

Overview

Bank AlMaghrib's business outlook survey for January¹ indicates an improvement in activity. Indeed, production is reported to have risen, with the Capacity Utilization Rate reported to have increased to stand at 78 percent.

Such output growth reportedly concerned all sectors of activity, except for the “electrical and electronics” sector, which is reported to have declined.

As for sales, they have stagnated, reflecting an increase on the local market and a drop in shipments overseas. By activity sector, sales rose in the “agri-food”, “textiles and leather” and “electrical and electronics” industries, while stagnating in the “mechanical engineering and metallurgy” sector and declining in the “chemicals and parachemicals” sector.

Orders reportedly experienced a rise, covering growth in the “electrical and electronics” and the “mechanical engineering and metallurgy” sectors, as well as a stagnation in the “agri-food”, “chemical and semi-chemical”, and “textile and leather” sectors. Order books are reported to have been at a lower-than-normal level across all activity sectors, except for “mechanical engineering and metallurgy”, where they reportedly remained at a normal level; and the “agri-food” sector, where they reached an above-normal level.

For the next three months, manufacturers forecast an increase in both output and sales across all sectors, except for “textiles and leather”, where the output is expected to stagnate. However, more than one company out of five expresses uncertainty regarding their future prospects.

¹ The survey was conducted from 1 to 28 February 2024. The results are based on a response rate of 62%.