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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Provisional results of the Autumn 2010 survey of investment in the manufacturing industry

Twice a year, 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 16% of total business investment in 2009.

According to the provisional results of the Autumn 2010 survey, investment in fixed capital goods in manufacturing industry, expressed at current prices, is likely to have risen by 6.6% this year, in line with the recovery of economic activity in Belgium. That increase is due partly to the marked investment revival in the branches comprising chemicals and plastics, non-metallic minerals, and the food industry.

The investment revival which began in Belgian manufacturing industry in 2010 should persist during 2011. According to the predictions expressed in this survey, investment expenditure is likely to rise by 15.5% in that industry. The strongest increases are expected in the iron and steel industry, non-ferrous metals, metal manufactures, chemicals and plastics. Conversely, investment is expected to decline in non-metallic minerals and woodworking.