



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Immigrant population will reach 2 million within a decade

According to the latest forecast by Statistics Netherlands there will be about 2 million non-western immigrants in the Netherlands within ten years time. Their current number is 1.4 million. The total population figure in the Netherlands will increase by about a million people. So according to the forecast non-western immigrants will account for nearly two-thirds of the population increase within the next decade.

Second generation grows faster than first

The first generation of non-western immigrants will increase by one third in ten years time, from 0.9 million in 2000 to 1.2 million in 2010. This is mainly due to asylum-seeking, family formation and family reunification. The second generation will increase by 60%, from the current 0.5 to 0.8 million in 2010. The second generation is growing relatively fast because non-western immigrant women generally have more children than the native Dutch women.

Turkish immigrant population growing faster than Surinamese

The two biggest immigrant populations, the Turkish and the Surinamese, make up over 40% of the current 1.4 million non-western immigrants. The largest group, 309 thousand people, are immigrants of Turkish origin. Their number is expected to increase to 381 thousand in 2010 because of the second generation growth rate.

The immigrant population of Surinamese origin, 303 thousand people, is a close second. However, because Surinamese women have fewer children on average than Turkish women, the Surinamese population is not expected to grow as fast as the Turkish.

Average number of children down substantially

Among the Moroccan immigrants it is the second generation that is growing fastest. This is due to the relatively high average number of children Moroccan women have. The fertility rate for Moroccan women is 3.3 children. This rate will decrease substantially within the years to come, but the forecast is that Moroccan women will continue to have relatively many children also a decade from now, namely 2.6 per woman.

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Asians rising in number

The fastest growing group of immigrants comes from Asian countries. Especially the number of immigrants from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan has greatly increased in recent years. The forecast is that about 60% of the asylum seekers will come from Asia in the near future, which will add substantially to the number of Asian first generation immigrants.

Growth rate among immigrants exceeds that of the total population

The high growth rate of the non-western immigrant population is set against the very limited growth rate of the native Dutch population. The share of the non-western immigrant population will increase from the current 9% to 12% a decade from now. The ageing of the native population will lead to a decrease of the native population starting in 2009. The immigrant population, however, will continue to grow after 2010. By the middle of the 21st century there will be an expected 3.9 million non-western immigrants in the Netherlands. This will bring their share in the total population, an estimated 18 million people by then, to slightly over 20%. This growing share will increasingly be due to the second generation immigrants.

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Non-western immigrant population, 1 January

	First genera- tion¹⁾	Second gen- eration²⁾	Total
2000	x 1 000		
Turkey	178	131	309
Suriname	183	119	303
Morocco	153	110	262
Asia ³⁾	169	57	226
Africa ⁴⁾	102	50	151
Ned. Antilles and Aruba	69	38	107
Latins-America ⁵⁾	33	18	51
Total non-western	886	523	1409
2010			
Turkey	195	186	381
Suriname	189	155	344
Morocco	182	176	359
Asia ³⁾	301	124	425
Africa ⁴⁾	159	104	263

Ned. Antilles and Aruba	112	65	176
Latins-America ⁵⁾	52	34	86
Total non-western	1190	844	2034

- 1) Persons born abroad with at least one foreign born parent.
- 2) Persons born in the Netherlands with at least one foreign born parent
- 3) Excl. Indonesia, former Dutch East Indies and Japan
- 4) Excl. Morocco
- 5) Excl. Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Suriname

Source: Statistics Netherlands