



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Almost 1.5 million workers with chronic affliction

One in seven people have a chronic affliction, disease or disability that makes it difficult for them to work or to get a paid job. Their participation rate in the labour process is considerably lower than that of the total population aged between 15-64. This is shown by the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands, compiled at the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

Lower participation rate by chronically afflicted people

In 2000 there were more than 1.4 million people with a chronic affliction, disease or disability that makes it difficult for them to work or to get a paid job. This is 14% of the population aged between 15-64.

The participation rate in the labour process of people with a chronic affliction is considerably lower than that for the population aged between 15-64 as a whole. Slightly more than half of this group belongs to the active labour force, whereas two thirds of the total population works. Another 11% of this group would like to have a job for 12 hours a week or more. This percentage is far above average.

Back problems and arthritis most frequently mentioned

Over 60% of the people whose affliction makes it difficult to work has back problems or an affliction of the joints. Mental disorders are also frequently mentioned, with almost 25% indicating that these hamper their ability to work.

The participation rate of people with an affliction of the back and joints is close to half the average participation rate for the population with an affliction. Just over half hold paid jobs.

For people with mental disorders the participation rate is far below average. About one third hold a paid job. Relatively many of them would like to work for 12 hours a week or more.

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Statistics Netherlands
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Table 1. People aged 15-64 by chronic affliction that makes it difficult for them to work
2000

	x 1000	%
Total	10723	100
No chronic affliction	8206	77
Chronic affliction	2513	23
Hampered	1455	14
Not hampered	1042	10

Table 2. People aged 15-64 with chronic affliction that makes it difficult for them to work by job
position, 2000

	Total	Hampered by chronic affliction	
		Yes	No
Total absolute	x 1000 10723	1455	9268
Total %	100	100	100
labour force	67	55	69
active	65	52	67
unemployed	2	3	2
Non-labour force	33	45	31
Want job 12 hours/week	4	8	3
Unable to work	4	18	2
Don't want job 12 hours/week	25	20	26