



Press release

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Emigrants outnumber immigrants

For the first time since 1984, as recent figures by Statistics Netherlands show, immigrants were outnumbered by emigrants in the second quarter of 2003, namely 23 thousand immigrants versus 24 thousand emigrants. This is in contrast with the second quarter of 2002, when immigrants outnumbered emigrants by 4 thousand.

For the first time since 1984

In the second quarter of 2003, emigrants outnumbered immigrants by a thousand. For the first time since 1984 more people left than entered the Netherlands.

Emigrants are mainly persons who were born in the Netherlands. In the second quarter of 2003, 11 thousand people born in the Netherlands left the country, 4 thousand returned in the same quarter. Among people from the Netherlands Antilles, the number of emigrants was also higher than the number of immigrants, whereas for countries like Turkey and Morocco, the immigration was higher than the emigration.

Decreasing number of immigrants

The number of immigrants falls perceptibly. In the second quarter of 2003, immigration to the Netherlands amounted to 23 thousand, the corresponding number for the second quarter of 2002 was over 27 thousand. In 2003, Statistics Netherlands expects the number of immigrants to be reduced to 110 thousand, whereas in 2002, 121 thousand immigrants came to the Netherlands.

Fewer immigrants, usually asylum seekers, came from countries like Angola and Sierra Leone. There was also a decrease in the number of immigrants from the Netherlands Antilles, whereas more migrants from Turkey entered the country.

Emigration continues to rise

The decrease in immigration runs parallel with an increase in emigration. In the second quarter of 2003, 24 thousand people left the Netherlands, almost a thousand more than in the same period last year. As emigration is usually higher in the second half of the year, the number of emigrants will possibly reach a record-breaking 100, 000.

The increase in emigrants mainly concerns people born in the Netherlands, but the number of emigrants born in Angola, Iran and the Antilles also rose.

The number of Somali emigrants remains high. Somalis who leave the country, usually for the United Kingdom, outnumber Somali immigrants.

Lower population growth

As the decrease in immigration runs parallel with an increase in emigration, the population growth is slowed down. In the second quarter of 2003, the number of inhabitants grew by 14 thousand, i.e. 4 thousand less than in the second quarter of 2002. If the growth of the population does not pick up in the next six months, the total population growth for 2003 will amount to less than 79 thousand. The corresponding figure for 2002 was 87 thousand.

Slightly more births, mortality stable

Fifty thousand babies were born in the Netherlands in the second quarter of 2003, a thousand more than in the second quarter of the previous year. The number of people who died remained virtually the same as last year. It is expected that the ageing of the population will cause a rise in the annual number of deaths in the years to come.

Quarterly developments in the population

	Immi- gration	Emigration ¹⁾	Births	Deaths	Population growth
<i>x 1, 000</i>					
2001					
1 st quarter	32.6	20.9	49.5	36.8	24.4
2 nd quarter	30.5	18.7	50.3	35.0	27.0
3 rd quarter	39.9	22.9	52.8	33.0	36.8
4 th quarter	30.4	20.1	50.0	35.5	29.9 ²⁾
2002					
1 st quarter	29.8	21.8	49.3	38.5	18.8
2 nd quarter	27.0	22.8	48.9	34.7	18.4
3 rd quarter	37.9	28.6	53.6	33.1	29.7
4 th quarter	26.6	23.7	50.4	36.1	20.3 ²⁾
2003 ³⁾					
1 st quarter	26.3	23.7	50.4	38.3	14.7
2 nd quarter	22.6	23.6	49.8	34.5	14.4

¹⁾ Including balance administrative corrections

²⁾ Including other corrections

³⁾ Provisional figures

Source: Statistics Netherlands

Immigration and emigration ¹⁾ by country of birth

	Immigration		Emigration ¹⁾	
	2 nd quarter 2002	2 nd quarter 2003 ²⁾	2 nd quarter 2002	2 nd quarter 2003 ²⁾

x 1, 000

More emigrants than immigrants

The Netherlands	4.8	4.4	10.0	10.6
Somalia	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5
The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.0

Fewer emigrants than immigrants

Turkey	1.3	1.6	0.4	0.4
Morocco	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.4
Former Soviet Union	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.4

¹⁾ Including balance administrative corrections

²⁾ Provisional figures

Source: Statistics Netherlands