



## 1.1 Number of beds in homes for older people (per 1 000 population aged 65 years and over) (OLD-4)

### 1.1.1 Documentation sheet

<b>Description</b>	Number of beds in rest homes ( <i>woongelegheden zonder bijkomende erkenning–MRPA</i> ) and rest and nursing homes ( <i>woongelegheden met bijkomende erkenning–MRS</i> ) (per 1 000 population aged 65 years and over)
<b>Calculation</b>	Numerator: Number of beds in rest homes and rest and nursing homes for older persons x 1 000 Denominator: Population aged 65 years and over
<b>Rationale</b>	Due to the ageing population there will be an accelerating growth in the need for beds in rest/rest and nursing homes in the coming years. The increase in need could be partly tempered by organising more home care and by using beds by priority for older persons requiring more intensive levels of care. This in turn requires alternative care for persons now institutionalised with low care dependency. <sup>1</sup> Other alternatives exist, such as service flats, the number of which has grown considerably over the last years. Centers for short stay and day care centres constitute other alternatives with a view to keeping older persons at home and ensuring people can age in conditions of quality and safety.
<b>Data source</b>	Flemish region: Departement Zorg <sup>2,3</sup> Walloon region: Institut wallon de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la statistique (IWEPS) <sup>4</sup> which obtains data from AVIQ <sup>5</sup> and from Fachbereich Gesundheit und Senioren, Ministerium der DG, for the German-speaking community Brussels-Capital region: Infor-Homes Bruxelles <sup>6</sup> Population data: <a href="https://www.fgov.be/STAT">be.STAT (fgov.be)</a>
<b>Technical definition</b>	<p><b><u>Belgian data</u></b></p> <p>Rest homes: “woongelegheden zonder bijkomende erkenning” - “maisons de repos pour personnes âgées (MRPA)”</p> <p>Rest and nursing homes: “woongelegheden met bijkomende erkenning” - “maisons de repos et de soins (MRS)”</p> <p>Coma beds: “woongelegheden niet aangeboren hersenletsels (NAH)” - “lits convention lésions cérébrales acquises (CLCA)”</p> <p><b><u>OECD data</u></b></p> <p>Residential long-term care facilities comprise establishments primarily engaged in providing residential long-term care that combines nursing, supervisory or other types of care as required by the residents. In these establishments, a significant part of the production process and the care provided is a mix of health and social services, with the health services being largely at the level of nursing care, in combination with personal care services. The medical components of care are, however, much less intensive than those provided in hospitals.</p> <p><b><u>Inclusion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long-term nursing care facilities</li> <li>- Other residential long-term care facilities</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Exclusion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beds in hospitals dedicated to long-term care</li> <li>- Beds in residential settings such as adapted housing that can be considered as people’s home.</li> </ul>



	Data for Belgium on residential long-term care facilities include beds in rest/rest and nursing homes for older persons. Numbers correspond to licensed beds. <sup>7</sup>
<b>International comparability</b>	Data available from OECD Health Statistics
<b>Limitations</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>	Care for older persons; Sustainability
<b>Related indicators</b>	
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### 1.1.2 Results

#### Belgium

Table 1 shows the historical evolution of the number of beds for Belgium. The number of beds has steadily increased over the period 2011 to 2018. Since 2018 the total number of beds in Belgium has further increased from 144 399 to 148 455 in 2022/21. Still, the number of beds per 1 000 population aged 65 years and over has decreased from 68 to 65 in that period, which means that the population aged 65 years and over has grown proportionately more than the number of beds. Furthermore, whilst the number of beds in rest and nursing homes has increased considerably, the number of beds in rest homes has decreased, as part of the latter type of beds has been requalified as beds in rest and nursing homes.

**Table 1 – Number of long-term care beds in homes for older people – 2011-2022**

Year	Rest and nursing homes (including coma beds)	Rest homes	Total beds	Beds/1 000 persons ≥65 years
2011	65 477	64 255	129 732	69
2012	68 417	62 775	131 192	68
2013	69 372	63 092	132 464	68
2014	70 335	64 117	134 452	67
2015	72 053	64 923	136 976	67
2016	71 999	67 450	139 449	68
2017	73 173	69 352	142 525	68
2018	74 585	69 814	144 399	68
2022/21	85 569	62 886	148 455	65

Source: 2011-2018 : RIZIV-INAMI ; 2022/21 : Departement Zorg (2022), IWEPS (2022), Infor-Homes Bruxelles (2021)



## Regional comparison

The density of beds is lowest in the Flemish region, with 59 beds per 1 000 persons  $\geq 65$  years and the Walloon region, with 70 beds per 1 000 persons  $\geq 65$  years. This density is remarkably higher in Brussels-Capital region with 104 beds per 1 000 persons  $\geq 65$  years (see Table 2 and Figure 1).

**Table 2 – Number of long-term care beds in homes for older people - per region (2022/21)**

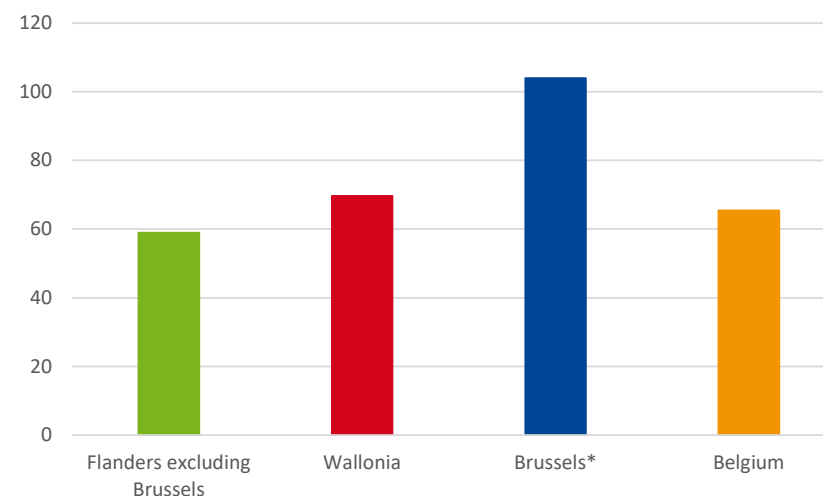
Region	Rest and nursing homes	Rest homes	Total beds	Beds/ 1 000 persons $\geq 65$ yrs
Flemish region (2022)* including beds approved by Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie in Brussels	53 306	30 352	83 658	
Flemish region (2022) excluding beds approved in Brussels	52 966	29 673	82 639	58.9
Walloon region (2022)**	25 911	23 264	49 175	69.6
Brussels-Capital region (2021) – including beds approved by COCOM/Iriscare and by Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie	6 692	9 949	16 641	103.9
<b>Total Belgium</b>	<b>85 569</b>	<b>62 886</b>	<b>148 455</b>	<b>65.4</b>

\* Including "Erkende eenheden en erkenningen in onderzoek"

\*\* Walloon region: German-speaking community included

Sources: Departement Zorg, IWEPS, Infor-Homes Bruxelles

**Figure 1 – Number of beds per 1 000 persons  $\geq 65$  years (2022/21)**



Source: Departement Zorg (2022); IWEPS (2022); Infor-Homes Bruxelles (2021)

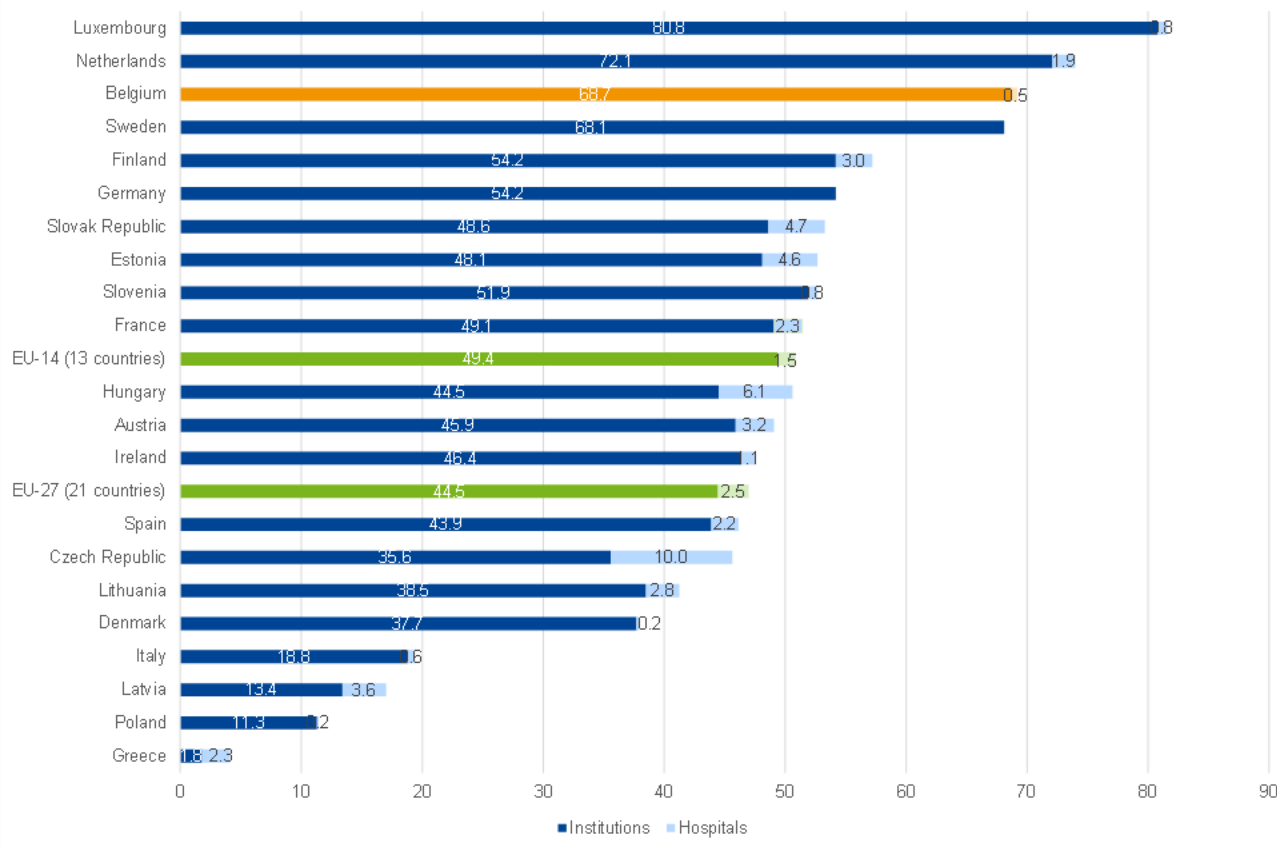
\* Brussels-Capital region: including beds recognised by Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie and by COCOM/Iriscare

## International comparison

International data are not always completely comparable as several countries only include beds in publicly-funded long-term care institutions, while others also include private institutions (both profit and not-for-profit). Still, the available data (see Figure 2) show that on average EU-27 countries had 44.5 long-term care beds in LTC institutions per 1 000 people aged 65 years and over. There is substantial variation between countries. Luxembourg and Netherlands have the highest number of beds with 81 and 72 beds respectively. Belgium ranks third in place, with 69 beds (2019 data). Greece, Poland, Latvia and Italy rank lowest with less than 20 beds per 1 000 people aged 65 years and over.



**Figure 2 – Long-term care beds in institutions and hospitals, 2019 (or nearest year) per 1000 population aged 65 years and over – international comparison**



Numbers of LTC beds in hospitals are not available in Sweden

Source: based on OECD Health Statistics 2021<sup>8</sup>



## Key points

- In total there were around 148 455 beds in homes for older people in 2022 in Belgium (data on Brussels-Capital region from 2021).
- Belgium has a relatively high number of beds in residential long-term care facilities compared to other OECD countries. The number of beds per 1 000 persons aged 65 years and over reached 69 in 2019, compared to 44.5 beds in EU-27 countries. The density of beds in Belgium dropped slightly to 65 beds per 1 000 population aged 65 years and over in 2022 (data on Brussels-Capital region from 2021).

## References

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