

INFORMATION PACKAGE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FACT AND FIGURES **The Netherlands is the main port of Europe. Most products from all over the world with destination Europe enters the main port of Rotterdam. The Netherlands borders with Germany and Belgium.**

Main cities of The Netherlands are:

Amsterdam The Capital of the Netherlands, Schiphol Airport, 741,623 inhabitants on July 1, 2006, 173 nationalities on July 1, 2006.

Rotterdam The main port of Europe, 583,853 inhabitants on July 1, 2006, 167 nationalities on July 1, 2006.

The Hague The political capital of the Netherlands, 476,314 inhabitants on July 1, 2006, 167 nationalities on July 1, 2006

Source: Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics

Government	Head of State	HM Queen Beatrix
	Government	Parliamentary democracy
	Seat of Government	The Hague
	Capital City	Amsterdam

Geography and demography	Area	41,526 square km (16,033 square miles)
	Climate	temperate maritime
	Average temperatures	16°C / 61°F (Summer) and 3°C / 37°F (Winter)
	Population	16.334 million (2005)
	Population density	482 persons per square km (2005)
	Labor force	8,157,000 (2005)
	Average life expectancy	Men 77 years, Women 81 years
	National language	Dutch
	English spoken by	75% of the population
	Major religions	Catholic (31%), Protestant (20%)

Economic Performance	Gross Domestic Product	€ 454 billion (2005)
	GDP per capita	€ 28,000 (2005)
	Consumer price inflation	1.2% (2005)
	Unemployment rate	6.6% of total labor force (2005)
	Export of goods	€ 328.1 billion (2004)
	Import of goods	€ 222.6 billion (2004)
	Most important export destinations	Germany, Belgium, France and the UK
		Export of goods to EU-Countries 76% of total export

Source: Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transport in and out of the Netherlands

- **By Sea / water**

Rotterdam is the world's largest seaport offering transport connections to the European hinterland and many overseas destinations (www.portofrotterdam.com)

Amsterdam

www.portofamsterdam.com

Vlissingen

www.mainportdelta.org

Terneuzen

www.zeeland-seaports.com

Groningen (Delftzijl and Eemshaven)

www.groningen-seaports.com

All ports offering a full range of cargo handling facilities, as well as supply and repair services.

Good transport to Germany (Ruhrgebiet, Dusseldorf, Keulen, Koblenz, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Frankfurt, Stuttgart), France (Staatsburg) and Switzerland (Bazel).

- **By Air**

Amsterdam Business Traveler Awards 2006 Best airport in Europe

www.schipholgroup.com

Rotterdam

www.rotterdam-airport.nl

- **By Road**

The main entry points from Belgium are the E22 and E25; from Germany the main links are the E40, the E35 and the A1.

- **By Rail**

To Antwerp in Belgium, To Ruhrgebiet in Germany, and Paris in France.

Transport within the Netherlands

- **By Water**

Almost every cargo destination can be reached by inland waterways in the Netherlands.

- **By Air**

Schiphol, Rotterdam, Eindhoven, Groningen, Maastricht, Enschede

- **By Road**

The highway system is qualified as the best road system in Europe. Planned investments in the road systems are high.

ECONOMY

Various Rankings of the Netherlands

- **Number 9** country to invest in the **World** during the period 2006-2007 (World Economic Forum 2006-2007) (<http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Global%20Competitiveness%20Report/index.htm>)
- **Number 5** country to invest in the **EU** during the period 2006-2007 (World Economic Forum 2006-2007) (<http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Global%20Competitiveness%20Report/index.htm>)
- **Number 12** country in the **World** in the 2005 Human Development Report (http://hdr.undp.org/statistics/data/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_NLD.html)
- **Economic Survey of the Netherlands 2005: Executive Summary** (http://www.oecd.org/document/46/0,2340,en_2649_34487_35820014_1_1_1_1,00.html)
- **Number 14** country in the **World** on the Index of Economic Freedom (<http://www.heritage.org/research/features/index/countries.cfm>)
- **Number 5** country in the **EU** on the index of Economic Freedom (<http://www.heritage.org/research/features/index/countries.cfm>)
- **Number 5** on the annual AT Kearney/FOREIGN POLICY Globalization Index (<http://www.atkearney.com/main.taf?p=5,4,1,116>)

Future plans of the Netherlands

- The coming seven years the Netherlands receives EUR 1.7 billion from the EU to invest in education and innovation.
- Above that the Netherlands invest EUR 800 million in education and knowledge.
- In 2005 in total 112 foreign investments took place in the Netherlands, the highest ever. For 2007 more investments are expected.

POLITICS

The Politics of the Netherlands take place within the framework of a parliamentary representative democracy and a constitutional monarchy. The Netherlands is characterized by its consensual political system. (<http://www.answers.com/topic/politics-of-the-netherlands>).

LEGAL SYSTEM

The Netherlands is a civil law country. Laws are written down, the application of customary law is the exception and the role of case law is small. The Dutch system of law is based on the French Code Civil with influences from Roman Law and traditional Dutch customary law. The new civil law books (which went into force in 1992) were heavily influenced by the German Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch.

TAXES

- Financial year is calendar year unless desired otherwise.
- Corporate income tax (2007: 20% for the first € 25,000; between € 25,000 and € 60,000 23.5%; above € 60,000 **25.5%**)
- Corporate income tax on **IPR 10%** (if elected).
- Corporate income tax on **finance income 5%** (if elected).
- Corporate income tax on **subsidiaries 0%** (if not passive financial income).
- Dividend withholding tax (0% for most countries, statutory 15%).
- Personal income tax on income (above € 53.064 52%, effective usually 40%).
- Personal income tax on >5% shareholding **25%**, 22% for the first € 250,000.
- Personal income tax on savings and investments **1.2%**
- Wage tax (above € 53.064 52%, effective usually 40%).
- VAT (19%, 6%, 0%)
- Capital duty 0%
- Losses can be carry forward for 9 years (2007) and one year back.

HOUSING

For quality rental housing of your personnel seconded to the Netherlands **Vesteda** offers quality rental places all around the biggest cities in the Netherlands (www.vesteda.com).

MORE INFORMATION info@investinthenetherlands.org