

Social security in The Netherlands 2010 (rough overview)

	Type of arrangement ¹ Specifications Minimum allowance # entitled persons Total costs (x € 1 mln.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment grants and • ‘basic life subsistence’ • Unempl.: Duration: 3- 38 months, depending on employment-history • Basic life subs. : as long as needed, obligation to apply for a job <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% of last salary • € 750 - €1250 p. month 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 267,000 • 334,000 9,812
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sickness • Temporary not able to work • Employer responsible • Max. 1 year • 70% - 100% of salary • Private sector 149,000 persons/years • Permanent handicapped/ unable • After 1 years of sickness, or born as such • Totally/partly unable to work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If 100% unable: 70% – 75% of last salary 		

¹ Not included: Regulations on ‘Cost of Education’, ‘Subsidy on Health Insurance’, ‘Subsidy on Rent’

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partly unable > 35%, proportional 	830,000
	13,985
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-integration of unemployed/unabled • Special agencies trying to find jobs and training 	
	5,165
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old age, state-pension 65 years and older € 750,- p. month for married persons, p.p. € 1250,- p. month for singles	2,881,335
	29,360
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatives • Persons born before 1950 and alone since the death of their partner • Not able to earn own income 70% of minimum income	98,359
	1,080
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child allowance 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children < 18 years • Average € 1750,- p. year 	1,927,691
	3,371
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School/study allowance • All students 18-30 years • Difference between living at home/family or living alone • Basic allowance • Additional allowance depending on family income Basic:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At home € 75- € 95 p. month • Alone € 240 - € 260 p. month Additional:	

- At home € 220 - € 300

- Alone €240 - €320

666,000
3,934

- Care taking of old or disabled people

- In need of professional care taking for 24 hours p. day

300,000
24,0

Total

7,016,385
90,707

Total population

16,574,989

Population 0 - 20 y.

3,928,334

Population 21 - 65 y.

9,765,320

Population > 65 y.

2,881,335

Comments

Around 42% of the Dutch population receives an allowance or grant from the state.

Total costs are about € 67 biljon per year, 28% of state income.

If 12,646,655 persons over 20 years of age would become a Basic Income of € 750,- per month, this would cost € 114 biljon per year, and 3,928334 persons under 20 year would have a BI of € 350 per month an additional € 16,5 biljon would be needed.

Such a BI in The Netherlands would cost some € 130,5 biljon per year.

Conclusion: half the budget that is needed for a full BI already is available in The Netherlands and about 42% of the population already receive a form of BI, although not (totally) unconditional.

State of the debat on Basic Income in The Netherlands

There is hardly any debat nowadays. The association on Basic Income in The Netherlands is small one, has a few hundred members and a group of 30 active persons. There is no public debat, only few articles in professional magazines or sent-in letters in journals.

Around 1985 and around 1995 there was a big public debat, stimulated a.o. by reports of the official scientific board of the governement (WRR). The debat was focused on the basic income as a sort of keystone of the social security system. The conclusion was that a substantial BI was too expensive to pay and a affordable BI was not big enough to have any effect. At the end there was a sort of agreement in the Social-Economic Advisary Board of the governement, in which unions, employers and governement are represented (SER), that a further discussion on BI was useless and would never be initiated anymore. This stopped important advocates mouth and for politicians it would politically suicide to discuss the idea of BI again.