

CEPEJ Study on the judicial systems in the EU Member States - Country fiche

Judiciary at a glance in Netherlands(2024 data)

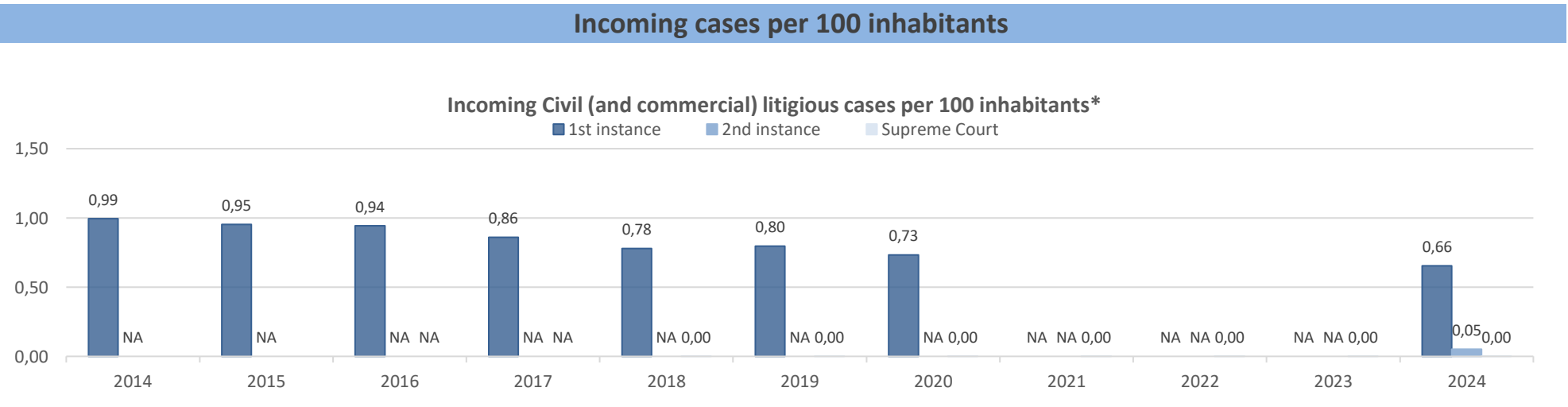
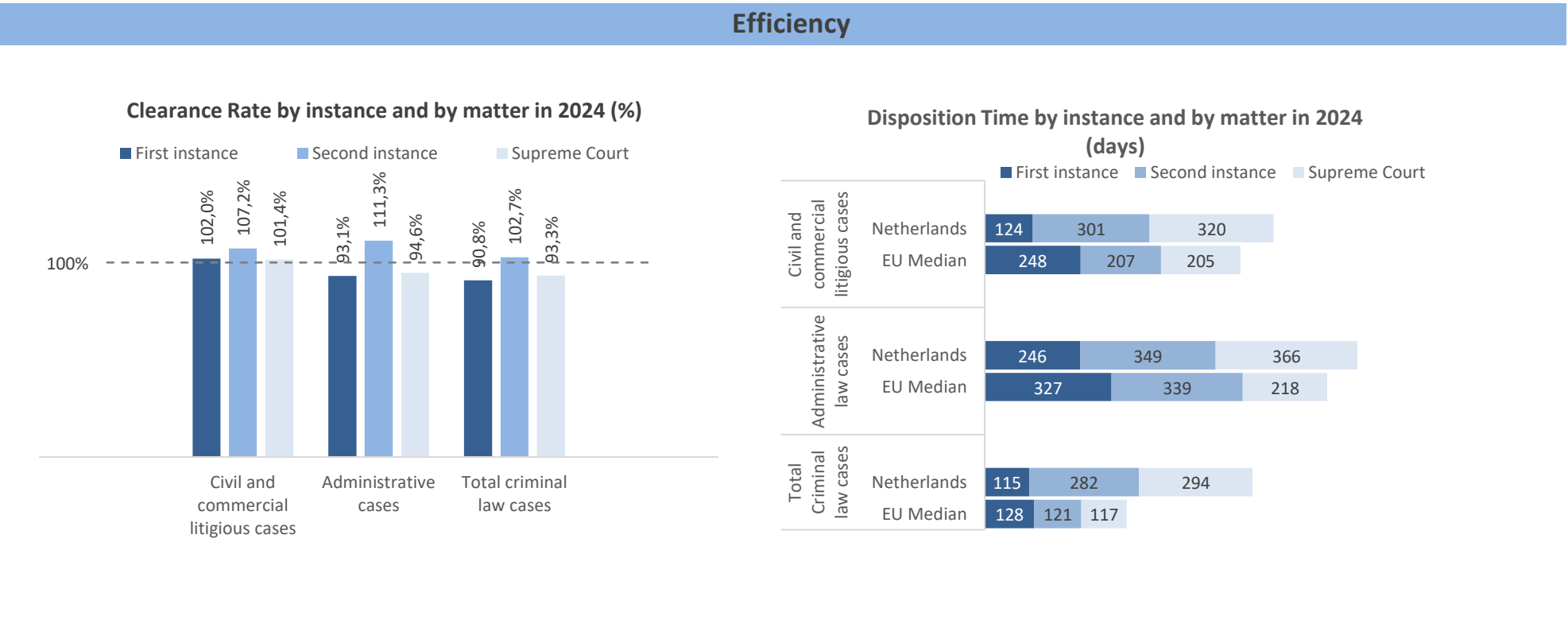
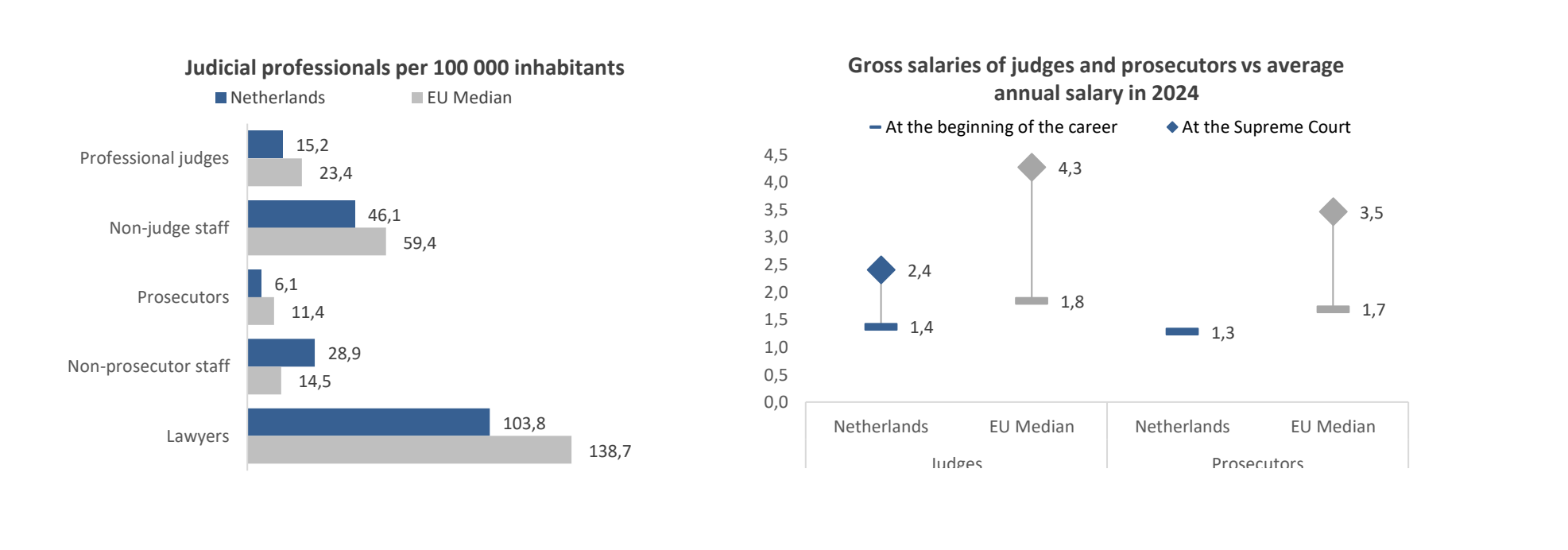
General data

Population:18 044 027

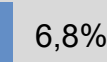
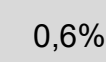
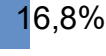
GDP per capita:62 380 €

Average annual salary:76 100 €

Professionals



Synthesis table for the main indicators for: Netherlands

Economic and demographic data	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend 2014-2024	Variations			
													2014-2024	2023-2024		
Population	16 902 146	16 979 120	17 081 507	17 181 084	17 282 163	17 407 585	17 475 415	17 509 672	17 811 291	17 942 942	18 044 027			6,8%		0,6%
GDP per capita	39 313	39 937	41 258	42 578	45 052	46 883	45 900	49 100	53 817	53 422	62 380			58,7%		16,8%
Exchange rate (local currency needed to obtain 1€)	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP		NAP	NAP		
Average annual salary							62 700	64 300	66 900	70 800	76 100					7,5%
Resources per 100 000 inh.	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend 2014-2024	2014-2024	2023-2024		
Professional judges	13,96	13,88	13,65	14,77	14,59	14,49	14,86	15,10	15,00	15,02	15,19			8,8%		1,1%
Non-judge staff	43,91	42,79	42,84	43,79	43,35	44,23	42,55	43,71	43,43	44,43	46,05					

1. Judicial organisation in Netherlands (2024 data)

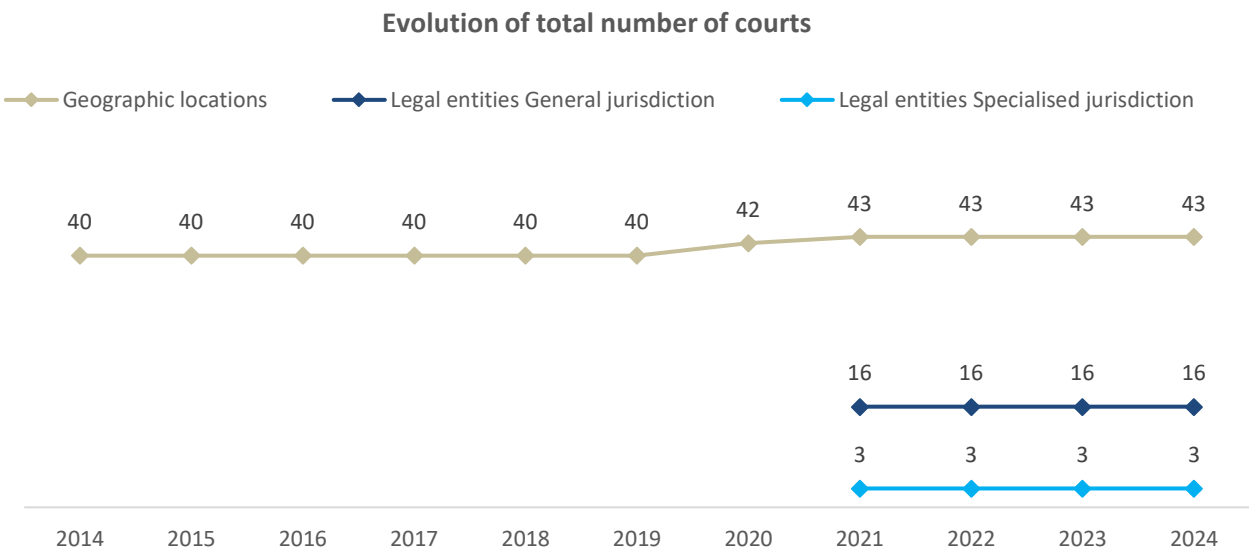
In 2023, in the Netherlands there are 19 courts considered as legal entities, 16 of which are of general jurisdiction, while 3 have specialised competences.

Among the 16 legal entities of general jurisdiction, there are 11 District courts acting at first instance, 4 Courts of appeal that handle civil, criminal and tax cases and 1 Supreme court. The 3 specialised courts intervene in administrative matters.

In terms of geographic locations, there are 43 courts in total, of which 34 are first instance courts.

Evolution of total number of courts

Total number of courts	Geographic locations	Legal entities	
		General jurisdiction	Specialised jurisdiction
2014	40		
2015	40		
2016	40		
2017	40		
2018	40		
2019	40		
2020	42		
2021	43	16	3
2022	43	16	3
2023	43	16	3
2024	43	16	3



The second-instance courts of general jurisdiction in the Netherlands handle civil, criminal, and tax cases.

There are two additional courts that do not align with this categorization by instance, as they operate in the area of administrative law. Some administrative law cases (e.g., tax cases) are handled by first- and second-instance courts of general jurisdiction. Other administrative cases are addressed by the Trade and Industry Appeals Tribunal, also known as the Administrative High Court for Trade and Industry (College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven). This is a specialized administrative court that rules on disputes in the area of socio-economic administrative law and appeals under specific laws. It functions as both a first- and second-instance court for administrative cases and is categorized as a specialized court.

The Central Appeals Tribunal (Centrale Raad van Beroep) is a court of appeal primarily active in legal areas related to social security and civil service. In these areas, it also serves as the highest judicial authority. In certain cases, it acts as the first and sole instance. This court does not fully align with the distinction made in the table above but is categorized as a specialized court.

The Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State is the highest administrative court with general jurisdiction in the Netherlands. It hears various types of appeals (e.g., appeals filed by members of the public, associations, or commercial companies against governmental bodies, or disputes between public authorities). This court does not fully align with the distinction made in the table above but is categorized as a specialized court. For more information, see <https://www.rechtspraak.nl/English/Judicial-system-and-legislation/Pages/Special-Tribunals.aspx>.

It should be noted that the Supreme Court (the highest instance court of general jurisdiction) does not retry cases. Instead, its role is to review whether the judges at the first and second instances correctly applied the law and followed proper procedures (cassation, which may lead to the quashing of a judgment).

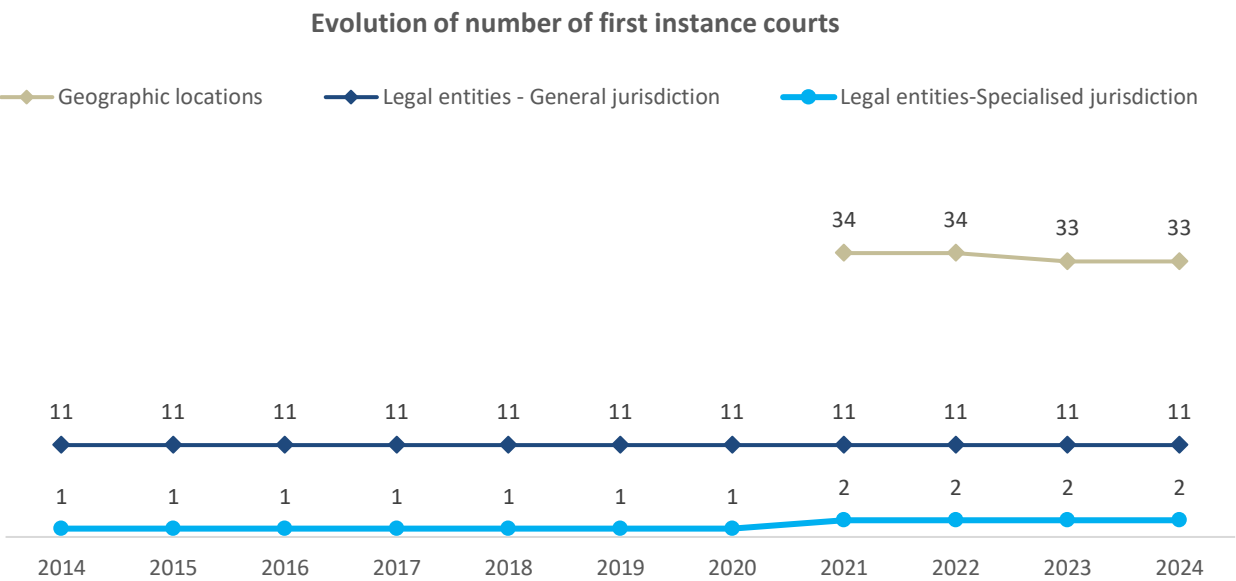
Since 2013, following the implementation of the judicial map reform, the number of district courts was reduced from 19 in 2010 to 11 by 2013 and 2014. Additionally, this reform led to the closure of sub-district court locations, reducing the number of geographic locations from 64 in 2010 to 40 by 2013 and 2014.

As regards geographic locations:

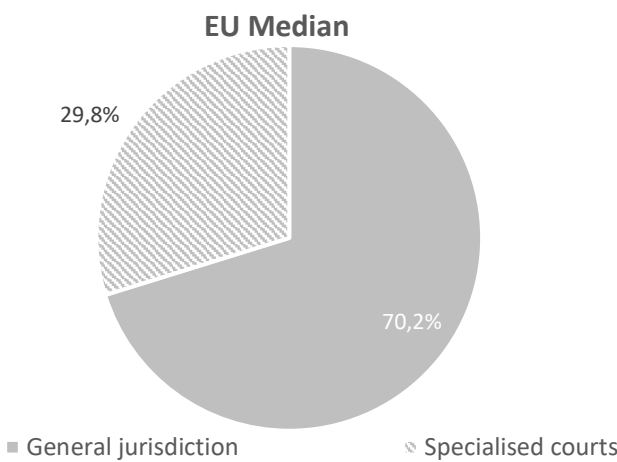
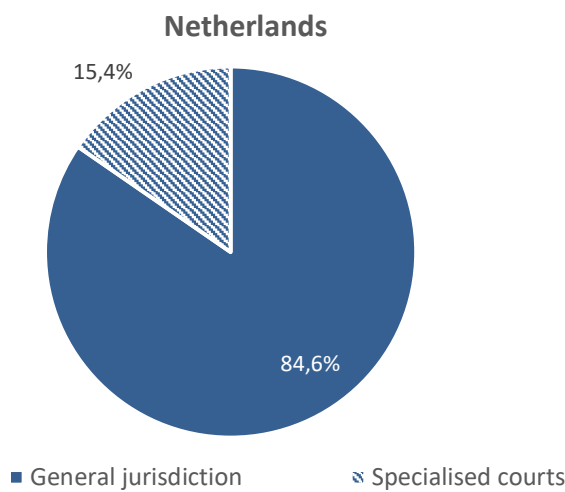
- First instance geographic location are:
- 33 first instance geographic locations of general jurisdiction, with 4 locations

Evolution of number of first instance courts

First instance courts	Geographic locations	Legal entities	
		General jurisdiction	Specialised jurisdiction
2014		11	1
2015		11	1
2016		11	1
2017		11	1
2018		11	1
2019		11	1
2020		11	1
2021	34	11	2
2022	34	11	2
2023	33	11	2
2024	33	11	2



Distribution of first instance general jurisdiction and specialised courts



The distribution between first instance general jurisdiction courts and first instance specialised courts in Netherlands is 84,6% - 15,4% (distribution tendency in EU: 70,2% - 29,8%).

Specialised Courts

Specialised courts	First instance	Higher instance
Total	2	1
Commercial courts (excluded insolvency courts)	NAP	NAP
Insolvency courts	NAP	NAP
Labour courts	NAP	NAP
Family courts	NAP	NAP
Rent and tenancies courts	NAP	NAP
Enforcement of criminal sanctions courts	NAP	NAP
Fight against terrorism, organised crime and corruption	NAP	NAP
Internet related disputes	NAP	NAP
Administrative courts	2	1
Insurance and / or social welfare courts	NAP	NAP
Military courts	NAP	NAP
Juvenile courts	NAP	NAP
Other specialised courts	NAP	NAP

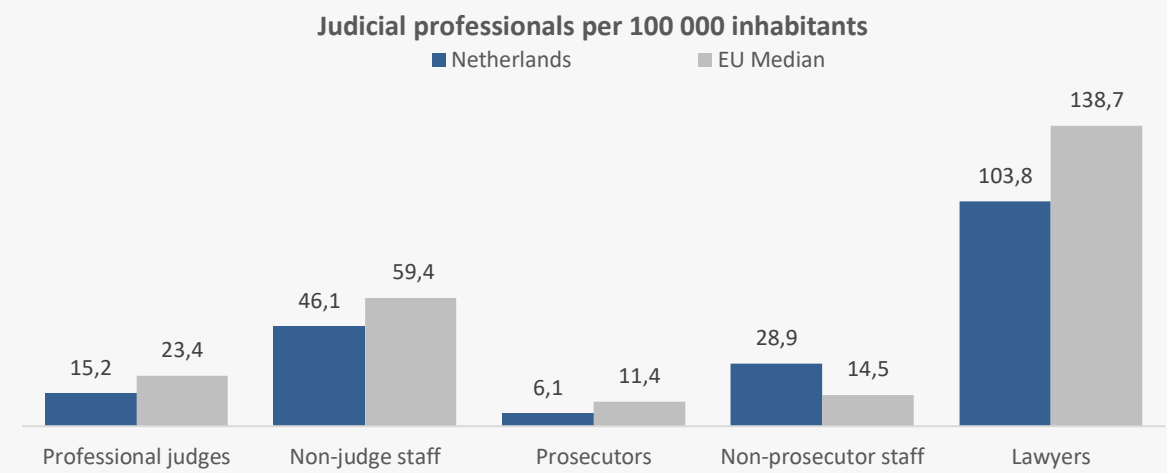
The Trade and Industry Appeals Tribunal, also known as the Administrative High Court for Trade and Industry (College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven), serves as a specialised administrative court. It adjudicates disputes within the realm of socio-economic

2. Professionals of justice in Netherlands (2024 data)

Judicial professionals (summary)

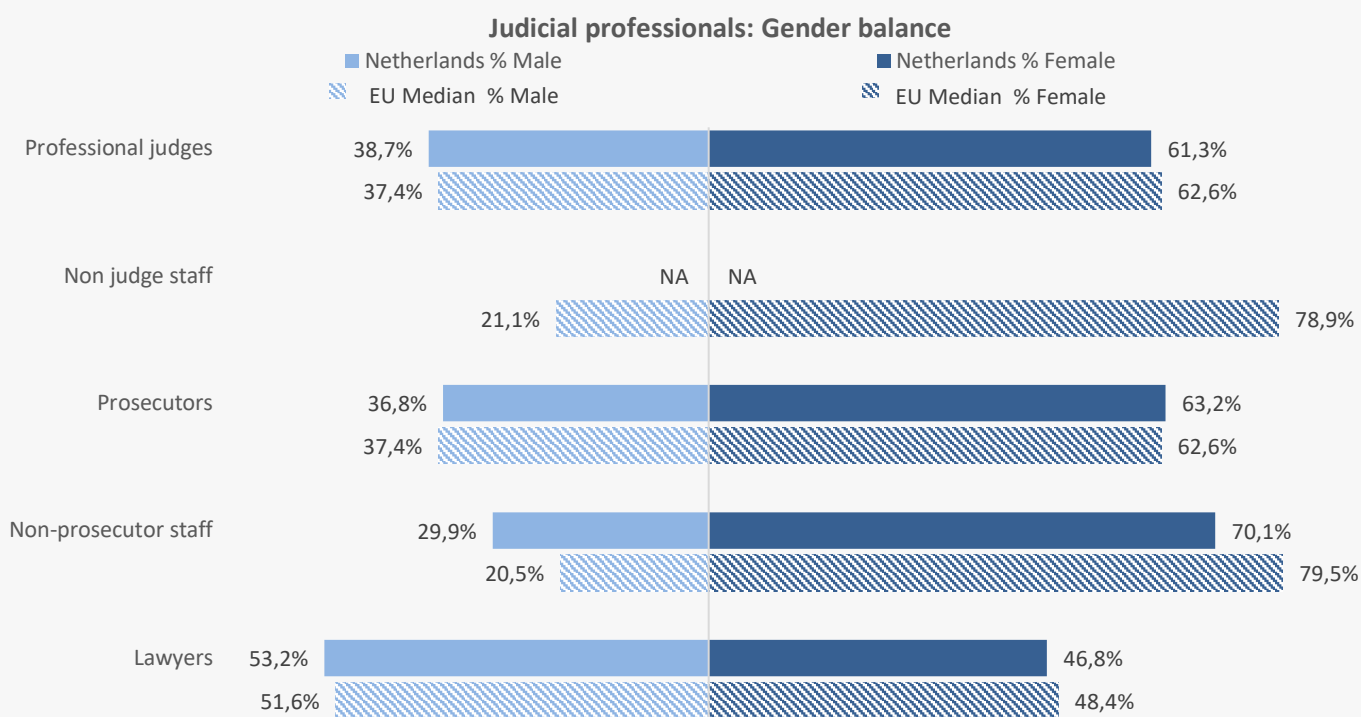
Judicial professionals in absolute number and per 100 000 inhabitants

	Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	EU Median
Professional judges	2 741	15,2	23,4
Non-judge staff	8 310	46,1	59,4
Prosecutors	1 093	6,1	11,4
Non-prosecutor staff	5 220	28,9	14,5
Lawyers	18 723	103,8	138,7



Judicial professionals: Gender balance

	% Male	% Female
Professional judges	38,7%	61,3%
Non judge staff	NA	NA
Prosecutors	36,8%	63,2%
Non-prosecutor staff	29,9%	70,1%
Lawyers	53,2%	46,8%



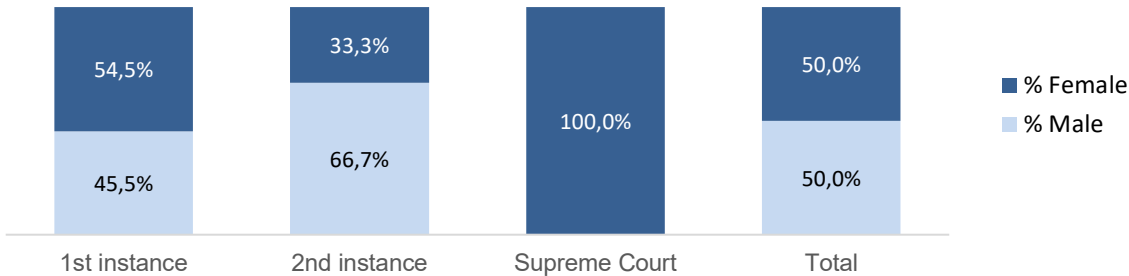
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Court presidents

Absolute number of court presidents by instance and gender

Court presidents 2024	Total	Distribution by instance	Male	Female	% Male	% Female
1st instance	11	61,1%	5	6	45,5%	54,5%
2nd instance	6	33,3%	4	2	66,7%	33,3%
Supreme Court	1	5,6%	0	1	0,0%	100,0%
Total	18		9	9	50,0%	50,0%

Distribution of court presidents by gender and by instance in Netherlands

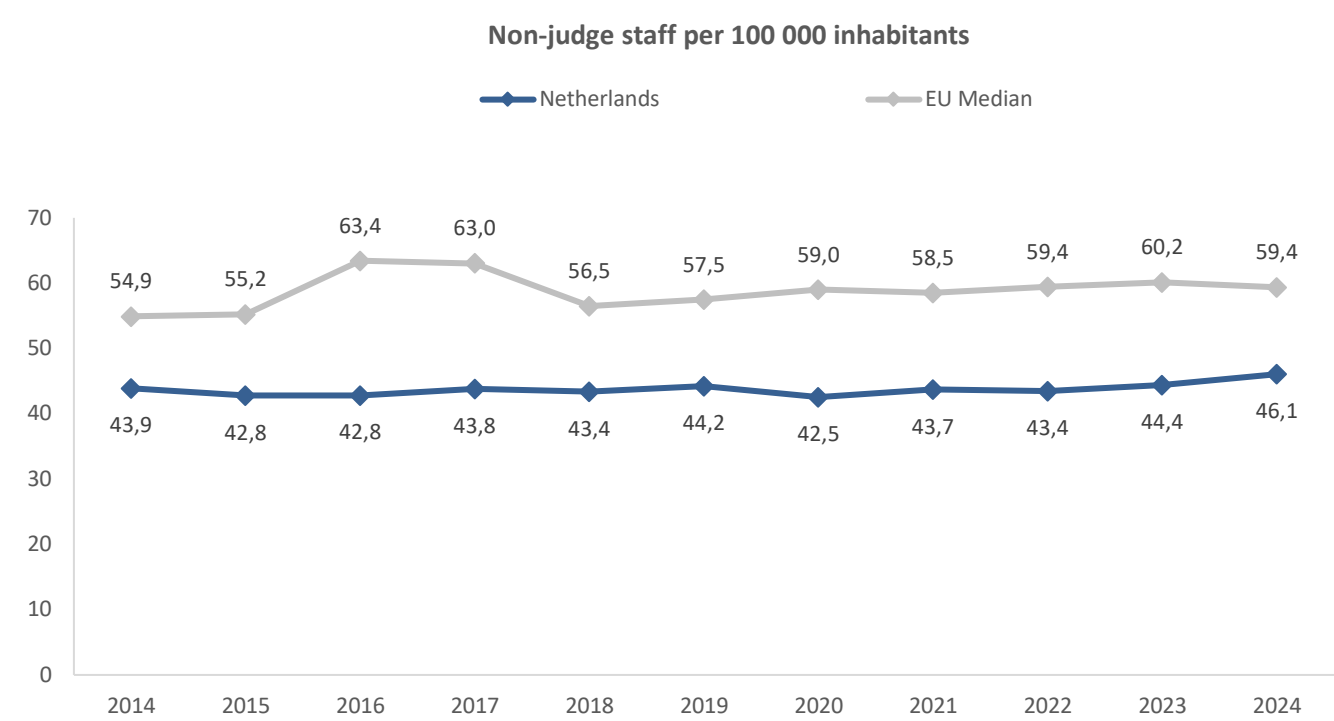


In this cycle, the total number of female court presidents (all instances) is 9, which represents 50,0% of the total number of court presidents.

The total number of court presidents is distributed among the different judicial instances in the following way: 11 are sitting in first instance courts (of whom 6 are female); 6 are sitting in second instance courts (of whom 2 are female) and 1 are sitting in Supreme Court which is female.

Non-judge staff

Number of non-judge staff	Absolute Number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	
	Netherlands	Netherlands	EU Median
2014	7 422	43,9	54,9
2015	7 265	42,8	55,2
2016	7 317	42,8	63,4
2017	7 523	43,8	63,0
2018	7 492	43,4	56,5
2019	7 699	44,2	57,5
2020	7 435	42,5	59,0
2021	7 653	43,7	58,5
2022	7 736	43,4	59,4
2023	7 972	44,4	60,2
2024	8 310	46,1	59,4



In 2024, Netherlands has 8 310 non-judge staff. The total number of non-judge staff in comparison with the previous cycle reveals an increase of 4,2%.

In 2024, the number of non-judge staff per 100 000 inhabitants has increased (from 44,4 in 2023 to 46,1 in 2024).

During the same period, the number of judges per 100 000 inhabitants evolved from 15,0 judges per 100 000 inhabitants in 2023 to 15,2 in 2024.

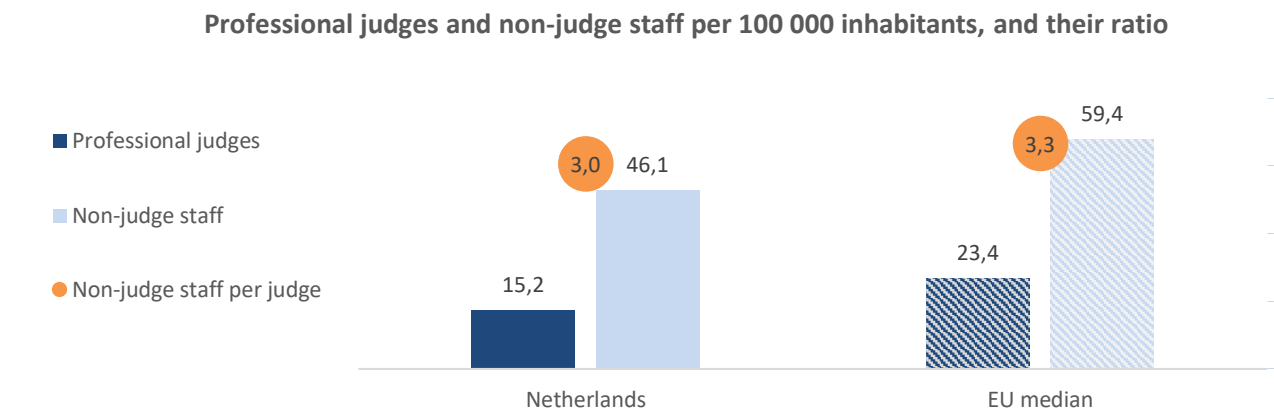
Number of non-judge staff by category in 2024

	Absolute number	in %
Total	8 310	
Rechtspfleger	NAP	NAP
Non-judge staff assisting the judge	NA	NA
Staff in charge of administrative tasks	NA	NA
Technical staff	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA

The Council of the Judiciary is not able to make a distinction between different types of non-judge staff working in courts (total FTE = 8 084, number of posts filled: 9 144). The Supreme Court can make the distinction between the number of non-judge staff whose task it is to assist judges (FTE=119) and staff in charge of different administrative tasks (FTE= 107).

Ratio between professional judges and non-judge staff

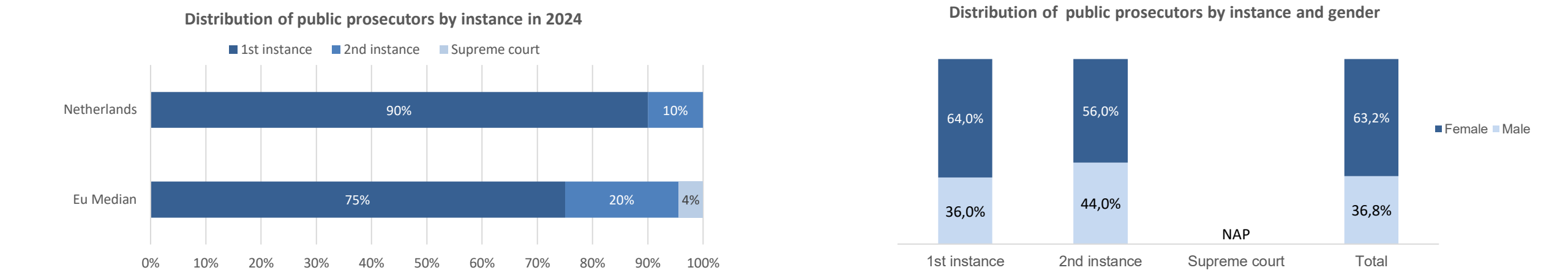
Per 100 000 inhabitants	Netherlands	EU median
Professional judges	15,2	23,4
Non-judge staff	46,1	59,4
Non-judge staff per judge	3,0	3,3



Public prosecutors

Absolute number of public prosecutors by instance and gender

2024	Total	Distribution by instance	Male	Female	Male	Female
1st instance	984	90,0%	354	630	36,0%	64,0%
2nd instance	109	10,0%	48	61	44,0%	56,0%
Supreme court	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
Total	1 093		402	691	36,8%	63,2%



In this cycle, the total number of Female prosecutors (all instances) is 691, which represents 63,2% of the total number of prosecutors.

The total number of prosecutors is distributed among the different judicial instances in the following way: 984 in first instance (of whom 630 are female); 109 are in second instance (of whom 61 are female).

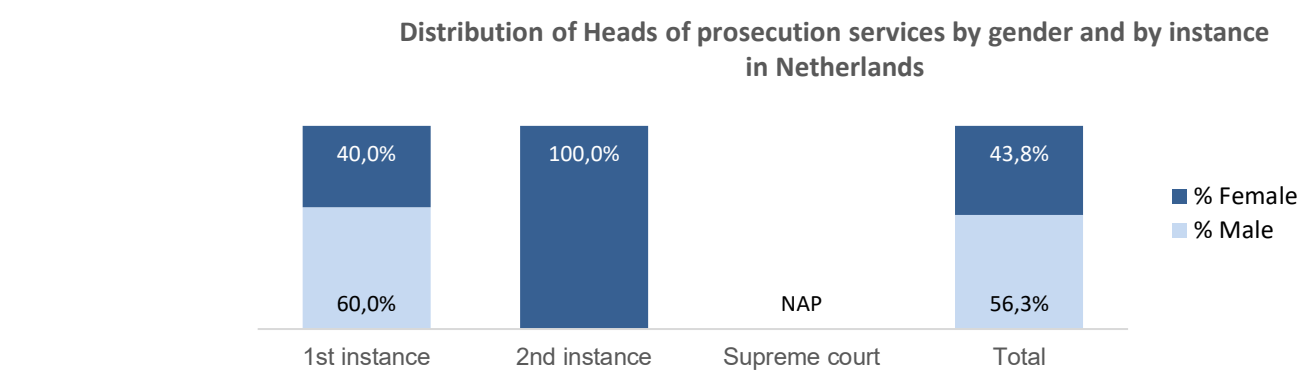
As regards the distribution of the number of prosecutors among the different judicial instances, Netherlands presents some peculiarities which should be mentioned. The Dutch Supreme Court does not have public prosecutors. The office of the Procurator General and Advocates-General at the Dutch Supreme Court is separate from Dutch public prosecution and the Ministry of Justice. They have a different function.

As regards the distribution Male/Female, it has to be specified that female prosecutors have the majority at first as well as at the higher instance.

Heads of prosecution services

Absolute number of Heads of prosecution services by instance and gender

Heads of prosecution services 2024	Total	Distribution by instance	Male	Female	% Male	% Female
1st instance	15	93,8%	9	6	60,0%	40,0%
2nd instance	1	6,3%	0	1	0,0%	100,0%
Supreme court	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
Total	16		9	7	56,3%	43,8%



In this cycle, the total number of female Heads of prosecution (all instances) is 7, which represents 43,8% of the total number of Heads of prosecution.

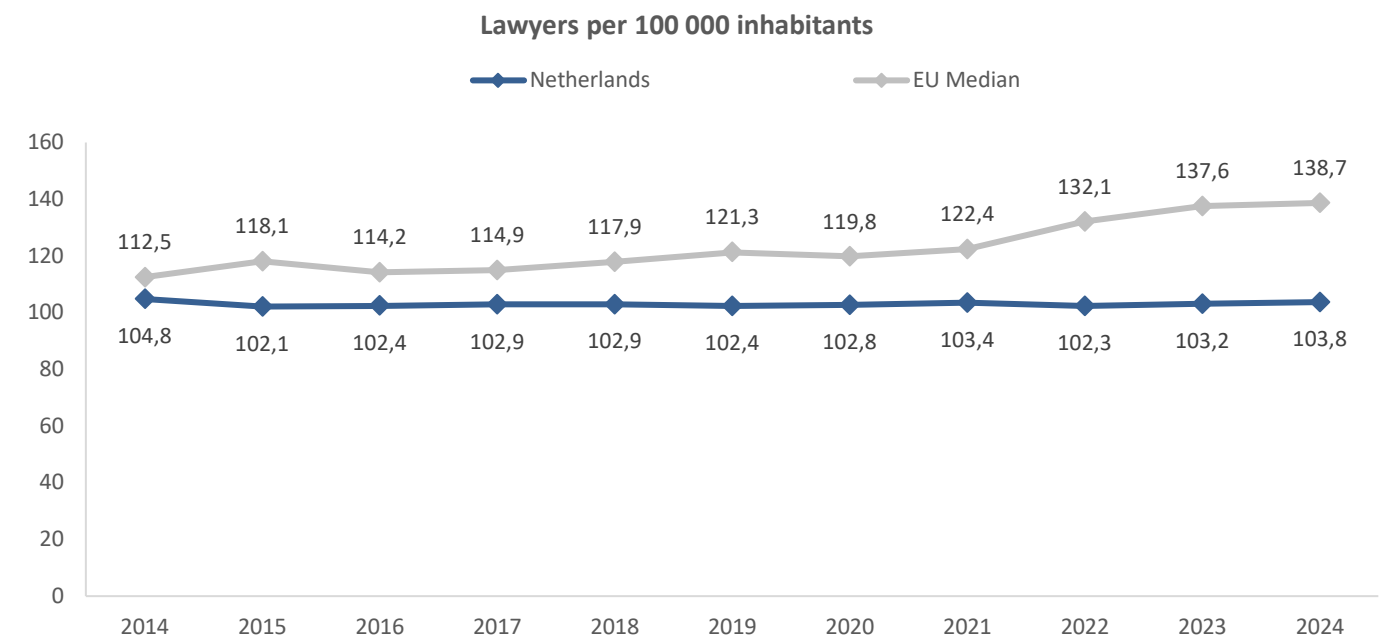
The total number of Heads of prosecution is distributed among the different judicial instances in the following way: 15 at first instance level (of whom 6 are female); Head of the second instance prosecution is a female.

Non-prosecutor staff

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Lawyers

Lawyers	Absolute Number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	
	Netherlands	Netherlands	EU Median
2014	17 713	104,8	112,5
2015	17 343	102,1	118,1
2016	17 498	102,4	114,2
2017	17 672	102,9	114,9
2018	17 784	102,9	117,9
2019	17 829	102,4	121,3
2020	17 964	102,8	119,8
2021	18 108	103,4	122,4
2022	18 218	102,3	132,1
2023	18 513	103,2	137,6
2024	18 723	103,8	138,7

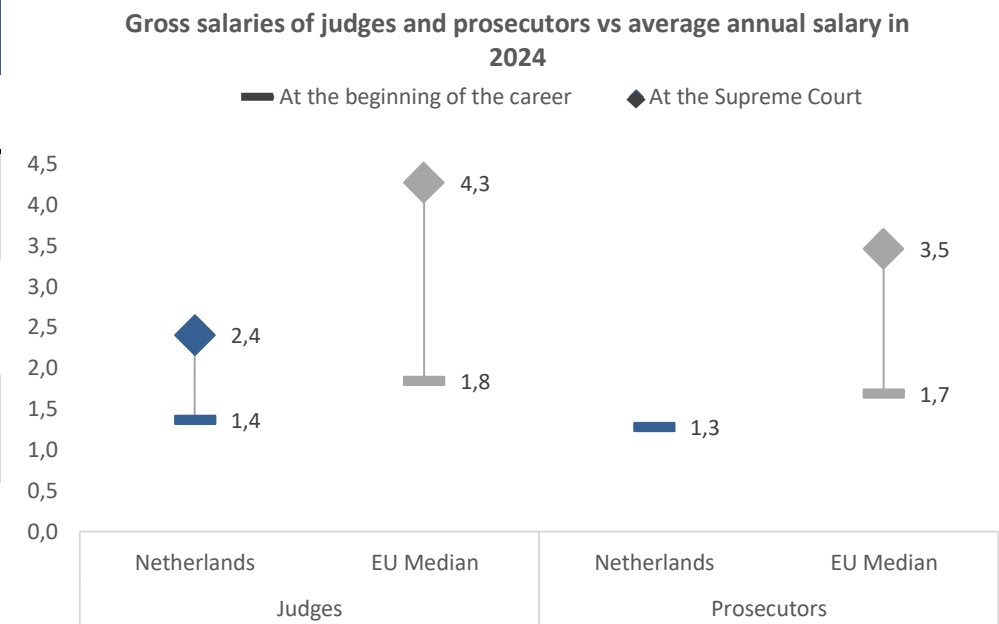


In 2024, there are 18 723 lawyers, which is 1,1% more than in 2023.
There are 8 767 female lawyers which is 47% of the total.

Netherlands has 103,8 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants, which is below the EU median of 138,7 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants.

Salaries of professional judges and prosecutors at beginning of a career and at the highest instance

Salaries of professional judges and prosecutors	Average gross annual salary in €	Average net annual salary in €	Ratio with national average annual gross salary	
	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands	EU median
First instance professional judge at the beginning of his/her career	104 324€	59 869€	1,4	1,8
Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court	183 029€	NA	2,4	4,3
Public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career	97 606€	57 603€	1,3	1,7
Public prosecutor of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Instance	NA	NA	NA	3,5



3. System of compensating users in Netherlands (2024 data)

System for compensating users

2024	Number of requests for compensation	Number of compensations granted	Total amount of compensations granted (in €)
Total	NA	NA	NA
Excessive length of proceedings	NA	NA	NA
Non-execution of court decisions	NA	NA	NA
Wrongful arrest/detention	NA	4 250	8 900 000 €
Wrongful conviction	NA	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA	NA

Year	Number of requests for compensation	Number of compensations granted	Total amount of compensations granted (in €)
2022	NA	NA	NA
2023	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	NA	NA

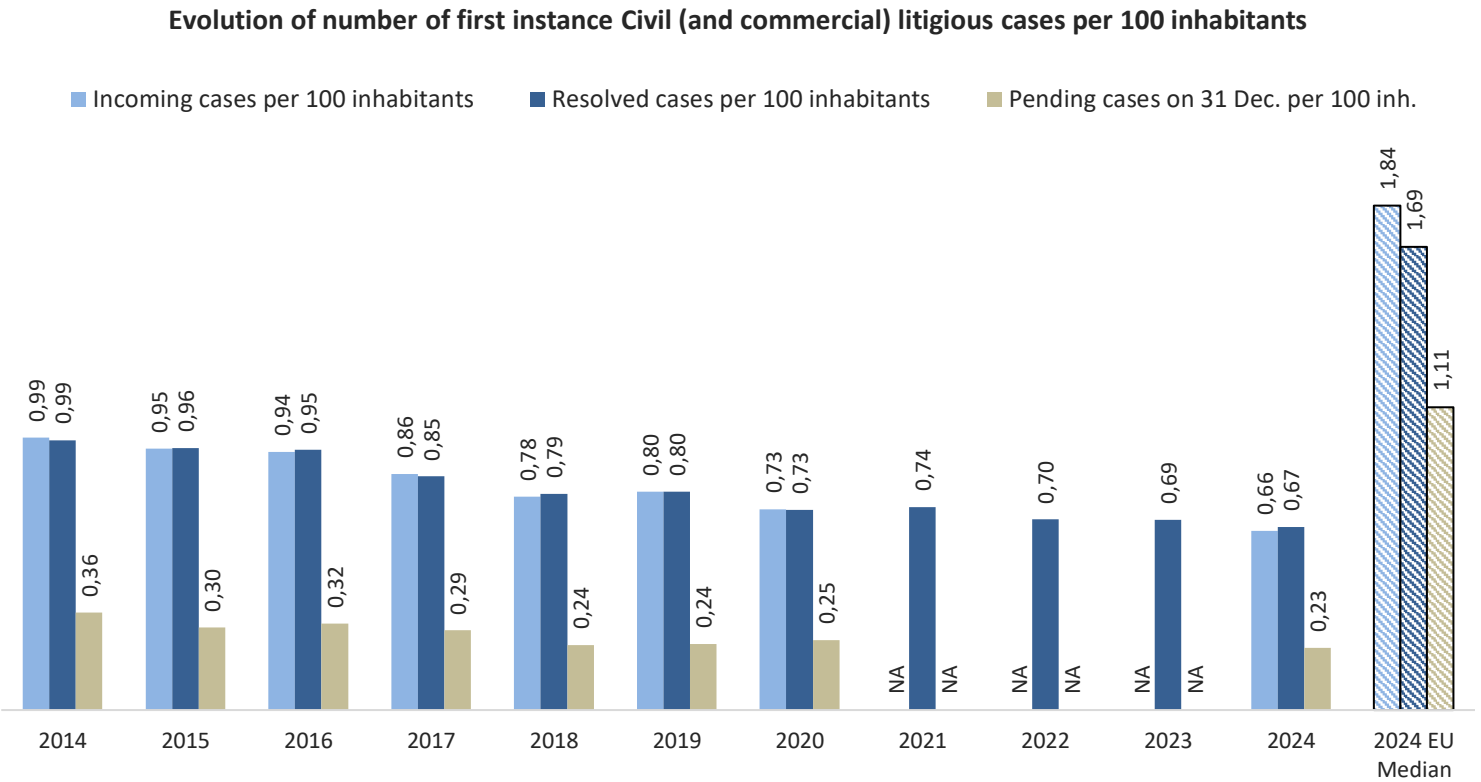
Numbers cannot be provided for most categories, as compensation may involve people who were held in custody but were either not accused or not found guilty, damages due to an arrest, or possessed goods that have been damaged, sold, destroyed or gone missing. There are compensation regulations for certain situations (see 4th Book, Title VIa of the Penal Code). If an offender is acquitted, he/she may request compensation for travel- and accommodation costs, the costs of a lawyer, or because of being held in temporary custody.

Under Article 533 Sv, a suspect who is not convicted or whose case is dismissed may be compensated for damages suffered as a result of undergoing (pre-trial) detention or clinical observation.

First instance Civil (and commercial) litigious cases

◦ Incoming, resolved and pending cases

First instance Civil (and commercial) litigious cases	Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants	Resolved cases per 100 inhabitants	Pending cases on 31 Dec. per 100 inh.
2014	0,99	0,99	0,36
2015	0,95	0,96	0,30
2016	0,94	0,95	0,32
2017	0,86	0,85	0,29
2018	0,78	0,79	0,24
2019	0,80	0,80	0,24
2020	0,73	0,73	0,25
2021	NA	0,74	NA
2022	NA	0,70	NA
2023	NA	0,69	NA
2024	0,66	0,67	0,23
2024 EU Median	1,84	1,69	1,11



The number of incoming cases in 2024 in Netherlands (0,66 per 100 inhabitants) is significantly below EU median (1,84 per 100 inhabitants). The number of incoming cases seems to follow the EU tendency of small decrease every year.

Simiraly as incomming, the number of resolved cases in 2024 in Netherlands (0,67 per 100 inhabitants) is significantly below EU median (1,69 per 100 inhabitants).

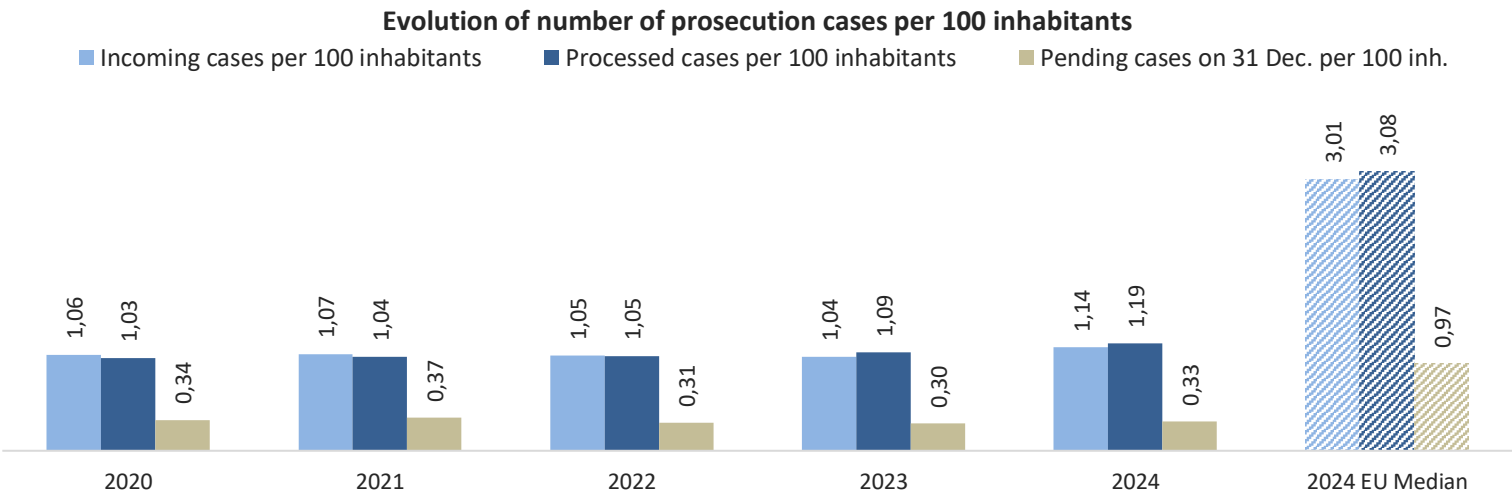
Pending cases are following the similar trend and with 0,23 per 100 inhabitants are significantly below EU median of 1,11 per 100 inhabitants.

◦ Clearance Rate and Disposition Time

First instance Civil (and commercial) litigious cases	Clearance Rate (%)		Disposition Time (days)	
	Netherlands	EU Median	Netherlands	EU Median
2014	99,1%	101,8%	132	201
2015	100,4%	102,3%	115	190
2016	100,7%	102,0%	121	196
2017	99,1%	101,3%	124	204

◦ Evolution of incoming, processed and pending cases

Public prosecution caseflow: Number of first instance criminal cases	Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants	Processed cases per 100 inhabitants	Pending cases on 31 Dec. per 100 inh.
2020	1,06	1,03	0,34
2021	1,07	1,04	0,37
2022	1,05	1,05	0,31
2023	1,04	1,09	0,30
2024	1,14	1,19	0,33
2024 EU Median	3,01	3,08	0,97



The number of incoming cases in 2024 in Netherlands (1,14 per 100 inhabitants) is significantly below EU median (3,01 per 100 inhabitants). Similarly, for the number of resolved cases (1,19 per 100 inhabitants) while EU median is 3,08 per 100 inhabitants.

Identically, the number of pending cases at the end of 2024 in Netherlands (0,33 per 100 inhabitants) is significantly below EU median (0,97 per 100 inhabitants).

Systems for measuring and evaluating public prosecution services' performance

A regular monitoring system of public prosecution services activities is in place concerning:

Number of incoming cases	✓	Satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the public prosecution)	✗
Length of proceedings (timeframes)	✓	Costs of the judicial procedures	✗
Number of resolved cases	✓	Clearance rate	✗
Number of pending cases	✓	Disposition time	✓
Backlogs	✓	Percentage of convictions and acquittals	✓
Productivity of prosecutors and prosecution staff	✗	Other	✗
Satisfaction of prosecution staff	✗		

In Netherlands, there is a system to regularly evaluate the activity of each public prosecutor service qualitatively but not quantitatively.

Quantitative performance targets do not exist for public prosecutors. ✗

Without disciplinary procedure

Warning by head of prosecution	✗
Temporary salary reduction	✗
Reflected in the individual assessment	✗
Other	✗

With disciplinary procedure

Warning by head of prosecution	✗
Temporary salary reduction	✗
Reflected in the individual assessment	✗
Other	✗

There is no national policy on targets for every prosecutor. An office could choose to set targets for their prosecutors (see next question), but these may vary across offices.

