



Trends

in the Netherlands

2019

**Trends
in the Netherlands
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
2016/'17- 2018/'19	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2016/'17 to 2018/'19 inclusive

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

Colophon

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68%
of all over-75s go online

78% of all Dutch consumers
buy on the internet

1. Society

Almost everyone and everything online

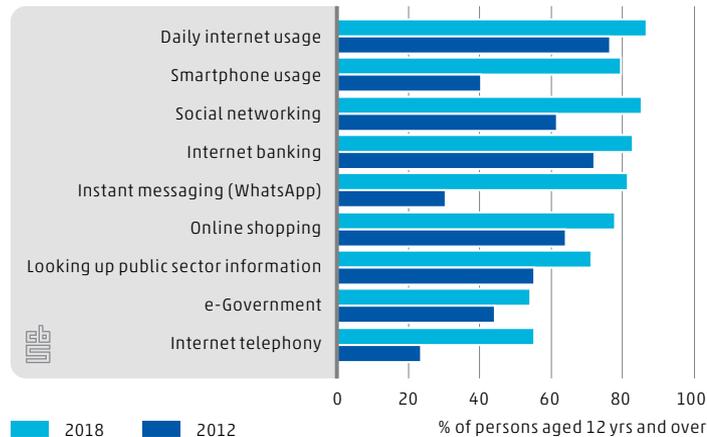
Life without internet is barely imaginable nowadays. Dutch people do more and more activities online. Apart from emailing, banking and online shopping, the internet is used more and more for other things such as text messaging, making phone calls and filing income tax returns. Practically all people in the Netherlands aged 12 and over (96 percent) had

internet access in 2018. Over 86 percent access it on a daily basis, mostly on their smartphones.

The Netherlands leading in home internet access

In terms of internet access at home, the Netherlands ranks at the top in the EU. Last year, 98 percent had access. Other EU countries with very high internet penetration rates are the United Kingdom (95 percent), Finland and Germany (94 percent). On average, 89 percent of EU households were connected to the internet last year; this was 76 percent in 2012. In large parts of Southern and Eastern Europe, home internet access is much less common, although most countries have caught up in recent years: 72 percent of Bulgarian households were connected in 2018 against only 51 percent in 2012.

Internet usage



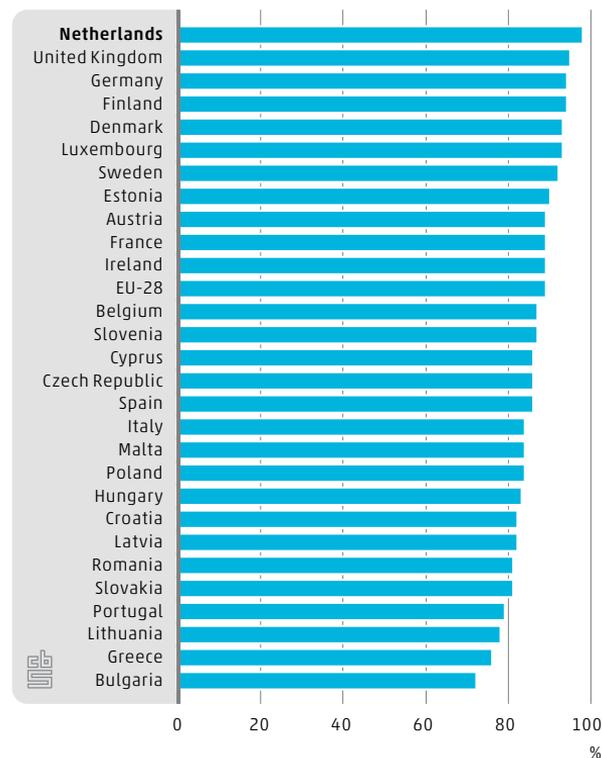
Most important device to go online is the smartphone

In 2018, the most widely used types of devices to go online were smartphones and laptops. Smartphones were used in 87 percent of households versus laptops in 78 percent. Smartphones have gained much ground in recent years: in 2012, only 50 percent of Dutch households had one or more smartphones. Tablets have become more popular as well: in 2018, 63 percent of households owned one, versus 39 percent in 2013. Likewise, game consoles and TVs were increasingly used to go online compared to previous years. On the other hand, desktop computers have lost ground: these were used by 64 percent of households to go online in 2012, but by 2018 this had declined to 50 percent.

More internet telephony

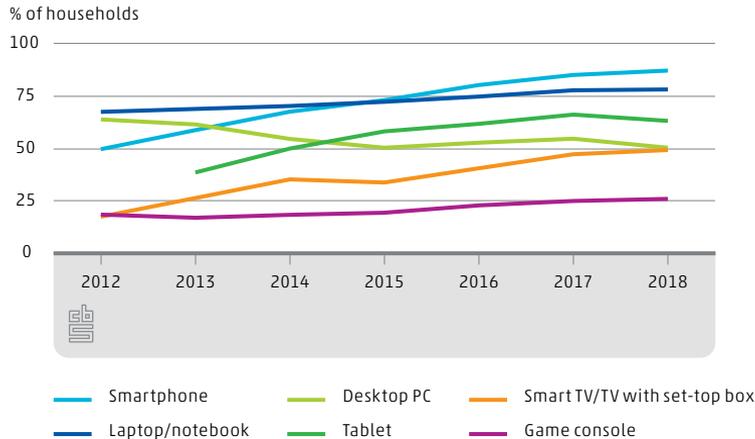
Between 2012 and 2018, the share of people who used the internet to make phone calls rose from 23 to 55 percent. Especially young people like to make internet calls: last year, this applied to 77 percent of the 12 to 24-year-olds, versus 22 percent of the over-75s. The shares were only 34 and 4 percent respectively in 2012.

Internet access of households (16 to 74 yrs), 2018

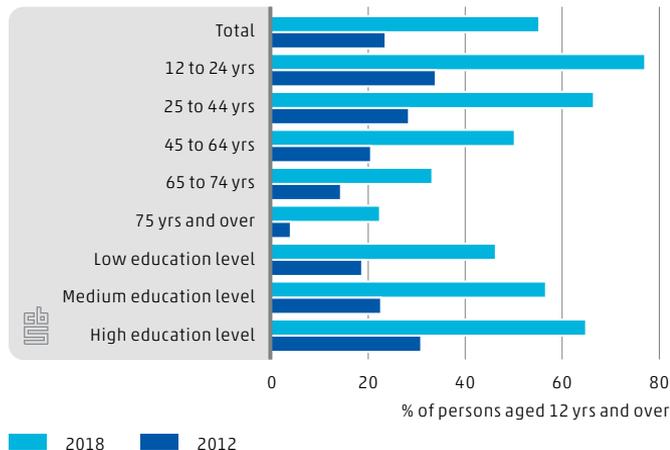


Source: CBS, Eurostat.

Devices with internet access



Internet telephony



Internet telephony is also more popular among highly educated than among low-educated: 65 against 46 percent. This gap is not explained by the fact that highly educated people use more smartphones or are younger on average. Internet telephony has risen in popularity across all education levels.

Social media on the rise among seniors

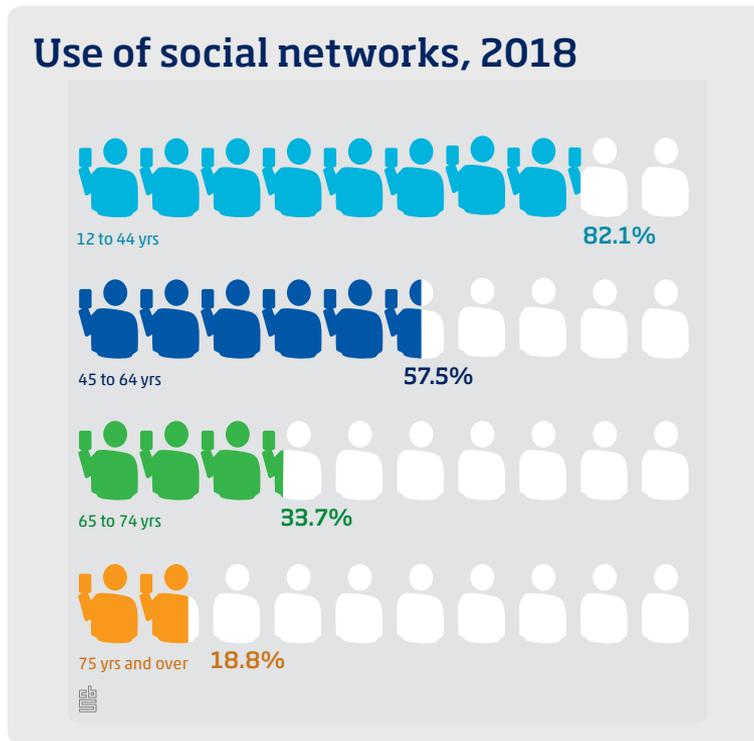
The use of social media is most widespread among young people, but elderly people have warmed to social media in recent years. Direct messaging has increased in particular with 8 in 10 Dutch people aged 12 and over now messaging via such platforms as WhatsApp. The share of elderly people using direct messaging has seen continuous growth, among the over-75s even from 15 to 32 percent in a span of two years.

Furthermore, social networks such as Facebook and Twitter have become more popular: 62 percent of Dutch people aged 12 and up were using such networks in 2018. Among the elderly, the use of social networks has increased relatively sharply: in 2018, the share of 65 to 74-year-olds had risen to 34 percent,

up from 12 percent in 2012. The share was up from 2 percent in 2012 to 19 percent in 2018 among those over the age of 75.

Looking up information on health topics

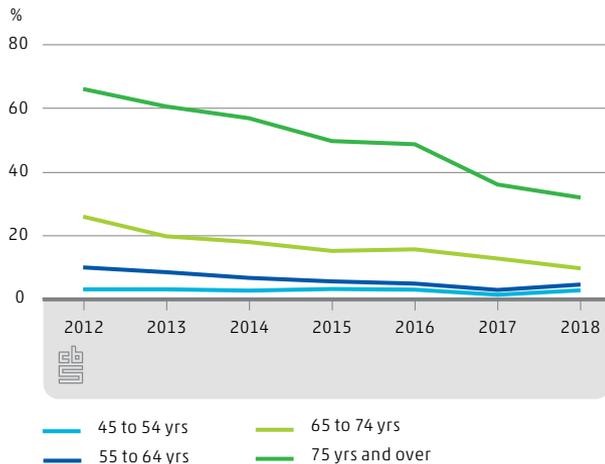
The internet is also being used to look up information. 84 percent of internet users looked up information on goods and services online in 2018. More information is being searched about health and lifestyle as well. In 2018, 67 percent of Dutch people aged 12 and up were looking for information on health and lifestyle, versus less than half in 2012. This included information on diseases, nutrition and exercise, for instance. Online searches on these topics are mainly common among the 25 to 44-year-olds: 80 percent in 2018. The share of people seeking health information was 70 percent among 45 to 64-year-olds and 52 percent among those aged 65 and over.



 Watch our subtitled video about online shopping by the elderly



Adults who have never used the internet



8 in 10 Dutch consumers shop online

In 2018, around 11.5 million people in the Netherlands – 78 percent of the population aged 12 and up – indicated they had purchased goods or services online. In 2012, this was the case for 64 percent. The share of people buying online rose most rapidly in the age group 65 and over: from 25 percent in 2012 to 45 percent in 2018. Among people aged 25 and 44 years, 94 percent said they had bought something online in 2018, versus 83 percent among the 45 to 64-year-olds. In 2012, this was still 83 and

64 percent, respectively. The most frequent purchases in 2018 for online shoppers were clothing and sports goods (56 percent), trips and holiday packages (50 percent) and entrance tickets (46 percent).

6 percent are never online

In 2018, approximately 886 thousand people or 6 percent of the Dutch population aged 12 years and over indicated they had never used the internet. This was 10 percent in 2012. Most of the non-users are found in the age group 75 and over. The group of over-75s who have never been online has become smaller. In 2012, a share of 66 percent in this age category indicated they had never used the internet; this had declined to 50 percent in 2015 and to 32 percent in 2018.

Non-users are rare in the younger age categories. Among the 45 to 64-year-olds, a share of 4 percent had never been online. Almost all people aged 25 to 44 years use the internet.

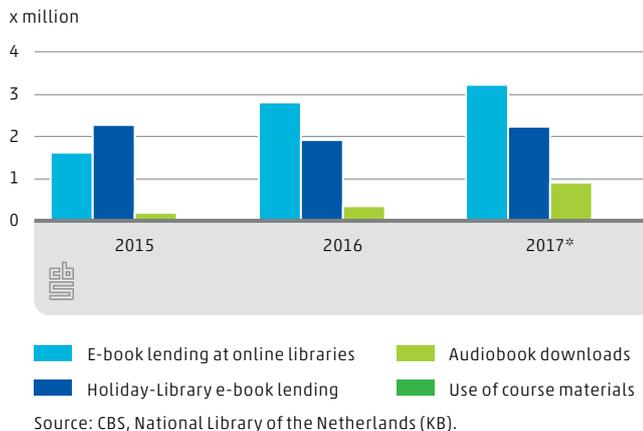
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Culture and society

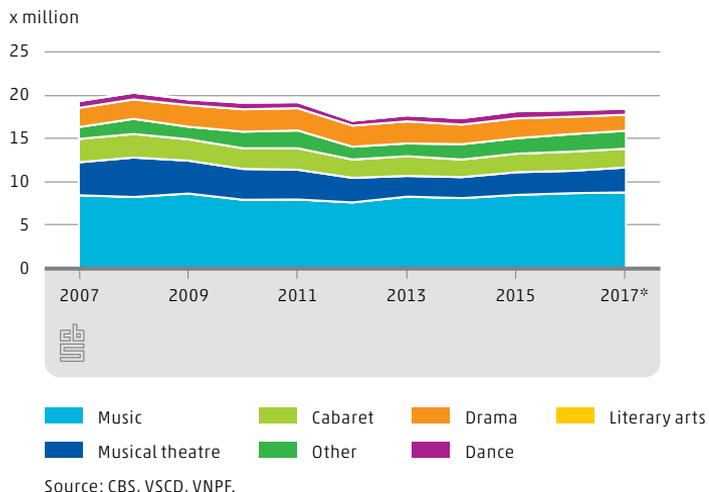
In 2017, the National Digital Library had a total of 6.4 million digital products on loan. This represents an increase of 58 percent relative to 2015. In a span of two years, the number of lent e-books rose by 41 percent to 5.4 million while the number of active digital user accounts grew by 144 percent. In comparison with physical book lending (70.5 million), e-book lending or e-lending still occupies a modest, but rising, share: in 2015 only 5 percent of all lent books were e-books, but this had already increased to 7.6 percent in 2017.

Staged performances and concerts in the Netherlands drew 18.5 million visitors in 2017, for example 1 percent more than one year previously. The largest increase (12 percent) was in the attendance of musical theatre performances (musicals and operas). Most of the musical theatre attendance – around 80 percent – was on account of musicals. Attendance rose by 10 percent to 2.3 million. Opera attendance

Digital library use

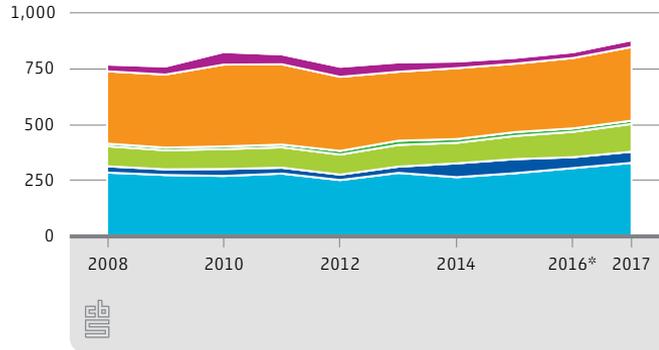


Professional performing arts, attendance



Revenues in professional performing arts

x million



- Audience revenues
- Rental for non-theatrical events
- Revenues from F&B outlets, rent revenues
- Income from sponsorships
- Subsidies
- Other operating revenues and income

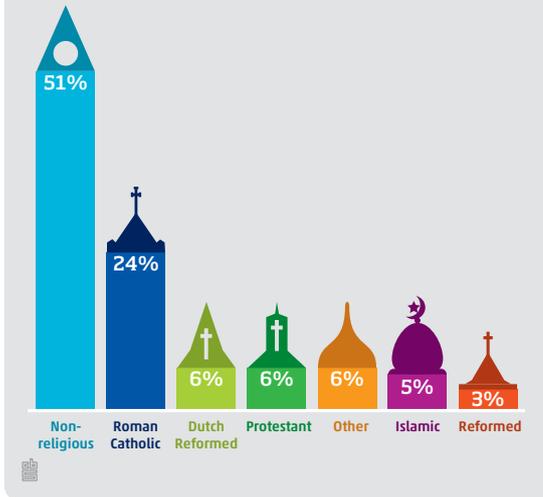
increased by 13 percent to 571 thousand. Despite the increase, last year's total attendance was below that in the record year 2008.

In 2017, the turnover at professional stage venues was up by 7 percent on the previous year and by one-quarter compared to 2008. Turnover growth was mainly due to rising audience revenues, which include entrance tickets, cloakroom receipts and merchandising. In 2017, these amounted to a total revenue of 328 million euros, 15 percent more than in 2008. Even sharper growth was recorded in revenues from rentals (78 percent) and food and beverages (38 percent). Last year, the latter reached a record 124 million euros in revenue.

[!\[\]\(341b5bdc31177a6c7da7dc713da0d169_img.jpg\) Watch our subtitled video about performing arts attendance](#)

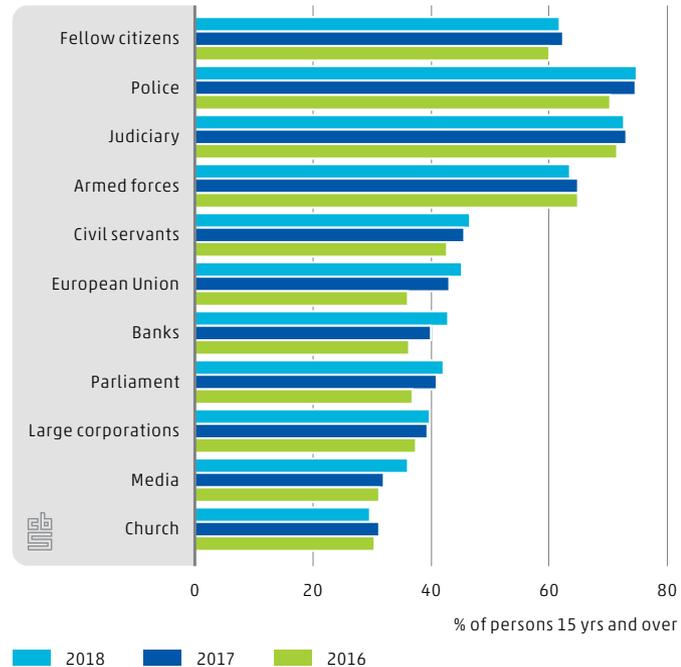


Denominations in 2017



For the first time in history, a majority of the Dutch population had no religious denomination: in 2017 a share of 49 percent aged 15 and over said they had a religious affiliation. This was still 54 percent in 2012. Attendance of religious services, too, has declined over time. Whereas 37 percent of the population still attended religious services at least once a month in 1971, this had declined to 16 percent by 2017.

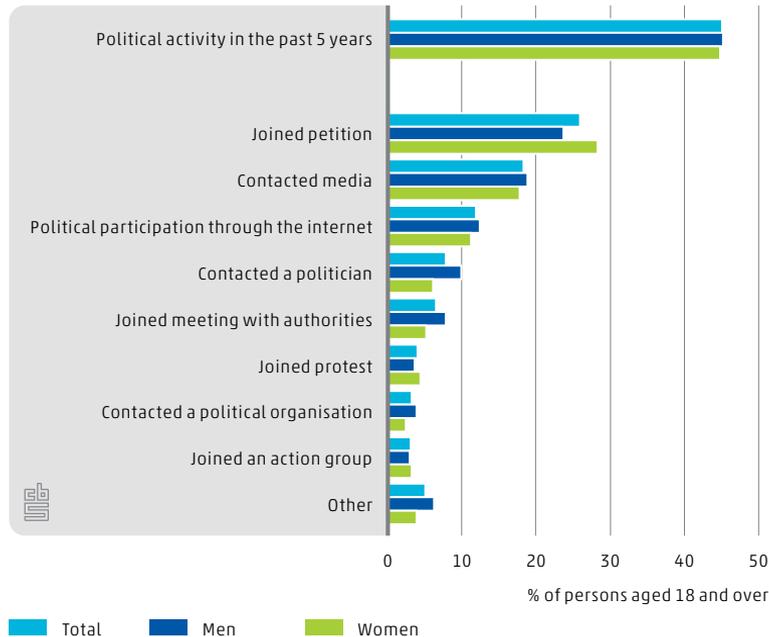
Trust in others and in organisations



[Watch our subtitled video about religious involvement](#)



Political participation, 2018



In 2018, 45 percent of adults aged 18 and over had taken part in some form of political activity over the past five years. Petition campaigns were the most popular activity: 28 percent of women and 24 percent of men had joined such a campaign. Men are relatively more likely to contact a politician or political party or participate in a government meeting.

In 2018, over six in ten persons aged 15 and over indicated they had trust in other people, the same share as in 2017. Trust levels were up slightly as well in terms of the media, in banks, civil servants, the police, Parliament and the European Union. Trust in the judiciary, the armed forces, large corporations and the church remained at similar levels.

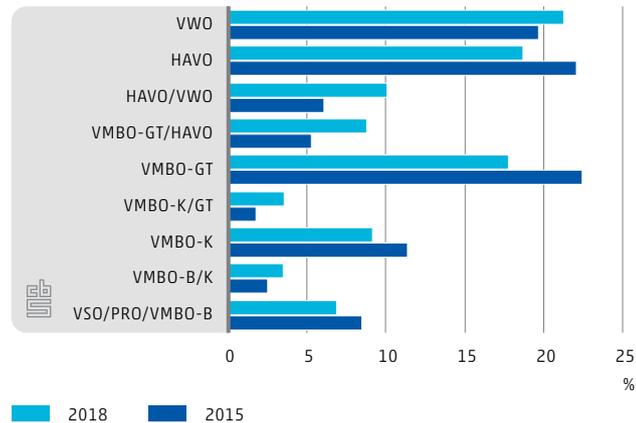
A clear majority say they trust authorities such as the police, the judiciary and the armed forces. Trust in politicians (42 percent) and in the European Union (45 percent) is distinctly lower despite a rise in recent years.

Education

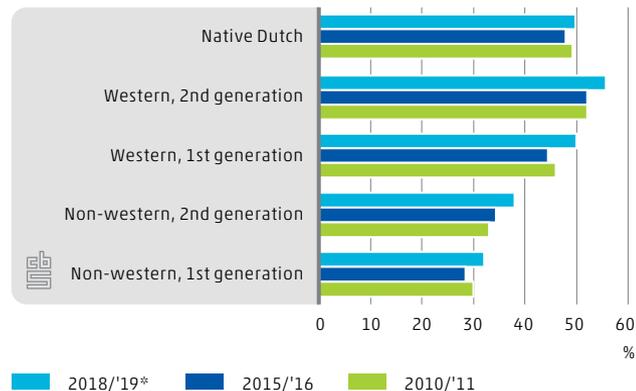
From 2015 onwards, primary teachers can have the final say about the most suitable type of secondary education for each school leaver and the objective end of year attainment test is no longer decisive. However, in cases where the attainment test indicates a higher level than the teacher's initial recommendation, the latter needs to be reconsidered. In 2015 this happened in 13 percent of the cases. By 2018, this had gone up to 23 percent. In that year, final recommendations by teachers also indicated higher levels on average than in 2015.

In the 2018/'19 school year, 48 percent of the 199 thousand students in year 3 of secondary were in senior general secondary education (HAVO), pre-university education (VWO), or a mixed class (usually HAVO/VWO). The remainder were in practical or in special secondary education. The share attending HAVO/VWO is highest among second-generation students with a western migration background and lowest among first-generation students with a non-western background.

Final recommendations on secondary education in year 8 of primary

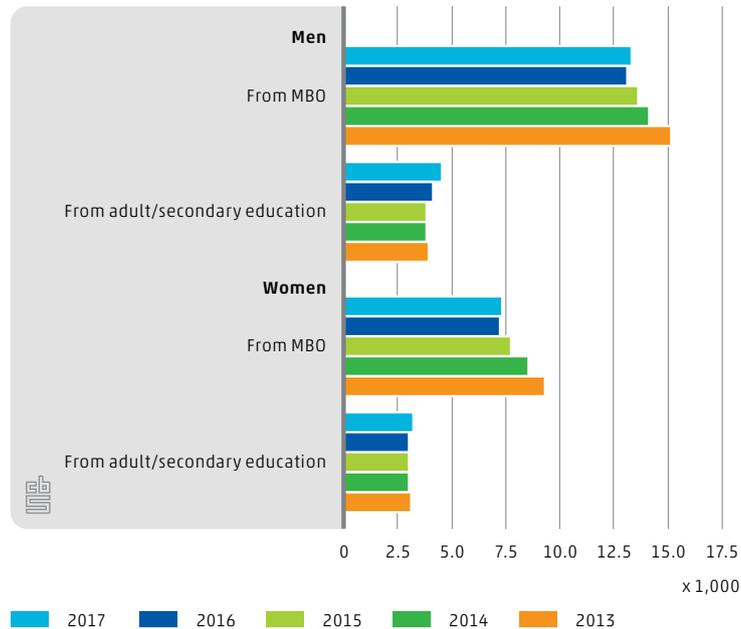


Students in year 3 at HAVO/VWO¹⁾



¹⁾ Including mixed year 3.

New secondary school dropouts under age 23¹⁾

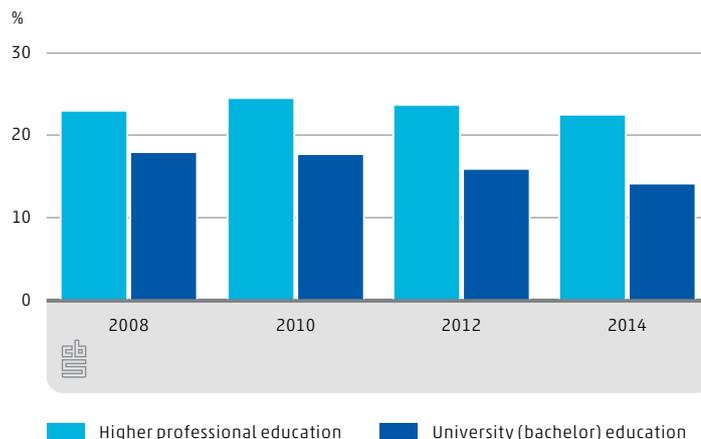


Between 2013 and 2016, public school dropout rates at HAVO, VWO or MBO level 2 among those up to age 23 declined. The total number of early school leavers rose again in 2017 but remained below the number in 2014. The majority of dropouts are male; most of them dropped out of MBO (in 2017, for example, this was the case for 75 percent of the male and 69 percent of the female early school leavers). The remaining share had been in higher secondary or secondary education for over-18s (VAVO).

¹⁾ Figures diverge from those published by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

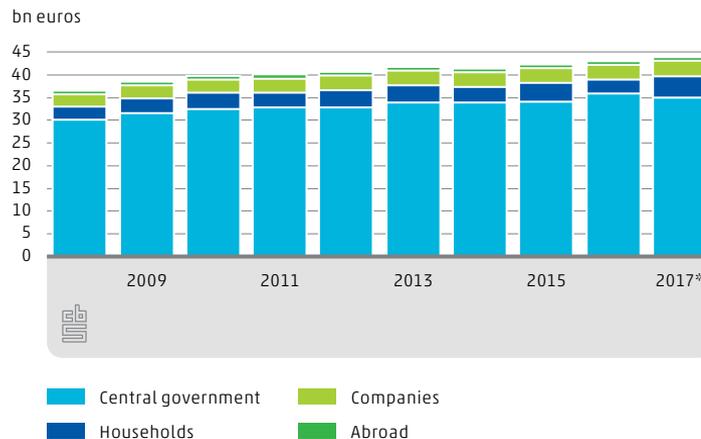
Of the students who embarked on an undergraduate course in 2008, a share of 17.9 percent had quit within two years. The number of dropouts was down to 14.1 percent among those starting in 2014. University students who switched courses have not been included here. In higher professional education (HBO), dropouts were studied in a similar fashion; here as well, first-year students from 2014 had lower dropout rates than those from 2008. Dropout rates tend to be highest in the first year and show a marginal rise after the second year. In both higher professional and university education, male students are more likely to drop out than female students.

Dropout rates in the first 2 years of higher education



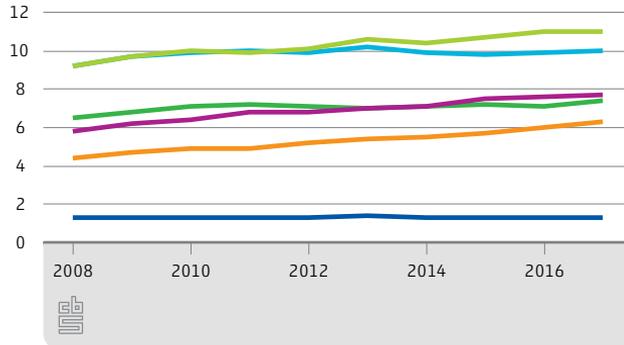
Education expenditure went up by 20 percent to 43.8 billion euros in the span of a decade. In 2017, central government accounted for 81 percent (35.3 billion euros) of this amount; most of it was used to finance educational institutions. Households mainly paid tuition fees, textbooks, learning resources, public transportation and tutoring lessons. As for the private sector, expenditure was mainly focused on training of dual education students and interns during the practical part of their education.

Allocation of education expenditure



Education expenditure¹⁾

bn euros



¹⁾ In higher professional and university education, expenditure is on teaching and research.



In 2017, the largest amount was spent on secondary and on primary education, similar to previous years. These are also the sectors with the highest number of enrolments. Spending on primary education has remained stable in recent years around 10 billion euros. The main reason for this is that central government allocates a budget to primary schools which is based on the number of pupils; this number has declined since 2008. As of 2016, the student population in secondary education has decreased, stabilising expenditure as well.

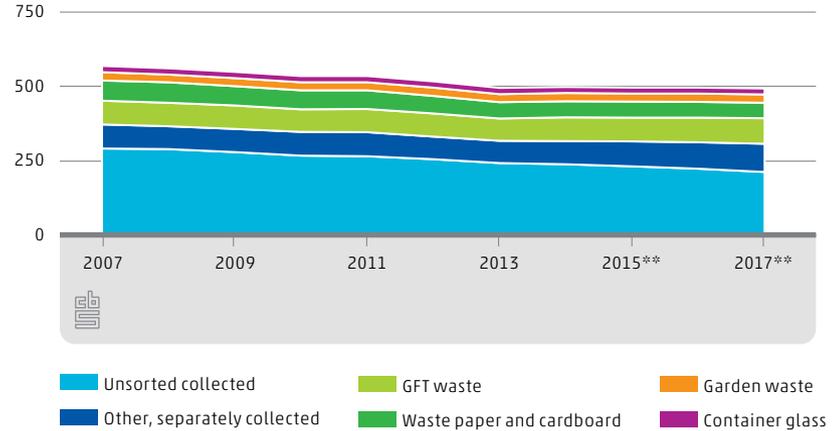
Environment

In 2017, the population of the Netherlands produced 493 kg of household waste per inhabitant. This was still 569 kg ten years previously. Of the waste produced in 2017, 57 percent (281 kg) was separately collected waste; the other 43 percent (212 kg) was collected as unsorted waste. Part of the unsorted waste was still separated by machine. The share of unsorted waste was reduced from 51 to 43 percent between 2007 and 2017.

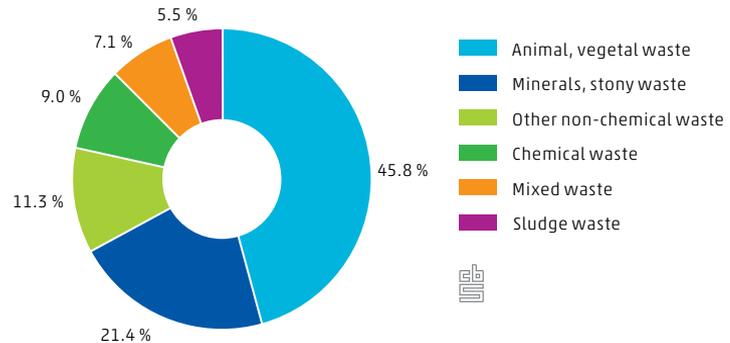
In 2017, nearly half of all industrial waste (14.7 billion kg) consisted of animal and vegetal waste from the food, beverages and tobacco industry. The bulk (95 percent) was re-used by way of recycling or incineration with energy recovery. Recycling rates for other materials included 100 percent for glass and paper waste, 98 percent for metal waste and 99 percent for the largest waste stream: animal and vegetable waste.

Composition of collected household waste

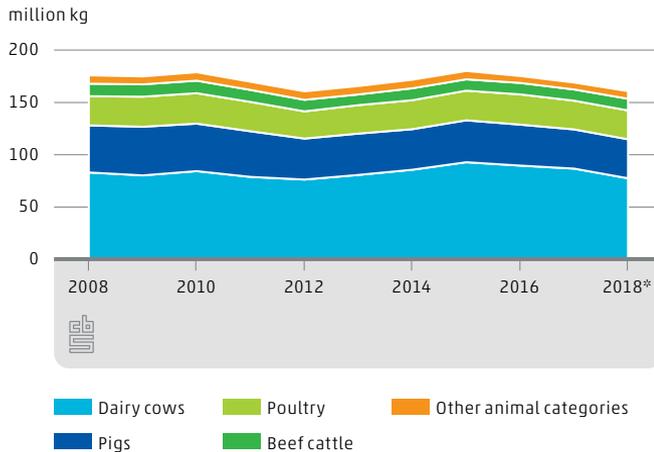
kg per inhabitant



Industrial waste, 2017*



Phosphate output from livestock manure

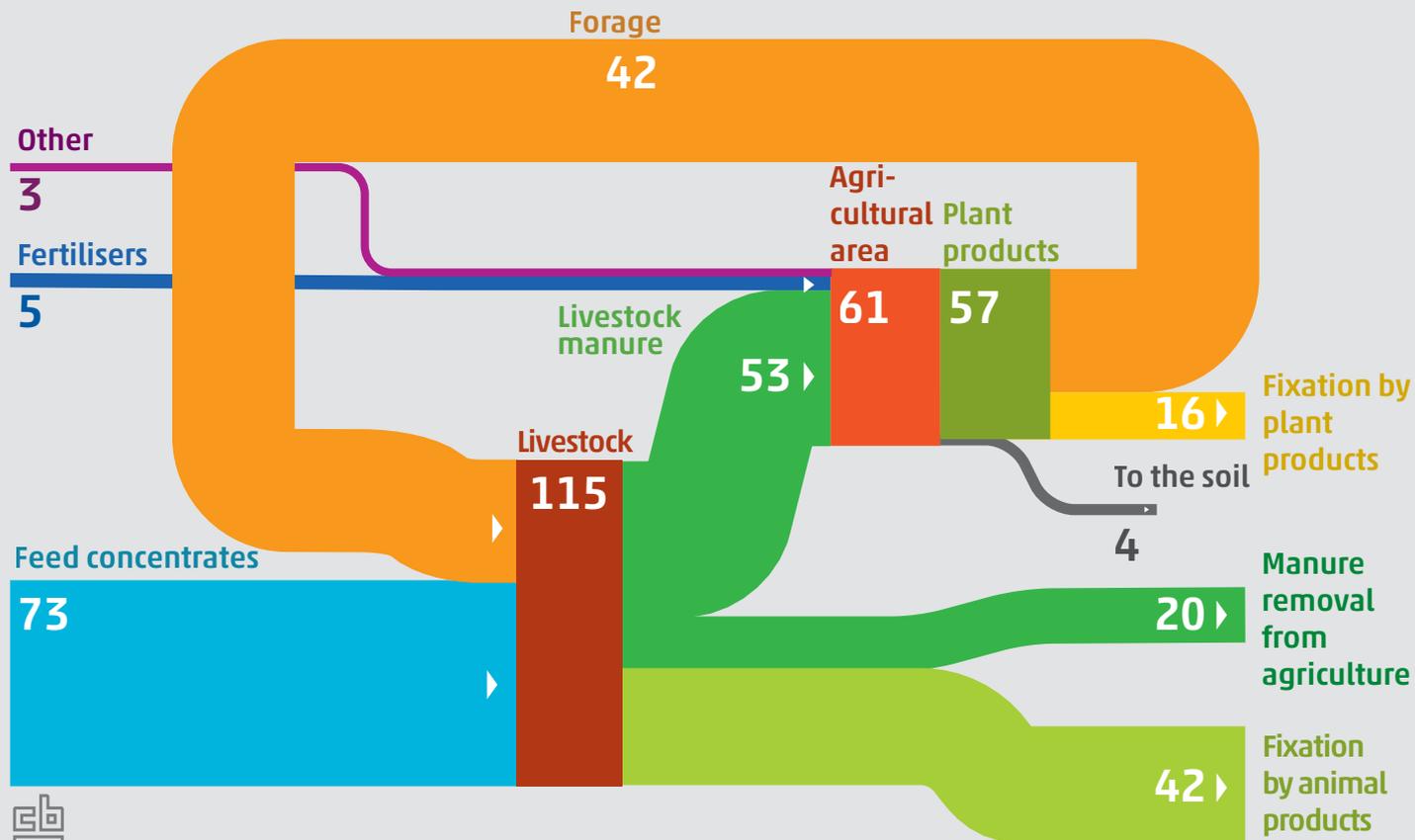


In 2018, the Dutch livestock herd produced 161 million kg of phosphate. This is 5 percent less than in 2017. The main reasons are herd reductions as well as a reduction of the phosphate content in forage and concentrated feed for dairy cattle. Of the phosphate produced by livestock, 55 percent originated from cattle, 23 percent from pigs, 17 percent from poultry and 5 percent from other farm animals.



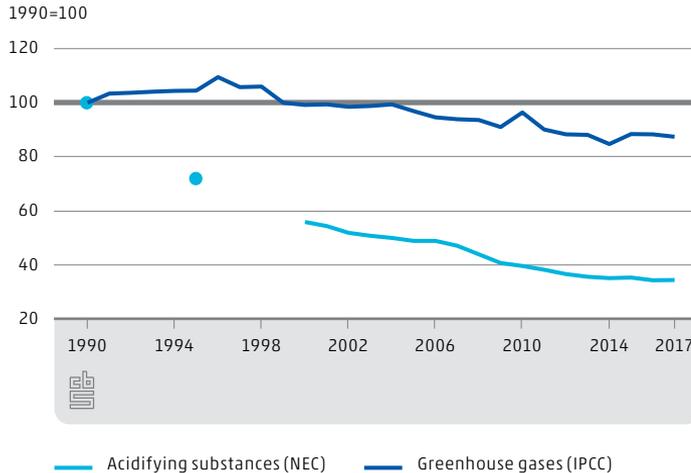
In 2017, 96 percent of the total quantity of phosphorus from agricultural sources (77.8 million kg) came from feed concentrates and inorganic fertilisers. Phosphorus output is created by animal products such as meat and milk, manure which is removed from agriculture and through crop uptake (cereals, fruit and vegetables). A phosphorus surplus is created when input exceeds output. The surplus amounted to 4 million kg in 2017. This was deposited into the soil.

Phosphorus balance in agriculture, 2017



Unit: million kg phosphorus

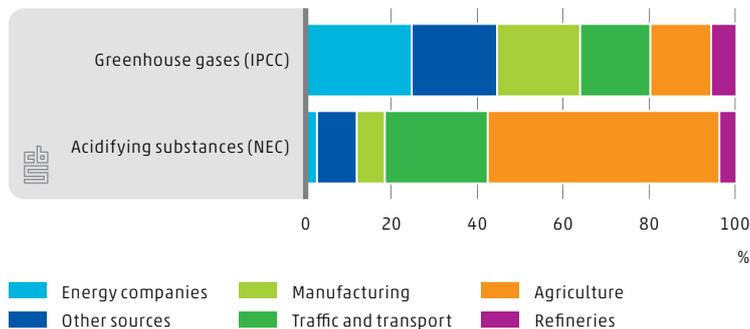
Air pollution



In 2017, emissions of acidifying substances (nitrogen oxides, ammonia and sulphur dioxide) by Dutch sources were nearly 66 percent lower than in 1990. Emissions declined sharply between 1990 and 2000 in particular. Nitrogen oxides have shown a gradual decline as of 1990. Emissions of sulphur dioxide were stable between 2003 and 2007 and only declined afterwards. By 2017, Dutch greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases) were nearly 13 percent below the level in 1990.

In 2017, one-quarter of greenhouse gases were emitted by the energy companies. Manufacturing, traffic and transportation and agriculture contributed 19, 16 and 14 percent, respectively. Over half of Dutch emissions of acidifying substances originated from agriculture and nearly one-quarter came from traffic and transportation.

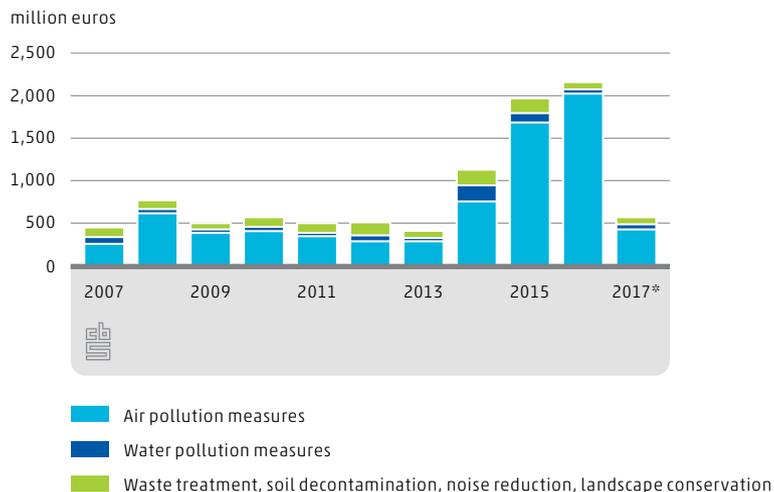
Emissions into air, by source, 2017



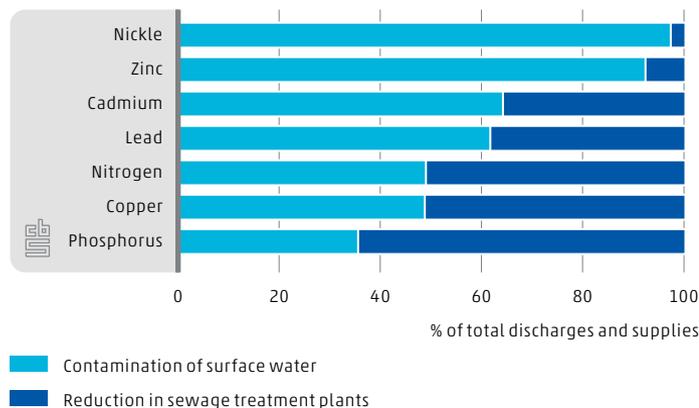
In 2017, companies in mining and quarrying, manufacturing and public energy and water supply made environmental investments to a total of 565 million euros. Of this amount, 79 percent was spent on measures that should lead to improved air quality and a cleaner energy supply. In 2017, environmental investments were 75 percent down on the previous year (2.15 billion euros). These investments may fluctuate sharply from year to year; in 2016, they had reached the highest level since 2007.

The surface water in the Netherlands is being contaminated as a result of discharges by industries, residual discharges from wastewater treatment plants, airborne pollutants and leaching as well as runoff in agricultural soils. Sewage treatment removes part of the contamination from the wastewater. Without sewage treatment, the surface water would have contained 51 percent more nitrogen and 64 percent more phosphorus in 2017. It would also contain more heavy metals: 51 percent more copper, 38 percent more lead and 35 percent more cadmium.

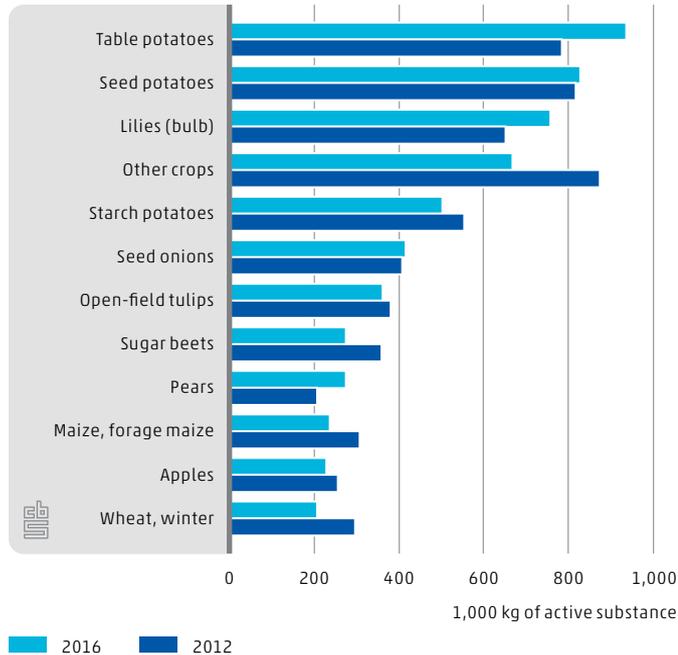
Corporate environmental investments



Impact of sewage treatment, 2017



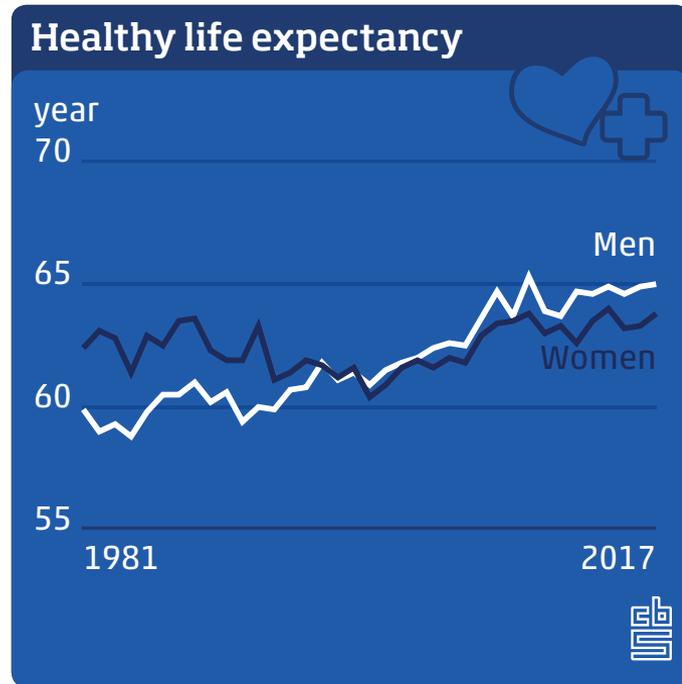
Crop protection products in agriculture



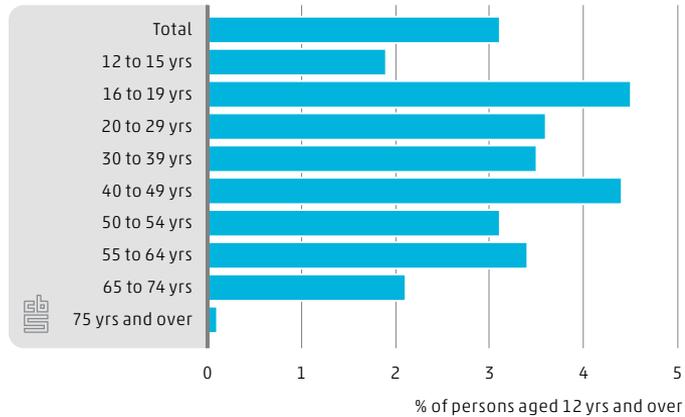
In 2016, agriculture and horticulture used slightly lower quantities of pesticides relative to 2012. Measured over sixty different crops, the surface area on which pesticides were applied declined more sharply in the period 2012–2016 than total consumption. This means annual pesticide consumption was higher in 2016 compared to 2012. Of the total quantity used (5.7 million kg of active substances in 2016), 88 percent was applied to only 11 different crops. These included a 40 percent share of three different potato crops (table potatoes, seed potatoes and starch potatoes).

Health and care

As of the early 1980s, healthy life expectancy at birth increased for men from 60 to reach 65 years on average in 2017. In the same period, healthy life expectancy for women did not rise as much. It stood at over 62 years in 1981 – slightly higher than for men – but had remained below 64 years by 2017. Healthy life expectancy (HALE) is defined as the number of years that a person can expect to live in good health.



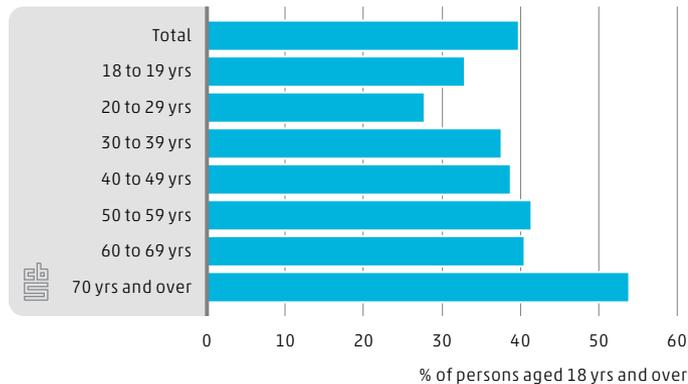
E-cigarette consumption, 2018



The share of smokers has declined since 2001 (among the population aged 12 years and over) and dropped from 33 to 21 percent in 2018. The share of heavy smokers (for example 20 or more cigarettes per day) fell from 10 to 3 percent over the same period.

In 2018, the share of e-cigarette smokers was 3 percent among those aged 12 and over, with hardly anyone in this group over the age of 75.

Alcohol consumption: up to one standard drink per day, 2018



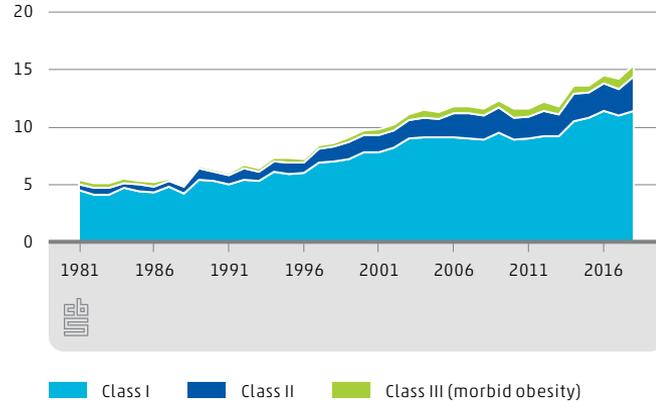
In 2018, 40 percent of the adult population (ages 18 and up) complied with the Health Council's low-risk alcohol drinking advice to abstain or consume no more than one standard drink per day. The remaining 60 percent have more than one standard drink a day on average. Least compliant with the guideline are people in their twenties at 28 percent (for example, 72 percent consume more than one standard drink a day). Over-70s are most likely to comply with the guideline at 54 percent.



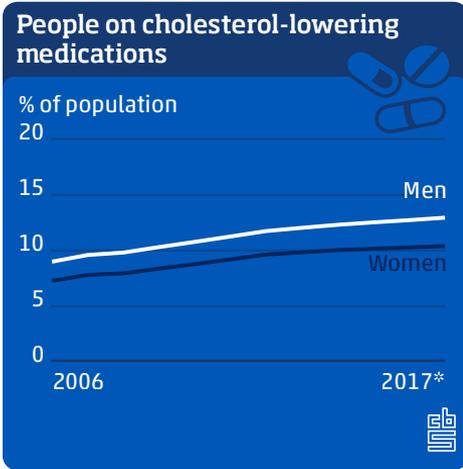
Adults with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 (kg/m²) or more are considered obese. Compared to the early 1980s, obesity is three times more prevalent nowadays among people aged 20 years and over (from 5 to 15 percent).

Obesity rates

% of persons aged 20 yrs and over

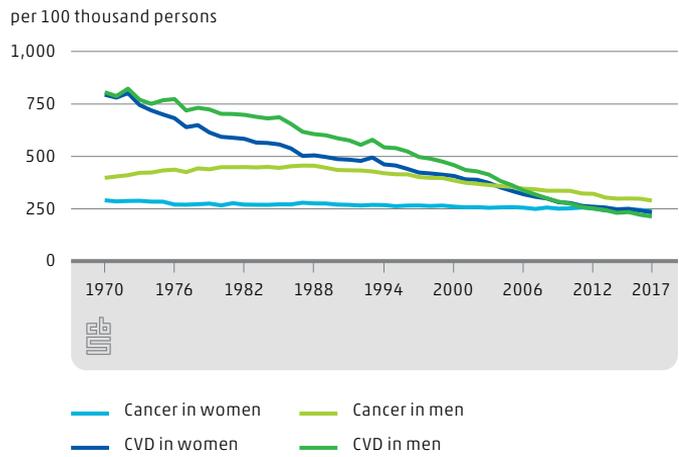


Obesity can be broken down into three categories: class I (a BMI of 30 to ≤ 35), class II (35 to ≤ 40) and class III (40 or higher). Class I obesity is most prevalent. This is also the category with the strongest increase: from over 4 percent in 1981 to 11 percent in 2018. The share of people with class II or III obesity has risen as well. These types of obesity were still very rare in the early 1980s.



In 2017, cholesterol-lowering medicines were dispensed to nearly 13 percent of men and over 10 percent of women. For both men and women, the share was up by around 25 percent in a span of ten years. As of 2012, the number of people who were prescribed such medication has risen relatively less rapidly. Cholesterol-lowering medicines were dispensed most frequently to people in the age group 75 to 84 years, with nearly 45 percent receiving such medicines. At all ages, cholesterol-lowering prescription medicines are taken by more men than women.

Cancer and cardiovascular mortality rates

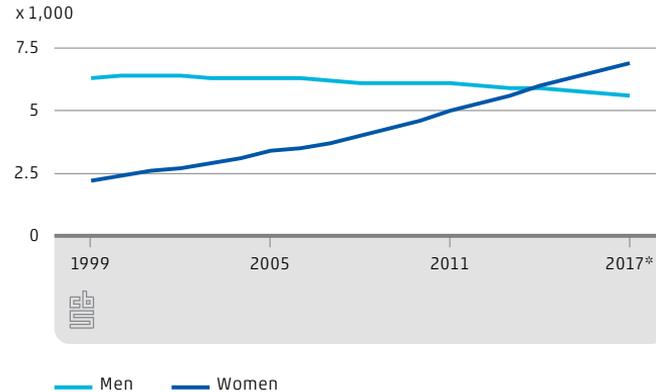


In 2017, cancer mortality stood at 45 thousand while cardiovascular mortality was 38 thousand. Since 2016, more women die of cancer than of cardiovascular disease. For men, this had been the case ten years previously already. In the period 1970–2017, cardiovascular mortality declined sharply by over 70 percent (taking into account differences in age composition of the population). Cancer mortality rose among men until the late 1980s but this was followed by a decline. Among women, it has seen a slow decline from 290 to 236 per 100 thousand women.



For the first time in 2014, women were in the majority among general practitioners. In 2017, there were 6,855 female and 5,570 male GPs. Twenty years ago, only one-quarter of GPs were women. On average, female GPs are a lot younger than their male colleagues. In 2017, 59 percent were under the age of 45. The share of under-45s among male GPs is 28 percent. One-third of all male GPs are over the age of 60. The share of over-60s among female GPs is

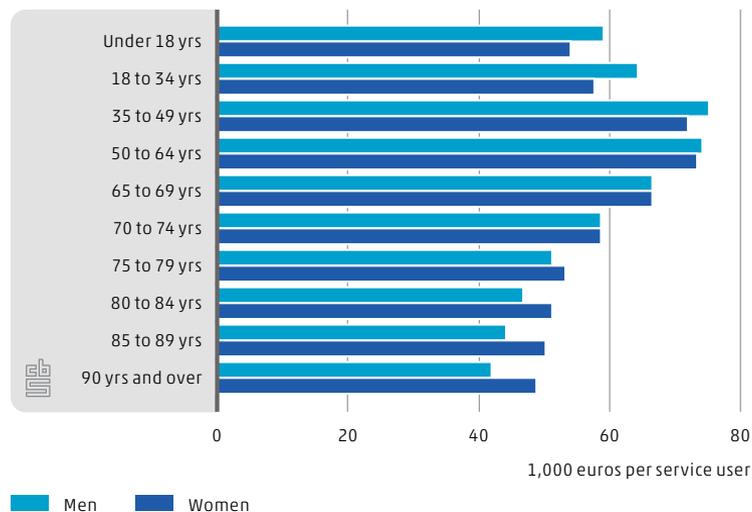
General practitioners



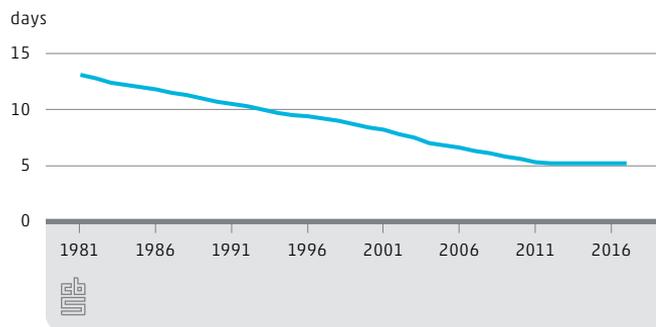
8 percent. In the coming years the female majority will grow larger.

As of 2015, the Long-term Care Act (Wlz) provides care for vulnerable elderly and people with disabilities who need permanent care or supervision. In 2017, related expenditure amounted to 56 thousand euros on average per person receiving long-term care. Among people below the age of 70, the majority were receiving care for the

Long-term care expenditure, 2018



Duration of hospital admissions



Source: CBS, Dutch Hospital Data (DHD).

disabled. Among the elderly (over 70) it was mainly related to nursing and care, which are on average slightly less expensive forms of long-term care. These are expenses related to care in kind, i.e. stay in an institution or high-level residential care and do not include care which is paid through personal budgets (pgb).

In the early 1980s, the average length of stay in a Dutch hospital was almost two weeks. This includes all hospital admissions for at least one nursing day. Up until 2012, hospital stays became progressively shorter. The trend then came to a halt with no further reduction in length of stay, ending at 5.2 days on average. The longest-staying hospital patients are the elderly, but this was also the group with the greatest reduction in length of stay. Whereas people over the age of 65 received three weeks of hospital care in the early 1980s, nowadays they are likely to be dismissed from hospital within a week on average.

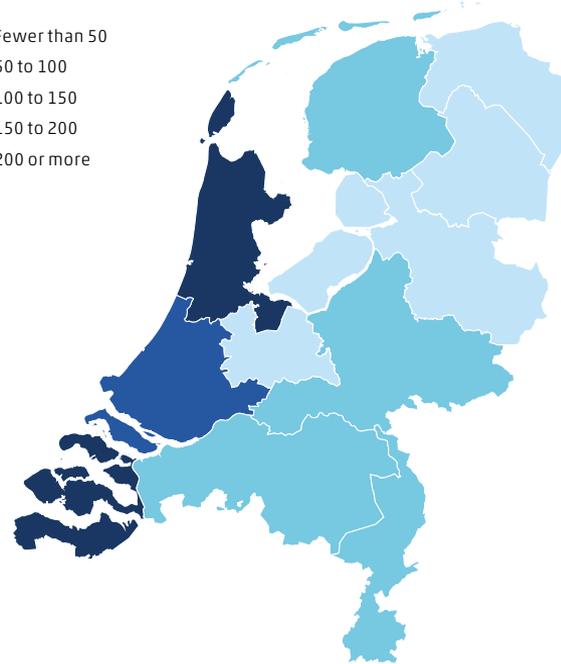
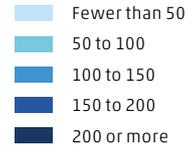
Leisure

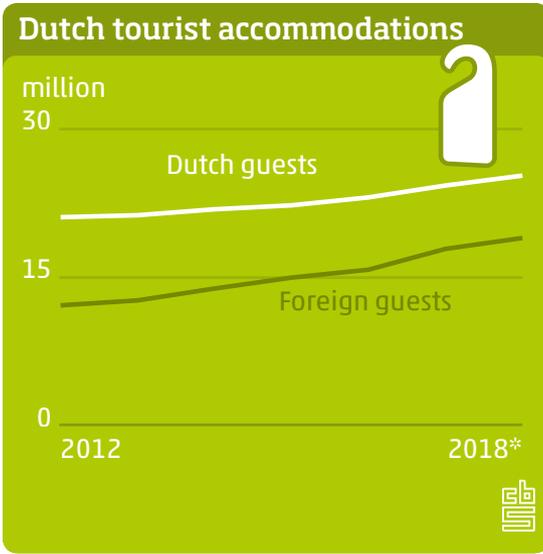


In 2018, Dutch tourist accommodations received more than 44 million guests, 5 percent more than in the previous year. Over a span of five years, the number of guests rose by more than 10 million. Accommodations include hotels and guesthouses, but also campsites, holiday parks and youth hostels.

Non-residents at tourist campsites, 2018

x 1,000



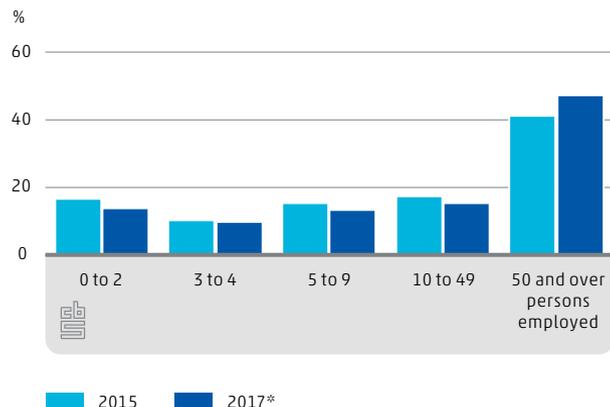


Although the majority of guests are residents, the number of non-residents has grown relatively more sharply. The number of nights spent went up as well. Among residents, it rose from 67.5 million (2017) to 69.5 million (2018), an increase of 2.9 percent; the number of nights spent by non-residents even rose from 44 million in 2017 to 47.5 million in 2018, an increase of 7.4 percent.

Dutch campsites received over 4 million guests in 2018, 10 percent more than one year previously. There were more foreign campsite guests in particular (13.7 percent). The majority were from Germany and Belgium, and the province of Zeeland received most of them: of the 1.2 million foreign campsite guests in 2018, 327 thousand stayed in that province against 306 thousand in Noord-Holland. At 5 thousand, Utrecht had the lowest number of foreign campsite guests.

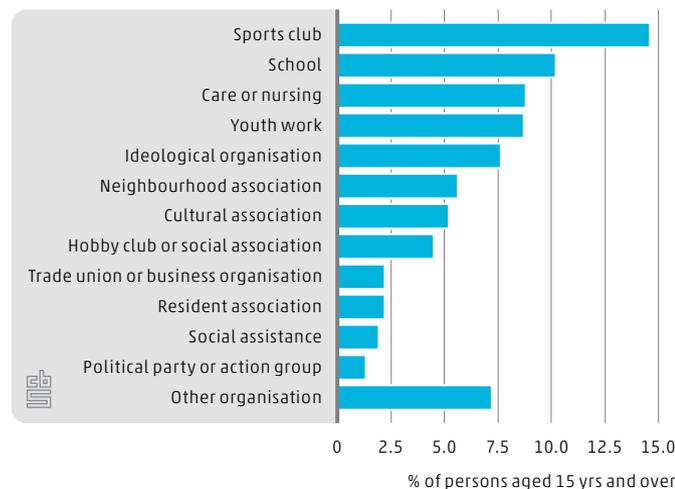
In 2017, turnover in the fitness industry amounted to 728 million euros, against 685 million euros in 2015. The bulk of this growth was realised by the ten largest fitness chains (with over 50 employees). More than 2.3 million people trained at fitness centres in 2017, representing an increase of 10 percent on 2015. The larger fitness chains increased their market share and received 47 percent of the members. In 2015, this market share was still 41 percent. The number of locations of these large chains grew from 280 to 345.

Fitness centres, customer market share

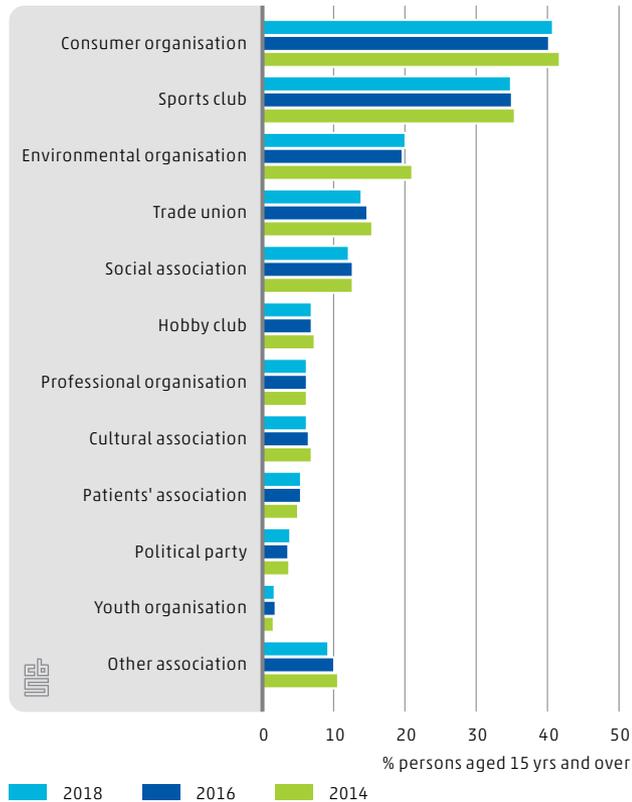


The share of Dutch people doing volunteer or unpaid work as members of an organisation has remained stable over the past six years. Around 48 percent of the Dutch population volunteered at least once in 2018, spending almost 4.4 hours per week on average as volunteers. They are mainly found at sports clubs, at schools, in care and nursing, in youth organisations, churches and ideological organisations.

Volunteers, 2018



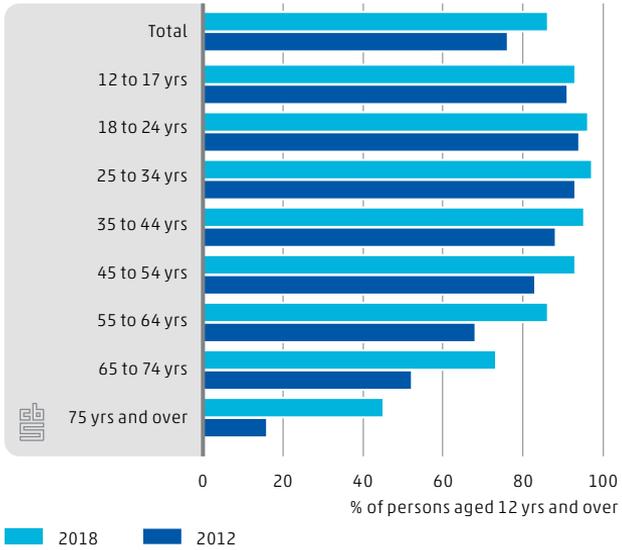
Membership



In 2018, 73 percent of the Dutch population aged 15 years and over were a member of at least one association or organisation. The share was slightly larger in 2014 at 75.8 percent. In 2018, the most popular organisations were those representing consumer interests such as the Royal Dutch Touring Club ANWB and the Dutch Consumers' Association. Slightly over 4 in 10 Dutch people are members of a consumer organisation. More than 1 in 3 are members of a sports club and 1 in 5 are members of an environmental organisation. A share of 14 percent have a trade union membership, down from 15 percent in 2014.

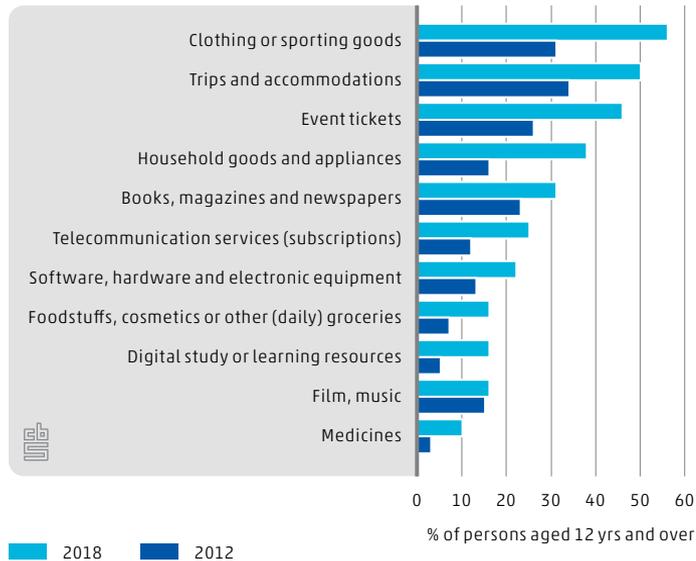


People going online on a daily basis



In 2018, 86 percent of the Dutch population aged 12 and over used the internet on a daily or nearly daily basis. This was still 76 percent in 2012. More than 95 percent of people aged 12 to 44 went online every day in 2018. Daily internet use is on the rise among the over-65s as well. Nowadays, nearly three-quarters of people aged 65 to 74 go online on a daily basis, up from one-half in 2012. Daily internet use among the over-75s even tripled from 16 percent in 2012 to 46 percent in 2018.

Online purchases



The most popular items bought by online shoppers in 2018 were clothing/sporting goods (56 percent), trips and holiday packages (50 percent), event tickets (46 percent) and household goods and appliances (38 percent). The strongest growth in online purchases took place in the categories clothing/sporting goods and household goods and appliances. In 2012, these items accounted for 31 and 16 percent of online purchases, respectively.

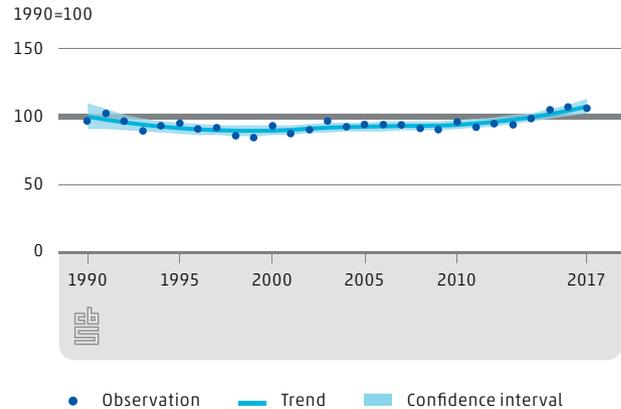
Of all goods and services available online, movies and music have had the lowest increase in sales. In 2012 these were purchased by 15 percent of e-shoppers versus 16 percent in 2018.

Nature

Forest fauna populations have risen since 1990. Developments which started in this period, such as the ageing of forests, have benefited breeding birds and mammals in particular. This has resulted in growing populations of birds breeding in holes such as the nuthatch and the pied flycatcher, but also of mammals such as the hazel dormouse and the bank vole. Likewise, several forest butterfly species have become more abundant in recent decades. Typical forest butterflies like the Purple Emperor have made a major comeback in recent years. The status of other species has deteriorated significantly; the White Admiral which used to be widespread is now in rapid decline, for instance.

60 to 70 percent of the 27 breeding bird species typically found on Dutch farmland have virtually disappeared, after declining from an estimated 4 million breeding pairs in 1960 to 1.5 million breeding pairs in 2017. Several species have all but vanished from large parts of the country. Since 1960, an estimated 750 thousand to 1.1 million breeding pairs of the skylark have

Forest fauna



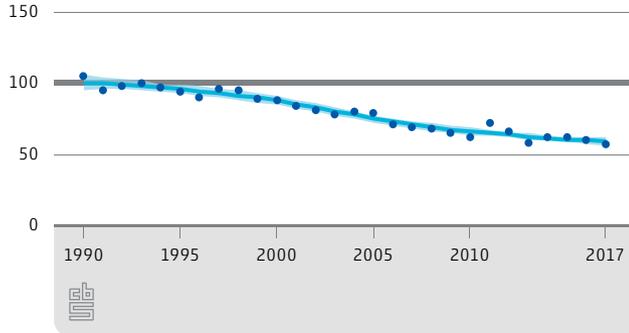
Source: NEM (CBS, organisation for species conservation).

been lost. The partridge, the European turtle dove, the Eurasian tree sparrow (all three species declining by over 90 percent) and the grutto (down by nearly 70 percent) have all become a rare sight on Dutch farmland.

Urban fauna has suffered decline as well over the period 1990–2017, but at varying rates. The abundance of butterflies in the city remained stable in this period, while breeding bird populations – counted as a group – were more than halved. The trend has been stable for six urban bird species, but downward for 13 other

Farmland birds

1990=100

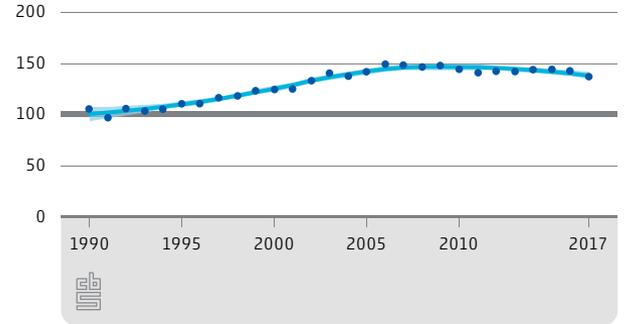


● Observation — Trend — Confidence interval

Source: NEM (CBS, Sovon).

Wetland fauna

1990=100

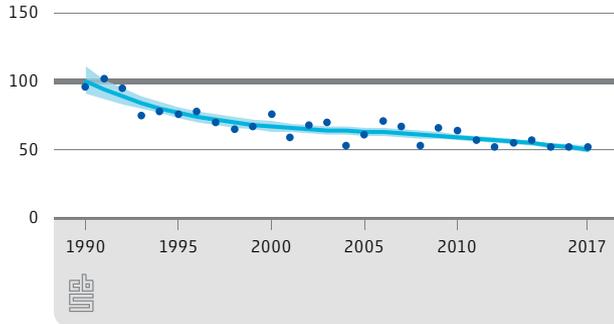


● Observation — Trend — Confidence interval

Source: NEM (CBS, organisation for species conservation).

Urban fauna

1990=100

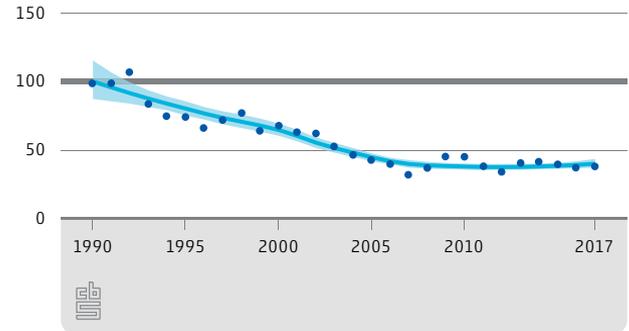


● Observation — Trend — Confidence interval

Source: NEM (CBS, Dutch Butterfly Conservation, Sovon).

Heathland fauna

1990=100



● Observation — Trend — Confidence interval

Source: NEM (CBS, organisation for species conservation).

species such as the house sparrow and the starling. Only one out of the 20 urban bird species has increased in number: the common house martin.

Species which are characteristic for freshwater wetlands and swamps have increased by 37 percent since 1990. This includes 141 species of fish, breeding birds, amphibians, dragonflies, mammals and butterflies. Among these species, 74 have improved while 38 have declined. Recovery has mainly been due to the improved quality of fresh waters. The largest increase among the wetland species is seen in dragonfly populations. Dragonflies have clearly benefited from the improved water quality. Their population has been stable over the past decade.

Since 1990, many animal species characteristic for heathland have deteriorated such as breeding birds and butterflies. Most reptile species have been able to either survive or increase. Of the 20 heathland species, 7 have increased while 13 have declined. Among the breeding birds, the black grouse has virtually disappeared while the tawny pipit and the great

grey shrike have even disappeared completely. On the other hand, some species have increased, including the nightjar and the European stonechat.

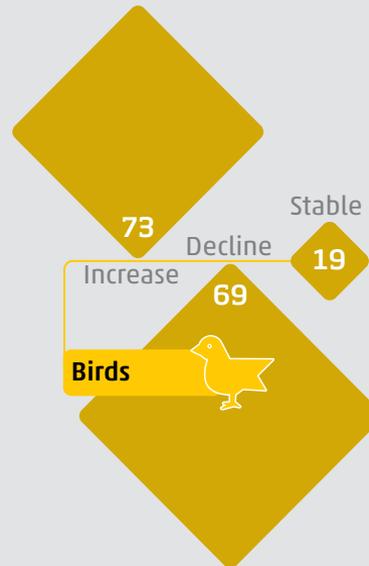
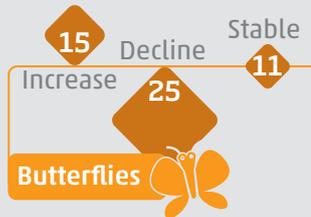
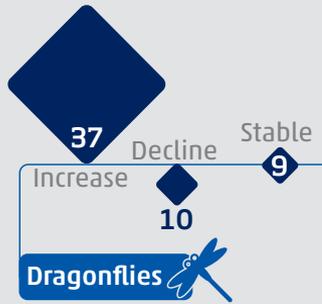
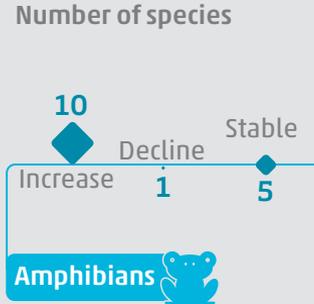
An even stronger decline than the characteristic breeding birds is seen among heathland butterflies. The Niobe Fritillary and the Tree Grayling have become (nearly) extinct. Relative to 1992, declines have furthermore been recorded among the Grayling, the Silver-studded Blue and the Cranberry Fritillary.

The Dutch Living Planet Index (LPI) indicates the average population trends of 357 different species found in the Netherlands, including breeding birds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, mammals and freshwater fishes. The LPI increased by 6 percent over the period 1990–2017. The trend has stabilised over the past decade.

The increase is mainly due to growing populations of mammals (126 percent), birds (15 percent), reptiles (97 percent) and dragonflies (79 percent). Amphibian populations increased by 6 percent over the entire period but have been in decline since 2006. Butterfly and fish populations have decreased by 49 and 1 percent, respectively.

Trends animal populations, 1990-2017

Number of species

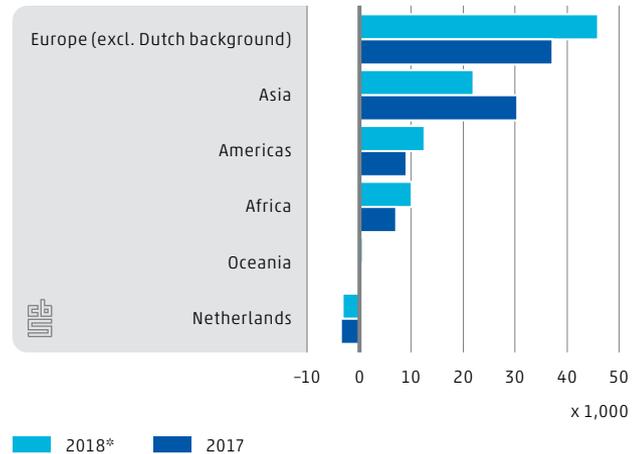


Population

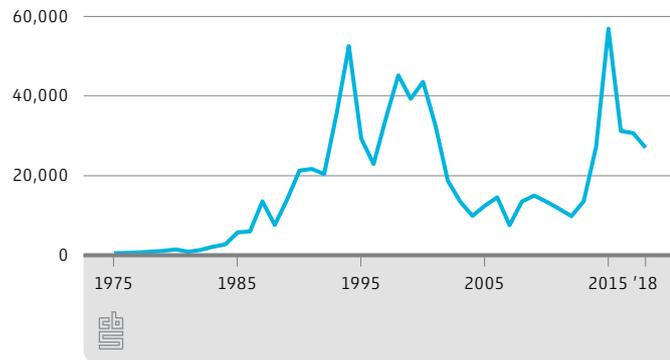
On 1 January 2019, the Netherlands had close to 17.3 million inhabitants. The population grew by 102 thousand in 2018, mainly on account of migration. This trend was already seen in 2016 and 2017. On balance, 87 thousand more people settled here than left the country, representing a slight increase on 2017. In addition, there were 15 thousand more births than deaths last year, which resulted in a slightly slower natural increase than in 2017. The balance of births and deaths contributed 15 percent to total population growth; this was still 20 percent in 2017.

In 2018, the Netherlands registered 242 thousand new inhabitants, versus 235 thousand in 2017. These were mainly immigrants from other European countries. In 2015 and 2016, there was a larger influx of asylum seekers from Asia in connection with the armed conflict in Syria. This influx has subsided, although there were still more arrivals than departures with a Syrian migration background.

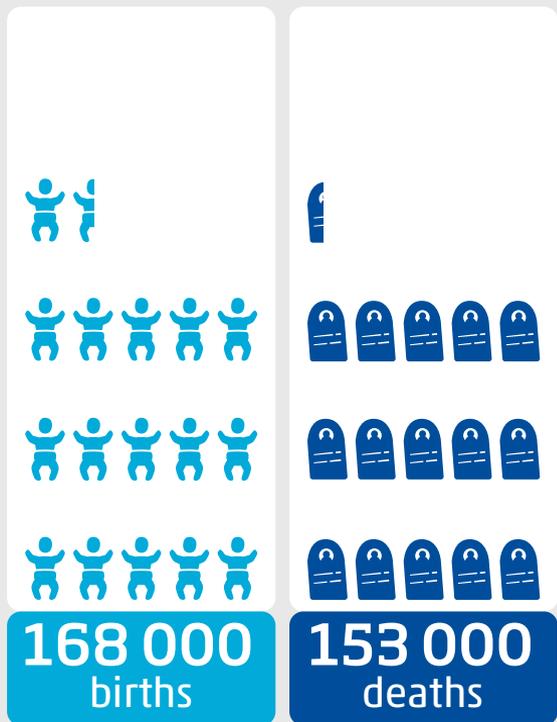
Net migration by migration background



First-time asylum seekers and following family members



Population in 2018



+ 15 000
natural growth



+ 87 000
net migration

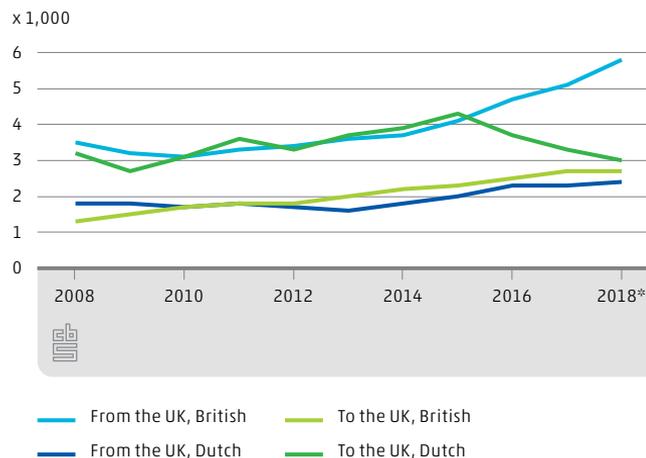
+ 102 000
total population growth

155 thousand people emigrated in 2018. The population therefore grew by 87 thousand on balance. Just as in previous years, the highest net migration rate was seen among Polish migrants, followed by people from India and the former Soviet Union.

In 2018, the Netherlands received over 27 thousand asylum seekers and following relatives. This is less than half the number in 2015 and slightly less than in 2016 and 2017. Syrians have constituted the largest group in recent years. Back in the 1990s, the majority of asylum seekers came from the former Yugoslavia.

Between 2012 and 2016, a rising number of Dutch emigrants settled in the United Kingdom. This trend came to a halt after a British majority voted to leave the European Union in mid-2016 (Brexit), leading to a drop in Dutch emigration to the UK and a rise in remigration to the Netherlands. Nevertheless, in 2018 there were still 700 more Dutch emigrants who moved to the UK than Dutch people remigrating, although the balance was at its lowest level in years.

Migration between the Netherlands and the UK



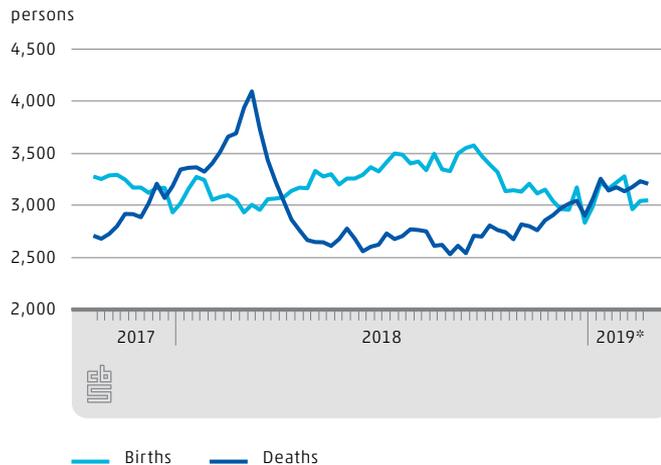
A growing number of UK-born people are settling in the Netherlands. The number of British migrants returning to the UK continued growing at the same pace as before 2016. This resulted in a migration balance of over 3 thousand British migrants in 2018.

[▶ Watch our subtitled video about migration Netherlands-UK](#)



The annual number of live births has been declining since 2010, from 184 thousand to approximately 170 thousand. Young women in particular are having fewer children. Over the past few years, the average age of first-time mothers has gone up to 29.8 years, while the average number of children per family has dropped to 1.6. In 2018, the low birth rate was

Fertility and mortality per week

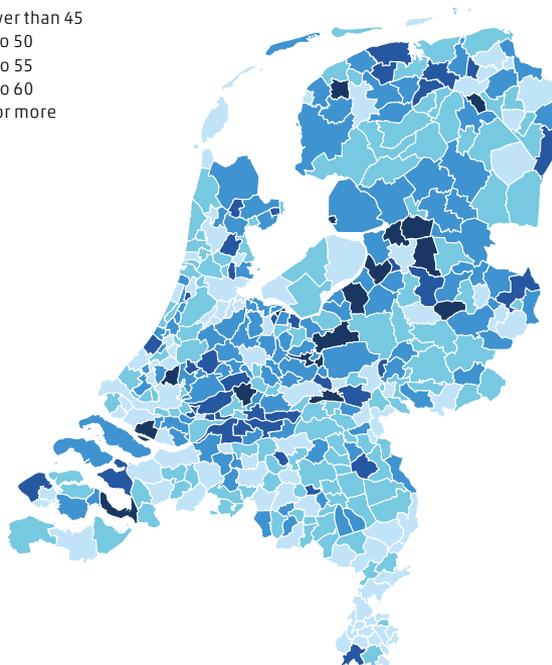
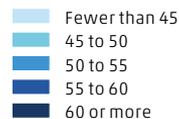


accompanied by relatively high mortality. There were relatively more deaths in Q1 2018 on account of a flu epidemic which started in mid-December 2017 and lasted for an exceptional 18 weeks. On the other hand, two separate heat waves in 2018 did not cause a rise in mortality.

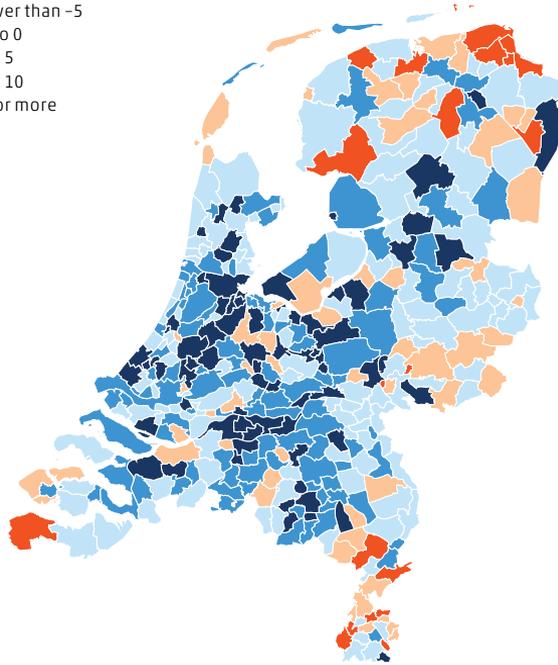
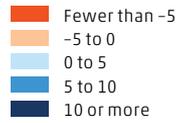
The number of live births is related to the number of women of childbearing age (15 to 49 years). In 2017, there were 45.2 births per thousand women, against 46.0 births in 2016. Birth rates vary widely between municipalities; the highest rate was recorded in Urk with 82.3 newborns per thousand women, far above the national average. Relatively high fertility rates were also seen in other municipalities where the majority of residents are (staunchly) Dutch Reformed. Fertility rates are relatively low in university cities, the four major cities and in the south of the country.

As in previous years, most of the population growth last year occurred in the Randstad conurbation. Both the four major cities – Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht – and the province of Noord-Brabant registered the largest number of new residents. Relatively the fastest growth was seen in smaller municipalities surrounding the major cities. The city of Amsterdam registered the highest number with 10 thousand new residents. The Hague added over 6 thousand, Rotterdam 5.5 thousand and Utrecht 5 thousand.

Live births per thousand women, 2017



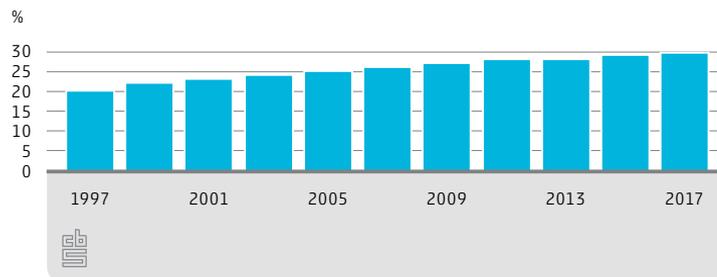
Population development per thousand inhabitants, 2018*



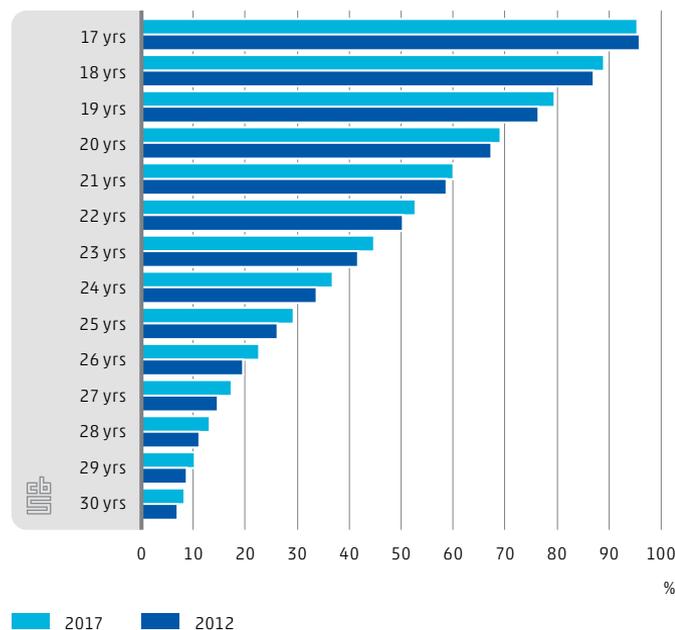
In 2017, three out of ten children aged 15 years were not living with both their parents at one address. In 1997, two out of ten 15-year-olds were living with one parent. In the vast majority of cases, this was due to the parents' divorce. Among 15-year-olds with an Antillean mother, nearly two-thirds were not living at the same address as the father at the end of 2016. This applied to slightly over half of all 15-year-olds with a Surinamese mother. As for Turkish or Moroccan mothers, around one-quarter of their 15-year-old children were not living with both parents.

Young people in their teens and twenties are more likely to stay at the parental home. In 2012, 76.4 percent of 19-year-olds were living with one or both parents. This had gone up to 79.4 percent by 2017. Among 24-year-olds, this share increased from 33.6 to 36.8. In 2017, young adults flew the nest at an average age of 23.5 years. This was still 22.8 years in 2012. The trend was most pronounced among students: in 2016, they started living independently one year later on average compared to 2012. Working young people left their parental home 0.7 year later.

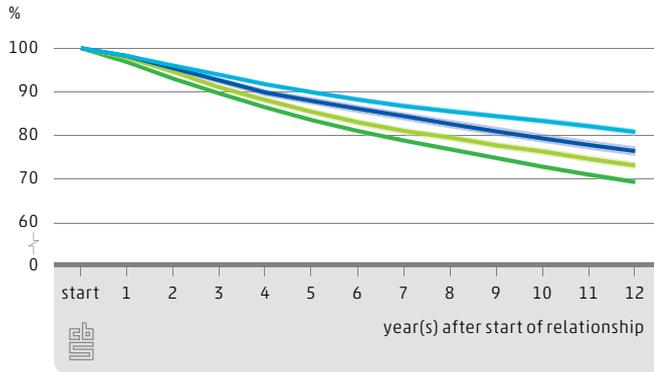
15-year-olds not living together with both parents



Young adults living with parent(s)



Couples who are still together



- Man and woman highly educated
- Man highly educated, woman not highly educated
- Woman highly educated, man not highly educated
- Man and woman not highly educated

The margins indicate the 95% confidence interval.



Highly educated people have lower divorce rates than those without higher education. This applies to both the sexes although the man's education level has more impact on the stability of a relationship than the woman's. Marital stability is increased when both partners are highly educated.

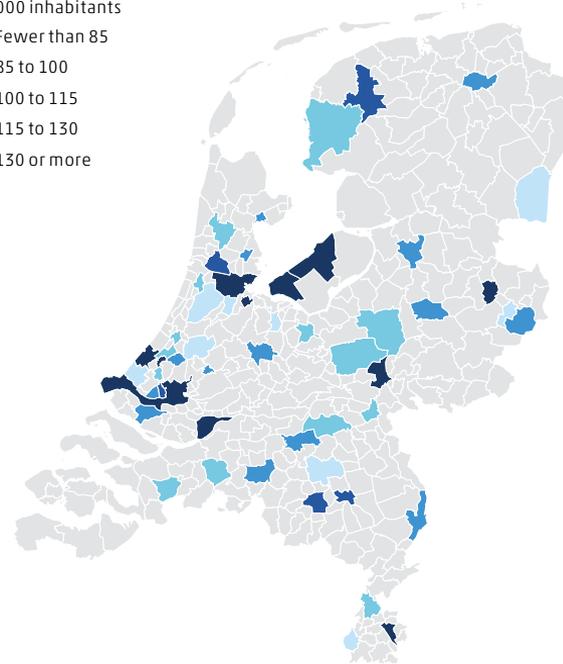
Security and justice

In 2018, both The Hague and Rotterdam had a crime suspect rate of 159 per 10 thousand inhabitants, by far the highest rate of all Dutch municipalities. The suspect rate in Amsterdam was 139, in Utrecht 106. Lelystad also had a relatively high suspect rate at 145. Maastricht had far fewer suspects: 75 per 10 thousand residents.

Registered suspects in municipalities with over 70 thousand inhabitants, 2018

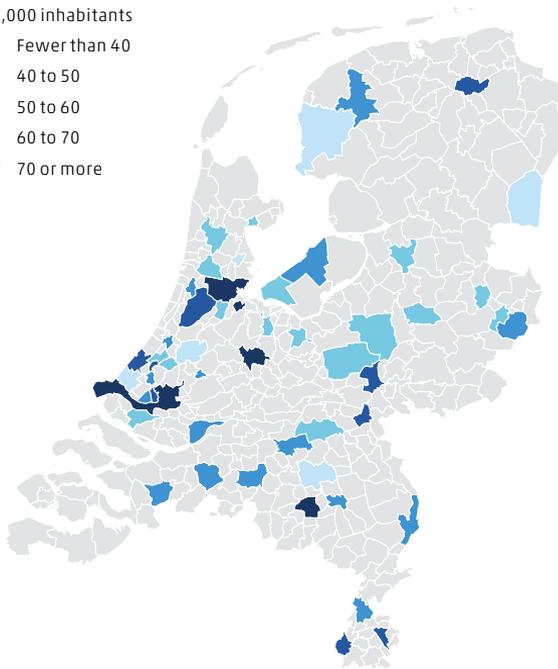
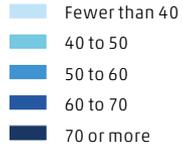
per 10,000 inhabitants

- Fewer than 85
- 85 to 100
- 100 to 115
- 115 to 130
- 130 or more



Registered crimes in municipalities with over 70 thousand inhabitants, 2018

per 1,000 inhabitants



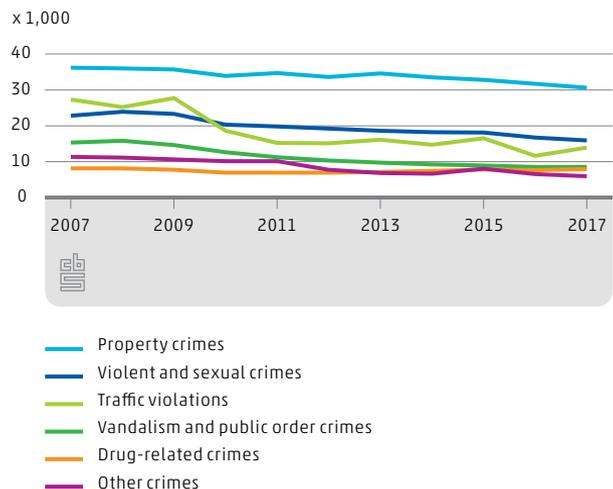
By far the highest proportion of crimes in 2018 were committed in Amsterdam with 96 registered crimes per thousand residents. Rotterdam, Utrecht and Eindhoven also recorded relatively many crimes: 78 per thousand residents. The crime rate stood at 65 in The Hague, Heerlen and Maastricht. The lowest crime rates were recorded in the municipalities of Meierijstad, Súdwest-Fryslân and Alphen aan den Rijn at less than 35 per thousand residents.



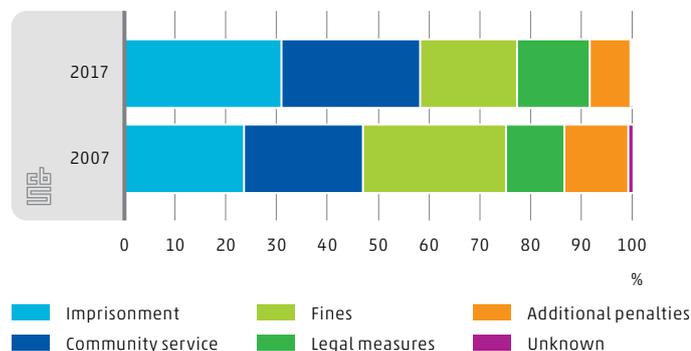
In 2017, Dutch courts found the suspect guilty in 82.7 thousand crime cases. This was nearly 32 percent less than ten years previously in 2007. The largest number of convictions was for property, violent and sexual crimes. The number of persons convicted for traffic violations in 2017 was down by nearly 49 percent on ten years previously. This is related to the Public Prosecution Service (Settlement) Act which took effect in 2008 and which allows the Public Prosecution Service to impose sentences without court intervention for such crimes as drink-driving.

In 2017, courts imposed 118.6 thousand criminal sanctions. The most common sanction was the prison sentence, followed by community service and the pecuniary fine. The share of prison sentences rose from 24 percent in 2007 to 31 percent in 2017. A relative rise was seen in the number of community services in 2017 while there were fewer pecuniary fines compared to ten years previously. The number of additional penalties – for example driving licence suspension – has declined over the past decade.

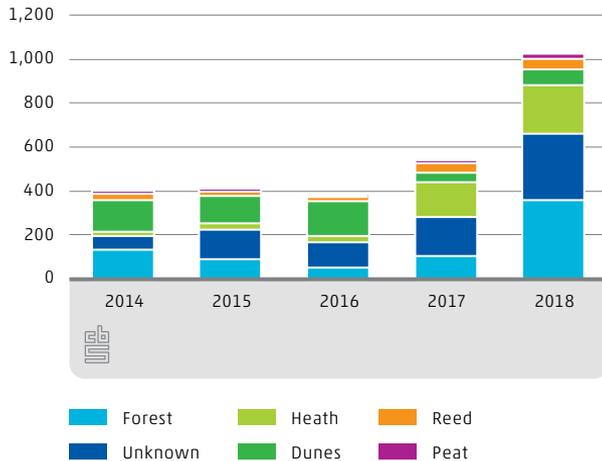
Crime convictions at courts of first instance



Criminal sanctions at courts of first instance



Fire service call-outs for vegetation fires



The Netherlands Fire Service received 76 thousand fire alarms in 2018, for example 3 thousand more than in the previous year. It was the first increase recorded after 2013. The hot and dry summer caused a higher incidence of both roadside and vegetation fires. The fire service received over 1,000 call-outs for vegetation fires, nearly double the number in 2017. Among these vegetation fires, forest fires were up in particular. Altogether, the fire service was called out 360 times for forest fires last year, which is triple the number in 2017.

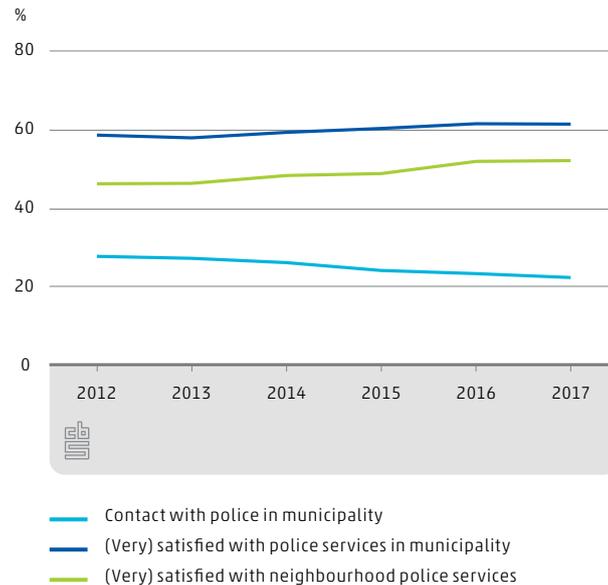
 Watch our subtitled video about the Dutch fire service



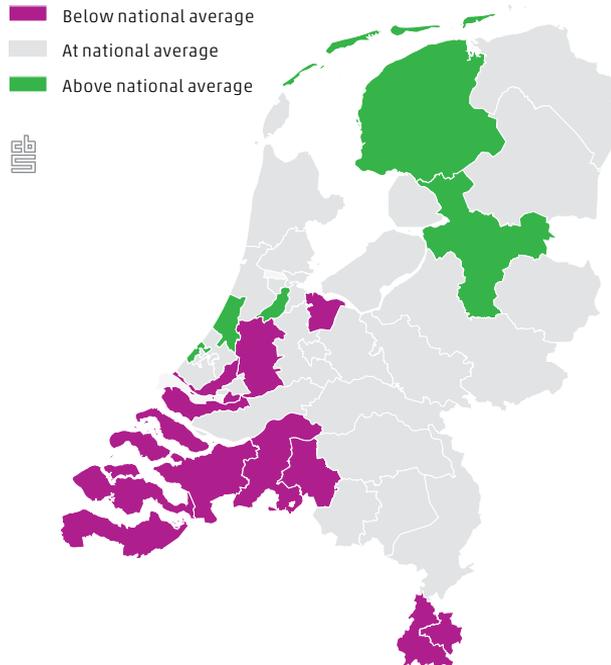
The share of people who have been in contact with the police in their own municipality over the past 12 months has declined in recent years, from 28 percent in 2012 to 22 percent in 2017. Whereas the number of interactions went down, public satisfaction with the interactions improved slightly. Furthermore, satisfaction with police services in the neighbourhood grew between 2012 and 2017.

This refers to citizens who have expressed their opinion on police services in the neighbourhood; a large proportion of the population have indicated they are unable to form an opinion (44 percent) or have not responded (4 percent).

Public satisfaction and contact with the police



Satisfaction with police services in the neighbourhood, 2017



Public satisfaction with police services in the neighbourhood was at higher levels than average in the police districts of Den Haag West, Amsterdam Zuid and Leiden – Bollenstreek, but also in Fryslân and IJsselmeer. Satisfaction levels are below the national average in all districts of the region Zeeland – West-Brabant. The same applies to the districts of Alphen aan den Rijn – Gouda, Gooi and Vechtstreek as well as several districts in the regions of Rotterdam and Limburg.

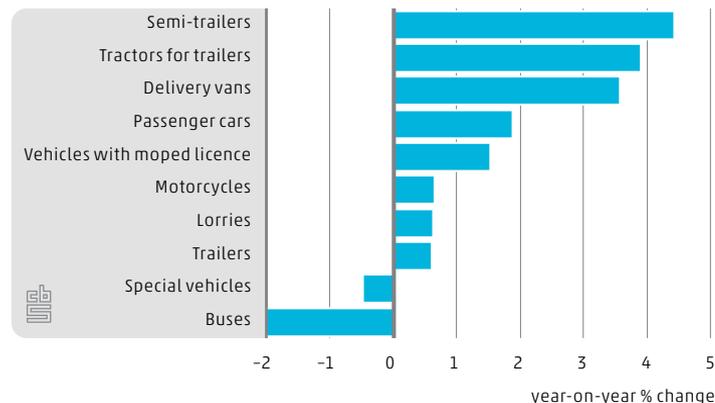


Traffic

On 1 January 2019, the number of registered motor vehicles stood at 12.7 million. This was 1.8 percent up on one year previously. This year, there are 8.5 million passenger cars (1.9 percent more than in 2018). Trailers and tractors for semi-trailers saw the fastest rise, by 4.4 and 3.9 percent respectively. The number of delivery vans increased as well: by 3.6 percent. Buses saw the strongest year-on-year decline; there were over 9.7 thousand buses at the beginning of 2019, nearly 2 percent down on the previous year.

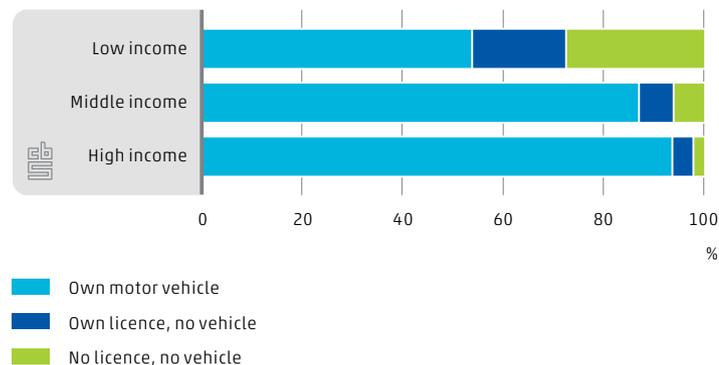
In 2016, over one-quarter or 27 percent of Dutch households – altogether about 2.1 million households – had no (lease) car, (light) moped, scooter, motorcycle or delivery van. Of the more than 3 million households in the lowest income group, 46 percent did not own a motor vehicle and 27 percent did not have any member with a driving licence either. In the highest income group, virtually all households possessed at least one motor vehicle, in most cases a (lease) car.

Motor vehicle fleet, 1 January 2019



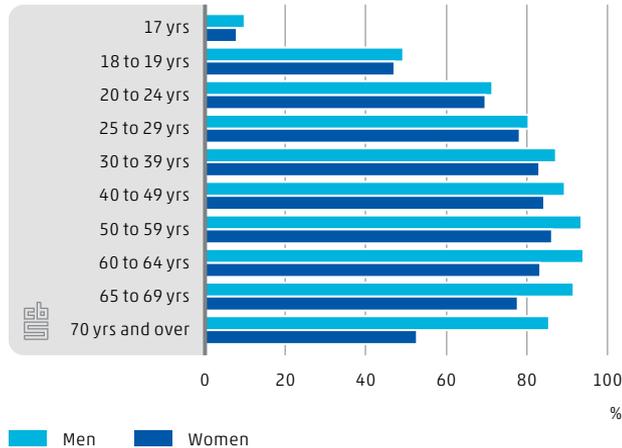
Source: CBS, RDW.

Households with motor vehicle and/or driving licence, 2016



Source: CBS, RDW.

Driving licence ownership rates, 1 January 2019



Source: CBS, RDW.

At the beginning of 2019, almost 80 percent of the Dutch population aged 17 and over – approximately 11.2 million people – owned a passenger car driving licence. This is 1 percent more than one year previously. 85 percent of Dutch men aged 17 years and over had a driving licence, versus 75 percent of women. The gap between men and women is largest among the over-70s with 85 percent of the men owning a licence at the start of this year versus 53 percent of the women.

In 2017, 2.9 million passenger cars received at least one speeding ticket. Cars with a higher annual mileage received more tickets. Calculated per 100 thousand kilometres, cars with low annual mileage received relatively many speeding tickets: those with an annual mileage of less than 5 thousand km received 5.7 tickets on average, against 3.5 speeding tickets for cars with over 50 thousand km per year.

[▶ Watch our subtitled video about road traffic](#)



[▶ Watch our subtitled video about driving licences](#)

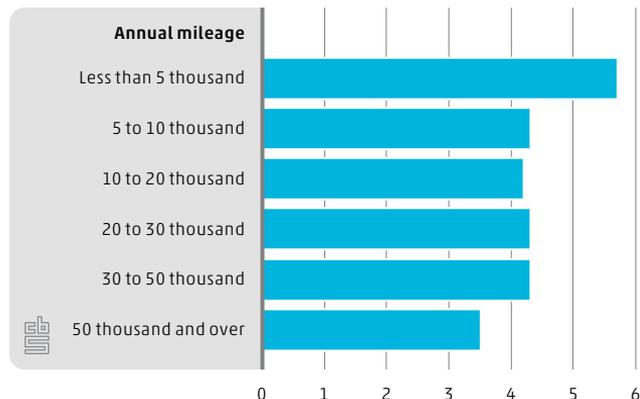


On 1 January 2018, there were nearly 1.9 million registered passenger cars older than 15 years, more than double the number ten years previously. In the span of a decade, the number of these so-called youngtimers (15 to 39 years old) and oldtimers (40 years and over) went up by nearly 8 percent per year on average. The total passenger car fleet grew by 1 percent on average in the period 2008–2018. This means the share of youngtimers and oldtimers in the car fleet went up: from 12 percent in 2008 to 22 percent at the start of 2018.

At the beginning of 2019, the Netherlands had nearly 315 thousand electric vehicles. This was almost 43 thousand more than one year previously. A share of 56 percent were hybrids (HEVs). There were almost 176 thousand HEVs at the beginning of 2019, up by over 15 percent on the previous year. The number of fully electric vehicles (FEVs) doubled in the span of one year and almost reached 45 thousand.

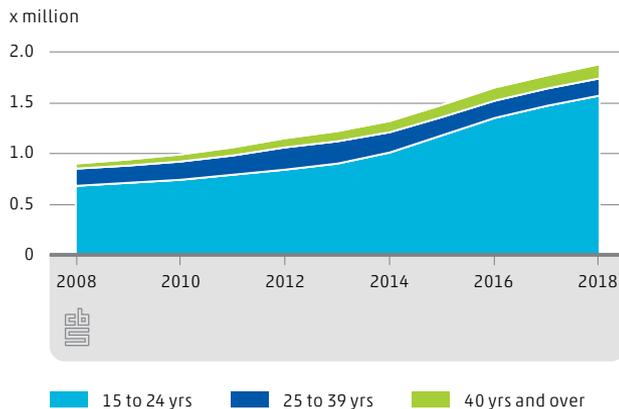
The number of plug-in hybrids declined for the first time, from over 97 thousand at the beginning of 2018 to almost 94 thousand in 2019, for example by 3.4 percent. At the beginning of 2019, there were more than twice as many plug-in hybrids as FEVs.

Speeding penalties per 100 thousand kilometres, 2017



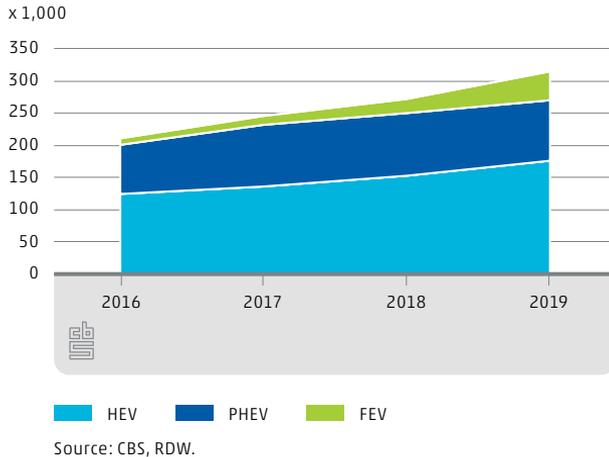
Source: CBS, RDW, CJIB.

Passenger cars aged 15 years and over, 1 January



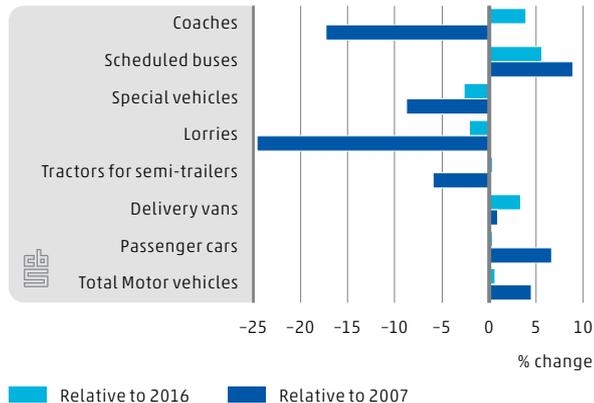
Source: CBS, RDW.

Electric and hybrid passenger cars, 1 January



In 2017, Dutch-registered motor vehicles (not including motorcycles and mopeds) covered a total distance of 147.6 billion km. This is 0.7 percent up on the previous year. Delivery vans accounted for the largest relative and absolute increase. Vans covered altogether 17.7 billion km, 3.4 percent more than in 2016. Passenger cars drove a distance exceeding 119 billion km in 2017, a year-on-year increase of 0.4 percent. Relative to 2007, the distance covered by all motor vehicles increased by 4.5 percent. Nearly 7 percent increase was recorded in passenger car traffic while lorry traffic decreased by nearly one-quarter.

Kilometres travelled, 2017



At the beginning of 2018, the Netherlands had 538 passenger cars per thousand inhabitants. Ownership rates are highest in the age group 50 to 64 years: 663 cars per thousand inhabitants. The lowest ownership rates are seen in the youngest group – aged 18 to 29 years – at 287 per thousand inhabitants. Over the past decade, car ownership has seen a rising year-on-year trend among the over-75s. Ownership rates in this age group exceeded that of the 18 to 29-year-olds in early 2018.

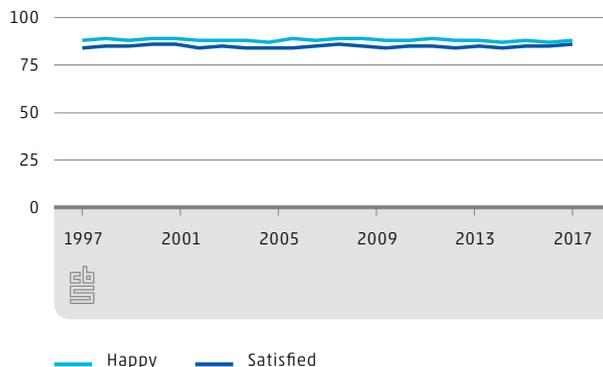
Well-being

The Dutch are mostly happy people. In 2018, nearly 9 in 10 adults said they were happy. A slightly smaller share (85 percent) say they are satisfied with life. Both happiness and satisfaction levels have been virtually stable since 1997.

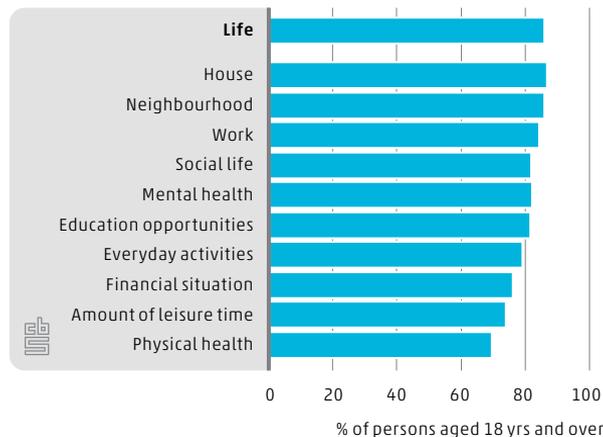
Life satisfaction extends to different areas of life. For example, 87 and 86 percent of adults are satisfied with their house and their neighbourhood, respectively, and 69 percent are satisfied with their physical health condition; slightly lower satisfaction levels are also seen in the areas of available free time and personal finances compared to overall life satisfaction.

Happiness and life satisfaction

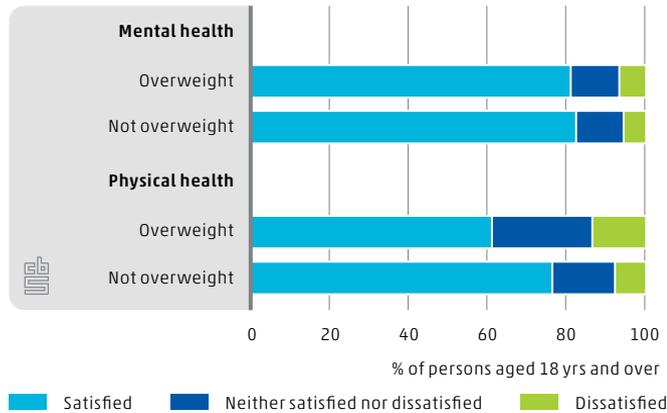
% of persons aged 18 yrs and over



Components of life satisfaction, 2018



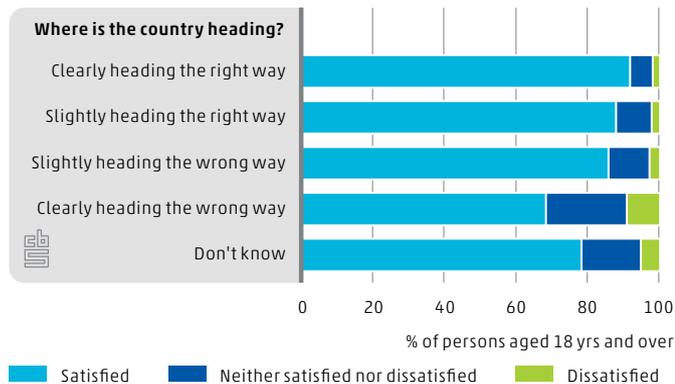
Health satisfaction by overweightness, 2018



People who are overweight tend to be less satisfied with their physical health condition. Among overweight adults, 62 percent are satisfied against 77 percent of those who are not overweight. Satisfaction levels with mental health do not show any differences in terms of body weight.

Life satisfaction is also related to people's opinion about the country's state of play. People with a pessimistic outlook, who think the country is clearly heading in the wrong direction, are least likely to express satisfaction (7 out of 10). Nearly 1 in 10 people are dissatisfied. Among those who believe the country is clearly heading in the right direction, over 9 in 10 are satisfied with life against 1 percent who are dissatisfied.

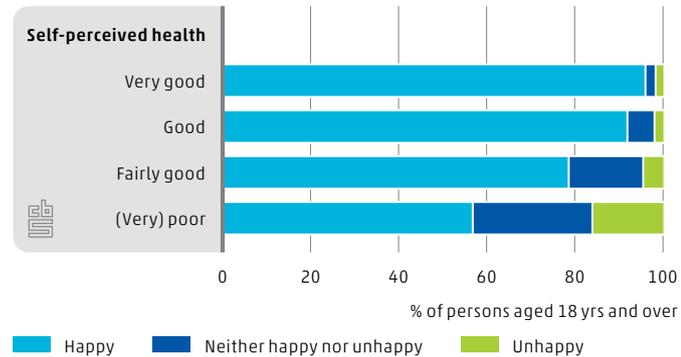
Life satisfaction and opinion about the country, 2018



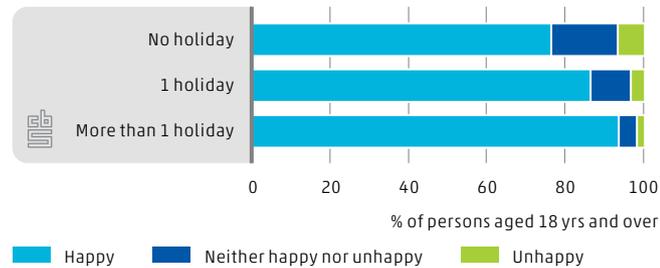
Happiness is closely linked to self-perceived health. Among adults who say they are in very good shape, 96 percent state they are happy and 1 percent are unhappy. Among people in poor to very poor health, 57 percent are happy against 16 percent who are unhappy.

There is also a link between happiness levels and the number of holidays taken over the past 12 months. Among those who went on holiday more than once, 94 percent say they are happy. The share is 84 percent among those who went on holiday once and 77 percent among those who stayed at home.

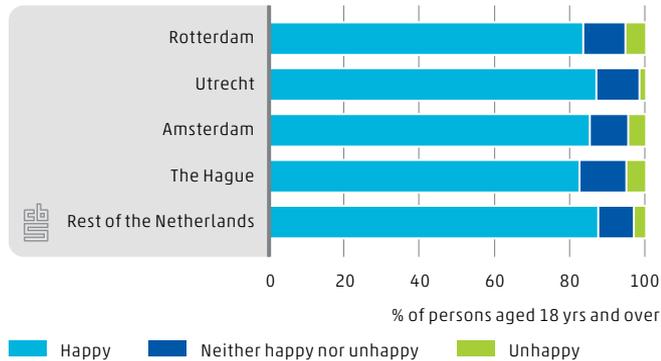
Happiness and self-perceived health, 2018



Happiness and number of holidays taken, 2018



Happiness and municipality of residence, 2017/2018



Across the country, happiness levels are unequal and different for every municipality. Among the four largest cities, Utrecht has a higher share of happy people than Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. Utrecht's adult residents share the same level of happiness with those living outside the four big cities, namely 88 percent. Least happy are residents of The Hague and Rotterdam with shares of 83 and 84 percent respectively. In both cities, 5 percent of adults are unhappy; this is 1 percent in Utrecht.





2.7%

GDP growth in 2018

4.1% turnover growth in
accommodation and food services

2. Economy

Again strong economic growth

In 2018, the Dutch economy grew by 2.7 percent. Growth was only slightly lower than in 2017, when the highest growth rate in the span of a decade was recorded at 2.9 percent. Altogether, the Netherlands has seen nineteen quarters of consecutive economic growth.

Labour market is breaking records

The economic growth spurt was also noticeable in the labour market, with the creation of 259 thousand jobs. With the exception of 2007, there had not been a higher number of job gains within one year; employment was up in all sectors apart from agriculture and financial services. Job growth was particularly high in business services, trade, transport, accommodation and food services, and care. These contributed to unemployment falling by 88 thousand, among young people (15 to 24 years) in particular. In 2018, youth unemployment therefore reached its lowest level since 1975.

Job growth meant that more job openings were advertised. By the end of 2018, there were 80 job vacancies for every 100 unemployed. As a result, the labour market was even slightly tighter than at the onset of the economic crisis, when there were 79 vacancies per one hundred unemployed. Tension on the labour market increased significantly over the course of last year. This was also noticeable in terms of entrepreneurial sentiments. One-quarter of businesses say they are affected by staff shortages. These are particularly high among temp agencies and in the sectors trade, transport and ICT.

Growth propelled by consumer

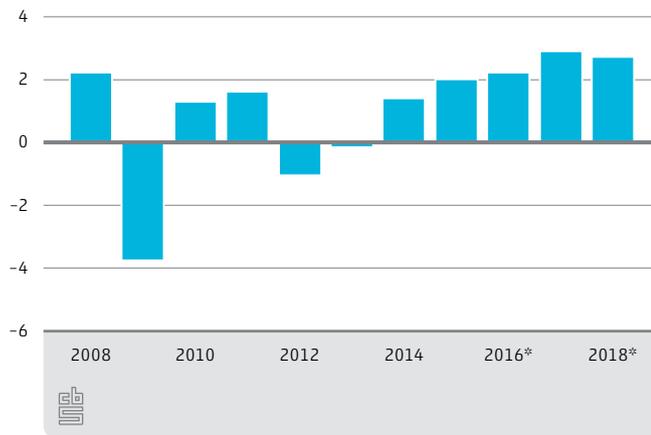
For the most part, economic growth was attributable to domestic spending, consumption and investments. The increase in household consumption was most noticeable and amounted to 2.5 percent, the highest growth in consumption of this century. Consumers mainly

spent more on durable items, such as transport equipment and electrical appliances. Spending in the accommodation and food services sector was also up.

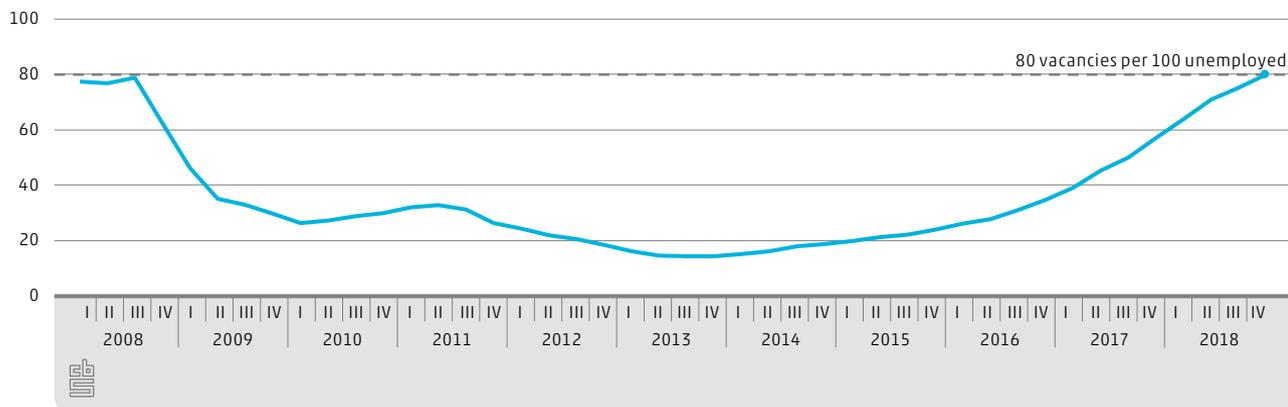
Investments contributed nearly as much to economic growth as consumption. Investment was up again in the construction of dwellings and other structures. Furthermore, investments in transport equipment and in machinery and installations saw a substantial increase. International trade made a modest contribution to economic growth. There was significantly less export growth than in 2017.

GDP

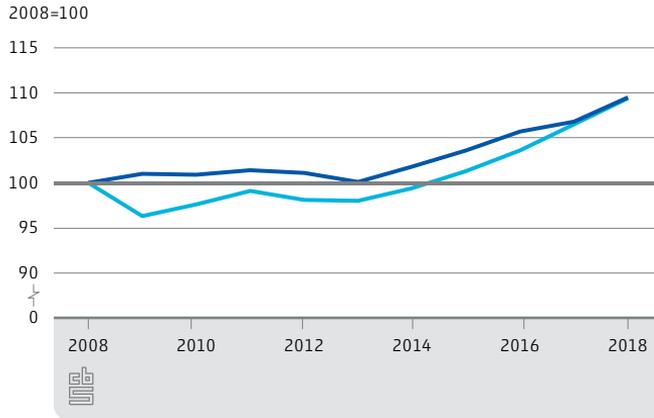
year-on-year % change



Vacancies per 100 unemployed



GDP and income



— GDP — Real disposable income

Of all sectors, construction saw the fastest growth. Business services including temp agencies grew rapidly as well. These were also the fastest growing sectors in 2017. Likewise, the sectors performing less well were similar to 2017. Value added (production minus consumption) contracted once more in mining and quarrying and in financial services. Agriculture was the third sector with decline, following minimal growth in 2017.

Consumer confidence

average of the subquestions

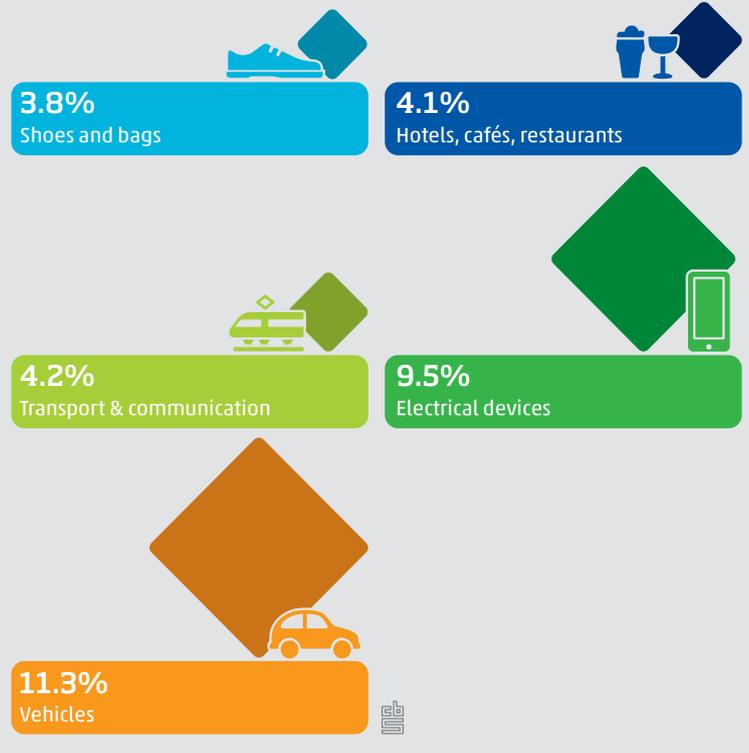


Income growth picking up

Contrary to 2017, employment growth was reflected in total Dutch household income. Real disposable income rose by 2.6 percent, which is the highest income growth rate since 2002. Growth is largely due to a higher number of people in work. The contribution of wage developments was modest. Adjusted for price increases, CLA wages were up by only 0.3 percent per hour worked. Since the crisis – from 2009 onwards – disposable household income has increased more rapidly than gross domestic product (GDP).

2018 was an excellent year for the private sector. The number of bankruptcies had not been this low since the start of the century and non-financial corporations realised a record profit of 255 billion euros, over 24 billion euros up on the previous year.

Consumer spending by purpose, 2018



Government finances in order

In 2018, the government achieved a record budget surplus of 11.3 billion euros, equivalent to 1.5 percent of GDP. National debt dropped further partly as a result of this, to 52.4 percent of GDP. This means that government finances fully comply with European standards.

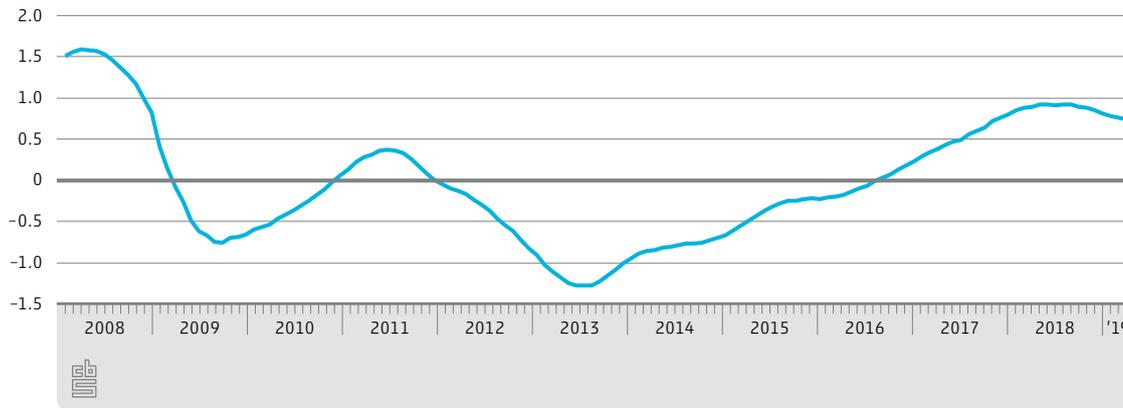
Business cycle past its peak

The economic upturn of the past years was accompanied by high levels of trust among both

entrepreneurs and consumers for a long time. This changed suddenly at the end of the summer in 2018. Consumer confidence declined by more than twenty points within six months. In February 2019, it was negative again for the first time in four years. Consumers were more negative about the overall economic situation as well as their own finances. The latter is possibly related to the announced tax increases, for instance the raising of energy tax and the low VAT rate.

Economic situation

Business Cycle Tracer indicator



Producer confidence went down slightly in the course of 2018 as well, but remained positive. Combined with the somewhat less substantial growth figures in the second half of the year, this means that the economic situation deteriorated to some extent during the last few months of the year. Most indicators of the Business Cycle Tracer are currently situated in the orange quadrant: they are performing above their long-term trend but below the trend of the past period. The labour market indicators, which are always behind in the business cycle, are the only indicators that are still in the green quadrant.

Consumer prices rising slightly faster

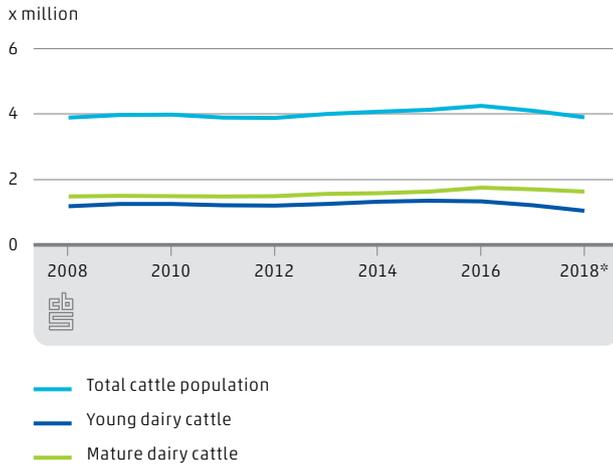
In 2018, consumer prices were on average 1.7 percent up on the previous year. This price increase is slightly higher than in 2017, but is still somewhat below the European Central Bank's 2 percent-ceiling. Consumer prices saw a limited increase elsewhere in the eurozone as well. Manufacturing output prices, on the other hand, rose slightly less rapidly than in 2017. However, price increases were extremely high

on the housing market. Prices of owner-occupied dwellings rose by 9 percent on average, the highest increase since 2002. Regional differences in price increases are large: at the end of 2018, house prices in half of all provinces were still below the level of the summer of 2008, just before the start of the economic crisis. In Amsterdam, on the other hand, house prices have risen by over 40 percent in the meantime.

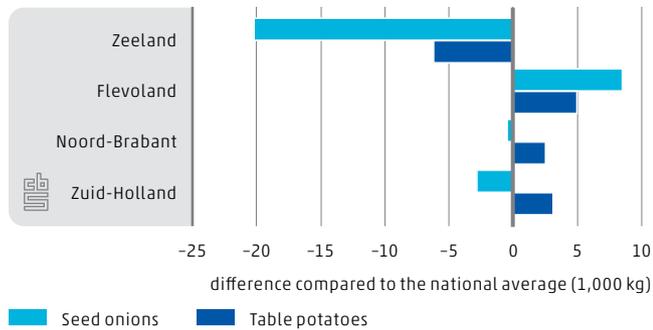
Figures

Agriculture

Cattle population



Yield per hectare, 2018



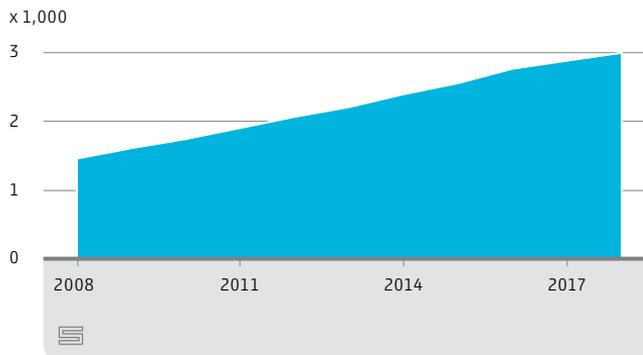
The cattle herd stood at 3.9 million in 2018. This is 10 percent less than in the peak year of 2016. The phasing out of dairy quotas caused an increase in the mature dairy cattle herd by 11.8 percent. This contributed to the national phosphate ceiling being exceeded in 2015 and 2016. After the implementation of a phosphate reduction plan, the dairy herd was reduced and phosphate production was below the ceiling imposed by the EU again in the next two years.

In arable farming, the drought of 2018 caused lower crop yields. The average yield in seed onions was 35.5 thousand kg per hectare of land, 36 percent less than in the previous year. The table potato harvest was 22 percent lower year-on-year on average, with major regional variation. The average seed onion production was 15 thousand in Zeeland province whereas one ha of land yielded 44 thousand kg in Flevoland province. The table potato harvest

in Zeeland was 35.0 thousand kg per hectare against 46.1 thousand kg in Flevoland.

The pig population has remained fairly stable in recent years. Between 2008 and 2018, the number fluctuated between approximately 12 million and 12.5 million. In 2018, the largest herds were found in the provinces of Noord-Brabant, Limburg and Gelderland. The strongest growth in herd size was recorded in Limburg, where the rise amounted to nearly 16 percent on 2008. The average herd size has reached 3 thousand. The herd per farm has increased since 2000 in particular.

Pig herd per farm



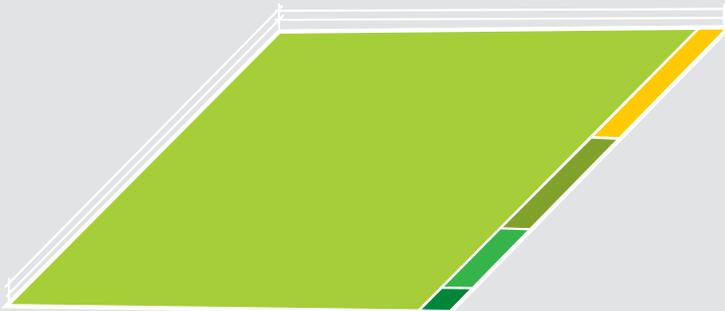
Organic livestock herd, 2018



3 660 925



96 989



76 573



55 087



13 386

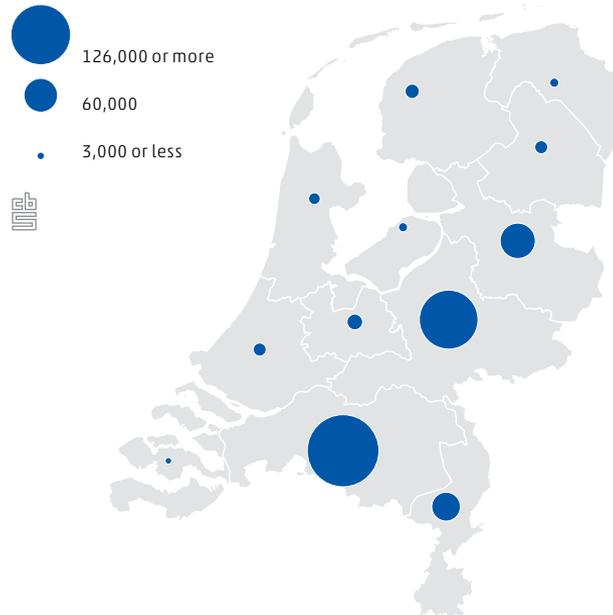


3.4 percent of the total livestock herd was organically reared. The organic goat herd increased by nearly one-quarter to 55 thousand year-on-year, while the number of organic laying hens grew by 11 percent to 3.6 million. The organic dairy herd remained at almost the same level. The number of organically reared sheep decreased by 2.6 percent to slightly over 13 thousand. The organic pig herd increased by 6 percent.

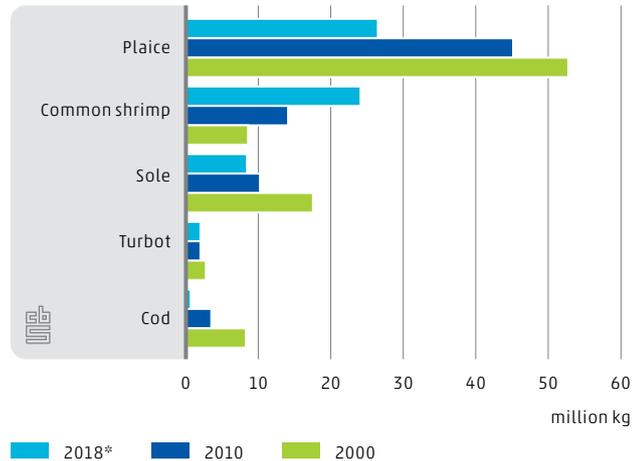


The goat herd rose to record levels again in 2018 with 588 thousand goats, a year-on-year increase by 10 percent. In the period 2000–2018, the number of goats more than tripled. Most goats can be found at special goat farms, which mainly use them for goat milk. The number of dairy goats at specialised farms rose by 14 percent in the span of one year to 411 thousand in 2018. Over half of these goats are found in the provinces of Noord-Brabant and Gelderland.

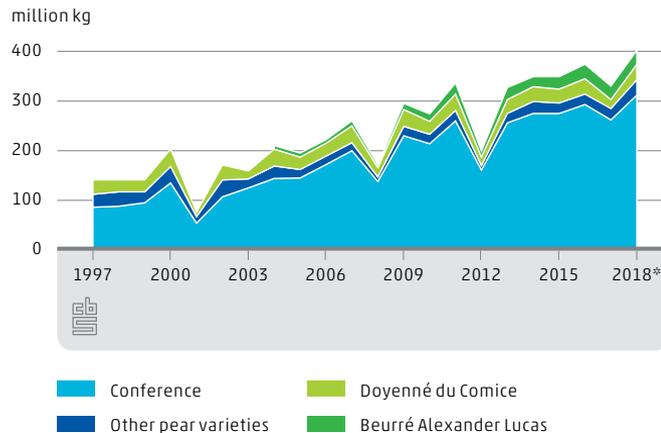
Specialised dairy goat farms, 2018



Landings of fresh fish at Dutch ports



Pear harvest

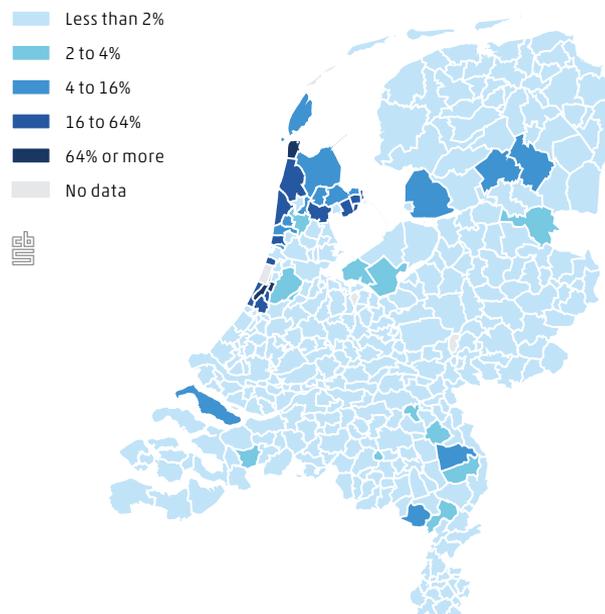


In fresh catches of the commercially most important fish species, only North Sea shrimp landings increased in 2018. Compared to the year 2000, landings nearly tripled. The increase was 71 percent relative to 2010. Landings of plaice, sole and cod decreased by 50, 52 and 94 percent respectively in comparison with 2000.

In 2018, the pear harvest stood at a record volume of 402 million kg. At 312 million kg, the Conference variety took the lion's share of pear production (78 percent). Despite dry weather, the yield per hectare was around 40 thousand kg. The pear-growing area has increased by 25 percent over the past decade, to 9,950 ha. The Conference variety took up the largest area with 7,500 hectares; Doyenné du Comice came second at 750 ha.

In 2018, Dutch farmers cultivated flower bulbs on 28 thousand hectares of land. Flower bulb cultivation is in regional clusters. The largest bulb cultivation area is in Den Helder and surroundings. In 2018, this area was good for 18 percent of bulb cultivation. The most popular bulbous flower was the tulip with 52 percent of the cultivation area, followed by the lily (23 percent) and the daffodil (5 percent). Iris cultivation has seen the largest decline since 2008.

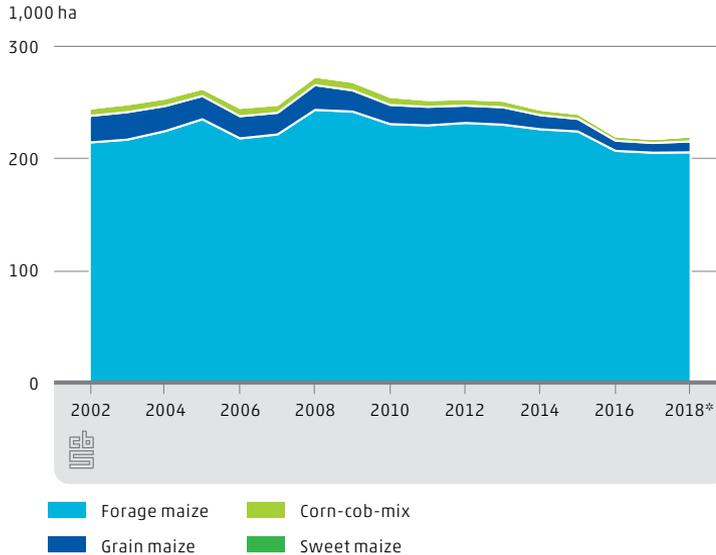
Flower bulb cultivation areas, 2018



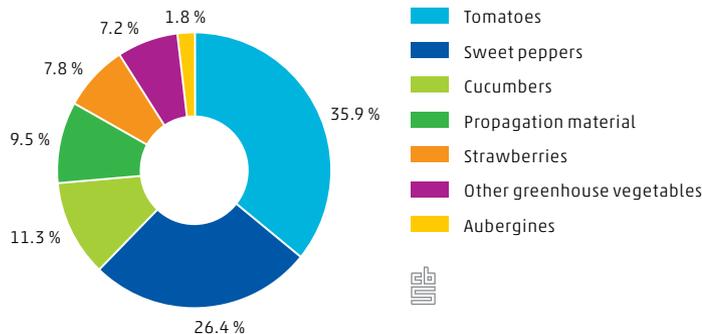
 Watch our subtitled video about agricultural exports



Maize cultivation area



Greenhouse vegetable cultivation area, 2018



221 thousand hectares of land were used for maize cultivation, approximately the same size as in 2016 and 2017 but 19 percent below the record year 2008. Almost all the maize grown by Dutch farmers is destined to become animal feed. The bulk is forage maize (92.9 percent) which is mainly used as roughage for cattle, while grain maize is used as chicken feed (4.4 percent) and corn-cob mix (2.0 percent) is mainly fed to pigs. Energy corn (0.1 percent) is cultivated for the production of biogas for digesters. For human consumption, only sweet corn is cultivated (0.5 percent).

In horticulture, the most common crop is the tomato plant. In 2018, tomatoes occupied over one-third (36 percent) of the total area for greenhouse vegetables. Approximately half of the tomato growing area is used for vine tomatoes. After tomatoes, the most common greenhouse vegetables are sweet pepper (26 percent of the greenhouse vegetable area), cucumber (11 percent) and strawberry (8 percent). The total greenhouse cultivation area has fluctuated around 4.9 thousand hectares for years.

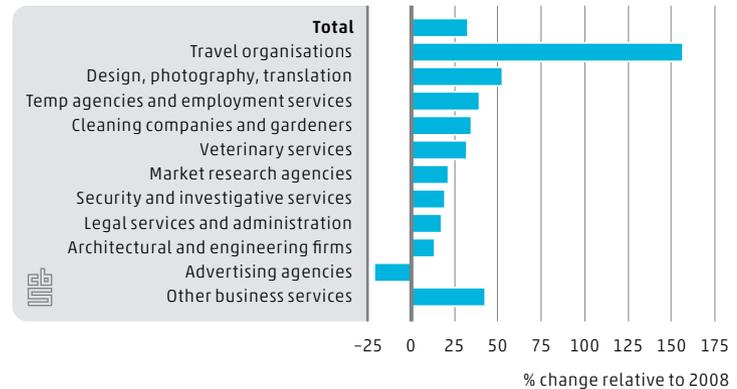
Business services

In 2018, turnover in business services was 33 percent higher than one decade previously. In 2009 and 2010, there was still a decline in turnover generated by business service providers, including law firms, architectural firms, temp agencies and travel agents. Turnover went up year-on-year as of 2011, even by 7 percent on average in the period 2014–2018.

Between 2008 and 2018, turnover in business services was up by 33 percent on average. With the exception of advertising agencies, which recorded a decrease of more than 20 percent, turnover was up in all branches. With 157 percent, the strongest increase was recorded in the travel sector including online services.

At the start of 2019, 1 out of 3 business service providers were facing labour shortages. Five years previously, this was 1 out of 20. The share of companies facing staff shortages was largest among temp and employment agencies (nearly 60 percent). Travel agencies held the lowest share: 12 percent.

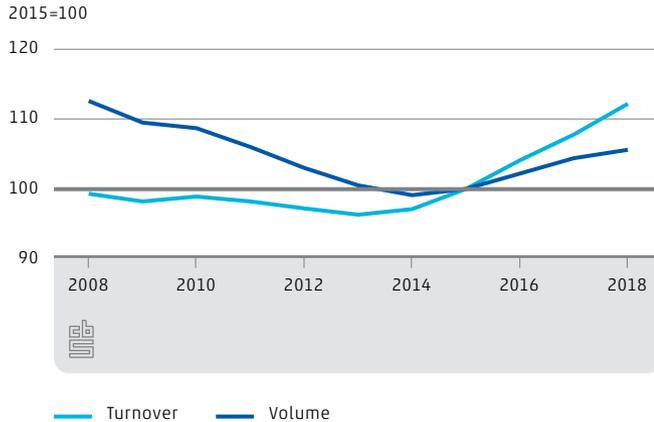
Turnover in business services, 2018



Business service providers with staff shortage

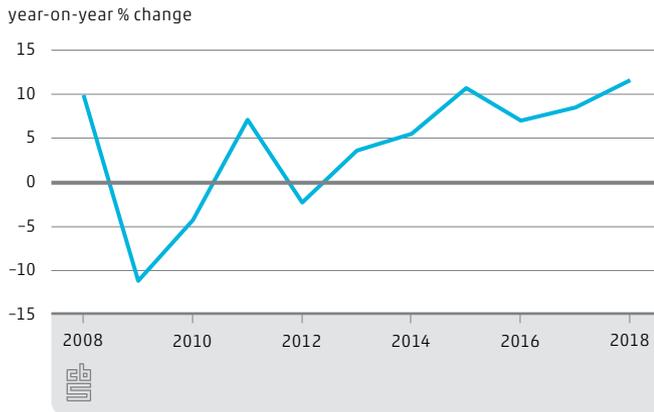


Turnover and volume development hairdressers



In the period 2008–2018, turnover realised by hairdressers was up while the volume (number of haircuts) was down. In 2018, the turnover level was 13 percent higher than ten years previously; the volume was still 6 percent down relative to 2008. Turnover generated by hairdressers has risen continuously since 2013. From 2014, the volume increased every year as well, after years of decline.

Turnover temp agencies and employment services



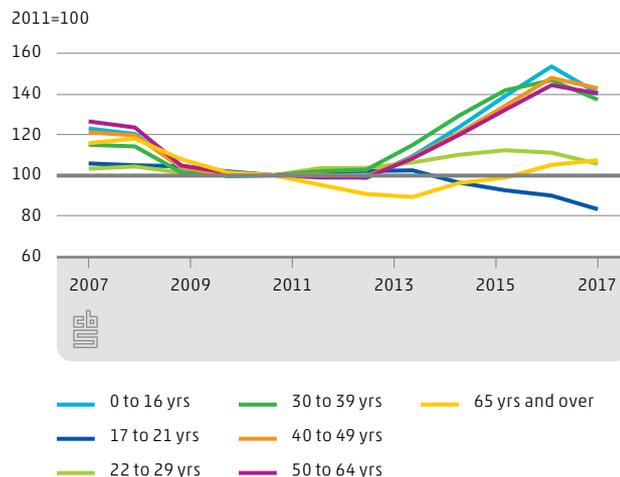
Between 2008 and 2018, turnover in the sector temp agencies and employment services, including payrolling, rose by 40 percent. Turnover dropped in 2009, 2010 and 2012, but increased as of 2013 on an annual basis. In 2018, turnover rose by 12 percent, the highest increase over the past decade.

Construction and housing

In 2018, 1.79 million Dutch inhabitants moved home. This is 5 percent less than in 2017. The number of house moves among people aged 30 to 64 years has shown a rising trend since 2013. An exception are the 17 to 21-year-olds, who moved less often. This was due to changes in student finance – with loans replacing grants – taking effect in 2015. Furthermore, the number of persons moving home was higher in 2018 than in the period 2006–2008, the previous period of economic upturn.

Last year, the number of house moves was mainly up among unmarried couples without children and married couples with children, by over 7 percent in both groups. During the crisis years, young families had been unable to carry out moving plans; this changed as of 2013, leading to an upsurge in house moves. The number dropped in 2018 with the likely reason that most families who wanted to move during the crisis had already done so. At the same time, the housing market has faced growing shortages.

Persons moved by age¹⁾

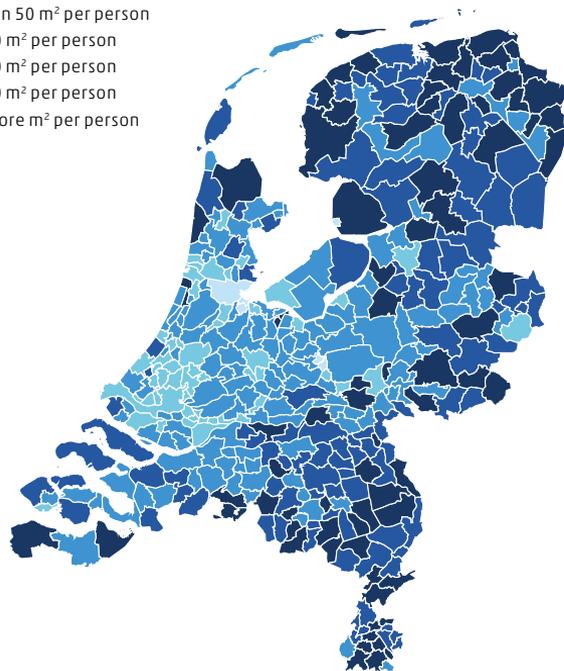
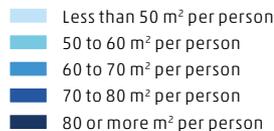


¹⁾ Adjusted for age distribution effects.

Persons moved, 2018



Average living area, 2017



The average floor space available per person in the Netherlands amounts to 65 square metres. There are large differences between regions and the available living area per household type. The average space per person is generally smaller in the Randstad conurbation than elsewhere. The smallest living space is found in the larger cities; in Amsterdam, the average is 49 square metres per person.

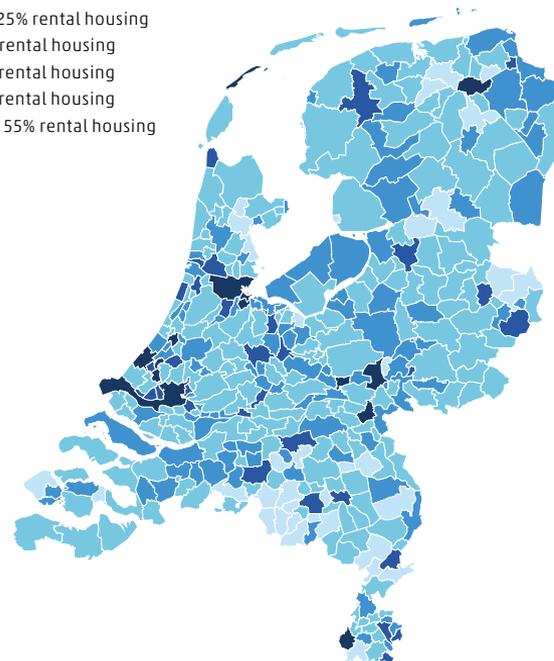
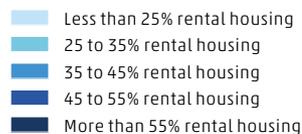
On 1 January 2018, the Dutch housing stock comprised 7.7 million dwellings; 42 percent were tenant-occupied, of which nearly 70 percent were owned by a housing association and the remainder owned by private companies, institutional and private investors. Relatively the highest shares of tenant-occupied homes are found in the municipalities of Amsterdam (70 percent), Rotterdam (64 percent) and Delft (62 percent). In Rozendaal, the vast majority are owner-occupied homes.

In 2018, nearly 66 thousand new homes were built, almost 5 percent up on the previous year and the highest number since 2010. As a result, the total housing stock grew by 0.9 percent to

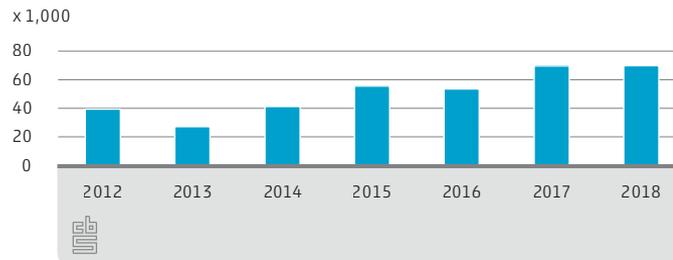
over 7.8 million dwellings on 1 January 2019. Between 2000 and 2009, an average of around 76 thousand new homes were added to the stock each year. The low point came in 2014, when only 45 thousand new homes were delivered. This was followed by increasingly rapid growth in the three subsequent years. Even in 2018 there was year-on-year growth, albeit more slowly.

In 2018, building permits were issued for nearly 70 thousand new dwellings. This is almost equal to the number in 2017. The low point came in 2013, when permits were granted for only 27 thousand homes. From then, the number of building permits increased but it has not reached the pre-crisis level yet.

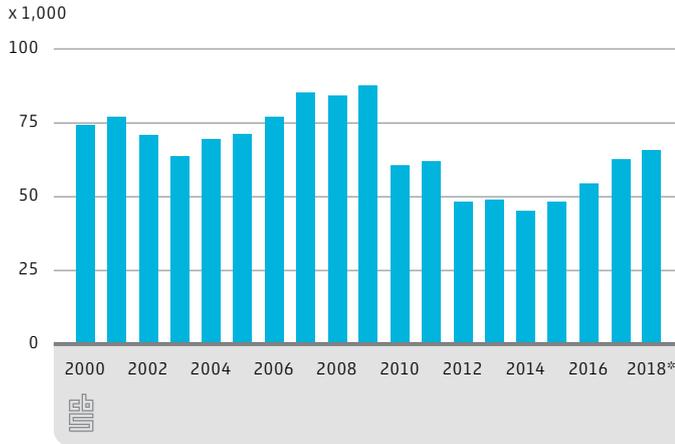
Housing stock, 2018



Permits issued for new-build dwellings



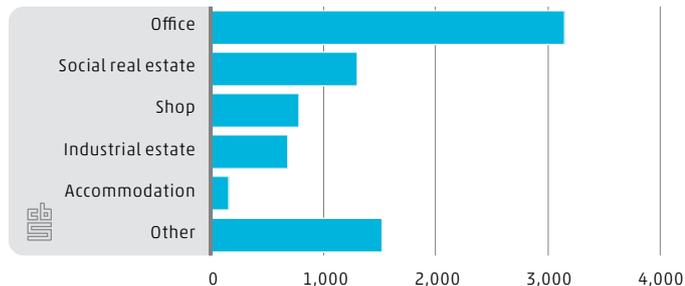
New-build dwellings



Between 2000 and 2008, permits were issued for 80 thousand new homes each year on average. The number of dwellings for which building permits are granted is an indicator for the number of dwellings to be built. After a permit has been granted, it takes approximately two years before the dwelling is completed.

In 2017, 7,570 dwellings were created by conversion of existing buildings such as offices, shops or factories, involving the renovation of 1,900 premises. By far the most dwellings (over 40 percent) were created by adjusting office buildings while 17 percent concerned social real estate, including schools, churches and sports halls. More than 8 percent of the dwellings that were added to the housing stock in 2017 resulted from building conversions.

Original user function of converted dwellings, 2017*

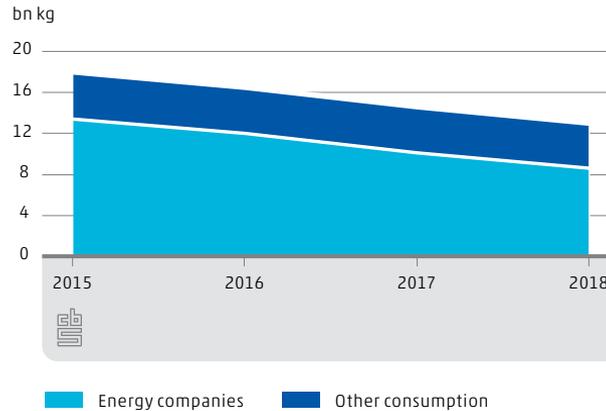


Energy

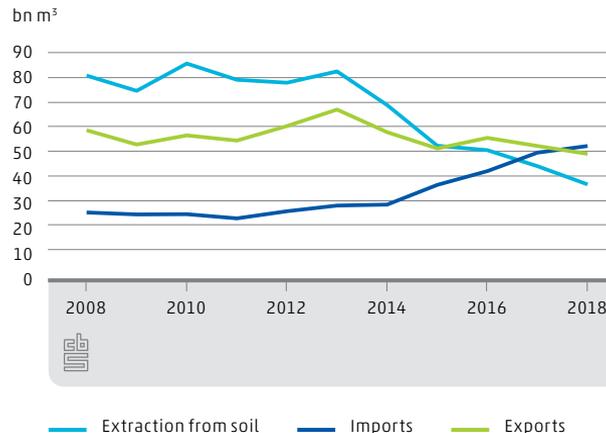
In 2018, coal consumption declined by 11 percent year-on-year. Coal is mainly used to generate electricity. It is the most used fuel for this purpose after natural gas. Consumption at coal-fired power stations dropped by 15 percent, partly due to the closure of two power stations in the second half of 2017. The remainder of consumption is primarily towards iron and steel production. This share of consumption was down by nearly 3 percent.

The supply of natural gas to the domestic market tends to fluctuate. Gas extraction has more than halved over the past five years, as part of a Dutch Cabinet decision to scale back gas extraction in Groningen province to zero by the year 2030. In 2018, gas extraction was reduced by one-sixth compared to one year previously. The decrease was strongest in 2015: by nearly one-quarter. Consumption remained more or less the same. Natural gas imports already saw a sharp rise as of 2014 while natural gas exports were scaled back. In 2018, gas imports exceeded exports for the first time.

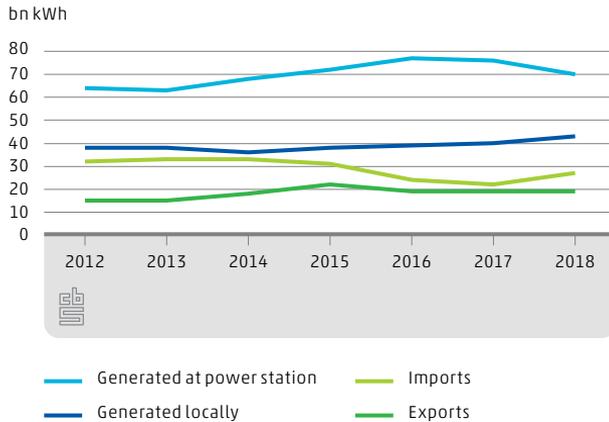
Coal consumption



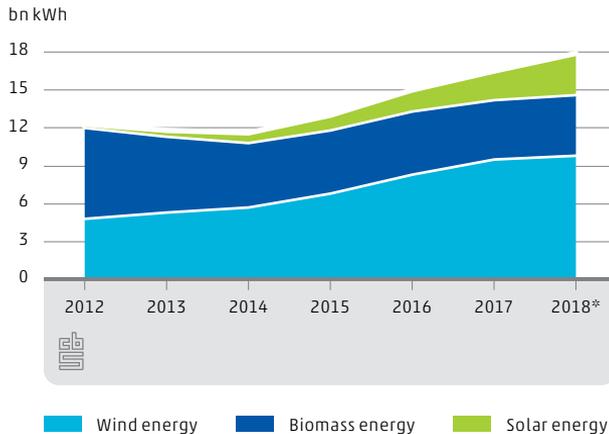
Natural gas balance



Electricity balance



Renewable electricity production



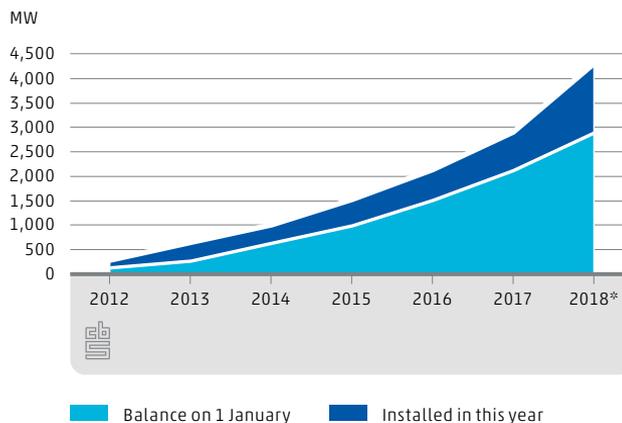
In 2018, electricity consumption was more or less the same as in the previous year at 121 billion kWh. It has hovered around 120 billion kWh since 2005. Electricity is not only produced in the Netherlands itself but also imported from other countries. In 2018, imports rose by 4 bn kWh to nearly 27 billion kWh. Domestic production declined by 4 billion kWh to 113 billion kWh. This decline was fully on account of thermal or nuclear power stations that regularly supply to the national high-voltage grid (Tennet). On the other hand, the volume of locally generated electricity increased. This power is generated for example by installations that provide electricity to company networks, but also by wind, hydropower and solar installations.

Electricity generation from renewable sources rose by 8 percent to 18.0 billion kWh in 2018, up from 16.7 billion kWh in 2017. Wind turbines occupied the highest share at 55 percent, followed by biomass (27 percent), solar panels (nearly 18 percent) and hydropower (0.5 percent, not included in the chart). Production by solar panels was up in particular. In 2017, this share still amounted to 13 percent.

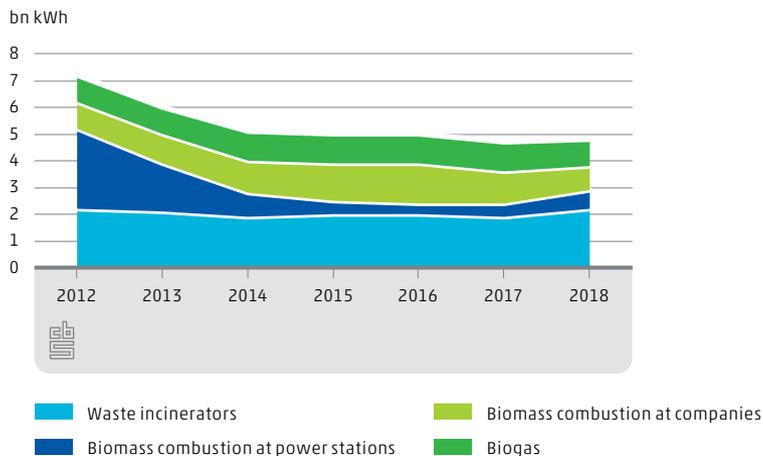
The share of hydropower has remained stable in recent years. Within total electricity consumption, the share of renewable electricity increased from 14 percent in 2017 to 15 percent in 2018.

Before 2012, solar power production was of minor importance. The number of solar panels has increased year-on-year since then. In 2017, 2.2 billion kWh of solar energy was produced, rising to 3.2 billion kWh in 2018. This increase – by over 40 percent – is related to strong growth in the installed capacity of solar panels. This capacity grew by around 1,400 to 4,300 megawatts (MW) in 2018. Over half of this increase, approximately 800 MW, was on account of larger rooftop installations and solar fields. The remaining increase was on account of smaller installations, often seen on top of privately owned homes.

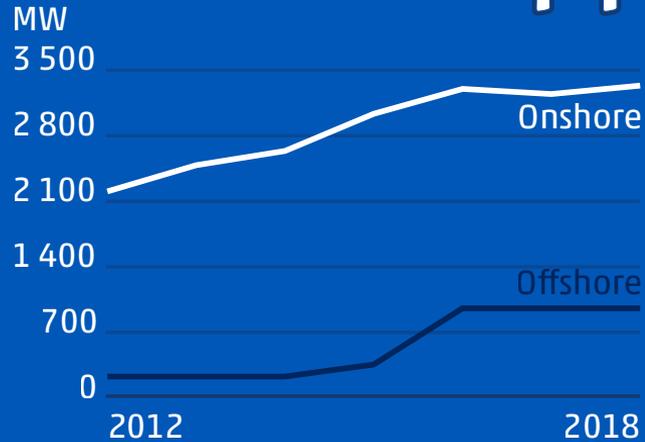
Solar energy, installed capacity



Electricity production from biomass



Wind energy, installed capacity



Wind farm installations in the Netherlands recorded hardly any growth in 2017 and 2018. On balance, the installed wind power capacity of onshore wind turbines increased slightly, by 90 MW to more than 3,300 MW. No turbines were built at sea and offshore capacity remained at nearly one thousand MW. Last year's increase in electricity production from wind power was therefore limited: 3 percent, from 9.6 billion kWh to 9.9 billion kWh.

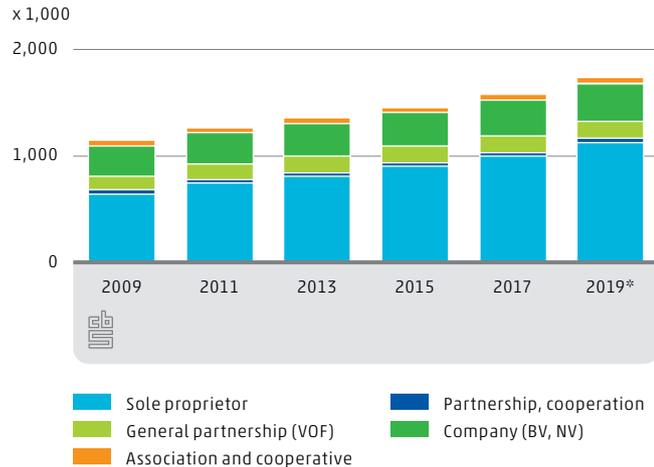
Electricity production from biomass rose by 2 percent to 4.8 billion kWh in 2018. Growth was tempered due to the fact that some large biomass installations at companies were shut down temporarily for maintenance. Biogas – mainly derived through fermentation of residues from agriculture and the food sector – also provided slightly less electricity after combustion in gas engines. Conversely, electricity production from biomass at power stations and from bio-waste at waste incinerators was up.

Enterprises

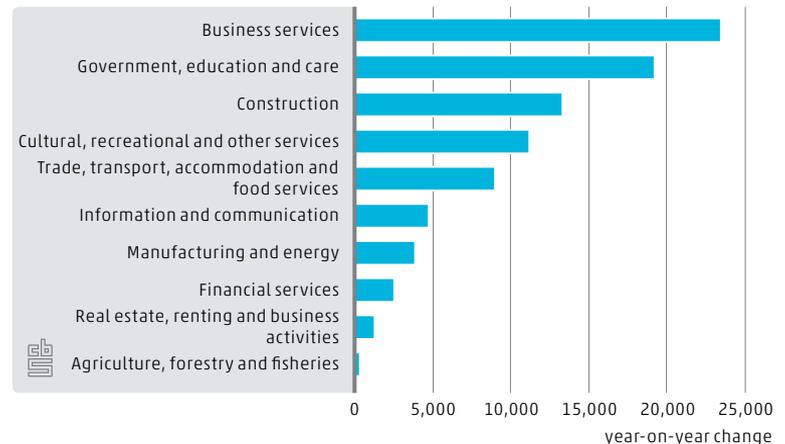
In 2018, the total number of companies rose by nearly 90 thousand. Over three-quarters of this growth is due to a rising number of sole proprietors, a trend that has been going on for a longer period of time. Over the past decade, the number of companies has increased by 600 thousand, 80 percent of which are sole proprietors.

With 23 thousand company births, the business services sector contributed the most to the growing number of businesses. The largest increase in this sector was in management consultancies: nearly 7 thousand. For many years now, management consultancies have shown vigorous growth amounting to nearly 60 thousand over the past decade. Of all companies established in 2018, 97 percent employ only one person.

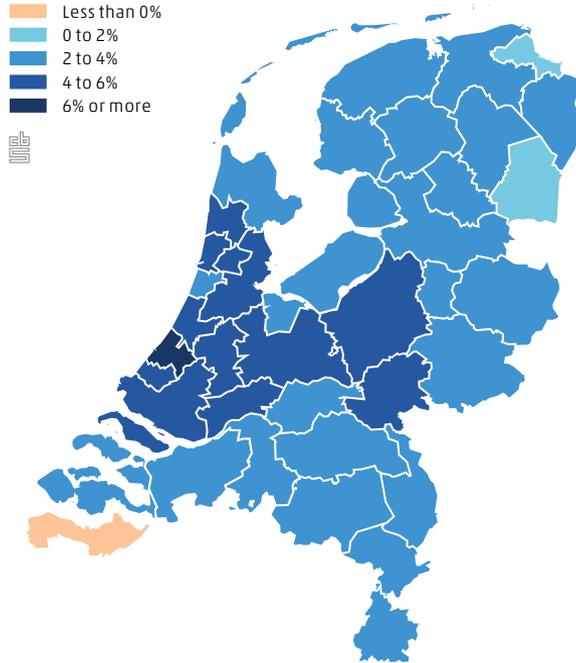
Companies by legal form, Q1



Increase in number of companies, Q1 2019



Business establishments¹⁾, 2019 relative to 2018



¹⁾ Excluding government, education and care.

The number of businesses in the sectors government, education and care has risen by more than 19 thousand. Major growth sectors are tutoring and coaching (+2,995) as well as fitness centres (+2,285).

The vast majority of industries within the sectors trade, transport and accommodation and food services saw the number of businesses go up. The most substantial increase was recorded among webshops (+2,940), event caterers (+1,365), road hauliers (1,200) and taxi companies (+840). Decline was limited to a small number of industries, mainly in retail (not including supermarkets or department stores, -920), market traders (-325) and cafés (-190).

The number of businesses increased in 2018, but not in every region of the country. The strongest growth was recorded in the The Hague conurbation at 7.4 percent. Hardly any changes were recorded in Delfzijl and the surrounding area. The number of companies even declined in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, by 1.6 percent.

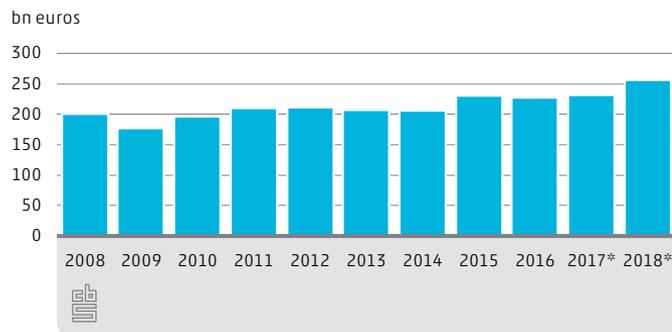
In 2018, the non-financial private sector achieved gross profits before tax amounting to 255 billion euros. This is the highest amount since 1995 and 24.4 billion euros more than in the previous year.

Gross profit before tax is equal to profit from operations plus capital income such as interest payments and dividends, minus interest paid and several other payments to the government in relation to natural gas extraction and ground lease, for example. More than half of the profit increase over 2018 was contributed by foreign subsidiaries of Dutch enterprises. Their profits were up by 13.2 billion euros compared to 2017. The bulk of this increase was on account of a small number of multinationals.

Business confidence – which indicates the mood in the Dutch non-financial private sector – stood at 18.1 in Q1 2018. This was the highest level since 2008. Optimism prevailed throughout 2018 with the sentiment indicator well above its long-term average.

However, a steady decline in business confidence set in over the year and by the beginning of 2019, confidence had dropped to 10.6. In Q2 2019, the confidence indicator increased again to 12.0. Despite the fact that business confidence is currently lower than one year ago, it is still at a high level. It is above average in the sectors construction, wholesale

Gross profit before taxation, non-financial private sector



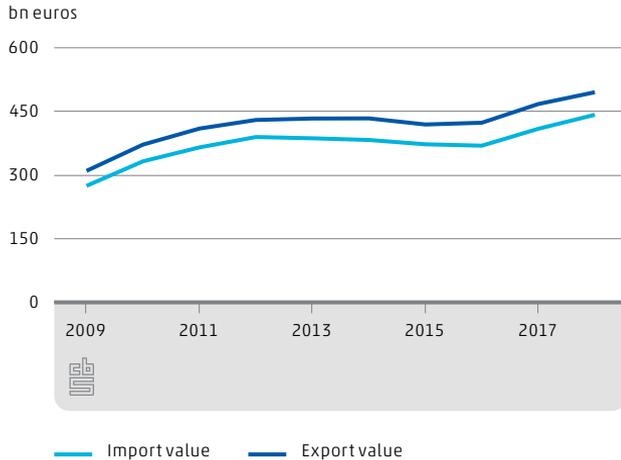
Business confidence



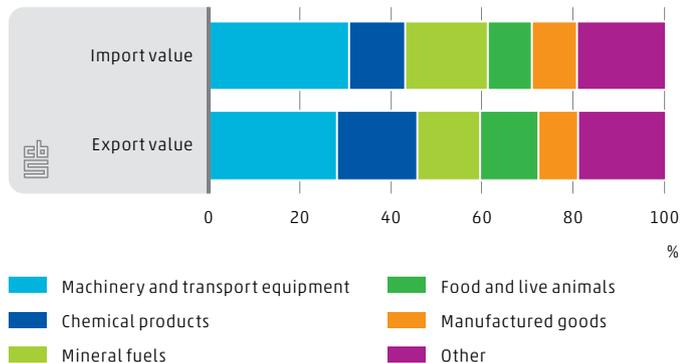
Source: CBS, EIB, KVK, MKB-Nederland, VNO-NCW.

and business services. With a balance of -5.3, entrepreneurs in the automotive industry are pessimistic.

International trade in goods



International trade in goods, 2018*



International trade

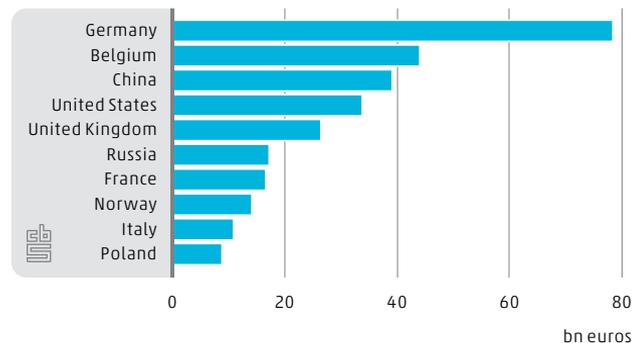
International trade in goods continued to grow in 2018. The value of imports rose by 8 percent to 442 billion euros while exports amounted to 495 billion euros, up by 6 percent relative to 2017.

The category machinery and transport equipment represented 31 percent of the value of imports and 29 percent of the value of exports. Chemical products contributed 18 percent to the export value and 12 percent to the import value. The reverse was true for mineral fuels, which occupied a share of 14 percent in the export value and 18 percent in the import value.

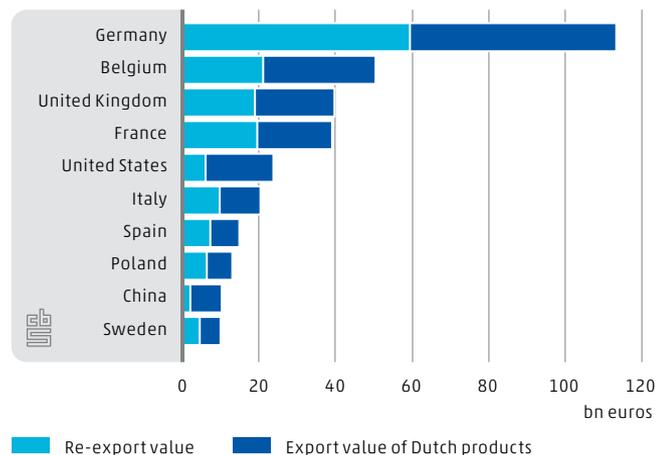
In 2018, the highest value of imported goods came from Germany. Belgium and China were the second and third largest import country respectively. Imports from Norway showed the fastest growth; the import value of goods from this country was up by 36 percent relative to 2017.

Exports to Germany represented almost one-quarter of the total export value of goods. Belgium and the United Kingdom occupied second and third place respectively in terms of exports. Looking at the ten largest export countries, the strongest increase was seen in exports to the United States, by 20 percent. Goods exports to China showed the strongest decrease at 10 percent in value. The bulk of exports to the US and China were domestically manufactured products, whereas exports to Germany included more re-exports on balance.

Import value of goods by origin, 2018*



Export value of goods by destination, 2018*

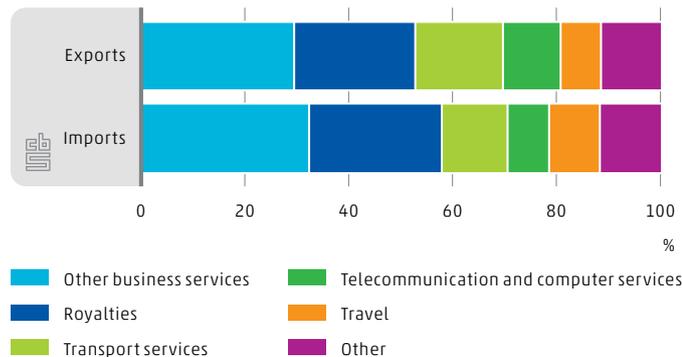




In 2018, Dutch imports of services amounted to 195 billion euros and exports to 206 billion euros. Both trade flows increased by one-third relative to 2014, representing an absolute growth of 50 billion euros in value. A peak in service imports was recorded in 2015. The increase in both service trade flows was the result of a one-time purchase of intellectual property in very large quantities.

The top trading partners for services are Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. In 2018, these three countries had a combined share of 32 percent in Dutch international service trade, versus 38 percent in 2014. The importance of the United States in particular has declined: whereas the US represented 15 percent of service trade in 2014, this had dropped to 9 percent in 2018. Dutch international trade with the US decreased by 8.5 billion euros as a result.

International trade in services, 2018*

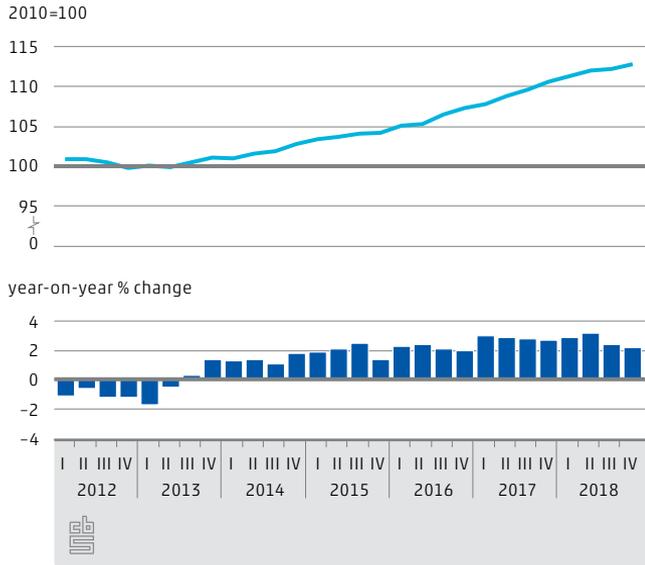


Over 30 percent of last year's trade in services concerned business consulting, management consulting and public relations. One-quarter of service trade involved royalties, mainly rights to resell software licences.

These business services represented the largest chunk of the international trade in services and also saw the highest increase in 2018. Relative to 2014, imports of other business services rose by 64 percent (25 billion euros), while exports were up by 50 percent (20 billion euros). Other notable increases were recorded in exports of royalties and travel services, both by around 40 percent. In imports, transport services recorded above-average growth: up by 40 percent relative to 2014.



Size of the economy (gross domestic product)



Macroeconomic trends

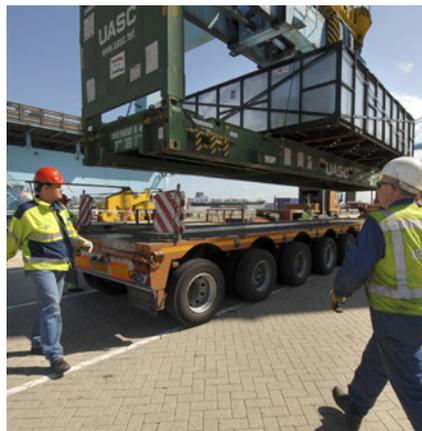
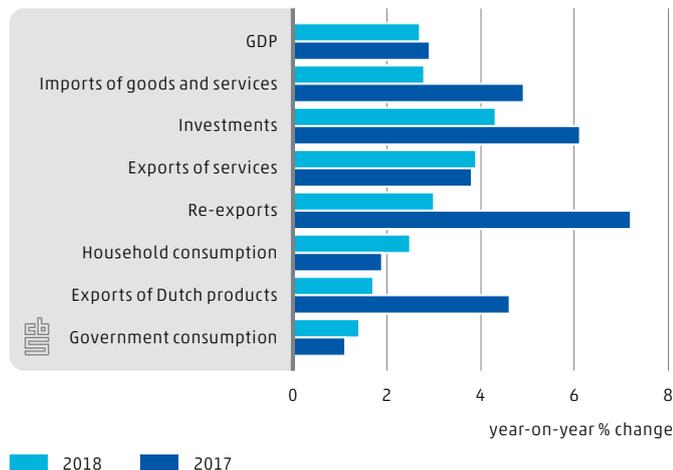


The Dutch economy grew by 2.7 percent in 2018. This was slower than in 2017, when the growth rate was 2.9 percent. The economy was in its fifth consecutive year of growth. The main contributors were consumption and investments. The trade balance also made a positive contribution, although less substantial than in 2017.

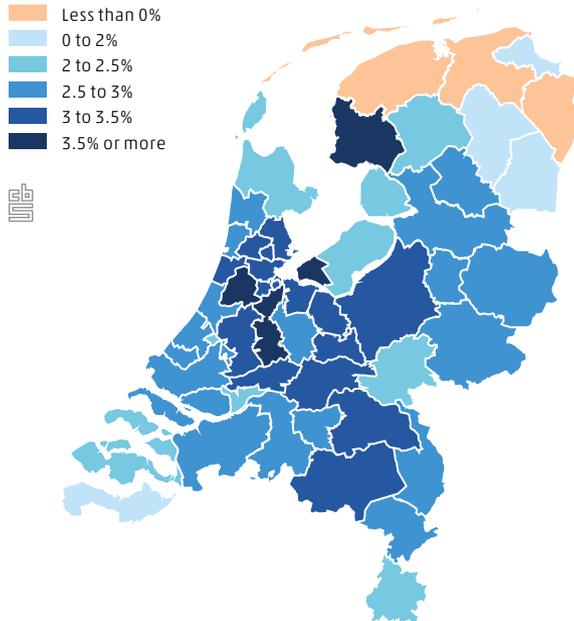
Last year, consumer spending was up by 2.5 percent relative to 2017. Consumers mainly spent more on passenger cars and electrical appliances such as computers and telephones. They also spent more on services including accommodation, meals and refreshments, and transport and communication. Investments were up by 4.3 percent. Just as in 2017, considerably more was invested in residential and commercial property. Furthermore, companies invested substantially more in passenger cars, machinery and installations.

Exports of goods and services grew by 2.7 percent in 2018. Year-on-year, Dutch companies exported significantly more transport equipment, machinery and other equipment. Re-exports – for example exports of previously imported goods – grew slightly faster than exports of domestically produced goods. Imports of goods and services were up by 2.8 percent on 2017.

Expenditure



Economic growth, 2018

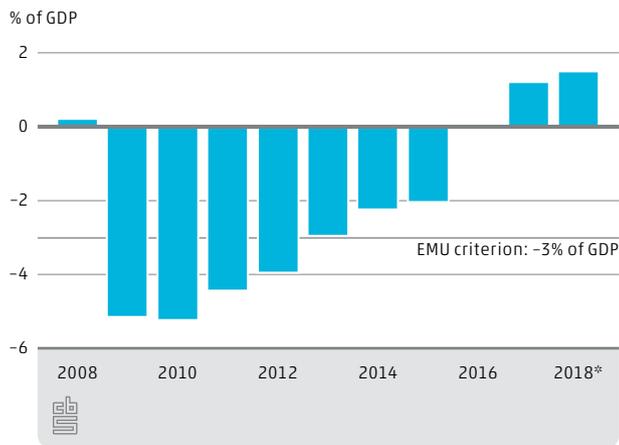


National economic growth was noticeable in virtually all of the COROP plus areas. Economic contraction was only recorded in Overig Groningen and Noord-Friesland. Contraction in Overig Groningen (due to a decline in natural gas extraction) was partially offset by a municipal reorganisation involving Oost-Groningen. Zuidwest-Friesland's economy grew more (5.2 percent) than the economy of Almere, but this higher growth rate was partially due to municipal reorganisations; a part of the economy of Noord-Friesland shifted to Zuidwest-Friesland as a result. In Almere, lease companies in particular contributed to the economic growth.

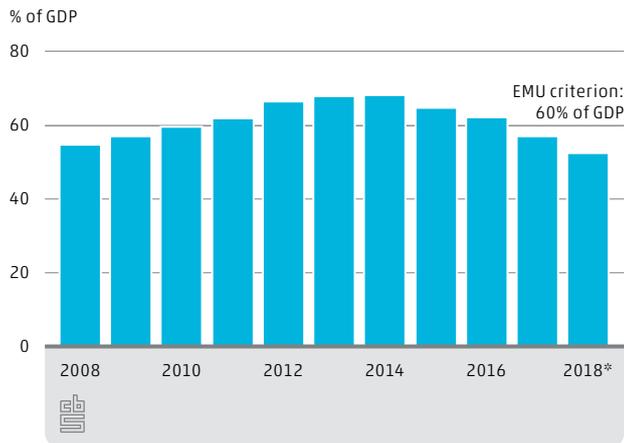
The Dutch government achieved a budget surplus in 2018, as in the previous year. The balance of public revenue and expenditure came out at over 11 billion euros, equivalent to 1.5 percent of GDP. The Netherlands has kept below the European deficit ceiling of 3 percent of GDP.

National debt amounted to more than 405 billion euros in 2018, for example over 23 thousand net per capita. The public debt ratio (debt as a percentage of GDP) stood at 52.4 percent. It was the second consecutive year in which the debt level fell below the European criterion of 60 percent of GDP. Due to the credit crunch and subsequent euro crisis, the debt ratio peaked in 2014 at 67.9 percent. In 2017, national debt fell below the European criterion for the first time after 2010.

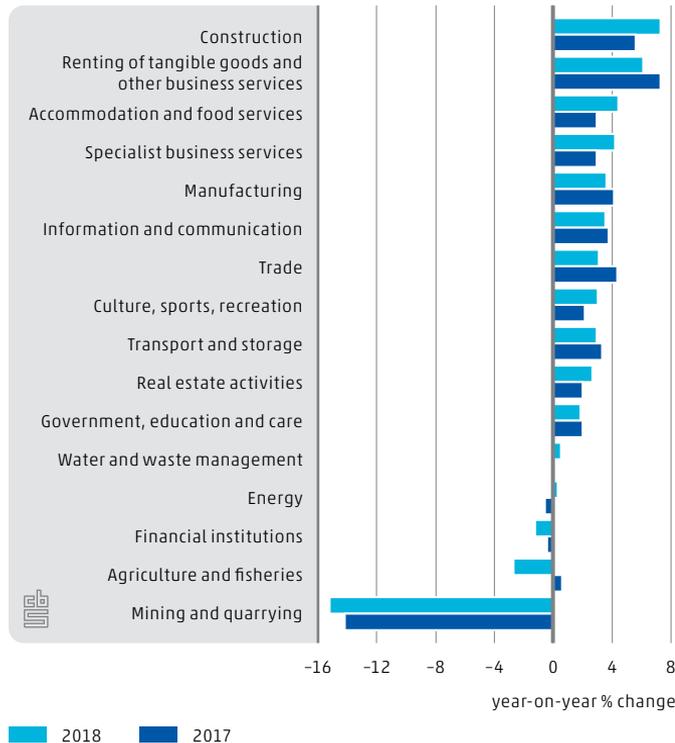
Government balance



Government debt



Output in industries

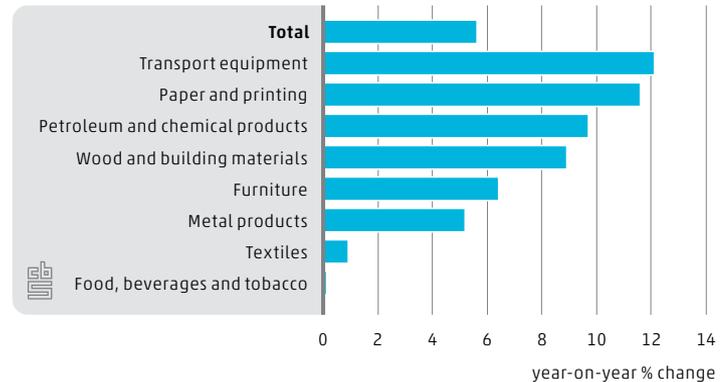


Of all industries, construction saw the strongest production growth in 2018. Output in business services was also considerably higher than in the previous year. A year-on-year increase was realised in manufacturing as well. Production of transport equipment, machinery and equipment grew in particular. These products also performed well in exports. The mining and quarrying sector, on the other hand, contracted again and agriculture saw a year-on-year decline as well.

Manufacturing

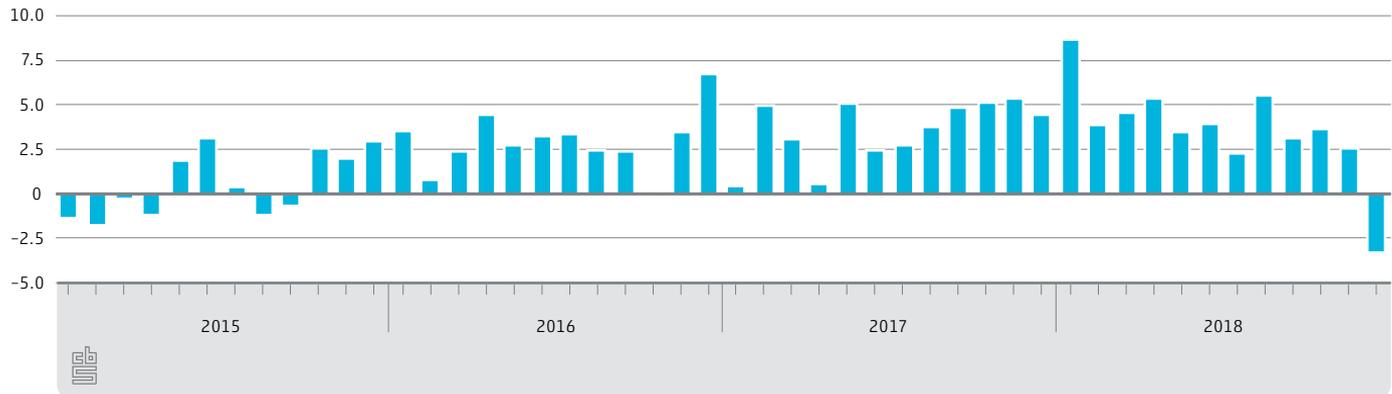
Turnover in the manufacturing industry rose by 5.6 percent in 2018. All industrial sectors recorded turnover growth; at 0.1 percent, it was smallest in the food, beverage and tobacco industry, where manufacturers realised virtually the same results as in 2017. Turnover in the transport industry saw the highest increase in 2018 at 12.1 percent.

Turnover in manufacturing industry, 2018

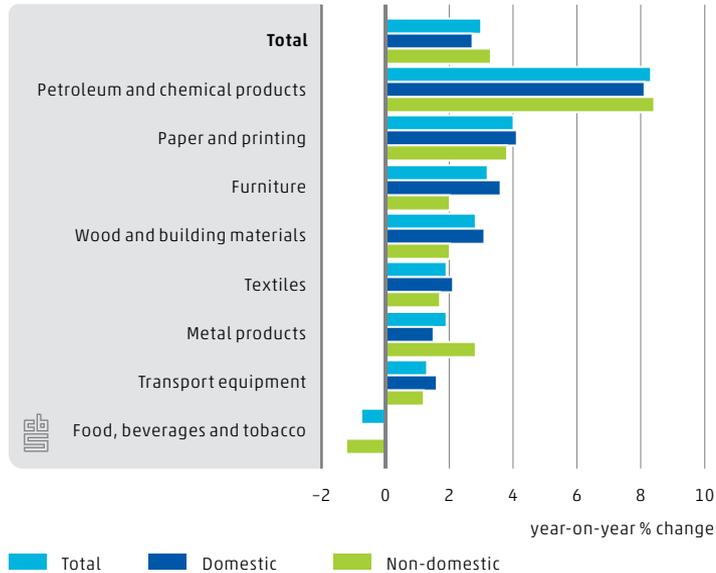


Average daily output in manufacturing industry

year-on-year % change



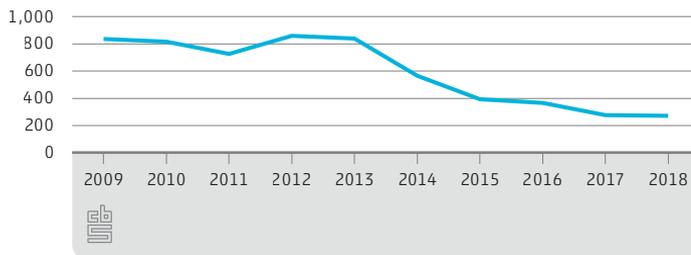
Manufacturing output prices, 2018



For the first time since October 2015, manufacturing output contracted in December 2018. The average daily output generated by the Dutch manufacturing industry in that month was 3.2 percent down year-on-year. Output in the electrical and electro-technical products industry showed the strongest contraction. The decline in the chemical, machinery and pharmaceutical industries was also stronger than average in total manufacturing.

Manufacturing output prices were up by 3.0 percent year-on-year in 2018. Both domestic and export prices charged by Dutch manufacturers increased, by 2.7 and 3.3 percent respectively. Refineries and chemical companies played a major role in these positive price developments, pushing prices up by 8.3 percent on 2017. Prices increased across all sectors except in the food, beverage and tobacco industry, where output prices dropped by 0.7 percent; export prices fell by 1.2 percent, whereas domestic prices did not change.

Bankruptcies in manufacturing

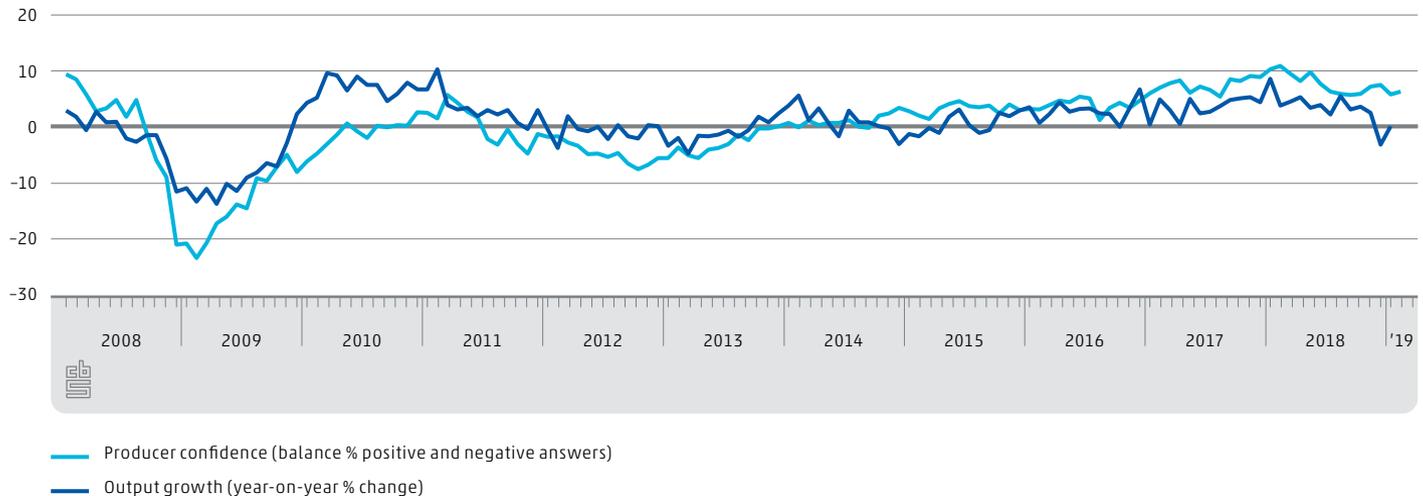


Optimism has prevailed among entrepreneurs since October 2014. In manufacturing, producer confidence rose slightly in February 2019: to 6.3, up from 5.8 in January. Confidence among manufacturers reached an all-time high in February 2018: 10.9. There is a correlation between producer confidence and output growth. Every month between October 2015 and December 2018, the average daily output rose year-on-year. This trend was interrupted by 3.2 percent output decline in December.

In January 2019, output had almost returned to the level of one year previously.

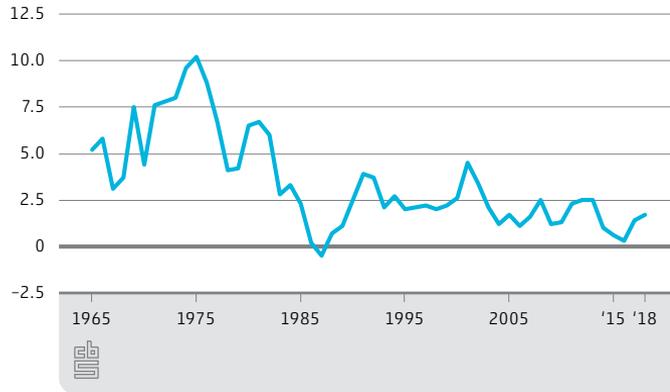
Over the past several years, the number of bankruptcies pronounced in manufacturing has fallen sharply. There were still over 800 company bankruptcies in 2012 and 2013. This number fell below 400 by 2015. Last year, 270 companies filed for bankruptcy. This is a decline of nearly 69 percent relative to the peak in 2012.

Producer confidence and industrial output growth



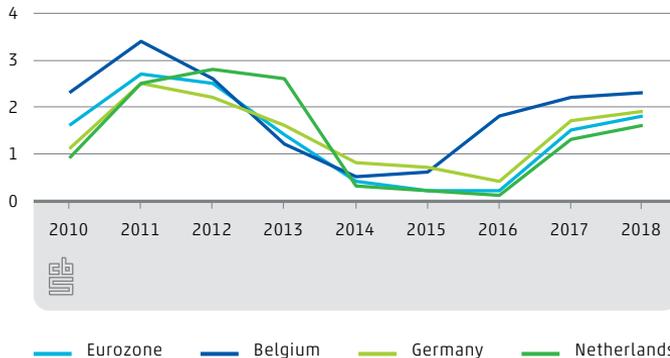
Consumer price index

year-on-year % change



European harmonised consumer price index

year-on-year % change



— Eurozone — Belgium — Germany — Netherlands

Source: CBS, Eurostat.

Prices

Consumer prices were up by 1.7 percent on average in 2018 relative to the previous year. This is the highest increase after 2013, when consumer prices rose faster partly as a result of an increase in the high VAT rate from 19 to 21 percent in October 2012.

The higher consumer price increase in 2018 is mainly attributable to the price developments of electricity and gas. Last year, electricity was on average 15.7 percent more expensive than in 2017. Gas prices were up by 7.5 percent.

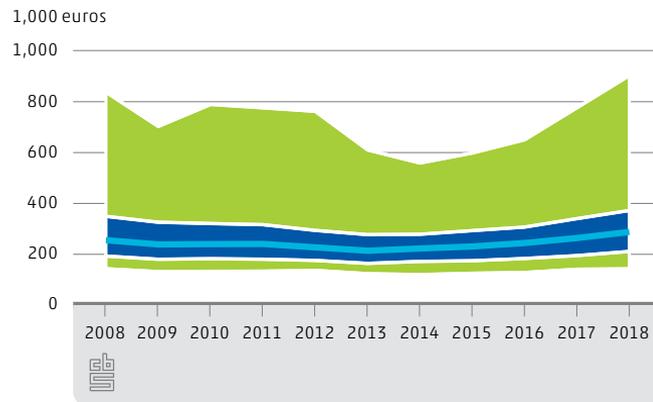
In 2018, HICP-based consumer prices in the Netherlands were up by 1.6 percent relative to 2017. The price increase in the eurozone was 1.8 percent year-on-year. In Belgium and Germany, prices went up by 2.3 and 1.9 percent respectively.

The European Central Bank (ECB) uses these figures to formulate its monetary policies.

According to the ECB, prices in the eurozone are stable as long as the consumer price increase stays around 2 percent.

In 2018, the average sales price of owner-occupied homes in the Netherlands went up to over 287 thousand euros. Blaricum had the highest average house price at 902 thousand euros, the highest in any municipality since 1995. Delfzijl property was lowest in price at an average 142 thousand euros. Price disparities between municipalities were greater in 2018 than in the previous year.

Dwelling transactions per municipality, average selling price and distribution



- Average transaction price nationwide
- Transaction price range (in 80% of municipalities¹⁾)
- Transaction price range (in all municipalities)

Source: CBS, Kadaster.

¹⁾ All municipalities minus the 10% with the highest average transaction prices and the 10% with the lowest average transaction prices.

 Watch our subtitled video about owner-occupied homes

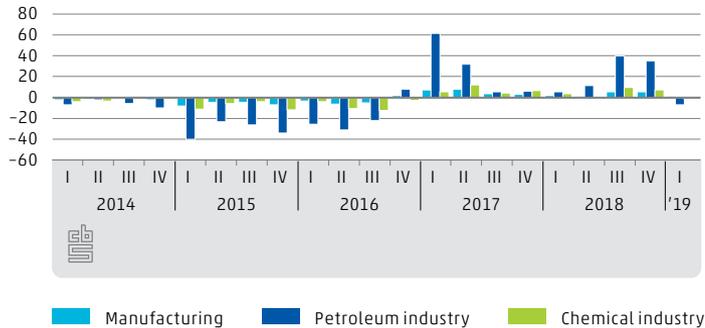


 Watch our subtitled video about consumer prices



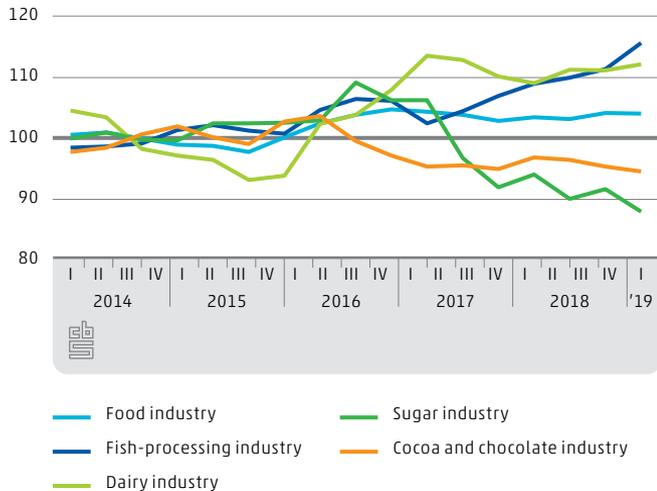
Producer prices in manufacturing

year-on-year % change



Producer prices food industry

2015=100



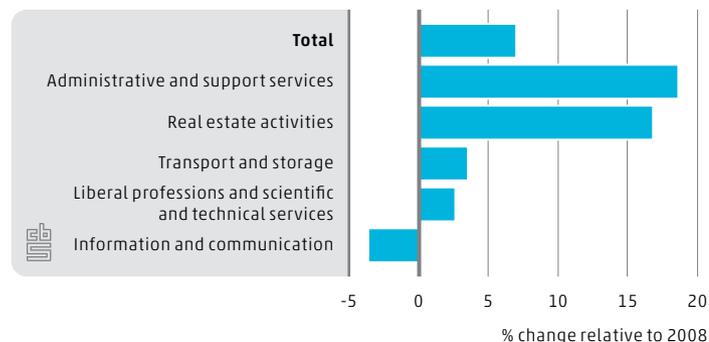
Despite lower prices in the petroleum industry, producer prices were exactly 1 percent higher at the start of 2019 than one year previously. Prices in the petroleum industry were nearly 7 percent lower than in January 2018. At the beginning of Q4 2018, they were still up by almost 40 percent year-on-year. The petroleum industry usually has a major impact on price developments in other branches of industry.

Prices in the food industry have increased over the past few years and were up 4 percent by January 2019 relative to 2015. Dairy and fish products in particular rose sharply in price. Price levels in the dairy and fish-processing industries were up by nearly 16 percent and over 12 percent respectively. Prices did not increase across the board in the food industry, however; the chocolate and sugar industries dropped prices by nearly 6 and over 12 percent respectively relative to 2015.

Prices of commercial services and transport rose by an average 7 percent during the period 2008–2018. A relatively strong increase was recorded in the rates for administrative and support services, by 19 percent. Real estate activities also saw a relatively sharp price increase: 17 percent. The only price decrease was found in the information and communication industry.

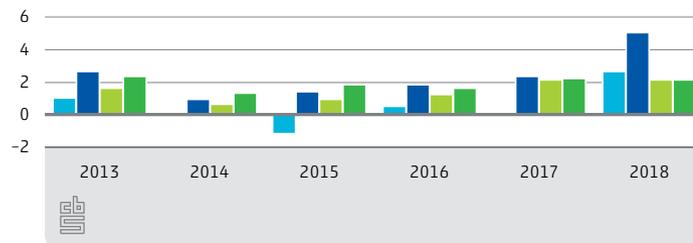
Apart from the rates for rental and leasing activities, prices of all administrative and support services showed a continual increase in the period 2008–2018. The increase was most substantial in employment services, temp agencies and personnel management. Prices in these industries were up by more than one-quarter in 2018 relative to 2008.

Prices of commercial services, 2018



Price development administrative and support services

year-on-year % change



- Rental and leasing activities
- Employment services, temp agencies and personnel management
- Security and investigation services
- Services related to dwellings, landscape maintenance

Trade, accommodation and food services

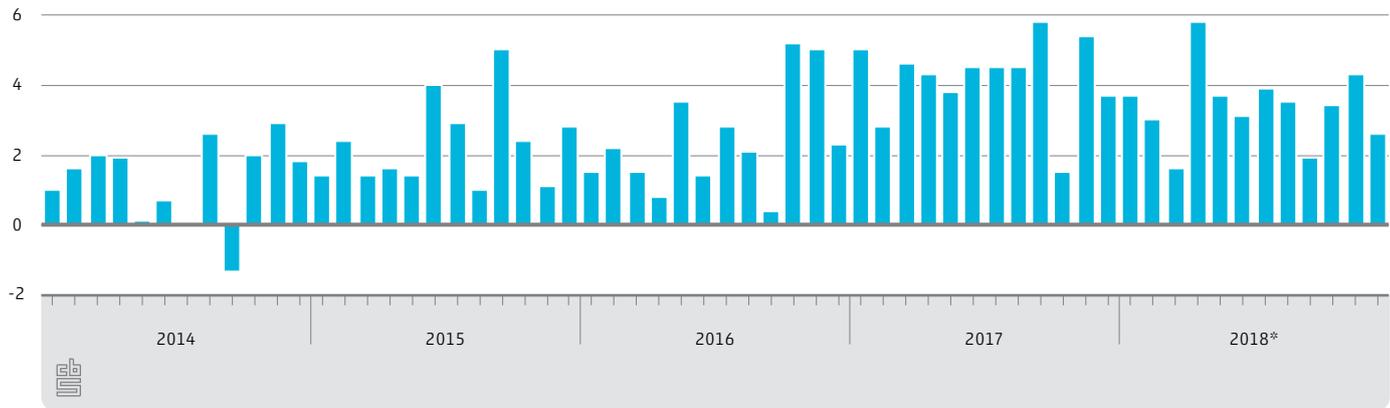
In 2018, the retail sector achieved 3.4 percent higher turnover, the second highest growth rate after 2007. Turnover growth stood at 4.2 percent in 2017. Sales were up by 2.9 percent. Shops selling foodstuffs as well as shops in the non-food sector had higher turnover in 2018. In the latter sector, shops selling DIY products, kitchens and flooring and furniture shops

benefited most notably from the revival in the housing market. Turnover at drugstores and clothes shops was up year-on-year as well.

Online retail in the Netherlands has boomed in recent years, although the growth has levelled off slightly. In 2018, the year-on-year increase was lower for the third consecutive year. The growth rate was still 22.1 percent in 2015 but this contracted to 17.9 percent in 2018.

Turnover in retail trade¹⁾ (adjusted for shopping days)

year-on-year % change

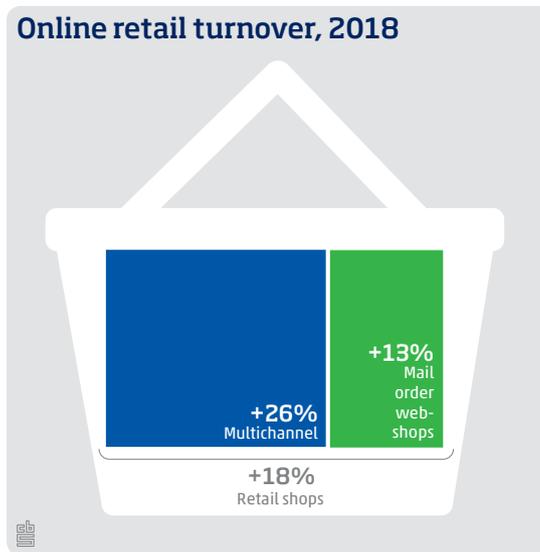


¹⁾ Excluding filling stations and pharmacies.

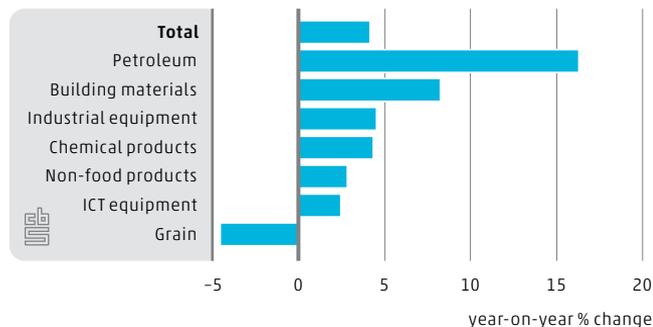
Webshops – selling goods and/or services over the internet as their core business – display a similar trend. In 2018, retailers with internet sales as a side activity (for example multi-channel retailers) did achieve higher online turnover at 26.3 percent, the highest growth rate over the past five years.

Wholesale trade achieved 4 percent year-on-year turnover growth in 2018. A higher oil price boosted turnover in the petroleum and gas trade by more than 16 percent. Just as in 2017, turnover of building materials was up by 8 percent. In the manufacturing sector, demand was up for raw materials and machinery. Chemical trading turnover grew by over 4 percent, while suppliers of industrial machinery recorded nearly 5 percent higher turnover. Grain merchants had almost 5 percent lower turnover than in 2017.

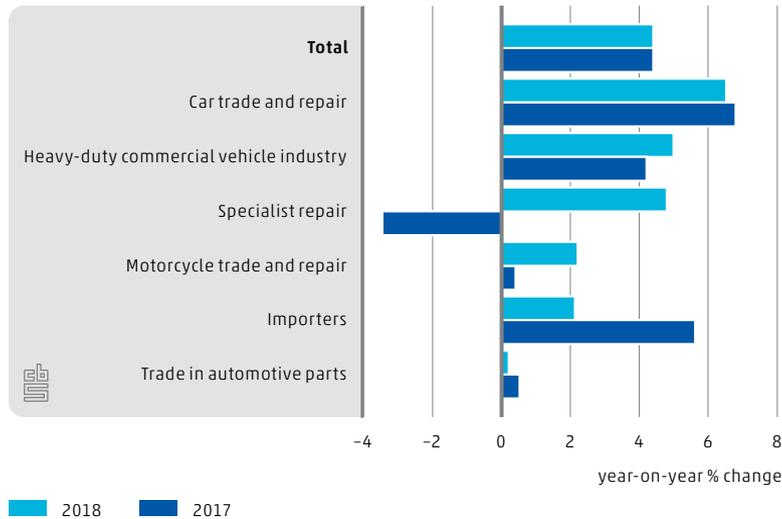
Online retail turnover, 2018



Turnover in wholesale trade, 2018



Turnover in car and motorcycle trade



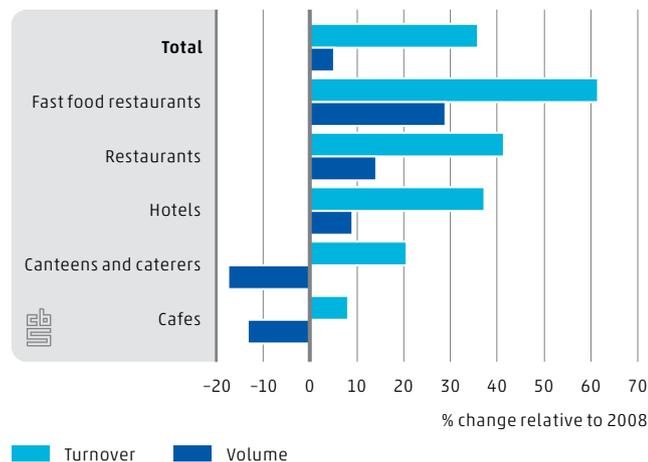
In 2018, turnover in the automobile and motorcycle industry rose for the fourth consecutive year. At 4.4 percent, the increase was almost the same as in 2017. Automotive trade and repair recorded the highest increase at 6.5 percent. Turnover rose partly due to higher sales of new passenger cars (7 percent). In the heavy-duty commercial vehicle and specialised automotive repair industries, turnover increased by around 5 percent. In 2017, turnover in the heavy-duty commercial vehicle industry still showed a decline.

Importers of new passenger cars had 2 percent higher turnover last year against 5.5 percent in 2017. Turnover in motorcycle trade and repair was also up, by over 2 percent. Turnover growth in the industry for automotive parts was almost the same as in 2017, namely 0.2 percent.

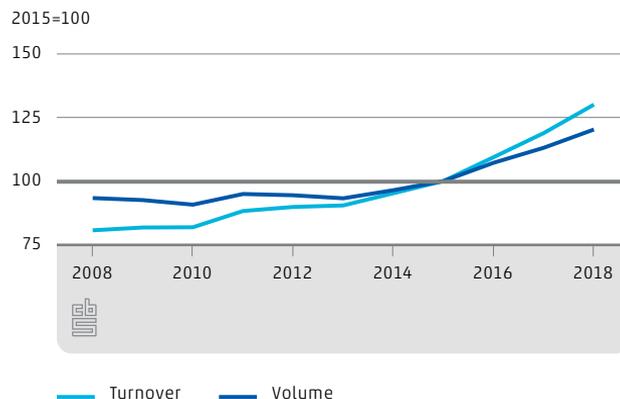
In the period 2008–2018, turnover in the sector accommodation and food services increased by 36 percent. The volume of refreshments and overnight stays was 5 percent up on 2008. Fast food restaurants saw the strongest growth in this period, by more than 60 percent. Cafés, canteens and caterers sold fewer refreshments. Turnover developments in the accommodation and food services sector are mainly the result of price increases; increased sales play a minor role.

Turnover of fast food restaurants (including cafeterias, ice-cream parlours and food stands) rose continually between 2008 and 2018, by an average 5 percent annually. The volume of refreshments sold went up each year by nearly 3 percent on average.

Turnover in accommodation and food services, 2018

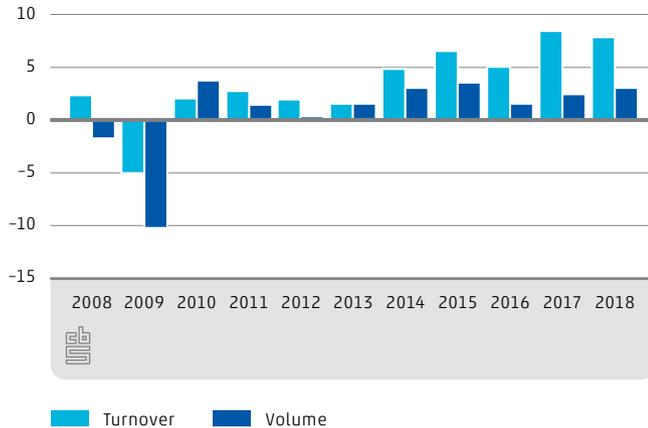


Turnover fast food restaurants



Turnover accommodation services

year-on-year % change

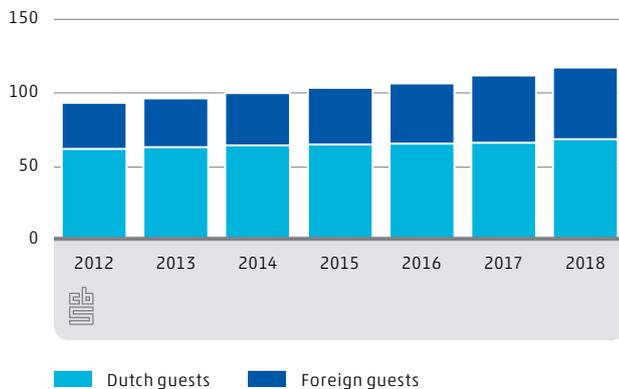


Between 2008 and 2018, turnover in accommodation services rose by 41 percent; the number of overnight stays grew by 10 percent. Both turnover and the number of nights spent in hotels, bungalow parks and at campsites have increased each year since 2010.

In 2018, accommodation services reached a record number of nearly 117 million overnight stays. This was 5 percent up on the previous year and 22 percent up on 2013. Over this five-year period, the number of nights spent by foreign guests rose by 49 percent while Dutch guests spent 8 percent more nights.

Nights spent in tourist accommodations

x million

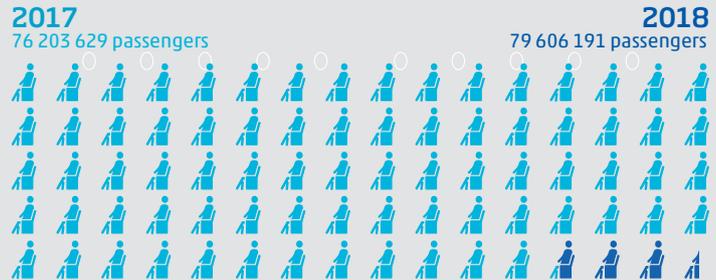


Transport

Airports in the Netherlands saw 79.6 million passengers arrive or depart in 2018, up from 76.2 million in 2017. Compared to 2008, the number of passengers increased by 58 percent. Eindhoven Airport in particular has handled more travellers over the past decade. In 2018, more than 3.5 times as many passengers flew via this airport compared to ten years previously.

In 2018, the volume of air cargo processed amounted to more than 1.8 million tonnes, 0.3 percent down on the previous year. Compared to 2008, the volume was up by 13 percent. Schiphol and Maastricht Aachen are the only two airports in the Netherlands processing air cargo.

Passengers and cargo in the Netherlands

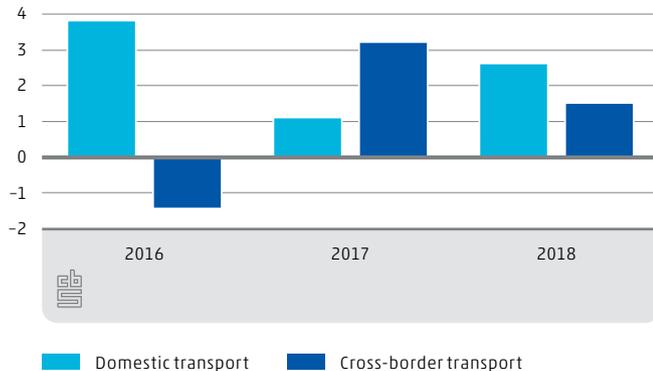


 Watch our subtitled video about aviation



Weight transported by Dutch lorries

year-on-year % change



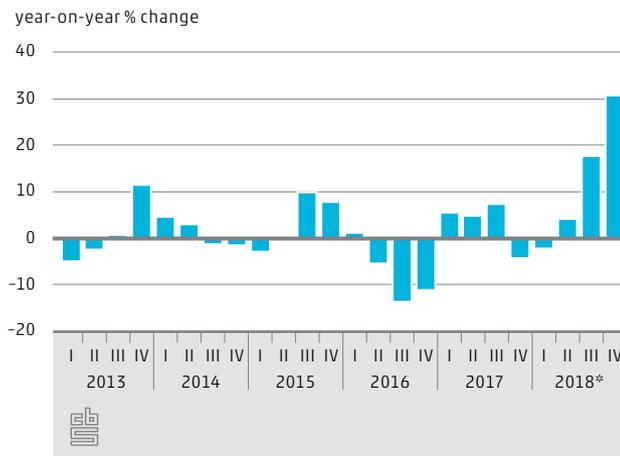
Road haulage was up by 2.1 percent in 2018. Dutch lorries carried 680 million tonnes of goods. Both domestic transport and international transport to and from the Netherlands rose. The weight of goods in domestic transport rose more sharply (2.6 percent) than of goods carried in and out of the country (1.5 percent). For every 100 tonnes of goods transported in 2018, 81 tonnes were loaded and unloaded within Dutch borders.

Turnover in the transport sector was up by 5 percent in 2018 relative to 2017. Turnover growth was recorded in all industries but was strongest in inland navigation, amounting to nearly 13 percent. Due to periods of low water in the second half of 2018, more vessels were needed to carry the cargo. As a result, the overcapacity was reduced and inland skippers were able to charge higher freight rates. They also received a low-water surcharge for the higher costs due to the low water level. The lowest water levels were seen in Q4 2018. Turnover rose by over 30 percent in that quarter, the sharpest increase since the start of the century.

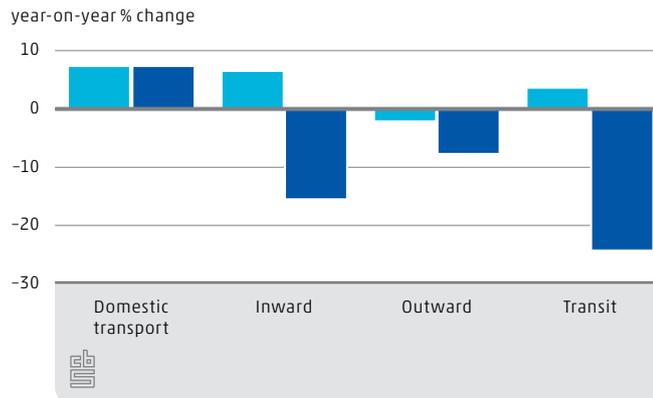
Despite the low water levels in 2018, the total weight transported within the Netherlands by inland vessels increased by 7.3 percent year-on-year. On the other hand, weight transported internationally declined by 5.8 percent to 238 million tonnes. Outward transport went down in the second half of the year due to the low water levels. The total weight carried already dropped by nearly 2 percent in the first half of the year. Inward transport and transit goods, on the other hand, increased in weight in the first half of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

During the first three quarters of 2018, 450 million tonnes of goods were transhipped at Dutch seaports. This is an increase of 0.4 percent relative to the same period one year previously. Just as in 2017, growth was mainly supported by incoming and outgoing container shipments. Throughput of these goods rose by nearly 7 percent to over 98 million tonnes in Q1 through Q3 2018. In contrast to the increase in container shipments, there was a decline in tonnage of dry bulk.

Turnover in inland navigation

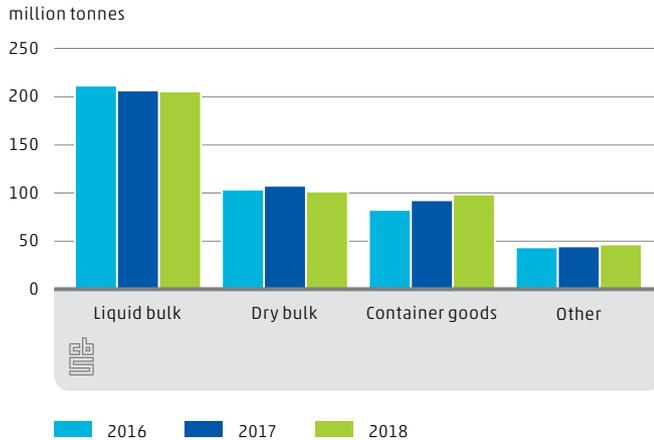


Weight carried by inland vessels

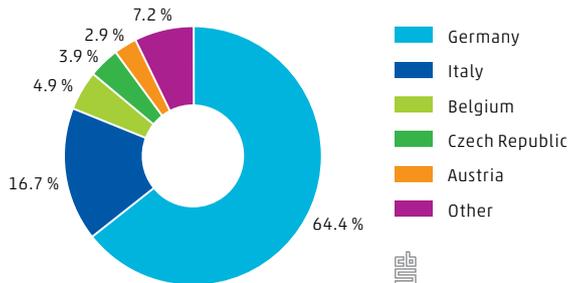


■ First half of 2018 ■ Second half of 2018

Weight carried by seagoing vessels, January-September



Inbound and outbound rail freight transport, 2018



Throughput of both coal and ores dropped by 6 and 10 percent respectively over the same period.

In terms of rail freight transport, Germany is by far the most important country for loading and unloading cargo. In 2018, over 21 million tonnes of goods were transported in and out of Germany by rail. Two-thirds of outbound rail freight transport to Germany consisted of coal and metal ores. Italy comes in second place with a total of 5.5 million tonnes of goods in throughput. Belgium and the Czech Republic follow at a great distance with over 1.6 and nearly 1.3 million tonnes in throughput, respectively.

Note: The published weights for shipping do not include the unladen weight of, for example, the container in which the goods are transported. Weights given for road transport, air freight, inland shipping and freight transport by rail do include all packaging, and the unladen weight of containers, swap bodies, goods pallets etc.



20% are tired
when getting up

17% of employees
have mental fatigue

3. Labour and income

More fatigued, less concerned

The past few years have seen a change in the reported psychosocial workload of employees. More employees are reporting work-related mental fatigue. Despite a nearly overall decrease in self-perceived job autonomy over the past decade, this autonomy rose again slightly in 2018. There is also improved job confidence: employees have become less concerned about retaining their job or finding another job with their current employer or another one.

Tired from the moment of getting up

One major trend seen in recent years is a rise in work-related mental fatigue. One out of six employees (17 percent) report this fatigue as occurring at least several times a month, up from 13 percent in 2015. The most commonly cited complaint is feeling drained at the end of a working day: 32 percent of employees suffer from this at least a few times a month. 20 percent get up in the morning feeling tired.

Workers on permanent contracts are more likely to experience mental fatigue than those in flexible employment: 18 versus 16 percent. There are varying levels of mental fatigue among the flex workers: workers hired through temping agencies are more than twice as likely to suffer fatigue (22 percent) as on-call or replacement workers (11 percent).

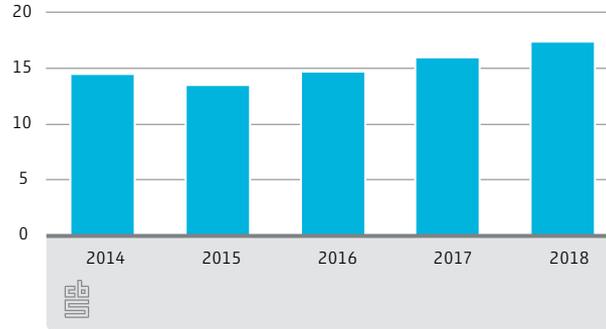
No further decrease in job control

Mental fatigue complaints tend to arise from high work pressure paired with limited autonomy to organise tasks and set one's own pace. The increased workload (task demands) means workers have to work extra hard, long or fast. In 2018, 46 percent of workers indicated they were often or always given a high workload. Over 1 in 3 employees often or always work fast while 31 percent work extra hard.

Limited workplace autonomy means having no or only occasional control over the way tasks are divided, the order in which they are to be performed or the work pace, not being able to contribute to solutions, determine working hours and time one's own leave. In 2018, 39 percent of workers were never or only occasionally able to organise their own tasks; 44 percent had limited or no freedom to set one's own pace. Half of all workers were unable to take up leave whenever they wanted.

Work-related mental fatigue (burn-out complaints)

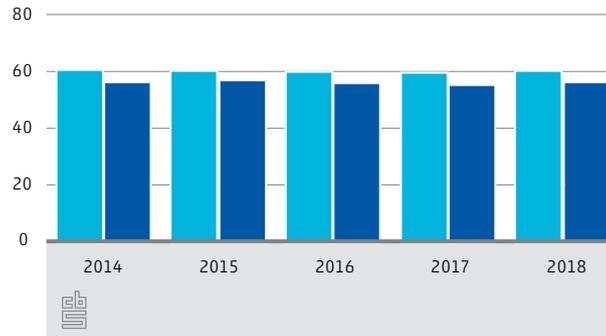
% of employees aged 15 to 74



Source: CBS, TNO.

Autonomy at work

% of employees aged 15 to 74

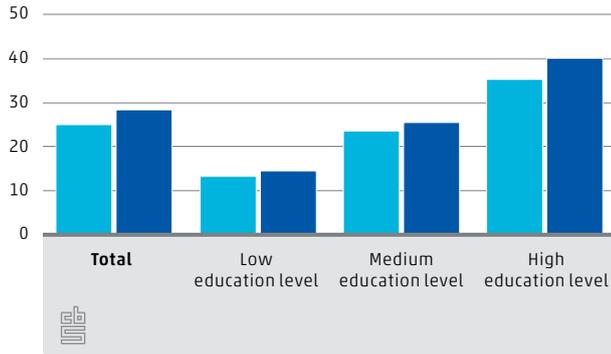


Take their own decisions Work at their own pace

Source: CBS, TNO.

Frequently or consistently experiencing information overload

% of employees aged 15 to 74



2014 2018

Source: CBS, TNO.

Since 2008, the number of employees who experience a sense of job control has decreased; this decrease was faster between 2008 and 2013 than between 2014 and 2017. In 2018, employees experienced slightly more freedom than in the previous year, mainly in terms of taking leave and working hours. 26 percent of workers were able to determine their own working hours against 25 percent in 2017. Workplace autonomy (how work is done) was satisfactory for 60 percent of employees, for example at a similar level as in the three preceding years.

Information overload

In 2018, 28 percent of all employees reported some or persistent difficulty in handling the excessive amount of information they receive through emails, phone calls and social media messages. This was still 25 percent in 2014. Employees with an information overload are less satisfied with their working conditions and more inclined to look for work elsewhere. Information overload is nearly three times more likely among highly educated (40 percent) than among lower educated workers (14 percent). The most significant increase in experienced

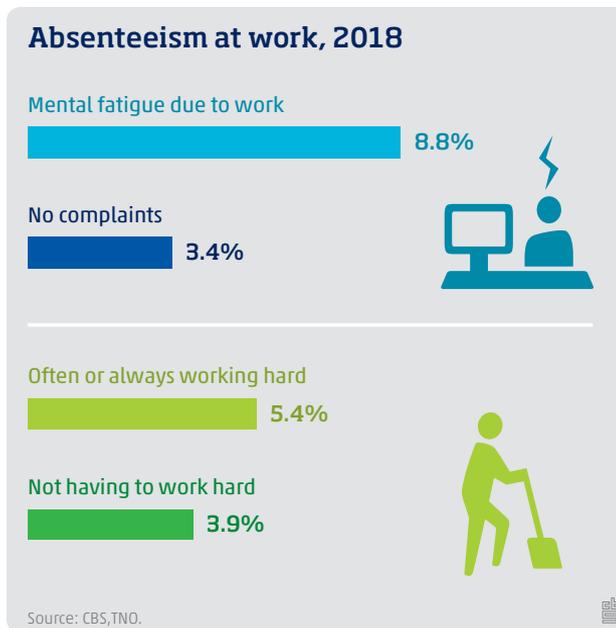
[▶ Watch our subtitled video about information overload](#)



information overload was among higher educated workers between 2014 and 2018. Highest in the occupational ranking are managers: almost half (46 percent) say they are receiving too much information throughout the day for proper processing.

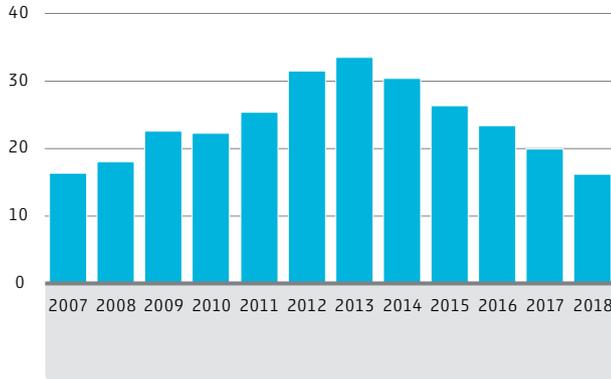
High workload, high absenteeism

Those with hard working conditions – physically and mentally taxing work, heavy workload – and fatigue complaints are more likely to engage in absenteeism. The harder working conditions are, the higher absenteeism is. Employees with work-related mental fatigue complaints took sick leave on 8.8 percent of their working days in 2018; for workers without such complaints, the absenteeism rate was 3.4 percent. In addition, those who had to work extra long hours or extra hard on most or all days showed a higher rate (5.4 percent) compared to workers without these circumstances (3.9 percent).



Concerns over job retention

% of employees aged 15 to 74



Source: CBS, TNO.

Figures over the period 2007 to 2013 inclusive refer to employees aged 15 to 64.

Fewer job worries

Fewer employees are afraid to lose their job. The share of employees lacking job security stood at 16 percent in 2018; this was similar in 2007. (Figures over the period 2007–2013 are on employees aged 15 to 64 years.) Job insecurity reached its highest level since 2007 in 2013 with 34 percent, but has declined steadily since then.

People in employment are not only less worried about losing their job, they are also more optimistic about finding another one. More than half of all employees (53 percent) are confident about getting another job with the same employer. In 2016 this applied to half, while in 2014 this was true for 47 percent. Finding new employment with another employer was considered easy by 7 out of 10 employees in 2018; in 2014, the share was still over 5 out of 10 employees.

These trends are evident from the Netherlands Working Conditions Survey (NEA) conducted by CBS and TNO.

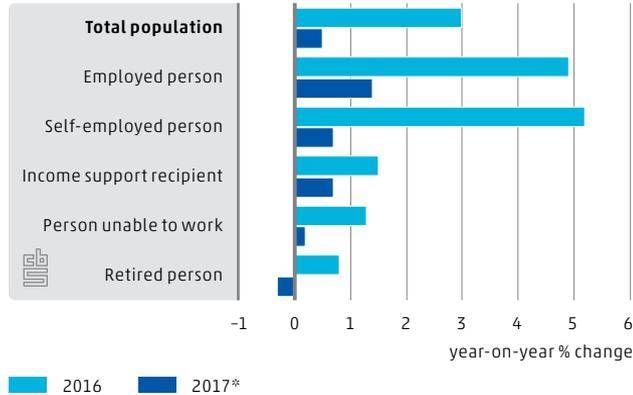
Figures

Income and wealth

In 2017, the average standardised household income in the Netherlands amounted to 28.8 thousand euros. Households had on average 3.6 percent more disposable income in 2017 compared to 2011, when the average standardised income stood at 27.8 thousand euros. Due to the economic crisis, the average household income declined over the period 2011–2013. It began to build up again as the economy started to recover in 2014. The standardised disposable household income is calculated in such a way as to enable comparison among the various households.

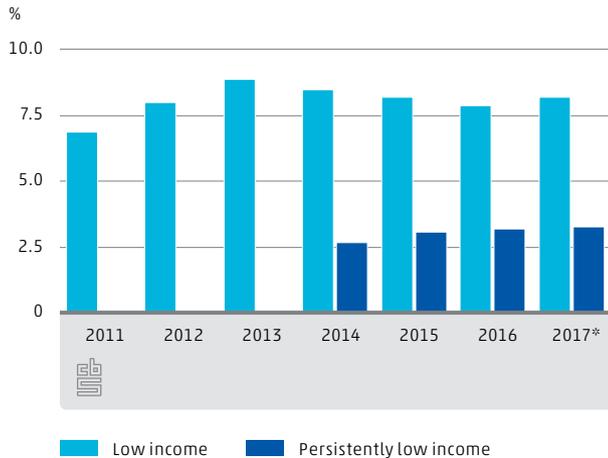


Purchasing power developments¹⁾



¹⁾ With source of income unchanged.

Households living on a (persistently) low income



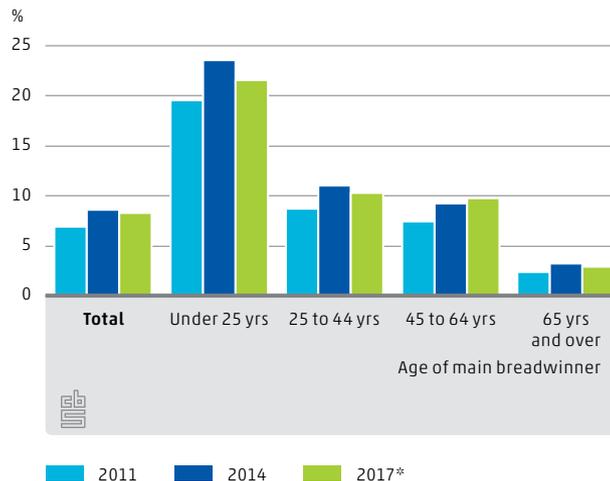
The public's purchasing power increased by 0.5 percent in 2017; this was still 3.0 percent in 2016. Employees saw the largest rise at a median 1.4 percent. They profited from several tax measures such as the increased tax credit for employed persons, as well as an improved labour market. On the other hand, pensioners saw no or only limited indexation of their supplementary pensions in 2017. As a result, their spending power declined by 0.3 percent. It was still up by 0.8 percent in 2016.

Of the more than 7.3 million households in 2017, there were 599 thousand with an income below the low-income threshold. This means they were exposed to the risk of poverty. The share of households exposed to such risk rose from 7.9 percent in 2016 to 8.2 percent in 2017. For at least four years, the share of households with a low income had risen, from 3.2 to 3.3 percent.

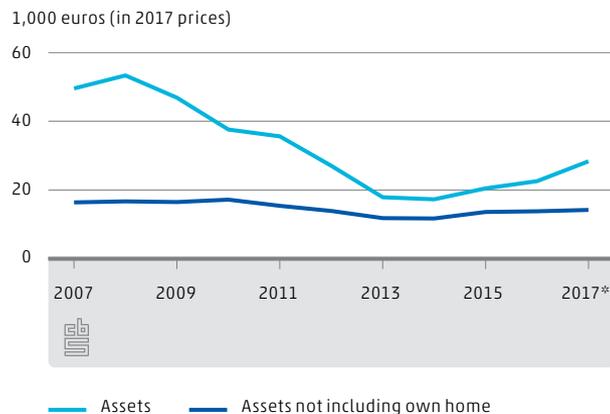
In 2017, 21.5 percent of young households (for example up to the age of 25) had a low income. The smallest poverty risk was for the households aged 65 and over, namely 2.8 percent. In the period 2014–2017, the poverty risk declined across virtually all age groups. Only in households with a main breadwinner aged between 45 and 65 years, the poverty risk increased slightly, mainly in the group between 55 and 65 years. Despite economic recovery, a growing number of persons in this group became economically inactive in the period 2013–2017. Once they are out of work, older people find it difficult to re-enter the labour force. This is how some of them have ended up below the poverty line.

In 2017, median household wealth in the Netherlands amounted to 28.3 thousand euros, almost 6 thousand more than one year previously. Wealth – assets minus debts – was mainly higher due to appreciating home prices. Despite this rise, household wealth is still not at the level of 2008, when median wealth exceeded 53 thousand euros. If home ownership is not included, there is still a slight rise in household wealth: from 13.7 thousand euros in 2016 to 14.1 thousand euros in 2017.

Low-income households

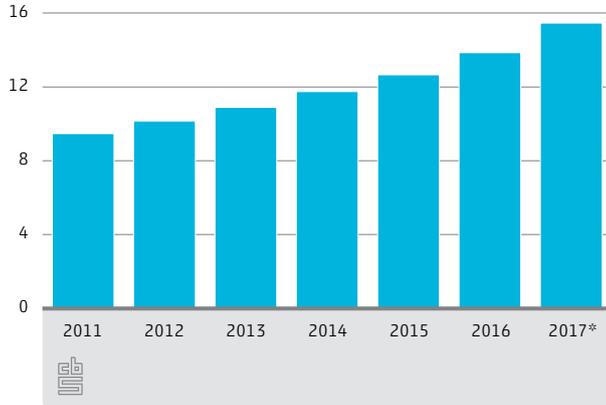


Median household wealth, 1 January



Average household student loan debt, 1 January

bn euros



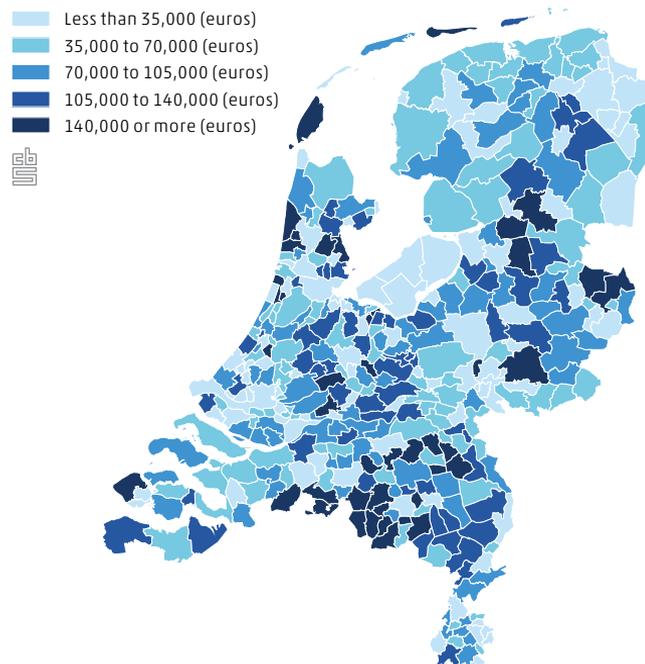
Total student loan debt was 15.5 billion euros in 2017, up 1.6 billion euros on the previous year. Total student loan debt is growing each year. It was up by over 60 percent relative to 2011 (9.5 billion euros). Nearly 1.1 million households had a student debt in 2017. This is 82 thousand more households than in 2016. Furthermore, the median amount of student debt went up from 7.4 thousand euros in 2016 to 8.1 thousand euros in 2017.



With median household wealth at 298.5 thousand euros, the municipality of Laren (Noord-Holland province) was the wealthiest municipality in 2017. The top 10 wealthiest municipalities were predominantly small municipalities in the province of Noord-Brabant. There are relatively many elderly residents, who have accumulated considerable amounts of assets over the years.

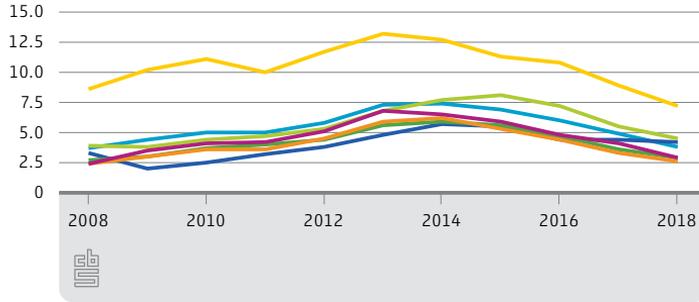
The lowest median wealth was seen in Rotterdam (2,800 euros). The Hague and Amsterdam ranked in the top 10 lowest wealth levels as well. The major cities have relatively many young residents, benefit recipients and persons with a non-western migration background. These are the groups who tend to have a low net worth.

Median household wealth, 1 January 2017*



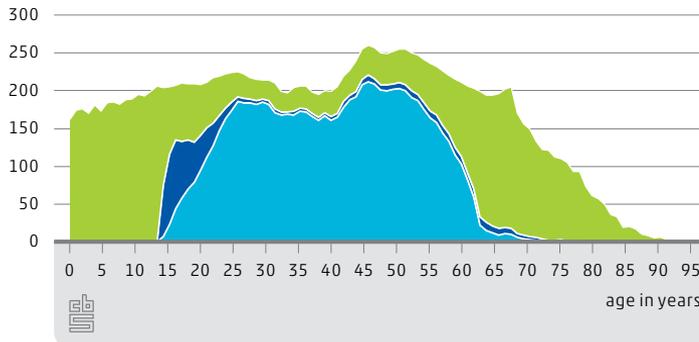
Unemployment rate

% of the labour force



Distribution of economically active and inactive population, 2018

x 1,000



Labour

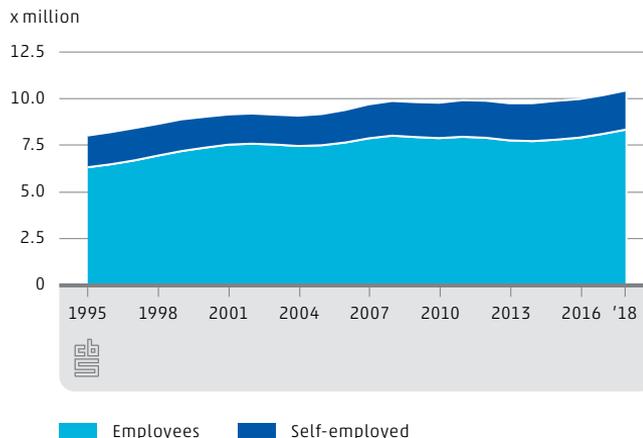
In 2018, 350 thousand people in the Netherlands were unemployed. The unemployed are defined as people without a paid job who are actively looking and are currently available for work. Unemployment has declined since 2014, when it still affected 660 thousand people, equivalent to 7.4 percent of the labour force; this was down to 3.8 percent by 2018. Unemployment decline is seen across the age groups, although it set in later (2015) in the age group 55 to 64 years. The decline has stagnated among the over-65s as of 2017.

In 2018, 67.8 percent of the Dutch population aged 15 to 74 years were in employment. Nine out of 10 persons in this group work 12 or more hours per week. As for youth employment (ages 15 to 24 years), 4 in 10 work in a small job of less than 12 hours. Labour participation shows a strong decline as of age 64.

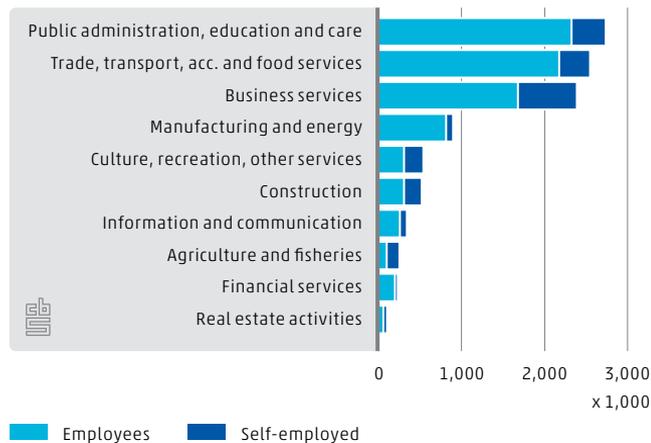
Job growth has been substantial over the past four years. In 2018, 260 thousand new jobs were created, the largest increase since 2007. This put the total number of jobs at 10.4 million. 8.3 million of these jobs were taken up by employees and 2.1 million by self-employed. Relative to 1995, the number of jobs has gone up by 30 percent. The share of self-employed jobs has decreased from 21 to 20 percent.

Public administration, education and care account for over one-quarter of all jobs. Most jobs were added in business services last year; half of them were temporary agency work. The majority of all self-employed work in business services. The self-employment rate is highest in agriculture and fisheries. Half of all jobs in this sector are taken up by self-employed workers.

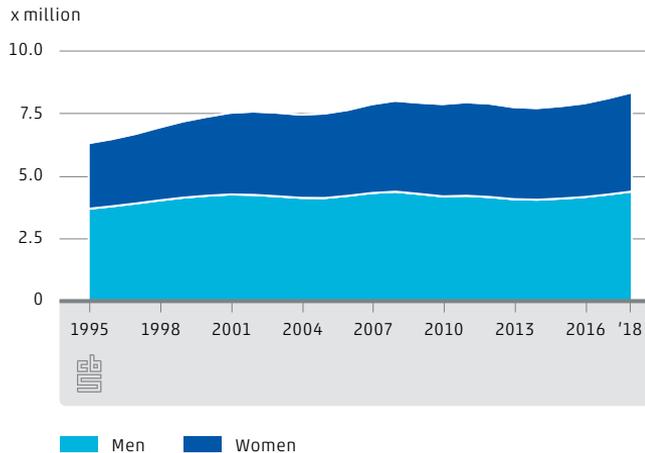
Jobs



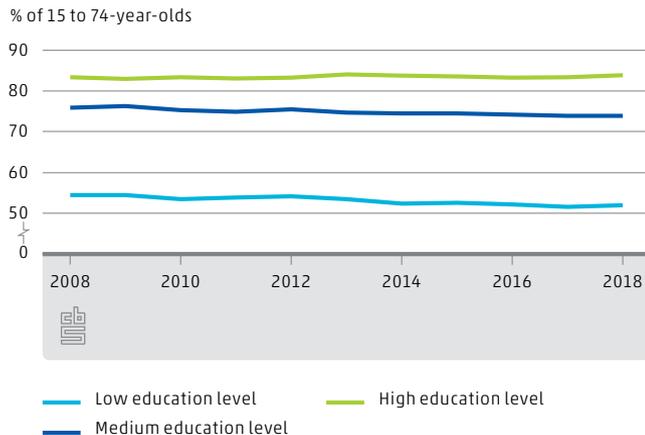
Employment by industry sector, 2018



Employee jobs



Gross labour participation



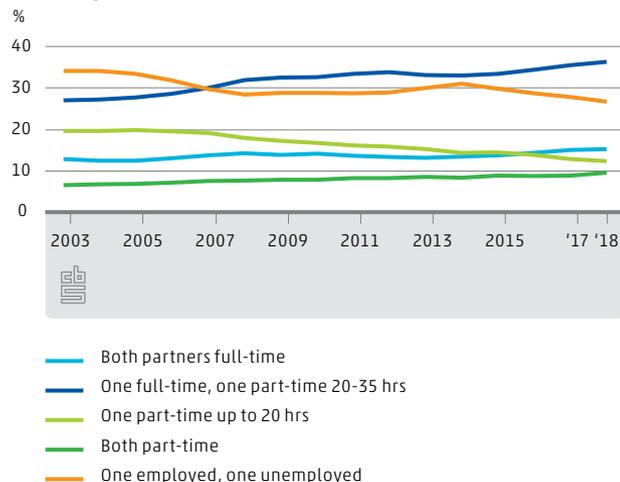
In 2018, nearly half of all employee jobs were occupied by women. In comparison, this share was 42 percent in 1995. Since then, the number of female employees has risen by 51 percent against 19 percent more male employees. At 84 percent, the share of working women is highest in the sector care and lowest in construction at 12 percent. Almost 80 percent of all employee jobs filled by women are part-time jobs.

The percentage share of people active on the Dutch labour market rose further in 2018. Relative to the previous year, both low-skilled and highly skilled participation in the labour force rose. Gross labour participation remained unchanged among the medium-skilled. At both low-skilled and medium-skilled level, gross labour participation was still lower in 2018 than in 2008. On the other hand, labour participation rates in the highly skilled workforce have exceeded pre-crisis levels again.

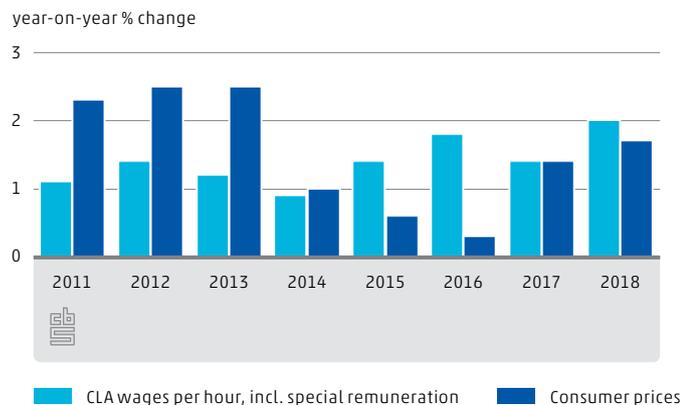
In 2018, there were almost 3.3 million couples with one or both partners in employment. The most common type are the one-and-a-half-income earners, for example with one partner working on a full-time basis (35 hours or more) and the other on a part-time basis. More and more are large part-time jobs (20 to 35 hours). This share has increased since 2003 from 27 to 36 percent. At the same time, the share of 'small' one-and-a-half-income earners (with one partner working less than 20 hours) has decreased. In 2018, the share of single-income families was also considerably lower than fifteen years previously.

In 2018, collectively agreed (CAO) wages rose by 2 percent, whereas consumer prices went up by 1.7 percent. Wage and price movements were more similar in 2017. Consumer price inflation was still far behind the increase in CLA wages in 2016. Over the past four years, the CAO wage increase has remained equal to or above consumer price inflation. The reverse was true in the period 2011–2014, a time of economic crisis, with wage increases lagging behind consumer price developments.

Couples (15 to 74 yrs) with one or both partners employed



CLA wage and consumer price developments

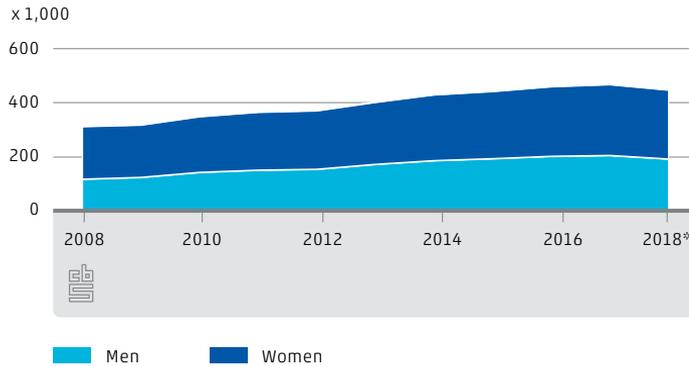


Social security

At the end of Q2 2018, over 20 thousand fewer people were on income support compared to one year previously. The total number of income support recipients stood at nearly 448 thousand. The decline was stronger among men (13 thousand) than among women (7 thousand). The gap between male and female recipients of income support became larger as a result.

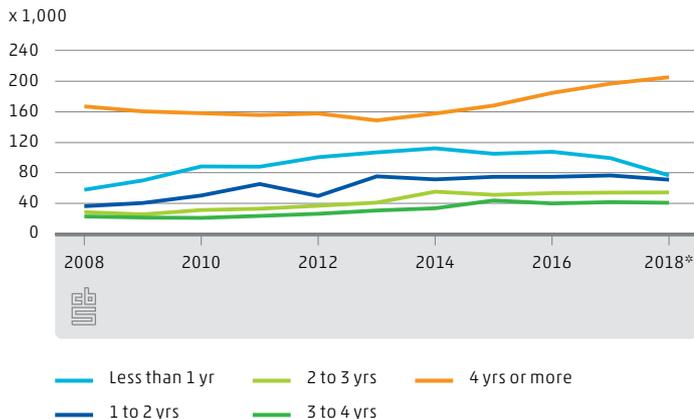
The number of people dependent on income support for less than four years was lower in Q2 2018 than three years previously. This decline was mainly seen among those receiving income support for less than a year. In Q2 2018, there were nearly 23 thousand fewer recipients than one year previously. At the same time, the number of long-term income support recipients (four years or more) increased. This was partly due to the gradual raising of the statutory pension age, meaning prolonged income support for people over 65. In Q2 2018, long-term income support recipients accounted for around 46 percent of the group receiving income support up to the statutory pension age.

Persons¹⁾ on income support, end of Q2



¹⁾ Up to statutory pension age.

Income support benefit recipients¹⁾ by duration of benefit, end of Q2

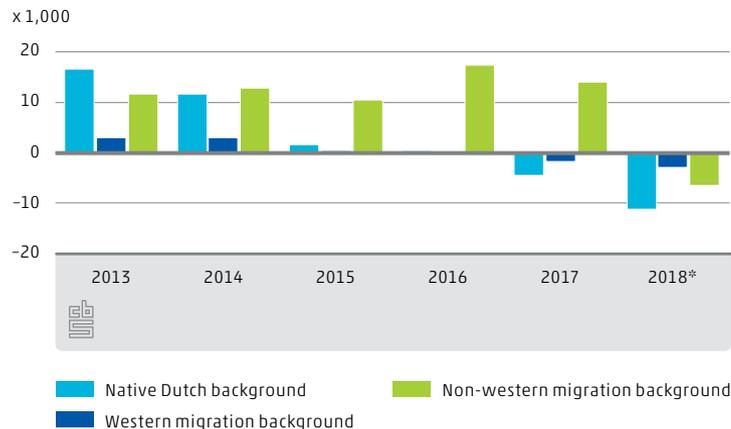


¹⁾ Up to statutory pension age.

For the first time in nine years, the number of income support recipients decreased year-on-year in 2018, regardless of their background. The decline already took place in 2017 among people with a native Dutch or a western migration background. This trend was maintained in 2018 and then extended to include recipients with a non-western migration background.

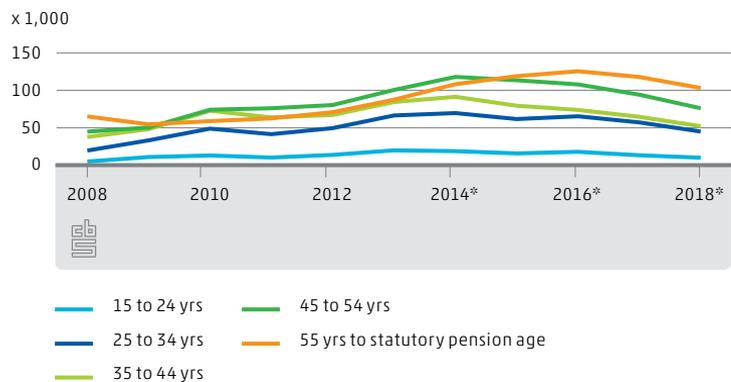
The number of unemployment (WW) benefit recipients rose from 149 thousand in September 2008 – the onset of the economic crisis – to 425 thousand at the beginning of 2014. This is when the number of WW benefit recipients declined again. At the end of March 2018, 285 thousand people were dependent on the WW benefits. For recipients aged 55 up to statutory pension age, the decline set in two years later compared to the other age groups. It is usually more difficult for people over the age of 55 to find work.

Year-on-year changes in number of income support benefit recipients¹⁾, Q2



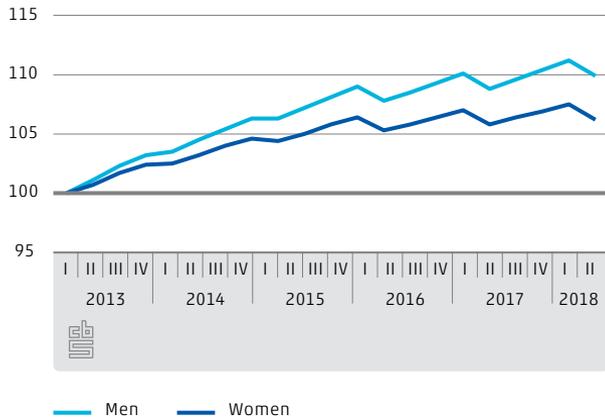
¹⁾ Up to statutory pension age.

Unemployment benefit recipients, end of Q1



State pension (AOW) benefit recipients, end of quarter

2013-I=100

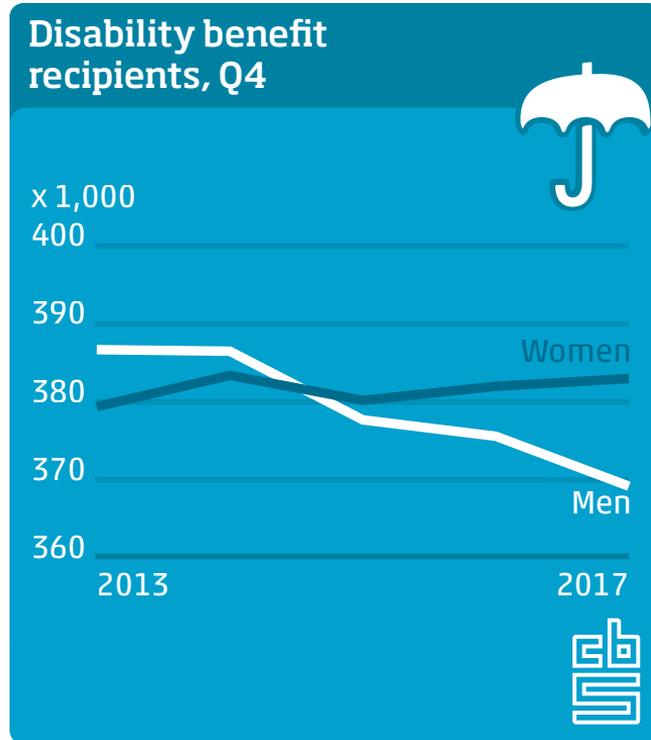


In March 2018, nearly 3.4 million people were on statutory pension benefits (AOW), for example one-fifth of the total Dutch population. The number of AOW recipients thus increased by 8 percent in a span of five years. This increase would have been even larger if the statutory pension age had remained the same. Up until 2013, the statutory pension age was 65 years. It is gradually being raised each year as of 2013.

There are more women than men receiving AOW benefits (over 1.8 million against 1.6 million in March 2018), but the increase takes place more rapidly among men: 10 percent more men were living on AOW benefits than in 2013, against 6 percent more women.



In Q4 2017, a total of 752 thousand people were receiving a disability benefit. This is nearly 14 thousand less than in December 2013. In that year, more men than women had this benefit; they were overtaken by the women in Q3 2015. This is mainly due to women's increased labour participation in recent years; more women end up with a disability benefit as a result. This is particularly obvious in the sector nursing and care, which traditionally employs more women than men. This sector has a higher number of disability benefit recipients.





66 000
news mentions

55 600
newspaper and web mentions

9 900
items on radio and TV

4. 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.

 Watch our subtitled video about CBS



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.

66 000
news mentions



55 600
newspaper and web mentions



9 900
items on radio and TV



200
statements by spokespersons
on radio and TV



122 000
followers on Twitter



6 600
followers on Facebook



A central bureau of statistics

Statistics Netherlands (Dutch: Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek or CBS) was established on 9 January 1899. It was previously an agency under the direction of the Central Commission for Statistics (CCS, 6 October 1892). The CCS was set up to advise national government departments in the field of statistics and to produce its own statistics for practice, policymaking and science.

At the time, Dutch associations such as De Vereeniging voor de Statistiek had been lobbying for the establishment of a central statistical office for over half a century already. The CCS was founded at a logical point in time. The country was in recession, with many unemployed people taking to the streets and going on hunger strike. At least 26 people died during barricade riots in the Amsterdam Jordaan District in July 1886, held in response to forceful police actions against unemployed protests. A new Labour Code was enacted in 1889 following reports from a parliamentary fact-finding committee which investigated the working conditions for labourers. The findings demonstrated just how poor the living and working conditions as well as employment conditions for the most vulnerable groups were. The inquiry committee had pinpointed exactly those problems which called for specific policies.

With the establishment of the CCS and – a few years later – CBS, statistics gained a permanent foothold in policy discussions. This year, it has been exactly 120 years since CBS' research and statistics started providing the basis for the preparation and evaluation of government policies.



