

BELGIUM, AN OPEN COUNTRY IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

Thanks to its **strategic location** in Europe and plenty of socio-economic assets, Belgium is a **prime country to invest in**. High-quality Belgian beers, food and diamonds are enjoyed and appreciated worldwide. But Belgium has so much more to offer.

In partnership with the Belgian authorities, the **Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (FEB)** sums up seven of the best reasons to invest in Belgium.

FEB is the only interprofessional employer organisation representing over **50,000 small and large companies** from all three regions of Belgium.

ECONOMIC STATISTICS IN 2017

- **Job creation** is still **strong** and **employment** is **higher** than its pre-crisis level
- **GDP growth** is **accelerating**
- **Investments grew** more in 2017 than in 2016
- **Exports** are still **growing strongly** (close to 5%), despite international turmoil
- Business and consumer **confidence** are at their **highest levels** in years

01

AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

- Gateway to 500 million European consumers
- Perfect test market at the crossroads between German, Roman and Anglo-Saxon cultures
- EU institutions and NATO Headquarters located in Brussels (2nd most important diplomatic centre worldwide)

02

OPEN ECONOMY

- Exports and imports account for 87% of GDP
- 3rd most globalised country worldwide
- Business set-up time of just four days

03

ATTRACTIVE TAX REGIME

- Advantages at all levels of investment
- Many tax measures to stimulate research and innovation and to hire researchers

04

HIGH-QUALITY LABOUR FORCE

- One of the most productive workforces in the EU
- Highly skilled (5th in the world) and multilingual labour force (Dutch, French, English, German)
- Relatively low strike rate

7 GOOD REASONS TO INVEST IN BELGIUM

BRUSSELS

05

CENTRE OF KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

- 16 outstanding higher education institutions
- World-renowned research centres and business schools
- Unique hotspot for lifelong learning
- World's best and most efficient process technology
- 5th biggest high-tech exporter among EU Member States

06

STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

- Densest road network and 4th densest rail network in the world
- High-speed rail connections to European cities
- Biggest concentration of ports, including four sea ports (Antwerp, Ostend, Ghent, Zeebrugge) and six inland ports
- Brussels Airport and four regional airports

07

GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

- Wealthy country with high living standards
- Excellent education and healthcare systems
- Competitive real estate

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC AUTHORITIES CAN SUPPORT YOUR INVESTMENT PROJECT

FEDERAL LEVEL



www.focusonbelgium.be

REGIONAL LEVEL

• Flemish Region

**FLANDERS
INVESTMENT &
TRADE**

Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT)
www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com
info@fitagency.be

• Walloon Region

Wallonia.be
EXPORT
INVESTMENT

Wallonia Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (AWEX)
www.awex.be
mail@awex.be

• Brussels Capital Region

invest-export.brussels

Brussels Invest & Export (BI&E)
www.invest-export.brussels
info@brusselsinvestexport.be

THE FEDERATION OF ENTERPRISES IN BELGIUM (FEB), THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

As the voice of business in Belgium, the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (FEB) promotes an optimal business and investment environment. FEB is structured in such a way that the companies it represents can play an active role in defining its strategy and key guidelines.

FEB is the only interprofessional employer organisation representing companies from all three regions of Belgium. Founded in 1895, it has been the voice of business for over 120 years.

Through its sectoral members, FEB represents:

+50,000

small, medium and large enterprises



75%

of employment in the private sector

3
REGIONS



Companies active in all three regions of Belgium

2/3

of value added



80%

of exports



www.feb.be

THE FEDERATION OF ENTERPRISES IN BELGIUM (FEB) MEMBER FEDERATIONS*

Finding a business partner couldn't be easier thanks to FEB's network of over 40 leading sectoral federations active in industry, services, construction and transport.



Antwerp
World Diamond Centre
www.awdc.be



Association of Belgian
Contact Centres
www.contactcentres.be



Association of Consulting
Engineering and Consultancy
Firms
www.ori.be



Association of the Belgian
Pulp, Paper and Board
Industries
www.cobelpa.be



Belgian Association of Private
Security Companies
www.apeg-bvbo.be



Belgian Brick Industry
Federation
www.brique.be



Belgian Confederation of
Motor Vehicle Dealers,
Repairers and Operators in
Related Sectors
www.traxio.be



Belgian Construction
Confederation
www.confederationconstruction.be



Belgian Federation for
Chemistry and Life Sciences
Industries
www.essenscia.be



Belgian Federation for
Commerce and Services
www.comeos.be



Belgian Federation for the
Technology Industry
www.agoria.be



Belgian Federation of the Car
and Two-wheeler Industries
www.febiac.be



Belgian Financial Sector
Federation
www.febefin.be



Belgian Insurance Association
www.assuralia.be



Belgian Petroleum Federation
www.petrofed.be



Belgian Precast Concrete
Federation
www.febe.be



Cigarette Manufacturers
of Belgium and Luxembourg
www.cimabel.be



Clothing and fashion
www.creamoda.be



Federation of Belgian
Electricity and Gas
Companies
www.febeg.be



Federation of Belgian Port
Employers



Federation of Business
Consultants



Federation of Electricity and
Gas Operators in Belgium
www.synergrid.be



Federation of Employers
in International Trade,
Transport and Logistics
www.wf-fe.be



Federation of Enterprises
of the Circular Economy
www.go4circle.be



Federation of Extractive and
Processing Industries for
Non-Energetic Rocks
www.fediex.be



Federation of HR Service
Providers
www.federgon.be



Federation of Paper and
Board Processing Industries
www.fetra.be



Federation of the Belgian
Cement Industry
www.febelcem.be



Federation of the Belgian
Graphics Industry
www.febelgra.be



Federation of the Glass
Industry
www.vgi-fiv.be



Federation of the Textile,
Wood and Furniture
Industries
www.fedustria.be



Food Industry Federation
www.fevia.be



General Union of the Belgian
Cleaning Sector
www.absugbn.be



Iron and Steel Group
www.steelbel.be



Professional Union of Belgian
Fibre Cement Manufacturers



Royal Belgian
Shipowners' Association
www.br.v.be



Royal Federation of Belgian
Carriers and Logistic
Service Providers
www.febetra.be



Royal Federation of
Belgian Notaries
www.notaire.be

Sand Pits Group

Sand Mining Association



Union of Recognised
Social Secretariats
www.uss.be



Voucher Issuers Association
www.viabelgium.be

*Situation as at 1 December 2017