

Summary

Emancipation monitor 2018

Economic position of women improved

Authors:

Wil Portegijs (SCP)

Marion van den Brakel (CBS)

The economic position of women in the Netherlands has improved again following the crisis years. This is apparent from the tenth edition of the Emancipation Monitor published jointly by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP).

The share of Dutch women in work grew between 2015 and 2017. Women's average weekly working hours also increased, from 27 to 28 hours. The share of economically independent women rose from 58% to more than 60%. However, there is variation in the economic position of women. Women with a low education level and women with a non-Western migration background are less often in work and less often economically independent. These differences have not reduced over the last ten years.

Increase in working hours

The average working hours of women have risen more steeply since the crisis years than in the period before. Compared with ten years earlier, more women are in large part time jobs (working between 28 and 35 hours per week): 25% in 2017 compared with 20% in 2007. Mothers with a partner, in particular, now work more hours on average. This is partly because an increasing number of women continue to work the same number of hours after having a child as they did before. This applied to 40% of mothers in 2007, but to almost 60% in 2017.

Four out of ten women adjust their working pattern after having children

Women with a partner and young children are also increasingly economically independent: this applied for nearly 66% in 2017 compared with 54% in 2007. If they should find themselves having to fend for themselves – four out of ten relationships break up on average – they are more often able to stand on their own feet financially than in the past. Over 40% of all women in the Netherlands reduce their working hours or stop working after the birth of their first child. Becoming a father has virtually no impact on the labour participation rate of men: fathers work an average of 40 hours per week both before and after the birth of a child.

There is also a difference in the amount of time spent looking after their children: men account for a third of the total hours spent caring for children, women two-thirds. The share of men in paid work is one and a half times as high as for women. This picture has remained unchanged in recent years.

Low-educated women still less often economically independent

Women with a low education level are less often in work, work fewer hours and are less often economically independent than highly educated women. The labour participation rate, working hours and economic independence of both low-educated and highly educated women have grown over the last decade. However, the difference in economic position has not reduced over that period.

Widening gap in economic position between women with and without a migration background

During the crisis years, the labour participation rate of women with a non-Western migration background declined, and with it their economic independence. Since 2015, more non-Western women have begun working, but the difference in labour participation rate compared with women of Dutch origin is greater than in 2007. The gap in working hours has however narrowed. The working hours of non-Western women have been higher for many years, but because the working hours of women without a migration background have increased, the gap has narrowed since 2007.

The Netherlands still leads the way in part-time working

The Netherlands has for years been champion in part-time employment stakes. Compared with other EU Member States, women in the Netherlands are frequently in paid work, but there is no other country where women so often work part-time: 74%, compared with an average of 31% for the EU as a whole. There is little

difference compared with other EU Member States in the time mothers and fathers in the Netherlands devote to looking after children.

Also in the Emancipation Monitor 2018

- Women better educated than men for the first time.
- Slight narrowing of pay gap between women and men.
- Increasing share of women in technical occupations.
- More women in senior positions in business, science and public sector.
- Few female managers in the Netherlands compared with European picture.
- Women's preferred working week is 29 hours on average, for men it is 39 hours.
- Women live longer, but less long in good health.
- Slight fall in violence against women, but more men than women are victims of violence.

What is the Emancipation Monitor?

Every two years, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) describe the current status of the emancipation of women in the Netherlands. Starting with this tenth edition, the paper version of the Emancipation Monitor has been replaced by a digital publication (www.emancipatiemonitor.nl). Simultaneously with the Emancipation Monitor 2018, CBS has today published a newly developed database containing statistics on men and women – 'm/v-stat' (<https://MVstat.cbs.nl>) – which contains a wide array of socioeconomic statistics about women and men. In addition, in-depth publications on the economic independence and social safety of women will be published next week.