



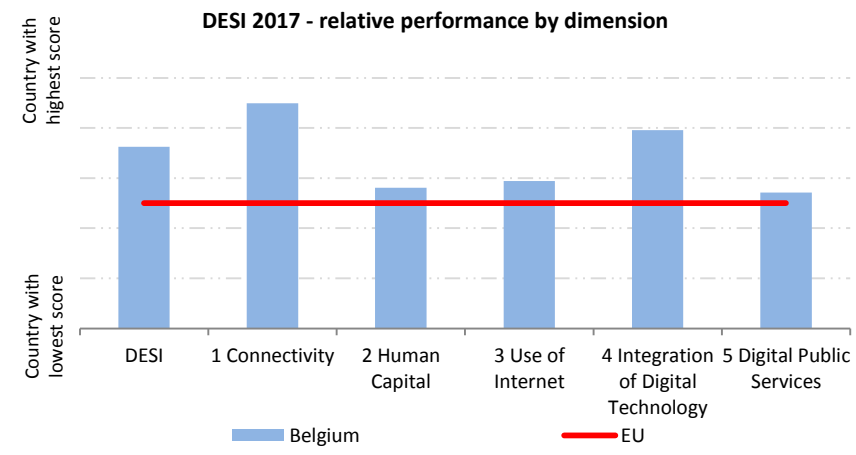
Belgium ranks 6th in DESI 2017. Belgium ranks highest in connectivity (3rd) and integration of digital technology by businesses (5th), while digital public services are its biggest relative weakness. The country's key challenge is to continuously improve its mobile connectivity.

The Digital Economy and Society Index is a composite index measuring progress in digital through five components:

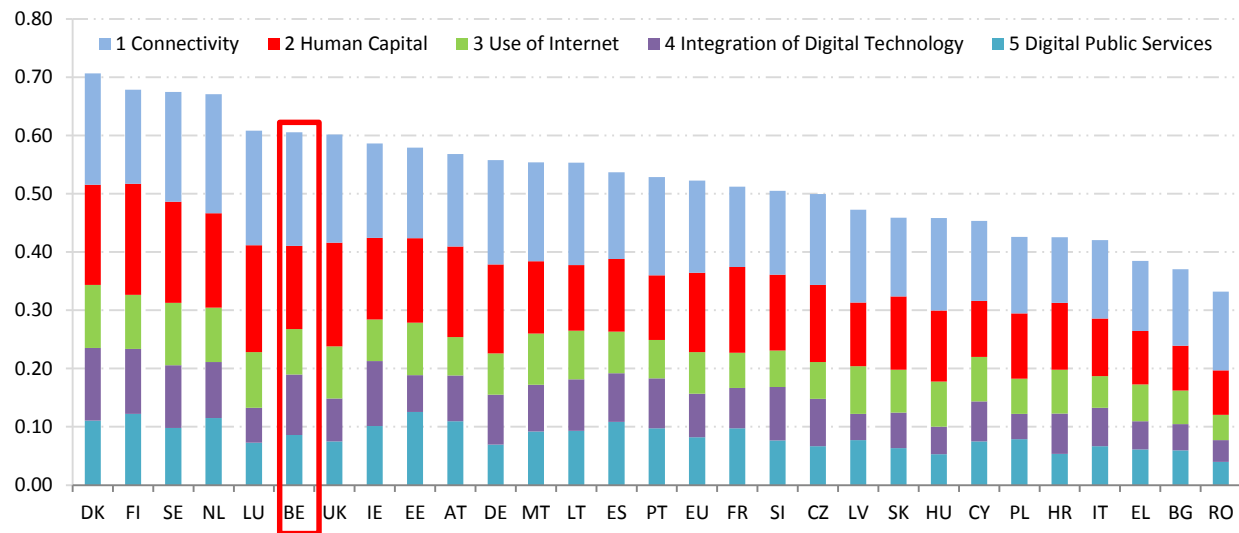
1 Connectivity	Fixed Broadband, Mobile Broadband, Broadband speed and prices
2 Human Capital	Basic Skills and Internet Use, Advanced skills and Development
3 Use of Internet	Citizens' use of Content, Communication and Online Transactions
4 Integration of Digital Technology	Business digitisation and eCommerce
5 Digital Public Services	eGovernment

Clustering: Belgium belongs to the cluster of high performing countries.

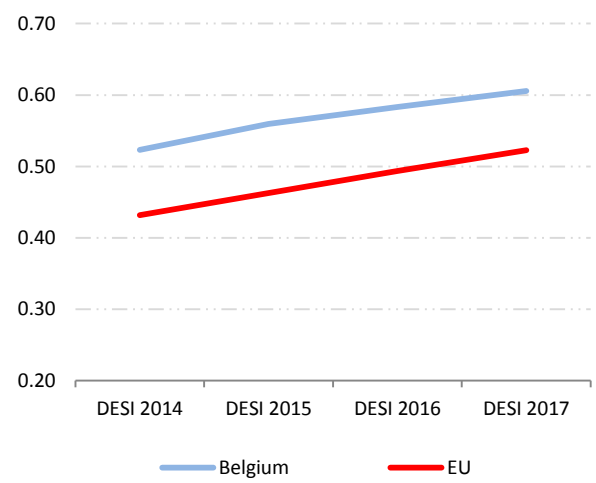
	Belgium rank	Belgium score	Cluster score	EU score
DESI 2017	6	0.61	0.63	0.52
DESI 2016 ¹	5	0.58	0.60	0.49



Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2017 ranking



DESI - evolution over time

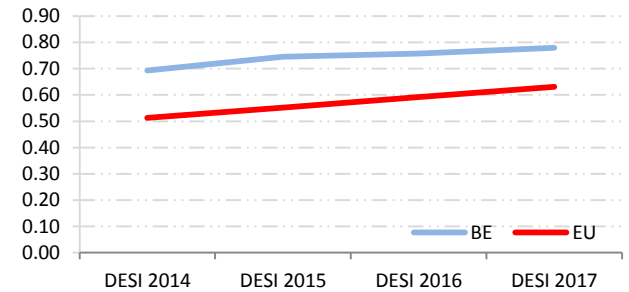


1) Connectivity: Belgium is a strong performer in fixed connectivity. Fast broadband is available almost everywhere and 81% of all subscriptions are at least 30Mbps. However, mobile broadband take-up is still low.

	Belgium				EU
	DESI 2017		DESI 2016		DESI 2017
	value	rank	value	rank	value
1a1 Fixed Broadband Coverage % households	99.93% →	7	99.93%	6	98%
	2016		2015		2016
1a2 Fixed Broadband Take-up % households	80% ↑	6	78%	6	74%
	2016		2015		2016
1b1 Mobile Broadband Take-up Subscriptions per 100 people	68 ↑	23	61	23	84
	June 2016		June 2015		June 2016
1b2 4G coverage² % households (average of operators)	95%	7	NA		84%
	2016				2016
1b3 Spectrum³ % of the target	68% ↓	15	72%	14	68%
	2016		2015		2016
1c1 NGA Coverage % households	99% →	2	99%	2	76%
	2016		2015		2016
1c2 Subscriptions to Fast Broadband % subscriptions >= 30Mbps	81% ↑	1	78%	1	37%
	June 2016		June 2015		June 2016
1d1 Fixed Broadband Price⁴ % income	1.3% ↓	18	1.2%	18	1.2%
	price 2016, income 2015		price 2015, income 2015		price 2016, income 2015

1 Connectivity	Belgium		Cluster	EU
	rank	score	score	score
DESI 2017	3	0.78	0.75	0.63
DESI 2016	2	0.76	0.73	0.59

1 Connectivity - evolution over time

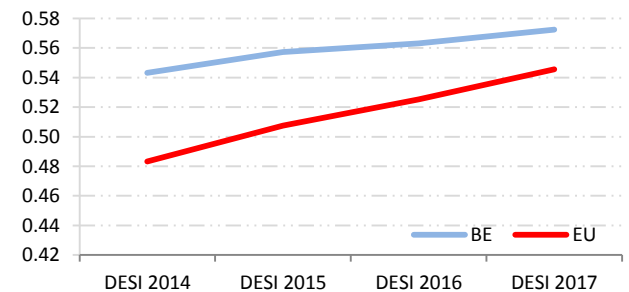


2) Human Capital: 84% of all Belgians are using the Internet and 61% have at least basic digital skills. The number of STEM graduates is increasing (Belgium improves from rank 25 to rank 21) but is still below the EU average.

	Belgium				EU
	DESI 2017		DESI 2016		DESI 2017
	value	rank	value	rank	value
2a1 Internet Users % individuals	84% ↑	9	83%	9	79%
	2016		2015		2016
2a2 At Least Basic Digital Skills % individuals	61% ↑	9	60%	10	56%
	2016		2015		2016
2b1 ICT Specialists⁵ % individuals	4.2% →	7	4.2%	6	3.5%
	2015		2014		2015
2b2 STEM Graduates Per 1000 individuals (aged 20-29)	14 ↑	21	13	25	19
	2014		2013		2014

2 Human Capital	Belgium		Cluster	EU
	rank	score	score	score
DESI 2017	11	0.57	0.68	0.55
DESI 2016	11	0.56	0.66	0.53

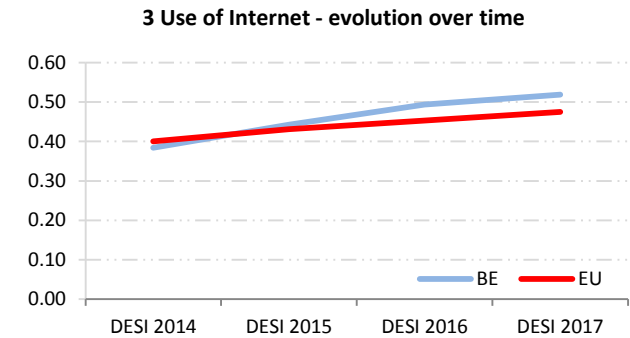
2 Human Capital - evolution over time



3) Use of Internet: Over the last year, more Belgians have been using the internet to read news, listen to music, watch films and TV or to use social media.

	Belgium				EU
	DESI 2017		DESI 2016		DESI 2017
	value	rank	value	rank	value
3a1 News	65%	↑ 24	62%	24	70%
% individuals who used Internet in the last 3 months	2016		2015		2016
3a2 Music, Videos and Games⁶	72%	23	NA		78%
% individuals who used Internet in the last 3 months	2016				2016
3a3 Video on Demand⁷	12%	17	NA		21%
% individuals who used Internet in the last 3 months	2016				2016
3b1 Video Calls	44%	↑ 16	42%	16	39%
% individuals who used Internet in the last 3 months	2016		2015		2016
3b2 Social Networks	80%	↑ 3	78%	2	63%
% individuals who used Internet in the last 3 months	2016		2015		2016
3c1 Banking	75%	↑ 7	73%	7	59%
% individuals who used Internet in the last 3 months	2016		2015		2016
3c2 Shopping	65%	↑ 12	64%	12	66%
% internet users (last year)	2016		2015		2016

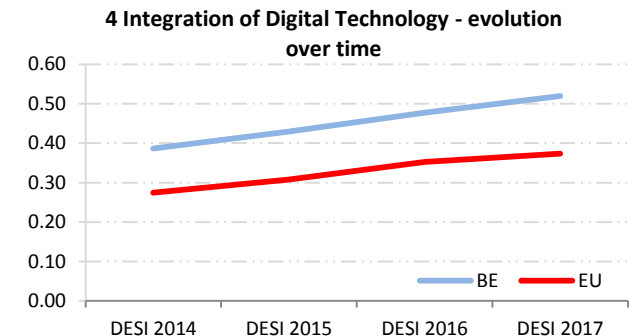
3 Use of Internet	Belgium		Cluster	EU
	rank	score	score	score
DESI 2017	11	0.52	0.60	0.48
DESI 2016	12	0.49	0.57	0.45



4) Integration of Digital Technology: Belgian businesses use digital technologies to improve productivity and sales and are overall doing well in integrating digital technology, where Belgium ranks 5th.

	Belgium				EU
	DESI 2017		DESI 2016		DESI 2017
	value	rank	value	rank	value
4a1 Electronic Information Sharing	50%	2	50%	2	36%
% enterprises	2015		2015		2015
4a2 RFID	5.5%	8	5.5%	8	3.9%
% enterprises	2014		2014		2014
4a3 Social Media	22%	↑ 10	19%	10	20%
% enterprises	2016		2015		2016
4a4 eInvoices	16%	↑ 14	12%	16	18%
% enterprises	2016		2015		2016
4a5 Cloud	18%	↑ 7	17%	7	13%
% enterprises	2016		2015		2016
4b1 SMEs Selling Online	23%	↓ 6	24%	5	17%
% SMEs	2016		2015		2016
4b2 eCommerce Turnover	19.6%	3	NA		9.4%
% SME turnover	2016		2015		2016
4b3 Selling Online Cross-border	13.1%	2	13.1%	2	7.5%
% SMEs	2015		2015		2015

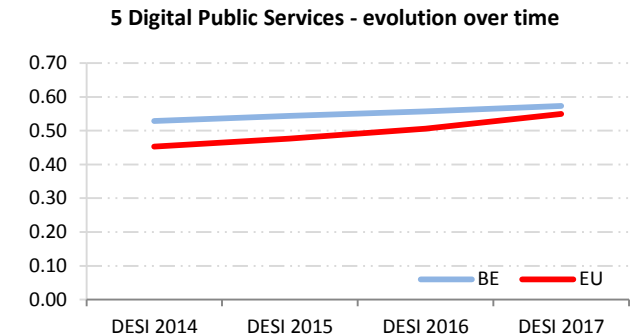
4 Integration of Digital Technology	Belgium		Cluster	EU
	rank	score	score	score
DESI 2017	5	0.52	0.44	0.37
DESI 2016	5	0.48	0.41	0.35



5) Digital Public Services: This is the dimension where Belgium performs less well compared to its overall position in digital, and progress over the past year has stagnated.

	Belgium				EU
	DESI 2017 value	rank	DESI 2016 value	rank	DESI 2017 value
5a1 eGovernment Users % internet users (last year)	40% ↑	10	39%	10	34%
5a2 Pre-filled Forms Score (0 to 100)	59 ↓	11	65	10	49
5a3 Online Service Completion Score (0 to 100)	84 ↓	14	85	15	82
5a4 Open Data⁸ % of maximum score	48% ↑	21	34%	21	59%

5 Digital Public Services	Belgium		Cluster	EU
	rank	score	score	score
DESI 2017	13	0.57	0.59	0.55
DESI 2016	13	0.56	0.57	0.51



Methodological note

- ¹ **DESI 2016** was re-calculated for all countries to reflect slight changes in the choice of indicators and corrections to the underlying indicator data. As a result, country scores and rankings may have changed from the previous publication.
- ² **4G coverage**: This is a new DESI indicator measuring the average coverage of telecom operators' 4G networks.
- ³ **Spectrum**: There is a decrease in most of the Member States due to the additional EU harmonisation of the 700 MHz band in April 2016.
- ⁴ **Fixed Broadband Price**: Due to a slight methodological change, historical data was re-calculated.
- ⁵ **ICT Specialists**: Historical data have been revised by Eurostat.
- ⁶ **Music, Videos and Games**: Break in series due to a change in the Eurostat survey.
- ⁷ **Video on Demand**: Break in series due to a change of data source. New source is Eurostat.
- ⁸ **Open Data**: Change of data source. The historical data have also been restated. The new source is the European Data Portal.