

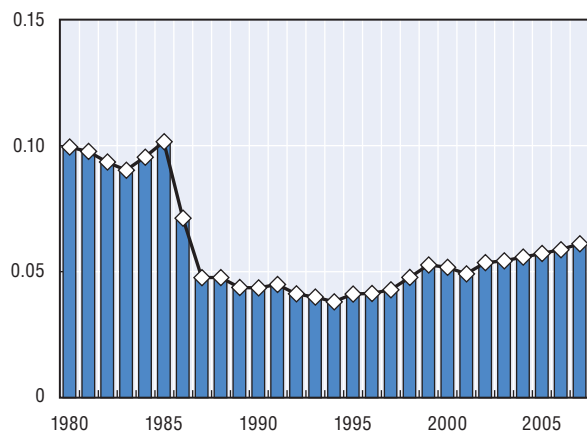
Netherlands

Population and territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 16.4 million inhabitants (2007), 33 783 km².
Administrative structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unitary country. ● Two-tiered sub-national system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ TL2: 4 <i>Landsdelen</i>. ❖ TL3: 12 <i>Provinces</i>, among which 7 predominantly urban regions (85% of total population, –5.9 pp) and 5 intermediate regions (15%). ❖ 443 municipalities (<i>gemeenten</i>).
Share of sub-national government in total spending/revenues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spending: 34.4% (2009). ● Revenues: 11.1% (2009).
Concentration and inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Netherlands have the third lowest index of geographic concentration of GDP in the OECD. Only 26% of national GDP is produced in 10% of the Netherlands' TL3 regions as opposed to 38% in the OECD. ● Inequality in GDP per capita between the Netherlands' TL2 regions decreased from 1980 to 2005. During the early 1980s inequality remained fairly stable until the mid-1980s, experiencing the largest decline in 1986 and 1987. Since 1987, inequality has remained fairly stable and experienced a gradual increase since 1994. ● The drop in inequality in the Netherlands is driven by two forces, the falling behind of the leading region Noord-Netherland during the period 1980-2007 and the catching up of the lagging region Zuid-Netherland. ● Zuid-Netherland's strong economic performance over the past decade, recording the fastest GDP per capita growth rate among TL2 regions (1.35%), increased its GDP per capita level from 16% below the national average in the 1980s to its current value of only 1% below national standards. Consequently it has contributed to more than one fifth (22.4%) of the overall national GDP growth during the past decade. ● In contrast, the underperformance of Noord-Netherland also contributed to a decline in inequality, albeit undesirable, by growing slower than the national average (1.01% as opposed to the national rate of 1.05%) in GDP per capita growth rates over the period 1995-2005. Consequently, it lowered its GDP per capita from 32% above the average in the 1980s to its current level of 13% below the average. ● West-Netherland has maintained its higher level of GDP per capita and even increased it from 6% above the average in 1980s to 11% in 2007. Due to its strong performance and large size, West-Netherland has contributed more than 50% (51%) of the overall national GDP growth over the past decade.
Key challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduced growth performance.
Objectives of regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stimulate economic growth in all regions.
Legal/institutional framework for regional policy ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peaks in the Delta (2004). ● Spatial Strategy Plan (2006).
Urban policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Urban Policy based on block grant and five-year contracts (2005-09).
Rural policy framework ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agenda for the Living Countryside (2004) based on block grant and seven-year contracts (2007-13). ● National Spatial Strategy (2004). ● National Rural Development Plan.
Major regional policy tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peaks in the Delta programmes. ● <i>Besluit Subsidies Regionale Investeringsprojecten</i> (BSRI).
Policy co-ordination at central level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spatial Economic Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. ● Regional Programme Commission. ● Regional Minister (the Randstad).
Multi-level governance between national and sub-national levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional Programme Commission. ● Regional Peaks Team.
Policy co-ordination at regional level (cross-sectoral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional Programme Commission. ● Regional Peaks Team.
Policy co-ordination at regional level (geographic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City region-based on joint Arrangement Act plus (WGR plus-regions). ● Municipality merger.
Evaluation and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regulation on policy implementation and evaluation.
Future orientations of regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decentralisation.

1. In all EU member countries, the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) required by Cohesion Policy is also part of the legal/institutional framework.
2. In all EU member countries, the National Strategic Plan (NSP) (and the regional Rural Development Plans [RDPs] in federalised and strongly regionalised countries) is a basic rural policy document required by EU Rural Development Programmes. Each member country has the choice of either submitting a single NSP for its entire territory or of breaking down its territory into regions and submitting a set of regional RDPs.

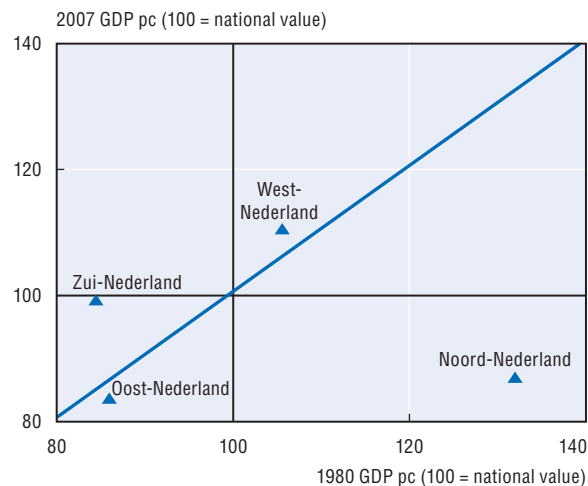
Gini index of inequality of GDP per capita across TL2 regions, 1980-2007

Netherlands (TL2)

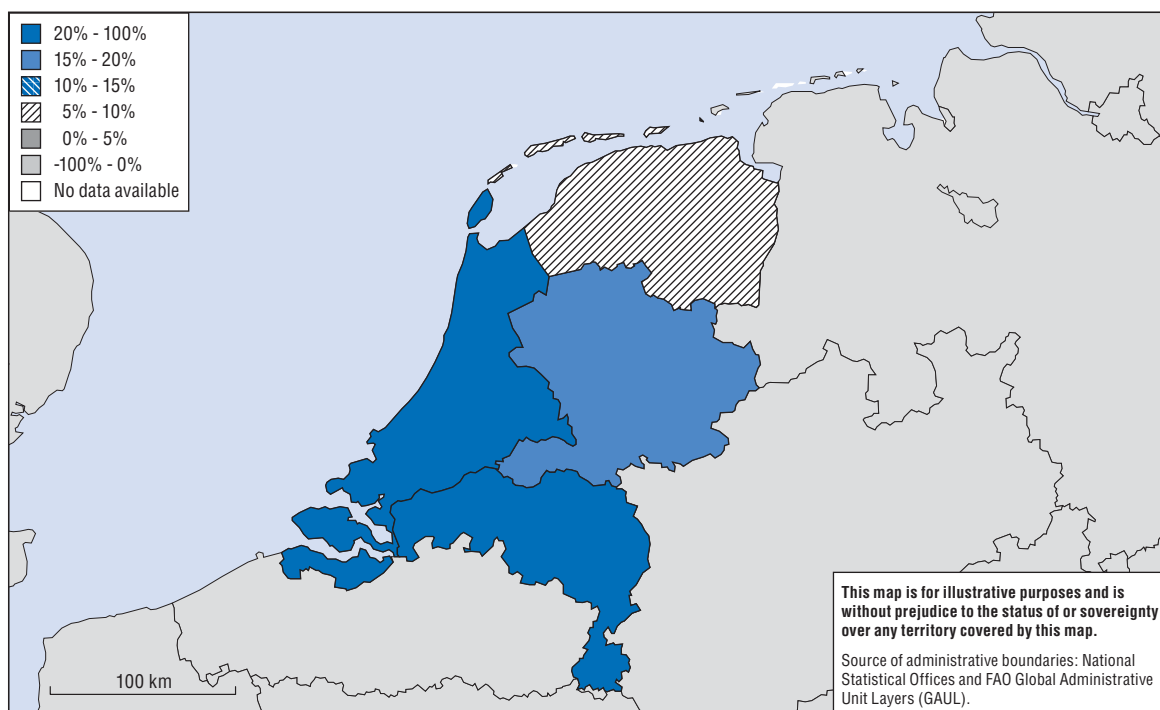


Regional performance in GDP per capita over time, 1980 and 2007

Netherlands (TL2)



Regional contribution (%) to national GDP growth, 1997-2007



Source: Calculations based on Cambridge Econometrics and OECD Regional Database (2009).

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