

Statistics FEB

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FEB
Federation of
Enterprises in
Belgium

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THE FEDERATION OF ENTERPRISES IN BELGIUM

The FEB was founded in 1895 in order to promote entrepreneurship and businesses' interests. The FEB tries, in an ever-changing world, to find the best way to achieve this aim in Belgium.

AN ORGANISATION SERVING ENTERPRISES

A national role...

- The FEB promotes the interests of business in particular vis-à-vis government, public services and trade unions.
- The FEB represents the professional federations and their member firms in many institutions and bodies, such as the National Economic Advisory Board (CRB/CCE – Conseil central de l'économie), the National Labour Board (NAR/CNT – Conseil national du travail), the Foreign Trade Agency (Agentschap voor Buitenlandse Handel – Agence pour le commerce extérieur), etc.
- The FEB negotiates interprofessional agreements which apply to all private sector workers and enterprises, for example in the form of collective agreements with the CNT and interprofessional agreements.
- In order to give a coherent message on behalf of the employers, the FEB cooperates with the regional employers' organisations: Voka - Vlaams Economisch Verbond, Union wallonne des entreprises (UWE) and Union des entreprises de Bruxelles (UEB/VOB).

An international role...

- The FEB represents and promotes companies' interests in international organisations: the European Commission (EC), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Office (ILO), etc.
- The FEB is an active member of the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe (Unice), the International Employers' Organisation (IEO), the OECD Business and Industry Advisory Committee (Biac), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), etc.
- To promote foreign trade, it encourages contacts between Belgian enterprises and foreign organisations and/or firms (economic missions, seminars, etc.).
- The FEB contributes actively to the many organisations that deal with foreign trade promotion.

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POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT

	Units	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Population (1) (situation as at 1 January according to the national register)						
Total	thousands	10.213	10.263	10.310	10.356	10.396
Men	thousands	49.937	5.018	5.042	5.067	5.086
Women	thousands	52.200	5.245	5.267	5.289	5.310
Population of working age (2)	thousands	6.715	6.743	6.774	6.797	6.828
Population of working age/ Population	%	65,7	65,7	65,7	65,6	65,6
Labour force (2)	thousands	4.568	4.668	4.677	4.708	4.708
Participation rate (a)	%	68	69,2	69	69,3	68,9
National employment (2) (b)	thousands	4.060	4.198	4.186	4.167	4.220
Employment rate (c)	%	60	61,5	61,1	60,6	60,3
Domestic employment (2)	thousands	4.011	4.148	4.136	4.121	4.169
Private sector	thousands	3.264	3.395	3.375	3.355	3.383
Public sector	thousands	747	753	761	766	786
Domestic employment (2) (d)	thousands	4.011	4.148	4.136	4.121	4.121
Self-employment	thousands	693	683	679	677	679
Wage-earners	thousands	3.319	3.466	3.457	3.444	3.538
including primary sector	%	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8
secondary sector	%	25,1	24,3	23,8	23,3	22,9
tertiary sector	%	74,1	74,9	75,6	75,9	76,3
Unemployment : administrative source (3)	thousands	508	470	491	538	577
Unemployment rate	in % of the labour force	11,1	10,1	10,5	11,4	12,3
Unemployment : harmonized EU definition (4)						
Unemployment rate	in % of the labour force	8,6	6,7	7,3	8,1	7,8
men	in % of the labour force	7,3	6	6,7	7,8	7
women	in % of the labour force	10,3	7,6	8,2	8,5	8,8
persons aged less than 25	in % of the labour force	24,4	24,1	24,7	24,6	24,2
Employment in the private sector according to the size of the company (5) (e)						
<i>Companies</i>						
less than 5 workers	thousands	284,1	256,2	254,9	255,1	255,6
5 to 49 workers	thousands	868	772,1	777,4	773,1	772,6
50 to 99 workers	thousands	251,7	221	217,4	219	219
100 to 499 workers	thousands	544	473,6	474,3	471,2	474,2
500 to 999 workers	thousands	149,2	189,3	184,1	183,3	195,3
1000 workers and more	thousands	213,0	522,2	513,7	517,3	541,1
Total	thousands	2310	2434,4	2421,7	2419	2457,8
Private sector employment according to the type of work (5) (e)						
Total	thousands	2.310	2.434,4	2.421,7	2.419	2.457,8
including blue-collar workers	%	50,3	48,9	48,4	47,9	44,2
• men	%	37,1	35,9	35,4	35,1	32,4
• women	%	13,2	13,1	13	12,8	11,8
white-collar workers	%	49,5	51,1	51,6	53	55,7
• men	%	23,7	24,1	24,1	25	26,7
• women	%	25,8	27	27,5	28	29

(a) Ratio of the labour force to the working-age population.

(b) National employment = domestic employment + balance of frontier-zone employment.

(c) Ratio of national employment to the working-age population.

(d) 2004, average of the first two quarters.

(e) Situation as at 30 June of each year.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

	Units	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Domestic product (6)						
Value added per sector						
Primary sector	%	1,2	1,3	1,1	1,2	1,2
Secondary sector	%	24,9	24,4	24,1	23,6	22,6
Tertiary sector	%	66,7	67	67	67,3	68,3
• Tradable services	%	53,4	53,7	53,3	53,6	54,8
- Wholesale and retail trade, transport and communications	%	18,3	18,8	18,6	18,3	18,9
- Banking, insurance and services to firms	%	26,2	25,9	25,7	26,2	26,7
- Other tradable services (a)	%	8,9	8,9	9	9	9,1
• Non-tradables services	%	13,3	13,3	13,7	13,7	13,4
Other components (b)	%	7,2	7,4	7,8	7,7	7,7
Gross domestic product at market prices	billion EUR	235,6	253,8	260	268,2	283,8
National income (6)						
Gross domestic product at market prices	billion EUR	235,6	253,8	260	268,2	283,8
Balance of primary income from/to foreign countries	billion EUR	4,8	4,9	6,2	5,1	4
Gross national income	billion EUR	240,5	258	266	272,7	287,8
Depreciation	billion EUR	35,6	39,2	40,3	41,6	45
Net national income	billion EUR	204,9	218,8	225,7	231,5	242,8
Balance of income transfers from/ to foreign countries	billion EUR	-2,4	-1,9	-2,7	-3,3	-3,6
Disposable net national income	billion EUR	202,4	216,6	223,4	229,4	239,2
National consumption (households + public authorities)	billion EUR	176,6	193,7	199,6	207,5	217,5
Net national savings	billion EUR	25,7	23,3	23,9	20,1	21,7
Net investment (c)	billion EUR	13,1	12,3	10,3	10,2	13
Borrowing requirement for the entire economy	billion EUR	12,6	11	13,6	9,9	8,7
Borrowing requirement for the entire economy	% of GDP	5,3	4,3	5,2	3,7	3,1
Domestic expenditure (6)						
Private consumption	% of GDP	53,7	54,4	54	54,4	53,9
Public spending	% of GDP	21,2	21,7	22,3	22,6	22,6
Gross domestic capital formation	% of GDP	20,9	20,3	19,8	19,6	20,4
• Individuals (d)	% of GDP	5	4,8	4,8	4,8	4,7
• Enterprises	% of GDP	13,9	14,4	13,5	13,2	12,2
• Public authorities	% of GDP	1,8	1,5	1,6	1,6	1,5
• Variation in level of stocks	% of GDP	-0,2	-0,5	-0,2	0,1	1,9
Net exports of goods and services	% of GDP	4,3	3,2	3,6	3	2,9
Gross domestic product at market prices	billion EUR	235,6	253,8	260	268,2	283,8

(a) Health and welfare work, collective, social, personnel and household services.

(b) Taxes related to products minus subsidies and indirectly assessed services of financial intermediaries.

(c) Including changes in inventories and balance of external capital transactions.

(d) Housing.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

	Units	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Industrial production (1)						
<i>General index</i>						
Including construction	2000 = 100	96,8	99,4	100	99,9	102,5
Excluding construction	2000 = 100	96,5	99,7	101	101,7	105,2
<i>Sectoral indices</i>						
Extractive industries	2000 = 100	98	100,9	131,9	125,9	127,4
Food industries	2000 = 100	98,7	104	111,3	115	120,6
Textiles	2000 = 100	96	96,5	94,7	92,4	95,4
Clothing	2000 = 100	112,5	89,5	76,1	63,9	57,4
Wood	2000 = 100	82,9	101,4	109,6	111	113,1
Paper, cardboard	2000 = 100	89,9	97,7	103,2	106,8	111,5
Chemicals, rubber, plastics	2000 = 100	91,7	97,3	104,2	110,5	117,6
Iron and steel industry	2000 = 100	98,4	88,6	89,3	91,6	83,8
Non-ferrous metals	2000 = 100	93,5	98,4	100	101,4	104,9
Metallurgy	2000 = 100	93,3	103,7	99,8	96,6	103,7
Electricity, gas and water	2000 = 100	105,6	97,4	99,8	102,4	100,3
Construction	2000 = 100	98	98,6	95,6	92,7	91,7
Domestic trade (1)						
Retail turnover, by value	2000 = 100	93,1	102,9	103,8	104,8	107,9
Retail turnover, by volume	2000 = 100	94,1	100,7	99,2	98,4	99,9
Private companies by number of persons employed (5) (a)						
<i>Companies</i>						
less than 5 workers	units	152.181	146.352	145.328	147.253	147.957
5 to 49 workers	units	59.465	58.020	58.775	58.367	59.550
50 to 99 workers	units	3.307	3.183	3.142	3.155	3.197
100 to 499 workers	units	2.775	2.359	2.388	2.378	2.372
500 to 999 workers	units	341	275	269	276	289
1000 workers and more	units	234	177	175	181	184
Total	units	218.303	210.366	210.077	211.610	213.549

(a) Situation as at 30 June of each year.

Sources

- (1) Directorate General of Statistic and Economic Information.
- (2) National bank of Belgium.
- (3) National employment office.
- (4) Eurostat.
- (5) National social security office.
- (6) National accounts institute.
- (7) FPS Economy.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

	Units	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Importance of foreign trade (6)						
Exports of goods and services as % of GDP (a)	%	71,3	83,6	87,5	83,7	86,8
Imports of goods and services as % of GDP (a)	%	65,6	78,4	80,3	77	80,8
Geographical structure of foreign trade (6)						
<i>Exports</i>						
European union (b)	%	81,9	81,3	78,7	80,5	80,7
• Germany	%	17,7	18,1	18,6	19,5	19,8
• France	%	17,9	17,4	16,3	17,3	17,2
• The Netherlands	%	12,8	12,2	11,7	11,7	11,7
• United Kingdom	%	10,1	10,1	9,6	9,1	8,6
• Italy	%	5,6	5,8	5,4	5,3	5,2
• Spain	%	3,5	4	3,9	4,1	4
Other European countries	%	3,4	3,6	3,5	3,6	3,9
America	%	6,7	7,3	9,7	8,4	8,1
• USA	%	5,2	5,6	7,8	6,7	6,5
Africa	%	1,9	1,9	1,7	1,7	1,7
Asia	%	8,7	8,4	8,8	8,2	8,4
• Japan	%	1,2	1	1	1	1,1
• China	%	0,6	0,9	1	1,2	1,1
<i>Imports</i>						
European union	%	75,1	75,5	76	77,1	77,4
Other European countries	%	3,1	3,1	3,8	3,9	4,5
America	%	10,3	9,8	9	8,4	8
Africa	%	3,1	2,8	3	2,6	2,5
Asia	%	10,9	11,4	11,5	11,4	11,7

(a) Gross domestic product at market prices (GDP).

(b) EU-25.

PRICES, WAGES AND INTEREST RATES

	Units	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Consumer price index (7)						
Inflation rate	%	1,1	2,5	1,7	1,6	2,1
Inflation excluding energy	%	1	2,7	2,2	1,8	1,5
Labour costs (2)						
Per hour worked	variation in %	3,4	3,1	4	3,1	2,9
Per unit produced	variation in %	1,6	3,9	2	1,1	0,5
Wage bill (6)						
Business sector	EUR billion	93,8	103,6	107,3	109,8	N.A*
Public sector	billion	27,6	29,8	31,2	32,7	N.A
Total wage bill	billion	121,3	133,4	138,7	142,4	N.A
Interest rates (end of year) (2)						
Interest on investment loans	%	5,3	6,4	6	6,3	5,1
One-year bonds	%	3	2,9	2,6	1,9	2,1
Yield on 10 year government bonds	%	4,7	5,1	5	4,2	4,1

(*) Not available.

PUBLIC FINANCE

(All levels of government)

	Units	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Absolute figures						
Revenue (6)						
	EUR					
Tax revenue	billion	72,5	78,3	80,9	81,9	87,7
Parafiscal revenue	billion	33,9	36,6	38,2	38,9	39,9
Other revenue (a)	billion	10,7	12	12,3	17,5	12,2
Total revenue	billion	117,1	126,9	131,4	138,3	139,9
Expenditure (6)						
Current expenditure, excluding interest charges	billion	94	102,6	108,8	114,9	120
Capital expenditure	billion	7,5	6,1	6,7	7,9	6,1
Interest charges	billion	16,5	16,7	15,7	14,6	13,8
Total expenditure	billion	118	125,4	131,2	137,5	140
Debt (6)						
Net borrowing requirements (b)	billion	-1	1,4	0,2	0,8	-0,05
Gross debt (c)	billion	269,8	275,5	275,7	269,9	271
As % of GDP (d)						
Revenue (6)						
Direct taxes	%	17,2	17,7	17,7	17,1	17
Indirect taxes	%	13,1	12,7	13	12,9	13,1
Social security contributions	%	14,3	14,4	14,7	14,5	14,1
Capital taxes (e)	%	0,4	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,8
Total fiscal and parafiscal revenue	%	45,1	45,3	45,8	45,1	45
Other revenue (a)	%	4,5	4,7	4,7	6,5	4,3
Total revenue	%	49,6	50	50,5	51,6	49,3
Expenditure (6)						
Wages and purchase of goods and services	%	14,6	14,8	15,5	15,6	15,2
Interest charges	%	7	6,6	6	5,5	4,9
Current transfers to individuals	%	21,8	23	23,8	23,4	23,2
Transfers to business (f)	%	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,9	1,6
Current transfers abroad	%	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,2
Total current expenditure	%	39,8	40,4	41,8	42,8	42,3
Gross fixed capital formation	%	1,8	1,7	1,6	1,6	1,5
Other capital expenditure	%	1,3	0,8	0,9	1,3	0,6
Total capital expenditure	%	3,1	2,4	2,6	2,9	2,1
Total expenditure	%	50	49,4	50,5	51,3	49,3
Debt (6)						
Net borrowing requirements (b)	%	-0,4	0,6	0,1	0,3	-0,02
Gross debt (c)	%	127	108,5	106,1	100,7	95,5
Average interest rate on public debt (g)						
	%	5,5	6,1	5,7	5,4	5,1

(a) Non-fiscal and non-parafiscal revenues of diverse nature (incl. interests, dividends, transfers, etc.).

(b) Difference between total revenue and total expenditure.

(c) According to the definition for the application of the convergence criteria of the Maastricht Treaty.

(d) Gross domestic product at market prices.

(e) Mainly property tax, stamp duty and inheritance duty.

(f) Includes state intervention in interest charges and operating losses of public companies.

(g) Amount of interests on debt in % of the debt of the year under consideration.