

2020-02-19

PRESS RELEASE

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Monthly consumer survey – February 2020

Consumer confidence firms up again in February

- The consumer confidence indicator has risen in February, for the second month in a row.
- This new boost of confidence is reflected in all components of the indicator, except in the forecasts for the economic situation in Belgium.

Just like the previous month, consumers appeared more optimistic about future developments on the labour market. However, the improvement in the outlook for the economic situation in Belgium observed in January has been completely cancelled out this month.

Personal prospects for households are a lot more positive. So, having remained stable over the last few months, they are now expecting their financial situation to improve again in the coming twelve months and are planning to save more.

Consumer confidence indicators ¹

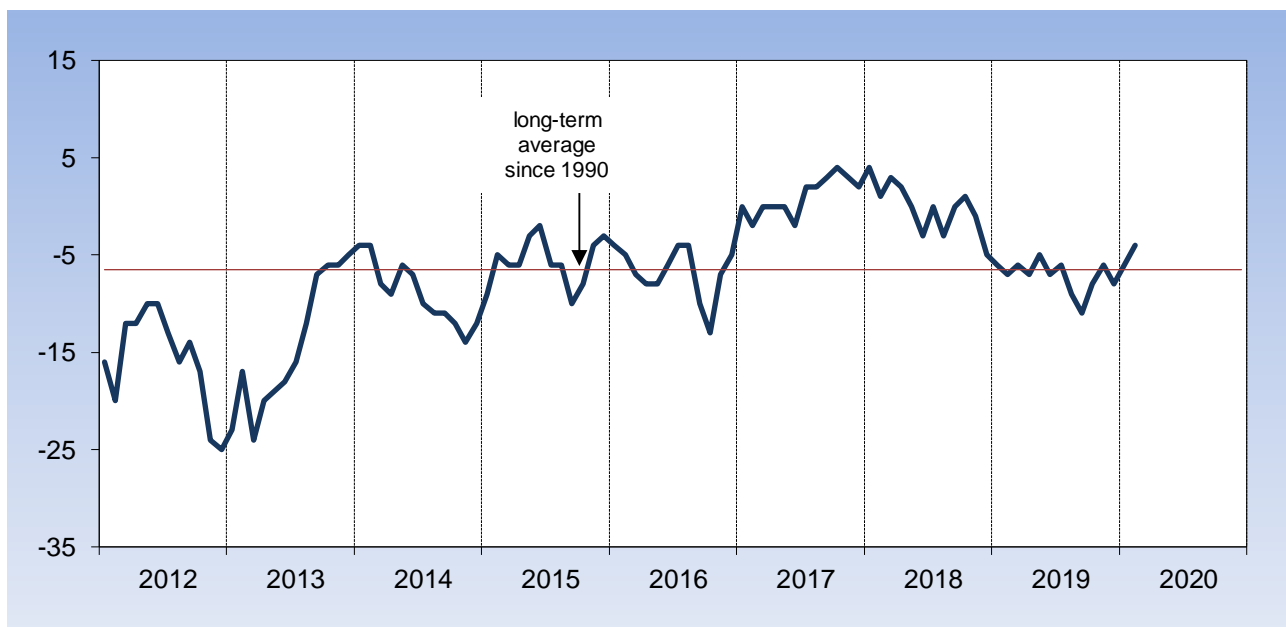
		Expectations for the next twelve months				Consumer confidence indicator
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium ²	Financial situation of households	Savings of households	
2019	February	-12	6	-3	-8	-7
	March	-11	9	-1	-4	-6
	April	-13	12	-1	-1	-7
	May	-9	7	-2	-4	-5
	June	-16	8	-1	-2	-7
	July	-15	8	-1	-1	-6
	August	-20	13	-2	-1	-9
	September	-22	18	-4	-1	-11
	October	-16	12	-2	-4	-8
	November	-14	7	-2	-1	-6
	December	-17	11	-2	-5	-8
	2020	January	-15	8	-2	2
February		-17	6	3	6	-4

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.

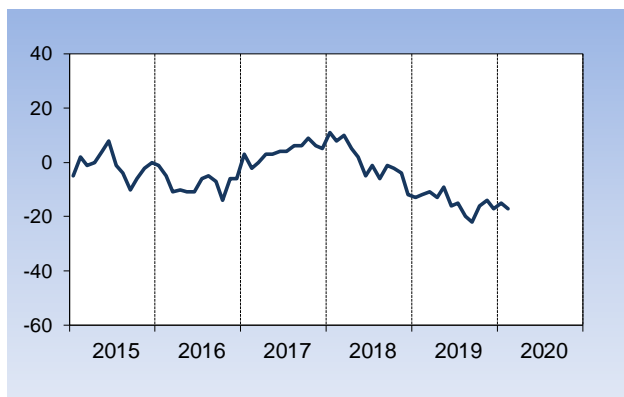
Source: National Bank of Belgium.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

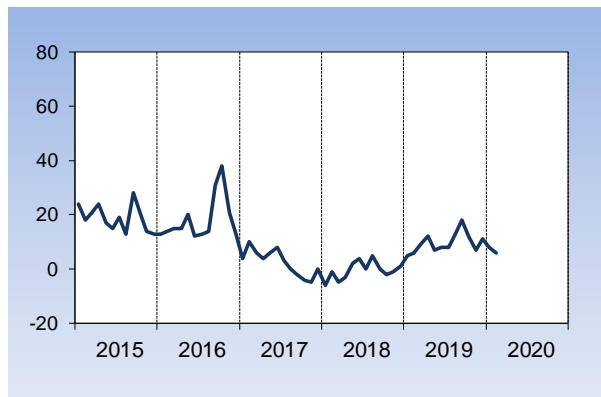


Expectations for the next twelve months

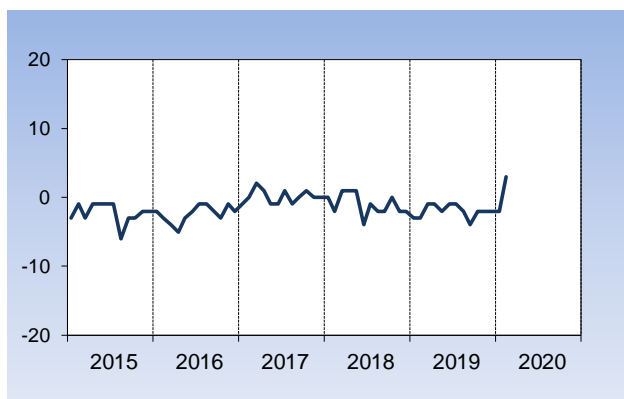
General economic situation in Belgium



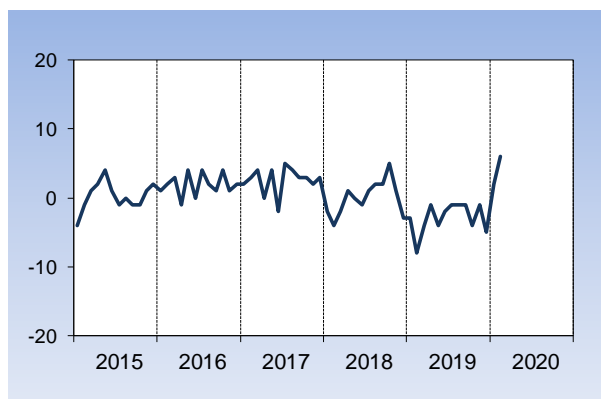
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Savings of households



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