The increase in both the education level and in labour market participation of the Dutch population are two important trends of the last decades. This dissertation focuses on the effects of these trends on the location choice of households and on the commuting behaviour. Special attention is given towards the so-called ‘power couples’, couples of which both spouses are higher educated.

In this thesis the costs and benefits of two spatial planning measures, namely the provision of open space within cities and the reduction of aircraft noise, are also investigated. By examining the estimated benefits and the associated costs of these urban amenities, it becomes apparent that the levels of these amenities are below their optimum. Increasing the amount of open space and reducing aircraft noise are considered to be welfare enhancing.

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