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PRESS RELEASE

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Monthly consumer survey – February 2022

New rise in consumer confidence in February

- The improvement stems mainly from the clearly more favourable outlook for labour market developments.
- Households have also raised their savings intentions, for the first time in eight months.

Fears of a rise in unemployment over the next twelve months have once again dwindled. At the same time, forecasts about the general economic situation in Belgium have firmed up very slightly.

On the personal front, households are planning to save more, despite a further expected deterioration in their financial situation most likely due to the sharp pick-up in inflation.

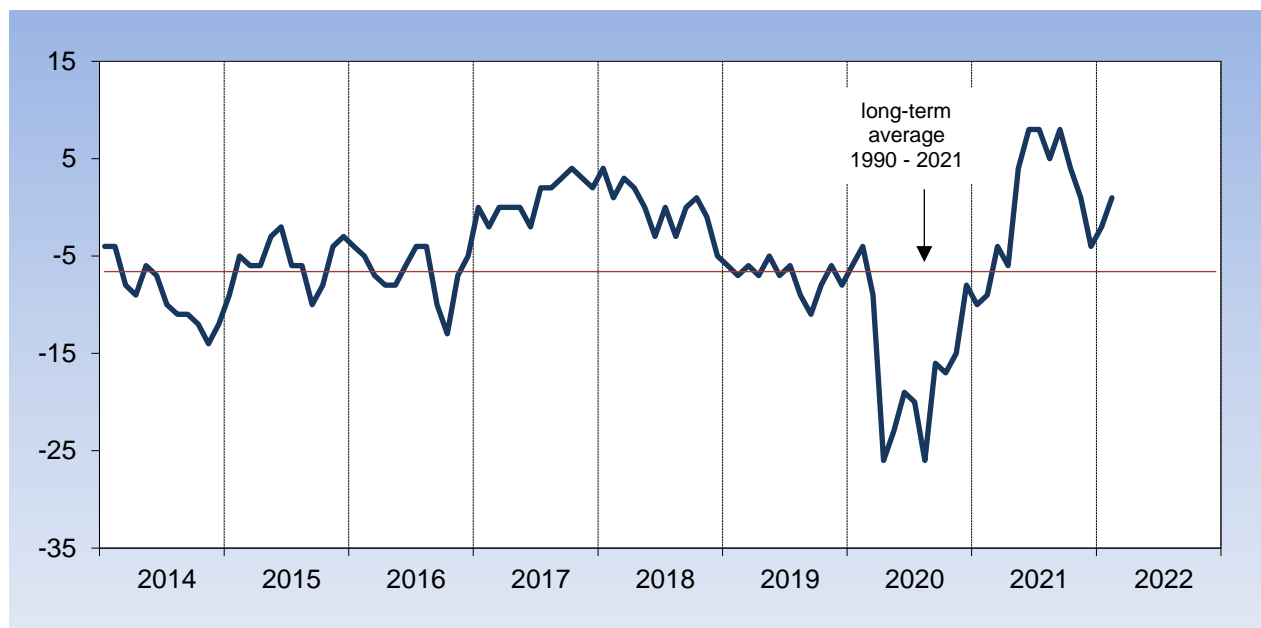
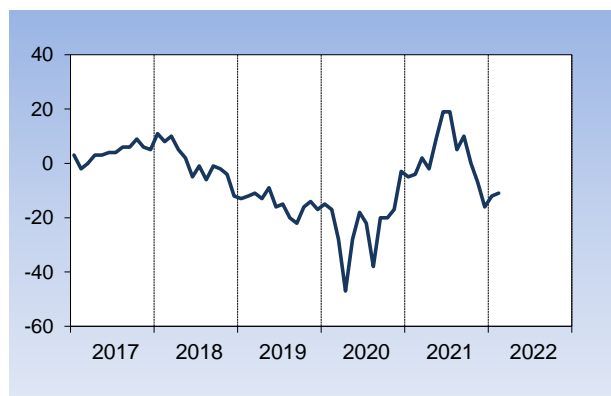
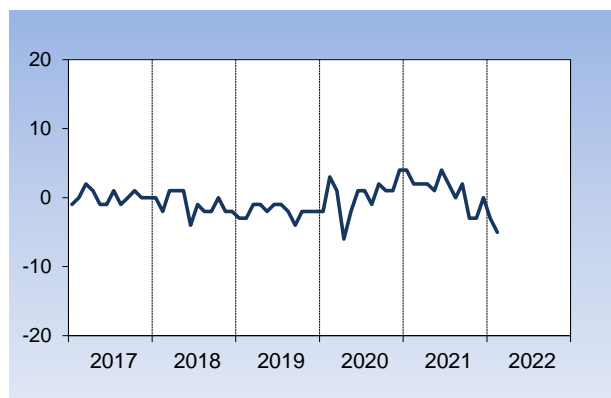
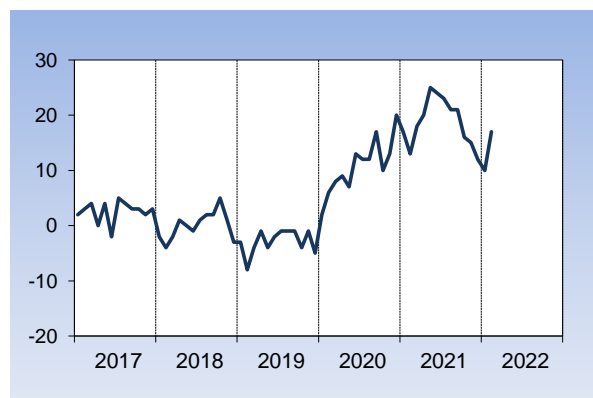
Consumer confidence indicators¹

		Expectations for the next twelve months				Consumer confidence indicator
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium ²	Financial situation of households	Savings of households	
2021	February	-4	48	2	13	-9
	March	2	37	2	18	-4
	April	-2	43	2	20	-6
	May	9	21	1	25	4
	June	19	13	4	24	8
	July	19	11	2	23	8
	August	5	8	0	21	5
	September	10	2	2	21	8
	October	0	-3	-3	16	4
	November	-7	0	-3	15	1
	December	-16	12	0	12	-4
2022	January	-12	6	-3	10	-2
	February	-11	-4	-5	17	1

¹ As of February 2020, the survey sample has been adapted to better reflect the socio-demographic characteristics of the population. In line with the European Commission's recommendations, this change is being introduced only gradually, so as not to interfere too much with the information content of the indicator.

² 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.