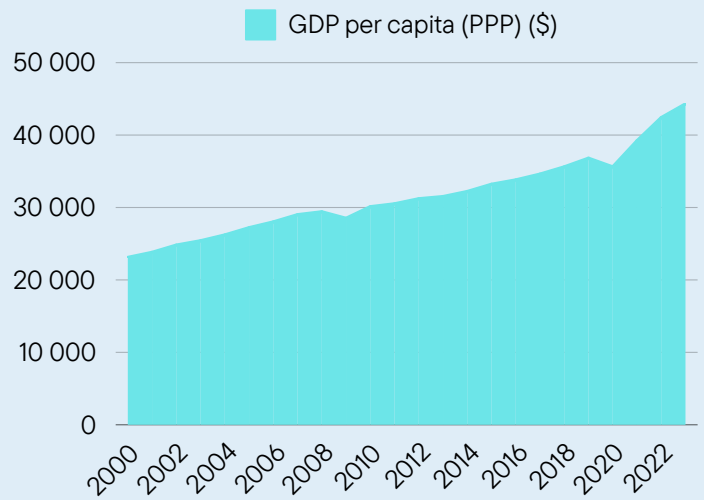


IMPACTS OF THE 2004 EU ENLARGEMENT ON BELGIUM

GDP Per capita in Purchasing power in Belgium

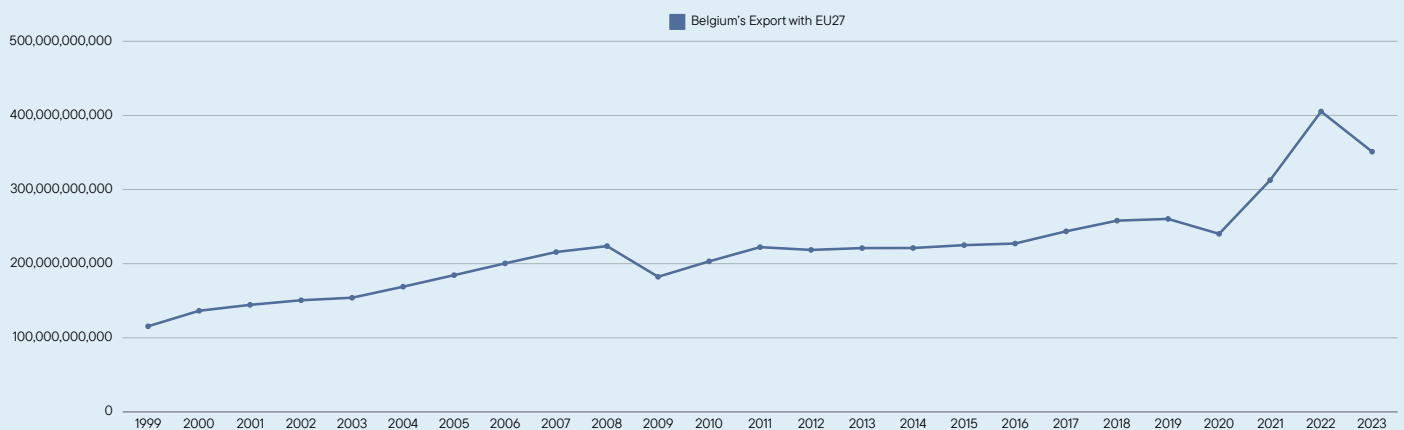
The graph shows a steady increase in GDP per capita (PPP) over the years, reflecting continuous economic growth and development. The acceleration in **growth after the 2004 EU enlargement** indicates the positive economic impact of the integration of new member states. The **slight dip around 2020 suggests a temporary disruption**, possibly caused by global events like the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a recovery and continued growth.



Trade in goods and services

The evolution of Belgium's **exports to EU27 countries shows a consistent upward trend from 1999 to 2023**, indicating strengthening trade relationships within the EU and with the **Member States joining the EU in 2004 and 2007**.

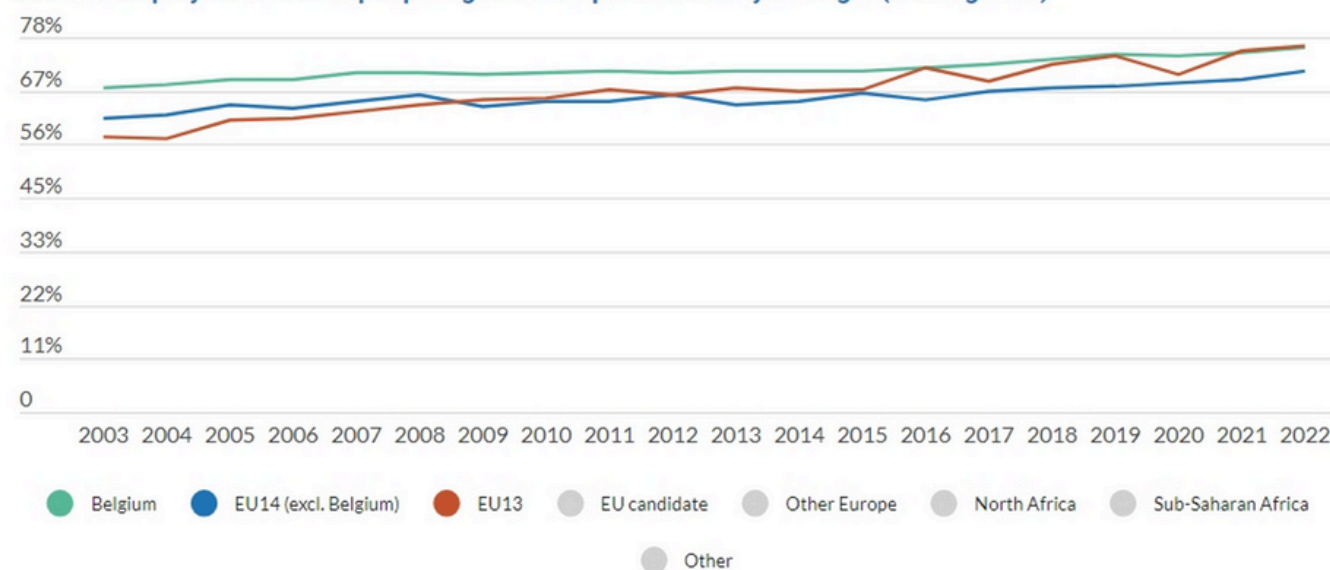
Considering separately the inflexions caused by both the consequences of the financial **crisis in 2008 and 2009**, as well as the **COVID-19 Pandemic**, the **overall growth, with some fluctuations, suggests increasing economic integration** and export activity between Belgium and EU27 over the years.



Labour

Employment rate	Belgium	EU14 (excl. Belgium)	EU13	EU candidate	Other Europe	North Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	Other
2003	67.3%	61.2%	57.1%	38.6%	56.4%	40.5%	43.0%	51.2%
2022	75.8%	70.9%	76.4%	58.2%	65.6%	51.3%	54.3%	61.5%
Evolution (in %)	+13.0%	+16.0%	+34.0%	+51.0%	+16.0%	+27.0%	+26.0%	+20.0%
Gap with BE (in pp)								
2003		-6.1	-10.2	-28.7	-10.9	-26.8	-24.3	-16.1
2022		-4.9	+0.6	-17.6	-10.2	-24.5	-21.5	-14.3
Gap evolution (in %)		-20.0%	-106.0%	-39.0%	-6.0%	-9.0%	-11.0%	-11.0%

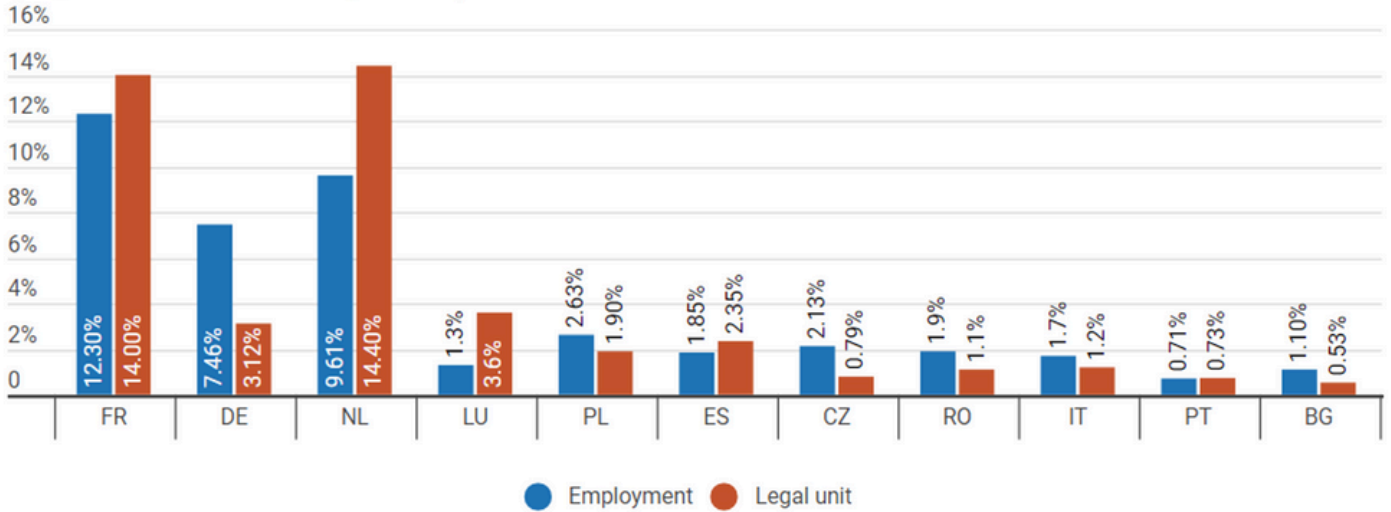
Chart 1: Employment rate of people aged 20-64 per nationality of origin (8 categories)



The EU13 group includes the EU10 countries from the 2004 enlargement plus Bulgaria, Romania (2007), and Croatia (2013). The data shows a gradual increase in the employment of citizens coming from these countries in Belgium, also considering that Belgium lifted the provisional agreements and temporary derogation for the free movement of workers only in 2009. This has not led to a sharp increase of this group of workers; however, the development needs to be considered in the context of the 2008 financial crisis and the return movements it has generated in many EU Member States.

The figure below shows the countries in which the subsidiaries of Belgian-headed groups are located in terms of employment or legal unit. The data shown is from 2002 and thus allows to see that in the past two decades Poland and Hungary have entered the share of nationalities in the subsidiaries at a higher level than EU15 (or the "old" EU Member States), such as Spain or Portugal.

Main nationalities of European subsidiaries of groups controlled by a Belgian group head
(Belgian subsidiaries are not represented)



Data on EU10 nationals enrolled in French-speaking universities in Belgium between school year 1995 and 2021

The number of students from EU10 enrolled in **French-speaking Belgian universities** has not ceased to grow since the first report for the year **1995**. In terms of the total volume of EU nationals enrolled in these universities, the number has grown from **85 students from EU10 in 1995-1996** to **564 in the school year 2020-2021**. The country with the highest number of incoming students and with a higher volume than any other EU10 Member State is Poland.

