

FACT SHEET: BELGIUM

Background Information

| General statistics on population & employment* | Value | Year | Source |
|---|--------|------|-------------------------|
| Working age population (age 15-64) | 7,307 | 2019 | Eurostat ^[1] |
| Active population, labour force (age 15-64) | 5,044 | 2019 | Eurostat ^[1] |
| Inactive population, outside labour force (age 15-64) | 2,263 | 2019 | Eurostat ^[1] |
| Elderly population (age 65+) | 2,080 | 2019 | Eurostat ^[1] |
| Total population (all ages) | 11,485 | 2019 | Eurostat ^[2] |

* number of persons reported (in thousands)

Coverage

| Number of persons potentially insured in mandatory pension schemes* | Value | Year | Source |
|---|-------|------|-------------------------|
| Old age pension scheme for employees (<i>Werknemerspensioen</i>) | 4,086 | 2020 | National ^[3] |
| Old age pension scheme for the self-employed (<i>Zelfstandigenpensioen</i>) | 1,144 | 2019 | National ^[4] |
| Old age pension scheme for the public sector (<i>Ambtenarenpensioen</i>) | 545 | 2019 | National ^[5] |

* number of persons reported (in thousands)

| Coverage of funded and private pension plans* | Value | Year | Source |
|---|---------------|--------------|--|
| Mandatory/quasi-mandatory pension plans | x | 2017 | OECD ^[6] |
| Auto-enrolment | x | 2017 | OECD ^[6] |
| Voluntary: occupational pension plans (here: for employees/supplementary pensions for the self-employed) | 50.6 | 2017 | OECD ^[6] |
| Voluntary: private pension plans (here: retirement savings/long-term savings) | n.a. ~38.3 | 2019 2020 | OECD ^[6] National ^[7] |
| Voluntary: total | n.a. | 2017 | OECD ^[6] |

* % of the working age population (age 15-64);

'n.a.' = information not available; 'x' = not applicable

Financial Protection in Old Age

| National net pension replacement rates* | Value | Year | Source |
|---|-------|------|---------------------|
| Total net (with voluntary) | 72.4 | 2018 | OECD ^[8] |
| Net mandatory public and private | 66.2 | 2018 | OECD ^[8] |
| Net mandatory public | 66.2 | 2018 | OECD ^[8] |

* % of individual pre-retirement earnings

| Reference EU28 and OECD: net pension replacement rates* | Value | Year | Source |
|---|-------|------|---------------------|
| EU: total net (with voluntary) | 67.0 | 2018 | OECD ^[8] |
| EU: net mandatory public and private | 63.5 | 2018 | OECD ^[8] |
| EU: net mandatory public | 55.5 | 2018 | OECD ^[9] |
| OECD: total net (with voluntary) | 65.4 | 2018 | OECD ^[8] |
| OECD: net mandatory public and private | 58.6 | 2018 | OECD ^[8] |
| OECD: net mandatory public | 47.3 | 2018 | OECD ^[9] |

* % of individual pre-retirement earnings

References

- [1] Source: European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), available at [Eurostat](#); dataset: 'Population by Sex, Age, Citizenship and Labour Status (1 000)', ID: [lfsa_pganws](#), accessed on 10/11/2020; unit of measure: number of persons (in thousands); definitions: the 'working age population (age 15-64)' includes all persons of 15 to 64 years of age; the 'active population, labour force (age 15-64)' is defined as the sum of employed and unemployed persons of 15 to 64 years of age; the 'inactive population, outside the labour force (age 15-64)' consists of all persons who are classified neither as employed nor as unemployed of 15 to 64 years of age; the 'elderly population (age 65+)' includes all persons of 65 years of age or older.
- [2] Source: Annual National Accounts, available at [Eurostat](#); dataset: 'Population and Employment', ID: [nama_10_pe](#), accessed on 10/11/2020; unit of measure: number of persons (in thousands); definition: the 'population (total)' consists of all persons, nationals or foreigners, who are permanently settled in the economic territory of the country, even if they are temporarily absent from it, on a given date. A person staying or intending to stay for at least one year is considered to be settled in the territory. By convention, the total population excludes foreign students and members of foreign armed forces stationed in a country.
- [3] Source: [Rijksdienst voor Sociale Zekerheid](#) (RSZ), [Cijfers/Tewerkstellingsbarometer: May 2021](#), accessed on 28/06/2021. Please note that the number of persons refers to the number of employed persons in 2020. Additional information on benefit recipients is provided by the [OECD Social Benefit Recipients Database](#) (SOCR).
- [4] Source: [Rijksdienst voor de Sociale Verzekeringen der Zelfstandigen](#) (RSVZ), [Basisstatistiken en Detailtabellen Zelfstandigen](#), accessed on 28/06/2021. Please note that the number of persons refers to the number of self-employed persons in 2019.
- [5] Source: [Rijksdienst voor Sociale Zekerheid](#) (RSZ), Verdeling van de arbeidsplaatsen naar plaats van tewerkstelling, vierde kwartaal 2019, dataset: '[Indeling van de werknemers op 31 december 2019 naar plaats van tewerkstelling en naar dimensieklasse van de vestigingseenheden, Overheidssector, Ambtenaren, Tabel 29](#)', accessed on 28/06/2021. Please note that the number of persons refers to the number of civil servants employed for the federal, regional and local authorities, army, police and public companies in 2019.
- [6] Source: OECD Global Pension Statistics, available at OECD Pensions at a Glance 2019, Table 9.1, Coverage of Funded and Private Pension Plans in Selected OECD and Other Jurisdictions (<https://doi.org/10.1787/888934042371>); unit of measure: percentage of the working age population (age 15-64); definition: coverage rates are provided with respect to the working age population (i.e. individuals aged 15 to 64 years). Active members are individuals with assets in a pension plan who are not retired yet. They may be actively contributing or may be holding rights in a plan. For more information see: OECD (2019), Pensions at a Glance 2019: OECD and G20 Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b6d3dcfc-en>.
- [7] Assuralia (Beroepsvereniging van verzekeringsondernemingen) (2020). [Assuralia vult het huiswerk van de Pensioencommissie aan met eigen voorstellen](#). According to the [Belgian Insurance Association](#) (Assuralia), 2.8 million persons participated in a privately funded retirement savings and long-term savings plan (Pensioensparen en langetermijnsparen) in 2020 in Belgium. This number corresponds to approximately 38.3% of the working age population in 2019.
- [8] Source: OECD Pension Models, available at OECD Pensions at a Glance 2019, Table 5.6, Gross and Net Pension Replacement Rates from Mandatory (Public and Private) and Voluntary Pension Schemes (<http://doi.org/10.1787/888934041611>); unit of measure: percentage of individual pre-retirement earnings; definition: the 'net replacement rate' is defined as the individual net pension entitlement divided by net pre-retirement earnings, taking into account personal income taxes and social security contributions paid by workers and pensioners. It measures how effectively a pension system provides a retirement income to replace earnings, the main source of income before retirement. Pension entitlements are based on current legislation in OECD countries. The values of all pension system parameters reflect the situation in 2018 and onwards. The calculations show the pension benefits of a worker who enters the system that year at age 22 and retires after a full career. The baseline results are shown for single individuals. For more information see: OECD (2019), Pensions at a Glance 2019: OECD and G20 Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b6d3dcfc-en>. Further information is provided in [OECD country profiles](#).
- [9] The net pension replacement rate of mandatory public schemes is calculated on the basis of the net pension replacement rates of mandatory schemes holding the relationship between the net and the gross pension replacement rate constant [net RR mandatory public = gross RR mandatory public x (net RR mandatory total / gross RR mandatory total)]; source: OECD Pension Models, available at OECD Pensions at a Glance 2019, Table 5.3, Gross Pension Replacement Rates from Mandatory Public, Mandatory Private and Voluntary Private Pension Schemes (<http://doi.org/10.1787/888934041497>), Table 5.6, Gross and Net Pension Replacement Rates from Mandatory (Public and Private) and Voluntary Pension Schemes (<http://doi.org/10.1787/888934041611>); unit of measure: percentage of individual pre-retirement earnings; definition: the gross replacement rate is defined as the gross pension entitlement divided by gross pre-retirement earnings. The net replacement rate is defined as the individual net pension entitlement divided by net pre-retirement earnings, taking into account personal income taxes and social security contributions paid by workers and pensioners. For more information see: OECD (2019), Pensions at a Glance 2019: OECD and G20 Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b6d3dcfc-en>.