



# Belgium



<b>Background</b>	Belgium became independent from the Netherlands in 1830; it was occupied by Germany during World Wars I and II. The country prospered as a modern, technologically advanced European state and member of NATO and the EU. In recent years, longstanding tensions between the Dutch-speaking Flemish of the north and the French-speaking Walloons of the south have led to constitutional amendments granting these regions formal recognition and autonomy. The capital city of Brussels is home to numerous international organizations, including the EU and NATO.
<b>Capital</b>	name: Brussels
<b>Government type</b>	federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy
<b>Area</b>	total : 30,528 sq km land: 30,278 sq km water: 250 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	temperate; mild winters, cool summers; rainy, humid, cloudy
<b>Natural resources</b>	construction materials, silica sand, carbonates, arable land
<b>Population</b>	total: 11,977,634 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	0.53% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Belgian 75.2%, Italian 4.1%, Moroccan 3.7%, French 2.4%, Turkish 2%, Dutch 2%, other 10.6% (2012 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 57.1%, Protestant 2.3%, other Christian, 2.8%, Muslim 6.8%, other 1.7%, atheist 9.1%, nonbeliever/agnostic 20.2% (2018 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: King PHILIPPE (since 21 July 2013) head of government: Prime Minister Bart DE WEVER (since 3 February 2025)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: Federal Parliament (Parlement fédéral - Federaal Parlement - Föderales Parlament)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Frédéric BERNARD (since 25 February 2025)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Bill WHITE (since 17 November 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	high-income, core EU and eurozone economy; slow growth with weakened domestic consumption and export demand; high public debt and structural deficits linked to social spending; aging workforce with weak productivity growth and participation rates

<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$749.229 billion (2024 est.) \$741.672 billion (2023 est.) \$732.865 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$63,100 (2024 est.) \$62,900 (2023 est.) \$62,700 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$525.458 billion (2024 est.) \$542.508 billion (2023 est.) \$565.233 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	France 20%, Netherlands 15%, Germany 14%, Italy 6%, USA 5% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, natural gas, vaccines, cars, packaged medicine (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$531.029 billion (2024 est.) \$546.426 billion (2023 est.) \$573.192 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Netherlands 20%, Germany 13%, France 11%, USA 7%, Ireland 4% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	cars, natural gas, vaccines, packaged medicine, crude petroleum (2023)

## Population Pyramid

