

Netherlands



In 2006, the number of immigrants to the Netherlands increased for the first time since 2001, reflecting growing labour migration in the context of a tightening labour market.

More than 101 000 immigrants came to the Netherlands in 2006, compared to about 92 000 in 2005. At the same time, however, emigration from the Netherlands (including both Dutch and foreign nationals) rose for the seventh year in a row, from 83 400 in 2005 to just over 91 000 in 2006. When correcting for unreported emigration, total emigration even exceeded total immigration by more than 31 000 – the largest figure for several decades.

The largest immigrant group in 2006 were the Polish (8 100), an increase from 6 500 in 2005. Immigration from the other EU25 member countries and from the United States also registered significant increases. Also noteworthy is that immigration from India sharply increased to 1 900 in 2006, more than tripling in number since 2004. At the same time, the number of immigrants coming from traditional sending countries such as Turkey and Morocco continued to decline in 2006.

The number of foreign workers coming to the Netherlands with a temporary work permit rose from about 46 000 work permits issued in 2005 to more than 74 000 in 2006. The growth was entirely attributable to labour migrants from Poland, who accounted for almost 75% of all work permits in 2006. These were mainly employed in the agriculture and horticulture sectors, which constituted 63% of all work permits issued in 2006. Labour migration was facilitated by changes in the work permit procedure that were introduced in 2006, abandoning the obligatory five week period for reporting job vacancies for specific and often temporary jobs.

Since May 2007, work permits are no longer required for labour migrants from the ten new EU countries. However, the Dutch government decided not to open the labour market for nationals from Romania and Bulgaria.

In June 2007, the Dutch government agreed to further facilitate the admission of research scientists and their families who no longer need a work permit. In addition, scientists are exempted from the requirement to apply for a provisional residence

permit once they have obtained a residence permit for conducting research in another EU country.

The number of asylum seekers increased by almost 50% between 2004 and 2006, from about 9 800 to almost 14 500. This is the largest increase in absolute numbers in the OECD and stands in contrast to the general decline observed across the OECD. However, with about 14 500 requests, the number of asylum seekers in 2006 was still three times lower than in 2000. In 2007, the Dutch parliament decided to give a “general pardon” to asylum seekers who had applied for asylum before 2001 and who were still present in the Netherlands. According to recent estimations, about 27 500 individuals will receive a residence permit in the Netherlands as a consequence of the “general pardon”. At the end of January 2008, 25 000 foreign nationals received a written notice that they were eligible for a residence permit on the basis of the regulation. Five thousand foreign nationals were refused a residence permit. The most important ground for refusal has been that the individuals involved had not lived in the Netherlands continuously.

In January 2007, a new Civic Integration Act came into effect. The new Act replaces existing legislation and regulations concerning civic integration of both newly arrived immigrants and of immigrants who have lived in the Netherlands for a prolonged period of time but still have insufficient command of the Dutch language. One fundamental change of the new Act is that civic integration is now obligatory for both new arrivals and established migrants from non-EEA countries, if the latter are aged between 18 and 65 years old and did not live in the country for at least eight years during their years of compulsory education. Non-Dutch nationals who do not meet this requirement and cannot prove sufficient command of the Dutch language are obliged to pass a civic integration test. Sanctions can be either financial (an administrative fine) or juridical (refusal of a permanent residence permit).

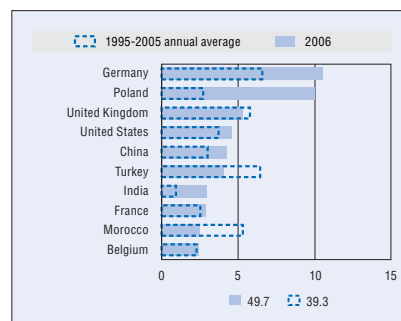
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www.ind.nl/EN/

www.cbs.nl/en-GB/default.htm

Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	4.3	5.7	3.9	4.1	5.0	4.6	67.7
Outflows	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	26.5
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution				
	2005	2006	2005	2006			
Work	4.4	3.2	7.0	5.4			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	28.1	27.7	45.0	46.6			
Humanitarian	17.9	14.4	28.7	24.3			
Free movements	12.1	14.0	19.4	23.6			
Others	-	-	-	-			
Total	62.5	59.4					
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average 2000-2006			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	6.4	10.0	9.3	8.8			
Trainees	4.8	9.9	8.7	6.6			
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	27.7	46.1	74.1	42.1			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	1.9	2.8	0.8	0.9	2.3	1.0	14.5

Inflows of top 10 nationalities
as a % of total inflows of foreigners

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	3.1	3.9	1.5	3.0	4.0	1.4	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	2.6	3.2	1.3	2.9	3.4	1.1	31 312
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	2.3	2.3	0.2	1.9	2.6	0.2	8 366
Unemployment (% of labour force)	6.8	3.0	4.9	4.1	4.9	3.9	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	5.7	8.7	3.7	3.7	7.1	5.5	
Natural increase	3.6	4.2	3.1	3.1	3.7	3.5	
Net migration	2.1	4.5	0.6	0.6	3.4	2.0	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	14 614
Foreign-born	1.4	3.8	-0.1	-0.1	2.8	0.7	1 732
National	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.4	15 664
Foreign	-4.2	2.5	-1.1	-1.4	-1.6	-0.2	682
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	9.4	7.7	4.1	4.2	9.3	4.9	29 089
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	77.0	84.0	81.6	82.2	80.3	82.9	
Foreign-born men	56.2	69.9	69.0	68.2	63.0	69.7	
Native-born women	54.9	65.6	68.5	69.2	59.7	68.1	
Foreign-born women	38.4	48.8	52.6	50.9	44.8	52.0	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	4.9	1.8	3.6	3.3	3.2	2.8	
Foreign-born men	19.6	5.4	11.9	10.4	11.9	8.6	
Native-born women	7.7	3.0	4.5	4.3	5.8	3.5	
Foreign-born women	19.5	7.6	9.6	11.0	11.6	8.4	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434406883728>