



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Sixteen millionth Dutch inhabitant expected tomorrow

According to Statistics Netherlands, the Netherlands will record its sixteen millionth inhabitant tomorrow. The fifteen million mark was passed over ten years ago, in November 1990. In another ten years time, the population will have reached seventeen million.

Another one million people since 1990

The population of the Netherlands has grown by one million people since the end of 1990. In this period two million children were born in the Netherlands, and 1.1 million immigrants settled here. On the other side of the balance 1.4 million people died and 0.7 million emigrants left the country.

More middle-aged people

The number of teenagers and children has hardly changed compared with 1990, while the number of people in their twenties has dropped sharply. As the babyboomers born in the fifties and sixties grow older, the population is not only becoming larger, but older too. The number of middle-aged people in particular has increased strongly. People in their thirties now constitute the largest group in the population. Together with those in their forties they account for five million people, half a million more than in 1990.

One third of the population aged over fifty

One third of people in the Netherlands were born before 1950, when the population reached 10 million. Compared with 1950, the share of older people in the population has increased strongly. In 1950 five per cent of the population were over seventy. This has now risen to nearly ten per cent. In fifty years time it is expected to be 17 per cent.

Women in the majority

Just over half the Dutch population are women. There are two per cent more women than men. Although five per cent more boys are born than girls, men live on average five years shorter than women. Above the

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age of sixty women form a large majority: there are 35 per cent more women than men in this age group.

Population will continue to grow

The Dutch population is expected to continue to increase at its present rate for the next ten years. Statistics Netherlands forecasts predict that the seventeen million mark will be reached in 2011. In the next ten years, half of population growth will consist of natural growth (births minus deaths), while the migration surplus will account for the other half. After 2011 population growth will slow down, mainly because of the decrease in natural growth caused by rising mortality rates as the population ages.

The eighteen millionth Dutch inhabitant will be recorded around 2030. The population will then continue to grow slightly, but the chance of its reaching 19 million is very small. Based on current insights, the maximum number of people registered as living in the Netherlands will be 18.1 million.

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