



## PRESS RELEASE

Links:

[NBB.Stat](#)

[General information](#)

### Economic activity up by 0.4 % in the third quarter of 2019

- **Domestic employment picked up by 0.4 % in the third quarter of 2019**

#### Economic growth

In the third quarter of 2019, seasonally and calendar adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.4 % in volume terms compared with the previous quarter. On an annual basis, economic activity rose by 1.6 %.

In comparison to the previous quarter, value added grew only moderately in industry (+0.1 %), and more markedly in the services sector (+0.4 %) and in construction (+1.3 %). The trend observed in services was influenced by a specific transaction covering a wide-ranging R&D cooperation agreement being recorded in the national accounts. This transaction has had a positive incidence on quarter-on-quarter GDP growth to the tune of about 0.1 of a percentage point.

Households and government stepped up their consumption expenditure by respectively 0.6 and 0.5 %. Business investment also picked up (+1.0 %). On the other hand, household investment (-1.5 %) and public investment (-0.2 %) recorded a fall.

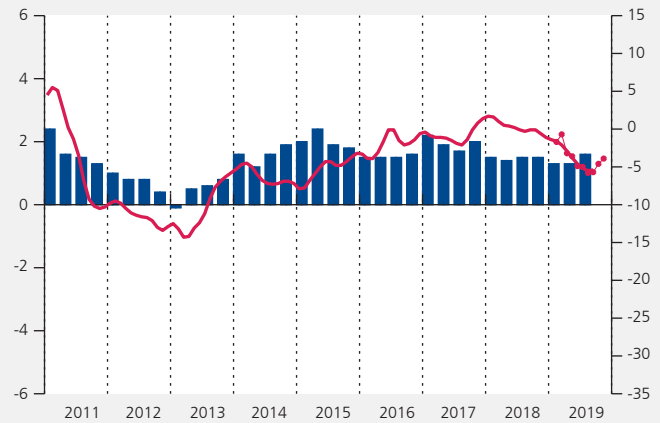
Net exports of goods and services made a negative contribution to the change in GDP (-0.1 of a percentage point), as the drop in exports (-0.9 %) was slightly more than the decline in imports (-0.8 %).

#### Employment

In the third quarter of 2019, domestic employment was 0.4 % higher than in the previous quarter. It gained 1.3 % on a year-on-year basis.

**GDP, QUARTERLY GROWTH VOLUME***(data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects)*

	Percentage change compared to	
	corresponding quarter of the previous year	previous quarter
2017 I	2.2	0.8
II	1.9	0.3
III	1.7	0.1
IV	2.0	0.8
2018 I	1.5	0.2
II	1.4	0.3
III	1.5	0.2
IV	1.5	0.8
2019 I	1.3	0.0
II	1.3	0.3
III	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>

**GDP AND THE ECONOMIC CYCLE**

■ Quarterly accounts, percentage year-on-year change in GDP in volume, calendar adjusted data (left-hand scale)

— NBB's synthetic business survey curve, smoothed data (right-hand scale)

—● NBB's synthetic business survey curve, seasonally adjusted gross data (right-hand scale)

**MAIN COMPONENTS***(percentage change in volume compared to the preceding period, data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects)*

	2017		2018				2019		
	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	
<b>1. Value added</b>									
Industry	1.0	-1.6	-1.1	-0.2	0.7	0.4	-0.4	<b>0.1</b>	
Construction	1.5	1.8	0.7	1.2	1.6	1.0	0.3	<b>1.3</b>	
Services	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.5	<b>0.4</b>	
P.m. GDP	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.3	<b>0.4</b>	
<b>2. Expenditure</b>									
Private consumption expenditure (1)	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.4	<b>0.6</b>	
Final consumption expenditure of general government	0.0	0.0	0.8	-0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	<b>0.5</b>	
Total gross fixed capital formation	2.2	0.6	0.8	0.3	3.2	-0.3	1.5	<b>0.3</b>	
Business	3.2	-0.2	0.8	0.2	3.8	-1.0	1.9	<b>1.0</b>	
Housing	-1.5	1.3	0.3	0.3	2.8	2.5	1.9	<b>-1.5</b>	
Public administration	2.5	4.7	2.0	0.9	0.1	-1.2	-2.0	<b>-0.2</b>	
Domestic demand (excluding inventories)	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.8	<b>0.5</b>	
Change in inventories (2)	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	-0.2	-0.5	-0.1	<b>0.0</b>	
Exports of goods and services	3.0	-0.6	-1.3	0.8	1.6	-0.5	0.4	<b>-0.9</b>	
Imports of goods and services	2.9	0.0	-0.6	1.0	1.6	-0.8	0.7	<b>-0.8</b>	
Net exports of goods and services (2)	0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.2	0.0	0.3	-0.3	<b>-0.1</b>	
<b>3. Labour market</b>									
Total number of workers	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	<b>0.4</b>	

(1) Including non-profit institutions serving households.

(2) Contribution to the change in GDP.