

2009

Key figures

Belgium and the European Union

Statistics Belgium



Colophon

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Introduction

Dear reader,

Welcome to an elaborate version of our yearly key figures.

Belgium is currently presiding the European Union, an opportunity which we could not let go by unnoticed. From the start, our nation has been one of the pioneers of European integration and it has built an excellent reputation as a mediator throughout the years. We therefore found it natural to publish an edition of our yearly key figures that sheds a European light on Belgium.

Our website offers a complete range of information on the most diverse topics to meet the requirements of public authorities, the business sector and citizens. Relevant statistics are a prerequisite to plan efficiently and to initialise goal-oriented actions. Students, researchers and all those in search of knowledge need figures and statistics.

In this brochure you will mainly find figures, tables and graphs, a consequence of comparing our country with 26 other member states. We have also limited the number of topics. Instead of aiming for comprehensiveness, we have pursued interesting comparisons and relevant information. We are very grateful to everybody who, in one way or another, contributed to the realisation of this brochure.

“Measuring is knowing” is true now more than ever. We hope you will find some interesting details in these figures. However, they are only a sample of the wealth of information on our website (www.statbel.fgov.be).

We wish you an enjoyable read!






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b break in series

c confidential

e estimated value

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i see explanatory text

n not significant

p provisional value

r revised value

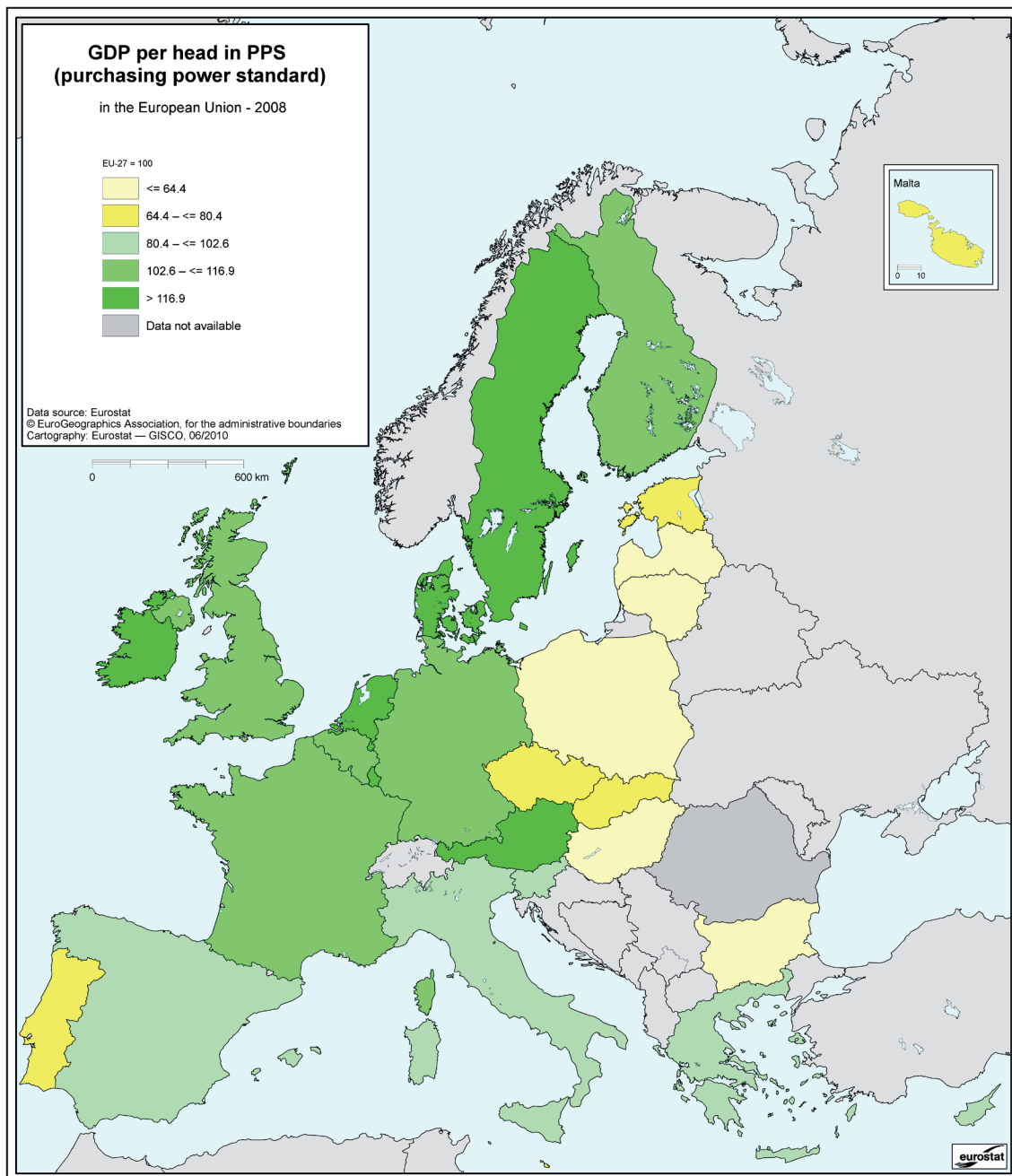
S Eurostat estimate

U unreliable or uncertain data

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1 | Economy







A | Gross Domestic Product and economic growth

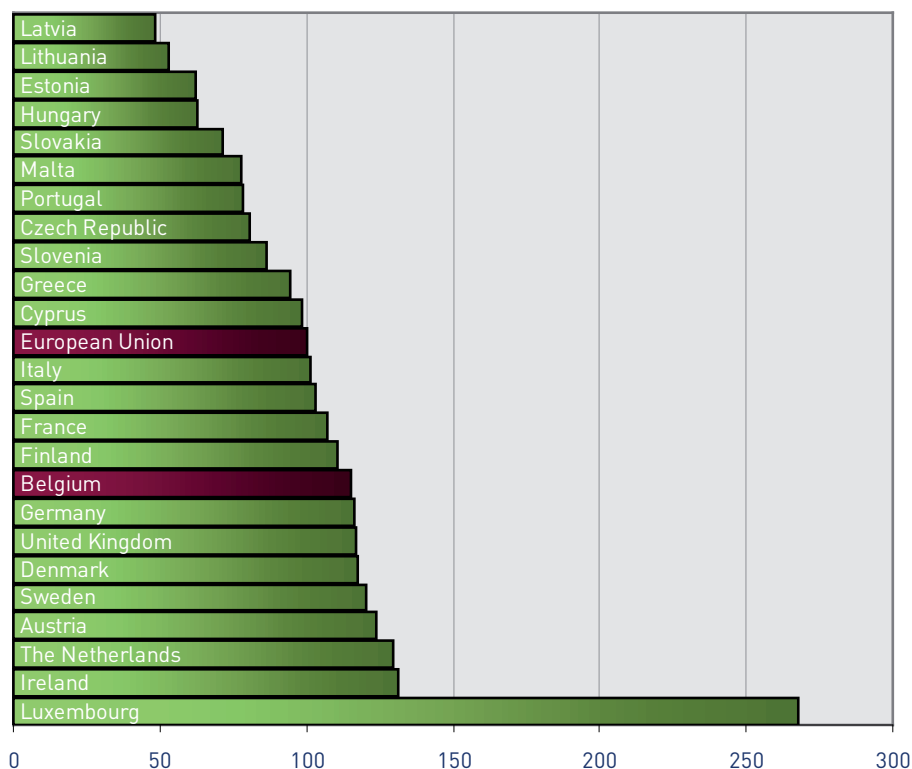
The calculation of the GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards allows for a comparison of the level of the Gross Domestic Product between the different Member States. In this field, Belgium does rather well since it comes in ninth position.

In 2009, the worldwide economic crisis had devastating effects on the European growth. It was indeed negative in all European countries (with the notable exception of Poland). Nevertheless, Belgium resisted better than many of its European partners because the decline in its GDP was smaller than the European average. The GDP decreased by 3% in Belgium against 4.2% on average in the European Union.

The Belgian economy counts for much at European level. Although ranking tenth by population and representing only 1/47 of the total European citizens, the country has the 7th economy and its GDP at market prices at current prices accounts for 1/35 of that of the European Union.

Nowadays, the Belgian economy is a service economy. The weight of the tertiary sector (services) is increasing more and more and represented nearly 70% of the GDP generated in Belgium in 2009. On the other hand, the primary (agriculture) and secondary (manufacturing industry and construction) sectors are losing ground. This is also the trend in most other European countries.

GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) (EU-27 = 100) 2009



GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) (EU-27 = 100)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Luxembourg	243.7	254.4	272.1	275.0	276.3	267.8
2	Ireland	130.8	143.7	145.1	147.8	135.3	131.0
3	The Netherlands	134.2	130.8	131.1	132.1	133.9	129.8
4	Austria	131.0	124.0	125.0	123.0	123.0	124.0
5	Sweden	127.6	121.8	122.9	125.2	122.2	120.3
6	Denmark	131.6	123.6	124.1	121.2	120.0	117.3
7	United Kingdom	119.0	122.0	120.0	117.0	116.0	117.0
8	Germany	118.5	116.8	116.1	115.7	115.6	116.2
9	Belgium	126.1	119.7	117.7	115.6	115.1	114.9
10	Finland	117.1	114.3	114.0	117.8	116.8	110.4
11	France	115.4	110.6	108.7	108.4	107.8	107.3
12	Spain	97.0	102.0	105.0	105.0	103.0	103.0
13	Italy	116.8	104.8	104.1	103.5	101.7	101.6
	European Union	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14	Cyprus	88.7	90.9	90.6	93.5	95.8	98.2
15	Greece	84.0	91.8 (p)	93 (p)	92.7 (p)	94.2 (p)	94.7
16	Slovenia	79.7	87.5	87.6	88.6	90.9 (b)	86.1
17	Czech Republic	68.4	75.9	77.0	80.0	80.3	80.4
18	Portugal	81.0	79.3	78.8	78.1	78.4	78.3
19	Malta	83.6	77.8	77.2	76.7	76.0	77.6
20	Slovakia	50.1	60.2	63.4	67.6	72.2	71.5
21	Hungary	55.3	63.1	63.2	62.6	64.4	63.0
22	Estonia	45.0	61.6	65.1	68.8	67.3	62.0
23	Lithuania	39.3	52.9	55.3	59.3	61.9	53.1
24	Latvia	36.7	48.6	51.6	55.7	57.0	48.5
-	Poland	48.2	51.3	51.9	54.4	56.4	:
-	Romania	26.0	35.0	38.4	41.6	:	:
-	Bulgaria	27.7	34.5	36.5	37.7	41.3	:

Data source: EUROSTAT

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

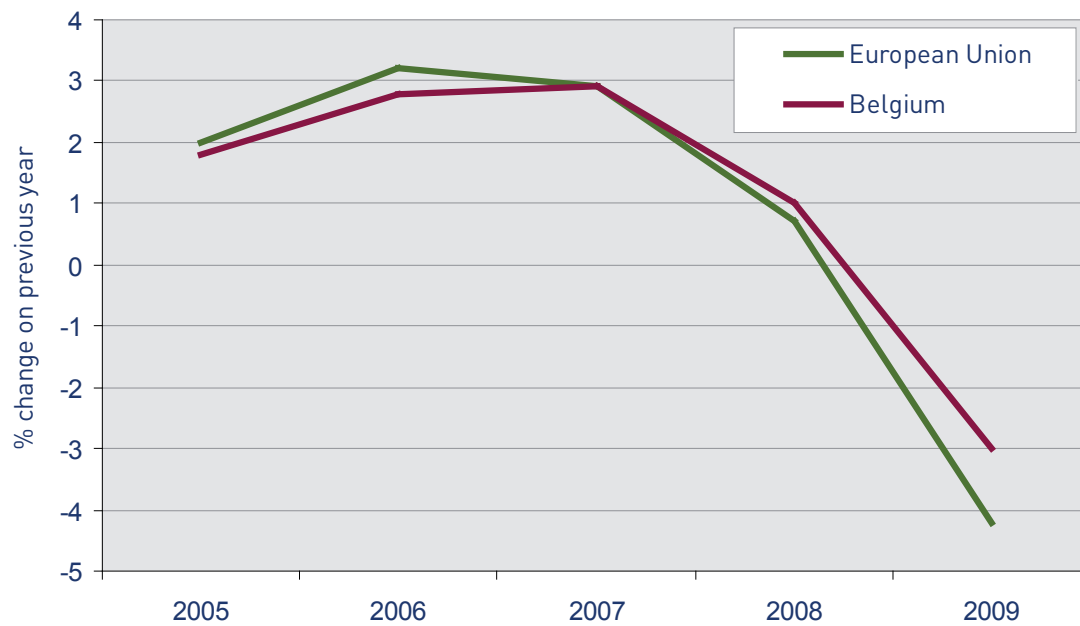
Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Poland	4.3	3.6	6.2	6.8	5.0	1.7
2	Malta	:	3.9	3.6	3.8	1.7	-1.5
3	Cyprus	5.0	3.9	4.1	5.1	3.6	-1.7
4	Greece	4.5	2.2 (p)	4.5 (p)	4.5 (p)	2 (p)	-2.0
5	France	3.9	1.9	2.2	2.4	0.2	-2.6
	Portugal	3.9	0.8	1.4	2.4	0.0	-2.6
7	Belgium	3.7	1.8	2.8	2.9	1.0	-3.0
8	Luxembourg	8.4	5.4	5.6	6.5	0.0	-3.4
9	Austria	3.7	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.0	-3.5
10	Spain	5.0	3.6	4.0	3.6	0.9	-3.6
11	The Netherlands	3.9	2.0	3.4	3.6	2.0	-4.0
12	Czech Republic	3.6	6.3	6.8	6.1	2.5	-4.1
	European Union	3.9	2.0	3.2	2.9	0.7	-4.2
13	Slovakia	1.4	6.7	8.5	10.6	6.2	-4.7
14	Denmark	3.5	2.4	3.4	1.7	-0.9	-4.9
	Germany	3.2	0.8	3.2	2.5	1.3	-4.9
	United Kingdom	3.9	2.2	2.9	2.6	0.5	-4.9
17	Bulgaria	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.0	-5.0
	Italy	3.7	0.7	2.0	1.5	-1.3	-5.0
19	Sweden	4.5	3.2	4.3	3.3	-0.4	-5.1
20	Hungary	4.9	3.5	4.0	1.0	0.6	-6.3
21	Ireland	9.4	6.2	5.4	6.0	-3.0	-7.1
	Romania	2.4	4.2	7.9	6.3	7.3	-7.1
23	Slovenia	4.4	4.5	5.8	6.8	3.5	-7.8
	Finland	5.3	2.9	4.4	4.9	1.2	-7.8
25	Estonia	10.0	9.4	10.0	7.2	-3.6	-14.1
26	Lithuania	3.3	7.8	7.8	9.8	2.8	-14.8
27	Latvia	6.9	10.6	12.2	10.0	-4.2	-18.0

Data source: EUROSTAT

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.



**Growth rate of GDP volume -
EU and Belgium between 2005-2009**



Gross Domestic Product at market prices at current prices (million EUR)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	European Union	9,203,807.8	11,065,882.8	11,687,188.8	12,371,365.0	12,506,172.1	11,808,717.0
1	Germany	2,062,500.0	2,242,200.0	2,325,100.0	2,428,200.0	2,495,800.0	2,409,100.0
2	France	1,441,371.0	1,726,068.0	1,806,429.4	1,895,284.0	1,948,511.0	1,907,145.0
3	United Kingdom	1,602,239.6	1,833,954.4	1,944,750.9	2,044,133.0	1,818,946.9	1,566,740.7
4	Italy	1,191,057.3	1,429,479.3	1,485,377.3	1,546,177.4	1,567,851.2	1,520,870.0
5	Spain	630,263.0	908,792.0	984,284.0	1,052,730.0	1,088,502.0	1,051,151.0
6	The Netherlands	417,960.0	513,407.0	540,216.0	568,664.0	595,883.0	570,208.0
7	Belgium	252,216.0	302,845.0	318,193.0	334,948.0	344,676.0	337,284.0
8	Poland	185,713.8	244,420.1	272,088.9	311,001.7	362,415.1	310,075.1
9	Sweden	268,252.6	298,353.3	318,170.8	337,944.2	334,227.0	292,680.4
10	Austria	207,528.8	243,584.9	256,161.6	270,782.4	281,867.5	277,073.5
11	Greece	137,929.5	195,366.1 (p)	210,459.1 (p)	226,437 (p)	239,141.3 (p)	237,493.5 (p)
12	Denmark	173,597.9	207,366.9	218,747.4	227,024.9	233,026.8	222,892.9
13	Finland	132,110.0	157,307.0	165,643.0	179,536.0	184,179.0	170,971.0
14	Portugal	127,007.4	153,728.3	160,273.4	168,737.0	171,920.4	167,632.9
15	Ireland	104,830.2	162,091.0	176,758.8	189,751.2	181,816.3	163,543.0
16	Czech Republic	61,495.2	100,190.1	113,695.9	127,330.5	147,879.2	137,245.3
17	Romania	40,651.3	79,801.9	97,751.0	124,728.5	139,752.9	115,869.2
18	Hungary	51,320.2	88,645.8	89,894.4	101,086.5	105,535.6	93,086.1
19	Slovakia	22,029.0	38,462.4	44,537.3	54,897.6	64,778.4	63,331.6
20	Luxembourg	22,000.6	30,282.3	34,150.4	37,465.8	39,348.4	37,755.1
21	Slovenia	21,434.8	28,758.2	31,056.1	34,568.2	37,135.4	34,893.9
22	Bulgaria	13,704.3	21,882.3	25,238.2	28,898.6	34,118.1	33,876.8
23	Lithuania	12,377.3	20,870.1	23,978.5	28,576.6	32,202.8	26,649.7
24	Latvia	8,495.6	13,012.2	16,046.7	21,111.0	23,037.2	18,538.7
25	Cyprus	10,078.7	13,659.3	14,673.2	15,951.1	17,247.8	16,946.5
26	Estonia	6,159.8	11,181.7	13,229.4	15,626.6	16,073.3	13,730.0
27	Malta	4,221.1	4,778.3	5,114.3	5,462.9	5,678.1	5,720.3

Data source: EUROSTAT

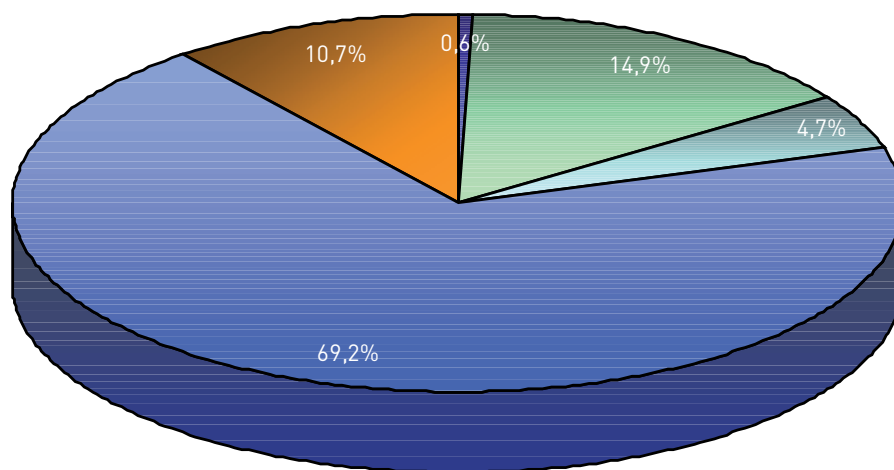
Gross domestic product (2005-2009 on 31/12)

Gross value added by activity, current-price estimates (in million euros, gross data)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Growth 2005/2009	Growth 2008/2009
Gross domestic product at market prices	302,845	318,193	334,948	344,676	337,284	10.2%	-2.2%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,239	2,561	2,596	2,113	1,892	-18.3%	-11.7%
Industry	51,941	53,685	55,291	55,097	50,376	-3.1%	-9.4%
Construction	13,027	14,423	15,627	16,174	15,741	17.2%	-2.8%
Services	202,633	212,626	224,749	234,656	233,274	13.1%	-0.6%
Commerce, transport and communications	62,548	64,722	68,400	70,322	65,472	4.5%	-7.4%
Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities	76,719	81,723	87,047	90,331	91,432	16.1%	1.2%
Government and education	37,359	38,926	40,473	42,736	44,020	15.1%	2.9%
Other services	26,007	27,255	28,829	31,267	32,350	19.6%	3.3%
Other components	33,006	34,889	36,685	36,635	36,000	8.3%	-1.8%

Data source: INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (BELGIUM)

Breakdown of the gross domestic product 2009



■ Agriculture, hunting and forestry ■ Industry ■ Construction ■ Services ■ Other components



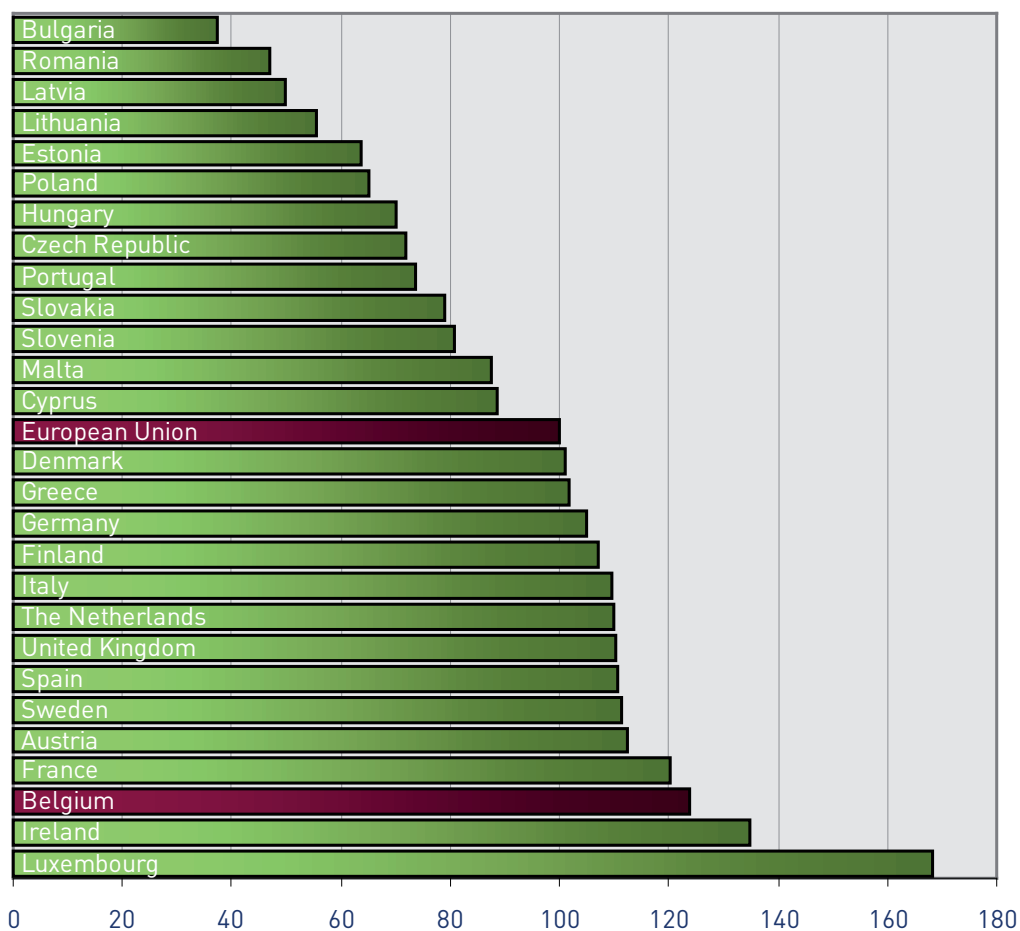
| Productivity and investments

The Belgian worker is highly productive! The Belgian labour productivity per person employed comes indeed in third position among the European countries.

Belgium also shows nice results 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 2009
(Index EU = 100)



Labour productivity per person employed

GDP in PPS per person employed relative to EU-27 (EU-27 = 100)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Luxembourg	176.0	169.5	179.8	179.1	175.7	168.1
2	Ireland	127.5	134.3	134.8	137.4	130.1	134.9
3	Belgium	136.6	129.8	128.5	126.8	125.4	123.8
4	France	125.1	122.2	121.2	121.4	121.3	120.3
5	Austria	120.7	115.1	115.6	113.9	113.5	112.4
6	Sweden	114.4	111.4	112.6	114.2	112.3	111.3
7	Spain	103.7	101.2	102.7	103.2	103.6	110.6
8	United Kingdom	110.8	112.4	111.9	110.0	110.0	110.2
9	The Netherlands	114.4	114.0	113.9	113.5	114.5	110.0
10	Italy	126.1	111.0	110.0	110.2	109.4	109.5
11	Finland	114.8	110.6	110.1	113.3	111.6	106.9
12	Germany	108.1	109.3	109.1	108.3	107.0	104.9
13	Greece	93.7	98.8 (p)	99.7 (p)	99.8 (p)	102.2 (p)	101.8 (p)
14	Denmark	110.6	106.7	106.5	102.8	101.5	101.2
	European Union	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15	Cyprus	85.0	82.9	83.8	86.1	87.2	88.6
16	Malta	96.8	90.7	90.4	88.9	86.9	87.5
17	Slovenia	76.2	83.8	84.0	84.0	84.4	80.7
18	Slovakia	58.0	68.6	71.5	75.8	79.2	78.8
19	Portugal	71.6	72.3	72.6	73.1	73.5	73.7
20	Czech Republic	61.8	68.5	69.3	71.5	71.9	71.7
21	Hungary	57.7	67.5	67.9	68.2	71.3	70.1
22	Poland	55.2	61.3	60.8	61.8	62.0	65.1 (f)
23	Estonia	46.9	60.5	61.4	65.1	63.8	63.7
24	Lithuania	42.7	54.5	56.3	59.1	62.0	55.6
25	Latvia	40.2	47.9	48.8	51.2	52.0	49.9
26	Romania	23.6	36.0	39.6	43.3	50.2	47.0
27	Bulgaria	30.4	33.5	34.6	35.1	37.2	37.2 (f)

Data source: Eurostat

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

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Slovakia	23.8	24.9	24.7	24.5	23.0	21.3
2	Romania	15.4	19.9	20.5	24.5	26.4	20.2
3	Spain	22.7	25.8	26.9	26.7	25.0	20.0
4	Bulgaria	12.1	20.0	21.8	25.0	27.7	19.9
5	Austria	22.5	20.5	20.5	20.8	20.8	19.7
6	Belgium	19.1	18.9	19.5	20.1	21.0	19.5
7	Slovenia	22.4	22.3	22.9	23.5	24.6	19.1
8	Latvia	22.9	27.5	28.0	28.0	24.5	17.5
9	Hungary	20.2	19.1	17.3	17.6	18.0	17.3
10	France	16.4	16.7	17.5	18.2	18.5	17.2
11	Czech Republic	24.4	20.0	19.7	20.5	19.0	17.1
	Portugal	24.1	20.2	20.1	20.1	20.0	17.1
13	Estonia	22.0	28.1	30.2	29.3	24.0	17.0
	Finland	17.6	17.6	17.7	18.9	19.1	17.0
15	Denmark	18.5	17.7	19.7	20.4	19.0	16.6
16	Italy	18.0	18.4	18.8	18.9	18.5	16.5
	European Union	18.4	17.7	18.2	18.7	18.4	16.3
17	Cyprus	14.0	16.1	17.6	19.1	20.4	16.3
18	Germany	19.7	16.0	16.8	17.3	17.5	16.2
19	Poland	21.4	14.8	15.7	17.4	17.5	15.7
20	The Netherlands	18.8	15.6	16.4	16.6	16.9	14.9
21	Sweden	15.2	14.9	15.7	16.5	16.8	14.3
22	Greece	17.9	17.8 (p)	18.6 (p)	18.4 (p)	16.6 (p)	13.9 (p)
23	Luxembourg	17.0	16.0	15.5	16.6	16.1	13.8
24	Lithuania	16.4	19.3	21.0	23.1	20.2	13.1
25	United Kingdom	15.9	16.0	15.3	15.8	14.5	12.2
26	Malta	18.8	15.4	17.1	16.7	14.1	12.0
27	Ireland	19.6	23.1	23.2	21.6	16.6	11.0

Data source: EUROSTAT

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

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Sweden	:	3.6 (b)	3.74	3.61	3.75 (e)
2	Finland	3.35	3.48	3.48	3.48	3.73
3	Denmark	2.24	2.46	2.48	2.55 (b)	2.72 (e)
4	Austria	1.94 (e)	2.45 (e)	2.47	2.54	2.67 (e)
5	Germany	2.45	2.49	2.53	2.53	2.63 (e)
6	France	2.15 (b)	2.10	2.10	2.04 (p)	2.02 (p)
7	Belgium	1.97	1.83	1.86	1.90	1.92 (p)
	European Union	1.85 (s)	1.82 (s)	1.85 (s)	1.85 (s)	1.90 (s)
8	United Kingdom	1.81	1.73	1.75	1.82	1.88 (p)
9	Slovenia	1.39	1.44	1.56	1.45	1.66
10	The Netherlands	1.82	1.79 (p)	1.78 (p)	1.71 (p)	1.63 (p)
11	Luxembourg	1.65	1.56	1.65	1.58 (e)	1.62 (p)
12	Portugal	0.76 (e)	0.81	1.02 (e)	1.21	1.51 (p)
13	Czech Republic	1.21	1.41	1.55	1.54	1.47
14	Ireland	1.12	1.25	1.25	1.28 (p)	1.43 (p)
15	Spain	0.91	1.12	1.20	1.27	1.35
16	Estonia	0.60	0.93	1.14	1.11	1.29 (p)
17	Italy	1.05	1.09	1.13	1.18	1.18
18	Hungary	0.79	0.94	1.00	0.97	1.00
19	Lithuania	0.59	0.75	0.79	0.81	0.80
20	Latvia	0.44	0.56	0.70	0.59	0.61
	Greece	0.64	0.57	0.56	0.57	0.61 (p)
22	Poland	0.37	0.41	0.45	0.52	0.58
23	Romania	:	0.57	0.61	0.58 (p)	0.54 (p)
24	Malta	0.52	0.49	0.48	0.48	0.49 (p)
25	Bulgaria	0.65	0.51	0.49	0.46	0.47
26	Slovakia	0.24	0.40	0.43	0.44	0.46 (p)
-	Cyprus	:	0.59	0.58 (e)	0.58 (e)	:

Data source: EUROSTAT

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).

The harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is designed for comparison of price inflation at European level. The evolution of this index shows that prices in Belgium grew less fast than the European average between 2005 and 2009.

After one year with a rather high inflation of 4.5% in 2008, inflation in Belgium amounted to 0.0% in 2009, which means that the average price level remained stable. Over the period 2007-2009, food products evolved more rapidly than the other kinds of expenditure and pushed the index upward. Because of the raw materials crisis, inflation of processed food products reached 7.8% in Belgium in 2008. However, just like in 2008, the inflation was mainly influenced by the evolution of the energy prices. After a sharp increase by 20% in 2008, the consumer's energy bill dropped by 14% in 2009.

HICP - global index - average yearly indexes (2005 = 100)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	The Netherlands	87.1	100.0	101.7	103.3	105.5	106.6
2	France	90.5	100.0	101.9	103.6	106.8	106.9
3	Ireland	84.5	100.0	102.7	105.6	108.9	107.1
4	Germany	92.4	100.0	101.8	104.1	107.0	107.2
5	Portugal	85.5	100.0	103.0	105.5	108.3	107.4
6	Austria	91.2	100.0	101.7	103.9	107.3	107.7
7	Denmark	91.2	100.0	101.8	103.5	107.3	108.4
8	Finland	93.4	100.0	101.3	102.9	106.9	108.7
	Sweden	91.7	100.0	101.5	103.2	106.7	108.7
10	Italy	88.6	100.0	102.2	104.3	108.0	108.8
11	Belgium	90.7	100.0	102.3	104.2	108.9	108.9
12	Cyprus	88.3	100.0	102.3	104.5	109.0	109.2
	European Union	88.5	100.0	102.3	104.7	108.6	109.6
13	Luxembourg	87.1	100.0	103.0	105.7	110.0	110.0
14	Malta	88.6	100.0	102.6	103.3	108.1	110.1
15	Spain	85.5	100.0	103.6	106.5	110.9	110.6
16	United Kingdom	93.1	100.0	102.3	104.7	108.5	110.8
17	Slovakia	75.3	100.0	104.3	106.2	110.4	111.4
18	Czech Republic	90.6	100.0	102.1	105.1	111.7	112.4
	Greece	84.2	100.0	103.3	106.4	110.9	112.4
20	Poland	87.4	100.0	101.3	103.9	108.3	112.6
21	Slovenia	76.4	100.0	102.5	106.4	112.3	113.3
22	Estonia	84.0	100.0	104.5	111.5	123.3	123.6
23	Hungary	75.3	100.0	104.0	112.3	119.1	123.9
24	Lithuania	95.5	100.0	103.8	109.8	122.0	127.1
25	Romania	43.2	100.0	106.6	111.8	120.7	127.4
26	Bulgaria	76.4	100.0	107.4	115.6	129.4	132.6
27	Latvia	81.9	100.0	106.6	117.3	135.2	139.6

Data source: EUROSTAT

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.

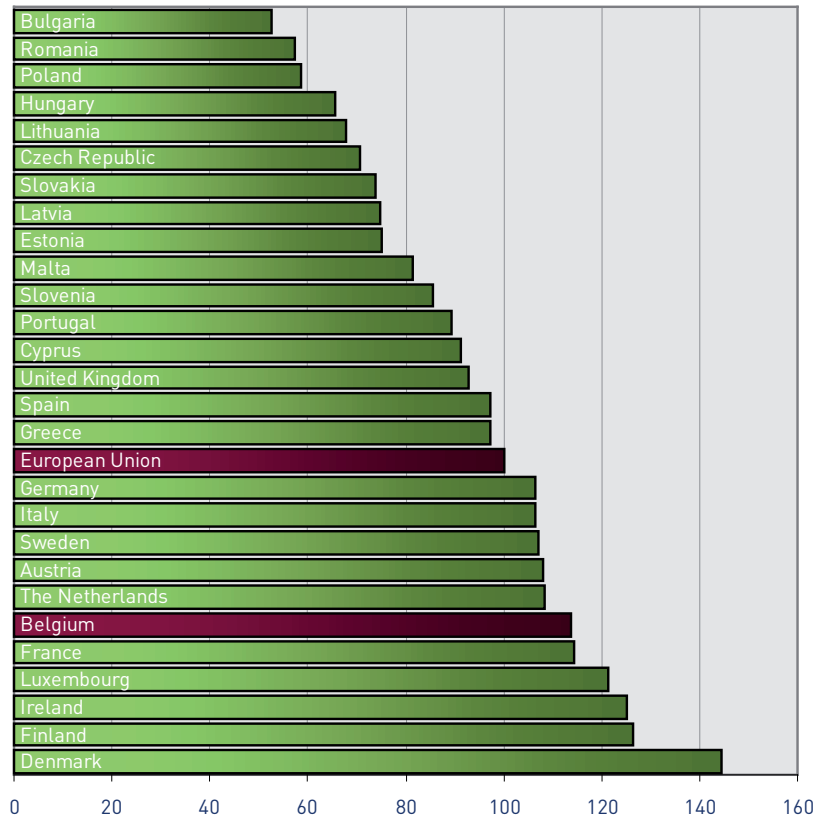
Comparative price levels of final consumption by private households including indirect taxes (EU-27=100)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Denmark	130.2	140.4	138.4	137.4	141.2	144.6
2	Finland	120.8	123.6	122.7	119.9	124.3	126.4
3	Ireland	114.8	123.4	124.5	124.5	127.6	125.0
4	Luxembourg	101.5	111.6	111.3	115.3	119.1	121.3
5	France	105.8	108.2	108.5	108.1	110.8	114.3
6	Belgium	102.0	106.4	107.7	108.3	111.1	113.9
7	The Netherlands	100.0	104.7	104.0	101.9	104.0	108.5
8	Austria	101.8	102.5	101.9	102.2	105.1	107.9
9	Sweden	127.6	119.0	118.5	115.7	114.5	107.0
10	Italy	97.5	104.7	104.2	102.9	105.6	106.5
11	Germany	106.5	103.3	102.6	101.9	103.8	106.4
	European Union	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
12	Greece	84.8	88.2	89.0	90.7	94.0	97.4
	Spain	85.0	91.1	91.8	92.8	95.4	97.4
14	United Kingdom	119.9	109.7	110.6	112.6	100.1	92.7
15	Cyprus	88.0	90.3	90.3	88.1	90.5	91.2
16	Portugal	83.0	85.1	84.9	85.7	87.0	89.3
17	Slovenia	72.8	76.0	76.7	79.0	82.3	85.5
18	Malta	73.2	73.0	74.8	75.5	78.8	81.4
19	Estonia	57.2	64.7	68.5	73.1	78.0	75.1
20	Latvia	58.8	57.0	60.7	66.6	72.6	74.8
21	Slovakia	44.4	55.4	58.0	63.2	70.2	73.7
22	Czech Republic	48.1	58.1	61.3	62.4	72.8	70.6
23	Lithuania	52.6	54.8	57.3	60.0	64.7	67.8
24	Hungary	49.2	63.3	60.6	66.7	68.1	65.5
25	Poland	57.9	61.1	62.4	62.0	69.1	58.6
26	Romania	42.5	54.4	57.6	63.8	60.9	57.5
27	Bulgaria	38.7	43.2	44.9	46.2	50.2	52.7

Data source: EUROSTAT

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.

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



**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
2000	92.6	2.6%	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	1.7%	96.5	96.7	96.0	96.0	96.9	96.7
2003	98.0	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	102.4	102.0	101.8	101.7
2006	104.6	1.8%	104.2	105.2	103.9	105.6	103.4	103.0
2007	106.5	1.8%	108.0	106.3	105.8	107.4	105.4	105.1
2008	111.3	4.5%	114.3	112.6	107.9	109.5	109.4	107.9
2009	111.3	0.0%	115.5	109.5	111.0	111.7	109.9	110.9

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



| Government deficit

2009 was a dark year for the public finances of the Member States of the European Union. All government budgets are in the red. With a European average of -6.8% net borrowing, many States are now obliged to take measures to balance their budgets. The Belgian financing requirements are slightly lower than the European average but the world crisis put the efforts made to reduce the public debt burden on hold.

General government debt as a percentage of GDP

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Italy	109.2	105.8	106.5	103.5	106.1	115.8
2	Greece	103.4	100.0	97.8	95.7	99.2	115.1
3	Belgium	107.9	92.1	88.1	84.2	89.8	96.7
4	Hungary	55.0	61.8	65.6	65.9	72.9	78.3
5	France	57.3	66.4	63.7	63.8	67.5	77.6
6	Portugal	50.5	63.6	64.7	63.6	66.3	76.8
	European Union	61.9	62.8	61.4	58.8	61.6	73.6
7	Germany	59.7	68.0	67.6	65.0	66.0	73.2
8	Malta	55.9	70.1	63.7	61.9	63.7	69.1
9	United Kingdom	41.0	42.5	43.5	44.7	52.0	68.1
10	Austria	66.5	63.9	62.2	59.5	62.6	66.5
11	Ireland	37.8	27.4	24.9	25.0	43.9	64.0
	The Netherlands	53.8	51.8	47.4	45.5	58.2	60.9
13	Cyprus	48.7	69.1	64.6	58.3	48.4	56.2
14	Spain	59.3	43.0	39.6	36.2	39.7	53.2
15	Poland	36.8	47.1	47.7	45.0	47.2	51.0
16	Finland	43.8	41.7	39.7	35.2	34.2	44.0
17	Sweden	53.6	50.8	45.7	40.8	38.3	42.3
18	Denmark	52.4	37.8	32.1	27.4	34.2	41.6
19	Latvia	12.3	12.4	10.7	9.0	19.5	36.1
20	Slovenia	:	27.0	26.7	23.4	22.6	35.9
21	Slovakia	50.3	34.2	30.5	29.3	27.7	35.7
22	Czech Republic	18.5	29.7	29.4	29.0	30.0	35.4
23	Lithuania	23.7	18.4	18.0	16.9	15.6	29.3
24	Romania	22.5	15.8	12.4	12.6	13.3	23.7
25	Bulgaria	74.3	29.2	22.7	18.2	14.1	14.8
26	Luxembourg	6.2	6.1	6.5	6.7	13.7	14.5
27	Estonia	5.1	4.6	4.5	3.8	4.6	7.2

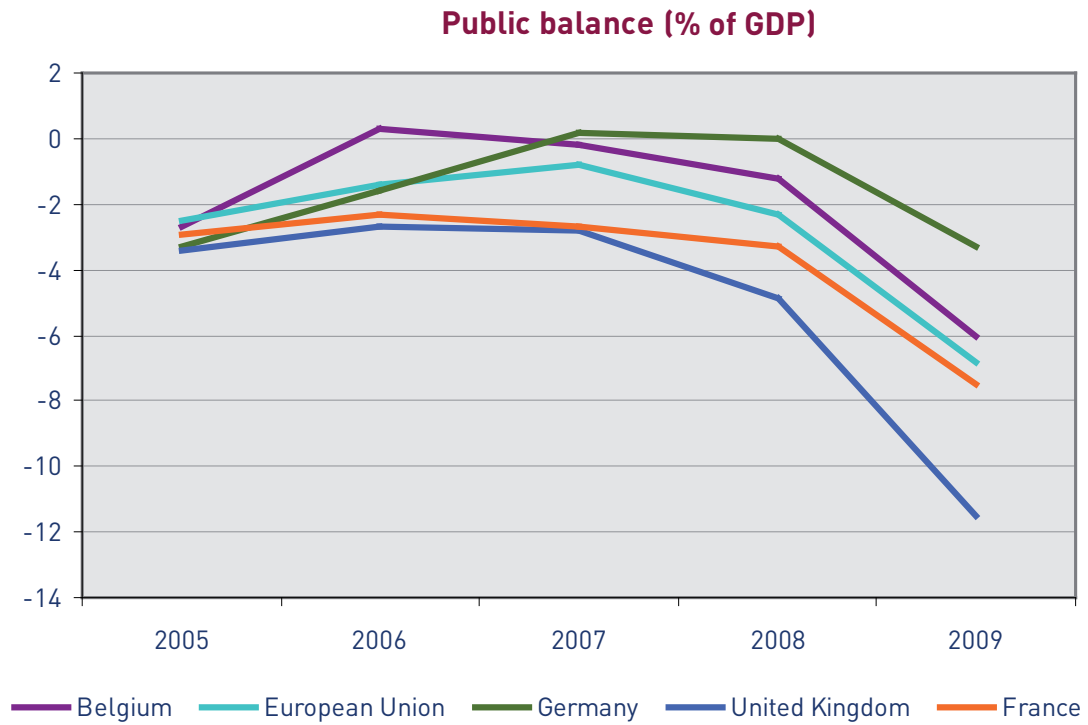
Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: The general government sector comprises the subsectors of central government, state government, local government and social security funds. GDP used as a denominator is the gross domestic product at current market prices. Debt is valued at nominal (face) value, and foreign currency debt is converted into national currency using end-year market exchange rates (though special rules apply to contracts). The national data for the general government sector are consolidated between the sub-sectors. Basic data are expressed in national currency, converted into euro using end-year exchange rates for the euro provided by the European Central Bank.

Public balance Net borrowing/lending of general government sector as a percentage of GDP							
Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Sweden	3.7	2.3	2.5	3.8	2.5	-0.5
2	Luxembourg	6.0	0.0	1.4	3.6	2.9	-0.7
3	Estonia	-0.2	1.6	2.5	2.6	-2.7	-1.7
4	Finland	6.8	2.7	4.0	5.2	4.2	-2.2
5	Denmark	2.3	5.2	5.2	4.8	3.4	-2.7
6	Germany	1.3	-3.3	-1.6	0.2	0.0	-3.3
7	Austria	-1.7	-1.7	-1.5	-0.4	-0.4	-3.4
8	Malta	-6.2	-2.9	-2.6	-2.2	-4.5	-3.8
9	Bulgaria	-0.3	1.9	3.0	0.1	1.8	-3.9
10	Hungary	-3.0	-7.9	-9.3	-5.0	-3.8	-4.0
11	Italy	-0.8	-4.3	-3.3	-1.5	-2.7	-5.3
	The Netherlands	2.0	-0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	-5.3
13	Slovenia	-3.7	-1.4	-1.3	0.0	-1.7	-5.5
14	Czech Republic	-3.7	-3.6	-2.6	-0.7	-2.7	-5.9
15	Belgium	0.0	-2.7	0.3	-0.2	-1.2	-6.0
16	Cyprus	-2.3	-2.4	-1.2	3.4	0.9	-6.1
	European Union	0.6	-2.5	-1.4	-0.8	-2.3	-6.8
17	Slovakia	-12.3	-2.8	-3.5	-1.9	-2.3	-6.8
18	Poland	-3.0	-4.1	-3.6	-1.9	-3.7	-7.1
19	France	-1.5	-2.9	-2.3	-2.7	-3.3	-7.5
20	Romania	-4.7	-1.2	-2.2	-2.5	-5.4	-8.3
21	Lithuania	-3.2	-0.5	-0.4	-1.0	-3.3	-8.9
22	Latvia	-2.8	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	-4.1	-9.0
23	Portugal	-2.9	-6.1	-3.9	-2.6	-2.8	-9.4
24	Spain	-1.0	1.0	2.0	1.9	-4.1	-11.2
25	United Kingdom	3.6	-3.4	-2.7	-2.8	-4.9	-11.5
26	Greece	-3.7	-5.2	-3.6	-5.1	-7.7	-13.6
27	Ireland	4.8	1.6	3.0	0.1	-7.3	-14.3

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: EU definition: net borrowing (+)/net lending (-) of general government is the difference between the revenue and the expenditure of the general government sector. The general government sector comprises the subsectors of central government, state government, local government and social security funds. GDP used as a denominator is the gross domestic product at current market prices.





E | Foreign trade

Belgium is a very outward-oriented country. Indeed, although the GDP at market prices at current prices only accounts for 1/35 of that of the European Union, the country ranks respectively fifth and sixth with regard to exports and imports. The import and export figures are not much lower than that of large countries such as Italy or the United Kingdom, at least as far as exports are concerned. Moreover, as the value of exports exceeds that of imports, the trade balance is very positive.

The country also has strong ties with its European neighbours since more than 3/4 of its exports go to the European market and nearly 71% of its imports come from the other Members States.

The evolution of the Belgian foreign trade is similar to that of the European average and faced a serious decline in 2009.

Total imports in value terms (million EUR)

Ranking	GEO/TIME	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Germany	538,325	624,606	722,112	769,779	805,730	668,104
2	France	366,977	405,212	431,602	452,006	478,294	396,109
3	United Kingdom	376,849	412,887	478,993	454,503	430,361	344,874
4	The Netherlands	236,322	292,438	331,979	359,442	394,980	319,451
5	Italy	258,507	309,292	352,465	373,340	382,050	294,213
6	Belgium	192,195	256,169	280,053	300,298	317,043	252,326
7	Spain	169,059	232,124	261,784	284,058	286,105	206,170
8	Poland	53,085	81,697	101,138	120,912	141,966	105,123
9	Austria	78,383	102,345	109,280	118,962	125,301	102,795
10	Sweden	78,908	89,781	101,583	111,334	113,638	85,356
11	Czech Republic	34,619	61,500	74,220	86,224	96,572	75,267
12	Denmark	49,326	60,752	68,100	71,526	74,776	59,383
13	Hungary	34,833	53,494	62,331	69,730	74,069	56,034
14	Portugal	43,257	49,179	53,100	57,056	61,174	50,074
15	Ireland	55,263	55,112	58,233	61,162	57,088	44,636
16	Finland	37,292	47,236	55,253	59,616	62,402	43,250
17	Greece	36,249	43,755	50,668	55,634	60,975	42,881
18	Slovakia	13,815	27,851	35,828	44,229	50,253	39,569
19	Romania	14,235	32,569	40,746	51,305	57,148	38,891
20	Slovenia	10,987	16,346	19,227	23,027	25,180	18,956
21	Luxembourg	12,211	17,597	21,163	20,114	21,475	17,480
22	Bulgaria	7,085	12,497	15,424	21,862	25,094	16,726
23	Lithuania	5,681	12,498	15,429	17,813	21,144	13,073
24	Estonia	4,613	8,230	10,711	11,439	10,868	7,291
25	Latvia	3,466	6,991	9,191	11,180	10,975	6,897
26	Cyprus	3,390	5,077	5,518	6,286	7,237	5,577
27	Malta	3,696	2,988	3,430	3,473	3,252	2,586

Data source: EUROSTAT

Total exports in value terms (million EUR)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Germany	597,455	780,415	882,532	964,038	983,255	803,899
2	The Netherlands	252,414	326,640	369,249	401,864	433,722	357,342
3	France	354,711	372,501	394,925	402,686	408,776	341,566
4	Italy	260,413	299,923	332,013	364,744	369,016	290,113
5	Belgium	203,953	268,789	292,087	314,449	320,805	265,160
6	United Kingdom	309,036	309,040	357,322	320,388	312,528	252,256
7	Spain	124,784	154,846	170,211	184,821	191,388	156,645
8	Austria	73,311	100,621	108,913	119,387	123,259	98,650
9	Poland	34,373	71,889	88,229	102,259	115,895	96,396
10	Sweden	94,340	105,266	117,707	123,218	124,653	93,954
11	Ireland	83,817	88,142	86,593	88,686	85,477	82,084
12	Czech Republic	31,501	62,785	75,604	89,382	99,809	81,213
13	Denmark	55,535	68,420	73,716	75,163	79,254	66,922
14	Hungary	30,525	50,588	59,936	69,610	73,772	60,036
15	Finland	49,916	52,647	61,489	65,688	65,580	44,897
16	Slovakia	12,811	25,632	33,340	42,696	48,370	40,115
17	Portugal	26,379	30,665	34,511	37,589	37,949	31,085
18	Romania	11,273	22,255	25,850	29,543	33,679	29,116
19	Slovenia	9,495	15,471	18,501	21,964	23,204	18,804
20	Luxembourg	9,071	15,109	18,241	16,337	17,224	14,913
21	Greece	12,723	13,888	16,525	17,205	17,440	14,377
22	Lithuania	3,855	9,490	11,263	12,509	16,077	11,795
23	Bulgaria	5,253	9,223	11,748	13,512	15,204	11,787
24	Estonia	3,445	6,202	7,719	8,034	8,465	6,475
25	Latvia	2,023	4,149	4,902	6,062	6,897	5,465
26	Malta	2,656	1,928	2,226	2,246	2,003	1,504
27	Cyprus	435	1,177	1,062	1,017	1,110	895

Data source: EUROSTAT

Trade balance in value terms (million EUR)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Germany	59,130	155,809	160,420	194,259	177,525	135,795
2	The Netherlands	16,092	34,201	37,271	42,422	38,742	37,891
3	Ireland	28,553	33,030	28,359	27,524	28,389	37,448
4	Belgium	11,758	12,620	12,034	14,151	3,762	12,833
5	Sweden	15,432	15,485	16,124	11,884	11,014	8,598
6	Denmark	6,210	7,668	5,616	3,637	4,478	7,540
7	Czech Republic	-3,119	1,285	1,384	3,159	3,237	5,946
8	Hungary	-4,308	-2,906	-2,395	-121	-297	4,002
9	Finland	12,624	5,411	6,237	6,072	3,178	1,646
10	Slovakia	-1,005	-2,219	-2,488	-1,533	-1,883	546
11	Slovenia	-1,491	-875	-726	-1,063	-1,976	-152
12	Estonia	-1,168	-2,028	-2,992	-3,406	-2,403	-816
13	Malta	-1,040	-1,060	-1,204	-1,228	-1,249	-1,082
14	Lithuania	-1,826	-3,008	-4,167	-5,303	-5,067	-1,278
15	Latvia	-1,443	-2,842	-4,290	-5,117	-4,078	-1,432
16	Luxembourg	-3,140	-2,488	-2,922	-3,776	-4,251	-2,567
17	Italy	1,907	-9,369	-20,452	-8,596	-13,035	-4,100
18	Austria	-5,071	-1,724	-367	425	-2,043	-4,146
19	Cyprus	-2,955	-3,899	-4,456	-5,269	-6,126	-4,682
20	Bulgaria	-1,832	-3,274	-3,676	-8,349	-9,890	-4,939
21	Poland	-18,711	-9,807	-12,909	-18,652	-26,072	-8,727
22	Romania	-2,962	-10,313	-14,895	-21,762	-23,469	-9,775
23	Portugal	-16,878	-18,514	-18,589	-19,467	-23,225	-18,989
24	Greece	-23,527	-29,867	-34,143	-38,429	-43,535	-28,504
25	Spain	-44,274	-77,278	-91,573	-99,237	-94,717	-49,526
26	France	-12,266	-32,712	-36,677	-49,320	-69,519	-54,543
27	United Kingdom	-67,813	-103,847	-121,672	-134,116	-117,833	-92,618

Data source: EUROSTAT

Share of exports to the EU in the total exports (%)

Ranking	Unit	2009
1	Luxembourg	87.3%
2	Slovakia	85.8%
3	Czech Republic	84.6%
4	Poland	79.3%
5	Hungary	78.9%
6	The Netherlands	77.1%
7	Belgium	75.9%
8	Portugal	74.9%
9	Romania	74.3%
10	Austria	71.8%
11	Estonia	69.4%
12	Slovenia	69.3%
13	Spain	68.8%
14	Denmark	67.5%
15	Latvia	67.3%
	European Union	66.6%
16	Cyprus	66.6%
17	Bulgaria	64.4%
18	Lithuania	64.3%
19	Germany	62.8%
20	Greece	62.7%
21	France	61.8%
22	Ireland	61.5%
23	Sweden	58.5%
24	Italy	57.1%
25	Finland	55.6%
26	United Kingdom	55.0%
27	Malta	42.4%

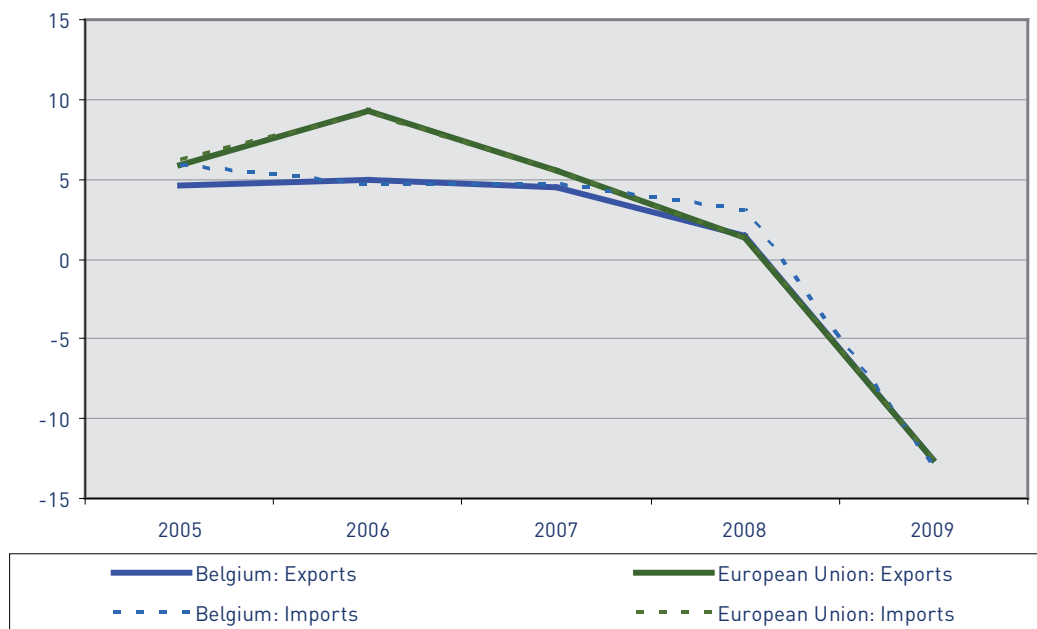
Data source: EUROSTAT

Annual evolution of the foreign trade in Belgium (million EUR)

Year	Exports - total	Exports - intra-EU	Exports - extra-EU	Imports - total	Imports - intra-EU	Imports - extra-EU	Trade balance - total	Trade balance - intra-EU	Trade balance - extra-EU
2009	265,207.9	200,869.0	64,338.7	252,587.8	179,227.5	73,360.1	12,620.1	21,641.5	-9,021.4
2008	320,805.9	246,595.5	74,210.5	317,043.9	221,585.5	95,458.7	3,762.0	25,010.0	-21,248.2
2007	314,449.2	239,248.5	75,200.7	300,298.2	211,903.2	88,395.3	14,151.0	27,345.3	-13,194.6
2006	292,087.7	223,135.7	68,952.2	280,054.0	200,115.2	79,938.5	12,033.7	23,020.5	-10,986.3
2005	269,741.7	205,970.5	63,771.2	256,993.3	183,842.2	73,151.3	12,748.4	22,128.3	-9,380.1
2004	247,454.4	190,552.2	56,902.5	230,339.5	167,439.5	62,900.0	17,114.9	23,112.7	-5,997.5
2003	225,970.0	174,387.8	51,582.3	207,695.8	152,805.9	54,889.9	18,274.2	21,581.9	-3,307.6
2002	228,561.6	172,401.0	56,160.7	209,721.5	152,823.2	56,898.2	18,840.1	19,577.8	-737.5
2001	212,538.7	165,616.4	46,922.2	199,491.7	143,569.8	55,921.8	13,047.0	22,046.6	-8,999.6
2000	203,953.2	156,544.5	47,408.8	192,195.0	136,151.3	56,043.7	11,758.2	20,393.2	-8,634.9

Data source: INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (BELGIUM)

Percentage change of the imports and exports of the European Union and Belgium



Percentage change of the exports in volume terms on previous year

Ranking	GEO/TIME	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Ireland	20.2	5.2	5.1	8.6	-1.0	-2.3
2	Malta	:	0.6	10.5	2.7	-5.2	-4.2
3	Romania	23.2	7.6	10.4	7.8	8.7	-5.5
4	Luxembourg	12.6	4.5	13.3	8.8	1.5	-7.6
5	The Netherlands	13.5	6.0	7.3	6.7	2.7	-8.2
6	Hungary	19.7	11.3	18.6	16.2	5.6	-9.1
7	Poland	23.2	8.0	14.6	9.1	7.1	-9.1
8	Bulgaria	16.6	8.5	8.7	5.2	2.9	-9.8
9	Denmark	12.8	8.1	9.0	2.2	2.4	-10.4
10	United Kingdom	9.1	7.9	11.3	-2.8	1.1	-10.6
11	Czech Republic	16.5	11.6	15.8	15.0	6.0	-10.8
12	Estonia	27.4	18.6	14.0	0.0	-0.7	-11.2
13	Spain	10.2	2.5	6.7	6.6	-1.0	-11.5
14	Cyprus	10.5	4.9	3.5	6.1	-2.1	-11.8
	Portugal	8.8	0.2	11.6	7.6	-0.3	-11.8
16	France	12.4	3.1	4.8	2.5	-0.5	-12.4
	Sweden	11.7	6.6	9.0	5.7	1.4	-12.4
	European Union	12.7	5.9	9.3	5.5	1.4	-12.6
18	Belgium	11.8	4.6	5.0	4.5	1.5	-12.6
19	Lithuania	9.5	17.7	12.0	3.0	12.2	-14.3
20	Germany	13.5	7.7	13.0	7.5	2.9	-14.5
21	Latvia	11.3	20.2	6.5	10.0	2.0	-15.5
22	Slovenia	13.1	10.6	12.5	13.7	2.9	-15.6
23	Austria	13.4	7.4	7.5	9.4	0.8	-15.8
24	Slovakia	8.9	10.0	21.0	14.3	3.2	-16.5
25	Greece	:	2.4 (p)	5.3 (p)	5.8 (p)	4 (p)	-18.1 (p)
26	Italy	11.9	1.1	6.2	4.6	-3.9	-19.1
27	Finland	17.3	7.0	12.2	7.9	6.5	-24.3

Data source: EUROSTAT

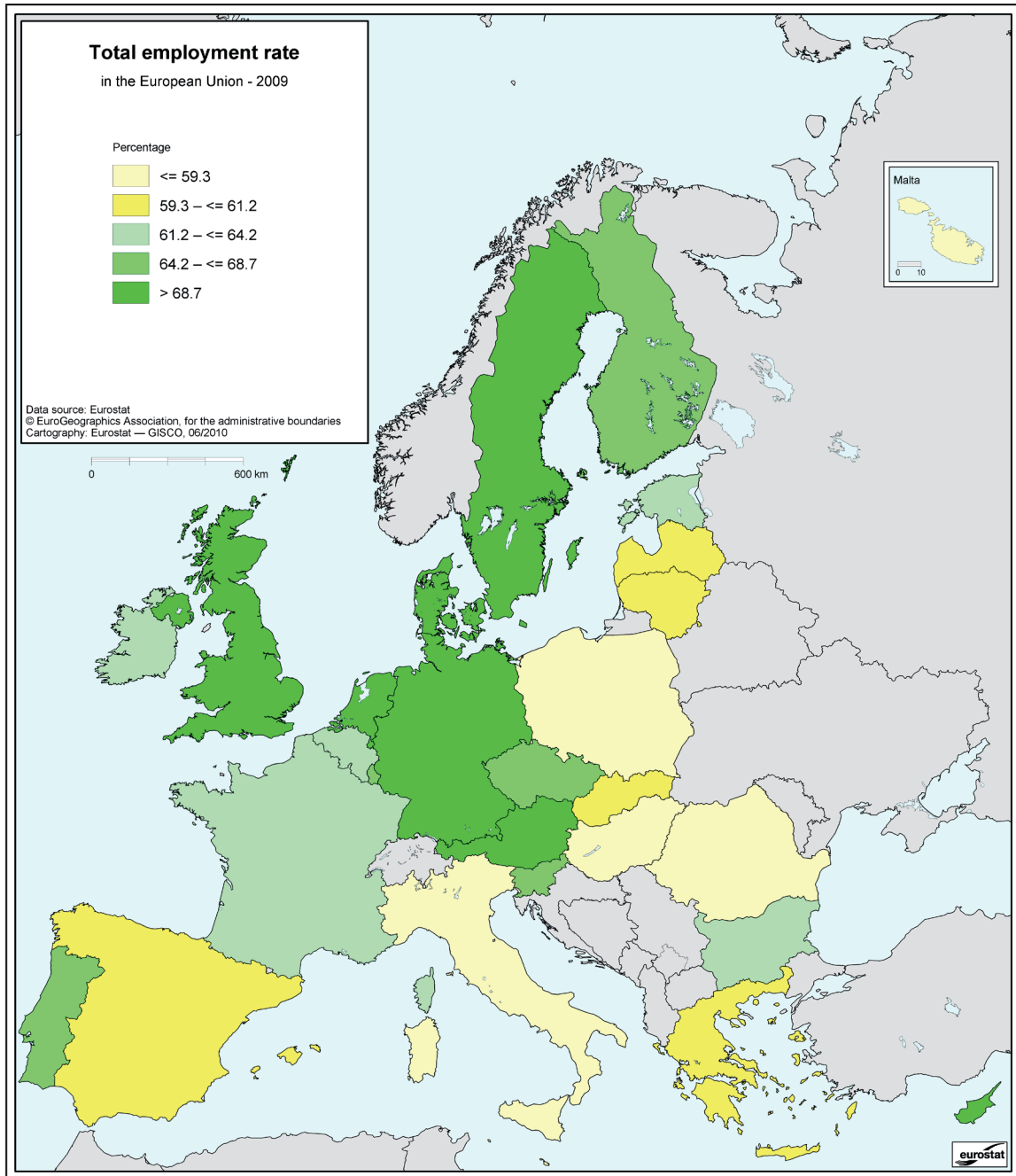
Percentage change of the imports in volume terms on previous year

Ranking	GEO/TIME	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Latvia	3.1	14.8	19.4	14.7	-11.2	-35.5
2	Lithuania	4.8	16.4	13.7	10.7	10.5	-29.4
3	Estonia	27.2	17.5	22.9	4.7	-8.7	-26.8
4	Bulgaria	18.6	13.1	14.0	9.9	4.9	-22.3
	Finland	16.7	11.4	7.9	6.0	6.6	-22.3
6	Romania	27.5	16.0	22.6	27.3	7.8	-20.6
7	Cyprus	12.5	3.7	6.7	13.3	8.0	-19.8
8	Spain	10.8	7.7	10.2	8.0	-4.9	-17.9
	Slovenia	7.1	6.6	12.2	16.3	2.9	-17.9
10	Slovakia	8.2	12.4	17.8	9.2	3.1	-17.6
11	Hungary	18.0	7.0	14.8	13.3	5.7	-15.4
12	Austria	10.6	6.4	5.3	7.3	-0.7	-14.9
13	Italy	9.8	2.1	5.9	3.8	-4.3	-14.5
14	Poland	15.5	4.7	17.3	13.7	8.0	-14.3
15	Greece	:	-0.3 (p)	9.1 (p)	7.1 (p)	0.2 (p)	-14.1 (p)
16	Denmark	13.1	11.2	13.4	2.6	3.3	-13.2
	Sweden	11.7	7.0	9.0	9.0	2.9	-13.2
18	Belgium	12.2	5.9	4.7	4.7	3.1	-12.9
	European Union	11.7	6.3	9.2	5.5	1.3	-12.5
19	United Kingdom	8.9	7.1	8.8	-0.7	-0.5	-11.9
20	Portugal	5.6	2.3	7.2	5.5	2.8	-10.8
21	France	14.9	5.9	5.6	5.6	0.6	-10.7
22	Czech Republic	16.3	5.0	14.3	14.3	4.7	-10.6
23	Germany	10.2	6.7	11.9	4.8	4.3	-9.5
24	Ireland	21.7	8.4	6.5	5.6	-2.1	-9.3
25	Luxembourg	10.5	4.2	12.9	8.3	3.3	-9.2
26	The Netherlands	12.2	5.4	8.8	5.1	3.7	-8.7
27	Malta	:	3.2	9.5	0.4	-5.7	-8.5

Data source: EUROSTAT

2 | Society







A | Employment / Activity

In 2009, employment in the European Union strongly suffered from the effects of the economic crisis. After a continuous period of growth and after having neared the objectives of Lisbon in the previous years, the employment rate declined nearly everywhere in the Union between 2008 and 2009, with the notable exception of Luxembourg and to a lesser extent of Germany and Poland. Of course, the Belgian employment rate has also declined but it has held up relatively well compared to the other Member States. Indeed, between 2008 and 2009, the employed population decreased by 0.5% in Belgium against 1.8% in the whole Union.

Total employment rate in percent

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	The Netherlands	72.9	73.2	74.3	76.0	77.2	77.0
2	Denmark	76.3	75.9	77.4	77.1	78.1	75.7
3	Sweden	73.0	72.5 (b)	73.1	74.2	74.3	72.2
4	Austria	68.5	68.6	70.2	71.4	72.1	71.6
5	Germany	65.6	66 (b)	67.5	69.4	70.7	70.9
6	Cyprus	65.7	68.5	69.6	71.0	70.9	69.9
	United Kingdom	71.2	71.7	71.6	71.5	71.5	69.9
8	Finland	67.2	68.4	69.3	70.3	71.1	68.7
9	Slovenia	62.8	66.0	66.6	67.8	68.6	67.5
10	Portugal	68.4	67.5	67.9	67.8	68.2	66.3
11	Czech Republic	65.0	64.8	65.3	66.1	66.6	65.4
12	Luxembourg	62.7	63.6	63.6	64.2	63.4	65.2
	European Union	62.2	63.5	64.5	65.4	65.9	64.6
13	France	62.1	63.7	63.7	64.3	64.9	64.2
14	Estonia	60.4	64.4	68.1	69.4	69.8	63.5
15	Bulgaria	50.4	55.8	58.6	61.7	64.0	62.6
16	Ireland	65.2	67.6	68.6	69.1	67.6	61.8
17	Belgium	60.5	61.1	61.0	62.0	62.4	61.6
18	Greece	56.5	60.1	61.0	61.4	61.9	61.2
19	Latvia	57.5	63.3	66.3	68.3	68.6	60.9
20	Slovakia	56.8	57.7	59.4	60.7	62.3	60.2
21	Lithuania	59.1	62.6	63.6	64.9	64.3	60.1
22	Spain	56.3	63.3 (b)	64.8	65.6	64.3	59.8
23	Poland	55.0	52.8	54.5	57.0	59.2	59.3
24	Romania	63.0	57.6	58.8	58.8	59.0	58.6
25	Italy	53.7	57.6	58.4	58.7	58.7	57.5
26	Hungary	56.3	56.9	57.3	57.3	56.7	55.4
27	Malta	54.2	53.9	53.6	54.6	55.3	54.9

Data source: EUROSTAT

Principal activity characteristics of the Belgian population*

	2000		2005		2006	
	x 1,000	in %	x 1,000	in %	x 1,000	in %
Employed active persons	4,092.7	40.0%	4,235.4	40.4%	4,264.0	40.4%
ILO unemployed persons	308.5	3.0%	391.0	3.7%	383.2	3.6%
Children (up to 14)	1,804.8	17.6%	1,795.6	17.1%	1,796.5	17.0%
Inactive persons aged 15 to 64	2,343.9	22.9%	2,286.5	21.8%	2,324.9	22.0%
Inactive persons aged 65 and over	1,689.5	16.5%	1,768.5	16.9%	1,777.2	16.9%

	2007		2008		2009	
	x 1.000	in %	x 1.000	in %	x 1.000	in %
Employed active persons	4,380.3	41.3%	4,445.9	41.5%	4,420.7	40.9%
ILO unemployed persons	353.0	3.3%	333.7	3.1%	379.6	3.5%
Children (up to 14)	1,782.0	16.8%	1,804.0	16.8%	1,819.2	16.9%
Inactive persons aged 15 to 64	2,307.2	21.7%	2,326.6	21.7%	2,356.8	21.8%
Inactive persons aged 65 and over	1,791.5	16.9%	1,797.4	16.8%	1,820.0	16.9%

* % of total population

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Employment rate Belgium

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belgium	60.5%	61.1%	61.0%	62.0%	62.4%	61.6%
Males	69.5%	68.3%	67.9%	68.7%	68.6%	67.2%
Females	51.5%	53.8%	54.0%	55.3%	56.2%	56.0%
Low level of education (a)	N/A	40.4%	40.1%	40.5%	39.7%	38.6%
Medium level of education (b)	N/A	65.5%	65.1%	65.9%	67.0%	65.4%
High level of education (c)	N/A	82.8%	82.4%	83.7%	83.0%	81.9%

(a) maximum lower secondary education

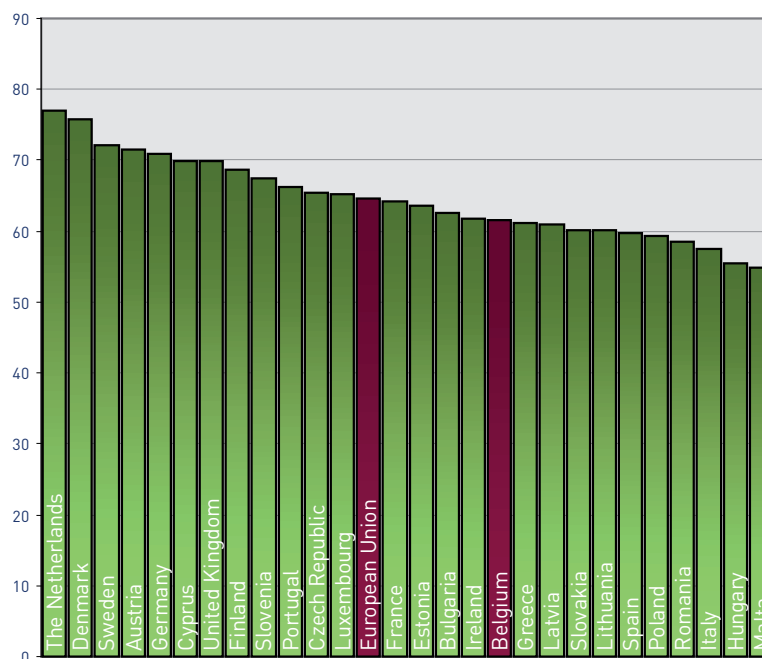
(b) upper secondary education

(c) higher university or non-university education

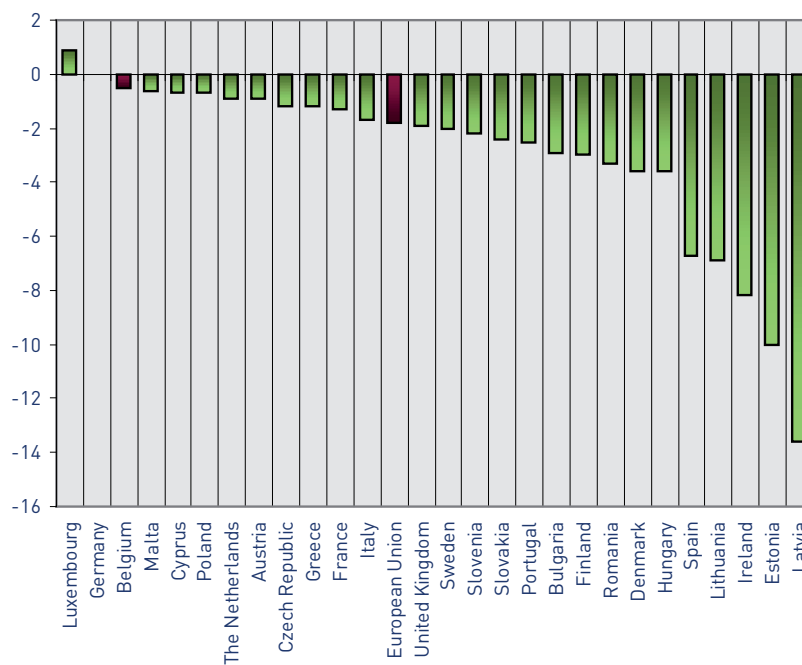
Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



Total employment rate in percent



Employment growth in the EU in 2009 (in %)



Employment growth: Annual percentage change in total employed population

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Luxembourg	5.6	2.9	3.6	4.4	4.7	0.9
2	Germany	1.9	-0.1	0.6	1.7	1.4	0.0
3	Belgium	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.9	-0.5
4	Malta	:	1.5	1.3	3.2	2.5	-0.6
5	Cyprus	1.7	3.6	1.8	3.3	2.6	-0.7
	Poland	-1.6	2.2 (b)	3.2	4.4	3.8	-0.7
7	The Netherlands	2.2	0.5	1.7	2.6	1.4	-0.9
	Austria	0.9	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.8	-0.9
9	Czech Republic	-0.2	1.0	1.9	2.7	1.2	-1.2
	Greece	0.5	0.9 (p)	2 (p)	1.4 (p)	0.1 (p)	-1.2
11	France	2.7	0.6	1.0	1.4	0.6	-1.3
12	Italy	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.3	0.3	-1.7
	European Union	1.5	0.9	1.6	1.8	0.9	-1.8
13	United Kingdom	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.1	-1.9
14	Sweden	2.5	0.3	1.7	2.2	0.9	-2.0
15	Slovenia	1.3	-0.2	1.5	3.0	2.8	-2.2
16	Slovakia	-2.0	1.4	2.3	2.1	2.8	-2.4
17	Portugal	2.1	-0.3	0.5	0.0	0.4	-2.5
18	Bulgaria	-2.4	2.7	3.3	2.8	3.3	-2.9
19	Finland	2.1	1.4	1.8	2.2	1.6	-3.0
20	Romania	-0.8	-1.5	0.7	0.4	-0.2	-3.3
21	Denmark	0.5	1.0	2.1	2.9	1.4	-3.6
	Hungary	12.0	-0.2	0.6	-0.3	-1.3	-3.6
23	Spain	5.1	4.1	3.9	3.0	-0.6	-6.7
24	Lithuania	-4.0	2.5	1.8	2.8	-0.5	-6.9
25	Ireland	4.5	4.9	4.3	3.7	-1.1	-8.2
26	Estonia	-1.5	2.0	5.4	0.7	0.2	-10.0
27	Latvia	-3.2	1.6	4.9	3.6	0.9	-13.6

Data source: Eurostat

Explanatory note: The employed population consists of the self-employed persons and employees aged 15 and over.

The unemployed population consists of the unemployed according to the criteria of the International Labour Organization (ILO), i.e. the unemployed active population. It consists of the persons aged 15 and over who are unemployed, who are immediately available for the labour market and who are actively looking for a job.

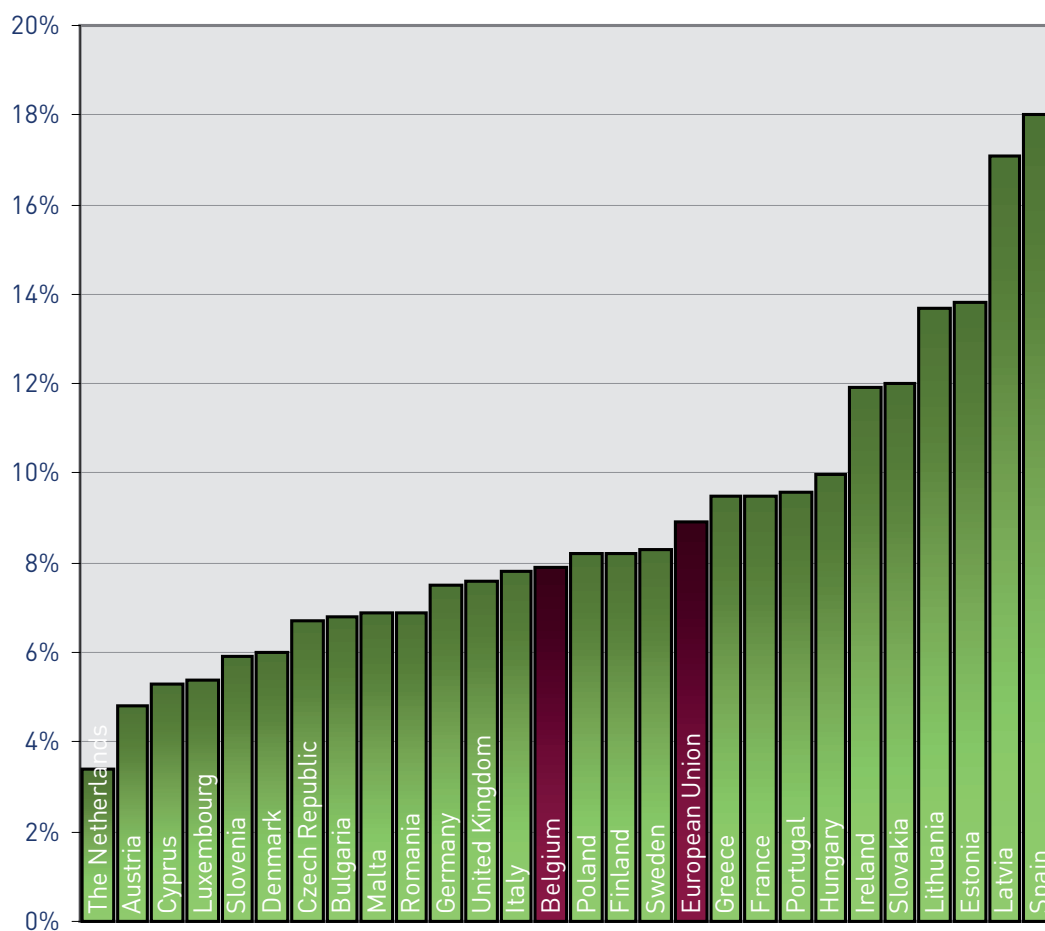
The inactive population includes all persons, including those aged less than 15, who are not economically active: the persons who only look after their household or work as a volunteer, the students and the retired persons.

The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons employed aged 15 to 64 by the total population of the same age class.

Unsurprisingly, the unemployment rate increased in all European countries in 2009. Similar to the employment rate, the weight of unemployment strongly varies from one Member State to another. In spite of the increase of its unemployment rate, Belgium improves its situation compared to the European average because its labour market has held up well to the crisis.

However, further efforts are still needed with regard to the unemployment of the under 25s. The new entrants to the labour market are encountering more and more difficulties to find a job. With a European average of about 20% in 2009, the youth unemployment rate increased significantly.

Unemployment rate in EU (in %)



Total unemployment rate in percent

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	The Netherlands	2.8	4.7	3.9	3.2	2.8	3.4
2	Austria	3.6	5.2	4.8	4.4	3.8	4.8
3	Cyprus	4.9	5.3	4.6	4.0	3.6	5.3
4	Luxembourg	2.2	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.9	5.4
5	Slovenia	6.7	6.5	6.0	4.9	4.4	5.9
6	Denmark	4.3	4.8	3.9	3.8	3.3	6.0
7	Czech Republic	8.7	7.9	7.2	5.3	4.4	6.7
8	Bulgaria	16.4	10.1	9.0	6.9	5.6	6.8
9	Malta	6.7	7.2	7.1	6.4	5.9	6.9
	Romania	7.3	7.2	7.3	6.4	5.8	6.9
11	Germany	7.5	10.7	9.8	8.4	7.3	7.5
12	United Kingdom	5.4	4.8	5.4	5.3	5.6	7.6
13	Italy	10.1	7.7	6.8	6.1	6.7	7.8
14	Belgium	6.9	8.5	8.3	7.5	7.0	7.9
15	Poland	16.1	17.8	13.9	9.6	7.1	8.2
	Finland	9.8	8.4	7.7	6.9	6.4	8.2
17	Sweden	5.6	7.6	7.0	6.1	6.2	8.3
	European Union	8.7	8.9	8.2	7.1	7.0	8.9
18	Greece	11.2	9.9	8.9	8.3	7.7	9.5
	France	9.0	9.3	9.2	8.4	7.8	9.5
20	Portugal	4.0	7.7	7.8	8.1	7.7	9.6
21	Hungary	6.4	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.8	10.0
22	Ireland	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	6.3	11.9
23	Slovakia	18.8	16.3	13.4	11.1	9.5	12.0
24	Lithuania	16.4	8.3	5.6	4.3	5.8	13.7
25	Estonia	13.6	7.9	5.9	4.7	5.5	13.8
26	Latvia	13.7	8.9	6.8	6.0	7.5	17.1
27	Spain	11.1	9.2	8.5	8.3	11.3	18.0

Data source: EUROSTAT

Unemployment rate of the under-25s in percent

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	The Netherlands	5.7	8.2	6.6	5.9	5.3	6.6
2	Austria	5.3	10.3	9.1	8.7	8.0	10.0
3	Germany	7.5	14.2	12.8	11.1	9.9	10.4
4	Denmark	6.2	8.6	7.7	7.9	7.6	11.2
5	Slovenia	16.3	15.9	13.9	10.1	10.4	13.6
6	Cyprus	10.1	13.0	10.5	10.1	8.8	13.8
7	Malta	13.7	16.2	16.5	13.8	11.9	14.3
8	Bulgaria	33.7	22.3	19.5	15.1	12.7	16.2
9	Czech Republic	17.8	19.2	17.5	10.7	9.9	16.6
10	Luxembourg	6.6	14.3	15.8	15.6	17.3	17.5
11	United Kingdom	12.2	12.8	14.0	14.3	15.0	19.1
	European Union	17.3	18.3	17.1	15.3	15.4	19.6
12	Portugal	8.6	16.1	16.3	16.6	16.4	20.0
13	Poland	35.1	36.9	29.8	21.7	17.3	20.6
14	Romania	20.0	20.2	21.4	20.1	18.6	20.8
15	Finland	21.4	20.1	18.7	16.5	16.5	21.5
16	Belgium	16.7	21.5	20.5	18.8	18.0	21.9
17	France	19.6	21.1	22.1	19.6	19.1	23.3
18	Ireland	6.7	8.6	8.6	8.9	13.3	24.4
19	Sweden	10.5	22.5	21.5	19.1	20.0	25.0
20	Italy	27.0	23.9	21.7	20.3	21.2	25.3
21	Greece	29.1	26.0	25.2	22.9	22.1	25.8
22	Hungary	12.4	19.4	19.1	18.0	19.9	26.5
23	Slovakia	36.9	30.1	26.6	20.3	19.0	27.3
24	Estonia	24.4	15.9	12.0	10.0	12.0	27.5
25	Lithuania	30.6	15.7	9.8	8.2	13.4	29.2
26	Latvia	21.4	13.6	12.2	10.7	13.1	33.6
27	Spain	24.3	19.7	17.9	18.2	24.6	37.8

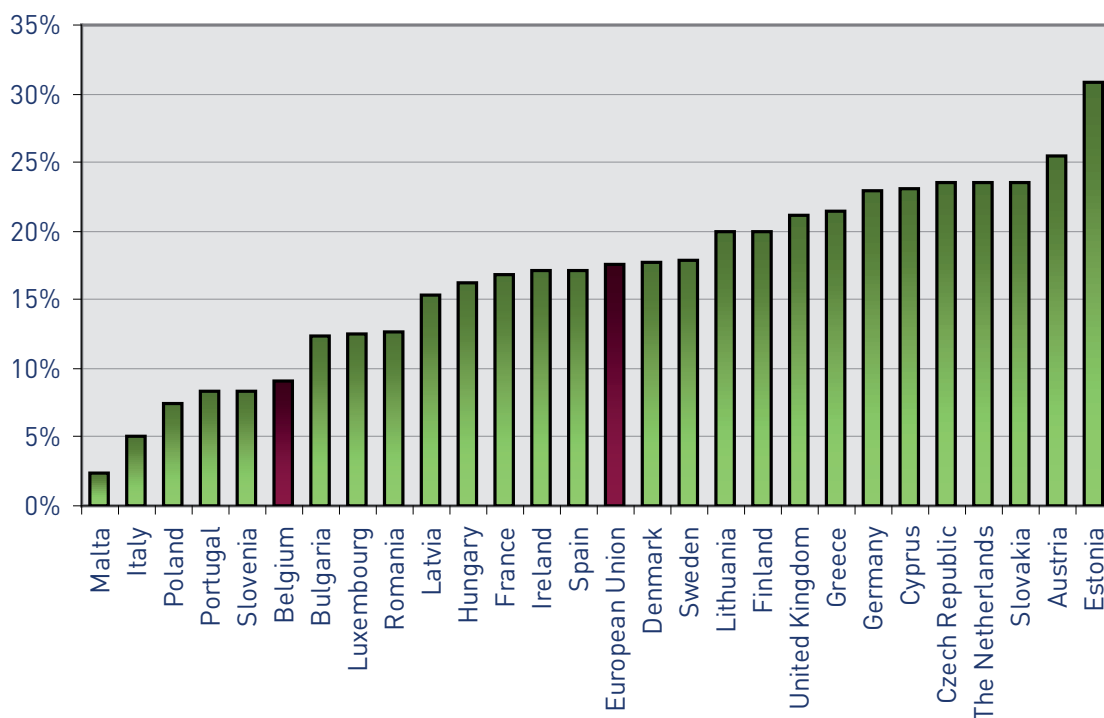
Data source: EUROSTAT



More and more Europeans are working part-time: almost one worker out of five does not work full-time. Belgium does not depart from the rule and is even one of the European countries with the largest proportion of part-time workers. Job categories with a majority of female workers have the highest shares of part-time workers. However, the share of men working part-time is on the rise as well. The number of hours worked for full-time jobs does not vary greatly across countries. The situation is different for part-time work where it varies from less than 18 hours to about 26 hours per week on average. The pay gap between women and men greatly varies across countries, ranging from 2% in Malta to more than 30% additional wage for male workers in Estonia. Even though the gender pay gap is still present, Belgium distinguishes itself positively compared to the European average. Indeed, with a 9.1% gender pay gap the country lies significantly below the European average, which is 17.6%.

The incidence rate of serious or fatal accidents at works declined in Europe between 2000 and 2006. Belgium also reduced the number of accidents more substantially than the European average, especially as far as serious accidents are concerned.

Gender pay gap - 2007 in unadjusted form



Part-time employment (% of the total employment)				
Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2009
1	The Netherlands	41.5%	46.1%	48.3%
2	Sweden	19.5%	24.7 (b)%	27 (f)%
3	Germany	19.4%	24 (b)%	26.1 (f)%
	United Kingdom	25.1%	25.2%	26.1%
5	Denmark	21.3%	22.1%	26.0%
6	Austria	16.3%	21.1%	24.6%
7	Belgium	18.9%	22.0%	23.4%
8	Ireland	16.4%		21.2 (p)%
	European Union	16.2%	17.8%	18.8%
9	Luxembourg	10.4%	17.4%	18.2 (f)%
10	France	16.7%	17.2%	17.3%
11	Italy	8.4%	12.8%	14.3%
12	Finland	12.3%	13.7%	14.0%
13	Spain	7.9%	12.4 (b)%	12.8%
14	Portugal	10.9%	11.2%	11.6%
15	Malta	6.8%	9.6%	11.3%
16	Slovenia	6.5%	9.0%	10.6%
17	Estonia	8.1%	7.8%	10.5%
18	Romania	16.5%	10.2%	9.8%
19	Latvia	11.3%	8.3%	8.9 (f)%
20	Cyprus	8.4%	8.9%	8.4%
	Poland	10.5%	10.8%	8.4 (f)%
22	Lithuania	10.2%	7.1%	8.3%
23	Greece	4.5%	5.0%	6.0%
24	Hungary	3.5%	4.1%	5.6%
25	Czech Republic	5.3%	4.9%	5.5%
26	Slovakia	2.1%	2.5%	3.6%
27	Bulgaria		2.1%	2.3%

Data source: EUROSTAT

Part-time employment (% of the total employment)* in Belgium by NACE section			
NACE section	2000	2005	2009
Domestic services (Nace P)	59.7%	60.5%	76.9%
Health and social work (Nace N)	43.5%	48.0%	48.2%
Hotels and restaurants (Nace H)	46.0%	47.7%	43.2%
Other community, social and personal service activities (Nace O)	30.7%	29.1%	30.9%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (Nace G)	29.1%	31.8%	30.3%
Education (Nace M)	27.3%	25.8%	28.1%
Real estate, renting and business activities (Nace K)	18.7%	22.3%	25.3%
Financial intermediation (Nace J)	14.5%	21.6%	21.5%
Public administration (Nace L)	17.8%	18.8%	21.3%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry (Nace A) + Fisheries (Nace B)	25.6%	25.1%	18.3%
Transport, storage and communication (Nace I)	9.0%	13.5%	15.5%
Manufacturing (Nace D)	6.7%	11.4%	11.5%
Mining and quarrying (Nace C)	4.3%	7.4%	10.7%
Electricity, gas and water supply (Nace E)	4.3%	6.3%	9.2%
Construction (Nace F)	4.9%	5.6%	6.6%
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies (Nace Q)	7.4%	5.2%	4.6%

* Excluding ALE workers and occasional workers.

Sources: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Hours worked per week in 2007 - annual average

Full-time			Part-time		
Ranking	Unit	Time in hours/week	Ranking	Unit	Time in hours/week
1	Austria	44.3	1	Romania	25.7
2	Greece	43.8	2	Sweden	24.8
3	United Kingdom	43.0	3	Hungary	23.7
4	Poland	42.9	4	Belgium	23.6
5	Czech Republic	42.8	5	France	23.4
6	Slovenia	42.5	6	Lithuania	22.7
7	Spain	42.0	7	Czech Republic	22.3
	Latvia	42.0	8	Luxembourg	22.2
9	Bulgaria	41.9	9	Poland	21.9
	European Union	41.8		Latvia	21.9
10	Cyprus	41.7	11	Slovakia	21.7
	Germany	41.7	12	Italy	21.5
12	Portugal	41.6	13	Malta	21.4
	Slovakia	41.6	14	Bulgaria	20.8
14	Malta	41.2	15	Estonia	20.8
	Belgium	41.2	16	Greece	20.6
	Estonia	41.2	17	Austria	20.3
17	Italy	41.1	18	Cyprus	20.2
18	Romania	41.0		European Union	20.0
	France	41.0	19	Denmark	19.9
	Sweden	41.0		Finland	19.9
21	Hungary	40.9	21	Portugal	19.5
	The Netherlands	40.9	22	Slovenia	19.4
23	Denmark	40.4	23	The Netherlands	19.3
24	Finland	40.3	24	Spain	19.2
25	Ireland	40.2	25	Ireland	19.0
26	Lithuania	40.0	26	United Kingdom	18.8
27	Luxembourg	39.9	27	Germany	17.9

Data source: EUROSTAT

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.

Gender pay gap - 2007 in unadjusted form

Ranking	Unit	Gap in %
1	Malta	2.4%
2	Italy	5.1%
3	Poland	7.5%
4	Portugal	8.3%
	Slovenia	8.3%
6	Belgium	9.1%
7	Bulgaria	12.4%
8	Luxembourg	12.5%
9	Romania	12.7%
10	Latvia	15.4%
11	Hungary	16.3%
12	France	16.9%
13	Ireland	17.1%
	Spain	17.1%
	European Union	17.6%
15	Denmark	17.7%
16	Sweden	17.9%
17	Lithuania	20.0%
	Finland	20.0%
19	United Kingdom	21.1%
20	Greece	21.5%
21	Germany	23.0%
22	Cyprus	23.1%
23	Czech Republic	23.6%
24	The Netherlands	23.6%
	Slovakia	23.6%
26	Austria	25.5%
27	Estonia	30.9%

Data source: EUROSTAT

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 thousand persons in employment (1998=100)

Serious accidents				Fatal accidents			
Ranking	Unit	2000	2006	Ranking	Unit	2000	2006
1	Greece	88	55	1	Luxembourg	149	37
2	Bulgaria	100 (b)	58	2	France	85	50 (p)
3	Belgium	82 (b)	60	3	Estonia	56	57
4	Slovakia	87	64	4	Italy	66	58
5	Germany	96	66		Malta	38	58
6	Italy	99	69	6	Finland	88	63
7	Slovenia	98	70	7	Spain	85	64
8	Austria	92	72	8	Czech Republic	96	67
9	Hungary	93	74	9	Hungary	93	68
10	United Kingdom	106	75		Portugal	104	68
11	Portugal	88	76	11	Slovakia	68	76
	European Union	100	76	12	Latvia	90	79
12	Czech Republic	91	78		The Netherlands	106	79
	Luxembourg	104	78	14	Belgium	100	81
14	France	102	82		European Union	100	81
	Sweden	111	82		United Kingdom	106	81
16	Denmark	89	84	16	Austria	100	82
17	Spain	108	85		Poland	96	82
	Malta	77	85	18	Ireland	:	83
19	Cyprus	112	86	19	Denmark	61	87 (p)
20	Poland	85	88	20	Romania	103	92
	Finland	89	88	21	Germany	95	95
22	Latvia	65	91	22	Greece	73	103
23	Romania	106	94	23	Bulgaria	100 (b)	106
24	The Netherlands	105	100 (2005)	24	Cyprus	46	107
25	Lithuania	94	101	25	Sweden	85	115
26	Ireland	:	107	26	Lithuania	75	117
27	Estonia	105	120	27	Slovenia	102	149

Data source: EUROSTAT

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.



| Living conditions and income

In the European Union, the income quintile share ratio amounts to 5. 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 500. Even if this ratio is 4.1 in Belgium, the income gap between poor and rich is quite high.

Moreover, 17% of the Europeans live below the poverty threshold and the risk of poverty tends to increase over time. Even though this proportion also increases in Belgium, 15% of the inhabitants live below this threshold, which is under the European average. The Belgian figures show (just like in other Member States) that the risk of poverty depends, among others, on age, situation on the labour market and level of education.

In Belgium, the share of the household budget spent on the various expenditure categories has changed over time. Between the late '70s and 2008, the 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

Ranking	Unit	2008
1	Czech Republic	3.4
	Slovenia	3.4
	Slovakia	3.4
4	Sweden	3.5
5	Denmark	3.6
	Hungary	3.6
7	Austria	3.7
8	Finland	3.8
9	Malta	4.0
	The Netherlands	4.0
11	Belgium	4.1
	Cyprus	4.1
	Luxembourg	4.1
14	France	4.2
15	Ireland	4.5
16	Germany	4.8
	European Union	5.0
17	Estonia	5.0
18	Italy	5.1
	Poland	5.1
20	Spain	5.4
	United Kingdom	5.6
22	Greece	5.9
	Lithuania	5.9
24	Portugal	6.1
25	Bulgaria	6.5
26	Romania	7.0
27	Latvia	7.3

Data source: EUROSTAT

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 equivalised disposable income.

At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers in %

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Czech Republic	:	10 (b)	10	10	9
2	The Netherlands	11 (p)	11(b)	10	10	11
	Slovakia	:	13 (b)	12	11	11
4	Denmark	:	12	12	12	12
	Hungary	11	13	16	12	12
	Austria	12	12	13	12	12
	Slovenia	11	12 (b)	12	12	12
	Sweden	:	9	12	11	12
9	France	16	13	13	13	13
	Luxembourg	12	14	14	14	13
11	Finland	11	12	13	13	14
12	Belgium	13	15	15	15	15
	Germany	10	12 (b)	13	15	15
	Malta	15	14	14	14	15
15	Ireland	20	20	18	17	16
	Cyprus	:	16	16	16	16
	European Union	:	16 (s)	16 (s)	17	17
	Poland	16	21 (b)	19	17	17
18	Portugal	21	19	18	18	18
19	Estonia	18	18	18	19	19
	Italy	18	19	20	20	19
	United Kingdom	19 (b)	19 (b)	19	19	19
22	Greece	20	20	21	20	20
	Spain	18	20	20	20	20
	Lithuania	17	21 (b)	20	19	20
25	Bulgaria	14	14	18 (b)	22	21
26	Romania	17	18	19	25 (b)	23
27	Latvia	16	19 (b)	23	21	26

Data source: EUROSTAT

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).

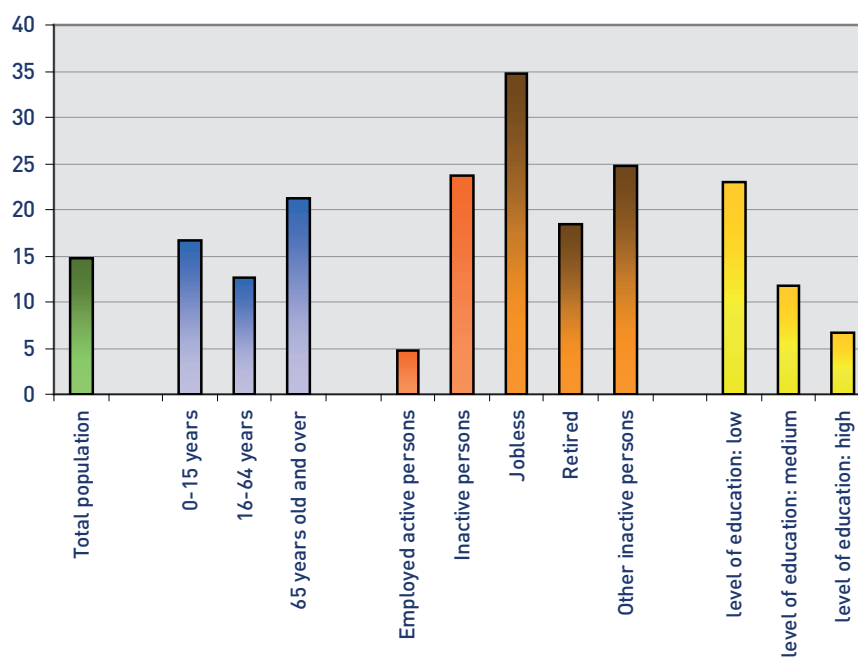
The percentage of the population below the poverty threshold* (2008)

	Males	Females	Total
Total population	13.6	15.8	14.7
0-15 years	15.4	17.9	16.6
16-64 years	11.6	13.6	12.6
65 years old and over	20.2	22	21.3
Employed active persons	4.5	5.2	4.8
Inactive persons	24	23.4	23.7
Jobless	36.6	32.9	34.8
Retired	18.1	18.7	18.4
Other inactive persons	25.3	24.6	24.8
Level of education: low	:	:	23
Level of education: medium	:	:	11.8
Level of education: high	:	:	6.7

* Poverty threshold (Belgium): person living alone: 10,788 euros, parents and households with double income: 22,654 euros, annual income.

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

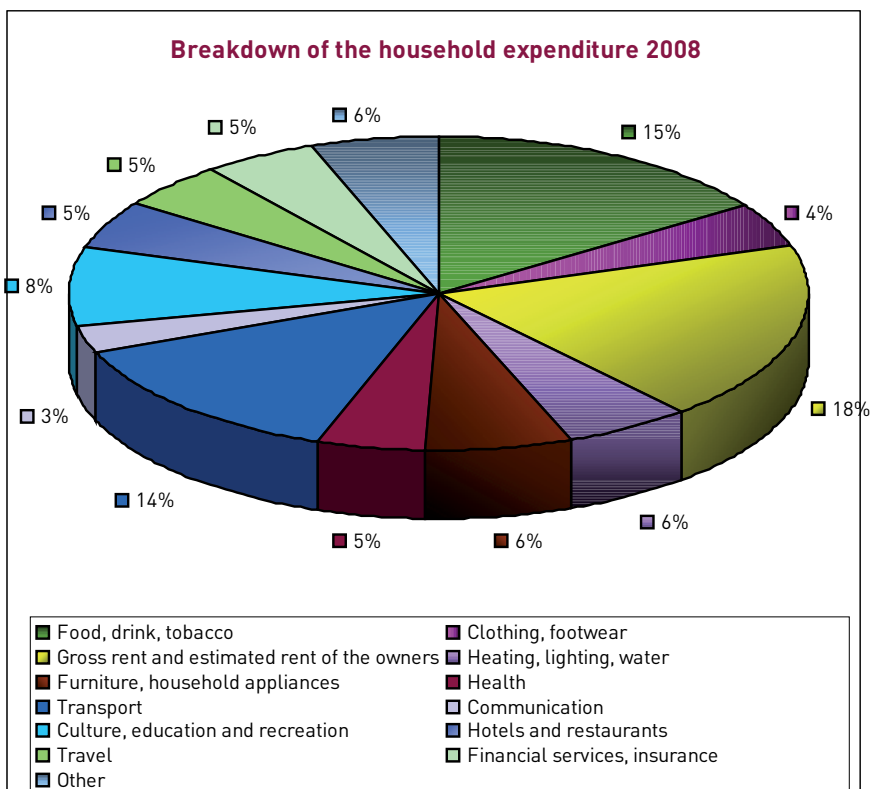
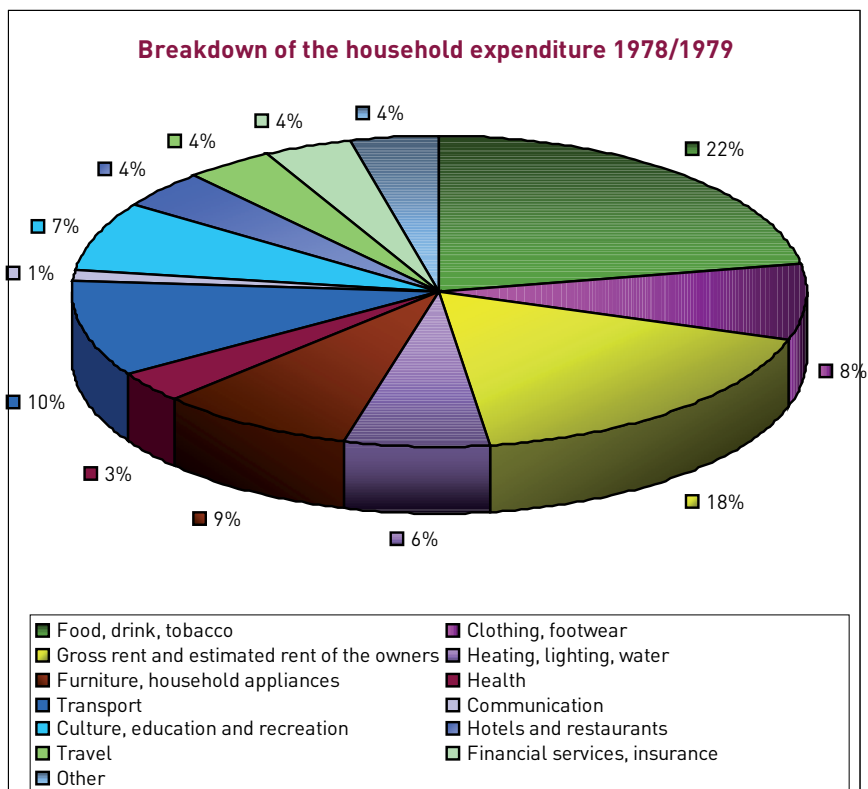
Percentage of the population below the poverty threshold (Belgium 2008)



Breakdown of the Belgian household expenditure						
As a percentage of the total expenditure	1978/1979 (a)	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Food, drink, tobacco	22.2%	15.6%	15.7%	16.0%	15.6%	15.6%
Clothing, footwear	7.9%	4.9%	4.7%	4.5%	4.9%	4.3%
Gross rent and estimated rent of the owners	17.7%	20.8%	19.9%	19.1%	19.0%	18.7%
Heating, lighting, water	6.5%	5.3%	5.3%	5.9%	5.4%	5.7%
Furniture, household appliances	8.6%	6.6%	5.7%	6.1%	6.5%	6.2%
Health	3.3%	4.2%	4.7%	5.0%	4.7%	4.7%
Transport	10.1%	14.0%	12.8%	13.0%	13.2%	13.7%
Communication	1.1%	2.3%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%
Culture, education and recreation	7.3%	8.8%	8.7%	8.1%	8.3%	8.1%
Hotels and restaurants	3.9%	5.0%	5.2%	5.3%	5.2%	5.1%
Travel	3.9%	3.0%	3.1%	3.4%	4.0%	4.6%
Financial services, insurance	3.7%	4.7%	4.8%	5.3%	4.9%	5.1%
Other	4.0%	4.8%	6.5%	5.4%	5.5%	5.5%

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

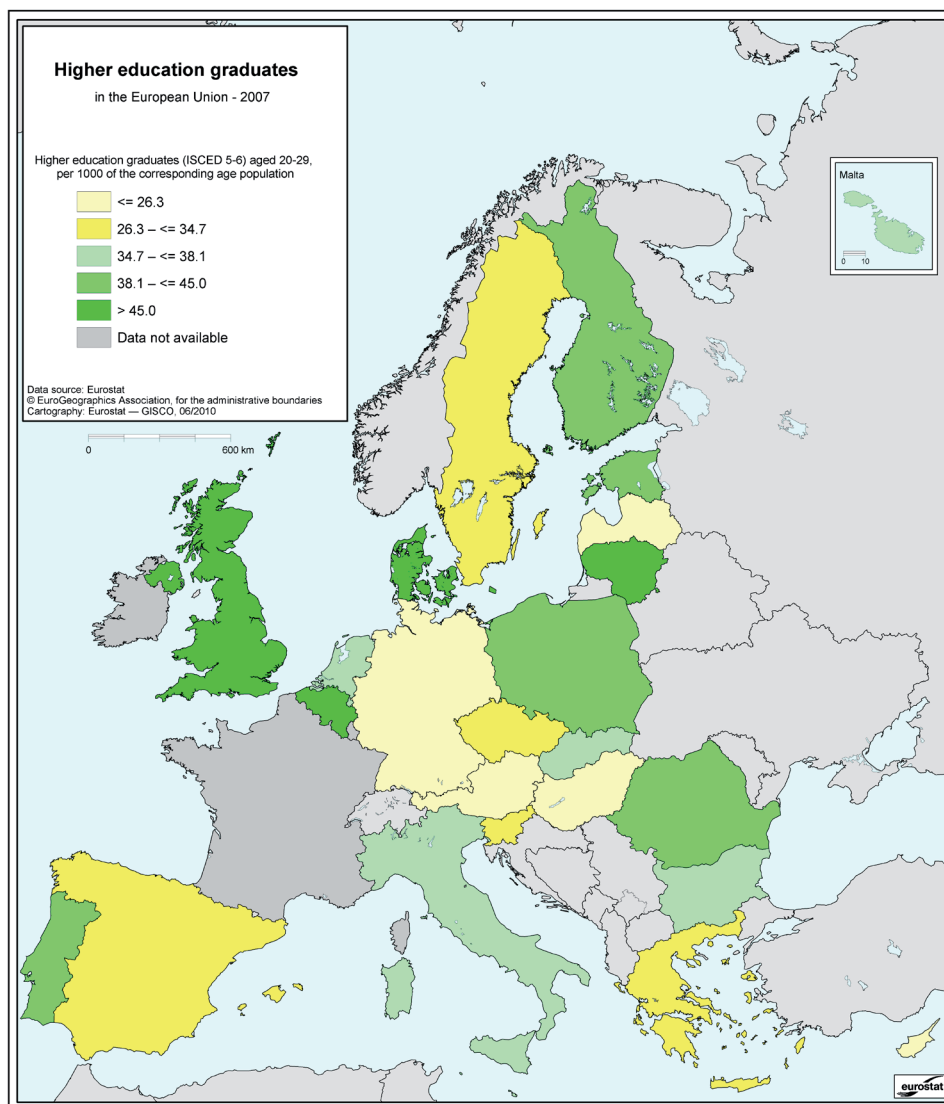
Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



In nearly 20 years, the level of education of the Belgian population has improved significantly. In 2009, graduates from higher education accounted for 26% of the Belgian population aged 15 and over against only 14% in 1990.

Belgium has fewer pupils leaving school early than the European average. The country has now one of the largest shares of graduates from higher education in the European Union. Like everywhere in Europe, there are more female graduates from higher education than male graduates.

Moreover, the adults intensively continue their education since 40 % of people aged 25-64 followed trainings in 2007, which lies above the European average.

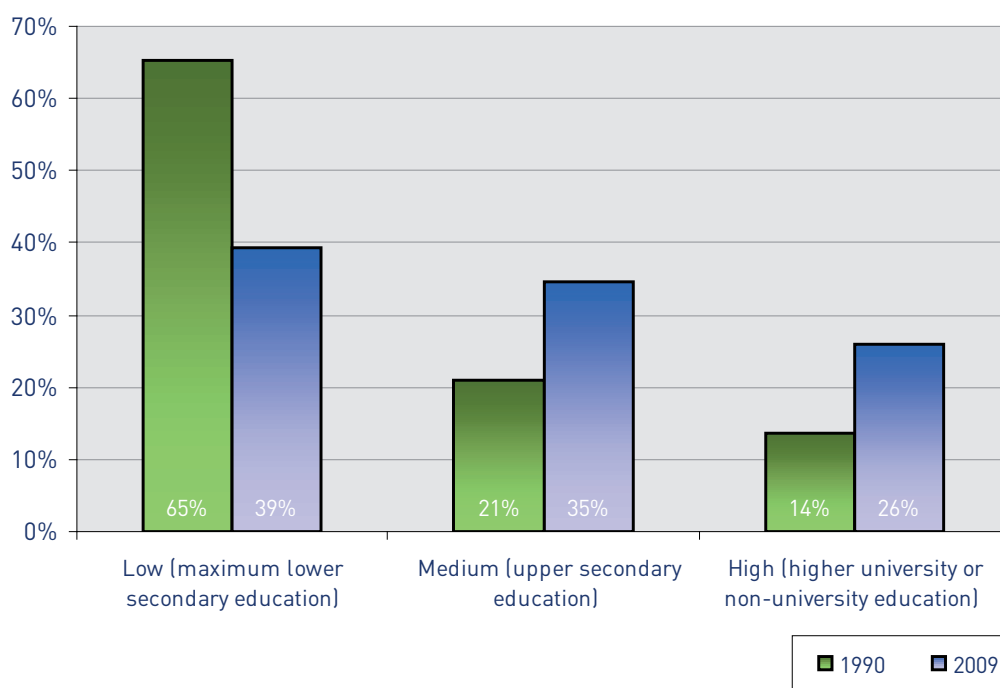


Level of education in Belgium of the population aged 15 and over - in absolute and relative figures

Level of education	1990	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	in % 1990	in % 2009
Total (population aged 15 and over)	8,276,469	8,434,300	8,680,488	8,749,261	8,831,933	8,903,577	8,977,076	100.0%	100.0%
Low (maximum lower secondary education)	5,396,457	4,173,653	3,817,954	3,764,306	3,704,606	3,626,823	3,536,079	65.2%	39.4%
Medium (upper secondary education)	1,741,570	2,524,524	2,811,446	2,850,706	2,950,254	3,047,147	3,105,042	21.0%	34.6%
High (higher university or non-university education)	1,138,442	1,736,123	2,052,038	2,134,559	2,177,074	2,229,607	2,335,956	13.8%	26.0%

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Level of education in Belgium of the population aged 15 and over



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

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Poland	:	5.3	5.4	5.0	5.0
2	Slovenia	:	4.9 (u)	5.6	4.1 (u)	5.1
3	Czech Republic	:	6.2	5.1	5.2	5.6
4	Slovakia	:	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.0
5	Lithuania	16.5	8.1	8.2	7.4	7.4
6	Finland	9.0	10.3	9.7	9.1	9.8
7	Austria	10.2	9.1	9.8	10.7	10.1
8	Sweden	7.3	10.8 (b)	12.4 (p)	11.4 (p)	11.1
9	Ireland	:	12.5	12.1	11.6	11.3
10	The Netherlands	15.4	13.5	12.6	11.7	11.4
11	Denmark	11.7	8.7	9.1	12.5 (b)	11.5
12	Hungary	13.9	12.5	12.6	11.4	11.7
13	Germany	14.6	13.5 (b)	13.6	12.5	11.8
	France	13.3	12.2	12.4	12.6	11.8
15	Belgium	13.8	12.9	12.6	12.1	12.0
16	Luxembourg	16.8	13.3	14.0	12.5	13.4
17	Cyprus	18.5	18.2 (b)	14.9	12.5	13.7
18	Estonia	15.1	13.4	13.5	14.4	14.0
19	Bulgaria	:	20.4	17.3	14.9	14.8
	Greece	18.2	13.6	15.5	14.6	14.8
	European Union	17.6 (e)	15.8	15.5	15.1	14.9
21	Latvia	:	14.4	14.8	15.1	15.5 (p)
22	Romania	22.9	19.6	17.9	17.3	15.9
23	United Kingdom	18.2	11.6	11.3	16.6 (b)	17 (u)
24	Italy	25.1	22.0	20.6	19.7	19.7
25	Spain	29.1	30.8 (b)	30.5	31.0	31.9
26	Portugal	43.6 (p)	38.8 (p)	39.1 (p)	36.9 (p)	35.4 (p)
27	Malta	54.2	38.9	39.9	38.3	39.0

Data source: EUROSTAT

Graduates from higher education aged 20-29 years*

Unit	2000	2005	2007
Lithuania	46.7	64.7	63.7
Belgium	:	45.0	61.4
Denmark	40.1	54.7	58.8
United Kingdom	45.5	56.1	55.5
Poland	:	48.5	52.2
Estonia	:	:	45.0
Portugal	23.8	34.2	43.5
Romania	16.9	36.2	43.3
Finland	37.5	39.5	42.2
The Netherlands	31.1	44.5	41.3
Slovakia	20.3	32.5	38.1
Italy	16.1	35.0	37.3
Malta	:	:	36.2
Bulgaria	31.9	34.1	35.3
Slovenia	25.2	32.6	35.0
Czech Republic	16.0	23.5	34.7
Spain	32.2	37.8	34.1
Greece	:	33.5	33.9
Sweden	23.9	31.0	32.0
Hungary	27.3	32.8	30.4
Cyprus	19.7	25.6	29.3
Austria	12.1	18.9	26.3
Germany	15.4	19.6	22.8
Latvia	:	:	5.8

* per 1000 of the population of corresponding age

Data source: EUROSTAT

Female graduates from higher education per 100 men

Unit	2000	2005	2007
European Union	130.8	142.8	145.0
Austria	90.3	106.8	110.3
France	126.1	126.9	122.6
The Netherlands	118.1	129.7	129.8
Ireland	122.6	125.5	130.3
Germany	101.4	112.7	130.7
Czech Republic	124.7	130.0	133.0
Malta	108.4	154.0	134.5
Denmark	128.9	143.6	134.6
United Kingdom	121.8	138.4	138.7
Belgium	126.6	140.4	138.8
Spain	134.3	138.1	140.3
Cyprus	187.0	156.3	143.6
Greece	:	159.6	146.9
Romania	110.5	133.3	148.4
Italy	126.6	142.6	149.4
Bulgaria	181.2	143.2	149.6
Portugal	190.8	187.5	159.2
Slovakia	121.8	133.0	161.4
Slovenia	133.4	161.5	161.6
Finland	161.1	164.8	171.4
Sweden	140.1	172.7	175.3
Poland	184.7	193.4	187.2
Hungary	123.6	181.4	198.3
Lithuania	167.7	197.7	200.0
Estonia	192.5	235.4	221.5
Latvia	173.3	239.4	255.7

Data source: EUROSTAT

Adult participation rate in lifelong learning *

Unit	2007
Sweden	73.4
Finland	55.0
United Kingdom	49.3
Germany	45.4
The Netherlands	44.6
Denmark	44.5
Slovakia	44.0
Estonia	42.1
Austria	41.9
Cyprus	40.6
Slovenia	40.6
Belgium	40.5
Czech Republic	37.6
Bulgaria	36.4
European Union	36.1
France	35.1
Lithuania	33.9
Latvia	32.7
Spain	30.9
Portugal	26.4
Italy	22.2
Poland	21.8
Greece	14.5
Hungary	9.0

* in percentage of the population aged 25-64

Data source: EUROSTAT

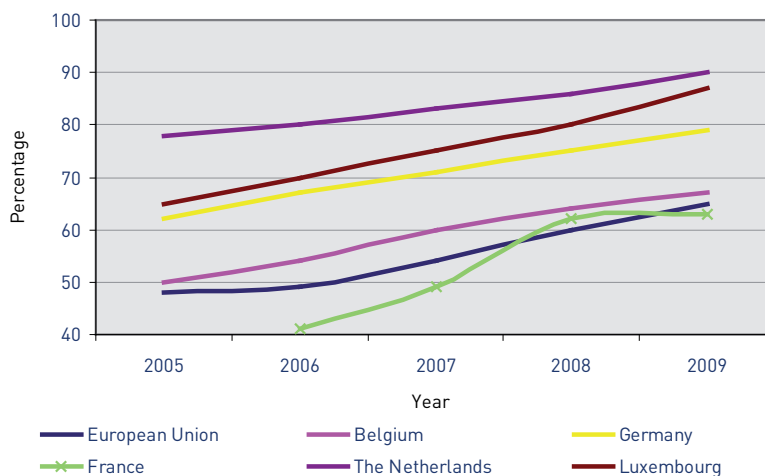


Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in households and enterprises

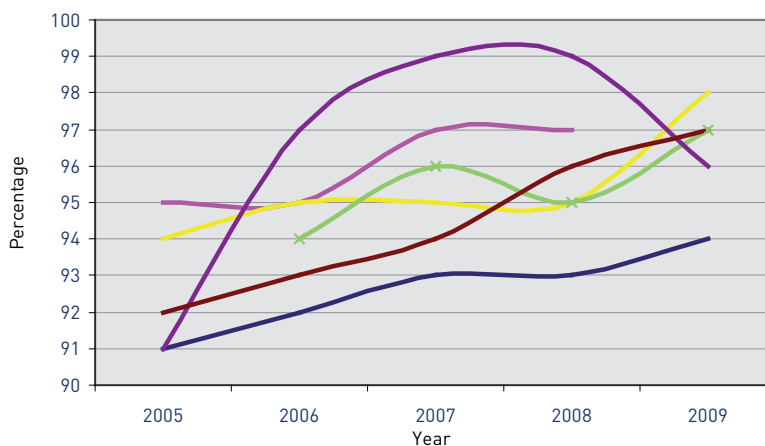
The Europeans are becoming more and more connected. In 2009, about 2/3 of the households had internet access at home. These connections are becoming faster and faster because of the growing number of broadband connections. In Belgium, not less than 71% of the households have a computer and 67% are connected to the Internet. 70% of Belgians aged 16 to 74 are regularly connected to the internet against 60% in the whole European Union.

Nowadays, the connection to the Internet appears to be essential for enterprises since almost all enterprises in the European Union use IT-tools and are connected to the Internet. It should be noticed that the faster connections cover the majority of this market. Indeed, 83% of the European enterprises have a broadband connection. Finally, the number of « .be » domains multiplied by 40 within ten years (between late 1999 and late 2009) and nearly reaches one million names. This demonstrates that society is more and more interested in the medium of the Internet.

Percentage of households who have Internet access at home:
European Union, Belgium and the four neighbour countries



Percentage of enterprises who have Internet access:
European Union, Belgium and the four neighbour countries



Percentage of households who have Internet access at home (in %)

Ranking	Unit	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	The Netherlands	78	80	83	86	90
2	Luxembourg	65	70	75	80	87
3	Sweden	73	77	79	84	86
4	Denmark	75	79	78	82	83
5	Germany	62	67	71	75	79
6	Finland	54	65	69	72	78
7	United Kingdom	60	63	67	71	77
8	Austria	47	52	60	69	70
9	Belgium	50	54	60	64	67
	Ireland	47	50	57	63	67
	European Union	48	49	54	60	65
11	Malta	41	53	54	59	64
	Slovenia	48	54	58	59	64
13	Estonia	39	46	53	58	63
	France	:	41	49	62	63
15	Slovakia	23	27	46	58	62
16	Lithuania	16	35	44	51	60
17	Poland	30	36	41	48	59
18	Latvia	31	42	51	53	58
19	Hungary	22	32	38	48	55
20	Czech Republic	19	29	35	46	54
	Spain	36	39	45	51	54
22	Italy	39	40	43	47	53
	Cyprus	32	37	39	43	53
24	Portugal	31	35	40	46	48
25	Greece	22	23	25	31	38
	Romania	:	14	22	30	38
27	Bulgaria	:	17	19	25	30

Data source: Eurostat

Number of broadband access lines per 100 inhabitants

Ranking	Unit	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	The Netherlands	22.4	29.0	33.1	35.8	37.7
2	Denmark	22.0	29.6	37.2	37.4	37.2
3	Sweden	17.1	22.9	28.3	32.5	32.5
4	Luxembourg	11.7	17.4	24.6	27.3	31.2
5	Finland	18.7	24.9	28.8	30.7	30.5
6	Germany	10.2	15.3	21.1	26.3	29.4
7	France	13.9	18.0	22.3	26.2	29.2
8	United Kingdom	13.5	19.2	23.8	27.5	28.8
9	Belgium	17.4	20.7	23.9	26.6	28.3
10	Estonia	11.1	16.6	20.0	23.6	26.3
11	Malta	10.4	12.8	13.9	20.5	26.2
	European Union	:	:	18.2	21.7	23.9
12	Slovenia	7.8	11.4	15.3	19.1	22.1
13	Austria	11.6	15.8	18.4	20.8	21.8
14	Ireland	4.4	8.8	15.5	19.5	21.3
15	Cyprus	2.7	6.6	11.1	16.0	20.9
16	Spain	10.0	13.2	16.8	19.8	20.7
17	Italy	9.5	13.1	15.9	18.1	19.8
18	Lithuania	5.0	8.4	12.7	16.1	18.2
19	Czech Republic	4.3	8.4	12.2	15.8	17.8
20	Portugal	10.1	12.9	14.8	15.8	17.6
21	Latvia	3.7	6.8	11.6	16.3	17.5
22	Hungary	4.5	7.5	11.6	15.7	17.2
23	Greece	0.8	2.7	6.8	11.2	15.6
24	Slovakia	1.5	4.0	6.9	9.6	14.3
25	Poland	1.9	3.9	6.8	9.6	12.8
26	Romania	:	:	6.6	10.7	12.3
27	Bulgaria	:	:	5.7	9.5	11.9

Data source: Eurostat

Percentage of individuals aged 16 to 74 regularly using the Internet

Ranking	Unit	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	The Netherlands	74	76	81	83	86
	Sweden	76	80	75	83	86
3	Luxembourg	63	65	72	77	83
4	Denmark	73	78	76	80	82
5	Finland	62	71	75	78	79
6	United Kingdom	54	57	65	70	76
7	Germany	54	59	64	68	71
8	Belgium	53	58	63	66	70
9	Estonia	54	56	59	62	67
	Austria	49	55	61	66	67
11	Slovakia	43	43	51	62	66
12	France	:	39	57	63	65
13	Latvia	36	46	52	57	61
14	Ireland	31	44	51	57	60
	European Union	43	45	51	56	60
15	Slovenia	40	47	49	52	58
16	Hungary	34	42	49	56	57
17	Lithuania	30	38	45	50	55
	Malta	34	36	43	46	55
19	Czech Republic	26	36	42	51	54
	Spain	35	39	44	49	54
21	Poland	29	34	39	44	52
22	Cyprus	26	29	35	35	45
23	Italy	28	31	34	37	42
	Portugal	28	31	35	38	42
25	Bulgaria	:	22	28	33	40
26	Greece	18	23	28	33	38
27	Romania	:	18	22	26	31

Data source: Eurostat

Number of .be domains (1999-2009)

	1999	2000	2005*	2006*	2007	2008	2009
New registrations	10,341	67,079	594,450	372,203	193,648	222,915	174,524
Registrations at the end of the year	23,397	89,718	873,362	796,071	736,498	859,474	977,998

* A publicity campaign of DNS Belgium resulted in a temporary increase in 2005 and 2006.

Data source: DNS Belgium



Percentage of enterprises that have Internet access *

Ranking	Unit	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Finland	98	99	99	99	100
2	Denmark	97	98	97	98	98
	Germany	94	95	95	95	98
	Austria	95	98	97	97	98
	Slovakia	92	93	98	96	98
6	Belgium	95	95	97	97	97
	France	:	94	96	95	97
	Luxembourg	92	93	94	96	97
9	Czech Republic	92	95	95	95	96
	Spain	90	93	94	95	96
	The Netherlands	91	97	99	99	96
	Slovenia	96	96	96	97	96
13	Estonia	90	92	94	96	95
	Ireland	92	94	95	96	95
	Italy	92	93	94	94	95
	Lithuania	86	88	89	94	95
	Malta	90	90	95	92	95
	Portugal	81	83	90	92	95
	Sweden	96	96	95	96	95
	United Kingdom	90	93	93	93	95
	European Union	91	92	93	93	94
21	Greece	92	94	93	93	92
	Cyprus	85	86	88	89	92
23	Poland	87	89	92	93	91
24	Latvia	75	80	86	88	88
	Hungary	78	80	86	86	88
26	Bulgaria	63	75	75	83	84
27	Romania	:	57	67	67	73

* Enterprises with 10 or more employed persons, excluding the financial sector

Data source: EUROSTAT

Enterprises having a broadband connection (in %)*

Ranking	Unit	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Spain	76	87	90	92	94
	Finland	81	89	91	92	94
3	France	:	86	89	92	93
	Malta	78	83	89	89	93
5	Belgium	78	84	86	91	89
	Germany	62	73	80	84	89
	Luxembourg	64	76	81	87	89
	Sweden	83	89	87	89	89
9	United Kingdom	65	77	78	87	88
10	Cyprus	40	55	69	79	87
	The Netherlands	71	82	87	86	87
12	Estonia	67	76	78	88	86
13	Portugal	63	66	76	81	85
	Slovenia	74	75	79	84	85
15	Greece	44	58	72	74	84
	Italy	57	70	76	81	84
	European Union	62	73	77	81	83
17	Denmark	82	83	80	80	80
	Ireland	48	61	68	83	80
19	Czech Republic	52	69	77	79	78
	Slovakia	48	61	76	79	78
21	Austria	61	69	72	76	77
22	Hungary	48	61	70	72	76
23	Bulgaria	32	57	61	62	70
24	Latvia	48	59	57	62	62
25	Lithuania	57	57	53	56	58
26	Poland	43	46	53	59	58
27	Romania	:	31	37	44	41

* Enterprises with 10 or more employed persons, excluding the financial sector

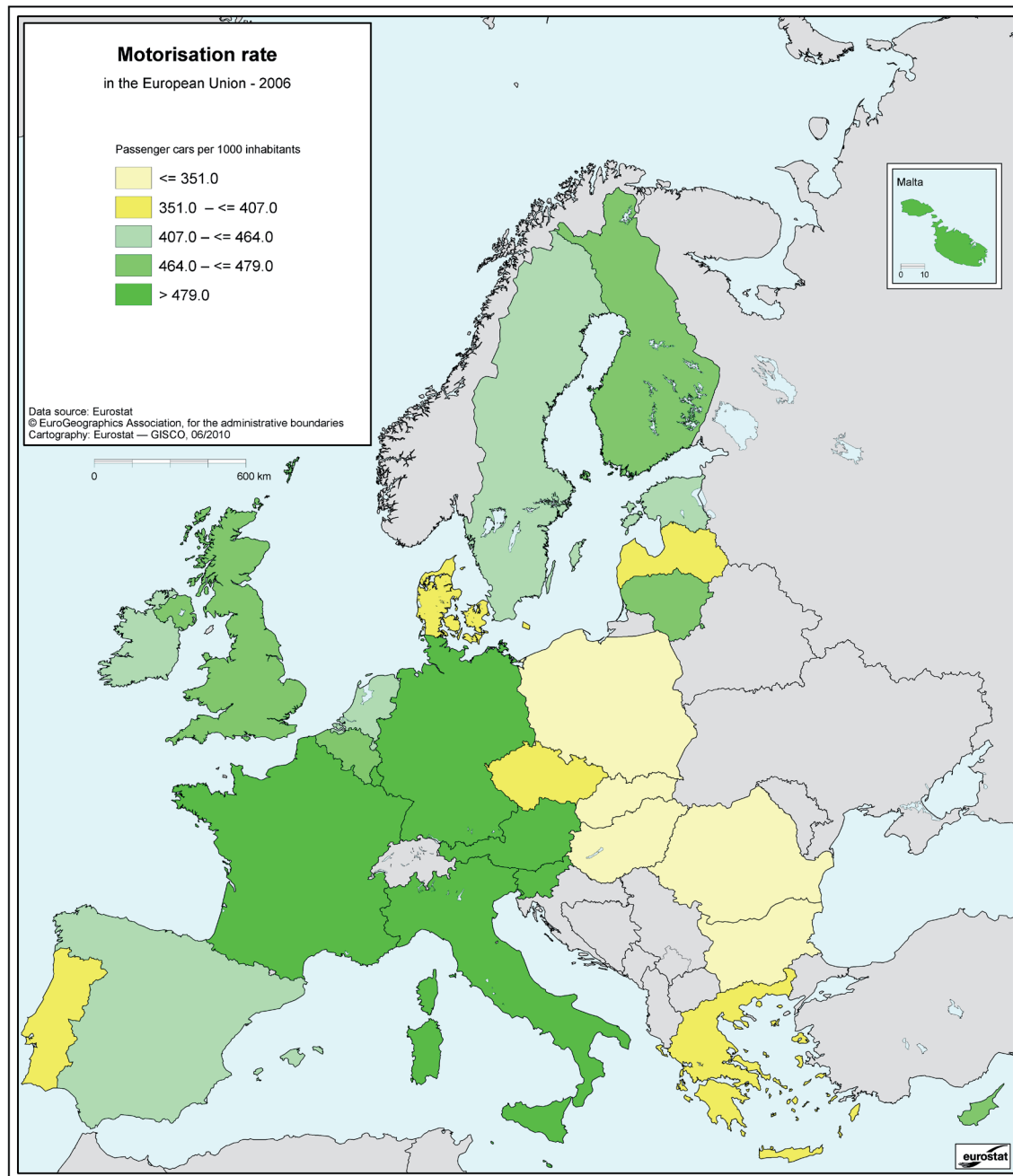
Data source: EUROSTAT





Mobility and transport





A | Motorisation

In 2009, in spite of the crisis in the car industry in Europe and the important decline of new vehicle registrations, the car population further increased in Belgium. In 1977, there was one car per 3.55 inhabitants. We are now heading towards one car per two inhabitants, which shows how the number of cars is growing.

Mid-2009, about 6.5 million vehicles were on the road. Most of them (more than 5 million) were passenger cars, i.e. about one car per Belgian aged between 20 and 64!

This situation is not unique in Europe since the Belgian motorisation rate is not much higher than the European average. The Europeans are not yet willing to dump their cars!

Motor-vehicle population (1977-2009)									
On 1 August + evolution	1977	1987	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Growth 2009/2008
Motor-vehicle population on 1 August (including motorcycles)	3,315,071	4,158,127	5,735,034	6,158,742	6,251,428	6,362,161	6,482,033	6,574,789	1.4%
Passenger cars	2,773,344	3,497,818	4,678,376	4,918,544	4,976,286	5,048,723	5,130,578	5,192,566	1.2%
Buses and coaches	19,517	15,060	14,722	15,391	15,329	15,479	15,992	16,061	0.4%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	236,421	556,397	502,979	604,437	623,250	642,687	662,780	676,644	2.1%
Tractors (b)	34,682	47,102	45,452	47,646	47,164	48,060	49,109	47,418	-3.4%
Agricultural tractors	114,517	164,090	162,123	168,284	170,613	172,818	174,709	176,522	1.0%
Special motor vehicles (d)	32,489	57,432	53,544	58,147	59,022	59,651	60,585	61,638	1.7%
Motorcycles (c)	104,101	319,480	277,838	346,293	359,764	374,743	388,280	403,940	4.0%
Inhabitants per passenger car on 1 August	3.55	2.15	2.19	2.12	2.11	2.10	2.08	:	:

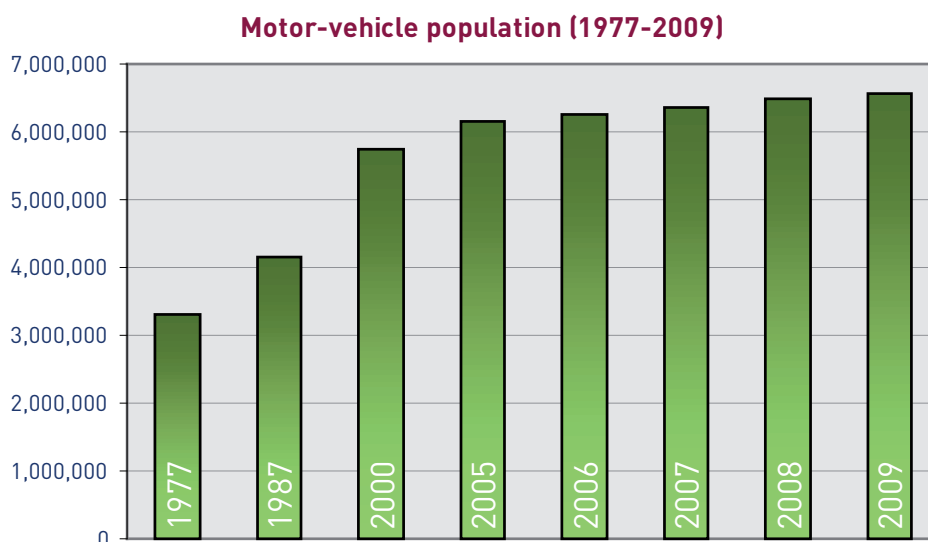
(a) Trucks, vans, all-terrain vehicles, tank trucks.

(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) The special vehicles are slow vehicles the dimensions or weight of which exceed the normally allowed maximum values to transport goods. It should be known that the maximum permissible weight in Belgium should not exceed 44 tonnes. The vehicles of this category are permitted to drive on the public highway only under very strict conditions.

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



Registrations of vehicles

	1999	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Growth 2009/1999	Growth 2009/2008
Registration of new vehicles	604,823	588,452	587,764	633,570	644,313	652,590	571,001	-5.6%	-12.5%
Passenger cars	504,203	489,262	484,317	530,296	529,025	540,542	479,920	-4.8%	-11.2%
Buses and coaches	971	911	856	914	1,093	1,207	984	1.3%	-18.5%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	63,429	63,859	68,052	66,592	74,342	70,497	56,387	-11.1%	-20.0%
Tractors (b)	5,795	5,200	5,945	4,730	6,232	6,331	3,268	-43.6%	-48.4%
Agricultural tractors	2,886	4,102	3,617	3,748	3,478	3,901	2,914	1.0%	-25.3%
Motorcycles (c)	27,539	25,118	24,977	27,290	30,143	30,112	27,528	0.0%	-8.6%
Registration of second-hand vehicles (d)	778,870	775,518	756,547	796,695	754,414	742,926	775,397	-0.4%	4.4%
Passenger cars	699,374	678,731	658,161	696,606	662,496	653,109	681,766	-2.5%	4.4%
Buses and coaches	982	910	743	821	823	810	870	-11.4%	7.4%
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (a)	68,633	84,497	86,314	86,618	79,467	77,426	81,492	18.7%	5.3%
Tractors (b)	4,298	4,412	4,085	4,573	3,750	3,288	3,351	-22.0%	1.9%
Agricultural tractors	5,583	6,968	7,244	8,077	7,878	8,293	7,918	41.8%	-4.5%

(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.

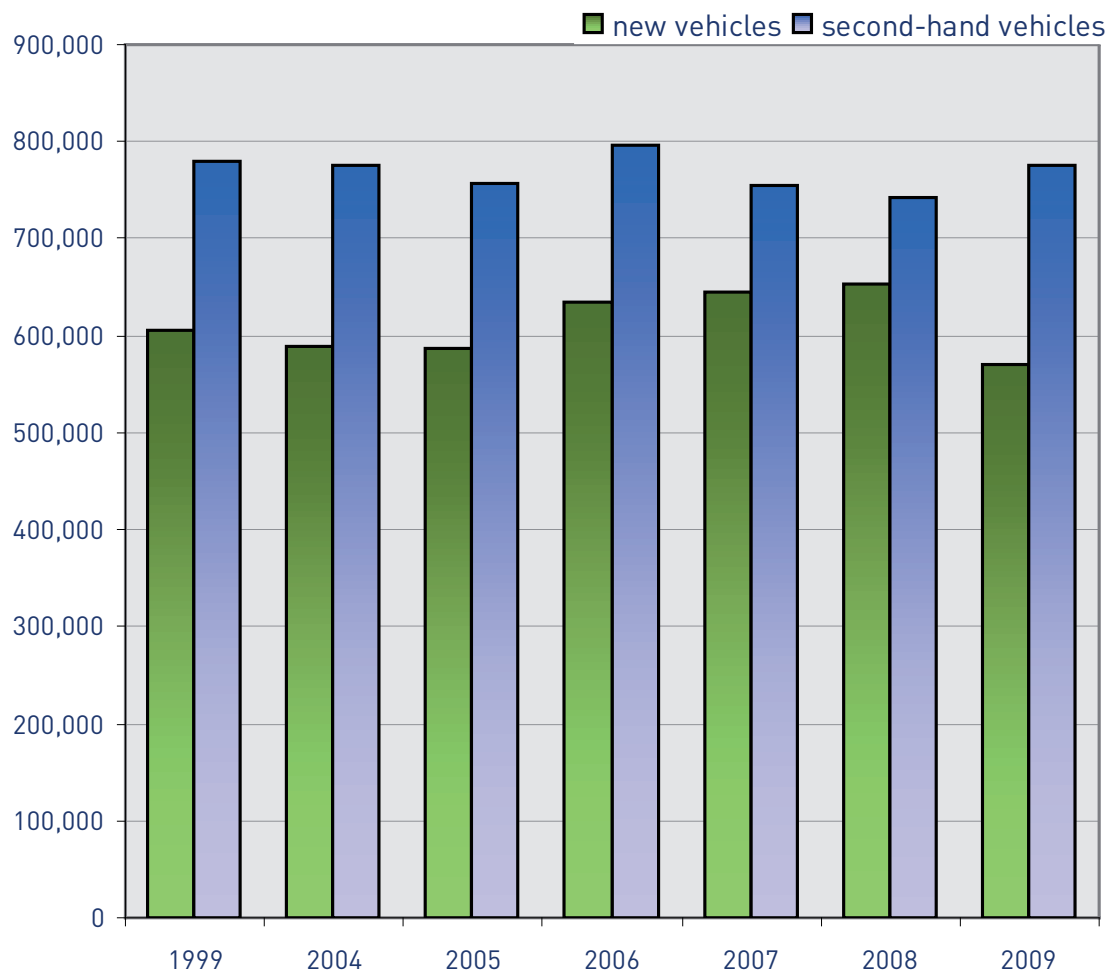
(c) All motorcycles doing more than 40 km/h, i.e. all motorcycles and most mopeds.

(d) Excluding motorcycles.

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



Registrations of vehicles



Motorisation rate: passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants

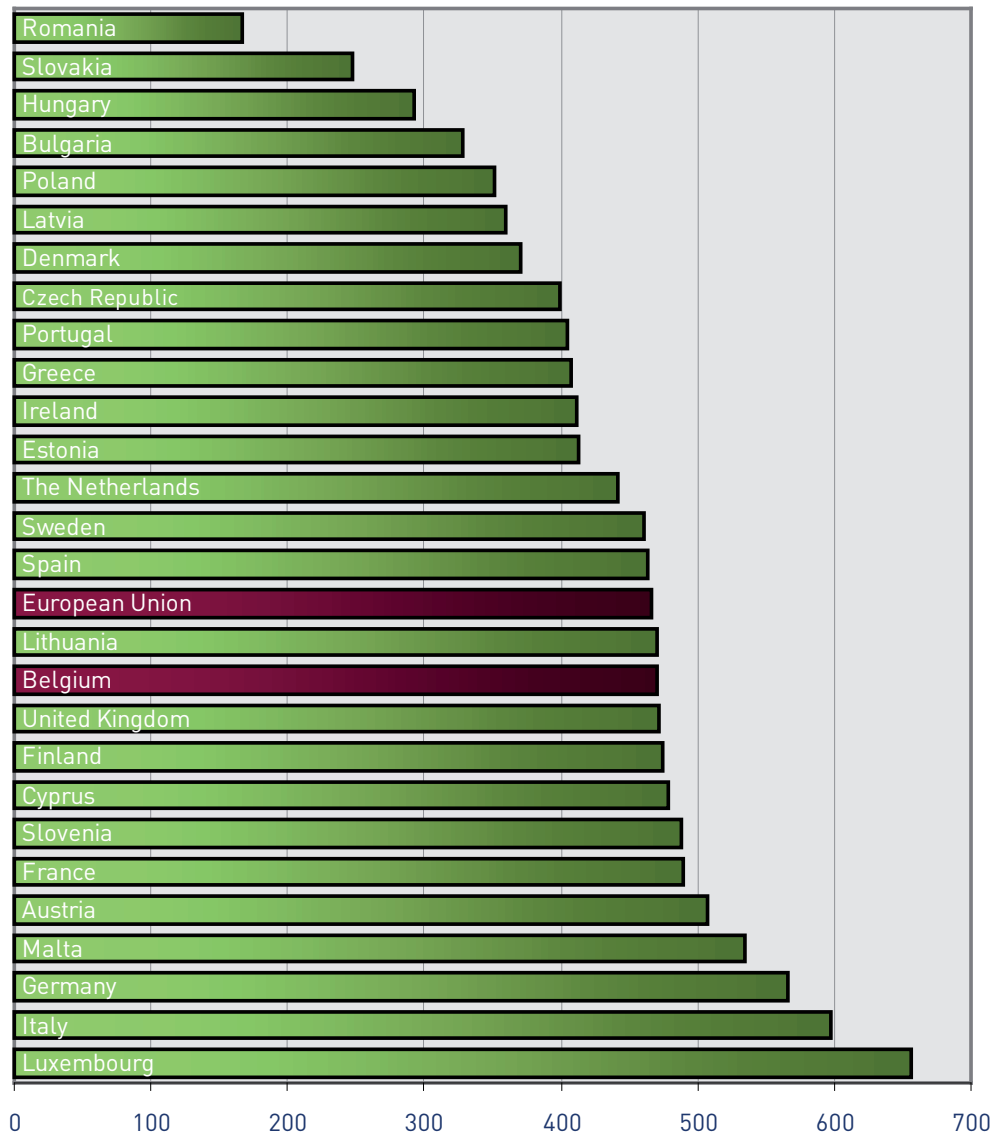
Ranking	Unit	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1	Luxembourg	563	622	632	641	645	650	649	656
2	Italy	533	572	583	588	593	581	590	597
3	Germany	494	532	538	541	546	550	559	566
4	Malta	487	483	495	508	523	524	525	535
5	Austria	452	511	519	492	498	501	503	507
6	France	422	460	467	472	475	475	478	489
7	Slovenia	351	437	444	458	446	456	479	488
8	Cyprus	335	384	397	403	415	447	463	479
9	Finland	372	412	416	422	436	448	462	475
10	United Kingdom	378	425	435	445	451	462	469	471
11	Belgium	421	456	460	462	464	467	468	470
	Lithuania	199	336	326	341	365	384	428	470
	European Union	374	422	431	438	443	446	457	466
13	Spain	360	431	443	450	441	434	463	464
14	Sweden	411	450	451	452	454	456	459	461
15	The Netherlands	366	409	417	423	425	429	434	442
16	Estonia	269	339	299	295	321	350	367	413
17	Ireland	274	344	355	365	374	385	395	412
18	Greece	207	292	312	331	348	357	387	407
19	Portugal	260	350	363	373	379	389	397	405
20	Czech Republic	295	335	346	357	363	373	386	399
21	Denmark	320	347	349	351	351	354	362	371
22	Latvia	134	236	250	266	280	297	324	360
23	Poland	195	261	275	289	294	314	323	351
24	Bulgaria	196	245	264	277	296	314	329	328
25	Hungary	218	232	244	259	274	280	287	293
26	Slovakia	189	237	240	247	252	222	242	247
27	Romania	97	124	132	137	142	149	156	167

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: This indicator is defined as the number of passenger cars per 1 000 inhabitants. A passenger car is a road motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, intended for the carriage of passengers and designed to seat no more than nine persons (including the driver). The term «passenger car» therefore covers microcars (need no permit to be driven), taxis and hired passenger cars, provided that they have fewer than 10 seats. This category may also include pick-ups.



Motorisation rate (passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants)





B | Freight transport

Located in the heart of Europe, Belgium is a strategically important country for freight transport. The kingdom is indeed a transit country par excellence and the infrastructure networks (roads, railways, waterways) are extremely 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 is also the main mode of transport in Belgium but the distribution is somewhat more balanced and leaves more place for inland navigation and railways, which have become more and more important to the detriment of road transport in the last years.

Modal split of freight transport: road
(% of total freight transport by land in tonnes - kilometres)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Latvia	27	30	39	42	39
2	Lithuania	47	56	58	59	42
3	Estonia	37	35	35	43	55
4	Austria	65	64	63	61	59
5	The Netherlands	63	64	63	59	60
6	Sweden	64	64	64	64	65
7	Germany	65	66	66	66	66
8	Bulgaria	52	71	69	70	67
9	Belgium	77	72	71	70	69
10	Romania	43	67	71	71	70
11	Finland	76	77	73	74	73
12	Slovakia	53 (b)	70	69	72	74
13	Hungary	68 (b)	69	72	75	75
14	Poland	57	69	70	74	76
	European Union	74 (s)	76 (s)	76 (s)	76 (s)	76 (s)
15	Czech Republic	68	74	76	75	77
16	France	76	81	81	81	81
17	Slovenia	72 (e)	77	78	79	82
18	Italy	89	90 (s)	89 (s)	88 (s)	88 (s)
19	United Kingdom	90	88 (s)	86 (s)	87 (s)	89 (s)
20	Denmark	92	92	92	92	91
21	Portugal	93	95	95	95	94
	Luxembourg	88	92	92	94	94
23	Spain	93	95	95	96	96
24	Greece	:	98	98	97	97
25	Ireland	96	98	99	99	99
26	Cyprus	100	100	100	100	100
27	Malta	100	100	100	100	100

Data source: EUROSTAT

Modal split of freight transport: inland waterways
(% of total freight transport by land in tonnes - kilometres)

Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
The Netherlands	33	32	32	35	35
Belgium	11	14	15	15	16
Bulgaria	3	4	4	5	13
Germany	16	14	13	12	12
Romania	8	11	10	10	11
European Union	7 (s)	6 (s)	6 (s)	6 (s)	6 (s)
Hungary	3 (b)	6	5	5	5
Austria	5	3	3	4	4
France	3	4	3	3	4
Luxembourg	4	4	4	3	3
Slovakia	5 (b)	0	0	3	3
Finland	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	1	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	:
Denmark	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Estonia	0	0	0	0	:
Ireland	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Greece	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Spain	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Italy	0 (e)	0 (e)	0 (e)	0 (e)	:
Cyprus	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Malta	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Portugal	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Slovenia	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
Sweden	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	:

Data source: EUROSTAT

Modal split of freight transport: railway
(% of total freight transport by land in tonnes - kilometres)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Latvia	74	70	61	58	61
2	Lithuania	53	44	42	42	58
3	Estonia	63	65	65	57	45
4	Austria	31	33	34	35	37
5	Sweden	36	36	36	36	35
6	Finland	24	23	27	26	27
7	Poland	42	31	29	26	24
8	Slovakia	42 (b)	30	31	26	23
9	Czech Republic	32	26	24	25	23
10	Germany	19	20	21	22	22
11	Hungary	29 (b)	25	24	21	21
	Bulgaria	45	25	27	25	21
13	Romania	49	22	19	19	19
	European Union	20 (s)	18 (s)	18 (s)	18 (s)	18 (s)
14	Slovenia	28 (e)	23	22	21	18
15	France	21	16	16	16	16
16	Belgium	12	13	14	15	15
17	Italy	11	10 (s)	11 (s)	12 (s)	12 (s)
	United Kingdom	10	12 (s)	14 (s)	13 (s)	12 (s)
19	Denmark	8	8	8	8	9
20	Portugal	8	5	5	5	6
21	The Netherlands	4	4	5	6	5
22	Spain	7	5	5	4	4
23	Greece	:	3	2	3	3
	Luxembourg	8	4	5	3	3
25	Ireland	4	2	1	1	1
-	Cyprus	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:
-	Malta	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	: (-)	:

Data source: EUROSTAT

Transport of goods: road, railway, waterways and air

	Unit	2008	2008/2007
Road (a)	1 000 tonnes	317,599	-9.8%
	Million tonnes-kilometres	38,355	-8.9%
Railway (b)	Number of taxed tonnes (1 000 tonnes)	57,328	1.1%
	Million of taxed tonnes-km	7,782	0.9%
Inland navigation	Total traffic in million tonnes	130,350	-3.2%
Sea navigation	Incoming sea-going ships	30,776	-2.1%
	Outgoing sea-going ships	29,641	-2.3%
	Loaded goods (1 000 tonnes)	103,735	+1.3%
	Unloaded goods (1 000 tonnes)	140,276	+4.4%
Air transport (c)	Tonnes on arrival	627,698	-9.5%
	Tonnes on departure	623,119	-7.6%

(a) Transport of goods (on the Belgian territory and abroad) carried out by vehicles registered in Belgium and with a payload of at least one tonne.

(b) Does not include military transport and service rail transport.

(c) Freight + post.

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Air transport of passengers in the airports

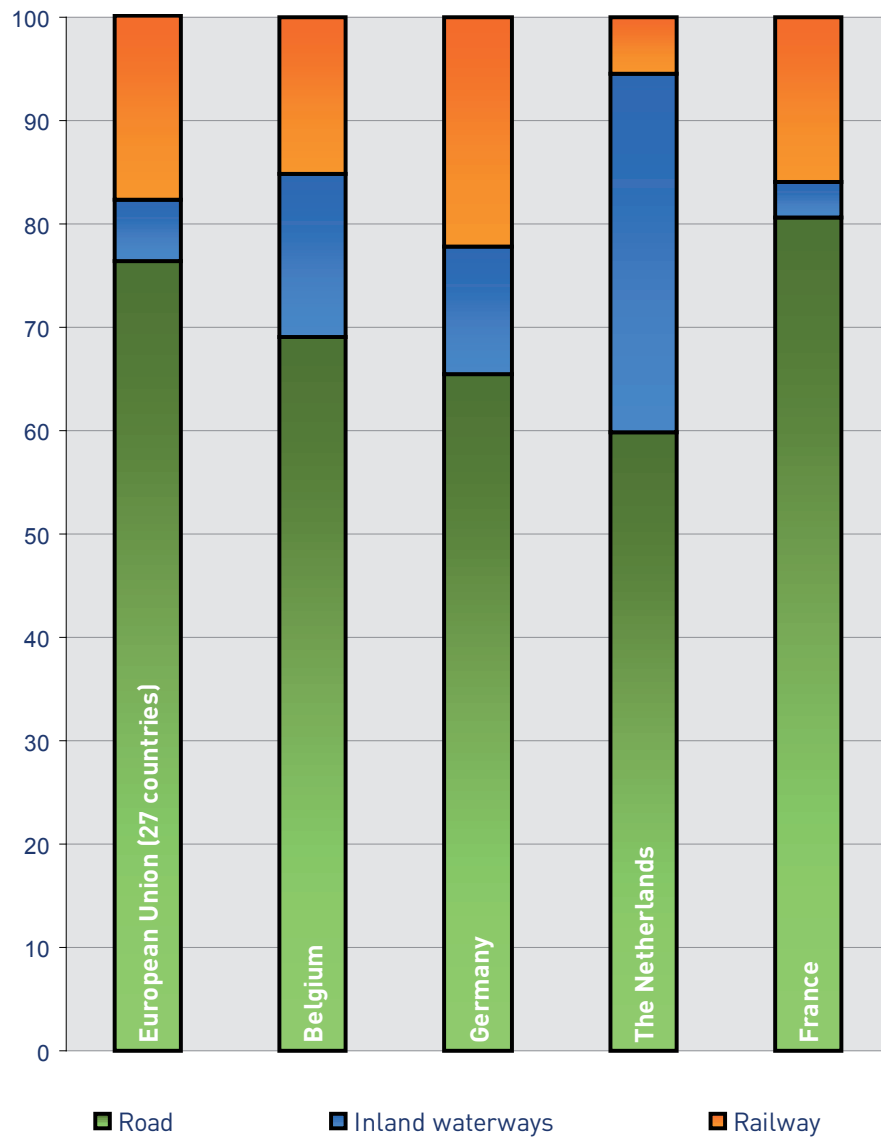
	2005	2006	2007	2008
All airports (a)	18,603,231	19,479,684	21,048,524	22,269,280
Zaventem (Brussels Airport)	16,179,733	16,707,892	17,876,618	18,515,730
Oostende (Ostend-Bruges)	126,144	146,355	180,063	199,958
Charleroi (Brussels South)	1,873,349	2,166,360	2,459,129	2,950,405
Antwerp-Deurne	142,737	147,849	174,858	176,971
Liège-Bierset	281,268	311,228	357,856	426,216

(a) Excluding transit (the passengers continue their travel to another destination in the same airplane) or transfer (the passengers continue their travel to another destination in another airplane)

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



Modal split of freight transport
European Union 2008





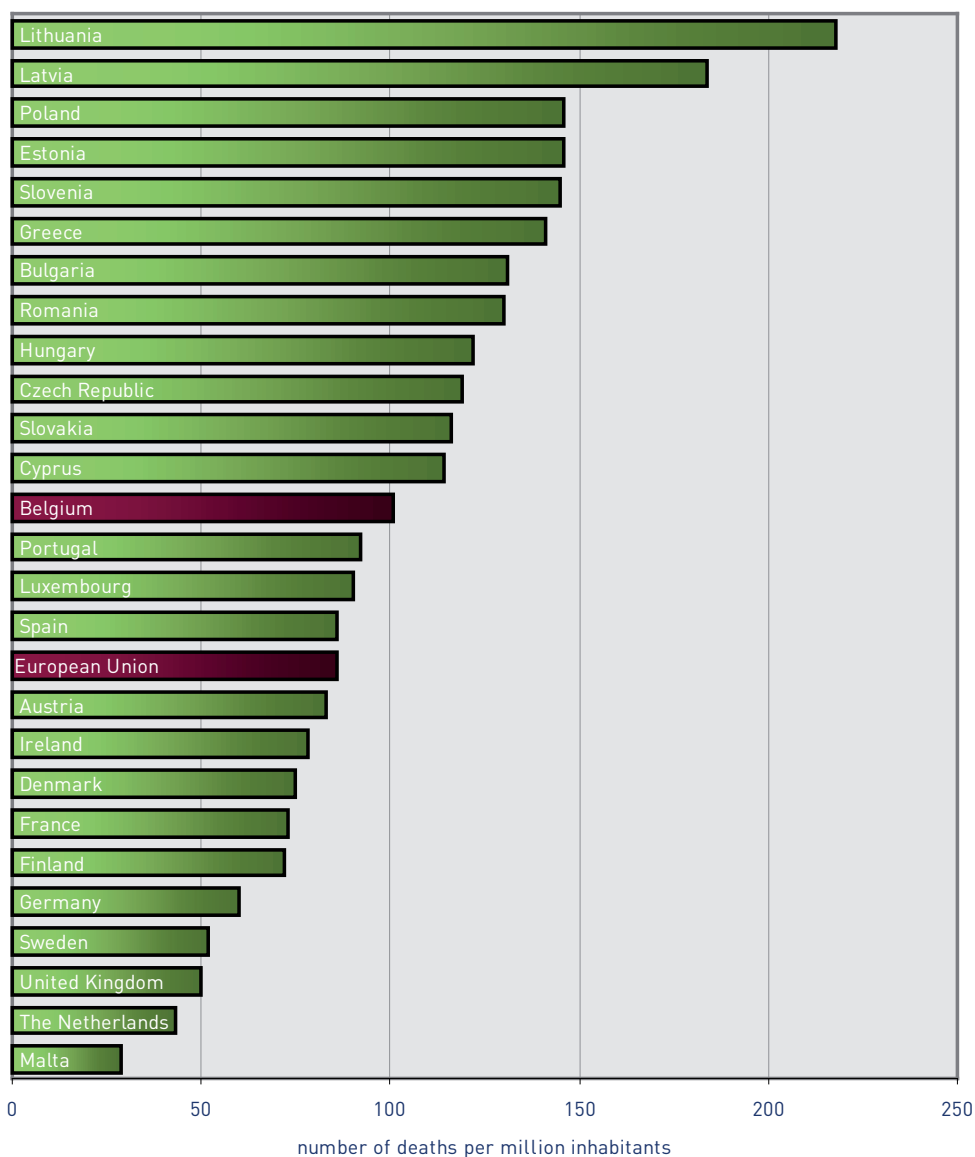
| Road accidents

In spite of the continuous increase of the car population, the number of accidents in Belgium has been stable for many years and is around 50,000 units.

The number of casualties, and especially of deaths, has substantially declined. After the peak of 1973 and 1,866 deaths, the number of deaths symbolically dropped below 1,000 in 2008 when 944 persons were killed.

However, this figure remains very high compared to the European average. But it is worth noting that the number of deaths per million inhabitants in Belgium decreased faster than the European average between 2000 and 2007: -30% against -26%.

People killed in road accidents (2007)



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

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007
1	Malta	39	42	27	29
2	The Netherlands	68	46	45	43
3	United Kingdom	61	56	55	50
4	Sweden	67	49	49	52
5	Germany	91	65	62	60
6	Finland	77	72	64	72
7	France	137	85	75	73
8	Denmark	93	61	56	75
9	Ireland	111	97	87	78
10	Austria	122	94	88	83
	European Union	116	92	87	86
11	Spain	144	103	94	86
12	Italy	117	100	96	87
13	Luxembourg	175	101	77	90
14	Portugal	184	118	92	92
15	Belgium	144	104	102	101
16	Cyprus	161	136	112	114
17	Slovakia	116	104	107	116
18	Czech Republic	145	126	104	119
19	Hungary	117	127	129	122
20	Romania	114	114	115	130
21	Bulgaria	126	123	135	131
22	Greece	187	150	149	141
23	Slovenia	157	129	131	145
24	Estonia	149	126	152	146
	Poland	163	143	137	146
26	Latvia	267	192	177	184
27	Lithuania	183	226	223	218

Data source: EUROSTAT

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

Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007
European Union	56,047	45,131	42,952	42,854
Belgium	1,470	1,089	1,075	1,071
Bulgaria	1,012	957	1,043	1,006
Czech Republic	1,486	1,286	1,063	1,221
Denmark	498	331	306	406
Germany	7,503	5,361	5,091	4,949
Estonia	204	170	204	196
Ireland	418	400	365	338
Greece	2,037	1,658	1,657	1,580
Spain	5,777	4,442	4,104	3,823
France	8,079	5,318	4,709	4,620
Italy	6,649	5,818	5,669	5,131
Cyprus	111	102	86	89
Latvia	635	442	407	419
Lithuania	641	773	759	739
Luxembourg	76	46	36	43
Hungary	1,200	1,278	1,303	1,232
Malta	15	17	11	12
The Netherlands	1,082	750	730	709
Austria	976	768	730	691
Poland	6,294	5,444	5,243	5,583
Portugal	1,877	1,247	969	974
Romania	2,499	2,461	2,478	2,794
Slovenia	313	258	262	292
Slovakia	628	560	579	627
Finland	396	379	336	380
Sweden	591	440	445	471
United Kingdom	3,580	3,336	3,298	3,058

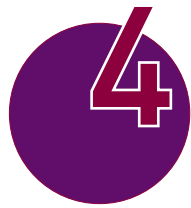
Data source: EUROSTAT

Road accidents in Belgium

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of accidents with casualties	49,064	49,313	49,181	49,815	48,827
Number of casualties	69,430	66,476	66,344	66,915	65,381
Dead*	1,470	1,089	1,075	1,071	944
Seriously injured	9,846	7,272	6,999	6,997	6,782
Slightly injured	57,588	58,114	58,270	58,847	57,654
Number of deaths according to the kind of user					
Users of cars	922	624	594	550	479
Users of motorcycles	118	125	131	139	108
Users of mopeds	66	30	36	36	42
Cyclists	134	71	91	90	86
Pedestrians	142	108	123	104	99

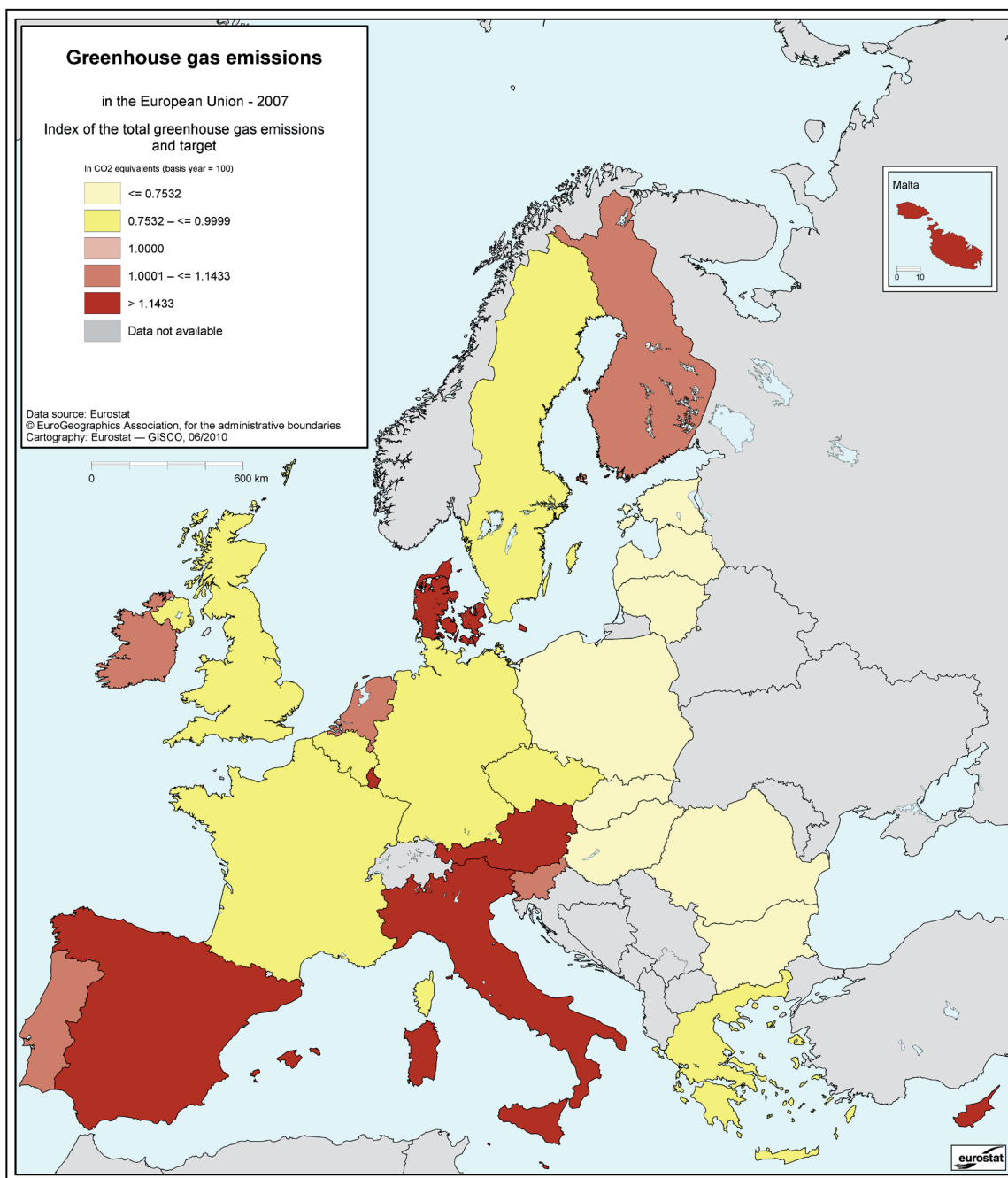
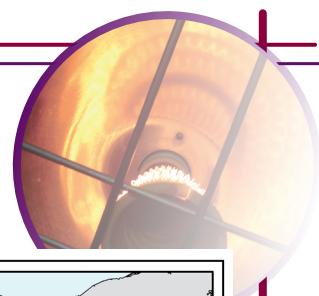
* People killed within 30 days from the day of the accident.

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



Energy and environment





Whereas final energy consumption slightly increased in the European Union, it decreased by about 11% in Belgium between 2000 and 2007. Efforts to reduce the energy consumption are thus beginning to be successful. Over this period, the shares of the different energy sources remain relatively stable but the use of renewable and recycled fuels is on the rise. As far as green energy is concerned, Belgium is lagging somewhat behind but progress has been made.

The residential and similar consumers (households, agriculture, trade and services) account for the major part of the consumption, followed by industry and finally transport. The industrial sector reduced most significantly its consumption followed by the residential and similar consumers. The transport energy consumption remains stable over the considered period.

Final energy consumption (1,000 tonnes oil equivalent)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	European Union	1,114,360 (p)	1,140,322 (p)	1,126,807 (p)	1,159,718 (p)	1,173,009 (p)	1,172,258 (p)	1,175,579 (p)	1,157,654 (p)
1	Germany	218,098	223,940	219,240	222,305	220,725	217,308	221,627	210,294 (p)
2	France	152,471	158,275	153,828	157,676	159,703	159,175	157,713	154,036
3	United Kingdom	152,177	153,343	148,956	150,779	151,937	152,331	150,435	147,933
4	Italy	123,465	126,220	124,743	130,280	131,178	132,600	130,654	132,058
5	Spain	79,631 (p)	83,510 (p)	85,623 (p)	90,661 (p)	94,522 (p)	97,455 (p)	96,167 (p)	98,703 (p)
6	Poland	55,389	55,950	54,291	56,155	57,554	57,920	60,857	61,239
7	The Netherlands	50,174	50,909	50,736	51,583	52,520	51,639	50,830	51,326
8	Belgium	39,129	39,387	37,652	40,042	39,427	38,444	38,165	34,874
9	Sweden	34,452	33,375	33,513	33,576	33,624	33,740	33,218	33,455
10	Finland	24,175	24,136	25,092	25,630	26,093	25,238	26,754	26,579
11	Austria	23,184	24,548	25,188	26,519	26,559	27,251	27,359	26,537
12	Czech Republic	23,919	23,999	23,607	25,624	26,117	25,883	26,318	25,763
13	Romania	22,517	23,037	23,086	24,201	25,498	24,678	24,768	24,022
14	Greece	18,560	19,162	19,546	20,530	20,297	20,800	21,454	21,957
15	Portugal	17,694	18,113	18,389	18,393	20,177	18,723	18,544	18,813
16	Hungary	15,744	16,460	16,998	17,611	17,505	18,111	18,022	16,946
17	Denmark	14,638	15,025	14,743	15,076	15,309	15,432	15,620	15,711
18	Ireland	10,680	11,107	11,206	11,463	11,817	12,463	13,070	13,213
19	Slovakia	10,278	10,911	11,115	10,702	10,845	10,596	10,668	10,501
20	Bulgaria	8,595	8,629	8,707	9,418	9,227	9,581	10,013	9,781
21	Lithuania	3,740	3,859	4,013	4,123	4,286	4,464	4,731	4,963
22	Slovenia	4,438	4,579	4,558	4,687	4,794	4,892	4,944	4,873
23	Luxembourg	3,558	3,703	3,745	3,967	4,350	4,446	4,398	4,379
24	Latvia	3,240	3,554	3,613	3,814	3,921	4,030	4,200	4,364
25	Estonia	2,364	2,521	2,522	2,625	2,741	2,783	2,775	3,007
26	Cyprus	1,639	1,695	1,705	1,810	1,818	1,812	1,840	1,900
27	Malta	412	373	391	468	465	464	435	427

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: Final energy consumption includes all energy delivered to the final consumer's door (in the industry, transport, households and other sectors) for all energy uses. It excludes deliveries for transformation and/or own use of the energy producing industries, as well as network losses.

Electricity generated from renewable sources: % of gross electricity consumption

Ranking	Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2010 (forecast)
1	Austria	72.4	67.2	66.1	53.1	58.7	57.4	56.6	59.8	78.1
2	Sweden	55.4	54.1	46.9	39.9	46.1	54.3	48.2	52.1	60.0
3	Latvia	47.7	46.1	39.3	35.4	47.1	48.4	37.7	36.4	49.3
4	Portugal	29.4	34.2	20.8	36.4	24.4	16.0	29.4	30.1	39.0
5	Slovenia	31.7	30.5	25.4	22.0	29.1	24.2	24.4	22.1	33.6
6	Romania	28.8	28.4	30.8	24.3	29.9	35.8	31.4	26.9	33.0
7	Finland	28.5	25.7	23.7	21.8	28.3	26.9	24.0	26.0	31.5
8	Slovakia	16.9	17.9	19.2	12.4	14.4	16.7	16.6	16.6	31.0
9	Spain	15.7	20.7	13.8	21.7	18.5	15.0	17.7	20.0	29.4
10	Denmark	16.7	17.3	19.9	23.2	27.1	28.3	26.0	29.0	29.0
11	Italy	16.0	16.8	14.3	13.7	15.9	14.1	14.5	13.7	22.6
	European Union	13.8	14.4	12.9	12.9	13.9	14.0	14.6	15.6	21.0
12	France	15.1	16.5	13.7	13.0	12.9	11.3	12.5	13.3	21.0
13	Greece	7.7	5.2	6.2	9.7	9.5	10.0	12.1	6.8	20.1
14	Ireland	4.9	4.2	5.4	4.3	5.1	6.8	8.5	9.3	13.2
15	Germany	6.5	6.5	8.1	8.2	9.5	10.5	12.0	15.1	12.5
16	Bulgaria	7.4	4.7	6.0	7.8	8.9	11.8	11.2	7.5	11.0
17	United Kingdom	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.8	3.7	4.3	4.6	5.1	10.0
18	The Netherlands	3.9	4.0	3.6	4.7	5.7	7.5	7.9	7.6	9.0
19	Czech Republic	3.6	4.0	4.6	2.8	4.0	4.5	4.9	4.7	8.0
20	Poland	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.6	2.1	2.9	2.9	3.5	7.5
21	Lithuania	3.4	3.0	3.2	2.8	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.6	7.0
22	Belgium	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.8	3.9	4.2	6.0
	Cyprus	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
24	Luxembourg	2.9	1.6	2.8	2.3	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.7	5.7
25	Estonia	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.5	5.1
26	Malta	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
27	Hungary	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	2.3	4.6	3.7	4.6	3.6

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: This indicator is the ratio between the electricity produced from renewable energy sources and the gross national electricity consumption for a given calendar year. It measures the contribution of electricity produced from renewable energy sources to the national electricity consumption. Electricity produced from renewable energy sources comprises the electricity generation from hydro plants (excluding pumping), wind, solar, geothermal and electricity from biomass/wastes. Gross national electricity consumption comprises the total gross national electricity generation from all fuels (including autoproduction), plus electricity imports, minus exports.

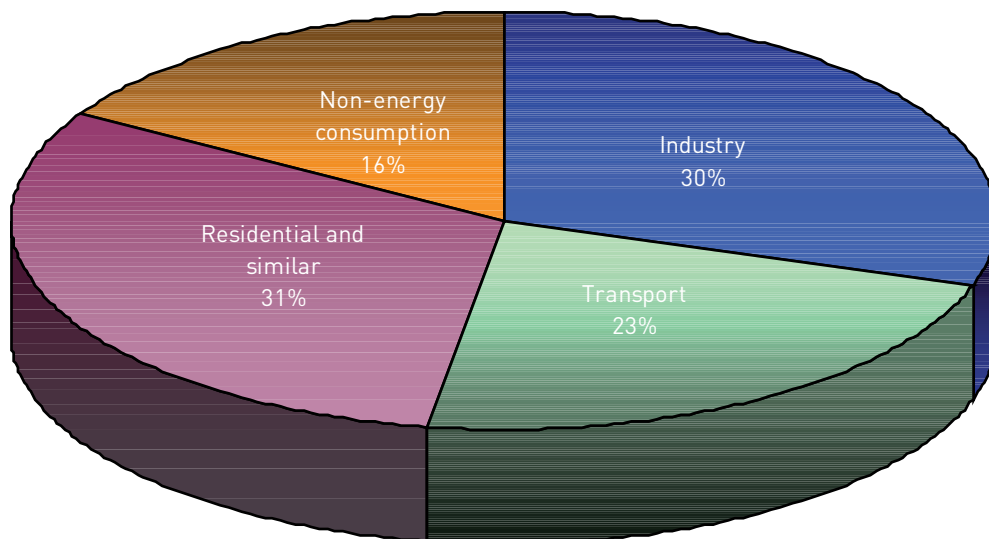
Belgium: energy consumption by sector

in ktoe (1)	2000	2001	2002	2005	2006	2007
Final energy consumption	44,562	44,575	42,403	43,771	43,127	41,872
Industry	14,111	13,835	12,907	11,751	12,765	12,526
Transport	9,598	9,407	9,661	9,834	9,627	9,510
Residential and similar	14,373	15,017	13,561	15,101	14,145	12,988
Non-energy consumption	6,480	6,316	6,274	7,085	6,590	6,848

(1) : Tonnes oil equivalent (TOE)

Data source: FPS ECONOMY, DIRECTORATE GENERAL ENERGY.

Energy consumption by sector, 1,000 tonnes oil equivalent (2007)



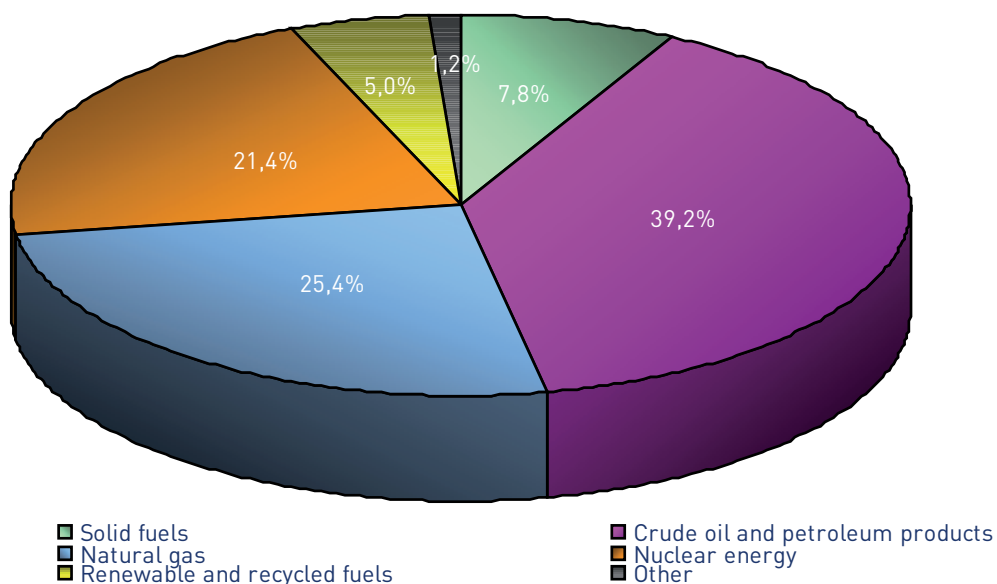
Belgium: energy consumption by energy source

Market share as a percentage of the total	2000	2001	2002	2005	2006	2007
Primary energy consumption in Ktoe [1]	60,227	59,418	57,001	59,478	59,398	58,818
Solid fuels	13.90%	13.00%	11.50%	9.60%	8.70%	7.80%
Crude oil and petroleum products	40.70%	41.40%	40.50%	39.10%	40.00%	39.20%
Natural gas	22.30%	22.20%	23.50%	26.00%	25.30%	25.40%
Nuclear energy	20.80%	20.30%	21.60%	21.80%	20.50%	21.40%
Renewable and recycled fuels	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	2.40%	3.90%	5.00%
Other	0.70%	1.40%	1.20%	1.00%	1.60%	1.20%

[1] : Tonnes oil equivalent (TOE)

Data source: FPS ECONOMY, DIRECTORATE GENERAL ENERGY.

Energy consumption by source, as a % of the total
(2007)





B | Energy intensity

The Belgian economy has a higher energy intensity than the European average.

To explain matters as simply as possible, this means that the ratio between energy consumption and GDP is higher in Belgium than the European average. However, it should be emphasized that the energy intensity declines faster than the European average. The country is thus gradually catching up.

Especially in transport, the energy consumption relative to the GDP substantially decreased between 2000 and 2007 and Belgium therefore takes second place with regard to reduction of energy intensity.

Energy intensity of the economy: gross inland consumption of energy divided by GDP (kilogram of oil equivalent per 1,000 Euro)

Ranking	Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	Ireland	136.98	135.13	129.63	121.78	122.67	110.08	106.86	103.13
2	Denmark	112.47	115.36	112.65	117.92	111.85	106.48	109.58	105.70
3	United Kingdom	144.71	141.76	135.33	134.13	131.31	128.78	123.29	115.46
4	Austria	140.32	147.48	148.38	155.14	152.96	152.19	149.16	140.73
5	Italy	145.21	143.21	143.02	150.51	149.35	150.63	146.96	142.78
6	Germany	165.99	169.18	165.51	167.18	166.12	163.35	159.44	151.48
7	Sweden	179.77	190.83	185.16	179.65	179.87	171.01	159.77	156.49
8	Luxembourg	165.31	167.40	169.94	176.49	185.36	179.78	168.84	158.53
9	France	180.04	181.98	180.25	181.35	179.71	177.00	171.18	165.38
	European Union	187.39	187.85	185.00	187.28	184.88	181.51	176.06	169.39
10	The Netherlands	184.33	185.71	186.99	191.48	191.54	184.81	174.59	177.12
11	Greece	204.57	202.21	200.83	193.09	186.87	185.02	177.95	181.79
12	Spain	196.19	194.84	194.97	195.62	198.07	195.36	187.33	184.19
13	Portugal	205.10	202.26	208.97	205.86	208.67	211.69	195.69	196.85
14	Malta	191.27	218.64	194.55	214.42	216.50	211.86	195.31	198.18
15	Belgium	244.14	237.81	226.90	236.72	229.52	224.16	215.04	198.76
16	Cyprus	237.06	230.73	227.75	243.12	215.64	208.99	212.14	212.16
17	Finland	246.04	244.31	255.13	265.14	257.38	231.40	240.80	229.19
18	Slovenia	299.77	305.95	298.51	293.64	290.00	284.56	270.21	253.29
19	Latvia	440.93	445.75	411.46	409.36	387.01	356.71	328.18	306.60
20	Poland	488.96	483.22	468.98	463.41	442.10	432.79	427.26	400.10
21	Hungary	480.82	470.79	459.74	460.23	430.93	437.67	416.50	400.76
22	Lithuania	571.22	615.79	611.91	577.19	547.40	478.30	434.00	432.50
23	Slovakia	796.21	845.32	809.63	769.40	727.77	680.32	619.73	538.64
24	Czech Republic	659.13	658.88	654.50	685.77	660.22	613.25	587.73	553.16
25	Estonia	819.08	778.33	701.48	718.72	692.93	624.08	551.25	580.71
26	Romania	920.26	864.88	858.30	852.57	773.64	736.09	706.23	655.59
27	Bulgaria	1360.65	1359.30	1274.82	1249.03	1137.74	1127.18	1089.66	1016.29

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: This indicator is the ratio between the gross inland consumption of energy and the gross domestic product (GDP) for a given calendar year. It measures the energy consumption of an economy and its overall energy efficiency. The gross inland consumption of energy is calculated as the sum of the gross inland consumption of five energy types: coal, electricity, oil, natural gas and renewable energy sources. The GDP figures are taken at chain-linked volumes with reference year 2000. The energy intensity ratio is determined by dividing the gross inland consumption by the GDP. Since gross inland consumption is measured in kgoe (kilogram of oil equivalent) and GDP in 1 000 EUR, this ratio is measured in kgoe per 1 000 EUR.

Energy consumption of transport relative to GDP: Index 2000 = 100

Ranking	Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	Estonia	100	104.9	100	89.1	91.6	90.7	85.5	86.2
2	Belgium	100	97	97.3	101.8	99.3	94.5	89.2	86.3
3	Germany	100	96.7	96.1	93.6	93.4	91.2	90	86.6
4	Cyprus	100	104.6	99.1	103.3	89.3	97	89	87.1
5	France	100	98.8	96.9	95	91.6	89.1	88.9	87.9
6	Sweden	100	104.5	95.2	95.4	94.1	93.1	88.9	89
7	United Kingdom	100	96.6	95.1	93.6	93.1	93.3	91.9	90.1
8	Malta	100	85	86.6	113.5	112	106.5	97.1	90.4
9	Romania	100	113.9	115.5	109.9	120.7	94.1	90.1	91
10	Slovakia	100	98	113.9	97.3	91.6	96.8	91	91.2
11	Greece	100	98.2	96.2	94.9	92.6 (p)	91.8 (p)	92.3 (p)	91.6 (p)
12	Finland	100	99.4	98.2	99.4	98	95.6	93.5	93.3
	European Union	100	99.1	98.7 (p)	99	98.9	97.6	96.7 (p)	95.5 (p)
13	Latvia	100	108.3	104.6	104.1	101.1	96.3	94.9	97.5
14	Ireland	100	100.9	97.2	94	93.4	95.3	97.2	98
15	Slovenia	100	100.9	94.2	92.9	92	93.8	93.4	98.7
16	Lithuania	100	101.9	98.5	91.3	93.4	92.1	91.7	99
17	Italy	100	99.7	100.5	102.2	102.6	101.2	100.1	99.4
18	The Netherlands	100	101.1	103.4	103.8	104	102.1	102.1	99.5
19	Spain	100	100.6	99.7 (p)	101.8	103	102.3	101.2 (p)	100.9 (p)
20	Bulgaria	100	101.4	102.2	110.1	106.9	109	110.5	101
21	Portugal	100	98.5	106.4	106.7	107.9	103.2	103.1	102.2
22	Luxembourg	100	103.2	106.1	114.6	121.6	121.1	110.9	103.7
23	Denmark	100	99.9	98.9	102.3	104.8	104.5	102.5	105
24	Austria	100	105.4	112.8	119.4	120.4	120.7	112.9	110.8
25	Hungary	100	100.5	101.4	101.4	100.1	104.5	112.1	110.9
26	Czech Republic	100	103.2	105.7	115.6	117.1	117.3	112.4	111.2
27	Poland	100	98.7	95.3	104.1	109.5	112.8	118	121.8

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: This indicator is defined as the ratio between the energy consumption of transport and GDP (chain-linked volumes, at 2000 exchange rates). The energy consumed by all types of transport (road, rail, inland navigation and aviation) is covered, including commercial, individual and public transport, with the exception of maritime and pipeline transport.



Belgium has complied with its Kyoto commitments. Greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced in comparison with 1990 and Belgium does better than the objectives set out at that time.

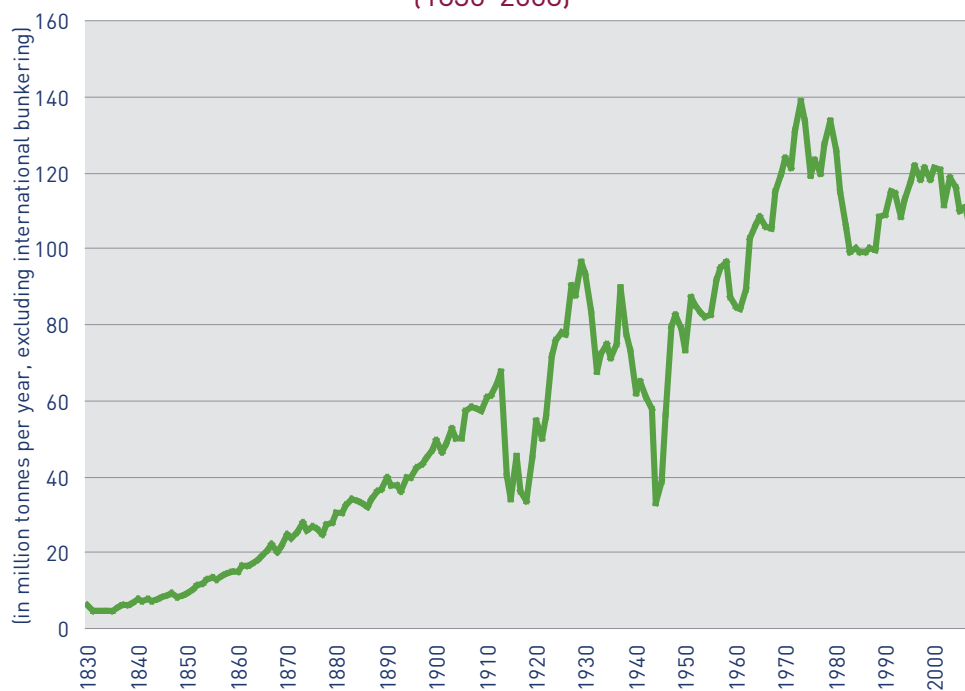
The good results achieved should not prevent the country from continuing its efforts and so staying at the forefront in Europe.

Emissions of CO₂ from energy

Components	Unit	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2007	2008
Emissions of CO ₂ from energy use	million t	105	116	115	109	115	117	111	106	108

Data source (to be acknowledged): STATISTICS BELGIUM

CO₂ emissions in Belgium from fossil fuel combustion (1830-2008)



Greenhouse gas emissions: Index of greenhouse gas emissions and targets - In CO2 equivalents (base year 1990 = 100)

Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Targets
European Union	90.8	91.8	91	92.6	92.6	91.9	91.8	90.7	:
Belgium	99.6	99.4	98.1	100	99.9	97.4	93.7	90.1	92.5
Bulgaria	52.2	52.4	50.2	54.1	53.6	53.6	54.2	57.2	92
Czech Republic	75.8	76.9	74.7	75.1	75.7	75.3	76.8	77.6	92
Denmark	97.8	100.1	99	106.3	97.7	91.6	102.5	96.1	79
Germany	81.8	83.2	81.7	81.7	80.9	78.6	79.5	77.6	79
Estonia	43.1	43.6	42.4	46.6	47.7	46.1	45	51.7	92
Ireland	124	127.1	123.7	123.3	123.4	126.3	125.3	124.5	113
Greece	118.8	119.8	119.4	122.7	122.8	123.2	119.7	123.2	125
Spain	133.1	133.2	139.1	141.6	147	152.2	149.5	152.6	115
France	98.7	99	97.4	97.9	97.9	98.2	96.1	94.2	100
Italy	106.3	107.4	107.5	110.4	111	111	108.9	106.9	93.5
Cyprus	170.9	170.2	170.6	171.2	174.7	180.3	182.4	185.3	:
Latvia	39	41.5	41.5	42.1	42.2	43.3	45	46.6	92
Lithuania	38.8	40.9	41.7	42.2	43.7	45.7	46.3	50.1	92
Luxembourg	75.7	78.1	86.1	89.4	100.9	101.7	101	98.1	72
Hungary	67.6	69.1	67.6	70.4	69.2	69.7	68.3	65.8	94
Malta	126.9	132.6	134.9	142.5	141.1	144.2	145.3	149	:
The Netherlands	100.7	101.3	101.1	101.7	102.4	99.6	97.9	97.4	94
Austria	102.6	107.6	110.1	117.8	116.1	117.4	115.8	111.3	87
Poland	69	68.3	65.9	68.1	68.2	68.6	70.9	70.8	94
Portugal	135.8	139.6	147.6	139.3	143.4	148.3	140.8	136.1	127
Romania	48.7	50.5	52.7	55.2	55.9	53.7	55.3	54.7	92
Slovenia	92.9	97.2	98.5	97	98.5	100.1	101.1	101.8	92
Slovakia	67.2	69.5	68	69.7	69.4	68.5	67.9	65.2	92
Finland	97.9	105.3	108.2	119	113.4	96.8	112.6	110.3	100
Sweden	94.5	95.3	96.4	97.3	96.6	93.1	92.7	90.7	104
United Kingdom	86.8	87.2	84.5	85.1	84.8	84.1	83.5	82	87.5

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: Under the Kyoto Protocol, the EU has agreed to an 8% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2008-2012, compared to the Kyoto base year. The reductions for each of the EU-15 countries have been agreed under the so-called EU Burden Sharing Agreement (Council Decision 2002/358/EC), which allows some countries to increase emissions, provided these are offset by reductions in other Member States. Eight of the ten new Member States have chosen other reduction targets and other base years, as allowed under the Kyoto Protocol. These and the 'Burden sharing' targets for 2008-2012 are shown in the table as figures for 2010 (no target for Cyprus and Malta). Emissions of the 6 greenhouse gases covered by the Protocol are weighted by their global warming potentials (GWPs) and aggregated to give total emissions in CO2 equivalents. The total emissions are presented as indices, with the base year = 100 (EU-27, Euro zone 15, Cyprus and Malta base year = 100). In general, the base year is 1990 for the non-fluorinated gases (CO2, CH4 and N2O), and 1995 for the fluorinated gases (HFC, PFC and SF6; exception see meta data). Data exclude emissions and removals due to land use change and forestry (LUCF).

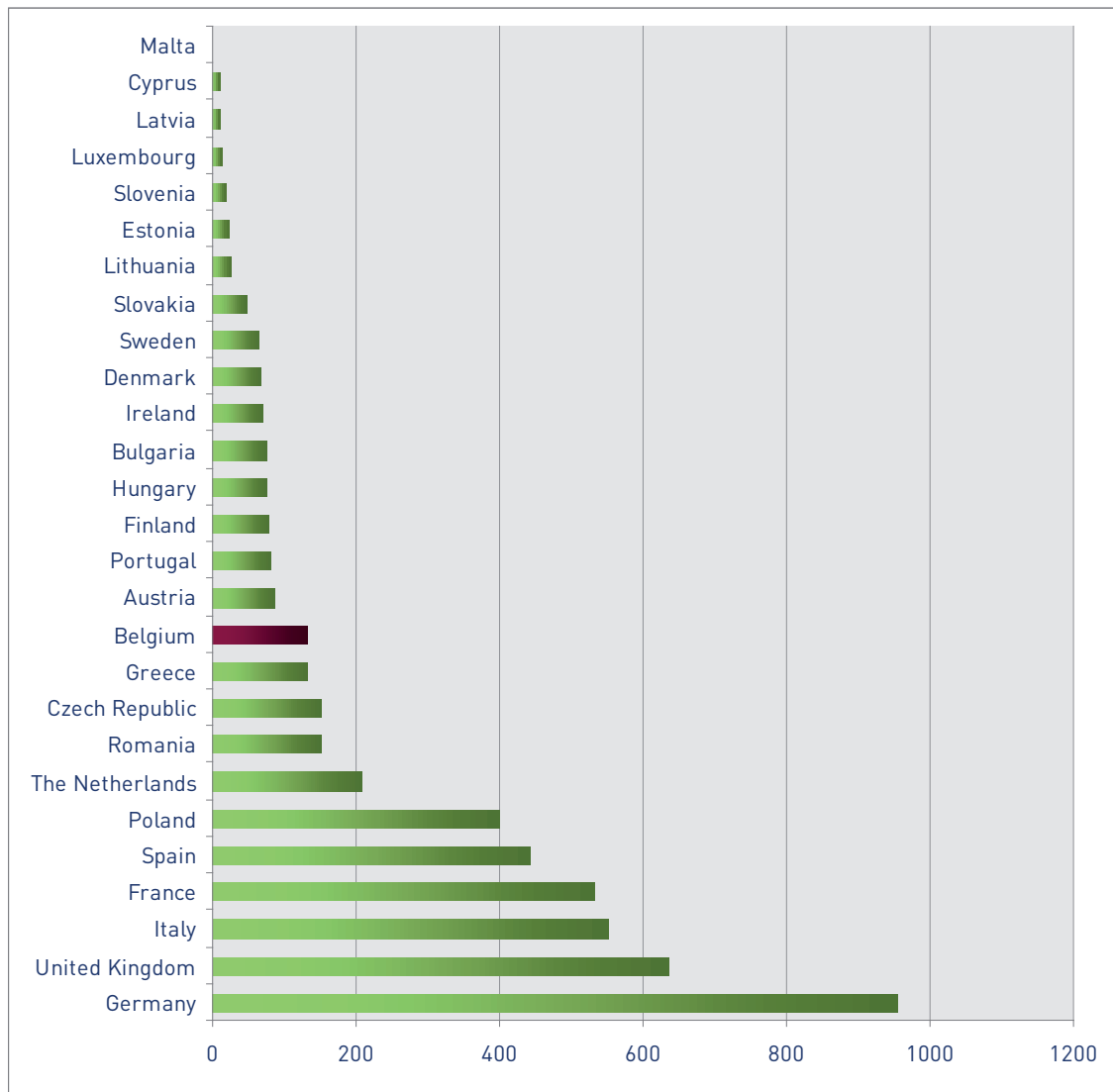
Greenhouse gas emission (million tons of CO2 equivalents)

Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
European Union	5,053.6	5,109.1	5,065.7	5,150.2	5,153.3	5,111.0	5,105.2	5,045.4
Germany	1,008.2	1,025.1	1,006.4	1,007.1	997.2	968.9	980.0	956.1
United Kingdom	673.5	677.3	655.8	660.7	658.4	652.7	647.9	636.7
Italy	549.5	555.0	555.8	570.4	573.8	573.7	563.0	552.8
France	556.8	558.4	549.3	552.1	552.1	553.9	541.7	531.1
Spain	385.8	386.1	403.1	410.3	426.0	441.2	433.1	442.3
Poland	389.0	384.8	371.5	383.8	384.0	386.6	399.3	398.9
The Netherlands	214.4	215.9	215.5	216.7	218.0	212.2	208.5	207.5
Romania	135.5	140.5	146.7	153.5	155.4	149.4	153.8	152.3
Czech Republic	147.2	149.4	145.1	146.0	147.1	146.3	149.1	150.8
Greece	127.1	128.2	127.8	131.3	131.4	131.8	128.1	131.9
Belgium	145.1	144.9	142.9	145.8	145.7	141.9	136.6	131.3
Austria	81.1	85.1	87.0	93.1	91.8	92.8	91.5	88.0
Portugal	81.7	84.0	88.8	83.8	86.2	89.2	84.7	81.8
Finland	69.5	74.7	76.8	84.5	80.5	68.7	79.9	78.4
Hungary	78.0	79.7	78.0	81.2	79.9	80.4	78.9	75.9
Bulgaria	69.2	69.6	66.5	71.7	71.1	71.0	71.9	75.8
Ireland	69.0	70.7	68.8	68.6	68.6	70.3	69.7	69.2
Denmark	67.8	69.4	68.6	73.7	67.8	63.5	71.0	66.6
Sweden	68.2	68.8	69.6	70.2	69.7	67.2	66.9	65.4
Slovakia	48.4	50.1	49.0	50.2	50.0	49.4	48.9	47.0
Lithuania	19.2	20.2	20.6	20.8	21.6	22.6	22.9	24.7
Estonia	18.4	18.6	18.1	19.9	20.3	19.6	19.2	22.0
Slovenia	18.9	19.8	20.1	19.7	20.1	20.4	20.6	20.7
Luxembourg	10.0	10.3	11.3	11.8	13.3	13.4	13.3	12.9
Latvia	10.1	10.7	10.7	10.9	10.9	11.2	11.7	12.1
Cyprus	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.6	9.9	10.0	10.1
Malta	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0

Data source: EUROSTAT



Greenhouse gas emission

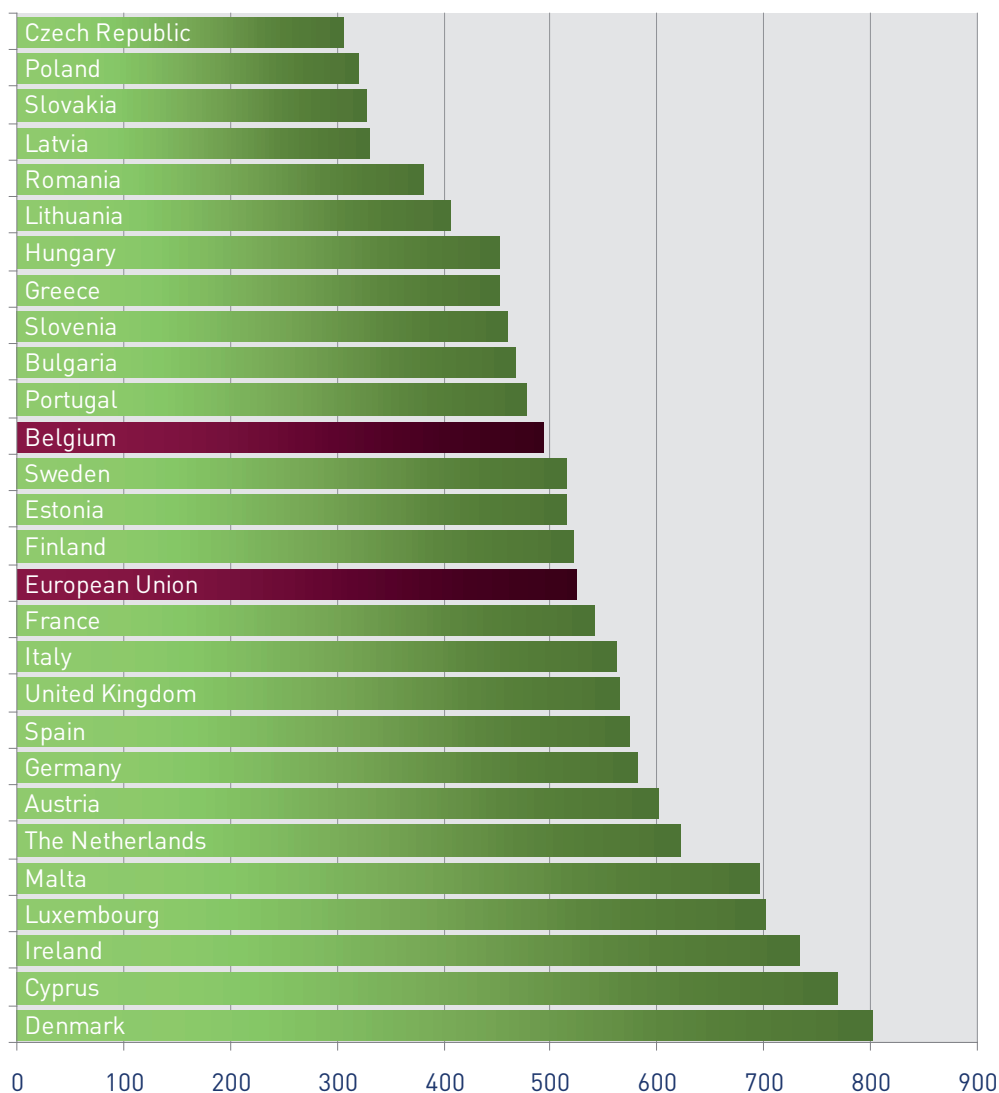


million tons of CO2 equivalents

Belgians produce quite little waste: 493 kg/inhabitant while the European average amounts to 524 kg/inhabitant.

Moreover, the major part of waste generated in Belgium is recovered in one way or another. In 2008, 35% of the waste was recycled, 25% was composted and 35% was incinerated with energy recovery in more than 99% of the cases. Only the remaining 5% is still dumped in landfills.

Municipal waste generated : Kg per person and per year (2008)



Municipal waste generated: Kg/inhabitant

Ranking	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Czech Republic	334	289	296	294	306
2	Poland	316 (i)	319 (e)	321 (e)	322 (e)	320 (e)
3	Slovakia	254	289	301	309	328
4	Latvia	270 (e)	310	411	377	331
5	Romania	355	377 (e)	388 (e)	378 (e)	382 (e)
6	Lithuania	363	376	390	400	407
7	Hungary	445 (b)	460	468	456	453
	Greece	408	438	443	448	453
9	Slovenia	513 (e)	423	432	441	459
10	Bulgaria	516	475	446	468	467
11	Portugal	472	446	454	472 (e)	477 (e)
12	Belgium	476 (e)	481	484	497 (e)	493 (e)
13	Sweden	428	482	497	518	515
	Estonia	440	436 (e)	466 (e)	507 (e)	515 (s)
15	Finland	503	479	495	507	522
	European Union	523	517	523	525	524
16	France	516	532	538	544	543 (e)
17	Italy	509	542	553	550	561 (s)
18	United Kingdom	578	585	587	572	565 (s)
19	Spain	662	597	599	590	575 (e)
20	Germany	643 (s)	564	563	582	581 (e)
21	Austria	581	620	654	598	601 (e)
22	The Netherlands	616	624	622	630	622 (e)
23	Malta	547	624	624	652	696
24	Luxembourg	658	678	688	694 (e)	701 (e)
25	Ireland	603	740	804	788	733
26	Cyprus	680	739	745	754	770 (e)
27	Denmark	665	737	741	801 (e)	802 (s)

Data source: EUROSTAT

Explanatory note: This indicator presents the amount of municipal waste generated. It consists of waste collected by or on behalf of municipal authorities and disposed of through the waste management system. The bulk of this waste stream is from households, though similar wastes from sources such as commerce, offices and public institutions are included. For areas not covered by a municipal waste scheme an estimation has been made of the amount of waste generated. The quantity of waste generated is expressed in kg per person per year.

Selective collection, disposal and recycling of municipal waste - Belgium*

1000 tons	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Production	4,613	4,874	4,838	5,025	4,842	5,064	5,024	5,093	5,256	5,255
Landfill (a)	2,004	749	559	534	459	367	354	257	265	264
Recycling	513	1,265	1,421	1,428	1,424	1,538	1,537	1,593	1,697	1,712
Composting and fermentation	363	1,091	1,030	1,098	1,123	1,208	1,165	1,183	1,237	1,215
Incineration	1,637	1,580	1,650	1,681	1,678	1,699	1,757	1,707	1,749	1,759
whereof with energy recovery	701	1,459	1,503	1,515	1,539	1,609	1,675	1,707	1,734	1,745
whereof without energy recovery	935	121	147	167	139	90	82	0	16	14
per inhabitant: kg/inhabitant (b)	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Production	455	476	471	487	468	487	481	484	497	493
Landfill (a)	198	73	54	52	44	35	34	24	25	25
Recycling	51	124	138	139	138	148	147	152	160	160
Composting and fermentation	36	107	100	106	108	116	111	113	117	114
Total incineration	162	154	161	163	162	163	168	162	165	165
whereof with energy recovery	69	143	146	147	149	155	160	162	164	164
whereof without energy recovery	92	12	14	16	13	9	8	0	1	1

*Note: excluding inert waste.

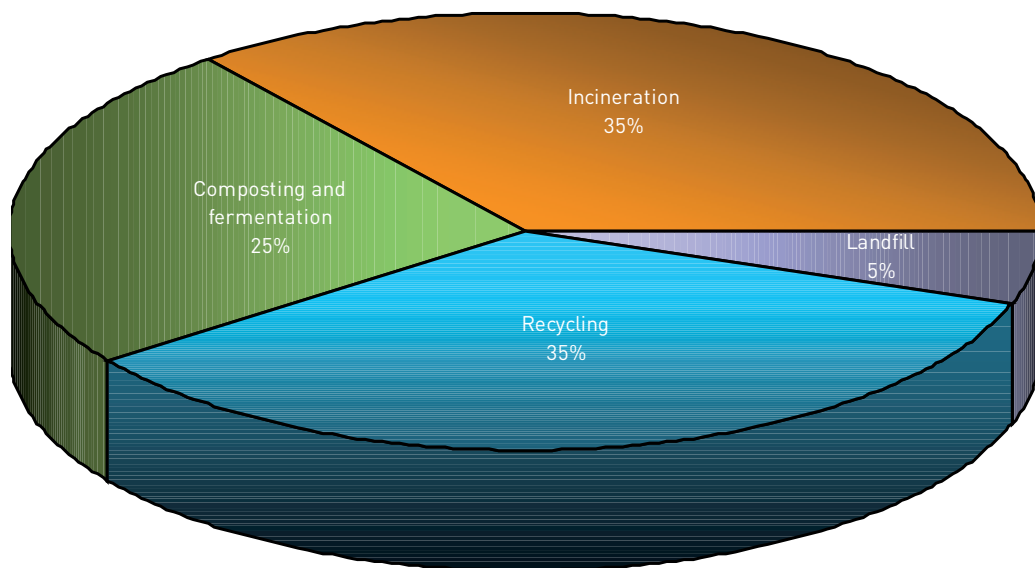
(a) Including clinker

(b) Population on 1 January

Data source: STATISTICS BELGIUM

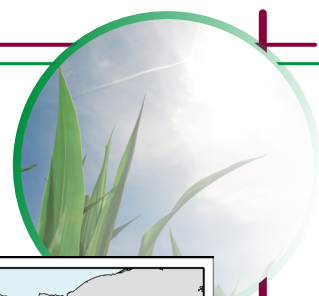


Selective collection, disposal and recycling of municipal waste
(2008)



5 | Population and territory







A | Total population of the European Union and its 27 Member States

Belgium is the tenth most populated country in the European Union and the Belgians account for 1/47 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.

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

Total population of Belgium and its regions on 1 January							
Unit	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Share of the population in 2008
Belgium	10,239,085	10,396,421	10,445,852	10,511,382	10,584,534	10,666,866	100%
Brussels-Capital Region	959,318	999,899	1,006,749	1,018,804	1,031,215	1,048,491	9.8%
Flemish Region	5,940,251	6,016,024	6,043,161	6,078,600	6,117,440	6,161,600	57.8%
Walloon Region	3,339,516	3,380,498	3,395,942	3,413,978	3,435,879	3,456,775	32.4%

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



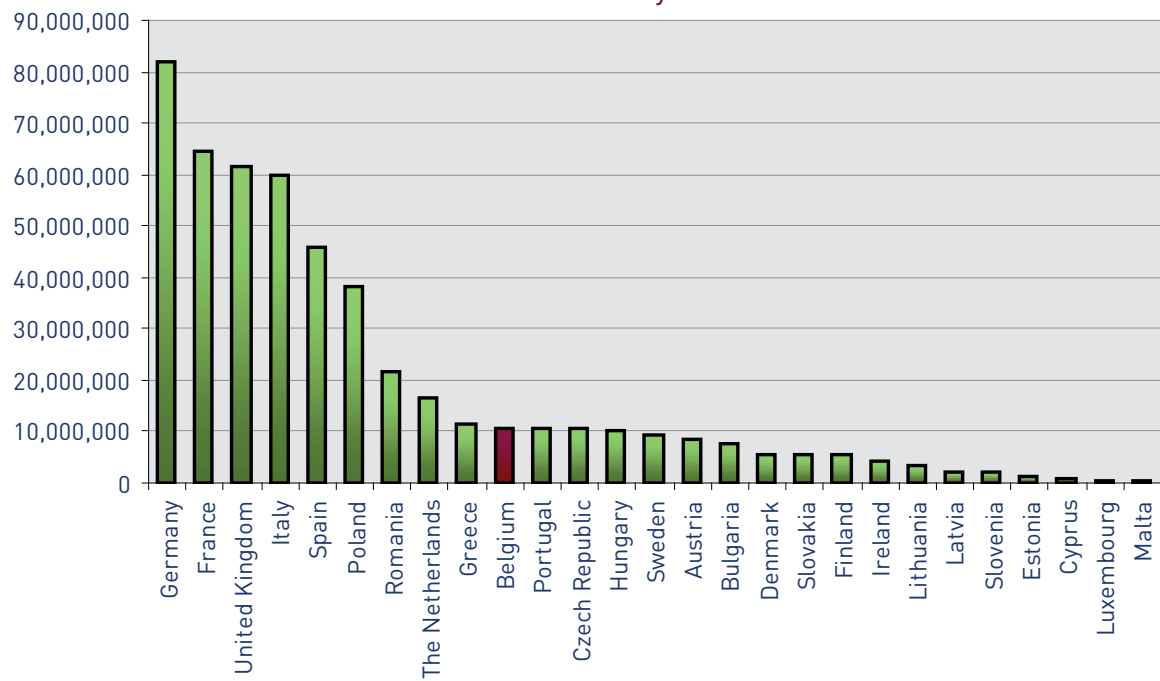
Total population of the countries and the European Union on 1 January

Ranking	Unit	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	European Union	482,767,710	488,799,601	491,153,644	493,226,936	495,270,075	497,649,125 (p)	499,723,520 (p)
1	Germany	82,163,475	82,531,671	82,500,849	82,437,995	82,314,906	82,217,837	82,002,356
2	France	60,545,022	62,292,241	62,772,870	63,229,443	63,623,209	63,982,881	64,350,759
3	United Kingdom	58,785,246	59,699,828	60,059,900	60,425,786	60,781,352	61,179,256 (p)	61,634,599 (p)
4	Italy	56,923,524	57,888,245	58,462,375	58,751,711	59,131,287	59,619,290	60,045,068
5	Spain	40,049,708	42,345,342	43,038,035	43,758,250	44,474,631	45,283,259	45,828,172
6	Poland	38,653,559	38,190,608	38,173,835	38,157,055	38,125,479	38,115,641	38,135,876
7	Romania	22,455,485	21,711,252	21,658,528	21,610,213	21,565,119	21,528,627	21,498,616
8	The Netherlands	15,863,950	16,258,032	16,305,526	16,334,210	16,357,992	16,405,399	16,485,787
9	Greece	10,903,757	11,040,650	11,082,751	11,125,179	11,171,740	11,213,785	11,260,402
10	Belgium	10,239,085	10,396,421	10,445,852	10,511,382	10,584,534	10,666,866	10,750,000 (p)
11	Portugal	10,195,014	10,474,685	10,529,255	10,569,592	10,599,095	10,617,575	10,627,250
12	Czech Republic	10,278,098	10,211,455	10,220,577	10,251,079	10,287,189	10,381,130	10,467,542
13	Hungary	10,221,644	10,116,742	10,097,549	10,076,581	10,066,158	10,045,401	10,030,975
14	Sweden	8,861,426	8,975,670	9,011,392	9,047,752	9,113,257	9,182,927	9,256,347
15	Austria	8,002,186	8,142,573	8,201,359	8,254,298	8,282,984	8,318,592	8,355,260
16	Bulgaria	8,190,876	7,801,273	7,761,049	7,718,750	7,679,290	7,640,238	7,606,551
17	Denmark	5,330,020	5,397,640	5,411,405	5,427,459	5,447,084	5,475,791	5,511,451
18	Slovakia	5,398,657	5,380,053	5,384,822	5,389,180	5,393,637	5,400,998	5,412,254
19	Finland	5,171,302	5,219,732	5,236,611	5,255,580	5,276,955	5,300,484	5,326,314
20	Ireland	3,777,763	4,027,732	4,109,173	4,209,019	4,312,526	4,401,335	4,450,014
21	Lithuania	3,512,074	3,445,857	3,425,324	3,403,284	3,384,879	3,366,357	3,349,872
22	Latvia	2,381,715	2,319,203	2,306,434	2,294,590	2,281,305	2,270,894	2,261,294
23	Slovenia	1,987,755	1,996,433	1,997,590	2,003,358	2,010,377	2,010,269 (b)	2,032,362
24	Estonia	1,372,071	1,351,069	1,347,510	1,344,684	1,342,409	1,340,935	1,340,415
25	Cyprus	690,497	730,367	749,175	766,414	778,684	789,269	796,875
26	Luxembourg	433,600	454,960	461,230	469,086	476,187	483,799	493,500
27	Malta	380,201	399,867	402,668	405,006	407,810	410,290	413,609

Data source: EUROSTAT



Share of the countries in the population of the European Union on 1 January 2009





| Age groups and life expectancy

In Belgium, the population of the different age groups keeps on growing. However, the share of the elderly tends to grow faster than that of the other age groups. Indeed, the national age pyramid shows that we are on the eve of an important ageing of the population. Nevertheless, a similar situation is found in most European countries and the share of people aged 65 and over is similar to the European average.

It is also worth noting that life expectancy in Belgium is slightly longer than the European average and this for both men and women.

Breakdown by age groups and gender on 1 January 2008 in the different Regions

Unit	0-17 years	18-64 years	65 years and over	Males	Females	Grand total
Belgium	2,194,507	6,652,633	1,819,726	5,224,309	5,442,557	10,666,866
Brussels-Capital Region	229,420	667,026	152,045	505,963	542,528	1,048,491
Flemish Region	1,216,791	3,844,615	1,100,194	3,039,956	3,121,644	6,161,600
Walloon Region	748,296	2,140,992	567,487	1,678,390	1,778,385	3,456,775

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Population by gender and age groups

	2005	2006	2007	2008	Share of the population on 1 January 2008
Total	10,445,852	10,511,382	10,584,534	10,666,866	100.0%
Population aged 0 to 19	2,414,041	2,428,706	2,441,129	2,452,770	23.0%
Population aged 20 to 64	6,232,311	6,273,659	6,333,343	6,394,370	59.9%
Population aged 65 and over	1,799,500	1,809,017	1,810,062	1,819,726	17.1%
Males	5,111,325	5,143,821	5,181,408	5,224,309	49.0%
Population aged 0 to 19	1,233,688	1,241,251	1,246,988	1,252,956	11.7%
Population aged 20 to 64	3,131,390	3,150,333	3,180,037	3,210,419	30.1%
Population aged 65 and over	746,247	752,237	754,383	760,934	7.1%
Females	5,334,527	5,367,561	5,403,126	5,442,557	51.0%
Population aged 0 to 19	1,180,353	1,187,455	1,194,141	1,199,814	11.2%
Population aged 20 to 64	3,100,921	3,123,326	3,153,306	3,183,951	29.8%
Population aged 65 and over	1,053,253	1,056,780	1,055,679	1,058,792	9.9%

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Proportion of population aged 0 to 19		
Ranking	Unit	2008
1	Ireland	27.0%
2	France	24.9%
3	Cyprus	24.6%
4	Denmark	24.5%
5	Luxembourg	24.1%
	United Kingdom	24.1%
7	The Netherlands	24.0%
8	Sweden	23.7%
9	Malta	23.2%
10	Lithuania	23.1%
	Finland	23.1%
12	Belgium	23.0%
	Slovakia	23.0%
14	Poland	22.6%
15	Estonia	22.1%
	Romania	22.1%
	European Union	21.7%
17	Austria	21.4%
18	Hungary	21.2%
19	Latvia	21.1%
20	Portugal	20.8%
21	Czech Republic	20.5%
22	Spain	19.7%
23	Bulgaria	19.6%
	Slovenia	19.6%
25	Greece	19.5%
26	Germany	19.4%
27	Italy	19.0%

Data source: EUROSTAT

Proportion of population aged 65 years and over		
Ranking	Unit	2008
1	Ireland	10.9%
2	Slovakia	12.0%
3	Cyprus	12.5%
4	Malta	13.5%
	Poland	13.5%
6	Luxembourg	14.0%
7	Czech Republic	14.6%
8	The Netherlands	14.7%
9	Romania	14.9%
10	Denmark	15.6%
11	Portugal	15.7%
12	Lithuania	15.8%
13	United Kingdom	16.1%
14	Hungary	16.2%
15	France	16.3%
	Slovenia	16.3%
17	Finland	16.5%
18	Spain	16.6%
	European Union	17.0%
19	Belgium	17.1%
	Austria	17.1%
21	Estonia	17.2%
	Latvia	17.2%
23	Bulgaria	17.3%
24	Sweden	17.5%
25	Greece	18.6%
26	Germany	19.9%
27	Italy	20.0%

Data source: EUROSTAT

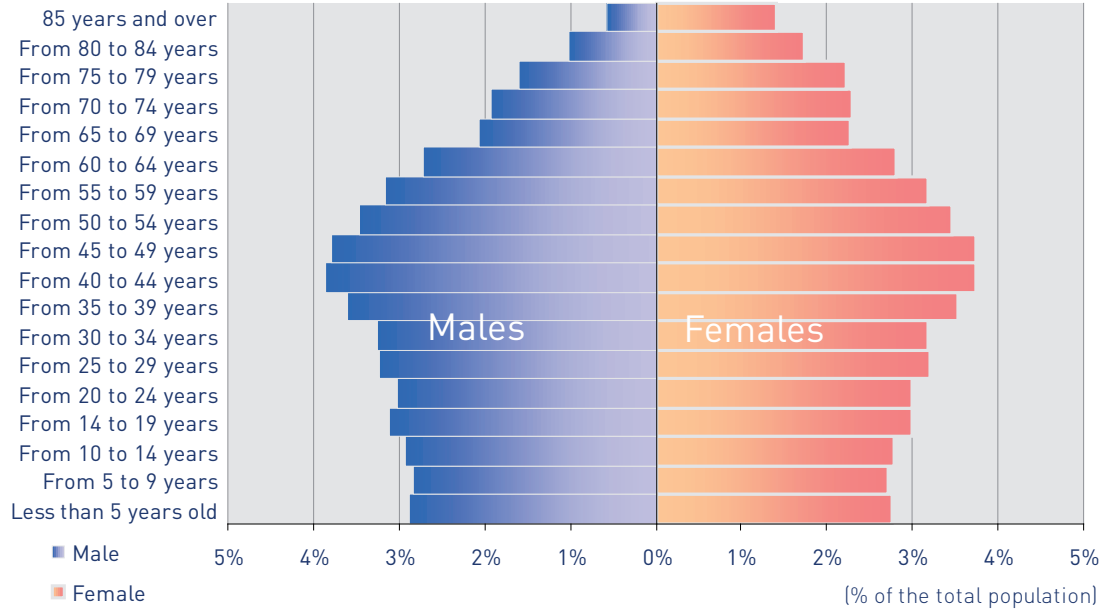
Life expectancy at birth (years): Males		
Ranking	Unit	2007
1	Sweden	79.0
2	Italy	78.7
3	The Netherlands	78.1
4	Cyprus	77.9
5	Spain	77.8
6	France	77.6
	United Kingdom	77.6
8	Malta	77.5
9	Austria	77.4
	Germany	77.4
	Ireland	77.4
12	Greece	77.1
	Belgium	77.1
14	Luxembourg	76.7
15	Denmark	76.2
	European Union	76.1
16	Finland	76.0
17	Portugal	75.9
18	Slovenia	74.7
19	Czech Republic	73.8
20	Poland	71.0
21	Slovakia	70.6
22	Romania	69.7
23	Bulgaria	69.5
24	Hungary	69.4
25	Estonia	67.2
26	Latvia	65.8
27	Lithuania	64.9

Data source: EUROSTAT

Life expectancy at birth (years): Females		
Ranking	Unit	2007
1	France	84.8
2	Spain	84.3
3	Italy	84.2
4	Finland	83.1
	Sweden	83.1
	Austria	83.1
7	Germany	82.7
8	Belgium	82.6
9	The Netherlands	82.5
10	Cyprus	82.2
	Portugal	82.2
	Luxembourg	82.2
	European Union	82.2
	Malta	82.2
14	Ireland	82.1
15	Slovenia	82.0
16	Greece	81.8
	United Kingdom	81.8
18	Denmark	80.6
19	Czech Republic	80.2
20	Poland	79.8
21	Estonia	78.8
22	Slovakia	78.4
23	Hungary	77.8
24	Lithuania	77.2
25	Romania	76.9
26	Bulgaria	76.7
27	Latvia	76.5

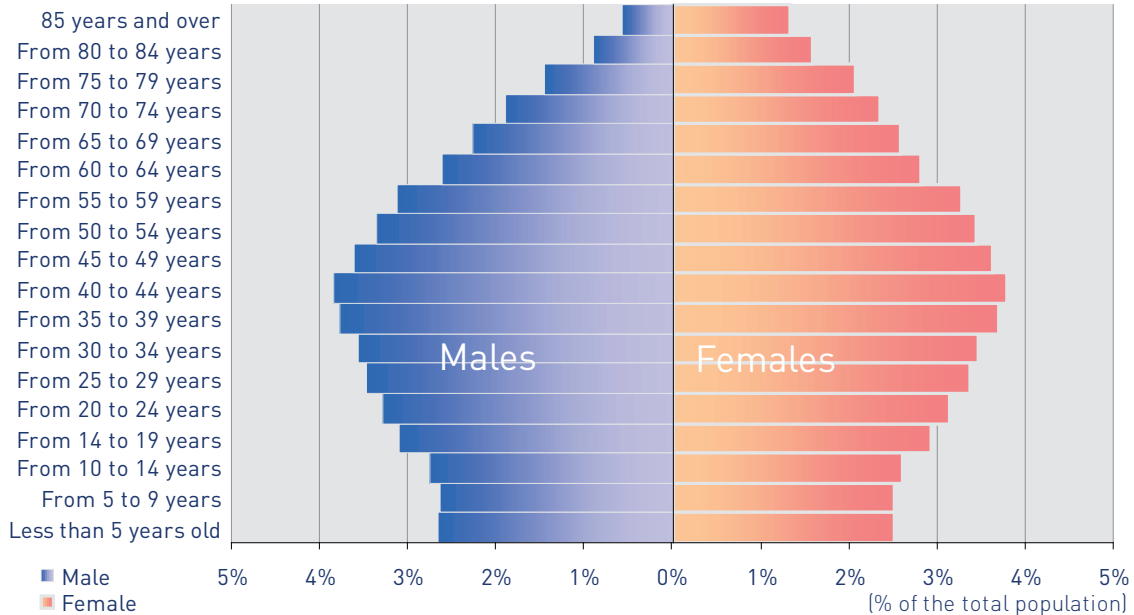
Data source: EUROSTAT

Age pyramid in Belgium on 1 January 2008



Data source : NATIONAL REGISTER

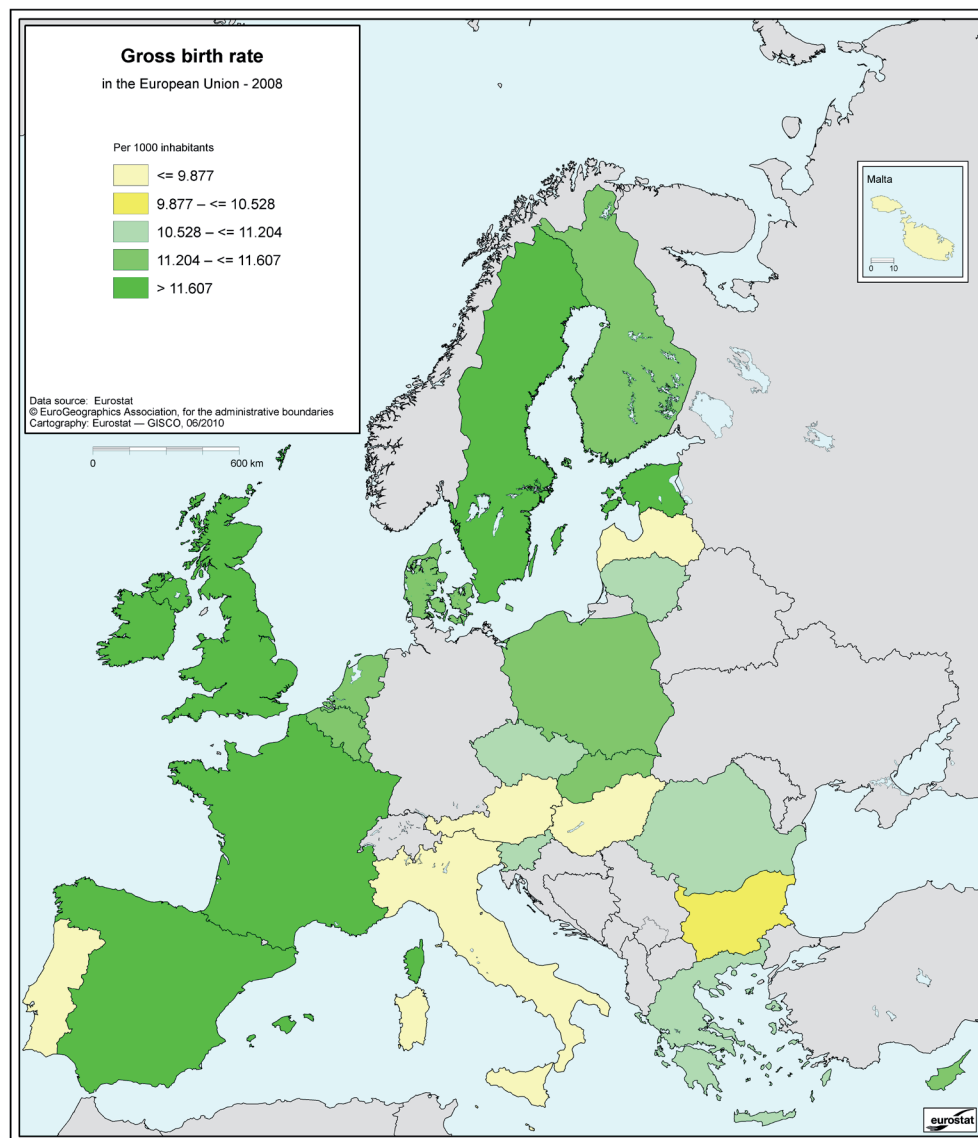
Age pyramid in the European Union on 1 January 2008



Data source: EUROSTAT



Within the European Union, Belgium has a particularly dynamic population growth rate. It takes the ninth place with a growth rate of 7.8 per thousand and an increase of 83,134 persons in 2008. This growth even seems to have accelerated in the last years. This growth is the most important one since 1965. Belgium ranks as one of the leading countries for birth rate. With 120,663 births and 100,658 deaths in 2007, the natural growth of the population reaches a very positive result of 20,005 units, i.e. the highest figure since 1992.



Crude birth rate per 1000 inhabitants			
Ranking	Unit	Rate in 2008	Number of live births 2007
1	Ireland	16.9	70,620
2	France	13.0	819,605
3	United Kingdom	12.9	772,245
4	Estonia	12.0	15,775
5	Sweden	11.9	107,421
6	Denmark	11.8	64,082
7	Belgium	11.7	120,663
8	Cyprus	11.6	8,575
9	Czech Republic	11.5	114,632
	Luxembourg	11.5	5,477
11	Spain	11.4	493,702
12	Finland	11.2	58,729
13	The Netherlands (2007)	11.1	181,336
	European Union	10.9	5,281,625
14	Poland	10.9	387,873
15	Slovenia (b)	10.8	19,823
16	Slovakia	10.6	54,424
	Latvia	10.6	23,273
18	Lithuania	10.4	32,346
19	Romania	10.3	214,728
	Greece	10.3	111,926
21	Bulgaria	10.2	75,349
22	Malta	10.0	3,871
23	Hungary	9.9	97,613
24	Portugal	9.8	102,492
25	Italy	9.6	563,933
26	Austria	9.3	76,250
27	Germany (p)	8.3	684,862

Total fertility rate: number of children per woman		
Ranking	Unit	2006
1	France	2.00
2	Ireland	1.93
3	Denmark	1.85
	Sweden	1.85
5	Finland	1.84
	United Kingdom	1.84
7	Belgium	1.80
8	The Netherlands	1.72
9	Luxembourg	1.65
10	Estonia	1.55
	European Union (e)	1.53
11	Cyprus	1.45
12	Austria	1.41
13	Greece	1.40
14	Malta	1.39
15	Bulgaria	1.38
	Spain	1.38
17	Portugal	1.36
18	Italy	1.35
	Latvia	1.35
20	Hungary	1.34
21	Czech Republic	1.33
	Germany	1.33
23	Romania	1.32
24	Lithuania	1.31
	Slovenia	1.31
26	Poland	1.27
27	Slovakia	1.24

Data source: EUROSTAT

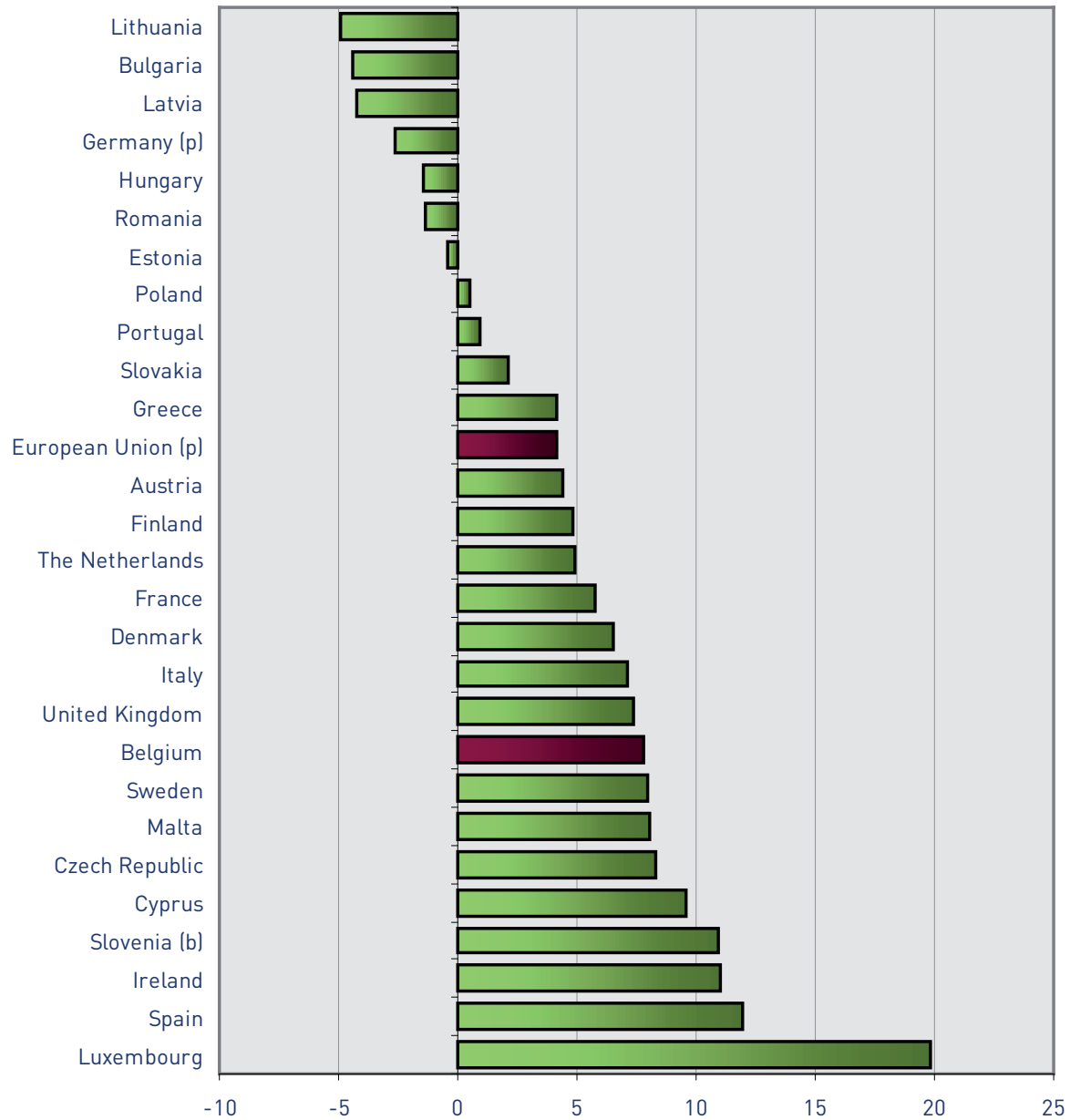
Crude mortality rate per 1,000 inhabitants		
Ranking	Unit	2008
1	Cyprus	6.4
2	Ireland	6.5
3	Luxembourg	7.4
4	Malta	7.9
5	The Netherlands (2007)	8.1
6	France	8.5
	Spain	8.5
8	Austria	9.0
9	Slovenia (b)	9.1
10	Finland	9.2
11	United Kingdom	9.4
12	Belgium	9.5
	Greece	9.5
14	Italy	9.7
	European Union	9.7
15	Portugal	9.8
	Slovakia	9.8
17	Sweden	9.9
	Denmark	9.9
19	Poland	10.0
20	Czech Republic (p)	10.1
21	Germany	10.3
22	Romania	11.8
23	Estonia	12.4
24	Hungary	13.0
25	Lithuania	13.1
26	Latvia	13.7
27	Bulgaria	14.5

Accroissement (2008)			
Ranking	Unit	Total growth rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	Population change (in absolute figures)
1	Luxembourg	19.9	9,701
2	Spain	12.0	544,913
3	Ireland	11.0	48,679
4	Slovenia (b)	10.9	22,093
5	Cyprus	9.6	7,606
6	Czech Republic	8.3	86,412
7	Malta	8.1	3,319
8	Sweden	8.0	73,420
9	Belgium	7.8	83,134
10	United Kingdom	7.4	455,343
11	Italy	7.1	425,778
12	Denmark	6.5	35,660
13	France	5.7	367,878
14	The Netherlands	4.9	80,388
	Finland	4.9	25,830
16	Austria	4.4	36,668
	European Union (p)	4.2	2,074,395
17	Greece	4.1	46,617
18	Slovakia	2.1	11,256
19	Portugal	0.9	9,675
20	Poland	0.5	20,235
21	Estonia	-0.4	-520
22	Romania	-1.4	-30,011
	Hungary	-1.4	-14,426
24	Germany (p)	-2.6	-215,481
25	Latvia	-4.2	-9,600
26	Bulgaria	-4.4	-33,687
27	Lithuania	-4.9	-16,485

Data source: EUROSTAT



Total growth rate 2008 per 1,000 inhabitants

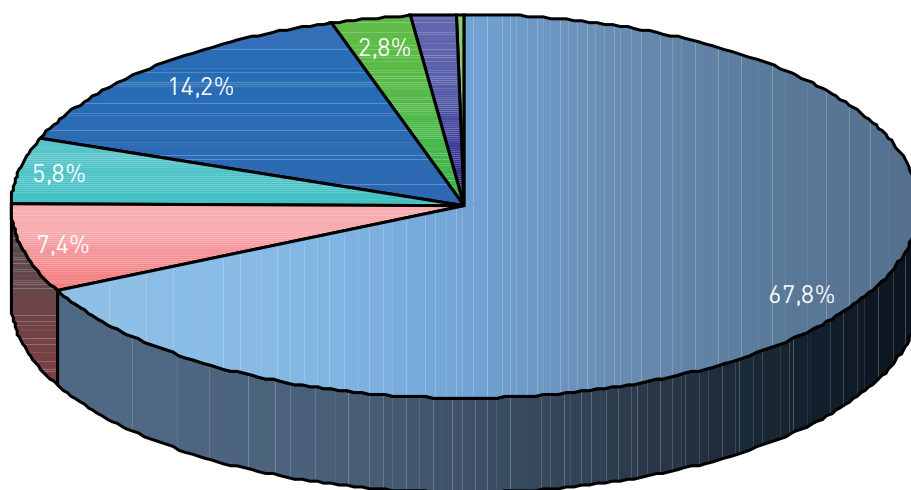




| Migrations and foreign population

The percentage of foreign population in Belgium amounted to 9.1% in 2008. The Kingdom is one of the European countries with the largest number of foreign residents. It is noteworthy that nearly 68% (more than 2/3) of these persons are EU-citizens. Moreover, the migratory flow is quite strong in the country since Belgium ranks ninth in terms of crude rate of net migration in 2008. In absolute figures, the positive migration balance amounted to 59,742 units in the same year. In 2007, this balance totalled 55,357 units, with 146,409 incoming migrants and 91,052 outgoing migrants. 36,063 persons obtained Belgian nationality in 2007. Belgium is the ninth country with regard to the number of naturalizations. The citizens who previously held an African nationality are the largest by numbers (15,632 persons or 43.3% of the total) but the EU-citizens are also well represented since they account for 17.8% of the total with 6,418 new Belgians.

Distribution by origin of foreigners living in Belgium



- Number of foreign citizens: EU citizens
- Asia
- Americas
- Refugees of undetermined origin

- Other European countries
- Africa
- Oceania
- Stateless persons - undetermined

Country of citizenship of the Belgian population	Total on 1 January 2008
Belgians	9,695,418
Number of foreign citizens	971,448
Number of foreign citizens: EU citizens	658,589
Italy	169,027
France	130,568
The Netherlands	123,454
Spain	42,705
Germany	38,366
Poland	30,392
Portugal	29,800
United Kingdom	25,126
Romania	15,253
Greece	15,181
Bulgaria	6,709
Sweden	4,399
Luxembourg	4,380
Ireland	3,406
Denmark	3,160
Slovakia	3,001
Finland	2,992
Hungary	2,790
Austria	2,523
Czech Republic	2,072
Lithuania	981
Latvia	679
Estonia	583
Slovenia	559
Malta	252
Cyprus	231
Other European countries	71,836
Asia	55,916
Africa	138,422

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Migrations 2008

Ranking	Unit	Crude rate of net migration	Corrected net balance (in absolute figures)
	European Union	:	1,489,941 (p)
1	Luxembourg	15.8	7,700
2	Slovenia	14.016 (b)	18,584 (b)
3	Italy	7.7	431,761
4	Czech Republic	6.9	71,790
5	Sweden	6.1	55,568
6	Malta	6.0	2,436
7	Spain	5.9	418,477
8	Denmark	5.3	25,213
9	Belgium	4.9	59,742
10	Austria	4.1	33,999
	Ireland	4.1	1,806
12	United Kingdom	3.7	240,657
13	Greece	3.1	36,294
14	Finland	2.9	15,394
15	Hungary	1.7	16,452
16	The Netherlands	1.6	30,890
17	Slovakia	1.3	7,060
18	France	1.2	81,301
19	Portugal	0.9	9,361
20	Cyprus	0.8	3,595
21	Romania	0.1	1,291
	Bulgaria	0.1	127
23	Poland	-0.1	-876
24	Germany (p)	-0.4	-14,865
25	Latvia	-0.7	-53,556
26	Lithuania	-1.1	-2,542
27	Estonia	-2.3	-7,718

Data source: EUROSTAT

Foreign population 2008

Ranking	Unit	Number of foreigners in each country	Percentage of foreigners in the total population
1	Luxembourg	205,889	42.6%
2	Latvia	415,493	18.3%
3	Estonia	229,300 (s)	17.1%
4	Cyprus	125,300 (e)	15.9%
5	Ireland	553,690	12.6%
6	Spain	5,262,095	11.6%
7	Austria	835,182	10.0%
8	Belgium	971,448	9.1%
9	Germany	7,255,395	8.8%
10	Greece	906,400 (s)	8.1%
11	United Kingdom	4,020,800 (s)	6.6%
	European Union	30,798,059 (s)	6.2%
12	France	3,674,000 (s)	5.8%
	Italy	3,432,651	5.8%
14	Sweden	524,488	5.7%
15	Denmark	298,450	5.5%
16	Portugal	446,333	4.2%
	The Netherlands	688,375	4.2%
18	Malta	15,460	3.8%
19	Slovenia	68,621	3.4%
20	Czech Republic	347,649	3.3%
21	Finland	132,708	2.5%
22	Hungary	176,580	1.8%
23	Lithuania	42,934	1.3%
24	Slovakia	40,904	0.8%
25	Bulgaria	24,402	0.3%
26	Poland	57,842	0.2%
27	Romania	26,100	0.1%

Data source: EUROSTAT

Total acquisition of citizenship 2007		
Ranking	Unit	Number of persons
1	United Kingdom	164,540 (p)
2	France	132,002
3	Germany	113,030
4	Spain	71,936
5	Belgium	36,063
6	Italy	35,266 (2006)
7	Sweden	33,629
8	The Netherlands	30,653
9	Austria	14,010
10	Hungary	8,442
11	Latvia	8,322
12	Bulgaria	5,966
13	Finland	4,824
14	Ireland	4,649
15	Estonia	4,242
16	Greece	3,921
17	Denmark	3,648
18	Portugal	3,627(2006)
19	Cyprus	2,780
20	Czech Republic	2,371
21	Slovenia	1,551
22	Poland	1,542
23	Slovakia	1,478
24	Luxembourg	1,236
25	Malta	553
26	Lithuania	371
27	Romania	31 (e)

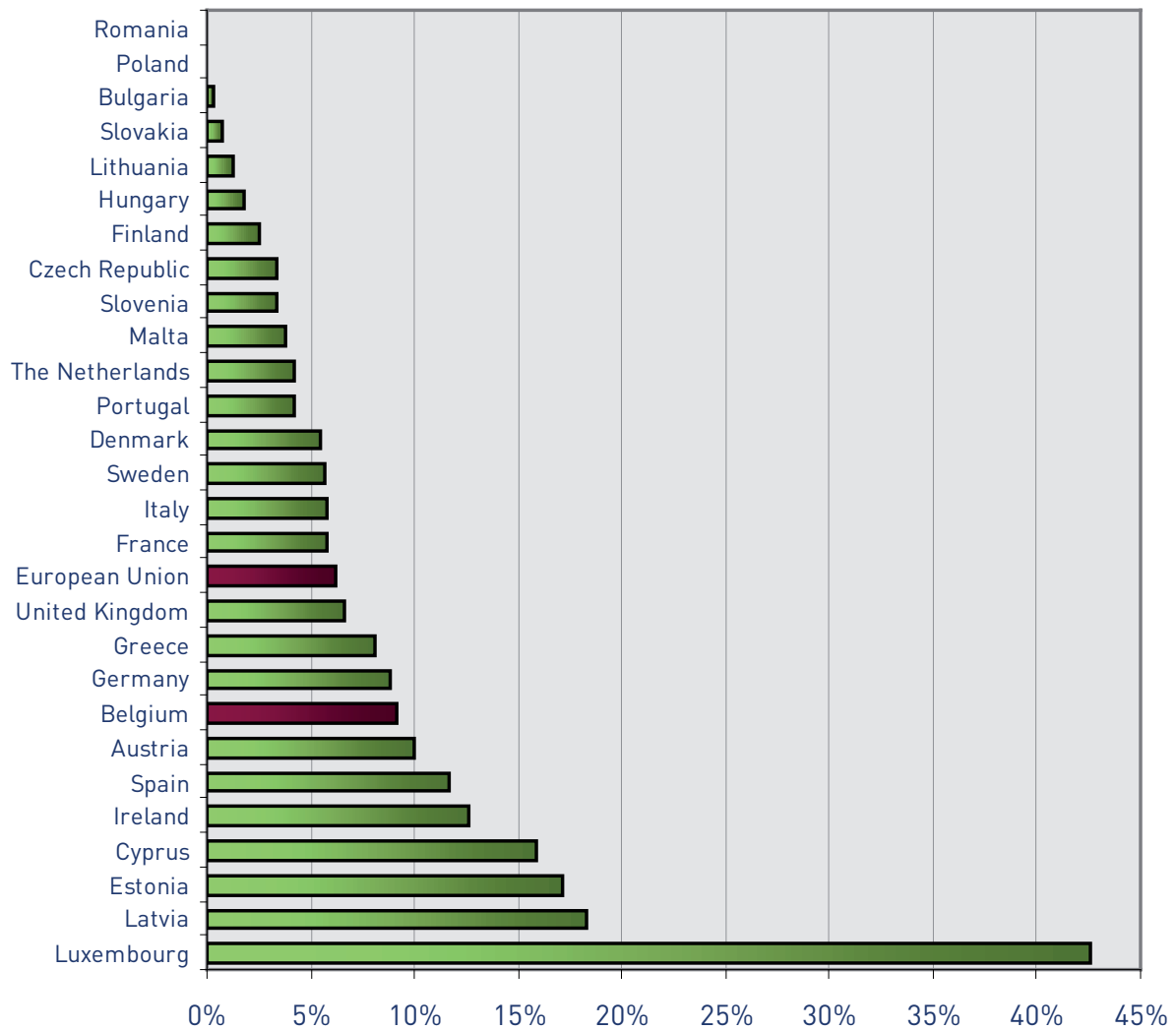
Data source: EUROSTAT

Main original citizenship of the persons who have been granted the Belgian citizenship in 2007		
Original citizenship	Number of persons	Percentage of the total
Morocco	8,722	24.2%
Turkey	3,039	8.4%
Italy	2,017	5.6%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,793	5.0%
Russia	1,533	4.3%
Rwanda	924	2.6%
France	836	2.3%
Algeria	687	1.9%
Yugoslavia (Federal Republic)	679	1.9%
The Netherlands	668	1.9%
Pakistan	666	1.8%
Yugoslavia (former)	591	1.6%
Poland (Rep.)	586	1.6%
Romania	554	1.5%
Greece	434	1.2%
Tunisia	414	1.1%
Albania	392	1.1%
Ghana	388	1.1%
India	365	1.0%
People's Republic of China	356	1.0%
All nationalities taken into account	36,063	100.0%

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM



Percentage of foreigners per country in 2008 (in %)

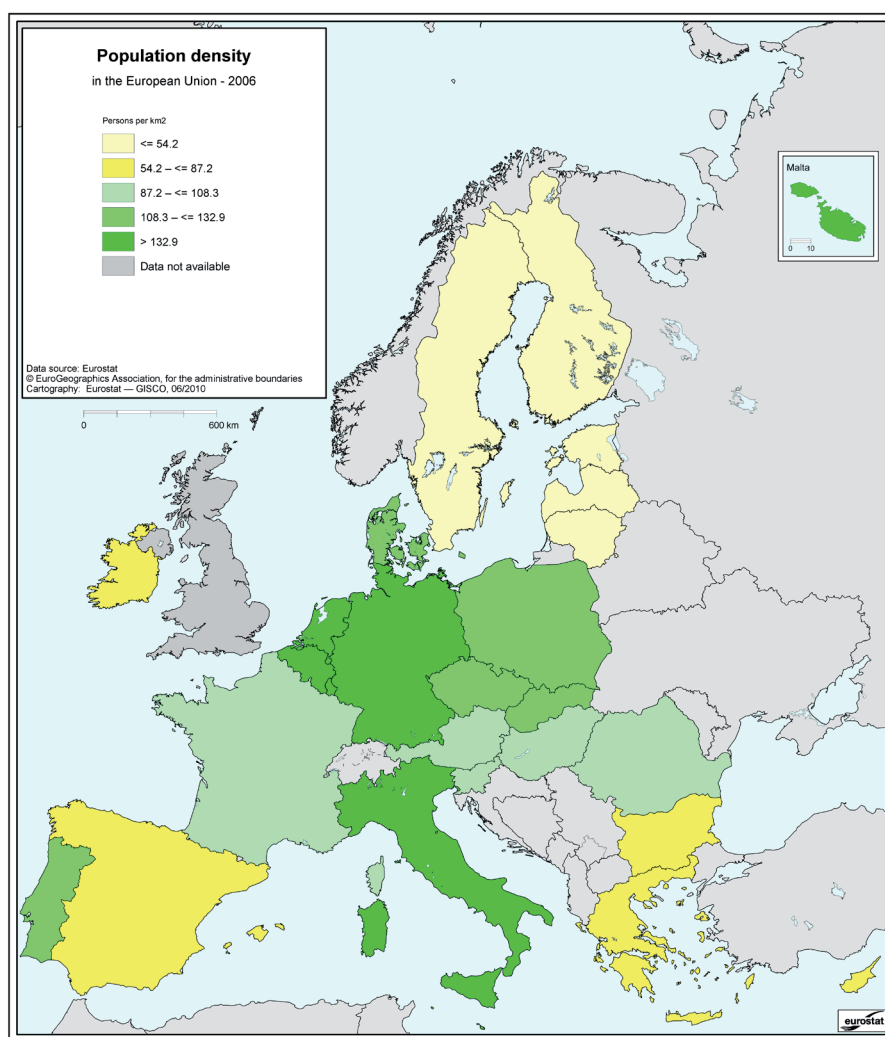




With a total area of 30,528 km², Belgium is the fifth smallest country in the Union but ranks tenth in terms of population size. As a result, Belgium, with its 348 inhabitants/km² in 2006, is the third country after the Netherlands and Malta with regard to population density.

The Walloon Region covers 55.2% of the territory, the Flemish Region 44.3% and the Brussels Capital Region 0.5%. The Brussels-Capital Region is the most populated region with 6,497 inhabitants/km², followed by the Flemish Region with 456 inhabitants/km² and the Walloon Region with 205 inhabitants/km².

In the country, agricultural land represents the major part of the land area. It is followed by wooded land and finally built-up land. However, the gap between those two last categories tends to narrow over time. The built-up area increases year on year, mostly to the detriment of agricultural land. The built-up area increased by 21.5% between 1990 and 2009 while the agricultural land area decreased by 6%. Wooded land and natural areas remained relatively stable.



Population density (inhabitants/km²)

Ranking	Unit	2006
1	Malta	1,281.2
2	The Netherlands	483.8
3	Belgium	347.8
4	United Kingdom	247.7 (2005)
5	Germany	230.7
6	Italy	199.7
7	Luxembourg	182.8
8	Czech Republic	132.9
9	Denmark	126.2
10	Poland	122.0
11	Portugal	114.9
12	Slovakia	110.0
13	Hungary	108.3
14	France	100.2
15	Slovenia	99.6
16	Austria	99.5
17	Romania	93.9
18	Spain	87.2
19	Greece	85.2
20	Cyprus	83.5
21	Bulgaria	69.4
22	Ireland	62.3
23	Lithuania	54.2
24	Latvia	36.7
25	Estonia	30.9
26	Sweden	22.1
27	Finland	17.3

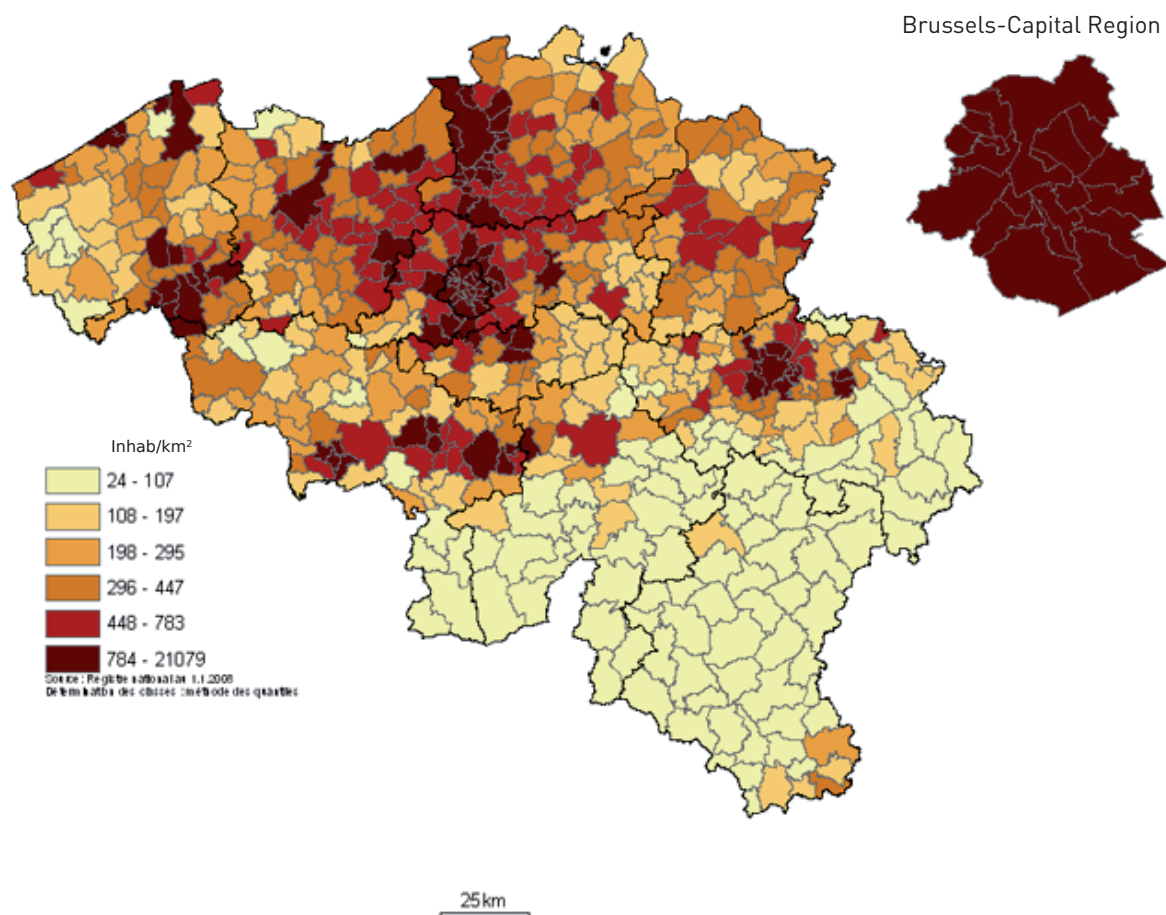
Data source: EUROSTAT

Area and population density: Belgium and its regions

		Population density						
	Area	1963	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007	2008
Belgium	30,528	305.6	316.4	322.8	325.9	335.4	346.7	349.4
Flanders	13,522	381.6	399.6	415.5	424.5	439.3	452.4	455.7
Wallonia	16,844	185.6	189	191.6	192.6	198.3	204	205.2
Brussels	162	6,423	6,624	6,227	5,953	5,922	6,366	6,497

Data source: FPS Finances (Land registry), National Geographical Institute (NGI) and Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS).

Population density by municipality on 1 January 2008



Land use in km²: Belgium

	1990	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total area	30,528	30,528	30,528	30,528	30,528	30,528
Area of lands	30,278	30,278	30,278	30,278	30,278	30,278
Non built-up land						
Total agricultural land	18,301	17,653	17,393	17,352	17,309	17,269
Others (1)	7,247	7,235	7,223	7,217	7,214	7,209
Built-up land						
Built-up and related land (2)	4,980	5,640	5,912	5,958	6,004	6,050
Residential land	1,791	2,221	2,409	2,439	2,470	2,501
Industrial land (other than 3.3. below)	413	506	534	539	542	546
Land used for quarries, pits, mines, etc.	40	37	38	37	37	38
Commercial land	115	142	148	148	148	149
Land used for public services, excluding transport, communication and technical infrastructure	176	201	205	206	207	207
Land of mixed use	134	136	136	137	139	140
Land used for transport and communication (3)	1,889	1,942	1,971	1,976	1,977	1,981
Land used for technical infrastructure	14	22	26	26	28	28
Recreational and other open land	407	432	445	451	455	460

1) forests and other wooded land, wet lands, moors, marshes, waste land, rocks, beaches, dunes

2) excluding scattered agricultural buildings

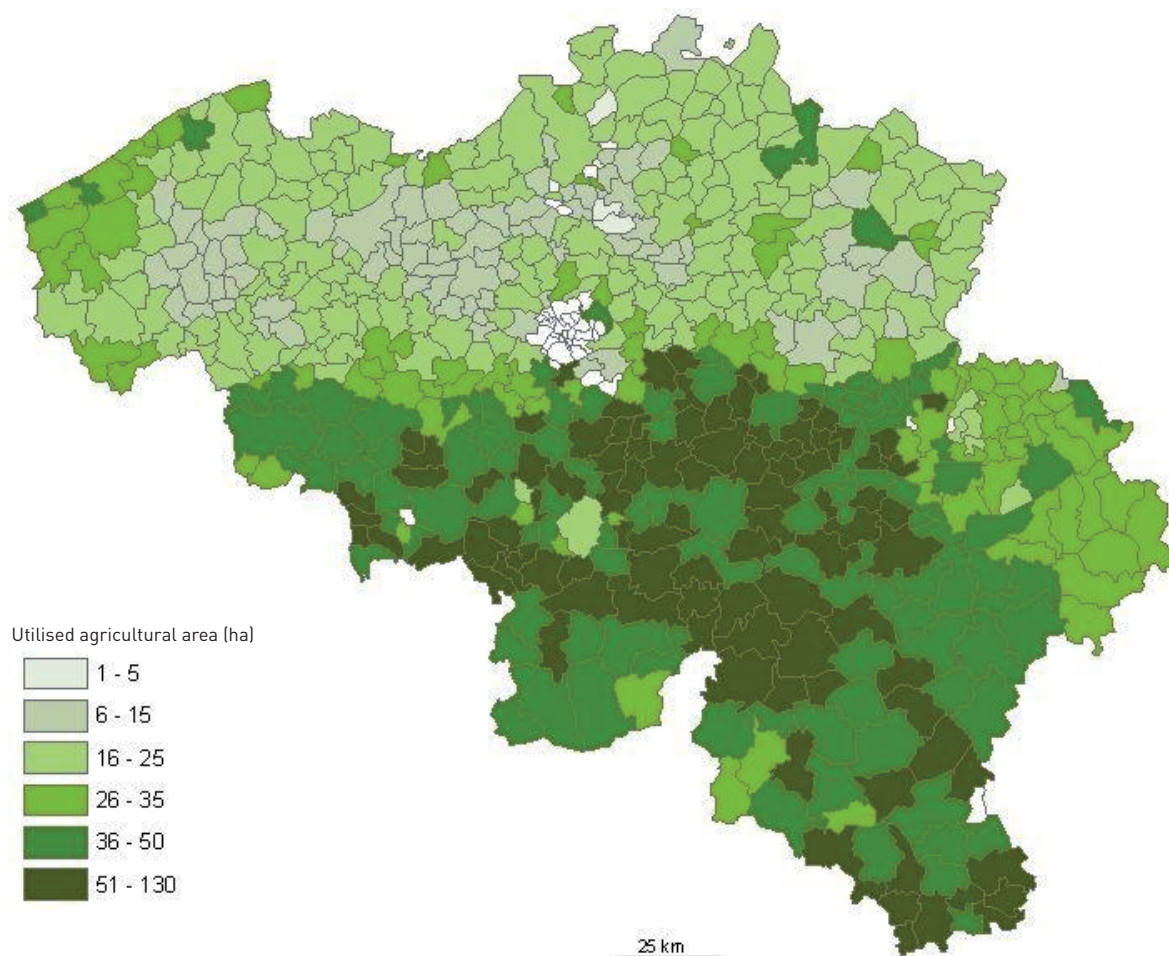
3) including some parts of water courses

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM AND PFS FINANCES (land registry).

Unlike other European countries, the Belgian economy is no longer agriculture-oriented. Indeed, Belgium scores far below the European average with regard to the number of agricultural holdings per thousand inhabitants in 2007. This can be attributed to the high population density and the growing size of the holdings. The table on Belgium shows that the number of holdings shrinks year on year (with a decrease of nearly 2,000 units between 2009 and 2008).

Moreover, only 1.75% of the active population still works in this sector nowadays. A strong decline of the workforce has also been observed since the agricultural labour force decreased by 15% over the period 2004-2009.

Utilised agricultural area



Agriculture and horticulture

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Means of production						
Number of agricultural holdings	53,221	51,540	49,850	48,013	46,187	44,381
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	1,393,788	1,385,582	1,382,390	1,370,285	1,373,844	1,365,155
Labour force	98,471	95,009	92,405	89,041	86,456	83,865
Full-time	51,288	49,467	48,173	46,500	45,598	44,527
Livestock (x 1000)						
Number of cattle	2,739	2,699	2,663	2,649	2,606	2,600
Dairy cows	543	523	507	500	495	504
Pigs	6,355	6,318	6,295	6,256	6,262	6,321
Hens and pullets	13,446	13,215	12,397	11,906	11,493	11,828
Broiler	21,745	21,073	19,711	20,161	20,116	20,659
Crops (ha)						
Cereals*	319,218	322,231	329,614	329,894	363,168	344,992
Winter wheat	200,365	201,481	197,950	197,741	208,606	198,243
Grain maize	52,173	54,256	56,500	58,238	72,015	66,670
Industrial crops	134,128	130,311	120,328	120,177	96,498	96,351
Sugar beet	87,754	85,527	82,912	82,659	64,296	62,740
Potatoes	66,734	64,952	67,267	67,942	63,883	73,723
Forage crops	252,845	255,208	253,356	255,147	268,476	271,557
Forage maize	166,941	163,825	161,178	163,896	176,654	180,251
Field vegetables	39,853	38,908	40,471	39,069	38,661	40,320
Ornamental crops	21,384	21,093	21,010	20,968	21,295	21,629
Permanent grassland	529,951	519,096	517,306	507,304	504,833	501,573

* Includes grain maize but not forage maize (see forage crops).

Data source: FPS ECONOMY - STATISTICS BELGIUM

Number of agricultural holdings per inhabitant 2007

Ranking	Unit	Number of agricultural holdings (1,000)	Number of inhabitants 01/01/07	Number of agricultural holdings per 1,000 inhabitants
1	Romania	3,931	21,565,119	182
2	Greece	860	11,171,740	77
3	Lithuania	230	3,384,879	68
4	Bulgaria	493	7,679,290	64
5	Poland	2,391	38,125,479	63
6	Hungary	626	10,066,158	62
7	Cyprus	40	778,700	52
8	Latvia	108	2,281,305	47
9	Slovenia	75	2,010,377	37
10	Ireland	128	4,312,526	30
11	Italy	1,679	59,131,287	28
	European Union	13,700	495,126,421	28
12	Malta	11	407,810	27
13	Portugal	275	10,599,095	26
14	Spain	1,044	44,474,631	23
15	Austria	165	8,282,984	20
16	Estonia	23	1,342,409	17
17	Finland	68	5,276,955	13
	Slovakia	69	5,393,637	13
19	France	527	63,392,140	8
	Denmark	45	5,447,084	8
	Sweden	73	9,113,257	8
22	United Kingdom	300	60,852,828	5
	Luxembourg	2	476,187	5
	The Netherlands	77	16,357,992	5
	Belgium	48	10,584,534	5
	Germany	370	82,314,906	5
27	Czech Republic	39	10,287,189	4

Data Source: EUROSTAT





Statistics Belgium

