

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A comprehensive economic history of the Netherlands during its rise to European economic leadership, Golden Age, and subsequent decline (1500–1815), which argues that the Dutch economy was the first modern economy. The authors defend their position with detailed analyses using simple economic theory of its major economic sectors: agriculture, fishing, trade, industry, and finance, as well as investigations of its social structure and macro-economic performance. The Dutch pioneered several aspects of economic modernization: a highly productive agriculture, a technically advanced industry, modern public finance, the capital market, and the modern corporation – the Dutch East India Company. Dutch economic history is placed in its European and world context. Comparisons are made with other European countries, and Dutch intercontinental and colonial trade are discussed fully. Special emphasis is placed on the environmental context of economic growth and later decline, as well as on demographic developments. The authors also argue that the Dutch model of development and stagnation is applicable to currently maturing economies.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The First Modern Economy

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The First Modern Economy

Success, failure, and perseverance
of the Dutch economy, 1500–1815

JAN DE VRIES

University of California, Berkeley

AD VAN DER WOUDE

Agricultural University, Wageningen



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521570619

© Cambridge University Press 1997

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1997

Reprinted 2006, 2007, 2008 (twice), 2010

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Vries, J. de (Jan)

The first modern economy : success, failure, and perseverance of the Dutch economy, 1500-1815 / Jan de Vries, Ad van der Woude.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-57061-1 (hardcover). – ISBN 0-521-57825-6 (pbk).

1. Netherlands – Economic conditions. I. Woude, Ad van der.

HC324.V72 1996 96-3298

330.9492 – dc20 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-57061-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-57825-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of tables, figures, and maps</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xix</i>
1 By way of introduction	1
STRUCTURES	
2 Space and time, structures and conjunctures	9
2.1. Structures	9
2.1.1. Introducing geography	9
2.1.2. Rivers and waterways	13
2.1.3. Settlement patterns	16
2.2. Conjunctures	20
2.2.1. Introducing conjuncture	20
2.2.2. The “little ice age”	21
2.2.3. International political environment	23
2.2.4. The economic environment: the secular trend	24
2.3. A landscape in movement: constructing a “Golden Age” environment	27
2.3.1. Land reclamation	27
2.3.2. Communications	33
2.3.3. Peat supplies	37
2.4. The environment reacts	40
3 The people	46
3.1. Introduction	46

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

3.2. Regional population growth to 1795	50
3.2.1. The West and North	51
3.2.2. The East	53
3.2.3. The South	55
3.3. The Batavian–French era	57
3.4. Urbanization	57
3.5. Migration and the composition of the population	72
3.6. Conclusions	78
4 Money and taxes, borrowing and lending	81
4.1. The money supply	81
4.2. Public finance	91
4.2.1. Under the Habsburgs	91
4.2.2. Under the Republic	96
<i>The institutions</i>	96
<i>Expenditures and income</i>	100
<i>The public debt</i>	113
4.3. Commercial finance	129
4.3.1. Banking practices	129
4.3.2. Commercial credit, private loans, and insurance	134
4.3.3. The merchant bankers and the international capital market	139
4.4. Greed, fear, and efficient markets	147
5 Three questions	159
5.1. What was the influence of the medieval legacy?	159
5.2. Was this a Calvinist economy?	165
5.3. Did the Dutch republic form a single economy?	172
5.3.1. “National” economies in early modern Europe	172
5.3.2. Internal trade and distribution	179
SECTORS	
6 Agriculture	195
6.1. Introduction	195
6.2. The early sixteenth century	196
6.3. 1500–1650	198
6.4. 1650–1750	210
6.5. 1750–1815	223
6.6. Measuring agricultural production	227
7 Fishing	235
7.1. Inland fishing	237
7.2. Coastal fishing	241
7.3. The herring fishery	243
7.4. The lesser fishery	254

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

7.5. Whaling	255
7.6. Some conclusions	266
8 Industry	270
8.1. Introduction	270
8.2. Industry until 1585	272
8.3. Industry after 1585	279
8.3.1. Textiles	279
<i>The new drapery</i>	279
<i>Linen, cotton, and silk</i>	290
<i>Cotton printing</i>	295
<i>Sail cloth</i>	295
8.3.2. Woodworking industries	296
<i>Shipbuilding</i>	296
<i>Sawmilling</i>	300
8.3.3. Ceramic industries	303
<i>Brickworks</i>	303
<i>Pottery</i>	305
<i>Pipe makers</i>	309
8.3.4. Paper making and printing	311
8.3.5. Food processing and beverage production	318
<i>Brewing</i>	318
<i>Distilleries</i>	322
<i>Tobacco processing</i>	324
<i>Sugar refining</i>	326
8.3.6. The construction trades	329
8.4. Conclusions	334
9 Foreign trade until the mid-seventeenth century	350
9.1. Early Dutch trade	350
9.2. The merchant ship	355
9.3. Foreign trade at the mid-sixteenth century	357
9.4. The crisis and Dutch foreign trade	362
9.5. Expansion of the trading system	376
9.5.1. Russia	377
9.5.2. Norway	378
9.5.3. Sweden	378
9.5.4. Italy	379
9.5.5. The Levant	380
9.5.6. The rise of the VOC	382
9.5.7. Trade with Africa and the New World	396
9.5.8. Merchant shipping at mid-seventeenth century	402
10 Foreign trade after the mid-seventeenth century	409
10.1. Hegemony and crisis	409

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

10.2.	The main traded commodities	412
10.2.1.	The grain trade	414
10.2.2.	Herring and salt	419
10.2.3.	Textiles	420
10.2.4.	Timber	423
10.3.	Trade with Asia	429
10.3.1.	1650–80	429
10.3.2.	1680–1730	436
10.3.3.	1730–95	448
10.3.4.	The VOC and the domestic economy of the Republic	457
10.4.	Trade with the West Indies	464
10.4.1.	1650s to 1674–1713	464
10.4.2.	1680s–1815	467
10.5.	Other growth sectors	481
10.6.	Dutch trade by region, 1650–1815	482
10.7.	The volume and value of trade, c. 1650–1815	490
10.8.	Conclusion	502
ANALYSIS		
11	City and country: the social structure of a modern economy	507
11.1.	City and country in symbiosis	507
11.2.	Crafts, industries, and occupational structure	521
11.3.	The nobility: A group defined by hunting privileges?	529
11.4.	Rural people	543
11.5.	City people	561
11.6.	The economic position of women and children	596
12	The standard of living and the labor market	607
12.1.	Introduction	607
12.2.	Nominal wages	609
12.3.	The cost of living	621
12.4.	Real wages	627
12.5.	The labor market	632
12.5.2.	An explosion of demand – an explosion of supply	632
12.5.2.	The segmented labor market	636
12.5.3.	Exceptionality lost	647
12.6.	Income redistribution	654
13	The course of the economy: a macroeconomic analysis	665
13.1.	Phases of economic development	665
13.1.1.	Before the revolt	665
13.1.2.	The golden age economy	668
13.1.3.	Crisis and response: 1663–1714	673

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

13.1.4. The eighteenth-century economy	681
13.1.5. The final crisis, 1780–1815	683
13.2. Coming to terms with an advanced preindustrial economy	687
13.2.1. The uses and limitations of the Malthusian model	687
13.2.2. Merchant capitalism and the <i>Stapelmarkt</i>	690
13.2.3. The first modern economy	693
13.3. Taking the measure of the first modern economy	699
14 Postlude	711
<i>Bibliography</i>	723
<i>Index</i>	751

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Tables, figures, and maps

Tables

2.1.	Inundations in North Holland since 1500	22
2.2.	Land reclamation in the Netherlands, 1540–1815	32
2.3.	New harbor construction in the Dutch Republic, 1500–1800	34
3.1.	Estimated population of the Netherlands (within modern borders), 1500–1800	50
3.2.	Population of Holland, 1514–1795	52
3.3.	Population of Friesland, 1511–1796	53
3.4.	Population of Overijssel, 1475–1795	54
3.5.	Populations of the Veluwe and Drenthe, 1526–1795	55
3.6.	Population in the Batavian–French period, 1795–1815	58
3.7.	Urban population in 1795	59
3.8.	Urbanization rate by province, and the share of each province in the urban, rural, and total population of the Netherlands in 1795	60
3.9.	Urbanization of the Northern Netherlands in 1525, 1675, 1750, 1795, and 1815	61
3.10.	Population of the cities of Holland in 1622 and 1795, with index of population change in the interval	64
3.11.	Urban and rural population of the Veluwe, 1659–1795	67
3.12.	Urban population of Overijssel, 1475–1795	68
3.13.	Population growth in Friesland by size of community, 1744–1795	69

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES, FIGURES, AND MAPS

3.14. Average age at first marriage for brides in Amsterdam, and the distribution of their marriages by age categories, 1626–1810	76
4.1. Mint production in the Northern and Southern Netherlands, 1586–1802	86
4.2. Rough estimates of Dutch money supply at selected dates	90
4.3. Tax revenue and tax burden indicators for Holland (1552–1792) and the Republic (1716–1815)	97
4.4. Quota systems, 1462–1792	99
4.5. Provincial distribution of population, generality quotas, taxation, and public debt	101
4.6. Revenues from the <i>Gemene Middelen</i> (excise taxes) in Holland, 1584–1794	104
4.7. Analysis of the “regressivity” of taxation in Holland	112
4.8. The bond market: The demand for funds and the supply of capital, 1600–1811	120
5.1. Passenger barge schedules in Holland, second half of seventeenth century	184
5.2. Passenger barge and coach schedules via Gouda, second half of seventeenth century	185
5.3. Passenger barge schedules in Friesland and Groningen, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	186
5.4. Number and size of inland commercial vessels, 1808	191
6.1. Index of grain prices, expressed in grams of silver per 100 kg.	200
6.2. Index of rye and butter prices, and rent on agricultural land, 1500–1674	211
6.3. Marketed butter and cheese production, 1650–1805	216
6.4. Arable and pasture land, by region, circa 1810	228
6.5. Rural and agricultural population, 1795	228
6.6. Value of gross agricultural output, imports, and exports, circa 1810	229
6.7. Output per hectare and per unit of labor, by region, circa 1810	230
6.8. Rural and agricultural populations, by region, 1510–1795	233
6.9. Sketch of possible growth of agricultural output, 1510–1810	233
7.1. Number of market stalls rented by sellers of different sorts of fish in Amsterdam in 1662	238
7.2. Lasts of herring shipped from the Netherlands through the Danish Sound, 1562–1780	249
7.3. Performance of the whaling industry east of Greenland	261
7.4. Performance of the whaling industry in the Davis Strait	262
8.1. Persons admitted to the rights of municipal citizenship (<i>Poorters</i>) in Leiden, Amsterdam, Middelburg, Delft, and Gouda, 1575–1619	280

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES, FIGURES, AND MAPS

8.2.	New urban citizens (<i>Poorters</i>) in Leiden, Amsterdam, and Middelburg, 1590–4, by place of origin	281
8.3.	New urban citizens (<i>Poorters</i>) in Leiden and Amsterdam, 1575–1604, by place of origin	282
8.4.	Estimated value of Leiden woolen cloth production, by type, 1630–1701	286
8.5.	Price indices for five important types of woolen cloth, selected years between 1628 and 1783	288
8.6.	Book printers and sellers active in the decades 1660–9 and 1670–9, with percentage increase or decrease	318
8.7.	Industrial windmills in the Zaan region in 1630, 1731, and 1795	346–7
9.1.	Estimated balance of trade of the Habsburg Netherlands, circa 1567	360
9.2.	Dutch shipping to the Mediterranean Sea, 1591–1790	381
9.3.	Financial results of the VOC in Patria, 1602–50	390–1
9.4.	Financial results of the VOC in Asia, 1613–50: “Het Indisch Bedrijf”	393
9.5.	Sources of specie at Batavia, 1613–1730	395
9.6.	Approximate employment levels in Dutch shipping, 1610–1825	406
10.1.	Volume of wine traded at Amsterdam, 1661–1808	413
10.2.	Indicators of the international grain trade, 1660–1799	417
10.3.	VOC personnel in Asia and en route, 1625–1780	432
10.4.	VOC shipping production, 1602–1795	438–9
10.5A.	Gross margins of the VOC: The ratio of sale prices in Europe to purchase prices in Asia, 1640–1795	442
10.5B.	Index of profitability of major commodities, 1648–1780	443
10.6.	Financial results of the VOC in Patria, 1650–1795	444–5
10.7.	Financial results of the VOC in Asia, 1650–1795: “Het Indisch Bedrijf”	446
10.8A.	Impact of the VOC on Dutch foreign trade in the 1660s, 1720s, and 1770s	460
10.8B.	Domestic expenditures of the VOC in the 1660s, 1720s, and 1770s	461
10.9.	Quantitative indicators of the Dutch slave trade, 1675–1803	470–1
10.10.	Quantitative dimensions of the Dutch West Indies economy	474
	A: Dutch West Indies trade, 1765–74, a model	474
	B: Plantation economy, 1765–74, a model	474
10.11.	Indices of Dutch trade with the West Indies, 1625–1794	478
10.12.	Reconstruction of Dutch foreign trade in the 1770s	497
10.13.	Approximate development of Dutch foreign trade in the 1650s, 1720s, 1770s	499
11.1.	Occupational frequency in four rural districts	516

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES, FIGURES, AND MAPS

II.2. Occupational frequency in three groups of cities	518
II.3. Occupational structure by region	525
II.4. Sectoral estimates and weights used in estimating the occupational distribution for the Netherlands at the end of the eighteenth century	526
II.5. Occupational structure of several northwest European countries, circa 1800–80	528
II.6. Noble fortunes in Overijssel in 1675 and 1758	543
II.7. Distribution of landed property by social categories in Salland, 1520 and 1601–2	546
II.8. Distribution of property by social category in Salland and Twente, 1601–2	546
II.9. Farms grouped according to the amount of their arable land, in the sandy-soil region of Drenthe (circa 1650) and Salland and Twente (1601–2)	554
II.10. Social stratification in sixteen Drenthe villages, 1672–1804	555
II.11. Cotter households as a percentage of all farmer and cotter households in the arable farming areas of Salland and Drenthe	556
II.12. Sketch of assumed household income distribution for incomes under 600 guilders in the cities of Holland	565
II.13. Reconstruction of personal income in sixteen Holland cities in 1742	568
II.14. Incomes of persons earning at least 600 guilders per year in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Ten economic sectors, including all occupations whose practitioners earn over 100,000 guilders in total taxable income	572
II.15. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Miscellaneous occupations	573
II.16. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Not actively employed	575
II.17. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Construction and transport	576
II.18. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Administration	576
II.19. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Medical care	577
II.20. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Manufacturing	578
II.21. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Retail trade	580
II.22. Distribution of incomes of taxable Amsterdam shopkeepers in 1742	581
II.23. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Wholesale trade	583
II.24. Incomes in sixteen Holland cities in 1742: Government service	586
II.25. Composition of fortunes at death in three cities of Holland, 1700–80	591

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES, FIGURES, AND MAPS

11.26. Composition of fortunes at death of Leiden regents in two periods: Before 1650 to 1674 and 1700–80	592
11.27. Top fifteen occupations with total incomes above 100,000 guilders, ranked by total taxable persons, total income, and average income	595
11.28. Incidence of female and child labor among firms responding to the <i>Goldberg enquête</i> of 1801 in the Departments of Oude IJssel and Texel	604
12.1. Average wages: Western Netherlands, 1500–1815	610–11
12.2. Average wages: Eastern Netherlands, 1500–1815	612–13
12.3. Unweighted mean daily summer wage paid to labor in the building trades in four countries	620
12.4. Distribution of total food expenditures by category in four institutions, 1526–1857	623
12.5. Cost of an orphanage diet as a percentage of the annual household income of unskilled laborers, 1638–1808	625
12.6. Change in the cost of living and in nominal wages in selected periods, 1500–1685	630
13.1. Estimate of Dutch national income, 1742	702
13.2. Sketch of 1800–10 national income based on the corrected estimates of W. M. Keuchenius	704–5

Figures

2.1. A row of three windmills (a <i>molengang</i>) to drain a deep polder	29
3.1. Population of the Netherlands, 1500–2050	51
3.2. Sex ratio of persons marrying for the first time; Amsterdam, 1601–1800	77
4.1. Silver and gold content of the guilder, 1521–1839	85
4.2. Public debt of Holland, 1599–1796	117
4.3. Deposits in the Amsterdam <i>Wisselbank</i> , 1609–1820	135
4.4. Index of the <i>Beurs</i> value of foreign government bonds, 1793–1815	145
5.1. Illiteracy among brides and grooms in twelve cities, 1601–1831	171
6.1. Relative prices of five commodities in twenty-five-year averages, 1450–1699	212
6.2. Relative prices of tobacco, wheat, and rye, and their effect on the amount of land cultivated with tobacco in the village of Wamel	222
6.3. An indicator of the greater capital intensity of agriculture in the maritime zone of the Netherlands, circa 1810	231
7.1. Trends in inland fishing, 1630–1805	240

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES, FIGURES, AND MAPS

7.2. Evolution of the size of the herring fleet in North Holland and Holland as a whole, 1570–1795	250
7.3. Average annual catch per herring buss by home port in lasts, and the total catch of the herring fishery of Holland in lasts and monetary value	253
8.1. Annual production of <i>laken</i> in Leiden and Amsterdam, 1470–1575	278
8.2. Output of the Leiden textile industry, by types of cloth, 1581–1800	284
8.3. Number of active book publishers and sellers in the Netherlands, 1500–1800; number of books published in the Republic that were offered at the Frankfurt book fairs	316
8.4. Number of book publishers and sellers active in several cities	317
8.5. Beer production in Haarlem, Leiden, Amsterdam, and Delft, 1610–1799	321
8.6. Soap production in Holland (1650–1805) and in the Amsterdam tax district (1650–1747)	330
8.7. Annual tax revenue of the <i>grove waren</i> , the tax on building materials, in Holland as a whole, South Holland excluding Amsterdam, and the tax district of Amsterdam, 1650–1790	331
8.8. Tax revenue of the <i>grove waren</i> , 1651–1805, in ten-year averages for Holland as a whole, and in five-year averages for the cities of Hoorn, Enkhuizen, and Medemblik	332
8.9. House rentals in Amsterdam, 1620–1700	334
8.10. Frequency distribution of the rental value of structures in Edam in 1632 and 1733	335
8.11. Ten-year totals of technical patents issued by the States General and the States of Holland, 1590–1780	348
9.1. Two indicators of Holland's trade in the sixteenth century: <i>paalgeld</i> and <i>sluisgeld</i>	363
9.2. Two indicators of the growth of Amsterdam and Middelburg, 1575–1619	367
10.1. Impact of rye prices in Amsterdam and the Baltic on the volume of rye shipments westbound through the Sound, 1731–83	418
10.2. Volume and value of the major commodities exported from the Baltic to the Republic, 1722–80	425
10.3. Estimated volume of timber imports to the Republic from Norway, the Rhineland, and the Baltic, 1650–1805	427
10.4. West Indies shipping in peace and war. <i>Paalgeld</i> revenues from ships entering the Zuider Zee from the Western Hemisphere, 1750–1810	479
11.1. Service functions of North Holland towns and villages, 1811	512–13

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES, FIGURES, AND MAPS

11.2.	Service functions in the church villages (<i>kerspels</i>) of the Veluwe, 1749	514–15
11.3.	Rental price of farmland at various locations, 1500–1650	532
11.4.	Rental price of farmland belonging to various owners, 1500–1650	533
11.5.	Average rental prices for all farmland, for pasture, and for arable, 1500–1650	533
11.6.	Revenues and expenses of a hypothetical <i>55-morgen</i> farm in the Nieuw-Beijerland Polder, 1618–1830	534
11.7.	Sale prices of farmland in Nieuw-Beijerland, 1590–1850	535
11.8.	Index of the rental price of pasture land in western North Holland, 1600–1800	536
11.9.	Distribution of the improved land in Egmond-Binnen by size of holding, 1650–1832	551
11.10.	Average number of nonfarm houses per farm in seven Friesian <i>grietenijen</i> , 1711–1805	558
12.1.	Average wages in the Western Netherlands, 1500–1815	616
12.2.	Trends in earnings of salaried workers, 1540–1815	618–19
12.3.	Rye prices and rye bread prices compared, 1660–1780	622
12.4.	Cost of living index, Northern Netherlands, 1480–1819	628
12.5.	Real wage index for (a) master craftsmen and (b) hod carriers – in the Western Netherlands, 1480–1813	629
12.6.	Real wages of craftsmen in the Western Netherlands and southern England, 1480–1819	631
12.7.	Skill premiums in the Western Netherlands, 1500–1815	633
12.8.	Wages relative to industrial prices. An index of skilled and unskilled wages, divided by an index of industrial prices, 1575–1799	634
12.9.	Monthly distribution of <i>trekschuit</i> and road traffic, Amsterdam–Haarlem, 1644–53	637
12.10.	Monthly distribution of <i>trekschuit</i> traffic, Amsterdam–Haarlem, 1650–1739	639
12.11.	Monthly distribution of tollgate revenues, Amsterdam–Haarlem, 1650–1739	640
12.12.	VOC employees embarking for Asia (Netherlanders and foreigners) 1630–1795	644
12.13.	Average annual days for which workers at Spaarndam were paid, 1760–1820	650
12.14.	Real wages of common laborers employed by the Hoogheemraadschap van Rijnland, 1750–1824	651
12.15.	Money value of winter poor-relief distributions of the Oudezijds Huiszittenhuis, 1681–1795	662

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES, FIGURES, AND MAPS

13.1.	Dutch and British per capita national income compared	707
13.2.	Annual volume of passenger barge travel on various aggregations of routes, plus estimated total volume of the entire system at three dates, 1632–1820	708

Maps

2.1.	Physical geography of the Netherlands: (a) geological features, and (b) elevations	12, 13
2.2.	Sea channels and inland waterways	15
2.3.	Land area of North Holland before and after the reclamation projects	30
2.4.	<i>Trekvaart</i> network after 1665	36
2.5.	The Rhine and its distributary channels	42
4.1.	Financial heart of Amsterdam, showing locations of key financial institutions	148
5.1.	Scheduled <i>beurtveer</i> services from Amsterdam, 1700	181
5.2.	Scheduled <i>beurtveer</i> services from six regional centers: Middelburg, Dordrecht, Utrecht, Nijmegen, Sneek, and Groningen, 1700	182
5.3.	Routes of inland distribution	190
6.1.	Regional specialization in cattle raising, 1807	206
11.1.	Percentage of the adult male labor force active in the textile industry in Overijssel in 1795	560

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

It is now many years ago that the two of us, sitting in Ad van der Woude's backyard on a pleasant summer evening, decided that the time was ripe to write a new economic history of the Dutch Republic. A compact survey of this dramatic history was what we professed to have in mind – an accessible interpretation of the Republic's economic rise and decline, useful to scholars, students, and lay persons alike.

What we now present to the reading public is a book that aspires to much more. In the course of preparing a survey of Dutch economic history, we came to realize more clearly than before that what is really needed is an interpretation – a study that synthesizes the accumulated mass of detailed research, provides a comprehensive account of this complex economy, and situates it firmly in its European historical context and in an economic theoretical framework. And only in the process of struggling with these challenges did we come to appreciate fully the modernity of the Dutch economy – that is, the necessity of interpreting its successes and failures in terms normally reserved for economies of today and the recent past. Researching and writing this book, then, has been a voyage of discovery – a longer voyage, but also a far more rewarding one than either of us expected at the time of embarkation.

Much of this book was written during our joint stays at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS) in Wassenaar, the Netherlands, and at the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities in Santa Monica, California. It is not too much to say that this book could never have taken its current form were it not for the time, the intellectual stimulation, and the logistical support provided by these research centers. To their directors and staffs we express

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815
Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

our heartfelt thanks and our wish that they may long remain to support future scholarship.

Unfortunately, our work was not finished when we last left NIAS in June 1992. Electronic mail proved to be a godsend to authors separated by a distance of some 10,000 km as we finished the remaining chapters and translated each other's work, thereby producing a Dutch and an English text. This English version of the work differs in small ways from the Dutch version. A few matters are here explained in greater detail for the benefit of an international readership, and its later appearance permits the incorporation of a few newly published facts relevant to our arguments.

Even a completed manuscript does not bring to an end the labors of publishing a book. In Berkeley, Heath Pearson assisted in preparing the tables and bibliography and in improving the quality of the English text. Meanwhile, in Wageningen, Piet Holleman drafted the maps and graphs. Anonymous referees called to our attention important points deserving of clarification. We thank them all.

Jan de Vries, University of California at Berkeley
Ad van der Woude, Landbouwniversiteit Wageningen
1 October 1995

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57061-9 - The First Modern Economy: Success, Failure, and
Perseverance of the Dutch Economy, 1500-1815

Jan De Vries and Ad Van Der Woude

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The First Modern Economy