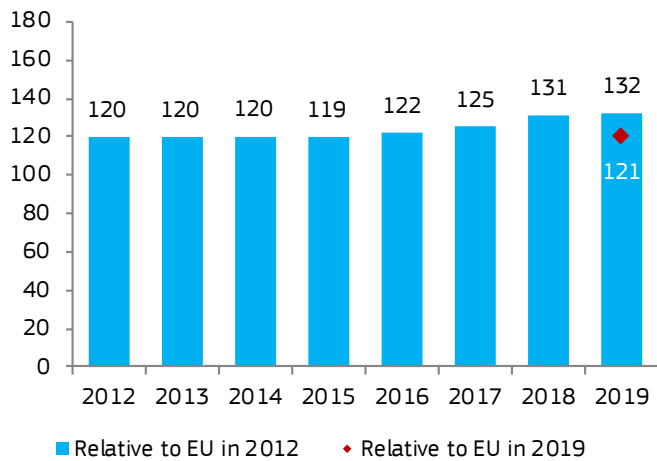




Belgium is a Strong Innovator.

Over time, performance has increased relative to that of the EU in 2012.



Attractive research systems, Linkages and Innovators are the strongest innovation dimensions. Belgium scores particularly well on Innovative SMEs collaborating with others, Foreign doctorate students, International scientific co-publications, and Enterprises providing ICT training. Intellectual assets, *Employment impacts* and *Innovation-friendly environment* are the weakest innovation dimensions. Low-scoring indicators include Opportunity-driven entrepreneurship, Employment in fast-growing enterprises of innovative sectors, Non-R&D innovation expenditures, and Design applications.

Structural differences with the EU are shown in the table below. Belgium shows the highest positive difference to the EU in Top R&D spending enterprises, GDP per capita and Buyer sophistication, and the biggest negative difference in FDI net inflows, Enterprise births and Employment share in manufacturing.

Belgium	Relative to EU 2019 in 2019	Performance relative to EU 2012 in 2019	
		2012	2019
SUMMARY INNOVATION INDEX	121.2	119.5	132.0
Human resources	116.0	120.3	133.5
New doctorate graduates	103.3	94.3	113.8
Population with tertiary education	156.5	181.0	199.2
Lifelong learning	78.4	84.4	84.4
Attractive research systems	167.0	166.7	190.7
International scientific co-publications	183.3	196.8	269.2
Most cited publications	131.4	133.6	131.5
Foreign doctorate students	213.7	209.8	246.4
Innovation-friendly environment	90.9	180.0	158.1
Broadband penetration	134.8	170.0	310.0
Opportunity-driven entrepreneurship	41.2	186.8	56.1
Finance and support	113.5	96.3	131.1
R&D expenditure in the public sector	114.9	90.8	112.8
Venture capital expenditures	111.9	105.4	161.7
Firm investments	122.4	132.6	159.0
R&D expenditure in the business sector	135.3	117.8	155.0
Non-R&D innovation expenditures	60.9	92.1	85.4
Enterprises providing ICT training	172.2	192.3	238.5
Innovators	149.5	128.6	133.6
SMEs product/process innovations	151.0	152.4	150.4
SMEs marketing/organizational innovations	142.2	105.2	116.7
SMEs innovating in-house	155.0	130.1	135.0
Linkages	163.7	153.1	168.5
Innovative SMEs collaborating with others	257.6	231.7	255.8
Public-private co-publications	144.9	146.0	163.8
Private co-funding of public R&D exp.	118.9	110.4	119.9
Intellectual assets	87.5	93.4	81.7
PCT patent applications	93.9	98.1	87.1
Trademark applications	97.4	95.1	103.7
Design applications	67.6	85.5	56.7
Employment impacts	88.5	76.6	95.5
Employment in knowledge-intensive activities	125.0	133.8	135.1
Employment fast-growing enterprises	58.9	30.5	63.5
Sales impacts	104.5	86.7	103.9
Medium and high-tech product exports	83.7	80.2	92.7
Knowledge-intensive services exports	104.8	97.5	108.2
Sales of new-to-market/firm innovations	133.1	82.2	111.2

The colours show normalised performance in 2019 relative to that of the EU in 2019: dark green: above 125%; light green: between 95% and 125%; yellow: between 50% and 95%; orange: below 50%. Normalised performance uses the data after a possible imputation of missing data and transformation of the data.

	BE	EU
Performance and structure of the economy		
GDP per capita (PPS)	35,500	29,100
Average annual GDP growth (%)	1.44	1.84
Employment share manufacturing (NACE C) (%)	12.6	16.6
of which High and medium high-tech (%)	35.8	37.5
Employment share services (NACE G-N) (%)	40.3	41.4
of which Knowledge-intensive services (%)	36.7	34.3
Turnover share SMEs (%)	40.0	38.3
Turnover share large enterprises (%)	35.4	43.2
Foreign-controlled enterprises – share of value added (%)	12.2	11.1
Business and entrepreneurship		
Enterprise births (10+ employees) (%)	0.6	1.1
Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) (%)	6.2	6.7
FDI net inflows (% GDP)	-2.2	2.6
Top R&D spending enterprises per 10 million population	29.9	16.2
Buyer sophistication (1 to 7 best)	4.4	3.7
Governance and policy framework		
Ease of starting a business (0 to 100 best)	74.0	76.5
Basic-school entrepreneurial education and training (1 to 5 best)	2.0	1.9
Govt. procurement of advanced technology products (1 to 7 best)	3.5	3.5
Rule of law (-2.5 to 2.5 best)	1.4	1.1
Demography		
Population size (millions)	11.4	446.2
Average annual population growth (%)	0.46	0.14
Population density (inhabitants/km ²)	374.2	108.6

EU targets for 2020

Indicator	2015	Latest	Target ¹
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% of GDP)	2.43	2.76	3.00
Tertiary educational attainment (% of population aged 30-34)	42.7	47.5	47.0

1 Sources are provided in the introduction to the country profiles.

European Semester country report and country specific recommendations:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-european-semester-country-reports_en

<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/country-analysis/Belgium>