

2008-12-19

PRESS RELEASE

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December 2008 consumer survey

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE FALLS FURTHER IN DECEMBER

The consumer confidence indicator dropped further in December.

Consumers were particularly pessimistic about macroeconomic developments in Belgium. Employment opportunities are being given a constantly less favourable assessment and the outlook for the general economic situation is also on a downward trend once again. On the other hand, households have adjusted their expectations about their financial situation and their savings prospects only very slightly if at all since the previous month.

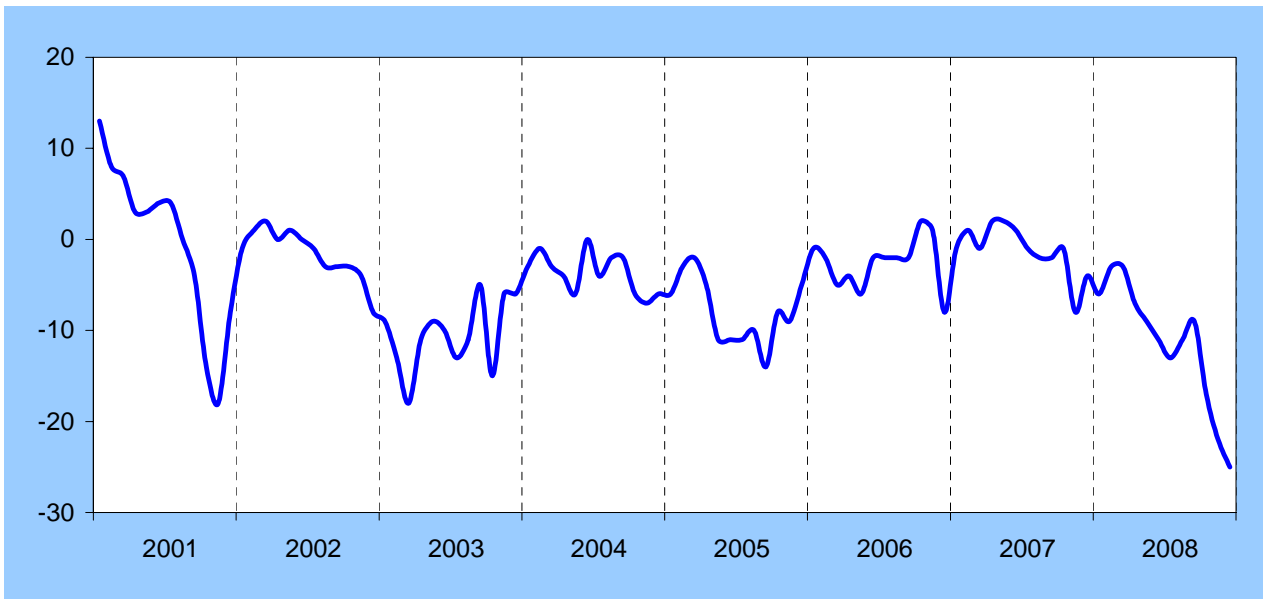
Consumer confidence indicators

		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	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
	October	-22	41	-5	0	-17
	November	-22	57	-4	-3	-22
	December	-25	65	-5	-3	-25

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

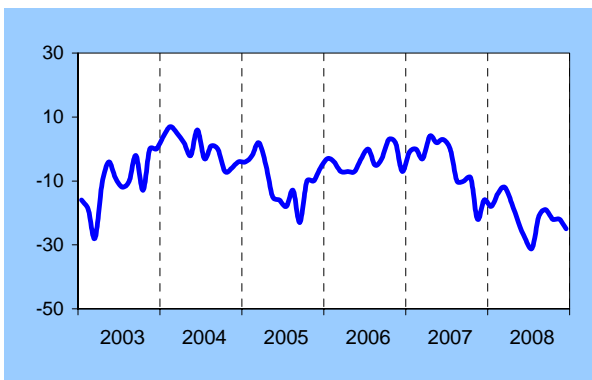
¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

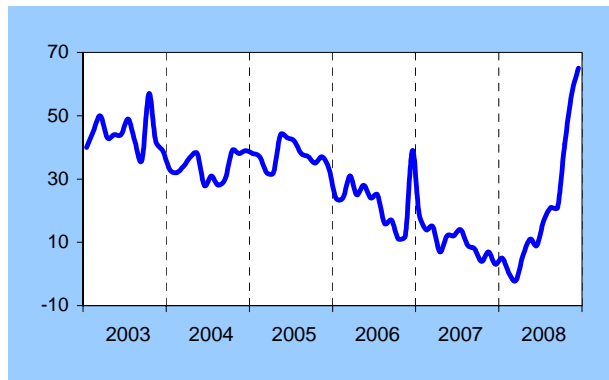


Expectations over the 12 twelve months

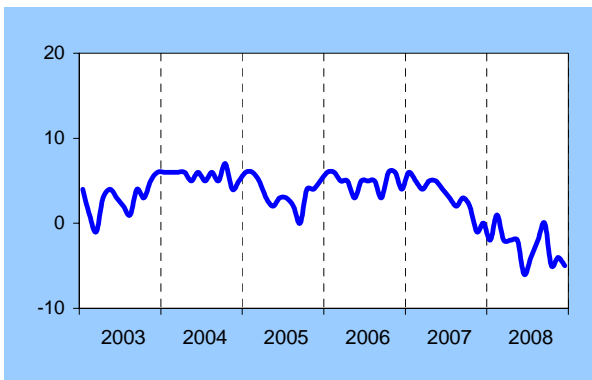
General economic situation in Belgium



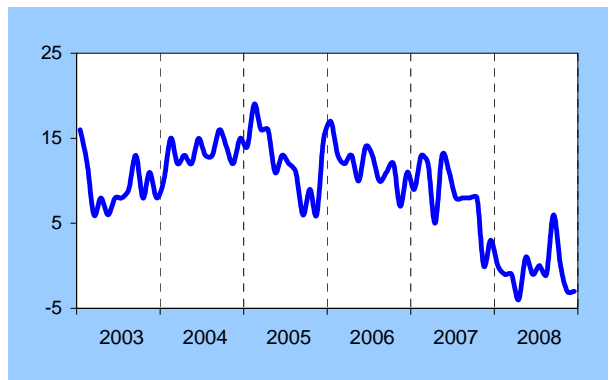
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



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