


EDUCATION
AT A GLANCE 2013

NETHERLANDS

Unemployment – still low but rising

At just 3%, the Dutch unemployment rate for people with all levels of education is one of the lowest in both OECD (with an average rate of 7%) and EU21 (where the average is 8%) countries. However, between 2008 and 2011, unemployment increased significantly, affecting people differently depending on their educational attainment and age.

Among tertiary-educated adults of working age (25-64 years-old), the unemployment rate increased at a slower pace than in other OECD countries, growing by 1.2 percentage points (reaching 3% in 2011) against an average of 1.5 percentage points (5% in 2011). The difference was even greater with the EU21 countries, which saw the unemployment rate grow by 2.0 percentage points (5% in 2011). On the other hand, Dutch unemployment rates increased more significantly for the less-educated cohort: between 2008 and 2011 unemployment increased by 2.0 percentage points among those who had not attained upper secondary education (5% in 2011) but, again, slower than the average increase for OECD and EU21 countries, 3.8 percentage points (13% in 2011) and 5.1 percentage points (16% in 2011) respectively.

At the same time, as in other European countries, the youngest generation was hardest hit. Among tertiary-educated young adults (25-34 year-olds), the unemployment rate increased by 1.4 percentage points between 2008 and 2011 (reaching 3% by 2011) against an average of 2.2 percentage points across OECD countries (7% in 2011) and 2.9 percentage points across the EU21 countries (8% in 2011). The situation is worse for the less-educated cohort: for those who had not attained upper secondary education, unemployment increased by 3.5 percentage points (8% in 2011). Again, a low increase when compared with the OECD and EU21 average increases of 4.5 percentage points (18% in 2011) and 6.8 percentage points (22%) respectively, but significant nonetheless.

Little appetite for science

There is very little enthusiasm among upper secondary Dutch students to pursue a career in science. In 2011, only 23% choose the sciences (including engineering, manufacturing and construction) as their field of vocational study while the average across OECD and EU21 countries was 37%. At the tertiary level, only 16% of Dutch students joined science-related programmes while the OECD average is 25%.

Although this situation has attracted a lot of policy attention, there has yet been little progress in this area over the last decade. Between 2000 and 2011, the proportion of students who enrolled in tertiary education science programmes only increased by 5 percentage points.

The lowest proportion of women working full time

The employment rate of women aged 25-64 with a tertiary education is 85% in the Netherlands. While this is lower than the rate for men in the same cohort (90%), it is well above the OECD average of 78%. However, the proportion of tertiary-educated women working full time is the lowest of all the OECD countries – 29% compared with an OECD average of 67%. In fact, the Netherlands has the lowest proportion of women working full time at all levels of education of all the OECD countries: 22%, against an OECD average of 60%.

Other findings:

- By international standards, teachers in the Netherlands receive high salaries. Lower secondary school teachers with 15 years experience can expect to earn USD 63 695 compared with an OECD average of USD 39 934. However, comparing their salaries with those of comparably educated workers, Dutch teachers are on a par with their counterparts across OECD countries: a Dutch lower secondary school teacher earns on average 84% of the salary of a full-time, full-year worker with a tertiary education, against the OECD average of 85%.
- Educational attainment rates in the Netherlands are close to the OECD average: 72% of 25-64 year-olds hold at least an upper secondary qualification against 75% for OECD countries, and 82% have a tertiary education, the same as the OECD average. Unusually, men are more likely than women to have a tertiary education (33% versus 31%). This is the case in only 10 out of the 34 OECD countries. The tertiary attainment rate for Dutch women is, however, close to the OECD average of 33%.
- Although the Netherlands is well known for having the lowest percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) of all OECD countries, the proportion has rapidly increased since the beginning of the financial crisis in 2008. This increase has been more significant among 15-29 year-olds with a tertiary degree, where the proportion of NEETs has more than doubled between 2008 and 2011 (from 2% in 2008 to 5% in 2011, although still below the OECD average of 13% in 2011).
- In the Netherlands, decision making in education is the most decentralised among OECD countries: 86% of decisions about a wide range of aspects of lower secondary education are taken at the school level. The Netherlands is the only OECD country where the entire salary system for school principals and teachers is the responsibility of both unions and employer organisations, even if the centre plays a role by setting the financial framework.¹

<p>Questions can be directed to: Andreas Schleicher Advisor to the Secretary-General on Education Policy, Deputy Director for Education and Skills Email: Andreas.Schleicher@oecd.org Telephone: +33 6 07 38 54 64</p>	<p>For more information on <i>Education at a Glance 2013</i>, visit: www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm Country Note Authors: Corinne Heckmann (corinne.heckmann@oecd.org) Ignacio Marin (ignacio.marin@oecd.org)</p>
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¹OECD (2012), *Education at a Glance 2012: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2012-en>

Key Facts for Netherlands in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Netherlands		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Educational Access and Output								
	Enrolment rates	2011	2005	2011	2005	2011	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	87%	m	67%	64%	77%	73%	10 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	100%	m	84%	79%	90%	84%	3 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	100%		99%		98%		9 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	28%	34%	26%	34%	25%	34%	12 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	40%	42%	44%	44%	48%	46%	22 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a	25-64 year-olds	32%	24%	32%	22%	28%	20%	20 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	41%		39%		37%		19 of 34
A1.4a	25-34 year-olds	40%	27%	39%	26%	36%	24%	18 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	26%	19%	24%	15%	21%	14%	17 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	n	m	19%	16%	15%	11%	29 of 32
C3.2a	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	65%	53%	60%	48%	59%	46%	14 of 36
	Graduation rates	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A2.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	92%	m	83%	76%	83%	77%	7 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	42%	35%	39%	28%	41%	27%	10 of 26
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes								
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4b	Below upper secondary	5.4%	3.4%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	30 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.8%	2.1%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	30 of 36
	Tertiary	2.8%	1.6%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	31 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	5.6%	4.2%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	32 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.7%	2.5%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	31 of 35
	Tertiary	2.6%	1.6%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	35 of 36
	Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	156		157		158		16 of 33
	Men	153		162		164		19 of 33
	Women	162		161		161		14 of 33
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	83		76		77		7 of 33
	Men	85		77		78		6 of 33
	Women	73		74		75		20 of 33
	Percentage of people not in employment, education or training for 15-29 year-olds, by level of education attained	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
C5.4d	Below upper secondary	8.6%	7.7%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	29 of 34
	Upper secondary	6.1%	3.9%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	34 of 34
	Tertiary	4.5%	2.0%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	34 of 34

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Table	Indicator	Netherlands		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Financial Investment in Education								
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2010		2010		2010		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	7664 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		9 of 32
	Primary education	7954 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		17 of 34
	Secondary education	11838 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		6 of 34
	Tertiary education	17161 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		7 of 33
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	6.3%	5.1%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	17 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11.6%	11.2%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	19 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	5.8%		17.9%		11.3%		24 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	13.1%	14.3%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	6 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	28.2%	23.5%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	16 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	16.7%	15.9%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	11 of 29
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	16 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		15 of 31
	Primary education	16 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		18 of 35
	Secondary education	17 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		7 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	5640 hours		4717 hours		m		7 of 31
	Lower secondary education	4000 hours		3034 hours		m		7 of 31
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	930 hours		994 hours		977 hours		17 of 29
	Primary education	930 hours	930 hours	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	5 of 31
	Lower secondary education	750 hours	867 hours	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	8 of 30
	Upper secondary education	750 hours	867 hours	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	7 of 31
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100)	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
D3.4	Primary school teachers	m	m	120	120	121	122	m
	Lower secondary school teachers	m	m	116	116	121	121	m
	Upper secondary school teachers	m	m	117	118	118	119	m
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education***	2011		2011		2011		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	m		0.80		0.77		m
	Primary school teachers	0.70		0.82		0.80		19 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.84		0.85		0.84		12 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.84		0.89		0.89		13 of 27

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

** Compared to people with upper secondary education; upper secondary = 100.

*** Vocational Education and Training teachers are excluded.

'm': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero.