



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Industrial disability in the Netherlands

On 31 December 1999, 884 thousand people in the Netherlands were claiming a disability benefit, the equivalent of one in twelve of the Dutch population aged 15 to 64 years. Figures from Statistics Netherlands show that fewer non-western immigrants receive a disability benefit: one in fourteen. Within the category of non-western immigrants, Turkish and Moroccan men aged 40 to 64 are twice as likely to receive a benefit than their peers in other categories of the population.

Fewer non-western immigrants incapacitated

Fewer non-western immigrants than Dutch natives and western immigrants receive a disability benefit, mainly because they are younger on average. Also, industrial disability occurs relatively less frequently among immigrants from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, and among immigrants from other non-western countries.

Industrial disability among Turkish and Moroccan men

Just over 8 thousand Moroccan men aged between 40 and 64, and 11 thousand Turkish men in the same age group receive a disability benefit, accounting for over 30% of Moroccan and 40% of Turkish men in this age group. This compares with 17% of native men and western immigrants receiving a disability benefit. Therefore Turkish and Moroccan men in this age group are twice as likely to claim benefit than men of the same age in other groups of the population.

Industrial disability also occurs more often among younger Turkish and Moroccan men, but the difference with other men under forty is smaller.

Fewer women disabled

Seven per cent of women aged 15 to 64 receive a disability benefit, compared with 9% of men in the same age group. The difference is related to the lower participation of women in the labour force: only people in paid employment are entitled to the benefit. Just as with men, industrial disability is more frequent among women aged over forty. Relatively more Turkish women and, to a lesser extent, women from Surinam than others in this age group claim a disability benefit.

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Statistics Netherlands
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More non-western immigrants fully incapacitated

Nearly three in four people with a disability benefit are fully incapacitated. This proportion is slightly higher among non-western immigrants with a benefit, namely four in five.

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