



National Accounts Institute



Eurosystem

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PRESS RELEASE

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Slowdown in Belgian economic growth to 0.2% in the second quarter of 2023 confirmed

Economic growth

Real gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects, rose by 0.2% in the **second quarter of 2023** compared with the previous quarter. The year-over-year growth rate stands at 0.9%.

In industry, value added fell by 1.3% from the previous quarter, while activity continued to display positive growth in services, of around 0.5%, and in the building industry (0.3%).

Domestic demand

In the second quarter of 2023, household consumption expenditure was up by 0.5% from the previous quarter. This increase was mainly driven by purchases of non-durable goods and, to a lesser extent, durable goods. Housing investment fell by 1.2%. General government final consumption expenditure contracted by 0.6%, while public investment rose by 0.5%. Business investment continued to grow at a steady pace of around 2.1%.

Foreign trade

With exports of goods and services contracting more sharply (-1.0%) than imports (-0.8%), net exports had a negative impact on the change in GDP (-0.2 percentage point).

Employment

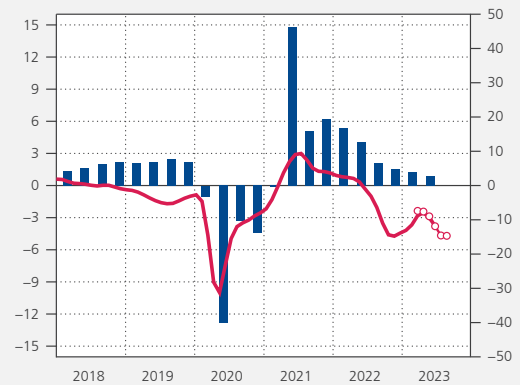
In the **second quarter of 2023**, domestic employment continued to rise (+0.4%), with the addition of 18 600 people to the workforce. The year-over-year increase came in at 1.0% or 51 400 persons.

GDP, QUARTERLY GROWTH IN VOLUME

(data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects)

	Percentage change compared to	
	Corresponding quarter of the previous year	previous quarter
2021 I	-0.1	1.4
II	14.8	1.8
III	5.1	2.3
IV	6.2	0.6
2022 I	5.4	0.6
II	4.1	0.5
III	2.1	0.3
IV	1.5	0.1
2023 I	1.3	0.4
II	0.9	0.2

GDP AND THE ECONOMIC CYCLE



■ GDP growth in volume (percentage change compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year)

— Business survey (smoothed data, right-hand scale)

○ Business survey (gross data, right-hand scale)

MAIN COMPONENTS

(percentage change in volume compared to the preceding period. data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects)

	2022				2023	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II
1. Value added						
Industry	0.6	-0.2	-0.7	-1.0	-0.6	-1.3
Construction	0.9	0.3	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.3
Services	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.5
p.m. GDP	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2
2. Expenditure						
Private consumption expenditure (1)	-0.6	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.5
Final consumption expenditure of general government	1.5	-0.7	0.5	-0.1	-0.7	-0.6
Total gross fixed capital formation	2.1	-1.6	-0.2	0.3	1.9	1.2
Business	2.7	-1.6	0.1	1.3	1.9	2.1
Housing	2.4	-1.8	-0.6	-1.9	0.1	-1.2
Public administration	-1.4	-1.1	-1.0	-1.4	5.8	0.5
Domestic demand (excluding inventories)	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4
Change in inventories (2)	-0.3	0.6	0.3	-0.4	-0.1	-0.1
Exports of goods and services	0.5	0.2	1.5	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0
Imports of goods and services	0.1	0.3	1.9	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8
Net exports of goods and services (2)	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
3. Labour market						
Total number of workers	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4

(1) Including non-profit institutions serving households.
(2) Contribution to the change in GDP.

*Compared with the flash estimate of 28 July 2023, the newly published growth figures are a lot more accurate. The main administrative data (namely, VAT data, industrial production statistics, etc.) were equally available, as is customary with the 60-day estimate of GDP for a given quarter. These estimates continue to be subject to a **high degree of uncertainty**, as has been the case since the start of the COVID-19 crisis and its disruptive consequences for the accuracy of estimation models. Seasonal adjustments were made in accordance with [Eurostat guidelines](#) on the subject.*