



BELGIUM

Quick Facts*

- GDP:** \$419.6 billion (2012 est.) (U.S. is \$15.66 trillion)
- GDP Growth:** -0.2% (2012 est.)
- Currency:** Euro (EUR)
- Language:** Dutch, French, German
- Population:** 10,444,268 (July 2013 est.) (U.S. = 316,668,567)
- Land Area:** 30,278 sq km (11,690 sq mi)
- Major Cities:** Brussels (Capital), Antwerp
- Industries:** engineering and metal products, motor vehicle assembly, transportation equipment, scientific instruments, processed food and beverages, basic metals, textiles, glass, petroleum
- Agricultural:** sugar beets, fresh vegetables, fruits, grain, tobacco, beef, veal, pork, milk

Infrastructure*

- Number of Major Ports:** 4
- Number of Airports:** 43
- Major Airports:** Brussels, Antwerp International, Brussels South Charleroi, Liege
- Railways:** 3,233 km (≈2009 mi)
- Waterways:** 2,043 km (≈1,269 mi)
- Roadways:** 154,012 km (≈95,699 mi)

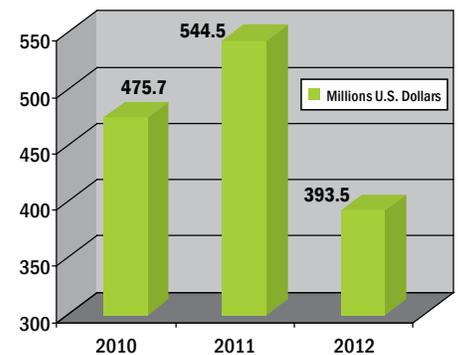
Trade

The World Bank ranks Belgium 33rd out of 183 countries for ease of doing business in 2012. Source: *The World Bank*

Belgium ranks 16th among 176 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. Source: *Transparency International*

Belgium is Missouri's 6th largest export market (2.8% in 2012) Source: *WISERTrade*

- 2010:** \$475.7 million
- 2011:** \$544.5 million (+14.4%)
- 2012:** \$393.5 million (-27.7%)



Market Challenges**

- Severe economic recession in 2008
- The first European country hit by the global banking crisis in Sept. 2008
- High unemployment despite job creation
- Slow economic recovery

Market Opportunities**

- Biotechnology
- Dental Equipment & Products
- Chemicals and Plastics Materials
- Travel and Tourism
- Green Building
- Storage Area Networks
- Solid Waste Disposal and Treatment
- Energy

Missouri's Belgian Owned Companies:

- Anheuser-Busch InBev (St. Louis)
- Lhoist North America (Holland & Ste. Genevieve)
- Unimin (Pevely)
- Zenitel USA, Inc. (Kansas City)

Missouri Companies with Connections to Belgium

- Solutia (St. Louis)

Top 5 Missouri Export Commodities to Belgium 2012

Source: *WISERTrade*

Code	Description	Annual 2012
336	Transportation Equipment	\$165,839,708
325	Chemicals	\$110,400,358
212	Minerals and Ores	\$35,782,942
332	Fabricated Metal Products, Nesoi	\$20,379,191
333	Machinery, Except Electrical	\$17,100,381



**Source: U.S. Commercial Service Commercial Guide

* Source: CIA World Factbook