

BELGIUM



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King Philippe

Head of Government

Prime Minister Charles MICHEL

Government Type

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy

Capital

Brussels

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Dirk Jozef M. WOUTERS

US Ambassador

Ambassador (vacant); Special Charge d'Affaires Matthew LUSSENHOP

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 Représentants (in French) (150 seats)

Judiciary

Constitutional Court or Grondwettelijk Hof (in Dutch) and Cour constitutionnelle (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)

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

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

11.5 million (July 2017 est.)

Population Growth

0.7% (2017 est.)

Ethnicity

Belgian 75%, Italian 4.1%, Moroccan 3.7%, French 2.4%, Turkish 2%, Dutch 2%, other 12.8% (2011 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% of total population (2018)

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

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; its reform program aims to improve competitiveness

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$526.4 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$46,300 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$309.1 billion (2017 est.)

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

Imports

\$306.1 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)

