



BANK

- Opening a bank account
- Opening a bank account in NL as expat
- Opening a bank account at ABN Amro
- Managing your Dutch bank account
- Credit card

The Netherlands has a diverse banking system that currently consists of [96 national and international banks](#) plus around 140 local cooperative banks. [De Nederlandsche Bank](#) is the country's national central bank, which also regulates Dutch banking services alongside the Dutch Authority for Financial Markets ([AFM](#)).

Opening a bank account

Opening a bank account in the Netherlands is not a legal requirement, and it's possible to live in the country and manage your finances from an overseas bank account. However, this can prove difficult as well as expensive, so it makes sense to open a Dutch bank account. You may also find that you need a local bank account if you wish to **rent an apartment in the Netherlands** or **get a Dutch mortgage**.

Before opening a bank account in the Netherlands, you should have no problem obtaining cash from an overseas account using an ATM or *geldautomaat*. They dispense money (in several languages) and accept a wide range of debit and credit cards. Many businesses, especially larger businesses, accept major credit cards. But the Netherlands has a deeply embedded debit card (*pinpas*) culture that means smaller, local stores may not accept credit cards – and neither will big supermarket chains.

Most Dutch banks offer two main types of account:

- Current account or checking account: this is the standard everyday option. Most expats opening a bank account in the Netherlands will opt for a current account that gives instant access to money, debit/credit card options, mobile banking facilities in the Netherlands, and more. Banks usually offer different

current accounts such as a standard account, a young person's account, or a student account.

- Savings account: these can range from instant access savers to long-term deposit accounts which can be used to save for things such as holidays or retirement in the Netherlands. Each bank will offer different savings packages.

It's also possible to open a joint account with many banks in the Netherlands. This can be a useful way for married or cohabiting couples to manage their finances.

Opening a bank account in the Netherlands as an expat

Most banks in the Netherlands allow you to open up an account either in-person by visiting a branch or online via their website. If you want to open an account at a branch, check to see whether you need to make an appointment first. Dutch banks are typically open from around 09:00–17:00 Mondays to Fridays. Many are also open either half-day or full-day on Saturdays.

Documentation generally required when opening a bank account in the Netherlands includes:

- Valid identification, plus Dutch residence permit if applicable
- Citizen service number (BSN)
- Proof of address (a Dutch utility bill or your rental contract in the Netherlands is usually accepted)
- Evidence of income, such as employment contract or payslip when opening some accounts. If opening a joint account, then documents for both account holders will be required.

Dutch banks may check the credit rating of new customers with the Central Credit Registration Office. Once everything has been checked and the account has been opened, you should receive your bank card (usually a debit card as standard) and account information through the post within a matter of days. A four-digit PIN code for your card is usually sent out separately.

Opening a bank account with ABN Amro

For the sake of efficiency and when you just enter the Netherlands, there is actually only one bank that will allow the opening of an account before you have your BSN number. We will start you off with them and you can change that later to the bank of your own choice.

Managing your Dutch bank account

You can choose how you manage your money and finances with Dutch banks, whether via counter services or remotely. The majority of Dutch banks now offer:

- **Face-to-face banking** – Physical banking has declined in popularity in the Netherlands as the country has embraced digital banking. There are still around 1,500 bank branches across the country where you can go and make payments, access financial advice, and more.
- **Online banking** – you can enjoy 24/7 access to your account through online banking. This is a key feature of most modern banks. Most services and products, including loans, are also available online and some banks now have live online chat systems to deal with issues.
- **Mobile banking** – mobile banking has taken off in the Netherlands, with many of its tech-savvy residents preferring to manage their finances from smartphone devices. Mobile-only banks offer all their services through an app; in fact, they don't use physical branches at all. You can manage your funds, access services, and make a range of payments all at the touch of a screen

Changing banks or closing a bank account in the Netherlands

You can close your Dutch bank account or move to another account at any time. The exact process for closing an account will differ from bank to bank. It may be possible with some banks to close the account online, while others may require you to visit a branch and fill out a form. If you decide to close a bank account in the Netherlands, be sure to:

- get some kind of written confirmation, either in an email or a letter, that the account has been closed officially. This will prevent any additional charges from accumulating on an unsupervised account;
- cancel all direct debits or standing orders on the account, or have them transferred to your new account;
- notify your employer and anyone else making regular payments to you that you are no longer using this account.

Credit Card

When compared with the USA, and although that is changing, the Netherlands is more cash orientated. Shops might not accept credit cards. Most restaurants will accept them nowadays, yet don't be surprised if the supermarket does not. The most popular credit card in the Netherlands is the Mastercard, which is issued by most Dutch banks. This card can be used worldwide. The other popular credit cards are American Express and Visa Card. MasterCard is the most popular credit card in the Netherlands, next to Visa and American Express. Major shopping malls like the Bijenkorf offer a credit card as well. (check out i-Locator for addresses).

If you need cash during the weekend you can either use an automatic teller machine (ATM) or go to the Grenswisselkantoren at the major train stations in Amsterdam, the Hague, Rotterdam, etc.

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