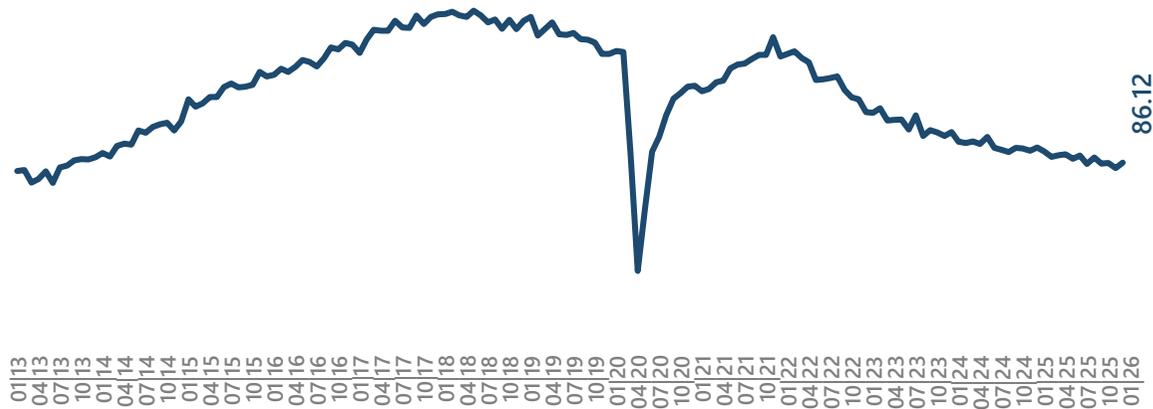


Market Update 01/2026

TOUGH START TO 2026 IN THE TEMPORARY STAFFING INDUSTRY

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.

PAUL VERSCHUEREN

DIRECTOR RESEARCH & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



Temporary agency work activity declines at the start of 2026. While business confidence shows signs of recovery, this has not yet translated into higher demand for temporary work. On a year-on-year basis, the sector remains under pressure, with the downturn continuing to weigh more heavily on white-collar activities than on blue-collar work.

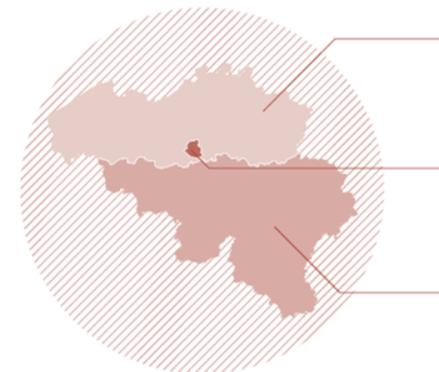


REGIONAL EVOLUTION

"Compared to the same period last year, the industry activity is -3.29% lower. Seasonally adjusted figures indicate a decrease of the TAW activity (-1.73%) on a monthly basis."



	White collar	Blue collar
M/M-1:	-2.71%	M/M-1: -1.31%
M/M-12:	-6.08%	M/M-12: -1.11%



M/M-1	M/M-12
-2.59%	-2.82%
M/M-1	M/M-12
-3.34%	-9.59%
M/M-1	M/M-12
+2.36%	-1.78%

Market Update 01/2026

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>
August 2025	-2.06%	3.33%	0.94%	0.67%	1.53%	1.51%
September 2025	-8.41%	-1.98%	-4.71%	-1.69%	-2.20%	-1.51%
October 2025	-7.07%	-2.35%	-4.35%	1.80%	-0.45%	0.10%
November 2025	-6.26%	-5.51%	-5.84%	-0.27%	-2.01%	-1.27%
December 2025	-8.31%	-2.57%	-5.22%	-0.43%	3.32%	1.22%
January 2026	-6.08%	-1.11%	-3.29%	-2.71%	-1.31%	-1.73%

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>
August 2025	-4.45%	5.74%	1.51%	0.34%	3.19%	2.13%
September 2025	-10.42%	-0.63%	-4.46%	-1.56%	-2.50%	-1.93%
October 2025	-6.68%	-0.17%	-2.70%	1.1%	-0.28%	0.60%
November 2025	-6.10%	-3.30%	-4.43%	-0.5%	-1.48%	-1.08%
December 2025	-8.26%	0.49%	-3.26%	-0.6%	2.34%	0.93%
January 2026	-6.29%	-0.52%	-2.82%	-2.2%	-2.60%	-2.59%

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>
August 2025	-5.54%	-2.67%	-3.90%	0.99%	-0.26%	0.39%
September 2025	-12.45%	-6.01%	-8.52%	-1.48%	-0.15%	-0.63%
October 2025	-13.76%	-5.06%	-8.43%	-0.2%	1.33%	0.77%
November 2025	-13.42%	-8.47%	-10.42%	-1.9%	-2.19%	-2.11%
December 2025	-16.48%	-5.53%	-10.12%	0.3%	2.95%	1.84%
January 2026	-5.02%	0.36%	-1.78%	3.4%	2.08%	2.36%

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>
v	14.66%	3.73%	11.62%	0.66%	-1.72%	-0.33%
August 2025	4.58%	4.50%	4.56%	-1.07%	-6.70%	-1.15%
September 2025	1.49%	-16.20%	-3.00%	-0.7%	-13.50%	-3.46%
October 2025	3.44%	-17.86%	-1.90%	-0.1%	0.14%	-0.05%
November 2025	3.19%	-23.31%	-3.59%	1.4%	2.84%	-0.10%
December 2025	-6.88%	-17.63%	-9.59%	-9.0%	5.37%	-3.34%



More figures?

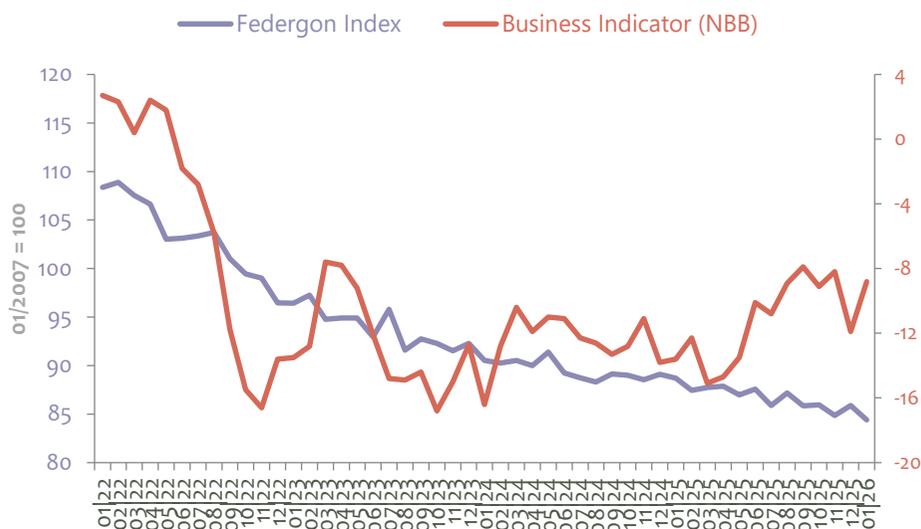
[Kenniscentrum](#)

[Centre de connaissances](#)

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

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BELGIAN BUSINESS INDEX



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/centre-de-connaissances>

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE:

The monthly structural survey is conducted among a fixed sample of 38 Federgon members accounting for 68.25% of the temporary agency work industry in Belgium in 2024.

- 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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“Business confidence recovers in January”

- The rise in business confidence in January almost completely offsets the sharp decline recorded in December.
- The business climate improved in all sectors surveyed, with the exception of business-related services.
- The capacity utilisation rate in the manufacturing industry fell slightly.

In the trade sector, where the confidence indicator rose most markedly, expectations concerning demand and orders to suppliers have improved significantly. Nevertheless, business leaders expect to hire fewer staff in the next three months.

In the manufacturing industry, the increase in confidence following the acute slump in the indicator recorded in December is due to a much more optimistic assessment of total order books and, to a lesser extent, more favourable employment expectations.

In the building industry, business confidence is on the rebound after repeatedly deteriorating every month since October 2025. This is primarily the result of a pronounced improvement in demand expectations.

In business-related services, the business climate has deteriorated for the second consecutive month, owing to a significant downward revision by business leaders of their expectations concerning both market demand and their own activity. They are more positive about their current level of activity, however.

The overall smoothed synthetic curve, which reflects the underlying economic trend, has dipped slightly.

Lastly, the results of the quarterly survey on capacity utilisation in manufacturing point to a quarter-on-quarter decline in the capacity utilisation rate. The seasonally adjusted rate fell from 78.0% in October to 76.9% in January.

(source: NBB)

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