

More than 7200 new jobs in the Amsterdam Area thanks to arrivals and expansions of foreign companies

In 2018, 153 foreign companies opened new offices in the Amsterdam Area, of which 28 in response to Brexit. These 153 companies will provide 4170 new jobs over the next three years, 1937 of them Brexit-related. The three most prominent sectors are life sciences & health, IT and the creative industries. Expansions of foreign companies already established in the Amsterdam area yielded 3055 new jobs in 2018. Twenty-two companies came to the Amsterdam Area from the United Kingdom, either because of Brexit (8 companies) or for other reasons.

Record for Amsterdam

The 4170 jobs that the 153 foreign companies will be providing over the next three years is a record number for Amsterdam. Although more new companies came to the city in 2016 (157), they generated only 3312 jobs in three years. The arrival of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has contributed to the high figure in 2018, bringing 900 new jobs, but even without those, the figure for new jobs resulting from the arrival of foreign companies would still be the second highest since Amsterdam started keeping records in 2008.

Of the 153 new companies in the Amsterdam Area, 147 are new to the Netherlands.

Udo Kock, Alderperson for Economic Affairs: *“Amsterdam is a magnet for international companies. The economic prosperity and favourable business climate – thanks to Schiphol Airport, the location within Europe, the strength of innovation and the availability of talent – have produced a record figure of more than 7000 new jobs. But Brexit, too, and, as a consequence, the coming of the EMA, is contributing to this major increase in employment opportunities.”*

Life sciences & health: a growing sector

Life sciences & health is the sector creating the largest number of new jobs in 2018, in part because of the coming of the EMA. Including the EMA, nine new companies have opened offices in Amsterdam, providing a total of 1359 jobs. Other companies in this sector have expanded, such as Kite Pharma, which is building a factory in Hoofddorp for cell therapy to treat cancer patients. After life sciences & health, the largest increase in jobs are in IT and the creative industries. There were 39 new IT companies, generating 824 jobs, and 21 new creative companies, generating 635 jobs. An example of a media company that established an office in Amsterdam is the UK-based DAZN, a sports streaming platform. Discovery has also announced relocation to Amsterdam – the number of jobs involved will be in the results over 2019.

Many foreign companies have chosen to locate their European or regional headquarters in Amsterdam or the surrounding region (33 out of 153). Udo Kock: *“The fact that international companies are choosing Amsterdam boosts our economy, but it certainly isn’t to be taken for granted given the strong competition from cities such as Paris, Frankfurt, Dublin and Berlin. We mustn’t let this success lead to overconfidence. Amsterdam and central government need to keep investing in sufficient office space, good accessibility and infrastructure and international education.”*

Effect of Brexit

In 2017 and 2018, efforts to attract companies considering a move to Amsterdam or the region because of Brexit were stepped up. For 31 companies (2107 jobs), Brexit was the most important reason to opt for Amsterdam or expand their operations here. These companies are not only from the UK, but also from the United States and Asia. A number of companies have established offices in Amsterdam when otherwise they might have chosen the UK – the Japanese bank Norinchukin is an example. These companies are chiefly active in life sciences & health, financial and business services and the creative industries. In addition, there are currently more than 90 Brexit-related projects for which companies are either expanding existing operations in Amsterdam or the region or are considering it as a new location.

Companies from the United Kingdom

Never before have so many new companies a year come to Amsterdam or the region from the UK, whether due to Brexit (8 companies) or for other reasons: 22 companies bringing 1411 jobs (including the EMA). Excluding the EMA, this would be 21 companies bringing 521 jobs. Examples are media companies such as TVT Media and FinTech businesses including Azimo and Currencycloud.

Jobs

The foreign companies opening offices in Amsterdam or the region provide jobs not only directly, by employing local people, but also indirectly, as they purchase goods and services from other companies, ranging from IT, legal services and consultancy to cleaning, security and catering.

Most new investment from EMEA region

The majority of new companies and jobs originate from the EMEA region (Europe, Middle East and Africa), with a total of 66 companies and 2318 jobs. The United Kingdom and Turkey are the biggest investors from the EMEA region. However, several companies also arrived from Finland, including the IT firm HappyOrNot, which helps companies gather customer feedback.

After the EMEA region, North America and Asia are the areas from which the most new companies originate. North America leads the field in expansions, with 56% of the companies and 60% of the jobs. This is mainly in life sciences & health and IT, and often among startups that are scaling their activities. Companies that already have a longer history in Amsterdam, such as the Indian firm Tata Consultancy Services, also took on more personnel in 2018.

About amsterdam inbusiness

Within amsterdam inbusiness, the municipalities of Almere, Amstelveen, Haarlemmermeer and Amsterdam work in partnership to attract foreign companies and maintain relations with international companies in the Amsterdam region. A total of more than 3,400 foreign companies are located in the Amsterdam Area. In attracting new companies, amsterdam inbusiness works closely with the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs) and partners in the Invest in Holland network.