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PRESS RELEASE

Provisional results of the spring 2011 survey of investment in the manufacturing industry

The National Bank of Belgium conducts twice-yearly surveys on corporate investment in the manufacturing industry in the strict sense (that is, excluding construction firms and those from the "electricity, gas and water" branch). According to national accounts data, the manufacturing industry accounted for 16 % of total investment by enterprises in 2009.

According to the provisional results of the May 2011 survey, investment in fixed capital goods in the manufacturing industry, expressed at current prices, is expected to rise by 20.4 % this year, the biggest rise predicted by this survey since the spring of 1996. In 2010, the amount invested was virtually the same as in 2009. In fact, it only rose by 0.8 %.

The growth in investment forecast by enterprises for the year 2011 is expected to be seen in most branches of activity, albeit to different extents. The increase is likely to be particularly strong in chemicals, iron and steel and the non-ferrous metals industry, the automobile industry and other metal manufactures. The paper and publishing industry, as well as the woodworking sector, are nevertheless expected to reduce their investment during the course of this year.