# FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

# THE NETHERLAND

# THE KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS TODAY

Location	The Kingdom of Netherlands is situated in western Europe. The country is bordered to the east by Germany and to the south by Belgium. Its northern and western shores face the North Sea.
Size	41,543 Sq. K.M. (Land:33,893 km, water: 7,650 km).
Land boundaries	Total: 1,027 km; Border countries: Belgium:450 km and Germany:577 km.
Coastline	451 km
Maritime claims	Territorial sea: 12 nm and Exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm.
Elevation extreme	Lowest point: Zuidplaspolder—7 m and highest point: Vaalserberg 322 m.
Land use	Arable land: 21.96%, permanent crops: 0.77% and other: 77.27%.
Population	17,463,930 estimated for 2023.
Population growth rate	0.36 estimated for 2023.
Life expectancy at birth	Total population: 82.36 years; male: 80.15 years and female: 84.69 years estimated for 2023.
Birth rate	10.98 births/1,000 population in 2023.
Death rate	9.27 deaths/1,000 population in 2023.
Net migration rate	1.89 migrant(s)/1,000 population in 2023.
Literacy rate	99% .
Language	The national language is Dutch. There is a Frisian-speaking minority.
Religion	About one-third of the inhabitants are Roman Catholics and about one-quarter are Protestants, while most of the remainder does not profess any religion.
Capital City	Amsterdam
Other Large Cities	Rotterdam, 's-Gravenhage, The Hague, Utrecht, Eindhoven, Tilburg, Groningen, Breda, Apeldoorn, Enschede, Haarlem, Nijmegen, Arnhem, Zaanstad, 's-Hertogenbosch, Maastricht, Almere, Amersfoort, Dordrecht, Leiden, Haarlemmermeer, Zoetermeer, Zwolle, Ede etc.
Climate	The climate is temperate: the average temperature in January is $0^{\circ}$ C (32°F), and the summer average is 21°C (70°F).
Internet domain	.nl
International dialing code	+31
Currency	The unit of currency is the euro (EUR).

## NATIONAL ECONOMY

The Netherlands was more resilient than its peers during and after the pandemic. Reflecting the prevalence of telecommuting and a strong fiscal response, the Dutch economy experienced a less severe recession followed by a more robust recovery than in the euro area. Real GDP grew by 4.9 percent in 2021, surpassing its pre-pandemic level, as private consumption staged a vibrant recovery boosted by the release of accumulated savings and a strong labor market. By end-2022, inflation had eased after a record high in September, but remained elevated, largely driven by energy prices. The labor market is tight with a low unemployment rate and high vacancies, although wages have not picked up strongly so far. Overall, the economy appears to be overheating.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is posing new challenges, but the Netherlands has suffered a smaller decline in the terms of trade compared to the rest of the euro area. The current account surplus is expected to have declined to 5.5 percent of GDP in 2022, from 7.2 percent of GDP in 2021, mainly driven by deteriorating terms of trade The government has taken several measures to address the rising cost of living, and higher public gas revenues and the strong post-pandemic growth have strengthened the fiscal balance. The financial cycle has started to moderate, accompanied by rapid cooling of a richly valued housing market.

Growth is projected to slow to 0.6 percent in 2023 from 4.2 percent in 2022, as high inflation weighs on consumption, external demand wanes, and financial conditions tighten. Over the medium term, growth will be underpinned by public investment and reforms. Headline inflation is expected to moderate in 2023 with the activation of the energy price ceiling, while core inflation is projected to peak in 2023 at about 7.3 percent. The fiscal deficit is projected to increase to 2.8 percent of GDP in 2023, mainly reflecting government measures to cushion the impact of high energy prices and the economic slowdown. However, the Dutch fiscal position remains strong, with the public debt to GDP ratio expected to remain below 50 percent over the medium term.

#### **Executive Board Assessment**

In the course of Article IV consultation between IMF and Netherland, Executive Directors of the IMF agreed with the thrust of the staff appraisal. They took positive note that the Dutch economy showed impressive resilience during and after the pandemic, supported by a strong policy response. Nevertheless, the energy shock caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, elevated inflation, and tighter financial conditions, as well as lower external demand and a cooling housing market, pose challenges.

Directors considered that a non-expansionary or modestly contractionary fiscal stance is called for in 2023 to help monetary policy fight high inflation amid a tight labor market. They stressed that fiscal policy should remain flexible, given high uncertainty. While commending the authorities for using their fiscal space to cushion the impact of high energy prices, they recommended better targeting to protect public finances from high volatility in international energy prices and to help price signals incentivize energy saving. In this context, some Directors acknowledged the authorities' view regarding the cost and implementation challenges of some targeted policies. Directors welcomed the authorities' intention to explore additional measures to offset the budgetary cost of the price cap and make the support more targeted.

Directors commended the authorities for taking measures to enhance energy security and fight climate change. Boosting investment in clean energy will also enhance energy security while contributing to the green transition. They welcomed the authorities' commitment to enhance climate policies and encouraged integrating climate adaptation in long-term planning frameworks.

Directors took positive note that Dutch financial institutions are resilient, with considerable capital buffers. Nonetheless, they underscored the need to continue to closely monitor financial sector developments given higher risks stemming from the energy crisis and tighter financial conditions. The recent flagging house price momentum has also heightened vulnerabilities. In this context, Directors welcomed the increase in the counter-cyclical capital buffer, but cautioned that a pro-cyclical stance should be avoided given high uncertainty. To fully address vulnerabilities among Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs) and mitigate the risk of tensions on Liability-Driven Investment Funds, Directors urged the authorities to continue to closely monitor NBFIs, work toward closing data gaps, and improve the supervision of these institutions, including by contributing to international efforts in this area.

Directors agreed that the Netherlands should continue to use its ample fiscal space to invest in its medium-term challenges with a view to enhancing economic and social resilience, while also contributing to external rebalancing. They welcomed spending and policies, including under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, to advance the green and digital transitions and to tackle structural challenges in housing, labor markets, capital taxation, and the education system, as well as support R&D. Upskilling and policies to improve female labor participation will be particularly important.

The Netherlands: Selected Economic Indicators, 2021–2024									
(Percent change, unless otherwise indicated)									
	2021	2022	2023	2024					
		Proj.	Proj.	Proj.					
National accounts (percent change)									
Gross domestic product	4.9	4.2	0.6	1.2					
Private consumption	3.6	5.7	0.8	1.3					
Public consumption	5.2	0.6	3.1	2.3					
Gross fixed investment	3.2	2.7	0.9	1.5					
Total domestic demand	3.9	3.3	1.7	1.6					
Exports of goods and nonfactor services	5.4	4.3	2.0	3.0					
Imports of goods and nonfactor services	4.4	3.2	3.5	3.8					
Net foreign balance <sup>1</sup>	1.3	1.3	-0.9	-0.3					
Output gap (percent of potential output)	-1.1	1.5	1.2	1.1					
Prices, wages, and employment									
Consumer price index (HICP)	2.8	11.6	4.8	3.9					
GDP deflator	2.5	6.1	5.0	4.0					
Hourly compensation (manufacturing)	0.2	3.9	4.2	3.5					
Unit labor costs (manufacturing)	-4.8	0.6	0.7	0.7					
Employment (percent)									
Unemployment rate (ILO definition)	4.2	3.7	4.1	4.2					
NAIRU	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2					
External trade (percent of GDP)									
Merchandise balance	7.3	7.2	6.7	6.0					
Current account balance	7.2	5.5	6.2	6.1					
General government accounts (percent of GDP)									
Revenue	44.0	44.0	43.8	43.3					
Expenditure	46.6	45.0	46.6	45.1					
Net lending/borrowing	-2.6	-1.0	-2.8	-1.8					
Primary balance	-2.2	-0.9	-3.0	-1.9					
Structural balance <sup>2</sup>	1.6	0.1	-2.1	-2.4					
Structural primary balance <sup>2</sup>	2.2	0.6	-1.6	-1.9					
General government gross debt	52.3	48.3	48.5	47.9					
Sources: Dutch official publications, IMF, IFS, an	d IMF sta	ff calcula	tions.						
<sup>1</sup> Contribution to GDP growth.									
<sup>2</sup> In percent of potential GDP.	<sup>2</sup> In percent of potential GDP.								

**"NATIONAL ECONOMY"** is based on IMF Executive Board Concludes 2022 Article IV Consultation with the Netherlands March 9, 2023.

#### FOREIGN TRADE

**Netherlands'** total exports in 2017 were of the order of US\$ 527,908 million. It increased to US\$ 696,873 million in 2021. Exports during the period from 2017 to 2021, in terms of percentage, grew highest (26.39%) in 2021 and fell maximum (-4.41%) in 2020 in comparison with 2020 and 2019 respectively. The annual average compound rate of increase worked out at 7.19%.

Imports, on the other hand, were of the order of US\$ 623,369 million in 2021 while in 2017 it was US\$ 461,903 million. Imports during the period from 2017 to 2021, in terms of percentage, grew highest (28.77%) in 2021 and fell maximum (-5.98) in 2020 as compared to 2020 and 2019 respectively. The annual average compound growth rate worked out at 7.78%.

Volume of trade registered an annual average (compound) rate of growth of 7.47% from US\$ 989,811 million in 2017 to US\$ 1,320,242 million in 2021. Netherlands enjoyed a surplus balance of trade during the said period. Netherlands' export and import, volume and balance of trade between 2016 and 2020 along with their growth rates are given in **Table-I**.

Main exportable commodities in are Food and live animals, Beverages and tobacco, Crude materials (inedible) except fuel, Mineral fuels, lubricants etc., Chemicals and related products, Basic manufactures, Machinery and transport equipment etc. Major export partners of Netherlands were Germany, Belgium, France, UK, Italy etc.

The major items imported from abroad are Food and live animals, Machinery and transport equipment, Chemicals and related products, Mineral fuels, Basic manufactures etc. and principal import suppliers were Germany, China, Belgium, UK, Russia, US, France etc.

The main Dutch airport is at Schiphol, near Amsterdam. There are also international airports at Zestenhoven for Rotterdam, Beek for Mastricht and at Eelde for Groningen. During the mid-1990s a long-term programme was under way to expand the capacity of Schiphol Airport; it was expected that the airport's projected capacity of 44m. passengers annually (compared with 25.3m passengers in 1995) would be reached well before 2015 (the date originally predicted). The difficulties of further expansion, and increasingly stringent applications of legislation regarding noise levels, have however, led to plans to relocate Schiphol airport to a man-made island six miles off the Dutch coast.

An extensive network of rivers and canals navigable for ships of 50 tons and over, totaling 5,046 km, has led to the ourstanding development of Dutch inland shipping. About one-third of goods transported inside the Netherlands are carried on the canals and waterways. Dutch inland shipping has access to Germany and France along the Rhine and its branch rivers, and to France and Belgium along the Meuse and Scheldt (including the Rhine-Scheldt link). Ocean traffic reaches Rotterdam via the New Waterway, and the 21 km long North Sea Canal connects Amsterdam to the North Sea. Following severe river flooding in early programme to improve and strengthen the Netherlands' river dikes defence system.

#### **BILATERAL TRADE WITH INDIA**

Indo-Netherlands bilateral trade in 2017-18 was of the order of Rs.56,335.72 crores. It increased to Rs.127,132.05 crores in 2021-22. The annual compound growth rate of volume of trade during the period from 2017-18 to 2021-22 was 22.57 %. India enjoyed a surplus balance of trade during the said period (see table II). The average annual compound growth rates of exports and imports worked out at 23.62% and 19.82% respectively.

India's exports to, and imports from Netherlands of Merchandised Goods between 2017-18 and 2021-22 along with their growth rates are presented in **Table II.** 

India's top ten merchandise goods exported to and imported from Netherlands, during 2017-18 to 2021-22, along with their growth rates are depicted in **Table III & IV** respectively.

# SOME IMPORTANT LINKS

## **Embassy of India, The Hague**

Buitenrustweg-2, 2517 KD, The Hague, Netherlands. Telephone : 00-31-70-3469771 Fax : 00-31-70-3617072 E-Mail : cpembind@bart.nl (General / FS Pol & HOC); ambassador@indianembassy.nl (Ambassador) Website : www.indianembassy.nl

#### Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Royal Netherlands Embassy

6/50-F, Shantipath Chanakyapuri New Delhi-110021 Telphone: +91-11-24197600 Fax: +91-11-24197710 E-mail: <u>nde@minbuza.nl</u> Web: <u>www.hollandinindia.org</u>

## **Business Support Office**

ABN AMRO Building 19/1 Haddows Road Nungambakkam Chennai 600 006 Telphone: +91-44-28240525 Fax: +91-44-28211439 E-mail: <u>nbposr@vsnl.com</u> Working Hours: Monday To Friday: 9.00 A.M. to 5.00P.M

## **Consulate General**

Forbes Building, 1st Floor, Charanjit Rai Marg, Mumbai-400 001 Telphone: +91-22-22016750 Fax: +91-22-22069436 E-mail: <u>bom@minbuza.nl</u> Web: <u>www.holland-in-india.org</u>

## Names and addresses of the organizations engaged in Foreign Trade in Netherlands are:-

Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI)Beursplein 37, 5th floor,P. O. Bom 30009NW—3001 DA ROTTERDAMTel:(003110) 2013434Fax:(003110) 4114081Email:cbi@cbi.nlURL:http://www.cbi.nl

Rotterdam Chamber of CommerceBlaak 40P. O. Box 450NL—3000 AL ROTTERDAMTel:(003110) 4027777Fax:(003110) 4145754Email:post@rotterdam.kvk.nlURL:http://www.rotterdam.kvk.nl

Netherlands Foreign Trade Agency (EVD) Bezuidenhoutseweg 181 P. O. Box 20105

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Federation for the Netherlands Exports (FENEDEX)Raamweg 14P. O. Box 90409NL—2509 LK THE HAGUETel:(003170) 3305602Fax:(003170) 3305656Email:info@fenedex.nlURL:http://www.fenedex.nl

Bureau voor Handelsinlichtingen (BUVOHA)<br/>(The Commercial Intelligence Office)World Trade Center AmsterdamStrawinskylaan 501NL—1077 XX AMSTERDAMTel:(003120) 6714907Fax:(003120) 6621375Email:mail@buvoha.comURL:http://www.buvoha.com

#### Sources

The Statesman Year Book, the Europa World Year Book, Monthly Bulletin on Statistics UN Publication, IMF.org, World Bank.org, the World Fact Book, World Development Indicator, MEA, Embassy of India in Netherlands, Embassy of Netherlands in India, wikipedia.org and D.G.C.I & S etc.

#### NOTICE

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			TABLE - I					
NET	HERLAND'S	TOTAL EXPO		ORTS, VOLUM	ME AND BALA	NCE OF TRAD	E	
			<b>BETWEEN 2</b>					
					(Figures in US MIL			
Year	Exports	Percentage	Import	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Balance	
		Growth in		Growth in	of	Growth in	of	
		Exports		Imports	Trade	Vol. of Trade	Trade	
2017	527908		461903		9,89,811		66005	
2018	587893	11.36	521036	12.80	11,08,929	12.03	66857	
2019	576784	-1.89	514858	-1.19	10,91,642	-1.56	61926	
2020	551353	-4.41	484089	<i>-5.98</i>	10,35,442	-5.15	67264	
2021	696873	26.39	623369	28.77	13,20,242	27.51	73504	
Annual								
Compound								
Growth Rate	7.19		7.78		7.47			
NOTE :	Figures	relate to calen	dar year, Janua	ry to Decembe	r.			
SOURCE :	UN COMTRA	DE PUBLICA	TION					

			TABLE - II							
	INDIA'S EXPORT TO AND IMPORT FROM NETHERLAND MERCHANDISE									
	GOODS DURING 2017-2018 TO 2021-2022									
	(Value in Rs. CRORES)									
Year	Exports	Percentage	Import	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Balance			
		Growth in		Growth in	of	Growth in	of			
		Exports		Imports	Trade	Vol. of Trade	Trade			
2017-18	40136.81		16198.91		56335.72		23937.90			
2018-19	61575.00	53.41	28504.20	75.96	90079.20	59.90	33070.80			
2019-20	59209.55	-3.84	23993.46	-15.82	83203.01	-7.63	35216.09			
2020-21	47871.15	-19.15	24518.30	2.19	72389.45	-13.00	23352.85			
2021-22	93746.10	95.83	33385.95	36.17	127132.05	75.62	60360.15			
Annual										
Compound										
Growth Rate	23.62		19.82		22.57					
NOTE :	Figures r	elate to Financia	al Year April to	March.						
SOURCE :	Directorate	e General of Com	nmercial Intellig	gence & Statistic	cs,					
	Ministry o	of Commerce & I	Industry, Kolka	ta 700 107.						

				TABLE -III						
	INDIA'S MA	JOR ITEMS	S OF MERC	HANDISE E	EXPORT TO	<b>NETHERL</b>	AND			
	201	7-2018 TO	7-2018 TO 2021-2022 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES (Value in Rs. CF							
SI. No.	Name of the Merchandise Commodities			Annual Growth Rates						
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	18-19 over	19-20 over	20-21 over	21-22 over
							2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Petroleum Products	13843.34	30457.60	27582.05	13848.65	39453.56	120.02	-9.44	-49.79	184.89
	Share in total export	34.49	49.46	46.58	28.93	42.09				
2	Organic Chemicals	1394.20	1846.91	1602.04	2021.00	4167.45	32.47	-13.26	26.15	106.21
	Share in total export	3.47	3.00	2.71	4.22	4.45				
3	Telecom Instruments	706.48	1292.46	1479.41	1886.52	4082.15	82.94	14.46	27.52	116.39
	Share in total export	1.76	2.10	2.50	3.94	4.35				
4	Aluminium Products Of Aluminium	385.93	1042.11	496.43	466.38	3251.77	170.03	-52.36	-6.05	597.24
	Share in total export	0.96	1.69	0.84	0.97	3.47				
5	Iron And Steel	1209.21	1176.24	939.20	1131.90	2689.01	-2.73	-20.15	20.52	137.57
	Share in total export	3.01	1.91	1.59	2.36	2.87				
6	RMG Cotton Including Accessories	1951.48	2166.89	1987.47	1736.60	2593.42	11.04	-8.28	-12.62	49.34
	Share in total export	4.86	3.52	3.36	3.63	2.77				
7	<b>Residual Chemicals &amp; Allied Products</b>	844.04	1010.39	1414.95	1209.81	2567.75	19.71	40.04	-14.50	112.24
	Share in total export	2.10	1.64	2.39	2.53	2.74				
8	Drugs Formulations, Biologicals	782.01	730.55	1450.56	1806.54	2344.66	-6.58	98.56	24.54	29.79
	Share in total export	1.95	1.19	2.45	3.77	2.50				
9	Products Of Iron & Steel	1123.39	1488.38	1303.30	1244.72	2232.93	32.49	-12.43	-4.49	79.39
	Share in total export	2.80	2.42	2.20	2.60	2.38				
10	Electronic Instruments	410.18	547.39	569.37	673.08	1451.61	33.45	4.02	18.21	115.67
	Share in total export	1.02	0.89	0.96	1.41	1.55				
	Total export to NETHERLAND	40136.81	61575.00	59209.55	47871.15	93746.10	53.41	-3.84	-19.15	95.83
	NOTE : Figures relate to Financial Year, April to March.									
	SOURCE : Directorate General of Co	mmercial Ir	ntelligence &	Statistics.	Ministry of	Commerce	& Industry.	Kolkata :	700 107.	

			TABLE	-IV						
	INDIA'S M	AJOR ITE	MS OF ME	RCHAND	ISE IMPOR		ETHERLA	ND		
	201	7-2018 TC	) 2021-202	2 AND TH	EIR GROW	TH RATES	5	(Value in	Rs. CROF	RES)
SI.	Name of the Merchandise Commodities			Value	of Imports			Annual	Growth Rat	es
No		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	18-19 over	19-20 over	21-22 over	
							2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Organic Chemicals	947.99	2776.38	261.19	2199.21	2238.90	192.87	-90.59	742.00	1.80
	Share in total imports	5.85	9.74	1.09	8.97	6.71				
2	Vegetable Oils	0.38	197.96	539.25	935.93	1995.00	51994.74	172.40	73.56	113.16
	Share in total imports	0.00	0.69	2.25	3.82	5.98				
3	Iron And Steel	792.92	1449.16	1424.02	1143.51	1972.68	82.76	-1.73	-19.70	72.51
	Share in total imports.	4.89	5.08	5.94	4.66	5.91				
4	Drugs Formulations, Biologicals	316.60	632.29	687.48	798.52	1853.46	99.71	8.73	16.15	132.11
	Share in total import	1.95	2.22	2.87	3.26	5.55				
5	Plastic Raw Materials	1651.84	2024.15	1665.06	1438.23	1835.75	22.54	-17.74	-13.62	27.64
	Share in total import	10.20	7.10	6.94	5.87	5.50				
6	Indl. Machinery For Dairy Etc.	512.36	1166.45	1374.44	1092.35	1700.88	127.66	17.83	-20.52	55.71
	Share in total import	3.16	4.09	5.73	4.46	5.09				
7	<b>Residual Chemicals &amp; Allied Products</b>	976.22	1421.78	1194.64	1092.00	1510.15	45.64	-15.98	-8.59	38.29
	Share in total import	6.03	4.99	4.98	4.45	4.52				
8	Medical And Scientific Instruments	302.18	1624.31	1557.67	990.27	1417.30	437.53	-4.10	-36.43	43.12
	Share in total import	1.87	5.70	6.49	4.04	4.25				
9	Aluminium, Products Of Aluminium	734.67	880.65	775.11	825.46	1164.59	19.87	-11.98	6.50	41.08
	Share in total import	4.54	3.09	3.23	3.37	3.49				
10	Electronic Instruments	526.24	1047.00	1024.64	829.91	1142.07	98.96	-2.14	-19.00	37.61
	Share in total import	3.25	3.67	4.27	3.38	3.42				
	Total import from NETHERLAND	16198.91	28504.20	23993.46	24518.30	33385.95	75.96	-15.82	2.19	36.17
	NOTE : Figures relate to Financial Y	ear, April to	March.							
	SOURCE : Directorate General of Comr	nercial Inte	elligence & S	tatistics, Mi	nistry of Con	nmerce & In	dustry, Kolka	ata : 700 10	7.	