



# BELGIUM



Population: 11,570,762 | GDP: \$529.2 billion | Language(s): Dutch, French, German | Unicorns 2009-2018: 0



## What did Belgium do right?

In addition to establishing a welcoming regulatory framework for drone operators – improving its grade to an A from a D – the country also spent two percent of its GDP on research and development. As of May 2018, Belgium allowed testing of self-driving vehicles without any driver in the car, a development that boosted the country’s Self-Driving Vehicles grade to an A from a C.



## What can Belgium do better?

Belgium could lift restrictive ridesharing rules, which require each trip to last a minimum of three hours and cost at least €90.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Belgium is one of 12 countries on the Scorecard that earned an A in both Self-Driving Vehicles (SDVs) and Drones, making it one of the most welcoming environments in the world for emerging transportation technologies.



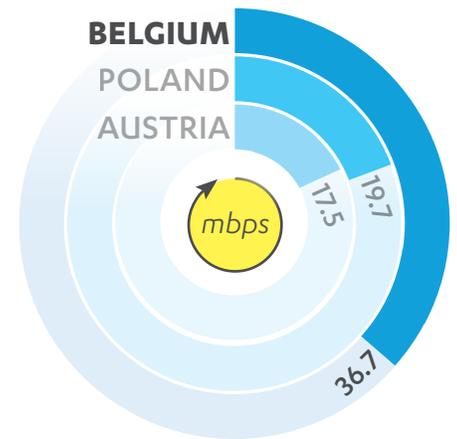
On the ground, Belgium has allowed testing of SDVs – including fully self-driving vehicles with no drivers present – since May 2018. One group taking advantage is VIL, a Flemish innovation cluster focused on logistics. Its new project, called ALEES, aims to use SDVs to make urban shipments safer, more efficient and more sustainable. In the city of Mechelen, testing of SDV package delivery has already begun.

In the air, Belgium’s rules support innovation in commercial drone operations and allow recreational drone pilots to enjoy their hobby freely.

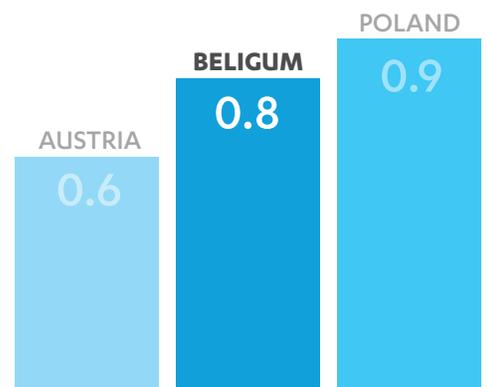
Belgium also distinguishes itself in the Environment category, earning an A+ for its high air quality and access to improved drinking water sources. For several years, the capital city of Brussels has made sustainability a focus, particularly with respect to renewable energy, air pollution and green building construction. Government institutions, including the Brussels Enterprise Agency and startup hubs such as greentech.brussels, help support companies making advancements in sustainability technology.

Sources: (VIL) (Eco-Innovation Observatory) (New Mobility News)

## Mean Download Speed (Fixed & Mobile)



## Fixed Broadband Cost Per Month



Shown as a percentage of gross monthly income per capita



**Broadband**

The mean download speed of fixed and mobile internet is fast at 36.7 Mbps. The monthly cost of fixed broadband is 0.80 percent of GNI per capita and mobile broadband is 0.70 percent of GNI per capita.



**Drones**

The country has clear guidelines for commercial and recreational drone users, and designated areas for drone testing and research. Belgium's overall grade increased significantly to an A in 2019 from a D in 2018.



**Resilience**

Belgium has a stable government, high-quality local suppliers and low exposure to natural hazards.



**Environment**

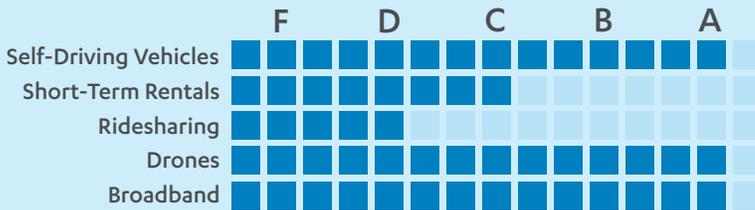
Air quality nearly meets the WHO's standard, and 100 percent of the population has access to clean and protected water sources. The country's grade increased from a B to an A+ this year.



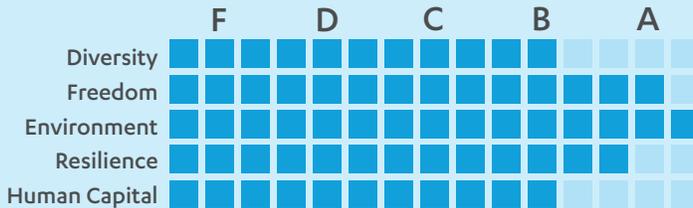
**Diversity**

Immigrants make up 11.1 percent of the population and the country is somewhat ethnically diverse.

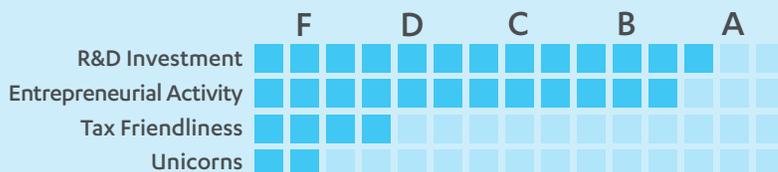
**Technology**



**Society**



**Economy**



**ABOUT THE SCORECARD**

With the 2019 International Innovation Scorecard, the Consumer Technology Association expands the report in breadth and depth, adding 23 new countries and two new categories. In this second edition, we evaluate 61 countries and the European Union across 28 indicators to determine whether they stifle progress or fuel the fires of innovation.

Each country on the Scorecard ranks in one of four tiers: Innovation Champions excel in almost all areas, followed by Innovation Leaders, which earn high scores in most. Behind the Leaders are Innovation Adopters, which promote innovation in some areas but not others. Finally, Modest Innovators may support innovation in one or more areas, but they show the greatest room for improvement.

**ABOUT CTA**

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)<sup>™</sup> is the preeminent trade organization representing the \$398 billion U.S. consumer technology industry, which supports more than 15 million jobs. CTA serves over 2,200 companies, ranging from the startups and small businesses that make up 80 percent of its membership to some of the world's best-known brands. CTA also owns and produces CES<sup>®</sup>, the world's premier gathering for consumer technology and the innovators who turn today's dreams into tomorrow's realities. Profits from CES are reinvested into CTA's industry services.

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