

2021-04-22

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Monthly consumer survey – April 2021

## Slight dip in consumer confidence in April

- The consumer confidence indicator is nevertheless still close to its pre-crisis level.
- The slight decline in consumer confidence is attributable to the less optimistic outlook for the trend in the economic situation and unemployment.
- Plans to save are on the rise again.

The survey was carried out from 1 to 17 April, so to the largest extent before the 14 April announcement of measures relaxing the pandemic lockdown.

Consumers appear more pessimistic about macroeconomic factors: their expectations about the general economic situation and unemployment in Belgium over the next twelve months have got worse.

On a personal front, households have not changed their view on their future financial situation. However, they have once again revised their savings intentions upwards, which are therefore back up to the high point reached at the end of last year.

### Consumer confidence indicators <sup>1</sup>

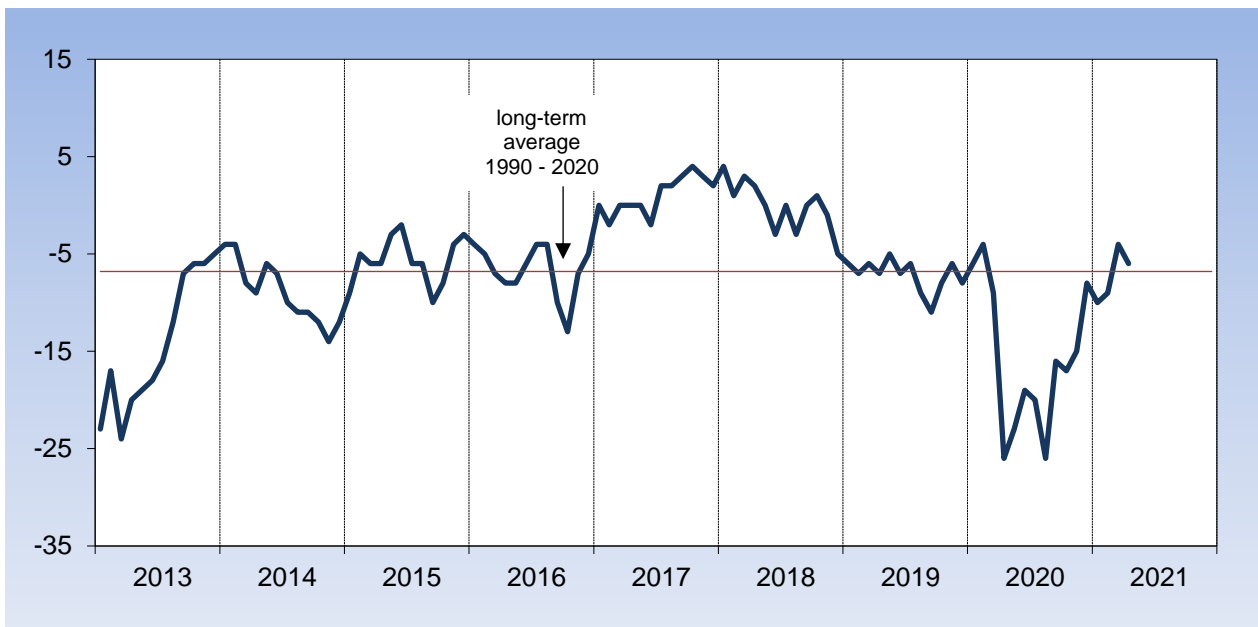
		Expectations for the next twelve months			Consumer confidence indicator		
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium <sup>2</sup>	Financial situation of households		Savings of households	
2020	April	-47	60	-6	9	-26	
	May	-28	70	-2	7	-23	
	June	-18	70	1	13	-19	
	July	-22	70	1	12	-20	
	August	-38	77	-1	12	-26	
	September	-20	62	2	17	-16	
	October	-20	59	1	10	-17	
	November	-17	58	1	13	-15	
	December	-3	51	4	20	-8	
	2021	January	-5	54	4	17	-10
		February	-4	48	2	13	-9
		March	2	37	2	18	-4
April		-2	43	2	20	-6	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.

Source: National Bank of Belgium.

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR**

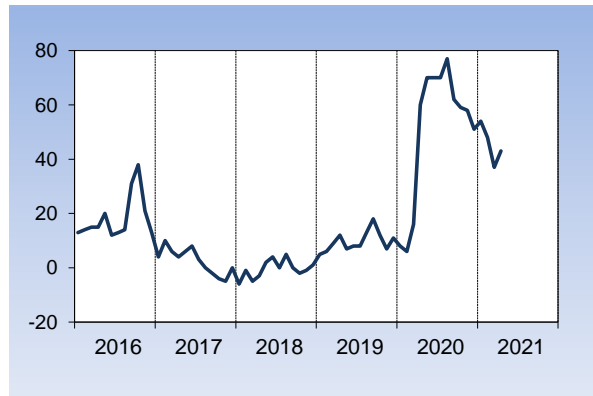


**Expectations for the next twelve months**

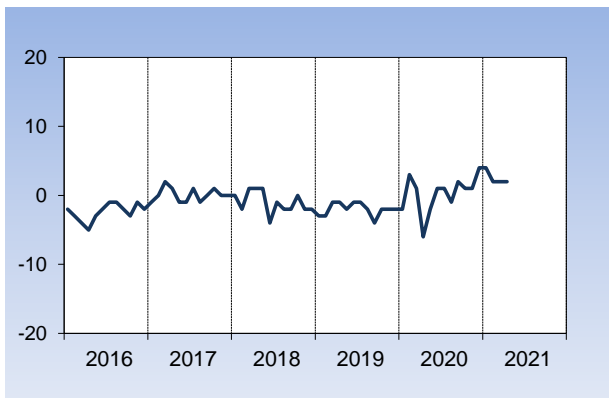
**General economic situation in Belgium**



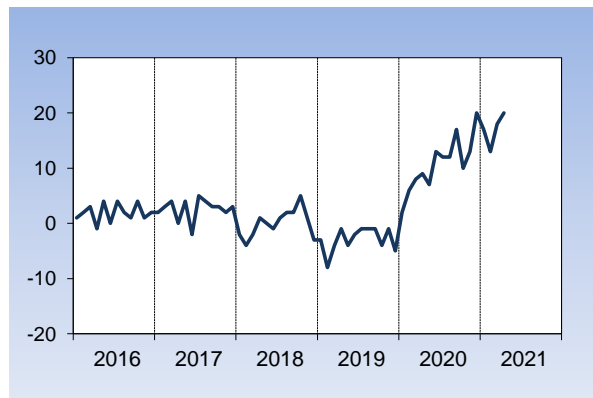
**Unemployment in Belgium<sup>1</sup>**



**Financial situation of households**



**Savings of households**



<sup>1</sup> Regarding unemployment expectations, a rise indicates a deterioration while a decline indicates an improvement.