

15 July 1982

1981 COMMUNITY CENSUS OF POPULATION

First results for Belgium

A census of population was carried out in Belgium on 1 March 1981 within the context of the Community Directive on the synchronisation of censuses in 1981. The preliminary results were issued in June 1982 and are summarised in the following table.

The total population of Belgium on 1 March 1981 was 9 848 600 persons (4 810 300 males and 5 038 300 females), an increase of 197 700 or 2% by reference to the preceding census on 31 December 1970. At regional level, the greatest change occurred in the Brussels region which showed a fall of 7.2% in population compared with 1970. With 997 000 inhabitants, this region contains 10% of the population of the country, compared with 11% in 1970. The Flamande Region increased by 3.9% during the ten-year period, almost double the rate for the country as a whole, while the Wallonne Region rose by 2.0%. In the case of the provinces, the greatest population increase occurred in Limbourg (+9.9%), followed by Namur (+5.2%). Slight fall in population occurred in Liège (-0.3%) and Hainaut (-1.2%).

Population by province and region at the 1970 and 1981 censuses and percentage change

Province	Total population		Percentage change
	1970	1981	
Anvers	1 538 000	1 569 876	+ 2,1
Brabant	2 170 954	2 221 222	+ 2,3
Flandre occidentale	1 054 431	1 079 253	+ 2,4
Flandre orientale	1 310 115	1 331 192	+ 1,6
Hainaut	1 316 948	1 301 477	- 1,2
Liège	1 002 740	999 413	- 0,3
Limbourg	652 547	716 888	+ 9,9
Luxembourg	217 954	221 926	+ 1,8
Namur	387 255	407 400	+ 5,2
Region			
Région bruxelloise	1 075 136	997 293	- 7,2
Région flamande	5 416 583	5 630 129	+ 3,9
Région wallonne	3 159 225	3 221 225	+ 2,0
Total	9 650 944	9 848 647	+ 2,0