

The Netherlands Compared





Rotterdam's indoor market, designed by MVRDV.

Source: Hollandse Hoogte

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Foreword

Welcome to the Netherlands!

Statistics have it, that the Dutch are among the happiest people in the world. Maybe it's because we live in the greenest urban area worldwide, with the highest bicycle use. Or, because we have the most comprehensive knowledge-based infrastructure. One thing for sure, it isn't because of the weather. Though, admittedly, we love our seasons, the wind and even the rain.

With the North Sea as gateway to the world, but also a continuous menace, we developed into an open minded and inventive people with an inclusive approach to issues. We believe that people, planet and profit can, and must, go together.

The Netherlands is one of the five most competitive economies. We are the second innovative economy and second largest agricultural exporter worldwide. We embrace the challenge of sustainably meeting the needs of a growing world population. By 2050 we aim to have a fully circular economy. For centuries we have learned to live in one of the most densely populated lands. We would like to share our experience and know-how with other fast-growing urban areas.

And we would like to learn from you because global challenges can only be solved together. That's why this statistics booklet features the UN Sustainable Development Goals as chapter format. It is our shared agenda. Let's co-create solutions.

Sigrid Kaag

Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation





About the Netherlands

Official name

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Form of government

Parliamentary democracy (cabinet of Prime Minister and Ministers) within a constitutional monarchy

Head of State

King Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau

Capital

Amsterdam

Seat of government

The Hague

Administrative structure

The Kingdom consists of four entities:

the Netherlands and three territories in the Caribbean: Aruba and Curaçao and St. Maarten.

The Netherlands consists of 12 Provinces.

The overseas islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, all three of which are situated in the Caribbean, are special municipalities of the Netherlands.

Surface area

33.800 km²

Location

Western Europe, by the North Sea, bordering Belgium and Germany

Number of inhabitants

17.214.000 (July 2018)

Number of inhabitants per km²

509 (July 2018)

Monetary unit

Euro

Languages

Dutch, Frisian. On the overseas islands also English and Papiamentu

Historically open, inventive and inclusive

For centuries the Netherlands has been a country where freedom and high trust have flourished. Due to the geographical location of a river delta bordering the sea, the people of the Netherlands developed into a trading nation; open and bold. In the late sixteenth century after years of oppression they declared themselves free from their king. Their reasoning was used again by the founding fathers of the United States two centuries later, after New Amsterdam was renamed New York.

The country became a breeding ground for science and new ideas in general. Protestantism and humanism resonated. Philosophers like Descartes, Hobbes and Spinoza could write and publish here. The arts flourished with artists like Rembrandt, Vermeer and, much later, Van Gogh and Mondrian.

With most of its land mass below sea-level, the Dutch have been battling the sea for centuries. It instilled an inventive and cooperative approach to problem solving. Before the word engineer was devised, the Dutch had built a resilient urban infrastructure. They developed a freedom loving culture, a strong legal system and a social welfare state. This is also the reason why, internationally, the Netherlands actively contributes to peace, justice and fair trade.



The Binnenhof in The Hague has been the location of meetings of the Dutch parliament since 1446.

Photo Credits: Hans Kouwenhoven

Innovative and open economy

The Netherlands ranks 2nd worldwide in innovation (Global Innovation Index). The Netherlands has the 18th largest economy in the world and the 6th largest in the European Union. In terms of surface area and population size, the Netherlands is not a large country, ranking 134th and 65th worldwide, respectively. The size of the economy, or the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is 733 billion euros.

The Netherlands has traditionally always had an open economy and the level of trade with other countries is significant. According to research carried out by the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, the total value of Dutch exports was 81.4% of the Netherlands' GDP (2017). The Netherlands earns one third of its income with export.

Fifth largest exporter

As the fifth largest exporter of goods in the world, the Netherlands holds a prominent position in international trade, exceeding bigger economies such as Italy and the United Kingdom.

With a favourable location and its state-of-the-art, Amsterdam Airport and the Port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands serves as a gateway to the European hinterland. The Port of Rotterdam has the largest inland shipping fleet in Europe and is crucial for Germany's import and export activities.

In 2018, the Netherlands exported goods are worth a total of almost USD 652 bln, about 3.7% of the world's total exports. The Netherlands is the second largest exporter of agri-food products (USD 62.9 bln) after the United States. A large portion of this export is transshipment of goods, which come into the Netherlands and are exported again.

GDP in bln € (2017)

1	Germany	3.263.350,0
2	UK	2.324.293,1
3	France	2.287.603,0
4	Italy	1.716.934,7
5	Spain	1.163.662,0
6	Netherlands	733.168,0
7	Sweden	477.857,5
8	Poland	465.604,9
9	Belgium	437.204,1
10	Austria	369.217,9

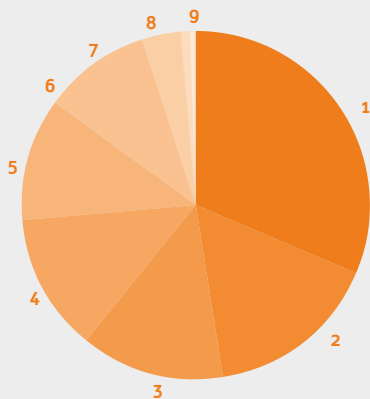
Source: Eurostat

Export/Import: steady growth

A substantial part of all imports acquired by the Netherlands is machinery (31.5%) and transportation equipment, worth of EUR 129 bln. The Netherlands also imported a great amount of mineral fuels

and chemical products worth, respectively, EUR 66.2 bln and EUR 52.5 bln. The amount of imports and exports are rising steadily in the last decade. The Netherlands' top three export products in 2017, are high tech machinery (28.4%), chemicals (17.4%) and food (13.5%).

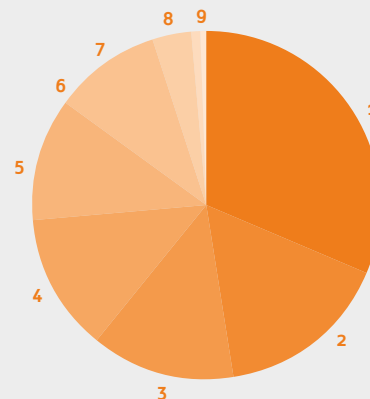
Exports in bln € (2017)



1. Machinery & transport equipment	54.0
2. Chemicals and related products	41.7
3. Food and live animals	21.8
4. Minerals fuels	6.1
5. Other manufactured articles	2.9
6. Manufactured goods	
7. Non edible resources	
8. Drinks and tobacco	
9. Other	

Source: CBS

Imports in bln € (2017)



1. Machinery & transport equipment	46.7
2. Minerals fuels	41.1
3. Manufactured articles	15.0
4. Chemicals and related products	4.1
5. Food and live animals	1.2
6. Manufactured goods	
7. Non edible resources	
8. Drinks and tobacco	
9. Other	

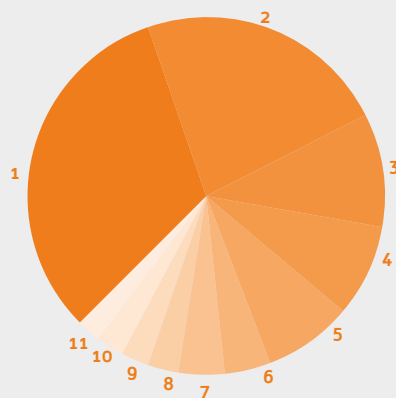
Source: CBS

Western-Europe main trading partner

Germany is the Netherlands' main trading partner, followed by Belgium, United Kingdom and France. In the past fifteen years (2002-2017), Dutch exports to Germany declined from over 24% to 23%. About 79% of the Dutch exports remain within the EU, especially Western Europe.

As to imports, China is becoming increasingly important. In 2002, imports from China amounted to 4%. Nowadays, they amount to 9%. The Netherlands also import a large amount of mineral fuels from Russia and Norway, placing these countries in the top 10 of the Dutch trading partners.

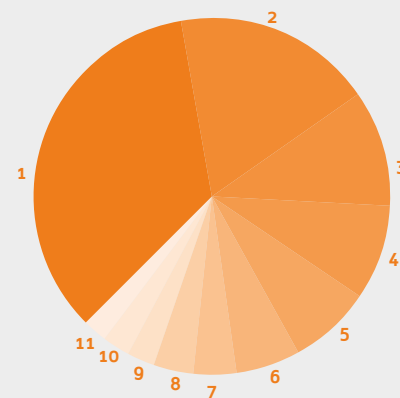
Export in bln € (2017)



1. Rest of the world	151,2	7. Italy	18,8
2. Germany	107,3	8. Russia	13,8
3. Belgium	47,4	9. Poland	11,9
4. United Kingdom	39,0	10. China	11,5
5. France	37,5	11. Sweden	9,6
6. United States	20,1		

Source: World Trade Organization

Import in bln € (2017)



1. Russia	143,2	7. France	16,2
2. Germany	74,7	8. Rest of the world	15,4
3. Belgium	42,9	9. Norway	10,4
4. China	36,1	10. Italy	10,2
5. United States	31,0	11. Poland	8,3
6. United Kingdom	23,3		

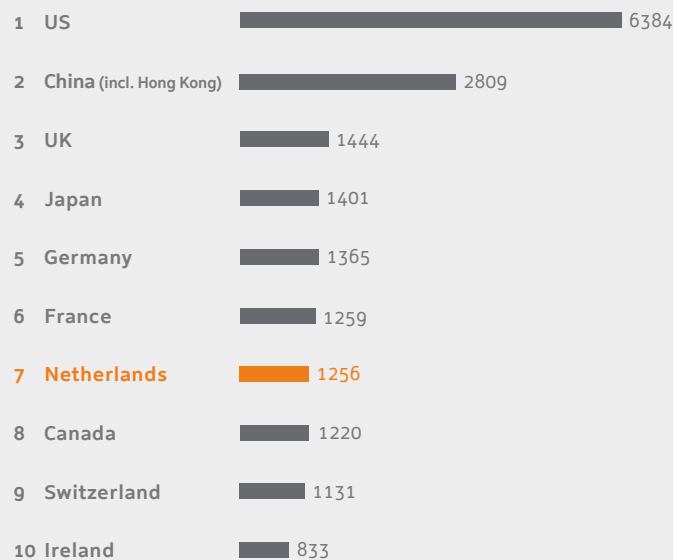
Source: World Trade Organization

Seventh largest global investor

Dutch businesses are truly international in their orientation. The Dutch Central Bank (DNB) reports that in 2017 the Dutch net international investment position – the balance of Dutch claims abroad and foreign claims on the Netherlands – increased by EUR 35 bln.

In the past year, Netherlands-based multinationals, such as AkzoNobel, Heineken, KPN, ING, Philips, Rabobank, Unilever, and Shell have made substantial foreign investments: EUR 1.256 bln, making the Netherlands the seventh largest foreign investor in the world followed by Germany and France.

FDI, outbound bln € (2017)

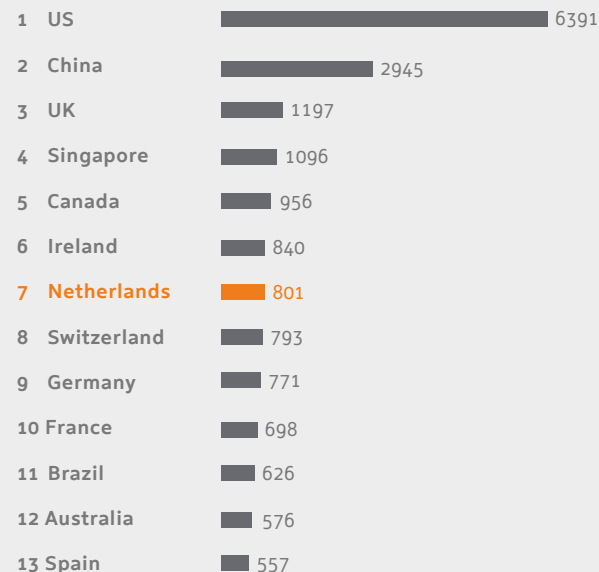


Source: CBS

Seventh recipient of foreign investment

In 2016, foreign companies made inward direct investments in the Netherlands worth EUR 801 bln, placing the country at the seventh position as the largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI). With a highly educated population, good infrastructure, pleasant housing and living conditions and competitive fiscal climate, the Netherlands attracts many foreign companies – from small and medium enterprises to Fortune 500 corporations. The Netherlands is ranked 3rd, worldwide, by Forbes' Best Countries for doing Business.

FDI, inbound bln € (2017)

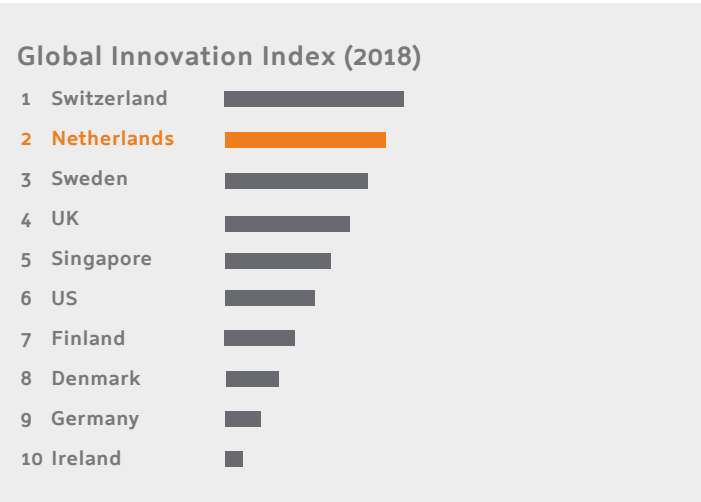


Source: CBS

Innovation Powerhouse

The Netherlands ranks 2nd on the 2018 Global Innovation Index (GII). The Netherlands leads other indexes such as the European Innovation Scoreboard and has innovation hubs across the country, including the European Space Agency, TNO, Brainport Eindhoven, and the universities of Wageningen, Utrecht, Leiden, Delft, Amsterdam, Groningen, Maastricht, Tilburg, Nijmegen and Rotterdam, plus a number of renowned technical schools. Also, the Netherlands has the 5th highest (first in the EU) number of patent applications per million inhabitants in the world.

The Netherlands is international leader in high tech fields, such as photonics, solar chip technology and agricultural research. Photonics provide for an answer to the surging energy consumption by our digital economy. This light-technology also paves the way for less invasive medical treatments.



Source: Each year, the GII surveys some 130 economies using dozens of metrics that provide a high-level look at innovative activity. Its 81 indicators explore political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication. The GII is co-authored by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and French graduate business school INSEAD



“The Netherlands is hotspot for DJs as well as early music. I love the openness here.”

- Ines Montaña

Pianist and early music professor from Spain.

Creativity

The Netherlands has always been attractive to creative people. Professionals in this field rank among the world's top when it comes to trade, jobs and brands. Of course, the philosophers and painters from the past come to mind. Many of them were originals, doing things 'their own way'. Nowadays Dutch architectural firms such as Mecanoo, UN Studio, OMA and MVRDV are in demand worldwide. So are fashion designers like Iris van Herpen, Jan Taminiau, Viktor & Rolf, Spijkers en Spijkers. The Netherlands Dance Theatre, Toneelgroep Amsterdam, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra are popular abroad and so are many performing artists. Five Dutch DJ's are in the world top 10: Martin Garrix, Tiësto, Armin van Buuren, Hardwell and Afrojack.

Industrial design is visible in everyday life and work by designers like, Daan Roosegaarde, Claudy Jongstra, Hella Jongerius, Jurgens Bey, Marcel Wanders or Piet Boon can be found on all continents. Dutch Design Week, in October, attracts visitors from all over the world, showcasing societal engagement, integral solutions, and boldness... with some humour.

Digitalization

It is not only in the arts that the Dutch are creative. In the past decades Dutch engineers invented WiFi, the CD, the DVD and Bluetooth. Now photonics and the quantum computer are being developed here and the Dutch are at the forefront of digital manufacturing and 3D Printing. The gaming industry is foremost, especially in 'serious' gaming and simulation. International accountancy firms use the Netherlands as testing ground for robotics. Dutch banks are ahead of others in digitalization. Companies like Booking.com or Coolblue can become new standards. Some people refer to the Netherlands as a 'living lab'. And it's true, the population is open to new, win-win solutions for everyone involved.



Dutch Fashion designer Iris Van Herpen is haute couture's chief scientist and perhaps leading futurist

Photo Credits: Mitchell Sams



Photo Credits: Franklin Heijnen

Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals form an ambitious international agenda to find solutions to the global challenges we all face by 2030. In the Netherlands there is widespread support for these goals that cover a broad range of ecologic, social and economic issues. Dutch companies and universities work hard to contribute to achieving the goals. Not only by excelling in their disciplines, but also by understanding the complexities of interrelated issues. The future of innovation is multidisciplinary.



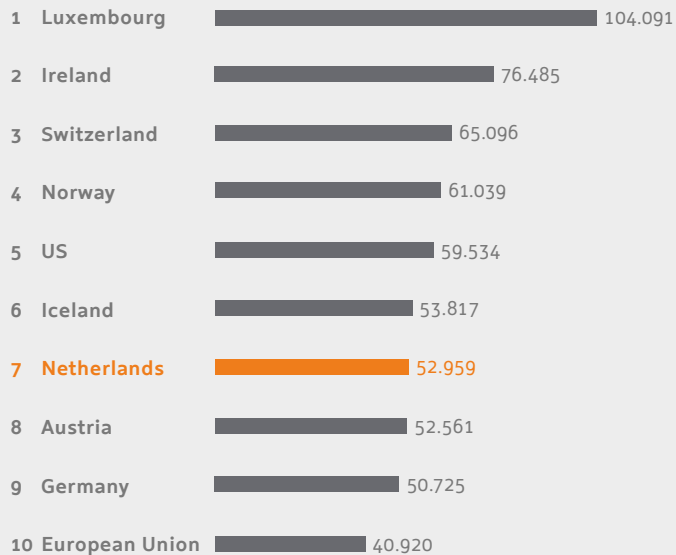
1. No poverty



High Average Income

The Netherlands is one of the wealthiest nations in the European Union. The Dutch GDP per person employed is 52,959 US dollars (OECD, 2016), compared to the EU average of 40,920 US dollars. The high average income of the Dutch is the result of high labour productivity and a high level of labour participation.

GDP per capita, PPP in \$ (2016)



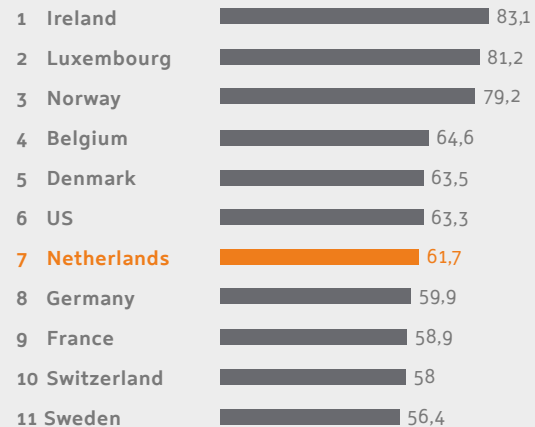
Source: OECD

High productivity per hour

The working population in the Netherlands is highly educated, employees have an international outlook, and many speak more than one foreign language. This high level of education and the strong economic structure (enabled by the physical and the knowledge infrastructure, for example) allow employees to be productive. Labour productivity per hour is among the highest in the world. It is noteworthy that the Netherlands has combined this high level of productivity with a high level of labour participation, also among semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

The Dutch productivity per hour is among the highest while maintaining the best work-life balance among EU countries according to the latest OECD Better Life Index.

GDP per hour, PPP in \$ (2016)



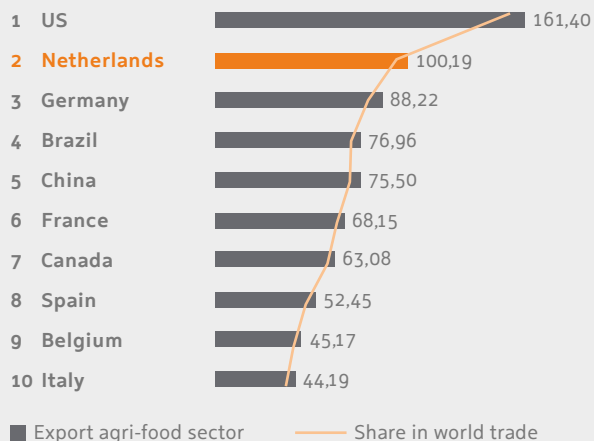
Source: OECD

2. Zero hunger

Food Security

Food security is among the key focus areas of the Netherlands' foreign trade and aid agenda. From 2013 to 2016, the Netherlands has made significant efforts and investment to provide 10 to 20 million people with better nutrition and in preventing undernutrition. The Netherlands government promotes a healthy diet of vegetables, and has made far reaching agreements with businesses in the food chain to reduce the amount of salt, sugar and saturated fat in food products.

Share world trade in bnl \$ (2016)



Source: World Trade Organization

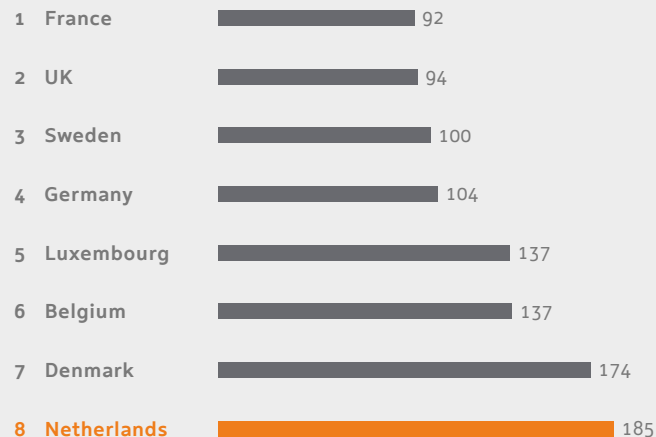
Efficiency and Sustainability



The Netherlands and Denmark lead the EU in agricultural production efficiency. A wealth of agricultural knowledge, fertile soil, intensive farming, and trading expertise, enables the Netherlands to grow and export high quality produce (185 bln per year). This includes plant-based produce and animal products such as livestock, poultry, meat, and eggs.

The horticulture sector is ranked 3rd, worldwide, in nutritional horticultural products – healthy, sustainable food production is a main priority. About 40% of vegetable seeds come from the Netherlands. It also is the largest exporter of fresh vegetables in the world. From animal welfare and food safety to state-of-the-art greenhouse technology and new breeds of plants. Government, knowledge institutes, farming and business are working together to come to a circular economy by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and establishing healthy chains.

Production volume agriculture in 1000 € per labour year (2016)



Source: CBS



Students at Wageningen University & Research, one of the world's leading educational institutions for agriculture and forestry.

Photo Credits: Luca Locatelli

Top agricultural research

The Netherlands is a hotbed of agri-food research. Some 12 out of the 40 largest Food & Beverage companies worldwide have R&D facilities in the Netherlands.

The government strongly supports agri-food related initiatives by means of public-private partnerships, innovation programmes and clusters. Key R&D centres include Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR), which is the leading university in the world in the area of agriculture.

Regional initiatives like FoodValley or Brainport Foodtech support small and medium enterprises with the valorization of promising innovations. There are many innovative companies specializing in nutrients (such as Nutrilieads and Koppert), keeping foods fresh (Avure), packaging (AIPIA) and optimal logistics.

Seeds

The Netherlands is one of the world's largest exporter of seeds. Companies like Enza, Incotec, Rijk Zwaan and Bejo improve the lives of farmers around the world by delivering high tech solutions that increase yields while working with nature. Working together with local partners, the right vegetable varieties are developed for every type of region in the world, including saline or arid soils. Methods include traditional and organic breeding methods.

3. Good health and well-being



Best health care system

The Netherlands has an exceptional standard of healthcare, which is not only accessible but also affordable. The Dutch healthcare system is founded on the following principles: access to care for all, a compulsory medical insurance and high-quality healthcare services. It earned the Netherlands the top rank of 35 countries in the 2017 Euro Health Consumer Index, which is considered the industry standard for providing the best healthcare services. The Netherlands is the only country to consistently hold a top-three ranking since 2005.

The Netherlands has a national vaccination programme, in which local governments offer youth care and social support. The current National Prevention Programme focuses on smoking prevention, obesity, alcohol abuse, lack of exercise, diabetes and depression. The estimated shortened lifespan due to air pollution is around the European average. One of the spearheads of the Netherlands' approach, both at home and internationally, is the fight against antimicrobial resistance. The small Dutch company Microcos claims to have found an alternative to antibiotics.

Strengthening health systems elsewhere

The Netherlands invests in strengthening healthcare systems elsewhere. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is a mainstay of our international healthcare policy. Around 1.8 million women and girls have gained access to modern contraceptive methods thanks to the Netherlands, working in collaboration with a large number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other partners. The goal is to raise this number to 6 million by 2020.

Dutch expertise in healthcare infrastructure is on demand due to its multidisciplinary approach of delivering winning hospital design and engineering, financing, waste management, medical equipment and energy efficiency. There are numerous medical equipment manufacturers in the Netherlands, with a strong emphasis on robotics. Philips is world leader in medical imaging and patient monitoring technology. There is an active public-private partnership model in place. The Centre of Expertise Healthy Ageing is an example of this, with over 150 organisations in education, research, care and business, all working together in 25 innovation labs.

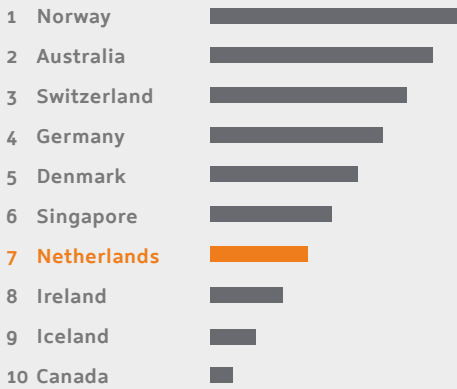
Seventh at healthy living and well-being

The Netherlands is currently at the 7th position of the Human Development Index, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In determining the ranking, the UNDP considers the country's GDP and other aspects of human well-being, such as life expectancy, public health, literacy level and educational standards.

The Netherlands offers a highly pleasant living environment. A 2016 research by IMD shows that housing is fairly affordable in the Netherlands. Structural reforms that have been implemented in areas such as the labour market and social security system have created conditions, which nurture healthy economic growth. This creates room for investment in knowledge and innovation, which enables the Netherlands to remain a competitive, prosperous, enterprising and sustainable country.

Earlier this year, an OECD report shows that over 93% of children between the age of 11 to 15 in the Netherlands recorded above average life satisfaction. Furthermore, UNICEF have listed the Netherlands as one of the best places in the world for children and teenagers to grow up and live.

Human development index (2016)



Source: United Nations



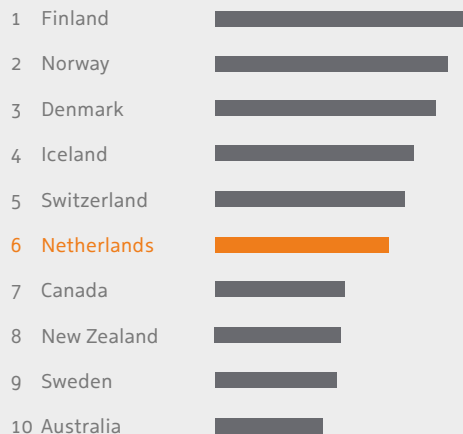
In 2017, the Netherlands Women International Football team won the UEFA Women's Championship.

Great place to live

According to the 2017 World Happiness Report, the Netherlands is at sixth position. The report indicates that happiness is increasingly considered as a proper measure of social progress and the goal of public policy. In determining the score of each country, the researchers took into account factors such as GDP per capita, healthy years of life expectancy, social support, trust in government and businesses, perceived freedom to make life decisions, and generosity (measured by amount of donations).

According to the Dutch national statistics office (CBS) 88% of the Dutch consider themselves to be happy and just 3% unhappy. CBS mentioned that health is a key determining factor. The World Economic Forum also indicates that in a world where mental health problems are increasing, the Netherlands remains one of the OECD nations with the lowest use of antidepressants per capita.

Happiness (2018)



Source: World Happiness report



Another secret of happiness is probably work-life balance. The OECD Better Life Index indicates that the Dutch have the best work-life balance of any developed nation. This enable the Netherlands to spend time together as families, reflected in the strength of the relationship Dutch teenagers have with their parents.

“I still do my daily groceries by bicycle. We moved here as expats and stayed. The healthy, relaxed life style is what we like here”

-Irmgard Marth von Montigny

Moved to The Netherlands from Germany with her husband many years ago and turns 80 this year. She has Dutch grandchildren.

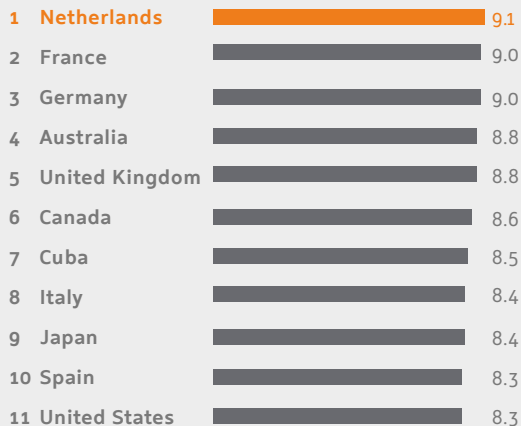


Healthcare in the Netherlands

One of the good things about living in the Netherlands is its first-rate standard of healthcare. The Dutch healthcare system is based on the principles: access to care for all, a compulsory medical insurance and high-quality healthcare services. Indeed, it ranks first on the list of 35 countries in the 2017 Euro Health Consumer Index, which is considered the industry standard, for providing the best healthcare services.

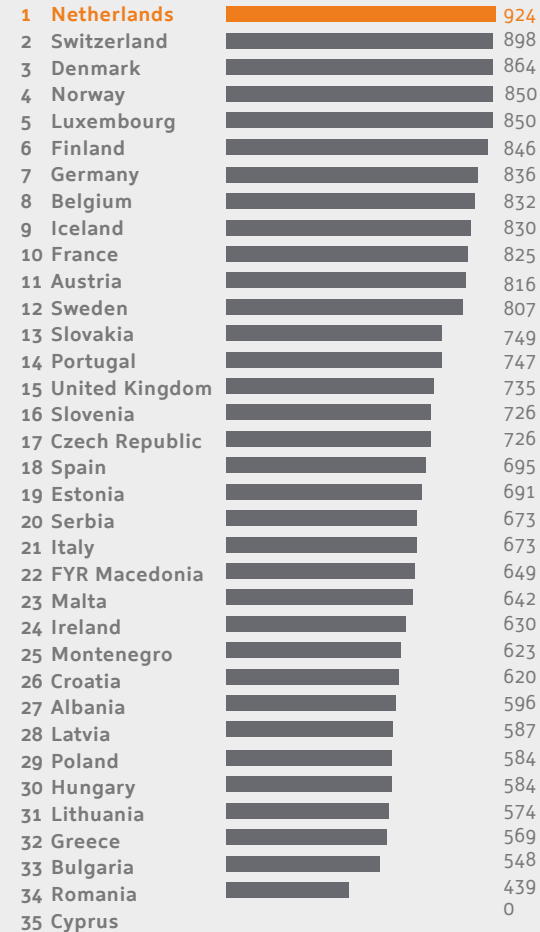
Since 2005, the Netherlands is the only country to consistently hold a top-three ranking. The country also ranks number one on the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Access to Healthcare Index, which measures countries worldwide on accessibility of healthcare and the overall healthcare system. Not only is healthcare in the Netherlands highly ranked and accessible, but also affordable. Health spending grew by an annual average of only 1% from 2009-2016, according to the OECD.

Global Access to Healthcare Index (Score out of 10)



Source: Euro Health Consumer Index 2017

EHCI 2017 total scores



Source: Euro Health Consumer Index 2007

4. Quality education

High level education

Dutch universities are in the top of the Times 200, ranking just behind the US, UK and Germany in number. The Netherlands promotes learning, skills acquisition and knowledge through education policy. There is a wide variety of schools, which work under national examination standards. A successful baccalaureate examination gives access to university level education. The Dutch have a high proficiency of English, ranking first in the world according to EF English Proficiency Index, followed by Sweden and Denmark at second and third place, respectively. 90% of the Dutch population speaks English—the primary business language in the Netherlands—and a high percentage speaks German and French.

Universities in top 200 Times (2018)

1	US	62
2	UK	31
3	Germany	20
4	Netherlands	13
5	Australia	8
6	China	7
7	Switzerland	7
8	Canada	6
9	France	6
10	Sweden	6

Source: Times Higher education

Lifelong learning



According to the OECD Skills Outlook, Dutch employees rank well above European average as proficient in computer literacy, numeracy and ICT.

The Netherlands provides very good vocational training, and participation in life-long learning is very high. According to the Adult Education Survey (AES) by Eurostat, which measures adult participation (age 25-64) in learning, the Dutch participation was 64.1% in 2016.

To encourage this further, the government recently introduced life-long learning credit, enabling people up to the age 55 to borrow money under favourable conditions to pay for a course in secondary vocational or higher education.

Participation rate (in-)formal learning (2016)

1	Netherlands	64,1
2	Sweden	63,8
3	Norway	60
4	Austria	59,9
5	Hungary	55,7
6	Finland	54,1
7	UK	52,1
8	Germany	52
9	France	51,3
10	Denmark	50,4
11	European Union	45,1

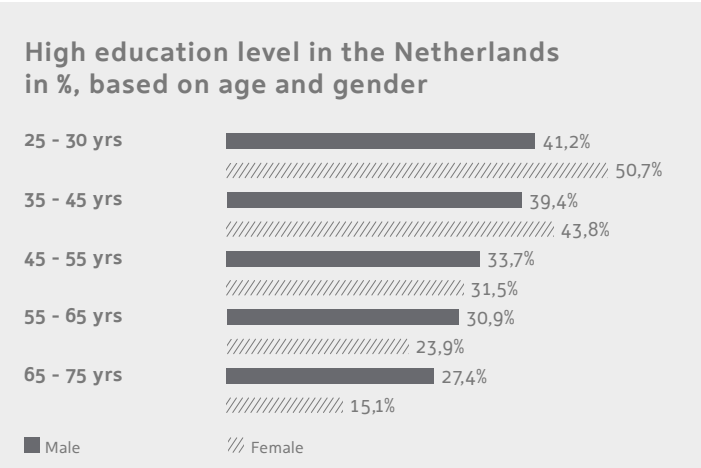
Source: Eurostat

5. Gender equality

Highly skilled, productive workforce

Very few places compare to the Netherlands for highly educated and skilled people. The Dutch higher education system provides a steady stream of women and men with the skills and attitudes to meet today's business demands – especially in the field of technology and management. More than half of university graduates are female.

With its efficiency and dedication, the Dutch workforce sets the pace for European productivity – from entry level to senior executive. Very little time is lost to labour disputes or labour relations compared with Europe as a whole and the cost of labour is highly competitive.

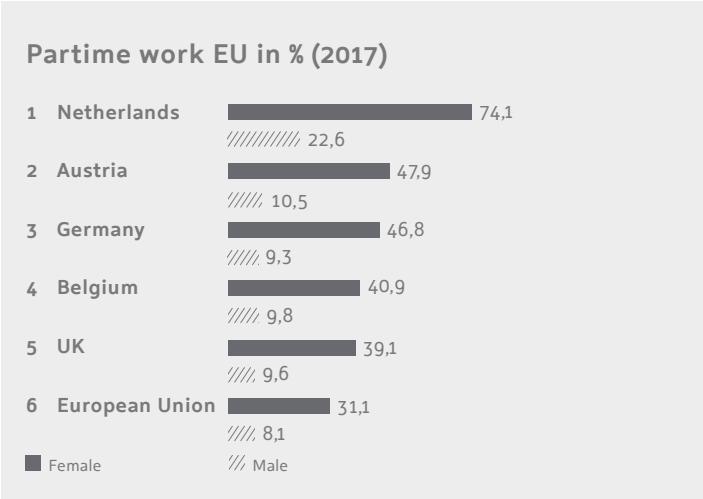


Source: CBS

Many part-time employees

From an international perspective, a relatively high proportion of the Dutch working population works part-time, combining work with caring for their family.

Dutch part-time workers are women (75%). The Netherlands also has the most male part-time workers (22%) in the EU. Furthermore, the average working week for full-time employees is more or less on par with most other Eurozone countries. The same applies for the number of hours worked in a year by full-time employees.



Source: Eurostat

6. Clean water and sanitation



Watermanagement leader

As water management is deeply rooted in the Netherlands' history and culture, it is hardly surprising that it is one of the priorities of its trade and aid agenda. Too much, too little or polluted water presents a major threat to many people around the world. The Netherlands focuses its efforts on increasing water security and safety in urban deltas and on maintaining sustainable access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene in both urban and rural areas.

Safe, high quality drinking water is generally available to everyone in the Netherlands, as is good sanitation. The drinking water extraction rate is high compared to other EU states. However, the future availability of quality drinking water may come under pressure due to the threat of climate change and contamination. Over 30 parties have jointly signed a declaration of intent to further improve and safeguard water quality.

The aim is to reduce flooding and water shortages and to improve water quality in at least eight deltas by 2021. Thanks to these joint efforts and investments, between 2013 and 2016 some nine million people obtained access to clean drinking water, and 15.5 million people obtained better sanitation systems and facilities as well as receiving education on hygiene. The Netherlands' goal is to increase these numbers by eight and 12 million respectively by 2020.



The Maeslantkering is one of the largest moving structures in the world. It closes off the waterway when water levels threaten to overflow the inland rivers. Each of its 'doors' is as tall as the Eiffel Tower.

Photo Credits: Luca Locatelli

7. Affordable and clean energy



Ambitious goal

By 2050, the country wants to have a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy system, cutting CO₂ emissions by half and generating 40 percent of electricity from sustainable sources like wind at sea, solar energy and biomass. This is a remarkable stance for a country with a fossil energy sector that contributes substantially to the national income, exports and employment. Think of companies like Shell or NAM, the national gas producer. But society and the sector itself realise that it is best to lead the energy transition. It is why in the coming decades households will have to find alternatives for natural gas and why the Netherlands collaborates on many projects worldwide to create smart, integrated energy solutions with far-reaching impact.

New sources

The Netherlands has a long tradition of using wind energy. Offshore wind farms are now gaining ground fast. Innovations also include energy from tides, hydrogen, algae and coated windows. The Netherlands has a very high decentralised capacity from energy production in greenhouses and waste heat from digital servers.

The Netherlands is in a natural position to become energy hub of Europe because of its coastline for wind-power, the key European harbours of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Antwerp and its significant natural gas reserves and energy infrastructure. Rotterdam is one of the three largest fuel hubs in the world, next to Antwerp and Gelsenkirchen. In 2015 the total production for mineral oils was 89.1 billion tonnes, and crude oil, 103.1 billion tonnes.

The Netherlands is not only a major natural gas producer and the source of advanced gas technology, it is also Europe's leading gas broker. The Netherlands is establishing itself as leader in the gasification of biomass. Green gas has been patented by Dutch energy company ECN. Studies indicate that green gas can replace around 10% of Dutch-consumed natural gas by 2020.

The Netherlands already provides over 60% of the wind energy turbine technology in the world. The Netherlands reputation in this field greatly benefits from the work of the consortium for Knowledge and Innovation Offshore Wind (TKI Wind op Zee), the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN) and Delft University of Technology. The latter university won the biennial competition for solar cars 9 times.

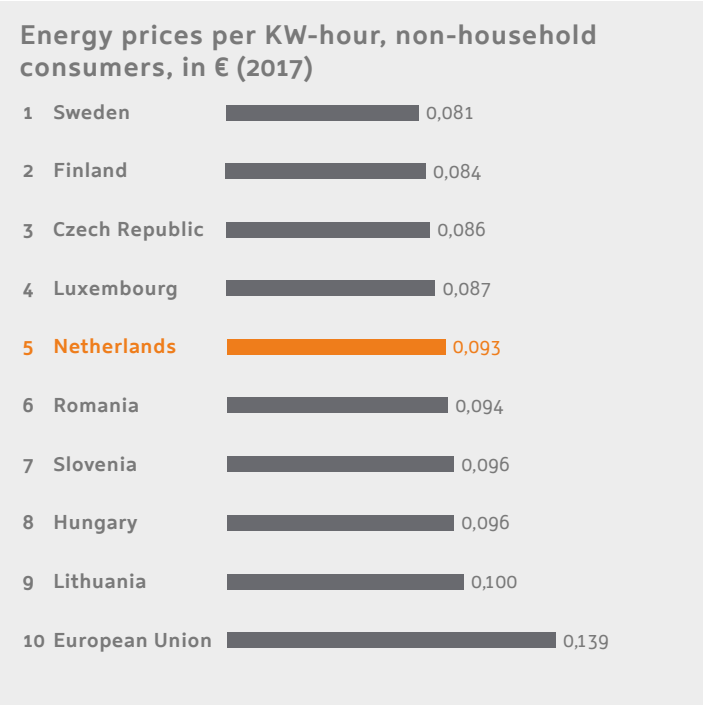
Other expertise includes co-combustion of biomass in coal-fired power plants, pre-treatment methods of biomass, the use of landfill gas, and the use of heat pumps combined with heat- and cold-storage. Annually 7.5 million tonnes of municipal waste is converted in 13 efficient and clean waste incinerators to power, heat and reusable resources from the ashes.

Smart grid

The Netherlands is home to the first 'live' smart grid community in Europe (Power Matching City in Groningen) and has the second largest fleet of plug-in electric vehicles in the world, after Norway. The country is a living lab for e-mobility with a dense infrastructure of charging stations. One example is the 'Power by the Sun' station along highway A2 where sunlight is transformed into energy for cars. VDL is a leading company for electric buses that can even recharge wirelessly. But maybe charging stations will be redundant one day: the Dutch company LightYear produces the first car that drives on solar power directly and there are very promising innovations in the field of hydrogen.

Cheap energy...

Thanks to its open market and integrated supply chains, the Netherlands offers low energy costs for the industrial sector. Ranked 5th lowest energy prices for companies in Europe, the Netherlands is well suited for companies doing business here. For the transition from fossil to green energy, companies like Shell and DSM advocate for the introduction of CO2 taxation within an international level playing field.



Source: Eurostat

...turning green

The government is committed to ensuring that 14% of all energy used in the Netherlands is sustainable by 2020 and 16% by 2023. The European Union (EU) is committed to achieving 14% renewable energy by 2020.

At the end of 2015 there were at least 2,525 onshore wind turbines, generating a total of 3,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity. This is around 5% of the Netherlands' total requirement. By 2020 the Netherlands aims to have an onshore wind capacity of 6,000 MW. The National Energy Agreement for Sustainable Growth plans to add 1,000 to 1,500 new onshore wind turbines until 2020. CO2 is to be halved by 2030.

Innovations in other new sources of energy include tidal energy (Red Stack) and a very promising hydrogen powder (H2Fuel). This technology makes hydrogen practical, cheap and safe for use in transport since storage under pressure or at low temperatures is no longer necessary. VDL is producing a passenger bus with this game changing technology. It will also be used for storage of excess wind or solar energy and applications in industry. IBIS power specializes in architecturally integrated power nests on rooftops and at large festivals. Ampyx developed an airborne collector of wind energy. Physee coats regular windows so that they produce solar energy.



Green gas (methane) derived from algae is a circular solution, because algae take up CO₂. The process will probably be more cost efficient than winning gas from current gas fields. Algae parks can be located in between the offshore windmills. are very nutritious for humans and livestock. Foundation De Zeewierboerderij advises the government on this issue.

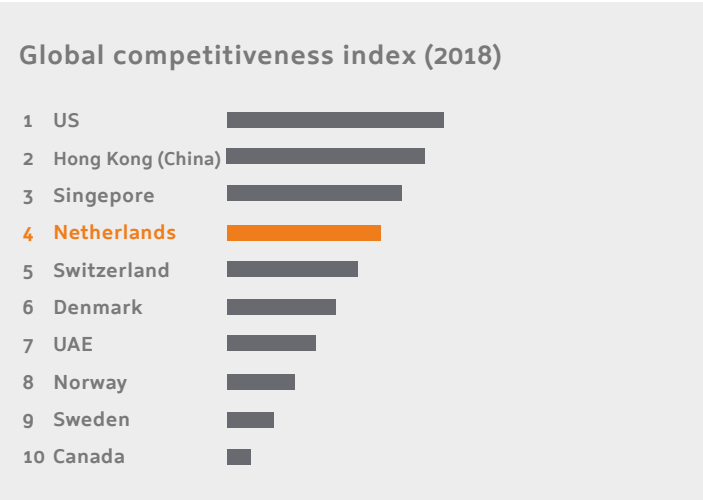
When it comes to saving energy, Zyttec developed magnetic coupling equipment that could save up to 50% of energy consumption by industry by making pumps, generators, fans, compressors and conveyors much more efficient. EcoChain software assists in saving energy in industry and proving green claims.

8. Decent work and economic growth

Fourth competitive economy

According to a number of international league tables published by institutes such as IMD and the World Economic Forum, the Netherlands is ranked 4th on the 2017-2018 World Economic Forum's list of the 138 most competitive countries, behind Switzerland, the United States and Singapore.

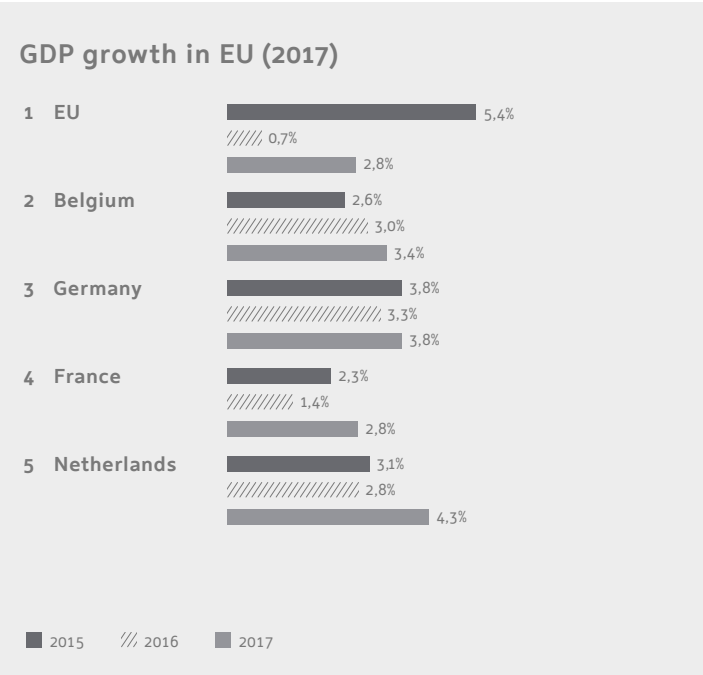
There are numerous factors that form the basis for the favourable business climate in the Netherlands: its open and international outlook, its strategic location in Europe, its well-educated, multilingual and flexible workforce, and the high level of labour productivity. The competitive fiscal climate, top-level physical and technological infrastructure and quality of life are other key contributors to the country's success.



Source: World economic forum

Healthy GDP-growth

Compared to many other EU Member States, the Netherlands consistently ranks among top EU nations in GDP growth. The structural reforms that have been implemented in areas such as the labour market and the social security system, have created conditions for future healthy economic growth.



Source: Eurostat



Source: Waste 2 Aromatics

Low unemployment

The strong growth in jobs in the Netherlands is due largely to the structural economic reforms that have been implemented. The relative stability of the labour market – there are comparatively few strikes in the Netherlands – can also be attributed to the favourable business climate and supportive labour unions. The labour participation rate is considerably greater than the average of the OECD and Euro zone countries with an average low 10 year unemployment rate of 5.5%. Youth unemployment is relatively low (8.8%) compared to OECD (11.9%) and 2nd lowest after Germany.

Average unemployment 2007-2017 (2017)

1 Austria	5,2
2 Luxembourg	5,4
3 Netherlands	5,5
4 Czech Republic	5,7
5 Germany	5,9
6 Denmark	6,1
7 UK	6,4
8 Sweden	7,4
9 Slovenia	7,5
10 Euro area	10,0

Source: OECD

9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Global innovator

The Netherlands is considered to be the most innovative economy worldwide after Switzerland (Global Innovation Index 2018) and, in line with the European strategy, aims to spend 2,5% of its GDP on research in 2020. The Netherlands boasts a creative atmosphere for entrepreneurs and is developing into a startup hub in Europe. In 2018 the Netherlands made it to the Financial Times FT1000 fastest growing startups list. Dutch society is open to new concepts and thus seen by many as a 'living lab'.

The Netherlands promotes sustainable innovation in many ways. The nine top-sectors together with knowledge institutions and government

('the golden triangle') provide an excellent network for innovation. It is why the Netherlands is known for its multidisciplinary solutions to issues, including different technical or societal perspectives.

High Tech leader

One example is Photonics, in which the Technical University of Eindhoven is worldwide leader. The use of light instead of microelectronics to conduct information will drastically reduce energy consumption, will increase information storage capacity and will lead to many innovations in other fields, like less invasive medical interventions. Also in mechatronics and robotics the Dutch are at the forefront. ASML from Eindhoven is the worldwide #1 manufacturer of machinery for the chip-making industry. SmartPhotonics is the first foundry for Indium Phosphide semiconductors worldwide that produces products designed by customers. Their chips can be used for low-power data centres, 'intelligent pills' for medical diagnostics, aircraft industry or ultra-secure cryptography.



'Brainport Eindhoven' University campus, home to the pioneers in photonics in the region that internationally holds most patents per capita in the world.

Photo Credits: Brainport Eindhoven

Circular hotspot

The Netherlands considers a circular economy the ultimate solutions to the ecological problems we face. Therefore it promotes chains that bring circular change about. Multinationals like AKZO and DSM heavily invest in the circular chemistry. Royal Vopak does so in storage and transport of chemicals. Philips Lighting together with architecture group Rau came up with a new business model: providing light as a service instead of bulbs as a product. Also in the building industry new concepts are tried out. Circular waste sites are being developed by Modulo Milieustraten. Energy grid operator Liander built an entirely circular headquarters and Park 2020 is the first circular office park in the world.

Water champions

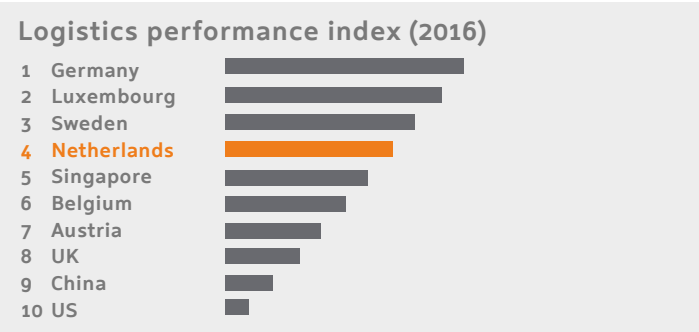
A keystone of the Dutch water policy is providing high quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure around the world. After the flooding in New Orleans the response was ‘call in the Dutch’ and major technical and societal changes have been made since in order to prevent a similar disaster. Dutch firms like Boskalis, Fugro, Royal Haskoning and Van Oord do major dredging work all over the world. For Singapore they currently reclaim land from the sea as they did at home for centuries. In Dubai they constructed the palm shaped islands in front of the coast. In Panama a port is planned that can serve as a hub for the region. In India there is a project that aims to clean the upper part of the Ganges while providing the region with sustainable industry for the future. These are but a few of the many international activities. In fact the Dutch water sector cannot keep up with the demand.

Logistics hub of Europe

With two significant European cargo main ports, Amsterdam airport and Port of Rotterdam, less than one hour distant from each other, the Netherlands is a logistics hub for the through-transportation of goods to the European hinterland, making it an attractive location for foreign companies.

In the World Bank Logistics Performance Index the Netherlands is ranked fourth on total. It ranks at the top when it comes to efficiency of its customs procedures, the quality of its transport and IT infrastructure, the affordability of its shipping and the level of professionalism of the logistics industry.

As the transportation of goods around the world continues to increase, logistics should become even more efficient and sustainable. The Netherlands hopes to be leading by 2020 through innovations like advanced information technology to deliver optimised supply chain solutions and pioneering developments in environmentally sustainable logistics operations. With a value added of 55 billion euros/year and 813.000 employees, the logistics sector is a strong driver of the Dutch economy.



Source: Worldbank



KLM is the first airline to fly
with biofuel on commercial flights
Source: KLM

Fourth largest Airport in Europe

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol ranks as the fourth largest airport in Europe, in terms of passenger numbers and cargo volume: 68.5 million passengers, 1.8 million tons of cargo. A total of 103 airlines offer direct flights from Schiphol to 322 destinations. This makes Amsterdam Airport one of five most important (hubs) in Europe with 497 flights per day compared to 476 and 474 for Paris and London.

It is also one of the two European home bases of Air France-KLM and the SkyTeam alliance. In addition, Schiphol is an important contributor to the regional economy, providing direct employment for around 65.000 people at the airport. The contribution to the national economy amounts to about 26 billion euros, and a total of 290.000 jobs nationwide. Schiphol is also renowned for its inspiring facilities for passengers and innovative technical solutions such as the extensive baggage handling system.

European airport traffic and transport (2017)

Frankfurt Germany	2,1 //////////////////////////////// 64,4
Amsterdam Schiphol Netherlands	1,8 //////////////////////////////// 68,5
Paris Charles de Gaulle France	2,1 //////////////////////////////// 69,4
London Heathrow UK	1,7 //////////////////////////////// 78

■ cargo transport (x1.000 ton) /// passenger transport (millions)

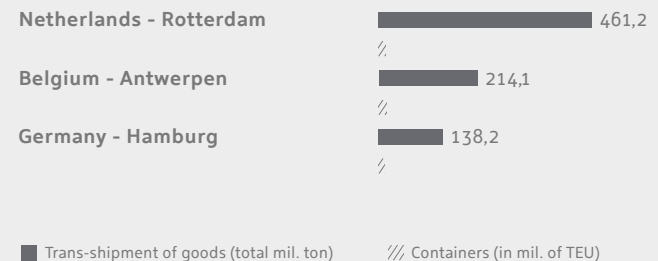
Source: Schiphol

Largest Port in Europe

The port of Rotterdam is the world's 3rd and Europe's largest port. It would rank 1st in the world if you exclude the Asian giants, Shanghai and Singapore. The Rotterdam port has been a pivotal marine infrastructural point in Europe from the 13th century onward. In terms of total weight of goods trans-shipment, Rotterdam is the largest port in Europe. The trans-shipment in Rotterdam added up to 461.2 million tons in 2016. The number of containers handled amounted to 12.4 million TEUs in 2016.

Businesses choose to locate in-and-around the Port of Rotterdam because of its strategic location in north-west Europe, depth of its harbours, excellent port and energy facilities, and its transport links with the hinterland. Many companies from America and Asia use Rotterdam as a base for the European distribution of their goods. Many large European distribution centres are located close to the container terminals, and these ensure that products can be dispatched efficiently to anywhere on the continent or to overseas destinations. The combined activities of the port account for about 3.1% of Dutch GDP.

Trans-shipment ports (2017)



Source: Port of Rotterdam

Euromax Terminal Rotterdam Transport between the cranes and the stacking area is done by unmanned Automated Guided Vehicles (AGV's). The terminals are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Source: Europe Container Terminal BV, Rotterdam

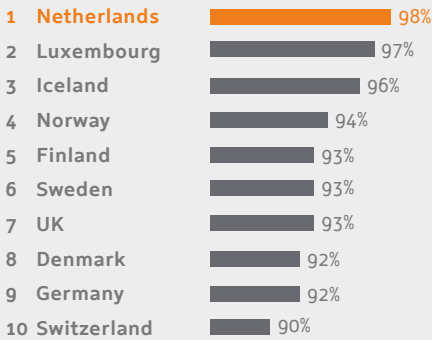
Advanced ICT economy

The Netherlands has the second highest online connectivity in the world: 98% of households have some form of internet connection at home compared to the European average of 78%.

In June 2016, the Netherlands had the third-highest number of broadband connections per 100 inhabitants in the world. Almost every household is served by a cable or DSL connection. The Netherlands is also home to the world’s second-largest digital data distributor, the Amsterdam Internet Exchange (AMS-IX), providing businesses with an outstanding data connection network.

- Nearly 100% of Dutch businesses use internet to do their work, 98% with a broadband connection, according to 2016 statistics.
- 91% of Dutch aged 16-74 are active internet users, compared to 75% of Europeans in the same age group.
- 75% of Dutch aged 16-74 have basic ICT skills, compared to the European average of 59%.
- Big data, cyber security, and open access are priority issues for the government, which has committed 40 billion euros for the programme ‘Commit2Data’.

% of households with internet access (2017)



Source: Eurostat

“It’s great to do scientific research here, because people are innovative, entrepreneurial and friendly”

-Finny Varghese

Postdoctoral researcher from India in the department of medical microbiology, Radboud University Medical Centre.



10. Reduced inequalities

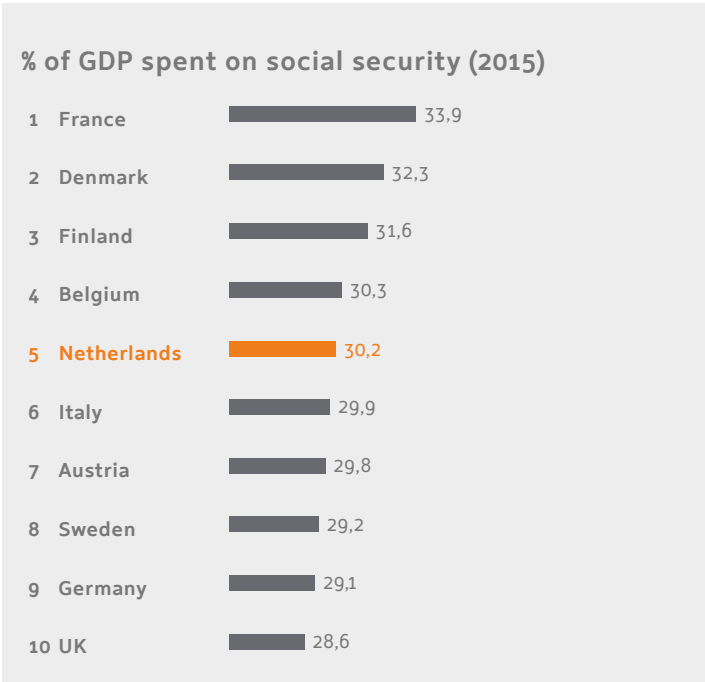
Social inclusion

Income inequality in the Netherlands is relatively low, but the income gap has grown since 2012. The government is committed to combining a solid social security system with progressive taxation. The Netherlands spends about 30% of its GDP on social security and scores 26.9 on the Gini-coefficient (compared to 30.8 in most of the EU). The leading principle of the system is that everyone should be able to play an active role in society. The Dutch pension system is considered one of the best in the world.

The Netherlands has a broad set of policies aimed at contributing to the empowerment and participation of disadvantaged groups, for instance encouraging participation in the labour market of elderly or disabled people, ethnic minorities, LGBT people.

The Netherlands is convinced of the need to address inequality within countries in order to achieve the SDGs. That's why it takes an active stance internationally. For instance through the UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (Voice programme with a budget of €50 million to support civil society organisations in empowering disadvantaged and marginalised groups. Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) and the Leading from the South programme are tackling gender inequality). Since tax revenues give governments the resources they need to run facilities aimed at the poorest people, the Netherlands is investing in programmes to strengthen tax systems.

In line with its trade and aid approach, the Netherlands also encourages private investment in the least developed countries. Inequality is one of the main causes of migration. Together with other EU countries the Netherlands therefore takes measures to provide refugees with adequate and sustainable shelter in their region of origin by investing in infrastructure, job creation and basic services. These activities supplement the necessary humanitarian aid in the region.



Source: Eurostat

11. Sustainable cities and communities

A Sustainable Urban Delta

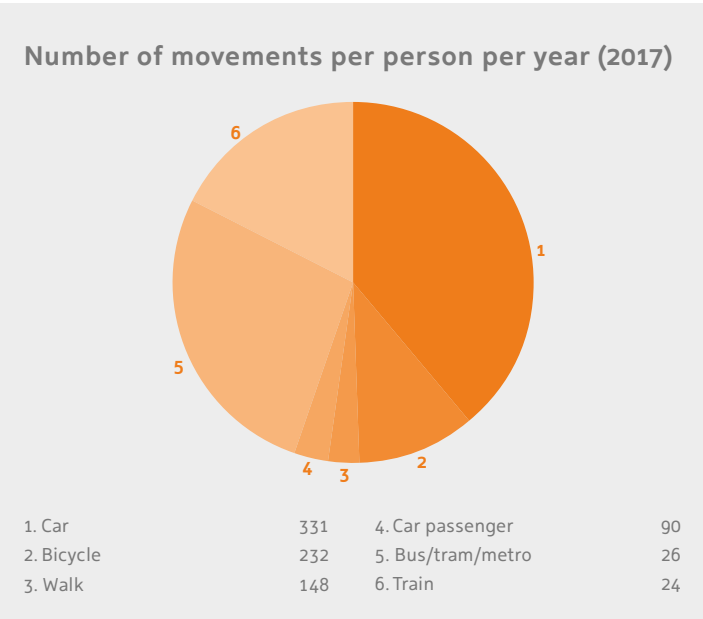
Worldwide, 180,000 people move from the countryside to the city every day. It is estimated that within 15 years over 60% of the world's population will be living in metropolitan areas. Many of these areas are located in a river delta, because the presence of water makes food production, trade and transportation possible. The Netherlands can be considered one big green city that can serve as a model for the fast growing metropolises around the world.

The Netherlands is the second most densely populated country in the EU. It is home to 17.1 million inhabitants living in more than 7.7 million homes. In 2015, 87% of all households were satisfied with their home and 82% were happy with the living environment.

Nearly everyone lives less than two kilometres from a public transport stop. The Netherlands is also a country of bicycles and it has extensive cycling infrastructure.

Cycling world leader

The Dutch own more bicycles per capita than any other country in the world (22.5 million). And, they cycle more often and longer distances. Distances under five kilometres are usually covered on foot (35%) and by conventional bicycle (nearly 33%). Cycling is a way of life in the Netherlands. An average Dutch person cycles 1,000 kilometres a year in about 250 to 300 cycle trips. It helps that the Dutch terrain is relatively flat and that there is a phenomenal cycling infrastructure: at least 33,000 to 35,000 kilometres. That does not include the road space where cycling takes place in the same space as private motor traffic, which adds another 55,000 kilometres of streets and roads. Of all the Dutch urban streets 70% has a speed limit of 30 km/h. That makes "sharing" that road space easier and safer. Government policies that promote cycling also help: from tax refunds to safe roads and cycle lessons at school.



Source: CBS



Road safety

Internationally the Netherlands has the 3rd lowest death toll for road traffic accidents. The number of road deaths is steadily declining every year. In 2014 there were 574 road deaths, 11% fewer than in 2009. The government is aiming to reduce the number of road deaths to less than 500 in 2020.

The government is looking at new technologies to solve challenges in the area of transport, the environment and safety. It is working together with the private sector to develop self-driving vehicles, and to improve in-car traffic information for drivers. This will reduce congestion and CO2 emissions, and improve road safety.



Source: WHO

12. Responsible consumption

Circular Economy

By 2050, the Dutch economy should run completely on reusable raw materials. Various government, business and non-government organisations have signed a deal to realise a 100% circular economy.

The circular economy is at the heart of many of the Sustainable Development Goals; it is necessary to create a closed cycle of resources in order to save our planet. Closing resource cycles will also reduce geopolitical tensions by making us less dependent on certain regions.

In the Netherlands new business models are being introduced that involve paying for use, rather than owning. This triggers industry to enhance life span and reuse of products and materials. An example is Amsterdam Airport, where Philips provides “light as a service” – unlike selling lamps, as before.

Waste separation is one of the most effective, worldwide. As a result valuable raw materials are no longer lost in landfill sites. At the same time, innovations will focus on improving the recycling. This transition will foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs, while reducing waste, costs and emissions of greenhouse gasses.



Are being developed by companies like the Dutch Weedburger and The Vegetarian Butcher.

Chemical Industry

The Netherlands is 6th largest supplier of chemical products, with exports valued at EUR 7.8 billion (2016). Out of the 25 leading chemical companies 16 are located here, including BASF, AkzoNobel, DSM and Shell. In the field of advanced materials Twaron, Dyneema and Glare are to be mentioned. All of these firms are transitioning to sustainable production. World class institutes for fundamental and applied research include TNO, NWO, ECN and the universities of Utrecht, Delft, Twente and Wageningen. Metabolic is a think tank that functions as an international living lab for circular change.

In Chemport Europe several companies and universities work together on the development of green chemistry. It wants to be an international 'living lab' and production facility since it has all the raw materials, storage possibilities and green energy at hand to produce chains for a biochemical ecosystem. Senbis, BioBTX and Cumapol specialize in 100% biodegradable plastics. Sugar beet pulp is being used to generate green gas, where BioMCN is processed into biomethanol, a basic raw material for the chemical sector. Corbion is global market leader in lactic acids for foods, biochemical, biomedical materials and bioplastics. Avantium hopes to conquer the global market for plastic bottles by introducing PEF, a biobased plastic. Cosun is a major bio-refinery producing raw materials for both food and chemical industry. But even small companies can make a huge difference, like Green Sand that developed a sand that absorbs CO₂. Or, Berki that developed a fire extinguishing foam that is far more efficient than current ones and wholly biodegradable.

Bioplastics can be produced in a sustainable way.

13. Climate action

Integrated approach

Just as with the other sustainable development goals, the Netherlands seeks an integral approach when it comes to climate change. Due to its economic dependence on its oil industry and natural gas reserves, the Netherlands was not at the forefront of alternative energies until the Paris Climate Agreement. The Dutch government has now become a climate leader, taking bold steps to becoming climate neutral by 2050 – committed not only to keeping global warming well below two degrees Celsius, but to bring net greenhouse gas emissions down to zero.

Already there have been many innovative and cutting edge alternative energy sources and technologies developed in the Netherlands: wind parks on the North Sea, combined with algae farms; city heating derived from servers and greenhouses; hydrogen powder and salt water batteries. Dutch cities lead the way in advancements in green mobility by introducing electric busses and driverless trucks in an effort to lower urban traffic congestion and CO2 levels.

The Netherlands will soon be home to the Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation. InvestNL is there to support investments in the field of climate, water and energy. The platform HollandCircularHotspot shares knowledge on circular economy and creates opportunities for investments in this field. Nationaal Klimaatfonds is a public-private organisation that lowers risks for investment in climate action in developing countries.



“The Dutch are really good at implementing concepts in society. And design has a lot to do with that.”

- Masaaki Oyamada

Japanese designer who worked for Philips and Heineken and now has his own atelier in Scheveningen.





The company LigthYearOne will put the first solar passenger car onto the market in 2020.

Electric transport

Dutch businesses, social institutions, knowledge institutes and government agencies have joined forces in the Formula E-team to accelerate the adoption of electric transport, intending to capitalise on the economic opportunities associated with it.

The Netherlands counted 120,000 electric passenger vehicles in 2017. There are only more electric passenger cars in Norway, the US, Japan and China. The Netherlands has the most dense network of charging stations for electric vehicles.

The company Port-Liner developed the ship of the future for inland navigation: an electric ship for 280 twenty ft containers that can be recharged easily.

14. Life below water

Protection of the North Sea

A country rooted in a seafaring tradition, the Netherlands plays an important role in the international maritime industry. With its North Sea coastline punctuated by old seafaring towns and villages, fishing has been a part of the Dutch lifeblood for centuries. Due to overfishing in the sixties and seventies, the North Sea became almost depleted of fish. With the intervention of sustainable governance, together with our neighbouring countries, today, the nation continues to sustainably harvest the rich fisheries of the North Sea. Catch limits and other measures established by the EU, commercial fish stocks in the North Sea have managed to recover in recent years. But much work still has to be done.

Plastic Soup

Floating plastic junk is a major environmental problem. It is estimated that at least five trillion pieces of plastic are floating in the world's oceans. Two-thirds of that waste consists of micro-plastics that contain chemicals, which can be harmful to life. The Dutch government together with industry wants to drastically shrink the use of plastic and stimulates recycling at home. Internationally it fosters coalitions in this endeavour and helps to clean up the plastics that are already in the ocean.

The young Dutch entrepreneur Boyan Slat came up with the idea to rid the ocean from hazardous plastic waste by using an innovative floating barrier. The Dutch government recently granted The Ocean Cleanup a part of the North Sea, 23 kilometres off the coast of Scheveningen, to be used as a testbed for their barrier.



The Ocean Cleanup project in the Pacific uses floating tubes made of a durable plastic called HDPE, which can float in the water, is flexible enough to bend with the waves, but rigid enough to form a U-shaped barrier to stop the plastic floating on the ocean's surface.



Photo Credits: O. Rohulya

15. Life on land



Preservation and biodiversity

The role of farmers is important around the globe. The Dutch government therefore promotes legal rights for both women and men regarding, access to, use, ownership and management of land. Another important goal is to halt deforestation. Dutch enterprises take care to buy wood only from certified sustainable forestry. The World Wildlife Fund, based in the Netherlands, is an important agent in the preservation of animal species. Just as we need the oceans and its water to survive, we also need fertile soil, forests and biodiversity. Although the proportion of nature areas is stable in the Netherlands, and woodland areas are in fact expanding, natural habitats are still under pressure. The number of plant and animal species in particular is declining, and the rankings for both woodland and nature areas and for conservation are rather low. Studies show that current policies on conservation, restoration and sustainable management of nature are insufficient, and will not yield satisfactory results. The national government therefore announced extra measures, especially to protect meadow birds, bees and promote environmentally friendly agriculture.

Soil

Wageningen University & Research is at the forefront of soil research. It is where ecology, physiology, biochemistry intersect, delivering knowledge for the development of sustainable agro-systems that are based on the prevention of pests and diseases. Eco-technological innovations are for example the closing of water- and nutrient-cycles. Another institution that works on ecological value chains is the Louis Bolk Institute. Heineken set up 'Green Circles' to make the region around its brewery a global example for the circular economy. Nature is taken as a starting point to change the way energy, water, raw materials, mobility and living environment are addressed.

16. Peace, justice and strong institutions

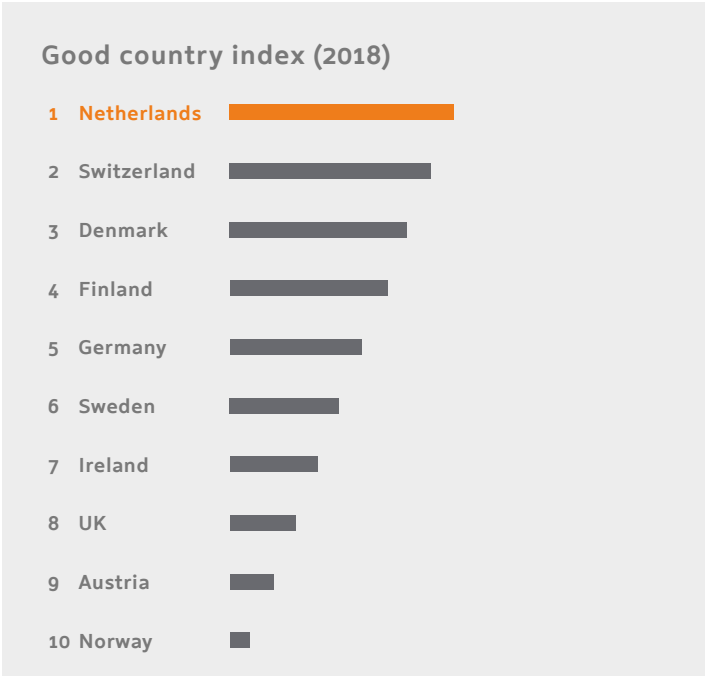
Serving the global community

The Netherlands firmly believes in international law. It is an active member of the UN, the EU and other organisations in order to promote international peace, security and justice and a better future for all.

The Netherlands currently tops the Good Country Index, which ranks countries across 35 indicators grouped under seven main headings, including science and technology, planet and climate, and prosperity and equality. The results are then divided by gross domestic product to create a more level playing field.

With respect to SDG 16, the Netherlands government has two priority areas: combating human trafficking and fighting the exploitation of children both at home and abroad.

The Netherlands also refuses to be a safe haven for those who have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide elsewhere. It will bring suspects residing in its territory to trial, and supports prosecution by other countries and international organisations, like the International Criminal Court. Finally, the Netherlands is committed to combating corruption, confiscating criminal assets and fighting illicit flows of arms at home and abroad.



Source: Anholt

Overview of International Organisations in the Netherlands

Courts and tribunals

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PHA; PCA) (1899)
International Court of Justice (IGH; ICJ) (UN organ) (1945)
Iran - United States Claims Tribunal (IUSCT) (1981)
International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (UN organ) (1993)
International Criminal Court (ISH; ICC) (2002)
Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) (2007)
International Residual Special Court for Criminal Tribunals (UN-MICT) (2010)
Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) (2012)
Kosovo court (2015)

EU-organisations

European Commission, Joint Research Centre Petten (JRC Petten) (1958)
European Investment Bank (EIB) (1958)
European Commission, Representation in the Netherlands (1969)
European Parliament, Information Office in the Netherlands (1977)
European Police Office (EUROPOL) (1993)
Eurojust (2003)
Galileo Reference Centre (GRC) (2016)

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

NATO Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum) (1953)
NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control (NAEW&C) Programme
Management Agency (NAPMA) (1978)
NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) (2012)

United Nations (UN)

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (1950)
United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research
Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) (1973)
UN OCHA Humanitarian Data Centre (2017)
UNICRI Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (2017)

Other international organisations

International Organization for Migration (IOM) (1954)
Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCIP; HcCH) (1955)
EUROCONTROL (1963)
European Patent Office (EOB; EPO) (1973)
European Space Agency / European Center for Space Technology
(ESA/ESTEC) (1980)
Dutch Language Union (1982)
Technical Center for Agricultural Cooperation and Rural Development
(TCLP; CTA) (1983)
African Management Services Company (AMSCO) (1989)
Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) (1989)
International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) (1991)
High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) (1992)
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) (1995)
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) (1997)
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BBIE; BOIP) (2007)
European Air Transport Command (EATC) (2009)
OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) (2015)
International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) (2015)

Effective government

The separation of powers, rule of law and due process are embedded in the Dutch constitution. The Netherlands is known for its respect of freedoms. According to the World Bank, the government of the Netherlands is one of the most effective in the world, thus making it easier for companies to make medium and long-term decisions. The figures for government effectiveness capture the perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies.

Gouvernement effectiveness (2016)



Source: Worldbank

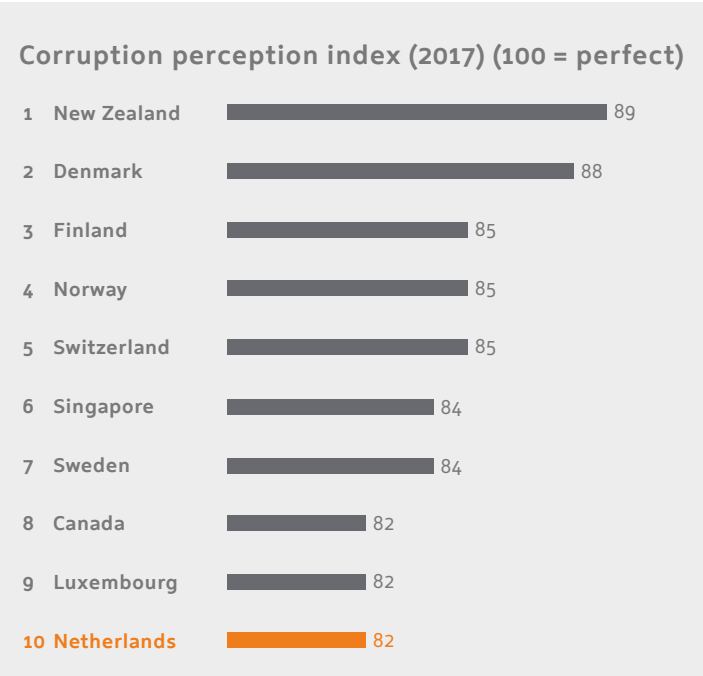


Cour
Pénale
Internationale
International
Criminal
Court

Located in The Hague, the International criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the graves crimes of concern to the international community, such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

One of the least corrupt countries

According to the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, levels of corruption and nepotism in the Netherlands are among the lowest anywhere in the world. Among the aspects of corruption that were examined were the degree to which people in authority - such as customs officers, police officers, politicians, judges and other officials - misuse their position for personal gain (financial or otherwise). IMD (2017) also concludes that bribery and corruption are rare in the Netherlands: the country ranks 5th worldwide.

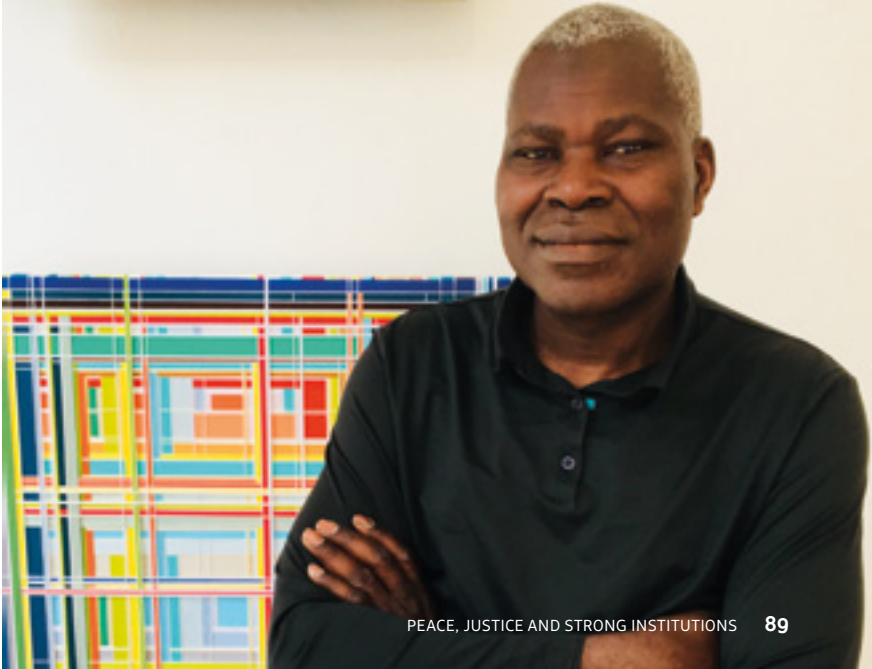


Source: Transparency International

“The sincere quest for equality and rule of law is what makes me feel at home in this country”

-Ebenezer Loye

Came from Nigeria 30 years ago and is owner of contemporary Art Gallery Chiefs and Spirits in The Hague.



Low crime rate

The Netherlands is widely seen as one of the most tolerant and safe countries in the world, with violent crime at an impressive low. The Dutch score low on murder and manslaughter compared with other EU countries: 0.6 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016. This is a reduction by more than half compared with the second half of the 1990s.

Overall, the Dutch feel safe. The situation in the Netherlands in this respect is positive compared with most other EU countries. In Germany and France, almost a quarter of people occasionally feel unsafe in their own neighbourhood.

People in custody

The number of detainees in the Netherlands is also showing a downward trend. In 2015, 64 people were in custody in the Netherlands per 100,000 inhabitants. The relative number of detainees in the Netherlands is low in relation to other EU countries. Only three countries (Denmark, Sweden and Finland) have a slightly smaller relative number of detainees. In 2013, 19 prisons in the Netherlands closed because the country did not have enough criminals to fill them. Since then, five more have been slated to close their doors. The trend of closing prisons follows a steady drop in crime rate since 2004.

Intentional homicide per 100.000 inhabitants in Europe (2015)

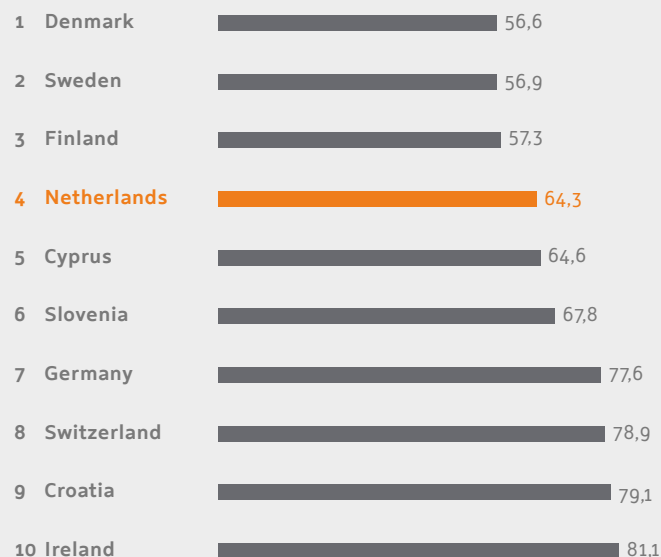


Source: Eurostat

Safety and security

Investing in safety and security continues to be a major priority for the Dutch government. Government spending on safety and security in the Netherlands has risen since the 1990s to reach 1.9% of GDP in 2016. This puts the Netherlands in a middle position within the EU.

People held in prison per 100.000 inhabitants (2015)



Source: Eurostat

17. Partnerships for the goals

Multi-stakeholder approach

The Dutch believe in a multi-stakeholder approach, both at home and internationally. There should always be a win for all involved, including our planet.

Within WTO and Worldbank the Netherlands actively supports the trade and gender agenda. The OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN guiding principles on business and human rights have been underwritten by many Dutch companies. The goal is that 90% will adhere to these guidelines in 2023. International public-private covenants see to corporate responsibility of Dutch companies worldwide.

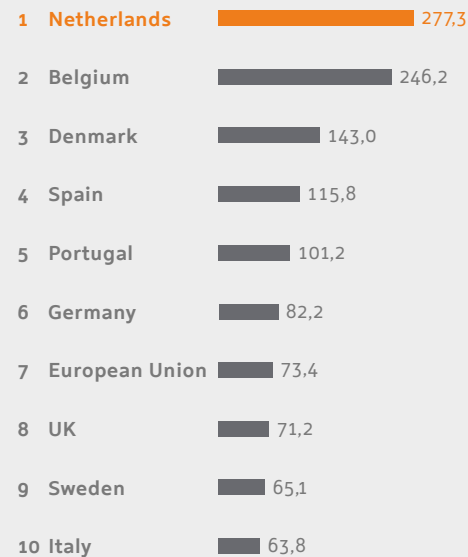
The Dutch approach to development co-operation is one of trade, aid and innovation. The Netherlands is one of ten countries that spend most on development aid worldwide.

Large import from developing countries

A way to promote the sustainable development goals is to promote import from developing countries. Through exports, developing countries are able to integrate into the worldmarkets and profit from world trade flows.

The Netherlands promotes a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda. It is therefore no coincidence that Dutch import from Least Developed Countries (LDC) is relatively high.

Import in € per person from LDC's (2017)



Source: Eurostat

Websites

brainport.nl

Meet Europe's most innovative region

CBS.nl

Statistics Netherlands

cleantechholland.com

Platform Dutch cleantech business

click.nl

Knowledge and innovation in the creative industries

creativeholland.com

Meet the Dutch creative industries

dutchwatersector.com

dutchfoodinnovations.com

thisiseindhoven.com

Dutchdesignweek

ECN.nl

Energy solutions, together with TNO

EC.Europa.eu/Eurostat

Statistics Europe

floriade.com

World Expo 2022 on growing green cities

foodtechholland.com

government.nl

greenportholland.com

Dutch horticulture sector

goodcountry.org

Good country index

health-holland.com

Netherlands life sciences and health sector

hollandcircularhotspot.nl/en/

Platform of The Netherlands as circular economy hotspot

hollandhightech.com

High tech systems and materials sector

healthpowerhouse.com

European health consumer index

hollandlogisticslibrary.com

hollandtradeandinvest.com

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investinholland.com

Portal for doing business and investing in The Netherlands

MRDH.nl

Metropolitan region Rotterdam
The Hague

NBTC.nl

Holland marketing and tourism

netherlandsandyou.nl

Embassy and consular information

NOC.NSF.nl

Netherlands sports association

Nuffic.nl

Dutch organization for internationalization in education

Photondelta.eu

Join the world's first integrated photonics ecosystem

portofrotterdam.nl

royalfloraholland.com

International marketplace for flowers

studyinholland.nl

sustainableurbandelta.com

Multidisciplinary solutions for urban development worldwide

timeshighereducation.com

University rankings

TNO.nl

Netherlands organization for applied scientific research

VNCi.nl

Information on the Dutch chemical industry



Dutch Design Official Gift 2018 from fully compostable bio plastic.

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Explanatory Notes

This publication is intended to provide a picture of the Netherlands' economy, based on statistical comparison. To this end, indicators from nationally and internationally renowned and reliable sources have been selected. However, no rights may be derived from the contents of this publication.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Dutch village of Noordeinde, is an example of the renowned Dutch 'polder' landscape, reclaimed land below sealevel

Photo Credits: Luca Locatelli

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to our global challenges!**

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