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PRESS RELEASE

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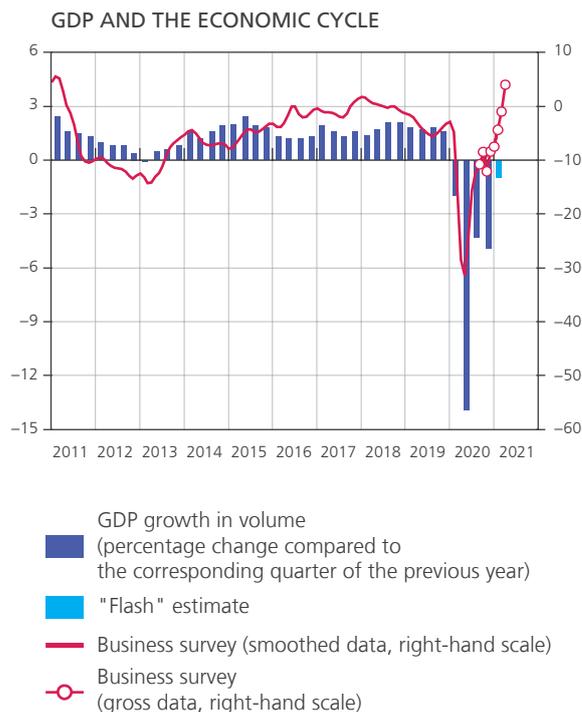
The Belgian economy grew by 0.6 % in the first quarter of 2021

The flash estimate of seasonally and calendar adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) was 0.6 % higher in **the first quarter of 2021** than in the previous quarter. In comparison with the first quarter of 2020, which was already affected by the COVID-19 crisis, economic growth came to -1.0 %. Economic activity is still not back to its pre-COVID-19 level.

According to a first estimate, value added was up on the previous quarter by 1.3 % in industry, 0.1 % in construction and 0.2 % in services.

GDP, QUARTERLY GROWTH IN VOLUME
(data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects)

| | Percentage change compared to | |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| | corresponding quarter of the previous year | previous quarter |
| 2019 I | 1,9 | 0,2 |
| II | 1,7 | 0,3 |
| III | 1,9 | 0,5 |
| IV | 1,6 | 0,6 |
| 2020 I | -2,0 | -3,3 |
| II | -14,0 | -11,9 |
| III | -4,3 | 11,8 |
| IV | -4,9 | -0,1 |
| 2021 I | -1.0 | 0.6 |



*These growth figures are surrounded by even **greater uncertainty** than is normally the case with the flash estimate. Owing to the lack of administrative data for the month of March in particular, an adapted methodology has been used for this flash estimate. For the seasonal adjustment of the data series, the recent [Eurostat guidance](#) has been followed in order to estimate the impact of COVID-19 as accurately as possible.*