

2010-05-20

## PRESS RELEASE

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### May 2010 consumer survey

#### CONSUMER CONFIDENCE FALLS SHARPLY IN MAY

The consumer confidence indicator, which had shown clear signs of recovery in the previous two months, dropped sharply in May. The worsening situation is very probably linked to the turmoil in the European financial markets.

In particular, prospects for the general economic outlook were greatly eroded, falling to the lowest level for a year. Furthermore, fears of a rise in unemployment also flared up again slightly. Households are expecting their financial situation to get worse as well. At the same time, they have become a little more optimistic than they were last month about their capacity to save.

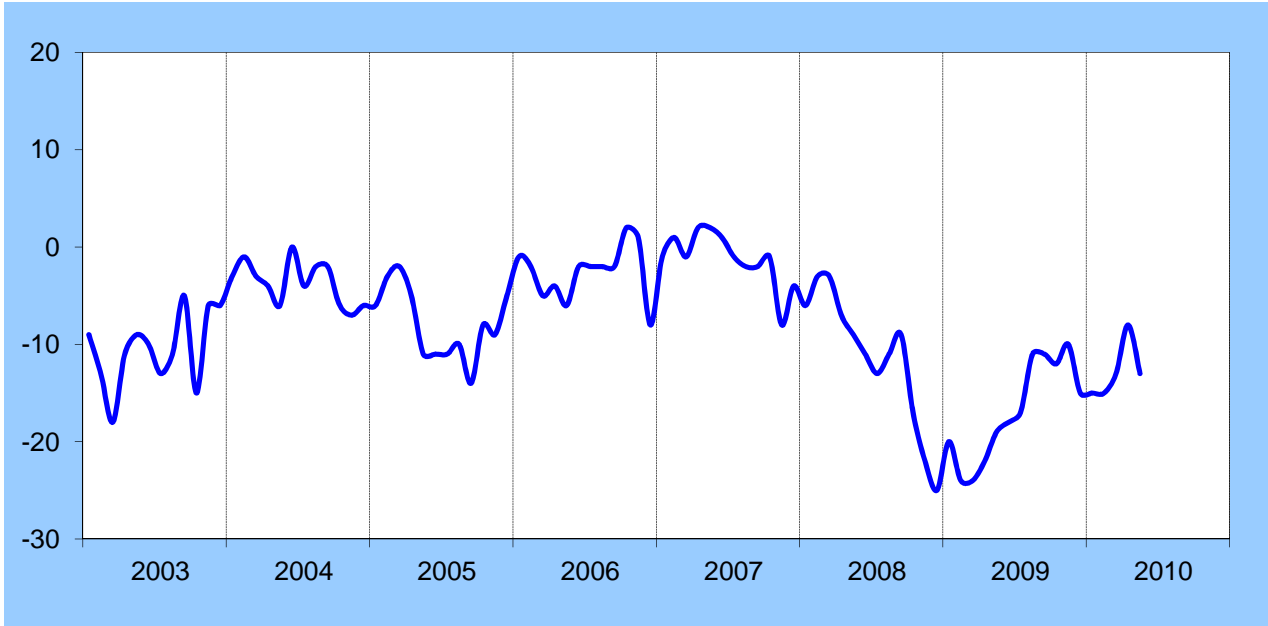
#### Consumer confidence indicators

		Expectations for the next twelve months				Consumer confidence indicator	
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium <sup>1</sup>	Financial situation of households	Saving capacity of households		
2009	May	-7	70	1	-2	-19	
	June	-5	69	1	3	-18	
	July	-4	65	-2	2	-17	
	August	7	57	1	5	-11	
	September	6	57	1	6	-11	
	October	3	57	3	6	-12	
	November	10	55	3	3	-10	
	December	0	65	1	4	-15	
	2010	January	-2	65	1	7	-15
		February	-1	64	0	5	-15
		March	2	60	2	6	-13
		April	8	43	2	1	-8
May		-6	47	-1	3	-13	

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

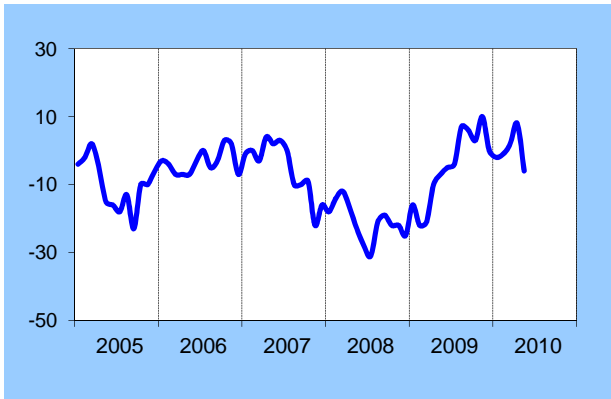
<sup>1</sup> Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR**

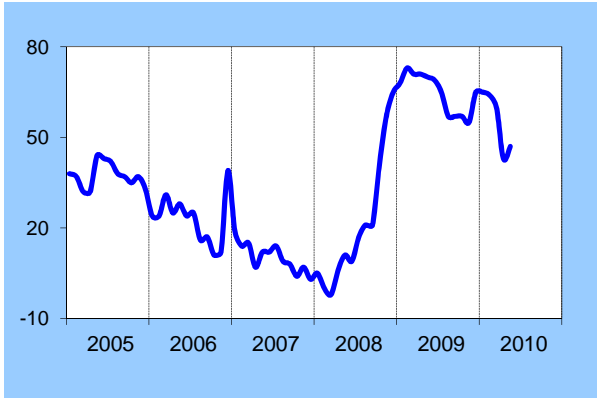


**Expectations for the next twelve months**

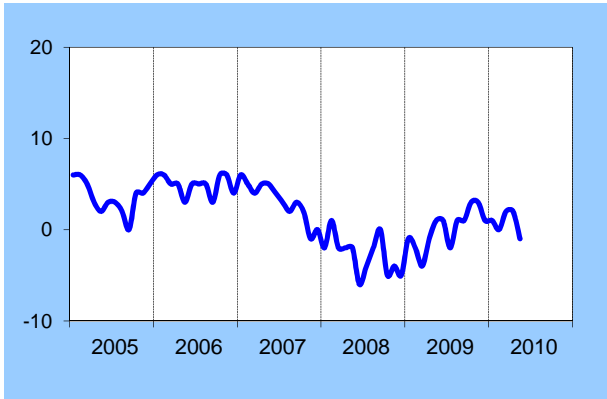
**General economic situation in Belgium**



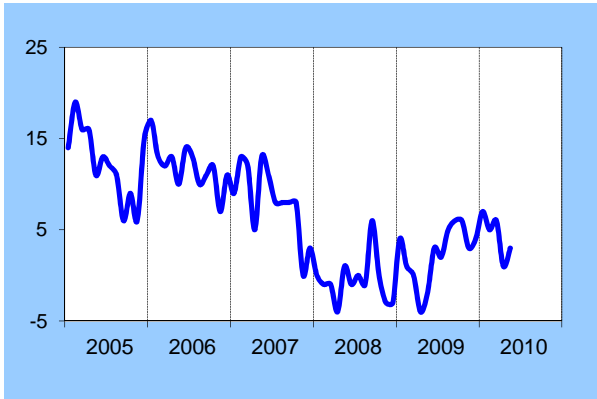
**Unemployment in Belgium<sup>1</sup>**



**Financial situation of households**



**Saving capacity of households**



<sup>1</sup> Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.