

2021-02-18

PRESS RELEASE

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Monthly consumer survey – February 2021

Slight rise in consumer confidence in February

- It is mainly the unemployment outlook that is behind the very slight rise in confidence this month.
- Expectations regarding the macroeconomic situation have improved only very marginally, while households' outlook for their personal situation has dropped back, especially as regards their savings intentions.

Households' anticipations about the general economic situation in Belgium over the coming twelve months have been revised very slightly upwards. On the other hand, consumers have appeared clearly more optimistic about the likely trend on the job market.

On the personal front, they have revised their expectations about their financial situation downwards a little and their savings intentions somewhat more.

Consumer confidence indicators ¹

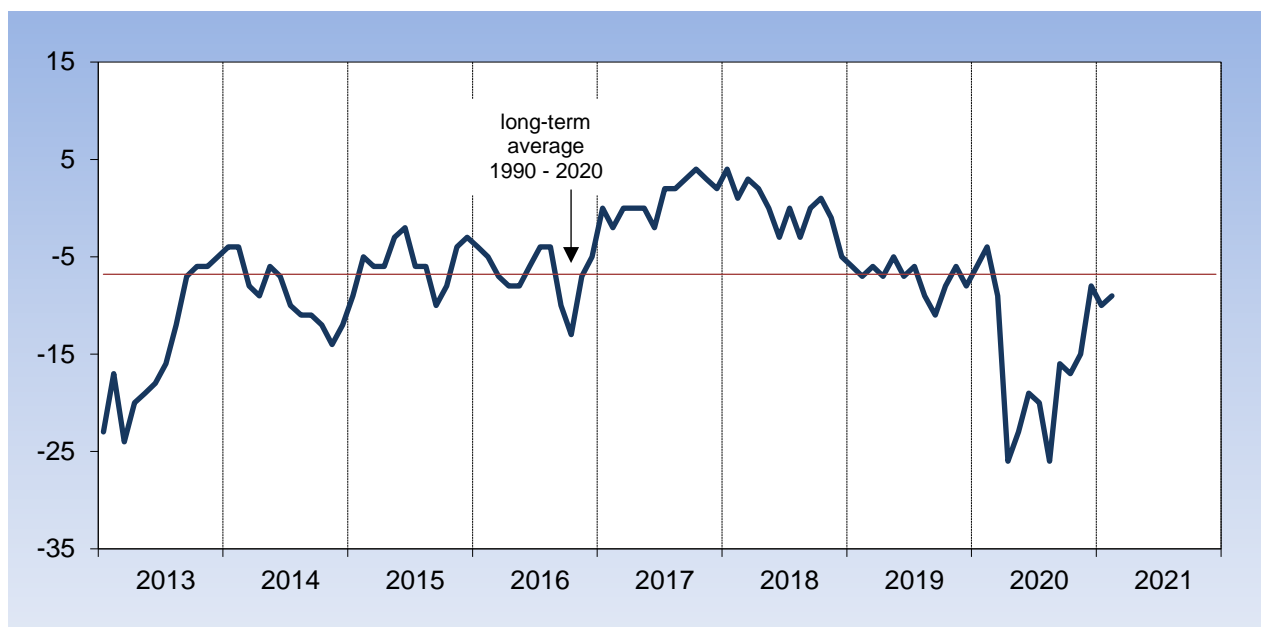
		Expectations for the next twelve months				Consumer confidence indicator
		Economic situation in Belgium	Unemployment in Belgium ²	Financial situation of households	Savings of households	
2020	February	-17	6	3	6	-4
	March	-28	16	1	8	-9
	April	-47	60	-6	9	-26
	May	-28	70	-2	7	-23
	June	-18	70	1	13	-19
	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
February		-4	48	2	13	-9

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.

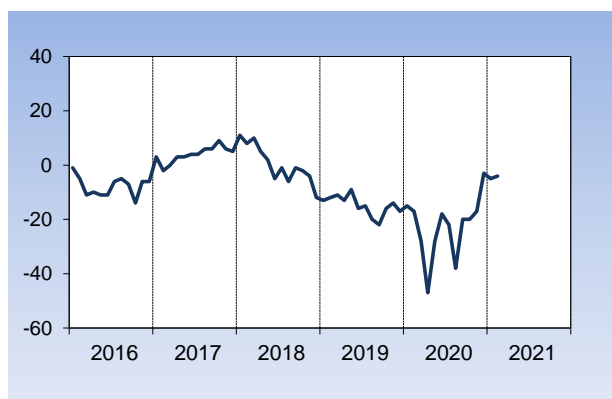
Source: National Bank of Belgium.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

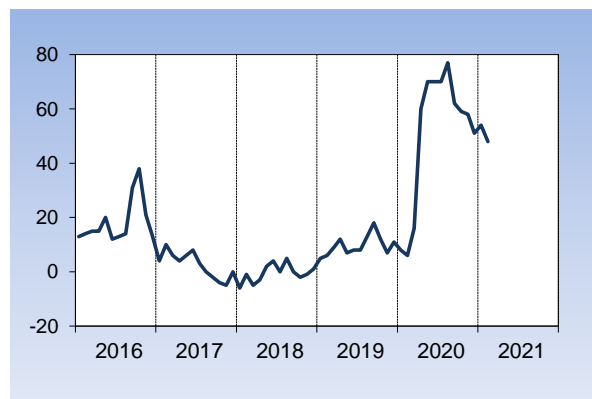


Expectations for the next twelve months

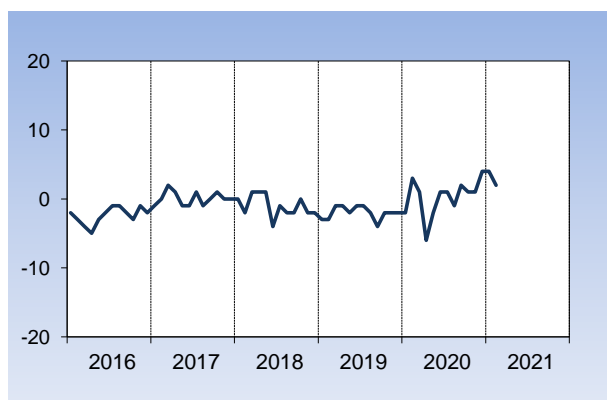
General economic situation in Belgium



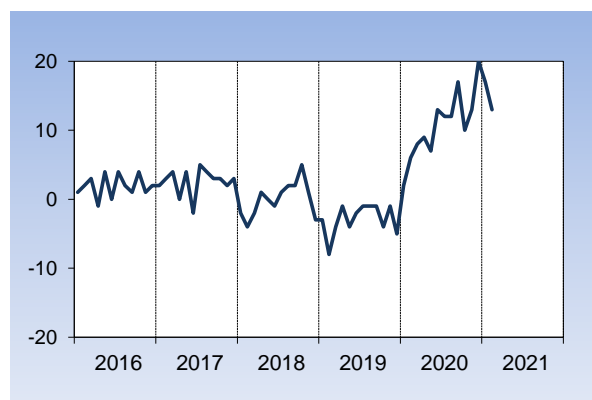
Unemployment in Belgium¹



Financial situation of households



Savings of households



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