

BELGIUM - LUXEMBOURG

Economic classification:	Industrial Market economy	
Oil exporter or importer (net):	Importer	
Annual per capita income:	US\$6,400	year 1982
Annual per capita GNP	US\$9,700	year 1982
Average annual growth 1960-80	3.8%	
Annual inflation rate 1970-80	7.6	
Annual inflation rate (current)	7.8%	
Volume of imports	55 billion US\$	year 1983
Of which food	72.0%	year 1983
Of which fuels	20.0%	year 1983
Principal foreign exchange earning export:	Base Metals&Products	
Debt service as % of GNP	60.0%	year 1982
Debt service as % of exports	100.0%	year 1982
Population	10.4 million	year 1983
Annual population growth	0.2 %	years 1983-2000
Annual Consumption:		
Flour	65 kg/capita	year 1983
Meat	80 kg/capita	year 1983
Vegetable Oil	10 kg/capita	year 1983

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Crop Situation and Outlook

The 1983 crop was lower than average due to a very wet spring followed by hot dry weather. The outlook for 1984 is, in general, very encouraging and latest estimates are that crops will be above average.

2. Foreign Exchange Situation

The high rate of the Canadian dollar vis-a-vis the Belgian franc is currently a major drawback for Canadian suppliers. There are currently no priorities for imports of food and agricultural inputs. Belgium is not likely to receive international aid other than that provided by the CAP.

3. Fertilizer Situation

There are no major problems in the fertilizer supply situation due to reliable sources of supply within the EEC.

4. Import Mechanism

Grain imports are carried out by private importers. There have not been any changes in the import structure over the past year and changes in the current established procedure are not foreseen.