

2010-06-21

PRESS RELEASE

Provisional results of the Spring 2010 survey of investment in the manufacturing industry

Every six months, the National Bank of Belgium conducts a survey of investment in the manufacturing industry in the strict sense (i.e. excluding construction firms and those in the "electricity, gas and water" branch of activity). According to data from the national accounts, manufacturing industry accounted for 17.8 p.c. of total business investment in 2008.

According to the provisional results of the May 2010 survey, investment in fixed capital goods in manufacturing industry, expressed at current prices, is likely to rise by 11.2 p.c. this year. The same survey shows that investment declined by 20.3 p.c. in 2009. These results tally roughly with the findings of the previous survey, carried out in November 2009.

In the same way as the fall in investment had affected all the main branches of industry, the recovery in 2010 should also be widespread, with the exception of the paper, printing and wood-processing industries. However, the extent of this upturn still needs to be confirmed in the coming surveys, since the statistics available for the beginning of the year continue to point to a sluggish trend in investment.