Debt is increasing at a higher pace than the OECD average

In 2014, the deficit and structural deficit reached 3.2% and 2.2% a share of GDP and potential GDP respectively. In consequence, from 2013 to 2014, Belgium’s general government gross debt—according to the System of National Accounts definition—as percentage of GDP further augmented by 12.1 percentage points from 117.6% to 129.7%, the fourth highest increase for countries with available information.

Public procurement practices incorporate environmental and socio-economic policy objectives

Belgium is one of the OECD countries (71%) that not only has a strategy for promoting sustainable public procurement, but also measures the results of its strategy/ies. In Belgium, 83% of public procurement is carried out by the sublevels of governments, the second highest for OECD countries. As a result, a procurement strategy helps to identify synergies across institutional levels (European, federal, regional and local) and channels for dialogue between the government, companies and purchasing units. Additional policy measures are being explored, such as linking the application of sustainability criteria within the public sector with budgetary incentives.

Belgian citizens are satisfied with the quality of public services, in particular with health and education

Satisfaction with health and educational services is among the highest in the OECD. About 90% percent of Belgians are satisfied with the quality of health services they receive, whereas on average only 71% of the population is satisfied across the OECD. A similar, positive outcome can be observed for educational services, where over 80% of Belgian citizens declare themselves satisfied, compared to 67% on average in the OECD. In contrast, Belgian citizens’ confidence in the judicial system (49%) is below the OECD average (54%).
How to read the figures:

- **Country value in blue** (not represented if not available)
- **Average of OECD countries in green**
- **Range of OECD country values in grey**
- **Values have been rounded. n.a. refers to data not available**

**GOVERNMENT INPUTS: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

### Public Finance and Economics

#### Government revenues (2013, 2014) % of GDP

- **Belgium**: 51.1% (2014), 51.5% (2013)

Source: OECD National Accounts

#### Government expenditures (2013, 2014) % of GDP

- **Belgium**: 54.5% (2013), 54.4% (2014)

Source: OECD National Accounts

#### Public investment (2013, 2014) % of total govt. expenditures

- **Belgium**: 4.2% (2013), 4.1% (2014)

Source: OECD National Accounts

#### Government gross debt * (2013, 2014) % of GDP

- **Belgium**: 129.7% (2014), 117.6% (2013)

Source: OECD/Eurostat National Accounts * SNA definition, see Notes

### Fiscal balance * (2013, 2014) % of GDP

- **Belgium**: -3.2% (2014), -2.9% (2013)

Source: OECD National Accounts * See Notes

### Public Employment and Compensation

#### Public sector employment as % of total employment (2013)

- **Belgium**: 21.5%

Source: International Labour Organization (database)

#### Public sector employment filled by women (2013)

- **Belgium**: 56.0%

Source: International Labour Organization (database)

#### Share of women ministers (2015)

- **Belgium**: 23.1%

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database
**GOVERNMENT PROCESSES**

### Institutions

**Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2013)**

- **Belgium**
  - Moderate: 30%
  - High: 59%
  - Low: 11%

Source: OECD 2013 Survey on Centre of Government

### Regulatory Governance

**Stakeholder engagement and consultation (2014)**

- **Stakeholder engagement to inform officials about the problem and possible solutions**
  - **Primary laws**
    - **For major primary laws**
    - Belgium
      - Belgium: Moderate
    - **For subordinate regulations**
      - Belgium
        - Moderate: 3%
        - High: 15%
        - Low: 15%
      - Belgium: Moderate: 2%
    - **For some primary laws / subordinate regulations**
      - Belgium: Low: 6% (23%)
      - Belgium: Moderate: 6% (23%)
      - Belgium: High: 6% (23%)

- **Consultation on draft regulations or proposed rules**
  - **Primary laws**
    - **For major primary laws**
    - Belgium: Never: 68%
    - Belgium: Not applicable: 53%
  - **Subordinate regulations**
    - **For major subordinate regulations**
    - Belgium: Never: 53%
    - Belgium: Not applicable: 53%

Source: OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook (forthcoming)

### Public Procurement

**Procurement expenditure (2013)**

- **Belgium**
  - 26.0%
  - 29.0%

Source: OECD National Accounts

**Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2014)**

- **Support for green public procurement**
  - Belgium
    - A strategy / policy has been developed by some procuring entities: 13
    - A strategy / policy has been developed at a central level: 26
    - A strategy / policy has never been developed: 1

- **Support for SMEs**
  - Belgium
    - A strategy / policy has been developed by some procuring entities: 10
    - A strategy / policy has been developed at a central level: 25
    - A strategy / policy has never been developed: 3

- **Support for innovative goods and services**
  - Belgium
    - A strategy / policy has been developed by some procuring entities: 10
    - A strategy / policy has been developed at a central level: 23
    - A strategy / policy has never been developed: 3

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Public Procurement

### Digital Gov.

**OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2014)**

- **Belgium**
  - High level: 0.54
  - Medium level: 0.58

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

**Support for green public procurement**

- Belgium: 13
- Belgium: 26
- Belgium: 1

**Support for SMEs**

- Belgium: 10
- Belgium: 25
- Belgium: 3

**Support for innovative goods and services**

- Belgium: 10
- Belgium: 23
- Belgium: 3

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

### Public Sector Integrity

**Level of disclosure of private interests across branches of government (2014)**

- **Executive Branch**
  - Belgium
    - High level: 38
    - Medium level: 44
    - Low level: 42

- **Legislative Branch**
  - Belgium
    - High level: 64
    - Medium level: 42
    - Low level: 0

- **Judicial Branch**
  - Belgium
    - High level: 32
    - Medium level: 21
    - Low level: 26

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Managing Conflict of Interest in the Executive Branch and Whistleblower Protection
GOVERNMENT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Core Government Results and Service Delivery

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2014)

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction

Health care
- 89%
- 71%

National government
- 47%
- 42%

Education system
- 83%
- 67%

Judicial system
- 49%
- 54%

Source: Gallup World Poll

Access to healthcare (2012)

Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption

Belgium
- 3.7%

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

Equity in learning outcomes (2012)

PISA mathematics score variance by socio economic background

Belgium
- 19.6%

Source: OECD, PISA 2012 results: Excellence through equity, 2013

Changes in household disposable income, by income group (2007-2011)

Belgium

- 2.2%
- 1.3%
- 1.6%
- 0.8%

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Limited government powers (2014)

Belgium

0.81

Source: The World Justice Project

Notes
- Fiscal balance as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- Structural fiscal balance, or underlying balance, represents the fiscal balance adjusted for the state of the economic cycle (as measured by the output gap which resulted as the difference between actual and potential GDP) and one-off fiscal operations.
- Government gross debt is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.

Government at a Glance 2015

With a focus on public administration, OECD Government at a Glance 2015 provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector performance across OECD countries. Indicators on public finances and employment are provided alongside composite indexes summarising aspects of public management policies, and indicators on services to citizens in health care, education, and justice. Government at a Glance 2015 also includes indicators on key governance and public management issues, such as regulatory management, budgeting practices and procedures, public sector integrity, public procurement and core government results in terms of trust in institutions, income redistribution and efficiency and cost-effectiveness of governments.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2015 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2015-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm