

2013-03-19

PRESS RELEASE

Links: [BelgoStat On-line](#) [General information](#)

March 2013 consumer survey

Consumer confidence falls back sharply in March

After picking up considerably in February, the consumer confidence indicator fell back again sharply in March to a level comparable to that observed in the period November 2012 - January 2013. Several unfavourable developments on the business and financial front seemed to have again heavily affected Belgian consumer confidence this month.

The fall in consumer confidence is almost exclusively due to the significantly worse macroeconomic outlook. Thus, expectations as regards the economic situation have become very gloomy again. Moreover, pessimism about unemployment has risen to its highest level for three years.

Households' expectations as to their financial situation have remained at the level of the past two months. On the other hand, they estimate their future saving capacity to be somewhat less rosy than a month ago.

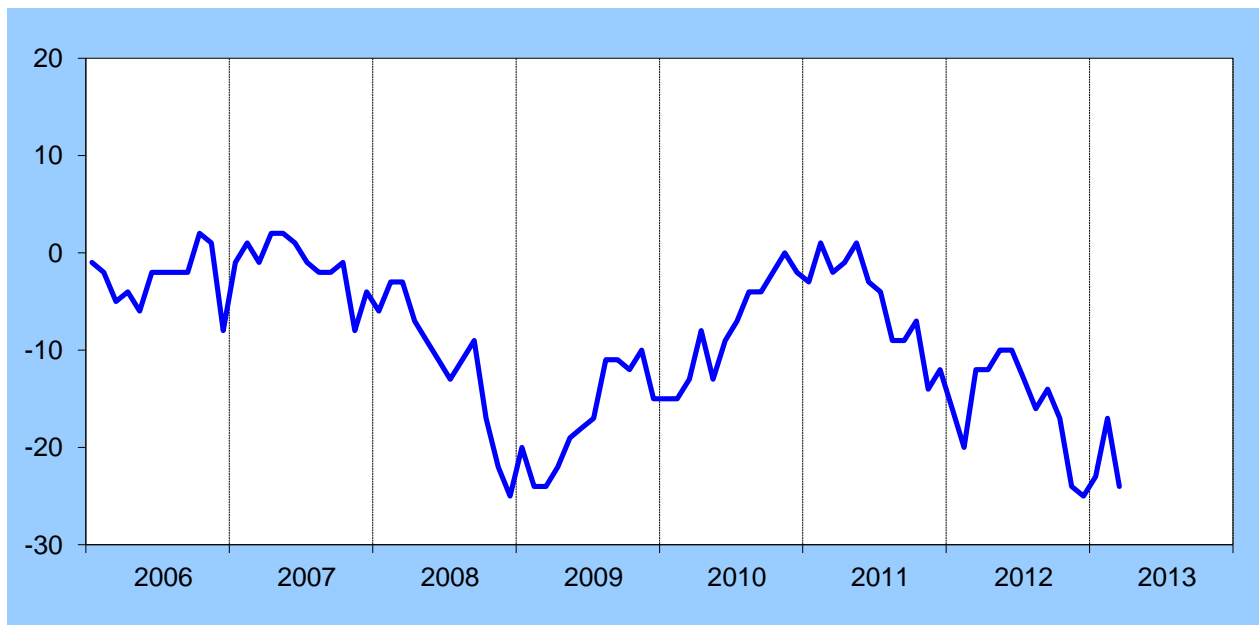
Consumer confidence indicators

		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		
2012	March	-10	33	-4	-1	-12	
	April	-8	35	-3	-1	-12	
	May	-9	31	-3	3	-10	
	June	-5	35	-1	2	-10	
	July	-7	39	-2	-4	-13	
	August	-11	46	-3	-3	-16	
	September	-11	40	-3	-1	-14	
	October	-16	50	-3	3	-17	
	November	-28	62	-5	-2	-24	
	December	-27	57	-5	-10	-25	
	2013	January	-23	59	-3	-7	-23
		February	-10	52	-3	-4	-17
March		-22	63	-3	-7	-24	

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

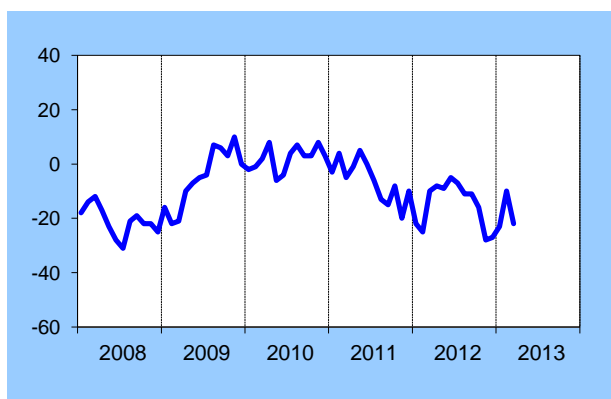
¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

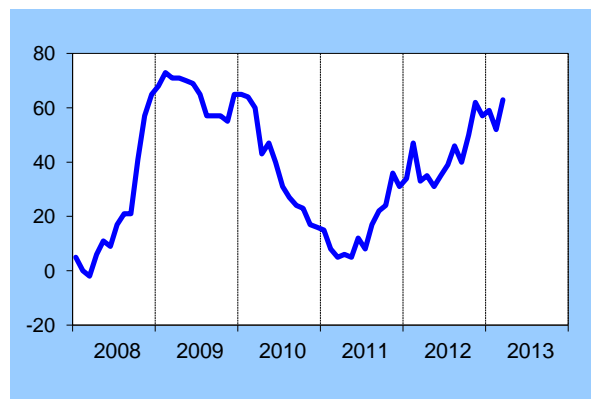


Expectations for the next twelve months

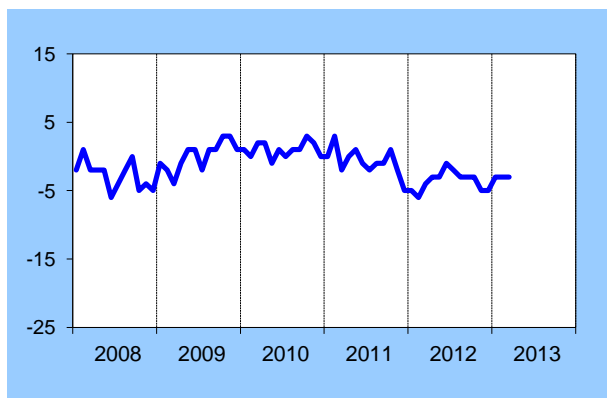
General economic situation in Belgium



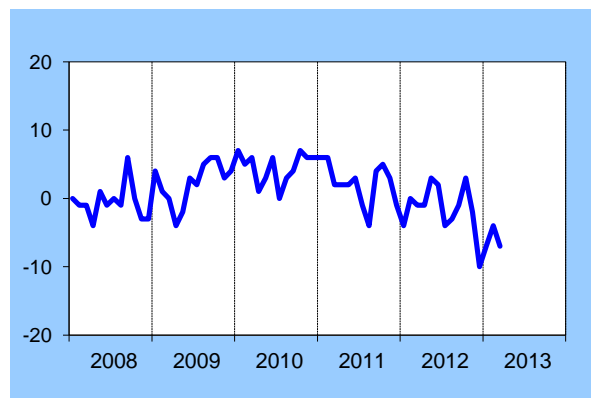
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



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