

Market Update 04/2026

TEMPORARY AGENCY WORK ACTIVITY REMAINS WEAK IN APRIL

FEDERGON INDEX



This Index reflects the level of business in the month concerned in comparison with the situation in January 2007 (base 100), on the basis of seasonally adjusted data.

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Temporary agency work activity remains under pressure in early spring. Monthly developments continue to send mixed signals across segments and regions, while year-on-year trends confirm persistent weakness, particularly in white-collar activities. At the same time, the renewed decline in business confidence in April, driven by more pessimistic expectations on future activity and market demand, suggests that a recovery in temporary work demand is not yet in sight.

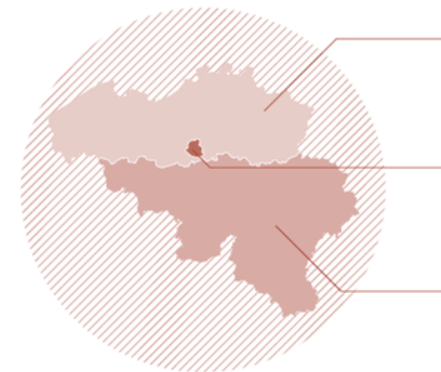


REGIONAL EVOLUTION

"Compared to the same period last year, the industry activity is -5.43% lower. Seasonally adjusted figures indicate an increase of the TAW activity (+0.18%) on a monthly basis."



White collar		Blue collar	
M/M-1:	0.92%	M/M-1:	0.58%
M/M-12:	-6.29%	M/M-12:	-4.81%



M/M-1	M/M-12
-0.39%	-6.15%
M/M-1	M/M-12
2.42%	-8.83%
M/M-1	M/M-12
1.06%	-2.40%

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BELGIUM						
	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 2025	-6.26%	-5.51%	-5.84%	-0.20%	-2.02%	-1.29%
December 2025	-8.31%	-2.57%	-5.22%	-0.36%	3.29%	1.20%
January 2026	-6.08%	-1.11%	-3.28%	-2.69%	-1.32%	-1.74%
February 2026	-3.92%	-3.44%	-3.64%	1.24%	-0.70%	-0.09%
March 2026	-8.81%	-5.03%	-6.64%	-1.96%	-0.71%	-1.15%
April 2026	-6.29%	-4.81%	-5.43%	0.92%	0.58%	0.18%
FLANDERS						
	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 2025	-6.10%	-3.30%	-4.43%	-0.47%	-1.52%	-1.12%
December 2025	-8.26%	0.49%	-3.26%	-0.61%	2.31%	0.89%
January 2026	-6.29%	-0.52%	-2.82%	-2.48%	-2.63%	-2.65%
February 2026	-2.94%	-2.99%	-2.97%	1.36%	-0.72%	0.10%
March 2026	-9.50%	-5.13%	-6.81%	-2.50%	-0.53%	-1.32%
April 2026	-7.88%	-5.09%	-6.15%	-0.76%	-0.02%	-0.39%
WALLONIA						
	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 2025	-13.42%	-8.47%	-10.42%	-1.89%	-2.20%	-2.11%
December 2025	-16.48%	-5.53%	-10.12%	0.27%	2.95%	1.84%
January 2026	-5.02%	0.36%	-1.79%	3.43%	2.08%	2.36%
February 2026	-5.38%	-1.00%	-2.68%	-0.95%	-0.77%	-0.71%
March 2026	-9.37%	-2.09%	-4.90%	-2.47%	-0.96%	-1.47%
April 2026	-5.11%	-0.68%	-2.40%	1.55%	1.04%	1.06%
BRUSSELS						
	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White collar</u>	<u>Blue collar</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 2025	3.44%	-17.86%	-1.90%	-0.13%	-0.22%	0.03%
December 2025	3.19%	-23.31%	-3.59%	1.27%	1.69%	0.00%
January 2026	-6.88%	-17.63%	-9.59%	-8.19%	5.36%	-3.25%
February 2026	-4.90%	-25.04%	-9.91%	4.79%	-9.74%	0.81%
March 2026	-5.99%	-22.49%	-10.00%	0.37%	0.04%	0.41%
April 2026	-3.05%	-26.74%	-8.83%	2.13%	-3.15%	2.42%



More figures?

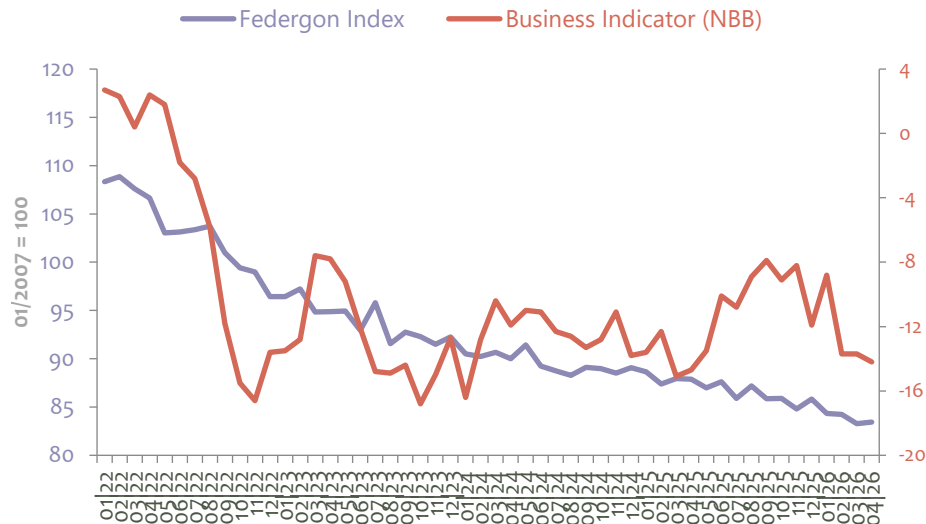
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[European Employment Barometer
by SIA and WEC](#)

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BELGIAN BUSINESS INDEX



“Business confidence remains weak and falls slightly in April”

- The business confidence indicator is stuck in a rut and, after the near stabilisation seen in March, has dropped further.
- The business climate has worsened in all sectors, with the exception of the manufacturing industry, which saw an improvement for the second consecutive month.
- The capacity utilisation rate in the manufacturing industry has declined.

In the business-related services sector, business confidence fell further in April, and even more markedly than in the last four months. All components of the indicator worsened, particularly those related to future activity levels and overall market demand.

In the building industry, confidence fell for the third consecutive month, just as sharply as last month. Although there was a slight improvement in their assessment of current order books, business leaders expect demand to weaken sharply in the coming months.

In the trade sector, the situation has been fluctuating for several months. All components of the indicator slipped this month, particularly employment and demand expectations.

In the manufacturing sector, business confidence improved for the second consecutive month, as stock levels were assessed as being significantly lower than normal for this time of year. However, businesses expect to employ fewer staff over the next three months.

The synthetic smoothed curve, which reflects the underlying economic trend, remains on a downward trajectory.

Lastly, the capacity utilisation rate in the manufacturing industry fell for the second consecutive quarter, from 76.9% in January to 76.1% in April.

(source: NBB)

Visit our Expertise Center for more figures related to the Temporary Agency Work industry in Belgium:

NL: <https://federgon.be/kennis-centrum/cijfers>

FR: <https://federgon.be/fr/centre-de-connaissances/chiffres>

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE:

The monthly structural survey is conducted among a fixed sample of 38 Federgon members, representing 65.95% of the temporary agency work industry in Belgium in 2025.

• All figures in this monthly report relate to daily averages in order to neutralize the differences in number of working days per month.

• The year-on-year evolution is calculated from gross figures.

• The month-on-previous-month changes are calculated from seasonally adjusted figures (the seasonal adjustment is performed by the Surveys Department of the National Bank of Belgium using the Demetra+ method).

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