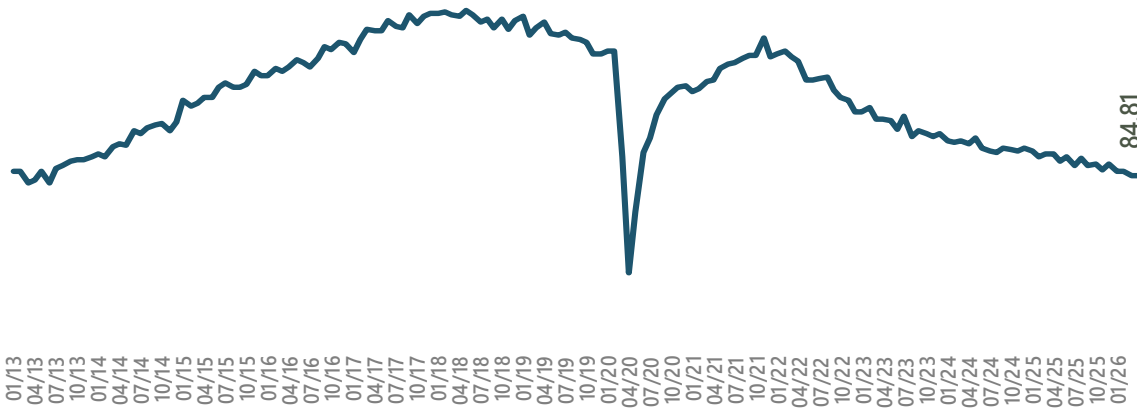


# Market Update 05/2026

## TEMPORARY AGENCY WORK ACTIVITY IMPROVES IN MAY

### FEDERAGON INDEX



### PAUL VERSCHUEREN

DIRECTOR RESEARCH & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



Temporary agency work activity sends a more positive signal in May, with activity improving both compared with last year and on a monthly basis. The recovery is supported by both white-collar and blue-collar work, although regional developments remain uneven. We believe that significant calendar effects are certainly one of the underlying factors. At the same time, the slight rebound in business confidence, particularly in business-related services, points to a somewhat more favourable economic backdrop.

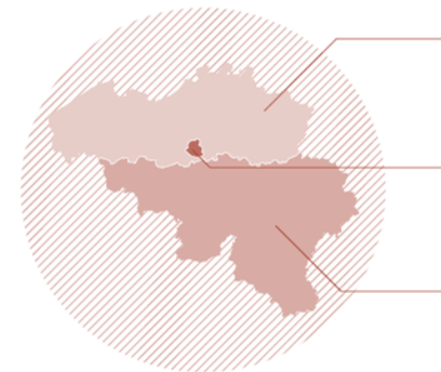


"Compared to the same period last year, the industry activity is 2.67% higher. Seasonally adjusted figures indicate an increase of the TAW activity (+1.31%) on a monthly basis."



	White collar	Blue collar
M/M-1:	1.46%	0.86%
M/M-12:	4.06%	1.66%

### REGIONAL EVOLUTION



	M/M-1	M/M-12
North	0.56%	0.71%
Center	4.59%	5.68%
South	1.38%	5.94%

# Market Update 05/2026

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>
December 2025	-8.31%	-2.57%	-5.22%	-0.30%	3.35%	1.25%
January 2026	-6.08%	-1.11%	-3.28%	-2.67%	-1.32%	-1.70%
February 2026	-3.92%	-3.44%	-3.64%	1.31%	-0.67%	-0.03%
March 2026	-8.81%	-5.03%	-6.64%	-1.90%	-0.70%	-1.10%
April 2026	-6.29%	-4.80%	-5.43%	1.02%	0.64%	0.25%
May 2026	4.06%	1.66%	2.67%	1.46%	0.86%	1.31%
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>
December 2025	-8.26%	0.49%	-3.26%	-0.55%	2.33%	0.93%
January 2026	-6.29%	-0.52%	-2.82%	-2.44%	-2.63%	-2.62%
February 2026	-2.94%	-2.99%	-2.97%	1.42%	-0.70%	0.14%
March 2026	-9.50%	-5.13%	-6.81%	-2.45%	-0.51%	-1.29%
April 2026	-7.87%	-5.09%	-6.15%	-0.70%	0.02%	-0.35%
May 2026	0.82%	0.64%	0.71%	0.83%	0.27%	0.56%
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>
December 2025	-16.48%	-5.53%	-10.12%	0.31%	2.98%	1.87%
January 2026	-5.02%	0.36%	-1.79%	3.46%	2.10%	2.39%
February 2026	-5.38%	-1.00%	-2.68%	-0.86%	-0.71%	-0.65%
March 2026	-9.37%	-2.09%	-4.90%	-2.39%	-0.91%	-1.41%
April 2026	-5.11%	-0.68%	-2.40%	1.64%	1.11%	1.14%
May 2026	4.97%	6.57%	5.94%	1.58%	1.30%	1.38%
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>
December 2025	3.19%	-23.31%	-3.59%	1.27%	1.31%	0.13%
January 2026	-6.88%	-17.63%	-9.59%	-8.19%	5.50%	-3.21%
February 2026	-4.90%	-25.04%	-9.91%	4.79%	-9.24%	0.95%
March 2026	-5.99%	-22.49%	-10.00%	0.37%	0.17%	0.51%
April 2026	-3.05%	-26.74%	-8.83%	2.14%	-3.02%	2.63%
May 2026	12.48%	-14.71%	5.68%	9.09%	9.74%	4.59%



*More figures?*

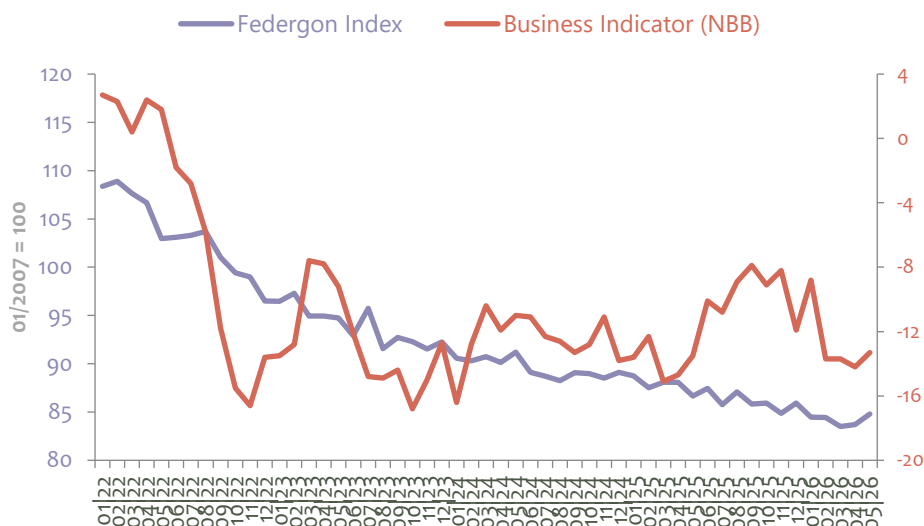
[Kenniscentrum](#)

[Centre de connaissances](#)

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

# Market Update 05/2026

## BELGIAN BUSINESS INDEX



### “Business confidence picks up in May”

- Following the weakening in confidence observed since February, the business confidence indicator rose slightly this month.
- The business climate improved in the building industry and in business-related services. Confidence in the trade sector held steady, while it dropped marginally in the manufacturing industry.

After receding for three consecutive months, optimism made a return to the building industry. Business leaders reported a further rise in orders, the level of which was assessed slightly more favourably and expect to see an increase in demand over the next three months.

Optimism also returned to the business-related services sector, where confidence had been on a downward path since December of last year. Nonetheless, although the current level of activity was assessed less favourably than last month, expectations regarding future activity and overall market demand improved significantly.

In the trade sector, where business confidence held steady, a further worsening of demand expectations was offset by more optimistic employment expectations and forecasts of orders to suppliers.

In the manufacturing industry, the business confidence indicator fell slightly. Business leaders are more pessimistic about their current stock levels and expect demand to contract. Conversely, they assessed total order books particularly positively and expect to be able to employ more staff in the coming months.

The overall synthetic smoothed curve, which reflects the underlying economic trend, is showing signs of stabilising.

(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).

**DISCLAIMER** The data contained in these pages were collected by Federgon with the utmost care and thoroughness. In view of the rapid evolution and complexity of the subjects, Federgon provides no guarantee that the information published is accurate and up-to-date. Therefore Federgon does not accept any liability for any direct and indirect damage arising from the access to and consultation or use of the information data and publications available on the website or sent by e-mail and/or from the access to and use of interactive applications.

### FEDERAGON RESEARCH & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Tour & Taxis - Royal Depot  
Havenlaan 86C bus 302 / Avenue du Port 86C bte 302

1000 BRUSSELS

stat@federgon.be

@Federgon

@VerschuerenPau

T: +32 (0)2 203 38 03

[www.federgon.be](http://www.federgon.be)

