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DUTCH SOPEMI REPORT 2021

Migration Statistics and Migration Policies in the Netherlands

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- FINAL REPORT -

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Preface

The Dutch SOPEMI-reports are yearly published on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Justice and Security. Regioplan has been asked to write these reports since 2014. The national reports are key input to the OECD work on international migration, not only to prepare the annual OECD International Migration Outlook, but also on a daily basis as a reference document.

The content of this report is largely based on the guidelines as provided by the OECD in Paris (International Migration Division). Central elements are:

- Recent developments in immigration and integration policies, as well as information on ongoing policy debates and emerging issues.
- Data for the full year 2020 and as well for 2021, to the extent possible. These statistics on migration and integration patterns are especially useful to identify emerging trends. Also breakdowns by age, gender and nationality are considered extremely useful.
- A brief summary and explanatory text, accompanying the quantitative information provided in the report (tables and charts) on migration and integration.

This report contains extensive information on policy decisions and developments. Both parliamentary documentation, annual publications from the European Migration Network on migration and asylum, and various evaluation reports have been used for this purpose. As will be explained, the Comprehensive agenda on migration of the Ministry of Justice and Security constitutes the foundation for a great variety of current migration policies. The agenda sets out the policy intentions for six different pillars, namely: (1) preventing irregular migration, (2) improving reception and protection for refugees and displaced persons in the region, (3) achieving a robust asylum system, based on solidarity in the EU and the Netherlands, (4) combating illegal residence and stepping up returns, (5) promoting legal migration routes, and (6) encouraging integration and participation. These pillars are discussed more in detail in chapter 2.

Information on migration is mostly based on population data of Statistics Netherlands (CBS). Population data in the Netherlands is based on the digitized municipal population registers. Since 1850, all Dutch municipalities are required to record and store population data on all their residents and non-residents living within the municipal boundaries. In addition to Statistics Netherlands, the following main (data) sources have been used: Eurostat Statistics; the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND); the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA); the Employee Insurance Agency (UWV); and the Dutch Education Executive Agency (DUO).

On the basis of these data sources, recent migration statistics are given for the full year 2020. The main categories to be explained are: (a) migration movement (immigration, emigration and net migration by different categories and/or permit types), (b) trends in foreign-born and foreign population stocks, and (c) main changes in labour market outcomes of immigrants and their children. Chapters 3 up to and including 8 provide for all relevant migration statistics.

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Content

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Management summary

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1 Management summary

This chapter provides a short overview of main migration statistics in the Netherlands. It also discusses the most prominent legislative and political changes in relation to migration and integration issues.

1.1 Statistics on Migration

Immigration and emigration
During the last three decades, there has been an overall increase in the number of migrants coming to the Netherlands. Especially between 2015 and 2019, the number of immigrants increased rapidly. However, between 2019 and 2020, the number of immigrants decreased drastically (-17.9%) to nearly 221,000 in 2020. Particularly immigration from outside of Europe decreased between 2019 and 2020 (-26.8%). No doubt, this drop in immigration must be attributed to the COVID-19 virus, which had a strong impact on international mobility flows. In the Netherlands, the government imposed significant migration restrictions. In addition, and as a result of strongly reduced employment opportunities, many foreign labour migrants left this country spontaneously.

In addition, between 2015 and 2019, there has been a slow increase in the number of people leaving the Netherlands. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this pattern changed between 2019 and 2020, as the number of emigrants slightly decreased (-5.2%). In 2020, around 152,500 emigrants left the Netherlands. The most important countries of destination were Belgium, Germany and Poland.

Labour-based immigration of third-country nationals
The number of applications for first residence permits from third-country labour migrants has increased between 2015 and 2019. This pattern changed between 2019 and 2020, when the number of labour migrants dropped (-34.4%) as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the highest number of applications were granted to so-called 'knowledge and talent' migrants (13,710). Most decisions on residence permits for economic immigrants were positive, although approval rates were higher for the 'knowledge and talent' category as compared to 'labour migrants' (91% and 78% respectively in 2020). In addition, most decisions on requests for work permits or for advice on admission to the labour market (as part of the procedure for a single permit) were positive in 2020. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of requested work permits and advice procedures on admission to the labour market decreased for the first time since 2015. Most important suppliers of labour immigrants in the Netherlands are China (mostly professions in the food industry) and India (mostly professions in technical/technology advising).

Immigration for reasons of asylum
After a peak in the total number of asylum requests in 2015 (45,035 requests), the number of requests decreased to over 15,000 in 2020 (excluding requests made by the family members of asylum seekers). Moreover, the highest proportion of positive decisions on asylum requests was reached in 2015 (80,4%), whereafter it decreased to 63% in 2020. Most first asylum applications in the Netherlands were made by asylum migrants from Syria, Algeria and Turkey (29.7%, 7.3% and 7.2%, respectively).

The yearly number of asylum requests from unaccompanied minor aliens (aged under 18) shows a similar pattern. There was a peak in 2015, with 3,860 minors entering the Netherlands. In the period 2015 to 2020, a decrease in the annual number of minors applying for asylum in the Netherlands became visible. In 2020, over 45% of these applications came from underage migrants from Syria.

Furthermore, the EU-Turkey Statement to end irregular migration flows resulted in a peak of 2,265 resettled refugees in 2017. In the following two years the number of resettled refugees fluctuated, but remained higher than before 2017. In 2020, the number of resettled refugees dropped to 425 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions on international travel as well as delays in the asylum procedures mainly caused these reducing numbers. In 2020, 61% of the resettled refugees originated from Syria.

Foreign students in higher education
The number of foreign students enrolled in Dutch research universities and universities of applied sciences strongly increased during the last decade. In 2020, nearly 821,000 foreign students participated in Dutch higher education, accounting for 13% of the total student population. Most foreign students originated from the EU-14 Member States (52,900), with Germany as the largest supplier of foreign students (23,7%) in the Netherlands. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of admission requests of international students significantly dropped between 2019 and 2020.

1.2 Foreign Residents in the Netherlands

The Netherlands has over 4 million residents with a migration background, representing 24% of the total population. Nearly 2.4 million immigrants originate from non-Western countries. The Turkish and Moroccan communities (both comprising a population of more than 400,000 people) are the largest migrant groups in this country. The total number of Western immigrants in the Netherlands is estimated at 1.8 million.

The proportion of first and second-generation immigrants in the Netherlands differs among various migrant groups. Most asylum migrants and people originating from Central-Eastern Europe and Asia are first-generation immigrants. Conversely, the proportion of second-generation immigrants is considerably larger among migrant groups that have lived in the Netherlands for a longer period of time, such as people originating from Indonesia and Germany.

Non-Western immigrants are largely concentrated in large cities, particularly Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht (the G4-cities), whereas Western immigrants (also including people from Central-Eastern Europe) live more scattered across a great number of larger cities in the Netherlands, as well as specific national border areas near Belgium and Germany.

Finally, the number of foreign residents who obtained Dutch citizenship sharply decreased following the introduction of the naturalisation exam in 2003, and has remained fairly stable (around 20,000) until 2018. In 2018 and 2019, the number of people obtaining Dutch citizenship increased again to approximately 34,200 persons in 2019. Most of them obtained citizenship through naturalisation (25,551) or a shortened naturalisation procedure available to some categories of migrants (8,269).

1.3 Labour Market Integration

In 2020, 70% of people with a Dutch background were in paid work, compared to 68% of second-generation migrants and 61% of first-generation migrants. Notably, the labour market participation of first-generation migrants was affected most by the COVID-19 pandemic, presumably because they were more often working in temporary and flexible employment. Within the largest immigrant groups in the Netherlands, people with a Moroccan background were least often (58.3%) in employment in 2020. In addition, the labour market position of refugees in the Netherlands continues to be very vulnerable, with low labour market participation rates (41% in 2020).

Similar differences can be seen in unemployment rates. In 2020, the unemployment rate among native Dutch was 3%, while the unemployment among first and second-generation migrants was twice as high (6.8% and 6.4%, respectively). For both the immigrant and native population unemployment rates increased between 2019 and 2020.

People with a migration background are more likely to receive social assistance benefits than people with a Dutch background. In 2020, 2% of the native Dutch population received social assistance benefits. For the largest migrant groups these percentages were much higher, with the lowest rate among Surinamese (7.8%), and the highest among Moroccans (12.6%). The gap between migrants and natives is mainly caused by the relatively high dependency on social benefits of first-generation migrants. First-

generation Moroccan migrants have a particular high dependency on social benefits: one out of five of this group (19.4%) received social benefits in 2020. In addition, high dependency rates on social assistance (42% in 2020) are visible for refugees residing in the Netherlands.

When looking at the average income, the situation is relatively unfavourable among immigrants in the Netherlands. In 2020, the native population earned on average 34,300 euros gross yearly, while second-generation migrants earned 31,700 euros and first-generation migrants earned 27,000 euros. Again, differences within the migrant population are large, with the highest salaries for Surinamese and the lowest for Moroccans and refugee groups.

1.4 Policy Measures

This section provides a brief summary of the main policy changes in 2020, including legislative changes and policy measures.

Comprehensive Agenda on Migration
In March 2018, the Dutch government launched the so-called Comprehensive Agenda on Migration, meant to integrate several policy domains in relation to migration and integration. This agenda involves that different policy areas are considered as interrelated and that it is considered crucial to work together at different levels and with all relevant actors simultaneously. Six different policy intentions are described in the agenda:

1. preventing illegal migration by tackling the root causes of migration;
2. strengthening reception and protection for refugees and displaced persons in the region;
3. the establishment of a solid Dutch and EU asylum system;
4. less illegality and more return migration through intensive case management;
5. promotion of (well-defined) legal migration to the Netherlands;
6. stimulating integration and participation of immigrants in the Netherlands.

The Dutch government takes care of the implementation of these pillars, explicitly underlining the importance of a long-term vision and the creation of broad support from Dutch society. The policy intentions are reflected in the individual policy fields, as formulated below.

Family migration
The legal possibilities for family migration to the Netherlands have remained more or less the same over the past years. Noteworthy changes are a further reduction of fees for residence permits, a relaxation of the passport requirements for migrants born in the Netherlands (when applying for a residence permit), and the establishment of new rules regarding the legal possibilities to work in the Netherlands when submitting a residence application for third-country parents of Dutch children.

The Aliens Employment Act (Wav)
In July 2021, some amendments to the Aliens Employment Act were adopted by the House of Representatives. The aim is to make Dutch labour market policies more flexible and future proof. One of the proposed measures is to introduce the possibility to issue a work permit for three years for applications with a full labour market test (instead of 1 year with the option of renewal). Other measures include proposals to strengthen the position of the employee (e.g. requirements regarding the monthly payment of salary and payment by giro). The implementation of these amendments is still pending the outcome of the discussion in the Senate.

Knowledge and talent
On 1 July 2019, the Minister for Migration announced a new residence scheme for essential staff of start-ups founded in the Netherlands. The new regulation allows innovative start-ups to hire highly skilled migrants from third countries who are essential to their growth. The start-up staff attracted via this scheme must meet a lowered salary criterion compared to the salary criterion for highly skilled migrants, in addition they have to be given a small share (a minimum of 1%) in the company. A start-up

may attract a maximum of five employees via the new scheme. The residence scheme came into force early 2021, initially in the form of a 4-year-long pilot.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, in 2020 several measures were taken in support of knowledge migrants. Employers who are temporarily unable to meet the income criterion will not be fined and there are no implications for the residence permit of the employee. Additionally, self-employed persons, even with a non-permanent right of residence, may make use of the support measures for entrepreneurs, although this is contrary to the conditions attached to their right of residence.

EU labour migrants
The outbreak of de COVID-19 crisis exacerbated the already unfavourable position of many EU workers in the Netherlands in terms of housing and dependency on their employer. A Taskforce was established to address the various problems of these migrant workers in the area of labour, housing, transport and health care. In 2020 and 2021, the government has provided a budget of 100 million euros for the housing of vulnerable groups, including labour migrants. The government focusses on regional agreements to find solutions for the adequate housing of labour migrants.

Posted workers
As of March 2020, companies who posted workers from other EU Member States and some self-employed persons from other EU Member States who perform temporary services have a duty to register at an online desk for foreign employees. This obligation stems from the Directive 2014/67/EU on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers. The purpose of this directive is to prevent exploitation of labour migrants and to guarantee minimum labour standards.

Asylum policies
As part of the Comprehensive Agenda on Migration, a new programme was announced in 2018 aimed at increasing the flexibility of the asylum system (*Programma Flexibilisering Asielketen*). Within the framework of this programme measures are being developed in five related fields:

- increasing predictability, transparency and efficiency of asylum procedures;
- reducing processing times;
- better alignment of reception capacity with fluctuations in asylum applications;
- better alignment of asylum procedures with either settlement and integration in municipalities or return in case of a failed asylum application;
- improved cooperation with civil society actors and other levels of government.

In 2020, the next phase of the programme (Execution agenda flexibilisation asylum chain) started. Local, provincial and national government are to work together to create flexible forms of reception of asylum seekers and improved support and guidance of asylum seekers toward either integration or return. Provincial governments are to coordinate regional action plans to meet the new requirements for the reception of asylum seekers based on current estimations of the needed reception capacity. It is anticipated that the transition to the new system can take several years and that the timeline of implementation will differ regionally.

In July 2020, the Temporary Penalty Payments Suspension Act (*Tijdelijke wet opschorting dwangsommen IND*) was adopted by the Dutch Parliament. With this act the obligation for the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) to pay a penalty to asylum applicants once the legal timeframe for processing the application has exceeded, is (temporarily) suspended. In January 2020, approximately 8,900 cases in the general asylum procedure had exceeded the legal timeframe, culminating in an expected 30 to 40 million euros on penalty payments, in 2020.

Return of undocumented migrants
The Netherlands provides various repatriation support measures to support the return of undocumented migrants. To prevent abuse of these support measures, the Dutch government closely monitors the development of the number of asylum requests and the requests for repatriation support.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the departure process of third-country nationals who were obliged to depart. In the first months after the outbreak return counselling was halted for almost all groups. In 2020, only some small amendments to existing legislation regarding return policies were implemented. To bring Dutch regulations more in line with other EU Member States, the minimum period in which the DT&V has to announce the departure was shortened from 48 hours to 36 hours.

Measures favouring the arrival and long-term stay of study migrants
To attract international students, the maximum decision-making time for students' residence permit applications has been reduced from 90 to 60 days on 1 January 2017. In addition, other policy measures have been implemented to further attract the arrival of foreign students. These measures include a relaxation of the salary criterion to work as a highly skilled migrant in the Netherlands for those who will find a job in this country from abroad within three years after graduating in the Netherlands. Other measures include more possibilities for students from third countries to work parallel to their studies (2018), and increased possibilities to stay in the Netherlands to look for work after having successfully completed a study in this country (2018). In 2019, a joint Task Force was formed for the screening of students in sensitive study programmes.

Determination of statelessness
In 2020, after several years of discussion, a bill was submitted to the House of Representatives improving the procedure to determine statelessness for children and adults. Formal determination as 'stateless' can give access to a residence permit as a stateless person. The bill is still under discussion in the House of Representatives.

Civic integration policies
On 2 July 2018, the Minister of Social Affairs announced a new civic integration system. The Minister explained that, under the current system, too many newcomers remain dependent on social assistance benefits for too long. Briefly put, the current civic integration system is considered as too complex and ineffective. New measures, already referred to in the coalition agreement of 10 October 2017, imply a drastic change in civic integration policy, and include the following basic principles:

- Municipalities will purchase the civic integration courses themselves. In so doing, municipalities will be able to monitor the quality of the language courses.
- Every newcomer will receive a personal integration plan. This customised plan will be drafted by the municipality in consultation with the candidate.
- The loan system will be ceased. The government will provide municipalities with the needed funding to buy in language courses for immigrants.
- Upon arrival, immigrants are expected to seek employment. Municipalities are expected to encourage employers to create job opportunities for recognised refugees.
- Newcomers will receive part of social welfare assistance in kind within the first two years.
- Civic integration will be tested at various exam levels. The standard language requirement will be raised from level A2 to level B1.

The House of Representatives passed the law for a new integration system on 2 July 2020. The new Civic Integration Act will enter into force on 1 January 2022.

Policies to combat discrimination
In 2018, the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment implemented an integral anti-discrimination approach by combining different action plans. In addition, the duration of the Action Plan Labour Market Discrimination (*Actieplan Arbeidsmarktdiscriminatie*) has been extended to the period 2018-2021. The latter plan consists of three pillars: 1) increased monitoring and enforcement, 2) research and development of instruments to tackle labour market discrimination, and 3) creating knowledge and awareness. Also a National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism (NCDR) has been appointed on 15 October 2021. The NCDR will be established for three years, with the main task of drawing up a multi-year national programme with clear targets and full attention to signals from society.

1.5 COVID-19: statistics and policy measures

Statistics

- Research on the impact of COVID-19 shows an increase of 51% in unemployment benefit reception of persons with a non-Western migration background in the first half of 2020. For persons without a migration background, this increase was 23%. This increase is specifically notable in the age category 35-45 years. Recognised refugees are also believed to have been hit hard by the crisis, especially as many of them have flexible employment contracts.
- Data from Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reveal that the relative excess mortality as a result of COVID-19 is 10% higher among people with a migration background.
- Higher education students with a non-Western background are a vulnerable group when it comes to study success: they are less likely to successfully complete the programme because they are less prepared for a situation where distance education is offered.
- During the first months of 2020 a sharp reduction was visible in the number of applications from foreign students to study in the Netherlands after the summer of 2020. Decreasing numbers of admissions request are attributed to travel restrictions and an increasing usage of online education.
- The number of international students who changed their residence permit in order to stay and work in the Netherlands after completing their study slightly decreased between 2019 and 2020. This outcome is probably related to increased uncertainties of free travel and decreased job vacancies.

Specific measures being taken during the COVID-19 pandemic

- From March 2020, the asylum procedure was suspended for several months. Also social distancing measures were taken in the asylum seekers' centres. Guidance and contact in asylum seekers' centres have been limited.
- During the months of severe social distancing measures, civic integration courses were offered via e-learning. Moreover, it was decided to extend the integration period for those required to participate in the integration process. In the beginning, this concerned generic extensions for all those subject to an integration obligation. Since January 2021, when there were more opportunities to take physical classes, the extension has been limited to those who need less than half a year to complete their integration courses.
- Employers employing highly skilled migrants will not be fined by the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment if they are temporarily unable to meet the salary criterion for highly skilled migrants. Also the withdrawal of residence permits as a consequence of not meeting the income criterium, is temporarily suspended.
- With regard to international students, a measure was taken that if a student would suffer a study delay due to the COVID-19 virus, this would have no consequences for their residence permit (e.g. the virus is deemed an 'excusable reason' for insufficient study progress). Also, specific measures were introduced to register for a study programme with an online language test or to use this test for the application of visa documents.

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Policy Measures

2

2 Policy Measures

This chapter focuses on the current migration and integration policies in the Netherlands. Attention is paid to the immigration regime for different migrant categories, including family migrants, labour migrants and asylum migrants. In addition, the most prominent legal changes in social integration and anti-discrimination policies will be discussed. Obviously, a great deal of measures in the area of migration are subject to European legislation. The most important legislative developments in the EU on regular and irregular immigration are summarized in this chapter in a separate framework (see Box 2.1).

2.1 Comprehensive Agenda on Migration

In March 2018 the Dutch government launched the so-called Comprehensive Agenda on Migration, meant to integrate several policy domains in relation to migration and integration.[1] This agenda involves that (1) different policy areas are considered as interrelated, (2) it is considered important to take action at all points of the migration chain, and (3) it is considered crucial to work together at different levels and with all relevant actors simultaneously. Six different policy intentions are described in the agenda:

1. Preventing illegal migration by tackling the root causes of migration in the countries of origin and by international cooperation to combat human trafficking, strengthen border control and promote return migration;
2. Strengthening reception and protection for refugees and displaced persons in the region by providing emergency assistance and setting up resettlement programs, investments in education and employment in the region, and by special attention to the most vulnerable groups;
3. The establishment of a solid Dutch and EU asylum system, with specific regard to ensuring equal protection levels within the EU, by discouraging secondary migration movements and by a solidarity-based asylum policy, in which Member States support each other in times of increased asylum inflows;
4. Less illegality and more return migration through intensive case management aimed at individual migrants and through the introduction of positive and negative incentives to encourage countries of origin to take back their own subjects;
5. Promotion of legal migration by providing information about existing possibilities for labour migration, internships by foreign students, scholarships and circular labour migration;
6. Stimulating integration and participation, by allowing integration efforts to take place as early as possible, by changing the civic integration policy and by paying even more attention to preschool and early childhood education.

The Dutch government will take care of the implementation of these pillars, explicitly underlining the importance of a long-term vision and the creation of broad support from Dutch society.

2.2 The need for visa and residence permits

Foreign nationals wanting to stay in the Netherlands for no more than three months must be in possession of a valid passport. In case these foreigners originate from outside the EU, they also need a visa – a Schengen visa – in order to travel to the Netherlands. This visa must be lodged at the Dutch embassy or the Dutch consulate in the country of origin. Nowadays, a total number of 62 countries – most of which are part of the American continent or are among the more developed countries in the world – are exempted from the visa requirements.[2]

Foreigners wanting to stay in the Netherlands for longer than three months also need a provisional residence permit (*Machtiging tot voorlopig verblijf, MVV*). This document must be lodged at a Dutch diplomatic post in the country of origin or current residence. Foreigners with the nationality of an EU/EEA country, Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Vatican City, the US, South Korea or Switzerland are exempt from this residence permit.

[1] Parliamentary Papers II 2017/18, 29362, no. 266. Integrale migratieagenda.
[2] https://schengenvisum.info/wat-is-schengenvisum/schengenlanden/lijst-niet-visumplichtige-nationaliteiten/

Amendments of the Community Code on Visas
On 2 February 2020, an amendment of the Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) took effect. For the Dutch application of the Visa Code, the following changes are notable to facilitate legitimate travel on a short-stay visa:

- In the Netherlands, repeated regular travel to the Schengen area may qualify a person for a multiple-entry visa (MEV) with a longer period of validity. They must, however, meet a number of conditions.
- In countries where the Netherlands uses the services of a Visa Application Centre of an External Service Provider (ESP), such as VFS Global or TLS Contact, applicants must submit their visa application at the ESP.

Also, the fees for (Dutch) Caribbean short-stay visas have been increased from € 35 to € 80 for adults and from €35 to €40 for children aged 6-12. The new prices are in line with the amendments of the application fees for Schengen visa in the Visa Code, effective as of 2 February 2020.

Increased funds requirement for visa
On 1 April 2020, the reference amount used by the Netherlands to determine whether a traveler has sufficient funds when applying for a visa, changed from € 34 to € 55 per person per day. The aim is to ensure that travelers are able to support themselves financially during their stay. The amount of € 55 was established by applying a national indexation over the years after 1998. The reference amount is a set financial standard that border authorities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must take into account when granting entry or issuing visas to third-country nationals. However, this amount may be deviated from, depending on the (personal) circumstances, the duration of the intended stay, the travel purpose, and possible accommodation with family members or friends.

2.3 Preparing residence rights of UK nationals after Brexit[3]

The withdrawal agreement of the UK leaving the EU provided for a transition period from 1 February 2020 up to and including 31 December 2020. Therefore, the situation for UK nationals (and their third-country family members) living in the Netherlands did not change in 2020. Nevertheless, developments took place to prepare the residence rights for UK nationals and their third-country family members after the end of the transition period:

- In January, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) announced it would send out invitations to UK nationals during the transition period to apply for residency under the Withdrawal Agreement. Upon receiving an invitation, UK nationals were asked to apply for a residence permit within 4 weeks to enable the IND to process all applications in time. In 2020, around 34,790 applications were filed by UK-nationals for these residence documents. In total 32,920 applications were decided on up until the end of 2020.
- Under the Withdrawal Agreement, UK nationals and their family members who were legally resident in the Netherlands before 1 January 2021 could submit an application for a residence document until 30 June 2021. They may be eligible for a temporary residence document (5 years validity) or a permanent residence permit (10 years validity), depending on their period of residence in the Netherlands.
- UK nationals with a permanent EU residence document were invited to exchange it for a replacement residence document.
- In August, an additional IND desk was opened exclusively for UK nationals and their family members to have their biometrics taken, needed for the application for residency.

Also, an amendment was made regarding UK nationals and their family members who had lost their right to permanent residence in the Netherlands under Directive 2004/38/EC due to an absence of more than two consecutive years. The duration of two year absence was set out in the Directive. Derived from the Withdrawal Agreement, they are now eligible for permanent residence status, if their absence did not last longer than five consecutive years. This is in line with the interpretation of the Withdrawal

[3] The information is taken from the publication Migration and Asylum in The Netherlands, annual Report 2020. The Hague, EMN Netherlands.

Agreement by the European Commission and the UK Government. This amendment was made in the Immigration Act Implementation Guidelines (*Vreemdelingencirculaire*, B13).[4]

British frontier workers document
Due to Brexit, British frontier workers (cross-border commuter) working in the Netherlands need a frontier worker's document to continue their activities from 1 January 2021 onwards. The objective of this new policy is to facilitate the continuation of frontier work of UK nationals after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. With a frontier worker's document, UK nationals will be able to easily travel into and out of the Netherlands.

2.4 Family Formation and Reunification

The possibilities to migrate to the Netherlands are described in the Aliens Act of 2000 (*Vreemdelingenwet 2000*). Notable conditions which apply to both the potential migrant and his or her partner in the Netherlands are related to age, means of support, civic integration requirements, and the nature of the relationship between the partners. More specifically: [5]

- The partner or sponsor in the Netherlands must have had sufficient long-term means of support for at least 12 months.
- Both partners are aged 21 or older.
- The migrant has passed the Civic Integration Examination Abroad or is exempt from this examination (see also section 2.3.1).
- The partners must have a long-term and exclusive relationship.

Those who are in the Netherlands as an exchange youngster, an au pair or for reasons of temporary work cannot apply for a residence permit for a family member or relative.

2.4.1 Requirements with respect to civic integration and language proficiency

Foreigners wanting to live permanently in the Netherlands must have a basic knowledge of the Dutch language and Dutch society prior to their arrival. For both elements, foreigners must pass a civic integration exam abroad. The exam must be taken by everyone aged between 18 and retirement age wishing to come to this country for an extended period of time. This mainly includes people who want to (re-)unite with a partner in the Netherlands. Also migrants wanting to work in the Netherlands as a cleric (e.g. imam or pastor) are subject to the civic integration programme abroad.

The exam is held at the Dutch embassy or consulate in the migrant's country of origin or at the nearest Dutch embassy or consulate abroad. Migrants coming to the Netherlands can only apply for a visa (a so-called *MVV*) after they have passed the civic integration exam. If a migrant fails to pass the exam abroad, their visa application may be rejected. The *MVV* should be lodged at the embassy or consulate after taking the exam.

The following groups of people are exempt from the civic integration exam abroad:
(1) children aged under 18 and adults who have reached their retirement age;
(2) nationals of an EU or EEA country, or one of the following countries: Switzerland, Monaco, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Vatican City, the US and South Korea;
(3) Turkish nationals and their partners;[6]
(4) Surinamese nationals who have received at least their primary education in Dutch and have written proof of this;

[4] https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0012289/2021-07-01#Circulaire.divisieB13
[5] The costs for families and single parents are expressed in percentages of the Dutch statutory minimum wage. For families the income requirements correspond to 100% of the statutory minimum wage, while for single parents this is 90% of the statutory minimum wage. For the requirements, see: https://ind.nl/Formulieren/3076.pdf.
[6] The current government has announced to investigate the possibilities to require Turkish newcomers to pass a civic integration exam in the future. See: Letter of the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment to the Parliament of 25 June 2019 'Stand van zaken Veranderopgave Inburgering'.

(5) people who come to the Netherlands for a limited period, for work, study, employment as an au pair, on an exchange scheme or for medical treatment (their family members are also exempt);
(6) family members of a person with an asylum residence permit.

People with a serious physical or mental disability are also exempt from the civic integration exam.

The Civic Integration Abroad Act (*Wet inburgering buitenland, Wib*) came into force in 2006. Over time, two measures were subsequently introduced aimed at further tightening the civic integration requirements:

- Firstly, the level of the language test was raised from level A1 minus to level A1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Secondly, a literacy and reading comprehension test (Dutch: *Test Geletterdheid en Begrijpend Lezen*) was added to the requirements as part of the examination.

Both measures commenced on 1 April 2011. As a result, family migrants entering the Netherlands are expected to be better prepared and to be sufficiently aware of the demands they are expected to meet prior to their arrival.

2.4.2 Modern migration policy

An important achievement within the framework of international migration has been the introduction of the Modern Migration Policy Act (*Wet modern migratiebeleid, MoMi*) in 2013. Modern migration policy particularly relates to modernising the processes regarding applications for residence permits and the admission procedures for migrants coming to the Netherlands for regular purposes of stay, such as labour, study and family reunification. From 1 June 2013, sponsors and foreign nationals may use the Entry and Residence Procedure (*Toegang en verblijf, TEV*). A more detailed explanation of Dutch Modern migration policy can be found in the Dutch SOPEMI-report, edition 2017.

The Modern Migration Policy Act was evaluated in June 2019.[7] The following findings are the most relevant:

- The first distinctive change resulting from the Modern Migration Policy Act was the creation of a fast and simple procedure for all regular migrants. Combining the Regular Provisional Residence Permit procedure (*MVV*) with that of the residence permit is one of the most important elements of this simplification. This Entry and Residence procedure (*TEV*) generally receives a positive to highly positive evaluation from all respondents from both the IND and the sponsors and lawyers.
- The speed of the procedure is related to the target term and statutory decision period for dealing with an application. Quantitative data shows that for purposes of residence for which the application can only be submitted by an authorised sponsor, this target term is almost always achieved. Applications for which the purpose of residence is study are processed fastest on average. The experiences of sponsors and lawyers are positive in relation to the speed of the procedure.
- Practically all applications that were submitted by authorised sponsors are granted. Highly skilled work, research and study are qualified by the legislature as forms of migration that the Netherlands requires. In particular the figures on the level of migrants coming with highly skilled work and study as the purpose of residence, showed an increase throughout the period studied.
- Based on the experiences of the IND, it can be concluded that in relation to recognition for the work and research category, many companies and institutions who have been authorised as sponsors, do not make use of this status to submit residence applications.
- The sponsor system works well in the case of large companies. This applies to both the recognition procedure and to the obligations that companies have as sponsors. In the case of small and start-up companies, the procedure to become authorised can be difficult. In the case of small employers or employers with a small number of migrants in employment, the interviewed lawyers doubt whether the employer is well-informed about its obligations as a sponsor.

2.4.3 Recent policies in family migration

During the past years several legal changes were implemented. These changes particularly relate to the right of residence given to a third-country parents of Dutch children, legal residence of minor children

[7] Lodder, G. (2019). *Selectief naast restrictief. Evaluatie van de Wet modern migratiebeleid*. Leiden, Instituut voor Immigratierecht.

with grandparents residing in the Netherlands, cohabitation requirements in the country of origin, and changes in the legal position of adult children to qualify for a residence permit in the Netherlands. These changes were reported in the annual report of 2018 and 2019. This section describes a few changes in Dutch family migration policies implemented last year.[8]

Time of applying for a residence permit (or its renewal) changed
Since 1 January 2018, changes have been implemented in relation to the time of submission of a request to validate a residence permit or to apply for a residence permit for an indefinite period of time. The new terms indicate that applications may be filed no more than three months before the date on which the current residence permit expires.[9]

Fees for residence permits have increased slightly (compared to 2020)
Since 1 January 2021, fees for the application for a residence permits are:[10]

- for a residence permit in order to stay with a family member (incl. partner): € 192;
- for a residence permit as a family member of a long-term resident: € 192;
- for a residence permit in order to stay with a Turkish family member (EC-Turkey Agreement): € 69;
- for a residence permit to work as an employee or knowledge worker: € 320;
- for a residence permit for study: € 192.

New working method for applications because of the abolished notification procedure
The notification procedure was abolished in 2018. The notification procedure entailed that a third-country national first had to present all information relevant to the application before filing the application. The Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State (*Afdeling bestuursrechtspraak van de Raad van State, AbRvS*) ruled, however, that there was insufficient legal basis for this procedure.[11] As a result of this ruling, a new working method was introduced and the notification procedure was abolished.[12]

Impact of 2017 Chavez-Vilchez ruling in relation to the rights of residence of a TCN with a EU-minor[13]
On the basis of the Chavez-Vilchez ruling a right of residence should be granted to a TCN parent of a minor with the nationality of an EU Member State when the relationship between the child and TCN parent is of such strong dependency, that in case this parent is denied residence the child would be obliged to leave the EU. It is not considered sufficient when the other parent with the nationality of an EU Member State is capable and willing to take care of the child. As a result of the Chavez-Vilchez ruling, Dutch policy was amended. Prior to this ruling, in the case that a Dutch parent was capable and willing to take care of the child, this was sufficient for the right of residence of the TCN parent to be denied.

Rules on work on submission of a residence permit application for third-country carer parents of Dutch children (Court of Justice of the European Union, Chavez-Vilchez)
If a third-country parent of a Dutch child has submitted an application for a residence permit under EU law, while awaiting the handling of the application, this parent may work if a positive outcome of the application is likely. On 1 July 2019, more detailed rules were laid down in the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines (Vc) to assess this.[14] A positive outcome is likely if the applicant has submitted enough documents to substantiate the application.

[8] The explanation of new policy measures is largely based on *Jaaroverzicht (2017, 2018 and 2019) Migratie en asiel in Nederland*. European Migration Network. The Hague.
[9] https://ind.nl/nieuws/Paginas/Tijdstip-van-indienen-wijzigt-voor-verlengen-verblijfsvergunning-en-aanvraag-verblijfsvergunning-onbepaalde-tijd.aspx.
[10] For a complete overview of all fees per residence permit or visa: https://ind.nl/nieuws/Paginas/Nieuwe-legesbedragen-per-1-januari-2021.aspx
[11] Parliamentary Papers II, 2017-2018, 19637, no. 2328.
[12] Staatscourant, 23th of July 2018, no. 42459.
[13] OPEN Summary of EMN Ad-Hoc Query No. 2018.1326. Impact of 2017 Chavez-Vilchez ruling 31 May 2019.
[14] Staatscourant, 28th of June 2019, no. 34157.

No rejection on the basis of the passport requirement for children born in the Netherlands
On 28 June 2019, the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines (Vc) were amended with respect to the passport requirement for third-country children born in the Netherlands. In these cases, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) does not reject a residence permit application for 'residence as a relative or family member' in case of the absence of a valid border-crossing document, provided that the third-country national meets all other conditions for the residence permit. The reason for this is that when the births of children born in the Netherlands are reported, a birth certificate is drawn up. The birth certificate contains the child's personal data and the parents' names. If the child's mother resides legally in the Netherlands on the day of the birth, the child is registered in the Personal Records Database (BRP) as a resident. This ensures that the identity of the child and his/her descent have been established in the BRP. Therefore, in these cases, asking for a valid document for border crossing has no added value.

2.4.4 Measures against marriages of convenience and forced marriages

With regard to combating forced marriages and marriages of convenience, the current government continues to follow the policy that was already been implemented before. Already in 2013, the Dutch government developed an action plan against forced marriages. This plan was based on a sequential approach, including prevention, detection, damage reduction and sanctioning. (see also the Dutch national SOPEMI-report 2014 and 2015).[15]

In addition, the Law on the prevention of forced marriages (*Wet tegengaan huwelijksdwang*) came into force on 5 December 2015. With this law, marriage can only take place between partners aged 18 years or older. Moreover, the Dutch government only acknowledges foreign marriages as valid if both partners are aged 18 years or older.

Subsequently, the government launched an initiative under the title Self-determination Action Plan (*Actieplan zelfbeschikking*) in January 2015.[16] In essence, this plan was meant to promote personal freedom of choice, e.g. by means of the social media, campaigns and dialogues with the immigrant community. This action plan was evaluated in 2017, with the most important conclusion being that the plan indeed has contributed to greater individual awareness for the possibilities of making choices in life.[17]

Nonetheless, on November 19, 2018 a motion was tabled by a member of the House of Representatives. In this motion, the government is asked to come up with a broad Action Plan for Self-determination 2.0. Although this plan was supported by the House of Representatives, the minister of Social Affairs considered the suggestions to be already part of existing policies. This led to another, more detailed, proposal from the Dutch Parliament in 2019, including five courses of action:

- supporting people to live a free live;
- changing attitudes within communities;
- not tolerating intolerance;
- supporting supporters (i.e. police, care providers);
- punishing offenders.

In 2020, the Minister of Social Affairs responded that most of these courses of action are already in place. However, additional funding was made available for several organisations that aim to reduce suppression and promote self-determination.[18]

[15] *Aanpak huwelijksdwang en achterlating*. Policy document of 6 June 2013 informing the Dutch House of Representatives about planned measures to combat forced marriages and the phenomenon of abandonment.
[16] Policy document *Actieplan Zelfbeschikking 2015 – 2017*, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment. The Hague, 5 January 2015. Ref. number: 2014-0000189979.
[17] Panteia/Bureauomlo (2017). Evaluatie Actieplan Zelfbeschikking. Een Tussenmeting.
[18] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2020/06/16/kamerbrief-reactie-op-initiatiefnota-in-nederland-beslis-je-over-je-eigen-leven

2.4.5 Measures in relation to face-covering clothing

With the Coalition Agreement of 2012, the Dutch government put measures relating to face-covering clothing on the agenda. So far, two specific measures have been introduced:

- Firstly, in 2014 additional requirements were introduced for those depending on social welfare and who are required to seek employment.[19] More specifically, people are prohibited from wearing clothes that could reduce job opportunities. Failure to meet this requirement may lead to the suspension of receiving social benefits for a period of three months.
- Secondly, a partial prohibition on wearing face-covering clothing such as the burqa came into effect on 1 August 2019. The government views that face-covering clothing can jeopardise the quality of communication and safety across various domains of public space. The prohibition applies to the spheres of education, public transport, hospitals and government buildings. The proposal to partly prohibit face-covering clothes was already adopted by the House of Representatives in 2016. The Senate adopted the proposal on 26 June 2018.

2.5 Labour/Economic Migration Policies

The core of the Dutch policy on labour/economic migration is selectivity. Policies for migrants for whom there is an economic need (the 'highly skilled and talent' category) are inviting while policies for other categories of labour migrants are restrictive. The legal framework for labour/economic migration is the 2013 Modern Migration Policy Act (*MoMi*) and the Aliens Employment Act (*Wet arbeid vreemdelingen, Wav*).

2.5.1 The Aliens Employment Act

An employer wanting to employ a non-EU/EEA-national must apply for a work permit (*Tewerkstellingsvergunning, TWV*) at the Public Employment Service (*UWV WERKbedrijf*). This permit will only be granted when there are no Dutch or EU/EEA jobseekers, the so-called prioritised labour supply, available for the job. Other conditions for obtaining a work permit are that the wages are in accordance with the applicable collective labour agreements. The aim of the Aliens Employment Act (*Wav*) is thus to prevent displacement of local (or EU/EEA) labour supply by non-EU/EEA workers.

In accordance with Directive 2011/98/EU, measures were implemented to facilitate the application process for a work permit. As of 1 April 2014, non-EU/EEA workers coming to the Netherlands to work for a period longer than three months must apply for a single permit (combined residence and work permit)[20] at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, IND*). Other non-EU/EEA workers wanting to stay for a shorter period of time, the employer still has to apply for a work permit at the Public Employment Service.

On the first of January 2022, a bill which changes the Alien Employment Act came into effect. One of the measures is introducing the main rule that a single work permit is issued for the duration of maximum 3 years. Other measures include proposals to strengthen the position of the employee (e.g. requirements regarding the monthly payment of salary and payment by giro).

2.5.2 Highly qualified workers

The Netherlands has various schemes aimed at attracting highly qualified workers who are expected to make a positive contribution to the Dutch economy. The various schemes (Highly Skilled Migrant Scheme (*Regeling Kennismigranten*), the EU Blue Card and measures aimed at foreign graduates) were discussed in the previous SOPEMI-reports. Wage criteria are used in the various schemes to define highly skilled labour. Table 2.1 provides updated wage criteria used in the various schemes.

[19] These additional requirements are part of the *Maatregelen WWB*, introduced in July, 2014.
[20] Dutch: *GVVA (Gecombineerde vergunning voor verblijf en arbeid).*

Table 2.1 Wage criteria as of 1 January 2021 (in gross monthly wages)

	Excl. 8% holiday allowance
Highly Skilled Migrant Scheme: knowledge workers >= 30 years	€ 4,752
Highly Skilled Migrant Scheme: knowledge workers < 30 years	€ 3,484
'Foreign graduates'	€ 2,497
EU Blue Card	€ 5,567

Source: https://ind.nl/Paginas/normbedragen-inkomenseis.aspx, visited on 26 August 2021.

Knowledge migrants and Covid-19

Knowledge migrants must meet monthly income requirements. If the employee's salary falls below the required amount this would have an impact on the employee's residence permit. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the government introduced a temporary emergency measure to support employment (NOW, *Tijdelijke noodmaatregel overbrugging werkgelegenheid*). NOW-support enables employers to continue paying the salaries. An additional step to continue to motivate knowledge migrants in the COVID-19 crisis is that self-employed persons, even with a non-permanent right of residence, may make use of the support measures for entrepreneurs, although this is contrary to the conditions attached to their right of residence (De Lange & Avontuur 2020). Their right of residence will not be jeopardised by their reliance on public funds.

Residence scheme for essential staff of start-ups

On 1 July 2019, the Minister for Migration announced a new residence scheme for essential staff of start-ups who are essential to further scale up the business. This scheme will be introduced to make it easier for young innovative companies (start-ups) to hire essential foreign staff members. The new regulation allows innovative start-ups to hire highly skilled migrants from third countries who are essential to their growth. Start ups often cannot make use of the existing scheme for highly skilled migrants due to the high salary criterion. Both Dutch and foreign start-ups that set up businesses in the Netherlands can use the scheme. The start-up staff attracted via this scheme must meet a lowered salary criterion compared to the salary criterion for highly skilled migrants, in combination with a small share in the company. The financial capacity of the company must show, amongst other conditions, that the start-up is not yet able to pay highly skilled migrants' salaries. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) will use an assessment framework to assess the starting and innovative nature of all start-ups that want to use the new scheme. A start-up may attract a maximum of five employees via the new scheme. The residence scheme (a pilot with a duration of 4 years) came into force on 1 June 2021.[21]

2.5.3 Working holiday programme[22]

Young people from non-EU/EEA countries aged 18 to 30 can participate in the Working Holiday Programme (WHP) or Working Holiday Scheme (WHS). Currently, the Netherlands has a WHP/WHS agreement with nine countries Argentina, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, Uruguay and Japan. Taiwan, Uruguay and Japan joined the programme in 2020. Young people aged 18 to 30 from these countries can reside in the Netherlands temporarily under certain conditions in the context of the cultural exchange programme. The main purpose and the basis of a WHP/WHS is to become acquainted with Dutch culture and society. This basis is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two partner countries. The partner country also admits Dutch young people to their country on the same basis. The participating young person may not do any work that is contrary to the main purpose of the WHP/WHS. The applicant may therefore only work occasionally to support the holiday financially.

2.5.4 Foreign investors and entrepreneurs

To enhance competitiveness in the Dutch economy, measures have been implemented to stimulate immigration of foreign investors and entrepreneurs who are expected to positively contribute to the Dutch economy and society.

[21] Parliamentary Papers Essential start-up personnel pilot ('pilot voor essentieel personeel van startups'). Ref. 2021-0000084499, 31 May, 2021.
[22] This section is largely based on EMN (2020) Annual report 2019 Migration and asylum in the Netherlands.

Foreign investors
In October 2013 an admission scheme for foreign investors was introduced in the Netherlands. Under this scheme foreign investors who invest a minimum of € 1.25 million in a Dutch company or Dutch investment fund can obtain a temporary residence permit for a period of three years (*Regeling voor Buitenlandse Investeerders*). Applications are assessed on the basis of a point system.

It was expected that approximately 500 foreign investors per year would apply for a residence permit. However, between 2013 and 2019, the Netherlands received fewer than twenty applications of which fewer than ten were approved.[23] The government has decided to abolish the regulation as very limited use is made of this rule.[24] An amendment in the Aliens Act is necessary for the abolishment of this regulation, which is expected to become active in the second half of 2021.

Foreign entrepreneurs: start-up visa
In order to facilitate the establishment of innovative foreign entrepreneurs in the Netherlands, the so-called start-up visa (*Regeling voor Startende Ondernemers*) was introduced on 1 January 2015. The Dutch start-up visa makes it possible for ambitious entrepreneurs to apply for a temporary residence permit for the Netherlands. The scheme allows these entrepreneurs to launch an innovative business within a one-year period. Their spouse and children can join the permit holder in the Netherlands. A prerequisite for obtaining a visa is that this start-up must be guided by an experienced mentor (facilitator) who is based in the Netherlands. After one year, successful start-ups have to apply for a residence permit as an independent entrepreneur. No significant changes were made in 2020 in the existing regulations for foreign start-ups.

2.5.5 EU labour migrants

Taskforce protection of labour migrants
In May 2020, the minister of Social Affairs and Employment informed the Dutch Parliament on the current situation surrounding EU-labour migrants in relation to the coronavirus. The letter states that existing problems related to labour migrants, such as housing shortages and their dependency on their employer, are even more serious because of COVID-19. A large part of the labour migrants are in a position of dependence on their employer or the temporary employment agency. Income, housing, transport, health insurance and other matters are arranged through them. As for housing, it appeared to be difficult to follow the RIVM guidelines (such as keeping 1.5 meter distance and self-isolation in case of COVID-19 related symptoms) in situations where many migrant workers live close to each other and in cases where migrant workers have become ill. In addition, if migrant workers lose their jobs, often they risk losing their salary, housing and health insurance at the same time, which makes them vulnerable.

The minister urged employers to take precautions and called upon employers, housing providers, municipalities and the migrant workers themselves to do everything they can to minimise the risk of infection with the coronavirus. Due to the various aspects of the problems surrounding EU-labour migrants (in the area of labour, housing, transport, health care) and the urgency of the problems, the minister announced the start of a task force protection labour migrants (Dutch: *Aanjaagteam Bescherming Arbeidsmigranten*). Based on the first findings, an interdepartmental team has started to find solutions and possible measures at a regional level to protect migrant workers against the coronavirus and related problems. Measures are aimed at ensuring that labour migrants are treated as equal and full members of Dutch society.[25]

- As of early 2021, efforts towards improved registration of labour migrants have started by registering contact details of migrants. In addition, preparations are made to implement changes in the population register (*Basisregistratie personen*), making it possible to register temporary addresses of labour migrants.

[23] TK 30573, nr. 170. Brief van de staatssecretaris van Justitie en Veiligheid (7 februari 2019).
[24] Letter to Parliament from the Minister of Justice and Security concerning Admission scheme for foreign investors (Toelatingsregeling voor buitenlandse investeerders), 11 January 2021, ref 3119981.
[25] https://www.nieuwsszw.nl/kabinet-steunt-aanbevelingen-aanjaagteam-roemer/.

- Adequate housing for labour migrants is a serious bottleneck and many different stakeholders are involved in finding solutions (local, provincial and national government, housing corporations, employers). In 2020 and 2021, the government has provided a budget of 100 million euros for the housing of vulnerable groups, including labour migrants. The government focusses on regional agreements to find solutions for de adequate housing of labour migrants.
- Access to health care of labour migrants will be improved by implementing a measure that covers the costs of necessary medical care when the labour migrant had medical insurance within the previous 30 days. Thereby ensuring that labour migrants who have become unemployed – and because of that have lost their insurance – still have access (for a limited period) to medical health care.
- In November 2020, a website was launched (WorkinNL.nl) which provides information to labour migrants on work, housing, transportation and health care in the Netherlands in various languages (English, Polish, Bulgarian, Romanian and Spanish).

Posted workers
As of March 2020, companies from other EU Member States who post workers to the Netherlands and some self-employed persons from other EU Member States who perform temporary services in the EU have a duty to register at an online notification portal for posted workers. This obligation – stemming from the Directive 2014/67/EU on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers – is implemented in the WagwEU (*Wet arbeidsvoorwaarden gedetacheerde werknemers in de Europese Unie*). According to the Aliens' Employment Act, third-country nationals performing temporary services also have to register in this portal. This Directive aims to guarantee respect for an appropriate level of protection of the rights of posted workers for the cross-border provision of services, in particular the enforcement of the terms and conditions of employment that apply in the Member State where the service is to be provided. While many details on the employers and employee have to be provided, the Directive surprisingly does not request information on the hourly wage.

2.6 Policies Attracting Foreign Students

In the Netherlands, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (*OCW*) is responsible for all education policies. Nuffic is an important organization with regard to the implementation of policies for foreign students. Its main goal is to support Dutch institutions and the Dutch government in different of activities with regard to the internationalization of higher education.

To gain access to the Dutch education system, international students have to meet admission requirements as specified in the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (*Wet op Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, WHW*). In addition, third-country students wishing to stay longer for than 90 days (and are not already residing lawfully in another Schengen Member State) need to apply for a provisional residence permit *(MVV)* before applying for a temporary residence permit in the Netherlands. The requirements are specified in the Modern Migration Policy Act (*MoMi*).[26] As of 1 January 2017, the maximum decision-making time on residence permit applications for study and scientific research was reduced from 90 to 60 days.[27] In daily practice, the average decision time is 10 days.

In recent years, several relevant policy developments and other initiatives can be identified in order to attract more foreign students:

- In July 2017 a hotline was launched in relation to housing problems experienced by foreign students. The hotline offers international students the opportunity to share their complaints and concerns regarding their housing situation. The hotline is a joined effort by the National Union of Students (*Landelijke Studentenvakbond*) and the Erasmus Student Network.

[26] This act came into force on 1 June 2013, and enabled amendments to the existing Aliens Act 2000, particularly in relation to application processes and admission procedures. Through the Modern Migration Policy Act (*MoMi*), the admission process is accelerated and simplified by merging different procedures (see, in more detail, section 2.1.1 in the previous SOPEMI-report).
[27] This involved an amendment of the Aliens Act 2000 on 26 October 2016 (Staatsblad 2016, nr. 415).

- As of May 2018 students from third countries who study in the Netherlands are allowed to work 16 hours per week parallel to their studies. Previously this was 10 hours per week. The amendment is pursuant to EU Directive 2016/801 and became effective on 23 May 2018 (when the directive was implemented in the Netherlands).[28]
- In June 2018 the Ministry of OCW reported to work on a national action plan to improve the housing situation of foreign students in the Netherlands.[29] Part of this plan is to inform foreign students prior to their stay in the Netherlands on the difficulties they may encounter when looking for housing in this country.

In addition, policies are pursued to allow foreign students to stay in the Netherlands for as long as possible after they have graduated. International graduates may apply for a one year residence permit with the purpose of taking a so-called 'search year' in order to look for employment in the Netherlands.[30] Furthermore, international students can start internships in the Netherlands as part of their study, even if this is not an obligatory part of their curriculum. This measure is expected to increase the chances to find a suitable job in the Netherlands.[31] Finally, these measures include a relaxation of the salary criterion to work as a highly skilled migrant in the Netherlands for those who still find a job in this country from abroad within three years after graduating in the Netherlands.

Screening of students in sensitive study programmes
On 9 April 2019, a joint task force (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Security) was formed for the screening of students in sensitive study programmes.[32] On 27 November 2020, the government presented a set of measures to improve knowledge security in the area of higher education and (applied) sciences.[33] The measures aim to promote international cooperation, while increasing the awareness about knowledge security and the development of specific security policies by knowledge institutions. In addition, the government is developing a screening mechanism against the unwanted transfer of knowledge and technology in fields with a heightened risk from the perspective of national security.

Permission to work for architecture students
International students of the Academy of Architecture are, as of 1 January 2020, authorised to work 32 hours instead of the previous 20 hours. This means that students from outside the EU now have the same opportunities and flexibility as other architecture students in obtaining sufficient work experience as required by their study programme. To register in the official register for architects, students need to meet the condition of having two years of work experience. Originally, international students from outside the EU could not enroll in these study programmes because they could not work the minimum number of hours for their studies under the conditions of their study permit.

No work permit for student board activities
As of 1 January 2020, international students no longer need a work permit (TWV) for engaging in participation and student board activities at their higher education institution. The objective of this measure is to make these activities more accessible and open to international students. Multiple universities had noted difficulties for international students engaging in participation activities. Previously, international students without a work permit could only do an internship, whereas those with a work permit could have a part-time job of a maximum of 16 hours a week. With the decision to exempt international students from the work permit requirement for participation and student board activities, the government emphasises the importance of student access to participation activities.

[28] Staatscourant, 2018, no. 23392.
[29] Parliamentary Papers I, 2017-2018, 22 452, no. 59. Internationalisering in het onderwijs.
[30] European Migration Network (2019) 2018 Annual Policy Report Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands. The Hague, Ministry of Security and Justice (V&J), chapter 3 (section 3.2.2).
[31] European Migration Network (2017) Policy Report Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands. Annual Report 2016, Chapter 2 (Section 2.2.2).The Hague, Ministry of Security and Justice (V&J),
[32] European Migration Network (2020) Policy Report Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands. Annual Report 2019, Chapter 3 (Section 3.2.2).The Hague, Ministry of Security and Justice (V&J).
[33] European Migration Network (2021) Policy Report Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands. Annual Report 2020, Chapter 4 (Section 4.3).The Hague, Ministry of Security and Justice (V&J).

COVID-19 and international students in the Netherlands[34]
The Netherlands introduced new measures to monitor the health of incoming and outgoing international students. This was done, among other things, by having a screening form to be completed by foreign students who plan to study in the Netherlands.

In addition, it is permitted for international students to register for a study programme with the online TOEFL language test (Test of English as a Foreign Language), or to use it for the visa application. Also, under certain circumstances, international students could be admitted into higher education institutes without having fulfilled some of the requirements for a Master's programme on the condition that these requirements will be met within a year. There are different requirements, depending on the university and study programme. The government provides flexibility for universities to make (temporary) exceptions. For example, universities now have the option to accept students for a Master programme without a Bachelor degree. BA students also have time to conclude their Bachelor programme alongside their Master programme.

International students following education programmes online for the first few months are advised to request the issuance of their provisional residence permits (mvv) as soon as the prospect of travelling to the Netherlands to follow the programme in situ will be reintroduced.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for enrollment in higher education was extended from 1 May to 1 June 2020. The intention of this development was to maintain student mobility despite the pandemic. This change applied to Dutch students and international students alike.

Due to the coronavirus, the income requirements for international students and researchers residing in the Netherlands were temporarily relaxed in July 2020.[35] The purpose of this temporary measure was to prevent the revocation of residence permits for students and researchers who were unable to secure sufficient income due to the pandemic. The measure applies only to current students of the academic year 2020-2021, who already had a legal residence permit to study in the Netherlands in the academic year 2019-2020. It does not apply to new students.

Finally, the Netherlands provided a 'service document for Higher Education Institutions' containing all agreements and exceptions to regular rules that would apply for the duration of the period in which COVID-19 measures apply. This also includes a few guidelines for application. In order to provide good services to international students, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) also set up a weekly digital consultation hour together with Nuffic. Educational institutions can also participate in this consultation.

2.7 Asylum Migration Policies

2.7.1 Flexibilisation asylum chain programme

One of the six pillars of the Comprehensive Agenda on Migration of the Dutch government is the establishment of a solid Dutch and EU asylum system, with specific regard to ensuring equal protection levels within the EU, by discouraging secondary migration movements and by a solidarity-based asylum policy, in which Member States support each other in times of increased asylum inflows.
This part of the Comprehensive Agenda on Migration is addressed in the Flexibilisation Asylum Chain Programme *(Programma Flexibilisering Asielketen).* With this programme, the Dutch government intends to create an asylum system that is more efficient, flexible and robust. Measures are being developed in five related fields[36]:

- increasing predictability, transparency and efficiency of asylum procedures;

[34] Information based on https://www.emnnetherlands.nl/onderzoeken/onderzoek-grote-impact-covid-19-op-internationale-studenten-eu-en-oecd-landen.
[35] https://ind.nl/nieuws/Paginas/Inkomenseis-internationale-studenten-tijdelijk-versoepeld.aspx
[36] Letter from the Ministry of Justice and Security to Parliament, dd 5 July, 2018. Flexibilisering asielketen, Ref.: 2301074.

- reducing processing times;
- better alignment of reception capacity with fluctuations in asylum applications;
- better alignment of asylum procedure with either settlement and integration in municipalities or return in case of a failed asylum application;
- improved cooperation with civil society actors and other levels of government.

Reception facilities
The programme was formally concluded in August 2020, after which further development and implementation started with the so-called Asylum chain flexibilisation Execution Agenda (*Uitvoeringsagenda flexibilisering asielketen*). Local, provincial and national governments work together to create flexible forms of reception for asylum seekers and improved support and guidance of asylum seekers towards either integration or return. Provincial governments are to coordinate regional action plans to meet the new requirements for the reception of asylum seekers based on current estimations on the needed reception capacity. It is anticipated that the transition to the new system can take several years and that the timeline of implementation will differ regionally.[37]

In the new asylum system three types of reception facilities are envisaged:

- Common alien reception centres (*Gemeenschappelijke Vreemdelingenlocatie - GVL*): a medium-sized reception centre locating all stakeholders in the asylum procedure chain in one location. This includes the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND, the organisation for admission), the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA, the organisation for reception), the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V, the organisation for return), the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar), and the Unit Foreign National's Identification and Human Trafficking (AVIM) of the National Police. In principle, this means that asylum seekers stay at a GVL from the beginning of their procedure until the time of admission or rejection. It is anticipated that at least four GVLs are necessary to meet the demands. Currently, three locations are being developed.
- Satellite locations: locations that provide alternative reception capacity when GVL maximum capacity is reached as well as reception for specific groups of asylum seekers.
- Regional reception centers: locations at which asylum seekers who are likely to obtain a residence permit (so-called *kansrijke asielzoekers*) or already been granted one, can make a start with their integration process near the municipalities where they ultimately will be housed (the relation between these locations and satellite locations is still under discussion).

At all three types of locations so-called flexible forms of housing are possible, meaning that the reception facility can also be used for other groups in need of temporary housing such as students, young adults and labour migrants.

Validity of asylum permit
In November 2019, the government announced several measures aimed at 'structural system improvements in the asylum procedure which in addition may contribute to alleviation of bottlenecks, such as backlogs in the application procedure'.[38]

A notable proposed change in legislation was the reduction of the validity from five to three years of the temporary asylum permit. After three years a new application can be made for another temporary permit for another two years. This proposal requires a change of the Aliens Act (*Vreemdelingenwet 2000*). In December 2020, the Council of State advised the government not to bring the bill before Parliament. This high advisory body pronounced serious objections against the proposed changes as the costs (due to processing of requests, legal aid and court cases) exceed possible benefits, arguing that the current legislation already makes it possible to withdraw a residence permit within five years if changes

[37] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/migratie/uitvoeringsagenda-flexibilisering-asielketen.
[38] Letter from the Ministry of Justice and Security to Parliament, dd 11 April 2019. Stand van zaken programma Flexibilisering asielketen, Ref.: 2553175.

in the country of origin occur.[39] As a consequence of the caretaker status of the government this proposal has been declared controversial in January 2021 and will not be discussed in Parliament before a new government has been formed.[40]

Processing times and penalty payments
In July 2020, the Temporary Penalty Payments Suspension Act (*Tijdelijke wet opschorting dwangsommen IND*) has been adopted by the Dutch Parliament. With this Act the obligation for the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) to pay a penalty to asylum applicants when the legal timeframe for processing the application is exceeded, is (temporarily) suspended. In January 2020, approximately 8,900 cases in the general asylum procedure had exceeded the legal timeframe, culminating in an expected 30 to 40 million euros in 2020 on penalty payments. In March, these costs were rising with 1 million euros per week. The Act which annuls the entitlement to compensation to asylum seekers, will – in principle – be in effect for one years. A final (non-temporary) Act was presented to the House of Representatives in March 2021, in which it will be established that no more penalty payments can be forfeited in third-country national cases. Due to the caretaker status of the government during most of 2021, this proposal was declared controversial. Until the final Act has passed Parliament, the temporary act is still in effect.

Reducing backlogs
In order to reduce existing backlogs the Minister of Migration also introduced the Asylum Task Force. Usually, the IND processes applications in the order of entry in the asylum procedure. However, to reduce the backlog a special team was put in place with the aim to eliminate the backlog of 15,350 asylum applications before the end of 2020. The task force decides on all asylum applications submitted before 1 April 2020. By the end of June 2021, the IND had come to a decision on almost all of these cases (14,100 applicants received a decision). The remaining cases were expected to be processed during July/August 2021. In the meantime, a smaller, new backlog has developed. By the end of June, approximately 1,200 applications made after April 2020 had exceeded the maximum processing time of six months. Some staff members of the Asylum Task Force will therefore remain operative until the end of 2021 to prevent further backlogs.[41]

The Dutch Refugee Council expressed concerns about the quality of the decision making process of the task force.[42] Tele-hearings and written hearings are reported to have a negative impact on the carefulness of the procedure. Especially in complex cases, important signals are missed in tele-hearings or written hearings according to interviewed asylum lawyers and asylum seekers. In addition, the monitor by the Dutch Refugee Council claims that many reports on intended decisions lack references to relevant sources and contain unsupported assumptions.

2.7.2 Other developments

Measures regarding asylum seekers causing public nuisance and criminality
In the previous SOPEMI-report various measures were discussed which are taken with regard to asylum seekers causing public nuisance and criminality. Intensification of efforts include faster asylum procedures; intensive cooperation between the Public Prosecution Office, police, municipality, Repatriation and Departure Service (*Dienst Terugkeer en Vertrek, DT&V*), the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (*Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers, COA*) and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, IND*), and the possibility to place asylum seekers displaying disturbing behaviour in special facilities. Measures taken in 2020 included:

- The introduction of Enforcement and Supervision locations from 1 February 2020 (as a follow-up from the ETBL-pilot). Asylum seekers who are responsible for severe transgressive behaviour can be

[39] Council of State Advice concerning the Bill to amend the Aliens Act of 2000 in order to adapt the period of validity of the asylum residence permit for a fixed period (Advies Raad van State inzake het voorstel van wet tot wijziging van de Vreemdelingenwet 2000 teneinde te voorzien in aanpassing van de geldigheidsduur van de verblijfsvergunning asiel voor bepaalde tijd). Date: 16 December 2020.
[40] https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/wetsvoorstellen/detail?id=2020Z25704&dossier=35691
[41] Letter from the Ministry of Justice and Security to Parliament, dd 12 July 2021. State of affairs completion task force assignment (Stand van zaken en afronding opdracht taskforce). Ref.: 3376131.
[42] https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/sites/default/files/u32913/taskforce_monitor.pdf

housed in an Enforcement and Supervision Location (HTL). This is a special reception centre with strict supervision and limitations. A strict area limitation order will be imposed on individuals who are placed in the HTL and this area limitation order will remain in effect for the duration of their stay at the HTL.

- Individuals causing the most disruptive and transgressive behaviour are clearly identified and are being placed on a national list, the so-called Top-X list. The list is prepared by the Ministry of Justice and Security. The parties cooperating in migration and asylum matters discuss together with parties such as municipalities, the police and the Public Prosecution Service (OM) which measures are to be taken in relation to the persons on this list. Since 1 May 2020, the Top-X-approach was introduced nationally. Between July and December 2020, the number of unique individuals on the monthly list varied between 317 and 355 persons.[43]
- Since 1 August 2020, asylum seekers who cause an impactful incident that brings the safety of the employers and residents in a reception centre at risk, can be transferred to a so-called time-out location, where they can stay for some time. After the time-out period, the person involved can return to the asylum seekers' centre or, if necessary, be transferred to another reception centre. Previously, asylum seekers causing disruptive or transgressive behaviour were (temporarily) denied access to the reception centre, but the European Court of Justice ruled that this was not in line with the EU Reception Directive.[44]

Reception facility with austere nature

As of 14 September 2020, asylum seekers with low chances of receiving a positive decision on their application in the Netherlands (often from safe countries of origin) are placed in separate, austere reception and more closely supervised facilities.[45]

Hosting scheme for refugees

Asylum seekers who have been granted a residence permit often have to wait for appropriate housing in Dutch municipalities. Refugees can reside for three months with family and friends or a Dutch host family in expectance of (permanent) housing in a municipality. An external evaluation showed positive effects of this scheme on learning the Dutch language and creating a social network. Additionally, it can help to reduce pressure on the available reception capacity within COA facilities.[46]

Relocation

After the fires in camp Moria on Lesbos, the government announced in September 2020 to relocate 100 vulnerable persons from Greece. This number, will however be deducted from the number of refugees to be resettled under the national resettlement quota (set at 500 per year). In 2020, 49 relocations from Greece took place.[47]

COVID-19 and asylum

As mentioned in the previous SOPEMI-report, the measures taken on a national level to prevent the spread of the virus also affected the asylum process and procedures. In March 2020, the Ministry of Justice and Security announced that for new asylum seekers who enter The Netherlands, the asylum procedure would be suspended.[48] Registration would still take place, but would be limited to the necessary steps (assigning case numbers, taking finger prints and checks in Dutch and European databases, a brief intake and a medical check). In April 2020, asylum procedures were resumed gradually, by using remote interviews. From May 2020 onwards, physical interviews were resumed gradually.

In March 2020, the transfer of asylum seekers to other countries, as part of the Dublin Regulation, was also temporarily halted. In July 2020 transfers to the country responsible for the processing of the

[43] EMN (2021) *Annual report 2020. Migration and asylum in the Netherlands*, June 2021.
[44] Ibidem.
[45] Ibidem.
[46] De Gruijter et al. (2019) *Evaluatie Logeerregeling COA*. Utrecht: Verwey-Jonker Instituut.
[47] IND resettlement unit, cited in EMN (2021).
[48] Letter from the Ministry of Justice and Security to Parliament, dd 20 March 2020, Uitwerking van de maatregelen in de asielketen met betrekking tot het coronavirus, ref: 2866252.

application were gradually resumed. However, additional transfer requirements (such as PCR-tests) hinder the transfer process of Dublin claimants.

Also the resettlement of refugees to the Netherlands was temporarily halted in March 2020. In the autumn of 2020 resettlement arrivals were resumed. The refugees that arrived in 2020 were selected for resettlement in 2019 and the beginning of 2020. Due to the pandemic it was not possible to resettle the entire target in 2020. Remaining numbers will be resettled in 2021.

2.7.3 Unaccompanied minors (UAM)

The Dutch government defines an UAM as a person who arrives in the Netherlands when underaged (18 years or younger) from outside the EU without parents or a guardian. Nidos is responsible for the temporary custody of UAMs. In January 2016, a new reception model became effective. The model focuses on small-scale reception. Minors younger than 15 years of age are placed in foster families under the responsibility of independent family guardian organisation Nidos. UAMs 15 years and older will fall into the care of the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA). These minors will be placed in small-scale housing facilities clustered close to each other. In these facilities 24-hour counselling is present if needed. UAMs who have been given a residence permit are transferred by Nidos from a COA location to a small-scale accommodation of Nidos where they will focus on integration.

In November 2020, the Minister of Migration implemented a new measure regarding the eligibility of UAMs for family reunification. UAMs who, after arrival in the Netherlands, are being hosted by a (distant) relative were no longer being considered 'unaccompanied'. This implied that these children – if they were allowed to stay in the Netherlands – had forfeited their right to family reunification with their parents and siblings. The argumentation behind the implementation of this measure was to prevent families from sending their children ahead as a 'bridge head' for the rest of the family. In Augustus 2021, a national newspaper reported that, approximately 200 children were affected by this new measure and could not be reunited with their family.[49]

Legal experts claimed that this new interpretation of the concept 'unaccompanied' is likely to be in violation of the Convention on the rights of children and the European Directive for Family Reunification. In this Directive, an unaccompanied minor is defined as a child who does not fall under the protection of an adult by law or custom after entering the territory of a Member State. Under Dutch law this implies parents or a legal guardian, but not distant family members. The Minister of Migration was warned about the legal implications, but nevertheless implemented the measure. Shortly after the publication in the newspaper the Minister withdrew the new measure, allowing family reunification to take place again according to the previous regulations.

2.8 Policies on Return

Policies to stimulate the return of undocumented migrants form an integral part of the Comprehensive Agenda on Migration. In the Coalition Agreement (October 2017) the Dutch government called for an international approach to foster return. Implying more effective cooperation within the EU (harmonisation of asylum procedures, more surveillance of the EU-border) and with third countries (reception in the region of origin, cooperation with transit countries). The government also intends to implement positive and negative sanctions to induce countries of origin to accept the return of their citizens. Possible sanctions are the provision (or denial) of bi-lateral aid, the issuance (or refusal) of visa for government officials and the granting (or withdrawal) of landing rights.

2.8.1 Return of undocumented migrants

Data from the Repatriation and Departure Service (*DT&V*) shows that between 2016 and 2019 the absolute number of returnees hovers between 15,000 and 17,000 annually. In 2020 there is a significant

[49] NRC, August 22, 2021; https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2021/08/22/honderden-asielkinderen-dreigen-zonder-hun-ouders-op-te-moeten-groeien-a4055672

drop in the number of returnees. In 2020 approximately 11,000 returnees were registered. This decrease is mainly due to the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions. The largest share is still made up of the category 'independent return without surveillance'. Since 2017, the actual departure from the Netherlands was not established for approximately 3 out of 5 registered 'returnees'.

Table 2.2 Number of returnees by category in 2015, 2016 ,2017, 2018, 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Independent return	3,320	6,760	3,400	3,610	4,460	2,630
	(32%)	(40%)	(22%)	(24%)	(26%)	(24%)
Forced return	1,850	2,220	2,700	2,650	2,760	1,650
	(18%)	(13%)	(18%)	(18%)	(16%)	(15%)
Independent return	5,070	8,100	9,020	8,620	9,660	6,880
without surveillance (*)	(50%)	(47%)	(60%)	(58%)	(57%)	(62%)
Total	10,240	17,080	15,120	14,880	16,880	11,160

(*) Returnee is no longer under surveillance of the Repatriation and Departure Service, actual departure from the Netherlands was not established.
Source: Dienst Terugkeer en Vertrek, vertrekcijfers, in EMN Annual Report 2019,; https://www.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/over-dtv/cijfers

In 2020, 64 percent of (forced and independent) returnees returned to the country of origin, 30 percent were returned to a Dublin-Member State country and 6 percent to another third country. The most common nationalities among the returnees in 2020 were Nigerians, Moroccans, Algerians, Syrians and Iraqis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the departure process of third-country nationals who were obliged to depart. In the first months after the outbreak, the departure services focused on criminal third-country nationals, third-country nationals causing nuisance, third-country nationals who are considered to be a threat to national security and detainees. Return counselling by the DT&V was halted, except for the abovementioned groups. Later in the year return counselling was resumed for all groups for whom there was a prospect of departure.

In 2020, only some small amendments to existing legislation regarding return policies were implemented. To bring Dutch regulations more in line with other EU Member States, the minimum period in which the DT&V has to announce the departure was shortened from 48 hours to 36 hours. This is one area in which the Dutch practice was identified as more accommodating than required by EU rules and regulations, which was an important motivation behind the amendment.

Repatriation support
To foster return, the Netherlands provides various forms of repatriation support to asylum seekers who have not been granted a residence permit and to other undocumented migrants. In the previous SOPEMI-reports these forms of repatriation support were discussed more in detail.

As of 2019, subsidies to non-governmental organisations delivering re-integration support to undocumented third country nationals are available through the *Subsidieregeling Ondersteuning Zelfstandig Vertrek 2019* (OVZ). Projects should be aimed at voluntary return and have to focus on either a specific region or a specific target group. There is a list of nationalities eligible for participation in the reintegration projects.[50] To deliver reintegration support, ngo's have to cooperate with the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), the European Reintegration Support Organisations Network or the international network of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Within the OVZ-regulation, subsidy is also available for projects aimed at repatriation support for citizens from EU Member States who wish to return to their countries of origin but who lack financial means to do so and who need social guidance during the return process.
In 2020 and 2021, new periods for submitting project applications were opened.

[50] https://www.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/ondersteuning-bij-terugkeer/documenten/regelingen/2019/05/10/ozv-officiele-landenlijst-herintegratieondersteuning.

Forced return
Undocumented migrants who are unwilling to cooperate with their return can be put in aliens detention pending their forced return. In December 2013, the government announced a draft proposal for a new Return and Aliens Detention Act (*Wet terugkeer en vreemdelingenbewaring*), which was sent to parliament in September 2015. The proposal seeks to offer more tailor-made solutions in the reception regime for foreigners in aliens detention. The point of departure is to put the vast majority of undocumented foreigners in the fairly open regime (*verblijfs-regime*), which offers more freedom than at present. Undocumented foreigners with behavioural problems and/or who pose a threat to the security of the fairly open regime are placed in the controlled and restricted regime (*beheersregime*). The proposal was adopted by the House of Representatives in June 2018, but still had not passed the Senate in September 2021. Due to the caretaker status of the Rutte III administration, this proposal has been declared controversial. The Parliamentary discussion of the proposal will resume after the formation of a new government.

The bed, bath and bread-discussion: pilot National Immigration Facilities (LVVs)
For many years, there has been a discussion between the national government and the municipalities on providing basic support to undocumented migrants who have exhausted all legal means. In November 2016, negotiations between the national government and municipalities to create national facilities for these groups failed. However, a new agreement between the different levels of government was reached in November 2018. The Ministry of Justice and Security signed an agreement with the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (*VNG*) on the construction of so-called National Immigration Facilities (*Landelijke Vreemdelingen Voorzieningen, LVVs*). In 2019, in five municipalities pilots started for third-country nationals without a right of residence in the Netherlands and without access to other forms of shelter/support. By providing counselling for assisted voluntary return, migration to another country or, if applicable, legalisation of stay, the facilities aim to prevent irregular stay and to limit the consequences of irregular stay for the local environment. The pilots are executed in joint cooperation between the national government, municipalities and stakeholders such as the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*IND*), the Repatriation and Departure Service (*DT&V*) and the Aliens Police. The pilots will run for two years. Evaluation studies[51] showed that the cooperation between the parties involved in the National Immigration Facilities have improved. With regard to the results in terms of sustainable solutions for undocumented migrants, it is still too early to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of the pilots. Due to the caretaker status of the Rutte III administration, the discussion on the future of the National Immigration Facilities is temporarily halted.

2.8.2 Remigration
In addition to return policies for undocumented migrants, the Netherlands also provides a scheme for voluntary return of unemployed and elderly migrants legally residing in the Netherlands. As of 1 July 2014, the new Remigration Act is effective. Currently, the Remigration benefit is available to migrants who:

- are 55 years or older;
- have legally resided in the Netherlands for at least eight years;
- have received social benefits for at least one year;
- are first-generation migrants;
- were 18 years or older when arriving in the Netherlands

The opportunity to apply for a remigration benefit will end on 1 January 2025. This scheme remained unchanged in 2020.

2.9 Migration and Development in Migrant-Sending Countries

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes activities in the field of migration and development. Therefore, several grant opportunities are made available for those – often non-government

[51] Regioplan (2020). *Plan- en procesevaluatie Landelijk Vreemdelingenvoorzieningen;* Verwey-Jonker Instituut (2021) *Tussenevaluatie pilot landelijke vreemdelingen voorzieningen.*

organisations (NGOs) – that seek funding for migration and economic development projects. Several eye-catching projects will be discussed briefly below.[52]

Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women
Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) is a fund that has been set up by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the position of women and girls in developing countries.[53] FLOW finances many projects focusing on security, economic self-reliance and political participation in over one hundred countries. For the period of 2016-2020 € 93 million has been made available. The programmes particularly aim at combatting violence against women; women participation in politics and public administration; and women economic participation and self-reliance.

Tackling the root causes of migration
During the Valletta Summit on Migration on 11 and 12 November 2015, the EU and more than thirty African countries agreed to a political declaration and a concrete plan of action. In the joint approach to tackle migration issues in Europe, ways to eliminate the root causes of migration have also been taken into consideration. Efforts have specifically been made regarding employment and economic growth, with the emphasis on African youths. The action plan, which came into effect in 2016, involves concrete actions such as facilitating private investments in African agriculture and starting projects to stimulate employment for young people. The tackling of root causes of migration are funded by an EU emergency trust fund for Africa, established in Valletta.

Dutch Good Growth Fund
The Dutch government also supports young start-ups and developing entrepreneurs to create more job opportunities. This is directly done with the help of the Dutch Good Growth Fund (DGGF).[54] By providing finance and insurance through the DGGF-programme, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs creates the conditions to development related trade and investment in 68 countries. DGGF – financing Local SMEs – applies a unique ecosystem approach, which combines investments with capacity building and ecosystem support initiatives to support local entrepreneurs. Between 2014 and 2018, DGGF has supported 33,316 jobs and financed more than 4,500 SMEs through its support to local finance providers.[55]

Addressing Root Causes Fund
The Addressing Root Causes (ARC) Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs makes a total amount of € 125 million available for the period 2016-2021. In March 2016, 125 project proposals were submitted by Dutch and foreign (local) NGOs in the following countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Within the wider government strategy on international migration, the ARC Fund is committed to tackle the root causes of armed conflict, instability and irregular migration. The ARC programmes are geared towards four result areas which are: 1) safety for people; 2) functioning legal order (access to law); 3) peace dividend and inclusive political processes; and 4) social and economic reconstruction.

Connecting Diaspora for Development 2
The central focus of this project is to contribute to the economic development in a number of countries by strengthening the capacities of migrants in the Netherlands who originate from these countries. IOM Netherlands is involved in the organisation of this project and the project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BZ). The objective of the CD4D 2 project (following up on the earlier phase, which started in 2016) is to have diaspora experts from focus countries contribute to the development of their country of origin through knowledge transfer and capacity building. The Netherlands made a new contribution and the focus countries in 2019 were Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and possibly Nigeria.

[52] The project descriptions are to a great extent based on an overview of migration and development projects presented by the European Migration Network (EMN (2018, 2019 and 2020) Annual Policy report for The Netherlands.
[53] https://www.government.nl/documents/decrees/2015/06/12/funding-leadership-and-opportunities-for-women-flow-2016-2020.
[54] http://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/dutch-good-growth-fund-dggf.
[55] https://www.dggf.nl/documenten/publicaties/2019/06/26/dggf-rapport-five-years-of-enabling-entrepreneurship-in-frontier-markets

These countries have large groups living in diaspora communities abroad, who often have expertise that is lacking locally in the country of origin. This concerns knowledge that is considered essential for the development of institutions. The project makes efforts to bring people from the diaspora together with specific institutions where certain expertise is lacking, and hence contributes to capacity building.

Structural reception of Syrian refugees
In May 2016, the government announced an extra amount of € 260 million for the structural reception of refugees in the Syria region in addition to emergency aid. The purpose of these additional funds was to support refugees in building a new life in host countries. Programmes supported by the Netherlands were particularly focused on education, employment, and public services and amenities such as water, electricity and waste processing. For Turkey, the contribution from the Netherlands has been allocated via the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey. In 2018, the Dutch government made an additional € 140 million available for emergency aid and another € 50 million for more structural reception of refugees in the region.[56] In 2019, policy measures aiming at receiving Syrian refugees in the region were continued. This was done in collaboration with the international organisations IOM and UNHCR.

Together against human trafficking
In the overall programme 'Together against human trafficking' ('*Samen tegen mensenhandel*'), which was presented to House of Representative on 13 November 2018, the government took a firm stance against trafficking in human beings and makes strong efforts to intensify the tackling of trafficking in human beings.[57] The programme formally started on 4 December 2018. In so doing the government aims to prevent as much as possible that people become victims of trafficking in human beings. Also the government wants (potential) victims to be identified quickly and adequately, to be taken out of the situation and to receive care and support. In November 2020, the State Secretary informed the Dutch parliament about the progress of the programme.[58] It was argued that the programme has both strengthened and broadened the foundation of a human trafficking approach. In addition, the programme has also provided insights into what is additionally needed, with particular attention to the need for a better information exchange between chain partners, for improving insight into the impact of policy initiatives, for more emphasis on criminal and sexual exploitation of minors, and finally for greater involvement of municipalities in the policy of tackling human trafficking.

Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (BHOS)
Per year € 128 million is available for funding programmes offering protection (including mental health care), stimulating employment and improving education. It concerns eight focus countries in particular (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Kenia, Uganda and Sudan). The main instrument is the Prospects Partnership (2019-2023, € 500 million) with International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank. In 2019, two instruments were developed for this purpose:

- The Prospects Partnerschap with International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Labour Organization (ILO), UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Bank. This partnership with both humanitarian and development actors is an innovative model to shape a development-oriented approach to the long-term refugee crisis concretely.
- In addition, 11 projects by organisations were selected and started in the spring of 2019 with the assistance of the Migration and Development subsidy policy framework.

In 2020, the partners, both humanitarian and development actors, have jointly worked towards concrete results, with flexible adjustments to their programming needed in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[56] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2017/11/17/begroting-bhos-2018-extra-middelen-voor-noodhulp-en-opvang-in-regio.
[57] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2018/11/13/tk-bijlage-3-samen-tegen-mensenhandel.
[58] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2020/11/18/tk-voortgangsbrief-programma-samen-tegen-mensenhandel

In sum
The policy developments addressed in this chapter show that the Netherlands cooperates with many countries of diaspora. In 2020, the Netherlands supported various projects and funds aimed at eliminating the causes of migration through targeted investments in various less developed countries.

2.10 Policies on Citizenship

Determination of statelessness
In 2013, the Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (*Adviescommissie voor Vreemdelingenzaken*, *ACVZ*) concluded that the Netherlands does not have an adequate procedure to determine statelessness. The government announced in 2018 to follow up on the advice of the Committee to improve the procedure for establishing statelessness. However, the drafting of a new bill was delayed. In 2019, due to the absence of national legislation, the Dutch municipalities of Amsterdam and Utrecht decided to determine statelessness within their own powers.[59]

In 2016, the Open Society Justice Initiative brought a case before the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations of a stateless child whose mother was trafficked from China to the Netherlands but whose nationality could not be established. The nationality of the child was therefore registered as 'unknown' instead of stateless which also implicated that the child could not obtain a residence permit as a stateless person. In December 2020, the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations ruled that the Dutch government violates the rights of children by not allowing children without a nationality to register as stateless.[60] The Committee commands the Dutch government to establish a procedure for determining statelessness for children and adults and to provide information to the Committee about the measures taken within six months after the ruling. The Committee also expresses concern that the draft legislation establishing a statelessness determination procedure does not grant a residence permit to a person recognised as stateless. This concern is shared by the Dutch High Council of State.[61]

After many years of discussion, a bill (*Wet vaststellingsprocedure staatloosheid*) was submitted to the House of Representatives in December 2020 to establish a procedure allowing judges to determine statelessness. Under this regulation, persons concerned can request to officially confirm their lack of nationality in a determination procedure.[62] Currently however, the bill is still under discussion in the House of Representatives.

2.11 Civic Integration Policies

Under the current law, which came into effect in 2013, newly arrived immigrants (the so-called newcomers) are subjected to the civic integration obligations, with the exception of newcomers who are staying in the Netherlands for temporary purposes. The Civic Integration Act does not apply to nationals of one of the members of the European Economic Area, Switzerland or Turkey. Nationals of all other countries are expected to comply with the civic integration obligations.

Foreign nationals in the Netherlands must adhere to the Civic Integration Act (*Wet Inburgering*). The Act underlines the importance of the migrant's responsibility when preparing for a civic integration exam. Migrants are expected to bear the costs of the Dutch language and civic integration exam and courses[63] themselves. However, the government may support civic integration candidates with a loan system. Migrants are allowed to borrow up to € 10,000. For family migrants a means test is required first. Asylum migrants are eligible for remission of the loan if they pass the civic integration exam.

[59] https://www.trouw.nl/nieuws/gemeenten-willen-niet-langer-wachten-op-wetgeving-en-gaan-mensen-zonder-paspoort-zelf-helpen~b45cb795b/
[60] CCPR/c/130/D/2918/2016. United Nations, Human Rights Committee (28 December 2020). https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26631&LangID=E
[61] https://www.eerstekamer.nl/behandeling/20201218/advies_afdeling_advisering_raad/document3/f=/vlezg1mq7azy.pdf
[62] Parliamentary Papers II, 2020-2021, 35 687, no. 3. Regels met betrekking tot de vaststelling van staatloosheid.
[63] There is no obligation to follow a course.

By successfully passing an exam, the participants are able to demonstrate Dutch language skills equivalent to level A2. They must also prove that they are sufficiently familiar with the Dutch society. The exam comprises two central parts: language (speaking, hearing, reading and writing) and knowledge of Dutch society (general knowledge of Dutch society and knowledge of the Dutch labour market). Additionally candidates must sign the participation declaration. Candidates who pass all parts receive a certificate. Candidates must successfully pass the exams within three years; illiterates within five years. Depending on certain circumstances, an extension is possible. Those who fail need to re-sit the exam until passing successfully. Blameful failure to comply with the requirements may result in a fine or in a termination of the right of residence in the Netherlands. The latter sanction does, however, not apply to immigrants with an asylum status.

Mandatory participation in civic orientation programmes for new Turkish migrants
As of 2011, Turkish newcomers were exempt from mandatory participation in integration programmes as this was considered unfitting with the EU-Turkey Association Agreement. However, jurisprudence following from a European Court of Justice ruling in 2013 demonstrated that obligatory integration can be justified by pressing reasons regarding general interest. On 4 February 2020, the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment decided to reinstall the mandatory participation in civic orientation programmes for Turkish newcomers to improve their integration in the Dutch society. This development followed from the perception of the National Government that not all individuals with a Turkish background integrated well. Therefore, it was considered lawful to oblige them to follow integration courses and pass the Integration Exam Abroad. The expectation was that this change would be applied once the changed civic integration law (*Wet Inburgering 2.0*) would be implemented. The change did not apply to Turkish migrants granted asylum and their family members, as they do not have to pass the Integration Exam Abroad. From May 2021, this group of Turkish migrants would be obligated to integrate when they have arrived in the Netherlands.

2.11.1 A new civic integration system (Wet Inburgering 2.0) from 2022 onwards

On 2 July 2018, the Minister of Social Affairs announced a new civic integration system.[64] The Minister explained that, under the current system, too many newcomers remain dependent on social assistance benefits for too long. This outcome was considered as undesirable and, moreover, associated with an insufficiently effective integration policy. New measures, already referred to in the Coalition Agreement of 10 October 2017, imply a drastic change in civic integration policy, and include the following basic principles:

- Municipalities will purchase the civic integration courses themselves. In so doing, municipalities will be able to monitor the quality of the language courses.
- Every newcomer will receive a personal integration plan. This customised plan will be drafted by the municipality in consultation with the candidate.
- The loan system will be ceased for immigrants with an asylum status. The government will provide municipalities with the needed funding to buy in language courses for immigrants. The loan system stays in place for immigrants who arrive through family reunification.
- Upon arrival, immigrants are expected to seek employment. Municipalities should encourage employers to create job opportunities for recognised refugees.
- Newcomers who came as asylum seekers to the Netherlands will receive part of social welfare assistance in kind within the first six months.
- Civic integration will be tested at various exam levels. The standard language requirement will be raised from level A2 to level B1.

A central element in the new system is the subdivision into three civic integration routes:

1. The aim is to reach language level B1 for all candidates. This route consists of different language components, a labour market and participation module (*Module Arbeidsmarkt en Participatie,*

[64] The generally formulated plan has been further elaborated in the policy document *Hoofdlijnen veranderopgave inburgering*, of 2 July, 2018. Reference number: 2018-0000117315.

MAP) and a test to assess the knowledge of Dutch society (*Kennis Nederlandse Maatschappij, KNM*).[65]
2. There will be an education route, helpful for obtaining an official diploma in the Netherlands. Although the education route is particularly intended for younger candidates, it is open to all age groups.
3. There will be a "Z-route" for illiterate people and people with "limited learning ability". This route is intended for those who are believed that the above routes are not realistic.

On 15 February 2019, the Dutch government informed the House of Representatives that the new integration law will be introduced on 1 January 2021.[66] The House of Representatives passed the law for a new integration system on 2 July 2020. This date has more recently been moved to 1 January 2022.

Newcomers who are obliged to meet the current civic integration requirements, continue to be covered by the present system. The Parliamentary Letter of 15 February 2019 states, among other things, that money will be released for current cases. As newcomers who are still covered by the current Civic Integration Act 2013 will not benefit from the new measures, municipalities have received extra resources from the national government. It was agreed in the Administrative Consultation that €20 million will be made available in both 2019 and 2020 for the support and guidance of these newcomers.

Changes made to the Civic Integration Decree (Besluit Inburgering)
In 2020, several changes to current civic integration were announced by the Dutch cabinet.[67] Firstly, in the Civic Integration Decree it has been amended that persons obliged to participate in the civic integration programme as self-employed persons no longer have to take the 'Orientation on the Dutch labour market' exam (ONA). A similar exception was made for students who have successfully completed an mbo-1 programme; they are also exempted from the ONA exam component. Secondly, the grounds to exempt illiterate newcomers from civic integration requirements were eased. Before this change, analphabetic migrants participating in integration courses would have completed at least 600 hours of integration courses before they could receive an exemption for passing the integration exam based on their proven effort.[68] After this policy change, migrants can apply for an exemption after 600 hours of any type of course being completed – be that integration or literacy courses.

2.11.2 Participation declaration

In 2015, the Dutch government agreed on the introduction of a so-called participation declaration (*participatieverklaring*) to raise awareness of newly arrived immigrants on both the written and unwritten rules prevailing in Dutch society.[69] The participation declaration must be signed by all newly arrived immigrants in the Netherlands who are obliged to pass a civic integration exam. These are asylum migrants, but also migrants coming to the Netherlands for family formation or family reunification. The participation declaration also obliges the candidates to participate in an introduction on Dutch core values, offered by the municipality.

The introduction of this measure followed a comprehensive pilot phase, in which several policy measures were tested and evaluated. Eventually, the participation declaration has become an integral part of the mandatory civic integration exam in the Netherlands. The amendment to the Law on civic integration was adopted by Parliament in July 2017. As of 1 October 2017, the participation declaration became mandatory for all newcomers. This declaration will also be part of the new civic integration law after 2021.

[65] If it turns out that the level of B1 is too ambitious for the candidates, they can fall back to a lower level (A2).
[66] Parliamentary Letter of February, 15, 2019 '*Tussenstand veranderopgave Inburgering*'.
[67] Official notice of 16 September 2020 by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment to change the current civic integration act on the 1st of October 2020.
[68] The Minister of Social Affairs and Employment indicated that analphabetic migrants experienced this as a challenge, as only 700 hours of courses were financed by a loan.
[69] Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, News item '*Participatieverklaring verplicht onderdeel inburgeringsexamen',* officially published by the Dutch government on 8 July 2016.

2.11.3 Additional funding and a legal base for social guidance

In 2016, the Dutch government made additional funding available to support asylum migrants. This social guidance is provided to asylum migrants when arriving in a municipality. Municipalities are responsible for allocating the financial resources. Until 2016, available funding was based on € 1,000,- per asylum migrant. After 2016, funding increased to € 2,370,- per person.

Since 1 October 2017 social guidance has a legal base in the Civic Integration Act. The three components of social guidance are described in the Regulation on integration:
1. Social Guidance / practical aid,
2. Assistance by finding a suitable language course,
3. Stimulating participation and integration by coaching and introduction to civil organisations.
Social guidance for asylum migrants is also part of the new civic integration law after 2021.

2.11.4 Extension of the pre-civic integration programme

In 2016, several initiatives have been taken to improve the range of programmes at reception centres. For example, language education has been extended from 81 hours to 121 hours. Other pre-civic integration programme modules, including Knowledge of Dutch Society (*Kennis van de Nederlandse Samenleving, KNS*) and individual coaching, also have been expanded. Moreover, the Orientation in the Dutch Labour Market module (*ONA*) was added to the pre-civic integration programme in 2016. With the help of ONA, those eligible for asylum are informed about different aspects of the Dutch labour market and are provided with the offer to evaluate their credentials. The pre-civic integration programme is provided for those eligible for asylum.

In addition, it was agreed with COA that official (NT2) language lessons provided at reception centres will be offered not only to beneficiaries of international protection, but also to asylum seekers with a likely positive decision on their asylum application. The latter category includes in particular refugees from Syria and Eritrea. This measure has come into force in 2017.[70]

2.11.5 Civic integration and COVID-19

In connection with COVID-19 and the resulting measures, it has been difficult for many immigrants to take classes or take exams over the past year and a half. To compensate, it was therefore decided several times to extend the integration period for those required to participate in the integration process. In the beginning, this concerned generic extensions for all those subject to an integration obligation. Since 13 January 2021, when there were more opportunities to take physical classes, the extension has been limited to those who need less than half a year to complete their integration courses.[71] If this is the case, participants receive an extension of four months. These beneficial measures are laid down in regulations.

2.12 Discrimination

Combating discrimination is high on the political agenda: the Dutch government (Rutte III, 2017) explicitly strives for equality and disapproves of any form of unfair treatment.[72] In June 2020, in response to the killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests, the Dutch government publicly recognised that racism and discrimination are undeniably persistent in the Dutch society, and emphasised that all forms of racism and discrimination are totally unacceptable.[73]

2.12.1 National Actions Plans to combat discrimination

Much of today's anti-discrimination policy is based on the Action Programme to combat discrimination of 2010 (*Actieprogramma bestrijding discriminatie*)[74], its refinement in 2011[75], and the National Action

[70] Parliamentary Papers II, 2015-2016, 34334 no. 23. Onderwijs aan vreemdelingen; Brief regering; Taalles aan asielzoekers.
[71] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2021/10/18/verzamelbrief-inburgering-oktober-2021.
[72] Vertrouwen in de toekomst Regeerakkoord 2017-2021 VVD, CDA, D66 en ChristenUnie, 10 oktober 2017.
[73] Parliamentary Papers II 2019-2020, 30 950, no. 185 Kabinetsaanpak van discriminatie, 15 juni 2020.
[74] Parliamentary Papers II 2009-2010, 32 123, no. 74. Beleidsreactie Poldis 2009 en actieprogramma bestrijding van discriminatie.
[75] Parliamentary Papers II, 2010-2011, 30 950, no. 34. Aanscherping bestrijding discriminatie.

Programme to combat discrimination of 2016 (*Nationaal Actieprogramma tegen discriminatie).*[76] In addition, there are specific action plans to combat labour market discrimination (*Actieplan Arbeidsmarktdiscriminatie*, introduced in 2014 and updated and continued in 2018-2021).[77]

The government's approach consists of generic anti-discrimination measures aimed at all areas of discrimination, supplemented with measures in certain specific areas aimed towards a specific type of discrimination or a specific group. Each year progress reports are published outlining actions undertaken by the government. In this chapter we discuss the key actions.[78]

Changes in the legal framework

- Equal treatment Act: On 1 November 2019, the Equal Treatment Act (*Algemene wet gelijke behandeling)* was modified to ensure that this act applies to all Dutch citizens regardless of gender identity, gender expression and gender characteristics, including transgender people and intersex people. Furthermore, the government proposes to change the term 'heterosexual and homosexual orientation' into 'sexual orientation'. Lastly, the discrimination ground 'gender identity and gender expression' will be added.
- An amendment of article 1 of the Constitution is in preparation, adding the grounds sexual orientation and disability to the provision.
- Penalty for hate speech: As of 1 January 2020, the maximum penalty for 'hate speech' increased from one year to two years, emphasising the severity of the offence.

Generic measures

- Local anti-discrimination policy: Based on the research findings in 2018 and 2019, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has identified the need to adapt its governing role (more local involvement), its accessibility, and the need to guide and support smaller local councils. Therefore, in 2019, the Ministry organised master classes for municipalities in which civil servants receive more knowledge on this topic.
- Law enforcement: The Netherlands Public Prosecution Service (*Openbaar Ministerie*) modernised their methods to investigate and prosecute discriminatory offences, by (among other things) modernising a screening system for discrimination cases for the police force, and by broadening the definition of what is meant by a discriminatory aspect.

2.12.2 Specific areas of discrimination in the labour market:

In the Action Plan Labour Market Discrimination 2018-2021, three pillars are described: 1) surveillance and enforcement, 2) research and instruments, 3) and knowledge and awareness. Special attention is payed to (lack of) equal pay, discrimination in the recruitment and job seeking sector, pregnancy discrimination, and discrimination in relation to internships.[79] Furthermore, a programme named 'Further Integration into the Labour Market' (VIA, 2018-2021) has been developed to improve the position in the labour market of Dutch residents with a migration background. Within this programme, several pilot projects are carried out aimed at developing evidence based tools for employers which they can use to develop and implement effective diversity policies. As of July 2020, the so called 'cultural barometer' has become available, a tool which can be used by individual employers to gain insight into the composition of their labour force in terms of migrant background and compare their organisation to employers in the same sector (benchmark). Other pilots of the VIA-programme which are still being developed and evaluated concern new methods for recruitment and selection and initiatives aimed at career development of employees with a migration background.

With the introduction of the new action plan to combat labour market discrimination, the government announced an amendment to the health and safety law (*Arbowet*) which obligates employers and intermediaries to develop a working method that is aimed at preventing discrimination in the

[76] Parliamentary Papers *2015-2016,* 30 950, no. 84. Nationaal Actieprogramma tegen discriminatie 2016.
[77] Ministerie BZK (2018), kabinetsaanpak van discriminatie 26 April 2018, ref. 2018-00000255955.
[78] Information is based on: Parliamentary Papers II 2019-2020, 30 950, no. 185 Kabinetsaanpak van discriminatie, 15 juni 2020 and the Parliamentary Papers of 8 February 2019. Voortgang kabinetsaanpak van discriminatie.
[79] Parliamentary Papers I, 2017-2018, 29544, no. 834. Hoofdlijnen actieplan Arbeidsmarktdiscriminatie 2018-2021.

recruitment and selection of employees. The bill, officially referred to as the *Wet toezicht gelijke kansen bij werving en selectie*, was submitted to the House of Representatives on December 10, 2020. Due to the caretaker status of the Rutte III administration, the bill has been declared controversial and is still pending in Dutch parliament.

2.12.3 National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism[80]

As the number of reports of discrimination further increased, and in response to the killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests, the government regarded 2020 as a turning point in the policy to be pursued.[81] That is why a National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism (NCDR) was appointed on 15 October 2021. The NCDR is established for three years, with the main task of drawing up a multi-year national programme with clear targets and full attention to signals from society. In addition to setting up a coordinator, the cabinet will set up a State Commission in 2021. This State Commission will be set up for a period of four years and will be tasked with providing continuous insight into discrimination in government and with coming up with concrete proposals for improvement.[82]

2.13 Some issues from the public debate on migration

The final report of a Boosting Team for the Protection of Migrant Workers concluded in October 2020 that a significant group of poorly skilled labour migrants are being abused by a (limited) number of employers in the Netherlands.[84] Limited labour market legislation and inadequate enforcement contribute to this undesirable result. The report has led to a broad political and social discussion about the persistence of undesirable practices in the Dutch labour market.

The House of Representatives interrupted its summer recess in 2021 for a debate on the granting of asylum to interpreters who have helped Dutch soldiers in Afghanistan. Part of the House also wanted to grant asylum to other Afghans who had worked with Dutch people. Ultimately, the political and social debate led to the Dutch government opting for a more generous admission policy in relation to refugees from Afghanistan.

The past year also saw a heated discussion about ethnic profiling. The reason for this were the fraud detection practices at the Tax and Customs Administration, which especially affected people with a non-Western migration background. Amnesty International's conclusions point to a deliberate link between ethnic origin and alleged fraud in the daily working practices of the tax authorities. This conclusion is, however, contradicted by both the Tax and Customs Administration itself and by an investigation by the Dutch Data Protection Authority. The latter organisation does nevertheless call the tax authorities' working method discriminatory and extremely inappropriate.

[80] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2021/06/24/stijging-meldingen-van-discriminatie-in-2020-kabinet-neemt-extra-maatregelen.

[81] According to the police, there was an increase of 12 percent in the number of reports of discrimination in 2020, whereas anti-discrimination provisions reported an increase of 25 percent compared to 2019.

[82] The cabinet has announced the State Committee at the request of Parliament, also in response to the report 'Unprecedented injustice' by the parliamentary questioning committee on Childcare Allowance.

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Main Migration Trends in the Netherlands

3

3 Main Migration Trends in the Netherlands

This chapter first provides an overview of the main immigration and emigration statistics in the Netherlands over the last years. Characteristics of both Dutch and foreign migrants are presented. Subsequently, the immigrants' motivations or reasons to migrate to the Netherlands are discussed. Finally, a more detailed description of recent emigration flows from the Netherlands is presented. This chapter is based on online data provided by Statistics Netherlands (StatLine of the *Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, CBS*).

3.1 Main Findings

- The numbers of both immigrants and emigrants were rising up until 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of immigrants dropped to nearly 221,000, and the number of emigrants also decreased, to about 152,500. This drop in the immigration and emigration numbers can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led governments to impose restrictions on international travel. The total net-migration number was around 49,000 in 2020, indicating that more people entered than left the country.
- Individuals originally born in the Netherlands are among the larger groups of immigrants who are (re-)entering the Netherlands. In 2020, about one in seven of all immigrants was originally born in the Netherlands.
- Many of the Dutch nationals that (re-)entered the Netherlands in 2020 came from the neighbouring countries Belgium (4,000) and Germany (4,000). Other common countries of departure of Dutch nationals were other European countries, former Dutch colonies, the United States, Turkey and Australia.
- After a peak of over 145,500 immigrants from outside of Europe in 2019, this number decreased between 2019 and 2020. In 2020, around 106,500 non-European persons migrated to the Netherlands.
- The number of foreign-born immigrants from EU Member States doubled over the last ten years, from to over 93,000 immigrants in 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, this number declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic to around 83,500 in 2020.
- The influx of immigrants born in other European countries has slowly increased between 2005 and 2019. Thereafter, this number decreased from around 20,000 in 2019 to over 17,500 in 2020. This trend break can again be explained by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.
- Among immigrants from EU/EFTA countries, the largest group consists of returning migrants who were born in the Netherlands. In 2019, over 54,000 migrants returned to the Netherlands. For foreign immigrants from EU/EFTA countries, employment was the most common reason for migration with over 43,000 labour migrants in 2019.
- The number of study migrants from EU/EFTA countries decreased between 2019 and 2020, while the number of migrants with labour, family or other motives increased.
- Among immigrants from non-EU/EFTA countries, the most common reason for migration was family formation or reunification. In 2020, over 21,500 family migrants came to the Netherlands.
- The number of asylum migrants from non-EU/EFTA countries dropped after 2016, while the number of migrants with labour, study, family or other motives increased up until 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of migrants of all motives decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Strict travel restrictions for intercontinental travel were imposed in this year and the processing of asylum requests was put on hold temporarily.
- In 2020, Dutch emigrants mostly moved to other European countries, such as Germany (14,000) and Poland (12,500). These migrants often returned to the country they were born in.

3.2 Main Migration Trends in the Netherlands

The main migration trends in the Netherlands from 1998 to 2020 are presented in figure 3.1 in terms of migration, emigration and migration surplus. In appendix table 3.1a these numbers are also broken down by Dutch versus foreign born migrants.

Immigration. Since 1980, there has been a significant increase in the number of immigrants entering the Netherlands. The highest number was reached in 2019 with around 269,000 individuals entering the country (see figure 3.1 and appendix table 3.1a). Between 2019 and 2020, the number of immigrants entering the Netherlands decreased substantially for the first time since 2004. This decrease can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led governments to restrict (international) mobility.

Emigration. In addition to an increase in immigration, the number of emigrants has increased steadily over the last decade as well. The highest peak was also reached in 2019 with approximately 161,000 emigrants leaving the country (see figure 3.1 and appendix table 3.1a). Between 2019 and 2020, fewer people emigrated from the Netherlands than the year before, leading to the first drop in the emigration rate since 2009. Again, this can be explained by the Covid pandemic and travel restrictions.

Surplus. The migration surplus, also referred to as the 'net migration rate', is the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants. Hence, a positive value represents more individuals entering than leaving the country, while a negative value implies a reverse picture. In Dutch statistics a distinction is drawn between two types of data: the *uncorrected* net migration rate and the *corrected* net migration rate. In this chapter we will only report data including these corrections. See box 3.1 for an explanation.

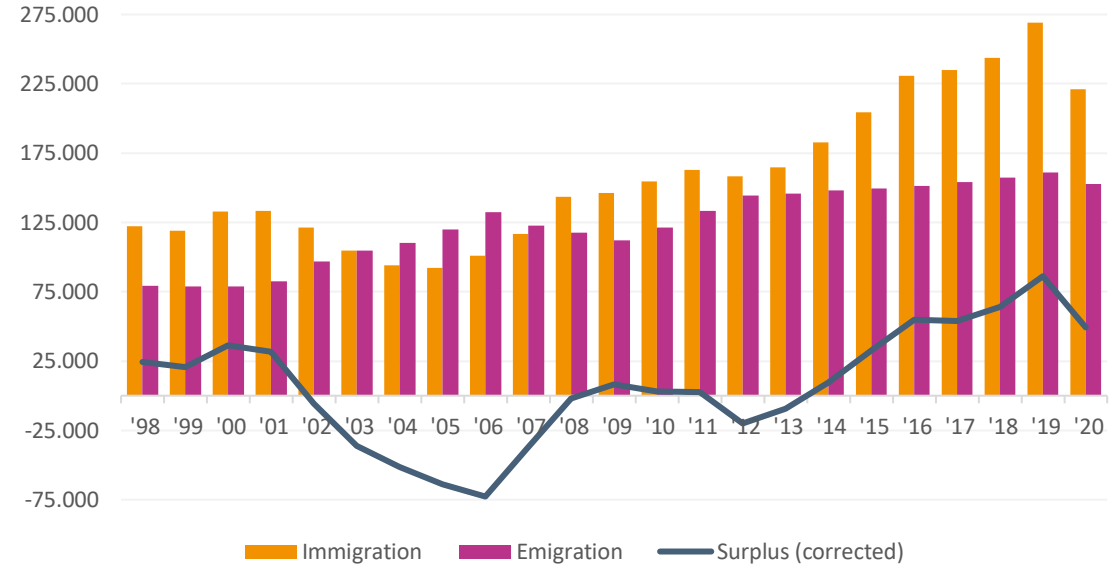
Box 3.1 Corrected net migration rate

The uncorrected net migration rate is calculated by subtracting the total number of emigrants from the total number of immigrants per year. The corrected net migration rate is based on the same method, but also includes the balance of administrative corrections. These corrections consist of both entries in and removals from the municipal population register for reasons other than birth, death, arrival or departure.[83]

Figure 3.1 shows fluctuations regarding the net migration rate over the last decennia. For most years, the net migration did not reach values below zero. The only exception to this trend occurred between 2002 and 2008, when the net migration rate fluctuated between -1,975 and -72,762. Particularly in 2005 and 2006, the number of emigrants largely exceeded the number of immigrants. After 2008, the Netherlands again became 'a country of immigration'. The surplus reached its ultimate peak in 2019 (86,162), when the number of immigrants in the Netherlands reached the highest level so far. Between 2019 and 2020, a dip in the surplus became apparent, as the immigration rate decreased more than the emigration rate in this year.

[83] An administrative *entry* is a decision by a municipality to include a person in its population while the municipality has not received information on birth, immigration or establishment of that person from another municipality in the Netherlands. An administrative *removal* is a decision by a municipality to no longer include a person in its population, once it has been established that the address of the person is unknown, the person cannot be contacted and probably no longer resides in the Netherlands.

Figure 3.1 Immigration to and emigration from the Netherlands, and net migration rate (surplus)[1], 1995-2020



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

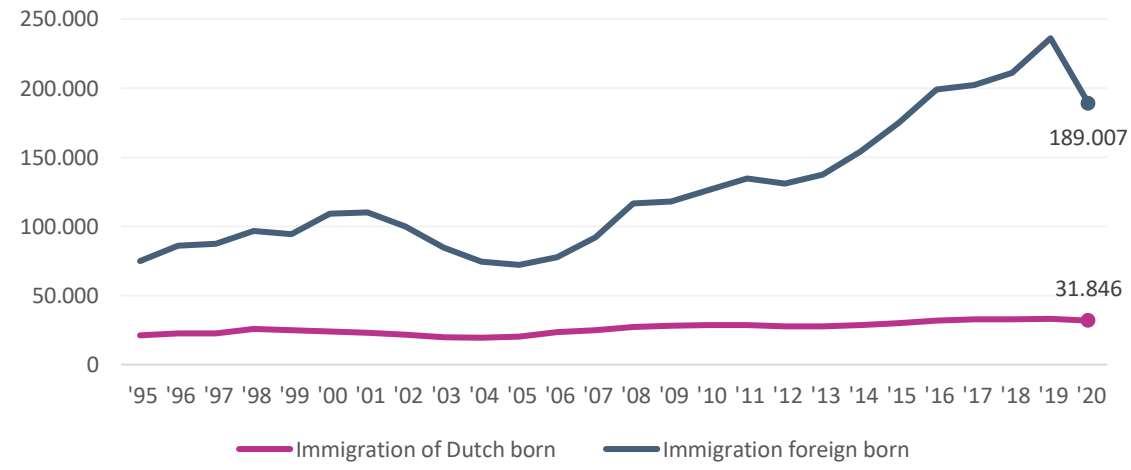
[1] Net migration is corrected for administrational errors.

3.3 Re-immigration of Persons Born in the Netherlands

The official Dutch migration statistics draws a distinction between persons born in the Netherlands and persons born in foreign countries. In this section we will discuss some statistics for Dutch-born immigrants who are re-entering the Netherlands.

A modest share of immigrants entering the Netherlands were originally born in the Netherlands (14% in 2020). Figure 3.2 shows the number of Dutch-born immigrants from 1995 to 2020. Compared to the number of non-Dutch immigrants, the size of this group of immigrants remained fairly small during the indicated period. What is also striking is that we do not observe a sharp decrease of the number of Dutch-born immigrants between 2019 and 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 3.2 Immigration by Dutch and foreign-born individuals, 1995-2020

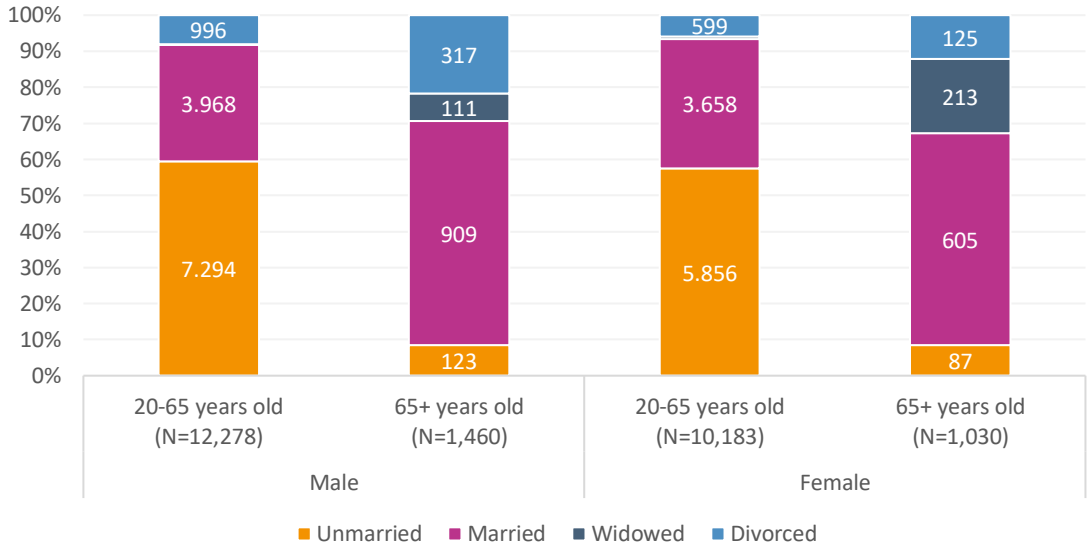


Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

3.3.1 Background and composition of Dutch-born immigrants

In 2020, most Dutch-born immigrants re-entering the Netherlands are between 20 and 65 years old and unmarried. This pattern is similar for males and females. See figure 3.3 for the composition of Dutch-born immigrants on 31 December 2020 and the appendix (table 3.2a) for the demographic background of these immigrants for the years 2018 up to and including 2020.

Figure 3.3 Age, sex and marital status of immigrants born in the Netherlands, 31 December 2020



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

3.3.2 Background and composition of Dutch-born immigrants, by country of departure

Approximately a quarter of the Dutch-born immigrants that re-entered the Netherlands in 2020 came from the neighbouring countries Belgium (12.5%) and Germany (11.8%). Other important countries of departure of Dutch-born immigrants included specific European countries (Spain, France and the UK) and a few Caribbean islands maintaining a specific political relationship with the Netherlands (Curaçao and Aruba). Besides, a significant number of migrants re-entering the Netherlands came from the United States, Turkey and Australia (see table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Top 10 Countries of departure of Dutch-born immigrants, 2020

Country of departure	Abs.	%
Belgium	3,973	12.5
Germany	3,767	11.8
United Kingdom	2,319	7.3
United States of America	2,045	6.4
Spain	2,032	6.4
Curaçao	1,364	4.3
Turkey	1,155	3.6
France	1,137	3.6
Australia	1,041	3.3
Aruba	522	1.6
Other	12,478	39.2
Total	31,833	100

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

3.4 Immigration of Foreigners, by Country of Birth

In this section, the immigration of foreign-born nationals will be discussed in more detail. A distinction is made between immigrants (i) from the EU-27 countries (as of 2020 excluding the United Kingdom), (ii)

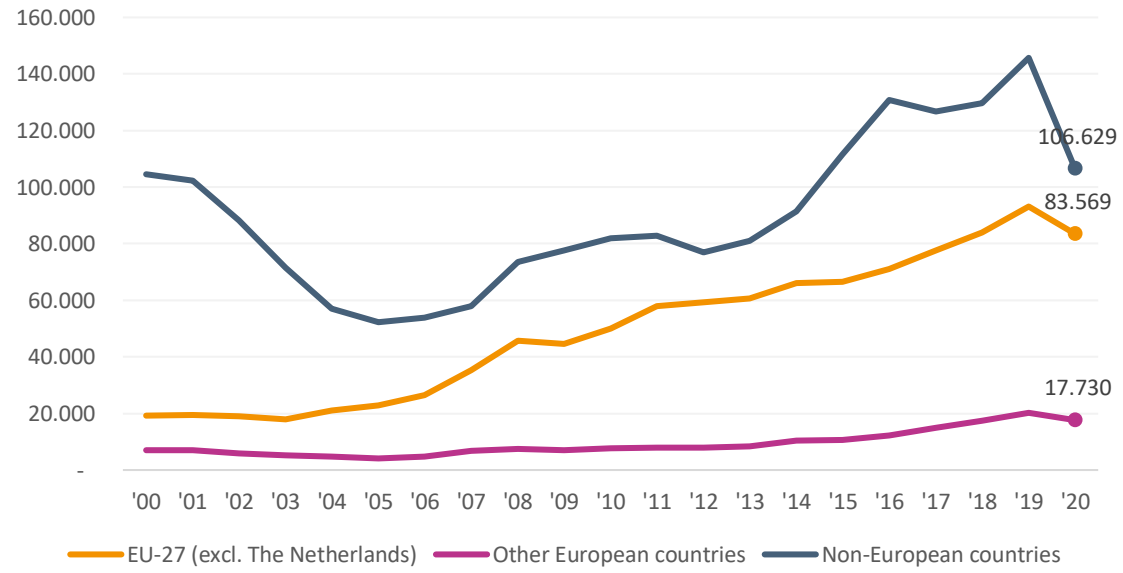
from other countries within Europe (such as Switzerland, Norway and Turkey), and (iii) non-European countries. See figure 3.4 for an overview of the number of immigrants in the Netherlands from these country groups between 2000 and 2020.

EU-27 countries. As shown in figure 3.4, the total number of foreign-born immigrants from EU countries was relatively stable between 2000 and 2005, with on average approximately 25,000 new foreign immigrants per year entering the Netherlands. However, after 2005, a strong and steady increase occurred. Over the last years, the number of immigrants born in EU countries tripled from about 26,500 in 2006 to over 93,000 immigrants in 2019. This is mainly due to the fact that in 2004 a great number of Middle- and Central European countries joined the EU, as well as Bulgaria and Romania in 2007. Between 2019 and 2020, however, the number of immigrants from EU-27 countries dereased to about 83,500 in 2020. This drop is mainly due to both the travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and a downturn in employment opportunities for (Eastern-)European labour migrants.[84]

Other European countries. Between 2000 and 2018, the influx of immigrants born in other European countries fluctuated between 8,000 and 20,000 individuals. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recent years show a decline in the number of immigrants from non-EU European countries from 20,222 in 2019 to 17,730 in 2020.

Non-European countries. The number of migrants from outside of Europe strongly declined between 2000 and 2005 (from 104,606 to 52,252). Thereafter, the statistics show a strong increase in the yearly number of non-European immigrants entering the Netherlands. In 2019, immigration from outside Europe reached an all-time high with 145,699 migrants entering the Netherlands. However, between 2019 and 2020, these numbers cut down by one third to 106,629 non-European immigrants. Again, the COVID-19 pandemic causing significant travel restrictions was largely responsible for this strong decline.

Figure 3.4 Immigration of foreign-born nationals to the Netherlands by country-group, 2000-2020



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

3.4.1 Development of the European Union (EU)

As mentioned above, the increase of foreign-born immigrants from the EU during the last decade cannot be understood without referring to the development of the European Union.

[84] https://nos.nl/artikel/2390171-cbs-migratie-naar-nederland-nam-af-vooral-minder-kennismigranten

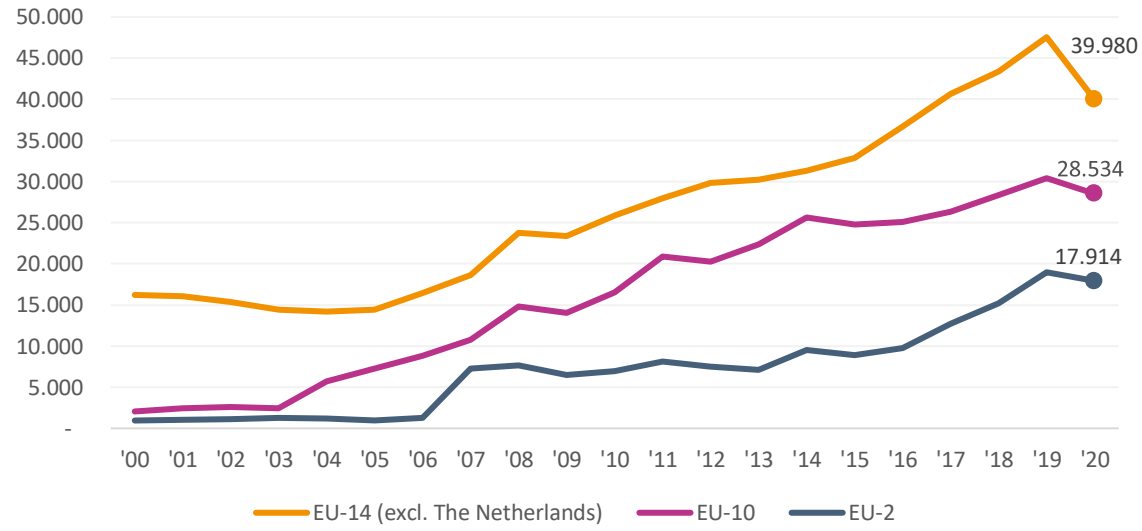
EU-10. On 1 May 2004, ten new Member States entered the European Union.[85] As shown in figure 3.5, this enlargement resulted in a notable growth in the number of immigrants from these new EU Member States (EU-10). In 2019, nearly 36,500 persons from these EU-10 countries migrated to the Netherlands. Between 2019 and 2020 this number decreased to 28,534 immigrants mainly due to travel restrictions and decreased job opportunities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EU-2. On 1 January 2007, both Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU. As shown in figure 3.5, this new enlargement strongly encouraged new patterns of immigration to the Netherlands. In 2019, nearly 19,000 immigrants from these countries arrived in the Netherlands, against only 1,250 in 2006. Also for this group a decrease in the number of immigrants is visible between 2019 and 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Croatia. On 1 July 2013, Croatia became the twenty-eighth EU-Member State. Although the number of Croatian immigrants increased from 41 immigrants in 2013 to 714 immigrants in 2020, these numbers remain fairly small as compared to the magnitude of immigration from the EU Member States (see Appendix Table 3.3a).

Brexit. Finally, the United Kingdom left the European Union on the 31 January 2020 (the so-called Brexit). In this report we already excluded the United Kingdom from the EU statistics. After the exit of the United Kingdom, the European Union has 27 Members States left. Thereafter, the number of British immigrants decreased from 8,177 in 2019 to 7,058 in 2020. This decline is both caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Figure 3.5 **Immigration to the Netherlands of foreign-born nationals from EU countries (old versus new), 2000-2020[1]**



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

[1] EU(14) refers to the original EU countries (excluding the United Kingdom which left the EU in 2020). EU(10) refers to the ten new countries that joined the EU in 2004, and EU(2) refers to Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU in 2007.

3.5 Migration Motives and Composition of Foreigners[86]

There are some fluctuations over the years regarding the principal motives of migrants to settle in the Netherlands. In this section, we discuss the main changes over the last decade according to migration motive (see also figure 3.6 and 3.7) along with the demographic characteristics of immigrants (see table 3.2 and 3.3).

[85] Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
[86] Most recent statistics are on 2018.

3.5.1 Migration motives of migrants from the EU/EFTA

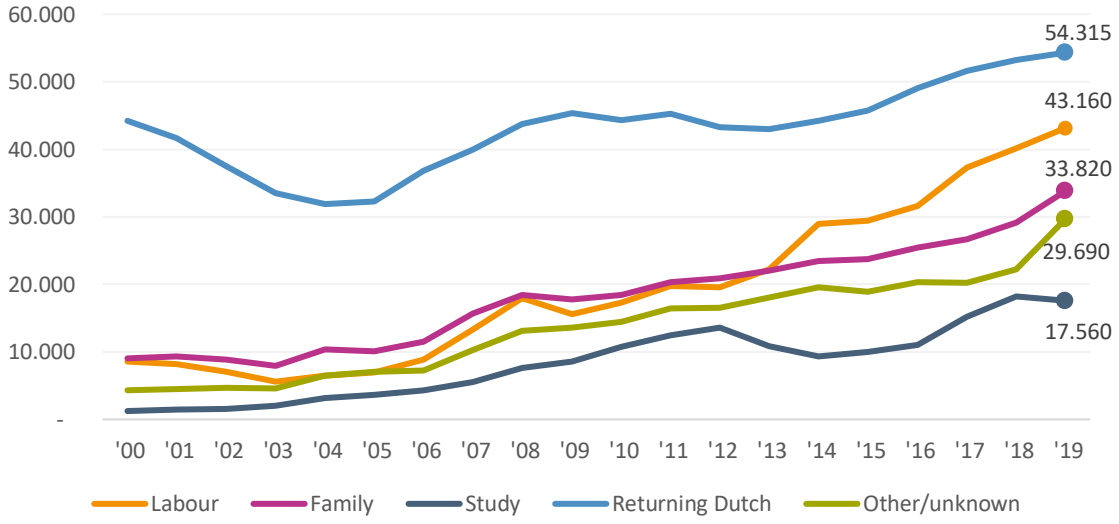
Returning Dutch citizens. The largest group of immigrants from the EU/EFTA consists of Dutchmen returning to their country of birth. The number of returning Dutch citizens increased over the last years from 43,010 in 2013 to 54,315 in 2019 (see figure 3.6). Unfortunately, Dutch migration statistics do not register the motives for return. Dutch citizens who returned to the Netherlands in 2019 are of all ages and both genders are equally represented (see table 3.2).

Labour. Of the foreign-born immigrants from the EU/EFTA, labour migration is the most common motive for settlement in the Netherlands. The number of labour migrants was fairly stable between 2000 and 2006 with around 7,000 labour migrants each year. Apart from some fluctuations, the number of labour migrants increased after 2006 to 43,160 labour migrants settling in the Netherlands in 2019. In the latter year, two-thirds (62%) of the labour migrants were men and most labour migrants were aged between 18 and 30 years.

Family. The number of family immigrants from the EU/EFTA also remained fairly stable between 2000 and 2006 (around 9,000 people each year). Thereafter, this number steadily increased to nearly 33,830 family immigrants in 2019. Within this category, women are slightly overrepresented (52%). Most family migrants are between 18 and 30 years old.

Study. Between 2000 and 2012 the yearly number of immigrants who came to the Netherlands to study increased from around 1,240 to 13,615. Over the following years the number of study migrants decreased to approximately 9,515 in 2014. Thereafter, this number increased again up to 18,215 study migrants settling in the Netherlands in 2018. Between 2018 and 2019, there has been a slight decrease in the number of immigrant students from the EU. Most EU/EFTA study migrants arriving in 2019 were between 18 of 30 and there were slightly more women (54%) than men (46%) among them.

Figure 3.6 **Migration motives of immigrants from EU/EFTA countries by year of migration (2000-2019), absolute numbers**



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

Table 3.2 Migration motives of immigrants from EU/EFTA countries by sex and age, 2019 (percentages)[87]

Migration motive			Gender	Age in years				
	Abs.	% of total		<18	18-30	30-40	> 40	Total
Labour	43,160	24%	Men	0%	32%	18%	12%	62%
			Women	0%	23%	8%	7%	38%
Family	33,820	19%	Men	8%	18%	13%	10%	49%
			Women	8%	23%	12%	9%	52%
Study	17,560	10%	Men	9%	36%	1%	0%	46%
			Women	9%	44%	1%	0%	54%
Returning Dutch	54,315	30%	Men	13%	14%	9%	17%	53%
			Women	13%	14%	7%	12%	46%
Other/unknown	29,690	17%	Men	0%	30%	13%	13%	56%
			Women	0%	31%	5%	7%	43%
Total	178,550	100%	Men	7%	24%	12%	12%	55%
			Women	6%	24%	7%	8%	45%

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

3.5.2 Migration motives of migrants from non-EU/EFTA countries

The migration motives of migrants who originate from outside of the EU/EFTA differ from the EU/EFTA migrants. While employment was the most important motive for non-EU/EFTA immigrants in 2019, family formation or reunification was the most important motive for this category. Asylum is also an important motive, although its prevalence has decreased sharply over the last years. Another difference between EU/EFTA and non-EU/EFTA migrants is the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the migration numbers. For non-EU/EFTA migrants we see a drop in the migration numbers for all categories between 2019 and 2020, whereas for EU/EFTA migrants this drop was only visible for study migrants.

Labour. Some fluctuations aside, the number of labour migrants from outside the EU and EFTA has increased from 4,610 in 2000 to 19,520 in 2019 (see figure 3.7). In 2020, the number of labour migrants dropped to 11,970. This group consists for 70% of men and for 30% of women, as can be seen in table 3.3. Most of these migrants are aged between 18 and 30 years.

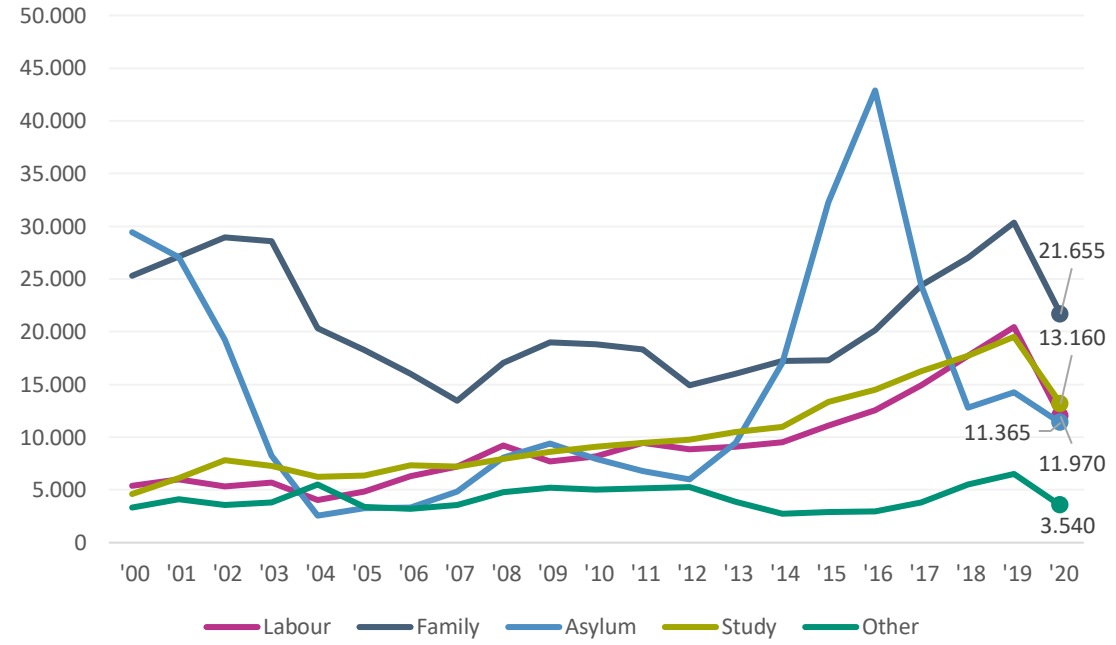
Family. In 2020, family formation was the main motive for migration among non-European/EFTA immigrants. The number of family migrants has fluctuated strongly over the years. The highest peak was reached in 2002 with 28,940 family migrants. Thereafter, the number of family migrants decreased to its lowest number of 13,455 in 2007. After some fluctuations in the following years, this number increased to over 30,350 in 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of family migrants dropped to 21,655. In 2020, two thirds (65%) of the family migrants were women. In addition, most female family migrants were aged under 40, while most male family migrants were aged under 18.

Study. The number of study migrants from outside the EU/EFTA has increased from around 3,345 in 2000 to 19,520 in 2019. Again, this number dropped sharply the year after to 13,160 in 2020. Slightly more women (54%) than men (46%) came to the Netherlands to study. Most of them were between 18 and 30 years old in 2020.

Asylum. The number of asylum migrants has been subject to large fluctuations over the past decades. At the start of the century, the number of immigrants with asylum motives decreased from 29,435 in 2000 to 2,560 in 2004. After some years of relatively few asylum immigrants, the numbers increased from 2013 to a new high of 42,885 in 2016. Thereafter, the numbers dropped to 12,830 asylum migrants in 2018. In 2019, this number was slightly higher (14,245), but decreased again in 2020 (11,365). Among these immigrants were more men (61%) than women (38%) in 2020. They were of all ages.

[87] For nearly 20% of the new immigrants in 2016, their migration motive is categorised as 'other' or 'unknown'. Immigrants with 'other motives' are those who are economically inactive, those who come to the Netherlands for medical treatment, and native Dutch people, as they do not need an immigration motive.

Figure 3.7 Migration motives of immigrants from non-EU/EFTA countries by year of migration (2000-2020), absolute numbers



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

Table 3.3 Migration motives of immigrants from non-EU/EFTA countries by sex and age, 2020 (percentages)[88]

Migration motive			Gender	Age in years				
	Abs.	%		0-18	18-30	30-40	40+	Total
Labour	11,970	19%	Men	0%	25%	32%	13%	70%
			Women	0%	14%	12%	4%	30%
Family	21,655	35%	Men	16%	7%	8%	5%	36%
			Women	17%	19%	20%	11%	65%
Asylum	11,365	18%	Men	17%	18%	13%	13%	61%
			Women	14%	8%	8%	8%	38%
Study	13,160	21%	Men	2%	38%	5%	1%	46%
			Women	2%	47%	4%	1%	54%
Other	3,540	6%	Men	1%	12%	9%	6%	28%
			Women	1%	49%	16%	6%	72%
Total	61,690	100%	Men	9%	19%	13%	7%	48%
			Women	8%	24%	13%	7%	52%

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

3.5.3 Migration motives by country

Table 3.4 displays the top 10 nationalities of immigrants from the EU/EFTA by migration motives. In 2019, most labour migrants from within the EU came from Poland (25.3%) and Romania (12.4%). Furthermore, of all family migrants from the EU/EFTA, more a quarter originated from Poland (25.2%). Among the EU/EFTA study immigrants in the Netherlands the largest group originated from Germany (20.5%).

Table 3.4 Top 10 nationalities within the EU/EFTA by migration motive, 2019

Labour		Family		Study	
(N=43,160)	%	(N=33,820)	%	(N=17,560)	%
Polish	25.3	Polish	25.2	German	20.5
Romanian	12.4	British	8.5	Italian	9.5
Italian	8.3	German	7.9	Bulgarian	8.2
British	6.9	Romanian	7.8	Romanian	6.9
Bulgarian	6.6	Bulgarian	7.4	British	6.2
Spanish	6.2	Italian	6.6	Spanish	5.7
German	5	Spanish	5.8	Greek	5.6
French	4.8	French	4.8	Polish	5.4
Greek	4.1	Belgian	4.6	French	5.2
Portugese	3.5	Hongarian	3.1	Belgian	3.4
Other	20.4	Other	21.4	Other	26.8
Total	100.0	Total	100.0	Total	100.0

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

In table 3.5 the top 10 nationalities of immigrants from outside of the EU/EFTA per migration motive are shown. In 2020, most labour migrants originated from India (19.5%), China (12.9%), and the United States (10.4%). Similarly, in 2020, the most common countries of origin amongst study migrants were China (15.1%), the United States (10.2%), and India (8.8%). Finally, almost half of the asylum migrants came from Syria (45.7%), followed by Eritrea (11.4%) and Turkey (10.4%) in that year.

Table 3.5 Top 10 nationalities outside of the EU/EFTA by migration motive, 2020

Labour		Family		Study		Asylum	
(N=11,970)	%	(N=21,655))	%	(N=13,160)	%	(N=11,365)	%
Indian	19.5	Indian	11.1	Chinese	15.1	Syrian	45.7
Chinese	12.9	Turkish	10.0	American	10.2	Eritrean	11.4
American	10.4	American	6.4	Indian	8.8	Turkish	10.4
Turkish	7.1	Moroccan	5.1	Turkish	6.5	Afghan	2.5
South-African	5.1	Eritrean	4.7	South-Korean	4.7	Iraqi	2.5
Brazilian	4.4	Brazilian	4.1	Indonesian	4.1	Iranian	1.8
Iranian	4.0	South-African	3.5	Russian	4.0	Somalian	0.8
Russian	4.0	Russian	3.5	Brazilian	2.5	Russian	0.7
Japanese	3.9	Chinese	3.3	Canadian	2.3	Chinese	0.7
Canadian	1.8	Iranian	3.2	Ukrainian	2.3	Moroccan	0.1
Other	28.7	Other	48.3	Other	41.8	Other	23.5
Total	**100.0**	**Total**	**100.0**	**Total**	**100.0**	**Total**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

3.6 Emigration from the Netherlands

In this section we focus on the Dutch emigration statistics. In 2020, 133,161 persons emigrated from the Netherlands. Below we discuss their demographic characteristics and countries of destination.

3.6.1 Country of destination and composition of emigrants

The first column of table 3.6 shows the most popular countries of destination for emigrants. It illustrates that most emigrants from the Netherlands moved to other European countries in 2020. Germany (14,162) was the most popular destination, followed by Poland (12,499) and Belgium (9,796). Popular destinations outside Europe were the United Kingdom (7,965), the United States of America (5,630), and India (3,839).

In general, emigrants often migrate to the countries in which they were born. However, there are notable exceptions to this pattern. For instance, people who emigrate to Belgium or Spain are more often born in the Netherlands.

Table 3.6 Demographic background (sex and country of birth) of emigrants from the Netherlands, 2020 (uncorrected immigration figures)

Country of destination	Total emigrants (uncorrected figures)[1]	% of total	% male	% female	% born in country of establishment	% born in the Netherlands	% born in other countries
Total	133,161	100.0	51.0	49.0	58.0	23.1	18.9
Total EU27	73,892	55.5	51.6	48.4	57.3	24.6	18.2
Total Europe	88,451	66.4	52.0	48.0	55.7	24.1	20.1
Germany	14,162	10.6	48.7	51.3	48.5	27.8	23.7
Poland	12,499	9.4	56.6	43.4	89.1	9.3	1.6
Belgium	9,796	7.4	49.0	51.0	17.5	52.6	29.9
United Kingdom	7,965	6.0	51.3	48.7	35.9	26.3	37.8
Spain	6,763	5.1	50.6	49.4	43.1	35.0	21.9
United States of America	5,630	4.2	45.5	54.5	58.7	21.5	19.8
France	5,035	3.8	48.0	52.0	50.0	26.4	23.6
Italy	4,850	3.6	52.6	47.4	78.8	9.4	11.8
India	3,839	2.9	61.0	39.0	95.3	2.6	2.1
China	3,834	2.9	43.8	56.2	86.6	5.4	8.0

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

[1] The emigration statistics in this table are uncorrected and therefore do not match with figures presented in figures 3.1 and 3.2, which display corrected emigration statistics. For this table we use uncorrected figures because we only know the country of destination for emigrants who deregister from the municipality themselves.

3.7 Appendix

Appendix Table 3.1a Total immigration and emigration (Dutch nationals versus foreign nationals), and net-migration rate (corrected versus uncorrected), 1975-2020

	Immigration		Emigration		Net-migration (surplus)	
	Dutch nationals	Foreign nationals	Dutch nationals	Foreign nationals	Corrected	Uncorrected
1995	21,396	74,703	38,507	43,688	-4,970	13,904
1996	22,566	86,183	40,365	51,580	-9,816	16,804
1997	22,715	87,145	37,849	44,124	8,132	27,887
1998	25,984	96,423	35,778	43,511	24,270	43,118
1999	24,974	94,177	35,785	42,994	20,616	40,372
2000	23,817	109,033	37,414	41,563	36,097	53,873
2001	23,150	110,254	39,380	43,186	31,590	50,838
2002	21,442	99,808	43,631	53,287	-5,858	24,332
2003	19,828	84,686	45,946	58,885	-36,263	-317
2004	19,447	74,572	47,377	62,858	-51,402	-16,216
2005	20,187	72,110	53,729	65,996	-63,754	-27,428
2006	23,484	77,666	59,305	73,165	-72,762	-31,320
2007	24,984	91,835	56,303	66,273	-37,046	-5,757
2008	26,999	116,517	51,215	66,564	-1,975	25,737
2009	28,248	118,130	40,021	71,876	7,941	34,481
2010	28,397	126,035	41,729	79,622	3,180	33,081
2011	28,462	134,500	45,934	87,260	2,759	29,768
2012	27,676	130,698	45,427	99,064	-20,252	13,883
2013	27,612	137,160	44,612	101,057	-9,386	19,103
2014	28,756	154,193	46,623	101,239	9,473	35,087
2015	29,882	174,733	46,380	103,129	32,481	55,106
2016	31,648	199,091	45,242	106,303	54,969	79,194
2017	32,831	202,126	43,378	110,914	53,825	80,665
2018	32,820	210,917	41,433	115,933	63,802	86,371
2019	33,110	235,954	39,278	121,751	86,162	108,035
2020	31,846	189,007	30,626	121,868	49,026	68,359

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

Appendix Table 3.2a Age, sex, and marital status of Dutch-born immigrants, 2018-2020

		2018			2019			2020		
		Abs,	% of total	% female	Abs,	% of total	% female	Abs,	% of total	% female
<20 year	Unmarried	7,290	99.9	49	7,405	100	49.8	6,892	100	48.2
	Married	4	0.1	100	2	0	100	3	0	100
	Widowed	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
	Divorced	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
	Total	7,294	100	49	7,407	100	49.8	6,895	100	48.2
20-65 years	Unmarried	13,677	59.3	45.4	13,794	59.6	44.9	13,150	58.5	44.5
	Married	7,473	32.4	47.7	7,567	32.7	48.6	7,626	34	48
	Widowed	116	0.5	67.2	113	0.5	70.8	90	0.4	77.8
	Divorced	1,796	7.8	37.2	1,664	7.2	37.4	1,595	7.1	37.6
	Total	23,062	100	45.6	23,138	100	45.7	22,461	100	45.3
65+	Unmarried	236	9.6	42.8	209	8.1	36.8	210	8.4	41.4
	Married	1,458	59.2	41.3	1,539	60	39.7	1,514	60.8	40
	Widowed	325	13.2	69.2	375	14.6	73.3	324	13	65.7
	Divorced	445	18.1	33.5	442	17.2	33	442	17.8	28.3
	Total	2,464	100	43.7	2,565	100	43.2	2,490	100	41.4
Total	Unmarried	21,203	64.6	46.6	21,408	64.7	46.5	20,252	63.6	45.7
	Married	8,935	27.2	46.7	9,108	27.5	47.1	9,143	28.7	46.7
	Widowed	441	1.3	68.7	488	1.5	72.7	414	1.3	68.4
	Divorced	2,241	6.8	36.5	2,106	6.4	36.5	2,037	6.4	35.5
	Total	32,820	100	46.2	33,110	100	46.4	31,846	100	45.6

Source: Statistics Netherlands, Online statistics (2021)

Appendix Table 3.3a Immigration to the Netherlands by country of birth[1], 2010-2020

Country of birth	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Europe	**86,100**	**94,178**	**94,786**	**96,642**	**105,294**	**106,992**	**114,924**	**125,495**	**134,052**	**146,477**	**133,145**
EU-27	**78,413**	**86,309**	**86,976**	**88,354**	**94,907**	**96,456**	**102,601**	**110,521**	**116,738**	**126,255**	**115,415**
EU-14	**54,266**	**56,458**	**57,540**	**57,839**	**60,040**	**62,737**	**68,344**	**73,489**	**76,190**	**80,650**	**71,826**
Belgium	2,496	2,710	3,012	2,970	3,195	3,276	3,765	4,018	3,958	4,164	4,189
Denmark	399	425	460	480	504	483	645	659	704	685	551
Germany	9,391	9,258	8,599	8,094	8,077	8,535	9,495	10,335	10,703	11,335	10,454
Finland	522	636	651	580	663	783	981	1,076	1,108	1,135	728
France	2,800	2,820	2,838	3,059	3,458	3,841	4,220	4,701	4,972	5,276	4,510
Greece	1,674	2,429	3,043	2,687	2,357	2,543	2,920	3,385	3,636	4,272	3,290
Ireland	589	669	556	596	702	706	895	986	1,182	1,507	1,229
Italy	2,494	2,768	3,306	3,855	4,634	5,025	5,608	6,500	7,075	7,668	6,257
Luxembourg	82	91	91	100	139	151	229	283	326	394	302
The Netherlands	28,397	28,462	27,676	27,612	28,756	29,882	31,648	32,831	32,820	33,110	31,846
Austria	486	533	470	486	657	592	708	801	873	887	777
Portugal	1,530	1,727	2,051	2,079	1,887	1,860	1,961	2,127	2,400	2,841	1,933
Spain	2,764	3,205	4,040	4,558	4,238	4,170	4,393	4,863	5,427	6,314	4,994
Sweden	642	725	747	683	773	890	876	924	1,006	1,062	766
EU-12	**26,840**	**32,640**	**32,029**	**33,138**	**39,293**	**37,825**	**39,097**	**43,841**	**48,896**	**55,412**	**52,312**
Bulgaria	4,241	5,300	4,921	4,431	5,022	4,653	4,763	5,703	6,595	8,588	8,477
Cyprus	70	109	105	141	147	171	209	302	329	365	327
Estonia	270	316	273	263	278	198	258	270	293	325	296
Hungary	2,367	2,539	2,955	2,646	2,698	2,808	2,687	2,916	2,912	3,251	2,643
Latvia	933	979	1,103	865	1,038	939	973	1,157	1,449	1,646	1,455
Lithuania	979	1,225	1,128	1,183	1,042	1,078	1,170	1,506	1,756	1,979	1,448
Malta	41	32	48	45	41	49	71	64	77	102	65
Poland	15,022	19,090	18,591	20,532	23,923	23,029	23,057	23,790	25,418	27,045	25,533
Romania	2,697	2,820	2,615	2,664	4,514	4,244	5,012	7,019	8,630	10,379	9,437
Slovenia	22	29	32	65	156	138	161	192	224	238	240
Slovakia	83	72	126	134	210	274	425	532	758	904	1,526
Czech Republic	115	129	132	169	224	244	311	390	455	590	865
Croatia	4	31	22	41	88	138	172	210	282	572	714
Other Europe	**12,132**	**12,083**	**11,726**	**11,830**	**12,732**	**13,141**	**14,848**	**17,436**	**20,045**	**23,560**	**17,796**
(Former) Yugoslavia	1,255	1,419	1,418	1,648	1,936	1,863	2,093	2,111	2,461	3,034	2,254
(Former) Czechoslovakia	1,809	1,744	1,612	1,634	1,921	1,836	1,928	2,150	2,485	2,662	2,391
Albania	111	142	178	197	270	331	381	458	518	561	406
Moldavia	10	31	47	52	88	118	183	310	446	649	1,101
Norway	430	374	357	430	419	436	558	590	560	605	486
Ukraine	100	132	164	226	301	450	511	636	806	925	1,410
Russian Federation	221	316	372	459	542	669	767	953	1,134	1,440	2,257
(Former) Soviet Union	3,209	3,304	3,138	2,774	3,017	3,028	3,098	3,396	3,876	4,356	0
Turkey	4,460	4,065	3,887	3,809	3,570	3,747	4,514	5,928	6,809	8,267	6,742
Switzerland	527	556	553	601	668	663	815	904	950	1,061	749

Appendix Table 3.3a (part 2)

Geboorteland	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Other non-Europe	**19,529**	**21,559**	**20,524**	**20,882**	**22,902**	**26,504**	**30,390**	**32,309**	**36,328**	**40,563**	**28,371**
Afghanistan	1,679	1,768	1,354	1,259	910	970	2,436	1,201	1,276	1,053	946
Aruba	647	691	601	604	604	570	598	717	651	760	1,140
Canada	914	900	1,039	1,031	1,041	1,182	1,237	1,331	1,428	1,403	1,005
China	5,036	5,959	5,625	5,150	5,190	5,705	5,975	6,724	7,156	7,890	4,726
Colombia	855	843	810	988	811	839	972	1,057	1,279	1,508	1,191
Curaçao	0	0	99	102	128	227	218	309	389	546	3,135
Eritrea	290	307	227	458	2,083	3,311	3,189	3,059	2,675	2,490	1,755
Ghana	840	870	631	642	588	563	568	663	813	960	584
India	3,342	3,959	4,124	4,635	5,249	6,342	7,496	8,855	10,816	12,515	6,163
Japan	1,053	1,152	1,135	1,060	1,151	1,260	1,549	1,405	1,537	1,748	1,065
Mexico	532	572	599	632	674	816	861	980	1,166	1,170	1,007
Nigeria	664	682	558	569	599	528	457	602	791	1,239	758
Pakistan	699	806	819	839	733	917	928	1,033	1,206	1,404	1,063
Peru	341	342	306	275	318	324	334	383	532	533	404
Singapore	303	306	365	371	436	422	572	610	652	670	467
Taiwan	457	487	394	462	512	548	695	789	889	1,067	623
Thailand	910	942	848	780	755	785	877	866	975	1,104	741
Uganda	212	163	188	281	255	240	244	212	321	424	255
Venezuela	315	307	365	301	379	395	410	537	714	843	643
Vietnam	440	503	437	443	486	560	774	976	1,062	1,236	700
Total	**154,432**	**162,962**	**158,374**	**164,772**	**182,949**	**204,615**	**230,739**	**234,957**	**243,737**	**269,064**	**220,853**

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

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Labour Migration to the Netherlands

4

4 Labour Migration to the Netherlands

This chapter provides statistics on labour migration to the Netherlands from outside the European Union. Attention is paid to both 'highly skilled workers' and other 'labour migrants'.

The main reason for moving to the Netherlands (e.g. for work or study purposes) determines the type of authorisation immigrants need to legally work in the Netherlands. Some foreign nationals (such as highly skilled workers) can obtain a residence permit that authorises them to work, without requiring a separate work permit. Others, however, will need a (separate) work permit. In this chapter we describe the different routes to the Dutch labour market that immigrants face. In addition, an overview is provided of the number of positive and negative decisions on the applications by the Dutch government. Finally, we discuss some differences regarding the nationality of immigrants and the sectors in which they work.

Data on residence permits are mainly based on data retrieved from the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*IND*) and Eurostat. Statistics on work permits are based on data retrieved from the Employee Insurance Agency (*Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen, UWV*).

4.1 Main Findings

- The number of applications for residence permits by labour migrants increased between 2015 and 2019, but dropped between 2019 and 2020. Especially the number of residence permit applications launched by 'knowledge and talent' migrants declined this last year (from 20,970 in 2019 to 13,710 in 2020). This is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions on international travel.
- The number of residence permits issued to highly skilled workers and researchers (both subgroups of the 'knowledge and talent' category) had increased between 2010 and 2019. However, this trend reversed between 2019 and 2020. Especially, the number of residence permits for highly skilled workers decreased significantly between 2019 and 2020 (from 14,205 in 2019 to 8,031 in 2020).
- In 2020, highly skilled migrants mostly originated from India (30%) or the United States (10%), while scientific researchers mostly originated from China (34%).
- Most decisions on requests for work permits or advice on admission to employment were positive in 2020 (88% and 80%, respectively). Between 2019 and 2020, the number of issued work permits decreased substantially (from 8,739 in 2019 to 6,028 in 2020). The number of favourable decisions on admission to employment also decreased (from 4,520 in 2019 to 3,197 in 2020). Approval rates are higher within the category 'knowledge and talent' compared to 'labour migrants' (91% and 78% respectively in 2020).
- Most requests for a work permit or an advice on admission to employment are subject to a limited labour market test. In 2020, 95% of the issued work permits and requests that led to a favourable advice were the result of a limited labour market test.
- The combined number of issued work permits and favourable decisions were by far the highest for Chinese nationals (most often for professions in the food industry) and Indian nationals (most often for professions related to technical advice or research).
- The absolute number of intra-company transferees who work in management or key positions (specialist) decreased between 2015 and 2020 (from 322 in 2015 to 250 in 2020). The number of granted TWVs and GVVAs for trainees had steadily increased between 2015 and 2019 (from 496 in 2015 to 765 in 2019), while these numbers have decreased the year after to 632 in 2020. This drop can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions on (international) mobility.

4.2 Main Categories for Labour Migration

A distinction is made between third-country nationals who migrate as a 'knowledge and talent' migrant and third-country 'labour migrants'. For the first group, the Dutch policy is considered 'inviting'. These migrants are only required to obtain a residence permit and do not have to apply for a work permit (*Tewerkstellingsvergunning, TWV*). For the second group, the admission policy is considered 'restrictive'.

These migrants are required to obtain a work permit. If these migrants stay for less than 90 days, their employer has to apply for a short-term work permit. For a stay of more than 90 days, employers need to apply for a combined residence and work permit (*Gecombineerde vergunning voor verblijf en arbeid, GVVA)*. Box 4.1 provides an overview for which groups residence permits or work permits are required.

Box 4.1 Required permits for third-country nationals who come to the Netherlands for remunerated activities

	Residence permit	Work permit
'Knowledge and talent'		
• *Highly skilled:* a foreign national coming to the Netherlands to work as a highly skilled employee, thus making a contribution towards the Dutch knowledge-based economy. No work permit is required for this category.	V	
• *Scientific researcher:* a foreign employee involved in a research project approved by a Dutch research institute in the Netherlands. No work permit is required for this category.	V	
• *Self-employed and freelance workers*	V	
• *Recent graduates with an orientation year*	V	
• *Highly skilled staying shorter than three months*		V
'Labour migrants'		
• *Labour migrants staying longer than three months*	V (GVVA)	V (GVVA)
• *Labour migrants staying shorter than three months*		V
• *Migrants staying longer than three months who are already in possession of a residence permit (e.g. foreign students)*		V

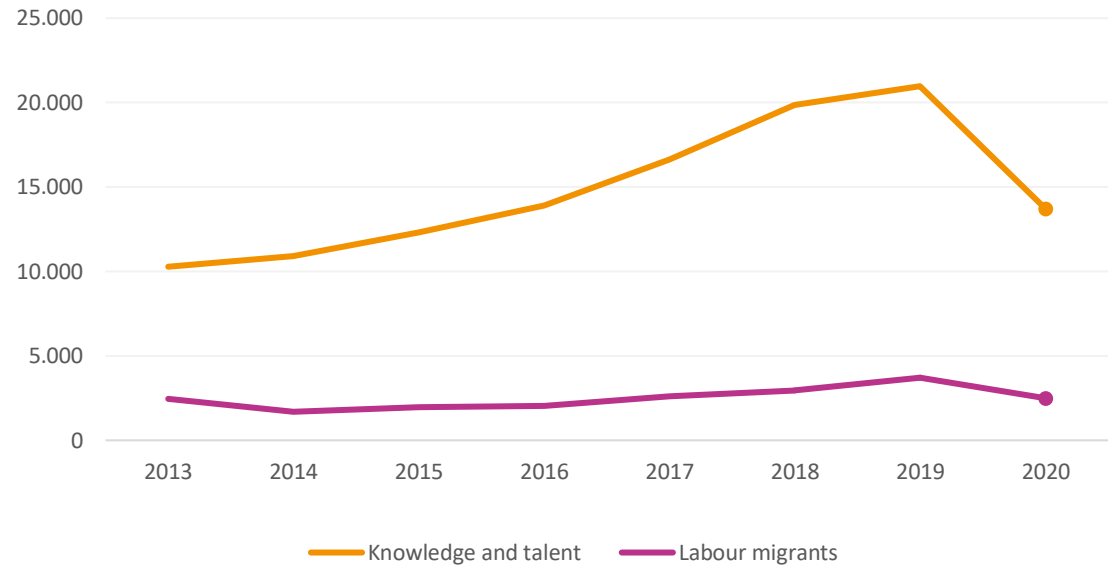
Source: EMN (2015); IND website (2016)

In this chapter, we will first provide information on residence permits issued to third-country nationals who come to the Netherlands for work. Special attention will be given to highly skilled migrants and scientific researchers. Next, we describe the number of issued work permits or favourable advice procedures on combined residence and work permits, required for the category 'labour migrants'.

4.3 Decisions on Residence Permits

In the Netherlands, the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*IND*) is responsible for licensing of residence permits. Most third-country labour migrants who apply for a residence permit belong to the 'knowledge and talent' category. Due to the restrictive labour market policy towards employees in the 'labour migrants' category, the number of applications by this group is much smaller. Between 2015 and 2019, the number of applications for both categories increased (see figure 4.1). The relative increase of labour migrants compared to the previous years is the highest between 2018 and 2019 (+25%). Shortage on the Dutch labour market, which had risen to a new high in 2018 (80 vacancies per 100 unemployed), may explain the steep increase of labour migrants between 2018 and 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, a sharp drop in the number of applications becomes apparent, especially among 'knowledge and talent' migrants. This can be explained by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in 2020. The Dutch and foreign governments implemented restrictions because of the pandemic, such as a travel ban.

Figure 4.1 Number of residence permit applications (2013-2020)



Source: Annual reports IND

Most applications for residence permits result in a favourable decision by the IND, although the approval rate is much higher for the 'knowledge and talent' category (91% in 2020) than the 'labour migrants' category (78% in 2020).The approval rate for knowledge and talent migrants is slightly lower in 2020 compared to the previous year (table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Positive decisions on residence permit applications, in percentages (2013-2020)

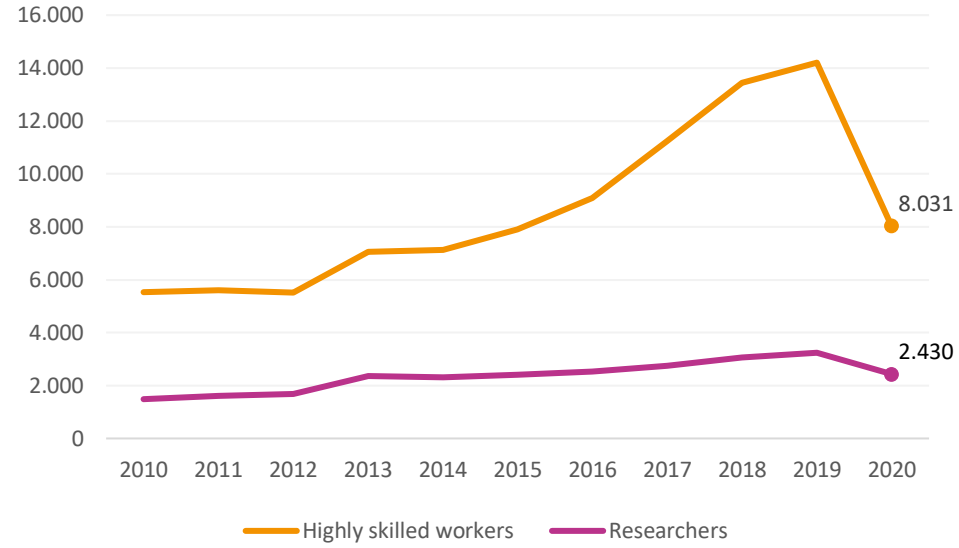
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Knowledge and talent	93%	93%	92%	93%	94%	94%	94%	91%
Labour migrants	67%	69%	80%	79%	74%	78%	78%	70%

Source: Annual report IND

4.3.1 Highly skilled migrants and scientific researchers

In this section the number of residence permits issued to highly skilled migrants and scientific researchers is discussed in more detail. These are subcategories of the 'knowledge and talent' group. The number of residence permits issued to these categories was increasing until 2019, but dropped between 2019 and 2020 (see figure 4.2). This decline is especially sharp for highly skilled workers, whose granted first residence permits declined by 43% (from 14,205 in 2019 to 8,031 in 2020). The number of researchers who were granted a residence permit decreased by 25% (from 3,240 in 2019 to 2,430 in 2020).

Figure 4.2 Number of granted first residence permits for highly skilled workers and researchers (2010-2020)



Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)

Most of the highly skilled labour migrants who were granted a first residence permit in 2020 were either Indian (30%) or United States citizens (10%). Within the category of scientific researchers, China (34%) is by far the most common country that migrants originate from in 2020 (see table 4.2).

Table 4.2 Top 10 Granted first residence permits for highly skilled migrants, by country of origin, 2020

Top 10 countries highly skilled migrants	abs	%	Top 10 countries scientific researchers	abs	%
Total	8,031	100.0	Total	2,430	100.0
India	2,415	30.1	China	834	34.3
United States	830	10.3	Iran	221	9.1
Turkey	623	7.8	India	203	8.4
South Africa	522	6.5	United States	125	5.1
Russia	386	4.8	Brazil	120	4.9
China	379	4.7	Turkey	115	4.7
Brazil	373	4.6	Indonesia	70	2.9
Japan	350	4.4	Russia	61	2.5
Canada	160	2.0	Mexico	60	2.5
Ukraine	160	2.0	Canada	41	1.7

Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)

4.4 Work Permits

In this section we will discuss the statistics on issued work permits and favourable advice procedures on combined residence and work permits. Work permits are required for the group of 'other labour migrants' (see table 4.1).

In the Netherlands, the Employee Insurance Agency (*UWV*) assesses employer applications for work permits (*Tewerkstellingsvergunning, TWV*). There are two different ways to obtain a work permit, depending on the duration of stay:

1) If labour migrants stay for a shorter period than three months the employer must apply for a TWV. This is also the case for asylum seekers (who are allowed to work for a limited period pending the outcome of their asylum procedure).
2) If the migrant stays longer, the employer must apply for a different permit, namely the *Gecombineerde vergunning voor verblijf en arbeid (GVVA)*. This permit combines the work permit (TWV) with a residence permit. Applications for a GVVA must be lodged at the IND, after which the IND sends a request to the UWV to advice on admission to employment. The IND almost always follows this advice.

To summarise, labour migrants who need a work permit may face two different routes, depending on their length of stay:

- Shorter than three months (or already in possession of a residence permit): the employer needs to apply for a TWV at UWV.
- Longer than three months: the employer needs to apply for a GVVA (combination of a TWV and residence permit) at IND, after which the IND requests the UWV to provide advice on admission to employment.

In this section, we discuss information with respect to: the number of TWVs issued by the UWV, and statistics on favourable GVVA advice procedures by the UWV.

4.4.1 Decisions on work permits and advice procedures

Work permits (TWV)
In 2020, most decisions on requests for work permits were positive (88%) (see table 4.3). The total number of issued work permits decreased strongly between 2019 and 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic (from 9,746 in 2019 to 6,866 in 2020).

Advice procedures (GVVA)
With respect to the advice procedures, 80% of the decisions were positive in 2020 (see also table 4.3). This means that the chance of obtaining a favourable advice (GVVA) is lower than the chance of obtaining a work permit (TWV). Between 2019 and 2020, the number of favourable decisions decreased (from 4,520 in 2019 to 4,023 in 2020).

Table 4.3 Handled requests for work permits and advice procedures (abs.) and decisions (%) (2015-2020)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Handled requests for work permits (TWV) *(abs.)*	**5,245**	**5,843**	**6,565**	**7,864**	**9,746**	**6,866**
Work permit denied (%)	*7.2*	*6.9*	*8.9*	*6.7*	*7.3*	*7.8*
Work permit issued (%)	*87.0*	*89.1*	*86.9*	*89.5*	*89.7*	*87.8*
Requests withdrawn (%)	*5.4*	*3.9*	*3.5*	*3.5*	*3.1*	*3.9*
Handled requests for advice procedures (GVVA) *(abs.)*[89]	**3,034**	**3,087**	**3,970**	**3,691**	**5,471**	**4,023**
Unfavourable advice (%)	*17.5*	*16.1*	*16.5*	*14.3*	*14.2*	*15.2*
Favourable advice (%)	*78.7*	*80*	*79.2*	*81.7*	*82.6*	*79.5*
Requests withdrawn (%)	*3.3*	*3.2*	*3.4*	*3.4*	*3.2*	*4.6*
Total handled requests (for work permits or advice procedures) *(abs.)*	**8,279**	**8,930**	**10,535**	**11,555**	**15,217**	**10,889**
Work permits denied/unfavourable advice procedures (%)	*11.0*	*10.1*	*11.8*	*9.1*	*9.7*	*10.7*
Work permit issued/favourable advice procedures (%)	*84.0*	*86.0*	*84.0*	*87.0*	*87.1*	*84.7*
Requests withdrawn (%)	*4.7*	*3.7*	*3.4*	*3.5*	*3.1*	*4.1*

Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

[89] The number of residence permit applications for the category 'labour migrants' is not comparable to the number of GVVA advice procedures by the UWV (there are more advice procedures than applications). The number of GVVA advice procedures includes both applications for paid employment as well as for learning & working combinations, while the residence permit applications in the previous chapter only includes applications for paid employment.

4.4.2 Labour market test

Employers are only allowed to hire an employee from outside the EU/EEA after proving they are unable to find a suitable candidate from within an EU/EEA country. The UWV assesses whether the employer has undertaken sufficient efforts to fulfil this requirement. There are three degrees of strictness of this so-called labour market test: (i) a full labour market test, (ii) a limited labour market test, and (iii) no test.[90] The decision to select one of the three procedures depends on the type of employment for which a work permit is required. In the case of a full labour market test, a work permit is only granted if an employer can demonstrate that, after active attempts to find suitable candidates in the Dutch and/or European labour market within a certain period of time, the vacancy could not be filled.[91] In the case of a limited labour market test, the employer does not need to meet all the criteria (e.g., it is not necessary to post the vacancy on the UWV website). This limited version applies, for example, to an IT specialist with high educational qualifications or management staff and specialists receiving an above-average gross monthly salary. Finally, there are also situations in which employees are hired without being subjected to a labour market test. For example, a labour market test is not needed for intercompany transferees in an executive position.

Table 4.4 shows the number of granted TWVs and favourable advice procedures for different labour market tests (no test, limited test and full test). The following conclusions can be drawn:

- The total number of granted TWVs and favourable advice procedures decreased due to the Covid pandemic, from 13,259 in 2019 to 9,255 in 2020.
- For 95% of the applications, a limited labour market test was carried out in 2020. In all other cases, full tests were conducted. Between 2019 and 2020, the percentage of limited labour market tests increased marginally.
- Most of the issued work permits and favourable advice are the result of a limited labour market test (96% and 92%, respectively, in 2020).
- Between 2019 and 2020, the share of work permits issued after a full labour market test decreased (from 6.5% in 2019 to 4.2% in 2020). Conversely, the share of full labour market tests that led to a favourable advice slightly increased (from 5.4% in 2019 to 8.0% in 2020).

Table 4.4 Granted TWVs and favourable advice procedures for different labour market tests (absolute figures and in %), 2019-2020

		Issued work permits		Favourable advice		Total	
		abs	*%*	*abs*	*%*	*abs*	*%*
2019	No test	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Limited test	8,169	93.5	4,270	94.5	12,439	93.8
	Full test	570	6.5	248	5.4	818	6.2
	Unknown	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.0
	Total	**8,739**	**100.0**	**4,520**	**100.0**	**13,259**	**100.0**
2020	No test	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Limited test	5,774	95.8	2,940	92.0	8,714	94.5
	Full test	254	4.2	257	8.0	511	5.5
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	**6,028**	**100.0**	**3,197**	**100.0**	**9,225**	**100.0**

Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

4.4.3 Nationality and profession

Table 4.5 shows the composition of issued permits and positive advice per nationality of the applicants. In 2020, the combined number of issued TWVs and favourable advice procedures were by far the highest for Chinese and Indian people, followed by Americans. This Top 3 did not change compared to the previous year. Indian people most often received TWVs, while Chinese people most often received a

[90] In a full labour market test, the employee must show that they exhausted all means to find a suitable candidate for the position in the Netherlands or within the European Economic Space (EES). In a limited test, this is not required. The limited test is used for, among others, working students, trainees, key personnel from international concerns, and chefs in the Asian catering industry.
[91] For all conditions, see revised Aliens Employment Act (*Wav*), Article 8.

positive advice with regard to the single permit. This implies that Indian applicants more often come to the Netherlands for short periods of employment, while Chinese applicants more often stay longer.

Table 4.5 Top 15 Highest numbers of issued work permits and favourable advice procedures by nationality, 2019-2020

2019				2020			
Nationality	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	Total	Nationality	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	Total
Chinese	747	2,920	3,667	Chinese	472	1,891	2,363
Indian	2,806	224	3,030	Indian	1,627	236	1,863
American	634	297	931	American	291	183	474
Vietnamese	504	48	552	Vietnamese	396	36	432
Indonesian	254	58	312	Turkish	186	84	270
Japanese	175	109	284	Japanese	115	102	217
Turkish	194	80	274	Indonesian	191	25	216
Iranian	233	17	250	Russian	179	31	210
South Korean	199	47	246	Surinamese	180	16	196
Russian	206	33	239	South Korean	158	24	182
Surinamese	219	19	238	Iranian	163	14	177
Canadian	133	75	208	Nigirian	145	4	149
Pakistani	142	25	167	Brazilian	87	37	124
Brazilian	106	59	165	Ukrainian	109	11	120
South African	127	29	156	Canadian	64	51	115

Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

Table 4.6 shows the duration of issued work permits by the maximum period for which the work permit is issued. Between 2015 and 2020, most work permits were issued for 3 to 12 months, followed by permits for less than 3 months. In 2020, the share of permits for 3-12 months was larger than the previous years, while the share of permits for less than 3 months was smaller. This is probably due to the travel restrictions in this year, which limited international mobility and led workers to remain at one location for a longer period of time.

Table 4.6 Duration of the issued work permits (TWV) (2015-2020)

Duration	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
< 3 months	2,382	2,925	3,460	3,269	3,612	1,586
3-12 months	1,764	2,114	2,105	3,666	3,858	4,267
12 months	277	28	22	10	947	108
1-3 years	123	134	120	92	110	67
Unknown	18	6	1	2	10	0
Total	**4,564**	**5,207**	**5,708**	**7,039**	**8,739**	**6,028**

Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

Table 4.7 shows the total number of issued TWVs and favourable advice procedures per profession in 2019 and 2020, sorted by the total number of positive decisions. Only the fifteen professions with the highest numbers of total favourable applications are included in the list. Professions related to food services (food preparation and serving: waiter/waitress), as well as professions related to information (research/analysis and technical advising) are high on the list in 2020. As compared to the previous year, the share of IT developers and consultants sharply decreased (-82%), while the share of teachers increased (+60%).

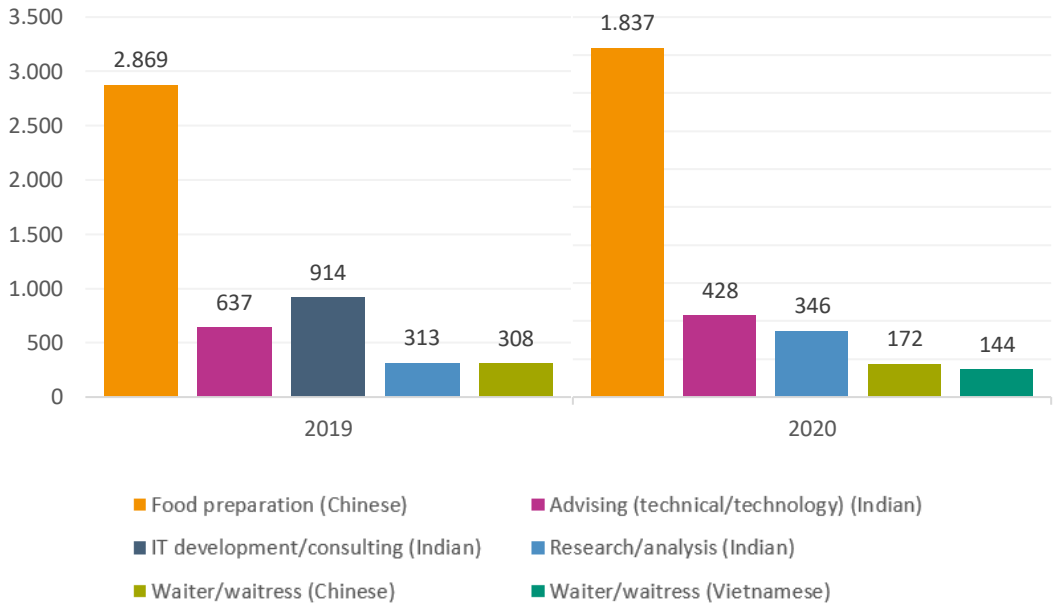
Table 4.7 Top 15 highest numbers of issued work permits and favourable advice procedures, 2019-2020

2019	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	Total	2020	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	Total
Food preparation	170	3,115	3,285	Food preparation	182	2,067	2,249
Serving: waiter/waitress	1,220	36	1,404	Research/analysis	914	119	1,033
IT: development/ consulting	1,192	61	1,253	Serving: waiter/waitress	838	30	868
Research/analysis	934	209	1,141	Advising: technical/technology	577	73	650
Advising: technical/technology	1,050	87	1.137	Teaching	472	49	521
Cleaning/industrial cleaning	498		498	Delivery/transport	377	1	378
Delivery/transport	432	1	433	Cleaning: Home/office	320		320
Religious worker	91	288	379	Consulting: organisational	255	40	295
Teaching	288	38	326	Religious worker	65	189	254
Consulting: commercial/ economical	149	49	198	IT: development/ consulting	199	25	224
Sales	196	1	197	Designing/constructing	92	80	172
Leadership: cooperating	160	37	197	Staff work	162	4	166
Staff work	183	5	188	Sales	145	1	146
Consulting: organisational	185	2	187	Leadership: cooperating	83	28	111
IT: managing and processing	169	7	176	Educate/inform	109		109
other	1,676	584	2,260	Other	1,238	491	1,729
Total	**8,739**	**4,520**	**13,259**	**Total**	**6,028**	**3,197**	**9,225**

Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

Figure 4.3 shows the five most common professions with associated nationality against the number of granted TWVs or received favourable advice procedures in 2019 and 2020. Chinese labour migrants employed in the food preparation business represented the largest group in 2020, followed by Indian technical advisors, Indian researchers/analysts, and Chinese and Vietnamese waiters/waitresses. This is the first time since 2015 (see previous SOPEMI reports) that Vietnamese waiters/waitresses are in the Top 5. Conversely, Indian IT developers/advisors are not in the Top 5 for the first time since 2015.

Figure 4.3 Top 5 issued work permits and favourable advice procedures by combination of sector and nationality (absolute numbers), 2019-2020

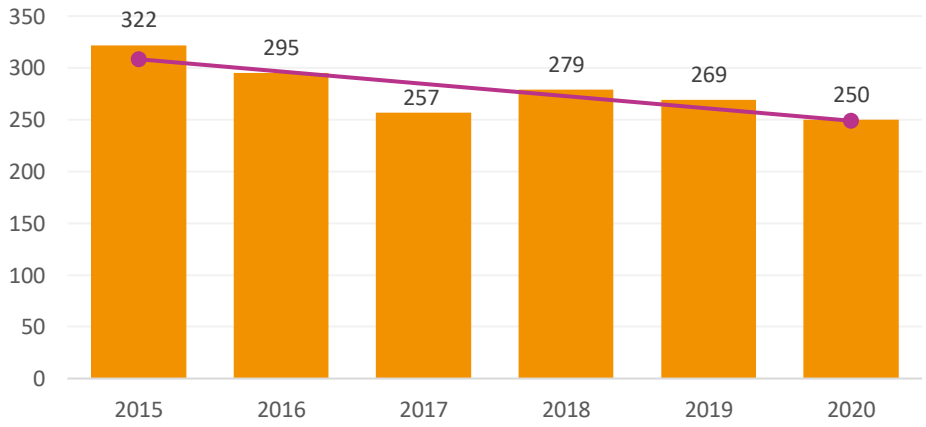


Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

4.4.4 Intra-company transferees

Figure 4.4 shows the number of intra-company transferees who work in management or as a specialist (so-called key personnel) between 2015 and 2020. The absolute number of intra-company transferees decreased between 2015 and 2020 (-22%). In 2020, 250 intra-company transferees were granted a TWV or favourable advice.

Figure 4.4 Granted TWV and favourable advice procedures to intra-company transferees[92] (absolute numbers), 2015-2010



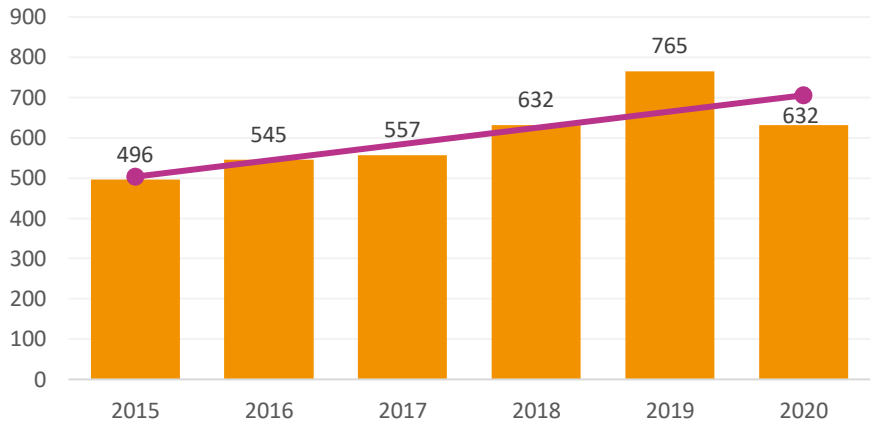
Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

[92] Intra-company transferees (Directive 2014/66/EU) are employees who have been transferred to a company branch in the Netherlands from a company that is established outside the European Union. Intra-company transferees work in management, as a specialist (so-called key personnel) or as a trainee. The employer of the intra-company transferee applies for a single permit which entitles the foreign national to stay and work in the Netherlands. This single permit combines the residence permit and the TWV.

4.4.5 Trainees

Figure 4.5 displays the absolute number of trainees who were granted a TWV or favourable advice between 2015 and 2020. The number of granted TWVs and GVVAs had steadily increased until 2019. In this period relative growth was +54%. However, between 2019 and 2020 the number decreased by 17% (from 765 in 2019 to 632 in 2020). This drop can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing government restrictions on (international) mobility.

Figure 4.5 Granted TWV and favourable advice procedures to trainees[93] (absolute numbers), 2015-2020



Source: UWV annual reports on the implementation of the labour aliens act (*Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen*), supplied on request

[93] The category trainees includes interns (stagiairs), intra-company trainees (trainee intra-company), work experience place intern (stagiair werkervaringsplaats), intern intermediate vocational education- level (mbo stagiairs) and IT trainees (GVVA IT trainee).

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Immigration for Reasons of Asylum

5

5 Immigration for Reasons of Asylum

The Netherlands grants asylum to people who would be in danger when returning to their home country. The obligation to do so is laid down in various international treaties:

- The Geneva convention on refugees, which states that every refugee has a right to protection;
- The European convention on human rights, which states that no one may be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This chapter describes a number of recent developments with regard to patterns of asylum migration to the Netherlands. In addition to statistics on asylum requests and decisions, we also describe recent trends concerning invited refugees and unaccompanied minor aliens. Finally, information is provided on the number of asylum seekers accommodated by the central government in asylum centres.

Statistics on asylum requests are largely based on online statistics retrieved from Statistics Netherlands (CBS StatLine), while statistics on decisions are based on data from Eurostat. Finally, information on the influx and population in asylum centres is based on data retrieved from the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers *(COA)*.

Please note that the definition of an asylum request in asylum statistics was changed in the Netherlands in January 2014 (see box 5.1). This new definition has implications for comparisons over time and for the analysis and interpretation of trends. As of 2013, figures are available both in accordance with the new and the previous asylum definition. For previous years, however, only figures based on the old definition are available.

Box 5.1 Change of definition of asylum requests in asylum statistics

In January 2014, an amendment was introduced to the Dutch definition for asylum requests in asylum statistics. Previously, lodged requests for family reunification within a period of three months after granting an asylum seeker with a residence permit were counted as asylum applications. According to the new definition, this is no longer applicable. Now, family members of asylum seekers who have been granted a status, no longer have to file an asylum application in order to receive a residence permit. Therefore, these family members are no longer included in statistics on asylum applications. By changing the definition, Dutch statistics have become better aligned with the definition used in other Member States.

5.1 Main Findings

- After a peak in the number of asylum applications in 2015 (45,035), the number of asylum applications dropped to 18,265 in 2017. Between 2017 and 2019, the number of applications showed an increase again amounting to 25,265 asylum requests in 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of applications dropped to 15,315. This decrease is largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing government policies in different countries, such as a shutdown of air traffic.
- In 2020, most first asylum applications in the Netherlands were lodged by refugees originating from Syria and Algeria.
- Due to the EU-Turkey Statement, the number of resettled refugees in the Netherlands increased significantly between 2016 and 2017 (from 695 in 2016 to 2,265 in 2017). In 2018, the number of resettled refugees halved to 1,225, but then increased to 1,875 in 2019. In 2020, only 425 refugees were resettled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing travel restrictions. 61% of the resettled refugees in 2020 originated from Syria.
- The proportion of positive decisions on asylum requests decreased considerably over the last few years. However, between 2018 and 2020, the approval rate increased to 63% in 2020.
- The number of asylum requests from unaccompanied minor aliens (aged under 18) decreased between 2018 and 2020. In 2020, unaccompanied minors launched 985 asylum applications, of which over a quarter were requested by Eritreans.
- Consistent with the trend of total asylum applications, the influx of asylum applicants in asylum centres peaked in 2015 (60,427), followed by a decline. Between 2016 and 2019, the numbers

fluctuated between 35,000 and 40,000. In 2020, there was a sharp decrease to 24,025 applicants largely due to the travel restrictions that were implemented to confine the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Syrians accounted for the largest share of the total population in COA asylum centres in 2021. Syrians were also the largest group among the unaccompanied minors in the COA centres.

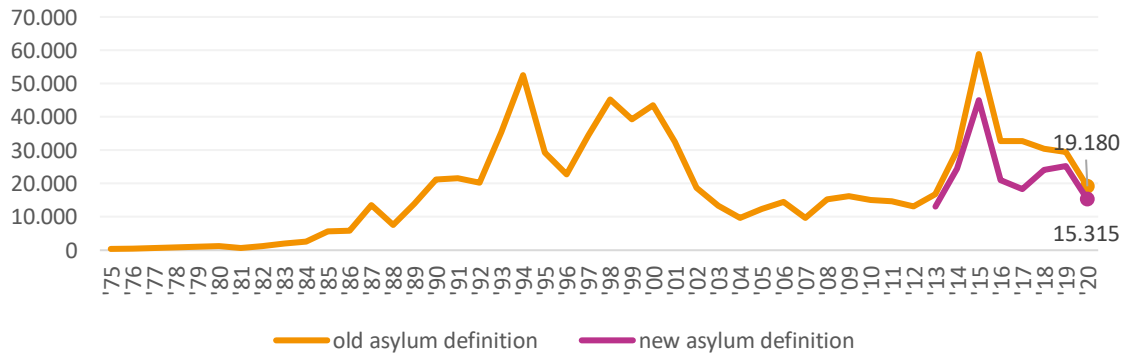
5.2 Asylum Requests

For the purpose of displaying not only the long-term trend in total asylum applications (first and follow-up), but also figures based on the new asylum definition in the Netherlands, figure 5.1 includes two different trend lines. The orange line depicts the trend between 1975-2020 in accordance with the old definition of asylum and, therefore, also includes applications of family members of refugees. The pink line shows the trend between 2013-2020 in accordance with the new definition and does not include applications of family members of refugees (see box 5.1 for a more detailed description on this amendment).

Figure 5.1 shows that the number of total (first and follow-up) asylum requests fluctuated substantially during the past forty years. Until the mid-eighties, the number of asylum requests was limited and did not exceed 10,000 requests a year. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the period when the war in former Yugoslavia ignited, asylum migration to the Netherlands continued to increase until it reached its height in 1994 with more than 50,000 asylum requests. Thereafter, there was a sharp decrease in the number of applications to 22,855 application in 1996 due to the ending of the war on the Balkans. However, the conflict in Iraq evoked an increase in the number of applications to 45,215 in 1998. In 2001, the number of asylum requests dropped again to 32,580 as a result of a new, much more strict, Dutch Aliens Act. Thereafter, until 2014, the number never exceeded 20,000 applications a year. In 2014, however, the number of asylum requests rose above 20,000 for the first time in twelve years, mainly caused by the political crises in Syria and internal political conflicts in Somalia and Eritrea. In 2015, the number of persons seeking asylum reached a new height (58,880), while thereafter it dropped again to 32,840 requests in 2016. Between 2016 and 2020, the number of requests steadily decreased to 19,180 in 2020. Of these applications, 3,865 were submitted by family members.

When looking at the numbers displayed in accordance with the new definition of asylum (i.e. if the number of requests made by family members are not included), a similar pattern is visible between 2013 and 2016 with a peak of 45,035 asylum requests in 2015. In 2017, relatively many family members made asylum requests, resulting in a decrease in contrast to the old definition. Thereafter, 2018 and 2019 showed an increase in the number of applications, whereas 2020 showed a decrease to 15,315 applications according to the new definition. Provisional numbers of the first half of 2021 show a similar number of requests as in the first half of 2020 (6,845).

Figure 5.1 Total numbers (first and follow-up) of asylum requests, 1975-2020



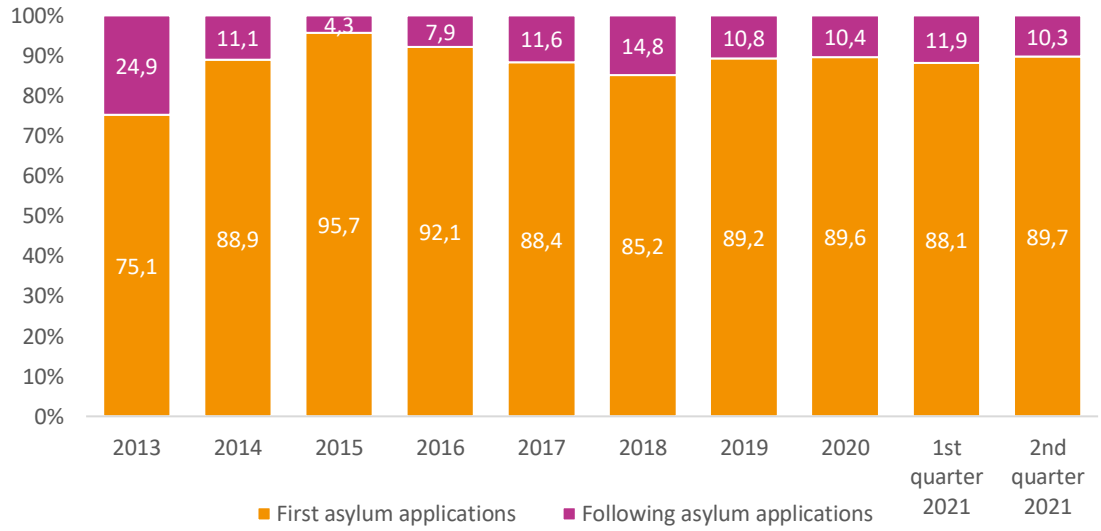
Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

5.2.1 First and follow-up asylum applications

Asylum seekers can submit a follow-up application after rejection of the first application. This possibility may be used in the event of new relevant facts for the assessment of the application or in case the situation in the home country has changed. Figure 5.2 shows the share of first and follow-up applications according to the new definition.

Over the years, the number of follow-up applications fluctuated within the total number of applications. The lowest proportion of follow-up applications occurred in 2015 (4.3%), after which the proportion of follow-up applications increased until 2018 (14.8%). Between 2018 and 2019, the share of follow-up applications decreased and thereafter remained stable between 2019 and the second quarter of 2021. In 2020, 10.4% of asylum applications comprised follow-up applications.

Figure 5.2 First and follow-up applications, 2013-2020 (percentages)[1]



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)
[1] Data of 2020 are provisional.

5.2.2 Asylum request by country of nationality

The statistics in table 5.1 are all presented in accordance with the new definition of asylum: family members of refugees are not included. In 2020, by far most asylum requests were launched by Syrians (4,070). Next in line were Algerians (995), Turks (990), Moroccans (775) and applicants from the (former) Soviet Union (710). Since 2014, the largest share of requests has come from Syrians (see previous SOPEMI reports). Between 2014 and 2018, Eritreans were the second largest group, whereafter their share declined. In 2018 and 2019, a particularly high number of applicants originated from the (former) Soviet Union, but this number declined in 2020. Applications lodged by Turkish citizens increased in 2018 after the failed coup attempt in Turkey in July 2016. Thereafter, the share of Turkish applications remained stable between 2018 and 2020, and in 2020, the third largest number of applications were Turkish. Between 2018 and 2019, there was also in increase in the number of applications from Moldova. The Dutch Refugee Council notes that Roma people are largely responsible for the Moldovan asylum applications.[94] In 2020 they are no longer in the Top 10. Between 2018 and 2020 largely the same countries made up the Top 10 countries of which applicants originated.

[94] https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2019/02/10/aantal-eerste-asielaanvragen-vorig-jaar-met-kwart-toegenomen-a3653442.

Table 5.1 Top 10 First asylum applications in the Netherlands by nationality[1], 2018-2020

Total of 2018			Total of 2019			Total of 2020		
Nationality	Abs.	%	Nationality	Abs.	%	Nationality	Abs.	%
Total	20,510	100	Total	22,540	100	Total	13,720	100
Syrian	2,960	14.4	Syrian	3,675	16.3	Syrian	4,070	29.7
(former) Soviet Union	2,560	12.5	(former) Soviet Union	2,850	12.6	Algerian	995	7.3
Iranian	1,870	9.1	Nigerian	2,100	9.3	Turkish	990	7.2
Eritrean	1,410	6.9	Iranian	1,535	6.8	Moroccan	775	5.6
Turkish	1,300	6.3	Turkish	1,250	5.5	(former) Soviet Union	710	5.2
Algerian	1,265	6.2	Algerian	1,210	5.4	Nigerian	635	4.6
Moroccan	1,065	5.2	Moldovan	1,205	5.3	Yemeni	410	3
Moldovan	830	4	Moroccan	1,060	4.7	Afghan	390	2.8
Iraqi	745	3.6	(former) Yugoslavia	770	3.4	Iranian	370	2.7
Nigerian	560	2.7	Yemeni	645	2.9	Eritrean	370	2.7
Other	5,945	29.1	Other	6,240	27.8	Other	4,005	29.2

Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

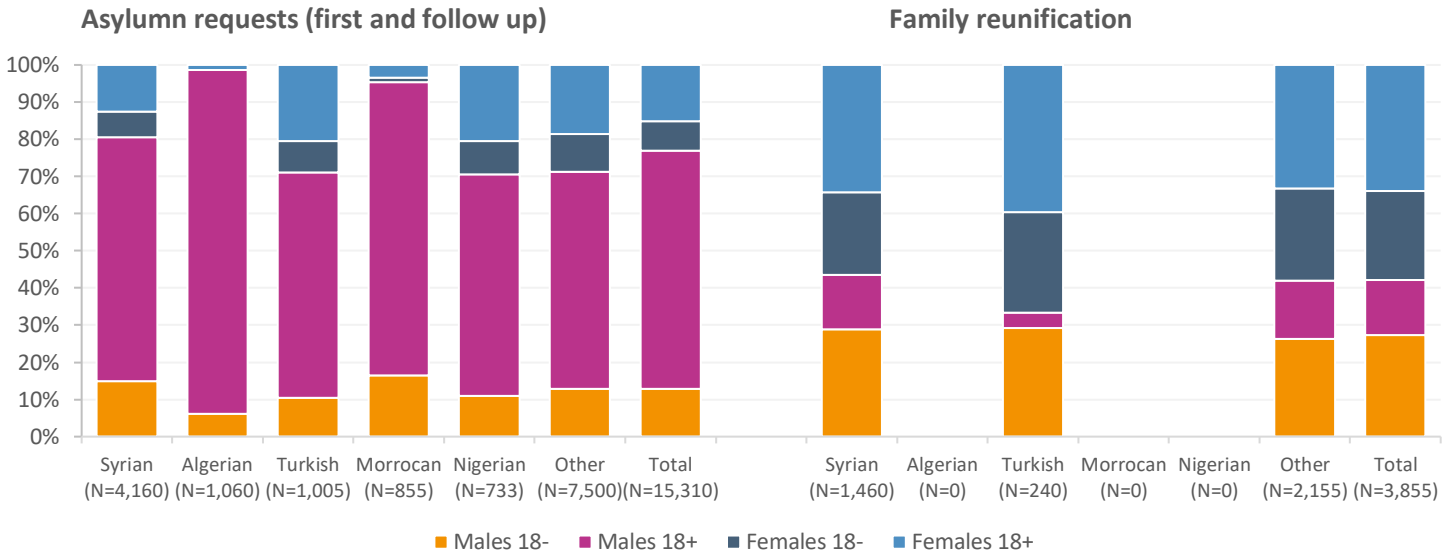
[1] The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals.

Provisional numbers of the first half of 2021 (not presented in the table) show that again most requests were launched by Syrians (900), Turks (475), Algerians (465) and Moroccans (380). Afghans take the fifth place with 355 request. The number of Afghan asylum requests is expected to strongly increase in the second half of 2021 and the following years as a result of the withdrawal of the United States forces from Afghanistan. This was announced in April 2021 by US president Biden, whereafter the Taliban forces seized the capital of Kabul in Augustus 2021. Afghan allies of the Dutch military such as translators and security officers for the Dutch mission are resettled by the Dutch government, as their work for foreign forces puts them at risk of persecution.

5.2.3 Demographic characteristics asylum seekers and family members

Figure 5.3 shows the sex and age composition of asylum seekers and their family members for the most prominent countries of origin in 2020. More men than women applied for asylum and conversely more women than men applied for family reunification. Most first applicants were men aged 18 years or older. Consequently, within the group of family reunification, men represented a minority. The absence of family reunification from Algeria, Morocco and Nigeria is because of the large number of first asylum applications from this country that were rejected (see table 5.3). In 2020, Algeria and Morocco were on the list of safe countries, that is used by the Dutch government to quickly process the requests that have a low chance of success. Nigerians also stood a very low chance of having their application approved.

Figure 5.3 Top 5 Asylum applications (2020)[1] in the Netherlands by nationality, divided by sex and age



Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

[1] The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.2.4 Asylum requests in the Netherlands compared to other countries

Table 5.2 depicts the asylum requests in the Netherlands compared to other European countries for the period 2010 to 2020. Overall we see an increase in the number of requests between 2010 and 2016. Thereafter, the number drop between 2016 and 2018. Between 2018 and 2019 there was a small incline in the numbers. For all EU-14 countries apart from Austria, the number of requests dropped between 2019 en 2020. According to the Austrian interior minister, the rise in Austria is due to the fact that Austria is located close to the so-called Balkan route, through which migrants enter Europe through the Balkan area.[95] Accordingly, we also see a rise in other countries in the area such as Bulgaria, Croatia en Romania (not displayed in the table). In accordance with the Dublin regulation, migrants who want to travel to northern Europe through the Balkan route are stopped in these countries and made to file an asylum request there.

Of the 471,700 requests submitted in 2020 in all EU-27 countries, most (442,100) were submitted in EU-14 countries (i.e. the old EU Member States), and 'only' 28,000 requests were submitted in EU-12 countries (i.e. the new Member States). Germany received the most requests (122,000), followed by France (93,500) and Spain (88,500). The Netherlands follows on the eighth place with 15,300 requests received in 2020. For more detailed information including other European countries, see the appendix table 5.2a.

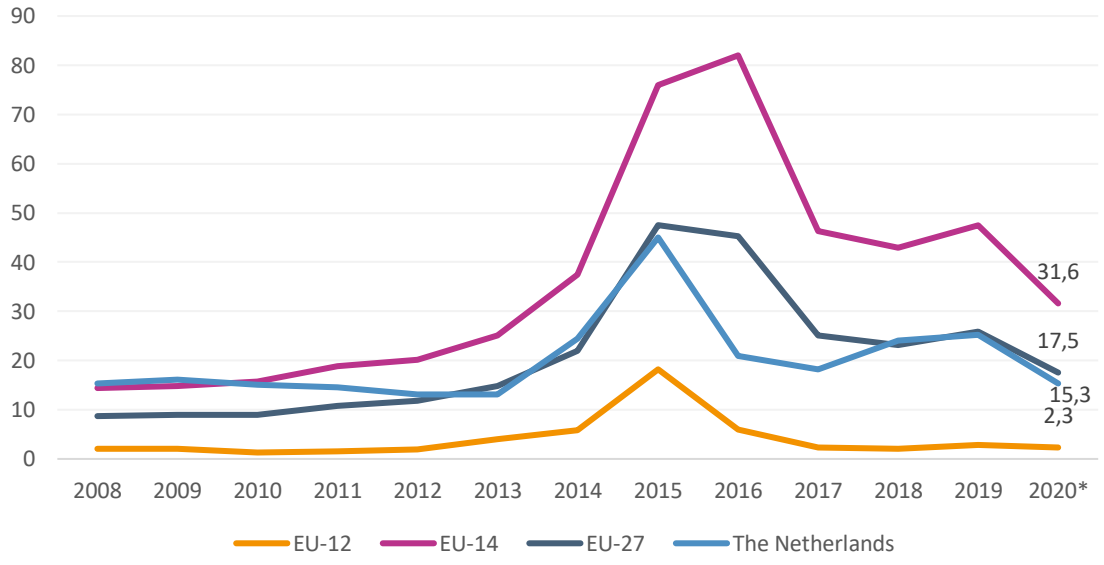
[95] https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/30525/number-of-asylum-applications-in-austria-on-the-rise

Table 5.2 Asylum requests in Europe compared (x 1,000), 2010-2020[1] (Dutch figures of 2013-2020 according to new definition, previous years according to the old definition)

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EU-12	**15.9**	**17.5**	**23.2**	**48.3**	**69.3**	**218**	**71.6**	**27.5**	**24.8**	**33.9**	**28**
EU-14	**219.4**	**264.5**	**283.3**	**351.1**	**524.1**	**1064.4**	**1147.4**	**648.7**	**600.1**	**663.6**	**442.1**
EU-27	**235.3**	**282**	**306.5**	**400.5**	**593.8**	**1282.6**	**1221.2**	**677.2**	**625.7**	**698.9**	**471.7**
Austria	11	14.4	17.4	17.5	28	88.2	42.3	24.7	13.7	12.9	14.2
Belgium	26.1	31.9	28.1	21	22.7	44.7	18.3	18.3	22.5	27.5	16.7
Denmark	5.1	3.9	6	7.2	14.7	20.9	6.2	3.2	3.6	2.7	1.5
Finland	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.6	32.3	5.6	5	4.5	4.5	3.2
France	52.7	57.3	61.4	66.3	64.3	76.2	84.3	99.3	137.7	151.1	93.5
Germany	48.5	53.2	77.5	126.7	202.6	476.5	745.2	222.6	184.2	165.6	122
Greece	10.3	9.3	9.6	8.2	9.4	13.2	51.1	58.6	67	77.3	40.6
Ireland	1.9	1.3	1	0.9	1.4	3.3	2.2	2.9	3.7	4.8	1.6
Italy	10	40.3	17.3	26.6	64.6	83.5	123	128.8	60	43.8	26.5
Luxembourg	0.8	2.1	2	1.1	1.1	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.3
Netherlands	**15.1**	**14.6**	**13.1**	**13.1**	**24.5**	**45**	**20.9**	**18.2**	**24**	**25.2**	**15.3**
Portugal	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.5	1.8	1.3	1.8	1
Spain	2.7	3.4	2.6	4.5	5.6	14.8	15.8	36.6	54	117.8	88.5
Sweden	31.9	29.6	43.9	54.3	81.2	162.4	28.8	26.3	21.6	26.3	16.2

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)
[1] Data of 2020 are provisional.
[2] EU-12: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.
[3] EU-14: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden. As of 2020 the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Therefore, we excluded the UK from the EU-14 in this table.
[4] EU-27: EU-14 + EU-12 and Croatia. As of 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Therefore, we excluded the UK from the EU-27 in this table.

Figure 5.4 Asylum requests in the Netherlands compared to Europe (x 1,000), 2008-2020[1] (Dutch numbers of 2013-2020 according to the new definition, previous years according to the old definition)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)
[1] Data of 2020 are provisional.

5.3 Invited Refugees

The Netherlands takes part in the UNHCR 'resettlement programme' to help resettle refugees from a third country as the only safe, viable and durable solution.[96] Accordingly, the UNHCR selects 'invited' refugees during special missions and prioritises the most vulnerable groups. In this capacity, the Dutch government decides who is invited. Please note that the definition of 'resettlement' differs from 'relocation' (see box 5.2).

Box 5.2 Relocation: Definition and Dutch Statistics

Relocation must be distinguished from the resettlement of asylum seekers. Relocation involves the transfer of asylum seekers from one EU Member State to another Member State where their asylum application will be examined once the relocation has taken place. Resettlement, on the other hand, entails a transfer of asylum seekers from a third country to an EU Member State.

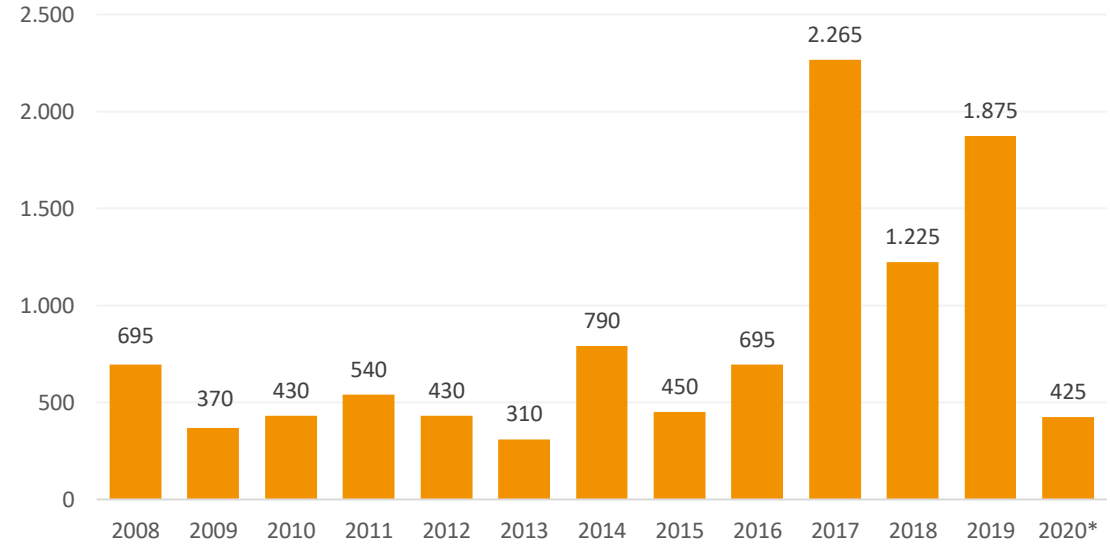
On 22 September 2015, the EU relocation scheme was established, in which EU Member States agreed to relocate asylum seekers from Member States (mostly Greece and Italy) experiencing high migratory pressure. This scheme ended on 26 September 2017. In April 2018, 34,694 refugees have successfully been relocated.[97]

Official statistics from 30 April 2018 show that the Netherlands has relocated 1,020 asylum seekers from Italy and 1,755 from Greece; equivalent to a total of 2,775 asylum seekers (the legal commitment was 5,941).[98]

Until 2015, the Netherlands invited on average 500 refugees per year.[99] However, since the issued EU-Turkey Statement (in Dutch: *de EU-Turkije-verklaring)* on 18 March 2016 to end irregular migration, this number has increased significantly. The core principle of the statement was that for every Syrian being readmitted by Turkey from the Greece islands, another Syrian will be resettled to the EU Member States from Turkey directly.[100] Consequently, this agreement translated in a sharp increase in the number of invited refugees who resettled in the Netherlands between 2016 and 2017 (from 695 to 2,265 respectively, see figure 5.5). Thereafter, the number of resettled refugees declined to 1,225 in 2018. Between 2018 and 2019 there was another sharp increase in the number of resettlements to 1,875 in 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of resettled refugees dropped to the level of before the increase of 2016 with 425 resettled refugees.

[96] http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a16b1676.html
[97] http://migration.iom.int/europe?type=relocated
[98] http://migration.iom.int/europe?type=relocated
[99] The Dutch government has agreed to resettle a total of 2,000 refugees in the period from 2016 to 2019, which is approximately 500 per year. In the new Coalition Agreement 2018-2021, it is agreed that the Netherlands increases the resettlement quota from 500 to 750 per year.
[100] See for example: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18/eu-turkey-statement/

Figure 5.5 Total number of resettled refugees in the Netherlands per year of arrival, 2008-2020[1 2]

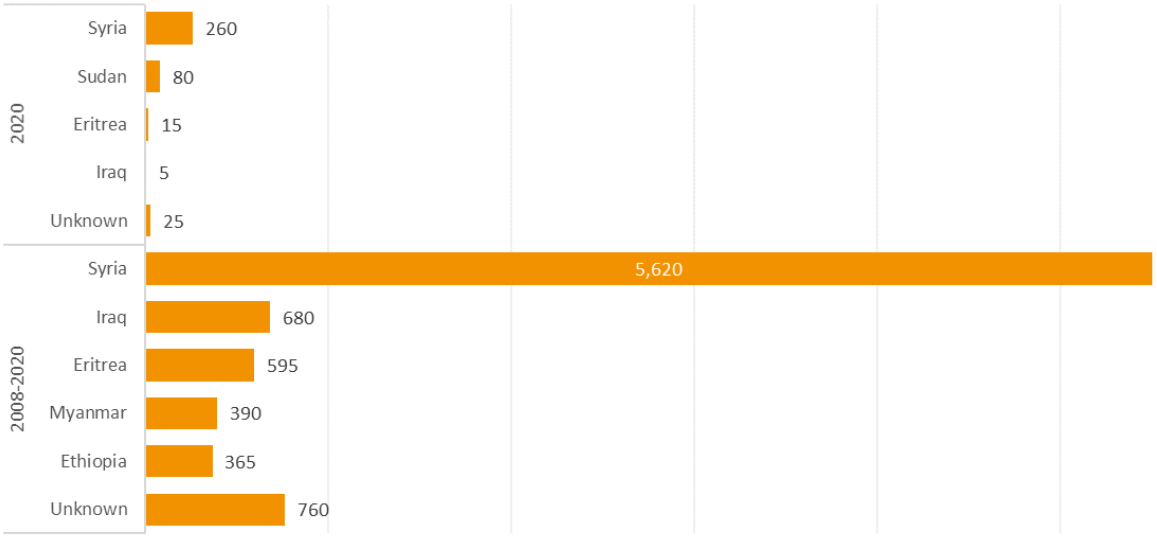


Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)
[1] Data of 2020 are provisional.
[2] The data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total. Moreover, nationalities are only given if the number of refugees from a nationality in a given year exceeds 25.

5.3.1 Invited refugees by nationality

Only a few nationalities largely contribute to the total number of resettled refugees in the Netherlands. Due to the EU-Turkey Statement, the number of Syrians among the resettled refugees increased from around one third in 2014 to 96% in 2017. From 2018 to 2020, this percentage was around two thirds, with 67% in 2018, 72% in 2019 and 61% in 2020. Other countries from which invited refugees often originated between 2008-2018 were Iraq, Eritrea, Myanmar and Ethiopia (figure 5.6). For more detailed information see appendix table 5.3a. In 2020, a relatively large share (19%) of Sudanese refugees was resettled in the Netherlands.

Figure 5.6 Resettled refugees Top 5[1] nationalities in 2020 and for the period 2008-2020[2 3]

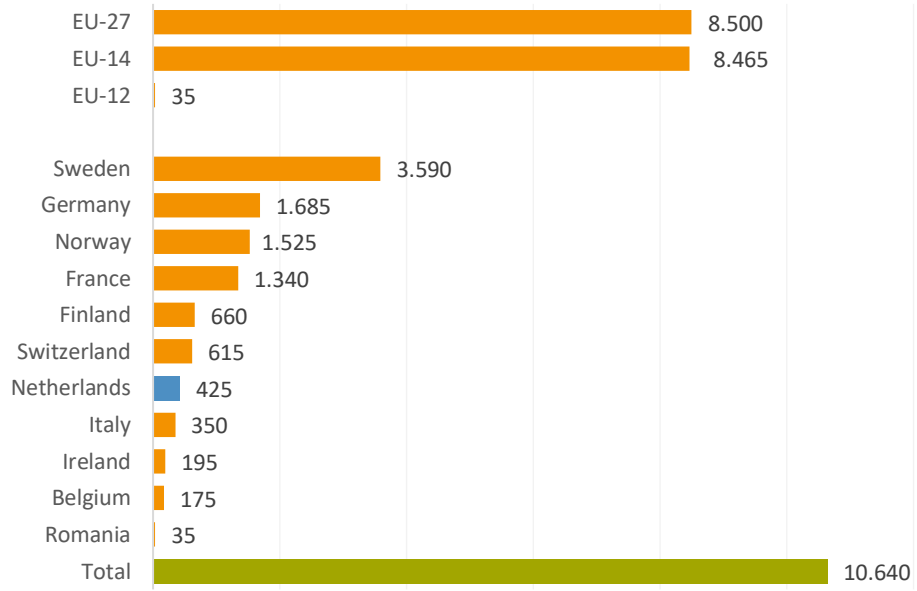


Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)
[1] For 2020 a Top 4 is presented because there were only four nationalities with more than 0 resettled refugees.
[2] Data of 2020 are provisional.
[3] The data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.3.2 Invited refugees compared to other countries

Of the 8,500 invited refugees in the EU-27 countries in 2020, Sweden invited the most refugees (3,590) (see figure 5.7). The Netherlands is seventh in line with 425 invited refugees. For more information on the number of invited refugees in Europe from 2016 to 2020 by receiving country see appendix table 5.4a.

Figure 5.7 Top 10 receiving countries of invited refugees compared to the European Union in 2020



Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)

[1] The data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

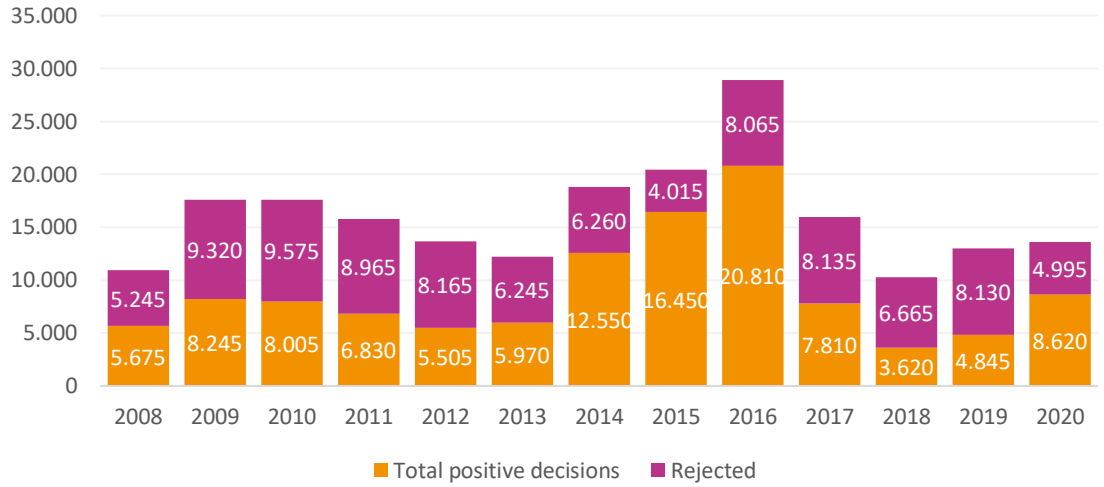
5.4 Approved and Rejected Asylum Requests

In this section, statistics on (first instance) approved and rejected asylum requests are discussed. Decisions in a given year only concern a small part of the asylum applications submitted in that year. Most decisions on asylum requests are included in the annual figures in a subsequent year. Figures about decisions are therefore not comparable with figures about asylum applications.

Between 2015 and 2018, the proportion of positive decisions declined from 80% in 2015 to 35% in 2018 (see figure 5.8 for the absolute numbers). This decrease is partly due to far fewer decisions that were taken in 2018 on first asylum applications made by Syrians and Eritreans than in 2016. The admission percentages for these groups of asylum seekers are relatively high (compared to the average of other groups), although these percentages started to decrease as well in 2018 (see also appendix 5.5a). In addition, the percentage of asylum applications that were rejected on the basis of the Dublin Regulation rose from 30% in 2017 to around 40% in 2018.[101] Between 2018 and 2019, the share of positive decisions slightly increased again to 37% in 2019 and between 2019 and 2020, there was a strong increase to 63% positive decisions. This increase is mainly due to the fact that the share of Syrian applications increased between 2019 and 2020, and Syrian applications have a high approval rate.

[101] See: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2018/02/20/daling-inwilligingspercentage-eerste-asielaanvragen and Kerncijfers Asiel en Migratie | Rapport | Rijksoverheid.nl

Figure 5.8 **Total number of first asylum decisions in the Netherlands divided by positive decisions and rejections[1], 2008-2020 (2013 and later years in accordance with the new definition, previous years in accordance with the old definition)**



Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)
[1] The absolute data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.4.1 Different grounds for approval

Asylum requests can be approved on the basis of the Geneva Convention status, for humanitarian reasons, or on the basis of subsidiary protection. In 2020, the Dutch government granted 4,975 requests on the basis of the Geneva Convention, 2,820 requests on the basis of subsidiary protection and 820 on humanitarian grounds. Appendix table 5.5a shows the nature of first decisions by nationality.

Box 5.3 **Different grounds for approval**

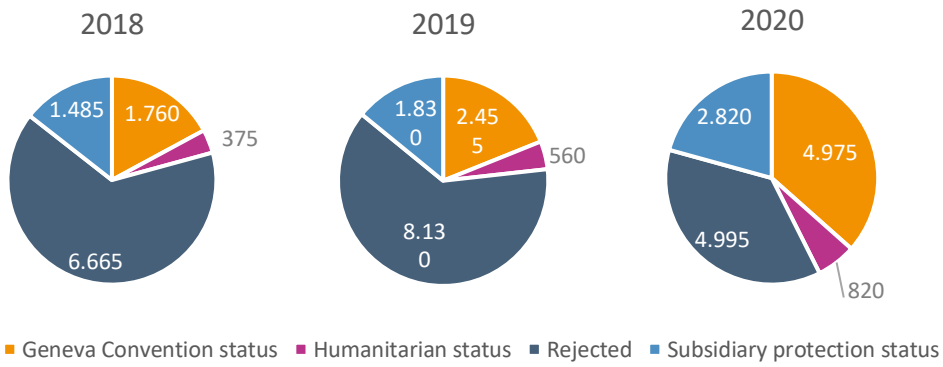
Geneva Convention status: someone who 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'.

Humanitarian status: in addition to admission on the basis of international treaties, until the beginning of 2014 it was also possible that a person was granted a residence permit on the basis of national policy. This particularly concerned cases in which a person had encountered traumatic experiences. This person received a residence permit based on compelling humanitarian reasons. In 2014, however, the Aliens Act was amended: since 2014 it is only possible in exceptional cases to receive an asylum permit on humanitarian grounds.

Subsidiary protection status: 'the protection given to a third-country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his or her country of origin, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm […] and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country'.

Source: UNHCR

Figure 5.9 Total number of first decisions by type of status, 2018-2020



Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)
[1] The data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.4.2 Approved asylum requests by nationality

Table 5.3 shows the share of positive decisions for a number of countries from which asylum seekers originated from 2018 to 2020. In 2020, the approval rate was highest for refugees from Turkey (93%), Yemen (93%) and Syria (90%). The number of asylum decisions for Turks increased sharply due to the failed coup in 2016. Meanwhile, the approval rates for refugees from Turkey increased from 76% in 2018 to 90% in 2019 and 93% in 2020 for the same reason. The number of decisions on asylum applications from Yemenis increased due to continuing acts of war and a major humanitarian crisis (including famine and cholera) and their approval rates remain (among) the highest. The number of decisions on asylum applications from Syrians have increased over the last three years, and between 2019 and 2020 their approval rate also went up. For refugees from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan, the approval rate decreased between 2018 and 2019, but showed a strong increase between 2019 and 2020.

Table 5.3 First instance asylum decisions, per country (Top 20) and percentage of positive decisions, 2018-2020[1]

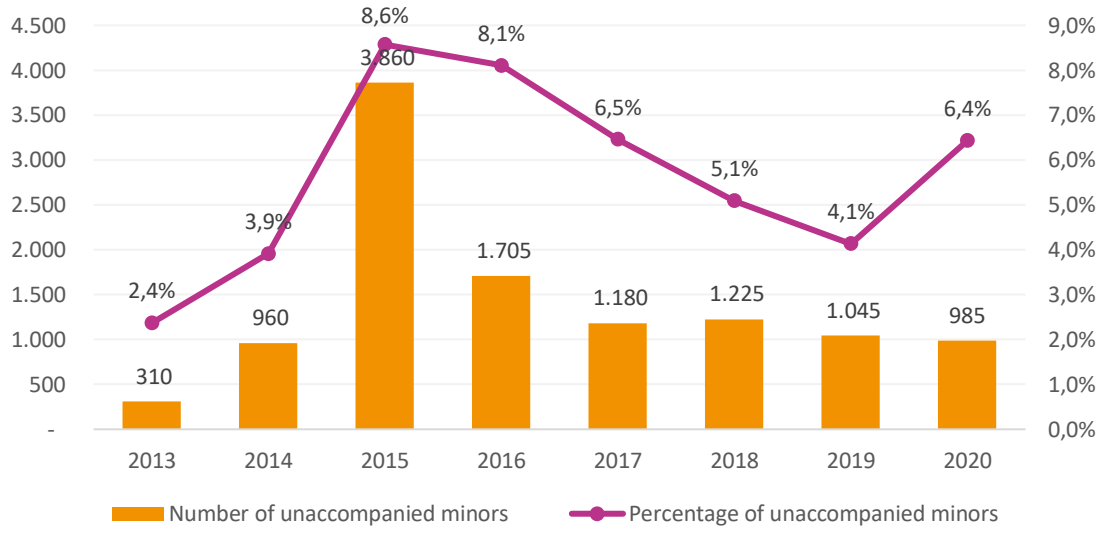
2018			2019			2020		
Country	**Abs.**	**% positive**	**Country**	**Abs.**	**% positive**	**Country**	**Abs.**	**% positive**
Syria	1,655	76.1	Syria	2,160	78.0	Syria	4,635	90.0
Iran	730	45.2	Turkey	1,015	90.1	Turkey	1,575	93.3
Afghanistan	695	33.8	Iran	955	39.3	Iran	840	48.2
Eritrea	630	60.3	Iraq	775	16.8	Yemen	645	93.0
Iraq	615	21.1	Afghanistan	650	24.6	Afghanistan	530	47.2
Albania	510	0.0	Eritrea	615	63.4	Iraq	495	43.4
Turkey	480	71.9	Morocco	615	1.6	Morocco	480	2.1
Georgia	350	0.0	Algeria	520	0.0	Eritrea	440	65.9
Morocco	335	3.0	Yemen	460	92.4	Algeria	420	0.0
Algeria	335	0.0	Moldova	430	0.0	Pakistan	245	69.4
Cuba	300	1.7	Georgia	380	0.0	Nigeria	195	5.1
Ukraine	225	0.0	Serbia	350	0.0	Georgia	180	2.8
Moldova	205	0.0	North Macedonia	310	0.0	Russia	130	53.8
Yemen	145	89.7	Albania	225	0.0	Somalia	125	36.0
Egypt	145	24.1	Nigeria	215	4.7	Libya	110	22.7
Nigeria	140	21.4	Pakistan	170	41.2	China	100	80.0
Serbia	130	0.0	Libya	155	6.5	Venezuela	100	15.0
Somalia	130	23.1	Somalia	150	16.7	Serbia	95	0.0
Sudan	125	48.0	Sudan	120	25.0	Egypt	90	38.9
Pakistan	120	54.2	China	120	79.2	Uganda	90	11.1
Unknown	*310*	*41.9*	*Unknown*	*360*	*43.1*	*Unknown*	*490*	*72.4*
Stateless	*100*	*55.0*	*Stateless*	*170*	*47.1*	*Stateless*	*210*	*73.8*
Total	**10,285**	**35.2**	**Total**	**12,975**	**37.3**	**Total**	**13,615**	**63.3**

Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)
[1] The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.5 Unaccompanied Minors

In this section, statistics are discussed regarding unaccompanied minors residing in the Netherlands.[102] These minors are below the age of 18 and unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them. As shown in figure 5.10, the total number of asylum requests by minors peaked in 2015, when 3,860 unaccompanied minors requested asylum in the Netherlands. This number coincides with almost 9% of the total number of requests. In the following years, we observe a sharp decline, although the number of requests remains slightly higher than the years prior to 2015. From 2017 to 2020, the number of asylum applications by unaccompanied minors fluctuated around 1,100. The year 2020 showed a minor dip to 985 minor applicants, although this was a larger part of the total number of applications than in the previous year. Applications of unaccompanied minors decreased less than the overall number of applications between 2019 and 2020, because a larger share of the unaccompanied minors originated from Syria (see table 5.4) and this group made many more applications in 2020 than in de years before.

Figure 5.10 Asylum applications in the Netherlands by unaccompanied minors[1], 2013-2020 (new definition)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)
[1] The absolute data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.5.1 Unaccompanied minors by nationality

In 2020, most unaccompanied minors originated from Syria (445) or Morocco (145). Also Eritrea, Algeria and Afghanistan largely contributed to the number of unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands in 2020 (see table 5.4).

Table 5.4 Top 5 Nationalities of unaccompanied minor aliens[1], 2018-2020 and the period 2008-2020

2018			2019			2020			Period 2008-2020		
Nationality	Abs.	%	Nationality	Abs.	%	Nationality	Abs.	%	Nationality	Abs.	%
Eritrean	430	35.1	Syrian	310	29.7	Syrian	445	45.2	Eritrean	3,785	25.9
Syrian	170	13.9	Moroccan	165	15.8	Moroccan	145	14.7	Syrian	2,895	19.8
Moroccan	145	11.8	Eritrean	110	10.5	Eritrean	80	8.1	Afghan	1,515	10.4
Iraqi	70	5.7	Algerian	70	6.7	Algerian	60	6.1	Somali	950	6.5
Guinean	55	4.5	Iraqi	65	6.2	Afghan	45	4.6	Iraqi	690	4.7
Other	*355*	*29.0*	*Other*	*325*	*31.1*	*Other*	*210*	*21.3*	*Other*	*4,765*	*32.7*
Total	**1,225**	**100.0**	**Total**	**1045**	**100.0**	**Total**	**985**	**100.0**	**Total**	**14,600**	**100.0**

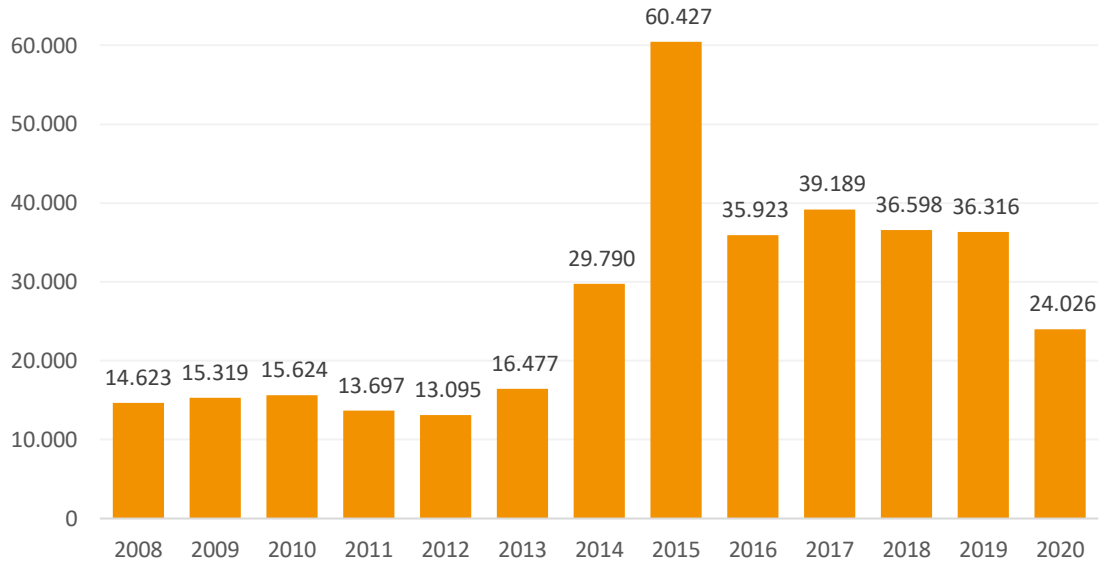
Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)
[1] The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals.

[102] In the past, these unaccompanied minors were referred to as unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

5.6 Occupancy Rate in Asylum Centres

In the Netherlands, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) is responsible for the reception of asylum seekers and the supervision and provision of information and necessities to asylum seekers. When asylum seekers arrive in the Netherlands, they await further decision on their asylum application in one of the COA centres. Within the reporting period (2008-2020), the total influx of asylum seekers peaked in 2015: a total of 60,427 asylum seekers were placed in these centres (see also figure 5.11). Consistent with a notable decrease in asylum applications after 2015, the influx in COA centres decreased in 2016. Between 2016 and 2019, the influx was largely stable, apart from a small increase in 2017 (39,189). Between 2019 and 2020 there was a large decline; 24,026 asylum seekers were received in COA centres. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic that hampered the influx of asylum seekers.

Figure 5.11 Influx of asylum seekers in COA asylum centres, 2008-2020[1]

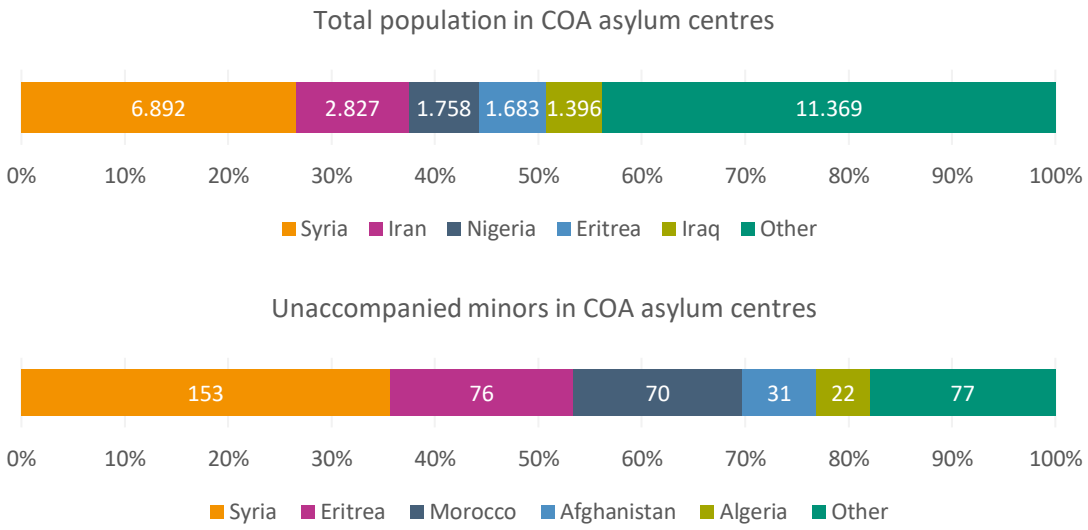


Source: Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers, annual report 2020 (2021)
[1] Data of 2020 are provisional.

5.6.1 Population in COA asylum centres by nationality

On 1 June 2020, the largest group of asylum seekers living in COA asylum centres originated from Syria (27%). Other groups that were well-represented in the reception centres included asylum seekers from Iran, Nigeria, Eritrea and Iraq (see figure 5.12). The composition in nationality for unaccompanied minors differed from the total population at that time. Most noticeable is the large share of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers originating from Morocco (18%). Among the minors were also relatively many Afghans (7%) and Algerians (6%).

Figure 5.12 Top 5 Number of the total population and unaccompanied minors in COA asylum centres by nationality on 1 Jun 2021



Source: Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), annual report (2021).

5.7 Appendix

Appendix Table 5.1a Asylum applications in the Netherlands by nationality, 2016-2020[1]

	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020		
Nationality	Total	First	Follow-up	Total	First	Follow-up	Total	First	Follow-up	Total	First	Follow-up	Total	First	Follow-up
Syrian	2,915	2,865	50	3,015	2,970	45	3,070	2,960	110	3,835	3,675	160	4,155	4,070	85
Algerian	985	980	5	925	890	35	1,335	1,265	70	1,315	1,210	105	1,065	995	70
Turkish	250	235	15	505	480	25	1,330	1,300	30	1,280	1,250	30	1,010	990	20
Moroccan	1,280	1,270	10	1,010	975	35	1,160	1,065	95	1,185	1,060	125	850	775	75
(former) Soviet Union	1,365	1,230	135	1,910	1,705	205	2,785	2,560	225	3,090	2,850	240	795	710	85
Nigerian	270	195	75	320	245	75	650	560	90	2,195	2,100	95	730	635	95
Afghan	1,385	1,025	360	785	320	465	960	325	635	790	435	355	570	390	180
Iranian	995	885	110	895	720	175	2,300	1,870	430	1,795	1,535	260	550	370	180
Iraqi	1,115	960	155	1,095	845	250	1,405	745	660	925	620	305	510	335	175
Yemeni	55	45	10	175	170	5	530	530	0	650	645	5	440	410	30
Eritrean	1,920	1,860	60	1,650	1,590	60	1,515	1,410	105	585	500	85	435	370	65
Pakistani	180	160	20	215	180	35	355	310	45	440	395	45	295	265	30
Tunisian	205	205	0	180	170	10	415	385	30	335	295	40	255	240	15
(former) Yugoslavian	2,180	2,160	20	460	395	65	365	310	55	860	770	90	240	190	50
Somali	250	155	95	200	125	75	240	135	105	285	220	65	235	200	35
Gambian	135	130	5	225	215	10	380	350	30	580	540	40	230	205	25
Libyan	365	340	25	390	355	35	520	460	60	365	305	60	215	190	25
Russian	130	110	20	315	300	15	340	295	45	435	400	35	200	180	20
Georgian	600	580	20	505	485	20	375	350	25	380	325	55	180	165	15
Sudanese	225	190	35	300	260	40	330	270	60	235	200	35	165	155	10
Azerbaijani	80	65	15	135	115	20	300	240	60	425	375	50	140	115	25
Guinean	140	110	30	355	330	25	280	240	40	240	195	45	135	110	25
Egyptian	145	110	35	205	180	25	215	150	65	215	190	25	125	100	25
Colombian	35	35	0	40	35	5	50	45	5	160	160	0	110	105	5
Ugandan	105	85	20	105	70	35	190	145	45	240	220	20	105	85	20
Venezuelan	25	25	0	75	75	0	160	150	10	195	180	15	105	85	20
Lebanese	60	55	5	65	60	5	85	70	15	135	120	15	95	90	5
Belorussian	25	20	5	120	105	15	255	250	5	175	165	10	90	85	5
Albanian	1,700	1,665	35	375	365	10	575	550	25	265	190	75	85	80	5
Sierra Leonan	80	35	45	95	65	30	130	90	40	140	110	30	75	60	15
Stateless	340	320	20	175	140	35	115	50	65	65	40	25	70	35	35
Macedonian	435	430	5	120	110	10	100	90	10	325	295	30	65	55	10
Chinese	100	95	5	160	150	10	185	165	20	170	155	15	65	55	10
Ethiopian	180	155	25	165	125	40	100	55	45	115	90	25	60	45	15
Senegalese	45	45	0	85	80	5	80	60	20	115	105	10	50	45	5
Ukrainian	340	315	25	180	140	40	330	305	25	160	130	30	50	40	10
Kosovar	470	465	5	50	35	15	40	35	5	60	55	5	45	40	5
Ghanaian	15	15	0	45	40	5	85	80	5	95	90	5	45	40	5
Cameroonian	25	20	5	45	40	5	40	30	10	55	50	5	40	35	5
Sri Lankan	65	30	35	70	45	25	80	30	50	80	55	25	40	20	20
Ivorian	40	30	10	50	40	10	65	50	15	60	50	10	35	30	5
Armenian	95	50	45	190	110	80	95	60	35	100	70	30	35	25	10
Kazakh	25	25	0	15	15	0	15	15	0	35	35	0	30	30	0
Nigerian	5	5	0	15	15	0	25	25	0	60	55	5	30	25	5
Moldovan	15	15	0	340	340	0	850	830	20	1,220	1,205	15	30	30	0
Myanmar	55	55	0	45	30	15	50	30	20	45	30	15	25	15	10
Bengali	25	20	5	20	20	0	25	20	5	25	20	5	25	20	5
Malian	30	25	5	65	60	5	45	35	10	40	40	0	25	20	5
Indian	55	45	10	40	35	5	55	50	5	60	50	10	25	15	10
Congolese	80	50	30	65	45	20	45	25	20	70	45	25	20	15	5
Tajik	25	20	5	65	60	5	180	180	0	115	110	5	20	20	0
Cuban	25	25	0	255	255	0	170	160	10	45	20	25	20	10	10
Vietnamese	60	60	0	35	25	10	45	40	5	55	50	5	20	20	0
Congolese (Dem. Rep.)	10	5	5	15	15	0	20	15	5	15	10	5	15	10	5
Burundian	60	25	35	45	30	15	25	10	15	20	5	15	15	5	10
Bosnian	295	295	0	70	65	5	60	50	10	90	70	20	15	10	5
Mongolian	415	405	10	30	20	10	30	25	5	15	15	0	15	15	0
Mauritanian	10	10	0	25	20	5	10	10	0	10	10	0	10	10	0
Liberian	15	10	5	20	15	5	30	20	10	35	30	5	10	10	0
Angolan	15	15	0	30	25	5	35	30	5	65	55	10	10	10	0
Rwandan	20	15	5	10	5	5	20	20	0	10	5	5	5	5	0
Unknown	585	525	60	705	640	65	825	760	65	945	910	35	625	600	25
Total	**21,025**	**19,370**	**1,655**	**18,265**	**16,145**	**2,120**	**24,075**	**20,510**	**3,565**	**25,265**	**22,540**	**2,725**	**15,315**	**13,720**	**1,595**

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

[1] The data are rounded to the nearest five and only nationalities with more than 50 asylum applicants between 2015 and 2020 are shown in the table. As a result, the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

Appendix Table 5.2a Asylum requests in Europe compared (x1000), 2010-2020[1] (The Dutch numbers of 2013-2020 in accordance with the new definition, previous years in accordance with the old definition)

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EU-27	**235.3**	**282**	**306.5**	**400.5**	**593.8**	**1282.6**	**1221.2**	**677.2**	**625.7**	**698.9**	**471.7**
Croatia	.	.	.	1.1	0.4	0.2	2.2	1	0.8	1.4	1.6
EU-14	**219.4**	**264.5**	**283.3**	**351.1**	**524.1**	**1064.4**	**1147.4**	**648.7**	**600.1**	**663.6**	**442.1**
Austria	11	14.4	17.4	17.5	28	88.2	42.3	24.7	13.7	12.9	14.2
Belgium	26.1	31.9	28.1	21	22.7	44.7	18.3	18.3	22.5	27.5	16.7
Denmark	5.1	3.9	6	7.2	14.7	20.9	6.2	3.2	3.6	2.7	1.5
Finland	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.6	32.3	5.6	5	4.5	4.5	3.2
France	52.7	57.3	61.4	66.3	64.3	76.2	84.3	99.3	137.7	151.1	93.5
Germany	48.5	53.2	77.5	126.7	202.6	476.5	745.2	222.6	184.2	165.6	122
Greece	10.3	9.3	9.6	8.2	9.4	13.2	51.1	58.6	67	77.3	40.6
Ireland	1.9	1.3	1	0.9	1.4	3.3	2.2	2.9	3.7	4.8	1.6
Italy	10	40.3	17.3	26.6	64.6	83.5	123	128.8	60	43.8	26.5
Luxembourg	0.8	2.1	2	1.1	1.1	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.3
The Netherlands	15.1	14.6	13.1	13.1	24.5	45	20.9	18.2	24	25.2	15.3
Portugal	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.5	1.8	1.3	1.8	1
Spain	2.7	3.4	2.6	4.5	5.6	14.8	15.8	36.6	54	117.8	88.5
Sweden	31.9	29.6	43.9	54.3	81.2	162.4	28.8	26.3	21.6	26.3	16.2
EU-12	**15.9**	**17.5**	**23.2**	**48.3**	**69.3**	**218**	**71.6**	**27.5**	**24.8**	**33.9**	**28**
Bulgaria	1	0.9	1.4	7.1	11.1	20.4	19.4	3.7	2.5	2.1	3.5
Cyprus	2.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.7	2.3	2.9	4.6	7.8	13.7	7.4
Czech Republic	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.2
Estonia	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0
Hungary	2.1	1.7	2.2	18.9	42.8	177.1	29.4	3.4	0.7	0.5	0.1
Latvia	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Lithuania	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3
Malta	0.4	1.9	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.1	4.1	2.5
Poland	6.5	6.9	10.8	15.2	8	12.2	12.3	5	4.1	4.1	2.8
Romania	0.9	1.7	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.9	4.8	2.1	2.6	6.2
Slovakia	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Slovenia	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.3	1.5	2.9	3.8	3.5
Other European countries[4]	**49.8**	**59.7**	**67.1**	**64**	**68.1**	**111.2**	**71.5**	**57.5**	**57.7**	**63.4**	**13**
Iceland	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.6
Liechtenstein	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0	0
Norway	10	9	9.7	11.9	11.4	31.1	3.5	3.5	2.7	2.3	1.4
United Kingdom	24.3	26.9	28.8	30.6	32.8	40.2	39.7	34.8	38.8	46.1	.
Switzerland	15.4	23.6	28.4	21.3	23.6	39.4	27.1	18	15.2	14.2	11
Total	**259.4**	**317.4**	**349.9**	**438.9**	**625.4**	**1316.9**	**1267**	**711.6**	**655.5**	**733.8**	**467.1**

Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)

[1] EU-27: EU-14 + EU-12 and Croatia. As of 2020 the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Therefore, we excluded the UK from the EU-27 in this table.

[2] EU-14: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden. As of 2020 the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Therefore, we excluded the UK from the EU-14 in this table.

[3] EU-12: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

[4] This list does not include all other European countries; only the most relevant countries in this context are presented.

Appendix Table 5.3a Total number of invited refugees in the Netherlands by nationality, 2011-2020[1]

Nationality	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2011 t/m 2020
Bhutan	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Congolese (Rep. of the Congo)	20	20	85	15	0	0	0	130	30	0	300
Congolese (Dem. Rep. of the Congo)	15	25	0	25	75	25	0	15	35	0	215
Eritrean	75	40	65	190	30	5	5	40	55	15	520
Ethiopian	85	45	5	65	10	35	0	0	0	0	245
Iraqi	80	100	40	45	5	10	5	5	5	5	300
Myanmar	80	95	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	205
Pakistani	0	30	35	35	40	0	0	0	0	0	140
Sudanese	5	10	10	0	5	0	0	65	75	80	250
Sri Lankan	40	25	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	95
Syrian	0	0	15	245	175	575	2,185	815	1,350	260	5,620
Unknown	50	0	0	70	45	10	55	105	270	25	630
Stateless	0	0	0	10	35	0	0	0	0	0	45
Total of nationalities	**540**	**430**	**310**	**790**	**450**	**695**	**2,265**	**1,225**	**1,875**	**425**	**9,005**

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

[1] Data of 2020 are provisional.

[2] The data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total. Moreover, nationalities are only given if the number of refugees from a nationality exceeds 25 between 2011 and 2020.

Appendix Table 5.4a Invited refugees in Europe, 2016-2020[1]

Country of origin	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
EU-27	8,475	48.1	17,940	64.8	19,025	66.9	21,295	69.2	8,500	79.9
Croatia	0	0.0	40	0.1	110	0.4	100	0.3	0	0.0
EU-14	8,430	47.8	17,725	64.0	18,810	66.1	21,050	68.4	8,465	79.6
Austria	200	1.1	380	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Belgium	450	2.6	1,310	4.7	880	3.1	240	0.8	175	1.6
Denmark	310	1.8	5	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	0.3
Finland	945	5.4	1,090	3.9	605	2.1	890	2.9	660	6.2
France	600	3.4	2,620	9.5	5,565	19.6	5,600	18.2	1,340	12.6
Germany	1,240	7.0	3,015	10.9	3,200	11.2	4,890	15.9	1,685	15.8
Greece	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ireland	355	2.0	275	1.0	340	1.2	785	2.6	195	1.8
Italy	1,045	5.9	1,515	5.5	1,180	4.1	1,355	4.4	350	3.3
Luxembourg	50	0.3	180	0.7	0	0.0	35	0.1	15	0.1
Netherlands	695	3.9	2,265	8.2	1,225	4.3	1,875	6.1	425	4.0
Portugal	10	0.1	170	0.6	35	0.1	375	1.2	-[5]	-[5]
Spain	375	2.1	1,490	5.4	830	2.9	-[5]	-[5]	-[5]	-[5]
Sweden	2,155	12.2	3,410	12.3	4,950	17.4	5,005	16.3	3,590	33.7
EU-12	40	0.2	180	0.7	105	0.4	145	0.5	35	0.3
Bulgaria	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	0.1	65	0.2	0	0.0
Cyprus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Czechia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Estonia	10	0.1	20	0.1	30	0.1	5	0.0	0	0.0
Hungary	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-[5]	-[5]
Latvia	5	0.0	40	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lithuania	25	0.1	60	0.2	20	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Malta	0	0.0	15	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poland	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Romania	0	0.0	45	0.2	0	0.0	75	0.2	35	0.3
Slovakia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Slovenia	0	0.0	0	0.0	35	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other European countries	9,145	51.9	9,735	35.2	9,415	33.1	9,480	30.8	2,140	20.1
United Kingdom	5,180	29.4	6,210	22.4	5,805	20.4	5,610	18.2	-[5]	-[5]
Iceland	55	0.3	45	0.2	50	0.2	75	0.2	-[5]	-[5]
Liechtenstein	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Norway	3,290	18.7	2,815	10.2	2,480	8.7	2,795	9.1	1,525	14.3
Switzerland	620	3.5	665	2.4	1,080	3.8	1,000	3.2	615	5.8
Total	17,625	100.0	27,680	100.0	28,445	100.0	30,775	100.0	10,640	100.0
EU-27	8,475	48.1	17,940	64.8	19,025	66.9	21,295	69.2	8,500	79.9

Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)

[1] The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

[2] EU-27: EU-14 + EU-12 and Croatia. As of 2020 the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Therefore, we excluded the UK from the EU-27 in this table.

[3] EU-14: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden. As of 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Therefore, we excluded the UK from the EU-14 in this table.

[4] EU-12: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

[5] Data are not available.

Appendix Table 5.5a First instance decisions on applications by citizenship[1], 2016-2020

Nationality	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020					
	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)	Geneva Convention status (%)	Humanitarian status (%)	Subsidiary protection status (%)	Rejected (%)
Syria	13,295	97.0	2,940	85.2	1,655	76.1	2,160	78.0	4,635	90.0	56.1	1.2	10.0	32.6
Turkey	40	12.5	445	79.8	480	71.9	1,015	90.1	1,575	93.3	71.7	21.0	6.7	0.6
Iran	830	52.4	1,535	47.2	730	45.2	955	39.3	840	48.2	33.9	13.1	51.8	1.2
Yemen	10	50.0	190	94.7	145	89.7	460	92.4	645	93.0	4.7	3.1	7.0	85.3
Afghanistan	1,670	34.4	1,895	35.4	695	33.8	650	24.6	530	47.2	17.0	19.8	52.8	11.3
Iraq	2,035	48.2	1,605	39.3	615	21.1	775	16.8	495	43.4	7.1	4.0	56.6	31.3
Morocco	250	6.0	310	6.5	335	3.0	615	1.6	480	2.1	1.0	1.0	97.9	0.0
Eritrea	3,240	96.3	1,570	88.5	630	60.3	615	63.4	440	65.9	1.1	5.7	34.1	59.1
Algeria	165	0.0	270	1.9	335	0.0	520	0.0	420	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Pakistan	110	31.8	155	38.7	120	54.2	170	41.2	245	69.4	59.2	8.2	30.6	2.0
Nigeria	205	26.8	200	20.0	140	21.4	215	4.7	195	5.1	2.6	0.0	94.9	2.6
Georgia	140	3.6	235	2.1	350	0.0	380	0.0	180	2.8	0.0	0.0	97.2	2.8
Russia	75	33.3	80	37.5	100	50.0	105	47.6	130	53.8	46.2	3.8	46.2	0.0
Somalia	245	40.8	265	37.7	130	23.1	150	16.7	125	36.0	4.0	0.0	64.0	32.0
Libya	75	6.7	135	11.1	120	16.7	155	6.5	110	22.7	9.1	4.5	77.3	9.1
China	60	33.3	190	60.5	95	68.4	120	79.2	100	80.0	70.0	15.0	20.0	0.0
Venezuela	10	0.0	45	11.1	75	6.7	100	15.0	100	15.0	5.0	5.0	85.0	5.0
Unknown	480	72.9	455	54.9	310	41.9	360	43.1	490	72.4	49.0	6.1	27.6	17.3
Stateless	1,770	95.8	345	68.1	100	55.0	170	47.1	210	73.8	59.5	4.8	26.2	7.1
Total	**28,875**	**72.1**	**15,945**	**49.0**	**10,285**	**35.2**	**12,975**	**37.3**	**13,615**	**63.3**	**36.5**	**6.0**	**36.7**	**20.7**

Source: Eurostat, online statistics (2021)

[1] The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

[2] Applications from countries with fewer than a hundred applications in 2020 have not been included.

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Foreign Students in the Netherlands

6

6 Foreign Students in the Netherlands

This chapter is about migration to the Netherlands for reasons of study. In the first part, the number of foreign students in Dutch higher education (research universities and universities of applied sciences) are presented. Both the total numbers and the numbers for a few categories – according to nationality and type of education – are part of this analysis. In addition, an overview is given of the Dutch institutes in higher education that attract most foreign students.[103] All statistics are based on data collected by the Dutch Education Executive Agency (DUO), which are provided by Nuffic from 2019 onwards, as well as Statistics Netherlands.[104] In the second part of this chapter we take a look at the number of students who apply for admission. We continue this chapter with information on the number of foreign students who have changed their residence permit with respect to the reason of immigration, i.e. from education to another reason of immigration. At the end of this chapter, we present a cost benefit analysis of international students, taking into account their stay rate and labour market participation after leaving education.

6.1 Main Findings

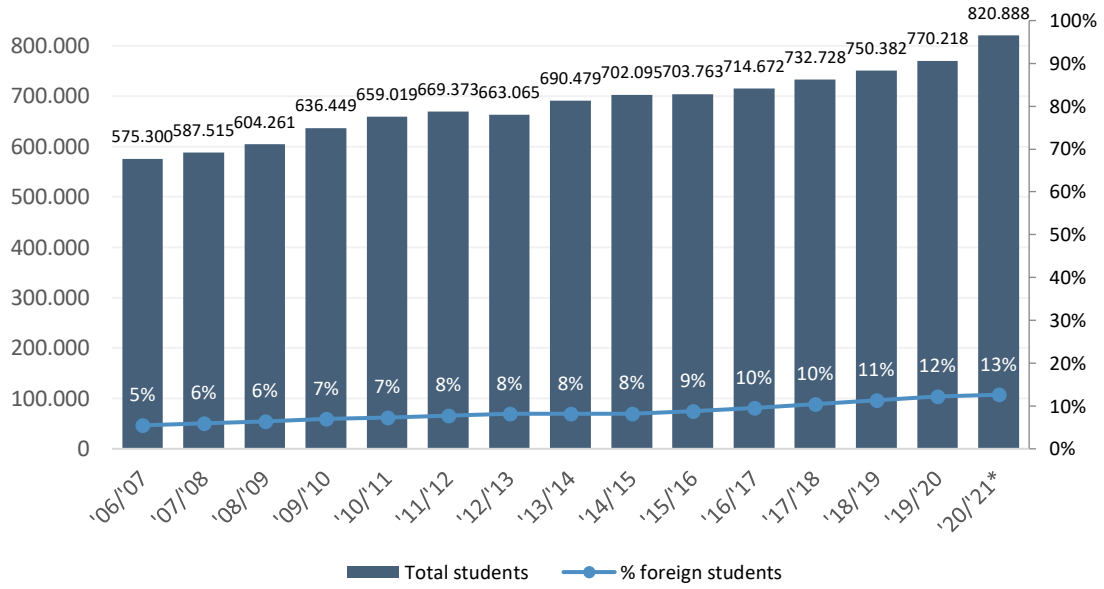
- The number of foreign students enrolled in Dutch institutes for higher education (research universities and universities of applied sciences) steadily increased since 2006. In 2020 nearly 821,000 foreign students participated in Dutch higher education, accounting for 13% of the total student population.
- Most foreign students originate from Western-European countries (EU-14 countries), although the share of students from the more recent Member States (EU-12 countries) increased between 2013 and 2020.
- German students represent by far the largest group of foreign students in the Netherlands with over 24,500 students in 2020.
- In 2020, more foreign students participated in Dutch research universities (over 70,500) as compared to universities of applied sciences (over 33,000). The share of international students at research universities has steadily increased since 2006. Conversely, the share of international students at universities of applied sciences has remained fairly stable in these years.
- Dutch institutes for higher education show an uneven distribution in attracting foreign students. In fact, a small number of institutes account for a large proportion of foreign students.
- After an upward trend over the last years, the number of admission request dropped between 2019 and 2020. This can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to travel restrictions and an increasing usage of online education.
- The number of international students who changed their residence permit in order to stay and work in the Netherlands after completing their study increased between 2014 and 2019, but slightly decreased between 2019 and 2020. This likely has to do with the Covid pandemic and the increased uncertainties of free travel and decreased job vacancies. Chinese and Indian students in particular extended their stay in the Netherlands for the purpose of paid work.
- The overall economic effects of international students in the Netherlands are measured to be positive. The balance of income and costs is particular positive for students from non-EEA countries.

6.2 Foreign Students in Higher Education

Over time, the number of foreign students in the Netherlands steadily increased (see figure 6.1). Whereas in 2006 31,529 foreign students participated in Dutch higher education, this number augmented to 103,708 foreign students in 2020.[105] Not only the absolute number of foreign students increased, the proportion of foreign students compared to Dutch students also steadily increased, from 5% in 2006 to 13% in 2020.

[103] Higher education in the Netherlands is offered at two types of institutions: universities of applied sciences (*hogescholen; hbo*) and research universities (*universiteiten).*
[104] This information is online available via Nuffic, the Dutch organisation of internationalisation in education.
[105] 2009 refers to school year 2009/10 and 2019 refers to school year 2019/20, etc.

Figure 6.1 Number of students in higher education and the proportion of foreign students, college years 2009/2010 to 2020/2021



* Data of 2020/2021 are provisional.

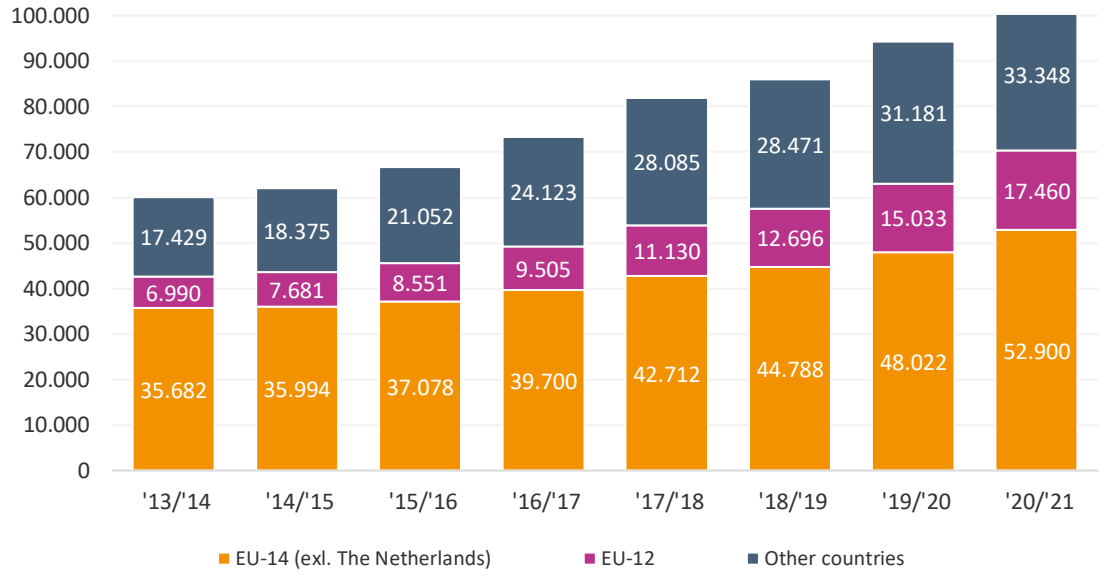
Source: Own calculations based on Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021) and Nuffic (2021)

6.2.1 Foreign students by country of nationality

The vast majority of foreign students originate from other Western-European countries (i.e. EU-14 member-states, see figure 6.2). Having said this, their proportion within the total foreign student population is slowly decreasing. In 2014, 59% of all foreign students originated from the EU-14 countries, while in 2020 this percentage was slightly lower (51%). Conversely, the share of foreign students from the more recent EU Member States (EU-12) increased from 12% in 2014 to 17% in 2020. The proportion of students from other countries remained around 30% during this period.[106]

[106] EU-15 are all countries that joined the EU before 2004. EU-12 are the countries that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007.

Figure 6.2 Foreign students by region of origin (EU-14[1], EU12[2] and other countries), college year 2014/2015 to 2020/2021[3]



Source 2014/2015-2017/2018: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2018).
Source 2018/2019-2020/2021: Nuffic (2019/2020/2021).

[1] EU-14: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

[2] EU-12: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

German students represented the largest group of foreign students in the Netherlands in 2020 (see table 6.1). Most other countries in the top 10 are part of the EU-27. In addition, the UK is an important supplier of foreign students. The only non-European country that is high in the ranking is China. Between 2014 and 2020, little has changed in the order of countries from which students who study in the Netherlands originate. For more detailed information on foreign students in the Netherlands by country of origin, see appendix table 6.1a.

Table 6.1 Top 10 Foreign students by country of origin, college year 2018/2019 to 2020/2021

2018/2019			2019/2020			2020/2021		
	Abs.	%		Abs.	%		Abs.	%
Germany	22,558	26.6	Germany	23,007	24.6	Germany	24,569	23.7
Italy	4,841	5.7	Italy	5,577	6.0	Italy	6,189	6.0
China	4,522	5.3	China	4,688	5.0	China	4,940	4.8
Belgium	3,607	4.3	Belgium	3,944	4.2	Belgium	4,523	4.4
United Kingdom	3,281	3.9	Bulgaria	3,677	3.9	Romania	4,333	4.2
Bulgaria	3,125	3.7	Romania	3,670	3.9	Bulgaria	4,086	3.9
Greece	2,937	3.5	India	3,191	3.4	France	3,612	3.5
Romania	2,934	3.5	Greece	3,114	3.3	Spain	3,493	3.4
France	2,755	3.2	United Kingdom	3,089	3.3	Greece	3,266	3.1
Spain	2,706	3.2	France	3,083	3.3	United Kingdom	3,189	3.1
Total top 10	53,266	62.8	Total top 10	57,040	60.9	Total top 10	62,200	60.0
Other	31,572	37.2	Other	36,609	39.1	Other	41,508	40.0
Total	84,838	100.0	Total	93,649	100.0	Total	103,708	100.0

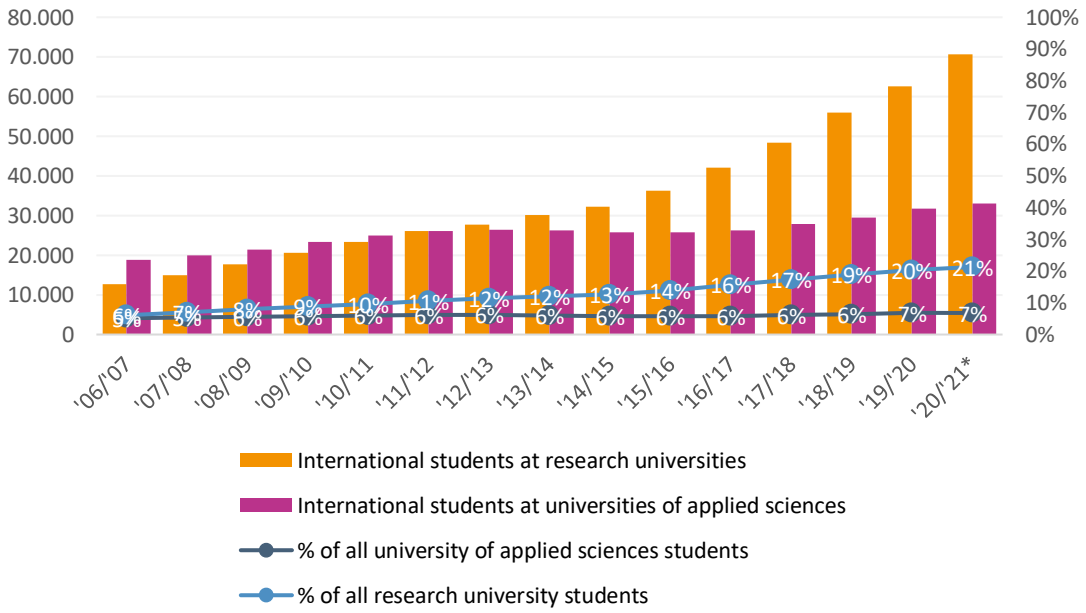
Source: Nuffic (2021)

6.2.2 Foreign students in research universities and universities of applied sciences

In this section we describe the differences in numbers of foreign students participating in research universities and universities of applied sciences. As shown in figure 6.3, the proportion of foreign students enrolled in research universities (compared to all university students) steadily increased

between 2006 and 2020, while the proportion of foreign students enrolled in universities of applied sciences (as compared to all students at this education level) remained more or less the same during this period of time. In 2020, 70,592 international students participated in Dutch research universities (21% of all students), and 33,116 international students were enrolled in universities of applied sciences (7% of all students).

Figure 6.3 Foreign students in research universities and universities of applied sciences, college year 2009/2010 to 2020/2021 (absolute numbers and percentages of all students)



* Data of 2020/2021 are provisional.

Source: Own calculations based on Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021) and Nuffic (2021)

6.2.3 Institutes attracting the highest numbers of foreign students

The distribution of foreign students across different higher education institutions throughout the Netherlands is quite uneven. In fact, a small number of institutions account for a large proportion of these students (see table 6.2). With regard to universities of applied sciences, we notice that five institutions attracted half (50%) of all foreign students in 2020. With regard to Dutch research universities, the picture is even more skewed. In 2020, five research universities welcomed two thirds (67%) of all foreign research university students.

Table 6.2 Top 5 Institutes (research universities and universities of applied sciences) with the highest numbers of foreign students, college year 2020/2021

University of applied sciences			Research universities		
	Abs.	%		Abs.	%
Fontys Hogescholen	5,290	11.6	Universiteit Maastricht	10,910	55.3
Hanzehogeschool Groningen	2,762	9.0	Universiteit van Amsterdam	10,520	27.0
De Haagse Hogeschool	2,651	10.2	Rijksuniversiteit Groningen	8,254	24.2
NHL Stenden Hogeschool	2,543	10.5	Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam	6,293	20.9
Saxion Hogeschool	2,474	8.8	Technische Universiteit Delft	5,840	22.4
Total top 5	15,720	49.6	**Total top 5**	41,817	66.9
Other	16,000	50.4	**Other**	20,699	33.1
Total	31,720	100.0	**Total**	62,516	100.0

Source: Nufic (2021)

6.3 Admission requests and status changes of students

6.3.1 Admission requests

Over the last years, more students have made an admission request in order to study in the Netherlands (see table 6.3). Between 2019 and 2020, however, the number of requests suddenly decreased from more than 20,000 to a little more than 12,310. This drop can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to governments restricting international travel. In addition, online education as a result of the health crisis may also have reduced the appeal of Dutch educational institutions to foreign students. The main countries of origin of students who made a request to study in the Netherlands are China, India, and the United States (see table 6.4).

Table 6.3 Admission requests of students 2018-2020

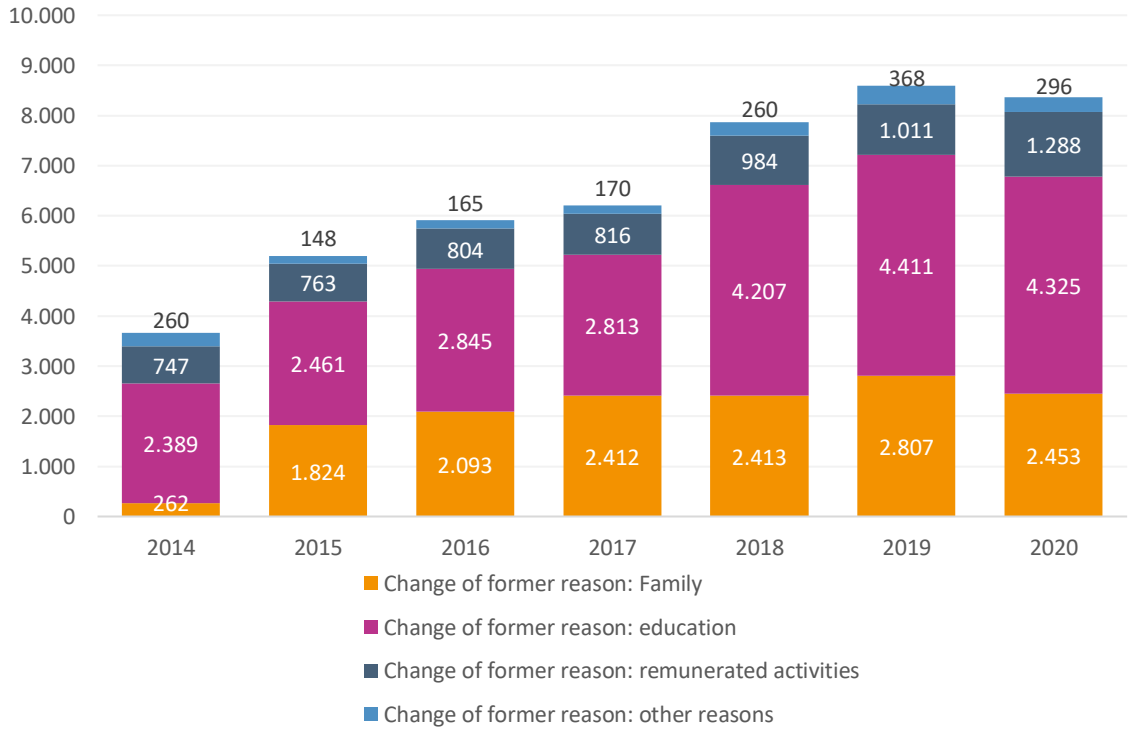
	2018	2019	2020	Top 3 nationalities 2020
Requests	18,640	20,430	12,310	1. Chinese
Decisions	18,670	20,630	12,640	2. Indian
Positive decisions (%)	98%	99%	96%	3. American

Source: IND annual figures 2020

6.3.2 Change of immigration motive of former students

Since 2014, the number of foreign students who changed their residence status according to reason of immigration increased from 2,389 in 2014 to 4,325 in 2019 (see figure 6.4). However, between 2019 and 2020, this number slightly decreased to 4,325 in 2020. This might be due to increased uncertainty following the COVID-19 outbreak of 2020. As a result, international students might have decided to return to their country of origin rather than stay in this country after completing their studies. Also, it may have been more difficult for them to find a job in the Netherlands due to the decrease of job vacancies in 2020.

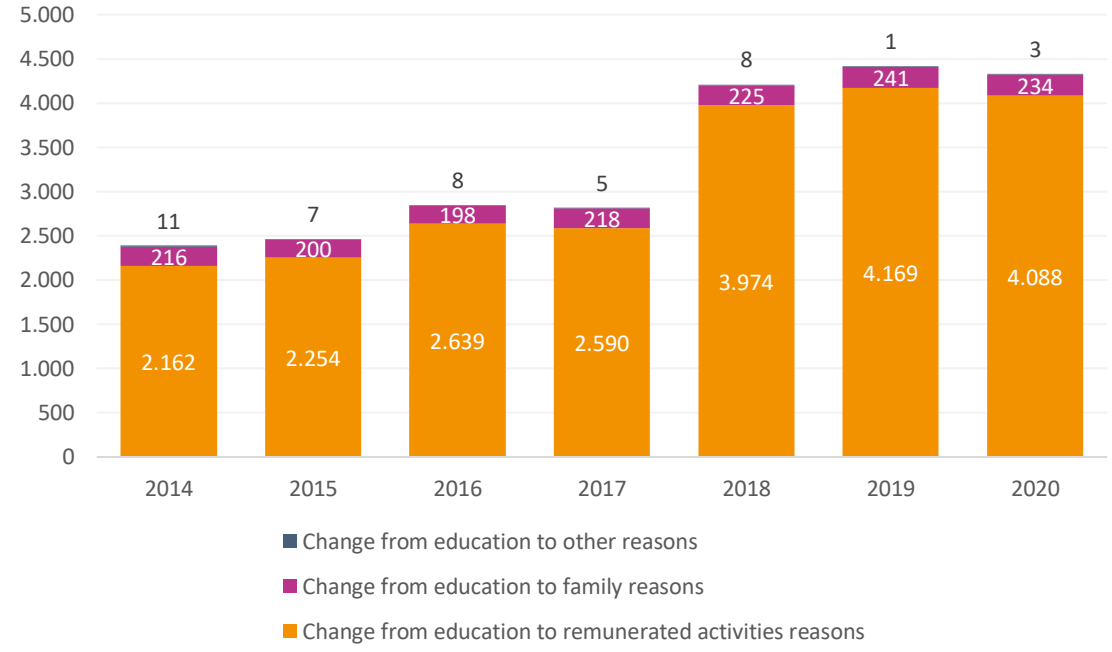
Figure 6.4 Change of residence status by immigration motive, 2014-2020



Source: Eurostat (2021)

Foreign students in particular prolonged their stay in the Netherlands for the purpose of work (see figure 6.5.). To a significantly lesser extent, a change of residence status took place in favour of family reasons (i.e. a relationship or marriage with a Dutch person).

Figure 6.5 Change of immigration status permits with 'education' as former reason, 2015-2020



Source: Eurostat (2021)

Indian and Chinese nationals represent the largest group of former students who changed their residence permit in order to stay longer in the Netherlands after completing their study (see table 6.4). Between 2018 and 2020, the composition of the Top-10 countries stayed more or less the same.

Table 6.4 Top 10 changes of immigration status permits with 'education' as former reason, by country of origin, 2018-2020

2018			2019			2020		
Country of origin	Abs.	%	Country of origin	Abs.	%	Country of origin	Abs.	%
China	1,001	23.8	China	895	20.3	India	784	18
India	608	14.5	India	714	16.2	China	696	16
Indonesia	220	5.2	Indonesia	221	5.0	United States	209	5
United States	208	4.9	United States	216	4.9	Russia	192	4
Russia	195	4.6	Vietnam	175	4.0	Indonesia	189	4
Turkey	146	3.5	Turkey	172	3.9	Vietnam	171	4
Vietnam	145	3.4	Russia	164	3.7	Turkey	165	4
Mexico	135	3.2	Taiwan	131	3.0	Iran	124	3
Taiwan	104	2.5	Iran	122	2.8	Taiwan	116	3
Colombia	89	2.1	South Korea	117	2.7	Mexico	107	2
Total Top 10	**2,851**	**67.8**	**Total Top 10**	**2,927**	**66.4**	**Total Top 10**	**2,753**	**64**
Other	**1,356**	**32.2**	**Other**	**1,484**	**33.6**	**Other**	**1,572**	**36**
Total	**4,207**	**100.0**	**Total**	**4,411**	**100.0**	**Total**	**4,325**	**100**

Source: Eurostat (2021)

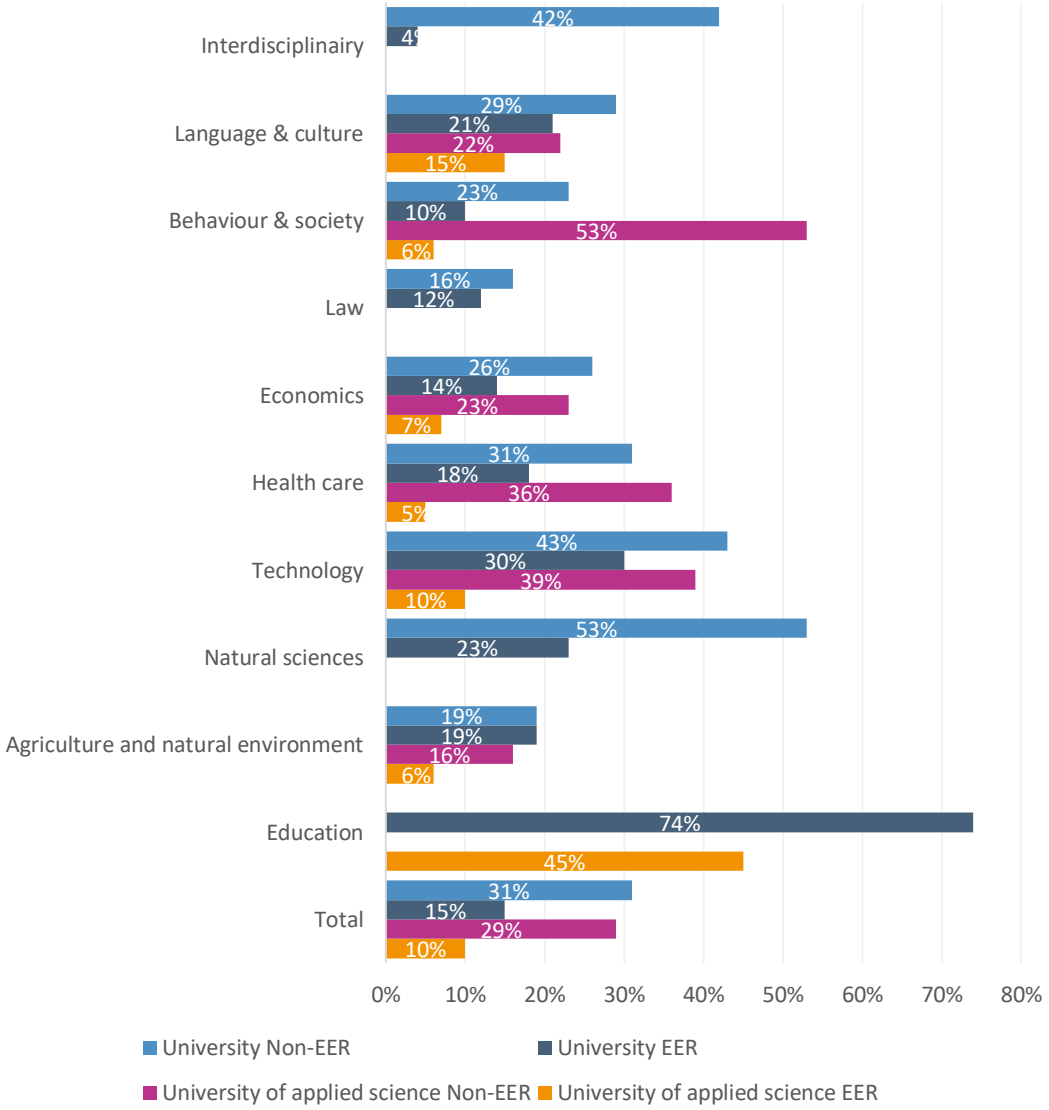
6.4 Costs and benefits of foreign students[107]

For the total picture of costs and benefits of foreign students in the Netherlands, both the stay rate and labour participation are important factors. After all, the economic benefits only become apparent if foreign students continue to live and work in the Netherlands.

6.4.1 Stay rates of international students

Students from non-EEA countries are more likely to stay in the Netherlands after graduation than students from EEA countries (see Figure 6.6). Graduates from research universuties in the fields of Natural Sciences, Technology and Education are the most likely to stay in the Netherlands after completing their studies. Of the foreign students participating in Dutch universities of applied sciences, it is mainly those who study Behaviour & Society, Education and Technology who have a strong propensity to stay in the Netherlands.

Figure 6.6 Stay rate 5 years after graduation by discipline, type of university and region of origin



Source: Bolhaar, J. e.a. (2019). Economische effecten van internationalisering in het hoger onderwijs en mbo. Den Haag, Centraal Planbureau

[107] The information in this paragraph is based on Bolhaar, J. e.a. (2019*). Economische effecten van internationalisering in het hoger onderwijs en mbo*. The Netherlands, Den Haag: Centraal Planbureau.

6.4.2 Labour participation after leaving education

The labour participation rate of foreign students who continue to live in the Netherlands after leaving education is lower than the labour participation rate of Dutch graduates. This difference is particularly large right after graduation. However, also after five years of staying in the Netherlands, foreign study migrants still reveal lower participation rates as compared to the graduated native Dutch population. Graduates from non-EEA countries work on average more hours per month than Dutch graduates and graduates from EEA countries. In addition, the hourly wages of graduates from both EEA and non-EEA countries are lower than that of Dutch graduates. These differences, however, decrease as the length of stay in the Netherlands increases.

The overall economic effects of international students in the Netherlands are measured to be positive. This balance of income and costs is particular positive for students from non-EEA countries. Because of their greater propensity to a longer stay in the Netherlands, they are much more likely to participate in the Dutch labour market. Students from these countries contribute on average 68.5 (when they have completed a study at a university of applied sciences) and 96.3 thousand euros (when they have completed a study at a research university). For students from EEA countries these revenues are 5.0 and 16.9 thousand euros respectively.

6.5 Appendix

Appendix Table 6.1a Number of foreign students by country of origin, 2014-2020

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
EU-27	**43,862**	**70.7**	**45,882**	**68.8**	**49,527**	**67.5**	**54,191**	**66.1**	**57,895**	**67.4**	**63,595**	**67.5**	**71,069**	**68.5**
Croatia	187	0.3	253	0.4	322	0.4	349	0.4	411	0.5	540	0.6	709	0.7
EU-14	**35,994**	**58.0**	**37,078**	**55.6**	**39,700**	**54.1**	**42,712**	**52.1**	**44,788**	**52.1**	**48,022**	**51.0**	**52,900**	**51.0**
Germany	23,466	37.8	22,704	34.0	22,702	31.0	22,584	27.7	22,584	26.3	23,022	24.4	24,569	23.7
Italy	2,106	3.4	2,730	4.1	3,457	4.7	4,182	5.1	4,814	5.6	5,563	5.9	6,189	6.0
Belgium	2,768	4.5	2,919	4.4	3,239	4.4	3,544	4.3	3,620	4.2	3,952	4.2	4,523	4.4
Greece	2,155	3.5	2,222	3.3	2,409	3.3	2,676	3.3	2,947	3.4	3,116	3.3	3,266	3.1
France	1,480	2.4	1,762	2.6	2,142	2.9	2,465	3.0	2,759	3.2	3,095	3.3	3,612	3.5
Spain	1,398	2.3	1,708	2.6	2,051	2.8	2,571	3.1	2,695	3.1	3,054	3.2	3,493	3.4
Ireland	364	0.6	436	0.7	578	0.8	801	1.0	984	1.1	1,216	1.3	1,566	1.5
Portugal	549	0.9	640	1.0	802	1.1	1,007	1.2	1,051	1.2	1,210	1.3	1,389	1.3
Finland	448	0.7	560	0.8	672	0.9	864	1.1	1,040	1.2	1,189	1.3	1,260	1.2
Austria	461	0.7	502	0.8	579	0.8	690	0.8	760	0.9	858	0.9	968	0.9
Luxembourg	163	0.3	216	0.3	305	0.4	430	0.5	538	0.6	665	0.7	825	0.8
Sweden	380	0.6	404	0.6	450	0.6	514	0.6	595	0.7	643	0.7	758	0.7
Denmark	256	0.4	275	0.4	314	0.4	384	0.5	401	0.5	439	0.5	482	0.5
EU-12	**7,681**	**12.4**	**8,551**	**12.8**	**9,505**	**13.0**	**11,130**	**13.6**	**12,696**	**14.8**	**15,033**	**16.0**	**17,460**	**16.8**
Bulgaria	1,840	3.0	2,069	3.1	2,331	3.2	2,644	3.2	3,126	3.6	3,680	3.9	4,086	3.9
Romania	1,368	2.2	1,610	2.4	1,862	2.5	2,378	2.9	2,937	3.4	3,658	3.9	4,333	4.2
Poland	1,132	1.8	1,282	1.9	1,418	1.9	1,696	2.1	1,621	1.9	1,927	2.0	2,422	2.3
Lithuania	844	1.4	918	1.4	944	1.3	1,036	1.3	1,152	1.3	1,273	1.4	1,356	1.3
Hungary	618	1.0	652	1.0	753	1.0	890	1.1	1,015	1.2	1,252	1.3	1,482	1.4
Slovakia	554	0.9	591	0.9	586	0.8	520	0.6	629	0.7	725	0.8	850	0.8
Latvia	381	0.6	410	0.6	453	0.6	594	0.7	621	0.7	709	0.8	809	0.8
Cyprus	341	0.5	352	0.5	362	0.5	336	0.4	454	0.5	568	0.6	670	0.6
Czech Republic	160	0.3	192	0.3	262	0.4	410	0.5	422	0.5	475	0.5	553	0.5
Estonia	260	0.4	256	0.4	290	0.4	332	0.4	382	0.4	408	0.4	479	0.5
Slovenia	163	0.3	195	0.3	211	0.3	244	0.3	283	0.3	309	0.3	362	0.3
Malta	20	0.0	24	0.0	33	0.0	50	0.1	54	0.1	49	0.1	58	0.1
Countries outside of EU-27	18,188	29.3	20,799	31.2	23,801	32.5	27,736	33.9	28,060	32.6	30,641	32.5	32,639	31.5
China	4,300	6.9	4,430	6.6	4,482	6.1	4,635	5.7	4,547	5.3	4,697	5.0	4,940	4.8
United Kingdom	2,211	3.6	2,542	3.8	3,000	4.1	3,338	4.1	3,383	3.9	3147	3.3	3,189	3.1
India	911	1.5	1,299	1.9	1,523	2.1	2,024	2.5	2,648	3.1	3,209	3.4	3,179	3.1
United States	603	1.0	669	1.0	837	1.1	1,119	1.4	1,268	1.5	1,422	1.5	1,586	1.5
Indonesia	1,101	1.8	1,301	2.0	1,602	2.2	1,585	1.9	1,402	1.6	1,414	1.5	1,452	1.4
Turkey	540	0.9	576	0.9	625	0.9	1,149	1.4	891	1.0	1,157	1.2	1,437	1.4
Syria	605	1.0	698	1.0	882	1.2	493	0.6	971	1.1	1,294	1.4	1,422	1.4
Russia	638	1.0	739	1.1	758	1.0	837	1.0	896	1.0	1,071	1.1	1,201	1.2
South Korea	320	0.5	425	0.6	599	0.8	757	0.9	936	1.1	1,048	1.1	1,059	1.0
Suriname	26	0.0	58	0.1	178	0.2	701	0.9	694	0.8	774	0.8	821	0.8
Switzerland	286	0.5	352	0.5	387	0.5	444	0.5	515	0.6	594	0.6	708	0.7
Ukraine	288	0.5	319	0.5	359	0.5	450	0.5	511	0.6	577	0.6	693	0.7
Norway	395	0.6	414	0.6	472	0.6	537	0.7	581	0.7	585	0.6	643	0.6
Iran	270	0.4	294	0.4	287	0.4	370	0.5	421	0.5	436	0.5	484	0.5
Taiwan	200	0.3	258	0.4	285	0.4	248	0.3	353	0.4	439	0.5	461	0.4
Egypt	136	0.2	160	0.2	183	0.2	213	0.3	270	0.3	332	0.4	413	0.4
Mexico	310	0.5	394	0.6	449	0.6	443	0.5	425	0.5	421	0.4	394	0.4
Canada	229	0.4	266	0.4	289	0.4	306	0.4	338	0.4	340	0.4	351	0.3

Appendix Table 6.1a (part 2)

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
Brazil	234	0.4	229	0.3	249	0.3	340	0.4	343	0.4	359	0.4	351	0.3
Pakistan	168	0.3	201	0.3	234	0.3	239	0.3	277	0.3	279	0.3	287	0.3
South Africa	133	0.2	165	0.2	204	0.3	172	0.2	198	0.2	242	0.3	275	0.3
Japan	128	0.2	143	0.2	171	0.2	195	0.2	203	0.2	232	0.2	268	0.3
Albania	91	0.1	111	0.2	163	0.2	196	0.2	207	0.2	220	0.2	250	0.2
Colombia	114	0.2	149	0.2	156	0.2	269	0.3	235	0.3	234	0.2	237	0.2
Nigeria	109	0.2	122	0.2	149	0.2	158	0.2	167	0.2	191	0.2	235	0.2
Ecuador	155	0.2	161	0.2	148	0.2	107	0.1	155	0.2	194	0.2	179	0.2
Bangladesh	86	0.1	124	0.2	112	0.2	133	0.2	113	0.1	141	0.1	176	0.2
Serbia	70	0.1	84	0.1	100	0.1	115	0.1	117	0.1	154	0.2	169	0.2
Kazakhstan	95	0.2	109	0.2	117	0.2	114	0.1	128	0.1	145	0.2	168	0.2
Azerbaijan	69	0.1	91	0.1	100	0.1	117	0.1	104	0.1	131	0.1	167	0.2
Oman	99	0.2	118	0.2	126	0.2	138	0.2	149	0.2	152	0.2	165	0.2
Thailand	83	0.1	103	0.2	163	0.2	221	0.3	197	0.2	192	0.2	164	0.2
Malaysia	83	0.1	73	0.1	111	0.2	130	0.2	131	0.2	158	0.2	159	0.2
Iceland	123	0.2	132	0.2	135	0.2	137	0.2	143	0.2	161	0.2	158	0.2
Morocco	77	0.1	103	0.2	123	0.2	319	0.4	115	0.1	125	0.1	147	0.1
Saudi Arabia	92	0.1	121	0.2	120	0.2	173	0.2	181	0.2	166	0.2	145	0.1
Zimbabwe	33	0.1	35	0.1	50	0.1	81	0.1	104	0.1	121	0.1	145	0.1
Philippines	35	0.1	39	0.1	60	0.1	73	0.1	92	0.1	114	0.1	136	0.1
Lebanon	22	0.0	46	0.1	62	0.1	77	0.1	79	0.1	97	0.1	132	0.1
Australia									113	0.1	113	0.1	128	0.1
Peru	37	0.1	40	0.1	49	0.1	59	0.1	91	0.1	119	0.1	123	0.1
Singapore	51	0.1	57	0.1	71	0.1	84	0.1	92	0.1	98	0.1	117	0.1
Ghana	44	0.1	43	0.1	60	0.1	66	0.1	89	0.1	101	0.1	106	0.1
Israel	58	0.1	55	0.1	63	0.1	61	0.1	71	0.1	87	0.1	100	0.1
Other countries	**2,530**	**4.1**	**2,951**	**4.4**	**3,508**	**4.8**	**4,313**	**5.3**	**3,116**	**3.6**	**3,358**	**3.6**	**3,519**	**3.4**
Total	**62,050**	**100.0**	**66,681**	**100.0**	**73,328**	**100.0**	**81,927**	**100.0**	**85,955**	**100.0**	**94,236**	**100.0**	**103,708**	**100.0**

Source 2014-2017: The Education Executive Agency (DUO), data supplied on request (2018).
Source 2018-202: Nuffic (2019,2020,2021).
[1] Other countries are countries with fewer than 100 students studying in the Netherlands in 2020.

REGIOPLAN
BE LEIDSONDERZOEK

Foreign Residents in the Netherlands

7

7 Foreign Residents in the Netherlands

This chapter discusses the population figures of foreign nationals and immigrants in the Netherlands. Attention is paid to the absolute numbers of immigrants in this country, as well as to several socio-demographic characteristics of foreign residents. Their settlement patterns within the Netherlands will also be discussed. Finally, this chapter pays attention to the acquisition of Dutch citizenship. This chapter is based on online statistics published by Statistics Netherlands (CBS StatLine).

7.1 Main Findings

- When referring to the ethnic composition of the population in the Netherlands, usually a division is made between residents with a migration background (first- and second-generation migrants) and residents without migration background. The Netherlands hosts around 4 million residents with a migration background, equivalent to 24.3% of the total population in this country.
- Most non-native residents originate from non-Western countries; almost 2.4 million non-natives belong to one of the so-called non-Western migrant communities. The Turkish and Moroccan communities (with each around 400,000 persons) are the largest non-Western migrant groups in the Netherlands.
- The total number of Western immigrants in the Netherlands is estimated at around 1.8 million. Indonesians represent the largest Western immigrant group[108] (comprising around 356,000 persons), followed closely by German immigrants (about 349,000 persons).
- Differences in gender division between non-native and the native population are fairly limited. With regard to age distribution, non-Western migrants in the Netherlands are young compared to Western migrants and the native Dutch population.
- The relative numbers of first-generation and second-generation immigrants living in the Netherlands differ between various migrant groups. Most migrants from Central-Eastern Europe, the Asian continent and various refugee countries belong to the first-generation. Conversely, the proportion of second-generation migrants is considerably larger among migrant groups that have been living in the Netherlands for a longer period of time, such as Indonesian, German, Moroccan and Turkish migrants.
- Non-Western immigrants tend to live in large cities, particularly in the four largest agglomerations (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht). On 1 January 2020, 36% of all non-Western immigrants lived in one of these cities.
- Western immigrants are also concentrated in the large cities. Unlike non-Western immigrants, a large share of these immigrants also live in the border areas of the Netherlands.
- The number of foreign residents who obtained Dutch citizenship sharply decreased after the introduction of the naturalisation exam in 2003. However, between 2018 and 2019, the number increased again. In 2019, around 34,000 foreign persons obtained Dutch citizenship.

7.2 Total Number of Immigrants

The most common Dutch definition to define the immigrant population differs from international migration statistics. While international migration statistics use two common methods to define a person as an immigrant, namely ‘foreign nationals’ (whether the immigrant holds citizenship or not) and ‘foreign-born residents’ (immigrants’ country of birth), the Dutch statistics uses yet another definition, namely: ‘migration background’. According to this definition, a person is considered an immigrant or a non-native Dutch resident if the person himself or at least one of his/her parents was born outside the Netherlands. Box 7.1 describes some important implications of this definition.

[108] Due to their socio-economic a socio-cultural position, immigrants from Indonesia (and Japan) are counted as Westerners. These Indonesians are mainly individuals born in former Dutch-India.

Box 7.1 Dutch definition for the immigrant population: 'migration background'

One advantage of the Dutch definition of 'migration background' to define the immigrant population is that children of non-natives who were born in the Netherlands, the so-called second-generation migrants, are also included in the category of non-natives. Because of this, it is possible to monitor both the developments of first- and second-generation migrants in this country. Another advantage of the Dutch definition is that immigrants from Dutch colonies, including the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname, are also classified as immigrants. The same applies to immigrants who have obtained Dutch citizenship later on (e.g. through naturalisation); they are also considered as migrants when using the definition of 'persons with a migration background'.

The various definitions result in different outcomes when it comes to the size of the immigrant population in the Netherlands. According to the nationality (or citizenship) definition, on 1 January 2019, the total number of foreign nationals was 1,110,859 (equivalent to 6% of the total Dutch population), whereas the foreign-born definition resulted in a significantly higher number of non-natives living in the Netherlands, namely 2,298,709 (13.3%).[109] When following the definition for 'migration background' (which also considers second-generation migrants as immigrants), nearly one in four persons in the Netherlands was regarded as non-native Dutch on 1 January 2020 (see table 7.1 and the appendix table 7.1a for a more detailed overview on non-native residents by nationality in 2019).

Table 7.1 Number of foreign residents, 1 January 2020

	Abs.	% of total Dutch population
Total Dutch population	17,407,585	100.00
Non-native residents (i.e. with a migration background)	4,220,705	24.25
of whom with		
Western background	1,828,645	10.50
Non-Western background	2,392,060	13.74

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2020)

We will continue this chapter by describing the data based on the Dutch definition of 'migration background'. Thus, when referring to 'immigrants' in this chapter, this entails both foreign-born residents and their children born in the Netherlands.

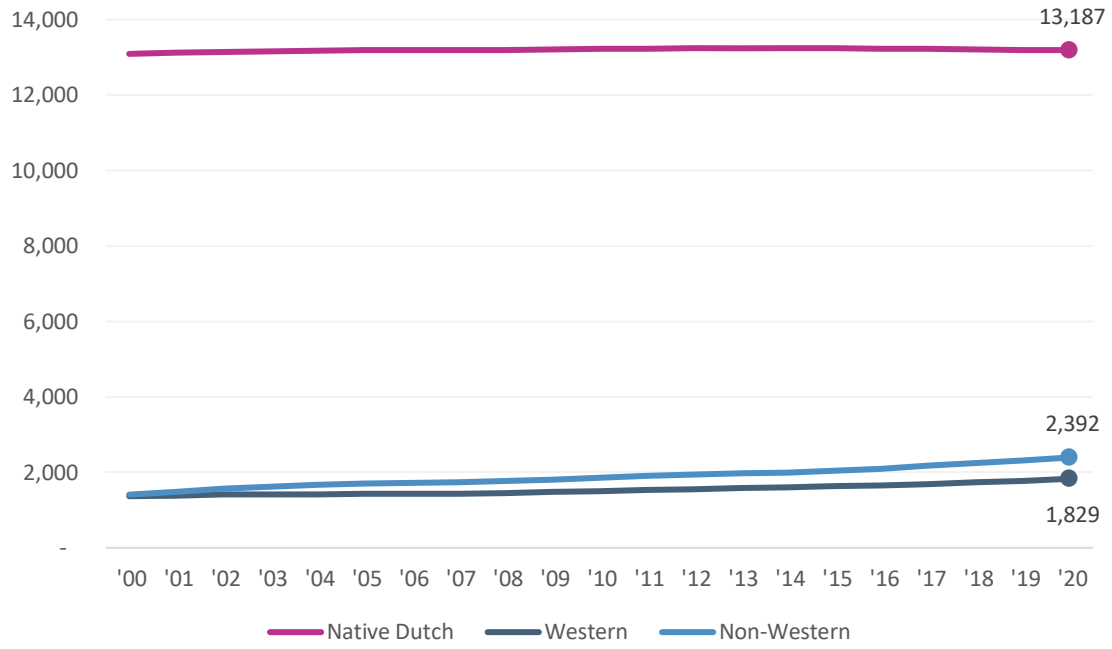
7.3 Background and Composition of Immigrants

7.3.1 Country of origin

Between January 2019 and January 2020, the total population in the Netherlands increased by 125,422 residents. This increase is only caused by the growth of the immigrant population (see also figure 7.1). Over the past 19 years, the strongest growth occurred among non-Western immigrants. Whereas the number of Western and non-Western migrants was more or less comparable in 2000 (both around 1.4 million), the size of the latter group increased to over 2 million persons in 2014 (an increase of 49%) and kept increasing since. The number of Western migrants in the Netherlands was approximately 1.8 million on 1 January 2020. In comparison, the size of the native Dutch population increased by less than 1% during the last twenty years and has even declined since 2015.

[109] Statistics on foreign-born have not been updated yet. The number of foreign citizens on 1 January 2019 was 1,110,859 which is 6% of the total Dutch population.

Figure 7.1 Population growth for native Dutch and non-natives (Western versus non-Western), 2000-2020 (x million)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2020)

On 1 January 2020, non-Western immigrants represented approximately 13.7% (2.4 million persons) of the population in the Netherlands. The largest group of non-Western immigrants originated from Turkey, followed by Morocco and Suriname (see table 7.2). The total number of Western immigrants in the Netherlands was estimated at 1.8 million in 2020 (10.5% of the total population). The largest groups of Western immigrants comprised Indonesians and migrants from EU countries, particularly Germany and Poland.

Table 7.2 Top 10 Migrant groups in the Netherlands, 1 January 2021

Country	abs.	% of total Dutch population
Turkey	422,030	2.4
Morocco	414,186	2.4
Suriname	358,266	2.1
Indonesia	352,266	2.0
Germany	345,746	2.0
Poland	209,278	1.2
Curaçao	131,360	0.8
Belgium	122,197	0.7
Syria	113,126	0.6
United Kingdom	97,614	0.6
Total non-native residents	**4,305,908**	**24.6**

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

7.3.2 Composition of the non-native population

In this section we discuss some demographic characteristics of the non-native population, with special attention to differences between Western and non-Western immigrants.

Sex and age. Regarding the gender distribution, there are few differences among the three population groups. Both for the native Dutch and non-Western immigrants, the distribution between male and female is fairly equal. For Western immigrants, the share of male immigrants is a little smaller (48%).

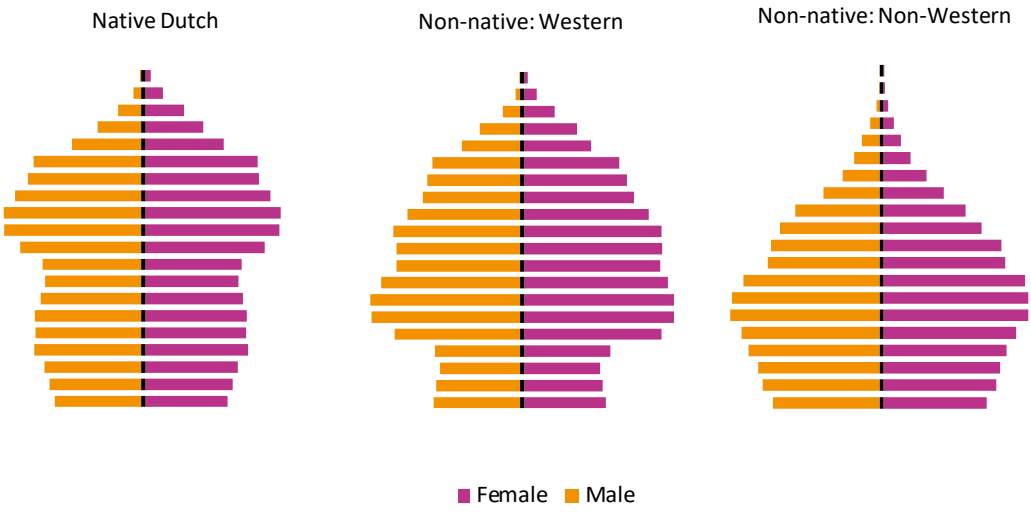
There are some apparent differences among the three groups when looking at age. The average age of non-Western immigrants is relatively low compared to the native population and the Western immigrant population in the Netherlands (see table 7.3 and figure 7.2). More specifically, non-Western immigrants in the Netherlands represent a relatively large group of younger people (aged 20 years or younger) and a small share of elderly people. Only 10% of non-Western immigrants are over 60 years of age. Among both the Western immigrants and native Dutch, this proportion is considerably higher (24% and 29%, respectively).

Table 7.3 Age distribution among non-natives (non-Western and Western) and native Dutch, 1 January 2020 (percentages)

	Non-native		Native
Age	% within non-Western	% within Western	% within Dutch
0-10	13.7	8.9	9.7
10-20	15.3	8.8	11.2
20-30	17.6	15.3	11.6
30-40	17.8	15.9	10.9
40-50	14.4	14.0	12.2
50-60	11.4	13.5	15.3
60-70	6.1	10.9	13.4
70-80	2.7	8.3	10.3
80-90	0.8	3.8	4.6
>90	0.1	0.6	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2020)

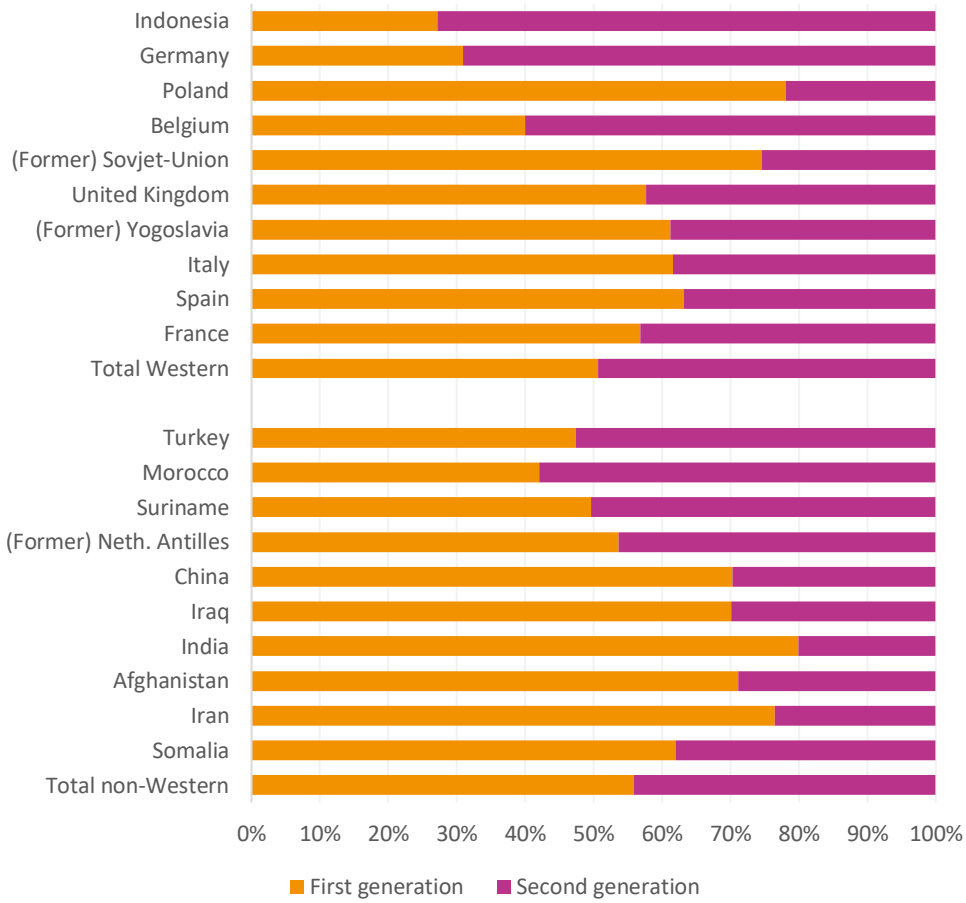
Figure 7.2 Population pyramids of non-natives (non-Western versus Western) and native Dutch, 1 January 2020



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2020)

First versus second generation. The proportion of first-generation and second-generation immigrants living in the Netherlands differs between the various migrant groups (see figure 7.3). On the one hand, immigrants from Central-Eastern European countries, the Asian continent and various refugee countries mainly consist of first-generation immigrants. On the other hand, a reverse pattern applies to migrant groups that on average have been living in the Netherlands for a long time. The two countries with the highest proportions of second-generation migrants are Indonesia (73%) and Germany (69%).

Figure 7.3 Proportion first- and second-generation immigrants by country groups[1], 1 January 2020 (percentages)



[1] The Top-10 Western and Top-10 non-Western country groups based on population size are presented.

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2020)

7.4 Demographic Developments

In 2019, the native Dutch population had a negative birth balance of -7,911. This means that the number of deceased persons was higher than the number of live births (see also table 7.4). The overall population growth, computed as the difference between the population on 1 January 2019 (17,282,163) and 31 December 2019 (17,407,585) was +0.7%. When we look at the native versus non-native population, we see that the population of non-native residents increased, while the population of native Dutch residents decreased. The highest relative population growth took place among migrants from Yemen (50.9%). With regard to the Western countries of origin, the strongest population growth applies to immigrants from EU countries, especially Croatia, Slovakia and Czech Republic. As these migrant groups are relatively 'new' in the Netherlands, the numbers of live births and deceased persons are rather small.

With regard to the four largest non-Western immigrant groups in the Netherlands (Turkey, Morocco, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles), the relative population growth is much smaller as compared to the previously described groups. Given the fact that these migrants generally have been living in the Netherlands for a long time, both the number of live births and deceased persons are relatively large.

Table 7.4 Demographic developments of the Dutch population, 2019[1] [2]

	Jan. 1st	Live births	Deceased	Birth balance	Immigration	Emigration[1]	Dec. 31st	% Growth
Total	17,282,163	169,680	151,885	17,795	269,064	161,029	17,407,585	0.7
Native Dutch	13,196,025	123,030	130,941	-7,911	25,632	26,105	13,186,880	-0.1
Non-native Dutch	4,086,138	46,650	20,944	25,706	243,432	134,924	4,220,705	3.3
from								
Western	1,774,271	16,388	14,864	1,524	142,211	89,218	1,828,645	3.1
from								
EU-28 (excl. the Netherlands)	1,116,153	11,654	10,056	1,598	112,690	70,355	1,159,850	9.9
of whom from								
Germany	351,552	1,753	6,537	-4,784	11,688	9,168	349,284	-0.7
Poland	185,497	3,704	425	3,279	27,215	17,910	198,024	6.8
Belgium	119,769	1,029	1,382	-353	4,117	2,514	121,019	1.0
United Kingdom	91,154	790	419	371	8,298	4,924	94,915	4.1
Italy	56,645	494	251	243	7,770	4,635	60,013	6.0
Spain	46,741	471	171	300	6,328	4,250	49,116	5.1
France	47,009	571	158	413	5,346	3,822	48,926	4.1
Bulgaria	34,809	645	58	587	8,646	3,812	40,216	15.5
Romania	34,185	517	49	468	10,423	5,708	39,340	15.1
Portugal	27,450	312	83	229	2,876	1,731	28,802	4.9
or from								
Indonesia	358,773	571	3,848	-3,277	2,811	2,278	356,029	-0.8
Non-Western	2,311,867	30,262	6,080	24,182	101,221	45,706	2,392,060	3.5
of whom from								
Turkey	409,877	3,603	1,203	2,400	9,616	5,113	416,864	1.7
Morocco	402,492	4,885	974	3,911	4,577	2,187	408,864	1.6
Surinam	353,909	1,994	1,698	296	3,731	1,688	356,402	0.7
Neth. Antilles	154,510	1,964	497	1,467	4,572	2,149	158,487	2.6
Syria	98,090	2,240	91	2,149	5,793	563	105,440	7.5
China	77,648	954	147	807	7,909	4,830	81,534	5.0
Iraq	63,008	1071	115	956	1,909	1,224	64,653	2.6
India	48,724	909	73	836	12,576	5,671	56,462	15.9
Afghanistan	49,122	1012	95	917	1,116	746	50,403	2.6
Iran	44,379	623	103	520	3,728	828	47,797	7.7

Source: Statistics Netherlands. online statistics (2020)
[1] Emigration numbers include administrative corrections.
[2] This table includes the main countries from which immigrants in the Netherlands originate.

7.5 Regions of Settlement of Foreign Residents

In this section we discuss the main regions of settlement in the Netherlands for foreigners. Again, a distinction is made between Western and non-Western immigrants.

Non-Western immigrants. Non-Western immigrants tend to live in large cities, particularly in the metropolitan areas of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht (also referred to as G4 cities). In Rotterdam, Amsterdam and The Hague the proportion of non-Western immigrants within the total

population is particularly high; more than 35%. When considering residential patterns of individual migrant groups, an even stronger pattern of spatial concentration becomes apparent. Of all Surinamese and Moroccans, nearly half of both groups live in the G4 cities (47.8% and 45.6%, respectively). Table 7.5 demonstrates the proportions of Western and non-Western inhabitants in the G4-cities on 1 January, 2020. See figure 7.4 below for a graphical representation of the Dutch regions of settlements of non-Western immigrants on 1 January 2020.

Immigrants originating from major 'refugee countries' live relatively equally spread across the Netherlands. This pattern is likely to arise from the arrangements between the national government and all municipalities throughout the country to provide housing for recognised refugees. In addition, asylum seeker centres are located outside the largest cities and refugees might move to municipalities close to these centres after being admitted. However, as they stay longer in the Netherlands, these migrants increasingly move to the large urban areas, particularly in the west of the country.[110]

Western immigrants. Much more often than non-Western immigrants, Western immigrants tend to live near the border areas of the Netherlands, particularly the southern and eastern parts (see figure 7.5). Also a few more rural areas in the Western part of the country with major agriculture and greenhouse cultivation, host large numbers of migrants from other Western countries. Apparently, these areas attract large numbers of immigrants from the new EU Member States who are working in this country. In addition, the four largest cities of the Netherlands are also popular locations for these immigrants, especially Amsterdam and The Hague. See figure 7.5 below for a graphical overview of the main regions of settlement of Western immigrants on 1 January 2020.

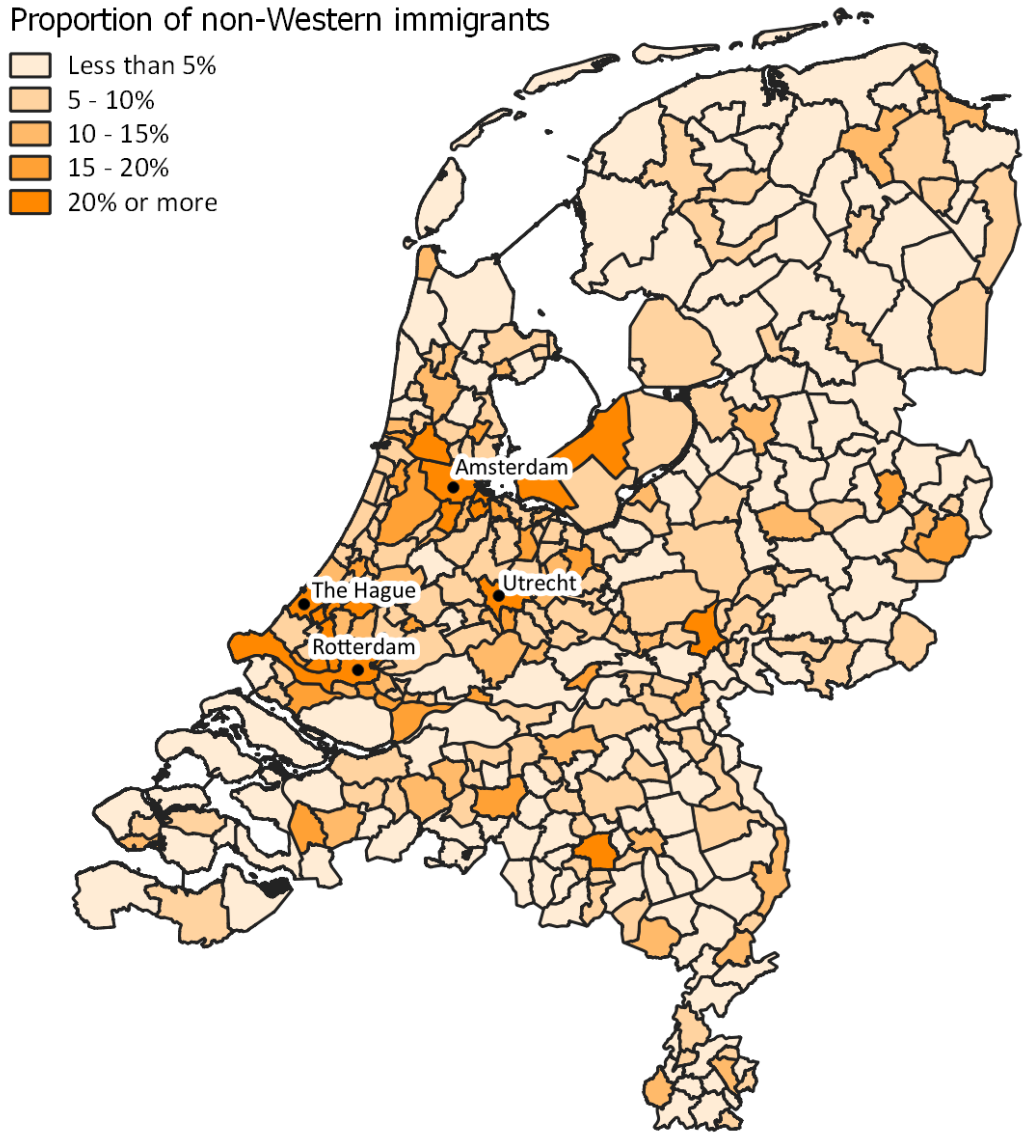
Table 7.5 Proportion of the population with a Western and non-Western migration background in the Netherlands and the largest four cities (percentages) and the total population (absolute numbers), 1 January 2020[1]

	Western	Non-Western					Total
	Total	Total	Turkey	Morocco	Suriname	Neth. Antilles	(incl. native residents)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Abs.
Netherlands	10.5	13.7	2.4	2.3	1.0	1.0	**17,407,585**
Amsterdam	19.5	36.1	5.1	8.8	1.4	1.4	**872,757**
The Hague	19.3	36.3	7.5	5.9	2.6	2.6	**545,838**
Rotterdam	13.4	38.9	7.4	7.0	4.1	4.1	**651,157**
Utrecht	12.2	23.9	4.0	8.8	0.8	0.8	**357,597**

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2020)

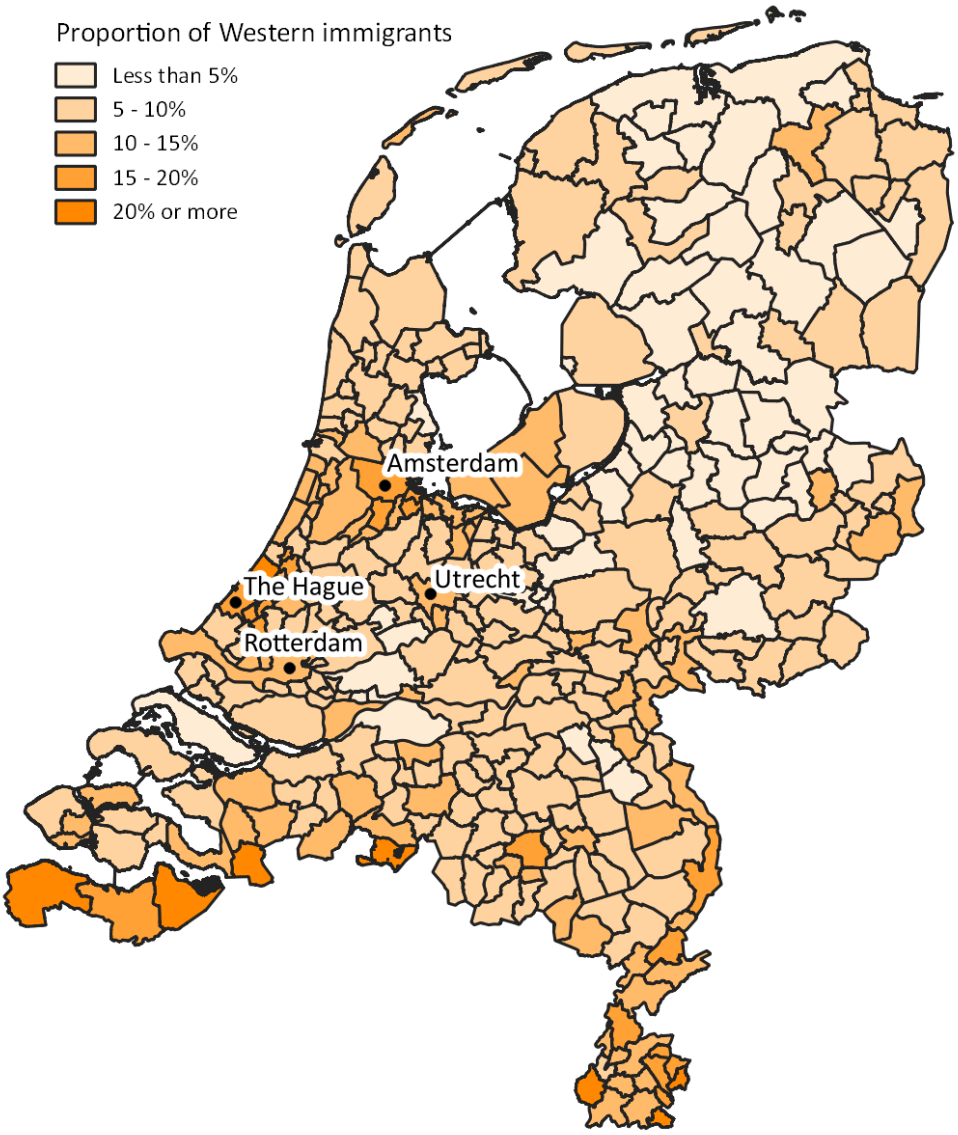
[110] Kazemier, B., Nicolaas, H., & de Vroome, T. H. (2016). Demografische kenmerken cohort en onderzoeksgroep. In: M. Maliepaard, B. Witkamp, & R. Jennissen (red.), *Een kwestie van tijd? De integratie van asielmigranten: een cohortonderzoek* (pp. 35-38). Den Haag: WODC.

Figure 7.4 Region of settlement of non-Western immigrants, 1 January 2020 (in percentages)



Source: Statistics Netherlands (2020), adapted by Regioplan

Figure 7.5 Region of settlement of Western immigrants, 1 January 2020



Source: Statistics Netherlands (2020), adapted by Regioplan

7.6 Acquisition of Dutch Citizenship

Dutch citizenship can be obtained in several ways. We discuss the procedures that are most often used: (i) naturalisation, (ii) option (the easiest way when you have evident connections with the Netherlands; e.g. a Dutch mother/partner), and (iii) adoption.

7.6.1 Number of acquisitions

Since 2000 633,657 persons obtained Dutch citizenship. Figure 7.6 displays the number of persons who obtained citizenship between 1996 and 2020. The yearly number of total acquisitions of Dutch citizenship declined between 2000 and 2004 (from approximately 50,000 to 26,000). After this decline, the number remained fairly stable. Between 2004 and 2018, the number of new citizenships was estimated at around 30,000 new acquisitions yearly. In 2019, this number increased as 34,191 foreign nationals obtained Dutch citizenship. There are two explanations for this increase. Firstly, the large group of Syrian refugees that arrived in the Netherlands around 2015 could now apply for naturalisation, as Dutch law requires migrants to be in this country for at least five years before they can naturalise. This led to a growth in the number of naturalisation applications by Syrians from 214 in 2018 to 1,587 in 2019 (+641%). Secondly, due to the UK's decision to leave the European Union there has been a strong increase in the number of applications for Dutch citizenship from British nationals living in the Netherlands. In 2018, 1,250 British citizens applied for Dutch citizenship and in 2019 2,588 (+107%).

Naturalisation. The decrease in total acquisitions of Dutch citizenship between 2002 and 2003 (see figure 7.6) can largely be explained by the introduction of the naturalisation exam in 2003. From that moment on, obtaining Dutch citizenship required foreign nationals to pass this exam, which includes both knowledge of the Dutch society and the Dutch language. At the same time, stricter measures were introduced translating into a decrease in the number of naturalisations.[111,112] Especially the restrictions on the legal possibilities of having dual nationality imposed in October 1997 appeared to affect the number of applications for Dutch citizenship. After 2004, the number of naturalisations remained fairly stable at around 22,000 naturalisations each year. However, in the last year there was a sharp increase from 20,685 in 2018 to 25,551 in 2019.

By option. Between 2000 and 2003, the number of persons who obtained Dutch citizenship by option was about 3,000 acquisitions each year. However, after 2003, this number increased to around 6,500 yearly acquisitions of Dutch citizenship. To a certain extent this growth compensated for the decline in the number of naturalisations (see above). In 2019, the number of acquisitions by option increased to 8,269.

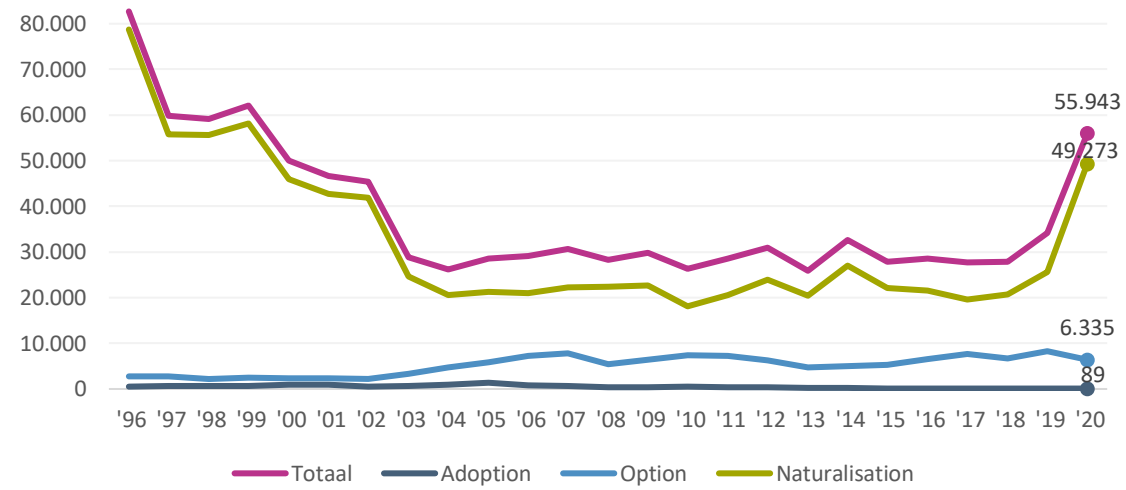
By adoption. The number of obtained Dutch citizenship by adoption is much lower compared to the previous described acquisition procedures. More specifically, the number of adoptions significantly decreased: from 948 in 2000 to 111 in 2019.

Other procedures. Finally, there are two other procedures to obtain the Dutch citizenship that are not included in figure 7.6. The first option is by recognition: minor non-Dutch children obtain Dutch citizenship if they are recognized by a Dutch father or legitimated by his marriage to the mother. This occurred 161 times in 2019. The second option is through judicial determination of paternity which occurred 99 times in 2019.

[111] Böcker, A., Groenendijk, C. A., & Hart, B. de (2005). De toegang tot het Nederlandschap. *Nederlands Juristenblad* 80(3), *157-184.*

[112] Klaver, J. F. I., & Odé, A. W. M. (2009). *Civic integration and modern citizenship.* Groningen: Europe Law Publishing.

Figure 7.6 Number of persons who obtained Dutch citizenship by kind of regulation, 2000-2019



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2020)

7.7 Appendix

Appendix Table 7.1a Dutch residents by country of origin[1], 1 January 2021

	Non-native residents	
	abs.	%
Total	**17,475,415**	**100.0**
Total native residents	**13,169,507**	**75.4**
Total non-native residents	**4,305,908**	**24.6**
of whom from		
Western countries	**1,858,730**	**10.6**
of whom from		
EU-27	**1,122,201**	**6.4**
of whom from		
Croatia	12,352	0.1
EU-14	**738,320**	**4.2**
of whom from		
Germany	345,746	2.0
Belgium	122,197	0.7
Italy	61,367	0.4
Spain	50,466	0.3
France	50,207	0.3
Portugal	29,092	0.2
Greece	28,856	0.2
Austria	16,130	0.1
Ireland	11,308	0.1
Sweden	7,928	0.0
Denmark	6,859	0.0
Finland	5,756	0.0
Luxembourg	2,408	0.0
EU-12	**371,529**	**2.1**
of whom from		
Poland	209,278	1.2
Bulgaria	44,874	0.3
Romania	43,161	0.2
Hungary	26,853	0.2
Czech Republic	11,142	0.1
Lithuania	10,904	0.1
Slovakia	9,870	0.1
Latvia	8,001	0.0
Slovenia	2,799	0.0
Estonia	2,380	0.0
Cyprus	1,509	0.0
Malta	758	0.0
Other western countries		
Indonesia	352,266	2.0
(former) Soviet Union	110,877	0.6
United Kingdom	97,614	0.6
(former) Yugoslavia	91,951	0.5
United States of America	47,408	0.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	38,927	0.2
Russian Federation	33,179	0.2
(former) Czechoslovakia	21,012	0.1
Ukraine	19,505	0.1
Serbia	19,032	0.1
Australia	17,688	0.1
Canada	16,997	0.1
Switzerland	12,415	0.1

Appendix Table 7.1a (part 2)

	Non-native residents	
	abs.	%
Non-western migration background	**2,447,178**	**14.0**
of whom from		
Turkey	422,030	2.4
Morocco	414,186	2.4
Surinam	358,266	2.1
(former) Netherlands Antilles, Aruba	171,413	1.0
Curaçao	131,360	0.8
Syria	113,126	0.6
China	81,735	0.5
Iraq	66,216	0.4
India	58,460	0.3
Afghanistan	51,830	0.3
Iran	49,723	0.3
Somalia	40,701	0.2
Brazil	35,285	0.2
Aruba	29,069	0.2
South Africa	28,562	0.2
Egypt	28,399	0.2
Ethiopia	27,139	0.2
Ghana	25,999	0.1
Pakistan	25,938	0.1
Philippines	25,365	0.1
Vietnam	24,594	0.1
Oceania	24,390	0.1
Eritrea	23,207	0.1
Cape Verde	22,980	0.1
Thailand	22,642	0.1
Colombia	20,515	0.1
Hong-Kong	18,332	0.1
Dominican Republic	16,303	0.1
Nigeria	15,034	0.1
Sri Lanka	14,247	0.1
Tunisia	10,940	0.1
Israel	10,471	0.1

[1]Non-EU countries with fewer than 10.000 residents have not been included.
Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

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Changes in Labour Market Outcomes

8

8 Changes in labour market outcomes

This chapter describes a number of issues related to the economic performance of immigrants and their children in the Netherlands for the past two decades. We look at labour market participation, unemployment rates, dependency on social assistance and income levels of migrants compared to natives. These topics are described for both first- and second-generation migrants. In addition, we briefly discuss the labour market position of recently arrived refugees in the Netherlands.

8.1 Main Findings

- In 2020, first-generation migrants were notably falling behind in labour market participation compared to both the native Dutch population and second-generation migrants. The difference in labour market participation between second-generation migrants and natives is much smaller.
- The labour market participation of all groups decreased between 2019 and 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing government measures. However, migrants were more affected than natives.
- In 2020, migrants were more than twice as likely to be unemployed than the native Dutch population. Also differences in unemployment between first- and second-generation migrants decreased over time and in 2020 both groups almost equally lagged behind the native Dutch population.
- Migrants are much more likely to depend on social assistance benefits than natives. In comparison, a relatively large part of Moroccan migrants depended on social assistance, with 13% of this group receiving assistance in 2020 (against 2% for people with a Dutch background). However, the second-generation of each migrant group depends much less on social assistance than the first-generation.
- Migrants' average income is much lower than that of the native Dutch people, especially for the first generation. The income situation of Moroccan migrants is the most unfavourable, with an average income of two thirds of that of the native population in 2020.
- The labour market position of refugees in the Netherlands continues to be very vulnerable, with low labour market participation rates (on average 41%) and high dependency rates on social assistance (on average 42%).

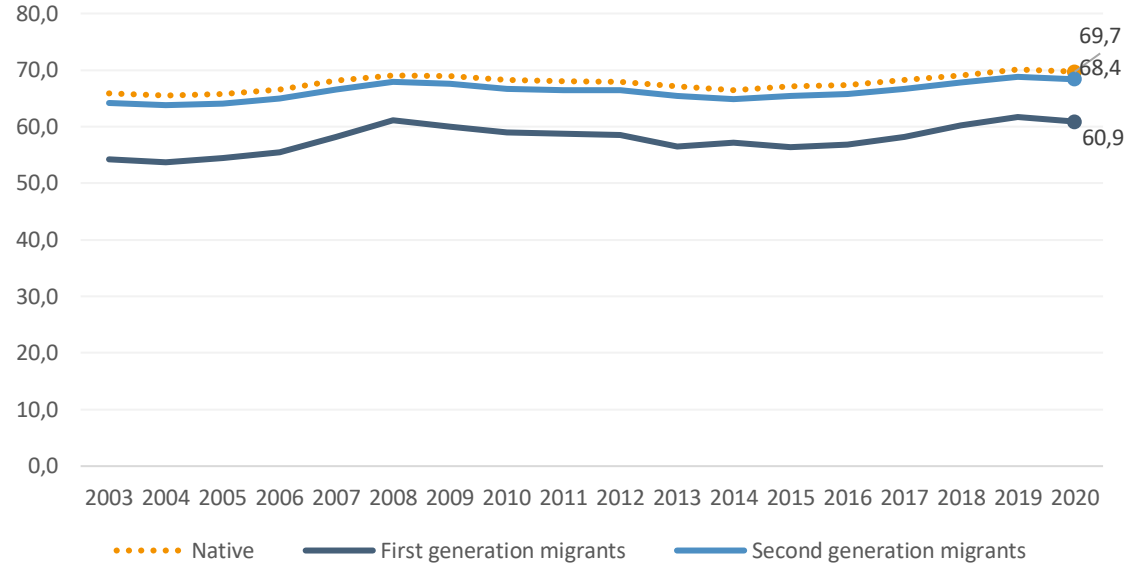
8.2 Labour Market Participation

8.2.1 Trends by generation

The labour market participation of people with a migration background is lower than that of natives (figure 8.1). However, this difference is largely due to the relatively low labour market participation of first-generation migrants. After a period of increasing participation among migrants in the years up to 2020, it decreased again from the moment the COVID-19 pandemic started. Since then, many people with more vulnerable labour market contracts lost their jobs, particularly in agriculture, food processing, transport, and hotel and catering.[113] Notably, the labour market participation of first-generation migrants was affected most by this crisis, presumably because they were more often working in temporary and flexible contracts.

[113] https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/nieuws/2021/06/ondernemers-in-door-corona-getroffen-bedrijfstakken-somber

Figure 8.1 **Development in labour market participation[1] of native Dutch and migrants (first and second generation), 2003-2020**

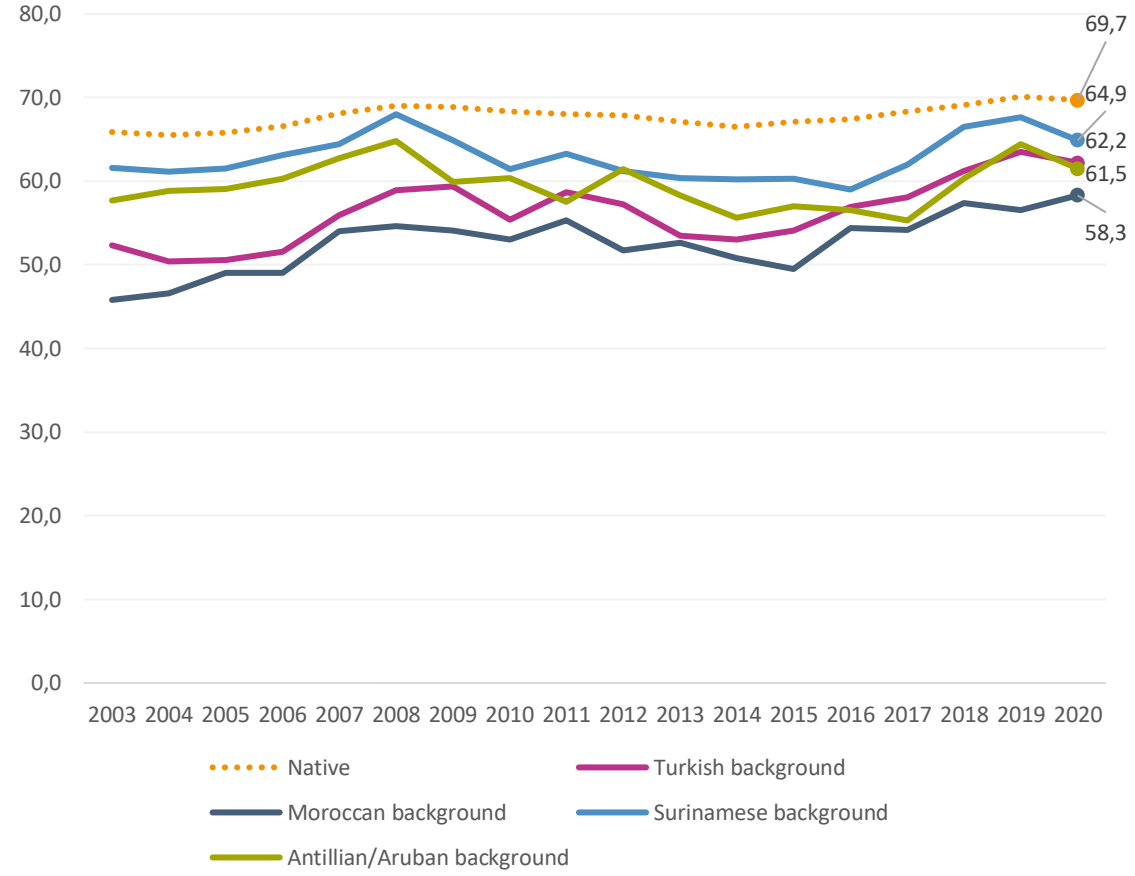


[1] Percentage of net labour market participation of the population in the age 15-74 years old.
Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2021*

8.2.2 Trends by foreign background

There are significant differences in labour market participation between the largest migrant groups in the Netherlands (figure 8.2). Of these groups, migrants with a Moroccan background are least often employed, and people with a Surinamese background are most often employed. With some fluctuations, employment rates for these migrant groups decreased after the economic and financial crisis in 2008. The last few years, as the economic situation started to improve, labour market participation rates also increased. The COVID-19 crisis has led to declining labour market participation among Antillean/Aruban, Surinamese and Turkish migrants. Conversely, there was a continuous increase in the labour market participation of Moroccan migrants between 2019 and 2020.

Figure 8.2 Development of labour market participation by background for natives and the four largest migrant groups, 2003-2020



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2021)

Share of employed recognised refugees rising steadily

A cohort analysis by Statistics Netherlands shows that the labour participation of refugees who were granted political asylum in the Netherlands in 2014 is steadily increasing.[114] Of this group, 11% had a job one and a half years later. Five and a half years later two fifths (41% approximately) of all recognised refugees aged 18 to 64 years of age were in employment. Most recognised refugees in employment are part-time employed (73%) and work with a temporary contract (84%). More recently, this increase came to an end. This stagnation is probably an effect of the COVID-19 crisis, during which people with a temporary contract (and who work in the catering and temporary employment sector) have been hit relatively hard.

8.3 Unemployment

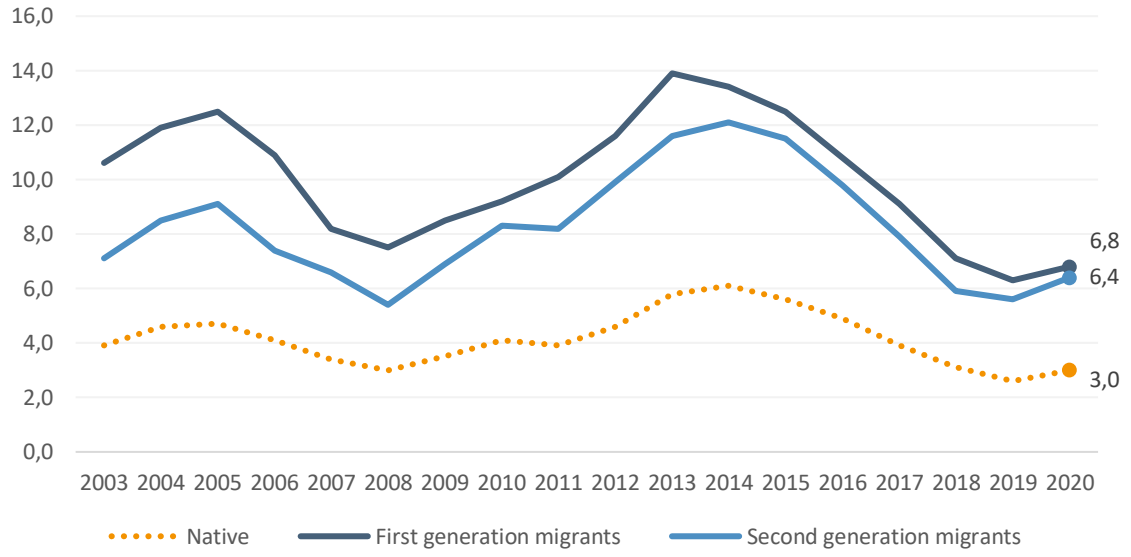
8.3.1 Trends by generation

Viewed over a longer period, it becomes clear that changes in unemployment among people with a migration background are strongly related to developments in total employment (figure 8.3). Both the economic crisis of 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 strongly affected the level of unemployment among these persons, in particular second-generation immigrants. In 2020, migrants were more than twice as likely to be unemployed as the native population. Differences in

[114] Statistics Netherlands (2021) *Asiel en integratie 2021. Cohortonderzoek asielzoekers en statushouders*. The Hague, Statistics Netherlands.

unemployment between the first- and second-generation immigrants appear to become smaller over time.

Figure 8.3 Developments in unemployment rates for natives and migrants (first en second generation), 2003-2020

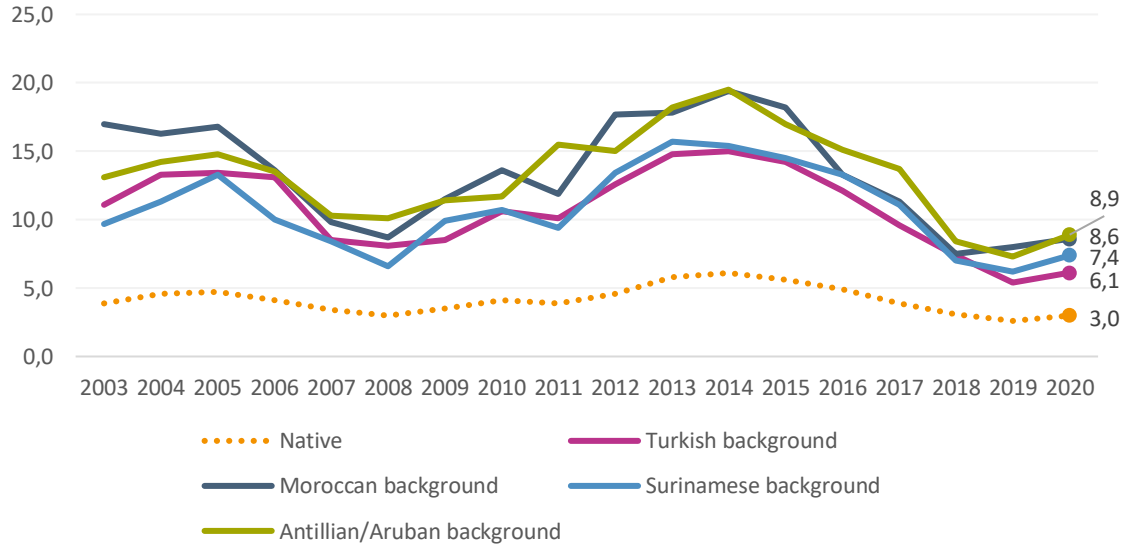


Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2021*

8.3.2 Trends by foreign background

All four groups with a migration background appear to be very vulnerable to situations of stagnating employment growth (figure 8.4). These large fluctuations in unemployment indicate a vulnerable labour market position. As such, unemployment rates particularly started to increase among the largest immigrant groups due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The strongest increase in unemployment is visible for people with an Antillean migration background.

Figure 8.4 Developments in unemployment of natives and migrants by foreign background, 2003-2020



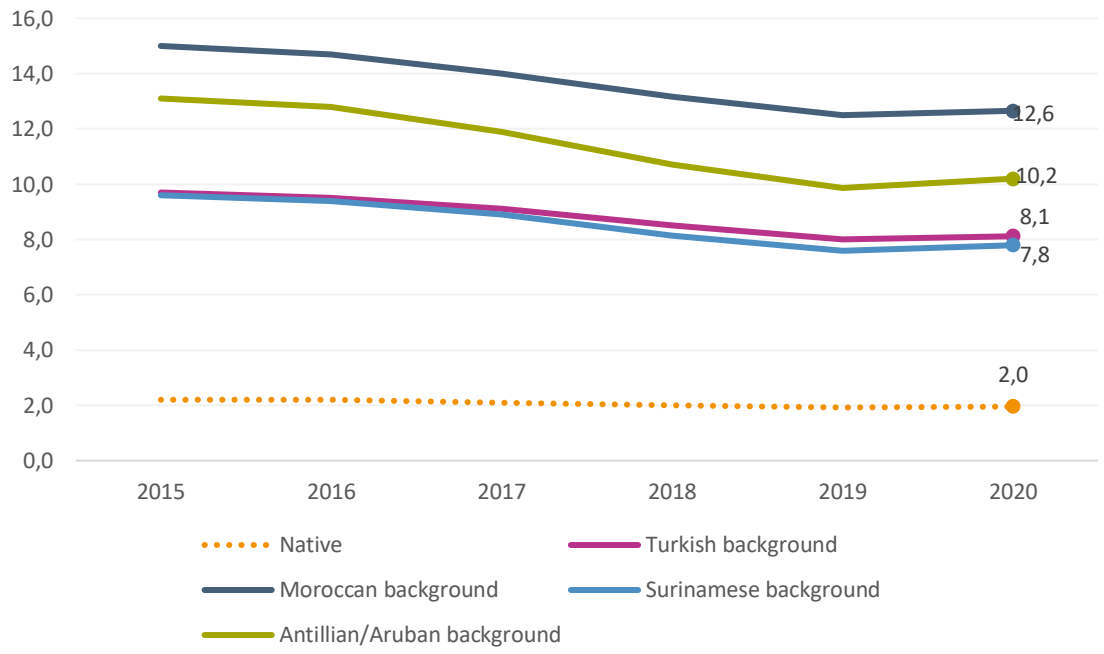
Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2021*

8.4 Social Assistance Benefits

8.4.1 Trends by foreign background

People with a migration background are more likely to receive social assistance benefits than people with a native Dutch background (figure 8.5). However, the gap between natives and the four largest migrant groups decreased between 2015 and 2019. In these years, the migrant groups' use of social assistance decreased, while that of the natives remained the same. After 2019, there was a minor increase in the use of social assistance. This increase is similar for all groups, migrants and natives alike. In 2020, 2% of the native population received social assistance. Among the largest immigrant groups in the Netherlands, the relative number of people dependent on social assistance is at least 7%. However, differences in dependency on social assistance are large among these immigrant groups. Dependency on social assistance is still highest among Moroccans, with a social assistance level of more than 12%.

Figure 8.5 Social assistance benefits for native Dutch, Western and non-Western migrants, 2016-2019

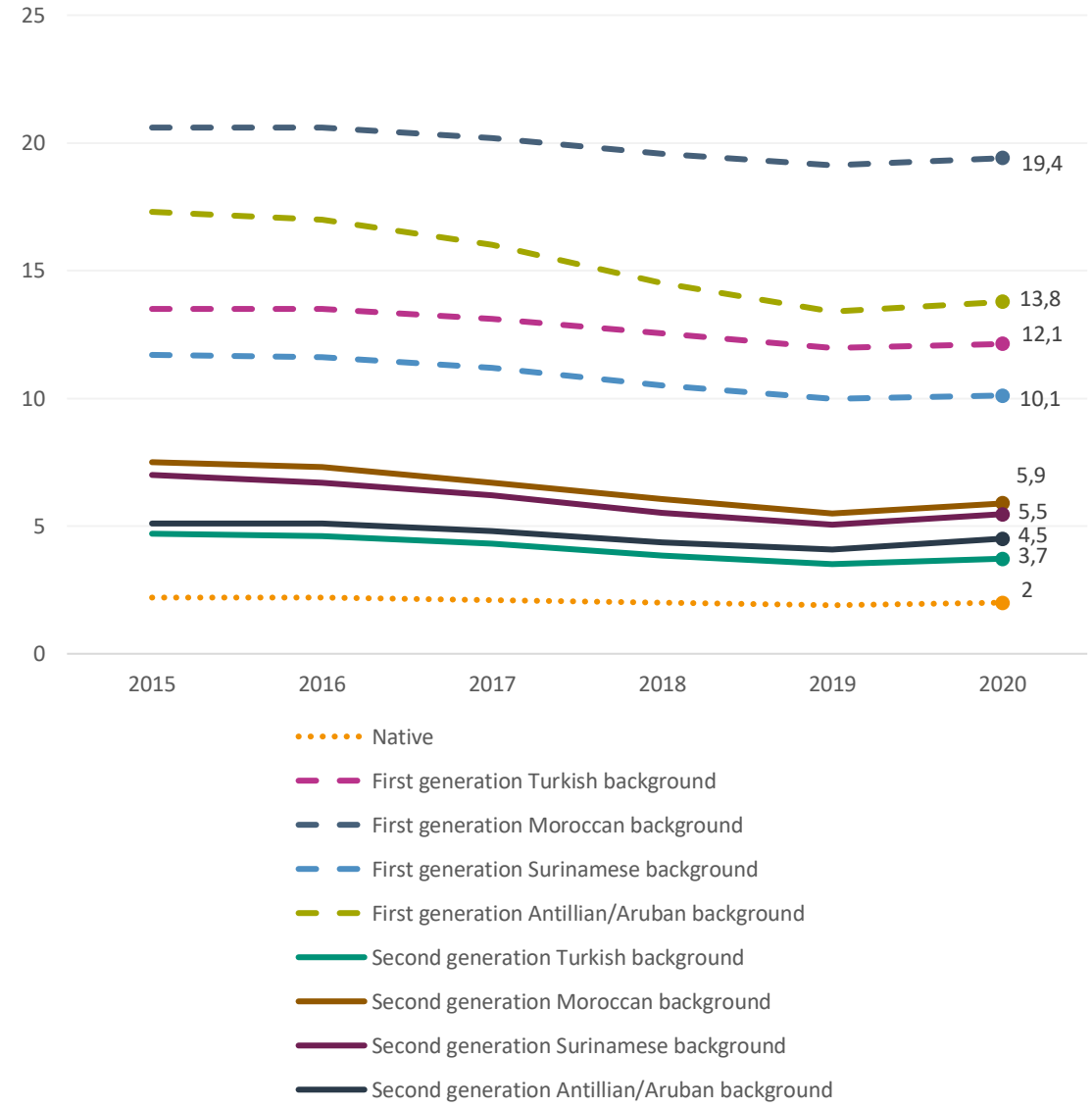


Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2021*

8.4.2 Trends by foreign background and generation

If we break down the largest migrants groups into the first- and second-generation, it becomes apparent that the presented differences between natives and migrants are mostly due to high dependency rates on social assistance among first-generation immigrants (figure 8.6). Especially, first-generation Moroccans show a disproportionally large share of people receiving social assistance (19.4%). Differences in welfare dependency between second-generation migrants and the native Dutch population are much smaller.

Figure 8.6 **Social assistance benefits for native Dutch and the four largest migrant groups (first and second generation), 2015-2020**



Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2021*

Decreasing dependency on social assistance among recognised refugees

Research of Statistics Netherlands (2020) reveals that the dependency rates on social assistance benefits decrease with the length of stay in the Netherlands.[115] Eighteen months after having obtained an asylum residence permit in 2014, 90% of all recognised refugees aged between 18 and 64 years were on a social assistance benefit. Four years later, this share further decreased to 42% with smaller differences between the various nationalities. Social assistance dependency is highest among people from Iraq, Iran and Syria. Last year, approximately 60% of these recognised refugees were receiving welfare or pensions as the main source of income.

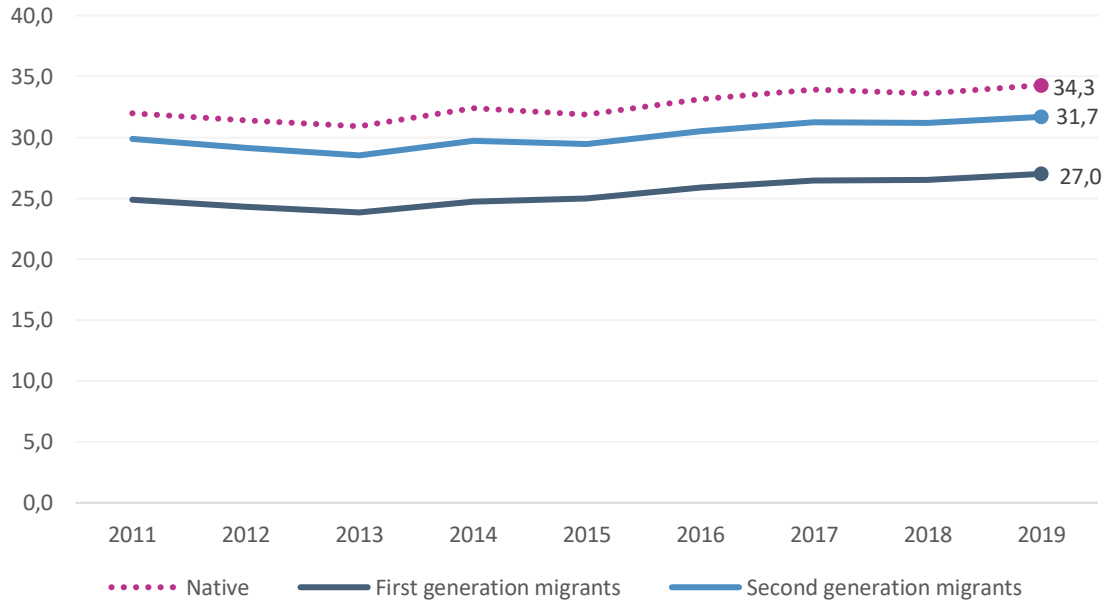
[115] Statistics Netherlands (2021). *Asiel en integratie 2021. Cohortonderzoek asielzoekers en statushouders*. The Hague, Statistics Netherlands.

8.5 Income

8.5.1 Trends by generation

With respect to average income levels of persons of 20 years and older, the financial situation of migrants is less favourable than that of native Dutch people (figure 8.7). Furthermore, first-generation migrants earn much less than second-generation migrants, despite their average older age. Differences in average income between second-generation immigrants and the native Dutch population are relatively small.

Figure 8.7 **Average standardised income (x € 1,000) of persons of 20 years or older for natives and migrants (first and second generation), 2011-2019[1]**

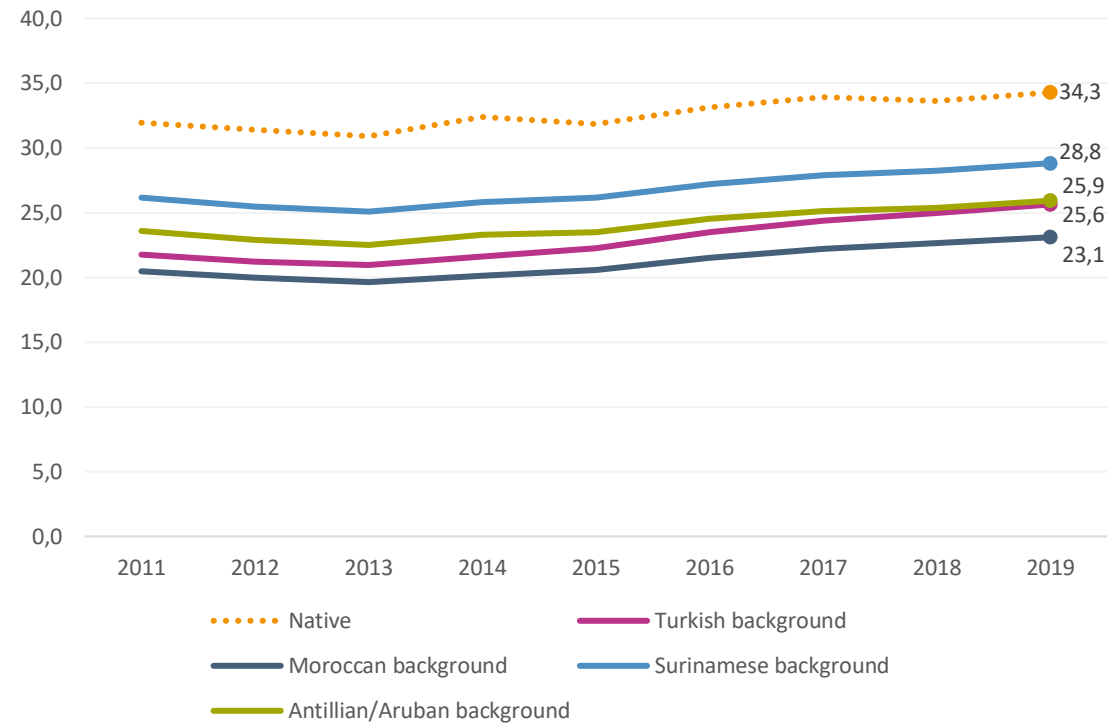


Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2021*
[1] Data of 2019 are provisional.

8.5.2 Trends by foreign background

Between 2011 and 2013, average income levels decreased for each of the four largest migrant groups in the Netherlands (figure 8.8). This declining trend reversed in subsequent years. Of these immigrant groups, immigrants with a Surinamese migration background had the highest average income in 2019, while the Moroccans showed the least favourable income situation. In 2019, native Dutch people earned 34,300 euros on average, whereas people with a migration background earned on average between 23,100 and 28,800 euros.

Figure 8.8 **Income trends of persons of 20 years or older (x € 1,000) for natives and the four largest migrant groups, 2011-2019**



Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2021*

[1] Data of 2019 are provisional.

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Annexes

Annex 1 – Glossary

Asylum seeker
An asylum-seeker is someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed.

Emigration
Emigration is the act of leaving (in this case) the Netherlands to settle elsewhere.

EU Blue Card
The European Blue Card is a residence permit for highly qualified employment of third-country nationals in the European Union.

EU-15
The original 15 countries of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

EU-10
Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic.

EU-2
Bulgaria and Romania

EU-12
(EU-10 + EU-2)

EU-27
(until July 1st 2013): EU-15 + EU-12

EU-28
(from July 1st 2013): EU-15 + EU-12 and Croatia.

Highly skilled migrant
A highly skilled migrant is a foreign national who comes to the Netherlands to work as a highly skilled employee, thus making a contribution towards the Dutch knowledge-based economy. A highly skilled migrant can come to the Netherlands following a simplified admission procedure (Highly Skilled Migrant Scheme).

Immigration
Immigration relates to individuals from another country who come to live in the Netherlands.

Invited refugee
Invited refugees are refugees who are selected and invited by the Dutch government to resettle in the Netherlands. Selection missions assess whether refugees come into consideration for resettlement in the Netherlands. The UNHCR proposed the refugees for settlement, and the Dutch government makes the selection on the basis of the Dutch asylum policy.

Migration
Migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily in a new location.

Naturalisation
Naturalisation is the legal act in which a non-citizen in the Netherlands may acquire the Dutch citizenship. Some requirements are: (i) The person must have lived in the Kingdom of the Netherlands for an uninterrupted period of 5 years with a valid residence permit. (ii) The person is sufficiently integrated in Dutch society and is able to read, write, speak and understand Dutch. (iii) In the last 5 years, the person has not been subject to a custodial sentence, training order, community service order or large financial penalty.

Net labour participation
Net labour participation is the share of employed labour force (people with a paid job for more than one hour per week) within the working-age population (15 to 75 years).

Net migration
Net migration is the number of people settling in the Netherlands minus the number of people leaving the Netherlands.

Net migration (incl. administrative corrections)
This is the number of people settling in the Netherlands minus the number of people leaving the Netherlands, including the administrative corrections. Corrections consist of both entries in and removals from the municipal population register for reasons other than birth, death, arrival, departure or municipal boundary change.

Option procedure
One way to acquire the Dutch citizenship is through an option statement. This is a quick and easy way to become a Dutch citizen. The applicant is eligible for option when the applicant has some evident connections with the Netherlands, for example (but not limited to): (i) the applicant is born in the Netherlands and has been living here since birth, (ii) the applicant is married to a Dutch citizen for at least 3 years and has been a citizen of the EU/EEA or Switzerland for at least 15 years, (iii) the applicant is a minor and has been acknowledged by a Dutch citizen. A valid residence permit is required for application.

Orientation year for highly educated persons
This scheme applies to all graduated foreign students in the Netherlands and students who have graduated from a top university abroad. A residence permit for an orientation year can be submitted within three years after completing the studies or after obtaining a PhD.

Refugee
A refugee is person who has applied for protection as a refugee and has been granted this protection. The 1951 Refugee Convention spells out that a refugee is someone who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

Scientific researcher
A scientific researcher is an employee who performs a research project approved by a Dutch research institute in the Netherlands. A work permit for scientific researchers in the sense of Directive 2005/71/EC is not required.

Self-employed
A foreign national who wishes to practise a profession or set up a business in the Netherlands is considered self-employed. The business must serve a material Dutch economic purpose. The person may need to apply for a residence permit as an independent entrepreneur.

Non-Western countries
Turkey and countries in Africa, South America and Asia except for Indonesia and Japan.

Unaccompanied minor aliens (AMV)
Unaccompanied minor aliens are aliens under the age of 18 who, on their arrival in the Netherlands, were not accompanied by a parent or other relative by blood or marriage aged 18 or over.

Western countries
All countries in Europe (excluding Turkey), North America, Oceania, Indonesia and Japan.

Annex 2 – References

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