

2009-12-18

PRESS RELEASE

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December 2009 consumer survey

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE DROPS IN DECEMBER

Consumer confidence, which all in all had picked up over the previous months, deteriorated in December.

The weakening of consumer confidence is mainly attributable to the more pessimistic prospects as to the overall economic situation in general and the development of unemployment in particular. As to their own situation, households hold a less clear-cut view. They indeed expect their financial situation to worsen in the next twelve months, but do not think this will affect their saving capacity.

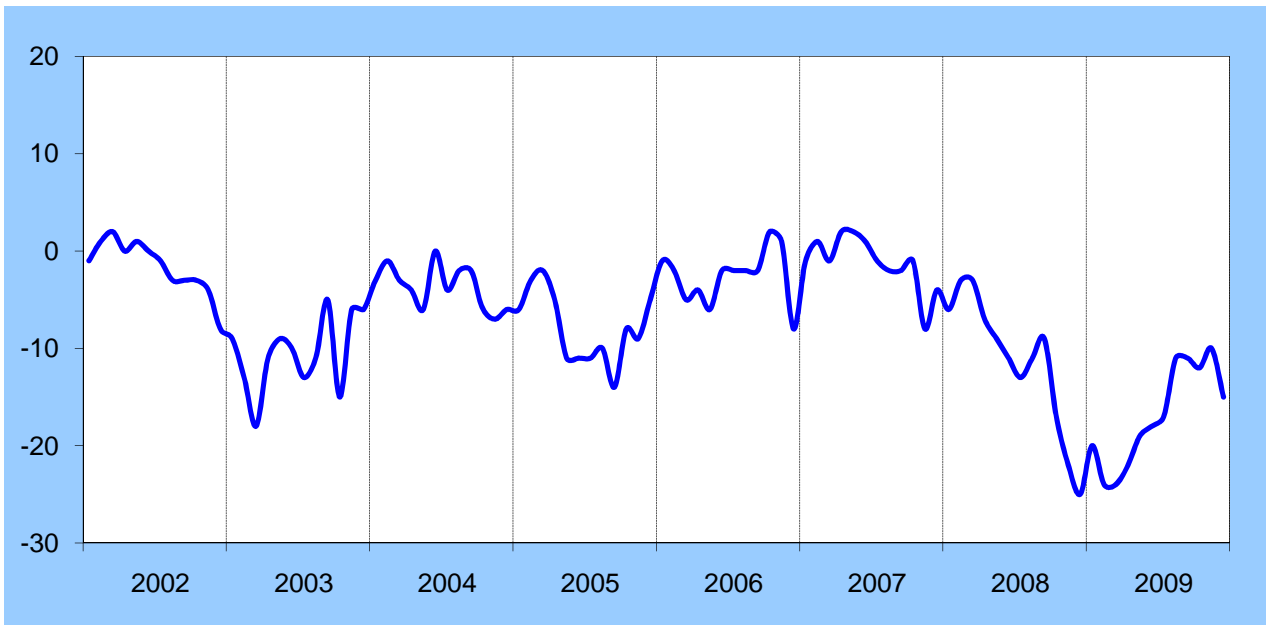
Consumer confidence indicators

		Expectations for the next twelve months				Consumer confidence indicator
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium ¹	Financial situation of households	Saving capacity of households	
2008	December	-25	65	-5	-3	-25
2009	January	-16	68	-1	4	-20
	February	-22	73	-2	1	-24
	March	-21	71	-4	0	-24
	April	-10	71	-1	-4	-22
	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

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

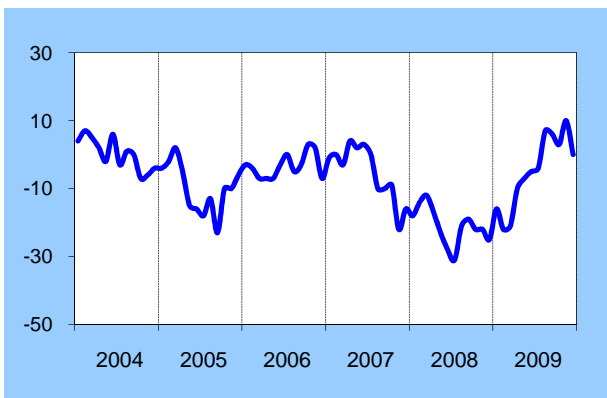
¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

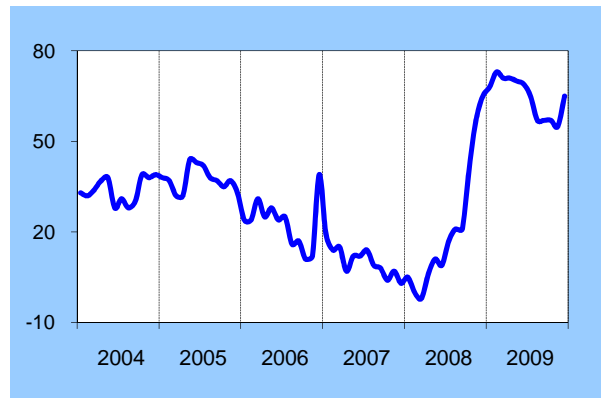


Expectations for the next twelve months

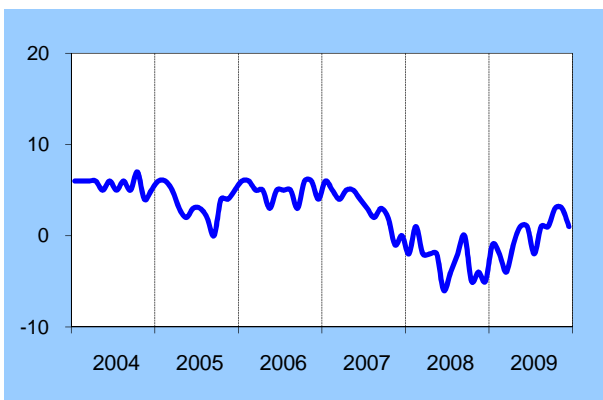
General economic situation in Belgium



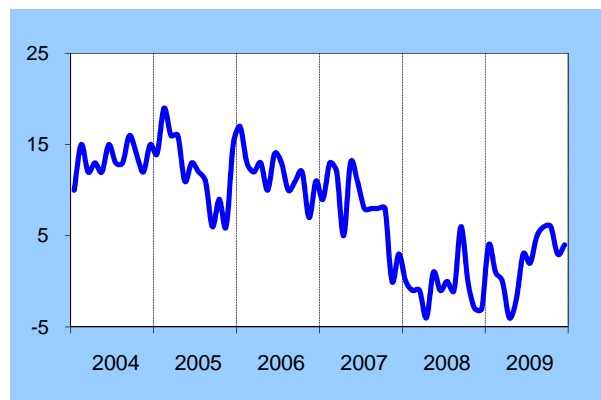
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.