

2012-01-19

PRESS RELEASE

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January 2012 consumer survey

Consumer confidence down in January

After having firmed up slightly in December, the consumer confidence indicator fell back in January, to reach its lowest level since July 2009.

Consumers have again taken a more pessimistic view of the macroeconomic forecasts. They expect the general economic situation in particular to get worse over the coming year. At the same time, fears of an increase in unemployment have been revived. Besides, over the past month, households have become more pessimistic about their savings capacity over the next twelve months. On the other hand, the opinion as regards their future financial situation has remained unchanged.

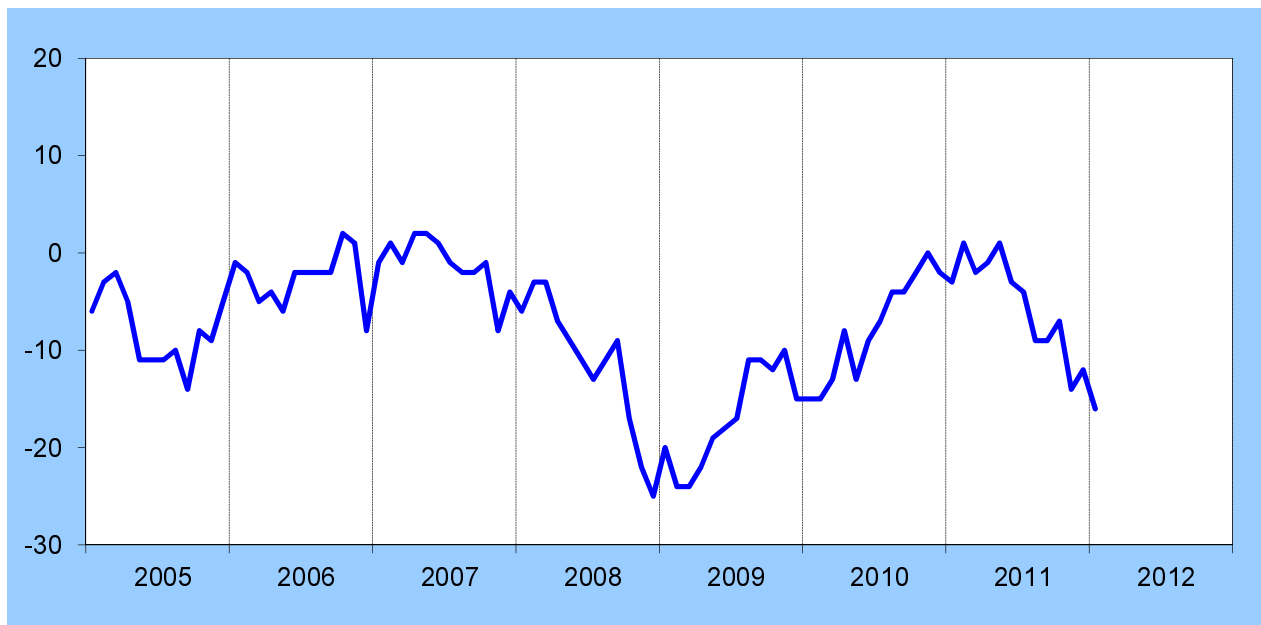
Consumer confidence indicators

		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	
2011	January	-3	15	0	6	-3
	February	4	8	3	6	1
	March	-5	5	-2	2	-2
	April	-1	6	0	2	-1
	May	5	5	1	2	1
	June	0	12	-1	3	-3
	July	-6	8	-2	-1	-4
	August	-13	17	-1	-4	-9
	September	-15	22	-1	4	-9
	October	-8	24	1	5	-7
	November	-20	36	-2	3	-14
	December	-10	31	-5	-1	-12
2012	January	-22	34	-5	-4	-16

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

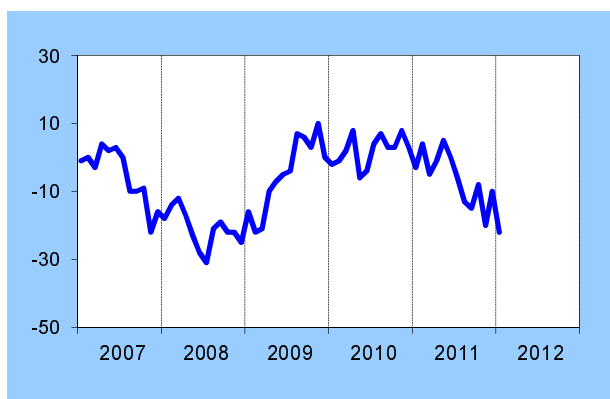
¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

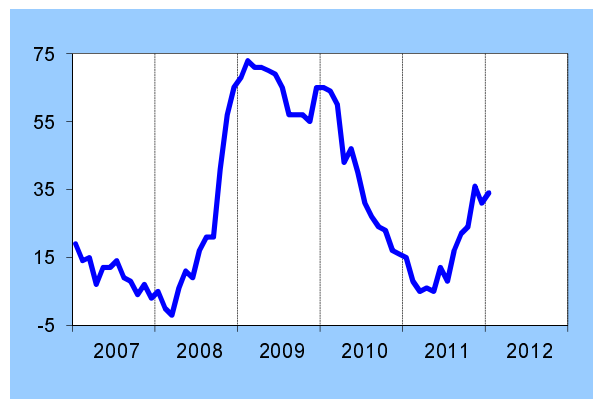


Expectations for the next twelve months

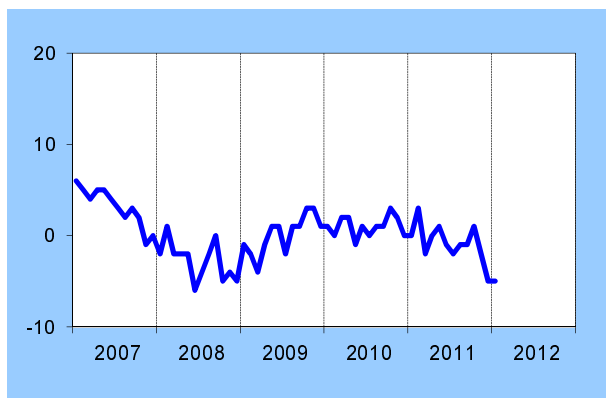
General economic situation in Belgium



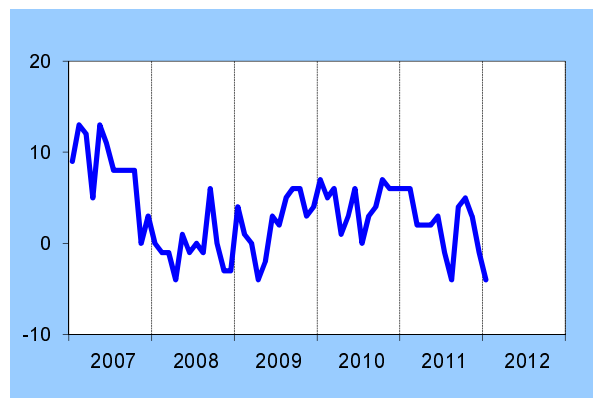
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



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