



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Fewer marriages, more divorces***

In 2001 the number of marriages fell to a total of 83 thousand, the lowest number since 1995. At the same time the number of divorces reached a record high of 37.5 thousand, according to the latest preliminary population figures by Statistics Netherlands. Other demographic developments in 2001 are the drop in the birth rate, the increase in both immigration and emigration and the increase in registered partnerships.

### ***New divorce record***

The number of divorces increased from 34.6 thousand in 2000 to 37.5 thousand in 2001. Never before did so many marriages end in divorce within a single year. The previous record dates back to 1994, with 36 thousand divorces.

### ***Number of marriages down***

The number of marriages in 2001 fell sharply. In 2001 less than 83 thousand marriages contracted, 5 thousand less than in 2000. The drop occurred despite the fact that marriages are now open to same sex partners. In 2001 over two thousand same sex couples married.

### ***Fast divorces***

The number of partnership registrations increased substantially in the last few months of 2001. Whereas the number of partnerships registered in 2000 never exceeded 250 a month, there were about 500 a month in the last quarter of 2000. The increase is mainly due to the fact that a number of marriages was changed into a partnership, which can be dissolved fairly easily. For partners without children this is an easier way to end a marriage than going through a divorce procedure.

### ***Population growth down: fewer births and more emigrants***

On 1 January 2002 the population in the Netherlands had reached 16.1 million. The number of inhabitants increased by 113 thousand in 2001. The increase was smaller than in 2000 when the population increased by 123 thousand. This is mainly due to a drop in the birth rate, from nearly 207 thousand in 2000 to over 201 thousand in 2001.

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Another cause is the increase in emigration. In 2000 79 thousand people left for another country, in 2001 82 thousand people did.

### ***Immigration continues to grow***

Immigration continued to grow in 2001, albeit less than in the previous year. The number of immigrants from Africa increased from 18 thousand in 2000 to 21 thousand in 2001. There were also more immigrants from Asia, from 24 thousand to 26 thousand. On the other hand, immigration from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba fell. In 2000 the immigration of Antilleans and Arubans reached a record high of 10 thousand. In 2001 the number fell to 8 thousand.

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

### ***Demographic developments***

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
	x 1 000	
Live births	206.6	201.5
Immigration	132.8	134.3
Emigration*	79.0	82.4
Deaths	140.5	140.7
Population increase	123.1	113.2
Marriages	88.1	82.8
Partnership registrations	2.9	3.3
Divorces	34.6	37.5

\*Including administrative corrections

***Source: Statistics Netherlands***