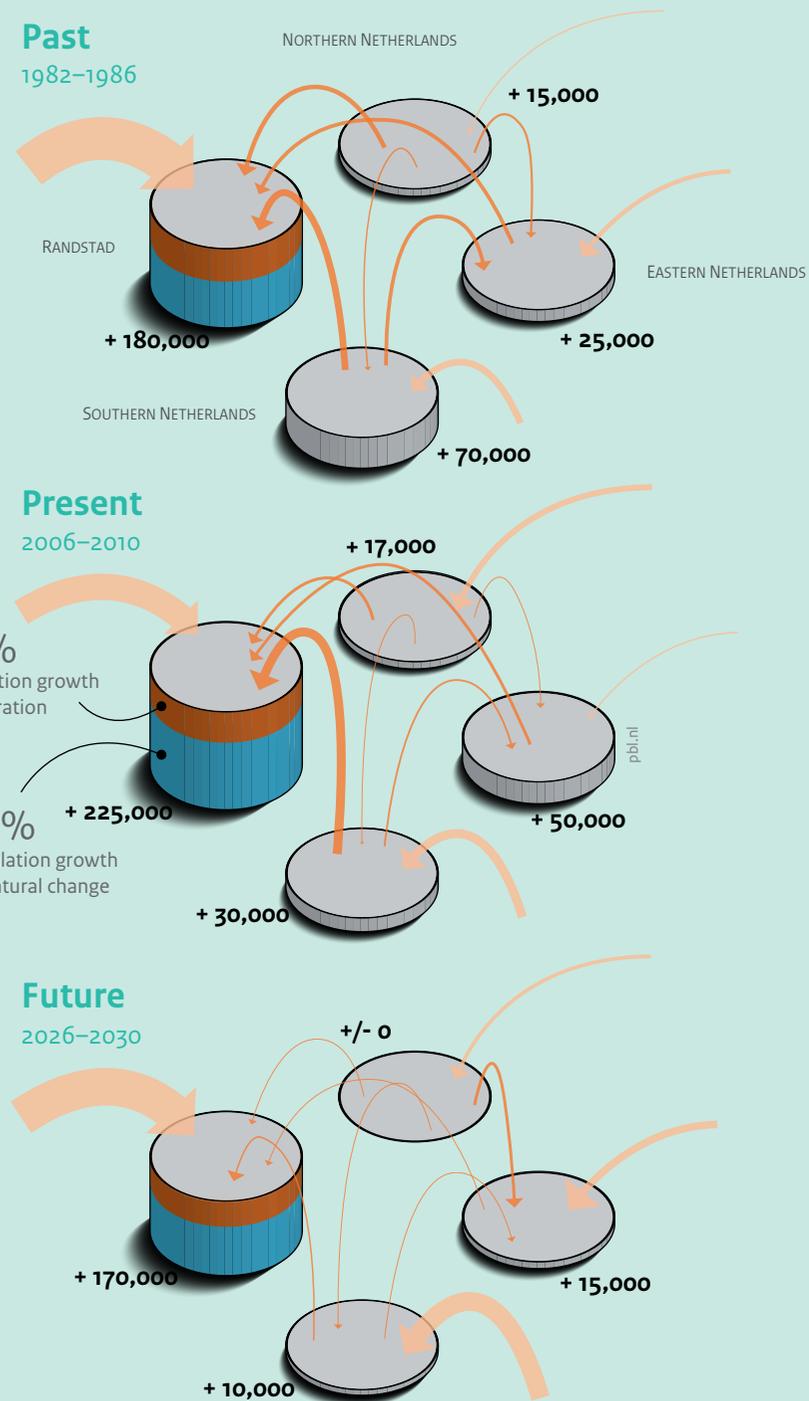


# The gravitational pull of the Randstad

The Netherlands is a densely populated country, and the Randstad is the most densely populated part of it. Almost half of the entire population lives in North Holland, South Holland, Utrecht and Flevoland, even though these provinces only comprise one quarter of the country's surface area. The Randstad's population is currently growing faster than elsewhere in the country, as it has in the past and most likely will do in the future.

The current growth of the Randstad is even greater than in the past. Immigrants exceed emigrants in number (positive foreign migration balance) and more Dutch people move to rather than away from the Randstad (positive domestic migration balance). In addition, more people are being born in the Randstad than are dying (positive natural growth).

The Randstad is booming. In just five years (2006–2010) it grew by 225,000 people, 70% of which can be attributed to natural growth. Immigration also plays an important role; approximately 15% of the population increase came from abroad and 10% from other areas in the Netherlands. The share of foreign immigrants is smaller than it has been in the past, and domestic migration has become more pronounced. Many of these domestic newcomers originate from the southern part of the country.



## Population growth and migration flows per region, 2006–2010

Source: CBS, adaptation by PBL

