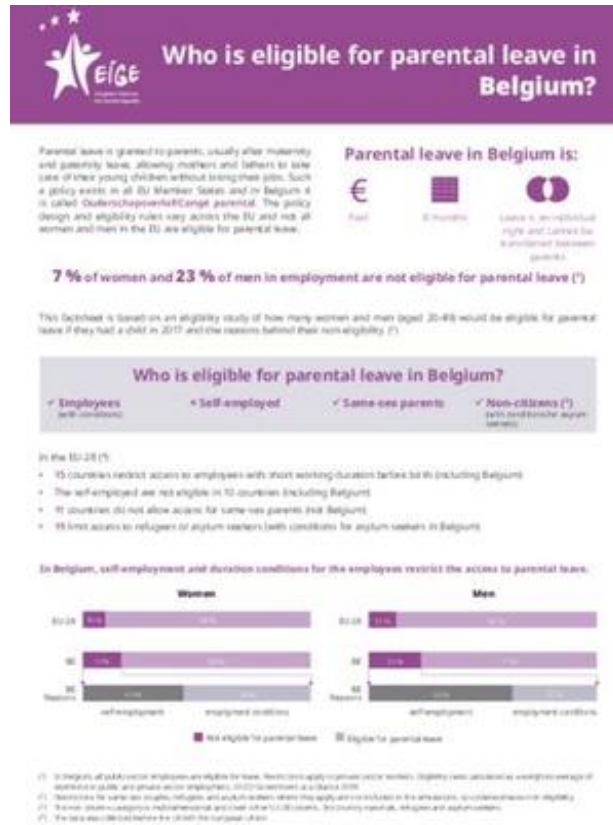


# Who is eligible for parental leave in Belgium?



Parental leave is granted to parents, usually after maternity and paternity leave, allowing mothers and fathers to take care of their young children without losing their jobs. Such a policy exists in all EU Member States and in Belgium it is called Ouderschapsverlof/Congé parental. The policy design and eligibility rules vary across the EU and not all women and men in the EU are eligible for parental leave.

**Parental leave in Belgium is:**

- Paid
- Erased
- Leave is an individual right and cannot be transferred between parents.

**7 % of women and 23 % of men in employment are not eligible for parental leave (\*)**

This factsheet is based on an eligibility study of how many women and men aged 20-49 would be eligible for parental leave if they had a child in 2017 and the reasons behind their non-eligibility (†).

**Who is eligible for parental leave in Belgium?**

- ✓ Employers (self-employed)
- + Self-employed
- ✓ Same-sex parents
- ✓ Non-citizens (‡) (with conditions for asylum seekers)

**In the EU-28 (‡)**

- 15 countries restrict access to employees with short working duration before birth (including Belgium)
- The self-employed are not eligible in 10 countries (including Belgium)
- 17 countries do not allow access for same-sex parents (not Belgium)
- 15 limit access to refugees or asylum seekers (with conditions for asylum seekers in Belgium)

**In Belgium, self-employment and duration conditions for the employees restrict the access to parental leave.**

Gender	Self-employment	Employment conditions	Not eligible for parental leave	Eligible for parental leave
Women	10.2%	10.2%	10.2%	89.8%
Men	10.2%	10.2%	23.4%	76.6%

(†) In Belgium all public sector employees are eligible for leave. Restrictions apply to private sector workers. Eligibility rules also depend on employment type of applicants (public and private sector employees). (‡) Government as of January 2018.  
 (†) Statistics for same-sex parents, refugees and asylum seekers where this applies is included in the attachment. (‡) Information on eligibility.  
 (†) It covers short working duration (maternity and paternity leave) after 10-12 weeks. In country research, refugees and asylum seekers.  
 (†) The facts were collected before the 2018th European election.

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## Read more

[Factsheet: Who is eligible for parental leave in the EU-28?](#)



[Factsheets: Eligibility for parental leave in EU Member States](#)



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# Downloads



**Who is eligible for parental leave in Belgium?**

EN (PDF, 178.98 KB)

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