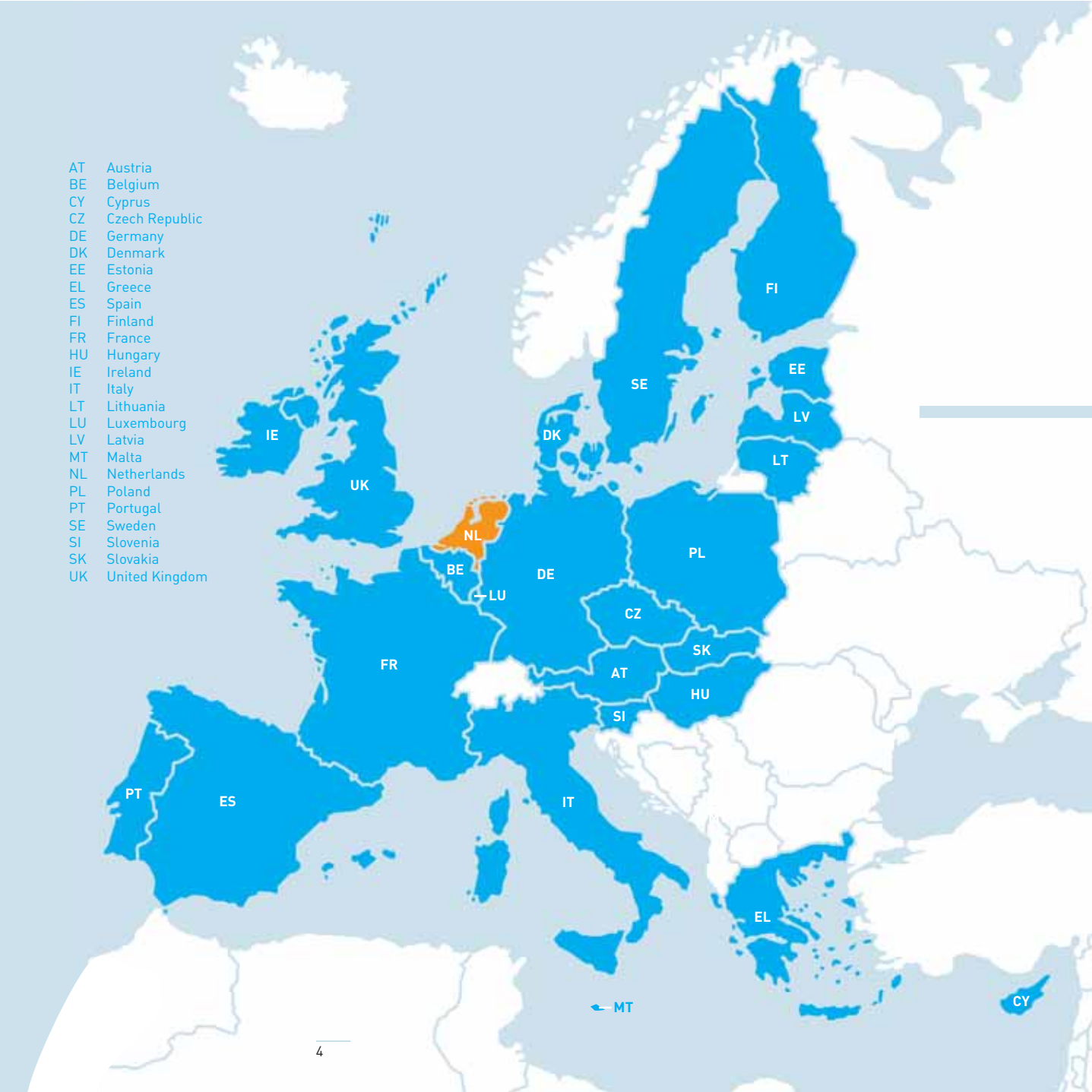
The Netherlands on the European scale

Statistics Netherlands

The Netherlands on the European scale

2004

contents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Foreword

Good government policy must be based on good quality information. This is true for the Netherlands, but also for Europe as a whole: payments from the EU Structural Funds, compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact and the monitoring of the realisation of the Lisbon targets all rely on dependable statistics. European governments make frequent use of information from their national statistical offices to prepare, implement and review their policies. Together with Eurostat and the European national statistical institutions, Statistics Netherlands is working towards a consistent European system of statistics in which national statistics can be compared with each other. Although much has been achieved in this area, much also remains to be done.

'Europe' is becoming increasingly important for politicians, policymakers, scientists, producers and consumers. The enlargement of the European Union from 15 to 25 member countries on 1 May 2004, the elections for the European Parliament in June 2004, and the Dutch presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2004 will spur on the demand for information on the present and the new EU member countries. In this publication, therefore, Statistics Netherlands presents figures for the Netherlands, the other EU member countries and where possible for the new member countries too.

Most of the figures in The Netherlands on the European Scale come from Eurostat, the OECD and Statistics Netherlands. For each topic, the exact sources, and some notes on comparability, are given on our website: www.cbs.nl, which also contains the most recent figures for the Netherlands.

I hope you enjoy this book and would be interested to hear your thoughts and comments via nl-eu@cbs.nl.

G. van der Veen
Director-General of Statistics

Voorburg/Heerlen, February 2004

BE — 1.85
UK — 1.85

NL — 1.18

EU(15) — 1.03

DK — 0.93
DE — 0.87
FR — 0.85

FI — 0.63
EL — 0.53

IT — 0.19
ES — 0.16

PT — 0.02

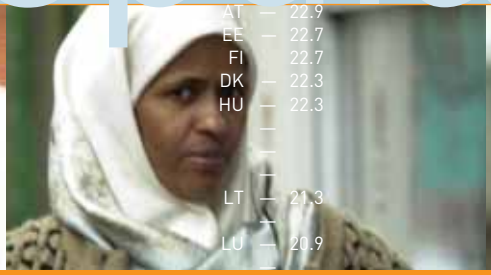
DE — 82.5

FR — 59.6
UK — 59.3
IT — 57.3

ES — 40.7
PL — 38.2

NL — 16.2

population



BE — 25.8
EL — 25.6
DE — 25.2
FR — 25.0
ES — 25.0
PT — 24.5
EU(25) — 23.9
UK — 23.8
LV — 22.9
AT — 22.9
EE — 22.7
FI — 22.7
DK — 22.3
HU — 22.3
LT — 21.3
LU — 20.9
SI — 20.6
NL — 20.2
CZ — 19.7
MT — 18.5
PL — 18.0
CY — 17.4
IE — 16.5
SK — 16.5

ES — 83.1
FR — 82.9
IT — 82.9
SE — 82.1
AT — 81.6
FI — 81.5

Population

In terms of population size, the Netherlands is the seventh largest country in the European Union (25). Germany has the largest population with 82.5 million inhabitants, and the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Spain and Poland also all have a larger population than the Netherlands. Together, the ten new member countries have about 75 million inhabitants, compared with a total of 380 million in the EU(15).

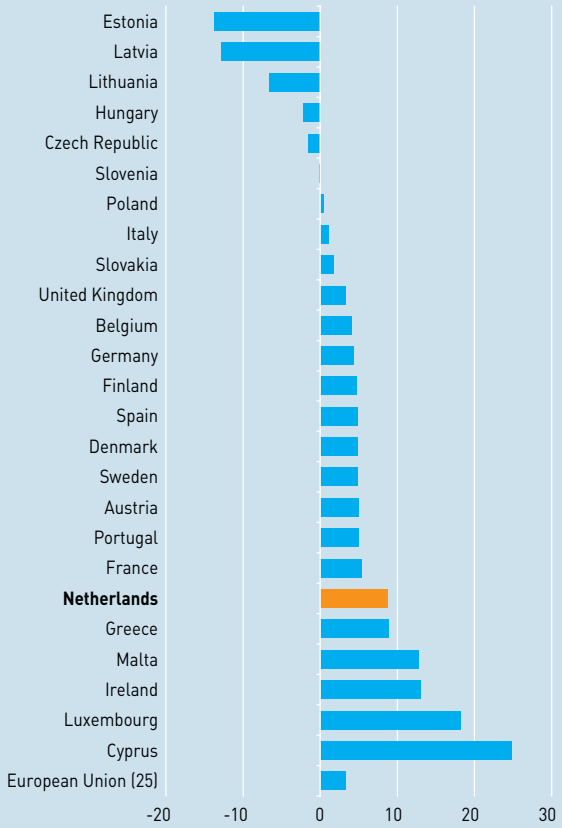
In most of the EU(15) member countries the population is increasing as a result of natural growth and a migration surplus. Population developments differ substantially between the new member countries: in Cyprus and Malta for example, the population is increasing, while in Hungary, the Czech Republic and the Baltic States it is decreasing. Taken together, the overall population in the new member countries is decreasing, mainly because the mortality rate is higher than the birth rate.

With 479 inhabitants per square kilometre, the Netherlands is the second most densely populated country in the European Union, after Malta. Belgium follows the Netherlands with 340 people per square kilometre. In the EU(25) as a whole, population density is 116 people per square kilometre. Many of the new member countries are more sparsely populated; the Baltic States have the fewest people per square kilometre.

POPULATION, 2003 (x mln)

DE — 82.5
FR — 59.6
UK — 59.3
IT — 57.3
ES — 40.7
PL — 38.2
NL — 16.2
EL — 11.0
BE — 10.4
PT — 10.4
CZ — 10.2
HU — 10.1
SE — 8.9
AT — 8.1
DK — 5.4
SK — 5.4
FI — 5.2
IE — 4.0
LT — 3.5
LV — 2.3
SI — 2.0
EE — 1.4
CY — 0.7
LU — 0.4
MT — 0.4

POPULATION, CHANGE 1990-2003 (%)



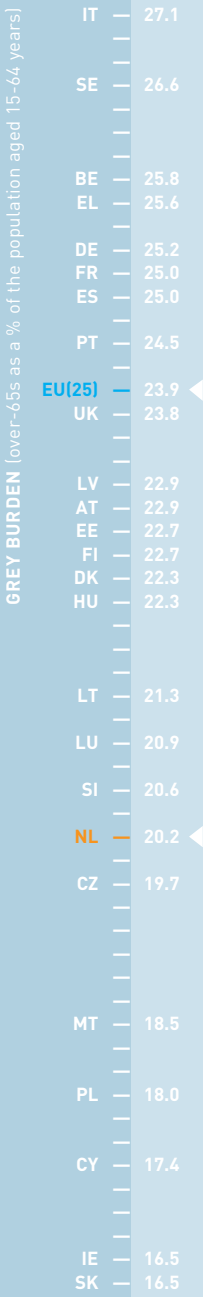
POPULATION DENSITY, 2003 (inhabitants per km²)

Austria	96
Belgium	340
Cyprus	77
Czech Republic	129
Denmark	125
Estonia	30
Finland	17
France	109
Germany	231
Greece	83
Hungary	109
Ireland	57
Italy	190
Latvia	36
Lithuania	53
Luxembourg	172
Malta	1,324
Netherlands	**479**
Poland	122
Portugal	113
Slovakia	110
Slovenia	98
Spain	81
Sweden	22
United Kingdom	243
European Union (25)	116

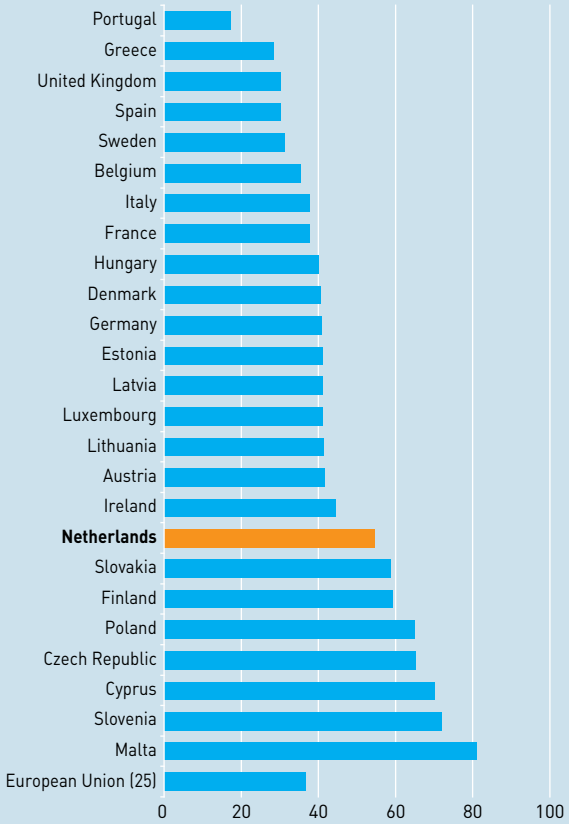
population

Population ageing

For every one hundred people aged 15-64 years in the Netherlands, there are twenty people aged 65 or older. In the European Union (25) as a whole, this 'grey burden' is 24. All the new member countries are below this level, some even far below. In five of the ten new member countries the grey burden is below that of the Netherlands.
The Netherlands is one of the least grey countries in the EU(25). In 2002, 13.7 percent of the Dutch population were aged 65 or older. Italy has relatively most old people. In the EU(25) as a whole, this percentage is 16.
Demographers expect the percentage of over-65s in the EU to increase by one third to the year 2025. In the Netherlands it will increase by more than half. And although the increase in Italy will be in the region of the EU average, this country will still have the oldest population in the European Union, with 25 percent over the age of 65 in 2025. The increase in ageing will probably be stronger in the new member countries than the average for the EU(15) countries. The five countries facing the largest increase in the percentage of over-65s in the next twenty years are all new member countries.



PERCENTAGE OF OVER-65S, CHANGE 2001-2025 (%)



POPULATION AGEING (over-65s as a % of the population)

	1990	2002
Austria	14.9	15.6
Belgium	14.8	16.9
Cyprus	11.0 [1]	11.4 [2]
Czech Republic	12.5	13.8
Denmark	15.6	14.8
Estonia	11.6	15.2 [2]
Finland	13.3	15.2
France	13.9	16.2
Germany	14.9	17.1
Greece	13.7	17.6 [2]
Hungary	13.2	15.3
Ireland	11.4	11.2
Italy	14.7	18.2 [2]
Latvia	11.9	15.5
Lithuania	10.8	14.2
Luxembourg	13.4	14.1
Malta	11.0 [1]	12.6
Netherlands	**12.8**	**13.7**
Poland	10.0	12.5
Portugal	13.2	16.5
Slovakia	10.3	11.4
Slovenia	10.6	14.5
Spain	13.4	17.1
Sweden	17.8	17.2
United Kingdom	15.7	15.6 [2]
European Union (25)	14.5	16.0 [2]

[1] 1991 [2] 2001

population

Life expectancy

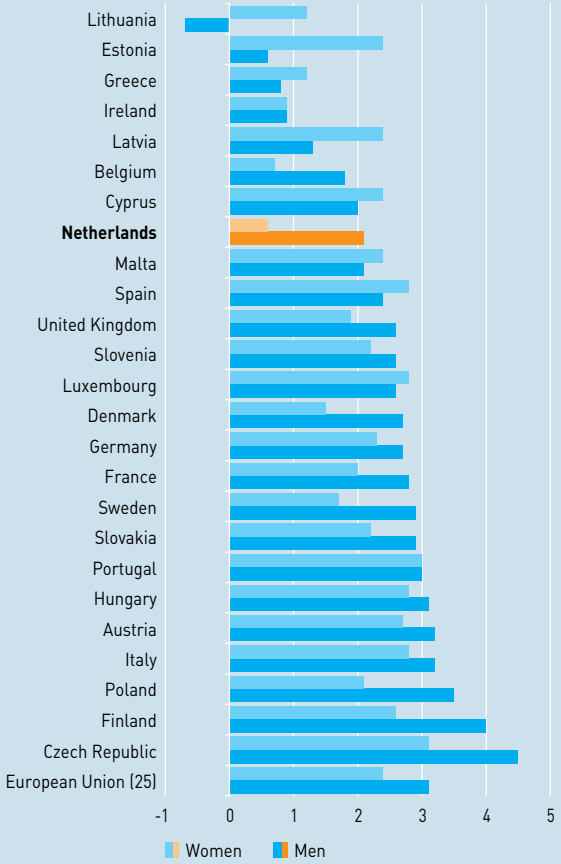
Dutch women live to an average age of 80.6 years. In ten countries in the European Union (25) women live to older ages. In 1990 Dutch women had one of the highest life expectancies in the EU. Since then, however, female life expectancy in the Netherlands has hardly increased, partly because more women are smoking.
Women live longest in France, Spain and Italy (83 years). Within the EU(15) female life expectancy is only below 80 years in Ireland and Denmark. In the new EU countries, life expectancy below 80 years is the rule for women rather than the exception.

Dutch men live to an average 75.9 years. Only in Italy and Sweden do men live longer. In Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania they live for less than 66 years.
On average, men in the Netherlands live for nearly five years less than women. In 2025 this difference is expected to have diminished to three years.
The difference between male and female life expectancy is about six years in the countries in the EU(15). For some of the new member countries, the picture is drastically different. The difference in life expectancy between men and women in Estonia, for example, is as much as twelve years.

FEMALE LIFE EXPECTANCY, 2002 (years)

ES	83.1
FR	82.9
IT	82.9
SE	82.1
AT	81.6
FI	81.5
LU	81.3
EU(25)	81.2
CY	81.0
DE	80.7
EL	80.7
NL	80.6
MT	80.5
PT	80.4
UK	80.4
BE	80.1
SI	79.6
DK	79.2
IE	78.5
CZ	78.5
PL	78.4
SK	77.6
LT	77.4
EE	77.0
LV	77.0
HU	76.5

LIFE EXPECTANCY, CHANGE 1990-2002 (years)



LIFE EXPECTANCY (years)

	Men	Women
Austria	75.6	81.6
Belgium	74.5	80.1
Cyprus	76.1	81.0
Czech Republic	72.1	78.5
Denmark	74.7	79.2
Estonia	65.2	77.0
Finland	74.9	81.5
France	75.6	82.9
Germany	74.7	80.7
Greece	75.4	80.7
Hungary	68.2	76.5
Ireland	73.0	78.5
Italy	76.8	82.9
Latvia	65.5	77.0
Lithuania	65.9	77.4
Luxembourg	74.9	81.3
Malta	75.8	80.5
Netherlands	**75.9**	**80.6**
Poland	70.2	78.4
Portugal	73.4	80.4
Slovakia	69.5	77.6
Slovenia	72.1	79.6
Spain	75.7	83.1
Sweden	77.7	82.1
United Kingdom	75.5	80.4
European Union (25)	74.9	81.2

population

Asylum requests

The number of people requesting asylum in the Netherlands dropped sharply in the first years of this century, from 44 thousand in 2000 to 19 thousand in 2002. In the European Union (15) as a whole it has more or less stabilised. In 2002 380 thousand people applied for asylum in the EU(15). The United Kingdom and Germany received most requests: 111 and 71 thousand respectively.

At the beginning of the nineties the number of asylumseekers in the EU was much higher. It peaked in 1992 when a total of nearly 700 thousand people applied for asylum in the fifteen countries of the EU. Germany alone received 438 thousand asylumseekers in that year, more than the current total for the whole EU(15). The strong increase in the early nineties was prompted by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the war in former Yugoslavia.

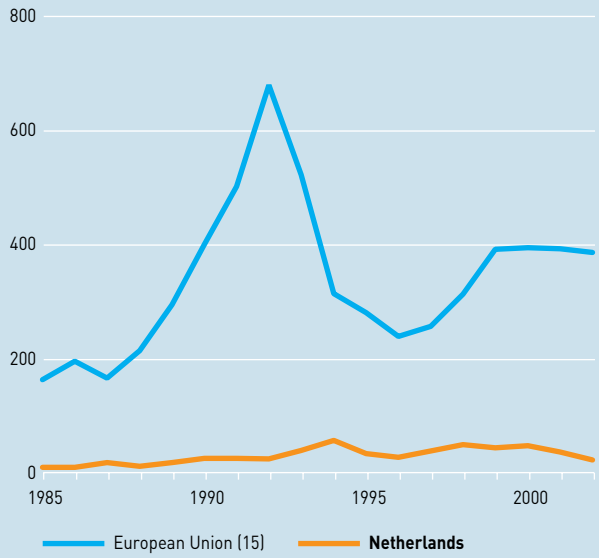
In 2002 relatively many asylumseekers came to Europe from Iraq, Turkey and former Yugoslavia. In the Netherlands many people arrived from Angola, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan.

The Netherlands received just over one asylumseeker per thousand inhabitants in 2002, which was slightly above the average for Europe. In Austria and Sweden there were about four asylum requests per thousand inhabitants, while Portugal, Spain and Italy received less than 0.2 per thousand.

ASYLUM REQUESTS, 2002 (per 1,000 inhabitants)

AT 4.44
SE 3.73
IE 3.12
LU 2.44
BE 1.85
UK 1.85
NL 1.18
EU(15) 1.03
DK 0.93
DE 0.87
FR 0.85
FI 0.63
EL 0.53
IT 0.19
ES 0.16
PT 0.02

ASYSLUM REQUESTS (x 1,000)



ASYLUMSEEKERS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2002 (% of total)

	European Union (15)	Netherlands
Afghanistan	5.0	5.8
Algeria	2.1	1.1
Angola	1.7	10.1
China	2.6	2.9
Congo (Zaire)	3.1	2.8
India	2.3	0.9
Iran	2.4	3.6
Iraq	11.1	5.5
Nigeria	2.9	3.0
Rumania	1.4	0.3
Sierra Leone	1.2	8.6
Somalia	2.6	2.9
Soviet Union (former) [1]	9.2	10.2
Sri Lanka	2.0	1.6
Sudan	0.7	2.7
Turkey	6.8	3.4
Yugoslavia (former) [2]	9.2	4.6
Other	33.8	30.0
Total	100	100

[1] Total of the former Soviet republics
[2] Total of the former Yugoslav republics

population

LU — 189

IE — 125

DK — 113
NL — 111
AT — 111
UK — 107
BE — 107
FR — 105
SE — 105

LU — 46.0

FR — 30.5
DE — 30.4

BE — 27.9
UK — 27.8
EU(25) — 26.9
IT — 26.8
NL — 26.5

DK — 24.1
SE — 24.1
AT — 23.6

IE — 21.6
FI — 21.5
CY — 21.2
EL — 21.2
SK — 21.2
HU — 20.7
SI — 20.0
ES — 19.9
MT — 19.0

economy

CZ — 15.5

HU — 13.3

SK — 5.3
— 4.7

PT — 3.6
IT — 3.4
ES — 3.2
SE — 2.7
BE — 2.7
DK — 2.3
EU(15) — 2.1
FR — 1.9
IE — 1.9
UK — 1.6

DE — 0.8
AT — 0.5
FI — 0.4

PL — -6.3

CZ — 33.6

EE — 33.0
LV — 32.6

LT — 29.1

SI — 27.5
SK — 27.2

GDP PER CAPITA; PURCHASING POWER PARITIES, 2002 (EU15=100)

LU 189
IE 125
DK 113
NL 111
AT 111
UK 107
BE 107
FR 105
SE 105
FI 102
EU(15) 100
DE 100
IT 98
ES 86
CY 76
EL 71
PT 71
SI 69
MT 69
CZ 62
HU 53
SK 47
PL 41
EE 40
LT 39
LV 35

Economy

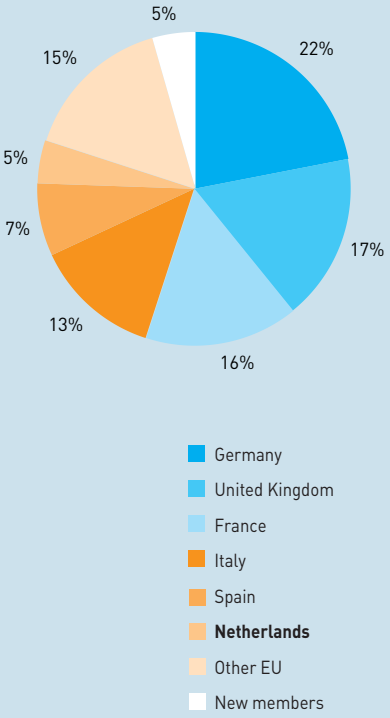
The Netherlands has the sixth largest economy in the European Union (25) and contributes nearly 5 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the EU. Germany has the largest economy and contributes 22 percent, followed by the United Kingdom and France. Together these three countries account for more than half of the economy of the EU.

Dutch per capita GDP is one of the highest within the EU(25). Only Luxembourg, Denmark and Ireland are more prosperous. Since 2000, however, GDP growth in the Netherlands has been much lower than in most other EU countries; in the first six months of 2003 it was even negative.

The gross domestic product of the new member countries together is almost the same as that of the Netherlands. Prosperity (defined as GDP per capita corrected for price differences between the countries) in the new member countries is on average half that of the EU(15) countries. The approaching EU membership seems to have boosted economic growth in these countries in recent years, while for some of them the transition from a planned to a market economy had already pushed up economic growth in the nineties.

CONTRIBUTION TO GDP OF EU(25), 2002

Total EU(25): 9,607 bln euro



ECONOMIC GROWTH (%)

	1990-2002 Average per year	2003 Jan.-Jun.
Austria	2.2	0.6
Belgium	1.9	1.3
Cyprus	4.0	1.6
Czech Republic	0.5	2.3
Denmark	2.2	0.2
Estonia	4.4 [1]	4.3
Finland	1.8	1.4
France	1.8	0.2
Germany	1.4 [2]	-0.2
Greece	2.6	.
Hungary	2.6 [2]	2.5
Ireland	7.1	1.4
Italy	1.5	0.5
Latvia	-2.6	7.5
Lithuania	-1.5	8.0
Luxembourg	4.8	.
Malta	4.0 [2]	-0.6
Netherlands	**2.5**	**-0.7**
Poland	3.1	3.0
Portugal	2.5	.
Slovakia	4.4 [3]	4.0
Slovenia	2.0	2.2
Spain	2.6	2.3
Sweden	1.9	1.2
United Kingdom	2.3	2.4
European Union (25)	2.5 [1]	1.0 [4]

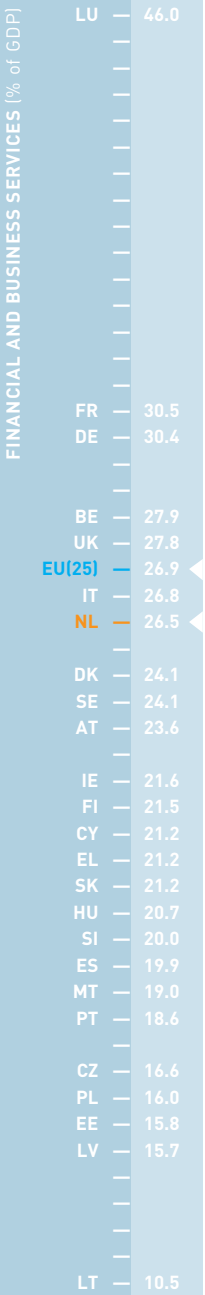
[1] 1993-2002 [2] 1991-2002 [3] 1992-2002 [4] Excl. Greece, Luxembourg and Portugal

economy

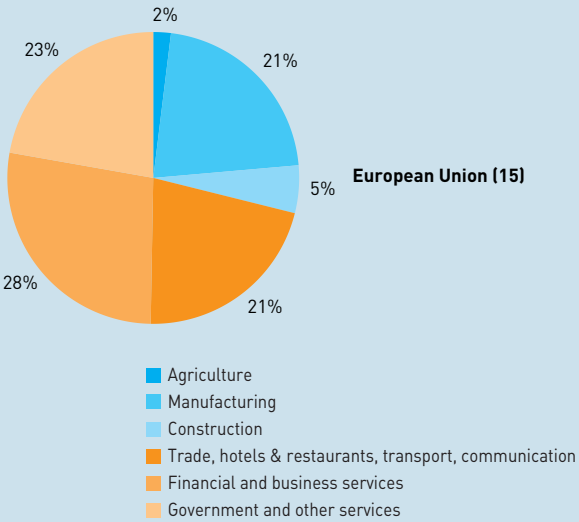
Production structure

One way to measure the importance of services for a national economy is to determine the share of financial and business services within the economy. Financial and business services include banks, insurance companies and employment agencies. In the European Union (25) the Netherlands ranks seventh with 26.5 percent. Luxembourg tops the list, thanks to the many banks established in this country. Financial and business services have grown to become the largest sector in the economies of western Europe at the expense of the manufacturing industry. The share of agriculture has also declined and is now 2.1 percent in the EU(25). The share of agriculture in the Netherlands is slightly larger at 2.5 percent. The Netherlands is a net exporter of food and agricultural products.
In the new member countries, too, agriculture is the smallest sector, although it is generally larger than in most EU(15) countries. Manufacturing is often the largest sector in these countries, although there, too, the share of financial and business services is growing. Overall, the differences in the production structures between the ten new members and the EU(15) countries have diminished substantially in the last ten years.

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES (% of GDP)



PRODUCTION STRUCTURE, 2002



AGRICULTURE (% of GDP)

	1995	2002
Austria	2.5	2.3
Belgium	1.6	1.2
Cyprus	5.3	4.1
Czech Republic	4.7	3.2
Denmark	3.6	2.4
Estonia	8.7	5.4
Finland	4.5	3.5
France	3.2	2.6
Germany	1.3	1.1
Greece	9.9	7.0
Hungary	6.8	3.7
Ireland	7.5	3.3
Italy	3.2	2.6
Latvia	9.9	4.7
Lithuania	11.8	7.1
Luxembourg	1.0	0.6
Malta	2.9	2.8
Netherlands	**3.5**	**2.5**
Poland	6.9	3.2
Portugal	5.2	3.5
Slovakia	5.9	4.4
Slovenia	4.5	3.0
Spain	4.4	3.2
Sweden	2.7	1.8
United Kingdom	1.8	0.9
European Union (25)	2.8	2.1

economy

Competitive position

It is difficult to capture a nation's competitive position in one single figure. Competitiveness is determined by a range of indicators, such as the composition of the exports package, the population's level of education, the physical and fiscal infrastructure and the labour unit costs. The most widely used indicator is labour unit costs.

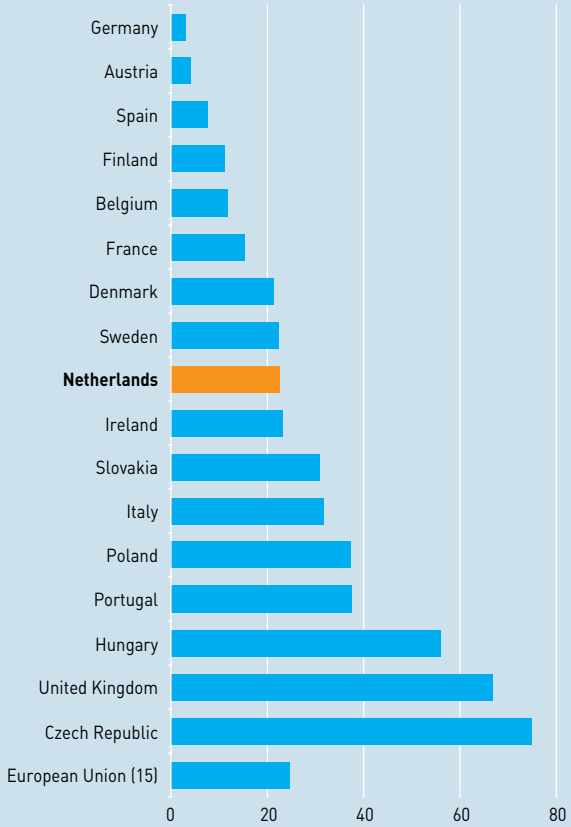
In the second half of the nineties the rise in labour costs in the Netherlands was slower than the average for the European Union (15). In 2001 and 2002, relatively large wage increases and low productivity growth pushed the growth rate of labour unit costs up to levels higher than the average elsewhere in the EU(15). The difference with most countries outside the euro area was made larger by the rise in the value of the euro. The deterioration in the Netherlands' competitive position resulted in a loss of ground for Dutch exporters on foreign markets.

Higher costs often prompt goods manufacturers to shift production to regions where wages are lower, such as the former Eastern Bloc countries. The incorporation of these countries in the EU will ease the way for such a shift. The competitive position of the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary deteriorated in the second half of the nineties. In 2002 the increase in labour costs in the Czech Republic and Hungary was even way above the EU(15) average. In spite of this though, labour unit costs are still relatively low in the ten new member countries.

LABOUR UNIT COSTS, INCL. CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATES; 2002 (% change)

CZ	15.5
HU	13.3
SK	5.3
NL	4.7
PT	3.6
IT	3.4
ES	3.2
SE	2.7
BE	2.7
DK	2.3
EU(15)	2.1
FR	1.9
IE	1.9
UK	1.6
DE	0.8
AT	0.5
FI	0.4
PL	-6.3

LABOUR UNIT COSTS, INCL. CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATES; CHANGE 1995-2002 (%)



LABOUR UNIT COSTS, INCL. CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATES
(% change)

	1996-2000 Average per year	2001	2002
Austria	0.3	2.1	0.5
Belgium	0.9	3.9	2.7
Czech Republic	6.7	9.6	15.5
Denmark	2.9	2.7	2.3
Finland	0.8	6.3	0.4
France	1.9	3.1	1.9
Germany	0.1	1.7	0.8
Hungary	4.2	12.2	13.3
Ireland	3.0	4.6	1.9
Italy	4.6	1.7	3.4
Netherlands	**2.1**	**5.7**	**4.7**
Poland	7.2	3.4	-6.3
Portugal	4.6	6.0	3.6
Spain	3.7	4.2	3.2
Sweden	4.4	-3.9	2.7
United Kingdom	10.1	1.4	1.6
European Union (15)	3.6	2.4	2.1

economy

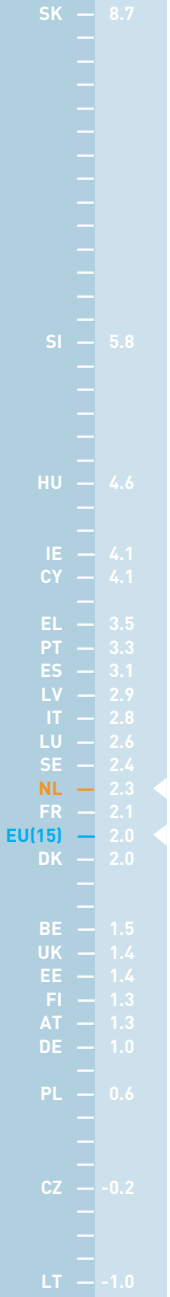
Prices

Inflation in the Netherlands was just above that of the European Union (15) as a whole in 2003; prices of alcoholic drinks and energy in particular rose more strongly than in the rest of Europe. In the years before 2003 Dutch inflation was substantially higher than the EU average. In 2001 it even topped the EU list, pushed up to 5.1 percent by among other things increases in the rates of VAT and ecotax. Inflation rates in neighbouring Germany and Belgium and in the United Kingdom were all substantially lower.

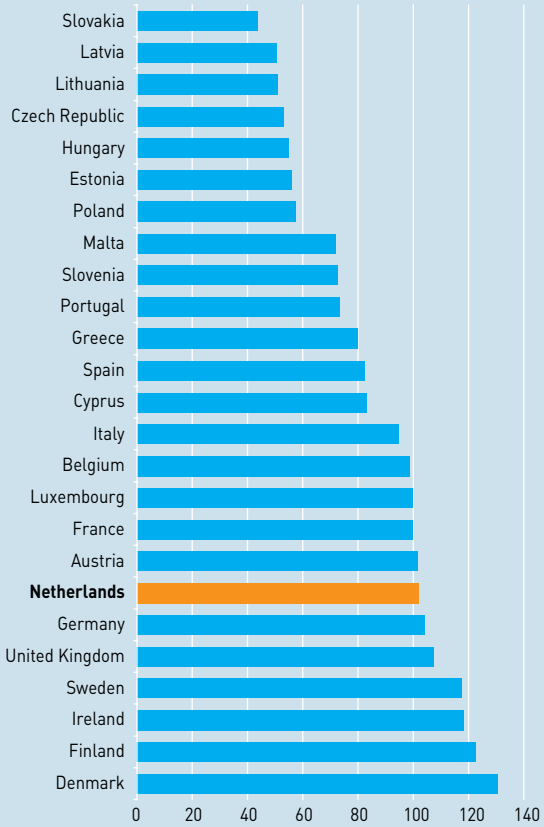
In the period 1996-2002 inflation in nearly all ten new member countries was well above the EU average. In 2003 it was considerably lower in many of these countries, although in Hungary, Poland and Slovenia it was still higher than in Ireland, which had the highest rate in the EU(15) in 2003.

Not only are price increases in the Netherlands larger than the EU(15) average, the prices themselves are also higher. Within the EU(15) the northern states are the most expensive, while Portugal, Greece and Spain are the cheapest. With the exception of Cyprus, prices in all the new member countries are lower.

INFLATION, HARMONISED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - HICP, JAN.-NOV. 2003 (%)



RELATIVE PRICE LEVELS, 2002 (EU15=100)



INFLATION, HARMONISED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - HICP (%)

	1996-2001 Average per year	2002	2003 Jan.-Nov.
Austria	1.4	1.7	1.3
Belgium	1.7	1.6	1.5
Cyprus	2.7	2.8	4.1
Czech Republic	6.2	1.4	-0.2
Denmark	2.1	2.4	2.0
Estonia	8.4	3.6	1.4
Finland	1.8	2.0	1.3
France	1.4	1.9	2.1
Germany	1.2	1.3	1.0
Greece	4.4	3.9	3.5
Hungary	14.2	5.2	4.6
Ireland	2.9	4.7	4.1
Italy	2.4	2.6	2.8
Latvia	3.9	2.0	2.9
Lithuania	6.9	0.4	-1.0
Luxembourg	1.8	2.1	2.6
Malta [1]	2.4	2.1	.
Netherlands	**2.4**	**3.9**	**2.3**
Poland	9.9	1.9	0.6
Portugal	2.7	3.7	3.3
Slovakia	8.0	3.3	8.7
Slovenia	8.3	7.5	5.8
Spain	2.6	3.6	3.1
Sweden	1.4	2.0	2.4
United Kingdom	1.5	1.3	1.4
European Union (15)	1.8	2.1	2.0

[1] Retail prices

economy

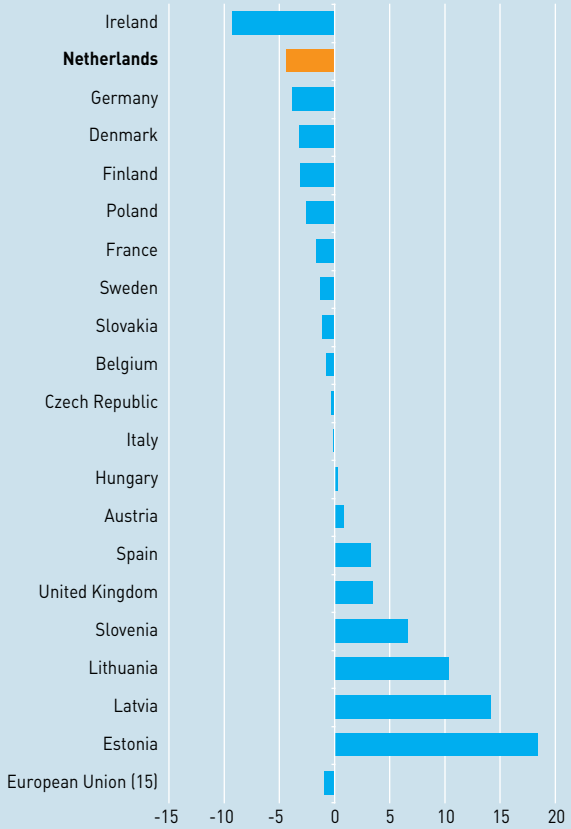
FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION, 2002 (% of GDP)

CZ	33.6
EE	33.0
LV	32.6
LT	29.1
SI	27.5
SK	27.2
PT	26.1
HU	25.6
EL	25.2
ES	24.5
LU	23.5
DK	22.5
AT	22.3
PL	21.1
IT	20.8
EU(25)	20.7
NL	20.7
BE	20.4
FR	20.2
DE	20.0
CY	19.3
IE	19.1
UK	19.0
FI	18.2
SE	16.3

Fixed capital formation

About one fifth of the Dutch gross domestic product (GDP) is spent on fixed capital formation by the private and the public sector. This is about average for the European Union (15). Investment spending generally reacts more strongly than other spending categories to fluctuations in GDP. In the first half of 2003 total fixed capital formation in the EU(15) fell slightly. In the Netherlands it decreased by more than in the EU(15), just as in 2002. Following an average 3 percent growth in the last decade, Dutch spending on capital assets fell by 4.5 percent in 2002. The turnaround was most clearly reflected in investment in computers. Within the EU the drop in fixed capital formation was largest in Ireland, following years of extremely high growth there. Most former Eastern Bloc countries spend more than a quarter of GDP on fixed capital formation, the Czech Republic even as much as one third. A large part of investment spending in these countries is devoted to replacing antiquated capital goods. Unlike the EU(15) countries, in the new member countries growth in spending on capital assets was indeed positive in the first half of 2003, with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania leading the way.

FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION, JAN.-JUN. 2003
(% volume change)



FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION (GROSS), NETHERLANDS

	1990-2000 Average per year	2002	
	% volume change		bln euro
Dwellings	2.6	– 3.7	26.4
Non-residential buildings	1.0	– 5.6	16.0
Civil engineering works	3.9	– 0.8	11.5
Transport equipment	3.4	– 8.8	9.2
Machinery and equipment	1.8	0.7	15.1
Computers and other fixed assets	6.1	– 6.4	17.0
Sales of existing fixed assets	3.7	11.7	-3.1
Total	**3.0**	**– 4.5**	**92.2**

economy

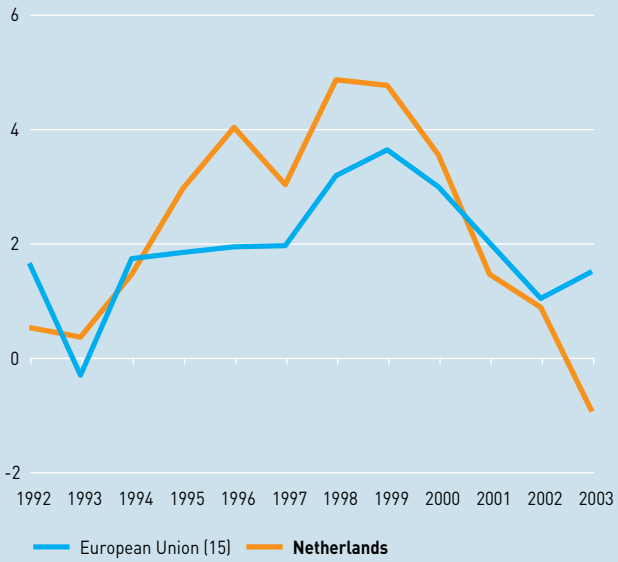
HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION, 2002 (% of GDP)

CY	69.3
EL	67.2
PL	66.4
UK	66.4
MT	64.4
LT	63.4
LV	62.7
PT	60.4
IT	60.2
DE	58.6
EU(25)	58.4
ES	58.2
EE	57.3
SK	57.3
AT	56.8
BE	55.4
FR	54.8
SI	54.6
HU	53.8
CZ	52.2
FI	50.9
NL	49.9
SE	48.9
DK	47.9
IE	45.1
LU	42.8

Consumption

Consumption by households makes up about half of the Dutch gross domestic product (GDP). This is well below the average for the European Union (25). Household consumption is relatively largest in Cyprus, Greece, Poland and the United Kingdom, where it is two-thirds of GDP or more. The increase in household consumption shows a similar picture to that of GDP growth. In the second half of the nineties both consumption and GDP in the Netherlands picked up and grew faster than in the EU as a whole. Since 2001 Dutch consumption growth has been significantly lower and the Netherlands has dropped below the EU average. In 2003 consumption growth - like GDP growth - in the Netherlands was even negative. Alongside households, the government too 'consumes': government consumption consists of spending on care, education, defence, justice and public administration. In the Netherlands, government consumption accounts for nearly one quarter of GDP, putting the country in third place in the EU(25). Only in Sweden and Denmark is this share higher.

HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION (% volume change)



GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION, 2002 (% of GDP)

Austria	18.6
Belgium	21.4
Cyprus	17.7
Czech Republic	22.3
Denmark	26.3
Estonia	19.7
Finland	21.7
France	23.9
Germany	19.2
Greece	15.6
Hungary	23.1
Ireland	15.1
Italy	18.8
Latvia	19.4
Lithuania	20.1
Luxembourg	18.0
Malta	20.3
Netherlands	**24.5**
Poland	17.9
Portugal	21.2
Slovakia	20.1
Slovenia	20.6
Spain	17.8
Sweden	28.1
United Kingdom	20.0
European Union (25)	20.5

economy

Knowledge-based economy

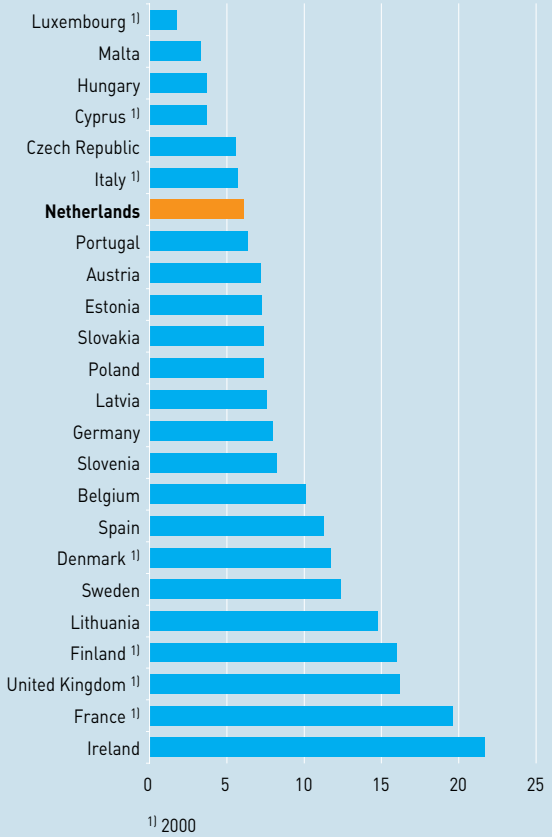
To consolidate the competitive position of the European Union, EU government leaders propose to increase spending on research and development (R&D) to at least 3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2010. Dutch R&D spending was well below this level in 2001. However, the application of new technology, such as ICT, is prospering in the Netherlands. Dutch companies are increasingly using ICT to conduct business processes on-line. Indeed, Dutch companies are leading the way in this respect.
The number of science graduates is relatively low in the Netherlands.

To become a more competitive knowledge-based economy, the EU wants to increase the number of maths, science and technology students substantially. The number of graduates in these disciplines in the Netherlands has hardly increased since 1995, unlike in Austria, Portugal and Italy for example, where the percentages of science graduates are also low.
R&D spending is low in the ten new member countries. The number of science graduates is relatively low in Malta, Hungary and Cyprus, while there are relatively many in Lithuania.

R&D EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)

SE	4.27
FI	3.40
DE	2.51
DK	2.40
FR	2.23
BE	2.17
EU(25)	1.93
AT	1.90
NL	1.89
UK	1.89
LU	1.71
SI	1.57
CZ	1.30
IE	1.17
IT	1.07
ES	0.96
HU	0.95
PT	0.84
EE	0.78
LT	0.69
PL	0.68
EL	0.64
SK	0.64
LV	0.44
CY	0.26

SCIENCE GRADUATES, 2001 (per 1,000 inhabitants aged 20-29 years)



1) 2000

E-COMMERCE, 2001 (% of companies)

	Companies purchasing on-line	Companies selling on-line
Austria	32	21
Czech Republic	22	8
Denmark	46	24
Finland	52	17
Germany	38	16
Greece	11	9
Ireland	38	21
Italy	7	4
Luxembourg	23	12
Netherlands	**40**	**36**
Portugal	12	6
Spain	7	2
Sweden	59	14
United Kingdom	21	10

economy

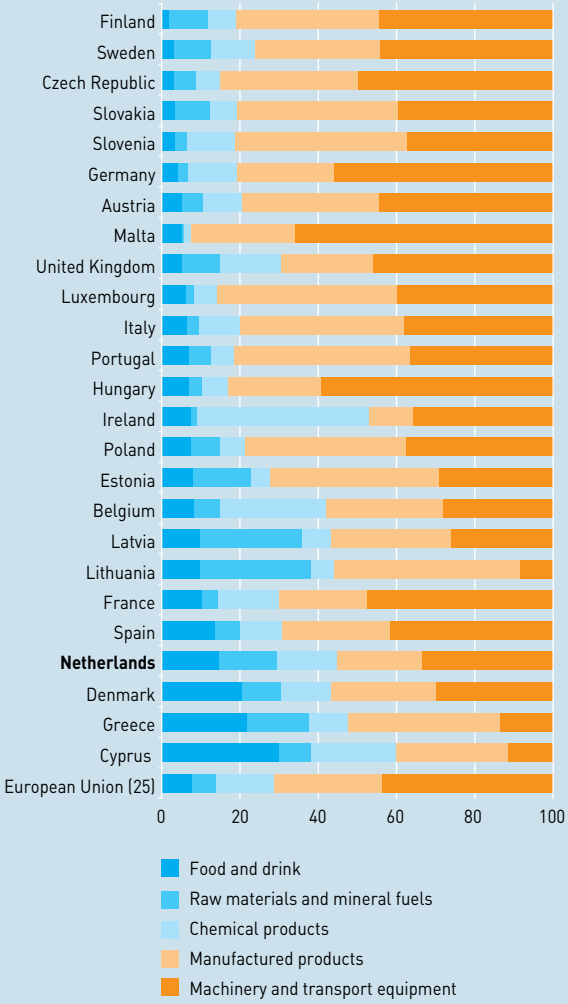
International trade

The Netherlands has traditionally always had an open economy. One indicator used to measure the openness of an economy is trade integration, i.e. the average of imports and exports as a percentage of the gross domestic product. Expressed in these terms, the Netherlands has the ninth most open economy in the European Union (25). As far as the value of exports is concerned it is in fifth place. Many products imported into the Netherlands come from the United States and Asia, and arrive en route to the European hinterlands. Indeed the Netherlands exported 76 billion euro more to the other EU(15) countries than it imported from these countries in 2002. However, it had a trade deficit of 51 billion euro with the rest of the world.

The new member countries are at the bottom of the EU ladder as far as export values are concerned. Exports to the EU(15) countries exceed imports. The ten new EU countries export on average more manufactured goods and fewer chemical products than the EU(15) countries. Since the trade liberalisation in the former Eastern Bloc countries in 1990, these countries have intensified trade with the EU.

TRADE INTEGRATION, 2001 (% of GDP)

COMPOSITON OF EXPORTS, 2002 (%)



EXPORTS BY DESTINATION, 2002 (bln euro)

	European Union (15)	Rest of the world	Total
Austria	51	32	83
Belgium	164	62	226
Cyprus	0	0	0
Czech Republic	18	8	26
Denmark	40	20	60
Estonia	2	1	4
Finland	26	22	48
France	215	135	351
Germany	355	293	648
Greece	5	6	11
Hungary	27	9	37
Ireland	61	33	93
Italy	141	124	265
Latvia	1	1	2
Lithuania	3	3	6
Luxembourg	9	2	11
Malta	1	1	2
Netherlands	**199**	**59**	**258**
Poland	27	12	40
Portugal	22	6	27
Slovakia	9	6	15
Slovenia	7	4	11
Spain	88	38	126
Sweden	46	40	86
United Kingdom	174	122	296

economy

SE — 2.2
DE — 1.9
PT — 1.8
BE — 1.7
UK — 1.7
DK — 1.6
EU(15) — 1.4
FR — 1.4
LU — 1.3

IT — 0.7

NL — 0.5

ES — 0.3

PL — 19.3

SK — 17.5

LT — 13.1

ES — 11.4

LV — 10.7

EE — 10.3

EL — 9.3
DE — 9.3
FR — 9.3
FI — 9.1
EU(25) — 9.0
IT — 8.8

labour

DK — 75.9
NL — 74.4
SE — 73.6
UK — 71.7
AT — 69.3
CY — 68.6
PT — 68.2
FI — 68.1
CZ — 65.4
DE — 65.3
IE — 65.3
[illegible] — 63.7
SI — 63.4
FR — 63.0
EU(25) — 62.9
EE — 62.0
LV — 60.4
BE — 59.9
LT — 59.9
ES — 58.4
SK — 56.8
EL — 56.7
HU — 56.6
IT — 55.5
MT — 54.5
PL — 51.5

NL — 43.8
UK — 25.0

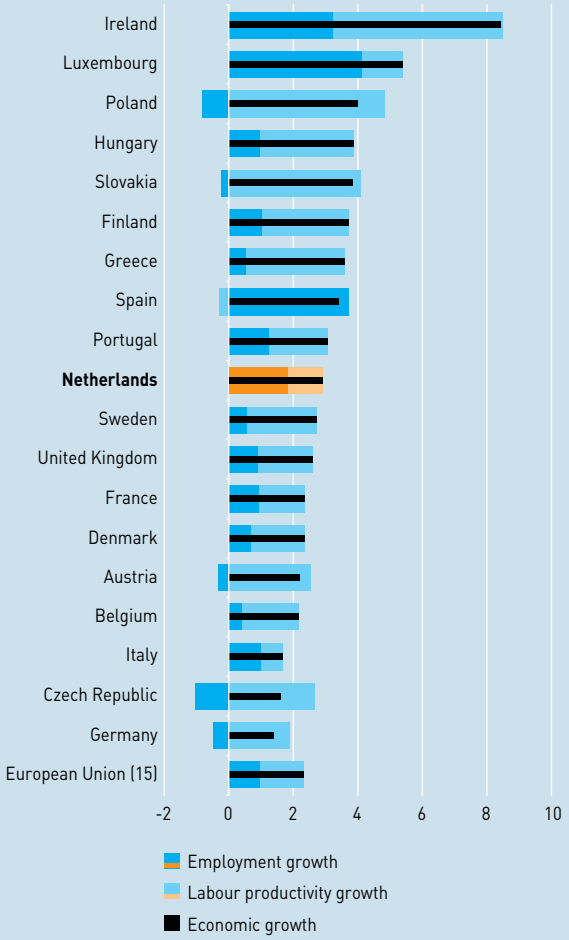
Labour productivity

The progressive ageing of the European population is set to put the labour supply under pressure. If the increase in labour supply comes to a halt, economic growth becomes more dependent on an increase in labour productivity. In international comparisons, labour productivity is often expressed as the gross domestic product (GDP) per hour worked. Although labour productivity in the Netherlands is high compared with other European countries, it has been growing more slowly than the European average for a number of years now: in 1995-2002 it rose by an average 1.0 percent a year. The relatively high economic growth in the Netherlands in the second half of the nineties resulted in a substantial increase in employment. The modest growth of labour productivity in recent years has put the Dutch position within the European Union under pressure: in Belgium labour productivity is now higher and the difference with Ireland is only very small. Alongside Poland and Slovakia, Ireland is one of the countries with the fastest growing labour productivity in Europe. In the ten new countries, labour productivity in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic is still much lower than in the EU(15) countries.

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY, GDP PER WORKING HOUR; AVERAGE 1995-2002 (% change)

IE 5.3
PL 4.8
SK 4.1
EL 3.1
HU 2.9
FI 2.7
CZ 2.7
AT 2.5
SE 2.2
DE 1.9
PT 1.8
BE 1.7
UK 1.7
DK 1.6
EU(15) 1.4
FR 1.4
LU 1.3
NL 1.0
IT 0.7
ES -0.3

COMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH: EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH, AVERAGE 1995-2002 (%)



LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY, GDP PER WORKING HOUR (EU15=100)

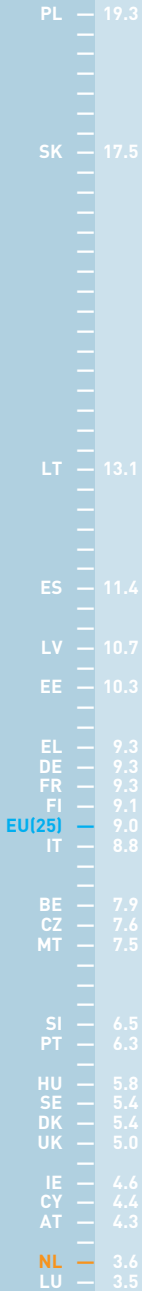
	1995	2002
Austria	96	104
Belgium	118	121
Czech Republic	34	37
Denmark	105	107
Finland	90	98
France	123	123
Germany	100	104
Greece	57	64
Hungary	37	41
Ireland	87	113
Italy	106	101
Luxembourg	124	123
Netherlands	**121**	**114**
Poland	29	36
Portugal	57	59
Slovakia	36	43
Spain	88	78
Sweden	93	98
United Kingdom	94	96

labour

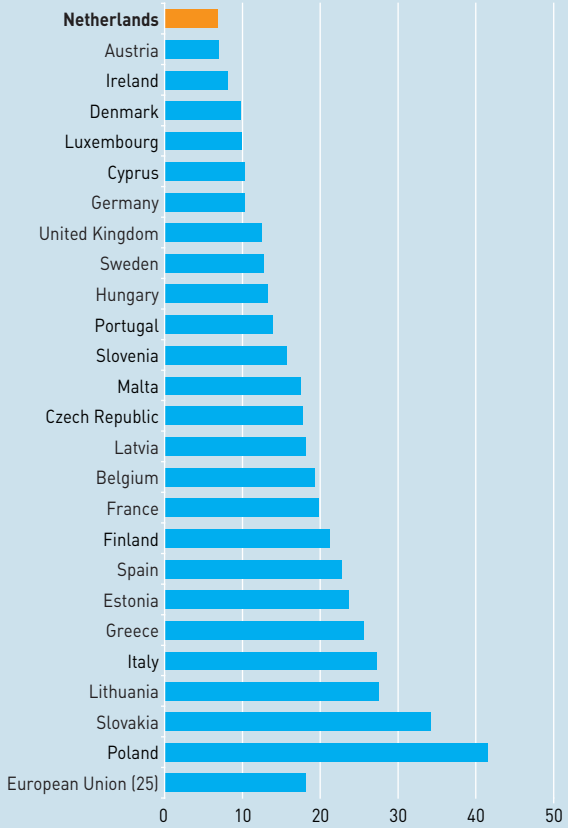
Unemployment

In the first half of 2003, the Netherlands nearly had the lowest rate of unemployment in the European Union, with 3.6 percent. Only in Luxembourg was the percentage slightly lower. Unemployment in the Netherlands was 0.9 of a percent point higher in the first half of 2003 than in 2002. This increase was larger than the average increase in Europe. In the new member countries unemployment was on average higher in the first half of 2003 than in the EU(15), with Poland way out in the lead with a rate of nearly 20 percent.
The Netherlands had the lowest rate of youth unemployment (15-24 years) in the EU in the first half of 2003, with 6.8 percent. The average in the EU(25) was nearly three times as high. Here, too, Poland has a lot of catching up to do: nearly 42 percent of 15-24 year-old Poles are unemployed.
Unemployment among women is higher than among men in most countries. In the Netherlands 3.7 percent of the female labour force were unemployed in the first half of 2003, compared with 3.5 percent of their male peers. In the southern European countries in particular, unemployment among women is considerably higher than among men. The differences in unemployment between men and women were relatively small in most of the ten newcomers.

UNEMPLOYMENT, JAN.-JUN. 2003 (% of labour force)



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, JAN.-JUN. 2003 (% of labour force)



UNEMPLOYMENT, JAN.-JUN. 2003 (% of labour force)

	Men	Women
Austria	4.2	4.5
Belgium	7.2	8.8
Cyprus	3.8	5.0
Czech Republic	5.9	9.7
Denmark	5.1	5.7
Estonia	10.4	10.0
Finland	9.4	8.9
France	8.2	10.5
Germany	9.5	8.9
Greece	6.1	14.1
Hungary	6.1	5.4
Ireland	4.8	4.1
Italy	6.9	11.8
Latvia	10.5	10.8
Lithuania	12.7	13.6
Luxembourg	2.6	4.8
Malta	6.4	10.1
Netherlands	**3.5**	**3.7**
Poland	18.7	20.1
Portugal	5.4	7.3
Slovakia	17.3	17.8
Slovenia	6.1	7.1
Spain	8.2	16.1
Sweden	5.7	5.0
United Kingdom	5.5	4.4
European Union (25)	8.2	10.0

labour

Labour participation

In 2002 nearly three-quarters of the Dutch population aged between 15 and 64 years had a paid job. Only in Denmark was the participation rate higher. Poland had the lowest rate of labour participation, with only just over half of 15-64 year-olds in employment. On average labour participation in the European Union (25) was nearly 63 percent.

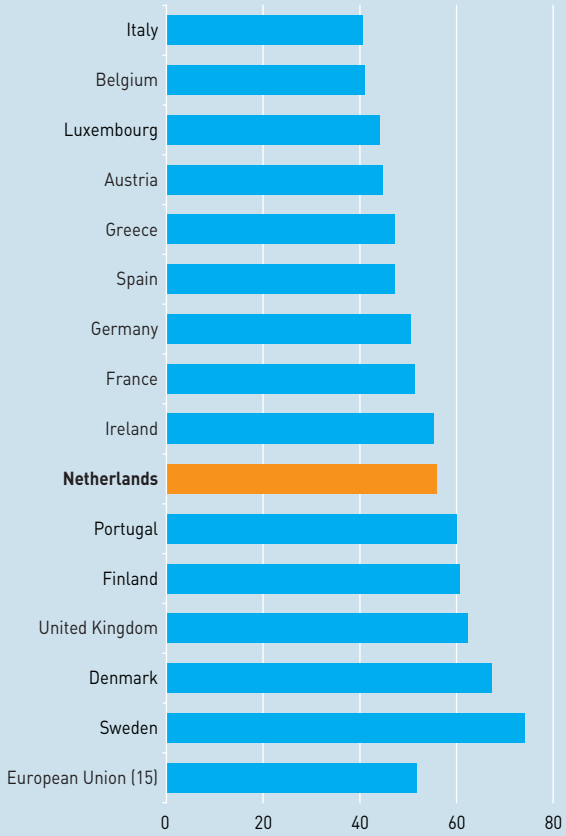
Just as in other EU countries, female labour participation in the Netherlands was lower than that for men. The difference of 16 percent points was average for the EU(25). The differences were smallest in the Scandinavian and Baltic countries and largest in Greece, Italy and Spain.

Just over half of 50-64 year-olds in the EU(15) countries have a paid job. The Netherlands was above this average with 56 percent in 2002. In Sweden nearly three-quarters of 50-64 year-olds work, in Italy and Belgium only 41 percent. In 2001 the average retirement age for Dutch workers was nearly 61 years. This is slightly above the average of around 60 years for the EU(15)countries. The Irish carry on working to the oldest ages: they retire at 63 years on average. In Luxembourg on the other hand workers retire before the age of 57 on average. In all countries in the EU(15) women retire at younger ages than men.

LABOUR PARTICIPATION, 2002 (% of population aged 15-64 years)

DK	75.9
NL	74.4
SE	73.6
UK	71.7
AT	69.3
CY	68.6
PT	68.2
FI	68.1
CZ	65.4
DE	65.3
IE	65.3
LU	63.7
SI	63.4
FR	63.0
EU(25)	62.9
EE	62.0
LV	60.4
BE	59.9
LT	59.9
ES	58.4
SK	56.8
EL	56.7
HU	56.6
IT	55.5
MT	54.5
PL	51.5

LABOUR PARTICIPATION OF 50-64 YEAR-OLDS, 2002 (%)



LABOUR PARTICIPATION, 2002 (% of population aged 15-64 years)

	Men	Women
Austria	75.7	63.1
Belgium	68.3	51.4
Cyprus	78.9	59.1
Czech Republic	73.9	57.0
Denmark	80.0	71.7
Estonia	66.5	57.9
Finland	70.0	66.2
France	69.5	56.7
Germany	71.7	58.8
Greece	71.4	42.5
Hungary	63.5	50.0
Ireland	75.2	55.4
Italy	69.1	42.0
Latvia	64.3	56.8
Lithuania	62.7	57.2
Luxembourg	75.6	51.6
Malta	75.3	33.6
Netherlands	**82.4**	**66.2**
Poland	56.9	46.2
Portugal	75.9	60.8
Slovakia	62.4	51.4
Slovenia	68.2	58.6
Spain	72.6	44.1
Sweden	74.9	72.2
United Kingdom	78.0	65.3
European Union (25)	71.0	54.7

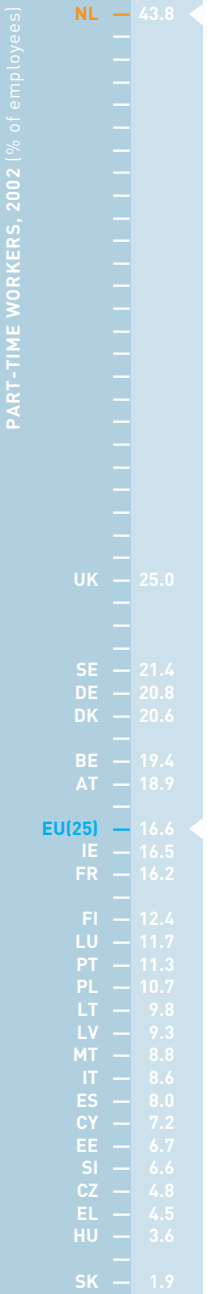
labour

Part-time work

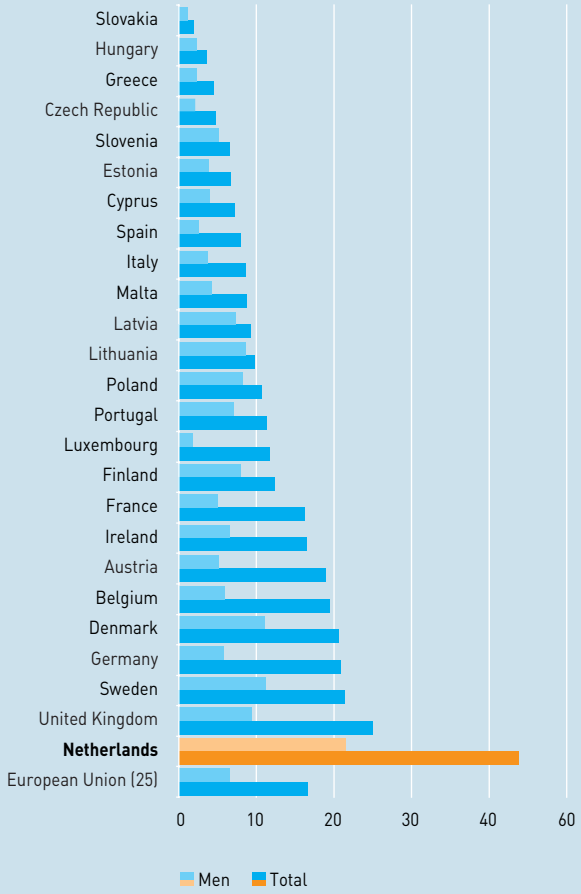
The Dutch have been leaders in the field of part-time labour for years now. In 2002 just over four in ten employed people in the Netherlands worked part-time. The other countries of the European Union are way behind the Netherlands in this respect. The United Kingdom follows in second place, with one-quarter of the employed labour force working part-time. In most of the ten new member countries part-time jobs are much less common than in the EU(15). In Slovakia, for example, only 2 percent of the employed labour force worked part-time in 2002. On average nearly 17 percent of the employed labour force in the EU(25) had a part-time job. European part-timers worked for an average 20 hours a week, full-timers for 40 hours.

In all countries of the European Union, more women than men work part-time. On average nearly 30 percent of working women in the EU had a part-time job in 2002, compared with only 6.5 percent of men. One in five Dutch men work part-time, again a very high proportion compared with other European countries. In Luxembourg, for example, fewer than 2 percent of men have a part-time job, compared with one quarter of working women.

PART-TIME WORKERS, 2002 (% of employees)



PART-TIME WORKERS, 2002 (% of employees)



PART-TIME WORKERS, 2002 (% of employees)

	Men	Women
Austria	5.1	35.7
Belgium	5.9	37.7
Cyprus	4.0	11.3
Czech Republic	2.1	8.3
Denmark	11.0	31.4
Estonia	3.9	9.6
Finland	8.0	17.1
France	5.0	29.7
Germany	5.8	39.5
Greece	2.3	8.1
Hungary	2.3	5.1
Ireland	6.5	30.5
Italy	3.7	16.7
Latvia	7.3	11.2
Lithuania	8.6	11.0
Luxembourg	1.8	26.4
Malta	4.3	18.9
Netherlands	**21.5**	**72.8**
Poland	8.3	13.4
Portugal	7.1	16.4
Slovakia	1.2	2.7
Slovenia	5.2	8.3
Spain	2.6	17.0
Sweden	11.2	32.9
United Kingdom	9.4	44.0
European Union (25)	6.5	29.8

labour

FI — 2.4

EE — 1.3

DK — 0.9

BE — 0.2
SE — 0.2
ES — 0.0

LU — 0.6
IE — 0.9
AT — 1.0

EL — 1.7

IT — -2.6
LT — -2.6

SE — 58.3

DK — 55.3

FR — 54.0

HU — 52.2
AT — 51.9

SK — 50.6
BE — 50.2

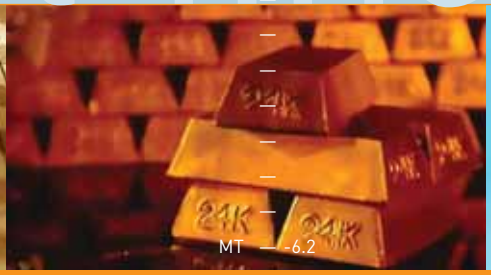
FI — 49.2
DE — 48.6

EU(15) — 47.7
IT — 47.7
NL — 47.3

EL — 46.3
LU — 46.1
PT — 46.1

NL — -2.6
SI — -2.6
EU(15) — -2.7
UK — -2.8
LV — -3.0
CY — -3.5
CZ — -3.9
PL — -4.1
DE — -4.2
FR — -4.2

ment finance



MT — -6.2

SK — -7.2

HU — -9.2

CZ — 45.3

PL — 43.2

UK — 40.9

ES — 39.8

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-), ESTIMATE SPRING 2004 (% of GDP)

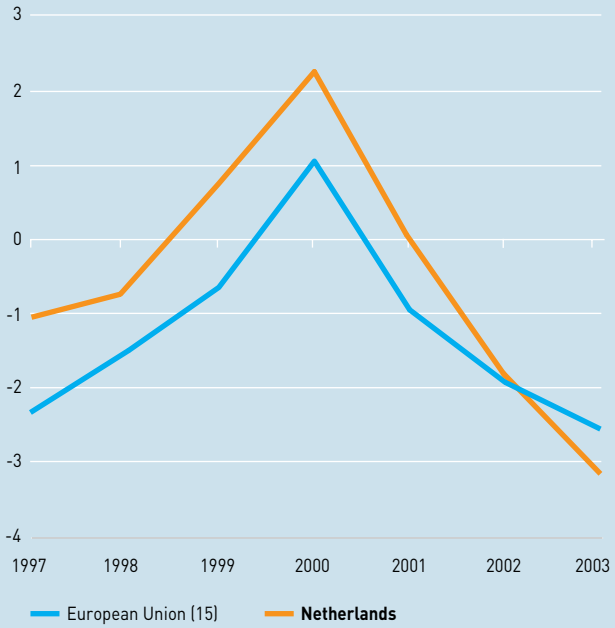
EE — 2.6
FI — 2.3
DK — 1.5
SE — 0.7
ES — 0.3
BE — 0.2
IE — 0.2
LU — -0.1
AT — -1.1
LT — -1.7
LV — -1.8
SI — -1.8
IT — -2.4
EU(25) — -2.7
PT — -2.8
EL — -3.2
NL — -3.2
UK — -3.2
SK — -3.6
DE — -3.9
FR — -4.1
PL — -4.1
HU — -5.9
CY — -6.3
MT — -9.7
CZ — -12.9

Government deficit and government debt

In their Growth and Stability Pact, the countries of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) agreed that their government deficit must remain below 3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP). National deficits fell in all countries in the second half of the nineties, and in 2000 the European Union (15) as a whole even had a net government surplus. Since the beginning of this century, however, most EU governments are again facing a shortfall. In the Netherlands, the government deficit rose to 3.2 percent in 2003 (according to the spring 2004 estimate). The deficits in Germany and France were already above 3 percent of GDP in 2002, and increased further in both countries in 2003.

Most of the ten new countries have gloomy government deficit figures. The Baltic States are the exception though, and Estonia even managed to realise a government surplus in 2002. According to EMU criteria, government debt may not exceed 60 percent of GDP or must be shown to be diminishing at a satisfactory rate. In Belgium, Italy and Greece the government debt is as yet even larger than GDP. In the Netherlands it is below the average for the EU.

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-), ESTIMATE SPRING 2004
(% of GDP)



GOVERNMENT DEBT (% of GDP)

	1995	2002	2003	Change 1995-2003
Austria	69,2	66,6	65,0	-4,2
Belgium	134,0	105,8	100,5	-33,5
Cyprus	61,7	67,1	72,2	10,5
Czech Republic	13,7	28,9	37,6	23,9
Denmark	69,3	47,2	45,0	-24,3
Estonia	6,0	5,7	5,8	-0,2
Finland	57,1	42,6	45,3	-11,8
France	54,6	58,6	63,0	8,4
Germany	57,0	60,8	64,2	7,2
Greece	108,7	104,7	102,4	-6,3
Hungary	61,9	57,1	59,0	-2,9
Ireland	82,9	32,3	32,0	-50,9
Italy	123,2	108,0	106,2	-17,0
Latvia	10,6	15,5	15,6	5,0
Lithuania	16,8	22,8	21,9	5,1
Luxembourg	5,6	5,7	4,9	-0,7
Malta	64,9	61,7	72,0	7,1
Netherlands	**77,2**	**52,6**	**54,8**	**-22,4**
Poland	41,6	41,2	45,4	3,8
Portugal	64,3	58,1	59,4	-4,9
Slovakia	28,6	43,3	42,8	14,2
Slovenia	25,1	27,8	27,1	2,0
Spain	63,9	54,6	50,8	-13,1
Sweden	73,6	52,6	51,8	-21,8
United Kingdom	51,8	38,5	39,6	-12,2
European Union (15)	70,6	62,5	64,0	-6,6

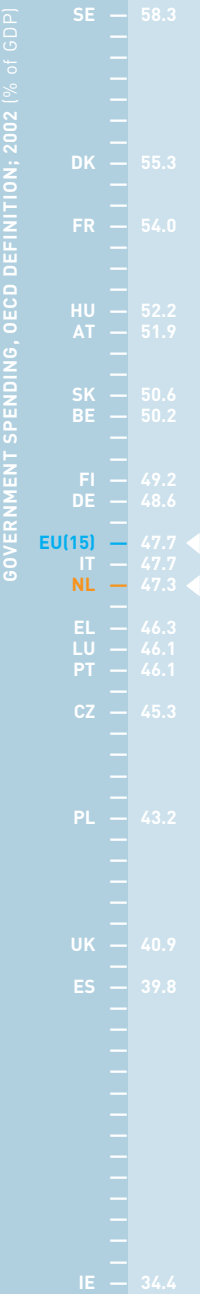
government finance

Government revenues and government spending

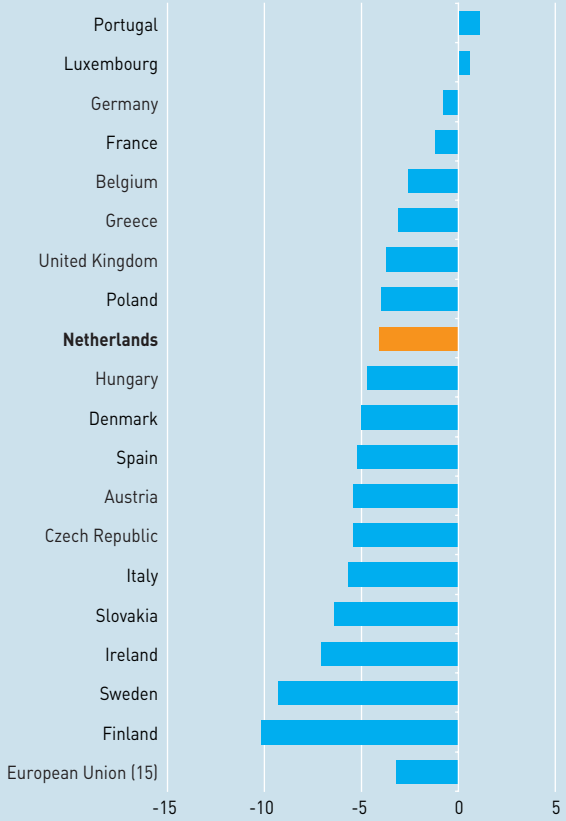
The Dutch government spent just over 211 billion euro in 2002. With a share of 47 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this put the Netherlands around the European average. Irish government spending claims the lowest percentage of GDP, while the Swedish government spends the largest percentage. This is the same situation as in 1995. In nearly all countries the percentage of government spending has fallen since then, by most in the countries with the largest percentage. As the years of strong economic growth resulted in less unemployment, smaller government deficits and lower interest rates, government spending accounted for less of GDP. The percentage of government spending in the GDP fell most sharply in Finland, by more than 10 percent points between 1995 and 2002.

The tax burden in the European Union remained reasonably constant at the end of the nineties. Policy measures reduced the tax burden on profits and labour in this period. Taxes on consumption did increase, however, mainly because of higher rates of VAT. With the slump in the economy, tax revenues have decreased in the EU countries in the last two years. The tax burden in the ten new member countries has dropped sharply since 1995, and is now below the EU(15) average.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING, OECD DEFINITION; 2002 (% of GDP)



GOVERNMENT SPENDING, OECD DEFINITION; CHANGE 1995-2002 (% of GDP)



GOVERNMENT REVENUES AND SPENDING, NETHERLANDS

	1995	2002	
		% of GDP	bln euro
Revenues			
Taxes	23.4	25.0	111.1
Social insurance premiums	16.0	13.9	61.9
Other	7.8	7.0	31.0
Total	**47.3**	**45.9**	**204.0**
Spending			
Employee wages	10.8	10.5	46.7
Intermediate consumption	6.3	6.9	30.8
Fixed capital formation	3.0	3.3	14.6
Social security benefits	21.6	18.7	83.2
Interest	5.9	3.1	13.8
Other	3.9	5.0	22.1
Total	**51.4**	**47.5**	**211.2**
Net lending/borrowing	**-4.2**	**-1.6**	**-7.1**

government finance

SE — -7.0

CZ — -15.0
LU — -16.0

SK — -23.0

PL — -26.0

energy and

LU — 359

FI — 268

SE — 243

BE — 227

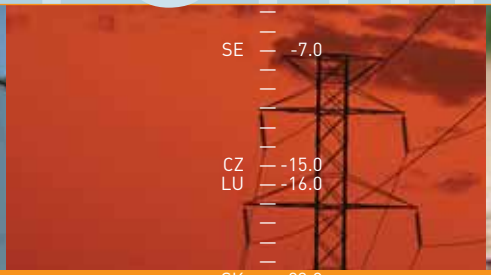
NL — 203

FR — 186
DE — 178

CZ — 168
UK — 163
IE — 158

environment

AT — 23.0
DK — 21.0
IE — 18.0
ES — 18.0
SI — 16.0
IT — 13.5
NL — 11.0
PT — 9.0
EU(15) — 6.0
FI — 5.0
DE — 3.0
HU — 3.0
EL — 1.0
UK — 0.5
FR — 0.0
SE — -7.0
CZ — -15.0
LU — -16.0
SK — -23.0
PL — -26.0
LV — -46.0
EE — -47.0
LT — -56.0



AT — 156
EU(25) — 156
DK — 156
EE — 154
SK — 144
SI — 138
ES — 132
CY — 128
IT — 128
EL — 115
HU — 103
PT — 99
PL — 99
LT — 98

Energy

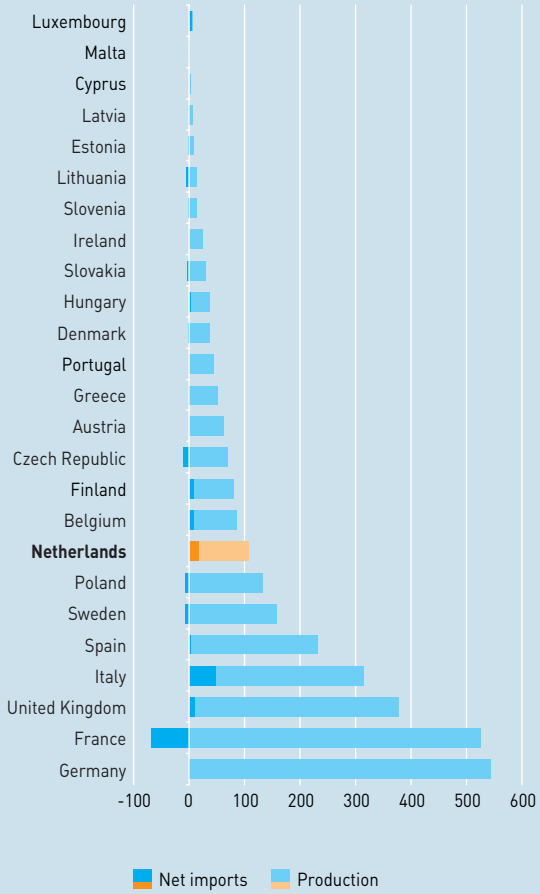
The Dutch use 200 gigajoules of energy per inhabitant. This is much more than the average in the European Union (25). The reasons for this are the slightly colder climate and the relatively large volume of petrochemical industry and glasshouse horticulture in the Netherlands. Most of the new member countries use less energy per person than average. The average per capita energy use in the EU(25) rose by 6 percent between 1995 and 2001. In the Netherlands it rose by 2 percent. Energy intensity (i.e. megajoules per euro of gross domestic product) on the other hand fell in nearly all EU countries in this period, with the largest decreases in Estonia and Poland.

The liberalisation of the energy market has boosted imports of electricity. After Italy, the Netherlands is the largest net importer of electricity in the EU. Nearly one sixth of electricity used in the Netherlands came from abroad in 2001, mostly from France and Germany. After the liberalisation of part of the energy market in 1998, imports of electricity increased sharply, at the expense of domestic production. In the last few years, however, electricity production in the Netherlands has been growing again.

ENERGY USE PER CAPITA, 2001 [GJ]

LU	359
FI	268
SE	243
BE	227
NL	203
FR	186
DE	178
CZ	168
UK	163
IE	158
AT	156
EU(25)	156
DK	156
EE	154
SK	144
SI	138
ES	132
CY	128
IT	128
EL	115
HU	103
PT	99
PL	99
LT	98
MT	88
LV	75

PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS OF ENERGY, 2001 (TWh)



ENERGY USE PER EURO OF GDP

	2001	1995-2001 Average per year
	megajoules	% change
Austria	6.0	0.0
Belgium	9.2	-0.7
Cyprus	9.9	-0.1
Czech Republic	26.9	-1.3
Denmark	4.7	-2.8
Estonia	33.7	-5.7
Finland	10.3	-1.7
France	7.4	-0.8
Germany	7.0	-1.1
Greece	9.2	-0.5
Hungary	18.2	-3.9
Ireland	5.3	-4.3
Italy	6.1	-0.5
Latvia	20.7	-3.3
Lithuania	25.8	-4.6
Luxembourg	7.2	-3.8
Malta	8.5	-2.9
Netherlands	**7.6**	**-2.3**
Poland	18.5	-7.5
Portugal	8.2	0.1
Slovakia	33.2	-1.8
Slovenia	12.7	-2.7
Spain	8.1	-0.1
Sweden	8.8	-2.4
United Kingdom	6.1	-1.9
European Union (25)	7.8	-1.4

energy and environment

Environment

Between 2008 and 2012, the European Union (15) will have to have reduced the overall emission of greenhouse gases to a level that is 8 percent lower than in 1990. Most countries in the Union will have to reduce their emissions, some may increase them.

The Netherlands will have to reduce its emission of greenhouse gases, of which CO_2 is the most important, by less than the EU as a whole. Luxembourg will have to realise the strongest reduction, but had already reached its target in 2001. Most of the new member countries have already fulfilled their reduction quotas.

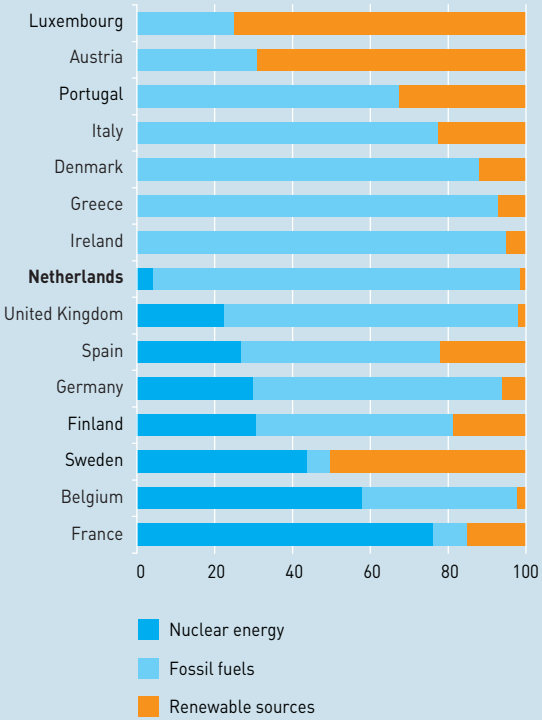
As far as the position with respect to the Kyoto targets is concerned, the Netherlands is in the middle group in Europe. Greenhouse gases are not decreasing as yet, though: the emission of methane and laughing gas has dropped sharply, but the emission of CO_2 has risen, mainly because of the increase in motor traffic and electricity production.

Austria, Luxembourg and Sweden produce more than half of their energy from renewable sources. France and Belgium use mainly nuclear energy. The Netherlands, Ireland and Greece use fossil fuels to generate more than 90 percent of their electricity. The contribution of wind energy, biomass and other renewable sources is small but growing in the Netherlands.

EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES, REDUCTION STILL TO BE REALISED TO ACHIEVE KYOTO TARGET 2008-2012 (%)

AT	23
DK	21
IE	18
ES	18
SI	16
BE	13.5
IT	13.5
NL	11
PT	9
EU(15)	6
FI	5
DE	3
HU	3
EL	1
UK	0.5
FR	0
SE	-7
CZ	-15
LU	-16
SK	-23
PL	-26
LV	-46
EE	-47
LT	-56

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION BY SOURCE, 2001 (% of total)



EMISSION OF GREENHOUS GASES COMPARED WITH 1990 (%)

	Kyoto target 2008-2012	Realisation 2001
Austria	-13	10
Belgium	-7.5	6
Czech Republic	-8	-23
Denmark	-21	0
Estonia	-8	-55
Finland	0	5
France	0	0
Germany	-21	-18
Greece	25	26
Hungary	-6	-3
Ireland	13	31
Italy	-6.5	7
Latvia	-8	-54
Lithuania	-8	-64
Luxembourg	-28	-44
Netherlands	**-6**	**5**
Poland	-6	-32
Portugal	27	36
Slovakia	-8	-31
Slovenia	-8	8
Spain	15	33
Sweden	4	-3
United Kingdom	-12.5	-12
European Union (15)	-8	-2

energy and environment

DE — 10.7

FR — 9.5

EL — 9.4

PT — 9.2

BE — 9.0
NL — 8.9
EU(15) — 8.9
SE — 8.7
DK — 8.6

HU — 333
LV — 329

EE — 290
LT — 286

SK — 276

PL — 251

CZ — 239

IE — 195
SI — 191
DK — 189
UK — 181
BE — 180
DE — 171
EL — 166
FR — 166
NL — 165
EU(15) — 165
AT — 160
ES — 158
PT — 148
MT — 147

DK — 8.4

SE — 7.4

welfare

EE — 6.7

LT — 6.0
FI — 6.0
LV — 5.9
FR — 5.8
AT — 5.7
PT — 5.7
CY — 5.6

BE — 5.2
PL — 5.1
EU(15) — 4.9
MT — 4.9
NL — 4.8
IT — 4.6
HU — 4.5
DE — 4.5
ES — 4.4
UK — 4.4
CZ — 4.4
IE — 4.4
SK — 4.3

EL — 3.8

IE — 21
EL — 20
PT — 20
ES — 19
IT — 19
EE — 18
LT — 17
UK — 17
CY — 16
LV — 16
EU(15) — 15
FR — 15
MT — 15
PL — 15

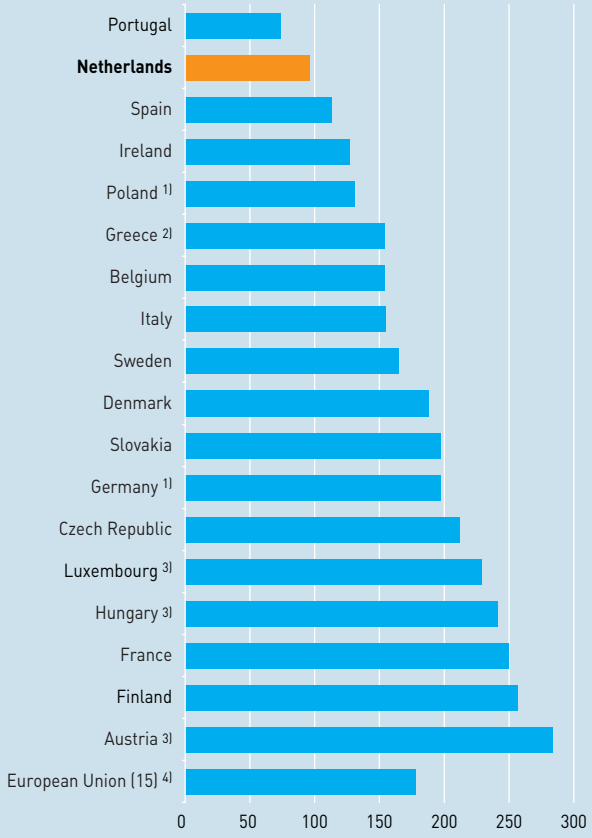
BE — 13
AT — 12
LU — 12
DE — 11
DK — 11

Health care

Spending on health care in the Netherlands amounted to nearly 9 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2001. This is around average for the European Union (15). Germany spent most on health care, namely nearly 11 percent. In Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, all newcomers to the EU, health care spending was between 5.7 and 7.3 percent of GDP.
In 1995, per capita spending on health care in the Netherlands was 5 percent higher than in the EU(15). Between 1995 and 2001 it rose relatively more strongly than average in the EU(15), and in 2001 it was 15 percent higher than in the EU(15). Only Luxembourg and Germany spent more per person on health care. In Poland and Slovakia per capita health costs were only one quarter of Dutch costs.
Health care yields are more difficult to determine. In terms of number of patients discharged from hospital, an often used international indicator, the Dutch health care system scores poorly compared with most other EU countries. However, one of the reasons for this is the well-developed system of home care and – in the last twenty years – a shift in treatment towards out-patient care, day-time treatment and admissions to nursing homes.

HEALTH CARE SPENDING (% of GDP)

PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL, 2000
(per 1,000 inhabitants)



1) 1999
2) 1998
3) Incl. days of day-time treatment
4) Excl. United Kingdom

HEALTH CARE SPENDING PER CAPITA, PURCHASING POWER PARITIES (EU15=100)

	1995	2001
Austria	103	96
Belgium	111	109
Czech Republic	53	48
Denmark	111	110
Finland	83	81
France	117	112
Germany	133	123
Greece	72	66
Hungary	40	40
Ireland	72	85
Italy	88	97
Luxembourg	126	119
Netherlands	**105**	**115**
Poland	25	28
Portugal	67	71
Slovakia	.	30
Spain	69	70
Sweden	99	99
United Kingdom	78	87

welfare

Health

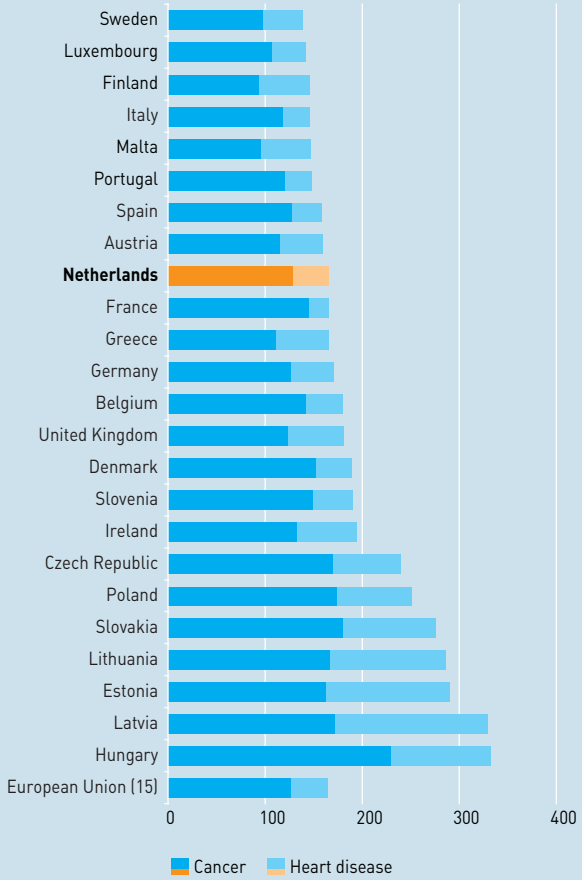
Smoking and excessive alcohol consumption are two important risk factors for health. The percentage of smokers in the Dutch population is lower than average in the European Union (15), and the Dutch also drink less than average. Within the EU(15) Greece has the highest percentage of smokers and Sweden the lowest. The Swedish are also the only ones who drink less than the Dutch. People in Portugal, Luxembourg and Ireland are clearly above average drinkers. In the ten new member countries the percentage of smokers is around the EU(15) average, while alcohol consumption is slightly lower on average.

Mortality from heart disease in the Netherlands is slightly below the average of the EU(15). The figures are most favourable for the southern European countries, with the exception of Greece. The high percentage of smokers there seems to be in keeping with this. Mortality rates in the ten new member countries are on average higher than in the other EU countries. The Dutch cancer mortality rate in the age group 25-64 years is slightly above the average for the EU(25). Sweden and Finland have the lowest cancer mortality. For this cause of death, too, the figures for the new member countries are less favourable.

MORTALITY FROM CANCER AND HEART DISEASE (per 100,000 inhabitants aged 25-64 years)

HU — 333
LV — 329
EE — 290
LT — 286
SK — 276
PL — 251
CZ — 239
IE — 195
SI — 191
DK — 189
UK — 181
BE — 180
DE — 171
EL — 166
FR — 166
NL — 165
EU(15) — 165
AT — 160
ES — 158
PT — 148
MT — 147
IT — 146
FI — 146
LU — 141
SE — 139

MORTALITY FROM CANCER AND HEART DISEASE
(per 100,000 inhabitants aged 25-64 years)



SMOKING AND DRINKING

	Smokers, 1999 % of the population aged 15 years and older	Alcohol consumption, 2000 litres per person per year
Austria	38	10.1
Belgium	37	8.0
Cyprus	25	.
Czech Republic	35	12.6
Denmark	38	9.4
Estonia	31	7.2
Finland	30	8.1
France	38	10.8
Germany	34	10.4
Greece	45	7.8
Hungary	30	9.1
Ireland	32	13.3
Italy	27	7.9
Latvia	39	7.5
Lithuania	31	10.0
Luxembourg	34	13.8
Malta	25	3.7
Netherlands	**31**	**7.7**
Poland	34	6.6
Portugal	28	14.0
Slovakia	28	9.9
Slovenia	29	10.6
Spain	37	9.9
Sweden	22	5.4
United Kingdom	35	7.9
European Union (15)	34	9.3

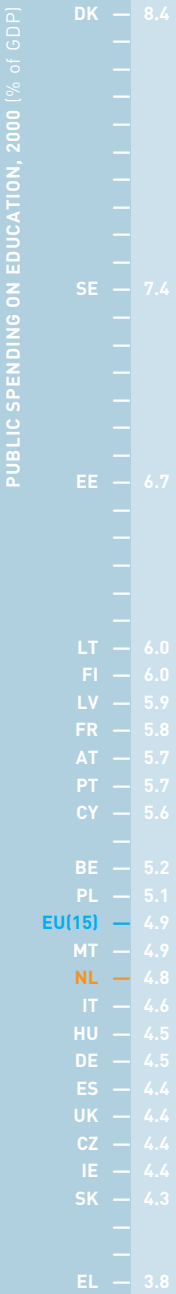
Education

Dutch public spending on education accounted for about 4.8 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2000. This is slightly less than the average in the European Union (15). In the EU(15) Denmark spent most on education - 8.4 percent of its GDP - while Greece was at the other end of the scale with only 3.8 percent of GDP.

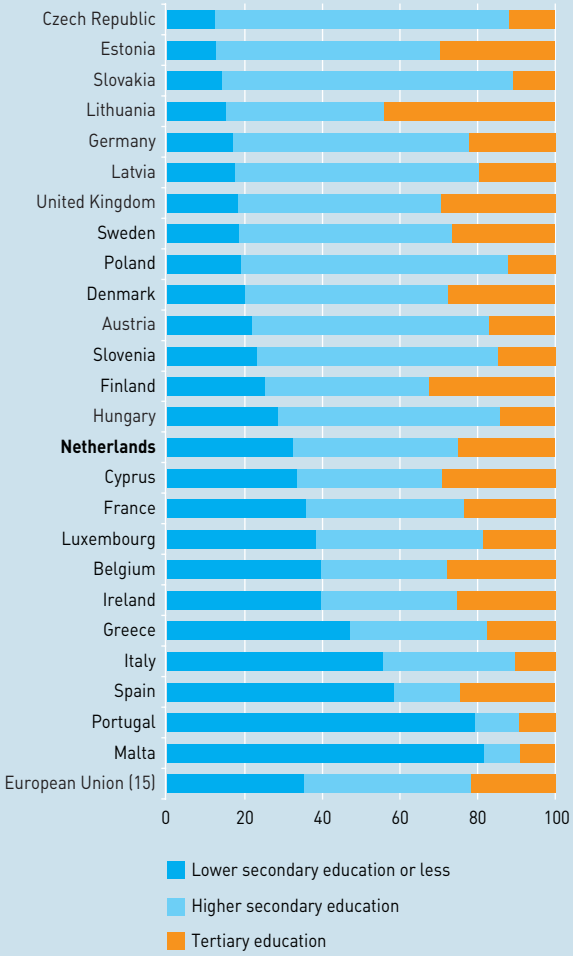
In most EU(15) countries education spending expressed as a percentage of GDP has fallen slightly since 1995. Only in Denmark, Greece and Portugal has it risen. On average the new EU countries spend a similar proportion of their GDP on education as the EU(15).

The educational level of the Dutch population is reasonably high compared with the rest of Europe. In 2002 nearly 25 percent of the Dutch population between 25 and 64 years of age had graduated from higher education, slightly more than the EU(15) average. In the countries around the Netherlands the percentages of the population with higher education vary from 22 percent in Germany to more than 29 percent in the United Kingdom. Some of the new member countries have relatively more higher educated people than the Netherlands. In Lithuania, for example, 44 percent of 25-64 years olds had completed higher education.

PUBLIC SPENDING ON EDUCATION, 2000 (% of GDP)



EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE POPULATION AGED 25-64 YEARS, 2002 (%)



PUBLIC SPENDING ON EDUCATION (% of GDP)

	1995	2000
Austria	6.2	5.7
Belgium	.	5.2
Cyprus	4.8	5.6
Czech Republic	4.9	4.4
Denmark	7.7	8.4
Estonia	7.0	6.7
Finland	6.9	6.0
France	6.0	5.8
Germany	4.7	4.5
Greece	2.9	3.8
Hungary	5.0	4.5
Ireland	5.5	4.4
Italy	4.9	4.6
Latvia	5.6	5.9
Lithuania	7.0	6.0
Luxembourg	4.3	.
Malta	5.0	4.9
Netherlands	**5.0**	**4.8**
Poland	5.5	5.1
Portugal	5.4	5.7
Slovakia	5.0	4.3
Spain	4.7	4.4
Sweden	7.5	7.4
United Kingdom	5.0	4.4
European Union (15)	5.2	4.9

Social cohesion

Income inequality and relative poverty are indicators of the degree of cohesion in a society. In the Netherlands income inequality is relatively small: the income of the richest twenty percent of the population in 2001 was 3.8 times as high as that of the poorest twenty percent. For the European Union (15) as a whole this ratio was 4.4. Income inequality in the ten new member countries is similar to that in the EU(15).

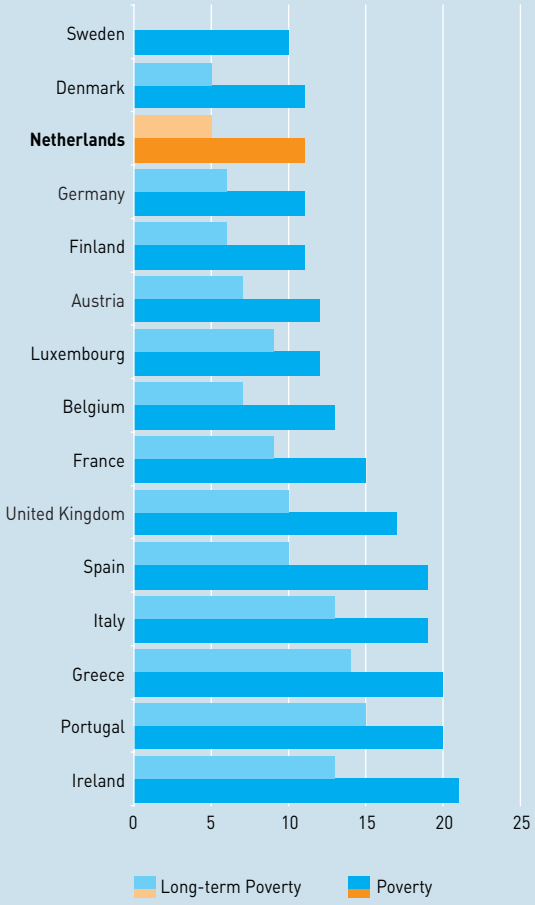
There is also little relative poverty in the Netherlands. In 2001, 11 percent of the population had a disposable income amounting to less than sixty percent of the average income. For the EU(15) this was on average 15 percent. Again in the new member countries relative poverty levels are similar. It should be taken into account in this respect that relative poverty correlates with the degree of income inequality. The average income in the new member countries is considerably lower than in the EU(15), though.

More than half the people in the EU(15) in the poverty-income bracket in 2001 had also been in this bracket in at least two of three preceding years. In the Netherlands comparatively few people have an income below the poverty threshold for a longer period of time.

RELATIVE POVERTY (% of population)

IE — 21
EL — 20
PT — 20
ES — 19
IT — 19
EE — 18
LT — 17
UK — 17
CY — 16
LV — 16
EU(15) — 15
FR — 15
MT — 15
PL — 15
BE — 13
AT — 12
LU — 12
DE — 11
DK — 11
FI — 11
NL — 11
SI — 11
SK — 11
HU — 10
SE — 10
CZ — 8

RELATIVE POVERTY, 2001 (% of the population)



INCOME INEQUALITY

	1995	2001
Austria	4.0	3.5
Belgium	4.5	4.0
Cyprus	4.4 [1]	.
Czech Republic	3.3 [2]	3.4
Denmark	3.1	3.1
Estonia	7.0 [2]	6.1
Finland	.	3.5
France	4.5	4.0 [3]
Germany	4.6	3.6
Greece	6.5	5.7
Hungary	.	3.4
Ireland	5.1	4.5
Italy	5.9	4.8
Latvia	5.0 [2]	5.5 [3]
Lithuania	5.2 [2]	4.9
Luxembourg	4.3	3.8
Malta	.	4.5
Netherlands	**4.2**	**3.8**
Poland	.	4.5
Portugal	7.4	6.5
Slovakia	3.4 [2]	.
Slovenia	3.0	3.2 [3]
Spain	5.9	5.5
Sweden	.	3.4
United Kingdom	5.2	4.9
European Union (15)	5.1	4.4

[1] 1997 [2] 1996 [3] 2000

welfare

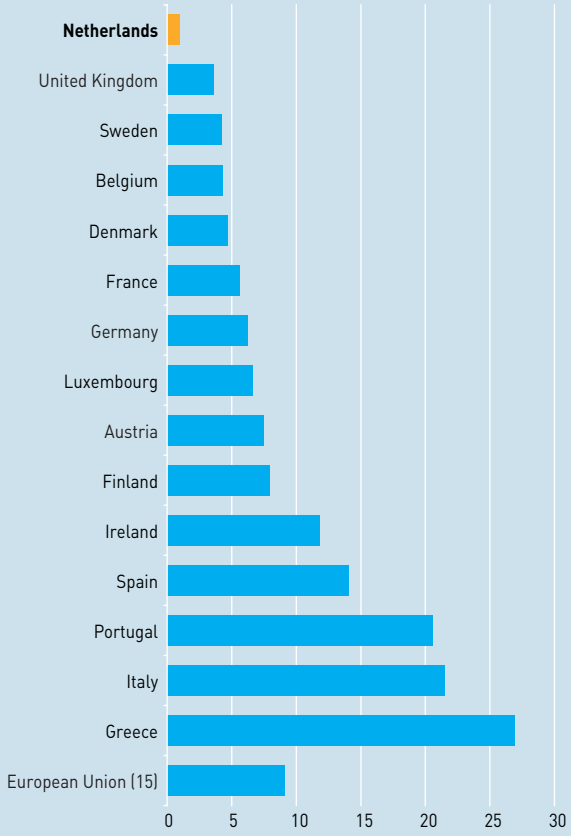
HOUSE OWNERS, 2000 (% of households)

ES — 85.4
EL — 83.6
IE — 82.3
IT — 75.4
BE — 72.9
LU — 70.8
UK — 70.5
FI — 68.1
DK — 65.2
PT — 65.2
EU(15) — 63.4
FR — 62.5
SE — 59.9
AT — 53.9
NL — 53.0
DE — 43.3

Housing

Just over half of Dutch households own the house they live in. Compared with other countries in the European Union (15) this is a fairly low proportion. Only in Germany do fewer people own their homes. In Spain, Greece and Ireland more than 80 percent of households own their homes.
The Dutch have a lot of room at their disposal: an average 2.6 rooms per person. Only 1 percent of Dutch households had the use of less than one room per person. This percentage is higher in all other EU countries; in a number of southern countries it is even more than 20 percent. Indeed, in Portugal more than twice as many households as in the Netherlands complain about lack of space.
One quarter of all households in EU countries are confronted with another common problem: noise. In the Netherlands, densely populated as the country is, one-third of households stated noise as a problem. In spite of this, the quality of housing in the Netherlands is above the EU average: one in seven households reported three or more problems with the house they live in (lack of space, noise, not enough light, inadequate heating, damp, pollution from traffic or industry, vandalism). The Portuguese were worst off in this respect.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH LESS THAN ONE ROOM PER PERSON, 2000 (% of total)



HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING THREE OR MORE PROBLEMS WITH THEIR HOME, 2000 (% of total)

Austria	6.8
Belgium	13.3
Denmark	6.4
Finland	10.0
France	16.6
Greece	16.0
Ireland	8.1
Italy	17.7
Netherlands	**13.5**
Portugal	37.5
Spain	12.6
United Kingdom	17.4
European Union (15)	16.1

REVENUES FROM INCOMING TOURISM, 2001 (% of GDP)

CY 22.0
MT 14.9
EE 9.1
EL 7.8
HU 7.6
ES 5.6
AT 5.4
CZ 5.1
SI 5.1
PT 5.0
SK 4.5
LT 3.2
BE-LU 3.1
DK 2.9
IE 2.7
PL 2.5
IT 2.4
EU(25) 2.3
FR 2.3
SE 1.9
NL 1.7
LV 1.6
UK 1.3
FI 1.2
DE 0.9

Tourism

Since the start of European unification, citizens have travelled increasingly to other European countries for business and pleasure. As well as binding people together, tourism is an important economic factor in Europe. The Dutch spend about one sixth of their holiday budgets in their own country, a proportion similar to that in Denmark and Ireland. People living in southern European countries spend more of their holiday money in their own countries.

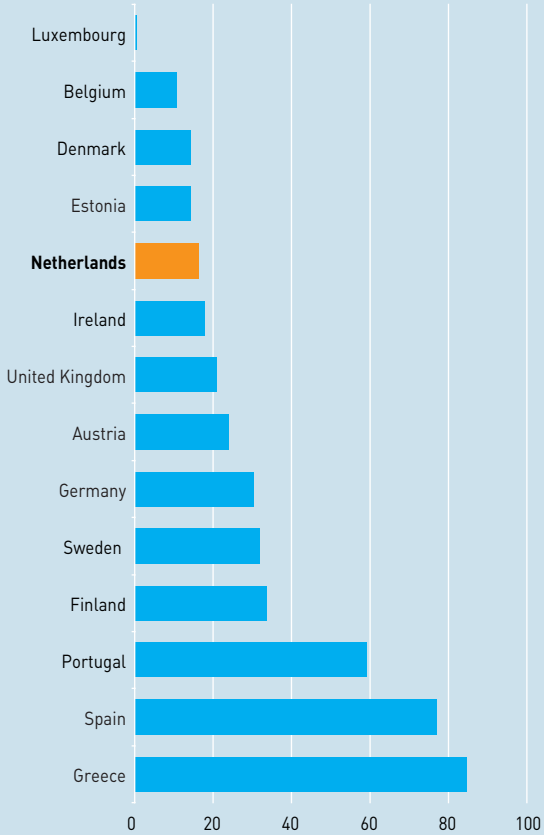
Revenues from incoming tourism account for 1.7 percent of the Dutch gross domestic product (GDP), significantly less than the EU(25) average of 2.3 percent. For most of the new member countries the economic significance of foreign tourism is greater, with the island states Cyprus and Malta way out in the lead in this respect.

Visitors from abroad account for 32 percent of the total number of nights spent in hotels and other forms of accommodation in the Netherlands.

This is well below the EU average.

The popular holiday countries score well above this average, just as a number of the new member countries. In Poland on the other hand foreigners account for only a small share of the occupation of hotels, boarding houses and camping sites, although this proportion has risen substantially since 1995.

HOILDAY SPENDING IN OWN COUNTRY
(% of total holiday spending)



NIGHTS SPENT BY FOREIGN VISITORS IN OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION (% of total)

	1995	2002
Austria	72.3	70.3
Belgium	49.6	54.7
Cyprus	97.5	96.1 [1]
Czech Republic	42.6	42.0
Denmark	43.7	37.3
Estonia	65.2	74.1
Finland	23.7	26.8
France	36.1	39.1
Germany	12.8	13.9
Greece	75.5	75.6 [2]
Hungary	65.7	56.2
Ireland	58.4	72.2
Italy	39.4	42.1
Latvia	47.6	52.4 [1]
Lithuania	24.1	48.9 [1]
Luxembourg	91.1	91.5
Netherlands	**31.9**	**32.0**
Poland	6.3	16.0
Portugal	61.4	60.0
Slovakia	47.2	40.8
Slovenia	40.9	54.5
Spain	59.7	65.3
Sweden	21.1	22.8
United Kingdom	29.8	28.2
European Union (15)	38.3	42.3 [2]

[1] 2001 [2] 2000

welfare

GENDER EMPOWERMENT MEASURE

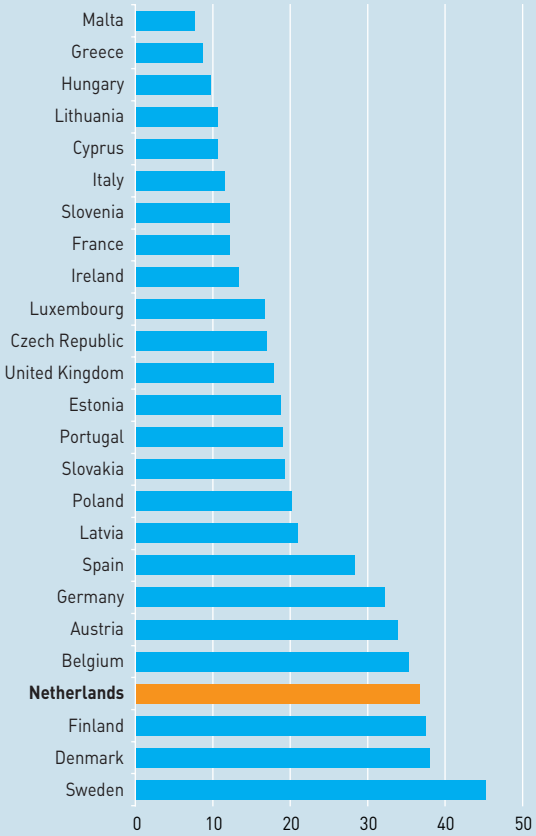
SE 0.83
DK 0.83
FI 0.80
NL 0.79
AT 0.78
DE 0.78
ES 0.71
BE 0.70
IE 0.68
UK 0.68
PT 0.65
SK 0.60
PL 0.59
SI 0.58
CZ 0.58
LV 0.58
IT 0.56
EE 0.56
CY 0.54
EL 0.52
HU 0.52
LT 0.50

Women's position in society

The gender empowerment measure (GEM) is an indicator for inequality between men and women in the areas of labour, income and politics. The lower the GEM score, the more inequality there is in political and economic opportunities between men and women. Compared with most other countries in the European Union (25) the Netherlands has a high GEM score. Sweden scores best in this respect, and the ten new member countries are all near the bottom of the ladder.

The percentage of Dutch women in higher engineering and scientific occupations is nearly the same as that of men. The percentage of women in these occupations is higher in the Baltic States, but inequality there is also higher. The percentage of women in higher management positions is quite low in the Netherlands. Lithuania is the only country with near equality in these positions. Dutch women have a lower income than Dutch men, mainly because more women work part-time. Nowhere in the EU, however, does women's average income exceed 71 percent of men's. Lastly, the percentage of women in the Dutch Lower House is fairly high compared with most other countries. Only in Sweden is there a near balance between men and women in parliament.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN 'LOWER HOUSE', 2003 (%)



WORK AND INCOME

	Higher management positions % women	Higher engineering and scientific positions % women	Income ratio, women to men
Austria	29	48	0.50
Belgium	19	50	0.44
Cyprus	18	43	0.47
Czech Republic	26	53	0.55
Denmark	21	51	0.71
Estonia	35	70	0.63
Finland	28	57	0.70
Germany	27	50	0.57
Greece	25	47	0.45
Hungary	34	61	0.58
Ireland	28	49	0.40
Italy	19	44	0.45
Latvia	38	68	0.70
Lithuania	47	69	0.66
Netherlands	**26**	**48**	**0.53**
Poland	32	60	0.62
Portugal	32	50	0.53
Slovakia	31	61	0.65
Slovenia	31	54	0.62
Spain	32	45	0.44
Sweden	30	49	0.68
United Kingdom	30	43	0.60

FI — 0.01

AT — -0.12

DK —

FR — 0.13

UK — 0.24

IT — 0.24

DE — 0.28

SE — -0.33

NL — -0.66

LU — 3.91

EL — 2.37

PT — 2.13

IE — 1.51

ES — 1.26

BE — 0.56

EU finance

LU — 3.91

EL — 2.37

PT — 2.13

IE — 1.51

ES — 1.26

BE — 0.56

FI — 0.01

AT — -0.12

DK — -0.12

FR — -0.13

UK — -0.24

IT — -0.24

DE — -0.28

SE — -0.33

Revenues from and payments to the EU

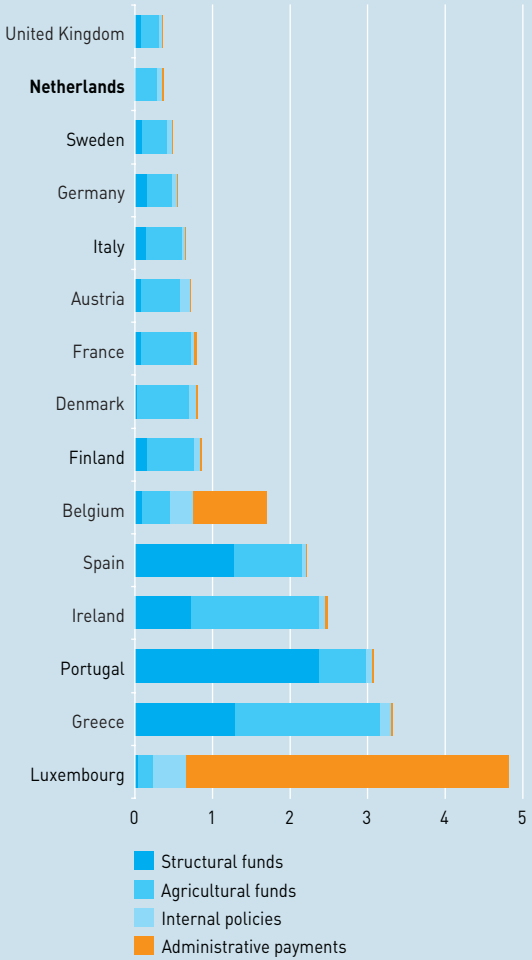
The European Union redistributes the funds paid by the member states to the Union. Some countries are net payers, others net receivers. The Netherlands paid a net 178 euro per inhabitant in 2002; it contributed a total 4.5 billion euro to the European Union and received 1.6 billion euro. Dutch revenues were about the same as in 2001, while payments were nearly 1 billion euro lower. The latter was the result of agreements made during the 1999 European Council of Berlin, which only started to have a structural net effect in 2002. With a net payment amounting to 0.66 percent of the gross national income (GNI), in relative terms the Netherlands contributed more than all the other EU(15) countries. In absolute terms Germany paid most on balance. The main net receivers are Greece, Portugal, Ireland and Spain, which all receive substantial amounts from the agricultural and structural funds.

The administrative payments by the EU are included in the EU revenues of the member countries. These are payments countries receive for the location of EU institutions such as the European Commission and the European Parliament in Brussels and the statistical office Eurostat and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. If these administrative payments are left out of account, Belgium and Luxembourg have to pay on balance.

NET POSITION: EU REVENUES (INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENTS) - EU PAYMENTS, 2002 (% of GNI)

LU 3.91
EL 2.37
PT 2.13
IE 1.51
ES 1.26
BE 0.56
FI 0.01
AT -0.12
DK -0.12
FR -0.13
UK -0.24
IT -0.24
DE -0.28
SE -0.33
NL -0.66

REVENUES FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, 2002 (% of GNI)



EU REVENUES AND PAYMENTS, 2002 (bln euro)

	Revenues	Payments	Net position
Austria	1.6	1.8	-0.3
Belgium	4.5	3.0	1.5
Denmark	1.5	1.7	-0.2
Finland	1.2	1.2	0.0
France	12.2	14.2	-1.9
Germany	11.7	17.6	-5.9
Greece	4.7	1.3	3.4
Ireland	2.6	1.0	1.6
Italy	8.2	11.3	-3.0
Luxembourg	1.0	0.2	0.8
Netherlands	**1.6**	**4.5**	**-2.9**
Portugal	3.9	1.2	2.7
Spain	15.2	6.6	8.7
Sweden	1.2	2.1	-0.8
United Kingdom	6.2	10.2	-4.0

EU finance

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI), 2002

	GDP	GNI	
		Total	Per capita
	bln euro	bln euro	1,000 euro
Austria	218.3	216.3	26.6
Belgium	260.0	264.5	25.7
Cyprus	10.8	10.8	14.1
Czech Republic	73.9	74.2	7.2
Denmark	183.7	180.3	33.6
Estonia	6.9	6.6	4.6
Finland	139.7	139.4	26.8
France	1,520.8	1,527.8	25.5
Germany	2,110.4	2,108.8	25.6
Greece	141.4	141.6	13.4
Hungary	68.9	65.2	6.5
Ireland	129.3	104.7	27.0
Italy	1,258.3	1,246.3	21.5
Latvia	8.9	8.9	3.8
Lithuania	14.7	14.5	4.0
Luxembourg	22.4	20.2	44.9
Malta	4.1	4.0 [1]	10.0
Netherlands	**444.6**	**435.5**	**27.0**
Poland	199.9	197.9	5.1
Portugal	129.3	126.6	12.6
Slovakia	25.1	24.6 [1]	4.6
Slovenia	23.3	23.3	12.0
Spain	696.2	687.6	17.1
Sweden	255.4	253.8	28.3
United Kingdom	1,660.1	1,690.6	28.2
European Union (25)	9,606.7	9,574.0	21.1

[1] European Commission estimate

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