

2020-07-30

PRESS RELEASE

Links: [Publication](#) [NBB.Stat](#) [General information](#)

The Belgian economy contracts by 12.2 % in the second quarter of 2020

The flash estimate of real gross domestic product (GDP) adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects in the second quarter of 2020 dropped as a result of the covid-19 crisis by 12.2 % compared with the previous quarter. In comparison to the second quarter of 2019, GDP was down by 14.5 %.

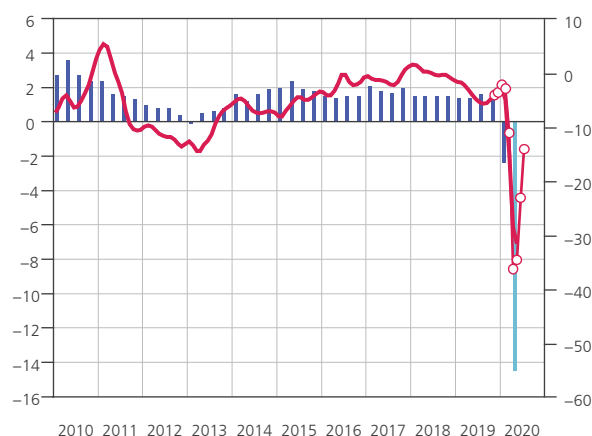
According to a first estimate, the contraction of the economic activity on the previous quarter was approximately equally strong in industry, in construction and in services: their value added was down by, respectively, 13.0 %, 13.3 % and 11.8 %.

GDP, QUARTERLY GROWTH IN VOLUME

(data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects)

	Percentage change compared to	
	corresponding quarter of the previous year	previous quarter
2018 I	1.5	0.2
II	1.5	0.3
III	1.5	0.2
IV	1.5	0.8
2019 I	1.4	0.1
II	1.4	0.3
III	1.6	0.4
IV	1.3	0.5
2020 I	-2.4	-3.5
II	-14.5	-12.2

GDP AND THE ECONOMIC CYCLE



- GDP growth in volume (percentage change compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year)
- "Flash" estimate
- Business survey (smoothed data, right-hand scale)
- Business survey (gross data, right-hand scale)

*These growth figures are shrouded in even **greater uncertainty** than is normally the case with the flash estimate. Owing to the lack of administrative data for the month of June, an adapted methodology has been used for this flash estimate. Based on a wide range of available information (taken from news releases, websites and contacts with companies, surveys conducted by the Bank and by the federations among companies, etc.), assumptions about the impact of covid-19 on economic activity in the various branches of activity have been made at a highly detailed level. The information was then aggregated to the indicators which are used later on in the econometric models. As far as seasonal adjustment of the series is concerned, the recent [Eurostat guidance](#) in this respect was followed in order to estimate the impact of covid-19 as accurately as possible.*