

Netherlands

Inflows to the Netherlands rose by 5% in 2010 to 154 400, the highest figure in three decades. 30% of these entries were Dutch nationals. Outflows also increased, to 91 400. Out of the emigrants, 56% were Dutch nationals. Overall net migration decreased slightly compared with 2009, with a surplus of 33 100 after correction for unreported emigration.

Immigration to the Netherlands has increased steadily since 2005. The main reason for this trend is the growth in immigration from the new EU countries which joined the European Union (EU) in 2004 and 2007. Inflows from those countries further increased by 15% in 2010, to almost 28 000, representing 18% of the total inflow of foreigners. The main origin countries of new immigrants remained Poland (14 500) and Germany (9 700). China (4 500) replaced the United Kingdom as the third most important sending country. Altogether, EU27 countries made up for more than half of the total inflows of foreign nationals (60 900).

The Netherlands received 13 300 new asylum applications in 2010, a decrease by 10% compared with 2009. Almost a quarter of new applicants in 2010 came from Somalia. Iraq and Afghanistan followed as main origin countries of asylum seekers.

In 2010, 13 600 temporary work permits (TWVs) were issued to migrants from outside the EU25, the same level as in 2009. TWVs issued to Bulgarians and Romanians decreased from 4 200 in 2009 to 3 600 in 2010. In an attempt to reduce unemployment of Dutch citizens by lowering the number of labour migrants, in 2011 the government restricted the issuance of TWV to exceptional cases.

The new coalition government formed in October 2010 has made reducing immigration and tightening integration requirements one of its policy priorities. Initiatives focused on family migrants, who in 2009 accounted for almost half of all immigrants from “non Western countries” in the Netherlands. Regulation of family migration had already been tightened in 2010, when the minimum age required for family reunification was raised from 18 to 21 for both partners in a couple, and prospective family migrants required to prove greater integration pre-requisites prior to admission to the Netherlands. After taking office, the new government proposed to further increase the minimum age for partners to 24 years and the minimum income requirement from 100% to 120% of the minimum wage. In addition, in

September 2011, the Minister for Immigration and Asylum announced new measures, including: the limitation of family reunification to the “core family” – i.e. spouses or registered partners and underage children – and the introduction of a one-year waiting period for family reunification for partners. During this period, the partner abroad is expected to strengthen his/her integration pre-requisites before entering the Netherlands. The length of continued independent stay for immigrants to be entitled to have their partner join them from abroad will be increased from three to five years.

Other measures announced include the criminalisation of illegal residence for adult immigrants, punishable by a minimum of four months imprisonment or a fine, and a lower threshold (on a so-called “sliding scale” of violations) for revocation of residence permits.

On 1 April 2011, the pass score on the Spoken Dutch component of the civic integration examination abroad was raised from A1-minus to A1, and a Reading and Comprehension Skills test was added to the examination.

Concern about possible fraud by users of the Highly Skilled Migrants Scheme, especially compliance with the minimum salary requirement, led to a ministerial investigation on the issue in 2010. The investigation found that, despite some abuse of the regulation, no structural change of the Highly Skilled Migrants Scheme was necessary. However, some amendments were adopted to limit abuse, focusing on better supervision on the payment of salaries to foreign nationals. Payment of salaries to bank accounts outside the Netherlands are restricted, and benefits such as housing and transportation no longer count in meeting the salary threshold.

The “Modern Migration Policy” bill approved by the Parliament in July 2010 is expected to enter into force by mid-2012. The core of the new policy consists in a simplification of procedures for economic migration and increased responsibility of the party requesting the migrant to come to the Netherlands (e.g. an employer or an education institution), who will be given the status of an independent sponsor.

For further information:

www.ind.nl/EN/

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

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

NETHERLANDS

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)				
					2001-05	2006-10	2010				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>											
Inflows	5.7	3.9	6.3	6.6	4.7	5.7	110.2				
Outflows	1.3	1.5	2.1	2.4	1.4	2.0	40.2				
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners						
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2009	2010	2009	2010							
Work	10.9	10.4	12.2	10.9							
Family (incl. accompanying family)	19.8	20.8	22.1	21.7							
Humanitarian	9.6	10.0	10.7	10.5							
Free movements	49.2	54.4	55.0	56.9							
Others	..	..	..	..			
Total	89.5	95.6	100.0	100.0							
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average							
<i>Thousands</i>								2006-10			
International students	10.9	10.0	10.4	10.1							
Trainees	9.9	4.5	4.5	10.9							
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..			
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..			
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..			
Other temporary workers	46.1	13.7	13.6	33.4							
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>											
	2.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	13 333				
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>											
Total	7.7	1.8	5.4	4.9	4.3	3.9	81				
Natural increase	4.2	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.6	3.0	48				
Net migration	3.4	-1.7	2.1	2.0	0.4	0.7	33				
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)				
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>											
Foreign-born population	10.1	10.6	11.1	11.2	10.6	10.9	1 869				
Foreign population	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.4	760				
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level				
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>											
	7.7	4.1	4.1	3.6	5.0	4.0	26 275				
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>											
Native-born men	84.0	81.5	83.5	81.2	83.1	82.9					
Foreign-born men	69.9	69.5	74.8	71.7	70.1	73.0					
Native-born women	65.6	68.6	73.5	71.1	67.9	71.7					
Foreign-born women	48.8	52.4	59.3	57.8	52.2	56.7					
<i>Unemployment rate</i>											
Native-born men	1.8	3.6	2.9	3.9	2.7	2.9					
Foreign-born men	5.4	10.8	7.2	8.8	7.9	7.6					
Native-born women	3.0	4.4	3.0	4.0	3.3	3.4					
Foreign-born women	7.6	10.0	6.4	8.2	7.9	7.9					
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level				
<i>Annual growth in %</i>											
Real GDP	3.9	2.0	-3.5	1.7	1.3	1.5					
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.2	1.8	-4.0	1.2	0.8	1.1	42 175				
Employment (level in thousands)	2.2	0.4	-0.6	-0.3	0.2	0.8	8 514				
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>											
Unemployment	2.9	5.1	3.7	4.4	3.9	3.8					

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616410>