BELGIUM

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
King Philippe
Head of Government
Caretaker Prime Minister Charles MICHEL
Government Type
federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy
Capital
Brussels
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 Representants (in French) (150 seats)
Judiciary
Constitutional Court or Grondwettelijk Hof (in Dutch) and Cour constitutionelle (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)
Ambassador to US
Ambassador Dirk Jozef M. WOUTERS
US Ambassador
Ambassador (vacant); Special Charge d’Affaires Matthew LUSSENHOP

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; it has been pursuing a reform program to improve competitiveness
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$529.2 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$46,600 (2017 est.)
Exports
$300.8 million (2017 est.)
partners: Germany 16.6%, France 14.9%, Netherlands 12%, UK 8.4%, Italy 4.9%, US 4.8% (2017)
Imports
$300.4 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)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
11.6 million (July 2018 est.)
Population Growth
0.67% (2018 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.)

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

as of February 2019