



European
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Netherlands

Overview

EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

2021

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Netherlands

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EIB Investment Survey Country Overview: Netherlands

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About the EIB Investment Survey (EIBIS)

The EIB Group Survey on Investment, which has been administered since 2016, is a unique, annual survey of some 13 500 firms. It covers firms in all European Union Member States and also includes a sample of firms in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The survey collects data on firm characteristics and performance, past investment activities and future plans, sources of finance, financing issues and other challenges that firms face, such as climate change and digital transformation. The EIBIS, which uses a stratified sampling methodology, is representative across all 27 EU Member States, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as across four classes of firm size (micro to large) and four main economic sectors (manufacturing, construction, services and infrastructure). The survey is designed to build a panel of observations, supporting the analysis of time-series data. Observations can also be linked back to data on firm balance sheets and profit and loss statements. The EIBIS was developed by the EIB Economics Department. It is managed by the department with the support of Ipsos MORI.

About this publication

The series of reports provide an overview of data collected for the 27 EU Member States, the United Kingdom and the United States. The reports are intended to provide a snapshot of the data. For the purpose of these publications, data are weighted by value-added to better reflect the contribution of different firms to economic output. Contact: eibis@eib.org.

Download the findings of the EIB Investment Survey for each EU country or explore the data portal at www.eib.org/eibis.

About the Economics Department of the EIB

The mission of the EIB Economics Department is to provide economic analyses and studies to support the Bank in its operations and in the definition of its positioning, strategy and policy. The department and its team of 40 economists is headed by Debora Revoltella, director of economics.

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the EIB.

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Ipsos Public Affairs works closely with national governments, local public services and the not-for-profit sector, as well as international and supranational organisations. Its around 200 research staff in London and Brussels focus on public service and policy issues. Our research makes a difference for decision makers and communities.

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EIBIS 2021 – Netherlands

KEY RESULTS

Investment Dynamics and Focus

Dutch firms have become more optimistic for 2021. In EIBIS 2021 more firms are expecting to increase investment than to decrease it (23%) and the expectations are back to the pre-pandemic levels.

On average, firms in the Netherlands spent more than half (57%) of their investment on replacing buildings and equipment. The largest share of investment went into machinery and equipment (44%)

Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 had an impact on firms' sales: compared to the beginning of 2020, around half (48%) of firms have experienced a decline in sales. COVID-19 also had an impact on firms' investment plans, with around a quarter of firms (28%) having revised their investment plans downwards.

Asked about the short-term actions due to COVID-19, digitalisation stood out with two fifths of firms (41%) saying that they have taken action or made investment to become more digital.

Investment Needs and Priorities

COVID-19 will undeniably have a long-term impact on needs and priorities. The most commonly anticipated long-term impact is the increased use of digital technologies (50%), a share falling nevertheless below the EU average (55%).

The share of firms that were operating at or above full capacity (52%) has declined since EIBIS 2020 (78%), but is broadly in line with the EU average (49%). Nevertheless, Dutch firms do not perceive major gaps in their investment. In spite of the difficult circumstances, the majority of firms (93%) believe they have invested about the right amount over the last 3 years similar to what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (91%) but above the EU overall levels (82%).

Innovation Activities

Around one-third of all firms (32%) developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2020. However, more than a half of all firms (58%) report no innovation or R&D activity, slightly more than in the EU overall (50%).

In total, nearly three quarters firms (73%) have implemented at least one of the advanced digital technologies they were asked about, similar to what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (76%) but higher than the EU-wide average (61%).

Drivers and Constraints

Firms remain on balance pessimistic about the political and regulatory climate. However expectations for the overall economic climate (+47%), business prospects (+37%) and the availability of internal finance (+21%) have become positive again. This trend also reflects the EU average.

Availability of skilled staff continues to be the most frequently mentioned long-term barrier (61%) and the share of firms citing this as a barrier has increased since EIBIS 2020 (46%).

Investment Finance

Access to finance conditions in the Netherlands are in line with the EU average. 5% of firms in the country can be considered as finance constrained, a similar share than in EIBIS 2020. Firms using external finance in 2020 are on balance satisfied with the finance received. The highest level of dissatisfaction is with the cost of finance (9%).

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, 7% of firms in the Netherlands increased their debt. Public support was important: around four in ten firms (42%) have received some kind of financial support in response to COVID-19. Subsidies or other type of financial support which companies do not have to pay back in the future made up the largest share of financial support (35%), followed by deferral of payments (14%).

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Around half of firms (47%) feel their business has been impacted by climate change (physical risk), similar to the share reported in EIBIS 2020 (44%) but below the EU average (58%). Overall, more firms see the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations as an opportunity rather than a risk for their business over the next five years (43% and 19% respectively).

More than six in ten firms have already invested in plans to tackle climate change (68%), and 63% have plans to invest. This is higher than in EIBIS 2020 and also above the EU average in both cases. As well as investing in climate change, around a third (34%) of firms have invested in energy efficiency. Moreover, 46% of Dutch firms say they have set and monitored internal targets on carbon emissions and energy consumption in 2020, the same as the EU average.

Firm management, gender balance and employment

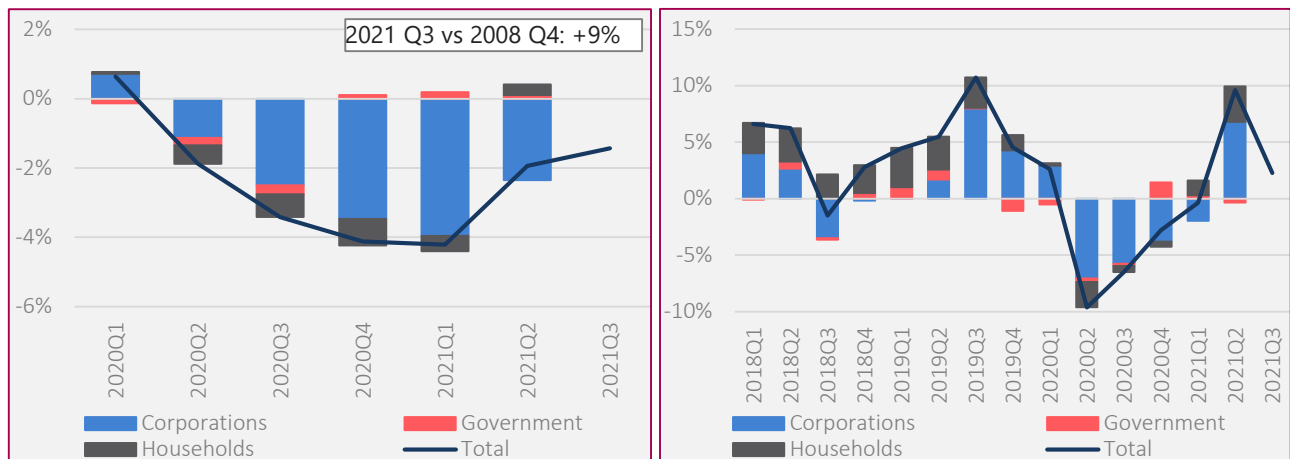
Firms in the Netherlands were more likely than EU firms to use a strategic monitoring system (69% and 55% respectively), but were less likely than EU firms to link individual performance to pay (51% and 67% respectively) or strive for gender balance (41% and 60% respectively). Overall, firms in the Netherlands did not experience a large change in employment during COVID-19, similarly to the changes across the EU.

Investment Dynamics and Focus

INVESTMENT DYNAMICS BY INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR

With the COVID-19 crisis abruptly affecting the economy, investment in Q2 2020 dropped to 2% below the pre-crisis level and continued its downward trend in the following quarters. The biggest drop was due to corporate investment. Government investment initially decreased, but started increased again from Q4 2020 onwards.

Total investment in the Netherlands started increasing again in 2021, rising to 10% above the level recorded for Q2 2020 in Q2 2021. Even though total investment still remained below the pre-crisis levels in Q2 and Q3 2021, clear signs of recovery were visible.

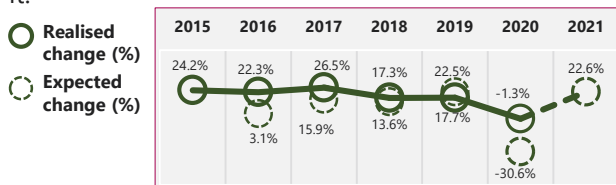


The graph on the left shows the evolution of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data are transformed into four-quarter sums, deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF. The four-quarter sum of total GFCF in 2019 Q4 is normalized to 0. Source: Eurostat
The graph on the right shows the year-on-year growth of total gross fixed capital formation (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data are deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF. Source: Eurostat.

INVESTMENT CYCLE AND EVOLUTION OF INVESTMENT EXPECTATIONS

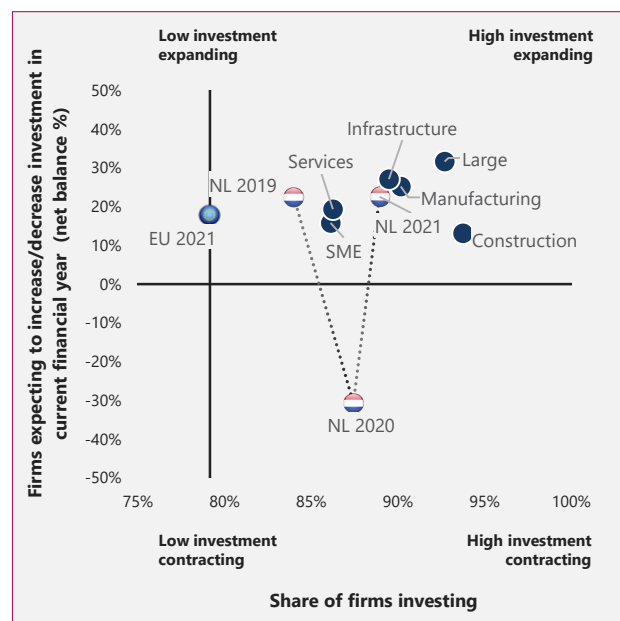
EIBIS 2021 shows that while fewer firms invested during 2020, they clearly became more optimistic for 2021, with more Dutch firms expecting to increase investment rather than decrease it. This represents a substantial positive shift from EIBIS 2020.

Firms invested more than expected in 2020, even if there are still more firms that decreased rather than increased investment compared to the previous year (net balance of -1.3% versus -30.6% in EIBIS 2021). The expected change for investment in 2021 has increased to pre-pandemic levels, with more firms again expecting to increase investment than decrease it.



'Realised change' is the share of firms who invested more minus those who invested less; 'Expected change' is the share of firms who expect(ed) to invest more minus those who expect(ed) to invest less.

Base: All firms



Share of firms investing shows the percentage of firms with investment per employee greater than EUR 500. The y-axis line crosses x-axis on the EU average for EIBIS 2021.

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

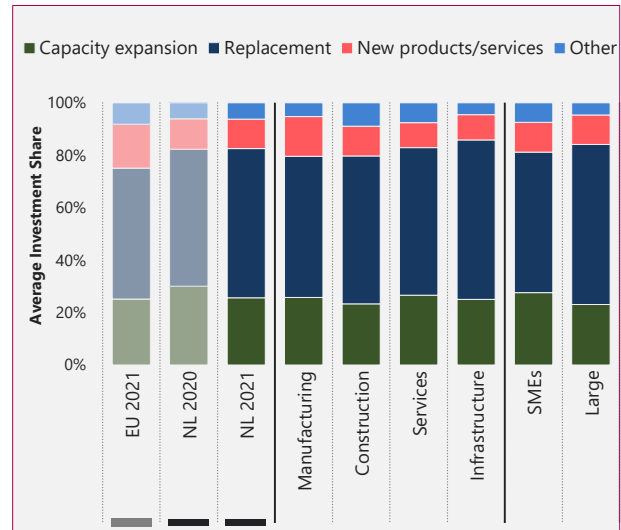
Investment Dynamics and Focus

PURPOSE OF INVESTMENT IN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR (% of firms' investment)

On average, firms in the Netherlands spent more than half (57%) of their investment on replacing capacity in 2020, in line with EIBIS 2020 (52%) and above the average share for EU firms (50%).

About a quarter of the investment spent in the country was for expanding capacity for existing products/services (26%) and only 11% was allocated to the development or introduction of new products, processes and services.

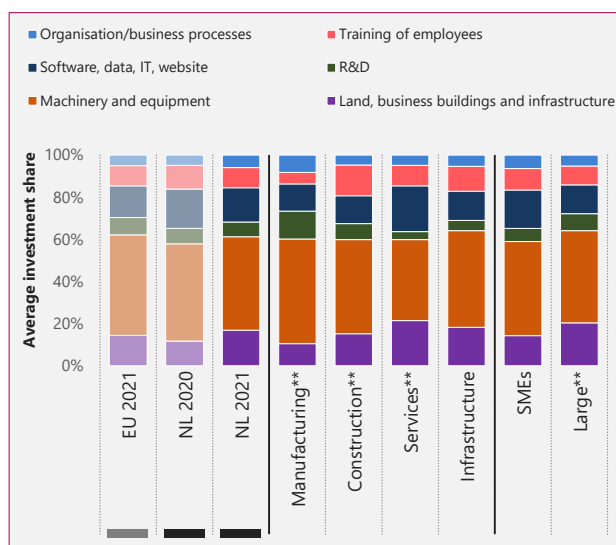
In 2020, large firms focused their investment slightly more on the replacement of capacity (61%) than SMEs (54%).



Q. What proportion of total investment was for (a) replacing capacity (including existing buildings, machinery, equipment, IT) (b) expanding capacity for existing products/services (c) developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

INVESTMENT AREAS



Q. In the last financial year, how much did your business invest in each of the following with the intention of maintaining or increasing your company's future earnings?

**Caution small base size

Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Out of the six investment areas considered, the largest share of investment went into machinery and equipment (44%), followed by land, business buildings and infrastructure (17%), software, data, IT and website activities (16%) and training of employees (10%). The pattern is broadly in line with EIBIS 2020 findings and with the EU averages.

Firms in the services sector allocated a larger share of their investment to software, data, IT, website (22%) than other sectors did (ranging between 12% to 13%), while firms operating in the manufacturing sector allocated a larger share in R&D (13%) compared to other sectors (ranging between 2% and 8%).

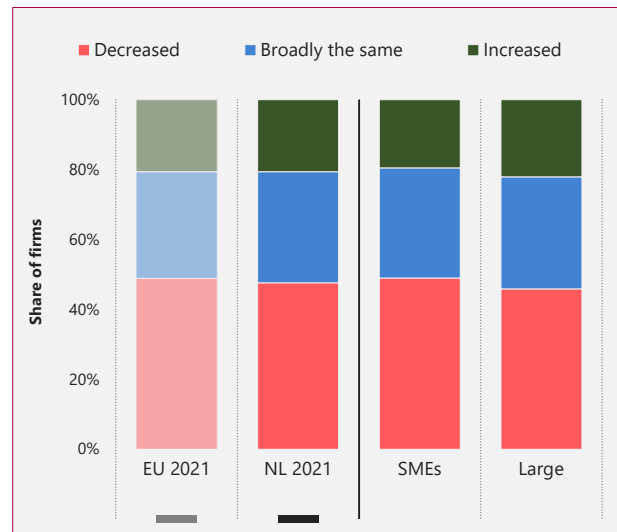
Large firms invested more in land, business buildings and infrastructure than SMEs (20% and 14% respectively). Correspondingly, SMEs allocated more resources to software, data, IT and websites than large firms.

Impact of COVID-19

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SALES

COVID-19 had a large impact on firms' activities. When asked about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sales, around half (48%) of firms have experienced a decline compared to the beginning of 2020 whilst around a fifth (21%) have experienced an increase. These shares are similar to the averages for the EU.

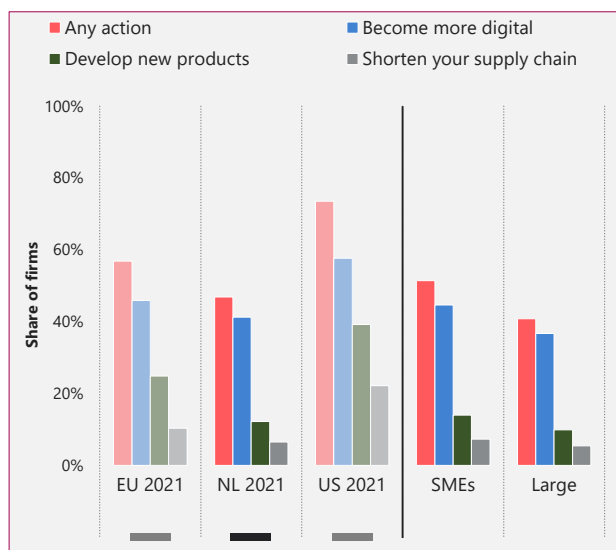
There are no large differences across firms of different size classes in terms of COVID-19 impact on sales.



Q. What has been the impact so far of the COVID-19 pandemic on your company's sales or turnover compared to the beginning of 2020?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19



Around half (47%) of firms in the Netherlands have taken action or made investments in at least one of the three areas they were asked about (becoming more digital, developing new products or shortening their supply chain), fewer than in the EU overall (57%).

Two fifths (41%) of firms in the Netherlands report they have become more digital as a result of the pandemic, slightly less than the EU average (46%). Less firms than in the EU overall have developed new products as a response to the pandemic (12% versus 25% for EU).

There are no statistically significant differences across firms of different size classes in the short-term actions taken in response to the pandemic.

Q. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, have you taken any actions or made investments to...?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

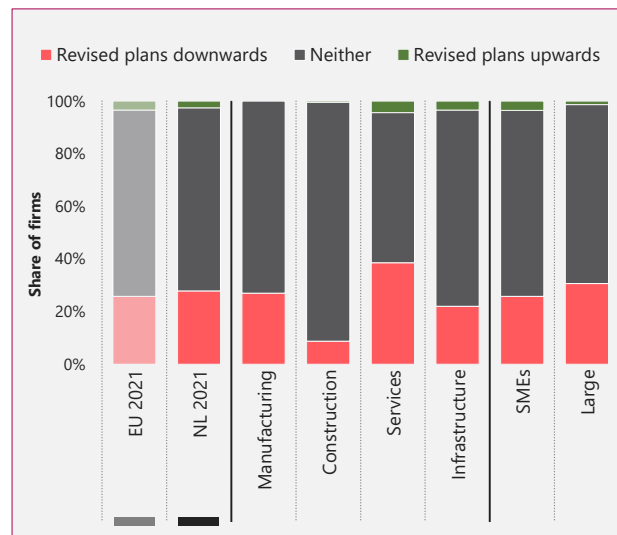
Impact of COVID-19

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INVESTMENT

COVID-19 had an impact on firms' investment plans, with 28% of firms revising their investment plans downwards as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, similar to the share of EU firms (26%).

Firms operating in the services sector were more likely to revise their investment plans downwards (39%) than firms in other sectors (ranging from 9% to 27%).

Firms in the construction sector were the least likely to have made changes to their investment plans as a result of COVID-19, with the majority (91%) reporting not having changed their investment plans.

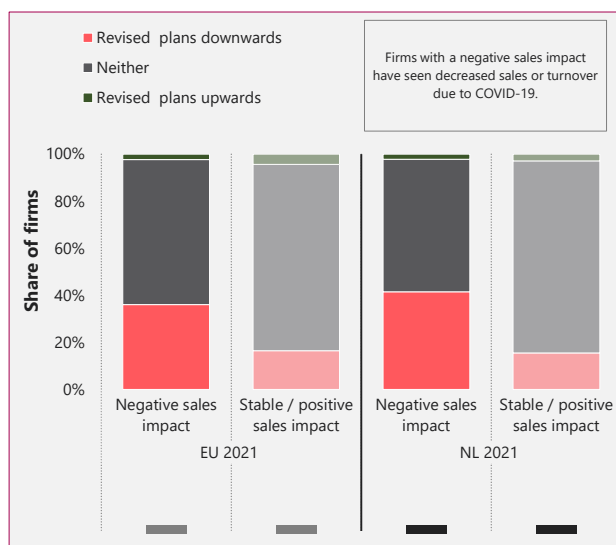


Q. Has your company taken any of the following actions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Q. You mentioned revising your investment plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Did you revise them upward or downward?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

DIFFERENCES IN IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INVESTMENT



Overall, firms whose sales or turnover has been negatively impacted by COVID-19 were more likely to revise their investment plans downwards than firms whose sales or turnover has been buoyant (41% compared to 15% respectively). This pattern is also reflected the EU average.

Q. Do you expect the COVID-19 outbreak to have a long-term impact on any of the following?

Q. What has been the impact so far of the COVID-19 pandemic on your company's sales or turnover compared to the beginning of 2020? Has it...?

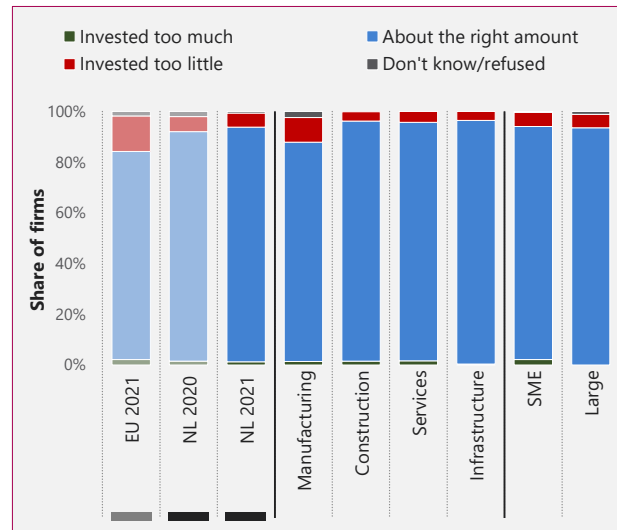
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Investment Needs and Priorities

PERCEIVED INVESTMENT GAP

Firms in the Netherlands do not perceive major gaps in their investment. Despite the difficult circumstances, the majority (93%) of firms in the Netherlands believe that they have invested about the right amount over the last 3 years, similar to what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (91%) but above the EU average (82%).

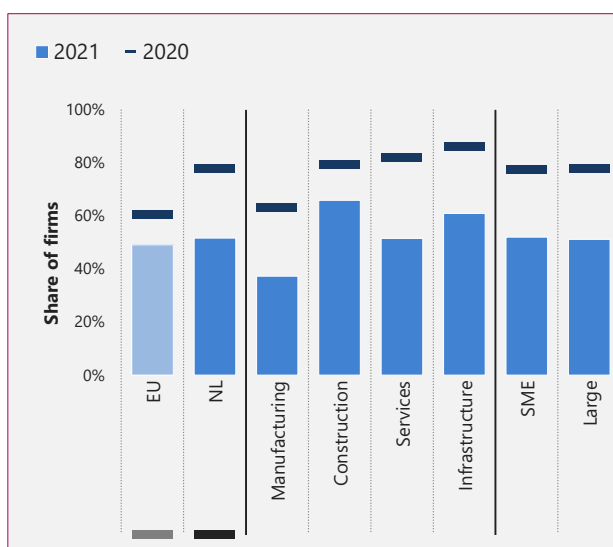
Firms in the manufacturing sector are the most likely to report some gaps in their investment, with 10% of them saying they invested too little, compared to the other sectors (all at 4%).



Q. Looking back at your investment over the last 3 years, was it too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Base: All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses)

SHARE OF FIRMS AT OR ABOVE FULL CAPACITY



The share of firms operating at or above full capacity in 2020 has declined notably compared to 2019 (52% versus 78%); but it is broadly in line with EU firms (49%).

While the share of firms operating at or above full capacity remained high in construction and infrastructure (66% and 61%) it fell in services (from 82% to 52%) and in manufacturing (from 63% to 37%), the latter sector recording the lowest level.

Again, there is no perceivable difference with respect to firm size.

Full capacity is the maximum capacity attainable e.g. company's general practices regarding the utilization of machines and equipment, overtime, work shifts, holidays etc.

Q. In the last financial year, was your company operating above or at maximum capacity attainable?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those operating somewhat or substantially below full capacity)

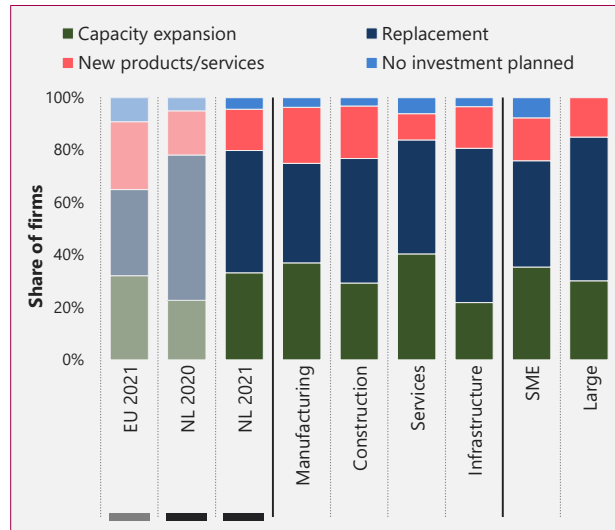
Investment Needs and Priorities

FUTURE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES (% of firms)

Although the share of firms citing investment in replacing existing buildings, machinery, equipment and IT has declined since EIBIS 2020, it continued to be the most commonly cited priority for the next three years (47% versus 55% in EIBIS 2020). On the other hand, the share of firms prioritising capacity expansion has increased since EIBIS 2020 (33% versus 23% in EIBIS 2020).

The share of firms in the Netherlands with no investment planned over the next 3 years is much lower than the EU average (4% versus 9%).

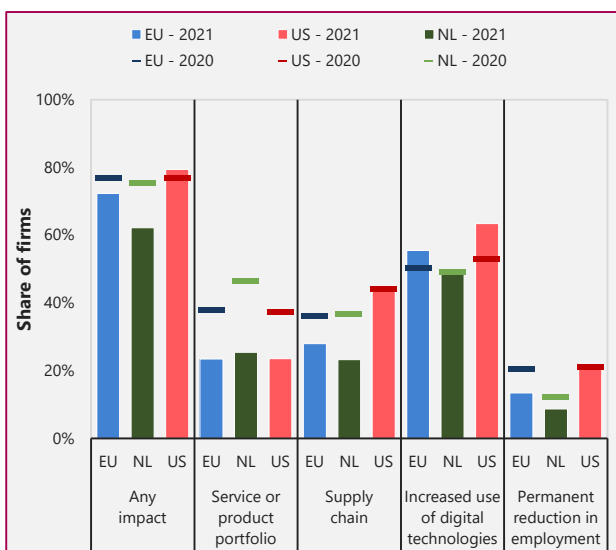
Infrastructure firms (59%) and large firms (55%) are the most likely to prioritise the replacement of existing buildings, machinery, equipment and IT.



Q. Looking ahead to the next 3 years, which is your investment priority (a) replacing existing buildings, machinery, equipment, IT; (b) expanding capacity for existing products/services; (c) developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

COVID-19 LONG-TERM IMPACT



COVID-19 will undeniably have a long-term impact on needs and priorities, as reported by 62% of Dutch firms, a lower share than the EU average (72%).

Digitalisation stands out, with a half (50%) of firms expecting the COVID-19 outbreak to have a long-term impact on the increased use of digital technologies, fewer than the EU average (55%).

Just 9% of firms in the Netherlands expect the long-term impact of COVID-19 to be a permanent reduction in employment, lower than the EU average (13%).

Q. Do you expect the COVID-19 outbreak to have a long-term impact on any of the following?

Base: All firms

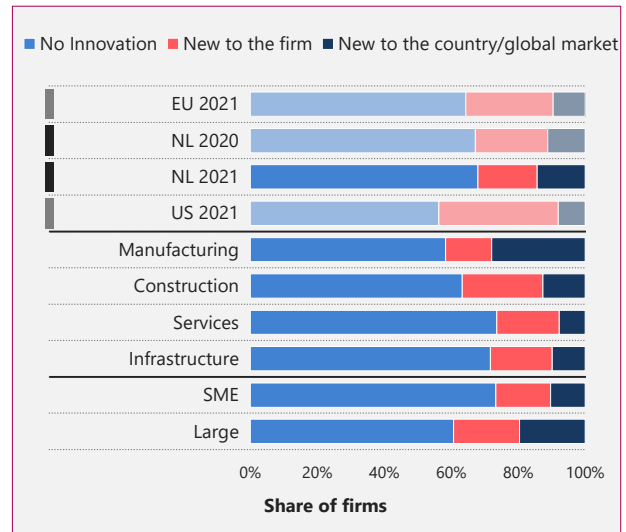
Innovation Activities

INNOVATION ACTIVITY

Around a third of firms (32%) in the Netherlands developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2020, similar to the EU average (36%). Specifically, 14% of Dutch firms invested in innovation that is new to the country or global markets, slightly higher than in the EU overall (14% versus 10%)

Manufacturing firms were more likely to innovate (42%) than firms in other sectors (ranging from 26% to 37%) and a larger share of these new products are new to the country or global markets (28%).

Large firms (39%) were also more likely to invest in developing innovative products, processes or services compared to SMEs (27%).

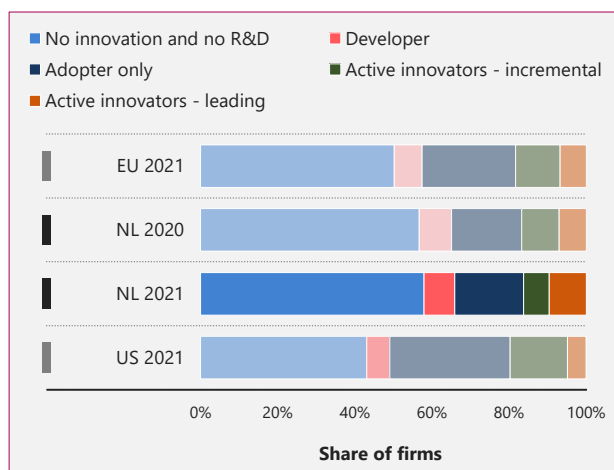


Q. What proportion of total investment was for developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Q. Were the products, processes or services new to the company, new to the country, new to the global market?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

INNOVATION PROFILE



Q. What proportion of total investment was for developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Q. Were the products, processes or services new to the company, new to the country, new to the global market?

Q. In the last financial year, how much did your business invest in Research and Development (including the acquisition of intellectual property) with the intention of maintaining or increasing your company's future earnings?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

When firms' innovation and research and development behaviour is profiled more widely, 7% of firms in the country can be classified as 'active innovators - incremental' and a further 10% as 'active innovators - leading'. More than a half of all firms (58%) report no innovation or R&D activity, which is slightly above the EU average (50%). There has been no particular change in this profiling with respect to EIBIS 2020.

The 'No innovation and no R&D' group comprises firms that did not introduce any new products, processes or services in the last financial year. The 'Adopter only' introduced new products, processes or services but without undertaking any of their own research and development effort. 'Developers' are firms that did not introduce new products, processes or services but allocated a significant part of their investment activities to research and development. 'Incremental' and 'Leading innovators' have introduced new products, processes and services and also invested in research and development activities. The two profiles differ in terms of the novelty of the new products, processes or services. For incremental innovators these are 'new to the firm'; for leading innovators these are new to the country/world.

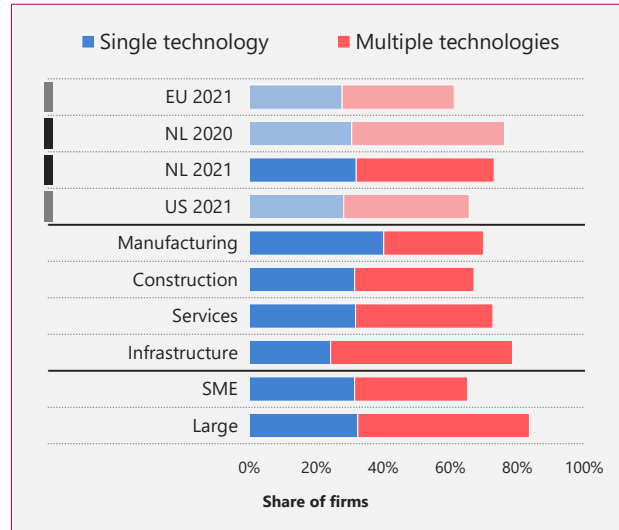
Innovation Activities

IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

In total, around three-quarters (73%) of firms in the Netherlands has implemented at least one of the advanced digital technologies they were asked about, similar to EIBIS 2020 (76%) but higher than the EU average (61%).

Large firms are more likely than SMEs to implement advanced digital technologies (84% versus 65%), mainly driven by those firms that implemented multiple advanced digital technologies (51% versus 34%).

Firms in the Netherlands report a higher uptake of internet of things (44%) compared with EU firms overall (29%). The implementation of big data/analytics (28%) is also slightly higher compared with the EU average (21%).

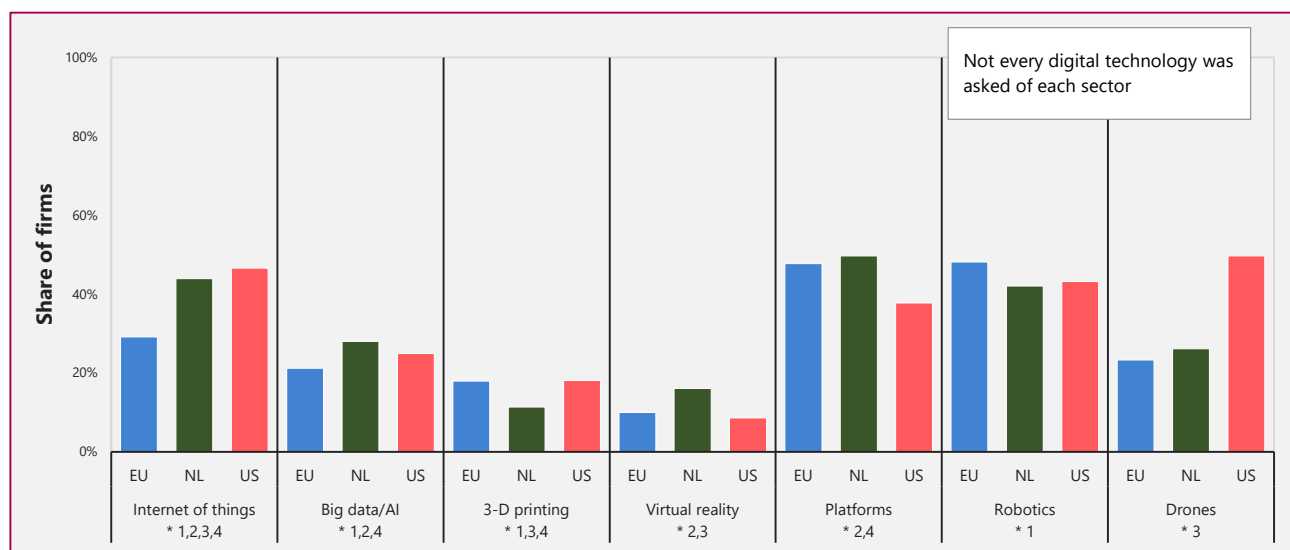


Q. Can you tell me for each of the following digital technologies if you have heard about them, not heard about them, implemented them in parts of your business, or whether your entire business is organised around them?

Reported shares combine implemented the technology 'in parts of business' and 'entire business organised around it'

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



* Sector: 1 = Asked of Manufacturing firms, 2 = Asked of Services firms, 3 = Asked of Construction firms, 4 = Asked of infrastructure firms

Q. Can you tell me for each of the following digital technologies if you have heard about them, not heard about them, implemented them in parts of your business, or whether your entire business is organised around them?

Reported shares combine implemented the technology 'in parts of business' and 'entire business organised around it'

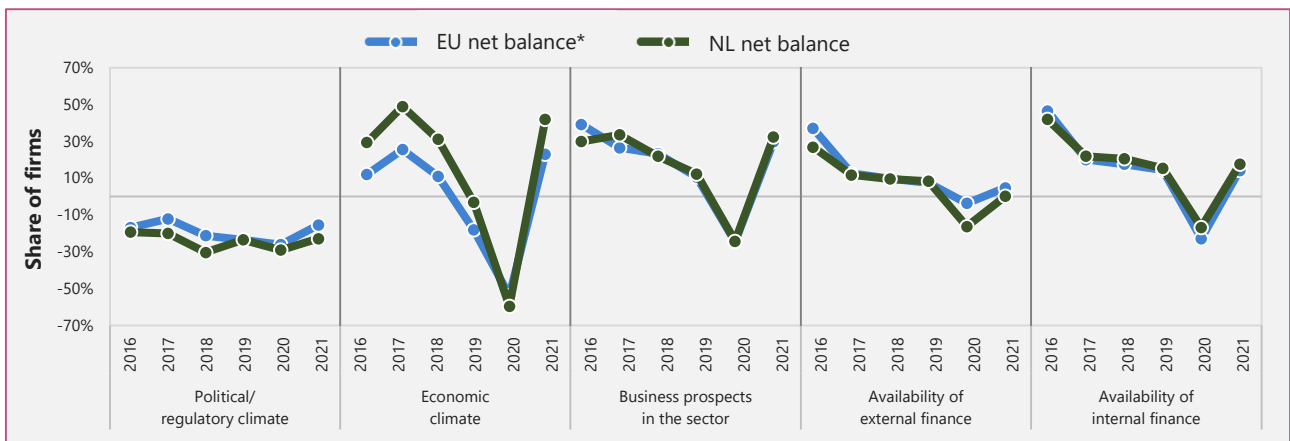
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses);
Sample size NL: Manufacturing (131); Construction (113); Services (116); Infrastructure (122)

Drivers And Constraints

SHORT-TERM FIRM OUTLOOK

While there was some mild improvement in the perception of the political and regulatory climate, the balance remains negative. On the contrary, expectations for the overall economic climate have rebounded notably after the deep dive recorded in EIBIS 2020 (rising from -62% to +47%). The same

happened to the perception of business prospects in the sector (rising from -24% to +37%), the availability of internal finance (rising from -16% to +21%) and availability of external finance (rising from -16% to +2%). The short-term outlook in the EU as a whole is very similar.

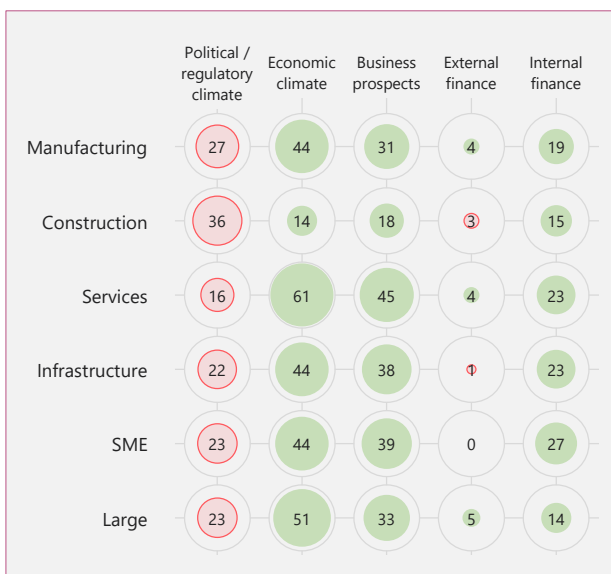


Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next twelve months?

*Net balance is the share of firms seeing improvement minus the share of firms seeing a deterioration

Base: All firms

SHORT-TERM FIRM OUTLOOK BY SECTOR AND SIZE (NET BALANCE %)



Please note: green figures are positive, red figures are negative

Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next twelve months?

Base: All firms

Firms are consistently more negative than positive about the political/regulatory climate.

Firms operating in services are more optimistic about the economic climate (61%) and the business prospects (45%) than firms in other sectors. Construction and infrastructure firms are somewhat pessimistic about the availability of external finance, while firms in other sectors are more optimistic.

SMEs are more optimistic, on balance, about the availability of internal financing (27%) than large firms (14%).

Drivers And Constraints

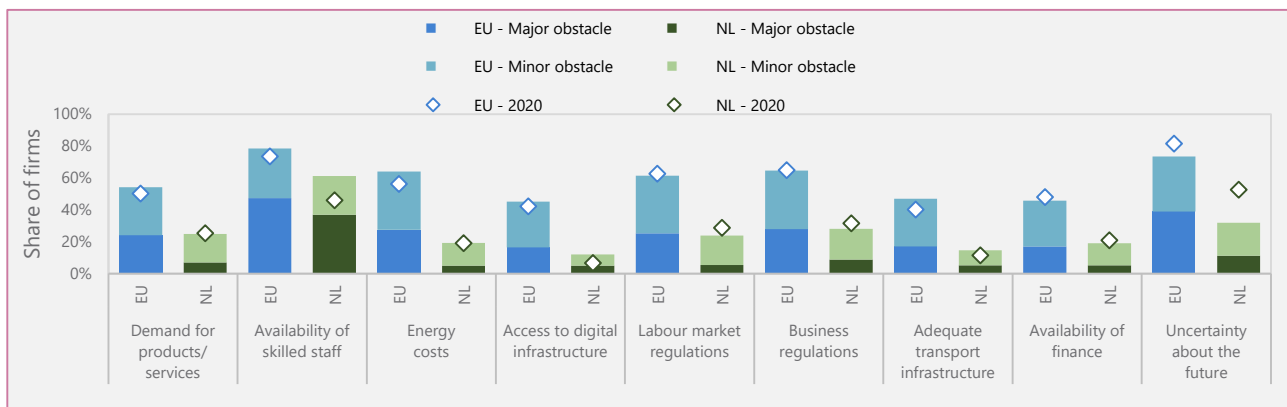
LONG-TERM BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT

Compared to EU firms, firms in the Netherlands are less likely to consider each of the nine possible obstacles as a long-term barrier. Availability of skilled staff remains the most frequently mentioned long-term barrier cited by 61% of firms, which is below EU average (79%).

Uncertainty about the future is the second most frequently cited long-term barrier to investment

but the share of firms citing this measure as a barrier has declined since EIBIS 2020 (32% versus 53% in EIBIS 2020).

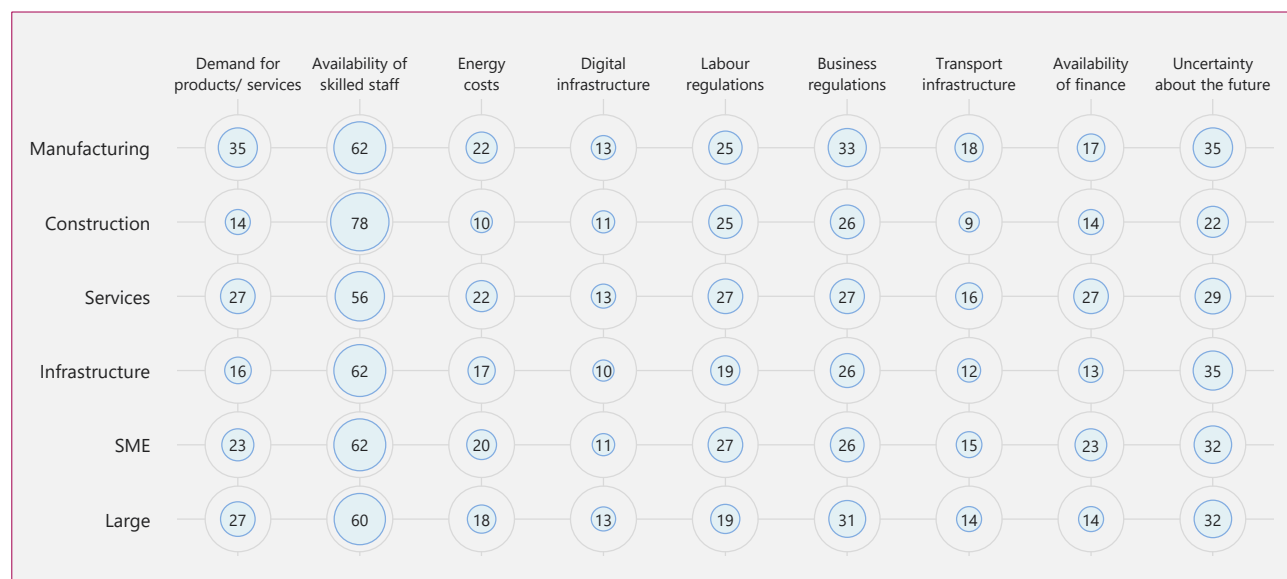
Availability of skilled staff is a particular problem for firms in the construction sector (78%), whilst availability of finance is more likely to be a long-term barrier for service firms (27%) than for firms in other sectors.



Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Netherlands, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is it a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

LONG-TERM BARRIERS BY SECTOR AND SIZE



Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Netherlands, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is it a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all?

Reported shares combine 'minor' and 'major' obstacles into one category

Base: All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

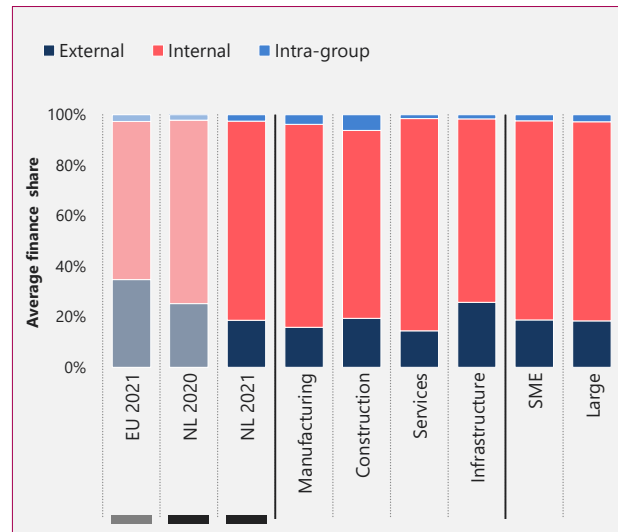
Investment Finance

SOURCE OF INVESTMENT FINANCE

Firms in the Netherlands continued to fund the majority of their investment in 2020 through internal financing (79%), a higher share than the EU average (63%).

External finance made up 19% of the investment finance, which is below the EU average of 35% and below the share reported in EIBIS 2020 (25%).

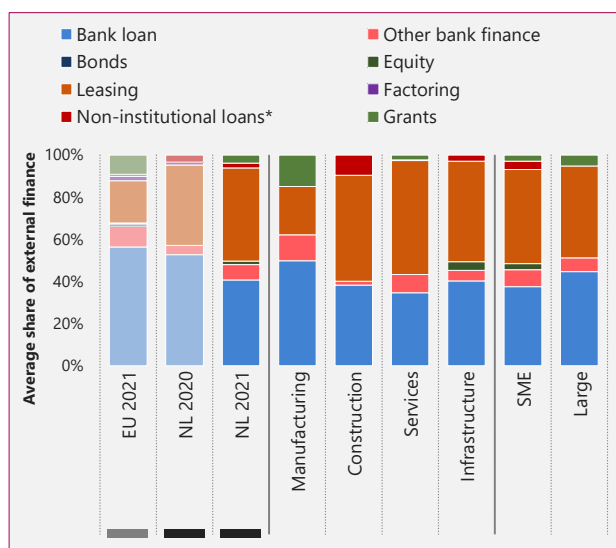
Firms working in the infrastructure sector report the largest share of investment funded through external finance (26%), while firms working in the services sector report the lowest share (14%).



Q. What proportion of your investment was financed by each of the following?

Base: All firms who invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

TYPE OF EXTERNAL FINANCE USED FOR INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES



Leasing made up the highest share of external finance in the Netherlands (44%) which is an increase since EIBIS 2020 (38%) and above the EU average (20%). Bank loans were the second most frequently used type of external finance in the Netherlands (41%), while it was the main type of external finance in the EU overall (56%).

Manufacturing firms relied the least on leasing or hire purchase accounts (23%) compared to other sectors (ranging between 48% and 54%). Conversely, manufacturing firms had the highest share of grants (15%). The share of external finance coming from bank loans was slightly higher for large firms (45%) than for SMEs (38%).

Q. Approximately what proportion of your external finance does each of the following represent?

*Loans from family, friends or business partners

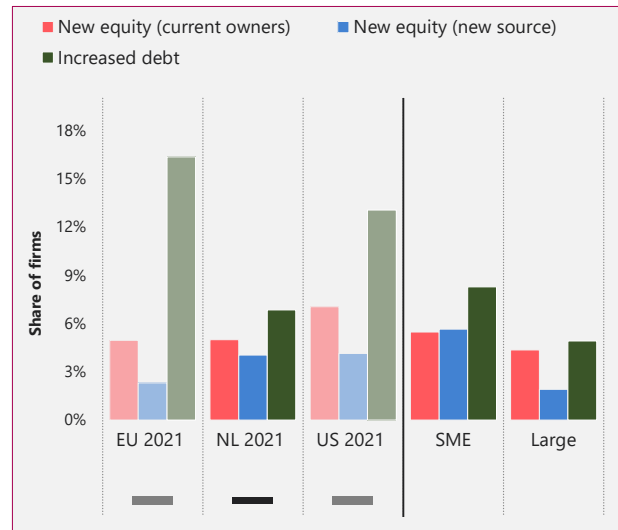
Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Investment Finance

ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, 7% of firms in the Netherlands have increased their debt, 5% have received new equity from their current owners and 4% have received new equity from new sources. In contrast, slightly more firms across the EU claim to have increased debt due to the crisis (16%).

There are no large differences between large firms and SMEs in the country.



Q. Has your company taken any of the following actions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

SHARE OF FIRMS RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



About two in five firms (42%) report that they received financial support in response to COVID-19; lower than the EU average (56%).

Subsidies or other type of financial support which companies do not have to pay back in the future made up the largest share of financial support received (35%), followed by deferral of payments (14%). Only 2% of firms received new subsidised or guaranteed credit, far below the EU average (17%).

Q. Since the start of the pandemic, have you received any financial support in response to COVID-19? This can include finance from a bank or other finance provider, or government-backed finance

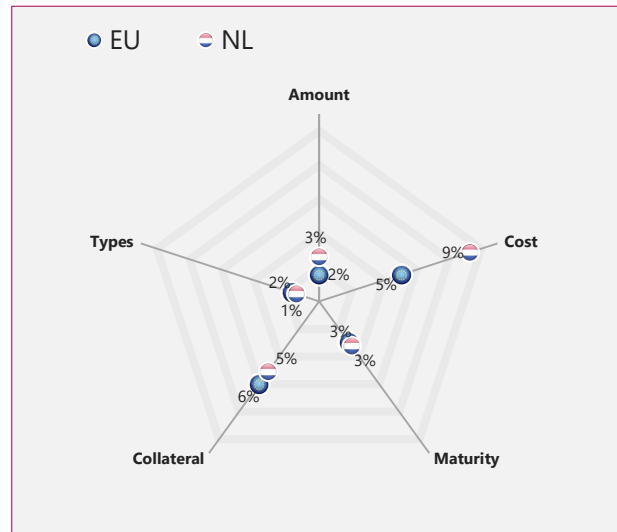
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Access To Finance

DISSATISFACTION WITH EXTERNAL FINANCE RECEIVED

Firms that used external finance in 2020 are on balance satisfied with the amount, cost, maturity, collateral and type of finance received.

The highest level of dissatisfaction recorded among firms in the Netherlands is with the cost of finance (9%). Though the number of answers is low and hence this statement must be considered cautiously, this is slightly higher than the EU level (5%).



Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with ...?

Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

DISSATISFACTION BY SECTOR AND SIZE (%)



As mentioned above, overall dissatisfaction levels are low. The dissatisfaction with the cost requirements is mainly driven by firms in the manufacturing (18%) and construction (15%) sectors.

Large firms report slightly higher dissatisfaction levels than SMEs for the cost of finance received (12% versus 7%), while SMEs are somewhat more dissatisfied with the collateral requirements and the maturity of the financing received.

Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with ...?

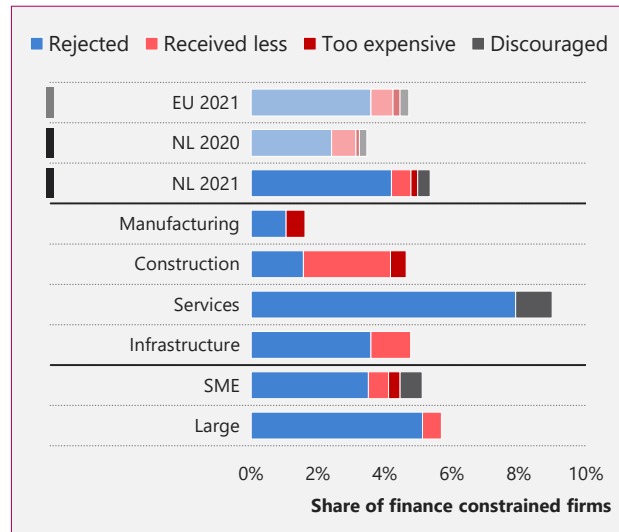
*Caution small base size

Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Access To Finance

SHARE OF FINANCE CONSTRAINED FIRMS

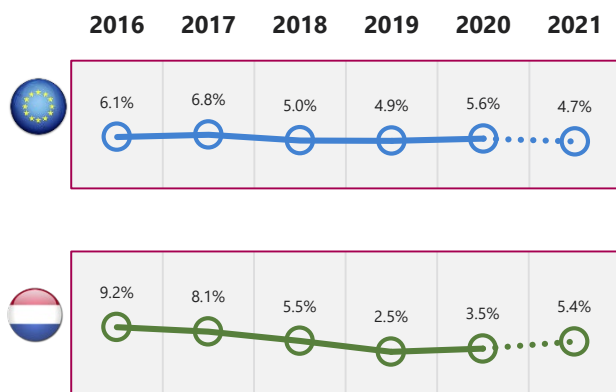
Only 5% of firms in the Netherlands can be considered as finance constrained, similar to what was reported in EIBIS 2020 (3%) and in-line with the EU average (5%).



Finance constrained firms include: those dissatisfied with the amount of finance obtained (received less), firms that sought external finance but did not receive it (rejected) and those who did not seek external finance because they thought borrowing costs would be too high (too expensive) or they would be turned down (discouraged)

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

FINANCING CONSTRAINTS OVER TIME



There has been little change in the share of finance constrained firms. The share of finance constrained firms in the Netherlands is in line with the EU average.

While being in line with the EU average in EIBIS 2021, the share of financially constrained firms in the Netherlands went up slightly compared to EIBIS 2020, in contrast to the evolution in the EU overall.

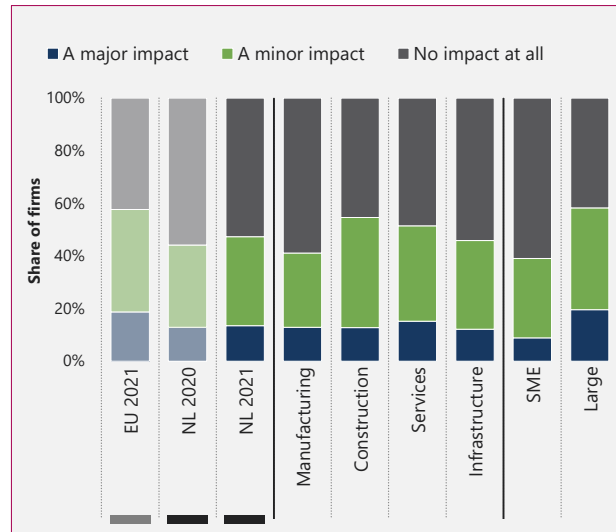
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – PHYSICAL RISK

Around one in ten (13%) firms in the Netherlands report that climate change is having a major impact on their business and a further third (34%) claim it is having a minor impact. This is in line with what was reported in EIBIS 2020 and slightly below the EU overall (19% and 39% respectively).

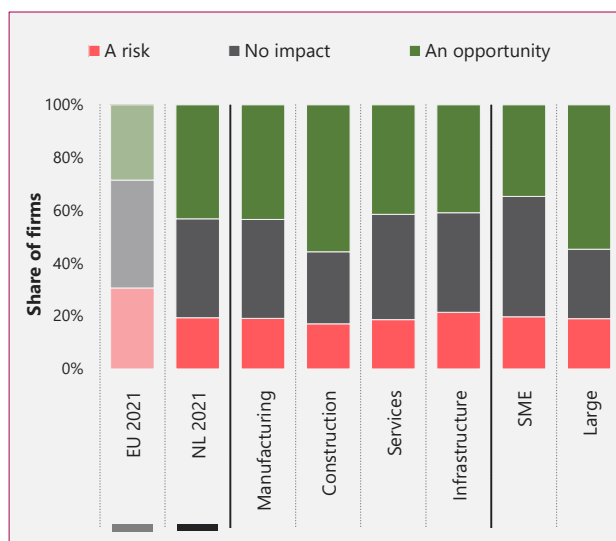
Construction firms are the most likely to say that climate change is currently having an impact on their business (55%) while firms in the manufacturing sector are the least likely to report this 41%. Large firms are also more likely than SMEs to say that climate change is having an impact on their business (58% versus 39% respectively).



Q. Thinking about climate change and the related changes in weather patterns, would you say these weather events currently have a major impact, a minor impact or no impact at all on your business?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know / refused responses)

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSITION TO A NET ZERO EMISSION ECONOMY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



More than four out of ten firms (43%) see the transition to stricter climate standards and regulation as an opportunity, more than the EU average (28%) and more than double the firms in the Netherlands who see the transition as a risk (19%).

Large firms (55%) and those active in the construction sector (56%) are the most likely to view the transition as an opportunity.

Q. Thinking about your company, what impact do you expect this transition to stricter climate standards and regulations will have on your company over the next five years?

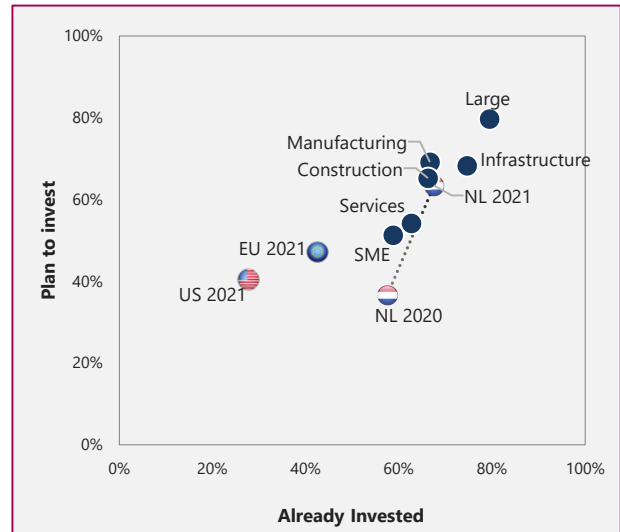
Base: All firms (excluding don't know / refused responses)

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

INVESTMENT PLANS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

The proportion of firms who have already invested to tackle the impacts of climate change has increased from 58% in EIBIS 2020 to 68% in EIBIS 2021. This upward trend is even more evident for those who are planning to invest (63% compared to 37% reported in EIBIS 2020). These shares are higher than in the EU overall, where 43% already invested and 47% plan to invest.

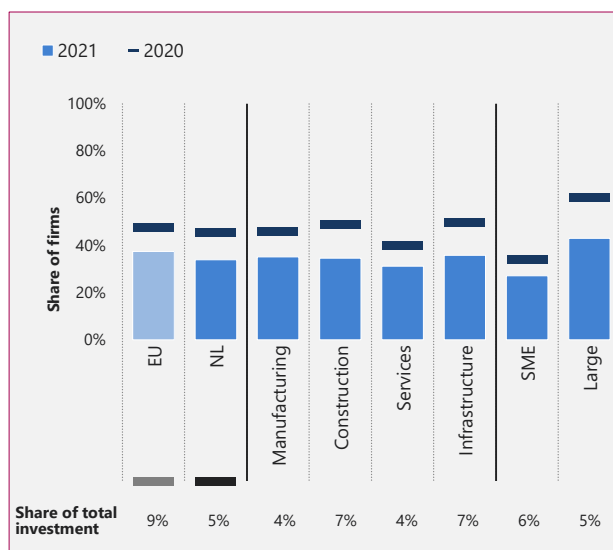
Infrastructure firms are more likely to have already invested (75%) compared to firms in other sectors (ranging between 63% and 67%). Large firms are much more likely to have already invested and to plan investments in the future (79% and 80% respectively) when compared to SMEs (59% and 51% respectively).



Q. Now thinking about investments to tackle the impacts of weather events and to deal with the process of reduction in carbon emissions, which of the following applies?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

SHARE OF FIRMS INVESTING IN MEASURES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SHARE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT



A third of firms (34%) invested in measures to improve energy efficiency in 2020, lower than in EIBIS 2020 (45%), but similar to the EU average (37%). The average share of total energy efficiency investment stands at 5%, slightly lower than the EU average (9%).

Large firms (43%) were more likely than SMEs (27%) to invest in measures to improve energy efficiency, although the share of total investment was very similar across different company sizes.

Q. What proportion of the total investment in the last financial year was primarily for measures to improve energy efficiency in your organisation?

Base: All firms (for share of firms investing)

Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses) (average share of investment)

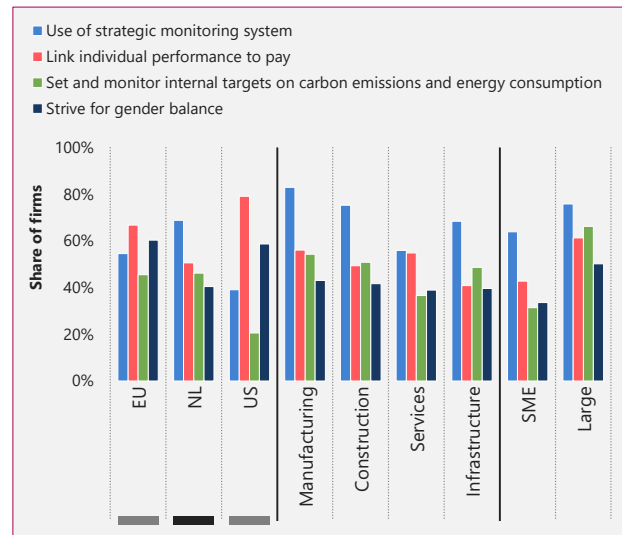
Firm management, climate targets, gender balance and employment

FIRM MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE TARGETS AND GENDER BALANCE

Around two thirds (69%) of all firms report using a strategic monitoring system in 2020, above the EU average (55%). Around half (51%) of firms report that they linked individual performance to pay and 41% strived for gender balance, both below the EU average of 67% and 60% respectively.

A further 46% say they set and monitored internal targets on carbon emissions and energy consumption, similar to the EU average (46%).

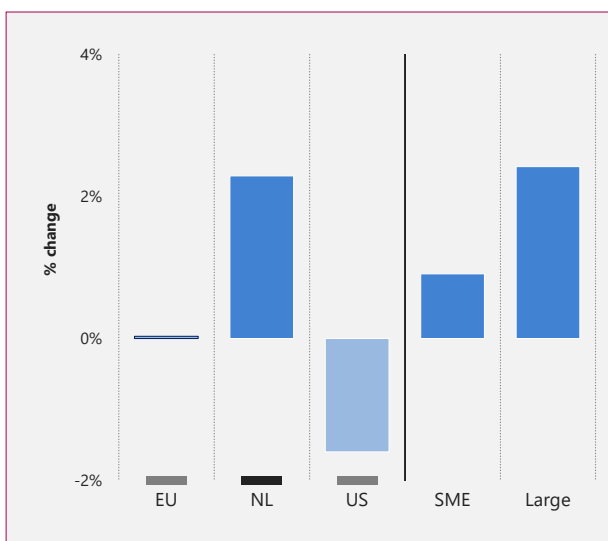
Overall, large businesses were more likely than SMEs to use a strategic monitoring system, to link individual performance to pay, to set and monitor internal targets on carbon emissions and energy consumption and to strive for gender balance.



Q. In 2020, did your company...?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT DURING COVID-19



Overall, the employment levels in the Netherlands increased by 2% since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, above the EU average, presenting stable employment.

Levels of employment have increased slightly more among large companies than in SMEs.

Q. How many people does your company employ either full or part time at all its locations, including yourself?

Q. How many people did your company employ either full or part time at all its locations at the beginning of 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

EIBIS 2021 – Country Technical Details

SAMPLING TOLERANCES APPLICABLE TO PERCENTAGES AT OR NEAR THESE LEVELS

The final data are based on a sample, rather than the entire population of firms in Netherlands, so the percentage results are subject to sampling tolerances. These vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned.

	EU	US	NL	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large	EU vs NL	Constr Vs Manuf.	SME vs Large
	(11920)	(802)	(482)	(131)	(113)	(116)	(122)	(402)	(80)	(11920 vs 482)	(113 vs 131)	(402 vs 80)
10% or 90%	1.1%	3.5%	2.9%	5.2%	5.6%	5.6%	5.5%	2.7%	5.8%	3.1%	7.6%	6.4%
30% or 70%	1.7%	5.3%	4.5%	7.9%	8.6%	8.6%	8.4%	4.1%	8.9%	4.8%	11.6%	9.7%
50%	1.8%	5.8%	4.9%	8.6%	9.4%	9.4%	9.2%	4.5%	9.7%	5.2%	12.7%	10.6%

GLOSSARY

Investment	A firm is considered to have invested if it spent more than EUR 500 per employee on investment activities with the intention of maintaining or increasing the company's future earnings.
Investment cycle	Based on the expected investment in current financial year compared to last one, and the proportion of firms with a share of investment greater than EUR 500 per employee.
Manufacturing sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group C (Manufacturing).
Construction sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group F (Construction).
Services sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group G (wholesale and retail trade) and group I (accommodation and food Services activities).
Infrastructure sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in groups D and E (utilities), group H (transportation and storage) and group J (information and communication).
SME	Firms with between 5 and 249 employees.
Large firms	Firms with at least 250 employees.

Note: the EIBIS 2021 country overview refers interchangeably to 'the past/last financial year' or to '2020'. Both refer to results collected in EIBIS 2021, where the question is referring to the past financial year, with the majority of the financial year in 2020 in case the financial year is not overlapping with the calendar year 2020.

EIBIS 2021 – Country Technical Details

The country overview presents selected findings based on telephone interviews with 482 firms in Netherlands (carried out between March and July 2021).

BASE SIZES (*Charts with more than one base; due to limited space, only the lowest base is shown)




Base definition and page reference	EU 2021/2020	US 2021	NL 2021/2020	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large
All firms, p. 2, p. 6, p. 7, p. 10, p. 11	11920/11971	802	482/480	131	113	116	122	402	80
All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses), p. 6	11910/11949	802	481/480	131	113	115	122	401	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 2	11620/11634	768	480/476	130	113	115	122	400	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (top)	11860/NA	800	480/NA	131	112	116	121	400	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (bottom)	11891/NA	802	481/NA	131	113	116	121	401	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (top)	11814/11971	768	482/480	131	113	116	122	402	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (bottom)	11760/0	766	480/0	131	112	116	121	400	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 7 (top)	11765/11727	793	479/470	131	112	115	121	399	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (top)	11648/11720	779	480/467	129	113	116	122	400	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (bottom)	8780/9039	618	446/420	119	109	105	113	369	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 9	11891/11938	802	482/480	131	113	116	122	402	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 13 (top)	11882/NA	777	482/NA	131	113	116	122	402	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 13 (bottom)	11857/NA	775	482/NA	131	113	116	122	402	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 15	11518/11477	743	479/469	130	112	115	122	399	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (top)	11849/11898	798	482/478	131	113	116	122	402	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (bottom)	11384/NA	783	471/NA	127	112	115	117	394	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 17	11659/11739	775	473/473	129	111	114	119	395	78
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 18 (top)*	11616/NA	774	475/NA	126	111	114	121	399	75
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 18 (bottom)	11664/11402	794	480/470	131	113	114	122	400	80
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 3 (top)	9670/10138	674	453/442	121	110	107	115	375	78
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 3 (bottom)	9523/9874	667	456/442	121	112	108	115	378	78
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12	8675/9255	621	342/324	88	84	83	87	293	49
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)*, p. 17	11920/11971	802	482/480	131	113	116	122	402	80
All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12	4003/4354	284	104/123	22	27	21	34	86	18
All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 14*	3964/4310	281	104/122	24	26	21	33	85	19



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Netherlands

Overview

EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

2022