

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF BELGIUM

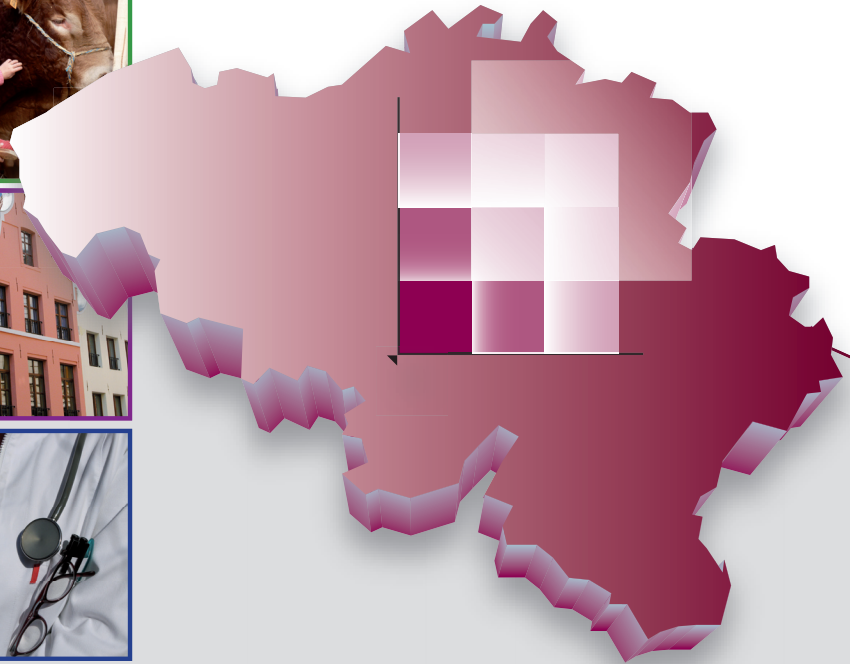
The mission of Statistics Belgium is to **collect**, to **process** and to **disseminate relevant, reliable** and **clear** statistical and economic information through a modern and efficient statistical system.

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Key figures

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF BELGIUM



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FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy
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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, 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 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 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.



Table of contents

1. Population	4
A Population on 1 January 2011	4
B population change	5
C Structure by age and ageing	7
D Foreign population	10
2. Territory and environment	13
A Area and land use	13
B Agriculture	14
C Waste	17
D Climate	18
3. Economy	20
A Gross Domestic Product and economic growth	20
B Prices	23
C Enterprise demography	27
D Enterprise bankruptcies	29
4. Property and construction	30
A Property prices	30
B Building permits	32
C Inventory of buildings in Belgium	33
5. Mobility and transport	34
A Vehicles	34
B Freight transport	37
C Road accidents	39
6. Society	42
A Employment and employment rate	42
B Wages and salaries	47
C Unemployment and unemployment rate	48
D Inactive population	49
E Income and poverty risk	50
F Education	55

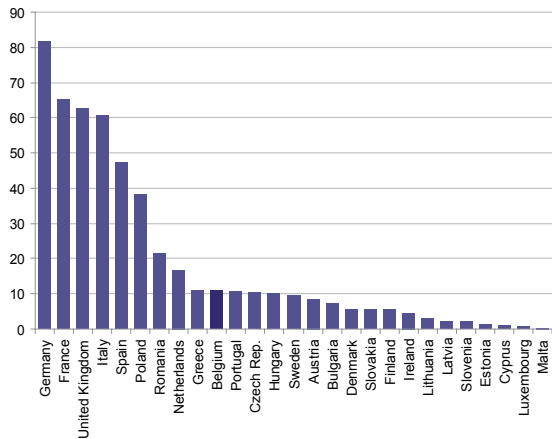
1 | Population

A | Population on 1 January 2011

On 1 January 2011 Belgium counted 10,951,266 inhabitants, approaching the threshold of 11 million inhabitants. 58% of the population live in the Flemish Region, 32% in the Walloon Region and slightly over 10% in the Brussels-Capital Region. The share of this last region has seen a significant increase in the last few years. This increase can be explained by a very considerable demographic increase in the capital in the last few years, following several decades of demographic stagnation and even decline. Finally, less than 1% of the population lives in one of the municipalities of the German-speaking Community.

Total population of Belgium and its regions on 1 January						
Unit	1991		2001		2011	
	Effective	%	Effective	%	Effective	%
Belgium	9,986,975	100.0%	10,263,414	100.0%	10,951,266	100.0%
Brussels-Capital Region	960,324	9.6%	964,405	9.4%	1,119,088	10.2%
Flemish Region	5,767,856	57.8%	5,952,552	58.0%	6,306,638	57.6%
Walloon Region	3,258,795	32.6%	3,346,457	32.6%	3,525,540	32.2%
of which German-speaking community	67,584	0.7%	71,036	0.7%	75,716	0.7%

At European Union level, of which the population is estimated at more than 503 million inhabitants, Belgium comes in ninth out of 27 and represents 2.2% of the European Union population. Even though its demographic weight is much lower than that of the leading countries (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy,...), it is not at all negligible and tends to increase in the last few years, thanks to a demographic dynamic that is much stronger than the European average.



B | Population change

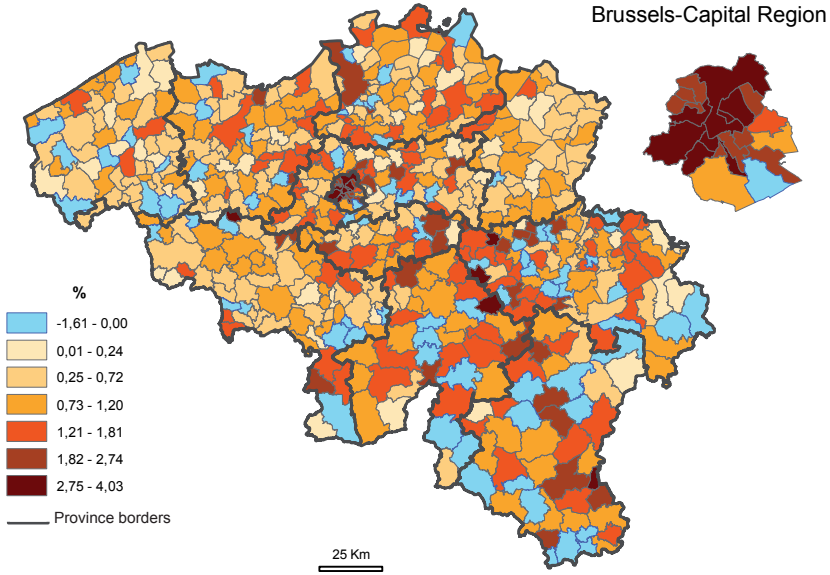
Annual population growth				
Year		2000	2005	2010
Population on 1 January		10,239,085	10,445,852	10,839,905
Natural change	Births	114,883	118,002	129,173
	Deaths	104,903	103,278	105,094
	Natural balance	9,980	14,724	24,079
Migration change	Immigration	89,388	132,810	166,177
	Emigration	75,320	86,899	86,729
	Migration balance	14,068	45,911	79,448
Statistical adjustment		281	4,895	7,834
Total growth		24,329	65,530	111,361
Growth rate		0.24	0.63	1.02
Population on 31 December		10,263,414	10,511,382	10,951,266

In the course of 2010, the resident population in Belgium went up by 111,361 people. This population increase is largely due to an increased population balance. Additionally, the positive difference between the number of births and deaths increased from nearly 10,000 units in 2000 to more than 24,000 in 2010. The number of deaths remained relatively stable whereas the number of births increased. The international migration balance multiplied by five in one decade, from 14,068 to 79,448 units.



The population increased by 1.02% in 2010, which makes Belgium one of the European countries with the largest demographic growth, together with Luxembourg (1.93%) and Sweden (0.8%). The Belgian population is increasing faster and faster: 10 years ago, the growth rate was 0.24% and 5 years ago it amounted to 0.63%. To compare, the average demographic growth rate of the 27 EU countries was 0.27% in 2009. In 2010 France registered a demographic growth of 0.55% and The Netherlands of 0.49%. In the entire European Union the demographic growth is largely due to migration. Only a few countries such as Germany, Bulgaria and Romania saw their population decrease in the course of 2010.

Population growth between in 2010 per municipality

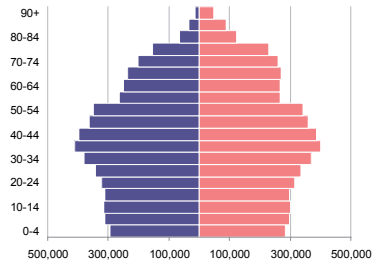


The majority of the 589 municipalities in the country registered a demographic growth in 2010, but 80 of them saw their population decrease. The strongest increases were registered in Brussels, with increases by more than 3% in Molenbeek-St-Jean, St-Josse-ten-Noode, St-Gilles, Brussels proper, Forest, Anderlecht and Schaerbeek. A high growth was also registered in the municipality of Antwerp (+2.1%). Finally, a large number of municipalities in the Condroz, Hesbay and Ardennes regions also saw large demographic increases, which has been the case in the greater axis Brussels-Namur-Luxembourg for many years now.

C | Structure by age and ageing

The structure by age and sex of the population residing in Belgium on 1 January 2011, represented by an age pyramid, underlines the important phenomenon of an ageing population. The number of (very) old people has never been so high; the age groups of people aged 80 and over considerably increased compared to the situation in 2001. If the age groups of the baby boomers remain important, their supremacy will more or less be maintained in the next decade. The number of very young children also went up in the last few years. Even though there are more young men than young women - for every 100 girls born, there are 104 boys - this changes the other way round at the age of 24. This can be explained by a higher mortality among men than among women regardless of age. The result is a disproportion between sexes that becomes larger over time. For example, among 80-year-old people, there are twice as many women as men. Among 90-year-old people, there are three times as many women as men.

Age pyramid in Belgium on 1 January 2001



Age pyramid in Belgium on 1 January 2011



Breakdown by age groups and gender on 1 January 2011 in the different Regions

Unit	0-17 years		18-64 years		65 years and older	
	Effective	%	Effective	%	Effective	%
Belgium	2,231,033	20.4%	6,837,428	62.4%	1,882,805	17.2%
Brussels-Capital Region	248,688	22.2%	717,900	64.2%	152,500	13.6%
Flemish Region	1,232,119	19.5%	3,921,171	62.2%	1,153,348	18.3%
Walloon Region	750,226	31.3%	2,198,357	62.4%	576,957	16.4%

The structure by age is not homogeneous in Belgium. The Brussels-Capital Region is considerably younger than the two others, with a more important share of young people (22.2%) and a less important share of older people (13.6%). The Walloon Region lies close to the national average, but ageing of the population is more pronounced in the Flemish Region. Here there are fewer young people (19.5%) and more older people (18.3%). In the last few years, these interregional differences in terms of structure by age tend to increase.



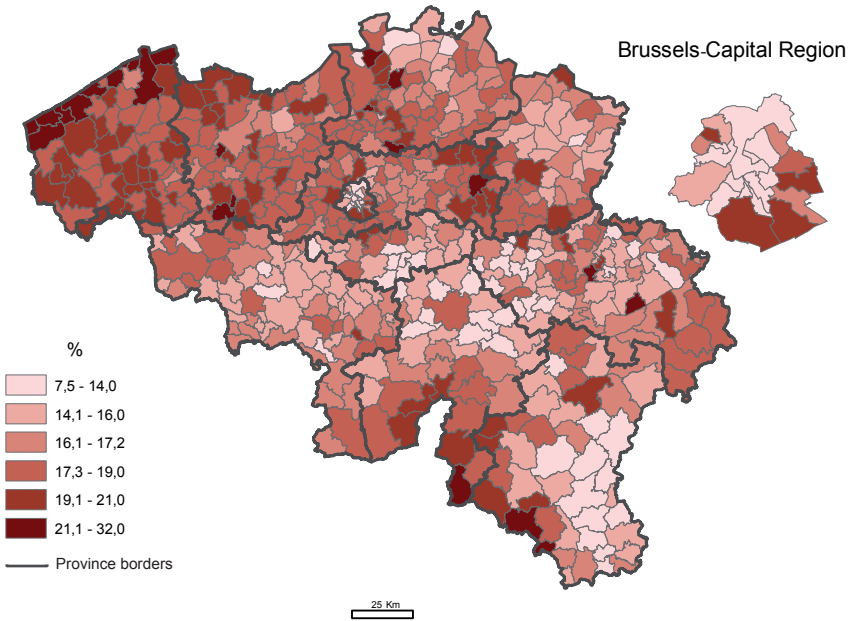
There are important differences regarding the number of older people across the Belgian territory, which illustrates ageing of the population at local level. In the seaside municipalities, for example, the number of people aged 65 and over lies between 25 and 30% (against 17.2% for the entire Belgian territory). This is also the case in the Walloon municipalities in the valleys of the Semois and Ourthe rivers and in the city of Spa, which also house high proportions of pensioners.

Life expectancy at birth (years)

Years	2000	2010
Men	74.6	77.4
Women	80.9	82.7
Total	77.8	80.1

The municipalities that have had a suburban character for many decades (Montignies-le-Tilleul, Chaudfontaine, Sint-Martens-Latem) are often unaffordable for young people and their population 'ages at the spot'. On the other hand, there are municipalities with a more recent suburban character and with a very demographically dynamic population and fewer older people (wider axis Brussels-Namur-Luxembourg, north of the province of Antwerp). At regional level, the Flemish municipalities generally have an older population than their Walloon counterparts. The Brussels-Capital Region is slightly different with generally ageing municipalities (Uccle, Watermael-Boitsfort, Ganshoren, Woluwé-St-Pierre) and more central municipalities with more reduced numbers of older people (7.5% in St-Josse-ten-Noode).

People aged 65 and over on 1 January 2011



Next to the ageing population, life expectancy in Belgium is also still on the rise. In the last decade life expectancy has increased by 2.3 years, from 77.8 to 80.1 years. This trend is more beneficial to men (+2.8 years) than to women (+1.8 years) and allows them to partially close the gap in terms of life expectancy at birth.

D | Foreign population

On 1 January 2011, 1,119,256 people residing in Belgium had a foreign nationality and represented 10.2% of the population. Ten years earlier foreign citizens represented 8.4% of the Belgian residing population, which equalled to 861,865 people. To compare, France had 5.9% people of foreign nationality on 1 January 2011; the Netherlands had 5.6% on 1 January 2011. The threshold of one million foreign people was reached in 2009. Two thirds of the people without the Belgian nationality on 1 January 2011 - 66% of them - were citizens of the European Union.

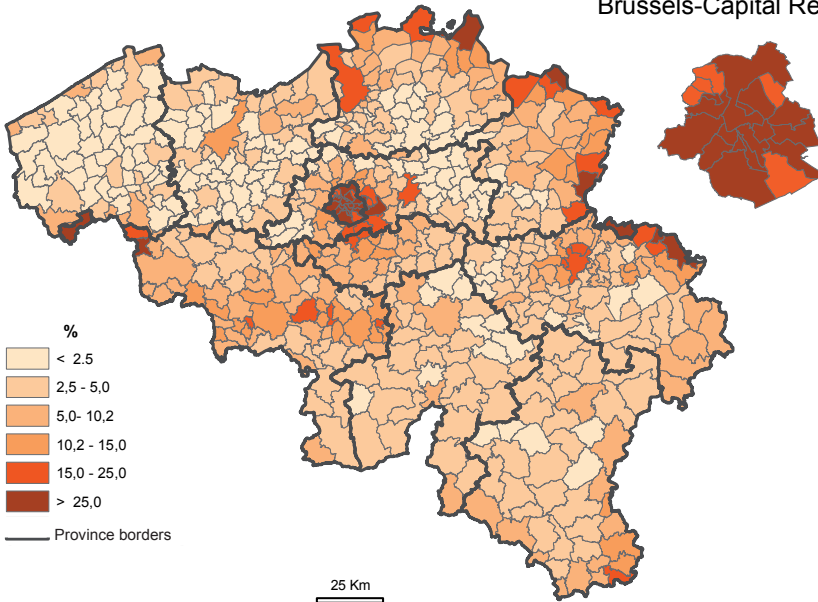
Main countries of origin of foreign citizens residing in Belgium						
Country of origin	2001			2011		
	Effective	%	Rank	Effective	%	Rank
Italy	195,586	22.7	1	162,826	14.5	1
France	109,322	12.7	2	145,272	13	2
The Netherlands	106,822	12.4	3	137,780	12.3	3
Morocco	88,813	10.3	4	84,735	7.6	4
Poland	6,928	0.8	15	49,661	4.4	5
Spain	45,356	5.3	6	47,996	4.3	6
Germany	34,579	4	7	39,841	3.6	7
Turkey	56,172	6.5	5	39,828	3.6	8
Portugal	25,634	3	9	34,464	3.1	9
Romania	2,391	0.3	31	33,600	3	10
All countries	861,685	100	-	1,119,256	100	-

On 1 January 2011, the countries of origin of these foreign residents were Italy, France, the Netherlands and Morocco. The citizens of these countries represent nearly half of the foreign population in Belgium. Ten years ago, these countries were already the main countries of origin of foreigners residing in Belgium. The number of citizens from Poland and Romania increased the most in the last decade. The number of people who held Polish citizenship multiplied by seven in ten years time, whereas the number of Romanian residents multiplied by ten. Relatively speaking, the share of people from these two countries went from less than 1% to respectively 4 and 3% of the total foreign population, while this share remained relatively the same for the other countries.

There are important differences regarding the way people of foreign nationality residing in Belgium are spread across the country. The first region where their percentage is highest is Brussels, where in some municipalities their number is nearly equal to that of Belgian citizens. This is the case for Saint-Gilles (45.7%), Ixelles (44.3%) and Etterbeek (42.1%). This region is larger than the Brussels-Capital Region and includes all the municipalities bordering the Sonian Forest, from Tervuren to Waterloo, where many American and British citizens reside.

Foreigners by municipality on 1 January 2011

Brussels-Capital Region



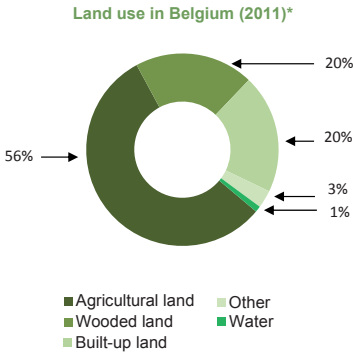
The second large region consists of many border municipalities, in particular those that border the municipalities of Lille (France), Aachen (Germany), Maastricht (the Netherlands) and Luxembourg, where many citizens from these places moved to Belgium. The most important urban centres in the country (Antwerp, Liège and Ghent) and the university cities (Leuven, Ottignies-Louvain-La-Neuve) also registered high proportions of foreign residents. Finally, they are also well-represented along the old industrial Walloon axis, where foreigners have lived for decades. This is the case for the Italian community in the Borinage and Centre regions (La Louvière).

Main countries of origin of people who obtained Belgian citizenship						
Country of origin	2005			2010		
	Effective	%	Rank	Effective	%	Rank
Morocco	7,977	25.3	1	7,380	21.3	1
Italy	2,086	6.6	3	2,833	8.2	2
Turkey	3,602	11.4	2	2,760	8.0	3
Russia	297	0.9	18	1,641	4.7	4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,917	6.1	4	1,603	4.6	5
Algeria	739	2.3	7	739	2.1	6
France	772	2.4	5	717	2.1	7
The Netherlands	672	2.1	9	641	1.9	8
Former Serbia and Montenegro	769	2.4	6	634	1.8	9
Pakistan	306	1.0	16	605	1.7	10
All countries	31,512	100	-	34,635	100	-

In 2010 34,635 people obtained the Belgian nationality. The naturalisation rate was 3.2% of the foreign population. The people who obtained the Belgian nationality in 2010 were mainly from Morocco, Italy, Turkey, Russia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nearly one in five was from Morocco and one in four was from one of the four other countries. Five years ago Morocco, Turkey and Italy were already the three main countries of origin. Russia is the country of origin with the strongest increase, from less than 1% in 2005 to nearly 5% in 2010, and went from the eighteenth to the fourth position in five years time.

2 | Territory and Environment

A | Area and land use

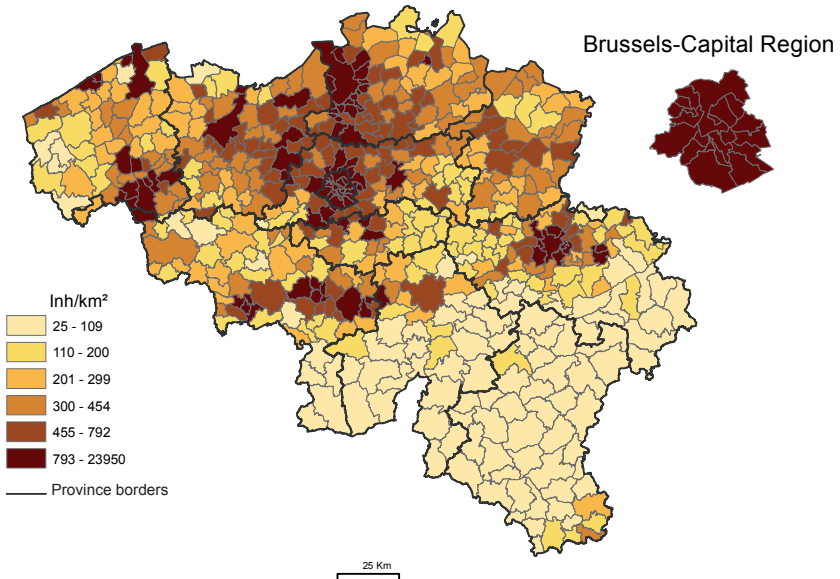


Belgium covers a land area of 30,528 km² and adds a maritime area of 3,462 km² in the North Sea. Wallonia accounts for 55.2% of this total area, or slightly more than Flanders with 44.3%. Population density is however much higher in Flanders than in Wallonia; in fact, it is twice as high. The Ardennes are relatively sparsely populated. Agricultural land represents the majority of the land area. It is followed by wooded land and built-up

land. The built-up area increases year on year, mostly to the detriment of agricultural land. Wooded land and natural areas remain relatively stable.

* Data calculated based on the definition of the cadastral nature.

Population density by municipality on 1 January 2011

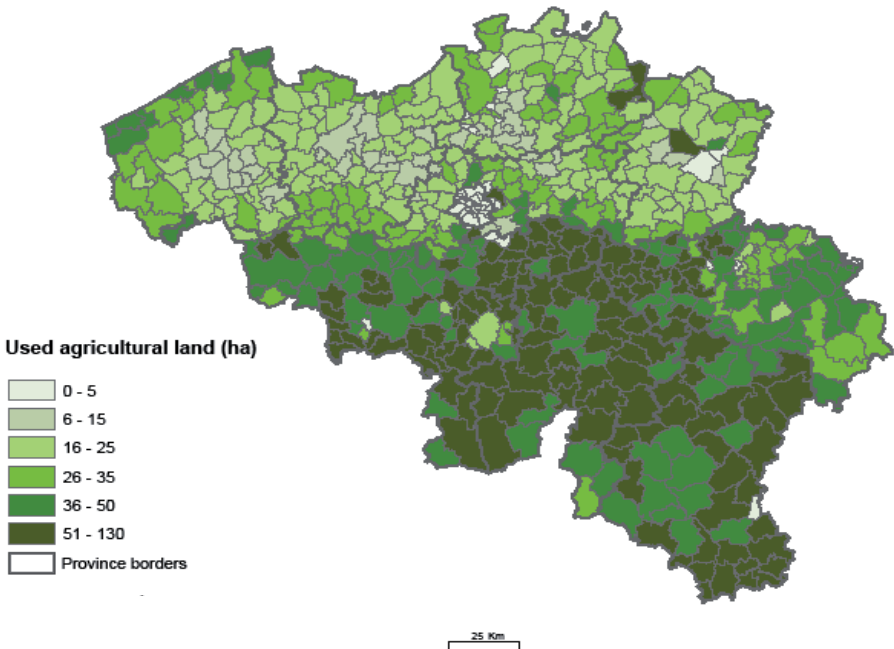


B | Agriculture

The number of agricultural and horticultural holdings shrinks year on year. In 2010 there were still 42,854 holdings. In 30 years time, the number of enterprises has decreased by a factor of 2.6 (more than 6 in 10 enterprises registered in 1980 no longer existed in 2010). The total area of all holdings, however, declines at a much slower pace. The areas of the holdings are therefore increasing. The average area increased from 12 ha in 1980 to 32 ha in 2010. This concentration of agricultural soil is a continuous evolution.



Average area of agricultural enterprises in 2010



Agriculture and horticulture			
Means of production	2010	2011	2010/2011
number of farms	42,854	39,528	*
labour force size	80,944	74,399	-8.1%
full-time	42,917	-	
utilisable agricultural land (ha)	1,358,019	1,337,303	-1.5%
Livestock (X 1,000)			
cattle	2,593	2,560	-1.2%
dairy cows	521	507	-2.5%
pigs	6,430	6,521	+1.4%
sheep	120	114	-5.4%
goats	32	36	+11.0%
hoofed animals	37	36	-2.5%
poultry	34,375	36,442	+6.0%
laying hens	11,595	12,292	+6.0%
broiler chickens	21,899	23,084	+5.4%
Crops (in ha)			
cereal grains	339,102	327,679	-3.4%
winter wheat	206,282	182,709	-11.4%
winter barley	40,512	39,641	-2.2%
grain maize	62,531	72,025	+15.2%
industrial crop	92,491	94,162	+1.8%
sugar beet	59,303	62,199	+4.9%
flax	11,048	11,296	+2.2%
rapeseed	11,279	12,016	+6.5%
potatoes	81,760	82,341	+0.7%
fodder crops	267,409	269,405	+0.7%
silage maize	176,313	173,540	-1.6%
outdoor vegetables	40,941	40,038	-2.2%
fallow land	95,920	7,307	-23.8%
cultivation of perennial plants	21,674	21,671	-0.0%
permanent pastures	499,687	488,924	-2.2%
greenhouse crops	2,140	1,819	-15.0%

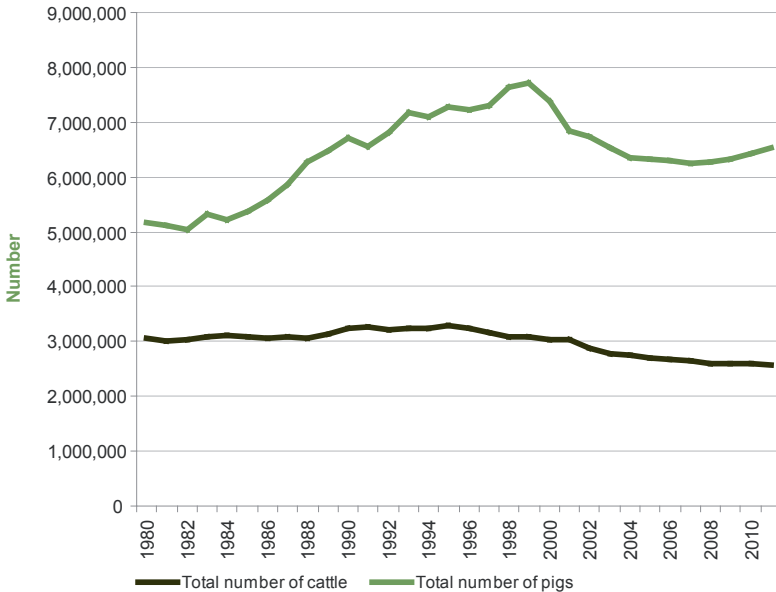
* As a result of administrative simplification, the 2011 survey is no longer based on farmers who filed a declaration in the agricultural census of 2010, but on the farmers who filed an "area declaration" at regional level. The main consequence is a reduction in the number of agricultural units (or enterprises) in the register. The year 2011 is therefore characterised by a chronological break in the register of agricultural enterprises.

However, the number of animals presents a less unambiguous evolution. The number of cattle and pigs started decreasing from the second half of the 1990s.

The number of animals per holding, however, is on a continuous increase, both for cattle as well as for pigs, which illustrates the necessity for increasing economies of scale. The number of cattle per holding amounted to 104 in 2010 compared to 38 in 1980. For pigs this number increased from 124 to 1,091 over the same period.



Evolution of the number of cattle and pigs in Belgium



C | Waste

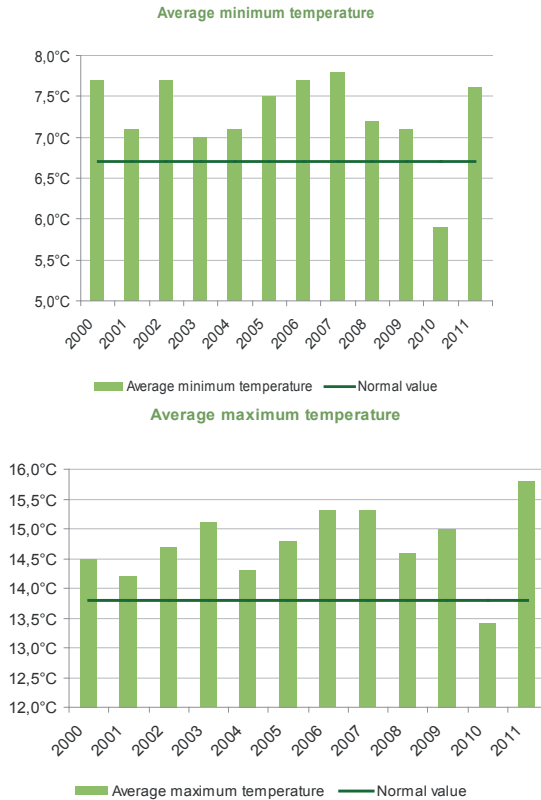
Municipal waste is waste that is collected by municipal waste collection services, civic amenity sites, sweepers,... with the exception of building materials. Waste quantities, on the increase in the past few years, decreased by nearly 4% in 2010. At the same time the recycling rate increased further and the volume of landfill waste decreased significantly. The quantity of incinerated waste decreased as well.



Selective waste collection, processing and recycling							
in 1,000 tonnes	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Production	4,613	4,874	5,024	5,256	5,242	5,277	5,074
Dumping	2,004	749	354	265	264	268	61.76
Incineration (Total)	1,637	1,580	1,757	1,749	1,833	1,811	1,746
with energy recovery	701	1,459	1,675	1,734	1,820	1,797	1,743
without energy recovery	935	121	82	16	13	13	2.9
Recycled	513	1,265	1,537	1,697	1,760	1,887	1,883
Composted or fermented	363	1,091	1,165	1,237	1,202	1,261	1,041
per capita (kg/inhabitant)	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Production	455	476	481	497	491	495	468
Dumping	198	73	34	25	25	25	6
Incineration (Total)	162	154	168	165	172	170	161
with energy recovery	69	143	160	164	171	168	161
without energy recovery	92	12	8	1	1	1	0
Recycled	51	124	147	160	165	177	174
Composted or fermented	36	107	111	117	113	118	96

D | Climate

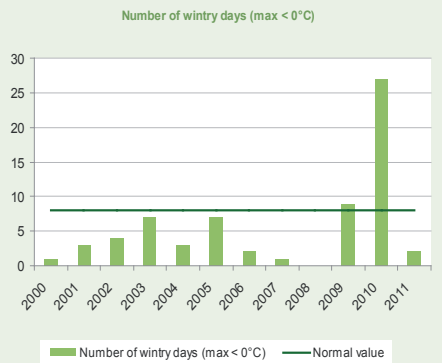
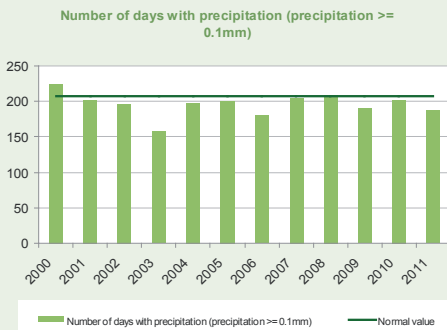
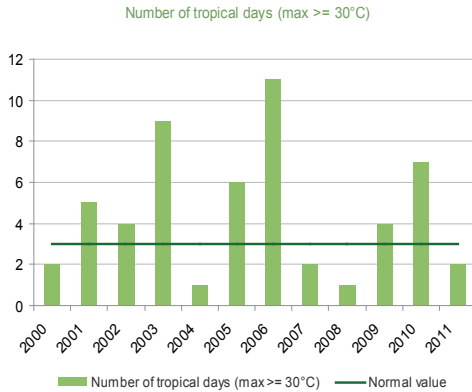
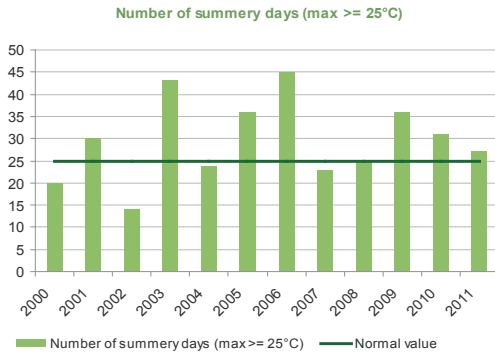
In the first decade of the 21st century, the minimum and maximum temperatures exceeded the 'normal' values nearly every year. The only exception was 2010.



Until 2008 the number of wintry days remained below the normal values; in 2009 the values were slightly higher than normal whereas 2010 reached a peak with 27 wintry days.

Source: Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium.
Measurements in Uccle

The first decade was also characterised by a higher than average number of summery days, including even some tropical days, but with strong fluctuations from one year to another.



3 | Economy

A | Gross Domestic Product and economic growth

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Belgium - the total production of goods and services in Belgium - amounted to 368.3 billion euros in 2011. Although in terms of population the country only represents 2.16% of the total European population, the GDP at market prices amounted to 2.9% of that of the European Union and 3.9% of that of the Euro area.

Gross Domestic Product at market prices (million EUR)						
	2002	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
European Union	9,946,372.9	12,397,501.2	12,466,842.7	11,745,353.9	12,255,454.4	12,629,458.3
Belgium	268,620.0	335,814.0	346,385.0	340,788.0	354,688.0	368,304.0
Germany	2,132,200.0	2,428,500.0	2,473,800.0	2,374,500.0	2,476,800.0	2,570,800.0
France	1,542,927.6	1,886,792.1	1,933,195.0	1,889,231.0	1,932,801.5	1,996,017.4
Luxembourg	23,992.3	37,490.5	39,436.5	37,392.6	40,266.9	42,821.7
Netherlands	465,214.0	571,773.0	594,481.0	571,145.0	588,414.0	602,105.0
United Kingdom	1,710,109.3	2,054,236.2	1,800,710.8	1,564,475.7	1,706,301.9	1,737,089.2
United States	11,254,547.4	10,236,191.2	9,716,820.8	9,993,547.5	10,957,607.3	10,843,390.8
Japan	4,227,909.5	3,181,241.6	3,287,696.3	3,614,690.0	4,144,643.0	4,221,566.3

Explanatory note: Market prices are the prices in a specific year. Set prices are prices compared to a base year. To calculate set prices, market prices are corrected for inflation.

To correctly compare the GDP between countries, corrections are required for the number of inhabitants and for the price level. By using the GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards, the levels of the Gross Domestic Product between the different countries can be compared.

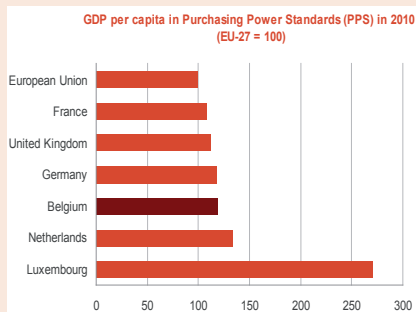
Whereas Belgium's GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards was still at the same level as Germany's in 2009, it was slightly above Germany's level in 2010. Belgium was also 19 points above the average level of the European Union.

The figures on economic growth suggest that the slight upturn in 2010 continued at a lower pace in 2011. Despite the deceleration the Belgian economy grew faster than the average of the European Union in 2011. Belgium's GDP growth, after price fluctuation corrections, amounted to 1.9% compared to an average EU growth of 1.5%. Compared to the neighbouring countries, only Germany recorded a higher growth.

Growth rate of GDP volume - percentage change on previous year								
	1990	2000	2005	2009	2010	2011	2012(f)	2013(f)
European Union	:	3.9	2	-4.3	2	1.5	0	1.3
Belgium	3.1	3.7	1.8	-2.8	2.2	1.9	0	1.2
Germany	:	3.1	0.7	-5.1	3.7	3	0.7	1.7
France	2.6	3.7	1.8	-2.7	1.5	1.7	0.5	1.3
Luxembourg	:	8.4	5.4	-5.3	2.7	1.6	1.1	2.1
Netherlands	4.2	3.9	2	-3.5	1.7	1.2	-0.9	0.7
United Kingdom	0.8	4.5	2.1	-4.4	2.1	0.7	0.5	1.7
United States	1.9	4.1	3.1	-3.5	3	1.7	2	2.1
Japan	5.6	2.3	1.3	-5.5	4.4	-0.7	1.9	1.7

(f): forecast

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. To measure the growth rate of GDP in terms of volume, the GDP at current prices is valued in the prices of the previous year and the calculated 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								
Gross value added by activity, estimates at current prices (in million euro, gross data)								
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Growth 2011/2006	Growth 2011/2010
Agriculture, hunting and forestry and fishing	2,418	2,488	2,077	2,044	2,319	2,015	-16.7%	-13.1%
Industry	54,050	55,875	55,370	50,041	52,491	56,242	4.1%	7.1%
Construction	15,323	16,637	17,996	17,750	17,999	18,967	23.8%	5.4%
Services	212,348	224,310	234,199	234,887	243,369	251,567	18.5%	3.4%
Commerce, transport and communications	70,203	74,473	76,870	74,544	77,170	80,125	14.1%	3.8%
Financial inter- mediation, real estate, renting and business activities	77,736	82,438	85,838	86,338	89,533	91,528	17.7%	2.2%
Government and education	39,305	40,957	43,290	44,794	46,210	48,066	22.3%	4.0%
Other services	25,104	26,442	28,201	29,211	30,456	31,848	26.9%	4.6%
Other components	34,691	36,505	36,744	36,065	38,510	39,513	13.9%	2.6%
Gross domestic product at mar- ket prices	318,829	335,814	346,385	340,788	354,688	368,304	15.5%	3.8%

Data source: Institute for National Accounts

In the services sector, 'financial services, real estate, rent and services to enterprises' account for the largest share in 2011, with 36.4% of the total production of the services sector, followed by 'trade, mobility and transport' with 31.9% and 'government and education' with 19.1%.

A breakdown of the Belgian GDP shows that Belgium maintains its service economy trend. However, it should be noted that the share of the tertiary sector (services) in the GDP was still 68.6% in 2010, but diminished slightly to 68.3% in 2011.

The slight decline in the share of the tertiary sector is due to an increase in the share of the secondary sector (industry and construction) from 19.9% in 2010 to 20.4% in 2011. The share of the primary sector (agriculture) decreased further to 0.5%.

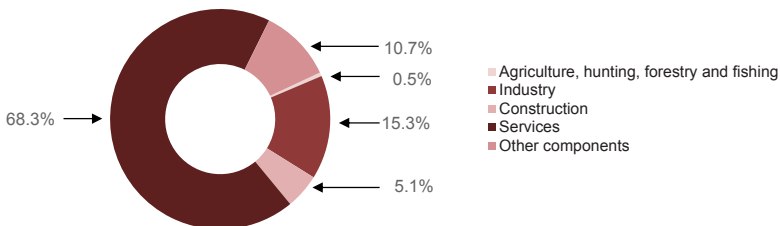
B | Prices

The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is designed to compare price changes at European level. The evolution of this index shows that prices in Belgium grew less strongly than the European average between 2005 and 2011. However, the increase was even smaller in the neighbouring countries The Netherlands, France and Germany. Only Luxembourg saw a stronger increase than Belgium. In 2011 prices in Belgium increased faster than the European average and, especially affected by increasing energy prices, headline inflation in Belgium in 2011 was higher than in the neighbouring countries The Netherlands, France and Germany. Also in 2011 Luxembourg saw a stronger increase than Belgium.

HICP - global index - average yearly indexes (2005 = 100)									
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Inflation 2011
European Union	88.45	100	102.31	104.73	108.56	109.63	111.91	115.38	3.1%
Belgium	90.67	100	102.33	104.19	108.87	108.86	111.4	115.27	3.5%
Germany	92.4	100	101.8	104.1	107	107.2	108.4	111.1	2.5%
France	90.46	100	101.91	103.55	106.82	106.93	108.79	111.28	2.3%
Luxembourg	87.12	100	102.96	105.69	110.01	110.02	113.1	117.32	3.7%
Netherlands	87.06	100	101.65	103.26	105.54	106.57	107.56	110.23	2.5%
United Kingdom	93.1	100	102.3	104.7	108.5	110.8	114.5	119.6	4.5%

Explanatory note: Harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICPs) are designed for international comparisons of consumer price inflation.

Breakdown of the gross domestic product 2011



Comparing the comparative consumer price levels reveals that Belgium was a relatively expensive country in 2010. Its index is 11.4 points above that of the EU average. However, there is a slight decrease compared to 2009. Compared to the neighbouring countries except Luxembourg, Belgium is also more expensive for consumption expenditure.

Comparative price levels of final consumption by private households including indirect taxes (UE-27=100)						
	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
European Union	100	100	100 (b)	100	100	100
Belgium	113.7	102	106.4 (b)	110.3	112.3	111.4
Germany	118.8	106.5	103.3 (b)	103.5	106.1	104.3
France	118.5	105.9	108.2 (b)	110.7	112.4	110.8
Luxembourg	113.6	101.5	111.6 (b)	117.2	120.9	120.5
Netherlands	111.3	100.1	104.7 (b)	104.1	107.8	107.6
United Kingdom	92.4	120	109.8 (b)	103	96.6	100.2
United States	88.3	121.2	92.6	81.8	88.7	92.3
Japan	185.9	198.4	120.3	101.9	119.7	128.5

(b): break in series

Explanatory note: 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) compared to the EU average.

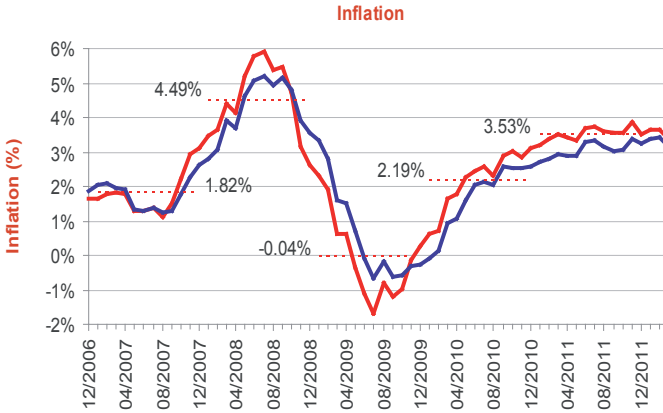


The national Belgian consumer price index shows that the index rose to 117.7 in 2011, which resulted in an annual inflation rate of 3.5% compared to 2.2% in 2010.

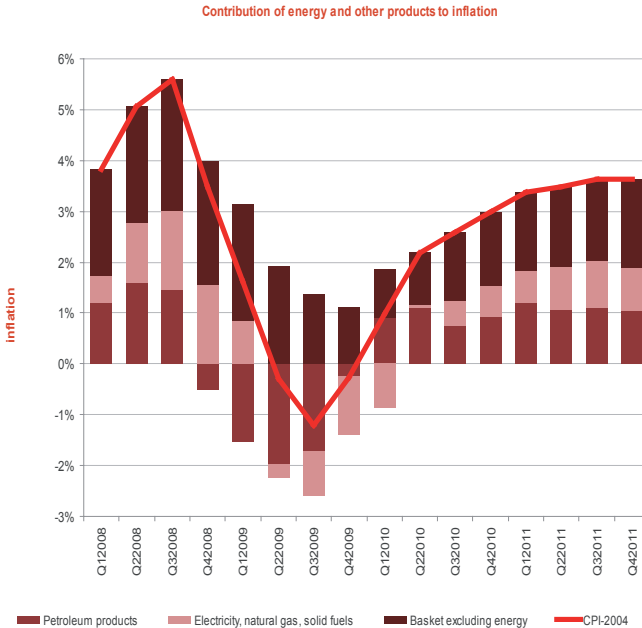
Consumer price index (base 2004=100) and inflation: Belgium									
2004 = 100	General (CPI)	Inflation	Food products	Non-food products	Services	Rent	General excluding oil products	General excluding energy products	Health Index
2000	92.6	2.5	90.6	95.5	91.3	92.0	92.3	92.1	92.8
2001	94.9	2.5	94.4	96.1	93.5	93.7	95.0	94.6	95.2
2002	96.4	1.6	96.5	96.7	96.0	96.0	96.9	96.7	97.0
2003	97.9	1.6	98.5	97.8	97.7	98.2	98.5	98.4	98.4
2004	100.0	2.1	100.0	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	102.1
2006	104.6	1.8	104.2	105.2	103.9	105.6	103.9	105.6	104.0
2007	106.5	1.8	108.0	106.3	105.8	107.4	105.9	107.3	105.8
2008	111.3	4.5	114.2	112.6	107.9	109.5	109.4	107.9	110.3
2009	111.3	0.0	115.5	109.5	111.0	111.7	110.9	109.9	110.9
2010	113.7	2.2	117.2	113.0	112.6	112.9	112.4	111.4	112.8
2011	117.7	3.5	120.1	119.0	115.1	114.1	115.3	113.4	116.1

The consumer price index, which takes into account price trends of all goods and services, forms the basis of another index: the health index. The value of this index is determined by removing a number of products from the consumer price index product basket, in particular alcoholic beverages (bought in a shop or consumed in a bar), tobacco products and motor fuels except for LPG. The health index is used for rent indexation and also forms the basis of the smoothed index (the average value of the health index in the last 4 months), on which the indexations of pensions, social benefits and some wages and salaries are based.





In 2011 the health index remained below the consumer price index because the price increases of especially motor fuels are not included in the calculation of this specific index. This means that price decreases of motor fuels are not taken into account either. This explains why the health index was above the consumer price index in 2008.



Inflation in 2011 was determined half by energy products. The contribution of petroleum products was slightly larger than that of electricity, natural gas and other solid fuels.

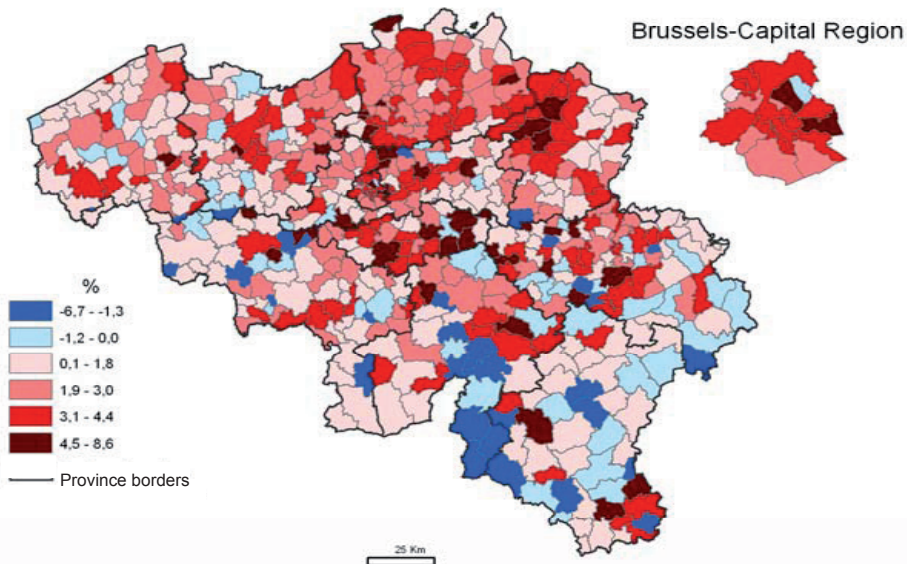
C | Enterprise demography

Enterprise demography					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Active enterprises at the start of the current year	722,208	739,544	755,657	763,831	779,791
First submissions	65,138	62,996	59,432	65,195	67,155
Re-registration	7,358	7,455	7,631	8,507	9,150
Suspensions	-55,160	-54,338	-58,889	-57,742	-58,319
Emigration: Brussels-Capital Region	-2,625	-2,522	-2,248	-2,605	-2,417
Emigration: Flemish Region	-1,623	-1,601	-1,568	-1,731	-1,675
Emigration: Walloon Region	-1,269	-1,356	-1,186	-1,316	-1,369
Emigration: other - foreign	-642	-562	-388	-428	-362
Immigration: Brussels-Capital Region	1,983	2,027	1,782	2,007	2,012
Immigration: Flemish Region	1,955	1,919	1,646	1,997	1,777
Immigration: Walloon Region	1,993	1,883	1,820	1,894	1,849
Immigration: other - foreign	228	212	142	182	185
Active enterprises at the end of the current year	739,544	755,657	763,831	779,791	797,777

At the end of 2011 there were nearly 798,000 enterprises subject to VAT in our country, of which 60% were based in the Flemish Region, 30% in the Walloon Region and 10% in the Brussels-Capital Region. This represents a 2% increase compared to 2010, similar to that of 2010 compared to the previous year. Whereas the number of de-registrations/closures in 2010 declined by 2% compared to 2009, their numbers increased again by 1% in 2011 compared to 2010.



Increase/decrease in % of enterprises subject to VAT in 2011

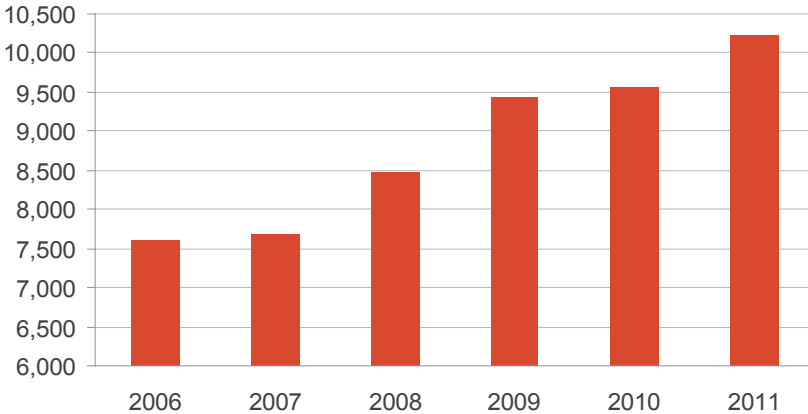


Explanatory note: The map indicates the difference between the submissions and suspensions in 2011 compared to the number of active enterprises in 2010. Positive values indicate that there were more submissions than suspensions in that municipality. Negative values reflect a decrease in the number of enterprises in the municipality by the indicated proportion.

D | Enterprise bankruptcies

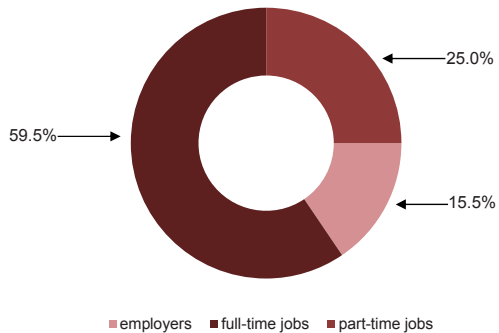
In 2011, 23,112 jobs were lost as a result of 10,224 bankruptcies. The number of bankruptcies increased by nearly 7% compared to 2010, three times as much as the increase in 2010 compared to 2009 but still below the levels of 2009 and 2008 (10 and 11% respectively). Most bankruptcies occur in the services and trade sectors, 31 and 26% respectively. Together they represented 50% of job losses in 2011. However, on average bankruptcies in the industry sector have the largest impact. In this sector in 2011 each bankruptcy accounted for 6.2 job losses.

Number of bankruptcies 2006-2011



At regional level there are almost no differences with regard to the average job loss per bankruptcy. The number of bankruptcies compared to the number of active enterprises at the end of 2011 hardly differs between the Flemish and Walloon Region and is 1% for both. However, in the Brussels-Capital Region the number of bankruptcies is considerably higher: nearly 3% of the active enterprises.

Loss of jobs in 2011



Property and construction

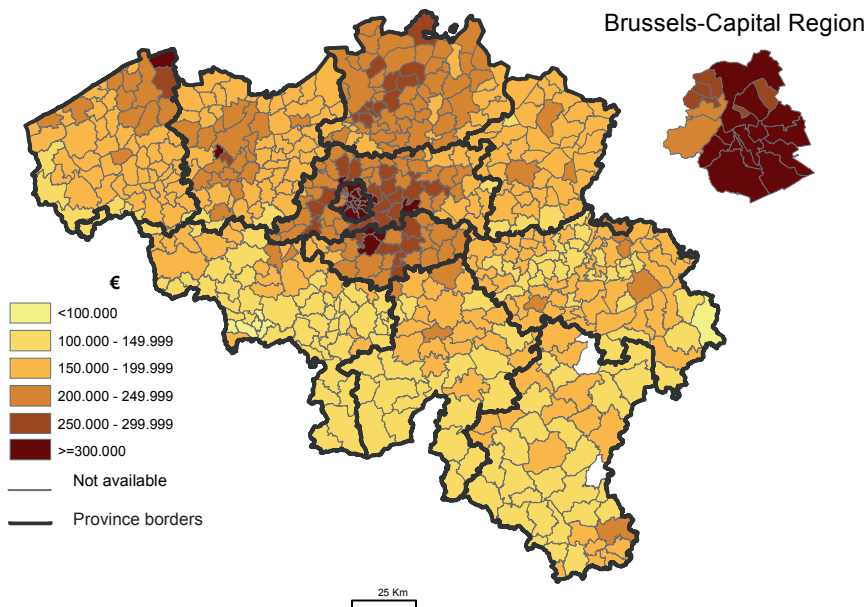
A | Property prices

In 2011, a house cost on average 188,391 euros. Villas cost on average 330,865 euros. A standard flat had a price tag of 195,402 euros. Prices for building plots were on average 102,6 euros/m². Since 1975, the average sales price of a house increased tenfold, whereas the general price level over the same period multiplied by slightly more than three. In the last 35 years, houses increased in value three times as much as the prices of the other products.

Average sales prices of houses and building plots						
	1975	2000	2005	2009	2010	2011
Regular houses						
- number of transactions	51,561	69,082	69,145	61,630	65,704	67,597
- average price (euros)	18,765	79,661	131,948	172,260	181,032	188,391
Villas, bungalows, country houses						
- number of transactions	2,696	7,977	1,662	16,095	17,738	17,956
- average price (euros)	67,074	266,927	262,630	301,454	319,578	330,865
Apartments, studios						
- number of transactions	16,081	30,047	32,959	37,191	44,396	41,775
- average price (euros)	30,011	88,943	141,267	177,823	189,723	195,402
Building plots						
- number of transactions	49,002	27,175	26,920	17,586	19,817	18,425
- average price (euros/m ²)	8.8	38.5	71.3	94.7	102.9	102.6

Explanatory note: 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.

Average house prices by municipality - 2011



The dark areas of this map show the highest property prices. These areas are mainly located around large cities such as Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent, and near the coast, led by Knokke-Heist. The prices near Arlon are pushed upward because of commuters to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



B | Building permits

Crisis year 2009 saw the number of building permits for new residential buildings decline by more than 11% compared to 2008. 2010 announced a sharp recovery, but in 2011 the number of building permits for new residential buildings fell again by more than 13%. The decrease in 2011 is the most marked among single-family houses, whereas the decrease in 2009 was the most marked among flats. The Flemish Region saw the largest decrease in 2011: -15%. In The Walloon Region this figure was -9.7%. In The Brussels-Capital Region, the number of building permits for new residential buildings even fell by nearly 23%. Remarkable is that the previous decline in 2009 was sharper in Wallonia (-15.2%) than in Flanders (-9.5%).

Building permits							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
A. New buildings							
Residential buildings							
Number of residential buildings	31,518	30,687	27,529	27,688	24,515	27,077	23,484
- Brussels-Capital Region	339	309	244	298	240	223	173
- Flemish Region	22,072	20,506	18,326	18,198	16,476	18,766	15,940
- Walloon Region	9,107	9,872	8,959	9,192	7,799	8,088	7,371
Number of houses	59,384	61,083	53,923	52,629	45,437	49,774	44,326
- Number of single-family houses	27,776	26,596	23,841	24,300	21,671	24,119	20,854
- Number of apartments	31,608	34,487	30,082	28,329	23,766	25,655	23,472
Average habitable floor area per house (m ²)	104	103	103	105	107	105	105
Non-residential buildings							
Number of non-residential buildings	4,221	4,508	4,521	4,775	4,420	4,749	4,608
B. Renovations							
Number of conversions of residential buildings	28,014	28,734	27,792	28,528	27,728	28,842	26,937
Number of conversions of non-residential buildings	5,988	6,073	5,968	5,861	5,225	5,245	5,187

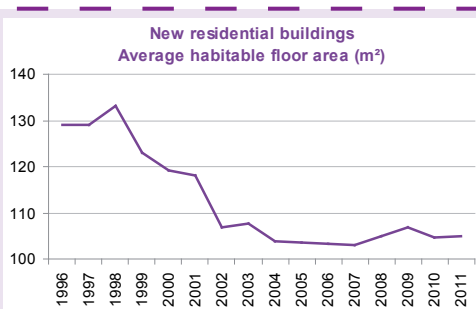
The average living space of the Belgians is shrinking: the average habitable floor area of new houses in Belgium has decreased by nearly 19% in the last 15 years, from 129 m² to 105 m².

C | Inventory of buildings in Belgium

Since 1992, the number of buildings in Belgium has risen by 12.7%. On 1 January 2011, Belgium had 4,394,166 buildings. The number of houses rose over the same period by 19.4% to 5,131,391. The strongest increase was recorded in the Flemish Region: 21.7% more houses and 14% more buildings. The Walloon Region positions itself close to the Belgian average with 18.3% more houses and 12.2% more buildings. The increase in the number of buildings in the Brussels-Capital Region is slightly less marked than in the two other regions (0.5%), but its housing stock increased by 11.1%.

The building stock, Belgium and the regions (2011)				
	Brussels-Capital Region	Flemish Region	Walloon Region	Belgium
Number of buildings	194,069	2,590,288	1,609,809	4,394,166
Number of buildings erected after 1981	10,797	704,878	287,646	1,003,321
Number of buildings with a built floor area smaller than 45 m ²	6,970	34,546	43,642	85,158
Number of buildings with a built floor area between 45 and 64 m ²	7,626	155,146	161,095	323,867
Number of buildings with a built floor area between 65 and 104 m ²	70,837	614,397	431,871	1,117,105
Number of buildings with a built floor area larger than 104 m ²	32,102	1,352,089	663,345	2,047,536
Number of buildings with central heating or airconditioning	110,622	1,570,456	785,486	2,466,564
Number of residential buildings	545,313	2,985,366	1,600,712	5,131,391

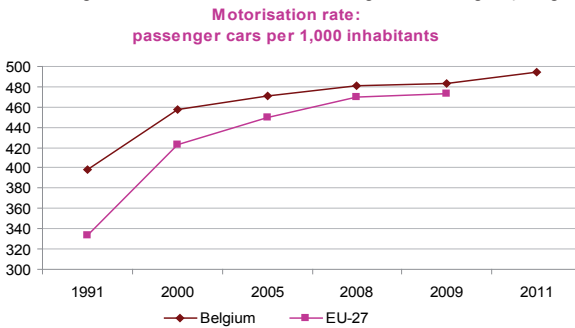
The age of the buildings differs greatly across the regions. In the Flemish Region 27.2% of the buildings were erected after 1981, whereas this goes for only 17.9% of the buildings in the Walloon Region and only 5.6% of the buildings in the Brussels-Capital Region.



5 | Mobility and transport

A | Vehicles

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



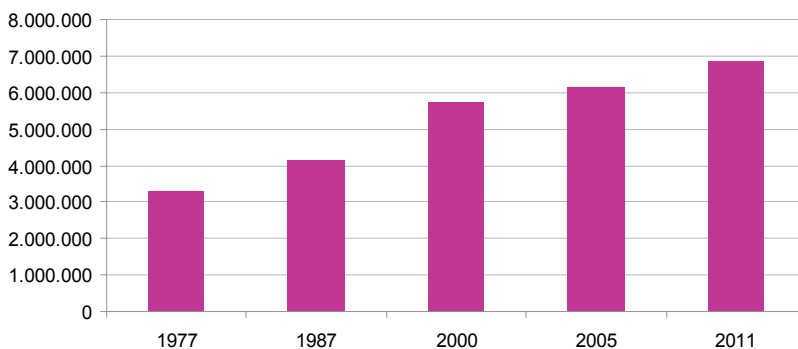
In 1977, there was one car per 3.55 inhabitants. Belgium is now heading towards one car per two inhabitants. In ten years time, the degree of motorisation has gone up by nearly 25%.

Car density: in passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants					
	1991	2000	2005	2008	2009
European Union	334	423	450	470	473 (e)
Belgium	398	457	471	481	483
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

In mid-2011, there were almost 6.9 million vehicles on our roads. The majority (nearly 5.5 million) were passenger vehicles, in other words: nearly one vehicle for each Belgian aged 25 to 60. There were also more than 760,000 Belgium-registered 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 39% in ten years time

Motor vehicle fleet (1977-2011)



Motor vehicle fleet							
on 1 August + evolution	1977	1987	2000	2005	2011	Growth 2011/2000	Growth 2011/1977
Motor vehicle fleet (including motorcycles)	3,315,071	4,158,127	5,735,034	6,158,742	6,861,777	19.6%	107.0%
Passenger cars	2,773,344	3,497,818	4,678,376	4,918,544	5,407,015	15.6%	95.0%
- petrol	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%
Buses 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%
Road 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%
Inhabitants per passenger car on 1 August	3.55	2.84	2.19	2.12	2.03		

(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.

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

After a sharp decline in the number of new car registrations in Belgium in 2009, there was again an increase by more than 12% in 2010 and a smaller increase in 2011.

Remarkable is the sharp increase of second-hand passenger vehicles in 2011 and, relatively speaking, of the number of new and second-hand agricultural tractors.

The number of bus and coach registrations decreased further in 2011.

Registrations of vehicles						
	1998	2008	2010	2011	Growth 2011/1998	Growth 2011/2010
Registration of new vehicles	549,172	656,112	644,275	682,399	+24.26%	+5.92%
Passenger cars	463,724	540,542	551,661	577,382	+24.51%	+4.66%
Buses and coaches	1,031	1,207	1,020	717	-30.46%	-29.71%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	54,711	70,497	56,793	66,037	+20.70%	+16.28%
Road tractors (b)	5,495	6,331	3,409	5,355	-2.55%	+57.08%
Agricultural tractors	2,944	3,901	2,860	3,283	+11.51%	+14.79%
Motorcycles (c)	21,267	30,112	26,343	26,845	+26.23%	+1.91%
Registration of second-hand vehicles (d)	755,199	742,926	776,324	854,815	+13.19%	+10.11%
Passenger cars	677,272	653,109	676,572	745,858	+10.13%	+10.24%
Buses and coaches	1,137	810	768	727	-36.06%	-5.34%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	66,048	77,426	87,584	95,247	+44.21%	+8.75%
Road tractors (b)	4,698	3,288	3,568	3,963	-15.64%	+11.07%
Agricultural tractors	6,044	8,293	7,832	9,020	+49.24%	+15.17%

(a) Lorries, vans, all-terrain vehicles, tankers.

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

(c) All motorcycles that can go over 40 km/h, i.e. all motorcycles and most mopeds.

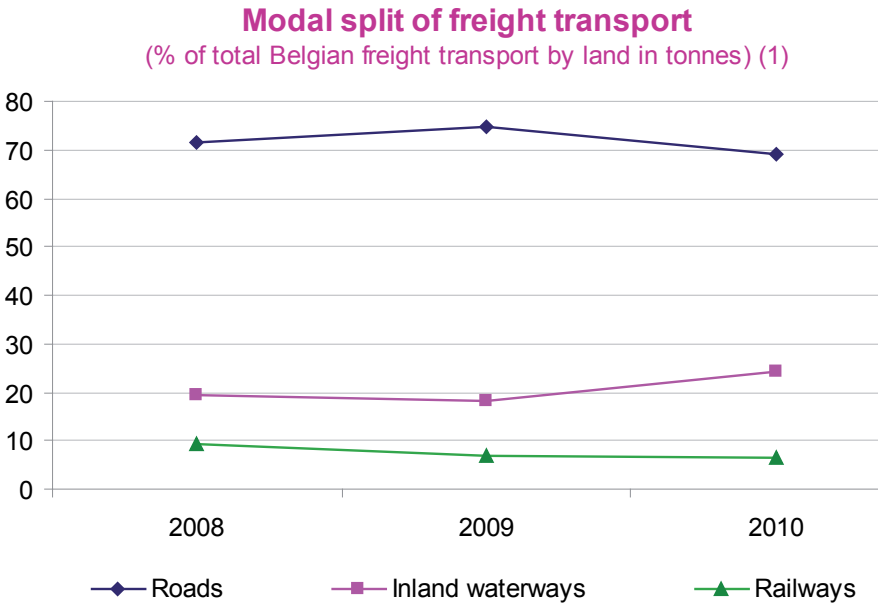
(d) Excluding motorcycles.

B | Freight transport

Road transport remains the main mode of transport in Belgium (nearly 70% of the total transport), even though its lead over inland navigation is slightly dwindling.

Freight transport by rail has been decreasing further since 2008.

As far as the total quantities transported on Belgian territory across the different modes of transport are concerned, the shares of national transport (47%), import (22%), export (22%) and transit (8%) have remained more or less constant throughout the years.



[1] transport by Belgian + foreign vehicles

Road transport by vehicles registered in Belgium was on a very slow recovery in 2010. Compared to 2000, freight transport by Belgian vehicles went down by about 30%. This may be due to the delocalisation abroad of transport by road.

Carriage of goods by road by vehicles registered in Belgium									
	Unit	1996	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2010/ 2009	2010/ 2000
Weight transported	1,000 t	367,603	411,623	337,863	317,599	297,824	296,149	-1%	-28%
Tonne-km	mln tkm	42,756	51,023	43,846	38,355	36,173	35,001	-3%	-31%

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 least one tonne.

Maritime shipping remains an important sector in our country and an indicator of the current situation of the economy. 2009 saw the effects of the economic crisis, but 2010 already announced a considerable recovery. Also in 2011 the number of loaded and unloaded goods went up, despite lower shipping activity. Passenger transport (excluding cruises) is still on the decline because of the success of Eurostar and reduced ferry services.

Shipping							
	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011/ 2010
Arrivals (a)	32,594	30,785	34,028	27,441	28,812	28,306	-1.8%
Departures (a)	30,385	28,342	34,995	28,114	29,640	29,262	-1.3%
Loadings (x 1,000 t)	68,801	89,999	102,907	91,272	100,794	102,543	+1.7%
Unloadings (x 1,000 t)	111,082	116,667	138,370	110,692	125,561	128,375	+2.2%
Disembarked passengers (x 1,000)	766	391	333	276	300	243	-19.0%
Embarked passengers (x 1,000)	757	391	339	290	310	254	-18.1%

(a) Including extra-European Union transit.

C | Road accidents

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

	1998	2003	2005	2008	2010
European Union	123	102	132	78	62
Belgium	147	117	143	88	77*
Germany	95	80	116	54	45
France	153	101	154	67	62
Luxembourg	135	118	173	72	64
Netherlands	68	63	86	41	32
United Kingdom	61	62	65	43	31

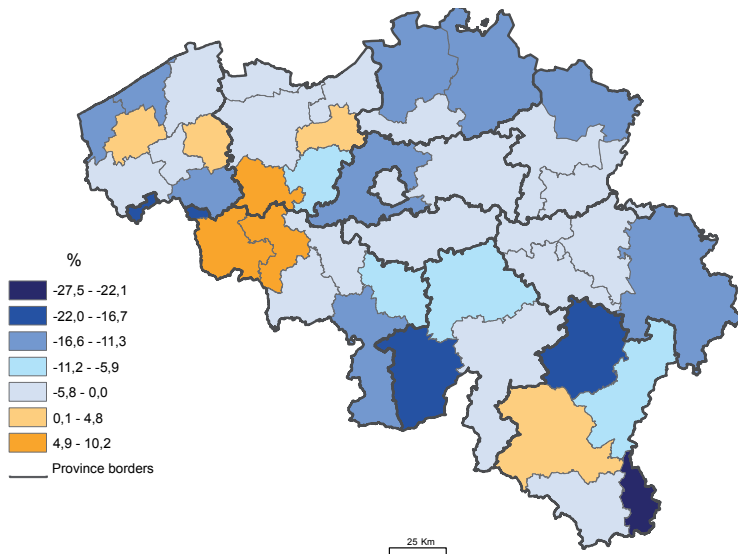
People killed in road accidents: number of deaths in absolute figures

	1998	2003	2005	2008	2010
European Union	58,982	50,351	45,346	34,500	30,900
Belgium	1,500	1,214	1,089	943	840*
Germany	7,792	6,613	5,361	4,152	3,648
France	8,920	6,058	5,318	4,273	3,992
Luxembourg	57	53	46	47	32
Netherlands	1,066	1,028	750	644	537
United Kingdom	3,581	3,658	3,336	2,337	1,905

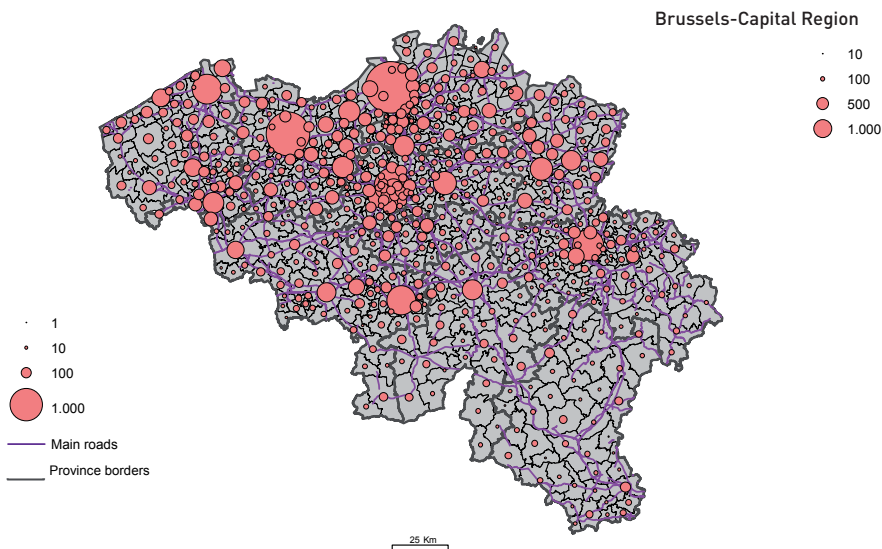
* Eurostat numbers + updated for Belgium by Statistics Belgium.

In 2010, the total number of accidents with casualties fell by nearly 4% compared to 2009, from 47,798 road accidents to 45,927. There is also a remarkable decline with regard to the gravity of the accidents: fewer fatalities (3.8%), fewer deaths 30 days (10.9%), fewer serious casualties (10.0%) and fewer light casualties (3.0%). This confirms the long-term evolution in the entire country.

Evolution of the number of road accidents by arrondissement between 2005 and 2010



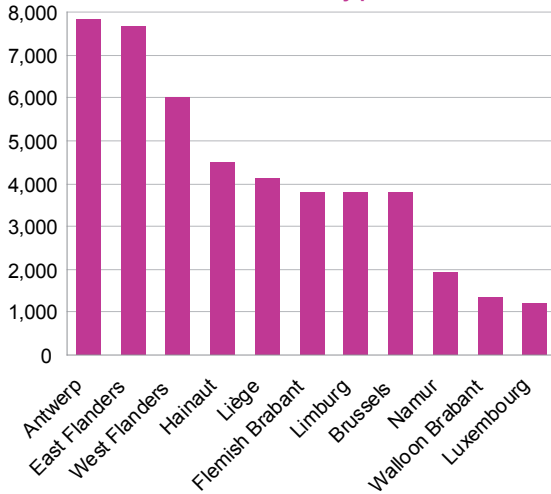
Number of accidents by municipality - 2010



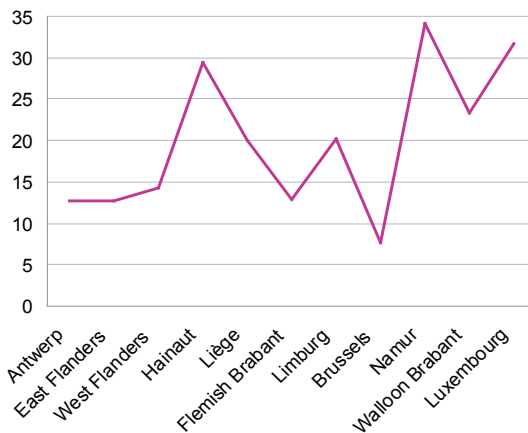


The number of accidents varies greatly across the country. The provinces of Antwerp, East Flanders and West Flanders record a higher number of accidents. However, when it comes to the gravity of the accidents, the provinces of Hainaut, Namur and Luxembourg record a higher number of deaths per one thousand accidents.

Number of road accidents by province - 2010



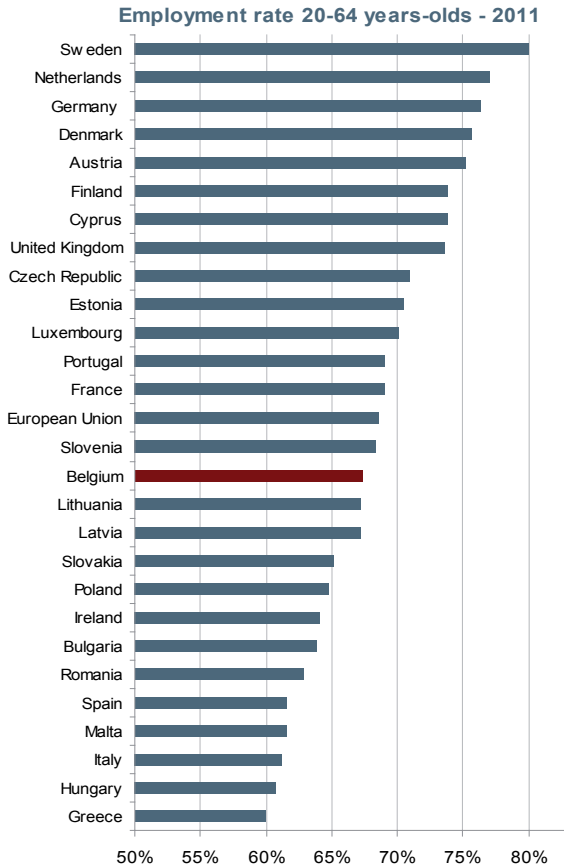
Number of deaths per 1,000 accidents by province - 2010





A | Employment and employment rate

As part of the new long-term strategy for a strong and sustainable economy with a wealth of job opportunities, the so-called Europe 2020 Strategy, the European Union established that by 2020 75% of European citizens aged 20 to 64 should have a job. Similar to all European member states, Belgium has decided on its own national target. This is set at 73.2%.



In 2011, 67.3% of people aged 20 to 64 in Belgium were employed. The Belgian employment rate is therefore slightly lower than the European average of 68.6%. The highest employment rates are found in Sweden, The Netherlands and Germany. Employment rates are lowest in Greece, Hungary and Italy.

Over 2.5 million of the total number of employed people in Belgium (4.5 million) work in Flanders, 1.15 in Wallonia and over 700,000 in Brussels.

The majority of the working population (3.9 million) works in the region they live in. This is 86.5% of the working population. Over 500,000 people who live in Belgium commute to another region for their work and slightly over 100,000 people even cross the border to go to work. The largest commuter flows are found to be from the Flemish and Walloon Regions to Brussels.



361,000 Flemings and Walloon people commute to the Brussels-Capital Region. Commuter flows between the Flemish and Walloon Regions are more limited. In 2011 53,000 Walloon people worked in Flanders whereas 28,000 Flemings earned their living in Wallonia. Finally 45,000 people from Brussels work in Flanders, 21,000 in Wallonia.

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Place of residence versus place of work (2011)						
		Place of work				
		Brussels-Capital Region	Flemish Region	Walloon Region	Abroad	Total
Residence	Brussels-Capital Region	342,000	45,000	21,000	5,000	413,000
	Flemish Region	234,000	2,455,000	28,000	43,000	2,760,000
	Walloon Region	127,000	53,000	1,104,000	53,000	1,336,000
	Total	703,000	2,553,000	1,153,000	101,000	4,509,000

Part-time work has been on the rise for years. The number of part-time workers increased further in 2011. For the first time more than one million employees worked part-time. More specifically, there were 1,020,000 part-time employees in total, of which 819,000 women and 201,000 men.

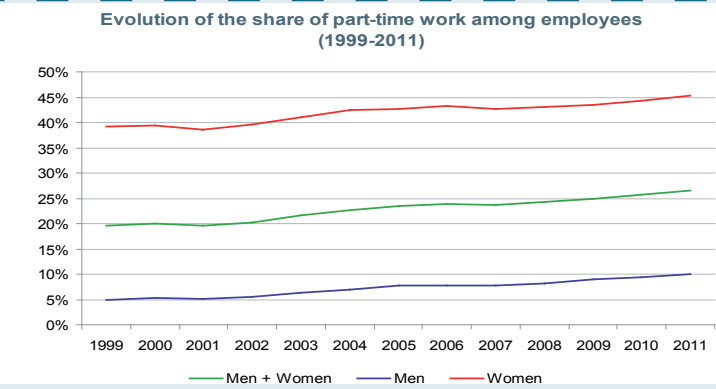
E

In 1999 19.5% of all employees worked part-time. This percentage increased to 26.6% in 2011. Despite the fact that the percentage of part-time working men doubled between 1999 and 2011, part-time work remains especially popular among women. In 2011 45.3% of all employed women worked part-time, compared to 9.9% of employed men.

Part-time employment (% of the total employment)* in Belgium by NACE section		2011
A	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	23.0
B	Mining and quarrying	12.3
C	Manufacturing	13.5
D	Production and distribution of electricity, gas, steam and cooled air	7.1
E	Distribution of water, waste management, waste water management and clean-up	9.7
F	Construction	7.8
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair motor vehicles and motorcycles	30.3
H	Transport and storage	16.1
I	Supply of facilities and meals	47.4
J	Information and communication	12.0
K	Financial activities and insurances	23.1
L	Real estate activities	31.7
M	Liberal professions and scientific and technical activities	19.9
N	Administrative and assisting services	36.9
O	Public administration and defence; mandatory social insurances	23.1
P	Education	30.0
Q	Health and social work	49.1
R	Art, amusement and recreation	32.8
S	Other services	39.8
T	Households as employers; non-differentiated production of goods and services for domestic use	77.8
U	Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	6.4
	Total	26.6

* 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 economical activities in Europe.



The importance of part-time work differs greatly across the different sectors of work. Part-time work is especially popular in sectors that employ many women. Nearly 78% of (mainly female) staff employed in private households work part-time. Almost half of employees in healthcare and social work (49.1%) work part-time. Part-time work is also popular in the following sectors: 'accommodation and food service activities' (47.4%), 'administrative and support activities' (36.9%), 'arts, entertainment and recreation' (32.8%), 'real estate activities' (31.7%), 'wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' (30.3%) and in education (30.0%).



Part-time work is least frequent in the following sectors: 'extra-territorial organisations and bodies' (6.4%), 'electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' (7.1%) and in construction (7.8%).

In 2011 part-time workers in Belgium worked on average 23.7 hours per week, which is more than the European average and also more than part-time workers in our neighbouring countries. People who worked full-time in 2011 worked on average 41.4 hours per week, which is slightly less than the EU average of 41.6 hours per week.

Hours worked per week of full-time employment Annual average								
	1997	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
European Union	:	:	41.9	41.8	41.8	41.6	41.6	41.6
Belgium	40.6	38.5	41.1	41.2	40.9	41	41.2	41.4
Germany	41.7	41.8	41.5	41.7	41.7	41.8	41.8	41.9
France	41.1	40.2	41	41.1	41	41.1	41.1	41.2
Luxembourg	40.3	40.7	40.9	39.9	40	40.9	40.6	40.5
Netherlands	41.3	41	40.7	40.9	40.8	40.8	41	40.9
United Kingdom	44.9	44.2	43.2	43	43	42.8	42.8	42.8

Hours worked per week of part-time employment Annual average								
	1997	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
European Union	:	:	19.8	20	20	20	20.1	19.9
Belgium	21.5	22.5	23.1	23.6	23.6	23.8	23.9	23.7
Germany	18.2	17.8	17.4	17.9	17.9	18.2	18.3	18.1
France	22.6	23.1	23.3	23.4	23.4	23.1	23.1	23.1
Luxembourg	19.9	21.3	21.2	22.2	22.2	19.8	20.7	21.6
Netherlands	18.6	18.7	19	19.3	19.5	19.6	19.7	19.8
United Kingdom	17.8	18.2	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.9	18.8

(:): 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.

B | Wages and salaries

Women earn less than men. In 2010 the average gross hourly wages of women were 8.6% lower than the average wages of their male colleagues. Nonetheless, from an international perspective Belgium ranks highly, since the pay gap in the European Union was 16.4%.

Gender pay gap in unadjusted form in %					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
European Union	17.7	17.6	17.4	16.9	16.4
Belgium	9.5	9.1	9	8.8	8.6
Germany	22.7	23	23.2	23.2	23.1
France	15.4	16.9	17.1	15.5	16
Luxembourg	10.7	12.5	12.4	12.5	12
Netherlands	23.6	23.6	19.6	19.2	18.5
United Kingdom	24.3	21.1	21.4	20.6	19.5

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.

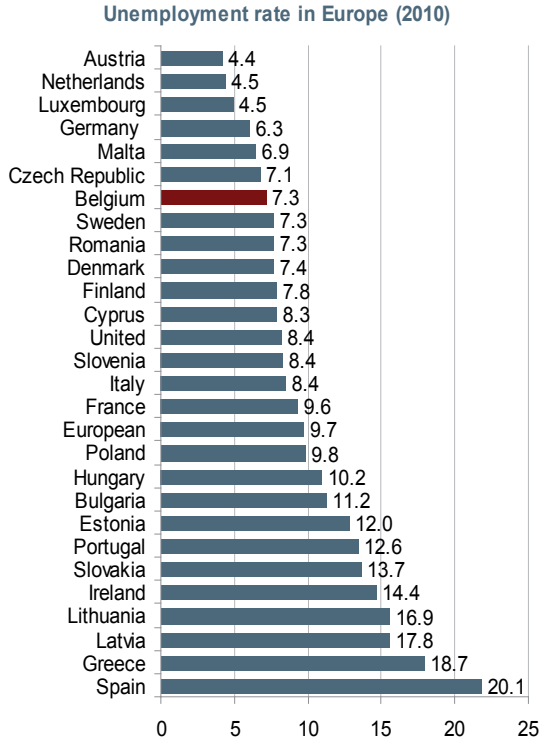
Average labour cost per hour in industry and market services			
Country	2011	2010	2011 / 2010
EU-27	23.1	22.5	2.67%
Belgium	39.3	38.2	2.88%
Germany	30.1	29.1	3.44%
France	34.2	33.1	3.32%
Luxembourg	33.7	32.7	3.06%
The Netherlands	31.1	30.5	1.97%
United Kingdom	20.1	20.0	0.50%

With an average cost of 39.3 euros per hour, labour in Belgium is considerably higher than in the neighbouring countries. The labour cost per hour in France, for example, is 15% lower than the Belgian figures; in The Netherlands it is even 26% lower. However, the figures are slightly different if they only reflect the most recent evolution. In 2011 the average labour costs increased the most in Germany, and also in France and Luxembourg the labour cost per hour increased more than in Belgium.

C | Unemployment and unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in the European Union varies between 4.2% (Austria) and 21.8% (Spain) and is on average 9.7%. In 2011 7.2% of the labour force in Belgium were unemployed. Only six EU member states have a lower unemployment rate than Belgium. They are Austria, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Malta and the Czech Republic. Lithuania, Latvia, Greece and Spain registered the highest unemployment rates.

There are even larger discrepancies in the European Union with regard to the unemployment rate of young people under 25. Youth unemployment is the lowest in The Netherlands: 7.6%. In Spain, however, 46.4% of the labour force under 25 are unemployed. The Belgian youth unemployment rate in 2011 amounted to 18.7%. Belgium therefore scores better than the European average of 21.3%.



Unemployment rate of the under-25s	
	2011
European Union	21.3
Belgium	18.7
Germany	8.6
France	22.1
Luxembourg	16.8
Netherlands	7.6
United Kingdom	21.1

D | Inactive population

In 2011 Belgium had 4,272,000 inactive people aged 15 and older. They do not do any paid work and are not actively seeking work or are not available for work. 1,788,000 of them are men, 2,484,000 women. More than half of the inactive population are in non-activity before retirement, enjoy a bridging pension, are in early retirement or retired. 20.3% of the inactive population aged 15 and older are pupils or students, 11.6% are homemakers, 7.5% are disabled and 9.4% are inactive but do not belong to any of the above categories. The breakdown is different between men and women. 57.3% of inactive men enjoy a bridging pension or are retired, compared to 47% of inactive women. Less than 1% of inactive men is househusband, whereas nearly 1 in 5 inactive women are housewives. In absolute figures these are 480,000 housewives compared to 16,400 househusbands.



Composition of the inactive population aged 15 and over (2011)						
	Men		Women		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Student	429,500	24.0%	436,000	17.6%	865,500	20.3%
Housewife/househusband	16,400	0.9%	479,600	19.3%	495,900	11.6%
Permanently disabled	152,300	8.5%	166,800	6.7%	319,000	7.5%
Retired or enjoying bridging pension	1,023,600	57.3%	1,168,400	47.0%	5,192,100	51.3%
Other inactive	166,100	9.3%	233,400	9.4%	399,500	9.4%
Total	1,788,000	100.0%	2,484,100	100.0%	4,272,000	100.0%

E | Income and poverty risk

In Belgium 14.6% of people live in households where the income is lower than the poverty threshold. In 2010 this poverty threshold was set at 973 euros for people who live alone or 2,044 euros for a household consisting of two adults and two children (966 euros and 2,028 euros respectively in 2009).

Poverty risk in %				
	2005	2009	2009	2010
European Union	16.4 (s)	16.4	16.3	16.4
Belgium	14.8	14.7	14.6	14.6
Germany	12.2 (b)	15.2	15.5	15.6
France	13 (b)	12.7 (b)	12.9	13.5
Luxembourg	13.7	13.4	14.9	14.5
Netherlands	10.7 (b)	10.5	11.1	10.3
United Kingdom	19 (b)	18.7	17.3	17.1

b): break in series (s): Eurostat estimate

Percentage of the population below the poverty threshold (2010)

	Men	Women	Total
Belgium	13.9	15.2	14.6
Flemish Region	10	10.8	10.4
Walloon Region	16.8	18.7	17.7
0-15 years	:	:	18.5
16-64 years	11.8	12.7	12.3
65 years old and over	18.7	20	19.4

(:): not available

The average income is higher in Flanders than in the two other regions. The data on the poverty risk confirm these proportions: in Flanders, 10% of the population live below the poverty threshold, whereas this figure increases to nearly 18% in Wallonia. Women run a significantly higher risk of poverty than men and older people also form a vulnerable group. Keeping a job is the best remedy against poverty, but this is no absolute guarantee. The poverty risk among the employed population is at least five times lower than that of other categories.

Next to monetary poverty new indicators have been introduced such as severe material deprivation. People considered «severely materially deprived» are confronted with at least 4 of the 9 following situations: they cannot afford to pay rent or utility bills, to keep their home adequately warm, to face unexpected expenses, to eat meat, fish or an equivalent protein source every two days, to go on a one-week holiday away from home, a car, a washing machine, a colour TV or a telephone. In Belgium 6% of the population belong to a household that is confronted with severe material deprivation. This figure amounts to 8% in the European Union. More than others, people from households at risk of monetary poverty are affected by material deprivation (22%).

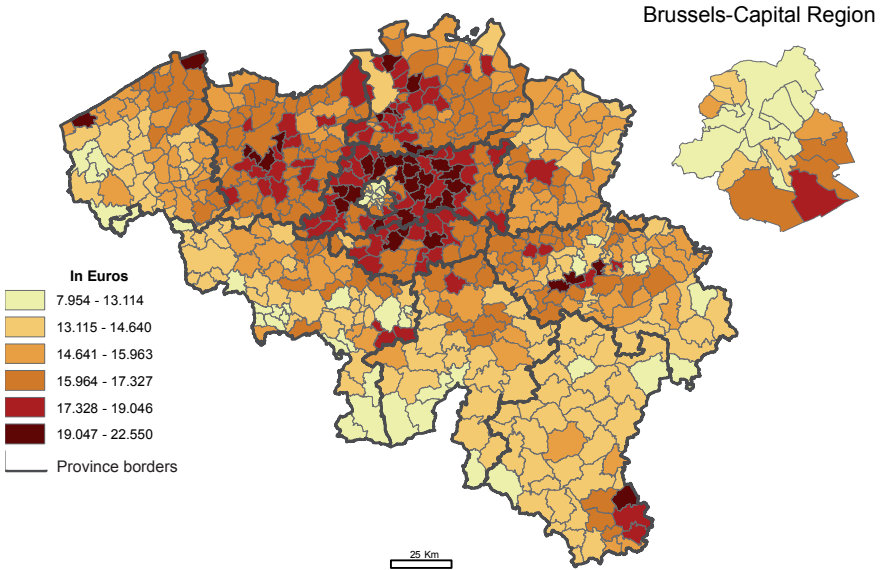
Severe material deprivation (in %)			
	2005	2009	2010
European Union	10.7 (s)	8.1 (s)	8.1
Belgium	6.5	5.2	5.9
Germany	4.6	5.4	4.5
France	5.3	5.6	5.8
Luxembourg	1.8	1.1	0.5
The Netherlands	2.5	1.4	2.2
United Kingdom	5.3	3.3 (u)	4.8

(s): Eurostat estimate (u) : unreliable

Percentage of the population below the poverty line (2010)			
	Men	Women	Total
Employed active persons	4.8	4.2	4.5
Inactive persons	22.1	21.8	21.9
Unemployed	30.7	29.9	30.4
Retired	16.5	15.7	16.1
Other inactive persons	24.5	24.5	24.5
Level of education: low	21.5	24.4	23
Level of education: medium	11	12.3	11.6
Level of education: high	6.2	5.6	5.9



Average income per population per municipality in 2009



The average per capita income is highest in the Flemish Region, whereas the Brussels-Capital Region and the Walloon Region score below the national average. Sint-Martens-Latem is the most affluent municipality. The average per capita income in this municipality is 45% higher than the Belgian average. Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode is at the other end of the scale. The per capita income in this municipality is half of the national average and 65% below the per capita income in Sint-Martens-Latem.

A tax return may be filled out by one or two people. In general the individual declaration is taken, but people who are married or legally cohabiting must fill out a collective declaration. Among the individual declarations, the declared income is highest in the Flemish Region. An average inhabitant of the Flemish Region has an annual income that is 2.6% above the Belgian figure. The average inhabitant of the Walloon Region has an annual income that is 5.0% below the national figure.

For people who are married or legally cohabiting, the declared income is also highest in the Flemish Region. Inhabitants of the Brussels-Capital Region are at the other end of the scale. In 2009 their average income was 10.8% lower than the national figure. People from Brussels who are married or legally cohabiting have an income that is nearly 11% lower than the amount declared by the average Belgian.

Income from tax returns: Belgium and the regions							
	Type of declaration	2007		2008		2009	
		Average income per return (€)	Median income per return (€)	Average income per return (€)	Median income per return (€)	Average income per return (€)	Median income per return (€)
Brussels-Capital Region	Individual declaration	17,777	13,437	18,455	14,104	18,736	14,382
	Collective declaration	37,969	26,294	39,527	27,531	39,863	28,065
Flemish Region	Individual declaration	16,217	13,440	18,365	15,858	18,785	16,282
	Collective declaration	42,283	34,272	44,000	35,773	45,058	36,583
Walloon Region	Individual declaration	16,217	13,440	16,990	14,226	17,371	14,670
	Collective declaration	40,407	32,762	42,348	34,346	43,237	35,147
Belgium	Individual declaration	17,152	14,375	17,912	15,104	18,301	15,546
	Collective declaration	41,424	33,211	43,195	34,713	44,150	35,507

Median = 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.

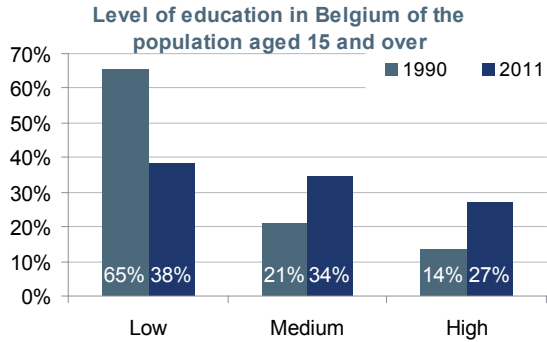
In Belgium, average household expenditure of private households amounted to 34,800 euros in 2010. The majority of these expenses was spent on housing (house and garden) (32.4%), followed by culture, leisure, hotel and catering and travelling (16.6%), transport and communication (15.7%), and food, drinks and tobacco (15.3%).

At regional level, households in the Flemish Region spent the most, with 35,900 euros on average, compared to 33,900 and 31,750 euros for households in the Walloon and Brussels-Capital Region respectively. In fact, households in the Flemish Region spent more than households in the two other regions for the majority of the budget items. This is especially the case for expenditure on culture, leisure, hotel and catering and travelling (6,260 euros compared to 5,090 in the Brussels-Capital Region and 5,140 in the Walloon Region).

Average expenditure per household and per year by region - 2010				
	Amount in euros			
	Belgium	Brussels-Capital Region	Flemish Region	Walloon Region
Food, drinks and tobacco	5,310	4,860	5,420	5,280
Clothing and footwear	1,570	1,330	1,710	1,400
Housing (house and garden)	11,290	10,720	11,500	11,120
Health and personal care	1,630	1,630	1,650	1,600
Transport and communication	5,480	4,590	5,720	5,350
Culture, leisure, hotel and catering and travelling	5,770	5,090	6,260	5,140
Other expenditure	3,750	3,530	3,640	4,010
Total average spending	34,800	31,750	35,900	33,900
	Distribution in percent			
	Belgium	Brussels-Capital Region	Flemish Region	Walloon Region
Food, drinks and tobacco	15.3%	15.3%	15.1%	15.6%
Clothing and footwear	4.5%	4.2%	4.8%	4.1%
Housing (house and garden)	32.4%	33.8%	32.0%	32.8%
Health and personal care	4.7%	5.1%	4.6%	4.7%
Transport and communication	15.7%	14.5%	15.9%	15.8%
Culture, leisure, hotel and catering and travelling	16.6%	16.0%	17.4%	15.2%
Other expenditure	10.8%	11.1%	10.1%	11.8%
Total average spending	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

F | Education

The level of education of the Belgian population has increased substantially in the last 25 years. In 1986, 68% of the population aged 15 and over had at the most a diploma of lower secondary education. This percentage of low-skilled people was only 38% in 2011. The number of high-skilled people on the other hand has increased substantially. In 1986, 12% of the population aged 15 and over had a diploma of higher secondary education. 25 years later, the percentage of high-skilled people had increased to 27%. In 2011, 34% of the population had a diploma of higher secondary education without having finished higher education.



In 2010, more than 44% of Belgian 30- to 34-year-olds had a diploma of higher education. Belgium scores well above the European average of 33.6%. Women perform remarkably 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.

Based on this indicator, Eurostat checks if all member states will reach the important European target of ensuring that 40% of 30- to 34-year-olds in Europe will have a diploma of higher education or similar by 2020. Together with most neighbouring countries, our country has already reached this target.

Percentage of the population aged 30-34 with a certificate of higher education					
	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010
European Union	22.4	28	31.1	32.2	33.6
Belgium	35.2 (b)	39.1	42.9	42	44.4
Germany	25.7	26.1 (b)	27.7	29.4	29.8
France	27.4	37.7	41.2 (p)	43.2 (p)	43.5 (p)
Luxembourg	21.2	37.6	39.8	46.6 (p)	46.1 (p)
The Netherlands	26.5	34.9	40.2	40.5	41.4 (b)
United Kingdom	29	34.6	39.7	41.5	43

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

The EU2020 strategy also stipulates that the number of early school leavers must be reduced to 10% by 2020. 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. Compared to 2000, the percentage of early school leavers in Belgium decreased from 13.8% to 11.1% in 2009. In 2010 this figure increased again to 11.9%. The same percentage was registered in Germany. The EU average amounts to 14.1%.



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	2010
European Union	17.6 (e)	15.8 (b)	14.9	14.4	14.1
Belgium	13.8 (b)	12.9	12	11.1	11.9
Germany	14.6	13.5 (b)	11.8	11.1	11.9
France	13.3	12.2 (b)	11.9	12.3	12.6 (p)
Luxembourg	16.8 (b)	13.3 (b)	13.4	7.7 (p)	7.1 (u)
Netherlands	15.4	13.5 (b)	11.4	10.9	10.1 (b)
United Kingdom	18.2 (b)	11.6 (b)	17 (b)	15.7	14.9

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