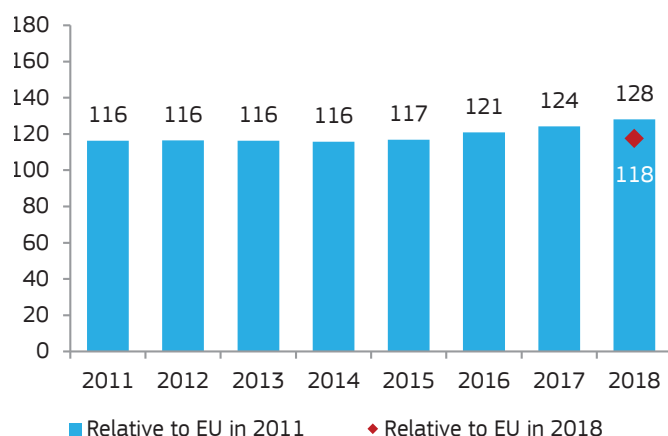




Belgium is a **Strong Innovator**. Over time, performance has increased relative to that of the EU in 2011.



Linkages, Innovators and *Attractive research systems*, are the strongest innovation dimensions. Belgium scores particularly well on Innovative SMEs collaborating with others, International scientific co-publications, and Enterprises providing ICT training. *Employment impacts* and *Intellectual assets* are the weakest innovation dimensions. Overall, Belgium scores weakest on Employment fast-growing enterprises of innovative sectors, Opportunity-driven entrepreneurship, and Non-R&D innovation expenditures.

Structural differences with the EU are shown in the table below. Top R&D spending enterprises per 10 million population are well above the EU average, whereas the turnover share of large enterprises, FDI net inflows, and enterprise births are well below the EU average.

Belgium	Relative to EU 2018 in 2018	Performance relative to EU 2011 in 2011	Performance relative to EU 2011 in 2018
SUMMARY INNOVATION INDEX	117.7	116.3	128.1
Human resources	106.1	115.1	129.7
New doctorate graduates	94.2	100.0	136.7
Population with tertiary education	143.1	163.4	170.9
Lifelong learning	75.5	77.1	77.1
Attractive research systems	128.5	147.9	144.7
International scientific co-publications	176.3	189.8	256.4
Most cited publications	116.6	127.2	127.7
Foreign doctorate students	187.4	152.6	179.2
Innovation-friendly environment	106.4	173.0	168.2
Broadband penetration	161.1	177.8	322.2
Opportunity-driven entrepreneurship	48.9	169.8	63.3
Finance and support	108.3	95.5	118.4
R&D expenditure in the public sector	130.3	90.7	120.5
Venture capital expenditures	89.7	101.1	115.9
Firm investments	119.6	123.0	142.6
R&D expenditure in the business sector	130.0	116.3	148.9
Non-R&D innovation expenditures	62.1	83.5	72.6
Enterprises providing ICT training	168.4	173.3	213.3
Innovators	148.8	130.7	135.2
SMEs product/process innovations	148.9	132.5	144.6
SMEs marketing/organizational innovations	137.6	114.1	117.5
SMEs innovating in-house	159.4	145.7	143.5
Linkages	157.7	151.6	163.8
Innovative SMEs collaborating with others	196.5	210.9	209.8
Public-private co-publications	148.4	142.2	174.2
Private co-funding of public R&D exp.	130.9	112.2	125.7
Intellectual assets	89.7	97.8	87.2
PCT patent applications	98.1	94.4	89.3
Trademark applications	104.6	108.7	116.6
Design applications	66.3	92.2	61.1
Employment impacts	76.4	74.7	79.8
Employment in knowledge-intensive activities	116.5	126.9	126.9
Employment fast-growing enterprises	45.2	36.9	45.8
Sales impacts	100.1	81.1	103.1
Medium and high-tech product exports	79.2	80.8	85.4
Knowledge-intensive services exports	100.6	97.4	103.8
Sales of new-to-market/firm innovations	127.0	62.8	123.2

The colours show normalised performance in 2018 relative to that of the EU in 2018: dark green: above 120%; light green: between 90% and 120%; yellow: between 50% and 90%; 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)	34,600	29,500
Average annual GDP growth (%)	1.5	2.2
Employment share manufacturing (NACE C) (%)	12.6	15.5
of which High and medium high-tech (%)	35.1	37.5
Employment share services (NACE G-N) (%)	40.2	41.8
of which Knowledge-intensive services (%)	36.5	35.0
Turnover share SMEs (%)	39.8	37.9
Turnover share large enterprises (%)	35.7	44.4
Foreign-controlled enterprises – share of value added (%)	13.1	12.6
Business and entrepreneurship		
Enterprise births (10+ employees) (%)	0.6	1.5
Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) (%)	6.2	6.7
FDI net inflows (% GDP)	2.1	4.3
Top R&D spending enterprises per 10 million population	29.2	19.6
Buyer sophistication (1 to 7 best)	4.4	3.7
Governance and policy framework		
Ease of starting a business (0 to 100 best)	71.9	76.8
Basic-school entrepren. education and training (1 to 5 best)	2.0	1.9
Govt. procurement of advanced tech products (1 to 7 best)	3.5	3.5
Rule of law (-2.5 to 2.5 best)	1.4	1.2
Demography		
Population size (millions)	11.4	511.3
Average annual population growth (%)	0.4	0.2
Population density (inhabitants/km ²)	373.0	117.5

EU targets for 2020

Indicator	2014	Latest	Target ¹
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% of GDP)	2.39	2.58	3.00
Tertiary educational attainment (% of population aged 30-34)	43.8	47.6	47.0

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

European Semester country report and country specific recommendations:

<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/library/research-and-innovation-analysis-european-semester-2019-country-reports>

<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/library/country-specific-recommendations-2019-research-and-innovation-analysis>