

A large-scale kite festival is taking place on a sandy beach under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. Several large, detailed kites are flying, including three large whales (one blue and white, one white with black spots, and one black and white) and a large octopus with long, brown tentacles. Other smaller kites in various colors and shapes are also visible. In the foreground, two children are playing on the sand; one is wearing a yellow shirt and the other a blue shirt. In the background, a crowd of people is gathered along the beach, and a pier structure is visible on the right side.

The Netherlands on the European scale

2019



The Netherlands on the European scale 2019

Explanation of symbols

.	Data not available
*	Provisional figure
**	Revised provisional figure
X	Publication prohibited (confidential figure)
–	Nil
–	(Between two figures) inclusive
0 (0.0)	Less than half of unit concerned
empty cell	Not applicable
2018–2019	2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/2019	Average for 2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/'19	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2018 and ending in 2019
2017/'18–2018/'19	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2017/'18 to 2018/'19 inclusive

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

Colophon

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Foreword

The European Union has been the renewed focus of attention since 2016, when the United Kingdom voted to leave the Union. Elections to the European Parliament – held every five years – are taking place in May 2019.

Together with the other European statistical offices, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) contributes to a consistent set of statistics on Europe. Eurostat, established in Luxembourg and in charge of these European statistics, collects national and regional statistics from the various member states and publishes these figures via different channels. Eurostat works with the national statistical institutes to make the figures suitable for comparison and ensure they trace new developments.

In this publication, CBS takes a look at how the Netherlands is performing in comparison with other European countries. This entails a selection of topics that cover economic and social developments. A few examples:

the Netherlands has one of the highest internet penetration rates, a relatively high life expectancy and low unemployment.

Car ownership rates are slightly below the European average while health expenditure is higher; and consumption of sustainable, non-fossil energy sources is relatively low. Unless otherwise specified, the figures in this publication have been compiled on the basis of the data from CBS and Eurostat as were most recently available at the time of writing.

All figures cover the 28 member states of the European Union, including the United Kingdom. I hope you enjoy reading this publication and invite you to visit www.cbs.nl/en-gb or <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/> for even more information on the Netherlands and on Europe.

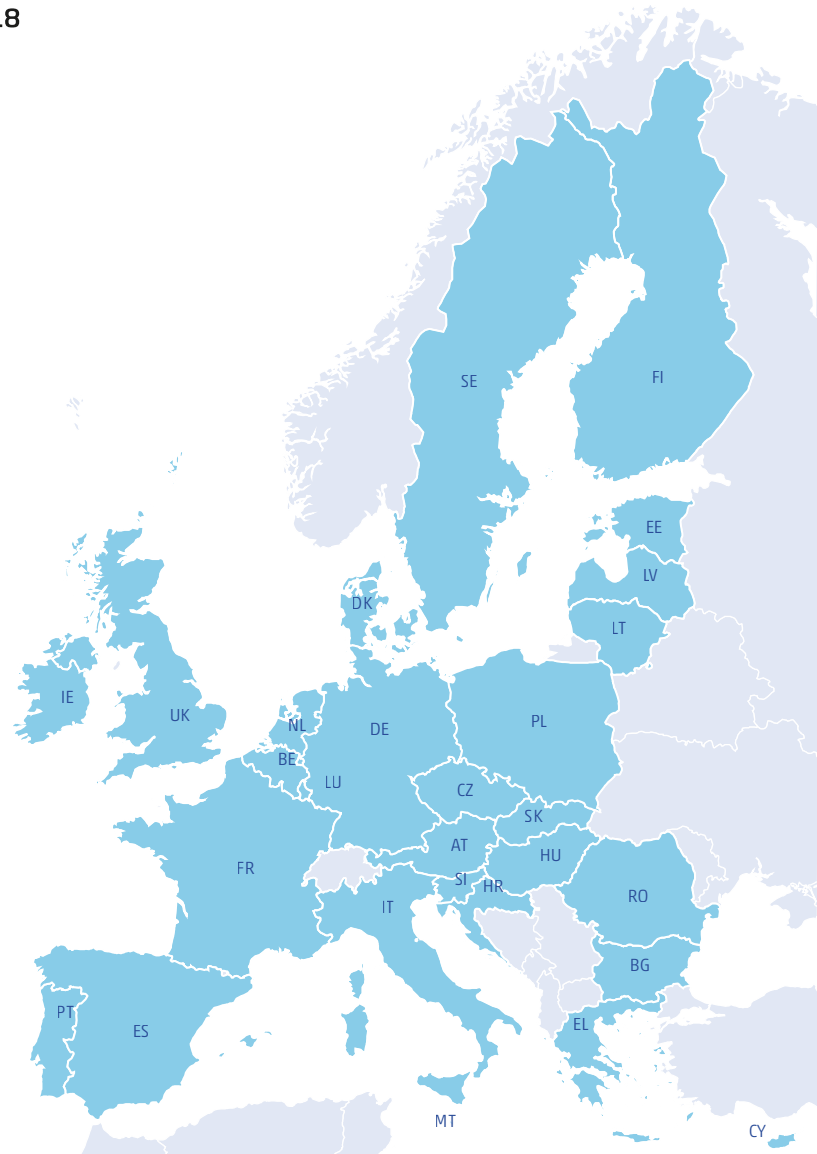
Director General
Dr T.B.P.M. Tjin-A-Tsoi

The Hague/Heerlen/Bonaire, May 2019

European Union, 1 January 2018

Population x million

EU-28	(512.4)
BE	Belgium (11.4)
BG	Bulgaria (7.1)
CY	Cyprus (0.9)
DK	Denmark (5.8)
DE	Germany (82.2)
EE	Estonia (1.3)
FI	Finland (5.5)
FR	France (66.9)
GR	Greece (10.7)
HU	Hungary (9.8)
IE	Ireland (4.8)
IT	Italy (60.5)
HR	Croatia (4.1)
LV	Latvia (1.9)
LT	Lithuania (2.8)
LU	Luxembourg (0.6)
MT	Malta (0.5)
NL	Netherlands (17.2)
AT	Austria (8.8)
PL	Poland (38.0)
PT	Portugal (10.3)
RO	Romania (19.5)
SI	Slovenia (2.1)
SK	Slovakia (5.4)
ES	Spain (46.7)
CZ	Czech Republic (10.6)
UK	United Kingdom (66.3)
SE	Sweden (10.1)



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33% was the share
in Finland

1. Young people

Young Dutch people tend to fly the nest early. In Nordic countries and in France, young people leave the parental home even earlier. Regardless of age, the timing usually depends on the degree of financial independence, enrolment in education and the availability and cost of housing.

18 to 24-year-olds living with their parents, 2017

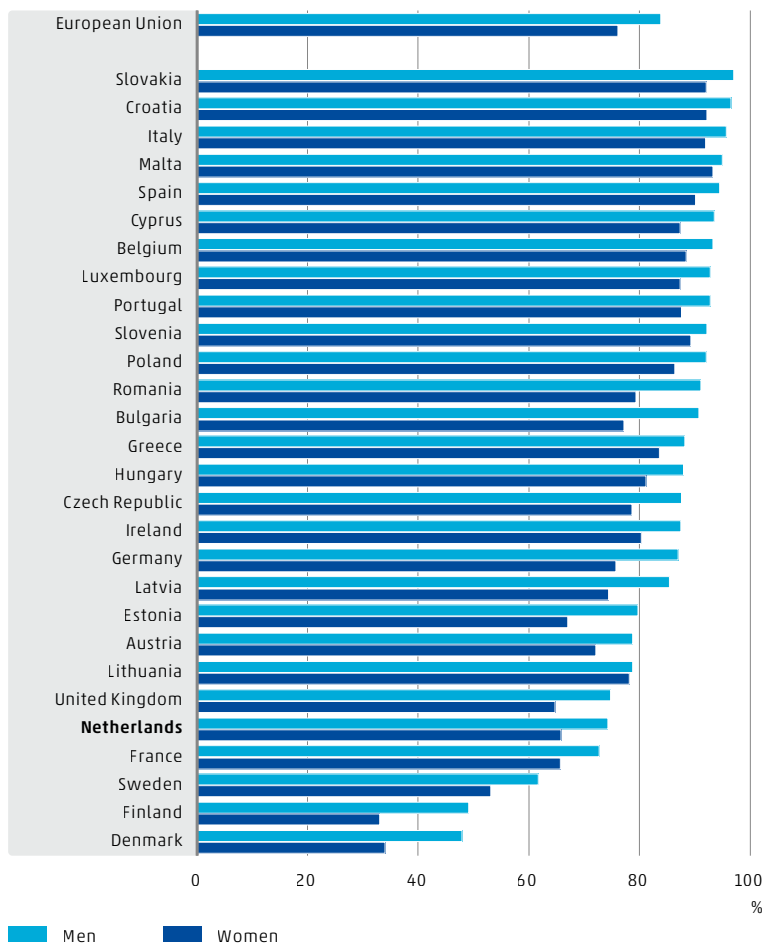


Eight in ten young adults (18 to 24 years) in the European Union still live with their parents. The percentage shares vary widely among countries. In Denmark and Finland, a mere 40 percent of young adults still live at home, whereas the share exceeds 90 percent in Belgium, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Croatia. In the Netherlands, the share of 18 to 24-year-olds living at home lies at 70 percent.

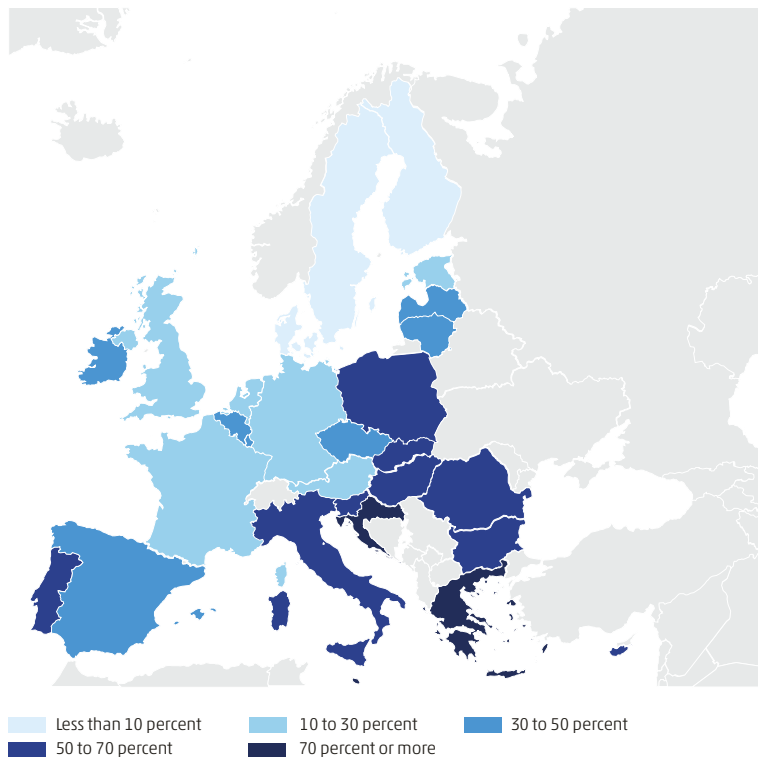
Boys stay longer than girls

At any age and anywhere in the EU, young men stay at home longer than young women. In 12 EU countries, over 90 percent of young men live at home until age 25. No more than 4 percent of young Slovakian, Croatian and Italian men live on their own. In Denmark and Finland, nearly 50 percent of young men and slightly over 30 percent of young women still live with their parents. These are very low shares from a European perspective. The shares are significantly higher in the Netherlands: 74 percent of young Dutch men live at home, versus 65 percent of young Dutch women.

Young people living at home (18 to 24 yrs), 2017



Young people (25 to 29 yrs) living with their parents, 2017



In the higher age group, shares fall rapidly throughout the EU-28. Among men, the share falls from 84 percent (18 to 24 years) to 47 percent (25 to 29 years); among women, from 76 to 32 percent.

Older youth living at home (again) more often

Young people who delay flying the nest are not a general European phenomenon. The share of 18 to 24-year-olds still living at home is now higher compared to 2010 in 12 out of the 28 EU countries, including in the Netherlands. The share has dropped in nine countries, while the difference is less than 1 percent in seven countries. A similar trend is seen in the higher age group: in 2017, the share of young adults in the age group 25 to 29 years who still lived at home exceeded 60 percent in Croatia, Greece, Spain, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Slovakia.

A close-up photograph of two dark red Dutch passports resting in a light-colored wooden box. The passports are slightly open, revealing the inner pages. The text 'PASPOORT' and 'KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN' is visible in gold lettering on the covers. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the box and some papers.

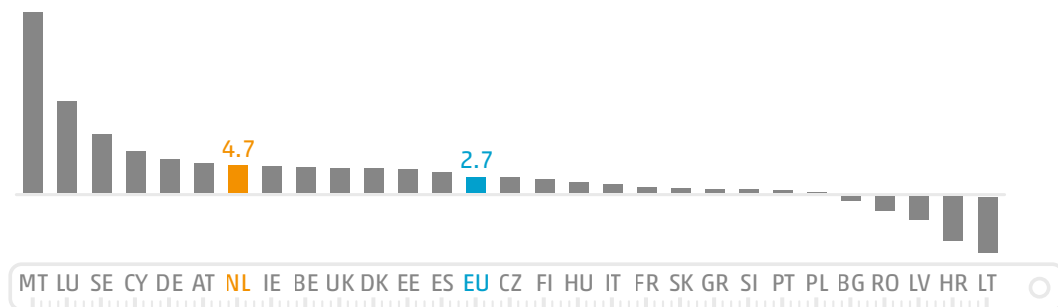
43% of immigrants in the EU
were intra-EU migrants in 2016

1.2 asylum seeker arrivals in the Netherlands
per 1,000 inhabitants in 2018

2. Migration

Migration is a salient topic for many Europeans. Which EU countries have had more immigrants than emigrants, hence showing positive net migration? What about in the Netherlands? How many non-EU nationals are entering the EU and how much migration takes place between EU countries?

Net migration rate, 2017



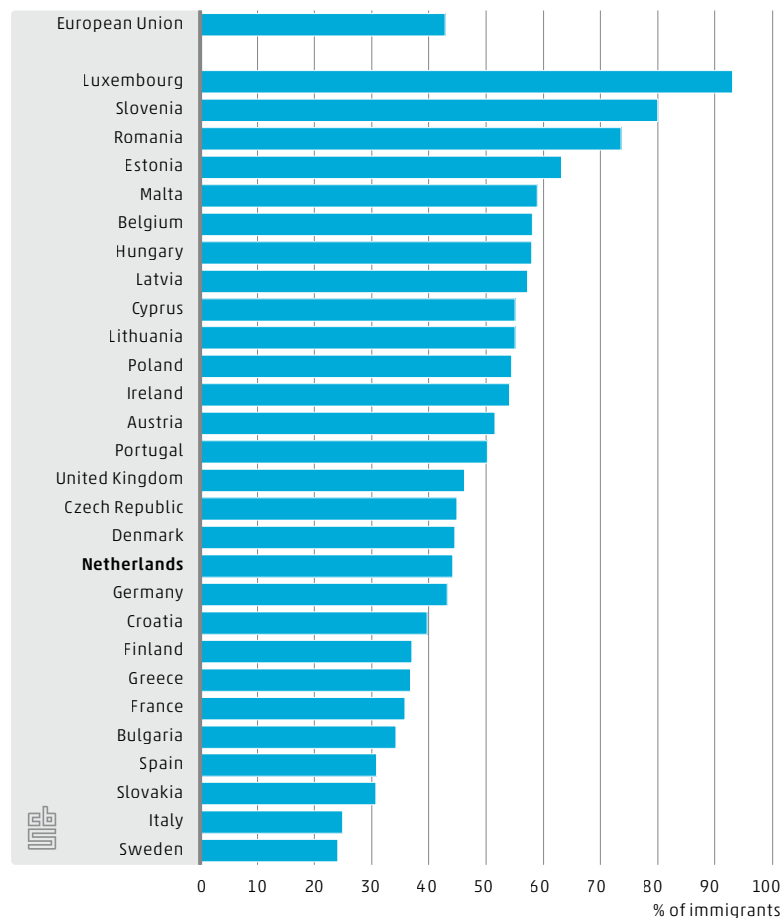
In 2017, there was positive net migration in 23 EU countries, including the Netherlands. This means more people arrived in the country than left. The net migration rate in the Netherlands was 81 thousand, which is nearly 5 immigrants for every thousand inhabitants. Six countries had a higher net migration rate, led by Malta. Five countries in Eastern Europe saw more departures than arrivals; a lot of these emigrants moved within the EU looking for work.

6 in 10 emigrants remain in the EU

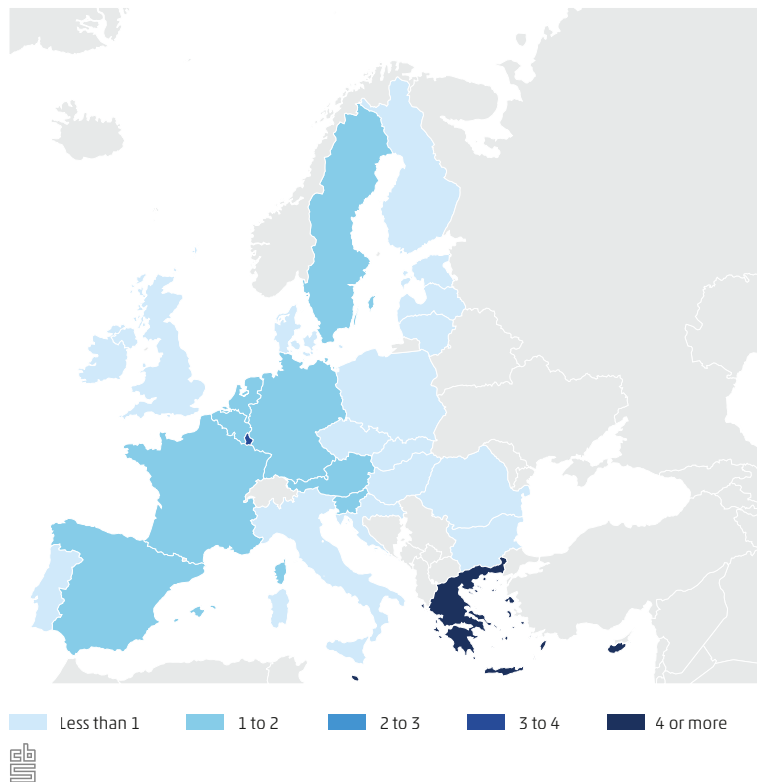
Large shares of immigrants and emigrants move from one EU country to another. Of the more than 4 million immigrants across the EU, slightly over 40 percent are intra-EU migrants. Of the 3 million people emigrating from an EU country, 60 percent remain EU resident. Many of them are Eastern European emigrants.

The Netherlands has shares that are close to the EU average: 44 percent of immigrants are from another EU country, while 56 percent of emigrants remain in the EU.

Intra-EU immigration, 2016



Asylum seekers per 1,000 inhabitants, 2018



Asylum seekers

Part of the immigrants entering the EU are asylum seekers. In 2018, the EU received 581 thousand such immigrants. The bulk was received by Germany: 162 thousand, followed by France (111 thousand), Greece (65 thousand), Spain (53 thousand) and Italy (49 thousand). The top ten of host countries is completed by the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Austria.

Taking population size into account, Cyprus had the highest influx last year at 8.8 asylum seekers per thousand inhabitants, followed by Greece with 6.1 per thousand. Malta and Luxembourg received comparatively many asylum seekers, too. In the Netherlands, there were 1.2 first asylum requests per thousand inhabitants, exceeding the European average of 1.1 per thousand. Most asylum arrivals in the Netherlands last year were from Syria, Iran and Eritrea.

12% international students
in Dutch higher education in 2017

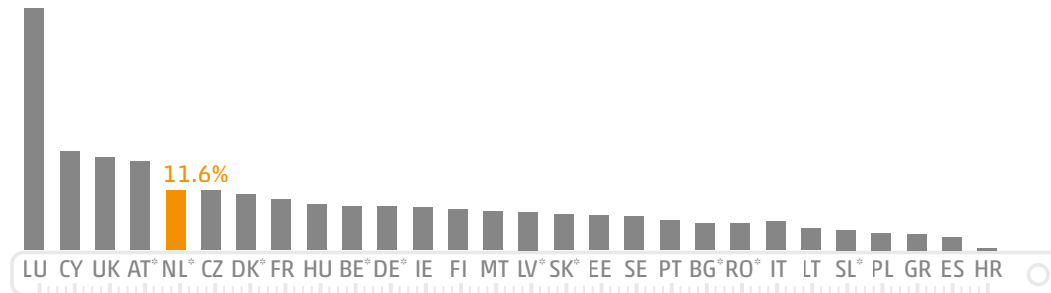
47% international
students in Luxembourg



3. International students

More and more students are looking beyond the border for their education, whether it is a complete degree course or a part of their study programme. Given the increasingly international labour market, it is important for students to gain experience abroad. Students themselves mainly look at it as valuable life experience, good for their personal and professional development. In many cases, studying abroad is a compulsory part of higher (often professional) education.

International students in higher education, 2016 (*=2017)



* Netherlands: excl. students in privately funded education



At 47 percent, Luxembourg has the highest share of international students. These are students enrolled in a full degree course who completed all prior education in another country. They include students who are nationals of the country where they are studying but who completed their secondary education elsewhere. This partly explains Luxembourg's high score.

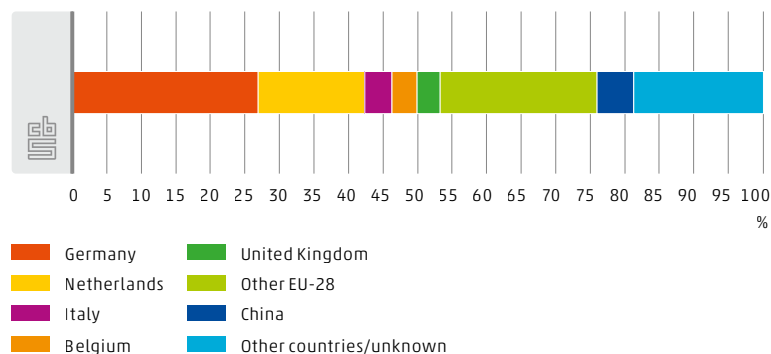
In Cyprus, the United Kingdom and Austria, international students occupy shares of around 18 percent. The share was slightly over 11 percent in the Netherlands in 2017. Most international students in the European Union come from within Europe. Exceptions are Spain (with many South American students), Portugal (African and South American students), France (African students) and the United Kingdom and Finland (Asian students).

Mainly EU students in the Netherlands

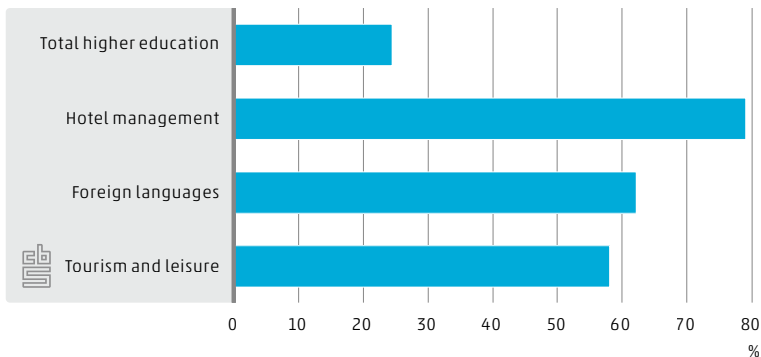
In 2017, there were over 81 thousand international students in the Netherlands, equivalent to 11.6 percent of all students in higher education. They included 12.5 thousand students (15.4 percent) with Dutch nationality who had completed their prior education in a foreign country.

Three-quarters of all international students in the

International students in the Netherlands, 2017



International credit mobility from the Netherlands, higher education graduates 2016/'17



Netherlands were from the European Union, mostly Germany. Among the non-EU students were relatively many Chinese. Two-thirds of the international students came to the Netherlands for a Bachelor's degree programme. This applied to 80 percent of the German students.

International credit mobility

Another option is completing part of the study programme abroad. This is the so-called international credit mobility, with students going abroad for at least three months or 15 credits. A programme that facilitates this within the EU is Erasmus.

One-quarter of the 2016/'17 higher education graduates in the Netherlands (nearly 37 thousand students) had earned international credits. This means the Netherlands achieved the EU target of 20 percent credit mobility. Students in hotel management, foreign languages, tourism and leisure are most likely to spend time abroad for their studies.



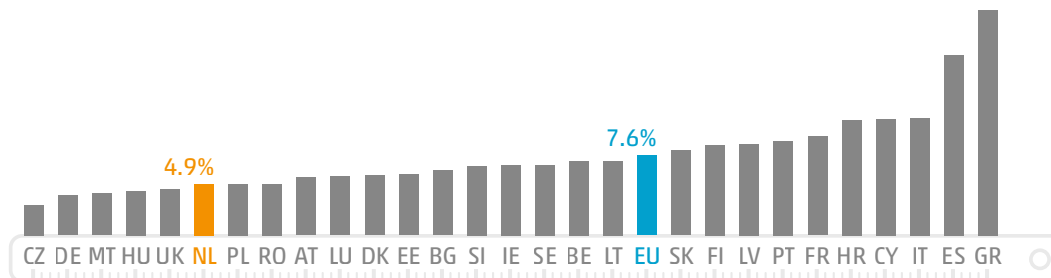
44% youth unemployment
in Greece in 2017

9% in the Netherlands

4. Unemployment

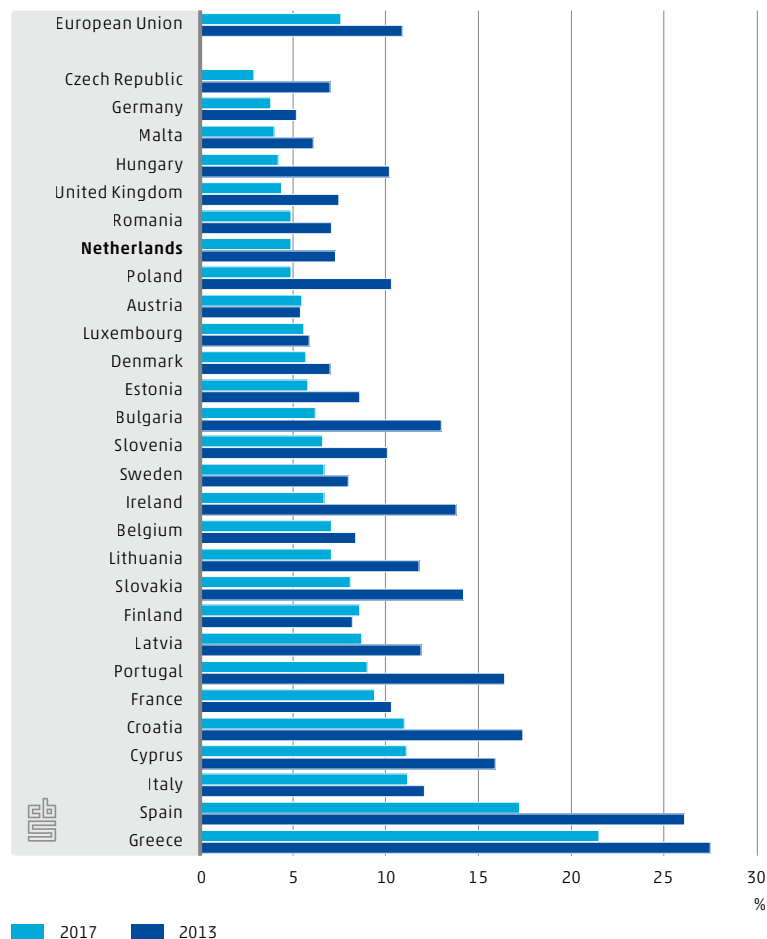
The highest unemployment in the European Union during the economic crisis was recorded in 2013. The EU-28 unemployment rate came out at almost 11 percent, with outliers of over 25 percent in Spain and Greece. It was still relatively low in the Netherlands, where the peak was reached only in 2014. By 2017, when unemployment had fallen virtually all across the EU, the Netherlands again had one of the lowest unemployment rates. Which countries saw unemployment fall between 2013 and 2017 and where was unemployment persistently high?

Unemployment rate, 2017

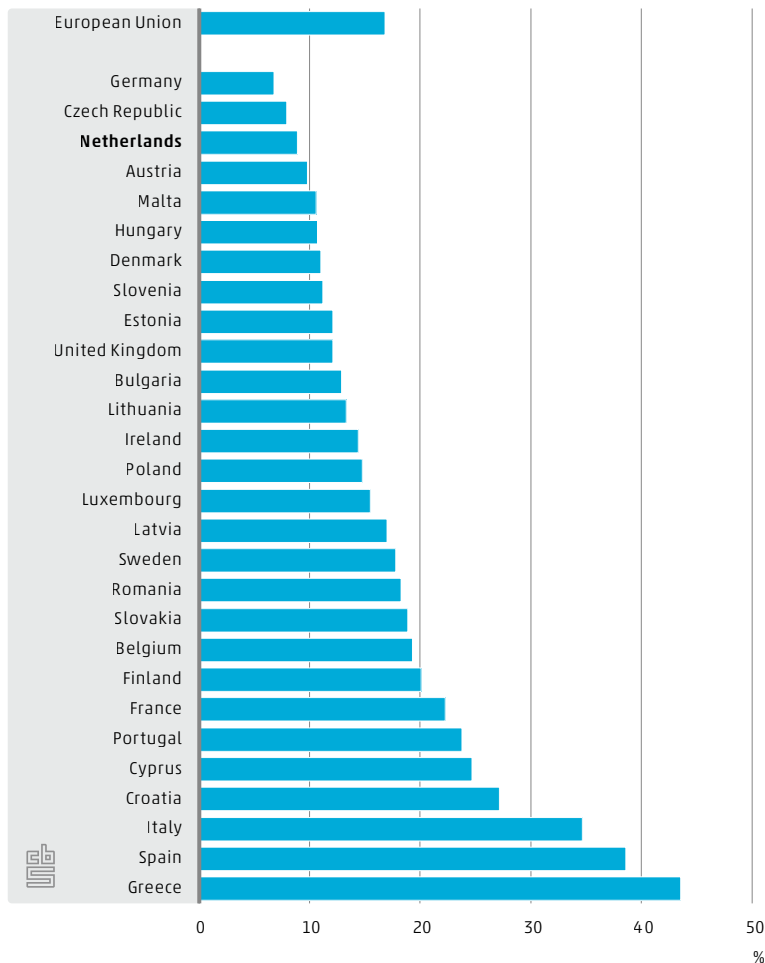


In 2017, unemployment among the Dutch labour force – 15 to 74 years – stood at 4.9 percent, a rate substantially lower than the EU average of 7.6 percent. Unemployment rates vary widely among the 28 countries of the European Union. By far the highest rates were recorded in Greece and Spain, while the Czech Republic had the lowest rate at 2.9 percent. In most EU countries, unemployment peaked in 2013 and subsequently declined each year. The EU-28 unemployment rate fell from 10.9 percent (2013) to 7.6 percent (2017). Although Spain recorded the most significant decline, to this day it still has one of the highest unemployment rates within the EU. Relatively the sharpest decline was seen in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Bulgaria, where it was more than halved between 2013 and 2017. In the Netherlands, unemployment fell from 7.3 percent (2013) to 4.9 percent (2017) with a temporary rise in 2014. It lagged behind neighbours such as Germany (3.8 percent) and the United Kingdom (4.4 percent). On the other hand, rates were still higher in Belgium, France and the Nordic countries.

Unemployment (15 to 74 yrs)




Youth unemployment (15 to 24 yrs)



Youth unemployment low in the Netherlands

In terms of youth unemployment, the Netherlands has one of the three lowest rates. In 2017, the EU-28 youth unemployment rate stood at 16.8 percent on average, versus 8.9 percent in the Netherlands. However, a relatively large share of the unemployed Dutch youth are in education. Youth unemployment is highest in Greece with 43.6 percent of all 15 to 24-year-olds in the labour force out of work, followed by Spain and Italy. Rates are lowest in Germany and the Czech Republic at 6.8 and 7.9 percent respectively.



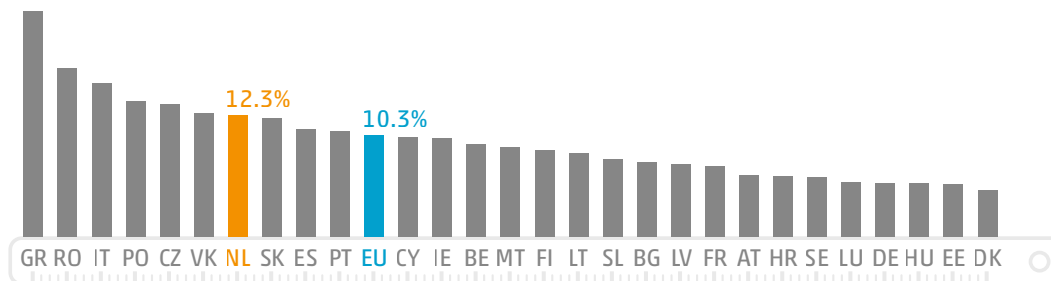
227 million in paid work
around the EU in 2017

23.4 million
of them self-employed

5. Self-employment

In 2017, the Netherlands had 1.1 million self-employed persons without employees (so-called *zzp'ers*). They took up 12.3 percent of the active labour force (8.6 million aged 15 to 74 years). This is one of the highest shares of own-account workers in the EU. Reasons to opt for self-employment include the need for a new challenge and the freedom to determine one's own hours and work schedule, according to a self-employment survey (ZEA) conducted in the Netherlands. Self-employment has surged in recent years. What is the situation in other EU member states?

Self-employed persons, 2017

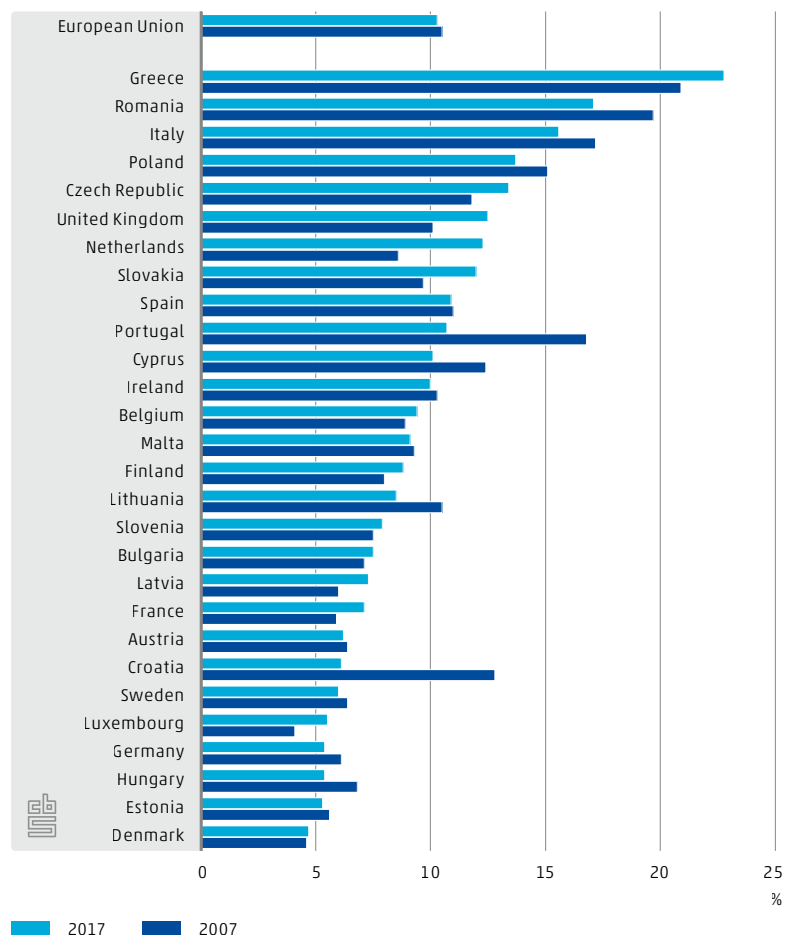


In 2017, there were 227 million people aged 15 to 74 years in paid work throughout the EU-28. Of this group, 23.4 million (10.3 percent) were active as own-account workers. Greece and Romania had the highest proportional shares at 22.8 and 17.1 percent respectively. One reason is that these countries have a large agricultural sector with relatively many self-employed. Denmark had the lowest share: less than 5 percent. At 12.3 percent, the Netherlands ranked seventh within the EU-28. Shares in neighbouring countries ranged from 5.4 percent in Germany to 12.5 percent in the United Kingdom.

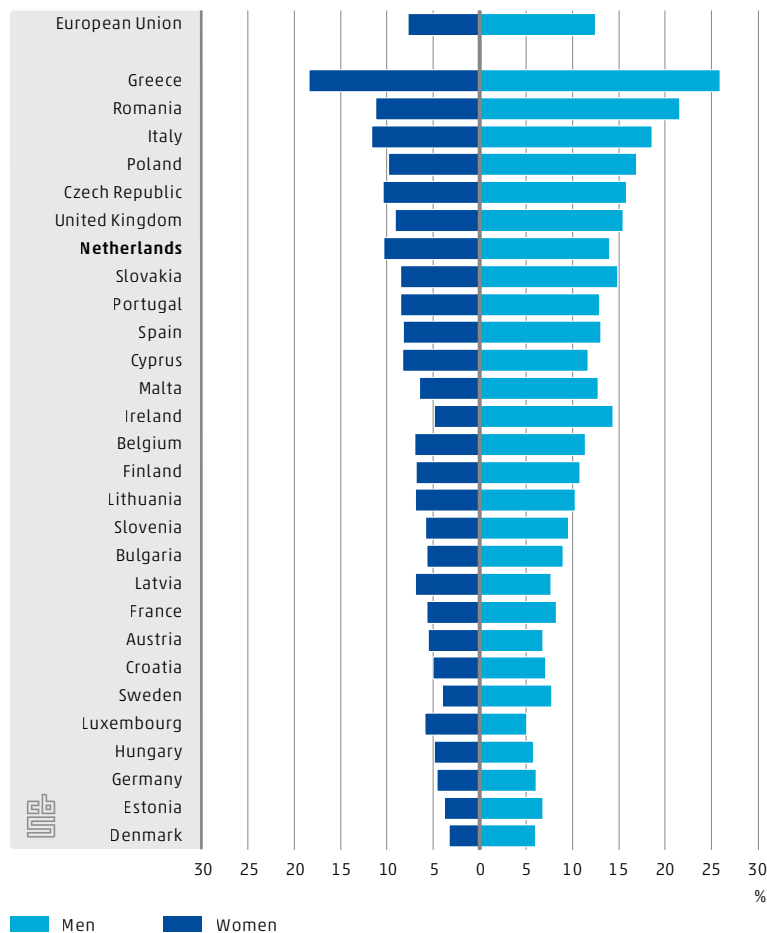
More self-starters

The Netherlands has one of the fastest-growing shares of self-starters: from 8.6 percent in 2007 to 12.3 percent in 2017. Nearby, the UK also saw relatively rapid growth. The increase was less substantial in Belgium and France, while Germany even recorded a slight decline. Croatia's share of self-employed fell by more than half in the span of a decade to 6.1 percent in 2017, while there was a considerable drop in Portugal as well. Both countries have faced substantial agricultural contraction in recent years.

Self-employed without employees (15 to 74 yrs), 2017



Self-employed without employees (15 to 74 yrs), 2017



More self-employment among men

Men are more often self-employed than women. Only Luxembourg has a higher share of women. In 2017, 14.0 percent of Dutch men in work were self-employed against 10.3 percent of working women. In Romania and Sweden, self-employment is almost twice as common among men as among women; even three times in Ireland. Across the EU-28, on average 12.5 percent of men and 7.7 percent of women engaged in an activity were own-account workers.

A wide-angle photograph of a modern urban street. On the left, a large building features a prominent glass-enclosed staircase. The street is paved with grey stones and lined with modern buildings, including one with a distinctive blue and yellow logo. Several people are walking along the sidewalk, and outdoor seating for a cafe is visible on the right.

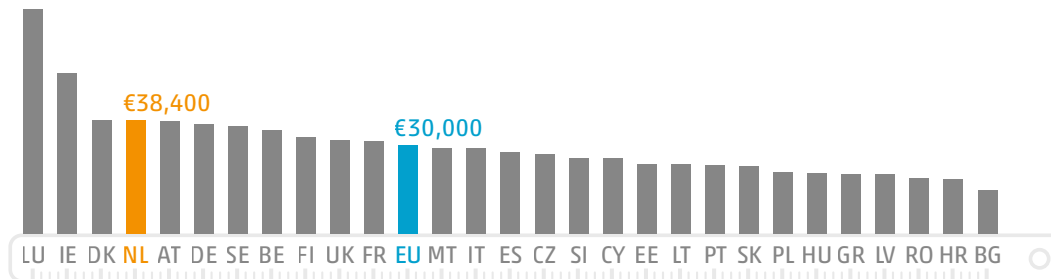
5% of EU GDP is contributed
by the Netherlands

2.5 times the average GDP
per capita in Luxembourg

6. Economic growth

The Netherlands is a small country within Europe. Nevertheless, it contributes almost 5 percent to the European Union's gross domestic product, making it the sixth largest economy in the EU-28. What are the EU's largest and smallest economies? How is economic wealth distributed in the European Union?

GDP per capita, price-level adjusted, 2017

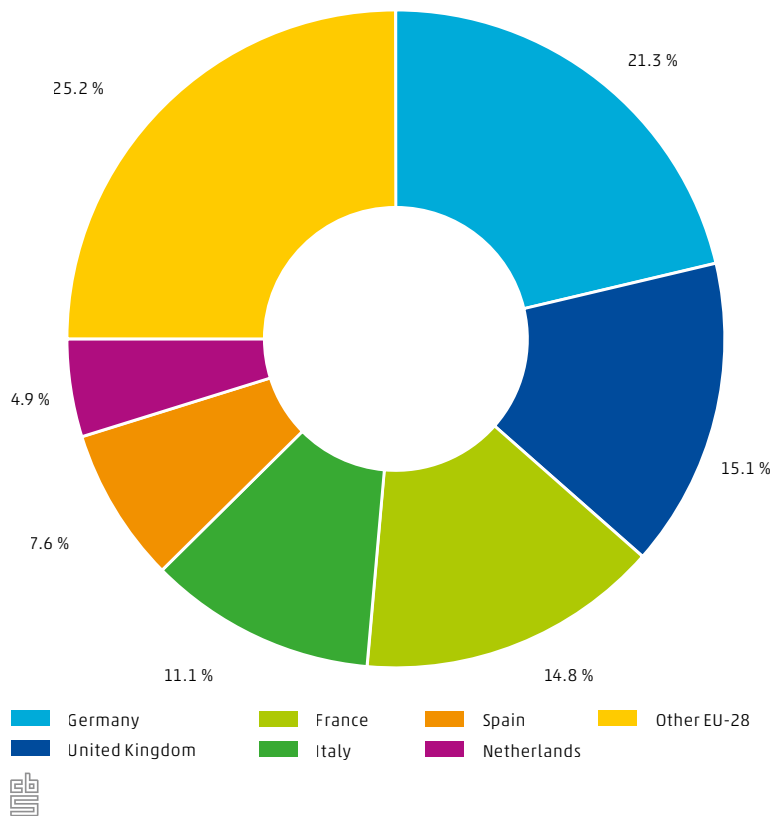


Largest is Germany with a share of more than 21 percent in the European economy, followed by France and the United Kingdom. Together, these three countries constitute over half of the EU-28 economy. Italy, Spain and the Netherlands take up a combined share of almost 24 percent in the European GDP. The remaining one-quarter share is occupied by the other 22 countries.

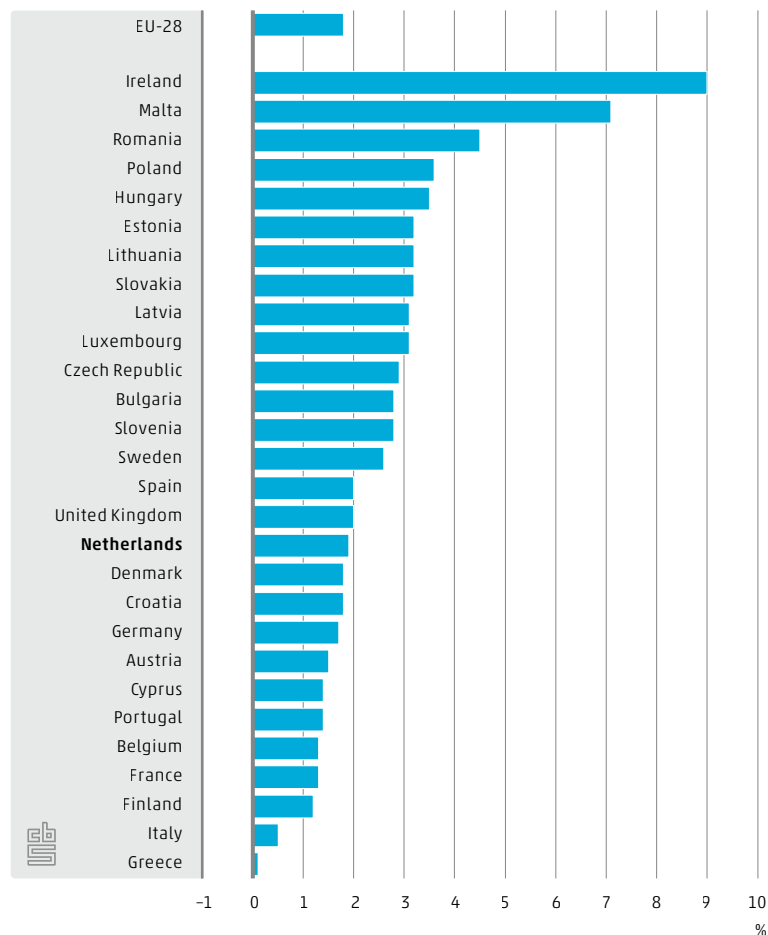
Dutch GDP per capita among highest in the EU

After adjusting for different price levels, Dutch GDP per capita (price-level adjusted) is one of the highest in the EU. Only Luxembourg and Ireland have higher prosperity levels. In Denmark and Austria, GDP per capita is at more or less the same level as in the Netherlands. Luxembourg's GDP per capita is over two and a half times the average level across the EU. Luxembourg mainly owes its top position to the favourable tax climate for financial institutions and the large number of people working but not living there. Ireland, too, has a high GDP per capita, partly due to its favourable tax climate for international companies.

European Union GDP, 2018



Average annual GDP growth rate, 2013–2018



Average growth rate

In the period 2013–2018, the EU had an average economic growth rate of 1.8 percent per year. All countries except Greece recorded growth. With 1.9 percent average annual growth, the Netherlands was slightly above the EU average. The Dutch economy contracted in 2012 and 2013 while Belgium, Germany, France and the United Kingdom all recorded growth. The Netherlands was more severely affected by the eurozone crisis than its neighbours. Although recovery set in later than in surrounding countries, economic growth in the Netherlands outpaced the EU average in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The highest growth rates in the period 2013–2018 were recorded in Ireland, followed by Malta. Eastern European member states achieved higher growth rates than countries in Western and Southern Europe. The latter do have considerably higher prosperity levels than average in the Union.

WEL

DE PLASTIC PACKINGEN!

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IN DE STRAAT**



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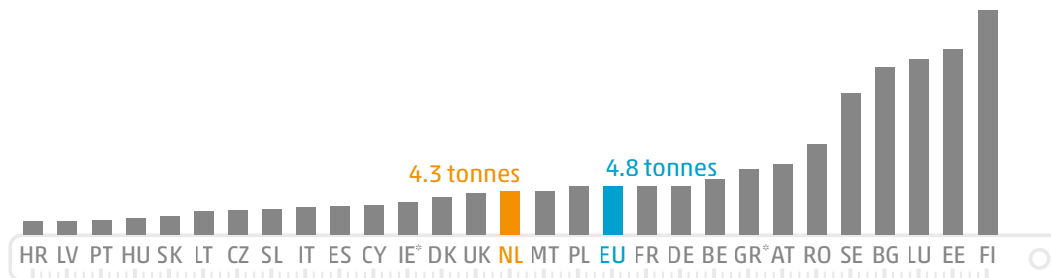
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38 kg is the amount per inhabitant in Romania and Malta

7. Waste

In the Netherlands, waste production per inhabitant is slightly below the EU average. This is related to its trading and service-based economy, which produces relatively low volumes of waste compared to industrial economies. How is all of this waste processed? How much waste is landfilled or incinerated and how much is recycled? How is this organised in other countries?

Collected waste per inhabitant, 2016 (*2014)



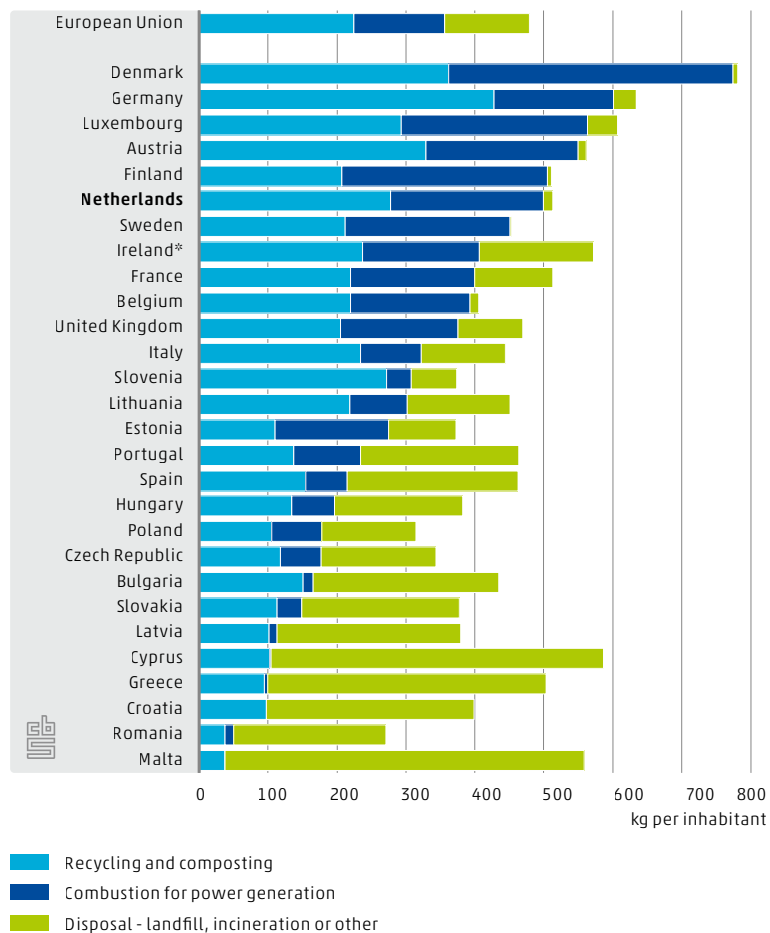
Waste is still processed in many different ways across Europe. This also applies to household waste. Common methods in Western European countries including the Netherlands involve recycling and composting of waste as well as combustion for power generation. In Southern and Eastern Europe, on the other hand, at least half of all municipal waste is disposed of in landfills. Only a small percentage is incinerated or processed differently.

Processing of household waste varies widely between EU countries. In the Nordic countries as well as in the Netherlands, only small volumes of household waste are landfilled or incinerated. In Cyprus and Malta, this applies to the bulk of household waste – some 500 kg per inhabitant. Only a few percent of the waste is recycled.

Recovery of scarce materials

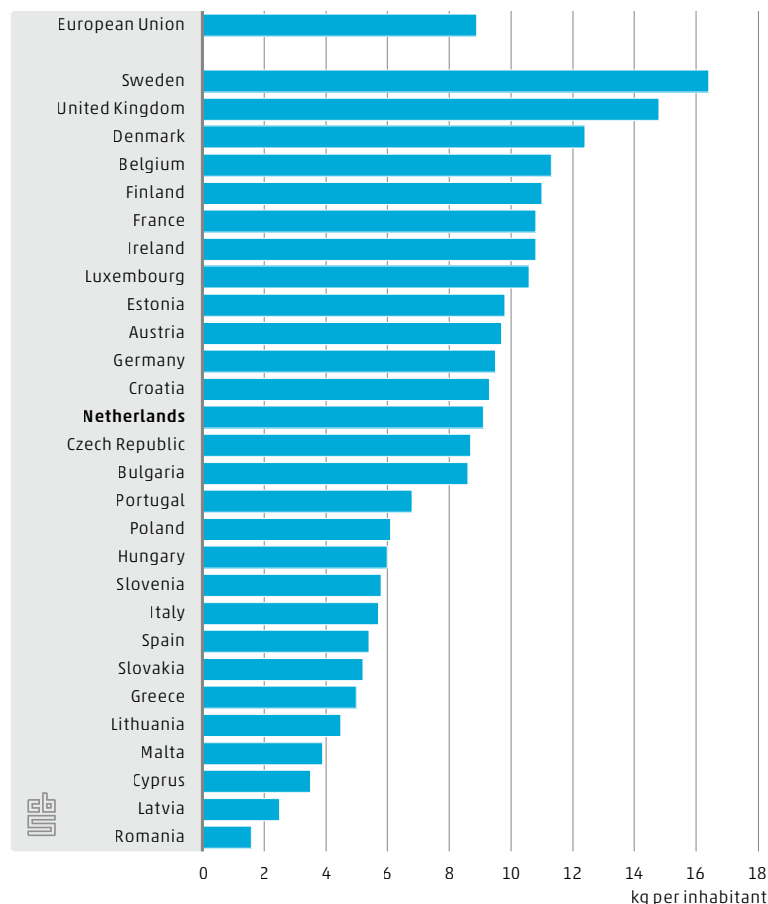
In recent years, more focus has been put on the recovery of raw materials from discarded electrical and electronic devices (e-waste). One reason is that these products contain valuable, scarce and precious raw materials such as gold. Another reason would be to become less dependent on countries like China, which are dominating this part of the raw materials market.

Household waste, 2017



* Ireland=2016

Collected electrical and electronic waste, 2016



* Italy and Cyprus: 2014, Malta and Romania: 2014.

Sweden leading in e-waste collection

As of 2012, a European directive has been implemented to promote the reuse, separate collection and recycling of e-waste. Within the European Union, Sweden is a front runner in terms of collecting waste equipment.

The Netherlands ranks in the middle: 24 kg of electrical and electronic equipment is disposed of per inhabitant, of which around 9 kg (39 percent) is collected and recycled. At the same time, Dutch households have purchased new or other appliances. The amount of equipment (including solar panels) put on the Dutch market in 2016 stood at approximately 22 kg per inhabitant.

4.5% contributed to the EU's
GHG emissions by the Netherlands

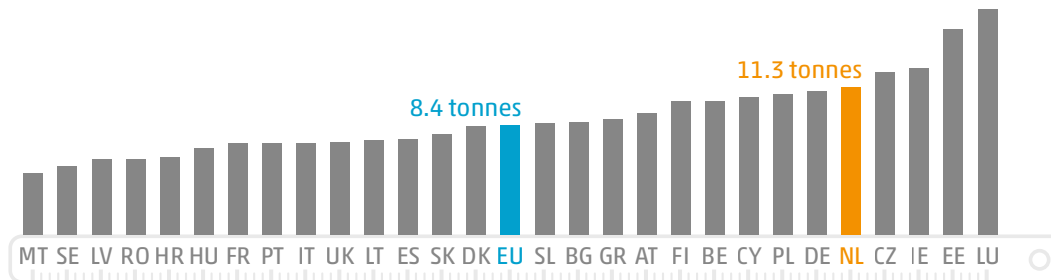
24% lower GHG emissions
around the EU in 2017 than in 1990



8. Greenhouse gases

In 2010, key targets were set to cut greenhouse gas emissions by government leaders of all EU member states. In the 2015 Urgenda Climate Case against the Dutch government, a Dutch court ruled that emissions must be reduced by at least 25 percent by 2020 compared to 1990 levels. A 20-percent reduction target applies to Europe as a whole. Which countries are the main contributors? In which countries have reductions been most substantial? And what about the transition from fossil to renewable energy?

Greenhouse gas emissions per capita, 2017 (tonnes of CO₂ equivalent)



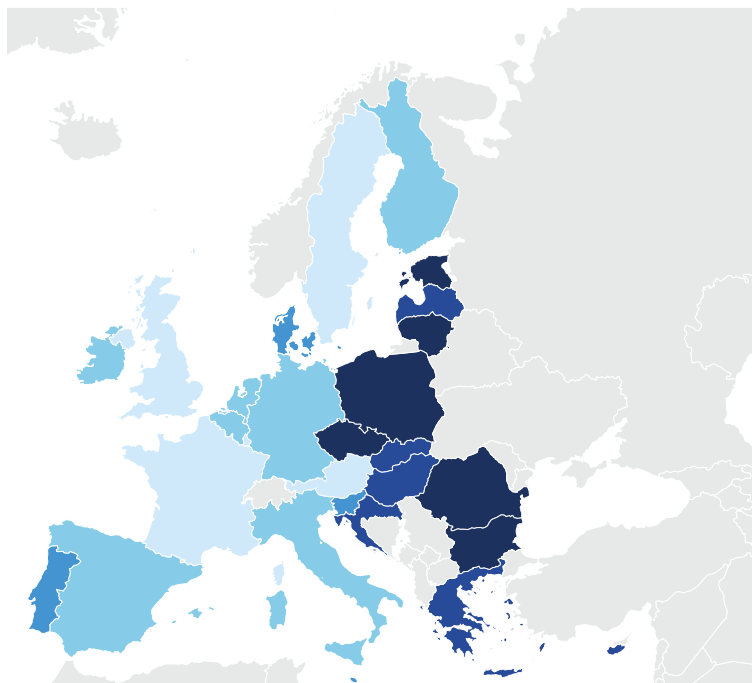
Greenhouse gas emissions are relatively high in the Netherlands, contributing 4.5 percent to the EU's total. The Dutch emit 34 percent more greenhouse gases per capita than the average European. Only four EU countries perform worse than the Netherlands in this respect.

Emissions are related to the size of the economy, which in the Netherlands is relatively large per capita. Emission intensity is a measure of how much greenhouse gas is emitted per euro of gross domestic product (GDP). The emission intensity of the Dutch economy is comparable to the EU average. Seventeen EU countries – mainly in Eastern Europe – have a higher emission intensity than the Netherlands. The fact that our country has relatively low emissions relative to its GDP is partly linked to high net imports of electricity and the relatively large size of the service sector.

Substantial reductions in Eastern Europe

It was agreed some years ago that by 2020, greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union must be at least 20 percent lower than in 1990. In 2017, these emissions were 24 percent down on 1990. The Netherlands realised a 13-percent reduction. Eighteen

Emission intensity of national economy, 2017



CO₂ equivalents per 1,000 euros of GDP

Less than 200

200 to 300

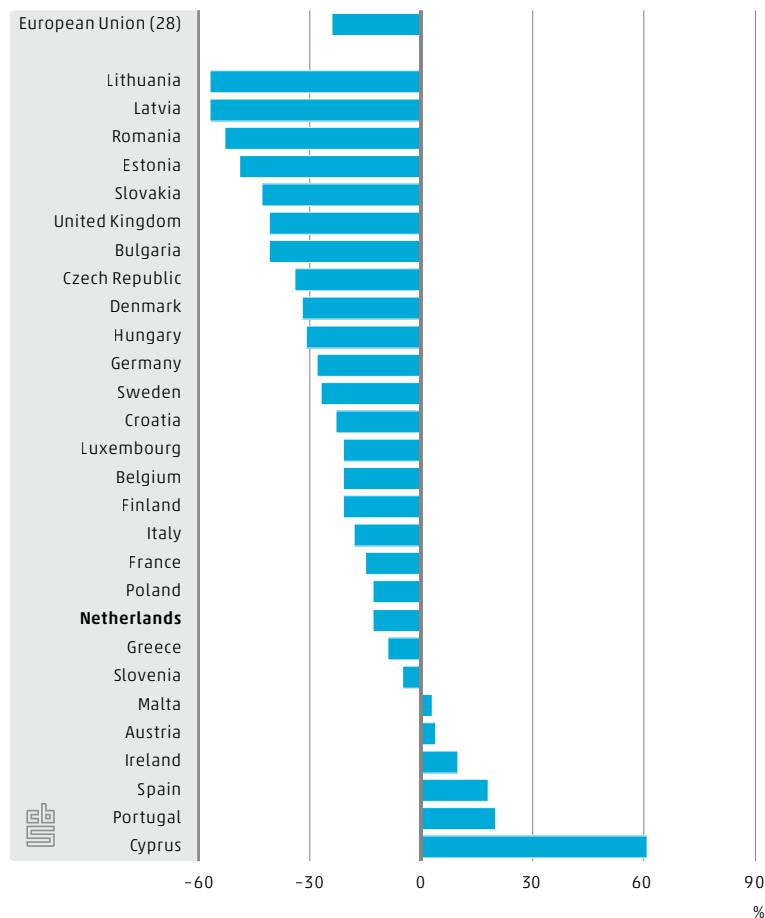
300 to 400

400 to 500

500 or more



Change in greenhouse gas emissions by country, 2017



EU target: -20%
NL target: -25%

EU countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, achieved larger reductions. After the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989), many polluting industries were closed down or modernised.

High imports of non-renewable raw materials

Dutch imports of fossil, non-renewable raw materials (oil, coal, gas) are persistently high, which is a vulnerable area. Imports of fossil energy carriers are relatively high as well and growing almost continuously.

A large-scale photograph of a wind farm. In the foreground, a worker in a red jacket and yellow safety gear stands on a platform of a white wind turbine tower. A yellow crane is positioned next to the tower. In the background, several other wind turbines are visible, along with a service vessel named 'SIMON POINT' and another boat labeled 'TURBINE TRANSFERS' on the water. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

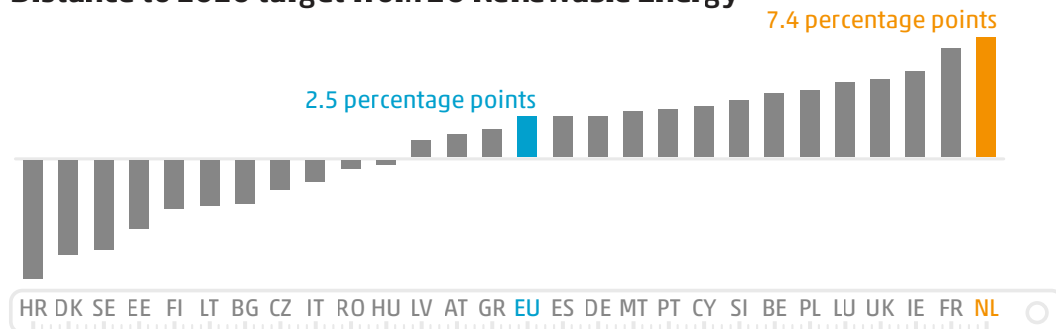
11 EU countries have reached
2020 renewable energy target

15% of electricity used in the
Netherlands in 2017 from renewable sources

9. Renewable energy

Of all EU countries, the Netherlands is furthest from achieving the 2020 renewable energy targets. In 2017, 6.6 percent of the energy generated came from renewable sources such as wind turbines and solar panels. According to the EU's Renewable Energy Directive, this share must be at least 14 percent by the year 2020.

Distance to 2020 target from EU Renewable Energy



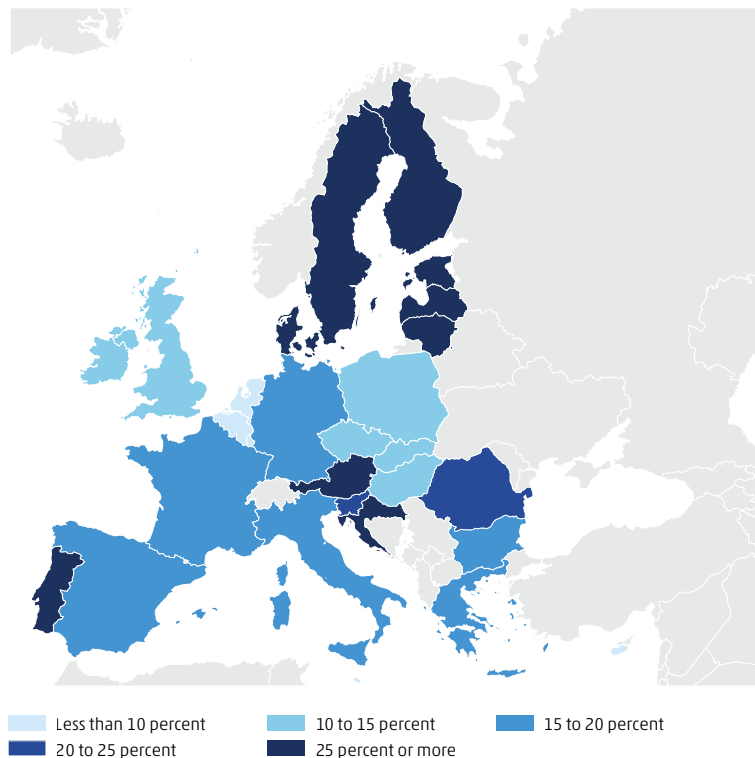
Eleven EU member states have already achieved the renewable energy targets set for 2020. Sweden takes the lead and generates more than half (54.5 percent) of its energy from renewable sources. This is well above the 49 percent target. In Finland, Latvia, Austria and Denmark, sustainable energy shares exceed 30 percent.

After the Netherlands, France is furthest away from meeting the target, followed by Ireland and the United Kingdom. Although Luxembourg generated less energy from renewable sources in 2017 than the Netherlands (6.4 percent), its target for next year is lower: 11 percent. Targets vary from country to country.

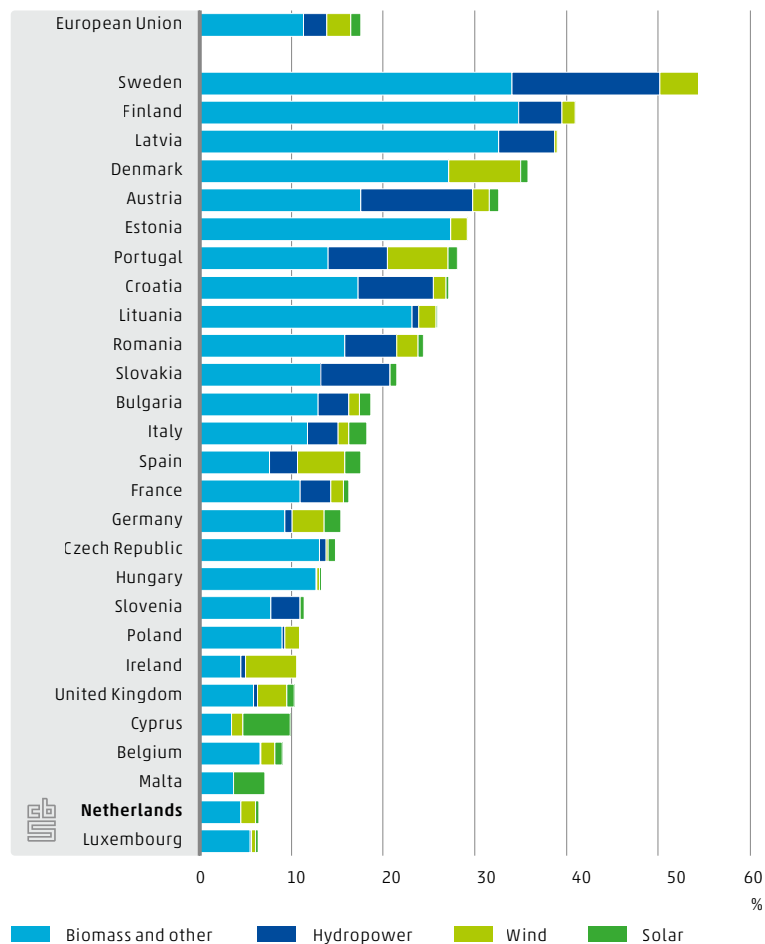
Relatively low levels of biomass in the Netherlands

Dutch households burn relatively little wood (biomass), in part because almost all homes are connected to the gas grid. In addition, the Netherlands hardly produces any hydropower. Unlike Sweden and Finland, it has no large paper industry which uses biomass as an energy source.

Share of energy from renewable sources in % of gross final energy consumption, 2017



Renewable energy sources, 2017

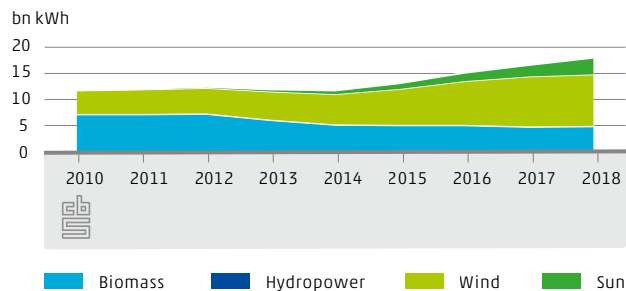


Energy from renewable sources is used for heating, electricity and transport. In 2017, nearly half of renewable energy consumption in the Netherlands was for heating, over 40 percent for electricity and just under 10 percent for transport.

Electricity from sun, wind and biomass

In 2018, the Netherlands produced 18 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity from renewable sources, for example 15 percent of its total electricity consumption. Wind turbines generated 9.9 billion kWh, representing the largest share in green electricity production. Another 4.8 billion kWh came from biomass and 3.2 billion kWh from solar panels.

Renewable electricity production in the Netherlands



A dynamic photograph of three brown and white cows running through a grassy field. The cows are captured in mid-stride, kicking up dirt and grass, creating a sense of movement and energy. The background shows a clear blue sky and some distant trees.

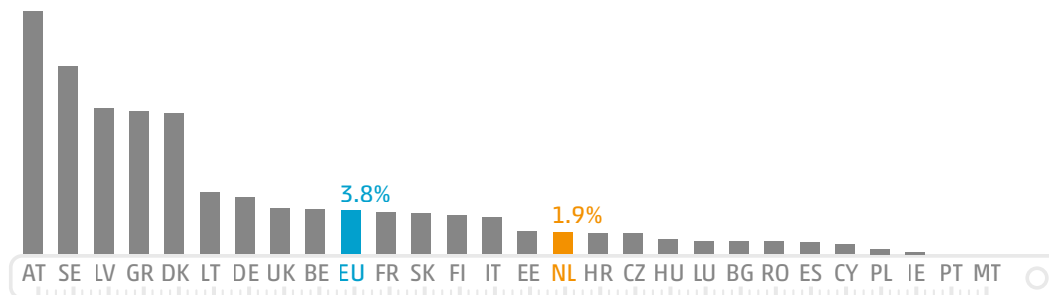
7% of European farmland was organic in 2017

3% was the share in the Netherlands

10. Organic farming

In 2017, 3.1 percent of agricultural land in the Netherlands was used for organic crops. Front runners in the EU in terms of organic farming are Austria and Estonia, with 23.4 and 19.6 percent respectively of farmland managed organically. In the Netherlands, organically grown crops are mostly vegetables and cereals. 1.9 percent of Dutch dairy cattle are organically-reared.

Organic dairy cattle, 2017



In 2017, organic crop cultivation accounted for 7.0 percent of the total utilised agricultural area (UAA) in the European Union. In the Netherlands, this was 3.1 percent. Cereals are the most common organic crop with a share of 13 percent in the total organic area. With respective shares of 14.5 and 14.2 percent, Germany and France take up the two largest shares in organic cereal production.

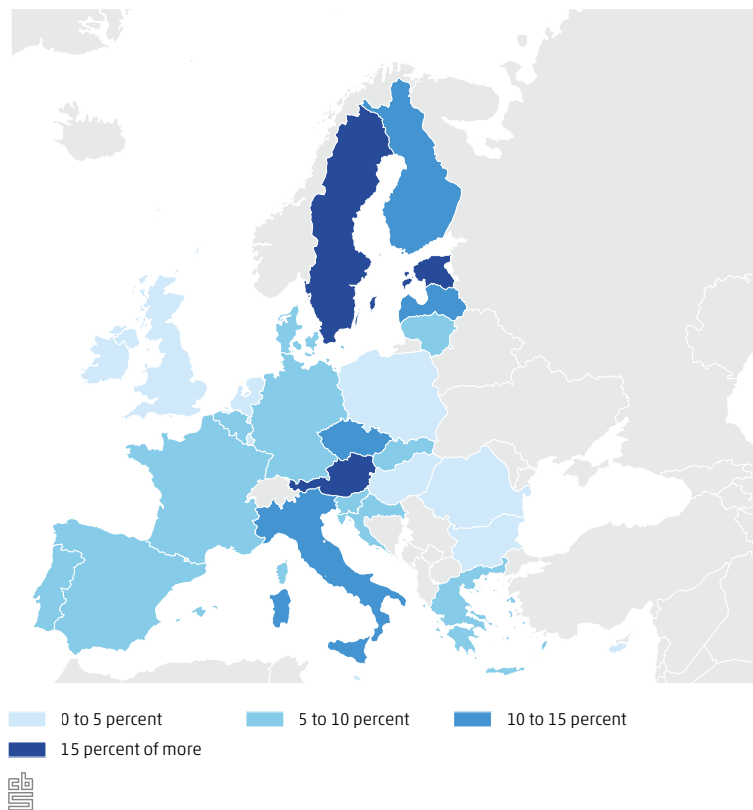
Dutch organic vegetable cultivation exceeds EU average

In the Netherlands, shares of organically farmed vegetables (13.0 percent) and potatoes (2.9 percent) are well above the EU average (1.1 and 0.2 percent respectively). Shares of organic cereals (6.1 percent) and permanent crops (1.1 percent) are below the EU average.

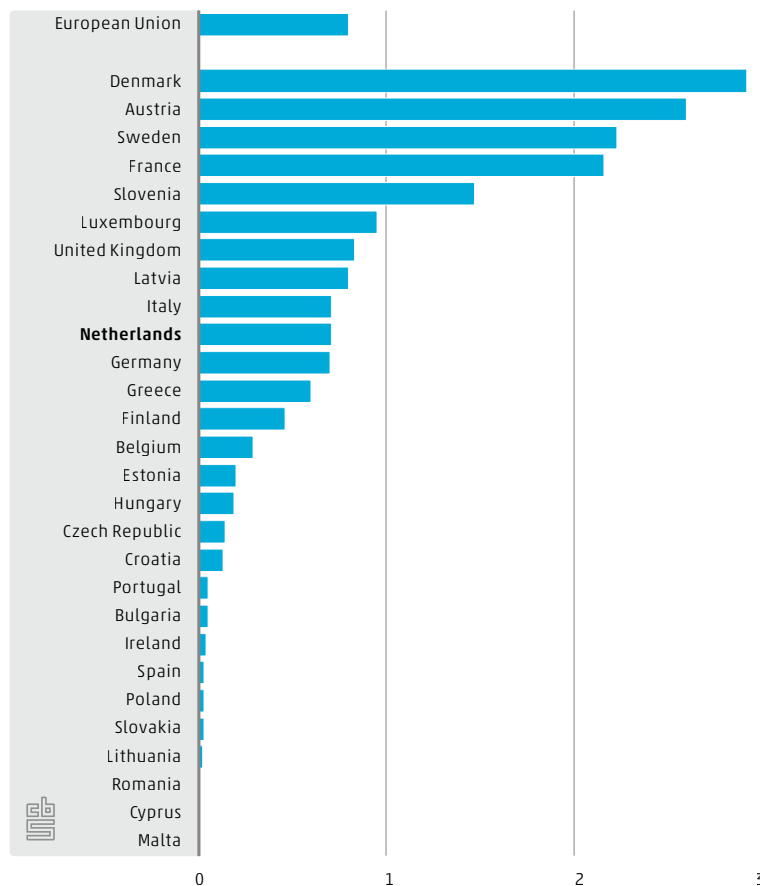
Organic livestock farming plays limited role

In recent years, the Netherlands has seen a rise in organic livestock farming. The number of organic dairy cows has jumped by 82.5 percent in the space of ten years. Nevertheless, organic livestock farming still plays a minor role in the Netherlands. In the EU-28, on average 3.8 percent of all dairy cows are organic; in

Total organic area, 2017



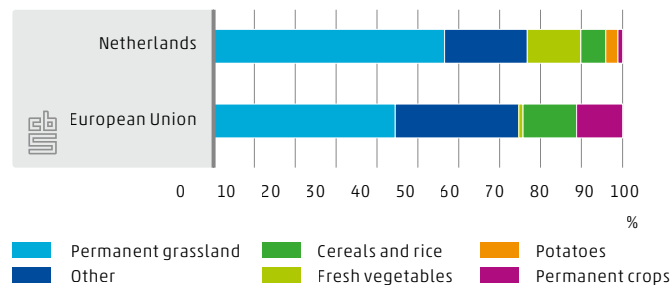
Organic pigs, 2017



the Netherlands this is 1.9 percent. In Europe, Austria is leading in terms of organic dairy farming. Over one in five Austrian dairy cows are raised organically.

Not even one percent of Dutch pigs are organic. The highest share of organically reared pigs is found in Denmark at nearly 3 percent of all pigs. On average, 0.8 percent of all pigs in the 28 countries of the European Union are raised organically.

Organic crops, 2017





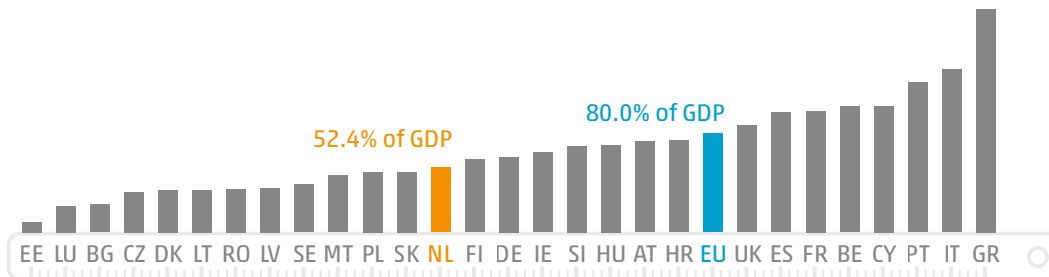
48.4% of GDP tax and social
security burden in France in 2017

23.5%
in Ireland

11. Government finance

The countries of the European Union have a combined public debt of nearly 13 trillion euros. This amounts to 80.0 percent of the European Union's GDP. At 52.4 percent of national GDP, Dutch public debt is well below the EU average; it is also below the so-called EMU target of a public debt not exceeding 60 percent of GDP. Which EU countries have a surplus and which have a deficit? And which country has the highest tax and social security burden?

Government debt, 2018

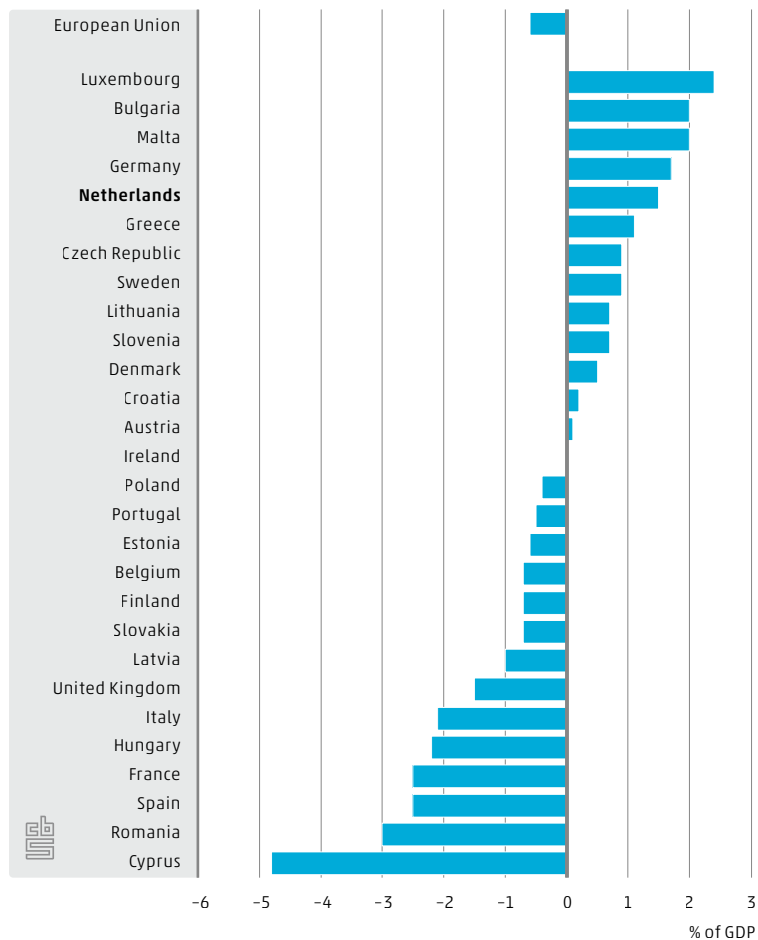


National debt varies widely in size among the member states. In 2018, it was more than 60 percent of GDP in fourteen countries and below 60 percent in the other fourteen countries. Most former Eastern Bloc countries have a relatively low debt as they started with a clean slate after the break-up of the Soviet-Union. Other countries have a relatively high debt instead. Greece has the highest debt level at 181.1 percent of GDP.

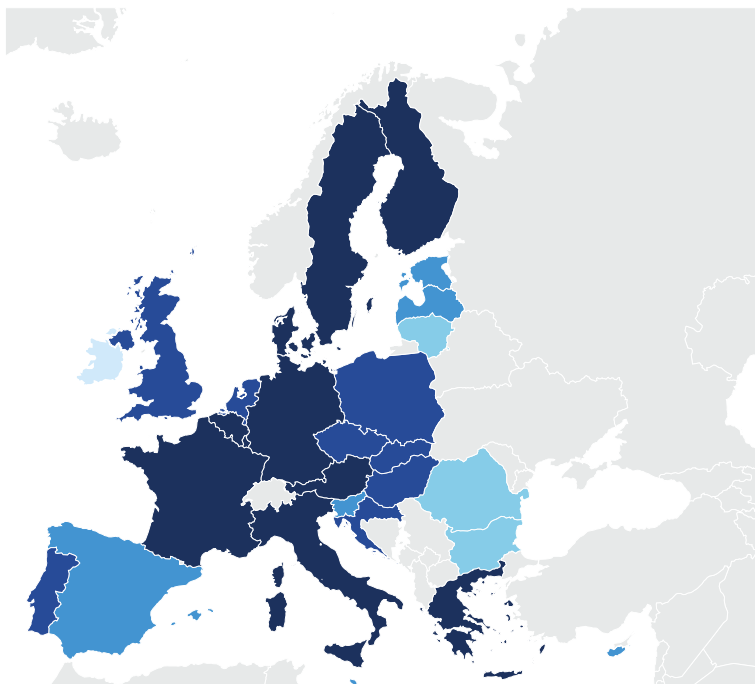
EU still has budget deficit

In 2018, the 28 countries of the EU had a combined public deficit amounting to 0.6 percent of GDP. The government balance – the gap between revenue and spending – is widely different in the various countries. Fourteen member states had a deficit and fourteen a surplus. Luxembourg had the largest surplus (2.4 percent of GDP) and Cyprus the largest deficit (4.8 percent).

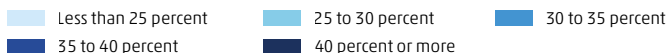
Government balance, 2018



Taxes and social contributions as a share of GDP, 2017¹⁾



Taxes and social contributions as a share of GDP



¹⁾ The EU definition of tax and social security burden is different from the Dutch definition, which means there are differences with the figures on StatLine.



In 2018, the Netherlands realised a surplus of 1.5 percent of GDP, up from 1.2 percent in 2017. The surplus rose mainly because of higher income from taxes and social security contributions.

Higher tax and social security burden

In 2017, the tax and social security burden in the Netherlands reached 39.2 percent of GDP. This was still 35.4 percent back in 2009. In European perspective, the Netherlands falls below average (40.2 percent). Throughout the EU, the tax and social security burden has grown steadily in recent years. France currently has the highest burden: 48.4 percent, while Ireland has the lowest: 23.5 percent. The burden tends to be low in the former Eastern Bloc compared to the rest of Europe.



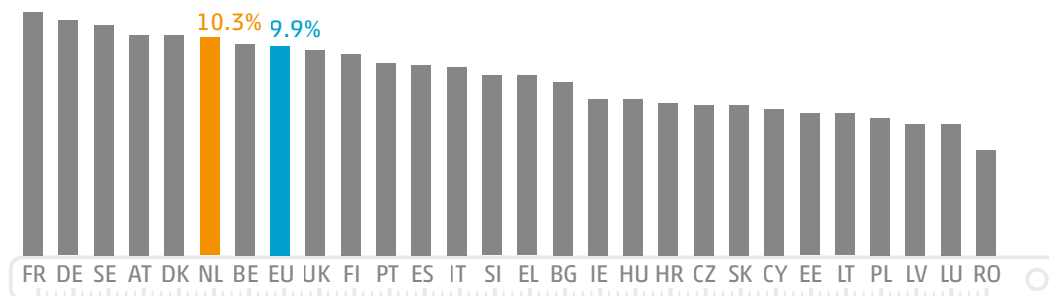
5.5 days hospitalisation for average
Dutch heart patient in 2016

9.3
days in Germany

12. Health care

The Netherlands is among the countries with the highest health expenditure as a percentage of GDP. Health spending is not only high, but also goes up nearly every single year. Key factors behind the long-term increase are economic growth, technological advances, population growth and ageing.

National health care expenditure, 2016 (% of GDP)



In 2016, health care expenditure in the Netherlands amounted to 10.3 percent of GDP. This was more than the European Union average (9.9 percent). In France and Germany, health spending accounted for more than 11 percent of GDP. Spending was lowest in the Baltic states, Poland, Romania and Luxembourg at less than 7 percent.

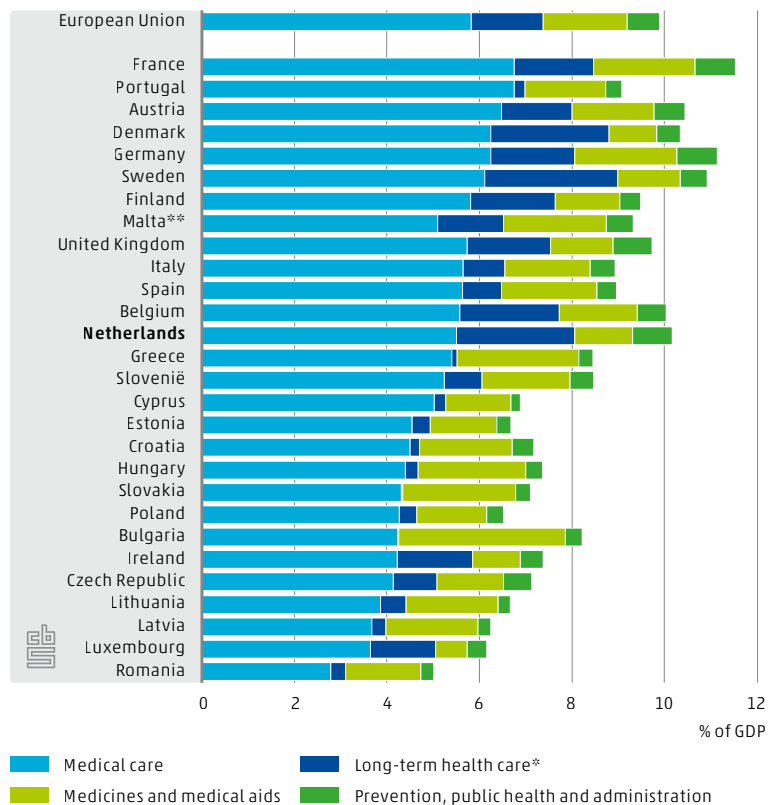
High spending on long-term care

The high level of health care spending in the Netherlands is mainly caused by spending on long-term care. This amounts to 2.7 percent of GDP, excluding assistance care and home care (to enable comparison with other countries). The share is only higher in Denmark and Sweden. Spending on preventive health care is also relatively high. On the other hand, spending on pharmaceuticals and medical aids is very low in the Netherlands at 1.2 percent of GDP against an EU average of 1.8 percent.

Few foreign medical doctors

Although medical diplomas from any EU country are formally recognised throughout the European Union, foreign practitioners are rare

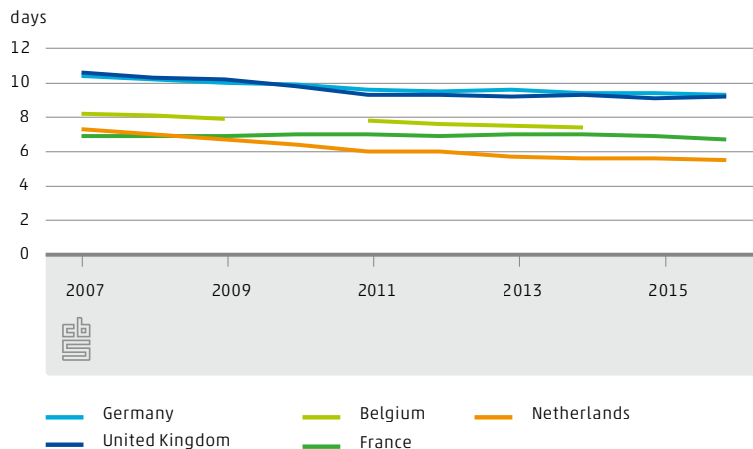
Health expenditure by type of care, 2016



* For the purpose of international comparison, long-term care has been split into health and social support; e.g. the international figure does not include home care and assistance care (as more less referred to in the WMO).

** Malta=2015.

Average length of stay for cardiovascular disease



in the Netherlands, unlike in some other EU countries. Just over 2 percent of Dutch practitioners hold a foreign medical qualification. The share exceeds 10 percent in France, Belgium and Germany. It is even almost 30 percent in the UK. In 2016, there were over 60 thousand physicians in the Netherlands. This is 1 practitioner for every 282 inhabitants.

Efficient cardiovascular care

The growth in Dutch care spending has been tempered by changes in the way health care is dispensed. For example, the average hospital stay for treatment of cardiovascular disease was reduced from 8 to 5.5 days between 2004 and 2016. If fewer occupant days are an indicator for more efficiently organised care, then clinical heart care is better organised in the Netherlands. At French hospitals, heart patients can stay for seven days; in Belgium it is eight days, while Germany and the UK offer as long as nine days.



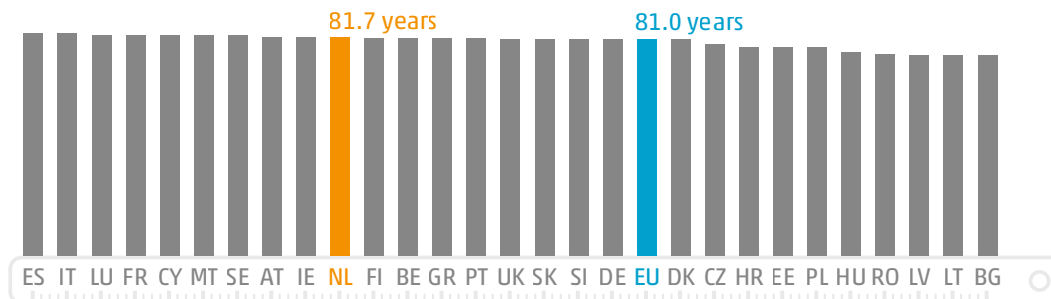
57.8 years healthy life expectancy of Dutch women in 2016

64.2 years was the average in the EU

13. Life expectancy

Life expectancy says something about the expected length of life, based on mortality rates. In 2016, the Dutch population had an average life expectancy at birth of 81.7 years. How wide is the gap between men and women, and how does the Netherlands compare to other EU countries? What about the healthy life expectancy?

Life expectancy at birth, 2016

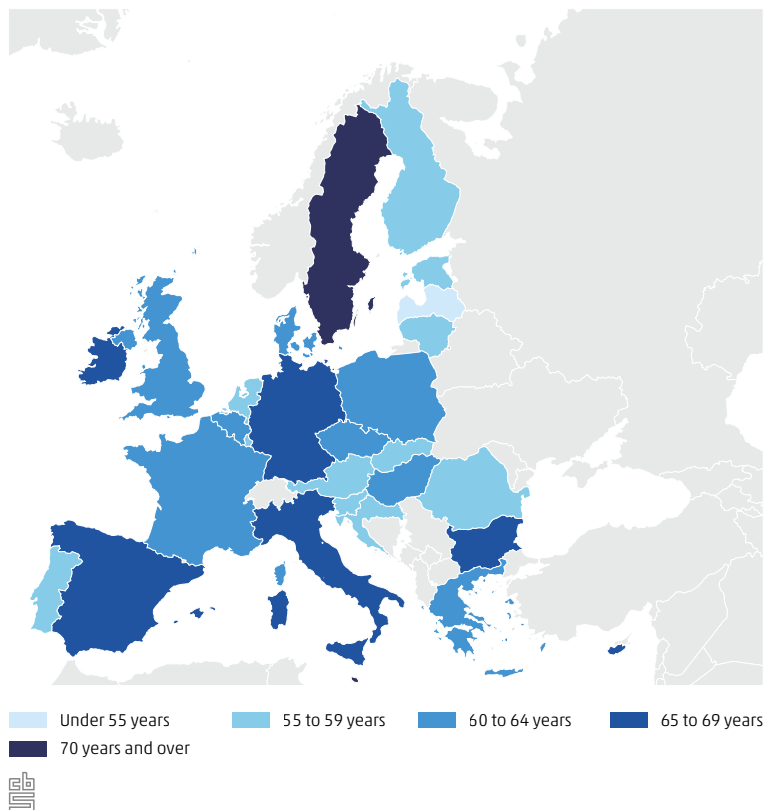


In 2016, average life expectancy at birth in the European Union stood at 81.0 years. Spain (83.5 years) and Italy (83.4 years) have the highest life expectancy. At 74.9 years, inhabitants of Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania fall six years short of the EU average. Dutch life expectancy at birth stood at 81.7 years in 2016. Average life expectancy in the European Union is 83.6 years for women versus 78.2 years for men. The life expectancy of Dutch men is almost two years higher than the EU average, namely 80.0 years. At 83.2 years, female life expectancy is close to the EU average.

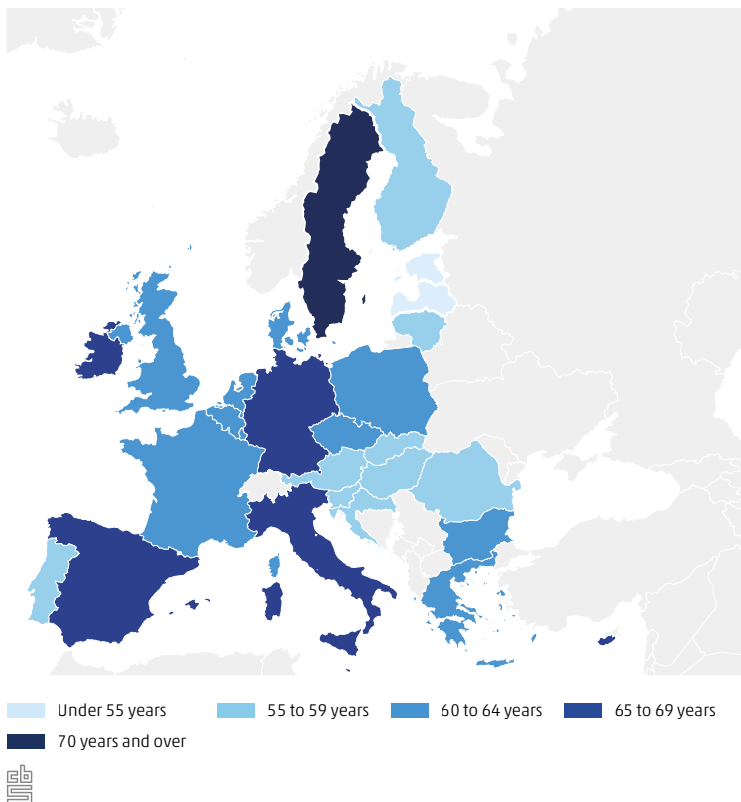
Relatively low healthy life expectancy of Dutch women

People are getting older, but do they grow old in good health? Healthy life expectancy refers to the projected number of healthy life years, for example without being hindered by health problems in one's day-to-day activities. Both Dutch men and women report such problems relatively often, but (young) women more so. Healthy life expectancy (at birth) among Dutch women is 57.8 years, well below

Female healthy life expectancy, 2016



Male healthy life expectancy, 2016



the EU average of 64.2 years. Healthy life expectancy among European women ranges from 54.9 (Latvia) to 73.3 years (Sweden).

Among Dutch men, healthy life expectancy is 62.8 years, close to the EU average of 63.5 years. Men from the Baltic countries have the lowest healthy life expectancy at birth, while Swedish men have the highest.



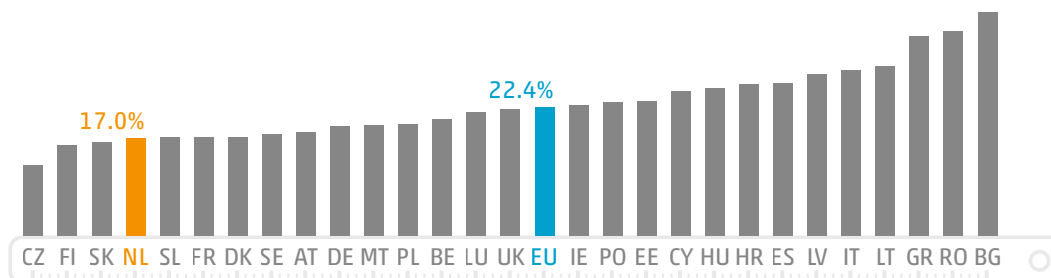
4 EU countries have a lower at-risk-of-poverty rate than the Netherlands

23% of Romanians are
at risk of poverty

14. Poverty

In 2017 some 113 million people in the European Union were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This is over one-fifth of the population. At just below 17 percent, the share was lower in the Netherlands. Income inequality in the Netherlands is also relatively low and has been around the same level since the start of the century.

Risk of poverty or social exclusion, 2017



People living in a household with an income below the European poverty threshold – which is less than 60 percent of the national median (equivalised) disposable income – are at risk of poverty. In 2017, the share of EU inhabitants at risk of poverty varied between 9.1 percent in the Czech Republic and 23.4 percent in Romania. The Netherlands has the fifth lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate: 13.2 percent. This is well below the EU average of 16.9 percent. Poverty thresholds are determined per country and depend on the country's level of prosperity. Social exclusion occurs when those members of a household who are able to work have little or no paid employment or are facing serious financial problems. According to these criteria, almost one in six people in the Netherlands are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In Romania and Bulgaria, this is the case for almost 40 percent of the population.

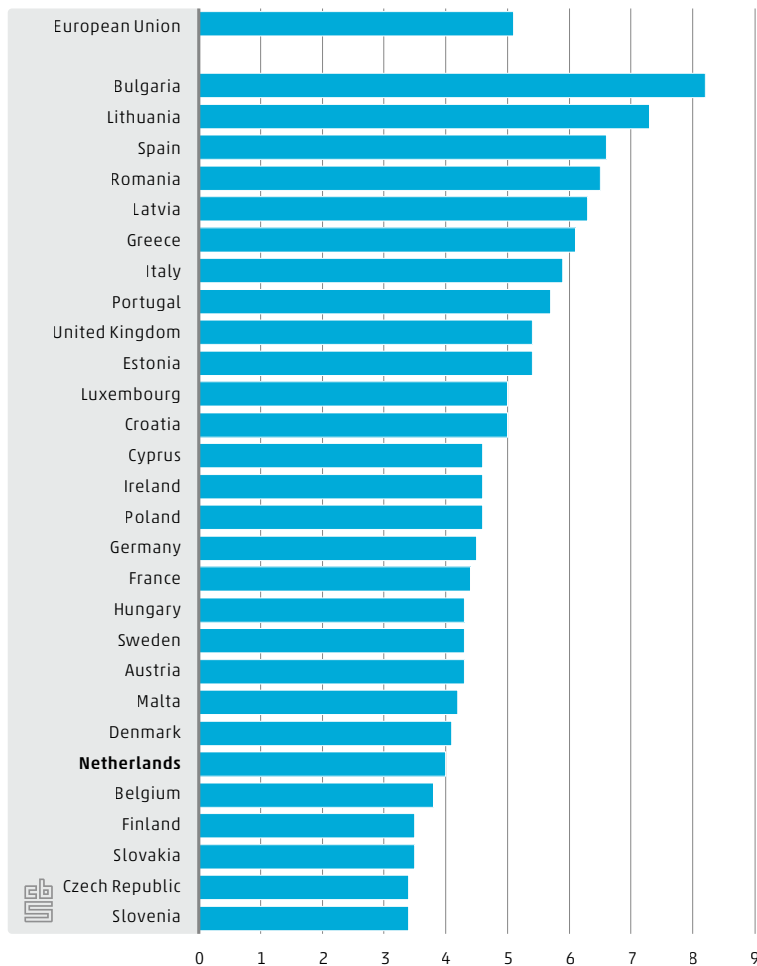
Income inequality varies greatly

In countries with relatively few incomes below the poverty line, income disparities are usually limited. The Netherlands ranks among the most egalitarian countries, together with Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Finland and

Risk of poverty or social exclusion (% of population), 2017


	Risk of poverty or social exclusion	Severe financial constraints	In households with low work intensity
Czech Republic	12.2	3.7	5.5
Finland	15.7	2.1	10.7
Slovakia	16.3	7.0	5.4
Netherlands	17.0	2.6	9.5
Slovenia	17.1	4.6	6.2
France	17.1	4.1	8.1
Denmark	17.2	3.1	10.0
Sweden	17.7	1.1	8.8
Austria	18.1	3.7	8.3
Germany	19.0	3.4	8.7
Malta	19.2	3.3	6.7
Poland	19.5	5.9	5.7
Belgium	20.3	5.1	13.5
Luxembourg	21.5	1.2	6.9
United Kingdom	22.0	4.1	10.1
EU	22.4	6.6	9.5
Ireland	22.7	5.2	16.2
Portugal	23.3	6.9	8.0
Estonia	23.4	4.1	5.8
Cyprus	25.2	11.5	9.4
Hungary	25.6	14.5	6.6
Croatia	26.4	10.3	12.2
Spain	26.6	5.1	12.8
Latvia	28.2	11.3	7.8
Italy	28.9	10.1	11.8
Lithuania	29.6	12.4	9.7
Greece	34.8	21.1	15.6
Romania	35.7	19.7	6.9
Bulgaria	38.9	30.0	11.1

Income inequality (80/20 ratio), 2017



Belgium. These countries score best on two different measures of income inequality: the Gini coefficient and the so-called 80/20 ratio. The Gini coefficient ranges between 0 and 1. A value of 0 means that everyone has exactly the same income, while 1 means maximum inequality: one person has all the income and all the others have none. The 80/20 ratio indicates the ratio between the highest and the lowest incomes (in 20 percent-groups).

The Nordic EU countries have the most egalitarian societies according to both standards. Large income gaps are mainly found in Eastern and Southern Europe. The gap is largest in Bulgaria with a Gini coefficient of 0.40 and a 80/20 ratio of 8.2, meaning incomes in the upper income group (80th percentile) are over eight times as high as in the lowest income group (20th percentile).

A bright, modern interior space with large floor-to-ceiling windows. Two people are standing on a balcony or ledge, looking out at a scenic view of a city canal, a bridge, and historic buildings under a clear blue sky. The interior has a minimalist design with white walls and a light-colored floor.

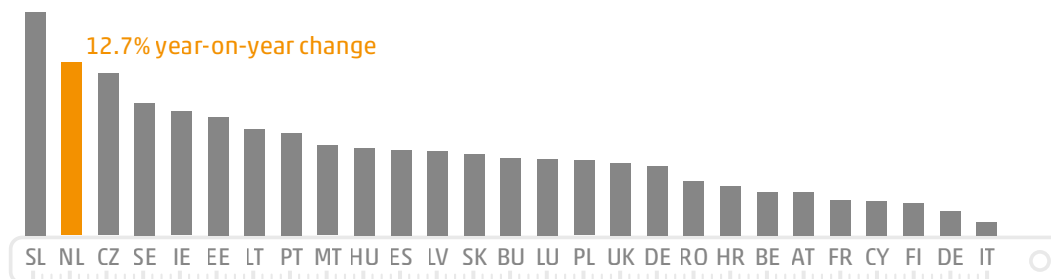
12% higher house prices in
the EU in 2018 relative to 2008

4%
rise in the Netherlands

15. House prices

In 2018, prices of new-build homes in the Netherlands rose by 13 percent. The increase was only higher in Slovenia. Around the EU, house prices show erratic and diverse developments. How many Europeans are homeowners and how many of them have mortgage debts?

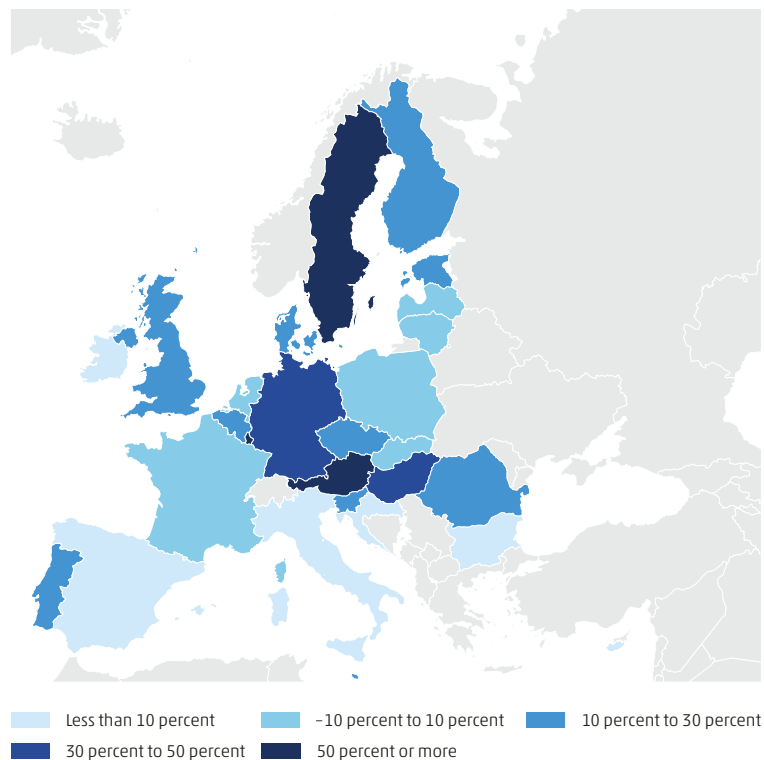
Prices of new-build homes, 2018



Both in the Netherlands and around Europe, property price trends have been erratic over the past decade. The 2008 financial crisis resonated on the Dutch property market for a long time. Following price drops of up to 20 percent in 2012–2013, house prices in the Netherlands bounced back relatively quickly. In 2018, the Dutch house price index was over 4 percent up on 2008.

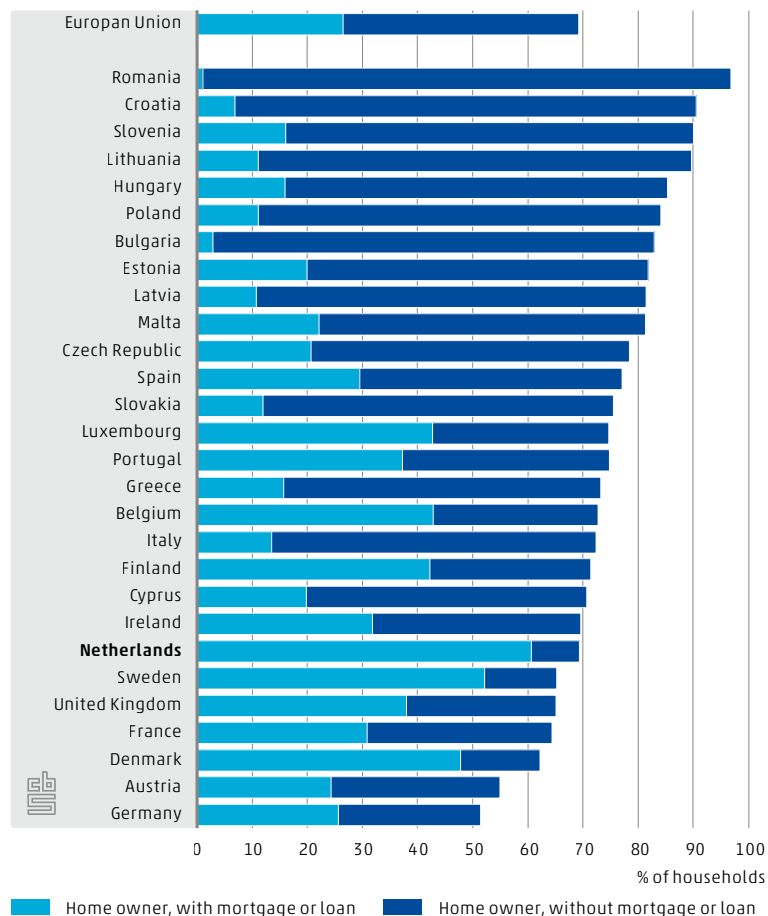
Across the European Union, house prices were on average 12 percent up on 2008 but showed major differences. In some countries, house prices showed little or no decline, but a steady rise. Sweden saw the sharpest rise in house prices at over 70 percent. In eleven countries, 2018 prices were below pre-crisis level. The furthest below that level was Spain, where prices were down by over 19 percent relative to 2008.

Housing price index, 2018 relative to 2008¹⁾



¹⁾ Italy, Austria and Romania 2018 relative to 2010.

Home ownership, 2017



Home ownership rates

Nearly 70 percent of the Dutch population live in owner-occupied homes. This puts the Netherlands at the bottom of the ranking in the European Union. Home ownership rates are particularly high in the former Eastern Bloc countries but relatively low in the (larger) countries of Western Europe.

Of all EU countries, the Netherlands has the highest share of homeowners with a mortgage or loan on their house. Sweden and Denmark, too, have relatively many homeowners with mortgage debt. In most other EU countries, the share of owner-occupied homes encumbered with a mortgage is half that in the Netherlands. In Romania, for example, nearly all homes are owner-occupied. The vast majority are mortgage-free.



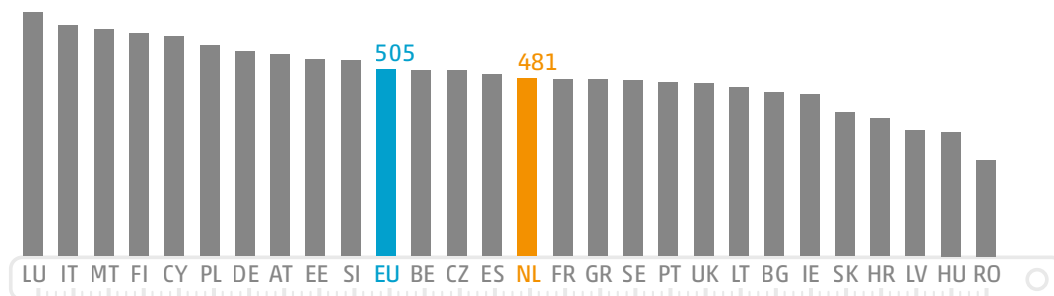
25% of cars less than
2 years old in Ireland

15% of cars less than
2 years old in the Netherlands

16. Car ownership

There were over 8 million passenger car registrations in the Netherlands at the start of 2017. With a population of over 17 million, this means 481 passenger cars for every thousand inhabitants; less than the EU average of 505 cars per thousand inhabitants. Which country has the largest number of 'young' passenger cars? Which country has the highest diesel car sales?

Car ownership per 1,000 inhabitants, 2017



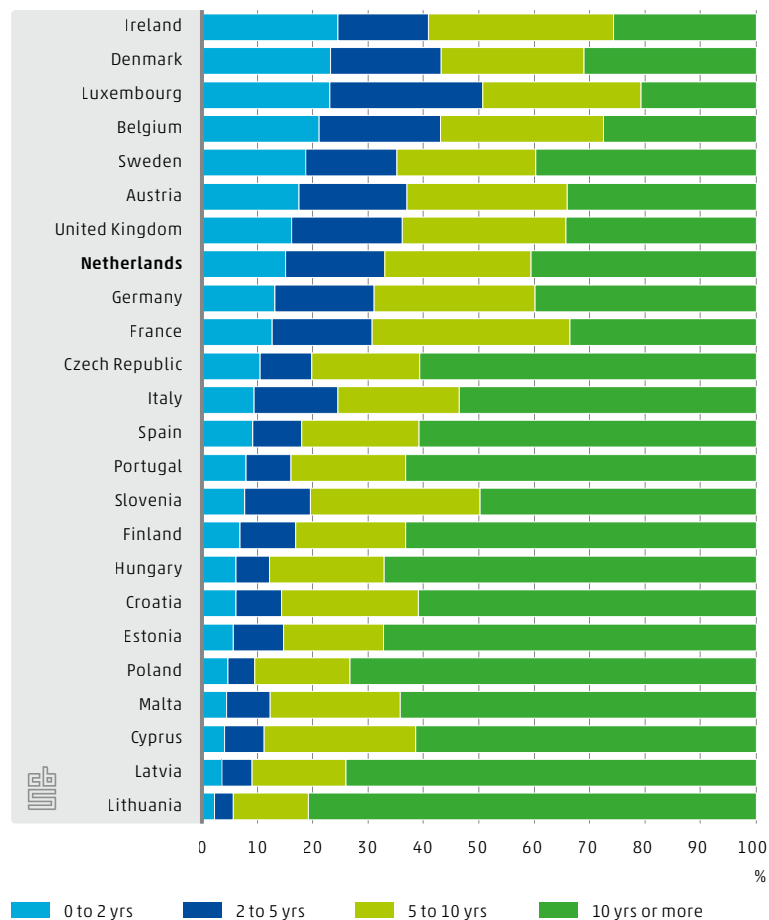
With 662 cars per thousand inhabitants, Luxembourg has the highest car ownership rate in the EU, followed by Italy (625) and Malta (615). The country with the lowest rate is Romania with only 261 cars per thousand inhabitants. Other countries with low car ownership are Latvia and Hungary with fewer than 350 cars per thousand inhabitants.

Most young cars in Ireland

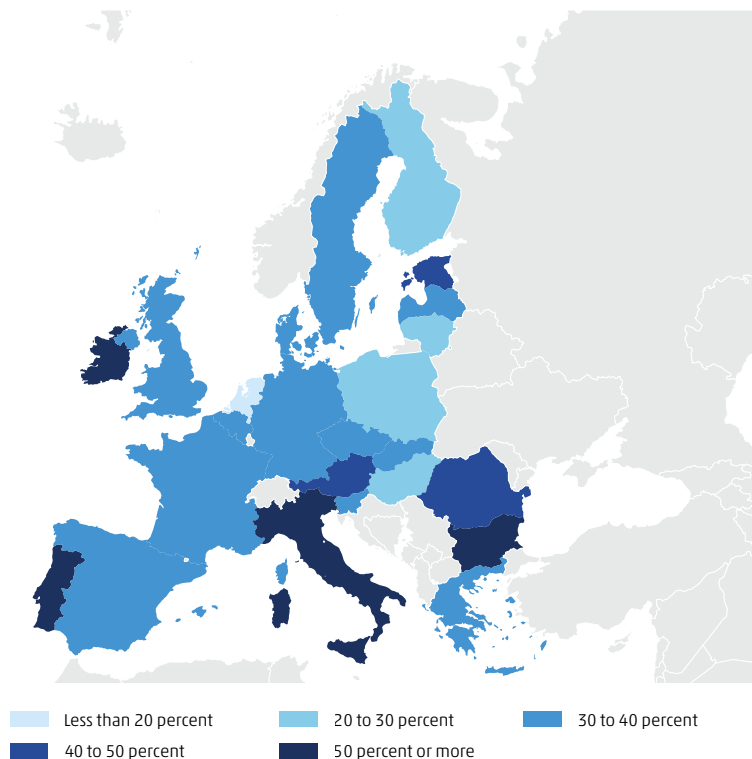
The youngest car fleet is found in Ireland: 24.6 percent of all cars on Irish roads are no more than two years old. Denmark (23.3 percent) and Luxembourg (23.1 percent) also have relatively high shares of cars under two years of age. With 15.1 percent, the Netherlands ranks eighth among the 24 EU countries for which this information is available.

In just over half of the EU countries, more than 50 percent of the car fleet is over ten years old. This is the case for 40.5 percent of the Dutch car fleet.

Passenger cars by vehicle age category, 1 January 2017



Share of diesel in new passenger-car sales, 2018



Source: CBS, ACEA

Few new diesel cars in the Netherlands

In 2018, over 15 million new passenger cars were sold in the European Union. Slightly more than one-third were diesel-powered vehicles. In Bulgaria, Ireland, Portugal and Italy, more than half of all new cars sold were diesel-driven. The share of diesels was smallest in the Netherlands: 12.9 percent, down from 24.8 percent five years previously (2013). Out of all new cars sold in the European Union in 2018, 2 percent were plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs). In the Netherlands, PEVs accounted for 6.7 percent of all new cars sold, the largest share in the EU after Sweden (8 percent). Poland had the lowest share of new PEVs: 0.2 percent.



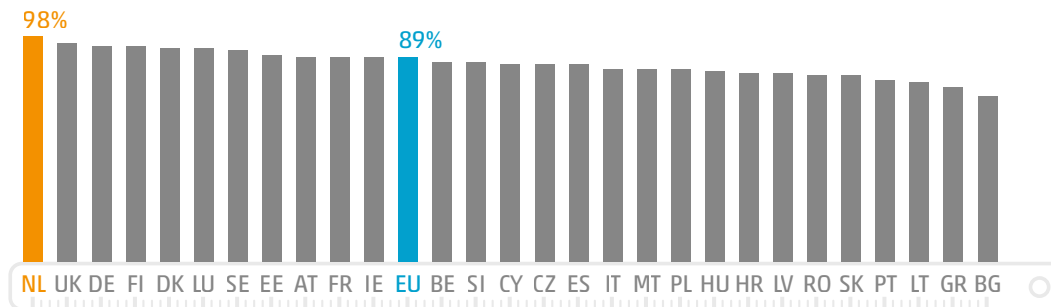
84% of Dutch people are online
on smartphones away from home or work

39% is the share
in Italy in 2018

17. Internet

ICT plays an ever-larger role in daily life. Many people use the internet at home and at work, but also elsewhere. Smartphones with high-speed internet in particular allow people access virtually anywhere, anytime. In 2018, 98 percent of Dutch households had internet access, putting the Netherlands at the forefront within Europe. The Netherlands also ranks among the European top in terms of high-speed broadband connectivity and mobile internet usage.

Internet household penetration rates, 2018

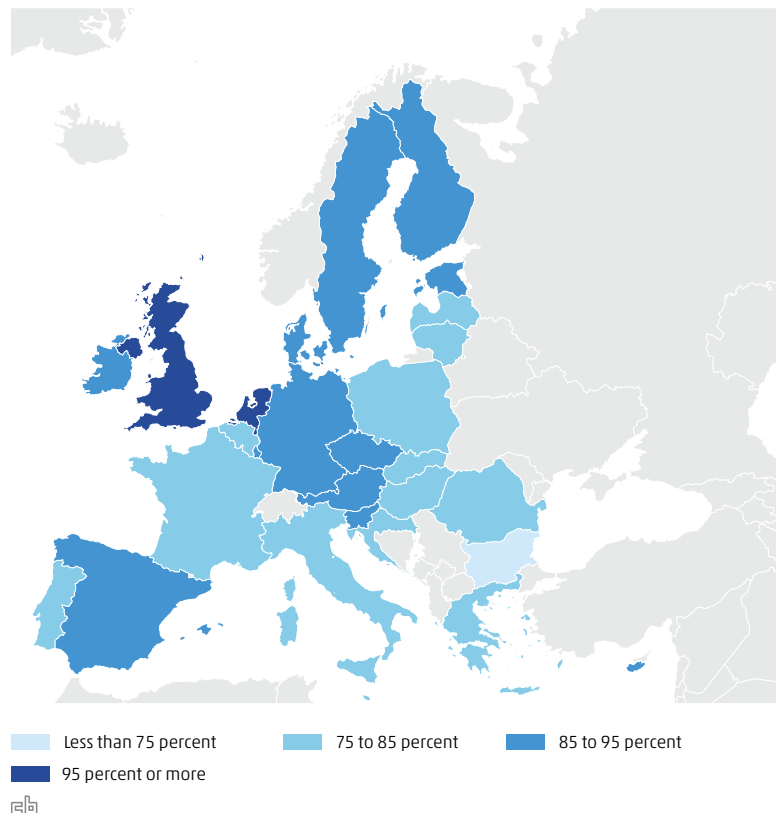


Practically all Dutch homes have broadband internet access. With access in 97 percent of all households, the Netherlands topped the EU ranking in 2018. On average, 86 percent of European households have broadband internet access. Greece and Bulgaria have the lowest shares at 76 and 71 percent respectively. Along with Denmark and the United Kingdom, the Netherlands leads the pack in terms of daily internet usage. Ninety percent of Dutch people aged 16 to 74 years use the internet on a daily basis, versus 76 percent on average in the EU population.

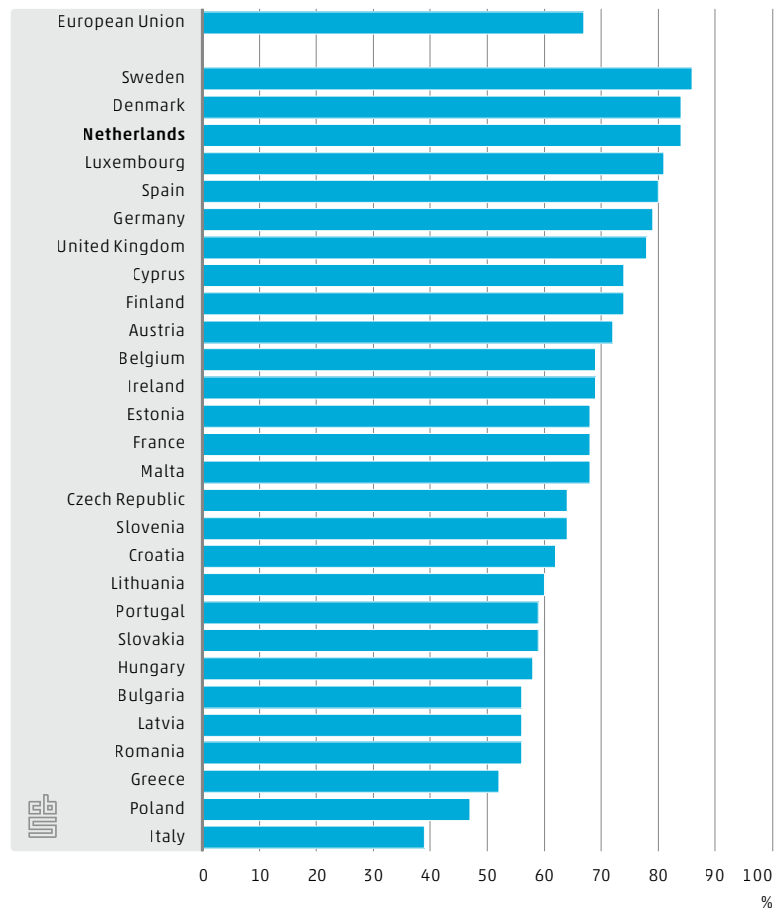
The Netherlands among leaders in mobile internet usage

In 2018, Denmark, Sweden (both 88 percent) and the Netherlands (86 percent) had the highest internet penetration rates in Europe on mobile devices such as a laptop, tablet or smartphone. On average, 69 percent of the EU population used mobile devices to access the internet that year.

Households with broadband internet access, 2018



Use of mobile phone or smartphone to access the internet, 2018

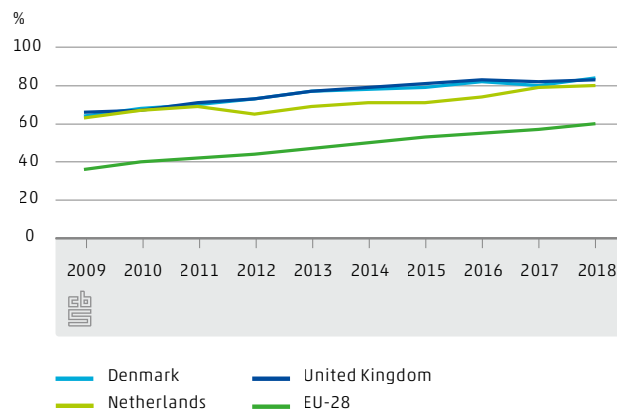


Smartphone use popular in the Netherlands

In 2018, 84 percent of people in the Netherlands and Denmark and 86 percent of people in Sweden had smartphone internet access outside of the home or work. This gave them the lead in the EU, where on average 67 percent of smartphone users had access. Smartphone access away from home or work is lowest in Italy at 39 percent.

The Netherlands shares second place with Denmark in terms of internet banking (86 percent) and ranks third for consumer purchases online (80 percent).

Online purchases





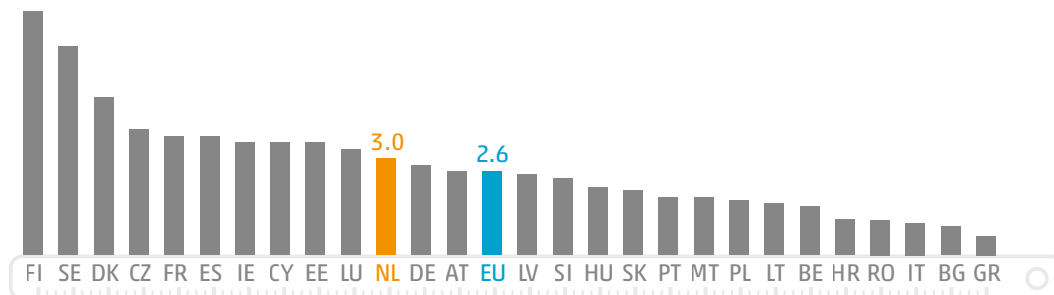
€ 830 spent by Dutch on an average foreign holiday

€ 857
is the EU average

18. Holidays

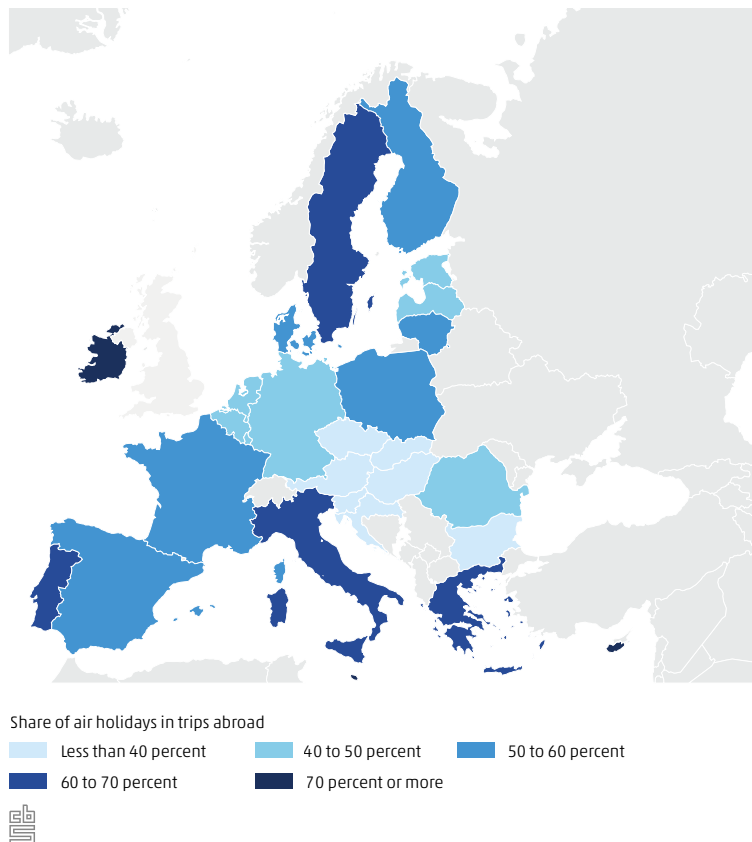
Over 85 percent of people in the Netherlands go on holiday. Nearly two-thirds of them take a trip abroad. Almost 49 percent travel to foreign destinations by plane, while around 44 percent go by car. How often do people from other European countries go on holiday, and do they stay in their own country or do they spend it abroad? How often do they travel by air?

Holidays per inhabitant, 2017

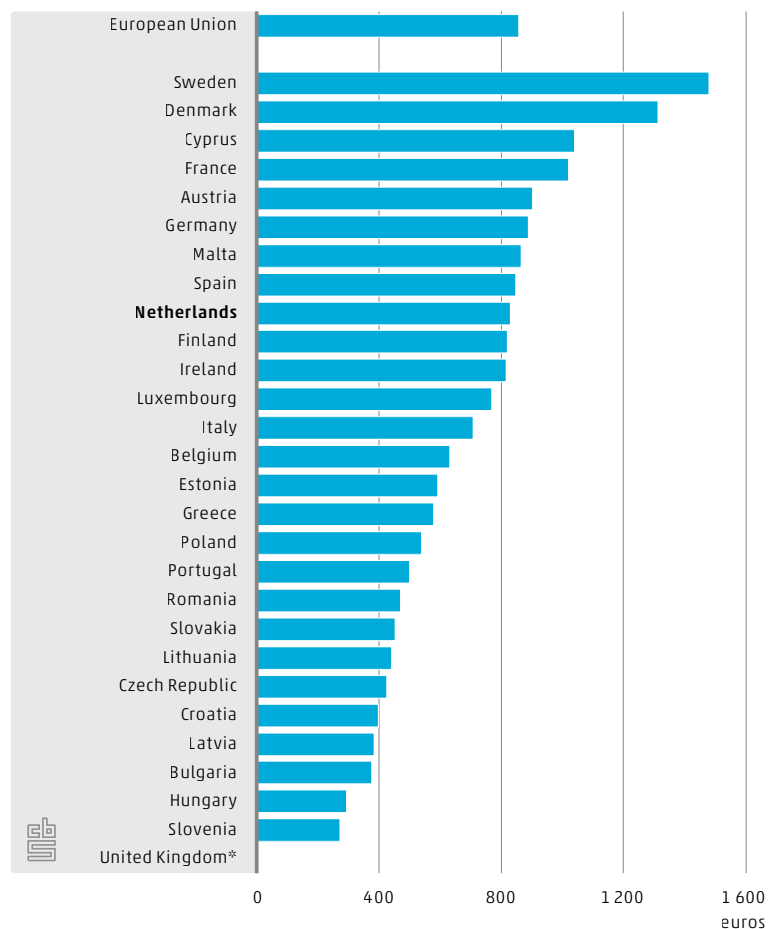


Over 85 percent of people in the Netherlands go on holiday. Nearly two-thirds of them take a trip abroad. Almost 49 percent travel to foreign destinations by plane, while around 44 percent go by car. How often do people from other European countries go on holiday, and do they stay in their own country or do they spend it abroad? How often do they travel by air? Over 62 percent of Europeans (223 million) go on holiday, with half of them spending the holiday abroad. In total, these are more than 118 million holidays. People living in smaller countries relatively often travel abroad for their holidays, while those living in larger EU countries are more likely to stay in their own country. In France and Spain, for example, nine in every ten holidaymakers stay in their own country. Dutch holidaymakers going abroad prefer spending their long holiday (four or more nights) in Spain or Germany. Their favourite destinations for a short break (one to three nights) are Germany and Belgium.

Air holidays to foreign destinations, 2017



Average expenditure per holiday abroad, 2017



* No data.

Taking the plane abroad

For holidays abroad, nearly 49 percent of Dutch tourists take an airplane to reach their destination. Almost 44 percent travel by car, while the remaining 7 percent take other means of transportation such as a bus, train or boat. Island residents are relatively likely to take a plane to a foreign holiday destination: over 98 percent of people in Cyprus, and 92 percent of holidaymakers in Malta. For people from Ireland as well, a trip abroad is more likely by air (88 percent). The inhabitants of Slovenia are least likely to fly abroad for leisure. Slightly over 8 percent of their foreign holidays are by air.

Swedish spending the most

On average, Swedish holidaymakers abroad spend the most, namely close to 1,500 euros per person, followed by Danish tourists with over 1,300 euros. Dutch holidaymakers spend 830 euros per person, less than the EU average of 857 euros. Slovenians spend the lowest amount at around 270 euros.

A port scene with a large container ship in the background and a port worker in the foreground. The ship is blue and white, with 'CMA CGM SAM' and 'LIMASSOL' visible on its side. It is loaded with many colorful shipping containers. A port worker in a white uniform and dark vest is in the foreground, leaning on a yellow structure. A flag is visible on the left. The water is blue, and the sky is clear.

€ 612 bn in goods exports from
the Netherlands in 2018

75% of these goods
went to another EU country

19. International trade

Small, open economies such as the Netherlands and Belgium are heavily dependent on international goods flows, more so than many other European economies. How large were these goods flows in 2018, and what are the main export products, for example?

Export value, 2017

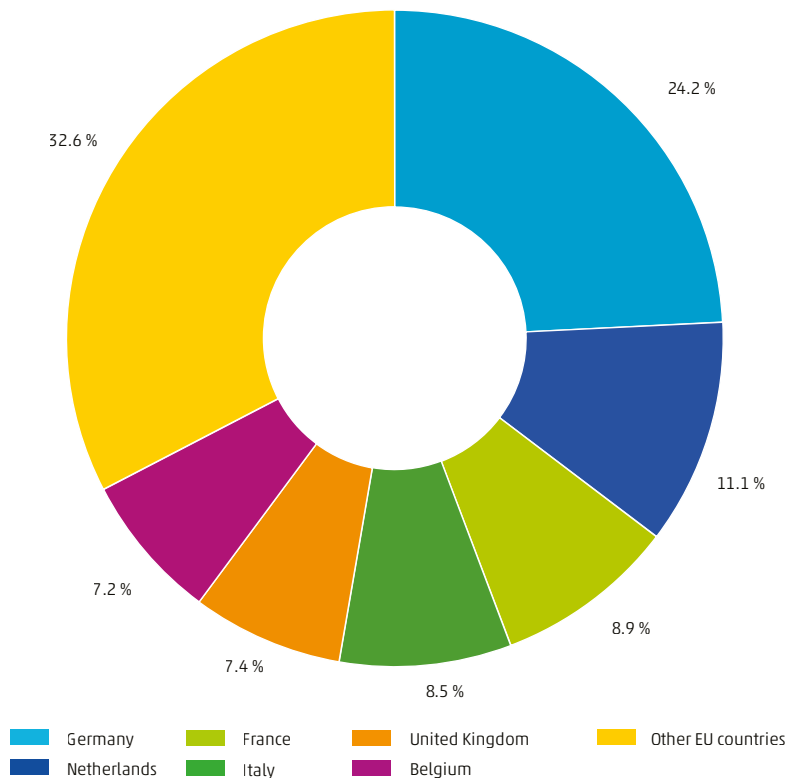


In 2018, Dutch goods exports stood at 612 billion euros. This made the Netherlands the second largest goods exporter in the European Union, following Germany (1,334 billion euros) at a great distance. France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Belgium together account for one-third of all exports from the EU. The remaining 22 countries take up a combined share of one-third as well. Croatia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Latvia, Cyprus and Malta each exported less than 15 billion euros in goods last year. At more than 2.5 billion euros, Malta was the smallest goods exporter within the EU.

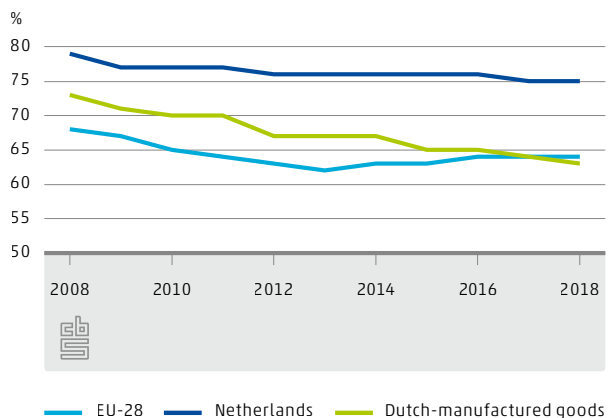
Large transit and re-export flows

The relatively high level of Dutch exports is mainly due to significant transit trade and re-export flows. Some explanations for the large flows of transit goods – with or without minor processing in the Netherlands – include the country's favourable geographic location, the Port of Rotterdam and the experience with complex logistical processes. But even without these transit and re-export flows, Dutch exports are substantial compared to other EU countries. Around 55 percent of Dutch exports consist of products manufactured domestically.

Export value per EU country (including quasi-transit trade), 2018



Intra-EU exports



EU-oriented goods exports

More than most other EU countries and partly due to the transit flows, the Netherlands is focused on the European Union. Three-quarters of its exports are destined for another EU country, while this share is 64 percent for the EU as a whole.

With the exception of the United Kingdom (47 percent) and Cyprus (28 percent), all EU countries export more than half of their goods to other EU countries. Most EU-oriented are Slovakia (86 percent), the Czech Republic and Luxembourg (both 84 percent).

Over the past decade, however, the Netherlands has shifted its focus more and more towards non-EU markets. This trend is even more pronounced in its domestic exports: in 2008, 73 percent of these exports were intra-EU but this share had dropped to 63 percent by 2018. The domestic goods package manufactured for the EU differs from the goods that are shipped to other countries. Intra-EU exports are dominated by agricultural goods (28 percent) and chemical products (22 percent). With a share of 31 percent, machinery and transport equipment are the main export goods with a non-EU destination.

A photograph of three women in the foreground, smiling and holding large bunches of red and yellow tulips. The woman on the left has short white hair and wears a blue scarf. The woman in the middle has short reddish-brown hair. The woman on the right wears a grey hijab and a dark blue jacket, giving a thumbs-up. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people.

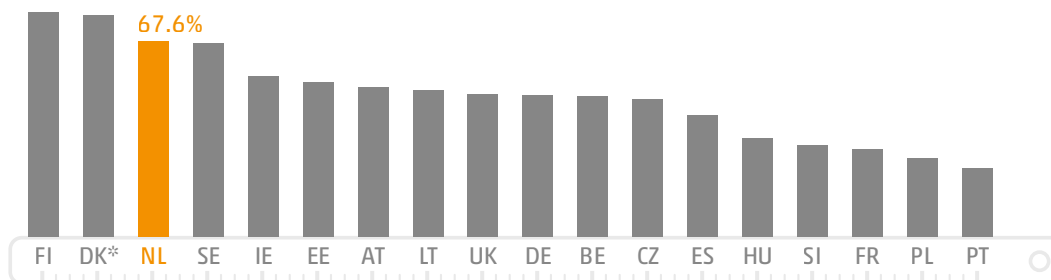
60% of Dutch people trust
national parliament

17% of Polish citizens
show this trust

20. Trust

An important measure for social cohesion, aside from participation in society, is people's trust in society. Within the European Union, the Netherlands scores high on levels of trust, in other people as well as in social and political institutions. What are trust levels like in other European countries?

Trust in others, 2016 (*2014)



Source: CBS, European Social Survey



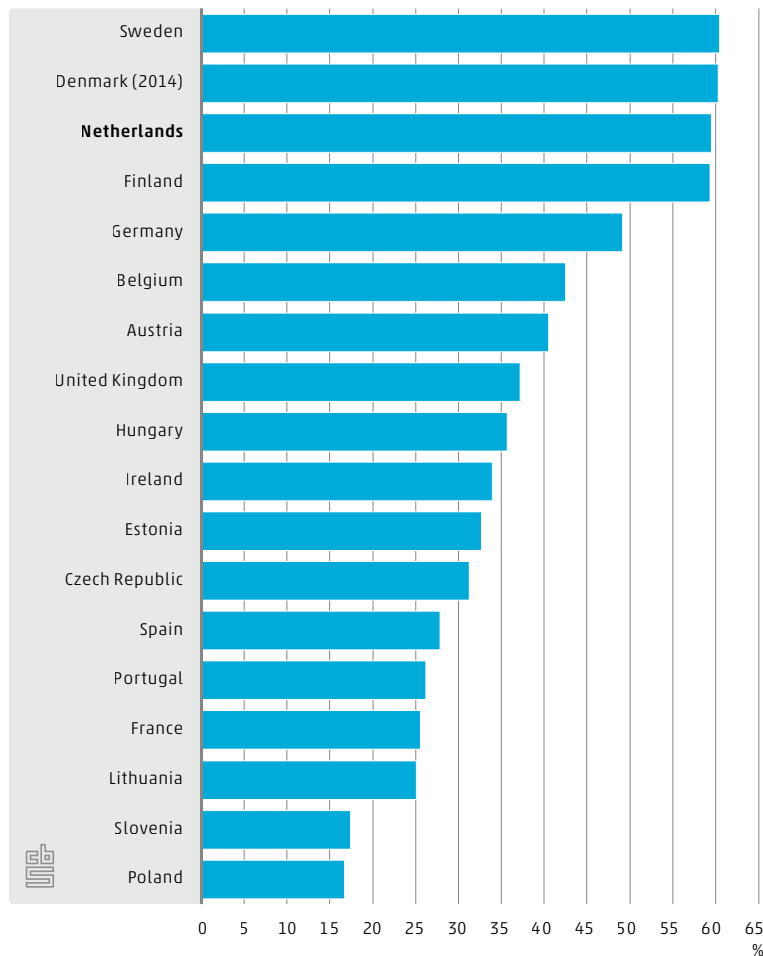
Trust in the legal system

Trust in the legal system, 2016



84

Trust of population in national parliament, 2016



Source: CBS, European Social Survey.

Wide scepticism about Parliament

Political trust is an important indicator of how democratic a society is. Close to 60 percent of the Dutch population trust their national parliament. This puts the Netherlands at the top of Europe alongside Sweden, Denmark and Finland. Especially Polish and Slovenian citizens are sceptical about how their parliament works. In many countries, there is also little trust in politicians. No more than one in ten inhabitants of France, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Slovenia trust the elected representatives and political parties of their own country.

Only in Lithuania, a narrow majority have faith in the European Parliament. Slightly less than half of the inhabitants of Finland trust this institution. The share stands at 41 percent in the Netherlands. At the end of the list are France and the United Kingdom, where less than one-quarter of the population have faith in the European Parliament.

A photograph of two young children with blonde hair hugging each other outdoors. The child on the left is wearing a purple jacket and has their mouth open in a joyful expression. The child on the right is wearing a pink and white plaid jacket and is looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and foliage.

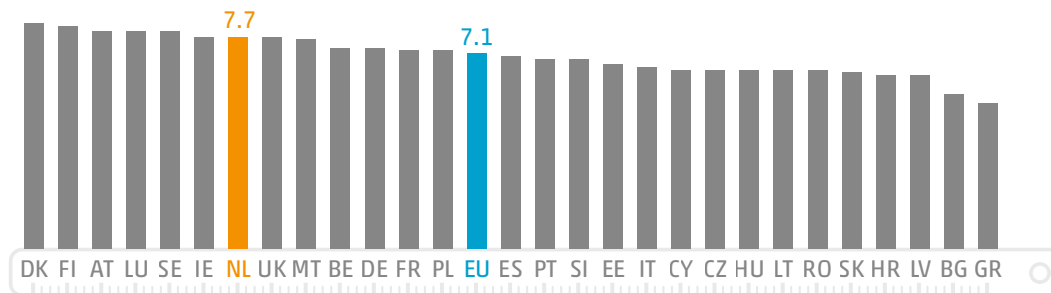
63% are positive about the future
of (grand)children in the Netherlands

86%
are positive in Finland

21. Well-being

Dutch adults are relatively satisfied with their lives. They give the life they lead a 7.7 out of 10 on average. Across the EU-28, people give themselves an average score of 7.1. With an average of 8.2, the Danes are most contented. The Greeks rate their lives on average a 5.3, making them the least satisfied among the EU citizens.

Life satisfaction, 2016



Bron: Eurofound

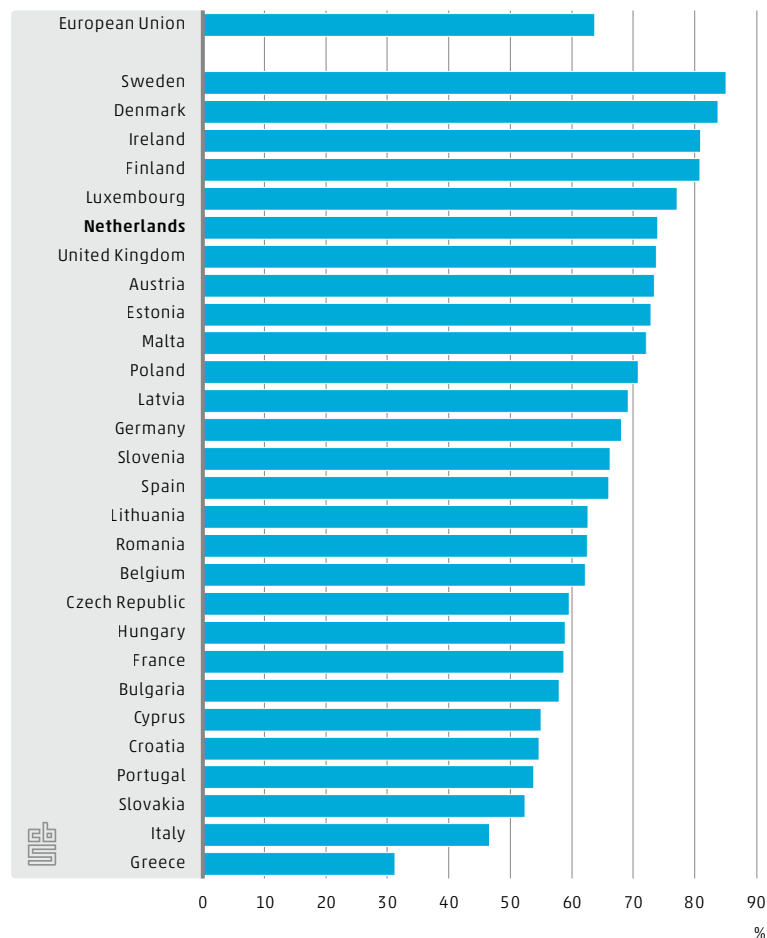


The Dutch are generally more optimistic about their own future than the average European. In 2016, nearly three-quarters of the Dutch population have a sense of trust in the future versus over six in ten EU citizens. With shares exceeding 80 percent, the inhabitants of Sweden, Denmark, Ireland and Finland have the sunniest outlook. At the other end of the scale are the Greeks: fewer than one in three say they are positive about their own future.

Less positive about (grand)children's future

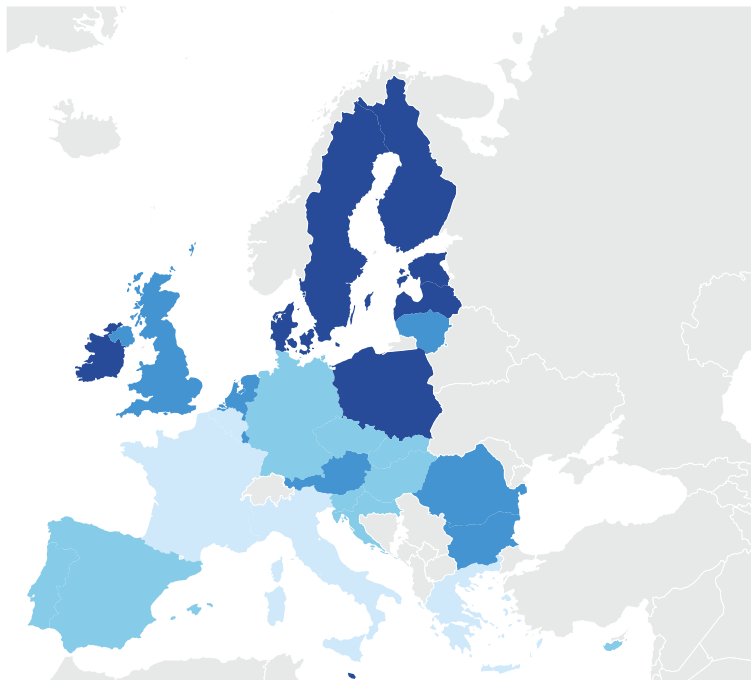
The Dutch are less positive about the outlook for their children or grandchildren compared to their own with a confidence score of 63 percent. This means the Netherlands holds the middle ground within the EU. Nordic citizens are the most confident while Greeks are least positive in this respect.

Optimistic about own future, 2016



Source: CBS, Eurofound.

Percentage of population who are optimistic about (grand)children's future, 2016



Less than 50 percent 50 to 60 percent 60 to 70 percent 70 percent or more

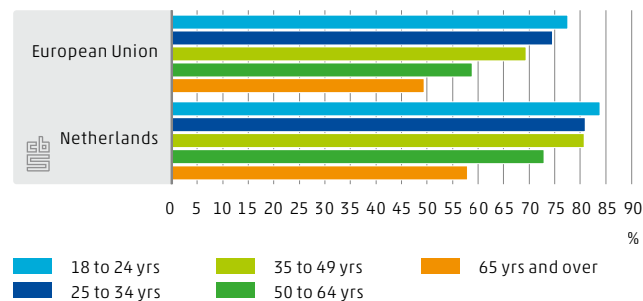


Source: CBS, Eurofound.

Young people more optimistic than older people

In all member states, young people between the ages of 18 and 25 see a brighter future than older people (over-65s). 84 percent of Dutch youth are optimistic about their own future. This share then becomes smaller with age ending at 58 percent among the over-65s. On average in the EU, 78 percent of young people are optimistic against 50 percent of the over-65s.

Optimistic about own future



18 to 24 yrs 25 to 34 yrs 35 to 49 yrs 50 to 64 yrs 65 yrs and over

Source: CBS, Eurofound.



66 000

news mentions

55 600 newspaper
and web mentions

122 000
followers on Twitter

22. About CBS

CBS responds to developments in Dutch society by compiling statistical information and presenting it to the outside world as **facts that matter**. Facts are crucial for obtaining insights into societal developments and formulating answers to (policy) questions. Research at CBS is focused on broad social trends and how they are interrelated.

Quality of data

CBS gives top priority to the quality of data and strives to maximise their potential for the benefit of society. It uses state-of-the-art technology in order to convert the increasing amounts of data into usable information. This is consistently done in an innovative, society-oriented and reliable manner.

Relevant figures

CBS has offices in The Hague, Heerlen and Bonaire with altogether approximately 2,000 staff. A society-oriented working attitude is essential to CBS. CBS produces figures which are relevant to society. Every year, CBS publishes around 600 statistical surveys. Virtually every day, CBS data and figures are communicated to the outside world via news releases, video messages and social media. This results in more than 60,000 mentions per year in Dutch newspapers, on radio and television as well as on (news) websites.

Most-followed

Our data can also be found on the CBS website and in our StatLine databank, which contains over 4 thousand tables with a total of no less than 14 billion figures. All this information is available to everyone free of charge. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn (latter two in Dutch only). With 117,000 followers, the Dutch Twitter account is one of the most-followed social media channels in the Netherlands that represents a public authority. The English Twitter account currently has over 5,400 followers from around the world.

CBS in the media

66 000

news mentions



55 600

newspaper and
web mentions



200

statements by spokes-
persons on radio and TV



9 900

items on radio and TV



6 600

followers on Facebook



122 000

followers on Twitter



