

About Brussels

Brussels hosts most of the EU institutions, as well as representation offices and economic decision-making centres for the Member states. The presence of those institutions has attracted many international and interregional agencies, which largely exceed the European framework.



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Capital of Europe and international city

Brussels hosts major international organisations such as the EU institutions, the NATO headquarters and many other international actors and NGOs. After Washington, Brussels hosts the largest number of lobby groups. The city is also the second largest diplomatic centre in the world with over 2500 diplomats. Brussels is also one of the world's largest press centres.

The city's population exceeds one million, which represents 10% of Belgium's entire population. Almost one-third of Brussels' population has foreign origins.

Economy

According to a report published by *Dun & Bradstreet and Analytica Consulting*, the Brussels-Capital Region generates a total turnover of 247,9 billion Euros, which represents **19,1 % of the Belgian GDP**. The city's economy is highly export-oriented.

International institutions make up for about 13 to 14% of the city's employment and GDP. Brussels hosts some **16,000 business congresses a year**, which represents 2.5% of the city's GDP.

Brussels hosts the headquarters of many major Belgian companies (Brussels Airlines, Solvay, UCB, Umicore) and more than **1500 foreign companies** including AT&T, Coca-Cola, Hewlett Packard, Huawei, IBM, Sony, Tata Group, Toyota etc. Most of these companies are multinational services companies. The main sectors include finance, law and ICT.

Over 60 foreign banks are established in Brussels which makes the city the 7th financial centre in the world.

The Belgian capital is the second industrial centre of the country, just after the city of Antwerp. Brussels' industry is particularly **high-tech oriented**. 82% of the city's SME are involved in the services industry.

Flagship sectors in Brussels include:

- ICT and communication;
- Life tech;
- Finance and law consulting, communication agencies;
- Creative industries such as fashion and design.

(Source : Position paper 'Brussels Metroplitan')