BANQUE DE FRANCE
EUROSYSTÈME

STAT INFO

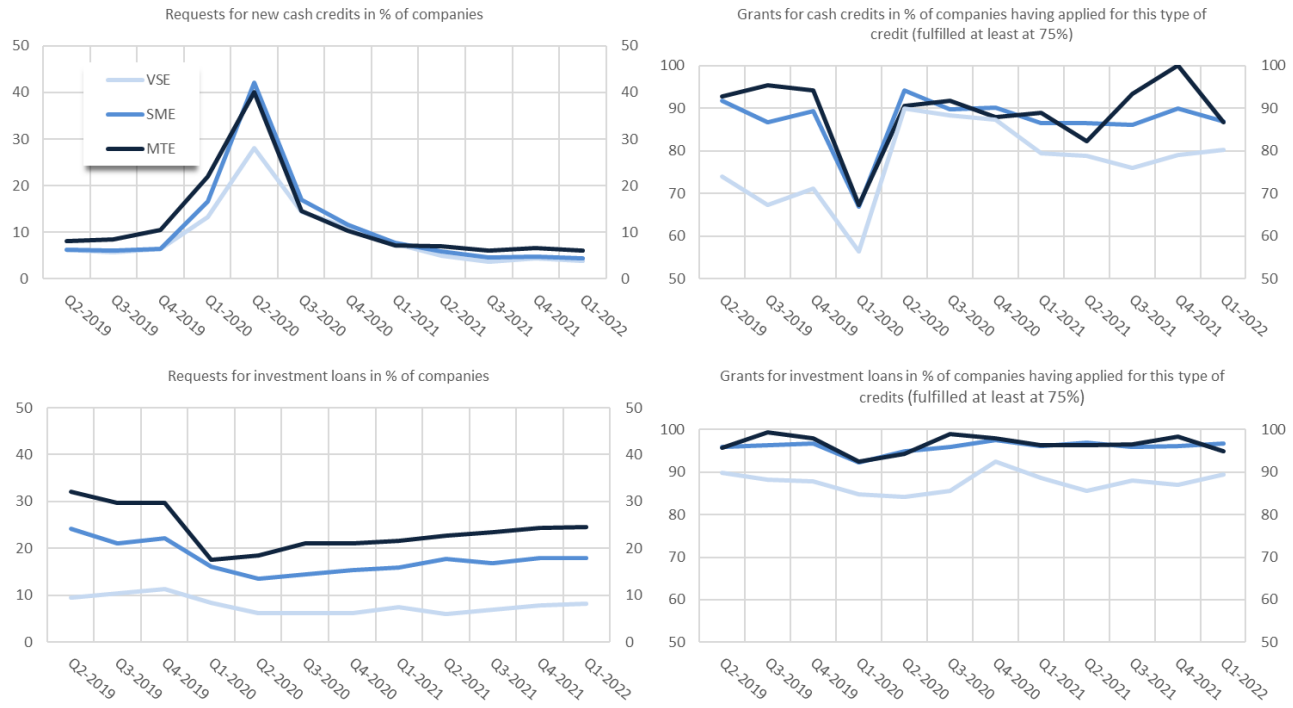
May the 3rd, 2022

Quarterly survey on the access to bank financing of companies in France • 1st quarter 2022

Demands for new credits remain stable and well-served

Demands for new cash credits remained at a low level, confirming the return to pre-crisis magnitudes. Demands for new investment loans were stable as well, slightly below their pre-crisis level. Both demands remained well-served, with high supply rates.

*The Banque de France carries out a quarterly survey on the access to bank financing of companies. 4,000 small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) and 500 mid-tier companies (MTEs) have answered; as well as 2,500 very small companies (VSEs) thanks to a partnership with the **Fédération des Centres de Gestion Agréés** (small firms authorised management centers federation). NB: bank credits alone are examined in this survey; MTEs have access to private financing options, which provides them with financing solutions not covered by this survey.*



Data not seasonally adjusted, in %; excluding use of previously granted credit lines
Scope: companies with autonomy to decide on credit applications: VSE = 0 – 9 employees; SME = 10 – 249 employees; MTE = 250 – 4999 employees
Note : figures for MTEs are to interpret with caution considering the small sample size in the survey

New cash credits

In 2022 Q1, demands for new cash credits remained at the low level they now have kept for several quarters: 4% of **VSEs** and 4% of **SMEs** and 6% of **MTEs** have requested this type of credit over the last three months. **Supply rates** for these demands rose slightly for **VSEs** by 1pp at 80% of companies having obtained their loan fully or almost fully. Meanwhile, the supply rate for **SMEs** fell by 3pp, reaching 87%.

New investment loans

Demands for new investment loans stabilized mildly below pre-crisis levels, with 8% of **VSEs**, 18% of **SMEs** and 25% of **MTEs** having requested a loan. **Supply rates for investment loans** remained high and slightly on the rise: 89% of **VSEs**, 97% of **SMEs** were fully or almost fully granted their demand. However, **supply rate** for **MTEs** decreased by 3pp, at 95% of companies having been granted their demand fully or almost fully.

More information on methodology, time series, calendar
All statistical time series published by the Banque de France can be accessed on Webstat Banque de France
Publication available under Apple and Android

STAT INFO – 1st quarter 2022
Access to bank financing of companies
Contact : Contact Stat Info

Complements

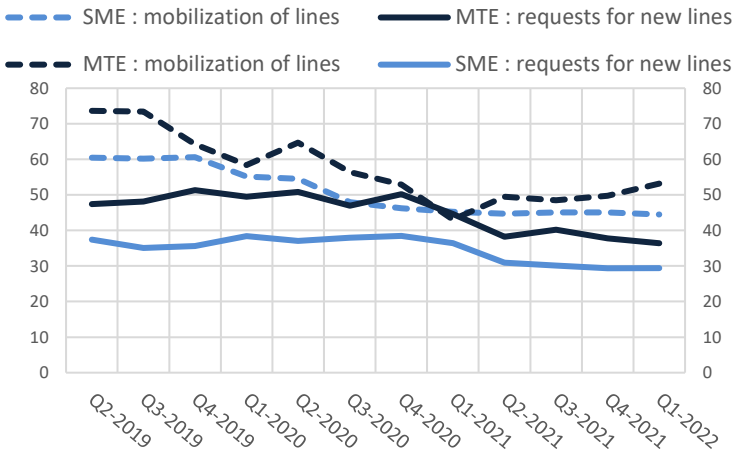
1. Credit lines

***For operating needs, SMEs** and **MTEs** can apply (usually at the beginning of the year) for **credit lines** giving them drawing rights over the year.*

The share of **SMEs** that have **applied for credit lines** in the last 12 months stabilized and stood at 29%. Among **MTEs**, 36% have made requests, which represents 2pp less compared to the previous quarter. These requests were still largely satisfied (fully or by more than 75%), in 95% of cases for **SMEs** and 97% of **MTEs'** demands.

44% of **SMEs drew on credit lines** this quarter. Among **MTEs**, 53% **drew on their credit lines**.

Requests for new credit lines over the last 12 months (in % of companies) and mobilization of existing lines over the last 3 months

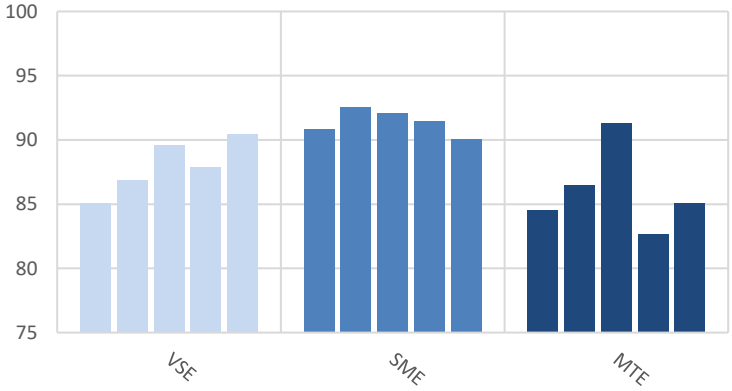


2. Supply rate for equipment loans

*Among **investment loans**, **equipment loans** are intended to finance intangible or tangible assets, excluding real estate.*

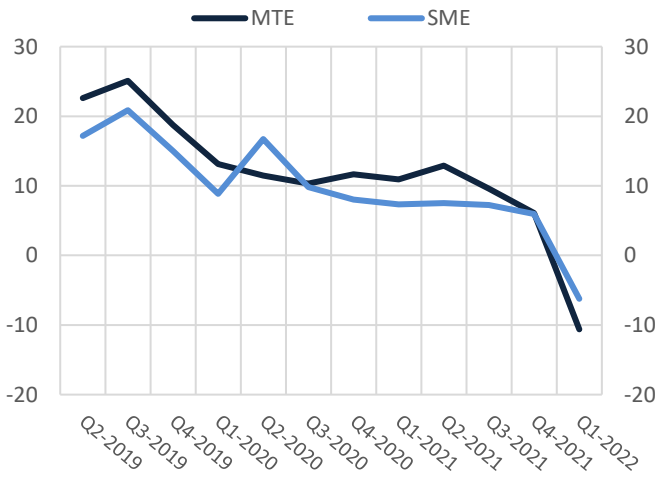
The supply rate for **equipment loans** (entirely or more than 75%) rose slightly to 90% of **VSEs** and to 85% for **MTEs**. Supply rates for **SMEs** fell by 1pp at 90%.

Grants for equipment loans in % of companies having applied for this type of credits (fulfilled at least at 75%) over the five last quarters (Q1 2021 to Q1 2022)



3. Evolution of the cost of credit

Balance of opinion on the evolution of the cost of credit in % of companies



Notably, this quarter, **the balance on the cost of credit*** for both SMEs and MTEs dropped sharply to negative, that is, more companies reported an increase in the cost of credit than a decrease in the cost of credit in the first quarter of 2022.

Such drop can be paralleled with the increase in business interest rates observed over March.

* The balance of opinion is the difference between the proportion of respondents reporting a decrease in the cost of credit and the proportion reporting an increase in the cost of credit. A positive balance of opinion indicates that more firms are reporting a decrease in the cost of credit than an increase.

More information on methodology, time series, calendar
All statistical time series published by the Banque de France can be accessed on Webstat Banque de France
Publication available under Apple and Android

STAT INFO – 1st quarter 2022
Access to bank financing of companies
Contact : Contact Stat Info