



LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

Country fiche - BELGIUM

Authors: Clément F., Hauret L., Martin L. and Misangumukini N.
Date of Release: 30-04-2023



LMI-EUniv Erasmus+ KA2 Project 2021-1-RO01-KA220-HED-000032249

Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence
within European Universities - LMI-EUniv



Funded by
the European Union

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| BACKGROUND | 4 |
| LMI-EUniv project | 4 |
| Consortium | 4 |
| Aims | 4 |
| Objectives | 4 |
| INTRODUCTION | 5 |
| GENERAL INFORMATION | 6 |
| Demography | 6 |
| Labour market | 6 |
| Higher education market | 8 |
| LMI SOURCES AT NATIONAL LEVEL | 9 |
| LMI providers | 9 |
| <i>Statbel (Belgian Office of Statistics)</i> | 9 |
| <i>Brussels Institute for Statistics and Analysis (Institut bruxellois de Statistique et d'Analyse - IBSA)</i> | 9 |
| <i>IWEPS (Institut wallon de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la statistique)</i> | 10 |
| <i>The statistic portal of the German-speaking Community of Belgium (Das Statistikportal der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Belgiens)</i> | 10 |
| <i>Statistics Flanders (Statistiek Vlaanderen)</i> | 10 |
| <i>National Social Security Office (Office national de sécurité sociale - ONSS)</i> | 11 |
| <i>Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue (Service Public fédéral emploi, travail et concertation sociale)</i> | 11 |
| <i>National Employment Office (Office National de l'Emploi - ONEM)</i> | 11 |
| <i>Walloon public employment and professional training service (Office wallon de la formation professionnelle et de l'emploi - Forem)</i> | 11 |
| <i>The Brussels Observatory of employment and training (L'Observatoire bruxellois de l'emploi et de la formation - view.brussels)</i> | 12 |
| <i>Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training (Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding - VDAB)</i> | 12 |
| <i>National Bank of Belgium (Banque nationale de Belgique - BNB)</i> | 12 |
| <i>National Accounts Institute (Institut des comptes nationaux)</i> | 13 |
| <i>The Federal Planning Bureau (Bureau Fédéral du Plan)</i> | 13 |
| Assessing the sources of LMI at national level | 13 |
| REFERENCES | 15 |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| BNB | Banque nationale de Belgique |
| EU | European Union |
| Forem | Office wallon de la formation professionnelle et de l'emploi |
| HEI | Higher Education Institution |
| IBSA | Institut bruxellois de Statistique et d'Analyse |
| IWEPS | Institut wallon de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la statistique |
| ISCED | International Standard Classification of Education |
| IO | Intellectual output |
| LISER | Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research |
| LMI | Labour Market Intelligence |
| LMI-EUniv | Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities |
| ONSS | Office national de sécurité sociale |
| ONEM | Office National de l'Emploi |
| OVATE | Skills Online Vacancy Analysis Tool for Europe (Skills OVATE) |
| TU | Tallinn University |
| VDAB | Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding |
| WUT | West University of Timisoara |

BACKGROUND

LMI-EUniv project

“Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities - LMI-EUniv”, the project was the subject of a successful application to Key Action 2 - Cooperation among organisations and institutions - of the Erasmus+ programme.

Consortium

The consortium is composed of West University of Timisoara (project leader), University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), University of Tallinn (Estonia), Prospektiker - (Spain) and Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Luxembourg).

Aims

The primary focus of the project is to understand how are European Universities using labour market information and labour market intelligence in the planning and delivery of their provision and how can this be improved. Therefore, the project aims to help HEI to develop appropriate skills and competencies through better matching of education supply to demand through innovative learning and teaching practices.

Objectives

The LMI-EUniv project has three main objectives: (1) to map essential LMI sources at national level, (2) to explore how HEI in Europe are using LMI, and (3) to produce a training course, guide and a Labour Market Intelligence Hub. This will be an online platform, aggregating LMI sources and information, and aims to become a reference point for all HEI.

INTRODUCTION

This country fiche provides information concerning the essential LMI sources at national level with a particular focus on LMI sources used by HEI. It was developed within the Intellectual Output 1 of the LMI-EUniv project - Mapping essential LMI sources at national level. The role of the country fiches is to systemize information related to LMI sources and gather them into a LMI Hub. The country fiches will form the basis for the Data (Evidence) Report and in turn, will inform the production of the Final Report.

During the inception phase of the project, we have noticed the existence of a large number of LMI sources but also a lack of information about them. We consider that having access to a single point of information with LMI sources will enable HEI to better use this for their activities. Thus, this research represents the first step in this direction through mapping the LMI sources at the European level.

We believe that this study is the first of its kind focused on LMI sources across Europe and is in itself a considerable innovation. Through this activity, we are seeking to influence how universities in Europe view, analyse, utilise and produce their own LMI to aid with their decision-making. Further, we aim to make this available to help stakeholders such as policymakers in national and regional governments, employers, and regional development agencies to be better able to bring their demand-side knowledge to support universities and ensure higher education supply fits to current and future labour market need.

The Final Report Recommendations given the project's geographical coverage and the pressing need for action on using labour market intelligence should have considerable transferability potential.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Belgium is a federal state made up of three communities: a Dutch-speaking community in the north (Flanders), a French-speaking community in the south (Wallonia) and a smaller German-speaking community in the east.

Demography

According to Statbel, the Belgian population on 1 January 2023 is estimated to be 11,681,087 inhabitants, with 6,768,135 residing in Flanders, 3,677,760 in Wallonia, and 1,235,637 in the Brussels-Capital Region. The population increased by 62,770 individuals (+0.5%) from 2021 to 2022, with the Flemish Region showing the strongest growth at +0.7%, followed by the Walloon Region at +0.4% and the Brussels-Capital Region at +0.2%.

The positive international migratory balance explains most of the population growth, with 63% of immigrants in 2020 coming from European Union countries, 6% from a European country outside the EU, 14% from the African continent, and 12% from the Asian continent. Romania is the top country of origin for immigrants, accounting for 15% of all foreign immigrants with 17,851 individuals. Following Romania are France, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, and Bulgaria. Morocco, which represents 4% of all immigration, is in the 7th position.

In January 2022, 20% of the population was under the age of 18, 60.4% was aged 18-64 years and 19.6% was aged 65 or over. The fertility rate decreased between 2012 and 2020 from 1.8 children per women to 1.5. In 2021, the life expectancy at birth for the total population in Belgium was 81.7 years (84 years for women and 79.2 years for men). The life expectancy at birth for the total population has increased by 0.9 years compared to 2020.

Labour market

In Belgium, competences with regard to employment are spread between the federal authority, on the one hand, and the Regions and the German-speaking Community, on the other hand. The federal government's mission is to create a favorable framework for the optimal development of employment and solidarity and to guarantee citizens equal rights and

opportunities. The regions and the community are responsible for ensuring the best conditions for access to and participation in the labour market.

The activity rate for 25-64-year-olds was 78.2% in 2021, while for 20-24-year-olds it was 47.4%. Despite an increase in the activity rate for both age groups over the last decade, the rates still fall below the European average of 80.3% for 25-64-year-olds and 59.7% for 20-24-year-olds. The employment rate also increased positively over the last decade, from 70% in 2011 to 74.1% in 2021 for the 25-64-year-olds, and from 41.8% to 52% for the 20-24-year-olds. However, the employment rates remain below the EU27 average of 75.3% for 25-64-year-olds and 50.6% for 20-24-year-olds. Higher education graduates show higher activity and employment rates than the rest of the population, with rates of 89.7% and 86.9% respectively for the 25-64-year-olds.

The service sector, which represents a large part of GDP, employs the largest number of employees and is the main provider of jobs. Commerce, transport and catering (hotels/restaurants) cover the largest share of the employment market in this sector, followed by public administration, education and business services.

In Belgium, many workers commute to work in a region other than that of their residence, or even work abroad. The main flows of commuters leave from Flanders and Wallonia to go to the Brussels-Capital Region, where the job offer is greater than the active population itself.

Over the past decade, the unemployment rate for both 25-64-year-olds and 20-24-year-olds has declined. Specifically, the unemployment rate for 25-64-year-olds fell from 6.1% in 2011 to 5.3% in 2021, which is lower than the European average of 6.2%. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for 20-24-year-olds decreased from 17.1% in 2011 to 16.5% in 2021, but it is still higher than the EU average of 15.2% for this age group. Notably, individuals with higher education qualifications have a much lower unemployment rate (3.2% in 2021 for 25-64-year-olds). In absolute terms, the number of unemployed people aged 15 to 64 amounted to 294,000 in the second quarter of 2022, including 68,000 unemployed in Brussels, 95,000 in Flanders and 131,000 in Wallonia.

In 2022, according to OVATE, the most heavily advertised occupations were office associate professionals, sales workers, and office professionals. The most in-demand skills, at level 1 ESCO skill, were communication, collaboration & creativity, attitudes and business, administration & law.

Higher education market

In 2020, almost 40% of 20-24-year-olds were tertiary students (ISCED level 5-8), surpassing the EU-27 average of 35.2%. Moreover, in 2021, the percentage of individuals aged 25-64 who had attained a tertiary education level was 44.9%.

The higher education system in Belgium is comprised of universities and higher education institutions. Universities typically focus on a more theoretical approach to learning, while higher education institutions prioritize practical training for specific occupations. It should be noted that higher education institutions offer both short term studies (up to 3 years of study) and long-term studies (more than 3 years). The short-type higher education offers a technical training in a specific domain whereas the long-type higher education, more abstract, offers both scientific and technical training.

The network of higher education establishments in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation is composed of 6 universities (Université catholique de Louvain, Université de Liège, Université de Mons, Université de Namur, Université libre de Bruxelles, Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles), 19 colleges and 16 colleges of arts.

The Flemish community has five main universities (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Universiteit Gent, Universiteit Antwerpen, Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Universiteit Hasselt) and has over 30 colleges. The KUL (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) is considered the most important Belgian university. It offers different types of training programs for both bachelor's and master's degrees within 15 faculties divided into three groups: human and social sciences, sciences, engineering and technology, and biomedical sciences.

In the German-speaking Community, the offer of higher education is limited due to structural reasons (economic, demographic). Most students of this community study either in another Belgian community or abroad. In 2005, the three non-university institutions (two colleges of education and one college for the training nurses) were merged into a single university.

LMI SOURCES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

LMI providers

LMI comprises any information and knowledge about labour market dynamics. It covers topics such as labour demand and supply, unemployment, employment and earnings, emergence of new occupations, new skills required on labour market, post-graduate path, career expectations, etc.

In Belgium several organisations provide information on the labour market. While some LMI are provided at national level and allow for comparisons between regions, others are provided only at a regional level. Below we briefly present the main providers of LMI.

Belgian Office of Statistics - Statbel

The Belgian statistical office (Statbel) collects, produces and disseminates reliable and relevant figures on the Belgian economy, society and territory. The data come from administrative sources and surveys and are disseminated in a timely manner. The production is carried out qualitatively and scientifically. Statbel is the hub of the Belgian statistical landscape, which provides relevant and reliable figures intended to support Belgian and European socio-economic policy. Statbel provides data series about employment structure, unemployment, etc. Data are provided by sector, occupation, level of education etc., and are available at local, regional and national level.

Brussels Institute for Statistics and Analysis - IBSA

The Brussels Institute for Statistics and Analysis (Institut bruxellois de Statistique et d'Analyse) develops, produces and distributes public statistics on the Brussels Region. As the statistical authority of the Brussels-Capital Region, the Institute also plays a role in coordinating the Region's statistical activities.

IBSA also conducts socio-economic analyzes relating to Brussels issues and evaluations of public policies entrusted to it by the Government or by ordinance.

The "labour market" theme presents statistics on the population of working age, unemployment, the employed population, employment in Brussels, the characteristics of employment and work-related income. Data are provided by sector, occupation, level of education etc., and are available at the Brussels region level.

IWEPS

The Walloon Government designated IWEPS (Institut wallon de l'évaluation de la prospective et de la statistique) as the Statistical Authority of the Walloon Region on November 12, 2015. The mission of IWEPS is scientific in nature. The Institute contributes to the improvement of useful knowledge for decision-making in Wallonia. As the statistical authority of Wallonia, the Institute's mission is to develop, produce and disseminate official statistics. In the section of statistical indicators, are found, among other things, figures on the employment rate, the unemployment rate, the activity structure of the Walloon population. Data are provided by sector, occupation, level of education etc., and are available at Walloon region level.

The statistic portal of the German-speaking Community of Belgium

The working group and the East Belgium Statistical Steering Committee constitute the central point for the collection of statistics in the German-speaking Community. Since January 1, 2008, the European Statistical Institute, Eurostat, has managed the German-speaking community as an independent unit. The portal (Das Statistikportal der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Belgiens) provides data series about employment structure, unemployment, etc. Data are provided by sector, occupation, age, etc., and are available at local, regional level.

Statistics Flanders

Statistics Flanders (Statistiek Vlaanderen) is the network of Flemish government agencies that develop, produce and publish public statistics. The network offers users a broader context by gathering statistics by theme, highlighting trends and placing the figures in a geographical context. It contains information on the structure of employment, unemployment, etc. Data are provided by sector, profession, level of education, etc., and are available at the level of the Flemish Region.

National Social Security Office - ONSS

Since 1945, The National Social Security Office (Office national de sécurité sociale) plays a central role in Belgian social security. ONSS collects data on employment, wages and working hours. On the ONSS' website, interactive employment statistics are available.

Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue

The Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue (Service Public fédéral emploi, travail et concertation sociale) is placed under the authority of the Minister of Labour. This service carries out various tasks, including preparing, promoting and implementing collective labour relations policy, well-being at work policy or equality policy. The website of this federal public service provides information on the structure of employment, unemployment, skills gaps and shortages, career information or educational structure at national and regional level.

National Employment Office - ONEM

National Employment Office (Office National de l'Emploi) is a public social security institution that manages the unemployment insurance system as well as certain employment measures. It is also responsible for the career break and time credit system. National Employment Office provides data series about employment structure, unemployment, etc. Data are provided by gender, region, age, duration of unemployment, etc., and are available at national level.

Walloon public employment and professional training service - Forem

Forem is the Walloon Public Employment and Vocational Training Service (Office wallon de la formation professionnelle et de l'emploi). It offers job seekers advice, guidance and personalized information services, intended to support them in their job search or in their professional career. It offers businesses advice, assistance and information on employment and training. Forem publishes unemployment market figures and statistics, analyzes relating to professions and sectors as well as prospective work to perceive future developments. Data are provided by sector, occupation, level of education etc., and are available at the Walloon region level.

The Brussels Observatory of employment and training – view.brussels

View.brussels is the Brussels Observatory for Employment and Training (Observatoire bruxellois de l'emploi et de la formation). Its work presents trends in the job market in the Brussels-Capital Region. The Brussels Observatory of employment and training aims to:

- Observe and analyze the job market in the Brussels Region;
- Anticipate needs in terms of employment and training;
- Monitor, analyze and evaluate employment-training-employment transitions;
- Provide support and technical expertise to enlighten employment and training stakeholders and feed their thinking.

Two tools are available to help in the search for information or figures on the Brussels job market: “ViewStat” (statistics on the Brussels labour market) and “IMT-B” (Information on the Labour Market in the Brussels-Capital Region)”. Data are provided by sector, occupation, level of education etc., and are available at Brussels region level.

Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training – VDAB

The VDAB (Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding) is the public employment service in Flanders, established in 1989, aims to ensure maximum transparency and to strengthen the dynamism of the labour market in Flanders. In order to accomplish this mission, the VDAB offers placement, training and career support services. Current information on the labour market can be obtained with «Arvastat», which is an application to consult statistics on job vacancies in Flanders. The application offers a wide selection of basic statistics graphically illustrated. All data are available down to the municipal level and are updated monthly.

National Bank of Belgium - BNB

The National Bank of Belgium (Banque nationale de Belgique) regularly issues statistical publications and press releases. BNB.Stat is the National Bank of Belgium's online database containing detailed macroeconomic statistics. Information on the labor market in general,

statistics on employment and unemployment rates. Data are provided by age, gender, education level, nationality, etc., and are available at national level.

National Accounts Institute

The National Accounts Institute (Institut des comptes nationaux) is a public institution under the authority of the Minister of the Economy. The Institute is responsible for producing statistics, analyses and economic forecasts. It provides indicators and analyses on employment structure and unemployment at the national level.

The Federal Planning Bureau

The Federal Planning Bureau (Bureau Fédéral du Plan) is an independent public agency. The Bureau provides support for public policy decisions. He carries out studies on economic, social and environmental policy issues. Indicators on employment structure and unemployment, at the national level, can be found on the Federal Planning Bureau's website.

Assessing the sources of LMI at national level

Once the sources of LMI have been identified, their quality is needed to be assessed. There are many organisations that produce LMI but only through a standardized evaluation process they can be considered as being qualitative. The quality of LMI sources is sustained by their representativeness, validity and reliability.

The **Table 1** below contains a list of LMI sources identified at national level and their rating in accordance with LMI-EUniv methodology.

Table 1: LMI Sources at national level

[SEE THE LMI SOURCES HERE](#)

REFERENCES

Eurostat. Statistics based on Labour force survey.

European Commission. Eurydice website, <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-education-systems>.

STATBEL. 2022. Structure de la population, Structure de la population | Statbel (fgov.be)

lbz. 2023. Chiffres de population au 1^{er} janvier 2023.

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the National Agency and Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein



2023