



# 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 75.4%, EU (excluding Dutch) 6.4%, Turkish 2.4%, Moroccan 2.4%, Surinamese 2.1%, Indonesian 2%, other 9.3% (2021 est.)

### Language

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

### Religion

Roman Catholic 20.1%, Protestant 14.8% (includes Dutch Reformed, Protestant Church of The Netherlands, Calvinist), Muslim 5%, other 5.9% (includes Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish), none 54.1% (2019 est.)

