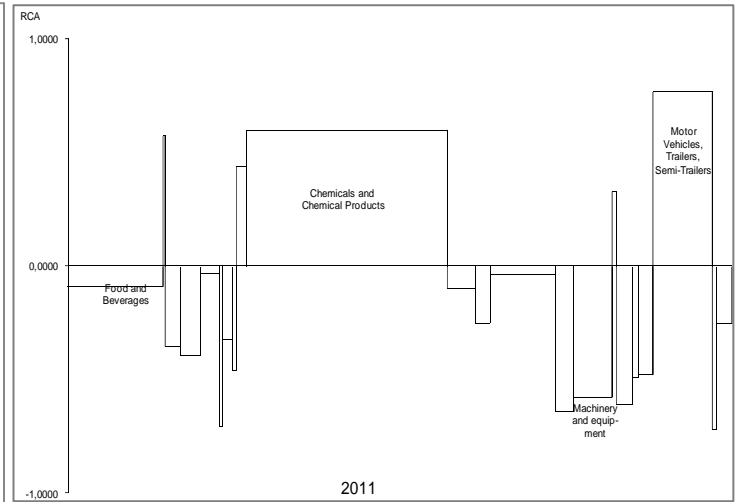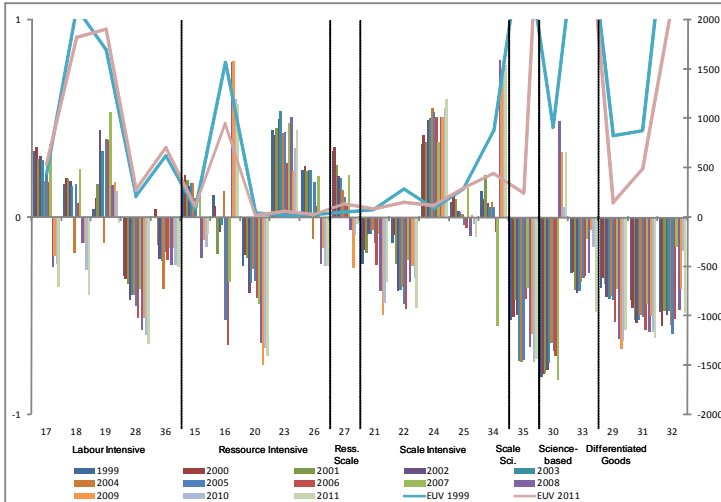# EIIW News
RCA Bulletin 2011
Belgium

2011

RCA Analysis:

The Belgian export structure across the last eleven years shows consistent positive comparative advantages in the sectors of coke and refined petroleum products (23) as well as the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (24) and the tanning and dressing of leather (19).

Belgium has gradually increased its comparative advantages in the sector of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (34) within the last years and reports a distinct specialization in this sector since 2008. Belgium has also gained an advantage in the manufacturing of office machinery and computers (30) in recent years.

Since 2008 the country lost its comparative advantages in the sectors of food and beverages (15), textiles (17) and basic metals (27).

The sectors of other transport equipment (35), machinery and equipment (29), electrical machinery and apparatus (31) and radio, television and communication equipment (32) report distinct comparative disadvantages.

EUV Analysis:

A remarkable aspect is the rise of EUVs in office machinery and computers (30) and medical, precision and optical instruments, watches and clocks (33), which can be interpreted as a shift to an increasing high tech structure of Belgian exports. At the same time a visible decrease of EUVs in transport equipment (35), electrical machinery and apparatus (31) has to be mentioned.

Vol RCA Analysis:

The figure above shows the sectoral RCAs of Belgium in comparison to the share of total Belgian exports.

There are two major export sectors that show reasonable high and significantly positive RCAs (24, 34) and also two export sectors with a negative RCA features in 2011 (15, 29).

Combined, this leads to the conclusion that Belgium has a distinct specialization and export structure.

Definition RCA:
(Revealed Comparative Advantage / country c, sector s)

$$RCA_{c,s} = tanhyp\left(ln\left(\frac{Exports_{c,s}}{\sum_{s=1}^{n} Exports_{c,s}} \right) - ln\left(\frac{Exports_{Ref,s}}{\sum_{s=1}^{n} Exports_{Ref,s}} \right) \right)$$

Definition Vol RCA:
(Volume Weighted RCA)

$$Vol\,RCA_{c,s} = \frac{Exports_s}{Total\,Exports_c} RCA_{c,s}$$

Definition EUV:
(Export Unit Value)

$$EUV_{c,s} = \frac{Exports_{c,s}\,(in\,Euro)}{Exports_{c,s}\,(in\,kg)}$$