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# Chapter 1

## 171

### 1.1 171.guide

Texified version of data for Netherlands.

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Netherlands

### 1.2 171.guide/Netherlands

Netherlands  
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Geography (Netherlands)  
 People (Netherlands)  
 Government (Netherlands)  
 Government (Netherlands 2. usage)  
 Economy (Netherlands)  
 Economy (Netherlands 2. usage)  
 Communications (Netherlands)  
 Defense Forces (Netherlands)

### 1.3 171.guide/Geography (Netherlands)

Geography (Netherlands)

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Location:

Western Europe, bordering the North Sea, between Belgium and Germany

Map references:

Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

37,330 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

33,920 km<sup>2</sup> comparative area:

slightly less than twice the size of New Jersey

Land boundaries:

total 1,027 km, Belgium 450 km, Germany 577 km

Coastline:

451 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

not specified

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

temperate; marine; cool summers and mild winters

Terrain:

mostly coastal lowland and reclaimed land (polders); some hills in ↔  
southeast

Natural resources:

natural gas, petroleum, fertile soil

Land use:

arable land:

26%

permanent crops:

1%

meadows and pastures:

32%

forest and woodland:  
 9%  
 other:  
 32%  
 Irrigated land:  
 5,500 km2 (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
 without an extensive system of dikes and dams, nearly one-half of the total  
 area would be inundated by sea water  
 Note:  
 located at mouths of three major European rivers (Rhine, Maas or Meuse,  
 Schelde)

## 1.4 171.guide/People (Netherlands)

People (Netherlands)

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Population:  
 15,274,942 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 0.63% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 12.81 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 8.53 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 2.06 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate: 6.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 77.55 years  
 male:  
 74.48 years  
 female:  
 80.78 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 1.59 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Dutchman (men), Dutchwoman (women)  
 adjective:  
 Dutch  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Dutch 96%, Moroccans, Turks, and other 4% (1988)  
 Religions:  
 Roman Catholic 36%, Protestant 27%, other 6%, unaffiliated 31% (1988)  
 Languages:  
 Dutch  
 Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1979)  
 total population:  
 99%

male:  
 NA%  
 female:  
 NA%  
 Labor force:  
 5.3 million  
 by occupation:  
 services 50.1%, manufacturing and construction 28.2%, government 15.9%,  
 agriculture 5.8% (1986)

## 1.5 171.guide/Government (Netherlands)

Government (Netherlands)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Kingdom of the Netherlands  
 conventional short form:  
 Netherlands  
 local long form:  
 Koninkrijk de Nederlanden  
 local short form:  
 Nederland  
 Digraph:  
 NL  
 Type:  
 constitutional monarchy  
 Capital:  
 Amsterdam; The Hague is the seat of government  
 Administrative divisions:  
 12 provinces (provincien, singular - provincie); Drenthe, Flevoland,  
 Friesland, Gelderland, Groningen, Limburg, Noord-Brabant, Noord-Holland,  
 Overijssel, Utrecht, Zeeland, Zuid-Holland  
 Dependent areas:  
 Aruba, Netherlands Antilles  
 Independence:  
 1579 (from Spain)  
 Constitution:  
 17 February 1983  
 Legal system:  
 civil law system incorporating French penal theory; judicial review in the  
 Supreme Court of legislation of lower order rather than Acts of the States  
 General; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations  
 National holiday:  
 Queen's Day, 30 April (1938)  
 Political parties and leaders:  
 Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), Willem van VELZEN; Labor (PvdA), Wim KOK ↔  
 ;  
 Liberal (VVD), Frederick BOLKSTEIN; Democrats '66 (D'66), Hans van MIERIO; ↔  
 a  
 host of minor parties  
 Other political or pressure groups:

large multinational firms; Federation of Netherlands Trade Union Movement (comprising Socialist and Catholic trade unions) and a Protestant trade union; Federation of Catholic and Protestant Employers Associations; the nondenominational Federation of Netherlands Enterprises; and Interchurch Peace Council (IKV)

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

First Chamber:

last held on 9 June 1991 (next to be held 9 June 1995); results - elected ←  
by

the country's 12 provincial councils; seats - (75 total) percent of seats ←  
by

party NA

Second Chamber:

last held on 6 September 1989 (next to be held in May 1994); results - CDA 35.3%, PvdA 31.9%, VVD 14.6%, D'66 7.9%, other 10.3%; seats - (150 total)  
CDA 54, PvdA 49, VVD 22, D'66 12, other 13

Executive branch:

monarch, prime minister, vice prime minister, Cabinet, Cabinet of Ministers

Legislative branch:

bicameral legislature (Staten Generaal) consists of an upper chamber or First Chamber (Eerste Kamer) and a lower chamber or Second Chamber (Tweede Kamer)

## 1.6 171.guide/Government (Netherlands 2. usage)

Government (Netherlands 2. usage)

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Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (De Hoge Raad)

Leaders:

Chief of State:

Queen BEATRIX Wilhelmina Armgard (since 30 April 1980); Heir Apparent WILLEM-ALEXANDER, Prince of Orange, son of Queen Beatrix (born 27 April 1967)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Ruud (Rudolph) F. M. LUBBERS (since 4 November 1982); Vice Prime Minister Willem (Wim) KOK (since 2 November 1989)

Member of:

AfDB, AG (observer), AsDB, Australia Group, Benelux, BIS, CCC, CE, CERN, COCOM, CSCE, EBRD, EC, ECE, ECLAC, EIB, ESA, ESCAP, FAO, G-10, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MTCR, NACC, NAM (guest), NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, PCA, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNPROFOR, UNTAC, UNTSO, UPU, WCL, WEU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ←  
ZC

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 Flag:  
 three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and blue; similar to the  
 flag of Luxembourg, which uses a lighter blue and is longer

## 1.7 171.guide/Economy (Netherlands)

### Economy (Netherlands)

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#### Overview:

This highly developed and affluent economy is based on private enterprise.  
 The government makes its presence felt, however, through many regulations,  
 permit requirements, and welfare programs affecting most aspects of ←  
 economic

activity. The trade and financial services sector contributes over 50% of  
 GDP. Industrial activity provides about 25% of GDP and is led by the  
 food-processing, oil-refining, and metalworking industries. The highly  
 mechanized agricultural sector employs only 5% of the labor force, but  
 provides large surpluses for export and the domestic food-processing  
 industry. Unemployment and a sizable budget deficit are currently the most  
 serious economic problems. Many of the economic issues of the 1990s will  
 reflect the course of European economic integration.

#### National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$259.8 billion (1992)

#### National product real growth rate:

1.6% (1992)

#### National product per capita:

\$17,200 (1992)

#### Inflation rate (consumer prices):

3.5% (1992 est.)

#### Unemployment rate:

5.3% (1992 est.)

#### Budget:

revenues \$109.9 billion; expenditures \$122.1 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1992 est.)

Exports:

\$128.5 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

agricultural products, processed foods and tobacco, natural gas, chemicals, metal products, textiles, clothing

partners:

EC 77% (Germany 27%, Belgium-Luxembourg 15%, UK 10%), US 4% (1991)

Imports:

\$117.7 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

raw materials and semifinished products, consumer goods, transportation equipment, crude oil, food products

partners:

EC 64% (Germany 26%, Belgium-Luxembourg 14%, UK 8%), US 8% (1991)

External debt:

\$0

Industrial production:

growth rate 1.6% (1992 est.); accounts for 25% of GDP

Electricity:

22,216,000 kW capacity; 63,500 million kWh produced, 4,200 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

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

Agriculture:

accounts for 4.6% of GDP; animal production predominates; crops - grains, potatoes, sugar beets, fruits, vegetables; shortages of grain, fats, and oils

Illicit drugs:

transit country for illicit narcotics produced in neighboring countries; European producer of illicit amphetamines and other synthetic drugs

Economic aid:

donor - ODA and OOF commitments (1970-89), \$19.4 billion

## 1.8 171.guide/Economy (Netherlands 2. usage)

Economy (Netherlands 2. usage)

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Currency:

1 Netherlands guilder, gulden, or florin (f.) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

Netherlands guilders, gulden, or florins (f.) per US\$1 - 1.8167 (January 1993), 1.7585 (1992), 1.8697 (1991), 1.8209 (1990), 2.1207 (1989), 1.9766 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.9 171.guide/Communications (Netherlands)

### Communications (Netherlands)

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#### Railroads:

2,828 km 1.435-meter standard gauge operated by Netherlands Railways (NS)  
(includes 1,957 km electrified and 1,800 km double track)

#### Highways:

108,360 km total; 92,525 km paved (including 2,185 km of limited access,  
divided highways); 15,835 km gravel, crushed stone

#### Inland waterways:

6,340 km, of which 35% is usable by craft of 1,000 metric ton capacity or  
larger

#### Pipelines:

crude oil 418 km; petroleum products 965 km; natural gas 10,230 km

#### Ports:

coastal - Amsterdam, Delfzijl, Den Helder, Dordrecht, Eemshaven, IJmuiden,  
Rotterdam, Scheveningen, Terneuzen, Vlissingen; inland - 29 ports

#### Merchant marine:

344 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 2,762,000 GRT/3,675,649 DWT; ←  
includes

3 short-sea passenger, 193 cargo, 30 refrigerated cargo, 26 container, 13  
roll-on/roll-off, 1 livestock carrier, 11 multifunction large-load carrier,  
23 oil tanker, 22 chemical tanker, 10 liquefied gas, 2 specialized tanker, ←  
6

bulk, 4 combination bulk; note - many Dutch-owned ships are also registered  
on the captive Netherlands Antilles register

#### Airports:

total:

28

usable:

28

with permanent-surface runways:

20

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

11

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

6

#### Telecommunications:

highly developed, well maintained, and integrated; extensive redundant  
system of multiconductor cables, supplemented by microwave radio relay  
microwave links; 9,418,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 3 (3 relays) AM ←

12 (39 repeaters) FM, 8 (7 repeaters) TV; 5 submarine cables; 1  
communication satellite earth station operating in INTELSAT (1 Indian Ocean  
and 2 Atlantic Ocean antenna) and EUTELSAT systems; nationwide mobile phone  
system

## 1.10 171.guide/Defense Forces (Netherlands)

Defense Forces (Netherlands)

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Branches:

Royal Netherlands Army, Royal Netherlands Navy (including Naval Air Service and Marine Corps), Royal Netherlands Air Force, Royal Constabulary

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 4,183,167; fit for military service 3,677,445; reach military age (20) annually 104,263 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$7.8 billion, 3% of GDP (1992)