

2014-03-20

PRESS RELEASE

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March 2014 consumer survey

Consumer confidence down in March

The consumer confidence indicator, which had risen almost constantly since April 2013, showed a significant decline in March. This is undoubtedly also due to this month's announcement of various corporate restructurings, which will result in the loss of a considerable number of jobs.

In the macroeconomic area, concern over rising unemployment grew noticeably, and the Belgian consumer was a little less optimistic about the overall economic outlook, too.

The gloomier macroeconomic prospects have also affected households' expectations regarding their own situation. They see both their financial situation and their savings possibilities getting worse in the next twelve months.

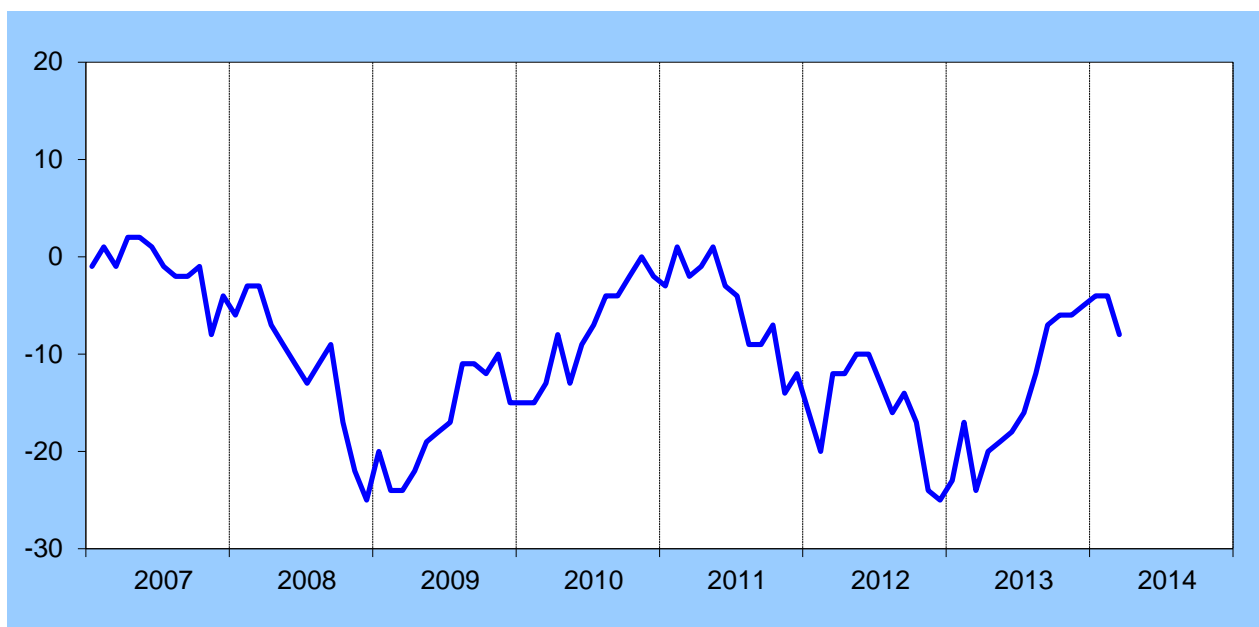
Consumer confidence indicators

		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		
2013	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	
	2014	January	12	32	2	3	-4
		February	10	30	4	1	-4
March		7	35	0	-3	-8	

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

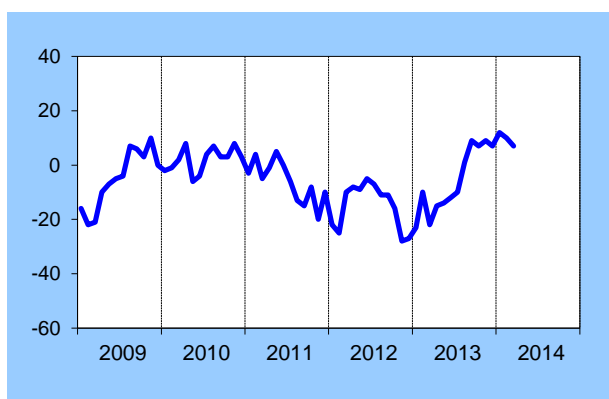
¹ Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

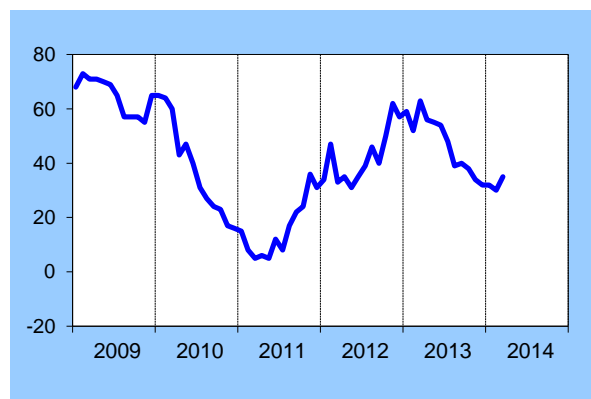


Expectations for the next twelve months

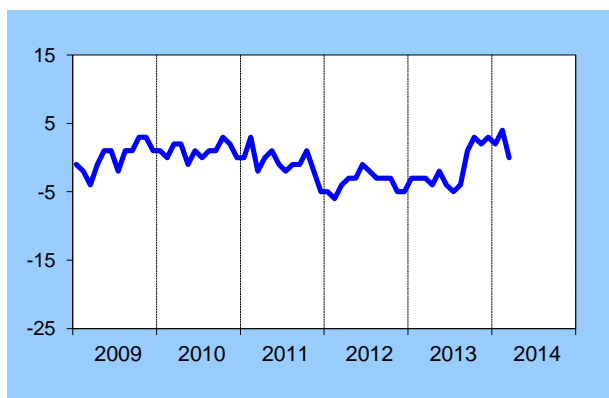
General economic situation in Belgium



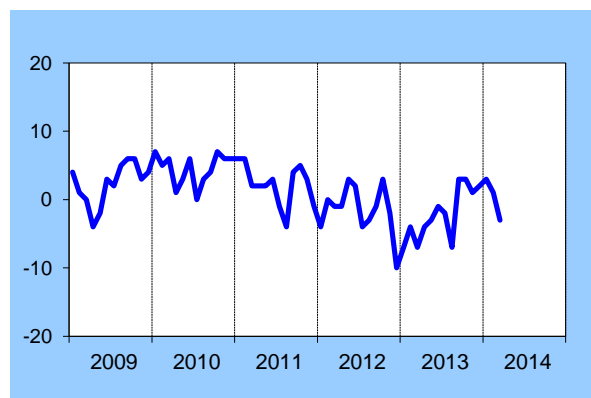
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Saving capacity of households



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