

Annual Strategic Level Report on National Implementation of the Defence Investment Pledge

Country

Country: Netherlands								Date of Report:								
Defence Spending and Expenditure																
General Statement																
Year	2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030	
Guideline	2%	20%	2%	20%	2%	20%	2%	20%	2%	20%	2%	20%	2%	20%	2%	20%
* Estimate in absolute value terms (in national currency) [financial support for Ukraine excluded]	15,5 ¹	3,7	19,9	7,1	20,4	7,8	22,4	9,9	21,2	8,4	21,2	8,7	20,8	7,8		7,7
* Estimate in percentage terms [financial support for Ukraine excluded]	1,50%	23,9%	1,84%	36,2%	1,85%	38,1%	2,00%	43,9%	1,87%	40,0%	1,85%	41,0%	1,79%	38,4%		37,5%
* Estimate in absolute value terms (in national currency) [financial support for Ukraine included]	15,5	3,7	23,3	7,1	22,5	7,8	24,7	9,9	21,3	8,4	21,6	8,7	20,7	7,8		7,7
* Estimate in percentage terms [financial support for Ukraine included]	1,50%	23,9%	2,16%	36,2%	2,05%	38,1%	2,22%	43,9%	1,90%	40,0%	1,90%	41,0%	1,80%	38,4%		37,5%

¹ In 2023 the Netherlands made no distinction in the numbers including and excluding support to Ukraine.

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Source(s)/ Reference(s)	<p>Estimate value presented in billion euros.</p> <p>The defence expenditure for 2023 and the projected defence expenditure for 2024-2028 are based on the midterm budget presented to Parliament on the 15th of April 2024 (document 36 550, nr. 1), subject to parliamentary approval. The ministry of Defence reports on defence spending to Parliament in five-year periods. This will be updated in future updates of defence expenditure to NATO.</p>
Remarks	<p>The defence spending and expenditures presented in this report are based on the budget plans of the government. As actual expenditure can be influenced by developments throughout the year, variations on these estimates are likely. National definitions for investment spending as a percentage of the total budget have been used. The projected defence expenditures will also change due to regular budget changes.</p> <p>Increased geopolitical unrest is leading to tension in the global defense market. This, in combination with a tight labor market, puts pressure on the pace of Defense's crucial investments. Based on recent estimates, the government has decided to place defense investments at a pace that is better aligned with the time at which Defense expects to be able to allocate these resources. The investment resources remain available to Defense and can be continued at the most ambitious pace possible.</p> <p>Since the elections of 22 November 2023, negotiations for a coalition government are underway. After the new cabinet is installed, it is likely that a new Defence White Paper will be drafted. The Netherlands will subsequently provide a revised update of defence expenditure to NATO.</p>

Capability Target Implementation	
General Statement	<p>In June 2022, the ministry of Defence published the Defence White Paper 2022: <i>Stronger Netherlands, safer Europe</i>. The total nominal defence budget will increase substantially between 2022 and 2025. On a structural basis, the defence budget will increase by € 5 billion per year. The increase of our defence budget enables the Netherlands to address several shortfalls in our capability targets, such as in Combat Support / Combat Service Support, munition stock levels, firepower on land and at sea and integrated air and missile defence. Pending final parliamentary approval in June 2024, NLD MOD will further enhance IAMD and DPS capabilities and increase its ammunition stockpiles due to a structural budget increase of € 0,5 billion in 2028 and structurally as of 2030.</p> <p>We are executing our Defence Lifecycle Plan, which includes amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing the wheeled vehicle fleet of the armed forces, upgrading the CV-90, Fennek recce vehicle, Boxers and Howitzers, procurement and introduction of the PULS rocket artillery system. Also investing in Ground Based Air Defence Systems (SHORAD / MRAD) including counter missiles and counter UAS and CS/CSS for 414 DEU/NLD Tank Battalion; • Replacing and modernizing our maritime fleet including the replacement of M-class ASW frigates, Air Defence & Command Frigates, MCM's, and LPD's including amphibious connectors, and the modification of the SMART-L radar for Ballistic Missile Early Warning capability; • The Netherlands is moving forward with the procurement of the replacement of the four Walrus-class submarines. The preliminary decision on the supplier for design and OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers) for the procurement has been published and awaits parliamentary approval; • Finalizing of a 3rd F-35 squadron, with the procurement of 6 extra F-35's, procurement of 4 additional MQ-9A, replacing and upgrading the CH-47 Chinooks, upgrading the AH-64 Apache and NH90 NFH, replacing and enhancing tactical air lift capacity by 5 C-390 aircraft and creating a SOF Rotary Wing capability by acquiring 14 H-225M Caracal helicopters; • Investing in Space-based ISR capabilities; • Investing in CS/CSS capabilities like Medical Support, CBRN capacity and replacing of bridging equipment; • Investing in cyber operations and the transition to information driven operations; • Investing in Deep Precision Strike, both maritime (Tomahawk), land-based (PULS) and Air (JASSM-ER). Acquisition of additional armaments: Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile Block 2, Surface-to-surface Missiles for the navy, Patriot PAC-2 GEM-T, Precision Guided Munition for howitzers and air-to-air missiles, and SEAD capability (AARGM-ER) for F-35. Overall, the stockpiles for Battle Decisive Munition will be increased. <p>The Netherlands is also investing in ambitious multinational cooperation with joint procurement, thus contributing to interoperability and standardization of equipment. Key examples are the joint procurement with Belgium of ASW Frigates, contributing to the replacement of the E-3 Sentry (iAFSC) fleet, the procurement of munitions via NSPA and the joint procurement with Germany of tactical Airborne vehicles. We also participate in relevant PESCO projects to maximise efficiency through cooperation.</p>
Source(s)/ Reference(s)	Defence White Paper 2022: <i>Stronger Netherlands, safer Europe</i> .
Remarks	

Contributions to Operations and Missions and other relevant Engagements

Focused strategic-level statement (not more than 100 words) indicating the forces and capabilities (including numbers of personnel and platforms) planned to be deployed on **NATO** operations and missions abroad in 2024, and also any related incremental costs, if appropriate and available:

The mandate of our contribution to enhanced Forward Presence in Lithuania has been extended until the end of 2026, with a maximum of 350 military personnel. The Dutch contribution in eFP consisted of a motorized company during both rotations in 2023. Incremental costs of this operation were approximately 36 million euro in 2023.

In February and March 2023 the Netherlands contributed to NATO's Enhanced Air Policing and training with eight F-35 fighter jets, operating from Poland. Our F-35's in Poland were supported by a deployment of around 170 personnel of the Royal Netherlands Air Force. In the first week of May 2024, the Netherlands announced to Parliament that it plans to contribute with three to ten F-35 fighter jets and NDMC capacity to NATO's *Air Policing, enhanced Vigilance Activities* and *Air Shielding* activities in Estonia for a period of four months, starting in December 2024.

The Netherlands finished its contribution to the French-led Battlegroup in Romania on 1 July 2023, where it contributed with a company of the 11 Air Assault Brigade (120-140 pax). Also in 2023, the Netherlands provided, under framework nation Germany, a team of Dutch forces (6 pax) the Air and Missile Defence Task Force (AMDTF) in Slovakia until the end of the German deployment.

Since April 2024, the Netherlands is deploying 3 MQ-9 reapers for enhanced Forward Presence and *Air Shielding Operations* to Romania. This MQ-9 detachment in Romania will be operational for a period of 6 to 12 months. They have supporting capacity in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. In Romania the detachment is circa 30 persons.

The Netherlands participated with an ADC-class frigate in TG 441.02 (SNMG-2) and an M-class frigate in TG 441.01 (SNMG-1), and with Minehunters in TG 441.03 (SNMCMG-1) and 441.04 (SNMCMG-2), in total 360 sailors.

In 2024, the Netherlands contributes to the enhanced NATO Response Force (NRF) and the NATO Readiness Initiative (NRI). With regards to NRF, the Netherlands will contribute to the VJTF with two battalions including Combat Support and Combat Service Support (3000 pax) on IFFG-status and to the SNMG-1 with one frigate (166 pax) or equivalent. In addition a mine hunter (35 pax) has been allocated for VJTF (M) and a submarine for 6 months (65 pax) for IFFG respectively. The Netherlands will contribute to NRI with one Battlegroup (1.200 pax), 8x F-35 (80 pax), AIR UAV capacity (30 pax), one frigate (166 pax) and one mine hunter (35 pax).

From January 2024, NLD contributes to NMI with a Force Protection Company of 145 pax until the 31st of December 2024. As of the 1st of May the NLD delivers the Force Commander (including 20 pax staff support and close protection) until the 1st of May 2025. At the same time NLD started to contribute with 3 Chinook Helicopters including a detachment of 120 pax.

Focused strategic-level statement (not more than 100 words) indicating the forces and capabilities (including numbers of personnel and platforms) planned to be deployed on **non-NATO** operations and missions abroad in 2024, and also any related incremental costs, if appropriate and available:

The Netherlands contributed to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS/Da'esh with up to 175 pax in 2023. In order to strengthen the Iraqi security sector, the Netherlands is continuing its training efforts in Baghdad and Erbil under Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The 15 pax advisors in NMI, the 7 advisors in EUAM, and 8 advisors in Erbil (NSE/MoPA/JOCAT) will continue to contribute until the end of July 2025.

In 2023, the Netherlands expanded its contribution to EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 4 to approximately 160. The additional contribution exists of a HUMINT team (10 pax) and an infantry company (150 pax). The national mandate for the infantry company expires by October 2024 and for the HUMINT team by august 2025. The Netherlands is currently looking into the options for a possible extension of the contribution.

In 2023 the Netherlands also provided trainers and staff for the training of Ukrainian military personnel, including for training operations in the United Kingdom and Netherlands (Operation Interflex and Operation Interforge, fluctuating around 150 pax). The Netherlands also provided personnel for the EU Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM) Ukraine (max. 9 staff officers, and over 500 pax for training modules in the Netherlands and training activities in Germany). The Netherlands is continuing its training efforts for Ukraine in 2024 with comparable numbers of military personnel. The Netherlands also enables the European F-16 Training Centre with aircraft and supporting personnel, to train Romanian and Ukrainian F-16 pilots.

In addition, the Netherlands is deployed in numerous missions in smaller deployments, with a total of approximately 130 pax in 12 different missions (EU: ca. 70 estimate, UN: 36, national or bilateral missions: 26).

In 2023 and 2024 the Netherlands deployed a Joint Task Force to Cyprus. This TF supported humanitarian aid with C-130s and was standby for evacuation operations with an OPV and an infantry company (200 pax). The Netherlands also contributed to the EU-operation Aspides and US-led operation Prosperity Guardian in the Red Sea with HNLSMS Tromp (ADC frigate) and HNLMS Karel Doorman (Joint Logistics Ship).

<p>Focused strategic-level statement (not more than 100 words) indicating the forces and capabilities (including numbers of personnel and platforms) planned to be deployed on other activities in 2024, and also any related incremental costs, if appropriate and available:</p>	<p>The Netherlands provides DCB support through NATO- partnership programs for partner countries (including Ukraine, Georgia, Jordan and Tunisia) and organizations (UN) by providing funds and advisors. Furthermore, the Netherlands provides for several voluntary national contributions (VNC), including in Kosovo, Georgia and Iraq.</p>
<p>Source(s)/ Reference(s)</p>	<p>Kamerbrief Nederlandse bijdrage aan NAVO-luchtruimactiviteiten in Estland en verlenging bijdrage enhanced Forward Presence in Litouwen (link), May 2024. Kamerbrief Voortgangsrapportage Oostflank (link), May 2023. Kamerbrief Nederlandse inzet collectieve verdediging, missies en operaties 2022-2025 (link), June 2022 Kamerbrief Nederlandse inzet Sahel (link), 25 November 2022. Kamerbrief onderzoek militaire bijdrage aan EUFOR Althea in Bosnië-Herzegovina (link), 17 June 2022 Kamerbrief Update leveringen militaire goederen aan Oekraïne (link), 16 December 2022 Kamerbrief Bestrijding internationaal terrorisme (link), July 7 2023 Kamerbrief Bestrijding internationaal terrorisme, Nederlandse deelname aan vredesmissies (link), September 2023.</p>
<p>Remarks</p>	<p>The number of personnel deployed on missions and operations may vary throughout the year.</p>