

Doing business in Belgium: Overview of the Belgian economy in 2016/2017

World Economy

In 2016, the world economy witnessed a moderate growth of 3.1%. The weakness in international trade and the uncertainties about the political situation in the world, such as Brexit, dim the economic outlook. Prevailing uncertainties surrounding the policies pursued by the United States of America may affect the economic outlook. However, international economic conditions, such as monetary policies, budgetary policy trends, the value of the euro, as well as commodity prices are encouraging for the year 2017 as world economic growth is expected to reach 3.4 in 2017 and 3.6 in 2018. One of the most significant risks that could slow down global economic activities in 2017 would be the adoption of protectionist measures, and more particularly in the United States of America, along with geopolitical risks and other possible risk factors that could have a negative effect on many economies and thus global growth.

Euro Area Economy

There are some uncertainties affecting the European Economy, such as economic conditions in Italy and Greece, and what may result from the withdrawal of Britain. However, there are some positive aspects such as the economic situation in Spain, which is currently the most dynamic in Europe, and the positive results achieved by some member states in 2016, such as Ireland's economic growth rate of 7% in 2016, and the Netherlands which achieved a 2.9 billion trade surplus, and this for the first time since the financial crisis of 2008.

Euro area GDP will expand by 1.7% in 2016 and by 1.6% in 2017 and 2018. We expect a slight increase in euro area inflation during 2016, 0.2%, with a more marked increase in 2017, 1.7%, and a decline to 1.4% in 2018.

As for the government debt to GDP ratio in 2016, it is estimated at 91.5% and is expected to decrease in the course of 2017 and 2018 to 89.9% and 88.7%, respectively. The average budget deficit in the Euro Area is set to amount to 1.4 % in 2017 and 2018.

The Belgian Economy

In view of its high degree of openness, the Belgian economy is largely dependent on international conditions and economic indicators indicate an improvement in the economic situation. Economic activity recorded moderate growth of 1.5% in 2015 and the 2016 growth estimate has been revised down to 1.2%, which is more than expected. The impact of the terrorist attacks of 22 March 2016 on the Belgian economy remains unknown, but it has been temporary and limited to tourism, retail, and air transport sectors. The economy is expected to grow by 1.4 percent and 1.5 percent in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

On the other hand, important reforms, including a reduction in labour costs and an increase of early retirement age, have been made seeking to make the Belgian labour market more flexible, boost the competitiveness of Belgian companies, and improve the economic potential in the long term. In consequence, these measures are reflected in a marked growth in the labour market. The expansion of domestic employment is estimated at around 55 000 jobs in 2016 (42 100 jobs in 2015), and during the three years from 2017 to 2019, more than 120 000 new job opportunities should be created. The unemployment rate will be

reduced from 8.6% in 2015 to 8.2% in 2016, and is expected to continue to decline in the coming years to 8.0% in 2017 and 7.6% in 2019. The inflation rate, which averaged 0.6% in 2015, will rise from 1.8% in 2016 to 2.3% in 2017. It will then decline to 1.8% in 2018.

The public debt ratio increased from 105.8% in 2015 to 106.5% in 2016, and is expected to decline to 106.3, 106.1, and 105.4% in 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively.

Belgium's budget deficit was 2.9 percent in 2016 and is expected to decline to 2.2% in 2017 and 2.3% in 2018.

Trade between Belgium and Arab countries in 2016

In 2016, Belgian trade witnessed a slight decrease. Indeed, Belgian exports fell from 357.7 billion euros in 2015 to 357.5 in 2016 (-0.1%). Likewise, Belgian imports fell from 338.1 billion euros in 2015 to 321.4 in 2016 (-2%).

Belgian exports to Arab countries account for 2.9 % of Belgium's total exports, and imports from Arab countries account for 2.2% of Belgium's total imports.

Total exports from Belgium to Arab countries reached a value of 10.6 billion euro in 2016 compared to 11.1 billion euro in 2015, which represent a decrease of 4.6 per cent.

On the other hand, total Belgian imports from Arab countries amounted to 7.36 billion euro in 2016 compared to 7.7 billion euro in 2015, which represent a decrease of 4.7 per cent.

The tables below show trade exchanges between Belgium and Arab countries for the years 2014-2016, as well as a ranking of Arab countries as regards trade exchange with Belgium during the same period.

The Luxembourg Economy

The negative effects of the 2008 financial crisis have completely disappeared from the Luxembourg economy, which enjoys a stable position compared to other EU member states thanks to its major economic sectors, namely banking and insurance sectors.

Indeed, the economic growth rate increased from 4% in 2015 to 4.2% in 2016; unemployment dropped from 6.8% in 2015 to 6.4%; and inflation fell from 0.5% in 2015 to 0.3% in 2016.

Luxembourg's excellent economic situation is expected to continue in 2017 with a growth rate of 3.8%, despite a tax reform with costs estimated around 1% percent of GDP in fiscal terms.

Trade between Luxembourg and Arab countries in 2016

Total Luxembourg exports of goods increased from 11.7 billion euro in 2015 to 11.9 billion euro in 2016 (+1.8%). On the other hand, the total amount of Luxembourg imports declined from 17.69 billion euros in 2015 to 17.5 billion euros in 2016 (-1%).

The volume of trade exchange between Luxembourg and Arab countries is relatively low. Total Arab imports from Luxembourg amounted to 215.9 million euro in 2016 compared to 332.9 million euro in 2015, which represents a decrease of 35%. However, Arab exports to Luxembourg have seen a 14.8% decrease in 2016 - from €21.5 million euros in 2015 to €18.3 million euros in 2016 (see attached tables).

Activities of 2016

- **27 January 2016:** The Chamber organized the 7th Belgian-Arab diplomatic Business Workshop in the premises of Linklaters. This Workshop has become a fundamental activity of the Chamber that gathers Their Excellencies the Arab Ambassadors in Brussels, the Belgian Ambassadors accredited to the Arab countries and the members of the Chamber.
- **22 February 2016:** the ABLCC conducted an exclusive Interview with H.E.M. Abdulrahman Sulaiman ALAHMED, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Belgium, to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Head of the Saudi Mission to the European Union.
- **23 February 2016:** Meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of Luxembourg and the Ministry of Economy of Luxembourg to discuss the programme of joint activities.
- **8-9 March 2016:** the **Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce** took part to the **Kuwait Investment Forum** organized by the **Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority** on the **8th and 9th of March 2016** at Arraya Ballroom at the Marriot Courtyard Hotel in **Kuwait**.
- **09 March 2016:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce supported the seminar “Doing Business with UAE: opportunities and women in Business” organized by BECI.
- **16 March 2016:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the three **Regional Foreign Trade Agencies** (AWEX, BIE, FIT), the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Arab Economic Attachés, invited the participants to a workshop “Meet Arab Economic Attachés and Belgian Foreign Trade Agencies” in the premises of BECI.
- **16 March 2016:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce **welcomed 25 business representatives from an Iraqi Delegation that was on a 2-day visit to Belgium**.
- **31 March 2016:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce organized a “solidarity gathering” to condemn the barbaric attacks that hit Brussels, the capital of Belgium, on 22 March 2016.
- **13 April 2016:** The Secretary General of the ABLCC met with H.E Dr. Yousef Batayneh, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in order to discuss ways to strengthen relations between Jordan and the European Union in the context of the new association agreement and the simplified rules of origin.
- **14 April 2016:** The ABLCC takes part to a lunch with Mr Kristian Vanderwaeren, the new CEO of the Belgian Customs, organized in Brussels by the Federation of Belgian Chambers at Cercle Royal Gaulois in Brussels.
- **14 April 2016:** The ABLCC takes part to the workshop « La loi de finances 2016 et faire des affaires en Algérie » organized by the Club Aïn El Kheir at the headquarters’ of Tractebel-Engie in Brussels.

- **20 April 2016:** the ABLCC participates to the “Information Meeting for the International Trade Staff of the Belgian Chambers of Commerce”, an initiative of the Federation of Belgian Chambers in cooperation with FPS Economy. Mrs. Sonia Devergnies, Head of Communication, presents the activities of the Chamber.
- **21-22 April 2016:** the ABLCC participated in the “Annual Iraqi – European Business & Investment Forum” organized by the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce & Development in Athens. Mr. Qaisar Hijazin, Secretary General of the ABLCC, serves as moderator, and Mr. Ghassan Ejje, Senior Vice President at BESIX and Member of the Executive Bureau of the ABLCC, makes a presentation during the session on “Construction Works and Infrastructure Projects in Iraq”.
- **02 May 2016:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce takes part to the Ceremony marking the completion of the masterplan project for Q8Oils Blending Plant Antwerp, in presence of H.E.M. Bakheet Al-Rashidi, President of Kuwait Petroleum International, and Mr. Fadel AlFaraj, Managing Director of Kuwait Petroleum International – Global Business.
- **04-05 May 2016:** the ABLCC collaborates with the General Union of Arab Chambers for the “Food Security Investment Forum” in Fujairah/UAE, and nominates Dr. Lieve Herman, Head of the Unit Technology and Food Science at the Institute of Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO-T&V), to deliver a presentation on “Sustainable food production: the Belgian approach”.
- **09 May 2016:** The Chamber hosts a delegation from the Egyptian Belgian Businessmen Association (EBBA). A B2B Business Networking was organized in collaboration with BECI.
- **18 May 2016:** Mr. Qaisar Hijazin is invited to a reception, at the Royal Palace in Brussels, hosted by King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium, in honor of King Abdullah II and Queen Rania of Jordan during a state visit to Belgium from 17 till 19 May.
- **24 May 2016:** meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly.
- **24 May 2016:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with FIPA Tunisia for the Benelux, and with the support of the Embassy of Tunisia in Brussels, organizes a business dinner in presence of H.E. Mr. Ridha Ben Mosbah, Minister and Economic Advisor to the Tunisian Government, and H.E. Mrs. Cécile Jodogne, Belgian Minister in charge of Foreign Trade for the Brussels-Capital Region.
- **25 May 2016:** the ABLCC, in collaboration with the Embassy of the State of Qatar, organizes a Business Forum followed by a business lunch in presence of H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Economy and Trade of the State of Qatar, and Qatari and Belgian Officials.
- **28-29 May 2016:** The ABLCC participates in the Egypt Second Investment Forum organized in Cairo by the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Investment, the General Union of Arab Chambers, and Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group.

- **01 June 2016:** The ABLCC takes part to the seminar "Religious pluralism and tolerance in the Kingdom of Bahrain" organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in cooperation with the European Parliament.
- **8-9 June 2016:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce actively took part to the BLCCA Academy in Luxembourg, jointly organized by the Federation of Belgian Chambers and the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce.
- **23 June 2016:** Mr. Qaisar Hijazin, Secretary General of the ABLCC, participates to the inauguration of the new headquarters of the Palestinian Embassy in Brussels, in presence of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Minister President of Flanders Geert Bourgeois, along with a number of Belgian officials and high-level representatives.
- **27-29 June 2016:** The **Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce** takes part to the premiere of the "**Exportbeurs**" of **Flanders Investment & Trade**, organized at Tour&Taxis. On this occasion, the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce held a workshop on "Export to the Arab World: we put all our skills and know-how at your service".
- **19 July 2016:** The Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce takes part to the Conference with His Excellency Mr. Adel AL-JUBEIR, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in collaboration with Egmont Institute.
- **19 July 2016:** Mr. Qaisar Hijazin, Secretary General of the ABLCC, participates to the inauguration of the new headquarters of the Qatar Embassy in Brussels. The inauguration was attended by Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders, HE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al Mureikhi along with a number of Belgian officials and high-level representatives.
- **23 August 2016:** Mr. Qaisar Hijazin, Secretary General of the ABLCC, gives a presentation on "Doing Business with the UAE: Intercultural Aspects", during the briefing session in the framework of the Economic Mission to the UAE organized by BECI in collaboration with the ABLCC.
- **21 September 2016:** : the Chamber organizes in Antwerp, in partnership with SGS, its 7th seminar "Doing Business with Arab countries" under the theme Seeing beyond the horizon: a new economic vision for an innovative and dynamic Arab world".
- **02-05 October 2016:** AWEX and BIE organize, in close cooperation with the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, an Economic Mission to the Tunisian Republic, presided over by H.E. Mrs. Cecile Jodogne, State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region, in charge of Foreign Trade.
- **11 October 2016:** the ABLCC is involved in the workshop dedicated to the UAE economic region on the occasion of the **SME Instrument Innovators Summit**, hosted by the European Commission.
- **18 October 2016:** Mr. Qaisar Hijazin, Secretary General of the ABLCC, and Mrs. Sonia Devergnies, Head of Communication, meets with Minister Peter de Crem's office to discuss a forthcoming Economic Mission to the UAE.

- **21 October 2016:** Mr. Qaisar Hijazin, Secretary General of the ABLCC, paid a courtesy visit to H.E.M. Jassem Mohamed ALBUDAIWI, new Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Belgium, to discuss ways of cooperation to strengthen bilateral relations between Belgium and Kuwait.
- **09 November 2016:** on the occasion of the visit of a Business Delegation from the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society, the ABLCC hosts a Business Breakfast, organized in close cooperation with the Embassy of Bahrain and with the support of Bahrain Economic Development Board, at Le Chatelain Boutique Hotel.
- **17 November 2016:** Meeting of the Board of Directors
- **17 November 2016:** the ABLCC organized a lunch-conference entitled "The challenges and perspectives of Belgian and European relations with the Arab World", with guest speaker H.E. Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs.
- **24 November 2016:** the ABLCC hosted a delegation from the Moroccan-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce and organized, in close cooperation with BIE, AWEX, and CBL-ACP, a seminar followed by a business networking lunch.
- **01 December 2016:** the ABLCC was involved in the joint Africa event "Navigating the path to sustainable business development in Africa" organized by Gras Savoye – Willis Tower Watson and CBL-ACP.

Overview of the activities scheduled for the first six months of 2017

Before addressing the activities planned for 2017, we would like to give special thanks and recognize the Council of Arab Ambassadors, the General Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, the League of Arab States, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Belgian Foreign Trade Agencies, the Federation of Belgian Chambers of Commerce, and the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, for their continuous support and trust.

1. **03 February 2017:** Mr. Secretary General of the ABLCC paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Bin Suleiman AL-KHULAIFI, new Ambassador of the State of Qatar.
2. **08 February 2017:** In the framework of its Multisectoral Economic Mission to the UAE, 12-17 February 2017, the Chamber held an information session, followed by a welcome drink, in its premises.
3. **12-17 February 2017:** The Chamber organized a Multisectoral Economic Mission to the UAE led by HEM Pieter de Crem, Secretary of state for Foreign Trade, accompanied by a 35-member Delegation involving no less than 17 Belgian companies from the three Regions of Belgium and Luxembourg.
4. **15 March 2017:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce organized a Lunch-conference on "economic perspectives and challenges for Belgium and the Eurozone in 2017", with HEM Jan Smets, Governor of the Belgian National Bank, as guest speaker.

5. **28 March 2017:** the ABLCC, in partnership with Group S and Symbio, had the pleasure to invite Representatives of Arab Embassies in Belgium to a seminar on Social Security and health insurance at LE CHATELAIN BOUTIQUE HOTEL.
6. **20 April 2017:** The ABLCC, in collaboration with FIPA, CBL-ACP, and with the support of the **Tunisian Embassy in Belgium**, held a high-level seminar “Tunisia the way forward”, with **His Excellency Zied Laadhari**, Tunisian Minister of Industry and Trade, and **Her Excellency Cécile Jodogne, State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region**, in charge of Foreign Trade, as guests of honor.
7. **21 April 2017:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce took part to the Board of directors meeting of the federation of Belgian Chambers, with Mrs. Sonia Devergnies representing the ABLCC as a Board member.
8. **03 May 2017:** the ABLCC supports a conference on the enhanced trade, business and investment opportunities in Jordan, jointly organized by the European Union and the Kingdom of Jordan.
9. **9 -10 May 2017:** the ABLCC acts as a local partner in the B2Fair @ ICT Spring organized by Entreprise Europe Network in Luxembourg.
10. **10 May 2017:** Meeting of the Board of Directors and General Assembly
11. **10 May 2017:** The Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce organized its annual Economic Forum focusing on the GCC in the Premises of BNP Paribas Fortis. HEM Mohamed Issa ABUSHAHAB, Ambassador of UAE, and HEM Jasem Mohamed AL-BUDAIWI, Ambassador of Kuwait, were invited as guest of honour.
12. **18-19 May 2017:** the ABLCC participated in the “Second Annual Iraqi – European Business & Investment Forum” organized by the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce & Development in Athens, Greece.
13. **31 May - 01 June 2017:** the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce actively took part to the BLCCA Academy 2017 jointly organized by the Federation of Belgian Chambers and the Federation, the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce and CCI Brabant Wallon.

Upcoming activities for the last six months of 2017

- ✓ Organization of a Seminar in collaboration with Qatar Financial Centre, and with HE Dr. Abdulrahman Bin Suleiman AL-KHULAIFI as guest of Honour
- ✓ 8th Arab-Belgian Economic Seminar “Doing Business with Arab Countries” in close collaboration with SGS in Antwerp
- ✓ Hosting of a delegation from the Egyptian Belgian Businessmen Association (EBBA)
- ✓ Organization of various lunch-conferences, roundtables, lunch-meeting in honour of Arab / Belgian / Luxembourg personalities
- ✓ Multisectoral Economic Mission to Kuwait-Qatar- Bahrain
- ✓ Organization of a “Gulf – Europe Investment Forum” in collaboration with the Gulf Development Company
- ✓ Organization of a Lunch-conference with a Luxembourg personality in Luxembourg (TBC)

Activities of the Chamber in the media and Cultural activities

- ✓ The Chamber is developing a new website, one benefit of which will be that it adapts to your display device, be it computer, tablet or smartphone.
- ✓ As part of the ABLCC development approach in order to make the best of new technologies, the Chamber promotes its activities and services over social media such as LinkedIn.
- ✓ The Chamber is putting in place a new template for its e-mail invitations in order to make them stand out and increase the viewing figures
- ✓ Improved database intended to better share companies information among the ABLCC staff and to reach a wider audience
- ✓ The Chamber will continue to publish, in both English and Arabic, the e-newsletter, which now has become a regular publication containing articles, research, meetings and decisions of great importance to the business community.
- ✓ The Chamber gives support on a regular basis to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNWRA), and participates in the activities it organizes. Belgian companies active in the medical sector are encourage to support the Agency.
- ✓ Financial support is given to the Belgian asbl "HOPE-Esper-Hoop" which helps Palestinian students in need to carry on with their university studies in Palestine.

Legalization of Commercial Documents

In 2016, the Chamber legalized 15,975 commercial documents destined for the Arab world compared to 16,017 documents in 2015, which is a decrease of 0.30% (- 43 documents). Revenue from these legalizations amounted to 531,795 euro in 2016 compared to 534,990 euro in 2015, which is a decrease of 0.59% (- 3,195 euro).

BELGIAN EXPORTS TO THE WORLD BETWEEN 2014 AND 2016

(1000 €)

PRODUCTS	2014	2015	2016	Variation (%) 2015/2016
6. Products of chemical industries	83.713.544,1	87.624.126,6	85.238.096,0	-2,7
17. Transport equipment	36.524.739,5	38.698.331,4	42.021.148,4	+8,6
16. Machinery, electrical equipment	36.143.884,3	38.571.875,9	38.469.867,3	-0,3
7. Plastic materials, rubber	28.143.323,2	28.578.574,7	28.183.397,8	-1,4
5. Mineral products	42.577.022,0	32.232.718,6	26.856.543,7	-16,7
15. Base metals and articles	25.326.295,2	25.304.249,9	24.447.433,9	-3,4
4. Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco	17.592.404,8	19.166.181,6	20.263.377,2	+5,7
14. Pearls, precious stones and metals	17.608.657,0	16.124.156,4	16.916.233,9	+4,9
11. Textiles and textiles articles	11.778.679,6	12.758.875,9	12.953.751,7	+1,5
18. Optical, cinematographic instruments	11.349.981,7	12.655.633,8	12.811.398,3	+1,2
22. Other	6.402.367,2	6.540.349,8	9.052.565,6	+38,4
2. Vegetable products	8.108.327,5	8.297.693,2	8.429.559,7	+1,6
1. Live animals, animal products	7.706.221,4	7.374.192,3	7.403.130,8	+0,4
12. Footwear, headwear, feathers	4.352.576,8	5.008.861,4	5.614.820,2	+12,1
10. Paper and articles thereof	5.130.553,1	5.321.692,7	5.281.348,4	-0,8
20. Miscellaneous manufactured articles	4.396.134,4	4.593.824,8	4.833.791,3	+5,2
13. Articles of stone, cement, glass	3.340.834,1	3.316.978,3	3.281.064,0	-1,1
9. Wood, cork	2.121.186,2	2.291.221,0	2.348.274,5	+2,5
3. Fats, oils, waxes...	1.433.784,4	1.401.888,9	1.481.032,4	+5,6
8. Hides, skins, leather	1.250.475,3	1.357.453,8	1.395.814,2	+2,8
21. Works of art, antiques	139.186,8	136.462,9	151.086,5	+10,7
19. Arms and ammunition	387.601,7	381.848,4	68.296,3	-82,1
TOTAL	355.527.780,3	357.737.192,3	357.502.031,8	-0,1

BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM THE WORLD BETWEEN 2014 AND 2016

(1000 €)

PRODUCTS	2014	2015	2016	Variation (%) 2015/2016
6. Products of chemical industries	70.578.005,8	76.801.640,0	73.340.258,9	-4,5
17. Transport equipment	36.093.532,2	39.843.556,3	43.130.565,4	+8,2
16. Machinery, electrical equipment	40.809.437,0	41.745.123,5	42.366.222,8	+1,5
5. Mineral products	59.781.909,9	44.791.809,4	37.134.157,8	-17,1
15. Base metals and articles	22.921.014,7	22.614.664,7	21.680.179,0	-4,1
7. Plastic materials, rubber	18.560.583,0	18.213.226,6	18.627.881,3	+2,3
14. Pearls, precious stones and metals	16.218.952,8	15.541.650,4	15.901.767,6	+2,3
4. Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco	13.663.369,0	13.986.085,2	14.389.539,6	+2,9
18. Optical, cinematographic instruments	10.345.953,2	11.513.567,8	11.219.254,7	-2,6
11. Textiles and textiles articles	10.543.043,7	10.326.053,3	10.545.738,7	+2,1
2. Vegetable products	9.922.463,0	10.124.213,0	10.383.288,4	+2,6
1. Live animals, animal products	6.839.961,9	6.502.444,9	6.537.263,4	+0,5
20. Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5.629.621,0	5.534.538,4	5.729.472,9	+3,5
10. Paper and articles thereof	5.511.385,6	5.250.482,8	5.241.737,0	-0,2
12. Footwear, headwear, feathers	3.109.507,6	3.517.766,0	3.734.376,5	+6,2
22. Other	3.127.564,0	3.305.719,0	3.025.158,7	-8,5
13. Articles of stone, cement, glass	2.977.854,9	2.938.867,9	3.020.402,4	+2,8
9. Wood, cork	2.448.388,0	2.520.654,8	2.531.502,4	+0,4
3. Fats, oils, waxes...	1.697.569,0	1.591.686,8	1.616.966,7	+1,6
8. Hides, skins, leather	1.108.871,0	1.157.431,8	1.150.004,3	-0,6
21. Works of art, antiques	139.773,6	127.871,1	104.625,7	-18,2
19. Arms and ammunition	186.030,4	175.844,1	44.842,9	-74,5
TOTAL	342.214.791,3	338.124.897,5	331.455.207,0	-2,0

BELGIAN EXPORTS TO ARAB WORLD BETWEEN 2014 AND 2016

(Unit : 1000€)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	Variation (%) 2015/2016
6. Products of chemical industries	2.196.315,8	2.544.831,2	2.375.966,0	-6,6
14. Pearls, precious stones and metals	2.368.818,7	2.278.504,6	2.338.150,7	+2,6
16. Machinery, electrical equipment	1.557.426,5	1.751.164,1	1.595.298,0	-8,9
15. Base metals and articles	747.270,9	693.345,7	689.719,2	-0,5
7. Plastic materials, rubber	617.214,2	670.255,7	591.443,8	-11,8
4. Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco	417.200,0	507.618,5	546.159,3	+7,6
17. Transport equipment	487.674,3	488.722,7	457.551,7	-6,4
18. Optical, cinematographic instruments	333.676,6	428.676,4	415.901,4	-3,0
5. Mineral products	693.330,1	402.516,6	367.923,2	-8,6
1. Live animals, animal products	384.384,8	291.231,4	237.344,1	-18,5
11. Textiles and textiles articles	221.791,9	227.073,5	217.107,8	-4,4
10. Paper and articles thereof	150.107,1	138.606,1	108.007,7	-22,1
20. Miscellaneous manufactured articles	65.631,0	91.318,7	89.801,3	-1,7
2. Vegetable products	85.672,3	90.166,4	78.136,8	-13,3
13. Articles of stone, cement, glass	59.427,7	72.860,6	58.593,2	-19,6
9. Wood, cork	31.570,1	38.975,1	36.283,6	-6,9
3. Fats, oils, waxes...	28.320,9	28.099,4	22.668,0	-19,3
12. Footwear, headwear, feathers	3.481,8	5.592,5	8.237,6	+47,3
19. Arms and ammunition	1.591,7	10.917,1	6.811,1	-37,6
8. Hides, skins, leather	4.447,4	5.338,7	6.706,7	+25,6
21. Works of art, antiques	1.299,5	10.488,7	1.437,6	-86,3
22. Other	255.050,3	39.422,1	-	-
TOTAL	10.711.703,5	11.116.502,0	10.609.708,7	-4,6

BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM ARAB WORLD BETWEEN 2014 AND 2016

(Unit : 1000€)

PRODUCT	2014	2015	2016	Variation (%) 2015/2016
5. Mineral products	2.511.628,3	2.353.898,9	2.562.546,3	+8,9
14. Pearls, precious stones and metals	2.185.232,3	2.514.456,5	1.939.391,3	-22,9
7. Plastic materials, rubber	1.019.358,4	1.014.173,5	1.012.696,6	-0,1
6. Products of chemical industries	1.038.162,4	1.007.961,8	852.202,9	-15,5
11. Textiles and textiles articles	305.560,0	297.678,1	302.564,5	+1,6
15. Base metals and articles	128.611,7	120.476,7	178.042,5	+47,8
16. Machinery, electrical equipment	176.542,9	128.642,1	158.962,7	+23,6
2. Vegetable products	76.411,1	77.035,3	77.649,3	+0,8
4. Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco	55.660,8	45.216,9	47.826,7	+5,8
17. Transport equipment	252.302,6	10.828,6	43.919,6	+305,6
13. Articles of stone, cement, glass	31.309,5	32.751,1	23.923,1	-27,0
18. Optical, cinematographic instruments	18.121,7	24.084,0	20.996,3	-12,8
3. Fats, oils, waxes...	5.481,3	5.592,4	15.725,9	+181,2
1. Live animals, animal products	8.828,4	10.743,1	11.096,9	+3,3
20. Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6.944,3	5.994,9	8.471,6	+41,3
12. Footwear, headwear, feathers	15.889,7	7.501,5	7.540,0	+0,5
8. Hides, skins, leather	2.972,2	7.944,6	7.149,7	-10,0
10. Paper and articles thereof	9.797,9	7.555,9	6.669,2	-11,7
9. Wood, cork	1.169,7	1.518,0	2.346,2	+54,6
21. Works of art, antiques	459,1	2.555,3	455,9	-82,2
19. Arms and ammunition	-	-	-	-
22. Other	73.693,3	16.464,5	-	-
TOTAL	7.924.137,4	7.731.279,4	7.365.230,9	-4,7

**Ranking of Arab countries according to their imports from Belgium
between 2014 and 2016**

Unit : 1000 €

Country	2014	2015	2016	Variation (%) 2015/2016
1. United Arab Emirates	3.568.379,8	3.518.836,4	3.594.074,0	+2,1
2. Saudi Arabia	1.570.738,5	1.996.999,6	1.698.506,7	-14,9
3. Egypt	1.166.162,3	1.196.595,1	1.182.832,7	-1,2
4. Algeria	1.182.753,6	1.105.384,4	938.550,0	-15,1
5. Morocco	819.817,1	758.921,5	832.170,6	+9,7
6. Lebanon	380.865,2	400.619,2	396.480,3	-1,0
7. Tunisia	329.322,4	327.210,0	350.652,2	+7,2
8. Qatar	204.248,7	323.106,7	261.173,8	-19,2
9. Jordan	326.617,4	328.591,6	250.842,7	-23,7
10. Kuwait	149.748,5	211.168,6	233.761,9	+10,7
11. Iraq	216.008,8	271.597,6	226.515,2	-16,6
12. Sultanate of Oman	136.312,6	157.170,8	158.266,4	+0,7
13. Libya	175.911,6	120.948,9	118.086,3	-2,4
14. Mauritania	101.175,7	89.746,8	92.902,0	+3,5
15. Bahrain	69.833,0	70.509,4	80.315,7	+13,9
16. Sudan	43.366,2	106.703,6	77.380,9	-27,5
17. Yemen	200.215,2	60.685,7	56.684,1	-6,6
18. Syria	42.679,0	28.151,1	25.275,0	-10,2
19. Djibouti	18.415,9	32.069,1	20.951,3	-34,7
20. Somalia	1.000,3	3.163,4	5.267,8	+77,9
21. Palestine	5.683,0	5.704,9	4.930,8	-13,6
22. Comoros	2.449,1	2.617,8	3.728,5	+42,4
TOTAL	10.711.703,6	11.116.502,0	10.609.708,8	-4,6

**Ranking of Arab countries according to their exports to Belgium
between 2014 and 2016**

Unit : 1000 €

Country	2014	2015	2016	Variation (%) 2015/2016
1. United Arab Emirates	2.417.601,6	2.813.301,7	2.401.741,5	-14,6
2. Saudi Arabia	1.494.427,5	1.557.992,2	2.181.530,4	+40,0
3. Algeria	1.545.300,8	980.243,7	984.358,0	+0,4
4. Qatar	965.114,4	1.132.384,9	656.969,0	-42,0
5. Morocco	609.286,6	364.848,6	304.693,2	-16,5
6. Tunisia	298.749,6	281.851,8	289.742,7	+2,8
7. Egypt	243.558,6	235.041,3	244.350,5	+4,0
8. Bahrain	88.728,5	120.028,7	81.337,1	-32,2
9. Iraq	5.962,1	76.685,2	57.046,1	-25,6
10. Lebanon	35.699,2	33.479,9	45.136,3	+34,8
11. Kuwait	109.305,6	50.934,2	42.022,0	-17,5
12. Jordan	24.973,0	40.009,3	36.332,5	-9,2
13. Sultanate of Oman	59.447,0	9.560,1	10.649,9	+11,4
14. Sudan	3.937,2	4.937,8	8.834,0	+78,9
15. Libya	11.392,7	21.718,4	8.020,7	-63,1
16. Djibouti	358,0	1.433,8	5.720,5	+299,0
17. Palestine	4.086,5	3.168,5	2.701,8	-14,7
18. Yemen	2.367,4	1.836,3	1.888,7	+2,9
19. Syria	2.015,5	1.680,1	1.554,5	-7,5
20. Mauritania	1.810,7	142,5	601,4	+322,1
21. Comoros	15,0	-	0,4	-
22. Somalia	0,1	0,2	-	-
TOTAL	7.924.137,4	7.731.279,2	7.365.230,8	-4,7

**Ranking of Arab countries according to their importations from Luxembourg
From 2013 to 2016**

Unit : 1000 €

Ranking	Country	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	United Arab Emirates	39.320	79.616	182.237	86.626
2	Saudi Arabia	39.497	36.450	46.279	49.358
3	Algeria	25.014	21.807	26.645	19.878
4	Egypt	14.815	17.864	23.762	17.560
5	Morocco	17.100	11.403	10.832	11.699
6	Kuwait	3.289	10.319	5.902	7.278
7	Tunisia	2.841	3.383	6.281	5.060
8	Qatar	3.662	12.809	13.403	4.170
9	Jordan	658	2.352	3.285	2.929
10	Lebanon	2.472	2.648	2.283	2.389
11	Bahrain	2.158	931	1.821	2.331
12	Iraq	1.652	2.248	2.332	2.143
13	Sultanate of Oman	1.341	1.361	1.450	2.057
14	Libya	1.695	2.839	628	1.165
15	Sudan	673	279	1.562	1.041
16	Syria	138	51	1.269	177
17	Mauritania	941	440	889	54
18	Djibouti	3.466	4.786	187	43
19	Yemen	1.174	922	47	39
20	Somalia	1	446	1.835	0
21	Palestine	0	7	0	0
22	Comoros	0	7	0	0
	TOTAL	161.907	212.968	332.929	215.997

**Ranking of Arab countries according to their exportations to Luxembourg
from 2013 to 2016**

Unit : 1000 €

Ranking	Country	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	United Arab Emirates	6.239	5.653	8.350	15.309
2	Saudi Arabia	4.726	3.780	3.612	1.084
3	Bahrain	2.817	1.219	2.254	544
4	Sultanate of Oman	3	1.056	5.943	282
5	Egypt	359	159	159	256
6	Morocco	283	107	194	209
7	Lebanon	96	144	101	209
8	Tunisia	161	307	74	194
9	Jordan	552	727	286	87
10	Yemen	772	1.301	0	45
11	Qatar	140	174	16	25
12	Iraq	1	1	27	19
13	Djibouti	0	0	50	14
14	Kuwait	1	387	176	8
15	Algeria	135	16	220	0
16	Libya	0	97	0	0
17	Syria	0	0	8	0
18	Sudan	0	2	0	0
19	Somalia	0	0	0	0
20	Palestine	0	0	0	0
21	Comores	0	0	0	0
22	Mauritania	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	16.284	15.129	21.470	18.285