



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Registered unemployment continues to fall

Unemployment fell further in the period December - February, to an average of 263 thousand, according to figures just released by Statistics Netherlands. Unemployment rates have been falling by an average of five thousand a month since the middle of 1998, a smaller monthly decrease than in the preceding period.

Registered unemployment down

From December 1998 to February 1999 the number of unemployed people dropped to an average 263 thousand. Seasonal effects usually push up unemployment rates at the beginning of the year. Once the seasonal effects have been eliminated the figure comes out at 249 thousand, seven thousand lower than in November-January. Therefore unemployment fell even further in this period.

Decrease slowing down

As the unemployment figures are based on a sample survey there is a certain margin of error. The trend in unemployment is therefore best described for a longer period. Since the middle of 1998 unemployment has fallen by some thirty thousand, a decrease of five thousand a month. In the period before that the fall was a lot sharper: between mid 1997 and mid 1998 the drop was an average nine thousand a month.

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