

Press release

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Population growth rate continues to slow down

- **Population growth 13 thousand in first six months**
- **Higher mortality, fewer births**
- **Immigration up, emigration down**

The population in the Netherlands has grown less rapidly over the past six months than in the same period last year. On 1 July, the Dutch population included 16.8 million people, an increase by 13 thousand relative to 1 January. In the first six months of 2012, the population growth was 14 thousand and in the first six months of 2011 the population grew by 31 thousand. The number of births over the first six months of 2013 was down from the first six months of 2012 and mortality was higher. The most recent figures released by Statistics Netherlands show that the population growth was mainly due to natural growth, partly to foreign migration.

Higher mortality, fewer births

In the first half of this year, 74 thousand people died, 2 thousand more than in the first half of 2012. The mortality increase is on a par with the growing number of elderly people. In the period 2002–2011, the number of elderly people also increased, but in that period mortality decreased. This development came to an end during the past eighteen months. The flu epidemics in 2012 and early 2013 and the relatively cold weather conditions in winter contributed to the higher mortality in the recent past.

In the first six months of this year, 83 thousand children were born, 4 thousand fewer than in the first half of 2012. Thus, the decline, which started in 2010, continues. The birth rate dropped notably among young women, which is not uncommon in times of economic distress.

Natural population growth defined as births minus deaths was 9 thousand in the first six months of 2013, i.e. 6 thousand down from one year previously. In 2012, natural growth had dropped to the lowest level since 1871, so the decline continued over the past six months.

Immigration up, emigration down

In the first half of this year, 68 thousand immigrants arrived in the Netherlands, one thousand more than in the same period last year. Immigration from Poland, Romania and Bulgaria grew by one thousand. In 2012, immigration from these countries had marginally declined.

In the past six months, 64 thousand Dutch residents emigrated, a decrease by 4 thousand relative to the first half of 2012. The decrease was more or less evenly spread among emigrants born in the Netherlands, emigrants born in other EU member states and emigrants born outside the EU. Net migration increased from practically zero in the first half of 2012 to 4 thousand over the past six months.

Population growth

	2010		2011		2012		2013 ³⁾
	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half
<i>x million</i>							
Population at the beginning of the period	16.6	16.6	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.8
<i>x 1,000</i>							
Population growth ¹⁾	31.1	49.7	30.8	43.8	14.3	34.9	12.7
Births	89.0	95.4	88.8	91.3	86.9	89.0	83.2
Mortality	68.9	67.1	68.1	67.6	72.3	68.5	74.4
Natural growth	20.1	28.3	20.7	23.7	14.6	20.5	8.7
Immigration	64.7	89.7	68.2	94.8	66.8	91.6	67.5
Emigration ²⁾	53.7	67.7	58.1	75.1	67.0	77.5	63.5
Net migration ²⁾	11.1	22.0	10.1	19.7	-0.3	14.1	4.0

1) including other corrections and balance administrative corrections

2) including balance administrative corrections

3) provisional figures

Source: Statistics Netherlands

Immigration and emigration to native country

	2010		2011		2012		2013 ³⁾
	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half
<i>x 1,000</i>							
Immigration							
Total ¹⁾	64.7	89.7	68.2	94.8	66.8	91.6	67.5
Netherlands	12.8	15.6	12.6	15.9	12.2	15.5	11.9
EU excl.							
Netherlands	23.1	35.2	25.5	40.8	27.4	40.2	27.5
Poland, Romania,	9.6	12.3	11.3	16.0	12.0	14.2	12.9
Bulgaria							
Greece, Italy,	3.1	5.4	3.5	6.6	4.6	7.8	4.6
Spain, Portugal							
Non-EU countries	28.8	38.9	30.1	38.1	27.2	36	26.8
Emigration²⁾							
Total ¹⁾	53.7	67.7	58.1	75.1	67.0	77.5	63.5
Netherlands	17.8	24.0	19.5	26.4	20.0	25.4	18.2
EU excl.							
Netherlands	16.2	18.4	17.5	22.2	23.1	24.7	21.8
Poland, Romania,	5.1	5.2	5.3	6.7	8.1	8.3	7.4
Bulgaria							
Greece, Italy,	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.6	3.5	4.1	3.5
Spain, Portugal							
Non-EU countries	19.7	25.3	21	26.5	24	27.3	22.8

1) For 2013: including native country unknown (1,290 immigrants, 732 emigrants)

2) including balance administrative corrections

3) provisional figures

Source: Statistics Netherlands