



NETHERLANDS



INTRODUCTION

The Dutch United Provinces declared their independence from Spain in 1579; during the 17th century, they became a leading seafaring and commercial power, with settlements and colonies around the world. After a 20-year French occupation, a Kingdom of the Netherlands was formed in 1815. In 1830, Belgium seceded and formed a separate kingdom.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King WILLEM-ALEXANDER

Head of Government

(Acting) Prime Minister Mark RUTTE

Government Type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Capital

Amsterdam; note - The Hague is the seat of government

Legislature

bicameral States General or Staten Generaal consists of the First Chamber or Eerste Kamer (75 seats) and the Second Chamber or Tweede Kamer (150 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 41,543 sq km
Land: 33,893 sq km
Water: 7,650 sq km

Climate

temperate; marine; cool summers and mild winters

Natural Resources

natural gas, petroleum, peat, limestone, salt, sand and gravel, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income European economy; core EU member; chemical, oil, and machinery exporter; some age-based income inequality; substantial amount of independent contractor employees; manageable public debt; key international aid funder.

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$945.5 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$54,200 (2020 est.)

Industries - agroindustries, metal and engineering products, electrical machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum, construction, microelectronics, fishing

Agricultural products - milk, potatoes, sugar beets, pork, onions, wheat, poultry, tomatoes, carrots/turnips, beef

Exports \$719.8 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment, photography equipment, computers (2019)

partners: Germany 20%, Belgium 12%, UK 9%, France 7%, US 5% (2019)

Imports \$622.7 billion (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, computers, cars (2019)

partners: Germany 15%, China 11%, Belgium 9%, US 8%, Russia 7%, UK 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

17.3 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.37% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Dutch 76.9%, EU 6.4%, Turkish 2.4%, Moroccan 2.3%, Indonesian 2.1%, German 2.1%, Surinamese 2%, Polish 1%, other 4.8% (2018 est.)

Language

Dutch (official); Frisian, Low Saxon, Limburgish, Romani, and Yiddish

Religion

Roman Catholic 23.6%, Protestant 14.9%, Muslim 5.1%, other 5.6% (includes Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish), none 50.7% (2017 est.)

