COVID-19 in België
1. COVID-19 in België: aantal gehospitaliseerde patiënten daalt traag en bevindt zich nog op een veel te hoog niveau

---

GDP and confidence indicators for Belgium
The Belgian economy is expected to return to its pre-crisis level at the end of 2022, but it will remain below the scenario without COVID-19.
Het ondernemersvertrouwen veert op in december na de verzwakking in november

Algemene synthetische curve

Bron: Nationale Bank van België (NBB), laatst beschikbare gegevens: december 2020; perscommunique maandelijkse conjuncturenquête bij de bedrijven
Embellie dans toutes les branches d’activité, sauf dans la construction

Baromètre de conjoncture – Belgique : Branches d’activité – décembre 2020

Industrie manufacturière

Services aux entreprises

Construction

Commerce

Source: Banque nationale de Belgique (BNB), dernières données disponibles: décembre 2020.
Het consumentenvertrouwen neemt opnieuw toe in december

De vertrouwensindicator benadert, door zijn toekomstgerichte karakter, opnieuw zijn niveau van voor de crisis.

Around 17 % of households suffer an income loss of more than 10 % and 40 % of them have a savings buffer of less than 3 months.

Is your household suffering a loss of income? (in % of 1 850 respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>No losses</th>
<th>&lt; 10%</th>
<th>10-30%</th>
<th>30-50%</th>
<th>&gt;50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No losses: 74 %
A large majority of Belgian households has been unaffected (so far)

How long can you cover your expenses through a savings buffer? (in % of the 1 850 respondents, unless otherwise stated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Less than 1 month</th>
<th>1-3 months</th>
<th>4-6 months</th>
<th>More than 6 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NBB, replies to December 2020 consumer survey (additional COVID-19 questions).

1 Households with losses >10% (17 %) and less than three months savings (40 %) = 7 % of the total of households.

2 22 % of total respondents.
Flemish households still hold a more favourable position (especially regarding savings buffer)

In December, the proportion of households suffering no loss of income increases in all regions (in % of respondents)

- Belgium (1850 respondents)
- Flanders (750 respondents)
- Wallonia (750 respondents)
- Brussels (350 respondents)

Savings buffer decreases sharply in Brussels in December (in % of respondents with loss of income)

Source: NBB, replies to December 2020 consumer survey (additional COVID-19 questions).
Economic policy uncertainty has increased again since October and it remains very elevated (at the level of the global financial crisis).

Economic Policy Uncertainty index for Belgium
(monthly indicator)

Labour market
L’emploi salarié plus durement impacté que l’emploi indépendant
(emploi en personnes - variation trimestrielle en %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indépendants</td>
<td>0,5</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0,2</td>
<td>0,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saliés</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td>0,4</td>
<td>-0,2</td>
<td>-0,7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emploi total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-0,2</td>
<td>-0,7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Impact on employment stronger for some branches of activity
(QoQ variation in %, 2020 Q3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch of Activity</th>
<th>2020 Q2</th>
<th>2020 Q3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total employment</td>
<td>1,77</td>
<td>0,92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial activities</td>
<td>0,76</td>
<td>0,26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0,03</td>
<td>0,01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property business</td>
<td>0,05</td>
<td>0,03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>0,19</td>
<td>0,31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and education</td>
<td>1,02</td>
<td>1,40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1,29</td>
<td>1,65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>1,13</td>
<td>1,56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, hotels and restaurants, transport</td>
<td>0,85</td>
<td>1,29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and communication</td>
<td>0,60</td>
<td>0,33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and social services</td>
<td>0,30</td>
<td>0,26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business services</td>
<td>0,31</td>
<td>0,40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NAI, latest available data: third quarter 2020.
Chute brutale du travail intérimaire en avril, reprise partielle par après (données mensuelles, en milliers d’heures)

L’évolution des opportunités d’emplois suit les mesures de (dé)confinement
(moyenne mensuelle des offres d’emplois reçues par les services publics de l’emploi régionaux via le circuit ordinaire)

Les prévisions d’emplois issues des enquêtes de conjoncture également (données désaisonnalisées et lissées)
Since lockdown (April 2020)
- 97 procedures
- 8,394 workers concerned

**pm January 2019 – December 2019**
- 81 procedures
- 5,087 workers concerned

Mass redundancy procedures: above 2019 average

Limited rise in unemployment for the time being …

- Peake observed in May: +38 000, situation in November: +22 000

Source: NEO, latest available data: November 2020.
... concentrated on men and medium and highly-educated people

Annual variation
(monthly data)

Source: NEO, latest available data: November 2020.
Temporary unemployment: following lockdown measures

Monthly effective use and access demands
(payments linked to COVID-19, thousands of people and % of private salaried employment, p.m. DRS linked to COVID-19, thousands of people, monthly data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Payments</th>
<th>pm Employer's request (DRS)</th>
<th>pm highest level recorded during the financial crisis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1,033</td>
<td>1,030 30%</td>
<td>1,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>1,146 36%</td>
<td>1,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>917 29%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>561 18%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>340 11%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>308 10%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>233 7%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>265 8%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>281 7%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average number of days per worker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NEO, latest available data: November 2020.
Self-employed: unprecedented use of financial support

Bridging right, provisional data\(^1\)
(Thousands of people and % of self-employed in principal activity)

Before the crisis, about 90 self-employed benefited of the bridging right. At the peak of the crisis, in April, they were 414 000.


\(^1\) Data related to payments.
La crise sanitaire a interrompu une dynamique positive
(taux harmonisés issus des enquêtes force de travail\(^1\))


\(^1\) Les indicateurs mensuels sont sujets à de plus fortes fluctuations aléatoires que les résultats trimestriels et annuels car ils reposent sur un douzième de l’échantillon annuel. Les variations d’une période à l’autre doivent être interprétées avec prudence.
ERMG survey
The ERMG survey allows to monitor the COVID-19 impact on companies and self-employed in real time¹

- Surveys conducted by (selection of) the following federations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Federations</th>
<th>Replies</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>23-24 March</td>
<td>BECI, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>1 700</td>
<td>Results not published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30-31 March</td>
<td>BECI, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>4 725</td>
<td>First press release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6-7 April</td>
<td>BECI, BOERENBOND, NSZ, UNISOC, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>6 900</td>
<td>UNISOC was analysed separately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14-15 April</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>5 500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20-21 April</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>3 528</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>27-28 April</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>4 208</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5-6 May</td>
<td>BECI, BOERENBOND, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>2 675</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>12-13 May</td>
<td>BECI, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>2 185</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>25-27 May</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>2 993</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8-10 June</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>2 365</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>22-24 June</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>3 136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>17-19 August</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UCM, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>4 430</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>21-23 September</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>2 868</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>19-21 October</td>
<td>BECI, UCM, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>5 131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>9-10 November</td>
<td>BECI, NSZ, UCM, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>5 631</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>7-9 December</td>
<td>BECI, UCM, UNIZO, UWE, VOKA</td>
<td>3 798</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

¹ Note that changes over time should be interpreted with care as the companies participating to the survey and the composition of the sample can differ from one week to another.
While the current revenue loss and the 2021 outlook have improved, the recovery is still expected to remain slow and only partial.

**COVID-19 impact on weekly turnover**

(in %, weighted average based on revenues and industry value added¹)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lockdown I</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Stabilisation</th>
<th>Lockdown II</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-31</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>-26</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 May</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 June</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 July</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 July</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 August</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 August</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 September</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 October</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 October</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 October</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 November</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 November</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 December</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expected impact on next years’ turnover**

(in %, weighted average based on revenues and industry value added¹)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

¹ This approach excludes the human health industry, the public sector and firms that were identified as belonging to a miscellaneous ‘other’ industry.

² 2022 revenue expectations were not asked in the surveys before December.
Revenues have improved in most industries (especially in non-food retail and real estate activities), but not in the worst-hit industries.

COVID-19 impact on weekly turnover
(in %, weighted average based on revenues)

-100 -80 -60 -40 -20 0

March-April (Lockdown I)
(Rounds 2-6)
May-June
(Rounds 7-11)
August-October
(Rounds 12-14)
November (Lockdown II)
(Round 15)
December
(Round 16)

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

¹ The changes of the revenue loss in the transport and logistics sector over time should be interpreted with caution because the hard-hit passenger aviation companies seem to have been underrepresented in the survey rounds between August and November.
Most industries do not expect a full recovery even by 2022

Expected COVID-19 impact on current and next years’ turnover (Survey 8 December)
(in %, weighted average based on revenues)

Week of December 8  2021 Q1  2021  2022

Source: Round 16 of ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020

¹ The expectations in agriculture should be interpreted with care, as it is largely driven by one very large agriculture firm with a pessimistic outlook.
**Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on company turnover by industry**

*(in %, weighted average based on revenues)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aviation²</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-77</td>
<td>-63</td>
<td>-53</td>
<td>-61</td>
<td>-87</td>
<td>-88</td>
<td>-87</td>
<td>-57</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>-13</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and recreation</td>
<td>-74</td>
<td>-92</td>
<td>-84</td>
<td>-88</td>
<td>-88</td>
<td>-84</td>
<td>-89</td>
<td>-92</td>
<td>-63</td>
<td>-86</td>
<td>-81</td>
<td>-81</td>
<td>-74</td>
<td>-77</td>
<td>-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail sales (non-food)</td>
<td>-86</td>
<td>-85</td>
<td>-78</td>
<td>-70</td>
<td>-82</td>
<td>-70</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-16</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>-51</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-46</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-37</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-35</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-13</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering services</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-62</td>
<td>-13</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-27</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-16</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal professions</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-28</td>
<td>-27</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate activities</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-44</td>
<td>-43</td>
<td>-31</td>
<td>-28</td>
<td>-60</td>
<td>-38</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-24</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-37</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture of transport equipment²</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>-63</td>
<td>-74</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-75</td>
<td>-59</td>
<td>-47</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td>-16</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-16</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and fishing</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel and shoes</td>
<td>-48</td>
<td>-57</td>
<td>-70</td>
<td>-70</td>
<td>-57</td>
<td>-62</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing</td>
<td>-52</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-26</td>
<td>-49</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>-26</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-28</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture of pharmaceutical and chemical products</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-24</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture of food products</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-24</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultancy</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-28</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-16</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-26</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-16</td>
<td>-24</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-39</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture of plastic and non-metallic products</td>
<td>-24</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>-47</td>
<td>-46</td>
<td>-43</td>
<td>-46</td>
<td>-44</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and insurance activities</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Retail sales (food)                           | -3              | -4              | -8              | -0              | -5              | -8           | -16          | -1           | -9           | -1           | -6           | -11           | -11           | -9           | 1            |             |

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

¹ Weighted average based on the industry value added.

² The results for this sector are based on only a few respondents and should therefore be interpreted with caution. In addition, the changes of the aviation revenue loss over time should be interpreted with caution because the hard-hit passenger aviation companies seem to have been underrepresented in many survey rounds before December.
Revenues recover somewhat for the smaller firms/self-employed, but they remain the hardest hit by far ...

Reported impact on weekly turnover, by number of employees
(in %, unweighted average\(^1\))

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

\(^1\) Results are not stratified by industry.

---

**Reported Impact on Weekly Turnover, by Number of Employees**

- **Self-employed**:
  - March-April (Lockdown I) (Rounds 2-6)
  - May-June (Rounds 7-11)
  - August-October (Rounds 12-14)
  - November (Lockdown II) (Round 15)
  - December (Round 16)

- **1 - 10 employees**:
  - March-April (Lockdown I)
  - May-June
  - August-October
  - November
  - December

- **10 - 20 employees**:
  - March-April
  - May-June
  - August-October
  - November
  - December

- **20 - 50 employees**:
  - March-April
  - May-June
  - August-October
  - November
  - December

- **50 - 250 employees**:
  - March-April
  - May-June
  - August-October
  - November
  - December

- **250 - 1000 employees**:
  - March-April
  - May-June
  - August-October
  - November
  - December

- **> 1000 employees**:
  - March-April
  - May-June
  - August-October
  - November
  - December

---

**Notes**:

- ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.
- Results are not stratified by industry.
... and small Brussels firms suffer more, which could be explained by the drop in commuters (due to telework) and (tourism/business) travel...
Lack of demand remains the key issue of the revenue loss, while the forced closure of the activities is cited less but remains important ...

Reasons for the current revenue loss
(in % of responding firms¹, multiple reasons are possible)

- Lack of demand
- Forced closure
- Social Distancing
- Supply chain problems
- Staff shortage
- Liquidity problems
- Other
- Not applicable: no revenue loss

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

¹ Weighted average based on industry value added. Please note that there are no results for the surveys in May and June.

² Liquidity problems was not included in the surveys of March and April.
... and less staff is absent in December due to illness

Higher sick leave in Wallonia and in industries where telework is less feasible

Sick leave
(in % of the total number of employees of the companies in the survey (excluding self-employed))

Source: ERMG survey of 8 December.
The concern indicator has decreased in December.

Concern about the impact of the current situation on the commercial activities
(Indicator\(^1\) between 1 (low concern) and 10 (strong concern))

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.
\(^1\) Weighted average based on the industry value added.
The investment outlook has become a little less gloomy: the average firm expects its investment to be about 20% below normal in 2021.

COVID-19 impact on expected investment in 2020 and 2021 (Survey 8 December)

(in %, unweighted average)

Source: Round 16 of ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

1. Weighted average based on the industry value added.
Liquidity problems have eased somewhat in December, except for those related to credit access and delayed government payments ...

Do you have liquidity problems?  
(in % of responding firms¹, multiple answers are possible)

March-April (Lockdown I)  
(Rounds 2-6)

May-June  
(Rounds 7-11)

August-October  
(Rounds 12-14)

November (Lockdown II)  
(Round 15)

December  
(Round 16)

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.
¹ Weighted average based on the industry value added.
... and almost 60% of firms need additional financing within one year

How long can you still meet your current financial obligations without having to rely on additional capital injections or additional loans?
(in % of responding firms)

Source: Round 16 of ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.
¹ Weighted average based on the industry value added.
Bankruptcy risk has decreased again in December but remains elevated ...

Firms that consider bankruptcy to be likely or highly likely\(^1\) (in % of responding firms)

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

1. The results of the September survey were left out as the sample was not representative (small firms based in Wallonia and Brussels, which regard the risk of bankruptcy as higher, were much less represented in that survey).

2. Weighted average based on the industry value added.
... and firms estimate that many companies in their industry are currently in a bankruptcy process or already went bankrupt

Source: ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.
¹ Weighted average based on the industry value added.
The number of employees in the private sector is expected to decline by almost 5% by the end of 2021...

Expected change in staff size in 2020 and 2021 (Survey 8 December)
(in % of total staff size of the firms in the survey, excluding self-employed)

Source: Round 16 of ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.
1 Average, weighted by the number of private sector employees in the industries.
... corresponding to an expected decline by about 110 000 employees in the private sector

**Expected change of staff size in 2020 and 2021 (Survey 8 December)**

(in number of employees, excluding self-employed)

- Corresponding to an expected decline by about 110 000 employees in the private sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and food services</td>
<td>-35 000</td>
<td>-25 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade</td>
<td>-20 000</td>
<td>-10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>-20 000</td>
<td>-10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>-15 000</td>
<td>-5 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment and recreation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and logistics</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and insurance activities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate activities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and communication</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Round 16 of ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

¹ Average, weighted by the number of private sector employees in the industries.
The number of employees in full- and part-time telework has further increased, while the number of temporary unemployed has declined.
The current use of telework decreases productivity in about half of the firms.

Impact of current recourse to teleworking on workers’ productivity (Survey 8 December)
(in % of firms polled, at aggregate level and in the four sectors making the most use of teleworking)

Source: Round 16 of ERMG survey, latest available data: 8 December 2020.

1 Average, weighted by the estimated number of private sector employees of the industries in the Belgian economy.
The use of telework is expected to remain almost twice as large after the COVID-19 crisis ...

Use of telework in October and before and after the COVID-19 crisis (Survey 20 October)
(average number of days per week, weighted averages based on staff size, excluding self-employed)


¹ Average, weighted by the number of private sector employees in the industries.
² The average days of telework for the week of 20 October is computed based on the survey question on the workforce organisation. It pertains to the staff that is currently working (thus excluding temporarily unemployed and absent staff) and it assumes that partial telework corresponds to 2 days a week.
Do you expect that the way of working in your company will be permanently different from the situation before the crisis? (Survey 22 September)

(in % of responding firms, multiple answers are possible)

... as the crisis will have a lasting impact on the way of working with increased use of telework, more flexible working hours and less travel
The COVID-19 crisis has led to a structural increase in E-sales/distance orders, especially in retail, accommodation and financial services.

Share of companies that generate sales through distance orders or online sales (Survey 10 November)
(in % of responding firms, sectors are ranked by increase from the pre-COVID-19 situation)

¹ Weighted average based on the industry value added
Only few firms have non-EU production and the vast majority of these firms will not reshore this production.

Do you expect that, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the production of your company that is currently produced outside the EU will be moved to a country within the EU? (Survey 18 August)
(In % of responding firms)

Credit indicators
households
Minwaarden op bestaande beleggingen maar meer deposito’s en aankoop aandelen en beleggingsfondsen door gezinnen in 2020

Min- en meerwaarden op financiële activa van huishoudens
(in € miljard)

Netto financiële investeringen
(in € miljard)

In 2020Q1 veroorzaakten de sterke daling in de beurskoersen waardedalingen in de financiële activa van de particulieren voor 63,1 miljard euro. Door het herstel van de beurzen vertoont 2020Q2 positieve herwaarderingen van 37,1 miljard. Oktober toont een beperkte daling. In november herstellen de beurskoersen echter fors. Negatieve prijseffecten waren beduidend hoger tijdens de financiële crisis van 2008.

p.m. de totale financiële activa van de particulieren bedroegen 1 406 miljard eind juni 2020.

De transacties in financiële activa van de particulieren in het tweede kwartaal tonen forse investeringen voor totaal 19,1 miljard euro, voornamelijk door de stijging van de deposito’s, illustratief voor het "geforceerd sparen" van de gezinnen. In het tweede kwartaal werd er voornamelijk in beleggingsfondsen geïnvesteerd. Zoals vaak in het derde kwartaal daalden de deposito’s ook in 2020Q3, maar minder uitgesproken dan in de voorgaande jaren.


1 Andere activa bevatten voornamelijk verzekeringenproducten en niet-genoteerde aandelen.
Deposito’s van Belgische huishoudens

*Deposito’s Belgische huishoudens*  
(€ miljard, sector, maandelijkse gegevens)

*Alle deposito’s*  
(Maandelijkse nettogroei, € miljoen)

Negatieve saldi op rekeningen / kredietkaarten

Negatieve saldi op rekeningen
(stock, in € miljoen, maandelijkse gegevens)

Aantal rekeningen “teveel in het rood”
(aantal, in duizend, wekelijkse gegevens)

Bron: Ad hoc rapportering, Febelfin, op basis van 7 banken, laatst beschikbare gegevens: 30 november 2020.
Bankkredieten van Belgische huishoudens

**Stock**
(E€ miljard)

**Hypothecaire leningen**
(maandelijkse nettogroei , € miljoen)

**Groeivoet**
(op jaarbasis, %)

**Consumentenleningen**
(maandelijkse nettogroei , € miljoen)

Hypotheekleningen: nieuwe leningen en wanbetalingsgraad

**Nieuwe leningen**
(geregistreerd bedrag per werkdag in CKP, in € miljoenen)

- Gemiddelde per werkdag over de laatste 12 maanden
- Gemiddelde per werkdag over de laatste maand
- Gemiddelde per werkdag over de laatste 5 werkdagen

**Wanbetalingsgraad**
(Aantal uitstaande achterstallige contracten, % van alle uitstaande contracten in CKP/ENR)

Bron: Centrale voor Kredieten aan Particulieren (CKP), laatste beschikbare gegevens: 15 december 2020
Consumentenkredieten\( ^1 \): nieuwe leningen en wanbetalingsgraad

**Nieuwe leningen**
(geregistreerd bedrag per werkdag in CKP, in € miljoenen)

**Wanbetalingsgraad**
(Aantal uitstaande achterstallige contracten, % van alle uitstaande contracten in CKP/ENR)

---


\(^1\) Leningen en verkopen op afbetaling (uitgezonderd kredietopeningen).
Moratoria voor leningen aan gezinnen

Aantal hypotheekleningen onder moratorium

- Aantal **consumentenleningen** die genieten of genoten hebben van een moratorium zoals geregistreerd in de Centrale voor Kredieten aan Particulieren (op 6 december)
  - 8 367 leningen
  - waarvan 8 111 leningen op afbetaling (0,4 % van alle leningen op afbetaling)

**Bronnen:** CKP, Febelfin.
Achterstanden bij leningen aan huishoudens stabiel sinds juni

Betalingsachterstand (1-30 dagen) op hypothecaire leningen en consumentenleningen
(wekelijkse gegevens, aantal leningen met een betalingsachterstand van 1-30 dagen als % van het totaal aantal leningen)

Credit indicators

corporates
Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on lending to non-financial corporations (NFCs)

◆ Credit developments: (see next slides)
  ◇ While annual NFC growth of utilised loans had accelerated in March and April (in large part due to drawdowns of credit lines by multinationals), it has slowed since May.
  ◇ The annual growth rate of authorised (granted) credit is now lower than that observed before the pandemic.
  ◇ The annual growth rate of used credits in September and in October are influenced by a base effect due to a large one-off transaction that took place one year earlier (only in the Central Corporate Credit Register data).
  ◇ Monthly growth rates of utilised and authorised loans have been low since June, with some monthly growth rates being negative.
  ◇ Loan arrears have been stable since May.
  ◇ Small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have larger proportions of loans in moratorium than larger firms.

◆ According to the October 2020 Bank lending survey:
  ◇ Demand for loans from Belgian enterprises in 2020Q3 was driven by liquidity needs, but also curbed by a decline in fixed investment.
  ◇ Slight tightening in credit standards prompted by higher risk perception and lower risk tolerance.
Firms perceived less favorable credit conditions

- Belgian firms reported a slight improvement of their credit conditions in 2020Q3 compared to 2020Q2
  - Slight improvement in the assessment of the general credit conditions by firms
    - Mainly due to the industry sector and large firms
    - From 2020, the balance of the opinions (favorable vs unfavorable) is below the historical average
  - Small deterioration with respect to 2020Q2 regarding requirements for collateral
    (source: NBB survey on credit conditions)

- SMEs feared a significant impact on bank loan availability in 2020Q4 and 2021Q1
  - Small deterioration regarding obstacles impeding access to bank financing between April and September 2020 compared to the previous six months
    - Proportion of SMEs not applying for bank credit because of possible rejection, or applying for a loan but only receiving a limited part of the amount requested, refusing credit because the cost was too high, or having their application rejected = 7.2 % (against 5.9 % on average in 2017-2019 and 5.2 % from October 2019 to March 2020)
  - But SMEs expected a sharp deterioration in availability of bank loans over the next six months (October 2020-March 2021)
    - Widespread across sectors
    (source: SAFE survey, conducted between 7 September and 16 October 2020)
NFC credit growth in Belgium: slowdown after the peak in March and April
(year-on-year % changes\(^1\), up to October 2020)

Sources: European Central Bank (ECB), NBB (Balance Sheet Items), latest available data: 31 October 2020.

\(^1\) Loans granted by resident MFIs to residents, including securitised loans and loans otherwise transferred.
Reduced contribution of multinational corporations to total credit growth, after massive drawdowns of credit lines in March and April ...

**Year-on-year growth rates for authorised credit**

**Year-on-year growth rates for utilised credit**

Sources: NBB (Central Corporate Credit Register), latest available data: 31 October 2020.

1 Firms with direct investment abroad or at least partially owned by foreign investors (10% threshold), identified by SX.
… which also translates into a lower contribution of short-term loans.
Slightly positive growth of authorised loans in October; no further decline in utilised loans

Monthly growth rates of authorised and utilised loans

Monthly growth rates of loans for October of previous years

Source: NBB (Central Corporate Credit Register), latest available data: October 2020.
Growth in authorised and utilised loans since start of crisis is below historical averages for many vulnerable sectors.

March-October growth rates of authorised loans (in %)

March-October growth rates of utilised loans (in %)

Source: NBB (Central Corporate Credit Register), latest available data: October 2020.

Note: Sectors are ordered based on the initial fall in sales due to the crisis (greater declines from right to left). "Other" contains all other sectors in the economy.
Loan developments - weekly
NFCs in weekly reporting = Self-employed + SMEs + Corporates + Public Sector Entities

**Evolution of total loans to NFCs**
(in %)

- Total loans to NFCs represented as an index normalized to 100% by end May stock of loans

**Utilisation rate (= utilised/authorized)**
(last weekly observation, in %)

- Source: NBB/Febelfin ad hoc weekly reporting, latest available data: 6 December 2020.
- Note: Firm classification was provided by the banks on a best effort basis. It may differ from the official firm classification.
Stable loans for firms except for a slight decline for corporates
NFCs in weekly reporting = Self-employed + SMEs + Corporates + Public Sector Entities

Evolution of total loans to self-employed
Latest observation (authorized) 23 billion EUR

Evolution of total loans to SMEs
Latest observation (authorized) 83 billion EUR

Evolution of total loans to corporates
Latest observation (authorized) 139 billion EUR

Total loans to public sector entities
Latest observation (authorized) 37 billion EUR

Total loans to NFCs represented as an index normalized to 100 % by end May stock of loans

Source: NBB/Febelfin ad hoc weekly reporting, latest available data: 6 December 2020.
Note: Firm classification was provided by the banks on a best effort basis. It may differ from the official firm classification.
Number of loans in arrears or in default are not increasing (yet?)
(arrears – weekly)

Source: NBB/Febelfin ad hoc weekly reporting, latest available data: 6 December 2020.
Note: Firm classification was provided by the banks on a best effort basis. It may differ from the official firm classification.
The observed increase for SMEs on 20th September is due to a technical correction.
SMEs are the main beneficiaries of moratorium relative to their share of total loans (moratorium – weekly)

Loan amounts in moratorium by type of counterparty

Total loan amounts by type of counterparty

Source: NBB/Febeffin ad hoc weekly reporting, latest available data: 6 December 2020.
Note: Firm classification was provided by the banks on a best effort basis. It may differ from the official firm classification.
Long term loans are the main type of loans in moratorium (moratorium – weekly)

% of exposures in moratorium (last weekly observation)

Source: NBB/FebeFIn ad hoc weekly reporting, latest available data: 6 December 2020.
Note: Firm classification was provided by the banks on a best effort basis. It may differ from the official firm classification.
Take-up of the state guarantee - by type of counterparty
Results, taking into account only state guarantee I
(weekly data)

Loan amounts under state guarantee by type of counterparty

Total loan amounts by type of counterparty

Source: NBB/Febefin ad hoc weekly reporting, latest available data: 6 December 2020.
Note: Firm classification was provided by the banks on a best effort basis. It may differ from the official firm classification.
Bankruptcies and new business registrations
The number of bankruptcies\(^1\) stabilises in November and remains below the 2019 level ...  

... since several provisions adopted to support businesses are still in place\(^2\)

---

**Bankruptcies**

(# by region)

- Approximately **96%** of bankruptcies are within the ‘0 to 9 workers’ company size class.

---

1. Declaration of bankruptcy by the company court.
2. Although the moratorium on filings for bankruptcies came to an end on 17 June 2020, the tax administration and the ONSS applied de facto moratoriums on tax and social security debts.

Other measures taken were the deferral of payment of the annual company contribution (until 31 October 2020) and the social security contributions (until 15 December 2020), and the reintroduction of a temporary suspension of seizures. On Friday 6 November 2020, a new moratorium on bankruptcies until 31 January 2021 was approved towards businesses forced to close temporarily following the emergency measures taken to limit COVID-19 and a further extension to 31 December for the payment of the annual company contribution. A new draft judicial reorganisation procedure is expected by 31 January 2021. For employers struggling with the crisis, the ONSS agrees to an exceptional amicable payment plan with a maximum duration of 24 months for the settlement of sums due for the year 2020 (a.o. holiday pay for the 2019 financial year, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020). At the level of the FPS Finance, companies in difficulty as a result of the coronavirus can apply for support measures until 31 March 2021 by means of a payment plan, exemption from interest on arrears and remission of fines for non-payment regarding several taxes.

Source: Statbel, latest available data: 13 December 2020.

---
Weekly bankruptcies figures falling steadily since mid-November ... 
... increasingly below the 2015-19 average

Since August 31, the number of bankruptcies remains 33 % below the 2015-19 average while in August, declared bankruptcies were close to it.

Source: Statbel, latest available data: 13 December 2020.

1 Declaration of bankruptcy by the company court.
Business startups remain low in September according to seasonal patterns
... but are still higher than in 2019

Source: Statbel, latest available data: September 2020.

1 Business creation as measured by entities registering (first registrations & re-registrations) as a VAT unit in the Crossroads Bank for Enterprises.
Financial markets
Financial markets supported by vaccine prospects

- Despite increasing number of COVID-19 cases and mobility restrictions in the US and Europe (and disappointing US job and retail sales data for November), markets performed well due to prospects of successful vaccines.
- Progress made towards a new fiscal stimulus in the US, optimism over a Brexit deal and the ECB decision to extend its PEPP also had a favorable impact in December.
- However, volatility remains above its historical average.

Source: Refinitiv, latest available data: 17 December 2020.
The announcement of positive vaccine clinical trial results and fast-tracked vaccination plans raised the prospects of future demand, which sustained oil prices. Moreover, OPEC and Russia agreed to a smaller than initially planned increase in supply from January onwards.

Despite declining from its August peak, gold price remains high in an uncertain environment.

Prices of other metals tied to industrial demand are benefitting from the prospect of a post-pandemic recovery and investments in green technologies.
Corporate spreads closer to their pre-crisis level

- Despite episodes of renewed uncertainty related to the sanitary and economic prospects, spreads eased gradually since late March, helped by supportive monetary and fiscal policies.

- After a temporary surge related to the increase in COVID-19 cases and the uncertainty around the US fiscal stimulus and elections, corporate spreads recently eased following US elections results and the favorable vaccine trial results.

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch from Datastream, latest available data: 17 December 2020.
Sovereign bond spreads trending downwards

- Sovereign spreads now closer to their pre-crisis levels with IT spread reaching a two-year low.
- Despite the increase in new COVID-19 cases in Europe and the following mobility restrictions, sovereign spreads still follow a downward trend, also helped by favorable vaccine prospects and an extension of the ECB’s PEPP duration and amount (by €500 billion).

Source: Refinitiv, latest available data: 17 December 2020.
International outlook
Cross-country growth disparities correlate with lockdown stringency, and mobility

Overall, GDP growth disparities\(^1\) are associated with changes in intensity of confinement measures\(^2\) ...

... and changes in mobility\(^3\)

---

1. Country sample consists of 45 OECD and major non-OECD countries. Each dot represents a country-quarter. China is excluded because of lack of Google mobility data.
2. Oxford Stringency index codifies 9 types of containment measures. Index levels take values between 0 (no restrictions) and 100 (hard nationwide lockdown).
3. Google mobility report scores for category “retail and recreation”. Level scores indicate percentage deviation from pre-COVID baseline.
New COVID infections and lockdowns weigh on mobility, but less so than during first wave

Composite mobility indicator
(% change from pre-COVID-19 baseline; 7-day moving average)

Sources: Google, Apple. Construction of mobility composite inspired by Capital Economics.

1 Composite indicator is a simple average of changes in Google mobility report scores for categories “retail and recreation”, “workplaces”, and “transit stations”, and changes in Apple routing requests for driving. Pre-COVID-19 baseline is the median value (for the corresponding day of the week) of each sub-indicator over the period January – 6 February. Latest values are for 17 November.
Second wave of COVID infections and lockdowns weigh on sentiment in services sector

Manufacturing PMIs
(diffusion index; 50+ signals expected expansion)

Service sector PMIs
(diffusion index; 50+ signals expected expansion)
World trade regains some momentum, with China leading the way

Chinese exports boosted by demand for COVID-19-related products, incl. PPE, medical equipment, work-from-home electronics.

Sources: Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), Eurostat, Refinitiv.

1 Latest available data: September 2020.
2 Latest available data: August 2020.
Forecasts for 2020/2021
OECD Economic Outlook: “Turning hope into reality”

Moderate upward revisions for 2020 since September reflect:

- Progress with vaccines and treatment
- Continued fiscal and monetary policy support, leading to rapid recovery in some sectors
- Assumption that renewed virus outbreaks remain contained

Sources: OECD, Consensus Economics.
Towards a 95 % world economy
Considerable uncertainty remains around baseline projections

World GDP\(^1\)
(index, 2019Q4 = 100)

World GDP still 5 % below pre-virus path by end 2022

Source: OECD
\(^1\) Dashed lines represent upside scenario (resurgence in business and consumer confidence) and downside scenario (heightened uncertainty under receding prospects for early deployment of vaccine) around baseline OECD (December) projections.
Expected recovery

Variations across countries

**Major blocs: Real GDP**

(index, 2019Q4 = 100)

**Selected European countries: Real GDP**

(index, 2019Q4 = 100)


1 Consensus levels implied from forecasted yoy changes.
China vs the rest: more resilient supply, more hesitant demand?

Sources: CEIC, Refinitiv. Latest available data: October/November 2020.

**Industrial production**
(% change, yoy)

**Retail sales**
(% change, yoy)
Euro-Area: K-recovery in the making?
Heterogeneity across sectors: V for some, long-lasting scars for others

**Euro Area: Demand expectations**
(balance of firms; expectations over next 3 months)

**Euro Area: Employment expectations**
(balance of firms; expectations over next 3 months)

Sources: OECD, European Commission (EC), Refinitiv. Latest available data: November 2020.
Euro Area: K-recovery in the making? Labour market view ... paving the way for sectoral reallocations?

Germany:
Average weekly paid working hours

France:
Share of employees in temporary unemployment (% of total FTE employees)

Sources: Destatis, Dares. Latest available data: October 2020.
Euro Area: Zombification or creative destruction?
Too early to tell as temporary measures protect against destruction

**Germany: Company insolvency proceedings**
(number of insolvencies filed)

**France: Company failures**
(number of legal entities, seasonally and working day-adjusted)

Obligation to file for insolvency suspended until end September 2020 (end December 2020 for overindebted companies)

Sources: Destatis, Banque de France (BdF). Latest available data: September (Germany) - October 2020 (France).
NBB online surveys in cooperation with the Microsoft Innovation Center
NBB Survey on impact on households’ income

7-24 May

Press release
Perscommuniqué
Communiqué de presse
NBB Survey on changes in consumer patterns

14 – 21 July

Perscommuniqué

Communique de presse