Belgium March 2021

Executive Summary

This country fact sheet provides key trade, investment, and tourism related statistics for Belgium. Specifically, it shows global trade and investment flows including an analysis of top markets and products for Belgium in relation to South Africa and the Western Cape, highlighting the largest and fastest growing products and sub-sectors. It also investigates tourism trends for Belgium as well as those between Belgium and South Africa. The key highlights in the fact sheet are provided below:

Economy

Belgium benefits from a strategic geographical position: the country is situated between the UK, Germany and France, Europe's three main economies. Growth is driven by investment and household demand. However, the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has brutally curtailed growth, with the country recording a negative growth rate of 8.3% in 2020. According to the IMF's updated forecast from October 2020, GDP growth is expected to resume at 5.4% in 2021 and stabilise at 2.7% in 2022, subject to the post-pandemic global economic recovery.

Trade

In 2019, Belgium was the 14th largest global exporter of services, valued at USD120.94bn. However, Belgium's global exports of services declined by an annual average growth rate of 0,41% between 2015 and 2019.

Belgium was South Africa's 11th largest global export market in 2019, with exports valued at USD2,40bn. In terms of imports, Belgium was the country's 18th largest import market valued at USD887,87 in 2019. In the reviewed period, South Africa's exports to Belgium were greater than imports, with the largest trade surplus of USD1,80bn in 2019.

The Western Cape's exported goods to Belgium were valued at USD86,86m in 2020, while imported goods were valued at USD169,86m in 2020. Belgium was the Western Cape's 22nd largest export destination and 16th largest import market in 2020. Exports increased in 2020 by 12,74%, while imports increased by 1,96%. Between 2011 and 2016, the Western Cape demonstrated a positive trade balance, with the highest trade balance (USD104,56m) recorded in 2014.

Investment

Between January 2003 and December 2020, a total of 16 FDI projects were recorded from Belgium to South Africa. These projects represent a total capital investment of USD1,05bn, which is an average investment of USD65,79m per project. During the period, a total of 1 572 jobs were created.

Tourism

Over the last 5 years the Western Cape saw the strongest volume in Belgian tourists in 2017 (32 753). Belgians love gastronomy. They love good food, and the Western Cape is considered one of the best areas to entice travelers in great food and wine. A decline of 13,2% was recorded in 2018. This may be highly contributed to the drought and the negativity raised by the phenomenon.

Table of Contents

1. Country Overview

Belgium is situated in Western Europe, bordering the North Sea, between France and the Netherlands and became independent from the Netherlands in 1830. During both World Wars I and II it was occupied by Germany. It has since prospered in the past half century as a modern, technologically advanced European state.

Belgium is a federal state with three culturally different regions: Flanders, Wallonia, and the capital city of Brussels. Political divisions between the Dutch-speaking Flemish of the north and the French-speaking Walloons of the south have led in recent years to constitutional amendments granting these regions formal recognition and autonomy. There have also been concerns about the growth of Islamic extremism among immigrant communities in the capital, Brussels. Brussels is the headquarters of the European Union (EU)and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), making it home to many international diplomats and civil servants (CIA World Factbook, 2021).

Belgium is a federal parliamentary democracy, which is under a constitutional monarchy.

GENERAL INFORMATION - BELGIUM	
Capital	Brussels
Major Cities (Population) (2021)	2.096 million Brussels (Capital), 1.048 Million Antwerp
Population (July 2021 Est.)	11,778,842
Government type	Federal Parliamentary Democracy Under A Constitutional Monarchy
chief of state	King PHILIPPE (Since 21 July 2013); Heir Apparent Princess ELISABETH (Daughter of The Monarch, Born 25 October 2001)
Head of Government (Since 1 October 2020)	Prime Minister Alexander De Croo
Life expectancy	81.65 Years
Language	Dutch (Official) 60%, French (Official) 40%, German (Official) Less Than 1%
Ethnic groups (2012 est.)	Belgian 75.2%, Italian 4.1%, Moroccan 3.7%, French 2.4%, Turkish 2%, Dutch 2%, Other 10.6%
Religion(s) (2009 Est.)	Roman Catholic 50%, Protestant and Other Christian 2.5%, Muslim 5%, Jewish 0.4%, Buddhist 0.3%, Atheist 9.2%, None 32.6%
Age structure	**0-14 Years:** 17.22% (Male 1,033,383/Female 984,624) **15-24 Years:** 11.2% (Male 670,724/Female 642,145) **25-54 Years:** 39.23% (Male 2,319,777/Female 2,278,450) **55-64 Years:** 13.14% (Male 764,902/Female 775,454) **65 Years and Over:** 19.21% (Male 988,148/Female 1,263,109)
Human Development Index (2020 Est.)	0.931

Sources: CIA World Factbook, 2021, HDI, 2021

2. Economic Overview

Belgium’s central geographic location and highly developed transport network have helped develop a well-diversified economy, with a broad mix of transport, services, manufacturing, and high tech. Service and high-tech industries are concentrated in the northern Flanders region, while the southern region of Wallonia is home to industries like coal and steel manufacturing. Belgium is completely reliant on foreign sources of fossil fuels, and the planned closure of its seven nuclear plants by 2025 should increase its dependence on foreign energy. Its role as a regional logistical hub makes its economy vulnerable to shifts in foreign demand, particularly with EU trading partners. Roughly three-quarters of Belgium's trade is with other EU countries, and the port of Zeebrugge conducts almost half its trade with the United Kingdom alone, leaving Belgium’s economy vulnerable to the outcome of negotiations on the UK’s exit from the EU (CIA factbook, 2021).

ECONOMIC INFORMATION	
GDP (Q4 2019)	USD530bn
Real GDP growth (Q4 2020)	-0.1
GDP per capita (December 2019)	47541
Inflation rate (February 2021)	0.46
Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate (December 2019)	
Unemployment rate (**February of 2021**)	5.6
Doing Business in 2020 ranking	46
Total Exports (2019)	445,21bn
Total Imports (2019)	426,49bn

Sources: CIA World Factbook, 2021; World Bank Doing Business report, 2021, Trade Economics, 2021, TradeMap, 2021

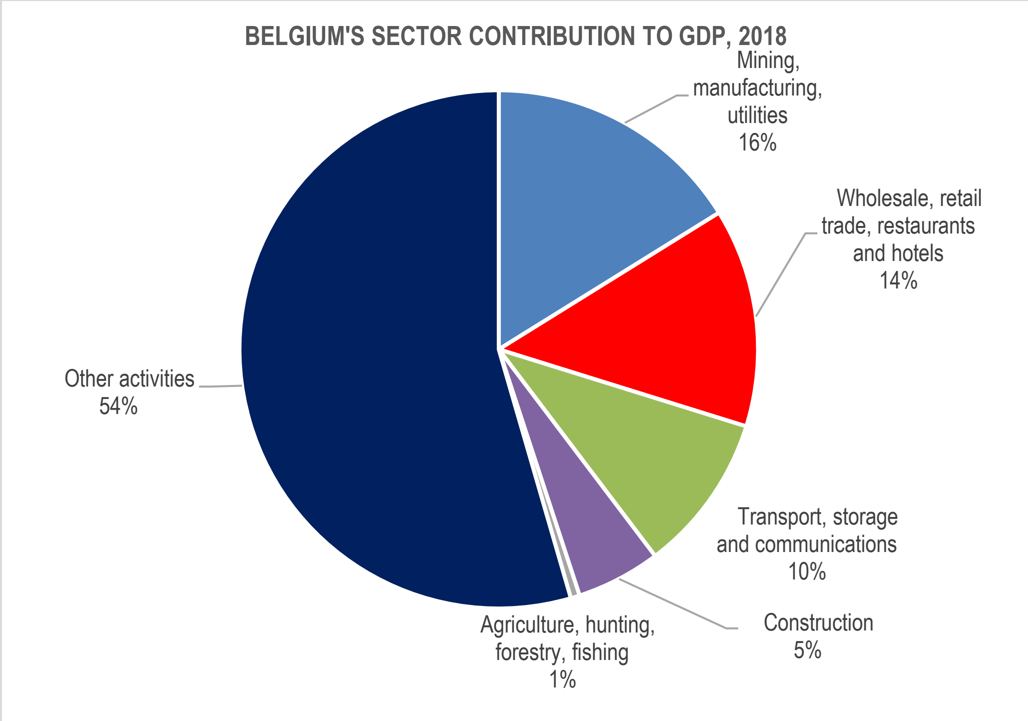
Impact of Covid19 Pandemic on Belgium’s Economy

Belgium benefits from a strategic geographical position: situated between the UK, Germany and France, Europe’s three main economies. Growth is driven by investment and household demand. However, the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has brutally curtailed growth, with the county recording a negative rate of 8.3% of GDP in 2020. According to the IMF's updated forecast from October 2020, GDP growth is expected to resume at 5.4% in 2021 and stabilise at 2.7% in 2022, subject to the post-pandemic global economic recovery.

IMF data shows that public debt represented 117.7% of GDP in 2020, much higher than the 2019 level due to the Covid-19 crisis. The government’s fiscal deficit is estimated at -4.9% of GDP in 2021, compared to -5.1% in 2020, and is expected to be constant in 2022 (-4.8%). The inflation rate is forecast to rise from 0.6% in 2020 - due to lower fossil fuel and wholesale electricity prices - to 1.2% in 2021 because of the positive contribution of energy prices. This trend should increase slightly to 1.4 % in 2022, according to the IMF World Economic Outlook (October 2020).

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis, the Belgian government announced a huge fiscal stimulus package of 3.1 billion euros, deferrals of 13 billion euros and other liquidity and guarantee measures of 50 billion euros. Despite support from fiscal measures, consumption and investment fell because of the lockdown restrictions in 2020. Household investment growth is projected to recover gradually due to strong fundamentals. In contrast, business investment growth is expected to recover more slowly, as companies' supply chains take longer to re-adjust and uncertainty about demand developments persists (Nordea trade, 2021).

The contributions of Belgium’s economic sectors to GDP in June 2018 are depicted in the figure below. The largest contributor was mining, manufacturing, and utilities (16%) sector followed by the wholesale, retail, trade, restaurant, and hotels (14%) sector.



Source: UNCTAD, 2021

2.1 Companies in Belgium

The Forbes Global 2000 is an annual list of the world's 2000 largest publicly listed corporations. Below is a list of the Belgian companies featured on the list in 2020.

BELGIUM'S LARGEST PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANIES, 2020						
Global Rank	**Company**	**Sector**	**Sales (USDbn)**	**Profits (USDbn)**	**Assets (USDbn)**	**Market Value (USDbn)**
56	Anheuser-Busch InBev	Food, Drink & Tobacco	USD52.3bn	USD9.1bn	USD238.3bn	USD89.9bn
260	KBC Group	Banking	USD14.9bn	USD2.7 bn	USD326.4bn	USD22.5bn
618	Ageas	Insurance	USD 12.4bn	USD 1.1 B	USD 122.1bn	USD 6.9 B
1102	UCB	Drugs & Biotechnology	USD5.5bn	USD886.4m	USD 12.4bn	USD 17.3bn
1186	Solvay	Chemicals	USD12.6bn	USD 133.2m	USD 23.9bn	USD 8.1 bn
1271	Umicore	Materials	USD19.6bn	USD 322.1m	USD8.0 bn	USD 10.4bn
1464	Sofina	Diversified Financials	USD216m	USD1.3bn	USD8.6 bn	USD 7.9 bn
1470	Colruyt	Food Markets	USD10.8bn	USD417.1m	USD4.9 bn	USD 8.3 bn

Source: Forbes, 2021

2.2 Doing Business in Belgium

Economies are ranked on their ease of doing business, from 1–190, which is indicative of whether the regulatory environment is conducive to the starting and operation of a local firm. The World Bank Group in its annual *Doing Business* report ranked Belgium 46th out of 190 countries monitored in terms of ease of doing business. Belgium's relative strengths in terms of ease of doing business include trading across borders ranked 1st, resolving insolvency ranked 9th and dealing with construction permits and protecting Investors ranked 45th respectively.

BELGIUM'S EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, 2020	
SELECTED INDICATORS	**RANKING OUT OF 190 COUNTRIES, 2020**
Starting a Business	48
Dealing with Construction Permits	45
Getting Electricity	108
Registering Property	139
Getting Credit	67
Protecting Investors	45
Paying Taxes	63
Trading Across Borders	1
Enforcing Contracts	56
Resolving Insolvency	9
Doing Business 2020	**46**

Source: Cost of Doing Business, 2021

2.3 Belgium Risk Ratings

"A sovereign credit rating is the credit rating of a country or sovereign entity. Sovereign credit ratings give investors insight into the level of risk associated with investing in a particular country and include political risks. At the request of the country, a credit rating agency will evaluate the country's economic and political environment to determine a representative credit rating".

Source: Investopedia

While a number of credit agencies exist, the three most recognised credit ratings agencies globally are Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Services (Moody's) and Standard & Poor's (S&P). Reasons for a country/sovereign to seek a credit rating from one of these three agencies include not only to access funding in international bond markets via the issuance of bonds in external debt markets, but it is a means to attract foreign direct investment. Obtaining a good sovereign credit rating instils confidence in investors seeking to invest in that country, with the credit rating a means for the country to demonstrate financial transparency and credit standing.

Two key rating 'standards' exist, with the highest possible rating category being "AAA" according to S&P, which indicates that the rated country has extremely strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. A wide range of rating categories exists below this, with the categories ranging all the way down to SD (i.e., defaulted), which means the rated country has failed to pay one or more of its financial obligations when it came due.

BELGIUM COUNTRY RATINGS		
DBRS	**FITCH RATING**	**MOODY'S RATINGS**
T&C Assessment	**Credit Rating**	**Credit Rating**
AA (high)	**AA-**	**Aa3**
Negative	Negative	Stable

Source: Trading Economics 2021

A number of alternative measures and rating scales exist to assess risks posed to companies and banks, particularly those pertaining to political and commercial risks when undertaking international commercial transactions. One such company which offers these services is Belgium's Delcredereducroire, the country's official export credit agency and public credit insurer.

The table below shows Delcredereducroire's current risk assessment of Belgium in terms of export transactions and direct investments. Ratings are between 1 and 7, and between A and C, with 7 and C being the maximum risk indicators.

- In terms of political risk associated with export transactions in Belgium, these are deemed to be low in the short, medium, and long-term.
- Commercial risk in turn is considered to be low levels of risk.

Regarding direct investments, risks associated with all the categories are considered to be low as indicated by scores awarded below.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">BELGIUM'S RISK ASSESSMENT</th></tr>
<tr><th colspan="3">EXPORT TRANSACTIONS</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Political Risks</td><td>Short Term</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Medium-Long term</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Special Transactions</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Commercial Risk</td><td colspan="2">C</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="3">DIRECT INVESTMENTS</th></tr>
<tr><td>Political violence risk</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Risk of expropriation and government action</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Transfer risk</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr>
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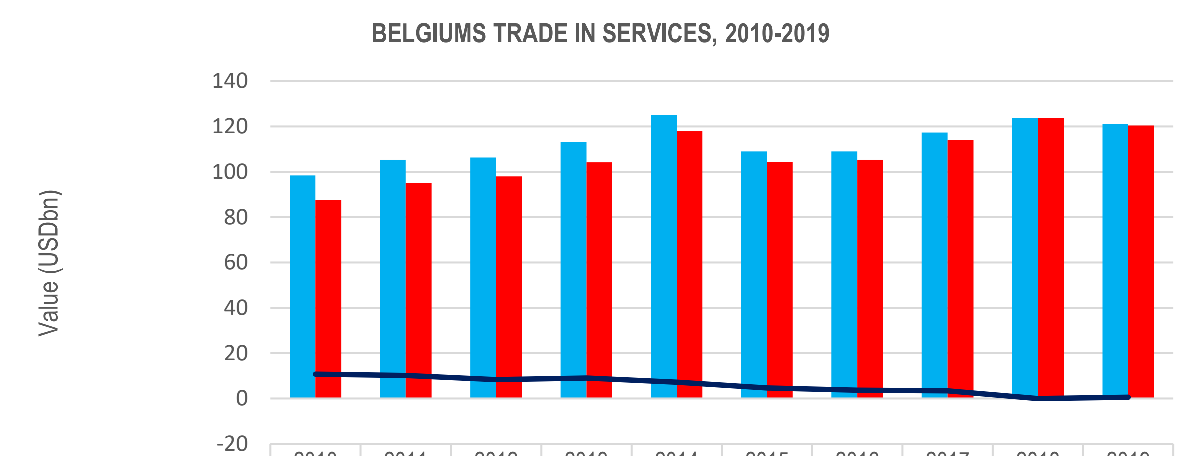
Source: ONDD, 2021

3. Trade

3.1 Belgium's trade in services

In 2019, Belgium was the 14th largest global exporter of services, valued at USD120.94bn. Belgium's global exports of services declined by an annual average growth rate of 0,41% between 2015 and 2019. In terms of global imports, Belgium was ranked 13th in 2019, valued at USD120,41bn and growing by an annual average growth rate of 0,70% between 2015 and 2019. Over the period analysed, except for 2018, Belgium has consistently maintained a positive (services) trade balance.



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Exports (USDbn)	98.44	105.34	106.38	113.26	125.09	109.02	108.99	117.38	123.64	120.94
Imports (USDbn)	87.70	95.21	97.99	104.19	117.95	104.32	105.27	113.94	123.68	120.41
Trade balance	10.74	10.13	8.39	9.07	7.15	4.69	3.72	3.44	-0.04	0.53

Source: Trademap, 2021

In 2019, other business services (includes merchanting and other trade-related services, operational leasing (rental), miscellaneous business, professional, and technical services, and other services) was the largest service export from Belgium valued at USD43,07bn. This was followed by transport, valued at USD24,44bn. Telecommunications, computer, and information and travel services were ranked 3rd and 4th valued at USD14,12bn and USD8,89bn, respectively.

Other business services were also the largest import service into Belgium valued in the said year at USD41,98bn, followed by transport valued at USD26,63bn. This was followed by travel telecommunications, computer, and information services, valued at USD18,66bn and USDm10.24bn, respectively.

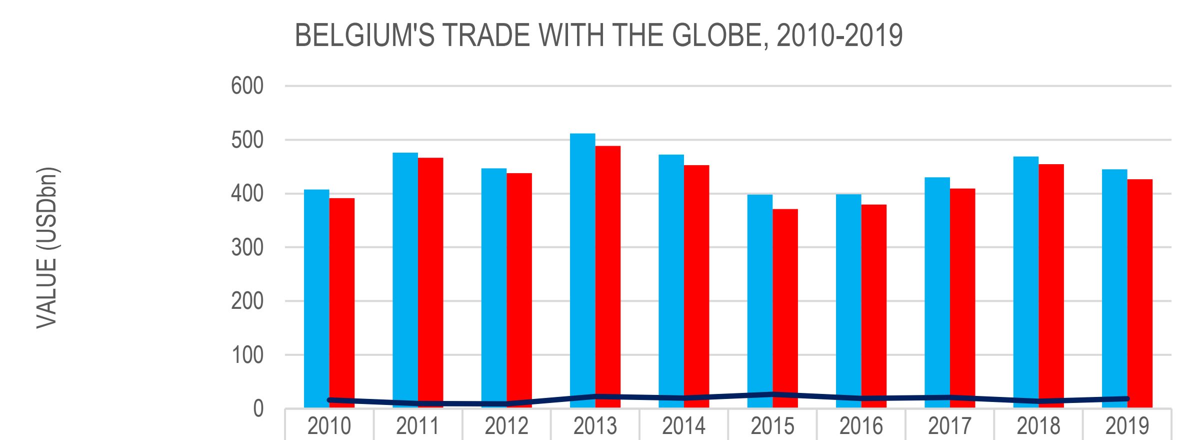
TOP 10 SERVICES EXPORTED BY BELGIUM, 2019				TOP 10 SERVICES IMPORTED BY BELGIUM, 2019			
CODE	SERVICE	VALUE 2017 (USDbn)	% GROWTH 2015-2019	CODE	SERVICE	VALUE 2017 (USDbn)	% GROWTH 2015-2019
10	Other business services	43,07	-0,97%	10	Other business services	41,98	0,19%
3	Transport	24,44	-0,82%	3	Transport	26,63	2,82%
9	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	14,12	3,93%	4	Travel	18,66	-1,88%
4	Travel	8,89	-6,12%	9	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	10,24	3,36%
7	Financial services	8,48	0,68%	7	Financial services	6,60	-0,15%
1	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	4,66	1,17%	6	Insurance and pension services	3,39	20,34%
8	Charges for the use of intellectual property.	3,98	4,29%	5	Construction	3,35	1,87%

5	Construction	3,90	-3,30%	8	Charges for the use of intellectual property	3,22	0,21%
6	Insurance and pension services	3,33	15,16%	1	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	2,85	16,90%
12	Government goods and services n.i.e.	2,75	8,08%	2	Maintenance and repair services	1,16	18,18%
11	Personal, cultural, and recreational services	1,25	-2,06%	SN	Services not allocated	1,14	-1,20%
SN	Services not allocated	1,14	14,69%	11	Personal, cultural, and recreational services	1,12	-2,54%
2	Maintenance and repair services	0,94	2,06%	12	Government goods and services n.i.e.	0,08	-10,00%
TOTAL EXPORTS		**120,94**	**-0,41%**	**TOTAL IMPORTS**		**120,41**	**0,70%**

Source: TradeMap, 2021

3.2 Belgium's trade in goods

Over the period 2010 to 2019, Belgium was a net exporter of goods. Belgium was the 13th largest global exporter of goods in 2019 with exports reaching USD445,21bn. In terms of imports, the country was the 14th largest importer of goods in 2019, importing goods worth USD426,9bn. From 2015 to 2019, exports declined by an annual average growth rate of 0,74% and imports declined by 0,60%.



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Exporter (USDbn)	407.60	475.96	446.85	511.51	472.20	397.74	398.31	430.09	468.64	445.21
Importers (USDbn)	391.26	466.35	437.88	488.53	452.77	371.03	379.30	409.02	454.71	426.49
Trade balance	16.34	9.61	8.97	22.98	19.43	26.71	19.01	21.07	13.93	18.73

Source: TradeMap, 2021

Germany was the leading export market for Belgium in 2019 at a value at USD79,66bn. France and the Netherlands ranked second and third respectively, at a value of at USD62,67bn and USD53,67bn. Eight of the top 10 destination countries were in Europe. South Africa was Belgium's 11th largest importer, with the southern African country importing USD2,41bn worth goods in 2019.

TOP 10 DESTINATION MARKETS FOR EXPORTS FROM BELGIUM, 2019			
RANK	**COUNTRY**	**VALUE 2019 (USDbn)**	**% GROWTH 2015-2019**
1	Germany	79,66	0,72%
2	France	62,67	-2,90%
3	Netherlands	53,67	-0,03%
4	United Kingdom	33,86	-2,80%
5	United States	27,65	2,26%

6	Italy	22,09	1,61%
7	Spain	12,46	1,60%
8	Poland	9,84	3,78%
9	China	7,96	-3,39%
10	Luxembourg	7,92	2,12%
TOTAL EXPORTS		**445,21**	**-0,74%**

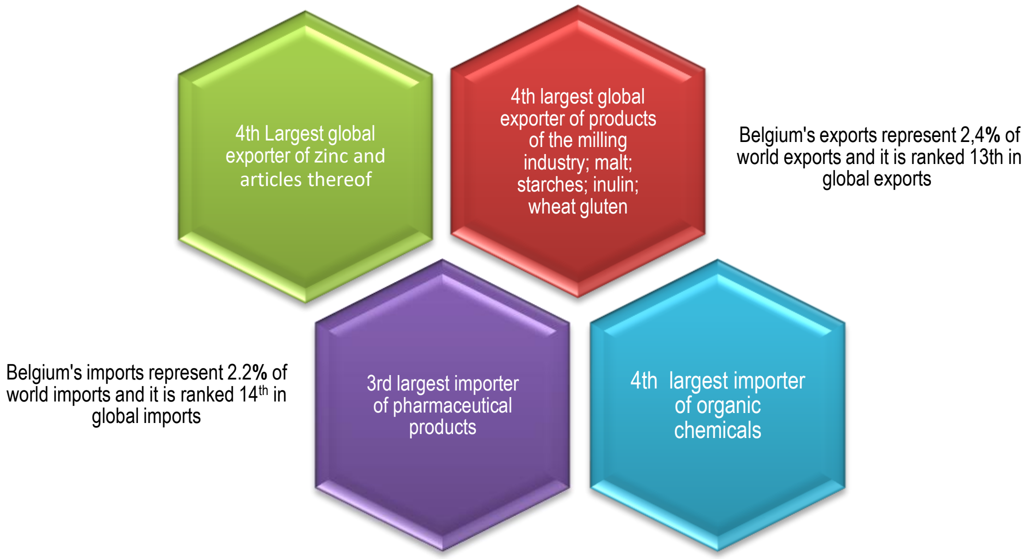
Source: TradeMap, 2021

The Netherlands was the leading import source market, valued at USD74,08bn. Germany and France were ranked second and third, with values at USD56,40bn and USD41,55bn, respectively. South Africa was the 18th largest exporter to Belgium, exporting goods to the value of USD887,94m in 2019.

TOP 10 SOURCE MARKETS FOR IMPORTS TO BELGIUM, 2019			
RANK	**COUNTRY**	**VALUE 2019 (USDbn)**	**% GROWTH 2015-2019**
1	Netherlands	74,08	-2,27%
2	Germany	56,40	-0,35%
3	France	41,55	-1,26%
4	United States	32,14	-0,56%
5	Ireland	19,24	4,22%
6	China	18,77	0,90%
7	United Kingdom	18,67	-2,87%
8	Italy	15,51	-0,14%
9	Japan	12,53	11,25%
10	Spain	9,93	4,88%
TOTAL IMPORTS		**426,49**	**-0,60%**

Source: TradeMap, 2021

The hexagons below show Belgium's competitive advantage in trade:



Source: TradeMap, 2021

Motor cars were the leading export product category from Belgium, valued at USD38,00bn in 2019. This was followed by Medicaments worth USD28,18bn. Other top exports were Diamonds (USD11,60bn) and Heterocyclic compounds (USD4,3bn) (USD9,27bn).

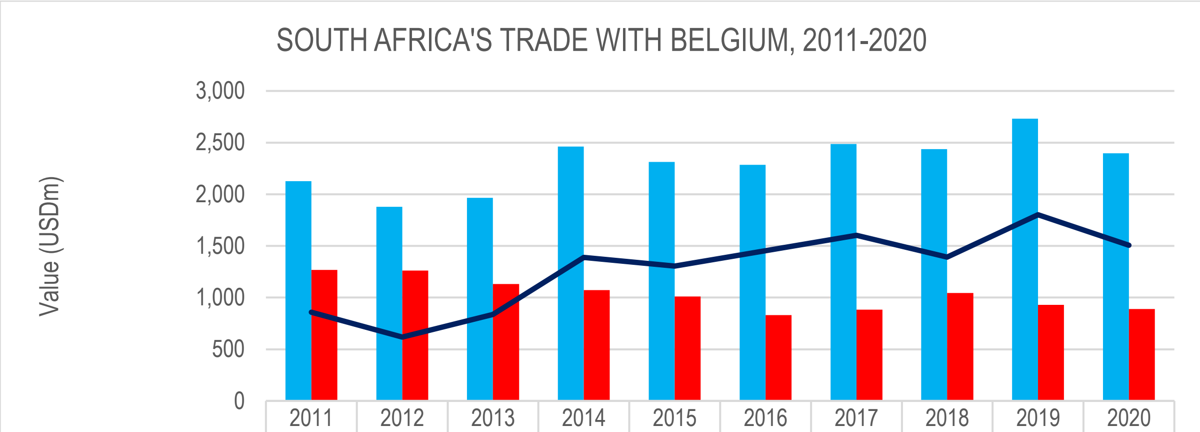
Refined petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals were the leading imported product in Belgium in 2019, valued at USD38,73bn. Gold, and Telephone sets were ranked second and third at USD20,40bn and USD18,42bn, respectively. Other top imports were Medicaments (USD23,90bn) and Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose (USD19,47bn).

TOP 10 EXPORTS FROM BELGIUM, 2019				TOP 10 IMPORTS TO BELGIUM, 2019			
RANK	**PRODUCT**	**VALUE 2019 (USDbn)**	**% GROWTH 2015-2019**	**RANK**	**PRODUCT**	**VALUE 2019 (USDbn)**	**% GROWTH 2015-2019**
1	Motor cars	38,00	4,90%	1	Refined petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals	38,73	7,94%
2	Medicaments	28,18	-1,32%	2	Gold	20,40	0,40%
3	Refined Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals	27,33	-3,99%	3	Telephone sets	18,42	9,41%
4	Human blood	22,21	7,30%	4	Medicaments	23,90	-4,30%
5	Diamonds	11,60	-10,08%	5	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose	19,47	-2,58%
6	Heterocyclic compounds	9,27	8,34%	6	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	13,85	-11,43%
7	Parts and accessories for tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, ...	6,49	1,25%	7	Rice	8,15	-0,55%
8	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental, or veterinary sciences, incl. ...	5,62	-3,94%	8	Cement	13,27	8,33%
9	Polymers of ethylene, in primary forms	5,41	-2,50%	9	Wheat and meslin	14,22	-5,14%
10	Polymers of propylene or of other olefins, in primary forms	4,36	-1,26%	10	Steam or other vapour generating boilers	5,60	-0,92%
TOTAL EXPORTS		**445,21**	**-0,74%**	**TOTAL IMPORTS**		**426,49**	**-0,60%**

Source: TradeMap, 2021

3.3 Trade with South Africa

Belgium was South Africa's 11th largest global export market in 2019, with exports valued at USD2,40bn. In terms of imports, Belgium was the country's 18th largest import market at a value of USD887,87 in 2019. In the reviewed period, South Africa's exports to Belgium were greater than imports, with the largest trade surplus of USD1,80bn recorded in 2019.



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Exports (USDm)	2,127.94	1,877.96	1,965.85	2,461.10	2,313.87	2,283.96	2,485.18	2,436.33	2,732.88	2,395.98
Imports (USDm)	1,268.83	1,260.28	1,129.72	1,073.27	1,009.14	831.44	882.43	1,045.28	930.94	887.97
Trade balance	859.11	617.68	836.13	1,387.83	1,304.73	1,452.51	1,602.75	1,391.05	1,801.94	1,508.01

Source: Quantec, 2021

South Africa's leading export product to Belgium in 2019 were diamonds, valued at USD412,03m, followed by motor vehicles (USD393,10m) and sulphates; alums; peroxosulphates (USD306,76m). Of the top 10 exported products between 2015 and 2029, the highest growth in exports was recorded for sulphates; alums; peroxosulphates (34,28%).

The leading import product into South Africa from Belgium was refined petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals valued at USD110,96m, followed by Insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, herbicides, anti-sprouting products and plant-growth regulators (USD59,24m) and Original equipment components (USD53,89m).

Of the top 10 import products between 2015 and 2019, the highest growth in imports was recorded for Original equipment components (208,27% y-o-y.).

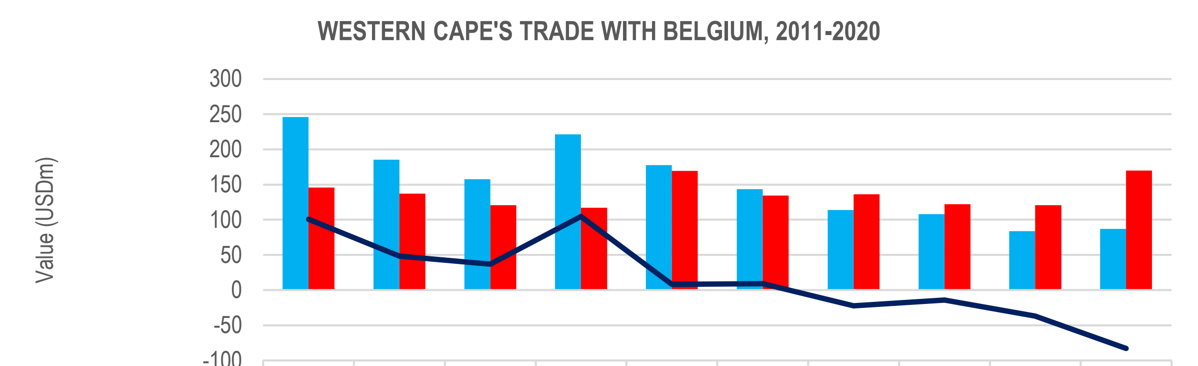
TOP 10 EXPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO BELGIUM, 2019				TOP 10 IMPORTS FROM BELGIUM TO SOUTH AFRICA, 2019			
RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE 2019 (USDm)	% GROWTH 2015-2019	RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE 2019 (USDm)	% GROWTH 2015-2019
1	Diamonds	412,03	2,03%	1	Refined petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals	110,96	208,27%
2	Motor vehicles	393,10	10,99%	2	Insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, herbicides, anti-sprouting products and plant-growth regulators	59,24	2,55%
3	Sulphates; alums; peroxosulphates	306,76	34,28%	3	Original equipment components	53,89	217,96%
4	Motor cars	263,15	-6,16%	4	Medicaments	45,40	-0,01%
5	Waste and scrap of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal	251,64	29,27%	5	Anti-knock preparations, oxidation inhibitors, gum inhibitors,	26,26	-1,76%

					viscosity improvers, anti-corrosive preparations, and other prepared additives		
6	Ferroalloys	95,49	-7,47%	6	Copper wire	25,50	-3,47%
7	Acyclic hydrocarbons	79,62	15,59%	7	Human blood	23,39	-1,44%
8	Acyclic alcohols and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	75,82	16,91%	8	Motor cars	18,85	-4,53%
9	Ketones and quinones,	56,36	25,30%	9	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	15,75	13,18%
10	Aluminium plates	46,63	7,91%	10	Milk and cream	14,51	52,54%
TOTAL EXPORTS		**2 395,98**	**1,08%**	**TOTAL IMPORTS**		**887,97**	**-1,72%**

Source: Trademap, 2021

3.4 Trade with the Western Cape

The value of the Western Cape's exported goods to Belgium totalled USD86,86m in 2020, while imported goods were valued at USD169,86m in 2020. Belgium was the Western Cape's 22nd largest export destination and 16th largest import market in 2020. Exports increased by 12,74% in 2020, while imports increased by 1,96%. Between 2011 and 2016, the Western Cape demonstrated a positive trade balance, with the highest trade surplus recorded (USD104,56m) in 2014.



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Exports (USDm)	246.09	185.43	157.75	221.50	177.56	143.50	113.64	107.89	83.65	86.86
Imports (USDm)	145.63	137.06	120.84	116.94	169.55	134.47	136.05	122.14	120.75	169.86
Trade balance	100.46	48.37	36.91	104.56	8.01	9.03	-22.41	-14.25	-37.10	-83.00

. *Source: Quantec, 2021*

Diamonds were the Western Cape's leading export product category to Belgium in 2020, at a value of USD29,26m. This top export was followed by wine (USD19,85m), and ceramic wares for laboratory (USD9,18m). Of the top 10 exported products, the highest growth in Western Cape exports was original sculptures and statuary, in any material with an annual average growth rate of 612,25% over the period 2015 - 2020.

The leading import into the Western Cape from Belgium was refined petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, other than crude valued at USD94,17m. This top import is followed by Other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs, valued at USD4,15m and Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa valued at USD3,92m. Of the top ten imported products. The highest import growth was refined petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, other than crude growing at 143,36% per annum over the 5 year period.

TOP 10 WESTERN CAPE EXPORTS TO BELGIUM, 2020				TOP 10 WESTERN CAPE IMPORTS FROM BELGIUM, 2020			
RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE 2020 (USDm)	% GROWTH 2015-2020	RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE 2020 (USDm)	% GROWTH 2015-2020
1	Diamonds	29,26	-20,35%	1	Refined petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, other than crude	94,17	143,36%
2	Wine of fresh grapes	19,85	4,11%	2	Other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs	4,15	8,28%
3	Ceramic wares for laboratory	9,18	2,59%	3	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	3,92	38,38%
4	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin	4,15	7,35%	4	Polymers of propylene or of other olefins, in primary forms	3,21	56,94%
5	Parts and accessories of tractors	4,14	196,23%	5	Lubricating preparations	3,14	-17,35%
6	Citrus fruit	2,90	30,52%	6	Soya-bean oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	2,51	-
7	Other prepared or preserved meat, meat offal or blood	1,53	44,62%	7	Other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics	2,43	1,28%
8	Original sculptures and statuary, in any material	1,00	612,25%	8	Paper and paperboard, coated on one or both sides with kaolin (China clay) or other inorganic substances	2,33	-
9	Printing ink, writing or drawing ink and other inks	0,99	-8,13%	9	Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid	2,30	70,76%
10	Fruit, dried	0,81	-	10	Bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits, and other bakers' wares	2,24	77,60%
TOTAL EXPORTS		**86,86**	**-12,74%**	**TOTAL IMPORTS**		**169,86**	**1,96%**

Source: Quantec, 2021

3.1 Trade Agreements

The EU - of which Belgium is a party of - and South Africa signed a SADC-EPA. Under the agreement, the EU has fully or partially removed customs duties on 98.7% of imports from South Africa, while guaranteeing full free access for the rest of the signatory countries. The benefits included improved market access for 32 agricultural products, with a significant improvement in access to the EU market for wine (110-million litres duty-free), sugar (150,000 tons duty-free) and ethanol (80,000 tons duty-free). There was also improved access to EU markets for South African exports of flowers, dairy, and fruit products. Geographic indicator status has also been given to rooibos, honey bush, Karoo lamb and certain wines.

3.6 Tariffs

Tariffs imposed on South African exports to Belgium for 2019 are listed below. These tariffs are listed by the importing country i.e., Belgium.

TARIFFS IMPOSED ON SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS BY BELGIUM, 2019					
HS CODE AND PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	TARIFF (%)	HS CODE AND PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	TARIFF (%)	HS CODE AND PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	TARIFF (%)
H01: Live animals	9	H33: Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toiletries	0	H65: Headgear and parts thereof	0
H02: Meat and edible meat offal	15	H34: Soaps, lubricants, waxes, candles, modelling pastes	0	H66: Umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips	0
H03: Fish, crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic invertebrates	0	H35: Albuminoids, modified starches, glues, enzymes	2	H67: Bird skin, feathers, artificial flowers, human hair	0
H04: Dairy products, eggs, honey, edible animal product	5	H36: Explosives, pyrotechnics, matches, pyrophorics	0	H68: Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica, articles	0
H05: Products of animal origin	0	H37: Photographic or cinematographic goods	0	H69: Ceramic products	0
H06: Live trees, plants, bulbs, roots, cut flowers	1	H38: Miscellaneous chemical products	0	H70: Glass and glassware	0
H07: Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	4	H39: Plastics and articles thereof	0	H71: Pearls, precious stones, metals, coin	0
H08: Edible fruit, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	3	H40: Rubber and articles thereof	0	H72: Iron and steel	0
H09: Coffee, tea, mate, and spices	0	H41: Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather	0	H73: Articles of iron or steel	0
H10: Cereals	3	H42: Articles of leather, animal gut, harness, travel goods	0	H74: Copper and articles thereof	0
H11: Milling products, malt, starches, inulin, wheat gluten	10	H43: Furskins and artificial fur, manufactures thereof	0	H75: Nickel and articles thereof	0
H12: Oil seed, oleagic fruits, grain, seed, fruit,	0	H44: Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	0	H76: Aluminium and articles thereof	2
H13: Lac, gums, resins, vegetable saps and extracts	1	H45: Cork and articles of cork	0	H78: Lead and articles thereof	0
H14: Vegetable plaiting materials, vegetable products	0	H46: Manufactures of plaiting material, basketwork, etc.	0	H79: Zinc and articles thereof	0
H15: Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products,	0	H47: Pulp of wood, fibrous cellulosic material, waste	0	H80: Tin and articles thereof	0
H16: Meat, fish, and seafood food preparations	4	H48: Paper & paperboard, articles of pulp, paper, and board	0	H81: Other base metals, cermets, articles thereof	0
H17: Sugars and sugar confectionery	29	H49: Printed books, newspapers, pictures	0	H82: Tools, implements, cutlery, of base metal	0
H18: Cocoa and cocoa preparations	0	H50: Silk	0	H83: Miscellaneous articles of base metal	0
H19: Cereal, flour, starch, milk preparations and products	5	H51: Wool, animal hair, horsehair yarn and fabric thereof	0	H84: Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery	0
H20: Vegetable, fruit, nut food preparations	6	H52: Cotton	0	H85: Electrical, electronic equipment	0
H21: Miscellaneous edible preparations	3	H53: Vegetable textile fibres paper yarn, woven fabric	0	H86: Railway, tramway locomotives, rolling stock, equipment	0
H22: Beverages, spirits, and vinegar	3	H54: Manmade filaments	0	H87: Vehicles other than railway, tramway	0
H23: Residues, wastes of food industry, animal fodder	0	H55: Manmade staple fibres	0	H88: Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	0
H24: Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	0	H56: Wadding, felt, nonwovens, yarns, twine, cordage	0	H89: Ships, boats, and other floating structures	0
H25: Salt, sulphur, earth, stone, plaster, lime, and cement	0	H57: Carpets and other textile floor coverings	0	H90: Optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus	0
H26: Ores, slag, and ash	0	H58: Special woven or tufted fabric, lace, tapestry	0	H91: Clocks and watches and parts thereof	0
H27: Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products,	0	H59: Impregnated, coated, or laminated textile fabric	0	H92: Musical instruments, parts, and accessories	0
H28: Inorganic chemicals, precious metal compound, isotopes	0	H60: Knitted or crocheted fabric	0	H94: Furniture, lighting, signs, prefabricated buildings	0

H29: Organic chemicals	0	H61: Articles of apparel, accessories, knit or crochet	0	H95: Toys, games, sports requisites	0
H30: Pharmaceutical products	0	H62: Articles of apparel, accessories, not knit or crochet	0	H96: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0
H31: Fertilizers	0	H63: Other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing	0	H97: Works of art, collectors' pieces, and antiques	0
H32: Tanning, dyeing extracts, tannins, derivatives, pigments	0	H64: Footwear, gaiters and the like, parts thereof	0		

Source: Trademap, 2020

NOTE: Exporters should not take the HS2 tariff as conclusive and as the actual tariff that will be applied to the exported product. The tariffs indicated above are average tariffs and for products within the category it may be higher or lower than indicated. Where the tariff is zero it can be assumed that there is zero tariff applicable to all products within that HS code. Tariffs are determined according to the importing country's national tariff line from the HS6 level and upwards. Exporters are advised to visit www.macmap.org to determine the exact tariff applicable to the product at HS6.

3.7 Standards and regulations

Import Requirements and Documentation

- The official model for written declarations to customs is the Single Administrative Document (SAD).
- The SAD describes goods and their movement around the world and is essential for trade outside the EU, or of non-EU goods.
- Goods brought into the EU customs territory are, from the time of their entry, subject to customs supervision until customs formalities are completed.
- Goods are covered by a Summary Declaration which is filed once the items have been presented to customs officials. The Summary Declaration is filed by the person who brought the goods into the customs territory of the Community or by any person who assumes responsibility for carriage of the goods following such entry or the person in whose name the person referred to above acted.
- The Summary Declaration can be made on a form provided by the customs authorities. However, customs authorities may also allow the use of any commercial or official document that contains the specific information required to identify the goods. The SAD serves as the EU importer's declaration. It encompasses both customs duties and VAT and is valid in all EU member states. The declaration is made by whoever is clearing the goods, normally the importer of record or his/her agent.
- Since July 1, 2009, all companies established outside of the EU are required to have an EORI number if they wish to lodge a customs declaration or an Entry/Exit Summary declaration. All U.S. companies should use this number for their customs clearances. An EORI number must be formally requested from the customs of the specific member state to which the company exports.
- Member state custom authorities may request additional documents to be submitted alongside a formal request for an EORI number.
- Once a company has received an EORI number, it can use it for exports to any of the 28 EU member states. There is no single format for the EORI number. Once an operator holds an EORI number s/he can request the Authorized Economic Operator status, which can give quicker access to certain simplified customs procedures.
- Phytosanitary Certificates: Phytosanitary certificates are required for most fresh fruits, vegetables, and other plant materials.
- Sanitary Certificates: For commodities composed of animal products or by-products, EU countries require that shipments be accompanied by a certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.
- This applies regardless of whether the product is for human consumption, for pharmaceutical use, or strictly for non-human use (e.g., veterinary biologicals, animal feeds, fertilizers, research).
- According to a European Commission memo published in December 2012, around 98 percent of food legislation is harmonized at the EU level.
- The Belgian Food and Drugs Law is called "de Wet betreffende de bescherming van de gezondheid van de gebruikers op het stuk van de voedingsmiddelen en andere produkten / Loi relative à la protection de la santé des consommateurs en ce qui concerne les denrées alimentaires et les autres produits". This law from 1977 provides the Belgian regulatory framework for all food products. It applies to domestically produced and imported food and other products including tobacco and cosmetic products. The main objective of this law is (1) health protection, (2) product safety, (3) ensuring that consumers have adequate and correct information and (4) promotion of fair trade.

Labelling and Marking Requirements

- The first step in investigating the marking, labelling, and packaging legislation that might apply to a product entering the EU is to draw a distinction between what is mandatory and what is voluntary.
- It is also important to distinguish between marks and labels. A mark is a symbol and/or pictogram that appears on a product or its respective packaging. These range in scope from signs of danger to indications of methods of proper recycling and disposal. The intention of such marks is to provide market surveillance authorities, importers, distributors, and end-users with information concerning safety, health, energy efficiency and/or environmental issues relating to a product.
- Labels, on the other hand, appear in the form of written text or numerical statements, which may be required but are not necessarily universally recognizable. Labels typically indicate more specific information about a product, such as measurements, or an indication of materials that may be found in the product (such as in textiles or batteries).
- Some of the mandatory marks and labels that are required are with respect to: textiles; cosmetics; dangerous substances; explosive atmosphere; electrical & electronic equipment; household appliances; pricing; footwear; units of measurement; automotive; tyre labelling; maritime; materials in contact with food; noise emissions; wood packaging and energy efficiency.
- The most widely used and recognized marking required by the EU is the CE marking. Found in all "New Approach" legislation with a few exceptions, the CE marking demonstrates that a product meets all essential requirements (typically related to safety, health, energy efficiency and/or environmental concerns). CE marking is required for the some of the following products/product families: gas appliances; lifts; hot water boilers; machinery etc.

Prohibited and Restricted Imports

- Endangered species, some live animals, and plants, as well as derived products may belong to endangered species. Those are protected by the CITES convention and subsequent European legislation (e.g., a parrot, or a wooden figure made from Dalbergia nigra).
- The importer, when ordering online sensitive products should first be aware of these restrictions, so that required permits and/or notifications are issued before the product arrives.
- Dangerous chemicals - **s**ome dangerous chemicals are also strictly prohibited or restricted. Some examples are mercury thermometers, pesticide DDT, pre-charged air conditioners containing HCFCs.
- Counterfeit or pirated goods - If customs officers suspect that goods bought on Internet and imported from third countries infringe an intellectual property right, they may detain the goods and inform the declarant or holder of the goods as well as the holder of an intellectual property right. The latter may decide to bring the case to the court.

3.8 Port-to-Port

The main Belgian ports are:

- Antwerp
- Zeebrugge
- Ghent
- Ostend
- Brussels (French)
- Liège

These include a number of large ports that are major intersections for global freight transport. The port of Antwerp is the second largest seaport in Europe. Its location between America, Asia and Africa enables short transit times from Antwerp to all the major destinations around the world. The extensive inland waterway network (1,532 km) connects the major Belgian seaports with other European inland waterways. Belgium's major rivers (Scheldt and Meuse) and the adjoining tributaries and canals reach virtually every part of the country. This fine-meshed network – the second largest of its type in Europe – means that the waterways can easily be used for large-scale and environmentally friendly transportation and helps to keep costs down.

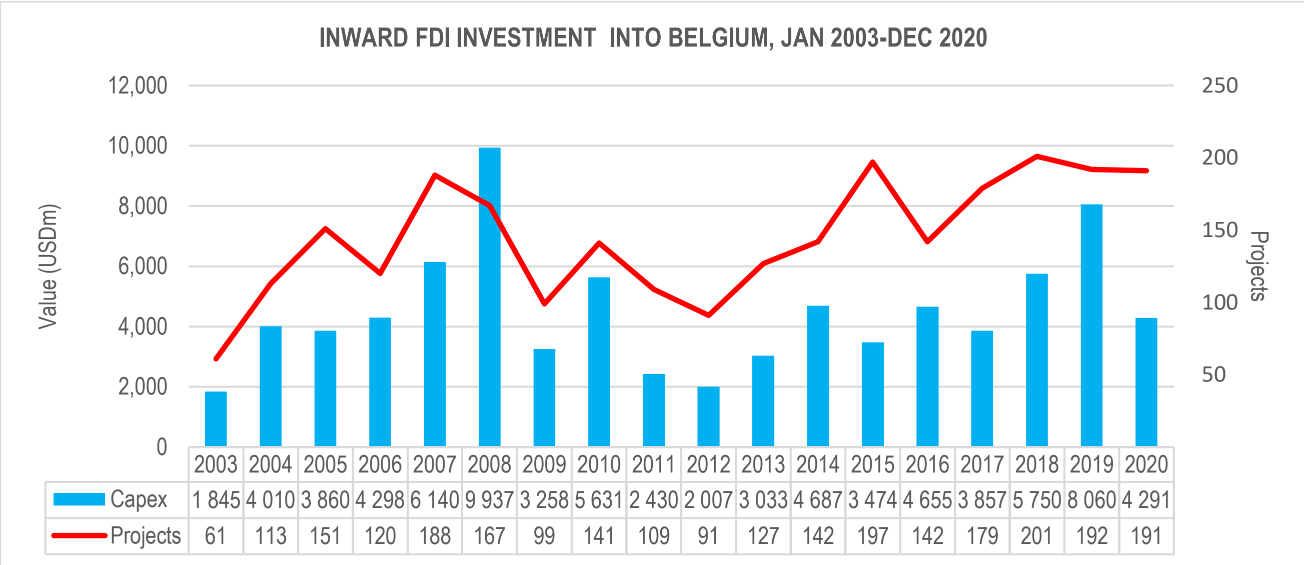
CAPE TOWN PORT TERMINAL TO VARIOUS PORT TERMINALS IN BELGIUM		
PORTS	**DISTANCE**	**TRANSIT TIME**
Ostend	11,289.65 km	18 days
Zeebrugge	11,317.33 km	18 days
Antwerp	11,420.86 km	18 days
Ghent	11,393.90 km	18 days
Brussels (French)	11,420.86 km	18 days
Liège	11,420.86 km	18 days

Source: SeaRates, 2021

4. Foreign Direct Investment

4.1 Global Investment into Belgium

Between January 2003 and December 2020 a total of 2 611 FDI projects were recorded into Belgium. These projects represent a total capital investment of USD81 231,60bn which is an average investment of USD31,1m per project. During the period, a total of 148,669 jobs were created. The graph shows that capex into Belgium peaked at USD9,94bn in 2008, while projects reached their peak in 2018 with a total of 201 projects.



Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

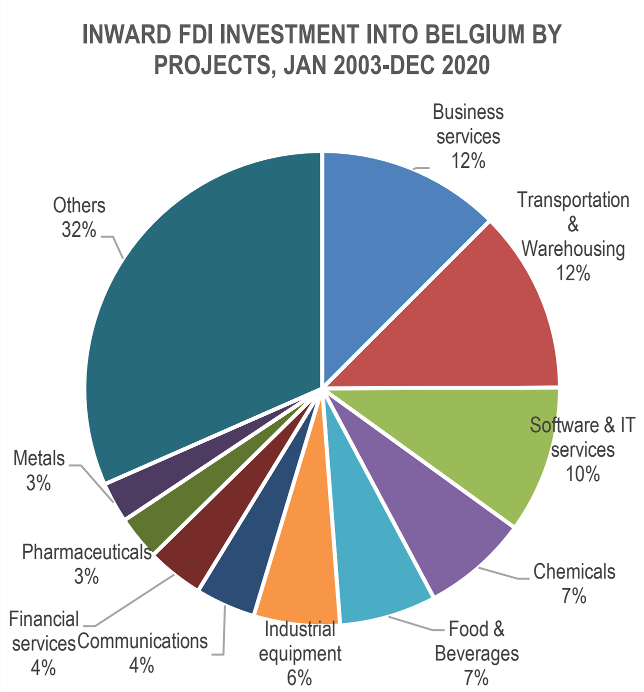
The United States was the largest source market for inward FDI into Belgium in terms of projects, with 617 investment projects, which accounted for 23,63% of projects. France and Germany ranked second and third, accounting for 11,11%% and 10,15%%, respectively.

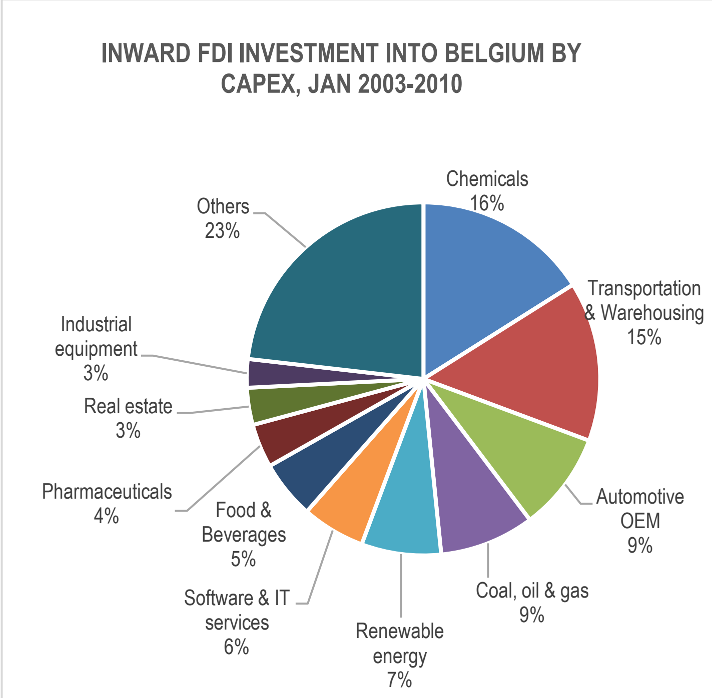
TOP 10 FDI SOURCE MARKETS FOR FDI INVESTMENT INTO BELGIUM, JAN 2003-DEC 2020						
RANK	COUNTRY	PROJECTS	% PROJECTS	CAPEX (USDm)	% CAPEX	JOBS
1	United States	617	23,63%	617	0,76%	46027
2	France	290	11,11%	290	0,36%	11128
3	Germany	265	10,15%	265	0,33%	16283
4	Netherlands	247	9,46%	247	0,30%	10024
5	United Kingdom	218	8,35%	218	0,27%	11842
6	Japan	154	5,90%	154	0,19%	7824
7	Switzerland	102	3,91%	102	0,13%	6253
8	China	79	3,03%	79	0,10%	4854
9	Sweden	63	2,41%	63	0,08%	8601
10	India	53	2,03%	53	0,07%	2300
TOTAL		**2 611**	**100,00%**	**81 231,60**	**100,00%**	**148 669**

Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

Business services and the transportation and warehousing sector were the top receivers of FDI by projects, accounting for 12% of FDI projects, respectively. This was followed by the software and IT services sector with a contribution of 10%.

In terms of capex, the chemicals sector (16%) was the leading recipient the sector was followed by the transportation and warehousing and the automotive OEM sector ranking second and third with a 15% and 2% share, respectively.





Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

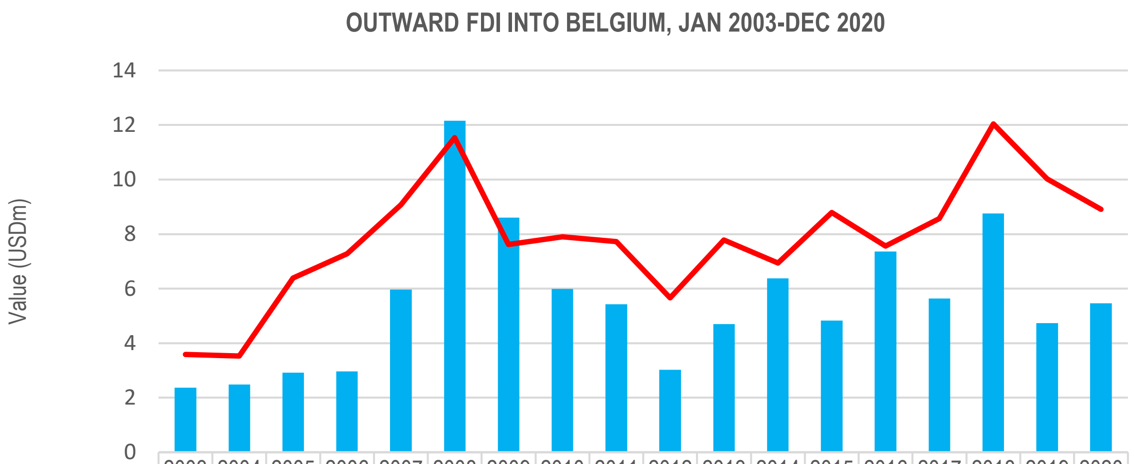
The table below gives a list of the companies for FDI inflow into Belgium. The leading company was BASF Antwerpen with 16 investment projects to the value of approximately USD1,48bn. Spaces was the second largest investing company by project with 14 projects.

TOP 10 FDI SOURCE MARKETS FOR FDI INVESTMENT INTO BELGIUM, JAN 2003-DEC 2020						
RANK	COUNTRY	PROJECTS	% PROJECTS	CAPEX (USDm)	% CAPEX	JOBS
1	BASF Antwerpen	16	0,61%	1 478	1,82%	501
2	Spaces	14	0,54%	27	0,03%	112
3	Ford Motor Company	11	0,42%	2 577	3,17%	9347
4	Pfizer	11	0,42%	651	0,80%	1402
5	Cargill	10	0,38%	424	0,52%	388
6	DB Schenker	9	0,34%	212	0,26%	567
7	Lanxess	9	0,34%	244	0,30%	229
8	Nike	9	0,34%	692	0,85%	2426
9	Volvo Trucks	9	0,34%	314	0,39%	1368
10	DAF Trucks	8	0,31%	471	0,58%	1536
TOTAL		**2 611**	**100,00%**	**81 231,60**	**100,00%**	**148 669**

Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

4.2 Global investment from Belgium

Between January 2003 and December 2020, a total of 2,516 outward FDI projects were recorded from Belgium. These projects represent a total capital investment of USD99,74bn, which is an average investment of USD39,6m per project. During the period, a total of 353,529 jobs were created. The graph shows that outward FDI capex from Belgium peaked in 2008 at a value of USD12,16bn, and projects peaked in 2008 with 206 projects.



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capex	2.37	2.48	2.92	2.97	5.96	12.16	8.61	5.99	5.42	3.02	4.70	6.37	4.83	7.36	5.64	8.76	4.73	5.47
Projects	64	63	114	130	162	206	136	141	138	101	139	124	157	135	153	215	179	159

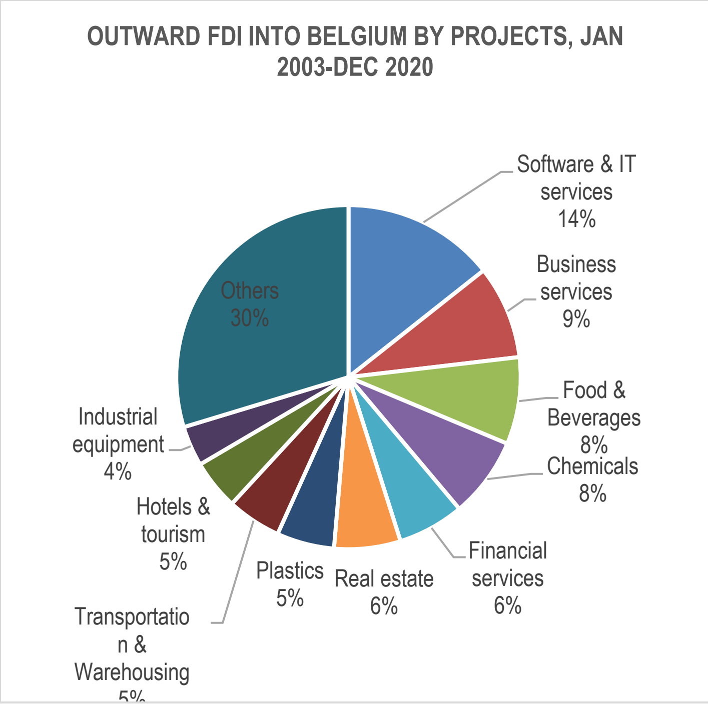
Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

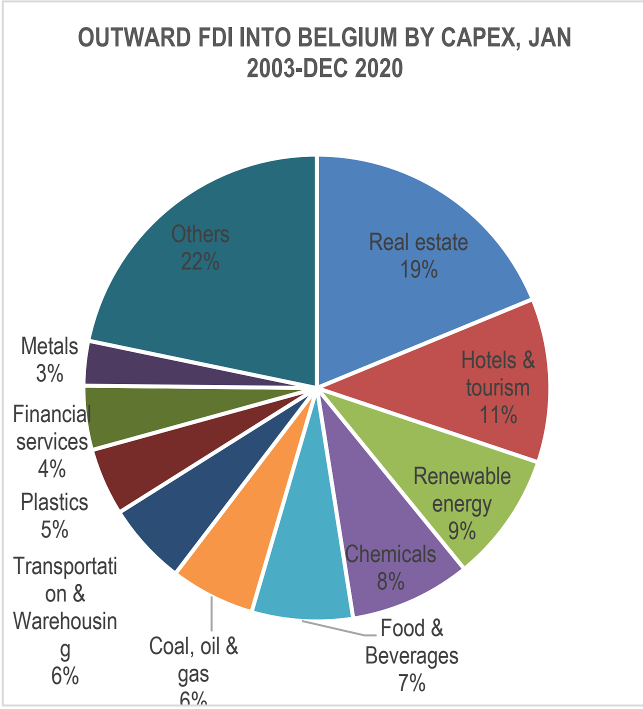
The table below shows the destination markets for outward FDI from Belgium from 2003 to December 2020. The United States was the largest destination market in terms of projects, with 309 investment projects, which accounted for 12,28% of all projects. France ranked second accounting for 10,89% of all projects.

TOP 10 FDI SOURCE MARKETS FOR FDI INVESTMENT INTO BELGIUM, JAN 2003-DEC 2020						
RANK	COUNTRY	PROJECTS	% PROJECTS	CAPEX (USDm)	%CAPEX	JOBS
1	United States	309	12,28%	5 522,9	5,54%	14713
2	France	274	10,89%	7 602,9	7,62%	21844
3	Germany	154	6,12%	4 781,9	4,79%	7311
4	Netherlands	143	5,68%	2 816,1	2,82%	7577
5	United Kingdom	142	5,64%	6 612,3	6,63%	20305
6	Japan	111	4,41%	5 774,6	5,79%	36946
7	Switzerland	95	3,78%	2 640,6	2,65%	10164
8	China	91	3,62%	2 893,5	2,90%	16269
9	Sweden	90	3,58%	6 710,4	6,73%	21712
10	India	88	3,50%	5 904,7	5,92%	79858
TOTAL		**2 516**	**100,00%**	**99 740,00**	**100,00%**	**353 529**

Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

The Software and IT services sector received the largest share of FDI from Belgium in terms of projects accounting for 14% of total projects, followed by the business services sector, which accounted for 9% of all projects. The real estate sector received the highest percentage of total capex, accounting for 19%, followed by the hotels and tourism sector, accounting with 11% of the total capex.





Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

The leading investing company was Solvay, with the company investing in 105 projects in the chemicals sector, at a total value of approximately USD7,35bn. Radisson Hospitality was the second largest investing company by project, with 47 projects. Park Inn was the third largest investing company investing in 39 projects.

TOP 10 FDI SOURCE MARKETS FOR FDI INVESTMENT INTO BELGIUM, JAN 2003-DEC 2020						
RANK	**COUNTRY**	**PROJECTS**	**% PROJECTS**	**CAPEX (USDm)**	**%CAPEX**	**JOBS**
1	Solvay	105	4,17%	7 352,9	7,37%	12490
2	Radisson Hospitality (Rezidor Hotel Group)	47	1,87%	4 908,9	4,92%	11233
3	Park Inn	39	1,55%	3 472,8	3,48%	7024
4	Umicore	31	1,23%	1 582,2	1,59%	5918
5	Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev)	30	1,19%	1 134,5	1,14%	4141
6	Puratos	27	1,07%	605,0	0,61%	2975
7	Radisson Blu (Radisson SAS Hotels & Resorts)	27	1,07%	2 626,6	2,63%	4922
8	Ageas (Fortis)	22	0,87%	820,3	0,82%	3564
9	Azelis	21	0,83%	207,4	0,21%	790
10	Warehouses De Pauw (WDP)	21	0,83%	1 522,6	1,53%	19575
TOTAL		**2 516**	**100,00%**	**99 740,00**	**100,00%**	**353 529**

Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

4.3 Investment Relations between South Africa and Belgium

Belgium FDI to South Africa

Between January 2003 and December 2020, a total of 16 FDI projects were recorded from Belgium to South Africa. These projects represent a total capital investment of USD1.05bn, which is an average investment of USD65,79m per project. During the period, a total of 1,572jobs were created.

Belgium FDI into the Western Cape, 2003 - 2020							
Project date	**Investing company**	**Destination state**	**Sector**	**Cluster**	**Activity**	**Capex (USDm)**	**Jobs created**
Sep-19	South African Breweries	Western Cape	Food & Beverages	Agribusiness	Research & Development	5,24	17
Sep-19	TVH Parts South Africa	KwaZulu-Natal	Industrial equipment	Industrial	Sales, Marketing & Support	3	12
Jul-17	South African Breweries	Gauteng	Food & Beverages	Agribusiness	Manufacturing	104,55	35
Jul-17	South African Breweries	Gauteng	Food & Beverages	Agribusiness	Manufacturing	104,55	35
Jun-14	Ixerv	KwaZulu-Natal	Software & IT services	ICT & Electronics	Business Services	5,5	137
Jun-14	Keestrack	Mpumalanga	Industrial equipment	Industrial	Headquarters	11,5	48
May-14	Helion Research	Gauteng	Business services	Creative Industries	Headquarters	12,1	75
Oct-13	Belgacom International Carrier Services (BICS)	Not Specified	Communications	ICT & Electronics	Sales, Marketing & Support	4,7	37
Dec-10	Sarens South Africa	Western Cape	Industrial equipment	Industrial	Sales, Marketing & Support	2,9	17
Nov-10	Park Inn	Western Cape	Hotels & tourism	Tourism	Construction	129,8	219
Nov-10	Radisson Blu (Radisson SAS Hotels & Resorts)	Not Specified	Hotels & tourism	Tourism	Construction	129,8	219
Sep-09	Electrawinds	Eastern Cape	Renewable energy	Environmental Technology	Electricity	159	31
Nov-08	Radisson Hospitality (Rezidor Hotel Group)	Eastern Cape	Hotels & tourism	Tourism	Construction	129,8	219
Jan-08	Park Inn	Gauteng	Hotels & tourism	Tourism	Construction	129,8	219
Nov-04	Candico	Gauteng	Food & Beverages	Agribusiness	Manufacturing	5	33
Feb-03	Radisson Hospitality (Rezidor Hotel Group)	Not Specified	Hotels & tourism	Tourism	Construction	115,4	219
TOTAL						**1,052,642**	**1 572**

Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

4.3.1 South African FDI to Belgium

Between January 2003 and December 2020, a total of 10 outward FDI projects were recorded from South Africa to Belgium. These projects represent a total capital investment of USD303,0m, which is an average investment of USD30.3m per project. During the period, a total of 309 jobs were created.

South Africa FDI into Belgium, 2003 - 2020							
Project date	**Investing company**	**Destination state**	**Sector**	**Cluster**	**Activity**	**Capex (USDm)**	**Jobs**
Dec 2020	Simera Sense	Somerset West	Space & defence	ICT & Electronics	Sales, Marketing & Support	0,5	5
Apr 2020	GlueData	Cape Town		ICT & Electronics	Sales, Marketing & Support	3,6	2
Apr 2018	Broekhuizen Metal Pressings	Cape Town	Metals	Industrial	Sales, Marketing & Support	0,8	8
May 2017	Metacom	Cape Town	Communications	ICT & Electronics	Sales, Marketing & Support	2,2	6
Feb 2017	Sappi	Johannesburg	Paper, printing & packaging	Wood, Apparel & Related Products	Manufacturing	136,5	150
Oct 2015	The Airplane Factory	Johannesburg	Aerospace	Transport Equipment	Manufacturing	3,5	3
Aug 2014	Bidvest Deli XL	Johannesburg	Food & Beverages	Agribusiness	Logistics, Distribution & Transportation	13,6	14
Apr 2010	Mondi Coatings	Johannesburg	Plastics	Consumer Goods	Manufacturing	13,7	23
Apr 2010	ECHO Group	Not Specified	Building materials	Construction	Manufacturing	17,2	46
Feb 2008	Dimension Data Europe	Johannesburg	Software & IT services	ICT & Electronics	ICT & Internet Infrastructure	111,4	52
TOTAL						**303,0**	**309**

Source: FDI Intelligence, 2021

5. Tourism

Tourists travelling from Belgium to South Africa are predominantly visiting for holiday, MICE and visiting friends and relatives. The Belgian market to South Africa is mainly between the ages of 25 and 54 years, with 22,1% in the 18 – 24-year category; 29,4% in the 25 – 34 years category; 12,6% in the 35 – 44 years category; and 45 – 54 years category holding 17,9% of the visitors. In 2018, 65,1% of Belgian travelers to South Africa were first time visitors to the country and 34,9% were repeat visitors.

Over the last 5 years the Western Cape saw the strongest volume in Belgian tourists in 2017 (32 753). Belgians love gastronomy. They love good food, and the Western Cape is considered one of the best areas to entice travelers in great food and wine. A decline of -13,2% was recorded in 2018. This may be highly contributed to the drought and the negativity raised by the phenomenon.

Period	Tourist Arrivals	Y-O-Y % Change
2014	25 281	-
2015	23 534	-6,9%
2016	26 548	12,8%
2017	32 753	23,4%
2018	28 432	-13,2%

Source: SA Tourism, 2018

Inbound Passenger Performance: Belgium – Cape Town				
Country	Passengers 2018	% Change 2017-18	Passengers Jan - Oct 2019	% Change Jan - Oct 2018-19
Belgium	32 969	10%	23 444	-9%

Source: SA Tourism, 2018

Top 5 Cities: Belgium – Cape Town					
Rank	City	Passengers 2018	% Change 2017-18	Passengers Jan – Oct 2019	% Change Jan - Oct 2018-19
1	Brussels	32 969	10%	23 444	-9%
2	Antwerp	263	10%	159	-14%

Source: SA Tourism, 2018

6. Western Cape Investment Opportunities

WESTERN CAPE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELGIUM COMPANIES, 2017
Agribusiness Opportunities:
• Niche markets such as biltong, herbal tea and ostrich meat are likely to find a burgeoning global audience among health-conscious consumers. • The increasing use of genetically modified crops will help to significantly improve yields and output. • Corn production would benefit from a decision to lift the ban on the use of the crop for biofuel. • Sugar consumption is set to rise and, along with disposable incomes, there will be growth in the fast food and casual dining industries. • Development of food supply chain technologies especially in food safety • Growing and exporting of cut and dried flowers. • Expand domestic fruit juice concentrate production. • Extend production of organic products for domestic and export markets. • Expand production of honey bush teas to meet growing consumer demand. • Expand production and processing of ostrich products. • Expand production of high-quality wines for export and establish boutique cellars. • Modernise and expand wine and beverage production facilities. • Expand packaging, freezing and canning facilities for export products. • Cuniculture (Rabbit farming). • Agri tourism • Cold storage facilities • Multiple opportunities in agribusiness value chain • Per capita food consumption is forecast to grow dynamically over our forecast period, opening expansion opportunities for existing companies. • Several food segments remain underdeveloped and would benefit from further investment. • Many industry sub-sectors, such as energy drinks, tea, and coffee, are far from saturated and would benefit from further investment. • Rising health-consciousness is boosting demand for low-calorie soft drinks. • Scope for growth in high-end premium retailing as South Africa gets richer over the long term.
ICT Opportunities:
• In the personal devices market vendors will be able to tap demand from first-time buyers and in the upgrade/replacement market as the economic environment becomes more supportive. • Improvements to network infrastructure an enabler for device sales, as well as wider adoption of cloud services and smart infrastructure. • Potential for South Africa to become a cloud services hub in the region due to relative strengths in network connectivity and legal environment. Strong private investment in key industry verticals, including financial services, retail, and manufacturing. • Vibrant small- and medium-sized business sector will sustain demand for IT products and services.
Oil & Gas
• Considerable offshore exploration opportunities with major companies involved in upstream activity. • Shale gas resources in the Karoo Basin are thought to be among the largest in the world. • Coal-bed methane potential in the Karoo, with positive pilot production displaying upside potential. • The potential development of the LNG IPP Programme presents notable upside to gas imports. • The proposed separation of oil and gas regulation from legislation covering the mining industry could provide greater regulatory clarity. • Considerable offshore exploration opportunities in South Africa. • Shale gas resources in Karoo Basin. • Services facility: Port development and management. • Onshore and offshore maintenance. • Pipeline engineering and construction (both subsea and onshore). • Lack of gas infrastructure: LNG facilities plant required: over reliance on imports and Eskom needed to reduce reliance on diesel due to costs and shift towards gas. • Upgrading of refineries required to meet standards. • Building a new refinery as future forecast is that the consumption will outstrip production.

• Storage facilities.
Real Estate Opportunities:
• Good retail sales, despite a slowing economy, reveal potential for relevant commercial unit developments, as well as distribution space. • A developing REIT market will attract foreign investment further down the line. • The anticipated rebound in GDP growth indicates potential for the broader commercial real estate market, amid improving demographics. • Building of boutique hotels (5-star, 4 star and 3 star) due to growing tourism market
Electronics Opportunities:
• Suppliers of parts and components for wind turbines and photo voltaic. • Manufacture of automotive and electronic components. • Manufacture of consumer electronics.

Source: BMI, 2017, SAOGA, 2016, AIU, 2016

**Note: Statistics SA made changes to the release of its Tourism & Migration reports in 2014 and now no longer report on transit arrivals. As a result of this change, the weighting methodology has been revised and the results are now not comparable to data prior to 2013. 2014 represents the beginning of a new series of data.*

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