

BELGIUM



sort of government	<p>federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy</p> <p>chief of state: King PHILIPPE (since 21 July 2013); Heir Apparent Princess ELISABETH (daughter of the monarch, born 25 October 2001)</p> <p>head of government: Prime Minister Sophie WILMES (since 26 October 2019); Deputy Prime Ministers Alexander DE CROO (since +27 October 2019), Koen GEENS (27 October 2019), Didier REYNDEERS (since 27 October 2019), David CLARINVAL (30 November 2019)</p> <p>cabinet: Council of Ministers formally appointed by the monarch</p> <p>elections/appointments: the monarchy is hereditary and constitutional; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or majority coalition usually appointed prime minister by the monarch and approved by Parliament</p>
types of ideologies (political, religious or other)	<p>Religious religious freedom</p>

	Political democracy ideology
domestic issues influence belgium foreign policy	Europeanist commitment, human right protection, economic diplomacy
major events in my country's history why are they important?	Belgium became independent from the Netherlands in 1830; it was occupied by Germany during World Wars I and II. It is a member of NATO and EU. In recent years, political divisions 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.
ethnicities, religions and languages	ethnicities Belgian 75.2%, Italian 4.1%, Moroccan 3.7%, French 2.4%, Turkish 2%, Dutch 2%, other 10.6% religions Roman Catholic 50%, other Christian 2.5%, Muslim 5%, atheist 9.2%, none 32.6% languages Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%
Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships	Western Europe, bordering the North Sea, between France and the Netherlands.
country share a border	France 556 km, Germany 133 km, Luxembourg 130 km, Netherlands 478 km.
countries are considered allies or enemies	No allied countries or enemy countries, is part of NATO, UNESCO and EU.
country's economy	Belgium's central geographic location and highly developed transport network have helped develop a well-diversified economy, with a broad mix of transport, services, manufacturing, and high tech. Service and high-tech industries are concentrated in the northern Flanders region while the southern region of Wallonia is home to industries like coal and steel manufacturing. Belgium is completely reliant on foreign sources of fossil fuels, and the planned closure of its seven

	<p>nuclear plants by 2025 should increase its dependence on foreign energy. Its role as a regional logistical hub makes its economy vulnerable to shifts in foreign demand, particularly with EU trading partners. Roughly three-quarters of Belgium's trade is with other EU countries, and the port of Zeebrugge conducts almost half its trade with the United Kingdom alone, leaving Belgium's economy vulnerable to the outcome of negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU.</p> <p>Belgium's GDP grew by 1.7% in 2017 and the budget deficit was 1.5% of GDP. Unemployment stood at 7.3%, however the unemployment rate is lower in Flanders than Wallonia, 4.4% compared to 9.4%, because of industrial differences between the regions. The economy largely recovered from the March 2016 terrorist attacks that mainly impacted the Brussels region tourist and hospitality industry. Prime Minister Charles MICHEL's center-right government has pledged to further reduce the deficit in response to EU pressure to decrease Belgium's high public debt of about 104% of GDP, but such efforts would also dampen economic growth. In addition to restrained public spending, low wage growth and higher inflation promise to curtail a more robust recovery in private consumption.</p> <p>The government has pledged to pursue a reform program to improve Belgium's competitiveness, including changes to labor market rules and welfare benefits. These changes have generally made Belgian wages more competitive regionally, but have raised tensions with trade unions, which have called for extended strikes. In 2017, Belgium approved a tax reform plan to ease corporate rates from 33% to 29% by 2018 and down to 25% by 2020. The tax plan also included benefits for innovation and SMEs, intended to spur competitiveness and private investment.</p>
<p>gross domestic product (GDP) compare to other countries in the world</p>	<p><u>GDP (purchasing power parity):</u> \$529.2 billion (2017 est.) \$520.2 billion (2016 est.) \$513 billion (2015 est.) note: data are in 2017 dollars</p>

country comparison to the world: 37

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$493.7 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

1.7% (2017 est.)

1.4% (2016 est.)

1.4% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world:

162

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$46,600 (2017 est.)

\$46,000 (2016 est.)

\$45,700 (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 35

Gross national saving:

24.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

24% of GDP (2016 est.)

23.4% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 65

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 51.2% (2017 est.)

government consumption: 23.4% (2017 est.)

investment in fixed capital: 23.3% (2017 est.)

investment in inventories: 1.3% (2017 est.)

exports of goods and services: 85.1% (2017 est.)

imports of goods and services: -84.4% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of

origin:

agriculture: 0.7% (2017 est.)

industry: 22.1% (2017 est.)

services: 77.2% (2017 est.)

member of the UN	29 November 1946
organizations outside the UN	
regional organizations	EU, NATO
trade organizations	