



THE U.S. AND BELGIUM: STRONG PARTNERS

POLITICAL AND SECURITY ALLIANCE

- Belgium is a close U.S. ally and partner
- Active participant in NATO, founding member of the EU
- Member of the coalition to defeat ISIS
- Belgium is implementing sanctions on Russia
- Provider of military, humanitarian, and reconstruction assistance to Ukraine
- Provider of development assistance to 14 of the poorest countries in the world, mostly in Africa



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
**Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation**



ABOUT BELGIUM

Population	11.7 mln (about Ohio- 7th most populous state in U.S.)
Land mass	11,787 sq miles -about Maryland
At the heart of Europe	Ideal gateway to reach the EU's 440 million consumers, international decision-making center
GDP world ranking	23 (IMF est., 2023)
GDP growth	1.4% (2023)
Low inflation	2.3% (2023)
Major Exporter to EU (goods)	68% of production (\$ 633 bln, 2022)
Major Exporter in goods	8th exporter in the world (2022)
Export goods and services (% of GDP)	95.3% (2022)
R&D powerhouse	Highest R&D expenditures as % of GDP in the EU; Large presence of industrial R&D centers, given available pool of talent and Belgium as a test market for consumers
Innovation Leader	Innovation leader in European Innovation Scoreboard (European Commission); small size encourages innovation clusters
Educational powerhouse	Highest concentration of universities per capita in EU
Leader in renewable energy production	Energy production mix: nuclear (38%), fossil fuels (33%), wind (15%), solar (6%). Offshore wind farms produced energy supply for 2.3 million households (2023). First artificial energy island in the world.
Global leader in life sciences	EU's 2nd largest exporter of medicine and vaccines. 1st in world in number of trials/capita. Belgium the "Silicon Valley" of vaccine development
Port of Antwerp-Bruges Gateway to Europe	Gateway to Europe for U.S. exports, 2nd largest petrochemical cluster in the world after Houston. Partnership between the two ports to develop green transition



BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT



U.S.-Belgian investment:

- Almost \$130 bln mutual direct investment, generating more than 190,000 jobs (76,000 by BE in the U.S.)
- BE is 13th investor in the U.S., present in most U.S. states



Belgium's pharmaceutical industry played a critical role in the global production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines

- Pfizer vaccine produced in Puurs, Belgium
- J&J vaccine research in Belgium



U.S.-Belgian trade:

- BE is top 20 trading partner for U.S. , annual trade of around \$73 bln (imports and exports)
- BE is 14th export destination for the US (goods, 2023)
- The U.S. is Belgium's largest client outside of the EU (4th overall), and its 5th supplier
- 60% of BE exports to the U.S. and 42% of U.S. exports to BE are chemical and pharma products (including vaccines, medications)



MAIN BELGIAN INVESTMENT IN THE U.S.

Company	Sector
AB INBEV	Beer
BALTA	Textile floor coverings
BARCO	Imaging technology, digital projection- scoreboards, video walls, medical imaging, movie projections. Powering 55% of world's movie theaters.
BEAUFLOOR	Flooring
BEKAERT	Steel wire transformations, coatings
BMT AEROSPACE	Gears, gearboxes, transmissions and actuators for the aerospace industry
BPOST (RADIAL)	Post & e-commerce logistics
CARMEUSE	Producer of lime and limestone
CARTAMUNDI	Playing cards, trading cards, board games
DECEUNINCK	PVC systems for windows and doors
DEME	Offshore wind development- Belgium has 6th largest offshore wind capacity globally
DESOTEC	Sustainable, mobile filtration solutions, purifying liquids and gases
FN	Firearms for law enforcement, military, commercial market and recreation
IBA	Cancer treatment, proton therapy
IMEC	Semiconductor R&D
KATOEN NATIE	Port logistics
LHOIST	Global leader in lime, dolime and minerals
LOTUS BAKERIES	Snacking products including Biscoff cookie, speculoos cookie butter
PURATOS	Manufacturer and supplier of bakery ingredients
REYNAERS ALUMINIUM	Development and marketing of innovative, sustainable aluminium solutions for windows, doors and façades
SOLVAY	Advanced materials, chemicals
SYENSQO	Scientific discovery and innovation in clean mobility, renewable materials, biotechnology