

2 General Information

Official name:

The Republic of Belarus

Location:

In the center of Europe
on the watershed of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea

State system:

Presidential Republic

Administrative division:

118 districts in 6 regions (oblast)

Regional centers:

Brest, Viciebsk, Homieĺ, Hrodna,
Mahilioŭ, Minsk

State languages:

Belarusian, Russian

Ethnic groups:

Belarus is a multination state,
where together with the Belarusians (more than 80 %),
Russians, Poles, Jews, Ukrainians and Lithuanians
live about 140 other nationalities

Religious denomination:

There are 25 religious denominations and subgroups,
Orthodoxy and Catholicism are the largest



Video
"A day in the life
of Belarus"



Belarusian ruble (BYN)



BY



GMT + 2

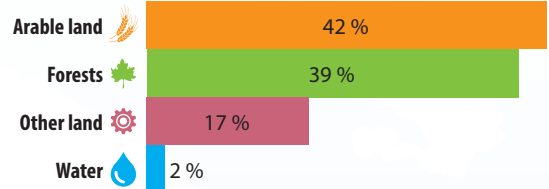


+375

Natural Resources

Territory:

207 600 square kilometers



Population

(at the beginning of 2017)



9 504 700 people



In the world
92nd
position



In Europe
17th
position



In CIS
6th
position

Capital: Minsk



Population:
1 mln 974.8 thsd

Trip Time

1 hour

Warsaw, Moscow, Riga

2 hours

Amsterdam, Vienna, Prague

3 hours

London, Paris, Rome, Istanbul

4 hours

Abu Dhabi, Tel Aviv

Minsk
BELARUS

RUSSIA

UKRAINE

POLAND

LITHUANIA

LATVIA

Education

The principle of lifelong learning is implemented in Belarus.

Annually the education system prepares about 140 000 skilled workers (white-collar workers) and specialists for the labour market.

The classification of educational attainment levels in the Republic of Belarus based on the International Standard Classification of Education.



In 2014 the Republic of Belarus became the member of **WorldSkills International**.



In 2015 the Republic of Belarus joined the **Bologna Process**.

Ranking of Countries based on Education Index		
18	Iceland	0.853
19	Sweden	0.842
20	BELARUS	0.834
21	Greece	0.832
22	Belgium	0.829



Video "Education in Belarus"



Health Care

The state-supported health care system of the Republic of Belarus is funded by the state. The indicator on practising doctors measured per 10 000 inhabitants is 43.7 that is higher than the average (31.5) across the EU member states.

Belarus ranks first among the CIS countries with regard to the high-tech medical care (by number of transplantations per 1 mln people).

Health Care System in Figures	
600	Hospitals
1500	Ambulatory (Outpatient) Centers
17	Republican Scientific and Practical Centers
143	Centers for Hygiene and Epidemiology
134	First-Aid Stations



Video "Medicine in Belarus"

Physical Education and Sport

Belarus is proud of its achievements in sport. Our country is among the 20 most athletic countries. More than 280 Belarusians are the champions of the world and Europe, 76 Belarusians are Olympic medalists. The names of such Belarusian athletes as Daria Domracheva, Max Mirnyi, Victoria Azarenka, Yulia Nesterenko, Alexei Grishin are known all over the world.

Culture and Science

The Belarusians are talented writers, musicians, artists and performers, recognized scientists, who have made a significant contribution to the development of world science and culture.



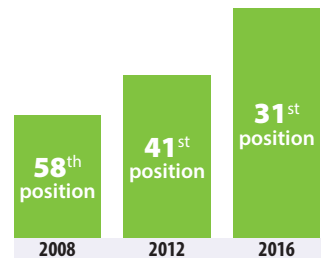
The **World Intellectual Property Organization** ranked Belarus 52nd in its Annual IP Survey.

Zhores Alferov, a notable Russian scientist born in Belarus, was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 2000. Svetlana Alexievich, a Belarusian, won the 2015 Nobel Prize for literature.

Many festivals and celebrations are held annually in Belarus; among them are the International Arts Festival "Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk", Minsk International Film Festival "Listapad" and others.

Information and Communication Technologies

Cellular telecom network covers 98.2 % of the country, telecommunication services are now available to 99.9 % of Belarusians.

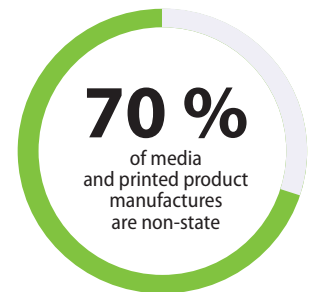


According to the State of Broadband 2016 Report aided by UNESCO, Belarus ranks 23rd out of 187 countries. According to the report, the number of fixed-broadband subscribers in Belarus amounts to 31.35 per 100 inhabitants. In the world ranking Belarus is next to the USA and Greece.

Country Ranking by ICT Access according to International Communication Union

Media Space

In Belarus there are over 1500 print media and 160 electronic media and printed product manufactures. Online social and political sources for news are highly influential, the largest of them are private and economically independent from the state.



Olympic Games (1994–2016)



There are about 23 000 sports facilities in Belarus. The country has the necessary infrastructure to host the world's largest tournaments, i.e. in 2014 Belarus hosted IIHF World Championship in Ice Hockey, and in 2019 Belarus will host Second European Games.

Minsk ranks 22nd of the sporting cities according to Sportcal's Global Sports Cities Index.

4 State Structure

The people of the Republic of Belarus are the only source of state power and the bearer of sovereignty.

(The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus)

The Republic of Belarus is a unitary democratic social state based on the rule of law.

The President of the Republic of Belarus is the Head of the State

The guarantor of the Constitution, the rights and freedoms of man and citizen, guarantees the implementation of the main guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy, represents the Republic of Belarus in relations with other states and international organizations

Legislative Power

The Parliament – The National Assembly

The House of Representatives	The Council of the Republic
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Legislative activities include issues related to domestic and foreign policy

Executive Power

The Government – The Council of Ministers

It ensures the implementation of the unified economic, financial, credit and monetary policy, state policy in the spheres of science, culture, education, labor remuneration

Judicial Power

The Constitutional Court

It reviews the constitutionality of normative legal acts

The Supreme Court

A leading court of general jurisdiction and a supreme judicial body which handles civil, criminal, administrative and economic cases

Local Councils of Deputies that operate on three levels: regional, basic and primary

Local executive and administrative bodies (executive committees and local administrative bodies)

Exercise local government and self-government powers, organize referenda and elections

Party system: there are 15 registered political parties in Belarus representing practically the entire spectrum of political forces in the country.

Social and Political Situation: the majority of Belarusians (79 %) believe that the domestic political situation is stable.



Civil Society: there are 2596 public associations (including 228 international public associations), 55 funds (including 14 international funds).

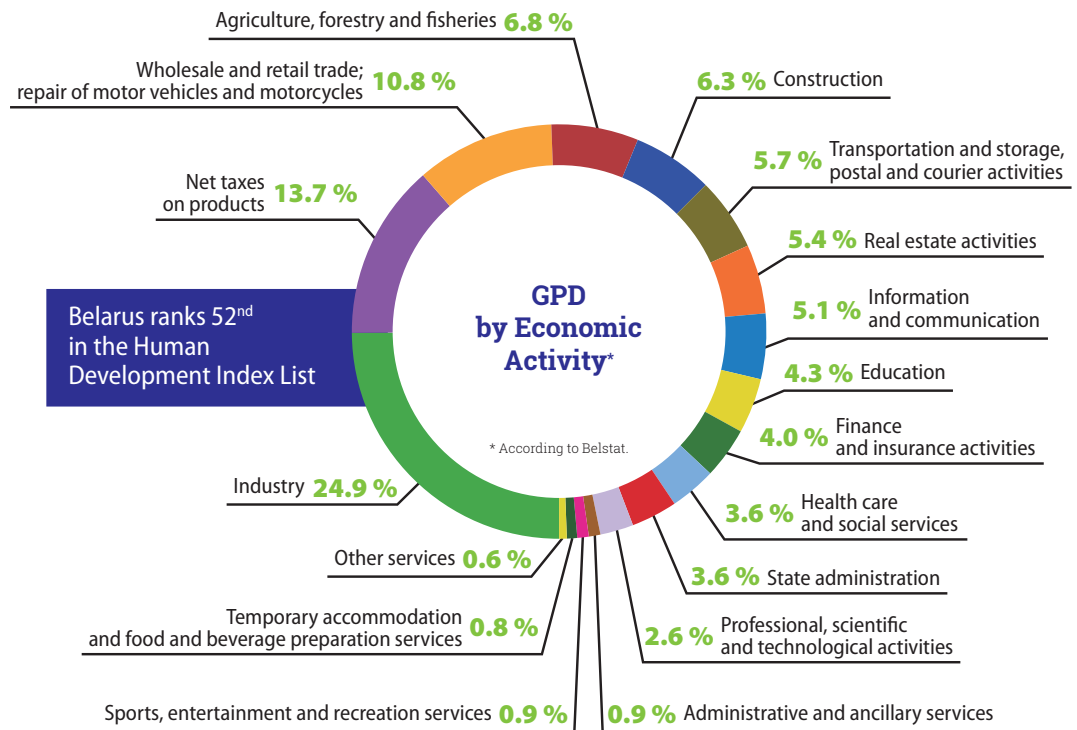
Belarus actively develops its own social and political structure through the implementation of innovative approaches and technologies in State-Public-Citizen relations.

Children's and youth societies, veteran organizations, over 100 national minority associations actively participate in public life of the country. There are a number of ecological societies and environmental organizations functioning in the country.

The Republic of Belarus is an export-oriented state with a well-developed production sector, services sector and agriculture.

Belarus constantly improves its industrial and agricultural potential. The most important service branches such as education, health care and housing maintain the high level of operation.

Currently, the national economy is successfully adapting to the changes that have occurred in foreign markets. The crisis phenomena in the Russian and global economy, which initially caused Belarus GDP symmetric decline, have finally resulted in restructuring and activation of innovative activity of Belarusian enterprises, the expansion of their businesses.



Belarus ranks 52nd in the Human Development Index List

Belarus is a country attractive for foreign investments

To attract investments Belarus introduced improvements in its investment regulatory framework easing the process of doing business for investors and foreign partners, which was positively assessed in Doing Business 2018, a World Bank Group publication (for 2018 Belarus ranks 38 out of 190 countries).

Favorable Economic Conditions and Political Stability

- ▶ Belarus ranks the 5th on the ease of registering property
- ▶ A high ranking on the ease of doing business, contract performance security, foreign commerce, building licenses and permits, access to infrastructure
- ▶ Modern legislation
- ▶ Stable, transparent tax policies
- ▶ Corruption persecution
- ▶ Stable social and political situation
- ▶ Sustainable financial system
- ▶ Direct access to the market of the EAEU member states

Flexible Labour Market and High Productivity

- ▶ Liberal labour laws, favourable to the employees conditions of employment
- ▶ Well-educated workforce
- ▶ Acceptable level of remuneration and high-skilled workers



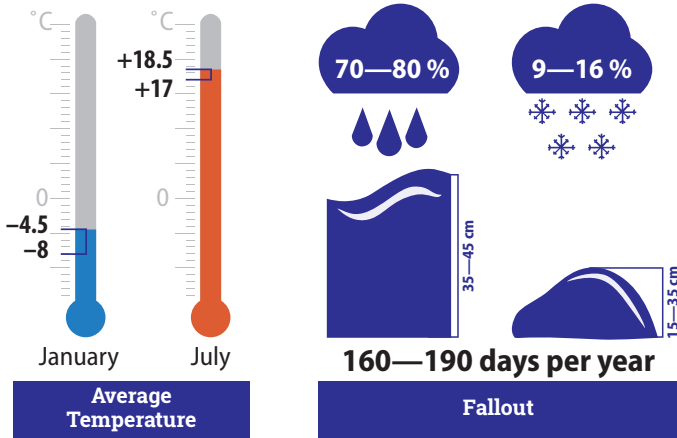
6 Climate and Nature

Climate

The climate of Belarus is moderately continental, formed under the influence of Atlantic air masses, with mild summers, mild winters with frequent thaws, unstable autumn and spring weather. Despite the small area of the country, different regions of the country have different climate indices.

Factors influencing the Climate of Belarus

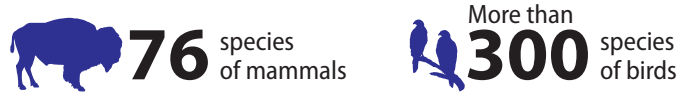
- ▶ Mid Latitude Location
- ▶ Generally flat landscape
- ▶ Atlantic air masses influence
- ▶ No mountains in the country and neighbouring regions



Nature

Belarus is the only European country where swamps occupy 1.7 mln hectares. The extensive swampy area of Prypiać, a vast territory of wetlands, is called the lungs of Europe. One hectare of swamps binds 550—1880 kg of CO₂ per year (that is equal to the amount bound by 10—20 hectares of forest).

Belarusian forests also play an important role in biosphere and contribute significantly to the ecological stabilization of Eastern and Central Europe. Rare plant and animal species are met here.



6.1 % of the territory of the country is Specially Protected Natural Reservation

Main National Parks and Reserves

- ▶ Bielaviežskaja Pušča National Park
- ▶ Braslaŭskija aziory National Park
- ▶ Prypiać National Park
- ▶ Naračanski National Park
- ▶ Biarezinski Biosphere Reserve

Water Resources of Belarus

20 000 small and big rivers



The largest lake of Belarus is Narač that is often called the "Belarusian Sea". It has the area of 79.6 km² and the maximum depth of 24.8 m. There are 22 species of fish in the lake, including the eel. Mute-swans and other species of water birds nest on the lake.



Video
"Visa-free
regime
in Belarus"



Getting to know Belarus will bring you many bright impressions and the desire to visit this unique country once again.

In 2017 Belarus has offered a visa-free entry for up to 5 days to citizens of 80 countries and is planning to increase such visa-free stay period in future.

National Geographic Traveler Ranking (Best Countries for Agrotourism)

1	BELARUS
2	Italy
3	France

💡 5 Non-Trivial Tourist Attractions

What? **Ecological Path Walk** **1**
Where? **Mijory District, Viciebsk Region**



A visit to Belarus is unthinkable without a walk along one of numerous ecological paths. One of Europe's biggest high-moor bogs is in Viciebsk Region. Here you can ride an all-terrain carrier, visit beaver dams, walk in swamps and bogs in bogshoes, follow wild animals and learn to identify animal tracks.

What? **BelAZ Drive** **3**
Where? **Žodzina, Minsk Region**



The world's biggest dumptruck with the load-carrying capacity of 450 tonnes and a height of a two-storey house was manufactured by BelAZ in Žodzina. It is in the Guinness Book of Records. Anyone can visit the plant and drive this yellow giant.

What? **Fort V in Hieršony** **4**
Where? **Hieršony District, Brest**



A fortified pentagonal fort is just 4 km away from the Brest Fortress. You may visit Fort V, which is a part of the Brest Hero Fortress Memorial Complex, being alone or as a part of the organized group.

What? **Upside-Down House** **2**
Where? **Dukora Agrotown, Minsk Region**



Visiting this house is a real adventure and a test for the vestibular system: the house has been built on a special incline, which immediately affects your sense of balance. Apart from the upside-down house, there are restored 18th century gates (brama), a museum, a stable, a tavern, a street of all trades, a rope town, guest houses, a sauna and a park.

What? **Ded Moroz's Residence** **5**
Where? **Kamieniuki Village, Brest Region**



The main New Year's wizard welcomes visitors all year round in Bielaviežskaja Pušča, the largest and most ancient forest of Europe. You will see wooden houses with windows decorated with openwork carving, get acquainted with the heroes of legends and fairy tales, take part in fun games and try unusual dishes.

The Telegraph names **Bielaviežskaja Pušča** among the 25 places in Eastern Europe one must visit.

