

## Corporate bankruptcies – France • May 2024

### At the end of May, a smaller year-on-year increase in the number of corporate bankruptcies

- At the end of May, the provisional cumulative number of bankruptcies aggregated over the last twelve months amounted to 60,210 (see graph 1). This level is slightly higher than the average measured over the 2010-2019 period (59,342).
- This expected catch-up, practically stable compared with April (60,159 bankruptcies), applies to all sectors of the economy, but in a heterogeneous way (see Table A). It also applies to all company sizes (see Table B).
- As a reminder, this increase is due to a dual effect :
  - The Catch up on the “backlog of corporate bankruptcies” observed during the Covid period (nearly 50,000 fewer corporate bankruptcies over the period 2020-2023) ;
  - The current slowdown in the economy, even if growth remains positive at 0.8% expected in 2024.
- The number of cases referred to the Credit Mediation Service has not increased.
- 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 <sup>a</sup> (rawdata)							
	Mean 2010-2019	Apr. 24	Apr. 24 /Apr. 23	Apr. 24 /2010-2019	May 23	May 24 prov.	May 24 /May 23	May 24 /2010-2019
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (AZ)	1,359	1,331	7.7 %	-2.1 %	1,227	1,281	4.4 %	-5.7 %
Industry (BE)	4,442	4,053	16.9 %	-8.8 %	3,519	4,048	15.0 %	-8.9 %
Construction (FZ)	14,684	12,941	35.5 %	-11.9 %	9,819	13,102	33.4 %	-10.8 %
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G)	13,070	12,807	23.5 %	-2.0 %	10,681	12,837	20.2 %	-1.8 %
Transportation and storage (H)	1,901	2,540	34.3 %	33.6 %	1,944	2,578	32.6 %	35.6 %
Accommodation and food service activities (I)	7,374	8,184	29.0 %	11.0 %	6,600	8,094	22.6 %	9.8 %
Information and communication (JZ)	1,480	1,758	25.7 %	18.8 %	1,455	1,770	21.6 %	19.6 %
Financial and insurance activities (KZ)	1,150	1,496	39.8 %	30.1 %	1,103	1,516	37.4 %	31.8 %
Real estate activities (LZ)	1,984	2,284	48.0 %	15.1 %	1,598	2,285	43.0 %	15.2 %
Advisory & Business support activities (MN)	6,380	7,035	31.9 %	10.3 %	5,499	7,060	28.4 %	10.7 %
Education, human health and social work services, Arts, entertainment and recreation, Other service activities (P to S)	5,311	5,653	24.8 %	6.4 %	4,636	5,562	20.0 %	4.7 %
<b>All firms<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>59,342</b>	<b>60,159</b>	<b>28.5 %</b>	<b>1.4 %</b>	<b>48,158</b>	<b>60,210</b>	<b>25.0 %</b>	<b>1.5 %</b>

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available early June 2024: final for April, provisional for May.

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

Note: The corporate population is growing; according to INSEE, there have been around 40% more corporates in the last 10 years.

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

<sup>b</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 (%)

Aggregate over previous 12 months<sup>a</sup> (raw data)

Size	Mean 2010-2019	Apr. 24	Apr. 24 / Apr. 23	Apr. 24 / 2010-2019	May 23	May 24 prov.	May 24 / May 23	May 24 / 2010-2019
SME, among them	59,309	60,099	28.5 %	1.3 %	48,115	60,147	25.0 %	1.4 %
Micro-enterprises and unknown firm's size	56,055	55,016	26.9 %	-1.9 %	44,552	55,049	23.6 %	-1.8 %
Very small firms	2,011	3,217	52.8 %	60.0 %	2,195	3,215	46.5 %	59.9 %
Small firms	913	1,387	41.5 %	51.9 %	1,028	1,407	36.9 %	54.1 %
Medium-sized firms	330	479	46.9 %	45.2 %	340	476	40.0 %	44.2 %
ISE – Large Firms	33	60	50.0 %	81.8 %	43	63	46.5 %	90.9 %
<b>All firms</b>	<b>59,342</b>	<b>60,159</b>	<b>28.5 %</b>	<b>1.4 %</b>	<b>48,158</b>	<b>60,210</b>	<b>25.0 %</b>	<b>1.5 %</b>

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available early June 2024: final for April, provisional for May.

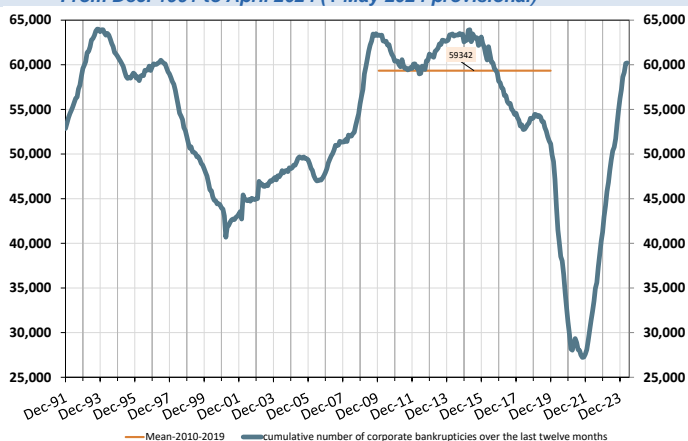
Calculation: Banque de France – Companies Directorate – Companies Observatory.

<sup>a</sup> 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

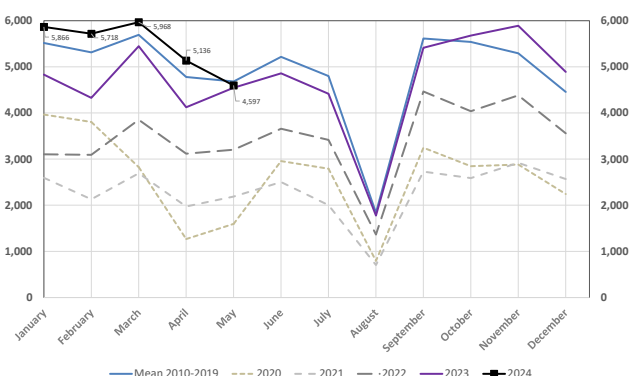
Cumulated over previous 12 months  
From Dec. 1991 to April 2024 (+ May 2024 provisional)



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.

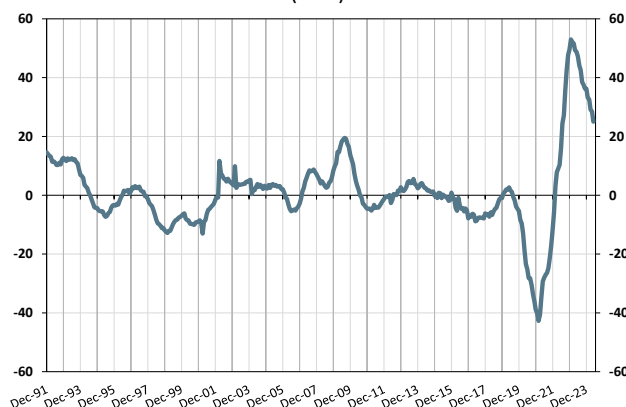
### 3 – Monthly number of bankruptcies

Mean 2010-2019 and from Jan. 2020 to April 2024 (+May 2024 provisional)



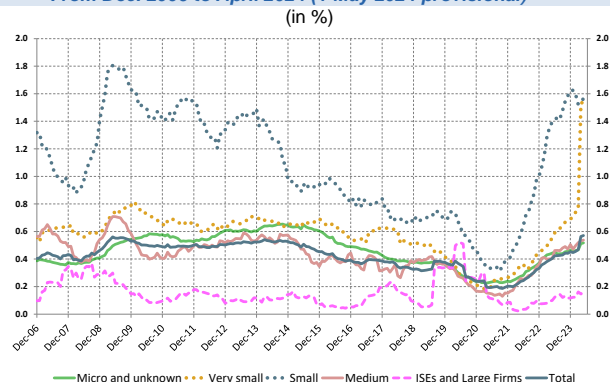
### 2 – Change in number of bankruptcies

Annual year-on-year change  
From Dec. 1991 to April 2024 (+ May 2024 provisional)  
(in %)



### 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 April 2024 (+ May 2024 provisional)  
(in %)



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 0.85%. 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.

Source: Banque de France – database: Fiben. Data available early June 2024: final for April, provisional for May.