

2008-09-19

PRESS RELEASE

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September 2008 consumer survey

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IMPROVES IN SEPTEMBER

The consumer confidence indicator rose for the second month running in September. The impact of the recent financial turmoil on the survey answers has remained limited most probably because the vast majority of households were questioned in the first half of the month of September.

Consumers have become particularly more optimistic about their savings prospects. For the third time in a row, they reckoned their future financial situation looked brighter, too. The rise in the two components of the indicator is no doubt also a result of the further fall in oil prices.

Moreover, the general economic outlook was once again judged to be more favourable. Fears of a rise in unemployment have not subsided from the previous month's level.

Consumer confidence indicators

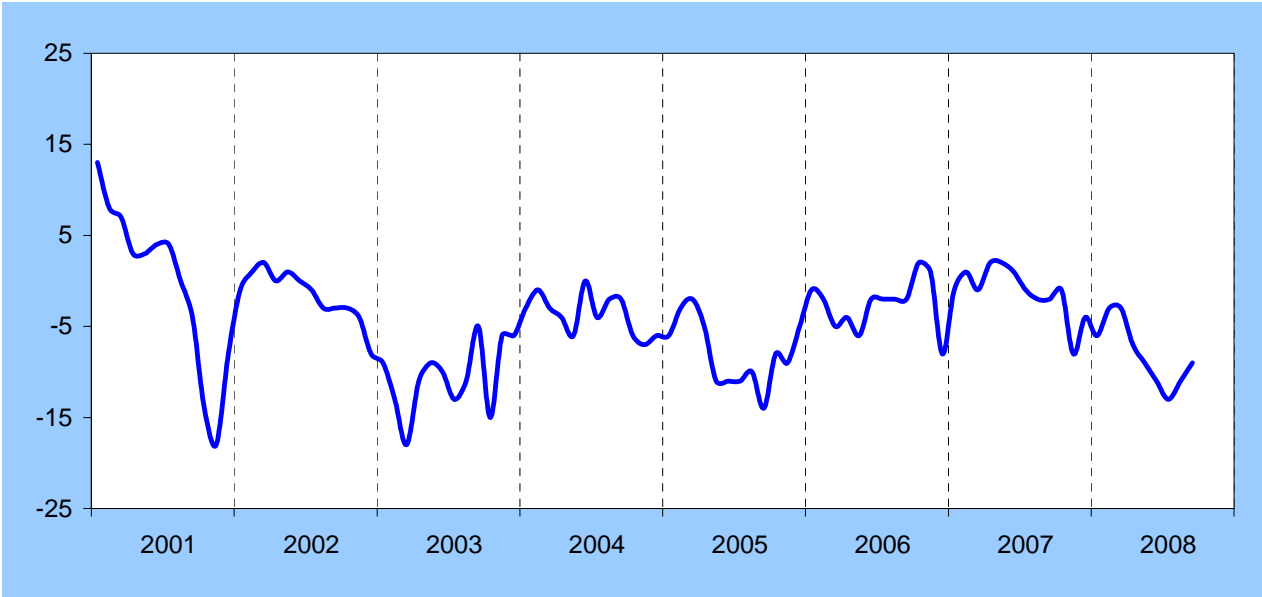
		Expectations for the next twelve months				Consumer confidence indicator
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium ¹	Financial situation of households	Saving capacity of households	
2007	September	-10	8	3	8	-2
	October	-9	4	2	8	-1
	November	-22	7	-1	0	-8
	December	-16	3	0	3	-4
2008	January	-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
	June	-28	9	-6	-1	-11
	July	-31	17	-4	0	-13
	August	-21	21	-2	-1	-11
	September	-19	21	0	6	-9

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

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

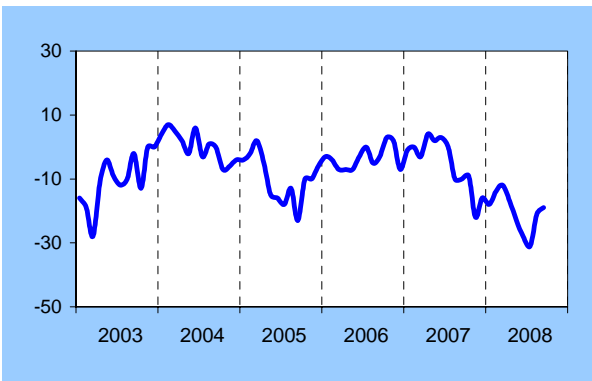
SEPTEMBER 2008

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

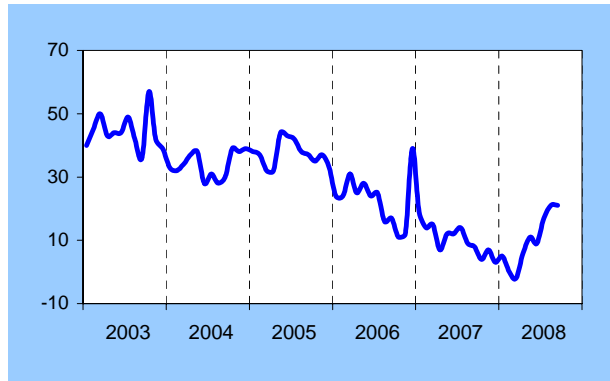


Expectations over the 12 twelve months

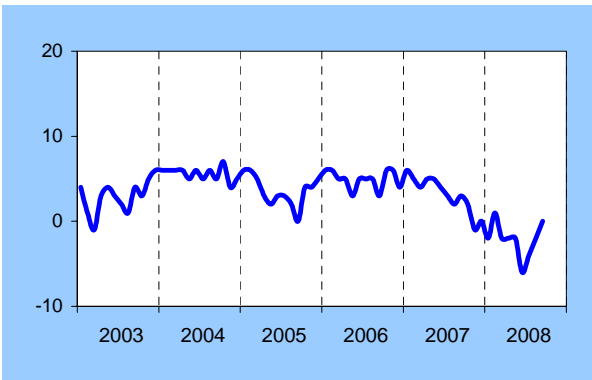
General economic situation in Belgium



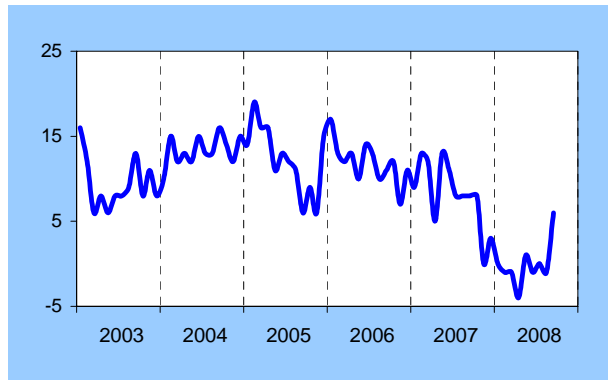
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



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