WILCO

Welfare innovations
at the local level
in favour of cohesion

CITY REPORT: AMSTERDAM

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This report is part of Work Package 3 of the research project entitled "Welfare innovations at the local level in favour of cohesion" (WILCO). WILCO aims to examine, through cross-national comparative research, how local welfare systems affect social inequalities and how they favour social cohesion, with a special focus on the missing link between innovations at the local level and their successful transfer to and implementation in other settings. The WILCO consortium covers ten European countries and is funded by the European Commission (FP7, Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities).

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ABBREVIATIONS

BBZ (Besluit Bijstandsverlening Zelfstandigen)
(Supplementary) social assistance for self-employed Act

IOAW (Wet Inkomensvoorziening Oudere en gedeeltelijk Arbeidsongeschikte werkloze Werknemers)
Act on income provisions for older and partially disabled unemployed employees

IOAZ (Wet Inkomensvoorziening Oudere en gedeeltelijk Arbeidsongeschikte gewezen Zelfstandigen)
Act on income provisions for older and partially disabled formerly self-employed

WAJONG (Wet Arbeidsongeschiktheidsvoorziening JONGgehandicapten)
Disability insurance Act for young handicapped

WAO (Wet op de ArbeidsOngeschiktheidsverzekering)
Disability insurance Act

WAZ - (Wet Arbeidsongeschiktheidsverzekering Zelfstandigen)
Disability insurance Act for self-employed

WIA (Wet Werk en Inkomen naar Arbeidsvermogen)
Work and Income according to employability Act

WIJ (Wet Investeren in Jongeren)
Investment in youth Act

WW (WerkloosheidsWet)
Unemployment Act

WWB (Wet Werk en Bijstand)
Work and social Assistance Act

WWIK (Wet Werk en Inkomen Kunstenaars)
Work and Income for Artists Act

DEFINITIONS

ALLOCHTHONES
Persons of which at least one of the parents is born abroad. First generation allochthones are born in a foreign country: second generation allochthones are born in the Netherlands.

AUTOCHTHONES
Persons whose parents are both born in the Netherlands, regardless of the country of birth of the persons themselves.

DISPOSABLE INCOME (*besteedbaar inkomen*)
Gross income minus tax levies and other monthly expenses.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE (*beroepsbevolking*)
All persons aged 15-64 who are either working or looking for a job for more than 12 hours per week. Those who work for more than 12 hours per week are counted as part of the employed economically active; those who work less than 12 hours per

week are counted as part of the unemployed economically active.

EMPLOYED ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE (*werkzame beroepsbevolking*)
All persons aged 15-64 who are (self-)employed for at least 12 hours per week.

GROSS PARTICIPATION (*bruto participatie*)
Economically active (employed + unemployed) in percentage of the total population aged 15-64.

LEGAL MINIMUM SUBSISTENCE LEVEL (*Wettelijk Sociaal Minimum*, or WSM)
The standard norm for the minimum household income varies for different types of households. It is comparable to the set amount for social assistance benefits.

MINIMUM HOUSEHOLDS (*minimahuishouden*)
Households with an income up to 110% of the legal minimum subsistence level (WSM) that has been set for their kind of household composition and age. Many municipal provisions target households with an income up to 110% of the WSM.

NET PARTICIPATION (*netto participatie*)
Employed economically active in percentage of the total population aged 15-64.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (*Uitvoering WerknemersVerzekering*, or UWV)
Public Employment Agencies are responsible for nationally regulated "employees insurances", such as unemployment and disability insurance.

UNEMPLOYED ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE (*werkloze beroepsbevolking*)
All persons who do not work or who work less than 12 hours per week, who are available to work for more than 12 hours per week within 2 weeks time and who are actively looking for a job of that sort.

UNEMPLOYED JOBSEEKER (*Niet-Werkende Werkzoeker*, or NWW)
All those persons aged 15-64 who are registered as jobseekers with an UWV WERKbedrijf (Public Employment Agency)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (*werkloosheidspercentage*)
Unemployed economically active in percentage of the total number of economically active.

WORK AND INCOME SERVICE (*Dienst Werk en Inkomen*, or DWI)
Municipal service responsible for the implementation of various social assistance schemes, including WWB, WIJ, and provisions for minimum income households.

1. TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET

1.1. Socio-economic trends

What have been the main trends in the growth and sector specialisation of the local economy over the last 10 years?

Amsterdam is the largest financial centre of the Netherlands and host to numerous headquarters of (inter)national companies. Moreover, Amsterdam is a popular tourist destination. The presence of Schiphol, the main international airport in the Netherlands, also makes Amsterdam an important retail distribution centre. With merely 10% of its revenues deriving from industry, the local economy is predominantly based on services. Besides financial and business-related services, Amsterdam is specialised in media, arts and design, ICT and telecommunications, commerce, and logistics/transport.

In 2011, nearly 43,000 persons were working in Amsterdam's financial institutions (mostly in banks) and 100,000 persons were employed in business services (consultancy, research and other business-oriented services). With more than 60,000 employees, the care sector too is important in terms of employment opportunities. In addition, more than 30,000 persons were working in education, local authorities employed ca. 30,000 persons, more than 56,000 persons were working in commerce, nearly 30,000 persons were employed in ICT, ca. 27,500 persons were working in hotels, restaurants or cafes, and more than 20,000 in cultural and recreational services (Table 1).

Table 1 - Persons employed per section of the economy, January 1st 2010-2011

Section/description	January 1st 2010 Nr. of persons employed	January 1st 2011 Nr. of persons
Agriculture, forestry & fishery	116	133
Mining & quarrying	102	107
Industry	12,185	12,164
Energy-companies	2,866	2,882
Water collection & waste disposal	2,600	2,688
Construction	13,120	12,985
Commerce	56,626	56,298
Transport & logistics	19,064	18,990
Hotels, restaurants & cafés	27,057	27,544
Information & communication	29,538	30,095
Financial institutions	44,397	42,940
Real estate	6,143	5,967
Consultancy & research	73,664	77,879
Other business services	24,802	23,566
Government	30,102	28,044
Education	30,280	31,777
Healthcare	60,804	64,158
Culture, sport & recreation	18,160	20,746
Other services	9,464	9,655
Extraterritorial organisations	148	145
Total	461,238	468,763

In terms of added value, though, the financial sector is by far the most important sector of the economy. In 2005, when financial institutions in the Netherlands added 6% to the gross national product, financial institutions in Amsterdam alone contributed more than 20% to the gross regional product. In 2009, financing, consultancy and legal services offered as many employment opportunities in Amsterdam as all consumer-oriented services together, but the first contributed more than 30% to the economy and the latter less than 10%.

Overall, compared to other large cities in the Netherlands, Amsterdam's economy has been doing fairly well during the last ten years. In fact, the GDP per capita in Amsterdam has been much higher than the GDP per capita in the Netherlands, and it has consistently been growing (Table 2). Moreover, especially during the last couple of years, there has been a significant surge in small but highly specialised, creative companies.

Table 2 - GDP per capita (x 1 euro), 2005-2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Amsterdam	52,675	53,775	55,394	56,662	57,963
The Netherlands	31,459	33,049	34,903	36,148	34,551

However, while (financial and creative) sector specialisations enable Amsterdam to be a competitive economy – in a national as well as international context - it also results in a (growing) differentiation between "high-status" jobs on the one hand, with highly qualified personnel and high wages, and "low-status" jobs on the other, in which qualifications and wages tend to be much lower.

What groups of the population have been affected by the rise of unemployment, long-term unemployment, and temporary employment? What has been the impact on women, the young labour force, and migrants?

Unemployment rate (*werkloosheidspercentage*)

In January 2011, 74% of the population aged 15-65 in Amsterdam was economically active (= either working or looking for a job for more than 12 hours per week). Of the 422,000 economically active persons, ca. 387,000 are (estimated to be) employed, which brings the unemployment rate (= unemployed economically active residents in % of the total number of economically active residents) to 8.2% (Table 3). On average, 79% of the men are economically active vs. 69% of the women. The highest gross participation rates are found among 25-44 year-olds, where at least 90% of the men and ca. 80% of the women are economically active (Table 4).

Unemployment rates vary significantly according to education: in 2011, merely 4% of the economically active with a university degree were unemployed vs. 19% of those who completed primary education (Table 5). Unemployment rates also vary significantly according to ethnicity: in 2011, 5% of the economically active autochthones were unemployed, while this was the case for 19% of the Moroccans, 16% of the Turkish and Surinamese/Antilleans, and 11% of other non-western allochthones (Table 6 & Table 7).

Table 3 - Economically active, January 1st 2001-2011

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011**
Total population	734,540	735,328	736,045	738,763	742,951	743,027	743,104	747,290	756,347	767,773	780,559
Population aged 15-64	529,015	529,903	531,363	534,807	539,229	540,452	541,672	546,138	553,675	561,855	571,524
Total economically active	379,900	384,200*	388,900	387,500*	386,700	388,500*	390,300	396,500*	405,100	406,800*	422,100
Employed economically active	361,200	359,300*	357,600	351,800*	346,500	353,000*	359,500	374,600*	381,300	373,100*	387,400
Unemployment rate	5	6.5	8	9.2	10.4	9.1	7.9	5.5	5.8	8.3	8.2

* Estimate
** Provisional figures

Table 4 - Economically active in % of the population aged 15-64 (= gross participation rates) according to age group and gender, 2001-2011

Age group	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Men						
15-24 year-olds	59	60	51	50	59	54
25-34 year-olds	91	91	90	92	87	90
35-44 year-olds	88	89	88	89	90	92
45-54 year-olds	79	81	82	83	82	84
55-64 year-olds	44	57	56	61	63	61
Total	78	80	77	78	79	79
Women						
15-24 year-olds	54	51	44	49	46	50
25-34 year-olds	80	79	81	79	81	81
35-44 year-olds	75	76	77	76	79	79
45-54 year-olds	63	69	71	70	76	72
55-64 year-olds	32	35	37	41	42	52
Total	66	66	66	66	68	69
Total						
15-24 year-olds	56	55	47	49	52	52
25-34 year-olds	85	85	85	85	84	85
35-44 year-olds	82	83	83	83	85	86
45-54 year-olds	71	75	77	76	79	78
55-64 year-olds	38	46	46	51	52	56
Total	72	73	72	72	73	74

Table 5 - Economically active according to educational level, 2001-2011

Educational level	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
ISCED 1 (Primary education)						
Gross participation %	43	44	38	42	41	47
Net participation %	38	35	31	34	35	38
Unemployment rate	11	21	20	21	15	19
Economically active (x 1,000)	41.5	41.1	35.1	38.4	37.5	44.7
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	96.0	92.8	91.2	90.5	92.1	94.5
ISCED 2 (MAVO/LBO/VMBO)						
Gross participation %	67	68	67	65	68	68
Net participation %	63	61	56	58	62	60
Unemployment rate	7	9	17	11	9	12
Economically active (x 1,000)	85,0	83.9	83.6	81.4	87.5	88.4
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	126.4	123.8	124.9	125.1	128.3	129.8
ISCED 3 (HAVO/VWO/MBO)						
Gross participation %	76	78	76	76	77	76
Net participation %	73	73	68	71	73	70
Unemployment rate	4	6	11	7	5	8
Economically active (x 1,000)	114.2	119.7	117.9	118,0	123.6	126,9
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	150.4	153.2	154.3	155.1	160.1	167.8
ISCED 5 (HBO/WO)						
Gross participation %	89	89	89	89	90	90
Net participation %	87	85	85	86	88	87
Unemployment rate	3	5	4	4	3	4
Economically active (x 1,000)	139.2	144.2	150.1	152.5	156.4	162.1
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	156.1	161.5	168.8	171.0	173.1	179.4

* Gross participation = Economically active (employed + unemployed) in percentage of the total population aged 15-64
** Net participation = Employed economically active in percentage of the total population aged 15-64

Table 6 - Economically active according to ethnicity, 2001-2011 (*)

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Surinamese and Antillean						
Gross participation %	67	72	67	67	67	73
Net participation %	61	62	54	59	60	62
Unemployment rate	8	14	20	12	11	16
Economically active (x 1,000)	40.2	44.4	40.6	40,4	41.1	45.1
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	60.4	61.4	60.7	60,2	60.9	61.4
Turkish						
Gross participation %	56	52	55	53	56	57
Net participation %	49	44	47	45	48	48
Unemployment rate	11	15	15	15	13	16
Economically active (x 1,000)	13.1	13,0	14.5	14.4	15.7	16.8
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	23.6	25.1	26.3	27.0	28.3	29.7
Moroccan						
Gross participation %	49	53	47	51	53	56
Net participation %	40	43	34	40	42	45
Unemployment rate	18	19	28	20	21	19
Economically active (x 1,000)	18.1	21.0	20.0	22.0	23.6	25.9
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	37.1	39.8	42.2	43.4	44.6	46.4
Other non-western allochthones						
Gross participation %	*	*	68	63	66	70
Net participation %	*	*	55	52	60	62
Unemployment rate	*	*	19	18	9	11
Economically active (x 1,000)	*	*	34.6	33.1	36.5	42,1
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	*	*	50.9	52.2	55.4	60.4
Western allochthones						
Gross participation %	*	*	78	79	80	80
Net participation %	*	*	70	72	77	74
Unemployment rate	*	*	10	8	4	7
Economically active (x 1,000)	*	*	64.1	64.6	70,0	74.4
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	*	*	82.6	82.2	87.7	93.5
Autochthones						
Gross participation %	*	*	77	78	79	78
Net participation %	*	*	73	75	77	74
Unemployment rate	*	*	5	4	3	5
Economically active (x 1,000)	*	*	212.9	215.8	218.2	217.7
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	*	*	276.5	276.6	276.8	280.2
Foreigners from non-industrialised countries (old definition)						
Gross participation %	68	69	69			
Net participation %	63	58	56			
Unemployment rate	8	16	18			
Economically active (x 1,000)	38.4	42,0	45.7			
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	56.3	61.3	66.5			
Dutch and foreigners from industrialised countries (old definition)						
Gross participation %	77	78	78			
Net participation %	75	75	73			
Unemployment rate	2.7	4.6	5.6			
Economically active (x 1,000)	260.2	258.4	254.8			
Population aged 15-64 (x 1,000)	337.5	329.6	328.1			

(*) Definition of ethnicity changed
In 2005

Table 7 - Unemployment rates according to ethnicity and gender, 2005 + 2011 (*)

	2005			2011		
Ethnicity	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**
Surinamese + Antillean	18	21	20	16	16	16
Turkish	14	18	15	16	16	16
Moroccan	24	37	28	17	22	19
Other non-western allochthones	15	25	19	11	11	11
Western allochthones	10	10	10	6	8	7
Autochthones	5	5	5	5	4	5
Total	10	11	10	8	8	8

(*) Unemployment rate = unemployed economically active in % of total economically active.

Unemployment (*werkloosheid*)

Unemployment (= the number of unemployed jobseekers that are registered with an UWV in percentage of the total population aged 15-54) in Amsterdam has been – and still is – higher than the national average. Nonetheless, during the last ten years, unemployment in terms of registered jobseekers (NWW) has been diminishing - following this measurement of unemployment, 10.0% was unemployed in 2001, 8.6% in 2006, and 6.3% in 2011 (Table 8). However, those who are not entitled to unemployment/social assistance benefits are not obliged to register with an UWV.

In 2001, men represented 51.3% of the unemployed jobseekers in Amsterdam and women 48.5%. By 2011, the balance had shifted: 51.9% of the registered unemployed were women and 48.1% were men (Table 7). Moreover, while young age groups (< 35 years old) were the largest group of registered unemployed ten years ago, today, older age groups (> 45 years olds) are overrepresented among the unemployed jobseekers. In 2001, of all unemployed jobseekers in Amsterdam, 37.2% were less than 35 years old, 30.5% were 35-44 years old, and 31.3% were 45-64 years old. Ten years later, in 2011, 26.6% were less than 35 years old, 28.0% were 35-44 years old, and 45.4% were 45-64 years old. In 2001, almost 40% of the registered unemployed women and ca. 35% of the men were younger than 35; by 2011 this was the case for 25% of the registered unemployed men and ca. 30% of the women (Table 9 & Table 10).

Table 8 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW), 2001-2011

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
											Abs.	**%**
Total	52,895	49,085	44,088	51,648	51,500	46,832	39,923	36,746	38,752	42,361	36,119	100
Men	27,217	25,051	22,520	26,771	26,056	23,211	19,836	17,392	17,590	20,354	17,369	48.1
Women	25,678	24,034	21,568	24,877	25,444	23,621	20,087	19,354	21,162	22,007	18,750	51.9
≤ 34 years old	19,673	17,009	15,029	18,201	16,459	13,347	9,875	8,545	10,547	12,305	9,590	26.6
35-44 years old	16,111	15,116	13,345	15,498	15,907	14,761	11,932	10,518	11,033	12,317	10,119	28.0
45-64 years old (+ unknown)	17,111	16,960	15,714	17,949	19,134	18,724	18,116	17,683	17,172	17,739	16,410	45.4
Unemployment*	10	9.3	8.3	9.6	9.5	8.6	7.4	6.7	7,0	7.5	6.3	
Unemployment* non-western allochthones							11.9	11.6	13.3	13.2	10.5	

* Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) in % of the (non-western allochthonous) total population aged 15-64.

Table 9 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to gender and age group, 2001-2006

Age group	January 1st 2001	January 1st 2002	January 1st 2003	January 1st 2004	January 1st 2005	January 1st 2006
Men						
≤ 19 year-olds	835	580	570	706	571	510
20-24 year-olds	1,735	1,355	1,123	1,591	1,352	1,069
25-34 year-olds	6,960	6,072	5,265	6,440	5,529	4,221
35-44 year-olds	8,336	7,815	6,909	8,170	8,090	7,211
45-64 year-olds	8,918	8,854	8,344	9,553	10,479	10,163
Unknown	433	375	309	311	35	37
Total	27,127	25,051	22,520	26,771	26,056	23,211
Women						
≤ 19 year-olds	644	508	405	519	419	312
20-24 year-olds	2,112	1,822	1,568	1,989	1,796	1,483
25-34 year-olds	7,387	6,672	6,098	6,956	6,792	5,752
35-44 year-olds	7,775	7,301	6,436	7,328	7,817	7,550
45-64 year-olds	7,630	7,613	6,961	7,980	8,606	8,511
Unknown	130	118	100	105	14	13
Total	25,678	24,034	21,568	24,877	25,444	23,621
Total						
≤ 19 year-olds	1,479	1,088	975	1,225	990	822
20-24 year-olds	3,847	3,177	2,691	3,580	3,148	2,552
25-34 year-olds	14,347	12,744	11,363	13,396	12,321	9,973
35-44 year-olds	16,111	15,116	13,345	15,498	15,907	14,761
45-64 year-olds	16,548	16,467	15,305	17,533	19,085	18,674
Unknown	563	493	409	416	49	50
Total	52,895	49,085	44,088	51,648	51,500	46,832

Table 10 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to gender and age group, 2007-2011

Age group	January 1st 2007	January 1st 2008	January 1st 2009	January 1st 2010	July 1st 2010	January 1st 2011
Men						
15-22 year-olds	1,040	823	869	969	914	760
23-26 year-olds	799	689	752	1,168	1,143	860
27-34 year-olds	2,527	1,937	2,672	3,515	3,270	2,737
35-44 year-olds	5,768	4,678	4,742	5,618	5,372	4,592
45-54 year-olds	5,695	5,284	4,918	5,395	5,453	4,908
55-64 year-olds	3,981	3,946	3,637	3,689	3,698	3,512
Unknown	26	35	-	-	-	-
Total	19,836	17,392	17,590	20,354	19,850	17,369
Women						
15-22 year-olds	775	642	666	590	520	395
23-26 year-olds	1,207	1,073	1,312	1,342	1,301	1,061
27-34 year-olds	3,527	3,381	4,276	4,721	4,454	3,777
35-44 year-olds	6,164	5,840	6,291	6,699	6,500	5,527
45-54 year-olds	5,317	5,216	5,426	5,436	5,601	4,969
55-64 year-olds	3,084	3,185	3,191	3,219	3,244	3,021
Unknown	13	17	-	-	-	-
Total	20,087	19,354	21,162	22,007	21,620	18,750
Total						
15-22 year-olds	1,815	1,465	1,535	1,559	1,434	1,155
23-26 year-olds	2,006	1,762	2,064	2,510	2,444	1,921
27-34 year-olds	6,054	5,318	6,948	8,236	7,724	6,514
35-44 year-olds	11,932	10,518	11,033	12,317	11,872	10,119
45-54 year-olds	11,012	10,500	10,344	10,831	11,054	9,877
55-64 year-olds	7,065	7,131	6,828	6,908	6,942	6,533
Unknown	39	52	-	-	-	-
Total	39,923	36,746	38,752	42,361	41,470	36,119

Also, unemployment in Amsterdam is related to one's educational level – in 2011, more than 80% of the registered unemployed (NWW) had a low education (ISCED 1/2/3) and ca. 20% had a (bachelor/master) university degree (ISCED 5). More than 40% of the registered unemployed had only completed primary education (ISCED 1), ca. 15% had pursued vocational secondary education (ISCED 2), and almost 25% had finished upper secondary education (ISCED 3). It is the first of these (ISCED 1) who appear to be the most vulnerable on the labour market: in five years time, their share among the registered unemployed has more than doubled (from 19.7% in 2007 to 42.1% in 2011) (Table 11).

Table 11 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to gender and educational level, 2001-2011 (*)

Educational Level	Jan 1st 2001	Jan 1st 2002	Jan 1st 2003	Jan 1st 2004	Jan 1st 2006	Jan 1st 2007	Jan 1st 2008	Jan 1st 2009	Jan 1st 2010	July 1st 2010	Jan 1st 2011
Men											
ISCED 1 (Primary education)	11,668	10,513	8,880	9,760	4,497	3,814	5,282	6,247	6,122	5,904	6,287
ISCED 2 (VMBO)	6,609	5,723	4,597	5,408	7,128	6,591	4,727	4,410	4,906	4,778	2,998
ISCED 3 (MBO/HAVO/VWO)	4,625	4,513	4,673	5,999	6,062	5,249	4,022	3,739	5,112	5,083	4,628
ISCED 5 (HBO/bachelor)	3,683	3,525	2,842	3,148	3,145	2,511	2,025	1,934	2,545	2,449	1,963
ISCED 5 (WO/master)	514	738	1,396	1,948	2,151	1,750	1,333	1,257	1,666	1,636	1,493
Unknown	118	39	133	508	228	21	3	3	3	-	-
Total	27,217	25,051	22,520	26,771	23,211	19,836	17,392	17,590	20,354	19,850	17,369
Women											
ISCED 1 (Primary education)	10,642	10,060	8,560	9,136	4,930	4,063	6,951	9,587	8,920	8,700	8,926
ISCED 2 (VMBO)	6,310	5,478	4,566	5,061	7,535	6,875	5,097	4,887	4,747	4,573	2,449
ISCED 3 (MBO/HAVO/VWO)	4,273	4,200	4,124	5,088	5,822	4,908	3,992	3,509	4,205	4,193	3,748
ISCED 5 (HBO/bachelor)	3,946	3,670	2,969	3,374	3,271	2,679	2,173	2,015	2,598	2,633	2,104
ISCED 5 (WO/master)	352	577	1,228	1,698	1,830	1,529	1,138	1,161	1,533	1,521	1,523
Unknown	155	49	121	520	233	33	3	3	4	-	-
Total	25,678	24,034	21,568	24,877	23,621	20,087	19,354	21,162	22,007	21,620	18,750
Total (Abs.)											
ISCED 1 (Primary education)	22,310	20,573	17,440	18,896	9,427	7,877	12,233	15,834	15,042	14,604	15,213
ISCED 2 (VMBO)	12,919	11,201	9,163	10,469	14,663	13,366	9,824	9,297	9,653	9,351	5,447
ISCED 3 (MBO/HAVO/VWO)	8,898	8,713	8,796	11,087	11,884	10,157	8,014	7,248	9,317	9,276	8,376
ISCED 5 (HBO/bachelor)	7,629	7,195	5,811	6,522	6,416	5,190	4,198	3,949	5,143	5,082	4,067
ISCED 5 (WO/master)	866	1,315	2,624	3,646	3,981	3,279	2,471	2,418	3,199	3,157	3,016
Unknown	273	88	254	1,028	461	54	6	6	7	-	-
Total	52,895	49,085	44,088	51,648	46,832	39,923	36,746	38,752	42,361	41,470	36,119
Total (%)											
ISCED 1 (Primary education)	42.2	41.9	39.6	36.6	20.1	19.7	33.3	40.9	35.5	35.2	42.1
ISCED 2 (VMBO)	24.4	22.8	20.8	20.3	31.3	33.5	26.7	24,0	22.8	22.5	15.1
ISCED 3 (MBO/HAVO/VWO)	16.8	17.7	20.0	21.5	25.4	25.4	21.8	18.7	22,0	22.4	23.2
ISCED 5 (HBO/bachelor)	14.4	14.7	13.2	12.6	13.7	13.0	11.4	10.2	12.1	12.3	11.3
ISCED 5 (WO/master)	1.6	2.7	6.0	7.1	8.5	8.2	6.7	6.2	7.6	7.6	8.4
Unknown	0.5	0.2	0.6	2.0	1.0	0.1	0,0	0,0	0,0	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(*) As of 2007, those of whom the educational level is unknown are assigned to educational categories on the basis of the kind of employment that one is looking for.

Finally, unemployment is related to ethnicity - in 2011, when autochthones constituted slightly less than 30% of the registered unemployed jobseekers and western allochthones slightly more than 10%, non-western allochthones accounted for almost 60% of all unemployed jobseekers. In 2011, more than 30% of the registered unemployed men were autochthones, slightly more than 10% were western allochthones, and ca. 55 were non-western allochthones, especially Moroccans (13%) and Surinamese (11%). Similarly, of the registered unemployed women, nearly ca. 25% were autochthones and almost 60% were non-western allochthones – ca. 16% were Moroccan and 11% were Surinamese (Table 12).

Table 12 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to gender and ethnicity, 2007-2011

Ethnicity	January 1st 2007	January 1st 2008	January 1st 2009	January 1st 2010	July 1st 2010	January 1st 2011
Men						
Surinamese	2,358	2,109	1,787	2,256	2,300	1,992
Antillean	486	416	353	453	449	383
Turkish	1,692	1,482	1,650	1,800	1,669	1,416
Moroccan	2,822	2,599	2,750	2,976	2,906	2,317
Other non-western	3,474	3,204	4,387	4,411	4,180	3,532
Total non-western	10,832	9,810	10,927	11,896	11,504	9,640
Western	1,985	1,810	1,891	2,330	2,198	2,046
Autochthones	6,474	5,476	4,653	5,934	5,725	5,518
Unknown	545	296	119	194	423	165
Total	19,836	17,392	17,590	20,354	19,850	17,369
Women						
Surinamese	2,948	2,716	2,232	2,338	2,349	2,147
Antillean	526	528	412	404	378	351
Turkish	1,712	1,941	2,336	2,280	2,249	1,780
Moroccan	2,435	2,951	3,898	3,804	3,681	2,939
Other non-western	3,346	3,569	5,280	4,937	4,725	3,975
Total non-western	10,967	11,705	14,158	13,763	13,382	11,192
Western	2,289	2,086	2,434	2,841	2,735	2,572
Autochthones	6,459	5,367	4,473	5,229	5,134	4,840
Unknown	372	196	97	174	369	146
Total	20,087	19,354	21,162	22,007	21,620	18,750
Total (Abs.)						
Surinamese	5,306	4,825	4,019	4,594	4,649	4,139
Antillean	1,012	944	765	857	827	734
Turkish	3,404	3,423	3,986	4,080	3,918	3,196
Moroccan	5,257	5,550	6,648	6,780	6,587	5,256
Other non-western	6,820	6,773	9,667	9,348	8,905	7,507
Total non-western	21,799	21,515	25,085	25,659	24,886	20,832
Western	4,274	3,896	4,325	5,171	4,933	4,618
Autochthones	12,933	10,843	9,126	11,163	10,859	10,358
Unknown	917	492	216	368	792	311
Total	39,923	36,746	38,752	42,361	41,470	36,119
Total (%)						
Surinamese	13.3	13.1	10.4	10.8	11.2	11.5
Antillean	2.5	2.6	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
Turkish	8.5	9.3	10.3	9.6	9.4	8.8
Moroccan	13.2	15.1	17.2	16	15.9	14.6
Other non-western	17.1	18.4	24.9	22.1	21.5	20.8
Total non-western	54.6	58.6	64.7	60.6	60,0	57.7
Western	10.7	10,6	11.2	12.2	11.9	12.8
Autochthones	32.4	29.5	23.5	26.4	26.2	28.7
Unknown	2.3	1.3	0.6	0.9	1.9	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Long-term unemployment

Table 13 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to duration of unemployment and gender, 2001-2011

Duration of unemployment	Jan 1st 2001	Jan 1st 2003	Jan 1st 2005	Jan 1st 2007	Jan 1st 2008	Jan 1st 2009	Jan 1st 2010	July 1st 2010	Jan 1st 2011
Men									
≤ 3 months	2.846	3.972	4.224	1.954	1.976	2.432	2.772	2.764	2.376
4-6 months	2.254	2.993	2.992	1.812	1.496	2.144	2.885	2.862	2.537
7-12 months	2.819	3.353	4.208	2.854	2.078	3.905	3.604	3.177	3.008
1-2 year(s)	3.686	2.523	5.510	3.382	2.439	1.809	4.605	3.283	2.409
2-3 years	2.575	1.346	2.405	2.500	2.123	1.204	1.076	2.720	2.770
≥ 3 years	13.037	8.333	6.717	7.334	7.280	6.096	5.412	5.044	4.269
Total	27.127	22.520	26.056	19.836	17.392	17.590	20.354	19.850	17.369
Women									
≤ 3 months	2.266	3.554	4.072	1.951	2.801	2.496	2.148	2.414	2.034
4-6 months	2.040	2.781	3.047	1.850	1.751	2.312	2.255	2.361	2.079
7-12 months	2.719	3.140	4.172	2.689	1.990	5.257	2.940	2.477	2.615
1-2 year(s)	3.732	2.414	5.158	3.367	2.369	2.851	6.615	3.662	1.977
2-3 years	2.752	1.449	2.296	2.425	2.306	1.282	2.072	5.070	4.393
≥ 3 years	12.169	8.230	6.699	7.805	8.137	6.964	5.977	5.636	5.652
Total	25.678	21.568	25.444	20.087	19.354	21.162	22.007	21.620	18.750
Total									
≤ 3 months	5.112	7.526	8.296	3.905	4.777	4.928	4.920	5.178	4.410
4-6 months	4.294	5.774	6.039	3.662	3.247	4.456	5.140	5.223	4.616
7-12 months	5.538	6.493	8.380	5.543	4.068	9.162	6.544	5.654	5.623
1-2 year(s)	7.418	4.937	10.668	6.749	4.808	4.660	11.220	6.945	4.386
2-3 years	5.327	2.795	4.701	4.925	4.429	2.486	3.148	7.790	7.163
≥ 3 years	25.206	16.563	13.416	15.139	15.417	13.060	11.389	10.680	9.921
Total	52,895	44,088	51,500	39,923	36,746	38,752	42,361	41,470	36,119

Table 14 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to duration of unemployment, gender, and educational level, January 1st 2011

Duration of Unemployment	ISCED1 (Primary education)	ISCED2 (VMBO)	ISCED 3 (MBO/HAV0/ VWO)	ISCED 5 (HBO/Bache lor)	ISCED 5 (WO/Master)	Total
Men						
≤ 3 months	537	454	781	353	251	2.376
4-6 months	492	527	821	372	325	2.537
7-12 months	677	594	973	436	328	3.008
1-2 year(s)	545	403	822	370	269	2.409
2-3 years	1.780	313	438	134	105	2.770
≥ 3 years	2.256	707	793	298	215	4.269
Total	6.287	2.998	4.628	1.963	1.493	17.369
Women						
≤ 3 months	425	332	589	383	305	2.034
4-6 months	424	311	567	426	351	2.079
7-12 months	537	446	761	492	379	2.615
1-2 year(s)	491	290	648	352	196	1.977
2-3 years	3.453	283	389	141	127	4.393
≥ 3 years	3.596	787	794	310	165	5.652
Total	8.926	2.449	3.748	2.104	1.523	18.750
Total (Abs.)						
≤ 3 months	962	786	1.370	736	556	4.410
4-6 months	916	838	1.388	798	676	4.616
7-12 months	1.214	1.040	1.734	928	707	5.623
1-2 year(s)	1.036	693	1.470	722	465	4.386
2-3 years	5.233	596	827	275	232	7.163
≥ 3 years	5.852	1.494	1.587	608	380	9.921
Total	15.213	5.447	8.376	4.067	3.016	36.119
Total (%)						
≤ 3 months	6.3	14.4	16.4	18.1	18.4	12.2
4-6 months	6.0	15.4	16.6	19.6	22.4	12.8
7-12 months	8.0	19.1	20.7	22.8	23.4	15.6
1-2 year(s)	6.8	12.7	17.6	17.8	15.4	12.1
2-3 years	34.4	10.9	9.9	6.8	7.7	19.8
≥ 3 years	38.5	27.4	18.9	14.9	12.6	27.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 15 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to duration of unemployment, gender, and ethnicity, January 1st 2011

	Duration of unemployment						
Ethnicity	**0-3 months**	**4-6 months**	**7-12 months**	**1-2 year(s)**	**2-3 years**	**> 3 Years**	**Total**
Men							
Surinamese	364	424	392	305	160	347	1,992
Antillean	70	80	76	62	36	59	383
Turkish	135	129	205	134	297	516	1,416
Moroccan	258	277	314	264	499	705	2,317
Other non-western allochthones	391	382	473	405	1,087	794	3,532
Total non-western allochthones	1,218	1,292	1,460	1,170	2,079	2,421	9,640
Western allochthones	285	279	347	319	353	463	2,046
Autochthones	812	944	1,177	905	301	1,379	5,518
Unknown	61	22	24	15	37	6	165
Total	2,376	2,537	3,008	2,409	2,770	4,269	17,369
Women							
Surinamese	344	343	421	285	180	574	2,147
Antillean	65	64	62	45	37	78	351
Turkish	79	85	146	104	533	833	1,780
Moroccan	143	140	204	141	1,154	1,157	2,939
Other non-western allochthones	339	301	369	311	1,549	1,106	3,975
Total non-western allochthones	970	933	1,202	886	3,453	3,748	11,192
Western allochthones	306	340	402	300	639	585	2,572
Autochthones	695	790	1,000	785	253	1,317	4,840
Unknown	63	16	11	6	48	2	146
Total	2,034	2,079	2,615	1,977	4,393	5,652	18,750
Total (Abs.)							
Surinamese	708	767	813	590	340	921	4,139
Antillean	135	144	138	107	73	137	734
Turkish	214	214	351	238	830	1,349	3,196
Moroccan	401	417	518	405	1,653	1,862	5,256
Other non-western allochthones	730	683	842	716	2,636	1,900	7,507
Total non-western allochthones	2,188	2,225	2,662	2,056	5,532	6,169	20,832
Western allochthones	591	619	749	619	992	1,048	4,618
Autochthones	1,507	1,734	2,177	1,690	554	2,696	10,358
Unknown	124	38	35	21	85	8	311
Total	4,410	4,616	5,623	4,386	7,163	9,921	36,119
Total (%)							
Surinamese	17.1	18.5	19.6	14.3	8.2	22.3	100
Antillean	18.4	19.6	18.8	14.6	9.9	18.7	100
Turkish	6.7	6.7	11,0	7.4	26,0	42.2	100
Moroccan	7.6	7.9	9.9	7.7	31.4	35.4	100
Other non-western allochthones	9.7	9.1	11.2	9.5	35.1	25.3	100
Total non-western allochthones	10.5	10.7	12.8	9.9	26.6	29.6	100
Western allochthones	12.8	13.4	16.2	13.4	21.5	22.7	100
Autochthones	14.5	16.7	21,0	16.3	5.3	26,0	100
Unknown	39.9	12.2	11.3	6.8	27.3	2.6	100
Total	12.2	12.8	15.6	12.1	19.8	27.5	100

During the last decade, long-term unemployment decreased in Amsterdam. In 2001, 28.2% of all unemployed had been so since less than 1 year, 24.1% since 1 to 3 years, and almost half (47.6%) of all the registered unemployed had been so since more than 3 years. In 2011, 40.5% of the registered unemployed had been so since less than 1 year, 32% since 1 to 3 years, and 27.5% since more than 3 years (25% of all unemployed men and 30% of all unemployed women) (Table 13). In 2011, long term unemployment appears to be more common among unemployed residents with a lower education and among allochthonous residents. In 2011, nearly 40% of the registered unemployed who had finished primary education were registered as unemployed since more than 3 years, versus less than 15% of the unemployed who had a university degree (Table 14). Also, nearly 60% of all registered unemployed non-western allochthones had been so for at least 2 years, versus ca. 30% of the unemployed autochthones (Table 15).

Temporary employment

The majority of those who work in Amsterdam still do so with a permanent contract. Nonetheless, during the last decade, the share of temporary employment has grown, from 13.2% in 2005 to 15.1% in 2009. At the same time, the share of self-employment has grown too, from 12.9% in 2005 to 14% in 2009. Instead, the share of permanent employment has slightly decreased, from 72% in 2005 to 70.5% in 2009. In 2009, 13.7% of the employed economically active men and 16.7% of the employed economically active women had a temporary contract (Table 16).

Figures on which age groups have most temporary contracts are not available for Amsterdam, but considering that in the Netherlands nearly 50% of all 15 to 24 year olds were engaged in temporary employment in 2010, it is most likely that young people are overrepresented in temporary employment in Amsterdam too. What we do know is that there are significant differences between native Dutch and non-western residents: in Amsterdam, in 2009, nearly 1/5 of the Turkish residents and ca. 1/4 of the Moroccan, Surinamese, Antillean and other non-western residents had a temporary contract – which was almost twice as much as the share of native Dutch residents (ca. 1/10) holding a temporary position.

Table 16 - Employed economically active (x 1,000) according to type of contract and gender, 2005-2009

		2005	2007	2009
Men	Self-employed (+ family workers)	30.5	32.9	35.3
	Employees	159	164.5	171.2
	… with permanent contract	132.3	135.2	142.2
	… with temporary contract	23.6	27.4	28.3
	Contract unknown	3.1	1.9	0.7
	Total	189.5	197.4	206.5
Women	Self-employed (+ family workers)	14.1	16.9	18.3
	Employees	142.9	145.2	156.5
	… with permanent contract	117	118.2	126.8
	… with temporary contract	22	25.4	29.3
	Contract unknown	3.9	1.6	0.4
	Total	157	162.1	174.8
Total	Self-employed (+ family workers)	44.6	49.8	53.6
	Employees	301.9	309.7	327.7
	… with permanent contract	249.3	253.4	269
	… with temporary contract	45.6	52.8	57.6
	Contract unknown	7	3.5	1.1
	Total	346.5	359.5	381.3

What are the estimated data about grey labour market? What has been the trend in the last ten years? What population groups are more concerned?

Figures, even estimates, about the size of the informal economy in Amsterdam are lacking. Nevertheless, considering that Amsterdam has a large "red light district" and hundreds of "coffeeshops", it is likely that a significant amount of informal transactions is taking place. To what extent such (criminal) transactions contribute to the growth of the local economy, however, is unknown. Moreover, tourism is an important sector in Amsterdam, and also a sector that is particularly vulnerable to "black work". It has been suggested, for instance, that cleaners (in hotels, bars, etc.) often do not have regular contracts. To what extent this is indeed the case, though, is unknown. In any case, if the informal economy accounts for nearly 10% of the Dutch economy, in Amsterdam, the share is probably higher.

What was the impact of the recent financial crisis? What groups were affected?

Having a large financial sector, Amsterdam's economy too was affected by the financial crisis – most job losses occurred in banks and financial holdings. While unemployment in Amsterdam generally affects people with a lower education first, "the crisis" also affected people with a higher education. Moreover, fewer tourists visited Amsterdam and fewer goods passed through Schiphol airport, whereby many consumer-oriented businesses reduced their workforce. As a result, between 2008 and 2010, the share of unemployed in Amsterdam rose by 0.8% and came to reach 7.5% of the workforce (in the Netherlands, unemployment rose by 0.4% in that same time period). Young workers were typically the first not to have their contract extended or to lose their jobs. Proportionately, between 2008 and 2010, unemployment rose most among 25 to 34 year olds (from 4.5% to 6.7%).

Table 17 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW), January 1st 2009-2011

	January 1st			Difference 2011-2010	
	2009	**2010**	**2011**	**Abs.**	**%**
Unemployed jobseekers	38,752	42,361	36,119	-6,242	-14.7
Men	17,590	20,354	17,369	-2,985	-14.7
Women	21,162	22,007	18,750	-3,257	-14.8
Age group					
15-22 year-olds	1,535	1,559	1,155	-404	-25.9
23-26 year-olds	2,064	2,510	1,921	-589	-23.5
27-34 year-olds	6,948	8,236	6,514	-1,722	-20.9
35-44 year-olds	11,033	12,317	10,119	-2,198	-17.8
45-54 year-olds	10,344	10,831	9,877	-954	-8.8
55-64 year-olds (+ unknown)	6,828	6,908	6,533	-375	-5.4
Ethnic background					
Non-western allochthones	25,085	25,659	20,832	-4,827	-18.8
Western allochthones	4,325	5,171	4,618	-553	-10.7
Autochthones + Unknown	9,342	11,531	10,669	-862	-7.5
Educational level					
ISCED 1/ISCED 2/unknown	25,137	24,702	20,660	-4,042	-16.4
ISCED 3	7,248	9,317	8,376	-941	-10.1
ISCED 5	6,367	8,342	7,083	-1,259	-15.1
Duration of unemployment (*)					
Less than 1 year	18,546	16,604	14,649	-1,955	-11.8
1 to 3 years	7,146	14,368	11,549	-2,819	-19.6
More than 3 years	13,060	11,389	9,921	-1,468	-12.9

(*) Unemployed jobseekers (NWW)

Due to the financial crisis, which made reintegration into the labour market harder for those who were unemployed, between 2009 and 2010 there was a sharp increase in the number of persons who were unemployed for more than one year (from 7,146 in 2009 to 14,368 persons in 2010) (Table 17).The expectation is also that the share of people that is unemployed for more than 3 years will increase during the next year.

As unemployment rose, so did the number of recipients of unemployment benefits: between 2009 and 2010 there was a 63.6% increase in the number of recipients of unemployment benefits (from 9,445 persons in 2009 to 15,456 in 2010) (Table 18).

Table 18 - UWV Benefits, January 1st 2007-2010

					Difference 2010-2009	
	2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**Abs.**	**%**
WIA	948	1,871	3,242	4,448	+1,206	+37.2
WAO	33,896	31,757	32,048	27,452	-4,596	-14.3
WAZ	1,379	1,264	1,249	1,005	-244	-19.5
Wajong	5,357	5,679	6,490	6,466	-24	-0.4
WW	13,086	10,075	9,445	15,456	+6,011	+63.6
Total benefits UWV	54,666	50,646	52,474	54,827	+2,353	+4.5

Yet, in 2009, while the Dutch economy shrank by 3.9%, Amsterdam's economy shrank by 2.2%. Furthermore, Amsterdam seems to recover from the crisis relatively quickly: since 2010 its economy started growing again and by the end of 2010, unemployment had dropped to 6.7% of the total workforce – the same unemployment rate as before the crisis. Still, there are concerns that the effects of the crisis are going to become more visible in the next few years. In fact, unemployment, which seemed to be going down in January 2011, has started going up again at the end of 2011. Besides, that large banks with their headquarters in Amsterdam have recently announced how they intend to cut several thousands of jobs in the near future indicates that the crisis is not quite over yet.

What has been the trend in the income distribution and wage level? What is the wage gap between men and women, between temporary and permanent workers, between highly skilled and lowly skilled workers?

As the wages of temporary work are also safeguarded by law, differences in incomes are influenced by one's specialisations/qualifications more than one's type of contract: for instance, wages in financial and business services in Amsterdam tend to be twice as high as average Dutch wages.

Figures on average incomes in different branches of the local economy are unavailable but that, on average, Western allochthones have much higher personal incomes than non-western allochthones (Table 20) reflects the fact that many of the western allochthones in Amsterdam are so-called expats filling highly skilled functions in financial institutions or other business related services, while non-western allochthones are overrepresented in less skilled jobs in tourism, logistics and commerce. In any case, as the labour market is divided between highly specialised and less qualified functions, income inequality is more pronounced in Amsterdam than in other (large) cities in the Netherlands.

Also, women in Amsterdam are more likely to be living off a minimum income than men: in 2009, 55% of those who were working for a minimum income were women. Among 20 to 40 year olds working for a minimum income, women represented up to 60%.

However, nearly half of the women in Amsterdam work part-time: in 2011, 46% of the women worked for more than 33 hours per week, 28% worked 25-32 hours per week, and 26% worked 12-24 hours per week. In that same year, 77% of the men worked more than 33 hours per week, 13% worked 25-32 hours, and 10% worked 12-24 hours (Table 19).

Table 19 - Employed economically active according to gender, working hours per week, and age group, 2011 (%)

Working hours per week	Age group 15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Men						
12-24 hours	48	6	4	6	11	10
25-32 hours	18	10	11	16	18	13
33 hours or more	34	84	85	78	70	77
Total employed economically active (abs. x 1,000 =	20.7	60.8	57.3	44.1	23.3	206.1
Small jobs (1-11 hours) abs. x 1,000	8.9	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.7	12.4
Women						
12-24 hours	63	15	24	23	29	26
25-32 hours	15	24	34	33	36	28
33 hours or more	23	61	43	44	34	46
Total employed economically active (abs. x 1,000 =	22.1	58.9	44.2	35.8	20.2	181.3
Small jobs (1-11 hours) abs. x 1,000	13.1	3.4	1.1	1.1	1,0	19.7
Total						
12-24 hours	56	11	13	14	20	18
25-32 hours	16	17	21	24	27	20
33 hours of more	28	73	66	63	53	62
Total employed economically active (abs. x 1,000 =	42.9	119.7	101.5	79.9	43.5	387.4
Small jobs (1-11 hours) abs. x 1,000	21.9	4.7	1.8	2.1	1.7	32.2

Table 20 - Average personal incomes (x 1,000 euro), 2005-2008

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Per inhabitant	19,0	20.3	21.6	22.6
Per person with an entire year income	27.5	28.4	30,0	31.1
Autochthones	-	30.9	32.8	34.1
Western allochthones	-	32.6	35,0	36.1
Non-western allochthones	-	20.8	21.8	22.7
Total active	34.7	36.1	37.9	39.2
Total non-active	16.4	16.3	16.8	17.3
Unemployed and social assistance recipients	13.8	13.9	13.9	14.0

Table 21 - Average disposable incomes (x 1,000) per person/households, 2000-2008

	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Per inhabitant	11.6	13.7	12.8	12.6	13.3	14.0	15.0	15.5
Per person with an entire year income	16.6	19.4	18.4	18.6	19,0	19.4	20.7	21.1
Per household	-	-	-	25.2	26.4	27.6	29.6	30.6
Single person household	16.2	19.1	18.1	18.2	18.7	19.5	20.9	21.5
Couple with underage children	26.7	32.4	36.4	36.7	39,0	41.4	45.3	41,0
Couple without underage children	31.1	36.2	33.6	33.9	35.5	36.8	39.9	47.3
Lone parent household	-	-	-	-	-	23.7	24.9	25.7

Table 22 - Households with an income up to 105% -110% of the minimum subsistence level (WSM), 2001-2010

	2001*		2002*		2003*		2005*		2008**		2009**		2010**		Diff. 2010-2009
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.
Minimum income	77,079	20.2	69,780	17.3	71,565	17.7	74,554	18.1	69,067	16.5	70,157	16.5	71,564	16.6	+1,407
Other incomes	304,518	79.8	334,078	82.7	333,899	82.3	336,386	81.9	349,935	83.5	354,355	83.5	358,855	83.4	+4,500
Total households	381,597	100	403,858	100	405,464	100	410,940	100	419,002	100	424,512	100	430,419	100	+5,907

* 105% of the minimum subsistence level (WSM)
** 110% of the minimum subsistence level (WSM)

Table 23 - Residents with an income up to 105%-110% of the minimum subsistence level (WSM), 2002-2010

	2002*		2003*		2008**		2009**		2010**		Diff. 2010-2009
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.
Minimum income	133,355	18	135,108	18.6	136,006	18.2	135,560	17.8	137,189	17.8	+1,629
Other incomes	590,330	82	590,330	81.4	612,777	81.8	624,404	82.2	633,423	82.2	+9,019
Total residents	723,685	100	725,438	100	748,783	100	759,964	100	770,612	100	+10,648

* 105% of the minimum subsistence level (WSM)
** 110% of the minimum subsistence level (WSM)

During the last 10 years, average disposable incomes have increased in Amsterdam, both per person and per household. In Amsterdam, the average disposable income per person was 11,600 euros in 2000, 13,300 euros in 2005, and reached 15,500 euros in 2008, which is higher than the Dutch average (14,700 euros in 2008).Instead, average disposable incomes per households, although rising, remain lower in Amsterdam than in the Netherlands: the average disposable income per household grew from 25,200 euros in 2004 to 30,600 euros in 2008 in Amsterdam, when it was at 33,100 euros for the Netherlands (Table 21).

Despite rising average incomes, in 2010, nearly 18% of Amsterdam's population (ca. 137,000 persons) and 16.6% of all households in Amsterdam (ca. 71,500 households) still had a minimum income. In 2001, more than 20% of all households still had a minimum income. Yet, while the share of households living off a minimum income was declining, since the financial crisis, that decline has come to a halt (Table 22 & Table 23).

What is the approximate amount of population who is part of POPULATION TARGET ONE? What is approximately its share over the whole labour force and over the population with in the same age? What has been the trend in the target group over the last 10 years?

There are nearly 100,000 persons aged 15 to 25 in Amsterdam. It is estimated that half of these (slightly less than 50,000) are working or looking for a job for more than 12 hours per week. According to this measurement of unemployment, in 2009, 17% of the youth aged 15-24 in Amsterdam was unemployed (which was 6% higher than the corresponding national average) - in total this would amount to ca. 8,300 persons. However, in 2009, less than 2000 unemployed jobseekers registered at UWV were younger than 24. In 2011, 8.5% of all the registered unemployed in Amsterdam were younger than 26 - in total this amounts to 3,076 persons (another 6,451 were aged 27-34) (Table 24).

In practice, as young people usually do not have a long history of employment and are thus not eligible to receive unemployment benefits, many do not register in an UWV. In January 2010, for instance, merely 1.3% of those younger than 20 and 2.8% of all 20 to 24 year olds were registered as unemployed jobseekers in an UWV. Yet, in that same year, ca. 8,000 youngsters in Amsterdam resorted to either Public Employment Agencies (UWVs) or municipal Work and Income Services (*Dienst Werk en Inkomen*) for help in their search for a job. The majority of these had an ethnic background, and more than 75% only had a high-school diploma. (How many of these are living on their own is unknown)

Table 24 - Unemployed jobseekers (NWW) according to gender, ethnicity and age group, January 1st 2011

	Age group						
Ethnicity	**15-22**	**23-26**	**27-34**	**35-44**	**45-54**	**55-64**	**Total**
Men							
Surinamese	139	163	352	488	504	346	1,992
Antillean	38	35	72	89	85	64	383
Turkish	62	85	301	351	409	208	1,416
Moroccan	184	195	410	591	573	364	2,317
Other non-western allochthones	105	146	577	1,098	1,091	515	3,532
Total non-western allochthones	528	624	1,712	2,617	2,662	1,497	9,640
Western allochthones	31	53	321	613	539	489	2,046
Autochthones	188	159	656	1,322	1,678	1,515	5,518
Unknown	13	24	48	40	29	11	165
Total	760	860	2,737	4,592	4,908	3,512	17,369
Women							
Surinamese	92	153	369	553	666	314	2,147
Antillean	21	31	56	92	82	69	351
Turkish	34	141	412	611	445	137	1,780
Moroccan	61	196	657	967	739	319	2,939
Other non-western allochthones	68	193	948	1,346	1,003	417	3,975
Total non-western allochthones	276	714	2,442	3,569	2,935	1,256	11,192
Western allochthones	23	113	617	708	589	522	2,572
Autochthones	85	200	673	1,218	1,425	1,239	4,840
Unknown	11	34	45	32	20	4	146
Total	395	1,061	3,777	5,527	4,969	3,021	18,750
Total (Abs.)							
Surinamese	231	316	721	1,041	1,170	660	4,139
Antillean	59	66	128	181	167	133	734
Turkish	96	226	713	962	854	345	3,196
Moroccan	245	391	1,067	1,558	1,312	683	5,256
Other non-western allochthones	173	339	1,525	2,444	2,094	932	7,507
Total non-western allochthones	804	1,338	4,154	6,186	5,597	2,753	20,832
Western allochthones	54	166	938	1,321	1,128	1,011	4,618
Autochthones	273	359	1,329	2,540	3,103	2,754	10,358
Unknown	24	58	93	72	49	15	311
Total	1,155	1,921	6,514	10,119	9,877	6,533	36,119
Total (%)							
Surinamese	20,0	16.4	11.1	10.3	11.8	10.1	11.5
Antillean	5.1	3.4	2,0	1.8	1.7	2,0	2,0
Turkish	8.3	11.8	10.9	9.5	8.6	5.3	8.8
Moroccan	21.2	20.4	16.4	15.4	13.3	10.5	14.6
Other non-western allochthones	15,0	17.6	23.4	24.2	21.2	14.3	20.8
Total non-western allochthones	69.6	69.7	63.8	61.1	56.7	42.1	57.7
Western allochthones	4.7	8.6	14.4	13.1	11.4	15.5	12.8
Autochthones	23.6	18.7	20.4	25.1	31.4	42.2	28.7
Unknown	2.1	3,0	1.4	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

To what extent have the previous structural changes affected the specific living conditions of the target group?

In 2009, people aged 20-29 represented 43% of all those who were working for a minimum income in Amsterdam. By 2009, this had risen to 49% (Table 25). Although the absolute numbers of unemployed youth in Amsterdam are perhaps still relatively low compared to other cities (in the Netherlands and abroad), the vulnerable position on the labour market of young workers with a low education is making it more and more difficult for them to have a debt-free and/or (financially) independent living. The result is that young people are now slowly but surely accumulating (large) debts, and/or increasingly relying on their parents for help (e.g. loan, accommodation) – an occurrence that was never very common in the Netherlands.

Table 25 - Residents (aged 20-64) working for a minimum income according to age, 2009-2010

	2009			2010		
	Working for minimum income		Minimum income from other sources	Working for minimum income		Minimum income from other sources
Age group	**Abs.**	**%**	**%**	**Abs.**	**%**	**%**
20-29 year-olds	6,588	43	12	7,564	49	12
30-39 year-olds	3,225	21	16	2,988	19	17
40-49 year-olds	3,471	23	21	2,991	19	21
50-59 year-olds	1,699	11	20	1,593	10	20
60-64 year-olds	296	2	31	298	2	30
Total	15,279	100	100	15,434	100	100

1.2. Public regulation

What is the division of responsibilities among national/regional/municipal level and the third sector/private organisations in the regulation of the labour market and in the provision of services and benefits to the labour force population who are in a risk position? Have there been changes in the distribution of responsibilities between (national/regional/local) levels of government and/or social actors the last 10 years?

The Unemployment Act (*Wet Werkloosheid*, or WW) in the Netherlands is implemented by Public Employment Agencies (*Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen*, or UWV), which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. UWVs distribute unemployment benefits (which are paid by workers' premiums) to those who involuntarily lost their jobs. Instead, the Act on Work and Social Assistance (*Wet Werk en Bijstand*, or WWB) is implemented by the municipal Work and Income Services (*Dienst Werk en Inkomen*, or DWI). All municipalities have a budget for granting WWB benefits to those who receive little to no income from work, to complement their income to 70% of the minimum wage. *(See country report for further details)*.

Following the introduction of the SUWI Act (*Wet Structuur Uitvoeringsorganisatie Werk en Inkomen*) in 2002, municipalities gained greater responsibility in the provision of social welfare benefits and in the regulation of the local labour market. Since then, municipalities collaborate closely with UWVs, which resulted in the formation of *UWV Werkbedrijven*. At present, to apply for either unemployment or social welfare benefits, one must first register with an *UWV Werkbedrijf*. Also, since the SUWI Act, UWVs resort to private reintegration services to insert the unemployed back into the labour market. *(See country report for further details on recent policy changes)*.

Finally, local municipalities, UWVs and reintegration services are increasingly collaborating with other third sector actors to create employment/training opportunities for the (young) unemployed. For example, in Amsterdam so-called "neighbourhood management companies" (*buurtbeheerbedrijven)* have been set up in collaboration with a certain number of housing corporations, in which unemployed residents have the opportunity to gain (both paid and unpaid) working experience. Similar collaborations aiming to create more apprenticeships for the unemployed in various sectors also exist with other non-profit organisations as well as with (a perhaps still smaller yet growing number of) private (social) enterprises.

Table 26 - Unemployment benefits (WW), January 1st 2001-2011 (%)

	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Gender									
Men %	53.0	54.6	53.5	52.0	51.9	50,0	50.7	54.6	54,0
Women %	47.0	45.4	46.5	48.0	48.1	50,0	49.3	45.4	46,0
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total abs.	9,238	11,537	18,595	16,597	13,086	10,075	9,445	15,456	14,246
in % of population aged 15-64	1.7	2.2	3.4	3.1	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.8	2.5
Age group									
15-24 year-olds	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.8	2.5	1.7
25-34 year-olds	22.9	27.8	24.7	18.6	13.5	13.1	16.3	24.5	19.4
35-44 year-olds	31.2	33.0	35.3	34.9	31.2	28.5	28.7	32.2	31.0
45-54 year-olds	20.3	20.2	23.3	27.5	31.2	30.6	29.3	25.7	30.8
55-64 year-olds	23.4	16.3	13.9	16.9	22.4	26.6	23.9	15.2	17.1
Duration of the terminated benefits									
< 6 months	55.4	54.3	60.5	55.9	52.7	54.8	58.6	68.1	43.9
6 months - 1 year	17.0	20.8	17.1	20.7	17.8	15.3	15.7	15.5	19.9
> 1 year (+ unknown)	27.6	24.9	22.3	23.5	29.4	29.8	25.6	16.4	17.0

In 2001, 1.7% of the population aged 15-64 in Amsterdam (more than 9,200 persons) received unemployment benefits (WW) from the public employment agency (UWV); in January 2011, this was the case for 2.5% of the population aged 15-64 (more than 14,200 persons), of which 80% were older than 35, and nearly 20% received WW benefits for more than 1 year (Table 26). In total, in 2011, more than 53,000 residents received some sort of monetary benefit from the UWV – ca.10% less than 10 years earlier in 2001 (Table 27).

Moreover, in 2001, ca. 50,000 persons received social assistance benefits (WWB) from the municipal Work and Income Service (DWI). By 2010, this figure had decreased to ca. 33,000 persons. In total, in 2010, the municipality (DWI) distributed (various kinds of) benefits to ca. 34000 persons, for a total amount of 592,186,000 euros (Table 28). While the number of municipal benefit recipients had been decreasing since 2001, between 2010 and 2011, the number of municipal benefit recipients grew again (from 34,000 to almost 37,000) - partly because municipalities are now responsible for the implementation of the WIJ Act, and thus have to distribute benefits to young (< 27 years old) unemployed (1,470 cases in 2011), but also partly because those who lost their job during the financial crisis and who were not eligible (anymore) for unemployment benefits applied for social assistance instead(Table 27).

Table 27 - Benefits according to type of social security scheme, 2001-2011

Social security scheme	**2001**	**2003**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
WWB < 65 years old	45,459	38,677	38,172	36,899	35,520	33,320	30,600	32,032	32,916
WWB ≥ 65 years old (*)	3,862	4,149	4,657	5,041	5,410	5,735	5,063	3	
WWB for persons in institutions	342	382	534	589	698	762	847	916	927
WIJ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,470
BBZ									160
IOAW + IOAZ	737	684	601	549	381	336	384	459	535
WWIK	984	1,039	662	619	449	494	524	622	770
Other schemes	774	107	93	128	174	141	104	138	
Total DWI benefits	52,158	45,038	44,728	43,825	42,632	40,788	37,522	34,170	36,778
WIA					948	1,871	3,242	4,448	5,725
WAO	43,952	44,736	41,564	37,604	33,896	31,757	32,048	27,452	25,712
WAZ	1,639	1,595	1,661	1,568	1,379	1,264	1,249	1,005	905
Wajong	4,641	4,902	5,111	5,131	5,357	5,679	6,490	6,466	7,298
WW	9,238	11,537	18,595	16,597	13,086	10,075	9,445	15,456	14,246
Total UWV benefits	59,470	62,770	66,931	60,900	54,666	50,646	52,474	54,827	53,886
Grand total	111,628	107,808	111,659	104,725	97,298	91,434	89,996	88,997	90,664

(*) In July 2009 the social assistance benefits (WWB) for residents > 65 years old were passed from the municipality to the Sociale Verzekeringsbank (SVB)

Table 28 - Municipal expenditure on provided benefits, 2001-2010 (x 1,000 euro)

	2001	**2003**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**
WWB < 65 years old	521025	513976	501229	481310	462188	448830	470475	498702
WWB ≥ 65 years old	16553	19607	21390	22515	24170	25989	27639	199
WWB for persons in institutions	1273	1909	2673	2506	2881	3299	3845	3863
WIJ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9137
BBZ	3461	3952	5566	4406	6601	6742	7317	8694
IOAW	6110	6468	5220	3882	3063	3571	4697	5757
IOAZ	1351	1181	1259	1235	1184	1185	1215	1265
WWIK	7887	20779	15264	5308	4671	5179	6220	7924
Special social assistance (*bijzondere bijstand*)	19364	16786	20151	21899	23933	26114	24317	26102
Childcare for benefit recipients	8786	11322	2173	2505	2808	3426	3586	2937
Poverty policy (*armoedebeleid*)	25625	23539	15822	24754	22293	26728	28449	27605
Other	2181	91	88	124	84	6	4	-
Total	628465		590833	570444	553876	551069	577764	592186

Table 29 - Youth according to type of benefits, January 1st 2007-2011

Benefits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Less than 24 years old					
WWB	1,202	937	644	712	71
15-24 years old					
WIA	12	25	31	37	29
WAO	40	15	8	3	-
Wajong	1,212	1,410	1,694	1,687	2,028
WW	212	128	171	380	248

What are the main welfare programs addressing the needs of POPULATION TARGET ONE? Have there been changes in the public expenditure levels or eligibility criteria of these programs over the last 10 years? Have there been changes in the level of supply/ in the coverage level/in the amount of benefits?

In 2009, the Investing in Youth Act (*Wet Investeren in Jongeren*, or WIJ) was implemented, according to which unemployed youth (< 27 years old) is no longer eligible to apply for social assistance benefits (WWB). Following the WIJ Act, it is the responsibility of the municipality to help young unemployed in finding a job and/or an internship/ training program instead. In the first case they receive a salary from the employer, in the second the municipality provides them with an income (WIJ benefits). The amount of WIJ benefits that are granted by the municipality are decided on an individual basis, depending on the applicant's monthly expenses (in turn related to household, housing, etc.).

Recipients of WIJ benefits are compelled to follow a re-integration program. In Amsterdam this means WIJ beneficiaries have to participate in a 2-week "job application course" (*sollicitatiecursus*). After this course – where they are taught, for example, how to write a CV and a motivation letter, but also how to present themselves to potential employers – they have to attend a so-called JobCentre 3 times per week, during 6 weeks, where officials of the DWI assist them in finding vacancies and filing job applications. Every week, WIJ recipients must send out at least 8 job applications to maintain their benefits. If, after 8 weeks, WIJ recipients have not managed to find a job, DWI may "impose" a traineeship, or ask them to look for positions of a lower level (than desired).

Young unemployed can apply for unemployment benefits (WW) depending on their history of employment. However, since one receives one month of unemployment benefits for every year that one has worked, in practice this means that young people can generally only receive unemployment benefits for a short period of time, if any. In Amsterdam, in 2007, ca. 200 youngsters aged 15-24 were receiving unemployment benefits (WW) and ca. 1200 were receiving social assistance benefits (WWB). In 2011, ca. 250 youngsters aged 15-24 were receiving unemployment benefits (WW) and less than 100 were receiving social assistance benefits (WWB) (Table 29). Yet, by 2011, nearly 1500 persons (all younger than 27) were receiving WIJ benefits (Table 27). The municipal expenditure on WIJ benefits distributed in 2010 amounted to 9,137,000 euros (Table 28).

In addition, in the Netherlands, young unemployed who are mentally/physically disabled can apply for benefits under the Work and Employment Support for Disabled Youth Act (*Wet werk en arbeidsondersteuning jonggehandicapten*, or WaJong). In Amsterdam, in 2001, ca. 4,600 persons were receiving such WaJong benefits: by 2011, this was the case for more than 7,200 persons, of which ca. 2,000 were younger than 24 (Table 27 & Table 29).

Lastly, to combat rising youth unemployment rates, in 2010, a Youth Unemployment Regional Action Plan (*Regionaal Actieplan Jeugdwerkloosheid*) was introduced in the metropolitan area of Amsterdam. This plan seeks to encourage young unemployed people (between 16 and 27 years old) to continue studying and/or to offer them internships/apprenticeships that enable them to develop specialised skills. The implementation of this Action Plan relies on an intensified collaboration between municipalities, UWV Werkbedrijven, youth care organisations, schools and vocational centres (ROCs), and local businesses/employers. Since this Action Plan was launched, the number of young unemployed jobseekers registered in an UWV in Amsterdam has been reduced by nearly 25% (see Table 17).

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES AND FAMILY

2.1. Socio-economic trends

What has changed in the demographic structure of the local population over the last 10 years? (Population growth or decline, trend in fertility and birth rates, proportion of the elderly, proportion of children, dependency rate, etc.)

Amsterdam is a dynamic city in which, every year, ca. 50,000 persons come settle, but from which ca. 50,000 persons leave as well. During the last ten years, the population of Amsterdam has continued to grow. In 2001, the city counted nearly 735,000 inhabitants. In 2006, the total population amounted to ca. 743,000. And by January 1st 2011 there were 780,559 persons registered to be living in Amsterdam (of which 384,283 men and 396,276 women) (Table 30).

Table 30 - Population according to gender, 2001-2011

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total	734,540	735,328	736,045	738,763	742,951	743,027	743,104	747,290	756,347	767,773	780,559
Men	361,630	362,602	363,087	364,274	366,345	366,114	365,872	367,616	372,319	378,297	384,283
Women	372,910	372,726	372,958	374,489	376,606	376,913	377,232	379,674	384,028	389,476	396,276

Although the total population has indeed been growing, until recently, it did so rather slowly. In 2005, for example, the total population increased by only 76 persons. During the last 10 years, the fertility rate always outdid the mortality rate, but there were also more people moving out of the city than there were moving in. However, since 2007, in-migration exceeds out-migration, and the population has been growing at a much faster pace. In 2010 alone, the population grew by nearly 12.800 inhabitants – the largest growth spur of the last 60 years (Table 31).

Table 31 - Population growth, 2001-2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Births	10,720	10,432	10,611	10,596	10,567	10,191	10,400	10,595	11,008	11,381
Deaths	6,644	6,551	6,563	5,900	5,955	5,747	5,567	5,702	5,286	5,381
Birth surplus	+4,076	+3,881	4,048	+4,696	+4,612	+4,444	+4,833	+4,893	+5,722	+6,000
In-migration	38,252	40,207	41,049	43,287	44,378	48,227	51,587	57,162	57,117	59,900
…from the Netherlands	22,055	24,079	26,055	27,514	29,875	31,400	31,802	31,601	30,753	31,479
…from abroad	16,197	16,128	14,994	15,773	14,503	16,827	19,785	25,561	26,364	28,421
Out-migration	41,565	43,167	42,718	43,941	48,673	52,486	52,245	53,950	51,501	52,774
…to the Netherlands	29,684	30,030	28,913	29,045	30,320	29,617	30,254	29,550	28,849	28,795
…to abroad	11,881	13,137	13,805	14,896	18,353	22,869	21,991	24,400	22,652	23,979
Migration surplus	-3,313	-2,960	-1,669	-654	-4,295	-4,259	-658	+3,212	+5,616	+7,126
Population growth	+788	+717	+2,718	+4,188	+76	+77	+4,186	+9,057	+11,426	+12,786

The proportion of "children" (0-19 years old) in Amsterdam has remained fairly stable during the last 10 years. In 2001, 20.6% of the population of Amsterdam was aged 0-19 (6.1% aged 0-4 and 14.5% aged 5-19). In 2006, 21% of the population was aged 0-19 (6.2% aged 0-4 and 14.8% aged 5-19). In January 2011, 20.6% of the population was aged 0-19 (6.2% aged 0-4 and 14.4% aged 5-19) (Table 32).

However, the proportion of "youngsters" (0-24 years old) has steadily been rising. In 2001, 27.4% of the total population in Amsterdam was between 0 and 24 years old, in 2006 this was the case for 28.2%, and by 2011 for 28.7% of the population – 17.8% of which were aged 0-3, 14.4% aged 4-7, 16.5% aged 8-12, 15.0% aged 13-17, and 36.2% aged 18-24 (Table 33). In fact, Amsterdam attracts many young adults (from other parts of the Netherlands as well as from abroad), either for their studies or for their (first) job.

Table 32 - Population according to age group, 2001-2011

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0- 4 year-olds	45,131				46,823	46,266	45,432	45,288	45,674	46,980	48,304
5-19 year-	106,343	153,130*	154,757*	156,149*	110,212	110,173	110,047	110,148	110,714	111,718	112,555
20-34 year-	207,442	202,541	198,720	196,608	195,663	193,945	193,616	195,934	201,353	205,689	212,246
35-49 year-	180,570	183,221	184,323	186,383	188,180	188,339	187,286	186,552	185,674	186,273	185,519
50-64 year-	106,874	109,725	112,950	115,395	118,148	120,420	123,134	125,758	128,760	131,673	135,835
≥ 65 year-	88,080	86,711	85,295	84,228	83,925	83,884	83,589	83,610	84,172	85,440	86,100

* 0-4 years + 5-19 years

Table 33 - Youth according to age group, January 1st 2001-2011

	January 1st										Jan. 1st 2011	
Age group	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Abs.	%
0- 3 year-olds	37,243	37,986	38,049	38,356	38169	37740	37214	36944	37475	38559	39998	17.8
4- 7 year-olds	30,342	30,342	30,743	31,321	32047	32172	32038	32104	31925	32108	32307	14.4
8-12 year-olds	36,420	36,565	36,556	35,762	35314	34726	34714	34942	35893	36703	37087	16.5
13-17 year-olds	33,009	33,910	34,648	35,048	35085	35104	34840	34618	33988	33781	33630	15,0
18-24 year-olds	64,383	63,105	63,020	65,039	67698	69738	71302	73795	76501	78290	81270	36.2
Total abs.	201,340	201,908	203,016	205,526	208313	209480	210108	212403	215782	219441	224292	100
% Tot.	27.4	27.5	27.6	27.8	28.0	28.2	28.3	28.4	28.5	28.6	28.7	

Table 34 - Elderly according to age group, January 1st 2001-2011

	January 1st										Jan. 1st 2011	
Age group	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Abs.	%
55-59 year-olds	32,413	36,180	39,244	41,195	42,453	44,549	42,944	42,335	42,341	43,007	43,600	25.6
60-64 year-olds	26,875	27,273	27,926	28,612	29,511	29,413	32,780	35,590	37,385	38,545	40,686	23.9
65-69 year-olds	22,711	22,579	22,347	22,685	23,053	23,670	24,081	24,625	25,250	26,135	26,198	15.4
70-74 year-olds	21,031	20,520	20,098	19,591	19,335	19,186	19,060	18,858	19,251	19,771	20,558	12.1
75-79 year-olds	19,182	18,533	17,937	17,338	16,856	16,491	16,156	15,914	15,607	15,502	15,484	9.1
≥ 80 year-olds	25,156	25,079	24,913	24,614	24,681	24,537	24,292	24,213	24,064	24,032	23,860	14,0
Total abs.	147,368	150,164	152,465	154,035	155,889	157,846	159,313	161,535	163,898	166,992	170,386	100
in % of the total population	20.1	20.4	20.7	20.9	21.0	21.2	21.4	21.6	21.7	21.8	21.8	
55-74 year-olds	103,030	106,552	109,615	112,083	114,353	116,818	118,865	121,408	124,227	127,458	131,042	76.9
≥ 75 year-olds	44,338	43,612	42,850	41,952	41,537	41,028	40,448	40,127	39,671	39,534	39,344	23.1

If we consider the elderly as those who are over 65 years old, the proportion of elderly in Amsterdam has been decreasing rather than increasing – although the absolute number of residents older than 65 increased from 83,884 in 2006 to 86,100 in 2011, in 2011 this particular group constituted a smaller share of the total population (11.0%) than it did in 2006 (11.3%). However, if we consider the elderly as those above 55 years old, then the proportion of elderly in Amsterdam is indeed increasing: in 2006, residents older than 55 constituted 21.2% of the total population, by 2011 this figure has risen to 21.8%. The group of residents who are aged 50 to 64 (i.e. the post-WWII baby-boomers) has been a fast-growing age group: they represented 14.5% of Amsterdam's total population in 2001, 16.2% in 2006, and 17.4% by January 2011. Instead, the share of residents that is older than 75 has steadily been declining (Table 34).

Still, with ca. 70% of the total population between 20 and 64 years old in 2011, the dependency rate in Amsterdam (46.3) is among the lowest of the Netherlands (which has an average dependency rate of 64.1).[1]

How has the average size of households and the average number of children per household changed? Has the average age at first birth changed?

The average number of children per household in Amsterdam has risen from ca. 1.5 children in 2000 to ca. 1.6 children in 2009, but it remains below the national average of 1.8 children per household. The average number of children among native Dutch residents in Amsterdam is increasing. In 2000, the average number of children in native Dutch households was ca. 1.2 children; by 2009 it was nearly 1.5 children. Instead, the average number of children is decreasing among non-western households in Amsterdam. In 2000, households of Moroccan descent had more than 3 children on average; by 2009 this had declined to ca. 2.7. Similarly, while Turkish households had more than 2 children on average in 2000, in 2009 they had ca. 1.8 children.

Also, the last ten years, the average age at which women in Amsterdam have their first child has gone up. In 2000, on average, women in Amsterdam had their first child at 29.4 years old; by 2010 this happened at 31 years old. (In 2010, the average age at which women in the Netherlands had their first child was 30.) Native Dutch and western women in Amsterdam have their first child around 32 years old. Women of non-western descent tend to be younger: on average, Turkish and Surinamese women become mothers at 27 years old, Moroccan women at 28. Though, non-western women of the second generation have their first child at a later age (28-30) than women of the first generation (24-27).

What have been the trends as to marriages/de facto couples, separations and divorces? Has the proportion of births out of wedlock changed? How has the proportion of re-composed families changed?

The last ten years, the share of Amsterdam's population that is "single" (i.e. unmarried) has been on the rise: in 2001, 57.0% of the total population was single, in 2006 the respective figure was 58.8%, and in 2011 nearly 61.5%. Instead, the proportion of the population that is married has been in decline: if 27.8% of the total population was married in 2001, in 2006 this was the case for 26.5%, and in 2011 for 24.8%. However, as the proportion of married residents is decreasing, so is that of the divorcees: ca. 10% of Amsterdam's population was divorced in 2001, 9.7% in 2006, and 9.0% in 2011. At the same

[1] Dependency rate = number of 0-19 year olds + over 65 year olds per 100 20-64 year olds.
Nationale Atlas Volksgezondheid. *Demografische druk 2011 per gemeente*. Available HTTP: http://www.zorgatlas.nl/beinvloedende-factoren/demografie/levensfase/demografische-druk-per-gemeente-2011/

time, while it seems that fewer residents are opting for marriage, there has been a slow but steady growth in the share of residents with a registered partnership: from 0.3% of the total population in 2001, to 0.6% in 2006, and 0.9% in 2011 (Table 35).Moreover, while there are fewer married couples with children, that the share of all households which is composed of unmarried couples with children has been rising (from 3% in 2002, to 3.5% in 2006, to 4.3% in 2010) could be an indication of the fact that more and more children are born out of wedlock and/or living in re-composed families (Table 36).

Table 35 - Population according to marital status and gender, January 1st 2001-2011

Marital Status	**Gender**	**2001**	**2003**	**2005**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
Unmarried	M	219,144	221,348	225,590	228,222	230,960	235,797	240,859	246,238
Unmarried	F	199,373	202,193	207,912	212,583	216,594	221,809	226,923	233,458
Married	M	103,234	102,667	101,242	98,184	97,033	96,888	97,746	98,367
Married	F	101,159	99,893	98,744	95,708	94,465	93,990	94,607	95,198
Partnership	M	1,337	1,503	2,041	2,690	2,962	3,202	3,466	3,785
Partnership	F	858	1,106	1,596	2,150	2,396	2,614	2,891	3,130
Widower	M	6,360	6,117	5,896	5,624	5,478	5,426	5,339	5,233
Widower	F	29,925	27,949	26,092	24,555	23,920	23,198	22,590	22,022
Widower from partnership	M	27	41	59	74	90	105	113	126
Widower from partnership	F	12	27	41	55	65	76	91	101
Divorced	M	31,491	31,130	30,863	30,100	30,024	29,737	29,574	29,339
Divorced	F	41,554	41,537	41,573	41,269	41,203	41,203	41,201	41,194
Divorced partnership	M	37	281	654	978	1,069	1,164	1,200	1,195
Divorced partnership	F	29	253	648	912	1,031	1,138	1,173	1,173
Total	M+F	734,540	736,045	742,951	743,104	747,290	756,347	767,773	780,559

What have been the main changes concerning the family structure over the last 10 years? How has the proportion of single person families, lone parents families, and couples with children changed?

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of households residing in the city of Amsterdam grew by 4%. Most noticeably, the number of households with children grew by 9% during those years (Lindeman et al., 2011, p.33). In fact, while many young native Dutch residents used to move out of the city once they started thinking of setting up a family, nowadays, there are more and more young autochthonous couples that choose to stay in the city and only decide to move out to adjacent municipalities after the birth of their first or even their second child. Besides, more than half of the population of Amsterdam is currently composed of allochthones, who tend to have more children than native Dutch residents and are less likely to move out of the city when they do.

Table 36 - Type of households, 2001-2011 (Abs.)

Type of Household	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Single person	217,956	218,250	218,423	220,392	221,433	221,956	222,273	223,124	225,629	225,343	227,228
Married couples without children	-	43,345	42,398	41,918	41,320	42,391	41,817	41,329	41,129	41,127	-
Unmarried couples without children	-	38,603	38,146	38,230	38,701	37,519	38,128	39,607	40,829	42,312	-
Total couples without children	83,429	81,948	80,544	80,148	80,021	79,910	79,945	80,936	81,958	83,439	84,384
Married with children	-	47,289	47,222	47,061	47,282	47,530	47,412	47,169	47,288	48,297	-
Unmarried with children	-	12,074	12,970	13,534	14,229	14,217	14,580	15,281	15,888	17,863	-
Total couples with children	59,105	59,363	60,192	60,595	61,511	61,747	61,992	62,450	63,176	66,160	67,571
Lone parent	37,273	38,178	38,743	39,093	39,073	38,738	38,498	38,536	38,932	37,763	38,381
Other	4,326	4,220	4,218	4,279	4,288	4,369	4,349	4,396	4,626	4,837	5,276
Total	402,089	401,959	402,120	404,507	406,326	406,720	407,057	409,442	414,321	417,542	422,840

In 2011, there are nearly 423,000 households in Amsterdam, of which more than half are single person households (227,228 households). Since 2001, the proportion of single person households has remained stable, at ca. 54% of all households. The share of (un)married couples with children increased from 14,7% of all households in 2001 to 16,0% (ca. 67,500 households) of all households in 2011, and the share of (un)married couples without children went from 20,7% to 20% of all households (ca. 84,000 households) (Table 36).

The proportion of single parent households decreased from 9.3% of all households in 2001 to 9% of all households in 2011 (ca. 38,000 households, the overwhelming majority of which were single mothers). Until 2004, the proportion of lone parent households in Amsterdam was actually growing. However, as Surinamese families (1/4 of which are lone parent families) and Antillean families (1/5 of which are lone parent families) are increasingly moving out of the city into adjacent municipalities, while Turkish and Moroccan families (of which 1/10 are lone parent families) are staying in the city, since 2004, the share of single parent families has been declining. Nevertheless, in 2011, the share of single parent households in Amsterdam (9% of all households) is still larger than the respective share in the whole of the Netherlands (6.5% of all households).

What is the approximate amount of population who is part of POPULATION TARGET TWO? What is approximately its share over the total population and/or number of families? What has been the trend in the target group over the last 10 years?

See paragraph above. (How many lone parents have a low education, children aged 5-6, and are separated since at least one year, is unknown)

To what extent have the previous structural changes affected the specific living conditions of the target group?

In 2002, 43.7% of all lone parent households in Amsterdam had a minimum income. In 2010, this was still the case for 37.1% of all lone parent households (Table 37). Since full-time childcare services are expensive and sometimes even unavailable in the Netherlands (*see country report*), many lone parents have no choice but to work part-time, and thus make do with a lower income.

Table 37 - Minimum income households according to type of household, 2002-2010

Type of Household	2002 Abs.	2002 % of total group	2003 Abs.	2003 % of total group	2004 Abs.	2004 % of total group	2005 Abs.	2005 % of total group	2008 Abs.	2008 % of total group	2009 Abs.	2009 % of total group	2010 Abs.	2010 % of total group
Single person	38,146	17.4	39,778	18.0	41,223	18.5	41,198	18.2	37,935	16.0	38,722	16.6	39,755	16.7
Lone parent	11,256	43.7	10,979	42.9	14,828	39.9	14,559	39.2	14,685	39.0	14,331	37.9	14,296	37.1
More persons without children	9,654	17.5	11,102	10.8	8,703	10.4	8,437	10.1	7,169	8.4	7,156	8.4	7,582	8.8
More persons with children	10,724	10.4	9,706	17.3	10,594	16.7	10,360	16.3	10,178	15.6	9,948	14.8	9,931	14.6
Total	69,780	17.3	71,565	17.7	75,348	18.5	74,554	18.1	69,067	16.5	70,157	16.5	71,564	16.6

In 2010,lone parent households constituted ca. 20% of all minimum income households in the city and 25% of all minimum income households that relied on social assistance benefits (*bijstand*) for an income. Lone parent households are also likely to have (significant) debts: in 2009, of all minimum income households that were in debt, nearly 30% were lone parent households. Moreover, lone parent households are concentrated in certain neighbourhoods more than in others: in 2011, nearly 20% of all households in the district of Zuidoost and more than 10% of the households in Noord are composed of lone parent households. In Centrum and Zuid lone parent households constitute merely 5-6% of all households (Table 38).

Table 38 - Households according to districts and type of household, January 1st 2011 (%)

District	Single person	More persons without children	More persons with children	Lone parent	Other	Total (=100%)
Centrum	64.1	20.0	8.9	5.6	1.4	53,284
Westpoort *	74.7	14.0	6.3	2.3	2.7	221
West	58.8	19.5	12.7	7.6	1.5	77,949
Nieuw-West	44.0	21.4	23.8	9.6	1.2	64,581
Zuid	58.4	21.1	12.3	6.7	1.4	80,458
Oost	52.6	19.2	18.4	8.8	1.1	63,429
Noord	44.5	21.3	21.7	11.7	0.8	41,962
Zuidoost	47.9	15.9	16.9	17.9	1.3	40,956
Amsterdam	53.7	20.0	16.0	9.1	1.2	422,840

* Note: Westpoort is an industrial rather than a residential district, hence 2.3% of lone parent households

2.2. Public regulation

What is the division of responsibilities among national/regional/municipal level in the provision of family welfare benefits and services (incl. income support, paid leaves, child care services)? What is the role played by third sector and private organisations in this respect? Have there been changes in the distribution of responsibilities between levels of government and/or social actors over the last 10 years?

Besides 16 weeks of maternity leave, all parents are entitled to ask for a parental leave (of min. 3 months) until their child turns 8, which, unless specific arrangements are made between an employee and his/her employer, is unpaid. Every parent is allowed to take up maximum 26 times his or her working week in parental leave (before 2009 this was max. 13 times). In practice, they then work for half of their regular hours during maximum 52 weeks (= 1 year). For the hours that one does not work, one does not get paid. Parents whose income falls below the minimum income as a result of the parental leave can apply for special benefits (*bijzondere bijstand*). All parents that have taken an unpaid parental leave get a tax reduction (*ouderschapsverlofkorting*).

According to the General Child Allowance Act (*Algemene Kinderbijslag Wet*, or AKW), all parents, regardless of their income, are entitled to a partial compensation from the state for the costs that arise from caring for children (0-18 years old), which is paid every 3 months by the Social Insurance Bank (*Sociale Verzkeringsbank*, or SVB). Depending on the household income, the number of children, and their age, parents may be eligible to receive an additional "child-related budget" (*kindgebonden budget*), which are benefits distributed by the national tax offices. Lastly, depending on the number of children, the (joint) income of the parents, and the costs of (private) childcare services, parents that are (both) employed may be eligible to receive childcare benefits from national tax offices (*see country report for details on the provision of childcare services/benefits*).

Before the Act on Childcare was implemented in 2005, the municipality played a greater role in the provision and financing of childcare services than it does today. At present, the municipality only reimburses 1/6 of the costs for childcare services for lone parents that are working, following a re-integration program or studying. Hence, the municipal expenditure on childcare services for welfare recipients declined from more than 11 million in 2003 to ca. 3 million in 2010 (see Table 28).

Between 2006 and 2009, the number of places in day care centres in Amsterdam increased from 9,951 to 11,392 (Table 39). In 2006, 1 out of 5 children aged 0-4 in Amsterdam could be placed in a day care facility; by 2009 there were enough places for 1 out of 4 (Table 40). Considering that parents usually resort to day care centres 2-3 days a week rather than fulltime, ca. half of all 0-4 year-olds could be placed in a day care centre in 2009. Also, the number of toddlers aged 2.5-3 years enrolled in pre-school education programs (VVE) - often provided by toddler playrooms (*peuterspeelzalen*) - increased from ca. 1,600 in 2004 to ca. 4,000 in 2011 – i.e. 30% of all toddlers aged 2.5-3 (Table 41 & 42). The Ministry of Education funds these VVE programs, but a large number of toddler playrooms that offer VVE receive subsidies from the municipality as well (*see country report*). How many and how much, though, is unknown. Alas, no information is available regarding the number of 0-4 year-olds in Amsterdam that are looked after by child-minders.

Table 39 - Places in day care centres for 0-4 year-olds, January 1st 2006-2009

District	2006	2007	2008	2009
Centrum	1,168	1,161	1,148	1,167
Westerpark	474	498	524	625
Oud-West	707	681	671	756
Zeeburg	513	729	764	868
Bos en Lommer	286	148	326	215
De Baarsjes	445	487	456	511
Amsterdam-Noord	871	758	794	812
Geuzenveld-Slotermeer	198	223	365	241
Osdorp	291	326	372	447
Slotervaart	822	786	1,016	839
Zuidoost	1,176	1,238	1,498	1,552
Oost-Watergraafsmeer	840	899	939	989
Oud-Zuid	1,166	1,208	1,208	1,233
Zuideramstel	994	1,111	1,074	1,091
Amsterdam	9,951	10,253	11,155	11,392

Table 40 - Places in day care centres per 100 0-4 year-olds, January 1st 2006-2009

District	2006	2007	2008	2009
Centrum	33	32	34	35
Westerpark	25	26	29	35
Oud-West	42	41	41	46
Zeeburg	14	19	18	20
Bos en Lommer	11	6	14	10
De Baarsjes	19	22	21	24
Amsterdam-Noord	15	13	14	15
Geuzenveld-Slotermeer	6	7	11	8
Osdorp	9	11	12	15
Slotervaart	28	28	38	31
Zuidoost	21	23	29	29
Oost-Watergraafsmeer	24	26	28	30
Oud-Zuid	25	26	26	27
Zuideramstel	43	47	48	47
Amsterdam	21	22	25	25

Table 41 - Participation of 2.5-3 year-olds in pre-school education (VVE) according to districts, 2004-2009

District	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Centrum	17	19	31	32	32	56
West	383	460	555	624	565	938
Nieuw-West	410	492	550	668	877	1,008
Zuid	116	129	138	139	127	249
Oost	221	221	299	342	455	601
Noord	152	180	315	391	690	781
Zuidoost	318	425	580	643	805	915
Amsterdam	1,617	1,926	2,468	2,839	3,551	4,548

Table 42 - Participation of 2,5-3 year-olds in pre-school education (VVE) according to districts, 2011

District	Target group	Not part of the target group	Total	Participation of targeted toddlers in % of total target group	Participation of toddlers in % of all 2,5-3 year-olds
Centrum	34	5	39	15	4
West	642	147	789	68	38
Nieuw-West	847	219	1,066	59	39
Zuid	173	82	255	34	13
Oost	370	101	471	44	18
Noord	617	133	750	68	46
Zuidoost	662	38	700	51	42
Amsterdam	3,345	725	4,070	54	30

What are the main welfare programs addressing the needs of the POPULATION TARGET TWO? Have there been changes in the public expenditure levels or eligibility criteria of these programs over the last 10 years?

In addition to the above-mentioned measures, which concern all parents, there are national measures targeting lone parents in specific. For instance, lone parents may be entitled to a "single parent tax reduction" (*alleenstaandeouderkorting*). Lone parents that work may also be entitled to a "supplementary lone parent tax reduction" (*aanvullende alleenstaandeouderkorting*), while lone parents that receive social assistance benefits may be eligible for other tax reductions too.

Furthermore, in 2009, the Act Improvement of the Position of Lone Parents on the Labour Market (*Wet Verbetering Arbeidsmarktpositie Alleenstaande Ouders*) was introduced. According to this Act, lone parents with children younger than 5 that receive social assistance benefits (WWB) from the municipality can be exempted from having to work for a maximum of 6 years. Lone parents that do not have a so-called "starter's qualification" (*starterskwalificatie*) and that ask for such an exemption, though, must follow an educational program or take part in other re-integration schemes. Depending on certain criteria (household circumstances, personal possessions, etc.), the municipality can also decide to give lone parents extra benefits (max. 20% of the minimum income) on top of the regular social assistance (WWB) benefits (which amount to 70% of the minimum income).

Lone parents with a minimum income may also resort to the social assistance schemes that are part of the municipal poverty policy (*armoedebeleid*). Amongst other things, they can then get a reduction on their health insurance, a "city pass" (*stadspas*) for discounts on cultural activities; a contribution for recreational activities (*scholierentegenmoetkoming*); and a computer with Internet access (*pc-voorziening*). Finally, in urgent situations, the municipality may give lone parents prioritised access to social housing and/or assist them with debt solving. The municipality decides on a case-to-case basis whether or not lone parents are entitled to receive any of these forms of support.

3. IMMIGRATION

3.1. Socio-economic trends

What is the proportion of migrants and/or ethnic minority groups over the whole population of the city? Has the proportion changed over the last 10 years? What are the most numerous ethnic minority groups? What is their ethnicity/nationality/age/ gender/ level of education/time of immigration/religion?

While 180 different nationalities are represented in Amsterdam today, nearly 90% of the total population (also) has the Dutch nationality (Table 43).The year2010, though, was the first year in which more than half of the inhabitants in Amsterdam were *allochthones*[2] (whereas in the whole of the Netherlands, 20% of the population is allochthone). In 2001, 54.5% of the total population of Amsterdam was autochthone and 45.5% was allochthone (32% non-western allochthones and 13.5% western allochthones). By January 2011, 49.7% of Amsterdam's population was autochthone and 50.3% was allochthone (35% non-western allochthones and 15.3% western allochthones) (Table 44).

Table 43 - Population according to nationality, 2001-2011

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Dutch	645,835	647,685	648,928	649,930	651,859	653,776	655,790	658,947	663,833	672,669	681,464
Non-Dutch	87,643	87,643	87,117	88,333	91,092	89,251	87,314	88,343	92,514	95,104	99,095
…of which Moroccan	24,466	22,829	2&,446	21,024	20,559	19,447	18,104	16,975	16,028	15,241	14,304
…of which Turkish	11,188	10,820	10,645	10,739	10,752	10,596	10,295	10,128	10,240	10,190	10,082

Table 44 -Population according to ethnicity, 2001-2011

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Surinamese	71,432	71,464	71,471	70,717	70,446	69,645	68,878	68,813	68,761	68,881	68,971
Antillean	11,546	11,799	11,705	11,503	11,523	11,360	11,290	11,440	11,559	11,689	11,777
Turkish	34,852	35,806	36,594	37,333	37,943	38,337	38,565	38,913	39,654	40,370	41,075
Moroccan	56,739	58,809	60,767	62,691	64,370	65,426	66,256	67,153	68,099	69,439	70,646
Other non-western allochthones	60,116	63,063	65,791	68,159	70,049	70,401	71,269	72,175	74,686	77,832	80,682
Total non-western allochthones	234,685	240,941	246,328	250,503	254,331	255,169	256,258	258,494	262,759	268,211	273,151
Western allochthones	99,302	100,268	101,121	102,671	104,723	105,112	104,742	107,422	111,640	114,553	119,373
Autochthones	400,553	394,119	388,596	385,689	383,897	382,746	382,104	381,374	381,948	385,009	388,035
Total	734,540	735,328	736,045	738,763	742,951	743,027	743,104	747,290	756,347	767,773	780,559
Allochthones according to generation											
1st generation	200,956	204,356	207,044	209,205	211,619	209,914	207,869	209,581	214,175	218,108	223,257
2nd generation	133,039	136,853	140,405	143,869	147,435	150,367	153,131	156,335	160,224	164,656	169,267

[2] The term "allochthone" is used to refer to a person of whom one or both parents are born abroad, regardless of whether s/he has the Dutch nationality or not. Instead, the term "autochthone" is used to refer to a person of whom both parents are born in the Netherlands, regardless of his/her ethnic background.

Table 45 - Number of naturalisations, 2001-2010

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number	5,338	4,668	3,290	4,230	2,935	3,085	2,838	2,635	2,937	2,917

Table 46 - Population according to ethnicity and generation, January 1st 2011

	Absolute numbers				Percentages			
Ethnicity	1st generation	2nd generation	*Autochthones*	Total	1st generation	2nd generation	*Autochthones*	Total
Surinamese	39,182	29,789		68,971	56.8	43.2		100
Antillean	6,918	4,859		11,777	58.7	41.3		100
Turkish	22,014	19,061		41,075	53.6	46.4		100
Moroccan	34,287	36,359		70,646	48.5	51.5		100
Other non-western allochthones	53,831	26,851		80,682	66.7	33.3		100
Total non-western allochthones	156,232	116,919		273,151	57.2	42.8		100
Western allochthones	67,025	52,348		119,373	56.1	43.9		100
Autochthones			388,035	388,035			100	100
Total	223,257	169,267	388,035	780,559	28.6	21.7	49.7	100

Table 47 - Population according to ethnicity and age group, January 1st 2011

Age group	Surinamese	Antillean	Turkish	Moroccan	Other non-western allochthones	Western allochthones	Autochthones	Total
0- 4	3,377	681	2,991	7,083	6,783	6,607	20,782	48,304
5- 9	3,703	615	3,219	7,361	6,059	4,363	13,919	39,239
10-14	4,387	690	3,507	6,431	5,339	3,278	11,760	35,392
15-19	5,106	847	3,489	6,072	4,889	3,527	13,994	37,924
20-24	5,962	1,243	3,695	6,125	6,388	9,752	30,268	63,433
25-29	5,957	1,286	4,083	6,338	8,457	14,050	35,785	75,956
30-34	5,082	1,100	3,989	6,102	8,127	14,210	34,247	72,857
35-39	5,131	917	3,616	5,494	7,484	12,348	30,166	65,156
40-44	5,640	876	3,291	4,839	7,097	10,640	29,451	61,834
45-49	6,277	844	3,016	4,079	6,562	8,805	28,946	58,529
50-54	5,684	811	2,040	3,202	5,591	7,207	27,014	51,549
55-59	4,527	676	1,312	2,269	3,743	6,636	24,437	43,600
60-64	2,945	536	1,123	1,849	2,030	6,333	25,870	40,686
65-69	1,975	327	766	1,465	919	3,693	17,053	26,198
70-74	1,364	166	593	1,290	595	3,085	13,465	20,558
75-79	968	94	256	468	355	2,164	11,179	15,484
80-84	506	47	67	144	172	1,496	9,467	11,899
85 +	380	21	22	35	92	1,179	10,232	11,961
Total	68,971	11,777	41,075	70,646	80,682	119,373	388,035	780,559

The five largest groups of allochthones are composed of residents of Moroccan (nearly 71,000), Surinamese (ca. 69,000), Turkish (ca. 41,000), Antillean (nearly 12,000), and Ghanaian descent (ca. 11,000). While Turks are the largest ethnic minority in the Netherlands, in Amsterdam, since 2010, Moroccans are the largest ethnic minority (9.0% of Amsterdam's total population) (Table 44). Until 2009, the Surinamese were the largest group of allochthones. By now, however, there are more than 3,000 residents of Surinamese descent who belong to the third generation and are thus no longer registered as allochthone. If we were to include the third generation as well, the Surinamese would still be the largest ethnic minority in Amsterdam today.

Surinamese, Antilleans, Turks, and Moroccans are considered "traditional" ethnic minorities in Amsterdam as large numbers of residents from these nationalities have been living in the city ever since the 1970s. For the most part, family reunification has already taken place for these four groups, whereby they now have a fairly balanced gender mix. Moreover, 5 out of 10 of the Moroccans and 4 out of 10 of the Turks, Surinamese and Antilleans belong to the second-generation– the majority of which is younger than 35 years old. Ca. 19% of the Surinamese and 16% of the Antilleans are older than 55 years old, while this is the case for ca. 10% of the Moroccans and Turks (Table 46 & Table 47).

Instead, growing numbers of Ghanaians only settled in Amsterdam during the 1990s and 2000s, so at the moment ca. 60% of all Ghanaians are men (who are typically the first to migrate abroad) and 40% are women. Yet, Ghanaians usually arrive in Amsterdam in their late 20s, early 30s - an age at which people start setting up a family. Hence, despite the fact that Ghanaians arrived later than the "traditional" groups, 3 out of 10 of the Ghanaians in Amsterdam today belong to the second-generation. First-generation Ghanaians are mainly in their (late) 30s and 40s; merely 7% are older than 55 years old. Second generation Ghanaians are still (very) young (0-25 years old).

Table 48 - Youth according to ethnicity and age group, January 1st 2011

Ethnicity	Age group 0-3	4-7	8-12	13-17	18-24	Total
Surinamese	2,701	2,761	4,228	4,680	8,165	22,535
Antillean	555	488	652	752	1,629	4,076
Turkish	2,415	2,480	3,435	3,400	5,171	16,901
Moroccan	5,663	5,947	6,784	6,018	8,660	33,072
Other non-western allochthones	5,520	4,955	5,732	4,767	8,484	29,458
Total non-western allochthones	16,854	16,631	20,831	19,617	32,109	106,042
Western allochthones	5,575	3,808	3,677	2,998	11,469	27,527
Autochthones	17,569	11,868	12,579	11,015	37,692	90,723
Total	39,998	32,307	37,087	33,630	81,270	224,292
Percentages						
Surinamese	6.8	8.5	11.4	13.9	10.0	10.0
Antillean	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.2	2,0	1.8
Turkish	6,0	7.7	9.3	10.1	6.4	7.5
Moroccan	14.2	18.4	18.3	17.9	10.7	14.7
Other non-western allochthones	13.8	15.3	15.5	14.2	10.4	13.1
Total non-western allochthones	42.1	51.5	56.2	58.3	39.5	47.3
Western allochthones	13.9	11.8	9.9	8.9	14.1	12.3
Autochthones	43.9	36.7	33.9	32.8	46.4	40.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Compared to the first generation of non-western immigrants, the majority of which had a low education, the second-generation of non-westerners is attaining higher educational levels, especially the women. On the whole, though, the educational levels of non-western residents are still lower than those of native Dutch residents that live in Amsterdam, as a large part of these latter move to Amsterdam from other parts of the country precisely because they want to study or take on specialised jobs and are thus highly educated.

What have been the main immigration/emigration trends over the last 10 years? What are the most numerous migrant groups that have arrived over the last 10 years? Has their composition as to areas of origin/age/gender/educational level changed?

During the last ten years, the share of non-westerners among the allochthones has slowly been decreasing while that of westerners has been increasing: in 2001, 70.3% of the allochthones was non-western and 29.7% was western. By 2011, 69.6% of the allochthones was non-western and 30.4% are western.

Recently, the net migration rate of the four "traditional" ethnic minorities has been close to zero – "new" people from Suriname, the Antilles, Turkey and Morocco are still coming to Amsterdam, but "old" residents of the traditional ethnic minorities also go back to their country of origin. Hence, growth in these groups is due to birth surpluses rather than migration surpluses. Proportionately, during the last ten years, the largest growth in terms of net migration can be seen among the relatively smaller non-western and western groups of immigrants. For example, the cumulative number of residents from the so-called BRIC-countries (Brazil, Russia, China, and India) grew from ca. 600 in 2001 to more than 7,000 in 2011 (Table 49).Also, since the accession of new EU member states in 2004, near to 8,000 Eastern Europeans settled in Amsterdam, of which ca. 30% are from Poland. By 2011, there are more than 20,000 Eastern Europeans registered to be living in Amsterdam (of which ca. 12,000 are from EU members states).

Table 49 - Residents originating from BRIC countries, January 1st 2001-2011 (Abs.)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Brazil	95	204	292	383	476	581	723	920	1,037	1,196	1,343
Russia	149	354	608	829	1,116	1,161	1,131	1,285	1,562	1,730	2,056
India	126	216	308	365	483	671	1,024	1,301	1,509	1,738	1,901
China	239	469	675	847	1,040	1,086	1,195	1,389	1,643	1,814	2,074
Total	609	1,243	1,883	2,424	3,115	3,499	4,073	4,895	5,751	6,478	7,374

How many refugees and asylum seekers live in Amsterdam?

Asylum seekers that are waiting for their case to be processed are housed in so-called "reception centres", which are a responsibility of the "Central Organ for the Reception of Asylumseekers" (*Centraal orgaan Opvang Asielzoekers*, or COA). There are no such "reception centres" in Amsterdam. However, if asylum seekers obtain the refugee status, they are free to move and settle where they want. It is estimated that 7% of all refugees in the Netherlands (200,000 to 250,000 including family members) end up settling in Amsterdam – which would be between 14,000 and 17,750 refugees (incl. family members). This would amount to ca. 2% of the total population of Amsterdam.

What are the estimates about undocumented migrants?

According to the "Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants" (PICUM), the estimates on the number of undocumented migrants in Amsterdam in 2009 varied between 15,000 and 20,000. These are, however, guestimates.

What is the level of inclusion of migrants and/or ethnic minority groups in the labour market?

In 2011, 78% of the autochthones were economically active. The corresponding figure for Antilleans and Surinamese was 73%, for Turks 57%, for Moroccans 56%, and for other non-western residents 70% (which include the Ghanaians). Among autochthonous residents, 80% of the men and 75% of the women were economically active. Among Antilleans and Surinamese, this was the case for 76% of the men and 71% of the women. Among other non-western allochthones, a remarkable 81% of the men versus 58% of the women were economically active. Among Turkish and Moroccan allochthones, ca. 40% of the women and 70% of the men were economically active (Table 50).

Table 50 - Economically active population aged 15-64 according to ethnicity and gender (x 1,000), 2011

Ethnicity	Economically active Total	Employed	Unemployed	Non-economically active	Total population aged 15-64	Gross participation %	Net participation %
Men							
Surinamese + Antillean	21.9	18.3	3.6	6.8	28.7	76	64
Turkish	11,0	9.3	1.8	4.4	15.5	71	60
Moroccan	16.3	13.5	2.8	7.2	23.5	69	57
Other non-western allochthones	25.5	22.8	2.7	6.1	31.6	81	72
Western allochthones	36.9	34.6	2.3	8.1	45.1	82	77
Autochthones	112.9	107.7	5.2	27.4	140.3	80	77
Total	224.5	206.1	18.5	60.1	284.7	79	72
Women							
Surinamese + Antillean	23.2	19.5	3.7	9.5	32.7	71	60
Turkish	5.8	4.8	1,0	8.4	14.2	41	34
Moroccan	9.6	7.5	2.1	13.2	22.8	42	33
Other non-western allochthones	16.7	14.8	1.9	12.1	28.8	58	51
Western allochthones	37.5	34.6	2.9	11,0	48.5	77	71
Autochthones	104.7	100.1	4.6	35.1	139.9	75	72
Total	197.5	181.3	16.2	89.4	286.9	69	63
Total							
Surinamese + Antillean	45.1	37.8	7.3	16.3	61.4	73	62
Turkish	16.8	14.1	2.7	12.8	29.7	57	48
Moroccan	25.9	21,0	5,0	20.4	46.4	56	45
Other non-western allochthones	42.1	37.5	4.6	18.2	60.4	70	62
Western allochthones	74.4	69.2	5.2	19.1	93.5	80	74
Autochthones	217.7	207.8	9.8	62.5	280.2	78	74
Total	422	387.4	34.6	149.5	571.5	74	68

See section 1 for further details on inclusion in the labour market

What is the level of inclusion of migrants and/or ethnic minority groups in the housing market?

In 2002, ca. 20% of the autochthones and of the western allochthones in Amsterdam owned the house they inhabited, versus ca. 8% of all non-western allochthones. In 2010, 30% of the autochthones and western allochthones were homeowners. Although Surinamese, Antillean and other non-western residents also bought more houses over the last ten years, their ownership rates (ca. 17% in 2010) are still lower than those of autochthonous residents and western allochthones. Homeownership rates rose most among the Turkish residents: if ca. 4% of all Turks owned their house in 2002, by 2010 this figure has risen to 16%. At present, Moroccans are the least likely to own their house: in 2002, this was the case for merely 1% of all Moroccans; by 2010 for 6%.

There are significant differences in homeownership rates between first and second-generation allochthones, though. In 2009, of all non-western, first-generation allochthones aged 25-34 in Amsterdam, 20% were homeowners. Among first generation Moroccans in this age group, merely 8% owned a house. Of the second-generation Moroccans aged 25-34, 12% were homeowners, while this was the case for 20% of the second-generation Surinamese and for 26% of the second-generation Turks and Antilleans. Remarkably, among other non-western residents aged 25-34 belonging to the second generation, 34% were owners of a dwelling (against 30% of autochthones aged 25-34 born in Amsterdam, and 42% of autochthones who moved to Amsterdam).

As homeownership has grown among residents belonging to ethnic minorities, the number of allochthones that is living in social housing has declined during the last ten years. However, on the whole, more autochthonous residents than allochthonous residents were buying instead of renting their houses. Thus, the share of social housing that is rented out to allochthones has actually increased during the last ten years: in 2002, autochthonous residents occupied more than half (55%) of all social housing in Amsterdam; by 2010, allochthonous residents occupied more than half (52%) of all social housing. At the same time, as social housing is sold off on the private market and many cannot yet afford the switch from renting to owning, the proportion of allochthones is likely to grow not only in social rentals, but also in private rentals.

What is the territorial distribution of ethnic minority groups? Are there areas with high levels of segregation? Has segregation increased or decreased in the last 10 years? Are immigrants concentrated in deteriorated neighbourhoods?

In January 2011, all non-western residents constituted nearly 65% of the population in Zuidoost and nearly half the population in Nieuw-West. In particular, ca. 40% of all Surinamese and Antilleans and more than 70% of all Ghanaians lived in Zuidoost, while 40% of the Turks and Moroccans lived in Nieuw-West. In West, Oost, and Noord, all non-western residents together constituted slightly more than 30% of the population (which is more or less the average of Amsterdam as a whole). In the "better reputed" areas of Zuid and Centrum, all non-western residents make up merely 15% of the population (Table 51).

Ethnic minority groups are thus clearly concentrated in specific areas in Amsterdam. Compared to ten years ago, there are now fewer but larger areas of concentration, and they are located further away from the city centre. Moreover, the "dominance" of specific ethnic minorities within these areas tends to be more pronounced. During the last decade, since residents of ethnic minorities slowly started buying rather than renting houses, many of the Surinamese, Antilleans and Ghanaians stayed living in Zuidoost (although the second generation tends to live more dispersed throughout the city compared to the first generation). Instead, relatively large numbers of Moroccans and Turks moved from Oost to (Nieuw-)West. Accordingly, over the last ten years, segregation indexes rose most for residents of Turkish and Moroccan descent.

Table 51 - Population per district according to ethnicity, January 1st 2011

District	Surinamese	Antillean	Turkish	Moroccan	Other non-western allochthones	Western allochthones	Autochthones	Total	Non-western allochthones Abs.	%
Centrum	2,761	716	810	1,428	6,436	20,202	51,677	84,030	12,151	14.5
Westpoort	21	3	12	6	32	139	221	434	74	17.1
West	6,992	1,357	8,670	14,477	11,592	22,357	67,784	133,229	43,088	32.3
Nieuw-West	10,078	1,306	17,049	27,681	12,600	16,142	53,231	138,087	68,714	49.8
Zuid	5,232	1,267	2,121	4,633	10,212	27,914	84,483	135,862	23,465	17.3
Oost	9,833	1,379	6,174	12,600	10,894	17,145	62,209	120,234	40,880	34.0
Noord	7,273	1,185	5,443	8,244	9,939	8,376	46,215	86,675	32,084	37.0
Zuidoost	26,781	4,564	796	1,577	18,977	7,098	22,215	82,008	52,695	64.3
Amsterdam	68,971	11,777	41,075	70,646	80,682	119,373	388,035	780,559	273,151	35.0
Percentages										
Centrum	4.0	6.1	2.0	2.0	8.0	16.9	13.3	10.8	4.4	
Westpoort	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0,0	
West	10.1	11.5	21.1	20.5	14.4	18.7	17.5	17.1	15.8	
Nieuw-West	14.6	11.1	41.5	39.2	15.6	13.5	13.7	17.7	25.2	
Zuid	7.6	10.8	5.2	6.6	12.7	23.4	21.8	17.4	8.6	
Oost	14.3	11.7	15,0	17.8	13.5	14.4	16,0	15.4	15,0	
Noord	10.5	10.1	13.3	11.7	12.3	7,0	11.9	11.1	11.7	
Zuidoost	38.8	38.8	1.9	2.2	23.5	5.9	5.7	10.5	19.3	
Amsterdam	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Has degradation of segregated neighbourhoods worsened/improved in the last 10 years? What have been the main problems arising from such changes?

Despite the fact that segregation has actually increased, non-native residents generally give their housing situation a better score today than they did 10 years ago. Nonetheless, all non-western residents still attribute a lower score to their living conditions than native Dutch and western residents: in 2009, on average, native Dutch and western residents graded their living conditions with a 7.8 (on a scale of 1 to 10). Surinamese and Antillean households gave it a 7, Turks gave it a 6.1 (compared to 4.9 in 2001), and Moroccans gave it a 5.5 (compared to 4.9 in 2001). For both Moroccan and Turkish residents, the relatively small size of their dwelling was the main reason for wanting to move. Moroccans in particular were less satisfied with the overall quality of their housing, as 40% indicated this to be the prime reason for wanting to move.

Zuidoost, Nieuw-West, West, Oost and Noord are all so-called "*krachtwijken*" (a.k.a. "problem areas" currently undergoing major regeneration projects): all of these districts contain above average shares of households that are living off a minimum income (more than 15% of all households) and have the highest unemployment rates in the city (e.g. Zuidoost and Nieuw-West had respective unemployment rates of 9.4% and 8.7% in 2010). In reality, the physical deterioration of the housing stock in the "*krachtwijken*" has been fairly limited thanks to numerous investments of local housing corporations. Yet, there are concerns regarding the social deterioration in areas of ethnic concentration.

Especially since the murder of Theo van Gogh in 2004, tensions between native Dutch and non-western residents in Amsterdam have indeed been rising. In 2007, such tensions led to violent clashes in Nieuw-West as a Moroccan boy stabbed two police officers and was subsequently shot himself by the police. Right wing politicians now often refer to the crime rates in (Amsterdam's) "*krachtwijken*" when campaigning for stricter immigration policies. Whereas Amsterdam has long been a predominantly leftist city, during the last elections, nearly 30% of the native Dutch residents in some of the areas of ethnic concentration voted for the extreme right party *Partij Voor de Vrijheid* (PVV).

What is the approximate population who is part of POPULATION TARGET THREE? What is approximately its share over the over the total immigrant population?

In 2010, there were ca. 220,000 first generation immigrants in Amsterdam. Circa 76,000 of these were between 25 and 40 years old: almost 50,000 non-westerners and ca. 26,000 westerners. (How many of these have a low education and have been in the Netherlands since at least 5 years is unknown)

To what extent have the previous structural changes affected the specific living conditions of POPULATION TARGET THREE?

Non-western allochthones tend to have lower incomes than autochthonous residents in Amsterdam. Moreover, non-westerners are more likely to be getting social assistance benefits (WWB). In 2010, 39% of the adults of Moroccan descent, 30.2% of the adults of Turkish descent, and ca. 26% of the adults of Surinamese, Turkish and other non-western descent were living off an income of 110% the social minimum (while this was the case for 9.5% of the native Dutch and western adults). Especially children (< 18 years old) with an ethnic background are overrepresented among the residents that are living on the poverty line (Table 52). Furthermore, in 2010, more than half of all minimum income households were composed of non-western households. Autochthonous households represented 36,5% of all minimum income households, western households ca. 10%, Surinamese households ca. 15%, Moroccan households 13%, and other non-western households 16% (Table 53). Finally, due to the fact that (first-generation) immigrants (with a low education) tend to have lower incomes, they are often confined to living in the less "popular" and more distant districts (e.g. Zuidoost and Nieuw-West).

Table 52 - Residents with 110% of the minimum subsistence level (WSM) according to ethnicity and age, 2009-2010 (*)

	2008				2009				2010			
	≥ 18 years old		≤ 18 years old		≥ 18 years old		≤ 18 years old		≥ 18 years old		≤ 18 years old	
Ethnicity	**Abs.**	**% of total group**	**Abs.**	**% of total group**	**Abs.**	**% of total group**	**Abs.**	**% of total group**	**Abs.**	**% of total group**	**Abs.**	**% of total group**
Surinamese	14,150	26.8	5,586	36.7	14,162	26.6	5,133	35.1	14,440	26.9	4,717	33.3
Antillean/Aruban	2,270	25.8	1,110	43.1	2,358	26.2	1,022	41,0	2,479	27.1	961	39,0
Turkish	8,529	31.2	4,593	38.0	8,511	30.2	4,309	36.4	8,712	30.2	4,200	35.8
Moroccan	16,803	38.9	10,906	45.1	17,440	39,0	10,570	43.8	17,842	39.2	10,213	42.3
Other non-western allochthones	14,815	27.2	8,256	40.3	15,568	27.3	8,143	38.8	16,544	27.9	8,230	38.9
Western allochthones	9,207	9.5	2,006	13.8	9,373	9.4	1,977	13,0	9,827	9.6	1,950	12.3
Autochthones	31,646	9.7	6,129	12.1	31,032	9.5	5,962	11.5	31,021	9.4	6,040	11.4
Total	97,420	16.0	38,586	27.6	98,444	15.9	37,116	26.3	100,865	16.1	36,311	25.5

(*) Distinguishing children younger than 18 that are part of a household with a minimum income.

Table 53. Minimum income households according to the ethnicity of the oldest resident, 2007-2010

	2007			2008			2009			2010			
	Abs.	%	% of ethnic group	ABS.	%	% of ethnic group	Abs.	%	% of ethnic group	Abs.	%	% of ethnic group	Total (Abs.)
Surinamese	11,009	14.9	30.1	10,594	15.3	28.8	10,708	15.3	28.9	10,935	15.3	29.4	37,185
Antillean	1,840	2.5	28	1,754	2.5	26.5	1,826	2.6	27	1,923	2.7	28.1	6,836
Turkish	4,893	6.6	31.7	4,792	6.9	30.4	4,799	6.8	29.6	4,866	6.8	29.6	16,466
Moroccan	9,181	12.4	37.4	9,013	13	35.9	9,373	13.4	36.5	9,577	13.4	37	25,859
Other non-western allochthones	10,349	14	29.4	10,288	14.9	27.9	10,888	15.5	27.8	11,543	16.1	28.4	40,663
Western allochthones	8,195	11.1	11.6	7,443	10.8	10.2	7,614	10.9	10.2	7,895	11	10.2	77,465
Autochthones	28,298	38.4	12.6	25,183	36.5	11.2	24,949	35.6	11.1	24,816	34.7	11	225,875
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	70
Total	73,765	100	17.9	69,067	100	100	70,157	100	16.5	71,564	100	16.6	430,419

3.2. Public regulation

What is the division of responsibilities among national, regional and municipal level in the provision of services and benefits to migrants who are in a vulnerable position? What is the role played by third sector and for profit organisations in this policy field? Have there been changes in the distribution of responsibilities between (national/regional/local) levels of government and/or social actors the last 10 years?

In 2007, the Netherlands introduced the Integration Act (*Wet Inburgering*, or WI). The implementation of the Integration Act is a responsibility of local municipalities. According to this Act, to obtain/maintain a residence permit, all (non-EU) immigrants are required to complete and pass a so-called "integration course" (*inburgeringscursus*). The Integration Act not only applies to newcomers, but also to foreigners who were already living in the Netherlands before 2007. Only in some cases can immigrants be exempted from the *inburgeringscursus*, for instance if immigrants pursued (part of) their education in Dutch, if they are older than 65 years old, or if they reside in the Netherlands temporarily (i.e. students, expats). The integration course ends with an exam (*inburgeringsexamen*), which tests immigrants' knowledge of the Dutch language and society.

Before 2007, municipalities offered the integration/language courses to the newcomers. Since 2007, it is private companies that offer these courses. In some municipalities more than in others, besides focusing on language and customs, integration courses also focus, for example, on how to apply for a job. Depending on available resources, in some municipalities, immigrants are expected to pay for part of this course; in others the municipality covers the entire cost.

Other than the compulsory *inburgeringscursus*, in the Netherlands, there are no welfare programs targeting immigrants in specific.[3]

What are the main welfare programs addressing the needs of the POPULATION TARGET THREE? Have there been changes in the public expenditure levels or eligibility criteria of these programs over the last 10 years? Have there been changes in the level of supply/ in the coverage level/in the amount of benefits?

Regular immigrants, like all other residents, are eligible for social rentals provided their income does not exceed the 33,000-limit that was recently imposed. Similarly, if their income is low, they may apply for housing benefits. However, as access to the social rentals of housing corporations through *Woningnet* depends on one's position on a waiting list, recently arrived migrants are in a disadvantaged position compared to native Dutch residents, many of whom register on *Woningnet* from the moment that they turn 18.

Also, depending on their history of employment in the Netherlands, regular migrants can apply for unemployment benefits and for social assistance benefits. Yet, since migrants do not always have a long history of employment in the Netherlands, they often end up receiving social assistance benefits (WWB) instead of unemployment benefits (WW). For that reason, at the moment, some (right-wing) political parties have started the discussion about how migrants should only be allowed to apply for social assistance benefits (WWB) after they have lived in the Netherlands for at least 10 years – it remains to be seen if this will indeed be changed.

[3]Note that asylum seekers and refugees are considered a special category of "migrants". Specific welfare policies (such as prioritised housing for instance) do apply to this particular group. See the Nijmegen City report for further details on housing policies for refugees.

Finally, in Amsterdam there are many non-profit organisations that support (first and second generation) allochthones/immigrants. Non-profit/migrant organisations that are operating nationwide are often based in Amsterdam. In addition, there are numerous smaller, locally operating organisations. Some of these organisations receive (either systematic or project-based) subsidies from the municipality; others rely on donations. Some organisations are targeting specific nationalities (e.g. Moroccans, Turks, Surinamese, Ghanaians, etc.); others focus on specific issues (e.g. finding accommodation or employment, providing legal aid, caring for the elderly, etc.).

4. TRENDS IN THE HOUSING FIELD

N.B. In 2010, some districts were merged into new (larger) districts (Map 1 & 2). Hence, data from before 2010 refers to more (but smaller) districts than the most recent data.

4.1. Socio-economic trends

What have been the main changes in the local housing market, distinguishing the rent market and the property market? What has been the trend of real estate prices?

In 2011, when more than half of the housing stock in the Netherlands was owner-occupied, in Amsterdam this was the case for 27.2%. Instead, 47.5% of all the dwellings were so-called "social rentals" (= owned by housing corporations), and 25.3% were "private rentals" (= owned by individuals) (Table 54). In 2005, in some districts, nearly 80% of all dwellings were owned by housing corporations (Table 55). During the last decade, though, following the change in housing policy in the Netherlands (*see country report*), housing corporations in Amsterdam too have been selling part of their housing stock. Still, in 2011, in some districts (e.g. Noord and Zuidoost) housing corporations owned ca. 2/3 of the total housing stock (Table 56).

Table 54 - Housing stock according to type of tenure, 2001-2011

	2001		2005		2007		2009		2011	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
Total	379,302	100	384,323	100	389,230	100	392,658	100	394,468	100
Owner-occupied dwellings	93,074	24.6	99,442	25.9	100,707	25.9	104,180	26.5	107,138	27.2
Social rentals	191,215	50.4	193,121	50.2	192,020	49.3	191,005	48.7	187,307	47.5
Private rentals	95,013	25.0	91,760	23.9	96,503	24.8	97,473	24.8	100,023	25.3

Table 55 - Housing stock per district according to type of tenure, January 1st 2005 (%)

District	Owner-occupied	Social rental	Private rental
Centrum	28	34	38
Westpoort	11	-	89
Westerpark	15	64	22
Oud-West	20	36	45
Zeeburg	24	61	15
Bos en Lommer	12	60	29
De Baarsjes	15	40	45
Amsterdam-Noord	17	79	4
Geuzenveld-Slotermeer	17	78	5
Osdorp	30	62	8
Slotervaart	26	50	24
Zuidoost	17	74	9
Oost-Watergraafsmeer	18	59	24
Oud-Zuid	21	32	47
Zuideramstel	22	34	45

Map 1 - Districts before 2010

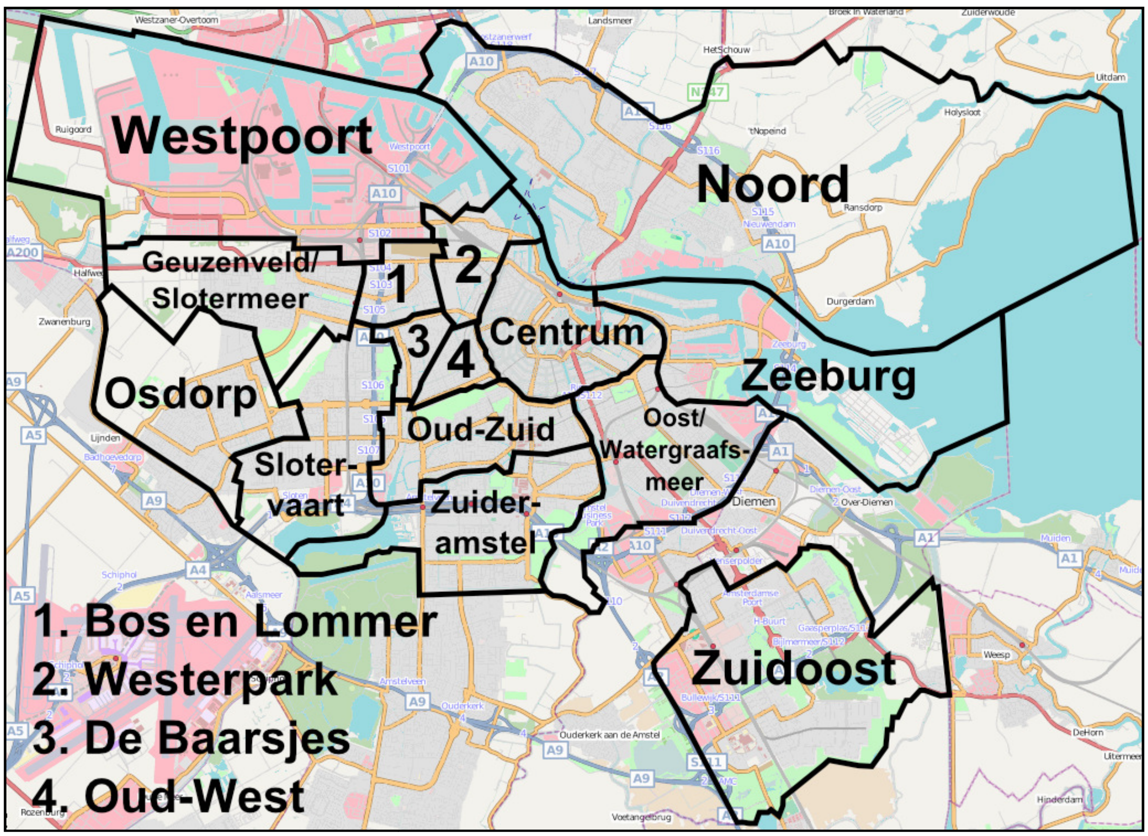

Image source: http://nl.wikipedia.org/

Map 2 - Districts after 2010

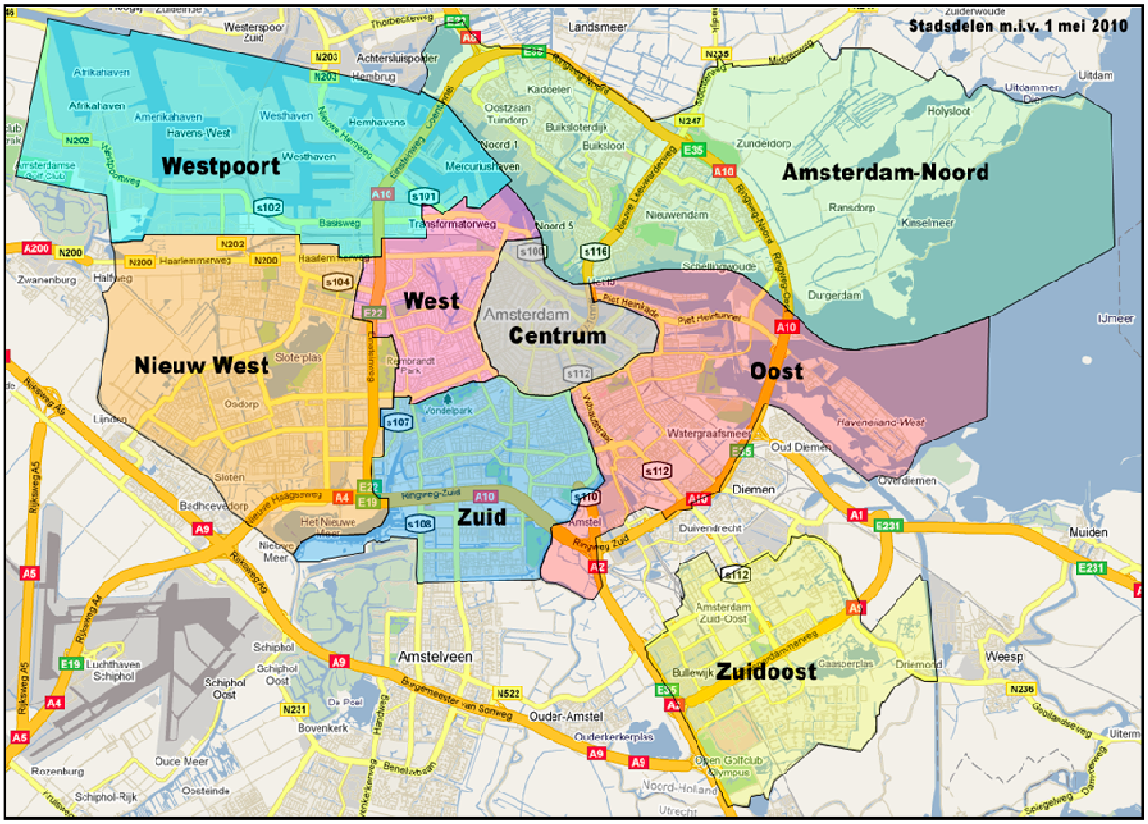

Image source: http://www.amsterdam.nl/

Table 56 - Housing stock per district according to type of tenure, January 1st 2011

District	Owner-occupied Abs.	%	Social rental Abs.	%	Private rental Abs.	%	Total Abs.
Centrum	14,649	29	15,733	32	19,183	39	49,565
Westpoort	6	7	-	-	80	93	86
West	17,905	25	32,198	44	22,799	31	72,902
Nieuw-West	17,619	29	34,633	56	9,342	15	61,594
Zuid	21,219	28	23,552	31	31,901	42	76,672
Oost	16,079	30	30,248	53	11,164	19	57,491
Noord	9,768	25	27,224	70	2,266	6	39,258
Zuidoost	9,893	27	23,719	64	3,288	9	36,900
Amsterdam	107,138	27	187,307	47	100,023	25	394,468

Amsterdam's housing stock has been growing, especially during the last five years (Table 57). In 2001, there were 371,092 dwellings; in 2006 there were 378,507, but by 2011 the housing stock had increased to 394,468 dwellings. Most houses standing in Amsterdam today were built before WWII: in 2011, this was the case for more than 40% of the total housing stock (ca. 170,000 dwellings). Circa 90,000 dwellings were built between WWII and 1980, nearly 48,000 were built during the 1980s, ca. 38,000 dwellings during the 1990s, and more than 45,000 during the last decade (Table 58). The number of "old" houses has been decreasing, though, as the smaller pre-WWII houses are torn down and replaced with new, larger houses that meet the (changing) preferences of the population.

Accordingly, the number of dwellings with 1 or 2 rooms has also been in decline. In 2001, there were more than 117,000 of such small dwellings; by 2011 this had declined to ca. 115,000 (nearly 30% of the total housing stock). Instead, the number of houses with 3 or more rooms has been increasing. In 2001, there were nearly 130,000 dwellings with 3 rooms; by 2011 there were more than 140,000 dwellings of that size. The number of houses with 4 rooms rose from ca. 91,500 in 2001 to ca. 98,500 in 2011, and the number of houses with 5 or more rooms rose from 34,000 in 2001 to more than 40,000 in 2011. Yet, the average number of inhabitants per dwelling has remained fairly stable over the last ten years, at slightly less than 2 inhabitants per dwelling (Table 59).

Table 57 - Changes in the housing stock, January 1st 2006-2011

				Difference 2010-2011	
	2006	**2010**	**2011**	**Abs.**	**%**
Housing stock	378,507	392,658	394,927	+2,269	+0.6
Average occupancy	1.96	1.96	1.98	+0,02	+1.1
Dwellings according to number of rooms					
1+2 rooms (+ unknown)	116,730	115,956	115,125	-831	-0.7
3 rooms	132,350	139,503	140,723	+1,220	+0.9
4 rooms	94,282	97,821	98,664	+843	+0.9
≥ 5 rooms	35,145	39,378	40,415	+1,037	+2.6
Dwellings according to time of construction					
Before 1946	179,353	173,704	172,329	-1,375	-0.8
1946-1980	98,692	92,347	90,701	-1,646	-1.8
1981-1990	47,862	47,960	47,955	-5	-0.0
1991-2000	38,188	38,161	38,151	-10	-0.0
After 2000	14,412	40,486	45,791	+5,305	+13.1

Table 58 - Housing stock according to time of construction, 2001-2011

	2001	**2003**	**2005**	**2007**	**2009**	**2011**
Total	371,092	374,952	376,233	379,302	389,230	394,468
Before 1919	89,151	88,904		84,987	82,908	80,680
1919-1930	59,449	59,353		58,828	58,107	57,658
1931-1945	34,229	34,247		33,990	33,856	33,619
1946-1960	41,164	40,924		39,215	38,452	37,867
1961-1970	34,721	34,708		32,296	31,309	30,072
1971-1980	26,954	26,859		23,466	23,494	22,751
1981-1990	47,479	47,641	47,799	47,867	47,917	47,952
1991-2000	35,732	38,019	38,082	38,175	38,188	38,141
2001-2010	2,213	4,297	9,414	20,478	34,999	45,728

Table 59 - Housing stock according to number of rooms, 2001-2011

	2001	**2003**	**2005**	**2007**	**2009**	**2011**
1 or 2 rooms (+ unknown)	117,211	116,114	115,617	113,514	116,346	114,837
3 rooms	128,234	130,151	130,416	134,601	137,974	140,613
4 rooms	91,621	93,320	93,885	95,024	96,649	98,634
5 or more rooms	34,026	35,367	36,315	36,163	38,261	40,384
Total	371,092	374,952	376,233	379,302	389,230	394,468

Due to popular demand, the average price to buy a house in Amsterdam tends to be (much) higher than in other cities of the Netherlands. Before the crisis, prices kept rising astronomically – in some districts, in merely four years time, the price per square meter increased by nearly 150% (Table 60). In 2008, the average price at which houses were sold in Amsterdam reached up to 270,000 euros. However, the housing market was hit hard by the financial crisis - since then, prices have dropped significantly: by 2010, the average price at which houses were sold had declined to ca. 250,000 euros (Table 61).

Table 60 - Average selling price of dwellings according to district, per m^2 (x 1 euro), 2004-2008

District	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Centrum	3,514	3,689	4,080	4,462	5,061
Westerpark	3,099	3,292	3,543	3,914	4,536
Oud-West	3,368	3,624	3,963	4,410	4,932
Zeeburg	2,909	2,899	3,166	3,505	3,789
Bos en Lommer	2,666	2,764	2,852	3,205	3,639
De Baarsjes	2,976	3,080	3,354	3,720	4,080
Amsterdam-Noord	2,485	2,480	2,638	2,854	3,041
Geuzenveld-Slotermeer	2,228	2,375	2,531	2,660	2,713
Osdorp	2,250	2,315	2,395	2,544	2,669
Slotervaart	2,378	2,399	2,528	2,616	2,706
Zuidoost	2,142	2,242	2,309	2,362	2,505
Oost-Watergraafsmeer	2,937	3,086	3,340	3,730	4,113
Oud-Zuid	3,548	3,739	4,100	4,590	5,033
Zuideramstel	3,065	3,215	3,588	3,839	4,129
Amsterdam	2,945	3,067	3,376	3,639	4,056

Table 61 - Dwellings sold according to type of dwelling and average price, 2006-2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Existingdwellings					
Total sold	20,624	22,893	17,914	13,599	17,628
Sold to owner-occupiers	9,518	9,017	8,443	6,938	7,794
Average price (x 1,000 euro)	227	246	270	250	253
Average price/m2 (x 1 euro)	3,376	3,639	4,056	3,798	3,820
Single-family dwellings					
Total sold	1,176	1,109	1,069	920	880
Sold to owner-occupiers	1,077	936	932	753	787
Average price (x 1,000 euro)	308	318	371	347	337
Average price/m2 (x 1 euro)	3,137	3,375	3,722	3,541	3,367
Apartments					
Total sold	8,934	9,504	8,287	6,761	7,518
Sold to owner-occupiers	8,269	8,060	7,478	6,158	6,974
Average price (x 1,000 euro)	216	237	258	240	245
Average price/m2 (x 1 euro)	3,409	3,678	4,097	3,827	3,869

As for rentals, the monthly rent that can be charged in the Netherlands is determined on the basis of a point system (*puntenstelsel*). The number of points that a dwelling is worth depends on its size, quality, amenities and location. For rentals that exceed a certain amount of points, the point system does not apply – these are the so-called "liberalised" rentals that are free to set their own prices (*see country report*). In Amsterdam, in 2011, ca. 10% of all rented dwellings were "liberalised" rentals (of which slightly more than 5% was owned by housing corporations and slightly less than 5% by private individuals).

More than half of all rentals owned by housing corporations are so-called "cheap rentals" (< 418 euros per month). Ca. 35% are "affordable rentals" (418 < 554.76 euros per month), and ca. 6% are "expensive rentals" (554.76 < 652.52 euros per month). However, housing corporations also own "liberalised" rentals that are not bound by the point system (Table 62). The point system does provide guidelines for the prices to charge for liberalised rentals too, but it is not legally binding in that case - any owner of a liberalised dwelling can decide for him/herself how much rent to charge.

The prices mentioned here refer to the regulated rentals, i.e. those whose rent is bound by the point system. Average (regulated) rental prices in Amsterdam have increased during the last decade – in 2005, the average rent was 359 euros per month; by 2009 it had reached 426 euros (Table 63). Moreover, rental prices increased both for "social rentals" (= owned by housing corporations) and for "private rentals" (= owned by individuals). In 2007, the average rent of social rentals was 361 euro per month; by 2009 it had increased to 385 euro. The average rent for social rentals was highest in Zuidoost, Noord and Nieuw-West, which are districts (located further away from the city centre) where dwellings tend to be bigger than in the other districts. For private rentals the average price increased from 474 euros per month in 2007 to 517 in 2009. For private rentals too, the price is highest in Zuidoost and Nieuw-West. Remarkably, the average price for private rentals in Noord decreased, from 562 euros per month in 2007 to 474 euros in 2009 (Table 64).

Table 62 - Dwellings owned by housing corporations according to rental categories and districts, January 1st 2011

	Rental prices (x 1 euro)					
District	**< 418**	**418 < 554.76**	**554.76 < 652.52**	**> 652.52**	**Unknown or < 20**	**Total**
Centrum	11,609	5,378	494	514	386	18,381
Westpoort	-	-	-	2	59	61
West	23,291	8,354	833	604	788	33,870
Nieuw-West	16,284	12,827	2,998	1,333	599	34,041
Zuid	14,320	7,618	1,261	529	257	23,985
Oost	17,840	11,245	2,033	1,468	787	33,373
Noord	12,815	11,530	2,368	977	542	28,232
Zuidoost	7,303	12,738	2,629	910	327	23,907
Amsterdam	103,462	69,690	12,616	6,337	3,745	195,850

Table 63 - Average rent per month (x 1 euro) of rented dwellings according to district, 2005-2009

District	2005	2007	2009
Centrum	357	415	448
West	311	344	376
Nieuw-West	375	405	432
Zuid	388	426	466
Oost	350	489	419
Noord	361	394	410
Zuidoost	393	423	441
Amsterdam	359	396	426

Table 64 - Rental categories and average price for private and social rentals according to districts, 2007 en 2009 (*)

		Rentals 2009 (%) Cheap rent			Other rent				Average rent (x 1 euro)			
District	Cheap housing stock 2007 (%)	Private	Social	Total	Private	Social	Total	Grand Total	Private 2007	Private 2009	Social 2007	Social 2009
Centrum	40	15	20	35	15	13	29	64	482	519	347	375
West	57	17	33	49	11	13	25	74	380	416	318	351
Nieuw-West	36	1	32	33	10	27	36	69	607	636	370	394
Zuid	39	15	21	36	22	11	34	70	492	542	347	370
Oost	42	4	34	38	10	23	33	71	503	564	355	379
Noord	38	1	34	36	1	39	40	76	562	474	389	407
Zuidoost	28	0	27	27	6	40	45	72	578	617	408	424
Amsterdam	41	9	28	37	12	21	33	71	474	517	361	385

(*) Cheap rent 2007: rent < 388 euro. Cheap rent 2009: rent < 398 euro.

The maximum rent that can be charged according to the point system roughly corresponds to the maximum rent – € 652.52 per month - that one can have to be eligible for housing benefits (*huurtoeslag*), which are distributed by national tax offices *(see country report)*. To be eligible for such housing benefits, the rent must not exceed 652.52 euros and (in 2011) the household income cannot be higher than € 21,625 in case of single person households, or € 29,350 in case of cohabitation (for > 65 year-olds, the maximum income for single person households is € 20,325, and € 27,750 in case of cohabitation).

In 2008, 92,183 households in Amsterdam received housing benefits – 72,282 of these were minimum income households. On average, the amount of yearly benefits per household was 1,643 euros; minimum income households received an average of 1,738 euros (Table 65). Households in Zuidoost, Nieuw-West, and Oost receive the highest amount of housing benefits (Table 66).

Table 65 - Recipients and average amounts of housing benefits, 2003-2008

	July 1st - July 1st 2003/'04	2004/'05	2005/'06	Year 2006	2007	2008
Total households	78,418	80,683	77,805	85,381	89,173	92,183
Single person households	43,159	44,336	43,232	49,885	52,439	55,105
…of which < 65 years old (%)	64.8	66.1	66.1	68.5	69.1	70.5
…of which ≥ 65 years old (%)	35.1	33.8	33.8	31.5	30.9	29.5
More persons households	35,259	36,347	34,573	35,496	36,734	37,078
…of which: < 65 years old (%)	86.9	87.0	86.5	85.5	84.9	85.8
…of which ≥ 65 years old (%)	13.1	12.9	13.5	14.5	15.1	14.2
Average yearly housing benefits per household (x 1 euro)	1,596	1,582	1,664	1,577	1,600	1,643
Total minimum income households	56,330	59,380	57,717	66,263	69,230	72,282
Average yearly housing benefits per minimum income household (x 1 euro)	1,716	1,689	1,772	1,680	1,703	1,738

Table 66 - Average yearly housing benefits (x 1 euro) per district according to type of household and age group, 2008

District	Single person household < 65 years old	> 65 years old	Total	More persons household < 65 years old	> 65 years old	Total
Centrum	1,324	1,700	1,392	1,850	1,912	1,857
Westpoort	x	x	x	x	x	x
West	1,259	1,517	1,315	1,596	1,749	1,613
Nieuw-West	1,424	1,835	1,609	1,841	2,052	1,879
Zuid	1,408	1,670	1,491	1,714	1,766	1,723
Oost	1,283	1,802	1,395	1,916	2,025	1,932
Noord	1,333	1,774	1,509	2,015	1,915	1,998
Zuidoost	1,788	2,071	1,884	2,183	2,232	2,187
Amsterdam	1,370	1,768	1,487	1,874	1,957	1,886

However, while rental prices have not ceased to increase during the last 10 years, the share of the rent that is compensated through housing benefits has recently been reduced, and, in view of (drastic) upcoming cutbacks, it is likely to be reduced even further in the future. Besides, in the "liberalised" sector (which is slowly but surely expanding at the moment), the price of the rent is generally (much) higher than 652.52 euros, whereby the renters are not entitled to apply for any housing benefits at all.

Has access to housing become more difficult over the last 10 years? For what groups?

Access to housing in Amsterdam has been difficult all throughout the last 10 years, and it still is difficult today. To access social rentals in Amsterdam, one must apply for a so-called "housing permit" (*huisvestingsvergunning*) – which is only granted to those who can prove that they are economically and socially tied to the municipality – and sign up on a waiting list with an organisation called "WoningNet" – which provides an overview of all the social dwellings that are offered by the 19 housing corporations that are operating in the metropolitan region of Amsterdam (in Amsterdam itself, there are 9 different housing corporations). In 2010, ca. 60,000 persons in Amsterdam were actively searching for a house on Woningnet, either as starters or as movers (*doorstromers*) (Table 67). In assigning social rentals to applicants, households with particularly low incomes are prioritised over other applicants. Also, large households get prioritised access to large dwellings. For instance, social rentals of 60-79 square meters are reserved for households with at least 3 persons, and houses larger than 80 square meters are first assigned to households with at least 5 persons, then with 4, and then with 3.

Table 67 - Persons actively seeking for houses (*) on WoningNet according to districts, 2010

District	Starter	Mover	Total	% Active (**)
Centrum	1,987	2,706	4,693	18
Westpoort	4	40	44	23
West	5,403	5,590	10,993	21
Nieuw-West	4,565	6,208	10,773	25
Zuid	4,235	4,864	9,099	24
Oost	3,467	3,491	6,958	23
Noord	3,264	3,830	7,094	17
Zuidoost	3,539	4,874	8,413	26
Unknown	15	49	64	17
Amsterdam	26,479	31,652	58,131	22

(*) Actively seeking for houses = reacted to advertisements at least once in 2010.
(**) Persons actively seeking for houses in % of the persons registered with WoningNet.

In 2007, on average, people were on the waiting list for 9.5 years before they were able to access a social dwelling. By 2010, the average waiting period had increased to 11.5 years – the shortest waiting period was 7.6 years, to live in Zuidoost, To live in other areas, one could be on the waiting list for more than 12 years (Table 68).

Table 68 - Waiting time in years for a social rental per district, 2007-2010

District	2007	2008	2009	2010
Centrum	10.6	11.6	13.1	11.9
West	9.9	10.7	11,1	11.9
Nieuw-West	10.8	11.9	12,6	12.7
Zuid	11.5	13.3	13,1	12,0
Oost	9.9	10.6	11,4	11.1
Noord	8.6	10.2	11.9	12.4
Zuidoost	6.9	7.6	8.1	7,6
Amsterdam	9.5	10.7	11.5	11.5

On the one hand, now that the share of the housing stock that is reserved for social housing is slowly but surely diminishing (as smaller houses are torn down and replaced with larger houses that are not bound by the point system), the waiting period is likely to become longer. On the other hand, since the EU ruling *(see country report)*, according to which at least 90% of all social housing must be assigned to households with a maximum income of 33,614 euros, lower middle-income households have been denied access to (affordable) social rentals. All those who are on the waiting list with a yearly income higher than that are no longer allowed to apply for social housing. Only in "urgent" circumstances (e.g. urban renewal, disability) are people exempted from this rule.

Therefore, many housing corporations in Amsterdam reserve the liberalised dwellings that are in their possession which have a rent of 652 euros to 950 euros for households with a yearly income between 33,614 euros and 43,000 euros. Still, as more and more (cheaper) social rentals are converted into (more expensive) private rentals or owner occupied dwellings, larger shares of both low and lower middle-income households will have to resort to (very) expensive liberalised/private rentals in the future (Table 69). Moreover, in the liberalised rental sector, not only are prices (sometimes incredibly) high, but the requirements to even be able to rent are also much stricter – for example, one may be required to have a monthly income that is at least 3 times the monthly rent.

Table 69 - Cheap rentals in proportion to the total housing stock per district, 2005 (< 369 euro), 2007 (< 389 euro), 2009 (< 398 euro) (%)

District	2005	2007	2009
Centrum	44	40	34
West	63	57	48
Nieuw-West	41	36	32
Zuid	43	39	35
Oost	48	42	38
Noord	42	39	35
Zuidoost	35	29	27
Amsterdam	46	41	37

In the meanwhile, for lower middle–income households, buying a house in Amsterdam is not always an option either. House prices in Amsterdam, although decreasing, are still relatively expensive. Since (low and) lower middle-income households struggle in meeting the requirements that are set by banks to obtain a mortgage, many of these households simply do not have the means to buy a house. Some housing corporations in Amsterdam are trying to stimulate sales with the "Koopgarant" regulation, which offers houses at a reduced rate (a discount of max. 30% of its market value) and guarantees that in case homeowners want to later sell the house again, the housing corporation will buy it off them. Others propose the houses that cost between 75,000 and 250,000 euros to low and lower middle-income households (with an income of max 43,000 euros) first. And some housing corporations have started providing partial (supplementary) mortgages themselves to young lower middle-income starters. In 2011, (low and) lower middle-income households were most likely to find a (affordable) house to buy in the districts of Zuidoost, Noord and Nieuw-West, where the bulk of the available dwellings are relatively cheap (Table 70).

Still, while the expansion of the private housing market provides more opportunities for some to choose where and how they want to live, for those who cannot afford it (i.e. low and lower middle income households), at the moment, the chances to succeed in improving their living conditions are slim.

Table 70 - Housing stock per district according to value of the property, January 1st 2011 (%)

District	Value of the property (*) ≤ 156,000 euro	156,000 euro -< 193,000 euro	193,000 euro -< 233,000 euro	233,000 euro -< 304,500 euro	≥ 304,500 euro	Total dwellings (abs.)
Centrum	8.7	11.0	16.9	25.8	37.2	49,565
Westpoort	26.3	21.3	30,0	15.0	7.5	86
West	12.3	31.1	23.1	20.2	13.2	72,902
Nieuw-West	33.2	19.7	19.9	18.8	8.3	61,594
Zuid	4.6	9,0	25.6	25.4	35.2	76,672
Oost	14.2	16.9	18.9	24.1	25.7	57,491
Noord	34.8	33.6	13.4	9.8	8.3	39,258
Zuidoost	53.9	22.2	15.9	6.8	1,0	36,900
Amsterdam	19.9	19.9	20.1	20.0	20.0	394,468

(*) Price on January 1st 2010.

In reality, Amsterdam has been coping with a severe housing shortage for several decades now – the demand for housing in the city has always (largely) outnumbered the supply. Despite the fact that the housing stock has been growing the last ten years, recent estimates suggest there is still a housing shortage of ca. 15,500 dwellings (almost 5% of the entire housing stock). Moreover, according to the Amsterdam Federation of Housing Corporations (*Amsterdamse Federatie van WoningCorporaties*, or AFWC), more than 5,000 families with 3 or more children are living in dwellings that are less than 60 square meters.

In 2010, the municipality announced that more small (old) dwellings were going to be replaced with larger dwellings and that between 24,000 and 36,000 new dwellings (30% of which will be social housing) were going to be built in the next 10 years. However, since the crisis, the number of houses that is for sale is increasing, but less and less houses are actually being sold. Many construction plans have thus been put on hold and the expansion of the housing stock is expected to come close to a standstill in the next few years.

Remarkably - although exact figures on the number of homeless in Amsterdam do not exist - especially compared to other large cities in the Netherlands, it is estimated that there are relatively few people that do not have any place to stay at night. Shelters for homeless people in Amsterdam provide a total of 150 sleeping places on a regular night. When it gets particularly cold, the municipality may issue a special ordinance according to which nobody is allowed to sleep outside. On those (winter) days, welfare organisations actually go and check that nobody is left out on the streets. In 2010, ca. 350 persons slept in shelters on those nights.

4.2. Public regulation

What is the division of responsibilities among different levels of government in the regulation of the housing market and in the provision of services and benefits to people who have difficult access to a house? What is the role played by third sector and for profit organisations?Have there been changes in the distribution of responsibilities between (national/regional/local) levels of government and/or social actors over the last 10 years?

In the Netherlands, housing corporations are responsible for the distribution of social housing. Housing allowances for renters and tax deductions for homeowners are regulated through the national tax offices. *(See country report for details on the responsibilities of different actors in the provision of housing and recent policy changes)*

Since a couple of years, housing corporations in Amsterdam have actively been trying to reduce the number of evictions with an approach they call *vroeg erop af* – "get on it early". This means that as soon as a person has not paid the rent for 2 months, the housing corporation will contact that person to see why they have not made their payment. If the person happens to have serious financial problems, housing corporations might refer them to the municipality, who can then start a debt repayment program (*schuldsanering*). The declining number of evictions over the last 5 years (Table 71) suggests that this "*vroeg erop af*" approach is in fact working. In 2006, more than 1000 persons were evicted from social rentals, the majority of which were evicted for rent arrears and took place in the districts Zuidoost and West. In 2010, less than 700 evictions were carried out.

Table 71 - Evictions by housing corporations, 2006-2010

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of evictions	1,026	835	842	794	675

Source: AFWC.

Unfortunately, though, no figures are available on the number of persons that have been forced to auction their house due to the fact that they were not able to pay their mortgage anymore. More and more dwellings are owner-occupied and many of these homeowners have particularly high mortgages (since house prices are expensive). At a time of crisis, the numbers of homeowners who cannot pay their mortgage is bound to increase.

Last but certainly not least, in Amsterdam, where the housing market is particularly swamped, and where renters (and buyers) can thus relatively easily be "exploited", there are a number of (national and local) third sector actors that play an important role in mediating, and to some extent "regulating", difficult/problematic housing situations. The "Housing Association" (*Woonbond*), for instance, is an important organisation when it comes to defending the rights of renters (nationwide). When the government recently suggested to change the point system and grant 25 extra points to dwellings in areas where the housing shortage is greatest, the Woonbond started a court case against the state, as this would mean that in cities like Amsterdam, the rents would significantly increase, which would put lower income households in a rather tough position. Moreover, if renters suspect that the rent that they are being charged is out of proportion, they can ask the Rental Commission (*Huurcommissie*) of the Woonbond to come and evaluate whether or not that is indeed the case. If it is, the Huurcommissie can help renters in setting this straight (providing legal advice/services, etc.). Similarly, the Amsterdam Renters' Association (*Huurdersvereniging Amsterdam*) established "*Wijksteunpunt Wonen*" in all districts of the city to provide those who are having problems with landlords (illegal contracts/sublets, threats of eviction, refusal to return deposits, etc.) with (free) legal counseling/services. For homeowners there is a separate association (*Vereniging Eigen Huis*) to which people can turn for advice. In practice, (sorting out) housing in Amsterdam is a particularly complex matter, even more so for those who are not well informed about their rights and duties.

REFERENCES

Unless indicated otherwise, all statistical figures have been retrieved from the municipal statistical office of Amsterdam (Gemeente Amsterdam - Dienst Onderzoek en Statistiek).

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THE WILCO PROJECT

Full title: Welfare innovations at the local level in favour of cohesion
Acronym: WILCO
Duration: 36 months (2010-2013)
Project's website:http://www.wilcoproject.eu

Project's objective and mission:

WILCO aims to examine, through cross-national comparative research, how local welfare systems affect social inequalities and how they favour social cohesion, with a special focus on the missing link between innovations at the local level and their successful transfer to and implementation in other settings. The results will be directly connected to the needs of practitioners, through strong interaction with stakeholders and urban policy recommendations. In doing so, we will connect issues of immediate practical relevance with state-of-the-art academic research on how approaches and instruments in local welfare function in practice.

Brief description:

The effort to strengthen social cohesion and lower social inequalities is among Europe's main policy challenges. Local welfare systems are at the forefront of the struggle to address this challenge – and they are far from winning. While the statistics show some positive signs, the overall picture still shows sharp and sometimes rising inequalities, a loss of social cohesion and failing policies of integration.

But, contrary to what is sometimes thought, a lack of bottom-up innovation is not the issue in itself. European cities are teeming with new ideas, initiated by citizens, professionals and policymakers. The problem is, rather, that innovations taking place in the city are not effectively disseminated because they are not sufficiently understood. Many innovations are not picked up, because their relevance is not recognised; others fail after they have been reproduced elsewhere, because they were not suitable to the different conditions, in another city, in another country.

In the framework of WILCO, innovation in cities is explored, not as a disconnected phenomenon, but as an element in a tradition of welfare that is part of particular socio-economic models and the result of specific national and local cultures. Contextualising innovations in local welfare will allow a more effective understanding of how they could work in other cities, for the benefit of other citizens.