Market Update 07/2026

Further decline in temporary agency work activity in July

Federgon Index

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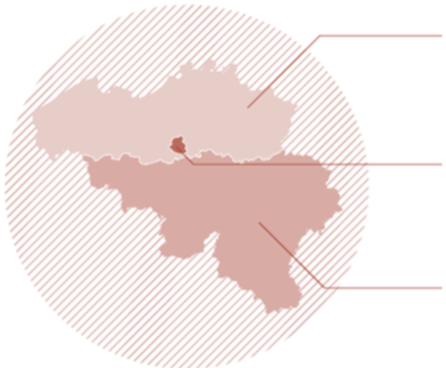
Temporary agency work activity remained under pressure in July. While some monthly indicators show tentative stabilisation, the year-on-year picture continues to confirm a weak market environment, with differences across segments and regions. The continued improvement in business confidence is encouraging, but demand for temporary agency work has not yet shown a convincing turnaround. The labour market continues to show weakness, reflecting persistent uncertainty

Regional evolution

"Compared to the same period last year, the industry activity is -4.35% lower. Seasonally adjusted figures indicate a decrease of the TAW activity (-0.10%) on a monthly basis."

White collar		Blue collar	
M/M-1:	-0.15%	M/M-1:	0.88%
M/M-12:	-5.07%	M/M-12:	-3.78%



M/M-1	M/M-12
-0.11%	-5.74%
0.36%	-6.84%
0.94%	0.12%

Market Update 07/2026

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BELGIUM	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	White collar	Blue collar	Total	White collar	Blue collar	Total
February 2026	-3.92%	-3.44%	-3.64%	1.26%	-0.68%	-0.02%
March 2026	-8.81%	-5.03%	-6.64%	-1.94%	-0.66%	-1.09%
April 2026	-6.29%	-4.80%	-5.43%	0.94%	0.57%	0.25%
May 2026	4.07%	1.67%	2.67%	1.38%	0.86%	1.33%
June 2026	-7.63%	-6.89%	-7.20%	-1.34%	-1.07%	-0.82%
July 2026	-5.07%	-3.78%	-4.35%	-0.15%	0.88%	-0.10%

FLANDERS	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	White collar	Blue collar	Total	White collar	Blue collar	Total
February 2026	-2.94%	-2.99%	-2.97%	1.48%	-0.67%	0.16%
March 2026	-9.50%	-5.13%	-6.81%	-2.40%	-0.47%	-1.25%
April 2026	-7.87%	-5.09%	-6.15%	-0.63%	0.13%	-0.25%
May 2026	0.83%	0.65%	0.72%	0.91%	0.42%	0.71%
June 2026	-7.75%	-7.54%	-7.62%	0.03%	-0.70%	-0.35%
July 2026	-6.38%	-5.32%	-5.74%	-0.93%	0.57%	-0.11%

WALLONIA	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	White collar	Blue collar	Total	White collar	Blue collar	Total
February 2026	-5.38%	-1.00%	-2.68%	-0.92%	-0.66%	-0.64%
March 2026	-9.37%	-2.09%	-4.90%	-2.45%	-0.83%	-1.38%
April 2026	-5.11%	-0.68%	-2.40%	1.56%	1.07%	1.09%
May 2026	4.97%	6.57%	5.94%	1.39%	1.42%	1.40%
June 2026	-11.27%	-1.27%	-5.13%	-2.24%	-0.68%	-1.17%
July 2026	-5.25%	4.00%	0.12%	-0.53%	2.36%	0.94%

BRUSSELS	YEARLY GROWTH (M/M-12)			MONTHLY GROWTH (M/M-1)		
	White collar	Blue collar	Total	White collar	Blue collar	Total
February 2026	-4.90%	-25.04%	-9.91%	4.92%	-9.21%	0.81%
March 2026	-5.99%	-22.49%	-10.00%	0.42%	0.05%	0.41%
April 2026	-3.05%	-26.74%	-8.83%	2.32%	-3.13%	2.37%
May 2026	12.48%	-14.71%	5.68%	8.39%	9.41%	4.30%
June 2026	-2.42%	-32.70%	-10.05%	-5.04%	-17.52%	-4.12%
July 2026	-0.41%	-26.56%	-6.84%	-1.20%	9.48%	0.36%

More figures?

Kenniscentrum

Centre de connaissances

European Employment Barometer by SIA and WEC

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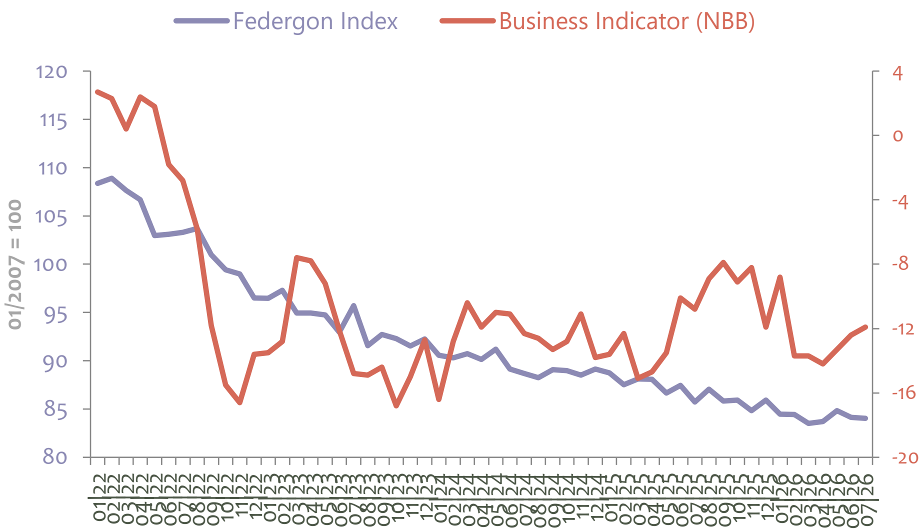
Market Update 07/2026

BELGIAN BUSINESS INDEX



"Business confidence continues to grow in July"

- The business confidence indicator is maintaining the positive momentum seen since May.
- The business climate has improved in business-related services for the third consecutive month. It remains virtually unchanged in the manufacturing industry but has weakened slightly in the building industry and the trade sector.
- The capacity utilisation rate has dropped for the third consecutive quarter.

In the business-related services sector, where confidence has risen for the third consecutive month, expectations concerning future activity and market demand have strengthened. In contrast to the last two months, assessments of current activity are also more positive.

The business climate in the manufacturing industry remains virtually unchanged. Demand expectations have improved significantly, and assessments of total order books are more positive. Conversely, stock levels are considered to be higher than normal for the season and business leaders expect to employ fewer staff.

In the building industry, some of the optimism seen in recent months has been lost. While orders continue to rise, business leaders are now assessing order books less favourably. They expect demand to fall sharply over the next three months.

In the trade sector, last month's optimism has been somewhat tempered by a significant worsening of demand expectations. Retailers do, however, expect employment and orders to suppliers to increase.

The overall smoothed synthetic curve, which reflects the underlying economic trend, shows a slight upturn.

Lastly, the capacity utilisation rate in the manufacturing industry has fallen for the third consecutive quarter, from 76.1% in April to 74.6% in July.

(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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