

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Netherlands

Country Profile

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This country profile on Netherlands is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015 presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE

NETHERLANDS

TRENDS 2005-2015

Key Facts

	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 01.09.2015	53.0	Low	Low	71.0	↓↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	254.5	High	High	251.7	↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	258.2	High	High	254.7	↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	2.9	Low	Low	3.6	↓↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	2.8	Low	Low	3.5	↓↓↓↓
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	76.9	Low	Low	88.0	↓↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	35.0	Medium	Medium	33.3	↑
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	5.4	Medium	Medium	5.9	↓
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	19.1	Medium	Medium	20.7	↓↓
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	51.4	High	High	50.9	↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	45.1	High	High	47.4	↑
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	25.4	Medium	Medium	25.7	↔
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=14)	14.2	High	High	11.2	↑
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=7) – Available since 2013</i>	50.0	High	High	66.2	↓
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	0.8	Low	Low	1.0	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	54.7	Low	Low	57.3	↓↓
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	975 656 411	NAP	NAP	896 670 045*	↑↑↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	273.0	High	High	236.7**	↑↑↑

* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Netherlands in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-44%), rate of entries into penal institutions (-7%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-8%), average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (-32%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (-33%), prison density (-25%), percentage of female inmates (-6%), percentage of foreign inmates (-18%), percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention (-9%), ratio of inmates per staff (-35%), and percentage of custodial staff (-12%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: median age of the population (+6%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+14%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+5%), percentage of suicides (+9%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+57%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+35%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (0%).

Netherlands in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Netherlands presents:
 - **Low**: Prison population rate, average length of detention based on stock and flow, average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution, prison density, ratio of inmates per staff, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
 - **Medium**: Median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, percentage of foreign inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates.
 - **High**: Rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.

General comments

Figure 1 (241)

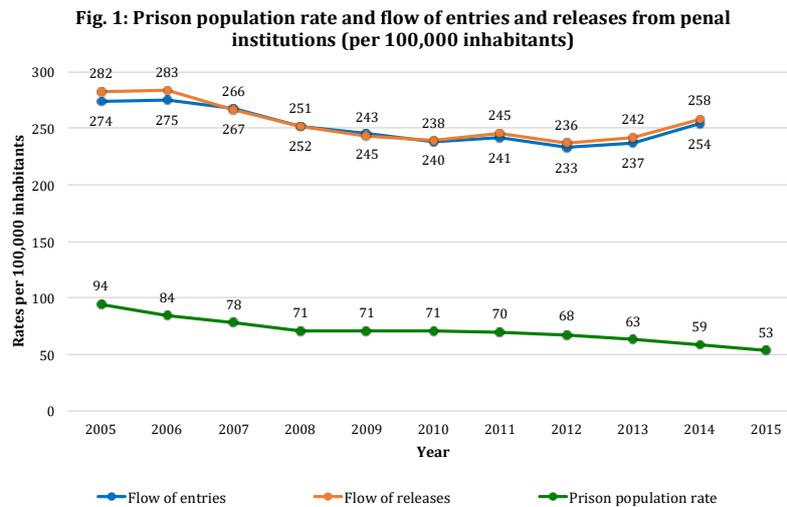


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Netherlands (stock) decreased by 44%. In 2005, the country had 94 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 53.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 7%. In 2005, there were 274 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 254.

During the same period, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 8%. In 2005, there were 282 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 258.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show similar rates and trends.

According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, during the 10 years under study, the number of prisoners shows a stable decrease that fits the decrease shown in criminal statistics. From 2005 to 2014 there was a decrease of all registered crimes (-28,6%), of the number of settled court cases by judges (-22,7%) and of the number of imposed (partial) unconditional sentences to imprisonment for adults (-22,5%). Another reason for the drop in the number of inmates is the decrease of major offences and a stronger enforcement of drug laws, which led to the arrival of less imported drugs (and accompanying crime).

Figure 2 (242)



Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions decreased by 32%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 4.2 months, while in 2014 it was 2.9 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow decreased by 33%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 4.1 months, while in 2014 it was 2.8 months.

Figure 3 (243)

Fig. 3: Prison density per 100 places (Overcrowding)

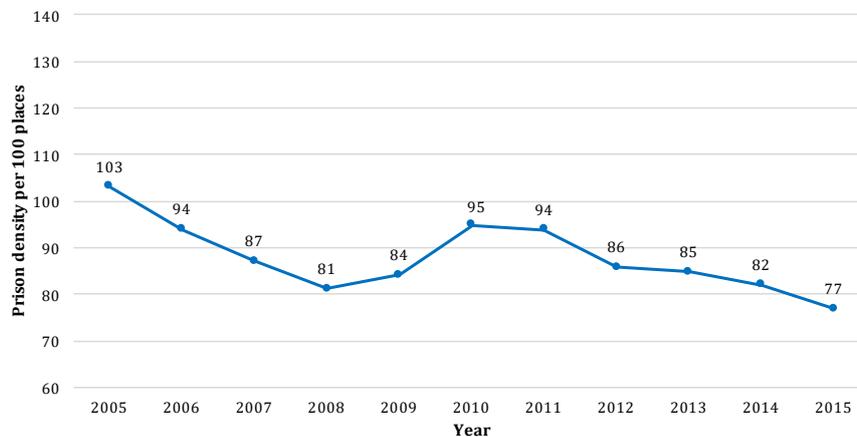


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Netherlands decreased by 25%. In 2005, the country had 103 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 77.

Figure 4 (244)

Fig. 4: Total capacity of penal institutions and number of inmates

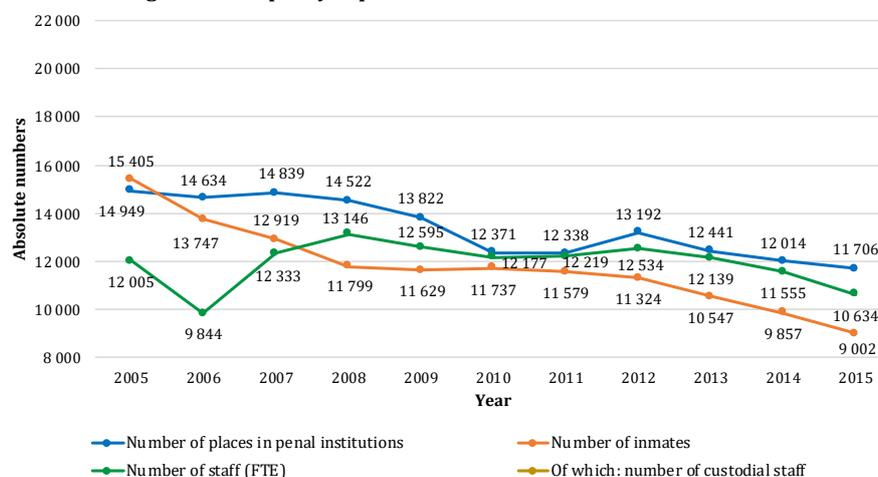


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Netherlands decreased by 22%. In 2005, the country had 14,949 places, while in 2015 it had 11,706.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 42%. In 2005, the country had 15,405 inmates, while in 2015 it had 9,002.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff decreased by 11%. In 2005, Netherlands had in total a staff of 12,005 persons, while in 2015 it had 10,634.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 22%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 7,475 persons, while in 2015 it was 5,817.

Figure 5 (245)

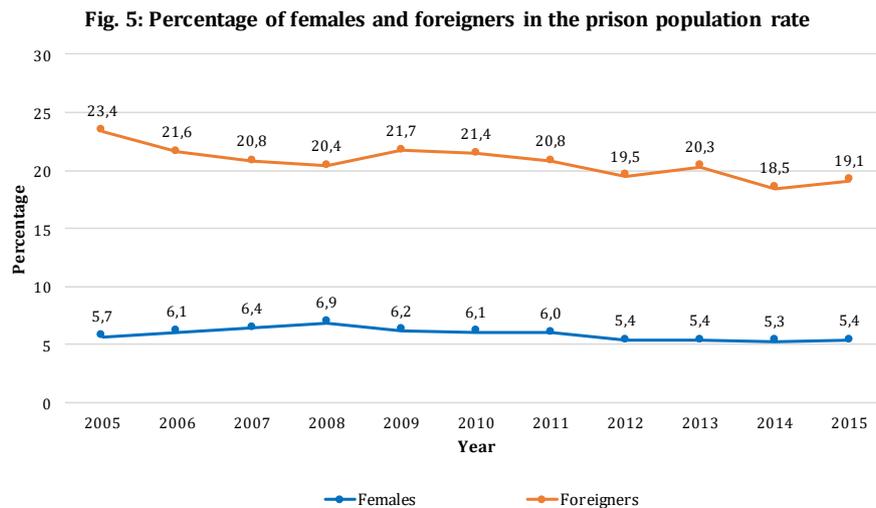


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates decreased by 6%. In 2005, 5.7% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 5.4% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates decreased by 18%. In 2005, 23% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 19% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (246)

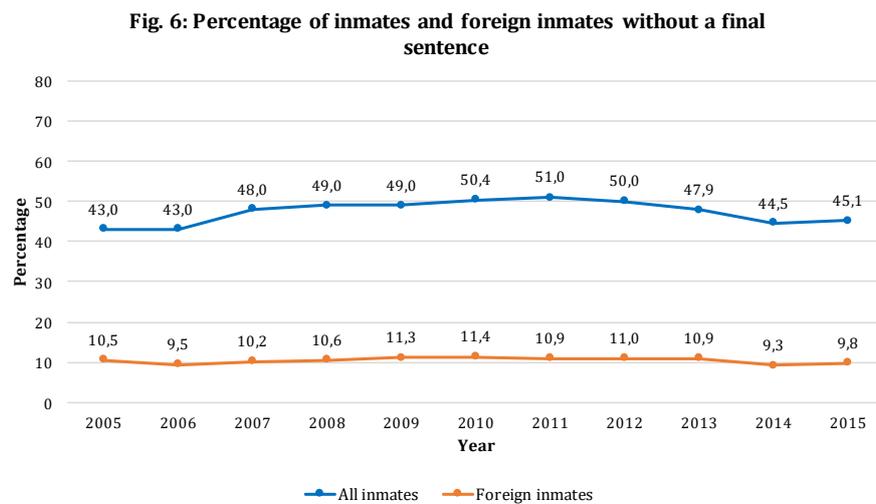


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence increased by 5%. In 2005, 43% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 45% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 7%. In 2005, they represented 10.5% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 9.8% of them.

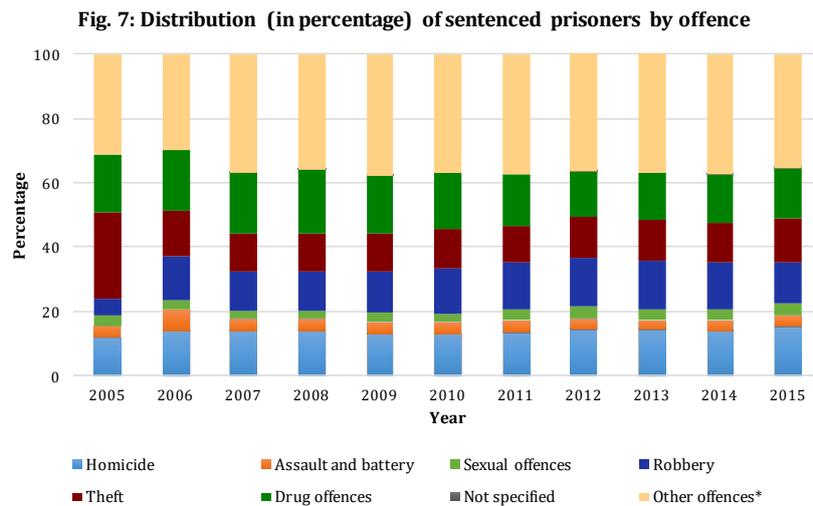
Figure 7¹²³ (247)

Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for homicide, sexual offences, robbery, and other types of offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for assault and battery, theft, and drug offences have decreased.

Figure 8 (248)

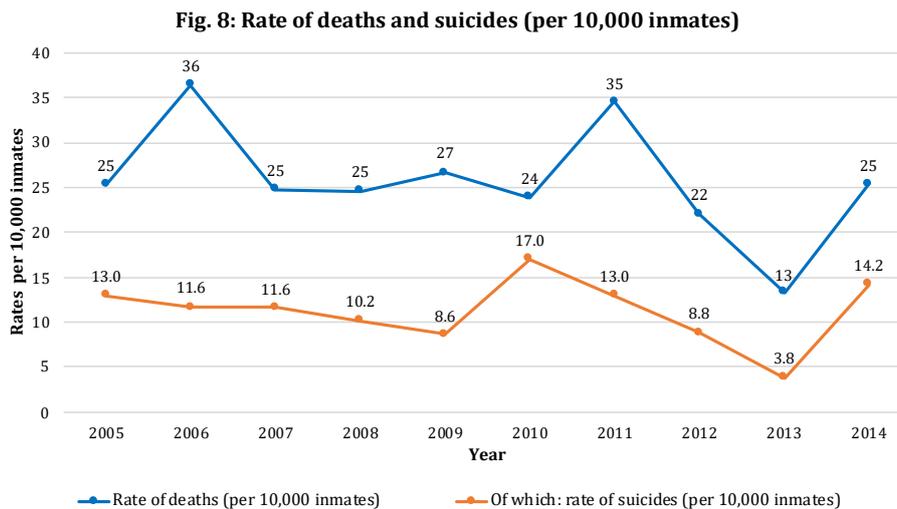


Figure 8

The instability of the trends for deaths and suicides per 10,000 inmates shown in Figure 8 illustrates the impossibility of reaching statistically reliable conclusions when the absolute number of cases that generated the rates is low.

¹ The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

² Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

³ Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).