



# Belgium

Joined the OCDE: 1961

Prime Minister: Elio di Rupo

Ambassador to the OECD:

Yves Haesendonck

Parliament websites:

www.lachambre.be; www.senate.be

Capital city: Brussels



## Highlights

- GDP per capita increased by just over US\$10,000 between 2001 and 2011, to \$38 872.
- Public debt came to 102.4% of GDP in 2011, a decrease from 111.9% in 2001.
- Unemployment stood at 7.2%, of which 48.3% were classified as long-term unemployed.
- The employment rate for women increased to 56.7% in 2011, compared with 50.7% in 2001.
- All-in taxes on the average worker came in at 55.5% of labour cost, compared with 35.2% for the OECD.
- Renewable energy accounted for 4.8% of Belgium's total energy supply, compared with 8.2% for the OECD.

<b>ECONOMY</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>GLOBALISATION</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011<sup>3</sup></b>
Gross domestic product (US\$ bln, PPPs)	293.3	426.7	Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	74.2	83.1
GDP per capita (US\$)	28 524	38 872	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	77.8	84.3
Real GDP growth (annual %)	0.8	1.9	Net official development assistance (% of GNI)	..	0.53
Household disposable income (annual growth %)	3.1	-1.3 <sup>2</sup>	Foreign-born population (% of population)	..	14.4 <sup>2</sup>
Budget balance (% of GDP)	0.4	-3.9	Migration for work (% of total migration)	..	18.3 <sup>2</sup>
Public debt (% of GDP)	111.9	102.4	Outward FDI stocks (US\$ bln)	..	970
Current account balance (% of GDP)	3.4	-1.1	Inward FDI stocks (US\$ bln)	..	999
Inflation rate: all items (annual %)	2.5	3.5			
Unit labour cost (annual growth %)	3.7	2.3	<b>SOCIETY</b>		
Long-term interest rates (%)	5.06	4.18	Population (thousands)	10 287	10 896 <sup>2</sup>
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP)	6.3	8.0 <sup>2</sup>	Life expectancy at birth (years)	78.0	80.3 <sup>2</sup>
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP)	2.0	2.6 <sup>2</sup>	Population, 65 and over (% of population)	16.9	17.4
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..	6.4 <sup>4</sup>	Employment rates: men (%)	68.5	67.1
Private expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..	0.3 <sup>4</sup>	Employment rates: women (%)	50.7	56.7
			Self-employment rates (% of employed)	12.7	10.5
<b>NEW SOURCES OF GROWTH</b>			Unemployment rates (%)	6.6	7.2
Renewable energy (% of energy supply)	1.2	4.8	Long-term unemployment (% of unemployed)	51.7	48.3
Primary energy supply (Mtoe)	58.4	55.9	Income inequality, rank out of 34 (1: least unequal)	..	6 <sup>1</sup>
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion (mln tonnes)	119	106 <sup>2</sup>	Average hours actually worked (per year)	1 577	1 577
R&D expenditure (US\$ mln, 2005 prices, PPPs)	6 497	7 109 <sup>2</sup>	Taxes on average worker (all-in, % of labour cost)	56.7	55.5
Tertiary graduation rates (% of population)	..	35.0 <sup>2</sup>	Road fatalities (per mln inhabitants)	144	76 <sup>2</sup>
Households with internet access (%)	..	76.5			

1. Late 2000s data, based on Gini coefficient 2. 2010 data 3. Unless otherwise indicated 4. 2009 data