


Country Historic Profile: NETHERLANDS

World Bank Group Archives
Profile completed: November 4, 2020

In its early years of operation, the World Bank had country members that controlled or occupied other territories as colonies or protectorates, etc. The World Bank worked with these members in the development of the controlled or occupied territories. Selected information and resources related to these activities have been included in this profile and identified with this icon: 

Basic Historical Information

Membership days for each affiliate

Information is taken from the [World Bank Group membership page](#).

- IBRD: December 27, 1945
- IDA: June 30, 1961
- IFC: December 28, 1956
- MIGA: April 12, 1988
- ICSID: October 14, 1966

First loan(s)

Information is taken from the [Projects & Operations website](#).

- August 7, 1947: [Post-war Reconstruction Project](#)

Resident Mission establishment

Information is taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- Has not hosted a resident mission

Photo Resources related to country

Hyperlink links to photos in the World Bank Group Archives' [Photo Catalog](#) for a given country. Digitization and description of archival photos are ongoing, and photos are added to the catalog regularly. In instances where the catalog contains no photos for a given country, check back frequently for additions, or contact the Archives for consultation by emailing archives@worldbank.org.

- [Historical photos related to Netherlands](#)

Project profiles related to country

Link is to a list in the [Projects & Operations website](#) of all projects approved, dropped, or in the pipeline

for a given country. Each project links to a project profile that includes description, financial details, and lists of reports, archival record folders, and photos, when available. This can be helpful to study the evolution of the Bank's work in the country over time, and to identify notable projects that represent important shifts or moments in the country's history. Projects are also excellent examples of case studies of how the Bank made an impact in a particular sector. The WBG Archives have original records and other information related to these projects. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

- [Netherlands project profiles in Projects & Operations](#)

Description of operational records in Archives Holdings

Archival records relating to Bank operations are described according to the ISAD(g) standard and are accessible in our [Archives Holdings catalog](#). Descriptions include lengthy organizational histories of the regional vice presidency responsible for operations in that region and a description of records created and transferred to the Archives by that vice presidency. The descriptions in the catalog can be helpful to understand the organizational context of Bank work, and to understand more about the content of the records in the Archives.

- [Records of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Presidency](#)

Chronology events

Events have been selected from the Archivists' Chronology, an 800+ page resource compiled by Bank Group archivists over the course of the institution's history. Events chosen include important firsts, milestones and other events that evidence the country's development history and/or its relationship with the World Bank Group. The Archivists' Chronology is accessible on [this page](#). This list of events can be helpful to determine if you'd like to dig deeper into any moments in the country's history of engagement with the Bank. The WBG Archives may have original records and other information about these events. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

Bretton Woods Conference; Representatives of the Netherlands Attend

July 1-22, 1944

IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by the Netherlands

December 27, 1945

Loan Applications from the Netherlands and Mexico Received

April 29, 1947

First Funding for the Netherlands

August 7, 1947



President Black Visits Netherlands East Indies at the Request of the Netherlands Government

June 4, 1948

Shipping Loan to the Netherlands

August 9, 1948

Dollar Savings Bank of New York Buys \$1 Million Dutch Shipping Loan Notes

January 12, 1949

First Training Course for Individuals from Member Countries Announced; Participants from the Netherlands Included

January 16, 1949

Netherlands Trustee Certificates to be Issued Against 25-years 3 Percent Bank Bonds

May 3, 1950

Bank Announces Six Additional Countries Have Acted to Make Their Currencies Available for Lending Operations, Including the Netherlands

May 24, 1950

Bank Loans \$7 Million to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

March 21, 1952

IFC Articles of Agreement Signed by the Netherlands

December 28, 1956

IDA Articles of Agreement Signed by the Netherlands

June 30, 1961 IDA

The Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Enters into Force; the Netherlands among First to Sign Articles of Agreement

October 14, 1966

International Convention Establishing the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) becomes Effective; the Netherlands among First to Sign Articles of Agreement

April 12, 1988

Netherlands Commits \$70 Million to HIPC

December 20, 1999

President Wolfowitz Visits the Netherlands

February 26-27, 2006

World Bank Group Timeline Events

Events are selected from the [World Bank Group Timeline](#). The Timeline is an online platform created by the Archives designed to highlight the important events in the Bank Group's history and to illuminate those events through a variety of archival records, photos, video and audio clips, oral history transcripts, reports, and more.

[Eleven European countries sign IBRD Articles of Agreement](#)

December 27, 1945

[Bank Research Director Leonard Rist travels to Europe](#)

May 21, 1947

[First World Bank Funding for Netherlands Approved](#)

August 7, 1947

[The Prospects of European Recovery Released](#)

April 8, 1948

[World Bank Vice President Garner Travels to Europe](#)

May 21, 1948



[World Bank Mission Visits Indonesia](#)

June 4, 1948

[Funding for Dutch Shipping Approved](#)

July 15, 1948

[Economic Position of Netherlands Released](#)

July 26, 1948

[Funding to the Netherlands for Industrial Project Approved](#)

July 26, 1949

[Funding to the Netherlands for KLM Airlines Approved](#)

March 20, 1952

Early Country Economic Reports

Reports have been selected from the [Documents & Reports website](#), a database of publicly available World Bank Group authored reports and publications dating to the opening of the Bank in 1946. Country economic reports that are selected here are, in many cases, some of the earliest economic studies ever published on Bank member countries. Reports discussing the whole economy of a country, rather than individual sectors, are prioritized in this list.

Economic analysis of shipping phases of Dutch request for shipping loan	June 9, 1948
Economic position of the Netherlands	July 26, 1948
The Netherlands Economy present position and future prospects	June 21, 1949
The external debt of the Netherlands	October 20, 1950
Creditworthiness of the Netherlands	February 1, 1952
Netherlands - Summary of external public debt	November 30, 1952
The end of the postwar period	April 22, 1953
Netherlands - Summary of the external public debt	September 30, 1954

Country Assistance Strategies

The list is based on a similar list compiled by the World Bank's Secretary's staff. Introduced in 1990 and replaced by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in 2014, the CAS is an overview of each borrowing country's current economic situation and contains a discussion of its development challenges, prospects, and project-planning. CASs were often initially published as part of project documents but later on were published as standalone documents.

None.

Staff Newsletters

Resources have been selected from the World Bank Group's [Documents & Reports website](#). The World Bank has produced a staff newsletter since 1947. The publication changed its name twice: from International Bank Notes to Bank Notes in 1971 and then to Bank's World in 1982. The newsletter moved online in 2000 and physical publication ceased. In addition to offering news relating to Bank operations and country development, the newsletters were intended to foster a sense of community among staff by highlighting social events, marriages and births, the arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff's home country and culture.

None.

Oral histories

Oral histories are selected from the World Bank Group Archives' [Oral History website](#). The site contains transcripts of oral history interviews with departed staff and, in lesser number, Executive Directors and other individuals affiliated with or impacted by the World Bank Group. Interviews were conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the Archives to collect the personal stories and reflections of Bank Group staff. A portion of the interviews was conducted as research for publications. Each transcript provides a valuable first-person account of Bank activities and decision-making from the very beginning of its operations.

Hugh Ripman	July 17 and 18, 1961
Aron Broches	April 18 and May 23, 1984. First Session
Albert Waterston	May 14, 1985
Pieter Liefstinck	February 5, 1987

Online exhibits

Online exhibits are authored by the World Bank Group staff and are accessible on both the Archives'

[external site](#) and as a [series of older exhibits](#) in the Documents & Reports website. Exhibits focus on notable personalities and accomplishments in the Bank Group’s history.

None.

Executive Directors

The list is based on the World Bank Group [Board of Directors website](#). The country following the name of each ED indicates their nationality.

BEYEN, Johan Willen (Netherlands)	June 11, 1946	October 31, 1948
BEYEN, Johan Willen (Netherlands)	November 1, 1948	October 31, 1952
DE JONG, A. M., (Netherlands)	November 1, 1952	December 31, 1952
CRENA DE IONGH, Daniel (Netherlands)	January 1, 1953	October 31, 1954
CRENA DE IONGH, Daniel (Netherlands)	November 1, 1954	September 30, 1955
LIEFTINCK, Pieter (Netherlands)	October 1, 1955	October 31, 1962
LIEFTINCK, Pieter (Netherlands)	November 1, 1962	March 31, 1971
SKJERDAL, Karl (Norway)	November 1, 1966	October 31, 1968
RINNOOY KAN, Alfred (Netherlands)	April 5, 1971	October 31, 1974
WITTE, Peter C. (Netherlands)	November 1, 1974	October 31, 1976
LOOIJEN, A.I.J.A., (Netherlands)	December 27, 1976	October 31, 1982
VAN DAM, Ferdinand (Netherlands)	November 1, 1982	October 31, 1986
ARLMAN, Paul (Netherlands)	November 1, 1986	September 27, 1990
HERFKENS, Eveline (Netherlands)	November 1, 1990	October 31, 1992
HERFKENS, Eveline (Netherlands)	November 1, 1992	October 31, 1994
HERFKENS, Eveline (Netherlands)	November 1, 1994	October 15, 1996
STEK, Pieter, (Netherlands)	November 1, 1996	October 31, 2002 PD to November 14, 2002
MELKERT, Ad, (Netherlands)	November 1, 2002	February 28, 2006
VAN DER KAAIJ, Jan Willem (Netherlands)	March 1, 2006	October 31, 2006 PD to November 14, 2006
WIJFFELS, Herman, (Netherlands)	November 1, 2006	October 31, 2008 PD to November 7, 2008
TREFFERS, Rudolf (Netherlands)	November 1, 2008	April 5, 2013
HEEMSKERK, Frank (Netherlands)	April 1, 2013	October 31, 2018
DAVIDSE, Koen M. (Netherlands)	November 1, 2018	present

For More Information

If you would like information or guidance on accessing more historic sources, we invite you to contact us by emailing archives@worldbank.org.