

## BELGIUM

### **AID TO RECOVERY: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF IT, SOFTWARE, AND THE MICROSOFT ECOSYSTEM ON THE ECONOMY**

October 2009

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#### **KEY FINDINGS**

Economists have long recognized the important role information technology (IT) can play in a country's development. As the IT sector helps lead us out of the worst global recession in more than 50 years, that role will be even more important.

To quantify the direct benefits of IT on local economies as we head toward recovery, IDC has studied the relationship between IT, software, the Microsoft ecosystem and the economies of 52 countries, including Belgium.

Key findings for Belgium:

- ☒ IT spending in 2009 will be 9 billion EUR (\$12.6 billion). From the end of 2008 to the end of 2013, IT spending will grow 2.4% a year, compared to GDP growth of 0.3% a year.
- ☒ IT-related activities will generate 11 billion EUR (\$15.8 billion) in taxes in 2009. Over the next four years that means more than 2 billion EUR (\$3.5 billion) in aggregate net *new* taxes.
- ☒ That spending growth means that employment in the IT industry and of IT professionals in IT-using organizations will rise by 16,000 jobs in the four years from the end of 2009 to the end of 2013, up from a 2009 base of 222,000.
- ☒ That represents growth of 1.1% a year from now through 2013, which is almost four times faster than the growth of total employment.
- ☒ Software drives activity in the services and distribution sectors, as well as in IT-using organizations, which means that while spending on packaged software will be only 24% of total IT spending in 2009, 64% of IT employment will be software-related.
- ☒ The IT market will drive the creation of more than 600 new businesses between now and the end of 2013. Most of these companies will be small and locally owned organizations.

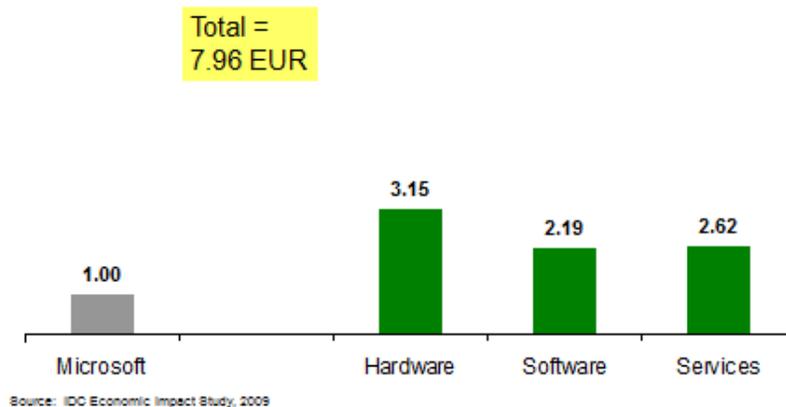
For more information on the global IDC study, see *Aid to Recovery: The Economic Impact of IT, Software, and the Microsoft Ecosystem on the Global Economy*, October 2009. For details about methodology and definitions, see *Economic Impact Study Methodology and Definitions*, October 2009.

## THE MICROSOFT ECOSYSTEM

The Microsoft ecosystem in Belgium includes those companies that sell PCs, servers, storage, and smart handheld devices running Microsoft software; software vendors that write applications that run on Microsoft platforms; resellers that sell and distribute these products; and service firms that install and manage Microsoft-based solutions, train consumers and businesses on Microsoft products, and service customers for their own applications. It also includes companies that do combinations of these functions. Note these additional findings:

- ☒ As a group, companies in the Microsoft ecosystem in Belgium will generate more than 3 billion EUR (\$4.5 billion) in revenues for themselves in 2009. For every EUR Microsoft will make in Belgium in 2009, companies in the local ecosystem will make 7.96 EUR.
- ☒ To generate those revenues, companies in the local ecosystem will drive nearly 1 billion EUR (\$1.6 billion) of investment, most of it in the country.
- ☒ Companies in the Microsoft ecosystem employ 30,000 people; IT-using organizations employ another 53,000 IT professionals who work with Microsoft software or the products and services based on it.
- ☒ Together, these employees will account for 37% of IT-related employment in 2009 and 41% of IT-related taxes in the country.

### Ecosystem Revenues vs. Microsoft Revenues



## GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION

Seven years after the third major high tech crash in the last 50 years, the industry is flush with new technology, from new servers and client devices and new storage and networking technologies, to new software architectures and delivery models.

Together, these new technologies are ushering in what may be a new paradigm of computing, known variously as cloud computing, cloud services, or dynamic IT. Microsoft calls it Software plus Services.

The promise of this new way of computing, which involves the use of Internet-based services and intelligent clients and devices, is that businesses, governments, and educational institutions will be able to lower the capital costs of IT and increase the amount of their IT budgets that can be devoted to innovation, rather than to the maintenance of legacy applications and infrastructure.

This new type of computing is in its infancy – while IDC estimates that this year it will account for about 1% of IT spending in Belgium, that percentage may triple over the next four years. Despite that small footprint, the economic benefits can be significant. If that amount of IT spending is applied to innovation more effectively than it is today, IDC estimates that cloud services could add more than 3 billion EUR (\$4.7 billion) in net *new* business revenues to Belgium’s economy between the end of 2009 and the end of 2013.

## SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

The IDC research reinforces the conclusions drawn in academic research – namely, that IT is good for local economies. The economic benefits quantified in this study will help Belgium grow, create new jobs, improve the efficiency of its labor force, and support the formation of new companies. The economic benefits not quantified in this study but referenced in the academic research help drive productivity improvements throughout a country, increase competitiveness, and foster local innovation.

The table below summarizes some of the key IT industry metrics covered in the study.

### IT Profile and Forecast: Belgium

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	08-13 CAGR
<b>Spending (Million LOCAL)</b>							
IT Hardware	2,905	2,625	2,699	2,942	3,128	3,305	2.6%
Software	2,055	2,087	2,131	2,208	2,311	2,433	3.4%
IT Services	4,071	4,006	4,014	4,112	4,267	4,448	1.8%
Total IT	9,031	8,718	8,843	9,262	9,706	10,186	2.4%
<b>IT Contribution</b>							
IT/GDP (%)	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	
IT Tax Revenues (Million LOCAL)	11,375	10,823	10,801	11,213	11,591	12,067	1.2%
Total Number of IT Companies	13,190	13,069	13,125	13,307	13,495	13,693	0.8%
<b>IT Employment</b>							
Total Number of Employees	225,003	222,335	223,653	228,030	232,864	238,080	1.1%
Total Software-Related Employees	138,360	141,731	142,041	140,923	142,651	145,605	1.0%
<b>Cloud plus Clients</b>							
Net New Business Revenues (Million LOCAL)	-	-	235	570	962	1,439	

Source: IDC Economic Impact Study, 2009

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