

National Insolvency Statistics Update: The Netherlands

In the period from 2010 to 2020, compared to the period from 2007 to 2009, a relatively large number of companies went bankrupt, reports Alice Van der Schee from Van Benthem & Keulen B.V. (Utrecht, The Netherlands), INSOL Europe Vice President, Country Coordinator and Amsterdam Congress Technical Committee Co-Chair.



The number of declared bankruptcies was at its highest in May 2013 (1,185). After that, the number of bankruptcies gradually decreased until August 2017. [Source: key figures CBS inz. bankruptcies.](#)

The trend then remained fairly flat until mid-2020, after which the number of monthly bankruptcies declared decreased, presumably due to government support to mitigate the impact of the Covid crisis. In February 2021, the monthly number of bankruptcies reached its lowest level since December 1990 (162).

Bankruptcies were also low in 2022 (2,432), but an upward trend is visible. This is probably due to the aftermath of the Covid crisis and increased interest and energy costs. Many SME's are currently obliged to pay old tax debts, that were rolled over during Covid. Moreover, companies are currently struggling to find suitable employees, consumer confidence is relatively low and investing in sustainability is quite a challenge. It is notable that, for the time being, small and medium-sized companies in particular are struggling to cope with these setbacks.

As of 1 January 2021, the Dutch bankruptcy law has been extended with the Act on Homologation of Private Arrangements (WHOA). Under this, the court can approve (homologate) a private agreement between a company and its creditors, if it can prevent the debtor's bankruptcy. In 2021, 41 agreements were homologated by courts. In 2022, there were 28. No numbers are yet available for 2023.

Further statistics from The Netherlands and from other jurisdictions can be found on our website [here](#).

Source : INSOL Europe E-newsletter (June 2023)