

# Belgium

## Human Capital Index 2020

This brief provides an update to the Human Capital Index (HCI). First launched in 2018, the HCI measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health. Worldwide a child born in 2020 can expect, on average, to be 56 percent as productive as she could be when she grows up. All data represent the status of countries pre-COVID-19.

### THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

**Human Capital Index.** A child born in Belgium today will be **76 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than the average for Europe & Central Asia region and High income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Belgium increased from 0.75 to 0.76. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 100 out of 100 children born in Belgium survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Belgium, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **13.5 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Belgium score **517** on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
- **Learning-adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is only **11.2 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Belgium, **93 percent** of 15-year olds will survive until age 60. This statistic is a proxy for the range of health risks that a child born today would experience as an adult under current conditions.
- **Healthy Growth (Not Stunted Rate).** Data on stunting are not available for Belgium.

### DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In Belgium, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.

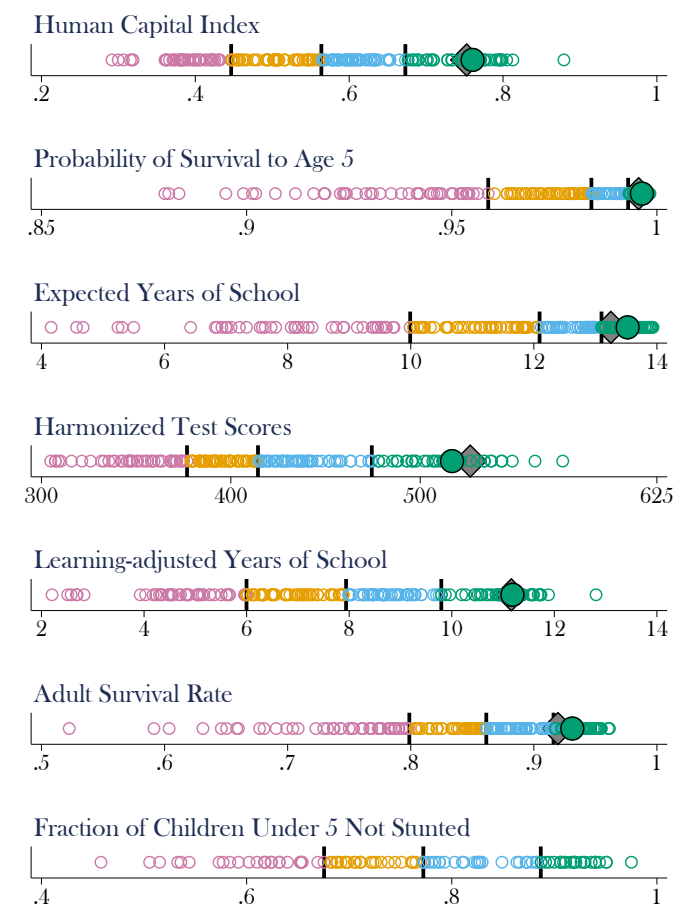
In Belgium, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

**Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group**

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.75	0.77	0.76
Survival to Age 5	1.00	1.00	1.00
Expected Years of School	13.5	13.6	13.5
Harmonized Test Scores	516	517	517
Learning-adjusted Years of School	11.1	11.2	11.2
Adult Survival Rate	0.91	0.95	0.93
Not Stunted Rate	-	-	-
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)	-	-	-

For more on socioeconomic disaggregated HCI, please visit <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/insights-from-disaggregating-the-human-capital-index>

**Figure 1. HCI and Components**



Note:

- Large circle represents Belgium in 2020
- Diamond represents Belgium in 2010
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution