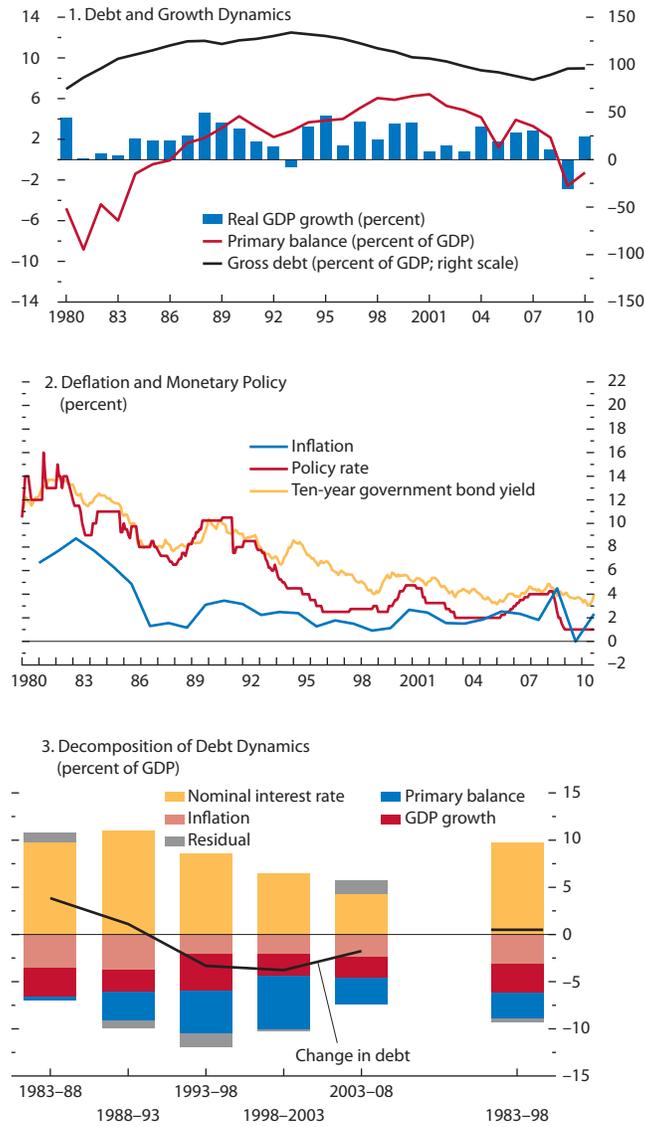


Figure 3.11. Belgium: A Marathon Not a Sprint

Belgium achieved large primary surpluses in the late 1980s and maintained them for about 15 years. The debt ratio also fell considerably in the 1990s thanks to a reduction in real interest rates and fairly strong growth.



Sources: Abbas and others (2010); Thomson Reuters Datastream; Haver Analytics; and IMF staff calculations.  
 Note: The decomposition of debt dynamics is based on a linearized version of equation (3.1).