



20 geothermal sources



11.9% of the energy greenhouse growers use comes from renewable sources



Total natural gas consumption: 3.6 billion m<sup>3</sup>

Natural gas consumption for crop heating: 2.6 billion m<sup>3</sup>

Natural gas used in supplying electricity to the national grid: 1.0 miljard m<sup>3</sup>



Key Figures 2023-2024  
Greenhouse Horticulture Sector



3,308 specialist\* greenhouse horticultural businesses in the Netherlands, of which 1,160 greenhouse vegetable growers, 1,828 ornamental plant producers and 320 growers of fruit under glass



9,395 ha of greenhouse horticultural businesses, of which 4,961 ha greenhouse vegetables, 1,873 ha potted and bedding plants, 1,870 ha cut flowers and 691 ha fruit under glass



Export value: €10.8 billion



Production value: €6.8 billion



Greenhouse horticulture contributes €7.9 billion to the Dutch economy. That's 1% of our GDP (Gross Domestic Product)



10,637 ha total horticulture under glass

## Responsible Greenhouse Horticulture: Growing for tomorrow today

Dutch greenhouse growers grow flowers, plants, fruit and vegetables in circular greenhouses as a basis for a healthy and happy society. Innovations from the greenhouse horticulture sector also provide solutions to societal challenges.

- Healthy, tasty fruit and vegetables can reduce healthcare costs
- High-quality flowers and plants help create a green living environment that impacts positively on people's well-being
- Growers are working hard on the energy transition by investing in LED, geothermal heat, residual heat, solar panels and heat networks that also supply heat for buildings and homes
- Our greenhouses are equipped with technologies that enable sustainable water usage and collect rainwater to prevent flooding in residential areas
- Plants are grown in a natural ecosystem in which pests and diseases are tackled with natural enemies wherever possible

\*Specialist greenhouse horticultural businesses are businesses that obtain at least two-thirds of their annual yields from greenhouse horticultural products.

Sources: Wageningen Economic Research | Statistics Netherlands | Colland Arbeidsmarkt | Rainlevelr



### Attractive employer

**Ambition:** The greenhouse horticulture sector is recognised as a good and attractive employer of great economic value, in which workers and employers can play a key role in developing the green environment and a sustainable food chain.

### Biological ecosystem in the circular greenhouse

**Ambition:** By 2030, Dutch greenhouse growers will be growing within a robust and resilient ecosystem with almost zero residues and emissions. The aim is to achieve resilient, sustainable production that maintains financial returns.

### Growing in sustainable harmony with the environment

**Ambition:** By 2030, vegetables, fruit, flowers and plants will be grown entirely in harmony with our natural environment.

### Climate-neutral greenhouse

**Ambition:** Production of flowers, plants, fruit and vegetables in Dutch greenhouses will be climate neutral by 2040 thanks to energy savings and the use of renewable energy.

Fact 1

#### The Dutch greenhouse horticulture sector provides meaningful work

Workers in greenhouse horticulture work on solutions to major societal challenges such as the energy transition, the climate crisis and human health. Greenhouse horticulture offers a diversity of careers in which people can make a real difference.



**2,150 businesses** (2,800 establishments) have a permanent workforce.



**66,570 people** work in greenhouse horticulture. In peak periods this rises to **100,620 people** (permanent staff, temporary workers and freelancers).



The wage bill is **€717 million** excluding payroll taxes.

Fact 2

#### Products from Dutch greenhouses are the healthiest in the world

The Netherlands is the birthplace of biological crop protection. Every year, the greenhouse horticulture sector uses billions of biological control agents that eliminate harmful pests and replace chemical crop protection products.



**Predatory mites and thrips: 52 billion**  
**Parasitic wasps and gall midges: 2.4 billion**  
**Predatory bugs, beetles, lacewings and hoverflies: 200 million**  
**Nematodes: 5,202 billion**

**Greenhouse vegetable growers use 100% biological control agents to control pests; greenhouse fruit growers 98%; flower growers 90%; and potted plant growers 80%.**

Fact 3 4

#### Horticultural wastewater treatment makes surface water cleaner

The Bommelerwaard greenhouse horticulture region has been removing micropollutants from the water with a special treatment process since 2021. Wastewater from greenhouses is collected and removed to the treatment plant. This makes the surface water in this region cleaner.



**Water quality improved by 70% between 2015-2021**

#### Over 60 businesses in Westland help keep feet dry

Besides collecting rainwater to water crops, greenhouse rainwater reservoirs are ideal for temporarily storing rainwater from heavy downpours, thus preventing flooding in local residential areas.

Fact 5 6 7

#### The Dutch greenhouse horticulture sector is the largest user of geothermal heat

Greenhouse growers save 200 million m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas per year by using geothermal heat. That's 6% of all the gas used in the sector. In the future, geothermal heat could meet half of the sector's heat demand.

#### The Dutch greenhouse horticulture sector supplies electricity to the grid

With its total electricity generation, the Dutch greenhouse horticulture sector provides more than 9% of the total amount of electricity consumed in the Netherlands. The greenhouse horticulture sector supplies electricity during off-peak hours for green electricity.

#### The Dutch greenhouse horticulture sector emits significantly less CO<sub>2</sub>

Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from greenhouse horticulture are 6.5 megatonnes (4% lower than in 1990). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for crop production are 4.7 megatonnes. That's 36% lower than in 1990.