



PRESS
RELEASE

Montrouge, Month JJ, 20AA

PRESS RELEASE

More than 3,000 European companies reflect the leading trends in 2007.

- Nearly half of all SMEs in Europe forecast revenue growth for 2007.
- Without being over the top, the outlook on recruitment in Europe looks good, which should have a favourable impact on the job market. This trend is more pronounced in Belgium.
- Investment is expected to continue to grow, but more for raising productivity than expanding production capacity.
- Raw materials and energy prices are key concerns for European SMEs, although fears of an oil crunch are no longer on the agenda.
- Three quarters of all European companies reported outstanding accounts in 2006, with French companies being the least affected.
- Payment time stabilised in 2006; Germany and the UK, countries that already scored highest in prior years, increased their lead in this area.
- Financing needs are expected to increase slightly. Access to credit is judged easy everywhere, except in Spain.
- German and French SMEs lag behind in the field of environmental protection.