



# Press release

PB06-013  
10 February 2006  
9:30 AM

## ***Population growth at historic low***

With only 30 thousand, the population increase in the Netherlands in 2005 was the lowest since 1900. On 1 January 2006, the population stood at 16.34 million. The scant growth is mainly due to the fact that immigrants were seriously outnumbered by emigrants. Additionally, the birth rate dropped again, according to the latest figures published by Statistics Netherlands. The population growth has shown a downward trend since 2001.

### ***Number of emigrants continues to grow***

More and more people leave the Netherlands to settle abroad; the number of emigrants for 2005 and 2004 totalled 121 thousand and 110 thousand respectively. The increase is mainly caused by the fact that more native Dutch left the country. They accounted for almost half of all emigrants. A significant part of them settled in Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands Antilles.

### ***Number of immigrants stable***

The number of immigrants entering the Netherlands totalled 94 thousand in 2005. That is approximately the same amount as in the previous year. There was a sharp decrease in the number of Moroccan and Turkish immigrants. On balance, a few hundred Turks and Moroccans came to settle in the Netherlands in 2005. The number of Polish immigrants, on the other hand, rose from 2 thousand to 7 thousand. They were the second largest group after repatriating Dutch.

### ***Net migration negative for second year in a row***

For the second consecutive year more people left (121 thousand) than entered (94 thousand) the country, resulting in a negative net migration of 27 thousand. In 2000 immigrants still outnumbered emigrants by 54 thousand.

### ***Birth rate down again***

In 2005, a total of 188 thousand babies were born, 6 thousand fewer than in the previous year. The downward trend in births was recorded for the first time in 2000 and is expected to continue in the years to come. This is caused by a decrease of young women in the Dutch population.

### **Low mortality rate**

Last year, 137 thousand people died in the Netherlands, roughly the same amount as in 2004. In the period 1999-2003, the mortality rate was notably higher. The flue epidemic in March caused the mortality rate among older people to rise, but this effect was offset by the relatively cool summer and mild autumn.

### **Quarterly population developments**

	Births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration <sup>1)</sup>	Population increase <sup>1)</sup>
	x 1,000				
2001					
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	49.5	36.8	32.6	20.9	24.4
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	50.3	35.0	30.5	18.7	27.0
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	52.8	33.0	39.9	22.9	36.8
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	50.0	35.5	30.4	20.1	29.9 <sup>2)</sup>
2002					
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	49.3	38.5	29.8	21.8	18.8
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	48.9	34.7	27.0	22.8	18.4
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	53.6	33.1	37.9	28.6	29.7
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	50.4	36.1	26.6	23.7	20.3 <sup>2)</sup>
2003					
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	49.5	37.5	25.6	24.0	13.5
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	49.5	34.6	22.1	22.6	14.4
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	52.8	33.8	33.1	31.7	20.5
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	48.5	36.0	23.7	26.5	17.1 <sup>2)</sup>
2004					
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	47.6	37.0	21.6	27.5	4.7
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	48.0	32.9	19.8	25.2	9.7
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	50.7	32.5	31.0	32.1	17.1
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	47.7	34.2	21.7	25.5	15.9 <sup>2)</sup>
2005 <sup>3)</sup>					
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	46.1	38.6	20.7	24.5	3.7
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	46.8	33.7	18.7	29.3	2.6
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	49.3	30.8	30.8	34.7	14.5
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	45.6	33.6	23.4	32.6	9.2 <sup>2)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> Including balance administrative corrections

<sup>2)</sup> Including other corrections

<sup>3)</sup> Provisional figures

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

## Population developments, 1960-2005

	Births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration <sup>1)</sup>	Population increase <sup>2)</sup>
	<i>x 1,000</i>				
1960	239	88	45	58	139
1961	247	88	55	49	165
1962	246	94	66	49	169
1963	250	96	55	47	152
1964	251	93	67	53	170
1965	245	98	77	58	165
1966	240	101	82	62	158
1967	239	100	56	67	126
1968	237	105	64	58	137
1969	248	108	76	56	159
1970	239	110	91	57	162
1971	227	110	95	62	150
1972	214	114	81	62	118
1973	195	111	85	64	103
1974	186	109	94	61	108
1975	178	114	127	55	134
1976	177	114	83	62	81
1977	173	110	84	64	83
1978	176	114	89	63	88
1979	175	113	105	62	105
1980	181	114	113	62	118
1981	179	116	80	66	77
1982	172	117	71	72	54
1983	170	118	67	64	55
1984	174	120	67	62	59
1985	178	123	79	59	76
1986	185	125	87	61	86
1987	187	122	96	61	100
1988	187	124	91	64	90
1989	189	129	99	72	87
1990	198	129	117	69	118
1991	199	130	120	71	119
1992	197	130	117	74	110
1993	196	138	119	75	102
1994	196	133	99	79	83
1995	191	136	96	82	70
1996	190	138	109	92	73
1997	192	136	110	82	87
1998	199	137	122	79	106
1999	200	140	119	79	104
2000	207	141	133	79	123
2001	203	140	133	83	118
2002	202	142	121	97	87
2003	200	142	105	105	65
2004	194	137	94	110	47
2005 <sup>3)</sup>	188	137	94	121	30

<sup>1)</sup> Including balance administrative corrections

<sup>2)</sup> Including balance administrative and other corrections

<sup>3)</sup> Provisional figures