualified and experienced employees
- Currently increased sick rate in companies(6 –8,4 % depending of sector of work)
- High costs for statutory sick pay
- In 2023 employers in Germany had to pay76,7 billion Euros in statutory sick pay–these costshave doubled within the last 14 years

Country Updates Germany

Electricity

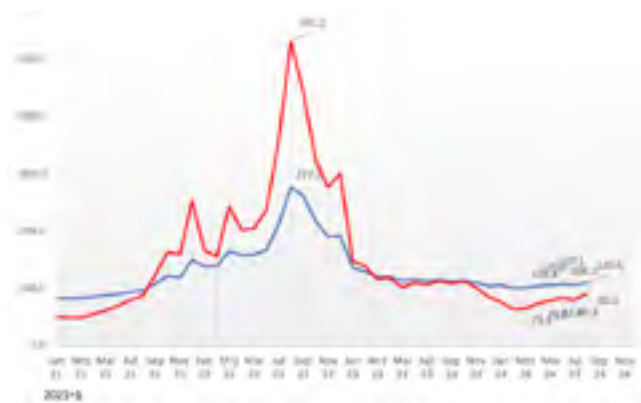
Prices for electricity

Indices for energy prices, monthly averages

In red: Energy Exchange prices

In blue: Prices paid by industry

Monthly averages as index



Gas

In green: Energy Exchange prices

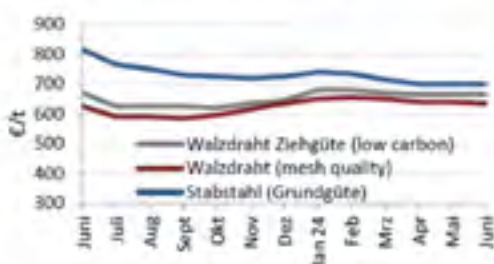
In blue: Prices paid by industry, yearly usage 11630MWh

Monthly averages as index



Steel

Spot market prices for long products

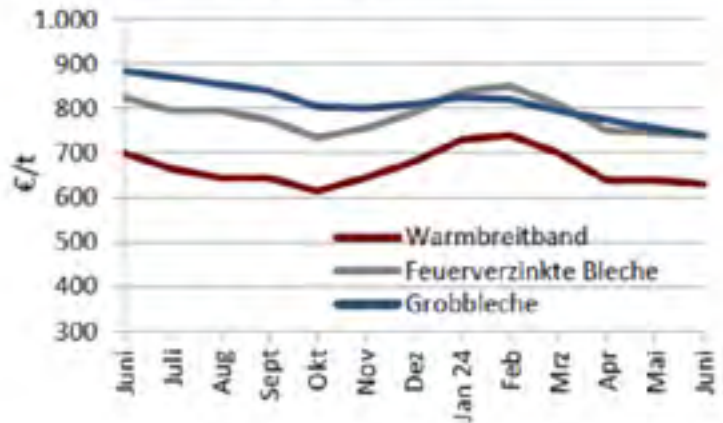


Transactional prices (inkl. average additions for typical measurements and basic grades) on the German market.

Source: StahlmarktConsult Stahlpreis.Trend

No responsibility is taken for the correctness of this information. This is a general market overview without claim for validity for individual companies.

Spot market prices for flat products



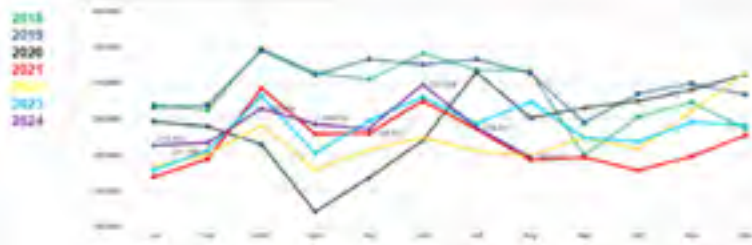
Prices for basic grades on the German market

Source: StahlmarktConsult Stahlpreis.Trend

No responsibility is taken for the correctness of this information. This is a general market overview without claim for validity for individual companies.

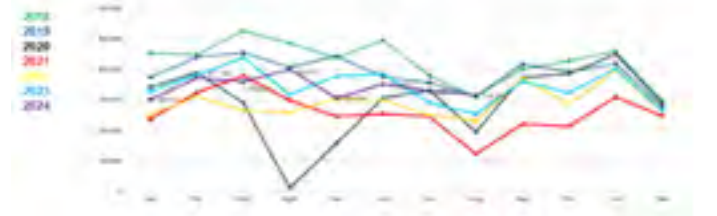
Passenger Car Registrations

Passenger car registrations in Germany



Production of Passenger Cars

Production of Passenger Cars in Germany (including electric vehicles)



Country Updates Germany

Further topics/Activities

- **Germany as business location:** high level of bureaucracy and administration as well as shortage of potential employees and high energy prices lead to decreased attractiveness as location for industrial business
- Several associations under umbrella WSM have been active in **campaign „WIR. FORMEN. FORTSCHRITT.“** to address current challenges to politicians and general public
- The campaign will be continued shortly in order to make politicians aware of challenges when it comes to 2025 elections for Bundestag
- **Pricing of CO2 within the value chain** as part of becoming climate-neutral – IBU organised event with this topic in June 2024
- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** – group of associations have managed to get CN 7326 (Articles of iron or steel) included in scope and have representative in EU commission working group in order to try to influence further development – attempt to get more CN-groups to be included
- **Artificial intelligence in sheet metal production** – IBU has already organised events and working groups regarding AI in production, AI in quality management and using AI to support negotiations



Precision Metalforming Association

U.S. Economy July 2023

General Indicators

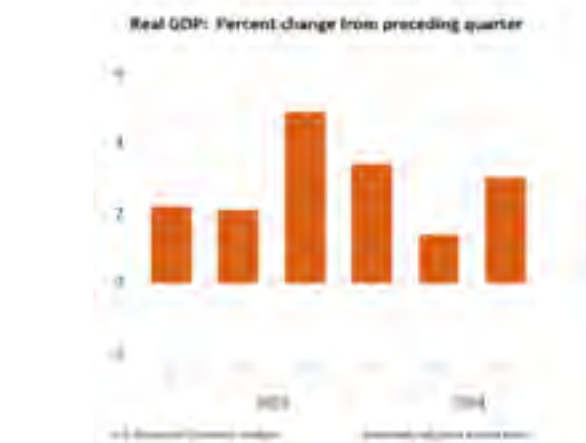
- Basic interest rate: The Federal Reserve lowered interest rates in September 0.5% between 4.75% and 5%. This followed 10 consecutive interest hikes in 15 months to hold down historically high inflation. The Fed forecast also talked about additional rate reductions going forward if needed.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased to 2.5% in August 2024 YOY and the Federal Reserve lowered rates after seeing the CPI continue to trend downward with growing concern that unemployment levels were increasing, and new hiring was decreasing.
- Institute for Supply Management's U.S. manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) was 47.2% in August 2024, decreasing for the 5th consecutive month and 21st time in the last 22 months. Any figure below 50 signals contraction in manufacturing.

Inflation

The annualized inflation rate for the United States was 2.5% for the 12 months ended August 2024. This is a decrease from 6.4% annualized in January 2023.



GDP grew by an annualized 3.0% in Q2 2024, down from a 3.4% expansion in Q4 2023.

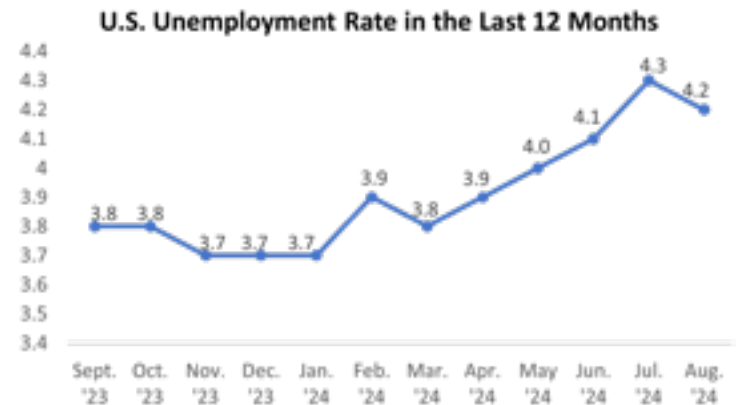


Country Updates

USA

Unemployment Rate

Overall, the U.S. unemployment rate started increasing in 2024. It rose from 3.7% in January 2024 to 4.2% in August 2024, sparking concern at the Federal Reserve.



Employment Rate

In August 2024, there were 158.78 million people employed on nonfarm payrolls in the United States, up from 156.42 million one year ago.

The manufacturing sector currently employs nearly 13 million people.

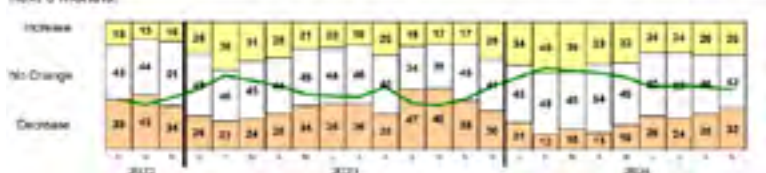
In August 2024, the sector employed 12,927,000 workers—a decline of 25,000 workers compared to July 2024.

U.S. Economy September 2024

Data from PMA's September 2024 Business Conditions Survey

Members forecast little change in expectations for economic activity in the coming months:

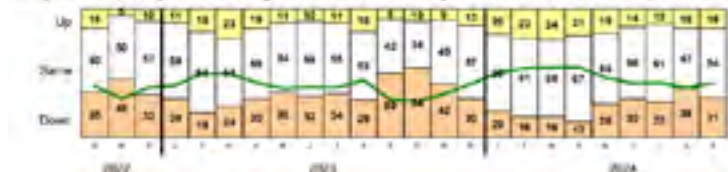
Compared with the last 3 months, what do you expect the trend to be in your incoming orders during the next 3 months.



Expectations for incoming orders have remained virtually unchanged for several months:

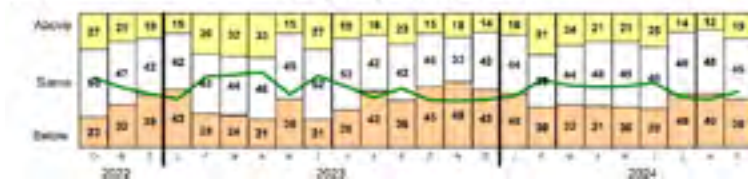


Compared with today, the trend of general economic activity for the next 3 months is expected to be:



Average daily shipping levels rose slightly in September compared to August:

Compared to 3 months ago, current average daily shipping levels are:



Other key findings in September:

- 34% of companies are currently expanding their workforce.
- Only 5% of companies had a portion of their workforce on short time or layoff in September, compared to 10% in August.

Energy

- Near-term natural gas pricing has fallen significantly as compared to last year. Gas storage inventories have increased as producers responded to 2023's higher prices with increased drilling and production.
- Gasoline costs for this summer were the same as last year at \$3.21/gallon (\$0.85/liter).
- There are concerns about the dedicated movement toward green energy sources whether EV, solar or wind as projects come in at higher costs, delays due to funding and permit requirements, and lack of positive consumer response to the cleaner products at higher prices.
- Biden administration postponements on LNG exporting permits cause potential risks to European markets and European security.

Domestic EV Update

- Biden administration target set for 50% of all new vehicles sold in 2030 to be EVs.
- EV sales in the U.S. have only increased 7% in 2024.

Country Updates USA

- Biden administration set new targets for CAFÉ and emissions requirements for passenger car, light truck and heavy truck in March 2024, putting increased emphasis on emissions as way to force adoption of EVs.
- All new cars in CA, NY, and Massachusetts to be EV by 2035.
- By 2030 there are expected to be over 200 EV models for sale.
- Cost found to be the #1 barrier followed by charger availability and battery technology.
- Reports show that U.S. customers are willing to drive EVs but not at the transaction prices available. In response, Ford has dropped the price of the Mustang Mach1 EV 30%, but both Ford and GM continue to lose \$000s on each EV sold.
- GM and Ford have both announced delays to EV product plans with major push toward plug-in hybrids to meet upcoming regulations. The number of assembly plants capable of building 3 propulsion systems—ICE, EV and plug-in—will increase from 11 to 21 by 2029.
- The Biden administration in September 2024 enacted 100% tariffs on EVs built in China.
- Supplier financials are at risk from the launch delays and reduced sales.

Supply Chain

- The trend of onshoring and nearshoring manufacturing facilities to strengthen supply chains is likely to persist, providing new opportunities for domestic suppliers. Mexico is probably gaining more than the U.S. due to workforce availability and more favorable trade agreements.
- Build activity for trucks and trailers is softening as “market doesn’t need new trucks when there isn’t freight to be moved.”
- There has been noticeable effort by domestic manufacturers to shorten the supply chain due to black swan events, transportation costs and tariffs.
- Manufacturers and shippers are working to minimize shipping disruptions in the event of a strike by the Longshoremen’s Association at several East Coast and Gulf Coast ports next month. Material SupplySteel



Country Updates USA

Pricing and Production Trends

U.S. Hot-Rolled Band prices rose in September 2024 after falling for the seventh consecutive time.

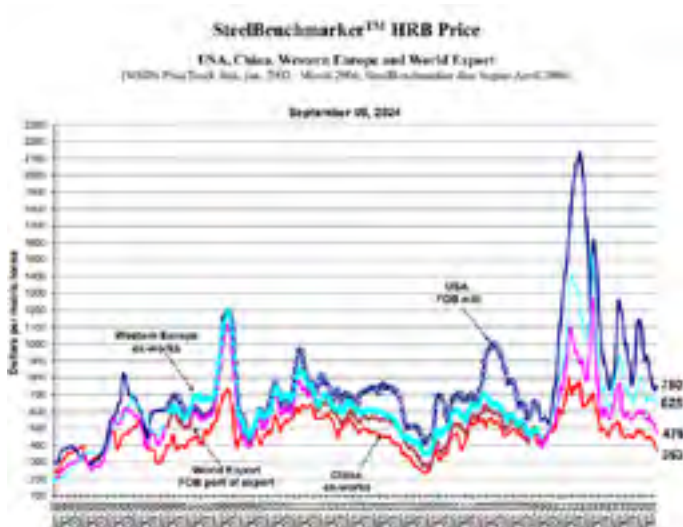
U.S. HRB is \$387 per metric tonne more expensive than in China and \$125 per metric tonne higher than in Western Europe.

Through September 14, year-to-date domestic raw steel production was at a 78.8% capability utilization rate, a 4.4% increase from the same period last year.

Pricing information: SteelBenchmarkr, 9/9/24

Production information: AISI, 9/14/24

- We hired a new Technical Training Director, Dean Phillips.
- We kicked off strategic planning for the association so that we can plan for the next three to five years. We completed over 50 interviews with members and staff. We conducted an in-depth survey to the rest of the members to which we received over 400 responses. Last time we did this large of a survey was back in 2013. It was needed especially after a few years of COVID.
- Looking into adding a new event for us – Fabrication Technology Conference – more technical and audience is operations, engineers and plant managers. We already put on a Metal Stamping Conference.



Trade Association Activities

- Membership continues to be strong. We are currently at 930 members, with a 97% retention rate.
- Forming Our Future conference was held in Orlando in March with a great turnout. Next year's event will take place in Puerto Rico in March 2025. Registration recently opened and numbers are strong.
- FABTECH USA was held in Orlando for the first time this month—excellent attendance and 1,500 exhibitors. FABTECH Mexico took place in May in Monterrey and had record attendance.
- Workforce Development and EDU are still a major priority; high demand for technical training.



Country Updates CHINA

Confederation of Chinese Metalforming Industry (CCMI)

The China Economy

Key Factor / YoY Growth Rate	2024 1st Half	2023	2022
GDP	5.00%	5.20%	3.00%
PPI	-2.10%	-3.00%	4.10%
CPI	0.10%	0.20%	2.00%
Import and export value of goods	6.10%	0.20%	7.70%
Export value of goods	6.90%	0.60%	10.50%
Import value of goods	5.20%	-0.30%	4.30%
Value added of manufacturing enterprises above designated size	6.50%	5.00%	3.00%
Value Added of automobile manufacturing industry	9.80%	13.00%	6.30%
Value added of general equipment manufacturing industry	2.80%	2.00%	-1.20%
Value added of electrical machinery and equipment manufacturing industry	4.70%	12.90%	11.90%
Value added of computer, communication and other electronic equipment manufacturing industry added value	13.30%	3.40%	7.60%
Value added of railway, ship, aerospace and other transportation equipment manufacturing industry	11.60%	6.80%	2.40%
Steel output	2.80%	5.20%	-0.80%

The annual output of major enduser's industries of China metal formed parts

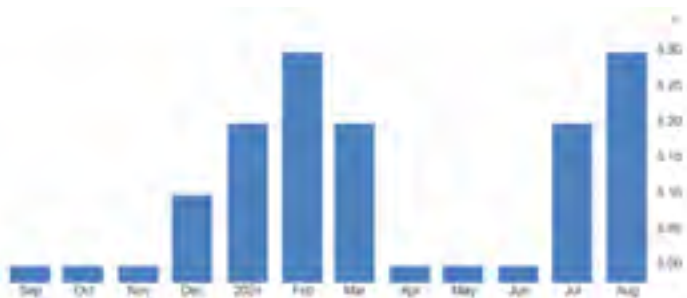
The annual output of major enduser industries of China metal formed parts						
Major enduser industries	2024 H1	Growth	2023	Growth	2022	2021
Metal container (100 M m ³)	1.19	150.4%	1.02	-36.1%	1.48	2.31
Integrated circuit (100 M PCs)	2071	28.9%	3514	6.9%	3242	3594
Optoelectronic devices (trillion PCs)	0.92	25.1%	1.44	12.5%	1.08	1.23
EMU (units)	748	24.5%	1240	63.2%	760	1021
Metal smelting equipment (10 K tons)	51.7	19.7%	83.3	-7.5%	87.4	82.6
Solar cells (photovoltaic cells, 100 M KW)	2.86	17.8%	5.41	54.0%	3.44	2.34
Electric hand-held tools (100 M units)	1	16.8%	1.66	-9.6%	1.89	2.72
Lithium-ion battery (100 M PCs)	133	16.0%	245	3.5%	239	233
Electrical instrumentation (100 M units)	1.48	14.9%	2.76	6.1%	2.58	2.78
Generator set(100 M KW)	1.11	14.4%	2.34	28.5%	1.84	1.6
Room air conditioner (100 M units)	1.57	13.8%	2.45	13.5%	2.12	2.18
Civil steel ships (10 K deadweight tons)	2026	13.3%	3022	1.6%	3001	3354
SUV (10 K units)	568	10.4%	1183	10.5%	1063	974
Household refrigerators (10 K units)	5051	9.7%	9632	14.5%	8664	8992
Mobile communication handsets (100 M units)	7.5	9.7%	15.7	6.9%	15.6	16.6
Industrial robots (10 K units)	28.3	9.6%	43	-2.2%	44.3	36.6
Special packaging equipment (10 K sets)	65.8	7.8%	73.4	-20.0%	96	75.4
Excavator (10 K units)	14.9	7.7%	23.6	-23.5%	30.7	36.2

Country Updates CHINA

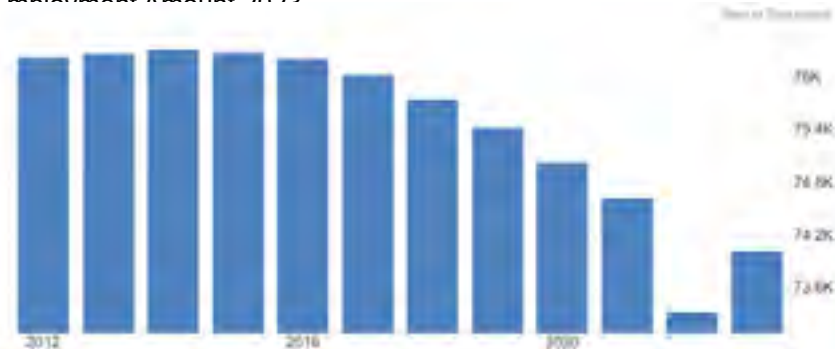
The annual output of major enduser industries of China metal formed parts						
Major enduser industries	2024 H1	Growth	2023	Growth	2022	2021
Household washing machines (10 K units)	5311	6.8%	10458	19.3%	9106	8619
Special equipment for feed (10 K units)	5	6.5%	2.4	-21.2%	3.5	15.9
Automobile (10 K units)	1396	5.7%	3011	9.3%	2748	2653
Metal cutting machine tool (10 K units)	33.3	5.7%	61.3	6.4%	57.2	60.2
Truck (10 K units)	171	1.9%	338	22.6%	271	410
Car (10 K units)	496	1.0%	1086	4.2%	1047	977
Microcomputer equipment (100 M units)	1.57	1.0%	3.31	-17.4%	4.34	4.67
Engine output (100 M KW)	11.4	0.8%	24.1	7.5%	22.7	26.8
Color TV set (100 M units)	0.96	0.4%	1.93	-1.3%	1.96	1.85
Large and medium tractors (10 K units)	20.8	-4.3%	38.3	-3.8%	39.8	41.2
Metal forming machine (10 K units)	8.3	-6.7%	15.1	-14.2%	18.3	21
Elevators, escalators and lifts (10 K units)	69.8	-7.9%	155.7	3.9%	145	155
Industrial boilers (10 K tons of evaporation capacity)	9.7	-9.0%	22.5	1.1%	37.4	38.9
AC motor (100 M KW)	1.65	-9.7%	3.7	-14.1%	4.29	4.05
Copier and offset printing equipment (10 K units)	118	-14.4%	223	-12.8%	365	391
Air purification equipment (10 K units (sets))	21	-16.0%	47.5	22.0%	43.4	48.1
Base station equipment (10 K units)	288	-17.2%	654	-17.1%	667	542
Cement special equipment (10 K tons)	13.9	-32.7%	39.6	-5.4%	41.6	40.3

Economy - Employment

Unemployment rate 2024



Employment Amount 2023



At the end of 2023, there were 740.41 million employed people in China. The average surveyed urban unemployment rate is 5.2%.

In the first half of 2024, the average surveyed unemployment was 5.1%, down 0.2 percentage points from the same period last year

The Current Energy Prices in Beijing in September, 2024

Items	Resident		General Industrial and commercial		Remarks
Electricity price (¥ CNY/kWh)	0.49	≤ 240 kWh/household * month	1.42	Top peak period/day	Different slightly in different provinces and municipalities
	0.54	241-400 kWh/household * month	1.29	Peak period/day	
	0.79	>400 kWh/household * month	0.77	Flat period/day	
			0.29	Valley period/day	
Natural gas price (¥ CNY/m ³)	2.83	≤350 m ³ / household * year	3.3	-	Different slightly in different provinces and municipalities
	3.4	350-500 m ³ / household * year	-	-	
	4.25	>500 m ³ / household * year	-	-	
Fuel price (¥ CNY/liter)	7.37	92 # gasoline from Sept. 20, 2024	7.37	92 # gasoline from Sept. 20, 2024	Adjusted every 14 days according to national regulations. Different slightly in different provinces and municipalities.
	7.85	95 # gasoline from Sept. 20, 2024	7.85	95 # gasoline from Sept. 20, 2024	
	7.07	0 # diesel oil from Sept. 20, 2024	7.07	0 # diesel oil from Sept. 20, 2024	

Supply Chain - Status

- 1. Industry Recovery:** Post-pandemic, China's sheet metal forming industry saw a recovery in demand from key sectors like automotive and construction. However, global supply chain disruptions and raw material shortages continued to pose challenges.
- 2. Raw Material Costs and Availability:** Steel and aluminum prices fluctuated due to geopolitical tensions and domestic production limits. While shortages persisted, the situation began to stabilize by early 2024 as alternative sourcing options emerged.
- 3. Localization Efforts:** Companies focused on localizing supply chains to reduce dependence on international suppliers. Diversifying both domestic and foreign suppliers improved resilience but required time and investment.
- 4. Technology Adoption:** The industry embraced automation and smart manufacturing to manage supply chain issues. Digital tools improved forecasting and inventory management, helping companies navigate disruptions more efficiently.
- 5. Environmental Regulations:** China's environmental policies pushed manufacturers toward greener production methods. Compliance increased operational complexity, but also encouraged sustainability.
- 6. Export Challenges:** Trade barriers, particularly with the U.S., impacted exports. To counteract this, companies targeted new markets, such as Southeast Asia, to maintain growth.

Supply Chain - Challenge

- 1. Fluctuating Material Prices:** Unstable prices of steel and aluminum, driven by global supply issues and geopolitical tensions, make it hard for manufacturers to control costs.
- 2. Geopolitical Tensions:** Trade conflicts, especially with the U.S., have led to tariffs and export restrictions, increasing costs and forcing companies to find new markets.
- 3. Supply Chain Fragmentation:** Relying on global suppliers has become riskier due to trade barriers and political instability, causing delays and higher expenses. Shifting to local suppliers takes time and investment.
- 4. Environmental Regulations:** Strict policies require costly upgrades to cleaner technologies, adding pressure to companies while transitioning to greener methods.
- 5. Labor Shortages and Costs:** Finding skilled workers is difficult, and rising wages increase labor costs. Automation is an option, but it requires significant investment.
- 6. Technology Gaps:** Larger companies are adopting advanced technologies, while smaller businesses struggle to keep up, creating an imbalance in the industry.

Material Supply

In general, China's Sheet metal forming industry is recovering, but faces challenges like fluctuating material costs, supply chain fragmentation, and stricter regulations. Adapting through technology and localization will be key to future stability.



Trade Association Activities

- ☐ "SepDay" held for forging, stamping/pressing, sheet metal/fabricating industry.
- ☐ International congress/conference for forging and sheet metal forming.
- ☐ Technical seminar in forging and sheet metal forming (stamping/pressing and sheet metal/fabricating).
- ☐ Forging & Metalforming Net- www.duanxie.cn.
- ☐ Magazine of <Forging & Metalforming> and <Fabricating>.
- ☐ To edit and publish books on forging, stamping/pressing, sheet metal/fabricating, procurement guides, etc.
- ☐ To edit and publish 'Collected Works', conduct research and analysis on the economic operation of the industry, compile industry group standards, and release guidelines for industry management, technology, and equipment development.
- ☐ To organize the drafting and release of group standards for the forging industry.
- ☐ To edit a compilation of national policies related to the industry and promote the utilization of industry and enterprise policies.
- ☐ To organize various training courses and policy interpretation training for forging, stamping/pressing, sheet metal/fabricating industries.
- ☐ To organize industry research and surveys, and prepare development reports.
- ☐ To carry out industry information release and enterprise consulting.
- ☐ To take the creation and evaluation of green forging industry demonstration bases.
- ☐ Advanced selection and evaluation work within the association.
- ☐ To organize international exchanges and cooperation.

The SepDay 2025 will be held in Shanghai during from June 15 to 20, 2025.

Events	Date & Venue
MetalForm China 2025 -ChinaForge Fair 2025 -MetalFab China 2025 -JointWeld China 2025 -SheetMetal China 2025 -MetalComp China 2025 -Die & Tool China 2025	Date: June 17-20, 2025 Venue: Hall 4, National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai)-NECC
Stamping, Fabricating and Forging China 2025 -Theory & Practical Tech Meeting 2025 -R&D/Education/Production Cooperation -Policy Published Concerning Industries (BlueBook 2024) -To Award Prizes of Excellent Engineer and Excellent Team Leader (2024) - Survey Data Publicity of Industries (WhiteBook2024)	Date: June 15-17, 2025 Venue: The different hotels near NECC
ECO-MetalForm Summit 2025	Date: June 17, 2025 Venue: NECC
Buyers Forum Int'l 2025 -Forging, Stamping and Fabricating Parts Buyers Meeting 2025	Date: June 17, 2025 Venue: NECC
TPP- MetalForm Conference China 2025 -Lastest Technology & Products Promotion Press 2025	Date: June 17-19, 2025 Venue: NECC
Shen Gong (Masterpiece) Prize2025 -Shen Gong (Masterpiece)-Metal Formed Parts Awards 2025	Date: June 19, 2025 Venue: NECC
Promotion Forum 2025	Date: June 17-20, 2025 Venue: NECC
Qualified Suppliers Recommended 2025	Date: June 19, 2025 Venue: NECC

Country Updates FRANCE

FIM Métaux en Feuilles

Political Situation, October 2024

Unseen situation since beginning of the Vth Republic on France's Governance

After the results of the European Deputy's election in France, Mr MACRON considering the bad result of his party, make the decision, as President of the French Republic, to organize anticipated election of the French Deputy, expecting to clarifying the situation regarding the rise of the National Rally party.

The results at the end of the 2nd round, beginning of July, had given a mixed political representation with no possible majority without coalition.

The President, due to the Olympic and Para-Olympic in Paris decided to postpone the designation of the new Prime Minister and his government.

Mr BARNIER was named beginning of September, and it takes more than 2 weeks for establishing the new government.

So, it is the first time since the beginning of the Vth Republic that President and Prime Minister have no majority, this unseen situation creating a lot of tension on the political sphere, but also lot of uncertainty on economic fields.



- Next President's election in 2027
- 2,5 remaining years before

Economic Situation, October 2024

Public deficits have «exploded» since the 2008 crisis.

France Public Debt reaching 3101billion € end of 2023, no improvement expected in 2024

Graph in % per quarter of GDP in red



Since the 2008 financial crisis, France's public deficit has consistently exceeded the EU's 3% of GDP target. In 2009, it peaked at around 7.2% due to stimulus measures aimed at reviving the economy.

Over the following decade, France managed to reduce the deficit, bringing it to 2.5% of GDP by 2018.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic reversed this progress, with the deficit surging to 9.2% in 2020.

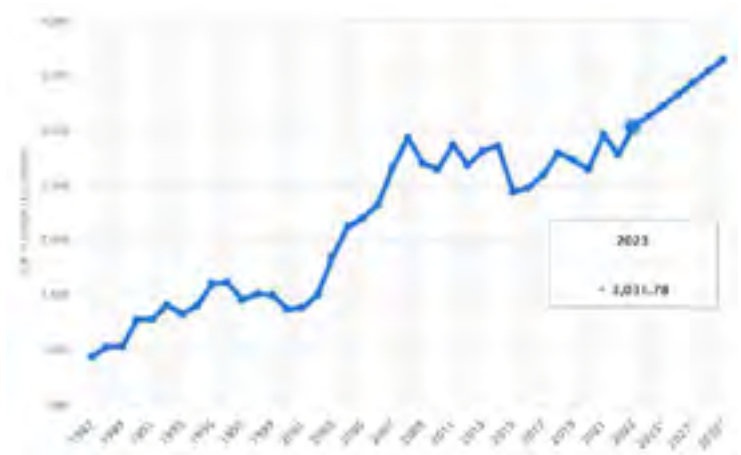
Although it has decreased since then, the deficit remains elevated, projected to over around 5.3% in 2024 as France faces ongoing fiscal challenges.

It represents the effect of accumulative yearly in deficit budgets on the over last 15 years, and higher interest payments.

France's GDP growth 2023-2024

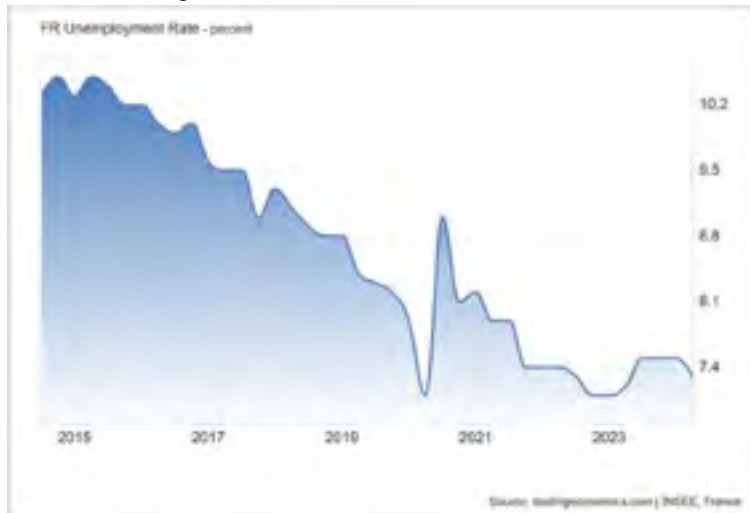
France's GDP growth is expected to remain modest at 0.7% in 2024, following a deceleration in 2023. However, growth is projected to accelerate in 2025, reaching 1.3%.

Indicateurs	2023	2024	2025
GDP growth (%_yoy)	0.2	0.7	1.3
Inflation (%_yoy)	5.3	2.9	2.0
Unemployment (%)	7.2	7.1	7.0
General government balance (% of GDP)	-6.5	-6.3	-6.3
Gross public debt (% of GDP)	114.6	112.4	112.8
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-2.2	-1.4	-1.4



France's slow growth has nevertheless created enough jobs to keep the unemployment rate at its lowest since last 10 years

Between 2022 and 2024, the employment rate in France has seen steady improvement. In 2022, France's unemployment rate was 7.3%, a notable recovery from the pandemic-induced setbacks, and one of its lowest levels in recent years. By the end of 2023, the unemployment rate increased slightly to 7.6%, reflecting a gradual stabilization in the labor market as the economy navigated challenges such as inflation and lower GDP growth. The employment rate, particularly for young people aged 15-24, has surged, thanks to government programs such as the "One Youth, One Solution" initiative, aimed at boosting apprenticeships and job creation. By 2022, youth employment reached its highest levels since 1991.



Employment rate

- 2022 : +0,4%
- 2027 : 68,4 %

Unemployment rate

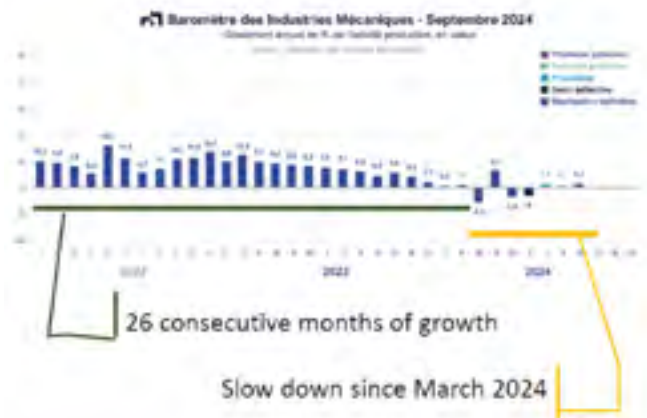
- 2023 : 7,1%
- 2024 : 7,3%

General Indicators on Mechanical Industries (coming from FIM) Level of activity in mechanical firms, based on all industrial sectors in France, is considered as normal, but with contrast when deeper analysis showing:

- In electrical engineering, electronics and computer science, water supply and industrial distribution, it remains stable,
- in construction sector, heavy industry (iron and steel, cement, mining and quarrying) and automotive industry, the trend is showing a decrease
- In aeronautics, Defense and energy production, a growth is impacting significantly the global trend.

At the end, a contrasted situation depending on the Industrial sectors

Country Updates FRANCE



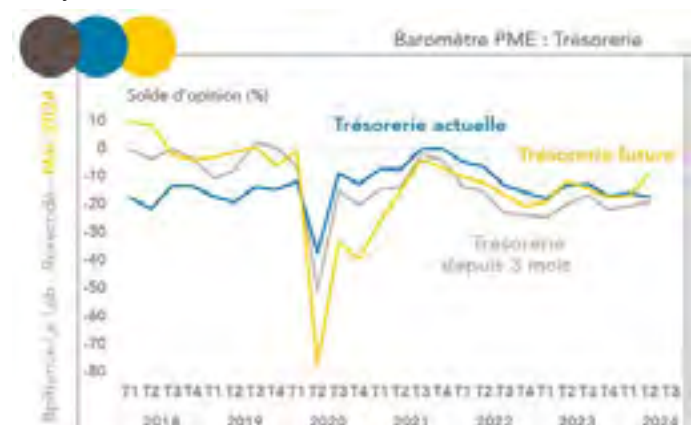
Impact on Companies, October 2024

As a result, loss on productivity observed in Europe and especially in France, in the inflationary context of the last three years, means for companies: Safeguard measures n steels

- A decline in margins and profitability of firms
- Lower propensity to invest and take risks due to this margin strain,
- Less ability to innovate and attract new talent with competitive salaries,
- Increased difficulties in motivating and involving their staff,
- A loss of overall competitiveness, and more structurally, an increased risk of industrial stalling of France (and Europe) compared to other major economic powers.

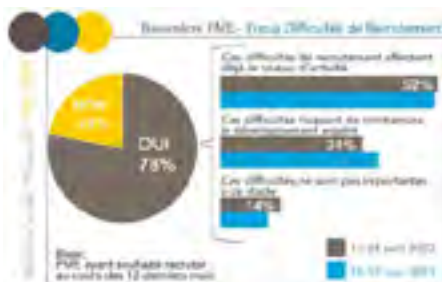
Treasury, Investment and SME Growth

Small and medium-sized enterprises expect a clear improvement in cash flow but less investment in 2024. Although they see demand constraints as high, these are causing them to slow down their investment spending for 2024. However, the need for investment remains strong, and its momentum is expected to continue over the next five years.



Almost 80% of SMEs or small businesses employment are facing with recruitment difficulties

- Adequation between the evolution of the jobs and the schooling and educational system
- Competition among companies on recruiting the talents
- Time consuming hiring process
- The CSR policy and employer brand
- Working conditions less attractive
- Incompatibility on skills vs needs



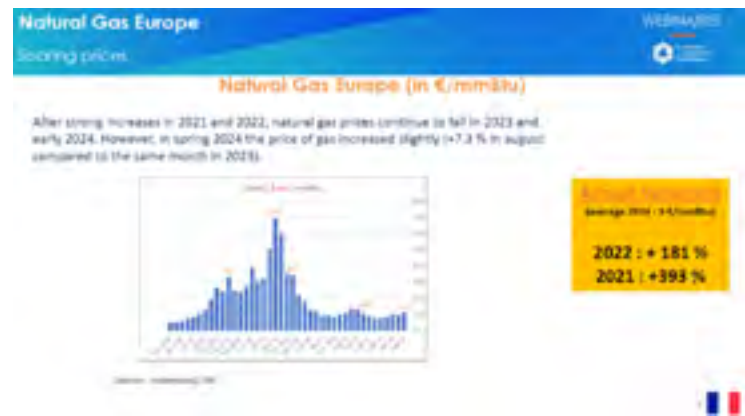
Majority of companies already feel that this is affecting their development, and almost one third report having been forced to restrict their activities.

Energy Cost, October 2024

Although France imports almost all the fossil fuels it consumes and has gradually diversified its geographical origin, The implementation of the nuclear program and the development of renewable energies have enabled it to increase its energy independence. Electricity and natural gas, which emit fewer greenhouse gases than oil and coal, have gradually replaced the latter in the main sectors of economic activity. Oil remains the dominant transport sector. Renewable energies are an increasing part of the national energy mix, representing 23% of primary energy production in France in 2023. In 2023, electricity was generated from 65.1% of nuclear power, 26.9% from renewable energy sources (hydro: 10.7%, wind: 10.1%, solar: 4.3%, bioenergies: 1.9%), 6.7% from fossil-fuel power plants (mainly gas: 6.2%) and 1.3% from other sources.



Country Updates FRANCE



CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism)

This is a new European regulatory instrument that aims to subject **imported products into the customs territory of the European Union** to a carbon price equivalent to the one applied to European manufacturers of these products.

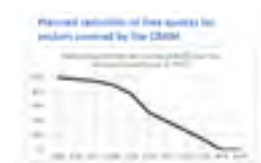
The consequences of implementing the CBAM:

- A significant increase in the sales prices of steel and aluminum in Europe which will penalize the industrial mechanics who consume a lot and produce in Europe. Finished mechanical products will be less competitive.
- Customers who turn to suppliers located outside Europe, knowing that these finished mechanical products will not be affected by a carbon tax on entry into Europe.
- In the end, an environmental assessment of this negative mechanism, due to the massive import of finished products with a higher carbon content than European products...

The primary objective of this scheme is to combat carbon leakage, in a context of strengthening climate ambition at European level.

FIMMEF position :

- Request to add mechanical products to the scope of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, to recover the competitiveness differential in the internal market of the European Union. The decarbonization of the upstream sectors must not destroy the downstream sectors, especially the mechanical ones, not protected by the carbon adjustment mechanism at the borders.



Safeguard Measures on Steel Importation in Europe

A very high metal shortage (steels in particular) is currently happening for several reasons (it is impossible to import steel, etc., from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, the steel industry itself has difficulties in supplying its basic components, energy costs lead to the closure of steel plants, surtaxes on imports of metals into the USA have been lifted), Prices soar when deliveries are still possible... deadlines are no longer guaranteed...

Safeguard measures on steels (import quotas outside the EU), established in 2018 to protect the European steel industry from imports of metals outside the EU, are no longer necessary.

FIM and FIMMEF position :

The FIM has asked for the suspension of safeguard measures on steels to unblock the situation and allow imports of steels (outside the EU... Turkey, India, others...) without taking the risk of a 25% surtax, when prices are already at the top... The FIM has also called for the abolition of authorisations to export metal waste from Europe to feed the European secondary steel sector.

Jérôme DELABRE,
President JD Corporation
FIMMEF's President over than 10 years,
Passed away last January 2024
RIP



FIMMEF main focus and projects:

4 working groups :

- GROUP 1 : added value and benefits when members being
 - GROUP 2 : formation according to jobs and skills needed
 - GROUP 3 : Organization of the next symposium on sheet metal working 2025
 - GROUP 4 : Projects supported by French government
- Study on the perspective of sheet metal working industry
Immersive mission on materials in automotive and future vehicles

Study on the perspective of sheet metal working industry :

Evolution of trades and skills in France

- Identify the development prospects of occupations and skills:
- identify the occupations in tension, in development, in mutation and in decline.
- Identify the key trades in the metallurgy branch for the development of the sector, whether they are transversal to other sectors of the industry or specific to the sector studied.
- Describe the impact of the digital and ecological transition in the sector's trades.
- Identify specific occupations in the sector as needed.

Creation of an immersive mission on new ferrous materials applied to vehicles in development and future vehicles

□ propose an immersive and innovative discovery of the profession, by focusing on new materials used in future vehicles.

□ Immersive virtual reality experiences have a very positive and engaging impact on young people and employees in companies.

Distribution of the deliverables to the public, teachers, students and companies..

- Aim of this study :

Increase technical knowledge on the implementation of these materials by researching and collecting information from those most familiar with these innovations

- Steelmakers, Remills, Toolmakers, Cutters...

FIMMEF with a new managing team since July 2024:

representing all domains of activities in sheet metal working



Jérôme Delabre
President



Valérie Bouchard
Vice President



Thomas Bouchard
Vice President



Jean-Marc Bouchard
Vice President



Jean-Marc Bouchard
Vice President

Permanent staff remain unchanged:



A committee of 14 persons

900 companies, mainly SME in France

30 000 employees

FIMMEF has without limitation representing the sector

FIMMEF acting with **Formations AFPM**, the association for training :

dispensing training on all domains of activities in sheet metal working

- design and specification on die tool
- training in manual and CNC laths
- driving automated press line
- improvement on tool's efficiency
- tolerances, metrology



Permanent staff with 4 professional supporting on different towns



Focus on Carbon Footprint with MECALLIANS

MECALLIANS the alliance between FIM / CETIM / UNM

(1) supports the development and best practice in reducing carbon emission on mechanical industry

-A guiding program is largely diffused to actors on mechanical industry

-23 records, from strategy to achievements, illustrating step by step approach

-Eco-design, energy, supply chain,... are impacting GHG

-Continuous improvement oriented

(1)

FIM : Mechanical Industry Federation

CETIM : Technical Centre on Mechanical Industry

UNM : Mechanical Normalization Committee



Global Industrie Paris 2024 Exhibition

- 34,000 visitors over the 4 days of the Fair- 2,300 exhibitors
- 14 exhibitors at the metal forming booths crossroads- 5 students in Bachelor and their teacher animating the focus on a progressive die-
- Visit of four Ministers, including the Minister of Industry and Energy,



Visit OERLIKON-BALZERS' plant

- Factory visit (production flow: preparation, degreasing lines, supports, machines, laboratory for characterization and validation of parts...)
- the different technologies of vacuum coatings (PVD, CVD, DLC,...)
- Testing of new coatings under severe punching conditions
- Methods of selecting steels and coatings and preparation of surfaces before coating
- Evolution of materials and analysis approach for active components of tools during a failure in service



Symposium on Sheet Metal Working Technologies 2025

- In partnership with CETIM

- Program currently under construction



Country Updates FRANCE

Benchmarking in BULGARIA in 2024

- Based on Sofia and Plovdiv regions, in partnership Chambre of Commerce
- Program including 6 visits in sheet metal working companies
- Visiting Smart Factory of SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC GROUP

Benchmarking in GERMANY in December 2024

