A few things about Rabobank's return as a major sponsor of a UCI World Tour team.

Marcel Blijlevens LinkedIn post, July 14<sup>th</sup> 2025



2. Within the Netherlands, Rabobank tops the list of brands that invest the most in sponsorship.

Rabobank

Source: SponsorMonitor 2025

### Top 25 Sponsorship spend in the Netherlands by brand in 2024 (fees only x million €)



## Annual sponsorship spend by the three biggest retail banks in the Netherlands (fees only x million €)



**3. Despite a decline** in sponsorship spending in recent years, Rabobank continues to allocate a significantly higher budget than its direct competitors, ING and ABN AMRO.

Source: SponsorMonitor 2025

# 4. Rabobank's expenditure on paid advertising media is also higher than that of its two largest competitors.

#### Estimated total net ad spend in 2024 x Million Euro



Sources: 1. Gross media spending from Nielsen Ad Intel per medium type converted to net media spend using a specific factor. | 2. Estimation based on the share that retail bank brands typically allocate to online advertising in their total ad spend, with a small variation applied.



5. If having a bank account says anything about market shares, then this situation has been fairly stable for years.

Remark: people can have more than one bank account with different banks. Source: GWI Core, Dutch data set.

# 6. Sponsorship connects a brand with society. It is used by brands to improve their relationship with multiple stakeholders.



# 7. Rabobank's sponsorship portfolio was full of small, grassroots partnerships. They had to add a high-visibility sponsorship.

#### Annual sponsorship spend 2024 x Million €



Sponsorships with an annual fee value of > €500K

#### Source: SponsorMonitor 2025

## Rabobank's three biggest sponsorships in 2024:

Rights holder / Sponsoree	Category	Annual fee
NOC*NSF (Verenigingsondersteuning)	Sports	€ 1,5M
КNНВ	Sports / Field hockey	€ 1,2M
Kunstbende	Arts & Culture	€ 0,4M

### ING's three biggest sponsorships in 2024:

Rights holder / Sponsoree	Category	Annual fee
KNVB (National Teams)	Sports / Football	€ 4M
Amateur football clubs	Sports / Football	€ 2,5M
Rijksmuseum	Arts & Culture	€ 1M

## ABN AMRO's three biggest sponsorships in 2024:

Rights holder / Sponsoree	Category	Annual fee
ABN AMRO Open	Sports / Tennis	€ 3,5M
Ajax Vrouwen	Sports / Football	€ 1,5M
Euro Hockey League	Sports / Field Hockey	€ 0,25M

8. The renewed partnership with Team Visma Lease a Bike is based on both availability and history with the team and cycling. In addition, race cycling is the fourth most popular sport in the Netherlands.

Top 10 most popular sports in the Netherlands

Popularity = Follow via any media



All respondents 16 – 64 yrs 🛛 People 16 – 64 yrs old with a Rabobank account 🗖 Bank employees old with a Rabobank account

Source: GWI Core, Dutch data set, 2024 Q2 until 2025 Q1

9. Cycling and its tent-pole events also realise an above-average target affinity among Rabobank customers and Rabobank staff.

Source: GWI Core – Dutch data 2024 Q2 – 2025 Q1

#### Popularity of race cycling and the Grand Tours in the Netherlands | Popularity is follow via any media



All Dutch respondents 16 - 64 yrs
People 16 - 64 yrs old with a Rabobank account

Bank employees with a Rabobank account

European popularity of race cycling events % of the population 16 – 64 yrs old in the five major countries of Europe: France, Italy, Spain, Germany and the UK. Popularity is follow via any media.



Roubaix)

10. For those who are curious: I can demonstrate with international data that there is a huge difference in interest between the Grand Tours and other races.

Source: GWI Sports 2024 Q2 + Q4

11. Rabobank will activate the partnership in a variety of ways. These include hospitality events at or during multi-day stage races, where they can welcome representatives from various stakeholder groups.

But another initiative does have a grass-roots character again: enthusing Dutch youth for cycling through fat tyre races accessible to all.

wielersport evenement

woensdag 30 Juli

12. Personally, I think Rabobank will eventually become the team's main sponsor again. In the length of that I also believe that the current Yellow Bees identity will then be swapped again for a team tenue in which the Rabobank brand and the bank's brand colours take centre stage.

# **Marcel Blijlevens**

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