

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF BELGIUM

The mission of Statistics Belgium is to collect, to process and to disseminate relevant, reliable and clear statistical and economic information through a modern and efficient statistical system.

STATISTICAL  
OVERVIEW OF  
BELGIUM

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Key figures  
2011

## Dear readers,

The primary mission of Statistics Belgium is to meet the information needs of not only public authorities but also of enterprises and citizens by providing them with continuously updated data on our country's situation.

Obtaining relevant data is essential for each of these target groups to have a constructive and informed debate and to take targeted and effective actions. Additionally, students, researchers and anyone interested in a general and detailed view of the country need figures and statistics.

This brochure presents a brief overview of the available data. Belgium is also placed in a European context.

The information we provide covers many different areas: climate, population, employment, economy, finance, agriculture, industry, transport, services, real estate,...

This enumeration already demonstrates how wide the range of proposed statistics is. However, for each of these statistics we can provide much more figures than included in this publication. Visit our website, [www.statbel.fgov.be](http://www.statbel.fgov.be), to access an extensive collection of data and all our publications in a downloadable format.

If you would like to receive further information, the site also mentions contact information.

**Be.STAT** can now also be consulted on line. This dynamic application allows you to search directly in our data warehouse.

We wish you an exciting discovery of our country in figures.

Annie Versonnen  
Director General ad interim  
Statistics Belgium

### Statistics Belgium

Statistics Belgium is part of the Belgian Federal Public Service Economy. We present an overview of Belgium in figures through various channels of communication and products.

Our web site [www.statbel.fgov.be](http://www.statbel.fgov.be) offers an extensive collection of our data and all our publications in a downloadable format.

Unless specified otherwise under a table or chart, the data in this publication have been collected and processed by Statistics Belgium. International comparisons are from Eurostat. Information may be quoted provided the source is stated accurately and clearly.

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# 1 | Population

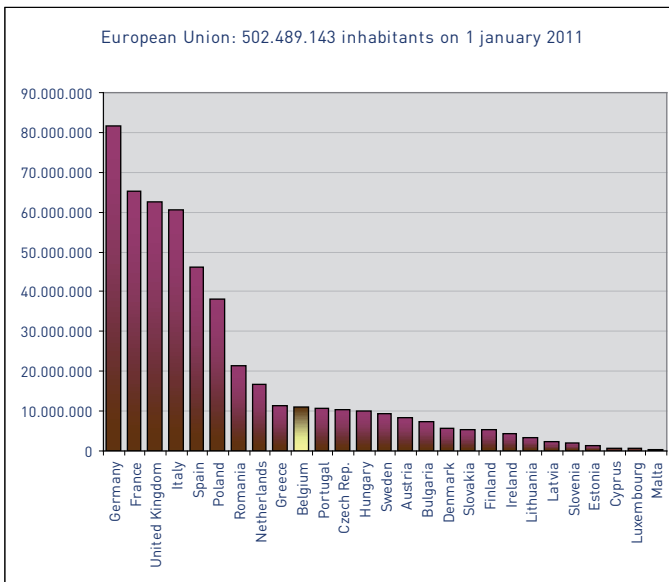
## A | Total population

Belgium is made up of three Regions. In the north, the Flemish Region is the most populated and represents 58% of the population. It is followed by the Walloon Region (in the south), inhabited by 32% of the population; and by the centrally located Brussels-Capital Region, which accounts for 10% of the population.

Between 1 January 2000 and 1 January 2010, the Belgian population increased by 5.9% or 600,820 people. The population of the Brussels-Capital Region grew by 13.6%, that of Flanders by 5.2% and that of Wallonia by 4.8%.

The country has 4,442,512 married people, 4,787,041 singles, 899,425 divorced people and 710,927 widows and widowers.

Belgium is the tenth most populated country in the European Union, and the Belgians represent 1/47th of the European population. Even though the country is far behind demographic powers such as Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Italy, its demographic weight is not insignificant.



Provisional results

### Total population of Belgium, its regions and provinces on 1 January

Entité	1/01/1990	1/01/1995	1/01/2000	1/01/2005	1/01/2010
<b>Belgium</b>	9,947,782	10,130,574	10,239,085	10,445,852	10,839,905
<b>Brussels-Capital Region</b>	964,385	951,580	959,318	1,006,749	1,089,538
<b>Flemish Region</b>	5,739,736	5,866,106	5,940,251	6,043,161	6,251,983
<b>Walloon Region</b>	3,243,661	3,312,888	3,339,516	3,395,942	3,498,384
of which German-speaking community	67,007	68,961	70,831	72,512	75,222
Province of Antwerpen	1,597,310	1,628,710	1,643,972	1,676,858	1,744,862
Province of Brabant	2,243,026				
Province of Vlaams-Brabant		995,266	1,014,704	1,037,786	1,076,924
Province of Brabant wallon		336,505	349,884	363,776	379,515
Province of West-Vlaanderen	1,102,501	1,121,135	1,128,774	1,138,503	1,159,366
Province of Oost-Vlaanderen	1,331,608	1,349,382	1,361,623	1,380,072	1,432,326
Province of Hainaut	1,278,039	1,286,649	1,279,467	1,286,275	1,300,880
Province of Liège	998,213	1,015,007	1,019,442	1,034,024	1,067,685
Province of Limburg	745,034	771,613	791,178	809,942	838,505
Province of Luxembourg	230,827	240,281	246,820	256,004	269,023
Province of Namur	421,224	434,446	443,903	455,863	472,281

### Population by gender and age groups

	1/01/2001	1/01/2005	1/01/2008	1/01/2009	1/01/2010
<b>Total</b>	10,263,414	10,445,852	10,666,866	10,753,080	10,839,905
0-17 years	2,161,504	2,169,933	2,194,507	2,205,613	2,214,156
18-64 years	6,372,175	6,476,419	6,652,633	6,710,689	6,765,590
65 years ans over	1,729,735	1,799,500	1,819,726	1,836,778	1,860,159
<b>Men</b>	5,018,019	5,111,325	5,224,309	5,268,651	5,312,221
0-17 years	1,105,515	1,109,330	1,121,457	1,127,279	1,131,667
18-64 years	3,205,366	3,255,748	3,341,918	3,370,292	3,396,339
65 years ans over	707,138	746,247	760,934	771,080	784,215
<b>Women</b>	5,245,395	5,334,527	5,442,557	5,484,429	5,527,684
0-17 years	1,055,989	1,060,603	1,073,050	1,078,334	1,082,489
18-64 years	3,166,809	3,220,671	3,310,715	3,340,397	3,369,251
65 years ans over	1,022,597	1,053,253	1,058,792	1,065,698	1,075,944

## B | Age groups and life expectancy

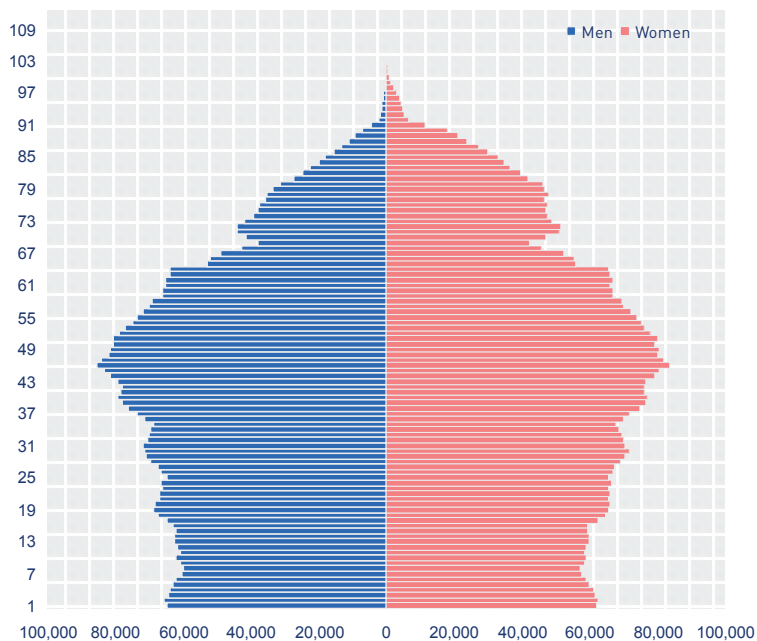
The population of the different age groups in Belgium continues to grow. However, the share of older people tends to grow faster than that of other age groups. The national age pyramid shows that we will indeed soon be confronted with an ageing population. Nevertheless, the same situation applies to most other European countries and the share of people aged 65 and over is similar to the European average. It should also be noted that life expectancy in Belgium is slightly higher than the European average, both for men as well as women.

Proportion of population aged 65 years and over	
	2010
European Union	17.4
Belgium	17.2
Germany	20.7
France	16.6
Luxembourg	14.0
Netherlands	15.3
United Kingdom	16.4

Proportion of population aged 0 to 19	
	2010
European Union	21.4
Belgium	22.9
Germany	18.8
France	24.7
Luxembourg	23.7
Netherlands	23.7
United Kingdom	23.8

Age pyramid in Belgium on 1 January 2010



Life expectancy at birth (years) 2009

Unit	Males	Females	Total
European Union *	76,8	82,8	79,8
Belgium	77,3	82,8	80,1
Germany	77,8	82,8	80,3
France	78,0	85,0	81,6
Luxembourg	78,1	83,3	80,8
Netherlands	78,7	82,9	80,9
United Kingdom	78,3	82,5	80,4

\* estimated value Statistics Belgium, based on extrapolation of the linear tendency observed during the last 7 years



## C | Population growth

Within the European Union, Belgium has a particularly dynamic population growth rate. With a growth rate of 8 per thousand in 2009, it occupies third place. With an increase of 86,825 people in 2009 this growth remains stable compared to 2008. This is the most important population growth since 1965. Belgium ranks as one of the leading countries in birth rate. With 127,297 births and 104,509 deaths in 2009, the natural growth of the population is largely positive with 22,788 units.

Crude birth rate per 1,000 inhabitants	
Entité	2008
European Union	10.9
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>12</b>
Germany	8.3
France	12.9 (p)
Luxembourg	11.5
Netherlands	11.2
United Kingdom	12.9 (p)

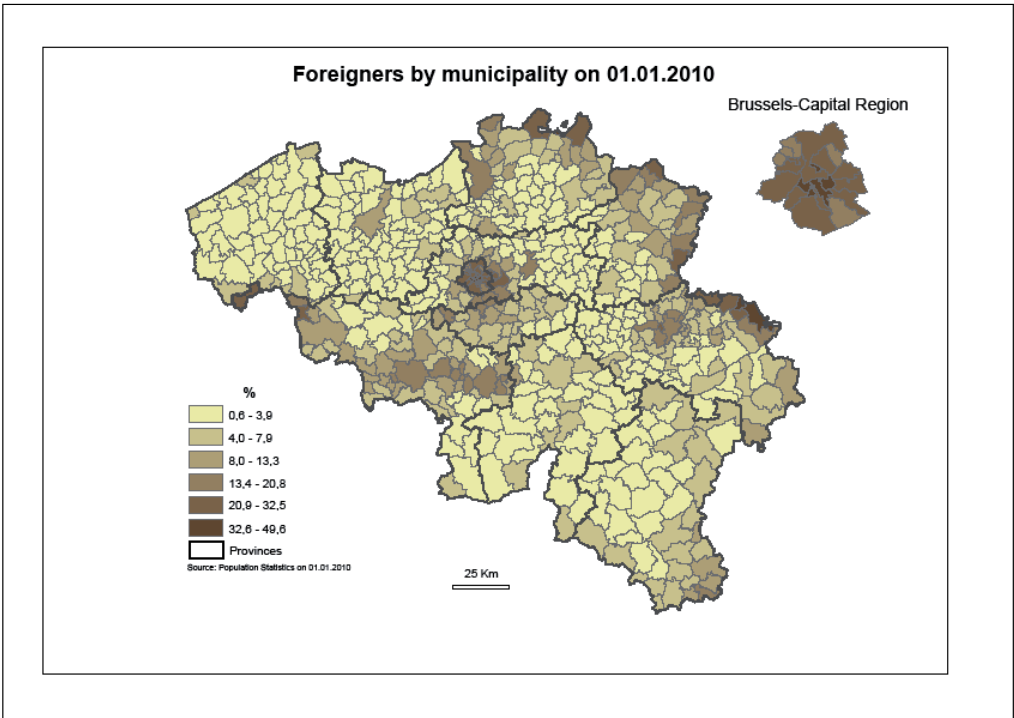
Crude mortality rate by 1,000 inhabitants	
Unit	2008
European Union	9.7
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Germany	10.3 (p)
France	8.5
Luxembourg	7.4
Netherlands	8.2
United Kingdom	9.4

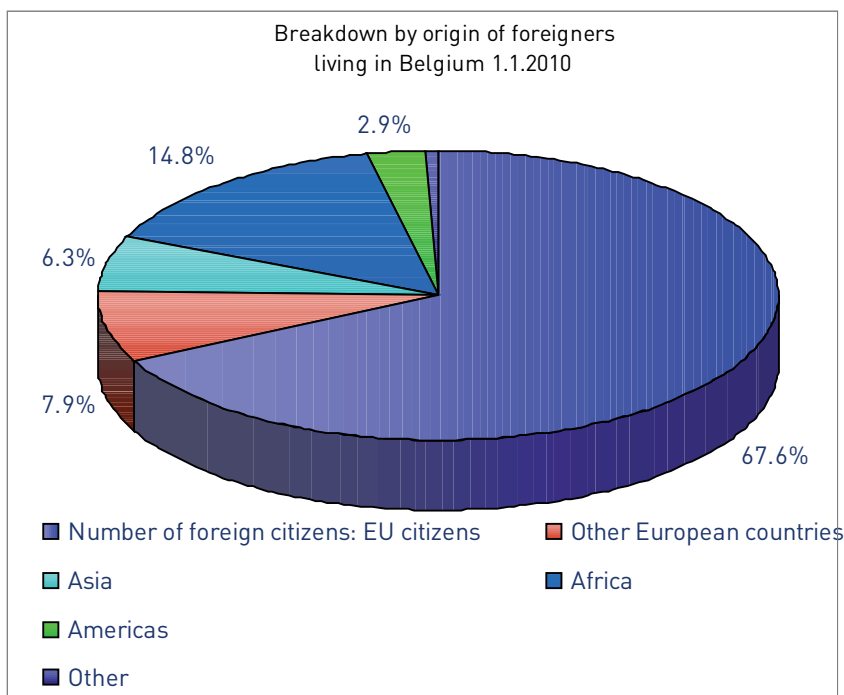
Total growth rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	
Unit	2008
European Union	4.0
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Germany	-2.6 (p)
France	5.6
Luxembourg	19.9
Netherlands	4.9
Royaume-Uni	6.6

(p) = provisional value

## D | Migrations and foreign population

On 1 January 2010 1,057,666 non-Belgian citizens were registered in our country's National Register. The mark of one million foreigners in Belgium was passed in 2008. The Kingdom is one of the countries with the largest number of foreign residents in Europe. It is noteworthy that nearly 68% (more than 2/3) of these people are EU citizens. Moreover, the migratory flow in the country is quite strong as Belgium ranks third in terms of crude rate of net migration in 2009. In absolute figures, the positive migration balance amounted to 64,037 units in the same year.





## Main nationalities of people who were granted Belgian citizenship in 2009

Morocco	6,919
Turkey	2,763
Italy	1,700
Russia	1,647
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,548
France	792
Algeria	739
Former Serbia and Montenegro	697
Poland	640
Pakistan	628
The Netherlands	608
India	458
Rwanda	416
Ghana	416
Cameroon	401
Tunisia	374
Romania	362
Afghanistan	356
Philippines	337
China	335
Other	680
Countries outside EU-27 and non-reporting countries	26,567
European Union (27 countries)	5,520
Total	32,767

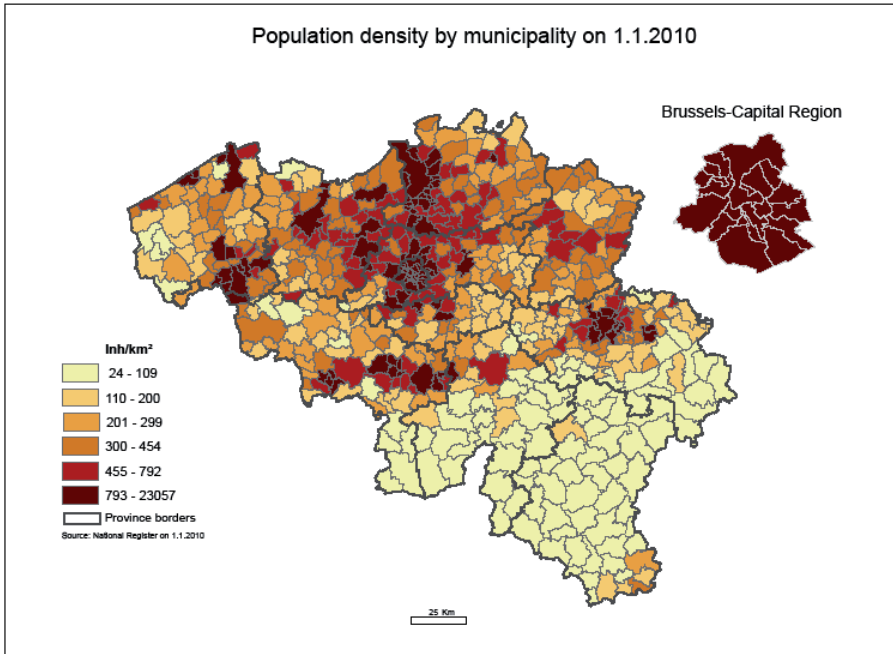


## 2 | Territory and environment

### A | Area and land use

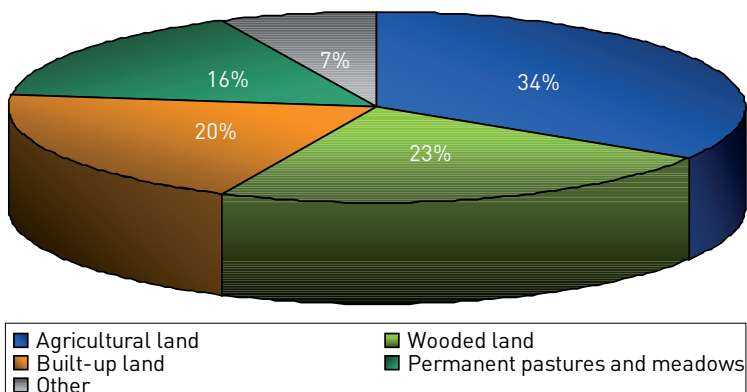
Belgium covers a land area of about 30,528 km<sup>2</sup> and adds a maritime area of 3,462 km<sup>2</sup> in the North Sea. Wallonia accounts for 55.2% of this total area, or slightly more than Flanders with 44.3%. Population density is however much higher in Flanders than in Wallonia; in fact, it is twice as high. The Ardennes are relatively sparsely populated.

Agricultural land covers most of the land area. It is followed by wooded land and finally built-up land. However, the gap between those two last categories has become very small over time. The built-up area increases year on year, mostly to the detriment of agricultural land. Wooded land and natural areas remain relatively stable.



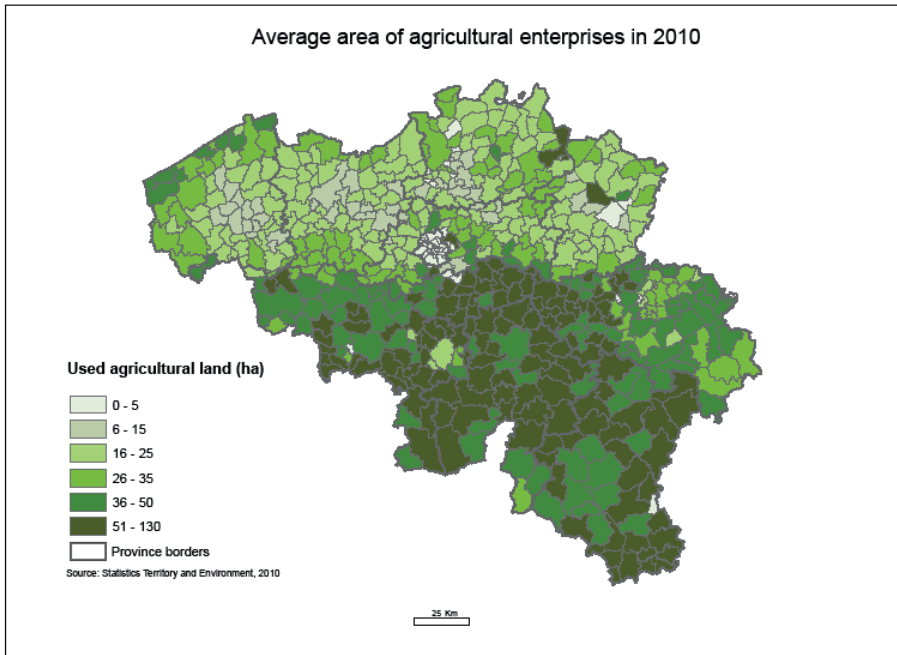
Area and population density per km <sup>2</sup> : Belgium and the regions									
	Area	1963	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008	2009	2010
<b>Belgium</b>	30,528	305.6	316.4	322.8	325.9	335.4	349.4	352.2	355.1
Flemish Region	13,522	381.6	399.6	415.5	424.5	439.3	455.7	459.2	462.3
Walloon Region	16,844	185.6	189	191.6	192.6	198.3	205.2	206.3	207.7
German-speaking Community	854	68.8	72.3	75.7	78.5	82.9	86.9	86.9	88.1
Brussels-Capital Region	162	6,423	6,624	6,227	5,953	5,922	6,497	6,621	6,751

Land use in Belgium (2009)



## B | Agriculture

The number of agricultural and horticultural holdings shrinks year on year. In 2010, 42,854 of them remained active, which is 1,527 less than in 2009. The total area of all holdings declines, however, at a much slower pace. The areas of the holdings are therefore increasing.



Agriculture and horticulture			
Means of production	2009	2010	2009/2010
number of farms	44,381	42,854	-3.4%
labour force size	83,865	80,944	-3.5%
full-time	44,527	42,917	-3.6%
utilisable agricultural land (ha)	1,365,155	1,358,019	-0.5%
Livestock (X 1,000)			
cattle	2,600	2,593	-0.3%
dairy cows	525	521	-0.7%
pigs	6,321	6,430	+1.7%
sheep	126	120	-4.6%
goats	32	32	+1.1%
hoofed animals	37	37	+1.5%
poultry	33,240	34,375	+3.4%
laying hens,...	11,828	11,595	-2.0%
broiler chickens	20,659	21,899	+6.0%
Crops (in ha)			
cereal grains	344,992	339,102	-1.7%
winter wheat	198,243	206,282	+4.1%
winter barley	48,200	40,512	-15.9%
grain maize	66,670	62,531	-6.2%
industrial crop	96,351	92,491	-4.0%
sugar beet	62,740	59,303	-5.5%
flax	11,277	11,048	-2.0%
rapeseed	9,662	11,279	+16.7%
potatoes	73,723	81,760	+10.9%
fodder crops	271,557	267,409	-1.5%
silage maize	180,251	176,313	-2.2%
outdoor vegetables	40,320	40,941	+1.5%
fallow land	10,089	9,592	-4.9%
cultivation of perennial plants	21,629	21,674	+0.2%
permanent pastures	501,573	499,687	-0.4%
greenhouse crops	2,126	2,140	+0.6%



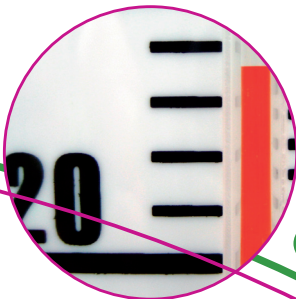
## Climate and air quality

The average minimum and maximum temperatures in the first decade of the new century were above the “normal” values almost every year. 2010 was the only exception.

The number of wintry days was lower than usual until 2008; this value was slightly higher than usual in 2009 but peaked in 2010 with 27 wintry days. The first decade also had more summery and even “tropical” days than average, but this value varied greatly between the years.

Ozone issue													
	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Number of ozone days (exceeding EU-threshold limit value for informing the population)	4	33	6	15	3	22	11	12	17	2	4	5	10
Number of ozone warning days	1	10	0	1	1	7	0	1	2	0	1	0	3
Number of days that affect health	7	63	24	42	30	83	40	37	51	29	28	23	26

Source: Belgian Interregional Environment Agency



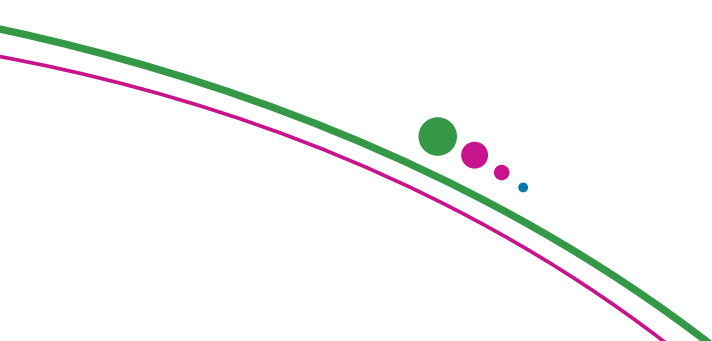
Annual climatological summary												
	Normal value	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sunshine (in hours)	1,554	1,392	1,455	1,480	1,987	1,537	1,563	1,559	1,472	1,449	1,705	1,556
Actual average temperature (0-24h)	9.7°C	11.2°C	10.7°C	11.2°C	11.1°C	10.7°C	11.0°C	11.4°C	11.5°C	10.9°C	11.0°C	9.7°C
Average maximum temperature	13.8°C	14.5°C	14.2°C	14.7°C	15.1°C	14.3°C	14.8°C	15.3°C	15.3°C	14.6°C	15.0°C	13.4°C
Average minimum temperature	6.7°C	7.7°C	7.1°C	7.7°C	7.0°C	7.1°C	7.5°C	7.7°C	7.8°C	7.2°C	7.1°C	5.9°C
Precipitation total (in mm)	805	852	1,089	1,078	671	914	751	835	880	862	764	914
Number of days with precipitation (precipitation >= 0.1 mm)	207	224	201	196	157	198	200	180	204	209	190	201
Number of days of frost (min < 0 °C)	47	29	52	26	51	48	47	60	27	37	47	74
Number of wintry days (max < 0°C)	8	1	3	4	7	3	7	2	1	0	9	27
Number of summery days (max >= 25°C)	25	20	30	14	43	24	36	45	23	25	36	31
Number of tropical days (max >= 30°C)	3	2	5	4	9	1	6	11	2	1	4	7

Source: Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium. Measurements in Uccle

## DI Waste

Municipal waste is waste that is collected by municipal waste collection services, civic amenity sites, sweepers,... with the exception of building materials. The waste quantity continues to grow slightly every year, but the recycling rate is also increasing very rapidly, while the volume of landfill waste has dropped significantly. The quantity of incinerated waste remains more or less stable.

Selective waste collection, processing and recycling							
in 1,000 tonnes	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Production	4,613	4,874	5,024	5,093	5,256	5,242	5,277
Dumping	2,004	749	354	257	265	264	268
Incineration (Total)	1,637	1,580	1,757	1,707	1,749	1,833	1,811
with energy recovery	701	1,459	1,675	1,707	1,734	1,820	1,797
without energy recovery	935	121	82	0	16	13	13
Recycled	513	1,265	1,537	1,593	1,697	1,760	1,887
Composted or fermented	363	1,091	1,165	1,183	1,237	1,202	1,261
per capita (kg/inhabitant)	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Production	455	476	481	484	497	491	495
Dumping	198	73	34	24	25	25	25
Incineration (Total)	162	154	168	162	165	172	170
with energy recovery	69	143	160	162	164	171	168
without energy recovery	92	12	8	0	1	1	1
Recycled	51	124	147	152	160	165	177
Composted or fermented	36	107	111	113	117	113	118



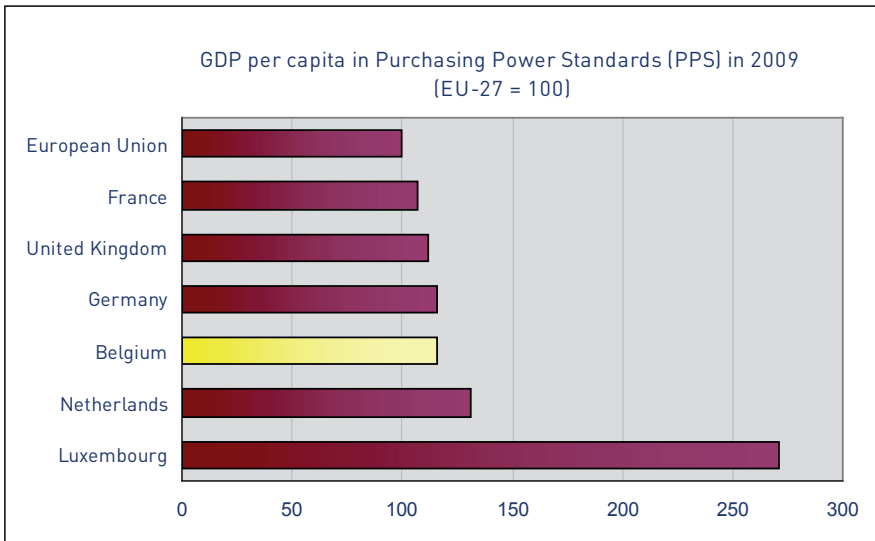
# 3 | Economy

## A | Gross Domestic Product and economic growth

The calculation of the GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards allows a comparison of the level of the Gross Domestic Product between the different Member States. In 2010, Belgium was at the same level as its neighbouring country Germany. Belgium experienced a slight economic upturn in 2010 and its GGP increased to a higher level than the European average but to a lesser extent than in Germany or in Luxemburg.

The Belgian economy is an important player on the European level. Although ranking tenth by population and representing only 1/47 of all European citizens, the country is the 7th largest economy and its GDP at market prices at current prices accounts for 1/35 of that of the European Union.

Today, the Belgian economy is a service economy. The weight of the tertiary sector (services) is increasing and represented nearly 70% of the GDP generated in Belgium in 2010. On the other hand, the primary (agriculture) and secondary (manufacturing industry and construction) sectors are losing ground. This tendency is also noticeable in most other European countries.



GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) (EU-27 = 100)						
	1995	2000	2005 (b)	2008	2009	2010
European Union	100	100	100 (b)	100	100	100
Belgium	129 (b)	126	120 (b)	115	116	118
Germany	129	118	117 (b)	116	116	118
France	116	115	110 (b)	106	107	107
Luxembourg	223	245	254 (b)	279	271	283
Netherlands	123	134	131 (b)	134	131	134
United Kingdom	113	119	122 (b)	115	112	114

(b): break in series

Explanatory note: The volume index of GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) is expressed in relation to the European Union (EU-27) average set to equal 100. If the index of a country is higher than 100, this country's level of GDP per head is higher than the EU average and vice versa.

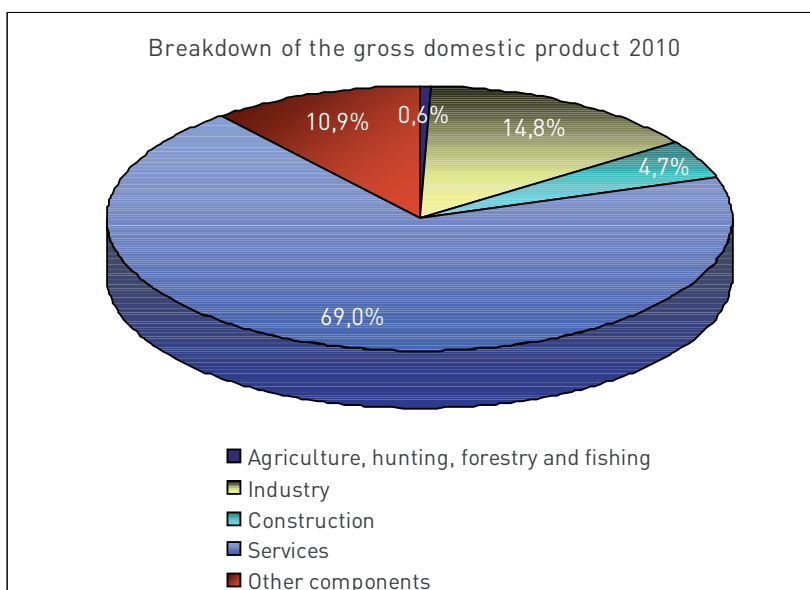
Basic figures are expressed in PPS, i.e. a common currency that eliminates the differences in price levels between countries allowing meaningful volume comparisons of GDP between countries.

Growth rate of GDP volume - percentage change on previous year									
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011 (f)	2012 (f)
European Union	:	:	3.9	2	0.5	-4.2	1.8	1.8(f)	1.9(f)
Belgium	3.1	22.8(b)	3.7	1.7	1	-2.8	2.2	2.4(f)	2.2(f)
Germany	:	1.9	3.2	0.8	1	-4.7	3.6	2.6(f)	1.9(f)
France	2.6	2	3.7	1.8	-0.1	-2.7	1.5	1.8(f)	2(f)
Luxembourg	:	:	8.4	5.4	1.4	-3.6	3.5	3.4(f)	3.8(f)
Netherlands	4.2	3.1	3.9	2	1.9	-3.9	1.8	1.9(f)	1.7(f)
United Kingdom	0.8	3.1	3.9	2.2	-0.1	-4.9	1.3	1.7(f)	2.1(f)
United States	1.9	2.5	4.1	3.1	0	-2.6	2.9	2.6(f)	2.7(f)
Japan	5.6	1.9	2.9	1.9	-1.2	-6.3	3.9	0.5(f)	1.6(f)

: not available (f): forecast (b): break in series

Explanatory note: The calculation of the annual growth rate of GDP volume is intended to allow comparisons of the dynamics of economic development both over time and between economies of different sizes. For measuring the growth rate of GDP in terms of volumes, the GDP at current prices are valued in the prices of the previous year and the thus computed volume changes are imposed on the level of a reference year. This is called a chain-linked series. Accordingly, price movements will not inflate the growth rate.

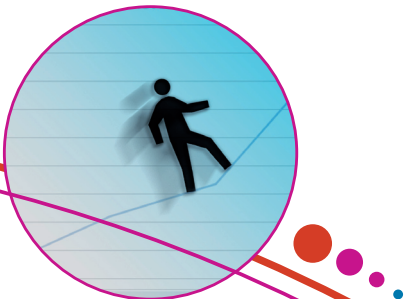
Gross Domestic Product at market prices (at current prices - million EUR)						
	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
European Union	9,207,404.4	11,692,099.2	12,390,035.2	12,479,034.9	11,770,132.7	12,266,395.6
Belgium	252,216.0	318,150.0	335,085.0	345,006.0	339,162.0	352,941.0
Germany	2,062,500.0	2,326,500.0	2,432,400.0	2,481,200.0	2,397,100.0	2,498,800.0
France	1,439,603.4	1,798,115.3	1,886,792.1	1,933,195.0	1,889,231.0	1,932,801.5
Luxembourg	22,000.6	33,920.2	37,490.5	39,644.0	38,072.9	41,597.2
Netherlands	417,960.0	540,216.0	571,773.0	596,226.0	571,979.0	591,477.0
United Kingdom	1,602,239.6	1,948,517.7	2,052,846.5	1,815,416.7	1,565,749.7	1,694,499.4
United States	10,774,686.0	10,671,312.5	10,260,342.9	9,769,581.2	10,122,598.2	11,058,471.5
Japan	5,056,699.5	3,474,625.4	3,197,025.7	3,308,478.8	3,613,140.2	4,122,687.6



**Gross domestic product (2005-2010 on 31/12)**  
Gross value added by activity, market-price estimates  
(at current prices - in million euros, gross data)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Growth 2010/2005	Growth 2010/2009
<b>Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing</b>	2,239	2,561	2,638	2,074	2,047	2,205	-1.5%	7.7%
<b>Industry</b>	51,941	53,699	55,271	54,624	49,510	52,063	0.2%	5.2%
<b>Construction</b>	13,027	14,421	15,626	16,916	16,358	16,757	28.6%	2.4%
<b>Services:</b>	202,633	212,603	224,919	234,724	235,451	243,478	20.2%	3.4%
Commerce, transport and communications	62,548	64,720	68,345	70,109	65,784	68,540	9.6%	4.2%
Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities	76,719	81,754	87,352	90,938	92,666	95,299	24.2%	2.8%
Government and education	37,359	38,929	40,473	42,859	44,407	45,408	21.5%	2.3%
Other services	26,007	27,200	28,749	30,818	32,594	34,231	31.6%	5.0%
Other components	33,006	34,868	36,632	36,669	35,796	38,438	16.5%	7.4%
<b>Gross domestic product at market prices</b>	<b>302,845</b>	<b>318,150</b>	<b>335,085</b>	<b>345,006</b>	<b>339,162</b>	<b>352,941</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>

Data source: Institute for national accounts



## B I Productivity and investments

The Belgian worker is highly productive. The Belgian labour productivity per person employed is higher than that of neighbouring countries, except Luxemburg. Belgium performs well with regard to investments. In this field too, Belgium lies well above the European average. Research and development expenditure (R&D) is in line with the European average.

Labour productivity per person employed					
GDP in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) per person employed relative to EU-27 (EU-27 = 100)					
	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009
European Union	100	100	100 (b)	100	100
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>139.8 (b)</b>	<b>136.5</b>	<b>129.7 (b)</b>	<b>125.5</b>	<b>125.5</b>
Germany	116.1	108	109.2 (b)	107.2	105.1
France	126	124.9	121.5 (b)	119.1	119.8
Luxembourg	175.4	175.9	169.3 (b)	177.7	170.5
Netherlands	110.6	114.4	113.9 (b)	114.3	111.2
United Kingdom	105.3	110.7	112.3 (b)	108.6	106.6
United States	138.3	141.7	144 (b)	136.8	140.6 (f)
Japan	100.9 (e)	98.7	99.4 (b)	94.5	92 (f)

(b): break in series (e): estimated value (f): forecast

**Explanatory note:** GDP per person employed is intended to give an overall impression of the productivity of national economies expressed in relation to the European Union (EU-27) average. If the index of a country is higher than 100, this country's level of GDP per person employed is higher than the EU average and vice versa. Basic figures are expressed in PPS, i.e. a common currency that eliminates the differences in price levels between countries allowing meaningful volume comparisons of GDP between countries. Please note that 'persons employed' does not distinguish between full-time and part-time employment.

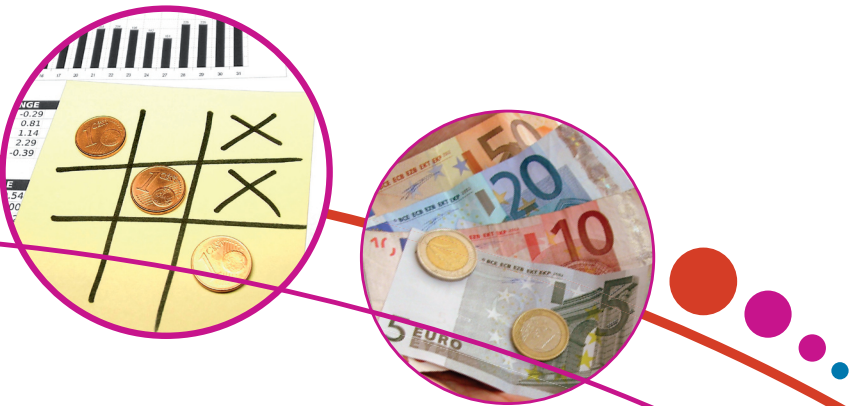




Gross fixed capital formation (investments) of the private sector as percentage of GDP							
	2001	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011 (f)	2012 (f)
European Union	20.1	19.9	21	19	18.4	18.6	18.9
Belgium	20.8	20.6	22.3	21.2	20.3	20.4	20.6
Germany	20	17.4	19	17.6	17.9	18.5	18.9
France	18.9	19.3	21.3	19.7	19.3	19.7	20.2
Luxembourg	22.6	20.5	20.3	17.3	16.4	17.6	17.8
Netherlands	21.1	18.9	20.6	19	17.7	17.7	18
United Kingdom	16.8	16.7	16.6	14.6	14.6	14.2	14.3
United States	19.7	19.9	18.3	15.7	15.5	15.7	16.2
Japan	24.7	23.3	23.1	21.2	20.5	20.8	21.2

(f): forecast

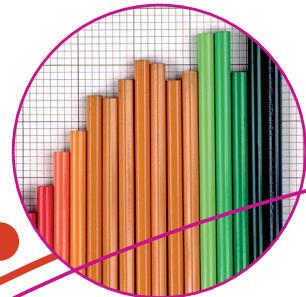
**Explanatory note:** This indicator is defined as total gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) expressed as a percentage of GDP, for the private sector. GFCF consists of resident producers' acquisitions, less disposals of fixed tangible or intangible assets, such as buildings, machinery and equipment, vehicles, or software. It also includes certain additions to the value of nonproduced assets realised by productive activity, such as improvements to land. The ratio gives the share of GDP that is used by the private sector for investment (rather than being used for e.g. consumption).



Research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP					
	1999	2000	2005	2008	2009
European Union	1.83(s)	1.86 (s)	1.82 (s)	1.92 (s)	2.01 (s)
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.96 (p)</b>	<b>1.96 (p)</b>
Germany	2.4	2.45	2.49	2.68	2.82 (e)
France	2.16	2.15 (b)	2.1	2.11	2.21 (p)
Luxembourg	:	1.65	1.56	1.51	1.68 (p)
Netherlands	1.96	1.82	1.9 (b)	1.76	1.84 (p)
United Kingdom	1.82	1.81	1.73	1.77	1.87 (p)
United States	2.63(i)	2.69 (i)	2.56 (i)	2.77 (ip)	:
Japan	3.02	3.04	3.32	3.44 (b)	:

: not available (b): break in series (e): estimated value (i): see explanatory text (p): provisional value (s): EUROSTAT estimate

**Explanatory note:** Research and experimental development (R&D) comprise creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications. R&D expenditures include all expenditures for R&D performed within the business enterprise sector (BERD) on the national territory during a given period, regardless of the source of funds. R&D expenditure in BERD are shown as a percentage of GDP (R&D intensity).



## C | Prices

The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is designed to compare price inflation at European level. The evolution of this index shows that prices in Belgium grew less strongly than the European average between 2005 and 2009. However, the increase was even smaller in the neighbouring countries the Netherlands, France and Germany.

In 2010 Belgian prices grew faster than the European average and, especially under impulse of increasing energy prices, the total inflation in Belgium in 2010 was higher than in the neighbouring countries the Netherlands, France and Germany. The follow-up and analysis of the prices by the Price Observatory ensures transparency and competition on the market for goods and services. The Price Observatory analyses for example the evolution of inflation in Belgium in every quarterly report.

HICP - global index - average yearly indexes (2005 = 100)								
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Inflation 2010
<b>European Union</b>	88.45	100	102.31	104.73	108.56	109.63	111.91	+2.08%
<b>Belgium</b>	90.67	100	102.33	104.19	108.87	108.86	111.4	+2.33%
<b>Germany</b>	92.4	100	101.8	104.1	107	107.2	108.4	+1.12%
<b>France</b>	90.46	100	101.91	103.55	106.82	106.93	108.79	+1.74%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	87.12	100	102.96	105.69	110.01	110.02	113.1	+2.80%
<b>Netherlands</b>	87.06	100	101.65	103.26	105.54	106.57	107.56	+0.93%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	93.1	100	102.3	104.7	108.5	110.8	114.5	+3.34%
<b>United States</b>	88.9	100	103.17	105.88	110.51	109.6	112.26	+2.43%

**Explanatory note:** Harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICPs) are designed for international comparisons of consumer price inflation. HICP is used by e.g. the European Central Bank for monitoring of inflation in the economic and monetary Union and for the assessment of inflation convergence as required under Article 121 of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

Comparative price levels of final consumption by private households including indirect taxes (EU-27=100)

	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009
European Union	100	100	100(b)	100	100
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>106.4(b)</b>	<b>110.4</b>	<b>113.3</b>
Germany	118.7	106.5	103.3(b)	103.5	105.8
France	118.4	105.8	108.2(b)	111.9	114.2
Luxembourg	113.6	101.5	111.6(b)	117.5	121
Netherlands	111.3	100	104.7(b)	104.8	109
United Kingdom	92.4	120	109.8(b)	102.1	95.1
United States	88.2	121.1	92.5	82.1	89.2
Japan	185.6	198.3	120.3	102.2	120.3

(b): break in series

**Explanatory note:** Comparative price levels are the ratio between purchasing power parities (PPPs) and market exchange rate for each country. Purchasing power parities (PPPs) are currency conversion rates that convert economic indicators expressed in national currencies to a common currency, called Purchasing Power Standard (PPS), which equalises the purchasing power of different national currencies and thus allows meaningful comparison. The ratio is shown in relation to the EU average (EU27 = 100). If the index of the comparative price levels shown for a country is higher (lower) than 100, the country concerned is relatively expensive (cheap) as compared with the EU average.



## Consumer price index (2004=100) and inflation: Belgium

2004=100	General (CPI)	Inflation	Food products	Non-food products	Services	Rent	General excluding oil products	General excluding energy products
2000	92.6	2.5	90.6	94.5	91.3	92.0	92.3	92.1
2001	94.9	2.5	94.4	96.1	93.5	93.7	95.0	94.6
2002	96.4	1.6	96.5	96.7	96.0	96.0	96.9	96.7
2003	97.9	1.6	98.5	97.8	97.7	98.2	98.5	98.4
2004	100.0	2.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2005	102.8	2.8	101.9	103.6	102.3	102.0	101.8	101.7
2006	104.6	1.8	104.2	105.2	103.9	105.6	103.9	105.6
2007	106.5	1.8	108.0	106.3	105.8	107.4	105.9	107.3
2008	111.3	4.5	114.2	112.6	107.9	109.5	109.4	107.9
2009	111.3	0.0	115.5	109.5	111.0	111.7	110.9	109.9
2010	113.7	2.2	117.2	113.0	112.6	112.9	112.4	111.4



## D I Bankruptcies and business demography

At the end of 2010, there were nearly 769,000 enterprises liable to VAT in our countries.

This represents a 2% increase compared to 2009, whereas it was only 1% in 2009 compared to the previous year.

Moreover, the number of de-registrations/cessations in 2010 declined by 2% compared to 2009, while in 2009 the number increased by 8% in comparison to 2008.

In 2010, 23,614 jobs were lost as a result of 9,570 bankruptcies.

The number of bankruptcies slightly increased by 2% compared to 2009, while the increase was 11% between 2009 and 2008.

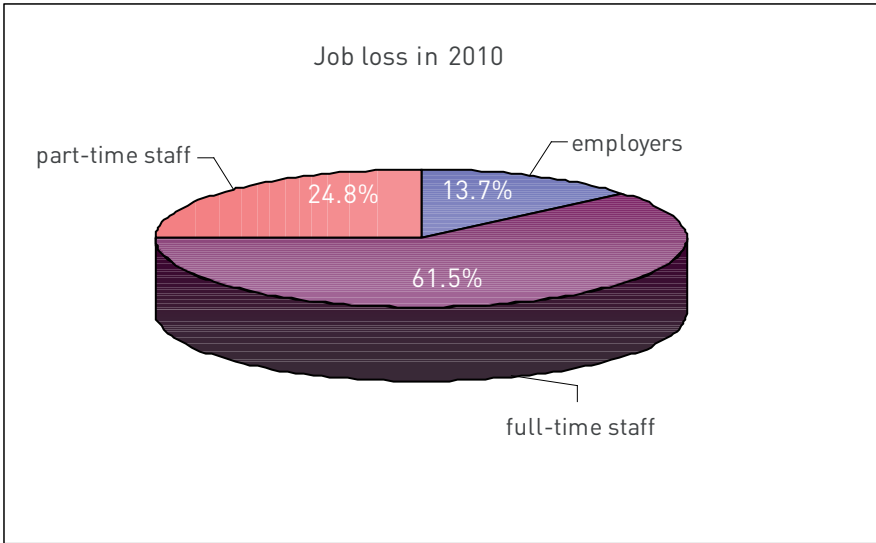
Enterprise demography				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
Active enterprises at the start of the current year	714,041	730,752	746,419	753,854
First registrations	63,132	61,169	57,135	62,756
Re-registrations	7,258	7,356	7,528	8,412
Suspensions	54,093	53,207	57,474	56,505
Immigration	639	559	388	425
Emigration	228	211	142	182
Active enterprises at the end of the current year	730,752	746,419	753,854	768,759



2010	bankruptcies	job loss	average job loss by bankruptcy
agriculture	94	298	3.2
industry	568	3,602	6.3
construction	1,560	5,662	3.6
Commerce	2,649	4,019	1.5
hotel & catering	1,788	3,202	1.8
services	2,853	6,798	2.4
not specified	58	33	0.6

2010	bankruptcies	job loss	average job loss by bankruptcy
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>9,570</b>	<b>23,614</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Flemish Region	4,918	11,224	2.3
Walloon Region	2,737	8,697	3.2
Brussels-Capital Region	1,915	3,693	1.9

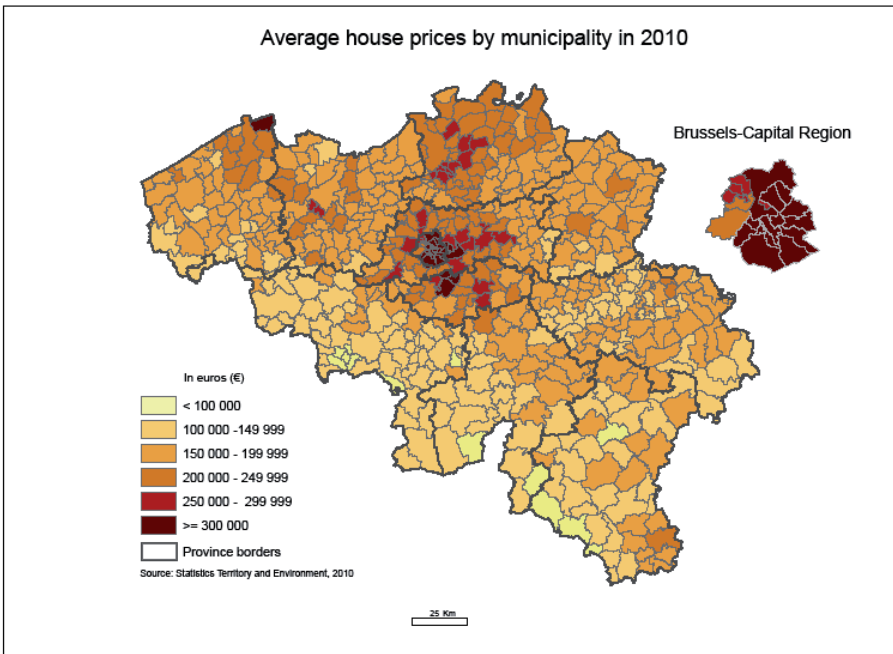


# 4 | Real estate

In 2010, a regular house cost on average €180,877. Villas cost nearly twice as much (€319,426). Apartments were sold for the price of € 189.636. Building plots amounted to €103/m<sup>2</sup> on average.

Since 1975, the average sale price of a regular house has multiplied by ten, while the general price level has increased by a factor of slightly more than three over the same period. In thirty-five years, the value of the houses increased three times as fast as that of other products.

The map below shows the areas with the highest prices: around major cities such as Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent, and by the sea, especially in Knokke-Heist. Prices in the Arlon region are pushed up by commuters to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.





Average sales prices of houses and building plots						
	1975	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
<b>Regular houses</b>						
- number of transactions	51,561	69,082	69,120	64,931	61,541	64,775
- average price (euros)	18,765	79,661	131,938	172,684	172,237	180,877
<b>Villas, bungalows, country houses</b>						
- number of transactions	2,696	7,977	16,615	16,404	16,070	17,480
- average price (euros)	67,074	266,927	262,624	316,690	301,285	319,426
<b>Apartments, studios</b>						
- number of transactions	16,081	30,047	32,934	40,088	37,067	42,960
- average price (euros)	30,011	88,943	141,244	174,382	177,793	189,636
<b>Building plots</b>						
- number of transactions	49,002	27,175	26,914	19,884	17,539	19,379
- average price (euros/m <sup>2</sup> )	8.8	38.5	71.3	83.8	94.6	103

The property prices statistics are based on all property transactions that are subject to registration duties. The source data for these statistics are from the Land Register of the FPS Finances.



Building permits							
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>A. New buildings</b>							
<b>Residential buildings</b>							
Number of residential buildings	26,607	31,518	30,695	27,529	27,673	24,471	27,129
Number of houses	42,921	59,384	61,155	53,923	52,611	45,386	49,834
- Number of single-family houses	24,444	27,776	26,596	23,841	24,286	21,629	24,163
- Number of apartments	18,477	31,608	34,559	30,082	28,325	23,757	25,671
Average habitable floor area per house (m <sup>2</sup> )	119	104	103	103	105	107	105
<b>Non-residential buildings</b>							
Number of non-residential buildings	6,396	4,221	4,508	4,521	4,773	4,417	4,761
<b>B. Renovations</b>							
Number of conversions of residential buildings	25,719	28,014	28,734	27,792	28,511	27,694	28,926
Number of conversions of non-residential buildings	6,158	5,988	6,073	5,968	5,856	5,221	5,269



# 5 | Mobility and transport

## A | Motorisation

The degree of motorisation in Belgium is slightly higher than the European average and is close to the figures in the neighbouring countries.

After a sharp decline in 2009, the number of new car registrations in Belgium increased by more than 12% in 2010. In 1977, there was one car per 3.55 inhabitants. We are now heading towards one car per two inhabitants. Thus, the number of cars on our roads continues to grow. Six cars in ten are diesel cars, and four in ten are petrol-powered. The number of cars running on diesel has seen an explosive growth since 1977.

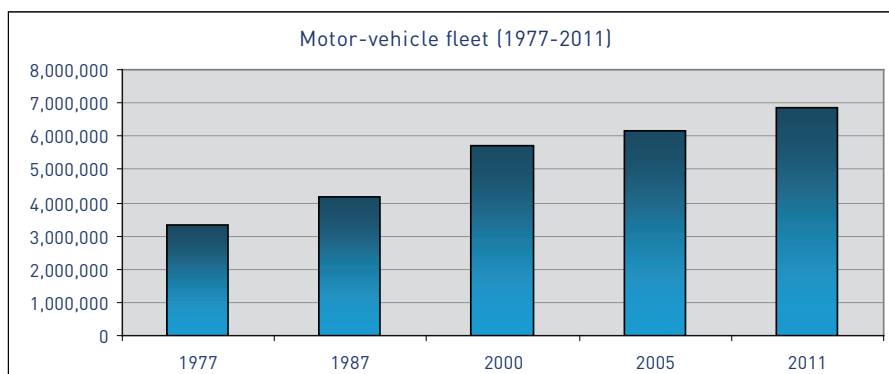
Almost 6.9 millions vehicles were on our roads in mid-2011. Most of them (nearly 5.5 million) were passenger cars, i.e. about one car per Belgian aged between 25 and 60!

There are also more than 760.000 lorries, delivery vans, cross-country vehicles, tank lorries and road tractors on the Belgian roads. In 2000, there were about 550,000; an increase by 35% in ten years time.



Motorisation rate: passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants					
	1991	2000	2005	2008	2009
European Union	334	423	450	470	473 (e)
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>483</b>
Germany	393	533	559	503	509
France	408	463	480	:	:
Luxembourg	522	630	666	678	:
Netherlands	371	412	435	460	462
United Kingdom	362	426	471	464	459

: not available (e): estimated value



Motor-vehicle fleet							
on 1 August + evolution	1977	1987	2000	2005	2011	Growth 2011/2000	Growth 2011/1977
<b>Motor-vehicle fleet on 1 August (including motorcycles)</b>	3,315,071	4,158,127	5,735,034	6,158,742	6,861,777	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>107.0%</b>
Passengers cars	2,773,344	3,497,818	4,678,376	4,918,544	5,407,015	15.6%	95.0%
- gas	2,595,302	2,682,730	2,732,352	2,422,338	2,005,481	-26.6%	-22.7%
- diesel	114,622	696,791	1,867,351	2,416,818	3,341,480	78.9%	2815.2%
Busses and coaches	19,517	16,095	14,722	15,391	16,100	9.4%	-17.5%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	236,421	296,415	502,979	604,437	714,370	42.0%	202.2%
Tractors (b)	34,682	31,627	45,452	47,646	46,844	3.1%	35.1%
Agricultural tractors	114,517	146,550	162,123	168,284	180,174	11.1%	57.3%
Special motor vehicles (c)	32,489	38,527	53,544	58,147	63,316	18.3%	94.9%
Motorcycles (d)	104,101	131,095	277,838	346,293	433,958	56.2%	316.9%
<b>Inhabitants per passengers car on 1 August</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>2.84</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>2.03</b>		

[a] Lorries, vans, all-terrain vehicles, tankers.




[b] Road tractors are commercial motor vehicles to which semi-trailers (vehicles without front axle) are hitched.

[c] Special vehicles are slow vehicles of which the dimensions or weight exceed the allowed maximum values.




The maximum permissible weight in Belgium may not exceed 44 tonnes. Vehicles of this category are permitted to drive on public motorways only under very strict conditions.

[d] All motorcycles that can go over 40 km/h, i.e. all motorcycles and most mopeds.



Passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants (2010)				
				
1	Zaventem (*)	2,769	Molenbeek-Saint-Jean	282
2	Aartselaar	2,268	Koekelberg	294
3	Evere	1,688	Schaerbeek	312
4	Bornem	1,246	Saint-Gilles	313
5	Kuurne	772	Jette	329
6	Leuven	737	Anderlecht	335
7	Ixelles	627	Etterbeek	354
8	Lasne	619	Ganshoren	362
9	Uccle	611	Dison	376
10	Sint-Martens-Latem	601	Blankenberge	376
11	Kontich	591	Oostende	383
12	Ittre	580	Liège	385
13	Modave	574	Antwerpen	391
14	Neupré	568	Farciennes	392
15	Schilde	567	Verviers	399

Motorcycles per 1,000 inhabitants (2010)				
				
1	Stoumont	75	Saint-Josse-ten-Noode	13
2	Braine-le-Château	74	Molenbeek-Saint-Jean	15
3	Héron	70	Koekelberg	16
4	Daverdisse	69	Schaerbeek	19
5	Lierneux	69	Anderlecht	21
6	Lasne	69	Jette	22
7	Vresse-sur-Semois	68	Saint-Gilles	22
8	Erezée	68	Lo-Reninge	23
9	Somme-Leuze	67	Mesen	24
10	Herbeumont	67	Bruxelles	25
11	Trois-Ponts	66	Forest	25
12	Ittre	65	Ganshoren	26
13	Gouvy	65	Antwerpen	27
14	Rendeux	65	Turnhout	27
15	Jalhay	65	Evere	27

(\*) The remarkable high number in certain municipalities is explained by the presence of headquarters of car-rental companies.

Registrations of vehicles						
	1998	2008	2009	2010	Growth 2010/1998	Growth 2010/2009
<b>Registration of new vehicles</b>	549,172	652,590	571,001	642,086	+16.92%	+12.45%
Passenger cars	463,724	540,542	479,920	551,661	+18.96%	+14.95%
Buses and coaches	1,031	1,207	984	1,020	-1.07%	+3.66%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	54,711	70,497	56,387	56,793	+3.81%	+0.72%
Tractors (b)	5,495	6,331	3,268	3,409	-37.96%	+4.31%
Agricultural tractors	2,944	3,901	2,914	2,860	-2.85%	-1.85%
Motorcycles (c)	21,267	30,112	27,528	26,343	+23.87%	-4.30%
<b>Registration of second-hand vehicles (d)</b>	755,199	742,926	775,397	776,324	+2.80%	+0.12%
Passenger cars	677,272	653,109	681,766	676,572	-0.10%	-0.76%
Buses and coaches	1,137	810	870	768	-32.45%	-11.72%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	66,048	77,426	81,492	87,584	+32.61%	+7.48%
Tractors (b)	4,698	3,288	3,351	3,568	-24.05%	+6.48%
Agricultural tractors	6,044	8,293	7,918	7,832	-1.09%	-1.09%

(a) Trucks, vans, all-terrain vehicles, tank trucks.

(b) Road tractors are commercial motor vehicles to which semi-trailers (vehicle without front axle) are hitched.

(c) All motorcycles doing more than 40 km/h, i.e. all motorcycles and most mopeds.

(d) Excluding motorcycles.



## B | Freight transport

Located in the heart of Europe, Belgium is a strategically important country for freight transport. The kingdom is indeed a perfect transit country and the infrastructure networks (roads, railways, waterways) are particularly dense.

Moreover, in terms of tonnage, the Port of Antwerp is the second European port (behind Rotterdam) for maritime transport. The river port of Liège comes in third position (after Duisburg and Paris). In the Union, the dominating mode of transport is the lorry. Road transport remains the main mode of transport in Belgium while inland navigation and railways have only slightly increased their market share since 2000.





### Modal split of freight transport

(% of total freight transport by land in tonnes - kilometres)

Railways	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
European Union	19.7(s)	17.7(s)	18(s)	17.9(s)	16.5(s)
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>15.1</b>
Germany	19.2	20.3	21.9	22.2	20.9
France	20.6	16	15.7	15.9	:
Luxembourg	7.9	4.1	2.8	2.5	2.3
Netherlands	3.7	4.4	5.5	5.4	4.9
United Kingdom	9.8	12.1(s)	13.4(s)	13.4(s)	13.2(s)
Roads	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
European Union	73.7(s)	76.4(s)	76.2(s)	76.2(s)	77.5(s)
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>72.9</b>
Germany	65.3	66	65.7	65.5	67
France	76	80.5	80.9	80.7	81
Luxembourg	87.8	92.3	93.8	94.2	94.6
Netherlands	63.4	63.6	59.4	59.9	63.4
United Kingdom	90	87.8(s)	86.6(s)	86.5(s)	86.7(s)
Inland waterways	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
European Union	6.6(s)	5.9(s)	5.8(s)	5.9(s)	5.9(s)
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>14.3</b>
Germany	15.5	13.6	12.4	12.3	12.1
France	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	4.1
Luxembourg	4.4	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1
Netherlands	32.9	31.9	35.1	34.7	:
United Kingdom	0.1	0.1	0.1	:	:

: not available (s): Eurostat estimate

## Carriage of goods by road by vehicles registered in Belgium

	Unité	1996	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2009/ 2008	2009/ 1996
Weight transported	1,000 t	367,603	411,623	337,863	352,132	317,599	297,824	-6%	-19%
Tonne-km	mIn tkm	42,756	51,023	43,846	42,084	38,355	36,173	-6%	-15%

This refers to transport of goods by road (on Belgian territory and abroad) carried out by vehicles registered in Belgium and with a load capacity of at least one tonne.

## Shipping

	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2010/2009
Arrivals (a)	32,594	30,785	34,028	27,441	28,812	+5.0%
Departures (a)	30,385	28,342	34,995	28,114	29,640	+5.4%
Loadings (x 1,000 t)	68,801	89,999	102,907	91,272	100,794	+10.4%
Unloadings (x 1,000 t)	111,082	116,667	138,370	110,692	125,561	+13.4%
Disembarked passengers (x 1,000)	766	391	333	276	300	+8.7%
Embarked passengers (x 1,000)	757	391	339	290	310	+6.9%

(a) Including extra-European Union transit.



## C I Road accidents

In 2009, 47,794 road accidents with fatalities and casualties occurred in Belgium. This represents a decrease by 2.1% in comparison to 2008.

The number of casualties, and especially of deaths, has declined substantially. After the peak of 1973 and 1,866 deaths, the number of deaths symbolically remained below 1,000 in 2009 when 944 persons were killed

However, this figure remains very high compared to the European average.

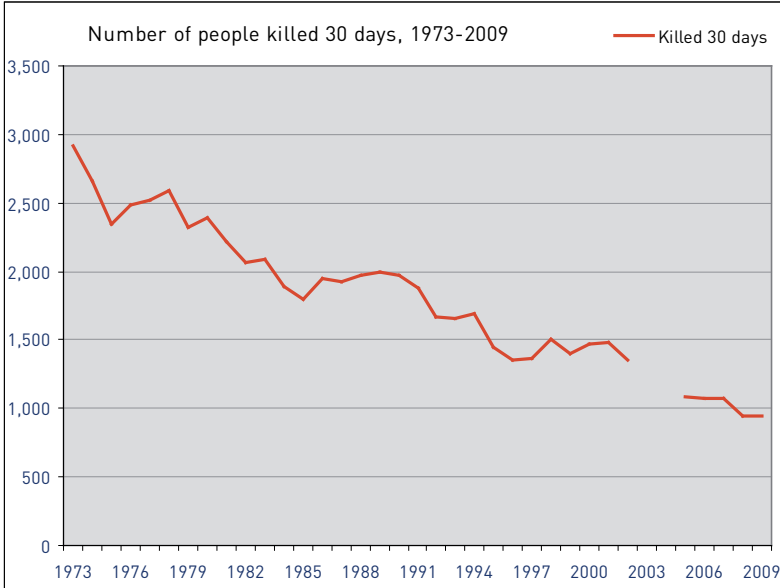
It is, however, worth noting that the number of deaths per million inhabitants decreased faster in Belgium than the European average between 2000 and 2007: -30% against -26%.

### People killed in road accidents: number of deaths per million inhabitants

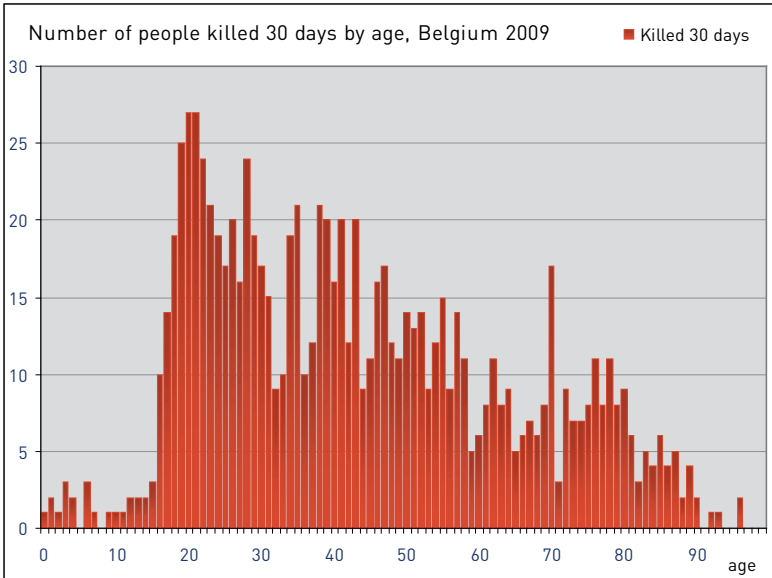
	1991	1998	2003	2005	2008
European Union	160	123	102	132	78
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>88</b>
Germany	142	95	80	116	54
France	184	153	101	154	67
Luxembourg	216	135	118	173	72
Netherlands	85	68	63	86	41
United Kingdom	83	61	62	65	43

### People killed in road accidents: number of deaths in absolute figures

	1991	1998	2003	2005	2009
European Union	75,426	58,982	50,351	45,346	34,500
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>944</b>
Germany	11,300	7,792	6,613	5,361	4,152
France	10,483	8,920	6,058	5,318	4,273
Luxembourg	83	57	53	46	47
Netherlands	1,281	1,066	1,028	750	644
United Kingdom	4,753	3,581	3,658	3,336	2,337



Break in series: 2001 - 2004



Accident: an accident between two or more road users is considered as a single accident. Only accidents on public roads and claiming casualties are included in these statistics.

People killed 30 days: people killed on the scene or within 30 days after the accident.



## A | Employment rate

In 2010, employment in the European had not fully recovered yet from the effects of the economic crisis. After a continuous period of growth, the employment rate declined nearly everywhere in the Union between 2008 and 2010.

The Belgian employment rate held up relatively well and even increased by 0.4 percentage point between 2009 and 2010, whereas the European Union faced a decrease by 0.4 percentage point.

Total employment rate							
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
European Union	61	59.9	63.2	64	65.9	64.6	64.2
Belgium	54.4	56.3	60.9 (b)	61.1	62.4	61.6	62
Germany	66.4	64.7	65.3	66 (b)	70.7	70.9	71.1
France	60.8	59.6	61.7	63.7	64.9	64.1	64
Luxembourg	59.2	58.5	62.7	63.6	63.4	65.2	65.2
Netherlands	61.1	64.2	72.9	73.2	77.2	77	74.7 (b)
United Kingdom	71.1	68.1	71 (b)	71.7	71.5	69.9	69.5
United States	70.8	72.5	74.1	71.5	70.9	67.6	:
Japan	69.6	69.2	68.9	69.3	70.7	70	:

: not available (b) = break in series

The employment rate represents the number of persons with a job (employed) in percent of the total population between 15 and 64 years.

Employment rate in Belgium						
	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Belgium</b>	60.5	61.1	62	62.4	61.6	62
Men	69.5	68.3	68.7	68.6	67.2	67.4
Women	51.5	53.8	55.3	56.2	56	56.5
<b>Low level of education (a)</b>	43.2	40.4	40.5	39.7	38.6	39.1
<b>Medium level of education (b)</b>	65.5	65.5	65.9	67	65.4	65.7
<b>High level of education (c)</b>	84.3	82.8	83.7	83	81.9	81.9
<b>From 15 to 24 years</b>	29.1	27.3	27.5	27.4	25.3	25.2
<b>From 25 to 49 years</b>	80.1	80.1	81.4	82.3	81.2	81.2
<b>From 50 to 64 years</b>	40.4	45.8	48	48	49.1	50.9
<b>From 15 to 64 years</b>	60.5	61.1	62	62.4	61.6	62

(a) maximum lower secondary education

(b) upper secondary education

(c) higher university or non-university education

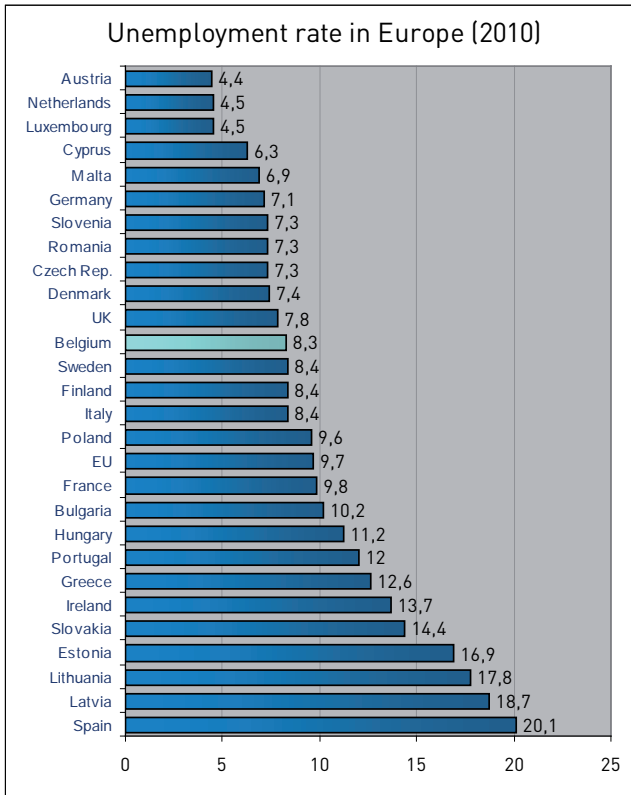
The employment rate represents the number of persons with a job (employed) in percent of the total population between 15 and 64 years.



## B | Unemployment rate

In 2010, the unemployment rate increased in most European countries. Similar to the employment rate, the weight of unemployment strongly varies from one Member State to another. Despite the increase of its unemployment rate in 2010, Belgium scores above the European average.

In Belgium too, the newcomers to the labour market are encountering more and more difficulties to find a job, as the youth unemployment rate shows it.



Short Description: The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons, based on International Labour Office (ILO) definition, as a percentage of the labour force, which here refers to the total number of employed and unemployed persons aged 15 to 74.

Total unemployment rate							
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
European Union	8.4	10.7	8.4	9	7	8.9	9.6
Belgium	7.3	9.3	6.6	8.5	7	7.9	8.3
Germany	4.9	8.2	7.9	11.1	7.5	7.7	7.1
France	9.4	11.8	10.2	8.9	7.4	9.1	9.3
Luxembourg	1.6	2.9	2.3	4.5	5.1	5.1	4.4
Netherlands	7.7	7.2	2.7	4.7	2.8	3.4	4.5
United Kingdom	7	8.7	5.6	4.8	5.6	7.6	7.8
United States	5.5	5.6	4	5.1	5.8	9.3	9.6
Japan	2.1	3.1	4.7	4.4	4	5.1	5.1

Unemployment rate of the under-25s							
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
European Union	16.4	21.2	16.1	18.4	15.5	19.8	20.8
Belgium	14.5	21.5	15.2	21.5	18	21.9	22.4
Germany	4.6	8.5	8.5	15.5	10.5	11.2	9.9
France	19.8	27.1	20.6	20.3	18.4	22.8	22.5
Luxembourg	3.6	7.2	6.4	13.7	17.9	17.2	14.2
Netherlands	11.1	12.1	5.3	8.2	5.3	6.6	8.7
United Kingdom	10.4	15.5	12	12.8	15	19.1	19.6





## C | Other aspects of the labour market

The share of women occupying higher functions in the working population increased by 2.7 percentage points between 2000 and 2010. The increase amounts to more than 10 percentage points if only the employed population is taken into account. Almost four in ten higher positions (38.8%) among employees were taken up by women in 2010.

More and more Europeans are working part-time: almost one worker out of five does not work full-time. Belgium is no exception and is one of the European countries with the largest proportion of part-time workers. However, with nearly 50% of its employees working part-time in 2010, The Netherlands have been the leading country in this domain for many years.

Women work part-time more often than men, but the percentage of men working part-time is on the rise.

On average, employed persons in the European Union work 41.6 hours per week. The number of hours worked for full-time jobs does not vary greatly across countries. The number of hours worked per week varies more between countries for part-time work. The European average for employees working part-time amounts to slightly more than 20 hours per week.

More than 184,000 people had a second job in 2010. That is nearly 9,000 more than in 2009 and nearly 28,000 more than in 2004.

Moreover, about 12.5% of all Belgians aged between 18 and 59 live in a household in which nobody has a paid job.

The pay gap between women and men remains a deplorable fact across Europe. With a 9% pay gap, Belgium distinguishes itself still rather positively compared to the European average and the neighbouring countries.

Between 2000 and 2006, the incidence rate of serious or fatal accidents at work in Europe declined. Belgium also reduced the number of accidents more substantially than the European average, especially with regard to serious accidents.

**Share of women and men among general managers and executive staff - total working population in percent**

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Women	31.4	31.8	33.8	32.7	34.0	34.1
Men	68.6	68.2	66.2	67.3	66.0	65.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Share of women and men among general managers and executive staff - only employees in percent**

Women	28.5	33.5	36.8	35.5	37.9	38.8
Men	71.5	66.5	63.2	64.5	62.1	61.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Part-time employment  
(% of the total employment)**

	1999	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
European Union	17.6	17.8	18.2	18.2	18.8	19.2
Belgium	19.8 (a)	20.7 (a)	22	22.6	23.4	24
Germany	19	19.4	24(b)	25.9	26.1	26.2
France	17.3	16.9	17.2	16.9	17.3	17.8
Luxembourg	10.7	11.3	17.4	18	18.2	17.8
Netherlands	39.3	41.2	46.1	47.3	48.3	48.9(b)
United Kingdom	25.1 (b)	25.2	25.2	25.3	26	26.8

(a): employees only (b) = break in series



## Part-time employment (% of the total employment)\* in Belgium by NACE section

	2009	2010
<b>A - Agriculture, forestry and fisheries</b>	23.2	23.3
<b>B - Mining and quarrying</b>	11.6	19.1
<b>C - Manufacturing</b>	11.6	12.4
<b>D - Production and distribution of electricity, gas, steam and cooled air</b>	8.4	6.9
<b>E - Distribution of water, waste management, waste water management and clean-up</b>	10.3	10.8
<b>F - Construction</b>	6.8	7.0
<b>G - Wholesale and retail trade; repair motor vehicles and motorcycles</b>	30.2	31.2
<b>H - Transport and storage</b>	15.2	16.0
<b>I - Supply of facilities and meals</b>	43.3	46.7
<b>J - Information and communication</b>	13.1	11.3
<b>K - Financial activities and insurances</b>	21.4	22.5
<b>L - Real estate activities</b>	23.1	26.1
<b>M - Liberal professions and scientific and technical activities</b>	19.9	22.3
<b>N - Administrative and assisting services</b>	35.2	33.8
<b>O - Public administration and defence; mandatory social insurances</b>	21.2	20.6
<b>P - Education</b>	28.3	27.7
<b>Q - Health and social work</b>	48.4	49.4
<b>R - Art, amusement and recreation</b>	33.2	31.6
<b>S - Other services</b>	37.7	43.6
<b>T - Households as employers; non-differentiated production of goods and services for domestic use</b>	77.6	74.5
<b>U - Extra-territorial organizations and bodies</b>	4.6	6.2
<b>Total</b>	25.0	25.7

\* Excluding Local Employment Agency workers and occasional workers

The European classification of economic activities (NACE) offers a framework for the production and distribution of statistics concerning economic activities in Europe.

Hours worked per week of full-time employment Annual average							
	1997	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
European Union	:	:	41.9	41.8	41.8	41.6	41.6
Belgium	40.6	38.5	41.1	41.2	40.9	41	41.2
Germany	41.7	41.8	41.5	41.7	41.7	41.8	41.8
France	41.1	40.2	41	41.1	41	41.1	41.1
Luxembourg	40.3	40.7	40.9	39.9	40	40.9	40.6
Netherlands	41.3	41	40.7	40.9	40.8	40.8	41
United Kingdom	44.9	44.2	43.2	43	43	42.8	42.8

Hours worked per week of part-time employment Annual average							
	1997	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
European Union	:	:	19.8	20	20	20	20.1
Belgium	21.5	22.5	23.1	23.6	23.6	23.8	23.9
Germany	18.2	17.8	17.4	17.9	17.9	18.2	18.3
France	22.6	23.1	23.3	23.4	23.4	23.1	23.1
Luxembourg	19.9	21.3	21.2	22.2	22.2	19.8	20.7
Netherlands	18.6	18.7	19	19.3	19.5	19.6	19.7
United Kingdom	17.8	18.2	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.9

: not available

**Explanatory note:** The average number of hours corresponds to the number of hours the person normally works. This covers all hours including extra hours, either paid or unpaid, which the person normally works. It excludes the travel time between the home and the place of work as well as the main meal breaks.



Evolution of the number of persons with two jobs compared to the total number of employed persons							
In %	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Second job	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	4	4.1
No second job	96.2	96.1	96.2	96.2	96.2	96	95.9
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
In numbers	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Second job	156,528	165,216	160,191	168,460	168,852	175,437	184,333
No second job	3,982,645	4,070,096	4,103,664	4,211,818	4,277,045	4,245,273	4,304,369
<b>Total</b>	4,139,173	4,235,311	4,263,856	4,380,278	4,445,897	4,420,710	4,488,702

Percentage of adults (aged 18 to 59)* who live in households where nobody has paid work					
	2001	2005	2008	2009	2010
Men	11.1	11.6	10.4	11.4	11.0
Women	15.5	15.6	13.7	14.2	14.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>

\* Excluding students aged 18-24 who live in households that consist entirely of students aged 18-24.

Gender pay gap in unadjusted form in %					
	2002	2006	2007	2008	2009
European Union	:	17.7	17.6	17.5(p)	17.1(p)
Belgium	:	9.5	9.1	9	:
Germany	:	22.7	23	23.2	23.2
France	:	15.4	16.9	17.1	16.5(p)
Luxembourg	:	10.7	12.5	12.4	12.5
Netherlands	18.7	23.6	23.6	19.6	19.2
United Kingdom	27.3	24.3	21.1	21.4	20.4

: not available (p) = Provisional

**Explanatory note:** The unadjusted Gender Pay Gap (GPG) represents the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees. The population consists of all paid employees in enterprises with 10 employees or more.

Index of the number of accidents at work per 100,000 people employed (1998=100)				
(1998=100)	Serious accidents		Fatal Accidents	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
European Union	100	76	100	81
Belgium	82(b)	60	100	81
Germany	96	66	95	95
France	102	82	85	50(p)
Luxembourg	104	78	149(i)	37(i)
Netherlands	105(b)	:	106	79
United Kingdom	106	75	106	81
United States	92(b)	:	93	:
Japan	91	:	103	:

: not available (b): break in series (i): see explanatory text (f): forecast

**Explanatory note:** The index shows the evolution of the incidence rate of serious accidents at work in comparison to 1998 (= 100). The incidence rate = (number of accidents at work with more than 3 days' absence that occurred during the year/number of persons in employment in the reference population) x 100 000.



## D | Income and poverty risk

In the European Union, the income quintile share ratio amounted to 4.9 in 2009. This means that if the income perceived by the poorest 20% of the population is equal to 100, that of the richest 20% of the population amounts to 490. Even with a 3.9 ratio in Belgium, the income gap between poor and rich is relatively high.

Income is higher in Flanders than in the other two regions. This is confirmed by data on the poverty risk: in Flanders, about 10% of the population lives below the poverty line, compared to more than 18% in Wallonia. Women are also much more at risk of poverty than men, as are older people. The best remedy against poverty is having a job; however, this is no guarantee. The poverty risk of the working population is five times lower than in all other groups together.

In Belgium, the share of the household budget spent on the various expenditure categories has changed over time. Between the late 70s and 2009, Belgians spent a smaller share of their budget to food and clothing but a larger share to transport, communication and leisure activities.

Inequality of income distribution - Income quintile share ratio	
	2009
European Union	4.9
Belgium	3.9
Germany	4.5
France	4.4
Luxembourg	4.3
Netherlands	4
United Kingdom	5.2

**Explanatory note:** The ratio of total income received by the 20 % of the population with the highest income (top quintile) to that received by the 20 % of the population with the lowest income (lowest quintile). Income must be understood as equalised disposable income.

Poverty risk after social transfers in %			
	2005	2008	2009
European Union	16.4(s)	16.4	16.3
Belgium	14.8	14.7	14.6
Germany	12.2(b)	15.2	15.5
France	13(b)	12.7(b)	12.9
Luxembourg	13.7	13.4	14.9
Netherlands	10.7(b)	10.5	11.1
United Kingdom	19(b)	18.7	17.2

: not available (b): break in series (s): Eurostat estimate

**Explanatory note:** The share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers).

Percentage of the population below the poverty line* (2009)							
	Men	Women	Total		Men	Women	Total
Belgium	13.4	15.7	14.6	Employed active persons	4.6	4.7	4.6
				Inactive persons	23.4	23.6	23.5
Flemish Region	9.2	11.1	10.1	Unemployed	36.5	29.8	33.4
Walloon Region	16.2	20.5	18.4	Retired	18.2	17.5	17.8
				Other inactive persons	23.1	26.8	25.5
0-15 years			16.4				
16-64 years	11.4	13.3	12.3	Level of education: low	:	:	23.8
65 years old and over	20.6	22.3	21.6	Level of education: medium	:	:	11.2
				Level of education: high	:	:	6.5

: not available

\* Poverty line (Belgium): person living alone: 11,588 euros, Household with 2 adults and 2 children: 24,334 euros, annual income.



Income from tax returns: Belgium and the regions				
		1998	2003	2008
Flemish Region	Average income per return (€)	23,709	25,163	28,022
	Median income per return (€)	18,627	19,384	21,390
Brussels-Capital Region	Average income per return (€)	22,325	23,964	23,972
	Median income per return (€)	16,872	17,643	16,959
Walloon Region	Average income per return (€)	22,025	23,244	25,159
	Median income per return (€)	17,345	17,815	18,764
Belgium	Average income per return (€)	23,054	24,455	26,722
	Median income per return (€)	18,064	18,731	20,142

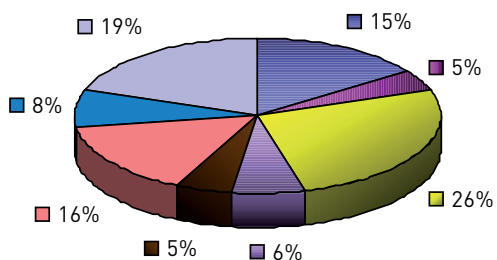
Median income = income in the middle of a series when all returns are classified from lowest to highest: half of the returned incomes are lower, half are higher.

Breakdown of the Belgian household expenditure							
As % of total expenditure	78-79 (a)	87-88 (a)	95-96 (a)	2000	2005	2008	2009
Food, drink, tobacco	22.2	19	17.5	15.6	15.7	15.6	15.3
Clothing, footwear	7.9	7.3	6.1	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.5
Residence or second residence	24.2	26.8	26.4	26.1	25.2	24.5	26.1
Furniture, household appliances	8.6	6.7	6.7	6.6	5.7	6.2	6.2
Health	3.3	3.6	4.5	4.2	4.7	4.7	5
Transport and communication	11.2	11.6	12.6	16.3	15.7	16.4	15.6
Culture, education and recreation	7.3	7.4	8.1	8.8	8.7	8.1	7.9
Other goods and services	15.5	17.6	18.2	17.5	19.7	20.2	19.4

(a) from June in year X to May in year X + 1



**Breakdown of the Belgian household expenditure 2009**



- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Food, drink, tobacco              | ■ Clothing, footwear              |
| ■ Residence or second residence     | ■ Furniture, household appliances |
| ■ Health                            | ■ Transport and communication     |
| ■ Culture, education and recreation | ■ Other goods and services        |



## E | Education

In nearly 20 years time, the level of education of the Belgian population has improved significantly. In 2010, graduates from higher education represented 27% of the Belgian population aged 15 and over, compared to only 14% in 1990. Moreover, the number of low-skilled people has sharply declined.

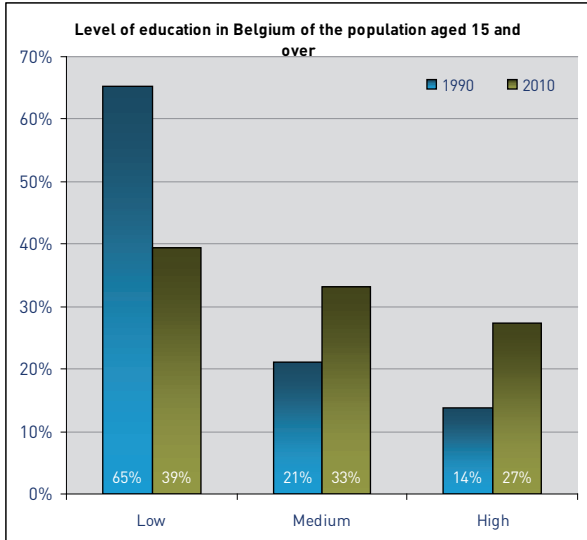
In Belgium 11.1% pupils left school early in 2009. This is below the European average (14.4%). This number refers to the number of people aged between 18 and 24 who did not complete higher secondary education and do not follow any kind of education or training.

More than 44% of the 30-to-34-year olds are graduates from higher education. Women are doing much better than men. Half of 30-to-34-year old women have a higher education diploma, compared to 39% of 30-to-34-year old men.

Level of education in Belgium of the population aged 15 and over						
Level of education	1990	2000	2005	2010	in % 1990	in % 2010
<b>Total</b>	8,276,469	8,434,300	8,680,488	9,052,331	100%	100%
<b>Low</b>	5,396,457	4,173,653	3,817,954	3,568,752	65%	39%
<b>Medium</b>	1,741,570	2,524,524	2,811,446	3,008,668	21%	33%
<b>High</b>	1,138,442	1,736,123	2,052,038	2,474,911	14%	27%

low=maximum lower secondary education; medium= upper secondary education; high=higher education





Early school leavers - Percentage of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and not involved in further education or training

	2000	2005	2008	2009
European Union	17.6(e)	15.8(b)	14.9	14.4
Belgium	13.8(b)	12.9	12	11.1
Germany	14.6	13.5(b)	11.8	11.1
France	13.3	12.2(b)	11.9	12.3
Luxembourg	16.8(b)	13.3(b)	13.4	7.7(p)
Netherlands	15.4	13.5(b)	11.4	10.9
United Kingdom	18.2(b)	11.6(b)	17(b)	15.7

(b): break in series (e): estimated value (p): provisional value

Percentage of the population aged 30-34 with a certificate of higher education - Belgium

	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
Total	35.2	39.2	42.9	42.0	44.4
Men	33.3	35.1	37.4	36.4	39.0
Women	37.2	43.5	48.6	47.7	50.0

