



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Unemployment down

According to the latest figures from Statistics Netherlands, the number of registered unemployed in the Netherlands in the first quarter of this year was 176 thousand. The figure is falling again after a period of stability. Short-term unemployment has been stable for two years now, while long-term unemployment decreased in this period.

Figure down again after a stable period

The continuous fall in unemployment observed for a number of years came to an end around the middle of last year, with registered unemployment at about 180 thousand. The figure subsequently stabilised at between 170 and 190 thousand. In the first quarter of this year, however, the seasonally adjusted figure was 158 thousand, 28 thousand less than in the fourth quarter of last year. As this difference exceeds the margins of error of the sample survey, it may be concluded that unemployment has started to fall again after a period of stability.

Long-term unemployment down to 60 thousand

The number of unemployed persons registered with a job centre for at least one year had been fluctuating around 80 thousand since the middle of last year. It dropped to 60 thousand in the first quarter of this year.

The number of people registered with a job centre for less than a year has been between 90 and 120 thousand in the last two years. As the fluctuations in this figure are caused by seasonal effects, this means that short-term unemployment has been stable for some time now.

Tightening labour market

The observed decrease in unemployment is caused by the continuing labour shortage. The number of unfilled vacancies was twenty thousand higher at the end of last year than twelve months previously. The number of unemployment benefits is also continuing to fall. Last week, Statistics Netherlands published figures showing that the number of unemployment benefits received was 34 thousand lower than one year previously.

For further information, please contact S. Lucassen, tel. +31 45 570 73 46; e-mail: slcn@cbs.nl.

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs