

# THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BAROMETER IN 10 FIGURES!



Want to know more? You can find the socio-economic barometer at [abv.be](http://abv.be) or [fgtb.be](http://fgtb.be)

The number of management companies has increased tenfold over the past decade. This results in significantly lower government revenue, as they can be used to avoid taxes.

**60,000**

MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

The number of employees on long-term sick leave exceeds half a million – an increase of 28% since 2018. More than a quarter are struggling with mental health issues, such as depression or burnout.

**500,000+**

LONG-TERM SICKNESS

of part-time workers do not do so by choice

**40%**

of employees work part-time

**40.5%**

**26.4%**

PART-TIME WORK

Flexi-jobs (€330 million) and student jobs (€1.2 billion) currently cost society more than €1.5 billion per year, as they contribute very little to social security and, moreover, compete with regular jobs that do contribute.

**€1.53 billion**

FLEXIBLE JOBS

WAGES

**+0%**

This shows the evolution of purchasing power over the past 10 years. Corporate profits are rising, while purchasing power is being stifled by the Wage Norms Act.

WAGES VS. PRODUCTIVITY

**28% <> 12%**

Your productivity as an employee has increased by 28% since 1995. That means you create 28% more wealth per hour worked. Yet your gross wage has risen by only 12% over the same period. Where has the remaining 16% gone? Into company profits.

GIFTS TO COMPANIES

**€16 billion**

In 2024, some €16 billion flowed to companies in the form of wage subsidies and reductions in social security contributions. These generous gifts to companies are conveniently omitted from the doom-and-gloom stories about “expensive Belgian workers”.

GENDER PAY GAP

**19.9%**

Women earn 19.9% less per year than men (without adjusting for working hours). The gender pay gap is decreasing slightly, but far too slowly.

ALTERNATIVE REMUNERATION

**€8.5 billion**

In Belgium, €8.5 billion in alternative remuneration (meal vouchers, company cars, CLA 90, telephone, internet, etc.) was granted in 2024. This type of remuneration contributes little or nothing to social security, and employees do not accrue social rights (e.g. pension) from it.

TAX

**43% <> 23%**

An average Belgian income is taxed at 43%. For high earners (the top 1%), it's a daily celebration, as they pay a mere 23%.

# Barometer 2025

## FACT VERSUS FICTION

WAGES  
**+0%**

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LONG-TERM SICKNESS  
**500,000+**

ALTERNATIVE  
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