



NETHERLANDS

Tulips, windmills, canals, bicycles and coffee-shops are traditionally the image of the Netherlands. However, this is fast giving way to a bustling vibrant economy where the industrial base accounts for over a third of the country's income. Being a key player in the EU has attracted many global financial institutions and multinationals to set up in this low lying country. Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Eindhoven are the three most industrially populated areas.

Cost of Living: The Netherlands enjoys a lower cost of living than in Ireland with everything from grocery bills to insurance costs well below Irish costs. The standard of living is very high.

Accommodation: Rental accommodation can be quite expensive due to the large population. Most people tend to live in the suburbs but with a 24 hour transport system, this does not prove an obstacle.

Transport: The Netherlands has a highly efficient transport system with the metro, trams and buses in operation. Bicycles are a popular mode of transport and driving is on the right hand side of the road.

Socialising: Amsterdam is one of the most cosmopolitan European cities. With an active nightlife, culture and the arts, it has everything to offer. Watersports and football are hugely popular. Most companies have their own active social clubs.

Dress Code: As in Ireland, the office dress code is professional but depends on the company policy.

Taxation: Tax rates go from 22% to 48% in 10% increments. Non-Dutch employees may benefit from up to 30% reduction in taxable income. Both the employer and employee must apply for this before moving.

Getting There: Employers generally pay the cost of relocation and 1 return flight a year. There are daily international flights.

Visas: No visas are required for EU citizens. However if you stay longer than three months, you will need a resident's permit which can be obtained from the local police.



KEY FACTS

Population: 16,440,113
Area: 41,526 km²
Capital City: Amsterdam
Languages: Dutch
Currency: Euro (€)
Time Zone: UTC/GMT +1 hour

CLIMATE

The Netherlands has a fairly temperate climate. Temperatures are variable and rain occurs throughout the year.