



Press release

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Favourable prospects for residential building

The number of residential building permits issued in 2006 exceeded 96 thousand, the highest number in nearly a decade. Relative to 2005, the increase was 16 percent. The number of houses completed rose by 8 percent last year to over 72 thousand. According to the most recent figures published by Statistics Netherlands, the increase mainly concerns flat units in the rental sector.

Highest number of building permits issued in nearly a decade

The number of building permits issued in 2006 was unprecedented since 1997. After a trough in 2001, the number of building permits issued has steadily risen.

Last year, the number of residential building permits issued increased in nearly all Dutch provinces. With almost 40 percent, the largest relative increase was recorded in the provinces of Gelderland and South Holland. North Brabant was the only province where the number of residential building permits issued decreased compared to 2005.

More rental flats completed

In 2006, nearly 5,400 more houses were completed than one year previously. The number of newly finished rental flats grew by almost 4,500. The number of newly completed single-family houses, on the other hand, remained virtually unchanged. Last year, 35 percent of newly completed houses were flats, as against 30 percent in 2005.

The largest relative increase (34 percent) in finished houses was recorded in North Brabant. Utrecht and South Holland were the only provinces where fewer houses were built than in 2005.

Housing stock increases by 58 thousand

In 2006, nearly 80 thousand dwellings became available on the housing market. Apart from newly built houses, the increase also included property made fit for habitation or property split into smaller units. Conversely, nearly 22 thousand dwellings were withdrawn from the housing stock. Last year's net increase was 58 thousand. By the end of 2006, there were almost 7 million houses in the Netherlands. The 7 millionth dwelling is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2007.

House-building



Source: *Statistics Netherlands*

Table 1. Houses finished by type of dwelling

	Single- family houses	of which rented	Flats	of which rented	Total
1995	69 517	11 501	24 319	17 589	93 836
2000	53 189	6 987	17 461	8 222	70 650
2001	54 317	6 415	18 641	7 674	72 958
2002	49 574	5 985	17 130	6 669	66 704
2003	43 203	5 920	16 426	7 054	59 629
2004	48 968	7 699	16 346	6 441	65 314
2005	47 170	8 435	19 846	8 465	67 016
2006	47 019	7 266	25 363	12 950	72 382

Source: Statistics Netherlands**Table 2. Residential building permits issued by province**

	2004	2005	2006	Change 2006-2005
				%
Netherlands	76 180	83 273	96 447	16
Groningen	1 770	2 924	3 634	24
Friesland	3 276	2 891	3 679	27
Drenthe	2 369	2 837	3 156	11
Overijssel	5 243	7 073	7 859	11
Flevoland	3 010	2 590	2 903	12
Gelderland	7 958	7 394	10 311	39
Utrecht	6 546	7 029	7 397	5
North Holland	12 039	14 049	16 163	15
South Holland	17 951	15 906	21 969	38
Zeeland	1 490	1 599	2 070	29
North Brabant	10 454	13 602	11 904	-12
Limburg	4 074	5 379	5 402	0

Source: Statistics Netherlands

Table 3. Dwellings completed by province

	2004	2005	2006	Change 2006-2005
				%
Netherlands	65 314	67 016	72 382	8
Groningen	1 540	2 041	2 166	6
Friesland	3 010	2 387	2 732	14
Drenthe	2 193	2 077	2 266	9
Overijssel	4 645	4 968	5 486	10
Flevoland	2 351	1 786	2 095	17
Gelderland	7 921	7 413	8 323	12
Utrecht	4 897	6 587	5 652	-14
North Holland	8 896	10 749	11 716	9
South Holland	14 833	15 749	15 670	-1
Zeeland	1 485	1 676	1 686	1
North Brabant	10 279	8 133	10 925	34
Limburg	3 264	3 450	3 665	6

Source: Statistics Netherlands**Table 4. Dwelling stock**

	Stock on 1 January	Increase	Decrease	Stock on 31 December
	<i>x 1,000</i>			
1995	6 191	99	14	6 276
1996	6 276	95	12	6 358
1997	6 358	97	13	6 441
1998	6 441	95	13	6 522
1999	6 522	83	14	6 590
2000	6 590	75	14	6 651
2001	6 651	78	16	6 710
2002	6 710	71	16	6 764
2003	6 764	65	18	6 810
2004	6 810	72	19	6 859
2005	6 859	74	19	6 912
2006	6 912	80	22	6 970

Source: Statistics Netherlands