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PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian economy grew by 1.8 % in the third quarter of 2021

According to the flash estimate, seasonally and calendar adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) in volume terms increased by 1.8 % in the **third quarter of 2021** compared with the previous quarter. In comparison with a year ago, the third quarter of 2020, growth came to 4.7 %. For the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19-crisis, the pre-crisis level of economic activity was reached and even exceeded.

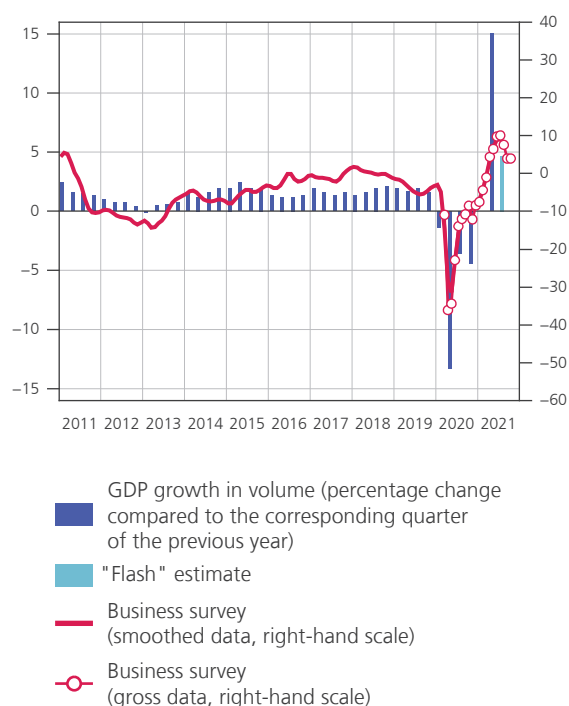
An early estimate puts value added at 0.1 % below the previous quarter in industry and down 0.5 % in construction. Value added was up by 2.3 % in services.

GDP, QUARTERLY GROWTH IN VOLUME

(data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects)

	Percentage change compared to	
	corresponding quarter of the previous year	previous quarter
2019 I	2.1	0.3
II	2.1	0.4
III	2.4	0.7
IV	2.1	0.7
2020 I	-1.4	-3.1
II	-13.3	-11.6
III	-3.6	11.9
IV	-4.4	-0.1
2021 I	0.0	1.2
II	15.1	1.7
III	4.7	1.8

GDP AND THE ECONOMIC CYCLE



*These growth figures are surrounded by even **greater uncertainty** than is normally the case with the flash estimate. Owing to the lack of administrative data for the month of September in particular, an adapted methodology has been used for this flash estimate. For the seasonal adjustment of the data series, the recent [Eurostat guidance](#) has been followed in order to estimate the impact of COVID-19 as accurately as possible.*