

2019-03-20

PRESS RELEASE

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Monthly consumer survey – March 2019

Consumer confidence up marginally in March

- After falling for four months in a row, the consumer confidence indicator has risen slightly
- The strengthening of confidence was reflected in all components of the indicator, except for unemployment expectations which were gloomier

The cautious recovery in consumer confidence was primarily driven by growing optimism about households' future financial situation. Their savings intentions for the coming months have also improved markedly, virtually wiping out the previous month's decline.

Forecasts regarding the general economic situation continue to improve slowly. Nevertheless, households appear to be more worried about the unemployment outlook, as they have been for five consecutive months now.

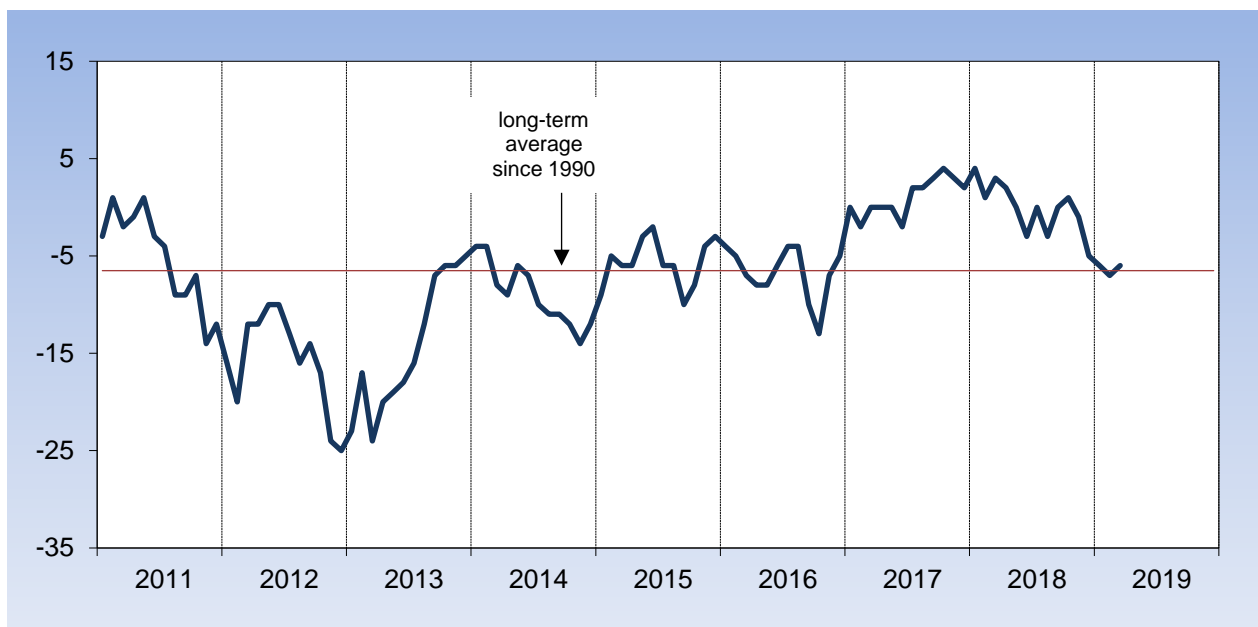
Consumer confidence indicators

		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	March	10	-5	1	-2	3	
	April	5	-3	1	1	2	
	May	2	2	1	0	0	
	June	-5	4	-4	-1	-3	
	July	-1	0	-1	1	0	
	August	-6	5	-2	2	-3	
	September	-1	0	-2	2	0	
	October	-2	-2	0	5	1	
	November	-4	-1	-2	1	-1	
	December	-12	1	-2	-3	-5	
	2019	January	-13	5	-3	-3	-6
		February	-12	6	-3	-8	-7
March		-11	9	-1	-4	-6	

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

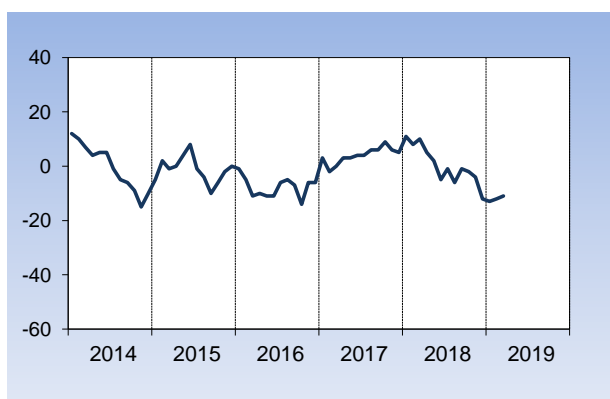
Source: National Bank of Belgium.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

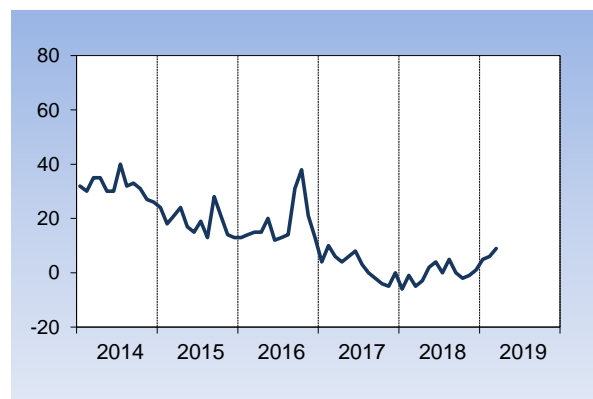


Expectations for the next twelve months

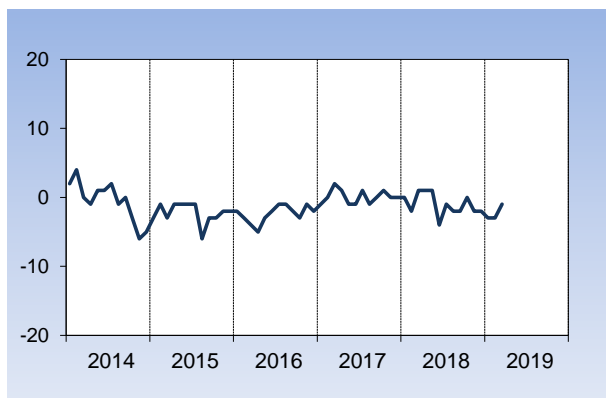
General economic situation in Belgium



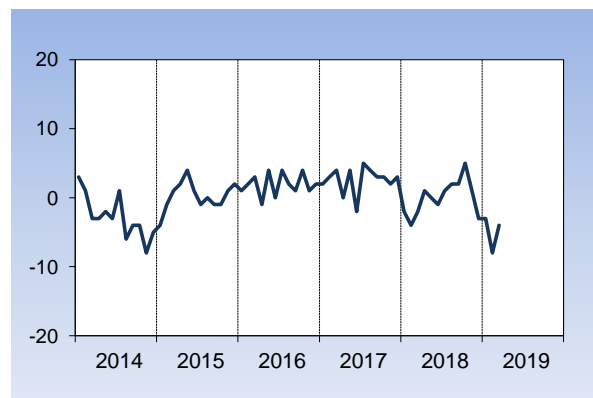
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Savings of households



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