



Facts from Belgium

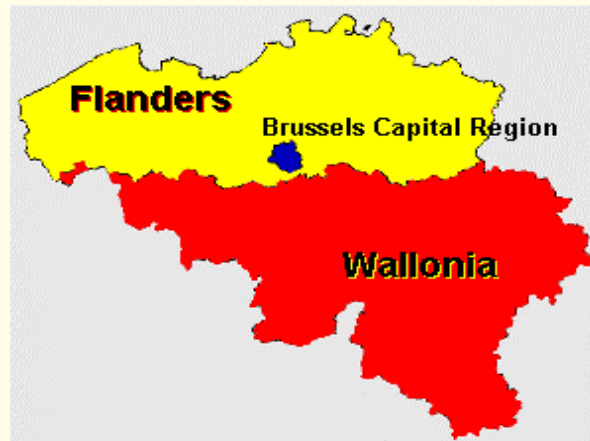
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Belgium: a Federal Country

10 Reasons to do Business in Belgium

1. Home to EU headquarters and hundreds of international organizations
2. Highly trained, multilingual and productive labor force
3. At the center of 60% of EU purchasing power
4. More than 80% of GDP exported
5. First-rate international financial marketplace
6. Excellent transportation and telecommunications infrastructure
7. Highly developed industrial sites and research parks
8. One of highest global rates of inward Foreign Direct Investment/ capita
9. Global equity: no discrimination between domestic and foreign companies
10. High quality of life

Regional Structure



Federal and Regional Competences

*	Federal Government	monetary policy corporate and income taxation, VAT health insurance, unemployment and social security benefits, pensions defense policy international development and trade policy foreign policy, immigration legislation labor legislation R&D (federal areas)
*	Regional Governments	foreign trade and trade promotion housing, industrial development, identification of business sites job creation agriculture energy (excluding nuclear) education, science policy transport (excluding air and train), public works investment incentives environment and town planning legislation R&D (regional areas)

Investment Incentives

Belgium's federal and regional authorities offer a variety of incentives which can be combined in packages tailored to the needs of individual businesses.

Direct Investment Aid

- Regions grant non refundable financial investment aid
- Investment subsidy granted either as an interest rebate or as a capital premium or a combination, depending on size of company and type of financing of the investment project
- Aid level determined by aspects such as employment stimulus, sector of activity, type of investment
- EU structural funds may be available. EU regulations stipulate aid level, allow regional authorities to give more substantial grants in areas considered as development zones

Tax Incentives

- Exemption of prepayment of tax on real property income, possibility of accelerated depreciation, investment deduction
- Advance rulings by Belgian tax authorities on the tax consequences of an investment in Belgium (e.g. headquarters, shared service centers, logistic or innovative activities)
- Tax credits and personal tax concessions for expatriate personnel, tax exemptions for scientific research personnel

Labor Incentives

- Include reduction in social security contribution, job creation measures, training grants at federal and regional levels

Federal and Regional Investment Contacts in the USA

Embassy of Belgium

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Useful Links:

Embassy of Belgium in the United States
www.diplobel.us

Service for Foreign Investments
www.investinbelgium.fgov.be

Flanders Foreign Investment Office (FFIO)
www.ffio.com

Brussels Enterprise Agency
www.abe-bao.be

Office of Foreign Investors of Wallonia (OFI)
www.ofisa.be

Fiscal Department for Foreign Investments
www.fiscus.fgov.be/interfinvesten