

2019-05-20

PRESS RELEASE

Links: [NBB.Stat](#) [General information](#)

Monthly consumer survey – May 2019

Consumer confidence firms up in May

- **The gain in confidence is entirely due to the much brighter outlook for the economic situation and unemployment**

The improvement in consumer confidence is entirely attributable to more favourable macroeconomic prospects. Consumers thus seem to be clearly more optimistic about future economic developments in Belgium. In addition, fears of a rise in unemployment have subsided considerably, putting an end to the negative trend seen since last November.

Consumers' expectations regarding their financial situation are nevertheless a little less optimistic. Households are also expecting to save a lot less.

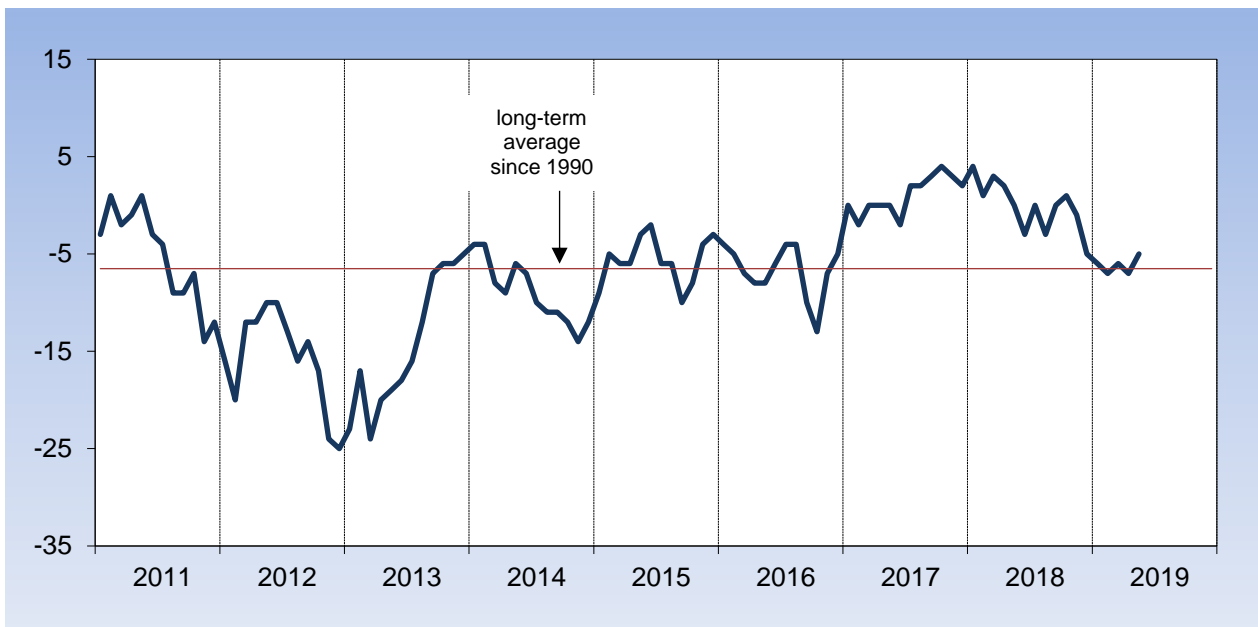
Consumer confidence indicators

		Expectations for the next twelve months			Consumer confidence indicator	
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium ¹	Financial situation of households		Savings of households
2018	May	2	2	1	0	
	June	-5	4	-4	-3	
	July	-1	0	-1	1	
	August	-6	5	-2	2	
	September	-1	0	-2	2	
	October	-2	-2	0	5	
	November	-4	-1	-2	1	
	December	-12	1	-2	-3	
	2019	January	-13	5	-3	-3
		February	-12	6	-3	-8
		March	-11	9	-1	-4
		April	-13	12	-1	-1
May		-9	7	-2	-4	

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

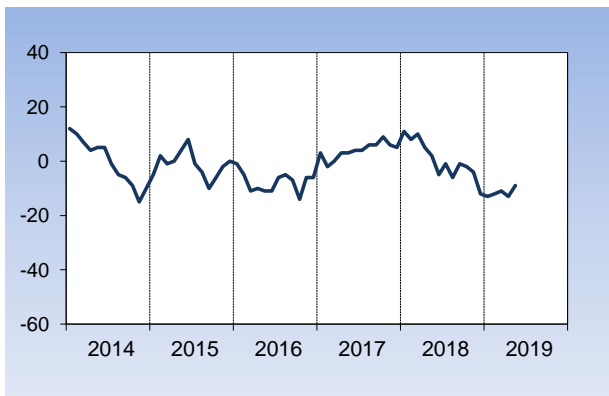
Source: National Bank of Belgium.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

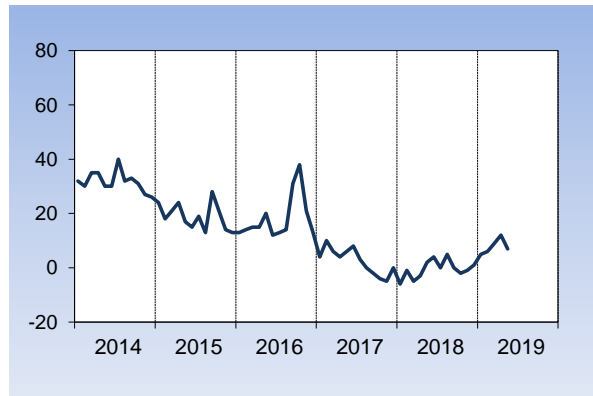


Expectations for the next twelve months

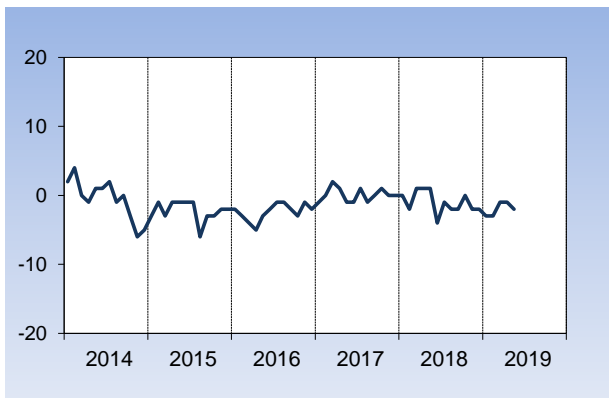
General economic situation in Belgium



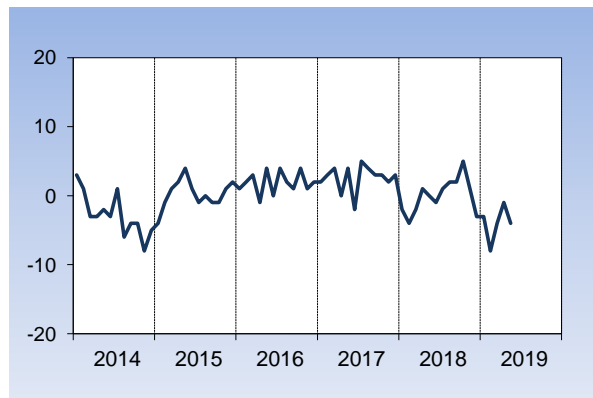
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Savings of households



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