



Press release

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Where will we live in 2025?

Over the next two decades the number of inhabitants in the Netherlands is expected to increase by 600 thousand, bringing the total to 16.9 million. The growth areas will be primarily in the provinces North and South Holland and Flevoland. The current decrease in the number of inhabitants in Limburg is expected to continue.

There will be no increase of the number of people with a foreign background in the major cities. There will be an increase in the number of people with a foreign background in the municipalities surrounding the major cities. The aging of the population will be most visible in the border areas, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands and the Netherlands Institute for Spatial Research (RPB) in the most recent publication *Regionale bevolking- en allochtonenprognose 2005-2025*.

Negative growth in Limburg, robust positive growth in Flevoland

The population of the Netherlands is expected to increase by almost 4 percent between 2005 and 2025. The population in Flevoland will increase by almost a quarter, due to a great deal of housing construction. Limburg and, to a lesser extent, Zeeland are expected to see their population diminish.

North and South Holland will remain the most populated provinces. Two thirds of the population increase until 2025 will be in these provinces. The growth is expected mainly in and around the major cities. In several municipalities in the regions Gooi en Vechtstreek and in the Green Heart the population is expected to decrease.

More people with a foreign background around the major cities

Most people with a non-western background are currently living in the Randstad area, particularly in the major cities Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht. Many are expected to move to the surrounding municipalities over the next few years. In the municipalities Schiedam, Diemen and Almere almost 30 percent of the inhabitants will have a non-western background by 2025. There is also a shift toward the surrounding municipalities near Arnhem, Tilburg and Groningen.

People with a western foreign background live and are expected to live mainly in the border areas and in the major cities in the Randstad. They too will increasingly live in the municipalities surrounding the major cities.

Limburg greying most

In 2025 some 21 percent of the population will be over 65. Currently this is 14 percent. The share of older people will increase in all regions, but more in some regions than in others. Limburg will be the greyest province in 2025, with 25 percent of its population over 65. The southern part of Limburg, the southern part of Zeeland and the rural areas of Friesland, Groningen and Drenthe are the greyest and will remain so. In 2025, one in four people in many border municipalities will be over 65. Because Flevoland is mainly popular with young families, this province will have the fewest people over 65, although their number will increase from 9 to 16 percent.

Increasingly the population over 65 will include people with a foreign background, especially in the major cities. By 2025 the number of people with a non-western background aged over 65 is expected to triple in Amsterdam.

Table 1. Population size and population increase

	Inhabitants on 1 January		Population growth until 2025	
	2005	2025		
	<i>x 1 000</i>			<i>%</i>
Netherlands	16306	16934	629	3,9
South Holland	3458	3669	211	6,1
North Holland	2599	2813	214	8,2
North Brabant	2411	2430	19	0,8
Gelderland	1972	1994	22	1,1
Utrecht	1171	1237	66	5,7
Overijssel	1109	1156	46	4,2
Limburg	1137	1052	-85	-7,4
Friesland	643	652	9	1,5
Groningen	575	609	34	5,9
Drenthe	483	494	10	2,1
Flevoland	366	462	96	26,3
Zeeland	380	365	-15	-3,9
Amsterdam	743	813	71	9,5
Rotterdam	596	617	20	3,4
The Hague	472	495	23	4,9
Utrecht	275	328	52	19,0

Source: CBS and RPB

Table 2. Population by background

	Native Dutch		Non-western		Western	
	2005	2025	2005	2025	2005	2025
	<i>x 1000</i>					
Netherlands	13183	12973	1699	2231	1424	1729
South Holland	2563	2513	581	719	314	437
North Holland	1916	1950	411	506	272	357

North Brabant	2051	1999	174	224	187	208
Gelderland	1701	1656	122	173	148	164
Utrecht	948	953	128	172	96	112
Overijssel	957	964	76	104	77	87
Limburg	914	848	59	76	164	128
Friesland	589	562	24	42	30	48
Groningen	504	494	32	54	39	62
Drenthe	442	427	15	29	27	38
Flevoland	275	313	61	102	30	47
Zeeland	323	295	17	30	39	40
Amsterdam	384	428	254	251	104	135
Rotterdam	328	356	209	197	59	64
The Hague	263	237	150	153	59	104
Utrecht	191	231	57	66	27	31

Source: CBS and RPB

Table 3. Population by age

	Under 20		20-64		Over 65	
	2005	2025	2005	2025	2005	2025
	%					
Netherlands	24	22	62	57	14	21
South Holland	24	22	62	59	14	20
North Holland	23	22	63	59	14	20
North Brabant	24	21	62	57	14	22
Gelderland	25	22	61	57	14	21
Utrecht	25	23	62	58	13	19
Overijssel	26	23	60	57	14	20
Limburg	22	19	62	56	16	25
Friesland	25	23	60	55	15	21
Groningen	23	23	63	57	15	20
Drenthe	24	22	59	55	16	23
Flevoland	30	25	61	58	9	16
Zeeland	24	22	59	55	17	23
Amsterdam	21	21	68	63	11	16
Rotterdam	23	21	62	62	14	17
The Hague	23	21	63	62	14	17
Utrecht	22	23	68	62	11	15

Source: CBS and RPB