

## The Netherlands - Merger control status and statistics 2019-2020

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### Merger control procedures in the Netherlands

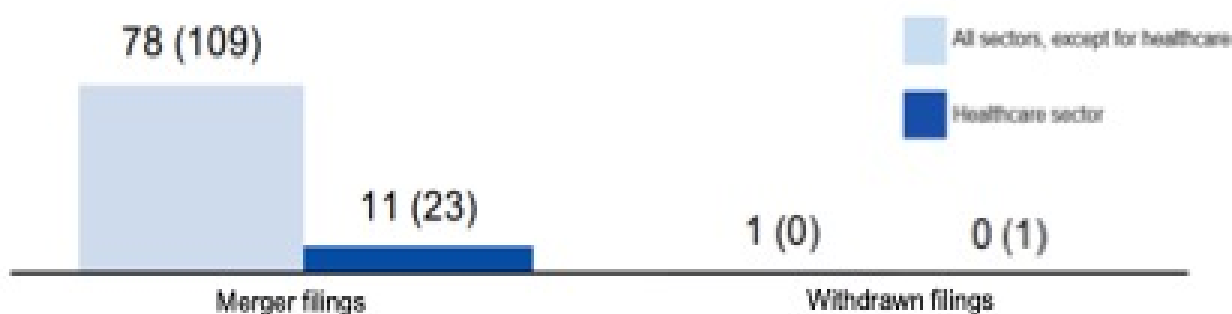
Undertakings are required to notify mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures (concentrations) if the merger thresholds are met. In the Netherlands the thresholds for concentrations in the health care sector are significantly lower than the regular thresholds applicable in all other sectors. Following notification, ACM will determine in a first phase whether the transaction can be implemented or whether the ACM needs to carry out further research. If in its first phase investigation ACM has concerns about the consequences of the concentration for competition, the undertakings concerned must apply for a licence. The ACM will assess the application in the so-called second phase procedure.

### Drop in merger cases in 2020

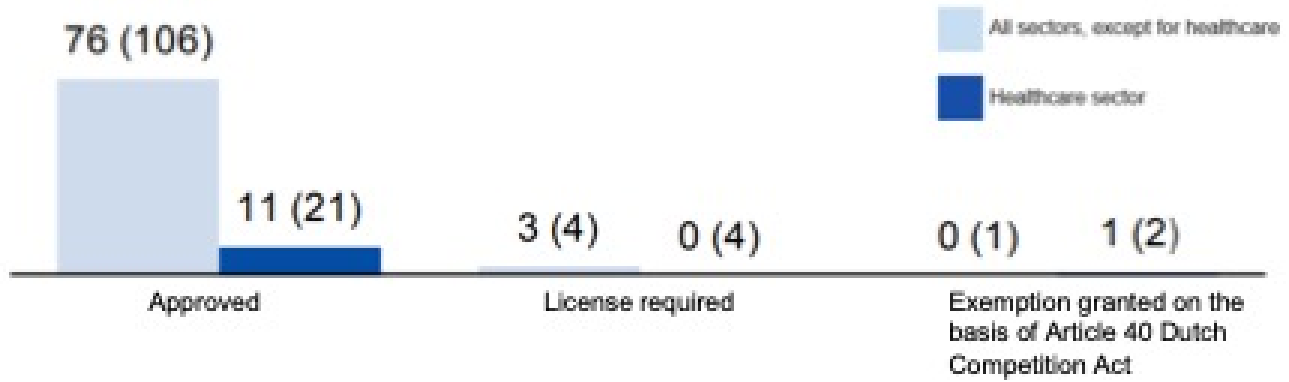
As demonstrated by the statistics below, there was a moderate drop in merger control activity in the Netherlands in 2020 – likely caused by the economic impact of COVID-19. Apart from the fact that most ACM employees working from home, the ACM has continued its merger control activities as usual.

Because some cases straddle two years, the number of total notifications is not equal to the number of decisions.

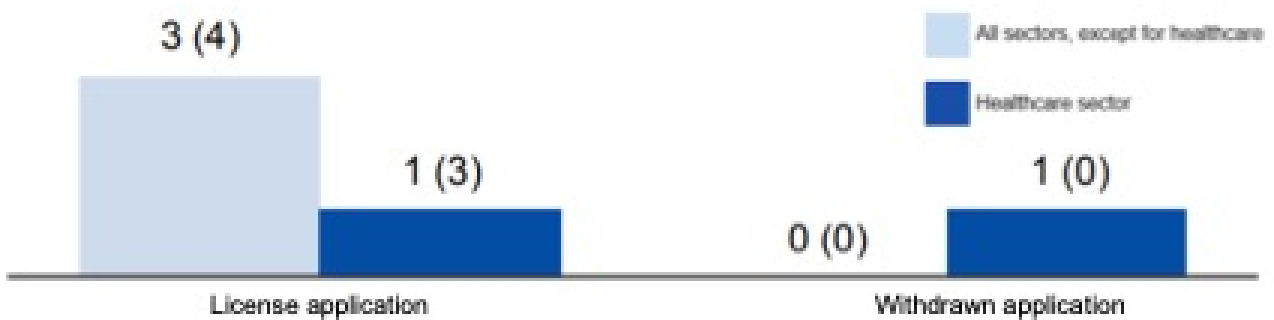
### Merger filings in 2020 and (in brackets) in 2019



**Decision ACM in 2020 and (in brackets) in 2019**



**Licence applications (second phase) in 2020 and (in brackets) in 2019**



**Second phase decisions in 2020 and (in brackets) in 2019**

