

2008-05-20

PRESS RELEASE

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May 2008 consumer survey

FURTHER FALL IN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN MAY

The consumer confidence indicator, which dropped sharply in April, fell even further in May.

As in the previous month, the outlook for the general economic situation and the development of unemployment in Belgium worsened considerably. On the other hand, households reckon their opportunities to save are somewhat brighter again, after four months of marked deterioration. Their expectations about their financial situation have remained stable at the level recorded for the two preceding months.

Consumer confidence indicators

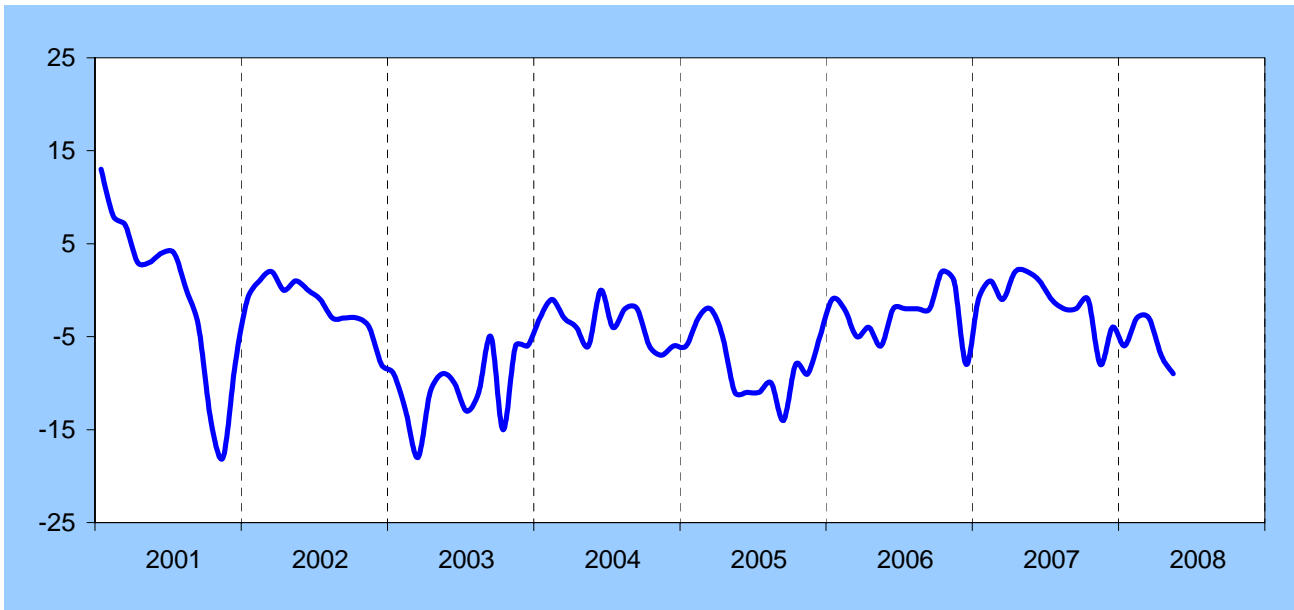
		Expectations for the next twelve months				Consumer confidence indicator	
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium ¹	Financial situation of households	Saving capacity of households		
2007	May	2	12	5	13	2	
	June	3	12	4	11	1	
	July	0	14	3	8	-1	
	August	-10	9	2	8	-2	
	September	-10	8	3	8	-2	
	October	-9	4	2	8	-1	
	November	-22	7	-1	0	-8	
	December	-16	3	0	3	-4	
	2008	January	-18	5	-2	0	-6
		February	-14	0	1	-1	-3
March		-12	-2	-2	-1	-3	
April		-17	6	-2	-4	-7	
May		-23	11	-2	1	-9	

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

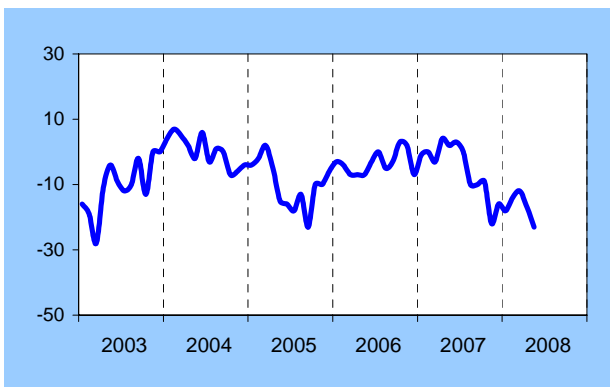
MAY 2008

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

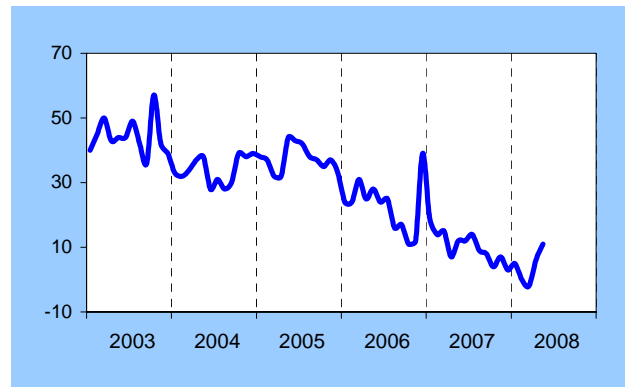


Expectations over the 12 twelve months

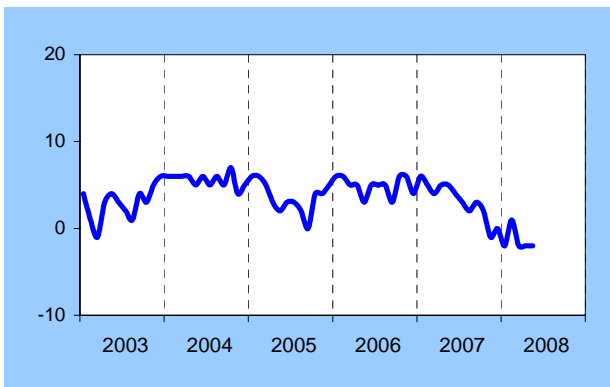
General economic situation in Belgium



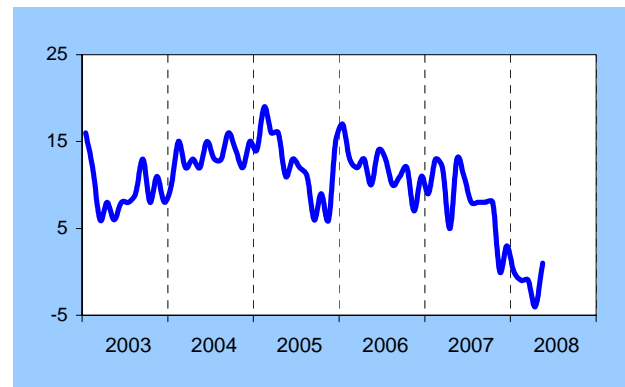
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.