

# City Profile Almere Factsheet

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## Introduction

Located in the province Flevoland, Almere is the youngest and 7<sup>th</sup> largest city in the Netherlands. The land reclamation of the Zuiderzee for the creation of the Flevopolder started in 1957. In 1976 the first settlers moved to the Flevopolder and the first masterplan of the town of Almere was issued by the architect Teun Koolhaas in 1977.

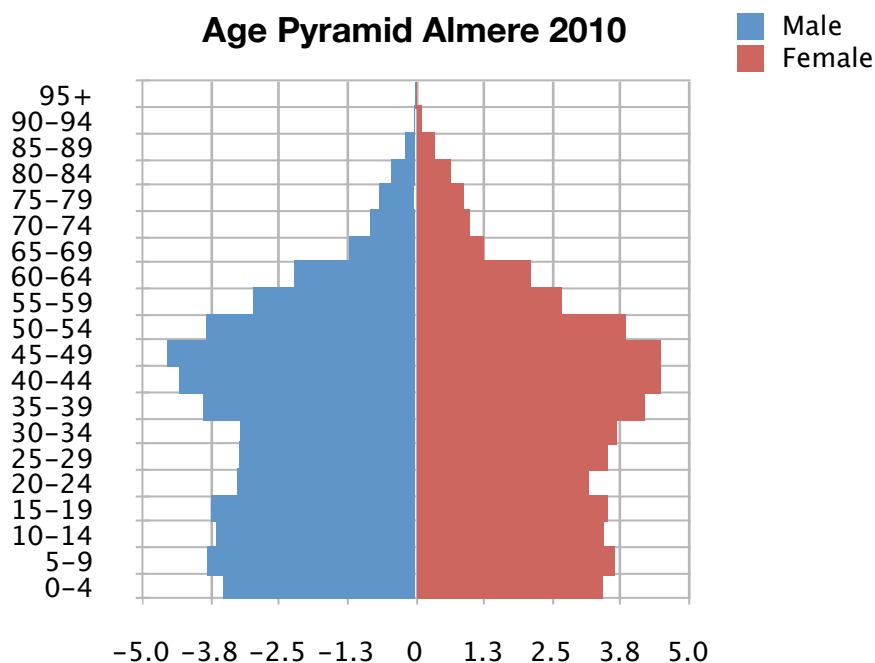
The town was planned as an anti-city for the metropole region of Amsterdam and Utrecht and, the economic region of the Randstad at large. The plan was inspired by American suburbia with attention to the connection to the region, the non-urban character and, a polycentric development. Following the masterplan, Almere grew quickly and obtained municipal status in 1984. Today, the city consists of six districts spanning over a total land area of 12.981ha.

## 1. Population Structure

The total population of Almere on January 1, 2010 amounted to 188.160 inhabitants with an average age of 35 years and a sex ratio equal to 99 males per 100 females. The sex and age composition is depicted in the age pyramid.

### 1.1 Age Pyramid

The city of Almere has a relatively young population. The largest shares of its population are to be found in the strata of the younger ages from 0 to 19 and the working ages from 35 to 55. Consequently, the population structure is young but with a risk of a growing aging population in the future. This risk will be further explored using the dependency ratios.



Graph 1 Age Pyramid Almere 2010  
Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
Source: StatLine Netherlands

### 1.2 Dependency Ratios

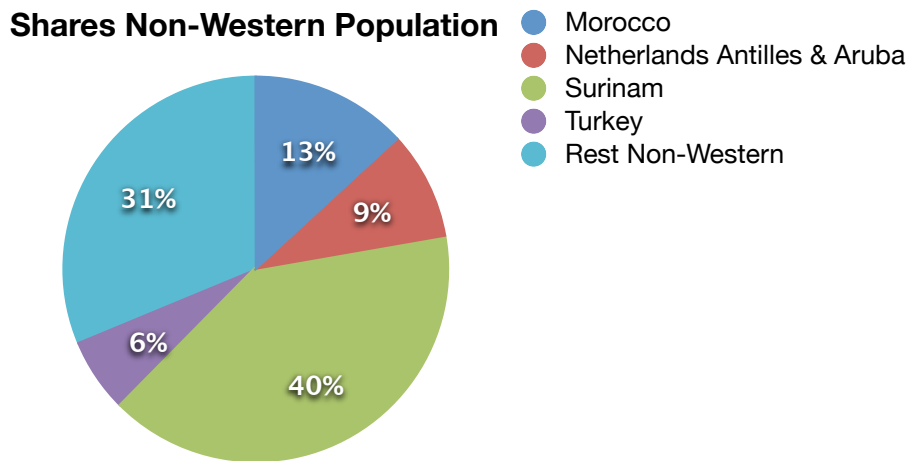
In 2010, the total age dependency ratio of Almere added up to 60.8, with 49 percent of its population under 15 and, 11 percent ages 65 and older. Although the child dependency is relatively high, all ratios are lower compared to Flevoland and the Netherlands.

	Almere	Flevoland	Netherlands
Child Dependency	49.3	49,9	39.5
Old Age Dependence	11.5	14.2	22.1
Total Dependency	60.8	64.1	61.6

Table 1 Dependency Ratios 2010  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

### 1.3 Ethnic Structure

The ethnic composition of Almere is formed by Dutch and 37 percent non-Dutch in 2010. Of the non-Dutch, 74 percent is of non-Western origin with the main representations of Surinamese, ‘rest non-Western’, Moroccan and, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. This distribution is shown in Graph 2.



Graph 2 Shares Non-Western Population  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

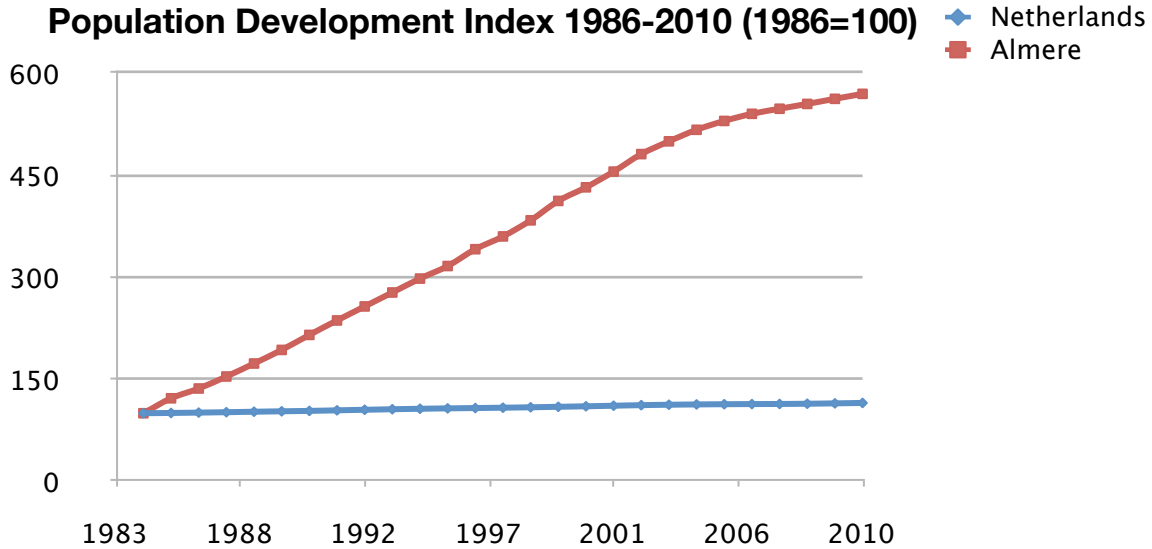
From 1996 to 2010, the share of foreigners has increased by 15 percent from 22 to 37 percent. This increase in the share of the non-Dutch population will be looked at in more detail in the next part.

## 2. Dynamics and Flows

Almere’s population development is characterized by rapid growth. Behind this growth are the factors of migration, fertility and mortality. These will be looked at in more detail in the following chapter.

## 2.1 Population Development

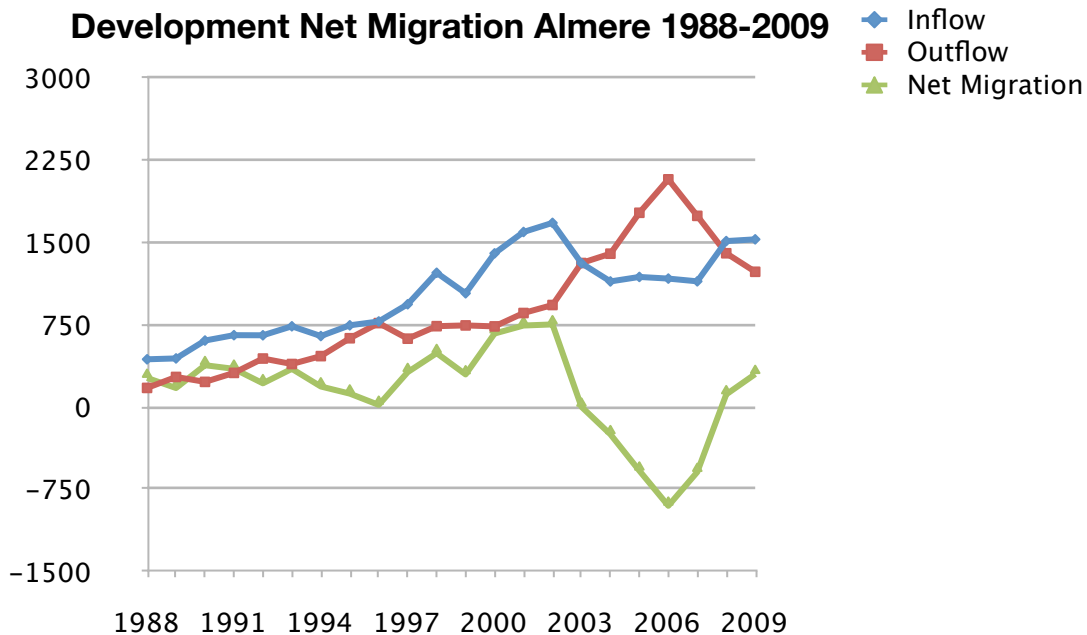
In the period from 1984 to 2010 the population of the city of Almere has six folded while the total population in the Netherlands has increased with only 15 percent point in the same period. This is rapid development is illustrated in graph 3. A first potential factor behind this development is migration.



Graph 3 Population Development Index (1986=100)  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

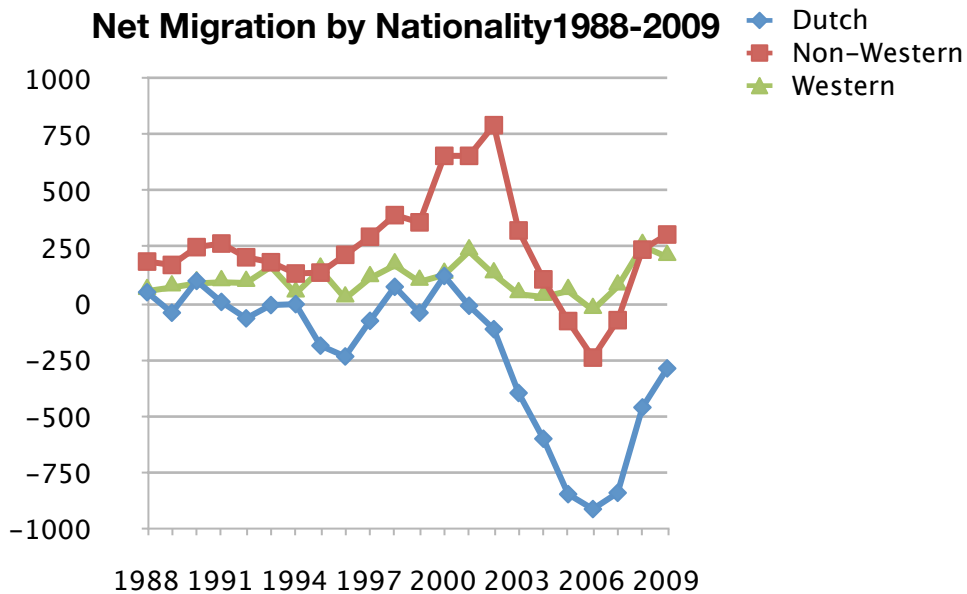
## 2.2 Migration Flows

A total of 1525 people immigrated to Almere while another 1229 emigrated from the city in 2009. The resulting migration balance amounts to 296 persons. In the graph 4 the migration development for the period from 1988 to 2009 has been plotted.



Graph 4 Development Net Migration Almere 1988-2009  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

Graph 4 illustrates the positive net migration in the period from 1988 to 2002 and the consequent negative net migration from 2002 to 2008. The drop in the net migration can be attributed to a leveling of the inflow and an increase in the outflow in the period 2002 to 2008. In order to explain this drop, the net migration will be looked at in more detail.



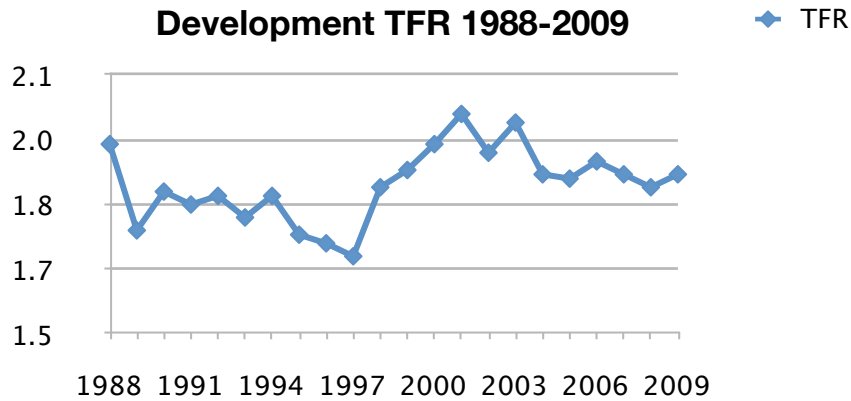
Graph 5 Net Migration by Nationality 1988-2009  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

By breaking up the net migration in the categories Dutch, groupings of non-Western and Western for non-Dutch, it can be seen that the drop in net migration is mostly accounted for by the Dutch and non-Western migrants. For the non-Western migrants the net migration remained positive up to 2004 but then falls by more than a thousand (from 790 to -241) in the period from 2002 to 2006. The Dutch net migration is negative from 2001 to 2009 with a lowest of -913 in the year 2006.

The major drops in the net migration for both the Dutch and non-Western population have to be considered in a political context. In the year 2002 the municipal elections in Almere witnessed a large victory of the political party Livable Almere (LA, Leefbaar Almere). National elections took place in the same year and witnessed a victory of the party Livable Netherlands (LN). The political issue of the Livable parties were immigration and integration. On May 6 2002, the party leader of LN was shot and this led to a polarized Dutch society. The polarization due to LN might have happened on a local scale with LA leading to a polarized society and an outflow of both Dutch and non-Western.

### 2.3 Total Fertility Rate

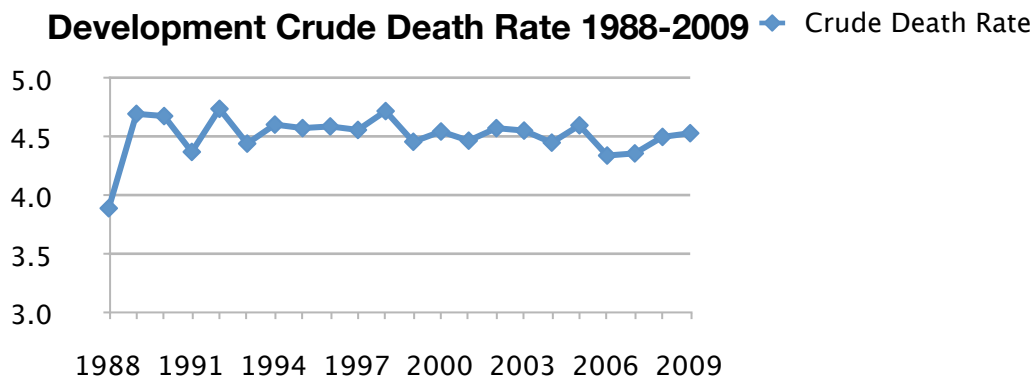
The next factor that accounts for the population development is the fertility rate. In 2009, the total fertility rate in Almere is 1.87 compared to 1.66 in the Netherlands. This relatively high fertility rate can be accounted for by the inflow of young families. In the graph below the total fertility rate is plotted for the period of 1988 to 2009.



Graph 6 Development TFR 1988–2009  
Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
Source: StatLine Netherlands

### 2.4 Mortality

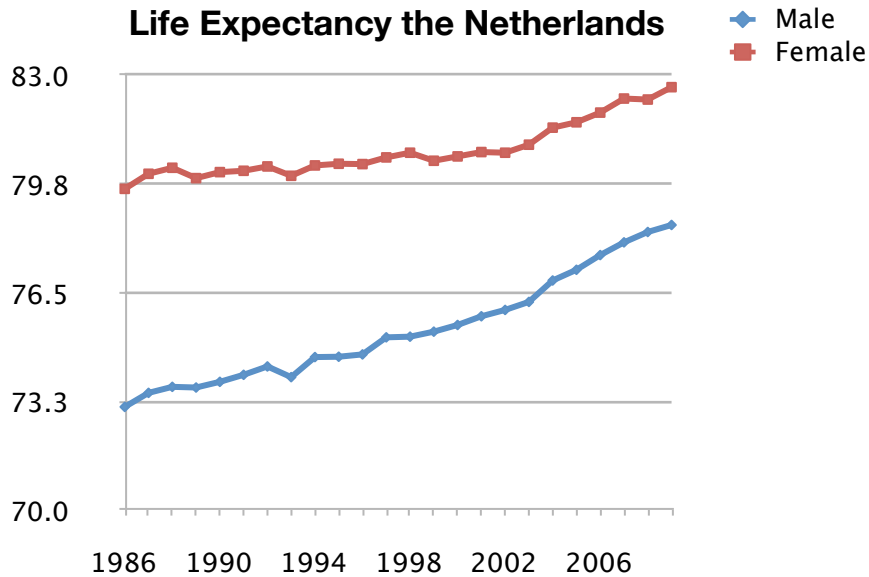
Mortality is expressed in terms of the crude death rate and its development for the period from 1988 to 2009 is plotted in graph 7. In 2009, Almere's crude death rate is 4.54. From the graph it follows that the crude death rate is relatively stable over the chosen 21 year time frame.



Graph 7 Development Crude Death Rate 1988–2009  
Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
Source: StatLine Netherlands

## 2.5 Life Expectancy

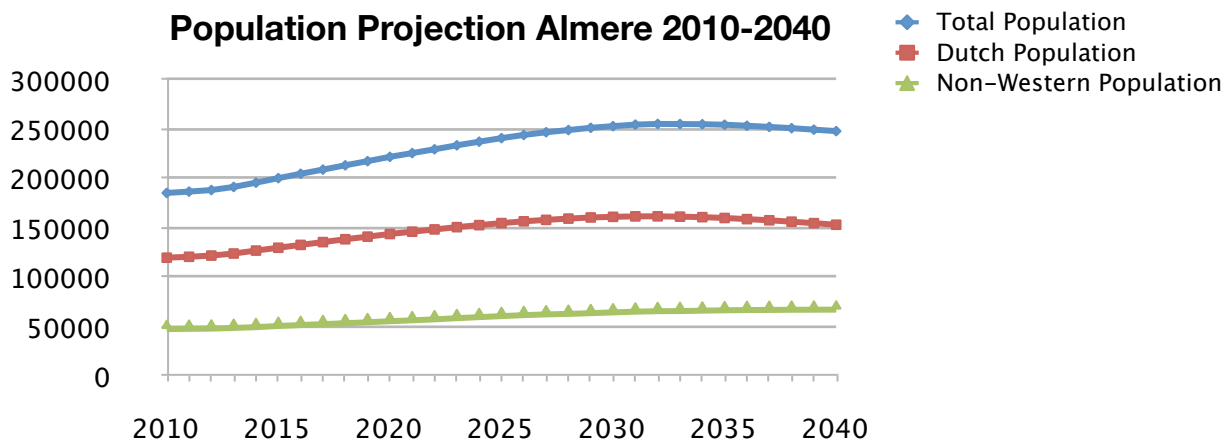
Data of the life expectancy of the population of Almere is not available. Therefore, the life expectancy of the total population of the Netherlands is presented. In 2009, the average age is 78.5 for a male and 82.7 for a female. For the period from 1986 to 2009 the life expectancy has been plotted in graph 8.



Graph 8 Life Expectancy the Netherlands  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

## 2.6 Population projection

The prognosis projects the population development for the time period 2010 to 2040. It follows from the projections that the total population is expected to increase up to 2033. From this year on the Dutch population is projected to decrease while the non-Western population continues to slowly increase.



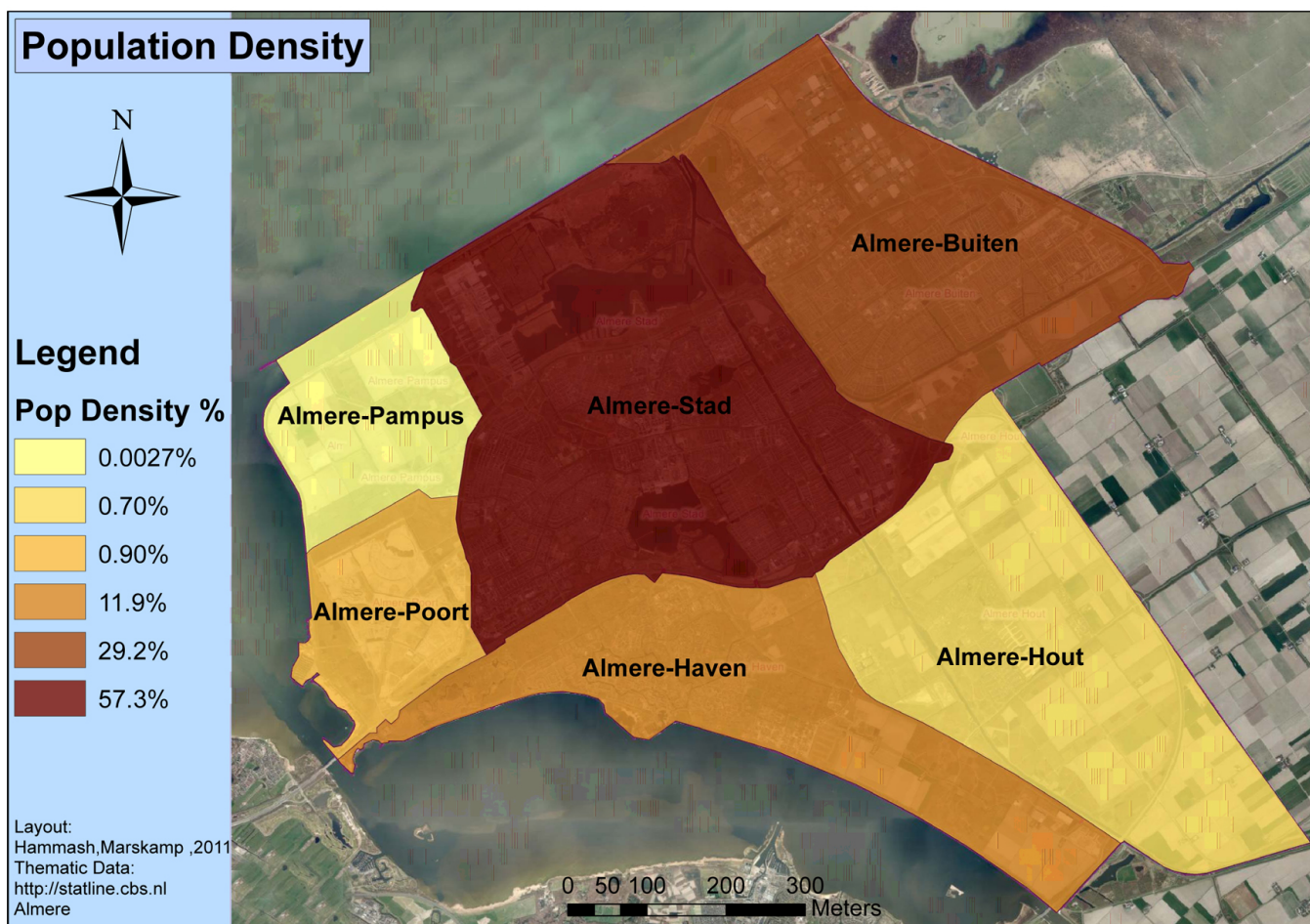
Graph 9 Population Projection Almere 2010–2040  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

The population projection describes the most probable population development for the time interval from 2010 to 2040. The above presented graph is based on the projections of Statistics Netherlands, after an analysis of the trends of the demographic factors. Each even

year Statistics Netherlands publishes population prognosis and in odd years the projections are adapted to the developments of the preceding year.

### 3. Inner City Distribution

The city of Almere consists of six districts of which Almere Pampus (Wijk 6) is still in the planning phase. The oldest districts is Almere Haven (Wijk 1) dating from 1976 followed by Almere Stad (1980, Wijk 2), Almere Buiten (1984, Wijk 3), Almere Poort (1991, Wijk 4) and, Almere Hout (2000, Wijk 5). The majority of the population lives in the district Almere Stad; 57.3 percent of the total population. The second largest district is Almere Buiten; 29.2 percent of the total population. The largest districts also have the highest densities in Almere; .

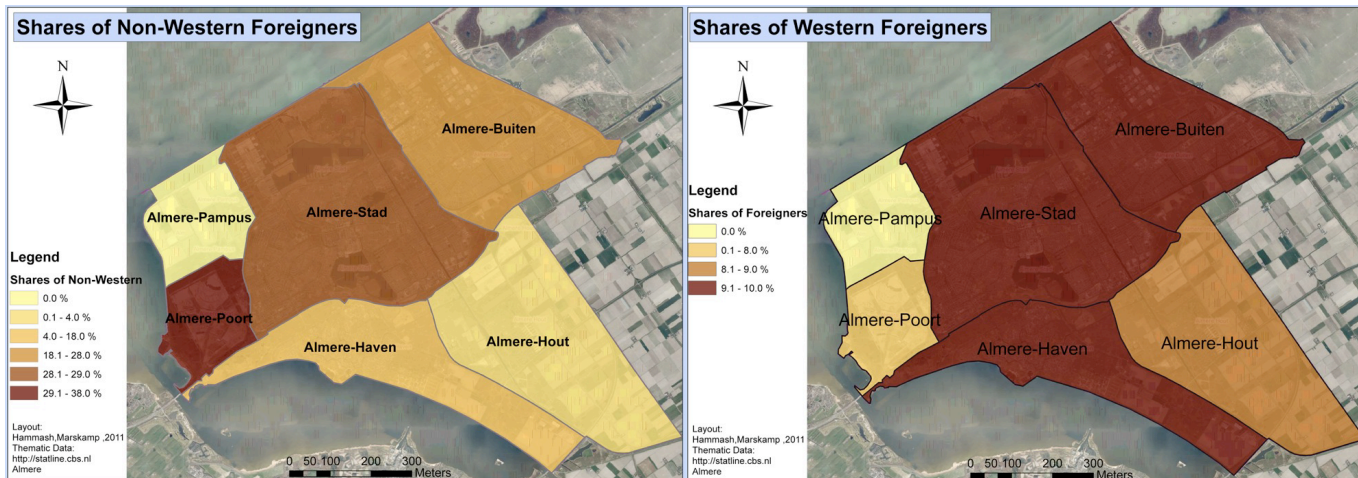


Map 1 Population Density Almere 2010  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

### 3.1 Distribution of Foreigners

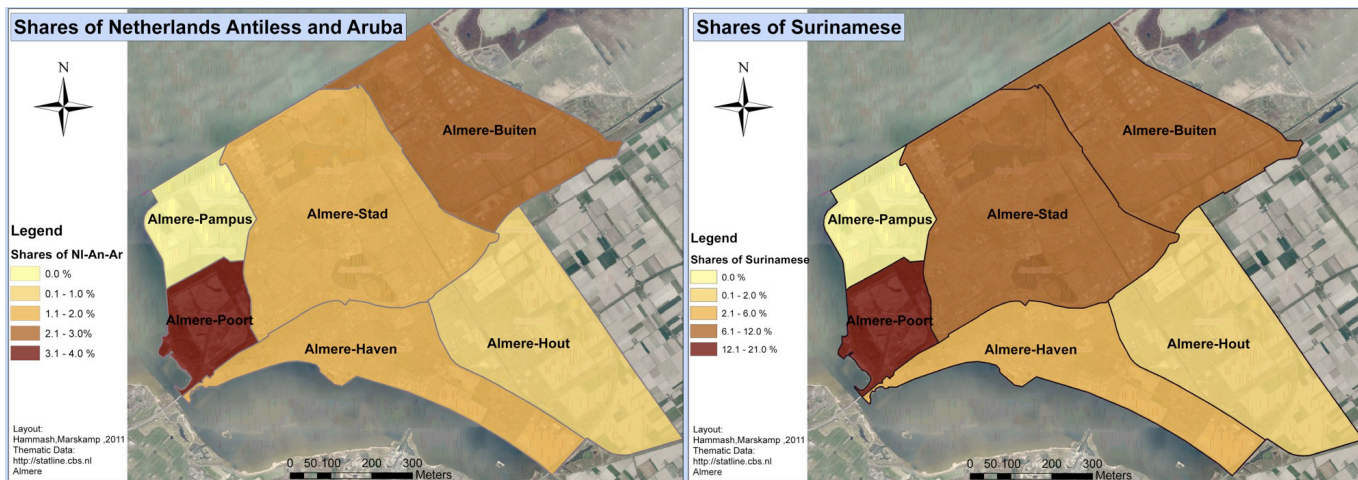
Almere is a multi-cultural city with almost 200 different ethnicities. Most of the foreign population comes from Amsterdam in the search for a better housing quality at a lower cost. The foreign population has increased in the last decade. In 1996 the percentage of the foreigners was less than 25% of the population, now days this percent increased to reach around 38% of the population. The following sets of maps illustrate the distributions of the foreign population in Almere in 2010.

Looking at map 2, the majority of the non-western foreigners reside in the Almere-Poort, Almere-Stad and the Almere-Buiten. Considering map 3, the western foreigners mainly live in the central districts; i.e. Almere-Haven, Almere-Stad and Almere-Buiten.



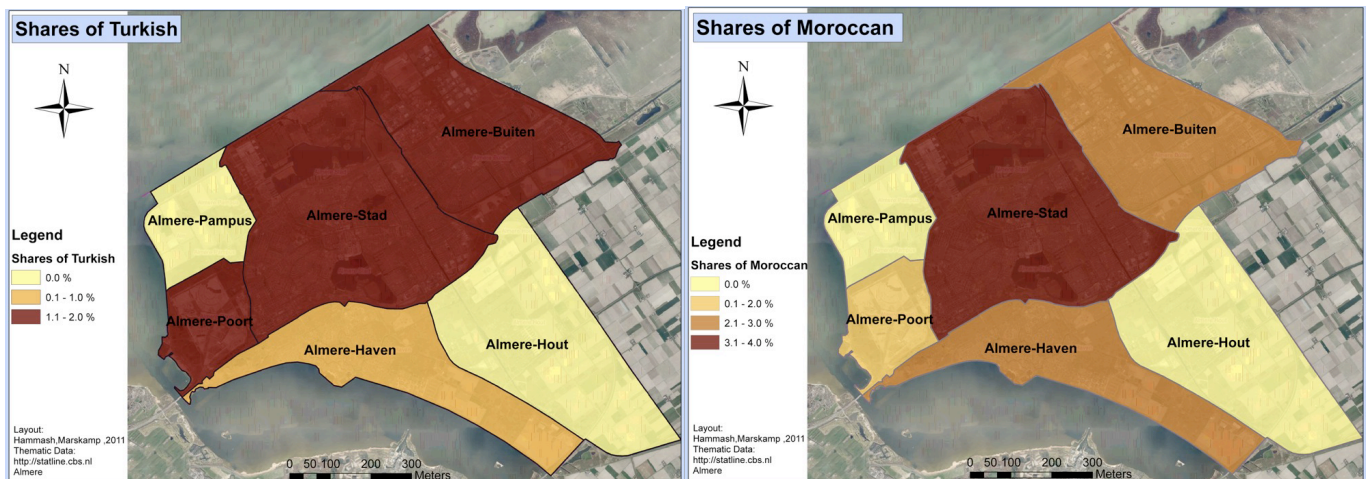
Map 2: Shares of non-Western foreigners Almere 2010  
Map 3: Shares of Western foreigners Almere 2010

In map 4 the shares of Antilles and Aruba are illustrated. It follows that they are concentrated in the Almere Buiten and Almere Poort district.. Map 5 shows that the Surinamese are concentrated in Almere Poort and, to a lesser extent Almere Stad and the Almere Buiten.



Map 4: Shares of Netherlands Antilles and Aruba Almere 2010  
Map 5: Shares of Surinamese Almere 2010

Guest workers from Morocco and Turkey, that arrived in Amsterdam in the 1970s have moved to Almere following the foundation of the city. In map 6, it can be seen that the Turkish population is mainly live in represented in Almere Stad, Almere Buiten and Almere Poort. Map 7 shows that the Moroccan population is concentrated in the Almere Stad. As we can see in the maps.



Map 6: Shares of Turkish Aruba Almere 2010

Map 7: Shares of Moroccan Almere 2010

### 3.2 Segregation Index

The total segregation index is 5.46 in Almere in 2010. This low number is affected by the low segregation index of the Western foreigners (amounting to .28). The population from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are the most segregated with an index of 9.73.

Ethnic Group	Segregation Index
Foreigners	5.46
Western Foreigners	.28
Non-Western Foreigners	6.42
Netherlands Antilles + Aruba	9.73
Moroccan	7.67
Surinamese	6.95
Turkish	6.36
Other non-Western	6.01

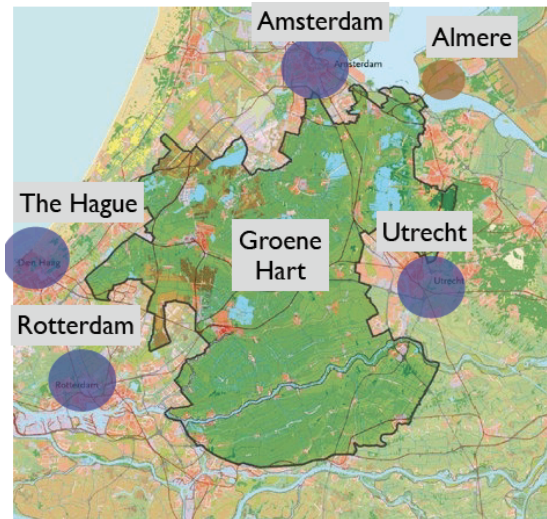
Table 2 Segregation Indices 2010  
 Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
 Source: StatLine Netherlands

### 4. Political Measures

The future expansion of Almere is one of the top priorities of both the city of Almere and the Government of the Netherlands. This expansion of Almere is to be understood as a local planning strategy within an existing regional planning strategy. First, the planning context of Almere will be discussed by addressing this regional strategy. This will be followed by two local planning strategies in Almere both concerned with the future expansion.

## 4.1 Het Groene Hart

The Green Heart is located in the western part of the Netherlands and at the center of the main urban area. It is enclosed by the Randstad, the region where most of the economic activities are concentrated. The Green Heart has a rural character and this is a strong identity pillar of the area. This identity is contrasted with the urban areas around it. The main activities in the Green Heart are agriculture, leisure and recreation. Consequently, the area offers a range of green areas and entertainment areas to the inhabitants and visitors. The Green Heart is surrounded by the four largest Dutch cities: Rotterdam, Utrecht, Amsterdam and The Hague. Together these cities form the metropolitan area of the Randstad.



Picture 1 Groene Hart and Randstad  
Edited by: Hammash, Marskamp  
Source: placemarketing.nl

In 1996, the national government took a decision to counter the suburban sprawl that threatened the Green Heart. The aim of the adopted strategy was to direct the suburbanization into concentrated decentralization. Consequently, growth centers were identified surrounding the existing urban areas and capable of accommodating urban growth. Almere represents such an overspill center and aims at taking residential pressure from the main Dutch cities and operate as an accommodation place for those leaving the city. In short, Almere allows for the preservation of the natural qualities of the Green Heart as well as for the economic expansion of the Randstad.

## 4.2 Almere 2.0

The urban strategy Almere 2.0 is the structural vision 2030 of Almere. Since its inception, the city of Almere has experienced rapid growth. The demographic pressure put on Almere will increase due to the expansion of the Randstad. The Randstad is to compete globally and is expected to grow in the coming years. Confined by the inner area of the Green Heart, expansion of the Randstad will take place outwards. Almere forms such a growth area that is needed to service the competitiveness of the Randstad.

The Dutch Government and the city of Almere have announced a doubling of the city by the year 2030. In this way, Almere will be the fifth largest city by 2030. This massive growth is expected to have great impacts on the city and its region. The strategic plan therefore foresees the construction of 60.000 residential units and the creation of 100.000 jobs by 2030. Almere 2.0 aims at an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable future with the massive population growth. In this context, the Almere Principles have been set up.

## 4.2 Almere Principles

The Almere principles aim at an ecological, social and economic sustainable growth of Almere 2.0. Cradle to Cradle thinking has been applied in the growth of Almere 2030. The planned future for the city is to be healthy and fit to the human living conditions in 2030. The city of Almere will offer an active community with many levels of livings and working, in addition to valuable profusion of water, open spaces, cultivated and natural landscape that have the opportunity to grow and develop by time.

Almere principles are there to guarantee a sustainable future for the the growth of the city in the coming decades. Consequently, these principles play the main role for the inspiration and guidance for the ones who are involved in the future development in the city.

### 1) **Cultivate Diversity:**

The diversity involves robust ecological, social and economical systems. They are acknowledged to play a key role in an enriching, thriving and flourishing the city. Therefore, the future strategy for Almere is to stimulate and appraise the diversity in all the areas within the city. This is to make sure that the city will continue to grow and improve in its various aspects.

### 2) **Connect places and nature**

The idea is to connect the city of Almere with the surrounded urban agglomerations and the landscape, through strengthen and enhance the city identity and the city could maintain its relationships with the surrounding milieu based on its strength and on mutual benefit.

### 3) **Combine the city and nature**

The city of Almere consciously combines the unique landscape with the old and new urban fabric. It is adding character to the city through raising awareness for the inhabitants of Almere concerning their relation with the nature. Eventually, this will lead to the identity of a green city.

### 4) **Continue innovations**

For the development of the city, special attention is given to stimulate and improve technology, processes and infrastructure in the city. In doing so, the city will support the exchange of knowledge and foster experimentation.

### 5) **Design healthy systems**

To maintain the city structures, the city of Almere adopts the “cradle to cradle” approach. Consequently, they verify the interdependence at all levels, of social, economic and ecological quality.

### 6) **Empower people to make the city**

The city administrative believes that the inhabitants are main driving forces in creating, maintaining and sustaining the city. Therefore, the city tries to facilitated their lives and follow up their unique promising, with spirit and dignity.

### 7) **Anticipate change**

To guarantee a harmless city growth, the city of Almere will adopt a vast flexibility and adaptability in the city plans and programs. Doing so, the city will be able to deal with the changing opportunities for future generations.

## Sources

CBS GeoViewer; <http://download.cbs.nl/geoviewer/index.html?config=config-wijkenbuurten-2010.xml>

Almere.nl; <http://almere.nl>

Almere 2.0; <http://almere20.almere.nl>

The Almere Principles; [http://www.mcdonoughpartners.com/projects/view/almere\\_principles](http://www.mcdonoughpartners.com/projects/view/almere_principles)

CBS Statline; <http://statline.cbs.nl>

VPRO Migration City; <http://eeuwvandestad.nl/archives/category/thema/migratie>