



# BELGIUM

Region: Europe and Central Asia  
Income Category: High Income



**Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth.** This brief tracks progress by Belgium in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The figures show the latest available data, benchmarked against regional averages. The figures also report progress over the previous 5 years.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **2** per 1,000 live births (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Participation rate in organized learning.** In 2020, **97%** of children one year younger than the official primary school entry age participated in an organized learning program, compared to 99% in 2015. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2023, **98%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine. This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

## SCHOOL AGE

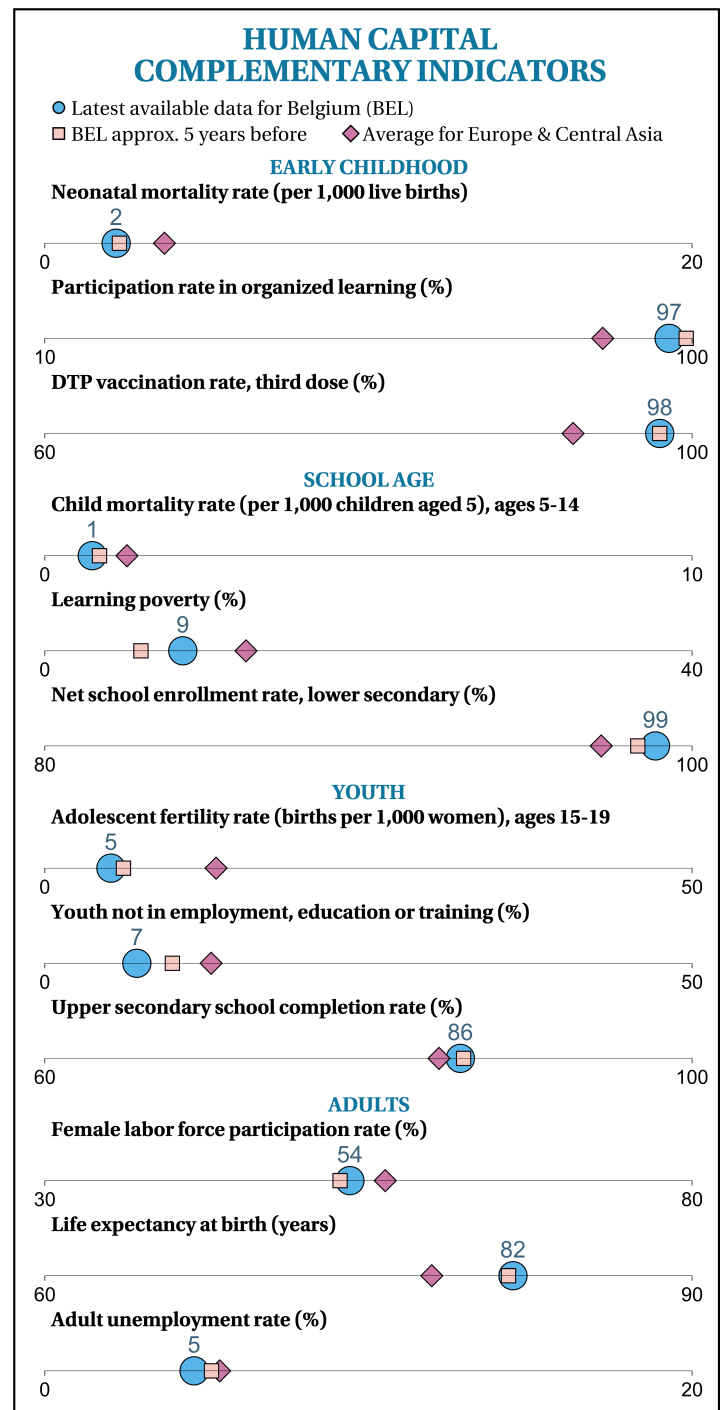
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **1** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is similar to the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2021, **9%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10, compared to 6% in 2016. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Net school enrollment rate, lower secondary.** The percentage of lower secondary school-aged children enrolled is **99%** (2021), compared to 98% in 2016. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

## YOUTH

- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **5** (2022), compared to 6 in 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2022, **7%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 10% in 2017. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Upper secondary school completion rate.** The upper secondary completion rate is **86%** (at ages 3-5 years above the intended age for the last grade of that level) (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

## ADULTS

- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **54%** (2023), compared to 53% in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **82** years (2022), compared to 81 in 2017. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **5%** (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is similar to the regional average.



Note: Missing symbols indicate internationally comparable data are not available to generate the corresponding statistic.

