



Press release

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161 new foreign companies came to the Amsterdam Area in 2019

In 2019, 161 new international companies opened a branch in the Amsterdam Area. These companies will provide 2,853 new jobs in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area (AMA) over the next three years. Of these, 38 (24%) were partly due to Brexit, good for 752 jobs. Foreign companies already established in the Amsterdam region generated 2,957 new jobs (at 29 companies) as a result of expansion. Eight companies expanded (28%) partly due to Brexit, providing 563 jobs. The figures are published in collaboration with the region and the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA).

Victor Everhardt, Deputy Mayor for Economic Affairs, City of Amsterdam: "The results confirm that the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area is one of the most attractive locations for business in the European Union, and that Brexit reinforces this position. In total, new companies and expansions will create more than 5,800 jobs for residents of the Amsterdam Area over the next three years. In addition, these firms will provide a further 2,900 jobs because they will make use of services and products from other companies. It is great to see that Amsterdam is attractive to companies in innovative sectors such as life sciences and health, the creative industries and tech – the jobs of the future."

Last year, for example, media company Ridley Scott and drug company Shinogi opened offices here, partly due to Brexit. The US company Discovery opted to expand its Amsterdam operations, partly due to Brexit. Japanese biotech company Rakuten Medical, Canadian tech company FreshBooks, and Finnish company Neste Renewable Fuels opened offices here (no Brexit relation).

Companies from the United States and Canada are the main investors in the AMA, resulting in 58% of the new jobs. There has been an increase in the number of companies from the United Kingdom – 26 compared to 15 in 2017 – mainly due to Brexit. More than 100 companies are still considering coming to Amsterdam because of Brexit. Many are waiting to see what agreements are made in relation to Brexit before finalising a location.

The number of new companies that have opened offices in the AMA outside the city of Amsterdam has risen sharply compared to previous years. Of the 161 companies, 31 opened in locations outside of Amsterdam compared to just 17 in 2017.

The figures are provided by amsterdam inbusiness (aib), the foreign investment agency for Amsterdam, Almere, Amstelveen and Haarlemmermeer.

The total of 161 new foreign companies is the highest number recorded in the AMA since 2008, when Amsterdam started keeping records. Amsterdam's appeal can be explained by its economic growth (estimated at 2.8% in 2019), the effects of Brexit, and the strength of the business climate in the

Amsterdam Area due to its strategic location in Europe, ease of accessibility via Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, fast internet connections, and availability of English-speaking talent.

The majority of new companies were in financial and business services, tech, life sciences and health, and the creative industries. Last year, for example, 13 companies in life sciences and health came to the AMA, including Colorcon (USA), 13 in the creative industries, including Wilderness Agency (UK), and 10 in fintech (financial technology).

Most of the foreign companies have located their marketing and sales departments in the Amsterdam Area (107 companies out of 161). In addition, many of them have opted to move their European or regional headquarters here (28), or to open a service centre (21) or a centre for research and development (17).

The Brexit effect

Since the Brexit referendum on 23 June 2016, a total of 81 new foreign companies have opened offices in the AMA due to Brexit – most of them from the United Kingdom (27) and from the United States (31). This has provided Amsterdam and the region with 3,098 jobs within the first three years of the arrival of these companies. Since the referendum, 13 companies have expanded their operations here citing Brexit as the reason, generating 819 jobs.

Note for editors, not for publication:

For more information, please contact Vera Al, spokesperson for Deputy Mayor Victor Everhardt, on +31 (0)6 53230102.

More information

For an overview of the most important figures, please see the appendix.

About amsterdam inbusiness

Within amsterdam inbusiness (aib), 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 3,600 foreign companies are located in Amsterdam. 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. Companies that come to the Netherlands purely for tax benefits without contributing to local employment or innovation do not receive support. Amsterdam inbusiness keeps records of the number of international companies moving to the Amsterdam region, whether from other countries or from elsewhere in the Netherlands, and either with or without the support of aib and the NFIA.

Key data on foreign companies in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area

New companies and expansions in the AMA, 2019

	Number	Jobs
New companies	161	2853
Expansions	29	2957

New foreign companies in the AMA

	Number	Jobs
2019	161	2853
2018	153 (152 excluding the European Medicines Agency)	4170 (3280 excluding the European Medicines Agency)
2017	143	2702
2016	157	3312
2015	140	2953
2014	139	2359
2013	115	1944
2012	126	2200
2011	118	2065
2010	122	1525

Newly established foreign companies and jobs after 3 years by sector in the AMA, 2019

Sector	Number of new companies	% of new jobs	Number of jobs	% of jobs
Financial and Business Services & Fintech	47	29%	1065	37%
IT & Tech	40	25%	679	24%
Infrastructure, Transport & Logistics	12	7%	481	17%
Life Sciences & Health	13	8%	174	6%
Creative Industries	13	8%	143	5%
Energy & Climate	6	4%	102	4%
Consumer Goods and Electronics	9	6%	52	2%
Agri-Food	5	3%	23	1%
Other	16	10%	134	5%
Total	161	100%	2853	100%

New companies by origin

	Companies	%	Jobs	%
North America	62	39%	1659	58%
EMEA (Europa, Middle East and Africa)	54	34%	722	25%
Asia	40	25%	371	13%
Other	5	3%	101	4%

Companies for which Brexit was (one of) the reason(s) to open offices in the AMA or to expand here in 2019

	Companies	% of total	Jobs	% of total
New companies	38	24%	752	26%
Expansions	8	28%	563	19%
Total	46		1315	