

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

Country

Country:	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)	15.263	3.896	20.354	8.165	20.387	8.451	20.184	8.279	19.851	7.767	19.444	7.627	19.444	7.416	19.444	7.254
* Estimate in percentage terms	1,48%	25,5%	1,95%	40,1%	1,93%	41,5%	1,89%	41,0%	1,84%	39,1%	1,78%	39,2%	1,78%	38,1%	1,78%	37,3%
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 budget presented to Parliament on the 19th of September 2023 (document, 36 410 X, nr. 1), subject to parliamentary approval. The Ministry of Defence reports on defence-spending to Parliament by five-year periods. Hence, the numbers for 2029 and 2030 are inferred from the projected defence expenditure for 2028. 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 are used. The projected defence expenditures will change due to regular budget changes.</p> <p>The presented budgets reflects the defence expenditures excluding the (financial) support for Ukraine. If the support for Ukraine is added to the defence expenditures the budget and the estimated percentage would increase with 0,22 % in 2024 for a total of 2,18 %. The defence expenditures in 2024 can still change due to budget changes IN 2024. Both personnel shortages and challenging market circumstances in the defence industry might necessitate that some expenditures of the available budget are pushed to later years,. However, these budget resources will remain available for defence. All such adjustments are subsequently subject to parliamentary approval. Due to the elections of 22 November 2023, coalition talks are now underway. After the new government 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	
<p>General Statement</p>	<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.</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 our Howitzers, procurement and introduction of the PULS rocket artillery system. Also investing in Ground Based Air Defence Systems 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, MCM's, submarines and LPD's including amphibious connectors, and the modification of the SMART-L radar for Ballistic Missile Early Warning capability; • Finalizing of a 3rd F-35 squadron, with the procurement of extra F-35's, procurement of 4 additional MQ-9 Reaper armed drones, replacing and upgrading the CH-47 Chinooks, upgrading the AH-64 Apache and NH-90 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 and Air (JASSM-ER). And acquisition of additional armaments:, Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile Block 2, Surface-to-surface Missiles for the navy, Patriot PAC-3, Precision Guided Munition for the 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>Further, the integration between the Royal Netherlands Army and the German Bundeswehr will continue, strengthening our joint capabilities and reinforcing our interoperability. 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, committing to the replacement of the E-3 Sentry (AWACS) fleet, the procurement of munitions via NSPA and the joint procurement with Germany of Airmobile Assault vehicles. We also participate in relevant PESCO projects to maximise efficiency through cooperation.</p>
<p>Source(s)/ Reference(s)</p>	<p>Defence White Paper 2022: <i>Stronger Netherlands, safer Europe</i>.</p>
<p>Remarks</p>	

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 2023 and 2024, and also any related incremental costs, if appropriate and available:

The mandate of our contribution to enhanced Forward Presence in Lithuania extends until the end of 2024, with a maximum of 350 military personnel. The Dutch contribution in eFP consists of a motorized company during both rotations in 2023. Incremental costs of this operation are approximately 36 million euro in 2023.

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 (100 pax), thereby strengthening NATO's deterrence posture in the Eastern part of the Alliance. 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.

In February and March 2023 the Netherlands contributed to NATO's Enhanced Air Policing with eight F-35 fighter jets, operating from Poland. Our F-35's were supported by a deployment of around 170 personnel of the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

The Netherlands participated with an ADC-class frigate in TG 441.02 (SNMG2) 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.

Furthermore, the Netherlands contributed to the NATO Mission in Iraq in 2023 with an approved manning level of max 20 personnel (civilian and military) to train and assist. Furthermore, the Netherlands will contribute to NMI with a Force Protection Company in January 2024, and from May 2024 a helicopter detachment and the Force Commander (FC NMI) with additional staff. Total strength in May 2024 will be around 300 persons.

In 2024 the Netherlands will contribute 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 Standing NATO Maritime Group One 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 F35 (80 pax), AIR UAV capacity (30 pax), one frigate (166 pax) and one mine hunter (35 pax).

In 2024 the Netherlands will deploy 3 MQ-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 starting April 1st, 2024. They will have supporting capacity in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. In Romania the detachment will be circa 40 persons.

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 2023 and 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). From January 2024 onwards NLD will contribute to NMI with a Force Protection Company of 145 pax until the 31st of December 2024 . As of the 1st of May 2024 the NLD contribution to NMI will be increased by delivering the Force Commander (including 15 pax staff support) until the 1st of May 2025. At the same time NLD starts to contribute with 3 Chinook Helicopters including a detachment of 120 pax. 17 pax (SOF)advisors will continue to contribute until the 31st of July 2025. Lastly, the 20 pax advisors in NMI, the 7 advisors in EUAM, and 11 advisors in Erbil (NSE/MoPA/JOCAT) will also continue to contribute until the end of July 2025.

The contribution (20 pax) of advisors and liaison and staff officers to various headquarters of the anti-ISIS coalition will be continued after May 2023.

In 2023, the Netherlands expanded its contribution to EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 4 to 160. The additional contribution exists of a HUMINT team (10 pax) and an infantry company (150 pax).

In 2023 The Netherlands also provided trainers and staff for the training of Ukrainian military personnel, including for training operations in the United Kingdom (200 pax). The Netherlands also provided personnel for the EU Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM) Ukraine (max. 9 staff officers, and over 300 pax for training modules in the Netherlands and training activities in Germany). It is expected that the Netherlands will continue its training efforts for Ukraine in 2024 with comparable numbers of military personnel. In 2023 the Netherlands provided F-16 fighter aircraft to the newly established European F16 Training Centre (EFTC) for Allied pilot training. In 2024 the first Ukrainian pilots are expected to start training at the EFTC. In total the Netherlands will deploy 18 training aircraft to the EFTC for two years until December 2025.

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 since no final amounts are known at this stage), UN: 36, national or bilateral missions: 26). As of December 2023, the Netherlands contributes 1 staff officer to the US-led Operation Prosperity Guardian in the Red Sea and intends to continue non-operational support to the US-led mission against Houthi-systems.

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<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 2023 and 2024, and also any related incremental costs, if appropriate and available:</p>	<p>The Netherlands provides Defence and security related Capacity Building (DCB) support through NATO- partnership programs for partner countries (including Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan and Tunisia), the Ukraine Comprehensive Assistance Package (UCAP) and as through organizations (UN) by providing funds and/or advisors. Furthermore, the Netherlands provides for several voluntary national contributions (VNC), including in Georgia and Iraq.</p> <p>The Netherlands also maintains a permanent military presence in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in total about 1000 pax..</p> <p>In 2024 The Netherlands will continue to support the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the investigations of war crimes committed in Ukraine. 8 (long term) or 40 (short term) Marechaussee experts (incl. support) are planned for deployment.</p>
<p>Source(s)/ Reference(s)</p>	<p>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 Gereedstelling F-16 voor Oekraïne (link), 22 December 2023 Kamerbrief Maritieme Veiligheid Rode Zee (link), 19 januari 2024 Kamerbrief leveringen militaire goederen aan Oekraïne (link), 14 December 2023 Kamerbrief Bestrijding internationaal terrorisme (link), July 7 2023 Kamerbrief Bestrijding internationaal terrorisme, Nederlandse deelname aan vredesmissies (link), 29 September 2023</p>
<p>Remarks</p>	<p>The number of personnel deployed on missions and operations may vary throughout the year.</p>