

International
enterprises in
a regional
context

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International enterprises in a regional context

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Internationally active enterprises, such as foreign controlled enterprises and international traders, are located throughout the Netherlands. However in certain areas their concentration is higher than in others. International traders are often found in the border regions and in the south. As far as trade value is concerned, establishments located near the Dutch mainports are most important. Foreign controlled enterprises are also often found close to the Dutch borders and major Dutch towns. German, American and British foreign controlled firms are dominant but there are interesting differences between the regions.

5.1 Introduction

International trade is essential for Dutch economic growth. As Lemmers et al (2012) have shown, almost a third of Dutch GDP is created through trade in goods and services. In addition, international trade often also functions as the motor of the Dutch economy, leading the way out of economic crises or recessions (CBS, 2011a; FME, 2012). In this regard, the Port of Rotterdam and Schiphol International Airport are often credited as crucial mainports, through which not only the Netherlands but also the European mainland is supplied with goods.

In 2011, enterprises in the Netherlands jointly imported around 364 billion euro and exported 405 billion euro worth in commodities. Previous editions of the Internationalisation Monitor (CBS, 2011b) as well as chapter 10 of this edition, show that foreign controlled enterprises are important actors in this regard. Roughly half of total Dutch international trade is generated by foreign controlled enterprises.

What was also shown is that trade is concentrated: only a small section of the total enterprise population engages in international trade (CBS, 2011b). An even smaller section, consisting of the largest, most productive and often foreign controlled enterprises, is highly active and trades with a multitude of partner countries, buying/selling many products. It is interesting to analyse whether international trade activities are also concentrated regionally.

Investigating whether internationally oriented enterprises are concentrated in certain Dutch regions is part of a new area of research for Statistics Netherlands. The availability of a new micro-dataset that regionalises the General Business Register (GBR) makes it possible to pinpoint local establishments with foreign trade and identify the nationality of their parent company. This dataset is described in section 5.2. In section 5.3 we will take a closer look at the spatial distribution of foreign controlled enterprises and focus on some specific regions. Section 5.4 will focus on the location of international traders and show where the bulk of international trade is generated. Section 5.5 will dig deeper into the role of the five major towns in the Netherlands in terms of internationalisation. The chapter concludes with a short summary of the main findings.

5.2 Data and methodology

In order to be able to say something about enterprises in a regional perspective, it is necessary to analyse at the level of the local unit. A local unit (the official Eurostat definition is 'Kind-of-activity unit') corresponds to one or more operational subdivisions of an enterprise, which is situated in a geographically identified place. As such, an enterprise can consist of one or more local units, and in the latter case, each of these local units can have a different economic activity. In most cases, an enterprise consists of only one local unit. Large enterprises, however, can consist of many local units located throughout the Netherlands (e.g. retail enterprises or chains of restaurants or hotels). Most tables and graphs in this chapter focus on the role of internationally oriented enterprises in municipalities, COROP regions and provinces relative to the Netherlands in total. The COROP classification involves a regional level between municipalities and provinces. The Netherlands consists of 40 COROP regions.

The General Business Register (GBR) is the register of all active enterprises in the Netherlands, and includes several characteristics of the enterprises such as economic activity and size class. Recent developments in the GBR allow us to identify almost each local unit of all active enterprises in the Netherlands. We know its address, zip code, economic activity code and size in terms of employees.

Whether a local unit is ultimately owned by a foreign enterprise is based on the concept of Ultimate Controlling Institute (UCI). When the control further up the chain of command is located outside the Netherlands, the local unit is characterised as being 'under foreign control'. The country of ultimate control is the one where the actual operational and financial decisions are made.

In order to analyse the role of local establishments in foreign trade, the international trade in goods of an enterprise can be distributed over its underlying local units (see also chapter 10, on how international trade flows are matched to enterprises). Trade is distributed proportionately, based on the number of employees in each of the local units of an enterprise. The international trade in services of an enterprise is not analysed in this chapter.

Not all local business units are included in these analyses. Local establishments that are active in agriculture, financial intermediation, public governance, education and health care are excluded from this chapter (NACE Rev. 2, sections A, K and O–U). The remaining, corporate part of the economy will be discussed from a regional perspective.

5.3 International enterprises in a regional dimension

The first column of table 5.3.1 shows the total number of local business units per region in 2009. Such local business units can either be Dutch or foreign controlled. The percentage of local business units that are owned by a foreign parent company is shown in the second column of table 5.3.1. On average, 2 percent of all local units in the Netherlands is foreign controlled. The share of local units under foreign control per province ranges from 1.3 percent in Friesland to 2.5 percent in Limburg. Looking at the level of COROP regions, West-Noord-Brabant, Groot-Amsterdam, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Noord- en Zuid-Limburg have the highest shares, with percentages above 2.6 percent.

The last three columns show the share of establishments engaged in exports (only), imports (only) and two-way-trade (both exports and imports). In this section we take a closer look at local units under foreign control. Paragraph 5.4 focuses on local units engaged in trade.

5.3.1 Local business units per region and their international orientation, 2009

	Local business units	Foreign controlled	Exporters	Importers	Two-way traders
	<i>N</i>	%			
Corop-regions					
Oost-Groningen	7,240	1.9	1.8	8.3	7.9
Delfzijl en omgeving	2,260	2.1	1.1	5.6	8.2
Overig Groningen	20,170	1.7	1.4	6.7	6.4
Noord-Friesland	18,870	1.2	1.3	6.8	4.9
Zuidwest-Friesland	7,690	0.8	1.3	6.2	5.4
Zuidoost-Friesland	12,720	1.8	1.6	7.2	7.1
Noord-Drenthe	9,640	1.7	1.4	7.7	6.1
Zuidoost-Drenthe	9,390	2.0	1.9	8.7	8.4
Zuidwest-Drenthe	7,770	1.7	1.6	8.5	7.9
Noord-Overijssel	19,570	1.6	1.8	8.4	8.3
Zuidwest-Overijssel	7,420	2.2	1.7	8.3	8.9
Twente	33,010	1.8	2.6	9.9	11.2
Veluwe	40,320	1.6	2.1	7.3	7.8
Achterhoek	22,710	1.7	2.6	9.5	10.8
Arnhem/Nijmegen	40,100	2.0	1.9	7.8	8.3
Zuidwest-Gelderland	17,820	1.5	2.0	6.7	9.1
Utrecht	85,770	2.0	1.5	6.3	7.4
Kop van Noord-Holland	23,060	1.1	1.5	7.2	5.7
Alkmaar en omgeving	14,360	1.5	1.4	7.7	7.2
IJmond	11,490	1.5	1.4	7.7	6.4
Agglomeratie Haarlem	16,380	1.3	1.4	6.7	5.4
Zaanstreek	9,680	2.0	1.4	6.6	7.3
Groot-Amsterdam	108,450	2.8	1.5	6.1	6.4
Het Gooi en Vechtstreek	22,640	1.7	1.6	6.5	5.9
Agglomeratie Leiden en Bollenstreek	24,430	1.4	2.9	7.5	7.2

5.3.1 Local business units per region and their international orientation, 2009 (end)

	Local business units	Foreign controlled	Exporters	Importers	Two-way traders
	<i>N</i>	%			
Agglomeratie 's-Gravenhage	51,470	1.7	1.1	6.3	4.9
Delft en Westland	14,670	1.6	2.7	6.5	7.9
Oost-Zuid-Holland	20,280	1.4	1.7	7.1	7.7
Groot-Rijnmond	83,060	2.5	1.8	6.9	8.0
Zuidoost-Zuid-Holland	24,260	1.9	1.9	6.9	9.0
Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen	5,590	2.8	3.0	21.7	15.4
Overig Zeeland	15,460	1.5	1.9	9.7	8.2
West-Noord-Brabant	40,020	2.9	2.6	8.6	11.2
Midden-Noord-Brabant	30,840	1.4	2.6	8.5	10.8
Noordoost-Noord-Brabant	43,520	1.8	2.0	9.0	9.4
Zuidoost-Noord-Brabant	48,920	2.2	2.7	9.7	11.1
Noord-Limburg	14,130	2.6	2.6	11.8	14.4
Midden-Limburg	13,580	2.4	3.2	13.4	13.1
Zuid-Limburg	31,910	2.6	2.4	15.0	11.6
Flevoland	23,080	1.9	1.7	6.7	8.9
Provinces					
Groningen	29,670	1.7	1.5	7.0	6.9
Friesland	39,280	1.3	1.4	6.8	5.7
Drenthe	26,800	1.8	1.6	8.3	7.4
Overijssel	60,000	1.8	2.2	9.2	10.0
Flevoland	23,080	1.9	1.7	6.7	8.9
Gelderland	120,950	1.7	2.1	7.8	8.7
Utrecht	85,770	2.0	1.5	6.3	7.4
Noord-Holland	206,060	2.2	1.5	6.6	6.3
Zuid-Holland	218,170	2.0	1.8	6.8	7.2
Zeeland	21,050	1.8	2.2	12.9	10.1
Noord-Brabant	163,300	2.1	2.5	9.0	10.6
Limburg	59,620	2.5	2.6	13.9	12.6
Netherlands	1,053,750	2.0	1.9	7.9	8.3

Source: CBS.

In 2009, relatively the most internationally oriented enterprises were located in Limburg

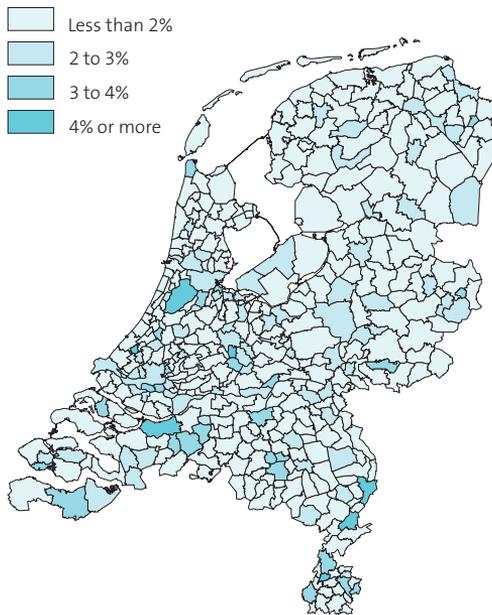
Local business units owned by a foreign parent are located throughout the Netherlands. Graph 5.3.2 shows that some areas have a higher number of foreign controlled establishments (each dot represents 5 establishments). There are dense areas around Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam and to a lesser degree Utrecht and Eindhoven with a high number of local business units owned by foreign companies. This is obviously related to the relatively high level of economic activity in the Randstad and the concentration of inhabitants. All five areas will be discussed in more depth in section 5.5.

5.3.2 Local business units with foreign UCI, 2009

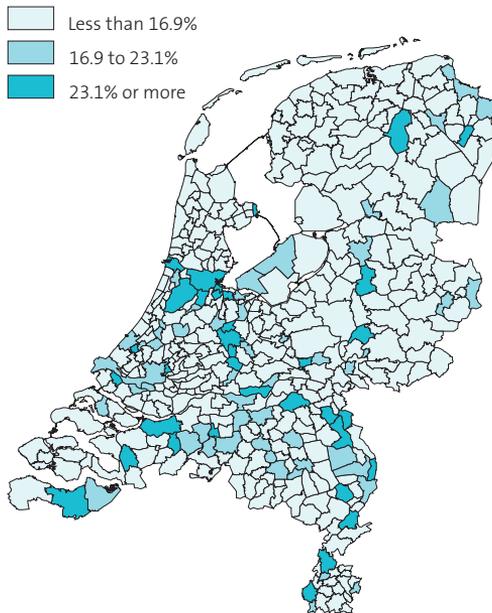
- 1 Dot = 5 local units



5.3.3 Share of local business units with foreign UCI per municipality, 2009



5.3.4 Share of foreign business units in employment per municipality, 2009

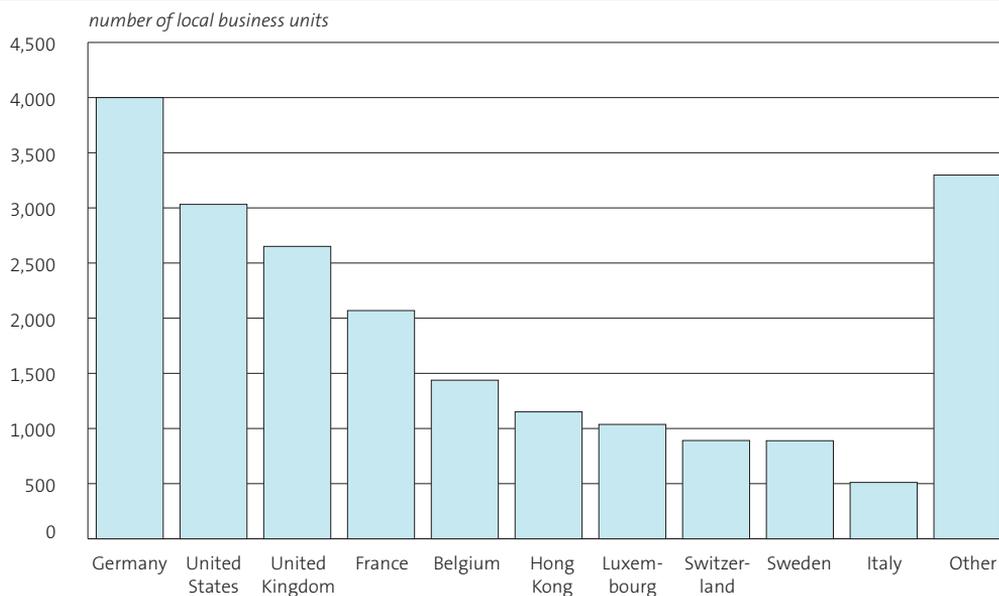


Graph 5.3.3 shows the share of foreign controlled local business units in the total number local business units per municipality. As table 5.3.1 showed, the average share of foreign controlled establishments in the Netherlands is about 2 percent. The lightest areas are communities with a below average share of foreign controlled units. The highest shares are found in Haarlemmermeer and Amstelveen (both near Schiphol Airport), Beek (near Maastricht-Aachen Airport), Nieuwegein, Roermond, Moerdijk (industrial areas), Rijswijk and Venlo (important border-crossing with Germany).

From graph 5.3.3 we can conclude that foreign controlled local business units are relatively often found in major Dutch cities, near important border crossings with Germany and Belgium as well as near airports and sea ports.

The impact that foreign controlled units have on employment in a region is shown in graph 5.3.4. In the Netherlands as a whole, foreign controlled local units provide 16.8 percent of employment. Municipalities with a below average share are light in graph 5.3.4. A similar pattern emerges as before, namely that foreign owned enterprises have a high share in employment in Haarlemmermeer, Amstelveen, Velzen, Beek, Maastricht and several other municipalities in Limburg and Noord-Brabant. Foreign owned local business units are relatively larger than the average local business unit, which implies that areas that sustain a greater share of foreign controlled establishments also have a relatively higher share of their workforce employed at a foreign controlled firm.

5.3.5 Local business units under foreign control by nationality, 2009



5.3.6 Local business units under foreign control per province, 2009

	Local business units under foreign control	Country with highest share	Share of this country in the number of local units under foreign control
	<i>N</i>		%
Groningen	519	Germany	26
Friesland	505	Germany	23
Drenthe	482	Germany	25
Overijssel	1,092	Germany	24
Flevoland	448	Germany	17
Gelderland	2,095	Germany	25
Utrecht	1,731	Germany	18
Noord-Holland	4,504	United States	20
Zuid-Holland	4,274	Germany	18
Zeeland	382	Germany	25
Noord-Brabant	3,416	Germany	20
Limburg	1,518	Germany	21

Source: CBS.

Graph 5.3.5 shows the number of local business units under foreign control per nationality. Roughly 4000 local units or about 19 percent of all local units under foreign control are German, followed by 14 percent American. As a result, in nearly all provinces the share of German control is the highest. Only Noord-Holland has more local units under American control, as is shown in table 5.3.6.

5.4 International traders in a regional dimension

Table 5.3.1 shows the share of local units that were active in the international trade in goods in 2009. This is done for the Netherlands as a whole as well as per province and COROP region. In 2009, 18 percent of the local business units in the Netherlands either imported or exported goods or did both. In the latter group of trading establishments there is a high incidence of two-way traders. In fact over 8 percent of all local units in the Netherlands imported as well as exported goods in 2009. Establishments that only import are also quite prevalent, namely 8 percent of all local units. Establishments that only export are less common (2 percent).

The contrast between regions is sharp. Border regions have a high proportion of traders among their local business units. The COROP region with the largest share of traders is

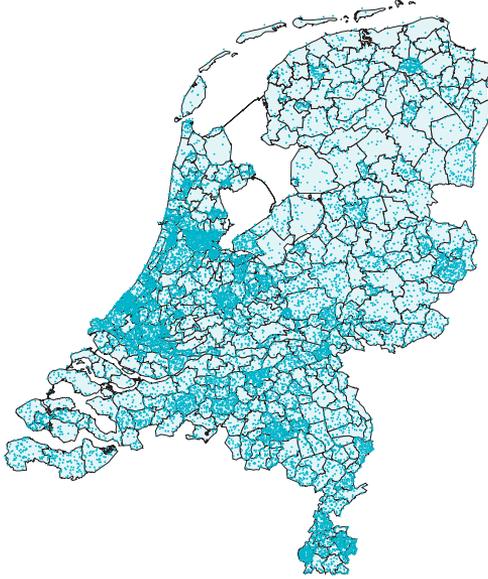
Zeeuws-Vlaanderen with 40 percent, followed by the three regions in Limburg with nearly 30 percent. Limburg is the province with the largest share of traders: 29 percent of all local business units. COROP region The Hague with 12 percent traders is last on the list.

Graphs 5.4.1, 5.4.2 and 5.4.3 show the geographical pattern of the various types of traders in the Netherlands for 2009. Graph 5.4.1 shows where local business units with only imports are mainly located (each dot represents 5 establishments). Graph 5.4.2 shows the location of establishments that only export and graph 5.4.3 shows where two-way traders are situated.

Trading establishments tend to be concentrated in certain areas of the Netherlands, ranging from cities in the Randstad to Noord-Brabant, the south of Limburg and Twente. At a first glance there just seems to be a striking similarity between importers and two-way-traders. However, enterprises that only export are similar in terms of location, but they are less visible because there are fewer.

5.4.1 Local business units with only imports, 2009

- 1 Dot = 5 importers



5.4.2 Local business units with only exports, 2009

- 1 Dot = 5 exporters



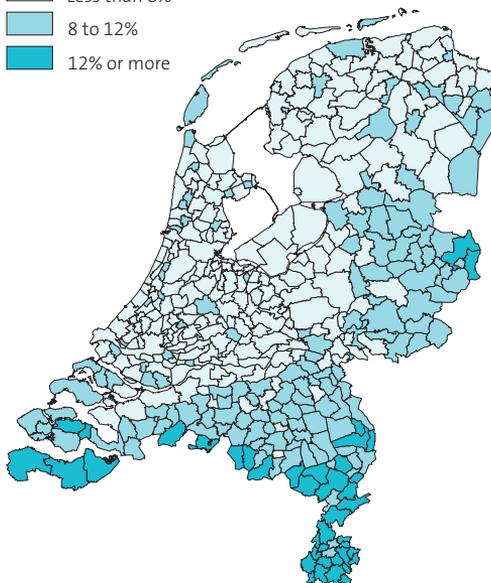
5.4.3 Local business units of two-way-traders, 2009

- 1 Dot = 5 two-way-traders

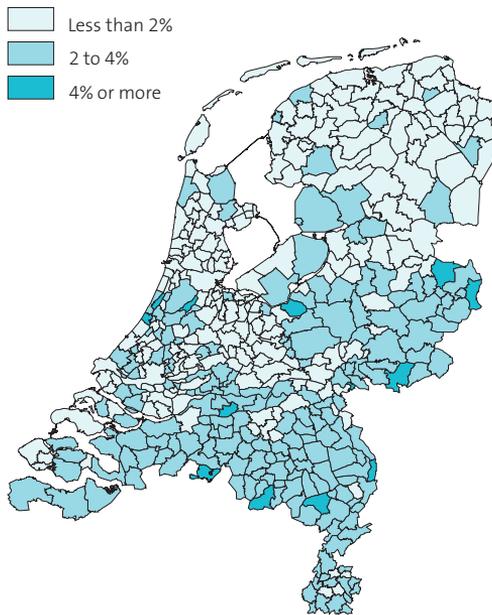


5.4.4 Share of importing local business units per municipality, 2009

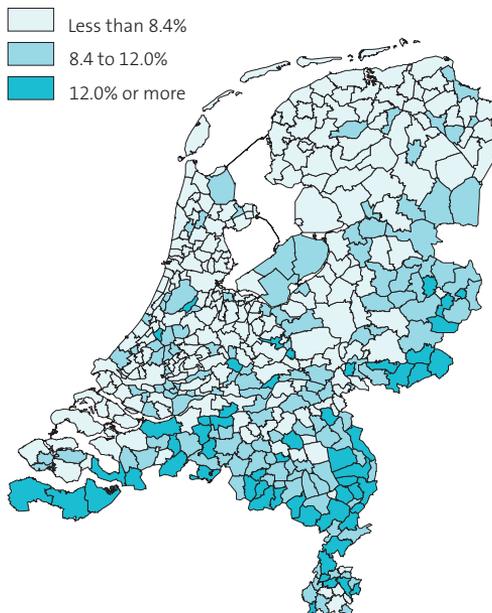
- Less than 8%
- 8 to 12%
- 12% or more



5.4.5 Share of exporting local business units per municipality, 2009



5.4.6 Share of two-way-trading local business units per municipality, 2009



However, in relative terms, the distribution of traders in the Netherlands is completely different. Graph 5.4.5 shows the share of establishments with only exports in the total number of local business units for each municipality in the Netherlands in 2009. On average 1.9 percent of the local business units belong to the exporters. The light areas represent municipalities with a below average share. The municipalities with the highest share of exporting local units are concentrated near the borders with Germany and Belgium, and in parts of the Randstad.

Firms that only import are even more concentrated. On average 7.9 percent of local business units belong to this group. The southern provinces and the eastern part of the Netherlands have a higher share, as is shown in graph 5.4.4. Seven COROP regions have a share of more than 10 percent. These are all border regions.

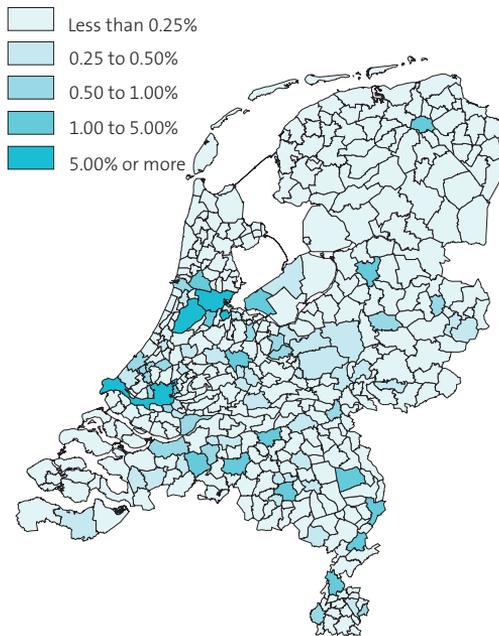
Both maps show that the share of local business units that only import or export is highest near the borders with Germany and Belgium. It probably is either important or convenient to locate near the border when an enterprise is active in trade. It is also possible that international trade emerges as a result of location, for instance when it is easier or more convenient to do business with a close but foreign partner than with a Dutch partner across the country.

For two-way traders, the picture resembles that of exporters; the largest concentrations are found in the border regions, but also some in the Randstad (graph 5.4.6). On average 8.3 percent of the local business units are two-way traders. It is interesting to see is that the province of Limburg has a relatively high number of two-way traders. In all three COROP regions in Limburg this share is more than 10 percent. The only other COROP regions with more than a 10 percent share are Overig Zeeland, Twente, Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen and Zuidoost-Noord-Brabant.

Two-way traders are also relatively well represented in the Haarlemmermeer (Schiphol Airport) and Moerdijk.

Graphs 5.4.7 and 5.4.8 show the share per municipality in the total imports and exports (two-way traders, importers and exporters). Although the share of international traders is highest in the border regions, the import and export values of firms in the West of the Netherlands is much higher. So the relatively smaller number of business units in the West accounts for a much larger share in total exports and imports than the business units close to Germany and Belgium. This implies that the bigger traders (in terms of trade value) are located in the West. A few municipalities stand out in terms of trade share. Rotterdam by itself is responsible for 15 percent of total Dutch imports and over 10 percent of the exports. About 7 percent of Dutch imports and 5 percent of the exports enter/leave the country through Haarlemmermeer (where Schiphol Airport is located). Amsterdam has the third largest municipal trade share with 6 percent of the imports and 8 percent of the exports. Proximity to an airport or the port has a positive influence on the amount of exports and imports an establishment generates.

5.4.7 Share per municipality in import value, 2009



5.4.8 Share per municipality in export value, 2009

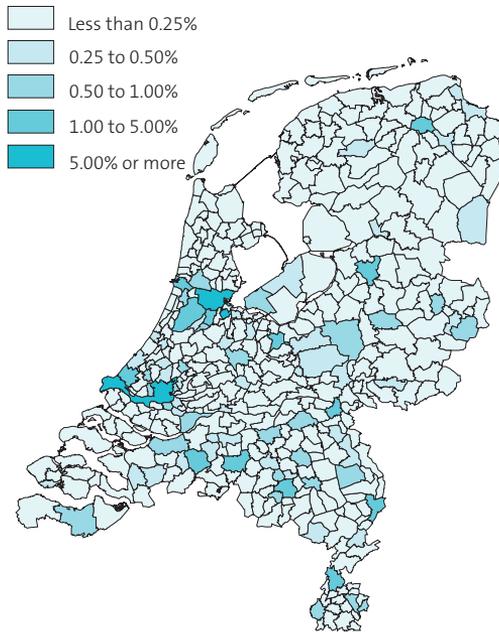


Table 5.4.9 and 5.4.10 show the international trade of Dutch and foreign controlled local business units by province. Just over half of all trade in 2009 was carried out by Dutch controlled establishments. The import and export value of foreign controlled establishments is dominated by US firms, namely 23 and 22 percent respectively. The role of local business units owned by controlling units in BRIC countries in Dutch trade is relatively low, namely around 1 percent. The majority of these BRIC-owned local units are found in Noord-Holland.

Around 22 percent of imports and only 14 percent of exports are carried out by European controlled establishments. These are mainly located in Noord- and Zuid-Holland.

Dutch local business units in Noord-Brabant and Zuid-Holland have the highest share in imports and exports. Foreign controlled units in Noord-Holland are by far the largest exporters. In terms of imports, foreign controlled establishments in Noord- and Zuid-Holland are of similar importance.

5.4.9 Import value of local units by province and UCI, 2009

	UCI ¹⁾							Total
	Netherlands	Belgium	Germany	rest EU-27	BRIC	US	rest not EU-27	
<i>x 1.000.000 euro</i>								
Groningen	4,710	6	169	294	0	57	123	5,236
Friesland	1,686	21	212	288	7	42	134	2,257
Drenthe	1,259	51	152	262	4	51	125	1,778
Overijssel	5,340	71	699	1,380	4	7,457	180	14,954
Flevoland	1,760	33	122	244	19	354	1,442	2,533
Gelderland	9,349	147	2,015	1,664	29	1,623	1,157	14,892
Utrecht	7,222	171	1,375	1,465	284	3,015	1,163	13,584
Noord-Holland	14,913	1,110	1,532	5,825	1,473	12,502	5,466	37,425
Zuid-Holland	33,073	963	2,901	10,129	336	7,568	5,948	55,011
Zeeland	1,701	108	92	268	0	575	305	2,745
Noord-Brabant	18,550	634	3,323	2,993	127	6,449	3,842	32,179
Limburg	5,878	164	881	1,115	71	6,361	3,167	14,495
Total	105,441	3,479	13,472	25,930	2,354	46,055	23,052	197,088
<i>%</i>								
Share in total	53	2	7	13	1	23	12	100

Source: CBS.

¹⁾ See annex for full description of country aggregates.

5.4.10 Export value of local units by province and UCI, 2009

	UCI ¹⁾							Total
	Netherlands	Belgium	Germany	rest EU-27	BRIC	US	rest not EU-27	
<i>x 1.000.000 euro</i>								
Province								
Groningen	9,616	1	145	413	0	212	234	10,622
Friesland	2,886	18	184	283	15	53	88	3,526
Drenthe	1,995	26	166	379	8	143	378	3,095
Overijssel	7,227	81	373	1,589	1	9,206	264	18,741
Flevoland	1,940	1	36	185	6	388	1,405	3,962
Gelderland	12,459	106	911	1,598	95	2,109	649	17,926
Utrecht	4,924	35	286	535	67	3,892	817	10,557
Noord-Holland	17,149	1,131	3,533	3,154	2,139	14,076	7,388	48,571
Zuid-Holland	31,077	918	1,441	8,447	151	6,796	6,036	54,866
Zeeland	2,480	120	69	286	0	1,169	1,001	5,125
Noord-Brabant	22,605	472	1,427	2,425	130	8,414	3,417	38,891
Limburg	9,218	190	634	1,280	181	5,765	2,565	19,832
Total	123,576	3,097	9,206	20,576	2,794	52,224	24,241	235,713
 %								
Share in total	52	1	4	9	1	22	10	100

Source: CBS.

¹⁾ See annex for full description of country aggregates.

5.5 A closer look at the five major towns in the Netherlands

In 2009, the Netherlands had 441 municipalities and the largest municipality is Amsterdam with 755 thousand inhabitants and 74 thousand local business units. The most frequent business activities are retail and holdings. Amsterdam is followed by Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht and Eindhoven. This section will take a closer look at the international activities of all five municipalities and discuss the differences.

Schiphol Airport is situated 15 kilometres southwest of Amsterdam and gives Amsterdam easy access to the rest of the world. It is also the municipality with most foreign owned local business units, namely 1930. This is 2.6 percent of the total number of business units.

Two third of these foreign controlled establishment is owned by a controlling unit in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France or Belgium.

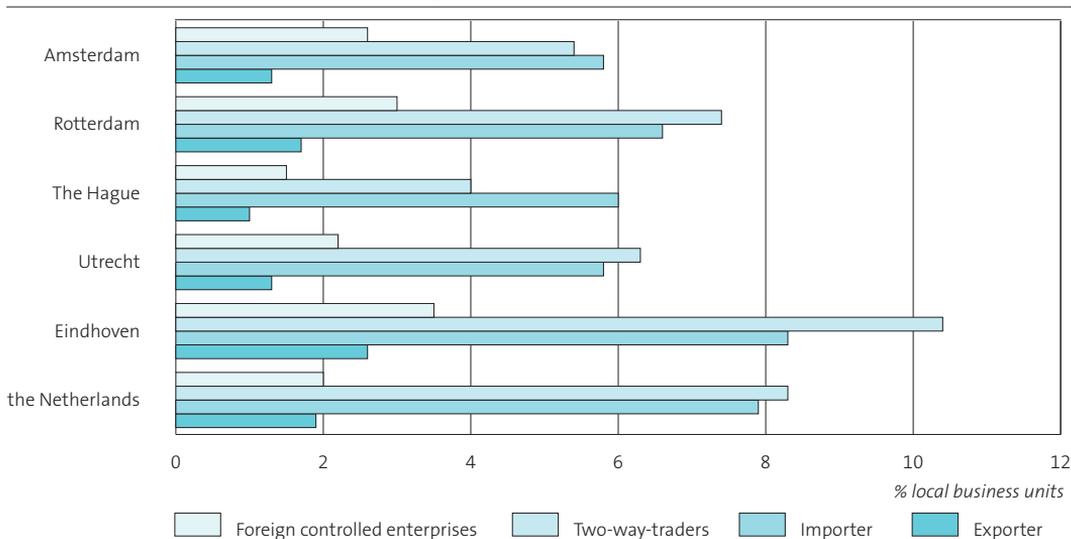
Rotterdam is the second largest municipality with over 580 thousand inhabitants and 39 thousand local business units. The port of Rotterdam is a hotspot when it comes to international trade. Rotterdam has about 1170 local business units that are part of a company with a foreign parent. This is 3 percent of the total number of local business units in Rotterdam. German controlled firms are the most common, followed by firms owned by the United States and the United Kingdom. About 97 percent of the local business units, however, are Dutch controlled. Local business units in the sectors retail, wholesale and storage are most common in Rotterdam, when it comes to local business units from a foreign UCI. The fact that there are many foreign controlled business units in the sector storage is to be expected, because of the location near the port.

The third municipality of the Netherlands is The Hague, the seat of government. The Hague has 480 thousand inhabitants and almost 34 thousand local business units. About 1.5 percent of these are controlled by a foreign owner. Apart from Germany, United States and the United Kingdom, also companies in Hong Kong own local business units in The Hague. All local business units owned by a controlling unit in Hong Kong, are small retail units.

Utrecht has 300 thousand inhabitants and almost 21 thousand local business units. Compared to Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague, Utrecht is a bit smaller. More than 2 percent of the local business units is part of a company owned by a foreign owner. Often the foreign owners are located in Luxembourg.

Eindhoven is the fifth largest municipality, with 14.5 thousand local business units and 212 thousand inhabitants. More than 3.5 percent of the local business units are part of an enterprise owned by a foreign company. Approximately 72 percent of these foreign owned local business units are controlled by companies in Germany, the United States, the UK, France and Belgium.

5.5.1 International orientation of the big cities, 2009



Graph 5.5.1 shows that Eindhoven, Rotterdam and Amsterdam and to a lesser extent Utrecht are interesting seats for foreign controlled enterprises. The Hague counts relatively few enterprises under foreign control. Eindhoven is also very attractive for traders. Importers, exporters and two-way-traders are well represented in Eindhoven. This is in contrast with the other four towns which all have relatively fewer traders than the national average. So Eindhoven is the most internationally oriented of the five largest towns.

5.6 Summary and conclusions

Approximately 2 percent of Dutch local establishments were ultimately foreign controlled in 2009. Per province, the share of local units under foreign control differs significantly, from 1.3 percent in Friesland to 2.5 percent in Limburg. In absolute numbers, the areas around Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam and to a lesser degree Utrecht and Eindhoven sustain the highest numbers of foreign controlled local business units. However, in relative terms, other areas are up and coming. The highest shares are found near Schiphol Airport, Beek (near Maastricht-Aachen Airport), Nieuwegein, Roermond, Moerdijk (near Rotterdam), Rijswijk and Venlo (important border-crossings with Germany). Although foreign controlled establishments are relatively small in number, this is compensated by their role as employers. In 2009, an average 16.8 percent of employment

is at foreign controlled local units. Municipalities in which foreign controlled units have an above average share in employment are Haarlemmermeer, Amstelveen, Velzen, Beek, Maastricht and several other municipalities in Limburg and Noord-Brabant.

In 2009, 18 percent of the local business units in the Netherlands either imported or exported goods or did both. There is a sharp contrast between regions. In the border regions a high percentage of the local business units are traders. The COROP region with the largest share of traders is Zeeuws-Vlaanderen with 40 percent, followed by the three COROP regions in Limburg with nearly 30 percent. Combined with the information on foreign controlled establishments, this makes Limburg the province with relatively the most international firms.

Although the number of traders is relatively high in the border regions, the picture changes when we look at trade value. Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Haarlemmermeer (Schiphol Airport) account for almost a quarter of total Dutch trade.

Almost half of all Dutch trade in 2009 was carried out by foreign controlled establishments, of which those owned by the US are the most important. The role of local business units owned by controlling units in BRIC countries in Dutch trade is relatively low, namely around 1 percent. Around 22 percent of Dutch imports and 14 percent of Dutch exports are carried out by European controlled establishments.

Eindhoven, Rotterdam and Amsterdam and to a smaller extent Utrecht are interesting seats for foreign controlled enterprises. The Hague counts relatively fewer enterprises under foreign control. Eindhoven is also very attractive for traders. Importers, exporters and two-way traders are well represented in Eindhoven. This is in contrast with the other four towns which all have relatively fewer traders than the national average. So Eindhoven is the most internationally oriented of the five largest towns.

Annex

Composition of country aggregations in tables 5.4.9 and 5.4.10

Rest of EU 27:

Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Rest not EU 27:

Australia, Bahamas, Bermuda, Botswana, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Gibraltar, Hong

Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Isle of Man, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela and Virgin Islands

BRIC:

Brazil, Russia, India and China