

Persbericht

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Two million immigrants in 2015

If current migration trends continue, the number of non-western immigrants in the Netherlands will increase from 1.2 million in 1998 to 2.0 million in 2015. As the total population will grow by an expected 1.2 million people, two thirds of the total population growth can be attributed to the increase in the foreign population, according to the forecast just released by Statistics Netherlands.

Increasing proportion of immigrants in the population

According to the forecast the number of non-western immigrants is growing faster than the rest of the population, thus increasing their share in the overall population. At the moment non-western immigrants account for 7% of the population of the Netherlands, in 2015 this will be something like 12%.

Just over half (55%) of the forecast increase in the number of immigrants of 800 thousand will be caused by immigration, while the remainder will be children born to foreigners living here.

First and second generations

Of the 1.2 million non-western immigrants in 1998, 70% belong to the first generation; i.e. the people who immigrated into the country. The forecast expects the size of the first generation to increase by about half a million, from just over 800 thousand to nearly 1.3 million in 2015. This growth will be caused by an assumed migration surplus of around 30 thousand people a year.

The second generation of non-western immigrants numbered nearly 350 thousand people in 1998. These are children born in the Netherlands to people who themselves were born in a non-western country. If current trends continue the second generation will double in size to just over 700 thousand people in 2015.

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The relatively strong increase in the number of second generation immigrants is based on the fact that the first generation is still relatively young. In the next few years many immigrants will reach the age to start a family. The forecast also takes account of the fact that non-western couples have more children on average than Dutch couples.

Number of Moroccans increasing faster than Turks

With 280 thousand people, immigrants born in Turkey or to Turkish parents constitute the largest non-western ethnic group in the Netherlands. The second generation in particular is expected to increase strongly in the coming years. As immigration from Turkey is expected to decline, the first generation will grow more slowly.

The number of Moroccan immigrants is growing faster than the number of Turks. There are just over 230 thousand Moroccans in the Netherlands at the moment, 50 thousand fewer than Turks. In 2015 there are expected to be just as many Moroccans as Turks: 370 thousand. Again it is the second generation of Moroccans that is growing most strongly, and Moroccans have more children on average than Turks. Today Moroccan women in the Netherlands have on average just over 3 children. The forecast assumes that this will fall to 2.5 children per woman, compared with 2 children for Turkish women.

The increase in the number of people from Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles is less substantial, as they have fewer children on average. Women from these countries have the same number of children as native Dutch women.

Number of Asians growing fast

The fastest growing group of immigrants are the people from Asian countries. The number of refugees from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan surged in nineties. For the coming years, the assumption is that 60% of asylum seekers will come from Asian countries. The forecast is based on a migration surplus of around 15 thousand Asians a year, pushing up the number of first generation Asians in particular.

Ageing of immigrant population

Non-western immigrants are relatively young compared with the native Dutch population. At the moment only few Turks and Moroccans over 65 live in the Netherlands: just under 6 thousand. Although this number will be significantly higher in 2015, 36 thousand, it will still account for only one per cent of all over 65's in the Netherlands

Western immigrants

The number of western immigrants will increase more slowly than the number of people from non-western countries. Western immigrants are people born in Europe, North America, Australasia, Japan and Indonesia (or former Dutch East Indies), or born to parents from these countries. The number of western immigrants is expected to increase from just under 700 thousand in 1998 to nearly 800 thousand in 2015.

The largest group are people born in the former Dutch East Indies, 140 thousand, or born to parents from this country (70 thousand). The first

generation will decline to 100 thousand in 2015 s it is a relatively old population group.

Uncertainty

Obviously there is a certain degree of uncertainty in the forecast of the foreign population in 2015. The figures depend to an important extent on how migration trends develop. The number of people entering the country has fluctuated strongly in the past. The foreseen increase of first generation immigrants is based on the fact that the Netherlands will remain an immigration country. The growth of the second generation population is less uncertain, as it is based on the people already living in the Netherlands.

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