



**Bevolkingstrends**

# **Population register data, basis for the Netherlands Population Statistics**

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**Kees Prins**

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**Population statistics in the Netherlands are based on the digitised municipal population registers. These registers provide the personal details of every resident and non-resident. At the beginning of each calendar year, Statistics Netherlands collects a selection of data on every registered person. In addition to this, whenever a person undergoes a demographic event, the register is also updated and Statistics Netherlands is informed without delay by means of an electronic message. These data are the building blocks for the Dutch population statistics. These population register data are also used to construct sampling frames for surveys that are carried out by Statistics Netherlands.**

## 1. Introduction

Population statistics in the Netherlands are based on the digitised Municipal Personal Records Database. This article describes the Netherlands' population register system and the way in which Statistics Netherlands collects data from these registers. Section 2 describes the main features of the Dutch population register system. As of January 2014, not only residents are registered, but non-residents as well. Section 3 gives an overview of registered data on residents and non-residents. When it comes to using population register data, it goes without saying that there is no free access to the population registers. Organisations in need of population data in their working processes must obtain permission from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations to retrieve data from the population registers. This authorisation system is described in Sections 4 and 5. Section 6 shows in what way and to what extent external users can influence the contents and quality of the population registers. Sections 7 and 8 provide information on demographic statistics and the system of social statistical datasets.

## 2. The BRP system in brief

The Netherlands' population statistics as they are compiled by Statistics Netherlands are based on the digitised Municipal Personal Records Database. This registration system is known as the BRP system, short for 'Basisregistratie Personen', the basic register for population data. As such, the population register is part of a system of basic registers. Other registers in this system cover for example companies, buildings and addresses, and vehicles. The aim of these interconnected registers is to provide all government agencies in the Netherlands with up-to-date data on the most important topics. It follows that the BRP system is a key element in administrative procedures at the national and local level. Many non-governmental agencies also make use of the basic registers. A more detailed description of the system of basic registers is given in Annex 1.

## 2.1 Glossary

AdmPIN	Personal Identification Number. There are two separate AdmPINs for each registered person: the A-number and the BSN.
A-number	Personal identification number that is only used in BRP.
Basic Register	Governmental agencies are obliged to use data from the eleven basic registers. They are also obliged to inform the registers in case data are assumed to be incorrect. BRP is one of the basic registers.
BRP	The present population registration system Basisregistratie Personen, in use since 6 January 2014.
BSN	Citizen service number. This number is used in a wide range of registrations in the public domain.
Emigrant	A resident who leaves for another country for at least two-thirds of the forthcoming twelve months
GBA	The previous population registration system Gemeentelijke BasisAdministratie persoonsgegevens, in use until 6 January 2014.
Historical data	BRP data that were valid during a period in the past. They are used when constructing statistical overviews on a given date.
Immigrant	A person who is allowed to stay in The Netherlands and intends to stay here for at least two-thirds of the forthcoming six months
Legal partnership	Relationship between two individuals. Dissolution of legal partnerships need not be implemented at the judicial court if no minor children are involved.
Netherlands	The BRP system describes the population in the European territory of the Netherlands. The Caribbean islands Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius have a different population registration system called PIVA.
Non-resident	A person who is registered in BRP as not being a resident of the Netherlands.
Personal record	The combined data registered about an individual in BRP.
Privileged person	Foreign diplomats, NATO personnel and staff members of international organisations who are not obliged to have themselves registered as residents.
Resident	A person who is registered in BRP as a resident of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands' population register system has been in use since 1 January 1850. Each municipality in the Netherlands was obliged to set up and keep a register of all residents who lived within the municipal boundaries. The 1849 population census data were the basis on which these municipal registers were constructed. The registers were primarily set up in books. Since this appeared to be inconvenient in practice, the books were replaced with a paper card system in 1940. For each inhabitant a separate personal card was made, on which all demographic events were registered. Statistics Netherlands was informed by means of statistical paper cards about each demographic event. For a detailed description, see Van den Brekel (1977).

The paper card system lasted until 1 October 1994, when the digitised population registers were put into use. Just as in 1850, each municipality in the Netherlands was obliged to set up and keep a register of all residents who lived within the municipal boundaries. Despite all technological and infrastructural changes the population registers went through, this municipal task continues to exist up until this day. Every municipality has its own population register containing information on all inhabitants of that municipality. This information is listed per individual inhabitant in a so-called personal record. In the population registration system, each inhabitant has been given two unique administrative personal identification numbers (AdmPINs). One is the Administration number, which is only used within the BRP population register system, the other is the Citizen service number (BSN) which is widely applied by governmental agencies and in civil life. By means of these AdmPINs the municipal authorities are able to link the data of any inhabitant to those of their spouse, parents and children, as well as to data in a wide range of other registers in the public domain. For this reason, in each personal record not only the inhabitant's AdmPINs are stored, but also those of the parents, the spouse and the offspring. However, the latter is done only if these persons are or were in the population register of that municipality at any moment since 1 October 1994. Municipalities need not link their personal records to those in other municipalities.

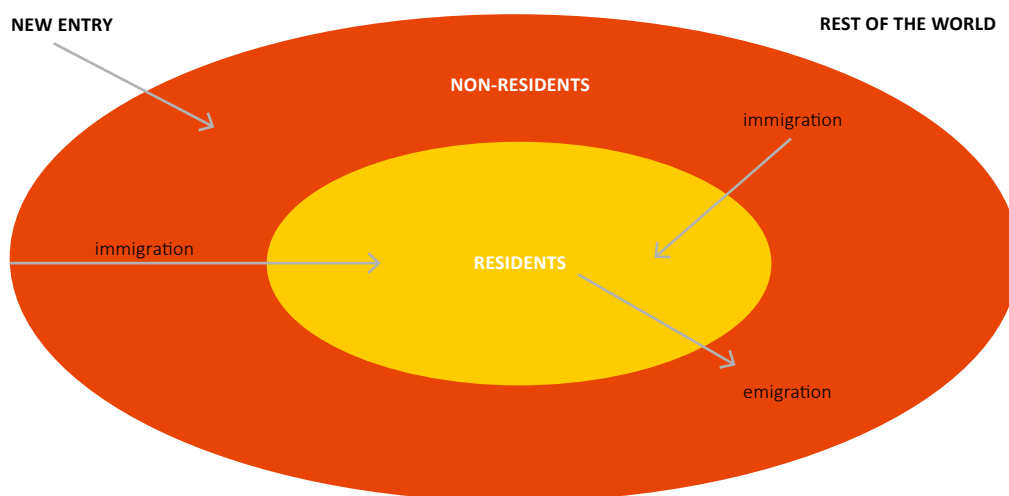
Until January 2014, the aim of the population register system was to cover all persons residing in the Netherlands. Every child born in the Netherlands to a mother who is a resident of this country is registered. In addition, any person who comes from abroad and who intends

to stay in the Netherlands for at least two-thirds of the next six months is obliged to inform the municipality of his or her stay. (In practice this is considered to be the next four months). Those whose stay is legal are registered as immigrants. On the other hand, persons who leave the country to stay abroad for at least two-thirds of the next twelve months are obliged to notify the municipality of their departure. They are no longer registered as residents. However, their data are not removed from the system. The same applies to persons who have died. The reason is that these data are sometimes needed after their departure or their passing away. Moreover, in this way the uniqueness of the AdmPINs can be guaranteed, since they cannot be allocated to another person.

In January 2014, the basis for the population registration was extended. Today non-residents can also be registered. All persons who are not resident of this country but who have a relationship with one or more Dutch authorities, for instance because they work or study in the Netherlands or have a social benefit from a government agency in the Netherlands, are registered as well. Their registered data are updated by a number of agencies that are instructed by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Among these agencies are the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration, the Social Insurance Bank (SVB, the organisation responsible for implementing national insurance schemes in the Netherlands and ensuring that child benefits, AOW pensions and Anw survivor benefits are allocated correctly and on time), the Dutch Employee Insurance Agency (UWV), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Administrative Agency (Centraal Administratie Kantoor CAK). However, these agencies do not keep the population register records themselves, this is done by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Any person who is not a resident of the Netherlands is also allowed to have him or herself registered as a non-resident. Registration is done by 19 out of the almost 400 municipalities.

The population register is a semi-closed system in the sense that once a person is registered, the registered data will be kept forever in the BRP system. In other words, one can enter the register, but one cannot leave. Interconnection between residents and non-residents is possible through immigration and emigration. A non-resident who immigrates becomes a resident. On the other hand, a resident who emigrates, becomes a non-resident, as shown in figure 2.2.

## 2.2 Interaction between residents and non-residents



Furthermore, the digitised registers went through a number of technological and infrastructural changes since their introduction in 1994. The most important one is the creation of a central database, kept by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. In this database, copies of all personal data are stored. National agencies such as Statistics Netherlands receive their data directly from this database. As such, the individual municipalities are suspended from the duty of informing governmental and non-governmental agencies of updates in their population registration. On the other hand, the introduction of the central database has not altered the responsibility of the municipalities being fully responsible for the correctness and completeness of their population register data. The changes in the system made it relevant to update an earlier description of the population statistics and the population register system (Prins, 2000).

Compliance procedures on how the municipal personal records should be kept up to date are laid down by law. This legislation (the 'BRP Act') also describes an outline of the population register system. Details on the system are described in regulations at the Ministerial level. These regulations ensure that all municipalities apply the BRP procedures in a similar way. This is extremely important given the fact that there are almost 400 municipalities and the population register data are used by hundreds of agencies in the public domain.

The BRP system describes the population of the European territory of the Netherlands and the non-residents with links to that territory. The Caribbean islands of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius are special Dutch municipalities that maintain a different population registration system called PIVA. PIVA stands for 'Persoonsinformatievoorziening Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba', the 'population information system for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba'. All six islands make use of this PIVA system. The islands of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius are under Dutch government rule, Aruba, Curaçao and Saint Martin are independent countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## 3. Characteristics of the population register system

### 3.1 Residents

For residents the personal record consists of the following categories:

1. personal data;
2. data about parent 1, usually the mother;
3. data about parent 2, usually the father;
4. data about citizenship;
5. data about marriage, partnership, widowhood and divorce;
6. data about death;
7. data about registration;
8. data about the address;
9. data about the offspring;
10. data about legal permit to stay in the Netherlands;
11. data about legal restraints;

12. data about passport;
13. data about the right to vote.

Registered data remain part of the personal record, even when additional data are recorded. For instance, both the present and all former addresses are in the personal record. No data are ever erased. These so called historical data are registered under categories numbered according to the actual data, increasing the respective numbers by 50. Hence, data about former citizenship are categorised under 54, data about former addresses under 58, etc. To give an example, the present place of residence is in category 08, and all former places of residence are in some category 58. There is only one category 08, but it is possible to have many categories 58. Each former place of residence is included in a separate category 58. They are distinguished through 'Date when the person came to live at the address'. In this way the history of house moves is made visible.

However, there are some exceptions to the rule that data are never erased, such as those in categories 07, 12 and 13. This means that when new data become available about the registration, passport or right to vote, the data that are already in the personal record are replaced by the new data. The other exceptions refer to adopted children and transgendered individuals. Upon their request, data which refer to their biological parents and former gender, respectively, are erased from the register.

Historical categories are also used when data appear to be incorrect. For example, if a date of birth in category 01 is not registered correctly, a new category 01 is made with the correct date of birth and the former category 01 becomes a new category 51. The date when the category was corrected is registered. In doing so, the register can provide the data that were thought to be valid at any moment in the past. This is important because population register data are used by many agencies and if it turns out that governmental decisions were based on incorrect data, the source of these data must be traceable.

Data about the parents, the spouse and the offspring are restricted to AdmPINs, names, sex, date of birth, country of birth and place of birth. They are invariable and will never need to be updated. All data about relatives that may be subject to updating, such as citizenship, marital status and place of residence, are in their own personal record only. In the register these data may be found by linking the personal records through the mutual AdmPINs. There is an exception for residents whose relatives were never registered in the BRP system, such as immigrants whose parents never lived in this country. Since these relatives do not have a personal record, linking through AdmPINs is not possible. In these cases data about relatives are kept in the resident's personal record.

It should be noted that AdmPINs are registered only for relatives in the first degree. Relatives in the second degree, like brothers and sisters or grandparents and grandchildren, can be detected through mutual relatives in the first degree.

For each marriage or registered partnership, a separate category 05 is made. When a marriage or a registered partnership is dissolved, the data about the marriage are transferred to a category 55 while the data about the dissolution (death or divorce) are in the newly created category 05. In the same manner a separate category 09 is made for each child. As a person has at most two legal parents, there is only one set of categories 02 and 03.

Personal records of people who were never married do not have any category 05 or 55. A similar situation occurs for people who are childless, since their personal records have no 09 categories. Unfortunately, the opposite does not hold. When the paper population register was digitised, municipalities were not obliged to transfer data into the parent's personal records about children who were born before 1 January 1966. It follows that the BRP system does not provide fully reliable data about the number of off-spring for persons who were born before 1950.

Of course, a resident who dies becomes a non-resident. However, the personal record is kept by the municipality of last residence. The content of the category 06 reveals whether a personal record refers to a present or to a former inhabitant of the Netherlands.

The uniqueness of the Netherlands population register system is reflected by the procedures that are followed when a resident moves to another Dutch municipality. The responsibility for keeping the resident's personal record up to date is transferred to the latter municipality. At the request of that municipality, the municipality of former residence forwards the resident's personal record to the population department of the municipality of new residence, where it is updated with the resident's new address. This is a straightforward activity, carried out some 600,000 times a year.

A slightly more complex situation occurs when someone who once emigrated returns to the Netherlands. In this case the municipality of new residence claims the re-immigrant's personal record from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, to make sure that data are stored in no more than one personal record. Before creating a personal record for an immigrant, a municipality must contact the Ministry to verify whether or not this person was ever registered before. In case of earlier registration, the Ministry forwards the personal record involved to the municipality of new residence.

### **Sources of information**

As mentioned before, the population register system is a basic element in the governmental work processes at the national and local level. This is the reason why special attention is paid to the regulations with respect to keeping the population register data up to date. The information needed to update these municipal registers is provided by either the local registrar (births, deaths, marriages, registered partnerships), the judicial courts (divorces), the Ministry of Security and Justice (changes of citizenship) or the public (house moves, immigration, emigration, births / marriages / other events that took place abroad). It is widely acknowledged that the data provision by the public is the weakest point. In order to encourage residents to inform the municipal authorities with the data needed to keep the registers up to date, residents who deliberately fail to do so must pay a maximum penalty of € 325.

Data on marriages, registered partnerships, divorces and changes of citizenship that take place within the Netherlands are relatively easy to keep up to date. This is because these events can only take place if the authorities on the local, ministerial or judicial level are involved. Marriages and contracting and dissolution of registered partnerships are carried out by the local registrar, divorces and dissolution of registered partnerships are implemented at the judicial court and changes of citizenship are granted by the King or by the Ministry of Security and Justice. These authorities are obliged to inform the municipal population departments of such events. By contrast, marriages and divorces that take place abroad are sometimes registered with much delay, if ever.



For all other information, the municipal population departments rely on the cooperation of its residents. Births and deaths should be reported to the local registrar of the municipality where the child is born or where the death has taken place. Births should be reported within three days by either the legal parent(s), an occupant of the house where the baby was born or by the doctor or midwife who assisted in the delivery. Deaths should be reported by the undertaker, a close relative or an occupant of the house where the person died.

### Address

Residents should be registered at the address where they spend the night most of the time. Those who move house should notify the municipality of new residence. This is not always done directly after the removal. It appears that among some population groups the proportion of misregistrations is higher than among other groups. Sometimes misregistration is related to supposed financial consequences. To give an example: two persons who are on social security and who are officially registered at the same address, may receive a smaller allowance than two persons who are registered at separate addresses. So it may happen that two people who actually live together, have themselves deliberately registered at two different addresses.

Following an order issued by Dutch parliament, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has a survey carried out each year in order to establish the number of residents whose actual address equals the registered one. This percentage varies between 97 and 98 per cent. It follows that almost half a million residents do not live at the address that is recorded in the population register. In some cases this is due to negligence, in other cases this is the result of deliberate misregistration, as pointed out in the former paragraph.

Everybody who intends to stay in the Netherlands for at least two- thirds of the forthcoming six months, should notify the population register immediately after arrival in the country. For persons with Dutch citizenship, this procedure suffices. Foreigners should also notify the police department that is concerned with foreign citizens. Those who are denied a residence permit by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service of the Ministry of Security and Justice are not allowed entry into the municipal population register.

An unknown number of people live in the country without being registered in the population register. Various attempts have been made to estimate their numbers, but the results are rather inconclusive. The most recent estimate (1 January 2013) is between [153.9, 185.9] (x 1,000) (Statistics Netherlands, 2016b). This estimate more or less contradicts the general feeling that the number of people who reside in this country for a longer period of time without being registered is unlikely to be very high, given the fact that Dutch society relies heavily on its network of registrations for the provision of several benefits. On the other hand, it is estimated that some 33 thousand registered residents actually live abroad and should not be registered as residents (Statistics Netherlands, 2016b).

Emigrants should notify the local authorities of their departure. However, it often happens that they fail to do so. Some just forget, others just do not take the trouble of going to the municipal hall. In any case, they are registered as residents without residing in the country. If the population department has any doubts on whether or not a person is still residing at the address of registration, his or her whereabouts should be investigated. As soon as it is clear that the person has gone, or if the person cannot be traced within a couple of months, the person is no longer considered to be an actual inhabitant of that municipality. In this case it is stated in personal record category 08 that the person emigrated to an unknown country.

Their annual number is about 70,000. Given the fact that the annual number of registered emigrants is slightly over 100,000, this means that about one in three residents who leave the country to live abroad do not notify the local government of their departure.

### Delay

Events that have taken place abroad are usually registered with delay. In general births will not suffer too much from this phenomenon, since parents receive an allowance for each child under 18 (and for students under 24). Deaths that are not notified in time to the local authorities, whether they have occurred in the Netherlands or abroad, may eventually be considered as emigration. Marriages that are contracted abroad are the most striking example of delayed registration.

### Quality

The municipal authorities are responsible for the quality of the population register. Quality means that all people who are a resident of the municipality and who meet the criteria for registration, are registered. It also means that the registered data must be correct and up to date. This is all the more important since the population register is part of the system of basic registers; for a short description of the system of basic registers see annex 1. As such, population register data are used in a large number of governmental processes, which demand that the quality of the data is extremely high. It is clear that the municipal authorities are not able to perform this huge task on their own. Therefore it is prescribed by law that governmental agencies are obliged to notify the register when data are assumed to be wrong or outdated. Next, the municipal authorities are obliged to start an investigation into the correctness of the data. In doing so, all governmental agencies that make use of population register data help in keeping the register data up to date. However, some agencies, including Statistics Netherlands, are not permitted to notify the population register of data that are assumed to be incorrect.

The quality of the population register is very important to Statistics Netherlands. Here, two characteristics apply (Statistics Netherlands, 2014):

1. completeness of the units;
2. correct composition of the units.

The completeness requirement is violated when a person who should be registered is not in the register, or when a person who is registered as a resident, should not be. This may apply, among others, to immigrants and emigrants who fail to notify the municipal authorities of their arrival and departure, respectively. However, the population statistics make no corrections for these violations. Incorrect compositions are corrected, which means that implausible data are replaced with data that fit better.

It is acknowledged that 'place of residence' is the weakest link in the population register. Sometimes people move house without notifying the municipal authorities, although they are obliged to do so. In 2015, the Ministry for the Interior and Kingdom Relations introduced a project in order to monitor the quality of the municipal population registers. In this project addresses are visited where it is assumed that not all inhabitants are properly registered. The project is quite successful. Some 12 thousand addresses were visited in 2015. At 5 thousand of these addresses, registration of one or more inhabitants needed to be updated.

Furthermore, the Ministry had a number of sample surveys carried out among randomly chosen addresses. It showed that over 98 percent of the population do actually live at the

registered address. About 96.26 percent of the population was found to be actually living at the address registered in the municipal population registers (Statistics Netherlands, 2017). The width of the 95 percent confidence interval was estimated as 1.08.

### 3.2 Non-residents

For non-residents, the personal record consists of the following categories:

01. personal data;
04. data about citizenship;
06. data about death;
07. data about registration (actual inhabitant or former inhabitant);
08. data about the address;
10. data about legal permit to stay in the Netherlands.

The dataset for non-residents is shorter than for residents. No data about parents, partners and children are registered. If, however, a resident becomes a non-resident, the registered data are not erased. This means that they are in the non-resident's personal list, but they are not kept up to date. If an emigrant marries or has a child, for example, these data are not added to the personal record even if those demographic events take place within the Netherlands. In those cases a note is made in the personal record (category 08, element 75.10) that the data need updating when the non-resident becomes a resident again. Using data about relatives of non-residents is possible, but the user should beware of the risk that they do not represent the actual situation. For non-residents who were never residents, no data about the parents, spouse and children are registered.

When a non-resident immigrates to the Netherlands and becomes a resident, the data in the personal record are validated, there is no entirely new acquisition, making the transfer of data a default test case for the validity of existing data sets. Missing information about relatives or demographic events that took place while abroad is added.

If a non-resident dies, the personal record is kept by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

Of course, data for non-residents are harder to keep up to date than for residents. Usually non-residents stay in the Netherlands for only a short period of time, some of them have never even been here at all. Non-residents are not obliged to inform the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations when they move house or provide other information needed to keep the register up to date. In order to inform users about the timeliness of the data, the date when the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration or other non-municipal agencies that supply the Ministry with data about non-residents contacted the non-resident is registered, even if all data are found to be valid and need no update. This gives the users of the data an idea of whether the data can be used in their working processes.

Given the fact that non-residents are not residents of the Netherlands, only addresses in foreign countries are registered. Here a symmetry can be observed with residents who stay abroad for a short period of time. For them no foreign address is registered in the BRP system. Large municipalities like Amsterdam argue that short-stay workers tend to live at a limited number of addresses that are concentrated in a limited number of urban areas. For this reason, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has set up a pilot project in

order to investigate the merits of registering the first address in the Netherlands where the non-resident is lodged. This pilot project is carried out with the help of Rotterdam and The Hague and three other municipalities in the western part of the country.

Although the pilot project has not yet ended and its results have not yet been published, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities fears that registration of only the first address is not enough. They argue that municipalities need to have information about all people who are actually staying in the Netherlands, regardless of duration of stay and no matter whether they are residents or non-residents. They have therefore made a proposal to register all persons who actually stay in the Netherlands. At the time of writing, the government is yet to make a decision in favour or against.

### **3.3 Privileged persons; asylum seekers**

A person who intends to stay in the Netherlands on a legal basis for at least two-thirds of the next six months must be registered as an immigrant (resident), as was mentioned in section 2. However, this rule does not apply to all foreigners who arrive in the Netherlands. In this respect the Law on BRP mentions two categories.

Following the 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, foreign diplomats, non-Dutch NATO personnel and non-Dutch staff members of international organisations are not obliged to have themselves registered as residents. In practice about one in three do, because being not registered as a resident can be cumbersome. The other two thirds are registered as non-residents. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides the BRP system with up to date data on privileged persons.

Asylum seekers who are lodged by the governmental organisation that provides for the reception, supervision and departure of asylum seekers (COA) are registered in the BRP system six months after their arrival in the Netherlands, notwithstanding the fact that many of them intend to stay here for at least two-thirds of the next six months. It follows that an asylum seeker whose application for asylum is rejected within six months upon arrival is not registered in the population register.

## **4. The authorisation system**

The BRP population registers are not only intended for municipal purposes, but many national and non-governmental organisations benefit from them as well. In fact, all government agencies such as Statistics Netherlands and the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration are obliged to make use of population register data when such data are needed in their working processes; see Annex 1. On the other hand, given the confidential character of the data, they have no free access to the population registers. Each organisation requiring population register data for their work processes, is given the opportunity to submit a request to the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations to receive data on a regular basis. In this request, the organisation must explain which population register data are needed and why these data are indispensable for their working processes. Thereupon the Minister decides

which data the organisation is allowed to receive. Each positive decision leads to a so-called authorisation.

One of the features of the population register system is that once a personal record is updated, the system automatically creates electronic mail for all organisations that are entitled to receive information about the update. This enables them to update their own registration. Each organisation is obliged to extract these electronic messages from their mail box at least once in every 24 hours. It is not guaranteed that the messages are still present after that amount of time.

At its own request, Statistics Netherlands has received permission to obtain population register data on which to base its population statistics (see also Section 5). This permission pertains to extracting from the municipal population registers both data on the whole of the resident and non-resident population once a year (the annual enumeration on 1 January) and data on demographic events on a continuous basis. This enables the statistical office to combine the stock and flow of data in such a manner that an up-to-date statistics register is constructed. For every resident and non-resident in the Netherlands' population register, this statistical register contains a subset of the registered data. Indeed, it should be noted that not all data or personal record updates are needed for population statistics. For example, family names and disenfranchisements are registered in the personal record, but they do not result in electronic messages for statistical purposes. However, Statistics Netherlands is allowed to collect family names for a limited number of processes, primarily for conducting sample surveys. In the next Section, a detailed description of Statistics Netherlands' authorisations is given.

According to the confidentiality rules imposed on Statistics Netherlands, no other organisation has access to the internal Statistics Netherlands computer network. Consequently, the electronic messages cannot be forwarded directly to the statistical office. It was therefore decided to create a separate computer system which serves as a lock, open to either the mailboxes in the population register electronic network or the Statistics Netherlands computer network. When the access to the latter network is closed, this computer system reads the electronic messages from the population register network mail boxes, then closes the access to that network and transports the messages to the Statistics Netherlands computer network. As of end of 2015, the lock device has been hosted by a private IT company.

## 5. Statistics Netherlands' authorisations

Statistics Netherlands has been authorised to receive from the BRP population registers all data it needs to compile population statistic based on national requirements and the requirements of international organisations such as the UN, Eurostat and the Council of Europe. The authorisations can be grouped into four categories as follows:

- data needed for the annual enumeration of the whole of the resident and non-resident population (authorisation CBS1);

- data needed for the statistics on demographic events (authorisations CBS2-CBS7 and CBS9);
- data about family names and first names, needed primarily to undertake sample surveys (authorisation CBS8);
- data needed to verify the number of Dutch residents departing and arriving from the Caribbean Netherlands (authorisation CBS11).

Every year in January, Statistics Netherlands obtains a fixed set of data (authorisation CBS1) about all residents and non-residents in the population register. These data are primarily used to give a statistical overview of the population as of 1 January. In order not to overburden the electronic network, these data are collected by means of a web service.

Since the official numbers of inhabitants per municipality on 1 January are derived from the annual enumeration, it also serves an important non-statistical task. The number of members of a municipal council follows directly from these official numbers of inhabitants. In combination with a number of other statistical data, the central government uses this information to allocate finances to the local authorities.

The data obtained according to authorisation, CBS2 enables Statistics Netherlands to compile statistics on internal and international migration and statistics on changes of municipal boundaries. The authorisations CBS3 and CBS4 are needed for statistics on births, adoptions and recognition of children born out of wedlock. Authorisation CBS5 is needed for mortality statistics. Authorisation CBS6 enables Statistics Netherlands to produce statistics on marriages, divorces, widowhood, registrations of partnership and the ending of these registrations. On the basis of authorisation, CBS7 Statistics Netherlands receives data needed for the statistics on changes of citizenship. Finally, authorisation CBS9 provides information about changes of AdmPINs and CBS11 gives insight into whether a person who enters or leaves the three Caribbean Dutch islands is a resident of the Netherlands.

Annex 2 provides an overview per authorisation of the data Statistics Netherlands receives from the population register.

Statistics Netherlands is only informed of the updates related to demographic events. In order to ensure that the statistical office receives no other messages than needed for the production of population statistics, an electronic message is created only if the contents of a trigger key are changed and if a number of additional conditions are met. These conditions are related to the type of demographic event. All information produced on the basis of authorisation CBS2 has to do with changes of address. A necessary condition for creating an electronic message on the basis of this authorisation is that in personal record category 08 the date of taking up residence at the present address is renewed.

The necessary condition for creating an electronic BRP message under authorisation CBS3 is that in a newly created personal record, 'date of birth' in category 01 equals 'date of registration at the present address' in category 08. When this condition is compared to that of authorisation CBS2, it becomes clear how the system works. When a personal record is created for an immigrant, the condition of authorisation CBS3 is not met (apart from the unlikely event of birth and immigration on the same day), which leads to the creation of a message under authorisation CBS2.

## 5.1 Trigger key elements and additional conditions for triggering the system to send an electronic message to Statistics Netherlands, per authorisation

Autorisation	Trigger key	Additional condition
CBS2: Changes of address	08.10.30 Date when the person was registered at the address in the Netherlands 08.13.20 Date when the person was registered at the address abroad	08.10.30 Date when the person was registered at the address in the Netherlands ≠ 01.03.10 Date of birth.
CBS3: Birth and ancestry (child)	01.03.10 Date of birth 02.62.10 Date of family relationship with parent 1 <sup>1)</sup> 03.62.10 Date of family relationship with parent 2 <sup>2)</sup>	01.03.10 Date of birth = 08.10.30 Date when the person was registered at the address in the Netherlands.
CBS4: Birth and ancestry (parent)	09.03.10 Child's date of birth	At least one of the children was born while the parent was registered as a resident.
CBS5: Mortality	06.08.10 Mortality date	–
CBS6: Marriage / Registered partnership	05.06.10 Wedding date / Date when partnership was contracted	The wedlock or partnership contracting took place when the person was registered as a resident.
CBS7: Citizenship	04.05.10 Nationality 04.65.10 Indication of Dutch nationality 04.82.30 Description of document	Acquirement or loss of citizenship took place after the person was registered as a resident or a non-resident.

<sup>1)</sup> Usually the mother.

<sup>2)</sup> Usually the father.

Through authorisation, CBS3 information about a newborn child is forwarded to Statistics Netherlands. But since a personal record contains only a limited number of data about the parents, as was pointed out in Section 3, electronic messages that are released on the basis of this authorisation, are insufficient for compiling high-grade birth statistics. Since the number of children are registered in the parents' personal records only, important features of these statistics such as the distribution of births by birth rank cannot be derived by the information under authorisation CBS3. This is why Statistics Netherlands has been authorised to receive additional information about the parents under authorisation CBS4. A necessary condition for the release of an electronic BRP message under this authorisation is that data about an additional child are added to the parent's personal record, that is if a family relationship is established between parent and child. This relationship may be the result of a live birth, acknowledgment of a child born out of wedlock or an adoption.

Release of an electronic BRP message under authorisation CBS5 is relatively simple. The only requirement is filling in 'date of death' in person record category 06. Here 'no value' is also useful information, since it indicates a correction of an erroneous message that was received earlier about the same person.

Under authorisation CBS6 electronic messages concerning changes in marital status are released. If the contents of 'marriage date' in personal record category 05 changes, a message of the kind is forwarded to Statistics Netherlands. This is a necessary condition also for releasing information when a marriage is dissolved. In the latter case the contents of 'marriage date' are erased, which is interpreted by the system as a change in the contents of 'marriage date', leading to the release of an electronic message. (Besides, when a marriage is dissolved the contents of 'marriage date' are not erased from the personal record, they are moved to an historical category 55).

If the contents of 'nationality' in personal record category 04 changes, an electronic message concerning a change in citizenship under authorisation CBS7 is forwarded to Statistics Netherlands. This authorisation change should not be interpreted as replacement only, but also as addition. 'Nationality' is one of the items in the population register that may have more than one entry. Hence, if a nationality is changed or if a second or a third nationality is added to the one(s) a person already possesses, or if a person loses a nationality, an electronic message is created and forwarded to Statistics Netherlands.

In short, the electronic messages received by Statistics Netherlands are to a large extent allocated to the statistics they are needed for. The simplest authorisation in this respect is CBS5. Electronic messages received under this authorisation directly lead to the mortality statistics. The other authorisations are more complex. The messages under authorisation CBS2 lead to a number of different statistics: internal migration, statistics on municipal boundary changes, immigration, emigration and administrative corrections. Those under authorisation CBS3 and CBS4 are needed for birth statistics and for statistics on recognitions and adoptions and those under authorisation CBS6 to marriage, divorce and widowhood statistics and to statistics about registered partnerships. Finally, messages under authorisation CBS7 lead to either statistics on changes of citizenship or to information about privileged persons, such as foreign diplomats and foreign NATO personnel, needed to estimate the number of usual residents (see also Section 7).

Although the AdmPINs are unique and cannot be allocated to two different persons, it sometimes happens that an error is made. Fortunately, their number is small. Another error is made when two different Administration numbers or two different citizen service numbers are allocated to the same person. These cases are repaired without delay by allocating new AdmPINs. In order to combine the data in the micro data bases Statistics Netherlands is informed through authorisation 9 where both the former and new AdmPINs are forwarded.

Statistics Netherlands needs no information about Christian names and family names for statistical purposes. It follows that the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations did not allow Statistics Netherlands to have names of registered persons in the annual enumeration and data messages on demographic events. However, the micro-databases are also used as sampling frames so that sample surveys can be carried out. Since name is an important item when addressing people, Statistics Netherlands collects the names of the persons to be interviewed through authorisation CBS8. When the survey data process is finished Statistics Netherlands erases the names of the interviewees. This authorisation is also used for a limited number of other purposes, such as allocating people to ethnic groups, such as East Indians, Africans (Creoles and Maroons) and Javanese from Surinam. Here as well, names are erased as soon as they are no longer needed for the analyses.

Data from the Netherlands population register are also used for tourism statistics on the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius). Since 10 October 2010, these three islands in the Caribbean have been special municipalities for which Statistics Netherlands also produces statistics. Tourism is a very important economic factor in these territories. Data on in and outgoing persons must therefore be allocated to the different European and Caribbean parts of the Kingdom (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, European Netherlands, Saba, Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius). Authorisation 11 enables Statistics Netherlands to determine which in and outgoing persons in the Caribbean Netherlands are registered as residents in the BRP population register system.



## 6. Consultative council

The Minister for the Interior and Kingdom relations is responsible for the judicial aspects of the Basic Register for Population data. According to the BRP Act, the Minister cannot rule the BRP system on his own. This act orders the Minister to consult the municipalities and agencies that make use of the population data about all legal aspects. In this way a harmonious population registration system is guaranteed. Consultation is aimed at reaching agreements between all parties, but if an agreement is not achieved, the Minister is the one to decide.

Given the fact that the number of municipalities is almost 400 and the number of agencies is even higher, the Minister consults a number of representatives from municipalities and agencies. A consultative council was therefore created with six representatives on behalf of the Minister, three municipal representatives, three officials who represent the municipal and non-municipal agencies that supply the Ministry with data about non-residents and six representatives on behalf of the agencies that make use of population data. The council meets every three months, and more frequently if necessary. Its chairperson is independent, which means that this person is not employed or paid for by any of the organisations present or represented in the council.

All agencies that make use of population data are allocated to one of six sectors:

- Health and welfare
- Pension funds
- Public order and security
- Social security
- Statistics Netherlands and other agencies
- Taxes and other fees

The sector member organisations choose from among themselves one person who represents them in the consultation council. This representative is obliged to keep in contact with the member organisations and put forward their wishes and ideas in the consultative council meeting.

Financial contributions to the BRP population register system are an important item on the agenda of the council. These contributions are intended to cover the costs that are incurred at the governmental level, such as the central database (see Section 2) and the personnel needed to keep this database up and running. Other costs involve adaptations of the system and changes in the authorisations (see Section 4). According to the BRP Act, the amount of data obtained by an agency from the register determines their contribution: the more data are obtained, the higher the contribution becomes.

Statistics Netherlands is allocated to the sector 'Statistics Netherlands and other agencies'. The other members of this sector are the Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (in short Kadaster), the twelve provinces of the Netherlands, the Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Dutch Association of Civil-law Notaries, among other organisations. Statistics Netherlands represents this sector in the consultative council.

## 7. Demographic statistics; processing and output

Almost all of the Netherlands' official demographic statistics are fully based on population register data. Household statistics are the only exception. In these statistics demographic data are combined with fiscal data in order to pinpoint individuals who live at the same address and who have made themselves known to the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration as members of the same household. Here it should be added that this organization not only collects tax money, but also distributes benefits in the form of financial support for childcare, rent and health insurance, the latter two being intended for households whose joint income does not exceed a certain amount.

### 7.1 Statistical process

The demographic statistics are produced according to the Statistics Netherlands business architecture. One of the features of this architecture is that in statistical processing the data are kept according to a number of standards, called 'rest points'. The first of these 'rest points' is the input database where all data collected from the BRP population registers are kept. By keeping the collected data as such, statisticians are able to consult the collected data during statistical processing. This also allows to restart the statistical processing, if necessary. Fortunately, this has never actually happened. The input database contains direct identifiers, such as the two AdmPINs. This is why the input database data are kept for no more than three years. The input database is the only database in which data are kept for a limited period of time. The statistical data that are produced in the statistical processes are kept indefinitely.

The first stage of the statistical process consists of checking the data (completeness, plausibility) and correcting data if necessary, according to the Statistics Netherlands business rules. Imputation of unknown data also takes place in this stage of the process. Statistics Netherlands is aware of the fact that errors can be made during the registration process and that municipal authorities sometimes face problems with regard to the whereabouts of persons, but in general the municipal authorities do their job very well. In the statistical processes implausible data are adapted and unknown data are imputed in such a way that these imputed data make a proper fit with the other data. Furthermore, it is recognised that not all population register data are suitable for direct use in demographic statistics. Some demographic variables clearly are, such as gender or municipality of residence. Other variables must be derived from the data, such as age, which is obtained by subtracting the date of birth from the reference date. Marital status can be derived by combining reference date with the dates of marriage contracting and marriage dissolution. In order to prevent persons from being counted more than once, a choice is made with respect to the variable nationality. All persons who are Dutch citizens are classified as Dutch citizens only, with additional nationalities being ignored. Non-Dutch citizens who have two or more nationalities are classified by one of these nationalities. In this processing stage the demographic variable 'origin' is derived as well. This variable gives an indication of which part of the world a person is closely related with. For many people it is the part of the world they originate from. The 'origin' variable is composed of the country where a person was born and the parents' countries of birth.

When the data fit with the Statistics Netherlands operating rules, they are kept in the so-called Demografisch Deelregister. This register is the second 'rest point'. It is a database where all individual demographic data are kept that are fit for output processes. In a sense it is a richer dataset than the data that are collected from the population register since implausible data are adapted, unknown data are replaced with usable values and demographic variables such as age, marital status and origin are added. This register is used for the monthly demographic statistics production. Mortality data are also directly produced from this register every week. These are provisional data that are replaced with definitive data during the annual data file production.

Although the vast majority of data are collected with no or minimal delay, all types of demographic events face problems with missing data. In particular, people who marry abroad and fail to report their marriage to the municipal authorities in a timely fashion. The consequence of this is that the update of the population register also takes place with a delay. This is why Statistics Netherlands publication strategy concerning demographic statistics yields both provisional and definitive figures, as follows:

- a) Every two weeks, provisional figures about the previous two weeks are published.  
Published data about previous weeks can be changed.
- b) At the end of each month, provisional figures about the previous month are published.  
Published figures about previous months can be changed. In September or October, the monthly figures about the previous calendar year are replaced with definitive figures.
- c) In January, April, July and October, provisional figures over the months of the previous quarter are published. Published figures over the previous quarter can be changed. In October, the monthly figures over the previous calendar year are replaced with definitive figures.
- d) Once a year, definitive annual figures over the previous calendar year are published.
- e) Every two years, definitive figures over the two previous calendar years are published.

Unfortunately, the population register is not yet able to produce a version with all data exactly pinpointed at 1 January. Statistics Netherlands receives a selection of the register data by the end of January (Annex 2 Authorisation CBS1 Annual complete enumeration). Data from other authorisations are used to construct a statistical 1 January version. Indeed, the enumeration includes some births and immigrants who arrived in January, whereas some deaths and emigrants are missing. On the other hand, delayed information about the previous calendar year also needs updating. The statistical 1 January version is used, to compile numbers including the number of inhabitants per municipality. In order to find out if the statistical version is correct, the municipalities have the right to object to these numbers before they are officially published.

In the way described, all data that are collected before 15th February of the following year are taken into account in the annual data. Mid-February was chosen as a compromise between being able to produce actual annual data and the limited loss caused by data that are collected after 15th February. In order to take these delayed data into account it was decided to include them in the statistics of the following calendar year. For example, if a marriage that was contracted abroad in 2014 was reported to the municipal authorities in March 2015, this marriage is in the 2015 marriage statistics. However, in this respect a maximum delay applies. If this marriage is reported after 15th February 2016, the marriage will not be in the 2016 marriage statistics. In fact, it will not be in the statistics of any calendar year. Fortunately, reporting with such long delay is very rare, so there is hardly any long-term effect on the completeness of Dutch demographic statistics.

### 7.1.1 Demographic events that took place in 2009 and were published in 2010 demographic statistics

	%
Live-born children	0.13
Deaths	0.05
Internal house moves	0.08
Immigration	0.47
Emigration	0.26
Administrative corrections	1.38
Marriages	2.33
Divorces	1.45
Widowhood	1.03
Changes of nationality	0.90

Table 7.1 gives an impression of the effect of taking delayed events into account. This table shows that over 2 percent of the marriages that were contracted in 2009 were reported too late to be included in the 2009 marriage statistics. On the other hand, given that only 5 or 8 per 10,000 were missing, the 2009 statistics on deaths and internal house moves were almost complete.

Quarterly and annual demographic statistics are produced from the system of social statistical datasets (see Section 8). This enables Statistics Netherlands to enrich the demographic statistics with data from other sources, such as level of education and socio-economic status. In time such enriched tables will be published through the statistical database StatLine.

## 7.2 Demographic statistics

Demographic statistics provide information on the size and structure of the population as well as population dynamics, such as births, deaths, house moves, external migration, marriages etc. The size of the resident population follows directly from the population register data. In the statistical process no adaptations are made with respect to the number of residents. As such, demographic statistics cover the 'de jure' population of the Netherlands. Data are primarily disseminated through the statistics database StatLine. The edition in English <http://statline.cbs.nl/StatWeb/dome/?TH=5410&LA=en> is more limited than the one in Dutch <http://statline.cbs.nl/StatWeb/dome/?TH=3600&LA=nl>, but naturally key statistics are included.

Given the definitions for immigrants and emigrants in Section 2 and the definition of usual residence in Regulation No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, it is not possible to extract the number of usual residents directly from the population register. Usual residence means:

*'Usual residence' means the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. The following persons alone shall be considered to be usual residents of a specific geographical area:*

- (i) those who have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months before the reference time; or*

*(ii) those who arrived in their place of usual residence during the 12 months before the reference time with the intention of staying there for at least one year. Where the circumstances described in point (i) or (ii) cannot be established, 'usual residence' can be taken to mean the place of legal or registered residence.*

It follows that the application of the usual residents concept requires adaptations as to the duration of stay. The duration of stay in the usual residence concept is 12 months, whereas in the Netherlands population register this is two-thirds of the next six months for immigrants and two-thirds of the next twelve months for emigrants. Immigrants who leave the country within twelve months after their arrival are therefore excluded from the usual resident population, while emigrants who return within twelve months after their departure are not included Statistics Netherlands (2016b).

## 8. The system of social statistical datasets

Until the 1990s, most data used in social statistics were collected by means of sample surveys. The population register was one of the few exceptions. Since sample surveys were set up independently from one another, the coherence of the Netherlands' social statistics were limited. This changed when data collection shifted from sample surveys to administrative data. As Bakker, Van Rooijen and Van Toor (2014a) pointed out, this shift was due to political pressure and budget cuts. The quick rise of the amount of administrative data enabled Statistics Netherlands to replace many sample surveys with collecting data from administrative registers.

Administrative registers usually focus on one item only, such as labour, income, health etc. On the other hand, social statistics should provide insight into the association between these items. It was therefore decided to combine data from the various administrative sources for statistical purposes. This was done by the introduction of the System of social statistical datasets (SSD). This system enables social statistics production units within Statistics Netherlands to make use of the data from all available administrative sources.

The core elements of the SSD are (Bakker, Van Rooijen and Van Toor, 1994):

- Data are centrally stored in a standardised way.
- The unit types (persons, buildings, households, companies) can be easily linked because of assigned linkage keys.
- Coordination is crucial to obtain consistent outcomes. Coordination comprises organisational, technical, and content-related aspects.

Naturally, the data Statistics Netherlands collects from the BRP population register are in the centre of the SSD. Most social statistics tables show basic variables like sex and age, among others. BRP is the source of these data. Furthermore, as pointed out in Section 5, actual BRP data are forwarded to Statistics Netherlands on a daily basis. All production processes therefore can make use of the most up-to-date population data.

For privacy reasons, the two BRP AdmPINS are replaced with one linkage key (StatPIN) that has no reference to the individual involved. In other words, StatPINs reveal no clue to the AdmPINS, age, nationality, country of birth or other demographic data. Although data about place of residence are also replaced by an address identification number (AIN), it is not possible to avoid identification of all individuals and addresses in the statistical data sets. A municipality with one home for the elderly may serve as an example. Given the fact that the data sets are set up in such a way that addresses and the persons who live there must be statistically identifiable as being one unit, homes for the elderly are relatively easy to recognise, regardless of the replacement with statistical identification numbers.

Almost all social statistics production processes in Statistics Netherlands make use of the BRP population data. In this way, all these processes take advantage of the BRP system. On the other hand, in compiling household statistics demographic data are combined with fiscal data (see section 7).

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# Annex 1 The Netherlands' system of basic registers

The system of basis registers was set up with the following aims:

- Better governmental service to the public and the business sector
- Reduction of administrative costs
- Transparency
- Maintenance, surveillance and fighting fraud
- High-level public sector information service
- Efficient public funding
- Administrative coherence

In order to accomplish these objectives the Dutch government introduced the system of digitised basic registers in 2004. The reason was that ministries and other governmental agencies had many registers on related topics, like addresses, that showed many discrepancies. Usually these agencies collected and maintained these registers themselves in order to carry out their tasks. Every time the public contacted these agencies they were asked for their names, addresses, date of birth, etc. Apart from the fact that these data were provided many times before, it also gave people the opportunity to give different data to different agencies.

The main purpose of the system of basic registers is to have the government collect data only once and keep them in one register. Every time a governmental agency needs those data that agency is obliged to collect them from the appropriate basic register. To give an example, if

## A1.1 System of Basic Registers

Basic Register	Owner	Management organization	Cabinet Minister
Addresses and Buildings Basic Register	Municipalities	Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster)	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Basic Register for Population data (Personal Records Database)	Municipalities	Governmental Agency for Identity Data (RvIG)	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
Basic Register of Real Estates (Cadastre Register)	Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster)	Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster)	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Incomes Basic Register	Dutch Tax and Customs Administration (Belastingdienst)	Dutch Tax and Customs Administration (Belastingdienst)	Ministry of Finance
Large-scale Topography Basic Register	Municipalities	Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster)	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Property Valuation Basic Register	Municipalities	Council for Real Estate Assessment	Ministry of Finance
Salaries, Labour Relations and Benefits Basic Register	Dutch Employee Insurance Agency (UWV)	Dutch Institute for Employee Benefits Schemes (UWV)	Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
Topography Basic Register	Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster)	Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster)	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Trade Register	Chamber of Commerce	Chamber of Commerce	Ministry of Economic Affairs
Underground Basic Register	Municipalities, provinces, water boards, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment	TNO Research Organization	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Vehicles Basic Register	Netherlands' Vehicle Registration Agency (RDW)	Netherlands' Vehicle Registration Agency (RDW)	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment

the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration needs someone's address, this department is not permitted to ask the person involved, but the department should collect it from the Basic Register for Population data (BRP). In this way the public is relieved of supplying the same data over and over again, and all governmental agencies make use of the same data.

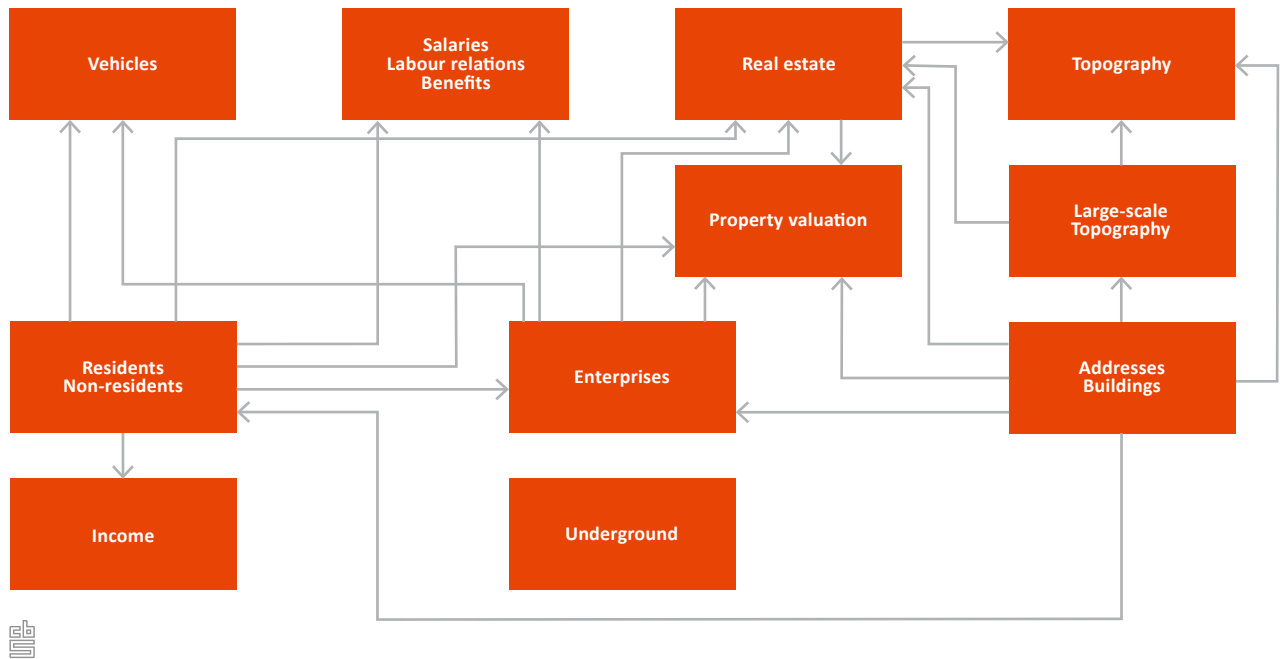
Naturally, the quality of the basic registers must be extremely high. As the Dutch government pointed out at the start of the system in 2004, the quality of the registers should be higher than can be achieved by any of the agencies that make use of them. In order to realise this, agencies are obliged to contact the register if they assume that data are not correct and need updating. Foreexample, if the Dutch Employee Insurance Agency (UWV) finds out that a person's address has changed, they must report this to the Basic Register for Population, preferably with information about the assumed new address. A basic register that receives such a report is obliged to investigate the actual value of the data. The office that is responsible for keeping the register up to date makes the final judgement. So if, for instance, the municipality of residence after having investigated a person's whereabouts judges that this person still lives at the registered address, the registered data will not be changed, and the report which states that he or she lives elsewhere, is ignored.

All governmental agencies that make use of basic register data thus help in keeping the quality of the registers as high as possible. However, according to the Statistics Netherlands Act, Section 37.3, statistical publications by Statistics Netherlands allow no dissemination of any identifiable data on individual persons, households, companies or institutions. It follows that Statistics Netherlands is prevented by law to notify the basic register of data that are assumed to be incorrect. However, this does not mean that Statistics Netherlands makes no contributions to improving the system of basic registers. Statistics Netherlands (2014a) does assess the quality of the combined results from four separate basic registrations. These results are presented by means of aggregate data. Any updates as a result of this assessment must be agreed upon by the basic registers involved.

All objects in the basic registers have a unique identification number. This enables the interconnection of the basic registers. For instance, addresses in the Basic Register for Population data and the Trade Register are in principle connected to the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register. When a resident reports his or her address to the municipality in order to be registered in the Basic Register for Population data, the municipal authorities are obliged to check if this address is in the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register. If this is the case, the identification number of that address is registered as the person's address. If, however, the address is not in the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register, the person is registered at the address, but the municipal authorities must report the assumed omission to the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register. The municipal department that is responsible for that register must start an investigation about the nature of the address. This investigation may lead to three different results. One result is that the address is indeed an omission in the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register, whereupon the address is added to that register. Another possible result is that the address is a valid address, correctly registered in the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register, but not correctly spelled in the Basic Register for Population data. In that case the spelling of the registered address in the latter register must be adapted. The last possible outcome is that the address is not a valid one given the rules of the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register. In that case the address continues to be registered in the Basic Register for Population data, but no reference is made to the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register.



## A1.2 System of basic registers



The Basic Register for Population data duplicates eight elements from the Addresses and Buildings Basic Register, if available:

- Public area
- House number
- House number letter
- Addition to house number
- Postal code
- Place of residents
- Residence identification code
- Address identification code

Population register (BRP) data are used in a number of other basic registers, viz.

- Trade Register
- Vehicles Basic Register
- Basic Register of Real Estates (Cadastral Register)
- Property Valuation Basic Register
- Incomes Basic Register
- Salaries, Labour Relations and Benefits Basic Register

The basic registers are implemented under separate sets of legislation under the responsibility of a cabinet minister. The Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment is responsible for six out of the eleven basic registers, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is responsible for the coordination within the system.

# Annex 2

Data in Basic Register of Population data (BRP) and the data that Statistics Netherlands collects from the BRP system.

This annex gives an overview of all data elements in the Basic Register of Population data. The data Statistics Netherlands is authorised to receive from the registers is marked by 'x'.

## A2.1 Data in the Basic Register for Population data (BRP) that Statistics Netherlands are authorised to collect

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11
	Annual complete enumeration	Change in address	Birth, adoption or recognition: data about the child	Birth, adoption or recognition: data about the parent	Mortality	Change in marital status	Change in citizenship	Christian and family names	Change in PIN	Verifying if a person is registered in BRP system
<b>Category 01: personal data</b>										
010 110 Administration number	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
010 120 Citizen service number (BSN)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
010 210 Christian names								x		x
010 220 Noble title								x		
010 230 Family name prefix								x		x
010 240 Family name								x		x
010 310 Date of birth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
010 320 Place of birth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
010 330 Country of birth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
010 410 Gender	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
016 110 Name used in governmental documents								x		
018 110 Municipality where certificate was made up	x		x		x					
018 120 Description of certificate	x		x		x					
018 210 Municipality where document was made up										
018 220 Date when document was made up										
018 230 Description of document										
018 510 Date since when the data in this category are valid										
018 610 Date when category was made out										
<b>Category 51: former personal data<sup>1)</sup></b>										
510 110 Administration number										x
510 120 Citizen service number (BSN)										x
510 210 Christian names										
510 220 Noble title										
510 230 Family name prefix										
510 240 Family name										
510 310 Date of birth										
510 320 Place of birth										
510 330 Country of birth										
510 410 Gender										
516 110 Name used in governmental documents										
518 110 Municipality where certificate was made up										
518 120 Description of certificate										
518 210 Municipality where document was made up										
518 220 Date when document was made up										
518 230 Description of document										
518 510 Date since when the data in this category are valid										
518 610 Date when category was made out										

## A2.1 Data in the Basic Register for Population data (BRP) that Statistics Netherlands are authorised to collect (continued)

### Authorisation

	1 Annual com- plete enu- meration	2 Change in address	3 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the child	4 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the parent	5 Mor- tality	6 Change in marital status	7 Change in citizen- ship	8 Cristian and family names	9 Change in PIN	11 Verifying if a person is regis- tered in BRP system
<b>Category 02: data about parent 1 (usually the mother)</b>										
020 110	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
020 120	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
020 210										
020 220										
020 230										
020 240								x		
020 310	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
020 320										
020 330	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
020 410	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
026 210	x		x							
028 110	x		x							
028 120	x		x							
028 210										
028 220										
028 230										
028 510										
028 610										
<b>Category 52: former data about parent 1 (usually the mother)</b>										
520 110										
520 120										
520 210										
520 220										
520 230										
520 240										
520 310										
520 320										
520 330										
520 410										
526 210										
528 110										
528 120										
528 210										
528 220										
528 230										
528 510										
528 610										
<b>Category 03: data about parent 2 (usually the father)</b>										
030 110	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
030 120	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
030 210										
030 220										
030 230										
030 240								x		
030 310	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
020 320										
030 330	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
030 410	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
036 210	x		x							
038 110	x		x							
038 120	x		x							
038 210										
038 220										
038 230										
038 510										
038 610										

## A2.1 Data in the Basic Register for Population data (BRP) that Statistics Netherlands are authorised to collect (continued)

### Authorisation

	1 Annual com- plete enu- meration	2 Change in address	3 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the child	4 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the parent	5 Mor- tality	6 Change in marital status	7 Change in cizen- ship	8 Cristian and family names	9 Change in PIN	11 Verifying if a person is regis- tered in BRP system
<b>Category 53: former data about parent 2 (usually the father)</b>										
530 110										
530 120										
530 210										
530 220										
530 230										
530 240										
530 310										
520 320										
530 330										
530 410										
536 210										
538 110										
538 120										
538 210										
538 220										
538 230										
538 510										
538 610										
<b>Category 04: data about citizenship<sup>1)</sup></b>										
040 510	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
046 310	x							x		
046 410	x							x		
046 510	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
048 210										
048 220								x		
048 230	x							x		
048 510	x							x		
048 610										
<b>Category 54: former data about citizenship<sup>1)</sup></b>										
540 510	x							x		
546 310										
546 410										
546 510	x							x		
548 210										
548 220										
548 230	x							x		
548 510	x							x		
548 610										
<b>Category 05: data about marriage and registered partnership</b>										
050 110	x	x		x	x	x	x			
050 120	x	x		x	x	x	x			
050 210										
050 220										
050 230										x
050 240										x
050 310	x	x		x	x	x	x			
050 320										
050 330	x	x		x	x	x	x			
050 410	x	x		x	x	x	x			
050 610	x	x		x	x	x	x			x
050 620										
050 630	x	x		x	x	x	x			
050 710	x	x		x	x	x	x			x
050 720										
050 730	x	x		x	x	x	x			
050 740	x	x		x	x	x	x			
051 510	x	x		x	x	x	x			
058 110	x						x			
058 120	x						x			
058 210	x						x			
058 220										
058 230										
058 510										
058 610										

## A2.1 Data in the Basic Register for Population data (BRP) that Statistics Netherlands are authorised to collect (continued)

### Authorisation

	1 Annual com- plete enu- meration	2 Change in address	3 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the child	4 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the parent	5 Mor- tality	6 Change in marital status	7 Change in citizen- ship	8 Cristian and family names	9 Change in PIN	11 Verifying if a person is regis- tered in BRP system
<b>Category 55: data about former marriages or former registered relationships<sup>1)</sup></b>										
550 110	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 120	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 210										
550 220										
550 230										
550 240										
550 310	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 320										
550 330	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 410	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 610	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 620										
550 630	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 710	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 720										
550 730	x	x		x	x	x	x			
550 740	x	x		x	x	x	x			
551 510	x	x		x	x	x	x			
558 110	x					x				
558 120	x					x				
558 210	x					x				
558 220										
558 230										
558 510										
558 610										
<b>Category 06: data about mortality</b>										
060 810	x				x					x
060 820										
060 830	x				x					
068 110	x				x					
068 120	x				x					
068 210										
068 220										
068 230										
068 510										
068 610										
<b>Category 07: Registration</b>										
076 810										
076 910										
077 010	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
077 110	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
077 120	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
078 710										
078 810	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
078 820	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			

## A2.1 Data in the Basic Register for Population data (BRP) that Statistics Netherlands are authorised to collect (continued)

### Authorisation

	1 Annual com- plete enu- meration	2 Change in address	3 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the child	4 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the parent	5 Mor- tality	6 Change in marital status	7 Change in citizen- ship	8 Cristian and family names	9 Change in PIN	11 Verifying if a person is regis- tered in BRP system
<b>Category 08: data about the address</b>										
080 910	Municipality of residence	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
080 920	Date of registration in the municipality									
081 010	Type of registration	x	x	x	x	x	x			
081 020	Part of municipality							x		
081 030	Date when the person came to live at the address	x	x	x	x	x	x			
081 110	Street	x	x					x		
081 115	Public area	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 120	House number	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 130	House number letter	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 140	Addition to house number	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 150	Addition to house number	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 160	Postal code	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 170	Place of residence	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 180	Residence identification code	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 190	Address identification code	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 210	Description of the address	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
081 310	Country of residence	x	x		x		x			x
081 320	Date when the person came to live at the foreign address	x	x		x		x			x
081 330	Foreign address part 1	x	x		x		x			
081 340	Foreign address part 2	x	x		x		x			
081 350	Foreign address part 3	x	x		x		x			
081 410	Country of former residence	x	x	x	x	x	x			
081 420	Date of arrival in the Netherlands	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
087 210	Description of whose information led to registration	x	x	x	x	x	x			
087 510	Indication that data need updating when the person becomes a resident									
088 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid									
088 610	Date when category was made out									
<b>Category 58: data about former addresses<sup>1)</sup></b>										
580 910	Municipality of residence	x	x	x	x	x	x			
580 920	Date of registration in the municipality									
581 010	Type of registration	x	x	x	x	x	x			
581 020	Part of municipality							x		
581 030	Date when the person came to live at the address	x	x	x	x	x	x			
581 110	Street	x	x					x		
581 115	Public area	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 120	House number	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 130	House number letter	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 140	Addition to house number	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 150	Addition to house number	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 160	Postal code	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 170	Place of residence	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 180	Residence identification code	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 190	Address identification code	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 210	Description of the address	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
581 310	Country of residence	x	x	x	x	x	x			
581 320	Date when the person came to live at the foreign address	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
581 330	Foreign address part 1	x	x		x		x			
581 340	Foreign address part 2	x	x	x	x	x	x			
581 350	Foreign address part 3	x	x		x		x			
581 410	Country of former residence	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
581 420	Date of arrival in the Netherlands	x	x	x	x	x	x			
587 210	Description of whose information led to registration	x	x	x	x	x	x			
587 510	Indication that data need updating when the person becomes a resident									
588 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid									
588 610	Date when category was made out									

## A2.1 Data in the Basic Register for Population data (BRP) that Statistics Netherlands are authorised to collect (continued)

### Authorisation

	1 Annual com- plete enu- meration	2 Change in address	3 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the child	4 Birth, adoption or recog- nition: data about the parent	5 Mor- tality	6 Change in marital status	7 Change in citizen- ship	8 Cristian and family names	9 Change in PIN	11 Verifying if a person is regis- tered in BRP system
<b>Category 09: data about the offspring<sup>1)</sup></b>										
090 110	Child's administration numer	x	x	x	x	x	x			
090 120	Child's citizen service number	x	x	x	x	x	x			
090 210	Child's Christian names									
090 220	Child's noble title									
090 230	Child's family name prefix									
090 240	Child's family name									
090 310	Child's date of birth	x	x	x	x	x	x			
090 320	Child's place of birth									
090 330	Child's country of birth									
098 110	Municipality where the birth certificate was made up	x		x						
098 120	Description of birth certificate	x		x						
098 210	Municipality where document was made up									
098 220	Date when document was made up									
098 230	Description of document									
098 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid	x		x						
098 610	Date when category was made out									
<b>Category 59: former data about the offspring<sup>1)</sup></b>										
590 110	Child's administration numer									
590 120	Child's citizen service number									
590 210	Child's Christian names									
590 220	Child's noble title									
590 230	Child's family name prefix									
590 240	Child's family name									
590 310	Child's date of birth									
590 320	Child's place of birth									
590 330	Child's country of birth									
598 110	Municipality where the birth certificate was made up									
598 120	Description of birth certificate									
598 210	Municipality where document was made up									
598 220	Date when document was made up									
598 230	Description of document									
598 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid									
598 610	Date when category was made out									
<b>Category 10: data about legal permit to stay in the country<sup>2)</sup></b>										
103 910	Description of legal permit									x
103 920	Legal permit's expiration date									x
103 930	Date when legal permit became valid									x
108 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid									
108 610	Date when category was made out									
<b>Category 60: data about expired legal permit to stay in the country</b>										
603 910	Description of legal permit									x
603 920	Legal permit's expiration date									x
603 930	Date when legal permit became valid									x
608 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid									
608 610	Date when category was made out									

## A2.1 Data in the Basic Register for Population data (BRP) that Statistics Netherlands are authorised to collect (end)

### Authorisation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11
Annual complete enumeration	Change in address	Birth, adoption or recognition: data about the child	Birth, adoption or recognition: data about the parent	Mortality	Change in marital status	Change in citizenship	Cristian and family names	Change in PIN	Verifying if a person is registered in BRP system

#### Category 11: data about authority

113 210	Parental authority
113 310	Put under guardianship
118 210	Municipality where document was made up
118 220	Date when document was made up
118 230	Description of document
118 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid
118 610	Date when category was made out

#### Category 61: data about authority

613 210	Parental authority
613 310	Put under guardianship
618 210	Municipality where document was made up
618 220	Date when document was made up
618 230	Description of document
618 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid
618 610	Date when category was made out

#### Category 12: data about Dutch travel document<sup>1)2)</sup>

123 510	Type of travel document	x
123 520	Travel document number	x
123 530	Date when travel document was issued	x
123 540	Agency that issued the travel document	x
123 550	Date when the travel document expires	x
123 560	Date when travel document was reported missing	x
123 610	Objection to issuing a travel document	
128 120	Description of birth certificate	
128 210	Municipality where document was made up	
128 220	Date when document was made up	
128 230	Description of document	
128 510	Date since when the data in this category are valid	
128 610	Date when category was made out	

#### Category 13: data about right to vote

133 110	Right to vote for the European Parliament
133 120	Date when person requested to be registered to be entitled to vote
133 130	Date when exclusion for European Parliament elections expires
133 810	Exclusion from right to vote
133 820	Date when exclusion from right to vote expires
138 210	Municipality where document was made up
138 220	Date when document was made up
138 230	Description of document

<sup>1)</sup> This category may have more than one entry.

<sup>2)</sup> For non-Dutch citizens only.



## Explanation of figures

Empty cell	Figure not applicable
.	Figure is unknown, insufficiently reliable or confidential
*	Provisional figure
**	Revised provisional figure
2016–2017	2016 to 2017 inclusive
2016/2017	Average for 2016 to 2017 inclusive
2016/'17	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2016 and ending in 2017
2014/'15–2016/'17	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2014/'15 to 2016/'17 inclusive

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

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