

# Netherlands

*Women, Business and the Law 2022* (WBL2022) presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Amsterdam). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Netherlands scores 97.5 out of 100**. The overall score for Netherlands is higher than the regional average observed across OECD high-income economies (95.2). Within the OECD high-income region, there are 12 economies that score 100 out of 100.

## Netherlands - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2022

Mobility	Workplace	Pay	Marriage	Parenthood	Entrepreneurship	Assets	Pension	WBL 2022 Index Score
100	100	100	100	80	100	100	100	97.5

### Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, constraints related to marriage, constraints on women starting and running a business, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Netherlands gets a perfect score.

### Areas for Improvement

However, when it comes to laws affecting women's work after having children, Netherlands could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Netherlands is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's work after having children (the WBL2022 Parenthood indicator). To improve on the Parenthood indicator, Netherlands may wish to consider making paid parental leave available.

### Recent Reforms

No reforms were observed during the past year (October 2nd, 2020 – October 1st, 2021).



Further data details for Netherlands are available at:  
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/netherlands/2022>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Arts. 10-15
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	Passport Act, Art. 3; Passport application form
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Equal Treatment Act, Arts. 1 and 5
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	Working Conditions Act 1998, Arts. 1(3)(e) and 3(2)
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	<i>Criminal:</i> Working Conditions Act 1998, Arts. 32 and 33 <i>Civil:</i> No applicable provisions could be located
Pay	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	Equal Treatment Act, Art. 7; Dutch Civil Code, Art. 7:646
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Marriage	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 81
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 1
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	Law on Temporary Restraining Orders; Social Support Act 2015
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Arts. 150, 151 and 154
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 148
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Art. 3:1
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Arts. 3:11-3:12
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Arts. 4:2, 4:2a and 4:2b
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Dutch Civil Code, Art. 7:670
Entrepreneurship	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	Yes	General Equal Treatment Act, Art. 7
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Assets	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Arts. 90 and 97
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 4, Arts. 10, 11 and 13
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 4, Arts. 10, 11 and 13
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Arts. 94 and 97
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 94
Pension	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	Women: General Old Age Law, Arts. 7 and 7a(1). Men: General Old Age Law, Arts. 7 and 7a(1)
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	Women: General Old Age Law, Arts. 9, 13, 7.1, 7a(1). Men: General Old Age Law, Arts. 9, 13, 7.1, 7a(1)
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	Women: Dutch Civil Code, Art. 669(4). Men: Dutch Civil Code, Art. 669(4)
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	General Old Age Law

