

2013-12-18

PRESS RELEASE

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December 2013 consumer survey

Consumer confidence resumes very slight upward trend in December

After holding steady last month, the consumer confidence indicator recovered somewhat in December.

This month, consumers painted a divergent picture of macroeconomic developments in Belgium. They had a slightly more negative view of the general economic situation in the future. But on the other hand, as regards the labour market in particular, the fear of a renewed upsurge of unemployment over the coming year has once again worn off.

As far as their personal situation is concerned, households are expecting a very small improvement in their financial situation and their capacity to save over the next twelve months.

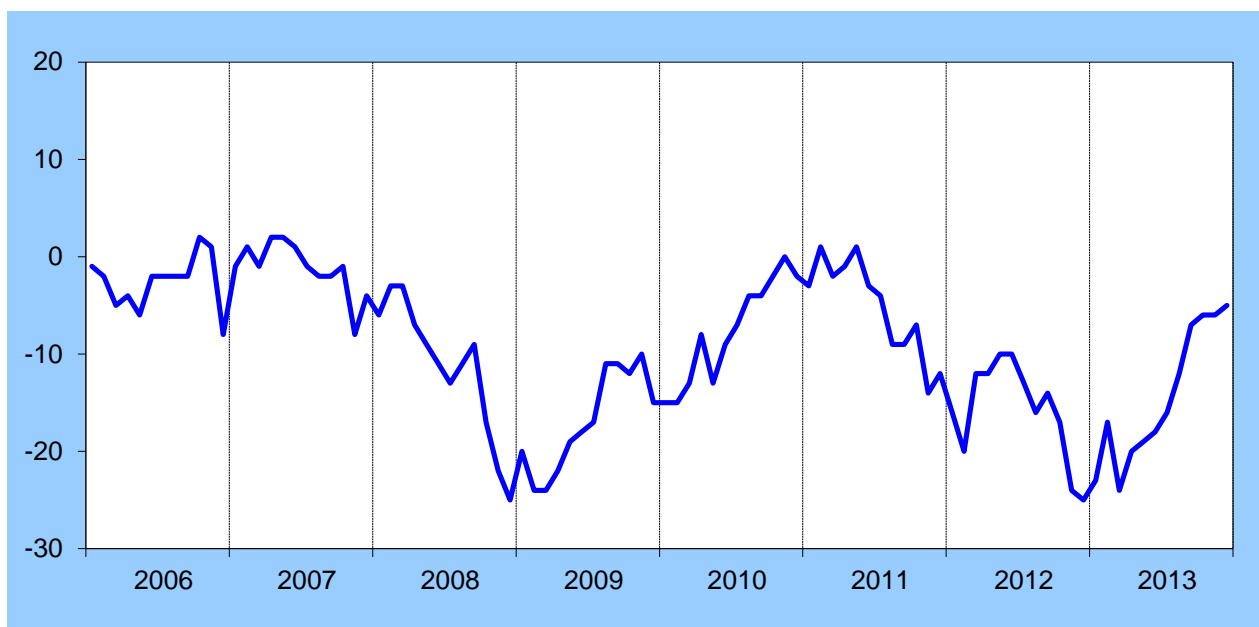
Consumer confidence indicators

		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	
2012	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
	April	-15	56	-4	-4	-20
	May	-14	55	-2	-3	-19
	June	-12	54	-4	-1	-18
	July	-10	48	-5	-2	-16
	August	1	39	-4	-7	-12
	September	9	40	1	3	-7
	October	7	38	3	3	-6
	November	9	34	2	1	-6
	December	7	32	3	2	-5

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

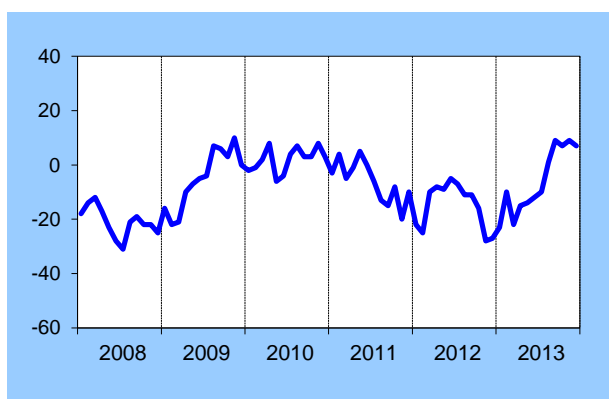
¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

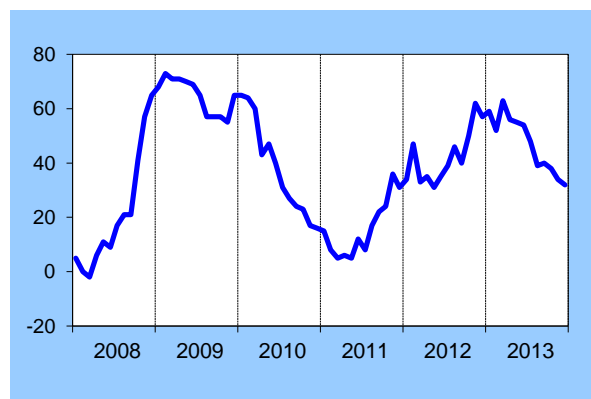


Expectations for the next twelve months

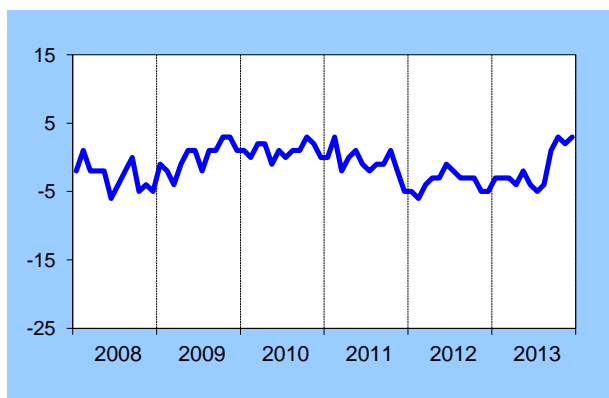
General economic situation in Belgium



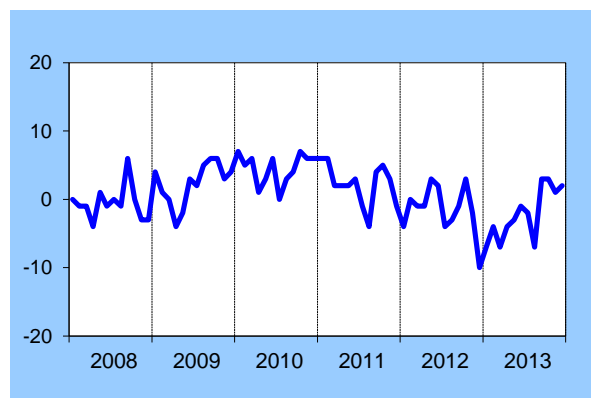
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



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