
BELGIUM: BASIC DATA

- GEOGRAPHY** Total land area for Belgium is 30,500 square kilometres, broken down as 20 percent arable, 21 percent pasture and 17 percent forest.
- CLIMATE** Temperate, the hottest month is July (12-23°C), and the coldest month is January (-1-4°C). The driest month is March (53 mm average rainfall), and the wettest month is July (95 mm average rainfall).
- POPULATION** 10.04 million (1992).
- MAIN CITIES**
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|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Brussels | 984,000 | Charleroi | 218,000 |
| Antwerp | 491,000 | Liège | 204,000 |
| Ghent | 257,000 | Bruges | 133,000 |
- TIME** Belgium is 1 hour ahead of GMT, 2 hours ahead in summer.
- MEASURES** The metric system is used throughout Belgium.
- LANGUAGE** Flemish, French and German, with most businessmen fluent in English.
- CURRENCY** The Belgian franc (*Bfr*) is broken down into 100 centimes. In 1993, the mean rate of exchange stood at approximately 28Bfr=Cdn\$.
- HOLIDAYS** Public holidays fall on January 1, Easter Monday, May 1, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, July 21 (Independence Day), August 15, November 1, November 11 (Armistice Day), December 25; in Flanders: July 11; in Wallonia: September 27.