

# Trends in the Netherlands

2016



# Trends in the Netherlands

2016

## Explanation of symbols

- . Data not available
- \* Provisional figure
- \*\* Revised provisional figure (but not definite)
- x Publication prohibited (confidential figure)
- Nil
- (Between two figures) inclusive
- 0 (0.0) Less than half of unit concerned
- empty cell Not applicable
- 2015-2016 2015 to 2016 inclusive
- 2015/2016 Average for 2015 to 2016 inclusive
- 2015/'16 Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2015 and ending in 2016
- 2013/'14-
- 2015/'16 Crop year, financial year, etc., 2013/'14 to 2015/'16 inclusive

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Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.

# Foreword

How did the Dutch economy develop in 2015? How many asylum seekers came to the Netherlands? And how many children in the Netherlands grew up in poverty? *Trends in the Netherlands 2016* provides the answers to these and many more questions. By describing trends in Dutch society, this publication represents the diversity in information offered by Statistics Netherlands. In this edition, we put special focus on migration, wealth and the economy, alongside other topics.

All the information contained in *Trends in the Netherlands 2016* can also be found on our new website [cbs.nl](http://cbs.nl). Starting from the news releases which now take central stage on our site, you can easily click through to the underlying figures. These figures – like all our statistical output – can also be found in StatLine, our free online databank. StatLine is accessible through our website ([cbs.nl/statline](http://cbs.nl/statline)) and through the StatLine App ([opendata.cbs.nl/dataportaal](http://opendata.cbs.nl/dataportaal)).

The maps, graphs, tables and texts in this publication are just a small selection of what Statistics Netherlands can offer. I hope that you enjoy what you see and read here, and invite you to check [cbs.nl](http://cbs.nl) regularly for the latest figures.

**Director General,  
Dr T.B.P.M. Tjin-A-Tsoi**

The Hague/Heerlen/Bonaire, July 2016



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# Migration in 2015



**146,279**  
emigrants

**202,647**  
immigrants

**20,461**  
Syrians settled in the Netherlands

# 1. Society

## Trends

In 2015, the Dutch population grew by 79 thousand, to 16.9 million inhabitants. This represented a growth of 0.5 percent. The 17 millionth inhabitant of the Netherlands was registered on 21 March 2016. There is a greater chance of this person being an immigrant than a newborn, since more immigrants arrived (200 thousand) than there were babies born last year (170 thousand).

The difference between immigration and emigration - positive net migration - was 56 thousand in 2015, the highest since 1975. The high net immigration - immigrants minus emigrants - is partly due to the arrival of more asylum seekers. In addition, there was a large influx of migrant workers. Most of these new inhabitants settled in areas which were already densely populated, mainly in the Randstad conurbation.

### Fewer babies born

In 2015, 170 thousand babies were born in

the Netherlands, 5 thousand fewer than in 2014. The number of births is similar to the early 1980s, when the country also had a low birth rate. Especially women under 30 are having fewer children. The number of births is expected to increase again in the coming years, although more young women will postpone having children.

The 147 thousand deaths recorded in 2015 mean mortality was 8 thousand up on the previous year. As a result, the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths was 23 thousand. This is the lowest natural population growth since 1871.

### Over 200 thousand immigrants

Nearly 20 thousand more immigrants arrived in the Netherlands than in the previous year. Altogether nearly 203 thousand immigrants registered at a Dutch municipality. The number of emigrants, 146 thousand, was similar to

previous years. Germany, Belgium and Great Britain are most popular among Dutch emigrants. On balance, migration resulted in 56 thousand more inhabitants.

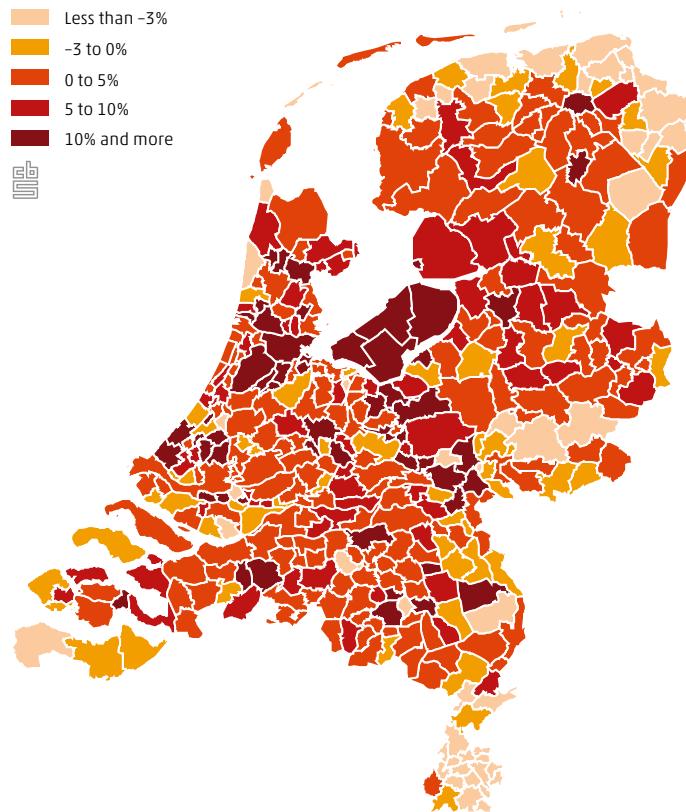
### **Strongest growth in Amsterdam and in VINEX districts**

The population of the Netherlands has grown by one million since 2001. The municipality of Amsterdam has seen the largest increase: 100 thousand new inhabitants. Amsterdam was followed by Utrecht, The Hague and Almere. Population growth in other municipalities in the Randstad outside of the big cities was mainly caused by expanding outer city (VINEX) districts. Although part of this expansion took place within municipal city borders, including Leidsche Rijn in Utrecht, Ypenburg in The Hague and IJburg in Amsterdam, it also took place in particular municipalities close to the cities. Since 2001, the population has grown most rapidly in Barendrecht near Rotterdam: by over 50 percent.

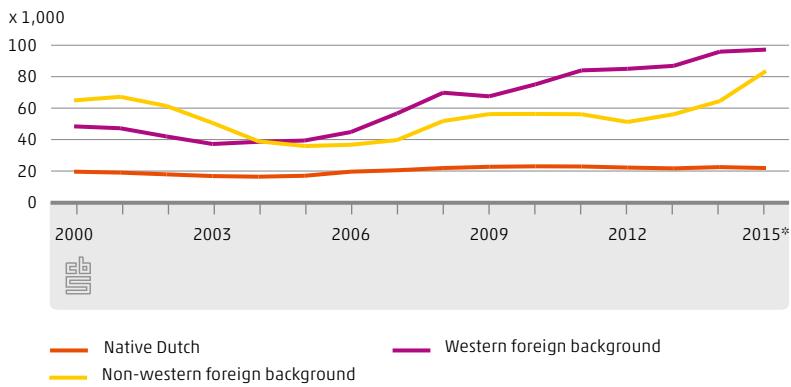
### **Fewer municipalities shrinking**

The majority of the 393 Dutch municipalities saw their population grow in 2015. In one-quarter of

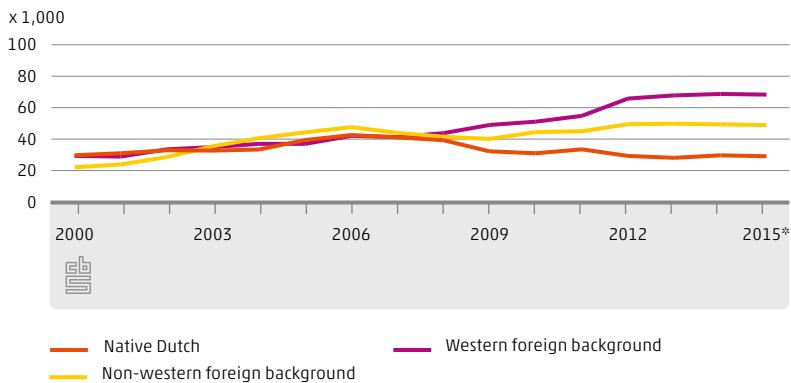
### **1.1 Relative population growth between 1 January 2001 and 1 January 2016\***



## 1.2 Immigration, native Dutch and foreign backgrounds



## 1.3 Emigration, native Dutch and foreign backgrounds



municipalities, the population declined. This is referred to as population shrinkage.

In 2014, populations were shrinking in nearly 40 percent of Dutch municipalities. Decreasing population numbers are particularly notable on the fringes of the country and in more rural areas such as southern Limburg, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, the Achterhoek and parts of the northernmost provinces. In nearly half of all municipalities there were more deaths than births. In spite of this, the population increased in some of these municipalities as a result of external migration.

### Immigration from Syria and Poland

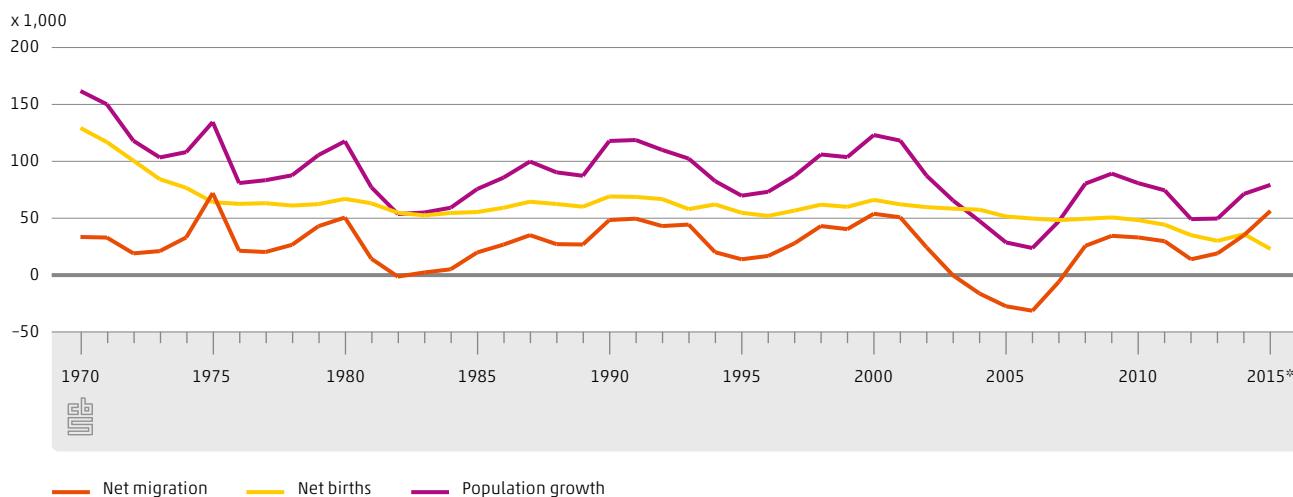
A part of the immigrants who became residents were asylum seekers who obtained a residence permit or had stayed in an asylum reception centre for at least six months, and so were allowed to register as residents in a municipality. The majority were Syrians: 21 thousand. In addition, 3 thousand Eritreans and 2 thousand Ethiopians were registered as country residents. Apart from asylum seekers, there were migrant workers, mainly from Poland (9 thousand). In recent years, the Dutch labour market has also seen more migrant workers from India.

## More asylum seekers and following dependents

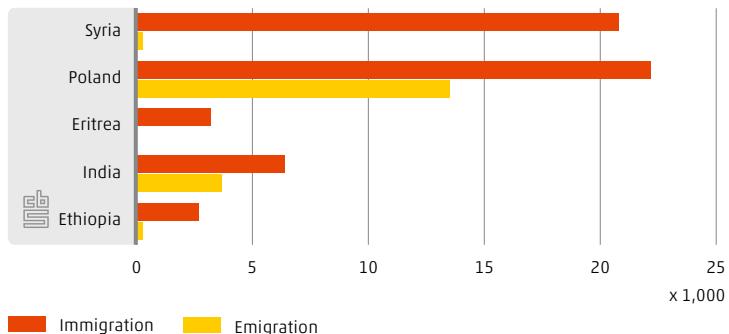
Asylum seekers who are awaiting a residence permit or who have been in the Netherlands for less than six months are not officially included in the Dutch population. They are not yet allowed to register as residents of the country, and are therefore not included in the immigration figures stated above. In 2015, nearly 57 thousand asylum seekers and

following family members arrived in the Netherlands. These people registered an application for admission as refugees. Out of the more than 43 thousand asylum seekers (twice the number in 2014), four in ten were from Syria. Among the nearly 14 thousand following dependents (a tripling of the number one year previously), Syrians even accounted for two-thirds.

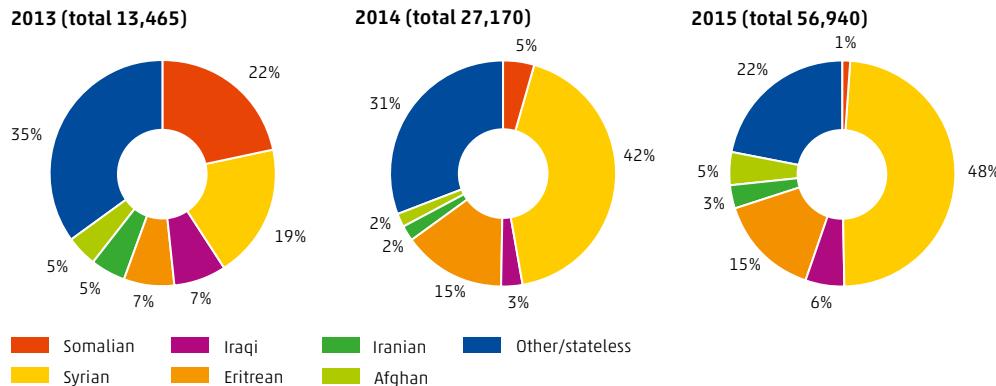
### 1.4 Population growth, net migration and net births



## 1.5 Top five countries of origin with highest net migration, 2015\*

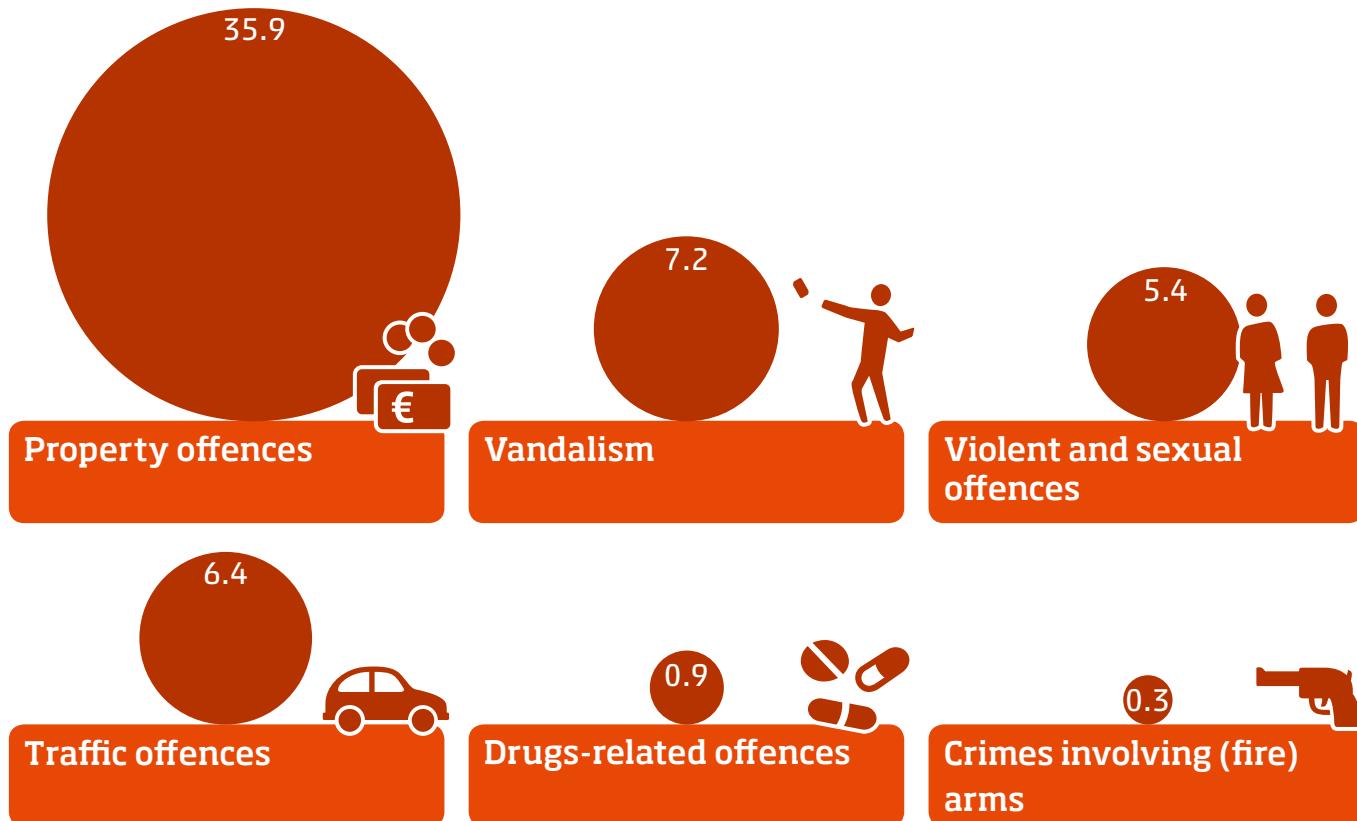


## 1.6 First asylum requests by nationality



# Which crimes are reported most often?

Number of reported crimes per 1,000 inhabitants, 2015



# Facts and figures

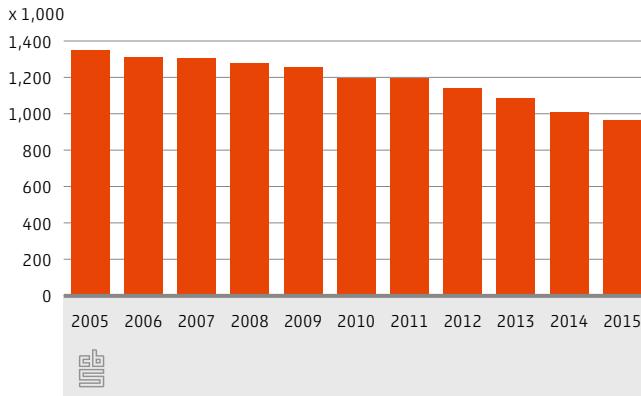
## Security and justice

The number of registered criminal offences has been decreasing for a number of years now.

In 2015, Dutch police recorded nearly 1 million criminal offences. Ten years earlier the total exceeded 1.3 million. Likewise, the share of reported crime victims has declined almost continuously in the last decade. In 2005, nearly three in ten Dutch residents stated they had been crime victims. By 2015, this had fallen to just under two in ten of the population; a decline of more than 35 percent. At the same time as crime figures fell, so did the number of people who sometimes felt unsafe.

In the four large cities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht) an average 26 percent of inhabitants said they had been victims of a criminal offence. This share is higher than the average in municipalities with over 70 thousand inhabitants (22 percent) and the national average (18 percent). In the four large cities, more inhabitants report feeling unsafe compared to the smaller municipalities.

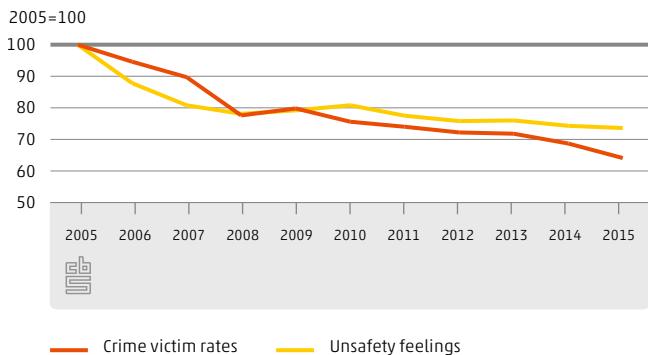
### 1.7 Registered offences



**72,900** crime suspects  
aged 12 to 25 in 2014



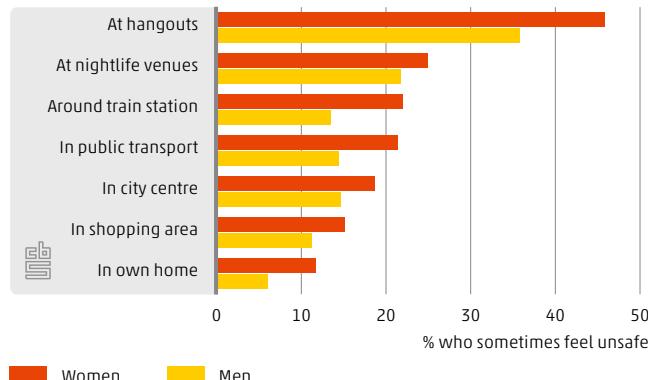
## 1.8 Crime victim rates and unsafety feelings



## 1.9 Registered criminal offences

	2013*	2014*	2015*
	x 1,000		
Total number of offences recorded by police and Royal Netherlands Marechaussee	1,088	1,009	963
Property offences	682	624	607
of which			
aggravated theft and burglary	13	10	10
theft and burglary without violence	632	577	534
Vandalism and public order offences	141	135	122
Violent and sexual offences	102	97	91
Offences under Penal Code (other)	11	12	11
Traffic offences	125	116	108
Drugs-related offences	16	16	15
Crimes involving firearms or other weapons	6	6	6
Other criminal offences	4	4	3

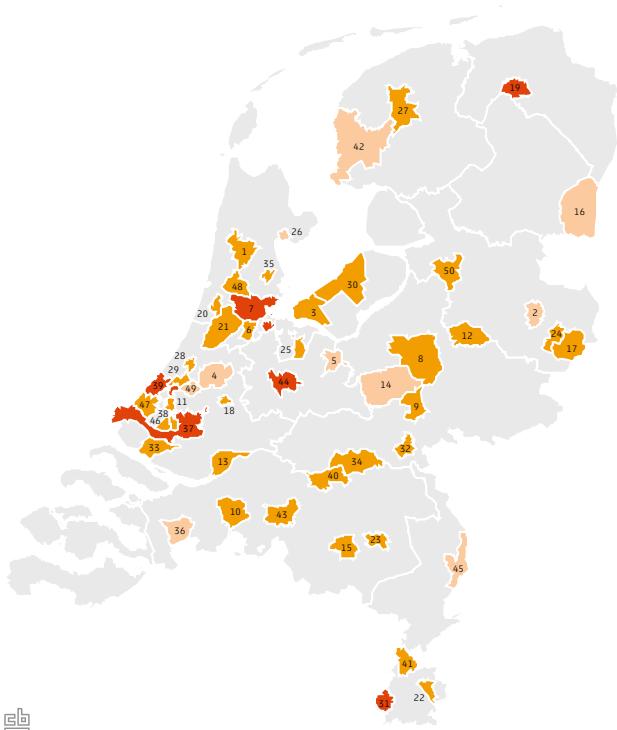
## 1.10 Perception of unsafety in municipality of residence, 2015



**18%** were crime  
victims in 2015



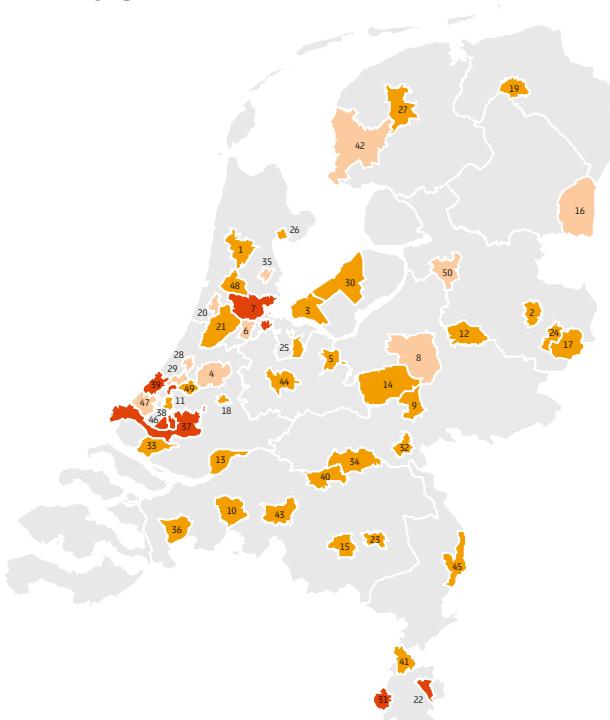
## 1.11 Crime victim rates in municipalities with over 70 thousand inhabitants, 2015



compared to average of municipalities with over 70 thousand inhabitants

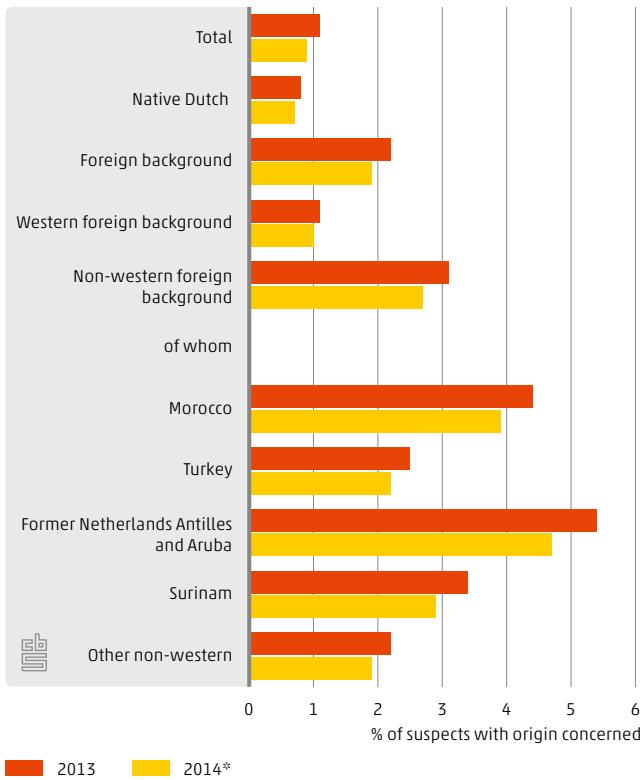
■ Lower than average ■ Average ■ Higher than average

## 1.12 Perceived neighbourhood unsafety in municipalities with over 70 thousand inhabitants, 2015



1. Alkmaar, 2. Almelo, 3. Almere, 4. Alphen aan den Rijn, 5. Amersfoort, 6. Amstelveen, 7. Amsterdam, 8. Apeldoorn, 9. Arnhem, 10. Breda, 11. Delft, 12. Deventer, 13. Dordrecht, 14. Ede, 15. Eindhoven, 16. Emmen, 17. Enschede, 18. Gouda, 19. Groningen, 20. Haarlem, 21. Haarlemmermeer, 22. Heerlen, 23. Helmond, 24. Hengelo, 25. Hilversum, 26. Hoorn, 27. Leeuwarden, 28. Leiden, 29. Leidschendam-Voorburg, 30. Lelystad, 31. Maastricht, 32. Nijmegen, 33. Nissewaard, 34. Oss, 35. Purmerend, 36. Roosendaal, 37. Rotterdam, 38. Schiedam, 39. The Hague, 40. 's-Hertogenbosch, 41. Sittard-Geleen, 42. Südwest Fryslân, 43. Tilburg, 44. Utrecht, 45. Venlo, 46. Vlaardingen, 47. Westland, 48. Zaandstad, 49. Zoetermeer, 50. Zwolle

## 1.13 Arrested suspects by ethnic origin, 12 years or older

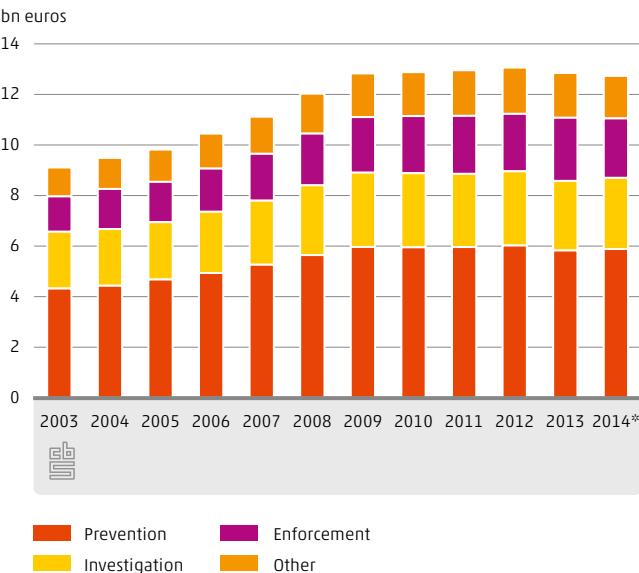


Source: Statistics Netherlands, HKS.

**30%** of penalties imposed by courts  
in 2014 were custodial sentences



## 1.14 Expenditure on public security

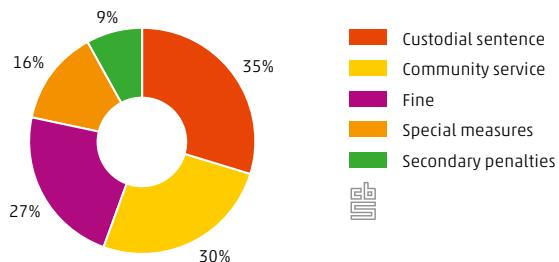


## 1.15 Convictions by courts of first instance

	2012	2013	2014
x 1,000			
Total convictions	88.7	89.0	85.9
Penal Code	62.1	61.7	59.5
of which			
property offences	31.1	32.1	31.0
vandalism and public order offences	10.0	9.3	8.9
violent and sexual offences	18.3	17.9	17.6
Traffic offences	15.1	16.1	14.7
Drugs-related offences	6.7	6.9	7.2
Other offences	4.9	4.3	4.4

## 1.16 Sentencing by courts of first instance, 2014

Total 116.8 thousand



12.7 billion euros spent  
on social safety in 2014



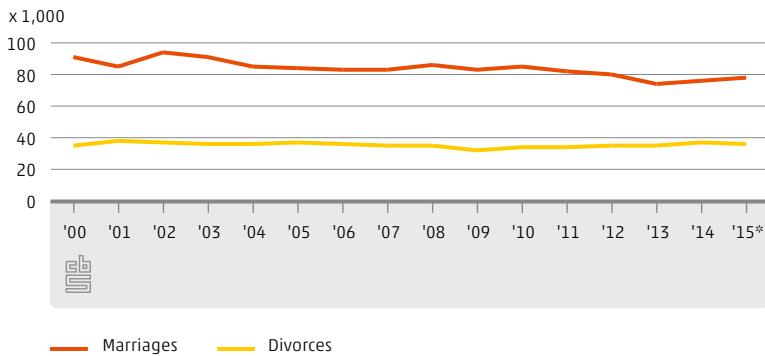
## 1.17 Fire alarms and requests for assistance received by fire services

	2013	2014	2015*
<b>x 1,000</b>			
<b>Fire incidents</b>	126.5	130.3	125.2
of which			
reported automatically	79.7	85.8	80.7
reported by telephone	46.8	44.5	44.5
of which			
handled by control rooms	29.9	39.2	40.2
fire call-outs	96.6	91.2	85.0
<b>Requests for assistance</b>	108.1	102.1	109.0
of which			
assistance lent by control room	46.8	43.2	41.8
fire call-outs	61.3	58.9	67.2

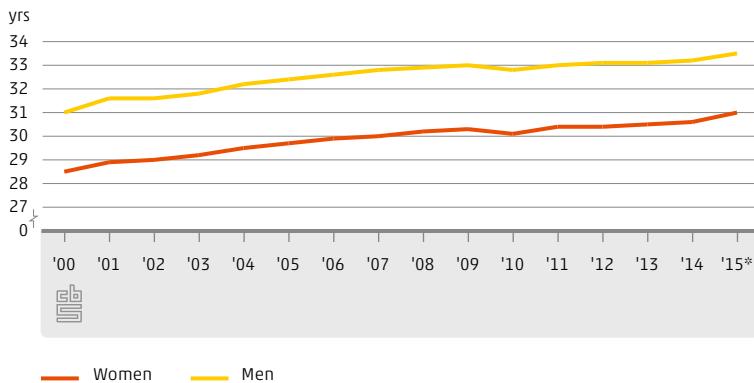


**85,000**  
fire emergencies  
reported in 2014

## 1.18 Marriages (including registered partnerships) and flash annulments/divorces



## 1.19 Average age at first marriage



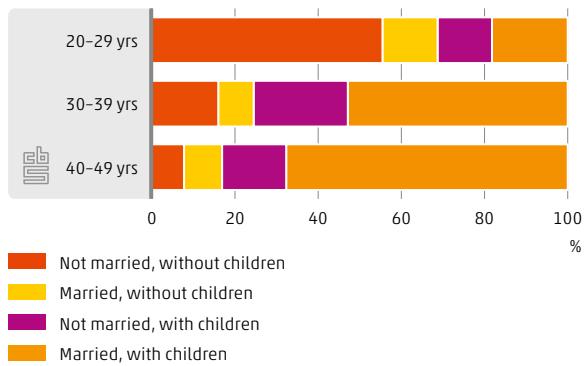
## Population

In 2015, there were 78 thousand new marriages while 36 thousand existing marriages ended in divorce.

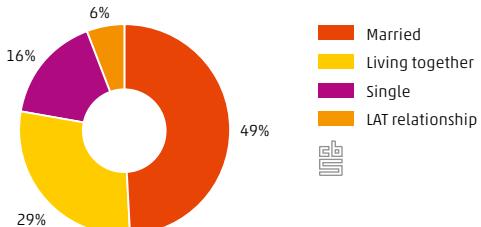
The average age at which men and women marry for the first time is increasing. Men get married for the first time at an average age of 33.5, while women tie the first knot at an average age of 31.0. In 2000, the average age was 31.0 for men and 28.5 for women.

There were 170 thousand newborns in 2015. This number is nearing the lower levels in the early 1980s. Women have on average 1.65 children. Not counting 2013, the average number of children has never been lower since the turn of the century. The average age of first-time mothers is still increasing. It is now 29.6 years, up from 29.1 in 2000. Over half of couples having their first child are not married.

## 1.20 Registered partners with or without children, 1 January 2015

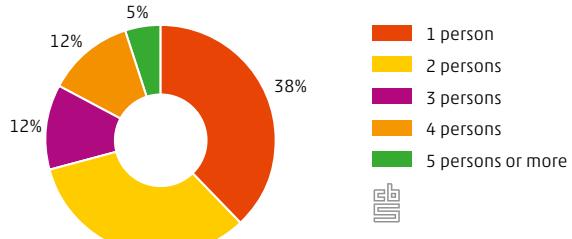


## 1.21 Forms of relationship among people in their thirties, 2013



## 1.22 Private households by size, 1 January 2016\*

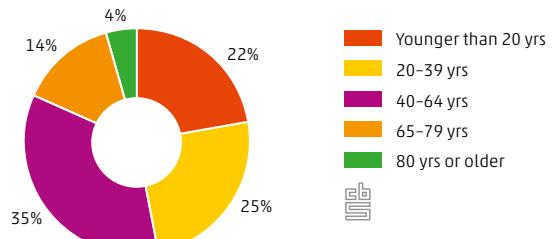
Total 7.7 million



## 1.23 Population key figures

	2013	2014	2015*
	x 1,000		
<b>Population on 1 January</b>	16,780	16,829	16,901
Births	171	175	170
Deaths	141	139	147
Immigration	165	183	203
Emigration	146	148	146
Net corrections	-28	-26	-22
Total growth	50	71	79
<b>Population on 31 December</b>	16,829	16,901	16,980

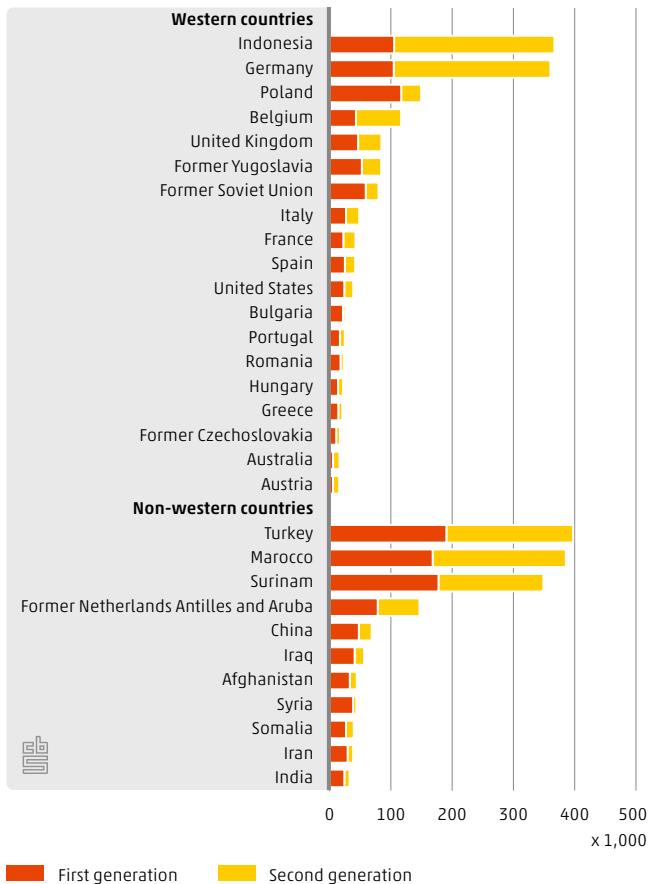
## 1.24 Population by age, 1 January 2016\*



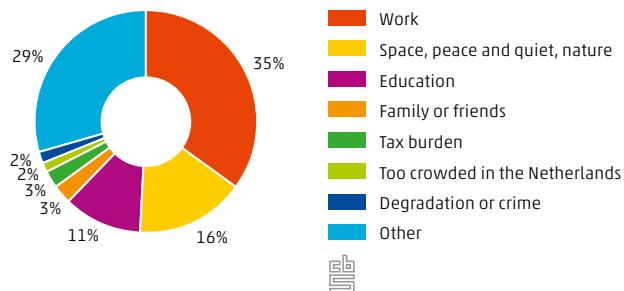
**78%** of people in their 30s  
either married or living together



## 1.25 People with a foreign background, 1 January 2016\*



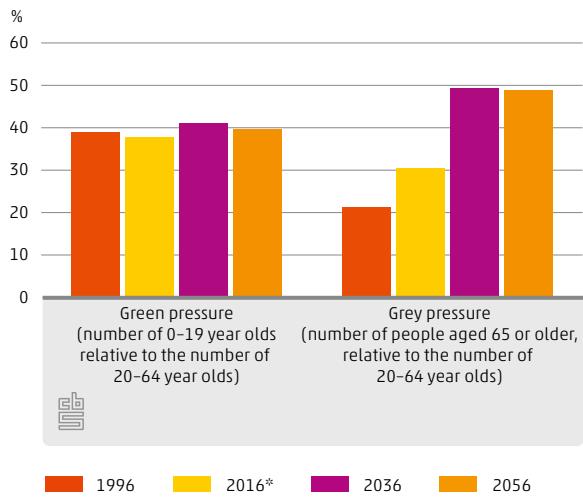
## 1.26 Main reasons to emigrate for native Dutch with emigration plans, 2013



**149,406** Polish residents  
in the Netherlands on 1 January 2016



## 1.27 Demographic pressure



## 1.28 Population forecast

	2016	2040	2060
<b>x 1,000</b>			
<b>Population, 1 January</b>			
younger than 20 yrs	16,974	18,108	18,175
20-39 yrs	3,815	3,916	3,825
40-64 yrs	4,166	4,248	4,395
65-79 yrs	5,909	5,142	5,183
80 years or older	2,336	3,166	2,762
	749	1,637	2,010
<b>Population, year-on-year changes</b>			
of which	113	11	8
live births	173	186	193
deaths	148	192	200
net births	25	-6	-7
immigration	239	185	187
emigration (incl. administrative corrections)	151	168	171
net migration (incl. administrative corrections)	88	17	15
<b>children per woman</b>			
<b>Total fertility rate</b>	1.66	1.75	1.75
<b>years</b>			
<b>Life expectancy at birth</b>			
men	79.9	84.0	86.8
women	83.3	87.5	90.3
<b>%</b>			
<b>Population, 1 January</b>			
younger than 20 yrs	22.5	21.6	21.0
20-64 yrs	59.3	51.9	52.7
65 yrs or older	18.2	26.5	26.3

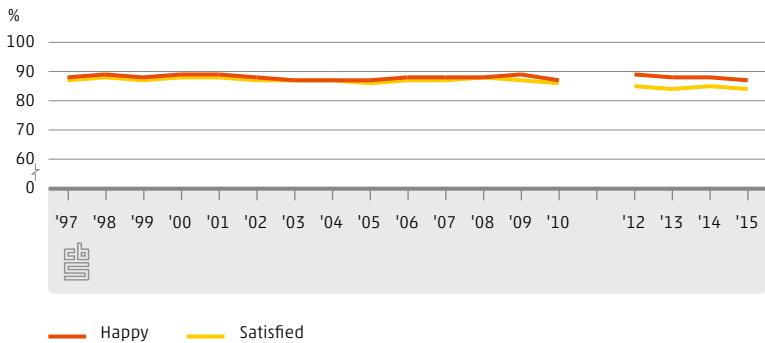
## Wellbeing

Most adults in the Netherlands are satisfied with life. This applied to 84 percent of adults in 2015. Eighty-seven percent of adults said they were happy. On the other hand, we are not equally satisfied in each area of our lives.

For instance, nearly 7 out of 10 adults were satisfied about their physical health and 84 percent were satisfied about their mental health.

Nearly 30 percent were often concerned about their financial future in 2015. These were mostly people on low incomes, but even those with higher incomes indicated they were concerned when it came to their future finances.

### 1.29 Share of population happy and satisfied with life<sup>1)</sup>



<sup>1)</sup> Due to a revision in the statistics, figures over 2012–2015 are not entirely comparable to previous years.

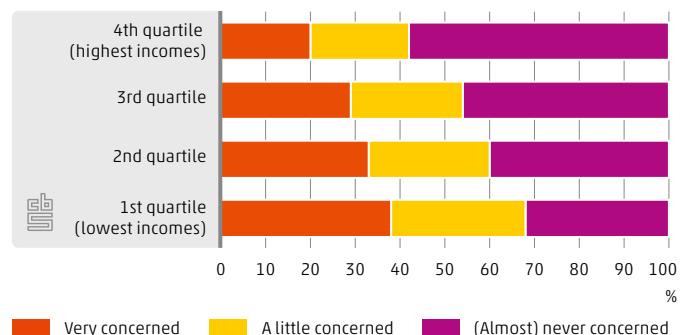
**92%** of highly educated people  
are happy



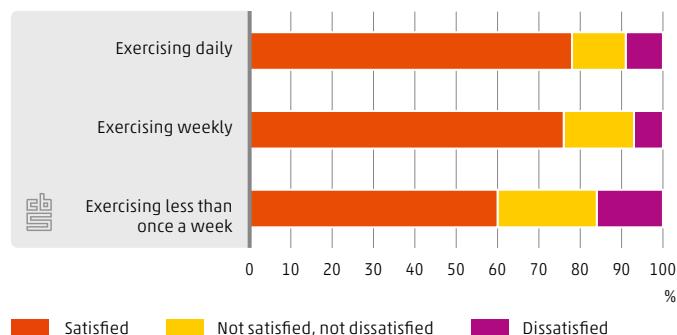
**77%** of people with only  
basic education are happy



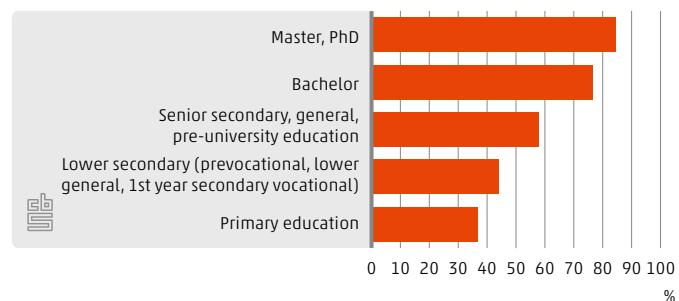
### 1.30 Extent of concern about future financial situation by level of income, 2015



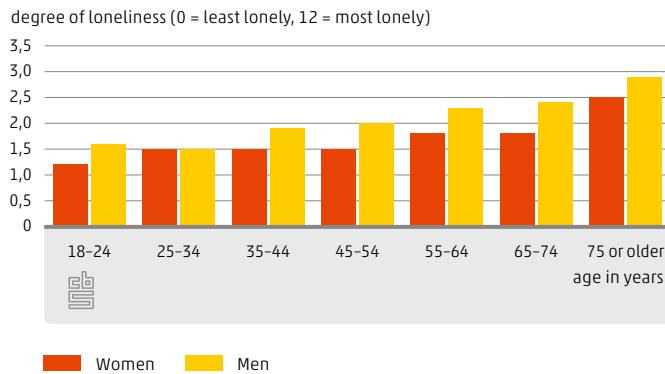
### 1.31 Satisfaction with physical health by frequency of physical exercise, 2015



### 1.32 Share of people who trust others by education level, 2015



### 1.33 Loneliness by gender and age, 2015



## Health and health care

Cancer and cardiovascular diseases were still the primary causes of death in the Netherlands in 2014. The percentages of deaths related to these diseases were 32 and 27 respectively.

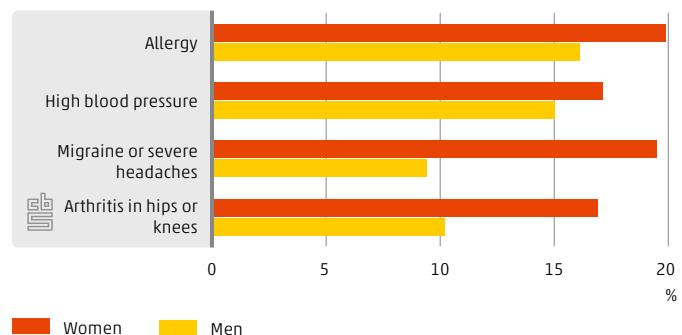
However, the number of people dying from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia rose from 4.4 thousand in 1996 to 12.4 thousand in 2014. Dementia caused 12 percent of deaths in women in 2014, and 6 percent of deaths in men. Women have a higher incidence of death from the effects of dementia, mainly because they reach a higher age than men on average.

The fact that more people are dying from dementia and fewer from cardiovascular diseases, for example, is partly related to the ageing of the population and progress in medical treatments.

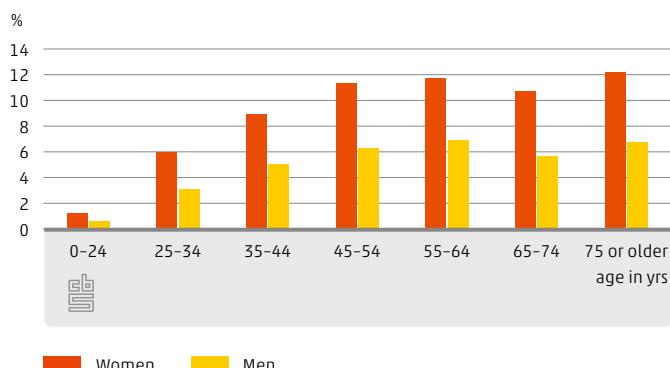
### 1.34 Deaths by cause, 2014

	Men x 1,000	Women
<b>Total</b>	67.1	72.1
of which		
Cancer	23.2	19.8
of which		
trachea and lung	6.2	4.2
colorectal	2.7	2.3
prostate	2.5	
breast		3.0
Cardiovascular diseases	17.7	20.2
of which		
cerebrovascular events	3.7	5.6
acute heart failure	2.9	4.2
acute heart infarct	2.9	2.4
Respiratory diseases	5.4	5.1
of which		
COPD	3.1	2.7
Psychological disorders	3.4	6.8
of which		
dementia	3.0	6.6
Nervous system disorders	2.9	4.0
of which		
Alzheimer's disease	0.9	2.2
External causes of death	3.7	3.1
of which		
road traffic accidents	0.4	0.2
suicide	1.3	0.6

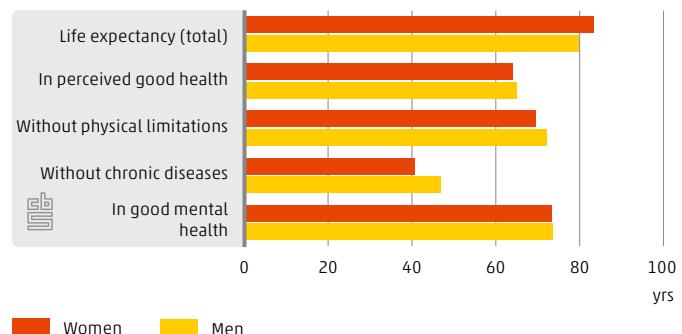
### 1.35 Most common chronic disorders, 2015



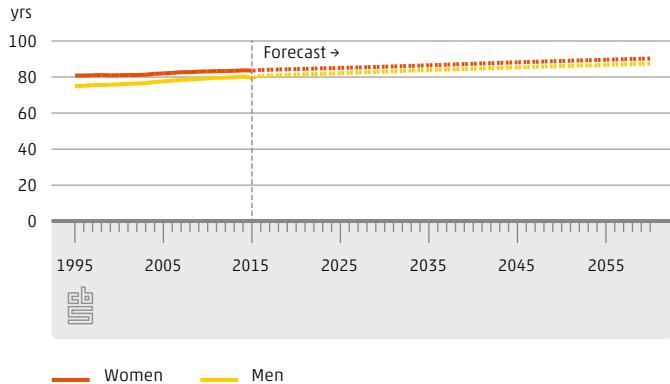
### 1.36 People prescribed antidepressants by age, 2014\*



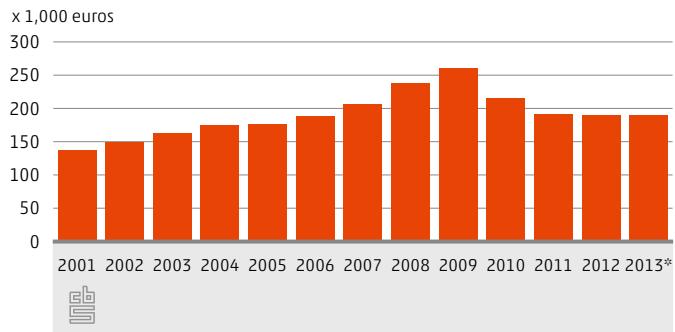
### 1.37 Healthy life expectancy, 2014



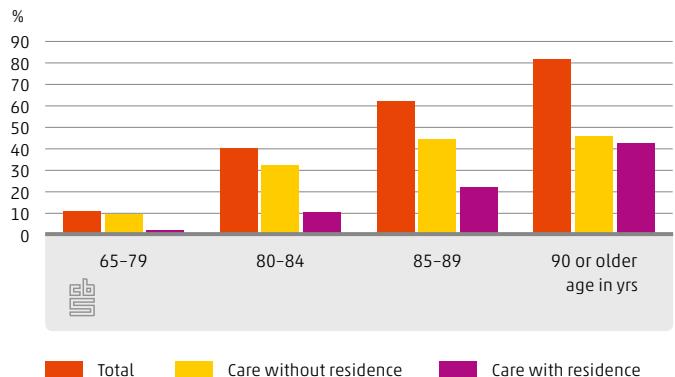
### 1.38 Life expectancy at birth



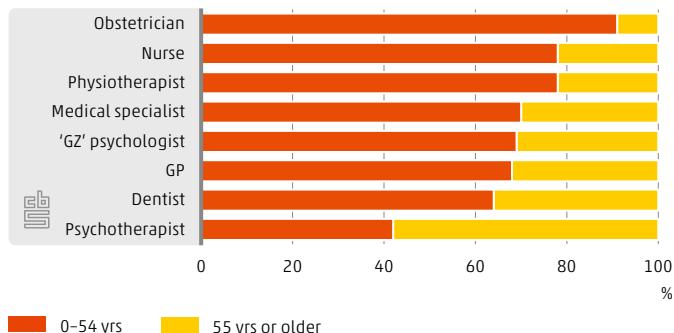
### 1.39 Average profits of independent medical specialists



### 1.41 People receiving care under AWBZ/Wmo funding by age, 2014\*



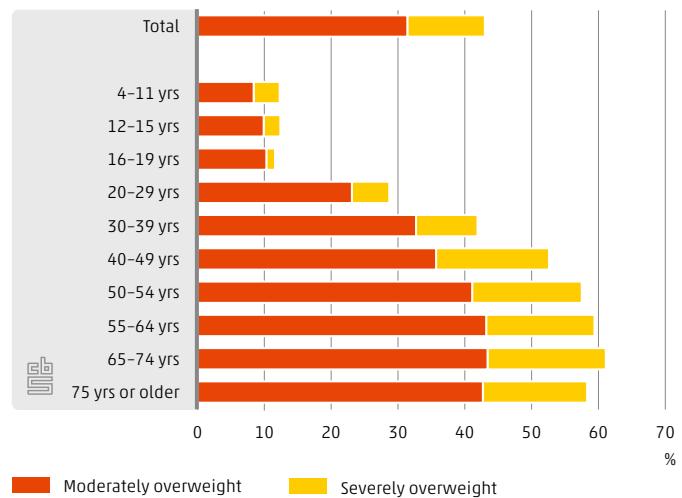
### 1.40 Age of trained health care professionals, 2014\*



69% of people  
consulted a GP in 2015



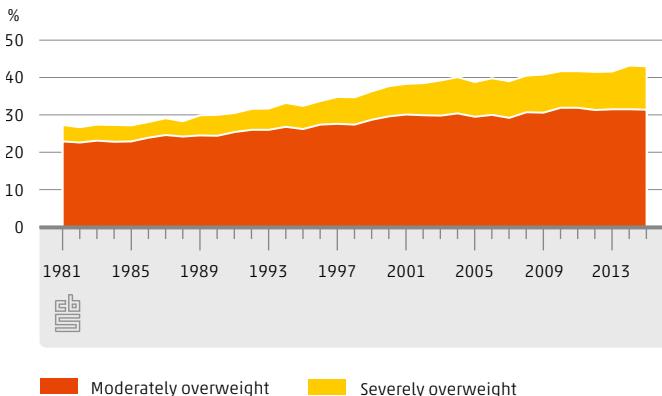
## 1.42 Overweight population by age, 2015



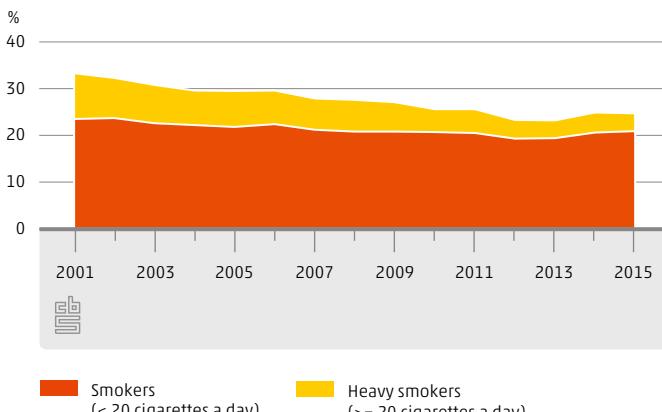
**52%** of people in their 20s  
have never smoked



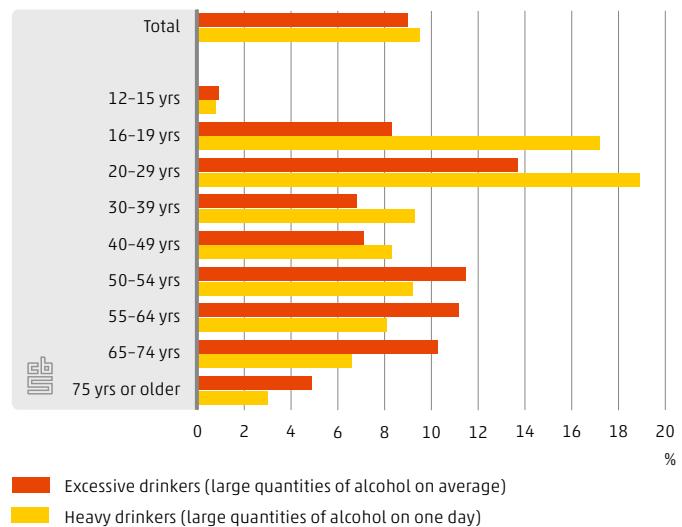
## 1.43 Overweight population (4 years and older)



## 1.44 Smokers (population aged 12 years or older)



## 1.45 Heavy and excessive drinkers by age, 2015



## 1.46 Care expenditure

	2013	2014**	2015*
<b>bn euros</b>			
Total	93.1	94.5	95.3
Hospitals, specialists' practices	25.4	25.8	26.2
Care for the elderly	17.2	17.6	17.3
Care for the disabled	9.6	9.8	10.0
Primary care practices	7.6	7.9	8.0
Mental health care	6.6	6.5	6.5
Other	26.8	27.0	27.4
<b>euros</b>			
Per capita	5,540	5,606	5,628
<b>%</b>			
As a percentage of GDP	14.3	14.3	14.1

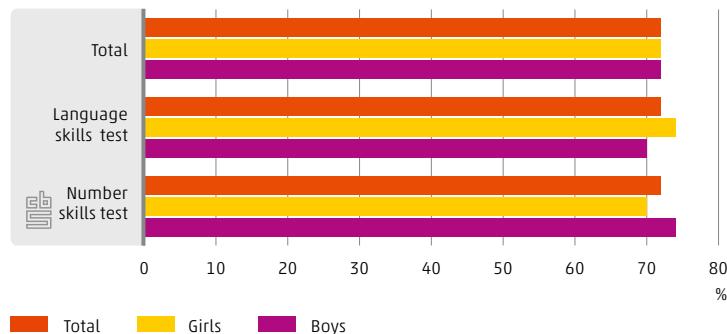
**245,000** adults in long-term care institutions by December 2014



## 1.47 Primary education

	2013/'14*	2014/'15*	2015/'16*
Schools	absolute		
Primary education	6,650	6,650	.
Special-needs primary schools	291	288	.
Other special-needs schools	321	319	.
	<b>x 1,000</b>		
Primary education	1,477	1,458	1,443
Special-needs primary schools	38	37	35
Other special-needs schools	71	71	68

## 1.48 Percentage of correct answers at End of Primary School Test, 2015



## Education

There were 1.4 million children in primary education in the academic year 2015/'16.

The number of primary school pupils has been declining for several years, and so the number of primary schools has been reduced as well. This decrease is not yet visible in secondary education.

Most secondary school students continue on to senior secondary vocational, higher professional or university education. Senior secondary vocational education (mbo) has become less popular. In the academic year 2015/'16, a total of 477 thousand students were enrolled in form of education. The larger part of this group are taking mbo level 4.

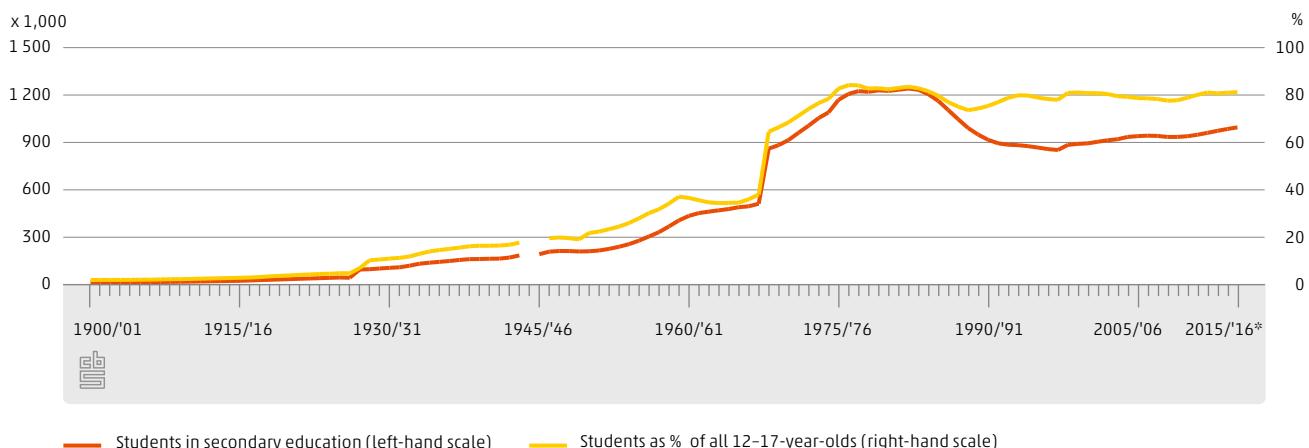
In higher education, the number of students is on the rise, although in higher professional (hbo) education it was down to 443 thousand in the academic year 2015/'16. At universities, however, the number increased to 261 thousand.

## 1.49 Secondary education

	2013/ '14	2014/ '15**	2015/ '16*
Schools	absolute		
	658	655	.
x 1,000			
<b>Students</b>			
General year	974	985	996
Vwo	414	414	414
Havo	161	164	167
Vmbo combined track	157	160	163
Vmbo advanced vocational track	112	115	117
Practical education	101	103	104
	29	29	30

**1+2**  
**68,215** students in  
 special education in 2015/16

## 1.50 Students and percentage of 12-17-year-olds in secondary education since 1900



## 1.51 Mbo and adult education

	2013/'14*	2014/'15**	2015/'16*
	absolute		
<b>Schools</b>	66	66	.
	<b>x 1,000</b>		
<b>Students</b>			
<b>Mbo (excl. exam-only students)</b>	498	482	477
Bol	371	378	378
Bbl	128	104	98
Level 1	19	13	12
Level 2	108	97	89
Level 3	136	129	128
Level 4	235	243	247
<b>Adult education</b>	33	33	14
Other education	20	19	.
Vavo	13	14	14

## 1.52 Higher education

	2013/'14*	2014/'15*	2015/'16*
	<b>x 1,000</b>		
<b>Students</b>			
Hbo	440	446	443
Wo	250	257	261
<b>Graduates</b>			
Hbo bachelor's degree	61	64	.
Wo bachelor's degree	33	35	.
Wo master's degree	34	36	.

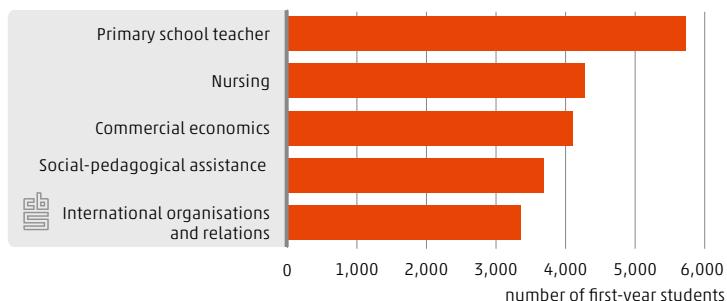
**17,597** students reading  
psychology in 2015/'16



**1,701** students reading  
English in 2015/'16



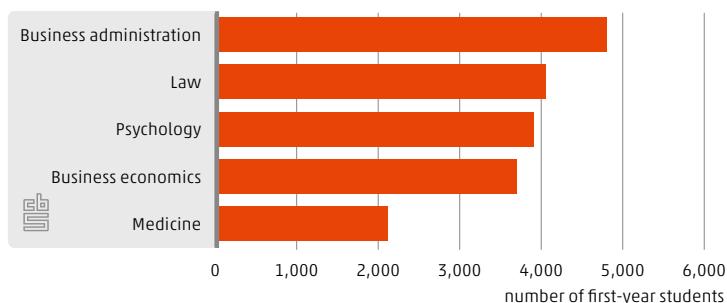
## 1.53 Top 5 courses in Hbo, 2014/15\*



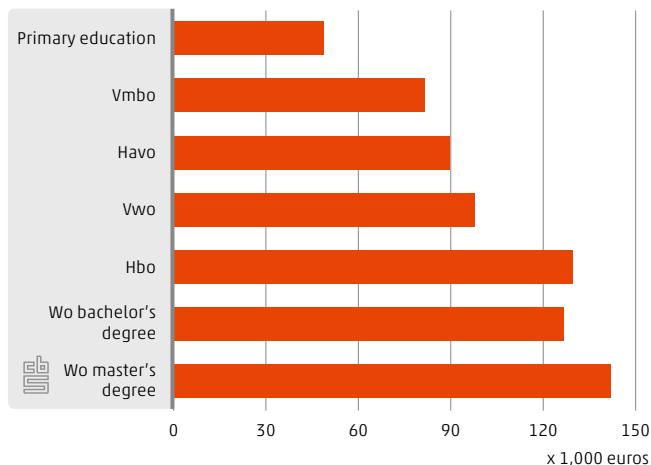
## 1.54 Education spending

	2012	2013	2014*
	min euros		
<b>Total</b>	40,465	41,538	41,264
<b>By government</b>	33,091	34,246	34,215
of which on			
primary education	10,812	11,076	10,683
secondary education, mbo	14,062	14,549	14,439
higher education	8,218	8,621	9,093
<b>By households</b>	3,780	3,765	3,414
of which on			
primary education	361	376	353
secondary education, mbo	1,361	1,386	1,375
higher education	2,058	2,004	1,685
<b>By private sector</b>	3,233	3,173	3,269
of which on			
primary education	60	63	56
secondary education, mbo	1,711	1,631	1,682
higher education	1,461	1,478	1,531
<b>By rest of the world</b>	360	354	366
of which on			
primary education	27	13	13
secondary education, mbo	45	14	13
higher education	288	328	340
	<b>%</b>		
As % of GDP	6,3	6,4	6,2

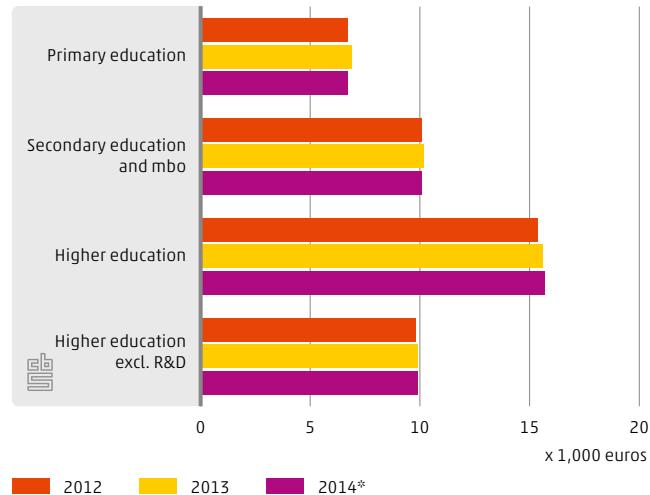
## 1.55 Top 5 courses in university education, 2014/15\*



## 1.56 Education spending per graduation diploma, 2014\*



## 1.57 Spending on education institutions per pupil/student

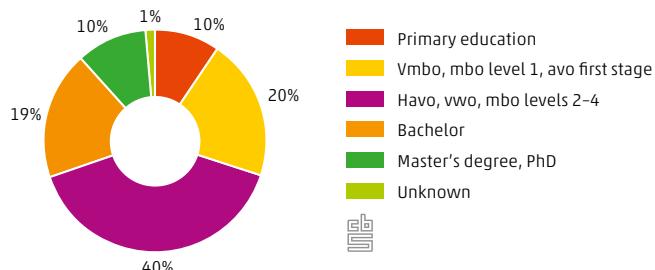


**10%** of the population aged 15-74 have only had primary education

**29%** of the population have completed higher education



## 1.58 Education level of population aged 15-74 years, 2015

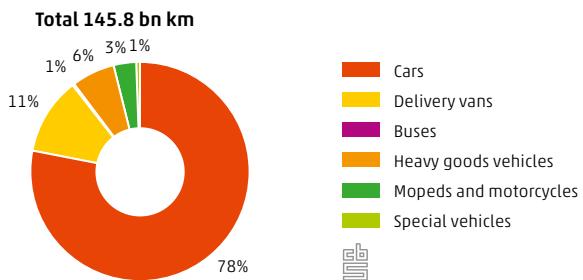


## 1.59 Number of new motor vehicles sold

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Total</b>	490,360	460,671	532,171
of which			
cars	416,717	387,569	449,012
motorcycles	9,244	10,326	11,345
delivery vans	50,568	51,761	57,704
tractors for trailers	8,862	7,010	9,439
trucks (excl. tractors for trailers)	3,561	2,724	3,574
buses	596	669	344
special vehicles	812	612	753

Source: RDC-CBMI / CBS.

## 1.60 Distance covered per year, 2014\*



## Traffic

The Dutch are buying more cars again. In 2015, nearly 450 thousand new cars were sold. This is 16 percent up from the previous year. The number of new cars sold had been declining as of 2011, but this decline appears to have come to a halt. Altogether there are around 8 million cars on Dutch roads.

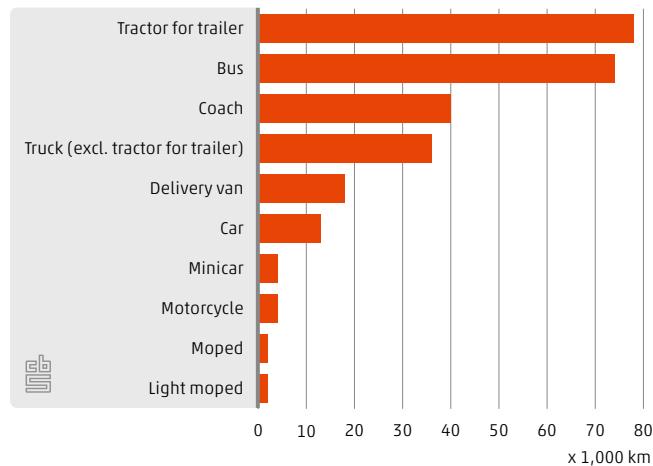
Half of Dutch adults own a car: 65 percent of men and 37 percent of women. In addition, one in four households have more than one car. An average car covers a distance of 13 thousand km per year. That is around 35 km per day.

## 1.61 Motor vehicle fleet, 1 January

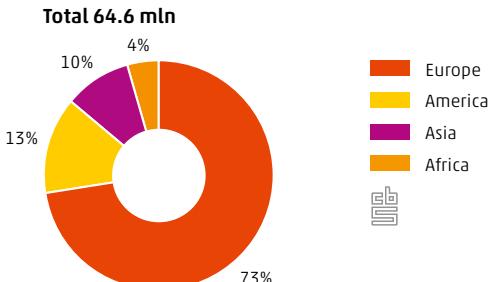
	2013	2014	2015
	x 1,000		
<b>Total</b>	9,612	9,610	9,651
cars	7,916	7,932	7,979
motorcycles	653	654	652
commercial vehicles of which	1,043	1,024	1,020
delivery vans	832	815	815
tractors for trailers	70	71	71
trucks (excl. tractors for trailers)	67	65	63
special vehicles	63	62	61
buses	10	10	10

Source: RDW/CBS.

## 1.62 Average distance covered per vehicle, 2014\*



## 1.63 Passengers via Dutch airports by origin or destination, 2015



**58.2** million passengers travelling through Schiphol Airport in 2015



## 1.64 Motor vehicles on national trunk roads per hour, 2014

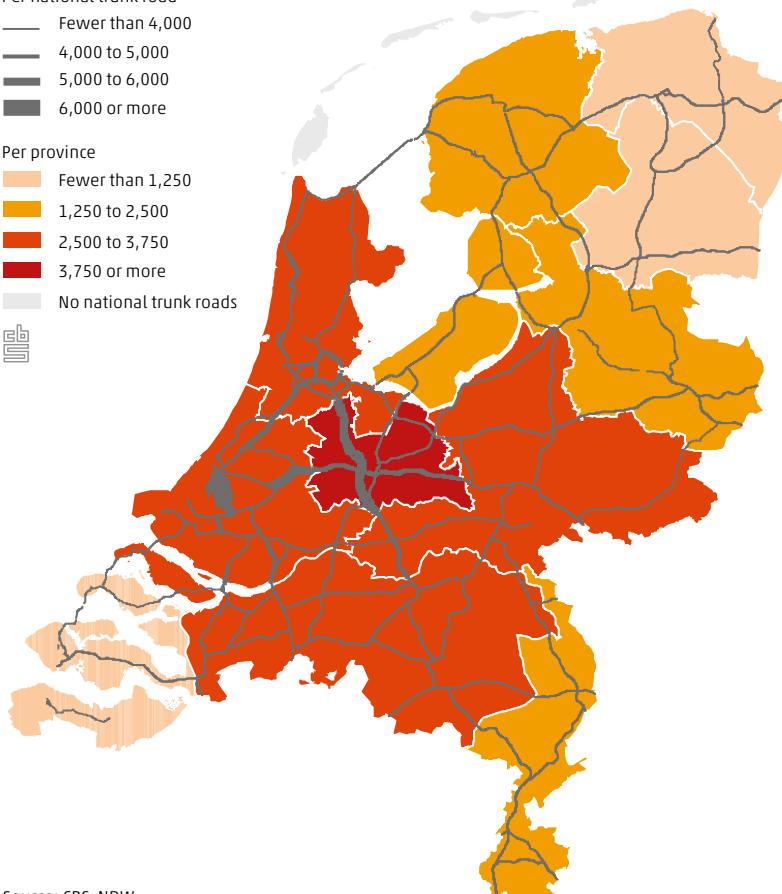
### Average number of passages

Per national trunk road

- Fewer than 4,000
- 4,000 to 5,000
- 5,000 to 6,000
- 6,000 or more

Per province

- Fewer than 1,250
- 1,250 to 2,500
- 2,500 to 3,750
- 3,750 or more
- No national trunk roads



Source: CBS, NDW.

**145.8** billion km covered  
by Dutch motor vehicles in 2014

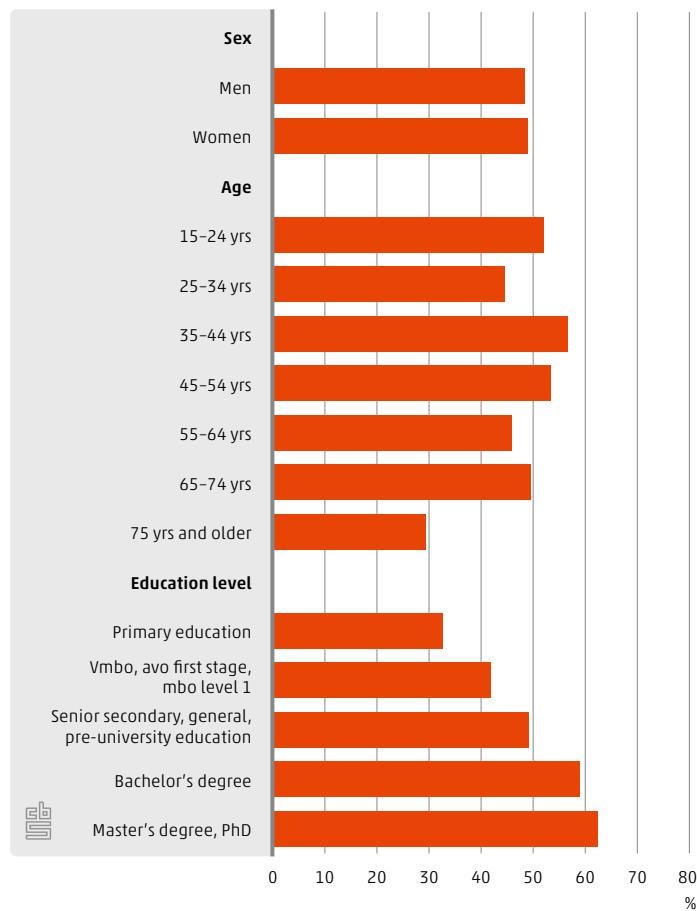


## Leisure and culture

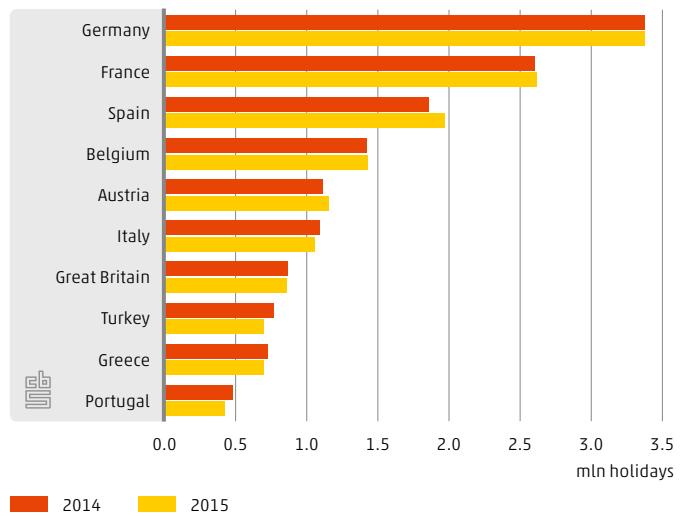
A little under half of Dutch people aged 15 and older engaged in volunteer work at least once in 2015. Most volunteers are active for sports clubs or schools. The relatively lowest number of volunteers are active for political parties.

In 2015, there were just as many male as female new volunteers. However, while women more often volunteered at schools, men were more active for sports clubs. As the education level goes up, so does the time people spend volunteering. Among less educated people, nearly 33 percent were active as volunteers, versus 62 percent of highly educated people with higher education levels.

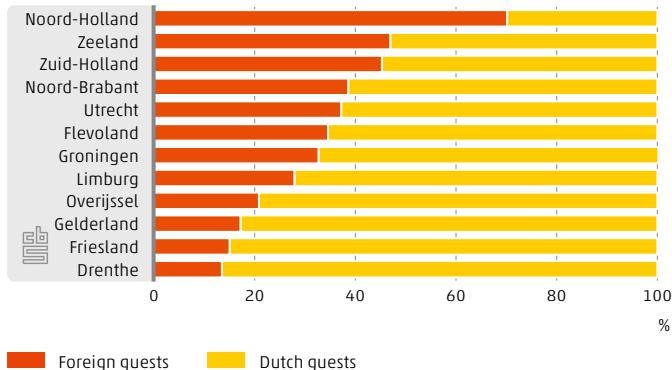
1.65 Volunteers among the population aged 15 years or older, 2015



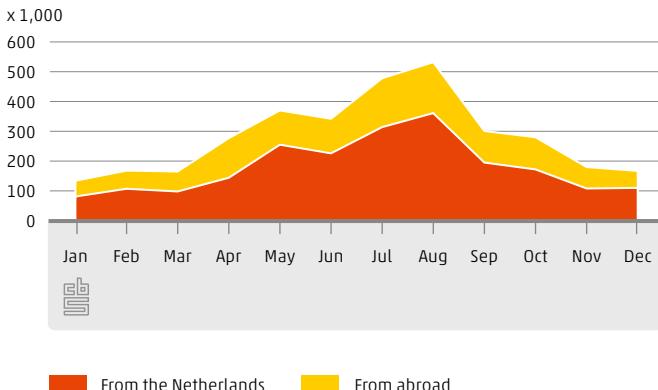
## 1.66 Top ten foreign destinations for Dutch holidaymakers



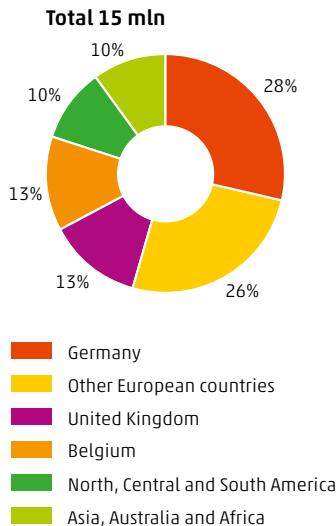
## 1.67 Dutch and foreign hotel guests per province, 2015\*\*



## 1.68 Average number of stays per day in tourist accommodation, 2015\*\*



## 1.69 Foreign guests in Dutch tourist accommodation, 2015\*\*



## 1.70 Holidays of the Dutch population

	Unit	2013	2014	2015
<b>Holidays in the Netherlands</b>				
Holidays	x 1,000	17,490	17,176	16,991
Total spending	bn euros	3	3	3
Spending per holidaymaker	euros	163	166	174
<b>Holidays abroad</b>				
Holidays	x 1,000	18,093	17,933	18,070
Total spending	bn euros	13	13	13
Spending per holidaymaker	euros	697	702	717
<b>Total number of holidays</b>				
Average number of holidays per holidaymaker	x 1,000	35,583	35,109	35,061
Average number of long holidays per holidaymaker	number	2.79	2.80	2.77
Average number of short holidays per holidaymaker	number	1.94	1.93	1.94
	number	1.98	2.01	1.95

20% of the population did not go on holiday in 2015



56% of the population went on holiday more than once in 2015



## 1.71 Average duration of holidays by destination and season, 2015

	Long holidays	Short holidays
	days	
<b>Total</b>	11.8	3.1
<b>The Netherlands</b>	9.7	3.1
of which		
during winter	7.8	3.0
during summer	10.4	3.1
<b>Holidays abroad</b>	13.0	3.3
of which		
during winter	11.0	3.3
during summer	13.9	3.4

## 1.72 Hotels

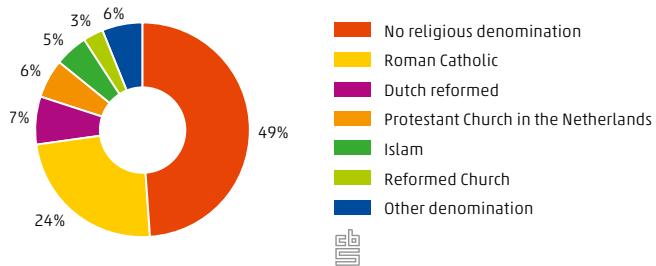
	2013	2014	2015**
	number		
<b>Hotels, boarding houses and youth accommodation</b>			
Establishments	3,510	3,561	3,525
Beds	244,145	252,115	254,589
<b>average number per day x 1,000</b>			
Guests	59	63	66
Dutch	32	33	34
foreign	27	30	32
Overnight stays	102	109	114
Dutch guests	52	54	55
foreign guests	50	55	59
<b>Overnight business-related hotel stays</b>			
Total in the Netherlands	44	45	46
of which in Amsterdam	12	13	12

279,000

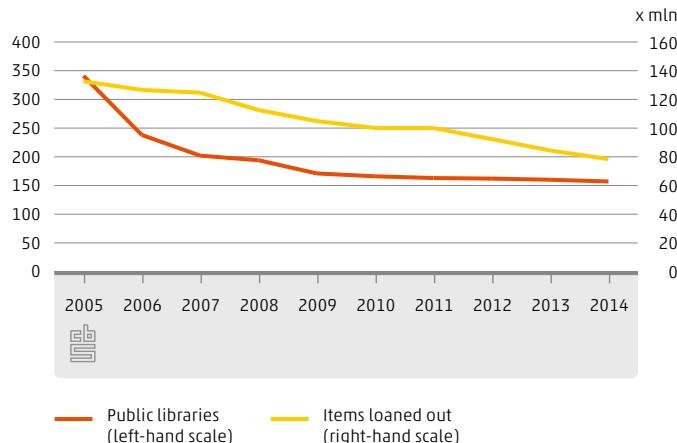
hotel guests from China in 2015



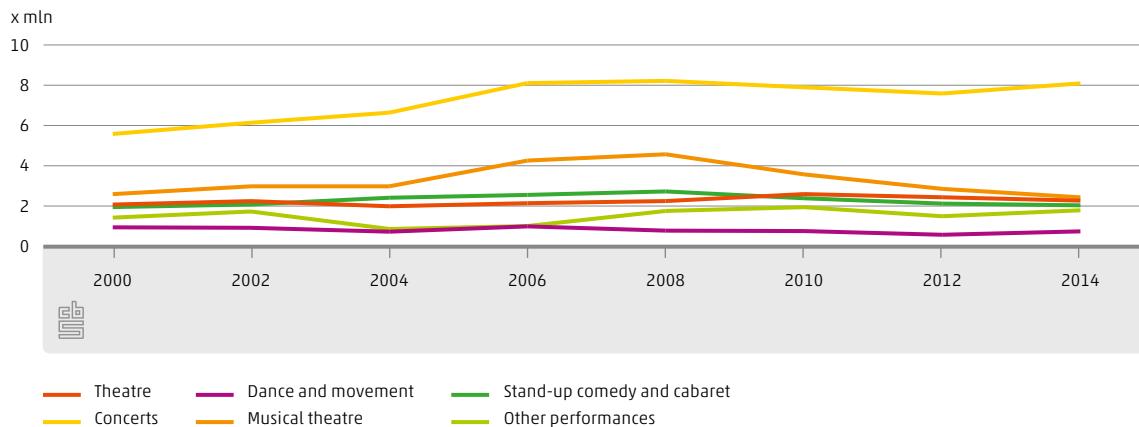
### 1.73 Religious denomination among adult population, 2014



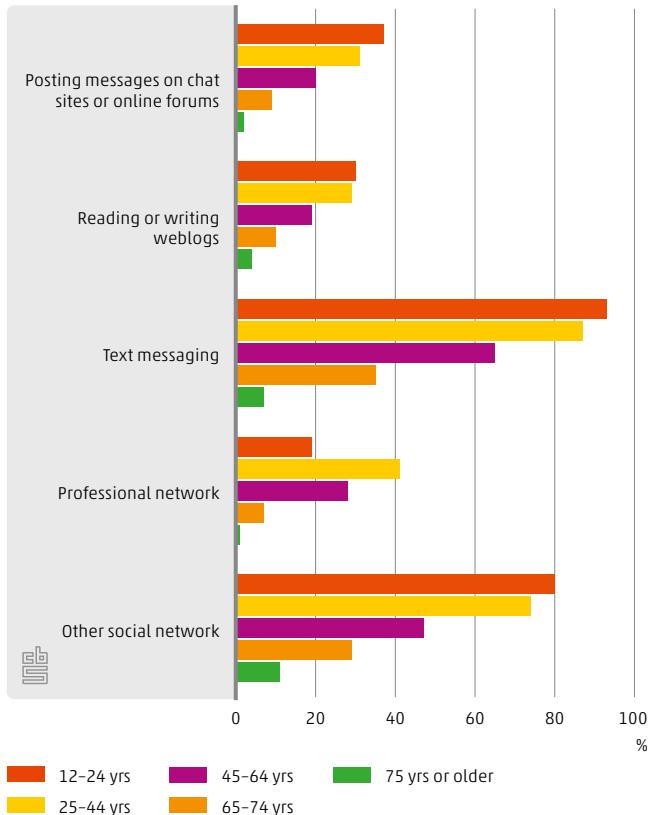
### 1.74 Public libraries and items loaned out



### 1.75 Theatre and concert attendance

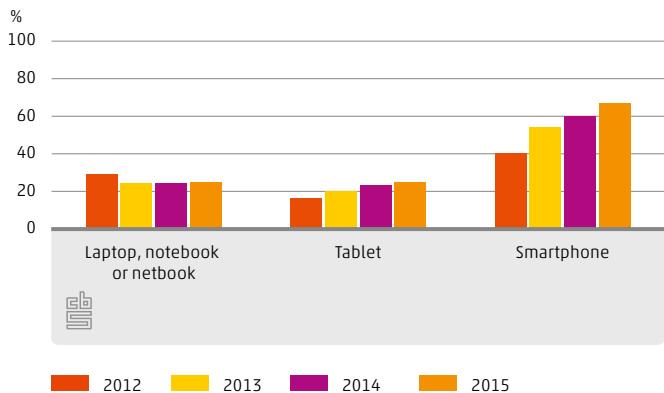


## 1.76 Use of social media by age, 2015

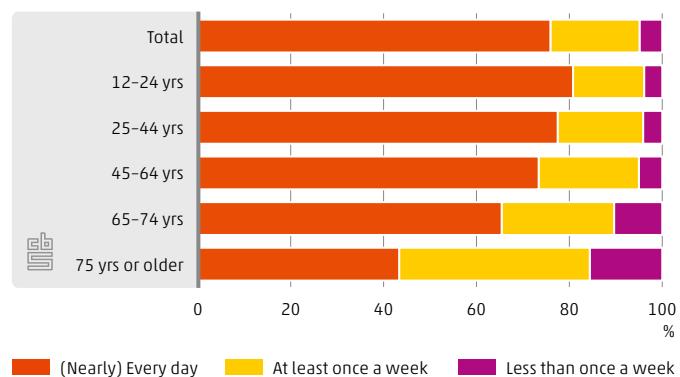


**81%** are  
online every day

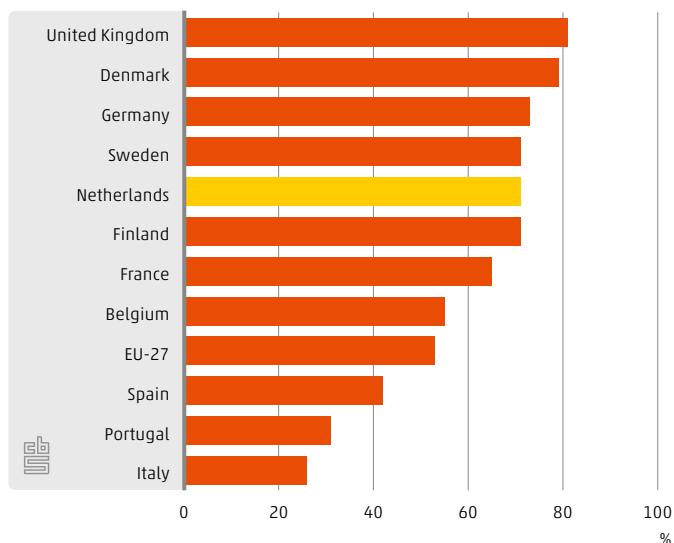
### 1.77 Use of mobile internet by people aged 12 and over



### 1.79 Usage frequency of social networks (Facebook, Twitter) by age, 2015

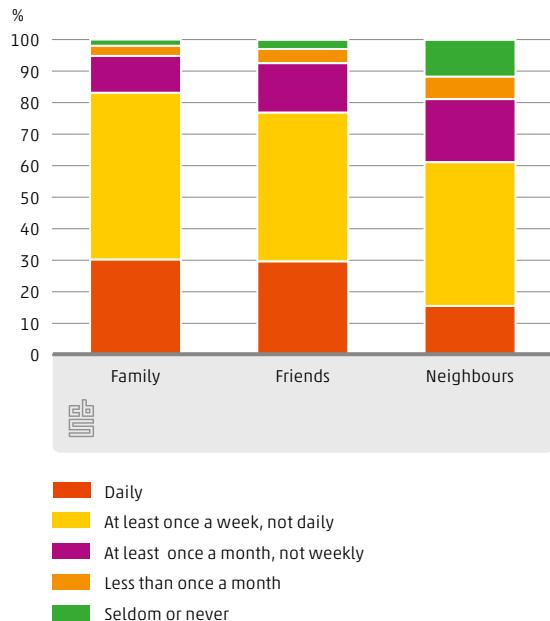


### 1.78 Online shopping by people aged 16 to 75 yrs, 2015

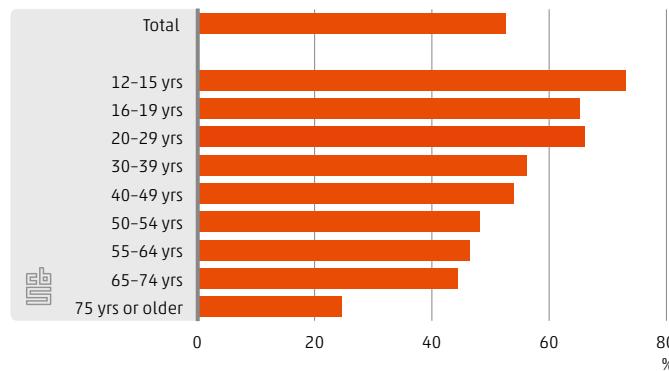


Source: Eurostat.

## 1.80 Contact with family, friends and neighbours, 2015



## 1.81 Weekly sports activities by age (12 yrs and older), 2014



**6.4 km** is the average distance to a cinema

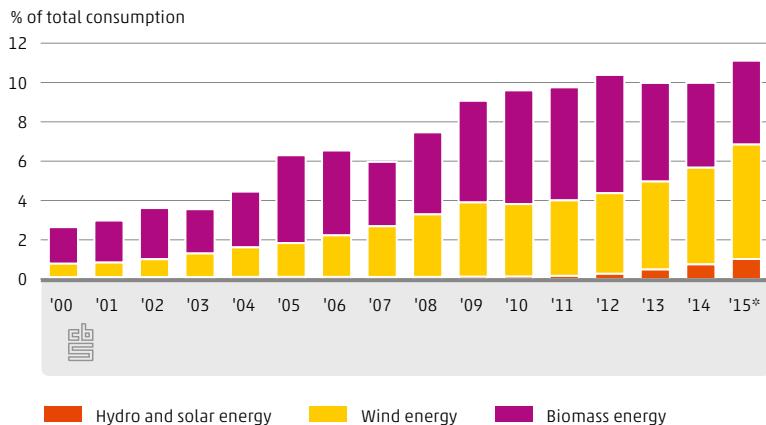


## Energy

In 2015, 13 billion kWh in electricity was generated from renewable sources such as wind, sun and biomass. This is equivalent to approximately 11 percent of total energy consumption in the Netherlands and slightly more than in 2014, when it accounted for 10 percent. Production of electricity from wind increased by nearly 20 percent in 2015, so over half of the total amount of renewable energy that year came from wind farms.

Wind turbines produced a total of nearly 7 billion kWh in electricity in 2015. Off-shore wind turbines are becoming more important although on-shore production is increasing rapidly as well. The increase in 2015 is mainly on account of rising capacity, growing by 18 percent to 3,400 megawatts. On-shore, capacity grew by 380 to 3,000 megawatts, while off-shore there was an increase of 130 megawatts, reaching 360 megawatts. Electricity production from solar panels and hydropower also increased, albeit more modestly. Production of electricity from biomass remained more or less the same.

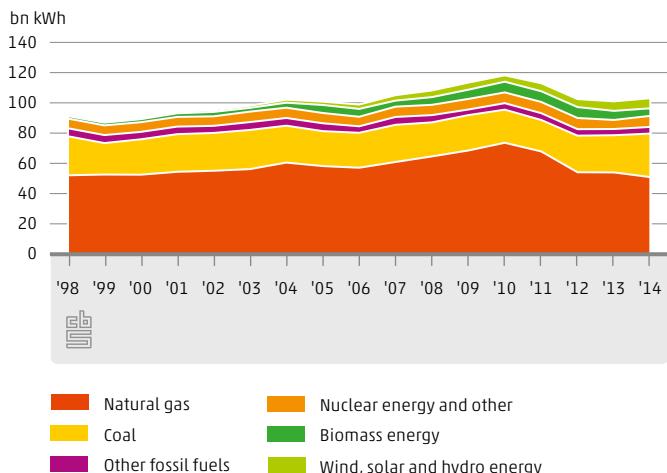
### 1.82 Production of renewable energy



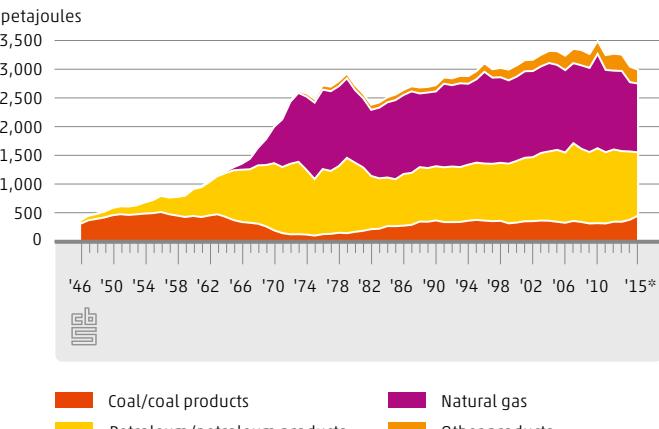
**32% more coal consumption  
at power stations in 2015**



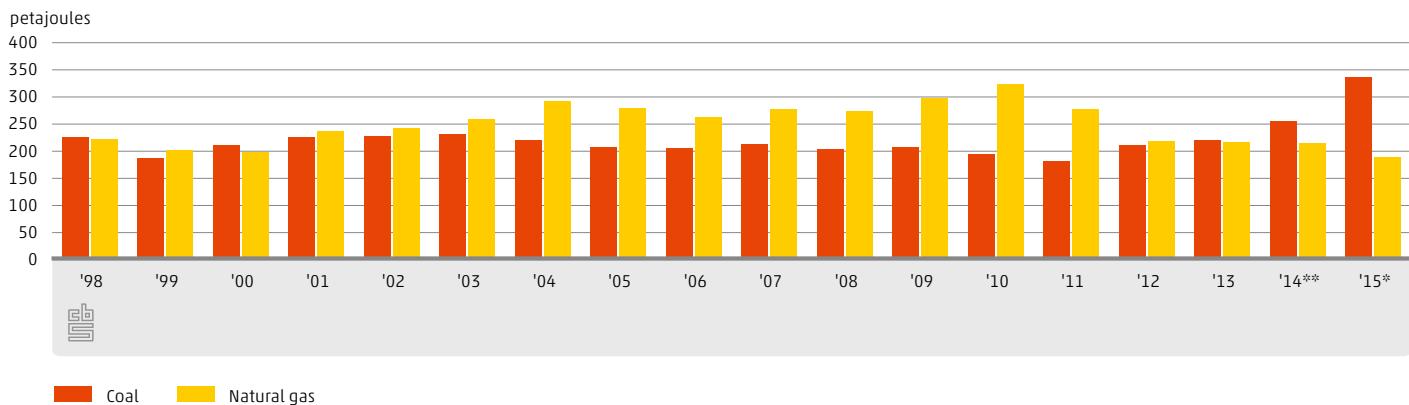
### 1.83 Energy sources for electricity production



### 1.84 Energy supply by energy carrier



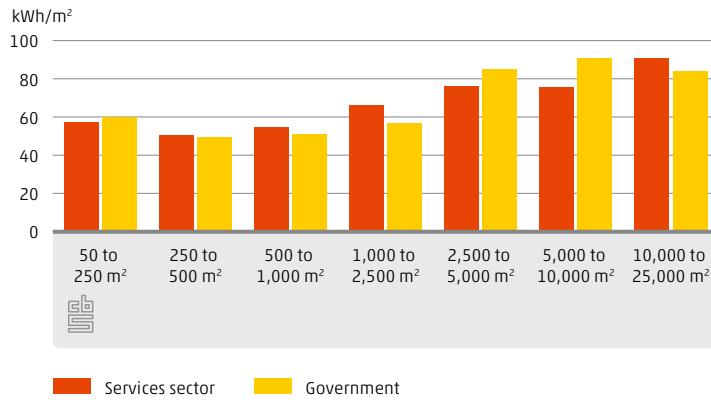
### 1.85 Use of coal and natural gas by power plants



## 1.86 Electricity balance sheet

	2013	2014**	2015*
	bn kWh		
<b>Electricity supply</b>			
of which			
production	119.1	118.1	118.4
central	100.9	103.4	109.6
local	63.1	67.5	72.3
imports	37.8	35.8	37.3
exports (-)	33.3	32.9	30.8
	15.0	18.1	22.0
<b>Electricity consumption</b>	119.1	118.1	118.4
of which			
via public network	101.4	99.0	101.0
via self-generation networks	14.2	15.0	13.0
in production process	3.5	4.1	4.5
<b>Net losses</b>	4.5	4.9	4.9

## 1.87 Average electricity consumption of offices by surface area



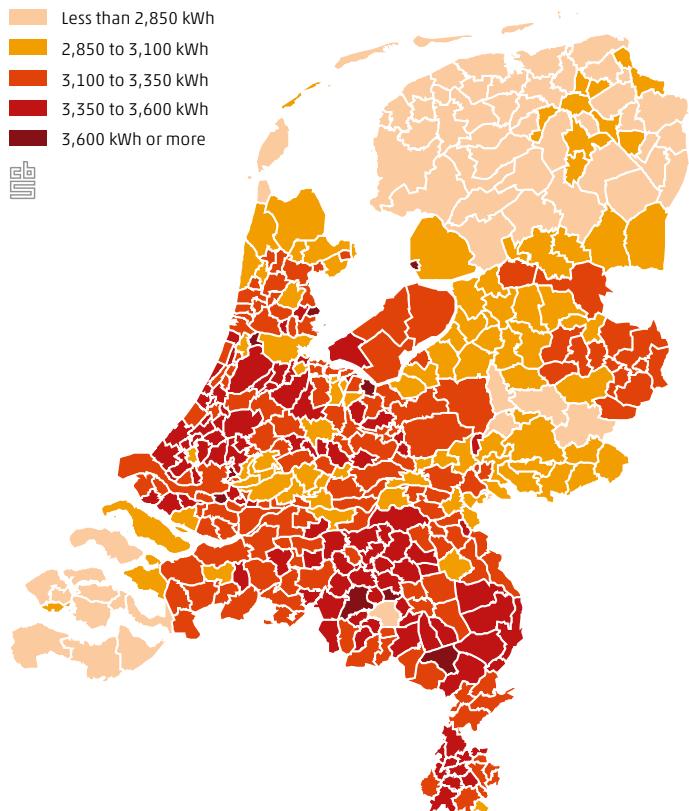
11% of electricity generated  
from renewable sources



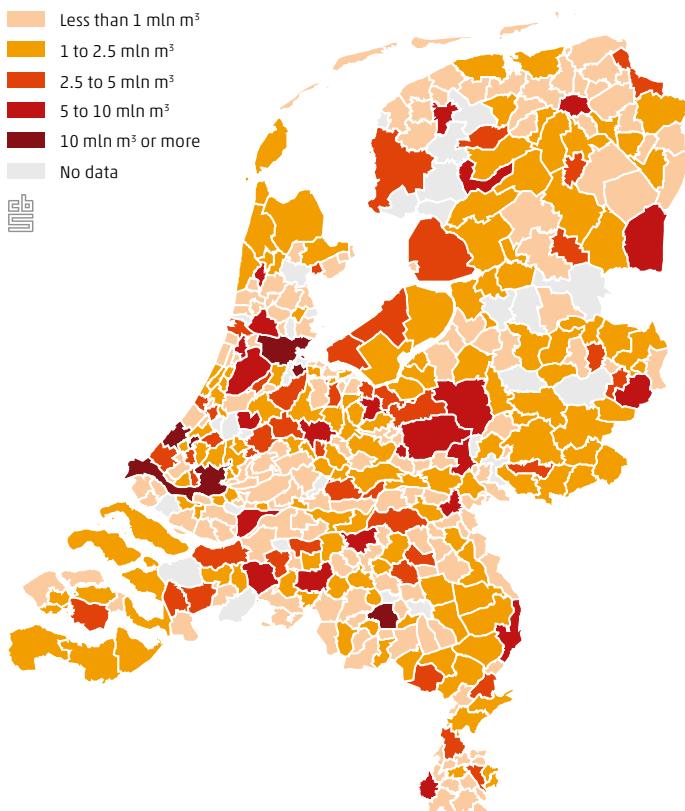
66% of electricity production  
generated at a central location



**1.88 Average electricity consumption of terraced houses, 2014**



**1.89 Natural gas deliveries to retail and wholesale businesses, 2014**

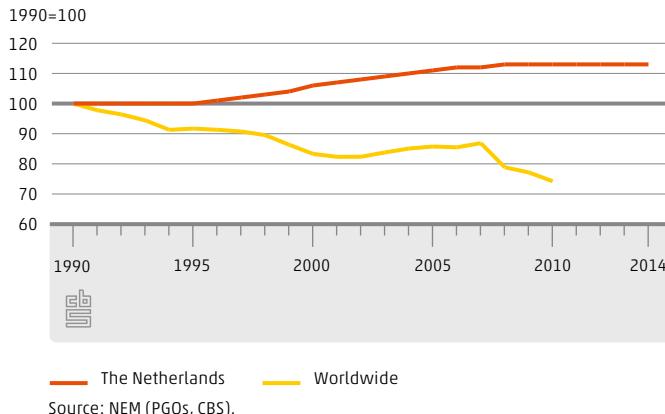


## Nature and environment

According to the Living Planet Index (LPI), an indicator of the state of global biological diversity, biodiversity has declined substantially worldwide. Statistics Netherlands has calculated this index for the Netherlands. The Dutch LPI reflects the overall average trend of a number of mammals, breeding birds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies and (freshwater and marine) fish. This group has increased in size by 14 percent since 1990. The increase is on account of a growing number of mammals, birds, reptiles and dragonflies. However, some species groups are doing less well: populations of amphibians and butterflies have declined.

The worldwide trend seems to be directly opposed to the trend in the Netherlands. However, when broken down into groups of countries by income level (using World Bank criteria) the LPI shows an upward trend in high income countries: an increase of 9.7 percent, which is consistent with the Dutch trend. According to the WWF, a possible explanation is that rich countries are now committing more financial resources towards natural restoration.

### 1.90 Living Planet Index for the Netherlands

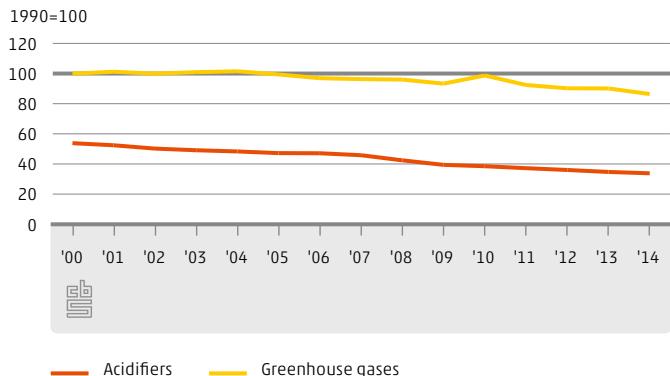


Source: NEM (PGOs, CBS).

**80 kg of VGF waste collected  
per inhabitant in 2014**



## 1.91 Emissions of acidifiers and greenhouse gases

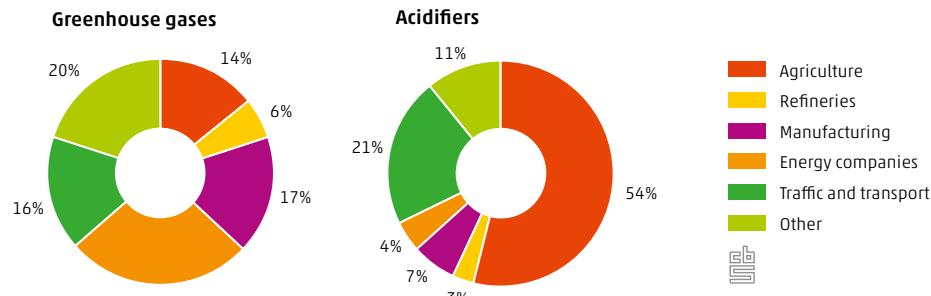


## 1.92 Emissions into surface water<sup>1)</sup>

	2010	2013	2014
x 1,000 kg			
Phosphorus (total P)	6,896	6,478	6,535
Nitrogen (total N)	90,269	75,659	75,112
Copper	91.3	92.1	90.0
Nickel	55.4	50.7	49.4
Zinc	399	389	369
Lead	39.9	38.6	37.8
Cadmium	1.34	1.19	1.20

<sup>1)</sup> Excluding the Dutch Continental Shelf

## 1.93 Air pollution, emissions by source, 2014



## 1.94 Municipal waste

	2012	2013	2014**
	mln kg		
<b>Total</b>	9,816	9,451	9,516
<b>Household waste</b>	8,656	8,303	8,387
of which			
non-separated collected waste	4,266	4,062	3,998
separated collected waste	4,389	4,241	4,389
of which			
compostable waste	1,303	1,253	1,346
paper	981	925	914
glass	348	345	340
bulky garden waste	461	444	465
wood waste	318	310	322
rubble	389	376	385
other separated waste	590	588	616
<b>Cleaning and other waste</b>	1,161	1,148	1,129

## 1.95 Industrial waste from manufacturing, 2014\*

	Useful Total	application	Final processing
	mln kg		
<b>Non-hazardous waste</b>	24,372	20,997	3,375
of which from			
mineral extraction	104	71	33
energy supply	1,468	1,447	21
water supply and waste treatment	9,003	6,375	2,628
manufacturing	13,796	13,104	692
of which			
food, beverages and tobacco industry	7,519	7,361	157
chemical industry	509	354	155
basic metal industry	1,674	1,645	30
other manufacturing	4,094	3,744	350
<b>Non-chemical waste</b>	21,935	19,657	2,278
of which			
metal	957	951	6
paper and cardboard	583	579	5
wood	702	697	5
animal and vegetal waste	6,467	6,381	86
mixed waste	2,372	2,070	302
sludge	2,313	935	1,378
minerals and stone-like materials	8,160	7,687	472
other non-chemical waste	381	356	26
<b>Chemical waste</b>	2,437	1,340	1,097

## 1.96 Manure and mineral production

	2013	2014	2015*
	mln kg		
<b>Manure from livestock</b>			
produced by	73,155	74,089	75,979
cattle	57,428	58,389	60,044
sheep and goats	1,719	1,710	1,709
horses and ponies	919	895	840
pigs	11,472	11,424	11,646
poultry	1,442	1,500	1,561
rabbits and fur animals	175	172	179
<b>Excretion of minerals</b>			
Nitrogen	473	487	500
Phosphate	166	172	176
Potash	517	528	542



**498** kg of household waste  
per inhabitant collected in 2014



**0.6%**

inflation in 2015

**5.3%**

more exports in 2015

Sustained economic recovery

# 2 Economy

## Trends

After the first positive signs in 2014, economic recovery really became robust in 2015. Dutch exports increased, households had more disposable income and spent more, the housing market improved and companies raised their investments. If the production of natural gas had not been cut because of the risks of earthquakes in Groningen, the outlook would have been even brighter. However, there were some clouds on the horizon which made it hard to predict how the economy would develop further. Unemployment did not really diminish and inflation remained low.

### **Consumers spent more**

The Dutch economy grew by 2.0 percent in 2015. If the production of natural gas had remained the same, this would have been 2.4 percent. Whereas economic growth in 2014 was driven by exports, 2015 also saw pluses in investment and consumption.

For the first time since the crisis, households started spending more. Consumer spending was up by 1.5 percent on 2014, which was equally divided over goods and services. More money was spent on electrical equipment, home furnishings and clothes, but also on leisure activities.

Consumer confidence was positive for the first time in more than seven years. In November, this confidence – the balance between the percentages of positive and negative answers – stood at 9. Early in 2013, at its record low, it was below -40.

Businesses also recovered. Value added increased in most sectors of industry. Construction boomed for the second year in a row, even though it was still far below pre-crisis levels. The cut in natural gas production had a negative effect on the extraction sector.

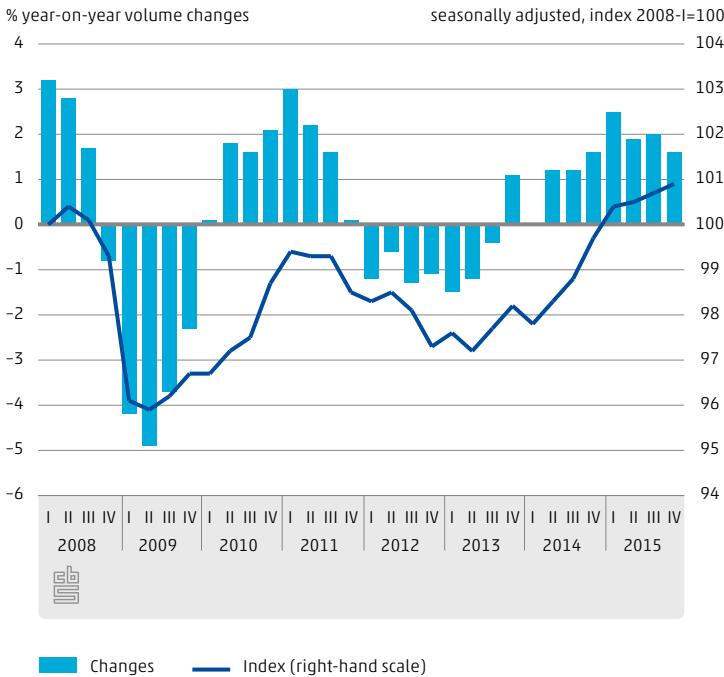
The agricultural sector shrank by 1.3 percent in 2015, after two years of growth. Production rose, putting 1 percent more products on the market. But this did not lead to more income because prices fell. Farmers received less for milk, pigs and sugar beet.

### Netherlands above the eurozone average

The Dutch economy grew faster than in the other Eurozone countries. In 2014 the 0.9 percent increase had exactly matched the average of all these countries. In 2015 the figures of the Dutch economy were slightly higher: 2.0 percent versus the 1.5 percent average. The growth rate was also higher than in Germany (1.7 percent), Belgium (1.4 percent) and France (1.2 percent). But during the crisis the Netherlands had a low that was worse than the EU average, so there was more catching up to do.

Outside Europe, Russia was confronted with a negative growth of 3.7 percent. In China the economy grew, but again less than in previous years, namely by 6.9 percent. The United States ended 2015 with a 2.4 percent growth rate.

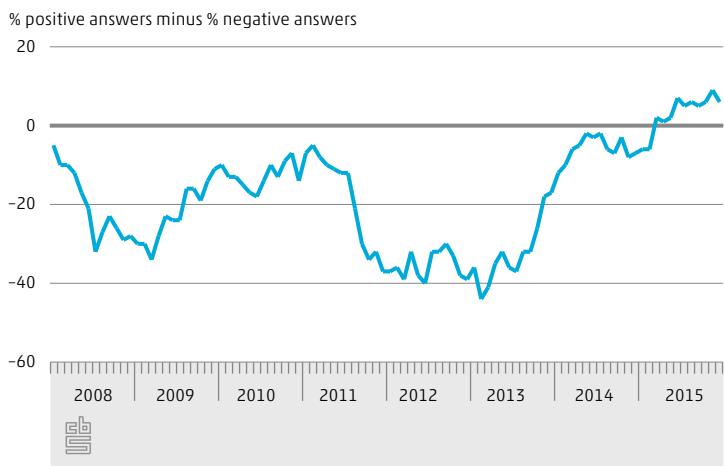
## 2.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



## 2.2 GDP and expenditure

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	% year-on-year volume changes				
GDP	1.7	-1.1	-0.5	1.0	2.0
Imports	3.5	2.7	0.9	4.0	6.4
Exports	4.4	3.8	2.1	4.0	5.3
Household consumption	0.2	-1.2	-1.4	0.0	1.5
Government consumption	-0.2	-1.3	0.1	0.3	0.3
Investments	5.6	-6.3	-4.4	3.5	10.3

## 2.3 Consumer confidence



## Inflation down further

Dutch inflation was already low at 1 percent in 2014, but in 2015 it fell even further to an average of 0.6 percent. Many products only saw slight price rises or actually became cheaper. The inflation rate was remarkably low in all of Europe. One of the factors that greatly influence the inflation rate is the price of oil. After a slight upturn at the start of 2015, the oil price started to fall in earnest, continuing where it had left off in the second half of 2014.

## More revenue, less debt

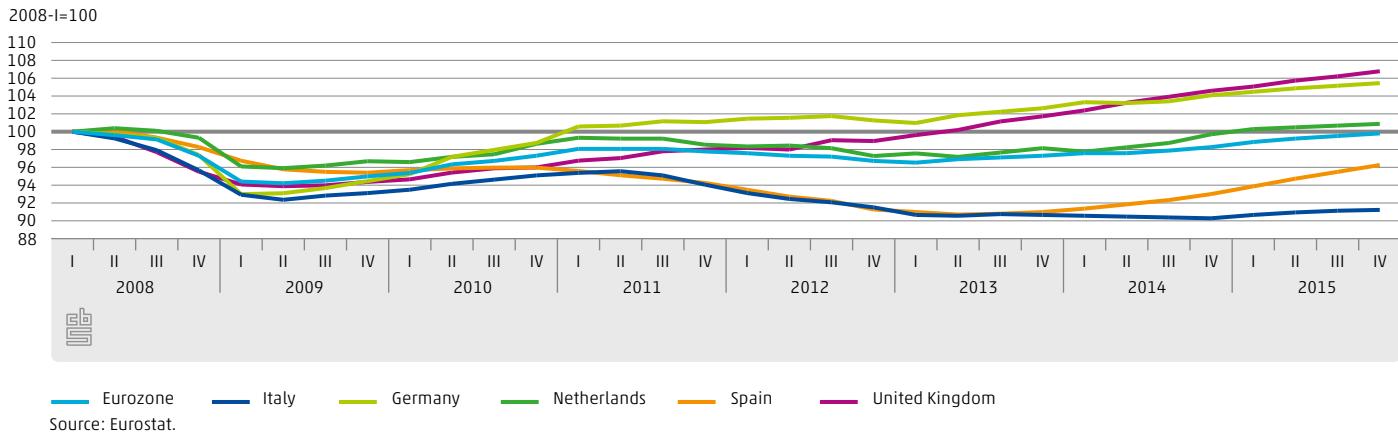
The Dutch government received more revenues in 2015. Public revenue rose by 1 billion to a total of 292 billion euros. Tax revenues were up by 6.2 billion euros, thanks to the economic upturn in combination with tax increases. Revenues from other sources – mainly natural gas revenues – turned out 5.1 billion lower. In 2014 these had been twice as high. This halving was caused by cutting the production of natural gas and by the lower oil and natural gas prices.

The year closed with a budget deficit of 12 billion euros. This comes down to 1.8 percent of the gross domestic product. In 2014 this had been

2.4 percent. Total government debt reached 441.7 billion euros. This is 65.1 percent of GDP. On 31 December 2015, the government debt was 10 billion less than the year before. It was the first time since 2008, when debt started to soar, that the government debt as a percentage of GDP fell.



## 2.4 Economic growth eurozone



## 2.5 Inflation



## 2.6 Government deficit and government debt

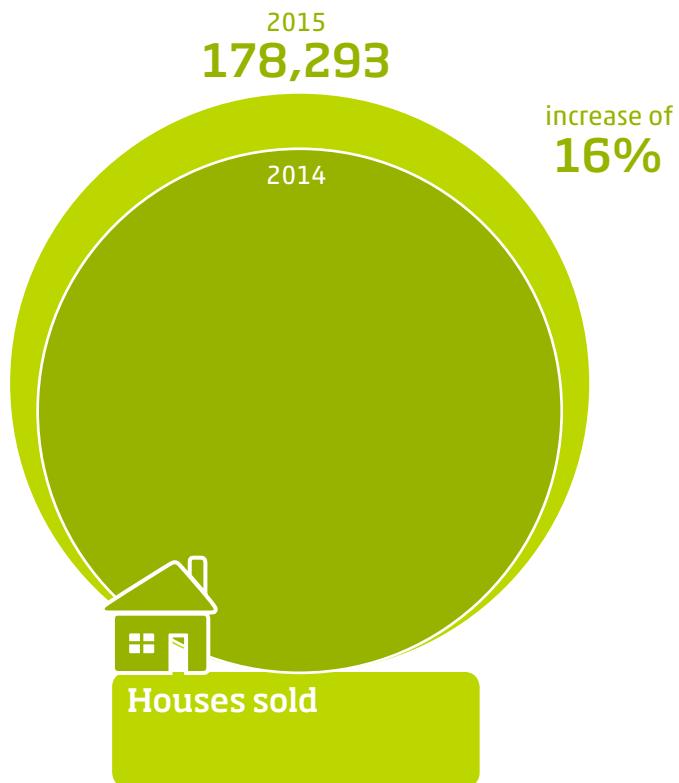
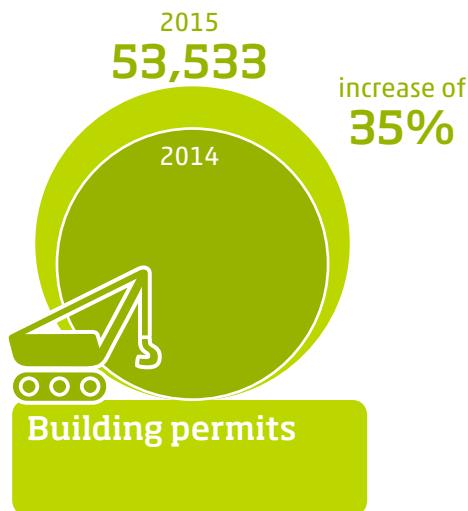
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>bn euros</b>					
Government revenues	274.4	278.8	286.5	290.9	292.0
Government spending	302.0	303.9	302.1	306.5	304.4
Government deficit (EMU)	-27.6	-25.1	-15.5	-15.6	-12.4
Government debt (EMU)	396.4	428.6	442.2	452.1	441.7
<b>% GDP</b>					
Government deficit (EMU)	-4.3	-3.9	-2.4	-2.4	-1.8
Government debt (EMU)	61.7	66.4	67.9	68.2	65.1
Revenues	42.7	43.2	44.0	43.9	43.0
taxes and premiums	35.5	35.7	36.3	37.1	37.2
Government spending	47.0	47.1	46.4	46.2	44.9

## 2.7 International inflation

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	% year-on-year change				
Eurozone	2.7	2.5	1.3	0.4	0.0
Netherlands	2.5	2.8	2.6	0.3	0.2
Germany	2.5	2.1	1.6	0.8	0.1
France	2.3	2.2	1.0	0.6	0.1
United Kingdom	4.5	2.8	2.6	1.5	0.0
United States	3.8	2.1	1.2	1.3	-0.7

Source: Eurostat.

## Housing market improved



# Facts and figures

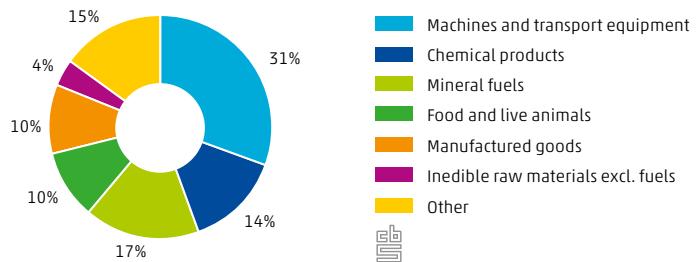
## International trade

The Netherlands imported 378 billion euros worth of goods and exported 426 billion euros worth, which represented a trade surplus 48 billion euros in 2015. Reduced natural gas production in Groningen has had a negative effect on the trade surplus. The Netherlands' largest trading partner is Germany.

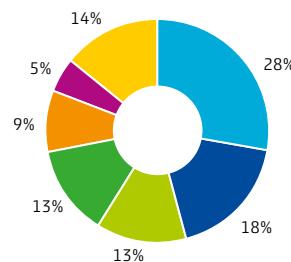
From 2006 onwards, imports of construction services more than doubled, reaching 2.1 billion euros in 2015. Over two-thirds of this growth can be attributed to construction services imported from other European countries. Exports of construction services amounted to 2.7 billion euros in 2015, nearly 1 billion euros more than in 2006. The growth mainly occurred far away from home. The biggest growth markets, particularly for major dredging operations, turned out to be Asia and Africa.

### 2.8 Import and export value of goods, 2015\*

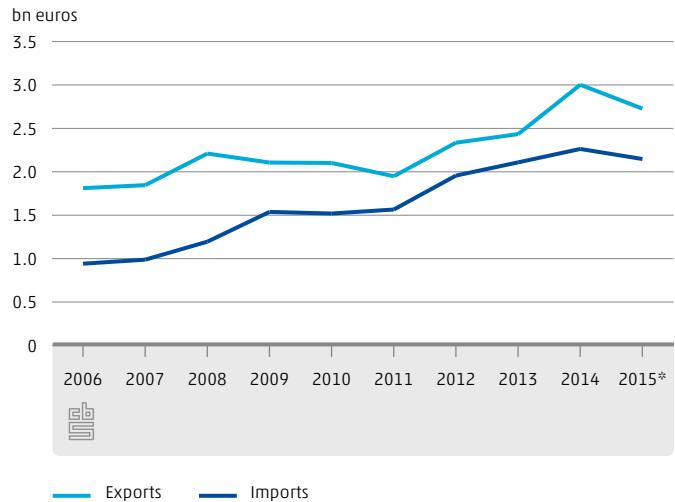
#### Imports (total 378 bn euros)



#### Exports (total 426 bn euros)



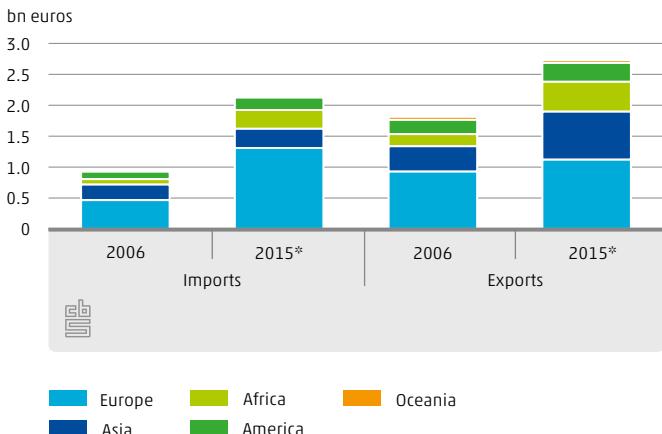
## 2.9 Import and export value of construction services



**2.7** billion euros in exported construction services in 2015



## 2.10 Import and export value of construction services by continent



## 2.11 Sales and prices of existing owner-occupied dwellings

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	year-on-year % changes				
House price index of existing own homes	-2.4	-6.5	-6.6	0.9	2.8
	x 1.000				
Number of transactions	121	117	110	154	178
	year-on-year % changes				
Number of transactions	-4.3	-2.9	-6.1	39.4	16.1
Single-family dwelling of which	-2.5	-0.2	-7.1	39.2	15.7
terraced house	-4	-2.7	-7.3	42.2	17.2
corner dwelling	-3.8	1.7	-6.2	34.1	15.4
semi-detached house	-2.9	1.5	-8.2	30.8	12.3
detached house	4.3	2.9	-6.8	45.1	15.1
Apartment	-7.4	-9.1	-3.1	42.3	10.8

## 2.12 Building permits issued for new homes



## Construction and housing

House prices rose again in 2015. There was an almost 3-percent increase in the prices of existing owner-occupied homes in 2015.

However, prices were 16 percent below their 2008 record level. House sales were up again as well. Over 178 thousand existing homes changed owners in 2015, 24 thousand more than the year before.

There was also an increase in the number of newly constructed dwellings for which building permits were issued. In 2015 this amounted to nearly 54 thousand, 14 thousand more than the year before.

## Transport

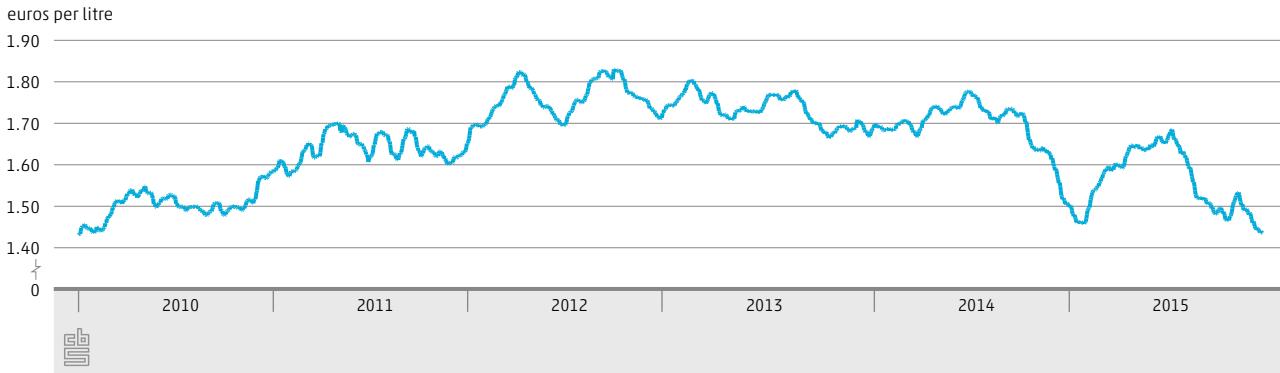
Around 360 million tonnes of goods were transported on Dutch inland waterways in 2015. Almost a third was loaded and unloaded within the Netherlands. Most of the goods transported went abroad, with Germany as their main destination. The cargo shipped across the Dutch-German border consisted mainly of coal and ore.

### 2.13 Goods transport

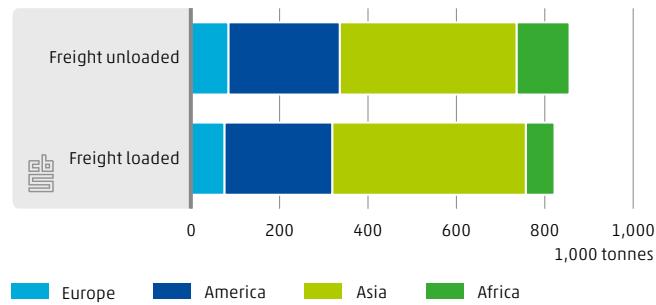
	2013	2014*	2015*
	mln tonnes		
Total	1,767	1,796	1,815
of which			
road transport	689	691	692
maritime shipping	558	574	594
inland waterway transport <sup>1)</sup>	356	367	360
pipeline transport	123	123	126
rail transport	39	39	41
aviation	2	2	2

<sup>1)</sup> Gross weight excl. tare container weight

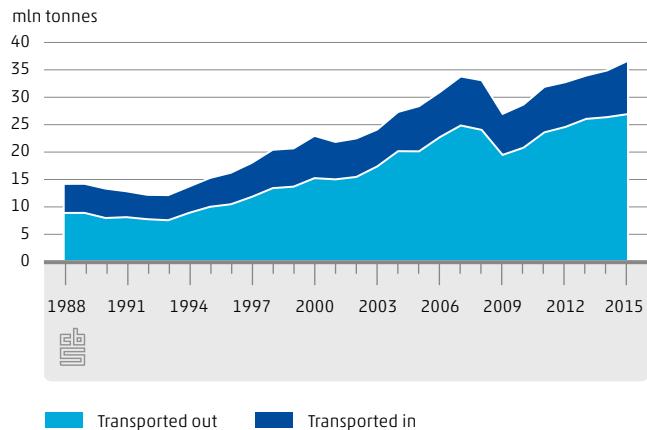
### 2.14 Price of Euro95 per day



## 2.15 Freight transport via Dutch airports by origin and destination, 2015



## 2.16 Goods transported into and out of the Netherlands by rail



**360** million tonnes transported by inland shipping



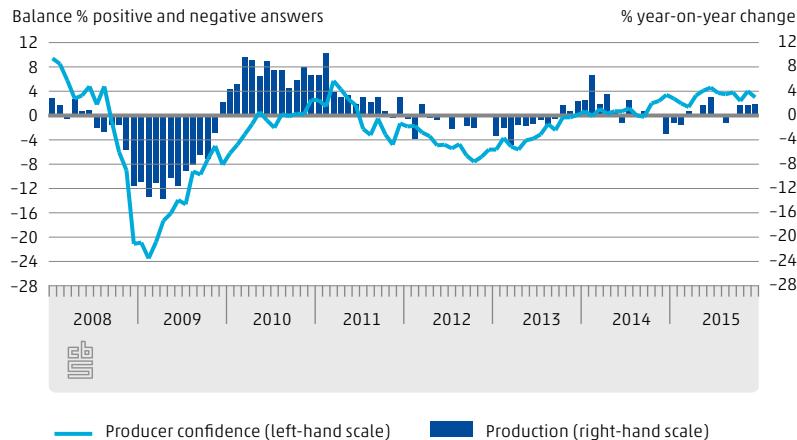
## Manufacturing

In 2015, manufacturing produced 1.4 percent more than in 2014. Compared to 2009, when industrial production hit rock bottom during the economic crisis, the increase in manufacturing production was 10.4 percent. This positive development fits in well with the positive confidence producers have consistently shown since October 2014. In June 2015 producer confidence reached a peak.

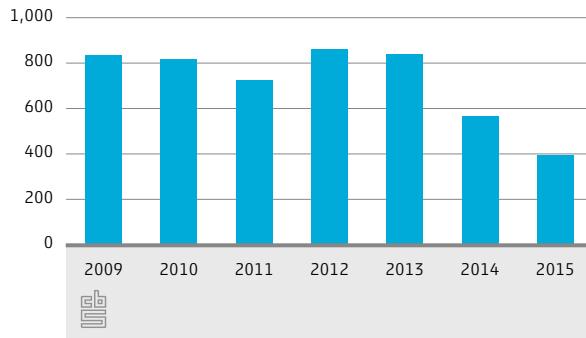
The number of bankruptcies in manufacturing in 2015 fell by 30.6 percent from 2014.

The 392 bankruptcies meant the lowest number since the start of the economic crisis in 2008. 2012 saw the worst record, when a total of 859 manufacturers went bankrupt.

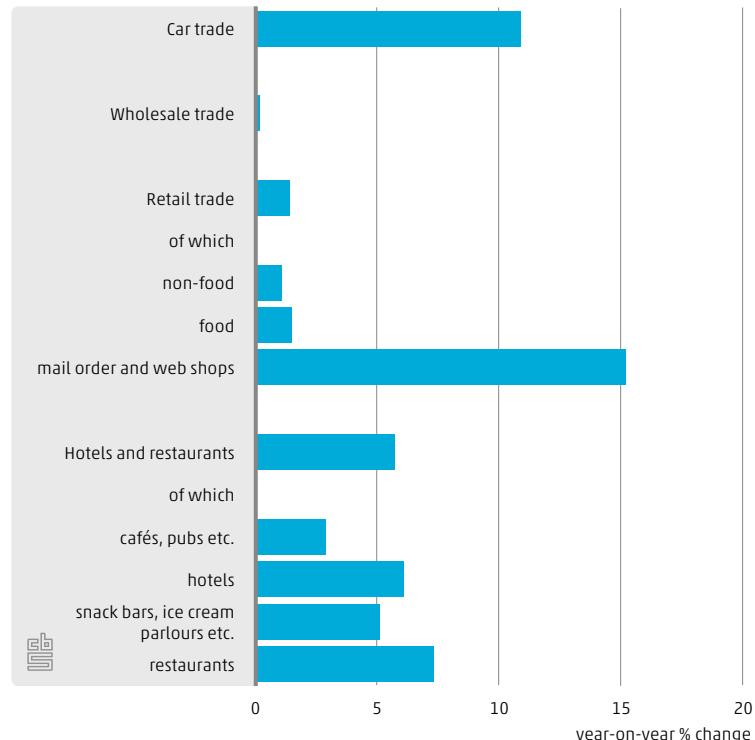
### 2.17 Producer confidence and production growth in manufacturing



### 2.18 Number of bankruptcies in manufacturing



## 2.19 Turnover in trade, hotels and restaurants, 2015



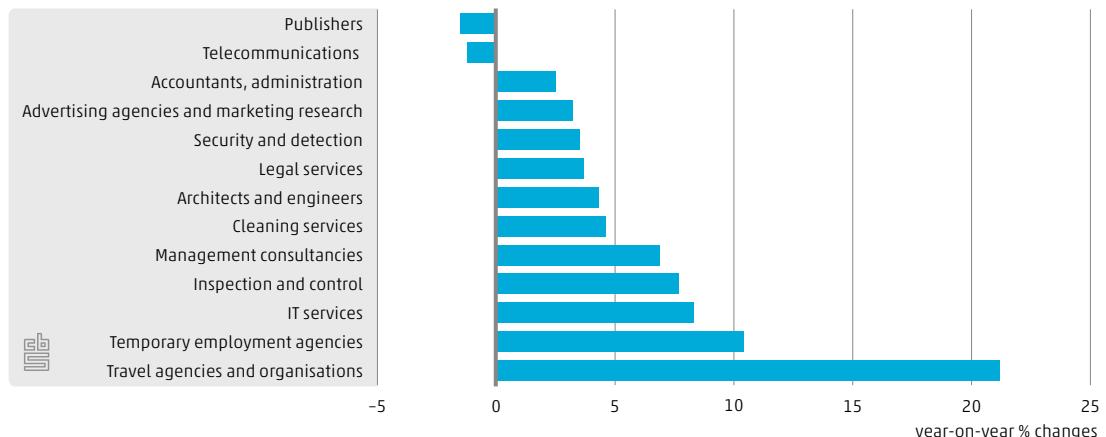
## Trade, hotels and restaurants

Turnover increased for trade as well as for the hotel and restaurant sector in 2015. The upward trend started in 2014 and was consolidated in 2015.

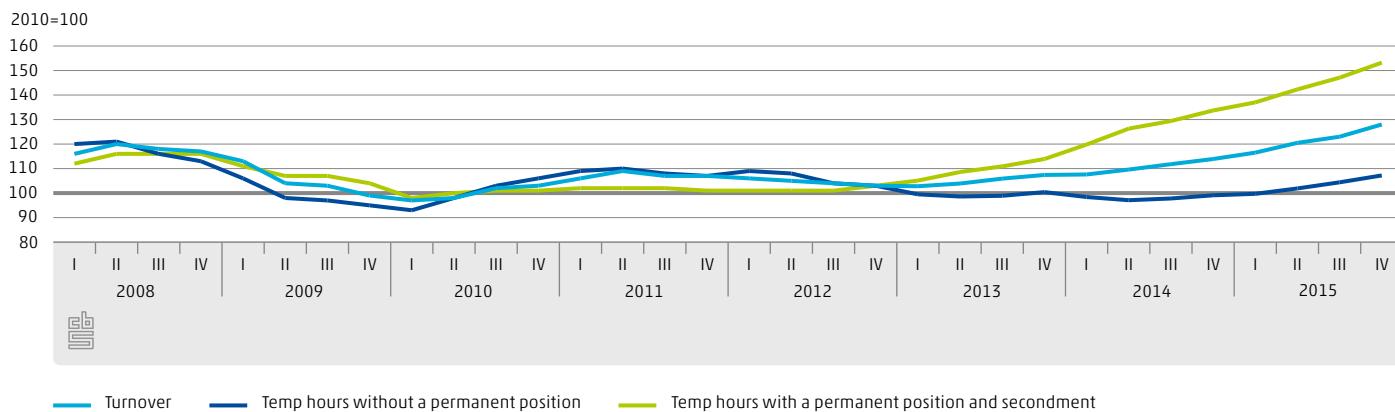
The sharpest turnover increase was realised by mail order companies and web shops (+15 percent). The car trade also performed well (+11 percent). The fastest growth spurt in this sector took place during the fourth quarter. This could mainly be attributed to the business market. On 1 January 2016, a major change in the fiscal regulations pertaining to the use of company cars took effect.

The restaurant and hotel branches performed best of all in their sector. Restaurants increased their turnover by more than 7 percent and hotels by more than 6 percent on 2014.

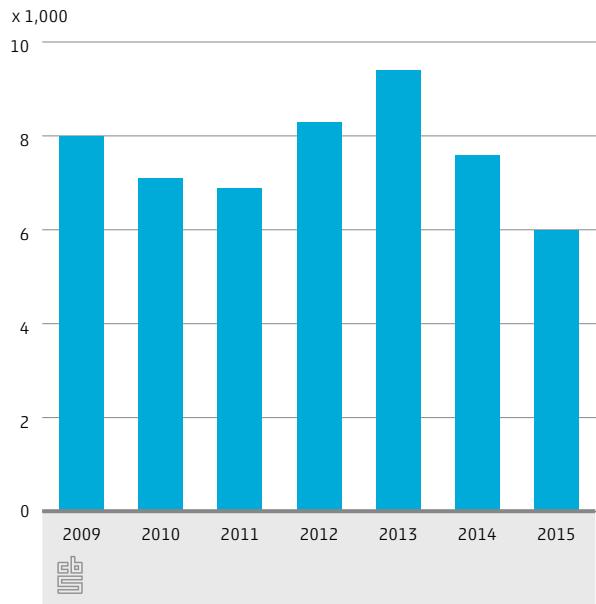
## 2.20 Turnover in business services, information and communication, 2015



## 2.21 Key figures temporary employment agencies, seasonally adjusted



## 2.22 Bankruptcies pronounced



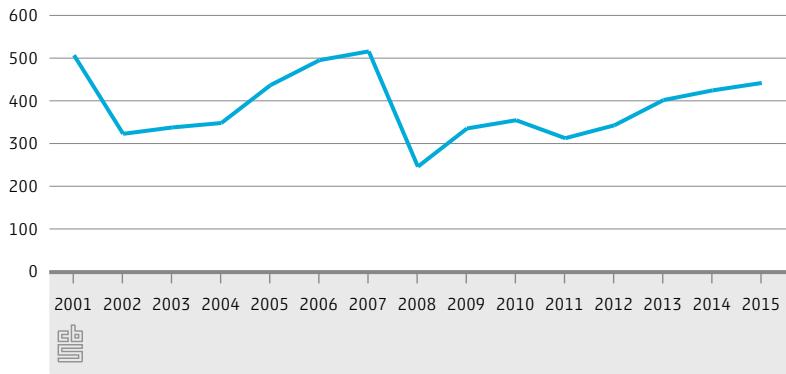
**11%** more  
turnover in the  
car trade in 2015

## Financial markets

At the end of an eventful 2015, the AEX index stood at a 4 percent share price gain. During the first six months, the tone in the financial markets was set by the European Central Bank (ECB) through its purchase and interest rate policies. By lowering the interest rate and by purchasing government bonds and loans of the countries in the Eurozone, the ECB tried to stimulate the economy and fan the inflation rate.

The stock market benefited from this ECB policy. Share prices rose to the highest level since the crisis began. The second half of 2015 was dominated by uncertainties about the development of the world economy, which led to heavy losses on the stock market.

2.23 AEX index, 31 December



Source: DNB.



## 2.24 Livestock on farms, 1 April

	2013	2014	2015*
	1,000 animals		
<b>Grazing livestock</b>			
Goats	413	431	470
Horses and ponies	131	127	118
Cattle	3,999	4,068	4,134
Sheep	1,034	959	946
<b>Non-grazing livestock</b>			
Chickens	97,719	103,039	106,761
of which			
laying hens	44,816	46,570	47,682
broilers	44,242	47,020	49,107
Other poultry (of which ducks, turkeys)	1,709	1,699	1,845
Rabbits	311	321	381
Fur bearing animals	1,031	1,003	1,023
Pigs	12,212	12,238	12,603
of which			
piglets	5,274	5,382	5,598
breeding pigs	1,184	1,199	1,201
porkers	5,754	5,657	5,804

## Agriculture

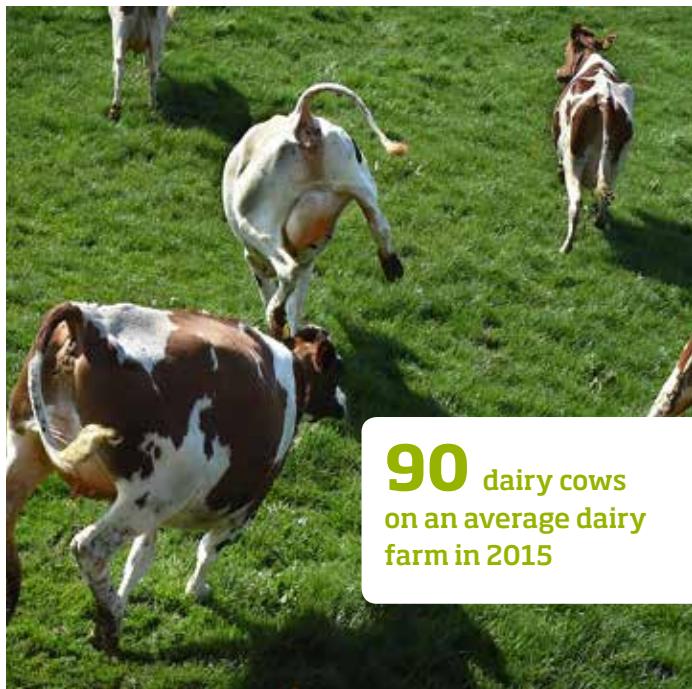
The milk quota in the EU was abolished as on 1 April 2015. Many dairy farms increased their production in the years preceding that date. These farms also grew in 2015. There were about 50 thousand more dairy cows and 38 thousand head of young female cattle. Compared to one year previously, there was a nearly 2 percent increase in cattle on 1 April 2015.

In 2015 milk production increased by over 850 thousand tonnes on 2014, reaching 13.3 million tonnes. An average Dutch dairy farmer had 90 dairy cows in 2015. The Netherlands is one of the largest milk producers in the EU along with Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Poland and Italy.

## 2.25 Meat and dairy production

	2013	2014	2015*
	mln kg		
<b>Meat production (with bone, incl.fat)</b>			
Calves	222	217	225
Adult bovines	157	159	157
Sheep and goats	14	14	14
Pigs	1,307	1,371	1,459
Broilers	888	920	952
Unprocessed cow's milk delivered to dairy factories	12,213	12,473	13,326
<b>Milk processed into</b>			
Butter	133	137	146
Processed cheese	794	772	847
Condensed milk	360	382	400
Milk powder	194	205	208

Source: RVO.nl.



## 2.26 Arable crops

	2013	2014	2015
	mln kg		
Potatoes, ware	3,481	3,871	3,325
Potatoes, seed	1,400	1,475	1,517
Potatoes for processing	1,695	1,754	1,809
Sugar beet	5,727	6,822	4,868
Sowing onions	1,200	1,220	1,371
Barley	208	197	229
Oats	10	10	8
Rye	7	7	6
Wheat	1,335	1,304	1,300
Triticale	10	9	7
Corn-cob-mix (65% dry matter)	68	67	53
Sweet corn (65% dry matter)	185	173	121
Fodder maize (35% dry matter)	10,268	10,788	7,976
Fibre flax	11	10	14

## 2.27 Apple and pear crops

	2013	2014	2015*
	mln kg		
Apples	314	353	336
Elstar	123	140	129
Golden Delicious	16	18	15
Jonagold/Jonagored	92	100	98
Junami	12	16	14
Kanzi	17	18	19
Rode Boskoop	16	19	18
Rubens	3	2	1
Pears	327	349	349
Beurré Alexandre Lucas	24	20	25
Conference	256	275	275
Doyenne du Comice	28	30	28
Stewing pears	8	9	6

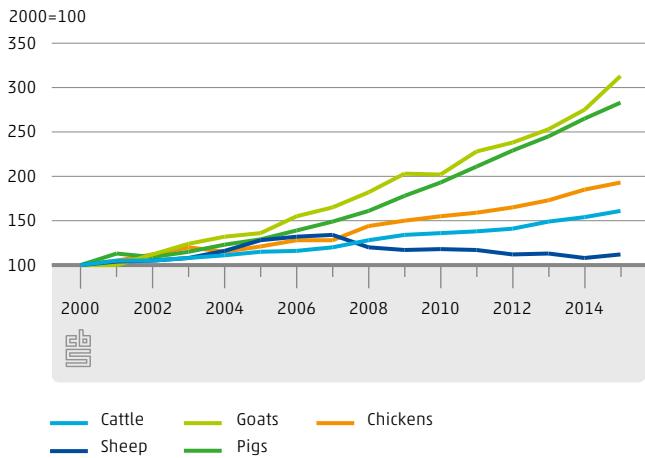
737 hectares used to grow  
blueberries in 2015



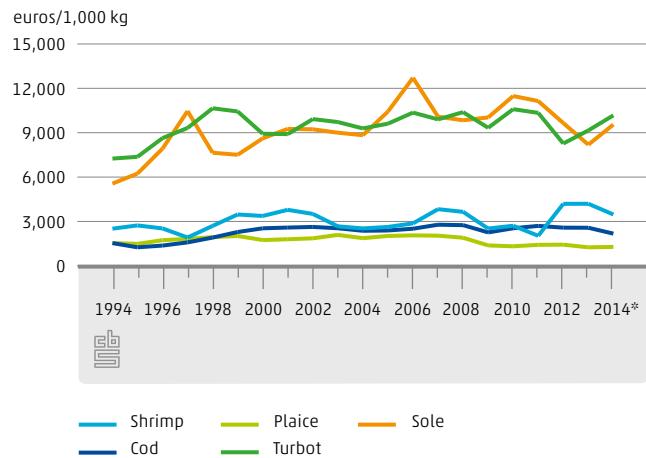
6 million kg stewing pears  
harvested in 2015



## 2.28 Average number of animals per farm

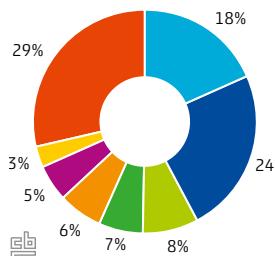


## 2.29 Average price of fresh fish

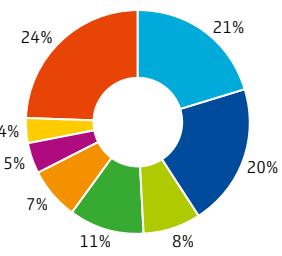


## 2.30 Cut flower growing area

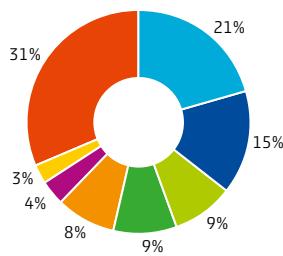
2005 (total 3,250 ha)



2010 (total 2,440 ha)



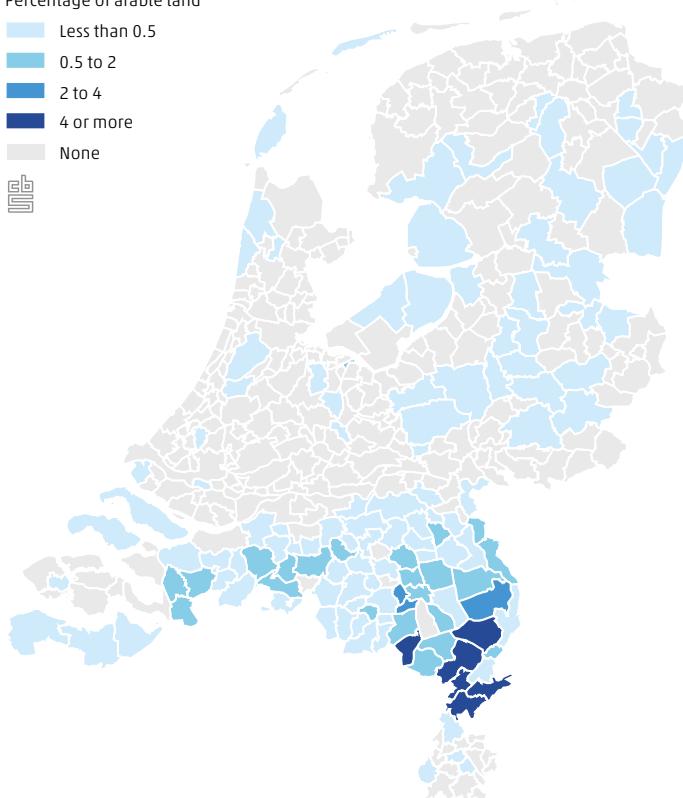
2015\* (total 1,880 ha)



## 2.31 Asparagus growing area per municipality, 2015

Percentage of arable land

- Less than 0.5
- 0.5 to 2
- 2 to 4
- 4 or more



**93%** more chickens per farm in 2015 than in 2000





More financial means

**1.5%**

more purchasing power in 2014

**19,000** euros was the  
average wealth of households in 2014

# 3. Labour and income

## Trends

After several years in which the average disposable income showed a downward trend there was an upturn in 2014. Furthermore, the purchasing power of the population increased again after four years of decline. Household wealth no longer diminished after having spiralled downward for six years. In short, many households and individuals saw their incomes expand. Employees benefited most from the economic recovery.

The percentage of households with an income below the low-income threshold who reported having a difficult time making ends meet, fell from over 50 percent in 2013 to 41 percent in 2015, a percentage similar to pre-crisis levels. However, the risk of long-term poverty has only increased since 2010.

### Higher income

In 2014 the average standardised household income reached 24.1 thousand euros. This was the first increase after a decline of many years.

Developments in average income show how household income changes from one year to the next: is it more or is it less? To enable a comparison between the different types of households, disposable income is standardised: it is adjusted to the differences in household size and composition.

When several decades are compared, it turns out that in 2014 households had 20 percent more to spend than in 1977, when the standardised income was 19.4 thousand euros. This rise is caused among other things by increased labour productivity and resulting wage increases. Another key factor is that more women are joining the workforce. This has led to more one-and-a-half and double income households.

During the period 1977–2013, the upward trend was interrupted several times by a recession. The lowest income level was reached around

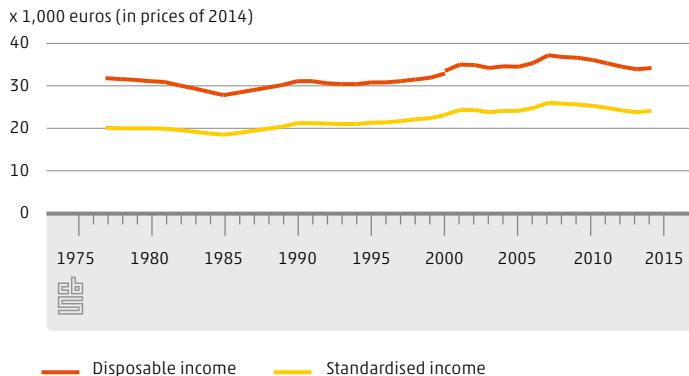
1985 during a severe economic crisis. There were also economic downturns around 1994 and 2004, albeit on a much smaller scale. The highest income level in the period 1977–2013 was reached during the economic boom in 2007. Due to the economic crisis that followed, the average income diminished every single year between 2008 and 2013.

### More purchasing power

The annual changes in purchasing power for individuals are shown by tracking the changes in the standardised disposable household income for each person from one year to the next. The purchasing power figure also improved: after four years of decline, it rose by 1.5 percent in 2014. Part of this came as a result of lowered pension premiums payable by employees.

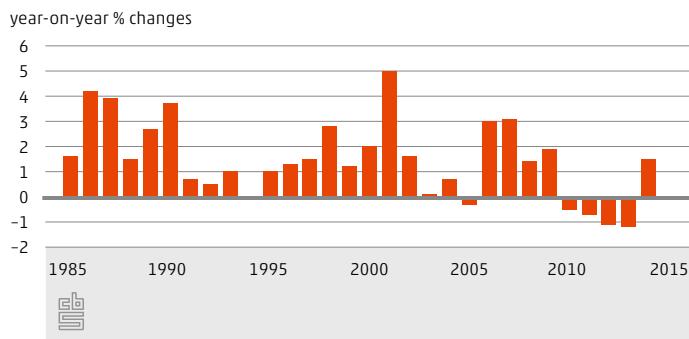
Purchasing power grew for all population groups, but in 2014 it improved most for employees, namely by 2.7 percent. Despite the low collective wage (CAO) increase, civil servants saw their purchasing power rise by 3.7 percent. The lower pension premiums affected this group the most.

### 3.1 Average household income<sup>1)</sup>

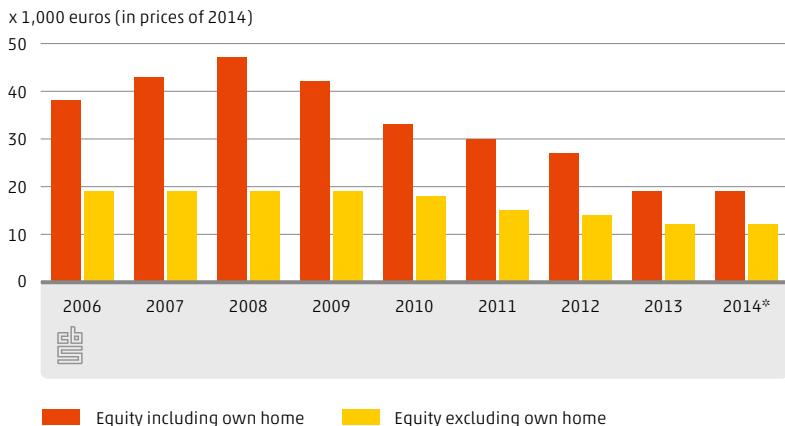


<sup>1)</sup> Due to a revision in the income statistics, the figures for 1977–2000 are not directly comparable to those for 2000–2014.

### 3.2 Purchasing power (dynamic changes)



### 3.3 Median household wealth, 1 January



Self-employed people barely saw any improvement in their purchasing power, just 0.3 percent. They cover a much wider range than employees, however: purchasing power fell by at least 13 percent for a quarter of all self-employed, it rose by nearly 14 percent or more for an equally large group.

#### Wealth no longer deteriorating

Household wealth, as established on 1 January of every fiscal year, did not diminish any further

in 2014. Since the economic crisis began, average household wealth – assets minus debts – had fallen continuously as house prices collapsed. Wealth diminished from 47 thousand in 2008 to 19 thousand euros in 2013. This downward trend ended in 2014. Even if homes are left out of the equation wealth stabilised that year.

#### Greater risk of long-term poverty

The percentage of households living on an income below the low-income threshold barely increased further in 2014. During the economic crisis, their share rose from 7.4 percent in 2010 to 10.3 percent in 2013.

In 2014 it stayed virtually the same at 10.4 percent. On the other hand, the risk of long-term poverty increased. Long-term poverty means there is a greater risk of a household having to live on a low income for at least four years in a row. This increased from 2.3 percent in 2010 and 3.0 percent in 2013 to 3.3 percent in 2014. The number of children living in families with a consistently low income for a longer term increased by 16 thousand to 131 thousand in 2014.

## Fewer households report shortages

The number of low-income households that indicated they had difficulties making ends meet rose from 40 percent in 2012 to over 50 percent in 2013. Then their share fell in 2015, returning to its more usual level of 41 percent. The percentage of households with an income above the low-income threshold that had difficulties making ends meet has been hovering around the 10 percent in recent years.

## Income distributed more evenly than wealth

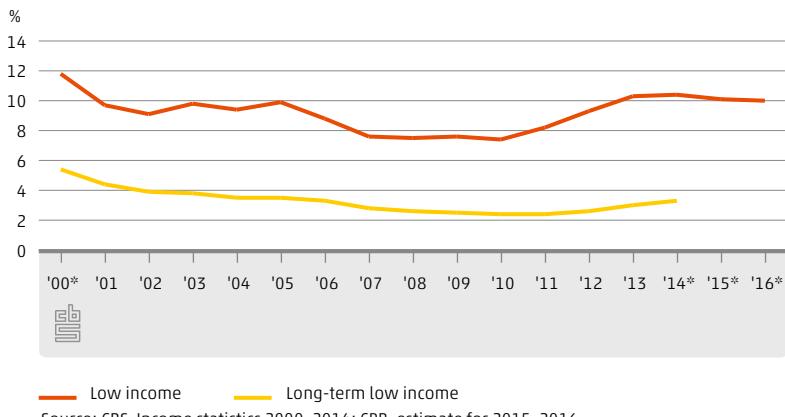
Income is distributed more equally among households than wealth. In 2014, income inequality was at about the same level as in the previous 15 years, with a Gini coefficient of 0.286. Income inequality only increased slightly in 2007. This was because of a favourable fiscal scheme for paying out dividends to directors-major shareholders.

The Gini coefficient summarises the differences in income or wealth among all households in a number that varies from 0 (no inequality) to 1 (maximum inequality). In 2014 there was more inequality in wealth, with a Gini coefficient of 0.894, than in income with 86 percent of all

wealth being in the hands of the 20 percent most prosperous households on 1 January. Inequality in wealth had continuously risen since the economic crisis began, but in 2014 it no longer increased. The collapse of the housing market during the crisis was the main reason for dwindling wealth. On average people's homes make up more than half of the household's wealth. Nearly 6 in 10 households own their home. As a consequence, a large mortgage debt means that a decline in property value has a relatively major impact on their wealth. The impact is relatively smaller for wealthier households, who may also possess savings or shares. Because house prices no longer fell in 2014, wealth also stopped inequalityincreasing.

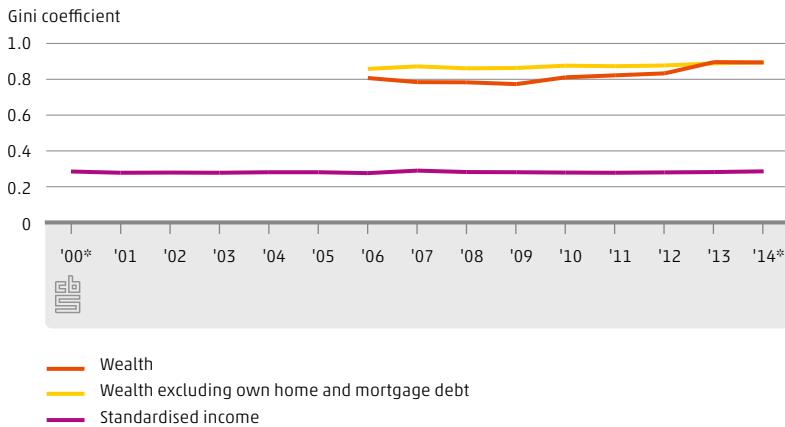
Calculation of wealth does not include equity in the form of pension entitlements. According to the CBS definition, wealth must be transferable and households must have free use of it. Pension entitlements do not meet this definition. Collective forms of wealth such as social security and education are also excluded from the calculation of wealth.

### 3.4 Households on a (long-term) low income



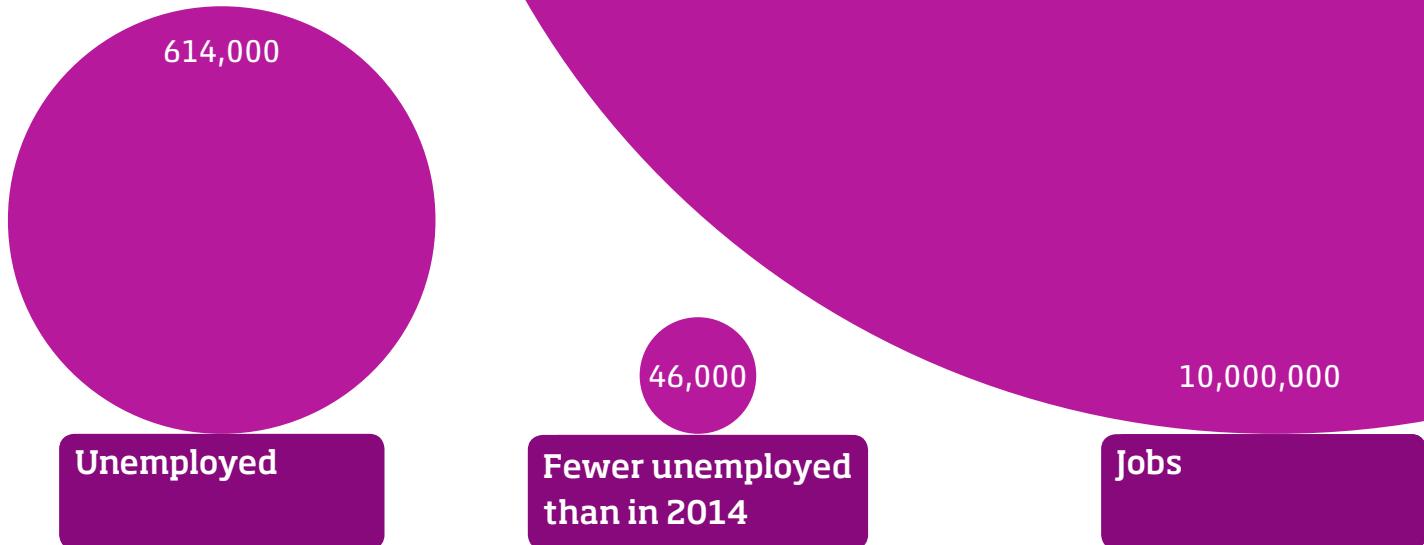
Source: CBS, Income statistics 2000–2014; CPB, estimate for 2015–2016.

### 3.5 Inequality in income and wealth



Compulsory participation in pension schemes and the availability of various collective provisions mean that there is less need for many Dutch people to accumulate wealth for their old age provisions. In other words there is no easy way of comparing the Netherlands with countries where wealth is accumulated far less through collective provisions.

## Unemployment further down in 2015



# Facts and figures

## Employment

The number of jobs in the Netherlands increased by 109 thousand in 2015, reaching an average of 9.9 million. In fact, the record of 10 million jobs was set in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Jobs of the self-employed have been the main drivers of growth since the crisis of 2008. But in 2015, the number of employee jobs rose as well for the first time since 2011. Two out of ten jobs are held by self-employed people.

The percentage of people with a paid job rose to 65.4 percent in 2015: 4.5 million working men and 3.8 million working women. The share of the employed population is therefore slightly larger than the year before. Some 51 percent of the working population have a full-time job, while the other 49 percent work part-time. Many more women than men work part-time.

## 3.6 Jobs



**3.8 million women  
in paid jobs in 2015**



### 3.7 Working hours per job, employees and self-employed, 2014\*

	Total	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>	1,261	1,487	1,015
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	1,397	1,552	1,055
Industry (not construction) and energy	1,574	1,674	1,223
Construction	1,636	1,703	1,098
Trade, transport and hotels and restaurants	1,262	1,456	998
Information and communication	1,538	1,608	1,320
Financial services	1,483	1,624	1,301
Renting, buying, selling real estate	1,266	1,368	1,130
Business services	1,148	1,395	895
Government and health care	1,127	1,358	1,022
Culture, recreation, other services	1,170	1,315	1,079

### 3.8 Employee jobs, 2015\*

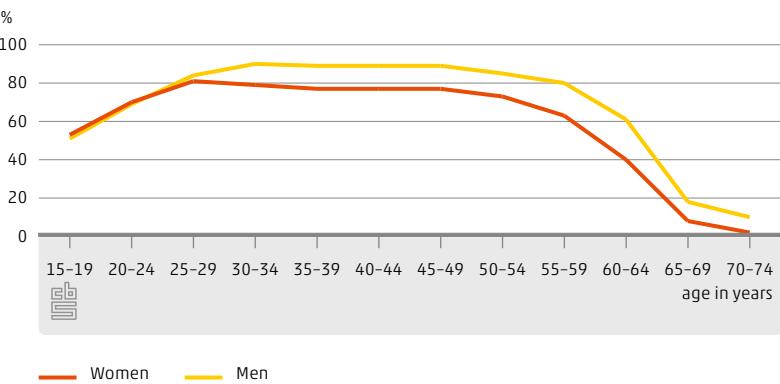
	Total	Total	
		Men	Women
		<b>x 1,000</b>	
<b>Total</b>	7,818	4,107	3,711
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	103	69	33
Industry (not construction) and energy	810	631	178
Construction	300	265	35
Trade, transport and hotels and restaurants	2,048	1,152	896
Information and communication	235	172	63
Financial services	238	134	104
Renting, buying, selling real estate	66	35	31
Business services	1,449	846	603
Government and health care	2,274	690	1,584
Culture, recreation, other services	295	113	182



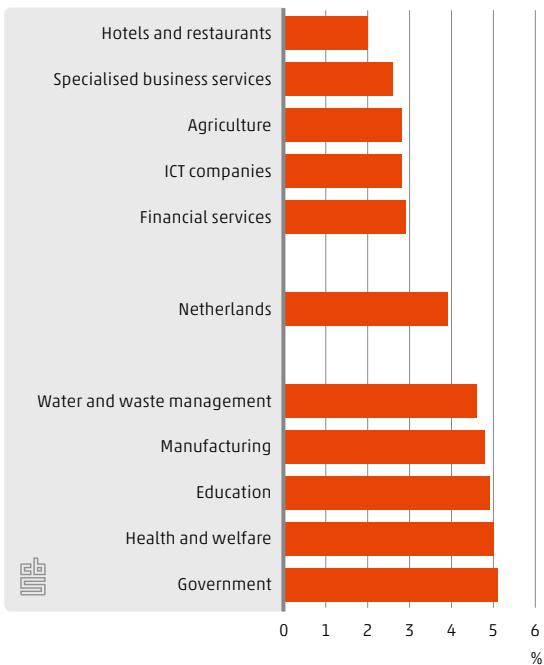
### 3.9 Employed persons, 2015\*

	Total	Employees	Self-employed
	x 1,000		
<b>Total</b>	8,818	7,309	1,509
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	201	95	107
Industry (not construction) and energy	834	795	39
Construction	451	293	158
Trade, transport and hotels and restaurants	2,185	1,928	257
Information and communication	271	228	43
Financial services	235	230	5
Renting, buying, selling real estate	74	63	11
Business services	1,794	1,320	474
Government and health care	2,397	2,122	275
Culture, recreation, other services	375	236	139

### 3.11 Net labour participation, 2015



### 3.10 Sickness absence per sector, 2015



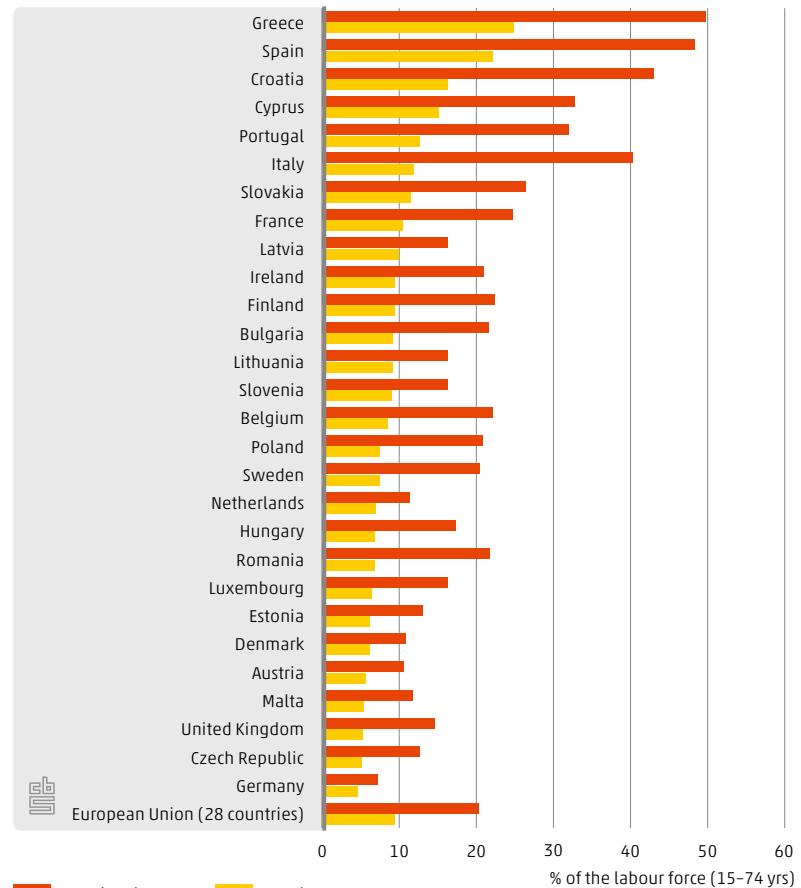
## Unemployment

Unemployment in the Netherlands has been falling since the spring of 2014. This trend continued in 2015: 614 thousand people were unemployed, 46 thousand fewer than the previous year. This comes down to 6.9 percent of the population in the age group 15–75 being unemployed. The largest decrease was among people aged 15 to 25. Nevertheless, 11 percent of young people were unemployed in 2015.

The number of long-term unemployed increased by 9 thousand to 259 thousand in 2015. This means that 42 percent of all unemployed people were out of work for one year or more. In 2013 this was 38 percent.

The Netherlands ranks 11th among the 28 member states of the European Union where unemployment is concerned. In terms of youth unemployment, it performs better than most other EU countries, with one of the four lowest percentages. On average, the share of unemployed people in the EU as a whole fell from 10.2 percent in 2014 to 9.4 percent in 2015.

### 3.12 Unemployment in the European Union, 2015



Source: Eurostat.

### 3.13 Unemployment by sex, age and origin

	2013	2014	2015
	% of the labour force		
<b>Total</b>	7.3	7.4	6.9
Men	7.2	7.2	6.5
Women	7.3	7.8	7.3
15–24 yrs	13.2	12.7	11.3
25–34 yrs	6.8	6.5	5.9
35–44 yrs	5.9	6.2	5.3
45–54 yrs	5.6	5.9	5.6
55–64 yrs	6.8	7.7	8.1
65–74 yrs	4.8	5.7	5.5
Native Dutch background	5.8	6.1	5.6
Western immigrant	8.9	8.7	8.6
Non-western immigrant	16.5	16.5	15.2



## Social security

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits (WW) in 2014 and 2015 fluctuated between 400–450 thousand. By 31 December 2015, there were 440 thousand claimants, 5 to 6 thousand more than the year before.

Likewise, 450 thousand people below the state pension (AOW) entitlement age received income support. Of these people, 15.4 percent had already been receiving income support for more than a decade by September 2015.

Fewer people received disability benefits (WAO, WIA, WAZ or Wajong): an estimated 776 thousand on 31 December 2015. The effect of the Dutch Participation Act (Participatiewet) plays a role here: this act superseded several social laws on 1 January 2015. A number of young people who would have been entitled to Wajong benefits are now covered by the new legislation.

### 3.14 People on benefits, 31 December

	2013	2014*	2015*
	x 1,000		
Disability	787	791	776
Disability benefits for young persons (Wajong)	228	239	236
Disability benefits under former scheme (WAO)	366	336	309
Disability benefits for former self-employed (WAZ)	18	16	15
Disability benefits under current scheme (WIA)	185	209	230
Unemployment benefits (WW)	441	434	440
Income support	460	481	497
Benefits for older unemployed (IOAW)	18	22	24
Benefits for older former self-employed (IOAZ)	2	2	2
General Child Benefit Act (AKW)	1,919	1,915	1,912
General Survivors Pension Act (ANW)	55	42	36
State old age pension (AOW)	3,223	3,301	3,371

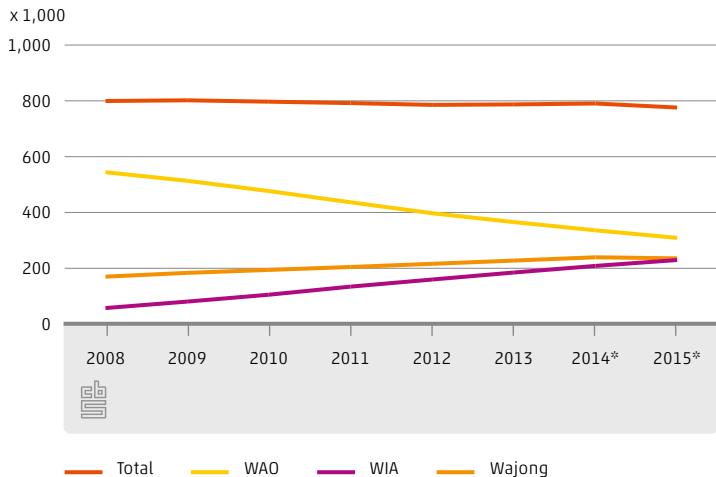
**450,000** people on  
income support up until AOW  
entitlement age in December 2015



### 3.15 People on income support, 31 December 2015

	Total	Up to AOW entitlement age	After AOW entitlement age
	x 1,000		
<b>Total</b>	497	450	47
Men	217	197	20
Women	280	253	27
Aged under 27 yrs	42	42	
27 to 45	187	187	
45 up to AOW entitlement age	221	221	
After AOW entitlement age	47		47
Native Dutch background	194	190	5
Western immigrants	55	47	8
Non-western immigrants	247	212	35

### 3.16 Disability benefits, 31 December



**236,000** young people on  
Wajong benefit in December 2015



## Income

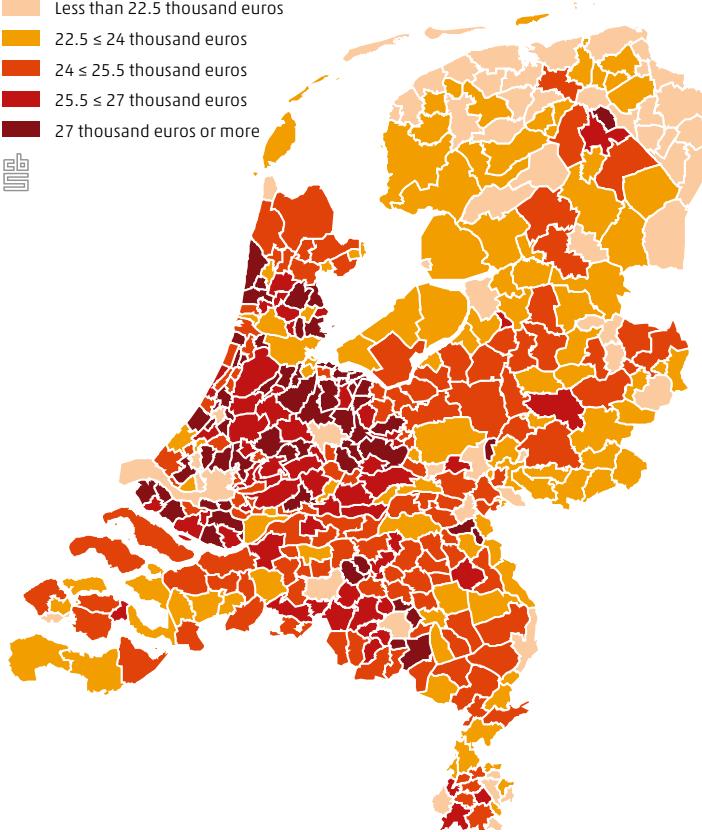
Municipalities with a high average (standardised) household income are mainly located in the provinces of Noord-Holland, Zuid-Holland and Utrecht. One exception is Rozendaal in Gelderland, which had the highest average in 2013 at 38.4 thousand euros.

Households in this municipality had 15 thousand euros more income than an average Dutch household (23.6 thousand euros). The top 10 of richest municipalities further include Bloemendaal, Wassenaar, Laren, Blaricum (municipalities with an average income of at least 35 thousand euros), Naarden, Heemstede, Oegstgeest, Westvoorne and De Bilt (where the average income was about 30 thousand euros).

Incomes in Friesland, Groningen and municipalities along the German border are comparatively low. The municipality with the lowest average income in 2013 was the university town of Groningen (18 thousand euros). Some other university cities including Wageningen, Enschede and Nijmegen likewise ranked among the lowest, with average incomes at approximately 20 thousand euros.

**3.17 Average standardised household income per municipality, 2013**

- Less than 22.5 thousand euros
- 22.5 ≤ 24 thousand euros
- 24 ≤ 25.5 thousand euros
- 25.5 ≤ 27 thousand euros
- 27 thousand euros or more



### 3.18 Income tax, premium and transfer burdens

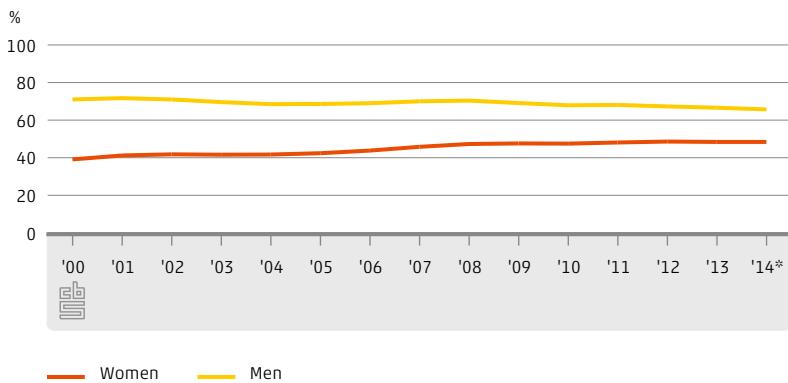
	2011	2012	2013*
	bn euros		
Gross income	419	428	434
Income tax and national insurance premiums	82	84	86
Income tax	44	44	45
Social insurance premiums	39	39	40
	% of gross income		
Income tax and national insurance premiums	19.7	19.5	19.7
Income tax	10.4	10.4	10.4
Social insurance premiums	9.3	9.2	9.3



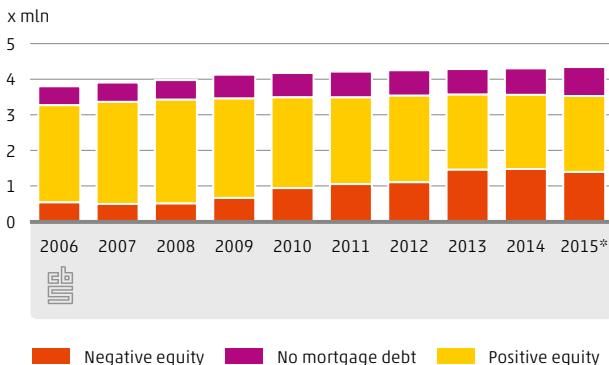
### 3.19 Expenditure of households by 20% income group, 2013\*

	Total	1st 20% group (low)	2nd 20% group	3rd 20% group	4th 20% group	5th 20% group (high)
x 1,000 euros						
Average spending	33.0	21.7	26.0	31.5	38.0	47.8
% of total spending						
Spending category						
Fixed costs	36	45	41	37	33	30
Food	11	12	12	11	11	10
Alcohol and tobacco	3	4	4	4	3	3
Health and personal care	9	8	8	8	10	9
Home maintenance, repairs and furnishing	7	6	7	8	7	9
Transport	12	7	9	12	14	12
Leisure activities	18	14	15	16	18	23
Other	4	4	4	4	4	4

### 3.20 Economic independence

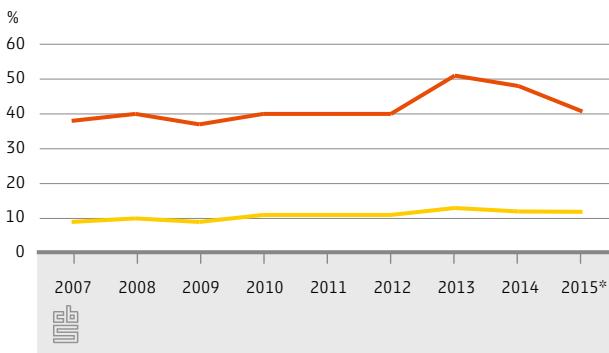


### 3.21 Households with an outstanding fiscal mortgage debt<sup>1)</sup> compared to house value, 1 January



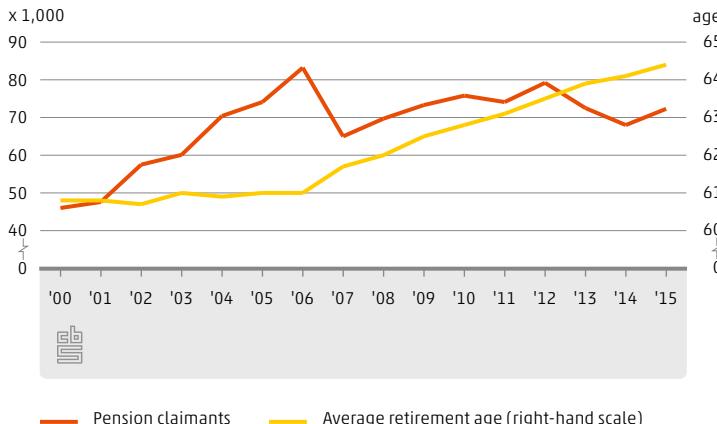
<sup>1)</sup> Excluding accumulated sums in savings accounts and endowment mortgages.

### 3.23 Households finding it difficult to make ends meet



— Low income — Above the low-income threshold

### 3.22 Employees claiming pension and average retirement age



**131,000** children  
in long-term low-income  
families in 2014



A photograph of a television studio. In the foreground, a man with dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt, is seen from the side, facing away from the camera. He is operating a large black video switcher with multiple screens displaying different video feeds. One screen shows a man in a suit and tie standing in front of a news desk. Another screen shows a close-up of the same man. In the background, there's a glass partition showing more of the studio, including other people and equipment.

## Towards news production

**3,368**  
tweets in 2015

**7,771,746**  
website visits on [cbs.nl](http://cbs.nl) in 2015

# 4. About Statistics Netherlands

Statistics Netherlands takes stock of developments in Dutch economy and society, and has been doing so for more than a century. Needless to say, there have been many changes over time, both in how we collect our data and in how we make them available.

## Innovation

An increasing amount of the data we need in order to produce our statistics is collected automatically. Not that long ago, we recorded prices in supermarkets manually to calculate the inflation rate, whereas today we automatically receive cash register data from supermarkets. Air fares are no longer looked up in travel brochures but retrieved from the internet by internet bots. Last year, we published our first statistics based on big data: using Dutch road sensor records, we measured traffic intensity. Thanks to these types of innovations, we can depend less on questionnaires while we can publish figures more rapidly. Our corporate web app [corporate.cbs.nl](#) features articles about the latest innovations, services and products,

international developments and events. Note: the app is in Dutch with English translations becoming available in due course.

## New website [cbs.nl](#)

Our figures are of little value unless they are used. We do our best to make our information available as widely as possible. Earlier this year, we introduced a completely new version of our website, [cbs.nl](#). Our news releases now take centre stage, due to a clear new design and many visual elements. Related information and underlying data are accessible through a simple mouse click. The website is just as easily viewed on a smartphone or tablet as it is on a laptop or desktop.

## Statistics Netherlands in your neighbourhood

Many of our regional data can be found (in Dutch) on [cbsinuwbuurt.nl](#). The updated version of this website offers maps with over 170 characteristics of neighbourhoods and their residents. [CBSinuwBuurt.nl](#) now contains around

2,000 maps showing a wide range of data, such as the distance to the nearest (primary) school, breakdown of the working population by age and industry, the official real estate value of rental and owner-occupied homes. Many figures can be viewed by neighbourhood, but also by district, municipality, population cluster or by area of 100 or 500 sq m, often over several consecutive years. It is also possible to compare different neighbourhoods, of course.

### **Statistics Netherlands and social media**

Followers of Statistics Netherlands on Twitter, [@statistiekCBS](https://twitter.com/statistiekCBS) and [@statisticscbs](https://twitter.com/statisticscbs) always have the latest information at their fingertips.

Statistics Netherlands tweets its own news, latest figures and interesting facts to over 110 thousand followers (April 2016).

Via [facebook.com/statistiekCBS](https://www.facebook.com/statistiekCBS), we provide background information on our figures and all sorts of glimpses behind the scenes. Our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/statistiekCBS](https://www.youtube.com/statistiekCBS), has over a hundred videos which explain statistical concepts, discuss publications and show interviews and meetings at Statistics Netherlands.

### **Statistics Netherlands and the EU**

Between 1 January and 1 July 2016, the Netherlands held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In this context, Statistics Netherlands Director General Tjark Tjin-A-Tsoi chaired the meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics. Statistics Netherlands took over the Presidency from Statec, the official bureau of statistics in Luxembourg. The Dutch Presidency team was able to finalise two dossiers on which the Luxembourg Presidency had made great strides and further negotiated with the European Parliament and the Commission on completion of three statistical legislation dossiers: rail transport, inland waterway transport and foreign trade statistics. The team also addressed a legislative proposal from the Commission regarding statistics on energy prices in the Council Working Party and was able to reach agreement on the Council's position. Further details can be found on [eu2016.cbs.nl](http://eu2016.cbs.nl).

On 1 July, the Presidency was handed over to Slovakia.

The screenshot shows the homepage of CBS.nl. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Labour and Income', 'Economy', 'Society', 'Regional', and 'Figures'. A search bar and a 'Subscribe' button are also at the top. The main content area features a large image of people shopping in a store, with a green overlay box containing the text 'Inflation rate June stable at 0 percent'. Below this are several data visualizations and news snippets:

- Featured** section:
  - More steps in big data (Statistics and Economic Commission)
  - Earthquake Netherlands (Dutch, Foreign Trade and Shipping about Millions euro/capita)
- Expected** section:
  - Manufacturing production (Index 2010=100) (Indicator)
  - Washington (Index 1980=100) (Indicator)
  - Safeguards EU rules Netherlands (EU Directive 2008/98)
  - International trade (Exports and imports) (Indicator)
- CBS-video** section:
  - GCOP and beyond (Video)
- Twitter** section:
  - One in five unaccompanied asylum seekers
  - Dutch producer confidence improving
  - Further improvement public finances

**233** explanations provided on television by CBS staff in 2015

**3,800** datasets available in StatLine





**17,000,000**

inhabitants on 21 March 2016



**2%**

economic growth in 2015

# Facts that matter



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