

BELGIUM

Update : 17th July 2024



Geography

Area: 30,528 km²
Borders: 1,385 km; France: 620 km,
 Germany: 167 km, Luxembourg: 148 km,
 Netherlands: 450 km
Coastline: 66.5 km
Capital: Brussels
Official languages: Dutch, French, German



Population

Population: 11,697,557 inhabitants (January 2023)

Population aged under 15 years: 17% (2023 est.)

Population aged over 65: 19.9% (2023 est.)

Natural change rate: 0.6‰ (2023 est.)

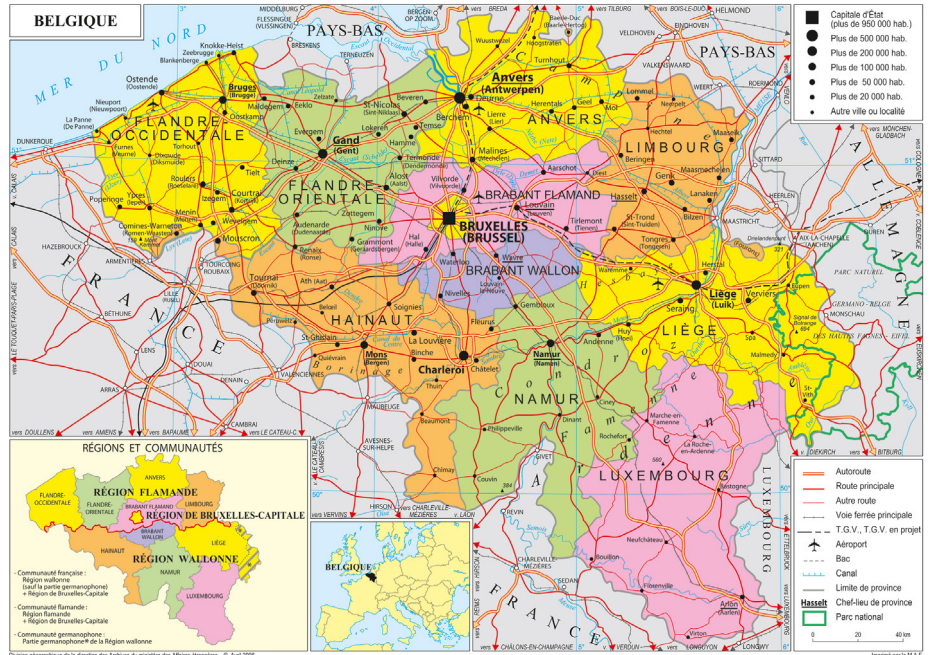
Life expectancy: men 79.5 years, women 84.8 years (2023 est.)

Migration balance: 4.2‰ (2023 est.)

First-time asylum applicants: 36 740 (2022) **Foreign residents :** 7.9% EU nationals, 4.4% non-EU nationals (2019)

Religions: 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.)

Source : Eurostat, The CIA World Factbook



Economy

Currency: Euro

GDP: 549,456.2 million € (2022)

GDP per capita (PPS): 36,860 € (2022)

GDP growth: 0.2% (Q2 2023)

Unemployment: 5.9% (May 2024)

Inflation: 4.9% (May 2024)

Public debt: 106% of GDP (2023)

Public deficit: -2.9% of GDP (2022)

Stock of foreign direct investment from the entire world: 155% of GDP (2022)

Source : Eurostat, Trading Economics



Political System

Constitutional monarchy, democracy

Head of State: King Philippe, since 21st July 2013.

Prime Minister: Alexander de Croo (Open VLD) was appointed Prime Minister by the King on 30th September 2020. The New Flemish Alliance (N-VA) emerged victorious from the parliamentary elections of 9th June 2024. King Philippe has appointed Bart De Wever (N-VA) to form a new government.

Bicameral legislative power:

The House of Representatives comprises 150 members, elected for a period of 4 years

The Senate comprises 60 members, also elected for 5 years, 50 of whom are elected by direct universal suffrage and 10 are co-opted



Political Representation

Composition of the House of Representatives (following the 9th June 2024 elections):

- 24 seats N-VA (New Flemish Alliance)
- 16 seats PS (Socialist Party)
- 20 seat Vlaams Belang (Flemish far-right party)
- 20 seats MR (Reformist Movement)
- 11 seats CD&V (Flemish Christian-Democratic Party)
- 15 seats PTB-PVDA (Labour Party)
- 7 seats Open VLD (Flemish Liberals and Democrats)
- 13 seats Vooruit (Flemish socialist Party)
- 9 Ecolo-GROEN (Greens)
- 14 seats Les engagés (Humanist democratic centre)
- 1 seats DéFI (independent federalist democrat)

Composition of the Senate (in April 2021):

- 9 seats N-VA (New Flemish Alliance)
- 9 seats Ecolo-Groen
- 7 seats PS (Socialist Party)
- 7 seats Vlaams Belang
- 7 seats MR (Reformist Movement)
- 5 seats CD&V (Flemish Christian-Democratic Party)
- 5 seats Open VLD (Liberal and Democrats)
- 5 seats PTB + PVDA (Labour)
- 4 seats Vooruit (Flemish socialist party)
- 2 seats cdH (Humanist democratic centre)

Female representation:

- in the government: 8/15
- in the House of Representatives: 53/150
- in the Senate: 27/60

Next general elections in 2029.