

# **BELGIUM**









# **GOVERNMENT**

#### **Chief of State**

King Philippe

#### **Head of Government**

Caretaker Prime Minister Sophie WILMES

## **Government Type**

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy

## Capital

Brussels

## Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate or Senaat (in Dutch), Senat (in French) (60 seats) and the Chamber of Representatives or Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers (in Dutch), Chambre des Representants (in French) (150 seats)

# **Judiciary**

Constitutional Court or Grondwettelijk Hof (in Dutch) and Cour constitutionelle (in French) (12 judges); Supreme Court of Justice or Hof van Cassatie (in Dutch) and Cour de Cassation (in French) (court organized into 3 chambers)

# **Ambassador to US**

Ambassador Dirk Jozef M. WOUTERS

#### **US Ambassador**

Ambassador Ronald GIDWITZ

# **GEOGRAPHY**

#### Area

Total: 30,528 sq km Land: 30,278 sq km Water: 250 sq km

#### Climate

temperate; mild winters, cool summers; rainy, humid, cloudy

#### **Natural Resources**

construction materials, silica sand, carbonates, arable land

as of April 2020

#### **ECONOMY**

#### **Economic Overview**

a central geographic location and highly developed transport network have helped Belgium develop a well-diversified economy, with a broad mix of transport, services, manufacturing, and high tech industries; it has been pursuing a reform program to improve competitiveness

# **GDP** (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$529.2 billion (2017 est.)

# **GDP** per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$46,600 (2017 est.)

# **Exports**

\$300.8 million (2017 est.)

partners: Germany 16.6%, France 14.9%, Netherlands 12%, UK 8.4%, Italy 4.9%, US 4.8% (2017)

# **Imports**

\$300.4 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Netherlands 17.3%, Germany 13.8%, France 9.5%, US 7.1%, UK 4.9%, Ireland 4.2%, China 4.1% (2017)

# **PEOPLE & SOCIETY**

# **Population**

11.7 million (July 2020 est.)

# **Population Growth**

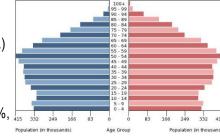
0.63% (2020 est.)

# **Ethnicity**

Belgian 75.2%, Italian 4.1%, 435 332

Moroccan 3.7%, French

2.4%, Turkish 2%, Dutch 2%, other 10.6% (2012 est.)



### Language

Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%

# Religion

Roman Catholic 50%, Protestant and other Christian 2.5%, Muslim 5%, Jewish 0.4%, Buddhist 0.3%, atheist 9.2%, none 32.6% (2009 est.)

## Urbanization

urban population: 98.1% of total population (2020)

rate of urbanization: 0.62% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)