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# Living & working in Wallonia-Belgium

🕒 8 April 2025

@ Online event

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# Today's Agenda

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- Belgium in a nutshell
- The Belgian labour market
- Working conditions in Belgium
- A focus on Wallonia
- How to look for a job in Belgium/Wallonia

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# Belgium in a nutshell

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# Let's speak about Belgium!

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## NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



- France
- Germany
- The Netherlands
- Luxembourg

## CAPITAL



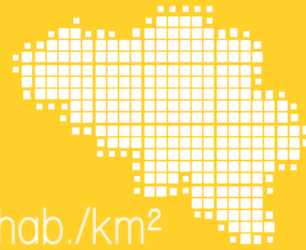
Brussels

## POPULATION



11.763.650  
inhabitants

## POPULATION DENSITY



383 inhab./km<sup>2</sup>

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Dutch

French

German

## SURFACE AREA

30.688 km<sup>2</sup>



## CURRENCY



Euro

# Why choosing Belgium?


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 Strategically located in the heart of Europe and its capital is one the three official capitals of the European Union.

 World-renowned knowledge centres and R&D initiatives

 Innovative and tech-oriented economy

 Top-ranked universities and educational institutions

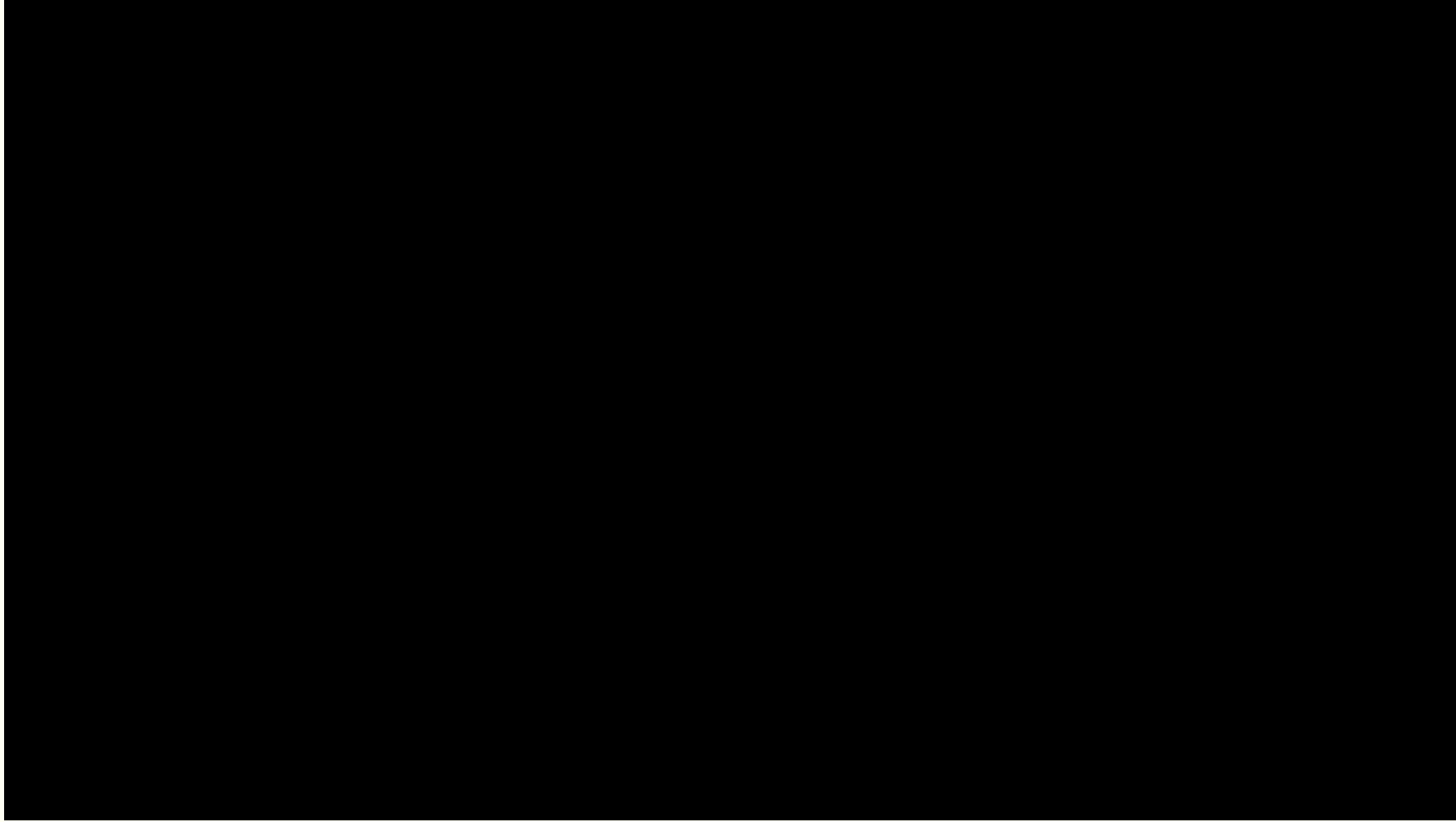
 Optimal work-life balance

 Proximity and infrastructure

 Vibrant cultural mix

# A rich culture and varied landscape

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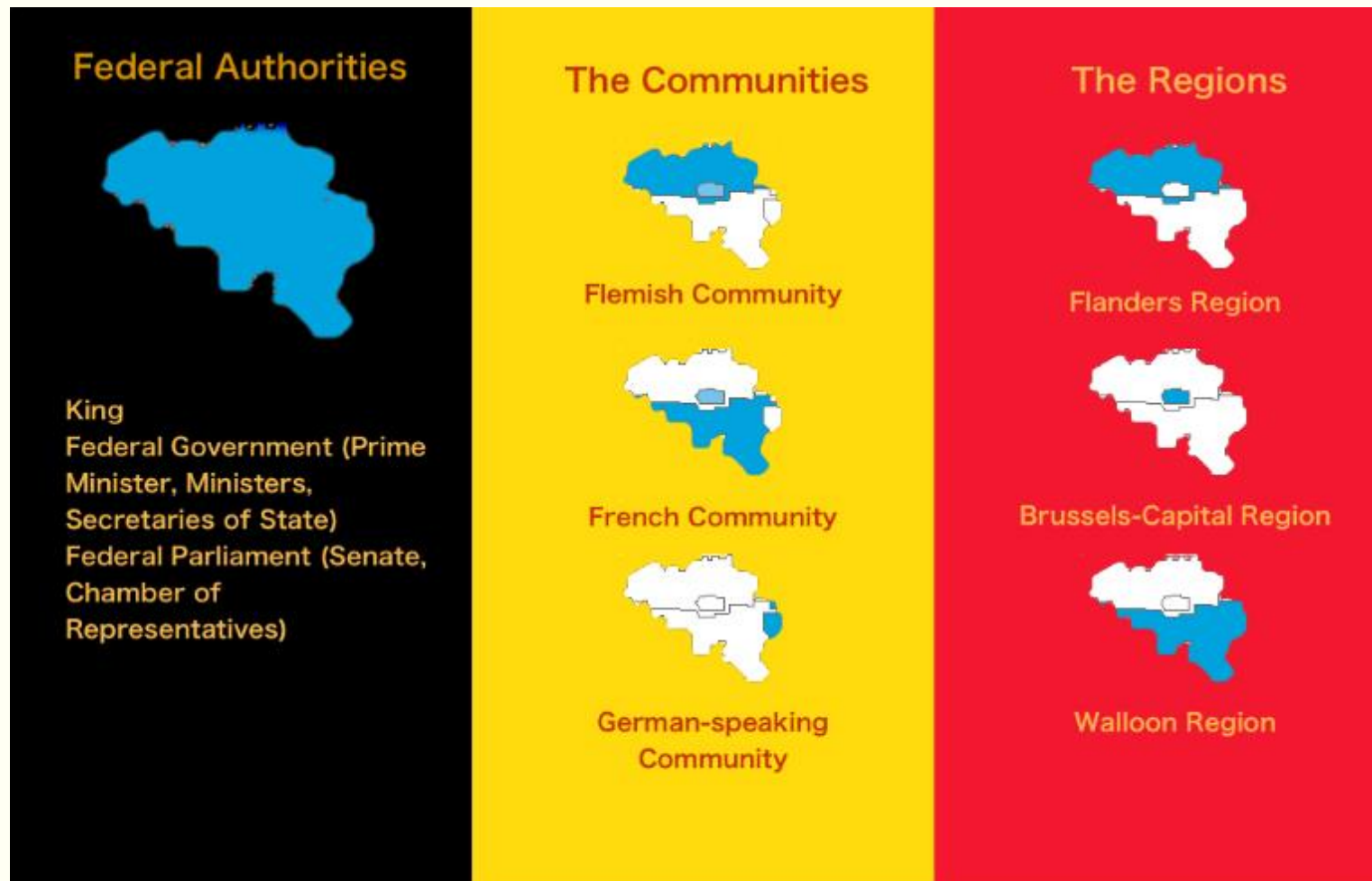


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# Such a small country... but a lot of diversity

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# The Belgian labour market

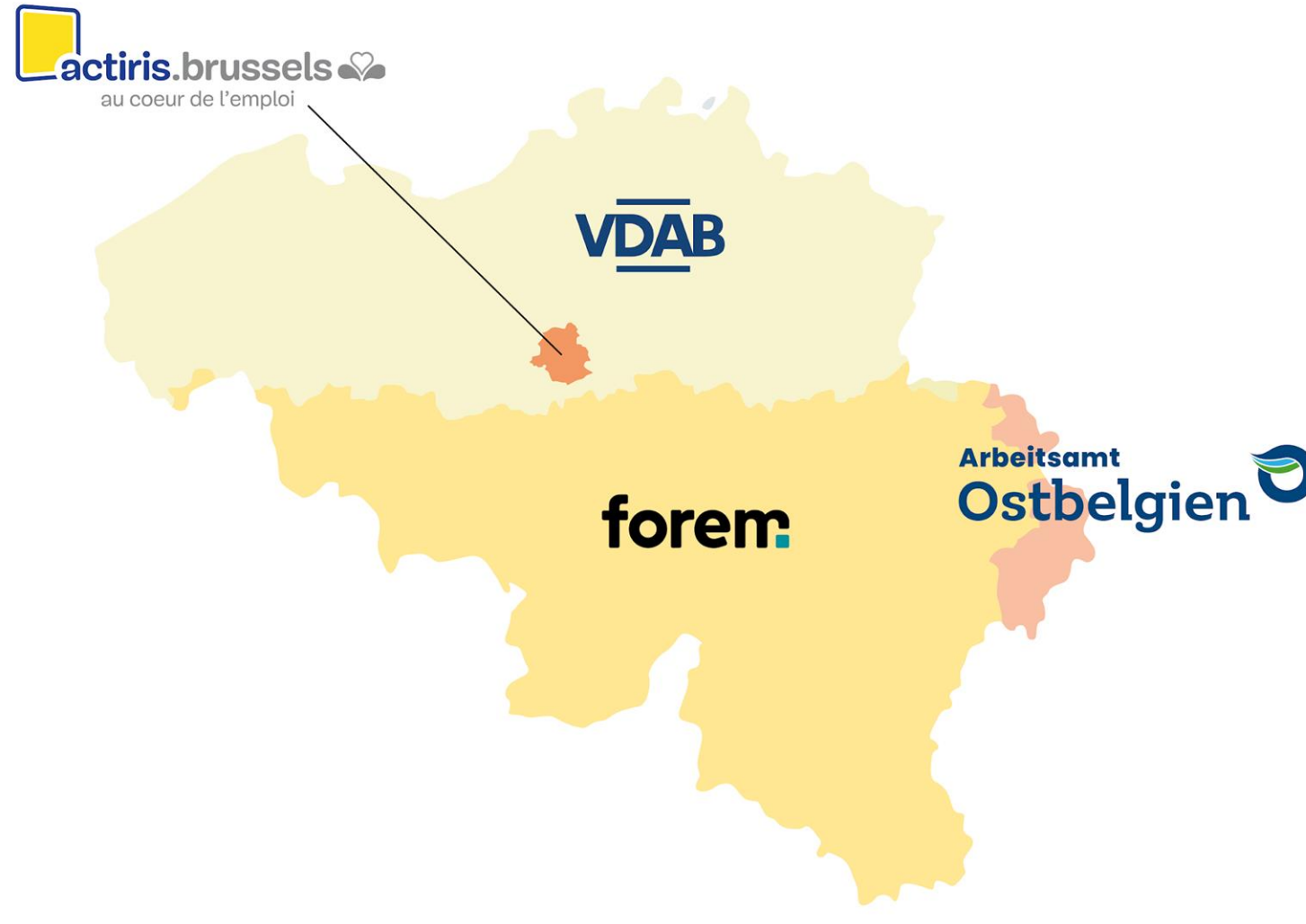
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# Regional Public Employment Services

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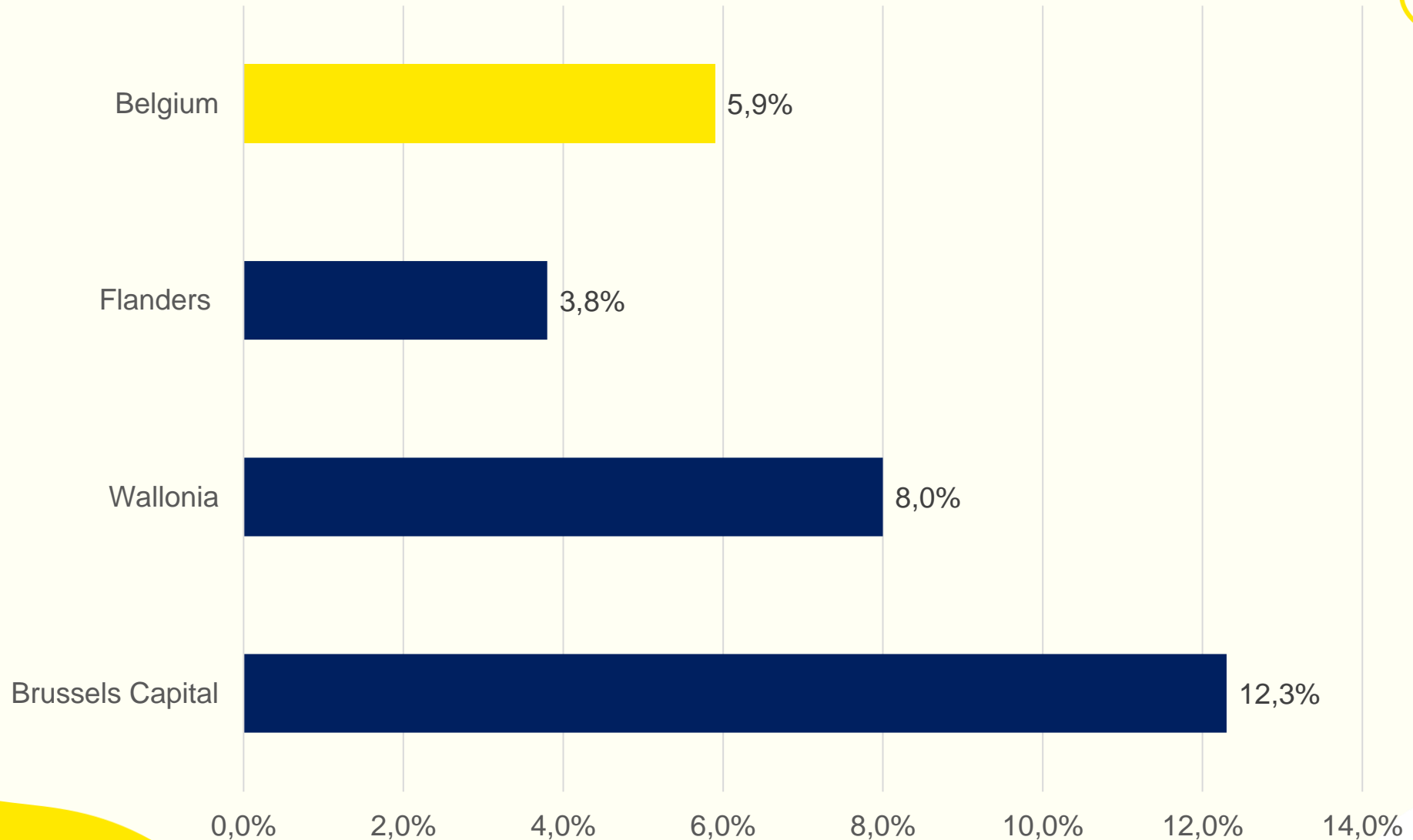


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# Unemployment rate 15-64 years (2024)

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Source: Statbel

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# Labour market characteristics

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Service-based economy with companies in the transport and communication, finance and distribution/retail sectors.



A majority of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME): 8 out of 10 companies have less than 10 workers



High rate of vacant positions (highest in the EU with the Netherlands)



High number of labour shortages



High degree of mobility of workers between the 3 regions and with neighbouring countries (Luxembourg, the Netherlands, France and Germany)



High number of permanent contracts

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# Working conditions in Belgium

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# Working conditions in Belgium

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## Working hours and leave

- 38 hours/week
- 20 paid leave/year minimum

## Salary

- Collective bargaining agreements (basic rates and index-linked increases)
- Holiday pay and optional end-of-year bonus
- Minimum monthly salary:
  - ↳ 2111.89€ gross\* or about 2001€ net
- Average monthly salary:
  - ↳ 4076€ gross\* or about 2625€ net

## How to calculate your net salary?

**GROSS SALARY**

- 13, 07% Social Security contributions

**= TAXABLE SALARY**

- Withholding Tax
- +/- Miscellaneous (travel expenses, meal vouchers)

**= NET SALARY**



# Useful links

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*To know more about Belgium, and get ready to move, check out these websites:*

[eures.europa.eu](https://eures.europa.eu)

The EURES portal with information on living and working in Belgium

[belgium.be](https://belgium.be)

The federal portal where to find detailed official information and services in Belgium

[COMING2BELGIUM](https://coming2belgium.be)

The social security webpage dedicated to newcomers

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# A focus on Wallonia

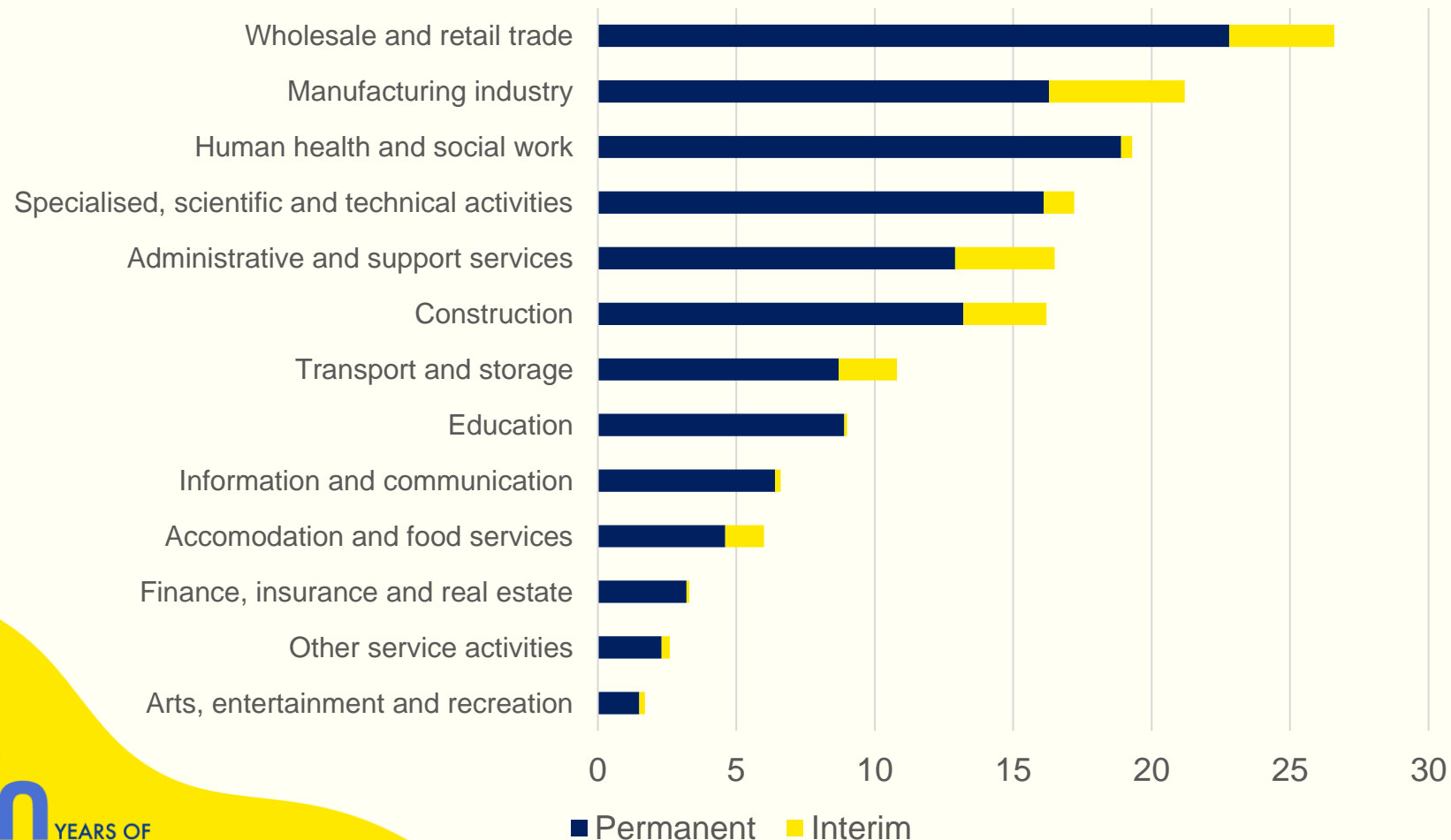
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# Key sectors and labour shortages

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## Vacant positions in Wallonia (4th quarter 2024)



- 6 sectors account for 3/4 of all jobs
- 162 critical or shortage occupations
- 50% of shortage occupations in construction and industry

# Find out more about Wallonia

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- Get to know more about the region [www.wallonia.be](http://www.wallonia.be)
- Contact us [mobilite.internationale@forem.be](mailto:mobilite.internationale@forem.be)
- Visit our website [www.leforem.be](http://www.leforem.be) (French only)



**Jobsearch**



Create and access your **personal account**



**Publish your CV** for Belgian employers



Discover our activities (**Agenda**)



Learn more about professions (**Infos métiers**)



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# How to look for a job in Belgium/Wallonia?

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# Where to look for a job?

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Check the PES' website where you want to find a job  
[actiris.brussels](http://actiris.brussels) for *Brussels*, [vdab.be](http://vdab.be) & [www.workinlanders.be](http://www.workinlanders.be) for *Flanders*, [leforem.be](http://leforem.be) for *Wallonia* and [adg.be](http://adg.be) for the *German speaking community*.



Visit the EURES portal and use the EURES network  
[eures.europa.eu](http://eures.europa.eu)



Search the internet for job offers  
Monster, Jobat, Stepstone, Indeed, Vacature.com...



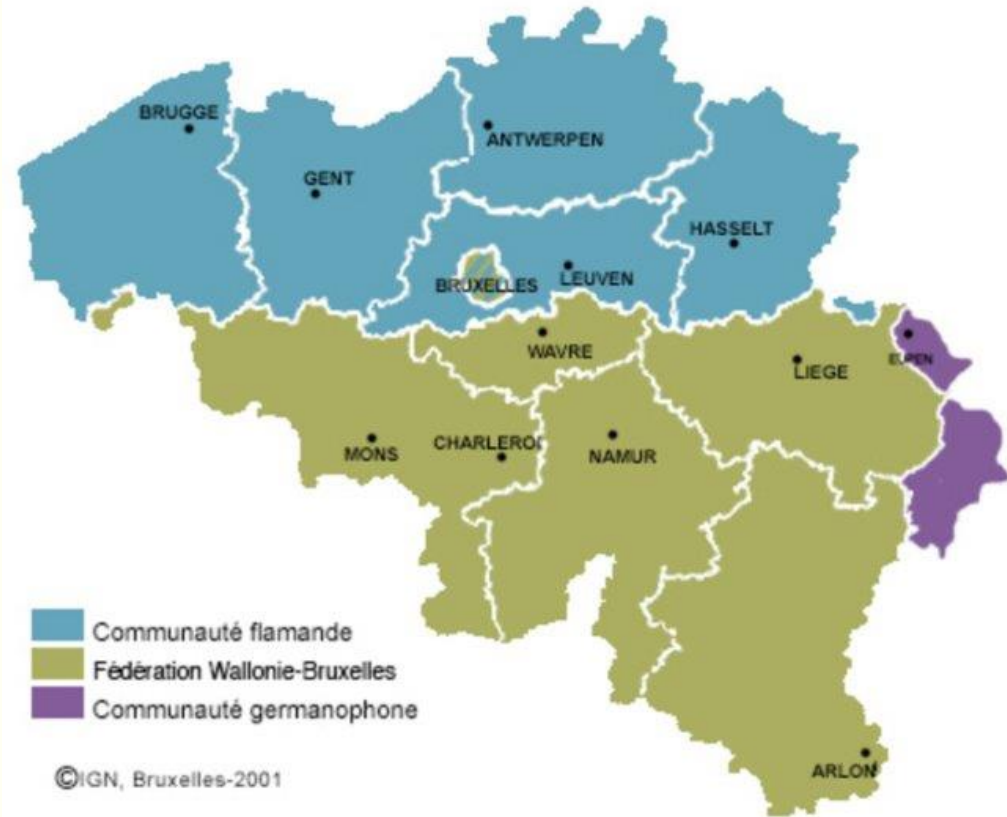
Follow your favourite companies, update you profile and create your own network on social media  
LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Glassdoor...

# Before you apply...

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Check if a **recognition of your qualifications** is needed

- Depends on the region of work
- Regulated professions may vary from region to region
- List of regulated professions on EU regulated professions database
- Recognition of qualifications mandatory to work in the public sector
- More information on [ENIC-NARIC.net](http://ENIC-NARIC.net)



# How to look for a job in Belgium?

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Always apply in the language of the job offer or the region that you target!

# Tips for your CV and your cover letter

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2 pages maximum for your CV if you have long years of experience



1 page maximum for your cover letter



Sensitive personal information must be left out (date of birth, age, marital status, kids, religion, etc.)



Chose the appropriate contact details (email, phone number, social media profiles, personal website...?)



Use reversed chronology in your CV: from most recent to oldest experiences and diplomas



Don't forget to take care of the design and layout!



Match your vocabulary and the language with the job offer



A short introduction in the CV is appreciated and gives a personal touch

# Tips for the interview

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Make sure you know how the interview will take place and that you have the right setting (if not on site)



Get as many information as possible on the company and its ongoing projects beforehand



Have a short introduction about yourself, your experience related to the job and your objectives ready



Select examples of real situations where you had to use the competencies requested for the position



Prepare a list of question related to your future responsibilities and to the organisation of work



Don't forget: everyone loves a dialogue, “thank you” and next steps!



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Thank you and see you soon in  
Belgium/Wallonia...

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