

Dataset Dutch Wages

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This document accompanies data concerning wages for seafarers employed on the Dutch merchant marine between the 1580s and the end of the seventeenth century. Collection of this data was part of the research project ‘Sailing into Modernity’ (2012-2014). The main objective of this project has been to deliver a comparative analysis of the social, political, legal, and economic position of seafarers in four European countries (England, France, Italy, and the Netherlands) from the late sixteenth to the early eighteenth century.¹ The data is accessible in Microsoft Access format (.accdb) and can be downloaded from the project’s [resources webpage](#), through the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies, University of Exeter, alongside datasets compiled by the project team from French, Italian, and English sources.²

As the project was concerned with Mediterranean shipping, the Dutch database contains entries on wages found in historical source material regarding the employment of Dutch seafarers on commercial voyages through the Strait of Gibraltar. Information comes from a variety of sources. Firstly, the notarial archives of Amsterdam and Rotterdam have yielded several results on wages. On one occasion, a salary was mentioned for an orphan in the archives of the Amsterdam orphanage.

Besides these wages for individuals, gathered in the first ten entries of the database, sources also provided us with sets of wages for a whole crew. The archives of the Dutch merchant Bernard van den Broeck, preserved in the state archives of Florence, contain the wages for a crew employed on a ship sailing out to the Mediterranean at the end of 1629. The archives of the Van Adrichem family, preserved in the National Archives in The Hague, contain a number of accounts related to ship’s voyages at the end of the sixteenth century. A few of those voyages went into the Mediterranean and were included in the database.

¹ More information concerning the project, including a list of publications, can be found at the project webpage: <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/history/research/centres/maritime/research/modernity/>.

² <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/history/research/centres/maritime/resources/sailingintomodernity/>

For comparative purposes, wage data related to the crew of the *Nassau*, a warship employed as convoy ship in 1654, was also included.

Entries contain as much information as could be gathered. When known, the ship on which a seafarer was employed is mentioned, as well as the ship's destination and the dates for the voyage. Name and rank of the mariner are given, and the level of his monthly wages, expressed in guilders. When any reference was made in the original material regarding the entering date of that seafarers' service, and how long he served, this has been included in the dataset. Reference is made to the archival finding place of the material, and any specific remarks, when deemed relevant, were included.