

## Country



[Belgium](#)



[Lebanon](#)

## Leader



King: Philippe



President: Michel Suleiman

## Population

10,444,268

4,131,583

## Life Expectancy

79.780 years

75.460 years

## Capital City

Brussels

Beirut

## Largest city

Brussels (population: 1,019,020)

Beirut (population: 1,916,100)

## Human Development Index

0.948

0.796

## GDP per capita

\$38,500 US

\$16,000 US

## Literacy Rate

99%

87.4%

## Corruption Perception Index

7.3

3

## Percentage of Women in Parliament

36.2%

4.7%

## Wealthiest Citizens

Albert Frere (\$2.4bn US)

Najib Mikati (\$2.0bn US)

## Unemployment Rate

7.600%

## Death Penalty

Abolished

Legal

## Political System

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy

republic

## Independence date

4 October 1830 (a provisional government declared independence from the Netherlands); 21 July 1831 (King LEOPOLD I ascended to the throne)

22 November 1943 (from League of Nations mandate under French administration)

## Religions

Roman Catholic 75%, other (includes Protestant) 25%

Muslim 59.7% (Shia, Sunni, Druze, Isma'elite, Alawite or Nusayri), Christian 39% (Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Melkite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Chaldean, Assyrian, Copt, Protestant), other 1.3%

*note:* 17 religious sects recognized

## Languages

Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%, legally bilingual (Dutch and French)

Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian

## Exports

machinery and equipment, chemicals, diamonds, metals and metal products, foodstuffs

## External Debt

\$1,424,000,000,000 \$

## Exchange Rate

euros (EUR) per US dollar - 0.6802 (2008), 0.7345 (2007), 0.7964 (2006), 0.8041 (2005), 0.8054 (2004)

## Military Budget as percentage of GDP

1.300%

## Beijing Olympics Medal Count

2 0

## Location

Western Europe, bordering the North Sea, between France and the Netherlands

Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Israel and Syria

## Area

30,528 km sq

10,400 km sq

## Coastline

67 km

225 km

## Climate

temperate; mild winters, cool summers; rainy, humid, cloudy

Mediterranean; mild to cool, wet winters with hot, dry summers; Lebanon mountains experience heavy winter snows