

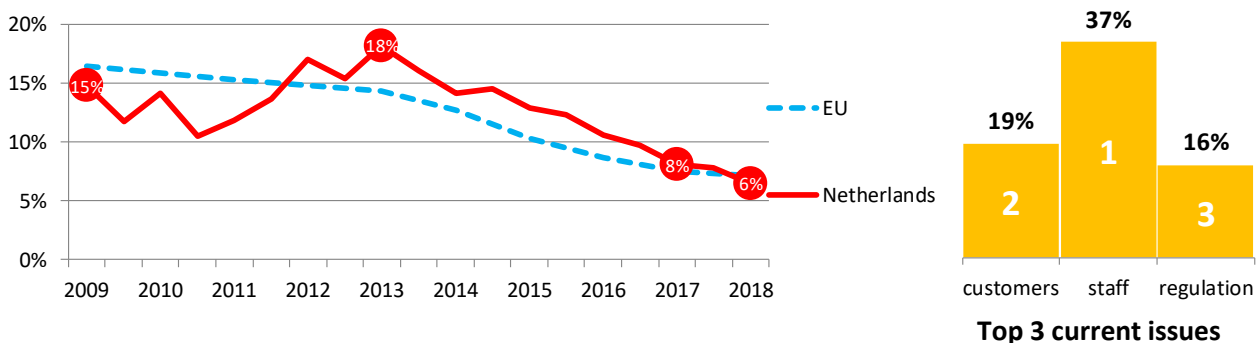


SME access to finance conditions

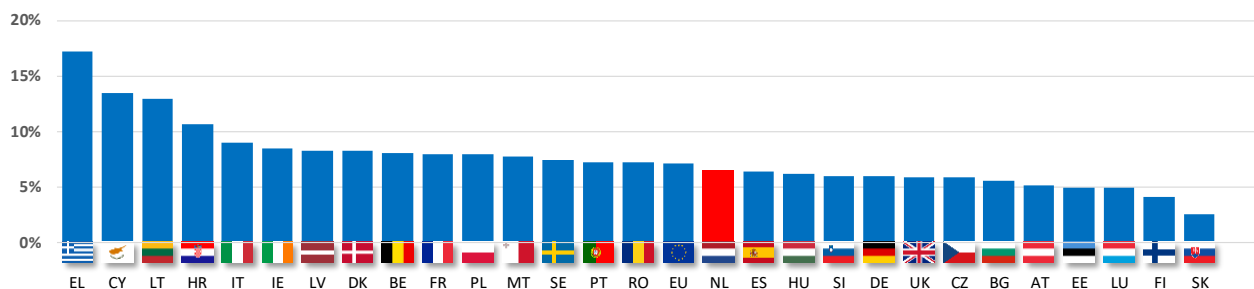
2018 SAFE results – Netherlands

Evolution of access to finance as the most important problem for SMEs

Access to finance is the most important concern for 6% of Dutch SMEs (compared to 7% at EU level). It went down from 15% in 2009 through 18% in 2013. In general, SMEs in the Netherlands in 2018 reported as their three most important issues: availability of skilled staff or experienced managers, finding customers and regulation (for example European and national laws, industrial regulations).

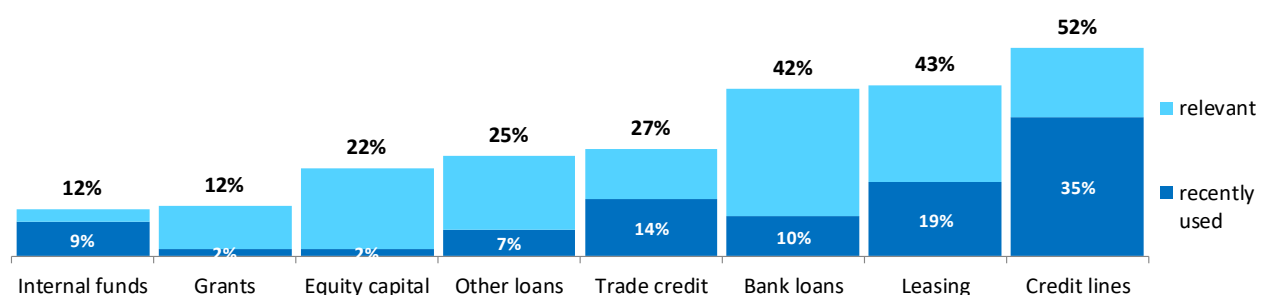


Access to finance as the most important issue for SMEs in 2018, in different countries:



What are the relevant sources of financing for SMEs in the Netherlands?

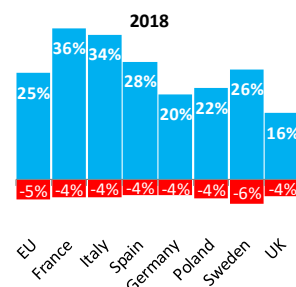
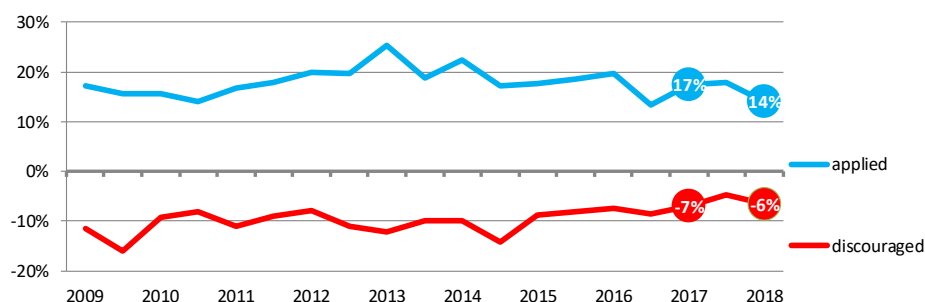
In the Netherlands, the SMEs who were asked about financing they used in the past or were considering in the future reported that the three most important sources of financing are credit lines (relevant for 52% of SMEs), leasing (43%) and bank loans (42%). Equity financing is relevant for 22% of Dutch SMEs. In the past 6 months they most often used credit lines (35%).



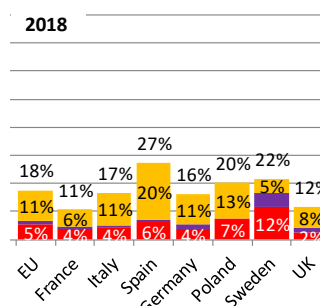
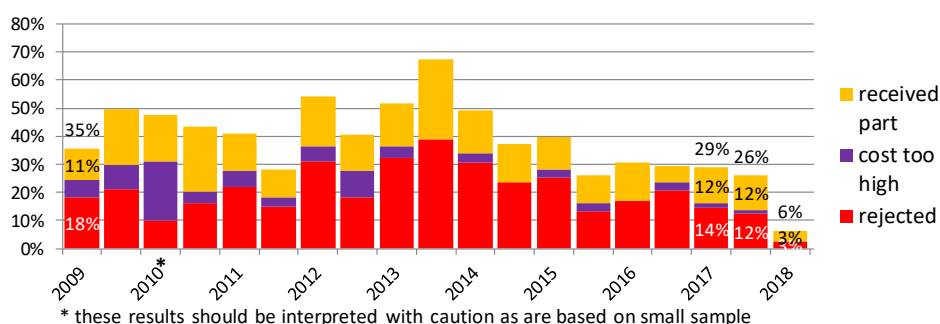
In the EU, a credit line remains the most important source of financing for SMEs. 52% of them reported it as relevant and 35% actually used it in the past 6 months. Bank loans and leasing were relevant for 47%, while equity financing was relevant for only 12% of SMEs.

Bank loans – SMEs' application and outcome

Bank loans remain the relevant form of external financing for 42% of Dutch SMEs (compared to 47% at EU level). Between April and September 2018, 14% of SMEs in the Netherlands actually applied for a bank loan (EU: 25%). 6% did not apply because of fear of rejection (EU: 5%).

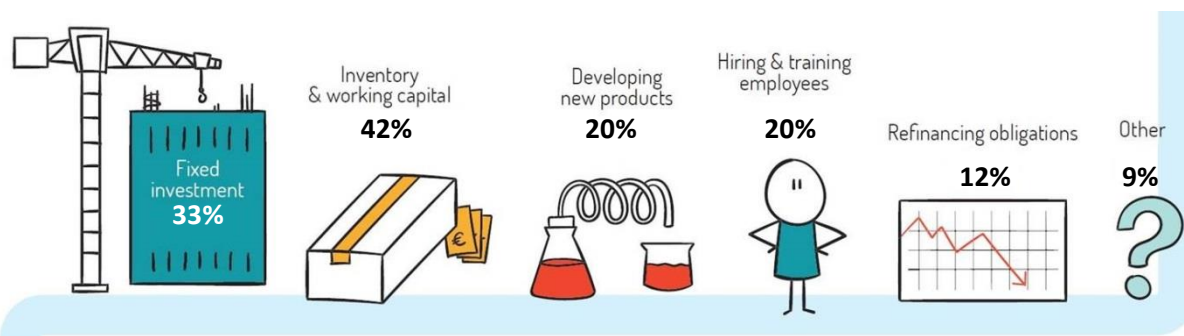


In the Netherlands, out of those SMEs who applied, 3% of bank loan applications were rejected (compared to 5% at EU level). In addition to the problem of loan applications being rejected, 3% of companies who successfully applied received less than they applied for (EU: 11%) and 0% reported that they declined the loan offer from the bank because they found the cost unacceptable (EU: 1%). It means that, in total, 6% of Dutch SMEs did not manage to get the full bank loan they had planned for during 2018 (EU: 18%). Back in 2009, the rejection rate in the Netherlands was 18%, with 35% not getting the fully planned financing.



What did Dutch SMEs use the financing for?

In the Netherlands, the financing was used for fixed investments by 33% of SMEs, while for inventory & working capital by 42%. 20% of SMEs used it for developing new products and 20% for hiring & training employees. 12% refinanced their obligations, while 9% financed other purposes.



The European Union is making it easier for SMEs to access finance

Explore EU-supported financing possibilities in your country at: <http://access2finance.eu>

The results presented are for SMEs in the EU, based on the Survey on the Access to Finance of Enterprises (SAFE), where companies were asked about the situation in the past 6 months (April – September 2018), published in November 2018 at: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/safe>