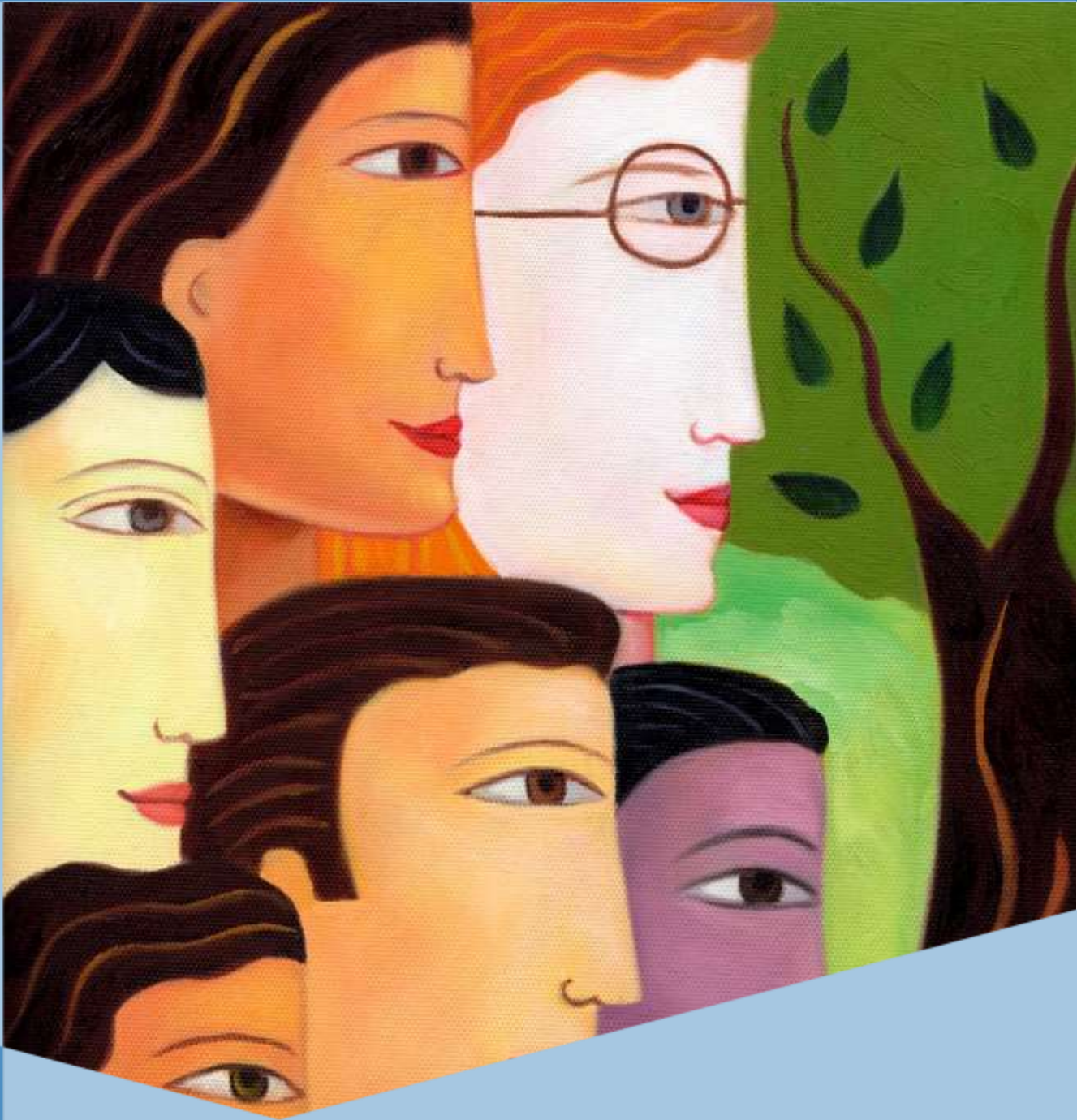




REGIOPLAN
BELEIDSONDERZOEK



DUTCH SOPEMI REPORT 2017

Migration Statistics and Migration Policies in the Netherlands

- FINAL REPORT -

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Management Summary

1

1 Management Summary

Below the main findings of the report are presented. First, a short overview of the main migration statistics is presented, followed by a short summary of 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. In 2016, more than 230,000 immigrants came to settle in this country. Particularly non-Western immigrants and immigrants from EU-countries have contributed to this overall increase. Individuals originally born in the Netherlands are also among the larger groups of immigrants who are (re-) entering the Netherlands. In addition, during the last ten years, there has been a constant and rapid rise in the number of people leaving the Netherlands. In 2016, approximately 150,000 emigrants left this country. The most important countries of destination are two neighbouring countries of the Netherlands (i.e. the United Kingdom and Germany).

Labour-based immigration of third-country nationals

The number of applications for first residence permits for third-country labour migrants has increased between 2015 and 2016. The highest number of applications come from third-country nationals who fall in the category of 'knowledge and talent' migrants. Most decisions on residence permits were positive, although approval rates were slightly higher for the 'knowledge and talent' category than for 'labour migrants'. 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 2016. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of issued work permits and of positive decisions on requests for admission to the labour market increased. The combined number of issued work permits and positive admission 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 IT development or technical advice).

Immigration for reasons of asylum

After a peak in the number of total asylum requests in 2015, a significant decline in asylum requests occurred (from 45,035 to 21,025). Moreover, the proportion of positive decisions on asylum requests decreased between 2015 and 2016. Most first asylum applications in the Netherlands were made by asylum migrants from Syria and Eritrea. Refugees with particularly high approval rates also originate from these two countries. In addition, stateless people were easily granted asylum status. Consistent with a decrease in the total number of asylum requests between 2015 and 2016, the number of asylum requests from unaccompanied minor aliens (aged under 18) also declined (from 3,860 in 2015, to 1,705 in 2016). In 2016, half of the number of minors came from Eritrea.

Foreign students in higher education

The number of foreign students enrolled in Dutch universities and higher vocational education further increased between 2015 and 2016 (from 66,292 to 72,743). In 2016, nearly ten percent of the whole student population in higher education consisted of foreign students. Most foreign students originate from EU-15 countries, followed by students from non-Western countries. Students originating from Germany constitute by far the largest group of foreign students in the Netherlands.

1.2 Foreign Residents in the Netherlands

The Netherlands has nearly 3.9 million residents with a migration background, which is 23 percent of the total population in the Netherlands. Nearly 2.2 million immigrants originate from non-Western countries. The Turkish community (with over 400,000 persons) is the largest non-Western migrant group. The total number of Western immigrants in the Netherlands is about 1.7 million, of which Indonesians and Germans form the largest two groups.

Most asylum migrants and migrants from Central-Eastern Europe residing in the Netherlands are first-generation immigrants. Conversely, the proportion of second-generation migrants is much larger among migrant groups that have lived in the Netherlands for a longer period of time, particularly those from the so-called labour supplying countries (i.e. Morocco and Turkey).

Non-Western immigrants are largely concentrated in the largest cities of the Netherlands, particularly Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. Part of the Western immigrants, including Central-Eastern European immigrants, live in the large cities of this country as well, whereas others reside in the border areas close to Belgium and Germany.

Finally, the number of foreign residents who obtained Dutch citizenship sharply decreased after the introduction of the naturalisation exam in 2003. In 2016, about 28,500 persons obtained Dutch citizenship.

1.3 Labour Market Integration

Nowadays we notice significant differences in labour market participation between the various migrant groups. These differences have not become smaller since 2003. Nowadays, unemployment rates among non-Western immigrants are more than twice as high as those among the native Dutch population. These differences are largely due to the economic and financial crisis that started in 2008. After 2008, differences in unemployment between non-Western immigrants and the native Dutch population have increased considerably. Compared to the first generation, second generation non-Western migrants are even more often unemployed. This situation applies to the entire period between 2003 and 2015.

As compared to the native Dutch population, migrants with a non-Western background highly depend on social assistance benefits. In 2015, 13.8 percent of all non-Western immigrants received some form of social assistance benefit. For native Dutch this proportion was much lower (2.2 percent). Of all Western immigrants residing in the Netherlands, 4.1 percent received a social assistance benefit in 2015. In addition, many refugees in the Netherlands live on social assistance. In 2015, more than half of all persons with a Somali background received social assistance. Recently arrived refugees rely even more strongly on welfare provisions. About ninety percent of Syrian refugees who received a residence permit in 2014 received a social assistance benefit one year and a half later.

When looking at the average income, the financial situation of non-Western migrants is less favourable than that of native Dutch people. Non-Western immigrants in the Netherlands earn less than three-fourths of the average income earned by native Dutch people. Conversely, the income position of Western migrants is comparable with that of the native Dutch. On average, second generation migrants in the Dutch labour market are enjoying a higher income than first generation migrants.

1.4 Policy Measures

Below a brief explanation of the main policy changes in 2016 is given. This overview contains legislative changes and policy measures with regard to family migration, civic integration, EU migrants, labour migrants, study migrants, asylum migrants, undocumented migrants, (forced) return, the relationship between migration and economic development, citizenship, and discrimination.

Family migration

The possibilities to migrate to the Netherlands are laid down in the Aliens Act of 2000 (*Vreemdelingenwet 2000*). Important conditions that 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. These conditions have not changed during the last few years. Measures worth mentioning are related to the introduction of the Law on the prevention of forced marriages (*Wet tegengaan huwelijksdwang*), which entered into force in December 2015.

Measures in relation to face-covering clothing

In 2014, additional requirements became effective for those who depend on a social assistance benefit and are required to accept employment. More specifically, people relying on these social assistance benefits are not supposed to wear clothes which are expected to reduce their job opportunities. Another measure was agreed upon by the Dutch government in May 2015 and concerns a decision to partly ban face-covering clothes in the public space.

The Aliens Employment Act (Wav)

In accordance with a ruling of the Council of State on 7 October 2015, the Dutch government has implemented changes regarding imposed sanctions in case of non-compliance with the Aliens Employment Act, as standard fines of € 12,000 per illegally employed foreigner were considered disproportionate by the Council of State. In 2016, a new sanctions regime was introduced which included more differentiation regarding the amounts of fines, the introduction of a warning system and the possibility of increasing fines according to the severity of non-compliance.

Highly qualified workers (search year)

In 2015, plans were announced to adapt the current two schemes for foreign graduates into one scheme. In March 2016, this new measure *Zoekjaar Hoger Opgeleiden* came into effect. Foreign graduates can now apply for a permit within three years after graduation (this used to be one year). Also, the requirement to apply for a work permit within the first year was dropped, even if the job does not meet the income criterion for highly skilled personnel. The new measure also applies to academic researchers.

Foreign investors and entrepreneurs

As of July 2016, some changes in the regulation for foreign investors and entrepreneurs became effective. The duration of the first residence permit was extended from one year to three years. Foreign investors no longer need an auditor's statement concerning the source of the capital. There is, however, a check on suspicious financial transactions. Also the point system has been simplified. The investment now has to meet at least two of the following criteria: employment creation of at least 10 FTEs, innovation and non-financial contribution. Also, in January 2016 some changes were implemented in the legislation for start-ups in order to facilitate their influx into the Self-employment Scheme (*Zelfstandigenregeling*) after one year. In the point system of the latter scheme a declaration of the facilitator is included. This declaration forms the basis of a positive advice regarding eligibility for the Self-employment Scheme.

Asylum policies

In response to the increased influx of asylum seekers during the second half of 2015, in 2016, the Dutch government introduced various measures to better manage the asylum flows. A multitrack policy was introduced which allows for more flexible procedures. There is no longer a fixed routine in all cases of the general asylum procedure of eight days. Process steps that are superfluous for certain asylum seekers no longer need to be followed.

In addition, in 2016, the list of safe countries of origin was also extended, which allows for faster asylum procedures for persons who are very unlikely to receive international protection.

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. For a considerable time, the Netherlands has been confronted with asylum seekers from safe countries (e.g. from the Western Balkans, some North African countries and Ukraine). In 2016 (and 2017), the Netherlands implemented various changes in available repatriation support for undocumented migrants from these countries in order to prevent 'pull in' effects.

Shelter facilities for undocumented migrants in the Netherlands

In November 2016, negotiations ended between the national government and the municipalities relating to the so-called 'bed, bath and bread discussion' about providing basic support to undocumented

migrants who have exhausted all legal means. However, in November it became clear that the national government could not come to an agreement with the municipalities on this topic. Municipalities wanted to have more freedom in continuing to offer support to undocumented migrants in addition to the proposed national provision. According to the national government, this situation would, however, undermine the effectiveness of the proposal.

Policies to control illegal immigration

Due to the rising immigration numbers in 2015 the Dutch government introduced Mobile Security Monitoring checks (*Mobiel Toezicht Veiligheid*) at the border, aimed at fighting illegal immigration and human smuggling and the prevention of incidents threatening public order and national security. In March 2016, the Minister for Migration introduced intensified checks for a period of six months. These checks are carried out in trains, on waterways, at airports and on roads. In addition, the maximum penalty for human smuggling was increased significantly (effective in July 2016).

Measures favouring the arrival of study migrants

Two new policy measures that aim at retaining talented international students were introduced in 2016. Firstly, international graduates may apply for a one year residence permit with the purpose of taking a so-called 'search year' in which they look for employment in the Netherlands. Secondly, international students can now start internships in the Netherlands as part of their study, even if this is not an obligatory part of the curriculum. With regard to attracting international students, as of 1 January 2017, the maximum decision-making time regarding students' residence permit applications was reduced from 90 to 60 days.

Changes in the Dutch Nationality Act

As part of a comprehensive plan to fight jihadism several amendments were made to the Dutch Nationality Act. As of March 2016, Dutch citizenship can be withdrawn if a person has been convicted (according to Article 134a of the Criminal Code) of aiding or preparing terrorist activities. On 7 February 2017, another amendment was adopted and implemented which provides for the possibility of withdrawing Dutch citizenship (and the issuing of a declaration of undesirability) in the interest of national security of persons who have participated in a terrorist organisation without necessarily having been convicted. This measure can only be imposed on persons with dual nationality.

Civic integration policies

In 2015, the Dutch government agreed on the introduction of a so-called participation declaration (*participatieverklaring*). The aim of this declaration is to make newly arrived immigrants aware of both written and unwritten rules prevailing in Dutch society. All newly arrived immigrants in the Netherlands who are obliged to pass a civic integration exam must sign this participation declaration. The amendment to the Civic Integration Act (*Wet Inburgering*) was adopted by Parliament in July 2017. As of 1 October 2017, the participation declaration has become mandatory for all newcomers.

Policies to combat discrimination

In January 2016, the Dutch government announced a new National Action Programme to combat discrimination (*Nationaal Actieprogramma tegen discriminatie*). This programme is complementary to previous policy programmes. The four main pillars are: an increased focus on prevention and awareness of discrimination; enhanced cooperation and enhanced infrastructure with regard to discrimination; more attention to the local approach of discrimination; and a strong appeal for further research. In addition, in March 2017, the Action Plan pregnancy discrimination (*Actieplan zwangerschapsdiscriminatie*) was presented to further combat discrimination in the labour market.



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Policy Measures

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2 Policy Measures

This chapter looks at 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 relation to the policies of social integration and anti-discrimination are discussed. First of all, some general principles of the Dutch immigration policy are explained.

2.1 General Principles of Dutch Immigration Policy

Foreign nationals willing to travel to the Netherlands for a stay not exceeding 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 requested at the Dutch embassy or the Dutch consulate in the country of origin. Nowadays, a total number of 59 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.¹

Foreigners who want 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 requested 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 do not require an *MVV*.

2.1.1 Modern migration policy

An important achievement within the framework of family 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 who come 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 Admission and Residence Procedure (*Toegang en verblijf, TEV*). This means that:

- Sponsors and foreign nationals no longer have to submit two separate applications for a regular provisional residence permit (*MVV*) and a residence permit.²
- Sponsors may submit residency applications on behalf of a foreign national. They can also lodge objections and appeals.
- Foreign nationals who are not obliged to apply for a regular provisional residence permit are subject to the regular residence permit sponsor procedure (*VVR-referentenprocedure*).³
- Both the sponsors and the foreign nationals have legal obligations. Since 2013, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*IND*) has more tools to act against sponsors and foreign nationals who do not fulfil their legal obligations.

Legal entities and companies can also be considered as ‘recognised’ sponsor. For recognised sponsors there are certain advantages. In some cases (education, au pair agencies, and employers of skilled migrants) recognition as official sponsor is required.

2.2 Family Formation and Reunification

The possibilities to migrate to the Netherlands are laid down in the Aliens Act of 2000 (*Vreemdelingenwet 2000*). Notable conditions which apply to both the potential migrant and his or her partner in the

¹ <https://www.nederlandenu.nl/reizen-en-wonen/documenten/publicaties/2017/01/01/lijs-visumplichtige-en-niet-visumplichtige-nationaliteiten-kort-verblijf-nl>.

² After the regular provisional residence permit has been issued, the national Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, IND*) automatically grants the residence permit to the applicant.

³ The sponsor can submit an application for a residence permit on behalf of the foreign national while the person in question is still abroad.

Netherlands are related to age, means of support, civic integration requirements, and the nature of the relationship between the partners. More specifically:

- The partner or sponsor in the Netherlands must have had sufficient long-term means of support for at least 12 months.⁴
- Both partners are aged 21 or older.
- The migrant has passed the Civic Integration Examination Abroad or is exempt from this examination.
- 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.

2.2.1 Further restrictions in relation to family migration

Foreigners coming to the Netherlands also must have a basic knowledge of the Dutch language and Dutch society before they arrive in this country. Both elements are tested by means of 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 who want 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 mission abroad. Migrants to the Netherlands may only apply for a visa (a so-called *MVV*) after they have passed a civic integration exam. If a migrant fails to pass the exam abroad, their visa application may be rejected. The *MVV* should be applied for at the embassy or consulate after taking the exam.

The following categories of people are exempt from the obligation to take 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;
- (4) Surinamese nationals who have received at least their primary education in Dutch and have written proof of this;
- (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.

In the case of a serious physical or mental disability, there is also an exception to the civic integration requirements abroad.

The Civic Integration Abroad Act (*Wet inburgering buitenland, Wib*) came into force in 2006. Basically, the initial act is still in force. Having said this, 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 of 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 were put into effect on 1 April 2011. As a result, family migrants who enter the Netherlands are expected to be better prepared and to be sufficiently aware of the demands set for them by the Dutch society.

⁴ 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 percent of the statutory minimum wage, while for single parents this is 90 percent of the statutory minimum wage.

2.2.2 Decision of the European Court of Justice

On 9 July 2015, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) delivered a judgment in a ruling on how the Netherlands deals with applying the integration requirement as a condition for family reunification.⁵ The ECJ ruled that civic integration abroad does in itself not contradict with EU law on family reunification. The Dutch government may thus require long-term third country nationals to successfully pass a civic integration exam prior to migration to the Netherlands. However, the ECJ ruled that the Dutch government did not show enough consideration to the individual situation of family migrants. In addition, the ECJ stated that the costs of the basic examination and preparation package are too high. In a letter of 17 December 2015, the government informed the Second Chamber of a proposal to both broaden the possibility for exemption and to reduce the costs of the examination and preparation package.⁶

2.2.3 Measures against marriages of convenience and forced marriages

The current government intends to take further action against both marriages of convenience and forced marriages. Already in 2013, the Dutch government developed an action plan against forced marriages. This plan is based on a sequential approach, including prevention, detection, damage reduction and sanctioning.⁷ Prominent measures include the establishment of an early warning system, the introduction of a single hotline for all relevant matters, the development of a national hub for professionals, and initiatives aimed at effective detection abroad (see also the Dutch national SOPEMI-report 2014).

Subsequently, the government has launched an initiative under the title Action plan self-determination (*Actieplan zelfbeschikking*) in January 2015. In essence, this plan is meant to promote personal freedom of choice, e.g. by means of the social media, campaigns and dialogues with the immigrant community. Relevant measures in this respect are:

- a national centre of expertise focused on forced marriages;
- measures aimed at more decisive actions of consular staff at embassies in risk countries with regard to forced marriage;
- adjustment of rules for granting permission to provide travel documents to minor persons who have been left abroad (in case of forced marriages);
- new civil and criminal legislation in relation to forced marriages, marital imprisonment and abandonment.

In addition, the Law on the prevention of forced marriages (*Wet tegenaan huwelijksdwang*) entered into force on 5 December 2015. This law determines that both partners must be at least 18 years of age to be able to get married in the Netherlands. Marriages concluded abroad with minor-aged partners can only be acknowledged if both partners are at least 18 years old. As a result of the law, requests in the context of refugee reunifications and regular family reunification will be rejected by the Dutch government if at least one of the partners is younger than 18 years of age.

In May 2015, all authorities involved in asylum and migration matters and criminal justice, together with the Inspectorate SZW (*Inspectie SZW*), worked together in a nationwide action against marriages of convenience. In so doing, specific checks were carried out across the country on people who were suspected of being responsible for a marriage of convenience or for facilitating these marriages.⁸

2.2.4 Measures in relation to face-covering clothing

In the Coalition Agreement of 2012 it was announced that the central government is ready to take measures in relation to face-covering clothing.

In the meantime this announcement was followed by two specific measures. Firstly, in 2014 additional requirements have become effective for those who depend on a social assistance benefit and are re-

⁵ CJEU, 9 July 2015, C153/14.

⁶ *Kamerstukken II*, 2015-2016, 32005, no. 8.

⁷ *Aanpak huwelijksdwang en achterlating*. Policy document of 6 June 2013 informing the Dutch Second Chamber about planned measures to combat forced marriages and the phenomenon of abandonment.

⁸ Annual Policy Report 2015, Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands. EMN European Migration, IND O&A, June 2016, page 20.

quired to accept employment.⁹ More specifically, people relying on these social assistance benefits are not supposed to wear clothes which are expected to reduce their job opportunities. Failure to meet this requirement may lead to the suspension of the social assistance benefit for a period of three months.

Another measure was agreed upon by the Dutch government in May 2015 and concerns a decision to partly prohibit face-covering clothes in the public space. The government believed that this ban is important both for the provision of public services to citizens and for the safety of all its citizens. The ban applies in education, public transport, hospitals and government buildings. Those who do not comply with this measure can be fined up to € 405. Face-covering clothing is still allowed on the street. The Dutch Parliament has not yet decided on this latter issue.

2.3 Policies on Labour Migration

In the previous SOPEMI-reports the regulatory framework concerning labour migration to the Netherlands was discussed extensively. Below, we will focus on the most important changes in legislation which took place in 2016.

2.3.1 The Aliens Employment Act

An employer who wants to employ a foreigner must apply to the Public Employment Service (*UWV WERKbedrijf*) for a work permit (*tewerkstellingsvergunning, TWV*). This permit is only issued 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 (*Wet arbeid vreemdelingen, 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 who come to the Netherlands to work for a period longer than three months must apply for a single permit (combined residence and work permit)¹⁰ at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND). Other non-EU/EEA workers who come to the Netherlands for a shorter period still have to apply for a work permit.

In November 2016, a legislative proposal for the implementation of the Seasonal Workers Directive was sent to the Second Chamber. Third-country nationals who want to be eligible for a residence permit as seasonal workers can also submit an application for a combined work and residence permit (*GVVA*). For the admission of seasonal workers a new condition is added; an assessment whether the third-country national forms a risk of irregular migration or continued illegal stay. It is expected that the legislative proposal, however, will not bring about any changes.¹¹ In recent years, no work permits were issued for seasonal workers. The legislative proposal became effective on 1 July 2017.

In October 2016, a voluntary agreement between the Dutch government and the Asian hospitality sector regarding the migration of qualified Asian chefs expired. The agreement had lasted two years during which qualified Asian chefs could apply for a combined permit, while at the same time the sector had to make efforts to train chefs who were not subject to the requirement of a work permit.

Research showed that while for the lower staff positions there now is sufficient labour supply, there is still a scarcity of specialty chefs. Therefore, in October 2016, a new temporary flexible arrangement for Asian speciality chefs entered into force. Quota were set for the annual number of permits for Asian chefs (from 1,800 in the first year, 1,400 in the second year, to 1,000 in the third year). Restaurants that want to employ chefs from abroad are also obliged to recruit personal from the Netherlands or the EU.

⁹ These additional requirements are part of the *Maatregelen WWB*, introduced in July, 2014.

¹⁰ Dutch: *GVVA (Gecombineerde vergunning voor verblijf en arbeid)*.

¹¹ Tweede Kamer, 2016-2017, 34590, no.6.

A third important legislative change that took place last year was the implementation of the Intra-Corporate Transferees Directive in November 2016. The directive prescribes the conditions for the stay of non-European third-country nationals in the context of an intra-corporate transfer, e.g. a European standard intra-corporate transfer permit, valid for up to three years; mobility within the EU during the transfer; wages in conformity with the market; free access to the labour market for family members.

2.3.2 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. In the previous SOPEMI-report the Highly Skilled Migrant Scheme (*Regeling Kennismigranten*), the EU Blue Card and measures aimed at foreign graduates were discussed in detail. In 2016, no major legislative changes took place in these schemes. For more details on these separate schemes, we refer to the previous SOPEMI-report. Wage criteria are used in the various schemes to define highly skilled labour. Table 2.1 provides an update of the wage criteria used in the various schemes.

Table 2.1 Wage criteria valid as of 1 January 2017 (in gross monthly wages)

	Excl. 8% holiday allowance
Highly Skilled Migrant Scheme: knowledge workers >= 30 years	€ 4,324
Highly Skilled Migrant Scheme: knowledge workers < 30 years	€ 3,170
'Foreign graduates'	€ 2,272
EU Blue Card	€ 5,066

Source: <https://ind.nl/Paginas/inkomen.aspx> visited on 26 September 2017

Measures aimed at foreign graduates

In March 2016, a new policy for the orientation year of highly-educated persons became effective (amendment of the measure *Zoekjaar Hoger Opgeleiden*). The scheme integrates the Highly Skilled Migrants Scheme and the orientation year for graduates into a single scheme. The scheme now includes foreign graduate students in the Netherlands as well as students who have graduated from a top university abroad. Foreign graduates can now apply for a permit within three years after graduation (this used to be one year). Also the requirement to apply for a work permit within the first year was dropped, even if the job does not meet the income criterion. The new measure also applies to academic researchers and PhD-students.

2.3.3 Foreign investors and entrepreneurs

To enhance the competitiveness of 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. Below we briefly discuss the legislative framework and the results achieved so far.

Foreign investors

Foreign investors who invest a minimum of € 1.25 million in a Dutch company or Dutch investment fund can obtain a (temporary) residence permit according to the Admission Scheme for Foreign Investors (*Regeling voor Buitenlandse Investeerders*, effective as of 1 October 2013). As of July 2016 some changes in the regulation became effective. The duration of the first residence permit is extended from one year to three years. Foreign investors no longer need an auditor's statement concerning the source of the capital. The IND will, however, still check with the Financial Intelligence Unit whether the foreign investors can be linked to suspicious financial transactions. For investment in a Dutch company, the application is also assessed on the basis of a point system. This point system has been simplified. The investment now has to meet at least two of the following three criteria: 1) employment creation of at least 10 FTEs within five years, 2) innovation (this could take the form of publishing a patent, investing in innovation – either technological or non-technological – or investing in a company in a top tier sector) and; 3)

non-financial contribution (non-financial added value, such as specific knowledge, networks, customers and active involvement on the part of the investor).

No substantive checks will be made for investments in a participation fund that is or becomes a member of the Netherlands Association of Participation Funds (*Nederlandse Vereniging van Participatiemaatschappijen, NVP*) or in a SEED fund recognised by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Foreign entrepreneurs

As discussed in the previous SOPEMI-report, the Self-employment Scheme (*Zelfstandigenregeling*) failed to attract innovative entrepreneurs to the Netherlands, due to a strong emphasis on the business plan in the point system.¹² 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 affords ambitious entrepreneurs one year to launch an innovative business. A prerequisite is that this start-up must be guided by an experienced mentor (facilitator) that is based in the Netherlands. After one year, successful start-ups have to apply for a residence permit as an independent entrepreneur. Their application will be assessed on the basis of the point system. As of January 2016, some changes were implemented in the legislation for start-ups in order to facilitate their influx into the Self-employment Scheme. In the point system a declaration of the facilitator is included. This declaration forms the basis of a positive advice regarding eligibility for the Regulation for foreign entrepreneurs.

In addition to these legislative changes, the Netherlands has started other initiatives aimed at attracting innovative foreign entrepreneurs. In 2014, the so-called StartupDelta initiative was launched. This initiative is a collaboration of government bodies, knowledge institutes, start-ups, financiers and businesses aimed at improving the business climate for Dutch and foreign entrepreneurs in the Netherlands.

In 2016, the cities of Amsterdam, The Hague, Eindhoven and Groningen and the four ministries (Economic Affairs; Security and Justice; Social Affairs and Employment; Education, Culture and Science) signed the City Deal Warm Welcome Talent. The aim of the City Deal is to promote the attractiveness of the Netherlands for ambitious entrepreneurial talent from abroad. It covers the whole process of coming to and establishing in the Netherlands. One of the activities carried out within the framework of the City Deal is a study on the accessibility of the Netherlands from the perspective of foreign entrepreneurs; a study into the so-called 'customer journey'. The study showed that while foreign entrepreneurs were generally satisfied with their decision to establish in the Netherlands (often referring to the high quality of life in the Netherlands), they also experienced their 'journey' as complicated. They mention the difficulty of obtaining information, the scant availability of assistance and the lengthy and laborious procedures.¹³

There is some scant data available on the number of applications for the new Start-up Visa. In 2015, 95 applications for a start-up visa were made of which 21 were granted and 26 were still in process at the time of publication of the first data (April 2016). In 2015, 28 applications were denied and 20 were retracted. Data for 2016 are not yet available.¹⁴

2.4 Policies on Asylum Migration¹⁵

2.4.1 Changes in policies and regulations

As discussed in the previous SOPEMI-report, the Dutch government introduced a list of 'safe countries' on 14 November 2015, to respond to the growing number of asylum applications. Applicants from a safe

¹² See also: T. de Lange (2016) *Wezenlijk Nederlands Belang. De toelating tot Nederland van ondernemers van buiten de EU*. Wolf legal publishers.

¹³ http://agendastad.nl/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/102724_Rapportage_Citydeal_web.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.startupdelta.org/dutch-startup-visa-one-year-after-the-launch>

¹⁵ This section largely draws on an overview of policy changes prepared by EMN (2016).

country generally do not qualify for international protection, unless the applicant can substantiate his claim why in his case the country is not safe. Many countries that were initially placed on the list are situated in the Balkan region (e.g. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia). In the course of 2016, the list was expanded three times. Countries that were placed on the list include Ghana, India, Morocco, Mongolia, Senegal, Algeria, Georgia, Ukraine, Tunisia and Togo.

Also discussed in the previous SOPEMI-report, a so-called multitrack policy was introduced in March 2016 in response to the increased number of applications. There is no longer a fixed routine in all cases of the general asylum procedure of eight days. Process steps that are superfluous for certain asylum seekers no longer need to be followed. The multitrack policy consists of five tracks:

1. Dublin procedure;
2. Safe country of origin or legal stay in another EU Member State;
3. Evident decisions to grant an application (accelerated track, not yet entered into force);
4. General asylum procedure (standard procedure);
5. Evident decision to grant an application after brief investigation (not yet entered into force).

Tracks 1 and 4 were already part of the existing asylum procedure. Track 2 became active in 2016.

Tracks 3 and 5 can be activated for a certain period when necessary (in case of a sudden high influx of asylum seekers).

In August 2016, the government amended the policy for asylum seekers from certain safe countries of origin (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Montenegro) for whom another Member State is actually responsible in the light of the Dublin Regulation. Asylum seekers from these countries who are subject to the Dublin Regulation can now be sent back directly to their country of origin.

Also in 2016, the maximum decision period for asylum application was extended from 6 to 15 months. The extension is in line with Article 31 of the Procedures Directive which gives Member States the opportunity to extend the decision period when the number of asylum claimants suddenly rises rapidly.

2.4.2 Other changes related to the reception of refugees

2016 saw some changes in the available reception capacity for asylum seekers. Facilities that were created in 2015 to meet the demand of the rapidly growing numbers of asylum seekers in 2015 were scaled down in 2016.

While in the second half of 2015 many crisis reception locations were set up to tackle the growing influx of asylum seekers, these crisis reception locations were closed in the beginning of 2016 as the existing emergency accommodations and regular reception centres were able to cope with the flow. As the number of asylum applications further decreased during 2016, another 15 emergency accommodations on a total of 45 were closed.

In September 2016, the so-called self-care arrangement (*zelfzorgarrangement*, ZZA) stopped. The scheme allowed municipalities to offer temporary shelter to beneficiaries of international protection outside asylum centres.

Another topic that received attention in 2016 was the public nuisance caused by some asylum seekers – often groups of asylum seekers from safe countries of origin – in some reception centres. The nuisance included theft, disoriented behaviour, fights and intimidation. The government took various measures to deal with these groups:

- faster asylum procedures and Dublin procedures;
- intensive cooperation between the Public Prosecution Office (*OM*), police, municipality, Repatriation and Departure Service (*Dienst Terugkeer & Vertrek*, DT&V), the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (*Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers*, COA) and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*IND*) in tackling cases of asylum seekers causing public nuisance;
- measures to counter ‘pull-in’ effects of departure and reintegration support;
- consultation with countries of origin (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria) with the aim of making agreements on return.

2.4.3 Unaccompanied minors (UAM)

As of 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 of 15 years and older and those younger than 15 years of age who cannot be placed in foster care will be taken care of by COA 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 foster family or to a small-scale accommodation of Nidos to enable integration.

2.5 Policies Attracting Foreign Students

In the Netherlands, the political responsibility for education lies with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (*OCW*). Nuffic is the Dutch organisation for internationalisation in education and is, together with higher education institutions (i.e. universities and higher vocational education institutions), responsible for the recruitment and selection of international students.

To gain access to the Dutch education system, international students have to fulfil admission requirements as laid down in the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (*Wet op Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, WHW*). In addition, third-country students who wish to stay longer than 90 days (and are not already residing lawfully in another Schengen Member State) need to apply for a provisional residence permit (*MVV*) before they can apply for a temporary residence permit in the Netherlands. The requirements are specified in the Modern Migration Policy Act (*MoMi*).¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

Finally, two new policy measures that aim at retaining talented international students were introduced in 2016. Firstly, international graduates may apply for a one year residence permit with the purpose of taking a so-called ‘search year’ in which they look for employment in the Netherlands (see also section 2.3.2).¹⁸ Secondly, international students can now start internships in the Netherlands as part of their study, even if this is not an obligatory part of the curriculum. This allows more foreign students to do an internship, which increases their chances of finding a suitable job.¹⁹

2.6 Policies on Return

Return policies can be divided into policies for undocumented migrants and policy measures aimed at the voluntary return of migrants legally residing in the Netherlands. Below, policy amendments that took place in 2016 will be discussed.

2.6.1 Return of undocumented migrants

In the previous section changes in the Dutch asylum policy were discussed. Several measures have been taken to speed up asylum procedures, especially for groups of asylum seekers who have limited chances of obtaining a residence permit. These measures are expected to contribute to the return of failed asylum claimants. Also during the asylum procedures information is provided to asylum seekers about possibilities for return (in case their asylum application fails).

¹⁶ 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 (Groen et al, 2013). 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).

¹⁷ This involved an amendment of the Aliens Act 2000 on 26 October 2016 (Staatsblad 2016, nr. 415).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

For asylum seekers who have not been granted a residence permit and other undocumented migrants, the Netherlands provides various repatriation support measures to support their return.

Repatriation support

Available repatriation support measures for independent return with assistance from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (for undocumented migrants cooperating with their return) include:

- Basic REAN support (Return and Emigration Assistance from the Netherlands), which includes counselling and information, assistance with obtaining travel documents, plane tickets or reimbursement of travel expenses, assistance with transfer. Citizens from other EU-countries and some other Western countries are excluded from these provisions.²⁰
- Additional REAN support contribution in cash (*Ondersteuningsbijdrage, OSB*) of € 200 for adults and € 40 for each accompanying child. This support is given in the form of a debit card upon actual departure at Schiphol Airport. Migrants who return to Morocco and Algeria (registered after 1 December 2016) and migrants who return to Egypt, Georgia, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Tunisia, Turkey and Belorussia (as of 1 January 2016) do not qualify for this type of support.
- Additional HRT-cash support (*Herintegratie Regeling Terugkeer*) for rejected asylum claimants from specific countries of € 1750 for adults and € 880 for each accompanying child. This support was only available for undocumented migrants who had registered at the IOM for independent return before 1 July 2017 and who effectuated their return no later than 31 August 2017.
- Returnees who are assisted by the IOM can, in addition to REAN-support, also qualify for another type of re-integration support. The project Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (*Herintegratieondersteuning, AVRR-NL*) provides support (goods or services) after return to the country of origin. The project offers a reintegration budget of a maximum of € 1800 for adults, € 2800 for minor children returning with their family and 2800 for unaccompanied minor children. This money is not paid in cash, but is given in goods and/or services (so called 'in-kind' assistance). The support can be used for an income-generating activity (such as a small business), education and, if necessary, on accommodation.

Independent return is also possible under supervision of Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) or another organisation (NGOs) offering repatriation support. These projects, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (*Asiel, Migratie en Integratiefonds, AMIF*) offer in-kind support with for example starting a business, finding work or by providing training.

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. For a considerable time, the Netherlands has been confronted with asylum seekers from safe countries (e.g. from the Western Balkans, some North African countries and Ukraine). In 2016 (and 2017) the Netherlands implemented various changes in available repatriation support for undocumented migrants in order to prevent 'pull in' effects:

- As of 28 September 2016, aliens from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia no longer qualify for REAN-support by the IOM. They only qualify for a return ticket from the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V).
- As of 1 December 2016, Moroccans and Algerians no longer qualify for additional REAN cash-support, HRT-cash support and participation in in-kind support.
- As of 12 July 2017, Ukrainians are – in addition to exemption from REAN cash support as of January 2016 – also excluded from basic REAN support by the IOM. Ukrainians who registered at the IOM before 12 July 2017 can still qualify for IOM-support.

Data from the Repatriation and Departure Service shows that between 2015 and 2016 the number of returnees (independent and forced) increased significantly.

²⁰ See: <http://www.iom-nederland.nl/nl/vrijwillig-vertrek/terugkeer-naar-uw-land-van-herkomst-rean/rean-landenlijst> for a list of countries qualifying for REAN-support.

Table 2.2 Number of returnees by category in 2015 and 2016

	2015	2016
Independent return	3,320 (32%)	6,760 (40%)
Forced return	1,850 (18%)	2,220 (13%)
Independent return without surveillance (*)	5,070 (50%)	8,100 (47%)
Total	10,240	17,080

(*) Returnee is no longer under surveillance of the Repatriation and Departure Service, actual departure from the Netherlands was not established.

Source: <https://www.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/Mediatheek/Vertrekcijfers/index.aspx>, accessed on 26 September 2017.

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*). 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 (*verblijfsregime*), 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*). As mentioned in the previous SOPEMI-report, it was expected that the law would become effective in 2016. However, at the moment of writing this years' report the proposal has still not passed Parliament.

In June 2016 the Closed Family Centre in Zeist was opened. This facility is intended for families with minor children and unaccompanied minors who are placed in aliens' detention. In the design and development of the new facility, the situation and protection of children are taken into account. The basic principle is to have as few restrictions as possible. Also in 2016, the Netherlands were involved in developing a number of implementation protocols on behalf of the Benelux countries for EU Readmission Agreements (EURAs) for the countries Azerbaijan, Armenia and Sri Lanka.

In November 2016, negotiations ended between the national government and the municipalities relating to the 'bed, bath and bread-discussion' about providing basic support to undocumented migrants who have exhausted all legal means. The proposal under discussion consisted of the introduction of a so-called pre-phase freedom-restricting location (*vrijheidsbeperkende locatie, VBL*). Access to this facility would only become available to undocumented migrants indicating in advance their willingness to cooperate in their departure. The duration of the stay in the pre-phase would be limited to assure the effectiveness of the return policy. The pre-phase freedom-restricting locations would only be offered at six locations. Schemes in other municipalities would have to be discontinued. However, in November it became clear that the national government could not come to an agreement with the municipalities on this topic. Municipalities wanted to have more freedom in continuing to offer support to undocumented migrants in addition to the national provision. According to the national government, this situation would, however, undermine the effectiveness of the new proposal. The Ministry has ended the financial compensation to municipalities for the provision of shelter (*Ministerie van VenJ*, 21 November 2016, ref. 988). The issue of providing basic shelter to undocumented migrants will again be part of the agenda of the new government.

Remigration

Since 1999, financial support and compensation have been offered through the Remigration Act (*Remigratiewet*) to migrants who legally reside in the Netherlands and who wish to return to their country of origin. Initially, the Remigration Act provided for the costs of moving and a remigration benefit for all migrants (*remigratie-uitkering*). The remigration benefit consists of a monthly financial provision for the returnees (other Dutch social benefits are deducted from the remigration benefit).

As of 1 July 2014, the new Remigration Act became 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;
- have come to the Netherlands after their 18th birthday.

The opportunity to apply for a remigration benefit will end on 1 January 2025. The basic provision was abolished in July 2014. In 2017, a study will be conducted on the effects of these changes.

2.7 Policies on Illegally Residing Immigrants and Illegal Migration

The Dutch policies concerning the reduction of illegal immigration focus on legal exclusion and stricter enforcement. Instruments which have been employed to combat undocumented migration are legal measures such as:

- the Linkage Act (*Koppelingswet*), which excludes undocumented migrants from public services (e.g. social benefits and public housing);
- workplace controls with heavy sanctions for employers; and
- new forms of surveillance.

Workplace controls

In the fight against the employment of illegal foreign workers, policies in recent years have focused on heavy sanctions for employers who illegally employ foreign workers and on new forms of surveillance. In 2014, fines for legal persons who employ foreign workers without a work permit were raised to € 12,000 per illegally employed worker and € 6,000 for individuals per illegally employed worker.

In October 2015, the Council of State ruled that the application of the standard fine of € 12,000 for first offenders is unreasonable. In 2016, therefore the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment announced the introduction of a more fine-grained sanction system, which better takes into account the characteristics of the employer (with fines varying between € 2,000 and € 8,000). The new measure also allows for higher fines (up to 50% of standard fines) in special circumstances (e.g. in the case of malafide employers and serious offences). In addition, the possibility of issuing a warning is introduced (e.g. for first offenders).²¹

Irregular entry

Due to the rising immigration numbers in 2015 several measures were taken to increase surveillance at the border. Mobile surveillance (Mobile Security Monitoring checks) at the Belgian and German border was increased, aimed at fighting illegal immigration and human smuggling and the prevention of incidents threatening public order and national security. In March 2016, the Minister for Migration introduced intensified checks for a period of six months. Checks are carried out in trains, on waterways, at airports and on roads. The number of stowaways in Dutch ports rose substantially in 2016 (in 2015 510 stowaways were discovered, in the first 6 months of 2016 this number was approximately 600). The rise in numbers is largely attributed to an intensification of surveillance. Evidence from the hearings of stowaways does not seem to indicate a significant increase in flows of undocumented migrants from Calais to Dutch ports (EMN, 2017).

In order to intensify the fight against human smuggling, the maximum penalty for human smuggling was increased significantly. The maximum sentence for the smuggling of persons was raised from 4 to 6 years, with the possibility of 8 years in case of exercising a profession or public office. The maximum penalty was raised from 8 to 10 years for multiple offenders or those operating in groups, and raised

²¹ <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-32144-27.html>

from 12 to 15 years in case of severe bodily harm or mortal danger. In case of fatal consequences, the maximum penalty was raised from 15 to 18 years. The measure became effective in July 2016.

2.8 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-governmental organisations (NGOs) – that seek funding for migration and economic development projects. A number of eye-catching projects will be discussed briefly below.²²

Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women

Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) is a fund that has been set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to improve the position of women and girls in developing countries.²³ FLOW finances many projects focusing on security, economic self-reliance and political participation in more than a hundred countries. Between 2012 and 2015, the budget of FLOW was about € 80 million. For the period of 2016-2020 € 93 million has been made available. The programmes particularly aim at combatting violence against women; participation by women in politics and public administration; and women's 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.²⁴ In the joint approach to tackle migration issues in Europe, ways to eliminate the root causes of migration are also taken into consideration. Efforts are specifically being made regarding employment and economic growth, with the emphasis on African youths. The action plan, which has become effective in 2016, provides for 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).²⁵ By providing financial recourses to people in 68 less developed countries, the Dutch government tries to find serious alternatives for irregular migration. Thousands of jobs in low-income countries should be created in this way. In October 2016, an interim report on the Dutch Good Growth Fund (DGGF) was drawn up for the Dutch House of Representatives. This report stressed the need for sufficient economic perspective in order to avoid migration.

Local Employment in Africa for Development

Social organisations and social entrepreneurs can submit project proposals via the new subsidy scheme Local Employment in Africa for Development (LEAD).²⁶ This subsidy scheme of approximately € 25 million is made available for civil society organisations and social entrepreneurs in eight African countries. The project proposals of the civil society organisations SPARK, Hivos, Oxfam Novib and SOS Children's Villages were selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015. In January 2016 these programmes became effective. It is expected that more than 15,000 jobs will be created in three years.

²² The project descriptions are to a great extent based on an overview of migration and development projects presented by the European Migration Network. EMN (2017) Annual Policy report 2016.

²³ <https://www.government.nl/documents/decrees/2015/06/12/funding-leadership-and-opportunities-for-women-flow-2016-2020>

²⁴ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2015/11/11-valletta-summit-press-pack/>

²⁵ <http://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/dutch-good-growth-fund-dggf>

²⁶ <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/besluiten/2015/07/31/beleidsregels-subsidieregeling-lead>

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 the Netherlands and international and 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. These 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

In 2016, the IOM programme Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D) was set up for a period of two years. CD4D is a successor to the former Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) programme and has a similar focus: to contribute to economic development in a number of countries by strengthening the capacities of migrants in the Netherlands who originate from these countries. The countries are Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Morocco. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made a total of € 4.7 million available for the CD4D programme.²⁷

Structural reception of Syrian refugees

In May 2016, the government made an extra amount of € 260 million available for the structural reception of refugees in the Syria region in addition to emergency aid. The purpose of committing these additional funds is to ensure that refugees are given the opportunity to build up a new life in host countries, until it is possible to return home. Programmes supported by the Netherlands are particularly focused on education, employment, and public services and amenities such as water, electricity and waste processing.

This benefits both the refugees themselves and the countries and communities that shelter the refugees. This amount was allocated as follows: Lebanon € 86 million, Jordan € 60 million, Turkey € 94 million, and Iraq € 20 million. Meanwhile, € 178 million has already been spent. In the case of Turkey, the contribution from the Netherlands is allocated via the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey. In Iraq, the commitment runs via the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a rapid stabilisation of areas liberated from ISIS, so that displaced people can return to their original housing areas.²⁸

UN-projects against smuggling

In 2016, the Netherlands supported different UN-projects against the smuggling of persons in West and North-West Africa. These projects are under the responsibility of UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and are meant to develop a human rights based response to the smuggling of migrants and to human rights violations related to irregular migration. More in detail, these programmes focus on the detection, investigation and prosecution of the smuggling of persons in several Western African countries, improving regional and international cooperation and the exchange of operational information on the smuggling of migrants, and improving the protection and promotion of human rights of migrants in their country of origin and during their migration.

Likewise, projects in Libya and Morocco were supported, among others, to help the national coast-guards in tackling trafficking in human beings. The Netherlands also supports an IOM programme for the voluntary return of African migrants from Libya to their country of origin. In addition, the Netherlands decided to support the IOM in sustained voluntary return of at least 5,000 irregular migrants who stay in Morocco to their countries of origin, and also support reintegration of these returnees.²⁹

²⁷ For further information see <http://www.iom-nederland.nl/nl/migratie-en-ontwikkeling/> temporary-return. Consulted on 19 January 2017.

²⁸ Parliamentary Papers II, 2015-2016, 32623, no. 166.

²⁹ Parliamentary Papers II, 2015-2016, 29521, no. 323.

In sum

The policy developments addressed in this chapter show that the Netherlands cooperates with many countries of diaspora. Various projects and funds were given additional support by the Netherlands in 2016. These initiatives are all aimed at eliminating the causes of migration through targeted investments in employment in various less developed countries.

2.9 Policies on Citizenship

In the previous SOPEMI-report several recent proposals were discussed which aim at restricting access to Dutch citizenship. Below we give an update on the status of these proposals.

Proposal to extend legal residency from five to seven years

In January 2014, a proposal for amendments to the Dutch Nationality Act (*Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap*) was sent to Parliament, which aims at – amongst other things – extending the period of legal residence from five to seven years. The government motivates this extension by claiming that it takes several years before migrants establish a real and sustainable relationship with the Netherlands. The government refers to research showing that participation and integration often takes more than five years to accomplish. With this proposal the government also wishes to implement a system of progressively increasing rights for migrants, i.e. eligibility for permanent residency after 5 years and eligibility for citizenship after 7 years.

Several advisory bodies and legal scholars have criticized the proposed amendments.³⁰ Especially the arbitrariness of the seven-year waiting period and the fact that legally-residing foreigners are denied full citizenship rights for a long time are judged as counterproductive to integration. The proposed date of implementation was July 2015. The proposal was adopted by the Second Chamber in June 2016. However, in September 2017, the First Chamber voted against the proposal. So, currently migrants remain eligible for citizenship after five years of legal residency.

Withdrawing citizenship after conviction for preparing terrorist activities or for participation in a terrorist organisation

As part of a comprehensive plan to fight jihadism several amendments were made to the Dutch Nationality Act. As discussed in the previous SOPEMI-report, as of March 2016, Dutch citizenship can be withdrawn of persons who have been convicted (according to Article 134a of the Criminal Law) of aiding or preparing terrorist activities.

On 7 February 2017 another amendment was adopted and implemented which provides for the possibility of withdrawing Dutch citizenship (and the declaration of undesirability) in the interest of national security of persons who have participated in a terrorist organisation without necessarily having been convicted. This measure can only be imposed on persons with a dual nationality.

2.10 Civic Integration Policies

The previous government (Rutte II) has been a strong advocate of further tightening up the requirements in the context of civic integration. These ambitions have become manifest in the introduction of the revised Civic Integration Act (*herziene Wet inburgering*) on 1 January 2013.

Foreign nationals in the Netherlands must meet various requirements under the Civic Integration Act (*Wet Inburgering*). A central element of this law is the importance that is attached to the individual responsibility of the migrant when preparing for a civic integration exam. Migrants are expected to bear

³⁰ See: Council of State, <https://www.raadvanstate.nl/adviezen/zoeken-in-adviezen/tekst-advies.html?id=11108>; Advisory Commission of Alien Affairs, http://acvz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/23-05-2013_wetsadvies-naturalisatietermijnen.pdf; legal scholars from various universities <http://njb.nl/blog/zes-professoren-schreven-een-brief-aan-de-tweede.11857.lynkx>.

the costs of the Dutch language and civic integration courses themselves. However, the government may support civic integration candidates with a loan system.

Family migrants are allowed to borrow up to € 5,000. For asylum migrants, the maximum is set at € 10,000. A means test is required first.³¹

By taking an exam, the participants demonstrate that they have sufficient command of the Dutch language. After all, foreign residents residing in the Netherlands must show that they can sufficiently understand, read and write Dutch. They must also prove that they are sufficiently familiar with Dutch society. The exam consists of one practical test and three central exams. Candidates who pass all four parts receive a certificate. They must pass this examination within three years. Candidates who fail are obliged to repeat the test until they succeed.

Under the current law, which came into effect in 2013, all newly arrived immigrants (the so-called newcomers) are subjected to the civic integration obligations. 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. Those who do not put in sufficient effort will lose their residence permit, with the exception of people holding asylum residence permits.

The Education Executive Agency (*Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs, DUO*), a public authority, is largely responsible for the enforcement of the law. This organisation will inform everyone who is required to pass the civic integration exam about their obligations. Migrants are expected to turn directly to DUO to find out what is expected of them.

2.10.1 Participation declaration

In 2015, the Dutch government agreed to the introduction of a so-called participation declaration (*participatieverklaring*).³² The aim of this declaration is to make newly arrived immigrants aware of both the written and unwritten rules prevailing in Dutch society. 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 who come to the Netherlands in the context of family formation or family reunification. The participation declaration also obliges the candidates to participate in a short course on Dutch core values.

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.

2.10.2 Additional funding for social assistance

The Dutch government also decided to offer additional funding to the group of asylum migrants and their families from 2016. This assistance is meant to support these migrants from the moment that these refugees reside in a municipality. Municipalities are responsible for the expenditure of these resources. To be eligible for additional funding, municipalities must develop a plan stating how they want to put into practice these supportive measures. A funding of € 2,370 has been made available by the central government to municipalities for each asylum migrant.

³¹ When borrowing money, the Dutch government sets as a condition that the amount is only spent on participating in a language course. However, it has been agreed that asylum immigrants receive a pay offer from the government. This means that they are eligible for remission of the loan if they pass the civic integration exam.

³² Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, News item '*Participatieverklaring verplicht onderdeel inburgeringsexamen*', officially published by the Dutch government on 8 July 2016.

2.10.3 Extension of the pre-civic integration programme

In 2016, several initiatives were taken in the area of language teaching at reception centres. For example, language education, which is a principal element of the pre-civic integration programme, 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, have also been extended since 2016. The Orientation in the Dutch Labour Market module (*Oriëntatie op de Nederlandse Arbeidsmarkt, ONA*) has been included in the pre-civic integration programme as well. With the help of ONA, those eligible for asylum are informed about different aspects of the Dutch labour market and can have their credentials evaluated.

In addition, it was agreed with the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) that official (NT2) language lessons given at reception centres will be offered not only to beneficiaries of international protection, but also to so-called promising asylum seekers. The latter category includes asylum seekers who have a good chance of getting a residence permit in the Netherlands. This applies in particular to refugees from Syria and Eritrea. The measure has been in force since the spring of 2017.³³

2.11 Discrimination

Combating discrimination is high on the political agenda: the Dutch government (Rutte II, 2012) explicitly strives for equality and disapproves of any form of unfair treatment.³⁴ Much of today's anti-discrimination policy is based on the Action plan to combat discrimination of 2010 (*Actieprogramma bestrijding discriminatie*)³⁵, its refinement in 2011³⁶, and more recently the new National Action Programme to combat discrimination of 2016 (*Nationaal Actieprogramma tegen discriminatie*).³⁷

Dutch anti-discrimination policy especially focuses on a local approach to discrimination. Other relevant subjects include: the reporting of discrimination by citizens, registration of discrimination, investigation and prosecution of discrimination, and education. An important part of the infrastructure in the fight against discrimination is the Municipal Anti-discrimination Facilities Act (*Wet gemeentelijke antidiscriminatievoorzieningen*), which came into force in 2009. This act regulates the obligation of municipalities to provide access to independent and easily accessible anti-discrimination facilities. The goal of this act is that each citizen can report cases of (alleged) discrimination in an accessible way to the authorities in their own living environment, and that citizens can be advised or assisted by anti-discrimination facilities.

Measures specified in the latest National Action Programme of 2016 are complementary to the previous policy programmes. Four main pillars are described:

- an increased focus on prevention and awareness of discrimination, and the promotion of an inclusive society;
- enhanced cooperation (with all relevant parties involved inside and outside the government) and enhanced infrastructure (to strengthen the system and expand the approach to discrimination);
- more attention to the local approach of discrimination; municipalities are further encouraged to combat discrimination;
- the support for research to tackle discrimination by interdisciplinary knowledge about the causes of discrimination and the effectiveness of interventions.

In the recent years, special attention has been given to certain target groups, such as people with disabilities, women, LGBTs and Dutch citizens with a bicultural background. In addition, specific measures

³³ *Kamerstukken II*, 2015-2016, 34334 no. 23.

³⁴ *Kamerstukken II*, 2010-2011, 32 824, no. 1. Integratie, binding en burgerschap', 16 June 2011.

³⁵ *Kamerstukken VII* 2009-2010, 32 123, no. 74. Beleidsreactie Poldis 2009 en actieprogramma bestrijding van discriminatie, 13 September 2010.

³⁶ *Kamerstukken II*, 2010-2011, 30 950, no. 34. Aanscherping bestrijding discriminatie, 7 July 2011.

³⁷ *Kamerstukken 2015-2016*, 30 950, no. 84. Nationaal Actieprogramma tegen discriminatie 2016, 22 January 2016.

are taken to prevent and combat antisemitism, anti-Muslim discrimination, anti-black racism, and intolerance based on religion, race or sexual orientation.

In March 2017, the first progress report was published. This report includes a list of general and specific actions taken by the government to combat discrimination. These actions include (but are not limited to):³⁸

- multiple widespread public campaigns to increase awareness of discrimination and to promote an inclusive society;
- the signing and supporting of the Dutch Diversity Charter, which aims to encourage diversity policy and an inclusive work environment in both the public and private sector;³⁹
- improvement of the day to day operations of the anti-discrimination facilities and their registration of and reports about instances of discrimination;
- strengthening the criminal prosecution to discrimination;
- a to be developed guide for municipalities about executing anti-discrimination policies, to further strengthen the local approach to discrimination;
- several research projects carried out in 2016 ad 2017 on forms or aspects of discrimination or anti-discrimination policies;
- several specific actions, such as measures to prevent ethnic profiling (discrimination based on origin, skin colour and religion), measures to enhance awareness about and attention to the history of slavery (anti-black racism), measures to stimulate the willingness to report instances of discrimination among Muslims (Muslim discrimination) and measures targeting antisemitism.

Finally, special attention has also been paid to discrimination in the labour market. In 2014, the government launched the Action plan labour market discrimination (*Actieplan arbeidsmarktdiscriminatie*) in which the government takes steps to forcefully fight labour market discrimination.⁴⁰ Since 2014, measures have been taken in the areas of: enforcement; reporting and registration; knowledge and awareness; diversity policies; and research.⁴¹ In March 2017, the Action Plan pregnancy discrimination (*Actieplan zwangerschapsdiscriminatie*) was presented to the government by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. In this action plan, thirteen new measures are presented to combat pregnancy discrimination in the area of: 1) enforcement, 2) knowledge and awareness, and 3) reporting and registration.

³⁸ *Kamerstukken I*, 2016-2017, 30 950, no. 107. Voortgangsrapportage Nationaal actieprogramma tegen discriminatie 2017.

³⁹ The Dutch Diversity Charter was launched in The Hague in July 2015 by the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment. Through this project the Dutch Labour Foundation wants to support employers and employees in the public and private sector in their efforts to increase diversity in their business and work towards a more inclusive environment. Currently, the results of this Charter are being monitored and evaluated. For more information, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/diversity/charters/netherlands_en.htm

⁴⁰ *Kamerstukken II*, 2013-2014 29 544, no. 523. Actieplan arbeidsmarktdiscriminatie en de kabinetsreactie op het SER/advies 'Discriminatie werkt niet!', 23 May 2014.

⁴¹ *Kamerstukken II*, 2014-2015 29 544 nr. 649/ Voortgangsrapportage actieplan arbeidsmarktdiscriminatie.



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.

3.1 Main Findings

- The numbers of both immigrants and emigrants are rising. In 2016, around 231,000 immigrants arrived in the Netherlands while almost 152,000 emigrants left. The total net-migration number was 79,194, which indicates 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 2016, about one in seven of all immigrants was originally born in the Netherlands.
- Many of the Dutch nationals that (re-)entered the Netherlands in 2016 came from the neighbouring countries Belgium and Germany. Other common countries of departure of Dutch nationals are other European countries or former Dutch colonies.
- During the last five years, the yearly number of immigrants born in non-Western countries has substantially increased to over 90 thousand in 2016. For the first time since 2006, more immigrants from non-Western countries than from EU countries came to the Netherlands.
- Within ten years, the number of foreign-born immigrants from EU Member States more than doubled from to almost 82 thousand immigrants in 2016.
- The influx of immigrants born in other European countries has been relatively stable over the last six years. In 2016, this number corresponded to almost 14,500 persons.
- The country with the biggest increase in the number of migrants coming to the Netherlands is Syria.
- Family migration is most often named as the reason for settling in the Netherlands (33%). In 2015, almost 52,000 new family immigrants registered in Dutch municipalities.
- The number of immigrants who settled in the Netherlands for reasons of labour increased significantly between 2000 and 2015: from about 11,500 to 30,500.
- Over the past decade there has been an increase in the total number of asylum migrants *settling* in the Netherlands: from 2,400 new asylum immigrants in 2005 to almost 27,000 in 2015.
- The number of migrants settling in the Netherlands for reasons of study increased significantly in the last fifteen years, from about 6,800 in 2000 to 19,800 in 2015.
- Dutch' emigrants are primarily oriented towards other European countries, such as Germany and the United Kingdom.

3.2 Main Migration Trends in the Netherlands

Immigration. Since 1980, there has been a significant increase in the number of immigrants entering the Netherlands. The highest peak was in 2016. In 2016 almost 231,000 individuals came to the Netherlands (see also Figure 3.1 and Appendix Table 3.1a).

Emigration. In addition to an increase in immigration, the number of emigrants also has increased steadily over the last ten years. The highest peak was reached in 2016; in this year, almost 152,000 emigrants left the Netherlands, around 2,000 more than in 2015 (see also Figure 3.1 and Appendix Table 3.1a).

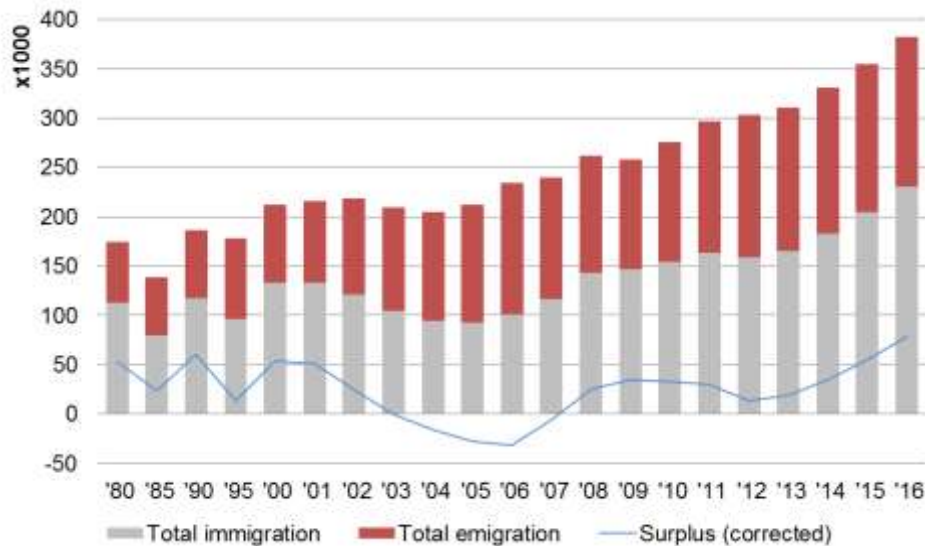
Surplus. The migration surplus, also referred to as the net migration rate, is the difference between immigrants and emigrants. Hence, a positive value represents more individuals entering than leaving the country, while a negative value implies a reverse picture. In Dutch statistics a distinction is 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 1 for an explanation.

Box 1

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.⁴²

Figure 3.1 shows fluctuations regarding the net migration rate over the past 25 years. For most years, the net migration did not reach values below zero. The only exception to this trend was observed between 2003 and 2007, when the net migration rate fluctuated between -317 and -31,320. The negative net migration in these four years should be attributed to a decline in the number of immigrants in this period, while the number of emigrants remained stable. After 2007, the Netherlands again became 'a country of immigration'. The surplus has never been as high as in 2016 (79,194), when the Netherlands noticed an increase in the number of immigrants. See Appendix Table 3.1a for a complete overview of the net migration rates between 1975 and 2016.

Figure 3.1 Immigration to and emigration from the Netherlands, and net migration rate (surplus), 1995-2016



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

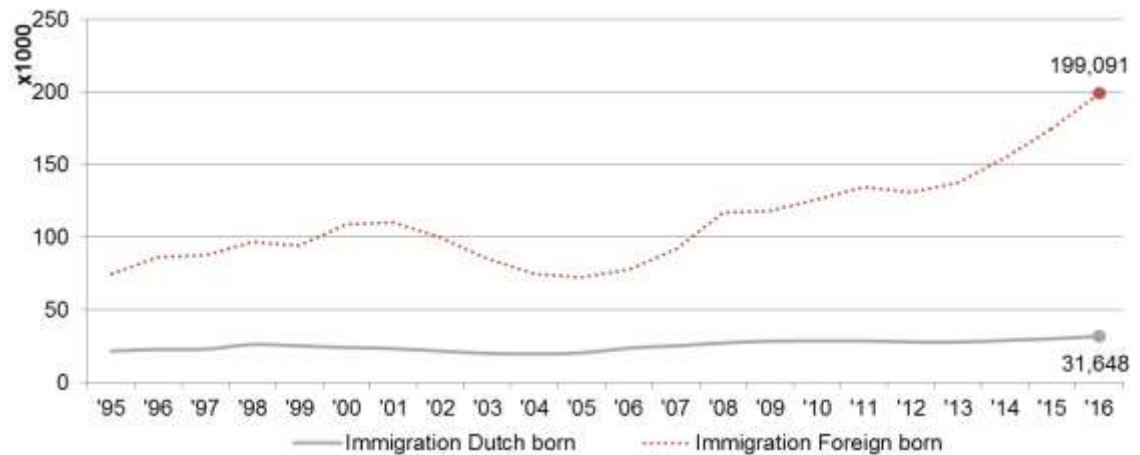
3.3 Re-immigration of Dutch Persons Born in the Netherlands

In official Dutch migration statistics, a distinction is drawn 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. Immigration statistics of foreign-born persons will be discussed in section 3.4.

A large proportion of the immigrants who are (re-)entering the Netherlands are originally born in the Netherlands (14%). Figure 3.2 shows the number of Dutch-born immigrants over a long period of time (1995-2016), compared to the number of foreign-born immigrants. The influx of Dutch immigrants has been relatively stable over the years fluctuating between 20,000 and 30,000 immigrants each year.

⁴² 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 a municipality in the Netherlands.

Figure 3.2 Immigration by Dutch and foreign-born nationals, 1995-2016

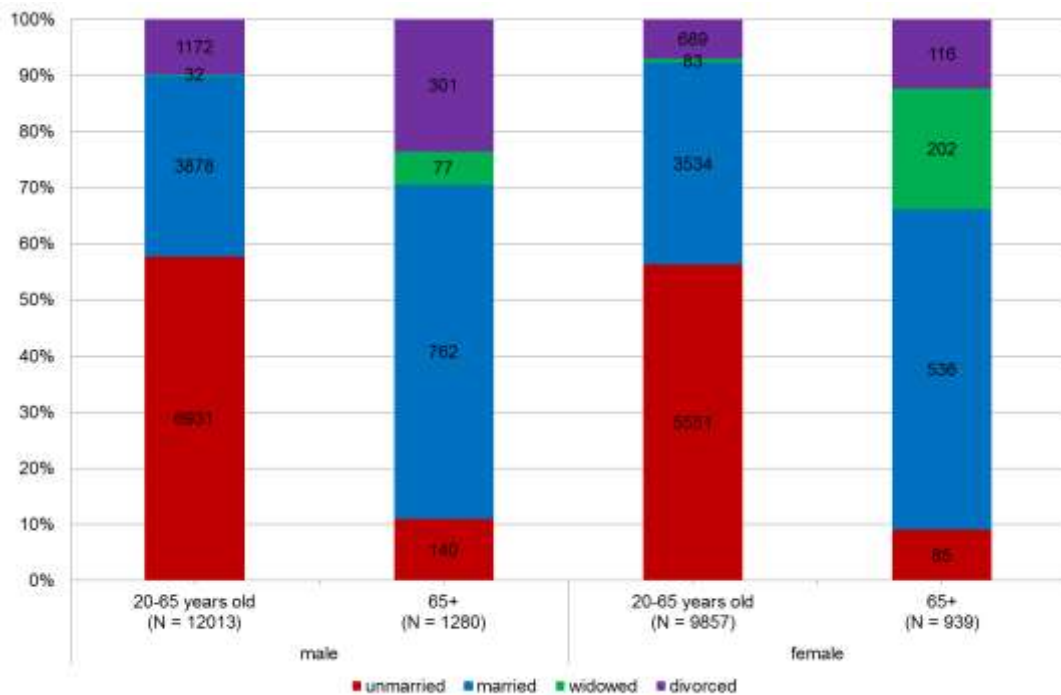


Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

3.3.1 Background and composition of Dutch nationals

In 2016, 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 2016 and Appendix (Table 3.2a) for the demographic background of these immigrants for 2014 to 2016.

Figure 3.3 Age, sex and marital status of immigrants born in the Netherlands, 31 December 2016



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

3.3.2 Background and composition of Dutch nationals, by nationality

Almost a quarter of the Dutch nationals that (re-)entered the Netherlands in 2016 came from the neighbouring countries Belgium (11.7%) and Germany (10%). These numbers are based on nationality, not on country of birth as in the previous section. Other common countries of departure of Dutch nationals were either European countries (the UK, Spain, and France) or former Dutch colonies (Netherlands Antil-

les and Suriname). The United States and Turkey are the only countries on the Top 10 list that do not fall in these two categories (see Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Top 10 Countries of departure of Dutch nationals, 2016⁴³

	Abs.	%
Belgium	5,702	11.7
Germany	4,849	10.0
Curaçao	3,507	7.2
United Kingdom	3,460	7.1
United States of America	2,355	4.8
Spain	2,012	4.1
Turkey	1,972	4.1
France	1,491	3.1
Neth. Antilles + Aruba	1,452	3.0
Suriname	1,406	2.9
Other	20,375	41.9
Total	48,581	100.0

Source: Statistics Netherlands, 2017

3.4 Immigration of Foreigners, by Country of Birth

In this section, migration statistics for foreign-born nationals will be discussed. In line with official Dutch statistics, a distinction is made between immigrants (i) from the 28 EU countries, (ii) from countries within Europe that do not belong to the European Union (such as Switzerland, Norway and Turkey), (iii) other Western countries outside Europe (e.g. the United States, Canada, and Japan), and (iv) non-Western countries. See Figure 3.4 for an overview of the number of immigrants in the Netherlands from these country groups between 2000 and 2014.

EU countries. As shown in Figure 3.4, the total number of foreign-born immigrants from EU countries was relatively stable between 2000 and 2006, with on average approximately 25,000 new foreign immigrants per year. However, after 2006, a strong and continuous increase occurred. Over the last ten years, the number of immigrants born in EU countries more than doubled from about 31,000 in 2006 to almost 82,000 immigrants in 2016. This is mainly due to the fact that Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia became members of the European Union in the last decade.

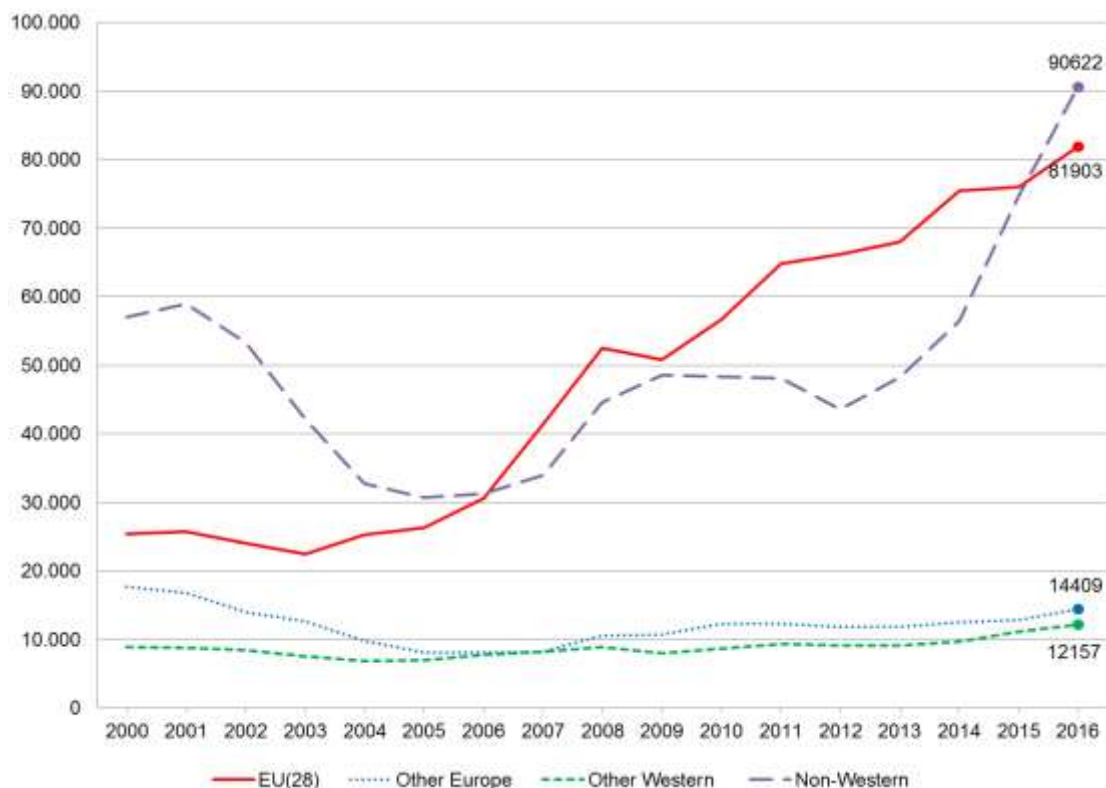
Other European countries. Between 2000 and 2016, the influx of immigrants born in other European countries fluctuated between 8,000 and 17,000 individuals. In 2016, almost 14,500 individuals came to the Netherlands.

Other Western countries. During the years prior to 2014 the number of immigrants from 'other Western countries' remained more or less stable, with approximately 8,000 new immigrants coming to the Netherlands each year. Most recently, however, there has been a slight increase. In 2016, more than 12,000 persons came to the Netherlands.

Non-Western countries. In 2016, most immigrants came from non-Western countries. Between 2000 and 2014, the number of non-Western immigrants stayed below 60 thousand immigrants each year. However, during the past two years, this number sharply increased. In 2016, it reached a peak when more than 90 thousand immigrants arrived in the Netherlands. This increase is consistent with the increase of asylum migrants in the Netherlands (see chapter 5).

⁴³ These figures are not comparable to the figures presented in Figure 3.2. Figures in Table 3.1 refer to nationality, while figures in Figure 3.2 refer to country of birth.

Figure 3.4 Immigration of foreign-born nationals to the Netherlands by country-groups, 2000-2016¹



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017) – own calculations

1. For two reasons, these figures differ from those presented by Statistics Netherlands. Firstly, Statistics Netherlands categorizes Turkey both within the ‘Europe’ category and ‘non-Western category’. To avoid duplication, we only placed Turkey within the ‘other Europe’ category and not within the ‘non-Western’ category. Secondly, we placed immigrants from former Czechoslovakia within the ‘other Europe’ category and not within ‘EU(28)’. The reasons for this being that on 1 January 1993 (before the reporting period), Czechoslovakia was formally separated into two independent countries: Czech Republic and Slovakia. These last two countries are both included in the EU(28) category.

3.4.1 Enlargement of the European Union (EU)

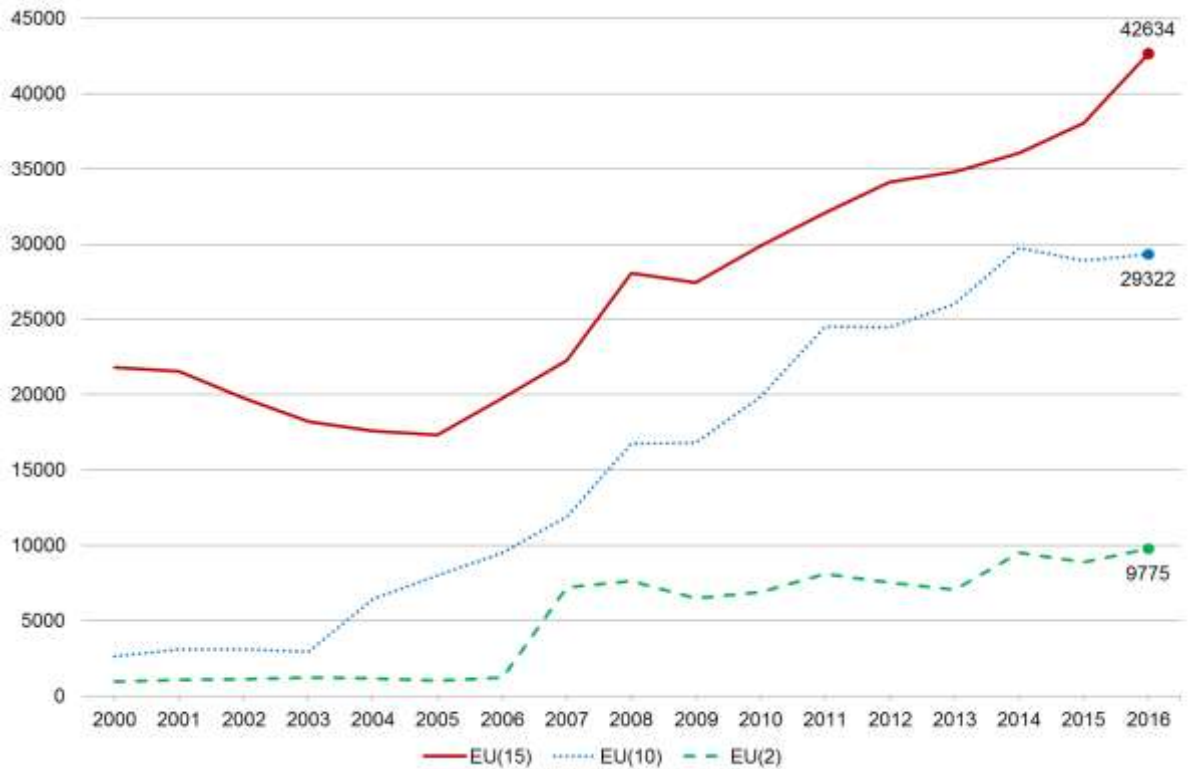
As mentioned above, the increase of foreign-born immigrants from the EU during the last decade cannot be understood without referring to the accession of ten new Member States on 1 May 2004, the largest enlargement of the EU so far.⁴⁴ As shown in Figure 3.5, this enlargement resulted in a notable growth in the number of immigrants from these new EU Member States (EU-10). Whereas in 2004 the number of immigrants in the Netherlands from EU-10 countries was just over 6,000, this number increased to almost 30,000 in 2016.

On 1 January 2007, the EU enlarged again, this time to include Bulgaria and Romania. As shown in Figure 3.5, this new enlargement strongly encouraged new patterns of immigration to the Netherlands. Specifically, the number of immigrants born in Bulgaria and Romania together increased massively from 1,250 in 2006 to about 9,800 in 2016.

Finally, on 1 July 2013, Croatia has become the twenty-eighth EU-Member State. Although the number of Croatian immigrants has tripled from 41 immigrants in 2013 to 172 immigrants in 2016, these numbers remains very small.

⁴⁴ Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Figure 3.5 Immigration to the Netherlands of foreign-born nationals from EU countries (old versus new), 2000-2016¹



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ EU(15) refers to the original EU countries. 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.

3.4.2 Individual countries

In the previous sections, immigration statistics were discussed on a country-group level. However, it is also interesting to look at these statistics on a more detailed level of individual countries. Table 3.2 shows the largest growing and declining national suppliers of migrants over the past decade.

Fastest growth. Syria and Eritrea are two countries with a sharp increase of migrants coming to the Netherlands. In addition, there is a rapidly growing number of immigrants from India and several Central European countries.

Fastest decline. Over the last ten years, the number of migrants from Burundi and Ghana decreased most rapidly. In addition, immigrants from the Ivory Coast and Tanzania also showed a rapid decrease in the number of people migrating to the Netherlands.

Table 3.2 The fastest growing and declining numbers of immigrants in the Netherlands by country of birth (absolute and %), 2006-2016

	2006	2016	Difference	
			Abs.	%
Fastest growing				
1. Syria	132	27,971	27,839	21,090.2
2. Poland	8,364	23,057	14,693	175.7
3. India	2,121	7,496	5,375	253.4
4. Bulgaria	473	4,763	4,290	907.0
5. Romania	777	5,012	4,235	545.0
6. Italy	1,415	5,608	4,193	296.3
7. Germany	6,046	9,495	3,449	57.0
8. Eritrea	73	3,189	3,116	4,268.5
9. Spain	1,351	4,393	3,042	225.2
10. China	3,053	5,975	2,922	95.7
Fastest declining				
1. Burundi	331	54	-277	-83.7
2. Ghana	690	568	-122	-17.7
3. Ivory Coast	117	37	-80	-68.4
4. Tanzania	161	91	-70	-43.5
5. Nepal	273	209	-64	-23.4
6. Cameroon	164	101	-63	-38.4
7. Myanmar	108	52	-56	-51.9
8. Congo	71	27	-44	-62.0
9. Liberia	70	29	-41	-58.6
10. Congo (Democratic Republic)	200	163	-37	-18.5

Source: Regioplan calculations on the basis of Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

With regard to the ten fastest growing migrant supplying countries, it appears that slightly more male than female immigrants entered the Netherlands (55%) in 2016. Especially many immigrants from Syria are male. Furthermore, the majority of the immigrants were unmarried. However, the exact pattern differs per country of origin. For example, for Indians the proportion of married immigrants is relatively high, while for immigrants from EU countries this share is notably lower. The average age of immigrants coming to the Netherlands in 2016 is around 26 years. The (on average) youngest migrants of the ten countries on the list originate from Eritrea (16 years). See Table 3.3 for a complete overview of the demographic background of foreign immigrants from the ten fastest growing groups by country of origin over the last decade.

Table 3.3 Demographic background of foreign immigrants from the ten fastest growing groups by country of birth, 2016

	Abs.	Mean age	Most common age	% female	Unmarried	Married
1. Syria	27,971	24.6	6	38.7	64.0	34.7
2. Poland	23,057	29.2	24	45.3	85.6	12.1
3. Germany	9,495	25.4	20	56.0	91.0	7.6
4. India	7,496	27.0	27	41.3	63.0	36.7
5. China	5,975	25.6	23	57.2	82.9	15.9
6. Italy	5,608	26.6	23	42.1	93.0	6.6
7. Romania	5,012	28.8	19	46.0	90.6	8.4
8. Bulgaria	4,763	28.4	19	45.4	92.1	7.0
9. Spain	4,393	24.5	22	51.4	93.4	6.0
10. Eritrea	3,189	16.0	17	43.7	84.1	15.8
Total of Top 10	96,959	26.2	23	45.0	79.3	19.4

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

3.5 Migration Motives and Composition of Foreigners⁴⁵

There are some fluctuations over the years regarding the principal motives of migrants who settle in the Netherlands. In the following, we will discuss the main changes over the last decade according to migration motive (see also Figure 3.6) along with the demographic background of the immigrants (see Table 3.3).

Family. Between 2000 and 2015 family migration was most often the reason for settling in the Netherlands. Despite large fluctuations within this period of time, the yearly number of family migrants never dropped below the number of 28,900 (in 2005). This drop in 2005 should be attributed to the introduction of a new law which set more stringent requirements for family migrants before entering the country (Klaver & Odé, 2009). After 2007, however, there has been a relatively sharp and gradual increase until 2015, with almost 52,000 new family immigrants settling in the Netherlands that year. In 2015, the majority of the family immigrants were female. Over half (60%) of the family immigrants were aged between 21 and 40 years, and a quarter (27%) were under the age of twenty.

Labour. The number of immigrants who settled in the Netherlands for reasons of labour almost tripled from about 11,500 in 2000 to about 30,500 in 2015. The strongest growth took place in the period between 2005 and 2008 (from about 10,000 to about 22,300 in just three years). In 2015, about twenty percent of all immigrants came for reasons of labour. More than half was male and most labour migrants (male and female) were aged between 20 and 30 (51%) (see also Table 3.4). In Chapter 5 the immigration trends for labour migrants from outside the European Union will be discussed in more detail.

Asylum. Over the past ten years there has been an overall increase in the number of asylum migrants settling in the Netherlands (from 2,400 new asylum immigrants in 2005 to almost 27,000 in 2015). The expectation is that this number will further increase, as a result of the high number of asylum applications in 2015. Statistics on 2016 are, however, not yet public.

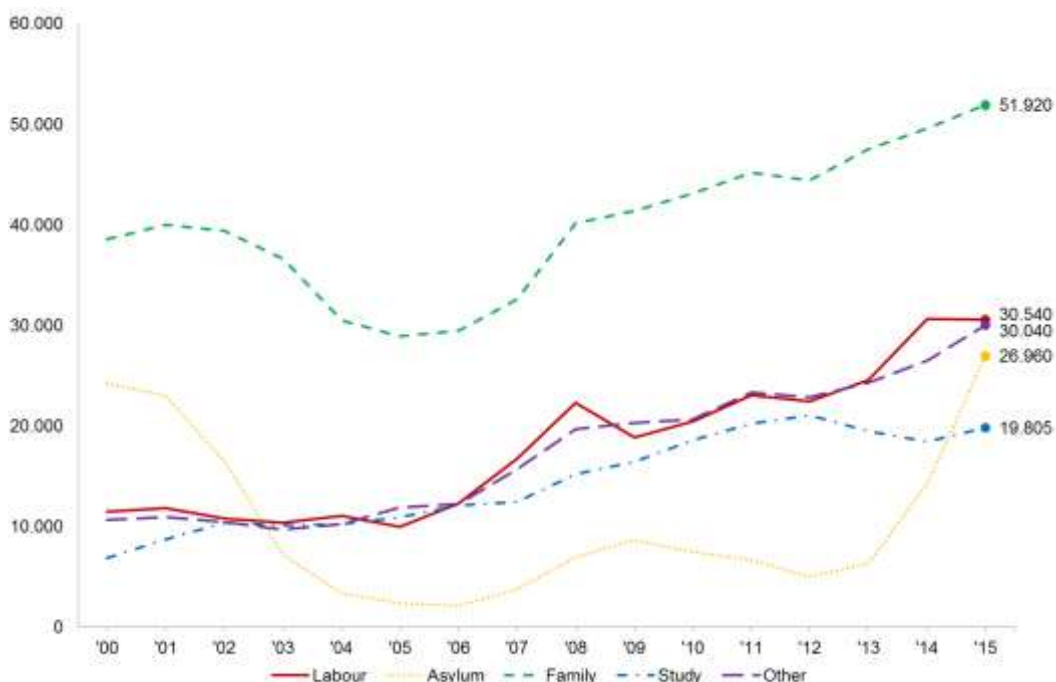
With respect to the male and female composition and age distribution, Table 3.4 reveals that, in 2015, more than half of the asylum immigrants were male, and many were younger than 20 years of age (39%). See Chapter 5 for a more extensive discussion on immigration for reasons of asylum.⁴⁶

Study. The settlement of migrants in the Netherlands for reasons of study more than doubled within the last decade, from 6,880 in 2000 to about 19,800 in 2015. This strongest periods of growth took place were 2000 and 2002 and between 2007 and 2012. Study migrants are usually aged between 20-30 years (64%), and there are slightly more females than males. More information about study migrants is presented in chapter 6.

⁴⁵ Most recent statistics are on 2015.

⁴⁶ The statistics presented in this section are not comparable to Chapter 5. Firstly because this chapter discusses the number of migrants who have *settled* in the Netherlands and are therefore registered in municipalities, while Chapter 5 only includes asylum requests. Secondly, Statistics Netherlands (our main source of data for both chapter 3 and 5), uses different sources for statistics presented in this section and those presented in chapter 5.

Figure 3.6 Migration motives, absolute numbers, 2000-2015



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

Table 3.4 Migration motives by sex and age, 2015 (percentages)⁴⁷

Migration motive	Abs.	% of total	Age group				Total	
			<20	20-30	30-40	>40		
Labour	30,540	19%	Male	2%	31%	21%	10%	65%
			Female	1%	20%	9%	5%	35%
Asylum	26,955	17%	Male	23%	18%	12%	9%	62%
			Female	16%	10%	7%	5%	38%
Family	51,920	33%	Male	13%	13%	10%	6%	42%
			Female	13%	22%	14%	8%	58%
Study	19,805	12%	Male	14%	29%	4%	1%	47%
			Female	14%	35%	3%	0%	53%
Other/ unknown	30,040	19%	Male	5%	25%	11%	9%	50%
			Female	7%	31%	6%	6%	50%
Total	159,260	100%		22%	45%	21%	13%	100%

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

3.5.1 Migration motives by country

The majority of the labour immigrants who settled in the Netherlands in 2015 were migrants from another EU country, such as Poland. With regard to asylum, more than half of the asylum seekers who are now registered in Dutch municipalities came from Syria. Fewer asylum seekers originated from Africa or other parts of the Middle-East. For family immigrants, there is a large variety with regard to their country of origin. In 2015, many family immigrants came from EU countries. Others originated from countries of which also many asylum immigrants (Syria) or labour immigrants (India) originate, or arrived from the traditionally large suppliers of migrants (Turkey). Finally, the group of study immigrants is also relatively

⁴⁷ For almost 20 percent of the new immigrants in 2015, their migration motive is categorized 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.

diverse with people coming from all around the world. The largest group of students originate from China. See Table 3.5 for the Top 10 list of countries of origin by migration motive.

Table 3.5 Top 10 Country of origin by migration motive, 2015

Labour (N=30,540)		Asylum (N=26,960)		Family (N=51,920)		Study (N=19,805)	
	%		%		%		%
Poland	22.3	Syria	63.3	Poland	16.7	China	12.9
India	9.8	Eritrea	10.2	Syria	7.1	United States	7.1
China	4.9	Ethiopia	8.6	Germany	5.1	Germany	5.6
United States	4.4	Iraq	1.8	India	4.3	Soviet Union ¹	5.0
Italy	3.8	Iran	1.4	United Kingdom	3.8	India	4.9
Romania	3.7	Afghanistan	1.3	Italy	3.5	Indonesia	4.3
Soviet Union ¹	3.7	Sudan	1.3	Soviet Union ¹	3.3	Brazil	3.8
United Kingdom	3.6	Somalia	1.1	Turkey	3.2	Poland	3.8
Germany	3.5	Soviet Union ¹	0.9	United States	2.9	South Korea	3.5
France	3.1	Pakistan	0.6	France	2.9	Bulgaria	3.1
Other	37.3	Other	9.4	Other	47.1	Other	46.0
Total	100.0	Total	100.0	Total	100.0	Total	100.0

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ Former Soviet Union excluding the Baltic states.

3.6 Emigration from the Netherlands

In this section we focus on the Dutch emigration statistics. What can be said about the 152,000 persons who emigrated from the Netherlands in 2016 and to which countries did they migrate?

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 emigrants from the Netherlands largely move to other European countries. Germany is the most popular destination, followed by the United Kingdom and Poland. Popular destinations outside Europe are the United States of America and China.

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 the United Kingdom are more often born in the Netherlands.

Table 3.6 Demographic background (sex and country of birth) of emigrants from the Netherlands, 2016 (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	127,320	100.0	51.5	48.5	48.0	33.5	18.4
Total Western	92,958	73.0	51.5	48.5	46.1	33.7	20.2
Total Europe	83,120	65.3	51.8	48.2	47.6	32.9	19.5
Total non-Western	32,560	25.6	51.1	48.9	56.3	33.6	10.2
Germany	13,765	10.8	50.6	49.4	40.7	37.5	21.9
United Kingdom	10,243	8.0	51.6	48.4	24.7	36.6	38.7
Poland	10,052	7.9	56.2	43.8	92.1	6.5	1.4
Belgium	9,717	7.6	51.1	48.9	13.7	57.0	29.3
United States of America	6,916	5.4	48.3	51.7	37.7	38.9	23.5
Spain	6,191	4.9	51.1	48.9	36.8	42.6	20.5
Turkey	4,436	3.5	49.8	50.2	55.9	40.3	3.8
France	4,131	3.2	50.1	49.9	41.3	36.9	21.9
China	3,243	2.5	47.1	52.9	73.0	16.3	10.7
India	3,071	2.4	59.9	40.1	90.5	6.6	2.9

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹The 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), 1975-2016

	Immigration		Emigration		Net-migration (surplus)	
	Dutch nationals	Foreign nationals	Dutch nationals	Foreign nationals	Corrected	Uncorrected
1975	72,016	55,248				72,055
1980	32,684	79,820	36,423	25,525	50,556	53,034
1985	33,196	46,166	32,297	27,178	19,887	24,147
1990	36,086	81,264	39,059	29,880	48,411	60,006
1991	35,912	84,337	38,888	31,751	49,610	62,921
1992	33,904	83,022	38,680	35,128	43,118	58,092
1993	31,581	87,573	40,584	34,204	44,366	59,932
1994	30,887	68,424	42,807	36,421	20,083	37,156
1995	29,127	66,972	48,495	33,700	13,904	32,778
1996	31,572	77,177	49,544	42,401	16,804	43,424
1997	33,124	76,736	47,554	34,419	27,887	47,642
1998	40,706	81,701	45,078	34,211	43,118	61,966
1999	40,786	78,365	46,485	32,294	40,372	60,128
2000	41,467	91,383	47,871	31,106	53,873	71,649
2001	38,897	94,507	50,714	31,852	50,838	70,086
2002	34,631	86,619	57,324	39,594	24,332	54,522
2003	30,948	73,566	60,970	43,861	-317	35,629
2004	28,898	65,121	64,161	46,074	-16,216	18,970
2005	28,882	63,415	72,537	47,188	-27,428	8,898
2006	33,493	67,657	79,986	52,484	-31,320	10,122
2007	36,561	80,258	74,649	47,927	-5,757	25,532
2008	40,160	103,356	68,027	49,752	25,737	53,449
2009	41,968	104,410	54,406	57,491	34,481	61,021
2010	44,197	110,235	57,307	64,044	33,081	62,982
2011	44,505	118,457	62,980	70,214	29,768	56,777
2012	42,696	115,678	63,729	80,762	13,883	48,018
2013	42,451	122,321	62,619	83,050	19,103	47,592
2014	43,601	139,348	64,419	83,443	35,087	60,701
2015	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	55,106	77,731
2016	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	79,194	103,419

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ For 2015 and 2016, only the total figures for immigration (2015: 204,615; 2016: 230,739), emigration (2015: 149,509; 2016: 151,545) and the net-migration (corrected and uncorrected) are currently available. There are no statistics based on nationality available where immigration and emigration is disaggregated by Dutch and foreign nationals.

Appendix Table 3.2a Age, sex, and marital status of Dutch-born immigrants, 2014-2016

		2014			2015			2016		
		Abs.	% of total	% female	Abs.	% of total	% female	Abs.	% of total	% female
<20 year	Unmarried	7,257	99.9	49.9	7,196	100.0	50.3	7,557	100.0	49.1
	Married	7	0.1	85.7	2	0.0	100.0	2	0.0	100.0
	Widowed	0	0.0		0	0.0		0	0.0	
	Divorced	0	0.0		0	0.0		0	0.0	
	Total	7,264	100.0	50.0	7,198	100.0	50.3	7,559	100.0	49.1
20-65 year	Unmarried	11,058	56.3	44.2	11,783	57.3	43.7	12,482	57.1	44.5
	Married	6,689	34.1	47.8	6,896	33.6	47.6	7,412	33.9	47.7
	Widowed	85	0.4	75.3	103	0.5	73.8	115	0.5	72.2
	Divorced	1,792	9.1	37.2	1,766	8.6	36.4	1,861	8.5	37.0
	Total	19,624	100.0	44.9	20,548	100.0	44.5	21,870	100.0	45.1
65+	Unmarried	168	9.0	34.5	206	9.6	38.3	225	10.1	37.8
	Married	1,115	59.7	41.3	1,287	60.3	39.5	1,298	58.5	41.3
	Widowed	240	12.8	66.3	267	12.5	71.5	279	12.6	72.4
	Divorced	345	18.5	29.0	376	17.6	29.3	417	18.8	27.8
	Total	1868	100.0	41.6	2,136	100.0	41.6	2,219	100.0	42.3
Total	Unmarried	18,483	64.3	46.4	19,185	64.2	46.1	20,264	64.0	46.1
	Married	7,811	27.2	46.9	8,185	27.4	46.3	8,712	27.5	46.7
	Widowed	325	1.1	68.6	370	1.2	72.2	394	1.2	72.3
	Divorced	2,137	7.4	35.9	2,142	7.2	35.1	2,278	7.2	35.3
	Total	28,756	100.0	46.0	29,882	100.0	45.7	31,648	100.0	45.8

Source: Statistics Netherlands. Online statistics (2017)

Appendix Table 3.3a Immigration to the Netherlands by country of birth¹, 2006-2016

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Western	66,658	79,997	94,919	93,667	101,623	110,751	110,905	112,726	122,878	126,126	135,603
Total Europe	62,106	74,644	90,131	89,754	97,464	105,501	105,657	107,404	116,745	118,734	127,960
<i>of whom from</i>											
EU-28	54,048	66,467	79,519	79,013	85,143	93,248	93,876	95,611	104,207	105,893	113,551
<i>of whom from</i>											
EU-15	43,267	47,274	55,068	55,685	58,299	60,577	61,825	62,432	64,826	67,930	74,282
<i>of whom from</i>											
The Netherlands	23,484	24,984	26,999	28,248	28,397	28,462	27,676	27,612	28,756	29,882	31,648
Germany	6,046	6,783	8,512	8,299	9,391	9,258	8,599	8,094	8,077	8,535	9,495
United Kingdom	3,306	3,692	4,326	4,034	4,033	4,119	4,285	4,593	4,786	5,193	5,938
Italy	1,415	1,619	2,231	2,310	2,494	2,768	3,306	3,855	4,634	5,025	5,608
Spain	1,351	1,509	2,177	2,356	2,764	3,205	4,040	4,558	4,238	4,170	4,393
France	1,886	2,136	2,855	2,696	2,800	2,820	2,838	3,059	3,458	3,841	4,220
Belgium	1,911	2,125	2,392	2,220	2,496	2,710	3,012	2,970	3,195	3,276	3,765
Greece	842	846	1,222	1,175	1,674	2,429	3,043	2,687	2,357	2,543	2,920
Portugal	1,211	1,577	2,002	1,983	1,530	1,727	2,051	2,079	1,887	1,860	1,961
Finland	301	384	445	453	522	636	651	580	663	783	981
Ireland	273	342	392	549	589	669	556	596	702	706	895
Sweden	500	507	578	579	642	725	747	683	773	890	876
Austria	361	373	461	400	486	533	470	486	657	592	708
Denmark	327	325	402	321	399	425	460	480	504	483	645
Luxembourg	53	72	74	62	82	91	91	100	139	151	229
EU-10	9,526	11,934	16,772	16,798	19,902	24,520	24,493	26,043	29,757	28,928	29,322
<i>of whom from</i>											
Poland	8,364	10,253	14,107	13,231	15,022	19,090	18,591	20,532	23,923	23,029	23,057
Hungary	586	991	1,669	2,169	2,367	2,539	2,955	2,646	2,698	2,808	2,687
Lithuania	253	298	388	519	979	1,225	1,128	1,183	1,042	1,078	1,170
Latvia	107	116	219	500	933	979	1,103	865	1,038	939	973
Slovakia	26	59	69	53	83	72	126	134	210	274	425
Czech Republic	51	57	92	83	115	129	132	169	224	244	311
Estonia	64	75	113	136	270	316	273	263	278	198	258
Cyprus	32	47	70	67	70	109	105	141	147	171	209
Slovenia	15	10	11	8	22	29	32	65	156	138	161
Malta	28	28	34	32	41	32	48	45	41	49	71
EU-2	1,250	7,252	7,669	6,521	6,938	8,120	7,536	7,095	9,536	8,897	9,775
Romania	777	2,412	2,495	2,227	2,697	2,820	2,615	2,664	4,514	4,244	5,012
Bulgaria	473	4,840	5,174	4,294	4,241	5,300	4,921	4,431	5,022	4,653	4,763
Croatia	5	7	10	9	4	31	22	41	88	138	172
Other Europe	8,058	8,177	10,612	10,741	12,321	12,253	11,781	11,793	12,538	12,841	14,409
<i>of whom from</i>											
Turkey	3,175	2,855	4,048	4,099	4,460	4,065	3,887	3,809	3,570	3,747	4,514
Soviet Union	1,938	2,167	2,629	2,787	3,209	3,304	3,138	2,774	3,017	3,028	3,098
Yugoslavia	783	903	1,048	1,124	1,134	1,264	1,233	1,393	1,507	1,362	1,429
Czechoslovakia	1,077	1,123	1,533	1,270	1,611	1,543	1,354	1,331	1,487	1,318	1,192
Switzerland	379	408	455	442	527	556	553	601	668	663	815
Russian Federati- on	111	97	116	128	221	316	372	459	542	669	767
Norway	277	247	294	326	430	374	357	430	419	436	558
Ukraine	59	53	67	85	100	132	164	226	301	450	511

Appendix Table 3.3a (part 2)¹

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Other Western	7,727	8,208	8,836	8,012	8,619	9,315	9,135	9,131	9,703	11,139	12,157
<i>of whom from</i>											
United States of America	3,293	3,477	3,755	3,417	3,726	4,151	4,187	4,021	4,311	5,121	5,257
Indonesia	1,432	1,548	1,589	1,433	1,560	1,693	1,468	1,605	1,713	1,782	2,133
Japan	1,187	1190	1214	1,083	1053	1,152	1,135	1060	1,151	1,260	1,549
Australia	850	907	1,001	921	1,010	1,036	948	1,039	1,100	1,331	1,489
Canada	681	748	911	821	914	900	1039	1,031	1,041	1,182	1,237
New Zealand	263	311	342	312	335	364	324	357	368	433	457
Total non-Western	34,492	36,822	48,597	52,711	52,809	52,211	47,469	52,046	60,071	78,489	95,136
<i>of whom from</i>											
Syria	132	153	188	204	305	283	530	1,944	8,619	20,964	27,971
India	2,121	2,635	3,583	3,226	3,342	3,959	4,124	4,635	5,249	6,342	7,496
China	3,053	3,667	4,772	4,841	5,036	5,959	5,625	5,150	5,190	5,705	5,975
(former) Netherlands Antilles and Aruba	2,693	3,187	3,870	4,040	4,432	4,180	3,729	3,443	3,364	3,417	3,642
Iraq	1,215	2,204	4,116	3,765	2,193	1,956	1,887	1,803	1,509	1,535	3,446
Eritrea	73	118	122	217	290	307	227	458	2,083	3,311	3,189
Ethiopia	389	432	508	520	564	596	507	561	1,268	2,729	3,116
Iran	678	837	1,015	1,267	1,480	1,849	1,533	1,550	1,165	1,255	2,637
Afghanistan	648	521	620	1,094	1,679	1,768	1,354	1,259	910	970	2,436
Brazil	1,157	1,250	1,569	1,475	1,587	1,564	1,496	1,990	2,106	2,643	2,335
Morocco	2,085	1,724	2,117	2,388	2,371	2,675	2,272	2326	2,373	1,963	2,274
Suriname	1,841	1,991	2,259	2,217	2,148	2,067	1,882	1,724	1,609	1,698	1,931
South Africa	792	921	1,255	1,041	948	1,046	971	1,018	1,121	1,336	1,708
Republic of Korea	526	563	595	588	743	888	811	920	1,036	1,178	1,409
Philippines	643	706	1,107	1,083	1,056	964	969	1,114	1,084	1,086	1,195
Egypt	460	443	536	789	709	672	714	828	829	797	1,072
Colombia	591	498	673	773	855	843	810	988	811	839	972
Pakistan	898	726	615	681	699	806	819	839	733	917	928
Thailand	824	682	914	866	910	942	848	780	755	785	877
Mexico	377	398	490	454	532	572	599	632	674	816	861
Somalia	773	1,457	2,535	5,153	4,384	2,345	984	2,849	1,771	954	830
Vietnam	335	307	401	420	440	503	437	443	486	560	774
Taiwan	381	404	463	418	457	487	394	462	512	548	695
Saudi Arabia	90	168	183	310	417	250	204	340	421	540	579
Singapore	182	181	222	233	303	306	365	371	436	422	572
Ghana	690	508	802	1,287	840	870	631	642	588	563	568
Sudan	142	130	172	186	251	343	236	241	394	493	559
Israel	345	350	418	348	298	370	388	409	477	631	557
Dominican Republic	448	424	489	579	644	639	554	560	569	498	511
Argentina	214	206	302	274	329	302	343	396	444	483	488
Nigeria	490	522	618	695	664	682	558	569	599	528	457
Lebanon	183	135	149	149	102	143	129	177	168	330	452
Venezuela	194	205	279	289	315	307	365	301	379	395	410
Total	101,150	116,819	143,516	146,378	154,432	162,962	158,374	164,772	182,949	204,615	230,739

¹Non-EU countries with fewer than 400 immigrants have not been included.

Appendix Table 3.4a The number of immigrants by migration motive between 1999-2015

	Labour		Asylum		Family		Study		No motive ¹		Other/ unknown		Total
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.
1999	11,035	9.1	16,705	13.8	34,530	28.6	6,135	5.1	43,250	35.8	9,275	7.7	120,935
2000	11,495	8.5	24,215	17.9	38,540	28.4	6,880	5.1	43,805	32.3	10,660	7.9	135,595
2001	11,820	8.7	23,020	17.0	40,030	29.5	8,700	6.4	41,305	30.4	10,900	8.0	135,780
2002	10,755	8.6	16,440	13.2	39,380	31.6	10,380	8.3	37,160	29.8	10,475	8.4	124,580
2003	10,360	9.7	7,170	6.7	36,655	34.2	10,080	9.4	33,255	31.0	9,700	9.0	107,215
2004	11,035	11.4	3,310	3.4	30,490	31.4	10,260	10.6	31,780	32.7	10,230	10.5	97,110
2005	9,975	10.4	2,400	2.5	28,915	30.1	10,895	11.3	32,160	33.4	11,875	12.3	96,220
2006	12,320	11.7	2,105	2.0	29,490	28.1	12,115	11.5	36,700	35.0	12,250	11.7	104,985
2007	16,745	13.8	3,760	3.1	32,560	26.9	12,470	10.3	39,865	32.9	15,715	13.0	121,115
2008	22,305	15.1	6,905	4.7	40,150	27.2	15,225	10.3	43,585	29.5	19,700	13.3	147,870
2009	18,880	12.5	8,640	5.7	41,420	27.5	16,465	10.9	45,045	29.9	20,310	13.5	150,760
2010	20,450	13.3	7,490	4.9	43,130	28.0	18,545	12.0	44,025	28.5	20,665	13.4	154,305
2011	23,065	14.1	6,640	4.1	45,185	27.7	20,200	12.4	44,950	27.5	23,360	14.3	163,400
2012	22,415	14.1	4,985	3.1	44,445	28.0	21,085	13.3	43,000	27.1	22,855	14.4	158,785
2013	24,595	14.9	6,340	3.8	47,545	28.8	19,500	11.8	42,785	25.9	24,270	14.7	165,040
2014	30,665	16.7	14,225	7.8	49,580	27.0	18,470	10.1	43,970	24.0	26,480	14.4	183,395
2015	30,540	14.9	26,960	13.2	51,920	25.4	19,805	9.7	45,405	22.2	30,040	14.7	204,670
Mean	17,556	12.6	10,665	7.6	39,645	28.4	13,954	10.0	40,709	29.2	16,986	12.2	139,515

Source: Statistics Netherlands. Online statistics (2017)

¹ Immigrants with the Dutch nationality.



Labour Migration in the Netherlands

4

4 Labour Migration in the Netherlands

This chapter addresses statistics on labour migration from outside the European Union. Someone's reason for moving to the Netherlands (for example, as highly skilled worker, employee, or student) determines what kind of authorisation they 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, this chapter provides an overview of the number of positive or 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.

4.1 Main Findings

- The number of applications for residence permits by labour migrants increased between 2015 and 2016. The highest number of applications come from third-country nationals who fall in the category 'knowledge and 'talent' migrants.
- Most decisions on residence permits are positive. Approval rates are higher within the category 'knowledge and talent' compared to 'labour migrants' (93% and 79% respectively).
- The number of residence permits issued to highly skilled workers and researchers (both subgroups of the 'knowledge and talent' category) are increasing. The majority of highly skilled labour migrants who were granted a first residence permit in 2016 either came from India or the United States. With respect to scientific researchers, Chinese migrants formed the largest group.
- Most decisions on requests for work permits or for advice on admission to employment were positive in 2016 (respectively 89% and 80%). Between 2015 and 2016, both the number of issued work permits and the number of favourable decisions on admission to employment increased (to respectively 5,207 and 2,470 in 2015)
- Most requests for a work permit or an advice on admission to employment are subject to 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 IT development or technical advice).

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 only require 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 require a work permit. If these migrants stay less than 90 days, their employer has to apply for a short-term work permit. For a stay of more than 90 days, employers can apply for a combined residence and work permit *Gecombineerde vergunning voor verblijven arbeid (GVVA)* (see also chapter 2, section 2.3). Box 1 provides an overview for which groups residence permits or work permits are required.

Box 1 Required permits for third-country nationals who come to the Netherlands for remunerated activities

	Residence permit	Work permit
'knowledge and talent'		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Highly skilled</i>: 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. No work permit is required for this category. 	V	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Scientific researcher</i>: a scientific researcher is an employee involved in a research project approved by a Dutch research institute in the Netherlands. No work permit is required for this category. 	V	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Self-employed and freelance workers</i> 	V	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recent graduates with an orientation year</i> 	V	
'labour migrants'		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Labour migrants staying longer than three months</i> 	V (GVVA)	V (GVVA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Labour migrants staying shorter than three months</i> 		V
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Migrants staying longer than three months who are already in possession of a residence permit (e.g. foreign students)</i> 		V

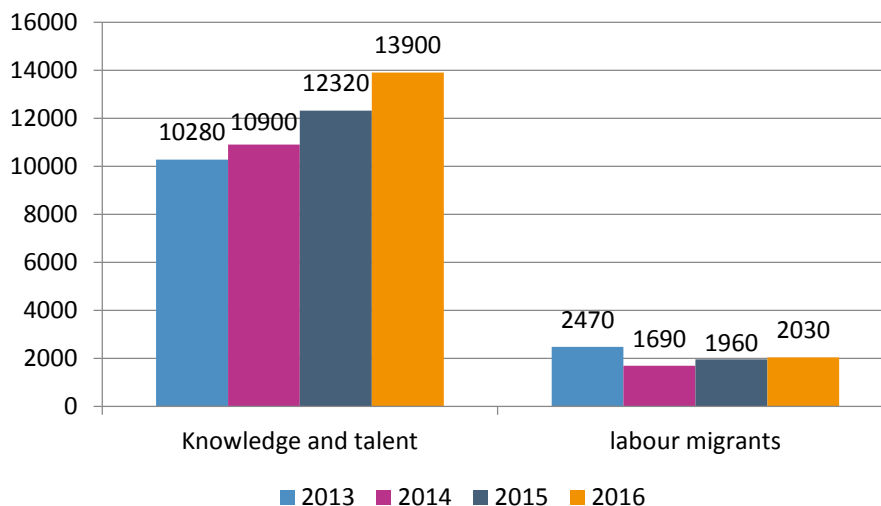
Source: EMN (2015); IND website (2016)

In this chapter, we will first provide information on residence permits issued to third-country nationals who come to the Netherlands. 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 (the 'labour migrants' category), the number of applications by this group is much smaller. Between 2014 and 2016, the number of applications for both categories increased (see Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 Number of residence permit applications (2013-2016)



Source: IND

Most applications for residence permits obtain a favourable decision by the IND, although the approval rate is much higher for the ‘knowledge and talent’ category (93% in 2016) than the ‘labour migrants’ category (79% in 2016). The percentage of positive decisions for labour migrants is, however, increasing.

Table 4.1 Positive decisions on residence permit applications, in percentages (2013-2016)

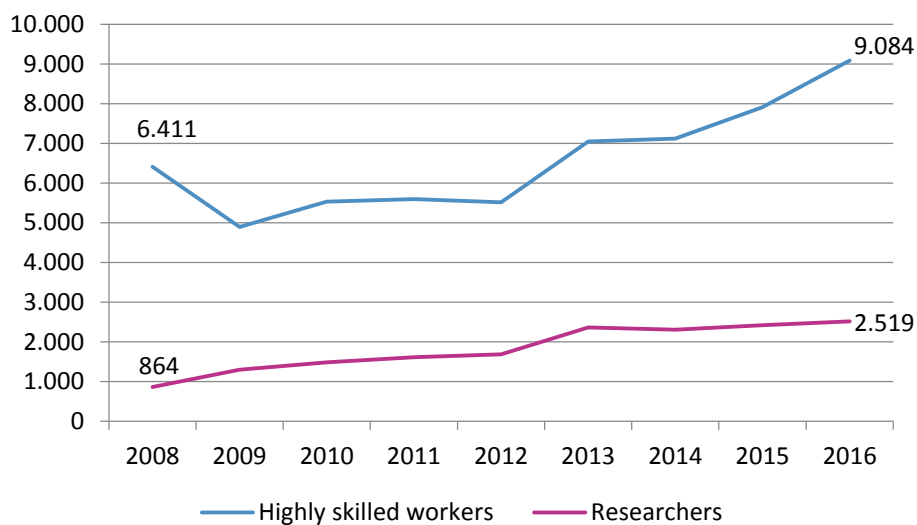
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Knowledge and talent	93%	93%	92%	93%
Labour migrants	67%	69%	80%	79%

Source: IND

4.3.1 Highly skilled migrants and scientific researchers

This section discusses the number of residence permits issued to highly skilled migrants and scientific researchers in more detail. These are subcategories of the ‘knowledge and talent’ group. The number of residence permits issued to these categories is increasing (see Figure 4.2). This increase is significant both for highly skilled workers (from around 6.400 in 2008 to over 9.000 in 2016) and for scientific researchers (from around 850 in 2008 to over 2.500 in 2016).

Figure 4.2 Number of granted first residence permits for highly skilled workers and researchers (2008-2016)



Source: Eurostat, 2017

Half of the highly skilled labour migrants who were granted a first residence permit in 2016 were either Indian (40%) or a United States citizen (11%). Within the category of scientific researchers, China (33%) is the only country that supplies a relatively high number of these migrants in the Netherlands (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 Top 10 Granted first residence permits for highly skilled migrants, by country of origin, 2016

Top 10 countries highly skilled migrants	abs	%	Top 10 countries scientific researchers	abs	%
India	3,605	39.7	China (including Hong Kong)	819	32.5
United States	969	10.7	India	171	6.8
China (including Hong Kong)	520	5.7	Iran	170	6.7
Turkey	466	5.1	Indonesia	136	5.4
Russia	440	4.8	United States	127	5.0
South Africa	297	3.3	Brazil	125	5.0
Japan	287	3.2	Turkey	90	3.6
Brazil	260	2.9	Japan	62	2.5
Ukraine	231	2.5	Mexico	59	2.3
Canada	177	1.9	Russia	49	1.9
Total	9,084	100	Total	2,519	100

Source: Eurostat

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’ (everyone except highly skilled workers, scientific researchers, the self-employed, and graduated students on an orientation year) (see Table 4.1).

In the Netherlands, the Employee Insurance Agency (*UWV*) assesses applications from employers for obtaining a work permit (*Tewerkstellingsvergunning, TWV*). Employers must apply for a TWV in case labour migrants stay for a shorter period than three months, or if the migrant overstays his initial contract period but is already in possession of a residence permit (e.g. in case of asylum seekers). If the migrant stays longer, however, 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 sent to the IND, after which the IND sends a request to the UWV to advice on the subject of 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 chapter, 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 2016, most decisions on requests for work permits were positive (89%). The total number of issued work permits increased between 2015 and 2016 (from 4,564 to 5,207). Nevertheless, fewer permits were issued in 2016 as compared to 2014 (5,673 permits) (see Table 4.3).

Advice procedures (GVVA). With respect to the advice procedures, 80 percent of the decisions were positive in 2016. This means that the chance of a favourable advice (GVVA) is lower than the chance of a positive decision for a work permit (TWV). Between 2015 and 2016 there was a slight increase regarding the number of favourable decisions (from 2,388 to 2,470) (see also Table 4.3).

Table 4.3 Handled requests for work permits and advice procedures (abs.) and decisions (%) (2014-2016)

	2014	2015	2016
Handled requests for work permits (TWV) (abs.)	6,833	5,245	5,843
Work permit denied (%)	10.5	7.2	6.9
Work permit issued (%)	83.0	87.0	89.1
Requests withdrawn (%)	6.1	5.4	3.9
Handled requests for advice procedures (GVVA) (abs.)⁴⁸	2,393	3,034	3,087
Unfavourable advice (%)	29.0	17.5	16.1
Favourable advice (%)	63.7	78.7	80
Requests withdrawn (%)	5.1	3.3	3.2
Total handled requests (for work permits or advice procedures) (abs.)	9,226	8,279	8,930
Work permits denied/unfavourable advice procedures (%)	15.3	11.0	10.1
Work permit issued/favourable advice procedures (%)	78.0	84.0	86
Requests withdrawn (%)	5.8	4.7	3.7

Source: UWV

4.4.2 Labour market test

Before an employer is allowed to hire an employee from outside the EU/EEA, employers must first prove that they are not able 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. 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 someone in the Dutch and/or European labour market within a certain period of time, the vacancy could not be filled.⁴⁹ 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 intercompany transferees in an executive position, for example, a labour market test is not needed.

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

- In general, the total number of granted TWVs and favourable advice procedures increased; from around 7,000 in 2015 to almost 7,700 in 2016.
- For three quarters of the applications, a limited labour market test was carried out in 2016. In other cases, full tests were conducted. However, there are large differences in applied tests between the two routes:
 - Issued work permits were usually the result of a limited labour market test (86.7%), while favourable advices were much more often the result of a full labour market test (50.2%).
 - Between 2015 and 2016, the number of full labour market tests for issued work permits increased (from 298 to 690), whereas this number decreased within the category of favourable advices (from 1,725 to 1,230).

⁴⁸ 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). This is because 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.

⁴⁹ For all conditions, see revised Aliens Employment Act (*Wav*), Article 8.

Table 4.4 Granted TWVs and favourable advice procedures for different labour market test (absolute figures and in %), 2015-2016

	Issued work permits		Favourable advices		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	<i>abs</i>		<i>abs</i>		<i>abs</i>	
No test	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limited test	4,266	4,515	662	1,240	4,928	5,755
Full test	298	690	1,725	1,230	2,023	1,920
Unknown	0	2	1	0	1	2
Total	4,564	5,207	2,388	2,470	6,952	7,677
	<i>%</i>		<i>%</i>		<i>%</i>	
No test	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Limited test	93.5	86,7	27.7	50.2	70.9	75
Full test	6.5	13.3	72.2	49.8	29.1	25
Unknown	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: UWV

4.4.3 Nationality and profession

Table 4.5 shows the composition of issued permits and positive advices by per nationality of the applicants. In 2016, the combined number of issued TWVs and favourable advice procedures were by far the highest for Chinese and Indian people, followed by Americans. Indian people most often received TWVs, while Chinese people most often received favourable advice procedures.

Table 4.5 Top 15 Highest numbers of issued work permits and favourable advice procedures, 2015-2016

2015	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	total	2016	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	total
Chinese	563	1,466	2,029	Chinese	651	1,418	2,069
Indian	1,639	116	1,755	Indian	1,562	133	1,695
American	529	253	782	American	731	241	972
South Korean	183	45	228	South Korean	172	35	207
Canadian	98	32	130	Canadian	131	41	172
Turkish	60	69	129	Turkish	58	108	166
Ukrainian	98	19	117	Indonesian	113	40	153
Taiwanese	99	9	108	Russian	120	23	143
Indonesian	94	13	107	Vietnamese	107	10	117
Russian	66	26	92	Taiwanese	107	10	117
Nepalese	89	2	91	South African	79	32	111
Suriname	75	5	80	Brazilian	60	50	110
Vietnamese	75	5	80	Ukraine	94	14	108
South African	41	37	78	Nepalese	89	11	100
Brazilian	55	23	78	Pakistan	79	16	95

Source: UWV

Table 4.6 shows the duration of issued work permits by the maximum period for which the work permit is issued. Between 2014 and 2016 most work permits were issued for a duration of less than three months. In addition, an increased number of permits for 3 to 12 months were issued during this period of time (e.g. asylum seekers).

Table 4.6 Duration of the Issued work permits (TWV) (2014-2016)

Duration	2014	2015	2016
< 3 months	3,640	2,382	2,925
3-12 months	1,396	1,764	2,114
12 months	212	277	28
1-3 years	308	123	134
unknown	26	18	6
Total	5,582	4,564	5,207

Source: UWV

Table 4.7 shows the total number of issued TWVs and favourable advice procedures per profession in 2015 and 2016, sorted by the total of positive decisions. Only the fifteen professions with the highest numbers of total favourable applications are included in the list. The four professions on top of the list are related to food preparation, advising technical/technology, research/analyses, and IT development/consulting. There are several professions for which the issuing of TWVs or favourable advice procedures have significantly increased. These are researcher/analyst (+37%), waiter or waitress (+64%), religious worker (+43%) and house/office cleaner (+77%). Conversely, the number of issued TWVs or favourable advice decisions has decreased for the IT development/consulting sector (-25%).

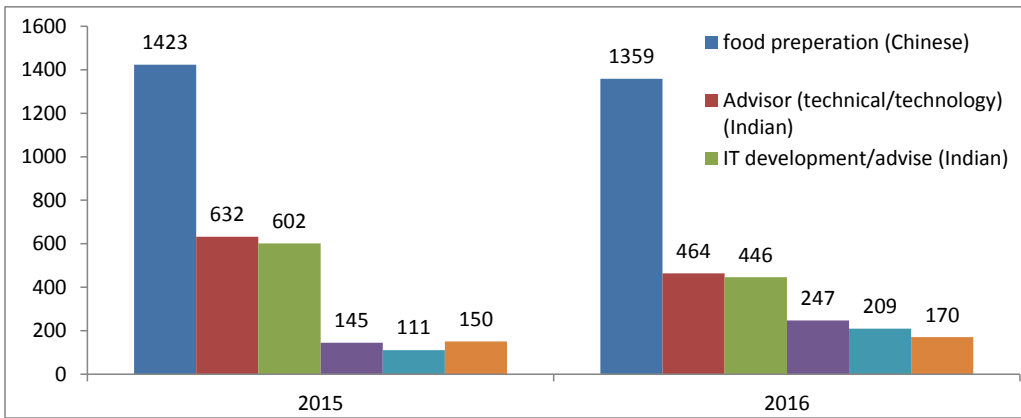
Table 4.7 Top 15 Highest numbers of issued work permits and favourable advice procedures, 2015-2016

2015	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	total	2016	Issued work permits	Favourable advice procedures	total
Food preparation	64	1,451	1,515	Food preparation	35	1,419	1,454
Advising technical/technology	993	66	1,059	Advising technical/technology	1,004	70	1,074
It development/consulting	789	13	802	Research/analysis	577	246	823
Research/analysis	391	212	603	It development/consulting	579	25	604
Religious worker	77	231	308	Serving: waiter/waitress	483	0	483
Serving: waiter/waitress	295	0	295	Religious worker	88	353	441
Staff work	262	0	262	Staff work	305	0	305
It management/processing	161	2	163	Cleaning: house/office	195	0	195
Organisational advice	114	37	151	It management/processing	184	1	185
Production work	146	1	147	Acting/directing/presenting	140	20	160
Leadership: cooperative	128	8	136	Leadership: cooperative	141	15	156
Design/construct	86	43	129	Consulting: commercial/economical	128	14	142
Cleaning: house/office	87	23	110	Consulting: organizational	124	11	135
Sports: professional	3	102	105	Design/construct	90	27	117
Leadership: department	78	10	88	Sports: professional	11	97	108
other	890	188	1078	other	1,123	172	1,295
Total	4,564	2,387	6,951	Total	5,207	2,470	7,677

Source: UWV

Figure 4.3 shows six combinations profession and nationality with the highest absolute numbers of granted TWVs or received favourable advice procedures in 2015 and 2016. Chinese labour migrants employed in the food preparation business were the largest group, followed by Indian labour migrants with professions related to IT development/advice or technical advice.

Figure 4.3 Top 5 Granted TWVs by combination of sector and nationality (absolute numbers), 2015-2016



Source: UWV



REGIOPLAN
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Immigration for Reasons of Asylum

5

5 Immigration for Reasons of Asylum

This chapter describes a number of recent developments with regard to patterns of migration of asylum seekers 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 about the number of asylum seekers accommodated by the central government in asylum centres.

Please note that the definition of an asylum request in asylum statistics was changed in the Netherlands in January 2014 (see box 1). This new definition has implications for comparisons in time and the analyses 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 1 Change of definition of asylum requests in asylum statistics

The definition of asylum requests in asylum statistics was changed in the Netherlands in January 2014. Previously, if the requests for family reunification were made within a period of three months after an asylum seeker has been granted a residence permit, these applications were counted as asylum applications. According to the new definition, this is no longer the case. 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

- The number of total asylum requests in the Netherlands declined between 2015 and 2016: from 45,035 to 21,025 (excl. requests made by family members).
- In 2016, most first asylum applications in the Netherlands came from refugees from Syria and Eritrea. All the same, the number of asylum applications from both countries decreased considerably compared to 2015.
- Between 2013-2016, more than 2,400 refugees were invited to settle in the Netherlands. Many of them originated from Syria.
- The proportion of positive decisions on asylum requests decreased somewhat between 2015 and 2016. Refugees with particularly high approval rates originated from Syria and Eritrea or were stateless.
- After a peak in the number of asylum requests from unaccompanied minor aliens (aged under 18) in 2015, there was a sharp decline in these requests thereafter (from 3,860 to 1,705). Almost half of the minors came from Eritrea.
- Consistent with the trend of total asylum applications during the past 15 years, the influx of asylum applicants in asylum centres peaked in 2015, and declined thereafter (from 60,426 in 2015 to 35,910 in 2016). Syrians accounted for the largest share.
- In 2017, the distribution of nationalities in asylum centres differs between unaccompanied minors and other asylum seekers. Within the group of unaccompanied minors, many originate from Afghanistan and Eritrea. Within the group of other asylum seekers, most originate from Syria.

5.2 Asylum Requests

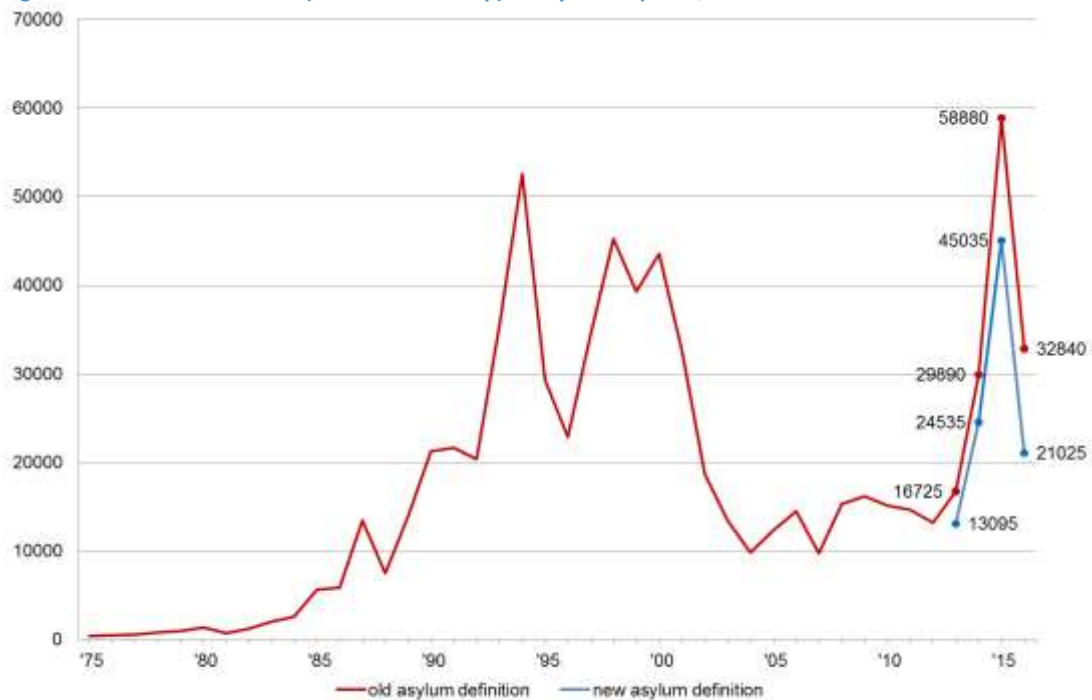
For the purpose of displaying not only the long-term trend in total asylum applications (first and follow-up), but also figures based on the new asylum definition in the Netherlands, Figure 5.1 includes two different trend lines. The red line depicts the trend between 1975-2016 in accordance with the old definition of asylum and, therefore, also includes applications of family members of refugees. The blue line shows the trend between 2013-2016 in accordance with the new definition and does not include applications of family members of refugees (see box 1 for a more detailed explanation on the change in definition).

Figure 5.1 shows that the number of total (first and follow-up) asylum requests fluctuated substantially during the last 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 in which the war in former Yugoslavia started, asylum migration to the Netherlands continued to increase until it reached its height in 1994 with more than 50,000 asylum requests. In the year 2001, when the new Dutch Aliens Act was implemented, the number of asylum requests dropped to 32,580 and 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 rose to a new height (58,880), while in 2016 it declined again to 32,840 requests.

If we look 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), then we see the same upward trend in asylum requests between 2014 and 2015 (from 13,095 to 45,035) and downward trend thereafter (21,025).

As of 2016, the number of first asylum requests includes relocations (i.e. asylum seekers who are relocated from Greece or Italy to the Netherlands). In 2016, there were 1,200 relocations, so without these relocations, the total number of requests (according to the new definition) would be 19,830.⁵⁰

Figure 5.1 Total numbers (first and follow-up) of asylum requests, 1975-2016¹



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ Data of 2012 and 2016 are provisional.

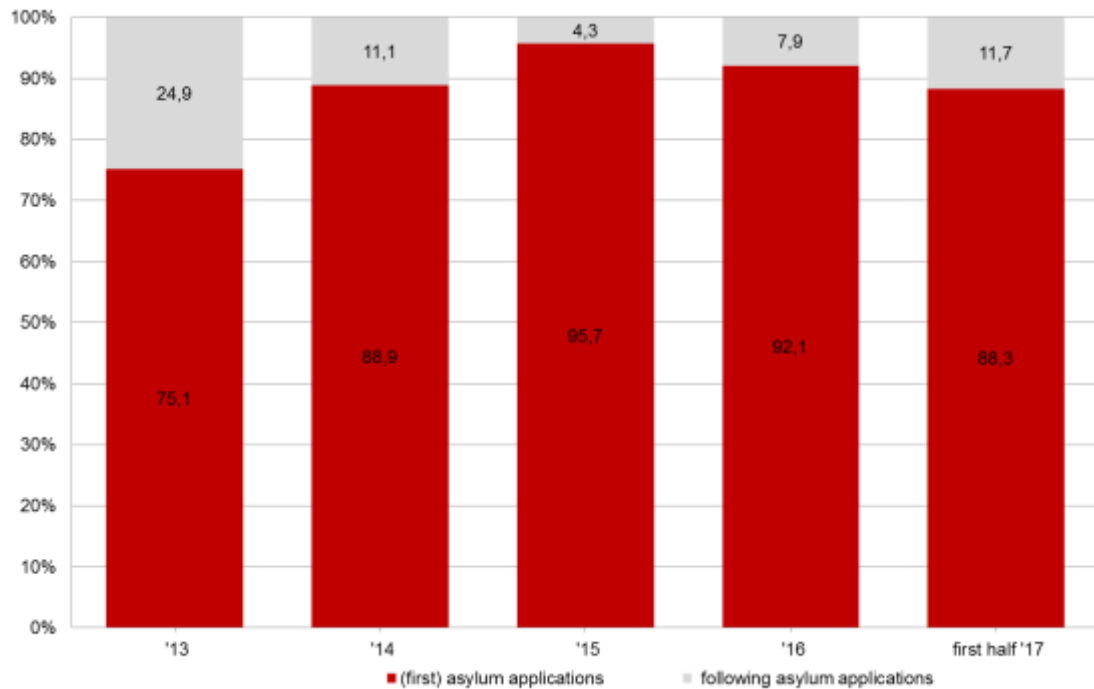
5.1.1 First and follow-up asylum applications

Asylum seekers can submit a follow-up application after the first application is rejected. 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.

⁵⁰ Source: Year results from the IND in 2016 (rapportage vreemdelingenketen 2016).

Over the years, the number of follow-up applications fluctuated within the total number of applications. Within the reporting period, the proportion of follow-up applications was lowest in 2015 (4.3%) and highest in 2013 (24.9%). In the first half of 2017 (January to June), 11.7 percent of asylum applications consisted of follow-up applications.

Figure 5.2 First and follow-up applications, 2013-first half 2017 (percentages)¹



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ Data of 2016 and of the first half of 2017 are provisional.

5.1.2 Asylum request by country of nationality

Statistics in Table 5.1 are all presented in accordance with the new definition of asylum; family members of refugees are not included. Since 2015, for each individual year, most first asylum applications in the Netherlands were made by Syrians and Eritreans. When comparing 2016 with 2015 we notice, however, an enormous decrease in the number of asylum requests from these countries. For Syrians, the number dropped from 18,775 requests in 2015, to 2,865 in 2016. Other countries with a sharp decrease of refugees were Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. In contrast, after 2016 the number of applications from Turkey increased in a significant way. A more detailed overview can be found in the Appendix (Table 5.1a).

Table 5.1 Top 10 First asylum applications in the Netherlands by nationality¹, 2015-first half of 2017²

	Total of 2015		Total of 2016		First half of 2017			
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%		
Syria	18,675	43.3	Syria	2,865	14.8	<i>Syria</i>	1,510	19.2
Eritrea	7,360	17.1	Eritrea	1,860	9.6	<i>Eritrea</i>	840	10.7
Iraq	3,010	7.0	Albania	1,665	8.6	<i>Morocco</i>	485	6.2
Stateless/ unknown	2,910	6.8	Morocco	1,270	6.6	<i>Algeria</i>	445	5.7
Afghanistan	2,550	5.9	Afghanistan	1,025	5.3	<i>Stateless/ unknown</i>	390	5.0
Iran	1,885	4.4	Algeria	980	5.1	<i>Iraq</i>	360	4.6
Albania	1,005	2.3	Iraq	960	5.0	<i>Georgia</i>	340	4.3
Ukraine	715	1.7	Serbia	905	4.7	<i>Iran</i>	290	3.7
Kosovo	685	1.6	Iran	885	4.6	<i>Albania</i>	230	2.9
Serbia	435	1.0	Stateless/ unknown	845	4.4	<i>Guinee</i>	200	2.5
Other	3,865	9.0	Other	6,110	31.5	<i>Turkey</i>	200	2.5
Total	43,095	100.0	Total	19,370	100.0	Total	7,860	100.0

Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

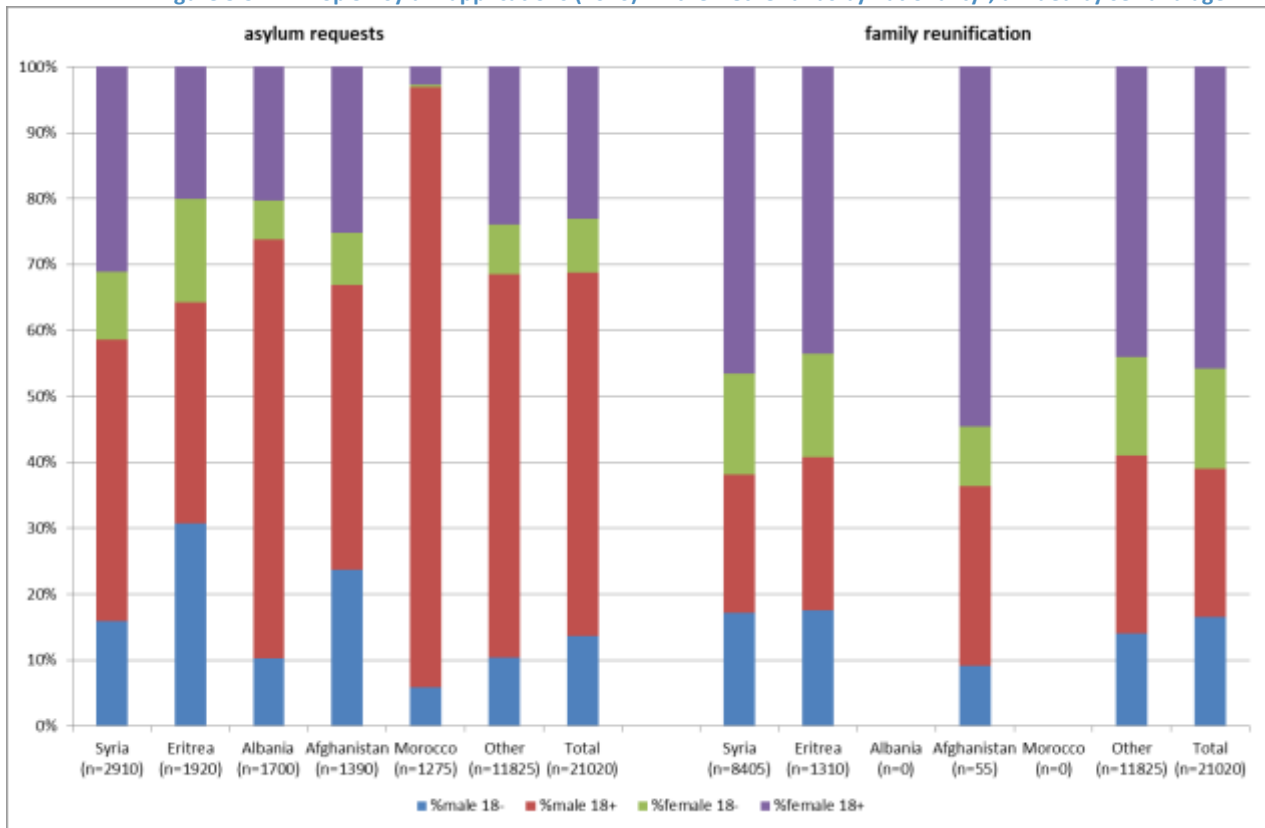
¹ The figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

² Data of 2016 and the first half of 2017 are provisional.

5.1.3 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 from which asylum seekers originate. Persons applying for family reunification are more often female compared to persons applying for asylum. Most first applicants are males from 18 years or older. As a consequence, within the group of family migrants these male migrants constitute a minority. The absence of family migrants from Albania and Morocco is due to the fact that a large number of first asylum applications from these countries are rejected.

Figure 5.3 Top 5 Asylum applications (2016)¹ in the Netherlands by nationality², divided by sex and age



Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ The figures in the table have been 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 Data of 2016 are provisional.

5.1.4 Asylum requests in the Netherlands compared to other countries

In Table 5.2, the Dutch statistics on asylum requests for 2013 and later years are presented in accordance with the new definition of asylum in which family members of refugees are not included. For previous years, the figures remain in accordance with the old definition. The reason for this definition change was for our data to become better aligned with most other Member States: most States do not count the applications of family members as asylum requests. As a result, the Dutch numbers on 2013 and later years provide a more accurate comparison with other countries than previous years.

This being said, it is evident that the increase of asylum requests in the Netherlands between 2013 and 2015 corresponds with similar patterns of increasing requests in other European countries. However, the decrease in asylum requests in 2016 does not (see Table 5.2). While in the Netherlands the number of requests halved, the total number of requests in EU-15 countries continued to grow. Of the 1,259,000 requests submitted in 2016 in all EU-28 countries, most (1,185,000) were submitted in EU-15 countries (i.e. the old EU Member States), and 'only' 72,000 requests were submitted in EU-12 countries (i.e. the new Member States). Germany receives by far the most requests (745,000), followed by Italy (123,000). The Netherlands follows on the eighth place with 21,000 received requests. For more detailed information including other countries as well, see the Appendix Table 5.2a.

Table 5.2 Asylum requests in Europe compared (x 1,000), 2000-2016 (Dutch figures of 2013-2016 according to new definition, previous years according to the old definition)

	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16
EU-28¹	427	444	430	349	282	241	201	224	257	264	259	309	335	431	627	1,323	1,259
EU-12²	37	49	35	39	40	30	20	25	24	26	16	18	23	48	69	218	72
EU-15³	392	397	393	309	243	213	179	199	233	238	244	292	312	382	557	1,105	1,185
Germany	79	88	71	51	36	29	21	19	27	33	49	53	78	127	203	477	745
Italy	16	10	16	13	10	10	10	14	30	18	10	40	17	27	65	84	123
France	39	54	59	60	59	50	31	29	42	48	53	57	61	66	64	76	84
Greece	3	6	6	8	4	9	12	25	20	16	10	9	10	8	9	13	51
Austria	18	30	39	32	25	22	13	12	13	16	11	14	17	18	28	88	42
United Kingdom	99	92	103	60	41	31	28	28	31	32	24	27	29	31	33	40	39
Sweden	16	24	33	31	23	18	24	36	25	24	32	30	44	54	81	163	29
Netherlands	44	33	19	13	10	12	14	10	15	16	15	15	13	13	25	45	21
Belgium	43	25	19	17	15	16	12	11	15	22	26	32	28	21	23	45	18
Spain	8	9	6	6	6	5	5	8	5	3	3	3	3	5	6	15	16
Denmark	12	13	6	5	3	2	2	2	2	4	5	4	6	7	15	21	6
Finland	3	2	3	3	4	4	2	1	4	5	3	3	3	3	4	32	6
Ireland	11	10	12	8	5	4	4	4	4	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	2
Luxembourg	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	2
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2015, 2017)

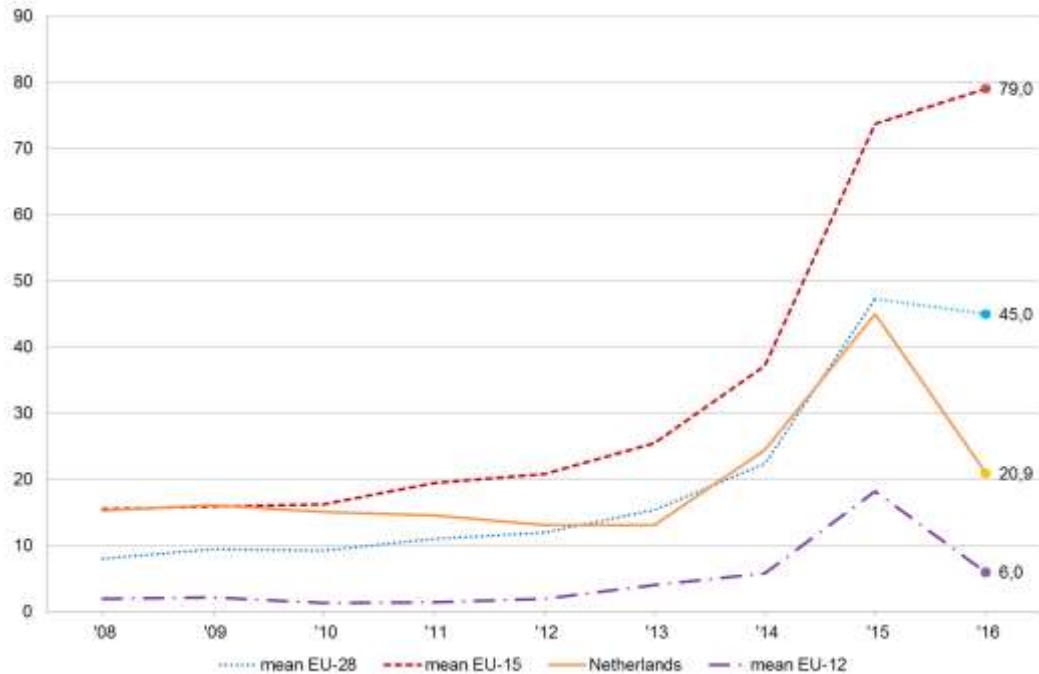
¹ EU-28 (from 1 July 2013): EU-15 + EU-12 and Croatia.

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

³ EU-15: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

In Figure 5.4, the number of total asylum requests in the Netherlands is compared to the mean number of asylum requests per country in the EU-15, EU-12 and EU-28 countries. The sharp decline in asylum requests in the Netherlands between 2015 and 2016 is not visible for EU-15 countries on average. For the first time since the reporting period, the number of asylum requests in the Netherlands was much lower than the average national figures for the EU-28.

Figure 5.4 Asylum requests compared to Europe (x 1,000), 2008-2016¹ (Dutch numbers of 2013–2016 according to the new definition, previous years according to the old definition)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ Data of the Netherlands are provisional.

5.3 Invited Refugees

The Netherlands takes part in the UNHCR ‘resettlement program’ in which the UNHCR helps resettle refugees in a third country as the only safe, viable and durable solution.⁵¹ Accordingly, the UNHCR selects ‘invited’ refugees during special missions in which the most vulnerable groups receive priority. In this capacity, the Dutch government decides who is invited. Between 2013-2016 2,424⁵² refugees were invited to resettle in the Netherlands.⁵³

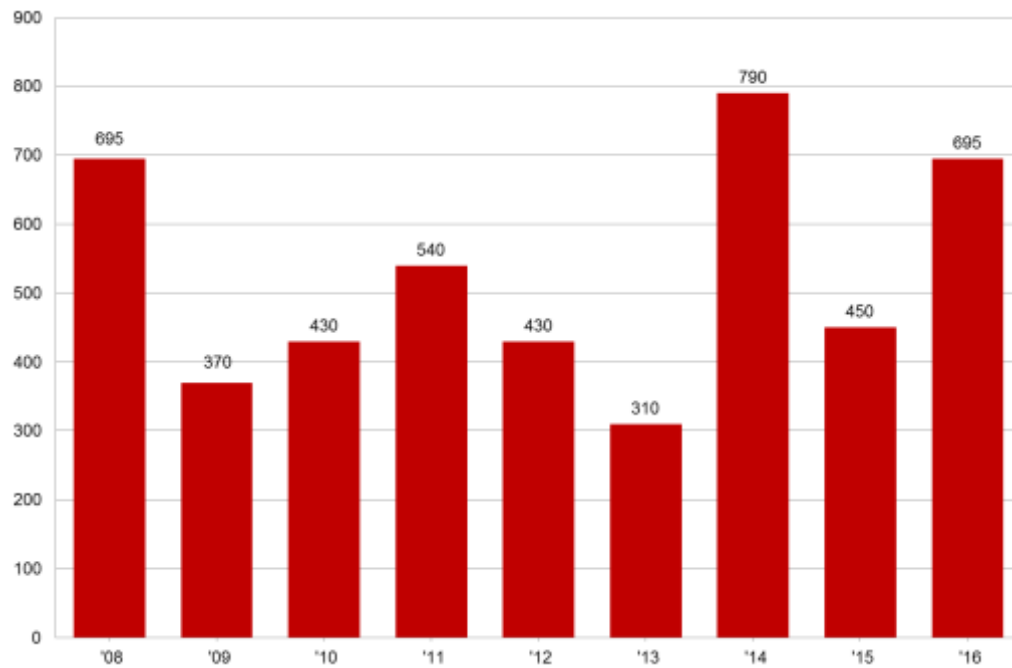
The year in which refugees arrive in the Netherlands does not necessarily correspond with the year in which they are selected. Figures 5.5 to 5.7 display the number of arrived refugees for a given year or nationality. In 2016, almost 700 refugees (selected during missions in 2015 and 2016) resettled in the Netherlands (see Figure 5.5).

⁵¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a16b1676.html>

⁵² Own calculations. Information on 2013-2014 is based on Kamerstukken II 2015-2016, 19 637, no. 2087. vreemdelingenbeleid’, 30 November 2015’. Information on 2015 and is based on the year results from the IND, respectively in 2015 and 2016. In 2013 the number of selected refugees was 598; in 2014 it was 546; in 2015 it was 450; and in 2016 it was 830.

⁵³ This number is in line with an official Dutch quota, in which a minimum of 2,000 invited refugees per four years is set. Source: Refugee Council Netherlands (2013). *Vluchtelingen in getallen*: <https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/sites/public/u4143/VLUCHTELINGEN%20IN%20GETALLEN%202013%20versie%20definitief.pdf>

Figure 5.5 Total number of resettled refugees in the Netherlands per year of arrival, 2008-2016¹



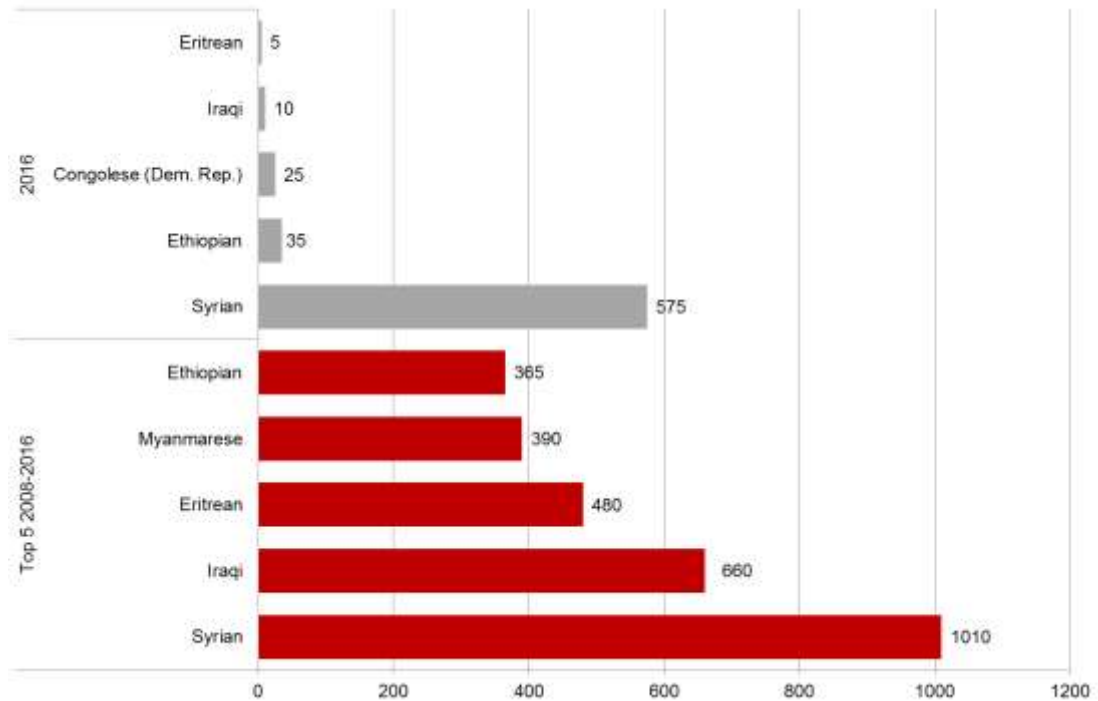
Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ Data of 2016 are provisional.

5.3.1 Invited refugees by nationality

Only a few nationalities largely contribute to the total number of resettled refugees in the Netherlands (see also Figure 5.6). Between 2008-2016, most invited refugees in the Netherlands came from Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, Myanmar and Ethiopia. For more detailed information see Appendix Table 5.3a.

Figure 5.6 Refugees invited by the Dutch government¹ in 2016 and by Top 5 Nationality for the period 2008-2016²



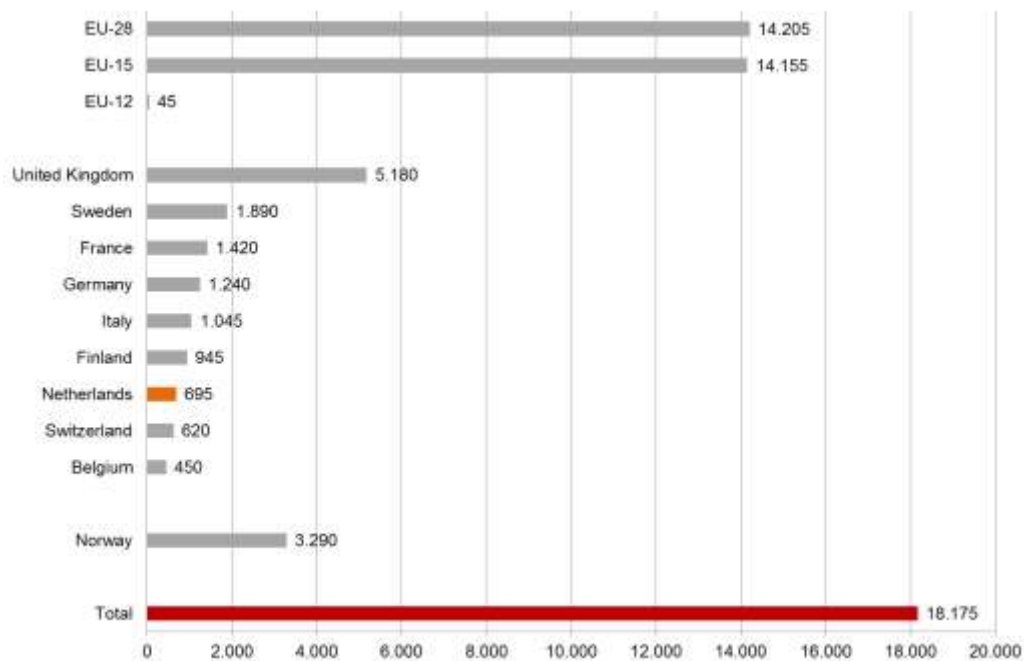
Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ The figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals.

5.3.2 Invited refugees compared to other countries

Of the total of 14,205 invited refugees in EU-28 countries in 2016, the United Kingdom invited by far the most refugees (5,180) followed by Sweden (1,890). The Netherlands is seventh in line with 695 invited refugees (see also Figure 5.7). For more information on the number of invited refugees in Europe 2012-2016 by receiving country see Appendix Table 5.4a.

Figure 5.7 Invited refugees by receiving country compared to Europe 2016



Source: Eurostat (2017)

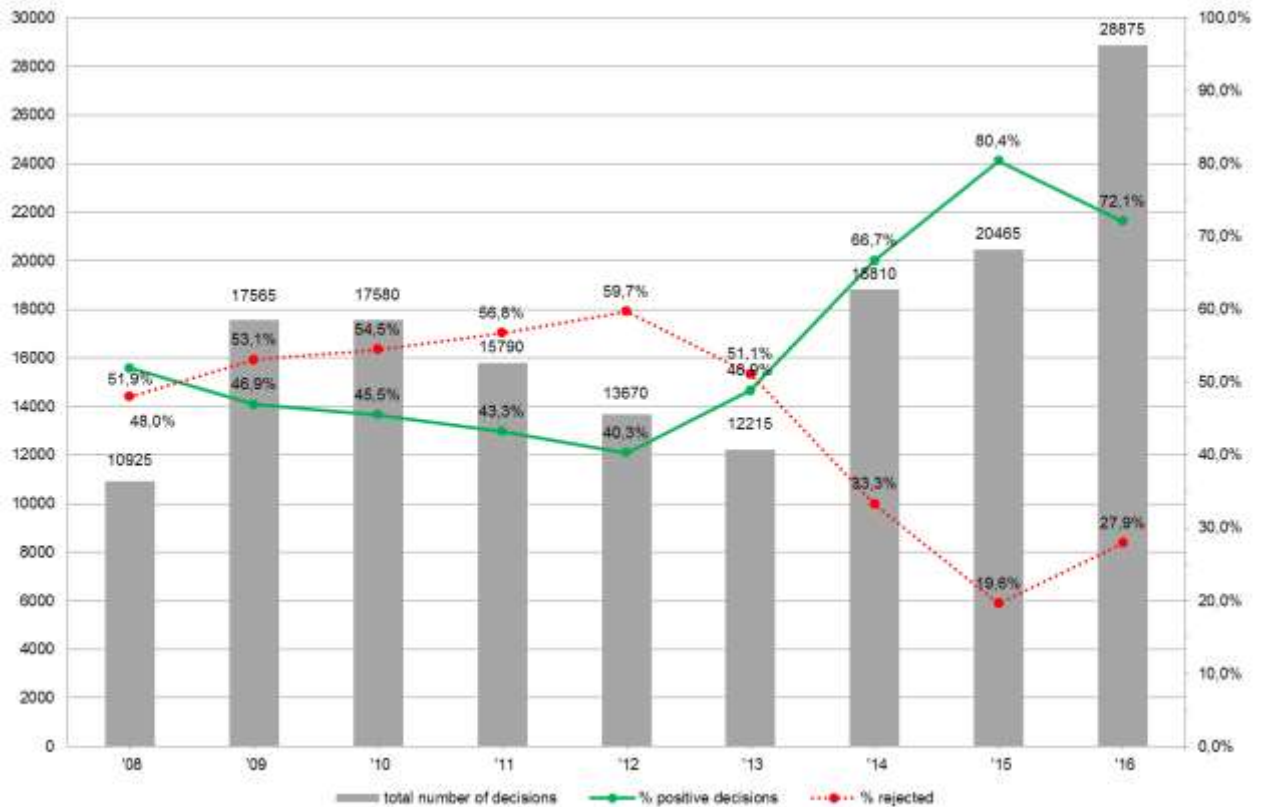
¹ The data are rounded to the nearest five. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.4 Approved and Rejected Asylum Requests

In this section, statistics on (first instance) approved and rejected asylum requests are discussed. It must be noted that these figures regarding decisions are irrespective of the year in which the asylum request was submitted and can therefore not be compared directly with the presented figures on asylum requests submitted.

Figure 5.8 shows that in 2016, the proportion of positive decisions declined for the first time since 2012. Still, most requests were approved in 2016 (72%). The small decrease in approved asylum applications between 2015 and 2016 is due to the fact that the number of decisions for some groups with high approval rates decreased (such as stateless persons and Eritreans). A more detailed picture is presented in section 6.4.1.

Figure 5.8 Total number of first decisions¹, 2008-2016 (absolute and percentages) (2013 and later years in accordance with the new definition, previous years in accordance with the old definition)



Source: Eurostat (2017)

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 2016, the Dutch government made 10,705 positive decisions on the basis of subsidiary protection, 9,740 positive decisions on the basis of the Geneva Convention and 365 on humanitarian grounds. The number of positive decisions based on the Geneva Convention increased considerably since 2014: from 2,485 decisions in 2014, to 6,660 decisions in 2015, to 9,740 decisions in 2016. The number of first decisions based on subsidiary protection increased only slightly last year, from 9,400 in 2015 to 10,705 in 2016. In contrast, the Dutch government hardly granted permits to asylum seekers based on humanitarian grounds during the most recent years. Appendix Table 5.5a shows the nature of first decisions by nationality.

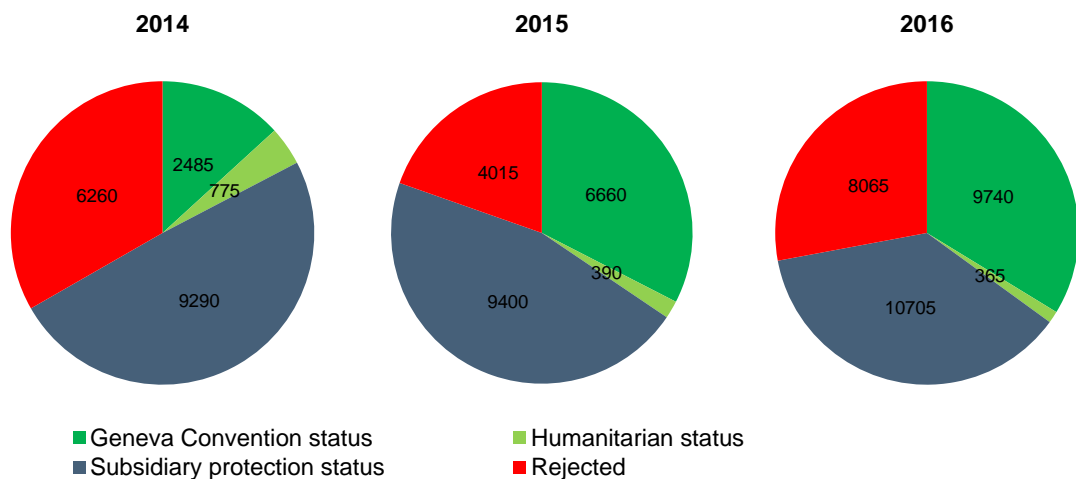
Geneva Convention status: someone who ‘owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself 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 then it is only exceptionally possible 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, 2014-2016¹



Source: Eurostat (2017)

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 between 2014 to 2016. In 2016 the approval rate remained highest for refugees from Syria, Eritrea and stateless persons; reaching nearly 100 percent. In contrast, for all other countries of origin, the approval rates were below average. Moreover, for many of these countries the share of positive decisions has decreased since 2015. For example, this is the case for Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran.

Table 5.3 Top 20 Asylum request countries, percentage of positive decisions, 2014-2016¹

2014	2015		2016					
	Abs.	% Positive	Abs.	% Positive				
Syria	5,950	91.4	Syria	8,010	98.0	Syria	13,295	97.0
Eritrea	3,845	90.8	Eritrea	4,980	97.9	Eritrea	3,240	96.3
Stateless	1,605	85.0	Stateless	1,940	93.8	Iraq	2,035	48.2
Afghanistan	830	50.0	Afghanistan	685	52.6	Stateless	1,770	95.8
Iraq	775	41.9	Ukraine	445	1.1	Afghanistan	1,670	34.4
Iran	580	44.8	Iran	410	69.5	Iran	830	52.4
Somalia	570	58.8	Iraq	395	64.6	Albania	800	0.6
Unknown	410	45.1	Albania	315	0.0	Serbia	560	0.0
Mongolia	305	3.3	Somalia	265	45.3	Unknown	480	72.9
Georgia	285	1.8	Mongolia	265	1.9	Mongolia	400	0.0
Armenia	240	4.2	Unknown	205	48.8	Ukraine	260	1.9
Nigeria	195	23.1	Pakistan	190	36.8	Morocco	250	6.0
Russia	175	17.1	Sudan	170	67.6	Somalia	245	40.8
Uganda	165	48.5	Nigeria	170	32.4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	220	0.0
Ukraine	160	3.1	China (incl. Hong Kong)	140	25.0	Republic of Macedonia	215	0.0
Libya	160	9.4	Serbia	100	5.0	Kosovo	205	0.0
Pakistan	155	25.8	Ethiopia	100	30.0	Nigeria	205	26.8
Sudan	145	27.6	Uganda	90	61.1	Sudan	200	55.0
Egypt	140	17.9	Russia	85	29.4	Algeria	165	0.0
Serbia	135	0.0	Egypt	85	17.6	Georgia	140	3.6
Total	18,810	66.7	Total	20,465	80.4	Total	28,875	72.1

Source: Eurostat (2017)

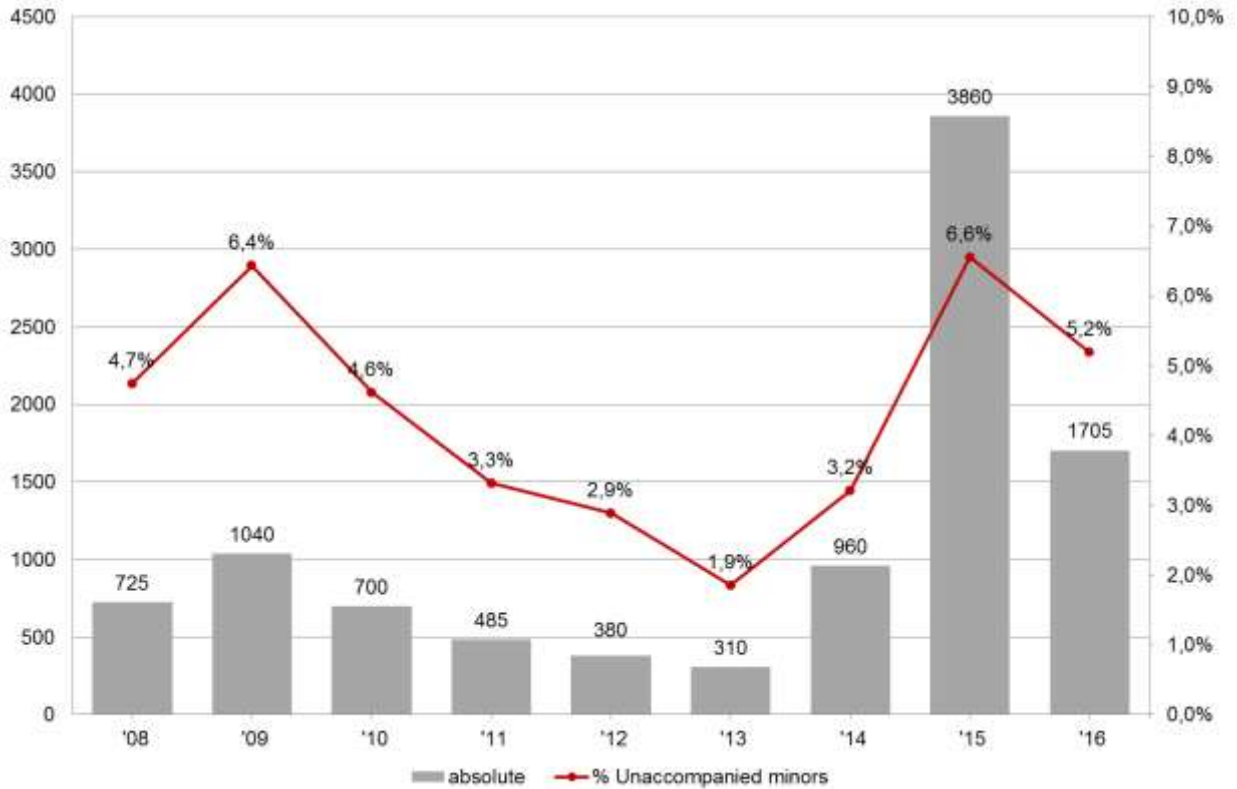
¹ The figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals. As a result, it may occur that the sum of the detail data is different from the total.

5.5 Unaccompanied Minors

In this section, statistics are discussed with regard to unaccompanied minor aliens residing in the Netherlands.⁵⁴ 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 7 per cent of the total number of requests. In 2016, we observe a sharp decline (to 1,705 requests), although the number of requests remains higher compared to the years previous to 2015.

⁵⁴ In the past, these unaccompanied minors were referred to as unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

Figure 5.10 Asylum applications in the Netherlands by unaccompanied minors¹, 2008-2016² (2013 and later years in accordance with the new definition, previous years in accordance with the old definition)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)/Eurostat (2017)

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.

² 2012 is provisional data.

5.5.1 Unaccompanied minors by nationality

In 2016, most unaccompanied minors came from Eritrea (775 minors) or Afghanistan (195) and Syria (180). (see also Table 5.4). In 2016, also Morocco and Algeria largely contributed to the number of unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands.

Table 5.4 Top 5 Number of countries of origin of unaccompanied minor aliens¹, 2014-2016 and the period 2008-2016

	2014		2015		2016		Period 2008-2015				
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%			
Eritrea	530	55.2	Syria	1455	37.7	Eritrea	775	45.5	Eritrea	2685	26.4
Syria	155	16.1	Eritrea	1240	32.1	Afghanistan	195	11.4	Afghanistan	1885	18.5
Stateless	50	5.2	Afghanistan	535	13.9	Syria	180	10.6	Syria	1835	18.1
Somalia	35	3.6	Stateless	220	5.7	Morocco	70	4.1	Somalia	865	8.5
Afghanistan	30	3.1	Iraq	135	3.5	Algeria	60	3.5	Iraq	515	5.1
Other	160	16.7	Other	275	7.1	Other	425	24.9	Other	2380	23.4
Total	960	100.0	Total	3,860	100.0	Total	1,705	100.0	Total	10,165	100.0

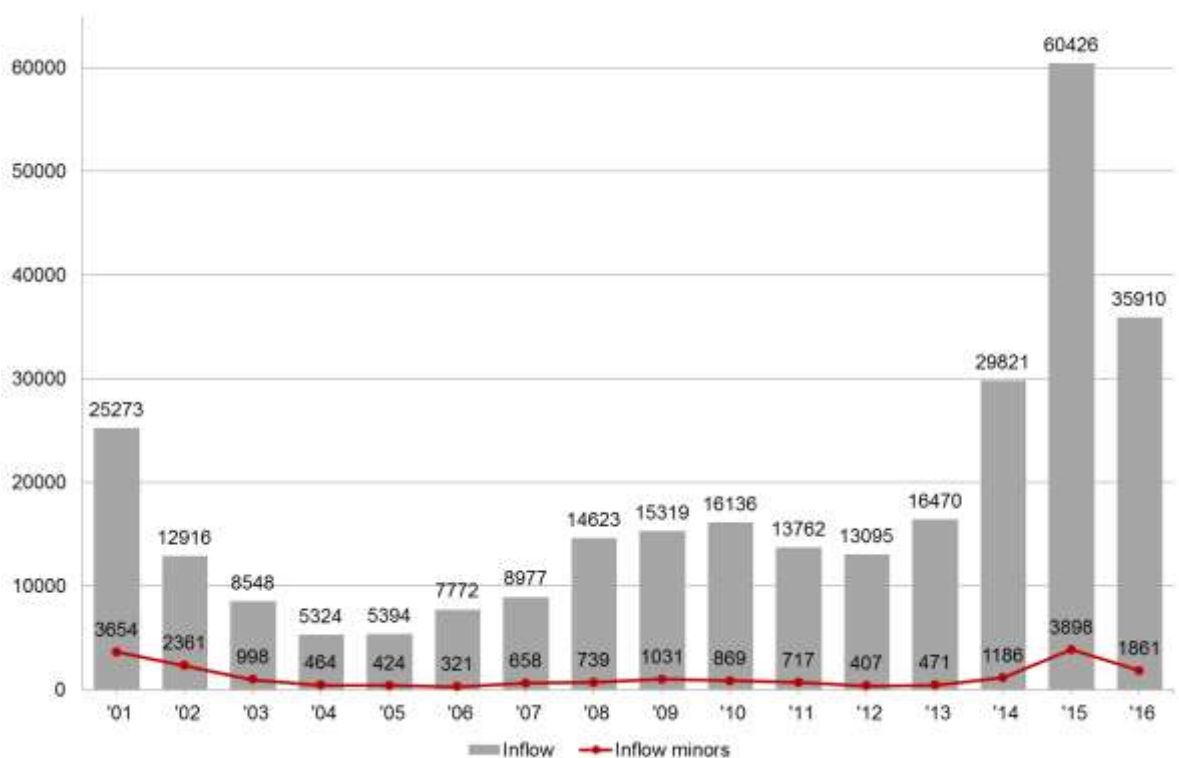
Source: Eurostat (2017)

¹ The figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest five to prevent possible identification of individuals.

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 of 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 (2001-2016), the total influx of asylum seekers peaked in 2015: as many as 60,426 asylum seekers, including 3,898 unaccompanied minors, were placed in these centres (see also Figure 5.11). Consistent with a notable decrease in asylum applications between 2015 and 2016, the influx in COA centres also decreased within this time period.

Figure 5.11 Total influx and influx of unaccompanied minors in COA, 2001-2016

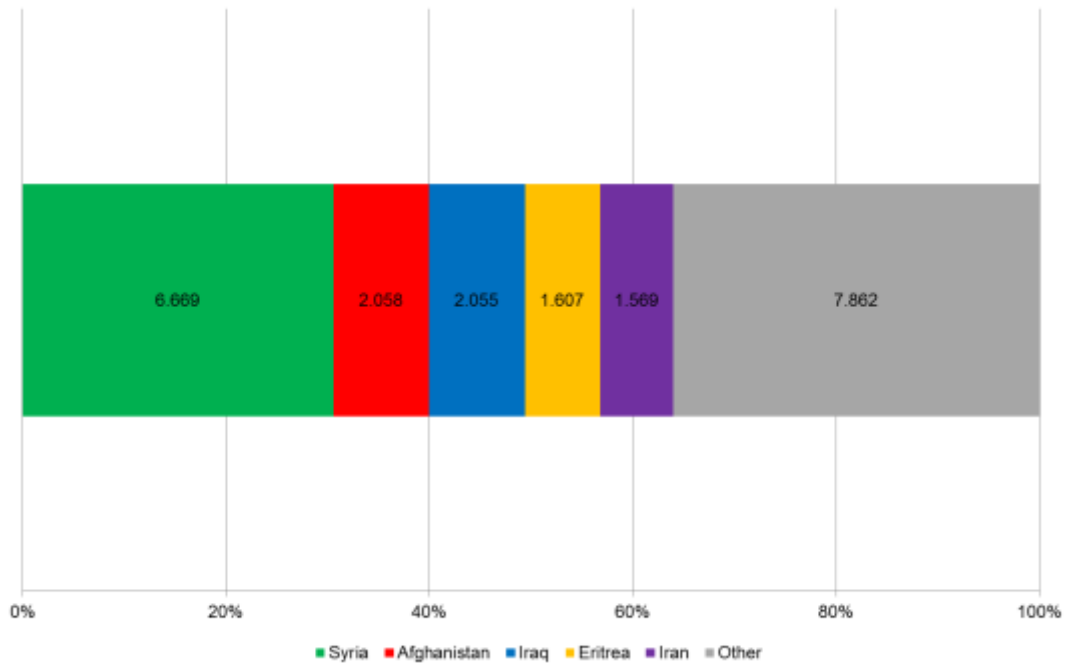


Source: Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers. Data supplied on request (2017)

5.6.1 Population in COA by nationality

On 28 Augustus, more than 30 percent of all asylum seekers living in COA centres originated from Syria. Other groups that are well-represented in the reception centres are asylum seekers from Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Iran, see Figure 5.12).

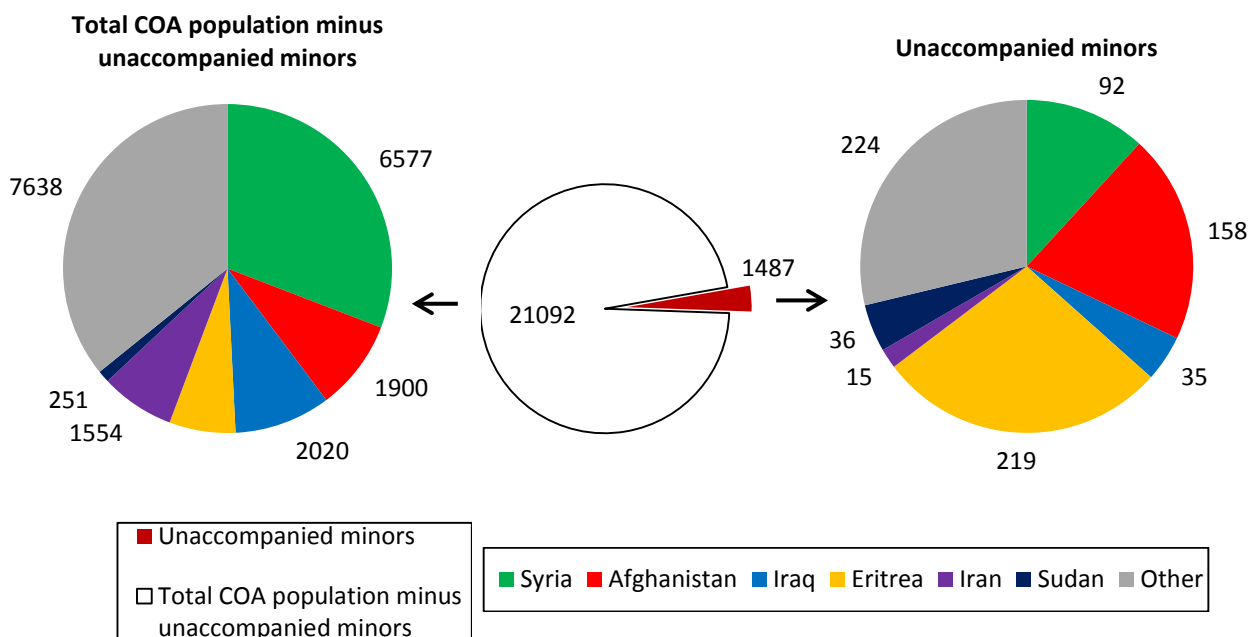
Figure 5.12 Top 5 Number of the total population in COA by nationality, 28 August 2017



Source: Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (2017)

On 28 August 2017, the composition according to nationality of asylum seekers in COA centres varied somewhat between unaccompanied minors and other asylum groups (see also Figure 5.13). Many of the unaccompanied minor asylum seekers originate from Eritrea (30%) or Afghanistan (22%), while this is much less the case for the other asylum seekers. Conversely, while there are relatively few unaccompanied minors from Syria (13%), Syrians make up almost one third (31%) of the rest of the asylum seekers.

Figure 5.13 Number of unaccompanied minors in COA by nationality disaggregated by unaccompanied minors and other groups, 28 August 2017



Source: Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (2017)

5.7 Appendix

Appendix Table 5.1a Asylum applications in the Netherlands by nationality¹, 2012-2016¹ (all columns with total numbers and first and follow-up requests for 2012 are in accordance with the old definition, for 2013-2016 the first and follow-up requests are in accordance with the new definition)²

Periods	2012 ³			2013			2014			2015			2016 ³		
	Total	First	Fol- low up	Total	First	Fol- low up	Total	First	Fol- low up	Total	First	Fol- low up	Total	First	Fol- low up
Total	3,750	2,765	1,000	6,270	3,185	745	7,650	5,490	790	11,335	8,990	680	8,400	6,065	570
Africa															
Eritrean	480	425	55	1,055	850	70	4,100	3,835	75	8,435	7,360	60	3,235	1,860	60
Moroccan	30	25	10	70	60	10	70	55	10	100	80	10	1,285	1,270	10
Algerian	35	25	10	40	30	10	20	15	5	55	40	5	990	980	5
Somali	1,425	880	545	3,185	965	250	1,525	350	245	865	265	185	500	155	95
Libyan	110	100	10	170	125	40	160	100	55	105	70	30	370	340	25
Nigerian	145	105	40	170	130	40	270	225	45	285	210	65	275	195	75
Sudanese	180	120	60	165	115	40	260	180	45	285	235	35	260	190	35
Ethiopian	90	70	20	105	60	25	165	95	30	190	135	25	215	155	25
Tunisian	15	15	0	20	20	0	15	15	0	35	25	5	205	205	0
Egyptian	205	175	35	240	165	65	150	95	40	125	70	45	160	110	35
Guinean	240	185	50	200	135	50	140	65	55	150	80	40	150	110	30
Gambian	30	25	5	30	25	5	25	20	5	60	55	5	135	130	5
Ugandan	130	110	20	185	120	30	200	115	55	205	115	20	130	85	20
Congolese	155	140	15	130	70	25	110	75	20	70	40	20	100	50	30
Sierra Leonean	120	95	30	120	80	25	145	80	45	115	40	50	100	35	45
Burundian	40	5	35	15	5	10	30	10	15	40	25	15	60	25	35
Ivorian	85	75	15	65	40	10	55	20	10	30	15	15	40	30	10
Malian	40	30	5	60	50	5	45	35	10	20	10	5	30	25	5
<i>Other Africa</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>245</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>25</i>
Total America	20	10	10	15	15	5	15	15	0	10	10	0	45	45	0

Appendix Table 5.1a (part 2)

Periods	2012 ³			2013			2014			2015			2016 ³		
	Total	First	Follow up	Total	First	Follow up	Total	First	Follow up	Total	First	Fo-low up	Total	First	Fo-low up
Total Asia	6,325	4,535	1,780	7,750	4,515	2,015	16,175	11,295	1,455	37,530	27,170	880	16,250	6,725	780
Syrian	575	455	120	2,620	2,230	35	11,595	8750	40	27,710	18,675	50	11,310	2,865	50
Afghan	1,620	1,025	595	1,520	455	910	975	450	425	2,945	2,550	310	1,445	1,025	360
Iraqi	1,885	1,390	495	1,410	535	420	1,570	615	705	3,450	3,010	230	1,240	960	155
Iranian	1,195	835	360	1,080	595	420	745	505	160	2,075	1,885	140	1,035	885	110
Mongolian	130	110	20	115	100	15	445	445	-	370	365	5	415	405	10
Pakistani	170	150	20	170	105	30	245	185	45	240	155	55	215	160	20
Chinese	225	155	70	180	105	45	145	105	5	240	205	5	130	95	5
Lebanese	15	10	5	20	15	5	45	35	5	95	70	5	75	55	5
Sri Lankan	195	125	70	225	85	85	150	55	55	110	35	40	75	30	35
Yemeni	25	25	0	45	35	5	55	30	5	75	50	15	70	45	10
Myanmarese	40	35	0	70	40	0	25	10	0	45	35	-	65	55	-
Vietnamese	5	5	0	5	5	0	20	15	0	65	65	-	60	60	0
Indian	15	10	5	15	15	0	20	20	0	15	10	5	55	45	10
<i>Other Asia</i>	230	205	20	275	195	45	140	75	10	95	60	20	60	40	10
Total Europe	2,140	1,780	350	1,685	1,335	325	1,905	1,650	210	3,970	3,750	195	5,540	5,310	205
Former Yugoslavia ⁴	320	290	25	515	490	25	515	495	15	1,380	1,365	15	2,180	2,160	20
Albanian	20	15	0	35	30	5	90	85	5	1,015	1,005	10	1,700	1,665	35
Former Soviet Union ⁵	1,685	1,380	305	1050	770	265	1,205	1015	175	1,500	1,320	160	1,380	1,230	135
Turkish	105	90	15	85	45	30	80	45	15	70	55	10	260	235	15
<i>Other Europe</i>	10	5	5	0	0	0	15	10	0	5	5	0	20	20	0
Stateless / unknown	680	415	265	760	600	120	3,890	3125	220	5,685	2,910	160	690	525	60
Total nationality⁶	13,170	9,715	3,455	16,725	9,840	3,255	29,890	21810	2,725	58,880	43,095	1,940	32,840	19,370	1,655

¹ Citizenships with more than 25 (total) asylum applications within 2016 are included separately.

² The first and subsequent requests for 2013-2016 are in accordance with the new definition, while the total number is in accordance with the old definition. As a result, the sum of the first and subsequent requests is not equal to the total number of requests.

³ Provisional data.

⁴ All the citizens of countries of former Yugoslavia: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia.

⁵ All citizens from countries of the former Soviet Union namely: Armenia, Azerbaijan Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

⁶ 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.

Appendix Table 5.2a Asylum requests in Europe compared (x1000), 2000-2016 (The Dutch numbers of 2013-2016 in accordance with the new definition, previous years in accordance with the old definition)

	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16
EU-28¹	427	444	430	349	282	241	201	224	257	264	259	309	335	431	627	1,323	1,259
EU-15	392	397	393	309	243	213	179	199	233	238	244	292	312	382	557	1,105	1,185
Austria	18	30	39	32	25	22	13	12	13	16	11	14	17	18	28	88	42
Belgium	43	25	19	17	15	16	12	11	15	22	26	32	28	21	23	45	18
Denmark	12	13	6	5	3	2	2	2	2	4	5	4	6	7	15	21	6
Finland	3	2	3	3	4	4	2	1	4	5	3	3	3	3	4	32	6
France	39	54	59	60	59	50	31	29	42	48	53	57	61	66	64	76	84
Germany	79	88	71	51	36	29	21	19	27	33	49	53	78	127	203	477	745
Greece	3	6	6	8	4	9	12	25	20	16	10	9	10	8	9	13	51
Ireland	11	10	12	8	5	4	4	4	4	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	2
Italy	16	10	16	13	10	10	10	14	30	18	10	40	17	27	65	84	123
Luxembourg	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	2
Netherlands	44	33	19	13	10	12	14	10	15	16	15	15	13	13	25	45	21
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Spain	8	9	6	6	6	5	5	8	5	3	3	3	3	5	6	15	16
Sweden	16	24	33	31	23	18	24	36	25	24	32	30	44	54	81	163	29
United Kingdom	99	92	103	60	41	31	28	28	31	32	24	27	29	31	33	40	39
EU-12	37	49	35	39	40	30	20	25	24	26	16	18	23	48	69	218	72
Bulgaria	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	11	20	19
Cyprus	1	2	1	4	10	8	5	7	4	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	3
Czech Republic	9	18	8	11	5	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Estonia	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	8	10	6	2	2	2	2	3	3	5	2	2	2	19	43	177	29
Latvia	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	0	2	2	2	1	2	2
Poland	5	5	5	7	8	7	4	7	9	11	7	7	11	15	8	12	12
Romania	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	2
Slovak Republic	2	8	10	10	11	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	9	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Croatia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	2
Norway	11	15	17	16	8	5	5	7	14	17	10	9	10	12	11	31	4
Switzerland	18	21	26	21	15	11	11	11	17	16	15	24	28	21	24	39	27
Australia	13	12	6	4	3	3	4	4	5	7	13	12	16	12	9	12	-
Canada	38	44	40	32	26	20	23	28	37	33	23	25	21	10	14	15	-
United States	57	104	100	74	52	49	52	51	49	43	47	63	71	88	121	91	-

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

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

Appendix Table 5.3a Total number of invited refugees in the Netherlands by nationality, 2008-2016¹

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008-2016
Bhutani	25	40	45	55	0	0	0	0	0	165
Burundian	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
Congolese (Rep. of Congo)	25	5	0	20	20	85	15	0	0	170
Congolese (Dem. Rep.)	55	10	0	15	25	0	25	75	25	230
Eritrean	25	15	35	75	40	65	190	30	5	480
Ethiopian	70	45	5	85	45	5	65	10	35	365
Iraqi	165	90	125	80	100	40	45	5	10	660
Lao	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Myanmarese	135	5	45	80	95	30	0	0	0	390
Pakistani	0	0	0	0	30	35	35	40	0	140
Sri Lankan	15	10	0	40	25	15	15	0	0	120
Syrian	0	0	0	0	0	15	245	175	575	1,010
Unknown	5	55	70	50	0	0	70	45	10	305
Total of nationality²	695	370	430	540	430	310	790	450	695	4,710

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ Data of 2016 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 particular nationality in a given year exceeds 25.

Appendix Table 5.4a Invited refugees in Europe, 2012-2016¹

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
EU-28 total	4,945	80.0	4,905	83.8	6,550	83.4	8,155	73.0	14,205	78.2
EU-15 total	4,910	79.4	4,900	83.7	6,500	82.8	8,140	72.8	14,155	77.9
Austria	0	0.0	0	0.0	390	5.0	760	6.8	200	1.1
Belgium	0	0.0	100	1.7	35	0.4	275	2.5	450	2.5
Denmark	480	7.8	575	9.8	370	4.7	450	4.0	310	1.7
Finland	730	11.8	675	11.5	1,090	13.9	1,005	9.0	945	5.2
France	100	1.6	90	1.5	450	5.7	620	5.5	1,420	7.8
Germany	305	4.9	280	4.8	280	3.6	510	4.6	1,240	6.8
Greece	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ireland	50	0.8	85	1.5	95	1.2	175	1.6	355	2.0
Italy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	95	0.9	1,045	5.7
Luxembourg	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	0.4	45	0.4	50	0.3
Netherlands	430	7.0	310	5.3	790	10.1	450	4.0	695	3.8
Portugal	15	0.2	0	0.0	15	0.2	40	0.4	0	0.0
Spain	80	1.3	0	0.0	125	1.6	0	0.0	375	2.1
Sweden	1,680	27.2	1,820	31.1	2,045	26.1	1,850	16.6	1,890	10.4
United Kingdom	1,040	16.8	965	16.5	785	10.0	1,865	16.7	5,180	28.5
EU-12 total	30	0.5	0	0.0	50	0.6	10	0.1	45	0.2
Bulgaria	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cyprus	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Czech Republic	25	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Estonia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.1
Hungary	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.1	5	0.0	5	0.0
Latvia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.0
Lithuania	5	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.0	25	0.1
Malta	0	0.0	0	0.0	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	0	0.0	40	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Slovakia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Slovenia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Croatia	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Europe total	1,240	20.0	955	16.3	1,300	16.6	3,020	27.0	3,965	21.8
Iceland	10	0.2	0	0.0	10	0.1	15	0.1	55	0.3
Liechtenstein	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.1	20	0.2	0	0.0
Norway	1,230	19.9	955	16.3	1,285	16.4	2,375	21.3	3,290	18.1
Switzerland	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	610	5.5	620	3.4
Total	6,185	100.0	5,855	100.0	7,850	100.0	11,175	100.0	18,175	100.0

Source: Eurostat (2017)

¹ The figures in the table have been 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.

Appendix Table 5.5a First instance decisions on applications by citizenship¹, 2012-2015 (2013-2016 in accordance with the new definition, 2012 in accordance with the old definition)

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		Geneva Convention status (%)	Humanitarian status (%)	Subsidiary protection status (%)	Rejected (%)
	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)	Total	Positive (%)				
Total	13,670	40.3	12,215	48.9	18,810	66.7	20,465	80.4	28,875	72.1	33.7	1.3	37.1	27.9
<i>Nationality²</i>														
Syria	630	92.9	1,990	85.2	5,950	91.4	8,010	98.0	13,295	97.0	50.7	0.2	46.1	3.0
Eritrea	475	56.8	765	76.5	3,845	90.8	4,980	97.9	3,240	96.3	1.2	0.6	94.4	3.9
Iraq	1,885	63.9	915	47.0	775	41.9	395	64.6	2,035	48.2	6.6	2.2	39.3	51.6
Stateless	120	50.0	205	82.9	1,605	85.0	1,940	93.8	1,770	95.8	92.9	1.1	2.0	4.2
Afghanistan	1,880	34.6	1,350	45.6	830	50.0	685	52.6	1,670	34.4	8.4	6.0	20.4	65.3
Iran	1,225	42.4	1,170	55.1	580	44.8	410	69.5	830	52.4	42.8	6.0	3.0	47.6
Albania	15	0.0	30	0.0	60	0.0	315	0.0	800	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.4
Serbia	115	4.3	265	1.9	135	0.0	100	5.0	560	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Unknown	505	42.6	295	55.9	410	45.1	205	48.8	480	72.9	53.1	5.2	15.6	27.1
Mongolia	130	0.0	100	0.0	305	3.3	265	1.9	400	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Ukraine	35	0.0	35	0.0	160	3.1	445	1.1	260	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.1
Morocco	20	0.0	50	0.0	35	0.0	45	11.1	250	6.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	96.0
Somalia	1,605	59.2	1,200	71.3	570	58.8	265	45.3	245	40.8	6.1	4.1	30.6	59.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	65	0.0	70	0.0	95	0.0	70	0.0	220	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Republic of Macedonia	35	0.0	80	0.0	100	0.0	40	0.0	215	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Kosovo	25	0.0	45	0.0	40	0.0	55	0.0	205	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Nigeria	140	7.1	150	13.3	195	23.1	170	32.4	205	26.8	14.6	7.3	4.9	73.2
Sudan	165	42.4	155	38.7	145	27.6	170	67.6	200	55.0	32.5	2.5	20.0	45.0
Algeria	25	0.0	30	16.7	15	33.3	10	0.0	165	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.0
Georgia	245	0.0	150	3.3	285	1.8	70	0.0	140	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	96.4
Ethiopia	90	27.8	75	33.3	115	30.4	100	30.0	110	50.0	31.8	0.0	18.2	50.0
Pakistan	145	44.8	135	22.2	155	25.8	190	36.8	110	31.8	31.8	0.0	0.0	63.6
Guinea	245	32.7	175	28.6	130	42.3	65	53.8	105	23.8	4.8	0.0	19.0	76.2

Source: Eurostat (2017)

¹ The figures in the table have been 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 2016 have not been included.



Foreign Students in the Netherlands

6

6 Foreign Students in the Netherlands

This chapter describes migration to the Netherlands for reasons of study. In particular, it describes statistics with regard to foreign students in Dutch higher education (higher vocational education and university education) between 2011 and 2016. We start by presenting the number of foreign students in Dutch higher education. Subsequently, we pay attention to the nationality and gender of foreign students, differentiating between higher vocational education and university education.⁵⁵ This chapter ends with an overview of the Dutch institutes in higher education that attract large number of foreign students.

6.1 Main Findings

- The number of foreign students enrolled in Dutch universities and higher vocational education increased between 2011 and 2016.
- Most foreign students originate from EU-15 countries, followed by students from non-Western countries.
- By far the largest group of foreign students in the Netherlands consists of Germans, although their proportion is decreasing.
- Within Dutch higher education, more foreign students in 2016 enrolled in universities as compared to higher vocational education.
- More female than male foreign students participate in Dutch higher education.
- Foreign students are not evenly distributed over the different higher education institutions throughout the Netherlands. In fact, a small number of institutions account for a large proportion of foreign students.

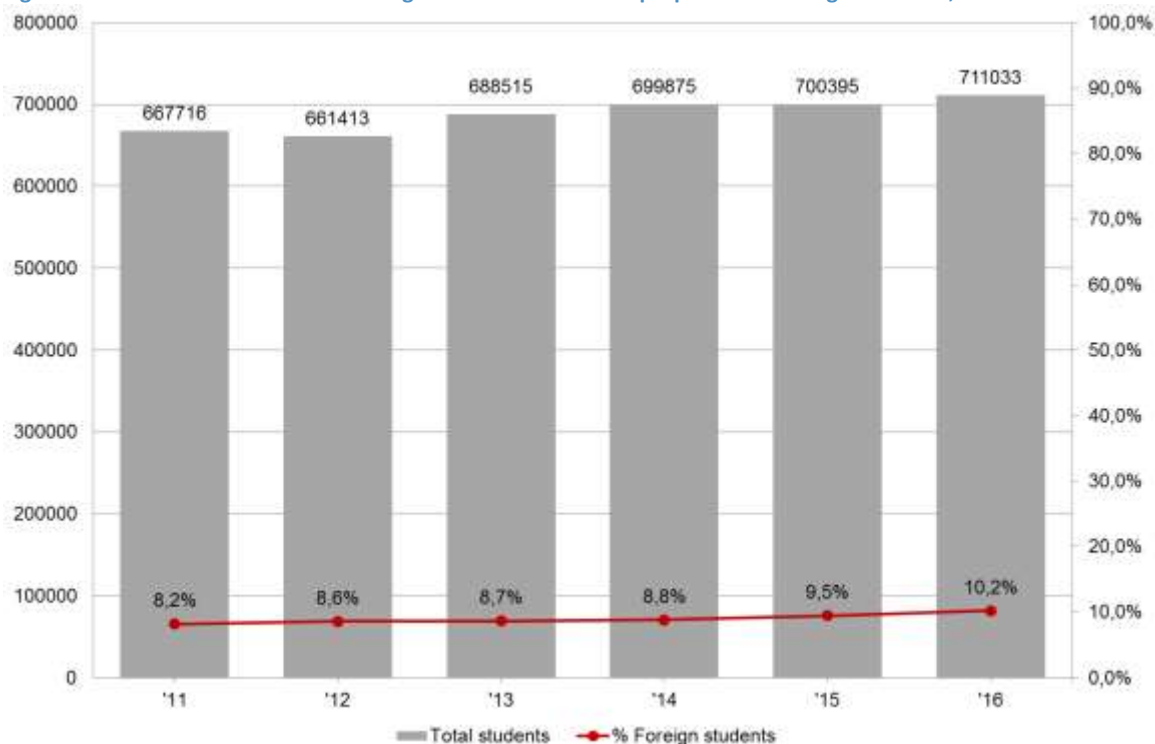
6.2 Foreign Students in Higher Education

The statistics presented in this chapter are based on data collected at the Dutch Education Executive Agency (DUO). These statistics show that the number of foreign students in the Netherlands continues to expand. While in 2011, 54,812 foreign students participated in Dutch higher education, this number increased to 66,292 in 2015, and further to 72,743 in 2016.⁵⁶ Not only has the absolute number of foreign students risen, the proportion of foreign students compared to Dutch students has also increased since 2011 (see also Figure 6.1).

⁵⁵ Higher education in the Netherlands is offered at two types of institutions: universities of applied sciences (*hogescholen; hbo*) and research universities (*universiteiten; wo*).

⁵⁶ 2010 refers to school year 2010/11 and 2011 refers to school year 2011/12, etc.

Figure 6.1 Number of students in higher education and the proportion of foreign students¹, 2011-2016



Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

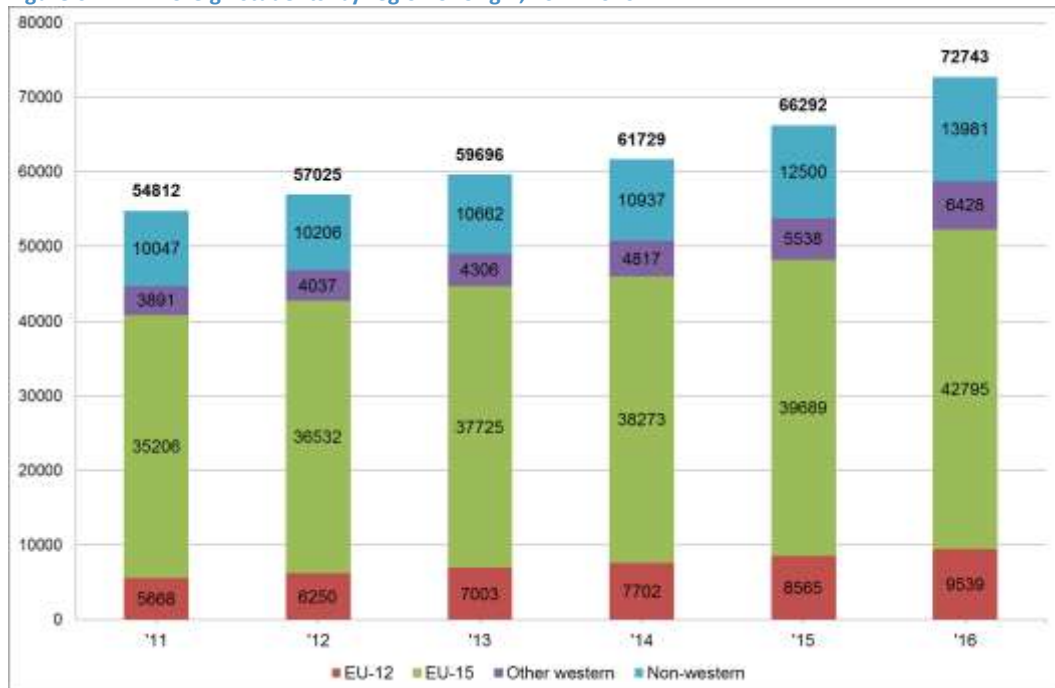
¹ Students whose nationality is unknown have not been included in the group of foreign students.

6.1.1 Foreign students by country of nationality

The vast majority of foreign students originate from EU-15 countries, as can also be seen in Figure 6.2. Having said this, their proportion within the total foreign student population is slowly decreasing. In 2011, two third (64.2%) of all foreign students originated from EU-15 countries; in 2016 this percentage was a little lower (58.8%). The next largest group of foreign students originates from non-Western countries. Their proportion within the total foreign student population in the Netherlands has increased slightly in the last three years (from 7.8% in 2014 to 19.2% in 2016). The proportion of foreign students from the EU-12 and other-Western countries increased between 2011 and 2016: respectively from 10.3 to 13.1 percent, and from 7.1 to 8.8 percent.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ 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 students¹ by region of origin, 2011-2016



Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

¹ Students whose nationality is unknown or who are stateless have not been included in the group of foreign students.

Table 6.1 reveals that the largest group of foreign students in the Netherlands consists of Germans, although the proportion of German students within the total foreign student population is drastically declining 2011 and 2016. The second largest group of foreign students originates from China, however, their proportion within the total foreign student population also decreased between 2011 and 2016. In contrast, the proportion of students from Italy, the United Kingdom and Greece rose in this time period. 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 origin¹, 2011, 2015 and 2016

2011	2015		2016					
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%				
Germany	25,278	46.1	Germany	22,723	34.3	Germany	22,739	31.3
China	4,396	8.0	China	4,446	6.7	China	4,506	6.2
Belgium	2,420	4.4	Belgium	2,933	4.4	Italy	3,456	4.8
Bulgaria	1,603	2.9	Italy	2,730	4.1	Belgium	3,259	4.5
Greece	1,467	2.7	United Kingdom	2,537	3.8	United Kingdom	2,992	4.1
United Kingdom	1,119	2.0	Greece	2,222	3.4	Greece	2,414	3.3
France	1,065	1.9	Bulgaria	2,071	3.1	Bulgaria	2,336	3.2
Italy	1,054	1.9	Spain	1,761	2.7	Spain	2,145	2.9
Romania	980	1.8	France	1,716	2.6	France	2,050	2.8
Poland	971	1.8	Romania	1,612	2.4	Romania	1,866	2.6
Total Top 10	40,353	73.6	Total Top 10	44,751	67.5	Total Top 10	47,763	65.7
Other	14,473	26.4	Other	21,548	32.5	Other	24,987	34.3
Total	54,826	100.0	Total	66,299	100.0	Total	72,750	100.0

Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

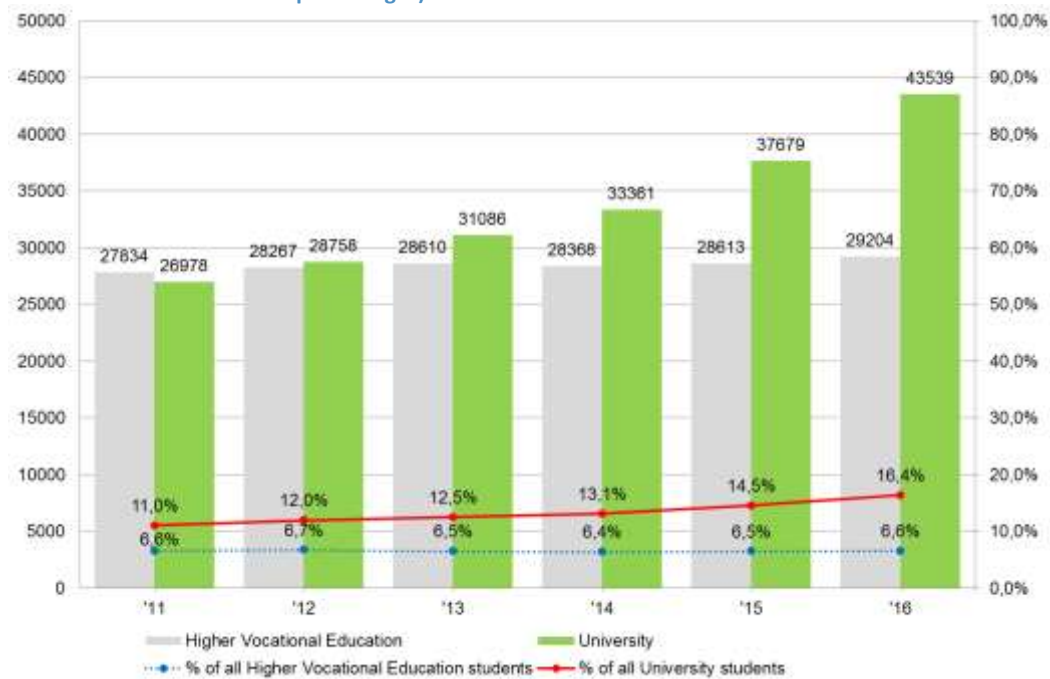
¹ Students whose nationality is unknown or who are stateless have not been included in the group of foreign students.

6.1.2 Foreign students in higher vocational education and university education

In this section we describe the differences in numbers between foreign students enrolled in universities and foreign students enrolled in higher vocational education. As shown in Figure 6.3, the proportion of foreign university students (compared to all university students) increased between 2011 and 2016), while the proportion of foreign higher vocational education students (as compared to all higher vocational education students) remained more or less the same during these years.

Up until 2011, the majority of foreign students participated in higher vocational education. This pattern, however, reversed in 2012 when more foreign students started a university education. This difference further increased between 2012 and 2016: while in 2012, 50.4 percent of the foreign students started a university education, this proportion increased to 59.9 percent in 2016. For information on the number of foreign students in a higher vocational or university education by region of origin, see the Appendix Table 6.2a.

Figure 6.3 Foreign students¹ in higher vocational education and university education, 2011-2016 (absolute numbers and percentages)



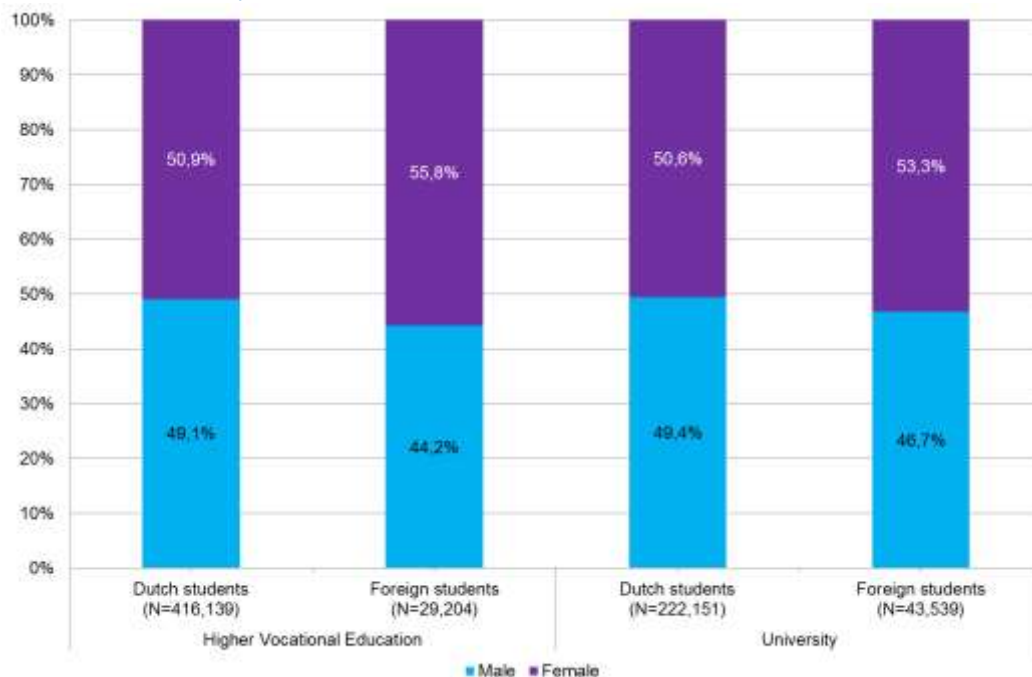
Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

¹ Students whose nationality is unknown or who are stateless have not been included.

6.1.3 Male and female foreign students

Within the Dutch student population, male and female students are almost equally represented. However, with respect to the foreign student population a different picture emerges: more female students participate in higher vocational education (55.8% female) and universities (53.3% female). Figure 6.4 presents the gender distribution for 2016. More detailed information is provided in Appendix Table 6.3a.

Figure 6.4 Distribution of male and female students in higher education disaggregated by Dutch and foreign students, 2016



Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

¹ Students whose nationality is unknown or who are stateless have not been included.

6.1.4 Institutes attracting the highest numbers of foreign students

Foreign students are not evenly distributed over the different higher education institutions throughout the Netherlands. In fact, a small number of institutions account for a large proportion of these students (Table 6.2). With regard to higher vocational education, we notice that five institutions attract almost half of all foreign students. With regard to Dutch universities, the picture is even more skewed. In 2016, sixty percent of all foreign university students enrolled in only five universities. In this respect, the position of the University of Maastricht is worth mentioning. Almost one in five foreign university students attends this university.

Table 6.2 Top 5 Institutes for higher vocational education and universities with the highest numbers of foreign students¹, 2016

Institutes for higher vocational education			Universities		
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	
Fontys Hogescholen	4,422	15.1	Universiteit Maastricht	8,285	19.0
Saxion Hogeschool	2,633	9.0	Rijksuniversiteit Groningen	4,891	11.2
De Haagse Hogeschool	2,242	7.7	Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam	4,662	10.7
Stenden Hogeschool	2,096	7.2	Technische Universiteit Delft	4,337	10.0
Hanzehogeschool Groningen	2,041	7.0	Universiteit van Amsterdam	4,264	9.8
Total Top 5	13,434	46.0	Total Top 5	26,439	60.7
Other	15,770	54.0	Other	17,100	39.3
Total	29,204	100.0	Total	43,539	100.0

Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

¹ Students whose nationality is unknown or who are stateless have not been included.

6.3 Appendix

Appendix Table 6.1a Number of foreign students by country of origin, 2011-2016

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
EU-28	40,947	74.7	42,854	75.1	44,845	75.1	46,164	74.8	48,509	73.2	52,658	72.4
EU-15	35,206	64.2	36,532	64.1	37,725	63.2	38,273	62.0	39,689	59.9	42,795	58.8
Germany	25,278	46.1	25,132	44.1	24,541	41.1	23,479	38.0	22,723	34.3	22,739	31.3
Italy	1,054	1.9	1,281	2.2	1,585	2.7	2,111	3.4	2,730	4.1	3,456	4.8
Belgium	2,420	4.4	2,468	4.3	2,652	4.4	2,776	4.5	2,933	4.4	3,259	4.5
United Kingdom	1,170	2.1	1,552	2.7	2,011	3.4	2,244	3.6	2,581	3.9	3,039	4.2
Greece	1,467	2.7	1,923	3.4	2,182	3.7	2,156	3.5	2,222	3.4	2,414	3.3
Spain	908	1.7	1,008	1.8	1,203	2.0	1,485	2.4	1,761	2.7	2,145	2.9
France	1,065	1.9	1,140	2.0	1,234	2.1	1,402	2.3	1,716	2.6	2,050	2.8
Portugal	425	0.8	454	0.8	507	0.8	552	0.9	642	1.0	807	1.1
Finland	303	0.6	336	0.6	396	0.7	448	0.7	559	0.8	671	0.9
Austria	348	0.6	376	0.7	417	0.7	460	0.7	501	0.8	578	0.8
Ireland	193	0.4	208	0.4	262	0.4	363	0.6	430	0.6	575	0.8
Sweden	292	0.5	311	0.5	334	0.6	379	0.6	403	0.6	446	0.6
Denmark	179	0.3	209	0.4	251	0.4	256	0.4	275	0.4	314	0.4
Luxembourg	104	0.2	134	0.2	150	0.3	162	0.3	213	0.3	302	0.4
EU-12	5,668	10.3	6,250	11.0	7,003	11.7	7,702	12.5	8,565	12.9	9,539	13.1
Bulgaria	1,603	2.9	1,647	2.9	1,698	2.8	1,841	3.0	2,071	3.1	2,336	3.2
Romania	980	1.8	1,117	2.0	1,245	2.1	1,372	2.2	1,612	2.4	1,866	2.6
Poland	971	1.8	946	1.7	1,021	1.7	1,141	1.8	1,294	2.0	1,436	2.0
Lithuania	506	0.9	653	1.1	843	1.4	845	1.4	917	1.4	942	1.3
Hungary	379	0.7	450	0.8	547	0.9	622	1.0	653	1.0	756	1.0
Latvia	414	0.8	501	0.9	538	0.9	555	0.9	588	0.9	586	0.8
Slovakia	251	0.5	285	0.5	327	0.5	382	0.6	411	0.6	454	0.6
Czech Republic	210	0.4	232	0.4	290	0.5	341	0.6	352	0.5	365	0.5
Estonia	144	0.3	188	0.3	214	0.4	260	0.4	257	0.4	292	0.4
Cyprus	82	0.1	94	0.2	124	0.2	160	0.3	191	0.3	262	0.4
Slovenia	111	0.2	121	0.2	140	0.2	163	0.3	195	0.3	211	0.3
Malta	17	0.0	16	0.0	16	0.0	20	0.0	24	0.0	33	0.0
Croatia	73	0.1	72	0.1	117	0.2	189	0.3	255	0.4	324	0.4

Appendix Table 6.1a (part 2)

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
Western (non EU)	3,818	7.0	3,965	7.0	4,189	7.0	4,628	7.5	5,283	8.0	6,104	8.4
Indonesia	940	1.7	936	1.6	962	1.6	1,106	1.8	1,308	2.0	1,608	2.2
United States	568	1.0	548	1.0	561	0.9	606	1.0	676	1.0	842	1.2
Russia	442	0.8	483	0.8	558	0.9	653	1.1	759	1.1	774	1.1
Norway	363	0.7	384	0.7	406	0.7	396	0.6	415	0.6	470	0.6
Ukraine	223	0.4	244	0.4	274	0.5	297	0.5	366	0.6	398	0.5
Switzerland	249	0.5	253	0.4	277	0.5	287	0.5	317	0.5	364	0.5
Canada	192	0.4	191	0.3	196	0.3	230	0.4	268	0.4	290	0.4
Japan	120	0.2	137	0.2	118	0.2	128	0.2	143	0.2	171	0.2
Albania	51	0.1	64	0.1	60	0.1	94	0.2	115	0.2	167	0.2
Iceland	112	0.2	112	0.2	111	0.2	123	0.2	132	0.2	135	0.2
Azerbaijan	78	0.1	95	0.2	91	0.2	100	0.2	112	0.2	117	0.2
Kazakhstan	43	0.1	49	0.1	58	0.1	71	0.1	94	0.1	103	0.1
Serbia	72	0.1	74	0.1	67	0.1	69	0.1	87	0.1	103	0.1
Australia	49	0.1	56	0.1	70	0.1	84	0.1	81	0.1	102	0.1
Other Western ¹	316	0.6	339	0.6	380	0.6	384	0.6	410	0.6	460	0.6
Non-Western	10,047	18.3	10,206	17.9	10,662	17.9	10,937	17.7	12,500	18.9	13,981	19.2
China	4,396	8.0	4,546	8.0	4,527	7.6	4,318	7.0	4,446	6.7	4,506	6.2
India	507	0.9	542	1.0	675	1.1	914	1.5	1,303	2.0	1,527	2.1
Turkey	678	1.2	636	1.1	661	1.1	697	1.1	826	1.2	1,056	1.5
Suriname	562	1.0	584	1.0	604	1.0	566	0.9	600	0.9	649	0.9
South Korea	269	0.5	272	0.5	303	0.5	327	0.5	435	0.7	605	0.8
Vietnam	264	0.5	255	0.4	276	0.5	295	0.5	388	0.6	517	0.7
Mexico	240	0.4	268	0.5	294	0.5	313	0.5	400	0.6	454	0.6
Morocco	221	0.4	232	0.4	256	0.4	277	0.4	294	0.4	330	0.5
Iran	384	0.7	369	0.6	301	0.5	282	0.5	314	0.5	312	0.4
Brazil	136	0.2	142	0.2	160	0.3	217	0.4	281	0.4	306	0.4
Colombia	180	0.3	173	0.3	186	0.3	176	0.3	212	0.3	241	0.3
Thailand	97	0.2	81	0.1	126	0.2	134	0.2	168	0.3	203	0.3
Taiwan	108	0.2	124	0.2	133	0.2	137	0.2	162	0.2	183	0.3
Syria	13	0.0	14	0.0	15	0.0	28	0.0	60	0.1	177	0.2
Egypt	33	0.1	41	0.1	74	0.1	85	0.1	107	0.2	163	0.2
Pakistan	95	0.2	89	0.2	95	0.2	118	0.2	153	0.2	162	0.2
South Africa	71	0.1	85	0.1	104	0.2	113	0.2	127	0.2	152	0.2
Nigeria	159	0.3	138	0.2	137	0.2	158	0.3	164	0.2	149	0.2
Malaysia	59	0.1	57	0.1	60	0.1	78	0.1	104	0.2	126	0.2
Oman	11	0.0	23	0.0	56	0.1	98	0.2	117	0.2	124	0.2
Saudi Arabia	34	0.1	73	0.1	85	0.1	92	0.1	121	0.2	120	0.2
Bangladesh	53	0.1	58	0.1	87	0.1	85	0.1	74	0.1	114	0.2
Ecuador	45	0.1	55	0.1	81	0.1	86	0.1	124	0.2	113	0.2
Ghana	75	0.1	74	0.1	79	0.1	73	0.1	82	0.1	107	0.1
Other non-Western ¹	1,357	2.5	1,275	2.2	1,287	2.2	1,270	2.1	1,438	2.2	1,585	2.2
Total²	54,812	100.0	57,025	100.0	59,696	100.0	61,729	100.0	66,292	100.0	72,743	100.0

Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

¹ Other countries are countries with less than 100 students studying in the Netherlands in 2016.

² Students whose nationality is unknown or who are stateless have not been included.

Appendix Table 6.2a Number of foreign students in Dutch higher vocational education and university education, 2011-2016¹

		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
NL	University	217,802	211,873	218,104	221,110	221,325	222,151
	Higher vocational education	395,102	392,515	410,715	417,036	412,778	416,139
EU-15	University	16,451	17,744	19,189	20,419	22,491	25,823
	Higher vocational education	18,755	18,788	18,536	17,854	17,198	16,972
EU-12	University	3,122	3,261	3,585	3,880	4,290	4,872
	Higher vocational education	2,546	2,989	3,418	3,822	4,275	4,667
Croatia	University	35	40	67	125	161	212
	Higher vocational education	38	32	50	64	94	112
Other Western	University	2,004	2,077	2,219	2,557	3,128	3,876
	Higher vocational education	1,814	1,888	1,970	2,071	2,155	2,228
Non-Western	University	5,366	5,636	6,026	6,380	7,609	8,756
	Higher vocational education	4,681	4,570	4,636	4,557	4,891	5,225
Total foreign students	University	26,978	28,758	31,086	33,361	37,679	43,539
	Higher vocational education	27,834	28,267	28,610	28,368	28,613	29,204
Total students	University	244,780	240,631	249,190	254,471	259,004	265,690
	Higher vocational education	422,936	420,782	439,325	445,404	441,391	445,343

Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

¹ Students whose nationality is unknown have not been included.

Appendix Table 6.3a Male and female students disaggregated by higher vocational education/university education and by Dutch/foreign students, 2011-2016¹

		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Higher vocational education							
Male	Foreign	11,300	11,530	11,894	12,141	12,444	12,915
	Dutch	192,200	191,638	201,291	204,590	202,614	204,222
	Total	203,500	203,168	213,185	216,731	215,058	217,137
Female	Foreign	16,534	16,737	16,716	16,227	16,169	16,289
	Dutch	202,902	200,877	209,424	212,446	210,164	211,917
	Total	219,436	217,614	226,140	228,673	226,333	228,206
University							
Male	Foreign	12,492	13,556	14,700	15,763	17,901	20,341
	Dutch	106,459	103,656	106,994	108,426	109,185	109,682
	Total	118,951	117,212	121,694	124,189	127,086	130,023
Female	Foreign	14,486	15,202	16,386	17,598	19,778	23,198
	Dutch	111,343	108,217	111,110	112,684	112,140	112,469
	Total	125,829	123,419	127,496	130,282	131,918	135,667
Total male		322,451	320,380	334,879	340,920	342,144	347,160
Total female		345,265	341,033	353,636	358,955	358,251	363,873
% females in higher education		51.7%	51.6%	51.4%	51.3%	51.1%	51.2%

Source: The Education Executive Agency (DUO). Data supplied on request (2017)

¹ Students whose nationality is unknown have not been included.



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 a number of socio-demographic characteristics of foreign residents. Their settlement patterns within the Netherlands are also dealt with. Finally, this chapter pays attention to the acquisition of Dutch citizenship.

7.1 Main Findings

- The Netherlands hosts about 3,863,000 million residents with a migration background. This number corresponds with a share of 22.6 percent of the total population in the Netherlands.
- Most non-native residents originate from non-Western countries; almost 2.2 million non-natives belong to one of the so-called non-Western migrant communities. The Turkish community (with over 400,000 persons) is the largest non-Western migrant group in the Netherlands.
- The total number of Western immigrants in the Netherlands is almost 1.7 million. With about 364,000 persons in the Netherlands, Indonesians are the largest Western immigrant group⁵⁸, followed closely by German immigrants (about 357,000 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 numbers of first-generation and second-generation immigrants living in the Netherlands differ among various migrant groups. Most migrants from Central-Eastern Europe and most asylum migrants are first-generation migrants. Conversely, the proportion of second-generation migrants is much 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 cities Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht. On 1 January 2015, 37 percent of all non-Western immigrants lived in one of these cities.
- Like non-Western immigrants, Western immigrants are also concentrated in the larger cities, but they live in the border areas of the Netherlands as well.
- The number of foreign residents who obtained Dutch citizenship sharply decreased after the introduction of the naturalisation exam in 2003. In 2016, about 28,500 persons obtained Dutch citizenship, including approximately 21,500 persons through naturalisation.

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 uses 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: 'persons with a 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.⁵⁹ The advantage of this definition is described in box 1

⁵⁸ 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.

⁵⁹ Until recently this group was referred to as 'allochthonous'. However, in response to a public debate about this terminology, Statistics Netherlands reported in October 2016 that they will no longer use this term. They state that this term has too many negative connotations. Moreover, the dichotomy between allochthonous and native Dutch residences is no longer deemed suitable for current issues on migration and integration.

One advantage of the Dutch definition of ‘persons with a 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. A second 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, the total number of foreign nationals on 1 January 2017 was ‘only’ 972,298, (which is 6% of the total Dutch population), whereas the foreign-born definition resulted for that same year in a much higher number of non-natives living in the Netherlands, namely 2,137,236 (12.5%). When using the definition for ‘persons with a migration background’ (which also counts second-generation migrants as immigrants), one out of five persons in the Netherlands was regarded as non-native Dutch on 1 January 2017 (see Table 7.1 and the Appendix Table 7.1a for a more detailed overview on non-native residents by nationality).

Table 7.1 Number of foreign residents, 1 January 2017

	Abs.	% of total Dutch population
Total Dutch population	17,081,507	100.0
Non-native residents	3,862,753	22.6
<i>from:</i>		
<i>Western countries</i>	1,689,030	9.9
<i>Non-Western</i>	2,173,723	12.7

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

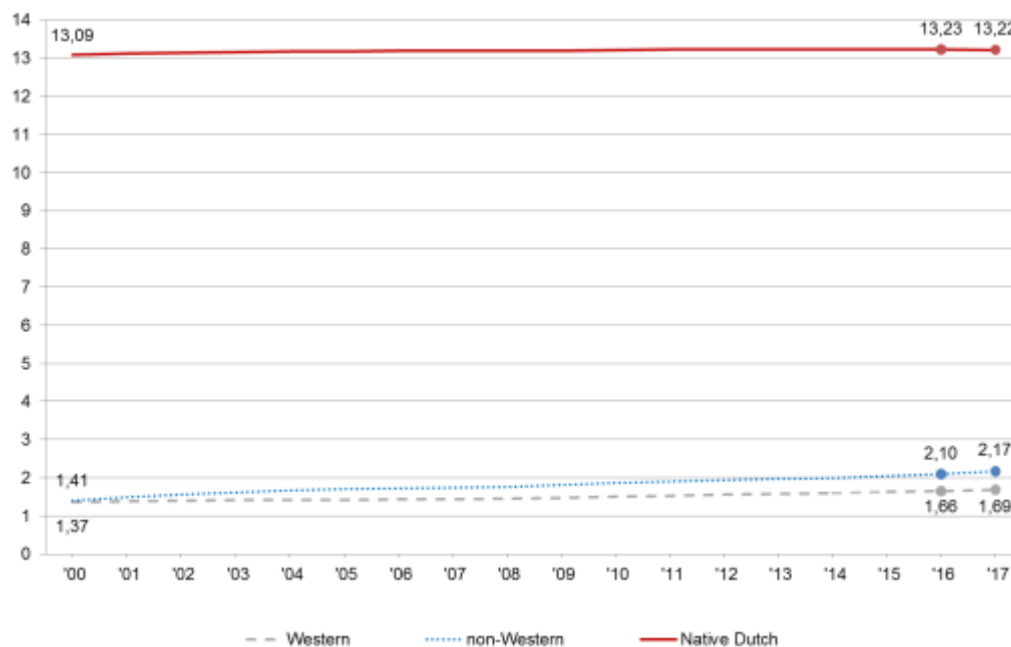
We will continue this chapter by describing the data based on the Dutch definition of ‘persons with a migration background’. Thus, when we speak of ‘immigrants’ in this chapter, we do not only refer to foreign-born residents but also their children born in the Netherlands.

7.3 Background and Composition of Immigrants

7.3.1 Country of origin

The total Dutch population increased during the last 17 years, but the growth rate is stronger for the migrant population as compared to the native Dutch population (see also Figure 7.1). The strongest growth took place for non-Western immigrants. Whereas the number of Western and non-Western migrants was equal in 2000 (both around 1.4 million), the latter group reached a number above 2 million in 2014 (an increase of 49%) and kept increasing since. The number of Western migrants in the Netherlands was approximately 1.7 million on 1 January 2017 (an increase of 21%, compared to 2000). In comparison, the native Dutch population only increased 1 percent during this period of time.

Figure 7.1 Population growth for native Dutch and non-natives (Western versus non-Western), 2000-2017 (x million)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

On 1 January 2017, approximately 12.7 percent (more than 2 million persons) of the Dutch population consisted of non-Western immigrants. The largest group of non-Western immigrants originated from Turkey, followed by Morocco and Suriname. The total number of Western immigrants in the Netherlands was about 1.7 million (9.9% of the total population). The largest categories of Western immigrants were Indonesians and migrants from EU countries, such as Germany and Poland. See Table 7.2 for the Top 10 list of the largest immigrant groups in the Netherlands on 1 January 2017, with both absolute numbers and percentages depicted.

Table 7.2 Top 10 Migrant groups in the Netherlands, 1 January 2017

Country	abs.	% of total Dutch population
Turkey	400,367	2.3%
Morocco	391,088	2.3%
Indonesia	364,328	2.1%
Germany	356,875	2.1%
Suriname	349,978	2.0%
Poland	161,158	0.9%
(Former) Neth. Antilles and Aruba	153,469	0.9%
Belgium	117,495	0.7%
United Kingdom	86,293	0.5%
Former Yugoslavia	85,504	0.5%
Total non-native residents	3,862,753	22.6%

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

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 more or less equal. For Western immigrants, the proportion of male immigrants is somewhat lower with 47.9 percent.

With regard to the age distribution, however, there are some apparent differences among the three groups. The average age of non-Western immigrants is relatively low as compared to the native population and the Western immigrant population in the Netherlands (see Table 7.3). More in detail, non-Western immigrants in the Netherlands reveal a relatively large share of people younger than 20 years of age and a small share of elderly people. Only 8.7 percent of non-Western immigrants are over 60 years of age. Among both the Western immigrants and native Dutch, this proportion is much higher (24.2% and 27.4%, respectively).

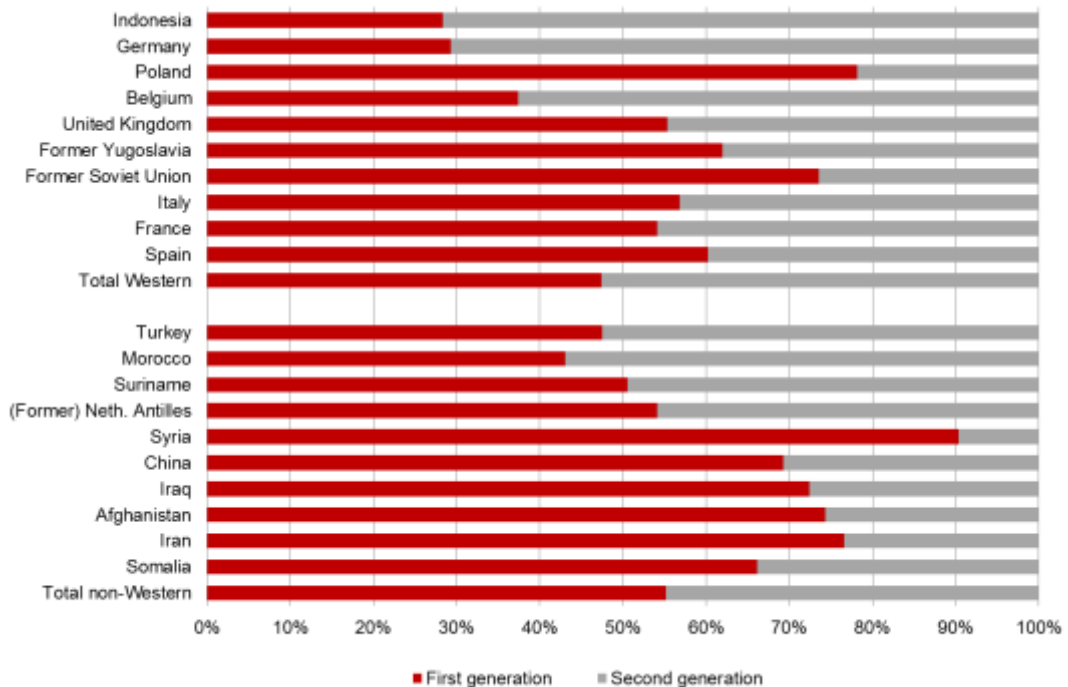
Table 7.3 Age distribution among non-natives (non-Western versus Western) and native Dutch, 1 January 2017 (percentages)

Age	Non-native		
	% non-Western	% Western	% native Dutch
0-10	14.7	9.1	10.1
10-20	16.0	8.6	11.5
20-30	17.8	14.6	11.5
30-40	17.3	15.2	10.7
40-50	14.5	14.7	13.6
50-60	10.9	13.7	15.2
60-70	5.5	12.0	13.3
70-80	2.5	8.0	9.0
80-90	0.6	3.6	4.3
>90	0.1	0.6	0.8

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

First versus second generation. The proportion of first and second-generation immigrants living in the Netherlands differs among various migrant groups (see Figure 7.2). On the one hand, immigrants from Central-Eastern European countries and asylum migrants consist for most part of first-generation immigrants. For example, for Poland, the proportion of first-generation immigrants is 78.2 percent, and for immigrants from Syria this share is 90.4 percent. On the other hand, for migrant groups that on average have been living in the Netherlands a longer period of time, this pattern is reversed. The two countries with the highest proportions of second-generation migrants are Indonesia (71.7%) and Germany (70.7%).

Figure 7.2 Proportion between first and second-generation immigrants by country groups, January 1, 2017 (percentages)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

7.4 Demographic Developments

In this section we take a deeper look into some demographic developments of the largest migrant groups in the Netherlands. Most recent statistics with respect to life birth and deceased for specific immigrant groups refer to 2015. In that year, the Dutch population had a positive birth balance of 23,376. This means that the number of live births was higher than the number of deceased (see also Table 7.4). The population growth, computed as the difference between the population on 1 January 2015 (16,900,726) and 31 December 2015 (16,979,120) was +0.5 percent. 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 simultaneously decreased. The largest population growth within the group of non-natives took place among refugees from Syria. With regard to Western countries, most of the largest population growth is seen among individuals from EU countries, especially from Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland. These increased numbers are mostly the result of new immigrants arriving in the Netherlands. As these migrant groups are relatively ‘new’ in the Netherlands (with the exception of Poland), the numbers of live births and deceased persons are thus far rather small.

With regard to the four large non-Western immigrant groups in the Netherlands (Turkey, Morocco, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles), the 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 a long time, both the number of live births and deceased persons is relatively large.

Table 7.4 Demographic developments of the Dutch population, 2015^{1,2}

	Jan. 1st	Live births	Deceased	Birth balance	Immigration	Emigration ¹	Dec. 31st	% Growth
Total	16,900,726	170,510	147,134	23,376	204,615	149,509	16,979,120	0.5
Native Dutch	13,235,405	126,438	128,432	-1,994	23,478	29,708	13,226,829	-0.1
Non-native Dutch (total)	3,665,321	44,072	18,702	25,370	181,137	119,801	3,752,291	2.4
<i>from</i>								
Western	1,626,812	15,084	13,853	1,231	98,104	70,323	1,655,699	1.8
<i>from</i>								
EU(28)	1,009,902	10,779	9,545	1,234	78,279	55,057	1,034,201	2.4
<i>of whom from</i>								
Germany	364,125	1,727	6,308	-4,581	8,920	8,351	360,116	-1.1
Poland	137,794	3,239	328	2,911	23,179	14,011	149,831	8.7
Bulgaria	23,308	485	26	459	4,702	2,937	25,520	9.5
Romania	21,049	424	45	379	4,279	2,675	23,020	9.4
<i>or from</i>								
Indonesia	369,661	731	3,636	-2,905	2,537	2,466	366,849	-0.8
non-Western	2,038,509	28,988	4,849	24,139	83,033	49,478	2,096,592	2.8
<i>of whom from</i>								
Turkey	396,555	4,331	956	3,375	4,855	7,384	397,471	0.2
Morocco	380,755	5,943	748	5,195	2,733	2,993	385,761	1.3
Suriname	348,662	2,340	1,454	886	2,373	3,015	349,022	0.1
Neth. Antilles	148,926	2,141	423	1,718	3,913	3,687	150,981	1.4
Syria	22,568	723	33	690	20,988	391	43,838	94.2
India	29,501	621	62	559	6,390	3,767	32,682	10.8
Ethiopia	13,709	289	21	268	2,742	374	16,347	19.2

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹ Emigration numbers include administrative corrections.

² This table includes the main countries from which immigrants in the Netherlands originate, as well as the countries for which the growth rate was higher than 7,5 percent and for which the population number was higher than 10,000 on December 31st.

7.5 Regions of Settlement of Foreign Residents⁶⁰

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 four largest cities 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; around 35 percent. When considering residential patterns of individual migrant groups, an even stronger pattern of spatial concentration becomes apparent. Of all Moroccans and Surinamese, almost half live in the G4 cities.

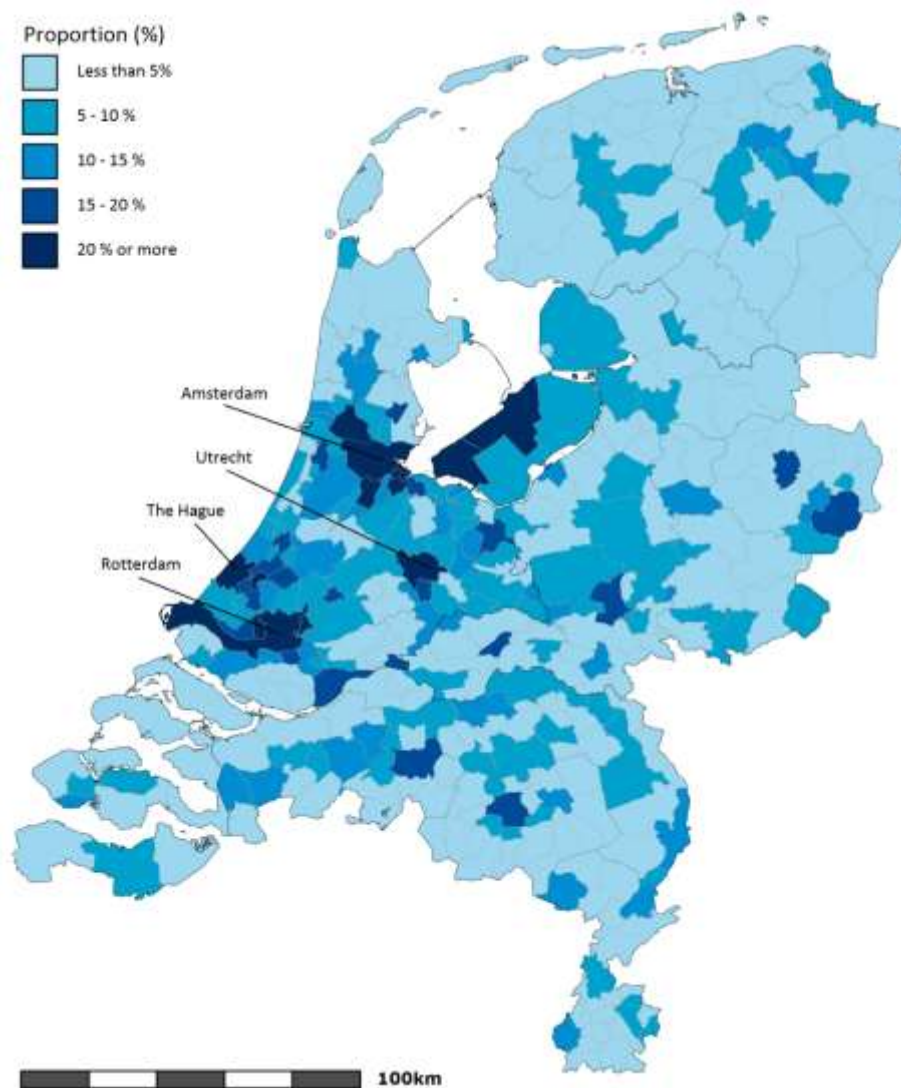
Immigrants originating from typical 'refugee countries' live relatively equally spread across the Netherlands. A likely explanation for this is that most of the asylum seeker centres are located outside the largest cities and that refugees move to towns close to these centres after they have been admitted. However, as they stay longer in the Netherlands, these migrants increasingly move to urban areas, par-

⁶⁰ The statistics in this section are not compatible with section 7.5 in the previous SOPEMI report. In this year's report the numbers refer to the number of citizens in municipalities, while the previous report depicted the number of citizens in metropolitan agglomerations.

ticularly in the west of the country.⁶¹ See Figure 7.3 below for a graphical representation of the Dutch regions of settlements of non-Western immigrants in 2016.

Western immigrants. Much more often than non-Western immigrants, Western immigrants tend to live in the border areas of the Netherlands, the southern and eastern parts in particular (see Figure 7.4). Also a few more rural areas in the Western part of the country, locating 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 7.4 below for a graphical overview of the main regions of settlement of Western immigrants in 2016. Table 7.5, demonstrates the proportions of Western and non-Western inhabitants in the G4-cities on 1 January, 2016.

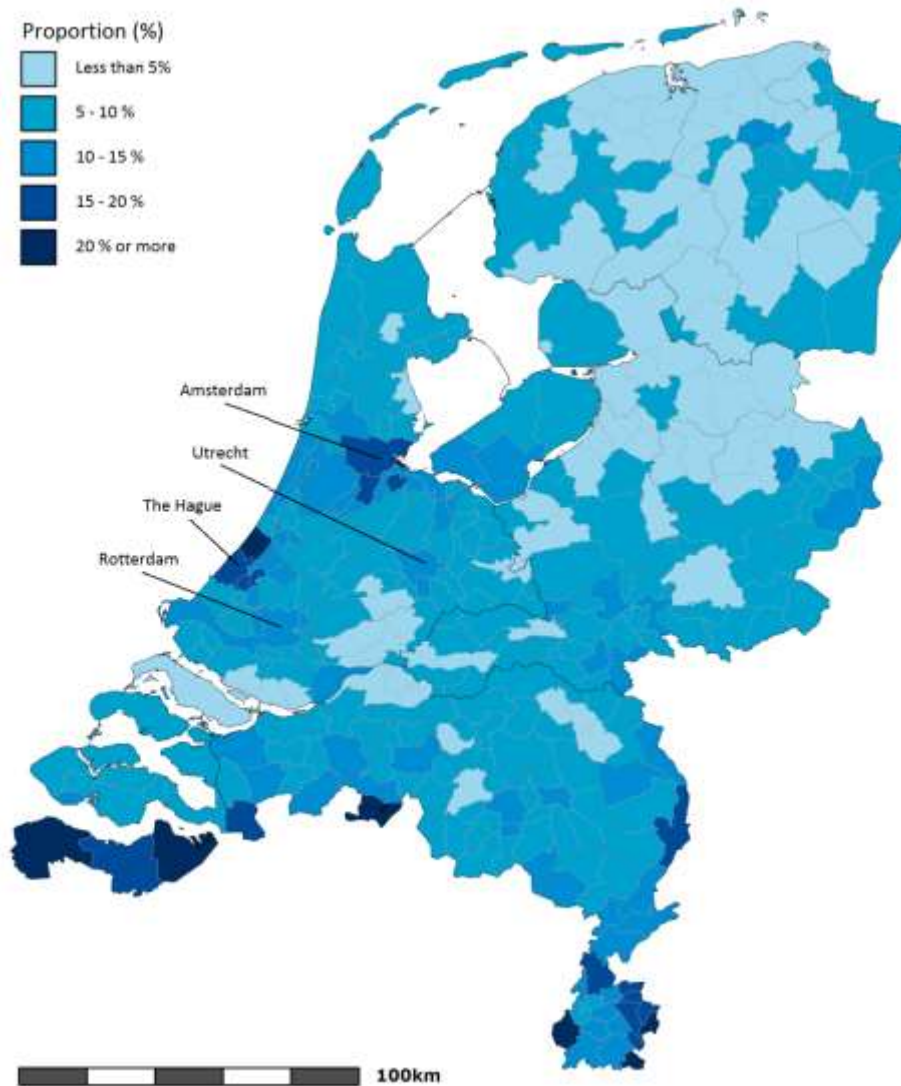
Figure 7.3 Region of settlement of non-Western immigrants on 1 January 2017 (in percentages)



Source: Statistics Netherlands (2017)

⁶¹ 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 Western immigrants on 1 January 2017



Source: Statistics Netherlands (2017)

Table 7.5 Western and non-Western foreign residents in the four Dutch largest cities, 1 January 2017 (absolute numbers and percentages)¹

	Western		Non-Western				Total
	Total %	Total %	Morocco %	Neth. Antilles %	Suriname %	Turkey %	Abs.
Netherlands	9.9	12.7	2.3	0.9	2.0	2.3	17,081,507
Amsterdam	17.5	35.0	9.0	1.5	7.7	5.1	844,947
The Hague	17.5	35.2	5.9	2.4	8.8	7.5	524,882
Rotterdam	12.4	37.9	6.9	3.9	8.3	7.5	634,660
Utrecht	11.3	22.5	8.8	0.8	2.3	4.0	343,038
<i>% of migrants who live in G4-cities</i>	21.1	36.7	46.2	34.0	49.2	36.0	

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

¹The first five lines depict, per city, the proportion of the Western or non-Western population within that city (i.e. the population of Amsterdam consists of 17.5% Western immigrants). The bottom line depicts, per migrant group, the share of migrants living in one of the G4-cities (i.e. 21.1% of Western immigrants live in one of the G4-cities).

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

Within the last 16 years approximately 544,000 persons obtained Dutch citizenship. The yearly number of total acquisitions of the Dutch citizenship declined between 2000 and 2004 (from approximately 50,000 to about 26,000). After this decline, the number has been relatively stable. Between 2004 and 2016, the number of new citizenships fluctuated around 30,000 new acquisitions each year. In 2016, 28,534 foreign nationals obtained Dutch citizenship.

Naturalisation. The decrease in total acquisitions of Dutch citizenship between 2002 and 2003 (see Figure 7.5) can largely be explained by the introduction of the naturalisation exam in 2003. From that moment, in order to acquire Dutch citizenship, foreign nationals needed to pass this exam, which includes both knowledge of the Dutch society and the Dutch language. At the same time, additional measures were introduced which equally had a dampening effect on the number of naturalisations.⁶² Especially the restrictions imposed on the legal possibilities of having dual nationality are thought to have had a negative effect on the number of applications for Dutch citizenship. After 2004, the number of naturalisations stabilized around 22,000 naturalisations each year.

By option. Between 2000 and 2003, the number of persons who obtained Dutch citizenship by option was about 3,000 acquisitions per year. However, after 2003, this number increased somewhat and stabilised around 6,500 acquisitions of Dutch citizenship a year, which, to a certain extent, compensated for the decline in the number of naturalisations. In 2016, the number of acquisitions by option was 6,531.

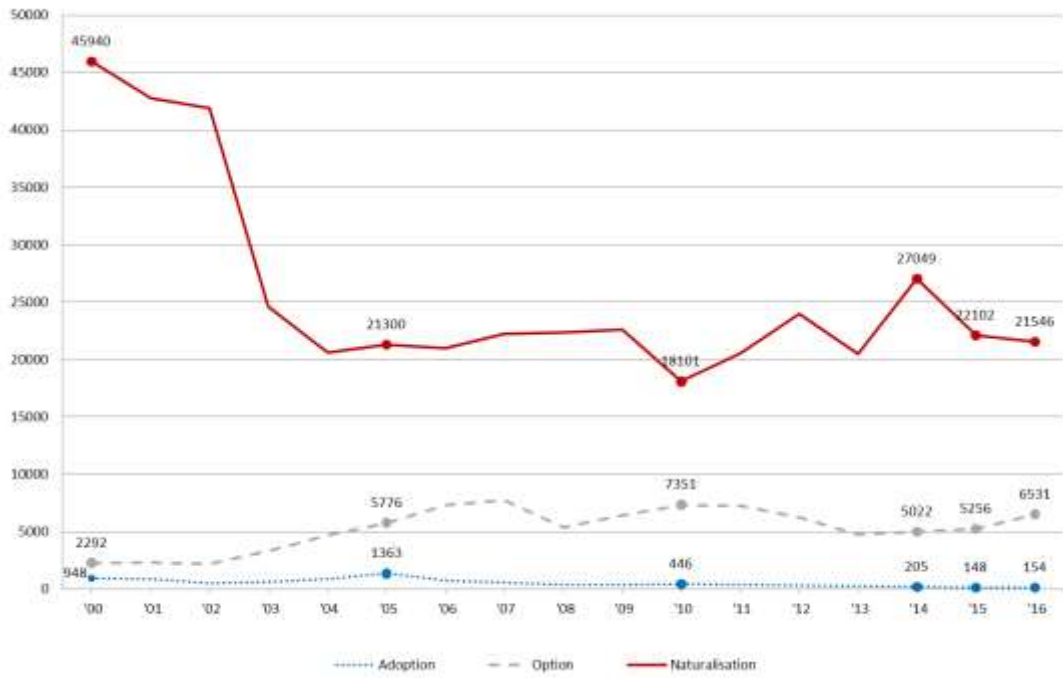
By adoption. The number of obtained Dutch citizenship by adoption is much lower compared to the previous described acquisition procedures. Moreover, the number of adoptions significantly decreased over the last 10 years: from 745 in 2006 to 154 in 2016.

Other procedures. Finally, there are two other procedures to obtain the Dutch citizenship that are not included in Figure 7.5. The first 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 happened 202 times in 2016. The second is through judicial determination of paternity; this happened 101 times in 2016.

⁶² Böcker, A., Groenendijk, C. A., & Hart, B. de (2005). De toegang tot het Nederlandschap. *Nederlands Juristenblad* 80(3), 157-184.

⁶³ Klaver, J. F. I., & Odé, A. W. M. (2009). *Civic integration and modern citizenship*. Groningen: Europe Law Publishing.

Figure 7.5 Number of persons who obtained Dutch citizenship by kind of regulation, 2000-2016



Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)

7.7 Appendix

Appendix Table 7.1a Dutch residents by country of origin¹, 1 January 2017

	Non-native residents	
	abs.	%
Total native residents	13,218,754	77.4
Total non-native residents	3,862,753	22.6
<i>from</i>		
Western countries	1,689,030	9.9
<i>of whom from</i>		
EU-28	1,046,024	6.1
<i>from</i>		
EU-15	791,998	4.6
Germany	356,875	2.1
Belgium	117,495	0.7
United Kingdom	86,293	0.5
Italy	50,925	0.3
France	43,836	0.3
Spain	42,926	0.3
Portugal	25,637	0.2
Greece	22,141	0.1
Austria	15,777	0.1
Ireland	9,399	0.1
Sweden	7,182	0.0
Denmark	6,485	0.0
Finland	5,155	0.0
Luxembourg	1,872	0.0
EU-10	200,205	1.2
Poland	161,158	0.9
Hungary	22,870	0.1
Lithuania	6,476	0.0
Latvia	4,530	0.0
Estonia	1,482	0.0
Cyprus	909	0.0
Slovakia	934	0.0
Czech Republic	876	0.0
Malta	596	0.0
Slovenia	374	0.0
EU-2	53,280	0.3
Bulgaria	27,729	0.2
Romania	25,551	0.1
Croatia	541	0.0
Other Europe	609,676	3.6
Turkey	400,367	2.3
Yugoslavia	82,121	0.5
Soviet Union	61,946	0.4
Czechoslovakia	15,697	0.1
Switzerland	11,483	0.1
Other Western	451,204	2.6
Indonesia	364,328	2.1
United States of America	40,022	0.2
Australia	16,597	0.1
Canada	15,944	0.1

Appendix Table 7.1a (part 2)

	Non-native residents	
	abs.	%
Non-Western background	2,173,723	12.7
<i>of whom from</i>		
Turkey	400,367	2.3
Morocco	391,088	2.3
Suriname	349,978	2.0
(former) Netherlands Antilles and Aruba	153,469	0.9
Syria	72,903	0.4
China	71,229	0.4
Iraq	59,497	0.3
Afghanistan	46,701	0.3
Iran	40,893	0.2
Somalia	39,457	0.2
India	36,818	0.2
Brazil	24,725	0.1
Egypt	23,956	0.1
Ghana	23,430	0.1
Cape Verde	22,285	0.1
Pakistan	22,137	0.1
Vietnam	22,023	0.1
Philippines	20,937	0.1
South Africa	20,859	0.1
Thailand	20,106	0.1
Ethiopia	19,528	0.1
Hong Kong	18,357	0.1
Colombia	16,607	0.1
Dominican Republic	14,318	0.1
Sri Lanka	12,696	0.1
Nigeria	12,350	0.1
Eritrea	11,609	0.1
Total Dutch population	17,081,507	100.0

¹Non-EU countries with fewer than 10,000 residents have not been included.

Source: Statistics Netherlands, online statistics (2017)



Changes in Labour Market Outcomes

8

8 Changes in Labour Market Outcomes

This chapter briefly deals with a number of issues related to the economic and social performance of immigrants and their children in the Netherlands. Most data cover the period 2000 up to and including 2015. Successively we look at labour market participation rates, unemployment figures, dependency on social assistance, income levels of migrants and patterns of social and civic participation.

8.1 Main Findings

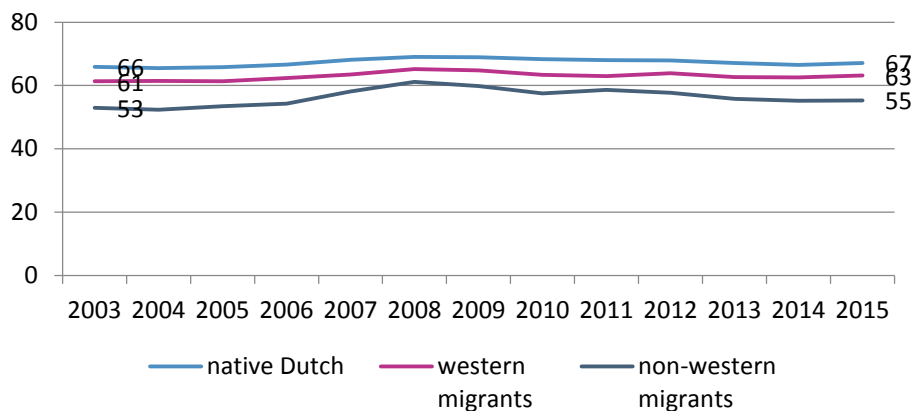
- In 2015, we notice a significant difference in labour market participation according to foreign background. These differences have not become smaller since 2003. Second generation migrants more often have a paid job than first generation migrants in the Netherlands.
- Nowadays, unemployment rates among non-Western immigrants are more than twice as high as those among the native Dutch population. These differences are largely due to the economic and financial crisis that started in 2008. From that year, differences in unemployment between non-Western immigrants and the native Dutch population have considerably increased.
- Compared to the first generation, second generation non-Western migrants are more often unemployed. This situation applies to the entire period between 2003 and 2015.
- Persons with a non-Western background are likely to depend more on social assistance benefits. In 2015, almost 14 percent of those with a non-Western background received a social assistance benefit, against a little more than 2 percent of the native Dutch population.
- When looking at the average income, the financial situation of non-Western migrants is less favourable compared to native Dutch people. Conversely, the income position of Western migrants is comparable with that of the native Dutch.
- Immigrants with a non-Western background are less likely to provide informal assistance or to participate in volunteer work as compared to the native Dutch population.

8.2 Labour Market Participation

8.2.1 General trend

Labour market participation of the native Dutch population and migrants in the Netherlands shows significant differences over a long period of time (Figure 8.1). These differences have not become smaller since 2003. Instead, after the start of the economic crisis in 2008 differences in net labour participation rates increased again, particularly between the Dutch native population and non-Western migrants in the Netherlands.

Figure 8.1 Development in labour market participation¹ of native Dutch and migrants, 2003-2015



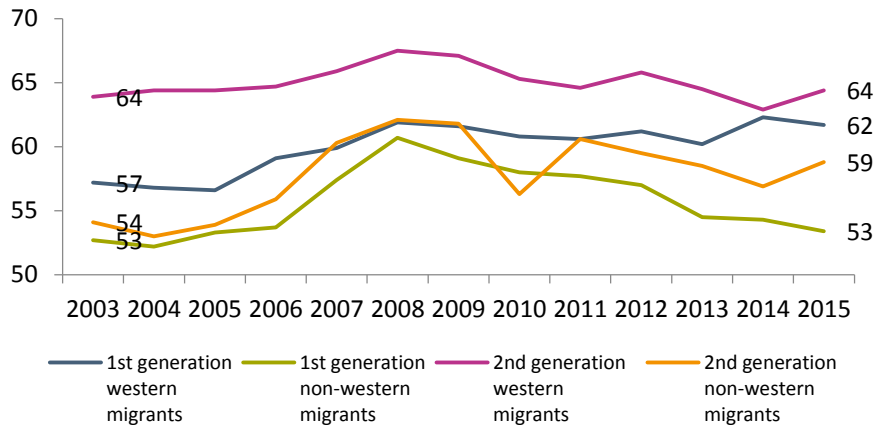
¹Percentage of net labour market participation of the population in the age 15-74 years old.

Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.2.2 Trends by generation

Second generation migrants more often have a paid job than first generation migrants (Figure 8.2). Moreover, differences between these generations have increased for non-Western migrants during the course of time. For Western migrants the gap between the two generations in labour participation has become smaller since the beginning of this century.

Figure 8.2 Development of labour market participation by generation for non-Western and Western migrants, 2003-2015

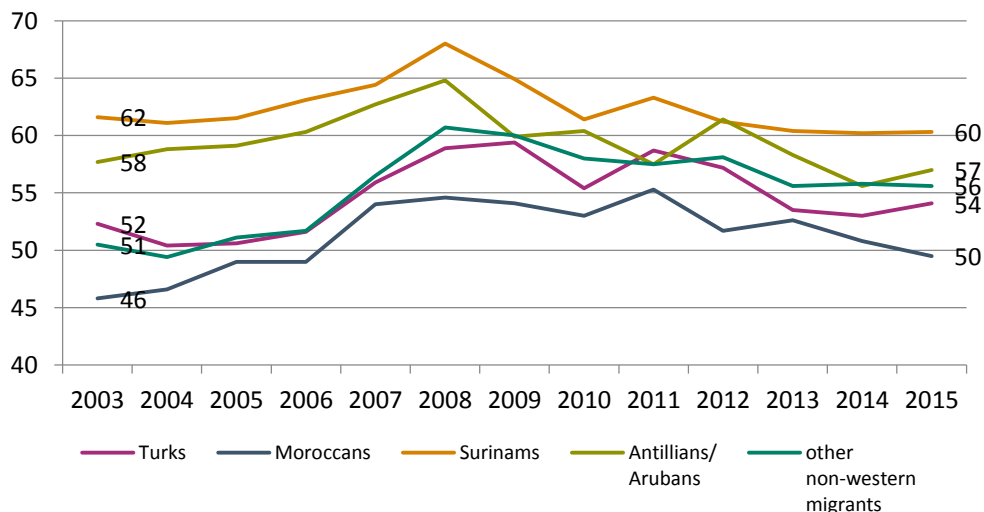


Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.2.3 Trends by foreign background

There are remarkable differences in labour market participation when looking at the foreign background of non-Western migrants. Figure 8.3 reveals this pattern for the largest non-Western migrant groups in the Netherlands. It is shown that migrants with a Moroccan background are significantly less often employed, whereas people with a Surinamese background are more often employed. Notably, between 2003 and 2008 employment rates increased for all mentioned immigrant groups. After the start of the economic crisis in 2008 these rates decreased again. Reduced participation rates particularly apply for Surinamese and Antillean migrants.

Figure 8.3 Developments of labour market participation by foreign background of non-Western migrants, 2003-2015



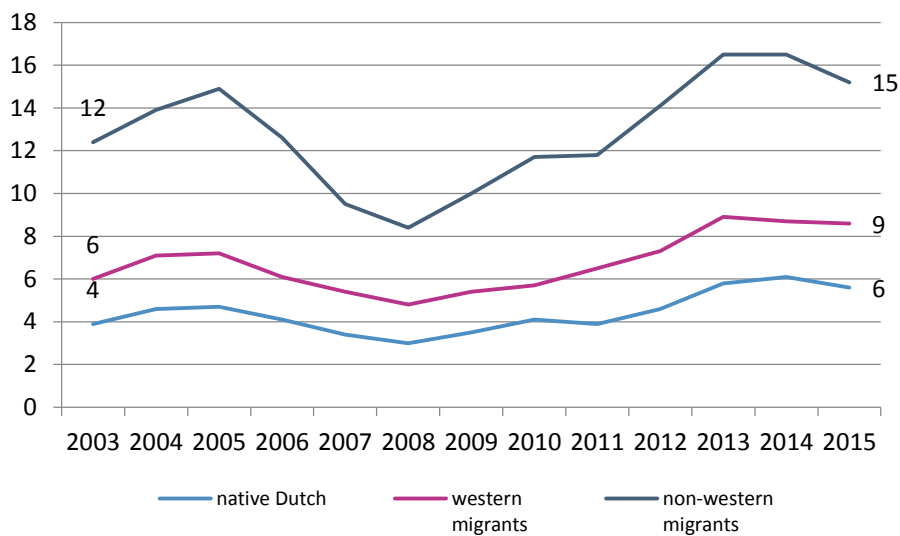
Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.3 Unemployment

8.3.1 General trend

Differences in unemployment rates notably decreased between the native Dutch population and non-Western migrants until 2008 (Figure 8.4). In the years afterwards, differences in unemployment increased in such a manner that this positive trend was reversed. Nowadays, unemployment rates among non-Western immigrants are more than twice as high compared to the native Dutch population.

Figure 8.4 Developments in unemployment rates, 2003-2015

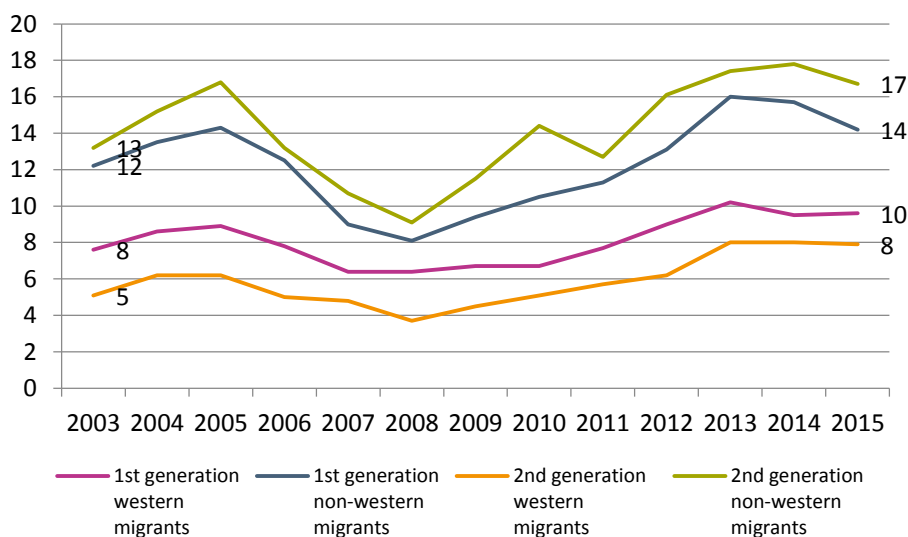


Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.3.2 Trends in unemployment by generation

Compared to the first generation, second generation non-Western migrants are more often unemployed (Figure 8.5). This has been the case for the entire period between 2003 and 2015. Among Western migrants a reverse situation presents itself: unemployment among the first generation is higher than among the second generation in every single year.

Figure 8.5 Development of unemployment by generation for non-Western and Western migrants, 2003-2015

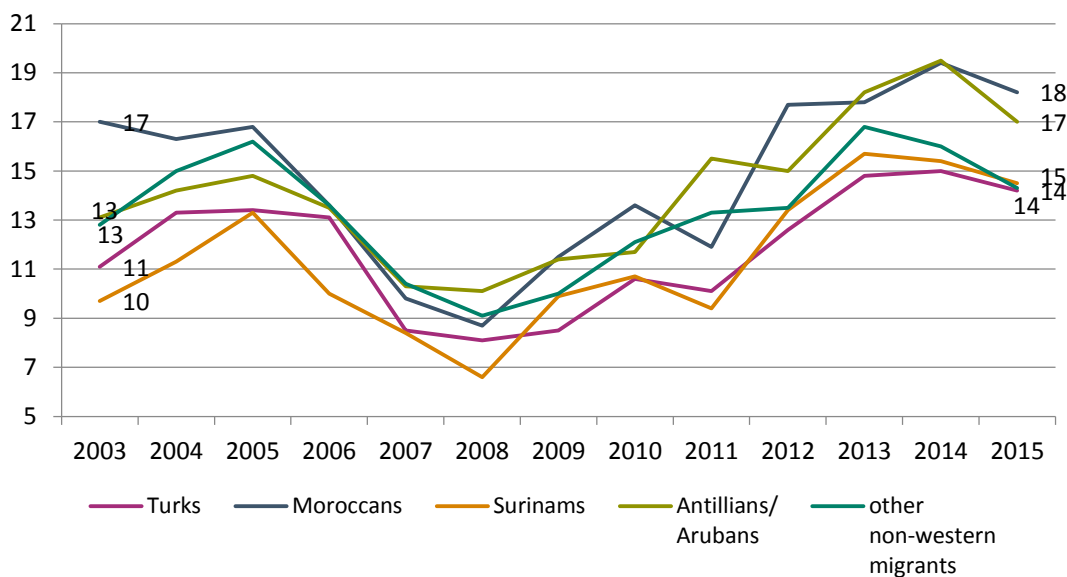


Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.3.3 Trends by foreign background for non-Western migrants

The four largest non-Western migrant groups show a similar pattern in unemployment rates between 2003 and 2015. Until 2008 unemployment decreased, while it strongly increased again in the years afterwards (Figure 8.6). Nowadays, unemployment is particularly high among Moroccan and Antillean immigrants in the Netherlands.

Figure 8.6 Developments in unemployment by foreign background of non-Western migrants, 2003-2015



Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.4 Social Assistance Benefits

As compared to the native Dutch population, migrants with a non-Western background highly depend on social assistance benefits. In 2015, 13.8 percent of all non-Western immigrants received some form of social assistance benefit.⁶⁴ For native Dutch this proportion was much lower (2.2 percent). Of all Western immigrants residing in the Netherlands, 4.1 percent received a social assistance benefit in 2015. In addition, there are significant differences between the first and second generation: 18 percent of the first non-Western generation versus 5.4 percent of the second receive a assistance benefit. Also many refugees in the Netherlands live on social assistance. In 2015, more than half of all persons with a Somali background received social assistance. Recently arrived refugees rely even more strongly on assistance provisions. About ninety percent of Syrian refugees who received a residence permit in 2014, received a social assistance benefit one year and a half later.⁶⁵ Conversely, recent immigrants from other EU Member States make little use of assistance benefits in the Netherlands.

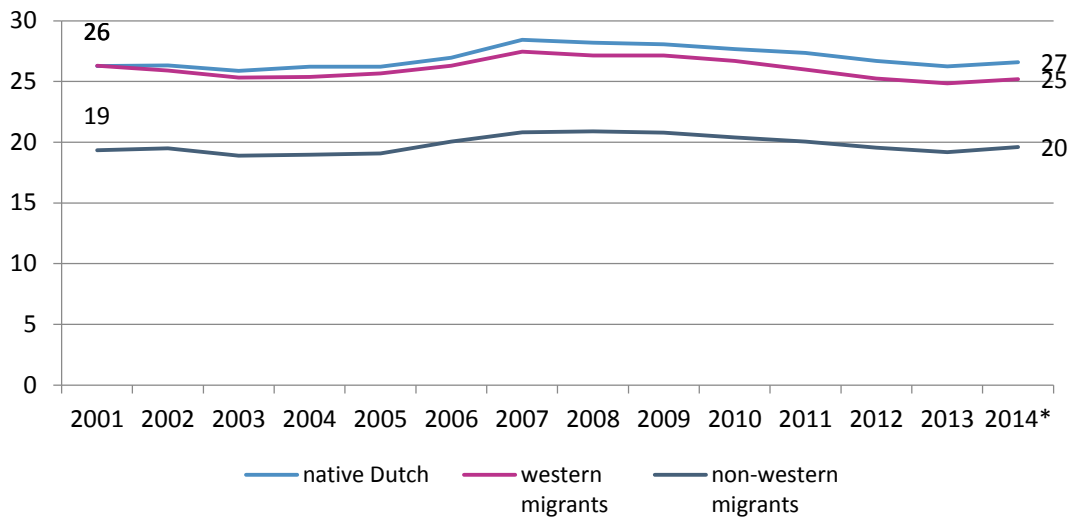
8.5 Income

8.5.1 General trend

With respect to average income levels of persons of 20 years and older, the financial situation of non-Western migrants is less favourable compared to native Dutch people (Figure 8.9). Conversely, the income position of Western migrants is comparable with that of the native Dutch.

⁶⁴ Statistics Netherlands, Summary Annual Report on Integration 2016, page 12-13.

Figure 8.9 Average income of persons of 20 years or older (x 1,000 euro), 2001-2014

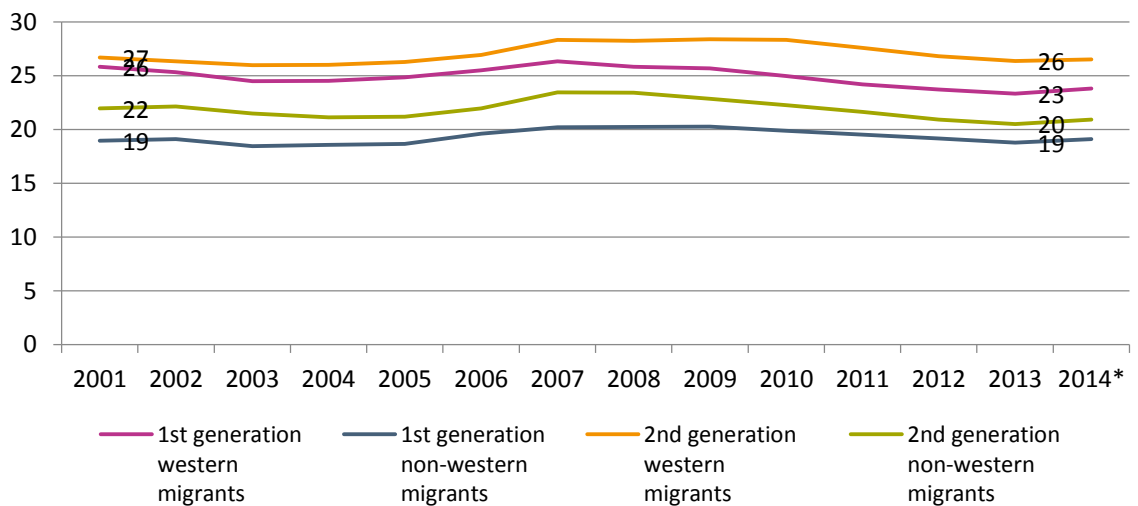


Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.5.1 Trends by generation

Second generation migrants in the Netherlands are enjoying a higher income than first generation migrants (Figure 8.10). This is the case for both Western and non-Western immigrant groups. Among non-Western migrants the income difference between the first and second generation residing in the Netherlands has, however, slightly decreased over the last fifteen years.

Figure 8.10 Average income of persons of 20 years or older (x 1,000 euro) by generation for non-Western and Western migrants, 2003-2015



Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

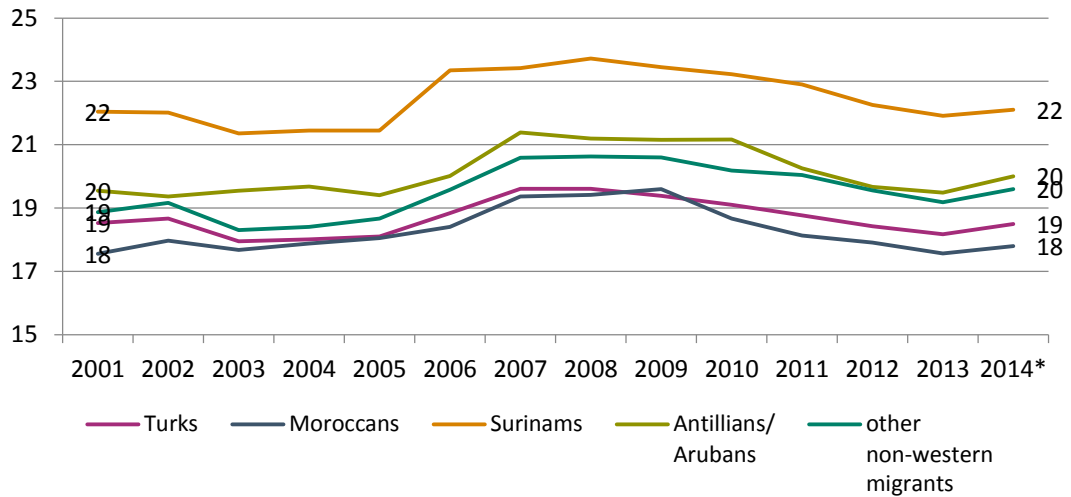
8.5.2 Trends by foreign background for non-Western migrants

The average income of the four largest non-Western migrant groups in the Netherlands shows a similar trend during the period 2001-2014 (Figure 8.11). We see an increase in average income levels up to the

⁶⁵ <https://scepter.net/2017/06/nederland-meeste-syrische-asielzoekers-15-jaar-op-bijstand/>

year 2007. From the beginning of the economic and financial crisis in 2008 all non-Western immigrant groups were confronted with a serious reduction in their average income.

Figure 8.11 Income trends of persons of 20 years or older (x 1,000 euro) by foreign background, 2001-2014



Source: Statistics Netherlands, *Kernindicatoren 2016*

8.6 Social and Civic Participation⁶⁶

Migrants with a non-Western background more often have day to day contacts with relatives and friends than native Dutch. This does, however, not apply to contacts with neighbours. For example, 63 percent of people with a Western or Dutch background contact their neighbours at least once a week, whereas this is less often the case for individuals with a non-Western background.

In addition to social contacts, people may also provide informal assistance to someone in their environment. Approximately one in three people with a Dutch or Western background provide informal assistance at least once in four weeks. For people with a non-Western background, this proportion is slightly lower (27%). It should be noted, however, that the second generation immigrants more often provide informal help than migrants of the first generation.

Second generation migrants in the Netherlands are also more involved in volunteer work than the first generation. Persons with a non-Western background are, however, less likely to volunteer than native Dutch. Lowest participation rates in the volunteer work apply to Turkish immigrants in the Netherlands.

⁶⁶ Information from Statistics Netherlands, Summary Annual Report on Integration 2016, page 17.



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 permanently 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 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 four 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 the employed labour force (people with a paid job for more than 12 hours per week) within the working-age population.

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.

Seasonal labour

A seasonal worker is a foreign national who comes to the Netherlands for a maximum period of 24 weeks to work in seasonal employment.

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. The latter two countries are included in the Western countries on the basis of their socio-economic and social-cultural position.

Total Western countries

All countries in Europe (excluding Turkey), North America, Oceania, 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.

Unemployed labour force

An unemployed person is someone (between 16 and 65 years) who has no paid employment for at least 12 hours per week, and is willing and able to work in paid employment for 12 hours per week.

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