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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**2016: The economy and employment are growing in all three regions**

- Initial estimates for 2016 point to economic growth of 1.7% for Wallonia, 1.2 % for Flanders and 0.9 % for Brussels.
- Total employment increased in all regions in 2016: Flanders +1.5%; Wallonia +1.2%; Brussels +0.6%.
- In 2015, households consumption per capita increased the most in Brussels (1.8%), followed by Flanders (1.0%) and Wallonia (0.4%).

This press release contains the initial regional results for economic growth<sup>1</sup>, employment and remuneration for employees for 2016, as well as regional consumption expenditure per institutional sector for 2015. A revised version of the regional accounts for the previous years has been published at the same time.

The results are consistent with the national accounts published in October 2017.

**2016: Economic growth accelerating in Wallonia and slowing down in Flanders**

According to the initial estimates for 2016, **economic growth** amounted to 1.7% in Wallonia, 1.2% in Flanders and 0.9% in Brussels. Only in Wallonia it was higher (0.6 percentage point) than in 2015. Economic growth slowed most sharply (- 0.8 percentage point) in Flanders; in Brussels it decelerated by -0.1 percentage points.

*Industries with the greatest impact on growth of gross value added by volume per region in 2016  
(growth contribution in percentage points)*

<b>Industries</b>	<b>Brussels</b>	<b>Flanders</b>	<b>Wallonia</b>
Industry (C)	-0.38	0.08	0.30
of which: Manufacture of refined petroleum products (CD)	-0.32	-0.14	-0.02
Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (CF)	0.00	0.25	0.37
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (GG)	-0.18	0.11	0.07
Transportation and storage (HH)	-0.12	-0.23	-0.15
Accommodation and food service activities (II)	-0.17	-0.01	-0.05
Financial and insurance activities (KK)	1.05	0.19	0.21
Administrative and support service activities (NN)	-0.16	0.15	0.14
Public administration and defence, and compulsory social security (OO)	0.33	0.13	0.22
Education (PP)	0.28	0.21	0.33
<b>Total growth by volume (%)</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>
of which: contribution of public sector	0.56	0.33	0.52
contribution of private sector	0.31	0.83	1.17
<b>p.m.: total growth at current prices</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>

Source: NAI

<sup>1</sup> Based on gross value added at basic prices by volume.

In **Brussels**, in 2016, the main contribution to economic growth came from financial and insurance activities (KK), followed at some distance by public administration (OO) and education (PP). However, several branches also had a significant negative impact on economic growth. These were mainly industry (C) – especially petroleum refining<sup>2</sup> (CD) –, trade (GG), hotels and catering (II) and administrative and support services (NN).

**Flemish** economic growth in 2016 was mainly driven by the branches of education (PP) and financial and insurance activities (KK). Industry as a whole (C) did not make a substantial contribution, although the pharmaceutical sector performed very well. The transportation and storage sector (HH) brought down economic growth the most.

In **Wallonia**, industry (C) – specifically the pharmaceutical sector (CF) - made the greatest contribution to economic growth. This was followed by education (PP), public administration (OO) and financial and insurance activities (KK). The transportation and storage sector (HH) also made the greatest negative growth contribution in Wallonia.

Unlike 2015, the public sector made a substantial contribution to economic growth in all regions in 2016.

### **2016: Employment rises in all regions**

The number of persons employed increased in all regions in 2016 (Flanders +1.5% or 39,100 persons; Wallonia +1.2% or 15,200 persons; Brussels +0.6% or 3,900 persons). In Flanders and Wallonia, the increase was greater than in 2015 and for Brussels total employment fell once more in 2015, due entirely to employees.

### **2015: Final household consumption expenditure increases everywhere compared with 2014: this also applies per capita in Brussels and Wallonia**

Final household consumption expenditure increased in 2015 by 2.9% in Brussels, 1.5% in Flanders and 0.8% in Wallonia. In all regions it was higher than in 2014. Per capita, the growth in household consumption amounted to 1.8% in Brussels, 1.0% in Flanders and 0.4% in Wallonia. Compared with 2014, growth was higher per capita in Brussels and Wallonia (0.5 and 0.4 percentage point respectively); in Flanders it stabilised.

The table on the next page contains the key variables from the regional accounts for the last three years.

#### **Technical note**

Version of the NSSO database of establishments

The estimates for last year, in this case 2016, are based on the NSSO database of establishments for 2016. In the branches of activity for which the information comes mainly from the ORPSS/DIBISS (Service for the Special Social Security Systems), the 2015 structure was retained in full.

The difference between the national figures and the total of the three regions is the extraregional territory.

<sup>2</sup> In Brussels there is one company that owns the goods bought and sold, but entrusts the processing of the raw materials to a company from the same group located in another district and operating under a processing contract.

**Key variables of regional accounts**

	In absolute numbers (€ million or number of persons)	Share of each region in the total for the country (%)	Percentage change compared to the previous year		
	2015	2015	2014	2015	2016 (p)
<b>Gross added value at basic prices, at current prices (according to the workplace)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	66 273.3	18.0	0.0	2.7	2.2
Flemish Region	215 856.5	58.7	2.7	2.9	2.9
Walloon Region	85 110.7	23.2	2.0	1.9	3.0
Belgium	367 471.7	100.0	2.0	2.6	2.8
<b>Gross value added at basic prices, in volume - reference year 2015 (according to the workplace) - Economic growth</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	66 273.3	18.0	-1.5	1.0	0.9
Flemish Region	215 856.5	58.7	2.3	2.0	1.2
Walloon Region	85 110.7	23.2	1.3	1.1	1.7
Belgium	367 471.7	100.0	1.4	1.6	1.2
<b>Number of employees (according to the workplace)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	612 886	16.0	0.3	-0.6	0.4
Flemish Region	2 215 236	57.8	0.7	1.1	1.4
Walloon Region	1 004 642	26.2	-0.3	0.9	1.2
Belgium	3 835 331	100.0	0.4	0.8	1.2
<b>Number of self-employed (according to the workplace)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	77 837	10.2	2.5	2.9	2.2
Flemish Region	465 298	60.8	0.7	1.4	1.9
Walloon Region	221 979	29.0	0.5	0.8	1.3
Belgium	765 114	100.0	0.8	1.4	1.7
<b>Total employment (according to the workplace)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	690 723	15.0	0.5	-0.2	0.6
Flemish Region	2 680 534	58.3	0.7	1.2	1.5
Walloon Region	1 226 621	26.7	-0.1	0.9	1.2
Belgium	4 600 445	100.0	0.4	0.9	1.3
<b>Compensation of employees (according to the workplace)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	39 192.2	19.0	0.9	-0.5	0.5
Flemish Region	117 255.7	56.8	1.8	1.4	1.4
Walloon Region	49 887.0	24.2	0.5	0.7	1.5
Belgium	206 541.8	100.0	1.3	0.8	1.3
<b>Gross fixed capital formation (according to the workplace)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	13 237.9	13.9	5.5	5.1	n.a.
Flemish Region	56 929.3	59.8	5.3	-0.5	n.a.
Walloon Region	24 991.3	26.3	8.8	11.2	n.a.
Belgium	95 186.3	100.0	6.2	3.1	n.a.
<b>Final consumption expenditure of households (according to the place of residence)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	20 903.3	10.2	2.2	2.9	n.a.
Flemish Region	122 451.1	59.8	1.4	1.5	n.a.
Walloon Region	61 288.3	29.9	0.4	0.8	n.a.
Belgium	204 739.0	100.0	1.2	1.5	n.a.
<b>Final consumption expenditure of general government (according to the place of residence of the opponent)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	10 376.6	10.6	1.8	0.8	n.a.
Flemish Region	56 218.0	57.2	1.5	0.8	n.a.
Walloon Region	31 614.9	32.2	1.1	0.9	n.a.
Belgium	98 209.4	100.0	1.4	0.8	n.a.
<b>Final consumption expenditure of non profit institutions at the service of households (according to the place of residence of the opponent)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	534.3	10.4	2.6	1.9	n.a.
Flemish Region	2 944.6	57.2	2.2	1.4	n.a.
Walloon Region	1 670.3	32.4	2.4	1.2	n.a.
Belgium	5 149.2	100.0	2.3	1.4	n.a.
<b>Actual consumption (by place of residence)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	31 814.2	10.3	2.1	2.2	n.a.
Flemish Region	181 613.6	58.9	1.5	1.3	n.a.
Walloon Region	94 573.4	30.7	0.6	0.8	n.a.
Belgium	308 097.6	100.0	1.3	1.3	n.a.
<b>Average population (by place of residence)</b>					
Brussels Capital Region	1 181 532	10.5	0.9	1.0	0.9
Flemish Region	6 460 966	57.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Walloon Region	3 595 980	32.0	0.4	0.4	0.4
Belgium	11 238 477	100.0	0.5	0.5	0.5

Source: NAI