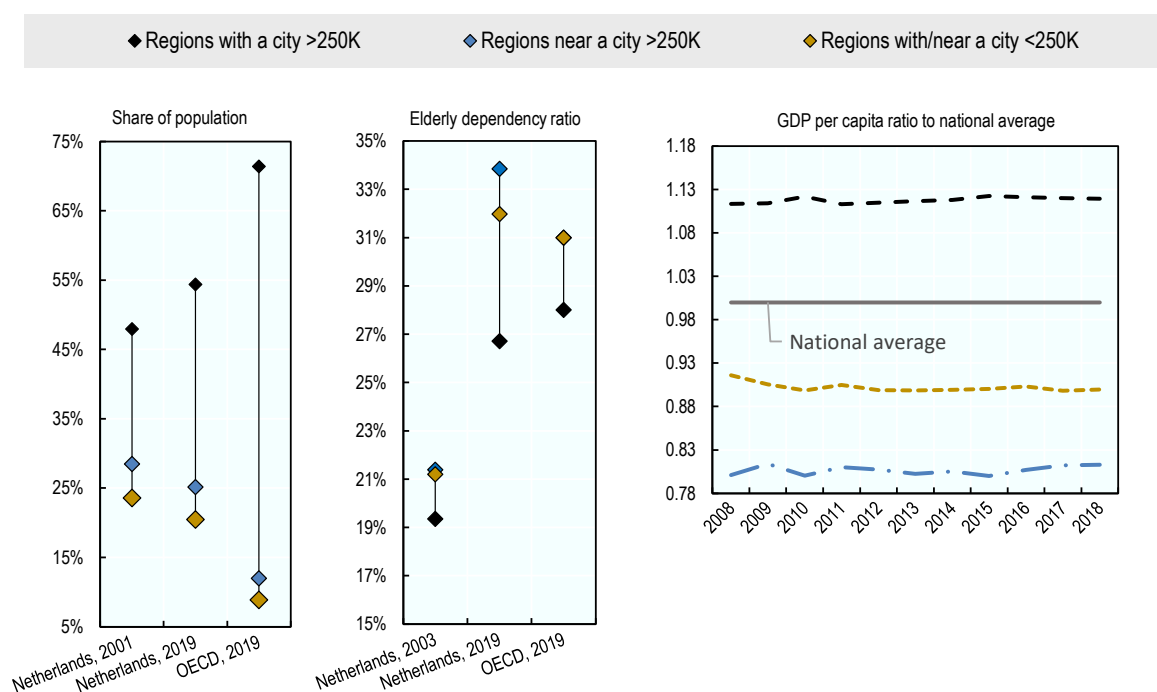


# Netherlands

## Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	Growth in employment 2008-2017 (%)	GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing share (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a	0.7 (0.7)	2.8 (0.9)	95 (92)	11 (18)	NA
Regions near a	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.5)	75 (79)	19 (26)	NA
Regions with/n	0.3 (0.2)	0.2 (0.0)	83 (71)	16 (23)	NA

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.

Source: (OECD, 2020<sup>[1]</sup>) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

## Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

### **Rural Definition**

- ❖ Rural areas, called 'platteland' in Dutch, refer to the land outside the city reserved primarily for agricultural activities. As a heavily urbanised country, the Netherlands has a limited amount of rural area according to the OECD definition. The rural definition in the Netherlands acknowledges mixed rural/urban areas and rural areas close to cities, but not remote rural areas.

### **National rural policy**

- ❖ The Netherlands has a national rural policy is defined by the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and the Rural Development Programme. The Rural Development Program (in Dutch, the Plattelands Ontwikkelings Programma, or POP) focuses on strengthening innovation, sustainability and competitiveness; young farmers; nature and landscape; improvement of water quality; and community-led local development. The current iteration, POP3, covers the years 2014-2020 and is renewed every four years.

### **Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge**

**Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level**

Ministries/Departments (most important first)	Role
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	This ministry is responsible for funding, implementation, and evaluation of the EU Common Agricultural Policy in the Netherlands. Politically responsible on a national level and accountable to the EU, 12 provinces have responsibility in the field for the implementation of the policy and effective use of instruments.
Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations	The role of this ministry is to provide funding, implementation, and evaluation of programmes focused on population decline.

**Table 2. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the sub-national level**

Institutions	Role
Provinces and municipalities	Implementation of rural policy
Regiebureau POP	Coordination of Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and 12 provinces

### **Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms**

- ❖ The Netherlands' rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in the Netherlands are dedicated grants programmes through the Common Agricultural Policy and specific instruments of POP such as LEADER, a community-led local development programme.

**Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy**

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	50%	40%
Environment	30%	30%
Social	20%	30%

*Note:* Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: “Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas”.

*Source:* OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”.

**Table 4. Relevant objectives in rural development policy**

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agricultural production	To foster competitiveness in the agricultural sector POP emphasizes innovative and sustainable investments.	Subsidies
Environmental sustainability	POP has a strong environmental angle, aiming to have 6% of agricultural land under contract to stimulate biodiversity and to improve water and soil management.	Subsidies
Quality of life for rural residents	The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has a programme focused on population decline.	Grants
Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation	POP allocates a majority of its subsidy funding for improving landscapes.	Subsidies

*Note:* Objectives presented are the selected objectives with higher scores in the survey responses. The Netherlands rated four rural development policy objectives.

*Source:* OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”.