



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Two thirds of population growth consists of people with a foreign background

On 1 January 2001 there were almost 1.5 million people with a non-western background in the Netherlands. They contributed two thirds of the population increase over the last five years. The fastest growing population groups were the Antilleans and Arubans.

There are large differences between the municipalities as far as the size of their immigrant population is concerned. The Hague has the immigrant population concentrated mostly in certain neighbourhoods.

Two thirds of the population increase consists of people with a foreign background

In the last five years the number of people with a non-western background increased by over 300 thousand. The total population growth during this period was almost 500 thousand. So non-western immigrants contributed two thirds of the population increase. About half of this is due to direct immigration and the other half are newborn children. Because the population with a non-western background grows faster than the other population groups, their share is also increasing: from 7.6% in 1996 to 9.3% this year.

Number of Antillians increasing fast

The four major immigrant groups are people from Turkey (320 thousand), Surinam (309 thousand), Morocco (273 thousand) and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (117 thousand). These four groups constitute the majority of the non-western immigrant population. The biggest percentage increase during the last five years occurred among Antilleans due to a sizeable immigration. There are one third more Antilleans and Arubans than five years ago.

Concentrated in large municipalities

There are great differences between municipalities as to the composition of their population. About 30% of the population in the three largest municipalities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague) have an immigrant background. About 200 municipalities have an immigrant population of less than 2%. Only 45 out of the more than 500 Dutch municipalities have a resident population with a non-western background that

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is higher than the national average. These are mainly municipalities with more than 50 thousand inhabitants.

Surinamese people are concentrated mostly in the biggest cities, with over half living in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. People of Turkish and Antillean background are spread more across the country.

Concentration in the concentration in The Hague

Except for the fact that people with a foreign background tend to concentrate in a number of towns, there is also a concentration within these towns. The Hague has the biggest differences between neighbourhoods as far as the percentage of resident immigrant population is concerned. In Utrecht and Amsterdam non-western immigrants are spread more across town than in Rotterdam and The Hague.

In the four major towns people from Suriname and the Antilles are spread more across town than people with a Turkish and Moroccan background, except for Amsterdam where many Surinamese and Antilians live in the Bijlmermeer area.

For more information please contact Jan Latten, tel. (070) 337 52 32.

Share of non-western population, 1996-2001

	Non-western*	Total population*	Share non-western population
	x1000		%
1996	1171	15494	7.6
1997	1221	15567	7.8
1998	1278	15654	8.2
1999	1346	15760	8.5
2000	1409	15864	8.9
2001	1483	15987	9.3

* Situation on 1 January

Municipalities with the highest and lowest percentage of non-western resident population, 1 January 2000

	Inhabitants	Share non-western population
	x 1000	%
Highest percentage		
Amsterdam	731	31
Rotterdam	593	30
The Hague	441	28

Utrecht	234	20
Diemen	24	20
Schiedam	76	19
Almere	143	17
Lelystad	63	15
Dordrecht	120	14
Arnhem	138	14

Lowest percentage

Grootevast	12	0.8
Aalburg	12	0.8
Littenseradiel	11	0.8
Staphorst	15	0.7
Hengelo (Gld.)	8	0.7
Kessel	4	0.7
Steenderen	5	0.7
Wehl	7	0.6
Ijsselham	6	0.5
Tubbergen	20	0.4

Source: Statistics Netherlands