

Finding work

Your first point of contact

UWV WERKbedrijf (former CWI) is your first point of contact in order to find a job in the Netherlands. You can also turn to this organisation with queries about dismissal and to apply for unemployment benefit. You find a UWV WERKbedrijf branch in most municipalities. You will find the addresses on their [website](#) (in Dutch) More information about working in the Netherlands is available on that [website](#). The ministry has made a brochure on living and working in the Netherlands (pdf, 998 kB).

You can also apply for help to the Dutch embassy in your own country: see the list of embassy addresses at the website of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Working in paid employment

If you work in paid employment, Dutch employment conditions apply to you. This means, for instance, that you must be paid at least the statutory minimum wage. Your employer will pay wage withholding tax for you and will pay the contributions for the employee insurance schemes. You have insurance cover against unemployment, illness and occupational disability. As an employee in paid employment you have the same position as employees with Dutch nationality.

Employees from other EU countries

In principle, the European Economic Area (EEA) allows for the free movement of money, goods, services and persons. This means that its people are allowed to live and work in any other Member State. This free movement of persons already exists between most of the Member States of the EEA. These are currently: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Poland, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. For people from Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria a work permit is still needed.

Temp work

In addition, if you work via a Dutch temporary employment agency the following rules apply:

- the temporary employment agency is not allowed to ask you for money (or anything else in return) for your being placed;
- the temporary employment agency has to inform you in writing in advance about the working conditions at the workplace;
- you will receive payment according to the collective labour agreement (CAO) of the temporary employment agency or of the company where you work (if the temporary employment agency has no collective labour agreement);
- the temporary employment agency is not allowed to place you in companies (or business units) where employees are on strike or that are occupied due to industrial disputes.

Complaints

Is your temporary employment agency violating these rules? If so, you can submit a complaint to the Dutch Labour Inspectorate. If you cannot find an answer to your question on this website, you can ask the Postbus 51 Information Service by calling free number 0800 8051. The service is available on working days from 08.00 to 20.00 hrs. If you are calling from abroad, the number is +31 77 4656767 and the regular rate will apply. Your question will usually be answered immediately, though sometimes you will be referred to another government or non-government agency.