

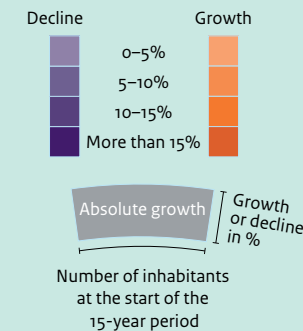
# Less growth and more decline

Past 15 years  
1997-2012



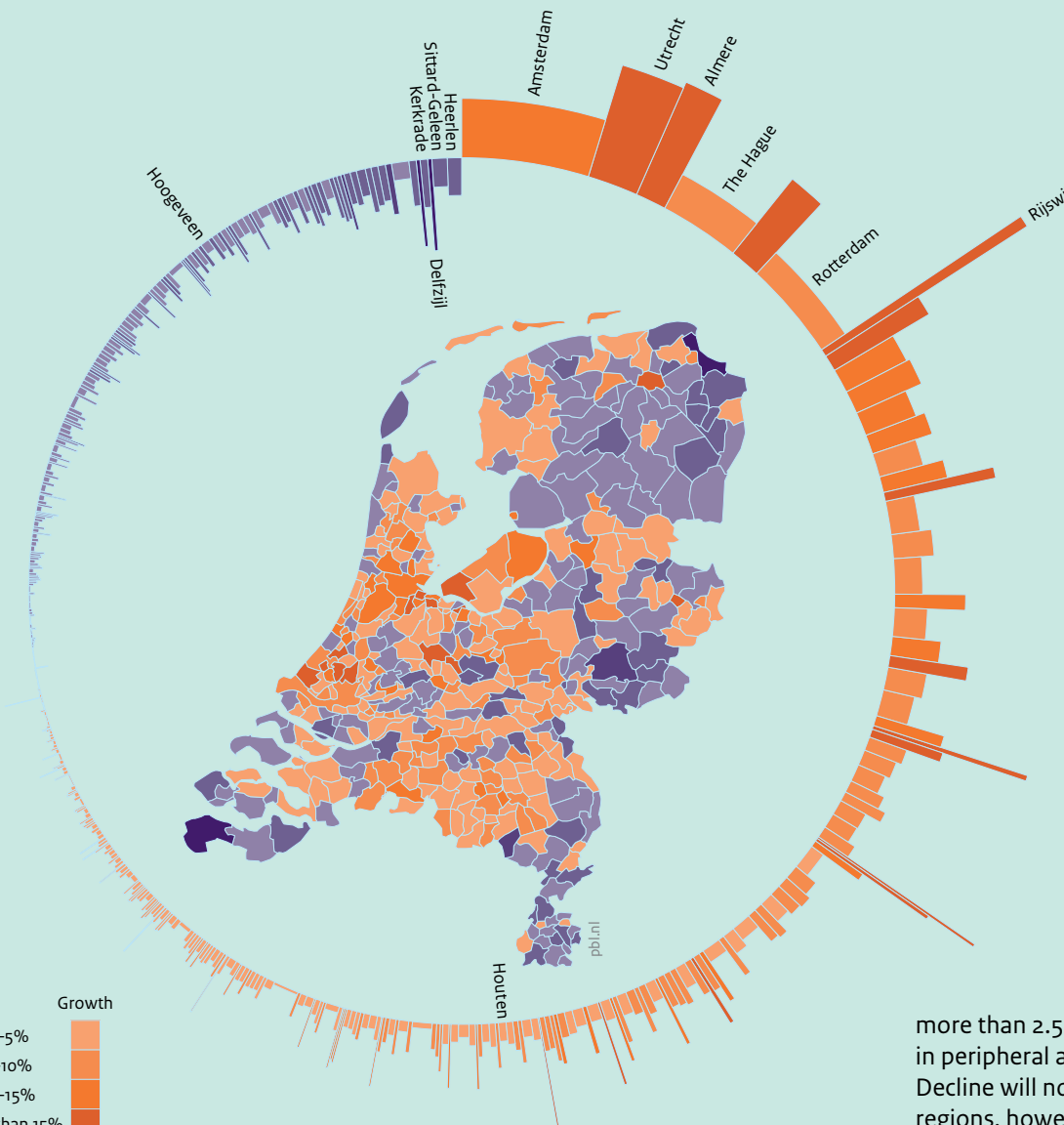
Over the past 15 years, most Dutch municipalities experienced population growth. This mainly occurred in the suburbs and new towns, such as Almere and Houten, but large cities, such as Amsterdam, Utrecht and The Hague, also had substantial increases in population. Rotterdam, the second largest city in the Netherlands, experienced much lower growth. There are also municipalities where growth has been negative. In about 10% of Dutch municipal-

ities, the number of inhabitants actually decreased by over 2.5%, since 1997. Municipalities with the largest population decline are situated on the national periphery.



Source: CBS, adaptation by PBL

2012-2027  
Coming 15 years



Population decline is expected to become more prevalent in the future. Over the next 15 years, about a quarter of Dutch municipalities is projected to shrink by

more than 2.5%, with most of them located in peripheral areas (CBS/PBL, 2013). Decline will not be confined to these regions, however; also some less accessible 'inland peripheries', such as the Green Heart, will be affected. The large cities are expected to consolidate their position; with Amsterdam believed to remain the largest city, followed by Rotterdam.