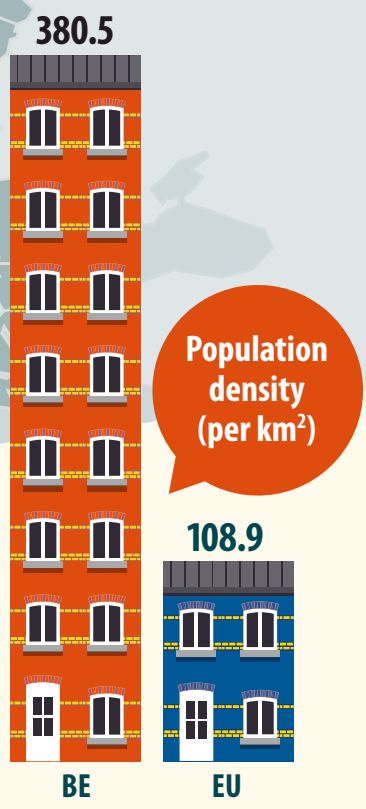


# Belgium in the EU



**Did you know that ...**

Belgium has the **highest R&D expenditure as % of GDP** among EU countries

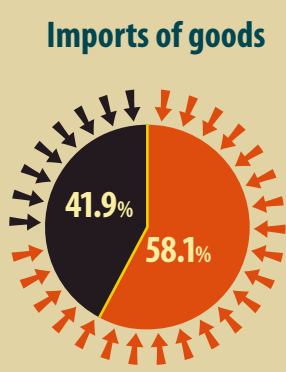
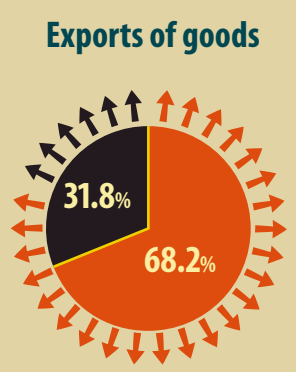


Belgium has the **highest recycling rate for packaging waste** in the EU

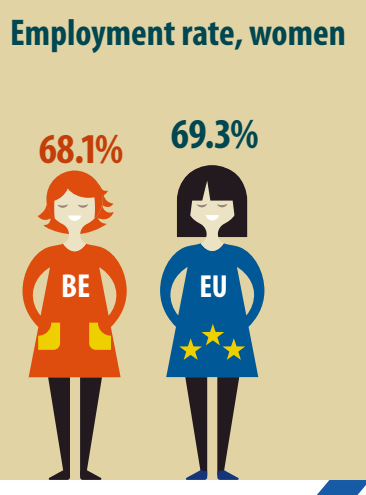
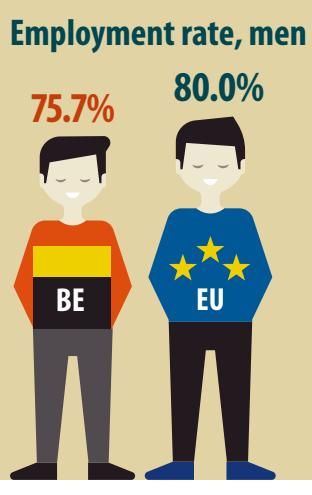


Belgium is the **largest EU producer of chicory** and the **second largest of leeks and Brussels sprouts**

Belgium has with the **port of Antwerp-Bruges** the **second largest freight port** in the EU



● Inside EU  
● Outside EU



# Belgium in the EU

On the occasion of Belgium's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (from 1st January 2024), Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, releases some indicators and infographics to show Belgium in comparison with the European Union.

JANUARY 2024

<b>ECONOMY</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>EU</b>
Government surplus/deficit (% of GDP)	-3.5	-3.3
Government gross debt (% of GDP)	104.3	83.5
GDP per capita in PPS (EU = 100)	120.0	100.0
Tax to GDP ratio	45.6	41.2
Annual average inflation rate (HICP)	10.3	9.2
Investment (gross fixed capital formation as % of GDP)	23.9	22.5
Weight of manufacturing in the economy (value added of manufacturing as % of GDP)	12.6	15.1
<b>POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>EU</b>
Share of population aged 65 or over (%)	19.5	21.1
Share of population under 15 (%)	16.6	15.0
Fertility rate (children per woman)	1.60	1.53
Unemployment rate (total)	5.6	6.2
Unemployment rate (less than 25 years)	16.4	14.5
Risk-of-poverty or social exclusion (% of population)	18.9	21.5
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>EU</b>
Tertiary educational attainment total (% of persons aged 30-34)	53.1	42.8
Tertiary educational attainment women (% of persons aged 30-34)	60.6	48.2
Tertiary educational attainment men (% of persons aged 30-34)	45.6	37.4
Early leavers from education (% of persons aged 18-24)	6.4	9.6
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>EU</b>
R&D expenditure (% of GDP)	3.43	2.27
Employment in high- and medium-high technology manufacturing (%)	4.2	5.9
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>EU</b>
Greenhouse gas emissions including international aviation and indirect CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (% reduction since 1990) – Source: EEA	-21.1	-29.7
Share of renewables in final energy consumption	13.0	21.8
Energy dependency (share of imports in energy consumption)	70.8	55.5

Based on annual data available on 1 December 2023

[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)  @EU\_Eurostat  @EurostatStatistics  @EU\_Eurostat

