



BELGIUM

Fact Sheet

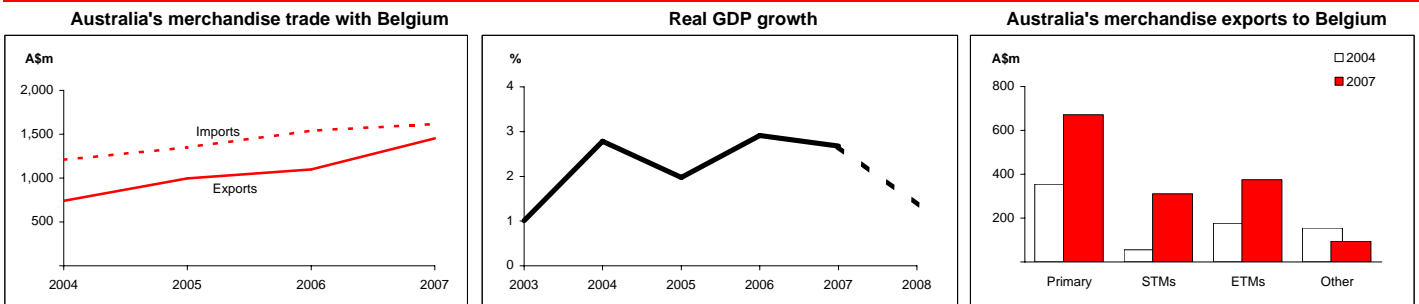
General information:

Fact sheets are updated biannually; May and September

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Capital: | Brussels |
| Surface area: | 33 thousand sq km |
| Official languages: | Dutch, French, German |
| Population: | 10.7 million (2007) |
| Exchange rate: | A\$1 = 0.6192 Euros (Feb 2008) |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Head of State: | HM King Albert II |
| Head of Government: | Prime Minister Mr Yves Leterme |

| <i>Recent economic indicators:</i> | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007(a) | 2008(b) |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| GDP (US\$bn) (current prices): | 310.5 | 359.5 | 376.2 | 398.1 | 453.6 | 507.1 |
| GDP PPP (US\$bn) (c): | 302.1 | 319.2 | 336.0 | 356.7 | 376.0 | 388.7 |
| GDP per capita (US\$): | 29,867 | 34,413 | 35,788 | 37,614 | 42,557 | 47,244 |
| GDP per capita PPP (US\$) (c): | 29,060 | 30,559 | 31,963 | 33,694 | 35,273 | 36,215 |
| Real GDP growth (% change YOY): | 1.0 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 1.4 |
| Current account balance (US\$m): | 12,837 | 12,625 | 9,790 | 10,588 | 14,635 | 14,690 |
| Current account balance (% GDP): | 4.1 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| Goods & services exports (% GDP): | 80.4 | 82.9 | 84.9 | 85.6 | 90.3 | 90.7 |
| Inflation (% change YOY): | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 3.1 |



Australia's trade relationship with Belgium (d):

| Australian merchandise trade with Belgium, 2007: | | Total share: | Rank: | Growth (yoy): |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| Exports to Belgium (A\$m): | 1,452 | 0.9% | 22nd | 32.1% |
| Imports from Belgium (A\$m): | 1,617 | 0.9% | 23rd | 5.0% |
| Total trade (exports + imports) (A\$m): | 3,069 | 0.9% | 24th | 16.3% |

| Major Australian exports, 2007 (A\$m): | | Major Australian imports, 2007 (A\$m): | |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| Coal | 275 | Passenger motor vehicles | 338 |
| Nickel | 245 | Medicaments (incl. veterinary) | 155 |
| Zinc | 204 | Medicinal & pharmaceutical products | 92 |
| Lead ores & concentrates | 188 | Pearls & gems | 64 |

| Australia's trade in services with Belgium, 2007 (e): | | Total share: |
|---|-----|--------------|
| Exports of services to Belgium (A\$m): | 186 | 0.4% |
| Imports of services from Belgium (A\$m): | 55 | 0.1% |

| Major Australian service exports, 2007 (A\$m) (e): | | Major Australian service imports, 2007 (A\$m) (e): | |
|--|----|--|----|
| Transportation | 50 | Personal travel excl education | 18 |
| Personal travel excl education | 46 | Other business services | 13 |

Belgium's global merchandise trade relationships:

| Belgium's principal export destinations, 2007: | | | | Belgium's principal import sources, 2007: | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|--|---|-------------|-------|--|
| 1 | Germany | 19.7% | | 1 | Germany | 17.8% | |
| 2 | France | 16.7% | | 2 | Netherlands | 17.6% | |
| 3 | Netherlands | 11.9% | | 3 | France | 11.2% | |
| 31 | Australia | 0.4% | | 30 | Australia | 0.4% | |

Compiled by the Market Information and Analysis Section, DFAT, using the latest data from the ABS, the IMF and various international sources.

(a) All recent data subject to revision; (b) IMF/EIU forecast; (c) PPP is purchasing power parity; (d) Total may not add due to rounding; (e) Includes Luxembourg.